

The Reverend *Lee* **LEE** **AWARDS BREAKFAST**



**August 23, 2024 @6:30 a.m.
Greater Columbus Convention Center
Columbus, OH**

**Rev. Mila Cooper, Host President
Rev. Dr. Joy Gallman, Program Chair
Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford, Connectional AMEWIM President
Rt. Rev. Frederick A. Wright, Sr. AMEWIM Commission Chair**

Programme

*Rev. Dr. Joy L. Gallmon, Worship Leader
Connectional 1st Vice President*

Musical Selection

*Yolanda Byrd, Soloist
Rev. Beverly Cofield, Musician*

In Gathering/Welcome

*Rev. Dr. Joy L. Gallmon, Program Chair
Rev. Dr. Mila P. Cooper, Host President*

Invocation

Presiding Elder Tyronda Burgess, 3rd Vice President

Scripture

Rev. Angelique Mason, Treasurer

Presentation of Connectional WIM President

Rev. Dr. Joy L. Gallmon, 1st Vice President

Presentation of Jarena Lee Awards

Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford, Connectional President

Honorees

*The Reverend Passion Musa
The Reverend Gena Thornton
Sister Sharon Blaylock*

Blessing of the Food

Rev. Lerato Pitso, Statistician

Breakfast Is Served

Recognition of the Executive Board & Presentation of Jarena Lee Awards

Honorees

*The Right Reverend Francine Brookins
The Right Reverend Frederick A. Wright, Sr.*

Presentation of the President's Award

Presentation of the Speaker

Musical Selection

Keynote Speaker

*Rev. Shavon Arline-Bradley, MPH, MDiv
President & CEO of The National Council of Negro Women*

Closing Remarks & Sending Forth

The Right Reverend Frederick A. Wright, Sr. , Commission Chair

About Jarena Lee and The Jarena Lee Appreciation Awards Breakfast

Mrs. Jarena Lee, the first preaching woman in the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church, was born February 11, 1783 to free parents in Cape May, New Jersey which was then still a slave state. At the age of 7 she was hired out as a servant 60 miles from her home and it was 14 years before she saw her birth family again. She only had 3 months of schooling but learnt to read and write and in her 50's, with the help of an editor, she published two editions of her life, religious experiences and journal of itinerant ministry. She made her living as a manual worker, suffering ill health from the rigors of her labor.

At the age of 21, after being introduced to Christianity by a Presbyterian missionary, she began living in Philadelphia where she attended the A.M.E. Church and was converted after hearing Richard Allen, our founder and first Bishop, preach. At the age of 28 she married Joseph Lee, pastor of Snow Hill (now Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church, Lawnside), New Jersey, and after his death 7 years later returned to Philadelphia with her two children ages two years and six months.

From childhood, she had a strong sense of the divine at work in her but struggled with the conviction of her sinfulness until her mid-20's when she experienced sanctification, the "second blessing", and finally felt secure in her salvation. Her call to preach the gospel came with strong visions about 4-5 years later but, when told by Richard Allen that the Methodist Discipline did not allow for women preachers, she suppressed "...the holy energy which burned within me, as a fire..." for over eight years during which time she exhorted and held prayer meetings in private homes.

Her anointing became evident to Richard Allen and others, in particular when at a Bethel service in 1818 the preacher read his text, announced the title of his sermon, began to expound and then faltered. She stood up and completed the sermon, leading Richard Allen to publicly acknowledge her call. She recalled, *"My tongue was cut loose, the lip was touched, the stammerer spoke freely; the love of God and of his service, burned with a vehement flame within me."* The following year, at the age of 36, Jarena Lee was granted a license to preach.

Though initially reluctant to accept her call, Richard Allen proved to be a genuine and strong ally. Her journal records that during a period when she was tempted to withdraw from the AME Church because of hostile opposition from male clergy, she was sustained by God's love and Allen's support. He gave her preaching appointments in churches in and around Philadelphia, and had her accompany him and other male clergy to Annual Conferences in New York and Baltimore where she had opportunities to preach. After Jarena Lee decided to give up her own residence and devote herself to her preaching ministry, Richard and Sarah Allen often cared for her son, James, in her absence, including a period when she was away for 2½ years.

