

SUMMER 2020 EDITION
WDDTFAMILY.COM

wdddt

WALLACE, DAVIS, DENNIS, & TIMBERS FAMILY NEWSLETTER



News

ANNOUNCEMENT : VIRTUAL FAMILY REUNION

We are considering a ZOOM call for a Virtual Family Reunion in early August. Look for more details coming your way soon. If you have any input for this hour-long time to connect, please let Arlene Wallace Gordon know (gdonnymom@aol.com) if you'd like to share updates during the call.

prayer REQUESTS

- HEALING FOR DAMON WILLIAMS AND BERNARDYNE E. WILLIAMS
- HEALING FOR GLENDA AND JEFFREY WALLACE (SON OF BARBARA WALLACE)
- TRAVELING MERCIES FOR SANDY WALLACE (DAUGHTER OF ARNOLD AND REBECCA WALLACE) AS SHE AND HER FAMILY MOVE FROM FLORIDA TO FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA.

FAMILY UPDATES

REV. DR. ARLENE WALLACE GORDON CELEBRATED 29 YEARS IN MINISTRY ON JUNE 21, 2020. ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF HER CAREER INCLUDED THE CREATION OF A RACIALLY-DIVERSE CURRICULUM. TODAY, MORE THAN 2,000 PEOPLE HAVE VIEWED HER PAPER ENTITLED "TOWARD TRUE MULTI-CULTURALISM".

D'ANGELO ROBINSON HAS STARTED HIS OWN LANDSCAPING BUSINESS. HE IS THE GRANDSON OF MARIE BAILEY-DAVIS.

ZAYN EDWARD GORDON WAS BORN JUNE 4, 2020 TO BRIAN AND DELORES. ZAYNE IS THE GRANDSON OF DONNY AND SYLVIA GORDON AND THE GREAT GRANDSON OF ARLENE WALLACE GORDON.



DEAR FAMILY,

I PRAY AND TRUST THIS BRIEF MESSAGE FINDS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY WELL. WE ARE ALL DOING WELL HERE, JUST A LITTLE STIR CRAZY BUT SAFE AND THANKFUL FOR THAT. WHEN YOU HAVE 5 MINUTES PLEASE CHECK OUT THIS MESSAGE I SHARED RECENTLY WITH MEMBERS OF MY CONGREGATION AND OUR FACE BOOK COMMUNITY.

HERE IS THE LINK: [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CELEBRATIONC/VIDEOS/309513126703836/](https://www.facebook.com/celebrationc/videos/309513126703836/)

MUCH LOVE & PEACE,

REV. LARRY WALKER | ALBRANCE@GMAIL.COM

A HUGE CONGRATS TO OUR

2020 graduates

ZARA GORDON

promoted to Kindergarten in northern California. She is the daughter of Brittany and Saeng, the granddaughter of Donny and Sylvia Gordon, and the great-granddaughter of Arlene Wallace Gordon.

DAKOTA BROWN

graduated to the first grade. She is the great-granddaughter of Charles and Mary Bailey-Brown.

CHANCE GRAVES

earned a four-year football scholarship to the University of Richmond in Virginia. He is the grandson of Marie Bailey-Davis.

BAILEY PARKER

graduated from Jenkintown High School. She will be attending Montgomery County Community College. She is Jeannette Bailey-Rawl's granddaughter.

TYLER RIPPPIE

recently graduated from The Haverford School, (suburban Phila). He will attend Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in the fall. Debbie and Christopher Rippie are his parents. Debbie is the daughter of Mary Ann Collins Wood. Mary Ann is the daughter of Mary Timbers Collins who is the daughter of Robert Henry and Josephine ("Jose") Timbers of Washington, Virginia. Tyler is also the great nephew of Jim and Lois (Collins) Williams.

LAUREN JONES

earned her law degree from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. She is the great niece of Jim and Lois (Collins) Williams.

DR. VIRONKA DAVIS

graduated from Howard University School of Medicine. She is Ron Davis' daughter, granddaughter of Rhoda Redman and William Davis and great granddaughter of Findley Davis. Her residency program will begin at Tulane University Medical School in New Orleans.

heavenly TRANSITIONS



HESTER H. WALLACE
JUNE 3, 1934 - MAY 11, 2020

Pray for her immediate family: Michelle Cox and Kim Wallace Shanks.

