



**MONDAY**  
**JAN.15. 2018**



**THE 17TH ANNUAL**  
**BAYARD RUSTIN**  
**AUDRE LORDE**  
**BREAKFAST**



Loudermilk  
Conference Center  
40 Courtland Street  
Atlanta, GA 30303

**Honoring Our Elders**  
[www.rustinlordeatl.com](http://www.rustinlordeatl.com)



# THE PHILLIP RUSH CENTER

Supporting Atlanta's LGBT Community

## Celebrating 10 Years of Service

*Join us as we commemorate our 10-year legacy and unveil the next chapter for the Center.*

*2/25/18 • 3-6pm • Rush Center Annex*

### ABOUT US:

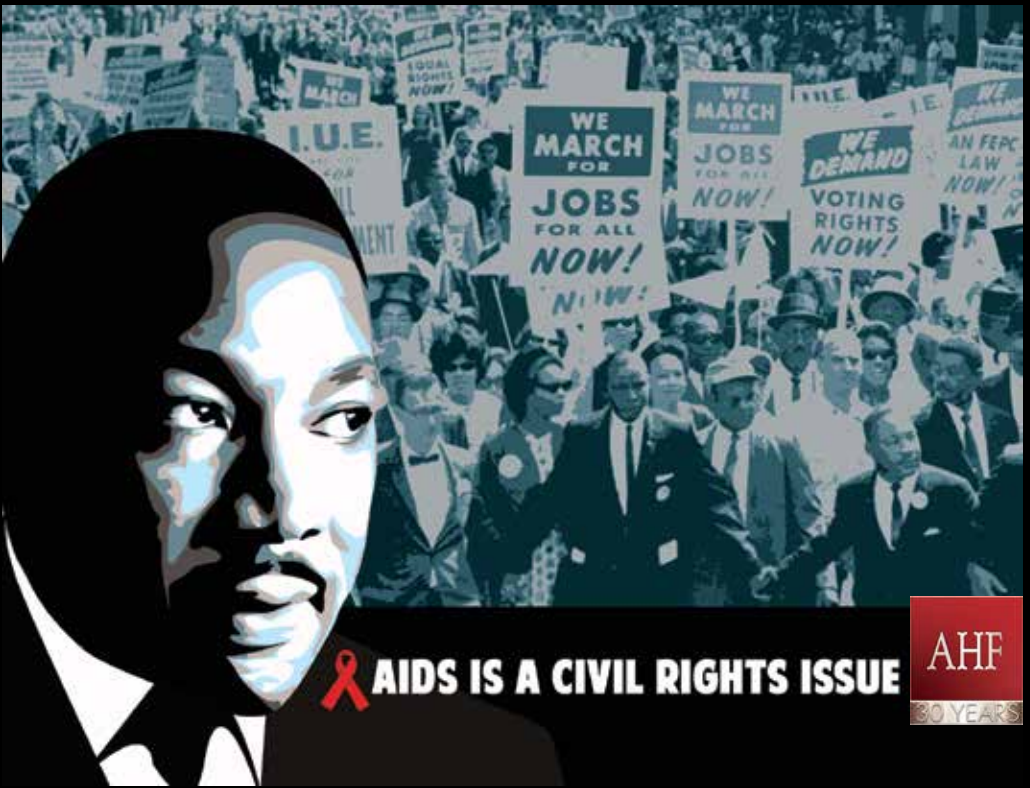
The Phillip Rush Center is home to Georgia Equality, The Health Initiative, Atlanta Pride, PALS, SOJOURN, All 1 Family counseling services, and other LGBTQ allied organizations.

We also provide meeting and event space for dozens of organizations, including ITLA, AGLCC, Muslims for Progressive Values, and The Counter Narrative Project.

RushCenterAtl.org



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# CO-CHAIRS WELCOME

Craig Washington

“ I BELIEVE WE CAN  
CONTRIBUTE TO THE  
CONVERSATION ABOUT  
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND CHANGE  
AT ANY AGE. ”

Darlene Hudson



## Greetings beloved community,

This year's theme carries a special meaning for me – *“Love Letters: across Generations, Honoring Our Elders”*. For one, I am approaching the age in which retirement is on the horizon. I'm also seeing my first few gray hairs and the “occasional” ache and pain associated with aging comes more often now and hangs around a little longer. I am also involved in caring for a mother who will be 80 years old this year and is facing her own health challenges. So, I wonder what things will look like for me personally in the next 5-10 years? Will I have the capacity to thrive and live life on my terms?

