


BLACK **HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

FREE VIRTUAL EVENT



2022 Multi-Agency Black History Month Celebration

Wednesday, February 23, 2022



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PROCLAMATION

BLACK HISTORY MONTH
February 2022

WHEREAS, Black History Month grew out of the establishment, in 1926, of Negro History Week by Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History; and

WHEREAS, the national theme for this year's observance is "Black Health and Wellness;" and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is home to nearly 1.5 million African Americans currently and, throughout history, many have played significant roles in Pennsylvania's economic, cultural, spiritual, and political development while working tirelessly to maintain and promote their culture and history; and

WHEREAS, many African American historical firsts happened in Pennsylvania: in 1787, prominent religious leaders Richard Allen and Absalom Jones organized the Free African Society, one of the first black mutual aid societies anywhere, the Philadelphia Colored Female Free Produce Society boycotted products produced by slave labor and exerted economic pressure on slave states, and, in 1838, William Whipper founded The National Reformer, the first black newspaper in the state; and

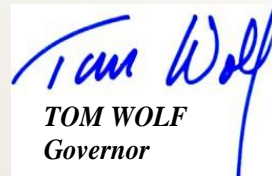
WHEREAS, African Americans in Pennsylvania served as conductors on the Underground Railroad, fought in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, and worked in the shipyards in Philadelphia, the coal and steel industries in Steelton and Pittsburgh, and the railroad industry in Erie and Harrisburg; and

WHEREAS, the commonwealth is proud to honor the history and contributions of African Americans in our state and throughout the nation.

THEREFORE, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim February 2022 to be BLACK HISTORY MONTH, in recognition of African Americans past and present in our commonwealth. I encourage all Pennsylvanians to celebrate this important observance and to continue to work toward the goal of liberty and justice for all.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this first day of February two thousand twenty-two, the year of the commonwealth the two


TOM WOLF
Governor

Pre-program 11:45 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

Participating Agency Leaders

Program Begins at 12:00 Noon

Opening Remarks and Introductions

- ▶ Rhonda L. Daviston, Celebration Event Co-Chair

Negro National Anthem

- ▶ Damon Anderson

Opening Greeting

- ▶ Governor Tom Wolf

Introduction of Panel Members- Wesley Alexander

- ▶ Dr. Denise A. Johnson, M.D., FACOG, FACHE
 - ▶ **Working Towards a Healthy Lifestyle for All**
- ▶ Dwayne Golden, Exec. Dir. South Central PA Sickle Cell Council
 - ▶ **Health and Wellness in Central PA-The Impact of Black American Migration**

Entertainment

- ▶ Dwennimmen African Dance Community- **Sinte, West African Dance**

Introduction of Panel Members-Rhonda Daviston

- ▶ Kirsten N. Keys – Open Records Officer and Public Relations Coordinator for Harrisburg School District
 - ▶ **Focused, Centered, and Well: Tapping into the Power of Meditation**
- ▶ Rev. Brenda M. Alton, M.Div., D. Min., Ph.D.
 - ▶ **Are you Spiritually Well?**

Entertainment

- ▶ Dwennimmen African Dance Community- **Soko, West African Dance**

Poetry- Nicolette Attarian-Kimber

- ▶ ***The Legacy's Left Unknown***

Essay- Nikolai Brummett

- ▶ ***Racism in the Medical Community: A Dissection***

Closing Remarks

- ▶ Wesley E. Alexander, Celebration Event Co-Chair

Thank you for joining us today!



Dr. Denise A. Johnson

Dr. Denise A. Johnson, M.D., FACOG, FACHE is the Physician General for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Prior to serving in this role, Dr. Johnson was most recently Chief Medical Officer at Meadville Medical Center. Before joining the Meadville Medical Center leadership team in 2008, Dr. Johnson spent 13 years in private practice in Meadville. She is board certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology by the American Board of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. She is a former commissioner of the Governor's Commission for Women.

Dr. Johnson has been involved in various community and regional groups focusing on diversity and inclusion and on the needs of women and is the former board chair of the Meadville Area Free Clinic. She is past chair of the board of directors of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape.

She received her Medical Degree at Georgetown University School of Medicine and completed her residency at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.



