

FREEDOM FUND
Jazz
Luncheon &
Awards Celebration
THE TIME IS NOW

Saturday, April 27, 2024

The Hotel at Arundel Preserve
Hanover, Maryland

HowardCountyNAACP.com



Dear Friends of the NAACP,

It's that wonderful time of year again when we come together to celebrate progress, community, and our collective commitment to civil rights and social justice. This 41st annual Freedom Fund theme is "The Time is Now," a powerful reminder of the critical need to defend our hard-won rights and to push forward toward a more just and equitable society. In an essential election year, our efforts in Howard County are focused and deliberate.

We're dedicated to empowering our community through voter mobilization, creating access to emerging tech careers, advocating for equitable education funding, and ensuring that our students have access to nutritious food options. Your support is invaluable to us. It fuels our equity initiatives, enabling us to expand our transformative Summer Freedom School at Howard Community College and cultivate the growth of the Branch's George Washington Carver Garden. Your partnership is a cornerstone in our mission to build a more fair and just Howard County for all its residents.

The NAACP's legacy as the preeminent civil rights organization in our nation is unparalleled. Since its founding in 1909, it has been at the forefront of the fight for equality and justice. Our local branch is a vibrant part of this legacy, with nearly 600 members working tirelessly to advocate for civil rights in our community and beyond. "The Time is Now" is more than a theme; it's a call to action to turn the ideals of justice and equality into everyday realities.

Thank you for your presence and trust that you will leave here today feeling uplifted and inspired by our work and our honorees. Visit howardcountynaacp.com to learn more about how to get involved.

The Time is Now,

Willie Flowers

Willie Flowers

President

Howard County NAACP Branch #7020

41st Annual Freedom Fund Program

Saturday, April 27, 2024

Master of Ceremonies: Dr. Stephanie Wall
Chief of Staff and Special Projects, Howard Community College
Music by The New World Outreach Jazz Orchestra

Welcome

Invocation and Blessing
Reverend Dr. Barbara Morton

Color Guard
Atholton High School ROTC

Lift Every Voice and Sing

The Time Is Now
Willie Flowers, President | Howard County NAACP#7020

Greetings and Acknowledgements
The Honorable Dr. Calvin Ball, Howard County Executive

Keynote Speaker
Kevin Powell

Musical Selection

Award Presentations

Closing Remarks

Musical Selection

Thank You to Our 2024 Sponsors



Thank you to our 2024 Freedom Fund Committee



Master of Ceremonies: Dr. Stephanie Wall

Dr. Stephanie Wall is a cherished member of our community, holding the role of Chief of Staff and Special Projects for the President of Howard Community College. Widely recognized for her leadership and dedication, she is a sought-after MC and keynote speaker, and a dedicated member of the Howard County NAACP. Her family legacy of service and her active involvement in service organizations further underscore her commitment to our community.



Janssen Evelyn



Laura Johnson



Kori Jones



Lynda Hill



Moyah Panda



Jennifer Jones



Keynote Speaker

Kevin Powell

Kevin Powell, a 2024 Grammy-nominated poet, is one of the most celebrated political, cultural, literary, and hip-hop voices in America. The Jersey City product of a single mother, absent father, horrific poverty, and violence, he was able to study at Rutgers University with the support of the New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund, a program created during the Civil Rights Movement to benefit poor youth. Says Kevin, "Just to be able to get to college, to be exposed to a new world, a new way, changed my life forever, and I am forever grateful for the chance." Kevin has gone on to be a poet and journalist and the author of 16 books, such as *Grocery Shopping with My Mother*, his new collection of poetry; and his critically acclaimed autobiography, *The Education of Kevin Powell: A Boy's Journey into Manhood*, which is being adapted for the screen.

