

# MICHIGAN BULLETIN

Celebrating 25 Years

Vol. XXVII No. 4

March 16-31, 2021

## R.I.P. VERNON JORDAN 1935-2021



## R.I.P. YAPHET KOTTO 1935-2021



## R.I.P. SHELIA WASHINGTON 1959-2021



## R.I.P. PAULINE JOHNSON 1942-2021



## R.I.P. IRV CROSS 1938 -2021



## WOMEN'S HISTORY SPECIAL EDITION



Picture courtesy of Thomas Barwick-Getty Images

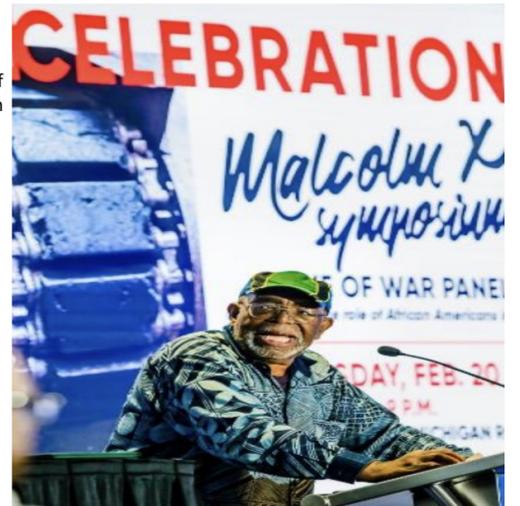
### Sachs Pledges \$10 Billion to Support Advancement of Black Women

Goldman Sachs said Wednesday it will commit \$10 billion over the next decade toward advancing racial equity and economic opportunity for Black women. The new initiative — called “One Million Black Women” — will focus on areas such as access to capital, job creation, financial health, and work-force advancement. Goldman said the effort is “the largest announcement of its kind in size and scope.” Goldman is partnering with Black women-led organizations to better understand the barriers Black women face.

The bank will also invest \$100 million in philanthropic capital over the next 10 years. The targeted funding will take the form of direct investing, as well as grants. The firm said initial investments are underway. The program’s goal is to positively impact the lives of at least one million Black women by 2030, and its advisory council includes former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Goldman’s announcement comes as employees, shareholders and society call on corporate America to do more against systemic racism. A slew of companies have announced new diversity and inclusion measures, but it’s still unclear whether these initiatives translate into real progress. In conjunction with its funding announcement, Goldman released a report called “Black Womenomics,” seeking to quantify the gender and racial biases that Black women have faced and continue to face. Like countless studies before, the findings show racial inequality is not just a social issue, but an economic one as well. The research found that Black women are paid 35% less than white men. Reducing this gap could create between 1.2 million and 1.7 million jobs in the U.S. and increase GDP by as much as \$450 billion annually. Progress in closing the wage gap has stalled. The wage gap between Black and white women stands at 15%, up from 5% in the early 1980s. Differences were attributed back then to education, occupations, and industries. While these factors are still relevant, harder-to-measure barriers such as differences in career opportunities play a larger part. “Largely because of lower earnings and limited access to capital, Black Americans are much less likely to own high-return assets than white individuals, including homes, stocks, and especially their own businesses,” the report stated, finding that the median Black household owns almost 90% less wealth than the median white household. The coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated the challenges Black women face. February jobs data showed a 5.9% unemployment rate for women overall, while the figure for Black women stood at 8.9%. Article courtesy of CMBC’s Pippa Stevens

