Greetings lovers of all things historical! I am also sending a special shout-out to those who love Cleveland’s African American history in particular. Welcome to Quad A 2.0! This is the official launch of a new and reinvigorated African American Archives Auxiliary (AAAA, or Quad A).

Because so many of you have been our friends and supporters over the years, you are already familiar with the important work that we do as an official chartered auxiliary of the Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS). Our job is to support the work of the Archivist/Curator of the African American Archives, which are housed in the Research Library of the Cleveland History Center. The good news is we were recently blessed with the appointment of the new Archivist, Patrice Hamiter, and we look forward to introducing her to you in person.

For those who have little or no knowledge of Quad A, please know that it was established in 1970 as the Black History Archives Project. The Project was the brainchild of the late Dr. Booker T. Tall, and you can read more about him in this publication.

The African American Archives’ collections are important to educators, scholars, writers, moviemakers, and others who have an interest in being amazed by what they might discover in AAA collections; sometimes they find their families and other hidden gems! Thus, we are asking all of you, no matter your familiarity with Quad A and the WRHS Research Library, to look at our organization as a new opportunity for discovery and knowledge building that can be passed on to others.

Finally, we are hoping that some of you will be willing to share your talents, knowledge, and skillsets with us by becoming members of the Western Reserve Historical Society and Quad A’s Board of Trustees.

With that in mind, the following are biographical sketches of myself and past supporters of Quad A who are eager to help jumpstart our efforts at revitalization. Please consider joining us.
Dr. Regennia N. Williams is an educator, a historian, and the founder, president, and director of the Center for the Study of Religion and Spirituality in the History of Africa and the Diaspora (The RASHAD Center, Inc.). Established in Maryland in 2016, this American nonprofit corporation creates, supports, and promotes excellent arts and humanities programs in the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area and in the state of Ohio.

Williams is a two-time recipient of Fulbright Awards. In 2019, she served as a Fulbright Specialist in the Department of History at South Africa’s University of the Free State (Qwaqwa Campus), and she was a Visiting Fulbright Scholar at Nigeria's Obafemi Awolowo University in 2010. Other research and/or teaching-related travels have taken her to Canada, Austria, China, and France.

Dr. Williams has conceived, organized, and directed numerous public programs and academic conferences, including those related to the works of Langston Hughes, W.E.B. Du Bois, Karla F C Holloway, Zora Neale Hurston, and Duke Ellington. From 1993-2015, she served as a faculty member in the Department of History at Cleveland State University, where she earned tenure and promotion to Associate Professor and established the RASHAD Scholarship Endowment. She has also taught part-time at Montgomery College, Dyke College, Cuyahoga Community College, and the University of the District of Columbia.

Her published works include books, book chapters, and articles in scholarly journals, newspapers, and magazines. Dr. Williams is the founder and editor of The Journal of Traditions & Beliefs and the Traditions & Beliefs newsletter, and she currently works as a contract historian with the Western Reserve Historical Society.

Professor Sherlynn Allen-Harris is an educator and historian who holds a Master's Degree in History from Cleveland State University. Her specialties are African/African American History and African American Women’s History. Professor Allen-Harris teaches at Cuyahoga Community College's Metro Campus.

Professor Allen-Harris has been affiliated with the Western Reserve Historical Society for many years; first as a student researcher, next as a professional archivist– who processed several collections for the African American Archives, including the Karamu House Records and the Fair Housing, Karl Brugh Papers among others. Professor Allen-Harris served as the Archives and Education Co-Chair when she was selected for the African American Archives Auxiliary (Quad A). She currently serves as the interim president of Quad A.

Professor Allen-Harris has worked as an organizing co-chair and a general chairperson for numerous events, including Quad A's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Celebration as well as its annual African American Heritage and Cultural Celebrations. Professor Allen-Harris was responsible for Quad A's sponsorship of the critically acclaimed traveling exhibit, Soul Soldiers: The African American Experience in Vietnam. Most recently, she served on the Organizing Committee for The Honorable George L. Forbes Celebration, held at the Cleveland History Center in 2018, and the Advisory Committee for the Cozad-Bates Interpretive Center.

