

SSSP DISPATCH



SAMUEL H. JOHNSON
SSSP FOUNDATION, INC
BUYING A FUTURE - SUSTAINING THE LEGACY

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PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

For almost two years now, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a sobering effect on our lives and has caused us to change how we conduct our affairs. It forced us to conduct our events virtually and our business by conference call and Zoom.

In working through all the challenges that the pandemic presented, the Board and Advisory Council Members have been inspired to make every effort to accomplish the goals of the Foundation.

Thank you, donors. You have continued to give and support the Foundation despite the pandemic. We are happy to report that the endowment fund has a value of slightly over \$100,000. We need your continued support to reach the goal of \$500,000.

Because the Board and Advisory Council Members do the majority of the work of the Foundation, the Board increased the maximum number of Directors from 11 to 15 and added four new members. This action produced a majority non-SSSPer Board with one descendant of an SSSPer for the first time in the history of the Foundation. Although many of these Board Members did not experience Mr. Johnson in person, they are dedicated and committed to carrying out his legacy.

A strategic plan will be developed to set the stage for the next generation of Board and Advisory Council Members, and the bylaws will be revised within the next 12 months. In addition, we continue to reach out to former SSSPers. We also appeal to sons, daughters, and grandchildren of former SSSPers and to all donors to friend us or shout out to us on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram. With your support, the future for the Foundation holds unlimited opportunities for success.

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MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

In 2021 we added four new Board Members

Dr. Nichole Murray



As a community builder, social justice champion, change agent, and lifelong learner, Dr. Nichole Murray is committed to educational equity and giving back to her community. Daughter of Walter and Stella Murray, a former SSSPer, she received her bachelor's degree from Tuskegee University and her master's and doctorate from the University of Georgia. She has served in various capacities in traditional and nontraditional educational and healthcare settings. She has researched, written, and presented on homelessness, race, and education. Currently, she works at Covenant House Georgia, where she connects youth experiencing homelessness to educational resources and opportunities. Nichole is also the founder of One Degree Hire, an equity-centered coaching and consulting firm dedicated to empowering communities, schools, and organizations.

Wendy Snell Yeldell, COL (USA Retired)



Wendy Yeldell earned a bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina in Columbia and a master's degree from the Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Wendy served in the Army for 31 years and retired as the commander of a Medical Training Brigade. Currently, she works for the Federal Government.

She is married to COL (USA Retired) Anthony Yeldell, and they have three children and seven grandchildren. Wendy is active in her church, enjoys reading, and is a lifelong learner. She has earned an Executive Certificate in Public Leadership from Harvard Kennedy School and is currently a doctoral candidate.

Dwaine T. Price



Dwaine is a follower of Christ, husband, and father of five who works as a software sales professional. He strives to uplift his community and inspire others to pursue success. He has done so by tutoring students on every educational level, coaching little league sports, serving on and leading PTSA, band parents, and community organizations, as well as chairing the Atlanta Board of Education Ethics Committee. Dwaine's favorite scripture is Psalm 127:4, which states, "As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth."

Derrick Green



Derrick Green is the Founder and CEO of Historic Hills Community Development Corporation in Atlanta, GA. A native of Atlanta, he is a graduate of Morehouse College with a master's degree from Clark-Atlanta University and has close to 30 years of banking, finance, and entrepreneurial experience.

Derrick spends much of his spare time in community activism, where he works to connect Atlanta's Westside Black communities with resources and documents their historic contribution to American history and culture.

ALUMNI NEWS AND TRAILBLAZERS



It is with heavy hearts, that we announce the passing of our beloved former SSSPer, Ben Ridgeway.

Benjamin (Ben) Carver Ridgeway attended the Summer Study Skills Program (SSSP) during the summers of 1965 and 1966. After graduating from high school in Millers Ferry, Alabama, he attended Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, North Carolina. He received a Master's Degree of Education from Georgia State University and earned a Teacher's Certification through Troy State University.

Ben's professional career included serving as a teacher and instructional coordinator in Social Studies for the DeKalb County (Georgia) School System, from which he retired. He gave numerous workshops for Social Studies teachers. Many educators sought his technological expertise because Ben was known as a "go-to" person for help, especially when Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) accreditation application documents were due. He was ahead of many in computer technology and was one of the first educators in DeKalb County to master using computers.

