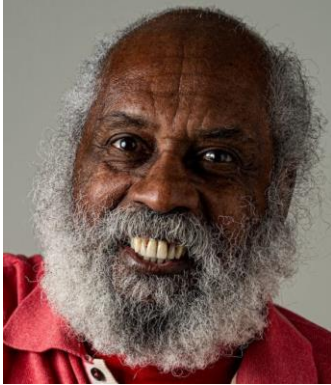


## Sam Anderson



**Sam Anderson** is a Brooklyn, New York, native and a founding member of the Coalition for Public Education and the National Black Education Agenda. He is the author of several books and essays on science, technology, and the history of slavery, among them *The Third World Confronts Science and Technology* and *The Black Holocaust for Beginners*. He was the first chair of a Black Studies department in 1969–70 at Sarah Lawrence College and taught mathematics, science, and Black history at SUNY Old Westbury, City College of New York, New York University, Rutgers University, and Brooklyn College. He has been active in the civil rights and Black liberation movement since 1964 as a member of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, the Black Panther Party, and the Black reparations movement.

## Playthell George Benjamin



**Playthell George Benjamin**, noted blogger and journalist, is the producer of “Commentaries On the Times,” which he writes and delivers on WBAI. Playthell is an award-winning journalist, who has been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in two different categories. His byline has also appeared in the *Guardian Observer of London*, the *Sunday Times of London*, *High Times*, the *Village Voice*, and others. He has been a professor at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

## André Blake



**André Blake** is a New York Film & TV Veteran with over 50 film and Television credits to his name. He has worked with Academy Award Winners Denzel Washington and Julia Roberts—to name a few. Most recently, André played Dr. Claude Baptiste on the NBC Hit Show *New Amsterdam*. He is also a prominent figure in the voice-over world. He has been the voice of the BET Network, Church's Chicken, Subway, Amtrak, AT&T, Ford, and many others. Born in Port Of Spain, Trinidad, and raised in Hempstead, Long Island, and Harlem, New York, this veteran is poised to make even more noise

in the coming years. Keep your ears and eyes open, as you will see and hear more of Mr. Blake in the future.

## Herb Boyd



**Herb Boyd** is a professor, journalist, and author, who has written or edited twenty-two books, including, *Three Centuries of African American History as Told by Those Whole Lived It* (oral histories); *Civil Rights: Yesterday and Today*; *Baldwin's Harlem*, a biography of James Baldwin (finalist for NAACP Image Award); *Brotherman—The Odyssey of Black Men in America* (an anthology) (with Robert Allen, received American Book Award); *We Shall Overcome* (used in classrooms internationally); *Autobiography of a People*; and *The Harlem Reader*. He has scripted several

documentaries on cold cases of martyrs from the Civil Rights era.

## Marcelle Davies-Lashley



**Marcelle Davies-Lashley** is a singer/songwriter Brooklyn native of West African descent. She has toured five of seven continents opening hearts with her electrifying stage presence and huge voice. Some of her most recent projects include being the featured singer in Carrie Mae Weems's opening of *The Shape of Things* and Carl Hancock-Rux's *I Dream A Dream That Dreams Back At Me* for the Juneteenth performances at Lincoln Center in 2021. She was the singer arranger for The Billie Holiday Theater's *A Walk Into Slavery*, directed by Dr. Indira Etwaro. Davies-

Lashley is the creator of her one-woman show *Liberian Girl in Brooklyn*, which premiered at Mabou Mines' Suite Space 2019 series.

Davies-Lashley is also a percussionist and has sung background for Macy Gray, Bono, Angelique Kidjo, BeBe Winans, and Lizz Wright-- to name a few. Her first EP is titled *Easy to Love*. She has new music on the horizon.

## Raymond Dugué



**Raymond Dugué** was born and raised in Ayiti (Haiti) and educated in the United States, Brother Raymond Dugué serves as the 1st Assistant President General of the UNIA♦ACL, the Universal Negro Improvement Association, African Communities League, the organization that the Hon. Marcus Mosiah Garvey founded on July 20, 1914, in Kingston, Jamaica. He believes in One God, One Aim, One Destiny, and-- of course-- Race First. 1st Assistant President General Dugué attended the City College School of Engineering in Harlem, graduating with a bachelor of

engineering in chemical engineering in 1984. Afterward, he completed a second degree in mathematics, following the footsteps of his African ancestors, the race of men and women who were the first to educate and enlighten the world in mathematics, science, medicine, the arts, spirituality, and everything else.

## Sheila Evans



**Sheila Evans** is an independently contracted licensed NYC tourist guide. Evans founded Sheila's Tours, an established local and international tour consultancy. She has led tours in 22 cities on five continents. Evans is the author of *Cathedral Parkway Towers at Harlem's Gate* and several audiobooks.

