

Community Women Against Hardship

Circle of Support Gala

30th Anniversary Celebration



Regina Carter

Sunday, November 4, 2018

Sheldon Concert Hall

3648 Washington Blvd

St. Louis, MO 63108

Doors Open at 4:00 p.m.

Concert Begins at 5:00 p.m.



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Gloria Taylor, Founder/CEO

EMPOWERING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1988



Community Women Against Hardship (CWAH) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing personalized and evidence based programs, along with basic needs services to enable families struggling with poverty to become more self sufficient.

Parent Opportunity Programs

- Job Readiness
- Computer Classes
- Group Therapy
- Fitness/Nutrition
- Career Assessment & Counseling
- Community Outreach

Youth Enrichment Programs

- Institute for the Advancement of Jazz Study and Performance
- Fine Arts
- Show Me Series Adventure
- S.T.E.M. Classes
- Entrepreneurship Classes

Workshops

- Robotics
- Yoga
- Health & Wellness
- Non-Violence Youth Summit
- Literacy Programs
- First Time Homebuyers
- Credit Repair

Basic Need Services

- Food Pantry
- Clothing Boutique
- Warehouse of Goods
 - A. Furniture
 - B. Appliances
 - C. Household Items, etc.

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ON 30 YEARS

OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY



Gloria Taylor
Founder/CEO

While we are all excited about reaching the 30th Anniversary celebration, we have time to reflect on the journey. As many recall, Community Women Against Hardship (CWAH) began with \$25 and a dream of creating a program that was similar to the way I grew up. The advantage of working with Chancellor Marguerite Ross Barnett, University of Missouri-St. Louis, at the time, provided opportunities to meet many who would contribute to its development. However, I will single out one who was hired in communications – Betty Jordan Lee. Betty was well known in the community as a journalist, educator and civil rights activist. We immediately connected. She joined with me in the concept and introduced me to Dr. Donald Suggs, President and Publisher of the St. Louis American newspaper which provided public awareness of the need and opportunity to serve. We became a community partner with the “People Against Poverty Campaign.”

Could we make a difference in the lives of struggling families by re-gifting God’s blessings that we had enjoyed? This was a major question, with 12 people saying “yes we can.” We began the journey of recognizing that we could provide hope. We could provide the support by engaging a community to become the catalyst for family development.

Again, too many to name have contributed to CWAH becoming a true Community Based Organization (CBO). The organization with limited funding has surprised even me. However, the generosity of heart from volunteers, staff members, corporations, churches, schools, social security recipients and neighborhood organizers, etc., have played a major role. In addition, CWAH is emerging as a model to be replicated because of the wisdom, talent and contributions of our working Board of Directors, Ambassadors to CWAH, gifted instructors, and especially, my immediate family. We all continue to live the adage that indeed “it takes a village to raise a child.”

To all of you, including the nearly 8,000 that we have had the privilege to serve, a resounding thank you!

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2018 Gala Committee



Dr. Donna Spencer
General Chair



Front Row: Jacqueline Griffin, Dr. Monica Steward, Dr. Donna Spencer,, Gloria Taylor, Lynn Squires, Cynthia Clay

Back Row: JoAnn Reese, Brett Goldschmidth, Pat Jones and Alvin Wilson

Not Pictured: Stephanie Muldrow, Bonita Penny, Clarice Evans, Tina Wiley, Mavis Merritt, Hattie Riley, Marlene May, Georgetta Truss, Lois Ingrum, and Taria Dyson



Our very special guest performer is the gifted, innovative Violinist, **Regina Carter**. A graduate of Oakland University, and former member of the all-female pop-Jazz quintet, *Straight Ahead*, she evolved from her early classical training to a command of her instrument in many genres.

Her diverse choices for musical support over the years have included banjo, conga, djembe, B-flat clarinet, piano and drums (played masterfully by her charming husband Alvester Garnett). She has performed with the likes of Aretha Franklin, Lauryn Hill, Mary J, Blige, Billy Joel, Dolly Parton, Max Roach, and Oliver Lake. **Regina's** first solo album, **Regina Carter**, was released in 1995, followed by *Something for Grace* in 1997, *Rhythms of the Heart* in 1999 and *Motor City Moments* in 2000.

