

WHILE WE ARE STILL HERE, INC.

Our History Continues In Harlem...



# Who We Are

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In Memoriam

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# Mission

While We Are Still Here (WWSH) will educate, enshrine and preserve the extraordinary legacy of Harlem as an influential incubator that was vital to the intellectual, cultural, social, and political advancements of the Harlem community as well as the African Diaspora.





October 2024

While We Are Still Here highlights organizations, events, and people—the famous and infamous—that transformed Harlem into the vast wellspring that came to be known as the “Capital of the Black World.” The Black people who lived here and visited were informed, inspired, and entertained by a contagious bravura energy that exploded into an influential cultural, political, and social force. Across the spectrum, from politics and fashion, from science and sports, from religion and literature and beyond, Harlem occupies a special place, as an “influencer” of thought, action, and ideology.

Our principal work is to make Harlem’s history unavoidable and to add forgotten and obscure, though important, information to its narrative, with the hopes of inspiring broader and deeper research and discussion.

This booklet is just a small sample of the work

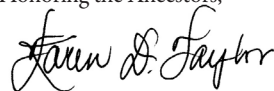
that While We Are Still Here has engaged in since its founding in 2015. We have placed the “badges” from our website here, because these informative brief summaries of people’s lives bring to the fore a few individuals whose importance and influence may have been unknown. We’re sharing these badges, also, because they are just beautiful, thanks to our graphic designer, Maurice Robinson-Cook.

In the face of the population changes that are taking place across the nation, in areas that were formerly Black neighborhoods, WWSH deems it imperative to codify more of Harlem’s story, so that there remains a record—and the sweet part of it is, this work is by an organization whose leadership is primarily composed of former and/or present community members.

The second section presents SIGNS OF THE TIMES: Harlem Markers Project. This

initiative is on track to finalize the installation of all twenty-five heritage markers as part of a venture that was conceptualized in 2020. WWSH honors the individuals, organizations, historical events, and sites that have shaped Harlem’s unique identity. The unveiling ceremonies and dedications of these markers began in the summer of 2023 and continued through the spring of 2024. To date, half of the twenty-five markers have been installed at various locations throughout the community, with the remaining scheduled to be in place by the end of the year. This project would not have been possible without the assistance of Brent Leggs and the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund.

In the Spirit of Heritage—  
Honoring the Ancestors,

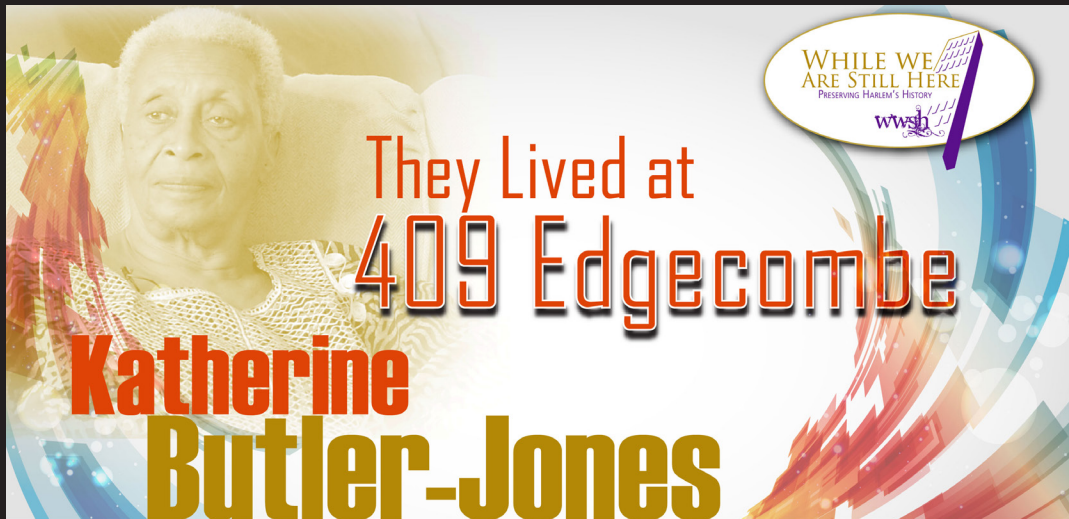




**Badges**

**409 & 555 Edgcombe**





They Lived at  
**409 Edgecombe**

**Katherine  
Butler-Jones**

A native Harlemite, she was born in Presbyterian Children's Hospital, and her parents took her home to 409. In 1964, Dr. Butler-Jones founded the Freedom Schools educational partnership between Roxbury and Newton, Massachusetts.





# They Lived at 409 Edgecombe **PuraBelpré**

Pura Belpré was the first Puerto Rican librarian at the NYPL. She started her career at the 135th St. branch, now known as the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. She was pivotal in shaping bilingual initiatives. She was also a puppeteer and writer who authored several books, including *The Tiger and the Rabbit and Other Tales* (1946), the first English collection of Puerto Rican folk tales published in the U.S.





