

BULLETIN

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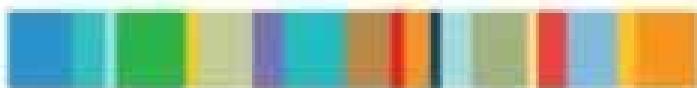
VOLUME 51 - NUMBER 5

E-MAIL: HGIII@comcast.net

WEEK OF AUGUST 2, 2021

The BULLETIN Congratulates "Tony" Smith!

Chicago United



Chicago United (CU) is pleased to announce the 2021 Business Leaders of Color (BLC), a group of 50 diverse and talented executives of color who are ready to step into corporate board directorships. All 50 honorees will be honored at this year's Bridge Awards Dinner on November 18. Congratulations to all!

Business Leaders of **COLOR**

Chicago United 2021



**Thurman "Tony"
Smith**

Senior Vice President,
Community Development
Banking - Market Manager
PNC Bank

Community Calendar

Do you have an announcement that you would like placed in our weekly Community Calendar of events? Send them in to us at:

HGIII@comcast.net

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:

August 5th, Christine Burden; August 6th, Betty J. Jones; August 7th, Sharon Pincham; August 11th, Aya Woods; August 17th, Oscar Shelton Buford; August 19th, Anthony Strickland, Jr.; August 20th, Makari McCray; August 21st, Mozella Renfro Sigur; August 22nd, Terry Ross; August 23rd, Becky Wright and Julian Goff-Buford; August 24th, Roscoe Dixon; August 25th, Doris Colon; August 26th, Ruby J. Scott; August 28th, Hezekyah Israel Rawlings; August 29th, Yeremyah Israel Rawlings Matthews and Armando Rivas; August 31st, Joy Sigur-Ramza...

"YOUR BLACK HISTORY"

(See Page 6)

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"You can only become accomplished at something you love. Don't make money your goal. Instead, pursue the things you love doing and then do them so well that people can't take their eyes off you." – Maya Angelou

CLASSIC POETRY CORNER

SOUTHERN MANSION

© by Arna Bontemps

Poplars are standing there
still as death
And ghosts of dead men
Meet their ladies walking
Two by two beneath the shade
And standing on the marble steps.



There is a sound of music echoing
Through the open door
And in the field there is
Another sound tinkling in the cotton:
Chains of bondmen dragging on the ground.

The years go back with an iron clank,
A hand is on the gate,
A dry leaf trembles on the wall.
Ghosts are walking.
They have broken roses down
And poplars stand there still as death.

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New Leaf Illinois Leads Advocates, Legal Aid Clinics in Mid-Summer Push to Expunge Cannabis Convictions

A mid-summer push to expunge cannabis convictions is under way with **New Leaf Illinois** – a program through the Illinois **Equal Justice Foundation (IEJF)** – leading the charge. During the coalition-led Juneteenth Illinois series of events in June, and in ongoing partnership with the County, New Leaf presented opportunities to expunge convictions through their free legal aid clinics. The New Leaf program works to overturn unjust cannabis convictions disproportionately impacting Black and Latino communities.

“Expungement for those with cannabis records can clear pathways that were previously blocked,” said **Cook County Commissioner Dennis Deer**, who also convened the Juneteenth Illinois program. “We need to continue to actively support individuals who have been unfairly punished by past convictions, and one way to do that is to refer them to critical resources like New Leaf,” he told the BULLETIN.

As Illinois continues to open up and as more jobs become available under the American Rescue Plan, New Leaf has focused on cannabis expungement as one pathway toward an equitable recovery from the pandemic. There are an estimated 71,000 criminal records on file that could qualify for expungement.

However, just a little over 1,000 people have cleared their record so far, which is why organizations and officials continue to do outreach about expungement. Clearing these records can position impacted individuals to rejoin the workforce, apply for housing, pursue higher education and more.

