



Volume 9 No. 2 Winter 2026

### **Excerpt from President Obama's Eulogy for Reverend Jackson**

We are living in a time when it can be hard to hope. Each day we wake up to some new assault on our democratic institutions, another setback to the idea of the rule of law. An offense to common decency. Every day you wake up to it, to things you just didn't think were possible. Each day, we're told by those in high office to fear each other and to turn on each other — and that some Americans count more than others, and that some don't even count at all. Everywhere we see greed and bigotry being celebrated, and bullying and mockery masquerading as strength; we see science and expertise denigrated while ignorance and dishonesty, and cruelty and corruption, are reaping untold rewards.



Every single day we see that. And it's hard to hope in those moments.

So it may be tempting to get discouraged, to give in to cynicism. It may be tempting for some to compromise with power and grab what you can, or even for good people, to maybe just put your head down and wait for the storm to pass.

But this man — Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson — inspires us to take the harder path. His voice calls on each of us to be heralds of change, to be messengers of hope; to step forward and say “Send me” wherever we have a chance to make an impact — whether it's in our schools, in our workplaces, in our neighborhoods and our cities. Not for fame, not for glory, or because success is guaranteed, but because it gives our life purpose, because it aligns with what our faith tells us God demands, and because if we don't step up, no one else will.

How fortunate we were that Jesse Jackson answered that call. What a great debt we owe to him.

May God bless Reverend Jackson, and may he rest in eternal peace. God bless you.

***Friday, March 6, 2026 –Chicago, IL***

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Heads Up: We're Having an Election

*LWAAAC is in the unprecedented position of needing to conduct an emergency, off-year election to fill three executive committee offices: president, vice president, and correspondence secretary. To enable that election an ad hoc nominations and election committees has been appointed consisting of volunteer members Sharon Boone, Walter Faggett, and Janis Jones, and rounded out by Luis Alomar, who will represent the board. The committee has begun the process of identifying candidates for the vacant positions. Please consider stepping up to serve the organization in this unique and pressing moment. If you are interested, please contact Luis Alomar at [luis@lwaaac.com](mailto:luis@lwaaac.com) or (301) 943-8036.*



**Ad Hoc Nominations and Election Committee**  
*(l-r Luis Alomar, Sharon Boone, Walter Faggett, Jan Jones)*

### Excerpts from Position Descriptions

**President** - The president serves as the guiding force of the organization ensuring that the purpose and by-laws of the organization are carried out. The president shall preside at all board, executive committee, and membership meetings. The president shall appoint all standing and special committee chairpersons, a parliamentarian, and other individuals to perform specific duties. The president shall be ex-officio member of all committees, except for the nominations and election committee. The president shall sign all written contracts and binding agreements upon the approval of the board. The president shall make all recorded and written announcements to the membership.

**Vice President** - The vice president shall perform duties assigned by the president and fulfills the duties of the office in the absence of the president. If the president becomes incapacitated, or unable to serve, the vice president shall serve as president for the remainder of the term.

**Correspondence Secretary** - The correspondence secretary shall write and distribute correspondence for the president and board upon request, including assisting with meeting agendas. The correspondence secretary shall collect and read correspondence at all meetings. The correspondence secretary shall collect and maintain all material distributed by elected officers and committees for archiving. In the absence of the recording secretary, the correspondence secretary shall serve as the recording secretary.



Moments in Black History  
by Patricia Means

## **100 Years of Black History – Commemorative Milestones**

As the country commemorates the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of United States independence, 2026 marks a century of Black history commemorations. The centennial year focuses on urging us to explore the meaning and impact of Black history and highlights our endurance and the fight for justice.

Here are a few of the many milestones in the century-long celebration of Black history:

1926: Negro History Week founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson was launched in February to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

1926-36: The Harlem Renaissance, a period of Black creativity in art, literature, and music in New York City, NY, was the cultural melting pot coined as “The New Negro Movement.”

1936-46: More than 3 million African American men enlisted and were drafted in the United States military service during World War II between 1939 and 1945. In 1941, the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama formed the first training program for Black military aviators, who became known as the Tuskegee Airmen.

1946-56: In 1947, Jackie Robinson played for the Brooklyn Dodgers ending 50 years of racial segregation in the sport.

