

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2021 AT YOUTH CROSSROADS, INC.

Today, I am paying homage to the amazing **Kimberlé Crenshaw**. She is the executive director and co-founder of The African American Policy Forum. She is known for her coined terms: intersectionality, critical race theory, and the **#SayHerName hashtag**. Kimberle Crenshaw works to shine light on the violence and discrimination African American women/girls face. I highly recommend watching her very moving TED Talk (linked below) where she explains intersectionality and the importance of the #SayHerName hashtag, which can be used BY anyone but only FOR African American women/girls.

https://www.ted.com/talks/kimberle_crenshaw_the_urgency_of_intersectionality

Lyric J.

Today, I'd like to honor **Michele Clark** and her family. She is a national hero with local roots. AND... she is proudly displayed on our "Have Dreams" Mural out front of YC.

Both Cicero and Berwyn have extensive anti-black racist histories. Both were former sundown towns ([Sundown town - Wikipedia](#)). This is something that, to my knowledge, no elected official has ever publicly apologized for. Cicero was often referred to as "The Selma of the North." "Cicero residents reacted so violently to threats of integration that officials told Martin Luther King, Jr.'s supporters that marching there would be a suicide mission." <https://www.thisamericanlife.org/179/cicero>

In comes Michele Clark's family.

"On the evening of July 11, 1951, one of the biggest riots in U.S. history began after a young Black couple moved into an apartment in all-white Cicero, Illinois, west of Chicago. The Illinois Governor, Adlai Stevenson, had to call in the National Guard for the first time since the [1919 race riots in Chicago](#). It took more than 600 guardsmen, police officers and sheriff's deputies to beat back the mob that night. It took three more days for the rioting over the Clarks to subside."

<https://www.zinnedproject.org/news/tdih/cicero-riot>

"In July of 1972 Michele Clark became a [CBS News](#) correspondent. Clark investigated the [Watergate Scandal](#). This included interviewing [Dorothy Hunt](#), the wife of [E. Howard Hunt](#), one of those who was about to go on trial for his role in Watergate. According to [Sherman Skolnick](#), Clark was working on a story on the Watergate case: "Ms Clark had lots of insight into the bugging and cover-up through her boyfriend, a CIA operative."

At age 29, Michele Clark died in a plane crash at Midway Airport.

Joel W



The Three-Light Traffic Light, Invented by Garrett Morgan in 1923

"With only an elementary school education, Black inventor (and son of an enslaved parent), [Garrett Morgan](#) came up with several significant inventions, including an improved sewing machine and the gas mask. However, one of Morgan's most influential inventions was the improved traffic light. Without his innovation, drivers across the nation would be directed by a two-light system.

Thanks to the successes of his other inventions, Morgan became the first Black person in Cleveland, Ohio to own a car. As a motorist, he witnessed a severe car accident at an intersection in the city. In response, he decided to expand on the current traffic light by adding a "yield" component, warning oncoming drivers of an impending stop. He took out the [patent for the creation in 1923](#), and it was granted to him the following year."

As I read more about how the world treated Garrett, it made me furious but also so thankful for his persistence and creativity in getting his inventions to the public. (for more info about this click on this [link](#)). Jackie W

This morning I am honoring **Fannie Lou Hamer**. She was a feminist, community organizer, and civil rights activist at the height of the civil rights movement. A co-founder of the Freedom Democratic Party, one of her most notable speeches was at the Democratic National Convention (1964) where she declared the famous quote, "***I am sick and tired of being sick and tired.***" This event ended up being one of the most pivotal moments of the Civil Rights Movement. She was most widely known for her voter empowerment.

Born to sharecropper parents after the abolition of slavery, Fannie Lou Hamer was raised experiencing the injustice that came from lack of land ownership and voter representation. She was also a victim of forced sterilization after going into the hospital for a minor procedure and realizing that a hysterectomy had been performed on her instead. This violation was such common practice against Black women in the 1960s that it was given the name the "Mississippi Appendectomy".

