

*10-year
Anniversary*

2019

**Black History Month
Celebration Banquet**

*Celebrating our local Trailblazers
and community leaders
from through the Central Valley*

Saturday, February 2, 2019

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Welcome

In the ending lyrics of "As," written and performed by [Stevie Wonder](#) from his 1976 album, [Songs in the Key of Life](#), it reminds us of the weary ebbs and flows in life that can truly be conquered through love:

*We all know sometimes life hates and troubles
Can make you wish you were born in another time and space
But you can bet your lifetimes that and twice it's double
That God knew exactly where he wanted you to be placed
So make sure when you say you're in it, but not of it
You're not helpin' to make this earth
A place sometimes called hell
Change your words into truths
And then change that truth into love
And maybe our children's grandchildren
And their great grandchildren will tell ...*

It is love that this Board has for the African-American Museum's rich history, legacy, and founders, as we continue to treasure and preserve the cherished stories of its local Black residents to be shared with the entire community.

It is dedicated love that keeps the Board together like glue, through all times that are trying, and through celebrated times that are good.

It is love that reminds of the purpose of certain sacrifices we have all endured for the sake of the African-American Museum as an institution of learning of Black histories for all who live and visit its dwellings.

And finally, it is love that opens our hearts to serve our community, unconditionally, with faults and all, knowing that there is always a better future forming right before our eyes.

"As" the song says, "I, will be loving you always ..."

Sincerely,

The African-American Historical & Cultural Museum of the San Joaquin Valley Board of Directors



The Founders



Jack Albert Gilbert Frank Kelley

African-American Historical & Cultural Museum of the San Joaquin Valley (AAHCMSJV) was founded by retired Fresno Sgt. Homicide & Detective Kelly in 1986 against many odds.

Jack A. Kelley was a man of vision and action. He was a community icon and a champion for racial harmony. He is best remembered for his generosity, his big gracious smile and for his favorite quote

by Will Rodgers, "I never met a man I didn't like." Founder Jack Albert Gilbert Frank Kelley was born in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada on August 23, 1920, one of eight children born to Frank and Fannie Cobbs-Kelly. He excelled in three sports at Tulare Union High School and at Fresno State College in the 1940's. In 1943, he served his country for two years in Europe.

On April 26, 1946 Jack married Rosa L. Conley. They were blessed with six children: three daughters, a son, and two daughters from a previous union. In 1949, Jack became a Fresno Police Officer and became the departments first African American Sergeant in 1969.

Upon retirement in 1970, he became a Law Enforcement Coordinator at California State University, Fresno. The most visible reminder of his legacy is the African American Historical and Cultural Museum of the San Joaquin Valley, he founded with his wife Rosa. Because of his legacy, other pioneers are recognized on the walls of the museum, which breathe the rich history of the black community; the African-American Historical & Cultural Museum of the San Joaquin Valley (AAHCMSJV) was founded by retired Fresno Sgt. Homicide & Detective Kelly in 1986 against many odds.

Jack A. Kelley was a man of vision and action. He was a community icon and a champion for racial harmony.

He is best remembered for his generosity, his big gracious smile and for his favorite quote by Will Rodgers, "I never met a man I didn't like."

The Fresno Bee
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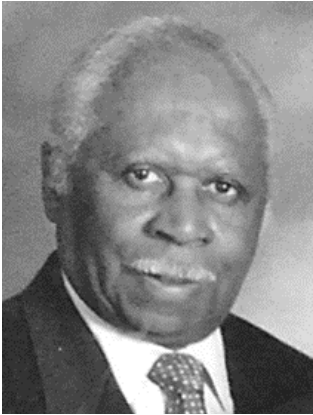
By the way, your first **5,000 points** are on us. Cool, huh?

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fresnobee.com/rewards



The Founders



Jesse McDonald, Jr.

Jesse McDonald Jr. was a dedicated community leader who participated in numerous civil rights activities throughout his young adult life and until his later years.

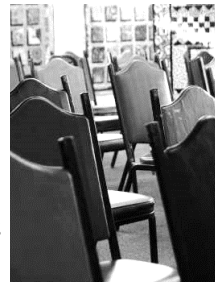
In the early 1980s, Mr. McDonald and his longtime friend, Jack Kelley, visited a friend of Kelley's in Tulare who had a room full of historical photos and

memorabilia. It was then the two discussed the idea of starting a museum to showcase African American culture and history from throughout the Central Valley. Kelley collected photos and artifacts while Mr. McDonald helped to raise money; the pair established the African American Historical & Cultural Museum of the San Joaquin Valley in Fresno.

The History

The African-American Historical and Cultural Museum of the San Joaquin Valley was founded in 1986 by retired Fresno City police officer, Sergeant Jack Kelly and his wife Rosa Kelley.

It is the only non-profit educational facility of its kind. The museum houses hundreds of

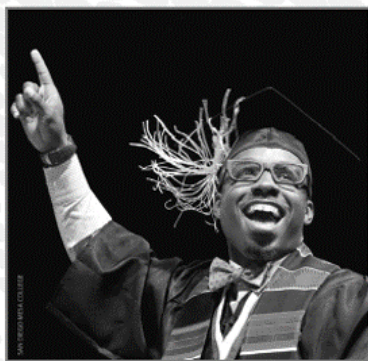


historical photographs, artifacts and memorabilia dating back to the 1880's which documents the numerous contributions of local African-Americans who live or are from the San Joaquin Valley. Pictorial exhibits profiling African-Americans who have excelled in the fields of government, politics, art, education, religion, health, business, law, medicine, sports, agriculture, and the work of local African-American artist are prominently displayed for educational tours.



**Congratulations to the
2019 Trailblazer Honorees
including Clovis Community College
retiree Charles Francis!**

Clovis Community College is now offering the



**Historically Black
Colleges and
Universities (HBCU)
Transfer Guarantee**



STATE CENTER
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT



10309 North Willow Avenue | Fresno, CA 93730 | 559-325-5200

cloviscollege.edu



The Program

Red Carpet (Host Ken McCoy)

5:30 PM

No-Host Reception

6:00 PM

Welcome

6:30 PM

Introduction of the Master of Ceremonies

Kimberly Tapscott-Munson

Event Welcome

Anthony Bailey

Invocation

Fresno Temple Church of God in Christ, Pastor Harry Miller

Silent Auction , Raffle & Door Prizes

Rona Ledermann

Dinner & Entertainment

6:45 PM

Al Turner & Friends

Raffle

The Program

7:15 PM

Black National Hymn

Back Page

History of the Museum

Video

Board Message & Accomplishments

Video

Board Welcome

Julia Dudley Najieb

Recognition of the Board

Recognition of Staff and Volunteers

Special Thanks

Recognition of Public Officials

Recognition of Past Trailblazers (photo op)

Gregory Melancon

Upcoming Events

Recognition of Media Sponsor

Dr. Carolyn Drake

Membership Recognitions

Door Prizes & Raffle

Sponsorship Presentation

Charles Francis

Recognition of Table Sponsors

Rona Ledermann

Recognition of Silent Auction & Gift Sponsors

Special Awards Presentations

Fresno County Board of Supervisors

Board Supervisor Sal Quintero

City of Fresno City Hall

District 3 Councilman Miguel Arias

Dignitary Awards



The Program

Awards Presentations

Introduction of Presenter

Jesse McDonald Jr.