In 1952, Thurgood Marshall, who later became a Supreme Court Justice (1967-1991), argued before the Supreme Court in “Brown v. Board of Education.” The court agreed with Marshall’s argument in its decision.

In 1955, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights figures began a boycott of buses in Montgomery, AL, which began the Civil Rights Movement.

1956-66: In 1957, nine Black students (the Little Rock Nine) integrated Little Rock Central High School in Arkansas under violent confrontations and hostility.

In 1960, Ruby Bridges was the first Black child to attend William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans, LA. Bridges was escorted to school daily for a year by federal marshals.

In 1960, Black students organized by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) began sit-ins and freedom rides that would lead to the integration of public spaces and transportation facilities.

In 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his historical speech, “I Have a Dream” at the “March on Washington (March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom)” in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC. The March was organized by Bayard Rustin, Roy Wilkins, A. Philip Randolph, Martin Luther King Jr., John Lewis, James Farmer, and Whitney Young.

1966-76: The mid-1960s through the 1970s saw the rise of the Black Power Movement. “Black Power” was coined by activist Stokely Carmichael as a term of pride and as a demand for Blacks to take measures to secure their rights as full American citizens. Malcolm X influenced the movement by calling on Blacks to demand the right to cultural, political and economic autonomy.

In 1968, Shirley Chisholm became the first Black woman elected to the U.S. Congress. In 1972, she became the first Black candidate for a major-party nomination.

1976-86: Black History Month was officially recognized in 1976 by President Gerald Ford during the U.S. bicentennial.

1986-96: In 1986, Martin Luther King Jr. Day became a federal holiday. However, it was not until 2000 that all 50 U.S. states officially adopted the holiday.

Jesse Jackson led a campaign in 1988-1989 to adopt “African American” as the preferred term, succeeding “Black, Negro or Colored” to signify cultural integrity rather than just racial identity.

In 1995, the Million Man March was held on the National Mall in Washington, DC. The March was called by Louis Farrakhan and Benjamin Chavis, Jr. to address the Black male role in African American unity, family values, and economic and social ills plaguing the African American community,

1996-06: In 2003, the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) was established and the doors were opened in 2016.

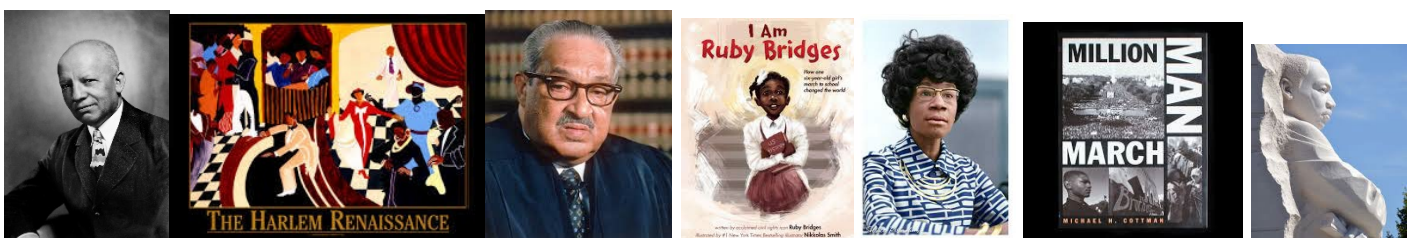
2006-16: Barack Obama became the first Black man elected president of the United States in 2008.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, the first national memorial to an African American in Washington, DC, opened in 2011. The inspiration for the design of the memorial is “Out of the mountain of despair, a stone of hope” which is a line from “I Have a Dream” speech.

In 2013, the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement was created in the wake of the murder of Trayvon Martin. BLM served as a model for advocacy and mass protests across the country.

2016-26: Kamala Harris became the first Black woman elected vice president of the United States in 2021.

When forces seek to use legislative means to erase our history, it is essential that we preserve it. Dr. Woodson warned, “If a race has no history, it stands in danger of being exterminated.”



## STANDING COMMITTEE ROUNDUP

**Liaison and Amenities Committee (L&A)**-Formerly known as the amenities committee, L&A wishes to assure members that friends and neighbors in the organization would like to share in their moments of joy as well as offer support and compassion during times of illness and bereavement. Contact Maxine Hooker, liaison and amenities chair, at [mxnhooker129@gmail.com](mailto:mxnhooker129@gmail.com) to offer information

**Community Service Committee (CS)**-Initiates, plans, and implements projects and activities to support needs on the LW campus and in the wider Montgomery County area--Juanita Sealy-Williams: 301-822-4531, [sealyjaws@gmail.com](mailto:sealyjaws@gmail.com).