I think that Fannie Lou Hamer's work stands today as an example for all people that despite all of the ageism, racism, ableism, and sexism that exists in this world, it's never the wrong time to stand up to racial injustice. I attached a short video that further highlights the work that Hamer had done throughout her life.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=stcFWVAeaFE>

Kathryn M

Black History Month Homage to Historically Black Colleges and Universities

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) have been a part of American history for over 180 years. The Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended defines an HBCU as:

“any historically black college or university that was established prior to 1964, whose principal mission was, and is, the education of Black Americans, and that is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association determined by the Secretary of Education.”

List of HBCUs by State | HBCU List | HBCU Lifestyle <https://hbculifestyle.com/list-of-hbcu-schools/>

The first HBCU established was Cheyney University of Pennsylvania in 1837. After the civil war, HBCUs began to emerge to provide black Americans access to education. The founding principal of the HBCUs is to give educational opportunities to disenfranchised African Americans in the United States, who were otherwise prohibited from attending most colleges. Jump to present day, there are currently 107 HBCU's in the United States. None are located in Illinois. There is a long list of many notable African Americans who have attended HCBUs such, as W.E.B. Dubois, Ida B. Wells, Martin Luther King Jr., to current Vice President Kamala Harris.

HBCU History Timeline - HBCU First <https://hbcufirst.com/hbcu-history-timeline>

In 2019 **Beyoncé** debuted her Netflix documentary, “Homecoming”. In this documentary concert, Beyoncé’s 2018 Coachella show is where she was the first African-American woman to headline the festival. She incorporated the HBCU culture in her epic performance. She highlighted the HBCU culture, experience, and history in various ways, such as incorporating the black Greek fraternities and sororities, orchestras, marching bands, drum lines, dancers and through her wardrobe. She sings the black national anthem, a poem by James Weldon Johnson. She invited many talented HCBU college students to perform as well.

Beyoncé pays tribute to the HCBU culture by honoring a myriad of high profile African-American thinkers, writers and activists of the 20th century in her documentary, all who have attended HBCUs.

<https://time.com/5572221/beyonce-homecoming-documentary-history/?amp=true>

“Beyoncé schools her audience on the beauty of black culture, but also on the importance of preserving and encouraging the legacy of historically black colleges and universities, which she stresses throughout the film”...
(<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/17/movies/beyonce-homecoming-review.html>)

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=fB8qvx0HOII&feature=youtu.be> Great film!

Claudia C

To represent my coverage of Black History Month, I am a huge movie and show fanatic, so I chose award-winning actress **Viola Davis**.

Besides winning multiple awards and being the first black actress to win an Emmy for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series, Davis has expressed her struggles living in poverty and experiencing immense trauma in her past, specifically sexual assault.

I admire her being a vocal advocate for the Rape Foundation, a treatment center in California that supports victims of rape, sexual assault, and other forms of sexual abuse. The Rape Foundation also offers prevention education to local middle schools, high school, and colleges. On top of education for students, the program also offers education and training for police officers and first responders in the local area as well. In 2016, Davis was honored for her work and leadership toward helping victims in the program. I admire her sharing her story and being able to help others that have experienced the same trauma.

Davis also became an advocate for childhood hunger and led a campaign called “Hungry for More” and was able to have about 2,300 grocery stores open throughout the US for struggling cities in the US. Davis has also experienced being hungry as a child.

On top of her extraordinary work, Davis is co-president and CEO of JuVee Productions, a company in Los Angeles that produces independent films, theater, and movies based on narratives about race, gender, and politics. They provide opportunities for artists in any generation that want to bring stories to the public that will deliver connection and captivation of the audience.

In multiple interviews, she would talk about how despite living in poverty and not having much, she still didn't want the way of living stop her from her dreams in theater. Davis talked about playing dress up with her sisters and putting on shows in her home no matter how terrible the conditions were at home.