“Communities of color have borne the impact of the discriminatory enforcement of the four-decade long war on drugs,” said Gray Mateo-Harris, IEJF board member and partner at Fox Rothschild LLP. “While people of all races illegally grew, smoked and sold marijuana, it was Black and Brown people who were much more likely to be arrested and incarcerated for it.”

New Leaf Illinois is an alliance of 20 organizations that provide free legal and advisory services to help people wipe clean their cannabis convictions. The new resource was made possible by specific funding requirements of the 2019 Illinois cannabis legalization law. In addition, Cook County created a **Cannabis Commission** around expungement.

“I created the **Cook County Cannabis Commission** to breathe life into the State’s new recreational cannabis law which was passed in 2019,” said **Cook County Commissioner Bill Lowry**. “With my Commission, we are working with 25-30 Subject Matter Experts, as we focus on ensuring that Social Equity Applicants are truly at the table, while also striving to help bring cannabis related businesses to the disproportionately impacted areas of Cook County.”

New Leaf Illinois helps people determine their eligibility for relief through an easy-to-use online portal at www.newleafillinois.org and via phone at **(855)963-9532**. Legal aid organizations within the New Leaf Illinois network provide free services in every region in Illinois. *(See related article on page 4)*



Shifting Scenes...

Illinois revisits cannabis laws to provide more licenses to minority applicants

SPRINGFIELD - Illinois has created new marijuana dispensary licenses for social equity applicants because of a new law sponsored by **Senate Majority Leader Kimberly A. Lightford (D-Maywood)** that was signed into law on **July 15th**.

"The signing of **HB 1443** moves us closer to making the promise of equity in cannabis a reality in a state where the entire existing industry is White. I was proud to partner with State Representative LaShawn Ford in passing **HB 1443** which is the result of dozens of meetings with stakeholders and applicants who demanded that their voices be heard," Senator Lightford told the BULLETIN, explaining: "This industry has the potential to change lives but only if we keep the principles of equity at the center of every decision we make. The signing of this legislation brings us one step closer to making these promises a reality."



The new law fixes Illinois' recreational cannabis regulations to ensure that licenses for minority applicants that have been delayed since May 1, 2020, are awarded. It also expands the total number of licenses available. There are still no dispensaries controlled by someone who is Black, Brown, or a woman.

The law creates two additional lotteries of 110 adult use license dispensaries for people who are social equity applicants. The second lottery will consist of 55 licenses and is open to all applicants with a score of 85% of a total of 250 points and is a social equity applicant.

The third additional lottery would also consist of 55 licenses and would be for applicants with a score of 85% of a total of 250 points and who also meet the definition of "Social Equity Justice Involved" status. To qualify, applicants would have to meet the following requirements:

* **51% ownership by one or more individuals who have resided in a disproportionately impacted area for five out of the last 10 years**

* **51% ownership by one or more individuals who have been arrested, convicted, or adjudicated delinquent for cannabis offenses or had a close family member (parent, child, spouse) with a cannabis offense.**

Applicants would only be able to be awarded up to two licenses. To also ensure that these new Black and Brown-owned businesses are able to find spaces in high value areas, the law allows social equity applicants' businesses to be as close as within 1,500 feet of an existing dispensary.

Applicants do not need to submit a new application or pay new application fees and will be automatically entered into the new lotteries, which will be required to be completed within 10 days after the release of final scores of all the cannabis dispensary applications.

"There is a demand for these businesses, but they have to be given the opportunity to be located in high traffic locations," Lightford concluded, adding: "I cannot wait to see Black majority owners be successful in Illinois."

HB 1443 will become effective immediately.

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A NEW BULLETIN FEATURE:
"DO YOU KNOW YOUR BLACK HISTORY?"

Five Fascinating Facts About Black History Month!