**Membership Committee (MC)**-Enrolls members and maintains a membership database. The current active member count is 285. Payment of dues for the membership period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 begins after April 16, 2026. The membership dues are \$25 per person for new enrollments and renewals. Payment can be made by check payable to "LWAAAC" and deposited in the LWAAAC mail slot in the Lifestyle office in Clubhouse I or by USPS mail to LWAAAC, Attn: Membership, PO Box 12316, Silver Spring, MD 20908. Prospective members also may join during the first Wednesday membership meetings, generally held at 4 p.m. in the Crystal Ballroom in Clubhouse I. Alfonso Holston, Chair, [aholston38@gmail.com](mailto:aholston38@gmail.com) (301) 438-3537.

**Public Relations Committee (PR)**-Publishes information about LWAAAC members, events, and activities. Sherry Weaver, Chair, [lwaacprcom@gmail.com](mailto:lwaacprcom@gmail.com) (301) 275-8918

**Then & Now:** We're always looking for photos for our "Then & Now" project on the website. Come on, share your looks from any time back in the day and now. The clothes, the "do's," and the cars evoke warm memories and lots of smiles. Details on how to submit photos can be found on the website under "More." But you must be a subscriber as well as a member to get access.



Contact Mazel Pernell to join her in the Then & Now display of photos: [mvpernell@gmail.com](mailto:mvpernell@gmail.com) .

**Programs Committee (PC)**-Plans and executes educational, social, and recreational events. Juanita Sealy-Williams chairs the PC: 301-822-4531, [sealyjaws@gmail.com](mailto:sealyjaws@gmail.com).

**Technology Committee (TC)**-Provides short-and long-range planning for all technology initiatives: innovation, vision, goals, program objectives/strategies/activities, infrastructure, evaluation, and budgeting. The committee collaborates with all standing committees in support of their technical objectives. The committee maintains the organization's websites, event calendars, email accounts, and cloud storage. Luis Alomar, Chair, [lwaactc@gmail.com](mailto:lwaactc@gmail.com)

## **COLLABORATION WITH OMEGA PSI PHI**

For the third consecutive year, the Mu Nu Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity is bringing health-related programming to LWAAAC members through the facilitation this year of both the Men's Fellowship and the Janet Overton Prime Time Sister Circle. During the March 4 membership meeting, Men's Fellowship offered a panel presentation entitled "Aging in Place: Supporting Independence, Well-Being, and Safety." The panelists, including a psychologist, a safety expert, and a representative of the LW Social Work Office, examined such issues as social supports and access to resources, safety and mental and physical well-being. The organization provided "goodie bags" and gave away health-related door prizes.



***Members of the Men's Fellowship***

During the April 1 membership meeting, the Sister Circle will offer a program that addresses the need to keep moving and active as aging adults. Specifically, engaging with yet another LWAAAC partner, a representative of the African American Health Program will give demonstrations, and encourage member interaction, in the practice of Tai Chi and chair yoga. Light refreshments will be served.