Being someone who admires a woman that exhibits good role models and leadership, I appreciate her authenticity and rawness. Even though she is known for her acting, I appreciate how she states in her interviews that she wants to be known for her constant advocacy and leadership in these foundations.

The first video is showing Viola winning her Emmy as an Outstanding Lead Actress in her show *How to Get Away with Murder*. As the first black actress to win this award, her speech was extremely liberating and moving. I'll admit I got goosebumps and teared up a little.

[Viola Davis Gives Powerful Speech About Diversity and Opportunity | Emmys 2015 – YouTube](#)

The second video is Viola making a speech at the Women's March in 2018, just a part of her speech. She expresses how women of color that have been raped before the age of 18 will have about 60% chance of it happening to them again. She expresses how important women's voices are to change society and laws surrounding women. When I watched this, I also had goosebumps and gave me so much awareness.

[Viola Davis speaks at Women's March – YouTube](#)

Natalia D



Today I would like to pay tribute to **Shirley Chisholm** (1924-2005). Shirley is one of the many hidden figures of black Americans who should be recognized for their outstanding accomplishments.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Shirley was the oldest of four with immigrant parents who came from Guyana and Barbados. During her school time, Shirley graduated high school and college as a cum laude in 1946. She was part of a debate team and was encouraged by professors to pursue a political career. However, Shirley knew that she faced a “double handicap” due to being black and woman.

Throughout her life, Shirley earned her master’s degree in childhood education and would eventually begin joining local political movements. Shirley was a part of the League of Women Voters, NAACP, Urban League, and the Democratic Party Club.

In 1968, Shirley won a seat in Congress and became the first African American woman to hold a seat in Congress. She became the first African American woman to be nominated within a political party - the House of Representatives. Shirley served seven terms and advocated for women and minorities. During her seven terms, Shirley introduced over 50 pieces of legislation, fought for racial and gender equality, fought for the poor, and ending the Vietnam War.

Shirley is also known for her “Chisholm’s Trail” as she took legal action when she was blocked from participating in televised primary debates. In the end, she was only allowed one speech where she received 152 delegate votes.

Shirley Chisholm’s legacy: “I want to be remembered as a woman ... who dared to be a catalyst of change.”

Debra Michals, PhD. (2015). *Shirley Chisholm*. National Women’s History Museum.
<https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/shirley-chisholm>

Kimberly F

In honor of Black History Month, I would like to highlight an important event that happened “On this day,” February 12th, 1909, the establishment of The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (**NAACP**).



NAACP headquarters, 69 Fifth Avenue, New York City, 1936

The **NAACP** is America's oldest and largest civil rights organization. It was founded in response to the ongoing violence against Black people around the country and has worked to achieve its goals through the judicial system, lobbying and peaceful protests.

Notable founding members included white progressives Mary White Ovington, Henry Moskowitz, William English Walling and Oswald Garrison Villard, along with such African Americans as W.E.B. Du Bois, Ida Wells-Barnett, Archibald Grimke and Mary Church Terrell.

Notable movements include the Niagara Movement, a civil rights group started in 1905 and led by W.E.B. Du Bois, a sociologist and writer.

The NAACP played a pivotal role in the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. One of the organization's key victories was the U.S. Supreme Court's 1954 decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* that outlawed segregation in public schools.

For additional information about this organization visit their website: <https://naACP.org>

Also, check out these other sources:

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.history.com/.amp/topics/civil-rights-movement/naACP>

<https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/national-association-advancement-colored-people-and-long-struggle-civil-rights-united-s/>

Norma G

Today, I'd like to recognize **Dr. Fania Davis, PhD, JD.**



Dr. Davis is a key figure in the **restorative justice movement**, focusing on topics including breaking the school to prison pipeline. Dr. Davis challenges society to rethink the way we look at and practice justice. Dr. Davis has played a prominent role in social justice advocacy, has served as a civil rights attorney, and has worked as both a university and law school professor and writer.

