



### Mission Statement

*The mission of the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission is to identify and promote the preservation of African American historic sites, structures, buildings, and culture of the African American experience in South Carolina, and to assist and enhance the efforts of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.*

# Call & Response

<https://scdah.sc.gov/historic-preservation/resources/african-american-heritage/south-carolina-african-american-heritage>

Volume XVII, Number II

Fall 2021

## Black Carolinians Speak:

### *Portraits of a Pandemic*

The SCAAHC launched its oral history project *Black Carolinians Speak: Portraits of a Pandemic* in May 2020, brainchild of charter member Michael Allen. By the end of May 2021, residents throughout the Palmetto State had contributed over 160 images, testimonies, video clips, artwork and poetry. A team of six dynamic interviewers recorded over 140 South Carolinians ranging from pre-teens to octogenarians - Ms. Deborah Agbor-Tabi, Dr. Jennifer Heusel, charter member Bhakti Larry Hough, Dr. Ramon Jackson, Ms. Meeghan Kane and charter member & Project Director Alada M. Shinault-Small. Partnerships during the Fall '20 semester with History and Communications student interviewers from Benedict College, Columbia and Claflin University, Orangeburg contributed to the wide array of voices that we were successful in gathering. Endless thanks to History instructor Meeghan Kane at Benedict and Communications professor Arlecia Simmons at Claflin for designing their class projects to be donated to *Black Carolinians Speak*.

The collection will be housed at the South Carolina Department of Archives & History (SCDAH) so that the public will have access to full documentation of what African Americans shared about managing their day-to-day during the COVID-19 pandemic. This leg of the project culminated in a two-month exhibit in the gallery at SCDAH, more about it is on page 2.

**This critically-important work would not have been possible without support from our sponsors: The 1772 Foundation, Gaylord And Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, South Carolina Humanities and SCDAH.** The UofSC Center for Civil Rights History and Research was our other valued partner.

The Commission is working collaboratively with North Carolina's African American Heritage Commission to capture voices in 35 Tarheel State counties and to develop a virtual exhibit by the spring of 2022.

**Meet ten of the project Interviewees  
& Contributors on pp. 1 - 4.**



**Ms. M. Beatryce Shaw**  
Marion County  
Interviewed 5-11-21

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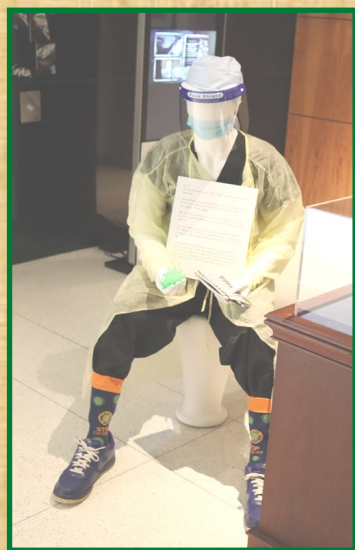
# Black Carolinians Speak: *Portraits of a Pandemic*

## The Exhibit

The exhibit ran from July 16 - Sept. 17 th at SCDAH and displayed aspects of the wealth of information collected during the project. Paintings, poetry, photography, interview excerpts and more were showcased. Ms. Alada M. Shinault-Small & former commissioner Dr. W. Marvin Dulaney were the curators.

In case you haven't seen it, the virtual tour of the exhibit is at: <https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=5rGtiZBi2SE>, and the link to the companion video that looped on the Commission's kiosk in the gallery is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOk5HjGS48c>.

Due to COVID-19 concerns, an invitation-only exhibit opening program was held on July 15th. Additional programs to discuss the project and the pandemic's impact on the state's African American communities have been planned. They will be highlighted in the next newsletter.



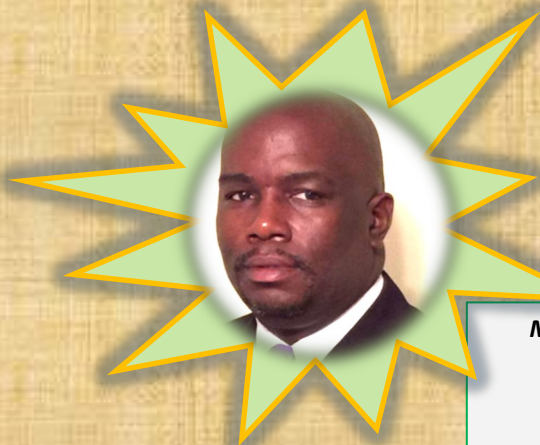
*Above* - A mannequin depicting an essential worker tells his story via a journal entry.