© by Michael Charles

February is Black History Month, a great opportunity to celebrate African Americans' many achievements throughout U.S. history. Since 1976, this annual celebration has recognized the contributions of black Americans to our country. Here are five important things to know about this meaningful commemoration:

It Started as a Week

In 1915, Harvard-educated historian Carter G. Woodson and minister Jesse Moorland founded what's now known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. That organization established Negro History Week in 1926, which strived to inspire schools and communities to organize local celebrations and host performances and lectures.

Carter G. Woodson: The Father of Black History

Woodson was tireless in his lobbying to establish Negro History Week as a program to encourage the study of African-American history. He dedicated his career to the subject and wrote many books on the topic. His most famous volume is *The Mis-Education of the Negro* (1933), which has become required reading at numerous colleges and universities.

February Was Chosen for a Reason

Negro History Week was the second week of February. Why? To coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. President Lincoln, of course, was the 16th U.S. president and paved the way for the abolition of slavery with his Emancipation Proclamation. Douglass was an escaped slave turned activist and author, and a prominent leader in the abolitionist movement to end slavery.

A Week Becomes a Month

The civil rights movement of the 1960s helped elevate Negro History Week to national prominence...and turn it into a month-long celebration. As a result, in 1976, President Gerald Ford made things official, proclaiming February to be Black History Month.

Honoring African-American Men and Women

You don't have to look far to notice the many impressive achievements of black men and women in the fields of science, politics, law, sports, entertainment, and many others, including:

Harriet Tubman – Underground Railroad "Conductor," Civil Rights Activist

Alice Ball – Chemist

Josephine Baker – Singer, Dancer, Civil Rights Activist

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – Baptist Minister and Social Activist

