

## Honoring Women in Media

The DeKalb History Center held its Seventh Annual Black History Month Celebration on February 6. This year we honored five women who have made great contributions to journalism and media in DeKalb County. Before the luncheon started, guests were treated to music from solo vocalist, **Carlisa N. Johnson**, a senior at Agnes Scott College.

Publisher **Carolyn Jernigan-Glenn** presented the awards with great regard for each honoree. Recognized in alphabetical order were: Rashsan Ali, Jennifer Ffrench-Parker, Karyn Greer, the Honorable Steen Miles (retired), and Valerie J. Morgan.

**Rashan Ali** is a formidable multimedia personality within the sports and entertainment industries. In the 1990s Ali worked at LaFace Records and as personal assistant to the late Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes. She entered a talent contest at Atlanta's HOT 107.9 FM and was picked to join Ryan Cameron on-air. Her charisma helped propel the program to #1. Ali reunited with Cameron for a year as cohost of The Ryan Cameron Show on V-103 FM. She recently joined Streetz 94.5 as the host of *The Streetz Morning Grind*.

Ali's knowledge of sports has not gone unnoticed. She was the sideline reporter for the Atlanta Hawks for four seasons. In the 2009 Chick-Fil-A Bowl Preview Show she became one of the few African-American women to provide national sports commentary. She was the Social Media Correspondent for NBA TV's *Game Time* during the 2010-2013 NBA Playoffs. Ali was the college football sideline reporter for the Southern Conference Sports Network and the Atlanta Football Classic for NBC Sports Network. She is currently covering college football as a sideline reporter for CBS Sports Network and 11 Alive's *Atl & Co After Noon*.

Ali attended Florida A&M University and obtained a B.S. in Broadcast Journalism. In 2006 she founded Sporty Girls, Inc., to encourage the development of life skills in girls through participation in nontraditional sports. She just authored her first children's book, *Piper Sky's Pink Popsicle Shoes*.

In 2003 the Coalition of 100 Black Women honored Ali with the Unsung Heroine Award, and she has been honored with three March of Dimes A.I.R.

awards for outstanding achievement in radio. Rashan Ali enjoys spending time with her husband, Brian, and is the proud mother of two wonderful daughters, Bailey and Carter.

**Jennifer Ffrench-Parker** has led *CrossRoadsNews*, DeKalb's award-winning community newspaper, for the past 19 years. Every week she and her team deliver an engaging newspaper that challenges South DeKalb County residents to be involved, to demand the best of their elected leaders, and to have a compassion for the weakest among us. As the newspaper's editor and

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Honorees from left to right: Karyn Greer, Jennifer Ffrench-Parker, Steen Miles, Valerie J. Morgan, and Joyce Godfrey for her daughter, Rashan Ali. Carolyn Glenn, co-publisher of *The Champion*, is on the far right.

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# Women

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## Upcoming Events

**Please check our website for additional information!**

**Lunch & Learn: How it all started – The Story of *The Champion***, by Carolyn Glenn **on Tuesday, March 18 at Noon.** Carolyn and her husband, Earl Glenn, own and publish *The Champion Newspaper*. She will tell the story of how they started in 1991 and the newspaper's amazing growth to become the county's legal organ and an award-winning publication. Free—bring your lunch!

Join us for our **Annual Meeting and Silent Auction on Friday, March 21, from 6:00—8:00 p.m.** at the Historic DeKalb Courthouse. Enjoy an evening of wine, beer, hors d'oeuvres and music while bidding on fantastic items donated by generous local businesses. We are currently seeking Silent Auction Donations—for more information, please contact Nicole at [carmolingo@dekalbhistory.org](mailto:carmolingo@dekalbhistory.org) or 404-373-1088, extension 23. ✦

## In Media (Cont.)

publisher, she guides coverage of neighborhood news, issues, events, and people.

Under her leadership *CrossRoadsNews* has become the go-to source for local news. The newspaper is proudly "hyper-local"; and its readers credit it with helping create a sense of community with its coverage of the local social, economic, and political issues. Since 2006 *CrossRoadsNews* has hosted annual Community Expos at the Mall at Stonecrest to help educate residents to make informed decisions about their health, families, and businesses.

Before cofounding the newspaper with her husband Curtis in 1995, Ffrench-Parker was a reporter and assistant metro editor at the *AJC* and a business writer with *The Charlotte Observer* in North Carolina and *The Times Herald Record* and *Wall Street Transcript* in New York. She also worked for *The Daily Gleaner* and *The Jamaica Daily News* in Kingston, Jamaica.

Under her direction *CrossRoadsNews* has won numerous "Excellence in Journalism" awards from the Atlanta Association of Black Journalists, the National Newspaper Publishers Association, and the Local Media Association. Ffrench-Parker has a Master's degree in Journalism from the Columbia University School of Journalism in New York and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of the West Indies in Jamaica.

