



Call & Response

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

Volume XVI, Number IV

Winter 2021

NEWS
FROM THE
SOUTH
CAROLINA
AFRICAN
AMERICAN
HERITAGE
COMMISSION



Has a NEW Executive Director!

Dawn Dawson-House is Named the New WeGOJA Foundation Executive Director



WeGOJA Executive Director
Dawn Dawson-House

In late December, the WeGOJA Foundation Executive Board named Dawn Dawson-House as the new Executive Director for the organization. Mrs. Dawson-House is a 1985 graduate of the University of South Carolina and recently retired from her position as Director of Corporate Communications at the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism. She also held the agency's ex-officio seat on the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission, where she counseled its leaders about how to leverage our state's rich African American heritage to grow tourism.

"It is the honor of a lifetime to serve in this capacity, working with the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission and supporting its preservation and promotion efforts to enhance business, tourism, and education in the Palmetto State. I have some mighty big shoes to fill, strong shoulders to stand on, and I'm looking forward to continuing this legacy. Esteemed leaders like Jannie Harriot, Michael Allen, Dr. Barbara Jenkins, Leon Love, and Dr. Bobby Donaldson built a significant organization that made a huge difference, and it is my time to carry the torch in their honor," the new director explained. She plans to devote the next five years to growing the WeGOJA Foundation's donor base, engaging with the corporate community, attracting young professionals to this rewarding cause, and raising awareness about historic preservation's contribution to social justice.

Welcome aboard, Dawn!

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.



A New Era of Leadership: The SCAAHC Elects New Officers

The South Carolina African American Heritage Commission elected new officers for the 2021 term during its virtual quarterly meeting on January 15, 2021. Each officer will serve for a three years and will work closely with the WeGOJA Foundation executive board to develop programs and other initiatives to preserve and promote South Carolina's African American heritage. Learn more about our officers below.



Jannie Harriot

Ms. Jannie Harriot, Chairperson

A native of Hartsville, South Carolina, Jannie Harriot is a past recipient of the Order of the Palmetto and numerous other awards for her pioneering role in African American historic preservation. She is the immediate past Executive Director of the South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation and was re-elected chairperson of the SCAAHC.



Abel Bartley

Dr. Abel Bartley, Vice Chairperson

Professor Bartley, a native of Jacksonville, Florida was re-elected Vice Chairperson of the SCAAHC. He is the a history professor at Clemson University. His most recent book, *Keeping the Faith* explores race, politics and social development in Jacksonville between 1940 and 1970.



Strauss Moore-Shiple

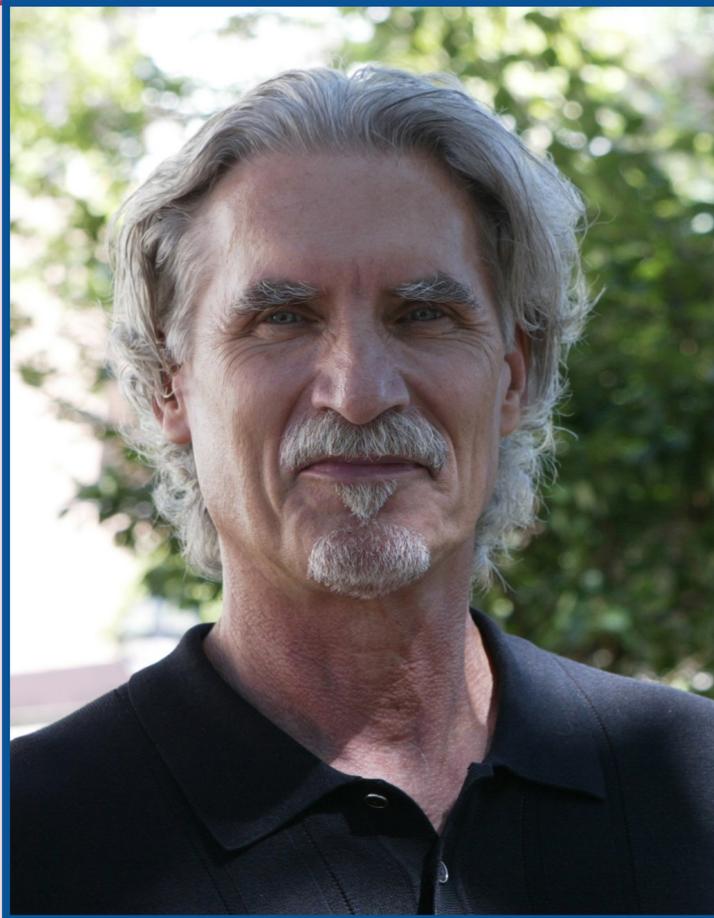
Ms. Strauss Moore-Shiple, Secretary-Treasurer

