

## Washington Presbyterian Church Celebrated A 200th Year Anniversary

On October 22, 2023, Washington Presbyterian Church celebrated its 200th year anniversary. The dining hall of Albright College was packed with members and neighbors who heard eloquent comments by the current leader (Pastor Alicia Snead), former pastor, Rev. Laddie Benton, Ramona Turpin, and Senator Judy Schwank (who presented a state resolution honoring the church).



Elder Alfreda Richardson

Sylvia Finn, the most impressive Mistress of Ceremony, introduced the keynote speaker, Elder Alfreda Richardson. Since her graduation from Reading High School more than half a century ago, (when she was Alfreda Jefferson), Richardson has been the epitome of success in her church and the community. She was the first African American Associate Buyer and Manager for Pomeroy's (former Reading store).

The SUPER STAR of the evening was AGNES SNEAD, the youngest daughter of a former



Agnes Snead

pastor of Washington Presbyterian Church, who will be 100 years young next month (January 2024). Her presence was a delightful inspiration!

Richardson served her church in numerous roles, just a few of which are: President of the Women's Association, Clerk of Session, Commissioner from Washington Presbyterian Church to the Lehigh Presbytery to General Assembly.

Elder Richardson eloquently entertained her audience with amusing stories about her church members. Perhaps, the most impressive characteristic about Richardson was her humility in spite of her obvious superlative leadership and interpersonal skills. She said that, "as inexperienced as I felt, it was the members of Washington Presbyterian Church that mentored me through it all. (I will) love you and this church forever." She also said, "God equips the called, not calls the equipped."

## A Word From The Publisher

Joseph Amprey, Ph.D.



In THE DRUM, our goal is to celebrate the success and achievements of Blacks. All too often our achievements are unnoticed.

We would like for you, OUR READERS, to make us aware of any achievements of your friends, neighbors, and family members. Please call or text us at 240.729.5293, or email us at readingdrumnewspaper@gmail.com to inform us so that we can publish their achievements.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!



## Zion Baptist Church Celebrates Two of Their Pastor's Anniversaries



Dr. Bruce N. Alick

Last month, on November 5th, Zion Baptist Church celebrated two of their Pastor's anniversaries. The first anniversary was their pastors 52nd as a preacher, and the second anniversary was his 7th as the pastor of Zion Baptist Church.

First, a video of the pastor's daughter was played in which she expressed her love and revealed what a wonderful father he is. Next, First Lady Kare Alick and several speakers praised Alick for being a wonderful man of integrity who is just as humble privately as he is in public.

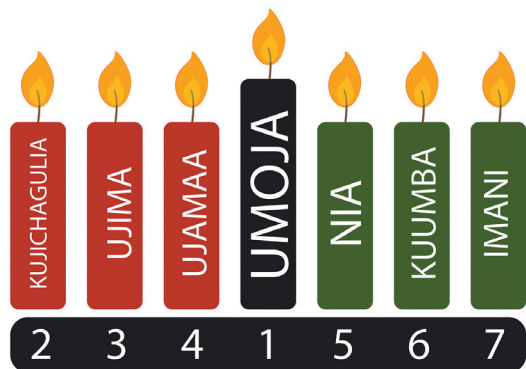
Historically, Zion Baptist Church has hired outstanding pastors, and Alick, is indeed,

an excellent clergyman, who has sterling credentials. Prior to his appointment at Zion in 2016, Dr. Alick was the pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church (in Germantown) in Philadelphia for 20 years. He has also taught at several institutions of higher education. Dr. Alick has held a significant leadership position, vice president at large of the PA State Baptist Convention. His memberships include the American Academy of Religion, the Christian History Society, the United States Chess Federation, and the Baptist Minister's Conference of Philadelphia and Vicinity. He has also been the keynote speaker for the annual conventions of both the Reading and Pottstown chapters of the NAACP.

Dr. Alick has earned a bachelor's degree from Bishop College in Dallas, TX, a master's degree from the Morehouse School of Religion in Atlanta, GA, and a doctorate

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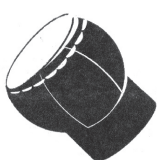
### ORDER OF LIGHTING THE KINARA



### Inside

- Dr. Mogerman ⇒ Page 2
- Black Santa? ⇒ Page 3
- Book Review ⇒ Page 5

plus more!