Community Dedication Award

*Museum Operations Dir. Gregory Melancon
& AAHCMSJV Board of Dir.*

Introduction of Presenter

The Professional Sports Wall of Fame Award

*City of Tulare
Councilman Carlton Jones*

Introduction of Presenter

The Passing the Torch Award

Fresno Police Dept., Captain Mark Salazar

Introduction of Presenter

The 2019 Trailblazer Awards

*CA US Senator Kamala Harris Rep. &
FCOE Board of Trustee Area 1, Kimberly Tapscott Munson*

Awardee Video Presentation

The 2019 Trailblazer Award Presentation

Benediction

Lively Stone Ministries, Bishop Rodney G. Spencer

Dancing

9:30 PM -11 PM

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SUNDAY: 12PM-8PM

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The Past Trailblazers

2009

Nadar Ali
Victoria Blaswich
Mary Curry
William Day
Glenn Ferguson
Dr. Arthur Foster
Bud Gaston
Pauline Kimber
Woody Miller
Pastor Chester Riggins
Earl Watson
Floyd White
Lonzell Williams
Novella Foster
Velda Boutte (Posthumously)
Isaac Butler (Posthumously)
Dr. Jacqueline Hodge (posthumously)
Pamela Kelley Kelly -Lama (posthumously)
Nadine Mayo (posthumously)
Mary Richardson (Posthumously)
Elma Sterling (Posthumously)

2010

Jesse McDonald
Mattie Meyers
Chester Mucker
B. Riddlesprigger
Dr. Shirley Wiley
Lavera Williams
George Marcus
Dr. Ed Mosley
Dr. Ulysses Curry
Dolphas Trotter (Posthumously)
Dr. Willie Brown (Posthumously)
Hugh Goodwin (Posthumously)
Paul White (Posthumously)
Cecil C. Hinton (Posthumously)

2011

Dr. Binion
Early Bradley
Dr. Flemming
Carlton Lockett
Juanita Perry
Dr. Noel Smith
Dorythea Williams
Joe Williams
Ray Johnson (Posthumously)

2012

Dr. James E. Aldredge
Al Boutte
Jesse E. Cooley, Jr. (Posthumously)
Elizabeth Simpson Hansen (Posthumously)
Columbus Craig
Junious Haynes
Dr. Henry A. Hendrix
Kirk Kirkland
Dr. Joe Lee
Dr. Fitzalbert Marius
Dr. Nadine Otschkal
Dr. Lily Small
Cecil Smith
Mrs. Geneva Spears
Matthew B. Thomas, Sr. (Posthumously)
Betty Thomas
Dr. Joe Toney

2013

Alfred Boutte
Linzie Daniel
Joe Dixon (Posthumously)
Betty Simpson Hansen (Posthumously)
Cynthia Hansford

L.H. McDaniel
Juanita McDonald
Attorney Willie J. Smith
Professor Kehinde Solwazi
Dr. Joe Toney

Passing the Torch Award - Tasha Dunn



The Past Trailblazers Cont'd

2014

- Julia T. Brown
- Ann Wicks Johnston
- Richard Keyes
- Bobby Logan, Sr.
- Kristine Johnson-McPhail
- Dr. Robert S. Mikell
- George Moore
- James Parks
- Dr. Jesse Perry
- Benny Tapscott
- Dr. James E. Walton
- J.W. Sims
- Marvin Howard
- Marjoree Mason

(Posthumously)
 (Posthumously)
 (Posthumously)

Passing the Torch Award - Angie Barfield
 The Shining Star Award - Jeannette Harris

2015

- Donald Holley
- Cal Johnson
- Frank Johnson
- Betty Lett
- Dr. Bruce McAlister
- Ike Morris
- Audrey Riley
- Derek Robinson
- Rueben Scott
- Dr. Malik Simba
- Willie Whinsenhunt
- Vernon Riggins

(Posthumously)

Passing the Torch Award: Lisa Nichols
 Shining Star Award: Stephen Semien

2016

- Lawrence Brookter
- Marvin Howard
- Bishop Henry Johnson
- Flora Johnson
- Marshall Kelley

(posthumously)
 (posthumously)

Les Kimber (posthumously)
Edna Overall
Elvey Perkins (posthumously)
Jimi Rodgers
Will Scott

Passing the Torch Award: Carlton Jones
Shining Star Award: Marques Anthony

2017

Dezie Woods-Jones, Phd
Pastor Donahue Green
Dorothy "Dottie" Smith
Gloria Smith
Earl Myers
Fannie Hayes
Rev. Dr. Henry I. Oputa
Dr. Jerome Jackson
Rev. Julius Blaine Brooks
Michael McGough
Rev. Paul McCoy
Sam Lane

Passing the Torch Award: Ozeme J. Bonnette Cooley
Shining Star Award: Salisha Thomas

2018

Dr. Carolyn C. Drake
Honorable Cynthia A. Sterling
Billie Ann Jelks-Hood
Wilma Dean Woods
Roger L. Gray
Greg Louis McCowan
Dr. Marie Leola Archie
Apostle James O. Archie, Sr. (posthumously)
Reynolds L. Johnson (posthumously)
Mattie Pilkinton Taylor (posthumously)
Fannie B. Pilkinton (posthumously)

Shining Star Award: Keysha Burns
Passing the Torch Award: Pastor David Joseph Lee-Criner
Professional Sports Wall of Fame: Sloane Stephens
The Jesse McDonald Jr. Community Dedication Award: Al Boutte



Membership & Pledges

Mission Statement: To tell the story of extraordinary African Americans past and present who reside in the San Joaquin Valley, and to encourage our future through exhibition, education, music and theatre.

Student & Senior Membership Benefits (\$50.00/yr.)

- Can serve on the advisory committee
- Be a voting member at annual meetings
- Have access to the membership portion of the website
- Have access to the membership app amenities
- Be listed as our "Student" or "Senior Member" on our website

Proud Silver Member Benefits (\$100.00/yr.):

- Can serve on the advisory committee
- Be a voting member at annual meetings
- Have access to the membership portion of the website
- Have access to the membership app amenities
- Receive 5% discount (member only) on any AAHCMSJV Museum sponsored events
- Be listed as our "Proud Silver Member" on our website

Dedicated Gold Member Benefits (\$300.00/yr.):

- Can serve on the advisory committee
- Be a voting member at annual meetings
- Have access to the membership portion of the website
- Have access to the membership app amenities
- Receive 2 free boardroom/meeting rentals per year up to 2 hours each
- Receive 15% discount (member and a guest) on any AAHCMSJV Museum sponsored events
- Be listed as our "Dedicated Gold Member" on our website

Jack Kelley Pledges:

Pledges are listed in the annual **Black History Month Celebration** Program Booklet and on the Museum's app and website.

Jack Kelley Silver Pledge: \$500.00

Jack Kelley Gold Pledge: \$1,000.00

Jack Kelley Platinum Pledge: \$2,000.00

Friends of the African-American Museum:

Entities and individuals who donate receive a letter for their donation for tax purposes as well as one's name printed annually in the **Black History Month Celebration** Program Booklet.