DORIS P. SMITH
AUGUST 17, 1934 - APRIL 26, 2020

Pray for her immediate Family: Her husband of 64 years, Ed; daughters Susanne Brown and Karen Johnson and son Stephen Smith.



THE *Aunt Virginia* STORY

REV. DR. ARLENE WALLACE GORDON

My mother, Beulah Wallace, had two sisters, Rebecca and Virginia. Most of you did not know my Aunt Virginia and neither did I. However, I knew about her and I want to share a little of what I knew from what my parent's told me.

Aunt Virginia relocated to New York when Uncle Alvin and Aunt Rebecca Pryor settled there. From there, she moved to California. My mother did not hear from her again. However, Aunt Rebecca stayed in touch with her through a secret process in which they communicated through letters tucked in a Unity Magazine. My mother told me that she passed for white and married a white man who she never told she was "colored." She had four children and sent pictures of her family at Christmas.

When my mother was in her early 50's, she and Aunt Rebecca made a trip to California and arranged to meet Aunt Virginia at a local hotel where they were staying. I only know that my mother was so happy to see her and she often talked about visiting with Sister Virginia. When she returned from that trip, I vividly remember how happy my mother was. I also know how much she loved Sister Rebecca, as she called her. My mother would get such joy out of her visits to Woodville. My mother also visited her in New York.

Passing for white was something done in those days and was nothing unusual as it provided so many more opportunities to those who chose to live that life. However, it must have been painful because it usually separated one from their families.

Aunt Rebecca gradually lost touch with Aunt Virginia and we never heard of her again. Even though I did not know her, I often think about how difficult it must have been for my mom not to have spent time with her on a regular basis. I regret that I only knew her through the photos my mother had of her but grateful that, at least, my mother told me about her.

We can only assume now that she has passed on along with all the other siblings in my mother's family. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge her, even as I never knew her.



We know that Aunt Virginia's story is not unique.

Visit the following link to hear a similar story as aired on TV recently : <https://youtu.be/oNiEBnOzgVw> .

SELF-REFLECTION AMIDST THE #BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT



NAVIGATING THE PRESSURES OF BEING BLACK IN AMERICA
BY : CORI DILL

My first encounter with explicit racism occurred when I was merely six-years-old. I vividly remember sitting in Mrs. Markley's first-grade class when my best friend walked up to me to inform me that one of our fellow classmates "did not want to be friends with me because I was black." At the time, I had no idea how to process this information because no child should have to process that type of information at the age of six. My response didn't involve crying or yelling or lashing out. It involved a slight nod and with that nod, I unknowingly accepted the fact that explicit and implicit racism would become a part of my daily experience for the rest of my life.

As a mere 19-year-old, I have understandably already become tired of being black in America. Because while this past month has brought an increase of global awareness of the unsolved racial tensions within our country, this weariness is not just a result of being a virtual witness to George Floyd's murder. It is the result of being victim to microaggressions since the age of six, of being the relative of black men who have been wrongly pulled over by the cops, of being the daughter of parents who lived through redlining, of being the granddaughter of people who lived through Jim Crow Laws, of being the descendent of slaves, and of being a virtual witness to George Floyd's murder. The past 401 years of America's regularization of racial injustice has made me utterly tired of being black in America.

So while this weariness wasn't a direct result of George Floyd's murder, a newfound acceptance of this weariness was. For the first time in my life, I realized that it is perfectly okay to be tired of dealing with racism. And on that same token, I came to the realization that once you have accepted this weariness you have to learn how to grow through it.

The reawakening of the #BlackLivesMatter Movement has shown itself to be a great opportunity for each one of us to become more self-conscious in terms of what we need to do to end systemic racism in America and in terms of what we need to do for ourselves. To do this, I discovered three ways in which I could grow through my pain: educating myself on our past, liberating myself in the present, and celebrating what the #BlackLivesMatter Movement has done for our future as black Americans. The list on the following page is a direct result of this discovery.

1. EDUCATE

The first section is comprised of a list of books and movies that all work to educate individuals on the varying issues of racism in our country. From the prison-industrial complex ("13th") to white privilege ("Hello, Privilege. It's Me, Chelsea.") to environmental racism ("Clean and White"), I hope that at least one of these resources will provide you with a new perspective into the issues of racism within our country. I've quickly learned that being black does not mean I am fully educated on the black American experience. No matter the color of your skin, there is still room for growth.

