We are living in a period where the presidency of the United States is a growing embarrassment to all Americans as the world watches daily the insane tweets, lies, nonsensical proposed legislation and attempts to undo everything put into place by the Obama administration. That includes repealing Obamacare with no viable replacement, removing support for Planned Parenthood, destroying public education, rolling back Obama-era plans to make repayment of college loans easier. Ben Carson says, “Don’t make housing too cozy for the poor,” as he works to destroy public housing. The LGBT rights and climate change pages were taken down immediately after the inauguration in January and refused to acknowledge June as LGBT Pride month. In the face of documentation that confirms global warming, the President claims there is no truth to global warming and plans to revive the coal industry that kills coal mine workers. Through Jeff Sessions, who has been defamed by him, they vow to bring back “law and order” to tighten the War on Drugs by providing harsher sentences for non-violent crimes with the “three strikes you’re out” mandate. The only candidate to vow not to undo Medicare, Social Security and Medicaid is dismantling Medicare, while allocating $12 million to opioid prevention, a reported “crisis” in the suburbs and the rust belt.

Continued on page 2

#staywoke
This President seemingly loves to sign his name and hold it up to the cameras. He’s signed over 100 executive actions and 39 executive orders (presidents are required to count and publish executive orders but are not obligated to release other executive actions, like memoranda DT 28 or proclamations DT 30, as of April 2017). Click here for a full list of executive orders signed from January 20 to July 11, 2017, and click here to see who they will affect. What’s clear is that this President has a staffer whose job is to research executive orders made by previous Democratic presidents, with special attention to those of President Barack Obama, and revoke each and every one of them. President Obama issued 277 executive orders during his two terms, an average of 35 per year. In comparison, this President signed 32 in his first 100 days.

What manner of man is this? One who blatantly boasts about grabbing crotches, openly lies, constantly changes his stories, refuses to release his tax returns, and uses Twitter each and every day to bully and to lie with impunity.

What is there for us to do???

While the press focuses on collusion with Russia – and it’s real that there’s much more than smoke there than meets the eye—the roof, the roof, the roof is on fire. You know the rest. As activists for social justice and social change, we must go into action. We cannot be silent. Silence means confirmation, acceptance and complicity with the oppressor.

“The hottest place in Hell is reserved for those who remain neutral in times of great moral conflict.”
– Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Call to Activism

What are we to do?
1. Surround yourself with those on the same mission. “I am because We are.”
2. Establish a Social Action agenda.
3. Download Party of Lincoln app for detailed information of all things political.
4. Sign petitions.
5. Blow up the House and Senate phone lines. Congressional Switchboard (202) 224.3121. Click here for another site with detailed congressional and White House contact information.
6. Establish alliances with local community organizations that are fighting for justice.
7. Plan now for voter registration, voter education, voter transportation and anti-voter suppression activity.
8. Stand up and speak out on injustice in your local area.
9. Donate to social justice efforts such as Mawuli Davis’ Coalition for Justice and Police Accountability.
10. Read about what Houston ABSW is doing, and donate to Maravi Moore’s case.
11. Donate to your HBCU.
12. Intensify Buy Black efforts in your chapter and your community. Here’s a new Black Business App to add to the links provided in previous President reports on the Around the Way app, Where U app, Black Trade Lines app and http://www.letsbuyblack365.com/. Google for others. The list is steadily growing. STOP CONSCIOUSLY BUILDING COMMUNITIES OTHER THAN YOUR OWN! STOP PAYING FOR YOUR OWN DEMISE!

(Continued on page 3)
14. Check out Karen Hunter karenhuntershow.com, (siriusxm, channel 126, 3-6 pm) and on Twitter (@karenhunter) on #PowerMoneyRespect and #wellness #wealth #wisdom.


Many of our chapters are involved in social action and advocacy in their communities. I applaud them for not being stagnant and encourage all chapters, members and friends to DO SOMETHING! You cannot stand idly by and ask what is NABSW doing. You are NABSW. We are NABSW. DO SOMETHING or accept that you have willingly handed over your fate to the oppressor.