### LCC Instructor has a Passion for African History

LANSING, Mich. (Feb. 25, 2021) – Dr. Willie Davis has been an adjunct instructor at Lansing Community College since 1981. He is passionate about all things Africa and is often seen wearing the mud cloth of Ghana. Davis teaches Black history at LCC and is very active in bringing the African continent to life for so many. Davis is a member of LCC’s Black History Awareness Committee which celebrates Black history throughout the year. He has hosted one of the college’s signature events, the Malcolm X Symposium since 2016. He has been instrumental in other Black history events at the college including an annual health fair and the Black Business Expo. A world traveler for many years Davis has collected enough artifacts to open a museum. The All Around the African World Museum is the only one of its kind in Lansing. “The Museum was originally part of the El-Hajj Malik el Shabazz Academy but their development of an awesome set of murals to illustrate the Academy and African and African Diaspora art meant a move for us,” Davis said. “We officially opened as a museum and community site at 1134 and 1136 Shepard Street 21 years ago.” Davis’ passion and knowledge of African history is widely known and respected. LCC Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Tonya Bailey believes Davis has done much to promote the rich culture of African Americans. “It’s in his daily routine,” Bailey said. “He has done so much to enhance lives in Lansing, the state, the nation and even internationally. He is an incredible thought leader that has positively impacted the LCC educational community. He is an equity bridge builder and his belief in equality has allowed many young people to cross that bridge. LCC continues to shine because of individuals like Dr. Davis, a professor, mentor, elder, and change agent.”



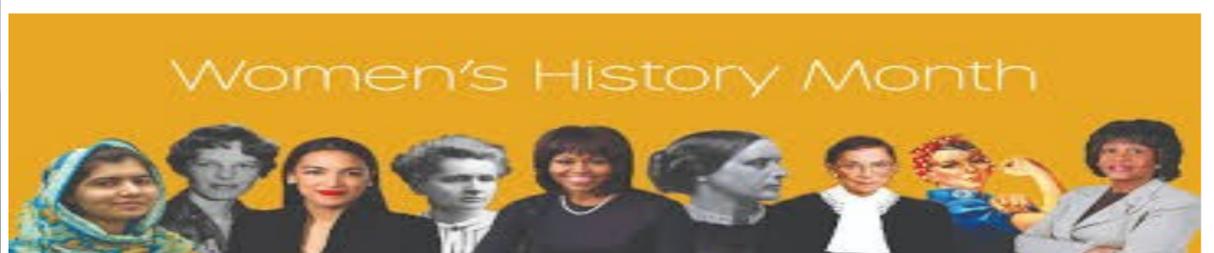
Dr. Willie Davis

Dr. Willie Davis IS Black history.

About Lansing Community College  
Lansing Community College is committed to providing equal employment opportunities and equal education for all persons regardless of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, creed, ancestry, height, weight, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, familial status, marital status, military status, veteran’s status, or other status as protected by law, or genetic information that is unrelated to the person’s ability to perform the duties of a particular job or position or that is unrelated to the person’s ability to participate in educational programs, courses, services or activities offered by the college.

The following individuals have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Equal Opportunity Officer, Washington Court Place, 309 N. Washington Square Lansing, MI 48933, 517-483-1730; Employee Coordinator 504/ADA, Administration Building, 610 N. Capitol Ave. Lansing, MI 48933, 517-483-1875; Student Coordinator 504/ADA, Gannon Building, 411 N. Grand Ave. Lansing, MI 48933, 517-483-1885; Sarah Velez, Human Resource Manager/Title IX Coordinator, Administration Building, 610 N. Capitol Ave. Lansing, MI 48933, 517-483-1874; Christine Thompson, Student Title IX Coordinator, Gannon Building, 411 N. Grand Ave. Lansing, MI 48933, 517-483-1261.

### Dr. Willie Davis is Black History!



# News, Views & Commentary

## Mikey23 Foundation-Turning Tragedy Into A Treasure



In front of the mural of Michael Mckissic III. Pictured from Lt. to Rt. Corey, Michael, Sherry and Natasha Mckissic

The tragic death of then 23-year-old Michael Mckissic drastically impacted the lives of parents, Michael, and Sherry Mckissic! But, through the years, and the tears the family is making sure Mikey's memory lives on!! You've seen the billboards "Mikey 23", You've seen the "Tee-Shirts", The license Plates, The "Mikey 23" Hoodies, The Newley donated "Mikey23" Building, located in downtown Lansing, and coming soon, CATA Bus-Stop Benches with the "Mikey23" Logo, as well a Pantry located below the bench to collect can goods and clothing for the Homeless.

