

Evanston/North Shore NAACP
President's Report
Executive Committee Meeting
April 19, 2022

Met with Fran Joy and Rose Cannon to discuss how our branch might play a role in assisting local Black artists. Discussed many potential initiatives. Settled on helping with an Art Show in Evanston. Asked Willie Shaw to talk with Fran and Rose to discuss potential logistics.

Asked to serve on the Evanston Hospital Community Advisory Board. First meeting was held March 22nd. A presentation on North Shore's Diversity and Inclusion was given by Brandon Buchanan. Doug Silverstein, President and CEO was part of the meeting.

Met with Dr. Reuben Howard from Oakton Community College. The purpose of the meeting was to receive information about the Emory Williams Academy for Black Men. The OCC is recruiting young Black men to join the Academy to advance their education and achieve their goals. It is led by dedicated Black faculty and staff. The Academy is designed to help students enter college on the right footing and navigate their way through classes, tearing down any barriers along the way. Mario Borha is the Program Chair. Contact information is oabm@oakton.edu, 847.635.1654.

Met with Dr. Cynthia Wilson to discuss the Junius B. Dotson Institute for Music and Worship in the Black Church and Beyond. This new institute is housed within Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary. It is intended to provide ongoing training and mentoring in the areas of contextual worship and sacred music born out of the Black Church traditions. The institute will have periodic workshops and seminars around the nation (including here in Evanston) where local church musicians, worship & theatre arts people can participate. You can visit garrett.edu/dotsoninstitute for further information.

Traveled to Washington, DC and Howard University Law School to present at an International Reparations Conference. The conference featured Evanston Reparations as a key model for growing reparation movements around the nation. Ruben Carranza offered a report as the Director of the Reparative Justice Program at the International Center for Transitional Justice. Justin Hansford, Executive Director of the Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center at the Law School was one of the moderators. Virginie Ladisch, a senior expert at the ICTJ offered an update on work in Canada, Colombia, Ivory Coast, Cyprus, Liberia, Kenya, Nepal, Tunisia and Uganda. Linda Mann from Columbia University was one of the sponsors of the conference. Over sixty people from around the nation attended. Reparation initiatives are moving in St. Louis, Washington, DC's Georgetown University, Tulsa, OK, PG County, Maryland, Detroit, MI, Brown Grove, VA, New Orleans, LA, Amherst, MA, Southwest, GA, Chicago, IL, San Francisco, CA and Providence, RI. A brief description is below:

Eyewitness Report from Reparations 2022 Gathering at Howard University Law School-

Over sixty people arrived from around the country to share their stories about local reparations. Areas covered included; Basic Human Rights, Community Reparations, Restore Home & Family, Reparations, Epigenetic Repair, Trauma Informed Reparative Care, Health Care, Redress the Racial Wealth Gap, Cash Payment for Reparations, Reparations as Housing Grants, Income Generating Repairs, Land Based Reparations, Public Safety & Peace Building, Environmental Justice, Self-Determination, Equal Access to Education, Decolonize the Academy, End Policing in Schools, Mass Liberation and more.

I share this so that we may begin to see the largesse of reparations occurring, growing and widening in our nation. From San Francisco to Amherst, from Boston to Tulsa, from Washington DC to Evanston, from Missouri to Georgia, from New Orleans to New York City not a single group said, "No, you got it wrong. This is what reparations is!" Every group agreed that location and the organic energy of the people determines addressing the greatest needs.

Please know this, Black, white, Latinx, Filipino, European, Jewish, and others all gathered together on the historic grounds of Howard, in the historic building of the Law School. Easily, some of the most brilliant people on earth, whose motivation is to repair damage done to Black people because of the egregious reality of racism, were in the number. I will never forget Billi Wilkerson- Managing Director of Howard's Law School, Karen Wilson Ama' Echefu- brilliant Fulbright Scholar and writer, Justin Hansford- Executive Director and Law Professor of the Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center at Howard, Sheryl Evans- Executive Director of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, Ruben Carranza- Director of Reparative Justice for the International Center for Transitional Justice and the incredible students at the Law School and undergraduates at Howard.

