

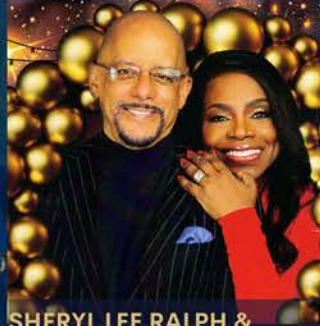
# 2023 PORTRAIT AWARD WINNERS



SONIA SANCHEZ



VERONICA JOYNER



SHERYL LEE RALPH &  
SENATOR VINCENT HUGHES



JOYCE WILKERSON



JOYCE ABBOTT



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2023 • 4:30 PM

THE VICTORIAN BANQUET HALL

4809 Germantown Avenue • Philadelphia, PA 19144 • CALL (215) 432-2898

CultureTrust is the official fiscal sponsor for Philadelphia Legacies



## PHILADELPHIA LEGACIES

CultureWorks Greater Philadelphia • 1315 Walnut Street • Philadelphia, PA 19107  
(215) 432-2898 • [bridgingworldsprogram@yahoo.com](mailto:bridgingworldsprogram@yahoo.com) • [www.philadelphialegacy.org](http://www.philadelphialegacy.org)

### STEERING COMMITTEE

Stephen C. Satell,  
Founder/Executive Director

Mayor W. Wilson Goode

Charles Blockson,  
Founder of Blockson Library

Miller Parker,  
President of Parkside Business  
and Technology Center

Catherine Hicks, Publisher of The  
Philadelphia Sunday Sun

Lowell Thomas, Esq.  
Board Member,  
African American Chamber

Frank Green,  
President of Philadelphia Life

Charlene Horne,  
Producer CBS3

State Senator Vincent Hughes

Judge John Braxton

Councilwoman Janie Blackwell

Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr.

Councilman Derrick Green

Jay Bagley,  
Overbrook Alumni Association

Geno Barbero,  
Barbero Automotive Dealership

### LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA LEGACY FOUNDER

Philadelphia Legacy is entering it's eighth year. As of this years dinner we have created 35 portraits to highlight those who made major contributions to our city. We also have honored 40 unsung heroes from the community with \$500.00 dollars. Our theme this year is education. We have completed our second three and a half day historical tour this summer in an effort to add important historical awareness to our already historic city.

We are lucky this year that the Emmy Award went to the woman Sheryl Lee Ralph who is highlighting the good teaching that happens under very challenging circumstances in Philadelphia everyday. We are also honoring her husband Senator Vincent Hughes who watched his father help to build black communities in Philadelphia and who himself has been an important advocate for education. This is being done in the tradition of Philadelphia Legacy where we highlight Philadelphia the city of problems solvers. If you don't believe us we at the end of our dinner will have thirty portraits to prove it.

The Mathematics, Civics and Sciences Charter School was founded in the year 2000. Since it's inception it has held high standards for all of its students and produced incredible results. The key has been a strong leader dedicated teachers and belief in the students. This is why we are honoring it's founder Veronica Joyner as a portrait award winner this year.

When Abbott Elementary started to make a splash on television Joyce Abbott had no idea that she inspired the show. Then the producer Quintin Brunson spilled the beans and said it was her teacher at Hamilton Elementary that inspired her when she was a shy little girl. We are honoring Joyce Abbott this year with a portrait award.

When Abbott Elementary started to make a splash on television Joyce Abbott had no idea that she inspired the show. Then the producer Quintin Brunson spilled the beans and said it was her teacher at Hamilton Elementary that inspired her when she was a shy little girl. We are honoring Joyce Abbott this year with a portrait award.

Joyce Wilkerson was the chief of staff for Mayor John Street whose administration fostered the growth of after school programs. He helped expand the African American Chamber and built three new stadiums. As the president of the Philadelphia School Board brought the board back to home rule after over ten years as being governed by the state. Finally we award three people together who are all close friends and who created important opportunities for others across Philadelphia. Sonia Sanchez is one of America's most important poets. She led a protest in 1969 to get African American Studies in universities. Larry Robins was the owner of a third generation book store one of the few to

It is our goal to serve you food at our dinner that sequel's the accomplishments of our award winners. Please let us know how we did.

Thank you for your support!

*Stephen C. Satell*  
Founder / Executive Director



# Portrait Awardees

## **SONIA SANCHEZ Poet, Activist, Educator (artist: Laurie Cooper)**

"I write to keep contact with our ancestors and spread the truth to people." Sonia Sanchez



Sonia Sanchez was gifted with a huge spirit and an anointed voice whose message resounds worldwide. Born to Wilsonia Benita Driver in Birmingham, Alabama to Lena and Wilson L. Driver, Sonia was one her mother passed away. She and her sister Pat went to live with their paternal grandmother. Her relationship with her grandmother was instrumental in shaping her destiny as a poet. Her grandmother's passing had a great effect on Sonia emotionally and she developed a stutter. She began to read more and paid close attention to language and its sounds. After her grandmother's passing, they went to live with their father in Harlem, New York. Sonia excelled in New York public schools, found her poetic voice and managed her stutter. In 1955 she earned a B.A. in political science from Hunter College.

Affected by the manner in which Black people were treated, Sonia used her poetry to voice her feelings. She met and married Albert Sanchez, had a daughter and began writing and performing as Sonia Sanchez. She soon became known for her dynamic readings, the use of African/African-American rhythms, vocal styles and African American dialect. Sonia furthered her education by pursuing post-graduate studies in poetry at New York University (NYU). Like many young African Americans in the 1960s, Sonia became involved in the movement for Black power and liberation. She became a member of CORE (Congress for Racial Equality) in the early 1960s where she met Malcolm X. After hearing him speak, Sonia changed her thinking and focused on her Black heritage and identity. She also became outspoken on women's issues and incorporated that in her literary work. In 1972 she published *A Blues Book for Blue Black Magical Women*. Later in the 1970s she became a supporter of the National Black United Front.

