

20th Annual  
**Freedom  
Fund Banquet**



Flourtown County Club  
*June 26, 2022*



- **21 Day Challenge**
- **Group Fitness**
- **Elite Personal Training**
- **Bootcamps**
- **Nutritional Coaching**
- **and more!**



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## *Mission Statement*

The vision of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure a society in which all individuals have equal rights and there is no racial hatred or racial discrimination.

## *Branch Objectives*

- To ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of all citizens
- To achieve equality of rights and eliminate race prejudice among the citizens of the United States
- To remove all barriers of racial discrimination through democratic processes
- To seek enactment and enforcement of federal, state, and local laws securing civil rights
- To inform the public of the adverse effects of racial discrimination and to seek its elimination
- To educate persons as to their constitutional rights and to take all lawful action to secure the exercise thereof, and to take any other lawful action in furtherance of these objectives.





# NAACP

*Cheltenham Area Branch*

## *President's Welcome*

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Each NAACP member makes a difference to the complex, ongoing work of advancing racial equity. We have driven the hardest-fought wins for civil rights and social justice – with you by our side, we can accelerate the next milestones for Black Americans.

The Cheltenham Area Branch NAACP is leading the fight to ensure that Black lives are a priority in all spaces. From police brutality to COVID-19 to voter suppression, Black communities are under attack. We work to disrupt inequality, dismantle racism, and accelerate change in key areas including criminal justice, health care, education, climate, and the economy.

Our commitment to becoming an anti-racist organization requires our organization to be on a constant, ongoing racial equity journey—a continuous culture of learning, reflecting, and, when appropriate, an evolution in the way that we understand, think, and write about people and communities most marginalized by White supremacy and racist policies and institutions.

In 1889, American sociologist, and Co-Founder of the NAACP, W.E.B Dubois made a statement that pushed back against writing “Negro” with a lowercase “n,” saying “eight million Americans deserve a capital letter.” “Say it loud I’m Black and I’m proud” became a popular phrase (popularized by James Brown’s original ballad) of the Civil Rights Movement. Just recently, The New York Times journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones emphasized the importance of language as a tool to reclaim Black humanity by requiring writers to refer to enslaved Black Americans as “enslaved” rather than “slaves” in the 1619 Project. The use of language has historically and contemporaneously signified how Blackness and anti-Blackness is understood and functions in the United States.

The Cheltenham Area Branch NAACP will continue to work towards the above-mentioned initiatives. When it comes to civil rights and social justice, we have the unique ability to secure more wins than anyone else and help make racial equity a reality.

Join this multi-generational network of activists dismantling structural racism by using your power to take action on the most pressing issues of our time. We have just gotten to the middle of the mountain, we need your help, and voices to continue the climb to the TOP!

In Solidarity, *Eddie T. Graham*





# Executive Board



Eddie T. Graham Esq.  
Branch President

# NAACP

Cheltenham Area Branch



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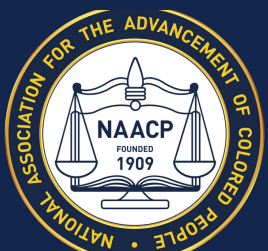
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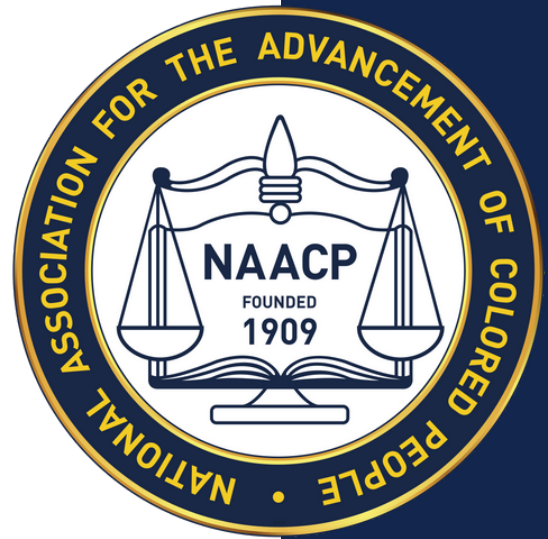
Kelly King  
Community Coordinator