# THE DRUM

# NEWSPAPER

*"I don't think there will ever be a time when the principles of Kwanzaa will not be important or timely. It's a great time for reflection and now more than ever our country needs to be reminded of unity."*

*~Kellie Carter Jackson*

### ABOUT US

THE DRUM is published 6 times annually. We publish in February, April, June, August, October, & December. Unless otherwise indicated, all articles herein are written by the Publisher/Editor, Joseph Amprey.

### OUR MISSION IS TO CELEBRATE BLACK ACHIEVEMENT AND SUCCESS.

Please call us at 240.729.5293 or email us at readingdrumnewspaper@gmail.com or write to us at **THE DRUM**, P.O. Box 12711, Reading PA, 19612 with topic suggestions.

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### Table of Contents

Zion Baptist Church Celebrates .....	1
Washington Presbyterian Church .....	1
A Word From The Publisher .....	1
Dr. Jo-Elle Mogerman Makes History .....	2
About Us .....	2
Article by Rosa Para, Palo Magazine .....	3
Do You Know .....	3
Question of the Month .....	5
Book Review .....	5
Super Bo Cartoon .....	6
Subscription Form .....	6
Famous Blacks Born in December .....	7
Answers to Do You Know .....	7
Spiritual Directory .....	8

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## Dr. Jo-Elle Mogerman Makes History



Dr. Jo-Elle Mogerman  
philadelphiazoo.org

Dr. Jo-Elle Mogerman is the new President and CEO of the Philadelphia Zoo. She is, indeed, a monumental history maker, for she is the first woman and the first black to become the president and CEO of the oldest zoo in the United States.

Mogerman has sterling credentials. Prior to her appointment to the Philadelphia Zoo last month (November), she was the director of the St. Louis (MO) Zoo Wildlife Park for four years. From 2017 to 2019, Mogerman was the vice president for learning and community at the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, IL. Dr. Mogerman has also held an adjunct faculty appointment (2013-2023) at DePaul University in Chicago, IL; she teaches regularly online.

Mogerman earned a Bachelor's Degree in biology from Macalester College in Saint Paul, MI, a Master of Science Degree in conservation biology from the University of Minnesota, and a PhD. Degree from the University of Chicago in biology.

Our neighboring city of brotherly love is blessed to have this dynamic sister directing their zoo.

## Zion Baptist Anniversary Celebration

⇒ continued from page 1

from the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH.

The keynote speaker for this pastoral anniversary celebration was Brian C. Jenkins, the Executive Director of the CHOSEN 300 MINISTRIES. Prior to his speech, Jenkins made a very generous contribution monetary gift for the occasion for Dr. Alick. He encouraged others to do the same thing, and at that point, several organizations and members of the Zion congregation also made monetary gifts of gratitude to Dr. Alick. Next, Jenkins eloquently praised Dr. Alick for his outstanding service to his church and the community.



Brian C. Jenkins

Jenkins was in Reading for this speech and also for a meeting of the Reading chapter of the CHOSEN 300 MINISTRIES, which is an organization whose mission is to bring people of different membership groups together helping them to realize that despite their differences in race, ethnicity, denomination, social class, economic classes or diverse faith practices, they unify for the common good. The purpose of their unification is to distribute meals to the homeless throughout the world.

Finally, the collaborations of Alick and Jenkins is indeed a tribute to Dr. Alick service for humankind locally and internationally!



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## AFRICAN AMERICAN Do you know?

1. What are the names of the Power Couple, who now have a combined net worth of almost 3 billion dollars?
2. Who is the newly appointed first African American woman Chief of Police of Washington, DC?
3. Who is the first African American to be elected to the United States Congress in Rhode Island?
4. Who was the African American law enforcement officer who was the inspiration for the cinematic and television hero, the "Lone Ranger?"
5. Who was the first black recipient of the Navy Cross, and what other awards and honors did he receive?
6. Who was the eloquent former pastor of Concord Baptist Church in Brooklyn, NY, who until his death in 2015, was considered by many to be America's most dynamic preacher?
7. Who was the dynamic preacher and brilliant administrator who was president of Howard University from 1926 to 1960?
8. Who was the Black surgeon who organized America's first blood bank?
9. Who was the first African American to graduate from Kutztown University?
10. Who was the Black man who accompanied Robert Peary when he reached the North Pole on April 6, 1909?