His most recent book is *The Kevin Powell Reader*, a collection of his writings, interviews, and speeches covering three decades; and his biography of Tupac Shakur, who Kevin interviewed several times while a senior writer for Quincy Jones' *Vibe*. He has penned articles, essays, and blogs for a wide range of newspapers and magazines and major websites, like *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, CNN, *The Nation*, NPR, ESPN, *Essence*, *Ebony*, *Rolling Stone*, *Esquire*, *HuffPost*, *Utne Reader*, *The Guardian*, *The Baffler*, *The Progressive*, *Complex*, and *British GQ*. As a civil and human rights activist, Kevin will launch a new American digital site in 2025, yet to be named, focused on voter education and voter empowerment, and bringing people together, and which will showcase a website full of blogs from contributors of diverse backgrounds.

Kevin's activism has also included an annual clothing drive for homeless youth in New York City; a leadership role in the movement to re-define manhood away from sexism and violence; a deep responsibility to mentorship and development of people of every age as agents for change; and a commitment to democracy, justice, diversity, inclusion, and equality for the American people, be it education, #MeToo, immigrant rights, gun violence prevention, marriage equality, economic opportunity, healthcare access, or an end to racial profiling.

To further demonstrate that commitment to a life of service Kevin ran for Congress in his adopted hometown of New York City in 2008 and 2010; he has lectured and worked and traveled in all 50 American states and 5 of the world's 7 continents; he is directing, writing, and producing his first documentary film, titled "When We Free The World," about healthy manhood versus toxic manhood, about fathers and sons; and Kevin is the playwright of an upcoming stage play, based on the poems in *Grocery Shopping with My Mother*. Kevin is a proud and long-time resident of Brooklyn, New York.

2024 Freedom Fund Honorees



Congressman John Sarbanes

Dr. C. Vernon Gray Public Service Award

Congressman John Sarbanes has represented the 3rd Congressional District of Maryland since 2007. His time in Congress has been anchored by service on the Energy and Commerce Committee where he has focused on health care, clean energy and environmental issues, particularly protecting and preserving the Chesapeake Bay. Appointed by Speaker Nancy Pelosi to chair the Democracy Reform Taskforce, Congressman Sarbanes led efforts to assemble HR1, the Freedom to Vote Act, a historic suite of reforms to protect the right to vote, clean up corruption in Washington and restore trust, transparency and integrity in government. He is also the proud author of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program which has forgiven a combined amount of \$62.8 billion for almost 876,000 student borrowers who made the decision to pursue careers as teachers, first responders, non-profit advocates and other pursuits in the public service arena. But above all, his number one priority has always been serving his constituents with timely and efficient case work, along with thoughtful and informative communication. He is keenly aware that the true movers and shakers in the world are the many unsung heroes -- individuals and organizations -- who commit every day to making a difference in their local communities.



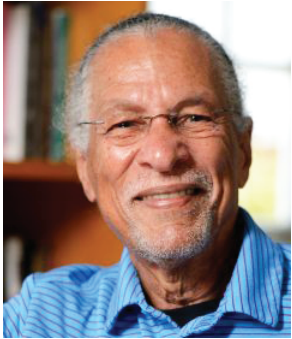
The Honorable Dr. Calvin Ball

President's Award

The Honorable Dr. Calvin Ball is a Maryland native and resident of Columbia for over 20 years. He and his wife Shani Ball, RN, B.S.N, are proud parents of two daughters who attend and graduated from Howard County Public Schools. He made history in 2006 when he was elected as the youngest Council Chairperson in Howard County history. He made history again in 2018 by becoming the first African American to be elected as Howard County Executive.

Re-elected in 2022, Dr. Ball remains dedicated to ensuring our communities are safe, strong, and accessible for all. Howard County continues to be a regional and national leader, as County Executive Ball continues to champion education, environmental conservation, the health and well-being of our residents, investments in public safety and fiscal responsibility.

2024 Freedom Fund Honorees



Dr. James West

Dr. Freeman Hrabowski Innovation Award

Dr. James West Bio courtesy of the National Inventors Hall of Fame. James West (and Gerhard Sessler) invented the electret microphone, which has advanced the sound industry and become the standard microphone used in products from music recording equipment to hearing aid devices.

