

VOICES FOR OUR FATHERS  
*Legacy Foundation*  
 2019 SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS



WE ARE EXTREMELY *Grateful* AND GREATLY *Appreciate* ALL OF THE  
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SUMMER 2019

VOICES for  
 Our FATHERS  
*Legacy Foundation*

Dedicated to the 623 Men in the United States  
 Public Health Service Syphilis Study

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*Moving Forward* THROUGH GENERATIONAL HEALING

OUR MISSION

Preserving THE *Legacies and Histories* OF THE 623 MEN  
*Victimized in the* USPHS SYPHILIS STUDY *by*  
 FOSTERING SOCIAL JUSTICE, *Education*, AND *Public Health Research*

VOICESFORFATHERS.ORG  
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## MOVING FORWARD *with each Generation*

On April 8 of this year at Tuskegee University National Bioethics Center in Research and Health Care Descendants once again met for a Day of Healing. The morning healing session was led by Drs. Rev. Edward and Anne Wimberly focused on Restorative and Justice. A motivational discussion ensued with the sharing of personal experiences and suggestions about how to pursue and achieve restoration. Descendants are deeply grateful and appreciative for the Wimberly's leadership and spiritual guidance in self - healing over the past seven years.

Nicole Tang from Julia R. Masterman High School in Philadelphia, PA along with her sophomore team presented an extraordinary exhibit, titled "When Morals and Medicine Clash" detailing facts and timeline of the United States Public Health Syphilis Study in Tuskegee on 623 African American men for 40 years. The students won 1st place in the state and competed on the National level. Their exhibit was displayed at the Pennsylvania State Museum in Harrisburg, PA. It is encouraging to know that this younger generation is interested and determined to seek facts about this dehumanizing unethical study.

Voices For Our Fathers Legacy Foundation continues to move forward seeking Healing, Answers, Reparations, Reconciliation and Restorative justice by following:

- 1.) Convening some descendants and contacting more descendants of the 623 African American men unethically treated and victimized for 40 years by the United States Public Health Service Syphilis Study annually and throughout the year
- 2.) Honoring and remembering the sacrifices of our fathers, grandfathers, uncles, great grandfathers, and uncles
- 3.) Participating in a Research Project: Revealing the Untold Stories
- 4.) Awarding academic scholarships to descendants
- 5.) Building an Appropriate Inspirational and Healing Memorial Garden
- 6.) Participating in Tuskegee University's Public Health Intensive Annually
- 7.) Commemorating the 1997 National Presidential Apology Luncheon Banquet
- 8.) Sponsoring an Annual Scholarship Banquet and Candle Lighting Ceremony

More descendants are becoming aware of the Foundation and its mission. The membership is increasing with new supporters and generous donors are contributing to the Scholarship Fund. The VFOFLF's website ([www.voicesforfathers.org](http://www.voicesforfathers.org)) provides an opportunity for descendants and supporters to donate and become members.

As always, the Public Health Ethics Intensive was educational as well as inspiring. Each speaker shared ways to address the 8th Annual Public Health Ethics Intensive theme; "400 years -1619 to 2019: Ethics of Reparations and Reconciliation".

This year descendants visited the six gravesites of family members buried in Creek Stand AME Church Cemetery. Surprisingly we learned that Creek Stand Church and Cemetery is an Alabama State recognized Historical site.

On Friday, April 12 at the 1997 National Apology Commemoration Luncheon Banquet Mrs. Joyce Pollard Williams proudly represented the descendants at the dais with greetings and announcing the 2019 Scholarship winners.

I sincerely hope that everyone is thoroughly enjoying and relaxing in these hazy and lazy days of summer. Stay well.

*Lillie Head*, PRESIDENT



Mrs. Joyce Pollard Williams



Lillie Tyson Head, Miss Nicole Tang, and her Team

*Rueben C. Warren*, DDS, MPH, DR. P.H., M.DIV., DIRECTOR

(continued from page 6)