In 2001, Ms. Carter ventured to Genoa, Italy, and became the **first Jazz musician and first African American to play the renowned Guarneri Del Gesu violin**. This handcrafted, eighteenth century stringed treasure belonged to the legendary violinist and composer Niccolo Paganini. After rehearsing with armed guards, she released the album *Paganini: After a Dreamin* 2003. She released *I'll Be Seeing You: A Sentimental Journey* in 2006, *Reverse Thread* in 2010 and *Southern Comfort* in 2014. In 2006 Regina was awarded the prestigious and very lucrative MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship; and in 2007, she was named artist-in-residence at her alma mater Oakland University. **Please Sit Back and Enjoy!!!**



JAZZ

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Donna Spencer
General Chair
Psychotherapist

Master of Ceremonies

Bonita Cornute
Fox 2 News Reporter

Presentation of Outreach Awards

Presented by Honorary Co-Chairs

- Michael McMillan
- Dr. Donald Suggs

Outreach Award Recipients

Mr. Keith Williamson
Centene Corporation

Ms. May Scheve - Reardon
Missouri Lottery

Concert

Ms. Regina Carter
(Music Selections will be announced from the stage)

Post Reception & Silent Auction

(Sponsors, Corporate Seats, and \$60 Ticket Holders)
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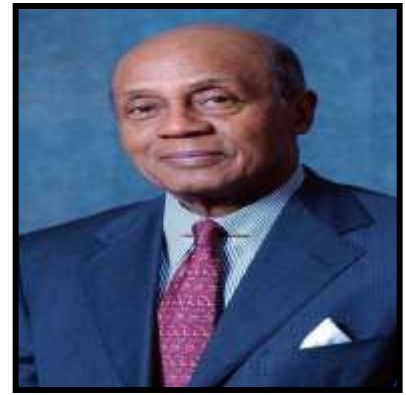
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Honorary Co - Chair



Dr. Donald Suggs

Dr. Donald M. Suggs was born in East Chicago, Indiana and attended the public schools there. He graduated with B.S. and D.D.S. Degrees from Indiana University, then completed his post-graduate work at Washington University Dental School and Homer G. Phillips Hospital. He served as chief of oral surgery at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware and was the first African-American to serve as an associate clinical professor at St. Louis University Dental School. Suggs was a fellow of the American Association of Oral and Maxillo-facial Surgeons and maintained a limited private practice in his specialty before retiring in 2011.

Active in the civil rights movement in the 60's and 70's, he served as chairman of the Poor People's March-On-Washington in 1968. Later, he became founder and chairman of the African Continuum, organized to bring serious non-commercial African-American artistic endeavors to St. Louis. He was a long-time president of the Alexander-Suggs Gallery of African Art based in St. Louis and New York City (1970-1989). He is a founding member of the Center for African Art, (now the Museum of African Art in New York City) and is a former member of the board of directors of the Studio Museum in New York as well. Suggs currently serves on the St. Louis Art Museum Board of Commissioners and its Collections Committee.

He was the first African American to serve as president of the Convention and Visitors Bureau of St. Louis. His business activities also include: president of Arch Concessions and a partner with D & D Concessions and the City Plaza Project.

Dr. Suggs has been awarded honorary doctorate degrees from Washington University, the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Harris-Stowe State University and Saint Louis University and is the recipient of many civic awards.

He is currently publisher and executive editor of the *St. Louis American Newspaper*, Missouri's largest black newspaper. He is the father of Donald M. Jr. (deceased), Dawn Marie of Los Angeles, California, and Dina Margaret, of Washington, D.C., and grandfather of Delali Maxine Suggs Akaffu.

The University of Missouri-Columbia, Southeast Missouri State University, Harris-Stowe State University, Missouri State University and St. Louis Community College provide annual scholarships in his name. In 2013, he served as Missouri State University's commencement speaker for the colleges of Arts and Letters, Education, Humanities, Public Affairs and Global Studies.



C.W.A.H

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Honorary Co - Chair

Michael P. McMillan



Michael P. McMillan is the President and CEO of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, Inc., a nonprofit organization that has been providing social services to the metropolitan St. Louis community since 1918. The Urban League is the largest affiliate of the National Urban League movement, headquartered in New York City. The Urban League mission is “to assist African Americans and others throughout the region in securing economic self-reliance, social equality and civil rights.” Each year, the Urban League serves more than 100,000 residents with economic opportunity, educational excellence, community empowerment, civil rights and advocacy programs. As an advocate for social and economic parity, McMillan speaks on behalf of Urban League constituents.

In response to the crisis in Ferguson, McMillan created the Save Our Sons program in St. Louis County to help 500 African American-American men and others find jobs and wrap-around services. He recently opened the Ferguson Community Empowerment Center in partnership with the Salvation Army Midland Division. This center houses the Save Our Sons program in addition to programs offered by the Salvation Army, Lutheran Hope Center and the University of Missouri Extension. In 2017, McMillan and the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis hosted the largest National Urban League Conference in the history of the movement with nearly 25,000 in attendance.

