

Sun-Reporter



A NEWS JOURNAL DEDICATED TO THE CAUSE OF THE PEOPLE • 77 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE ENTIRE BAY AREA

(USPS 526-500)

SPECIAL EDITION • THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2022

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BEST BUY IN THE WEST

SALUTING BLACK HISTORY AND DR. AMELIA ASHLEY-WARD



Dr. Amelia Ashley-Ward Receives An Honorary Doctorate Degree From San Jose State University

Sun Reporter



(ISSN 0890-0930)

Dedicated to the cause of the people-- that no good cause shall lack a champion and evil shall not thrive unopposed.

Published weekly by
Sun-Reporter Publishing Co.
1286 Fillmore Street
San Francisco, CA. 94115
Periodicals Postage Paid At
San Francisco, California

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to -
Sun-Reporter Publishing Co.
1286 Fillmore Street
San Francisco, CA. 94115
Phone: (415) 671-1000
Fax: (415) 671-1005

E-Mail address:

SunReporter@SBCglobal.net
Website:

www.SunReporterMedia.com

Subscription Rates:

\$20 per year; 30 cents per copy.
Member of National Newspaper Publishers Association, Inc., and California Publishers Association.
Sun-Reporter has a six-column format, 1.895" per column with .125" between each column.

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

Amelia Ashley-Ward
Editor/Publisher

*By Attorney
Peter Graham Cohn*

Black History Month is the perfect time for each of us to pause, reflect and celebrate the wonderful contributions that African American people within our midst have made to our heritage and history. Sometimes we forget to consider those near and dear to us who have been faithfully witnessing and recording the milestones and achievements that our brothers and sisters are making every day. **Dr. Amelia Ashley-Ward of the San Francisco Sun-Reporter Newspaper is one of those chroniclers who has so often lifted up others whose life stories have not been told and enabled them to achieve their personal best in life and to give back to their communities through a diverse range of public and private service.**

For some 78 years, the Sun-Reporter – founded by Dr. Carlton Goodlett and Mr. Thomas Fleming in 1944 and led by Dr. Amelia Ashley-Ward since 1997 – has been that beacon and legendary news journal of Northern California “dedicated to the cause of the people so that no good cause shall lack a champion and evil shall not thrive unopposed.” In 1979, Amelia graduated from San Jose State University with



Attorney Cohn and Evan Carlton Ward

a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Journalism and, after serving as an intern at the Sun-Reporter during her final year of study, was hired as a reporter by Dr. Goodlett and took up the paper’s mantle of being a leading advocate for others. In 1984, she was promoted to Managing Editor; and, in 1994, she became the Publisher. In 1997, she bought the entire Sun-Reporter Publishing Company which includes the California Voice, the Metro and the Sun-Reporter.

Throughout her career, Amelia has exemplified the mission of the Sun-Reporter and has stood firm on behalf of those who needed a champion and whose stories would not otherwise be told. Like the great tradition of her newspaper, she has always been willing to give voice to those in need and to be fearless in undertaking unpopular causes. As a result, civic leaders have always sought the counsel of the Sun-Reporter in confronting challenging issues of the day

as well as support in their administrative and legislative initiatives, and campaigns for public office. In 2014, Amelia created and implemented the Talented 25 tradition of annually telling and publishing the stories of the lives of those in various positions of private or public service. Amelia’s innovation set a wonderful example for the African American press and community because it embodied what Dr. King underscored in his inspiring quote: “Everybody can be great because everybody can serve.” As a result, Amelia and her late Editor – Gail Berkley – interviewed some 150 souls over the years to capture all the key influences and mentors in their lives and their philosophies that have enabled them to serve others. These narratives were developed to inspire the future generations of up-and-coming African American community leaders on how they too can best serve in very meaningful ways.

On December 16, 2021,

Amelia’s proud ancestors and the elders – who were summoned – had the honor of witnessing San Jose State University turning the bright light of history onto the life and legacy of Dr. Amelia Ashley-Ward by awarding her the honorary Doctorate Degree of Humane Letters during its 2021 Commencement ceremony. She was awarded the Degree by SJSU President Mary Papazian in front of her family and friends and the 571 graduates of the College of Social Sciences along with their families and supporters. Her family delegation was led by her son Evan Carlton Ward and her sisters Shunda Ashley-Criswell and Lytoria Ashley-Little.

In awarding the Degree, President Papazian read both the extensive citation that was the basis for the academic action taken and the Degree itself that was signed by her, the Governor, the Chancellor and the President of the California State University Trustees. The declaration of the Degree stated: “The Trustees of the California State University on the recommendation of San Jose State University hereby confer upon AMELIA ASHLEY-WARD the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters with all the rights, privileges and honors pertaining thereto, given at San Jose State University.” The Citation to Amelia’s extraordinary career by the University began as follows: “Amelia Ashley-Ward has been a strong voice for more inclusive journalism throughout

Continued on page 30

On the Cover: Amelia with Michelle Obama, Amelia with Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett, Amelia with Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Amelia with Reverend Cecil Williams. Right Top: Amelia with Vice President Kamala Harris, Amelia with son Evan Carlton Ward, Amelia with Dr. Amos C. Brown and Amelia with Reverends Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton



THE VICE PRESIDENT

December 16, 2021

I send my warmest congratulations to my dear friend, Ms. Amelia Ashley-Ward, on the awarding of her honorary degree from San Jose State University.

For more than forty years, Amelia has shone the light of truth. She has told the stories that others ignore. She has held the powerful to account. And she has upheld the highest journalistic standards through it all.

As an intern, reporter, editor, and now publisher, Amelia has built the Sun-Reporter—a keystone of African American media for more than 75 years—into one of the most important and influential newspapers in the United States.

Today, we thank Amelia for serving as a beacon for our community and our Nation. Amelia and I have been on this journey together for a long time, and I am grateful for our years of friendship.

Congratulations again on this tremendous achievement.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Amelia J.", written in a cursive style.

CITATION TO **Amelia Ashley-Ward**

HONORARY DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS

Amelia Ashley-Ward has been a strong voice for more inclusive journalism throughout her career. Newspaper publisher, editor and journalist, Ms. Ashley-Ward received her bachelor of arts in journalism and photojournalism in 1979 from San José State University. During her final year at San José State, she interned at the Sun-Reporter Publishing Company in San Francisco and was hired as a reporter and photojournalist when she graduated. In 1984, Ms. Ashley-Ward was promoted to managing editor of the Sun-Reporter, and 10 years later, received another promotion to publisher. While working at the Sun-Reporter, her photographs were published in People and Jet magazines and her articles published in the African American magazine Sepia. In 1997, she bought the Sun-Reporter Publishing Company, acquiring all three of the company's newspapers: the California Voice, the Metro and the Sun-Reporter. Reflecting her strong commitment to communities, she also created the nonprofit Sun-Reporter Foundation in 2004, and was the founding president of the Young Adult Christian Movement.

Ms. Ashley-Ward has received many honors and awards while working at the Sun-Reporter Publishing Company. The National Newspaper Publishers Association has awarded her with the 1980 Photojournalism Award, the 1981 Feature Writing Award and, in 1998, the organization elected her Publisher of the Year. In 1997, she received the Woman of the Year award from the San Francisco Black Chamber of Commerce.