They Lived at  
409 Edgecombe

**MayEdwardChinn, MD**

May Edward Chinn, MD was the first African American woman to graduate from the University and Bellevue Hospital Medical College. She practiced medicine in Harlem for fifty years. Chinn was also the piano accompanist to singer Paul Robeson. Her private practice was on Edgecombe Avenue. She also worked with other Black physicians at the Edgecombe Sanitarium for non-white patients. Dr. Chinn advocated for early detection of cancer screening, including Pap smear tests for cervical cancer.





# They Lived at 409 Edgecombe Marvel Cooke

Cooke was a journalist, editor, and civil rights activist. When she first came to NYC, she was W.E.B. Du Bois's assistant at *Crisis*. She was the first woman reporter at the *New York Amsterdam News* and the first African American woman to work at a mainstream white-owned newspaper. While working for AmNews in the 1930s, Cooke organized a local chapter of the Newspaper Guild, held union meetings in her home, and joined the Communist Party. Marvel also worked as assistant managing editor for Adam Clayton Powell's *People's Voice*. She later went on to volunteer as national legal defense secretary for the Angela Davis Defense Fund in 1971.

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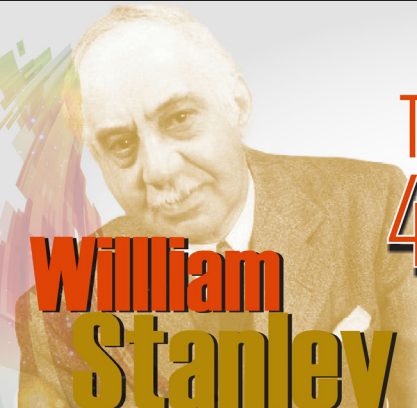



They Lived at  
**409 Edgecombe**

**Julius Bledsoe**

Julius Bledsoe, a world-famous singer, composer, and actor, defied racial barriers in the mid-1920s by being one of the first African Americans to ever perform on Broadway. As an opera singer, he performed with leading companies globally, including the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, the BBC Symphony in London, the Royal-Dutch Italian Opera Company, and the Cosmopolitan Opera Association in New York.



A portrait of William Stanley Brathwaite, an older man with a mustache, wearing a brown suit jacket over a white shirt and tie. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background of the portrait is a soft, out-of-focus light blue and white.The logo for 'While We Are Still Here' is located in the top right corner. It features the text 'WHILE WE ARE STILL HERE' in a serif font, with 'PRESERVING HARLEM'S HISTORY' in a smaller font below it. To the right of the text is a stylized graphic of a book with musical notes and a purple ribbon.

# They Lived at 409 Edgecombe

## William Stanley Brathwaite

William Stanley Brathwaite was a self-educated author, publisher, educator, and anthologist who published several collections of poetry and essays. Braithwaite founded and headed a publishing firm, B.J. Brimmer, in the 1920s, which published works by Georgia Douglas Johnson, and others. Brathwaite was a friend and early literary supporter of Robert Frost. He paved the path for many other influential Black poets, including Paul Lawrence Dunbar, James Weldon Johnson, and his friend, Countee Cullen.

He was a professor at Atlanta University.



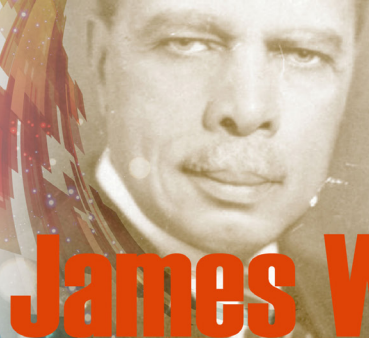


They Lived at  
409 Edgecombe

**Eunice Carter, J.D.**

Eunice Carter, J.D. was the first Black woman to graduate from Fordham Law School in 1932. She was also the first African American woman to work as a prosecutor in the New York County District Attorney's Office. Carter served as a key assistant to special prosecutor Thomas Dewey. An investigation that she headed resulted in the successful prosecution of notorious gangster Charles "Lucky" Luciano. She was active in the United Nations, the National Council of Negro Women, and the YWCA.





# They Lived at 409 Edgecombe James Weldon Johnson

There were many Renaissance men and Renaissance women at 409 and 555 Edgecombe Avenue, and James Weldon Johnson was one of them. From writing song lyrics in dialect to a musical-in-verse, *God's Trombones*, or penning the Black national anthem, "Lift Evry Voice and Sing," with his brother J. Rosamond Johnson, he was also an educator, novelist, attorney, and diplomat. He was the NAACP's first Black field secretary and the author of titles that include *Black Manhattan* and *The Autobiography of an Ex-colored Man*.





They Lived at  
409 Edgecombe

Thurgood Marshall

He is known as the first African American Supreme Court Justice, but even after he narrowly escaped a KKK lynching party in the 40s, Thurgood Marshall, armed only with the law, returned to the South repeatedly to defend innocent Black Americans.





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# They Lived at 409 Edgecombe

## Safiya Henderson-Holmes

She was many things– among them a poet, a professor, an activist. A few of her lines from "C'ing In Colors: Red," about her struggle with cancer: " ...my barber took a lock, my friend/  
has a lock. I haven't seen the skin of my scalp since birth, neither has/ the sun, or my  
daughter, or my lover. I rub my head for luck, for love. I want to be brave.  
I/ want to be beautiful. I want to be..