Ben quickly joined in the formation of the Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation, Inc., and served on the Board as a charter member, where he continued the legacy of this unique program. He served most recently as the First Vice-President of the Foundation. As an officer, Ben edited and published the newsletter and helped set up ticket sales for the Foundation's annual benefit concerts, given his computer savvy. Later, his connection with the Uzee Brown Society of Choraliers, a community choir, and the Rev. Dr. Joseph Roberts' Jr. Men's Chorus at Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church led to performances in the Foundation's Black History Programs and the Jazz Concerts.

Ben was involved with historic preservation. As a historian, Ben recommended the Auburn Avenue Research Library in Atlanta, Georgia to the Board as a repository for archiving the SSSP papers, pictures, and other memorabilia. Ben edited and compiled historical photos about his beloved Ebenezer Baptist Church that were published as an Arcadia Book. He also devoted much time helping establish the Wilcox County Presbyterian Board of National Missions Heritage Museum, Inc., which is in the county home of his elementary and high school in Alabama.

Ben and Elaine Ridgeway had one son, Daniel, who lives in Stone Mountain, Georgia. Ben passed away in April 2021. He used his talents to serve others with great kindness and civility. His service to the Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation, Inc., will be greatly missed.



Former SSSPer Dr. Bevely G. Coleman, class of 64 and 65, has become the first African-American to be elected to the Presidency of the National College of Radiology.



Former SSSPer James Nuckles, class of 64, is featured in a book titled "Fifty American Santa Clauses." Also, he was interviewed on CBS This Morning.

EVENTS & FUNDRAISERS

Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation Celebrates First Virtual Black History Program, "Oh Happy Day"



The Education Ministry of Hillside Presbyterian Church (USA) in Decatur, GA celebrated its annual black history program on Saturday, February 6, 2021 at 4 p.m. This was the 11th celebration that has been sponsored in partnership with First World Productions (Dr. Webster Wallace, Founder/Director) and the Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation, Inc. (a 501 ©3 nonprofit organization). However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's program was virtual and posted on the Foundation's website.

This year's celebration was entitled, "Oh Happy Day," and included talented artists throughout metropolitan Atlanta and the Southeast. The program featured the J.L. Roberts Men's Chorus of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA (Maurice Seay, Director). Other participants included Unshakable Praise (the praise team from Greater Love Kingdom Building Church, Madison, TN under the leadership of Pastor Anthony Waggoner); Tamara Irving & the North Atlanta High School Dance Company; Ms. Chelsi Lester (liturgical dancer, Antioch North Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA); David Trofort, pianist; Nivek Anderson, cellist; and son & mother duo, Julian Smith, Jr., trumpeter and Willene Smith, soloist from Allen Temple AME Church, Atlanta, GA.

The celebration also included members of the Hillside Presbyterian Church (USA) family, including Ms. Kimberly Jackson, Ms. Althea Brown, Ms. Allean Brown, and the church organist, Ms. Bernice Hall. The pastor of Hillside Presbyterian Church, Rev. Sylvia Wilson, continued to lend her support, as well as the membership at large.

The program was free and open to the public. Proceeds collected online benefited the Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation, Incorporated. This organization provides scholarships to talented but financially challenged college students in the Southeast. All donations are tax-deductible. Minister Harry E. Holley, Sr., serves as President of the Foundation's Board of Directors. You can view the Black History Program at <https://youtu.be/MA9I-WVaG8g>.

EVENTS & FUNDRAISERS

"An Evening of Musical Excellence"

The Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation, Inc. held its second virtual benefit concert on Sunday, June 13, 2021, at 5 p.m. The Foundation's spring benefit concert is traditionally held in April. However, the date was changed this year to coincide with the celebration of African American Music Appreciation Month. The goal of the concert was to raise funds for the Foundation's scholarship endowment fund. Dr. Dwight D. Andrews, Senior Pastor of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ in Atlanta, served as the Honorary Chairperson. Dr. Andrews is also Professor of Music Theory and African American Music at Emory University and a past recipient of the Samuel H. Johnson Education Award. In his opening remarks, he provided a context for the performance within the broader spectrum of African American music.

Four sensational performers were featured. They included Trey Daniels who is a soloist, composer, soulful bandleader, and award-winning saxophonist. Taylor Raven, a mezzo-soprano and professional opera singer from Fayetteville, NC, sang two classical selections. Under 21 The Band is a group of artistic and ambitious young singers who lifted their voices and provided two contemporary selections. Kebbi Williams, a Grammy award-winning tenor saxophonist, performed two classical jazz selections with his band to close the concert.