"I'm not doing this by myself, but I never thought I would get this much support", Says Michael Mckessic.

Michael Mckissic II, was 23 years old, when he was tragically shot, and the Foundations Goal is to shed Light on unnecessary Youth Violence, as well as to improve the lives of area Youth through innovative education and training in skilled trades. Like his Father, his grandfather, Michael Mckissic worked for the family construction business, and they say he was a natural.

The Mikey23 Foundation is also training youth in their New Downtown building ! Area youth are learning how to build cabinets and doors, and partnering with CATA Bus Company to make new Bus Stop Benches. They have under there construction projects: Several House repairs, a "Stop The Violence Walk", a "Mikey23" Scholarship Fund, and an Annual "3-on-3" Basketball Tournament.

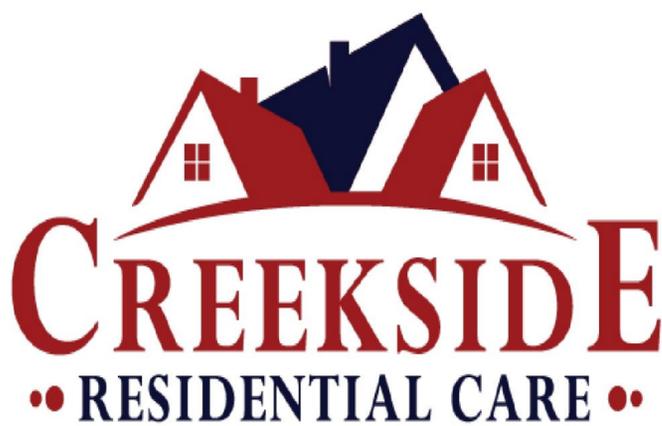
"So Many People Have Gotten behind Mikey23 that the Original \$5,000 Reward That Was Being Offered Is going to Be Increased To \$50,000, Says Michael Mckissic. That's the Reward For Information Leading to An Arrest Of The Person/Persons Responsible For The Murder Of Michael Mckissic II.

Michael Mckissic says The Mayors Office Has Been Very Supportive, The Chief Of Police In Lansing, Chief, Dr. Darryl Green, and The Gillespie Group Who Donated The "Mikey23" Building In The Heart Of Downtown Lansing!

in 2018, an 87-year Lansing woman recieved an unexpected, but severely Needed Blessing From Some Local Volunteers! Members of "Mikey23" Joined other volunteers and replaced windows, put down carpet, fixed cracked steps and more.

"These are one of the things that as human beings, we have to learn how to start giving back, and it's not all about me, me,me, it's about giving back to the people"said Mckissic.

According to reports, during the early morning hours of August 1, 2015, 23 year old Mikey was stand on the front porch of a home on the corner of elm and grand street, when he and anoher man were shot. Mckissic Died at the Hospital, and the other man recovered. The incident is Still unsolved! Article by Michael McFadden



CARING FOR THE DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED

## We are Hiring!

DIRECT CARE WORKERS

CNA'S

NURSING ASSISTANTS

Please send Resume to: lbaruti@wellnessmi.com



## 2021 ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship Application available now.

Scholarship Application Walk Through\*  
January 24, 2021 at 12:00 P.M.

DEADLINE:  
3/30/2021

To Apply:  
<https://www.msuba.org/applyforscholarships>

### QUESTIONS?

Contact Us at:  
Scholarship@msuba.org

## POETREE-N-MOTION



The TV Talk Show highlighting and promoting OUR community...with your host, Dee Freeman  
Watch PNM...  
Airs in Lansing on Comcast channel 16...  
Wednesday at 6:00 PM and Friday at 4:30 PM

Airs in East Lansing on Comcast channel 30...  
Daily at 9:30 AM, 4:30PM and 6:30PM

Come share information on your function or activity. POETREE N Motion is happy to assist in the promotion of your positive activities within our community.