West was born in Prince Edward County, Virginia. He grew up wanting to understand how things work, often taking apart items like his grandfather's pocket watch to explore the inner mechanics. His mother was one of the human computers who became known as the "Hidden Figures." "She went from teaching at a school to working at Langley Research Center and was also an active officer in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People," said West.

While attending Temple University, during his summer breaks, West interned at Bell Labs and later joined the company, working in electroacoustics, physical acoustics and architectural acoustics.

West and Sessler patented their electret microphone invention in 1962. It soon became widely used because of its high performance, accuracy and reliability, as well as its low cost, small size and light weight. Today, 90% of the 2 billion microphones manufactured yearly are electret microphones, and they are used in items from recording equipment and professional sound measurement instruments to phones, hearing aids, baby monitors and toys.

A fellow of IEEE, West served as president of the Acoustical Society of America in 1997 and 1998 and is the recipient of the 2006 National Medal of Technology. He holds more than 70 U.S. patents and was a professor of electrical and computer engineering and mechanical engineering at Johns Hopkins University.



Cathy and Danny Bell

Robert L. Clay, Sr. Business Award

Cathy and Danny Bell owned and operated McDonald's Restaurants for 33 ½ years. Their first restaurant was located on Harper's Farm Road in Columbia, Md. In later years Expansion took place in 4 Maryland counties, Kentucky and Indiana. The couple retired 12/31/23

The Bells created a family legacy with their three children becoming owners in the organization. Over the years the family owned and operated 45 restaurants.

Cathy and Danny were the recipients of The Golden Arch Award. The award recognizes the top 1% of owners in the world.

The highlights of their tenure include: the number of first time jobs provided, mentoring new applicants for ownership, involvement with Howard County Public Schools, Howard County Economic Development.

In retirement Cathy is looking forward to fostering a relationship with Howard Community College Workforce Development Program.

2024 Freedom Fund Honorees



Gerry Taylor

Wylene Burch Lifetime Achievement Award

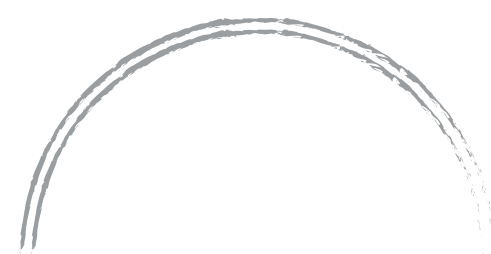
Gerry Taylor is Founder and Chair of the Bronze Villagers, Inc. Prior to retirement she taught 2nd through 4th grades at Bryant Woods Elementary School in Howard County. Previously, she taught in the Department of Defense Dependent Schools (DoDDS) in Japan. Gerry earned her bachelor's degree (elementary education) from Indiana University. Her master's degree (curriculum and instruction) from Michigan State University (Japan). Gerry is a member of Columbia (MD) Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She is the initiator and facilitator of The Book Discussion Group. Gerry was celebrated by the Women's Giving Circle (WGC's) 2022 in Celebration of Black Philanthropy Month. She is married to Ret. LT Col John Taylor. They have a daughter, Kelly Mason, a son, John Taylor and three wonderful young adult grandchildren.

Keisha Graves

Dr. Jenkins Odoms, Jr. Freedom Fighter Award

Keisha Graves, a native of Baltimore who relocated to Howard County in 1996, embodies resilience and advocacy in the face of housing disparities. As a renter for over 25 years and a mother of four, she intimately understands the struggles faced by marginalized communities within the housing system. Keisha's unique perspective as a woman of color has fueled her commitment to challenging systemic injustices, especially those disproportionately affecting the Black community.

Throughout her journey, Keisha has emerged as a vocal leader and organizer, leveraging her experiences to drive meaningful change. Her efforts have not only brought awareness to housing issues but have also sparked crucial conversations around racism within communities of color. Keisha's unwavering dedication sets her apart, serving as a beacon of hope and empowerment for those navigating similar challenges in pursuit of equitable housing solutions.