Please visit our website: <http://www.aahcmsjv.org> to pledge or get a membership today!

Phone: 559-544-1857

Email: aahcmsjv@gmail.com

Hours of Operation: By appointment tours only



Be the change agent you wish to see and find out where your talents are needed at the African-American Museum. Volunteer for a community organization that is yours.

Email us today: 559-544-1857



The 2019 Trailblazers

Estelle Dailey



Estelle Dailey, born the fourth child in of eight in Cumrod, AK, has resided in Fresno, CA for 60 years, married to her husband Gill Dailey, Sr. for 41 years, where the two parented four children.

In 1952 when her family moved to Avenal, CA, they were the first African-American family to reside in the town.

Dailey has been with Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission for 53 years with the drive and interest in working with families of special needs children, helping them to get linked with services that could help in adding service for the child.

Dailey's passion for working with families of special needs children and special needs adults has continued under Fresno EOC's Head Start Program. Her biggest influence was her special needs son, inspiring her to help others, (her son passed away at the age of 20 in 1985.)

In 1965 she decided to resign from the Veteran's Hospital as a file clerk and begin her life's calling with the North Ave. Head Start at the North Ave Community Center, under the umbrella of FCEOC. She returned to school to pursue her degree in the field of child development.

In a very short period of time, she was promoted from a teacher's assistant to a teacher, continuing to excel in the Head Start Program, receiving promotions to a Lead Teacher, then to a Teacher Director and now a Center Director at the Kings Canyon Head Start Program Location.

After her 50th-year anniversary, Fresno EOC Head Start dedicated and named a Center in North Fresno in my Honor, The Estelle Dailey Head Start, located at 5650 North Fresno Street.

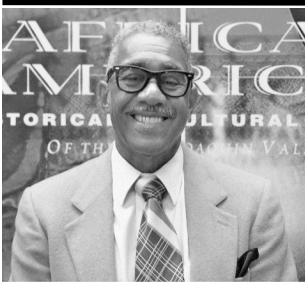
In 1987 she opened her first Residential Care Home for the Developmental Disable Adults. In 1989, her second home was established.

In the words of Estelle Dailey. "God blessed me with a gift of loving and caring for others; I utilize that gift every day to fulfill my purpose."



The 2019 Trailblazers

Johnny Lee



Johnny Lee has resided in Fresno, CA for over 35 years; he and his wife Sandra Lee have three children.

Lee, who spent two years in the United States Army and 20 years in law enforcement, then retiring as a state parole officer, also spent five years as a licensed

vocational nurse. He is also been a foster parent to 32 teenage girls over an 11-year period .

He is also the author of three published books, registered with the Library of Congress with five copyrights.

It would be Lee's high school basketball coach, Jim Larson, who told him when he was thinking about quitting, "If you quit, you will be a quitter for life." That statement resonated with throughout his scholastic year and life. It would be this encouragement that would eventually lead the basketball team to be Valley Champions. To this day, this powerful lesson has never left him.

Lee's father, Johnny Lee, Sr. was the most influential person in his life: He had a very strong work ethic, which he adopted from him. Come rain or shine, he reported for work. Monetarily, his father never had much, but Lee could not tell by the expression on his face. Whatever the circumstances, his father always had a smile on his face.

Lee's words: "I vowed to be like him, and I strive to keep a positive and winning attitude in life no matter what. Pay it forward. Don't give up. Don't ever give up. Winners never quit and quitters never win. The ladder of success is never crowded at the top. There is room for you.

Success is not defined by how much money you make or save. Success is defined by the difference you make in other peoples lives. " Learn to say yes to things. Say yes to an invitation to another country. Say yes to meeting new friends. Say yes to learning something new. "



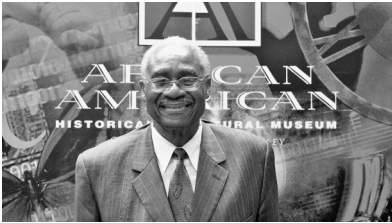
**VALLEY SMALL
BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT
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Proudly sponsors the
African-American Historical
and Cultural Museum of the
San Joaquin Valley



The 2019 Trailblazers

Charles Francis



Charles Francis grew up in Springfield, Massachusetts. After graduating high school, he served four years in the United States Navy and was honorably discharged as a second-class petty officer. After attending Reedley

College for two years, he transferred to Fresno State, completing his bachelor's degree in industrial engineering in 1970 and master's degree in city and regional planning in 1977.

Before his retirement a few years ago, Francis had been the director of the Clovis Community College Herndon Campus since 2014, and was the director of the Fresno City College Training Institute for almost 15 years. Prior to, he served as the director of the Grant Funded Education at Fresno City College from 1997 to 2003. And prior to his time at Fresno City College, Francis was the Chief Executive Officer of the Fresno Private Industry council, (currently known as the Fresno Regional Workforce Investment Board) from November 1983 to September 1997. And prior to that he worked a similar job with the city of Fresno.

Francis' professional affiliates include: board member of the Business Advisory Council for the Sid Craig School of Business at Fresno State; Fresno and National Association of the County Training and Employment Professionals; Valley Business Conference board member, African-American Museum board member; Fresno Career Development Institute board member

Francis is passionate about the Edison Babe Ruth Baseball Association, serving 36 years as organization's president.

Francis and his wife Wilma have been married since 1966 and have three sons, five grandchildren.

Francis words of wisdom: "Get as much education and training as you can. Once you have learned it, no one can ever take it away from you."



The 2019 Trailblazers

Omie Cormier



Omie Cormier has been a resident of Fresno, CA for 46 years, married to Lawrence Joseph Cormier III, where they parented seven children and are the proud grandparents of 12 grandchildren.

Cormier attended California State University, Hayward (Cal State East Bay.)

She established a Christian school in West

Fresno, and was the first Black dance teacher in the junior college system in California.

She was also the sponsor of the first Black Student Union in America at San Jose City College (1967-69), she was the first Black to participate in *Black Showcase of Ethnic Dance in San Joaquin Valley* (Rivie Slupsky,) she established Orchesis (Cal Berkeley - Ruth Beckford) at San Jose State, and she was the first Black educator at San Jose City College to assist with the Art and Fashion Department for students performing on stage.

In her family, Cormier was the first child out of all 10 children to graduate from college in her family.

Cormier enjoys being involved in community education and clean up, helping renovate homes for children in the West Fresno Christian Academy, helping students grow gardens through the Black Farmers and a host of other community activities: she served 26 churches and organizations in Fresno, CA, Texas and Alaska, helping the homeless, and visiting jails for prayer and counseling.

Cormier is a Prayer Warrior at St. Rest Church, volunteers for Fresno Unified School District, is involved in the Hopewell Church, IMarketsLive, in Jewel Tankards (Millionairess Group - Tenn), in Johnson Chapel Baptist (Nacogdoches, TX), and is a teacher of finance health through Alleluia Ministries International Wisdom.

