



# BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

**February 22, 2026**  
**Silver Spring Civic Center**  
**Fenton Room**

**HONORING LEGACY. CELEBRATING CULTURE. BUILDING COMMUNITY**



Carol-Ann Boothe  
President (2026-2027)

Jamaican Nationals Association of Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area (JNA)

As President of the JNA, I am honored to welcome you as we gather for our Black History Month Celebration and as we recognize Reggae Month. This season calls us to reflect on Discovery. Memory. Meaning. Faith. Resilience. Service. Governance. Community. and Heritage.

Black History Month invites us to honor the courage, sacrifice, and enduring contributions of our ancestors. Reggae Month reminds us that Jamaica's cultural voice—through rhythm, resistance, identity, and pride—continues to influence the world.

**COMMITMENT FOR 2026-2027**

As we celebrate 56 years of service in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area, my focus this year is to strengthen engagement, expand outreach, and reinforce JNA's legacy of excellence.

*Strengthening Membership & Engagement*

Encouraging active participation in our general membership meetings—both virtual and in-person—and creating meaningful opportunities for members to connect, collaborate, and lead.

*Cultural Heritage & Community Connection*

Continuing to promote and preserve Jamaican culture and heritage through events, educational programming, and intergenerational dialogue.

*Student Outreach & Educational Support*

Expanding mentorship and educational initiatives that empower the next generation within the Jamaican diaspora.

**JOIN US IN MAKING AN IMPACT**

Our strength lies in the dedication of our members, volunteers, partners, and supporters, you are the heart of JNA. If you are passionate about preserving our heritage and strengthening our community, I invite you to:

- Serve on the 2026-2027 JNA Board or a Standing Committee
- Become a Sponsor or Community Partner
- Mentor, Volunteer, or Support Student Outreach and Educational Initiatives
- Engage in Cultural, Civic, and Community Programs

Together, let us lead with purpose, serve with integrity, and build a legacy that honors our past while shaping our future.

# AGENDA

## PROGRAM

- \* **4:00 pm- 4:10 pm**  
**Opening Remarks & Recognition of Past JNA Board Members**
    - Carol-Ann Boothe, President JNA
- 

- \* **4:10 pm- 4:15 pm**  
**Invocation**
    - Franklyn Burke, Esq.
- 

- \* **4:15 pm- 4:45 pm**  
**Networking Meal & Live Music - Wake Campbell**



- \* **4:45 pm- 5:25 pm**  
**Black History Reflections: Discovery, Memory, and Meaning**  
**Moderator:** Franklin Knight, Ph.D.  
**Panelists:** Doreen Thompson, Esq., Richard Wilson, Esq., and Louis Hemans
- 

- \* **5:25 pm- 5:30 pm**  
**Greetings from the Jamaican Embassy**  
**Speaker:** Emille Wallace-Waddell
- 

- \* **5:30 pm- 5:45 pm**  
**Faith and Resilience in the Black American Experience**  
**Speaker:** Michael Walker
- 

- \* **5:45 pm- 5:55pm**  
**Swearing In Ceremony**  
**Facilitated by the JNA Nomination & Election Committee**
    - JNA Board of Directors
    - Strategic Governance and Advisory Council
- 

- \* **5:55 pm- 6:15 pm**  
**Closing Remarks & Networking Reception**
  - Natalee Snider, Vice President JNA



## Celebrate the Jamaican Heroes Who Influenced Global Black Liberation



Marcus Garvey – A global Pan-African visionary whose teachings ignited movements for Black pride and liberation worldwide.

Nanny of the Maroons – A fearless freedom fighter and symbol of resistance, strength, and cultural survival.



Bob Marley – An international voice for justice, unity, and peace whose music continues to uplift generations.

## Honor the Jamaican Diaspora in the United States

Claude McKay – A foundational writer of the Harlem Renaissance.



Colin Powell – The first Black U.S. Secretary of State, born to Jamaican parents.

Dr. Winston Anderson founded the Sandy Spring Slave museum in 1988.



Sheryl Lee Ralph – Emmy-winning actress who proudly celebrates her Jamaican heritage.