2024 Freedom Fund Honorees



Dr. Daria Willis

Natalie Woodson Education Award

The fifth president of Howard Community College, Dr. Daria J. Willis assumed office in January 2022, following a nationwide search and unanimous vote by the Board of Trustees. She is the first African American to lead the college.

Prior to her appointment, Dr. Willis was the president of Everett Community College. She has held leadership positions at community colleges in New York and Texas and taught in Florida and Texas.

She currently serves as a 2021 Aspen Institute Ascend Fellow, and on the American Association of Community Colleges' Commission on Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity, the Howard County Economic Development Board, Local Children's Board, Rising Leaders, and Phi Theta Kappa advisory board. Dr. Willis most recently received the Daily Record's 2022 Most Influential Marylander, Baltimore Business Journal's 40 Under 40, 2023 cohort of VIP Women of Influence, honored as a Living Legend by Councilmember Opal Jones, and recently received the Attorney Frank E. Emory, Jr. Trailblazer Award.

Dr. Willis holds a Ph.D. in history from Florida State University and has her master's and bachelor's degrees from Florida A&M University.



Lonnie Robbins

Clanzy/Robbins Leadership in Government Award

Lonnie R. Robbins retired on March 1, 2023, following a distinguished tenure as Howard County Chief Administrative Officer since January 3, 2007. Prior to this, Mr. Robbins held the position of Deputy Chief Administrative Officer from 2004 to 2007. His career with Howard County government commenced in the Office of Law in 1989 as an Assistant County Solicitor where he provided counsel and representation to various County departments, boards, commissions, and agencies, including the Police Department, County Council, and Office on Aging, the Board of Appeals and Human Rights Commission and becoming a Senior Assistant County Solicitor. Before joining Howard County government, Mr. Robbins served as Assistant Secretary to the Maryland State Board of Public Works, where he played a pivotal role in shaping procurement policies and regulations.

His extensive experience in state government dates back to the early 1970s, encompassing positions in Governor Harry R. Hughes' administration and various Maryland State Departments. He holds a B.S. degree in Business and Public Administration, with a concentration in Transportation, from the University of Maryland at College Park, and a J.D. degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law. He is admitted to practice law in Maryland and Pennsylvania state courts, as well as in the Federal District Court of Maryland and the Supreme Court of the United States. Mr. Robbins is a member of the Howard County Bar Association and the Waring-Mitchell Law Society; currently serves on the Board of the University System of Maryland Foundation, the Howard Heroes Fund and Camp Attaway. He recently resigned as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund. Mr. Robbins has previously contributed his expertise to organizations such as the Howard Hospital Foundation, Leadership Howard County, and First Tee of Howard County. A native of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Mr. Robbins currently resides in Woodstock, Maryland with his wife, April.

2024 Freedom Fund Honorees



Tonya Aiken

Clanzy/Robbins Leadership in Government Award

Tonya Aikens is President and CEO of Howard County Library System, a nationally recognized library consistently earning rankings attained by fewer than two percent of public libraries in the U.S. and the only library system in Maryland to attain five-star status. She is passionate about the ability of libraries to transform lives and communities. Tonya's vision for a project where library staff and community come together in racial equity training, story gathering and sharing, sensemaking, collaboration across backgrounds and differences, and action to advance equity became the groundbreaking Brave Voices Brave Choices initiative. Among other roles, Tonya is Chair of the State Library Resource Center Commission, and a member of the Maryland Public Library Administrator's Intergovernmental Task Force.