Professor Allen-Harris's many published writings include a novel of historical fiction, Under the Same Moon (2014), and she served as Guest Editor for the Journal of Traditions & Beliefs, Volume 5 (2017). In addition, she wrote "The Guest Editor’s Introduction" and she wrote an essay, "The Revolution is Now Being Tweeted: Black Protest, Preaching, and (Re) Presentations, From the Black Arts Movement to #BLACKLIVESMATTER, 1965-2016."
THE LEADERSHIP AND LEGACY OF DR. BOOKER T. TALL

BY ROBERT L. RENDER, III

It is an accepted fact that parents are a child’s first teachers. They are the ones who instill values, character, and morals, while providing valuable lessons on how to distinguish right from wrong, respect boundaries, and acquire survival skills.

In addition to our parents, there are individuals who will cross one’s path for a short period of time, and others who are in our lives for extended periods of time. Sometimes, however, one person will have a profound impact on you for the rest of your life. For me, Booker T. Tall was the latter.

Booker T. Tall, Jr. was born on December 12, 1928, the eldest son of Julia Mae Grogans and Booker T. Tall, Sr. A Tennessee native, he received his initial public education in Henderson, Tennessee and completed his high school education at Akron, Ohio’s Central High School. In 1952, he graduated from the University of Akron with a major in science history and a minor in education. He went on to study international law and urban studies at Oxford University in England. He earned his Master’s Degree in education administration at Case Western Reserve University and received an Honorary Doctorate Degree from Central State University. Booker furthered his post-graduate studies at Howard University, Bennett College, Atlanta University, Baldwin Wallace and Morgan State.

As an educator, he taught in the Cleveland Public School and served as a professor at the main campus of Cuyahoga Community College, where he founded the African American Studies Associate Degree Program. He also served as a faculty consultant for Cleveland State University and as an adjunct professor for Shaw University. He was the author of numerous publications pertaining to historical black figures and minority businesses.

A military veteran and the recipient of many awards, his accomplishments also included service as the administrative assistant in the Cleveland office of the Honorable Congressman Louis Stokes, Director of the City of Cleveland’s Minority Business Enterprise Center and Equal Opportunity Center Office during the administration of Mayor George V. Voinovich, and Deputy Director of the Equal Opportunity Center under Ohio’s Governor George V. Voinovich.

Dr. Tall was active in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, the Federation of Cultural Gardens, Greater Cleveland Citizens League, and the Association of University Professors, among other organizations. In 1970, he founded the Cleveland Chapter of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, and he was a major player and one of the 23 founding members of the group that is now known as the African American Archives Auxiliary of the Western Reserve Historical Society.

Tall and his wife Carolyn were long-time members of the historic Antioch Baptist Church and the parents of Reginald, Victor, Christopher, Bruce, Michael, and Leigh.

The legacy of Dr. Booker T. Tall’s leadership and service will continue to influence the lives of countless individuals for generations to come.
I am convinced that the following qualities are essential to effective leadership:

L-Listening- Hearing what is going on--what the members have to say
E-Earnest-Bringing fire and drive to make members actually want to do something
A-Attentive-Lending a helping hand when assistance is needed
D-Decisive-Making decisions at a moment's notice
E-Endurance-Withstanding demands that might crop up
R-Reliable-Working late if necessary; inspiring others for undisputed success
S-Sharp-Mobilizing your team and putting it in a position to win
H-Humorous-The ability to take the edge off anything that can cause alienation to seep into a project
I-Inclusive-Working with people of all dispositions on a project offering insight and perspective
P-Productive-Staying on task; consistently working so as to inspire others on the team
WRHS's mission is to inspire people to discover the American experience by exploring the tangible history of northeast Ohio. We strive for relevance and do our best to collect history as it happens. WRHS is a regional historical organization with a job to present evidence from its museum and library collections and give audiences the opportunity to discover history through their own lens and world view.