I know many of our elders aged under harsher conditions and yet sacrificed so we could have better lives. I also reflect on the fact that many of our black activists did not live long lives. Audre Lorde was only 58 when she died; Bayard Rustin, 75. Pat Parker died at 45, and James Baldwin at 63, and Marlon Riggs died at 37. Dr. King was killed by an assassin's bullet at age 39. The important thing is these individuals lived impactful lives that we must honor and learn from.

So even as a younger Elder or *“Yoelder”* (wink Paris), I want the younger people, especially activists, to know I believe we can contribute to the conversations about social justice and change at any age. Personally, I enjoy putting my skills to use to organize, but I also see the need at my age to document those lessons learned for the next generation of activists. I also still enjoy a good party and *“getting my dance on.”* In fact, if you want to see some fierce dancing, meet me and Craig out on the dance floor with Sylvester's *“You make me feel mighty real”* thumping in the background. You would be hard pressed to find any signs of us slowing down. While most of us can agree dancing is fun – I have come to see it as a form of release and liberation. On that dance floor we move about freely and passionately to “our rhythm” – not somebody else's.

So as dark clouds have gathered over this nation since last year, and our rights have come under attack from this White House – now more than ever we must not retreat. We owe it to ourselves and the people who came before us. I know Joan Garner, Lawrence Warren “L”, Cheryl Courtney- Evans, Alicia Newson, Antron Reshaud, and my old friend Alfred Jarrett would all want us to carry on in their names. We have to tell their stories. I encourage you to also pick up a pen and write that love letter to an elder and thank them for their courage. Promise them that you will find your courage too. Keep fighting, keep loving, keep laughing and keep dancing!

This is my love letter to you.

I wish above all things that you prosper and be in good health even as your soul prospers.

Peace, Love and Grace be to you

**Roshelle Darlene Hudson**

*Co Founder & President, Southern Unity Movement, Inc.  
& Co Founder, Rustin/Lorde Breakfast*

Darlene Hudson

# CO-CHAIRS WELCOME

“

WE GIVE OURSELVES HONOR  
WHEN WE RECOGNIZE THAT  
DESPITE THE ODDS, WE  
MADE IT! ”

Craig Washington



## Finding Honor

We watched our bravest, our brightest fall and not get up again. The gap between what we hoped for and what we expected widened along with the local obituary pages. We risked taking the conventional drugs if we could get them, believing it was worth the havoc they wreaked on our bowels. Or we refused, opting instead for homeopathic methods like acupuncture and homebrewed Karboochi tea, braving the righteous ire of perplexed friends. We prayed that we would be spared the inevitable fate, the indelible curse upon our kind. In loss, we found the loving divinities we knew were always there, the ones our oppressors hid from us and replaced with narcissists erected in the madness of their own image. We went to hear Adodi Muse and got our tea leaves read, lit up the floor at the Paradise Garage, Loretta's, the Delta. We nestled in the arms of lovers and friends if we were so lucky and settled in to greet the uninvited like a Lady Day song.

One of the gifts of growing older is living to tell. I seize opportunities to tell younger generations how it was. I share the stories they will not find in books and films of white men. The story of my generation is one of unspeakable loss, yet we must continue to untie our tongues as "it is better to speak remembering we were never meant to survive."

Two years ago at a forum hosted by the Counter Narrative Project, one participant revealed "all my friends are gone. I don't know anybody. I don't have a community." I regret to safely assume men of my generation, HIV positive and 40+ years old, are more likely to suffer such isolation, along with depression and trauma related disorders. When our friendship circles naturally thin out from advancing age, declining health and death, we may be left on our own. Having outlived or otherwise lost friends who were closer than kin, we may come to rely on families who have never recognized us.

As we age, we collect added burdens that will not be helped by HIV testing and treatment models. With each birthday, this lack of place for men of a certain age looms with greater urgency. What level of healthcare will be available to me? Are there assisted living residences that respect and acknowledge black queer lives?

This past fall, I met the man with whom I intend to share the rest of my life. We found each other because we both were seeking what we find in each other. My heart sings with the promise of a future with him, with my best friends, my families of origin and choice. I think of all of this and know that I am loved and I am not alone.