Rev. Dr. Barbara Morton

Rev. John L. Wright, Sr. Religious Affairs Award

Rev. Dr. Barbara Morton, a proud native of Washington, DC, emerged as a distinguished figure with a profound commitment to both faith and community service. Her academic journey led her through the corridors of the public school system and culminated in her graduation from the prestigious Howard University and Wesley Theological Seminary. Driven by a passion for theological studies and social justice in her community, she now serves as a stalwart advocate for justice and equality in Howard County. Two years ago, Dr. Morton assumed the role of Chair of the Religion and Faith Committee for the Howard County branch of the NAACP. Her leadership in this capacity exemplifies her unwavering commitment to advancing social change and fostering inclusivity.



2024 Freedom Fund Honorees



Rev. Dr. Rickey Harvey, Jr.

Rev. John L. Wright, Sr. Religious Affairs Award

Rev. Dr. Rickey Bernard Harvey, Jr. proudly serves as the Assistant Pastor of St John Baptist Church. He is a graduate of the Rochester Institute of Technology with a B.S. in Accounting. Reverend Harvey holds a Master of Divinity degree from Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, where he has served as President of the Black Student Caucus and Baptist Student Alliance, among other extracurricular roles. A recording artist, he recently released a 4-song EP entitled, "The Best I Can Be", which includes 3 original songs and a medley of hymns that is available everywhere that music is sold digitally. Rev. Harvey is also a contributing author to the recently released book, Empower Now: True Stories from 14 Young Minority Professionals. He has since authored a personal blog entitled "Junior's Journal", on Manhood, Ministry, and More, which can be found at www.RickeyHarveyJr.com.

Serving others through his gifts and talents, Rickey Harvey, Jr. believes that the best investment anyone can make is offering others hope through help and life through love.



Dr. Mildred Lockhart-Boyd

Dr. Luther & Fannie Mathias Community Service Award

Mildred Lockhart-Boyd has been a resident of Columbia, MD for 45 years, and a Life Member of the NAACP since 2001. After receiving a PhD in Math and Science Education, she made a commitment to help minorities prepare themselves academically and gain access to careers in mathematics and science. Mildred also dedicated her time to helping students gain admission and successfully attend college, especially HBCUs.

She currently works with educational and fellowship programs at Lux Consulting Group, Inc. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Cornerstone Church, and the Southeastern Howard/Laurel Chapter of the Continental Societies, Inc. where she provides programs to underserved youth.

2024 Freedom Fund Honorees



Abisola Ayoola

Young Trailblazer Award

Abisola Ayoola serves as the current Student Member of the Maryland State Board of Education. In her role, Abisola represents students kindergarten through 12th grade across the state of Maryland, serving as an avenue for amplifying student voices. Previously a member of the Howard County Board of Education, she has been an advocate for student participation in policy making and revision for numerous years. Abisola is a senior at Wilde Lake High School, where she is a part of various clubs such as Student Government, Class Council, Rise Up Mentorship, and Active Minds. Additionally, she is a member of the Spanish Honor Society, Scholars Leadership and the National Honor Society at Wilde Lake. In her free time, Abisola enjoys playing piano and cello, sewing, and listening to music.



Unite Here Local 7

Don Cash Labor Leadership Award

United Here Local 7, which represents over 2,000 hotel, gaming, and food service workers throughout Maryland, fights for good jobs for all hospitality workers ensuring equal pay for equal work.



Jennifer Swickard Mallo

Robert Kittleman Award

Jennifer Swickard Mallo has been involved in public education for over 25 years in Howard County. She has been a passionate advocate for feeding children experiencing food insecurity, for supporting literacy programs, and for ensuring equitable educational opportunities for all students. She and her husband have raised three children who graduated from Wilde Lake High School. She has never shied away from hard decisions when it has been the right thing for Howard County students.

2024 Freedom Fund Honorees



Tracy Broccolino

President's Award

Tracy Broccolino was appointed the new President of the Community Action Council (CAC) of Howard County in 2022. As an educator and leader for the last 29 years, Tracy brings true passion and care for the Howard County community to this role. Tracy has most recently served as CAC's Director of Education, Howard County's sole Head Start grantee. Tracy led the Early Childhood Education Program through the COVID-19 pandemic, pioneering virtual instruction for Head Start and Pre-Kindergarten students while ensuring families were safe and had their needs met.

