

Sun-Reporter



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BEST BUY IN THE WEST

TALENTED 25



Chief Bisa French



Justice Martin Jenkins



Joseph Bryant



Attorney Waukeen McCoy



Carolyn Tyler



Dr. Nadine-Burke-Harris



Kabir McNeely



Ilona McGriff



Dr. Jonathan Butler



Dr. Margaret Fortune



Kimberly Ellis



DA Diana Becton



Draymond Green



Attorney Warren Pulley



Lyn-Tise Jones



Brittney Doyle



Shunda Ashley Criswell



Dr. Joseph E. Marshall



Rev. Emmett Neal, Sr.



Roniqua Cook-Greene



Dan Daniels



DiAngelo Gleaves



James Parrish Smith



LaNiece Jones



Percy Burch, III

EDITORIAL

Someday We'll All Be Free

By *Amelia Ashley-Ward*
Sun-Reporter Publisher

Congratulations to the Sun-Reporter's 2020 Talented 25 class.

In a year that's been the most challenging in a lifetime, you are light in the darkness.

Not all has been cloudy in 2020.

We were able to vote President Trump out. President-elect Joe Biden can now start working to turnaround a cruel four years of racism and absurdity.

We elected our homegirl, Kamala Devi Harris, as Vice President of the United States of America, finally shattering that glass ceiling. Black women turned out in record numbers to support another Black woman. Congratulations Madame Vice President!!

Talented 25 Class of 2020, we are counting on you to help lead our community in America's comeback.

Be thee steadfast and unmovable against police

brutality, racism, sexism, and classism. Heed the clarion call and remind the world that Black lives, too, matter. Say it loud that the COVID-19 vaccine must be shared fairly in the communities of color and that healthcare, quality education and housing must always be a priority.

Our Talented 25 of 2020 are legal professionals, educators, health advocates, religious leaders, political leaders, community activists and a

young 15-year-old filmmaker. This is a goulash and a recipe for success

We salute you and Congratulate you!

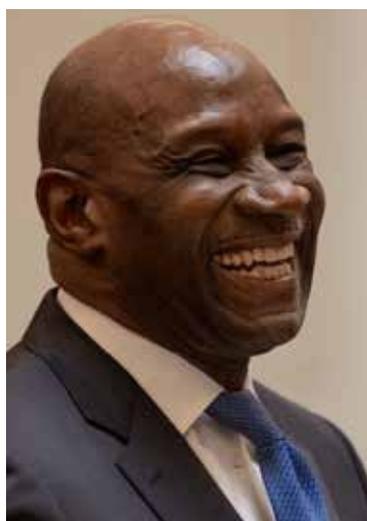
In the words of Donny Hathaway:

"Hold on to the world as it spins around. Don't let the spin get you down. Things are moving fast. Hold on tight and you will last. Someday we'll all be free."

March on until Victory is won!

TALENTED 25 PROFILES WRITTEN OR EDITED BY GAIL BERKLEY

Justice Martin J. Jenkins



Justice Martin J. Jenkins

California Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, Division Three, from 2008 until his retirement in 2019. Prior to assuming office as an associate justice, Justice Jenkins served as a judge of the United States District Court

for the Northern District of California from November 1997 to April 2008.

Justice Jenkins graduated from Santa Clara University in 1977, and after a brief period as a member of the Seattle Seahawks Professional Football Team, entered law school at the University of San Francisco School of Law. He obtained his law degree from USF in May 1980, and upon graduation was the 1980 recipient of the law school's "Judge Harold J. Haley Award for exceptional distinction in scholarship, character and activities."

After law school, Justice Jenkins worked as a prosecutor

for the Alameda County District Attorney's Office from 1980-1983. In 1983, he joined the United States Department of Justice as a Trial Attorney and was assigned to the Civil Rights Division-Criminal Section. As a lawyer in the Civil Rights Division, he prosecuted racial violence and police misconduct cases for several years. In 1986, Jenkins accepted employment as a trial attorney with the Pacific Bell Legal Department in San Francisco, handling a wide variety of civil litigation matters, until his appointment by Governor George Deukmejian to the Oakland Municipal Court in 1989. In 1992, he was elevated

by Governor Pete Wilson to the Alameda County Superior Court and in 1995, became the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Division.

A native of San Francisco, Justice Jenkins is involved in numerous civic, religious, and charitable organizations serving youth in the San Francisco Bay Area. On April 15, 1998, he was awarded the St. Thomas More Award, given annually by the St. Thomas More Society of San Francisco, in recognition of his distinguished record of service and dedication to his family, his church and his community.

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 Carlton B. Goodlett, PH.D., MD.,
 Editor/Publisher
 1945-1997

Amelia Ashley-Ward
 Editor/Publisher

Justice Martin J. Jenkins was confirmed in November as the fifth African American and the first openly gay person to serve as Associate Justice of the State Supreme Court. He was nominated October 5 by Governor Gavin Newsom. Justice Jenkins served as Newsom's Judicial Appointments Secretary before his appointment to the Supreme Court.

Throughout his career, Justice Jenkins has advanced the cause of equality, particularly across racial and gender divides. Justice Jenkins served as an Associate Justice of the

Police Chief Bisa French

On August 1, 2020 Richmond Police Chief Bisa French became the first woman of African American and Latina heritage to head Richmond's Police Department. She had previously served as Interim Chief since September 2019. She heads a 250-member department with an annual budget of \$70 million.

In a statement following her appointment, Chief French said, "At this juncture in our nation's history, the role of law enforcement is evolving rapidly." "It's particularly important right now to honestly maintain a

culture of excellence, trust, and transparency, in partnership with our community. I'm proud that the people in our department and our City are committed to these values, which will guide my continuing leadership of the RPD."

Chief French began her career with the RPD in 1998, when she was a young single mother. She rose through the ranks to become Chief. As a young officer, she worked various assignments in Patrol including Community Policing Officer, Field Training Officer, and Bicycle Patrol Officer. She then worked as a Detective in the Property Crimes Unit and Family Services Unit.

In 2006, Chief French was promoted to the rank of sergeant where she led, mentored, and developed officers in a variety of supervisory assignments to include Records, Patrol, and Sergeant of the Domestic and Sexual Violence Unit (DSVU), a unit that focuses its investigative efforts on Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Elder Abuse and Child Abuse cases. While working in this unit as a sergeant she served on the FJC leadership team to develop a Family Justice Center in West Contra Costa County. Also, during this time, she served as the department's Public Information Officer. In 2011,



Chief Bisa French

Chief French was promoted to Lieutenant and assumed the role as the Dayshift Watch Commander in patrol. In 2013, she was promoted to the rank of Captain, assuming responsibility for the Central

District, Youth Services Bureau, and Traffic Division. In 2016 she was promoted to the rank of Assistant Chief.

