

The

RASHAD

Center, Inc.

Traditions & Beliefs

Winter/ Spring 2020 Newsletter

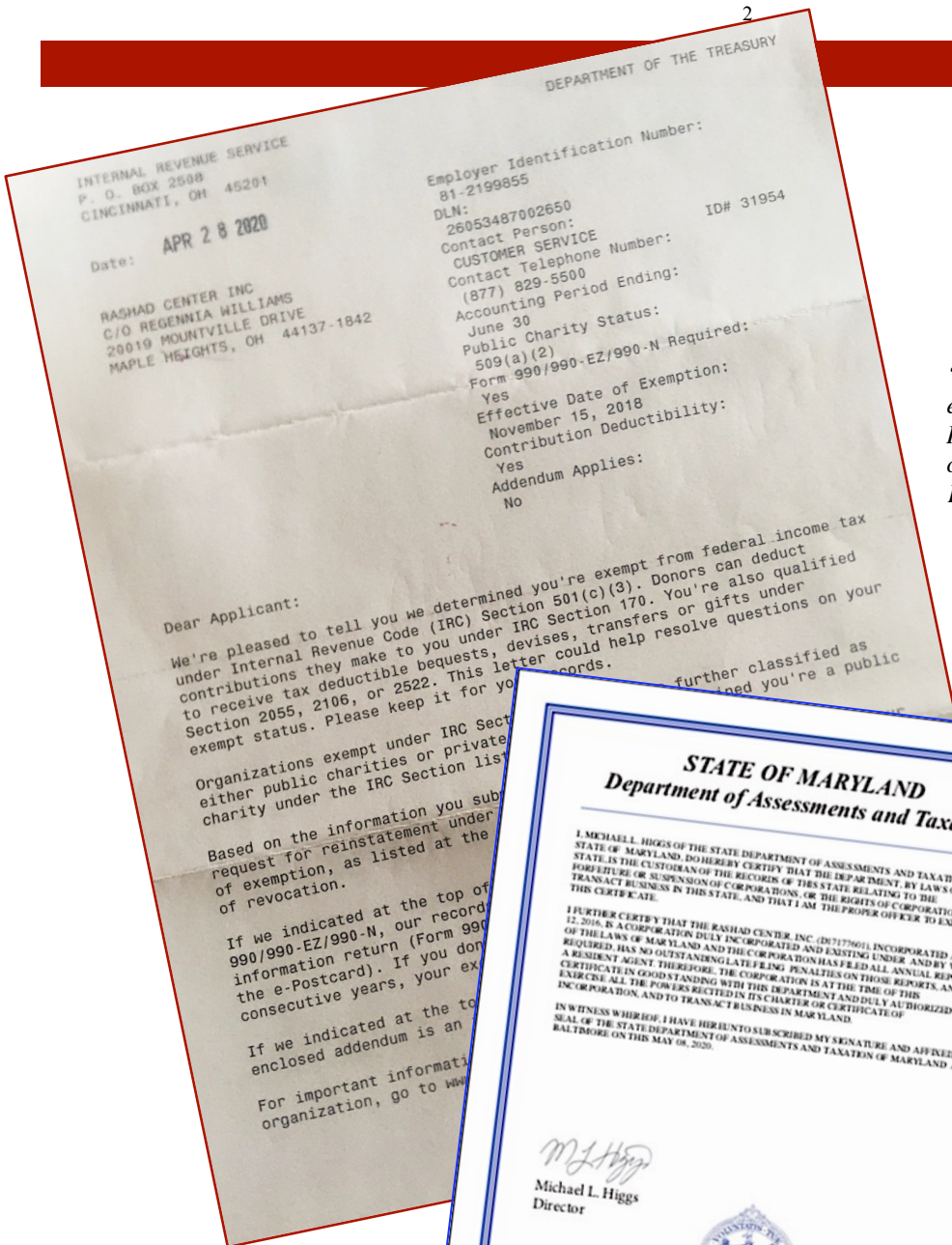
Regennia N. Williams, PhD

Founder, Executive Director, and Editor

Inside This Issue:

- * Our New 501 (c)(3)
- * Silver Anniversary
- * Publications
- * Television Program





Great News about Our Nonprofit Organization!

“We’re pleased to tell you we determined you’re exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 170.”