*Below* - Artwork displayed: *If 2020 Were A Tattoo*, far left, by Richland Co. businessman E. Supreme Page. His portrait is to its right; *What Freedom?* Third image, by Dorchester Co. resident Erin Glover, she is pictured to its right.

*Right* - A portion of the images/masks/poetry wall.



**Mayor Steve Benjamin**  
Richland County  
Interviewed 3-10-21



**Mr. Alexis Pipkins, Sr.**  
Florence County  
Interviewed 9-15-20



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# Black Carolinians Speak: *Portraits of a Pandemic*

## Meet some more of our Interviewees & Contributors



**Miss Narrie McCall**  
Chesterfield County  
Interviewed 5-4-21



**Dr. Burnett Gallman**  
Richland County  
Interviewed 5-9-20



**Mr. Tai Scott**  
Beaufort County  
Contributor 9-13-20



**Mr. Al Miller**  
Charleston County  
Contributor 10-5-20



**Dr. Beatrice Thompson**  
Anderson County  
Interviewed 5-6-21

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# Black Carolinians Speak: *Portraits of a Pandemic*

## Contributor Highlight: Janice P. Wright

In August 2020, Janice P. Wright uploaded a photo of her painting *MaskerPiece* & its companion poem to the project portal at greenbookofsc.com. In August 2021, she expressed that she wanted to donate her original *MaskerPiece* to the Commission, and we are now the proud owner! Countless thanks to Ms. Janice Wright for giving us her creative glimpse at an aspect of the pandemic in which we all can identify.



Ms. Janice P. Wright  
Aiken County

### ***MaskerPiece***

Janice P. Wright

**While wearing the mask**

**We protect ourselves from the elements**

**While wearing the mask**

**We inhale and exhale our own shadow  
breaths**

**We hide our facial expressions**

**While wearing the mask**

**But it's the eyes**

**It's the eyes that identify the fear**

**It's the eyes that shed the tears**

**It's the eyes**

**that smile through the mask**

**It's the eyes that make the statement**

**We'll get through this**

**This too will pass**

**We will get through this, this too will pass**



Mr. Adam Biggs  
Lancaster County  
Interviewed 5-19-21



# Spotlight On Marilyn Hemingway



Marilyn L. Hemingway, a Georgetown native, joined the SCAAHC during the Spring as an Ex-Officio member representing the Gullah Geechee Chamber of Commerce in which she is CEO, President and Founder. She is also a founding partner of The Hemingway Group - a public relations, advertising, marketing and political advocacy firm. A registered fundraiser with the state of SC, Marilyn has also completed Energy Justice and Sea Level Rising certifications through the national NAACP.

Most recently, Ms. Hemingway served as Public Relations and Fund Development Coordinator with Fetter Health Care Network. She was a vital part of rebranding the Community Health Center which has celebrated its 50th Anniversary & now provides services at 21 locations in four Lowcountry counties.

She is a University of SC graduate with a BA degree in Journalism and was certified in 2019 by the College of Charleston in Social Impact Entrepreneurial Consultation.



Marilyn Hemingway is the SCAAHC 2021 *Herbert A. DeCosta Trailblazer Award* recipient for *Innovative Leadership*. SCAAHC Chair Jannie Harriot presented her with the award in Columbia during the Spring.



## TAKE ACTION

### Support African American Heritage!

You can support the WeGOJA Foundation in a variety of ways and help preserve African American heritage in South Carolina.

#### Donations/Memberships

We make it easy with a Cash App account! Send any amount to **\$WeGOJA**.

One of the best ways to support WeGOJA is by committing to a monthly donation at the link below.

Memberships (Individual, family, church or organization) provide engagement with our ongoing work.

Membership benefits include:

- Invitations and discounted registrations to all SC African American Heritage Commission conferences
- A subscription to the SC African American Heritage Commission's *Call & Response* quarterly e-newsletter
- A subscription to "News and Notes," a monthly online e-newsletter from the Historic Preservation Division of the SC Department of Archives and History

#### Other ways to help include:

- Purchasing T-Shirts, mugs and caps so that you can show off your pride for WeGOJA, or
- Shift your regular Amazon shopping to the Amazon Smiles Program and choose "WeGOJA Foundation" as your charity of choice.