Frederica Hale  
Member At-Large



Herman Carter  
Member At-Large



## *Scholarship*

Welcome to our 20th Annual Freedom Fund Banquet. We are here to honor several high school seniors with scholarships and will also award several members of our community for their outstanding service to others. We thank you for being here in support of the award recipients and the mission of the Cheltenham Area NAACP.

Proceeds from tonight's event will directly benefit our 2022-2023 scholarship fund and other community initiatives.



2022

# Scholarship Recipients



## *Saige Goodman*

Saige Goodman is the daughter of Amin and Shawon Goodman and the older sister of Royce Goodman. She enjoys spending time with her family, especially her grandfather, and exploring various restaurants. Saige has attended schools in Springfield Township School District since the second grade, maintaining a 4.0 GPA along the way. This fall she will be a freshman at the illustrious Spelman College. She is involved in various clubs including National Honors Society, peer tutoring, Voices of Excellence, Teenshop Inc. and the NAACP. Saige also enjoyed working with kids during the summer as a lifeguard and tennis coach. A fun fact about Saige is that if you ever ask her how she is feeling, she will always say "hungry!" Saige wishes to thank the Cheltenham Area Branch NAACP again for choosing her for this award, as it truly means a lot to her. She looks forward to continuing her service with the NAACP.



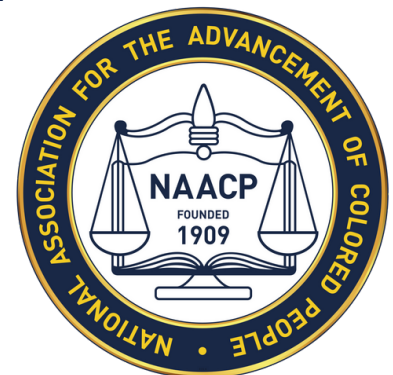
## *Jullian Williams*

Jullian Williams is 18 years old and attended Plymouth Whitmarsh High School. He loves to play sports, be with his family, spend time with his dogs and swim. Jullian has five brothers and two sisters. He likes to frequently ride his bike, especially down in to the city. Jullian has a 4.0 Unweighted GPA and 4.377 weighted GPA. Next year he plans to attend Montgomery County Community College for two years and then hopes to transfer to an on-campus school to study physical therapy.



## *Chloe Tevere*

Chloe Tevere (she/her) is Asian-American and was adopted from China when she was 9 months old. Chloe graduated from Cheltenham High school and is attending Drexel University in the fall of 2022 to major in Biological Studies on a pre-med track. This summer Chloe will be working as a lifeguard in Cheltenham.





# President's Award

NAACP

Cheltenham Area Branch



## Madeleine Dean

*Congresswoman, serving Pennsylvania's 4th District*

Madeleine Dean was born and raised in Glenside, Pennsylvania. She graduated from La Salle University and earned her law degree at Widener University. Madeleine then returned home and practiced law with the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers before opening a three-woman law firm in Glenside. While raising three sons, Madeleine changed career paths to become a professor of writing at La Salle University. In 2012, Madeleine successfully ran for State Representative in the 153rd District. In the legislature, Madeleine was appointed to Governor Wolf's Commission for Women, co-founded the gun safety group PA-SAFE, and was an outspoken leader on progressive issues. In 2018, Madeleine was elected to represent Pennsylvania's 4th District – Montgomery and Berks Counties – in the 116th Congress. In Washington, Madeleine serves on the powerful Judiciary and Financial Services Committees, championing priorities like public education, combating addiction, equal rights, access to healthcare, protecting the environment, ethics, criminal justice reform, gun violence prevention, and more.