They Lived at  
409 Edgecombe

# Shirley Graham

Before Suzan-Lori Parks, before Radha Blank, before Lorraine Hansberry, Shirley Graham was a renowned Black, female playwright. *Her opera, Tom-Tom: An Epic of Music and the Negro*, had a cast of 500 professional actors—not bad for a Black woman in 1932.

She eventually married W.E.B. Du Bois.





# They Lived at 409 Edgecombe

## Louise Thompson

She was also a literary figure whose Vanguard Salon offered writers such as Langston Hughes and Zora Neale Hurston a forum to share their works under development. She and Hughes enjoyed a decades-long friendship and were political comrades. Together, they founded the Suitcase Theater. Thompson was in the Movement for the long haul, and forty years after risking her life organizing in Alabama, she worked for the freedom of Angela Davis. Driven by her credo, "No one is free until all are free," as a Communist, Thompson devoted her entire life to struggling for world liberation from economic, racial, and gender-based inequities. For a time, she was married to William Patterson, an attorney for the Scottsboro Boys.

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They Lived at  
409 Edgecombe

# Maudelle Bass Weston

Maudelle Bass Weston was a concert dancer, model, cultural figure, and wife of George Weston, Antiguan dancer and member of the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA). She toured Mexico in the 1920s, where Diego Rivera, enthralled by her beauty, used her as a model. Maudelle spent several years touring with a group named Folklórico in Central and South America. After moving to Los Angeles in the 1930s, she became the first African American to study with modern choreographer Lester Horton. African American sculptor, Beluah Woodard, also used her as the subject of her piece entitled *Maudelle*.





# They Lived at 409 Edgecombe

## Aaron Douglas

Douglas was often referred to as the father of Black American art. His style and perspective were an amalgam of Modern Art, Art Deco, and African Art. He was in the forefront of the New Negro Movement of the early 20th century.





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They Lived at  
**409 Edgecombe**

# **William 'Pat' Patterson**

Attorney William Patterson defended Italian anarchists Sacco and Vanzetti. He was also at the forefront of the Scottsboro Boys case and publicized their plight internationally.

Patterson led the Civil Rights Congress and was a victim of the McCarthy-era witch hunts.

He was imprisoned for taking the principled stance to not name names.

He was married to Louise Thompson.

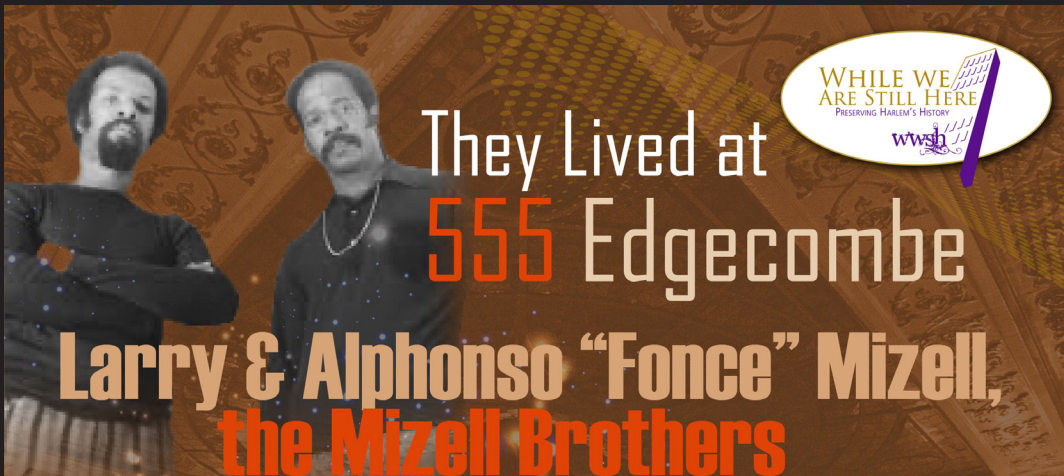




# They Lived at 555 Edgecombe H. Jack Geiger, MD

H. Jack Geiger, MD was a lifelong civil rights activist and health advocate who helped bring medical services to poor, rural areas. He also helped found two antiwar doctors' groups, including Physicians for Social Responsibility, which received the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts to end the nuclear arms race, and Physicians for Human Rights, which won the 1997 prize for its work to to ban landmines.





The Mizell Brothers were producers of various forms of Black music. Their company, Sky High Productions, produced albums for Blue Note Records, including artists Donald Byrd and the Blackbyrds, Bobbi Humphrey, and Johnny Hammond. Alfonso was a member of The Corporation, the Motown production team that produced all of the Jackson 5's early hits from 1969 to 1971. As an electrical engineer, Larry performed testing on the lunar module for the NASA Apollo program.





