



GREATER MADISON EDITION & TIME LINE – 179 Year HISTORY PRESENTED BY MICHAEL JOHNSON, BOYS & GIRLS CLUB CEO

CO -AUTHORED & SPONSORED BY:









January 27, 2018

Dear Students, Teachers and Parents:

I am writing this letter with the hope that you will not only celebrate Black History Month this February, but also read the history and many accomplishments of Blacks right here in the Madison and Greater Madison community. Sometimes we focus so much on slavery and the civil rights movement that we forget to share accomplishments achieved by African Americans in our own backyard.

Here are some indicators on how the Black community has influenced the Greater Madison region and Wisconsin for more than 175 years. Below is a timeline which was created by the Cap Times, Madison 365, myself and leaders from the African American community. **One additional note: this is not a list of every Black Madisonian who has done or is doing great things.** There are far too many people doing great work than we could possibly recognize. This is simply our best attempt to outline the rich history of our community, the important moments, the firsts and the pioneers for those who might not know these important stories.

I hope this helps you as you celebrate Black History Month. For those schools that don't celebrate black history month, I hope this gives you a guide to start planning.

With Warmest Regards,

Michael Johnson, MBA

Boys & Girls Clubs President & CEO

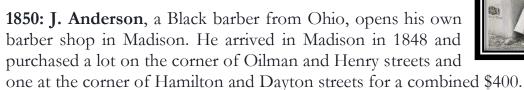




It starts in 1839: An unidentified African American woman was a servant to the owner of the American House Hotel. She became the first Black resident of Madison. No identification is available on her name. She apparently stayed in Madison until 1845.

1847: The census list a Black Madison resident by name of **Darky Butch**. He lives alone with no apparent connections to a white family. He is one of six black residents in a Madison population of 632 residents.

1848: As Wisconsin becomes a state, black families arrive in Madison. Their purpose for coming to Madison as free individuals appeared to be the pursuit of economic opportunity and a new life.











Harvey Long looks at a vintage photo album entry for William Smith Noland, the first African-American student known to have graduated from the University of Wisconsin. **PHOTO: JEFF MILLER**

1852: Eston Hemmings, the son of Thomas Jefferson and slave Sally Hemmings, moves to Madison, as the Fugitive Slave Act made him unsafe in Ohio. He and his family are buried in the Forest Hill Cemetery in Madison.

1857: William H. Noland becomes the first Black person to be nominated for a statewide post, but he never takes office. He was from New York and his kids would become the first black kids born in Madison. He would eventually be nominated for the state position of notary public and the Governor accepts the nomination, but Secretary of State refuses to accept the bond with this notation: "This man is a n*****, and the secretary refuses to file his bond." Nolan is never appointed to the position.

1866: Madison gets its first Black candidate for mayor, but it's not by his own choosing. The Wisconsin Supreme Court's unanimous decision in Gillespie v. Palmer delivered that blacks have had the right to vote since 1849. Four days later, William H. Noland appears on the ballot for mayor against incumbent Elisha E. Keyes, a Republican. The chosen Democratic candidate declined to run, and the party wants Noland to run as an independent. Noland is insulted, saying the Democrats had been responsible for attitudes promoting white superiority, but his name nonetheless ends up on the ballot. Noland loses 692-306 and says he voted for the incumbent.



1902: The Free African Methodist Church is founded by **John Turner**, a former Kentucky slave, and for years serves as the center of Madison's Black community.

1913: Mount Zion Baptist Church is formed as Madison's second black religious organization, originally meeting at the First Baptist Church downtown before moving to its own building at 548 W. Johnson St. in the early 1920s.



1915: John Hill and his wife Amanda Carmichael a black-owned grocery store they ran for more than 50 in Madison on East Dayton Street daughter, Freddie Mae, was the UW's Black graduate.

1916: Madison's first Black newspaper, the Wisconsin Weekly Blade, debuts. Founded by Madison black leaders **Chestena and J. Anthony Josey**, the newspaper runs social notes, church news, and other articles of importance to the black community.