to use Black people for the Syphilis Study long after the treatment goal of the Rosenwald funded treatment program ended. In 1929, the Rosenwald Fund piloted a syphilis treatment program in five Southern states to treat the disease. Rosenwald had earlier funded primary schools for Black children. Booker T. Washington, President of Tuskegee Institute, worked with Rosenwald, which made Tuskegee and Macon County, Alabama a likely place to launch one of the projects. To fund a project to treat syphilis targeting Black people was consistent with the Rosenwald Fund's efforts. However, the disease also adversely impacted the white population. The Rosenwald project emphasized locating people with syphilis and providing treatment. While syphilis was widespread in both white and Black communities, the Rosenwald Fund selected to fund the syphilis treatment program in low-income Black communities. In this instance, taking care of Black people by white people (Rosenwald Fund), was for the common good, that is, to benefit Black and white people was achieved by focusing on Black people. However, due to the lack of funds, partly due to the 1930 Depression, the Rosenwald Fund ended its involvement in 1932 and the beginning of the U.S. Public Health Service Syphilis Study at Tuskegee.

I recount this history to make clear that coming to Macon County by the U.S. Public Health Service and the Rosenwald Fund was no accident. The county was and continues to be largely Black, low income, with a large number of undereducated residents. However, there were also many people in Macon County who are wise and well educated by their lived experiences. They had strong family ties, strong religious backgrounds, and strong histories and commitments to Macon County.

The overall theme of the 2019 Commemoration was: 400 years-1619

to 2019: Ethics of Reparations and Reconciliation. After the annual descendant family members healing session, facilitated by Drs. Anne and Ed Wimberly, on Monday evening, April 8th the VFOFLF hosted the 2nd Annual Scholarship Banquet at Tuskegee Municipal Center. It was a wonderful affair. The VFOFLF continues to raise funds and award scholarships for descendant family members to continue their college education pursuits. Several scholarships were awarded during the banquet. Tuskegee University President Lily McNair, Ph.D. attended the banquet.

On Tuesday morning, Tuskegee University Provost, Roberta Troy, Ph.D. opened the 2019 Commemoration Events. Tuskegee City Mayor Lawrence F. Haygood, Jr. welcomed the Commemoration Events attendees to week-long activities in that respective order. Peter Paris', Ph.D. keynote address opened the Public Health Ethics Intensive (PHEI) session by discussing, Ethics and African Spirituality. In his keynote presentation, he highlighted ethics challenges that framed the spirit of people of African both in Africa and the African Diaspora. Dr. David A. Hodge provided a riveting response which generated much discussion later in the morning. Sowanda M. Mustakeem, Ph.D. addressed the topic of Ethics of Enslavement. Her discussion about the travesties during the actual Middle Passage journey illuminated cruelty that is nearly impossible to believe, though we know that it is true. She discussed Ethics and Enslavement and shared how difficult it was to get her book on the topic published, and how it later became a best seller. Her Responder, Ms. Nadinne Cruz shared her response to Dr. Mustakeem's presentation and provided several examples of personal tragedy that paralleled some of the stories that Dr. Mustakeem recounted. Douglas A. Blackmon, Ph.D. discussed Ethics of

Enslavement By Another Name and the salient issues in his book by the similarly titled, Slavery By Another Name. He shared several episodes he encountered in collecting information from several small rural towns in Alabama. His Responder, Victor Kirksey responded by telling his story of injustices that still occur disproportionately on young Black men. Iva Carruthers, Ph.D. highlighted the Post-traumatic Slave Syndrome that is often confused with Post-traumatic Stress Syndrome. She discussed several initiatives where she has participated in attempting to share human rights violations of African Americans by the U.S. with the world court. Alondra Nelson, Ph.D. discussed Ethics and Reparation, using highlighted material from her book on the Social Life of DNA. Her Responder was Andrew Zekeri, Professor of Sociology. Noel Erskine, Ph.D. gave a soul-stirring presentation on Ethics of Reconciliation. His presentation included challenges in reconciliation for people of African Descent including Africa and the African Diaspora. Ann Gallagher, Ph.D. traveled to Tuskegee University from the United Kingdom and expanded on the topic from the lens of a care ethicist. The final presentation was by Crystal Chissell, JD. She is the daughter of John Chissell the author of a book on Optimal Health. I responded.

The Middle Passage to Optimal Health, though fraught with challenges, is a Spiritual one. The only way that we survived is by believing in something much bigger and more powerful than any human being or any human system. Call it what you wish, but I believe that the men who were in the U.S Public Health Syphilis Study at Tuskegee knew that something bigger than any one of them would right the wrong, if not for them, for their families and generations to come. The Voices For Our Fathers Voice Legacy Foundation is answering the call.