In 2019, Madeleine was elected Vice-Chair of the Bipartisan Women's Caucus. In 2021, Madeleine served as an Impeachment Manager for the second impeachment of President Donald Trump.

Now in her second term, Madeleine remains focused on decency, the common good, and solutions to serve the many.





# Community Service Award



**Art Haywood**  
PA State Senator

Art Haywood was raised by his mother, a public-school teacher, who instilled in him the value of hard work and getting a quality education. Art received his bachelor's degree from Morehouse College and graduated Magna Cum Laude. Next, Art attended the London School of Economics, as a Marshall Scholar, to complete his master's degree.

After graduating from the University of Michigan Law school in 1985, Art worked at Community Legal Services, at Regional Housing Legal Services, and in private practice as a lawyer. He also served as legal counsel to Esperanza. In 2009, Art was elected township commissioner in Cheltenham, inspired to run by President Barack Obama. After serving as president of the board, he was elected State Senator for the 4th district in 2014 and honored to serve neighbors in Northwest Philadelphia and Montgomery County.

Through his leadership as a State Senator, Art passed requirements to test for lead in water in schools; championed legislation to relocate domestic violence survivors living in public housing; and secured \$45 million in funding for violence intervention organizations to help reduce gun violence statewide.

In 2021, Art fought for \$193 million in federal CARES Act funds, which helped to prevent evictions, foreclosures, and homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic. He also served on Governor Tom Wolf's COVID-19 Vaccine Taskforce and pushed for equity in vaccine distribution in Pennsylvania. Most recently, Art organized with Black college students to end campus racism at Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) universities. He was instrumental in the state legislature passing \$200 million for PASSHE in 2021, which includes funding for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. This ensures the safety and success of Black, Brown, and White students on the 14 college campuses.

Art has three adult children and resides in Wyncote with his wife for 30 years, Julie.



Cheltenham Area Branch

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# Community Service Award

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## Linda Fields

Linda Fields has lived her life with a defining purpose: to serve others and to fight for what is right. She has fought for the disenfranchised and underserved her entire life. She strives to speak up for the voiceless.

She worked for 28 years as a National Organizer & Business Agent for the National Union of Hospital and Healthcare Employees, District 1199C, AFSCME, AFL-CIO until 2018. She has personally negotiated hundreds of employee contracts and served as mediator for many grievances over the years. She has successfully obtained higher and fairer wages, employee benefits and workers' rights for hospital workers for some of the largest hospital chains in Pennsylvania.

Linda formed her own non-profit called Heart to Heart Circle of Life (formerly Heart to Heart Weekend of Life) to raise money and awareness for heart disease research. Her experience as a negotiator, mediator, labor relations expert, and community advocate brings over 37 years of advocacy, love, compassion, and compromise. She has a unique ability to connect with people and build collaborative partnerships with common goals.

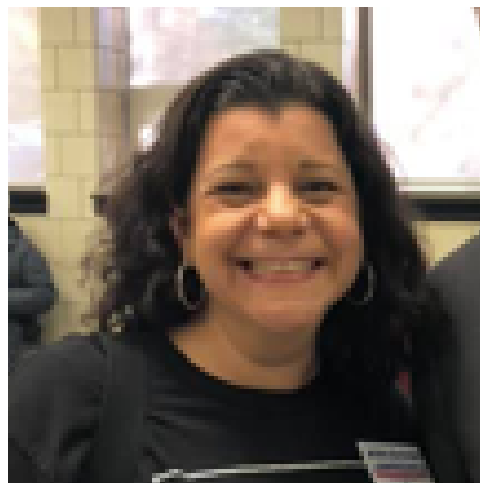
In 2020, Linda founded PowerUp PAC, a political action committee focused on supporting highly qualified minorities and women candidates for public office on the local and state levels. She is also the founder and CEO of PowerUp Foundation, an organization dedicated to engaging, educating and mentoring women and minorities in business development and focusing on racial and gender equality as well as voter registration and engagement in communities across the state.