Students walk along a snowy Bascom Hill. The old, domed Bascom Hall and the old Law School are visible, along with wooden sidewalks along Park Street, University of Wisconsin-Madison, ca. 1900



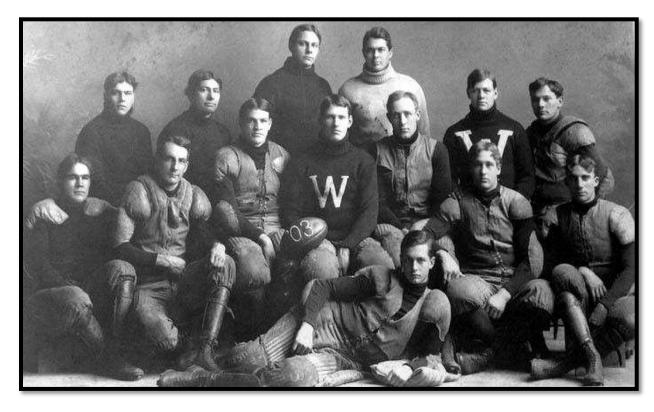
1920: The local NAACP chapter is started. It focused primarily around supporting national programs instead of dealing with local issues at the time.



1940: The depression continues to hit Black workers harder than their white counterparts. In

Wisconsin, 46 percent of the black population is unemployed compared to 13 percent of whites. In Madison, the black unemployment rate is 25 percent. Madison is also reported to be the most "congenial" city in the state for blacks, but segregation is the standard in housing. Of 365 black residents, 80 percent live in only three of Madison's 20 wards, mostly on the south side with some on the near east side. The same year, **Stanley Shivers** becomes Madison's first black bus driver after being mistaken for a white man at the time of hire.

1945: This was the last year in which no Blacks represented Wisconsin on the field.





1949: The South Madison Neighborhood Center opens at 609 Center Street which is now Boys & Girls Clubs. The construction of the location was coordinated by **Willie Lou Harris**, a Black community organizer.

1953: Carson Gulley, a Chef at UW Madison and his wife, Beatrice, become Madison's first black TV personalities. WMTV invites the Chef and his wife to host a cooking show called "What's Cooking." It was the only known program in the United States to feature a black husband-and-wife team on TV in the 1950s.



1956: Sidney Williams becomes the first Black starting quarterback in Modern Big Ten History at UW-Madison.



TRUST THE TIMING OF YOUR LIFE



1958: Helen McLean gets an interview with the Madison School District and would be its first black teacher, but the interviewing committee doesn't hire her. The committee chairman says he didn't think the parents of white students would be comfortable with a black teacher. McLean is soon hired to teach in Beloit. After her story reaches the media, Madison hires her and she begins to work at Longfellow





1962: With the civil rights movement fully engaged around the country, some tell Madison NAACP President Marshall Colston they want to see demonstrations locally. "This isn't Birmingham," Colston tells the Wisconsin State Journal for a July

30th story. "A demonstration wouldn't serve the same

purpose here. Not now."



The same year, Will Smith, Jr and a group of his friends start playing football in his grandmother's backyard, with flour marking yard lines and tape making numbers on their shirts. From these pickup games, grows the Southside Raiders which would become one of the most successful youth football programs in the city.

Geraldine Bernard is one of the first black teachers hired by MMSD.

1963: Madison City Council passes ordinance prohibiting discrimination housing and employment, but the housing sections are watered down by amendments exempting owner-occupied houses apartments. Mayor Henry E. Reynolds casts the tie breaking vote for the proposal. The Madison Equal Opportunities Commission is formed in 1964.



IT'S A BEAUTIFUL THING WHEN A CAREER A PASSION COME TOGETHER.

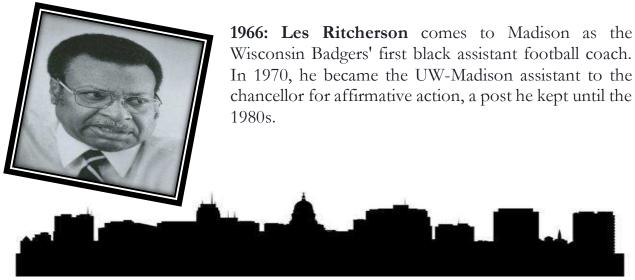
1965: A group of Black mothers forms a group to help black girls develop a positive self-identity. The Impressionettes Social Service Club is open to girls age 14 to 18 to help build self-esteem and support.