*Rueben C. Warren, DDS, MPH, DR. P.H., M.DIV., DIRECTOR*



I am once again, honored to share my thoughts about the extraordinary work of the descendant family members in the Voices For Our Fathers Newsletter. I am meeting new family members every year and hearing some phenomenal stories about the advocacy working that the Voices for Our Fathers Legacy Foundation is undertaking. I am meeting younger generations of family members who are very interested in learning about the history of the U.S. Public Health Service Syphilis Study at Tuskegee, the National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care and how they can engage. The descendant family members continue to transform pain into power, and talk into action. They are receiving international recognition about their work. The men who were in the study are seen as heroes, who had the strength and courage to forgive those who knowingly or unknowingly caused intra-generational and inter-generational physical social, psychological and spiritual pain. The power to forgive also demands the power to never forget; less history will repeat itself. The Voices for Our Fathers Legacy Foundation (VFOFLF) Newsletter is the vehicle to remain abreast of the ongoing activities of VFOFLF. The 2019 Commemoration Events occurred during a historical year in the lives of African Americans. Four hundred years ago, Africans were transported to North America and forced into the most horrendous violation in human history; chattel slavery! I wish to recount the journey and connect it to the tremendous communal strength, resilience, and faith that our people had to endure seemingly insurmountable odds. I believe those traits were passed down to the men who were in the U.S. Public Health Service Syphilis Study

at Tuskegee, and those traits continue from generation to generation. To fully understand how the men who conducted the Study could justify the abuse, the context and timeframe that preceded the actual Syphilis Study are recounted. Three major historical occurrences set forth the context for the Study: the Middle Passage which ushered in the enslavement of Africans in the Western Hemisphere; chattel slavery, which further devalued Black bodies, attempted to totally deconstruct Black culture and Black life, rendering Black people as less than human and; the American Eugenics Movement, which provided a class basis and then a class and race basis for further devaluing and rendering Black people as less than human. The MIDDLE PASSAGE transported enslaved Africans, primarily from West Africa, West Central, and Southeastern Africa to the Caribbean and the Americas from one part of the world to another by several European countries. Large numbers of Africans died during the process of capturing and transporting these men, women, and children from the land to the ships before the voyage. Approximately 15% of enslaved Africans died at sea. The total number of African deaths directly attributable to the Middle Passage voyage is estimated at up to two million. Chattel slavery is the owning of human beings as property to be bought, sold, given, and inherited. In this context, the enslaved person has no personal freedom or recognized rights to decide the direction of their own lives. While chattel slavery may have developed before the Middle Passage and enslavement in the Americas and the Caribbean, its expansion, based on race, is unique to the Western Hemisphere. Other forms of slavery occurred, but none as dehumanizing as chattel slavery. Eugenics was a second major injustice that supported the inferiority and less-than-human perception of Black people

by Europeans. Eugenics Movement is a scientific and social movement that ascribes human behavior to genetic makeup which supported social policies to maintain racial hygiene. This bigoted philosophy is rooted in the biological determinist ideas of Sir Francis Galton originating in the 1800s. Galton studied the upper classes of Britain and concluded that social positions were due to a superior genetic makeup which was biologically determined. Early proponents of eugenics believed that, through selective breeding, the human species should direct its own evolution. Eugenics was widely accepted in the U.S. academic community. By 1928, eugenics was taught in many U.S. institutions of higher education. Some authors falsely reported that Black scholars, like WEB Dubois, supported the Eugenics Movement, which has since been refuted by both Black and white scholars. These three constructs formed the atmosphere that allowed Black men in the Deep South to be exploited, deceived and abused. The legacy of the Middle Passage, chattel slavery and the Eugenics Movement set the stage for the U.S. Public Health Service Syphilis Study at Tuskegee. These men trusted the medical community so they participated in the Study. In order to further deceive the men about the Study, the scientists called the adverse condition which called for repeated doctors' visits, "Bad Blood." These men thought that the government and Tuskegee Institute were promoting the common good. Deep South white culture historically, created a relationship between Black and white people such that the common good was for Black people to take care of white people, regardless of the harm to themselves. In the early 1900s, syphilis was rampant throughout the U.S. This infectious disease was at epidemic levels for Black and white people. To use Black people to find a way to help white people overcome the syphilis epidemic undergirded the rationale (cont.pg. 7)

