



The Hortense B. Perry Foundation

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Eta Omega Chapter

Presents the Annual

Salute to WOMEN

**A Tribute to Greatness:
Gospel Leaders and Legends**

**2025
SEPT 21**

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM



MAUDE BROWN PORTER
CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE
3107 S. Crums Lane
Louisville, Kentucky 40216

Pre-reception will be held Sunday, September 21, 2025
from 2:00-3:00 PM EST in the Stoddard Auditorium.
Lite refreshments will be served.

ATTIRE: Your Sunday's Best



MISSION & PURPOSE

THE HORTENSE B. PERRY FOUNDATION

The Hortense B. Perry Foundation, Inc. is committed to providing resources and services within the community with a focus on education, health, leadership development, economic empowerment, and the visual and performing arts. Our top priorities are:

- education
- health, and
- economic empowerment

The Purpose of the foundation is to provide support in the execution of educational and social programs impacting the community of Louisville Metro, Jefferson County, Kentucky

The Hortense B. Perry Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization in partnership with the Eta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated®. Established in 1994, the foundation has provided thousands of dollars in support of our priorities with special emphasis on providing educational funds to high school students in the Louisville area. The scholarship investment ranges from \$30,000 to \$60,000 annually.

In addition to funding and supporting scholarships, other signature programs include, but are not limited to:

- Book and Read-In Program – a book and reading program for elementary school students.
- Salute to Women and Emergent Leaders - a program celebrating female entrepreneurs and impactful community leaders;
- LEAF – a program of encouragement and self-improvement to middle school girls; and
- Derby Brunch - an annual fundraiser and celebration of the HBP scholarship recipients.



ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INCORPORATED®

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® (AKA), an international service organization, was founded on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1908. It is the oldest Greek-letter organization established by African American college-educated women.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® was founded on a mission of five basic tenets that have remained unchanged since the sorority's inception. Our mission is:

- to cultivate and encourage high scholastic and ethical standards,
- to promote unity and friendship among college women,
- to study and help alleviate problems concerning girls and women in order to improve their social stature,
- to maintain a progressive interest in college life, and to be of "Service to All Mankind."





Salute to Women Songs of Life

The Salute to Women Entrepreneurs and Emergent Leaders evolved from the initiatives of our 2010-2014 International President, Carolyn House Stewart.

One of her five initiatives was titled Economic Security. Through this initiative, she envisioned the expansion of our current wealth building programs, which included the allocation of resources, home ownership, assets protection, estate planning, access to capital, and alleviating universal problems facing girls and women by supporting and empowering female owned businesses and urban enterprise zones.

Using her vision as a catalyst, the Eta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, decided to recognize and honor women for their contributions, determination, vision, and passion which has helped to shape and grow Louisville's businesses. Each year, the Salute to Women Entrepreneurs and Emergent Leaders honors women in the Louisville community who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in the corporate, government, academic, small business, and non-profit-sectors.

A TRIBUTE TO GREATNESS: GOSPEL LEADERS AND LEGENDS

PROGRAM EMCEE

ALEXIS MATHEWS

Alexis Mathews is a Reporter and Fill-in Anchor for WLKY, the local CBS-affiliate and most watched television news station in Metro Louisville. She was named the 2023 Most Admired Woman in Louisville by Today's Woman Magazine.

Prior to landing in the Derby City, Alexis' background in media included working as an evening anchor, reporter, and digital writer at NBC, FOX, and CBS-affiliates in West Virginia and Ohio, respectively, covering breaking news both nationally and locally.

Alexis is a graduate of the University of Kentucky with a bachelors in broadcast journalism and minor in gender and women studies.

She was born and raised in the south suburbs of Chicago and is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®.



Salute to Women Songs of Life

PROGRAM

WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

Christie McCravy, Hortense B. Perry Foundation, President
Latisha Cahoon, Eta Omega Chapter, President

PRAYER

Eta Omega Chapter, Chaplain

HISTORY OF THE SALUTE TO WOMEN SIGNATURE PROGRAM

Dr. Ronnita Usher, Eta Omega Chapter, Program Chair
Ashley Rollins, Eta Omega Chapter, Program Co-Chair

MUSICAL SELECTION

Eta Omega Musical Ensemble

INTRODUCTION OF THE SALUTE TO WOMEN SONGS OF LIFE RECIPIENT - JOCELYN CLAYBORN

Alexis Mathews, Emcee

INTRODUCTION OF THE SALUTE TO WOMEN SONGS OF LIFE RECIPIENT - WILMA WESTFIELD CLAYBORN

Alexis Mathews, Emcee

INTRODUCTION OF THE SALUTE TO WOMEN SONGS OF LIFE RECIPIENT - YOLANDA GRAHAM GREEN

Alexis Mathews, Emcee

INTRODUCTION OF THE SALUTE TO WOMEN SONGS OF LIFE RECIPIENT - REV. TONYA M. TRIPLETT

Alexis Mathews, Emcee

MUSICAL SELECTION

Eta Omega Musical Ensemble

CLOSING REMARKS

Christie McCravy, Hortense B. Perry Foundation, President



SONGS OF LIFE AWARD

JOCELYN CLAYBORN

Jocelyn Clayborn was born and educated in Louisville, KY. She has had a career in church music ministry for over 40 years, and her entire family has deep musical roots. Jocelyn is the mother of Jason and Sean Clayborn, Daria, Lenisa, Nicholas, and Sydnii Raymore, all of whom have sought successful musical paths in life.