# They Lived at 555 Edgecombe Clarence L Holte

Clarence L Holte was an African American bibliophile who collected over 8,000 books about Africa and the African Diaspora. His collection, which includes rare and contemporary books dating from 1690 to the 1970s, was sold to Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria, Nigeria, in 1977. He was also an advertising executive for over twenty years, advocating for increased minority representation. When he retired from advertising, he managed the Nubian Press, the book publishing company he founded.





Before Denzel Washington and Samuel L. Jackson, there was Canada Lee. Despite the fame and influence of his early career as an actor, he has nearly been written out of history, due to his outspoken activism on behalf of the rights of Black people. This stage and screen actor railed against the stereotypic roles that Black actors were expected to play and, he, interestingly, performed in white face in several plays. He was a Renaissance Man—a jockey, boxer, actor, and Broadway producer—who took principled stances against racism and fascism. Lee also took in a fourteen-year-old, Jewish runaway whom he met at the Broadway production of Richard Wright's *Native Son*. The youth grew up to be physician activist, H. Jack Geiger.





Before Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia appointed her to family court, he first asked her husband (and law partner), Ralph Mizelle, for permission. LaGuardia may have pushed against the racial tide of that era, but he flowed very smoothly with the sexist tide of the day. Through this appointment, Jane Bolin became the first African American woman judge in the United States, but this was not the first of her firsts: She also earned that distinction upon graduating Yale Law School. Despite her privileged upbringing as the daughter of an attorney, Judge Bolin remained a social activist throughout much of her life, and served on the boards of organizations that included the NAACP.





They Lived at  
**555** Edgecombe

**Paul Robeson**

An all-American football player for Rutgers, an attorney, polyglot, actor, and revolutionary, Paul Robeson was a star and an intellectual wholly committed to the liberation of all peoples of the world. Famed musician Sonny Rollins, who grew up in Harlem, not far from 555 Edgecombe, said, "There was no one bigger than Paul."

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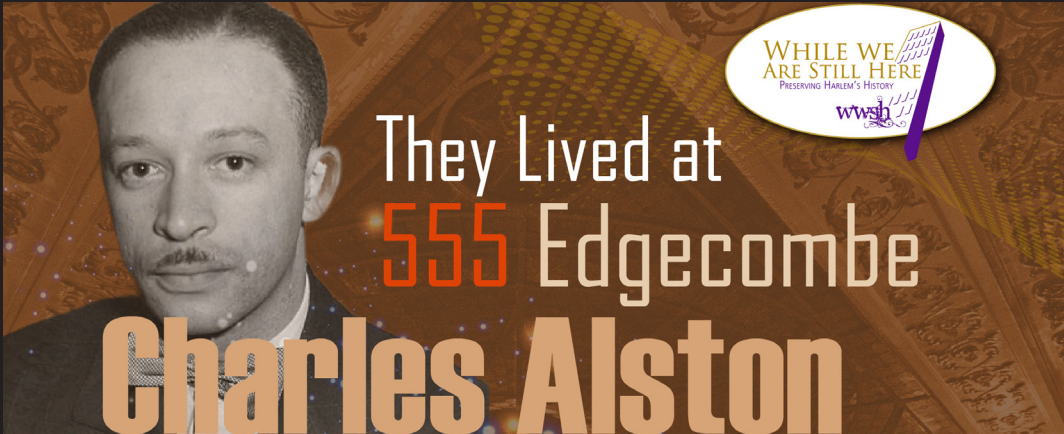




With unique instrumentation and a rich, warm vocal tone, expressing total originality on everything from Broadway show tunes to songs about Kemet and, of course, songs about love, Cassandra is a singer who carries on the tradition of African American musical excellence– a tradition that is so apparent at 555 [and 409]. She is a GRAMMY-award-winning artist, putting her in the company of her "neighbor" of a bygone era, Count Basie.

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Charles Alston was a painter, sculptor, illustrator, muralist, and teacher active in the Harlem Renaissance. Alston co-founded the Harlem Art Workshop in 1934, at 306 W. 141st Street. It was a haven for creative people in Harlem, including Ralph Ellison, Augusta Savage, and Richard Wright. Alston also co-founded the Harlem Arts Guild to advocate for increased funding for Black artists. He was also a co-founder of Spiral, an artist collective formed to increase Black artist representation in galleries and museums.

He was married to Myra Adele Logan, MD.





They Lived at  
**555** Edgecombe

**Myra Adele Logan, MD**

Myra Adele Logan, MD was the first woman to perform open heart surgery and one of the first African American women elected as a fellow to the American College of Surgeons. Her other accomplishments include the development of antibiotics, including Aureomycin; work on early detection and treatment of breast cancer; and efforts to develop x-ray processes to more accurately detect differences in tissue density, allowing for earlier detection of tumors. She was married to Charles Alston.





# They Lived at 555 Edgecombe Andy Kirk

Andy Kirk was a saxophonist, musician, and real estate agent. Kirk was the bandleader of the Twelve Clouds of Joy, which featured prominent musicians, including Fats Navaro, Hattie McDaniel, Mary Lou Williams, Charlie Parker, and Lester Young. Following the disbanding of the Clouds of Joy in 1948, Kirk received his real estate license in the 1950s and later managed the Hotel Theresa in Harlem. He wrote a memoir entitled *20 Years on Wheels*.