Sonia was a prominent part of the Black Arts Movement, the artistic voice of the Black Nationalist Movement of the 1960s/70s. While at NYU, she organized The Broadside Quartet which included prominent poets Haki Madhubuti (Don L. Lee), Nikki Giovanni, and Etheridge Knight, whom she later married and bore twin sons.

She was also a leader in the effort to establish Black Studies on the university level. Sonia was the first in the nation to create and teach a course on Black Women and Literature, a study of Black women writers, at the University of Pittsburgh. Since then, she has taught at Rutgers University, Manhattan Community College, Amherst College, and the University of Pennsylvania. The prolific professor moved to Philadelphia in 1977 to teach at Temple University where she was its first Presidential Fellow. She held the Laura H. Carnell Chair in English until her retirement in 1999, and is a poet-in-residence. Sonia has lectured at over 500 universities and colleges in the United States and abroad. She has traveled extensively, reading her poetry in Africa, the Caribbean, Australia, Europe, South America, the People's Republic of China, and Canada.

Her innovative, avant-garde style includes melding blues, jazz, haiku and sometimes African drums. Known to people in the culture as "Sister Sonia," her poetic voice speaks of Black resistance, liberation, power, oppression and sister womanhood.

She is the author of more than 20 books. Her book *Morning Haiku; Shake Loose My Skin: New and Selected Poems; Does your house have lions?* was nominated for both the NAACP Image and National Book Critics Circle Award; *Homegirls & Handgrenades* won an American Book Award. Sonia has edited several anthologies as well. She has also written several plays some of which were performed at the New York Shakespeare Festival Public Theatre, in Chicago at the Northwestern University Theatre, and in Philadelphia at the ASCOM Community Center in 1979.



She was honored with an honorary Ph.D. in fine arts by Wilberforce University in 1973 and an honorary Ph.D. from Baruch College in 1993. Other awards she received are the Harper Lee Award, Robert Frost Medalist, Ford Freedom Scholar from the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Alabama Distinguished Writer, National Visionary Leadership Award, Community Service Award from the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, Lucretia Mott Award, Peace and Freedom Award from Women International League for Peace and Freedom, Pennsylvania Governor's Award for Excellence in the Humanities, and a National Endowment for the Arts Award. Recent awards include the American Academy of Poets \$100,000 Wallace Stevens award for lifetime achievement, the Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize, a \$250,000 lifetime achievement honor and The Edward MacDowell Medal by The MacDowell Colony for outstanding contributions to American culture.

A cultural icon, Sonia is one of 20 African American women featured in "Freedom Sisters" exhibition at the Cincinnati Museum Center and Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition. Professor Emerita at Temple University, she became the first Poet Laureate of Philadelphia.

*"Sonia Sanchez is a lion in literature's forest. When she writes she roars, and when she sleeps other creatures walk gingerly." -Maya Angelou*

## LARRY ROBBINS (artist: Laurie Cooper)

Champion of Literary Arts and Poetry • Co-founder, Moonstone Arts Center, Inc.



Larry Robin was born with the love of the written word in his blood. It's in his DNA. His grandfather, David Robin, opened Robin's Bookstore at 21 North 11th Street, in 1936 during the Great Depression, selling new and used books and magazines. The bookstore became a family tradition when his father Herman and Uncle Morris joined his grandfather in the business. In 1960 the store moved to 6 North 13th Street. Meanwhile, young Larry immersed himself in literature and read constantly, alternating between left-wing politics and science fiction. By age 16, he was an activist. When he finished Central High School he naturally joined the family business. Larry studied sculpture during the day and worked at the bookstore at night.

During the early 1960s, Robin's became a center for the counterculture, supporting

selections. His Uncle Morris was more conservative, but as long as the books sold he was okay with it. During the early 1960s, Robin's became a center for the counterculture, supporting the Civil Rights movement, the anti-war movement, the women's movement and experimental literature. They sold books on politics, art, civil rights and revolution -- books that others did not and would not carry. You could find books by Black authors like Richard Wright, Frantz Fanon, Malcolm X, and Huey Newton. They carried controversial Beat poet Allen Ginsberg, Simone de Beauvoir, Jean-Paul Sartre, and Che Guevara. Robin's carried everything from erotica to small political and literary magazines, the Black Panther newspaper to anti-war and rock posters. They even got cases of Quotations from Chairman Mao directly from China. When the FBI arrived, David Robin said to his son, "The only thing they can do, is make you lose your job, and they can't do that here."

Despite what some think, book censorship in the United States did not just begin a few years ago. Grove Press, a small local publisher began distributing avant garde literature from Europe and fighting American censorship laws. Grove published Lady Chatterley's Lover by D.H. Lawrence, followed by Tropic of Cancer by Henry Miller in 1964. Philadelphia District Attorney James Crumlish, Jr. notified bookstores that he did not want that book sold in Philly. Leary's Book Store, the city's largest bookstore at the time, advertised that they wouldn't carry it. Barney Rosset, owner of Grove Press said



he would support Robin's if they sold the book. Larry convinced his elders to sell it and they informed the D.A. that, "If you don't want this book sold, you will have to come and take it." Robin's Book Store was the only bookstore in Philadelphia to refuse to remove the book. Crumlish then asked for an injunction to stop Robin's from selling *Tropic of Cancer*. Meanwhile, the case was in the news every day for a week, helping Robin's to sell 7,000 copies. The Supreme Court later reversed another case which made it legal to sell *The Tropic of Cancer* in the United States.

Larry inherited the bookstore and has been a champion of the written word for six decades. The store moved to its final home at 110A S. 13th Street in 1981. A second floor was added which allowed the store to present innovative programs like open discussions with political speakers, inviting authors to speak about their books, poetry readings and other literary gatherings that connected readers to writers. Robin's was considered a refuge for the counterculture revolution and provided an outlet for diverse voices to be heard. It became a prominent gathering place in the community where people came to find books by Black writers, view exhibits, participate in a reading series, engage in intellectual discussions and listen to music. Until the bookstore closed in 2012, there were 200 to 300 programs a year.