**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
BLACK ALUMNI**  
—Est. 1980—  
Website: [www.PoetreeNMotion.com](http://www.PoetreeNMotion.com)

\*Guidance and Q&A on Scholarship Application

# MELODIES OF RESURRECTION



**Int'l Renown Saxophonist**  
Mel Holder



**Stellar Award Winner**  
Meta Washington

**AIRING ON**  
  
HOSTED BY: Palm Sunday March 28th @ 10:30pm (EST)

## POETREE-N-MOTION

Provides:  
MESSAGES of blessings and inspiration

GUESTS sharing life and education

WORD'S of powerful motivation

And EDITORIALS for deep concentration

## POETREE-N-MOTION

**CONNECTED SOUL II SOUL: WE WON'T BE SILENT OR SILENCED** 03172021



Pastor/Chaplain Pamelajune (Pj) Anderson, DMin.  
Lt. Commander (RET) US Navy Chaplain Corps  
Certified Peer Support Specialist



**BE STILL AND KNOW WHO AND WHOSE YOU ARE**



**Celebration  
Announcements**

By Mr. Party, The Ambassador of Celebration

*Tribute: Mr. Tony E Tyler  
Oct. 3, 1941 - July 20, 2017  
Creator of Mr. Party marketing concept August 1985  
C.A. column September 2006*

**Birthdays in March 2021**

Mr. LaMonti Dion Brown celebrates his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, enjoying new start in new state. Much Love and success from All your Family.

Mr. Mike Ryan Jr. celebrates his birthday with family and friends on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Zachary Murry celebrates his birthday on March 7<sup>th</sup>.

Rev. Anna Mae Alexander, born on March 8<sup>th</sup>, celebrates 90 plus years of living, "Carry on in the name of The LORD!"

Mr. Daryl Holman celebrates his birthday on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. JeMonica Thomas celebrates her birth on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Tammy Michelle Tyson celebrates her 53<sup>rd</sup> birthday on March 9.

Mr. Dwayne Thompson celebrates his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Dylan Pofoli celebrates his 30<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Paloma Sanchez enjoys his birthday on March 11<sup>th</sup>. "Happy Birthday!"

Ms. Nikki Holman celebrates her birthday on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Travis Hough celebrates his 41<sup>st</sup> birthday on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Esther Rodea celebrates her birthday on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. William Banks celebrates his birthday on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Jordan D. Majors celebrates his birthday on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Jennifer Black celebrates her birthday on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Desmond Hall celebrates his birthday on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. William Eugene Rouse II celebrates his birthday on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. James Morrow celebrates his birthday on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Justice Foster celebrates her birthday on March 16<sup>th</sup> with her Mother, brothers and sisters.

Mrs. Emogene Leek celebrates her birthday on March 17<sup>th</sup> with her husband and family, all of them expressing their Love!

Ms. Ciara Wireman celebrates her 20<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 17<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Briana Gonzales Jefferson celebrates her birthday on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Dad says, Happy Birthday little Princess!!!

Ms. Virginia Lewis celebrates her birthday, "34 years young", on March 19<sup>th</sup>. She says, "Much Love!"

Mr. Mark A. Brown celebrates his birthday on March 20<sup>th</sup> with family and friends.

Ms. Annette Johnson, born on March 20, 1959, celebrates her 61<sup>st</sup> birthday.

Ms. Pamela Renzi celebrates her 47<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 21<sup>st</sup>, celebrating with friends and family.

Ms. Theresa Daniels celebrates her birthday on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Ms. Keesha Home celebrates her 41<sup>st</sup> birthday on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, enjoying time spent with her beautiful children.

Mrs. Nya {Chopper's Wife} celebrates her 38<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, along with Mr. Chopper {Nya's Husband} celebrating his 45<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 25<sup>th</sup> and their 1<sup>st</sup> year anniversary on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr. Robert Brown Jr. celebrates his birthday on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, enjoying the company of his lovely wife, Joy.