Rev. Brenda Alton

The period between the birth and death of a human being leads people through celebrations, grief, and life stressors. Brenda Alton brings her skills and passion to help those who include children, adults, and families to discover peace well-being, and strength.

Understanding that there is no single approach that fits every individual, Brenda is trained in a range of modalities including clinical pastoral education; RTS bereavement services and pregnancy loss and newborn death; diversity, equity, and inclusion; advance care directives; substance abuse and recovery; critical incident stress management; trauma informed care.

Brenda serves as manager of UPMC Central Pa. Region Spiritual Care Services. She manages chaplains and volunteer chaplains for the nine UPMC Central Pa. campuses (spanning ten counties), which include the UPMC Pinnacle Hillman Cancer Center, and the Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute.

Rev. Alton is an ordained minister. Served 15 years as senior pastor of Harambee United Church of Christ, now known as Kingdom Embassy (founder), and CEO of Brenda Alton Ministries (aka BAM). She holds Masters degrees in Christian Education and Divinity from Virginia Union University; a Doctorate in Ministry (with an emphasis in Community Building and Faith Community Initiatives), from Primus School of Theology; and is a Ph.D. candidate in Administration and Leadership Studies for Nonprofits and Public Sectors at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (2022).

Dwayne M. Golden



Mr. Dwayne Golden, CEO and founder of D. Golden Associates, has served in many roles, from Army Medic to church minister to international software entrepreneur and motivational speaker, Mr. Golden is at his happiest when he is inventing a solution to a problem that will help make the lives of others brighter.

After being honorably discharged from the Army, where he served as a medic, Dwayne Golden enrolled at Harrisburg Area Community College and was eventually honored with a Harrisburg Area Community College 40 Outstanding Alums in 40 Years award before going on to complete his BS in Biology from Messiah. Dwayne's first job after college was as a Medical Data Coordinator for the Research and Development division of Merck & Co. pharmaceutical, where he created a software system to help meet deadlines so that drugs could more efficiently go through the testing process and get onto the market, where they could deliver much-needed relief to patients. It was here that Dwayne discovered his talent for making workflow processes more efficient and streamlined. Dwayne's continuing software innovations eventually led him to a new position as Events and Grants Manager for Highmark Blue Shield, where he discovered that he also had significant strengths in the area of fundraising.

After earning his MBA at Strayer University, in 2005 Dwayne Golden used his growing professional momentum to found Golden Associates, where he works with global clients to design and implement global transactional technology. His work has taken him around the world, and the systems he created, like Coin Logic, are in use in over 130 countries. He has had the privilege of speaking at numerous conferences and events about the power of crypto currency innovations and as keynote speaker for his alma maters. Though Dwayne has accomplished much in the areas of fundraising, leadership, and technology, he feels his most important role is as a champion of others, and he looks forward to finding new ways to serve his communities by making life better for those around him.

Kristen Keys



Kirsten Keys serves as the Public Relations Coordinator for the Harrisburg City School District where she oversees and coordinates: media relations, press conferences, strategic communications, districtwide marketing campaigns, social media, and special events that support the educational emphasis of the District's 11 school building sites, a blended cyber academy, and a new fully virtual learning academy for students in grades K-12. In addition, she is responsible for developing and implementing public awareness initiatives that highlight successes, and inform, engage, and empower Harrisburg's school community.

Prior to joining the school district, Ms. Keys served as the Communications and Events Manager for the Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers, the Commonwealth's largest network of primary care providers, also known as Federally Qualified Health Centers, serving more than 900,000 Pennsylvanians at more than 300 healthcare delivery sites.

With more than two decades of public relations experience, Ms. Keys has coordinated and/or consulted on special projects, campaigns, and events in collaboration with: The White House Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives, The National Association of Community Health Centers, U.S. and State Legislators, the nationally syndicated Tom Joyner Morning Show and its Take a Loved One to the Doctor Day Campaign, Hamilton Health Center, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the City of Harrisburg; and others.

Advancing a generational commitment to ensure access to high quality local programming, news, and information, Ms. Keys spent 17 years in radio broadcasting with WWII 720 AM and Cumulus Radio Station Group (Harrisburg), alongside her late father, a renowned Broadcasting Hall of Fame recipient.