The answers can be found on page 7.

*"Christmas is the season for kindling the fire of hospitality in the hall, the genial flame of charity in the heart."*

~ Washington Irving

## Why Is A Black Santa Important?



Rosa J. Parra

**By Rosa J. Parra,**  
Founder of Palo Magazine  
palomagazine.com

I read online that after all these years a well-known theme park was including a Black Santa in their holiday celebrations. It made me think while this is great news, why did it take so long? Having a Black Santa is an important representation for children, and this world needs authentic inclusivity.

When I mentioned the word authentic, it's because I noticed many companies started looking to be more inclusive lately, and this is wonderful but I will tell you that as a Latina we can tell when we are only being included in something just for a company or brand to look inclusive, but we are not truly welcomed. Make sure your company or business inclusivity is authentic.

I asked a few Black friends of mine a few questions before drafting this article, and they agreed that including a Black Santa was overdue. Someone even thanked me for bringing up this topic of "the importance of representation." They also reminded me that many Black people have been for ages displaying Black Santas in their homes. They do so because they and their children need to have a sense of belonging, but everyone has the right to that desire of belonging, but it should not be just behind closed doors but everywhere they go.



As a Latina, I taught my kids the meaning of "representation." I have nephews and nieces who are partially Black and I want them to feel that we respect their ancestors as well as our own. Representation should be everywhere and that is what a Black Santa means to many in the Black community and other communities as well. We Latinos have our 3 Kings Day celebrations and our three kings usually come in three colors, white, beige, and black and that is very normal for us as we come in all different shades as well.

I mentioned the topic of Black Santa specifically because of the holidays; however, this applies to many other areas such as the need for Black superheroes. Have you ever seen a Black Superman or Batman on the big Hollywood screens? The Black community needs to be represented more; it should be normal to see a Black Santa or Batman. This is why the movie Black Panther made over 1.344 billion USD. Representation needs to be everywhere, not just on the football field or the basketball court. Children of color need to see themselves not only as doctors, teachers, and mentors but also as superheroes, not just actors but the directors of their movies like Tyler Perry and even more Black presidents. This helps children not only feel included but also helps them understand that they too can achieve their goals and dreams.

Happy Holidays, be inclusive not just because you do not want to be pointed out or because it feels cool to do so but because you understand that we are all the same and we all deserve greatness. I leave you with this quote; *"In diversity there is beauty and there is strength"* - Maya Angelou.

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## THE DRUM QUESTION OF THE MONTH

**Location of the Interviews:** Albright College at the Washington Presbyterian Church Anniversary Celebration

**Date of the Interviews:** October 22, 2023

**The Question:** *What differences are there between your Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners?*

### Responses:



**Winnie Burden:**

*"I serve the same food to less people for Christmas."*



**Shirley Mae Key:**

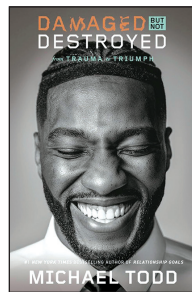
*"I serve more food at Thanksgiving."*



**Yvonne Lewis:**

*"They are the same."*

## Book Review



**Title:** *Damaged, But Not Destroyed: From Trauma to Triumph*  
177 pages  
**Author:** Michael Todd  
**Publisher:** WATERBROOK: Penguin Random House, LLC., Westminster, MD, 2023

Mike Todd is a brilliant writer as well as a dynamic preacher. Far too many writers do not speak well, and far too many eloquent speakers are not good writers. Like Rev./Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, Todd is magnificent in both areas. His eloquent sermons are available, visually and audibly, online.

The book, *Damaged, But Not Destroyed: From Trauma to Triumph* is a masterpiece. Similar to Sigmund Freud, Todd reveals that all of us receive psychological damage at early ages that can affect us negatively. The damage may be unconsciously negatively affecting us. He encourages us to identify, and use God to turn the damage into triumphs. It is a manual or workbook that encourages readers to write in the book via creative acronyms such as HOT = Be Humble, Open, Transparent and H.U.S.H. = Hear from God. Understand progressively. (Get to the HEART of the matter) to address our issues.