Previously for almost seven years, McMillan served as the License Collector of the City of St. Louis, administering an annual budget of over \$60 million. Prior to serving as License Collector, McMillan was Alderman of the 19th Ward for a decade supporting \$1.25 billion in economic development and neighborhood revitalization. He was the youngest person elected an Alderman and License Collector in the history of the City of St. Louis.

McMillan has received over 150 awards and commendations from various organizations and was recognized as one of the Ebony Power 100 Most Influential African Americans in the United States. Additionally, he is a member of the International Civic Rights Walk of Fame in Atlanta and a recipient of the 2013 Trumpet Award for Community Services; the Whitney M. Young and the John Mack Leadership Awards from the National Urban League; an Honorary Doctorate from Webster University; Chairman’s award presented by the St. Louis Minority Supplier Development Council; a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Montford Point Marines and for the Salute to Women in Leadership Awards program.

McMillan is a member of 15 Boards of Directors including Children’s Hospital, Reliance Bank, The St. Louis Zoo, St. Louis Regional Chamber, The Sheldon, Grand Center, Ranken Technical College, Heat Up St. Louis, Inc. (Cool Down St. Louis), The St. Louis Community Foundation, the DESEG Task Force, The Muny, Greater St. Louis Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America and the Workforce Investment Board of St. Louis County.

Michael P. McMillan is a graduate of Saint Louis University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in African American Studies and a minor in Political Science with an emphasis on Finance. Additionally, McMillan is an Eisenhower International Fellow and an alumnus of the American Council of Young Political Leaders.



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Outreach Awardee

May Scheve Reardon



May Scheve Reardon has served as the executive director of the Missouri Lottery since December 2009. As the first woman to hold this position, Reardon brings extensive leadership experience from the financial, nonprofit and government sectors, including serving 12 years as a Missouri state representative.

Reardon previously worked as an assistant vice president at Regions Morgan Keegan, a private wealth management firm in St. Louis, and she was also director of development at the Richard A. Gephardt Institute for Public Service at Washington University in St. Louis. In addition, Reardon taught political science and communications at Webster University from 2005 to 2009.

Reardon holds a bachelor's degree in communications from Saint Louis University and a master's degree in communications from Webster University. She currently serves as board president of the Multi-State Lottery Association (MUSL) and has served on its product development committee. She previously served as president of the executive board of the North American Association of State and Provincial Lotteries (NASPL) and currently serves as its government relations chair, as well as sitting on the vendor relations and business development committees.

Reardon currently lives in St. Louis with her husband, Tim. They have three children in college.



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Unity is the message at vigil for teen fatally shot by city cop in 2014

ACLU targets school-to-prison pipeline
New report finds disproportionate impact on black and disabled students in Missouri

CWAH to community: 'We got you!'
Nominations due Oct. 20 for 2017 People Against Poverty campaign

Living It
A passion for music, and making a difference

Art as an ode to b
Michelle Thomas passionately expresses personal beauty of woman of color

The Wiz' comes to
Kayla Smith directs school at Pianos for People

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What does public distrust in the justice system cost us?

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Outreach Awardee:

Keith H. Williamson

**Executive Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel,
Centene Corporation**



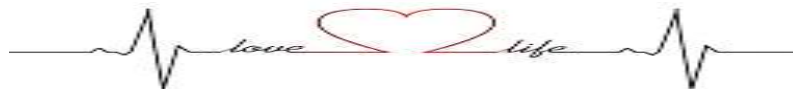
An experienced business executive and corporate attorney, Keith joined Centene Corporation in November 2006 and currently serves as Executive Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel. Keith is also on the board of PPL Corporation, a Fortune 500 utility operating in Kentucky, Pennsylvania and the United Kingdom.

Prior to Centene, Keith spent 18 years in Connecticut with Pitney Bowes, serving his last seven years as President of its Capital Services Division. Keith began his career as a tax lawyer with Covington & Burling in Washington, D.C. He later joined Reavis & McGrath (now Norton Rose Fulbright) in New York City. Keith received his B.A. from Brown University, his J.D. and M.B.A. from Harvard University, and his LL.M. in taxation from NYU.

Keith is active with a number of professional, mentoring and social organizations, including the National Bar Association, the Executive Leadership Council, 100 Black Men, Sigma Pi Phi, and the National Association of Guardsmen.