Tracy has held roles as classroom teacher, reading specialist, curriculum designer, and national director of exceptional student services for a charter school management organization. Tracy holds a master's degree in Reading and a certificate in the Mind, Brain, and Teaching, both from the Johns Hopkins University.



Howard County Office of Human Rights & Equity

President's Award

The Howard County Office of Human Rights and Equity is an entity of the Howard County Government that seeks to eradicate discrimination, increase equal opportunity, and protect and promote Human Rights in the county. The Office serves as a catalyst in fostering attitudes and beliefs among Howard County residents which confirm that all individuals have an equal opportunity to enjoy a wholesome and productive quality of life and can pursue their lives free of discrimination.

Community Ecology Institute

President's Award

In August of 2022, NBC came to Freetown Farm to film CEI's work for the Today Show to show to share the story of how the CEI connects people with nature and grows environmental stewardship across the community. They are committed to evidence-based practices to effectively help communities design comprehensive approaches to creating socio-ecologically healthy communities with an emphasis on climate change mitigation and adaptation projects.

2024 Freedom Fund Honorees



Judge Becca Niburg

President's Award

Judge Becca A. Niburg of the Hyattsville Immigration Court is a “self described immigration nerd” — in other words, a distinguished practical scholar in immigration, human rights, and due process for all! In addition to private practice and serving with two of the premier human rights NGOs in the DMV area, Catholic Charities & Kids in Need of Defense (“KIND”), Becca has a rich background as an immigration adjudicator at the appellate level of USCIS and as a litigator in the Office of Immigration Litigation at DOJ. She combines “insider knowledge” of the failing Government immigration bureaucracy with the skills, courage, determination, and “outside perspective” to make bureaucracy work for the common good, often in spite of itself. She has been an active, hardworking member of the Howard County NAACP branch for many years.



Rev. Dr. Robert Turner

President's Award

Rev. Dr. Robert Richard Allen Turner, Pastor of Empowerment Temple A.M.E. Church in Baltimore, MD, is a millennial who is passionate about his calling to serve this “present age.” He is the author of the recently published book, *Creating a Culture of Repair: Taking Action on the Road to Reparations*. Turner's leadership on the National African American Reparations Committee, activism in the fight for justice for victims of the 1921 Race Massacre in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and frequent 40-mile walks from Baltimore to White House, have garnered nationwide media attention including, CBS's 60 Minutes & Evening News, ABC, BBC, CNN, Good Morning America, MSNBC, LA Times, New York Times, and the Washington Post along with Politico where he continues to ensure his message on social justice is heard.

Graduating Cum Laude from the Honors Program at the University of Alabama and with honors from the Interdenominational Theological Center's Turner Seminary in Atlanta, Ga, he went on to obtain his Doctor of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. Dr. Turner is a national guest lecturer, life coach, trainer, presenter, facilitator & motivational speaker focusing on racism, community development, grassroots organizing, non-profit grant program management, faith-based community involvement & civic engagement. Dr. Turner is a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and the 2023 Class of Leadership Baltimore. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Baltimore Children and Youth Fund and has received numerous recognitions for his service and leadership. He has been married to the lovely Shere Turner for 18 years, and they have two delightful children, Robert Richard Allen Turner II (Deuce) 13 years old & Malcolm Robert Martin Turner (Bobby) 11. Dr. Turner is the son of supportive loving parents Robert and Ruth Turner who still reside in his hometown of Tuskegee Alabama.

Lift Every Voice

Often referred to as "The Black National Anthem," Lift Every Voice and Sing was a hymn written as a poem by NAACP leader James Weldon Johnson in 1900. His brother, John Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954), composed the music for the lyrics. A choir of 500 school-children at the segregated Stanton School, where James Weldon Johnson was principal, first performed the song in public in Jacksonville, Florida to celebrate President Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

Lift every voice and sing,
'Til earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on 'til victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;

Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
'Til now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand, True to our God, True to our native land.