Her accolades extend beyond the newspaper industry. In 2004, Ms. Ashley-Ward received the Alumnus of the Year award from San José State University and was the commencement speaker for the university's journalism department that same year. She also was honored in 2005 when she was selected Woman of the Year by California State Senator Carole Migden. In 2008, she was named one of the 49 Most Influential People in San Francisco by 7x7 Magazine. She served on the boards of the National Newspaper Publishers Association and the San Francisco branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

In recognition of her outstanding accomplishments and impact, the Board of Trustees of the California State University and San José State University are proud to confer upon Amelia Ashley-Ward the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters.

Congratulations to

*Dr. Amelia
Ashley-Ward*

A person who for decades has kept residents of the Bay Area fully informed through her commitment to print journalism.

San Jose State University has awarded her an honorary Doctorate Degree in full acknowledgment of her contributions.

The Willie L. Brown Institute celebrates this single achievement.



Willie L. Brown, Jr. Fellows at San Francisco State University

The Power of Positive Defiance

President Papazian, and all of you here today,

I thank you for this great honor and I appreciate that generous description of my life and career.

What I want to add is that, for all the great mentors and sources of inspiration in my life – from my Mother to Dr. Carlton Goodlett to Maya Angelou to Mayor Willie Brown, and attorney Peter Cohn who's here with us today ... for all of these, there have been dozens of naysayers, countless people who overtly, or subtly, said "No."

Who told me, "You can't."

I want to talk about those words – "No" and "Can't" – for a moment, and about what I call the Power of Positive Defiance.

I want to talk about being motivated by those who underestimate you, those would count you out – or worse, those who discriminate against you.

Because the hard truth about the world we live in, in my lifetime and unfortunately into the foreseeable future, is that there are a lot more doubters out there than believers.

I was born in Mississippi and soon arrived in the Bay Area at the close of the 1950s – a little Black girl being raised by a single mother, at a time when we weren't expected to succeed.

Coming up, I can't tell you how many times I was told "No, you can't do that." "No, you won't finish school." "No, you are not college material."

Well, I'll be honest: I was fit to be tied.

And it only made me work harder. Being told "No" lit a fire under me!

My Mother – a strong, intelligent fighter of a woman in her own right – wasn't buying it either. She gave me the tools I needed to succeed ...

And yes! I could finish high school!

And yes! I could go to college ... this great college!

I had a dream to be a journalist. It was a time when folks wanted to change the world.

Dr. King had shown us that a beautiful dream, combined with unshakable courage, could change the world.

He showed us that non-violent protest – defiance – could overcome.

But going through college when I did, when the freedom rides of the 60s gave way to the head-to-head political battles of the 70s, I wanted to do it my way.

I wanted to be part of a powerful force: the media – the Black media.

And I was coming of age at a time of great turbulence in the nation, especially in the Bay Area.

Draft center bombings, the Black Panthers, our own John Carlos and Tommie Smith ... the SLA, the Milk-Moscone killings, Jonestown ... it felt like the Bay Area was caught in a perpetual hurricane.

And hurricanes always have a way of hitting the Black community the hardest.

I just knew I had to cover all of that.

San Jose State had, and still has, an atmosphere of inclusion and activism and political intensity – thanks to people like Dr. Steven Millner, who ran the Black Studies program and kept me grounded.

And I loved my time here – but as I neared graduation, there were those who told me "No" ... who said the male-dominated field of newspapermen was not for me.

Well, I earned my degree from San Jose State, and a week later I was working at the Sun-Reporter, the West Coast's pre-eminent Black newspaper.

But it took the faith of Doc Goodlett to take a chance on me, to believe in me, to train me ... and in doing so, to defy the naysayers, who said Doc was crazy bringing on this 21-year-old Mississippi girl.

Continued to page 8



The long-term care providers of SEIU Local 2015 congratulate Dr. Ashley-Ward for her achievement and her Doctorate. Our members—mostly women, mostly women of color—thank you for your decades of work centering Black voices and Black women in the Sun-Reporter.

Thank you for all of your dedication in creating positive change within our communities and to the lives of over 400,000 members of SEIU Local 2015.

TIME FOR \$20

SEIU Local 2015 is the largest union in California, representing more than 400,000 long-term care workers (home care, skilled nursing facility, and assisted living center workers) throughout the state. Its members are as diverse as the state's population, but united in their commitment to caring for California's most vulnerable: seniors and those with disabilities.

SEIU2015.ORG

Positive Defiance Continued from page 6

I remember when I started out, the other photographers and reporters I'd encounter out on the beat – almost all of them men – were dismissive: “You can't get into that meeting.” “You'll never get that shot.” “This story is for the big boys.” “You don't belong.”

Well, I wasn't having that. I was determined to defy that kind of thinking.

And five years later, I became Managing Editor of the Sun-Reporter.

A decade later, I took over the whole operation.

And I'm proud to say, a quarter century later, we're still at it.

In good times and bad, I work hard to keep the Sun-Reporter successful. And on behalf of the Black community, I fight to keep us at the center of civic affairs.

And I never take “No” for an answer – whether it's on a story, dealing with some powerful interest; or it's in the business community, competing for our share of limited advertising dollars; or it's at City Hall, fighting for our seat at the table.

And I won't shy away from the big political fights.

Years ago, I was told to tone it down when the Sun-Reporter helped introduce a rising star to the world, a young Black woman running for office; I was told “you can't” invest so much political capital in this young woman; I was told “she can't win.”

She was a young lawyer, a candidate for district attorney, and her name was Kamala Harris.

She was going up against an incumbent DA, a legendary figure in San Francisco politics. And she had been told, “No, you can't run. It's not your time.”

Well, we were fit to be tied.

It motivated us to work even harder.

Kamala won that first election, narrowly – a huge upset. She overcame the forces of “No.” She was defiant.

And the rest is history.

This is the kind of positive defiance I'm talking about about.

It's about fighting back rather than getting tapped out.

Maya Angelou had something to say on the subject – she said: “I love to see a young girl go out and grab the world by the lapels. Life's a bi.... You've got to go out and kick butt.”

Well, I'm with Maya – I love that story too ...

I thank you again for this great honor. And I hope the next time anyone tells you “No” or “You can't” ... you stand your ground, you get to work, and you go about proving them wrong.

Be positively defiant.

Thank you.



On This Black History Month
Let Us Celebrate Our Strong Black Women
We Salute You Amelia Ashley-Ward
Thank you for 42 Years of Dedicated Service
to the Cause of the People

Malia Cohen
Chair, California State Board of Equalization

AND

The Black History Closing
Ceremony Committee





BONNER COMMUNICATIONS

Bonner Communications sends a warm congratulations to Amelia Ashley Ward for her Honorary Doctorate Degree in Humane Letters from her alma mater, San Jose State University.

She is a shining example of Black excellence and we celebrate her and all Black people, this Black History Month for their incredible contributions to America since its inception.

