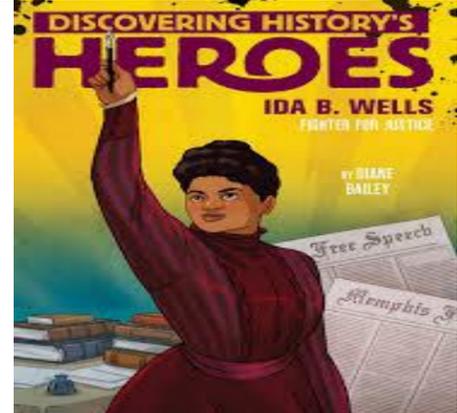
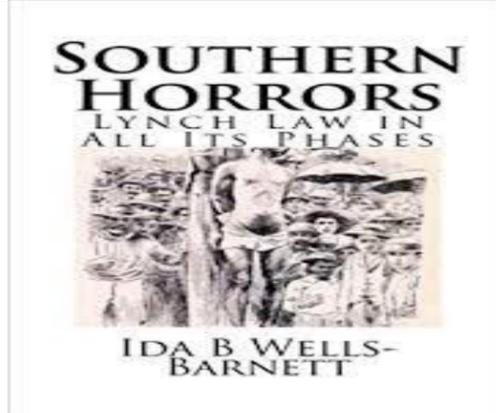


SISTER CIRCLE JOURNALS LIFTING AS WE CLIMB



SELFHHELP

EDUCATION

SOCIAL REFORM

IDA B WELLS SPIRIT

WOMEN WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE

The Mother of Radicalism



In the spirit of Ida B Wells-Barnett this issue is dedicated to the many Black women in history who trailblazed their way into history by not backing down to the patriarchal system that would keep them silent. Ida B Wells spoke out against social reform, education and promoted self-help and she did it all fearlessly during a time when women faced terrible backlash for being outspoken. It is because of this pioneering woman that broke the barriers of journalism, paved the way for other women and advocated for the Black community. Born a slave in Holy Spring MS in 1864 and later emancipated in 1865. Ida B Wells was radicalized and forever changed when southern states created laws that would force Black citizens back to inferior state. Segregation would not stop her from vocalizing the mistreatment and terror that Black people faced at the hands of an organization called Ku Klux Klan that formed in 1866. The Lycem Black Literary Club was a self-improvement club that had its own newspaper called the Evening Star and she was named editor. Wells signature name was "Iola" and she was dubbed the Princess of the Press.



Ella Baker was born in Norfolk Virginia on December 13, 1903 and was raised in Littleton North Carolina she passed away on December 13, 1986. There would be no Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) without Ella Baker. The sit-in movement in Greensboro North Carolina Woolworth's Department store accepted money from Black customers but expected Blacks to leave the store without eating at the counter that was reserved for whites only. Students from North Carolina A&T university refused to move. Ella Baker got wind of this movement and is what spearheaded the formation of SNCC, and she did so using her platform as a member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). Miss Baker organized SNCC first conference at Shaw University in Raleigh NC.

Miss Baker persuaded Dr. Martin Luther King to put \$800 to hold the conference and Rev. King was hoping for a student branch of SCLC but Miss Baker convinced the students to form their own organization. Miss Baker continued to inspire the students through speaking to them very plainly and truthfully, she explained to the students that their fight was "much bigger than a hamburger or even a giant coke", this inspired the students to continue fighting.

Those who new Ella Baker well called her "a whirlwind" for her tireless pursuit of justice that spawned from her grandmother's tenacity to resist those power structures that was trying to control her life during her timeframe. Miss Baker's believed that organization was essential for people to lead themselves, "strong people don't need strong leaders" they have within themselves power of liberation. The Ida B Wells spirit rests with Ella Baker because she fearlessly led young people to fight for their futures.

Anna Julia Cooper born August 10, 1858 seven years before slavery ended and she passed away on February 27, 1964. Though her early years was that of enslavement, she was highly educated throughout her life. Anna Julia Cooper attended St. Augustine's Normal Collegiate Institute in Raleigh N.C., obtained a bachelors in 1884 and master's degree in 1877 from Oberlin College. At the age of 66 she obtained a doctoral degree from the University of Paris. Anna Julia Cooper career as an educator, scholar and public lecturer was unequaled for her time and for 39 years she taught mathematics and Latin in Washington D.C.