It is not up to someone else in another community to do something for us. It is up to us to do something for ourselves.

Who, if not us?

The power for change and empowerment is in our hands. Let the Circle Be Unbroken.

J Toni Oliver, National President
Spiritual Awakening

“MEDITATION ON HOPE AND LOVE IN A TIME OF STRUGGLE”

By Alice Anacheka-Nasemann

In a world so filled with brokenness and sorrow
It would be easy to lose ourselves in never ending grief.
   To be choked by our outraged
To be paralyzed by the enormity of suffering,
   To feel our hearts squeeze tight with hopelessness.

Instead, let us simply breathe together as we hold our hearts open.
   Breathing in, as our hearts fill compassion
Breathing out, as we pray for healing in our world and our lives.
Breathing in, opening ourselves to the transforming power of love
Breathing out, as we pray for peace in our world and in our lives.
   Breathing in, as we hold hope in our hearts
Breathing out, as we pray for justice in our world and in our lives.

May we know our strength
   May we be filled with courage
May our love flow from us into this world.

   Breathing in, we are the prayer
Breathing out, we are the healing
   Breathing in, we are love
Breathing out, we are the peace
   Breathing in, we are the hope
Breathing out, we are the justice

   May we know our strength
May we be filled with courage
May our love flow from us into this world.

#BlackLivesMatter
NABSW statement on the recent events in Charlottesville, VA
8/15/17

The National Association of Black Social Workers, Inc., comprised of people of African ancestry, is committed to enhancing the quality of life and empowering people of African ancestry through advocacy, human services delivery, and research.

The National Association of Black Social Workers, Inc. will work to create a world in which people of African ancestry will live free from racial intimidation and domination, economic exploitation, and cultural oppression.

NABSW deplores the actions of white supremacist groups in their display of racial, sexist, and anti-Semitic hatred toward people in America, especially those people of African descent.

In America today, African-Americans have been targets of systemic injustices, economic disempowerment and institutional racism. Throughout the history of these United States of America, government policies and practices has enabled attacks on Black people, as well as attacks on others who are stereotyped and marginalized by the government. The ability for African-Americans to exercise their constitutional rights has always been comprised, as we are aware that African-Americans were not given the protections in the constitution/declaration of independence of the newly formed USA in 1776.

The actions demonstrated by white supremacist groups in Charlottesville, VA. is reminiscent of behaviors that resulted in over 3000 African-Americans being lynched in America, vibrant Black communities being attacked by white mobs, and instances of state sanctioned support while unarmed Blacks are murdered. As the “leaders” of the country ask for peace, love and a “coming together” of all Americans, the reality for African-Americans is a high unemployment rate, disparities in the criminal justice system, poor educational options/opportunities and continued attacks on their communities.

What was witnessed in Charlottesville, VA, as well as in many cities and towns across America has always been a part of this country, embroiled in its history. Most recently it has been exacerbated by a “President” who after waiting two days, reluctantly “denounced,” by name, the “KKK”, neo Nazis, white supremacists and other hate groups.” These statements came while at the same time Trump embraces Steve Bannon, ex-executive chairman of Breitbart who turned the right-wing news site into the platform of the so-called alt-right. According to NPR, before joining Trump's inner circle during the 2016 campaign, Bannon was the head of Breitbart News, a far-right media outlet that has promoted conspiracy theories and is a platform for the alt-right movement, which espouses white nationalism. Bannon, a supporter of white supremacist and racial bigotry, became Trump’s campaign manager and later his Chief White House Strategist. In addition, Sebastian Gorka, a person who has ties to anti-Semitic, right wing groups in Hungary, was hired by Trump as a his Deputy Assistant.. You can’t denounce the people you embrace. Perhaps that’s why Trump doubled down the very next day to uphold white supremacists protestors in Charlottesville as “very fine people.”