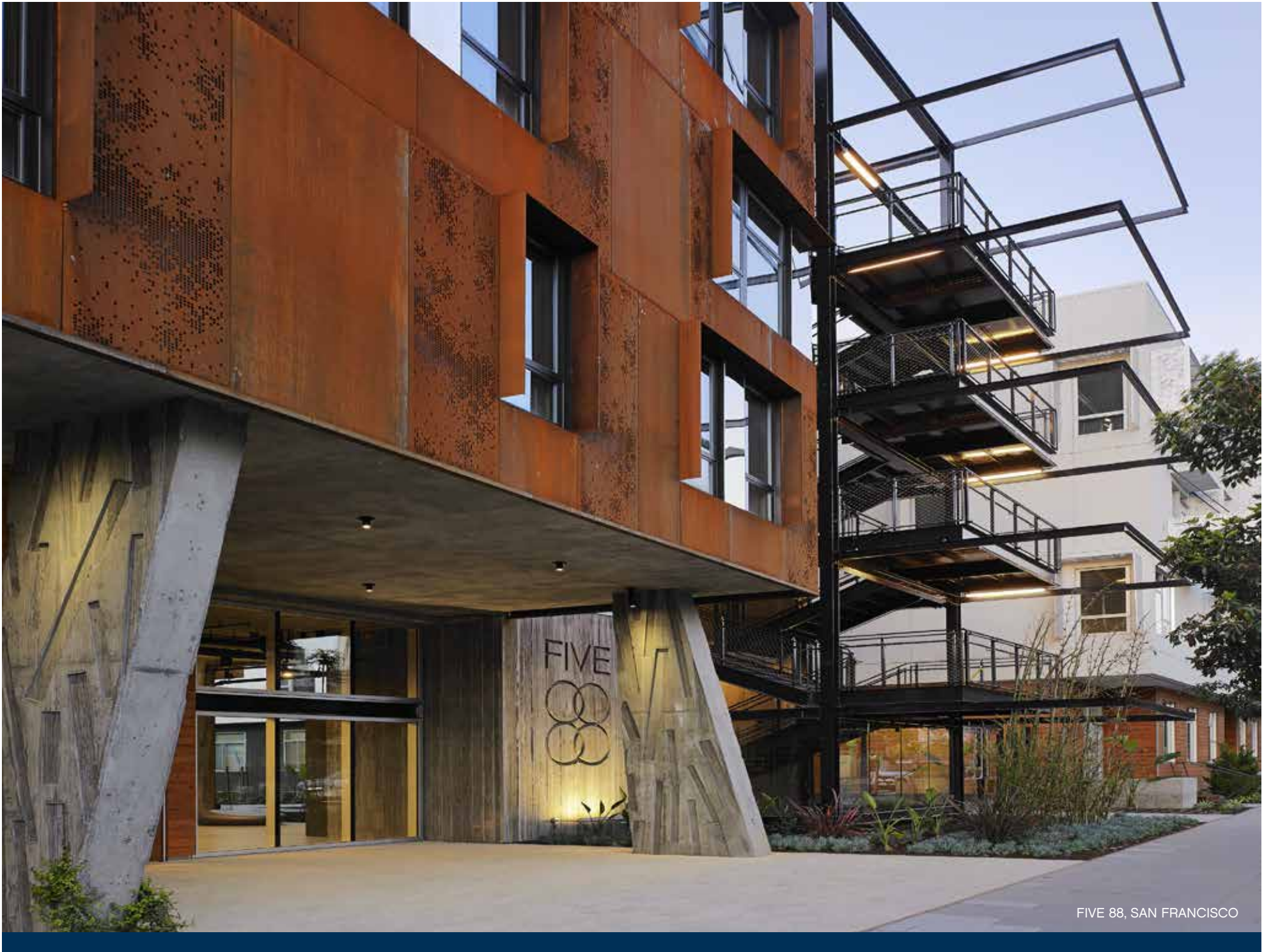
Congratulations, Dr. Amelia Ashley-Ward!
Thank you for allowing me to witness
your standing ovation.

Waukeen Q. McCoy, Esq.



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The HistoryMakers

Newspaper publisher, editor and journalist Amelia Ashley-Ward was born on September 17, 1957 in Magnolia, Mississippi to Amile Ashley and Louise James Ashley. While still a child, Ashley-Ward's family moved to San Francisco, where she attended junior high and high school. Ashley-Ward went on to receive her B.A. degree in journalism and photojournalism in 1979 from San Jose State University.

During her final year at San Jose State University, Ashley-Ward interned at the Sun-Reporter Publishing Company in San Francisco, where she was hired as a reporter and photojournalist for the Sun-Reporter newspaper in 1979. Then, in 1984, Ashley-Ward was promoted to managing editor of the Sun-Reporter. When the Sun-Reporter Publishing Company's publisher Carlton Goodlett resigned in 1994, Ashley-Ward was promoted to publisher. While working at the Sun-Reporter, she also published photographs in People magazine and Jet magazine, and wrote a feature story for the African American magazine Sepia. Following Goodlett's death in 1997, she bought the Sun-Reporter Publishing Company from Goodlett's son, acquiring all three of the company's newspapers: the California Voice, the Metro and the Sun-Reporter. Ashley-Ward also created the nonprofit Sun-Reporter Foundation in 2004, and was the founding president of the Young Adult Christian Movement.

Ashley-Ward has received many honors and awards while working at the Sun-Reporter Publishing Company. In 1980, she won the Photojournalism Award from the National Newspaper Publishers Association, and, in 1981, she received the Feature Writing Award from the same organization. The National Newspaper Publishers Association granted Ashley-Ward one more honor when, in 1998, she was elected Publisher of the Year. In 1997, she received the Woman of the Year award from the San Francisco Black Chamber of Commerce. In 2004, Ashley-Ward received the Alumnus of the Year award from San Jose State University, and was the commencement speaker for the university's Journalism department that same year. She was also honored in 2005, when she was selected as Woman of the Year by California State Senator Carole Migden. In 2008, Ashley-Ward was named one of the forty nine Most Influential People in San Francisco by 7x7 Magazine. She also served on the boards of the National Newspaper Publishers Association and the San Francisco branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Ashley-Ward has one son, Evan Carlton Ward, an electronic media major at Middle Tennessee State University.

Amelia Ashley-Ward was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on November 4, 2013.



Amelia, congratulations on your honorary
doctorate – this very special recognition of
your achievements and valuable work is
richly deserved.

Very best,
Steven Kay, Esq.



Congratulations, Amelia!

You are the Voice & Conscience of the Community!



I Remember Mama

By Amelia Ashley-Ward
Publisher

It's been ten years now since my Mother went home to glory. Mrs. Louise James Ashley meant the world to me.

A Mother's love is unique and compares to nothing. Yes, Mommy love is simply divine.

When you think Love has reached its peak, there's always a higher level for a Mother's love.

No matter how many children she may have, she loves them all in her own special way. And they know and feel it.

My Mother was a dual parent for many years and certainly not by choice. Like Mother like daughter, I am also a dual parent and not by choice.