**Donate/Join**

**Merchandise**

**Amazon Smiles**





[Take Action](#)

## Amazon Smiles

### Supporter:

Thank you for donating to the WeGOJA Foundation! Amazon will contribute a portion of the proceeds from your purchase, at no charge to you, if you make that purchase on their charitable giving site. In your browser, enter [Smile.Amazon.com](https://Smile.Amazon.com), and follow their prompts to **choose “WeGOJA Foundation”** as **your charity of choice!**



*Image Courtesy of Amazon*

***Bookmark the site for all of your future Amazon purchases!***

[Click Here to Purchase](#)



For more information about Amazon's program, visit

[Amazon](#)



## Historic Green Book Survey and Virtual Tour

The *Historic Green Book Survey and Virtual Tour* project is a detailed review of extant buildings that once housed businesses listed in *The Negro Travelers' Green Book*, a guide that provided African American travelers information about businesses and services that they could patronize to avoid embarrassments, difficulties, and dangers caused by Jim Crow laws and *de facto* segregation. It was published in NY from the 1930s - 1960s and had several title changes during its run.

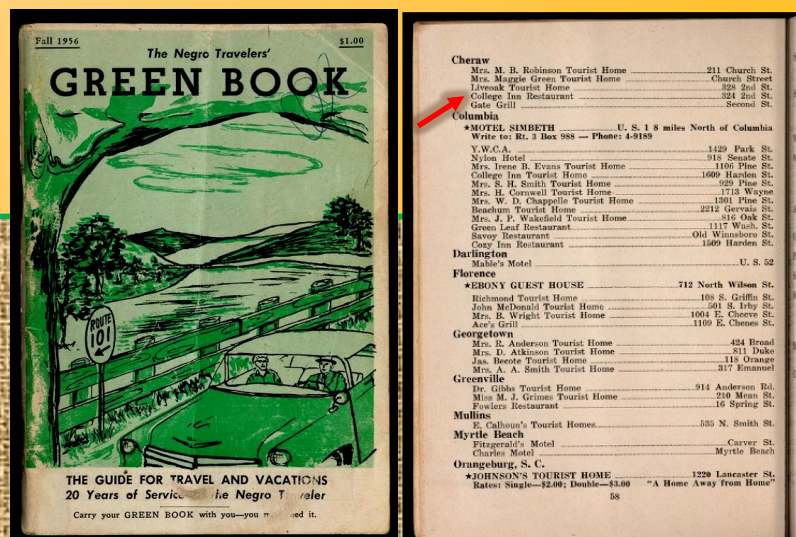
The South Carolina Department of Archives and History awarded the WeGOJA Foundation funding last year to research, document, photograph and catalog sites in six counties - Charleston, Chesterfield, Florence, Greenville, Marion and Richland - an important step to preserve these treasured historic spaces.

Three student researchers were recruited who gathered the info and compiled it in a master file: Ms. Ashley Hampton, BS, Science and History, 2019 from Lander University, Greenwood; Mr. Darnell Holland, PhD student, Philosophy in History, UofSC, Columbia and Ms. Carlie Todd, PhD student, US History Since 1789, UofSC, Columbia. Mr. Brad Sauls at SCDAH received the data. Dr. Ramon Jackson, former African American Heritage Coordinator, trained the research assistants, worked with them in completing the SHPO forms and traveled to some of the sites. Ms. Strauss Moore Shiple is Project Director.

A video company was hired to produce a virtual tour of Cheraw, Chesterfield County. The company captured footage and interviewed residents who were associated with former African American businesses like the College Inn. SCAAHC member Ms. Felicia Flemming-McCall of Cheraw gave priceless assistance.

A user-friendly web platform for educators and diverse audiences will feature a revised edition of SCAAHC's publication *A Teacher's Guide to African American Historic Places in South Carolina* and it will include additional lesson plans related to extant *Green Book* sites. Here's a link to the current Guide, lessons inspired by the *Green Book* start on p. 194: [https://scdah.sc.gov/sites/default/files/Documents/Historic%20Preservation%20\(SHPO\)/Publications/A%20Teacher's%20Guide%20to%20African%20American%20Historic%20Places%20%202020.pdf](https://scdah.sc.gov/sites/default/files/Documents/Historic%20Preservation%20(SHPO)/Publications/A%20Teacher's%20Guide%20to%20African%20American%20Historic%20Places%20%202020.pdf). Further, these lessons are also found in the current Arts Integration supplement to the *Teacher's Guide*: [https://scdah.sc.gov/sites/default/files/Documents/Historic%20Preservation%20\(SHPO\)/Publications/Integrating%20the%20Arts%20Supplement%202020%20.pdf](https://scdah.sc.gov/sites/default/files/Documents/Historic%20Preservation%20(SHPO)/Publications/Integrating%20the%20Arts%20Supplement%202020%20.pdf).