Chief French was the first African American and Latina Captain in the department and the youngest ever to hold the position. She attended and graduated from the Police Executive Research Forum's Senior Management Institute for Police (SMIP), holds an undergraduate degree in Public Administration, and a Master's Degree in Human Resource Management.

She is the married mother of three children ages 10, 16, and 25.

Contra Costa County District Attorney Diana Becton

Contra Costa County District Attorney Diana Becton is the first woman and the first African American to serve as Contra Costa County "top cop." She was sworn into office September 17, 2017. Top of Form



DA Diana Becton

District Attorney (DA) Becton leads a prosecutorial office of approximately 200 lawyers, investigators, and staff.

Her top priority is keeping the streets of Contra Costa County safe from dangerous and violent criminals. DA Becton is committed to safeguarding the county's communities from crimes that threaten citizens' health, well-being, and livelihood, protecting

seniors from financial abuse, and for working on positive outcomes for youth.

She previously spent most of her professional career as a judge, lawyer, and manager. DA Becton served for 22 years as a judge in Contra Costa County, where she was elected

as Presiding Judge.

She is the Immediate Past President of the National Association of Women Judges, the nation's leading voice for women in the judiciary. She currently serves as the Chair of the California State Bar Council on Access and Fairness.

A native of California she is a product of Oakland public schools and a graduate of Golden Gate University School of Law. In 2015 she earned a Master of Theological Studies at Pacific School of Religion. Becton has received dozens of honors throughout her career, including Woman of Year for the 9th Senate District, Judith McKelvey Distinguished Service Award, Golden Gate University, Pioneer Award,

National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., Oakland Bay Area Chapter, Woman on Fire Award, Ladies In Red, Judge of the Year, Black Women Lawyers of Southern California, Thurgood Marshall Award, Toronto, Canada, National Bar Association - Judicial Council, and "Social Justice Award," League of Women Voters, Contra Costa County.

In 2007 she was inducted into the Castlemont High School Hall of Fame, receiving the highest honor, as a "Knight in Shining Armor." She serves on the Board of Directors for Castlemont High School Alumni Association and mentors students.

DA Becton also serves as a frequent lecturer and panelist,

and she continues to participate in many community outreach activities. She convened "Clean Slate Day" helping individuals to clean up their criminal records. In 2015, Becton served as Co-Chair of the "Know Your Rights" Youth Symposium for West Contra Costa County, as part of a national dialogue to educate youth in our communities, and to open the lines of communication between youth and law enforcement. She serves on the Advisory Board of the Law Academy at De Anza High School in Richmond, and she convenes "Get Your House in Order", a program that assists elders and seniors.

She is the mother of two adult sons.

Filmmaker Kabir McNeely

At age 15, Kabir McNeely has already found success as an actor, filmmaker and director. Since becoming interested in acting in 2015, he has expanded his interest to include directing with award-winning results. His film “Blue Girl”, which had a virtual premiere December 28, has been named a finalist for the Independent Shorts Awards, in the Best Student

Short film category. McNeely wrote and directed the film that deals with LGBTQ+ issues, sexism, peer bullying, and toxic classmates.

McNeely attends the Branson school where he is in 10th grade. He plans to attend film school after he graduates from high school. He has drawn international interest through his direct acting style and uniquely expressive



Kabir McNeely

filmmaking style. He has built an international reputation for

his wide emotional range. By the age of 13, he had performed over 100 scenes and played more than 20 characters. His first acting job was in “Ruth” (2016). Since then, he has taken on supporting and leading characters with the American Conservatory Theater. Most notably, he performed in “Urinetown: The Musical” in 2018 and ACT’s annual production of “A Christmas Carol” in 2016.

He was born Kabir Dhillon McNeely in St. Louis and was adopted at birth. He lives in San Francisco with his parents Ken McNeely and Inder Dhillon. His father Ken McNeely said he is excited and proud to watch Kabir’s journey as an artist.

Kabir McNeely continues exploring the world of film and building his acting resume.



*“When you do the common things in life in an uncommon way, you will command the attention of the world.”
- George Washington Carver*

FivePoint joins the Sun Reporter and the community in celebrating this year’s Talented 25. Solid leadership is always important, but it is more critical in times like these. Congratulations.

Surgeon General Nadine Burke Harris

A physician dedicated to serving vulnerable communities and combating the root causes of health disparities, Dr. Nadine Burke Harris was appointed as California's first-ever Surgeon General by Governor Gavin Newsom in January 2019. An award-winning physician, researcher and advocate, she is passionate about changing the way our society responds to one of the most serious, expensive and widespread public health crises of our time: childhood trauma.

As Surgeon General, Dr. Burke Harris has established early childhood, health equity and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and toxic stress as key priorities. She has set a goal to reduce ACEs and toxic stress by half in one generation. This year

she has been a participant in Governor Newsom's efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic in California and can also be seen in televised public service spots for First 5 California encouraging parents to "Talk, Read and Sing" to their young children.

After completing her residency at Stanford, she founded a clinic in San Francisco's Bayview Hunters Point community. It was there that Burke Harris observed that, despite the implementation of national best-practices for immunizations, asthma, obesity treatment and other preventive health measures, her patients still faced outsized risks for poor health, development and behavioral outcomes.

Drawing in research

from the CDC and Kaiser Permanente, Dr. Burke Harris identified Adverse Childhood Experiences as a major risk factor affecting the health of her patients. In 2011, she founded the Center for Youth Wellness and subsequently grew the organization to be a national leader in the effort to advance pediatric medicine, raise public awareness, and transform the way society responds to children exposed to ACEs and toxic stress. She also founded and led the Bay Area Research Consortium on Toxic Stress and Health, to advance scientific screening and treatment of toxic stress.

She currently serves as a government liaison for the American Academy of Pediatrics' National Advisory Board for Screening and sat



Dr. Nadine Burke Harris

on the board of the Committee on Applying Neurobiological and Socio-behavioral Sciences From Prenatal Through Early Childhood Development: A Health Equity Approach for the National Academy of Medicine.

Her work has been profiled

in best-selling books including "How Children Succeed" by Paul Tough and "Hillbilly Elegy" by J.D. Vance as well as in Jamie Redford's feature film, "Resilience". It has also been featured on major television networks and in USA Today and the New York Times. Dr. Burke Harris' TED Talk, "How Childhood Trauma Affects Health Across the Lifetime" has been viewed more than 6 million times. She also wrote "The Deepest Well: Healing the Long-Term Effects of Childhood Adversity."

Dr. Burke Harris is the recipient of the Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism in Medicine Award presented by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Heinz Award for the Human Condition.