As an activist Cooper participated in the Pan-African Conference held in London in 1900 and during 1930s she served as president of Frelinghuysen University. Her status in life never let her forget the struggles that Black women faced in a society that never wanted to see their humanity. A. J. Cooper can be seen as the voice of feminist thought with the writing of her book, *A Voice from the South* in 1892 where she says, "woman's work and woman's influence are needed as never before; needed to bring a heart power into this money getting, dollar worshipping civilization; needed to bring a moral force into the utilitarian motives and interests of the time", this is still relevant today and for the first time in American history a woman, Kamala Harris will be the first Vice President of the United States of America and she is a woman of color!

Anna Julia Cooper is the only woman who has a quote on a U. S. passport, "The cause of freedom is not the case of a race or a sect or a party or a class—it is the cause of human kind, the very birthright of humanity". The strength and character of Anna Julia Cooper for education and self-help for Black women is why she embodies the spirit of Ida B Wells and why every woman owes her their gratitude.

Hallie Quinn Brown born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1845 was the daughter of two former slaves. Hallie's father Thomas Brown was allowed to purchase his freedom and was the son of a Scottish woman who owned a plantation in Maryland and a black plantation overseer. Hallie's mother was freed by her grandfather who was a white revolutionary war officer and plantation owner. Hallie's parents were well educated and involved in the Underground Railroad.

Hallie attended Wilberforce University and graduated in 1873 with a Bachelor of Science degree. Upon graduation Hallie began to teach on plantations, she focused on literacy with formerly enslaved children because it was illegal for them to learn prior to slavery ending and she also taught night school for adult African Americans. As an educator Hallie held many prominent positions throughout her career; she was Dean at Allen University 1885-1887 and appointed principal of Tuskegee Institutes in Alabama from 1892-1893 where she worked with Booker T Washington. While working in education she was the principle promoter of the organization of Colored Women's League of Washington D.C. and was one of the founding members of the National Association of Colored Women

Hallie traveled the world as a speaker and lecturer and spoke before Queen Victoria in Great Britain during her reign and in 1899 spoke at the International Congress of Women as a representative of the United States. Hallie Quinn Brown was the 7th National President of the National Association of Colored Women from 1920-1924 and honoring president thereafter until her death in 1949. The Spirit of Ida B Wells dwells with Hallie for her fiercely and tirelessly serving the African American community through education, self-help and social reform.



HISTORY MAKERS

BLACK WOMEN ORGANIZING

Mary Church Terrell picture above was an African American activist who espoused racial equality and women's suffrage in the 19th and 20th century. Born in Memphis, TN (1863-1954) into an affluent family and educated at Oberlin College where she received her bachelor's degree in 1884 and her master's degree in 1888. As an activist Terrell, participated in many organizations to uplift the Black race and held many prominent positions throughout her career.

"As the brains of colored women expanded their hearts began to grow", was a quote that Terrell stated as she began to engage social uplift of Black women. In 1892 she became the first female president of the Bethel Literacy and Historical Association.

Terrell was appointed to the Board of Education in Washington D.C. and she was the cofounder and 1st president of the National Association of Colored Women (NACW) in 1896. Mary Church Terrell activism sparked in 1892 when a very good friend of hers Thomas Moss was lynched in Memphis TN for being in competition with white store owners. Terrell partnered with Ida B Wells in her anti-lynching campaign to bring awareness to the murder of Black unarmed men. Ida B Wells and Mary Church Terrell were sisters in the fight of political and economic freedom for Black people.

"Woman's work and woman's influence are needed as never before; needed to bring a heart power into this money getting, dollar worshipping civilizatoin; needed to bring a moral force into the utilitarian motives and interests of the time" A.J. Cooper

Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin (1842-1924) picture above was born and educated in Boston and worked locally as an advocate of civil rights and women's suffrage. Ruffin was actively involved in the Civil War and African American rights to free them from chattel slavery. Once slavery had ended there were other battles to be won by newly freed Black people. As many other Black women began to spring into action, Ruffin organized the Women's Era Club in 1894 and was one of the first African American women's organizations. In 1895 the first meeting of the National Federation of Afro-American Women's conference was were Ruffin said,

"We are women, American women, as intensely interested in all that pertains to us as susch as all other American women; we are not alienating or with drawing we are only coming to the front, willing to join any others in the same work and welcoming any others to join us". No truer words have ever been spoken.

In 1896 the National Federation of Afro-American Women merged with the Colored Women's League of Washington, forming the National Association of Colored Women were Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin was elected first vice president. She continued her fight for racial equality by speaking out against all-white national women's clubs that exclude Black women. In the spirit of Ida B Wells Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin was more than just an ordinary woman she was revolutionary in her fight to level the playing field of Black women by allowing them to have a front row seat.

SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW

LOCAL WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE

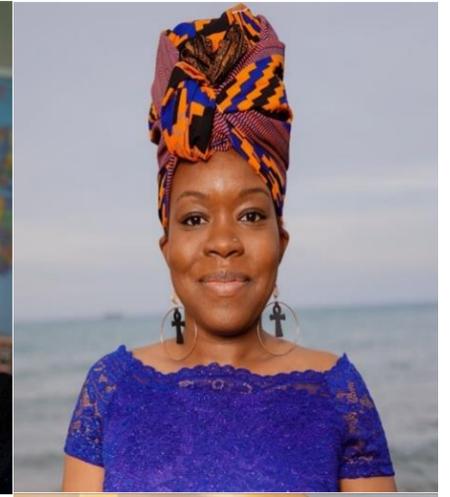
“The way to right the wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them”. Ida B Wells

Modern day organizers much like previous social reform activist are vilified for speaking the truth because it changes the perceptions of comfortability that society has come to accept and not challenge. Change can only happen when those who are in power feel the plight of the people and that can only happen when strong leaders step up to the plate and say no more. Ida B Wells spirit lives on in these activities that are located right here in the city of Chicago, to the right, top left Shameka Manning Turner, Erica Nanton and bottom right Dr. Nichelle Dionne Manuel. They have made it their mission to speak for the people in the areas of education, health, civic engagement and social justice work.

Shameka Manning Turner is a mother of two who resides in the Austin neighborhood on the west side of Chicago. Ms. Turner is a graduate from Trinity Christian College where she obtained a Bachelors in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing. After graduating Ms. Turner traveled the world for over 10 years and with those combined experiences she wanted to bring a new quality of life to the residents on the westside of Chicago where she was born and raised in the Austin community.

Ms. Turner started a successful non-profit called Resident Association of the Westside (RAW) where their motto is an asset based community project for residents by residents. Ms. Turner has made it her mission to raise awareness on local measures in which residents can take control of their lives through eating better, job and career readiness, civic engagement, mental and physical wellness. What RAW does that is different from other non-profit organizations is hold everyone accountable even other non-profit groups that are not helping the community in which she resides. The spirit of Ida B Wells dwells in Shameka Manning Turner to expose other non-profits that pimp the community for their own personal gains.

Erica Nanton is a new mother who hasn't stopped moving and fighting for justice for the people! Ms. Nanton studied Psychology at Roosevelt University and graduated in 2016. Ms. Nanton is from Miami but currently resides in Chicago. She speaks several languages, Spanish, Bahamian English and Haitian Creole which makes her valuable in the political arena. Ms. Nanton's political views has a heart for the people and she is unapologetic in her fight to speak on their behalf. Ms. Nanton has a long list of political campaigns that she has spoken at,



LOCAL SHEROS

Dr. Nichelle Dionne Manuel is a mother of two who resides on the southwest sides of the city of Chicago. Dr. Nichelle Dionne as she likes to go by is a professor at various universities, colleges and teaches math, technology and develops curriculum for others. Dr. Nichelle Dionne received her Doctoral degree in Business Administration and Management Information Systems at Argosy University in 2013, she also studied Training and Development Curriculum Design at Roosevelt University 2002 and her bachelor's in computer science at Chicago State University 1991. Dr. Nichelle Dionne has branded herself as an expert in helping people bridge the gaps that they experience in their lives through workshops, seminars, coaching and education. She prides herself in speaking the truth, seeking justice for herself and others, and critical thinking skills.

It is with this passion and concern for her community that she started Generation2Generation which is a non-profit designed to promote Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math STEM/STEAM to low income and dislocated workers of the Chicago land area. This organization also provides emergency food, clothing, basic housewares, and hygiene products through various partnerships and businesses. The latest project that Generation2Generation is working on is to provide housing for students without housing so that they have a place to live while they continue their studies while in college. Dr. Nichelle Dionne love and passion for knowledge creates an environment that students love and appreciate when she teaches them that goes beyond a professor's duty of teaching. The spirit of Ida B Wells dwells within Dr. Nichelle Dionne's work of educating, love and passion for this generation and the next to excel in every possible way.

lead and won. The Poor Peoples Campaign is an organization that has its founding in 1968 where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and others called for a “revolution of values” in America. The vision was to unite poor and impacted communities across the country and Ms. Nanton continues this tradition as an Illinois State Tri-Chair for the Poor Peoples Campaign. It is within this framework that Ms. Nanton demands that workers be paid a living wage for their labor and continues to slay political demons that suggest otherwise.

Ms. Nanton enjoys working with the youth to engage them in the political process of governance of their lives through organization. Her organization skills helps to build coalitions with Chicago Youth and Parkland Youth for the March for Our Lives historic March on Washington, she was the keynote speaker at the National Labor Conference and Panalist for Education Labor and Justice along with Surviving Teachers of the Columbine High School Shooting and West Virginia Wildcat Teachers Strike and lastly Speaker for the Bermuda Union of Teachers 100th Anniversary in 2018.