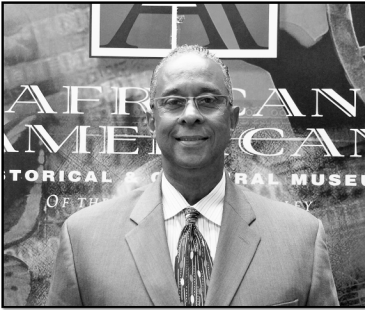
Cormier's words of wisdom: "Be grateful and appreciative for parents and their struggle, choose to learn somethings new daily, know Jesus personally, study truths found in the Word of God, and help as many people as possible because you are a gift from God."

"We all make a difference, take time to share what you know, FORGIVE OTHERS, be a student of Word of God, appreciate heritage and maximize previous sacrifices into positive impact on the lives of those whom come into contact with you. LOVE"



The 2019 Trailblazers

Al Maroney



Al Eugene Maroney was born in Fowler, CA, and has resided in Fresno, Ca for 60. He is married to his lovely wife Carmen Maroney and had three children.

He received his Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of San Francisco.

Maroney retired as a Captain with the Fresno Police Department, which he served for 39 years. He continues to be involved in the community: Clovis North Bronco Foundation Board Member; Command College graduate, National Association of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), to name a few.

He worked for Mr. Jesse Cooley Jr. as a teenager along with his sons in their mortuary business. Cooley Jr. was instrumental in giving him an opportunity as a young man to see the advantages of being financially independent and learning the value of hard work, and the benefits of having a strong work ethic. It would be Mr. Cooley who used to tell him, "Everything we do in this life is geared towards the collection of material things-but you will never see a U-Haul behind a hearse."

In Maroney's words:

"I was raised in that (village concept) started with my immediate family, especially my mother and father. The others were my circle of uncles, aunts and cousins and the many neighbors who lived around me."

Mottos in life he lives by are:

Life is a game of time and effort that are strongly related; how you spend your time and what efforts you make to succeed will determine your future.



The 2019 Trailblazers



THE BAPTIST
Foundation
OF CALIFORNIA

**Congratulations
to our friend and board member**

Larry Hodges, M.A., CPGA

**“Leaning in, Looking up”
Philippians 4:12-13**

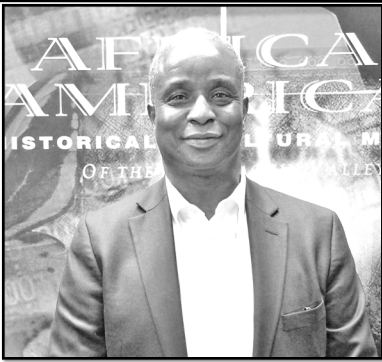


**Sheriff Margaret Mims
And
The Men and Women
Of the Fresno County Sheriff-Coroner's Office
Congratulate
The 2019 Trailblazer Honorees**



The 2019 Trailblazers

Larry Hodges



Larry Hodges, married to wife Marjie Hodges, has resided in Fresno for over 50 years. According to him, his wife helps to make him a better man and person.

He received his bachelor's degree and master's degree in leadership and organizational studies from Fresno Pacific

University. Hodges was the first college graduate in the family and was a part of the United States Air Force.

Hodges is also a Certified Lead Trainer for Faith and Finances Financial Literacy, receiving his certification from The Chalmers Center at Covenant College. The certification equips churches and ministries to offer best practices financial education to the poor and vulnerable members of the community.

Hodges is the first black stock broker in Fresno, CA (Merrill Lynch, 1983 - 2014). He is currently an adjunct Professor of Marketing and Dynamics of Group Behavior at Fresno Pacific University who also serves on the Board of Directors of the California Baptist Foundation.

His passion for loving and serving God involves using his gifts of leadership and teaching to facilitate his desire for empowering the least, the last, and the lost. He believes in the pursuit of poverty alleviation by teaching basic financial literacy concepts, practices and competencies.

His mother Ruby Lee McDowell taught him survival skills, along with support from West Fresno community leaders: Jim Hendricks,



The 2019 Trailblazers

Elmo Bradley, John Ethridge, Joe Williams, Joe Lee, Audrey Johnson, Harry Kachadoorian, and Max Hampton (manager at Merrill Lynch.) Hodges said these leaders rescued him when he was off course professionally, but that it was Jesus Christ who saved him, loved him and directs him.

Hodges is also a member of the United Black Men of Fresno, Young Men of Character, Fresno Pacific University Church Ministry and other community organizations that focus on helping members of the community.

Here are several mottoes that Hodges lives by:

“Don’t allow the world to define who you are. Live life by design, not by default.”

“Don’t say what you can’t do until you’ve tried what you can do. Believing is seeing.”

And in his words: “I am humbled and blessed. I believe that service to humanity is the greatest work of life. My past failures do not have to be my future because. Unless I am prepared to give up something I value, I will never be able to change totally, because I will be forever in control of things I can’t give up.”



Be the change agent you wish to see and find out where your talents are needed at the African-American Museum. Volunteer for a community organization that is yours.

Email us today: 559-544-1857

Black Dollar Days



Swap meet style

At the
**African-American
Museum of the SJV**

1857 Fulton St. Fresno, Ca 93721

Gates open
8:00 AM -1:00 PM

May 4th – June 8th

To be a vendor call:

559-544-1857
www.aahcmsjv.org

**Join us all
Saturdays in May!**

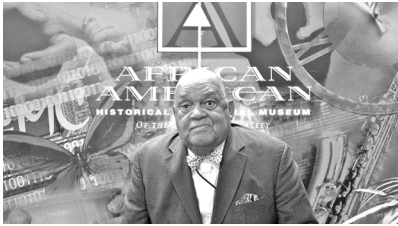


*Farmer's Market
Fruits & Veggies
New & Used Clothes
Small Appliances
Ball Caps
Sneakers
Suits
Oils
Bags & Backpacks
Luggage
Purses
Cosmetics
What-Not's & More*



The 2019 Trailblazers

Pastor Harry Miller



Pastor Harry Miller, originally born in Dumas, AR has resided in Fresno, CA for over 74 years, married to his lovely wife, Bessie Miller, for 54 years. Miller and his wife have two children and five grand-children.

Pastor Miller graduate from Fresno

State in 1968 worked for City of Fresno Parks and Recreation Department for 40 years, involved specifically in youth athletics.

Pastor Miller as a dedicated servant of the Lord, continues his passion for Christ through his church, Fresno Temple Church of God in Christ. He is also a member of the Executive Board for California Valley Jurisdiction Church of God in Christ Inc., and a member of the West Fresno Ministerial Alliance.

It was Pastor Miller's mother, Ida Miller, who demanded he go back to school and finish along with Dr. James E. Aldredge, who encouraged him to go back school. Aldredge helped him with his course of studies at Fresno State.

Pastor Miller also continues to be inspired by the words of Mr. Vernon Riggins, "Dream and don't limit yourself, dream!"

Pastor Miller's words of wisdom: "I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me."