Jocelyn was the music director for the amazingly talented Metropolitan Gospel Music Connection, known as the M.G.M.C. Youth Choir, and God blessed them to grow at times to 250 youth, making a difference in the community of Louisville, Kentucky. She has formally served as the Minister of Music at The Church of the Living God No. 45, Canaan Christian Church, and as a member of the music staff at St. Stephen Church for many years. She is also the founder of a musical aggregation of singers from the 80s known as Christ Connection, with whom she is presently working on a reunion recording.

She is a singer and songwriter, penning over 30 songs that have been recorded by several Gospel artists. She is a member of the National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses, the Gospel Music Workshop of America, and the Edwin Hawkins Music & Arts Seminar.

Jocelyn has many gifts and talents, including being a self-made chef and, of course, a beverage maker! She owns and operates Jahja's Fresh Beverages, which has been known around the world for seven years. Her favorite saying is, "I'm Flawsome." Her favorite salutation is, "I Cover You by The Blood of Jesus." Jocelyn's favorite scripture is Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jocelyn loves the Lord Jesus Christ with all her heart and unapologetically understands and teaches the power and principles of forgiveness.



SONGS OF LIFE AWARD

WILMA WESTFIELD CLAYBORN

Born on August 21, 1940, in Louisville, Kentucky, Wilma Westfield Clayborn has led a life imbued with purpose, talent, and service. As an educator, musician, writer, and matriarch, she has shaped minds, inspired voices, and left a lasting mark on the cultural and spiritual fabric of her community.

Wilma dedicated much of her professional life to education, teaching Biology and General Science across three public school systems. Her classrooms were known not only for their academic rigor but also for a nurturing spirit that made students feel valued and inspired. Even after retiring, her expertise was sought again—three decades later—when she returned to the classroom as a substitute teacher, remaining committed to the mission of learning.

Parallel to her career in education, Wilma was deeply involved in gospel music. Raised in the Holiness church tradition, she was immersed in spirited worship and strong musical expression from an early age. Her versatility as a pianist enabled her to perform for Presbyterian, Baptist, Methodist, and Christian churches—each with its own rhythm, style, and voice. She became a choir director, record producer, singer, and leader of small vocal groups, helping to organize and nurture seven music groups across four cities. Her ability to bring people together and elevate their voices was truly exceptional.

A talented songwriter, Wilma composed numerous gospel melodies throughout her life. One of her most cherished pieces, “Jesus is the Sunshine of My Life,” was formally published, sharing her message of faith and devotion with wider audiences.

Wilma is also a co-author, contributing to the documentation and preservation of gospel music history in her hometown. She played a key role in chronicling the legacy of Louisville’s gospel music scene and its many influential voices, ensuring their stories are not forgotten.

As the matriarch of a gifted musical family, her legacy extends beyond her own accomplishments. Her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren are all musically inclined, growing into singers, musicians, directors, songwriters, and professional gospel artists—each one continuing the work she began and carrying the torch of ministry and music into the future.

In the 1990s, she was known as Reta West, a beloved radio personality on The Love Express, where her voice resonated with listeners across the city. On Facebook, she connects with friends and family as Reta Clayborn—honoring both her stage presence and her enduring family ties.

Wilma Westfield Clayborn’s life has been a harmonious blend of faith, family, and purpose. Whether behind a piano, in front of a classroom, or on the airwaves, she has always led with heart—and with harmony.



SONGS OF LIFE AWARD

YOLANDA GRAHAM GREEN

Yolanda Graham Green's journey with music began at the age of seven when she started taking piano lessons. By age ten, she was already playing for the Sunday School and B.T.U. at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, and at thirteen, she was appointed the church organist. Her acceptance into The Lincoln School for high school nurtured her love for mathematics, and she aspired to major in math and become an engineer. However, her mother's insistence on majoring in music redirected her path.

Ms. Green earned a Bachelor of Science in Music Education from Kentucky State University, but she faced challenges finding a teaching position due to a lack of vacancies in the school systems. Instead, she took on roles in various government programs, using her education to help youth and adults obtain their G.E.D. This experience allowed her to blend her passion for music with her commitment to education, realizing that the skills she gained in music were valuable in her service to others.

Over the past 55 years, she has served three Baptist churches in the Louisville area: Mt. Vernon, Pleasant View, and St. Stephen. Each church provided her with opportunities to serve God and the community through ministry and music.

At Pleasant View, the belief was that a call to ministry required further education, leading her to earn a Master of Church Music from The Southern

Baptist Theological Seminary. This decision reinforced her understanding that ministry comes before music; by taking care of people, the music aspect becomes more manageable. Acknowledging people first is essential before teaching music.