Todd gives biblical examples of damaged people, and he provides 18 biblical (scripture) references about "straight from God's mouth" of our validation.





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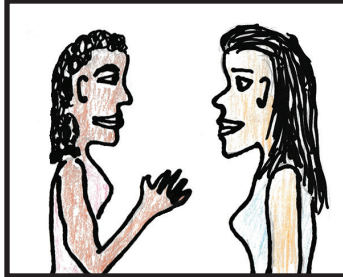
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## Super Bo & Super Sally: Episode 14

### BLACK SUPER HEROES

Story by Joseph Amprey  
Illustrations by Stan Barnes

Jamika's classmate, Ann, asked her about her recent changes.



Jamika said that Sally told her to be proud of good grades and hard work.

REPORT CARD	
ALGEBRA	A
BIOLOGY	A
ENGLISH	B
FRENCH	B
HISTORY	A
PE	B

Jamika said that Sally encouraged her to socialize with good students and hard workers.



Ann also asked Jamika about the new outfits that she had been wearing.



*to be continued...*

*"We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their color."*

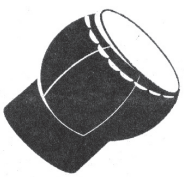
*~ Maya Angelou*



Happy  
**KWANZAA**

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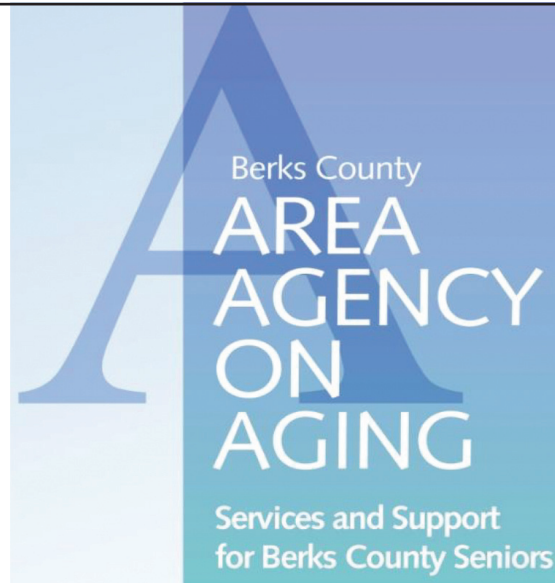
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# BLACK HEROES

## FAMOUS BLACKS BORN IN DECEMBER

### Madam C. J. Walker (1867 - 1919)

Madam C. J. Walker, who was born on December 23, 1867 in Delta Fifth Military District, LA, was a very successful entrepreneur and philanthropist; she was also a political and social activist. Her birth name was Sarah Breedlove. However, after marrying Charles Joseph Walker, she took on the name Madam C. J. Walker.



Madam C. J. Walker  
womenshistory.org

First, Walker learned from her brothers, who were barbers, the basic elements of hair grooming. Later, she worked for Annie Malone, a successful wealthy African American hair-stylist entrepreneur. Moreover, her husband Charles Joseph Walker, was an advertising and public relations professional. After developing products for grooming straightening kinky hair, she combined all of the previously learned skills to develop a company which hired and trained thousands of women to promote her products while working for her company and independently in their own businesses. Those women working for her company were rewarded for sales and for recruiting other women to work for her Madam C. J. Walker Manufacturing Company.

From 1906-1908, Madam C. J. Walker assigned her daughter, A'Lelia to the mail order responsibilities of her business, while she and her husband traveled all over the USA promoting her enterprise.

At the time of her death in 1919, Walker was the richest African American woman in the USA, and her daughter continued expanding the business abroad in Cuba, Jamaica, Haiti, Panama, and Costa Rica.

At the height of her financial success, between 1911 and 1919, Walker made monumental contributions for the betterment of humankind. Specifically, she played a major role in the establishment of a YMCA in the Black community in Indianapolis, IN. Moreover, she contributed scholarship funds to Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University). Walker also made financial contributions to Bethel AME Church, the Mary McLeod Bethune Industrial School for Negro Girls (now Bethune Cookman University in FL), the Palmer Memorial Institute in NC, and the Haines Normal Institute in GA. Madam C. J. Walker employed Vertner Tandy, the first licensed black architect in New York City, and a founding member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, for the designing of her mansion at Irvington-on-Hudson, NY.