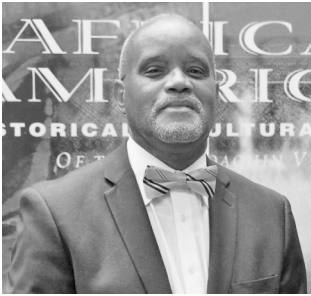
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The 2019 Trailblazers

Bishop Rodney G. Spencer



Bishop Rodney G. Spencer is an Ordained Licensed Bishop with the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World International, Incorporated (PAW).

In 1986, Bishop Spencer became the Founder and Pastor of Lively Stone Ministries (Outreach).

One of his mottoes is "By this" (love) men shall know that we are disciples of Jesus Christ, for we have love one for another, John 13:35.

In 2002, Bishop Spencer traveled from Fresno, CA, to Compton, CA, for two years establishing an English ministry for Bishop Felipe Salazar, Hosea Apostolic Church. Vice President of the Apostolic Assembly of the Faith in Christ Jesus, Incorporated (Apostolic Assembly).

In 2004, Bishop Spencer was elevated to the office of District Elder, the overseer of 10 churches in Fresno, Madera and Merced Counties. His vision continued to unfold. Also, in 2004, Bishop Spencer graduated from the National Apostolic Bible College through the Apostolic Assembly with a Bachelor of Theology degree.

In 2008, Bishop Spencer and Lively Stone were asked to merge with New Beginning Apostolic Assembly, Inc., and become the Pastor. Both congregations united and became City of Refuge A New Beginning, located in the heart of Southwest District of Fresno, California, promoting fellowship, spiritual encouragement, and a place of healing. Another motto of Bishop Spencer's is "heal me, don't kill me."

Bishop Rodney Spencer's wife of 46 years, Lady Debra Spencer, had several children along with eight grandchildren. In 2015, Bishop Spencer was elevated to the office of the California Central Regional Bishop in the Northern California District Council (PAW), overseer of the California Central districts.

Bishop is a member of the West Fresno Ministerial Alliance. He collaborates and ministers with Christ-centered leaders, from various religions and cultures and faith-based and community-based organizations.

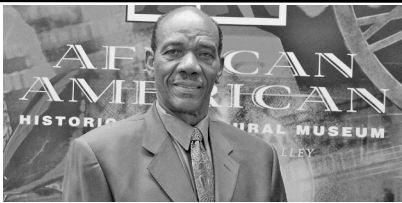
Bishop Spencer's tenure (30 years) has been in the Southwest District of Fresno, CA. He continues to serve at Image Church with his son in the Southwest District.

Bishop Rodney Spencer's wife of 46 years, Lady Debra Spencer, had several children along with eight grandchildren.



The 2019 Trailblazers

Maxie Parks



Maxie L. Parks was born July 9, 1951, in Lee County, Arkansas. At the age of 10, he and his family moved to Fresno California where Maxie attended West Fresno Elementary and Jr. High Schools. It was at this time that Maxie

began to formally embrace his love for Track and Field and other sports.

Maxie is a 1970 graduate from Washington Union High School; while at Washington Union Maxie participated in Football, Wrestling and Track and Field. Maxie was All American twice while in high school and league champion in Wrestling. Maxie went on to Fresno City College 1970-1972 in and obtained an AA Degree. He was also the 1970 State Champion in the 400m and 1600m relay. After Fresno City College Maxie received a full scholarship to UCLA and attended from 1972 to 1975 obtaining a BA degree in Sociology. While at UCLA, he was on the 1973 & 1974 NCAA Track and Field Championship teams.

After college Maxie was part of 4 USA Teams that toured Europe and trained for the 1976 Olympics in Montréal Canada where he placed 5th in the 400 meters and obtained a Gold medal in the 1600 meter relay. Maxie continued to pursue his dream of Track and Field training for the 1980 Olympics until the United States boycott of the Olympic Games for that year. Maxie retired from competing in Track in Field in 1980 however, he still makes himself available for consulting. Maxie has been inducted into the Hall of Fame in The City and County of Fresno, California Community Colleges Track and Field Hall of Fame, Fresno City College & Washington Union High School.

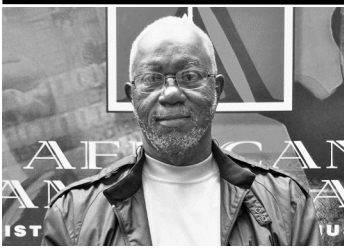
Since 1996, Maxie has been an active member of Westside Church of God, where he serves as Board Vice Chairman. Due to his knowledge of and integrity in raising funds for the church, Maxie also serves as the chair for fundraising efforts.

Maxie is a happily married to his wife LoVern Mason-Parks for 43 years. He has three daughters, a son, and is the proud grandfather of seven.



The 2019 Trailblazers

Ali Morris



Ali Morris started his consulting firm AEM Enterprises (AEME) in 2009 to offer small business startup assistance to the local low to moderate income communities at an affordable cost. In the past several years AEME has acquired contracts with Kern County's

Career Services Center and California State University – Bakersfield, Small Business Development Center to provide technical assistance in financial literacy, credit education and business startup and operations.

Ali Morris was the Co-Founder of the Kern County Black Chamber of Commerce and Founder of the KCBCC Development Foundation and served as President of both from 2001 - 2013. Ali was born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA., where he attended Point Park University in Downtown Pittsburgh. Ali has a BS Degree in Electrical Engineering, and a Minor in Business Administration. He spent approx. thirty years in the industry working in Project Engineering and Project Management positions. Ali also has over 25 years of service in the non-profit arena, serving on several Boards and in many Officer Positions.

Ali has recently completed courses in Leadership, with the Rockwood Leadership Institute, Financial Management training in Fresno, CA, and Business Development Training at San Diego State University, San Diego, CA.

Ali has a passion for entrepreneurship and providing business assistance services. He has worked with hundreds of individuals helping in business development and business networking activities. Ali currently serves as a Lead Consultant for the Small Business Development Center in Bakersfield. One of Ali's goals is to present the business and entrepreneurial mind set to youth to establish a path to business ownership at an earlier age.



The 2019 Trailblazers

Earlena Morris (posthumously)



Earlena Morris, born in Shawnee, Oklahoma, raised in Kansas City, Kansas, during the Jim Crow era, attended Kansas State University.

Eventually moving to the West Coast to reside in the Central Valley, Morris was very involved in the Black Community, accumulating a long list of passions and causes:

In the 1990s, Morris assisted her husband Ali, and other community leaders in resurrecting the

African-American Chamber of Commerce of Fresno. She became vice-president of the organization, and collaborated with the African-American Historical & Cultural Museum of the San Joaquin Valley, Black businesses, and other community organizations to create the successful venture, "Black Dollar Days" in 1998. The concept helped Black businesses to gain and retain customers.

Morris was on the task force to eventually create the San Joaquin Valley Black Chamber of Commerce. The name was originally derived to include businesses from Fresno, CA to Bakersfield, CA.

By 2001 she was transplanted from Fresno to Bakersfield in 2001. Eventually Bakersfield broke off to create its own organization, with guidance of herself, and her husband who became the founders by incorporating "The Kern County Black Chamber of Commerce," which still resides in Bakersfield, CA today.