Civic activities have included serving as board chair of the Urban League of Metro St. Louis executive committee of United Way of Greater St. Louis, Collection Committee of the St. Louis Art Museum, and founding board of KIPP: St. Louis Public Schools. Recognitions include: St. Louis Business Journal's 2017 Corporate Counsel of the Year; the Missouri Lawyers 2017 "Corporate Counsel Award"; Savoy Magazine's 2018 Most Influential Black Lawyers; the Mound City Bar Association 2013 Legal Legends Award; and the Pathways Award at the 2012 National Bar Association Convention.

Keith's daughter, Nicole, is a 2L at Harvard Law School.



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Insert: Ruth LaValle, StL Chapter Founder/Organizer

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Mr. Keith Williamson

2017

Mr. James Boone
Mrs. Tina Wiley

2016

Stanley Coleman
Brenda Williams Trust Fund

2015

Ethel Miller
Sheila Grisby, BSN

2014

Mama Lisa Gage
Gateway City Corvette Club

2013

Lynette Watson
Elson Williams

2012

Dr. Kay E. Royster
Mavis Merritt

2011

Dr. Sheilah Clarke Ekong
Derek Martin posthumously

2010

Dr. Karla Frye
Dr. Monica Stewart

2009

Alderman Terry Kennedy
Comptroller Darlene Green

2008

Dale Benz
Richard Mark

2007

First Bank
Michael R. Holmes

2006

Darlene Peterson – Young
Jessica M. Perkins

2005

Reverend Donald Hunter
Melba J. Smith

2004

Pat Jones
Carolyn Barnes

2003

Hattie Riley
Lynne Jackson

2002

Kathy Conley – Jones
David Burden

2001

Leroy Zimmerman / "The Grumpy Old Men"
Tony Thompson

2000

C. Christopher Lee
Tony Billinger

1999

Mary Elizabeth Grimes- Nutt

1998

Thelma Cook
Lee Jeffries

1997

Bonita Cornute

1996

Betty Jordan Lee

1995

Henry Brown

1994

Christine Reams
Rosetta Keeton

1993

Dr. Donald Suggs



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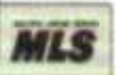

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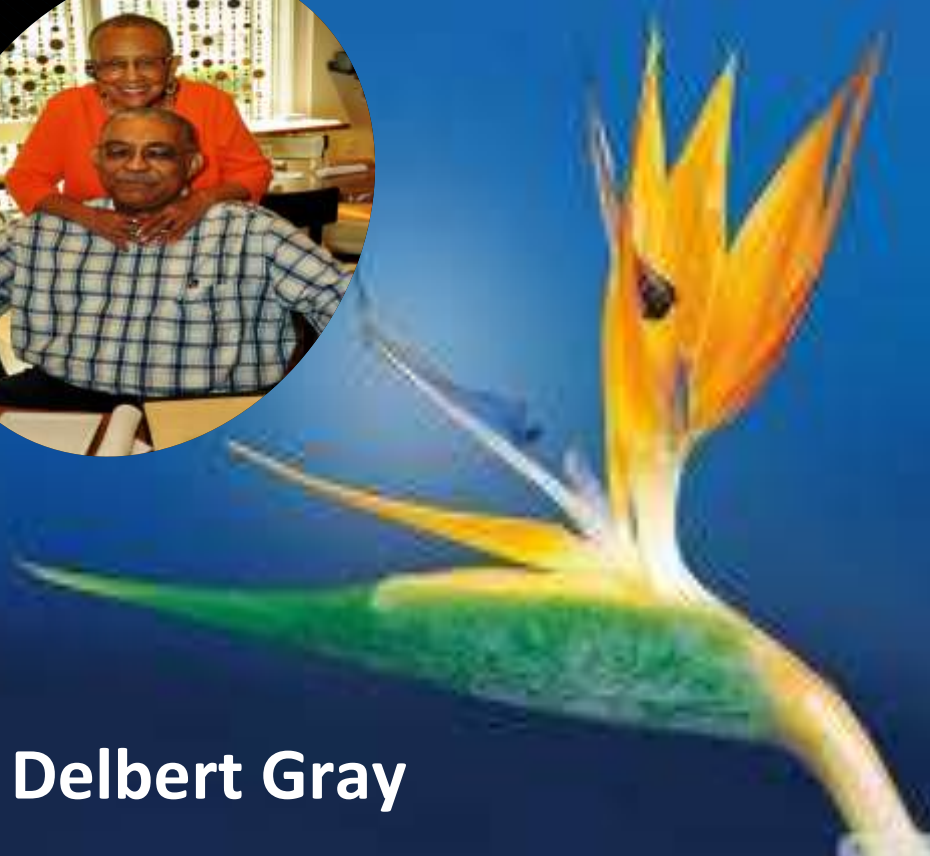