History is made every day, and WRHS makes every effort to use its resources and available evidence to share stories that are truthful, balanced, and representative of the region and communities we serve. WRHS provides exhibits, educational programs, preservation, and access to the history of Cleveland and northeast Ohio, which includes African-American history and the history of social justice. A few key examples of WRHS experiences and collections that document and explore this history are below:

**Exhibits and Preservation**

**Carl & Louis Stokes Making History** (opened 2017): This permanent exhibit examines the stories of the political careers of Carl & Louis Stokes. In addition, this exhibit illuminates and defines broader issues in African American and American urban history. While the exhibit celebrates the achievements of Carl and Louis Stokes, it also uses their experiences to reflect on and explore topics such as the Civil Rights Movement, social and economic disparity among African Americans, and the rise and importance of heroes and exemplars. The stories of Carl and Louis Stokes are woven into the fabric of this community. Together, their work was a springboard to advance social and economic equality in Cleveland and in the nation.

**The Soul of Philanthropy: Celebrate Those Who Give Black** (2019): This is a semi-permanent exhibit about philanthropy in the African American community. In collaboration with The Soul of Philanthropy Cleveland (TSOPCLE), Celebrate Those Who Give Black presents a collection of historic and contemporary stories and images about Black philanthropy in our region. This is a Cleveland exhibition designed to tell the story of Black philanthropy in Cleveland by honoring the past, celebrating the present, and inspiring the future. The community submitted nominations for emerging philanthropists, young philanthropists, and hidden philanthropists. Through many faces and stories of community generosity, WRHS recognizes those who give Black.

**WRHS African American Archives** – CELEBRATING 50 YEARS! Established in 1970, the African American Archives’ purpose is to collect, preserve, and make accessible historic documents, photographs, memorabilia, art, and artifacts pertaining to African American life, history, and culture in Northeast Ohio. The collection includes manuscripts, photographs, microfilm, and newspaper collections. Museum artifacts are specific to the African American experience and cover a wide range of topics and categories of primary importance to the body of Black history. In order to help our archives progress, we welcome input to help us identify social justice resources that may be added to this growing collection.

**Women and Politics: Empowered to Vote, Empowered to Lead:** This is a permanent exhibit that marks the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters and tells a broader story of women in American politics. Specifically, the experiences and contributions of women, African Americans, and immigrants are the focus.
Collections Documenting Social Justice

Beginning in the late 1960s, WRHS began an aggressive collecting program to more inclusively document the history of Greater Cleveland in its Library and Archives. The focal points of this ongoing initiative are the diverse peoples, movements, and histories of the region. Specific programs were begun in African American, ethnic/immigration, political, labor, and gender and LGBTQ history. Many of the archives and newspaper collections that came into the collections relate to social justice – the struggle to achieve equity in terms of wealth, privilege, and opportunity in the region. Together these collections represent many voices, means of advocacy, and opinions, but overall, they document movements for change in society that span much of our community’s history.

Programming

WRHS and Workforce Development: WRHS partners with the community to expand its service profile to include workforce readiness for high school students in grades 9-12, community college, and university students.

George L. Forbes Celebration Weekend: WRHS’s 2018 Salute to George L. Forbes has been a catalyst for increased engagement with the community. WRHS is now increasingly engaged with elected officials, civic, and business leaders from the African American community and media. The Stokes exhibition and Salute to George L. Forbes reintroduced more than 1,200 people to WRHS, sparking strategic partnerships and increased engagement that will continue to diversify WRHS audiences through new relationships with media and church leadership, pool of candidates, and institutional leadership.

Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day at the Cleveland History Center (2003-2020): WRHS opens its main campus and headquarters to the public to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with complimentary admission, special programs, and activities for audiences of all ages. WRHS’s annual MLK Day Celebration is the first in a series of events that raise awareness about individuals and events with a lasting impact on Cleveland and northeast Ohio. We welcome your input on activities and additional events that may be included in this celebration.

Youth Entrepreneurship Education (YEE) Program: Serving more than 10,000 schoolchildren in Greater Cleveland annually, including every 4th, 5th, and 6th grader from Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD). The program inspires the entrepreneurial spirit in our youth using historical examples of African American innovators and entrepreneurs whose stories live on in WRHS’s collections. WRHS’s YEE Programming is one of dozens of curriculum-based programs for students in grades K-12 for more than 36,000 students annually.

Black History on Tap: The Living Legacy of Leo’s Casino. Black History on Tap is a popular program series presented annually each February. In 2020, WRHS honors the legendary Leo’s Casino nightclub! Guests immerse themselves in 1960’s Cleveland and enjoy the sights and sounds of the famous R&B and Jazz club. The event features include live music, archival images from WRHS collections of the Legends that rocked Leo’s stage, themed activities, and a unique look at Cleveland’s past.
Patrice Hamiter is the new African American History Archivist at the Western Reserve Historical Society. She is responsible for the collection, processing, and preservation of paper records and publications that are historically significant to African Americans in our region and beyond.

Patrice's roots are firmly planted in Northeast Ohio. She is an alumna of Cleveland State University, and she earned her master's degree in library science from the University of North Texas. She has over 10 years' experience working in a public library setting, and eight of those years were spent at the Cleveland Public Library in the Photograph Archive.

Currently working on processing Congressman Louis Stokes' Congressional papers, Patrice is a strong believer in the idea that knowledge is power. She is excited about her new position and being a part of an organization that is helping to make the evidence related to our history, culture, and community available for research and study for generations to come.

In her spare time Patrice enjoys biking and yoga but also loves a good Netflix binge.

AFRICAN AMERICAN ARCHIVES: RECENT ACCESSIONS

BY MARGARET ROULETT
ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS MANAGER
WRHS, RESEARCH LIBRARY

The library added two new collections to the African American Archives this month:

- A scrapbook of Karamu Camp photographs from the mid-20th century
- A small grouping of Cleveland School Desegregation records.

To donate items and learn more about the African American Archives, contact:
Patrice Hamiter, African American History Archivist
phamiter@wrhs.org | 216-721-5722 x1511
BLACK HISTORY: LOCAL, NATIONAL, & GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

BY REGENNIA N. WILLIAMS, PHD
HISTORIAN

The African American Archives Auxiliary of the Western Reserve Historical Society is fortunate to have members and friends who give generously of their time, talent, and treasure while making history here in Greater Cleveland and throughout the national and global communities.

In 2020, as we commemorate and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the African American Archives in 1970, we also want to highlight some of the contributions of two of Cleveland’s first families and other accomplished individuals who continue to enrich our lives and shape our history and culture.

Raymond A. Weeden is a longtime supporter of Quad A, and both he and his wife Carla are financial members of the auxiliary. Mr. Weeden is the first African American to be elected Councilman in the Village of Walton Hills, Ohio. Councilman Weeden is pictured on the right in a photo from Quad A’s 2015 tribute to The Honorable Leo Jackson, a former Cleveland City Councilman and Judge.

As information on the web suggests, Councilman Weeden serves on Walton Hills’ Economic Development, Finance, and Infrastructure Committees, and he chairs the Safety and Insurance Committees. He also serves as the Council Representative on the Planning Commission.

If you are a gospel music fan, you probably already know that Mr. Weeden is a member of Cleveland’s renowned Weeden Family Singers and an active member of the St. Timothy Missionary Baptist Church.