Rosa Parks – Civil Rights Activist

Mary Jackson – Scientist, Mathematician, NASA's First Black Female Engineer

Maya Angelou – Civil Rights Activist, Author, Poet

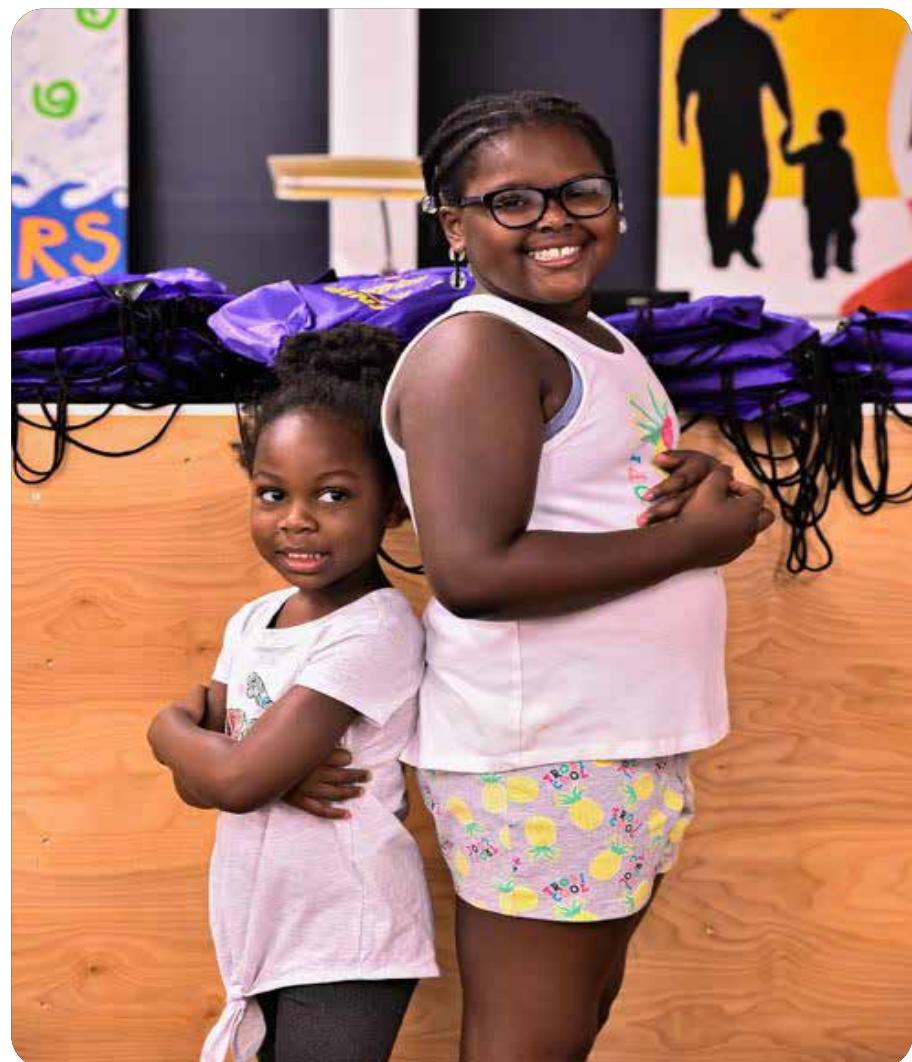
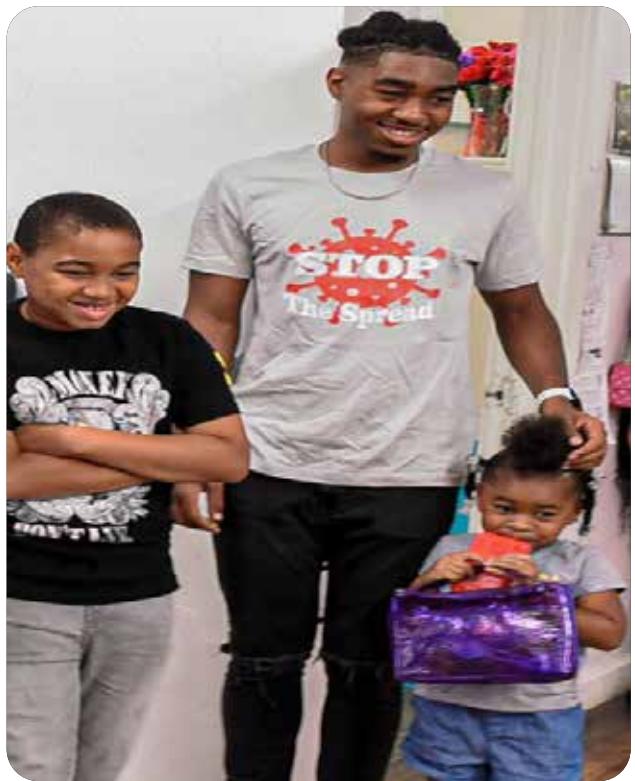
Joycelyn Elders – First African-American U.S. Surgeon General

Colin Powell – U.S. Secretary of State, Four-Star General (U.S. Army)

Barack Obama – U.S. President, U.S. Senator, Lawyer

OUR FACES OF THE FUTURE: PAST AND PRESENT!

(BULLETIN Photos by Hurley Green III)



Senator Collins' plan for annual truancy policies signed into law

Illinois schools will be required to develop and communicate their truancy policies to families on a yearly basis under legislation by **State Senator Jacqueline Collins (D-Chicago)** that was signed into law on July 23rd.

"When it comes to chronic absences, we tend to just see the empty desk. The truth is that we need to see the student and the challenges they may face with transportation, family illness, mental health difficulties or disabilities," Sen. Collins told the BULLETIN, adding:

"This ensures that families are being informed of absence policies that are consistent and are applied consistently. I thank Gov. Pritzker for signing this into law."



Chronic truancy — when a student misses more than 5% of the school year — has increased in Illinois since 2015, when about 9% of students were considered chronically truant. As many as 13.4% are chronically truant currently. **Senate Bill 605** requires schools to develop a truancy and chronic absence policy each year and report it to families, including information on chronic truancy. The legislation takes effect **July 1, 2022**.

In other legislative news, the **Auburn Park Station** that State Senator Collins has long fought for came a step closer to reality last week with **Metra** announcing it has approved a \$28.2 million construction contract.