# SPEAKER BIOS



### **Franklin Knight, Ph.D.**

Franklin W. Knight is a Jamaican historian of Latin America and the Caribbean. He is an emeritus professor at Johns Hopkins University, where he was the Leonard and Helen R. Stulman Professor of History from 1993 to 2014 and director of the Centre for Africana Studies. He was awarded a Gold Musgrave Medal for literature in 2013.

He joined the faculty of Johns Hopkins University in 1973 and in 1978 became the first Black faculty member at the university to gain academic tenure. Prior to joining the faculty at Johns Hopkins, Knight was a tenured associate professor of history at Stony Brook University.

Knight was born in the parish of Manchester, Jamaica, and attended Calabar High School in Kingston. He gained his degree in history from the University of the West Indies, Mona in 1964 and his PhD from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. From 1998 to 2000, he served as the President of the Latin American Studies Association. In 2007, Knight was awarded an honorary doctorate from his alma mater, the University of the West Indies.

### **Doreen Thompson, Esq.**

Doreen E. Thompson, Esq. is a distinguished attorney, public servant, and community leader whose career reflects a deep commitment to governance, cultural preservation, and diaspora advocacy. A graduate of the University of Chicago Law School, with additional leadership training from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, she has served in numerous senior public sector roles in the District of Columbia, contributing to major initiatives in food safety reform, environmental policy, and regulatory modernization.

Born in Balaclava, St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, Ms. Thompson has been a steadfast champion of Caribbean heritage and entrepreneurship. She is the co-founder of the National Caribbean-American Foods & Foodways Alliance (NCAFFA) and has led initiatives promoting Caribbean cuisine, history, and culture throughout the DMV region. Her advocacy helped establish June as Caribbean Heritage Month in Washington, D.C., and contributed to the creation of the District's Office of Caribbean Community Affairs.

Within the Jamaican Nationals Association (JNA), Ms. Thompson has served as Vice President, first Chair of the Advisory Council, and Lifetime Member. Her leadership in strengthening governance, strategic planning, and organizational development reflects her enduring dedication to service, community building, and the advancement of the Jamaican diaspora.



## Louis Hemans



Louis Alexander Hemans was born and raised in Anchovy, St. James, Jamaica, and graduated from Cornwall College. After working in Jamaica with the St. James Parish Council, the Jamaica Library Service, and Pan American Airlines, he pursued higher education at Howard University. There, he earned degrees in Spanish and Political Science and later specialized in Afro-Hispanic Literature, completing all coursework toward a Ph.D. except for his dissertation.

Mr. Hemans devoted his professional life to education and language instruction. He taught Spanish grammar at Howard University and at the University of the District of Columbia before continuing his teaching career in the Washington, D.C. public high schools until his retirement. His academic focus on language and Afro-Hispanic literature reflected both his scholarly interests and his commitment to cultural understanding.

In addition to his educational work, Mr. Hemans was deeply involved in community service. He held leadership roles in the Jamaican Nationals Association, serving as second vice-president and later as president. He was also founder and president of the Nancy Cathcott Memorial Foundation, which provided assistance to schools and hospitals in Jamaica through its CASA Program, including support for a hospital in Kingston, scholarships for Jamaican students in Washington, D.C., and aid to Anchovy Primary School.

## Richard Wilson, Esq.

Richard M. Wilson, Esq., succeeded Audley Stephens, C.P.A., in 1999 as President of the Jamaican Nationals Association (JNA). During his tenure, he led an executive team that strengthened the organization's historic and signature events, including Family Fun Day, Jamaican Independence and Emancipation Day celebrations, and National Heroes Day, while expanding its cultural and community engagement. Under his leadership, JNA hosted distinguished guest speakers and panel discussions, showcased traditional dance, music, and visual arts, and presented a command performance at the U.S. Navy Memorial featuring Jamaica's renowned ASHEE Performers.



Mr. Wilson is a Senior Attorney in the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, where he previously served as Chief of the Tax and Finance Section, overseeing the District's public finance matters and enforcement of real property, franchise, sales, and individual income tax laws. He is also a former Tax Litigation Attorney with the United States Department of Justice. His civic and professional service includes leadership and advisory roles with the Washington Area United Way, Greater Washington Urban League, National Children's Center, Bachelor-Benedict Club Community Foundation, Washington Bar Association, and the Sigma Delta Tau Legal Fraternity Foundation.