**Karyn Greer** Anchors *11Alive Morning News* weekdays from 5 - 7 a.m. She is known for her commitment to the community and extraordinary work in the fight against Breast Cancer.

Greer started her broadcast career as a chyron operator and technical director at WCIA-TV in Champaign-Urbana, IL, but very quickly found her way on-air as a reporter at WCID-TV in Champaign, IL, and then at WCSC in Charleston, SC. In 1989 she moved to Atlanta, where she anchored and reported for the newly formed WGNX news team. In 1994 this station became Atlanta's CBS affiliate and changed its call letters to WGCL. In 1999 Greer joined the WXIA-TV 11Alive News team.

Greer is a native of Chicago and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts from the University of Illinois. The Emmy award-winning anchor is a member of the Magnolia chapter of The Links Inc., a board member of Georgia-based Sport of Giving, and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She is the past president of the Atlanta Press Club and currently serves on the Board of Governors for the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

Throughout her career Greer has been the recipient of numerous awards honoring her professional work and community contributions. She has received awards from the National Association of Black Journalists and the Atlanta Association of Black Journalists. Greer received the Revlon Kizzy award, outstanding achievement by *Black Enterprise Magazine*, and was named one of Atlanta's 100 Women of Influence by the Atlanta Business League.

In her free time Greer enjoys reading and traveling with her husband, Tony, and being soccer, baseball, lacrosse, and swim mom to their sons, Kyle and Tyler.

**Steen Miles** most recently wrote an award-winning weekly column for *The Champion Newspaper*. In July 2012 her column won first place for editorial writing from the Georgia Press

Association. She is well known as a three-time Emmy award-winning reporter/anchor for WXIA-TV 11Alive, the NBC affiliate in Atlanta. Her fifteen years at 11 Alive also included a position as Managing Editor and capped a 30-year career in broadcast news, which began in South Bend, IN, where she was the first African-American female reporter at WNDU-TV. Her pioneering broadcast career includes her work as State Broadcast Editor United Press International, Atlanta; News Director WVON-WGCI, Chicago; News Director, WBMX Chicago; Reporter WMAQ Radio NBC Chicago; and WCKY Radio, Cincinnati. Her journalism has been recognized and honored through awards from United Press International, Associated Press, and the Gannett Corporation. She has four Atlanta Association of Black Journalists feature awards and the coveted Pioneer Journalist of the Year Award.

In 2004 Miles was elected to the Georgia Senate, where she represented the 43rd District from 2005-2007. She authored or coauthored many significant pieces of legislation, including Georgia's anti-smoking law and stricter requirements for young drivers. In 2007 Miles ran for lieutenant governor, placing third among a five-person field in which she was the only female.

Miles has served on numerous boards related to youth, education, health, and transportation. She is a founding member of the Stone Mountain Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, and the DeKalb Chapter of 100 Black Women. She is a past President of the Scottdale Child Development Center, a board member of the East DeKalb Boys and Girls Club, and a board member of the State Juvenile Justice Division.

**Valerie J. Morgan** is Editor-in-Chief of On Common Ground News, Inc., which provides print and online news coverage in DeKalb, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, and Rockdale counties. Valerie and her husband, Glenn L. Morgan, founded the newspaper in 1995 as a way to enlighten, enrich, and educate the community. She is a veteran journalist of 34 years. She started her career at the *Lakeland Ledger* (FL) and was quickly recruited by the *Fort Lauderdale News* and *Sun-Sentinel* (FL). While there she received the newspaper's highest award for journalism.

In 1993 Morgan was recruited by the *AJC* where she helped launch the CityLife news section of the paper and served as editor-in-chief for specialty magazines published by the *AJC* during the 1996 Olympics. During her tenure, Morgan supervised the *AJC*'s coverage of the Atlanta Public School System, City of Atlanta, and the newspaper's state reporting team. She also served as DeKalb Bureau chief, and she launched the Rockdale Bureau for the *AJC*.

An entrepreneur at heart, Morgan left the *AJC* in 2001 to help her run *On Common Ground News* which has been involved in many collaborative efforts. The newspaper wrote and was awarded two grants for anti-tobacco campaigns targeting DeKalb youths.

*On Common Ground News* is a business partner with area schools including Stephenson High School, Towers High School, and Voices of Faith Academies. The newspaper lends support by assisting PTSAs with fundraising and providing training and mentoring to future journalists. They partner with the 100 Black Men of DeKalb, a mentoring organization for youths, by promoting the nonprofit's fundraising activities and providing job-shadowing opportunities for students. They also partner with the South DeKalb Youth V.I.B.E. organization, which provides academic enrichment and real-world business application to teens. ✦

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