

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER ASSOCIATION OF BLACK PSYCHOLOGISTS CHRONOLOGY

Compiled by Charlena D. Sears, Psy.D.

- Sept. 1968 *The Association of Black Psychologists (ABPsi)* was formed during the 1968 annual meeting of the *American Psychological Association (APA)*.
- 1968-1969 The Awkard Report (also known as the Wispe Report, 1969) was published in an *APA Journal* and showed that between 1920 and 1966 only 93 of 9,914 doctorates were awarded to Black Americans (Williams, 1974).
- August 1972 The Fourth Annual Meeting of *ABPsi* (and the first convention held separately from *APA*) was held in the same city just prior to *APA*. Members were housed at the Black owned Pitts Motor Inn.
- September 1972 A position statement, drafted by George D. Jackson of Essex County College, Newark, New Jersey on the Attica Prison situation was released to the press. Correspondence went directly to Governor Rockefeller of New York.
- August 1973 George D. Jackson became the Chairman-Elect of *ABPsi* at its Sixth Annual Meeting (third separate convention from *APA*) in Detroit, Michigan.
- August 1973 *New Jersey Chapter ABPsi* was formed. First meeting was held at the home of George Jackson in Orange. Daniel E. Williams was *ABPsi's* founding chairman. Other officers elected: Al Ramsey-vice chairman, Evelyn Darrell and Adrienne Harrison-secretaries, Duncan Walton-program chairman and Terry Scott-treasurer. Others present included Swan Brown, Evelyn Darrell, Sandra Dee, Mel Gary, Leon Green, Adrienne Harrison, Joyce Harrison, Nelson Henry, Elrick Murray, Al Ramsey, Terry Scott, Paul Tillman and Jeanette Thornton.
- Sept. 1973 Second *NJ ABPsi* organizing meeting was held at the Plainfield home of Daniel E. Williams. Present were Adrienne Harrison, George Jackson, Belinda Murray, Eldrick Murray, Al Ramsey and Daniel Williams.
- Oct. 1973 Third organizing meeting of *NJ ABPsi* was held. Present were Swan Brown, L. Jeanne Cordery, Evelyn Darrell, Sandra Dee, Mel Gary, Leon Green, Joyce Harrison, Nelson Henry, George Jackson, Gerald Jackson, Harrell Roberts, Terry Scott-Myers, Jeanette Thornton, Duncan Walton and Dan Williams.
- July 1974 Edward E. Johnson was the first Black psychologist invited to serve as Professor of Psychiatry at the Rutgers Medical School. He was subsequently invited to serve in a joint appointment as Professor of Rutgers Medical School, the Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology and the Graduate School of Rutgers University.
- August 1974 George Jackson became president of national *ABPsi*.
- 1974-1975 Daniel E. Williams was awarded for "Outstanding Leadership" by *NJ ABPsi*.

- August 1975 In a speech during the national ABPsi Convention in Boston, George Jackson calls for an ABPsi task force to document and present to the United Nations evidence of racial genocide.
- 1975-1977 Katye Monroe served as second president of *NJ ABPsi*.
- 1976 Edward E. Johnson was invited to serve as Member, The Civil Service Medical Review Board of the Department of Personnel of the State of New Jersey (now the Medical Review Board).
- 1977-1979 Duncan Walton served as third president of *NJ ABPsi*.
- August 1977 Daniel E. Williams was awarded the Diplomate in Clinical Psychology (ABPP) by the American Board of Professional Psychology.
- 1978-1980 Daniel E. Williams served as consulting editor for the Journal of Black Psychology, co-editor of the *NJ ABPsi* Newsletter and Regional Examiner of Candidates for the Diplomate in Clinical Psychology. He became Chairman-Elect and then Chairman of national *ABPsi*.
- 1978-1981 Duncan Walton was the second Black psychologist appointed as Member, The State Board of Psychological Examiners. Duncan was the first Black psychologist to earn a Ph.D. from Adelphi (1956).
- August 1979 A Chapter chartering task force was set up.
- 1979-1981 Melvin Gary served as fourth president of *NJ ABPsi*.
- May 1980 *NJ ABPsi* incorporated. *NJ ABPsi* was the first Charter member of the National ABPsi.
- July 1980 Larry Houston was awarded the Diplomate in Clinical Psychology (ABPP) by the American Board of Professional Psychology.
- August 1980 *NJ ABPsi* co-hosts the 13th Annual Convention of national *ABPsi* at the Regency Ballroom, Hyatt House in Cherry Hill, NJ. The topic: *Perspectives in Psychology: Theory, Research, Practice and the Black Professional*.
- 1980-1981 Daniel E. Williams served as President of national *ABPsi*.
- 1981 Edward E. Johnson was invited to serve as Member, The Blue Ribbon Knowledge Statement Panel for the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology.
- Sept. 1982 Evelyn Boyden Darrell was appointed to the Essex County Child Placement Review Board.
- 1983-1987 Paulette Hines served as fifth president of *NJ ABPsi*.
- June 1984 Lawrence Houston was promoted to the rank of Full Professor in the Africana Studies Department of Rutgers University.
- 1991 Lawrence Houston retired from Rutgers.

1993

Edward Johnson was named Chairman of the Medical Review Board.

August 2001

Lawrence Houston died.

1998

Duncan Walton retired from Rutgers University.

1998

Daniel E. Williams retired from Montclair State University.

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Association of Black Psychologists
Membership**

*** incomplete membership/officer information**

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Dr. Duncan Walton	(1977-1979)
Dr. Melvin Gary	(1979 – 1981)
Dr. Daniel E. Williams	(1981-1983)
Dr. Paulette Hines	(1983 – 1987)
Dr. Frances Trotman	(1987 – 1989)
Dr. Abisola Gallagher	(1989 – 1991)
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Dr. Valerie D. Scott	(1993 – 1994)
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Dr. Sharon Boyd-Jackson	(1999 – 2002)
Dr. Phyllis Bolling	(2002-)

EMBRACING OUR ORAL HISTORY

Highlights of the Early Development of the
New Jersey Association of Black Psychologists

By
Charlena D. Sears, Psy.D.