Educator Dr. Margaret Fortune

Margaret Fortune is changing what's possible when you create excellent educational options for Black children. As the President/CEO of nine K-12 public charter schools in Sacramento and San Bernardino counties with a combined enrollment of more than 2,200 students, Fortune's work is pointed towards one North Star - to close the African American achievement gap.

Fortune also operates Rex & Margaret Fortune School of Education, credentialing



Dr. Margaret Fortune

teachers and administrators for over 60 public school systems with the goal of addressing the state's teacher shortage by producing quality, diverse teachers in high-need subject areas. The Fortune School's

charter school leadership program has also been critical in developing a pipeline of strong educators in the movement. In 2017, Fortune founded an early college high school in partnership with Cosumnes River College and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo focused on science, technology, engineering, art and math. Students are able to earn a high school diploma and associate's degree in general science upon graduation.

As a nationally sought-after education expert, Fortune is often invited to participate in or lead conversations detailing the Fortune School approach to successfully educating

Black children. She led the efforts that resulted in the State of California budgeting a new \$300 million block grant in 2018 for the lowest-performing students.

A graduate of UC Berkeley and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, Fortune served as education adviser to two California governors. She is a Trustee Emerita of the California State University, a Pahara-Aspen Fellow and board chair for the California Charter Schools Association. She was awarded an honorary doctorate from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo for her substantial contributions to the field of education.

She was inducted into the National Charter School Hall of Fame for pioneering the development and growth of charter schools, implementing innovative ideas, and inspiring others in the movement. Fortune is Co-Chair of the Freedom Coalition for Charter Schools, a national organization founded to protect the right of "self-determination" of parent choice for Black and Latino families and is also the Secretary-Treasurer of the California State National Action Network.

Congratulations Dr. Margaret Fortune for being included in the Sun-Reporter's 'Talented 25' Special Edition

Your commitment to closing the African American achievement gap in the state of California deserves to be recognized.

By naming two of your schools after publishers Hardy Brown (San Bernardino) and Dr. William Lee (Sacramento) your commitment to the Black Press deserves to be applauded.



***Black Voice News
Publisher Emeritus
Hardy Brown, left, with
scholars at Hardy Brown
College Prep.***

***The late Sacramento
Observer founding
Publisher Dr. William Lee,
right, with scholars at
William Lee College Prep.***



**Yours, in the struggle,
Dr. Paulette Brown-Hinds, Publisher, Black Voice News
Larry Lee, Publisher, The Sacramento Observer**

Labor Leader Joseph Bryant

Joseph Bryant is the President of SEIU 1021, which represents Northern California workers who make our cities, schools, colleges, counties, and special districts safe and healthy places to live and raise families. Under his leadership, SEIU 1021's 60,000 members are protecting and expanding vital public programs, holding corporations accountable, and building a worker-led movement to reclaim our democracy.

Bryant's says his passion

for economic justice is rooted in his work and experience as an Employment and Training Specialist for the City and County of San Francisco, where he oversaw job and apprenticeship placement programs. In this capacity, he saw the transformative power of good union jobs in lifting up working families and communities out of the devastation of the Great Recession.

Prior to his work at the City and County of San Francisco, Bryant was the Executive Director of the A. Philip

Randolph Institute(APRI), a community-based nonprofit that promotes civic engagement and increased access to public services for San Francisco's most vulnerable communities.

As a leader known for advocating for racial and economic justice, Bryant has led fights to secure contracts that protect public services from privatization and policies that raise wages and improve working conditions for low-wage workers of color, such as San Francisco's Minimum Compensation Ordinance. He also played a vital leadership



Joseph Bryant

role in the creation of the Office of Racial Equity in San Francisco.

Bryant is passionate about

organized labor and civil rights and hopes to encourage others to join the cause.

He said he learned the importance of the labor movement growing up. "I was raised in a very strong pro-union household, very strong civil rights conscious household." His father James Bryant is a longtime labor and civil rights leader, and former Director of APRI. His mother Josie now retired was a union worker for over 25 years.

Bryant lives in El Cerrito with his wife Kristin and their children Joseph and Emma.

CALIFORNIA'S LARGEST LONGTERM CAREGIVERS UNION
378,000 MEMBERS AND COUNTING...



Congratulations to SEIU Local 1021 President Joseph Bryant as an honoree of the 2020 Talented 25.

Thank you for your dedication to creating positive change within our communities!

JUSTICE FOR ALL.

seiu 2015
SEIU LOCAL 1021

Representing over 378,000 home care, skilled nursing facility, and assisted living center workers, SEIU Local 2015 is the biggest long term care union in California, the largest SEIU Local in California, and the second largest nationwide. It is our mission to unleash the collective power of long term care workers, their families, and their communities; harness the power of technology; and, build a broad movement to disrupt the unjust status quo in order to bring lasting transformational change towards a more just society for all.

SEIU2015.ORG

Warmest *congrats* to the Talented 25!



Ready to serve! Our virtual doors are open.

Through this unprecedented crisis, it is still business as usual at Young Community Developers (YCD), but in a different way. We have adjusted the delivery of our program and services from in-person, to a remote service utilizing technology to support our clients, customers and each other through these trying times.

At YCD, we are committed to helping our community residents seek equality, education, and a healthier quality of life. We believe in a holistic approach, providing support utilizing an ecosystem of services to meet the most pressing needs of our customers. Today we offer a variety of programs and services the provide support within the following categories:

- Education & Development
- Transitional Age Youth
- Re-entry
- Housing & Anti-Displacement
- Special Initiatives



To learn more about the services we provide, **CONTACT US** at

(415) 822-3491

learn@ycdjobs.org

www.ycdjobs.org

Warriors Star Draymond Green

Golden State Warriors power forward Draymond J. Green Sr. is known as the “heart and soul” of the Warriors whose tough defense has helped his team to win three NBA Championships.

Since joining the Warriors after being selected with the 35th overall pick in the 2012 NBA draft, Green has cemented a place in the starting lineup as power forward and is noted for his vocal leadership on the court and in the locker room. As one of the few veterans on the current roster he has embraced the role of mentor and motivator

for his young teammates.

A native of Saginaw, Michigan, Green graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in communications. In September 2015 he made a historic donation of \$3.1 million to his alma mater - the largest pledge from an athlete in the school’s history. The funds will be used to build a new athletic facility and fund an endowment program for scholarships. He recently was the commencement speaker at a virtual Michigan State graduation.

During the last abbreviated NBA season, in which the



Draymond Green

Warriors were not playing, Green was a television sports analyst appearing on TNT’s Inside the NBA and CNN.