Master Brayden Konen enjoys his 11<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. "Happy Birthday! Mommy loves you!"

Ms. Valerie Floyd celebrates her 44<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 23<sup>rd</sup> with family and friends.

Ms. Quintine Medley celebrates her 34<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr. John K. Elliott celebrates his birthday on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. "A friend in need is a friend indeed."

Ms. Monica Burrell celebrates her birthday on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. She says, "A special day spent with family and friends; thanks so much!"

Ms. Nellie M. Garvie born March 24<sup>th</sup>, celebrates her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday with her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren... We love you so much!!!

Mr. Matt McCoy, Scratch Pilots... Turntable Tuesday at the Green Door... celebrates his birthday on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Melinda M. Ball born March 25<sup>th</sup> celebrates her birthday her Mother, sisters, brother, children and grandchildren... We love you so much!!!

Ms. Gina Mojica celebrates her birthday on March 26<sup>th</sup>, with family and friends. "The Puerto Rican Lady"

Ms. Shelly Ryan celebrates her birthday on March 28<sup>th</sup>, with family and friends.

Mr. Bill Ryan celebrates his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 28<sup>th</sup>, with family and friends.

Ms. Nikki Holman celebrates her birthday on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Esther Rodea celebrates her birthday on March 15<sup>th</sup>; partied with my family.

Ms. Mary A. Clark celebrates her birthday on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Brandon Henderson celebrates his birthday on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Ralph Riddle Sr.; we honor his memory, celebrated his birth on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Allison Chenault celebrates his birthday on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Michael Bower celebrates his birthday on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Rita Pizana celebrates her birthday on March 26<sup>th</sup> with family and friends.

Mr. Bishop Cousin celebrates his birthday on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Taurean A. Jackson celebrates her birthday on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Don Rodriguez celebrates his 62<sup>nd</sup> birthday on March 26<sup>th</sup>, with his beautiful wife Julia and family.

Mrs. Gwendolyn Bodiford celebrates her birthday on March 27<sup>th</sup>, with her husband and family.

Ms. Brittany Eaton celebrates her birthday on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Marcus Turner celebrates his birthday on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Sheila Fuller celebrates her birthday on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Angela Eaton celebrates her birthday on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. James Edward Garvie Sunrise March 30<sup>th</sup>, 1954 - Sunset February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2002. "WE will always LOVE and KEEP you forever in our HEARTS and YOUR memory ALIVE for as long as we live!.... Rest in Paradise Daddy!!!

Ms. Eunice F. Foster celebrates her birthday on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Ms. Jessie J. Storey-Fry celebrated her birthday on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

18 Pray always. Pray in the Spirit. Pray about everything in every way you know how! And keeping all this in mind, pray on behalf of God's people. Keep on praying feverishly, and be on the lookout until evil has been stayed. Ephesians 6:18



"Dear God, a very dear friend of the United Church of Christ - Ken Medema - metered **Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying**. Verse one reads: "Something's gonna happen, like the world has never known, when the people of the Lord get down to pray. Doors are gonna swing open and the walls come a-tumbling down, when the people of the Lord, get down to pray." Chorus: "Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord, send your Spirit in this place. Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us power, send us grace."

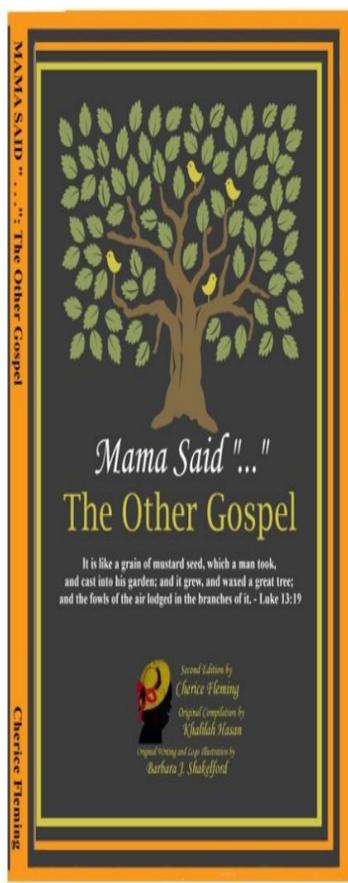
Though Medema had Sunday School children in mind when he penned this song, I find that it affirms that we are all God's children. I needed this reminder. My well ran dry, and I felt no particular inspiration to write until I came across this selection and the words in Ephesians "Pray always." When you don't know what to do, "Pray." When you know what to do, "Pray." Then, I remembered, this is Women's History Month and I thought about the millions of women who are silent or silenced, feeding the monsters of sexism, rapist, molestation, partner abuse, sexual abuse, and a host of injustices.