Ms. Keys is a Licensed Minister at the Solid Rock Missionary Baptist Church of Harrisburg with oversight of health and wellness, women's ministry, and community outreach initiatives. She has served as chairperson of the Faith-based Initiative for the AIDS Fund of South Central Pennsylvania; and currently serves on the statewide Patient and Family Advisory Council for the Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania where she helps to ensure that patients and their families are educated, empowered, and actively engaged in healthcare decisions that impact their lives and health outcomes.

Lark Daniel / Dwennimmen African Dance Community

Lark Daniel has been a lifelong student of dance who was first inspired to move to music at the age of 7 years old. She believes that if you can walk, you can dance. Lark was first introduced to African dance 24 years ago, and through her love of African dance and commitment to preserving African dance and culture, the Dwennimmen African Dance Community was born.

Dwennimmen African Dance Community has had the honor to perform at many events, including the Pennsylvania State Capital Diversity Day event, The Dauphin County Cultural Fest, as well as the Imani festival in Carlisle, the multicultural State Black History month program, the It Makes a Village annual fundraiser event, along with many others.

Lark started dancing jazz, ballet, tap and gymnastics at the age of 7. As a young adult she began to study African dance under the direction of Rafiyqa Muhammad, the founder of Neema Dance Company and Ngozi Inc, for 10 years. She then joined her company and began performing. Lark then continued her study of African dance for 15 years under the direction of Sonya Mann-McFarlane, the founder of Lancaster-based Imaniedutainers. There she was given the opportunity to teach classes and choreograph dance pieces for the Imaniedutainers annual concerts. Lark began teaching in her local community six years ago, and from there she founded Dwennimmen African Dance Community. Throughout the years Lark has been able to continue her studies of African dance from professional African dance instructors such as Jihan Von Hendricks, founder of Keur Khaleyi African Dance Co, and Cachet Ivey of Kulu Mele, along with various Master Instructors such as Youssouf Koumbassa from Guinea Conakry and Tenefig Dioubate and Esther Grant-Walker.



Poetry Winners

1st place Nicolette Attarian-Kimber

- *The Legacy's Left Unknown*
- 12th Grade, Hatboro-Horsham High School and Eastern Center for Arts and Technology

2nd Place Gavin Ross

- *A Healthy Future*
- 11th Grade, Hollidaysburg Area Senior High School

3rd Place Symone Cooper

- *The Virus Antidote*
- 9th Grade, Penn Wood High School-Cypress

Essay Winners

1st place Nikolai Brummett

- *Racism in the Medical Community: A Dissection*
- 9th Grade, Reach Cyber Charter High School

2nd place Cowan Ruhland

- 10th Grade, Spring Grove Area High School

3rd place Avery Naran

- *Black Health and Wellness*
- 9th Grade, Reach Cyber Charter School

Performers

Dwennimmen African Dance Community

- ▶ Drummers... Leigh, Rich, Rick and Sa'vyon
- ▶ Dancers....Alaisha and Lark

2021 Multi-Agency Black History Month Celebration Planning Committee

Public Utility Commission

Rhonda L. Daviston, Esq., Co-Chair
Damon Anderson
Tom Charles
Cyndi Page
Aaron Margolis

Governor's Office of Administration

Wesley E. Alexander, Co-Chair
Dr. Jeffrey Sanders, PhD
Dellanor Young

PA Dept. of Education

Kathleen Hale
Sonya Harris Saunders
Ellen Shenk

Dept. of Environmental Protection

John Brakeall

Dept. of Community and Economic Development

Tracy Brown

Governor's Advisory Commission on African American Affairs

LaDeshia Maxwell

PA Dept. of Aging

Anita Holmes

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Jacob Otero

PA Parole Board

Morgan C. Davis-Edwards, Esq.

PA State Civil Service Commission

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PA Human Relations Commission

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Stacey Waters

PA Dept. of Agriculture

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Dept. of Corrections

Department of State

Kori House

Department of Health

Tynesha Robinson

Dept. of Revenue

Bryan Barbin

PA Historical & Museum Commission

Janeé Corbin

PA Dept. of Banking and Securities

Yvette Davenport

PA Department of Drug and Alcohol Program

Irene Sweets