In addition to being a three-time NBA champion in 2015, 2017, and 2018, Green

was named NBA defensive player of the Year in 2017. He is a three-time All Star and twice was an All-NBA selection, and five-time NBA All Defensive team selection. Green is a frequent participant at Warriors community-oriented events as well.

Green represented the United States national team at the 2011 Summer Universiade men's basketball tournament in Shenzhen, China. Team USA finished in fifth place in the tournament. In June 2016, Green was named to the United States national squad for the 2016 Summer Olympics. He

helped Team USA win the gold medal in Rio.

While at Michigan state, Green helped the Spartans earn two Final Four appearances and a Big Ten Tournament Championship in 2012.

Green earned conference and national honors, including Big Ten Conference Sixth Man of the Year as a sophomore and consensus All-American and NABC National Player of the Year honors as a senior

He is the father of three. He and his fiancée Hazel Renee welcomed a child earlier this month.

Attorney Waukeen Q. McCoy

Waukeen Q. McCoy is the CEO of the McCOY

LAW firm in San Francisco, which was established in 1993. McCoy is lead trial counsel, litigating employment discrimination and civil rights cases. He is also the CEO of Genuine Sports Group, which is a sports and talent agency he founded in 2012, representing athletes in the National Football League (NFL), National Basketball Association (NBA) and Major League Baseball. He also represents



Waukeen Q. McCoy

actors and musicians.

He has successfully represented clients in several high-profile cases. In 2008, McCoy defended marriage equality for same-sex couples

before the California Supreme Court in In Re Marriage Cases. McCoy also won one of the

McCoy is Certified by the NFL Players Assn., the NBA Players Association

nations’ largest discrimination verdicts for \$132 Million against the parent company of Wonderbread. He is also known for representing members of a Black women’s book club who were kicked off of the Napa Valley Wine Train.

A native of Tatum, Texas, McCoy graduated from the

University of California, Hastings College of Law with a Doctor of Jurisprudence in

1992. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from San Francisco State University in 1998. Prior to graduating law school, he was a law clerk for Mullen & Filipi, and Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro. He also worked for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals as a procedural

motions deputy clerk.

McCoy is a former member on the Board of the YMCA San Francisco, Urban Services.

In 2002, he was appointed by the Honorable Mayor Willie Brown, Jr. as the City and County of San Francisco’s Ethics’ Commissioner. McCoy received a Proclamation from San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown, naming Waukeen McCoy day in San Francisco, September 1, 2000.

McCoy is Certified by the NFL Players Assn., the NBA Players Association.

Journalist Carolyn Tyler

Before her retirement in 2018 Carolyn Tyler, was a trusted broadcast journalist and familiar face for millions of Bay Area television viewers. Tyler recently retired from ABC's San Francisco affiliate KGO-TV, where she was both an anchor and reporter for over 30 years.



Carolyn Tyler

During her career, Tyler covered homelessness, marriage equality, civil rights issues and much more. She was a reporter at ABC News station, KGO-TV, and was part of the team that earned the station a Peabody Award for its exclusive on-air coverage in the

midst of the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. Her colleagues at KGO-TV called her 2018

retirement the "end of an era." Institute and the Media Award

Tyler received numerous community awards during her career, including the Rosa Parks Legacy Award in 2006 from the A. Philip Randolph Institute and the Media Award from the Bay Area Coalition of 100 Black Women.

Tyler received numerous community awards during her career, including the Rosa Parks Legacy Award in 2006 from the A. Philip Randolph Institute and the Media Award from the Bay Area Coalition of 100 Black Women. Tyler received specialized journalism training at

Vanderbilt University and at the USC Annenberg School for Communication in collaboration with the Poynter Institute.

In 2007, she was honored by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences with the Silver Circle Award for her distinguished broadcasting career.

She retired after a 32-year career at KGO-TV, in 2018. Upon her retirement she received the Broadcast Journalist Career Achievement Award from the Northern California Society of Professional Journalists.

Journalist Shunda Criswell

Shunda Ashley Criswell shares her love of God throughout the Bay Area as a religious columnist, editor, speaker and instructor.

Born in McComb, Mississippi, she was raised in San Francisco and attended local schools. She graduated from St. Paul High School and attended San Jose State University.

Sister Criswell, as she is known to those in the faith community, accepted Christ at a young age at the New Providence Baptist Church in San Francisco. She was baptized and continually active. Sister Criswell's favorite passage(s) of scripture includes: Psalm 27, Psalm 51 and Psalm 91 and Isaiah 41:10.

She and her husband of 35 years Gerald A. Criswell

live in San Francisco. She is a devoted wife, mother of five, and grandmother of five. She is a faithful member of the New Life Fellowship Baptist Church, San Francisco where her husband is founder and pastor. She is a Sunday school teacher, Young Adult Women's Spiritual Advisor and Servant-Ministry Leader of God's Women of Worship Ministry at New Life.

For over 20 years, Sister Criswell has been the Religious Columnist and Church Editor for the Sun Reporter Publishing Company of San Francisco. She said writing the weekly Sunday School Lesson column is a dream come true. She added that her happiness derives from the fact that Amelia Ashley-Ward, Publisher and Editor of the newspaper, is her

older sister. She's overjoyed, when she expresses to others "I work for my sister." "Amelia is a bad girl! And I want to write like her, sit at her feet, and learn all I can about writing."

Her ministry includes her dedicated service as a guest instructor, facilitator, and speaker, in many churches of various denominations. She has been a featured speaker at Women's Retreats, Women's Annual Day celebrations, Prayer Breakfast programs, church banquets and workshops and seminars throughout the Bay Area. She was guest speak and instructor for the California State Baptist Convention, Home & Foreign Mission District Association (Women's Ministry), Instructor to the Ushers, and has served as Dean for the Ministers'



Shunda Ashley Criswell

Wives and Ministers' Widows of San Francisco and Bay Area Council.

She has received awards from many organizations including the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club's First Lady Award and the Mental Health Board of San Francisco. She received the 2020 Good and Faithful Servant

Award, from New Provident Baptist Church in recognition of outstanding service and faithfulness throughout the Bay Area Baptist Community.

She received the Milestone Award at the WHW (Word Handlers Workshop) Ministries, Inc., in Los Angeles, for five years of successful completion of the Expository Preaching & Teaching Conference.

Criswell is an active Honorary Member of the Lambda Epsilon Graduate Chapter of Lambda Omicron Chi Christian Sorority, Inc. She is a teacher for the Cali chapter.

Currently, she is attending Faith Seminary (FIU-Faith International University), where she will obtain her Bachelor of Religion in March 2022.