A true itinerant evangelist, she traveled extensively through the Northeast, Canada and the slave states of Maryland and Delaware preaching to whites, coloreds and Indians – to people of all religious persuasions – to rich and poor – to free and enslaved – to the powerful and the powerless. She preached in homes, meeting houses, school houses, court houses, market houses, camp meetings, grave yards, by the roadside, in barns, in the woods, on slave plantations, at quarterly conferences, and in class meetings. Sometimes she travelled alone, and at other times with female companions, with her children or with male preachers. She went by foot (walking an average of 27 miles a day), by boat, sleigh, stagecoach, and railway. In one 14-month period she traveled about 2,800 miles. She often preached several times a day, sometimes into the early morning. In one year alone she preached 692 sermons.

Ellicot's Mill - Fairfield - Flamburg - Flatbush - Flushing, Long Island - Fort George - Fory's Neck - Frankford - Fredericktown, MD - Frenchtown - Gallopeler - Geneva - Georgetown - Glen Cove - Goshen, NJ - Governor Paynter's Woods - Greenfield - Greensboro - Greensborough - Greenwich - Hagerstown - Hales' Mill - Hambleton - Harrisburg - Harris's Mill

About Jarena Lee and The Jarena Lee Appreciation Awards Breakfast

It was as a preacher that she fulfilled the divine plan for her life. She was tireless and impassioned in proclaiming the message of salvation and in her service to humanity. Undeterred by opposition, inclement weather, ill health, lack of resources, personal sacrifices, and her own mortality, she declared, “...it was better to wear out than rust out”.

Jarena Lee stands out in the history of the 19th century, being the second Black woman known to preach, and the best known Black woman of her time, second only to Sojourner Truth. She is also a foundational figure in the history of the A.M.E. Church, having made an invaluable contribution to the growth of the Church with the numbers of converts and new members she brought in, the funds she raised, and the churches she was instrumental in establishing.

A.M.E. women in ministry acknowledge Jarena Lee as our spiritual foremother who in the first decades of the church's existence fought for affirmation of her call to preach and serves as an early role model in the ongoing struggle for female autonomy, asserting in the face of antagonism, “*Right is more than might*”.

AME/WIM has been blessed to pay tribute to Jarena Lee in several significant ways. We have published an edition of the *Religious Experiences and Journal of Mrs. Jarena Lee*. We have established a Jarena Lee Foundation to assist our sisters in ministry and respond to needs in the global Districts. We have made pilgrimages, held commemorative services, and presented a framed sketch of her as a permanent memorial at Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church in Lawnside (formerly Snow Hill), New Jersey, the burial place of Jarena Lee; and we owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. M. Joan Cousins who made the Church at large aware of this herstoric location during her tenure as Episcopal Supervisor of the First Episcopal District.

On June 19, 2001, at the site of the General Board/Bishops Council Meeting in Los Angeles, California, AME/WIM held its First Jarena Lee Appreciation Awards Breakfast. This is an occasion to honor the memory of Mrs. Jarena Lee, as well as an opportunity to recognize Episcopal leadership for providing oversight to the organization, to honor trailblazing sisters in ministry, and to express appreciation to other individuals for their support of the work and objectives of AME-WIM.

Today, we hold our Twelfth Jarena Lee Appreciation Awards Breakfast as part of the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the A.M.E. Church. We celebrate the life, ministry and legacy of Mrs. Jarena Lee with the herstoric decision made in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 by the A.M.E. Council of Bishops and announced by Bishop John Richard Bryant, Senior Bishop, on Friday, April 8, 2016: **Mrs. Jarena Lee will be posthumously ordained at the 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.**

Providentially, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where she lived, sacrificed, struggled, and faithfully fulfilled God's call to preach and serve - 208 years after she acknowledged her call; 207 years after her call was denied; 198 years after she was licensed; and 16 years after AME/WIM's unsuccessful attempt to have her call to ordained ministry affirmed at the 2012 General Conference - **Mrs. Jarena Lee rightly and deservedly was ordained post-humously as The Reverend Jarena Lee.**

As she wrote in her spiritual autobiography, “*Glory to God in the highest...for the manifestation of His Spirit.*”



Chronology of AME/WIM Leadership

1977-1980:

Rev. Dr. Jacquelyn Grant

(6th Episcopal District)

Chairperson of Ad Hoc Committee on Women in Ministry

Episcopal Oversight:

Bishop John H. Adams

Bishop H. Hartford Brookins

Bishop Frank M. Reid, Jr.