I learned how to be a great parent all by your lonesome from my Mother. She made no excuses when it came to raising and providing for three daughters. She taught me that you play the hand life deals you and you play it to win. I watched Mother struggle many times to feed and clothe us. I witnessed her stressed out trying to make ends meet to pay the rent and keep the electricity on. But we always made it through. I would hear mother on her knees praying and asking God for help. I marveled at her strength and wanted to pay her back by matching her greatness. So, I prepared myself for greatness. I wanted to be a great mother, too.

Her final words to me in Room 11 at 10 a.m., August 11, 2010 at Kaiser Hospital in South San Francisco were, "You've done a great job with Evan." I remarked, Mom, you taught me well.

So, when you see me smile and I too have many tears to cry, just blame it on my Mother. She taught me to never let anyone or anything get the best of me. She said, if you can make it through the night, daylight is coming.

If you see me walking into a room, head up, chest out looking like I own it.... Blame that, too, on Mrs. . She said we're born free to be who we want to be. "You are the only one who can get in your way. Never give up, never give in. Amelia, only the strong survive!"

She cautioned me to be of service to the community and encouraged me to work for the Sun-Reporter. She taught me to share my blessings and to be unselfish. When you serve others, you will also be served.

As I prepare to celebrate my 27th year of being a mother to my son, Evan Carlton Ward, I will also lift my head to the sky and acknowledge that I am the beneficiary of the love and upbringing of an amazing woman created by God named Louise James Ashley.

May we rise up on Sunday, Mother's Day, whether our Mother is in Heaven or here on earth - even if we have social distance-and give our Mothers a standing ovation.

Happy Mother's Day! **(Published May 2020)**





SAN FRANCISCO
FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 798



This Black History Month

San Francisco
Firefighters Local 798

Salutes

SUN REPORTER PUBLISHER

Amelia Ashley-Ward

In Honor of

**Her Recent Honorary Doctorate Degree
In Humane Letters
From Her Alma Mater,
San Jose State University.**

 **YCD YOUNG COMMUNITY DEVELOPERS**

CONGRATULATES

**AMELIA
ASHLEY-WARD**

*IN HONOR OF HER RECENT
HONORARY DOCTORATE DEGREE
IN HUMANE LETTERS FROM HER ALMA MATER,
SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY.*

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PG&E Corporate Leader Jimi Harris



SJSU President Dr. Mary Papazian

Photos by Alain McLaughlin

The Big Celebration



Son Evan Carlton Ward



Sister Shunda Ashley Criswell



Nieces India Marie Little and Shunise Geralyne Criswell



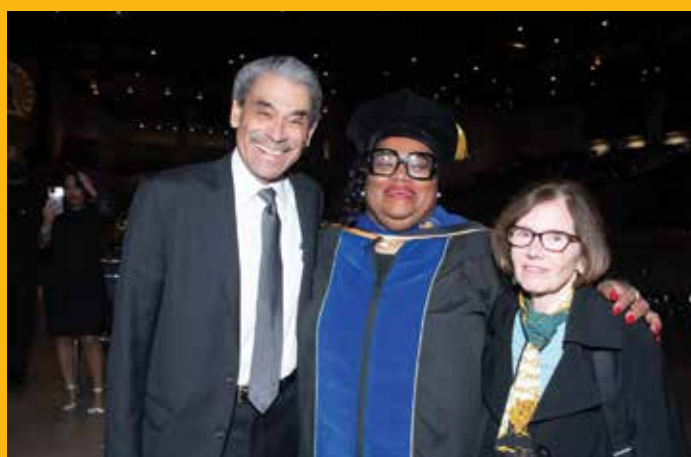
Sister Lytoria Ashley-Little



Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr.



Dr. Frederick D. Haynes, III and Debra Peek-Haynes



Attorney Peter Graham Cohn and Dr. Barbara Bloom



News Anchor Pam Moore

HAPPY BLACK HISTORY MONTH

NOYOLA PICCINI GROUP

CONGRATULATIONS AMELIA.
YOU ARE OUR SHE-RO!

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Karin Johnston, April Ang & Elsie Burke



HMS Associates

BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH



CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. AMELIA ASHLEY-WARD WHO RECEIVED HER HONORARY DOCTORATE DEGREE FROM SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY, AND CONTINUES TO ELEVATE BLACK ACHIEVEMENTS.

RECOLOGY SALUTES
THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF

Dr. Amelia
Ashley-Ward

AND CELEBRATES

Black History
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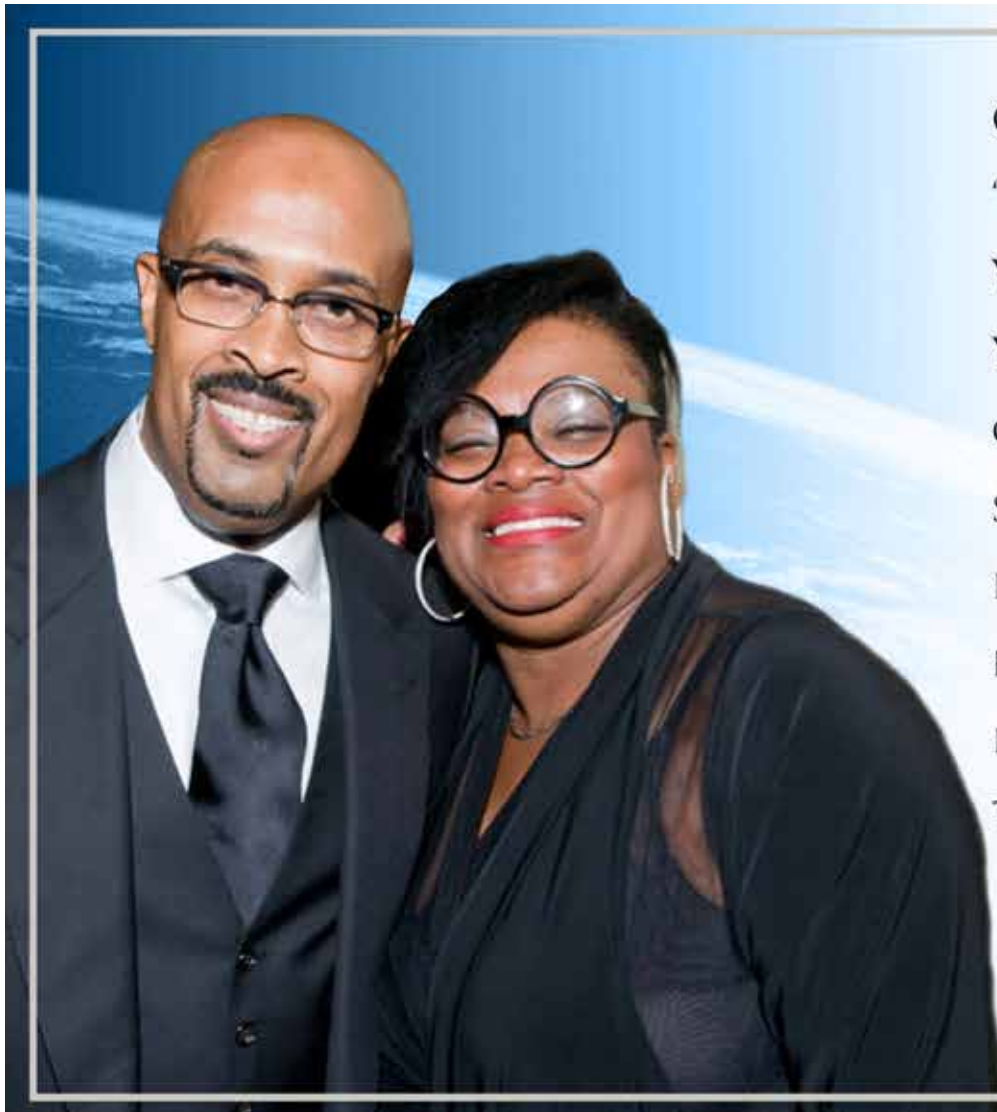
WE'VE HEARD
THE GREAT NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS
MS. AMELIA
ASHLEY-WARD

FOR YOUR RECENT HONORARY DOCTORATE DEGREE
IN HUMANE LETTERS FROM YOUR ALMA MATER,
SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY.