Consultant Brittney Doyle

Brittney Doyle is a San Francisco native and Founder of WISE Health SF, a five-year old public health consulting company that develops signature community engagement models to advance health equity within underserved communities. She has over 15 years' experience developing and leading health initiatives throughout San Francisco, St. Louis, and the state of Texas.

Doyle's work focuses on increasing access to COVID-19

testing and education, progressing food security, sexual health education and increasing awareness of palliative care. She has demonstrated an uncanny ability to produce community-engaged approaches to advance health equity on a national, state, and local level. Doyle collaborates with community organizations, government agencies, health clinics and academic institutions to ensure underserved communities are reached where they work, live, play, and pray.

Doyle is passionate about

developing interactive and effective health programming that will appeal to diverse communities of all ages. Some of her popular programs are: "Faith, Values & Sex: After 60," a sexual health educational workshop for 60+, "Making Grandma's Medicine," an interactive cannabis education workshop and "Made With Love," a healthy organic produce kit delivery program.

She earned a Master of Public Health degree with a concentration in behavioral science and social marketing from Saint Louis University,



Brittney Doyle

and an undergraduate degree in consumer science and education from the University of Memphis. She currently serves as the Western District Governor for the

National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women (NANBPWC). She manages UCSF's Black Health Initiative and serves as an African American Community Ambassador for San Francisco's Palliative Care Work Group. She is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. and San Francisco Business and Professional Women's Club. She currently sits on the board of SF Village and SisterWeb - a community doula network.

Musician James Smith

Rev. James Parrish Smith is an accomplished musician, music educator, preacher, and community activist. Rev. Smith serves as the Minister of Music and Organist at the historic Third Baptist Church of San Francisco. He is also the Artistic Director of the Charles A. Tindley Academy of Music and Director of the Bridge to Arts and Music Program at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

Rev. Smith was licensed as a preacher by the First Baptist Church of Chalmette, Louisiana, in 2001. In 2017, Rev. Smith was ordained by Rev. Dr. Amos C. Brown at Third Baptist Church of San Francisco.

He has served in musical



James Parrish Smith

leadership in prominent churches in Louisiana, Florida, and Alabama, most notably serving the historic Sixth Avenue Baptist Church of Birmingham, Alabama. Smith also served as organist at Edward Waters College, Jacksonville, Florida, and Miles College,

Birmingham, Alabama. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Dillard University

Lake City, Utah. He has also performed in the presence of President Bill Clinton and

San Francisco Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Smith also believes in

He has served in musical leadership in prominent churches in Louisiana, Florida, and Alabama, most notably serving the historic Sixth Avenue Baptist Church of Birmingham, Alabama. Smith also served as organist at Edward Waters College, Jacksonville, Florida, and Miles College, Birmingham, Alabama. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Dillard University and the Master of Music from Samford University.

and the Master of Music from Samford University.

Rev. Smith is an active organ recitalist and choral director. Recently he was honored to play the world-famous Mormon Tabernacle organ in Salt

President Barack Obama. He is the founding conductor of the Amos C. Brown Heritage Chorale of San Francisco. He is a member of the Phi Mu Alpha Fraternity and serves as the Subdean of the

community awareness. He currently serves as the secretary for the San Francisco branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Legislative Aide Percy Burch III

Percy Burch, III serves as a Legislative Aide for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, in the office of District 10 Supervisor Shamann Walton. District 10 includes the Bayview, Hunters Point, Potrero Hill and Sunnydale neighborhoods.



Percy Burch III

Burch is staff person for Supervisor Walton on various committees, including: Board of Supervisors meetings, Caltrain Board of Directors, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Land Use & Transportation, Rules Committee, and the Planning Commission. He is also the staff person assigned to handle

External events, Appointments, Citizen Advisory Committees, Legacy Businesses and Neighborhood Safety Plans. Burch is the lead to various City Departments and is lead on all Public Housing and Land Use issues in the district.

During the COVID-19 crisis Burch has been the lead to respond to the needs of the community,- bringing resource hubs to serve the district's most vulnerable populations.

During the COVID-19 crisis Burch has been the lead to respond to the needs of the community,- bringing resource hubs to serve the district's most vulnerable populations. These hubs have provided food delivery, and check-ins with district families. District 10 has the highest number of COVID-19 deaths and so a community response strategy has been implemented with Burch leading this effort.

These hubs have provided food delivery, and check-ins with district families. District 10 has the highest number of COVID-19 deaths and so a community response strategy has been implemented with Burch leading this effort.

He formerly served as a Program Assistant at Young Community Developers, a workforce development organization in the Bayview, where he helped create and administer programs. He is President of the Board of Directors of A Few Good Men Foundation, a Fresno based 501c(3) that targets boys and young men of color with the intention of helping them personally and professionally.

Faith Leader Reverend Emmett Neal, Sr.

Rev. Emmett J. Neal, Sr., Pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church in San Francisco, is a faith leader who also works in the secular field helping to better the lives of San Francisco residents. In addition to his pastoral duties Rev. Neal is a Protective Services Worker in San Francisco's Human Services Agency.

Basketball Team that won the City Championship three consecutive years ('91,'92,'93.)

Rev. Neal was baptized on September 13, 1987 and received his early Bible training from the late Rev. J. P. Prior, who was the Pastor at the Saint John Missionary Baptist Church in San Francisco.

He answered the call to preach the gospel at the beginning of his junior year in high school at the age of 15. On Sunday, October 6, 1991, he preached his first sermon. On Sunday, November 24, 1991, he received his Minister's License. Rev. Neal was ordained into the gospel ministry by Rev. Ray Howard

on Sunday, June 28, 1998, at the Paradise Missionary Baptist Church of San Francisco. Rev. Neal served as Pastor of the Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church in San Francisco from 1999 to 2002.

Rev. Neal has accomplished a great deal while at Macedonia. In 2009 the Seismic Retrofit and ADA Compliance Building Project that began in 2003 and was completed. The completion of the project satisfied San Francisco's Building Code that was required when Macedonia experienced devastation as a result of the Loma Prieta Earthquake of 1989. Pastor Neal also organized a Boy's Residential



Rev. Emmett Neal Sr.

Restoration Home in 2007 at Macedonia's Parsonage Property in San Francisco.

He resides in San Francisco with his three children, a daughter Jonnay Marie, and two sons, Emmett, Jr., and Julian

He holds a Bachelor's degree

and Master's degree in Social Work from San Francisco State University. He has been a social worker for 20 years.

Rev. Neal credits much of his success to the spiritual teaching and training his grandfather, the late Deacon Jesse W. Neal taught him at a young age. Both his grandfather and his grandmother, the late Sister Juanita N. Neal, were both long time members of the St. John Missionary Baptist Church in San Francisco, took him to numerous church functions and laid the spiritual foundation upon which he stands today.