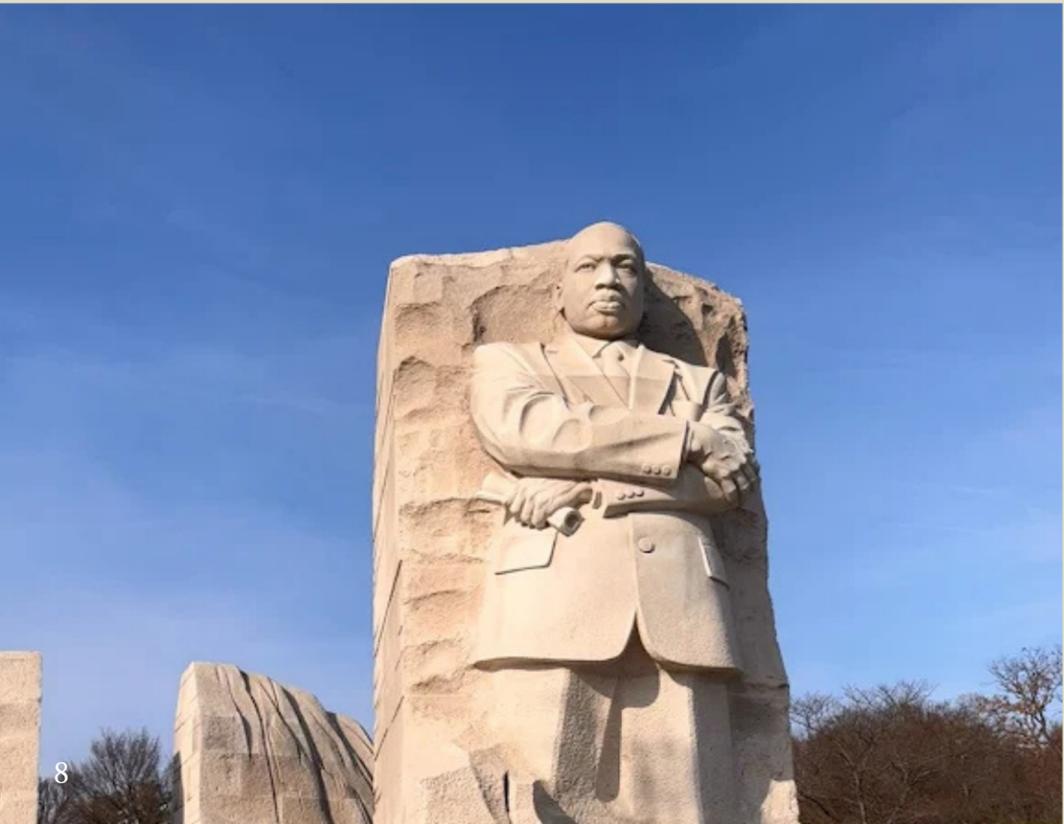
The son of Jamaican parents, Thelma and Clarence Wilson, who hailed from Harewood and Kingston and migrated to the United States during the 1920s, Mr. Wilson is part of a proud family legacy that includes four children and ten grandchildren, reflecting generations of commitment to faith, family, and community.