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They Lived at  
**555** Edgecombe

**Kenneth & Mamie Clark, Ph.D.s**

“Which doll is nice?” “Which doll is pretty?” These are two of the questions that psychologists, Kenneth and Mamie Clark, asked during the “Doll Test,” an experiment they devised that, ultimately, showed the psychological devastation of white supremacy on Black children.

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# They Lived at 555 Edgecombe June Benjamin

Though semi-retired, June continues serving the labor movement by mentoring upcoming union leaders. She brought her commitment to working people, thirty years of negotiation and arbitration experience, and a powerful resolve when she sat at the table to represent UAW members. June set a national precedent when she paved the way for adjunct faculty at New York University and New School University to reap the benefits of improved working conditions. Incidentally, June was also Tulani Kinard's muse for her innovative stylings, one of which June is wearing in this classic photo.

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Marcelino Manuel da Graça, better known as Charles Manuel “Sweet Daddy” Grace or “Daddy Grace,” was a Christian evangelist, faith healer, and pastor, and first bishop of the predominantly African American denomination, United House of Prayer For All People. Daddy Grace was a real estate mogul who owned many homes across the United States, including The Eldorado on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, and 545 and 555 Edgecombe Avenue, and a twenty-five room mansion in Havana, Cuba.





# They Owned 555 Edgecombe Matthew A. Golson

Mr. Golson was born in Orangeburg County, South Carolina. He attended Voorhees Normal and Industrial School, where he finished high school and earned an associates degree. He moved to Harlem during the great migration, and served in the United States Army in WWII. He went into the real estate business and eventually began buying houses. He once owned and managed thirty-seven apartment buildings, including 545 and 555 Edgecombe Avenue. After his demise, 555 was sold to a real estate investment company.



# SIGNS OF THE TIMES

## Harlem Markers Project

is an initiative to install twenty-five signs to honor individuals, organizations, and events that imbue Harlem with its unique character. As of this writing, eleven have been installed, with the remainder slated to be installed by the end of this year.





555 Edgecombe Ave.

*"The artist must elect  
to fight for freedom or  
for slavery."  
— Paul Robeson*

(BUILT 1916)

**Paul Robeson  
Residence**




Paul Robeson

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1901 Amsterdam Ave.

Pan-Africanist • Reparations Advocate •  
Women's Rights Activist • Founder of  
Universal Association of Ethiopian Women

*"Our history didn't start  
with slavery; it started  
with greatness and  
civilizations."*

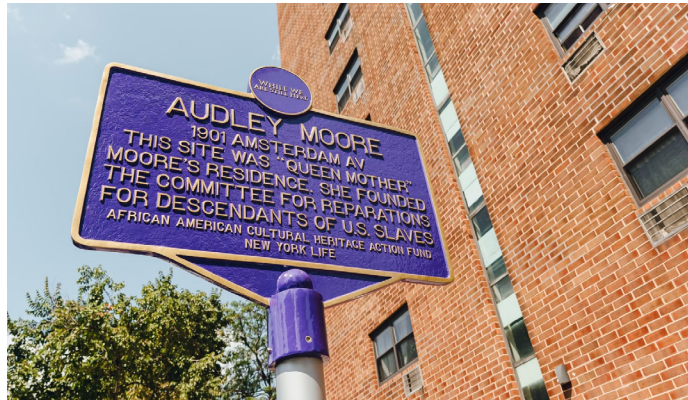
—Queen Mother  
Audley Moore

(1898-1997)

Queen Mother  
Audley Moore



[www.harlemnyc.org](http://www.harlemnyc.org)



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1000 St. Nicholas Ave.

Librarian • Playwright • Actor

*"We must be more than  
librarians, bibliophiles,  
curators and catalogers in  
order to develop the kind  
of social philosophy  
necessary for a modern  
community library."*

—Regina Anderson Andrews

(1901-1993)

Regina  
Anderson Andrews



[www.harlemnyc.org](http://www.harlemnyc.org)



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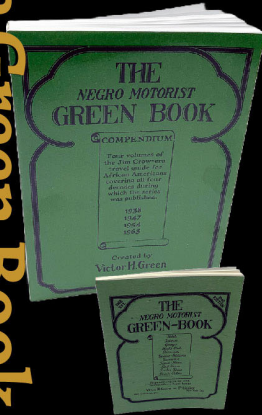


938 St. Nicholas Ave.  
Guidebook for African American  
Roadtrippers

*"The Green Book was  
an ingenious solution to  
a horrific problem.  
It represented the  
fundamental optimism of  
a race of people facing  
tyranny and terrorism."  
– Candacy Taylor,  
Author of Overground Railroad:  
The Green Book and the Roots of Black  
Travel in America*

(Published Between 1936-1966)

# The Green Book



[www.harlemnyc.org](http://www.harlemnyc.org)



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601 W. 125th St.