Her extensive involvement in local, district, state, and national conventions, particularly with the General Association of Kentucky Baptists and the Progressive National Baptist Convention, earned her an honorary doctorate from Simmons College of Kentucky in 1998. She served as a faculty member for 25 years and briefly as department chair.

Since her retirement, she has continued to share her love for music through Graham Green Works, an entity offering musical services such as piano lessons, transcribing, arranging, composing, filling in for church musicians, and directing choirs as a guest musician. She also enjoys playing handbells with the St. Stephen Jubal Ringers and directing and accompanying Eta Omega's musical ensemble.

An interesting note is that her late husband and their two sons, Alphaeus, Jr. and Dr. Raymond Green, are all ministers, creating a naturally supportive family dynamic. As she reflects on her journey, she resonates with the saying, "To whom much is given, much is required" (Luke 12:48).



SONGS OF LIFE AWARD

REV. TONYA M. TRIPLETT

Rev. Tonya Triplett is a native of Dayton, Ohio. She graduated in 1988 from Kentucky State University, where she earned a degree in Business Administration while studying Vocal Music Performance under Dr. Carl H. Smith. During her time at the university, she was an active participant in the Concert Choir as a lead vocalist, served as the Director of the Gospel Ensemble, and was a member of the Thoroughbreds Marching Band, among various other music groups.

After relocating to Louisville, Kentucky, she became the Director of the University of Louisville Black Diamond Choir. In 2000, the choir received the prestigious invitation to minister in London, England, from the United States Army.

Rev. Triplett has also showcased her talents in several play productions, with her most recent performance in "A Mother's Cry." Additionally, she has been a guest soloist with several symphony orchestras, including those in Indianapolis, Youngstown, Dayton, and Louisville.

For twenty years, she served at St. Stephen Church in Louisville under Rev. Dr. Kevin W. Cosby, fulfilling multiple roles such as Assistant Minister, Director of Member Services, Director of the Sanctuary Choir, Director of the Soulful Singing Sisters Women's Choir, and Director of Decision Counselors. Currently, she is the Minister of Discipleship and Congregational Engagement at Burnett Avenue Baptist Church in Louisville, where Rev. Dr. Daniel Corrie Shull serves as pastor.

Her favorite affirmation is, "What's popular is not always right, and what's right is not always popular!" She lives by her guiding scripture, Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he'll direct your path!"

Salute to Women *Songs of Life*

2025 RECIPIENTS



JOCELYN CLAYBORN
SONGS OF LIFE RECIPIENT



WILMA WESTFIELD CLAYBORN
SONGS OF LIFE RECIPIENT



YOLANDA GRAHAM GREEN
SONGS OF LIFE RECIPIENT



REV. TONYA M. TRIPLETT
SONGS OF LIFE RECIPIENT

* - Lifetime Achiever

** - Spalding Doctoral Student

PAST RECIPIENTS

2012

Judge Erica Williams *
Tangy Hunter-Hughes
Tawana Hughes
Kimberly Milton-Jenkins
Tierra Turner (Kavanaugh Wayne)

2013

Alice Houston *
Paula McCraney
Peggy Hankins
Deleanor Manson
Rhonda Branch

2014

Dr. Rita Greer *
Joy Watkins
Rose Walton
Lynn Reynolds
Lynn Johnson
Karen Krigger, MD
Pamela Fulton Broadus
Jennifer Adams-Tucker

2015

Dawne Gee *
Kirstie Crenshaw **
Benolia Bacon
Saretha Young
Susan Robinson
Lisa Houston

2016

Elmer Lucille Allen *
Khatina Brunson **
Sylvia Arnett
LaShonda Threats

2017

Diane Porter *
Candice Johnson **
Terra Leavell
Maralyn Marables

2018

Judge Denise Clayton *
Dr. Tish Brookins **
Sonja Grey
Sharis Lattimore

2019

Emma Mae Metcalf *
Jabani Bennett **
Lameca Mickens
Stephanie Lackey
Dr. Susan (Sue) Davis

2020

Sadiqa Reynolds *
Janelle Rae **
Brenda Osborne, MD
Gerina Whethers
Eboni Edwards

2022

Yvette Gentry *
Sytisha Claycomb
Kymberly Rice
Denise Sears
Kathy Pleasant
Harlina Trumbo
Addie Brownell

2023

Lonnie Ali *
Dr. Paula McCraney
Tawana Bain
Michele Harbin
JoAnn James
Dr. Teresa Walker
Diane Whitlock

2024

Dr. Laura Douglas
Mattie Jones
Jameelah Henderson
Jasmine Watkins
Dr. Lamesa Marks-Johns
Nachand Hyde Trabue

Salute to Women Songs of Life

THANK YOU

The committee chairs for the Salute to Women Entrepreneurs and Emergent Leaders want to take this opportunity to send out a huge thank you to our committee members and to everyone who took time out of their busy schedules to help plan, organize and oversee this event. Your contribution to the whole reflects a true unified effort. We also extend a heartfelt expression of gratitude to the Hortense B. Perry Foundation Leadership Team, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Eta Omega chapter members, and volunteers, and our program emcee.

Hortense B. Perry Foundation Website:
<https://www.hortensebperry.com>

