

# SSSP DISPATCH



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

Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 372750, Decatur, Georgia 30037-2750  
Website: [ssspfoundation.org](http://ssspfoundation.org) Email: [foundation@ssspfoundation.org](mailto:foundation@ssspfoundation.org)

## CONNECTING THE PAST TO THE FUTURE

Thank you--thank you, donors, supporters, and friends. Your tremendous support throughout the COVID-19 pandemic has energized the Board of Directors to double its efforts to raise funds for scholarships and to tell the stories of those young students (now seasoned seniors) who participated in the Summer Study Skills Program from the summer of 1961 through the summer of 1968. While we are unable to reproduce the experience of our original SSSPers, we hope that the scholarships we provide are helping to inspire another generation who will give back.

We are also structuring the Foundation for the next generation of leaders. We have added three SSSPers to the Advisory Council, set the groundwork for developing a strategic plan, and increased the amount per scholarship from \$1000 to \$1500. Also, we are implementing a system to make it easier for you to donate and developing a historical account of the participants of the Summer Studies Skills Program.

In this newsletter, we are pleased to highlight our 2023 scholarship recipients. These stellar college students are leaders in their schools and communities. As we strive for our \$500,000 financial goal, we look forward to increasing our giving to students and continuing Samuel H. Johnson's legacy of supporting great young minds of the future.

### Inside This Issue

*Connecting the Past to the Future - 1*

*Scholarship Recipients - 2*

*Alumni News &*

*Trailblazers - 3*

*Events & Fundraisers - 4*

*Events & Fundraisers - 5*

*In The News - 6*

*Georgia Gives - 7*

*Board of Directors &*

*Advisory Board Members - 8*

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



**Brooklyn Farmer** is a student at Fisk University majoring in psychology. She has served her school and community as Vice President of Tours for Fisk University Student Ambassador, a United Negro College Fund Student Ambassador, and a resident assistant. She is a Mellon-Mays Fellow and has received the distinguished W.E.B. DuBois Honor. She is a Crystal Bridges Curatorial Intern and volunteers at Nashville's Summer Fest.



**Calvin Bell** is a student at Morehouse College majoring in political science and philosophy. He holds several leadership positions, such as President of the Omicron Delta Kappa Honors Society, Editor-in-Chief of Litteritus, a journal of the Howard Thurman Honors Program, and a Morehouse Student Government Senator. Calvin has earned several academic honors, including Morehouse College Oprah Winfrey Scholarship. He has interned with Senator Cory Booker and volunteers with Atlanta organizations.



**Ivoryana Neal** is a student at Spelman College majoring in political science. She is a youth activist and serves as a Spelman's Speech and Debate Team member and a legal research assistant intern. She has volunteered at the Chicago Coat and Food Drive and St. Stephen A.M.E. soup kitchen and held a leadership position as the president of her church's Young People Division. Ivoryana has also worked as an Assistant to Senator Kimberly Lightfoot, and as a police intern.



**Oumou Kaba** is a student at Clark Atlanta University majoring in history. As Miss Sophomore, she hosted workshops and events on African Culture. She has served as a Breaking the Cycle Project Manager, a member of Atlanta University Center African Student Association's Royal Court, Chair of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's International Awareness and Involvement Committee, a CAU Panthers Abroad Brand Ambassador, and as Vice President of the African Student Association.



**Shauniece Frazier** is a student at Spelman College majoring in comparative women's studies. She is a Mellon Mays Fellow, a Peer Assistant Leader, Pauline E. Drake Scholar, and serves on the Transfer Student Union. She is part of several honor societies, including the Triota Honor Society, the National Society of Leadership and Success, and the PSI CHI Honors Society. Shauniece also established a non-profit to give back household items to families in need.

## ALUMNI NEWS AND TRAILBLAZERS



Winifred White Neisser  
SSSP Class of 1967-68

**Winifred White Neisser** serves as Executive Director of Angel City Chorale, an internationally recognized community choir in Los Angeles, California. Her previous career as a senior executive in Television Development, first at NBC and later at Sony Pictures Television, covered a span of 34 years. Most of her television career was focused on supervision of movies and miniseries, including the Emmy Award-winning projects, *The Hatfields and The McCoy's* and *A Raisin in the Sun*. She also spent several years in Children's and Family Programs at NBC, which grew from teaching elementary school students in Boston, Massachusetts, and later in Ponce, Puerto Rico.