*"We are the original peoples of this place; the rightful landlords of what today is called Harlem and beyond. In spite of forced removals, genocide, and all the horrific results of brutal colonization, we, the Lenape, are still here and have a lot to teach about how to live on this continent we call Turtle Island. We know how to heal the land, form a fair democracy and create harmony, justice and equality for all beings and species. Do not forget us. Wanishii."*

—George Stonefish,  
Lenape/Delaware

30,000 BCE

# Lenape Nation



[www.harlemnyc.org](http://www.harlemnyc.org)



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125th St. & Adam Clayton Blvd.

Revolutionary • First Black President  
of South Africa

*Brother, comrade, Nelson  
Mandela, on behalf of my  
brothers in prison,  
on behalf of the Puerto  
Rican nationalists, Native  
American political prisoners,  
and on behalf of our white  
political prisoners, I say to  
you, we love you.*

—Dhoruba Bin-Wahad  
Exonerated Political Prisoner

(1918-2013)

**Nelson Mandela**




Bin-Wahad greeting Mandela, June 1990

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Preserving History's Memory

HARLEM  
SIGNS  
OF THE  
TIMES.

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230 W 125th St.

*"Sufi Hamid, of the Chicago jobs campaign, had forced the hand and pocketbook of Harlem to take action. Hamid galvanized people of every social class, economic class, and race to respond to the community's demands for equitable employment opportunities. He applied the methods he had learned in Chicago to the streets of Harlem."*  
—Christie Anderson  
(Historian)

Blumstein



[www.harlemnyc.org](http://www.harlemnyc.org)



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645 St. Nicholas Ave.

Soprano • Concert Singer  
Founder of the Harlem School of the Arts

*"What I dream of is  
changing the image held  
by the children... We've  
made them believe that  
everything beautiful is  
outside the community.  
We would like them to  
make beauty in our  
community."*

**Dorothy Maynor**  
(1910-1996)



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**HARLEM  
SIGNS  
OF THE  
TIMES.**

Paul Robeson and Dorothy Maynor



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288 Lenox Ave.

*"You come in here, you sit  
back, you sip on a drink,  
you close your eyes and  
you can go back — and  
see, I can go back, because  
I remember it."*

—Alvin Reed, Sr.,  
Former Owner of Lenox Lounge

(1939-2012)

Lenox Lounge



[www.harlemnyc.org](http://www.harlemnyc.org)



While We Are Still Here • Our History Continues In Harlem...



545 West 126th St.

Revolutionary • Japanese-American  
Reparations Activist

*"Unless we know  
ourselves and our history,  
and other people and  
their history, there is  
really no way that we  
can... have positive kinds  
of interaction where there  
is real understanding."*  
— Yuri Kochiyama

(1921-2014)

Yuri Kochiyama



[www.harlemnyc.org](http://www.harlemnyc.org)




While We Are Still Here • Our History Continues In Harlem...



437 W. 162nd St.  
Compser • Musicologist  
Arranger • Teacher

*"The Negro Spiritual,  
plantation songs, and  
their idiomatic outgrowth  
form distinctive elements  
of American folklore,  
folksongs, and folk-music."  
—J. Rosamond Johnson*

**J. Rosamond Johnson**  
[1873-1954]



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# Future Installation

*(Projected for end of 2024)*



135 W. 143rd St.

Professional Tennis and  
Golf Player

*"I want the public  
to remember me as  
they knew me:  
strong and tough  
and quick..."*  
—Althea Gibson

(1927-2003)

Althea Gibson



STREET NO.

ALTHEA GIBSON

135 W. 143RD ST.  
THE PROMISING TALENTS OF THE  
1ST AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMAN  
TO WIN THE FRENCH OPEN WERE  
DISCOVERED ON THIS BLOCK.

African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund  
New York Life



[www.harlemnyc.org](http://www.harlemnyc.org)

445 W. 153rd St.

• Prodigy • Innovator  
Father of the Tenor Saxophone

*"I think a solo should  
tell a story... Romanticism  
and sorrow and  
greed—they can all be  
put into music."*  
—Coleman Hawkins

(1904-1969)

Coleman Hawkins



STREET NO.

COLEMAN HAWKINS

445 W. 153RD ST.  
A TENOR SAXOPHONIST, KNOWN FOR  
IMPROVISATIONAL MASTERY  
AND MUSICALITY, WHICH ALTERED THE  
SOUND OF BLACK MUSIC.

African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund  
New York Life



[www.harlemnyc.org](http://www.harlemnyc.org)

While We Are Still Here • Our History Continues In Harlem...



409 Edgecombe Ave.

*"No one is free until all  
people are free...  
Compromise is not a  
companion of dignity."  
—Louise Thompson*

(BUILT 1916)

## Colonial Parkway Apartments



Louise Thompson

### COLONIAL PKWY APTS

409 EDGECOMBE AV HOUSED BLACK  
JURISTS, ARTISTS, AND INTELLEC-  
TUALS INCLUDING THURGOOD  
MARSHALL, WILLIAM PATTERSON, AND  
LOUISE THOMPSON.