Professor Jonathan Butler

Through his work as a research scientist, professor, and leader in the Faith community, Dr. Jonathan Z. Butler is working to eliminate health disparities that affect African Americans and to improve education outcomes for Black youth.

Dr. Butler is the executive director for the San Francisco African American Faith-Based Coalition, a network of 21 churches in the city

and county of San Francisco whose mission is to address health inequities in the Black community. He also serves as 2nd Vice-President and Health Committee Chair for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) San Francisco Branch. In addition, Dr. Butler is co-chair of the Sugary Drink Distributors Tax Advisory Committee (SDDTAC) of San Francisco representing the medical institution seat.

He is a research scientist and has dual faculty appointments in the Department of Family and Community Medicine and Department of Medicine, Cardiology Division in the Center for the Study of Adversity and Cardiovascular Disease (NURTURE Center) at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF).

He also serves as an associate minister at the historic Third Baptist Church of San Francisco, where he



Dr. Jonathan Butler

is executive director for the Third Baptist Foundation and

Back of Track, Incorporated, an after-school one-on-one tutoring program.

Dr. Butler earned his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology degrees at Howard University. He earned his Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing from the Jesse H. Jones School of Business at Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas.

He is an avid reader, habitual gym-goer, and lover of music.



Congratulations to
Dr. Jonathan Butler

We honor and respect your
commitment to
serving our community

--SFAAFBC

City College Dean Iлона M. McGriff

During a distinguished career in higher education administration, Iлона M. McGriff, MPA, has led efforts that have benefited countless students. She currently serves as the Dean of Capital Projects, Southeast and Evans Centers for City College of San Francisco (CCSF). In that role she has developed three new programs and facilitated the construction of temporary structures at the Evans Center.



City College Dean Iлона M. McGriff

Prior to her current position, McGriff served as Dean of Grants and Resource Development, where she focused on competitive grant applications, process, and program development. As

Dean of Grants, she obtained Hispanic Serving Institution status (HSI) for the College, reinstated programming for re-entry students, obtained funding and implemented a pre-apprenticeship program for Automotive, and raised over \$15 million (cumulatively). She was elected by her peers

to serve as Co-Chair of the Administrators' Association Executive Council and served as Vice President of the African American Faculty and Staff Association.

Her first position in college administration came when Dr. Julianne Malveaux, President Emeritus of Bennett College, appointed McGriff to the role of Vice President of Institutional Advancement. Since that initial appointment she served in additional capacities including as the Director of External Relations in the President's Office, Director of

Government Affairs and External Relations in Institutional Advancement and Director of Career Services at Bennett College in Greensboro,

North Carolina, one of only two Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's) focused on educating Black women. McGriff's previous career endeavors included 17 years of workforce development and serving as a Moral Character Analyst for the State Bar of California.

McGriff's educational accomplishments include selection as a National Urban Fellow and as a National Merit Scholar (PSAT). She received her Master's degree in Public Administration

from CUNY, Baruch College in New York City and her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political

Science and a minor

in Contemporary Black Arts, University of California, San Diego.

She has a long history of community service work. She is a member of the NAACP and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc, and has consulted on local political campaigns and elections. She has also served on numerous boards and held a multitude of leadership positions. She is the

founder and Principal Consultant of LSM Legacies, a non-profit management and grant writing consulting company.

A proud native San Franciscan, she is the mother to Miles Julian Adeyemi, her 12-years old son.

Educator Roniqua Cook-Greene

Roniqua Cook-Greene has been a civil servant and educator for the past fifteen years with a focus on community and student development. She is currently the Umoja Community Counselor at the College of San Mateo.



Roniqua Cook- Greene

While at the College of San Mateo she has been instrumental in recruitment and retention of African American students within the Umoja Learning co-hort. The mission of the Umoja Learning community is to transform,

enrich and advance the lives of African American students by infusing culturally relevant pedagogy and practices.

She started her counseling career at City College of San Francisco interning for the African American

She started her counseling career at City College of San Francisco interning for the African American Scholastic Program and has worked at several other community colleges

Scholastic Program and has worked at several other community colleges.

A Bay Area native, Cook-Greene graduated from San

Mateo High School, attended College of San Mateo and Alabama State University before transferring to San

Francisco State University where she graduated in 2000 with a major in African American Studies. She also holds a master's degree in

Counseling Psychology from Holy Names University.

Cook-Greene has been very active in her community serving on the School Board at Saint Leo the Great Elementary School in Oakland and also serves as 1st Vice President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Alpha Nu Omega Chapter in Oakland, where she has been instrumental in implementing the sorority's international programs.

She lives in the East Bay with her husband Terrance Greene and their two sons Satchel (17) and Cassius (9).

Community Activist LaNiece Jones

LaNiece Jones is an entrepreneur, philanthropic and political leader, known widely in the Bay Area and state for her tireless efforts to empower Black women and support community driven initiatives.

Jones spent over 15 years working in corporate sales and marketing roles at Businessland, Citicorp, IBM, and AT&T/Comcast. In 1991, she founded lajones&associates, a marketing public relations and events firm, which specializes in organizational

strategy, electoral campaigns and community organizing.

Jones is passionate about designing programs, events, and initiatives to increase the efficiency and productivity for social business, social enterprises, and community organizations. Her particular interest is supporting Black women to be authentic leaders and building coalitions to empower the community-at-large for economic success.

For the past two years, she has served as Executive Director for the Peralta Colleges

Foundation where she is charged with building strategic partnerships to raise student scholarship funds and resources for under-resourced students at Laney College, Merritt College, College of Alameda and Berkeley City College.

Since 1995, she has served in the volunteer capacity as Executive Director of Black Women Organized for Political Action/Training Institute for Leadership Enrichment (BWOPA/TILE) and she is also the BWOPA President of Oakland/Berkeley Chapter. She is a past President of



LaNiece Jones

Metropolitan Greater Oakland Democratic Club (MGO), an appointed member on the KQED Community Advisory Panel, a proud member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, Xi Gamma

Omega Chapter (Oakland), and serves as co-chair presiding over Congresswoman Barbara Lee's political advisory committee. Most recently, Jones was appointed by Congresswoman Lee to cast the historic electoral college vote in December 2020 at the State Capital.

An Oakland native, she attended Oakland public schools, earned her Bachelor's degree from CSU Hayward and Master's degree from Pepperdine University in Los Angeles in Social Entrepreneurship & Change.

Attorney Warren Pulley

Attorney Warren A. Pulley has excelled in a legal career focused on Worker's Compensation cases for over three decades. Currently Pulley is an associate at Boxer+Gerson, a Bay Area workers compensation firm headquartered in Oakland. Before joining Boxer+Gerson in 2016, he enjoyed a 15-year tenure as principal founding partner of Pulley & Cohen in Oakland — where he was named Attorney of the Year by the Workers' Compensation Section of the State Bar of California in 2012.