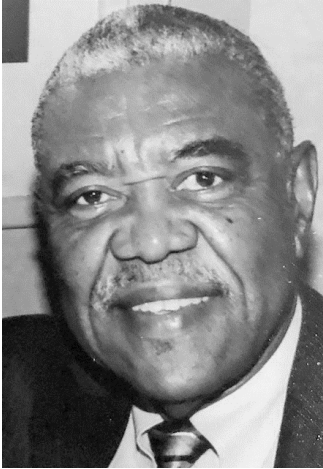
Be the change agent you wish to see and find out where your talents are needed at the African-American Museum. Volunteer for a community organization that is yours.

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The 2019 Trailblazers

Bobby Joe Lee (posthumously)



Bobby Joe Lee, known as the “Gentle Giant” among his peers, was the first African-American associate superintendent and deputy superintendent of Fresno Unified School District. Lee developed programs across the valley, including the Career Opportunity Program for Minorities, which recruits and trains teachers, and Restart, which works with drop outs from FUSD. He dedicated his life to improving the educational experiences and accomplishments of all students, especially at-risk youth, in his role as a:

teacher, counselor, vice principal, principal, and administrator.

Lee graduated from Washington Union High School, got his associate’s degree from Fresno City College, attended California State Universities Hayward, Fresno State, as well as the University of Southern California.

Lee was a member of Saints Rest Baptist Church, where he was ordained as a deacon, served as a trustee, and sang in the choir. He later became a member of Family Community Church, where he was one of the founding members, served as a deacon, was on the Trustee Board, and sang in the choir.

He was a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. and a lifetime member of the National Alliance of Black School Educators.

Lee, along with his lovely wife Pamela S. Lee, parented three children, followed by seven grandchildren.

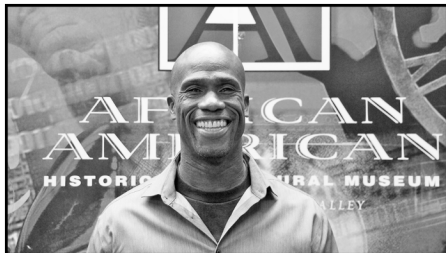
A statement from the family: “For nearly 50 years, he touched many young lives through his life work of educating and counseling the youth in the community and inspiring them to have fruitful and accomplished lives.”



2019 Award Recipient James Stallworth

It had been over 20 years since the African-American Museum made an addition to its sports wall of fame, until the 2018 Sports Wall of Fame honoree Sloane Stephens last year; this was one of the key reasons this award was created, acknowledging our sports greats who have made history in the Valley.

This award reminds the community of the hard work and dedication that goes into not only an athletes training, but the exemplary infallible motivation that captures the heart of a top athlete, who in turn finds a way to give back to his or her community.



This year's recipient dynamic former athlete, **James Stallworth of Tulare, CA.**

Stallworth was born and raised in Tulare, graduating from Tulare Union High School in 1989.

At the age of 12, he set a national midget group pentathlon record.

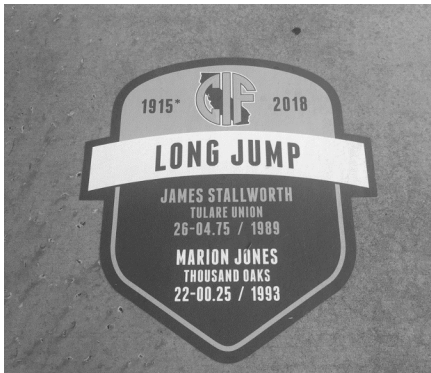
The win, which included the shotput, hurdles, long jump, 50 and 400 meters, enticed the attention of Sports Illustrated.

In high school, Stallworth lettered in football, basketball and track. In 1989, he set the National Federation of State High Schools Association record in the long jump with a 26' 4.75" jump, while participating in a CIF State meet. That record is still in existence today.

In 1990, he attended the World Junior Championships in Bulgaria and again set a record – earning a gold medal with a 26' 11" jump. He still is the world record holder from that jump. At the same games he earned a gold in the 4 x 100m relay, which he anchored, and a bronze medal in the 200m.

He also won a Bronze medal in the 200 meters in that same competition. In 1991, as a 20-year-old, he placed second behind Mike Powell in the United States Olympic Festival, Powell would claim the World Record in the Long Jump two years later, a record he still holds.

Stallworth's path took a turn downward, as he battled addiction, and eventually imprisonment. His lustrous career one would think was over; however, Stallworth was the comeback-kid, fighting his personal demons,



continuing to be the star athlete with natural, raw talent and also dealing with the difficult journey of life. His unbreakable spirit is what people admire the most; enduring past road blocks, no matter how high the hurdle is in front of him.

Today, Stallworth is involved in various community activities, also donating his time to the Visalia Rescue Mission.

Two men who inspired Stallworth were Dan Xavier and Henry Ragland, Sr. Here is what he said in his own words:

"Both men acted as a father figure in my life. Dan was my personal trainer and coach, while Henry is my biological uncle. They encouraged me to do the right thing, make right choices, be responsible and Dan always told me in order to be #1 I had to practice like I was #2."



Onmenews.com

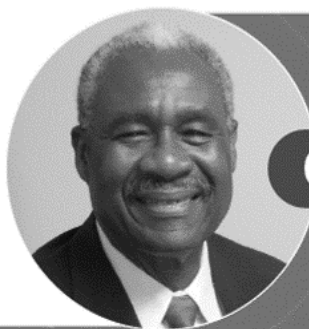


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Congratulating 2019 Trailblazers including:



TRAILBLAZER AWARD:

Charles Francis

Retired, Director of Herndon Campus

PASSING THE TORCH AWARD:

Marie Byrd-Harris

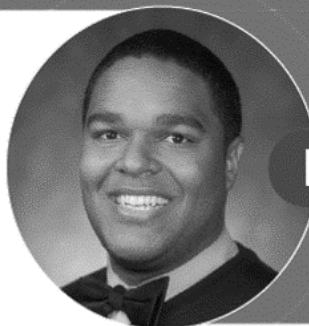
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Eric Payne

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Passing the Torch Award

2019 Award Recipient Marie Harris

The Passing of the Torch Award recognizes such dedicated, youthful individuals who are community leaders in their own fields of study, advocates for justice, and are movers and shakers ages 21- 45 amongst their peers and larger community. This award encourages young leaders toward progress, hope and dedication to their communities, no matter how hurdled the path may seem.



Marie Harris is currently the Dean of Instruction for Math, Sciences, Engineering and Health Sciences at Reedley College, and has supervised staff to plan, organize, and implement college and financial aid educational outreach, instructional activities, and cultural activities.

She has served on various State Center Community College District committees. She was the co-founder of the Reedley College Latino Faculty & Staff Association and Black Faculty & Staff Association and assisted in creating a Mentoring for Success Program for students of color.

Before coming to Reedley College, she worked in the private consulting industry where she has an extensive business background including project management, non-profit management, grants management, workforce and community development, economic and business development, communications, and marketing experience.

Harris is actively involved in supporting nonprofit organizations, schools and contributing to the minority community and females through her mentorship and grant writing experience. She holds a Master's of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix; Bachelor of Arts in Communications, minor English, emphasis in Journalism from CSU, Bakersfield and an Associate of Arts in Liberal Studies from Reedley College.