1980-1984:

Rev. Jeane B. Williams

(1st Episcopal District)

Connectional President of AME/WIM

Episcopal Oversight:

Bishop Vinton R. Anderson, Chairperson of the Commission on Liturgy & Worship

1984-1988:

Rev. Carolyn Tyler

(now Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry)

(5th Episcopal District)

Connectional President of AME/WIM

Episcopal Oversight:

Bishop Frederick H. Talbot, Chairperson of the Commission on Ministry & Recruitment

1988-1996:

Rev. Lillian Frier Webb

(1st Episcopal District)

Connectional President of AME/WIM

Chairpersons of the Commission on Women in Ministry:

Bishop Robert Thomas, Jr., 1989-1992

Bishop McKinley Young, 1992-1996

1996-2004:

Rev. Sandra E.H. Smith Blair

(5th Episcopal District)

Connectional President of AME/WIM

Chairpersons of the Commission on Women in Ministry:

Bishop C. Garnett Henning, Sr., 1996-2000

Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, 2000-2004

2004-2008:

Rev. Dr. Lois A. Poag-Ray

(2nd Episcopal District)

Connectional President of AME/WIM

Chairperson of the Commission on Women in Ministry:

Bishop Sarah F. Davis, 2004-2008

2008-2016:

Rev. Kimberly L. Detherage, Esq.

(1st Episcopal District)

Connectional President of AME/WIM

Chairpersons of the Commission on Women in Ministry:

Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath, 2008-2012

Bishop Clement W. Fugh, 2012-2016

2016-2024:

Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford, DMin.

(1st Episcopal District)

Connectional President of AME/WIM

Chairpersons of the Commission on Women in Ministry:

Bishop E. Ann Henning Byfield, 2016-2021

Bishop Frederick A. Wright, Sr., 2021– 2024

AME/WJM Leadership

Commission Members

1 st District:	<i>Rev. Jocelyn K. Hart Lovelace</i>
2 nd District:	<i>Rev. Dr. A. Qismat Alim</i>
3 rd District:	<i>Rev. Dr. James H. Harris</i>
4 th District:	<i>Ms. Angela T. Pettis</i>
5 th District:	<i>Ms. Florette Hampson</i>
6 th District:	<i>Rev. Michael Ephraim</i>
7 th District:	<i>Rev. Rosalyn Coleman</i>
8 th District:	<i>Ms. Sherry Peyton</i>
9 th District:	<i>Rev. Dr. Agnes Lover</i>
10 th District:	<i>Rev. Dr. John McCormick</i>
11 th District:	<i>Rev. Michael K. Bouie</i>
12 th District:	<i>Rev. Marcellus Fields</i>
13 th District:	<i>Rev. Troy Thomas</i>
14 th District:	<i>Mr. Isaac Kelly Martins</i>
15 th District:	<i>Mr. Keith Links</i>
16 th District:	<i>Rev. Florence Marie McElroy</i>
17 th District:	<i>Mr. Shone Sipopa</i>
18 th District:	<i>Mr. Qiniso Tsabedze</i>
19 th District:	<i>Ms. Ntsoaki Thula (YA)</i>
20 th District:	<i>Rev. Rosetta Swinton</i>

At-Large Members:

Rev. Tyronda Burgess
Mrs. Mickalia Becaroo-Reynolds (YA)