She has been married for 47 years to her husband Charles and an anchor for her three children and eight grandchildren.

For Linda her time and commitment to community is what God has called her too. She has been an ordained minister since 2011; when asked what drives her to do this work she does she says... "What I do is not work, it is ministry...God's assignment".



# Unsung Hero Award



Dr. Monica D'Antonio

Dr. Monica D'Antonio is a Professor of English at Montgomery County Community College, Vice President of the Norristown Area School District Board of Directors, Political Action Chair of the Greater Norristown NAACP, and Coordinator of the One Book One Norristown literacy initiative. She has a BA and MA in English from Rutgers University and a PhD in Educational Psychology from Temple University.

She is a community advocate and activist, serving as a tutor and mentor at the Center for Culture, Art, Training, and Education (CCATE), book club facilitator at Norristown Public Library, and Democratic Committee person for West Norriton 2-1.

In her free time, she loves Zumba, reading, and walking in the Norristown Farm Park. She, her husband Hal, and cat Jeter live in West Norriton.

NAACP

Cheltenham Area Branch



# Unsung Hero Award



## Nicole McGruder

Nicole McGruder is a social innovator and community organizer. She is the founder of Community Hero Action Group and Community Hero Impact Alliance. Both organizations are dedicated to decreasing health and wealth disparities in the black community with education and innovative community initiatives.

She was born in Philadelphia, PA and raised in the Bay Area in California. She obtained her undergraduate degree in English and graduate degree in Urban Planning, Design, and development from Cleveland State University.

She has had leadership roles in some of the largest healthcare organizations in the country, such as the Cleveland Clinic Foundation (Cleveland, Ohio), Kaiser Permanente (Los Angeles, CA), and Davita Dialysis (Ontario, CA and Philadelphia)

Most recently, she was the political action chair of the NAACP PA State Conference during the 2020 election season in which she coordinated census participation efforts in hard-to-count tracts, the “We are Done Dying” civil rights campaign, as well as being an integral part in the development the strategic election campaign “Wake Up Black Vote.” After her term with the NAACP, she led the “Vote Today Moncto” initiative and shortly thereafter, founded Community Hero Action Group, a 501c3 dedicated to closing the disparities in health and wealth in the Black community; and also Community Hero Impact Alliance, a 501c4 focused on good government, and advocacy for legislation and policy that promotes an equitable life for the Black community. She is also the organizer of the annual Pennsylvania Health Matters Conference which provides free access to sessions developed and designed around topics germane to the Black community.

She is a God-fearing mother and wife who lives in Cheltenham, PA, enjoys traveling, and co-leading an awesome troop of Girl Scouts.



*Cheltenham Area Branch*

**NAACP**





# Unsung Hero Award

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## Liza Meiris

Liza Meiris is a local educator and racial justice activist. She has taught in Philadelphia for more than a decade, and for the past four years has taught in schools with explicitly anti-racist mission statements and programs.

As secretary and co-political action chair of the Cheltenham Area Branch NAACP she is a mentor for the branch's Youth Leadership Committee and has collaborated with police, school boards, commissioners, and community organizations to make change.

You will see her often serving as a panelist or speaker at events, protesting in the street, and asking tough questions of our local leaders. Her data collection on the school-to-prison pipeline has ignited and inspired the community to address the necessary reforms to our juvenile criminal justice system.



# Keynote Speaker

NAACP

Cheltenham Area Branch



## Keisha Hudson-Brooks

*Chief Public Defender, Philadelphia PA*

Keisha Hudson spent nearly eighteen years as a public defender, first with the Defender Association of Philadelphia and then as a capital appellate defender with the Federal Defender-Eastern District of Pennsylvania (Capital Habeas Unit) representing people on death row in their state post-conviction and federal habeas appeals. As a seasoned trial and appellate defender, Ms. Hudson has an in-depth understanding of what it means to be a public defender. At the Capital Habeas Unit, Ms. Hudson was the Director of Training.