With all this political work under her belt it was time for Ms. Nanton to run for political office. Ms. Nanton was elected to the Chicago Local School Council in 2018, Local School Council Advisory Board 2019 and has just recently won re-election! Ms. Nanton leads by example and continues fighting for educators, parents and students when she speaks out against school closures in the Chicago land area on the city’s south and west sides. It is within the spirit of Ida B Wells that Ercia Nanton, political activist, speaks for the people with passion and conviction to be unmovable in the face of those who would abuse their power over the people.

It is not the intelligent woman
v. the ignorant woman; nor the
white woman v. the black, the
brown, and the red, it is not
even the cause of woman v.
man. Nay, tis woman's
strongest vindication for
speaking that the world needs
to hear her voice.

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Anna Julia Cooper



*“The way to
right wrongs
is to turn the
light of truth
upon them.”*

—IDA B. WELLS

COMMUNITY CIRCLE

HOW TO STAY INVOLVED

“I had an instinctive feeling that the people who have little or no school training should have something coming into their homes weekly which dealt with their problems in a simple, helpful way...so I wrote in a plain, common-sense way on the things that concerned our people”. Ida B Wells

These powerful women of the past and present that has been discussed in this news journal all have been instrumental in the freedoms we all enjoy through political, educational, social justice and well being activism. It is within the spirit of Ida B Wells that this work continues for future generations. How to stay connected to their work is to become involved in the work that they did/do currently. The past speaks through us with organization. Here is a list of the organizations that were mentioned in this journal article.

Ida B Wells: A Passion For Justice—The Pioneering African American Journalist and Activist is a documentary about Well’s life. Ella Baker SNCC activist www.snccdigital.org, NAACP www.naacp.org SCLC www.nationalsclc.org. Anna Julia Cooper www.ncpedia.org/cooper-anna-julia-k-8 A.J. Cooper: A Voice from the South. Hallie Quinn Brown www.hallieqbrown.org/site/index.php/abput/ www.nps.gov/people/hallie-quinn-brown-ca-1850-1949.htm

Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin www.womenofthehall.org/inductee/josephine-st-pierre-ruffin www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/ruffin-josephine-st-pierre-1842-1924/ . Mary Church Terrell www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/mary-church-terrell Autobiography: A Colored Woman in a White World. Shameka Manning Turner www.rawneighbors.com . Dr. Nichelle Dionne Manuel Jefferson www.gen2genfoundation.com . Erica Nanton www.poorpeoplescampaign.org .

IDA B WELLS

LEGACY

It is because of the work that Ida B Wells Barnett did in her lifetime that Black people have had some opportunities to breathe and be human. One of Wells biggest achievements was her anti-lynching campaign which brought attention to the senseless killings of Black men at the hands of white mobs over the protection of white women’s virtue. Wells unflinching stance to travel the world and speak of this evil atrocity is what made her a target and a hero.

Black women weren’t given the same respect and opportunities they had to work twice as hard because of their skin color and their gender. Black women wanted real change in their communities then and now and forming clubs, organizations, education, social uplift, and social reforms were ways in which they pushed to get their civil rights acknowledged. Black women are still doing this work. In the face of uncertainty Black women are still leading the way for social change and by no means will it ever stop.

Ida B Wells educated
Ida B Wells was a mother
Ida B Wells was a sister
Ida B Wells fought for her rights
Ida B Wells was an advocate; she spoke up for herself and others
Ida B Wells said live and not die
Sing for your freedom, shout for your independence
Learn and discover your power
Ida B Wells left a playbook by writing her own autobiography for us to follow
She was created to be on this platform
She was made through her own struggles
It is because of Ida B Wells that I can tell my story
I can tell your story
Our value is worth more than we give ourselves credit for
Ida B Wells lived a life that we can all emulate

References

Ida B Wells: A Passion For Justice—The Pioneering African American Journalist and Activist is a documentary about Well's life.
Ella Baker SNCC activist www.snccdigital.org, NAACP www.naacp.org SCLC www.nationalsclc.org.
Anna Julia Cooper www.ncpedia.org/cooper-anna-julia-k-8 A.J. Cooper: A Voice from the South.
Hallie Quinn Brown www.hallieqbrown.org/site/index.php/abput/ www.nps.gov/people/hallie-quinn-brown-ca-1850-1949.htm
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Shameka Manning Turner www.rawneighbors.com .
Dr. Nichelle Dionne Manuel Jefferson www.gen2genfoundation.com .
Erica Nanton www.poorpeoplescampaign.org