Executive Board

Reverend Dr. Erika D. Crawford
President

Reverend Dr. Joy L. Gallmon
First Vice President

Reverend Joelynn T. Stokes, Esq.,
Second Vice President

Reverend Tyronda Burgess
Third Vice President

Reverend Dr. Louise Jackson
General Secretary

Reverend Bettye Watson
Corresponding Secretary

Reverend Robin Truitt Duke
Financial Secretary

Reverend Angelique Mason
Treasurer

Reverend Dr. Emily Annette Pardue
Worship Director

Reverend Carolyn Baskin-Bell
Herstoriographer

Reverend Mamphethe Beatrice Motokoa
Central/Southern Africa Coordinator

Reverend Lerato Pitso
Statistician

Connectional Consultants

Rev. Dr. Jacquelyn Grant-Collier
Consultant

Rev. Dr. Teresa Fry Brown
Consultant

Rev. Sandra Smith Blair
Consultant

Rev. Brenda Payne
Consultant

Rev. Benita Livingston
Consultant

No.	DATE	LOCATION	HONOREES	KEYNOTE
1 st	June 19, 2001	Westin Los Angeles Airport Hotel, Los Angeles, California	<p>Bishop John Hurst Adams, <i>Episcopal Oversight, 1977-1980</i></p> <p>Bishop Frank Madison Reid, Jr. (posthumously), <i>Episcopal Oversight, 1977-1980</i></p> <p>Bishop Hamel Hartford Brookins, <i>Support provided with 1992 General Conference approval of WIM Commission</i></p> <p>Dr. Jamye Coleman Williams, <i>Retired Editor of the AME Church Review</i></p> <p>Dr. Dorothy Adams Peck, <i>Connectional President, Women's Missionary Society</i></p>	Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, <i>Chair, WIM Commission, 2000-04</i>
2 nd	June 25, 2002	Tampa Water-side Marriott Hotel, Tampa Florida	<p>Bishop Frederick Hilborn Talbot, <i>Episcopal Oversight, 1984-1988</i></p> <p>Bishop Robert Thomas, Jr., <i>Episcopal Oversight, 1989-1992</i></p> <p>Bishop McKinley Young, <i>Commission Chair 1992-96</i></p> <p>Mrs. Carolyn Scalvella, <i>1st District Womens' Missionary Society</i></p>	Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram, <i>Episcopal Supervisor, 15th District</i>
3 rd	June 24, 2003	Philadelphia Downtown Marriott Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	<p>Bishop Cornel Garnett Henning, <i>WIM Commission Chair 1996-2000</i></p> <p>Dr. Paulette Coleman, <i>Retired Editor of the AME Church Review; 1992-2000</i></p> <p>Rev. Dorothy Millicent Stephens Morris, <i>First Female AME Presiding Elder, 1973-1976</i></p>	Rev. Dr. Cecelia Williams Bryant, <i>Episcopal Supervisor, 5th District</i>
4 th	July 2, 2004	Hyatt Regency Hotel Indianapolis, Indiana	<p>Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, <i>WIM Commission Chair 2000-2004</i></p> <p>Mrs. Delores L. Kennedy Williams, <i>Past Connectional President, Women's Missionary Society</i></p> <p>Dr. Leah Gaskin Fitchue, <i>President, Payne Theological Seminary, Wilberforce, Ohio</i></p>	Rev. Dr. Leah Gaskin Fitchue, <i>President, Payne Theological Seminary</i>
5 th	June 28, 2005	Wyndham Anatole Hotel Dallas, Texas	<p>Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry, <i>Presiding Prelate, 16th Episcopal District</i></p> <p>Bishop Sarah Frances Davis, <i>Presiding Prelate, 18th Episcopal District</i></p> <p>Mrs. Jamesina Evans, <i>Connectional President, Women's Missionary Society</i></p>	Bishop Sarah Francis Davis, <i>Chair, WIM Commission, 2004-08</i>