--IRS, April 28, 2020

“... I further certify that the RASHAD Center, Inc. (D17177601), incorporated April 12, 2016, is a corporation duly incorporated and existing under and by virtue of the laws of Maryland and the corporation has filed all annual reports required, has no outstanding late filing penalties on those reports and has a resident agent. Therefore, the corporation is at the time of this certificate in good standing with this department and duly authorized to exercise all the powers recited in its charter or certificate of incorporation, and to transact business in Maryland.”

--State of Maryland, May 8, 2020

Traditions & Beliefs

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(On the cover: Regennia N. Williams)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Teaching History through Black Sacred Music: A Silver Anniversary Celebration	4
The Praying Grounds Book Publishing Project (PGB2P): An Oral History	5-7
Coming Soon: C-L-E / Arts & Culture TV and The 2020 Poor People's Campaign	8

From the Editor

Dear Friends,

Greetings from "home," where I have been working remotely for more than two months. I trust that you are well during this very challenging season of COVID-19 and widespread anti-Black racism protests in the wake of the death of George Floyd at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer. The struggle for human rights in America continues.

I am writing to say thanks to everyone who prayed with and for me when I announced that I was leaving Spiritual Gifts (Ohio) to devote more time to the Center for the Study of Religion and Spirituality in the History of Africa and the Diaspora, The RASHAD Center, Inc., which also includes Spiritual Gifts International. I want to let you know that the IRS approved our application for tax-exemption, and RASHAD is now officially recognized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, which means that all contributions to our organization are tax deductible.

Since we may still be practicing social distancing during the planned 25th anniversary "Honor & Power" celebration in 2020-2021, I will be working with our board of directors to identify grants and other fundraising opportunities to support the production of a series of online activities featuring soloists and smaller ensembles—in live performances and/or prerecorded programs. We will also publish and distribute a special anniversary program booklet.

I also want to invite you to visit the [Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival Website](#), where you can learn more about the Mass Poor People's Assembly and Moral March on Washington Digital Justice Gathering, on June 20, 2020.

Until we meet again, please stay in touch—especially if you would like to participate in the anniversary celebration. So far, two of my colleagues in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., have already agreed to work with me, and you can read more about their work on the pages of this newsletter.

Take care and God bless.

Regennia

Celebrating 25 Years of Teaching History through Black Sacred Music



Silver Anniversary

In the summer of 2020, I will launch my yearlong 25th anniversary celebration, “Honor & Power.” Please watch for special announcements about upcoming silver anniversary activities.

From the Archives: Regennia N. Williams’ choir ID button from the Dorsey Convention’s 1995 Gathering in Cleveland.

RASHAD Announces Launch of the Praying Grounds Book Publishing Project (PGB2P) in April 2020

By Regennia N. Williams, PhD
Cleveland State University Alumna and
Director of the RASHAD Center, Inc.

Staff members and alumni of Cleveland State University have established a track record of supporting initiatives that benefit CSU students and others in the surrounding community. In June of 2003, for example, one of my library colleagues at CSU informed me that Dr. Helen Tien, the Director of Instructional Media Services, had agreed to offer five complementary hours of studio time to faculty members working on multimedia projects, provided the faculty members could schedule and complete the studio work by the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2003. It would be a challenge, but this was an offer that I could not afford to refuse.

I had long been told, “Necessity is the mother of invention,” and by 2003, my desire to document and preserve the history of African American faith communities had already been “invented.” As a tenure-track faculty member, however, I had convinced myself that I would not be able to launch this research initiative until I had secured seed money to cover the start-up costs. Dr. Tien’s offer, therefore, came at an ideal time, and, without the exchange of any money, the Praying Grounds Oral History Project was born.

From then until now, Praying Grounds has been my special labor of love, and it continues to benefit from a combination of cash and in-kind support. I should not have been surprised, therefore, when I learned that I would be able to work with staff in CSU’s Michael Schwartz Library and with Ms. Eva Blount, CSU alumna and member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., to launch the Praying Grounds Book Publishing Project (PGB2P) in April 2020.

CSU is one of many educational institutions to use Pressbooks, a creation platform that supports open educational resource (OER) initiatives and helps make free or very affordable books available to students and other library patrons. I am especially pleased to be able to use this platform for PGB2P. Our goal is to use oral history transcripts from the Praying Grounds Collection to produce two edited e-books by the end of 2021.