In 2016, Ms. Hudson left the Federal Defender and joined the Montgomery County Office of the Public Defender Officer to become the Deputy Chief Defender. Ms. Hudson joined the Montgomery County Office of the Public Defender with the goal of building and strengthening advocacy in the courtroom. Along with former Chief Defender Dean Beer, Ms. Hudson addressed systemic issues regarding policing, pretrial detention, sentencing, and probation in the county.

In 2020, Ms. Hudson worked with The Justice Collaborative and The Appeal, developing and leading advocacy and media campaigns on criminal justice issues- specifically campaigns aimed at looking at creative and successful community alternatives that truly create public safety. From 2020 to 2021 Ms. Hudson was a visiting professor at Temple University's Beasley School of Law.





*The Cheltenham Branch would like to extend our appreciation to each of our Vendors, Sponsors and Banquet Guests - Thank you for your continued support!*

*20th Annual*  
**Freedom  
Fund Banquet**



2022 Sponsors



Check out this new children's book titled, *Little Joey Starts a Farm*, which details how novice city dwellers and experienced growers alike can grow their own food.

Authored by Joseph Harrison  
Email [Littlejoeyfarm@gmail.com](mailto:Littlejoeyfarm@gmail.com) to purchase a copy!



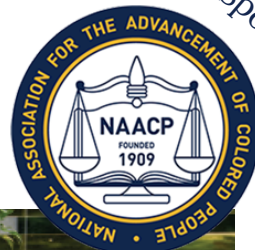
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**Congratulations** to each award and scholarship recipient for your work and service in our community. I wish you continued success in the future and commend you for your efforts.

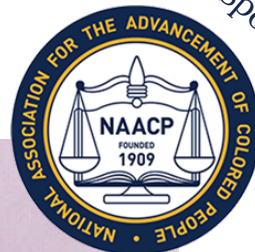
MBM Noir is a brand that is dedicated to educating and uplifting the community about the importance of diversity and inclusion. Follow us on social media (**Instagram @MBM\_Noir**) to discuss everything from current events, to politics, social happenings and more!

In Solidarity,

*Lauren Camper*



2022 Sponsor



“Clothed N Strength has been a vision of mine since I left the Federal Detention Center in 2011. I made a promise to God that one day, if it's His will, I would be in a position to help women in prison”.

**TAMIKA WILLIFORD,  
FOUNDER**



## OUR MISSION




Clothed N Strength is a one-stop resource for women transitioning back to a healthy and sustainable life. We provide valuable tools, programs, and services to restore strength in countless lives. Our mission is to provide women with assets to rebuild their lives and to prepare and empower them to overcome barriers to success.

“She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.”

Proverbs 31:25-26 (NIV)



Visit our website [www.clothednstrength.com](http://www.clothednstrength.com)

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# *Congratulations*

*and very best wishes  
for further studies and future success  
to the three very talented scholarship winners:*

*Chloe Tevere  
of Cheltenham High School*

*Saige Goodman  
of Springfield Township High School*

*Jullian Williams  
of Plymouth Whitemarsh High School*

*- Dennis and Mary Helf*



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**For a successful Freedom Fund Banquet**



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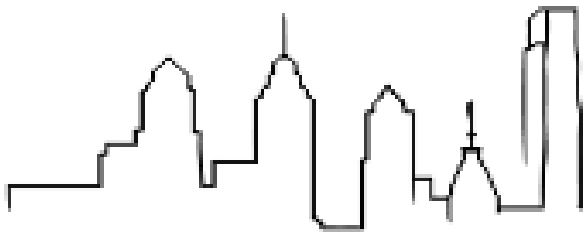
# JASON SALUS

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY TREASURER**

Jason Salus is proud to stand with the Cheltenham Area Branch NAACP. Congratulations to honorees Congresswoman Madeleine Dean, Linda Fields, and Senator Art Haywood.







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