Right - The cover & p. 58 of the Fall 1956 issue of the *Green Book* are shown. SC venues were listed on pp. 57-59. Note Cheraw's College Inn Restaurant next to the red arrow. Images from The New York Public Library Digital Collections





# Preserving Our Places In History throughout South Carolina

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) awarded a grant to the WeGOJA Foundation last fall to erect twenty-one state historical markers to commemorate contributions made by African American citizens. SCAAHC identified the sites and made recommendations to SCDAH.

All twenty-one markers have been approved. Twelve have been received and four were installed between May and July. Many thanks to Drs. Emerson and Breeden at SCDAH for working with us on the project. Ms. Strauss Moore Shiple is the Project Director.



Above - A marker at **Hough's Hotel** in Hartsville, Darlington Co., was unveiled at a program on May 24th. Left - right are WeGOJA Executive Director Dawn Dawson House, SCAAHC Chair Jannie Harriot & Commissioner Felicia Flemming-McCall.

Right - Commissioner Bernie Wright stands next to the marker installed on July 23rd documenting the history of **West End Public Library** in St. Matthews, Calhoun County.



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# Preserving Our Places In History throughout South Carolina



Also in St. Matthews on July 23rd, a marker was installed commemorating **John Ford High School**. WeGOJA Board Chair Dr. Larry Watson (speaking) participated on the program. Commissioner Bernie Wright is seated directly in front of him.



# Preserving Our Places In History

throughout

South Carolina

On July 24th, **Liberty Hill Rosenwald School** in Catawba, York Co., received its marker with a number of community members in attendance. Shown from left-right below are former students Ms. Pearlline Barber, Ms. Mary Barber & Ms. Margie Roddey. These ladies are also members of Liberty Hill Baptist Church which has maintained the school since it was built.



News From :



Seven individuals & one institution will receive this prestigious recognition at a virtual ceremony

**Thursday, October 21st at 12:00 noon**

Two of the awardees are SCAAHC charter members Mr. Michael Allen & Ms. Jannie Harriot

More info: <https://schumanities.org/annualevents/govawards/>



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## **Black Carolinians Speak: *Portraits of a Pandemic***

**Join the SCAAHC on Sunday, October 31st at 3PM**

**for a Community Discussion**

**featuring**

**Dr. Thaddeus Bell**

**Ms. Jaqueline Conyers**

**Dr. Bernard Powers**

**Ms. Bridgid Sullivan**

**Sweetgrass Basket Pavilion at Memorial Waterfront Park**

**99 Harry Hallman Blvd., Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464**



## The Green Book of South Carolina: Family Reunion Toolkit

One of the most distinctive aspects of African American culture is the Family Reunion, the weekend gathering of extended family members who reconnect, share, update and rediscover.

Its roots stretch back to Emancipation, when formerly enslaved people placed "Information Wanted" advertisements in search of relatives who were cruelly separated from them while in bondage.

Reunions grew and became more joyful gatherings during the Great Migration, when nearly four million African Americans fled the South to the North and West between 1915 and 1960. As they found education and professional opportunities that were denied to them in the Jim Crow South, they developed the country's first African American middle class. With their discretionary income, they traveled back to the family and the communities they left behind. Many of them used the *Negro Motorist Green Book* to help them find welcoming establishments on their journey.

The reunion became a tangible symbol of memory and resilience that endured atrocities since slavery. Today, African American family reunions continue as an intergenerational celebration of community, fellowship and heritage.



### RECONNECT & REDISCOVER

Plan your next  
**family reunion**  
with the Green Book of SC



**Need Help Planning Your Next Family Reunion?**

**Visit:**

<https://greenbookofsc.com/family-reunion-toolkit/>

# Become a Member TODAY!

Help us continue to tell the full story of  
African American Heritage in South Carolina

[wegoja.org](http://wegoja.org)

Thank you for supporting WeGOJA Foundation! Please complete the membership form below and mail in with your payment, or visit [www.WeGOJA.org](http://www.WeGOJA.org) to sign up online.

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Type of membership

Individual \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Church/Non-Profit \$150 \_\_\_\_\_

Business/Corporation \$200 \_\_\_\_\_ DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: WeGOJA Foundation, PO Box 1053, Hartsville, SC 29551**



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## Thank You for Your Support!