2. LIBERATE

At the beginning of the protests, I wondered whether I was on the right side of history. I found myself searching through news stories and social media posts to find the answer. It wasn't that black lives didn't matter but rather whether the #BlackLivesMatter Movement was the right organization to fight behind. There were so many voices and perspectives on the issue, it made me feel more overwhelmed and confused than ever. Ultimately, I realized that the only place to turn to was the Bible. That being said, I included three Bible verses in the "Liberate" section that confirmed the #BLM Movement was working towards something that ultimately fit into God's plan, which is bigger than ourselves. The two organizations in this section are humbly working towards the goals that are represented in these verses. If you have the resources or time, take a minute to donate or check them out. In my opinion, they are doing some of the most important antiracist work necessary to end systemic oppression.

3. CELEBRATE

Take the time to recognize what has been done for better rather than for worse. I find myself quickly becoming tired of reading the endless threads of police brutality incidents, racially-charged murders, and unfair prison sentences. So instead, I do my best to find the positive stories that display outcomes of the #BlackLivesMatter Movement that have changed our country for the better. Listed on the following two pages you will see a list of just a few of these changes and pictures of just three of our family's graduates. There is much value in taking a break from the social advocacy to acknowledge black successes.

Mr. Floyd's murder was senseless, chaotic, and an event that reflects the millions of unjustified or unacknowledged racist murders that black Americans have and will continue to face until systemic oppression in each and every American institution is confronted. His murder caused me to become furious at the millions of Americans that just now realized that racism still exists in the US. His murder made me feel pain in the way that I feel for our ancestors. His murder made me feel tired of going through the seemingly endless cycle between the reimagining of systemic racist institutions and the reimagining of anti-racist institutions. But most importantly, I've learned how to transform my weariness into an opportunity to self-reflect and subsequently take action.

As a black political science major who is often deemed the "token black kid" in my predominantly white neighborhood, I have often felt as if I have a duty to be the first to take action when it comes to racial justice issues. Yet, within the past month, I've realized I cannot properly take action until I'm properly motivated enough to do so. And this motivation does not stem from my major or being the "token black kid." It stems from being educated on black America's past, liberated in the present, and celebrating what has already been enacted to improve black America's future. There is so much value in being positively self-conscious and I hope this will support you in doing so.

What happened after I nodded in acceptance of my classmate's explicit racism on that day in Mrs. Markley's first-grade classroom speaks towards the true essence of why I believe in this newfound energy behind the #BlackLivesMatter Movement. After I gave that nod, my best friend subsequently asked me, "Do you want me to tell Mrs. Markley?" She then proceeded to walk up to Mrs. Markley and tell her that a girl in our class "didn't want to be friends with me because I was black." Thirteen years later and I still tear up at the fact that my white best friend used her white privilege to stand up against racial discrimination at the mere age of six-years-old.

If you take one thing away from my story and this letter as a whole, I hope it is the fact that people of all colors are stepping up to the plate to take the burden of being black in America off your shoulders. Now is not the time to take your pain, anger, and weariness out on them for taking 401 years to recognize the issue of racial injustice in America. Now is the time to say thank you, sit back, and self-reflect.

You are not alone in your weariness and I hope that the following list can help you through it. But if you need more than an educational book or Bible verse, I am here to discuss, talk, or even cry with. But don't ever allow the pressures of being black in America to make you lose sight of the beauty in being black.

CORI DILL

CRDILL19@GMAIL.COM | 858.444.6262

educate

A TIME TO BREAK SILENCE - BOOK
 CLEAN AND WHITE BY CARL ZIMRING - BOOK
 FLINT TOWN - MOVIE
 HELLO, PRIVILEGE. IT'S ME, CHELSEA. - MOVIE
 HIDDEN FIGURES - MOVIE
 HOW TO BE AN ANTIRACIST BY IBRAM X KENDI - BOOK
 I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO - MOVIE
 INVISIBLE MAN BY RAPLH ELLISON - BOOK
 JUST MERCY BY BRYAN STEVENSON - BOOK & MOVIE
 KILLING RAGE BY BELL HOOKS - BOOK
 LA 92 - MOVIE
 LET IT FALL - MOVIE
 ME AND WHITE SUPREMACY BY LAYLA F. SAAD - BOOK
 MLK'S LETTER FROM BIRMINGHAM JAIL - SHORT PIECE
 ROOTS BY ALEX HALEY - BOOK & MOVIE
 SELMA - MOVIE
 SKIN - MOVIE
 SO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT RACE BY IJEOMA OLUO - BOOK