We need the presence and support of peers who understand our perspective because they saw what we saw. Let us then look to each other, recognizing the power, the wisdom consecrated by our very survival. We deserve to live our golden years like they are golden, not because we are the town griot, her uncle or his house mother, or somebody's something. We do not need to list achievements to honor ourselves. We give ourselves honor when we recognize that despite the odds, we made it, when we say aloud "I am here!" If you could go back and teach your younger self a lesson what would you say? If you could write a letter to someone from another generation, to instill hope or impart a lesson, how would that letter begin? Welcome to the 17th annual Rustin Lorde Breakfast. Let us find what we need in each other across generations.



Audre Lorde

Bayard Rustin

# BREAKFAST PROGRAM

“

IF I DIDN'T DEFINE MYSELF  
FOR MYSELF, I WOULD BE  
CRUNCHED INTO OTHER  
PEOPLE'S FANTASIES FOR  
ME AND EATEN ALIVE ”

*Audre Lorde*





# Honoring Our Elders

## Love Letters

ACROSS THE GENERATIONS

### CO-CHAIRS' WELCOME

*Darlene Hudson and Craig Washington*

### COMMUNITY CASCADE EFFECT

*Ed Duda, Gilead Sciences Inc.*

### HONORING DEE DEE CHAMBLEE

*Fellowship of Reconciliation*

### LIFE LESSONS & LOVE LETTERS

*Elders Circle*

### FACES OF ELDER BLACK LESBIAN RESISTANCE

*Mary Anne Adams*

### HONORING JOAN GARNER

*Southerners On New Ground (SONG)*

### HONORING ANTRON RESHAUD OLUKAYODE

*THRIVE SS*

### YOUNG PEOPLE'S SPACE

*Special Presentation*

### GRATITUDE & CLOSING

*Southern Unity Movement, Inc. (SUM)*

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## SOUTHERN UNITY MOVEMENT, INC. (SUM) COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### CO-FOUNDERS:

*Craig Washington & R. Darlene Hudson*

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Anneliese Singh  
Kirk Surgeon  
Laura Burton*

*Ashe Helm- Hernandez  
Maurice Cook  
Taylor Alxdnr*

Southern Unity Movement, Inc. (SUM) would like to thank our 2018 Sponsors and volunteers for your amazing work this year.

## SOUTHERN UNITY MOVEMENT, ORGANIZERS OF THE RUSTIN/LORDE BREAKFAST

We honor the life and the prolific contributions of our sister Fulton County Commission Vice Chair Joan Garner. She made her transition on Tuesday, April 17, 2017 from breast cancer.

Elected as Fulton County District 4 Commissioner in 2010, and reelected twice, Garner was noted for her advocacy in support of HIV/AIDS mobilization, affordable housing and LGBTQ rights. As Vice Chair, she co-founded the Fulton County Task Force on HIV/AIDS. She was revered for her expertise in non-profit organizing and fundraising and her leadership of Funds for Southern Communities and Southern Partners Fund. As an entrepreneur she founded Garner Results a consultancy resource for non-profit and philanthropic entities.

Garner was an openly lesbian organizer who served as senior advisor for Gay and Lesbian Issues with Mayor Maynard Jackson's administration. She had a major role in early local Black LGBTQ advocacy as a founding member of the African American Lesbian and Gay Alliance (AALGA). She co-founded Southerners On New Ground (SONG) an LGBTQ-led regional advocacy organization. Garner was a regular presence at the Bayard Rustin/Audre Lorde Breakfast. At one memorable Rustin Lorde Breakfast event, Garner joined fellow SONG founders Mandy Carter, Pat Hussain and Mab Segrest for an historic dialogue. "Joan had fun with her sisters that day,"

Fulton County Commission  
Vice Chair Joan Garner

Craig Washington recalls. "People not only respected Joan they loved her, the person. I will miss her." She influenced many activists and organizations throughout Atlanta and the Southeast. Upon learning of Garner's passing, Roshelle Darlene Hudson remarked "There are no words I can express to share the overwhelming sadness I feel

right now. Commissioner Joan Garner was my big sister in the movement, a woman I admired, trusted and loved."