Featuring
The Movers and Shakers of the
Association of Black Psychologists
New Jersey Chapter

Sponsored by

The New Jersey Chapter
Association of Black Psychologists

Saturday, November 20, 2004

Acknowledgements

No one does anything without help and I have a large professional extended family. I would like to thank all the movers and shakers of African professional psychology in New Jersey. Your legacy has increased the accountability of mainstream professional psychology. It is an important part of the history of professional psychology in New Jersey and America. In particular, I would like to thank those who assisted in the formation and development of ideas for this project: Elder Dr. Duncan Walton, Elder Dr. Daniel E. Williams, and Dr. Paulette Moore Hines. Thanks to all of you who trusted me with your archival folders and pictures: Dr. Evelyn Darrell, Dr. Daniel Williams, Dr. Abisola Gallagher and others. I want to thank the frontline folks who assisted in bringing the details of the project to fruition: Dr. Phyllis Bolling, Dr. Alene Graham, Dr. Yolanda Hawkins-Rogers, Dr. Sharon Boyd-Jackson, Dr. Suzan Armstrong-West, and Dr. Ansley LaMar. Pardon me if I have omitted anyone. Finally, I would like to thank those of you who spent hours with me on the phone and in person telling me your stories and those who took time to write narratives. We do not want to lose your contributions. We want your information to be accurately recorded and available for everyone. Your collected conversations give a picture of NJ ABPsi over several decades. There is a tremendous heritage and legacy in NJ ABPsi.

You are an extraordinary, tenacious, fierce, determined group. So many of you have supported me, carried me, and paved the way for me. I honor you all.

Contents

Acknowledgements	vii
Introduction	ix
Why a New Jersey Chapter <i>ABPsi</i> Oral History Project?	
Founding Members of NJ <i>ABPsi</i>	1
The NJ <i>ABPsi</i> Council of Elders	2
The NJ <i>ABPsi</i> President's Council	3
NJ <i>ABPsi</i> Chronology	4
NJ <i>ABPsi</i> Past President's Message	6
Elder Daniel E. Williams, Ph.D., FAClinP, ABPP	
Elders Speak	
Elder Daniel E. Williams, Ph.D., FAClinP, ABPP	8
Elder Duncan E. Walton, Ph.D.	9
Founders Speak	
Ingrid S. Hill, MA.	11
Past Presidents Speak	
Abisola Gallagher, Ed.D.	13
Alene Graham, Psy.D.	15
Valerie Scott, Ed.D.	17
Sharon Boyd-Jackson, Ph.D.	18
Appendix	
Notes and Minutes from 1973 Meeting	21
George D. Jackson, Ph.D. Speech at the August 1975 <i>National ABPsi Convention</i> in Boston, MA	25
NJ <i>ABPsi</i> Co-hosts the 1980 <i>13th Annual ABPsi Convention</i> in Cherry Hill, NJ	31
<i>The Purposes and Missions of the Association of Black Psychologists- A History</i> by Robert L. Williams, Ph.D., a Founder, Past President and Elder of Elders	35
Invitation to Participate in the NJ <i>ABPsi</i> Oral History Project	42
Lift Every Voice and Sing	44

Why a New Jersey Chapter Oral History Project?

By Charlena Sears, Psy.D.

Although African American psychologists have made significant contributions to mainstream professional psychology and American life, most of their contributions are undocumented. Moreover, many of us have no idea the indignities and humiliations our early members and contributors have endured so that we can participate more fully in the mainstream. The NJ ABPsi Oral History Project hopes to change this. By discussing and recording profiles of vision, courage, dedication, and leadership, our aim is to document our own history and to give founders and contributors the attention they deserve. In doing so, we hope that all Americans will come to know and appreciate the accomplishments of our leaders. We hope to document and preserve this material for generations to come. If you would like to document your experiences with ABPsi for the history archives, please contact me via e-mail or fax: doctorcdsears@aol.com or (973) 744-1967.

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**FOUNDING MEMBERS AND EARLY CONTRIBUTORS
THE NEW JERSEY CHAPTER ASSOCIATION OF BLACK PSYCHOLOGISTS**

Dr. Evelyn Darrell

Mr. Gregory Alan Davis

Dr. Melvin Gary

Dr. Leon Green

Ms. Ingrid Hill

Dr. George Jackson (deceased)

Mr. Gerald Jackson

Dr. Ryno "Bud" Jackson

Ms. Marion Jones

Dr. Katy Monroe

Dr. Eldrick Murray

Ms. Terry Scott-Myers

Paul Tillman, Esq.

Dr. Duncan Walton

Dr. Daniel E. Williams

If you are a founder and have been omitted, please contact me at doctorcdsears@aol.com.

**NEW JERSEY CHAPTER ASSOCIATION OF BLACK PSYCHOLOGISTS
COUNCIL OF ELDERS**

The Council of Elders are life members, 55 years of age or older, with a minimum of twenty five years of membership in ABPsi and a record of established leadership at the local and national levels. The Council of Elders are selected by other founding members of the organization. They provide wisdom, guidance, clarification, interpretation or judgment regarding the traditions, practices, beliefs and ethics of ABPsi (Williams, 1999).

According to the ABPsi By-Laws, Elders should be acknowledged at public gatherings. Members must ask their permission to begin the meeting, discussion or event. Our distinguished Elders in New Jersey are:

Elder Duncan Walton, Ph.D.

Elder Daniel E. Williams, Ph.D., FAClinP, ABPP

**NEW JERSEY CHAPTER ASSOCIATION OF BLACK PSYCHOLOGISTS
PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL**

**PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE NEW JERSEY
ASSOCIATION OF BLACK PSYCHOLOGISTS**

Dr. Daniel E. Williams	(1973 – 1977)
Dr. Katie Monroe	(1977-1979)
Dr. Duncan Walton	(1979-1981)
Dr. Melvin Gary	(1981 – 1983)
Dr. Paulette Hines	(1983 – 1987)
Dr. Frances Trotman	(1987 – 1989)
Dr. Abisola Gallagher	(1989 – 1991)
Dr. Alene Graham	(1991 – 1993)
Dr. Valerie D. Scott	(1993 – 1994)
Dr. Arthur Pressley	(1994 – 1995)
Dr. Barbara Pulliam	(1995 – 1996)
Dr. Benjamin Thomason	(1996 – 1997)
Dr. Daniel E. Williams	(1997 – 1999)
Dr. Sharon Boyd-Jackson	(1999 – 2002)

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER ASSOCIATION OF BLACK PSYCHOLOGISTS CHRONOLOGY

Compiled by Charlena D. Sears, Psy.D.