STAMPED FROM THE BEGINNING BY IBRAM X KENDI - BOOK
 THE CENTRAL PARK FIVE - MOVIE
 THE COLOR OF LAW BY RICHARD ROTHSTEIN - BOOK
 THE HATE U GIVE BY ANGIE THOMAS - BOOK & MOVIE
 THE HELP BY KATHRYN STOCKETT - BOOK & MOVIE
 THE NEW JIM CROW BY MICHELLE ALEXANDER - BOOK
 THE SHAME OF THE NATION BY JONATHAN KOZOL - BOOK
 THEY'VE GOTTA HAVE US - MOVIE
 THE THIRD OPTION BY MILES MCPHERSON - BOOK
 UNEQUAL UNDER LAW BY DORIS PROVINCE- BOOK
 WHEN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION WAS WHITE BY IRA KATZNELSON - BOOK
 WHEN THEY SEE US - MOVIE
 WHITE FRAGILITY BY ROBIN DIANGELO - BOOK
 WHOSE STREETS? - MOVIE
 WHY ARE ALL THE BLACK KIDS SITTING TOGETHER IN THE CAFETERIA? BY DR. BEVERLY TATUM - BOOK
 WHY WE CAN'T WAIT BY MLK JR. - BOOK
 13TH - MOVIE

BELOW IS AN EXCERPT FROM THE SEASONS OF WAR REVIEW ON THE BOOK "SLAVE NATION: HOW SLAVERY UNITED THE COLONIES & SPARKED THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION" PUBLISHED IN THE WASHINGTON POST IN 1995. MALINDA PERRY IS THE MOTHER OF ANNIE WALLACE WHO WAS BORN IN EGGBORNSVILLE, VIRGINIA.

"True, Culpeper slaves get into mischief from time to time. They love, for instance, to match wits against the slave "patterolls." A favorite trick, when caught out at night and chased by patrollers, is to stretch grapevines across a darkened road or path. While the patrollers pick themselves up out of the dust, the fugitives make good their escape. Malinda Perry, the property of Polly Brown, loves to attend illicit parties in the neighborhood of Eggbornsville, in the northeastern part of the county. She regularly wears on these occasions petticoats that have been starched in hominy water. The effect is to produce a loud "pop" whenever she moves. The "pop" is her means of escaping the patrols, for she instructs her children to listen for her return home. When they hear the popping, they are to throw open the cabin door and let her in ahead of the patrol."

CHECK OUT THE ENTIRE REVIEW AT :
[HTTPS://WWW.WASHINGTONPOST.COM/WP-SRV/STYLE/LONGTERM/BOOKS/CHAP1/SEASONS.HTM](https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/style/longterm/books/chap1/seasons.htm)

"WEEVILS IN THE WHEAT: INTERVIEWS WITH VIRGINIA EX-SLAVES" ALSO MENTIONS ANNIE WALLACE, GRANDMOTHER OF ARLENE AND JANE GORDON.
 THIS BOOK CAN BE FOUND AT THIS LINK:
[HTTPS://WWW.AMAZON.COM/WEEVILS-WHEAT-INTERVIEWS-VIRGINIA-EX-SLAVES/DP/0813913705](https://www.amazon.com/weevils-wheat-interviews-virginia-ex-slaves/dp/0813913705)

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
 BE ADVISED THAT BILL BAKER'S BOOK, "THE BROWNSVILLE TEXAS INCIDENT OF 1906: THE TRUE AND TRAGIC STORY OF A BLACK BATTALION'S WRONGFUL DISGRACE AND ULTIMATE REDEMPTION," IS NOW AVAILABLE. MY DOUBLE BROTHER (A MEMBER OF ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, AND A CHARTER MEMBER OF THE DELTA EPSILON BOULE, SIGMA PI PHI FRATERNITY) WORK WAS RELEASED IN MAY 2020. BILL DIED IN 2018.
 - RET. COL. JIM WILLIAMS

THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXCERPT FROM HIS WIFE'S RECENT MESSAGE, DR. BETTYE BAKER :

"You will recall his successful efforts to exonerate the 167 African American soldiers accused of shooting up the town of Brownsville, Texas in 1906, while (he was) stationed at the Pentagon in 1972. These men were discharged without honor, without trial, without due process by President Theodore Roosevelt..."