Prior to opening his own firm, he was a senior partner with Mullen & Fillippi, a national firm specializing in worker's compensation

Pulley's breadth of experience includes representing hundreds of injured workers as well as the interests of self-insureds, carriers, and third-party

At his undergraduate alma mater, the University of San Francisco, he was a Presidential Scholarship recipient and active with numerous boards, campus groups, and student body offices. He was similarly active in many campus organizations while earning his J.D. at Creighton University School of Law

defense, with offices in San Francisco and Oakland.

administrators. He frequently serves as a lecturer and panelist



Attorney Warren Pulley

at legal and trade association conferences around California.

At his undergraduate alma mater, the University of San Francisco, he was a Presidential Scholarship recipient and active with numerous

boards, campus groups, and student body offices. He was similarly active in many campus organizations while earning his J.D. at Creighton University School of Law.

Today, his community engagement continues in a variety of civic groups, to which he devotes significant amounts of his spare time. Among them is 100 Black Men of the Bay Area, where he serves as chairman of the scholarship program. He is also a member of the Charles Houston Bar Association and the California Applicants' Attorneys Association.

NAACP Leader Dan Daniels

Dan Daniels has been active in numerous civil rights actions across California and nationally since the 1960s. He has also had a lasting positive impact on the lives of Bay Area youth. Since 1999 he has served as Coastal Area Director for the State Conference of California and Hawaii of the NAACP.

Daniels' first participation in direct action occurred in Oklahoma City during a nationally recognized sit-in at Katz' Drugstore that was led by NAACP Youth Council leader Clara Luper and other youth council members. By 1964, Daniels was the Vice-President of the Oklahoma City Youth Council.

After moving to California in the early 1970s, he served with the California Department of Corrections. His positions there included Correctional Officer, Correctional Sergeant, Correctional Counselor I and II, Post-Trauma Coordinator, as well as Hostage Negotiator for the California Medical Facility. He also served with several task forces with the Department of Corrections including Sexual Harassment Prevention Coordinator and the Affirmative Action Coordinator for the department.

He retired as a Parole Agent with the Parole and Community Service Division in 1997. Daniels' life continued to be of service when he became Chairman of the Labor and Industry for the San Francisco

branch of the NAACP. He also served as First Vice-President of the SF NAACP branch

He found a new niche in fund and job development when he became the Executive Director of the West Bay Local Development Corporation. He also served as a fund developer for San Francisco State University. For the past 10 years, he has served in employment services, first with Buckelew Programs in Marin county where he assisted clients with severe and persistent mental health issues obtain employment. In addition to working with job seekers, he served on the Workforce Investment Board of Marin County.

In 2012, Daniels collaborated with the Marin County



Dan Daniels

Probation Department and the Marin Employment Connection to create the Youth Working for Change program, an internship and employment program that served youth probationers and at-risk youth in the community. With his encouragement,

youth have gained confidence and life-changing skills that have led to self-sufficiency through employment.

In 2012, Daniels was asked to create a world-class internship program for the County of Marin. Since then, over 100 youth have served as interns at a variety of County of Marin departments. The program teaches youth topics such as cultural competency, bias, conflict resolution, public speaking, resume writing and interview preparation. The Dan Daniels Spirit of Service Award is given each year to the youth that demonstrates the same passion and dedication to serving the community that Daniels has demonstrated over the years.

**Congratulations to
Dan Daniels!**

**We honor and celebrate your
selection as one of the Bay
Area's Talented 25 of 2020. No
one is more deserving of such
an honor than you.**

Your NAACP friends:

- Amos C. Brown, San Francisco President**
- Rick Callendar CA State Conf. President**
- Alice Huffman State Conf. Pres. Emeritus**
- Rusin Scott, Santa Rosa President**
- Jethro Moore, San Jose President**
- Jimmy Jackson, Vallejo President**
- Dave Smith, State Area Director**
- Ida M. Johnson, Assistant State Secretary**

Activist DiAngelo Gleaves

DiAngelo Gleaves is a young man with a bright future as a leader in the construction industry or whatever career he decides to undertake. Currently a junior studying civil engineering at California State University Chico, Gleaves is also a student athlete on the CSU Chico Men's Soccer Team.

He has completed several internships while pursuing his college degree and has received glowing reviews for his work ethic, desire to learn and

great attitude. Currently Gleaves is a Project Intern at Pankow Builders in San Francisco. His duties have included reviewing submittals from subcontractors prior to sending them to the city engineer, packaging RFI's and coordinating issues on site with the inspector and managing reinforcement subcontractors throughout the process of inspection. He has also participated in concrete quality control and inspection, concrete ordering and coordinating with trades

that interact with concrete work including excavation, waterproofing and steel. Gleaves has been the right-hand man of the engineer running the concrete work on site. He began with shadowing the engineer to learn the roles and responsibilities of managing concrete and then moved to taking on work on his own. He has so impressed the leadership at Pankow that they plan to keep him on through summer 2021 and are looking to expand his role. In the summer of 2019, he



DiAngelo Gleaves

was a Project Intern with Anvil Builders where he shadowed Anvil's project engineers and project managers. He also reviewed shop drawings and floorplans involving Harvey

Milk Terminal 1 - San Francisco International Airport.

During July and August of 2017, he interned at San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC). He facilitated activities involving the SFPUC to over 30 programs. He also led tours involving the highly sustainable SFPUC building (525 Golden Gate Ave).

Gleaves is fluent in Spanish with excellent communication skills. He has been called a high energy leader who inspires others to succeed.

Commissioner Lyn-Tise Jones

San Francisco Human Rights Commissioner, entrepreneur, and passionate activist, Lyn-Tise Jones, proudly hails from San Francisco's Bayview Hunters Point community. She is unwaveringly dedicated to ensuring equitable outcomes in underserved communities.

Owner of Jones Management and Consulting she has worked with notable clients including BART, San Francisco Unified School District, Oakland Unified School District, Be the Change Consulting, Yolanda's Construction Administration and Traffic Control and



Lyn-Tise Jones

Pankow Builders. She was formerly Director of Oceanview, Merced Heights, Ingleside Family Resource Center.

A Fisk University alumna, she holds a Bachelor of

Arts in Sociology and Mass Communications, a Master of Arts degree in Leadership, and is a former member of the National Honors Society and Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honor Society.

Jones professional experience includes extensive community planning, managing multi-million-dollar contracts and strategically maintaining prominent relationships. Her experience includes working with and for nonprofits, community stakeholders, local government, major construction companies, and smaller indigenous organizations.