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6 th	June 27, 2006	Embassy Suites Hotel, North Charleston, South Carolina	All Female Presiding Elders were recognized.	Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry, <i>Presiding Prelate, 16th Episcopal District</i>
7 th	August 7, 2010	Sheraton Philadelphia University City Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Rev. Dr. Jacquelyn Grant Collier, <i>Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on WIM, 1977-1980 and Consultant</i> Rev. Dr. Teresa Fry Brown, <i>Consultant</i> Rev. Sandra Smith Blair, <i>Past President, 1996-2000 and Consultant</i>	Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry, <i>Presiding Prelate, 16th Episcopal District</i>
8 th	June 28, 2011	Columbia Metro Convention Center, Columbia, South Carolina	Presiding Elder Rosalyn Grant Coleman, <i>Georgetown District, Palmetto Conference, 7th District</i> Rev. Gertrude Haynes Trescott, <i>Past Connectional AME-WIM Worship Director</i>	Facilitator: Rev. Dr. Teresa Fry Brown, <i>Consultant</i> Panel: Dr. Jayme Coleman Williams, <i>Retired General Officer</i> ; Presiding Elder Anne Henning Byfield, <i>Indiana North District, Indiana Conference, 4th District</i> ; Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Grant Collier, <i>Consultant</i> Responders: Rev. Christina Reed; Rev. Schrendiah Robinson; Ms. Veronica Tinsley, <i>6th District</i>
9 th	June 29, 2012	Gaylord Opryland Resort & Conference Center, Nashville, Tennessee	Bishop Sarah Francis Davis, <i>Presiding Prelate, 16th District</i> Rev. Francine Angelique Nelson Brookins, Esq, <i>Connectional AME-WIM Second-Vice President</i>	Prayer Service: Institutional Relationships, Rev. Monica Spencer, <i>Connectional Corresponding Secretary</i> ; Interpersonal Relationships, Rev. Shirley Inkton-Bowers, <i>Connectional Worship Director</i> ; Self Care, Rev. Lola Scott Russell, <i>Connectional Herstoryographer</i> ; Stewardship and Finance, Rev. Francine Brookins, <i>Connectional Second Vice President</i> ; Intercessory Prayer, Rev. Kimberly Detherage, <i>Connectional President</i>

No.	DATE	LOCATION	HONOREES	KEYNOTE
10 th	August 9, 2014	Embassy Suites Hotel, North Charleston, South Carolina	Bishop Jeffrey Nathaniel Leath, <i>WIM Commission Chair, 2008-12</i> Mr. Claytie Davis, Jr., <i>Episcopal Supervisor, 16th District</i> Presiding Elder Ida Willis Keener, <i>San Antonio District, SouthWest Texas Conference, 10th District</i> Ms. Misbrew Times, <i>7th District Member, WIM Commission</i>	Presiding Elder Jocelyn Hart, <i>Philadelphia District, Philadelphia Conference, 1st District</i>
11 th	July 1, 2015	Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana	Rev. Miriam Barnett, MD <i>AMEC Medical Director, Health Commission</i> Mrs. Mary Edith Moody <i>Former 8th District AME/WIM Episcopal District President</i>	Prayer Service: Memorial Prayer (for the Charleston, South Carolina Nine); Introduction of the Prayer Warriors/ Meditation, Rev. Dr. Teresa Fry Brown, <i>Historiographer/ Executive Director of the Department of Research and Scholarship</i> ; Mission Possible, Rev. Dr. Cecelia E. Greene Barr, <i>Candidate for Episcopal Service</i> ; Called To Serve, Rev. Francine A. Brookins, Esq., <i>Candidate for Episcopal Service</i> ; Positioned To Lead, Presiding Elder E. Anne Henning Byfield, <i>Candidate for Episcopal Service</i> ; Take Thou Authority, Presiding Elder Elizabeth E. Yates, <i>Candidate for Episcopal Service</i> ; Go, Rev. Dr. Katurah York Cooper, <i>Candidate for Episcopal Service</i>
12 th	July 8, 2016	Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Bishop Clement W. Fugh <i>WIM Commission Chair, 2012-16</i> Rev. Elizabeth Scott <i>Candidate for the Episcopacy, 1988, 1992 & 1994; AME/WIM Consultant 1988-92; Connectional Historiographer, 1996-2004.</i> Ms. Anita Rankin <i>AME Church Convention Planner</i>	Ms. Sherrilyn Ifill President & Director-Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF)
13 th	July 10, 2018	The Birmingham Sheraton	Rev. Kim L. Detherage, Esq, <i>Former Connectional AMEWIM President</i> Presiding Elder Letia Williams-Watford, DDS	Bishop E. Anne Henning Byfield
14 th	August 4, 2022	The MotorCity, Detroit, MI	Bishop John F. White Bishop E Anne Henning Byfield Chaplain (COL) Monica Lawson	Ms. Vickie Winans, Grammy Award Winning Artist