# 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DAY of Healing

WITH THE REVEREND DRS. *Edward & Anne Wimberly*



The 2019 Descendants' Day of Healing was filled with remembrance and reconciliations. The morning session was lead by Drs. Edward and Anne Wimberly. After eating a delicious lunch descendants had an opportunity to get their blood pressure, and blood sugar level tested, and ask nurse Amy Pack and her colleague questions about health concerns. At the annual meeting the 2019-2021 Board of Directors were elected. President – Lillie Head, Vice President – Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Baums, Secretary – Mrs. Barbara Council, Assistant Secretary –Joyce Christian, Treasurer – Joyce Williams, and Committee Chairs appointed. Tuskegee University's Architecture students under the guidance of Mr. Kwesi Daniels, Department Head of the School of Architecture presented their conceptual models of the Memorial and Inspiration Garden. Each design was reflective of healing, honor, remembrance and inspiration. Rev. Dr. Baums led the annual memorial service at the closure of the annual meeting.



Above: Descendants actively engage in annual healing session lead by Rev. Drs. Edward & Anne Wimberly.

Left: Runners Up, Tuskegee Architecture students: Nino Chambers, Jocelyn Johnson, Alex Jones, Darren Johnson, Cedric Davis

Right: First Place Winner Kayla Heard in the conceptual model contest for the Memorial & Inspiration Garden.



VOICES FOR OUR FATHERS  
*Legacy Foundation*

EXCEPTIONAL 2019 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

In honor of the 623 Fathers, Grandfathers, Uncles, Great Grandfather and Grand Uncles, \$600.00 scholarships were awarded to each of these five *Academically Outstanding* descendants.



*Jordan Foster*  
*Great-Grandson of*  
*Mr. David Foster*

Freshman

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND  
Silver Springs, MD



*Kendall Hoofe*  
*Descendant of*  
*Warren Julkes*

Senior

THORNWOOD HIGH SCHOOL  
Holland, IL

2020 Freshman  
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY  
Lexington, KY

*LeKendric Cashion*  
*Descendant of*  
*Mr. Earnest Hendon*

Sophomore

TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY  
Tuskegee, AL



*Ryan Joseph Grant Harkley*  
*Descendant of*  
*Mr. Ben Foster,*  
*Mr. David Foster,*  
*Mr. Motel Foster*

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DOMINGUEZ HILLS  
Carson, CA



*Aljane J. Whitaker*  
*Descendant of*  
*Mr. Albert Robertson*

2ND Year Medical Student

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
Davis, CA

*Second Annual* SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET  
"Journey Through Generational Healing"



Mr. Clemmon Julkes



Banquet Guests



Dr. Rueben Warren, Dr. Lily McNair, Dr. Betty Crutcher  
Mr. Harold White, Dr. Sonjia Parker-Redmond



Dr. Sonjia Parker-Redmond

PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies  
Invocation

Mr. Harold White  
Rev. Otis Head

Welcome  
Occasion  
Solo  
Grace

Honorable Mayor Lawrence F. Haygood  
Dr. Betty Neal Crutcher  
Mr. Glenn D. Person  
Clemmon Julkes

\*\*Dinner\*\*

Skit

Mrs. Bernice Frazier

Introduction of Speaker  
Speaker

Mrs. Deirdre Parker Jackson  
Dr. Sonjia Parker-Redmond

Solo

Special Recognitions

Mr. Glenn D. Person  
Janie H. Holmes & Mrs. Lillie Head

"CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY"

Mrs. Peggy Fitzpatrick Tatum, Mrs. Evella Gaston &  
Mrs. Theilene Fitzpatrick Dawson-Williams

The Negro National Anthem: "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Closing Remarks

Mrs. Lillie Tyson Head  
Dr. Reuben C. Warren

SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET COMMITTEE

Chairwoman: Janie Hughley Holmes  
Members: Joyce Tyson Christian, Katie  
Robinson Crawford, Rev. Otis Head,  
Clemmon Julkes, Amy Haggins Pack



Mr. Glenn D. Person, Dr. Sonjia Parker-Redmond



Mrs. Bernice Frazier



Mrs. Deirdre Parker Jackson



Dr. Lily McNair, President of Tuskegee University sharing remarks to Banquet Guests



Preparing for the Annual Candle Lighting Ceremony