Raymond’s grandfather, the Rev. Dr. John T. Weeden, a well-known civil rights leader, served as St. Timothy’s pastor for many years, and he was President of the Baptist Ministers Conference of Greater Cleveland, President of the Ohio Baptist Convention, and a staff member in the office of Congressman Louis Stokes. The papers of the Rev. Dr. John T. Weeden are included in the African American Archives of the Western Reserve Historical Society.
The entrepreneurial, political, philanthropic, and oral history activities of former school board member Mr. William F. Boyd, Sr. (1915-2014) and other members of the Boyd family are the subjects of numerous works. Those who are familiar with the WRHS Research Library’s Allen E. Cole photograph collection may recall seeing a popular portrait of a handsome young Mr. Boyd, of the E.F. Boyd & Sons Funeral Homes, in that collection. The Boyd’s Funeral Home Records and E. F. Boyd and Son Funeral Home Records, 1906-1950, are part of the African American Archives.

Mr. Boyd was one of the more than 100 narrators for “Praying Grounds: African American Faith Communities, A Documentary and Oral History Project,” which is housed at Cleveland State University.

Shown here in a 1978 black and white Cleveland Press photograph are (counterclockwise from the right) Mr. William F. Boyd Sr., his son William F. Boyd, II (aka “Pepper”), daughter Marcella Boyd, and Mrs. Mary Boyd.

Pictured with me (on the left) in a 2019 color image taken during the Tri-C JazzFest is Mr. Boyd’s grandson, writer Timothy Cox (one of my former students), and Timothy’s mother, Ms. Marcella Boyd Cox. In addition to her work with the family business and local community organizations, Ms. Boyd Cox volunteered to serve as the narrator for an interview that I conducted for The HistoryMakers, one of the nation’s largest African American oral history projects.

The life stories of the members of this African American Cleveland family provide excellent examples of how the work of Quad A's members and friends contributes to historical research at the local and national levels.

SPOTLIGHT ON QUAD A MEMBER PROF. ADAM BANKS

Kudos to native Clevelander and Cleveland State University alumnus Dr. Adam Banks, Professor in Stanford University’s Graduate School of Education. Dr. Banks’ online profile lists his research interests as “Diversity and Identity | Literacy and Language.” Quad A is pleased and proud to list Dr. Banks, an award-winning scholar-teacher, as one of its active members. You can find out more about his research and other faculty activities by visiting ed.stanford.edu.
As someone who participated in Anti-Apartheid protests while serving as a Cleveland State University student leader in 1985, and who served as both a CSU faculty host for delegations from the University of the Free State in 2011 and 2013 and a member of the CSU delegation to the 2012 Global Leadership Summit in South Africa, it has been my pleasure to work with American and South African students. These young people readily accepted the challenges associated with becoming change agents on campus, in their home communities, and in their countries.

In both the distant past and in more recent years, CSU student leaders were encouraged to read, listen to, reflect upon, discuss, and write about the ideas of such world leaders as Nobel Peace laureates the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., President Nelson Mandela, and Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu—especially as their ideas related to the history of racism in their countries and the need for transformative leadership, truthfulness, forgiveness, and reconciliation.

My project, “An Oral History of Leadership for Change in South Africa and the United States of America,” is part of an ongoing effort to gain a better understanding of the legacy of the Anti-Apartheid Movement in global history. This project is the result of creative and collaborative work on the part of the RASHAD Center, Inc., a Maryland-based non-profit organization with volunteer staff in Maryland and Ohio; and Cleveland Public Library, “The Peoples’ University.”

The three interviewees for this pilot series were Rev. Mylion Waite, Ms. Estefany Rodriguez, and Ms. Jasmine Elder. All are CSU alums who volunteered to share their experiences and the impact of the above ideas on their current work and world views. I am convinced that this project will help audiences gain a better understanding of the ways in which ideas that are rooted in or related to religious and/or spiritual traditions might enhance or hinder student leadership development and post-secondary learning.