Strauss Moore-Shiple is the new Secretary-Treasurer for the SCAAHC. A native of York County, she is a graduate of Wake Forest University and an ordained minister. Ms. Moore-Shiple has worked for nearly two decades to raise awareness of the importance of the arts and African American historic preservation to communities statewide.



*Learn more about the
South Carolina African American Heritage Commission*

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



The South Carolina African American Heritage Commission congratulates Richard "Rick" Devoe, on his retirement as Executive Director of the South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium.

Throughout his tenure, Mr. Devoe has worked to ensure the health and vitality of South Carolina coastal ecosystems and worked closely with the SCAAHC to document and preserve the rich history and culture of the Gullah people who call it home.

Mr. Devoe will continue his work as Vice Chairman of the WeGOJA Foundation Executive Board. We look forward to future collaborations.



Congratulations on Your Retirement!

**From Your Friends at the
South Carolina African American
Heritage Commission**



[Take Action](#)

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, and follow their prompts to choose “WeGOJA Foundation” as your charity of choice!

Supporting your charity is easy

 Choose your favorite charity Over one million local and national charitable organizations.	 Shop at smile.amazon.com Same products, same prices, same services as the Amazon you know.	 Amazon donates to your charity Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases.
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Simply shop at smile.amazon.com to support your favorite charity.

Image Courtesy of Amazon

Bookmark the site for all of your future Amazon purchases!

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[Amazon](#)





“Preserving Our Places in History” In the Classroom

A FREE Professional Development Webinar for South Carolina Educators

The WeGOJA Foundation and the SC African American Heritage Commission are hosting a series of FREE professional development webinars for educators to help enhance their classroom instruction. The webinars provide easy-to-follow, curriculum based lesson plans, activities and resources for 3rd and 8th grade art and social studies classes. The material incorporates African American history and heritage into lesson plans and, through modeling, demonstrates how to address complex historical subjects in the classroom,

Educators MUST register. Those who attend at least two of the five webinars (several are still under development) will receive three (3) CEU credits, a \$75 stipend and a copy of the Commission’s *A Teacher’s Guide to African*

Join Us for Our Next Session!

Session 2

Saturday, February 27, 2021

10 a.m.



This session features Leevy’s Service Station, an iconic Columbia, SC, business that was once advertised in the *Negro Motorist Green Book*. In this 8th grade lesson, students will learn how African Americans traveled across the country during the Jim Crow era. They’ll also examine quotes and key terms that defined our nation’s struggle for human rights.

For More Information, Please View the Flyer on the Next Page!



Save The Date!
 Free Session
 Registration Required
 Get CEUs & a Stipend



"Preserving Our Places In History"
 in the Classroom:
 A Professional Development Series
 for South Carolina Educators

#2 Lines in the Sand:
 A Virtual 8th Grade Social Studies Lesson
 on Racial Separation in America

using
 Leevy's Columbia, SC Service Station,
 Quotes, Definitions & Discussion

Saturday, February 27, 2021
 10 AM - Noon



Pride - Future - Courage - Purpose - Culture
 Question? www.wegoja.org/contact-us



This project is funded in part by the South Carolina Department of Education.



This project is also funded in part by the South Carolina Arts Commission which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

2021 Preserving Our Places in History Awards Ceremony & Luncheon



Pictured Above, Standing: SC Department of Archives and History Executive Director Dr. Eric Emerson, USC History professor Dr. Bobby Donaldson, legendary actress, singer, and director Phylicia Rashad and SCAAHC chairperson Jannie Harriot. Seated is renowned educator Dr. Vivian Ayers Allen, winner of the 2019 Herbert A. DeCosta, Jr. Trailblazer Award. Photo courtesy of Cecil Williams.