***Members of the Janet Overton Prime Time Sister Circle***

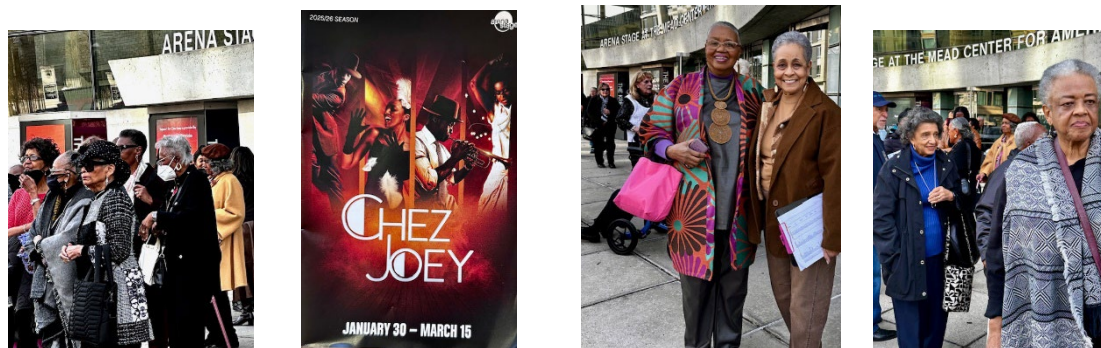
# LWAAAC MOMENTS



*Holiday Gala, December 2025*



*Black History Month, February 2026*



*March 2026*



*Clubhouse I Showcase, March 2026*

## THE LAST EASTER BASKET

*By Sherry Weaver*

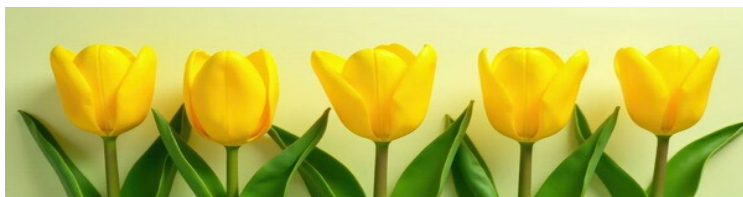


Easter was not quite as big a deal as Christmas, but it was way up there. I don't recall much about the goings on at Eagle Avenue School, our "colored" grade school, except the county closed schools on Good Friday and Easter Monday. My 1950s memories of Easter seem to be centered more around home and church: Easter "pageants," shiny patent leather shoes, Vaseline'd elbows and knees. One year, I even scored TWO Easter dresses.

Egg coloring and all its glorious messiness came in the weekend somewhere, but of all that went on at Easter my favorite part was my Easter basket. I shall never forget and will always be grateful for how hard my mother and father worked to bring us these moments of pure joy. That Easter basket was always roughly the size of the state of New Hampshire, and it contained every holiday treat you could think of. To this day, if you wave a hollow milk chocolate rabbit under my nose, I might follow you around until you share it with me.

Anyway, one year—I was probably about ten, I guess-- it got to be early Saturday afternoon, and there was no Easter basket in evidence. When I timidly asked where it was, I was told quite matter-of-factly that I was now too old for an Easter basket. Well! I was devastated, and I went to the room I shared with my two sisters and simply howled, and howled some more until I fell asleep. It wasn't a tantrum, you understand, because Miss Thelma and Mr. Harry did not tolerate that kind of behavior. They obviously concluded that I was truly heartbroken, though, because late that afternoon somebody came and woke me up and told me Mom and Dad wanted me in the kitchen. I dragged my sad little self to the kitchen, and there on the table sat this huge, splendid Easter basket all wrapped up in yellow cellophane. Well, of course, I cried some more, but they sat me down and told me that this would for sure be the last Easter basket. I thanked them profusely, but a tiny interior voice was saying, "You need to tell people these things; you don't just spring stuff on them like that." The next year, sans Easter basket, I was cool.

Many years later when I was in my mid-twenties, I had to be hospitalized for a serious surgery, and my recovery period was expected to extend over the Easter weekend. Mom came to D.C. and literally sat by my bed for days. As the weekend approached, however, I just knew how much she must want to be at home for sunrise service and all the other traditional church activities. Eventually, I persuaded her to go because I really was doing well. But before she went home that Saturday morning, she showed up in my hospital room with, you guessed it, one enormous Easter basket: the last Easter basket.



# The Drumbeat

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*The Drumbeat* is issued quarterly. Its content is generated by the public relations committee. It does not endorse political candidates or publish information intended to elicit personal or commercial profit, and it promotes no religious beliefs. The 2025-26 public relations committee is chaired by Sherry Weaver, who is joined by Millie Overton, Connie Ambush, Patricia Means, Lois Pope-Fuller, Sam Langevine, and Mazel Pernell. Photographs in this issue were taken by Al Holston, Millie Overton, Mazel Pernell, and Sherry Weaver.

Please direct comments or questions to  
LWAAAC, Attn: Public Relations Committee,  
POB 12316, Silver Spring, MD 20908.  
Sherry Weaver, Editor  
[lwaacprcom@gmail.com](mailto:lwaacprcom@gmail.com)

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*Thank you for reading The Drumbeat.*



**Let the LWAAAC circle be unbroken.**

*(AND CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE "SINNERS" WINNERS!)*