Neisser left Sony in 2015, accepting a fellowship at Harvard's Advanced Leadership Initiative. In 2016, she also completed the Cultural and Ethnic Arts Leadership Program at Rutgers Business School. Returning to Los Angeles, she rejoined the Angel City Chorale, as a singer and a board member before transitioning to her current role.

Neisser is a graduate of Harvard Radcliffe College with a master's in education from Lesly University and further graduate work in the School of Communications at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

Over the years, she has served on many non-profit boards, including the Harvard University Board of Overseers, The Television Academy of Arts and Sciences Board of Governors, Planned Parenthood of Los Angeles, and the Creative Pathways Task Force through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission. She has also worked with the Inner-City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles.

Neisser currently serves on the board of ARTS FOR LA, the Otis College of Art and Design, and the Advisory Board of the Charles Drew Medical Center.

The granddaughter of Dr. Frederick Parker, who was the mathematics instructor for the Summer Study Skills Program (SSSP), she attended the program in the summers of 1967-68.

# EVENTS & FUNDRAISERS

## Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation Celebrates "A Charge to Keep", A Virtual African American Cultural Celebration, with Special Tribute to Benjamin Ridgeway

The Education Ministry of Hillside Presbyterian Church (USA) - Decatur, GA celebrated its annual Black History program on Saturday, February 5, 2022 at 4 p.m. This was the 12th celebration sponsored in partnership with First World Productions (Dr. Webster Wallace, Founder/Director) and the Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation, Inc. This year's program was virtual once again due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

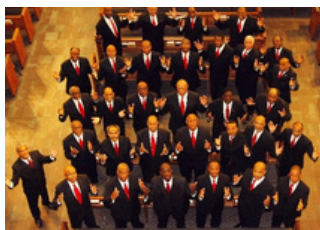
The "A Charge to Keep" celebration included talented artists throughout metropolitan Atlanta and the Southeast. This year's program was dedicated in memory of Benjamin C. Ridgeway, former First Vice President of the Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation Board of Directors. The program featured selections by the J.L. Roberts Men's Chorus of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA (Maurice Seay, Director), as well as a selection by The Uzee Brown Society of Choraliers (Dr. Uzee Brown, Director). The video selection performed by the Choraliers, "He's Been Keeping Me," was composed by Gale Jones Murphy. It featured soloist Phillip Holley and included a montage of photos of Ben Ridgeway videotaped and edited by Al Thrash. Mr. Ridgeway was a dedicated member of both choral groups.

Other program participants included Brenda Griffin, professional storyteller; David Trofort, pianist, and his talented wife, Terra Trofort, soloist; Ida Allen, a dancer from Redan High School; and Rev. Shirley Strawter, Pastor of St. Mark & St. John AME Church (Plains, GA) who recited an original poetry selection. The SHJSSSP Foundation 2021-2022 scholarship recipients were recognized as well.

The celebration also included members of the Hillside Presbyterian Church (USA) family, including Ms. Kimberly Jackson (youth participant), Mrs. Bettie Rounsaville, who gave memorial tributes, and Ms. Bernice Hall, organist. The pastor of Hillside Presbyterian Church, Rev. Sylvia Wilson, continues to be a loyal supporter of this event, as well as the membership at large.

Donations contributed for the event benefitted the Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation, Incorporated. The organization provides scholarships to talented, but financially challenged college students in the Southeast. All donations are tax-deductible.

You can view the Black History Program at <https://youtu.be/llGmlsftc-o>.



J.L. Roberts, Jr. Men's Chorus



The Uzee Brown Society of Choraliers

## EVENTS & FUNDRAISERS

### Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation "Rhapsodies of Spring," 7th annual spring benefit concert

The Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation, Inc. held its seventh spring benefit concert entitled Rhapsodies of Spring, on Sunday, June 12, 2022, at 5 p.m. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the concert was once again held virtually. Yet, the Foundation was successful in having another wonderful event that highlighted a broad area of local artists.

The legendary Mr. Larry C. Tinsley, the host of the number one Gospel Program on the airwaves in Atlanta, "Sunday Morning Praise," and "Early Morning Praise, served as the honorary chair and master of ceremony. This year's concert was held in conjunction with African American Music Appreciation Month. To honor the month and theme, our musical artists featured the talented Trey Daniels and the phenomenal Madame K.

Trey Daniels is a soloist, composer, soulful bandleader, and award-winning saxophonist. As part of eight-time Grammy award winner Anita Baker's Farewell World Tour, Daniels was featured at the Monaco Jazz Fest, North Sea Jazz Fest, and Montreux Jazz Fest. Madame K, a notable opera singer, has performed for numerous dignitaries throughout the state of Georgia, including Governor Brian Kemp and Vice President Kamala Harris.

