

RUSTIN LORDE BREAKFAST 2025

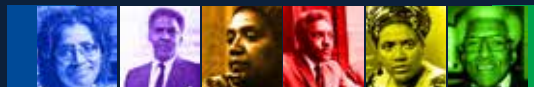


In Memoriam

Nikki Giovanni

born June 7, 1943 in Knoxville, Tennessee and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio, passed away on December 9, 2024. She was a fierce poet, writer, activist of the Black Arts Movement of the 70s and beyond, and distinguished professor. Her notable books of poetry include, *Black Judgment* and *Those Who Ride the Night Winds*, and 2004 Emmy award-nominated *The Nikki Giovanni Poetry Collection*.





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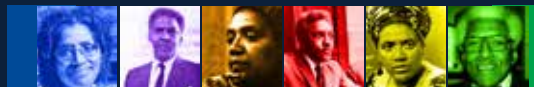


In Memoriam

Cornelius Baker



a long time AIDS activist and person living with HIV, died on November 8, 2024. He was born September 30, 1961 in upstate New York, and also spent part of his childhood in Apopka, Florida. Cornelius championed the importance of HIV testing and helped establish June 27th as National HIV Testing Day. He held positions with the federal government and large nonprofits, and lobbied for more funds for AIDS research and care, especially for often neglected minority groups.



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In Memoriam

Vanity Williams



a transgender woman and Airforce veteran, was tragically killed in Houston, Texas on August 3, 2024. She was just 34 years old and had recently entered nursing school with a goal of opening her own med spa. According to the National Black Justice Collective, hers was at least the 25th murder of a trans, nonbinary, or non-gender conforming person at the time of her death. Vanity was known for her passion to lift up the Black community and women, and encouraged others through her many friendships and social media platform.



Unafraid & Ready for Change

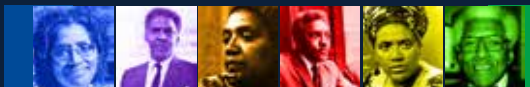
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In Memoriam

Bernice Johnson Reagon



a child of Southwest Georgia, was born on October 4, 1942 and passed away on July 16, 2024. For more than half-century, she was a major cultural voice for freedom and justice, singing – she founded the group Sweet Honey in the Rock - teaching, and marching for freedom as a member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).



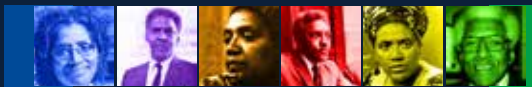
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In Memoriam

Shay Youngblood



was born on October 16, 1959 in Columbus, Georgia, and passed away on June 11, 2024. She lost her mother at 2 years of age. A gifted novelist and playwright, Shay wrote about her upbringing by her church-going grandmother and great-grandmother and circle of maternal surrogates, “Big Mamas,” and other stories that centered around the lives of Black women. She loved to travel and lived in Japan and Dominica for a period of time. Her novel, “Black Girl in Paris,” was informed by her travels to that city. Shay was also an award-winning author of numerous children’s books.



Unafraid & Ready for Change

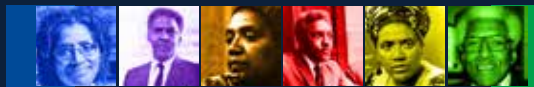
In Memoriam

Senator Vincent Fort

April 28, 1956–December 22, 2024

The late Senator Vincent Fort was more than an ally to the LGBTQ+ community; he was our friend. And once he became our friend, he helped us connect our fight with the fight for Civil and Human Rights.





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In Memoriam

President
Jimmy Carter

October 1, 1924–December 29, 2024

BLESSED ARE THE
PEACEMAKERS