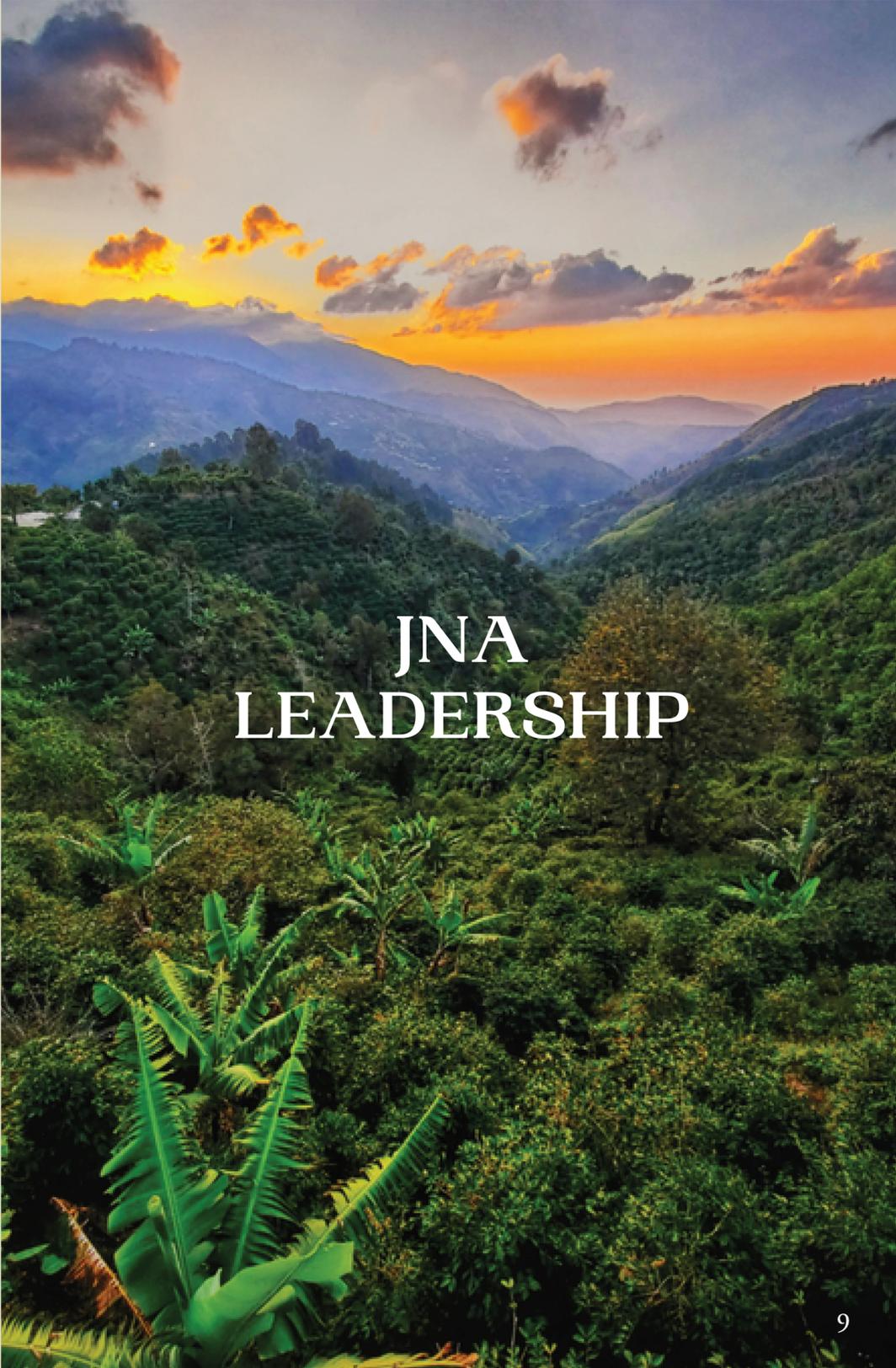


### **Michael Walker**

Mr. Michael Walker serves as an academic professional at the Howard University College of Dentistry, where he contributes to the advancement of dental education through clinical coordination and academic support within the Orthodontic and Pediatric dentistry programs. He also serves as an ambassador for the Student Success and Wellness Center, where he champions student well-being, professional growth, and academic excellence. His work reflects a steadfast commitment to collaboration, integrity, and the cultivation of structured learning environments that uphold the highest standards of professionalism.

A native of Harrisburg, Arkansas, Mr. Walker is a proud alumnus of Arkansas State University and carries forward a tradition of service and mentorship in both his professional and community endeavors. Ordained as a Deacon in 2017, he serves as Steward of The Abundant Life Christian Church in Lanham, Maryland, where he also leads the Health and Fitness Ministry under Victorious Living. Through his career and ministry, Mr. Walker demonstrates an enduring dedication to education, wellness, faith, and empowerment of future generations.