Larry and his wife Sandy began Moonstone Arts Center in 1981 on the second floor of the bookstore and was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation in 1983. The couple believes that learning is a life-long activity and that art stimulates both cognitive and effective learning at all ages. They believe that art, in all of its forms, affects how one thinks, sees, interprets, describes, meets life and functions in society. Sandy developed Moonstone Preschool and Larry continued presenting poets, authors and other innovative programs. The programs continue and are many times showcased across the city.

## LAMONT STEPTOE | Poet • Photographer • Publisher | artist: Laurie Cooper



*"Ever since I was a small child I've always known that I was protected because I have a mission. Even if somebody sat across from me with a gun and pulled the trigger, nothing would happen because I'm protected until I get this work done."*  
-- Lamont Steptoe

Lamont Steptoe was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the middle child of four being raised by a single mother. Like many Black women in Jim Crow America, his mother worked hard as a domestic for the head of Westinghouse Laboratory for 20 years. Steptoe worked his way through high school in order to have money for lunch and clothes. He inherited his mother's work ethic, working three paper routes and a job in a bowling alley as a pin boy.

Steptoe began his career in writing as a teen, writing for the high school newspaper and a column for the Pittsburgh Courier during his junior and senior years of high school. However, he attended a predominantly Jewish high school and had no concept of Black writers who were not included in the curriculum.

His life was forever changed on April 4, 1968 – the day Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. He was in Temple's Paley Library writing a term paper contrasting the lives of Mahatma Gandhi and King. When he left the library,



someone informed him of King's assassination. The next day Steptoe participated in a march down Broad Street to Independence Hall. However, he was struck as he watched the parents of his white friends at Temple pack them up and drive them out of North Philadelphia to the safety of the suburbs. That left a profound impression on Steptoe who thought, "I have got to get out of this country."

In spite of the fact that King had publicly opposed the Vietnam War, the next day Steptoe went to a military recruiter and volunteered for Vietnam. He was filled with such rage that he didn't care whether he returned from Vietnam dead or alive. "But when I got to Vietnam, I realized how much I wanted to live, how very badly I wanted to live. I did everything in my power to stay alive."

Like many Vietnam veterans, Steptoe returned home with Post-traumatic stress disorder -- a Black man deeply troubled by his role in the war that no-one knew what they were fighting for. The racism he experienced in Vietnam from white soldiers and the Vietnamese became a great influence on his writing. After returning from the war, he continued his education and earned a B.A. degree from Temple University in Radio, Television and Film.

## **VERONICA JOYNER | artist: Laurie Cooper**

Education Activist, • Founder of & Chief Administrative Officer for the Mathematics, Civics, and Sciences Charter School of Philadelphia, Inc.



We must take a deep breath before speaking about Veronica Joyner's impact on children, parents, teachers, and education. For decades, Veronica Joyner has been advocating for equality in education. The education activist earned her bachelor's in social work/education from Temple University, a master's in education leadership from Arcadia University and is presently a candidate in the Doctoral program at Temple University. She began her career in education as a teacher in the School District of Philadelphia in 1974. Since then, she has strived for excellence and equity for each student she taught.

As a change agent Joyner began to realize the importance of parent involvement in order to make excellence in the classroom a standard for all students. In 1984 she founded and served as President of Parents United for Better Schools, Inc. (PUBS), a non-profit multiracial, parent advocacy corporation. that also provided tutoring to private and public school students as well as adult learners. PUBS now has a membership of over 20,000 parents in the Greater Philadelphia region. As an outgrowth, in 1999, Joyner opened the Mathematics, Civics, and Sciences Charter School of Philadelphia, Inc. (MCSCS) where she serves as founder and chief administrative officer. MCSCS is one of the largest charter schools in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The school has been recognized by the Pennsylvania Department of Education as one of the city's top 10 schools out of more than 300 public and charter schools in Philadelphia, and has received praise from the most prestigious educators on both a local and national level since its inception. The school recently took first place over 70 teams in the 2023 Empire Mock Trial international championship for high school students. They placed first in three of four of their competitions, winning the state tournament at the University of Pennsylvania in January, 2023.

Joyner and MCSCS has made a commitment to feed and clothe homeless citizens in Philadelphia. Established in 2005, the school project is a part of the civics curriculum. The students raise money to fund the project and donate clothing,



shoes/boots, hats, gloves and blankets which are distributed to nearby shelters and Love Park. The students also raise funds and sponsor an Appreciation Luncheon for Philadelphia Police Officers and published a book, “Police Officers are Heroes” which they present to each officer.

She recently founded Philadelphia Charter Schools United to assist charter school administrators in the day-to-day operation of charter schools. Clearly, she is continually active in the creation of programs and models that help build better learning communities.

Joyner has received numerous awards recognizing her valuable contributions to the field of education including: 2012 Educator of the Year Award; NAACP Outstanding Citizen Award; NAACP Mary Church Terrell Education Award; U.S. Department of Education’s John Stanford American Education Hero Award; KYW-3 Making a Difference Award; Martin Luther King Drum Major for Educational Justice Award; WCAU-TV 10 Spirit of Philadelphia Award; Philadelphia National Council for Negro Women Mary McCloud Bethune Award; National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. Madame C. J. Walker Award; WDAS Radio Ordinary Women Doing Extraordinary Things Award; Urban League Leadership Award; Philadelphia Tribune 100 Influential Blacks; Women Making a Difference Awards from the Office of the Lieutenant Governor and the PA Senate, among many other recognitions.

Joyner is a warrior and Philadelphia icon whose goal to educate all children in matters of intellect and civic duty grows stronger with each passing year. She believes it is our duty to provide the learning tools that help students lead rewarding lives, become good citizens, and make changes to improve education and the quality of life for others. She welcomes all to join her mission.