1966: Three-plus years after **Carson Gulley's death** (the former TV Chef) UW-Madison names a building after an African-American for the first time. The Van Hise Refectory is renamed Carson Gulley Commons in honor of the longtime dormitory chef who practiced his trade in the building. It was renovated and renamed the Carson Gulley Center in 2013.

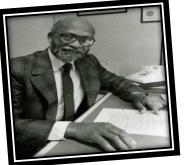






1968: The **National Urban League** approves an application for an affiliate to be located in Madison. Funding for the group is initially rejected by the Givers Fund, now known as United Way, because "discrimination as it exists in other communities does not exist

in Madison."



1968: Rev. James C. Wright, father of Deana Wright, served as Chairman of Madison's Opportunities Equal Commission, then he was selected by Madison's Mayor as the group's first executive director. A school in

South Madison was named in his honor.



1969: John Winston Sr., father of Johnny Winston Jr. broke the color barrier on the police Madison force. becoming the first black police officer in Madison. Twentynine years later, he would retire

as a lieutenant serving as a recruiter and mentor for a generation of Black officers on the force.



1970: Barbara Nichols. mother of Nichelle Nichols, was elected president of the Wisconsin Nurses Association making her the first African American to hold the position in organization's 100-year history and would become the

first African American to hold a cabinet level position in



Wisconsin when appointed Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing.



GREATER MADISON EDITION

1971: Clyde Stubblefield, who became famous as the "Funky Drummer" of James Brown's band, settles in Madison. He would go on to perform locally and continue to tour until his death in 2017.

1972: Charlene Harris-Hodge became the first Black woman anchor on Channel 15 (WMTV) to be followed by Black News Anchors like Mike McKinney who became one of Madison's most popular television personalities.



Louis Cooper, Will B Smith, Jr, Muriel Johnson, and Melva McShan start the South Madison Block Party, which would become *the* social hub for Black Madison for many years.



1973: MMSD adopts an affirmative action policy that commits the school district to actively recruit minorities and women for jobs. Eugene Parks, Madison's first Black Alderman speaks before the board, arguing that well-qualified minorities could have been hired for district positions had they known about job openings.

1974: The Madison Fire Department hires its first black firefighters: Johnny Jackson, Jeff Green and Jerry Greene.





1975: **Pia Kinney James** becomes the first African American women police officer in Madison.

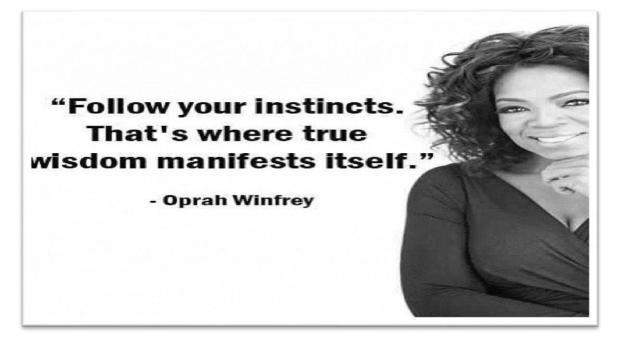


1976: Dr. John Odom (below) becomes the first Affirmative Action Officer for the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) and would become the first Black middle school principal in Madison.

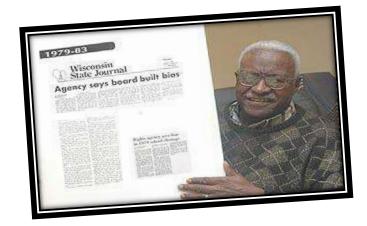




Bill Cofield (left photo) becomes the first African American to coach basketball in the Big Ten and Edwina Walls was hired the same year by Wisconsin as she became Big Ten's first black head coach for a women's basketball team.







without struggle there is no progress

1983: Two south Madison neighborhood centers file a complaint with the federal Office of Civil Rights claiming racial discrimination by the Madison School District. Sandra Solberg and Richard Harris working with the South Madison Neighborhood Center (now Boys & Girls Club) and Neighborhood House, call Madison school Superintendent Douglas Ritchie's plan to close elementary schools and middle schools another step in undermining equal educational opportunities, particularly in south Madison. The courts ruled in June 1983 that the Madison schools were discriminating against minority students in the school closures and boundary changes.