She is no stranger to cultivating community partnerships and forming strong alliances. She has successfully achieved such partnerships and alliances through methodically executing presentations and public testimonies to various funding institutions on the needs and services for social justice advocacy, community inclusion, system improvements, racial equality, and access to elected officials at the global, national, and local levels.

With similar experiences to those in the communities she advocates for, Jones has a natural compassion and

thorough understanding of working with diverse and traumatized communities from California to Texas. Her passion lies in helping to advance underserved communities with her demonstrated ability in leading strength-based, trauma-informed programming and facilitating workshops, groups, and classes.

Serving in various sectors of the community from working as a site coordinator and connector in educational facilities to serving as an active leader in the local government, Jones is a well-known advocate and valuable asset to the community.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SUN-REPORTER ON THE 2020
TALENTED 25 SPECIAL EDITION**

JBR PARTNERS, INC. HONORS THESE COMMUNITY LEADERS:

DIANGELO GLEAVES, PROJECT INTERN, PANKOW BUILDERS

LYN-TISE JONES, HRC COMMISSIONER/PANKOW BUILDERS
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PROGRAMS

JBR PARTNERS IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE TALENTED 25 MEN AND
WOMEN REPRESENTING THE BAY AREA AFRICAN AMERICAN
COMMUNITY. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!

JBR

Partners Inc.



James A. Bryant, CEO

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT
LABOR RELATIONS OVER 30 YEARS
CONSTRUCTION PARTNERING *GOLD AWARD WINNERS 2018
LOCAL WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT
LOCAL HIRE EXPERTS SINCE 2006
LBE – DBE – SBE CERTIFIED**

Women's Rights Activist Kimberly Ellis

Kimberly Ellis was appointed by Mayor London Breed to serve as the Director of the San Francisco Department on the Status of Women last month. Ellis, a longtime progressive activist, formerly served as the Executive Director of Emerge California, the largest training program in the country for aspiring female political candidates. She is a progressive activist who has fought for the rights and representation of historically underrepresented groups on the local, state,

and national level.

“Equity and its creation of economic independence are the silver bullets for so many troubles facing all those this department intends to serve, and I am equally humbled and determined to make lasting change in the lives of all San Franciscans,” Ellis said upon receiving her appointment. “We know that when we raise up women, girls, trans, and gender non-conforming people, every aspect of our society improves.” “A new era has begun in America and it’s time we empower all marginalized

people in the dismantling of systemic racism and the white male patriarchy that has held too many back for far too long,” she added.”

After running national operations for Emerge America, Ellis was tapped to lead the flagship affiliate, Emerge California, as its Executive Director. For nearly a decade, Ellis successfully led the California affiliate, growing what had been a regional training program into a statewide electoral force for women candidates and elected officials.



Kimberly Ellis

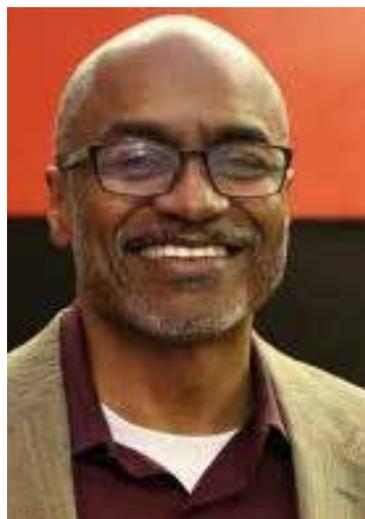
Inspired by her grandmother’s lifetime of community service, Ellis launched Unbought - Unbossed (UnB2) in summer 2018. An incubator for the next generation of political disruptors, at its core, UnB2

is about civic education, civic engagement, and civic empowerment. Unbought - Unbossed was designed to be a powerful vehicle to drive a collective narrative to elevate and support the voices and work of everyday activists who seek to create progressive change in their communities.

Ellis holds a law degree from the John F. Kennedy School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts from Jacksonville University. She lives in the Bay Area and is a proud, single, working mom of two teenagers and their cat, Agave.

Dr. Joseph Marshall

Dr. Joseph E. Marshall, Jr. has had a lasting impact on the lives of countless young men and women in the Bay Area and beyond. His commitment to turning lives around is manifest in his contributions as an author, lecturer, radio talk show host, and community activist.



Dr. Joseph Marshall

Dr. Marshall is the founder and executive director of Alive & Free, an international violence prevention organization headquartered in San Francisco, the creator of the Alive & Free Movement and president of the Alive & Free Consortium—an organization dedicated to eliminating violence worldwide. He is also the host of the violence prevention radio talk show

Street Soldiers. In addition, he formerly brought his unique perspective to the San Francisco Police Commission, where he served as president.

“I started Alive & Free/Omega Boys Club and the Street Soldiers radio program because I wanted to stem the

tide of young people dying and going to prison. I really believed that I could make a difference. The young people gave me a chance to work with them—either in person or on the radio—and the results have been tremendous—even more than I could have imagined. It’s been a great and amazing journey. I hope the ancestors are proud of me,” Marshall said.

Founded in 1987 as Omega Boys Club, Alive & Free has transformed the lives of thousands of young people and produced over 225 college graduates, all supported by the organization’s scholarship fund. Over 60 have gone on to earn graduate degrees. Dr. Marshall is the author of the 1996 best-selling book, “Street Soldier: One Man’s Struggle to Save a Generation, One Life at a Time” and the subject

of the PBS documentary “Street Soldiers.” Before co-founding the organization in 1987, he was a math teacher and administrator with the San Francisco Unified School District.

He is recognized as a social entrepreneur for his pioneering work redefining youth violence as a disease and developing the successful Alive & Free Prescription. He is an Ashoka Fellow, part of a network of leaders in more than 60 countries who are implementing system-changing solutions for the world’s most urgent social problems. Dr. Marshall served as a planner and peer reviewer of the 2001 US Surgeon General’s Report on Youth Violence, and his method informed the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s Best Practices of Youth Violence

Prevention in 2002.

His innovation has earned him the MacArthur Genius Award, the California Prize for Service and the Common Good, the Children’s Defense Fund Leadership Award, the Essence Award, and the Use Your Life Award from Oprah Winfrey. He is a trustee emeritus of the University of San Francisco.

Dr. Marshall earned his B.A. from the University of San Francisco, an M.A. in Education from San Francisco State University, and his Ph.D. in Psychology from Wright Institute in Berkeley. He holds honorary doctorates from Morehouse College and the University of San Francisco.

He is the proud father of three children Malcolm, Sydney and Cassie.



Photo by Alain McLaughlin

Kamala Devi Harris

Madame Vice President