**JOYCE ABBOTT | artist: IybenTaqiy**

“To be impactful in the life of one child, you’ve made a difference in this world.”



Teaching has always been in the heart of veteran educator Joyce Abbott, who has shared her love and passion with students in Philadelphia public schools for almost 30 years. She is a firm believer that the hard work, sacrifice and passion of teachers do not go unnoticed. For too long, teachers in Philadelphia have lived invisible lives, relegated to the backseat by everyone, while their impact on children, their families and communities goes unnoticed. Now, teachers are represented every week on Abbott Elementary by one who has given so much to so many.

The youngest of eight, Abbott was inspired by her 102 year old mother, a former teacher’s aide, who is here with us this evening. Getting a good education was important

to Abbott’s parents and siblings. She graduated from Overbrook High School in Philadelphia and matriculated from two HBCUs, one of which was the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES). There in 1983 she obtained her bachelor’s degree in business administration.

After UMES, Abbott served in the United States Army for 10 years. She is a combat veteran of the Persian Gulf War who retired at the rank of staff sergeant. Looking to continue her education in business, she attended HBCU Cheyney University for her MBA. However, teaching was in her heart and she soon switched her focus from business to education, entered the “Troops to Teachers” program and earned a Master of Education. The rest is history.





**JOYCE WILKERSON | artist: Laurie Cooper**



Joyce Wilkerson was born in Cleveland, Ohio to a family that valued education. Her mother was working on her doctorate in early childhood education when she got married. Her father, who was orphaned early in life, was determined to get an education so that he could build a good life for himself and his family.

The racism and discrimination in the educational system was very clear to young Joyce and this was the first lesson of her political education.

After graduating from Shaker Heights High School, she attended Mt. Holyoke College in Massachusetts and worked for the NAACP in New York. She continued her education at the University of Pennsylvania earning a B.A. in psychology. Wilkerson viewed law as an extension of the Civil Rights Movement and attended University of California, Berkeley School of Law specializing in poverty law and legal aid.

Wilkerson returned to Philadelphia and began her career as an attorney with Community Legal Services. She has an extensive career in public service. She served as chief of staff to Mayor John Street, helped to stabilize the Philadelphia Gas Works and chaired the board of the Philadelphia Housing Authority.

Wilkerson served as executive director of the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority where she led efforts to restore the historic city's devastated neighborhoods after Hurricane Katrina.

Once again returning to Philadelphia, Wilkerson became special advisor at Temple University on community relations. There she played a key role in Temple's deal to purchase William Penn High School and served as point person in the university's quest to build a football stadium in North Philadelphia, both in the face of vocal community opposition.

Wilkerson was appointed to the Philadelphia School Reform Commission (SRC) by Mayor Jim Kenney with Governor Tom Wolf appointing her its chair. During her tenure, she guided the school district's transition from the state-controlled SRC to the locally-controlled Board of Education in 2018. She led the transformation of a school district in fiscal and academic distress, to one that improved educational outcomes for students, while it developed strong financial management and attained an investment grade rating from Moody's Investor Services for the first time since 1977.

**THE HONORABLE VINCENT J. HUGHES | artist: Terrell Johnson**



Vincent Hughes is the proud son of (mom) and James Hughes. His father James Hughes was the Vice President of Berean Bank in West Philadelphia and was instrumental in creating community development for African Americans across the city.

A member of the Pennsylvania Senate for over 20 years, the Honorable Vincent J. Hughes is now known as a leading progressive voice on local, state, and national issues. He was elected by his colleagues in 2010 as the Democratic Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Hughes also plays a major role in developing Pennsylvania's annual budget of over \$30 billion and guiding the state's spending priorities.



Committee, Hughes also plays a major role in developing Pennsylvania’s annual budget of over \$30 billion and guiding the state’s spending priorities.

Hughes was a leader in the fight for the full implementation of the Affordable Care Act in Pennsylvania. The centerpiece and final part of this struggle was the successful implementation of Medicaid Expansion, which is providing health insurance to over 500,000 low income working people who previously could not afford to purchase coverage on their own.

The senator continues to push for a legislative and pragmatic response to reforming Pennsylvania’s criminal justice system. In a successful, bipartisan effort, he led the establishment of the First Chance Fund, which drives budgetary support for the children of incarcerated prisoners. Children who have incarcerated parents are 70 percent more likely to end up incarcerated, unless reached by intervention programs at an early age. Hughes is committed to break that cycle.

Once again working in bipartisan fashion, Sen. Hughes recently helped to create the \$60 million School and Community Anti-Violence Fund, which provides support for schools and local communities aiming to reduce violence, especially among our youth.

Hughes has received national attention for his bold proposal for universal voter registration. Under his legislation, all eligible individuals who interact with state government -- such as getting a driver’s license, accessing social services, or obtaining a hunting permit -- would automatically be added to the voter rolls.

His commitment to creating access to college is demonstrated through his service on the board of directors of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency and the Cheyney University Council of Trustees. Hughes is one of Pennsylvania’s leading legislative advocates in the fight for education equity. He works locally and nationally in the effort to rebuild crumbling school infrastructures across the state and around the nation. As a part of his mission to provide families with increased support to make higher education more affordable, he also recently partnered with the state treasurer, co-authoring legislation that established the Keystone Scholars Program. This initiative creates a college savings fund for every newborn child in Pennsylvania. Sen. Hughes is heavily involved in the rebirth of Cheyney University and is working with academic, business and philanthropic leaders to propel the historic institution forward.

When his father, James Hughes, passed in 1997, the senator and his family established the James Hughes Memorial Scholarship Fund in honor of his late father. The fund provides scholarships to Philadelphia students attending Cheyney University and the 13 other State System of Higher Education Universities. The fund has given out more than \$1 million in scholarships to over 400 students. Hughes joins his wife, performing artist/activist Sheryl Lee Ralph, in being recognized both locally and nationally for his work on HIV/AIDS, and the challenges of mental/behavioral health in the Black community.