1985: Michelle DeBose Ritcherson who earned a Masters and PhD at the University of Wisconsin-Madison became the first African American nurse to hold a position as Head Nurse/Nurse Manager in the 60 year history of the University of Wisconsin Hospital. She was the first nurse in the country to be placed on a National Institute of Health/National Institute of Aging training grant to become a Clinical Investigator of Research.







BLACK LEADERSHIP



1987: Black students are suspended three times more often than white students in Madison schools, a report prepared by the Urban League.

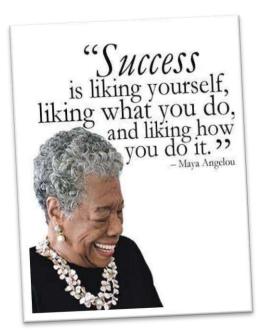
1988: Candace M. McDowell became the founding director of the UW Madison Multicultural Student Center. After 22 years of leadership, Candace retired with distinction earning her the title Director Emerita. During her

tenure as Director, the MSC served approximately 500k students and helped to establish its pivotal campus role as a social justice education center and gathering place that enabled students to live the "Authentic Wisconsin Experience."

1990: Katherine Marie Jackson becomes the first Black woman firefighter in Madison and UMOJA Magazine starts to highlight African Americans in the community.



Milele Chikasa Anana takes over early on, believing the mainstream media had a history of focusing on black struggles without balancing the negative news with the many achievements and victories of the community. She later becomes the first Black person elected to any school board in Wisconsin.





BLACK HIST RY

GREATER MADISON EDITION

Milton McPike (Right Photo) was named one of ten "American Heroes in Education" by Reader's Digest and was named Wisconsin Principal of the Year after serving as principal of East High School for 23 years. After his death, a city park, field house, and memorial scholarship were named in his honor.



Erroll Davis is named CEO of WPL Holdings, the parent company of Wisconsin Power and Light, which would later become Alliant Energy.



I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw something back.

- Maya Angelou





1991: Frances Huntley-Cooper is elected the first and only African American mayor elected in the State of Wisconsin.



Gaddi Ben Dan and Betty Banks, Co-Founders of Club TNT started Madison Times in 1991 and then Betty Franklin-Hammonds took over the newspaper aimed at minority populations. Franklin was the former NAACP and Urban League President and in her last column, she urged readers to save and to invest in black businesses.



1992: Paul Higginbotham (2nd Photo) was appointed Madison's first municipal court judge and was elected Dane County's first African American judge in 1994. He is also the first African American to sit on the Wisconsin Court of Appeals, let alone any Appellate Court in the State's history.



1993: MMSD renamed Van Hise Middle School on the city's Westside to **Velma Hamilton** Middle School, after the African American civil rights leader who helped found the Madison NAACP. She was a tireless advocate for children and the black community.

Roderick A. Ritcherson serves as the first Black president of the Madison Advertising Federation, a trade association of advertising agencies, corporate advertising/marketing executives, print and broadcast adverting media sales reps, printers, and related suppliers.

In 1993, **Richard Williams** is unanimously chosen as Madison's first African American police chief.



1994: Napoleon Smith becomes the first African American president of the Madison Common Council. He remains the only Black person to hold that post.



1995: Gloria Ladson-Billings was the first African American woman to earn tenure in the UW School of Education and was the first African American woman in the School of Education to earn an endowed chair.



2003: Henry Sanders becomes the first Black executive at the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce. During his tenure, he helped start the Small Business Advisory Council and the young professional group

Magnet. Additionally, he helped to start the Regional Economic Development Entity REDE, which would later become MadREP and, along with **Annette Miller**, the Madison Network of Black Professionals and would later become the first Black to run for Lt. Governor of Wisconsin.

