

National Negro Anthem

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring; ring with the harmonies of liberty. Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us. Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us; facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod; felt in the days when hope unborn had died. Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet, come to the place for which our fathers sighed? We have come over a way that with tears has been watered; we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered. Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last; where the white gleam of our bright start is cast.

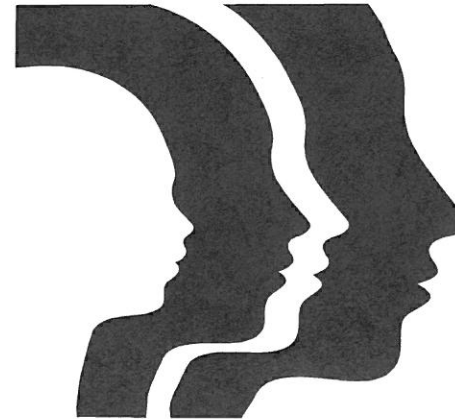
God of our weary years, God of our silent tears; Thou who has brought us thus far on the way. Thou who has by thy might, led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee. Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee. Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.

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*On behalf of the Louisville Metro Council we extend our heart filled congratulations and sincere thanks to all of the honorees who have been recognized today. Our city appreciates your efforts and has truly benefited from your tireless and unselfish works in "reaffirming our diverse culture"! (Please join us for light refreshments, in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room, immediately following the benediction.)*

*Louisville Metro Council Community Affairs, Housing, Health & Education Committee: Barbara Shanklin (D-2); Dan Johnson (D-21); Vicki Aubrey Welch (D-13); Marilyn Parker (R-18); Stuart Benson (R-20)*

15<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
PROGRAM



*"Reaffirming Our Diverse Culture"*

Thursday, February 23, 2017  
Metro Council Chambers  
12:00 P.M.

Sponsored by:  
Louisville Metro Council Community Affairs, Housing, Health &  
Education Committee  
Dr. Barbara E. Shanklin, Chairperson (District #2)



***Special Community Honoree:***

***National Hook-up of Black Women  
Louisville Chapter***

During the fourth Congressional Black Caucus Legislative Weekend in 1974, Dr. Anita Young Boswell and 13 other spirited women met in a hotel room and organized a national forum to articulate the needs and concerns of Black women and children. Thus the National Hookup of Black Women was formed. Today, the organization is 24 chapters, 15 cities strong and growing.

Since our inception in January 2014, the LOUISVILLE Chapter of the National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. (NHBW, Inc.) strives to live our Mission Statement: To improve the lives of families through support of the arts, culture, health wellness, education and human service programs. We collaborate with other organizations, agencies, and community leaders to fulfill our national mandate to be advocates for women and their families.

Currently we are engaged in multiple initiatives to aide in strengthening our community, such as: mentoring programs at Manor Daniels Academy and Newburg Middle School; Teens Overcoming Pressure Programs, creating reading rooms, participating in local Peace Walks, Festivals, Voter Rights Awareness and supporting reentry programs. We initiated a "Touch 20" letter writing campaign to advocate for the return home of the missing Nigerian Girls and partnered with area child care providers to help promote early childhood education. We initiated and are committed to continued collaboration with the local Center for Women and Families (CWF), to help empower survivors of domestic violence.

As a tribute to the establishment of the organization, annual meetings are held in hotels across the country around the birthdate of Dr. Boswell. In April 2016 we, the Louisville Chapter, proudly hosted the 41st Annual NHBW, Inc. meeting at the beautiful historical Seelbach Hilton Hotel. Ladies from across the United States were excited to visit the childhood state of our founder; and the opportunity to visit where she spent her formative years, the now Whitney M. Young Job Corps Center. It was a surreal experience. --Mrs. Dee Lightsey, President-NHBW Inc. Louisville Chapter

***Special Youth Honoree:***

***Shan'Taya Cowan***

Shan'Taya Cowan is an eighteen year old Fairdale High School Senior and the first student ever, at this school, to be accepted to Harvard University! She is also the first family member to attend college.

Since receiving her acceptance letter she has enjoyed becoming an instant celebrity and her Facebook Announcement has received over 7000 "likes" and shared over 2000 times; and, has been featured on several local news programs. Shan'Taya was accepted to other schools, including Howard University, her "dream school since the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, but chose Harvard because of numerous opportunities for various study grants, both abroad and in research; in addition to financial aid and their advisory team of academic professionals and peer mentors.

In addition to maintaining a full schedule with high school classes and classes at JCTC, she manages to work thirty hours per week, serve on the Mayor's Youth Advisor Board and tutor a student once a week.

Shan'Taya plans to become a criminal defense attorney and after completion of her undergraduate years, she aspires to becoming a Rhodes Scholar or joining the Peace Corps; attending law school, working at a law firm and eventually having her own law practice. She also plans to study political science and African American studies at Harvard.

Shan'Taya, who enjoys writing poetry, hanging out with friends and going to movies, lives in the Shawnee neighborhood with her mother, Denise Cowan and her older brother Darion. Although her father Alfonso is currently incarcerated, she credits him with being a big motivator in her life and inspiring her to be a better person striving to reach her own potential. Seeing her mother's struggles as a single parent has always been a trigger for Shan'Taya to do better and work harder.

She credits her teachers and counselors with making her realize that education is a gateway to opportunity. Her message for students who may be struggling to believe that education is key is "don't give up." "There were times when I thought I was never going to get this. Why me, I'm broken, I'm not capable enough to actually go there? I just want them to know, don't give up!"

(See the 1/24/17 CJ newspaper for an interview with Shan'Taya)