YOU ARE AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO A HISTORY MAKER AND
"TREE SHAKER," DR AMELIA ASHLEY-WARD!
YOUR SPEECH WAS POWERFUL AND UPLIFTING!
YOUR BELOVED MOM AND DR GOODLETT WERE
CHEERING YOU ON AS YOU CHALLENGED THE
STUDENTS AND THE ENTIRE AUDIENCE! IF WE
LIVE OUT THE TRUTH OF YOUR SPEECH WE WILL
NEVER ACCEPT "NO" AND RESCUE THIS COUNTRY
FROM ITS PERILOUS SLIDE INTO FASCISM!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORDS, WORK AND
WITNESS!

FREDERICK D. HAYNES, III

'It had to Be You' — Black Press Publisher on Her Respect and Commitment to Vice President-Elect Harris

*By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent
@StacyBrownMedia*

One day before the Associated Press and other media outlets called the 2020 Presidential Election for Democrat Joe Biden, San Francisco Sun Reporter Publisher Amelia Ashley-Ward communicated with her longtime homegirl, Sen. Kamala Harris.

"I told her 'It had to be you,'" Ashley-Ward, whose more than 76-year-old newspaper, the Sun Reporter, is among the oldest in the 230-plus member Black Press of America.

As she had done so many times in her nearly two-decade friendship with Ashley-Ward, Sen. Harris quickly responded: "We've been on this journey for a long time. Thank you, Sister Amelia, love you very much," the Vice-President Elect responded.

Ashley-Ward proudly says she had Harris' back since the renowned former District Attorney and California Senator began her glass-ceiling shattering political career.

Harris wasn't a household name, but all that mattered to Ashley-Ward was that she was a sister with immense talent and on the rise.

"I gave up a close friendship with her former boss in the District Attorney's office to support Kamala," Ashley-Ward told Black Press USA.

"People were saying that they didn't really know her. Well, she's definitely a sister, and she's brilliant, she's warm, she's easy to talk to, she's nurturing, she doesn't back down, and she's fearless."

On Saturday, November 7, 2020, when Joe Biden and Sen. Harris cemented victory and claimed their status as President and Vice-President-Elect, Ashley-Ward sat and reflected joyfully inside a San Francisco beauty salon.

"I cried, and there were three or four other women there who jumped for joy," recalled Ashley-Ward, who, by her association with Vice President-Elect Harris, has become somewhat of a celebrity.

The New York Times has been among the outlets that have called Ashley-Ward to gain insight into Harris.

A longtime member of the Black Press and the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), Ashley-Ward formally introduced Harris to her Black Press family in 2018.

That year, Harris received the honor as the NNPA's 2018 Newsmaker of the Year Award during Black Press Week in Washington, D.C.

Ashley-Ward escorted her friend into a ballroom to accept the award.

"In all of my years covering news in our community, Sen. Harris has been one of the smartest, most fearless, steadfast and caring politicians that I have come to know," Ashley-Ward stated during the ceremony.

"She has a lot to offer the world. We are so fortunate to have her advocating on our behalf."

Ashley-Ward has never been shy about her endorsement of Harris.

The Senator and former District Attorney often checked-in with Ashley-Ward from time to time.

"It's important that the Black Press is not left out of this historic occasion," Ashley-Ward remarked.

"We have to make sure that people know that she's of the Black community. Black women helped to elect her, and I've been with her from the very beginning with the Black Press.

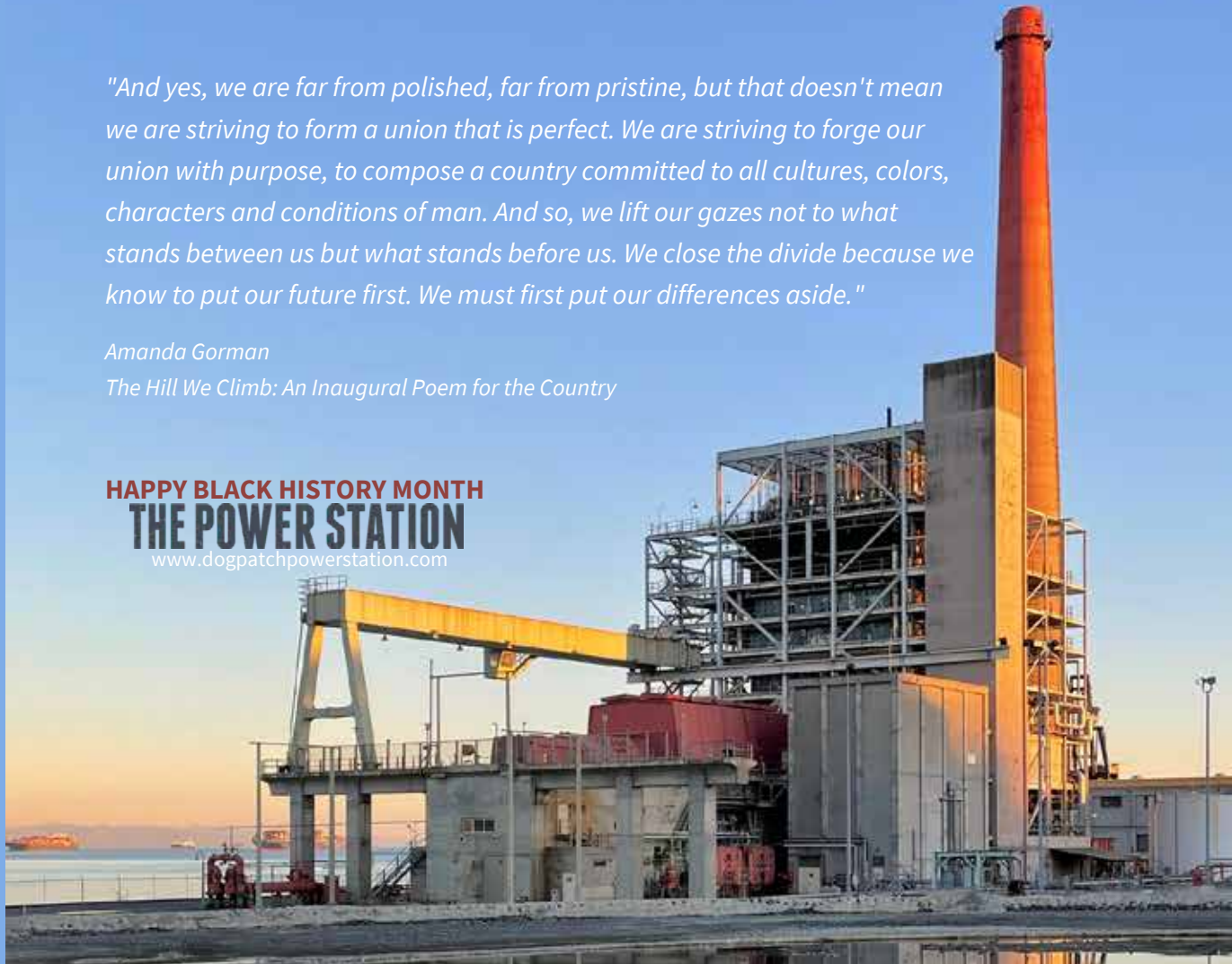
"I was the first newspaper, a Black newspaper, to endorse her when no one believed in her. It's always been the Black women. As I told her, it had to be you. I love you, Madame Vice President. That felt good to say."