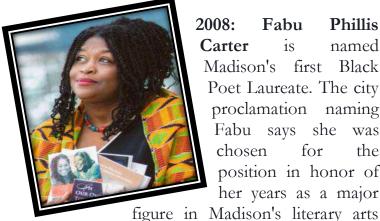
2004: Noble Wray is the first African American police officer at MPD promoted through the ranks to become Chief. He was appointed Chief of Police of the City of Madison in 2004. Before becoming Chief, he received Outstanding Service Awards as a member of the Madison Police Department during his 28 year career.



Life's Most Persistent And Urgent Question Is-- 'What Are You Doing For Others?

BLACK HISTRY

GREATER MADISON EDITION



2008: Fabu **Phillis** Carter is named Madison's first Black Poet Laureate. The city proclamation naming Fabu says she was chosen for the position in honor of her years as a major

movement, inspiring great interest in poetry, reading, and writing in Madison, especially in the women's community, among school-aged children, and in communities of color.





2009: Boys & Girls Clubs leaders launched and created the largest public/private partnership at MMSD designed to help more than one thousand low-income students of color graduate from high school and persist through college. Boys & Girls Club CEO, Michael Johnson, secures close to \$15M dollars from donors to fund the program and grows the program to all four high schools. According to the University of Vermont, the AVID/TOPS program

becomes the most cost-efficient college prep program in the nation and the University of Wisconsin conducts several studies that show the program is moving the academic needle for students of color.





2010: Ismael Ozanne became the first African American District Attorney in Wisconsin after being appointed by Governor Jim Doyle.



2011: The University of Wisconsin renamed Friedrick Hall to Vel Phillips Hall, in honor of Phillips. She was the first in many achievements in Wisconsin, including being the first African American woman to graduate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School and the first woman and African American to be elected Secretary of State in Wisconsin.



The Urban League highlighted the achievement gap between black and white students at MMSD that ranks among the worst in the country. Urban League President **Kaleem Caire** proposes Madison Preparatory Academy for Young Men, better known as Madison Prep, a charter school geared toward boys of color in grades 6 through 12. The school board voted 5-2 in December 2011 to deny Madison Prep a chance.

"A man who stands for nothing will fall for anything."











2011: Marsha Anderson becomes the first African American Women to achieve the rank of Major General in the US Army.

2012: Firefighter **Mahlon Mitchell** becomes the first Black major-party nominee for Lt. Governor in the recall election of Governor Walker.

Keetra Burnette starts Madison Black Women Rock – Wisconsin, an annual celebration of the significant contributions that Madison's Black Women make to our people and our community, through their entrepreneurial and personal endeavors.

2013: Dr. Jack E. Daniels III was named the first African American to lead Madison College, a 106-year-old institute and community staple in Madison. The same year, the race to Equity report is released; it shows that racial disparities in poverty, education and unemployment are greater — sometimes far greater — in Dane County than state and national averages.



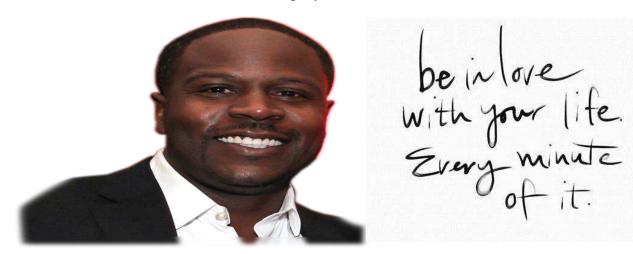




2013: The Start of Breaking Barriers Mentoring Inc. By: **Caliph Muab'El**, aimed at working with youth facing societal barriers. Caliph becomes a prominent voice in the community highlighting issues around mass incarceration.

2014: Percy Brown becomes the first African American executive in the Middleton-Cross Plains School District when

he becomes the first-ever Director of Equity and Student Achievement.



2015: A group of African American leaders, led by **Pastor Alexander Gee Jr.**, develops a plan called Justified Anger to address the racial achievement disparities in Dane County. Additionally, **Henry Sanders launches Madison 365** and the publication becomes the largest African American electronic news outlet focused on people of color in Wisconsin.







2015: **Barbara H. McKinney** (left top photo) and **Sheri Carter** (2nd photo) become the first Black women Alders in Madison.