The current political landscape, at all levels of government, has created a dialogue that decriminalizes people of color, encourages race baiting and blaming, and only serves to normalize the tone and actions of racial, religious, and gender hatred.
NABSW asks that the white supremacist groups be labeled by the Department of Justice as terrorist organizations, acting to restrict the constitutional rights of others, and that all of their funds be seized.

NABSW unequivocally rejects any legislation that would authorize the use of a vehicle to hurt protesters without criminal liability as proposed by five State General Assemblies.

NABSW relates the historical trauma that African-Americans have experienced through the atrocities of individuals in America as well as government sanctioned policies that has contributed to the conditions of their communities. We reject this continued assault upon our communities and call for unity to fight against those entities by any means necessary.

NABSW is committed to working with individuals, organizations and advocacy groups that share its mission statement and desire to address racism. NABSW remains dedicated to educating people on the history of racism in America in pursuit of a meaningful and honest discussion, as well as offering solution oriented objectives in eradicating the mistreatment of people of African descent.

Kenneth Green, Co-Chair, NABSW National Relations Committee

Toni Oliver, President, NABSW

President Oliver can be contacted at president@nabsw.org

#alutacontinua

(the struggle continues)
Greater Detroit Association of Black Social Workers Hosts National Steering Committee Meeting in July 2017

In our 50th year, Greater Detroit Association of Black Social Workers, Inc. graciously hosted the National Steering Committee Meeting at the Doubletree Hotel. Visiting SCM attendees from across the country joined Michigan ABSW members, host chapter members, and potential members enthusiastically reported enjoyment at the full slate of activities which commenced on Wednesday, July 19th and continued through Sunday, July 23rd. In addition to many GDABSW members who were either past NABSW officers or in leadership, during the SCM pioneers, past presidents and officers were in attendance. Additionally, many Michigan ABSW officers and members, past and current, were present.

On Wednesday, Michigan ABSW President, Anthony Harris, hosted a very well attended meet and greet at Starter’s Restaurant for local and visiting SCM attendees celebrating July birthdays. The next evening, Thursday, attendees were privy to a Special SCM Invitation Sale by Cheikh and Brenda Mbacké at their store, Sankofa Arts. Attendees “shopped ‘til they dropped” on 50% off deals or authentic African art, antiques, artifacts, and attire. Some folks who missed the sale arranged later special shopping trips. After leaving Sankofa Arts, there was a caravan trip to Sweet Magnolias soul food restaurant (ask someone who was present about the adventure). As the temperature outside rose on Friday, GDABSW hiked it even higher that evening with its 2017 ongoing 50th Anniversary Celebration in the form of an “Old School, Back in the Day” get-together held at Cheikh and Brenda’s Cumberland Village Clubhouse. Once GDABSW President, Kevin J. Bryant, greeted the crowd it was on and popping as folks engaged in Bid Whist, Spades, music, fun, and friends. Unfortunately, a person from L.A. (who shall remain nameless) was snapped catching some zzz’s despite all the festivities. A Big shout out to the GDABSW SCM planning team and volunteer crew (Anthony Harris, Geri LeFleur, Myrtle Ferrand, Kevin J. Bryant, Alyssa Burke, Bertha Payne Mathies, and Brigitte R. Hall) who helped with transportation and worked hard all evening serving a menu of roasted and fried chicken, catfish, perch, shrimp, mac and cheese, spaghetti, salad (garden and pasta), banana pudding, and GDABSW’s anniversary cake and cupcakes. Drawings were held throughout the night with about 20 winners receiving a GDABSW “Preserving Families” coffee mug.