Jesse McDonald Jr. Community Award

2019 Award Recipient Eric Payne

The ***Jesse McDonald Jr. Community Dedication Award*** was created based on the co-founder of the African American Historical & Cultural Museum of the San Joaquin Valley Jesse McDonald Jr.; he was a dedicated community leader who participated in numerous civil rights activities throughout his young adult life and until his later years.



Eric S. Payne is a Fresno, CA native who serves as Executive Director of The Central Valley Urban Institute. He was elected in 2012 to the State Center Community College District Board of Trustees making him

America's Youngest Elected Community College Trustee. He brings a hard-working, problem-solving spirit with a commitment of ensuring student success, access, and equity. Mr. Payne serves on the Board of Directors of the Community College League Of California that embodies over 100 Community Colleges from across the state of California and Serves on the National Association of Community College Trustees. Mr. Payne has been featured in national publications like Black Enterprise Magazine as one of the Country's "100 Men of Distinction". He is also the Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce recipient of the "Champion of the Chamber" Award for his legislative advocacy for small business owners. He is a technical expert for the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies a White House Think Tank. He is an active member of Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, The West Fresno Community Development Corporation, Valley Cultural Arts Coalition, NAACP, and the United Negro College Fund (UNCF). He is an Author and Political Commentator for KSEE 24 "Sunday Morning Matters" and He loves spending time with his family.



Master of Ceremonies



Anthony T. Bailey, II

Anthony T. Bailey, II is a Hoover High School graduate who received his associate of arts degree in broadcast communications from Chabot College, studied telecommunications & film at Eastern Michigan University and specialized in meteorology at Penn State University is currently the morning weather anchor for CBS47. He served as the anchor, investigative reporter, and weather forecaster for Eyewitness News KBAK/KBFX (CBS/FOX) in Bakersfield, CA from 2008 to 2014.

Bailey is a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi, fraternity and is involved in various community events and charities throughout the Central Valley.



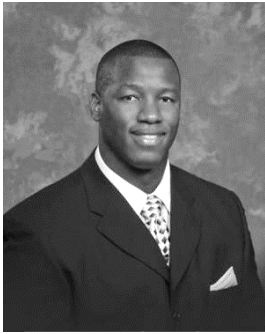
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Presenter



Councilman Carlton Jones

Born in Tulare, CA and raised by his grandmother, City of Tulare Councilman Carlton Jones attended Tulare Western High School. His college education includes College of the Sequoias, Fresno City College and Sacramento State University where he earned a scholarship in track & field.

Councilman Jones has a passion for coaching and mentoring youth; he helped start the Tulare Youth Athletic Association along with Derek Burrell, Ira Porsche, Brian Martino and Joe Espinoza. TYAA has become one of the premiere youth sport organizations in the Central Valley.

Councilman Jones is a proud sponsor of the Tulare Athletic Boxing Club, Boxers for Christ, and the Boys & Girls Club. While fighting MAA, he donated half of every dollar he earned back to his boxing club.

Councilman Jones is a proud supporter of Grandma's House, an after-school touring program in Tulare California started by his first grade teacher. In 2013, Councilman Jones helped Grandma's house raise over \$80,000 to renovate the building.

Councilman Jones, married to wife Cindi Jones, has four handsome boys, four beautiful girls and a host of honorary kids.

Councilman Jones is also currently employed with the City of Fresno Fire Department where he has worked since 2002 as a firefighter. He has also worked as a recruiter, fire investigator and is now a hazmat specialist & engineer.

He began a political endeavor in 2004 when he was elected to the Tulare City Council, making him the 1st Black male council member in the history of Tulare, CA. During his first four years on city council, and in 2012, he was re-elected to Tulare City Council.

In 2013 Councilman Jones was voted by council as the Vice Mayor of the City of Tulare. In 2016 he became the first African-American mayor of the City of Tulare; he who would be the first minority in this position in Tulare, CA's 128-year history.



Presenter



Captain Mark Salazar

Captain Mark Salazar of the Southwest Fresno Police District was born and raised in East Bakersfield, California. He attended Fresno State and graduated with a bachelor's degree in criminology and later received a master's degree in business. Captain Salazar has been a Command Staff Officer for the past 13 years. His first

assignment as a staff officer was creating the CrimeView Bureau, he then went on to serve seven years as the Homicide/Robbery Commander, the Southeast District Commander and currently is the Southwest District Commander. Over the years, he has been instrumental in developing crime strategies that have led to significant crime reductions in the assignments he has held. For example, when Captain Salazar came to Southwest in July of 2016, SW was averaging a shooting a day. Captain Salazar and his team implemented strategies that significantly decreased year after year from 171 in 2016, 144 in 2017, and 92 shootings last year in 2018. Last year, Southwest had a -19% reduction in total violent crime, which led the City of Fresno, and homicides were decreased by -53%.

As a captain, community engagement has been a priority as he and his staff work around-the-clock to enhance trust that according to Chief Jerry Dyer is at a level never seen before in Southwest Fresno. The Southwest Police District is known in the community for engaging youth. Southwest officers mentor the WFFRC "Sweet Potato" program, they mentor youth at every Southwest Fresno community center from Sunset to Bigby to Fink White to the West Boys and Girls Clubs. Southwest also mentors at every Southwest Fresno elementary school where Captain Salazar has mentored at Columbia. One of the mottos for the Southwest Fresno Police District is "the kids know our name and we know theirs."

A philosophy that has guided Captain Salazar for the past 13 years has been "the kid that lives in the 400 block of West Strother should feel safe as the kid that lives at Chaplain and Perrin."





Presenter



Board Trustee Kimberly Tapscott-Munson

Fresno County Office of Education Area 1 Board Trustee, Kimberly Tapscott-Munson, grew up in the Bay Area, and visited Fresno, CA. during the summers and holiday vacations, eventually moving her family to the Central Valley.

Tapscott-Munson's parents Ben James Tapscott, Jr. and Patti Walker-Cheek were

of a great influence in her life, as well as also being raised under the loving touch of Betty Kennedy-Tapscott, her second mother, and by the constant positive influence of Dr. Donald K. Cheek.

Kimberly was employed by the Law Office of Garv Mostenbocker, Guarantee Financial Real Estate, PG&E and then Fresno Unified School District, where she was employed for 20 years as a School Librarian.

Tapscott-Munson has resided in Fresno, CA for the past 27 years and has had a great love, care and concern for her community.

Elected in 2018, Tapscott-Munson currently serves as the first woman of color on the Fresno County Board of Education.