Founding Group

The NAACP was formed party in response to the continuing horrific practice of lynching and the 1908 race riot in Springfield, the capital of Illinois and resting place of President Abraham Lincoln. Appalled at the violence that was committed against blacks, a group of white liberals that included Mary White Ovington and Oswald Garrison Villard, both the descendants of abolitionists, William English Walling and Dr. Henry Moscowitz issued a call for a meeting to discuss racial justice. Some 60 people, seven of whom were African American (including W. E. B. Du Bois, Ida B. Wells-Barnett and Mary Church Terrell), signed the call, which was released on the centennial of Lincoln's birth.

Other early members included Joel and Arthur Spingam, Josephine Ruffin, Mary Talbert, Inez Milholland, Jane Addams, Florence Kelley, Sophonisba Breckinridge, John Haynes Holmes, Mary McLeod Bethune, George Henry White, Charles Edward Russell, John Dewey, William Dean Howells, Lillian Wald, Charles Darrow, Lincoln Steffens, Ray Stannard Baker, Fanny Garrison Villard, and Walter Sachs.

Echoing the focus of Du Bois' Niagara Movement began in 1905, the NAACP's stated goal was to secure for all people the rights guaranteed in the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the United States Constitution, which promised an end to slavery, the equal protection of the law, and universal adult male suffrage, respectively.

The NAACP's principal objective is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of minority group citizens of United States and eliminate race prejudice. The NAACP seeks to remove all barriers of racial discrimination through the democratic processes. The NAACP established its national office in New York City in 1910 and named a board of directors as well as a president, Moorfield Storey, a white constitutional lawyer and former president of the American Bar Association. The only African American among the organization's executives, Du Bois was made director of publications and research and in 1910 established the official journal of the NAACP, *The Crisis*.

Branch History

The Howard County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was organized in 1944 through the efforts of Rev. John H.

Carter and friends. A mass meeting at the Locust Methodist Church, Simpsonville, MD., set the stage for the organization by Mrs. Lillian M. Jackson of Baltimore City. Mr. John H. Carter served as the first president.

After a few meetings, the Branch was reorganized in the spring of 1945. Mrs. Leola Dorsey became the president. A charter was issued to the branch by the National Office in May, 1947.

The purpose and aims of the Branch was to improve the political, educational, social and economic status of minority groups; to eliminate racial prejudice; to keep the public aware of the adverse effects of racial discrimination; and to take all lawful action to secure its elimination, consistent with the efforts of the national organization and in conformity with the Articles of Incorporation of the Association, its Constitution and 'By-Laws and as directed by the National Board of Directors.

The succession of officers has been, namely Thomas J. King, Waterloo; Rev. E.E. Arter, former pastor of the Atholton Charge; Rev. John H. Holland, pastor of the Full Gospel Tabernacle of Cooksville; and Mr. Silas E. Craft of Guilford.

During the early years, the organization was very conservative. Since 1957, it has been much more vigorous in its efforts to secure equality of opportunity in the county for all citizens, especially the Negro.

Mission, Vision, and Objectives

OUR MISSION

The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination.

OUR VISION

The vision of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure a society in which all individuals have equal rights without discrimination based on race.

OUR OBJECTIVES

The following statement of objectives is found on the first page of the NAACP Constitution - the principal objectives of the Association shall be:

- 1 To ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of all citizens,
- 2 To achieve equality of rights and eliminate race prejudice among the citizens of the United States,
- 3 To remove all barriers of racial discrimination through democratic processes,
- 4 To seek enactment and enforcement of federal, state, and local laws securing civil rights,
- 5 To inform the public of the adverse effects of racial discrimination and to seek its elimination,
- 6 To educate persons as to their constitutional rights and to take all lawful action to secure the exercise thereof, and to take any other lawful action in furtherance of these objectives, consistent with the NAACP's Articles of Incorporation and this Constitution.