"And yes, we are far from polished, far from pristine, but that doesn't mean we are striving to form a union that is perfect. We are striving to forge our union with purpose, to compose a country committed to all cultures, colors, characters and conditions of man. And so, we lift our gazes not to what stands between us but what stands before us. We close the divide because we know to put our future first. We must first put our differences aside."

*Amanda Gorman
The Hill We Climb: An Inaugural Poem for the Country*

HAPPY BLACK HISTORY MONTH
THE POWER STATION
www.dogpatchpowerstation.com



BLACK HISTORY IS AMERICAN HISTORY

The Port of San Francisco is proud to celebrate the contributions of Black people to our Port, San Francisco and California.

PEOPLE

ALL THE BLACK NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT

As the newly appointed publishers of some of our oldest newspaper empires, Elinor Tatum, Amelia Ashley-Ward and Myiti Sengstacke are determined to continue the legacy of Black publishing power

WE'VE COME TO RELY ON BLACK NEWSPAPERS AS the unbiased documenters of our history and the voice of our communities. With controversies and accusations of "slanted" coverage of Black issues by the mainstream media, Black newspapers are as necessary today as when the first one was founded 171 years ago. Three women newly appointed to the helm of separate newspaper empires are determined to make sure our brand of journalism carries into the next millennium.

At 27 Elinor Tatum is one of the youngest publishers in the newspaper industry, but she's been in the "who, what, where, why and when" business long before she could even read. "If there was a discussion at the table, I was encouraged to participate and formulate opinions—not just be a pretty little girl sitting in a chair," recalls Tatum, who is the new publisher and editor of New York City's once largest Black paper, *The Amsterdam News*, which was founded in 1909 and purchased by her father, Wilbert A. Tatum, in the mid-1990's.

Tatum isn't sitting alone on this throne. Amelia Ashley-Ward, 41, publisher and editor of the San Francisco-based Sun Reporter Publishing Co. (its three newspapers—*Sun Reporter*, *The California Voice* and *The Metro Reporter Group*—have a total circulation of 160,000), took over when her mentor and the previous publisher, Dr. Carlton Goodlett, resigned in 1994. The San Jose State University graduate's new position, however, was met with harsh criticism even though she had worked at the paper for more than 18 years. "The paper lost substantial advertising revenues, and some members of the community didn't think that, without Dr. Goodlett, a young Black woman could handle the responsibilities," recalls Ashley-Ward, who won the 1998 Publisher of the Year award from the National Newspaper Publishing Association. But Ashley-Ward is a woman on a mission: "I



Giving voice to our community (top to bottom): Elinor Tatum, Amelia Ashley-Ward and Myiti Sengstacke.



rallied and got support from the NAACP, which brought in new advertising clients and stabilized the catastrophe," she says proudly.

Myiti Sengstacke, 26, became an heir of Sengstacke Enterprises, which publishes *The Chicago Defender*, *The Michigan Chronicle*, *The Pittsburgh Courier* and, in Memphis, *The Tri-State Defender*, after her grandfather, John H. Sengstacke, passed away in May 1997. The

elder Sengstacke inherited the company from his uncle, Robert Sengstacke Abbott, who was the son of former slaves. Myiti's first order of business: remove Northern Trust Co. as trustee because it was preparing to sell Sengstacke Enterprises, including *The Chicago Defender*—the city's 93-year-old only Black newspaper, which

helped nurture the careers of Langston Hughes and W.E.B. Du Bois. Her current task is to find a successor trustee and investors willing to pay off the multimillion-dollar generation-tax debt of the Sengstacke estate. "My grandfather left this company [which is valued at around \$12 million] to us because he knew we would carry the torch and keep the legacy alive," firmly claims Sengstacke, who left her publishing duties at the chain's most profitable paper, *The Michigan Chronicle*, to devote her attention to securing the future of the company's newspapers.

Like Sengstacke, New York's Elinor Tatum, who puts in a 70-hour workweek editing reporters' stories and approving layouts, is determined to preserve Black print: "*The Amsterdam News* is the past, present and future of Harlem. I've got to keep it going for the next generation." —D.C. ▷



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Sun-Reporter

1944-2019

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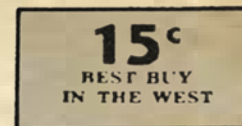




SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO
The **SUN-REPORTER**

Covering SAN FRANCISCO-OAKLAND and 'ROUND THE BAY

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA



History of the Sun-Reporter

Seventy-eight years ago, the Sun-Reporter was born. With the massive migration of African Americans to the San Francisco Bay Area to work in the wartime shipyards, the sudden change in population made it clear that if African Americans were to have a voice, they had to have a newspaper. The Sun-Reporter became that paper. First came The Reporter in 1944, founded and edited by Thomas C. Fleming, which soon merged with The Sun, a paper acquired in a poker game by Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett, Fleming's longtime friend. Thus the Sun-Reporter was launched, with Dr. Goodlett as Editor/Publisher, Dr. Dan Collins as Co-Publisher, and Fleming as Managing Editor. In 1951 Dr. Goodlett became sole publisher, and in 1971 he added the seven Metro-Reporters and the California Voice to his publications.

Dr. Goodlett was born July 23, 1914 in Chipley, Florida and educated in the public schools of Omaha, Nebraska. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Howard University in 1935, a Ph.D. in Psychology from UC Berkeley in 1938, and a Medical degree from Meharry Medical College, Tennessee in 1944. When he settled in the Bay Area he opened his medical offices in San Francisco, where his diagnostic skills and commitment to family practice made him an important addition to the medical profession and the emerging black community. Throughout his career he administered to hundreds of patients, many of whom he served without charge. He was one of the few doctors who still made home visits.

Besides being an outstanding physician, Dr. Goodlett capitalized on his early interest in journalism (as editor of the Hill-top, Howard University's student newspaper) by becoming publisher of the Sun-Reporter, a fighting, crusading newspaper designed to take on all the social and political battles raging in post-war America and proudly carrying the motto, "That no good cause shall lack a champion, and that evil shall not thrive unopposed."