Despite the Friday get-together ending around 2:00 AM, folks were on time Saturday morning for the 9th Annual Dorothy I. Height “Preserving the Legacy” Breakfast Symposium, but were unaware of the treat that awaited them from the Breakfast Symposium speaker. As Cheikh introduced his longtime friend and colleague, Dorothy Height’s nephew, Dan Aldridge Jr. proceeded to mesmerize attendees with personal stories, anecdotes, historical knowledge, little-known facts and details of his aunt’s life,

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and his first-hand knowledge about Detroit, the 1967 Rebellion and Algiers Motel incident, the Harlem Renaissance, and the Civil Rights Movement. He also made available specially priced, signed copies for SCM attendees of “Black Detroit: A People’s History of Self-Determination” written by another Detroit icon, author, Herb Boyd.

The Greater Detroit Association extends kudos and appreciation to Michigan ABSW, and Black Family Development, Inc. CEO Alice G. Thompson for their SCM sponsorship and financial contributions. As a 1978 outgrowth of the then Detroit ABSW chapter, BFDI was well represented by 10 staff members attending the Breakfast Symposium. Thanks to everyone who attended the July SCM and took part in celebrating GDABSW’s 50th year which began amid the 1960's turbulence and revolutionary spirit sweeping the United States. On Thursday, May 11, 1967, 65 Black male social workers from throughout the city met at the Kappa House located near downtown Detroit. Those men would later be joined in ranks by female Black social workers. Determination to effect change, coupled with events at the National Conference on Social Welfare in San Francisco, would give rise to the Detroit Association of Black Social Workers, and later the Greater Detroit Association of Black Social Workers in 1990.

Cheikh Ahmadou Banba Mbacke, Ph.D., (ABD), ACSW
President and CEO
Ujima Consortium International - Since 1984
www.ujimaconsortiuminc.com
July Steering Committee Meeting
July Steering Committee Meeting (cont.)
Mental Health in the Black Community in Jacksonville, Florida

The annual conference on Mental Health and the Black Community, in its 36th consecutive year was held on May 10-13, 2016 on the campus of the 150 year old HBCU, Edward Waters College with 825 attendees. The conference has grown from one to four days of education and training experiences for African American, underserved populations and mental health professionals. Over the years, and through its planning committees, the conference also served as a training resource for public and private agencies including private businesses and churches.

The conference is sponsored by Northwest Behavior Health Services. The local Chapter of NABSW has evolved over the years to become a major collaborative partner in its role as conference planners, co-sponsors, fundraisers and facilitators of the conference’s Strengthening Family Day activities. The conference activities include educational and strategic planning workshops, community forums and several health/behavior health/self -fairs. They are designed from a cultural centered perspective, to empower underserved and ethnic consumers with information and resources needed to gain access to quality health care and improve quality of life for their Children, Families and communities. The forums, workshops and seminars include:

- Building a healthy Business Community – Exploring the role of businesses in promoting community mental health.
- Culture Centered Professional Development training (with CEUs): Evidence based training for Mental Health Professionals, Social Workers and Social Service providers.
- Mental Health training seminar for church health ministries.
- Mental health status reports and community network reception for the underserved neighborhoods.
- Children and family focused holistic health seminars and a self-sufficiency fair.
- A mini leadership forum with executives of mental health and human service agencies with the goal of developing partnerships and resources.

The highlight of the conference was the Points of Excellence Award recognition Banquet featuring the former U. S Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher. He spoke to the attendees focusing on violence and crimes as health and behavioral health issues. He had a private session with leaders at the Mini Leadership forum. Dr. Satcher set the stage for establishing future collaborations with his organization in Atlanta, GA. During the banquet we also recognized mental health warriors that continue to fight for the Mentally Ill and our community.

Submitted by Jacquelyn J. Nash & Stewart Washington
Congratulations Dr. Iris Carlton-LaNey!

Dr. Iris Carlton-LaNey was recently recognized by having a scholarship named in her honor. The Iris Carlton-LaNey Scholarship was created to benefit under-represented students in the MSW program at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill who are interested in social justice.