Finally, Walker delivered numerous motivational speeches to major black national organizations about her rise from poverty to wealth.

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### Jay Z (1969 - )

Shawn Corey Carter, whose stage name is Jay Z, was born in Brooklyn, NY on December 4, 1969; he is a phenomenally successful rapper, record producer, and entrepreneur. This year, 2023, Billboard and Vibe, the most prominent music industry publications, named Jay Z the greatest rapper of all time.



Jay Z  
biography.com

Jay Z's prowess, as a performer, is just a part of his overall monumental success as a record producer and entrepreneur. Jay Z is the founder and chairman of Roc Nation, and he was the president and chief executive officer of Def Jam Recordings. His leadership of both organizations has enabled him to assist numerous other successful artists. He founded Roc Nation in 2008, a multidisciplinary entertainment agency.

Jay Z's other business ventures include Rocawear, a clothing retail enterprise, which he founded in 1999, the 40/40 Club, a luxury bar chain, which he founded in 2003, and Aspiro (which was expanded to Tidal), a media streaming business. Currently, 2023, Jay Z's net worth is 2.5 billion dollars.



### Answers to Do You Know

1. Shawn Corey Carter, aka Jay Z, and Beyonce Knowles have a combined net income of almost 3 billion dollars.
2. Pamela A. Smith was confirmed on November 8, 2023 as the Chief of Police of Washington, DC.
3. Gabe Amo, a former White House aid for President Barack Obama, was elected to the United States Congress in Rhode Island on November 7, 2023.
4. Bass Reeves (1838 - 1910) was the former slave who became one of the first black deputy US Marshalls, and first African American to serve in that role west of the Mississippi River.
5. Dori Miller was awarded the Navy Cross for his heroic deeds during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941. First, he helped to carry wounded sailors to safety. Then, he manned an anti-aircraft gun, and in spite of having no previous training in gunnery, shot down 4 enemy planes. The destroyer escort/Knox-class, USS Miller, which was in service from 1973 to 1991, was named after him.
6. Rev. Gardner C. Taylor was known as the "dean of American preaching."
7. Rev. Mordecai W. Johnson was the first Black president of Howard University.
8. Dr. Charles R. Drew was the surgeon and pioneer in the preservation of blood plasma.
9. The former Bessie Reese (Now Bessie Crenshaw) graduated from Kutztown University in 1950.
10. Matthew A. Henson (1866-1955) was the American explorer who accompanied Robert Peary on 7 trips to the Arctic area over a period of 23 years.



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Rev. J.L. Grant, Pastor

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Pastor Jack Williams

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Apostle Edna Lewis

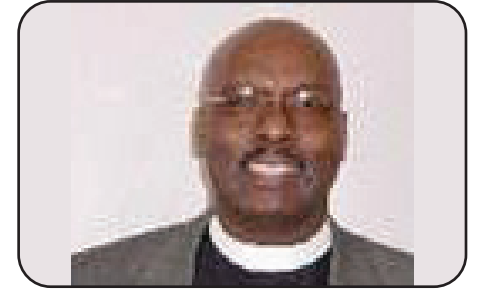
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Bishop Brookins

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Sunday Morning Worship: 10:15 am  
(Holy Communion every 1st Sunday)



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#### Service Times:

Religious Talk every Friday at 1 pm



Pastor Bell

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#### Service Times:

Sunday Services: 9:15 a.m.  
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Bible Study: Wednesday - 7 p.m.



Pastor Kelly

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Pastor Alicia Snead

### WASHINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

715 N 10th St., Reading, PA 19604  
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Pastor: Pastor Alicia Snead

#### Service Times:

Sunday Worship: 10:30 am



Reverend Dr. Alick

### ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

224 Washington St., Reading, PA 19601  
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Pastor: Reverend Dr. Bruce Alick

#### Service Times:

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.  
Bible Study: Tuesday - 11 a.m.  
and Wednesday - 5:30 p.m.

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what breathing is to the Body*

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