THINK POSITIVE, & POSITIVE THINGS WILL HAPPEN



Marilyn Peebles Ruffin (bottom left photo) becomes the first person of color elected to the Sun Prairie School Board and the first person of color elected to any public office in Sun Prairie.



Brandi Grayson becomes a prominent voice in the community, as one of the founders of Madison's Young Gifted and Black Coalition and began to challenge systemic oppression of Black people after an officer involved shooting of Tony Robinson in Madison.





2016: Judge Everett Mitchell, a local black pastor holding two undergraduate and three advanced degrees, becomes a circuit court judge in Dane County. He was elected in April 2016 at age 39, and is now one of the youngest circuit court judges in Wisconsin.

Corinda Rainey- Moore is the only Black person to serve as Board Chairwoman of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Dane County, Safe Communities and Leadership Wisconsin.



2016: Focused Interruption Coalition is started by grassroots community leaders including Anthony Cooper, Caliph Muab'el, Jerome Dillard, Jackie Morris, Aaron Hicks, Zandra Henberg and Boys & Girls Club CEO, Michael Johnson together develops the city's first comprehensive grassroots violence prevention plan for the City of Madison during a time with the city murder rate was at an all-time high. The group was successful in lobbying the Mayor of Madison who committed to \$3 million dollars in city funding to address

violence in the city and the Madison city council voted unanimously to support the plan after a heated debate with the group and a few elected officials.



2017: Sabrina Madison launched the Progress Center for Black Women and was featured in news outlets around the country. She founded the Black Women's Leadership Conference with sold out audiences, as well as the highly successful Black Business Expo.



Angela Byars-Winston (2nd photo) became the first African American woman to become a tenured professor in the School of Medicine.



Vanessa Rae McDowell becomes first African American to become the CEO of YWCA Madison in its 109-year history.



Tanisha Harbert opens the first Black Beauty School in Madison and then

JUSTLIKE MUDNS
AND LIKE SUNS,
WITH THE CERTAINTY OF
TIDES, JUST LIKE
HOPES SPRINGING
HIGH, STILL

L'ILL RISE

Julia Nepper, a Black student at UW-Madison, earns a PhD in biophysics at 23 years of age making her one of the youngest Ph.D earners in the country.





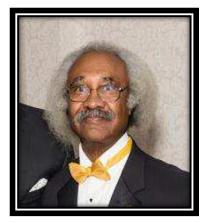
2018 and Beyond: Can be you!!! This year, Jasmine Zapata, MD, MPH will become the first Black woman to graduate at UW-Madison Preventative Medicine and Public Health Residency Program. She is starting off our next generation of history makers in Madison.

A G H I E V E R S

Lisa Peyton-Caire started Black Women's Wellness Day in 2012 which encourages black women to take ownership of their health and work on solutions to health disparities they face.

Grow Howagh, what you go Horough.





100 Black Men of Madison began was incorporated in 1995 and is currently run by **Dr. Floyd Rose**

Juneteenth Celebration started in 1990 by a committee, but is still led by one of the founders, Annie Weatherby-Flowers (left photo) after years of planning by leaders such as Mona Winston and others. Also, the Annual Kwanzaa Festival planned each year by Edith Hilliard are staples in the



Attorney **Michelle Behnke** (right) becomes the first African American president of the State Bar of Wisconsin.

African American community.







Dr. Cynthia Perry becomes the first African American Professor with Tenure at Edgewood College and Elementary Education Department Chair back in 2004.

Virginia and Perry Henderson have worked together to eliminate racial disparities while improving lives of minority youth in our community. They have received numerous awards for their work in community and are icons.





Maurice Cheeks is known for his work on the Madison City Council. He was first elected alder of District 10 in 2013, which includes Allied Drive, one of Madison's most challenging neighborhoods. The following spring, he was re-elected to the council by one of the largest margins in modern history.

Nichelle Nichols, Wayne Strong & Ali Muldrow all ran for MMSD School Board in the last decade championing the issues facing Black children in MMSD, but were not elected. However, they took on prominent positions in the community to help children and families in Dane County.