Dr. Davis dedicated her life to "social transformation" after the loss of two close friends during the 1963 Sunday School Bombing. Dr. Davis has advocated for civil rights, Black liberation, women's rights, inmates' rights, peace, anti-racial violence movements, and anti-apartheid movements. Dr. Davis earned her JD from the University of California, Berkley, in 1979 and went on to earn a PhD in Indigenous Studies from the California Institute of Integral Studies in 2003. Dr. Davis is the founder and director of Restorative Justice of Oakland Youth (RJOY).

More information about Dr. Davis, including biographical information, testimonials, speeches, and media content, can be found here: <https://www.speakoutnow.org/speaker/davis-fania>

Here is a short YouTube video of Dr. Davis explaining her definition of justice.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PE6B1N_rC8&feature=youtu.be

Natalie P

I have always had interest in the legal field and witnessed many disparities during the time that I worked at the courthouse. I became very familiar with the racial disparities, educational disadvantages, including learning disabilities such as cognitive impairments, financial disparities and language barriers that were potential factors that led defendants to plead guilty.

So today, in memory of those years, I will highlight **Kimberly M. Foxx**, the very first African American woman to lead the second largest prosecutor's office in the country-the Cook County State's Attorney's Office.



Foxx was born in Chicago and was raised by her mother and grandmother in the Cabrini Green neighborhood. She is not ashamed of who she is and where she came from, nor ashamed of her experiences. She has shared that she often hid in her bathtub due the danger of repeated gunfire, was raped at the age of 5 by an older relative, and later raped at the age of 7 by two teenagers while walking home from school. At one point she lived at a Salvation Army homeless shelter and didn't have stability due to her mother living with untreated bipolar disorder.

Despite these experiences, and many more related to discrimination, she graduated with a Juris Doctorate (J.D.) from SIU School of Law and worked 12 years as an Assistant States Attorney, advocated for children in the child welfare system as guardian ad litem and addressed racial disparities in the juvenile justice system while working as the lead architect on the county's criminal justice reform agenda.

Although she admits it has not been easy, and has even received death threats, she continues to make changes to the culture of the States Attorney's Office. She is the "first and only prosecutor in the country to make felony case-level data available to the public"!! She successfully vacated multiple convictions stemming from evidence gathered from corrupt officers, has implemented a revision on bonds, especially those that are of a non-violent nature, and is leaving prosecutorial decisions to municipal authorities when failure to pay fines are the reason for suspension of a license. To her, the success of an attorney is not measured by the cases that are "won", but by transparency and doing what is right and honorable in each of those cases. In addition, she has mandated for more defendants to be directed to diversion programs where they have access to mental health services and substance abuse treatment. She makes it a point to highlight our ancestor's struggles that have paved the way and motivates our youth by speaking, and leading by example, on conquering adversities and attaining an education.

She's someone that has come out strengthened and determined by her experiences and is filled with a special mission/purpose. She continues to reform the Cook County Criminal Justice System by making it equitable and striving to regain trust. I am excited to follow how her vision for our system impacts all of us as we move forward.

For more on racial disparities in the Criminal Justice system visit: [The Sentencing Project](#)

Cynthia S



"Don't follow the path. Go where there is no path and begin the trail. When you start a new trail equipped with courage, strength and conviction, the only thing that can stop you is you!"

- Ruby Bridges

I think education is incredibly important and because of that I remembered **Ruby Bridges, who was the first Black child to enter an all-white school in New Orleans**, after the ruling of Brown v. the Board of Education of Topeka Kansas, which ended racial segregation in public schools. Ruby is incredible, she was only 6 years old when she paved the way for future children by attending William Frantz Elementary School.

Ruby and five other students had to take an exam to test their academics before even entering the all-white schools.

"Her parents were torn about whether to let her attend the all-white William Frantz Elementary School, a few blocks from their home. Her father resisted, fearing for his daughter's safety; her mother, however, wanted Ruby to have the educational opportunities that her parents had been denied. Meanwhile, the school district dragged its feet, delaying her admittance until November 14. Two of the other students decided not to leave their school at all; the other three were sent to the all-white McDonough Elementary School."