- Sept. 1968 *The Association of Black Psychologists (ABPsi)* was formed during the 1968 annual meeting of the *American Psychological Association (APA)*.
- 1968-1969 The Awkard Report (also known as the Wispe Report, 1969) was published in an *APA Journal* and showed that between 1920 and 1966 only 93 of 9,914 doctorates were awarded to Black Americans (Williams, 1974).
- August 1972 The Fourth Annual Meeting of *ABPsi* (and the first convention held separately from *APA*) was held in the same city just prior to *APA*. Members were housed at the Black owned Pitts Motor Inn.
- September 1972 A position statement, drafted by George D. Jackson of Essex County College, Newark, New Jersey on the Attica Prison situation was released to the press. Correspondence went directly to Governor Rockefeller of New York.
- August 1973 George D. Jackson became the Chairman-Elect of *ABPsi* at its Sixth Annual Meeting (third separate convention from *APA*) in Detroit, Michigan.
- August 1973 *New Jersey Chapter ABPsi* was formed. First meeting was held at the home of George Jackson in Orange. Daniel E. Williams was *ABPsi's* founding chairman. Other officers elected: Al Ramsey-vice chairman, Evelyn Darrell and Adrienne Harrison-secretaries, Duncan Walton-program chairman and Terry Scott-treasurer. Others present included Swan Brown, Evelyn Darrell, Sandra Dee, Mel Gary, Leon Green, Adrienne Harrison, Joyce Harrison, Nelson Henry, Elrick Murray, Al Ramsey, Terry Scott, Paul Tillman and Jeanette Thornton.
- Sept. 1973 Second *NJ ABPsi* organizing meeting was held at the Plainfield home of Daniel E. Williams. Present were Adrienne Harrison, George Jackson, Belinda Murray, Eldrick Murray, Al Ramsey and Daniel Williams.
- Oct. 1973 Third organizing meeting of *NJ ABPsi* was held. Present were Swan Brown, L. Jeanne Cordery, Evelyn Darrell, Sandra Dee, Mel Gary, Leon Green, Joyce Harrison, Nelson Henry, George Jackson, Gerald Jackson, Harrell Roberts, Terry Scott-Myers, Jeanette Thornton, Duncan Walton and Dan Williams.
- July 1974 Edward E. Johnson was the first Black psychologist invited to serve as Professor of Psychiatry at the Rutgers Medical School. He was subsequently invited to serve in a joint appointment as Professor of Rutgers Medical School, the Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology and the Graduate School of Rutgers University.
- August 1974 George Jackson became president of national *ABPsi*.
- 1974-1975 Daniel E. Williams was awarded for "Outstanding Leadership" by *NJ ABPsi*.

- August 1975 In a speech during the national ABPsi Convention in Boston, George Jackson calls for an ABPsi task force to document and present to the United Nations evidence of racial genocide.
- 1976 Edward E. Johnson was invited to serve as Member, The Civil Service Medical Review Board of the Department of Personnel of the State of New Jersey (now the Medical Review Board).
- 1977-1979 Duncan Walton was elected second president of *NJ ABPsi*.
- August 1977 Daniel E. Williams was awarded the Diplomate in Clinical Psychology (ABPP) by the American Board of Professional Psychology.
- 1978-1980 Daniel E. Williams served as consulting editor for the Journal of Black Psychology, co-editor of the *NJ ABPsi* Newsletter and Regional Examiner of Candidates for the Diplomate in Clinical Psychology. He became Chairman-Elect and then Chairman of national ABPsi.
- 1978-1981 Duncan Walton was the second Black psychologist appointed as Member, The State Board of Psychological Examiners. Duncan was the first Black psychologist to earn a Ph.D. from Adelphi (1956).
- August 1979 A Chapter chartering task force was set up.
- May 1980 *NJ ABPsi* incorporated. *NJ ABPsi* was the first Charter member of the National ABPsi.
- July 1980 Larry Houston was awarded the Diplomate in Clinical Psychology (ABPP) by the American Board of Professional Psychology.
- August 1980 *NJ ABPsi* co-hosts the 13th Annual Convention of national *ABPsi* at the Regency Ballroom, Hyatt House in Cherry Hill, NJ. The topic: *Perspectives in Psychology: Theory, Research, Practice and the Black Professional*.
- 1980-1981 Daniel E. Williams served as President of *ABPsi*.
- 1981 Edward E. Johnson was invited to serve as Member, The Blue Ribbon Knowledge Statement Panel for the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology.
- Sept. 1982 Evelyn Boyden Darrell was appointed to the Essex County Child Placement Review Board.
- June 1984 Lawrence Houston was promoted to the rank of Full Professor in the Africana Studies Department of Rutgers University.
- 1991 Lawrence Houston retired from Rutgers.
- 1993 Edward Johnson was named Chairman of the Medical Review Board.
- August 2001 Lawrence Houston died.
- 1998 Duncan Walton retired from Rutgers University.
- 1998 Daniel E. Williams retired from Montclair State University.

*New Jersey Chapter
Association of Black Psychologists*

1973 - 1998

*President's Message
Daniel E. Williams Ph.D., FAClinP, ABPP*

During this, our twenty-fifth year, it would be very appropriate to tell you about our beginning. As you know, National was started by a few dissatisfied Black Psychologists at the convention of the American Psychological Association in San Francisco in 1968. I had just been awarded my Ph.D. in June 1968 and was preparing for my new position as an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Montclair State College so I was not part of that illustrious group of giants. In the early years we would hold our "conventions" at the same time as APA and in the same city in order to attract more Black Psychologists. In 1973 the APA Convention was in the "Lost Colony" (D. C.) and we held our convention at the Black owned Pitts Hotel (and it was the pits). We held our meetings at the headquarters of the then antipoverty agency in D.C. that had as its Executive Director a young radical named Marion Berry. At that convention--which was very informal and we had no agenda--some of us from New Jersey decided to get some folks together in New Jersey when we got back and form a chapter. I do not recall the details of our first meeting. However, our second organizing meeting was held on Sunday, September 30, 1973, at my home in Plainfield. Present at that meeting were the late George Jackson, who had been elected President of National and who was also the Dean at Essex County Community College, Elrick Murray--now an M. D. (OB. Gyn) practicing in Union County, Al Ramsey (now living and practicing in Detroit), Adrienne Harrison and Belinda Murray.