African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund  
New York Life



[www.harlemnyc.org](http://www.harlemnyc.org)

580 St. Nicholas Ave.

Singer • Actress

*"We are all gifted.  
That is our  
inheritance."  
—Ethel Waters*

(1896-1977)

## Ethel Waters



### ETHEL WATERS

580 ST. NICHOLAS AV  
RENOWNED STAR OF THE STAGE  
AND SCREEN, NOMINATED FOR AN  
OSCAR AND EMMY, WATERS  
ENJOYED AN ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER.

African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund  
New York Life



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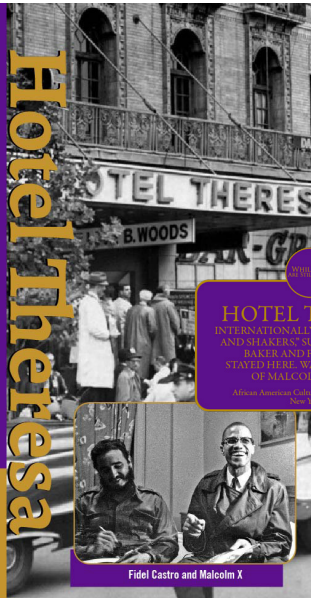
While We Are Still Here • Our History Continues In Harlem...



2082 Adam Clayton  
Powell Blvd.

*"The Theresa is ...best  
known as the place where  
Fidel Castro went during  
his UN visit, ... and  
made such an impression  
among the Negroes"*  
—Malcolm X

[1913-1970]



**HOTEL THERESA**  
INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN "MOVERS  
AND SHAKERS" SUCH AS JOSEPHINE  
BAKER AND FIDEL CASTRO  
STAYED HERE. WAS ALSO THE SITE  
OF MALCOLM X'S OAAU.

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New York City



[www.harlemnyc.org](http://www.harlemnyc.org)

Fidel Castro and Malcolm X

133rd St.  
Between 7th and Lenox Aves.

*"133rd St. was the real  
swing street, like 52nd St.  
later tried to be...  
133rd St. would always  
be the genuine article,  
even after it seemed  
everyone else had  
forgotten it ever existed."*  
—Billie Holiday

Jungle Alley/Beale St.



**JUNGLE ALLEY**  
ALSO KNOWN AS BEALE ST. THE  
CLUBS AND SPEAKEASIES ON THIS  
BLOCK PRESENTED GLADYS BENTLY,  
BILLIE HOLIDAY, THE NICHOLAS  
BROTHERS, AND OTHER ARTISTS.

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12 Jumel Ter.

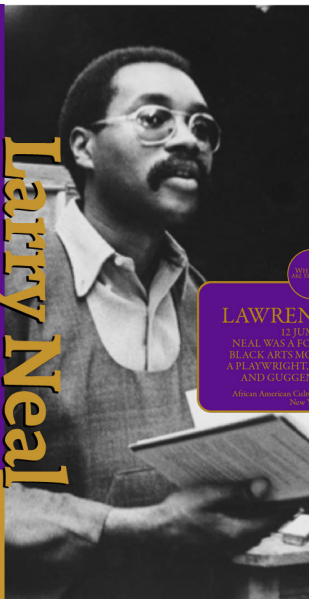
Poet • Playwright Educator  
• Political Activist

*"The Black Arts Movement is radically opposed to any concept of the artist that alienates him from his community. This movement ... envisions an art that speaks directly to the needs and aspirations of Black America."*

—Larry Neal

(1937-1981)

Larry Neal



ACTIVIST 1981

### LAWRENCE NEAL

12 JUMEL TER.

NEAL WAS A FORCE IN THE 1960s BLACK ARTS MOVEMENT. HE WAS A PLAYWRIGHT, POET, PROFESSOR, AND GUGGENHEIM FELLOW.

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New York Life



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2107 Adam Clayton  
Powell Ave.

Harlem Bookseller • Civil Rights Activist

*"Black is beautiful. Black isn't power. Knowledge is power. You can be black as a crow or white as snow but if you don't know and you ain't got no dough, you can't go and that's for sho"*

(1895-1976)

Lewis Michaux



ACTIVIST 1981

### LEWIS MICHAUX

2107 7TH AV/ACP BLVD

HIS NATIONAL MEMORIAL AFRICAN BOOKSTORE SERVED HARLEM FROM 1939-74. WITH TITLES FROM THE DIASPORA.