Her bravery is so amazing, for the first year she attended she and her mother had to be escorted by 4 Federal Marshalls every day.

"Ruby and her mother were escorted by four federal marshals to the school every day that year. She walked past crowds screaming vicious slurs at her. Undeterred, she later said she only became frightened when she saw a woman holding a black baby doll in a coffin. She spent her first day in the principal's office due to the chaos created as angry white parents pulled their children from school. Ardent segregationists withdrew their children permanently. Barbara Henry, a white Boston native, was the only teacher willing to accept Ruby, and all year, she was a class of one. Ruby ate lunch alone and sometimes played with her teacher at recess, but she never missed a day of school that year."

Ruby has written books, started a foundation, has a podcast, a group called Ruby's Room where she discusses books of inspiration, received the Carter G. Woodson Book Award and in 2000 was named an honorary deputy Marshall in Washington D.C.

"Bridges' bravery inspired the Norman Rockwell painting *The Problem We All Live With* (1963), which depicts the young Bridges walking to school between two sets of marshals, a racial epithet marking the wall behind them. Her story was also recounted in Cole's children's book *The Story of Ruby Bridges* (1995), which has his conversations with her as its foundation. In 1993 she began working as a parent liaison at Frantz, which had by that time become an all-Black school. Bridges also spoke about her youthful experiences to a variety of groups around the country. Her memoir, *Through My Eyes*, was released in 1999, the same year that she established the Ruby Bridges Foundation, which used educational initiatives to promote tolerance and unity among school children. In 2009 she published the children's book *Ruby Bridges Goes to School: My True Story*." A movie was also created in 1998 called Disney's *Ruby Bridges*, which depicts the events of the first year of school for her. (I believe it is on Disney Plus.)

In case you would like to read her books, she wrote:
(1999) Through My Eyes
(2009) Ruby Bridges Goes To School: My True Story
(2020) This Is Your Time

https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/ruby-bridges?gclid=Cj0KCQiA1KiBBhCcARIsAPWqoSrzuNmW8gqWPEMvpRISIsiOpXfv6gj5I5TTmM3732I3-11G2tp-LekaAkvGEALw_wcB

Yadira M

Today, I will introduce you to Mr. **Rubin "Hurricane" Carter**, born on the 6th of May 1937 in Clifton, NJ. Rubin had a rough youth, being sentenced to a juvenile reformatory at age 11 for having stabbed a man. In 1954 Carter escaped from the reformatory and joined the US Army, completing his basic training at Fort Jackson in South Carolina. After completion he was sent to West Germany (this is where his boxing adventures began).



Most of Rubin's youth was spent in prison. Shortly after returning home from being discharged, he was convicted and imprisoned until his release in 1961. The height of his boxing career was from 1963 to 1965, and at one point Carter was ranked the number five Middleweight.

Sad day on June 17, 1966, Rubin and his friend John Artis were arrested for a triple homicide committed in Paterson, New Jersey. Carter and Artis were initially interrogated for 17 hours, released and after a few weeks of release arrested again. In 1967 both were convicted of the triple homicide and sentenced to life in prison, all the while, Carter stating his innocence.

While in prison, Carter wrote his book *The Sixteenth Round: From Number 1 Contender to Number 45472*. "Originally published in 1974, this account is an eye-opening examination of growing up black in America, problems in the United States prison system, and Carter's own battles."

Carter received much support from celebrities such as Muhammad Ali, Roberta Flack and Bob Dylan, who went so far as co-writing a song declaring that Carter was innocent. Bob Dylan performed "Hurricane" in 1975 at a concert at Trenton State Prison.

In 1976 a new trial was held, but again the jury found Carter and Artis guilty of the murders. The sentences for Carter this time was double life in prison and for Artis, single life.