Tuesday, April 9, 2021
Time: TBD
Event will be held online via Zoom



Call for Nominations for the annual

Preserving Our Places in History Awards 2021

The South Carolina African American Heritage Commission will be hosting its annual Preserving Our Places in History awards program on Friday, April 9, recognizing outstanding cultural and historic preservation accomplishments in the year 2020.

Categories to be recognized include:

Individual Award – This award recognizes a person who has demonstrate or made outstanding contributions to preserving and interpreting African American history and culture in South Carolina in 2020.

Group or Organization Award – This award recognizes a group or organization that has demonstrated extraordinary preservation or interpretation, or made significant contributions toward such efforts, for African American history and culture in South Carolina during 2020.

Project Award – This award recognizes a project that has significantly influenced in a permanent way the preservation and interpretation of African American history and culture in South Carolina during 2020.

Student Award – This award recognizes a currently enrolled college student who has demonstrated a great interest in, or has completed noteworthy work towards, the preservation of African American history and culture in South Carolina in 2020. Enrollment and study at a Historically Black College or University (HBCU) is preferred, but not mandatory.

Legislator of the Year Award – This award recognizes a legislator who has endorsed the preservation of African American history and culture in South Carolina, and / or solicited funding in 2020 through the state legislature for causes, groups or organizations that support the preservation of African American history and culture in South Carolina.

Leon Love Lifetime Achievement Award – Awarded to an individual who has significant levels of achievement and advocacy over the course of his/her career or lifetime toward the preservation and promotion of African American history and culture in South Carolina.

Individuals, groups and organizations can nominate themselves for the awards or be nominated by others who are aware of their work, contributions and achievements in the field.

Nominations must be submitted on the attached form and with all supporting material requested. For more information, contact the WeGOJA Foundation at wegojaexecdir@gmail.com.

Preserving Our Places in History Awards 2021 Nomination Form

**Category (Please select one)**

- Individual Award Project Award
 Group or Organization Award Student Award
 Legislator of the Year Award Leon Love Lifetime Achievement Award

Name of Nominee: _____

Nominee's Address: _____

(Street, City, State, ZIP)

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Nominated by: _____

Please submit the following with your nomination:

1. On a separate sheet of paper, state in 350-500 words why this nominee should receive the award.
2. Attach appropriate documentation (5 sources maximum) that explains and provides evidence to support the nomination. Please do not include resumes or curriculum vitae. If using online sources (such as newspaper or magazine articles), please provide URL and a copy of the text.

Please do not forward links only.

Nomination packets must be received by Friday, March 5. Scan and email to wegojaexecdir@gmail.com or mail to:

SC African American Heritage Commission

PO Box 1053

Hartsville, SC 29551

Thank you for the nomination! For questions, email to wegojaexecdir@gmail.com.

Green Book Spotlight

First published in 1936 by New York postal worker and entrepreneur Victor Hugo Green, the original Negro Motorist Green Book was created to provide African American travelers with vital information to avoid the embarrassments, difficulties, and dangers caused by southern Jim Crow customs and de facto segregation in other sections of the country. Aided by a cadre of informants—most of whom were Black postal workers—Green and his small, dedicated staff began to list businesses that accommodated Black customers nationwide beginning in 1938. Roughly 200 Black owned businesses and other institutions in

We are pleased to announce the addition of two African American historic sites in South Carolina, both former locations of Black owned businesses listed in the original Negro Motorist Green Book, to the National Register of Historic Places!

Leevy's Funeral Home, Columbia, SC, was established in 1930 by entrepreneur I.S. Leevy, Leevy's was originally an Esso service station and the first Black owned gas station in the state. It was listed as a service station in the *Green Book* between 1950 and 1955. Mr.

Leevy also provided undertaking, embalming and ambulance services during this period before eventually converting to a funeral home full-time. Leevy's was also an important meeting space for civil rights activists and political organizers during the 1950s and 1960s.