2023  
Philadelphia  
Legacies  
Historical  
Tours



**SHERYL LEE RALPH | artist: Terrill Johnson**



Sheryl Lee Ralph was destined to be a star. Born in Waterbury, Connecticut to Jamaican fashion designer Ivy Ralph and Stanley Ralph, an African American college professor, the performing artist and her younger brother were raised between Mandeville, Jamaica and Long Island, New York. Ralph got the acting bug while attending Uniondale High School in Uniondale, NY where she starred in the school's production of Oklahoma!

Following graduation in 1972, Ralph enrolled in Rutgers University--New Brunswick as a pre-med major, but soon changed to English literature and theater arts after encountering her first cadaver. In 1973, while still in college, she was crowned Miss Black Teen-Age New York. At Rutgers she landed the lead in a campus play and was one of the first recipients of the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship from the Kennedy Center American College

Theatre Festival.

Glamour Magazine recognized Ralph's star quality and named her one of the Top 10 College Women in America. Ralph completed her degree requirements in three years, graduated near the top of her class and at age 19, became the youngest woman to ever graduate from Rutgers. In 2002 she was inducted into Rutgers' Hall of Distinguished Alumni and was the university's 2023 commencement speaker at the New Brunswick campus ceremony where she received an honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts.

After leaving Rutgers Ralph continued her artistic training with the renowned Negro Ensemble Company in New York. "Theater is in my blood," she said. "When I began as an actress, you weren't really acting unless you were doing theater."

Sidney Poitier became her mentor and in 1977, gave Ralph her first role in his movie, A Piece of the Action. Since then, Ralph has become an award-winning star of stage, film and television. Her 1980 Broadway debut was a role in Reggae. However, Ralph's big break came in 1981 when she originated the role of Deena Jones in the iconic Broadway musical Dreamgirls, loosely based on the rise of Motown Records and its founder Berry Gordy. That performance earned her both a Tony and Drama Desk Award Nomination for Best Actress.

Ralph's latest role as kindergarten teacher Barbara Howard on the hit ABC sitcom Abbott Elementary deservedly earned her a Screen Actors Guild Award and a Critics' Choice Television Award for her outstanding performance. She also became the first Black woman in 35 years to win the award for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series at the 74th Primetime Emmy Awards for that role. The Barbara Howard character is inspired by creator Quinta Brunson's mother, a retired Philadelphia public school kindergarten teacher.

*Legacies Are Meant to be Learned & Shared*

# Young Person-To-Watch

## Isaiah Dudley



Isaiah Dudley is an 18-year-old engineer-in-the-making, visual artist, environmentalist, and peace ambassador. He graduated with honors in physics from Lankenau Environmental Science Magnet High School, where he showcased his political satire artwork that exposes society's lies and injustices. He is passionate about sustainability, ecology, blockchain, and drone technology. This summer he started his first business DLV Drones, a drone rental and aerial photography company, and received a scholarship to attend a pilot and drone school.

He was part of the inaugural cohort for the House of Umoja's Intentional Community's Umoja Youth Peace Corps. He now serves as a youth peace ambassador where he influences peace and positive

behavior among his peers. His political satire artwork was also published in Umoja Magazine's first Youth Edition in September 2022. Isaiah loves reading, chess, fishing, stargazing, and spending time with his family and friends. He is a kind and compassionate trailblazer who aims to make a positive impact on the world.

# Legacies Are Meant to be Learned & Shared



*Mathematics Civics and Sciences Charter School in North Philadelphia wins international mock trial competition - WPVI 6ABC News*

# Artist Lifetime Achievement

*"Art is my love, my passion, my purpose."*

## Terrill Kevyn Johnson



has been painting from the womb! Born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Terrill was nurtured creatively with the soulful music of his father, an amazingly gifted jazz musician. That artistic ambience fostered his love of creating art.

This love of art led him to the Hussian School of Art College, where he studied Illustration and Design, and later attended Bloomsburg University, where he graduated with a degree in fine arts and printmaking. Terrill has studied with masters such as Cal Massey and is an established art educator.

Terrill, an abstract expressionist artist, conveys his art by drawing and painting figurative representations of human form to tell a story of the human condition. His technique is to push patterns, textures and color in a very harmonious manner until reaching a place of solitude, which creates heart wrenching images. These images speak in rhythms that flow off the canvas lyrically.

Terrill is best known for his Mural Arts Program which reflects his emotion and character through his bold use of colors and illustrations which are vividly displayed on various walls throughout the city of Philadelphia. He is also known for his portrait paintings, most notably those of Wilt Chamberlain, Cal Massey, and Emma Chappell, all which can viewed in the Philadelphia Legacies Community Awards winner gallery.

Terrill's creative talents are not limited to canvas. As an entertainer, he sings and is a comedic artist. He has toured the Country performing for the UniverSoul Circus, a highly interactive combination of circus arts, theater, and music, where Terrill showcased his humoristic, juggling and physical comedy abilities. Johnson's philosophy is to love and to live life passionately to its fullest while expressing the artistic gifts that are placed within him. Without the ability to actualize an idea or concept, art would not exist.

According to Terrill, "When I am painting, I open my eyes to endless possibilities as I have a conversation with the canvas, abstract shapes, patterns, and textures as they start to move me like the improvisation of great jazz music. Once I make a mark, it's just layers of unknown happy moments on the canvas. With my artwork, I aim to provoke thought and engage my audience intellectually. If a viewer stops for a minute and reflects on my piece, I get excited knowing that I've succeeded in my work".