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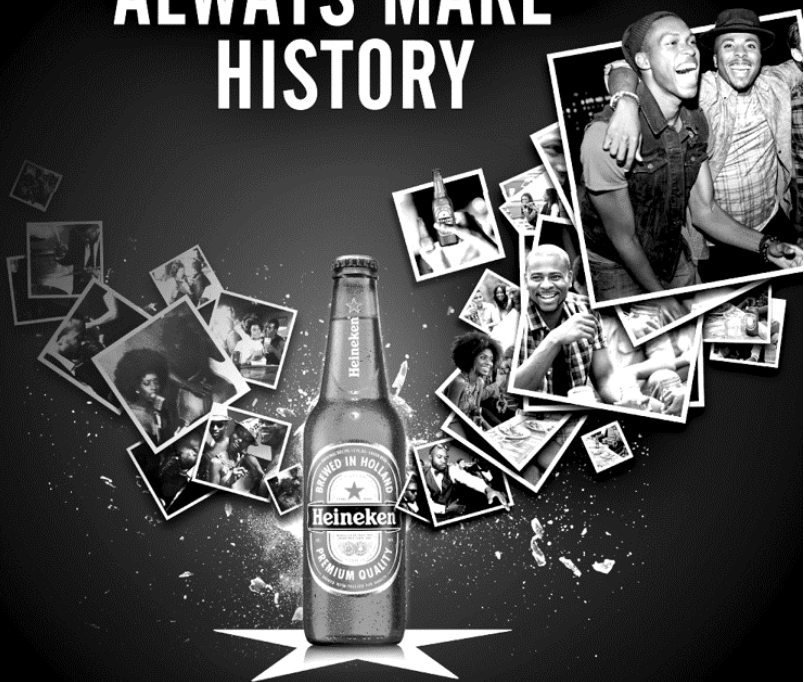
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Entertainment

The Band: *Al Turner & Friends*



Charles A Turner born in 1955, is the eighth of 13 children to parents Archie and Lola Turner in Detroit Michigan. He started singing and performing at age 5 with his siblings, "The Turner Brothers," a gospel Quintet.

By age 14, Charles started his own band, "Cat Turner and The Dynamic Intellectuals," performing primarily in the southern states where his family had relocated to Tennessee. After graduating high school in 1973, he attended and graduated from Tennessee State University and Meharry Medical Colleges in Nashville, Tennessee.

In late 1981 he entered into a partnership with a former employer and started a business. Twelve years into the business, he purchased his partner's interest and remained in business until 1994.

All along the way, he has always performed and played music from Papa Bear & Co. for 25+ years and various other bands in addition to his own, "Al Turner and Friends."

He continually performs weekly for numerous occasions including some 15+ assisted living and memory care organizations throughout the Valley.

Charles is married with three children and five grandchildren.



Dream. Learn. Earn.



Martin Luther King Jr. led a march on June 1, 1964, through the Fresno City College campus to Ratcliffe Stadium, where he spoke to a rally in support of the 1963 Rumford Fair Housing Act.

Celebrating the 2019 Trailblazers

www.fresnocitycollege.edu



Save the Date

Red Tails Exhibit

February 2019

Women's Herstory Exhibit

March 7, 2019 @ 5:30 PM

Afro-Awards

March 23, 2019 @ 11:00 AM

Western Sierra Charter Schools Exhibit

April -May 2019

Black Dollar Days

May 4th - June 8th

Jazz & Blues Exhibit

June 2019

Jazz & Blues Celebration

June 15, 2019 @ 7:00 PM

Founder's Day & Membership Drive

September 2019

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2019 Trailblazer

'Mrs. Estelle Dailey'





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The 2018 Board of Directors



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(San Jose , CA)

Macv's

Peachy Canyon Winery

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Leydig



Happy 2019 Black History Month!

*Congratulations to the 2019 Trailblazers and
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*Thank you for all the great work that you do for our
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--Congressman Jim Costa



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About the Trailblazer Award

Each year a Trailblazer committee meets once a month starting in June to analyze potential submitted names, making sure they fit the criteria for the Trailblazer profile: 68 years of age plus, (or at least 3 years shy of that age), are a Central Valley native or have resided in the Central Valley for 15 years or more, is an African-American first, doing something in his/her line of work, field or community, or is an African-American who is noted as the only person who accomplished something in a particular field or community; is an African-American who is outstanding in his/her field or community, or is an absolute outstanding exception to the rule and is completely committed to the plight of the Black community.

Community members are able to submit names of African-Americans from the San Joaquin Valley to be recognized who fit the criteria before August 31st.)



Congratulations!

2019 Trailblazers

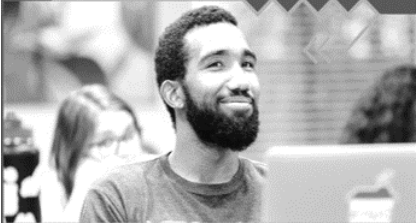
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Award Nominee Criteria



1. An African-American who is the first at doing something in his/her line of work, field or community.
2. An African-American who is noted as the only person who accomplished something or in a particular field or community.
3. An African-American who is outstanding in his/her field or community.
4. Age range of 68+ (and/or 3 years shy of)

Passing the Torch Award Criteria

1. This person is outstanding in community service and displays leadership to the organizations he/she belongs to, as well as an inspirational role model for others.
2. This person is also noted in his/her profession, going above and beyond one's job duties.
3. From age ranges of 25 to early 40s'

Jesse McDonald, Jr. Community Award Criteria

1. This person is involved in numerous activities throughout the community; he or she is the noticeable change agent making a difference in the community as a whole.
2. This person is a leader, peacemaker and known to be a community liaison, working with everyone; this person tries to clear paths of conflicts and encourage working relationships.

There is no age range for this award.

Trailblazer 2020 Submission Deadlines: Nominations are open from March 1 st to August 31 st.

(Please see nomination form on the next page.)



Nomination Process

Please submit 200 word-bio and a non-returnable picture with contact information of the nominee.

Nomination Quick Form—(for suggested nominees only; we appreciate your input)

Name of nominator:

Phone number of nominator:

Your Email:

Nominating Award:

Name of nominee:

Nominee's Age:

Phone number of nominee:

Email:

Address:

Profession:

Tell us how this person has helped the community:

***Congratulations to the winners
of the 2018 Xmas Tree Exhibit
at the African-American Museum***

Community's Choice Award:

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Iota Omicron Omega



AAHCMSJV Board of Dir. Xmas Tree Exhibit Award:

Fresno State





The Black National Hymn

Lift Every Voice & Sing

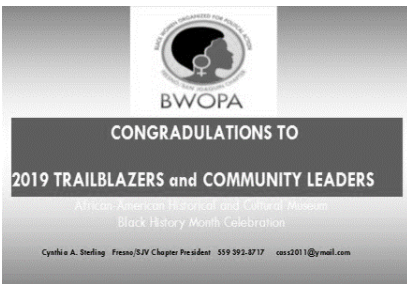
Song by J. Rosamond Johnson and James Weldon Johnson

Lift every voice and sing
 Till 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 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 till victory is won.



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BOLD

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*Tranice Warner, 2016
Trustee Emeritus
Peter Mehas Scholar*

What makes our Valley such a powerful learning ground for student success is the diversity we celebrate at Fresno State.

In every voice we hear opportunity—the kind that equips students to transform communities and empowers them to become the next generation of leaders in an increasingly complex world. Along the way, the most unique student needs are met with equity and innovation.

That opportunity begins when nearly 70 percent of our students are first in their family to attend college, and 80 percent receive valuable grants and scholarships ... so nothing holds them back.

For more on how our students' success is growing, go to fresnostate.edu/bold

Where **BOLD** begins.

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