For this issue of the newsletter, we decided to say thanks, again, to CSU and to share excerpts from the first five chapter-narratives for Volume I, since their related interviews were made possible with Dr. Tien’s 2003 support.



GLADYS HAUSER BATES-GOODLOE (2003)

My name is Gladys Hauser Bates-Goodloe, and I have been a member of Antioch Baptist Church since 1952.

I am not a native of Cleveland, Ohio. I was born in San Francisco, California, on June 3, 1921, and we moved to Cleveland when I was 5 years old. My father was William Hauser. He was born in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. My mother’s name was Eula Hauser, and she was born in Middleport, Ohio.

The opportunity for employment was the attraction for my parents to migrate to Cleveland. My father got a job at East Technical High School on East 55th Street as the engineer. He was responsible for the maintenance of the furnaces, so the building was warm during the cold weather season. He was the first to implement “Take Your Daughter to Work Day,” because he would give me a guided tour of the basement and he would show me all the big furnaces where he shoveled the coal in and how they worked together to provide heat. My mother never worked outside the home; she was a homemaker. My father said that a woman’s place was at home taking care of her husband and her children.

I was educated in the Cleveland Public Schools. I attended the John Burroughs and Bolton Elementary Schools, Rawlings Junior High School, and graduated with the last senior class from Central High School on East 55th.

THE REVEREND EARL PRESTON, JR. (2003)

My name is Earl Preston, Jr., and I am serving as the senior pastor at the Morning Star Baptist Church, Cleveland, Ohio. I have served 26 years as the senior pastor.

I was born here in Cleveland. I'm a product of the Quincy-Scovill neighborhood. In those days we were sort of concentrated in what we called "districts." But I was born in the Quincy-Scovill-Woodland area, on Scovill Avenue. My parents were Earl Preston, Sr. and Esther Preston. My mother and dad divorced. During their split, I became the foster son of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Cornelius. Mr. Cornelius was a deacon at the Shiloh Baptist Church, in which I was nurtured as a kid. Shiloh was basically a traditional Baptist church.

My dad (Deacon Cornelius) raised me. I don't like to call him stepfather, because he was really my father. Deacon Cornelius also sang in the gospel choir. My mother, Mrs. Florence Cornelius, sang in the senior choir, and that's where I really got introduced to prime music. In those days [children] didn't sit in the congregation; I sat right next to her on the floor in the choir stand.

THE REVEREND HENRY J. PAYDEN (2003)

I am Henry J. Payden, Sr., pastor of the Holy Trinity Baptist Church on East 131st Street near Corlett. I have been pastor there for 42 years.

I was born in Columbus, Ohio. I attended public schools there, climaxing with East High School and Capital University. My parents were the Reverend William J. Payden and Melinda Payden. The church of which we were members was the church that my father pastored, the Calvary Tremont Baptist Church at the corner of Ohio and Leonard Avenues in Columbus. The music that we had there included a variety of presentations, from spirituals to hymns, long meter and short meter. We had choirs: adult, young people, and children. We had good music. That was a demand of my father, who was also a singer.

First of all, I was attracted to Cleveland because the Wings over Jordan, a choir that was internationally known, drew me. I was a featured soloist with them for two years. Succeeding that, I went into the ministry. I worked on the CTS (Cleveland Transit System), however, for a while. I was in school at the time, Cleveland Bible College, which is now Malone College in Canton, Ohio. I started my ministry at the Messiah Baptist Church, which is on Cedar and 74th now. The Rev. Dr. A. L. Roach was the pastor there. I did my first sermon at Messiah Baptist Church.

HELEN TURNER-THOMPSON (2003)

My family's chief names are Watkins and Turner, and they are from Birmingham, Bessemer, and Selma, Alabama. My grandmother, Helen Turner, was organist at a Missionary Church there, and my aunts and uncles sang in the choir. They had trios and duets and, they were members of St. Peter's Primitive Baptist Church. Rev. Clark was the minister.

The family was attracted to Cleveland because of better economic conditions, and they wanted to leave the segregated South, as other blacks did. They wanted a chance to be more free, to explore their talents and gifts and whatever God had given them.