From its inception, and it holds true today, the Sun-Reporter has taken a strong editorial stand against racism, segregation, war and inequality while actively fighting for civil rights, fair employment and housing laws, and world peace. Early on the Sun-Reporter challenged school segregation and denounced Senator Joseph McCarthy's assault on civil liberties in the days of the Cold War. Dr. Goodlett was in constant touch with Paul and Eslanda Robeson and was largely responsible for bringing Mr. Robeson for a concert to Third Baptist Church when all other venues were prohibited to him.

In 1963 the Sun-Reporter office was moved to Dr. Goodlett's new building on Turk Street, where he could more efficiently pursue both his medical practice and the business of running a newspaper. The Sun-Reporter, with its upstairs Community Room, became a focal point for the community. Many events took place there, including visits from Malcolm X, Muhammad Ali, Dick Gregory, and the Black Panthers. Some young and talented journalists started their careers at the Sun-Reporter and moved on, including Lance Gilmore, Edith Austin, Belva Davis, Valerie Coleman and many more. Phil Burton, Art Agnos, Jerry Brown, Willie Brown, George Moscone, Cecil Poole, Ron Dellums, Barbara Lee, Mervyn Dymally, Aileen Hernandez, Dolores Huerta and many other prominent political figures dropped by the Sun-Reporter for advice and counsel.

In 1951 Dr. Goodlett joined the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), the Black Press of America, and served three terms as its president. He also served as chair of the California Black Leadership Council and as president of the San Francisco Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and led a protest against the Municipal Railway for discrimination against African Americans.

He became an active mover in the Democratic Party and in 1966 ran for Governor of California in the Democratic primaries, with Sy Cassidy, Dick Gregory and Rev. Cecil Williams as sidekicks in the "Goodlett for Governor" campaign. He ran under the motto, "The people are wise -- wiser than the politician thinks!" and with a platform demanding "an economic floor below which no one can fall!" He came in third in a field of six.

Dr. Goodlett was on the Presidium of the World Peace Council and traveled extensively to every continent during the days of the Cold War, heading American delegations to conferences in Stockholm, Moscow, East Berlin, Accra, Helsinki, Prague, Sofia, Budapest and Copenhagen. He formulated a world disarmament plan that is to be found to this day in the Congressional Record. He was vehemently against the war in Vietnam, and urged his friend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to

Continued on page 28

Black History Month Salute to Sun Reporter Publisher
Dr. Amelia Ashley-Ward
for her recent Honorary Doctorate Degree!



Dr. Ashley-Ward models
Black Excellence
and how
Black Women Lead



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BLACK, VAXXED & PROUD**

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Continued from page 26



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15¢
 BEST BUY
 IN THE WEST

History of the Sun-Reporter Part 2

take on this cause, stating, "It is our urgent responsibility to address ourselves to the critical needs at home, so long neglected during our preoccupation with the arms race, with a government whose instruments have been geared to serve only the rich and the powerful of the land." He actively opposed nuclear weapons, and in a speech before the National Medical Association said, "No nuclear war can be won; neither can a nuclear war be limited to regions of the world. There is no medical treatment of those persons surviving a nuclear holocaust -- in fact; the living would envy the dead." Dr. Goodlett died of Parkinson's disease in 1997 at the age of 82.

Today, with Publisher Amelia Ashley-Ward at the helm, the Sun-Reporter is very much alive and is continuing in the tradition begun by Dr. Goodlett. It is now published from offices on Fillmore Street, after returning to the area following several years in Bayview Hunters Point. Ashley-Ward, an award-winning journalist and photojournalist, is now celebrating her 41st year with the publishing company. Under her leadership the paper continues to win many awards and is also sought after by politicians seeking the African-American community's support. She took the paper to another level by adding full color equipment to the company's printing press, enabling the Sun-Reporter to be published in color. The printing press was housed at the company's Bayview location, until it was recently sold. For years Ashley-Ward was one of a very few African American publishers to own a printing press.

Under Ashley-Ward's visionary leadership, in 2014 the Sun-Reporter began highlighting and honoring African American leaders in Northern California in the annual Talented 25 editions. Selection for inclusion in The Talented 25 editions has become a coveted honor. The issues have particularly given exposure to a new generation of leaders who are working to improve the lives of African American residents of the Bay Area, while at the same time featuring pioneers and longtime community leaders.

Ashley-Ward shares her wisdom and counsels many African American corporate, community and elected leaders in the Bay Area. She was instrumental in the successful campaigns of Senator Kamala Harris when she sought to become San Francisco's first African American woman and African American elected District Attorney. Ashley-Ward also played a significant role in the election of SF's first African American woman Mayor London Breed. The Sun-Reporter further covers issues important to the community including police and criminal justice reform, education health disparities and jobs and housing. Her hard-hitting editorials exhibit a grasp of issues and champion the interests of the African American community.

Ashley-Ward, 64, a native of Magnolia, Mississippi, grew up in San Francisco and graduated from San Jose State University with a B.A. degree in journalism and photojournalism in 1979. She has received numerous awards, including "Publisher of the Year" in 1998 from the National Newspaper Publishers Association (The Black Press of America). On May 3, 2004, Ashley-Ward returned to San Jose State University to receive the prestigious "Alumnus of the Year" award. In 2005 she was chosen as "Woman of the Year" by State Senator Carole Migden and in 2008 she was named one of the 49 Most Influential People in San Francisco by 7x7 Magazine. In 2013 she was selected to be featured in The History Makers, the nation's largest African American Video Oral History Collection.

Publisher Ashley-Ward currently serves as Chairman of the NNPA Foundation and has been a member of the NNPA Board of Directors. She is a former member of the advisory board of St. Mary's College in Moraga, California. A lifetime member of the NAACP, she is a former member of the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Branch of the NAACP and the board of the San Francisco Convention and Visitors Bureau. In 2004, she founded the Sun-Reporter Foundation.

Ashley-Ward is the mother of Evan Carlton Ward, who holds a Bachelor of Science degree in broadcasting from Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN. He previously won an Emmy Award as part of a team at KRON-TV for their coverage of the Ghost Ship Warehouse fire in Oakland in 2016.