# JNA LEADERSHIP

## 2026-2027 JNA Board of Directors



**Carol-Ann Boothe**  
President



**Natalee Snider**  
Vice President



**Jennifer Asher**  
Treasurer



**Colin Boothe**  
Assistant Treasurer



**Asha-Gaye Powell**  
Public Relations Officer



**Janice Peterson**  
Parliamentarian



**Elaine Knight, Ph.D.**  
Ex-Officio



**Rukie Wilson**  
Ex-Officio

# 2026-2027 JNA Strategic Governance and Advisory Council



**Doreen Thompson, Esq., Chair**



**Elaine Knight, Ph.D.**



**Ret. Colonel Jacqueline  
Payne-Borden, Ph.D.**



**Franklyn Burke, Esq.**



**Claire Nelson, Ph.D.**



**Richard Wilson, Esq.**



**Rev. Dr. Noel Godfrey**



**Franklin Knight, Ph.D.**



**Louis Hemans**



**Robert Streete**

# 2025-2027 JNA Nominations & Elections Committee



**Robert Streete, Chair**



**Richard Wilson, Esq.**



**Ret. Colonel Jacqueline  
Payne-Borden, Ph.D.**



**Doreen Thompson, Esq.**



## **Meet our JNA Founders!**

John Junior – Jamaica  
Keith (K.D.) Knight. – Jamaica  
Desmond Malcolm. – Jamaica  
Eunacio McGill – Jamaica  
Horace Neil – Jamaica  
Ralston Parkinson – Jamaica

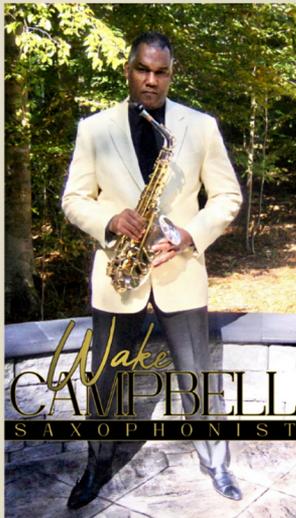
## **Meet our JNA Lifetime Members!**

Janet Redhi – Maryland  
Richard Wilson, Esq. – Washington DC  
Doreen Thompson, Esq. – Washington DC  
Dorel Callender – Virginia  
Col. (Ret.) Jacqueline Payne-Borden, Ph.D. - Maryland  
Jennifer Asher – Washington DC  
Laur Wilson – Maryland  
Yvonne Stephens – Maryland  
Rev. Dr. Noel Godfrey – Maryland  
Rukie Wilson – Washington DC  
Dr. Agorom Dike – Maryland  
Elaine Knight, Ph.D. – Maryland  
Sonia M. Rhoden Salmon, MD – Maryland  
Jean M. Williams, MD. – Maryland  
Natalee Snider – Washington DC  
Claire Nelson, Ph.D. – Washington DC  
Beverley Thomas - Maryland  
Moye Stephenson-Fairweather - Maryland  
Phelecia Nembhard - Maryland  
Anthony McFarlane, Esq. - Maryland  
Goulda Downer, Ph.D. - Washington DC  
Franklin W. Knight, Ph.D. - Maryland

# Thanks to our 2024-2025 JNA Leadership Team!

Rukie Wilson  
Carol-Ann Boothe  
Althea McKenzie  
Colin Boothe  
Jennifer Asher  
Moye Stephenson-Fairweather  
John McKenzie  
Michael Campbell  
Mark Beckford  
Elaine Knight, Ph.D.  
Beverley Thomas  
Phelecia Nembhard  
Andrea King-Chang  
Delores McKoy  
Christina Saunders

# Thanks to our Sponsors!



## JNA BHM Bingo!

Find someone who matches each square and write their name in that space. The first person to complete five squares in a row horizontally, vertically, or diagonally wins.

Watched a documentary on Black history recently	Can name a Historically Black sorority or fraternity	Has watched "Hidden Figures"	Has visited Sandy Spring Slave Museum	Can name 2 Jamaican comedians
Can name a famous Jamaican poet	Attended 2 JNA events	Can name a Jamaican athlete who broke records	Can name a black inventor and their invention	Can name 2 black actors
Can name 2 Motown artists	Can name 2 songs by Bob Marley		Has attended Sunsplash	Can name the park in New Kingston Jamaica
Someone wearing black, green and gold	Can recite a quote from a Black Leader	Has listened to Go <u>Go</u> music	Visited the Black African Museum	Can name 4 parishes in Jamaica
Has visited Ben's Chili Bowl	Can name a song by Nina Simone or Marvin Gaye	Has mentored someone in the last year	Can name 2 JNA founding members	Has a favorite poem by a Black poet



## Proud of our Jamaican Legends!



Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce



Shaggy - Orville Richard Burrell



Oliver Samuels



Louise Bennett



Shaun Paul



Usain Bolt



Carlene Davis



Jimmy Cliff