"The people of the South Side deserve better access to public transportation," said Collins, who secured \$30 million in state funding for the project. "Our communities have long suffered from disinvestment and unequal access to basic amenities. I promised that I would manifest real change, and I intend to keep that promise by seeing this station open."

The new station, which will be located at 79th Street in the Auburn-Gresham neighborhood, will run on Metra's Rock Island Line. The station will be fully accessible, include bicycle racks, an 84-space parking lot, and a vendor building with glass storefronts. It also will incorporate landscaped greenspace, a chemical-free snow melt system, and a living green wall along the existing retaining wall.

"I want to make sure the surrounding Black community remains engaged in this project," Collins pointed out. "We've been waiting more than a decade for this station, and members of the community need to be kept informed and given the opportunity to express ideas, opinions, and concerns."

The new station will provide a direct rail link to downtown Chicago as well as the southwest suburbs, supporting economic development and creating construction jobs while it is built.

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CHAPTERS IN BLACK HISTORY...

Flamboyant Illinois State legislator was also a 'Visionary'

Meet Senator Charles Chew!

STATE SEN. CHARLES CHEW, JR. (1922-1986) was a native of Greenville, Miss., and a graduate of Tuskegee Institute. He was first employed as administrative assistant in community relations for the Cook County Sheriff's office. Later, as the assistant Senate majority leader, Chew had "a long and story-rich political career". Before he was elected to the Senate in 1966 representing the 16th District, he served as 17th Ward alderman. In the legislature, Sen. Chew was best known for backing serious issues such as civil rights, open housing and traffic safety including the Illinois seat belt law.