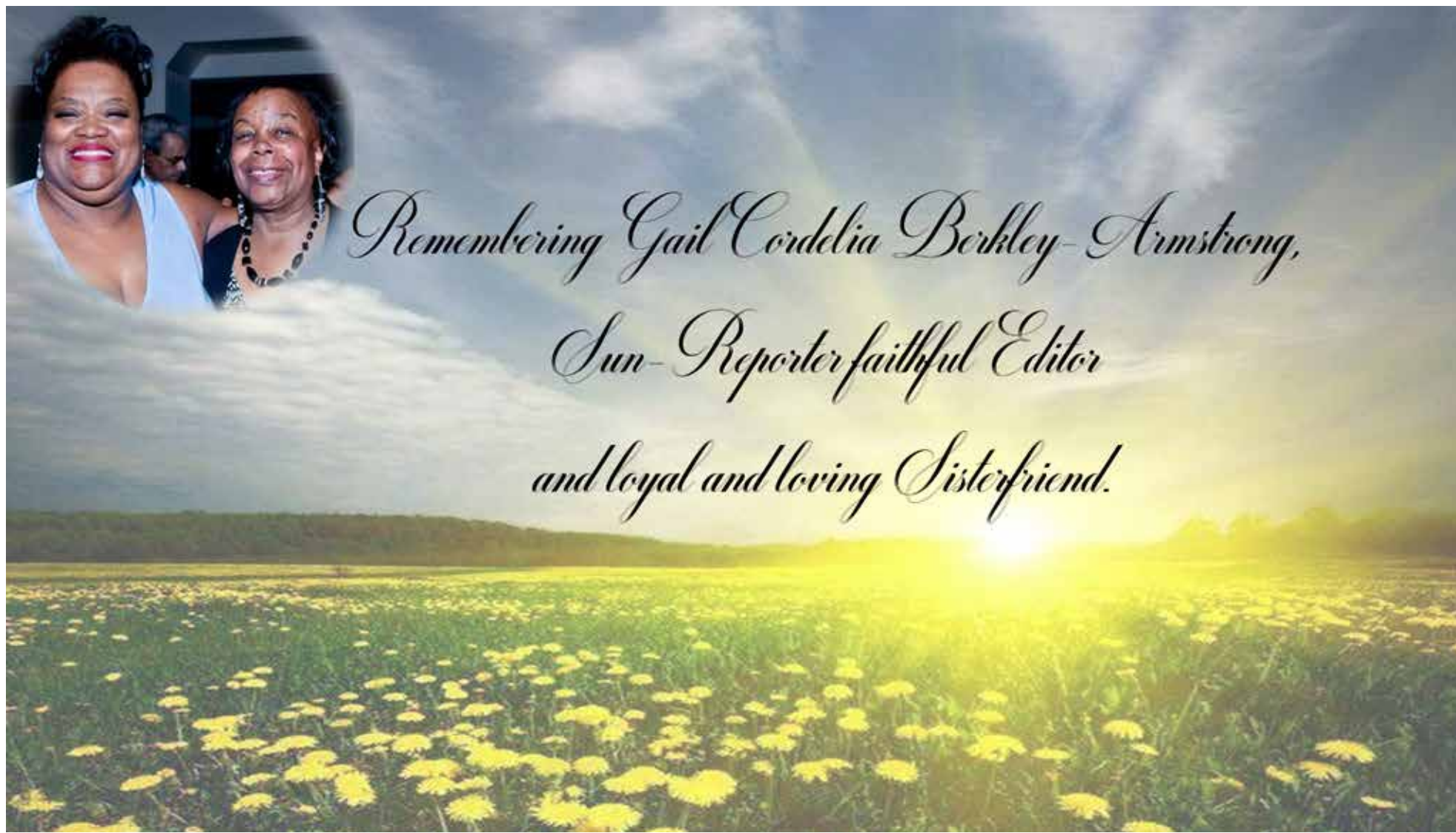


NAACP

Congratulations

Dr. Amelia Ashley-Ward on earning a Honorary Doctoral Degree from your Alma Mater, San Jose State University. We honor and thank you for being a positive role model and establishing yourself as one of the greatest examples of academic achievements for our young people. Black History Month is always exciting and accomplishments such as yours makes us proud to be Black Americans.

Rev. Dr. Amos C. Brown, Sr. &
The San Francisco NAACP Branch



*Remembering Gail Cordelia Berkley-Armstrong,
Sun-Reporter faithful Editor
and loyal and loving Sisterfriend.*

Ashley-Ward
Continued from page 1

her career.” It then proceeded to memorialize her illustrious career, honors and awards both in journalism and public service.

Amelia has now joined an elite list of distinguished individuals that San Jose State University has very selectively chosen to honor with such an award beginning with President John F Kennedy in June of 1963. After awarding the Degree, Dr. Papazian invited the new doctor to address the graduates regarding both the meaning of the award and their graduation.

In her typical tradition of uplifting others, Dr. Ashley-Ward inspired the graduates to pursue their careers and dreams by never accepting “No” or “You can’t” and by always employing “the power of positive defiance” to remove any impediments to their goals. She shared insights with the graduates as to how a little African American girl

who migrated from Mississippi to San Francisco – and raised by a dedicated single mom (the late Ms. Louise Ashley) – pursued her dream of working in journalism. In doing so, she never let the gatekeepers of the halls of power or anyone block her access or prevent her from achieving success in her chosen field that was often dominated by those who were white and male.

Amelia graphically shared with those gathered how – as a reporter, editor, publisher and owner of the Sun-Reporter – she was able to lift up and empower others. She cited the example of a young African American female lawyer who came to her in 2003 and wanted to run to become the District Attorney of San Francisco against a very well-known white male incumbent. The lawyer was told no, that it was not her time, and she should defer to the incumbent. Amelia and the Sun-Reporter took up her cause in the face of all the naysayers and the

young lawyer – whose name was Kamala Harris – ran and won. As Amelia noted, the rest is history in that Kamala subsequently became California’s Attorney General and U.S. Senator.

That history also played out for the graduates on that day in December when a moving letter was officially read to the graduates from the Vice President of the United States Kamala Harris in which she captured the essence and value of Amelia’s career. The Vice President’s words provided additional motivation to the graduates for pursuing paths of excellence not only in journalism or the social sciences but also in public service.

She wrote: “For more than 40 years, Amelia has shone the light of truth. She has told the stories that others ignore. She has held the powerful to account. And she has upheld the highest journalistic standards through it all.”

She added: “Amelia has built

the Sun-Reporter – a keystone African American media for more than 75 years – into one of the most important and influential newspapers in the United States.”

Like the Vice President, Ms. Berkley was also a dear friend and admirer of Amelia and she had shared how proud she was of Amelia receiving this distinguished and well-deserved honor from San Jose State University. Having collaborated with Amelia on a number of the Sun-Reporter most popular and sought-after Special Editions covering major events affecting the African American community in Northern California, Gail insisted prior to her recent passing that the Sun Reporter have another Special Edition lifting up and honoring Dr. Amelia Ashley-Ward on the receipt of her honorary Doctorate Degree from San Jose State University.

This Special Edition honors that wish, keeps true to the great

tradition of the Sun-Reporter, and makes clear the importance of all of us continuing to support the Sun-Reporter and the African American media so that wonderful life stories – like Amelia’s – can be documented and chronicled to inspire others to have the courage to be champions for those who are in great need of someone to stand up for them. Congratulations to Dr. Amelia Ashley-Ward.

Attorney Peter Graham Cohn has represented the SFNAACP Branch and the public school children of San Francisco in the San Francisco school desegregation case in federal court from 1978 – 2006. He has worked with the national NAACP – including the late Chairman Emeritus Julian Bond – for over 45 years at the national, regional, state and local levels. He has also been an advisor and counsel to the SFNAACP Branch since the 1970’s. He can be reached at: pgcohn@comcast.net.

Cecil Williams and GLIDE

Congratulate

**Dr. Amelia Ashley-Ward for receiving her
Honorary Doctorate Degree in Humane
Letters from San Jose State University.**

**We honor her and her continued
achievements on behalf of the African
American community during Black
History Month.**

We salute you!