The third organizing meeting was held on October 12, 1973 at the home of George Jackson in Orange. Present at that meeting were Gerald Jackson, Ryno (Bud Jackson), Evelyn Darrell, Adrienne Harrison, Elrick Murray, Paul Tillman and Duncan Walton. We had an election of officers and those elected were Daniel E. Williams, Chairman; Adrienne Harrison, Recording Secretary; Al Ramsey, Vice Chairman; Evelyn Darrell, Secretary, and Terry Scott-Myers, Treasurer. We decided to take the necessary steps to obtain a charter from National. There were no charters at that time. However, later, NJ ABPsi was the first chapter in the Country to obtain a charter from National. At that third meeting we decided to direct our efforts towards getting a Black Psychologist on the Board of Psychological Examiners. We sought the help of the American Civil Liberties Union in challenging the composition of the Board of Psychological Examiners. On January 8, 1974, with the approval of the Chapter, I wrote a letter to the then Governor-Elect Brendan Byrne, nominating Duncan Walton and George Jackson for a position on the Board of Psychological Examiners. On January 14, 1974 we received a response from the Governor-Elect's Executive Secretary assuring us that Duncan and George would receive every consideration for an appointment to the Board.

Our next meeting was held on October 27, 1973. Present at that meeting were, Duncan Walton Mel Gary, Leon Green, Harrell Roberts, L. Jeanne Cordery, Terry Scott-Myers, Evelyn Darrell, Sandra Dee, Jeanette Thornton, Debra Moore, Paul Tillman, Elrick Murray, Nelson Henry, Joyce Harrison, Swan Brown, George Jackson, Gerald Jackson and Dan Williams. Jeanette Thornton earned her Doctorate from the Counseling Psychology Program at the Graduate School of Education at Rutgers University. She went to Medical School at Boston University and is now a Psychiatrist in Albany, New York. Paul Tillman is a School Psychologist in Paterson and is a licensed attorney. Terry Scott-Myers has been living in Los Angeles for many years.

In November 1974 we asked the Honorable Eldridge Hawkins, then Chairman of the Judiciary Committee in the Assembly and the individual on whom Governor Byrne relied for approval for all of his Judiciary nominees, to request of the Governor that he consider appointing a Black representative to the Board of Psychological Examiners. I wrote Mr. Hawkins a letter indicating the Governor's choices, as I saw them, in this matter. He could (1) request the Legislature to expand the Board of Psychological Examiners, (2) appoint a Black Consultant Psychologist to the Board or (3) request that one of the white Board Members relinquish his/her position to a Black Psychologist. Mr. Hawkins forwarded my letter to the Governor. In 1975, I was appointed by Governor Byrne to the Board of Psychological Examiners, where I served for three years--resigning in 1978. In January 1979, Duncan Walton was

appointed to the Board of Psychological Examiners where he became the Chairman. Duncan's appointment was helped along by the late Mrs. Mildred Barry-Garvin, then a member of the Assembly.

These are some of the highlights of our early years. We have had some very good people as members over the years and those of you who are still around, please consider joining us again. Here are some additional names of individuals who struggled with us in the beginning: Oscar Barbarin, Curtis Banks, Joyce Byrd, Alan Davis, Janice Frost, Janice Gloster, Al Griffith, Bob McMillan, J. Benson Parks, Margaret Hayes, Robert Smalls, Ingrid Hill, C. L. Griffin, Corann Okurododu, Anette Kearney, Ed Johnson, Lorna Grant and Marion Jones.

There are a few giants among us upon whose backs most of us accomplished whatever we have accomplished to date in New Jersey. Ed Johnson, Ph.D., Professor at UMDNJ Piscataway, came to New Jersey from Louisiana where he was a member of the Board of Psychological Examiners. Ed has been at the medical school for over twenty years and, for a time, was the only Psychologist among the faculty and a full professor at that. Ed also serves on the Civil Service Review Board of the State of New Jersey. Ed Johnson and Larry Houston were classmates at Howard University. They were taught by the late Francis Cecil Sumner who earned his Ph.D. in 1920 from Clark University in Massachusetts. If you are not familiar with the works of Dr. Sumner you can read about him in Guthrie's book, *Even the Rat Was White*.

Larry Houston earned his B.S. and M.S. from Howard University and his Ed.D. from Temple. Larry was a full professor at Trenton State College before he went to Rutgers University. He was the Chairperson of the Department of African Studies at Douglas College from 1972 to 1980. Larry retired from Rutgers in 1991.

Duncan Walton was awarded his Ph.D. by Adelphi University. He was the first African-American to earn a Ph.D. in Psychology from Adelphi. He has also been the Chairperson, Department of Educational Psychology (Counseling Psychology) at the Graduate School of Education, Rutgers University. He was also the Assistant Chief, Psychology Service, Veterans Administration Hospital, East Orange, N.J.

Evelyn Darrell was one of the founding members of the New Jersey Chapter of ABPsi. She worked with David Wechsler (of WISC/WAIS fame) at Bellevue Hospital in New York City and she is still there.

Marion Jones has also been with us almost from the beginning. She lives in Bergen County and has always worked in New York City.

Eugene Gadson was the first African-American Psychologist to work for a State Agency. He is currently in private practice in South Jersey.

Earl Wanzer has been a Psychologist since 1951 and has been a School Psychologist for many years in Northern New Jersey.

These then are our true Elders; individuals on whose backs we have all climbed--repositories of a great deal of knowledge about Black Psychologists in New Jersey.

In order for you to put the knowledge of some these individuals into some perspective---most of them predated me in Psychology and I have retired from Montclair State University after thirty years of teaching--I am drawing Social Security and I have my Medicare card. Thank you all for paving the way for me. You are my models, my heroes. I am because of you.