Oh and we had a strong Evanston delegation led by our own Robin Simmons. On Friday evening we had a private tour of the African American Museum. Starting at the lowest level and 1619, we became immersed in our story, slowly working our way up steep ramps. We moved from West Africa, to slave ships, to auction blocks, to slave plantations....trauma was in every step. We then moved from the Civil War to Reconstruction, to the Ku Klux Klan to lynchings, to towns burned down by racists, to separate but equal, to systemic and structural racism embedded in every sector of the United States. More trauma. Then we moved to the Civil Right Movement, to redlining, to voter suppression, to Barak Obama becoming President of the United States. Finally, we moved to the top of the Museum. Exhausted both physically and mentally, we went to the reception room and in the darkened skies of Washington, DC we saw the Congress Building, the Washington and Jefferson Monuments and the epicenter of the nation.

We sat down, fellowshiped, had a wonderful dinner, marveling at what had just transpired. And it did not go unnoticed by anyone, that our goal of reparations was now firmly planted in the very soil of the Declaration of Independence, the "I Have a Dream Speech", the Million Man March, and the unwavering conviction that nothing can stop us. Nothing. Reparations is coming. Reparations is here.

Met with Isabelle Butera, a Medill student who is writing a story about the late Mayor Lorraine Morton. She was interested in learning about Mayor Morton and her role in civil rights and social justice in the Evanston community.

Attended a luncheon at the James Allen Center at Northwestern with President Morton Schapiro and Garrett President Javier Viera. Dr. Viera offered Dr. Schapiro a gift and thanks for thirteen years of service at Northwestern University. The luncheon included community leaders along with administrators and faculty from the University.

Reported out on the confirmation of Kentanji Brown Jackson as the next United States Supreme Court Justice:

One day after the historic confirmation of Kentanji Brown-Jackson, I bask in the afterglow of justice. But I rage and seethe in obvious flames of racism and sexism that were manifest at yesterday's confirmation hearing. I really need my friends and allies to understand this bruising reality.

Vice President Kamala Harris, the first Black woman to serve as Vice President was prepared to read the confirmation of Kentanji Brown Jackson, the first Black woman to be seated on the Supreme Court. Just before this historic moment that has never occurred in the 246 years since the United States was founded, a massive exodus occurred in the Senate Chambers. En masse, Republicans walked out...before the confirmation. Three of them stayed; Susan Collins- Maine, Lisa Murkowski, Alaska and Mitt Romney- Utah.

All the others completely vanquished any and all rights they have as civil, humane, compassionate and caring Americans by fully disrespecting two of the most powerful Black women in our country. In full view. They include six women and one "black" man. Forty-seven people were not ashamed to make a visible, public display of shunning the shift of power from white males to women of color. That's a damn shame. Please remember their names and let us work hard to end their reign of terror in our nation.

John Barrasso R-Wyo.
Marsha Blackburn R-Tenn.
Roy Blunt R-Mo.
John Boozman R-Ark.
Mike Braun R-Ind.
Richard Burr R-N.C.
Shelley Moore Capito R-W.Va.

Bill Cassidy R-La.
John Cornyn R-Tex.
Tom Cotton R-Ark.
Kevin Cramer R-N.D.
Mike Crapo R-Idaho
Ted Cruz R-Tex.
Steve Daines R-Mont.
Joni Ernst R-Iowa
Deb Fischer R-Neb.
Lindsey O. Graham R-S.C.
Charles E. Grassley R-Iowa
Bill Hagerty R-Tenn.
Josh Hawley R-Mo.
John Hoeven R-N.D.
Cindy Hyde-Smith R-Miss.
James M. Inhofe R-Okla.
Ron Johnson R-Wis.
John Neely Kennedy R-La.
James Lankford R-Okla.
Mike Lee R-Utah
Cynthia Lummis R-Wyo.
Roger Marshall R-Kan.
Mitch McConnell R-Ky.
Jerry Moran R-Kan.
Rand Paul R-Ky.
Rob Portman R-Ohio
James E. Risch R-Idaho
Mike Rounds R-S.D.
Marco Rubio R-Fla.
Ben Sasse R-Neb.
Rick Scott R-Fla.
Tim Scott R-S.C.
Richard C. Shelby R-Ala.
Dan Sullivan R-Alaska
John Thune R-S.D.
Thom Tillis R-N.C.
Patrick J. Toomey R-Pa.
Tommy Tuberville R-Ala.
Roger Wicker R-Miss.
Todd C. Young R-Ind.