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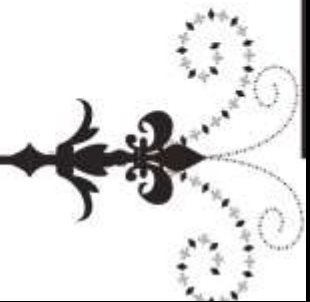
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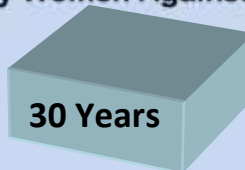
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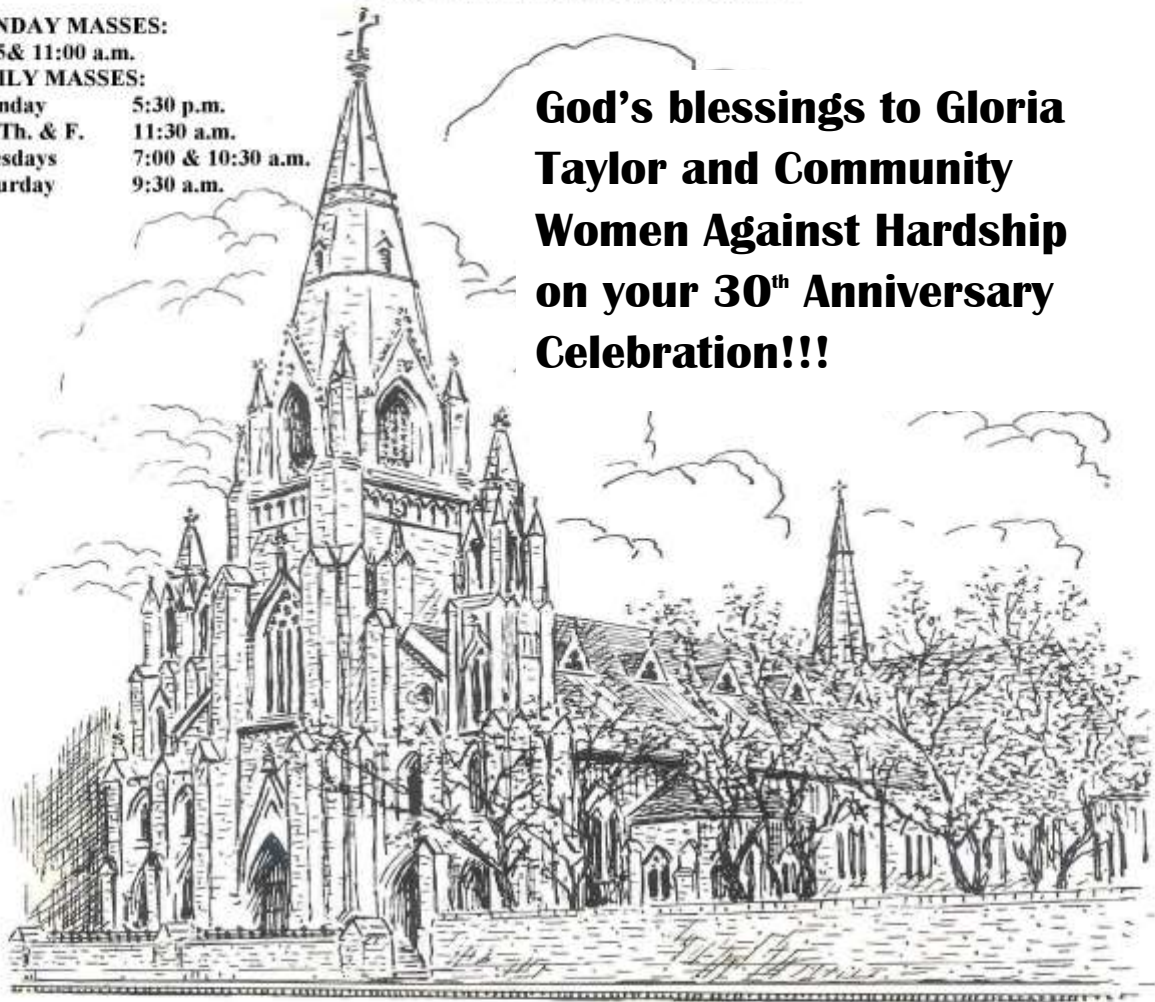
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Kehinde Wiley, American, born 1977; After Sir Joshua Reynolds' "Portrait of Doctor Samuel Johnson", 2009; archival inkjet print on Hahnemühle fine art paper; 30 x 24.5 inches; courtesy of the artist and Roberts Projects, Los Angeles, California. © Kehinde Wiley. Representative of works in the exhibition.

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