In 1985 a petition was filed for a writ of habeas corpus in federal court, in November of that same year Judge Haddon Lee Sarokin of the US District Court for the District of NJ granted the writ, stating that the prosecution had been "predicated upon an appeal to racism rather than reason, and concealment rather than disclosure". At age 48 Carter was a free man. Carter later on moved to Canada where he became a citizen of the country. From 1995 to 2003, Carter served as Executive Director of the Association in Defense of the Wrongly Convicted.

Rubin "Hurricane" Carter died on April 20, 2014 at the of 76 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Rubin's story is interesting to me because it shows that neither his popularity nor economic status mattered in these racially fueled times, but his sense for justice and the support that surrounded him prevailed, although it did take a ridiculous amount of time! 😞

Below are links to Carters book, Bob Dylan's song, preview to the Denzel Washington movie and the episodes of the Hurricane Tapes.

The Sixteenth Round: From Number 1 Contender to Number 45472 - 1974
<https://www.ebooks.com/en-us/book/776877/the-sixteenth-round/rubin-carter/>

Hurricane – Bob Dylan - 1975
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pm6xCwNKtnQ>

The Hurricane Tapes - 2019
<https://www.bbc.com/sport/boxing/47255771>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w13xttt6/episodes/player?page=2>

The Hurricane – Denzel Washington - 1999
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xLGdTaseMGM>

Although this may not have been a typical Black History write up, boxing to me is fascinating and I believe that they need some love too. My dad is the culprit for this as I grew up watching many boxing matches with him and bonded over long conversations afterwards.

Elida O



Today will serve as a double purpose, since it is Black History Month and American Heart Month, I will be highlighting Dr. Daniel Hale Williams. Born in 1856, he was the first Black cardiologist who performed the first successful open heart surgery.

Dr. Williams graduated from Chicago Medical College (now Northwestern University Medical School). Being bi-racial, he opened and founded a private practice which became the first interracial hospital, Provident Hospital and training school. He was the first Black physician admitted to the American College of Surgeons. His contributions and advocacy for African American presence in medicine made it possible for people like my dad to pursue a career in cardiology.

Briani S

Miles Davis gave birth to cool back in the day and is one of my true inspirations. He changed everything in the world of jazz and is perhaps the greatest jazz musician of all time. I'll let the music speak for itself. Click link below for "Kind of Blue" with Johnny (Train) Coltrane (another titan of jazz). Enjoy!!

Miles Davis

Trumpeter



Miles Dewey Davis III was an American trumpeter, bandleader, and composer. He is among the most influential and acclaimed figures in the history of jazz and 20th-century music. Davis adopted a variety of musical directions in a five-decade career that kept him at the forefront of many major stylistic developments in jazz.

[Miles Davis & John Coltrane - Kind of blue - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FEPFH-gz3wE)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FEPFH-gz3wE>

Dave T

Have you locked your door today? Today I would like to introduce everyone to **Mary Van Brittan Brown**. Marie Van Brittan Brown was the creator of the first home security system. She was also recognized for the invention of the first closed-circuit television. Marie was born in Queens, New York, on October 22, 1922, and resided there until her death on February 2, 1999, at age 76.

Mary devised a security system for her own home. She had various nights at home alone in Queens while her husband was away and felt unsafe with high rates of crime in her neighborhood. To make situations worse, police responsiveness was irregular and unreliable. So Mary designed a project that would help put her mind at ease.

Brown developed a way to use a camera that slid into and looked through four peepholes in her front door. The camera's view would then come up onto a monitor in her home so she could see any unwanted guests. She added other features to the system, including a microphone to speak to anyone at the door, a button to unlock the door, and a button to contact the police.

Below is the original blueprint of Mary Van Brittan Brown's original design.



Dr. Jemison went on to become a professor at Dartmouth University. She also started the Dorothy Jemison Foundation of Excellence and the Jemison Institute for Advancing Technology. Mae C. Jemison has earned several honorary doctorates and awards for her many contributions throughout her career. She continues to impact youth by encouraging them to get involved in science and technology. She has written a couple of children's books and started an international space camp for students ages 12-16.