For more information about the scholarship, check out the following link: https://ssw.unc.edu/contact2/2017/07/new-scholarship-honors-iris-carlton-laney-benefits-msw-students-interested-in-social-justice-racial-equity/
NABSW: Our Future At Work

Story by Mackenzie Lewis

My third trip to Flint, Michigan, was a huge success! With $400 of my own money, I purchased 150 cases of water and 56 packs of wipes. My mom drove us to Flint and I brought the water there. She rented the truck for me (thanks mom!) then we drove to my friend Mari's neighborhood. Her mom said their neighborhood has the highest level of chemicals in it.

The people at Walmart were nice enough to help us load the water and Mr. Alvin Dollar from Atlanta came to help too!! My mom had a NABSW meeting in Detroit he was coming to, so he came and helped us out. We drove around Mari's complex giving out water to the residents when we finished the neighborhood, I took about 40 cases to the senior center to give out. For all three of my trips, I have taken 1450 cases of water, 320 gallons and TONS of wipes, disinfectant, paper products and other supplies to the residents of Flint. I hate my friend Mari and the other people of Flint live like this. It is not fair that they don't have nice water to drink and take a bath in, but I will help them as much as I can!

#CleanWaterForFlint

After flying in to Detroit from Atlanta, Baba Dollar drove the hour to Flint the same day to help!!!!

Finally 150 cases and 56 packs of wipes ready to be delivered to the community!

Mackenzie Lewis and her friend Mari Copeny
Preserving “NABSW 50 Years: Celebrating Our Legacy, Fulfiling the Dream” through the Sankofa Recovery Project

Denise McLane-Davison, PhD, MSW
Assistant Professor of Social Work
Morgan State University
Denise.davison@morgan.edu

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary, Dr. Morris F.X. Jeff., DSW, National President, appointed NABSW Founder Dr. Audreye E. Johnson as the organization’s national historian. He indicated, “An Organization which does not know, understand, or appreciate its beginnings might not be in the position to successfully protect the continued functioning of the Organization.” (Forward) Dr. Audreye E. Johnson, recognizing the significance of documenting and maintaining the Organization’s history wrote:

As the years pass, new people come into an organization and some of the older members drop out, or are infrequent in their contacts. History is a constantly evolving process. An organization has a past which should be known by its oldest as well as youngest members. We need to chronicle our organizational development; much of our history has been ignored or distorted by others. (Preface)


Holding firm to the vision of our NABSW Founders and leaders, I am indeed honored to have been appointed by President J. Toni Oliver, to serve as the historian for the 50th anniversary celebration. Additionally, I am excited to have been awarded a small grant in June 2017 through Morgan State University's Office of the Provost for “The Sankofa Recovery Project: An Anthology of the National Association of Black Social Workers and the Black Social Work Movement”; to build the foundation of what will be a long-term process of showcasing the contributions of NABSW. The Sankofa Recovery Project is a long-term project, inclusive of short-term projects to capture the Black Social Workers’ Movement through the historical collection of primary resources of the National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW).

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Preserving “NABSW 50 Years: Celebrating Our Legacy, Fulfilling the Dream” through the Sankofa Recovery Project (cont.)

Founded in 1968, NABSW, has served as one of the primary advocacy groups comprised of people of African ancestry addressing issues of racial equity and self-determination through improved social work practice and service delivery. NABSW has also consistently promoted the inclusion of ethically sound evidenced-based curricula grounded in the rich history of indigenous community practice, research, and scholarship of persons of African ancestry. The significance of being funded through Morgan State University is that we now have an opportunity to leverage the project for future research and possible additional funding.

A historical collection of materials at Morgan State University would serve as an educational resource that documents the contributions of African American social workers’ long history of institutional building, scholarship, research, indigenous treatment/healing/sustainability modalities, as well as, our collective movement towards social justice and human rights for people of African Ancestry. The recovery of this reservoir of research is in alignment with the mission and vision of NABSW and the School of Social Work at Morgan State University to develop urban social work leaders, equipped to utilize culturally appropriate evidence-based models to enhance the lives of the greater Baltimore community. The Sankofa Project is inclusive of primary documents, artifacts, and case studies from key members and founders of NABSW to create an anthology of teaching and research materials to cumulatively equip social work and human service professionals with intergenerational knowledge that inform their assessment of critical issues in African Americans communities.