Are the women who speak on the abuse they experienced by the New York Governor telling the truth? I have no idea. I know this: I was molested as a tween by an uncle; may he rest in peace. Until I voiced that, the monster told me it was my fault. Something I said or did. No, no. There are such things as dirty ol' [and sometimes young] people who misuse their power.

The incredible Bishop Yvette A. Flunder, the founder of City of Refuge United Church of Christ and The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries (TFAM), cut an album years ago titled "WE WON'T BE SILENT ANYMORE. Google and listen to it for encouragement and empowerment. Set yourself free from the monsters. Don't be silent or silenced anymore.

Please subscribe to our YouTube Channel at <https://tinyurl.com/drpdjandersonYT>

**AT TIMES LIKE THESE,  
WE NEED WISDOM OF THE AGES!  
PURCHASE YOUR COPY TODAY  
[WWW.MAMASGOSPEL.COM](http://WWW.MAMASGOSPEL.COM)**



150 Pages of Mama's Gospel

\*Anniversaries  
Mr. Cullen Dubose Sr. and Mrs. Helena J. Dubose celebrate their anniversary on March 31st.  
Mr. & Mrs. Myron & Dee Freeman celebrated their 31<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary on February 14<sup>th</sup>  
Mr. & Mrs. Al and Irma Cooper celebrated their 73<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

\*Announcements  
Mr. Party Website: [www.mrpartycelebrationservice.com](http://www.mrpartycelebrationservice.com)  
Face book Page: [www.facebook.com/mrparty1985](http://www.facebook.com/mrparty1985)  
Celebration Gram: Your special message delivered by; Mr. Party, The Ambassador of Celebration!!!  
Sportron International: [www.mrparty.sportron.com](http://www.mrparty.sportron.com)  
Please send us the information about you, your family or friends celebrating the Events of Life, by email: [mrpartycserv@aol.com](mailto:mrpartycserv@aol.com), or call our office at 1-517-391-4849.