Built in the 1940s by Rev. Arthur Holmes and his wife, Mary, this two building complex was initially built to provide comfort and safety for Black ministers visiting Florence, SC. Their friend and business associate, Katherine Harris—also the first Black notary public in the city—later christened it the Ebony Guest House, promoting it as a "Home Away from Home" for potential customers. Listed in the *Negro Travelers' Green Book* in 1953-1957, 1959-1961, the Ebony Guest House served many famous guests including Jackie Wilson, Ruth Brown, Fats Domino, Sam Cooke, Ray Charles, and James Brown. Gospel and jazz legend Sister Rosetta Tharpe was a frequent visitor and close friend to Mary. A room in the rear building was named in her honor.



Leevy's Funeral Home



Ebony Guest House



A Travel Guide to S.C.
African American Cultural Sites

Visit Our Website!

The Green Book of South Carolina

www.greenbookofsc.com

Join the conversation on social media:



★ Young SC Artist Has Artwork Shown at the White House ★



Florence's Angelica Gary's portrait of Ida B. Wells was selected along with artwork from young artists representing all 50 states. She was unable to attend the unveiling due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The SCAAHC extends their warmest congratulations to this budding star! — Photo courtesy of Dr. Wanda Fernandopulle

Angelica C. Gary Represents SC in the "Building The Movement Exhibit!"

Angelica C. Gary, a 10-year-old artist from Florence, South Carolina was selected by First Lady Melania Trump to represent our state in the "Building the Movement: America's Youth Celebrate 100 Years of Women's Suffrage" exhibit displayed at the White House in August.

The exhibit honored the centennial anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment, which gave American women the right to vote. The talented young artist's piece *Liberty* paid tribute to Ida B. Wells, the famed investigative journalist, educator, and co-founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). "I chose her because she was an African American woman who was a civil rights activist," Gary explained. Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, she hopes that her artwork will inspire others to continue the fight for social change.

★ Congratulations, Angelica! ★



Ida B. Wells
(1862-1931)



Jonathan Green, "Communal," 2019. Used with Special Permission.

Black Carolinians Speak: Portraits of a Pandemic

Launched by the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission (SCAAHC) in May 2020, *Black Carolinians Speak: Portraits of a Pandemic* is a document collection and oral history initiative that seeks to capture the story of the African American experience in South Carolina during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

African Americans, as reported in state and national media, have been disproportionately impacted by this public health crisis and the accompanying social and economic distress it has caused. As of the week of October 5th, 34% of those who have died from the virus in South Carolina were African American. The pandemic has also exacerbated existing inequalities and disparities in education, health, and employment. Future generations will seek to understand how this global pandemic redefined what it meant to be Black in South Carolina and how this crisis altered the rhythms and traditions of African American life in the Palmetto State.

African American residents of South Carolina are invited to submit the following:

- First person testimonies
- Letters
- Photographs
- Videos
- Original poetry, art, music
- Journal entries



ALL materials will be housed in the SCAAHC papers at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History and made available to researchers at a later date.



Share Your Story: www.greenbookofsc.com/speak

South Carolina African American Heritage Commission
Presents

Drumbeat

The Rhythm of African American History and Culture in South Carolina



Sundays at 5pm

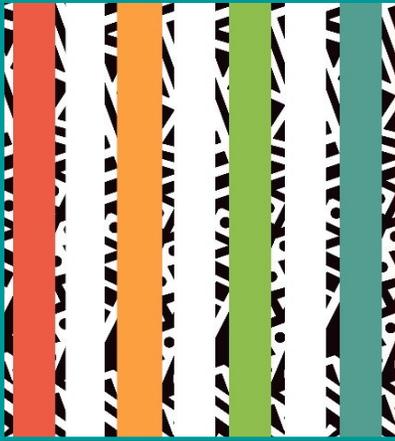
October 4th and 18th
November 1st, 15th, and 29th
December 13th and 27th

Livestreaming on Facebook

- **WeGOJA Foundation:**
<https://facebook.com/SCAAHistory/?ref=bookmarks>
- **South Carolina African American Heritage Commission:**
<https://facebook.com/SCAAHC1993/>
- **Bhakti's New World Arts:**
<https://www.facebook.com/bhaktilarryhough>

Sponsored by the WeGOJA Foundation





Become a Member TODAY!

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

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 to sign up online.

Name: _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

Type of membership

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

Business/Corporation \$200 _____ DONATION \$ _____

Mail to: Jannie Harriot, Executive Director, WeGOJA Foundation, PO Box 1053, Hartsville, SC 29551



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Thank You for Your Support!