DANIEL E. WILLIAMS, PH.D., ABPP, P.A.
A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION,
DIPLOMATE IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY,
AMERICAN BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

CENTRAL PARKWAY MEDICAL BUILDING
185 CENTRAL AVENUE - SUITE 609
EAST ORANGE, NEW JERSEY

(201) 675-9200
(201) 675-9201

The Association of Black Psychologists, New Jersey

Chapter

We had our first organization meeting on September 30, 1973 at the home of George Jackson, Ph.D.. Initial members were Duncan Walton, Ph.D., Mel Gary, Ph.D., Al Ramsey, Ph.D., Evelyn Darrell, Sandra Dee, Jeanette Thornton, Ed.D., Elrick Murray, Paul Tillman, Debra Moore, Nelson Henry, Joyce Harrison, Adrian Harrison, Swan Brown, Gerald Jackson, Terr Scott, Leon Green

Officers elected:

Chairman - Daniel E. Williams, Ph.D.
Vice Chairman - Al Ramsey, Ph.D.
Secretary - Evelyn Darrell & Adrienne Harrison
Program Chairman - Duncan Walton, Ph.D.
Treasurer - Terry Scott

Our initial standing committees were the same as those of National, at that time; re: Prisons, Education, Research and Social Action.

The most significant event of 1974 was our getting a Black Psychologist appointed to the Board of Psychological Examiners of the State of New Jersey. It was purely a political maneuver. At that time, the Chairperson of the Assembly Judiciary Committee was Black and the Governor needed his approval for all individuals nominated to be Judges. I was appointed to the Board in 1975. At the present time, the second Black Psychologist serving on the Board is Duncan Walton, Ph.D., and he is the Vice-Chairperson of the Board. We held our first series of workshops at the VA Hospital in East Orange, N.J. in 1976.

Our other presidents have been:

Kati Monroe
Duncan Walton
Mel Gary
Paulette Hines (Current President)

I was the founding Chairperson and President, again, 1982-1983. We are a tax-exempt organization and we are incorporated. Our political "arm" is a separate, incorporated unit (Black Psychologists For Political Action).

NJABPsi: A Brief History and Opinion

By Duncan E. Walton

November 12, 2004

We are one, our cause is one, and we must help each other; If we are to succeed.

--Frederick Douglass

In similar spirit, a handful of Black psychologists, disaffected by the goings-on at the 1968 American Psychological Association convention, united to form their own professional organization, The Association of Black Psychologists. In the ensuing years, its ranks have grown to 1400 members.

By the mid-1960s, the cries for social justice turned into a Black Power revolt, sweeping a spirit of "Black is beautiful" through African-American communities. The changing mood generated organized struggles (e.g., demands for special programs in universities) involving an increased Black consciousness to one's own condition and/or circumstance. Psychology was no different and has not been the same since. It's what I like to think of as 'coming through the fog and finding our place in psychology.'

A small group of Black psychologists met, in Spring 1973, for a brainstorming session to explore how best to work together and found sufficient interest to organize a chapter of Black Psychologists. The first meeting was held at the home of the late George Jackson in September of that year and Dr. Daniel Willams was elected as president. Under his leadership, we sought for representation on the State Board of Psychological Examiners, explored plans for involvement with the then nascent Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology, and paid due diligence to recruiting our membership, as well as to establishing needed structural components to our organization.

Among those active and still residing in New Jersey during the grass roots efforts are: Mel Gary, Leon Green and Evelyn Darrell. Those who have fallen off my radar screen include: Al Ramsey, Lorna Grant, Vernita McNeil, Terry Scott-Myers, and Birles Boston. The late Larry Houston made key contributions until his untimely death a few years ago. To any of those whom I have missed, I extend my apologies.

The programs, activities, and achievements of our chapter are too numerous to mention in this limited space. In the interest of avoiding duplication, it is wise to do so as others are likely to cover those items while transmitting their view of our history. However, I choose to mention a few areas, perhaps the most exciting of which is reaching out and supporting Black students in psychology. They constitute our pipeline, our future, the torchbearers to ensure our place in psychology. I, also, value the opportunity for some of us to form small groups and share activities. Some have bonded together and vacation to distant lands; others meet to hone professional skills (e.g., the EMDR peer supervision group). Our networking works in many productive and enjoyable ways.

The growth of our organization has been hampered by limited numbers (in particular, active members), limited amounts of time and money (we're all so busy in our work and home lives), and limited connectedness (waxing and waning of interest). We, like most organizations, have experienced peaks and valleys in our development. We have pulled out of low periods by reaching out to each other and finding ways to help one another. I have no doubt that we are climbing to higher ground through a resurgence of activity. Let's all pull together for our mutual good and for those we aim to serve.

Subj: Requested info.
Date: 11/17/2004 11:17:49 AM Eastern Standard Time
From: hillingr@shu.edu (Ingrid S Hill)
To: doctorcdsears@aol.com

Charlena,

Some info. on me.

I am currently employed as the Associate Director in the Educational Opportunity Program at Seton Hall University and enrolled in the doctoral program in Administration and Supervision in Higher Education. Since 1991, I have been directing a volunteer program for juvenile offenders, substance abusers, and young women in shelters (The Youth Leadership Development Turnkey Training Program) for the Newark North Jersey Committee of Black Clergy on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings.. In addition, I serve as the Chairperson of the Black Administrators, Faculty and Staff Association, advisor to the Black Student Union, member of the Academic Advisement Committee and Human Relations Council at Seton Hall University. I am also a member of Leadership New Jersey.

I have an undergraduate degree in Psychology and a M.A. degree in Counseling and Special Services. I'm currently pursuing a PDE degree in Higher Educational Leadership, Management and Policy.

I served as Vice President of NJ ABPsi from 1981-1983.

As an undergraduate student, I had the opportunity to meet a number of individuals who in one way or another served as catalysts for my initial involvement in ABPsi. The person who stands out first and foremost, was my undergraduate psychology advisor, professor and mentor Mel Gary. Others were Al Ramsey and a number of graduate students Harrell Roberts, Jose Robinson, Terri, Oscar Barbarin and Leon Green.