FIND THE BOOK AT :
[HTTPS://WWW.AMAZON.COM/BROWNSVILLE-TEXAS-INCIDENT-1906-BATTALIONS/DP/1943267715](https://www.amazon.com/brownsville-texas-incident-1906-battalions/dp/1943267715)

"HOW TO UNDERSTAND SLAVERY AND THE AMERICAN FOUNDING" BY MATTHEW SPALDING WAS RECOMMENDED BY JIM WILLIAMS AND CAN BE FOUND AT THIS LINK:
[HTTPS://WWW.HERITAGE.ORG/AMERICAN-FOUNDERS/REPORT/HOW-UNDERSTAND-SLAVERY-AND-THE-AMERICAN-FOUNDING](https://www.heritage.org/american-founders/report/how-understand-slavery-and-the-american-founding)

educate

liberate

MATTHEW 7:15-20

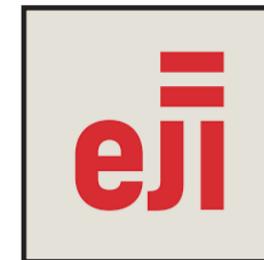
"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them."

"For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened; but by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may supply their lack, that their abundance also may supply your lack – that there may be equality. As it is written, "He who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack."

2 CORINTHIANS 8:13-15

JEREMIAH 22:3

"This is what the Lord says: Be fair-minded and just. Do what is right! Help those who have been robbed; rescue them from their oppressors. Quit your evil deeds! Do not mistreat foreigners, orphans, and widows. Stop murdering the innocent!"



EQUAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE

EJI, started by the author of Just Mercy, works to end mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the US. The nonprofit provides legal representation to people who have been illegally convicted or unfairly sentenced.
 Donate Here : <https://support.eji.org/give/153413/#!/donation/checkout>



NATIONAL BAIL FUND NETWORK

The National Bail Fund Network is made up of 60 community bail and bond funds across the country. These funds are working to abolish the money bail system and pretrial detention.
 Access the Full List of Funds Here : <https://www.communityjusticeexchange.org/nbn-directory>

celebrate

LOS ANGELES, CA

Mayor Garcetti stated that he would reallocate \$250 million from LAPD to youth jobs, health initiatives, and peace centers.

DENVER, CO

Denver PD announced that it will ban chokeholds and carotid compressions.

DALLAS, TX

Dallas will formally ban any force intended to restrict a person's airway and create guidelines to release body cam video footage of critical incidents.

MINNEAPOLIS, MN

Minneapolis City Council plans to disband and replace the police department with trained professionals to respond to different types of calls.

NEW YORK CITY, NY

Mayor Bill de Blasio will cut NYPD budget and redirect \$1 billion to education, youth services, and social services. School safety and homeless outreach responsibilities will also be shifted out of the NYPD.

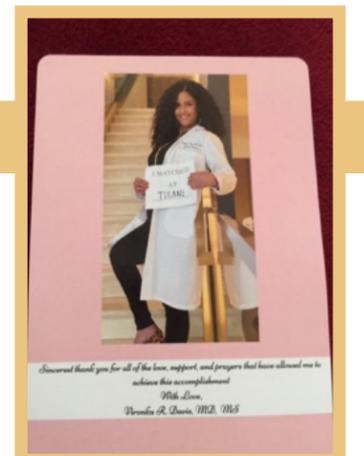
ZARA GORDON
 PROMOTED TO KINDERGARTEN



TYLER RIPPPIE
 GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL



DR. VIRONKA DAVIS
 GRADUATED MEDICAL SCHOOL



CONTRIBUTORS:

CORI DILL - GRAPHIC DESIGN
JENNIFER DILL
CHARLENE BROWN FOSTER
REV. DR. ARLENE GORDON
JANE GORDON
DR. GRETCHEN GRAVES JOHNSON
SHEILA NESBITT
REV. LARRY WALKER
RET. COL. JIM WILLIAMS
BERNADYNE WILLIAMS
DAMON WILLIAMS

WDDT

WDDTFAMILY.COM

SUMMER 2020 EDITION

WANT TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED?

CONTACT CORI DILL (CRDILL19@GMAIL.COM) TO JOIN THE WDDT COMMITTEE.
WE CAN ALWAYS USE YOUR HELP!

DID WE MISS SOMETHING?

CONTACT CORI DILL (CRDILL19@GMAIL.COM) SO THAT WE CAN INCLUDE IT IN THE NEXT WDDT NEWSLETTER.
YOUR STORIES ARE ALWAYS VALUED!