**READ THE  
MICHIGAN  
BULLETIN !**

**INDOOR GARAGE SALE**  
**AT LOGAN SQUARE**  
**ON MLK**  
ENTRANCE BEHIND AUTO SERVICE AT U-HAUL TRAILERS



**Mr. Party**  
The Ambassador of Celebration.

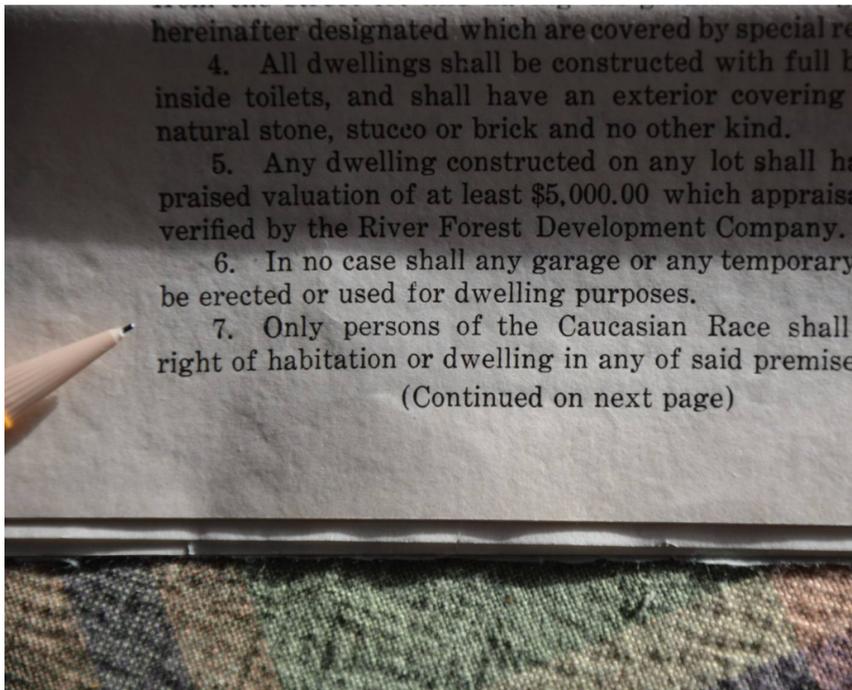
**517-391-4849**

# Housing Discrimination

**“No colored,” “whites only,” “only members of the Caucasian Race.”**

Phrases like these were commonplace in real estate transactions prior to the landmark Open Housing Act of 1968. You could find those phrases in deeds, newspaper ads and real estate listing cards. Even more pernicious were code words like “protected” used in development flyers for new neighborhoods.

You don't have to look far to still find clauses like this in deeds:



From the collection of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing

Restrictive covenants could also include the exclusion of those of Oriental, Mexican, Hispanic or Jewish descent. Although the clauses were deemed illegal by the Supreme Court in 1948 realtors and developers still enforced the restrictions until the Open Housing Act. In the book “Colored Property” author David M.P. Freund states that by 1928 one half of the homes owned by white people in the United States had restricted covenants, by the time of Supreme Court Decision (1948) the number had risen to 85 percent for all large new developments.

A local example of this is Lansing's River Forest neighborhood developed by Walter Neller. Almost all of the homes in the area which began construction in the early 1930s have restrictive covenants in their deeds.

Although the covenants are illegal, they still appear in deeds as they were originally written and I can tell you as a Black man they can be chilling when you read them for the first time, grim reminders of the Jim Crow era.

Thanks to data bases like Newspapers.com and historic collections like the Stebbins real estate cards held by the Capital Area District Library in my hometown of Lansing Michigan we can see powerful examples of the systemic racism in the United States under the guise of protecting the property values of white homeowners.



From the collection of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing

These items would be considered historic relics if the impacts of housing discrimination didn't still hang over our country in the form of capital accumulation. Blacks, Hispanics and other marginalized groups have systematically been kept from building wealth through the ownership of property. Numerous studies have definitively shown that minorities who were excluded from home ownership have not accumulated generational wealth accredited to home ownership while white homeowners were able to accumulate wealth that was passed down through generations.

These discriminatory housing practices have a long history of government collusion in not only enforcing restrictions but also creating impediments to minority homeownership. Minorities are still paying the price.

We only have to take a look at the phrase “redlining” to understand how federal policies contributed to housing discrimination. In 1935, the federal Homeowners Loan Corporation sent appraisers to 239 cities across the United States to assess the viability of neighborhoods for federal investment guaranteed loans.

The appraisers literally used color coding on maps to determine a neighborhoods viability. Green and blue indicated the best neighborhoods; yellow represented caution that a neighborhood was declining, and red was deemed “hazardous” and used to indicate neighborhoods occupied by minorities; especially Black families. The hazardous classification was