Continue to rest in Love, Joan.....  
We miss you

Your Black LGBTQ family and  
Queer communities of Atlanta

REMEMBERING JOAN GARNER

There's something everyone  
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# 2018 Rustin Lorde Breakfast

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# AFTERBREAKFAST

JOIN US AT THE MARCH!

CORNER OF PEACHTREE ST. & ELLIS ST.

MARCH ASSEMBLY AT 1:15 PM

MARCH STEP OFF AT 1:45 PM

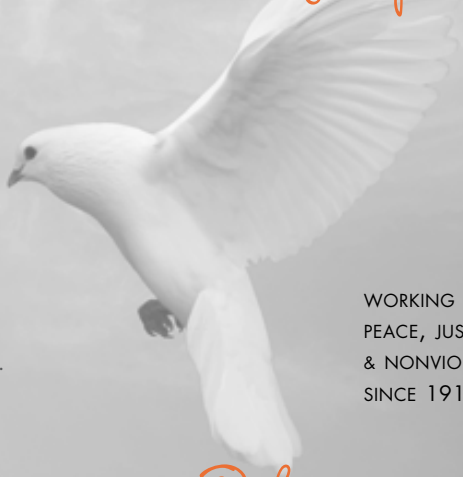


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## FREEDOM ORGANIZER:

Little 5 Points Center for Arts & Community

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

### PRESENTED TO YOU BY:

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DONATIONS

# 2018



Thanks for your participation in the 17th Annual Bayard Rustin/Audre Lorde Breakfast. Donations to continue the work of the Beloved Community are welcomed and greatly appreciated!

### Please make checks payable to:

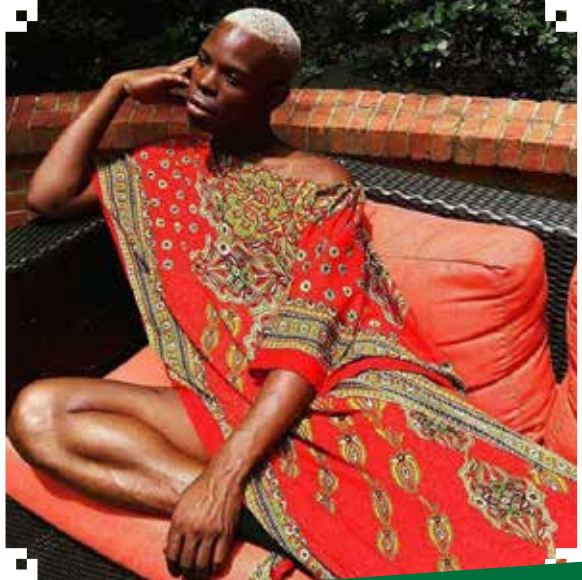
Southern Unity Movement, Inc.  
 PO Box 7282  
 Atlanta, GA 30357  
 Memo line: Rustin/Lorde Breakfast 2018.





## SOUTHERN UNITY MOVEMENT, INC. CELEBRATES THE LIFE OF ANTRON-RESHAUD OLUKAYODE

Antron-Reshaud Olukayode was a celebrated 33 year old artist, author, AIDS Activist and a core member in many of Atlanta's LGBTQ safe spaces which included AID Atlanta's own Evolution Project. Excelling in the areas of music, theater, spoken word and art, Antron made his life a canvas filled with beautiful work, thought provoking words and never-ending advocacy for those impacted by HIV and marginalized communities which included Black Gay, Bisexual, Queer and Questioning Men. Antron-Reshaud transitioned on November 12, 2017 and we continue to celebrate his spirit and audacity of hope.



## LOCAL HERO AWARD: DEE DEE CHAMBLEE, ATLANTA, GA



The Local Hero Award recognizes groups and individuals in the United States who work tirelessly for justice and reconciliation in their local communities and regions, engaging an innovative and entrepreneurial spirit.

Dee Dee Chamblee promotes peace and justice by raising the visibility of transgender people, especially Black transgender women, in the metro Atlanta area, by serving their HIV prevention, intervention, education, and other related needs.

Through her work as executive director of LaGender, Inc., Ms. Chamblee promotes education and awareness about transgender people, even as they deal with pervasive discrimination and oppression in employment, housing, and the criminal justice system.



*LaGender's Facebook page states, "We Are No Longer Invisible." Congratulations on this recognition of your steadfast work for justice!*



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