A lifetime member of the Actors Studio, Evans worked on stage, film, and television, including recording children's books for Troll Books. Evans is a member of the Screen Actors Guild and Actors Equity. Sheila's stage & union name is Spelled SHELA Evans. Evans holds a bachelor of science in education with honors from CCNY. She has taught Acting for Animators for fourteen years at the SVA. She is on the board of directors of the CCNY Black Alumni Group and the chairperson of the United Tenants Association of Cathedral Parkway Towers Inc.

## Melanie Edwards



**Melanie Edwards**, granddaughter of J. Rosamond Johnson, worked for forty years at The Modern School, which was founded by her mother, where she served in many roles. Following the closing of The Modern School, she has worked at Fordham University, the Schomburg Library, and the East Harlem Council for Community Improvement. Throughout her career in education, she has maintained an interest in photography and local New York history. She holds a bachelor of science in mass communications from Emerson College. She is currently seeking a publisher for her grandfather's unpublished autobiography.

## Eon Grey



**Eon Grey** has been acting for over three decades and has previously appeared in a plethora of works including *Grandma Sylvia's Funeral* off-Broadway at the Soho Playhouse and *Billie's Blues* at the French Theatre Festival. Recent credits include feature films, *My Last Best Friend*, starring Eric Roberts, and *Made in Dublin*, which premiered last month at the Galway Film Festival and the dark comedy *Double Blinded*. He has just completed filming for the Irish TV series, *The Dry*, starring Ciarán Hinds. He has appeared in commercial work for Sony, Coca Cola in the US, and in Ireland for Otterbox and the Sunday World newspaper. A graduate of New York University, Eon was a co-founder of the American Theatre of Harlem. He currently splits his time between Ireland and New York City.

## Josh Henderson



**Josh Henderson** is a cross-genre violinist, violist, and composer. As a classical soloist, he has performed with companies worldwide. Josh has carved a reputation in jazz, rock, hip-hop, and country-fiddle for his dynamic performances. He has served as music director for the Emmy award-winning Damien Escobar (of Nuttin' But Stringz), where he performed at several events across the globe, including a performance at the 2013 Hip-Hop Inaugural Ball hosted by Russell Simmons and honoring Barack Obama. He also served as music director to pop singer Zahra Universe on her South Korean tour and to the spoken word artist LikWUId Stylez. Josh has also performed, recorded, and collaborated with artists such as Chris Brown, Michael Bublé, Bilal, Solange, The Sugar Hill Gang, and Paul McCartney— to name a few. As a founding member of the ensemble Warp Trio, he has led the group on hundreds of concerts and University residencies. He is currently on the artist faculty at NYU and The Longy School of Music in Cambridge.



## Keith Edward Johnston



**Keith Edward Johnston** is a Renaissance man (actor, director, musician, writer, visual artist, and teacher). Co-founder of Back-A-Yard Theatre, Artistic Director of American Theatre of Harlem, and Senior Director/teaching artist for CUNY Creative Arts Team (CAT). AUDELCO nomination for outstanding music director/composer 2022 (*Lambs To Slaughter*), *Singin' Wid A Sword In Ma Han* (Audience Favorite Award - Fringe 2009), BET 30th anniversary Upfront (director, dramaturge, performer), Pulitzer prize-winning play *RUINED* - music director, composer, and performer) and dozens of productions over the past 30 years.

## Sheree Leonard



**Sheree Leonard** is the granddaughter of Francisco Simone Rockwood and is a second-generation Afro-Cuban American and New Yorker from The Bronx. A proud HBCU alumna, she attended Bethune Cookman University and Bowie State University, EdM in Guidance and Counseling. She retired after serving 20 years in education as a teacher and professional school counselor in Prince George's County, Maryland. Sheree currently resides in Upper Marlboro, MD, and is a licensed clinical professional counselor at District Heights Family and Youth Services.

A Pearl of Wisdom from her grandfather: "Surround yourself with people who are intelligent." In other words, don't be the smartest person in the room.

## Terrance McKnight

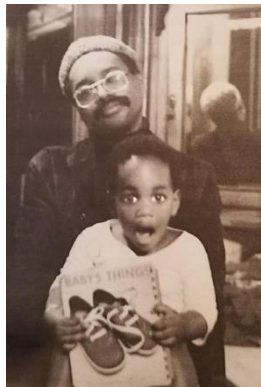


**Terrance McKnight** serves humanity and music by “bringing everyone’s culture to the table, by not putting one above the other, but rather by ensuring a big enough table with a place for all.” McKnight is an author, radio host, commentator, curator, writer, and pianist active in various cities, including Atlanta, Philadelphia, and NYC.

McKnight is the weekday evening host for WQXR, New York’s only all-classical music station. In early 2023 in association with the station, his production company, Concert Black LLC launched a podcast. He also has another radio show with WQXR entitled, *All Ears with*

*Terrance McKnight* which received the ASCAP Deems Taylor Radio Broadcast Award. McKnight’s forthcoming book, *Concert Black*, has an anticipated release date in 2023.