2021  
**H**  
HISTORY

# THIS DAY IN WOMEN'S HISTORY

**365 Extraordinary Women and Events That Shaped History**

## Trailblazing Women Series

Sonia Sanchez

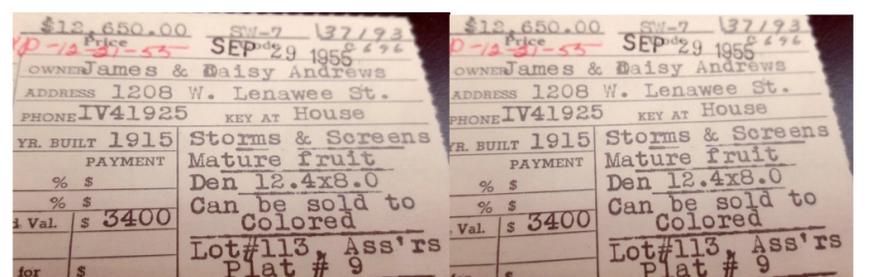
POET

Thurs, March 18, 8 p.m.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF  
AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY

**Housing Discrimination Cont.-**

often a death sentence for a neighborhood and minorities anxious to own homes used land contracts with not only higher rates, but also a reliance on the “honor” of the sellers. HOLC compiled the maps called “residential security maps” into a book called which was sent out to lending organizations across the United States. The maps became the bible when considering loans. Loans were generally not available in “redlined” areas or rates were substantially higher. Redlined areas usually were made up of minority populations and often situated next to a manufacturing facility, a railroad track and in some instances a polluted river where minorities were forced to live from the start. A friend of mine in Lansing who lived just west of the Oldsmobile plant said you could stand in his front yard and see all three: a river, an auto plant and a railroad track. Redlining books were used (illegally) well into the seventies furthering the decline of cities. Because redlined neighborhoods were perceived to be of lesser value, they naturally became the target for urban renewal projects and the location of expressways. Such was the case in Lansing where the I-496 expressway cut through the center of a thriving predominately black neighborhood destroying more than 800 homes and businesses. Lansing still feels the impact of this decision and through a National Park Service grant the Historical Society of Greater Lansing is documenting the impact of the expressway on this predominantly Black neighborhood. Lansing was not alone, places like Detroit's Black Bottom neighborhood excised by I-375, the Rondo I-94 neighborhood in St. Paul and the New Orleans I-10 neighborhood were among the more than 100 municipalities where minority and marginalized communities were negatively impacted by expressways. If you overlay expressway location maps on top of redlining maps, they show an amazing congruence of the two locations. A recent study of redlined communities also has shown that they are dramatically impacted by climate change which has created superheated micro-climates in formerly redlined neighborhoods. Last year a group of homeowners in East Lansing came face to face with the lingering effects of housing discrimination. An East Lansing neighborhood has a stipulation in deeds requiring homeowners to periodically vote on the covenants to continue some of the covenant requirements. Residents were appalled to find a restrictive covenant due to race contained within the deed. As a result of the outcry Representative Sarah Anthony has introduced legislation “The Prohibited Restricted Covenants Act” which would prohibit and strike discriminatory language from all deeds. East Lansing, until the late 1960s, had some of the most restrictive real estate practices in the state. A formal apology was written after East Lansing High School Student Alex Hosey wrote an essay describing the legacy of housing discrimination. In the 1960s, Hosey's grandfather, who was Lansing's first black pharmacist, was prohibited from buying a home in East Lansing. Probably the most egregious reaction to a violation of a restrictive covenant in Lansing occurred in 1929 when Rev. Earl Little the father of Malcolm Little, who later became Malcolm X, purchased a home in the Westmont Subdivision on Lansing's northwest side. He was sued by the Capitol View Land Company for violating a restricted covenant which prohibited African Americans in the neighborhood. He lost and shortly after his home was burned to the ground. As Michigan's only Black Register of Deeds this issue is of particular importance to me and my family. My parents migrated from Louisiana in the 1950s as part of the “Great Migration” seeking a better life, home ownership, good jobs, and freedom of expression. They did this for future generations and that's why I support legislation that would remove the last vestige of housing discrimination that is still on the books. Representative Anthony's proposal would require the removal of covenants from all deeds. These deeds are Michigan's equivalent to the South's “colored” and “white” drinking fountains and like those fountains they should be relegated to museums and historical archives. **Article by Derrick Quinney**



From the Stebbins Real Estate Cards Collection at the Capital Area District Library, Lansing MI.