The event also honored the 2022 Samuel H. Johnson Education Award recipients, Malcolm Mitchell and Representative "Able" Mable Thomas. Malcolm Mitchell is a 2017 Super Bowl Champion who was a wide receiver for the New England Patriots. Since its founding in 2015, his Share the Magic Foundation has placed books in the hands of more than 65,000 young readers and provided Read with Malcolm Literacy programs to over 300,000 students.

"Able" Mable Thomas has been at the forefront of fighting for freedom, justice, and equality for all Georgians and disenfranchised people worldwide for over 28 years. She has served as a state representative and as a member of the Atlanta City Council. She has been an advocate for affordable housing, women, family, and health issues, especially "reproductive justice."

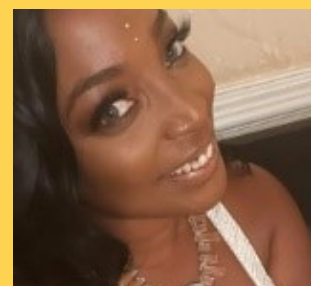
The event raised over \$24,000. The proceeds go to the Foundation's scholarship endowment fund, which provides scholarships to students in financial need to help them complete college. To view the concert, go to <https://youtu.be/YhPR7RomOsE>.



Larry Tinsley



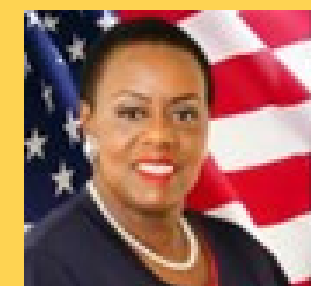
Trey Daniels



Madame K



Malcolm Mitchell



"Able" Mable Thomas

## IN THE NEWS



Standing beside the display case dedicated in memory of Benjamin C. Ridgeway are: Left to right, Mr. Daniel Ridgeway, son of Benjamin C. Ridgeway, Ms. Yvonne Hodge, President of the August Birth Month Club at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia, and Min. Harry E. Holley, Sr., President of the Board of Directors of the Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation, Inc.

## SAVE THE DATE

**Saturday,  
February 4,  
2023**

An African American Cultural Celebration, "We've Come This Far By Faith," starting at 3 PM. Sponsored by Hillside Presbyterian Church Christian Education Ministry in collaboration with First World Productions (Dr. Webster L. Wallace, Founder/Producer)

**Sunday,  
April 30,  
2023**

Spring Benefit Concert at  
City of South Fulton Southwest Arts Center.starting at 5 PM

# 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 29TH, 2022 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](http://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".

VISIT [WWW.SSSPFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.SSSPFOUNDATION.ORG) FOR MORE WAYS TO DONATE AND SUPPORT

## CONNECT WITH US



@samuelhfoundation



@shjssp\_fdtnt



@shjsspfoundation



<https://ssspfoundation.org>

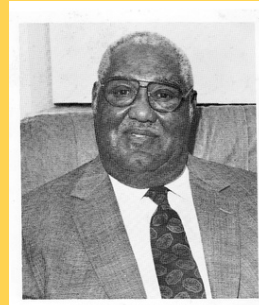
**SAMUEL H. JOHNSON SSSP FOUNDATION, INC.**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President	Min. Harry E. Holley, Sr.
1st Vice President	Mr. Melvin Buchanan
2nd Vice President	Dr. Joycelyn Jonas-Fowler
Recording Secretary	Dr. LaMarian Hayes-Wallace
Treasurer	Ms. Katherine Wilson
Financial Secretary	Mr. Derrick Green
Corresponding Secretary	Mr. Rodney Dennis
Member-at-Large	Dr. Nichole Murray
Member-at-Large	Mr. Robert Rounsaville, Jr.
Member-at-Large	Mrs. Wendy S. Yeldell COL (USA Retired)

Advisory Council Members

Mr. Mark A. Clark, President Emeritus  
 Mrs. Stella G. Murray, Secretary Emerita  
 Mrs. Bettie Rounsaville, Secretary Emerita  
 Mrs. Rose Logan-Lee  
 Ms. Gladys J. Porter  
 Dr. Webster Wallace  
 Dr. Beverly G. Coleman  
 Mrs. Winifred White Neisser  
 Mrs. Gwendolyn Boyd Ellis

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



Samuel Harrison Johnson