We lived in the inner city, and I attended the Cleveland Public Schools, graduating from Central Senior High School. My family became members of Cleveland's Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church, 2541 East 37th Street. The Rev. Charles C. Ailer was pastor, and the late Evangelist Sallie Martin of Chicago, Illinois organized the first gospel chorus in Cleveland at Zion Hill Baptist Church. She came to Cleveland and organized that chorus, and there were some ministers of Cleveland that sang in that chorus.

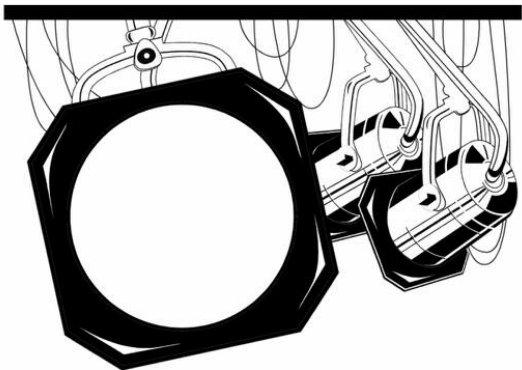
JUNE SALLEE ANTOINE (2003)

My name is, June Sallee Antoine. I am a 40-year member (1963-2003) of Plymouth Church of Shaker Heights. I was born in Sandusky, Ohio, at Samaritan Hospital in 1929, to Charles Louis Sallee, Sr. and Cora Nell Collier Sallee. My parents were from Kentucky but migrated to Ohio in 1909. My eldest brother was born in Oberlin, and the remaining siblings were born in Sandusky. I lived in the same house until I went away to college, The Ohio State University.

Our lives were pretty much centered around the activities of our home church, Second Baptist in Sandusky. I attended Sunday school and participated in the Baptist Young People's Union (BYPU). I was the pianist for the Sunday school in junior high; the church paid for my piano lessons, which was also my salary, 50 cents per week. I continued to play throughout high school for Sunday morning service, evening service, Wednesday evening prayer services, choir rehearsal, and other special occasions.

The pastor of Second Baptist Church during my early childhood was the Rev. H. O. Mason, a very prominent man who was also an educator. He was also a pioneer, one of the first of a few Negroes in the community to run for the school board. Second Baptist church is located on Decatur Street about five minutes from Sandusky Bay and Lake Erie. There is a history of runaway slaves taking refuge in that church, and this is the oral history that was passed on to us.

For more information on the Praying Grounds Oral History Project, please visit <http://www.ClevelandMemory.org/pray/>.



2020 PRAYING GROUNDS SPOTLIGHT ON:

**The Reverend Clarence W. Hall, Jr., Pastor
Morning Star Baptist Church
10250 Shaker Boulevard
Cleveland, Ohio**



In January 2020, the Rev. Clarence W. Hall, Jr. and the leadership team at Morning Star Baptist Church did what they have done for years. They opened the doors of their church once again to Maestro William Henry Caldwell, his conducting associates, accompanists, and more than 200 singers who were preparing for the Cleveland Orchestra's annual concert featuring the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Chorus.

Pastor Hall, pictured here in an archival video still from his performance in "The Living Cross" at the church, did something else that shows the generosity of those affiliated with Morning Star; he agreed to be interviewed for **Praying Grounds: African American Faith Communities, A Documentary and Oral History Project**. He is our first interviewee for 2020, and I look forward to sharing the story of how he came to be an actor, a minister, and the pastor of this historic Cleveland church.

C-L-E /Arts & Culture TV Program Coming in June 2020!

You are cordially invited to join us for the official launch of RASHAD's Internet television program, C-L-E / Arts & Culture TV. This program is the brainchild of board member Theresa Bumpers, and we look forward to sharing information on and performances by members of Greater Cleveland's arts communities via Facebook Live, YouTube, Zoom, and other platforms.

We plan to share the first program by Friday, June 19, 2020 (Juneteenth), so please let us know if you are interested in helping with the planning, production, and performances for our inaugural season.

According to Bumpers, who is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and Cleveland's Antioch Baptist Church, "Even though many people are currently confined to their homes, technology frees us to continue to be able to grow, learn, and explore arts and culture."

Bumpers also stated, "The programs are a gift from our community to you, and we are happy to serve the people of Ohio and others throughout the global community."



Theresa Ann Bumpers

For more information on the television program, please contact the RASHAD Center, Inc., at rashadcenterinc1@gmail.com.

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SAVE THE DATE!