Chapters are being asked to gather content to develop their Chapter Histories. Please contact me directly with additional questions at Denise.Davison@morgan.edu. Also, please note additional information will be forthcoming on our NABSW website, including a video. Please note we will accept materials through December 31, 2017.

Creating ABSW Chapter History Content and Organization

I. History of Chapter
   a. Discussion around starting chapter ( how did you decide to create a Chapter)
   b. Founding Officers
   c. What were the major local community issues at the time?
   d. Officers cabinets through present

II. Social Action -Local Implementation
   a. Statement on Racism and Poverty
   b. African American Family Preservation
   c. Transracial Adoption
   d. Southern Africa
   e. Domestic Violence
   f. Welfare Reform
   g. Inclusion of Black Scholars in social work curriculum.
   h. Increasing Black faculty and students in social work
Preserving “NABSW 50 Years: Celebrating Our Legacy, Fulfilling the Dream” through the Sankofa Recovery Project (cont.)

III. Institution Building
   a. Are there community agencies which were founded by ABSW members? (For example, in Child Welfare/Adoption agencies, Senior Housing, etc)
   b. Are they inclusive of ABSW Code of Ethics
   c. Programming in the community (i.e. Rites of Passage)

IV. Signature Programs and Events
   a. Hosting Annual Conferences
   b. Annual Events (For example, Scholarship, Health Fair, Advocacy Day)
   c. Major/Crnerstone Events (not necessarily annual)

V. Community Collaboration
   a. Working with Universities
   b. Affinity Organizations (i.e. Black United Front, NAACP, Black Psychologists/Nurses)
   c. International relationships

VI. Spotlight on Key Members
   a. Long time members
   b. Members who have made a significant impact in the social work profession
   c. Members who have made a significant impact locally

VII. Artifacts
   a. Pictures (label the event/persons/year)
   b. Memorabilia
   c. Pins/buttons/t-shirts
   d. Published documents – newspaper clippings, pamphlets, newsletters, membership applications, books, etc.

Old ABSW Newsletter; document donated by Margaret L. Penn; Greater Hartford Alliance of Black Social Workers)
NABSW 50th Anniversary Celebration
April 3rd-7th, 2018

Come out and be a part of History as NABSW celebrates our 50th Anniversary. Next year’s theme: “NABSW: Celebrating Our Legacy/Fulfilling the Dream”

Members of the 50th Anniversary and the National Conference Committees are putting together several days of events for conferees to enjoy as we witness an historical moment honoring the legacy of the National Association of Black Social Workers Inc. Conferees will have an opportunity to take a walk through history and have an opportunity to meet our founders who will educate us about that historical moment in time 50 years ago. There are several events and activities planned for the entire week in the beautiful city of San Diego:

**Tuesday:** Kick-start the Conference with the Community Day of Service in collaboration with Health & Wellness and OSA: Community Health Fair and Community Garden Project. Conferees will be able to fill their stomachs with great food, music, and fun, at the “Soul Picnic” following the Day of Service.

**Wednesday:** Meet & Greet-Conferees will sip & chat during a toast with a signature drink on the lawn of the hotel during sunset.

**Thursday:** Put on your formalwear for the 50th Celebration Gala- appetizers, cash bar, and music. There will be a guest appearance from a local celebrity.

**Friday:** National Conference Dance: “Do You Remember the Times?” Get into your favorite dance clothes and shoes cause we are going to party through the decades!

More details regarding Conference Activities will be posted on the website and in the Conference Registration Brochure. We are going to have a Blast!! You don’t want to miss it!!

Yours Truly,

50th Anniversary Committee