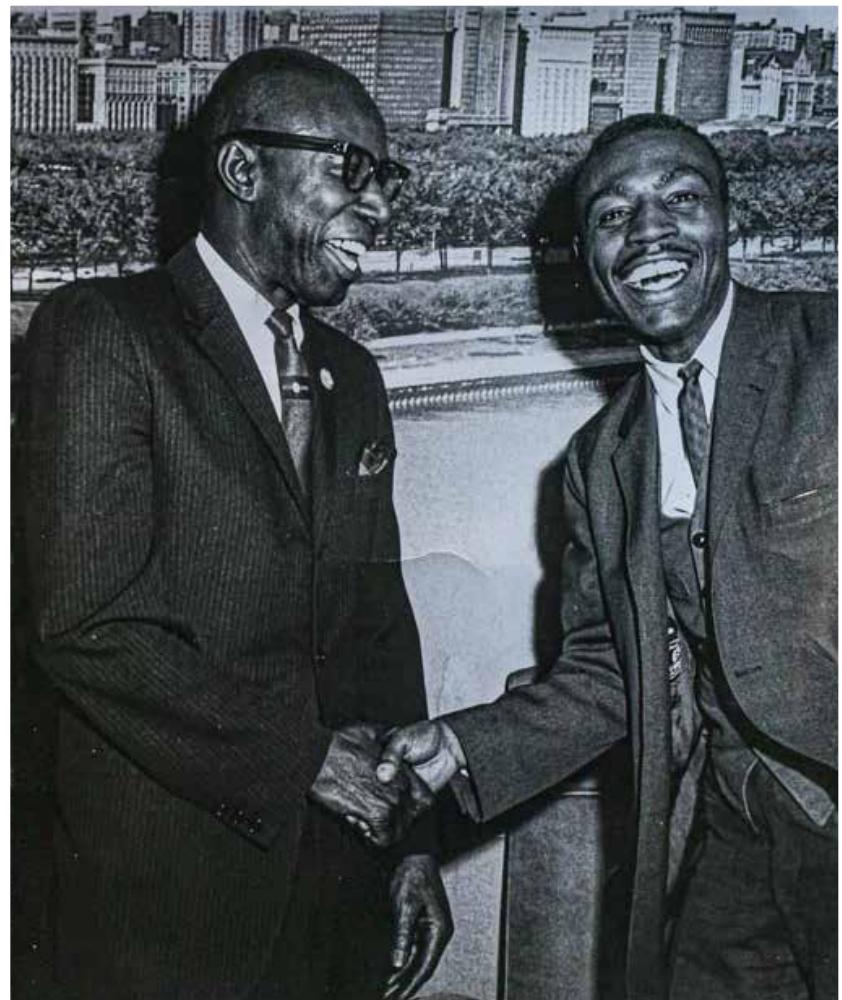


Sen. Chew set the tone for his career as a state senator in his freshman year when he lobbied vigorously for a bill that would grant legislators two sets of official license plates. The bill failed in the House, but most legislators considered it appropriate that Senator Chew, a man whose famous car collection also included several Cadillacs and at least one Rolls-Royce, was chairman of the **Senate Transportation Committee**.

But legislators also knew Senator Chew as a savvy politician on issues that came before his committee. "He took great pride in being chairman of that committee," said Sen. Kenneth Hall (D., East St. Louis). "Transportation was his thing. He fought hard for the seat belt law."

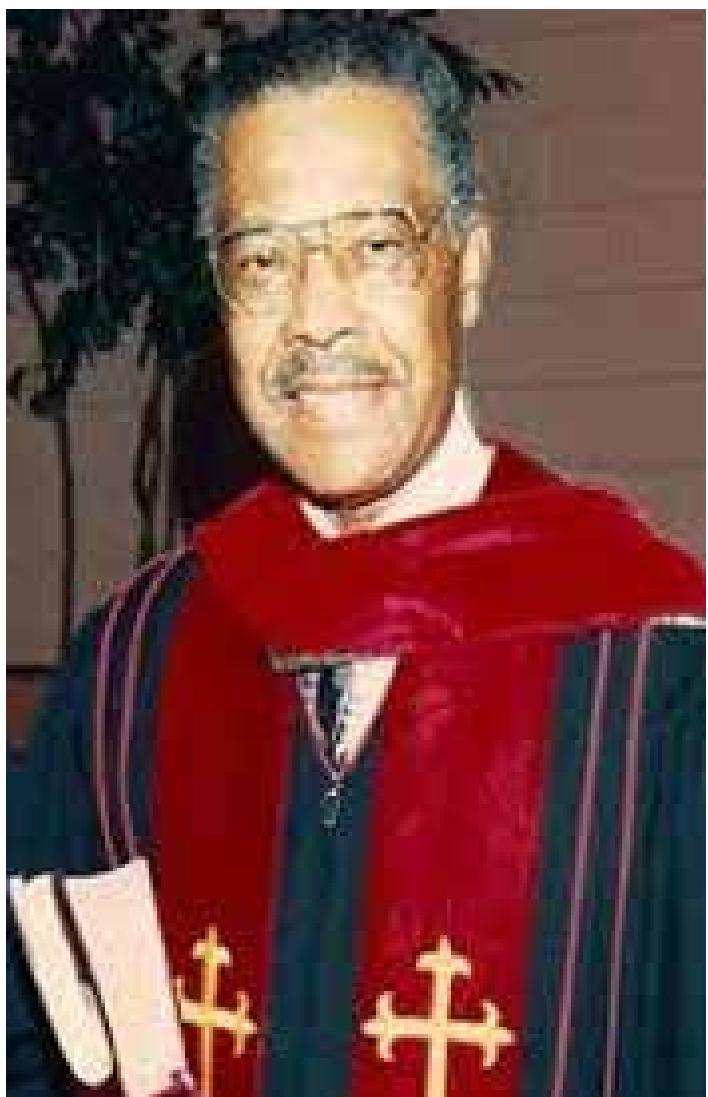
Gov. James Thompson, who counted on Sen. Chew's help in getting the law requiring seat belts approved by a hostile legislature, stated, "He had the state of Illinois right up there as No. 1."