I joined ABPsi in the 70's and became actively involved in the organization. These times were challenging and exciting. We spent numerous times planning activities in line with the national theme and goals, as well as the needs being identified within our various communities. I recall the following committees being established to address a cadre of concerns: (1) Fund Raising, Program, Social Action, Professional Activities, Historian, Speakers Bureau, Student Concerns, Job Announcements, Public Relations and Newsletter. In addition, professional presentations were provided by a number of individuals on various topics regarding the Black community. Other times were spent brainstorming and placing into action ways in which we could strengthen the organization and meet community needs. We also pursued the idea of forming a Black Professional Alliance with entities such as Black nurses, Black doctors, Black attorneys, etc. A number of meetings were set up to discuss forming the alliance and sharing the various problems that faced our communities,

and how as a unified group we could address them.

On the national front, we hosted the ABPsi's National Convention in Cherry Hill in collaboration with the New York, Pennsylvania, and D.C. chapters of ABPsi. I served as the state representative to the national committee for the convention.

----- Headers -----

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X-Mailer: Lotus Notes Release 5.0.8 June 18, 2001

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Abisola Gallagher, Ed.D

When did you become involved with ABPsi?

I became involved with ABPsi in October 1978, over a month after I began my doctoral studies at Rutgers University in the Graduate School of Education. I was introduced to ABPsi by Dr. Duncan Walton; he was one of my professors and the first Black psychologist I had ever met or even heard about. He told me about ABPsi and a conference the organization was having on the Livingston Campus (October 1978). Since I was not able to afford the conference registration fee, I volunteered to work at the conference. Afterwards I began to attend the monthly meetings and have continued my involvement ever since.

I have served in a number of positions: vice president for four years during Dr. Paulette Hines two consecutive terms as president from 1983 to-1987 ; Membership Committee, 1983-87, chair; Fundraising Committee, 1987-1989; president 1989-91; AIDS consultant, 1991-1996; ABPsi/NJPA Urban Violence Initiative Committee, 1993-1995; and co-advisor of the Student Concerns Committee, 1993-1995. For a number of years until recently Dr. Walton and I produced our referral directory. At the present time, I am responsible for managing our telephone referrals. My strong commitment over the years to ABPsi is my way of giving back what I have received from the organization, as well as due to my commitment to the profession and ultimately to the Black community.

What has been most significant for you about ABPsi?

Most significant for me has been the relationships I have formed with many of the members, the tremendous support I have received, and the wonderful sense I have had of being part of something greater than my self and as such making a contribution to our community and to the profession of psychology.

The relationships I have formed through ABPsi have been particularly important, because when I moved from the Midwest to New Jersey to pursue my doctoral studies I did not have a support system. ABPsi members made me feel welcomed at the meetings and encouraged me to become active. ABPsi became my support system both in developing my professional career and personally. Today, a number of the people I befriended through the organization are among my closest friends. In this way I believe ABPsi has been important to others who have been involved.

What do you think about the future of ABPsi?

I believe it is important that ABPsi continue as an organization and especially to support students since they are the future of the organization and because of the great need for

more Black psychologists, address the mental health needs of our community and to continue to contribute to the field of psychology.

The organization needs to continue to build on relationships, and support and encourage participation; important to this is to improve communications to the membership. Further, so much has changed in the profession and in ABPsi over the years, I think it is time to reassess the focus of the organization and the needs of the membership, especially since our membership represents a wide range of experiences and interests; from those just entering the profession to those moving toward the end of their careers. Finally, we need to also continue our efforts, as we have in the past, to work collaboratively with other organizations that will assist us in furthering our goals.

**The New Jersey Chapter of the
Association of Black Psychologists**

Oral History Project

Questions for Discussion – Dr. Alene Graham

1. In what year did you become active in NJABPsi?

I believe I attended a conference at Rutgers in the late 70's. My most outstanding memory is that I couldn't believe that I was actually in the same room with real, live, Black psychologists. I recall attending some meetings and conferences but didn't become really active until the early 80's.

2. What were your experiences leading up to, during and after your involvement with NJABPsi?

My vivid memories leading up to ABPsi have to do with being the only African-American student in my psychology classes, all White professors, and having to confront the nature-nurture issue on intelligence. I also recall my impressions of my introduction to the different theoretical and treatment models and thinking that perhaps they didn't really address us. I do recall feeling better as I began to read everything written by African-American psychologists.

More than anything, I began to feel connected as I became more involved with ABPsi. There were other professionals who shared my concerns. Some of those early relationships have lasted through the years. There were people who helped me through my dissertation. When I was confronted with problems regarding my program proposal and internship in my doctorate program, I called Duncan Walton and he took care of it. As I began to learn more and more about those people who founded ABPsi and what it meant to me to have them as role models, I felt an obligation to get seriously involved.

I haven't left ABPsi so I can't speak to involvement "after". I did take a break because, as you know, there are so few of us and we're pulled in so many directions. But it is my intention to always remain connected to ABPsi.

3. Please connect your experiences to an historic context and the national concerns.
Is there an underlying pattern embedded in the experiences?

The issue of how we are portrayed in the media, of every medium, has always troubled me, the repeated negative images or the status of being invisible. When I was undergraduate school I took an advanced course in social psychology. With that came the opportunity to choose a topic and conduct a study. I chose "Black Teenage Pregnancy" because it had become a national problem, but more specifically, a problem for our community. I was noticing a culture of acceptance and beginning to wonder what the impact would be 20 years later. As a Black psychologist, I felt compelled to look at the problem from our perspective.

4. How or in what ways were your experiences problematic?

I'm not sure how to answer this question. Whatever the problems, I confronted them, spoke out, reached out for support and advice, and moved on.

5. How did you identify solutions? What resources needed to be developed?

With the support of a Black female psychologists group that I was lucky to find, I chose the topic for my dissertation. By the way, without the nurturing and support of this group, I don't know how I would have met the challenges in my life, both personally and professionally. I chose an all-Black school district in

Paterson and a Black principal. I must say that my dissertation study was the most rewarding because I know that my research contributed to the understanding of this problem. I traced the issue from slavery to the time of my study. I feel that this example illustrates how the strength I gained from the ABPsi community empowered me and influenced my decisions to try to make a difference.