In 2019, the 25th anniversary year of the death of apartheid and the birth of democracy in South Africa, I had the pleasure of serving as an American Fulbright Specialist at South Africa’s University of the Free State. The subject interviews were among the resources that I used as the co-instructor for a UFS Oral History Module.

I look forward to sharing the interviews with the general public while working locally with the members and friends of Quad A to document and preserve the history of African-descended peoples throughout the global community.

For more information on this project, please visit rashadcenter.wordpress.com
When I was a student at Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C), Dr. Booker T. Tall taught me how to create, develop, and implement public programs and to identify the funding for each program. I took this skill set to Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS), where it was fine-tuned on the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Celebrations and various other outreach programs. Eventually, I was retained as a consultant and hired as project coordinator by WRHS.

In 1992, Mr. Kermit Pike, WRHS Library Director; Dr. Tall, and I planned the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Election of Carl B. Stokes as the first Black mayor of the City of Cleveland and a major American city. The proceeds from the event made it possible for us to establish the Booker T. Tall Endowment Fund.

In 2011, I founded RLR III & Associates and created the Ward 6 Arts and Cultural Celebration on East 89th Street, between Carnegie Avenue and Quincy Avenue, which drew over 6,000 persons.

Then, in 2017, Attorney George L. Forbes called me, Mr. Pike, and Mr. Kevin “Chill” Heard to his downtown offices to pick up over 60 file boxes that would become part of his archival collection at WRHS.

RLR III & Associates suggested to WRHS leadership that we should use the occasion of the donation of the Forbes papers to celebrate the Life, Leadership and Legacy of GLF and raise additional funds for the endowment. The event was held at the Cleveland History Center in October of 2018 and grossed over $250,000.00; thereby becoming one of the most successful fundraising events in the history of WRHS.
SAVE THESE DATES!

*The following AAAA events will take place at the Cleveland History Center in University Circle. All activities are free unless otherwise noted. Programs subject to change.

Saturday, February 29, 2020, 12 p.m.
Black History Month Open House

Saturday, March 28, 2020, 12 p.m.
Women’s History Month Presentation

Saturday, April 25, 2020, 12 p.m.
First Quarterly Membership Meeting of Quad A 2.0

Saturday, May 30, 2020, 12 p.m.
Gen Xers, Millennials, and “The Movement 2.0”: 21st-Century Leadership That Defies Labels

Saturday, June 20 2020, 12 p.m.
& Saturday, June 27, 2020, 12 p.m.
FY 2020 Series Finale: “13th”
Cost: $12; Free for WRHS Members
*Includes program, reception, and museum admission

Both programs in this series will include a panel presentation, film screening, and discussion focusing on the award-winning Ava DuVernay Documentary "13th" and the relationship between mass incarceration and political disenfranchisement in America.

*Commemorating the 150th anniversary of the 15th Amendment (African American Male Suffrage), the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment (Woman Suffrage), and celebrating the recent opening of the "Women and Politics" exhibit at the Cleveland History Center.

Congratulations to Mr. Robert P. Madison, award-winning architect and one of the founders of the African American Archives Auxiliary of WRHS, on the 2019 publication of Designing Victory, A Memoir. Mr. Madison’s book is available for purchase in the Cleveland History Center’s Museum Store.

Congratulations to Dr. Shirley Smith Seaton on being named an Honorary Board member of the Western Reserve Historical Society!

The WRHS Board of Directors bestowed this honor on Dr. Seaton on June 19, 2019. Dr. Seaton, who served as a faithful member of the Western Reserve Historical Society Board of Directors from 1995 to 2019, was also a dedicated member of the African American Archives Auxiliary.

Become a Member
wrhs.org or contact:
gandersonjr@wrhs.org
216-721-5722 x1401

JOIN US!

Follow us online
@CleStartsHere
@CAAM
@halefam

#CLEStartsHere