# Portrait Artists

## Laurie Cooper

(Sonia Sanchez - Larry Robin - Lamont B. Steptoe • Joyce Wilkerson • Veronica Joyner)

is an artist who was born and raised in Philadelphia. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of the Arts and her Master degree in Fine Arts from University of Pennsylvania. Laurie Cooper strives to highlight the inner and outer beauty of everything she paints. She works diligently to showcase the special qualities of the black race. Her paintings are known for their inherent strength of character, strong unique facial features and richness of skin color. Collectors of her work include Dr. Samuel F. Quartey, Dr. Carey Tucker., and Dr. Pete Smith.



pictured: Face Reality by Laurie Cooper

## IVBENTAQIY (Joyce Abbott)

Philadelphia native IvbenTaqiy has created art for over 30 years. Taqiy's entrepreneurial journey began at age of 7 when he illustrated his first book. Since then he has not stopped following his dreams to be a master artist. IvbenTaqiy attended The Philadelphia High School for Creative and Performing Arts, where he graduated top of his class. By 2003 IvbenTaqiy started being commissioned to do portraits and murals throughout the city of Philadelphia. He attended the



Maryland Institute College of Art. IvbenTaqiy is a full-time freelance artist and over the past 8 years he has worked with and created art for Vanessa Bryant & Mamba brand, Philadelphia Mural Arts, Lauryn Hill, Jay•Z. Kevin Hart, and many more. IvbenTaqiy has continued his artistic journeys with new and innovative ideas in art with his themed shows and colorful indoor and outdoor murals. His amazing yearly art show themes which include Art Jam, Michael Jackson Art Show, and Ali Art Show have produced record-breaking numbers and broadened the knowledge of artistic culture within an urban demographic within Philadelphia.



# Your Host

## DR. DIANE TURNER



Dr. Diane Turner, curator of the historical Charles L. Blockson Collection at Temple University, Dr. Turner has always had a passion for African-American culture and history. A three-time graduate of Temple University with degrees in both art and anthropology, it was African-American history courses with her professor C. Tsehloane Keto that got her more interested in African-American history and culture.

*“It helped me learn about the contributions that people of African descent had made not just to American society, but also to the world at-large. It gave me a sense of pride and a love for my people. I felt a responsibility that whatever I decided to do in life that I had to do it with excellence because I understood after learning the history that I was standing on my ancestor’s shoulders. It taught me to have compassion, tolerance and respect for everyone.”*

In 1984, Philadelphia historian and bibliophile Charles L. Blockson became the curator of the Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection at Temple University. His private collection included books, journals, manuscripts, newspapers, pamphlets,

photographs, posters and sheet music.

Currently, the collection contains rare books, prints, photographs, slave narratives, manuscripts and archives, sheet music, foreign language publications and ephemera. The collection is particularly strong in its first editions, as well as its holdings in African, African-American and African-Caribbean publications dating back to the 16th century.

While doing her doctorate, Dr. Turner had the privilege of working at the Blockson Collection and worked on numerous projects with Dr. Blockson. He noticed her passion for African-American culture and history and became one of her mentors. After Blockson retired as curator in 2006, Turner succeeded Blockson later that year after a nine month national search.

30 artifacts that belonged to Harriet Tubman were donated by Dr. Blockson to the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture. “We have an extensive collection of archives and manuscripts that includes the papers of Dr. Ruth Wright Hayre, Father Paul Washington, Barbara Easley-Cox, Samuel L. Evans and Grover Washington. We also have the collections of The Alpha Boule Chapter, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity and the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. Greater Philadelphia Chapter. The collection is so rich; I can honestly say all of the items in the collection are my favorite.”



2023  
Philadelphia  
Legacies  
Historical  
Tours



# Menu & Program

**4:30 pm: Networking Reception**

Music by PHILADELPHIA INTRUDERS  
Assorted Hor d'oeuvres & Cash Bar

•

**6:00 pm: Fine Dining / Viewing of Philadelphia Legacies' History**

Salad; Shank, Salmon, Scallops with Brussel Sprouts; Dessert - Mini Eclairs

•

**HOST, DR. DIANE TURNER**

Welcome • Moment of Silence for Weatta L. Frazier-Collins •  
Introduction of Stephen C. Satell

•

**REMARKS**

Stephen C. Satell, Founder / Executive Director

•

**REPORT: PHILADELPHIA LEGACIES' HISTORICAL TOURS**

•

**AWARDS CEREMONY**

Presentation of Young Person-to-Watch Award  
Presentation of Community Leadership Awards & \$500 Donation Check  
Presentation of First Artist Lifetime Achievement Award

•

***SHORT FILM: BRIDGING WORLDS***

•

**PRESENTATION OF PORTRAIT AWARDS:**

SONIA SANCHEZ • LARRY ROBIN • LAMONT B. STEPTOE

JOYCE WILKERSON

VERONICA JOYNER

JOYCE ABBOTT

SHERYL LEE RALPH & SENATOR VINCENT HUGHES

•

Dessert & Closing Remarks





## **NAKIA DILLARD**

Nakia Dillard is a versatile actor, writer, director, and entrepreneur from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He has been in the industry for over 25 years, appearing in numerous film and television projects, such as “The Wire”, “Law Abiding Citizen”, “The Lovely Bones”, “Split”, and “Black Lightning”. He has worked with some of the most influential names in the business, such as Bill Duke, Jamie Foxx, Kerry Washington, and Anthony Mackie. He is also set to portray motivational speaker Les Brown in his upcoming biopic.

Nakia Dillard is also the founder of Aikan Entertainment Solutions and Aikan Acting Academy. Aikan Entertainment Solutions is an organization that empowers, encourages, and challenges the entrepreneurial spirits of the youth. Aikan Acting Academy trains and prepares students of all ages in the art of acting and other creative outlets. Nakia has a passion for teaching and

mentoring the next generation of artists and leaders. Nakia Dillard is currently making waves on television with his role on ABC’s reboot of “The Wonder Years”. He plays Theo, the father of Keisa Clemmons, who is the love interest of Dean Williams, the protagonist of the show. The show is a coming-of-age story that takes place in the 1960s through the point of view of a middle-class Black family in Montgomery, Alabama. The show is produced by Lee Daniels and Saladin K. Patterson and narrated by Don Cheadle.