6. What are your current concerns and experiences?

I feel a sense of depression about the condition of our people today, the family structure, education, health, commercialism. Yes, I see the positives for many, but I see the tragedy everyday. I see school systems that have failed to educate so many—so many young people with a readiness to react, an anger and sense of despair. I know that many of them have come from those families where their mothers were 15 and their fathers are in an upstate prison. Instead of blaming the victims, I worry that we don't do enough to understand and help find solutions, to challenge the systems that create despair.

On a professional level, I'm doing fine. Racism and sexism is here to stay but I deal with it. I'm more concerned about what I can do and ABPsi can do to positively impact the black family in America. We all work on this everyday in our professions, but I believe ABPsi as a group is challenged to do more.

7. What areas need to be developed? What resources are needed?

1. An education, k-doctoral programs, that require the incorporation of our history, not offer it as an elective. I think there was a course in my doctoral program called, "Minority Issues" or something like that. It was an elective course.
2. Social call-for-action and action on the Black Family in America.
8. What can NJABPsi do to address these concerns?

ABPsi can do what Bill Cosby did, but from a perspective of compassion and understanding. We've been too silent as a State organization and nationally.

9. How do you view the organization?

ABPsi is our connection to each other and to future generations of students and professionals of African descent.

10. What questions and issues would you like to add to the discussion?

I guess the question of "change" might be part of the dialogue. How do we handle it as an organization? Are the programs that we made available 10, 15, 20 years ago still relevant today: Is our current structure/organization one that will meet the needs of future generations? Human beings tend to resist change, but maybe it's time to look at ABPsi anew. From another perspective, the continuity, support and history that people such as Dr. Daniel Williams and Dr. Duncan Walton have given us is our foundation and we should always respect that. I am grateful that they stayed with ABPsi in some way over all of these years and that we can still call them. Whatever we do, we should speak with our founders first and keep that connection strong.

My experiences in ABPsi, for the most part, have been positive and nurturing, productive. Even the struggles have led to my personal growth and development. For that, I am grateful.

Valerie Scott,
President 1993-94

It is hard for me to really remember exactly what went on during the years 93-94 versus things that happened during my executive board involvement which began in 1986 and ended in 2001. But here is a listing of some of the events that stand out for me, some of which occurred during my presidency and some of which occurred during my executive board service under other presidents.

I was one of the first presidents to serve only a one-year term. It has been decided with the presidency before mine that 2 years led to burn out. During the time of my own presidency I continued the networking with the New Jersey Psychological Association began under Dr. Graham. Abpsi was given a non-voting representative on the NJ Psy Association Board, Dr. Arthur Pressely served in this capacity for us. We also jointly sponsored the Spring Conference traditionally given only by NJPA. Also during this time we were in the early stages of having our own office space and telephone number and referral service. Identifying office space was a difficult and sometimes frustrating and discouraging process as we first sought to build a relationship with a church that would give us office space in exchange for counseling, workshops and other service to the church. Eventually we ended up subletting space on Main street in Orange. We then moved to the current location in West Orange.

I have also served as Chair of student concerns, and we had a very active student membership. One of the outstanding contributions we made was to provide crisis intervention to students at Seton Hall after the dorm fire that resulted in the deaths of several students. We also had a very active support system for those preparing case presentations for the NJ license. We had several workshops and meetings to support people writing their cases and preparing for the written and oral exams. We kept a file of successful cases presented by our members and a list of questions they were asked by the examining team.

I am especially proud of the three black mental health month conferences I spearheaded in 1998, 1999, and 2000. These conferences successfully reached out to members of the NJ community of all races and professions. We held them at Seton Hall, and had attendance averaging 200. These were "Focus on the African American Male: Survival in the 21st Century" "People of Color: Building and strengthening community" and "Spirituality: Healing, Strengthening and Growing in the New Millenium." In 2002 we also held a smaller but successful conference "Silence Hurts: Healing and the Community in times of crisis."

We also had some interesting outings. One that stands out for me occurred at Cross Roads theatre in New Brunswick. We saw the play "Tod, the boy Tod" which was followed by a discussion with the writer, producer and actors and a buffet dinner.

It was around the time of my presidency, but probably actually begin with another president that we had several years of progressive dinners. I was organizer of the first progressive dinner, which kicked off our membership drive and new membership year. This involved a dinner at members homes that had appetizers at one location, dinner at another and dessert and games at the final destination. Members really supported this, providing the appetizers, drinks and desserts, and serving on set up and clean up, as well as opening their homes. One year instead of the progressive dinner we had an affair at a club in East Orange, but the turn out was not as large, so we went back to the progressive dinner the following year.

We also had a wonderful 25 year celebration, which was a catered dinner held on the campus of Upsala College. Founding members were honored and certificates were given out for 10 year memberships and more.

All in all we have had a wonderful organization that has always been committed to service to the community. This was represented in our free speakers bureau, and our media watch among other initiatives in the 80's and still continues in various ways today.

Sharon Boyd-Jackson, Ph.D

Reflection on my Tenure as NJABPsi President 9/99- 6/02

I would like to begin by saying that although I was reluctant to take on such a demanding and important position, I am certainly thankful for the experience. There were several needs and concerns that I recognized and attempted to fulfill during my tenure as president of the New Jersey Association of Black Psychologists (NJABPsi). It was truly a learning endeavor and a challenging encounter that has strongly influenced my growth as a person. The concerns and accomplishments are described below.

September 1999 to June 2000:

The theme for the organizational year of September 1999 to June 2000 was "Healing and Renewal of the Spirit." The program for our first meeting of the year was entitled "Religion and Mental Health" by Dr. Arthur Pressley who has several years of research and experience in this area. During our winter meeting in January 2000, Dr. Barbara Velazquez presented her thesis that investigated personality variables of individuals that practiced traditional versus non-traditional religions.

The Afrocentric psychology study group was also developed during this year. The goal of the study group was to develop spiritual renewal through sharing and expanding knowledge. Another objective was to increase a better understanding of the role of Afrocentricity in our work as African-American and Black psychologists. Another important endeavor during this year was to put in motion a structure that would revive and maintain the NJABPsi newsletter, Connections. Prior to this the last newsletter published was in 1996.