More biographical information about Mae C. Jemison can be found here: <https://www.biography.com/astronaut/mae-c-jemison>
<https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/mae-jemison>

Also, here is a link to the different books published by Mae C. Jemison:
https://www.amazon.com/Books-Mae-Jemison/s?rh=n%3A283155%2Cp_27%3AMae+Jemison

Morgan E



Today I would LOVE to recognize one of my all-time favorite persons/bomb Woman, Chicago native, Ms. Shonda Lynn Rhimes. Ms. Rhimes is an award winning American producer, screenwriter, and author. She's best known as the creator, head writer, and executive producer of some of the best TV series such as: *Off The Map*, *Private Practice*, *Station 19*, *How to Get Away With Murder*, *Scandal*, *Bridgerton*, and my all-time fave *Grey's Anatomy*.. Just to name a few of Ms. Rhimes' amazing work.

As we tell our students in the YCA Program, February is Black History Month and, even though it is coming to an end, that does not mean learning about Black history and Black issue's comes to an end with it. We must acknowledge Black history and Black social issues ALL THE TIME. Oppression, racism, systemic racism, racially motivated police brutality, and injustices exist. READ, LISTEN & LEARN.

Katrina D
(more...)

Please read on for more information on Mr. Shonda Lynn Rhimes..

For her collective work on her various shows, Rhimes is the recipient of a Golden Globe for Outstanding Television Drama, Peabody Award, Television Producer of the Year by the Producers Guild of America, Writers Guild Award for Best New Series, GLAAD Media Award, as well as numerous AFI Awards for Television Program of the Year and an unprecedented 6 NAACP Image Awards for Writing for Outstanding Writing in a Dramatic Series plus 8 NAACP Image Awards for Outstanding Drama Series.

Rhimes has twice been included in TIME Magazine's 100 list of the most influential people along with Fortune Magazine's "50 Most Powerful Women in Business," and Glamour Magazine's "Women of the Year." In 2013, Rhimes was appointed by President Obama to serve as Trustee for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. In 2014, Rhimes, along with producing partner Betsy Beers, received the Directors Guild of America's prestigious Diversity Award.

Rhimes was additionally a 2014 recipient of the W. E. B. Du Bois Medal from Harvard and the Sherry Lansing Leadership Award from The Hollywood Reporter. In 2015, Rhimes was awarded the Paddy Chayefsky Laurel Award for Television Writing Achievement from the Writers Guild of America, West, as well as inducted into the National Association of Broadcasters Broadcasting Hall of Fame. She was additionally honored with the Ally for Equality Award from the Human Rights Council and was also bestowed the Eleanor Roosevelt Global Women's Rights Award from the Feminist Majority Foundation in recognition of her work in changing the face of media.

Aside from her success with network television, Rhimes wrote the feature film *Princess Diaries 2: A Royal Engagement* and *Crossroads*. She also co--wrote *Introducing Dorothy Dandridge*, produced by HBO and nominated for numerous awards, and for which Halle Berry won a Golden Globe and an Emmy for Best Actress in a miniseries for her portrayal of Dandridge. In 2004, Rhimes created her production company Shondaland.

In November of 2015, Rhimes released her first book, *Year of Yes* from Simon & Schuster which was instantly a New York Times bestseller. The book candidly chronicles her moving and humorous attempts to come out of her shell by saying "yes" to everything that scares her.

Rhimes holds a BA from Dartmouth College in English Literature with Creative Writing. She received her MFA from the USC School of Cinema--Television. In 2014, Rhimes received an honorary PhD from USC as well as from Dartmouth where she was proud to deliver the commencement address.

The child of educators, Rhimes blames her parents for her rampant addiction to books. The youngest of six, she was born and raised outside of Chicago, IL, and now resides in Los Angeles with her three daughters.