Nakia Dillard is a lifelong learner and a lover of arts, history, and self-reliance. He is a Freedom Theater alum and an active member of various civic and community organizations. He is a strong believer in extended family, an active church member and musician, a proud father, and a committed advocate for youth and families. He continues to network and share professional and personal development through his work and his vision.



## **REV. JEROME FORDHAM**

Rev. Jerome Fordham is the Pastor of Greater Love Tabernacle and a Master of Theology. He is a member of several Ministers Conferences, such as the Christian Fellowship Conference Ministers Conference, where he served as the past president. He is also a member of the Black Clergy of Philadelphia and the Missionary Committee of the Progressive Baptist Conference. He has a heart for service and serving, especially in the areas of prayer counseling, prison ministry, and hospital ministry. He has been involved in hospital ministry at numerous hospitals, including Mercy Hospital.

Rev. Fordham is also active in various civic and community organizations. He is the president of the National Action Network of Philadelphia, a civil rights organization. He

works with at-risk youth through the 57 Block Coalition against gun violence and collaborates with state and city officials on various issues. He serves as the president of the GLT Outreach Community Organization and served on the Stop the Violence Committee at Americhoice. He also educates our youth at schools through initiatives to reduce violence and enhance education.

Rev. Fordham is a recent widower who was married to his beloved Judge Cynthia Williams Fordham.



MARRONE  
LAW, LLC

CATASTROPHIC PERSONAL INJURY • CRIMINAL DEFENSE

Pennsylvania • New Jersey • New York

The Bellevue, 200 South Broad Street, Suite 400, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102

[MARRONELAW.COM](http://MARRONELAW.COM) | 215.732.6700



## **GAIL CLOUDEN (MAMA GAIL)**

Gail Clouden, also known as Mama Gail, is a World Traveler, Healer, Activist and Visionary who believes that we all have the power to change the future by our thoughts, words, actions and deeds. She works diligently with others to empower people to do so. She has been an Education Advocate for 35 years, starting as a Parent Volunteer in her daughter's Elementary School.

Mama Gail gained much of her experiences, knowledge and training in the Clouden Family's Corner Store and Clouden Travel Agency, where she designed, created, coordinated and led tours by air, sea and bus travel. She also had many mentors in community organizations and empowered nonprofits, such as Kintu's Grass Root Political Network, Georgie Wood's UBBA, Philadelphia Home and School Association, West Philadelphia Cultural Alliance, Johnny Sample's Sports Club, Bridgeway Inc, and Belmont Mansion. She went from employee to consultant at Parents Union and College Access.



Mama Gail's Community Education Network partners with various local, national and international individuals and organizations, such as Universal Peace Federation, Million Women March, Frontline Dads, West Phillie Produce, SMART, House of Umoja, Last Jab, UNIA, Hands Across Philadelphia and many others. She was a co-chair of two NGOs at the United Nations for almost 10 years before Covid: Harlem Women International and New Future Foundation. She still remains very close to Ambassador Queen Mother Dr Delois Blakely.

Mama Gail has worked with students, parents and guardians to advocate, teach and support them. She has provided professional development for school staffs throughout the city and workshops for support staff and consulting with the district. She is known for her passion when providing advice at school board meetings. A Tribune Newspaper reporter once referred to her as a fixture in the Philadelphia School District.

In February 2022, Mama Gail and her daughter Leah represented the United States as delegates among 6,000 worldwide in Seoul Korea at the World Education Summit. Mama Gail was chosen for her work in Philadelphia creating spaces for peace. She and her daughter Leah were working on a model project at Strawberry Mansion High School: Peace Suite. It is an intergenerational teaching, learning and connecting portal for gathering parents, guardians, community and students. It is a place where groups and individuals can connect for fun, seminars, classes, workshops and meetings in person or using technology.

## **DR. JONATHAN WILSON, JR.**

*a fusion between self reliance and helping others...*

Dr. Wilson, the eldest of twelve children, since an early age has been driven to explore the historical context for his existence. A lifelong learner, he has a degree in science from Cheyney University and a master's in science and doctorate in education from Wilmington University College of Education. Dr. Wilson is the founder of the Fatherhood Foundation, a nonprofit organization that helps people overcome trauma and live productive lives. He also connects people with food, shelter, and a place to release pent-up rage. Dr. Wilson supports young people with education and parenting skills. He has been involved in community work since his early days at his family's hair salon.





## **RICHARD WASHINGTON**

Richard Washington is a Philadelphia native, HR professional, and a sought-after speaker on diversity, conflict resolution, team building, and leadership. He holds a degree in Communications from Temple University and two Master's degrees in Education. He is the founder and CEO of Training 4 All, LLC, an education and training company that offers motivational speaking, professional development, and life-skills training for all ages. He has coached many organizations and individuals to achieve success in various fields, such as academic, political, financial, and community development.

Richard is also an educator and administrator with extensive experience in alternative and credit recovery education. He has worked with one of the leading providers of alternative education in the country and currently

serves as an administrator with the School District of Philadelphia.

Richard is passionate about serving youth and families through his volunteer community organization, Bringing Everybody Together (BET), which he founded over 25 years ago. Through BET, he has helped thousands of youth and families to strengthen their relationships and communication, build safer and more productive communities, and partner with other agencies to uplift and beautify neighborhoods.

Richard is a strong believer of extended family, an active church member and musician, a proud father, and a committed advocate for youth and families. He continues to network and share professional and personal development through Training 4 All, LLC and BET. He is a resource, mentor, and advocate for positive and productive communities.