The Foundation was once again honored to highlight the stellar accomplishments of three distinguished educators who received the Samuel H. Johnson Education Award. The Honorees for 2021 were Dr. Daniel Black, award-winning novelist, activist, and Professor of African American Studies at Clark Atlanta University; Dr. Morcease Bailey, Superintendent of Clayton County Public Schools; and Dr. Andra Gillespie, Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the James Weldon Johnson Institute for the Study of Race and Difference at Emory University. Dr. Gillespie is also an author of several publications and an active public scholar whose interviews and op-eds have appeared in numerous local, national, and international media outlets.

As a result of the concert, the Foundation received numerous contributions for its scholarship endowment funds. Sponsors who donated at the Friends Level and above were listed on the Foundation's website. However, the Foundation appreciates the contributions from ALL donors. It is through your support that the legacy of Samuel H. Johnson continues to impact the lives of talented, but economically challenged youth.

The event was indeed a success. The Foundation was honored to pay tribute to both musical and academic excellence within the African American community. To view the event, go to <https://youtu.be/PVJ6fcd7yY8>.

Honorees



Dr. Daniel Black



Dr. Morcease Bailey



Dr. Andra Gillespie



Honorary Chairperson,
Dr. Dwight D. Andrews

Music Artists



Trey Daniels



Taylor Raven



Under 21 The Band



Kebbi Williams

IN THE NEWS



Front L-R: Bernice Brantley, Stella Murray, Liz Alexander, Harry Holley, Geraldine Zimmerman, Kenneth Stephens, Bettie Rounsaville
Back L-R: Melvin Buchanan, Nichole Murray, Walter Murray, Carolyn Hughes-Stephens, Heyward Zimmerman, Robert Rounsaville

Supporting the Cause

On September 10, 2021, the Atlanta Chapter of Charms (ACCI, Inc.), along with their husbands (known as Charmers) presented a \$700.00 check to President Harry Holley and the Board of Directors for the Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation. The Atlanta Chapter of Charms, Inc. is one of 22 local chapters nationwide which support social and civic activities. The ACCI, Inc. supports and participates annually in the Black History Program and Spring Musical Event. Former SSSP Board members, Stella G. Murray and Esq. Cheryl P. Smith (deceased) were active members of the Charms, Inc. organization. We sincerely appreciate the ACCI, Inc. supporting and investing in the future education of Black students.



A "News"worthy Shout out

The Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation is proud to announce that it was spotlighted in the August edition of the ATL Airport Chamber's newsletter, *The Runway*. The newsletter reaches over 2,000 readers. The article highlighted our President, Min. Harry E. Holley Sr., and the great work the organization is doing in the community. To check out our featured spotlight, go to <https://mailchi.mp/airportchamber/protecting-the-business-investment-5016986>

THANKS(4)GIVING

THE SAMUEL H. JOHNSON SSSP
FOUNDATION INVITES YOU TO

TAKE A BREAK AND DONATE





DONATE TO THE SAMUEL H. JOHNSON SSSP SCHOLARSHIP FUND THROUGH GEORGIA GIVES DAY, OR "#GIVING TUESDAY" ON NOVEMBER 30TH, 2021 BEFORE 6 PM.

**TAKE A QUICK BREAK IN YOUR DAY
AND GIVE TO A WORTHY CAUSE!**

THE TAX EXEMPT DONATION PROCESS IS AS FOLLOWS:

TO DONATE, GO TO WWW.GAGIVES.ORG/GIVING-EVENTS/GAGT21

- CLICK ON THE GREEN "DONATE NOW" BUTTON
- IN THE SEARCH BAR IN THE TOP LEFT OF THE SCREEN TYPE IN - SAMUEL H. JOHNSON SSSP FOUNDATION. CLICK ON THE FOUNDATION
- CLICK ON "DONATE NOW". FILL IN YOUR DONATION DETAILS AND SELECT YOUR CARD FOR DONATION. YOU MAY USE: VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER, OR AMERICAN EXPRESS
- CLICK "SUBMIT"

Thank You for Your Support!
By giving to the SHJ SSSP Foundation's Scholarship Fund, you are "Buying a Future - Sustaining the Legacy".

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<https://ssspfoundation.org>

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In loving memory of Samuel H. Johnson, a
 legendary educator, an extraordinary champion,
 and an influential leader.