## Avatar Neal



**Avatar Neal** has had the privilege of living at 12 Jumel Terrace his entire life. He was born in June 1971 and later adopted by Evelyn and Larry Neal. His earliest childhood memories are of dinners and gatherings with some eccentric characters. Nelson Stevens, the painter, and Paul Carter Harrison, the playwright, belting out riffs from Miles Davis' "Kind of Blue." He remembers Sonia Sanchez, the poet, and Charles Fuller having heated discussions on the plight of the African American artist and their responsibility to the community through their art. All the while, his mom and dad played the ring

leaders, host, and hostess. He would play the fly on the wall soaking it all in and enjoying the electric energy that seemed to bounce off the walls. One of his favorite things was listening to the sound of my father's typewriter. He recalls that you could hear that sound throughout the house from sun up to sun down. He would like to believe that if you are silent enough and put your ear to the ground, you can still hear his father's typing.

## Evelyn Neal



**Evelyn Neal**, Larry Neal's wife and widow, had been married a few years and were settling in. He was a prolific poet and respected scholar, and she had a blossoming career in medicine and science. When they decided to purchase a home, two key things were most important to them: living in a Black neighborhood and a home that

required no renovations, allowing them to move in right away. That is what they found at 12 Jumel Terrace. Soon after moving in, in 1971, they adopted Avatar and began the joys of parenthood. Unfortunately, Larry transitioned in 1981. Avatar and Evelyn continue to live in the home. Even though the neighborhood has changed over the years, they still enjoy living there. She still loves the feeling of being in a real community. Evelyn is grateful to have discovered this gem of a peaceful enclave in busy New York City.

## Ilyasah Shabazz



**Ilyasah Shabazz** is an inspirational role model and advocate for “youth” and “women and girl” empowerment. Her lifework is devoted to helping others find inner strength and purpose. While she is frequently asked to speak about the Legacy of Malcolm X, she shares that it is her mother, Dr. Betty Shabazz’s wisdom, courage and compassion that guide her.

She has more than six years of experience as a college professor and more than twenty years of experience as an administrator and implementer of cultural and community outreach initiatives serving diverse populations. She is a key advisor to public and private organizations, developing diversity and community-focused programs that align with business, academic, and organizational goals. She is an author, artist, mentor, educator, motivational speaker, and citizen of the world, connecting and activating networks and resources to create measurably positive outcomes. She has published five multiple award-winning publications with outstanding novelists and is working on the next.



## Damien LeChateau Sneed



**Damien LeChateau Sneed** is a pianist, vocalist, organist, composer, conductor, arranger, producer, and arts educator whose work spans multiple genres. He has worked with jazz, classical, pop, and R&B legends, including the late Aretha Franklin and Jessye Norman, Wynton Marsalis, Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross, J’Nai Bridges, Lawrence Brownlee, the Clark Sisters, and many others. Sneed is a 2014 Sphinx Medal of Excellence recipient. Some of the faculties he has served on include the Juilliard School of Music, Manhattan School of Music, Berklee College of Music, and New York University.

In 2020, Alvin Ailey Dance Theater commissioned Sneed to create an original score for *Testament*. The Opera Theatre of Saint Louis commissioned him to compose *THE TONGUE & THE LASH*, an opera imagining a post-debate conversation between James Baldwin, which premiered in May 2021, and a reimagined adaptation of Scott Joplin’s opera, *TREEMONISHA*, which premiered on May 20, 2023.

## Antoinette Tisdale



**Antoinette “Toni” Tisdale** was born in New York City. She is the only daughter of Francisco Simone Rockwood, an avid Garveyite who migrated from Cuba to the United States in 1920. Her father and grandmother were active in the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA). Marie Antoinette, Antoinette’s grandmother, worked as a Black Cross Nurse in Jamaica and Cuba. After emigrating to New York, her father joined UNIA Vanguard local, where he partnered with several cooperative businesses throughout Harlem. Antoinette still owns the Black Star Line stock certificates that her

father purchased. As an adult, Antoinette continued to visit the Vanguard local where she brought her children on special occasions to participate in activities. She currently lives in Toledo, Ohio, having retired after forty years as a registered nurse. Antoinette worked at Bronx State Hospital and then at Toledo Mental Health Center in Ohio. She is passionate about keeping the memory of Marcus Garvey, the UNIA’s mission, Black pride, and economic independence alive.

## Bryce Michael Wood



**Bryce Michael Wood** received his bachelor of arts from University of Notre Dame, where he was a division-I athlete for the Fighting Irish. His Off-Broadway appearances include: *Hamlet*, *Superhero*, *Othello*. He has also been in regional shows *King Lear*, *TopDog/Underdog*, *Twelfth Night*, *Detroit 67'*, *Gloria*, *Oedipus*, *The Royale*, *Smart People*, *Welcome to Fear City*, *Row*. Wood has also starred in the film *Vedic Nights* and the television show *Law and Order*.