IT WAS A HUB OF ACTIVISM.  
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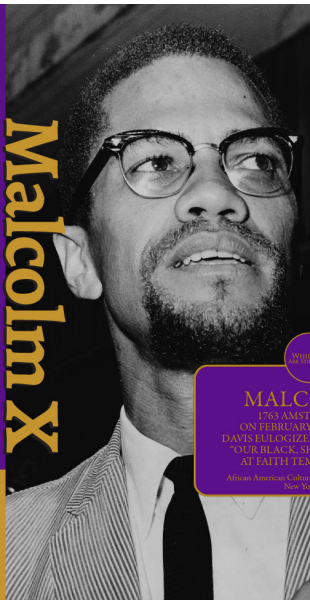


1763 Amsterdam Ave.  
Minister • Political Activist •  
Pan-Africanist

*"The problem facing our people here in America is bigger than all other personal or organizational differences. Therefore, as leaders, we must stop worrying about the threat that we seem to think we pose to each other's personal prestige, and concentrate our united efforts toward solving the unending hurt that is being done daily to our people here in America."*  
—Malcolm X

(1925-1965)

Malcolm X



1965 FEB 21

### MALCOLM X

1763 AMSTERDAM AV.  
ON FEBRUARY 27, 1965, OSSIE  
DAVIS EULOGIZED MALCOLM X, AS  
"OUR BLACK, SHINING PRINCE,"  
AT FAITH TEMPLE CHURCH

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New York Life



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2395 Frederick Douglass Blvd.

- Founder of the UNIA
- Pan-Africanist

*"A people without knowledge of their past history, origin, and culture is like tree without roots."*  
—Marcus Garvey

(1887-1940)

Marcus Garvey



1940 FEB 21

### UNIVERSAL NEGRO IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

2395 8TH AV. / FD BLVD  
SITE OF MARCUS GARVEY MEETING  
HALL, NAMED FOR THE FOUNDER OF  
THE UNIVERSAL NEGRO IMPROVEMENT  
ASSOC. WHO FOSTERED BLACK PRIDE,  
African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund  
New York Life



[www.harlemnyc.org](http://www.harlemnyc.org)

While We Are Still Here • Our History Continues In Harlem...



2341 Seventh Ave./  
Adam Clayton Powell Blvd.

*"That was a special aspect  
of what the Renaissance  
Casino and Ballroom  
was all about. They had  
basketball, sports and  
music all at the  
same time."*

—Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

(1921-1931)

## The Renaissance Ballroom and Casino "The Rennie"



WHILE WE  
ARE STILL HERE

**THE RENNIE**  
2341 SEVENTH AV./ACP BLVD  
A SOCIAL HUB FOR 50+ YEARS,  
THE RENAISSANCE BALLROOM  
AND CASINO WAS BUILT AND  
OWNED BY CARIBBEAN BUSINESSMEN.

African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund  
New York City



[www.harlemnyc.org](http://www.harlemnyc.org)

225 W. 110th St.

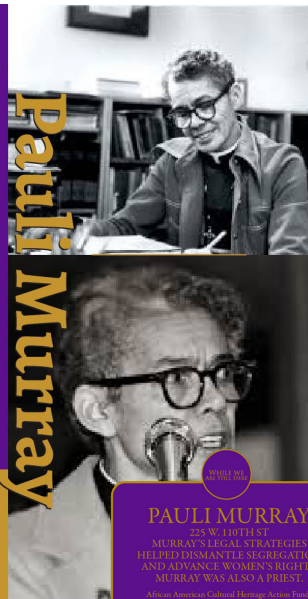
Civil Rights Activist • Legal Scholar and Theorist  
• Episcopal Priest • Poet

*"If anyone should ask a  
Negro woman in  
America what has been  
her greatest achievement,  
her honest answer would  
be, 'I survived!'"*

– Pauli Murray

(1910-1985)

## Pauli Murray



WHILE WE  
ARE STILL HERE



[www.harlemnyc.org](http://www.harlemnyc.org)

**PAULI MURRAY**

225 W. 110TH ST.  
MURRAY'S LEGAL STRATEGIES  
HELPED DISMANTLE SEGREGATION  
AND ADVANCE WOMEN'S RIGHTS.  
MURRAY WAS ALSO A PRIEST.

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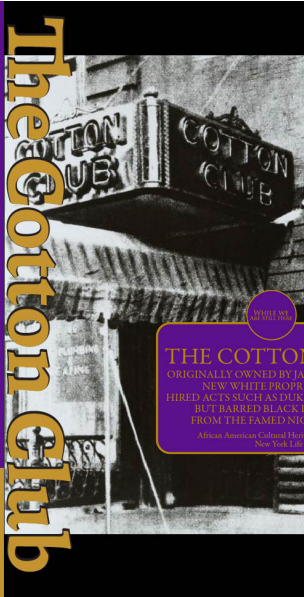


646 Lenox Ave.

*"...Thousands of whites  
came to Harlem night  
after night, thinking  
the Negroes loved to  
have them there..."*  
— Langston Hughes

[1923-1936]

# The Cotton Club



**THE COTTON CLUB**  
ORIGINALLY OWNED BY JACK JOHNSON,  
NEW WHITE PROPRIETORS  
HIRED ACTS SUCH AS DUKE ELLINGTON,  
BUT BARRED BLACK PATRONS  
FROM THE FAMED NIGHTSPOT.

African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund  
New York City



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While We Are Still Here • Our History Continues In Harlem...



# Harlem As An Incubator

Beginning in 2025, Harlem As An Incubator, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), will be a two-year series of programming, that highlights underrepresented aspects of Harlem's history, alongside commonly known facts such as the Renaissance.

Please visit [harlemnyc.org](http://harlemnyc.org) to sign up for our mailing list.





# INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORTERS



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