## **Charter school students silently stand against Philadelphia's gun violence**



reprint of Philadelphia Tribune  
article by Tribune Staff Writer,  
Brian Saunders - Dec . 12, 2021

*Students and staff from  
Mathematics, Civics and  
Sciences Charter School held a  
silent stand Friday against the  
gun violence plaguing the city.  
– Tribune Photo/Abdul R.  
Sulayman*

# GLIMPSSES OF 2021 & 2022





Duane Morris proudly supports  
**PHILADELPHIA LEGACIES**  
and joins in congratulating the evening's honorees:

*Sonia Sanchez • Larry Robin • Lamont Steptoe • Veronica Foyner • Joyce Wilkerson • Joyce Abbott • Sheryl Lee Ralph & Senator Vincent Hughes*

Duane Morris manages its diversity and inclusion program with the objective of utilizing the best talent worldwide in solving legal problems. The firm recruits a diverse pool of lawyers that collectively possess an awareness of cutting-edge 21st century issues—legal, social and economic—for which clients require solutions.

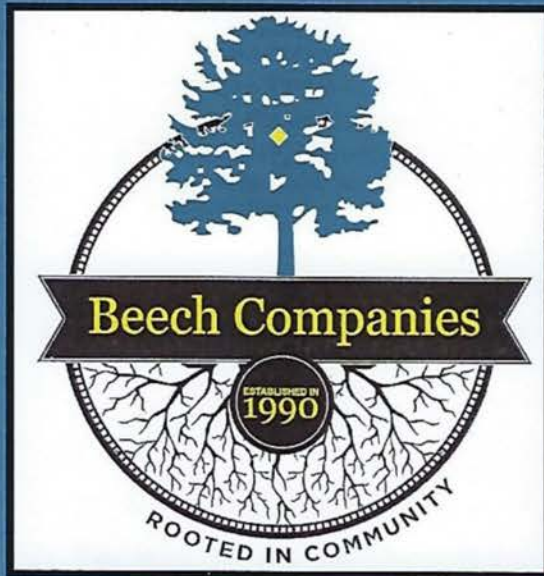
Duane Morris - Firm and Affiliate Offices | New York | London | Singapore | Philadelphia | Chicago | Washington, D.C. | San Francisco | Silicon Valley | San Diego | Los Angeles | Taiwan | Boston | Houston | Austin | Hanoi | Ho Chi Minh City | Shanghai | Atlanta | Baltimore | Wilmington | Miami | Boca Raton | Pittsburgh | Newark | Las Vegas | Cherry Hill | Lake Tahoe | Myanmar | Oman | Duane Morris LLP - A Delaware limited liability partnership

For more information, please contact:

**ROBERT L. ARCHIE, JR.**

Duane Morris LLP  
30 South 17th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-4196  
215.979.1915  
rlarchie@duanemorris.com  
[www.duanemorris.com](http://www.duanemorris.com)





1510 Cecil B. Moore Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19121  
(215) 763-8824  
[www.beechinterplex.com](http://www.beechinterplex.com)



*Dr. Kenneth Scott*  
President/CEO

**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
FROM  
**BEECH COMPANIES**

**REBUILDING COMMUNITIES**  
**ONE BLOCK AT A TIME**



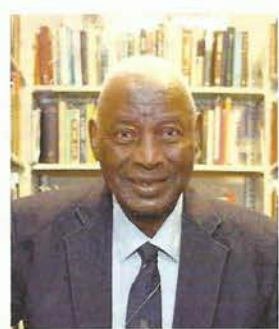
# The Legacy

# Past Portrait Awardees

## 2016



Queen Mother  
Falaka Fattah



Charles Blockson

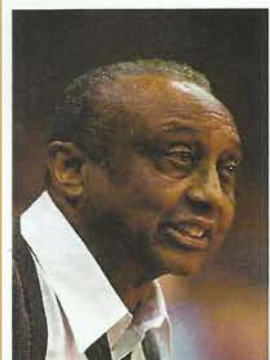


Sherwin Seligshon

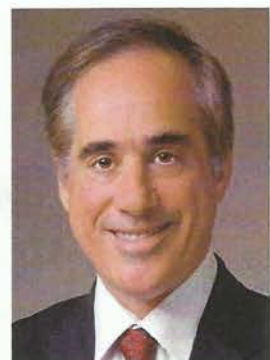


Jerry Wolman

## 2017



Coach John Chaney



David Shulkin

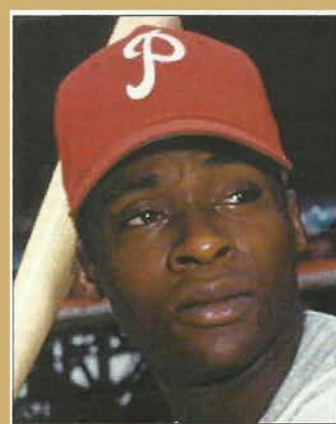


Walter P. Lomax, Jr.



Dr. Ruth Hayre

## 2018



Dick Allen



Trudy Haynes



Acel Moore



Coach Tina Sloan Green

# 2019



# 2020



# 2021



# 2022



# **LABORERS' LOCAL 332**

*Proudly supports the  
8th Annual  
Philadelphia Legacies Portrait & Community Awards*



## **LABORERS' LOCAL 332**

1310 Wallace Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19123  
(215) 765-6272

**Samuel Staten, Jr.**  
*Business Manager*

**Cory Robinson**  
*President*

**Malik Staten**  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

**John McCarty**  
*Vice-President*

**Andrew Robinson**  
*Recording Secretary*

**Ryan N. Boyer**  
*Executive Board Member*

**Gracia Louis**  
*Executive Board Member*

**Joe Rowland**  
*Auditor*

**John McCarty, Jr.**  
*Auditor*

**Shamsuddin Peterson**  
*Sergeant-At-Arms*

**Sibley Robinson**  
*Auditor*

**Staff & General Membership**



**C/O PHILADELPHIA CULTURETRUST  
1315 WALNUT, SUITE 320  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107**

**(215) 432-2898; BRIDGINGWORLDSPROGRAM@YAHOO.COM  
WWW.PHILADELPHIALEGACIES.ORG**

*Sponsored by*



STATE SENATOR  
**VINCENT  
HUGHES**  
DEMOCRATIC APPROPRIATIONS CHAIR



Laborers' District Council  
of the Metropolitan Area of  
Philadelphia and Vicinity