Long-time BULLETIN readers will remember that the popular state senator was a frequent literary contributor to the BULLETIN Newspaper, penning his informative *"News from Springfield"* column focusing on legislative topics. He is shown here being welcomed by BULLETIN publisher Hurley Green, Sr.



In 1986, Sen. Charles Chew, Jr. died in a Chicago hospital from throat cancer.

*Remembering our Ancestors who Came Before us...
and Upon Whose Proud Shoulders we Stand Today!*



(“Ancestor” Images Provided by Samuel Mills)

Top Row: (left - right)

Della Reese (1921-2017) was born in Black Bottom, Detroit as Delloreeese Patricia Early, was an American jazz and gospel singer, actress, and ordained minister whose career spanned seven decades. She began her long career as a singer, scoring a hit with her 1959 single *“Don’t You Know?”* Also starred in popular *“Touched by an Angel”* television series.

Mike Evans (1949-2006) Michael Jonas Evans was born in Salisbury, N.C. The actor best known as Lionel Jefferson in the TV sitcoms *“All in the Family”* and *“The Jeffersons,”* also created and wrote for the groundbreaking television sitcom *“Good Times”* along with Eric Monte.

Theresa Fambro Hooks (1935–2016) was an award winning columnist and social editor for *The Chicago Daily Defender*. Born in Chicago, “Tee See” Hooks graduated from Parker (now Robeson) High School in 1953 and went on to attend the University of Illinois, Roosevelt University and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago

LEFT PHOTO: Rev. Dr. Claude Wyatt, Jr. (1921-2010) was born in Dallas, Texas, the second child of Claude and Annie Lee Branch Wyatt. In 1922, when he was only six months old, the family moved here to Chicago. Claude Wyatt, Jr. attended DuSable High School where he met and married Addie Lorraine Cameron. They later co-pastored Vernon Park Church of God.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Enjoy our popular "African Tales from the Homeland".
Sit back, relax, and tell us what YOU think! Email: HGIII@comcast.net

The Frog and His Wives...

An African Folktale

Once there lived a Frog who had two wives. His first wife lived in **Dumbi** and the second wife lived in **Dala**. He himself lived in a little place between Dumbi and Dala. He went sometimes to Dumbi and sometimes to Dala to see his wives.



Once a little frog came to him and said, "Come to Dumbi, please! Your first wife has a nice pudding for you. Come at once while the pudding is still hot!" The Frog was very happy, because he liked puddings very much.

He was ready to go when another little frog came up to him and said, "Please, come to Dala! Your second wife has a nice pudding for you. Come at once while the pudding is hot!"



The Frog sat down and began to think:

"If I go to my first wife for the pudding, my second wife will be sorry and angry. If I go to my second wife for the pudding, my first wife will be sorry and angry, too! Where shall I go, to Dumbi or to Dala?" He sat and thought for a very long time. And he stayed at home, and began to cry: "Oh! Where shall I go, where shall I go?"

MORAL: So now, whenever you hear noisy frogs croaking "gaou, gaou, gaou," you will understand that it means: "Where shall I go? Where shall I go? Go Go Go?" How bad it is to have two wives who make puddings at the same time!



BULLETIN PHOTO OF THE WEEK...

Behold the exquisitely unique and exotic **Flame Lily**, known as the national Flower of Zimbabwe: The perennial Flame Lily (*Gloriosa superba*) is widespread in tropical and southern Africa, thriving on the sparse savannah woodlands, sand dunes and grassland in sandy loam soil and reaching a height of 3 meters.

(This image was shared with us by correspondent Valerie F. Leonard)

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THE BLACK STAR PROJECT



"On behalf of my great team highlighted below and all of the community members who contributed to our work this year, we want to say thank you! The Black Star Project is entering our 25th anniversary in 2021. We are dedicating our efforts to the economic prosperity of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) led organizations and youth leadership development. We are excited to share with you our annual review."

Gloria Smith, Executive Director



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