Dr. Juneau Gary volunteered to become editor to the newsletter, Connections. She has impressively published at least two newsletters per year during my tenure as president of NJABPsi. The quality of her efforts can be seen in her ability to be persistent and determined to publish and maintain deadline dates. She should be commended for her ability to influence members to contribute articles and for her creativity in developing interesting criteria to be included in the newsletter.

The conference for this year was successful. It was held on April 15, 2000 at Seton Hall University and entitled "Spirituality: Healing, Strengthening, and Growing in the New Millennium." Dr. Valerie Scott did an excellent job coordinating this conference which was co-sponsored by the Minority Academic Careers Program (MAC). Dr. Scott was also the director of the MAC program at the time. This conference was free to the community and well attended with approximately 100 individuals that range from professionals to non professionals.

At the end of this year, a survey was conducted (July 2000) to assess the needs and concerns of the membership. This survey was necessary to evaluate specific needs and focus on the future direction of the organization. Survey results indicated: 1) A need for additional small group professionally oriented discussions (*related to "Black" issues*); 2) A need for a variety in discussion topics; 3) a need for peer research consultation and; 4) An interest in presentations from professionals outside of the chapter

September 2000 to June 2001:

The September 2000 year began with the theme of "Sankofa," The executive board designed programs and activities based on responses from the membership survey. The first priority for NJABPsi members, according to survey responses, was "provide a home for the exchange of ideas and reinforcement of professional identities." This year programs were designed for members to share ideas and to dialogue between meetings by increasing events that are not connected to administration or business. The Sunday Circles are opportunities for small group discussion of issues relevant to psychologists of African Descent. This type of forum gives members an opportunity to vent,

collaborate, brainstorm and develop solutions to issues that are important to us all. Members were polled for topics and themes for our Sunday Circles which were held in various members' homes.

The first program for this year was a report on National ABPsi's conference which was held in Ghana, West Africa. There were at least four members who attended and presented, Dr. Dan Williams, Dr. Shawn Utsey and two students Mark Bolden and Andre Brown. Other programs the year focused on discussion of racism and psychology.

In lieu of a conference, a retreat was organized to develop further analysis and of the ideas developed from the survey and to develop proactive measures. The retreat proved fruitful in that it stimulated a revival of past ideas and discussion of possible new ventures (developing a speaker's bureau, media watch group, community service activities). The retreat also provided a renewal of organizational strength and implementation of ideas such as updating brochures and directories, and revising the membership package.

September 2001 to June 2002:

This year calendar of events were interrupted by the tragic attack on September 11th (9/11), the horrific destruction of the World Trade Center., lost lives, devastated Americans, and the subsequent terrorist threats. This was certainly a significant and challenging year for the organization.

As Black Psychologists the organization pulled together and: 1) Developed a program for crisis and trauma training for our members and; 2) Scheduled a "Think Tank" with invited guest Gil Noble to discuss, process and make some decision about the responsibilities of the organization. The crisis training helped to better prepare our clinical members to deal with the possible incoming clients directly impacted by 9/11.

The "Think Tank" helped the organizational members to process for themselves the impact of this horrific event. The first outcome of the "Think Tank" allowed members to be able to vent their own fears, anger and disappointments as well as support one another. The second outcome was that it allowed members to utilize our Sankofa theme and discuss the perceived overall reaction of the black community. The members recalled and recognized that experiencing terror, destruction and annihilation was not a novelty to the Black community. It is believed that the lynchings, rapes, bombings, and killings that Blacks have endured during slavery, Jim Crow, Civil Rights movement and even today have unfortunately prepared Black folks to cope with terror. Our internal coping strategies have been strengthened in order to deal with the devastating racial discrimination, oppression and consistent attacks on our community. Finally, the "Think Tank" enabled us to develop a list of a variety of resources and through our newsletter, distribute them to people in the Black community and to local community agencies. In addition, our individual members volunteered their services to agencies such as the Red Cross.

The NJABPsi conference was held on April 20, 2002 at New Hope Baptist Church in Newark, New Jersey. The conference focused on the impact of trauma in the Black community. The year ended with a clinical case presentation moderated by Dr. Duncan Walton. The panel consisted of Dr. Geoffrey Young, NJABPsi member; Dr. Barbara Pulliam, NJABPsi member and Dr. Ken Roy, President, State Board of Psychological Examiners.

Fundraising

From November 1999 through March 2000 a few Theatre engagements were organized as fundraisers and enjoyed by our members as well as other NJABPsi supporters. The Crossroads Theatre and the State theatre in New Brunswick, NJ were utilized for these events. In addition, selling strips of Kente cloth with the NJABPsi logo were also sold for a moderate profit.

In September 2000 Dr. Anetta Hooper coordinated a t-shirt fundraiser. She was able to work with a company that utilized our logo to make high quality t-shirts that our members brought for themselves and loved ones. T-shirts and other items were also raffled off at the end of the year picnic (June 2001)

at the home of Dr. Paulette Hines. There were no significant changes in the fundraising efforts during the 2001-02 organizational years.

Expansion of the Board and New Developments

Dr. Matthew Johnson was recruited and appointed to the position of Liaison of Community and Political Affairs. This was a new executive board position developed to increase proactive measures of the organization. Thanks to Dr. Johnson the organization participated in several protests against racial profiling and police harassment. NJABPsi actively participated march on Trenton against the unfair treatment of Earl Faison in April 2000. The organization also sent letters to the State Attorney General, James Farmer regarding our protest against police misconduct and harassment. In addition, NJABPsi has supported the hard work of the Garden State Bar Association in their efforts to advocate for a moratorium on the death penalty and the protest against racial profiling in New Jersey.

The position of the Council of Elders has also been revived and Dr. Duncan Walton and Dr. Dan Williams were recognized as two important elders who have been consistently involved and supportive of the organization since its inception. In June 2001 they were presented an Ankh, the symbolic representation of eternal life. The Ankh is said to bestow immortality on those who possess it.

In the year of 2001-02 there began an effort to development an Executive Board Manual. I believe the necessity of this manual is critical to the organization and the efficient running of the NJABPsi. It will help to maintain clarity in leadership roles and stability in the organization.

Unfortunate Loss

During the final year of my term as president of NJABPsi, I had the unfortunate task of writing a Resolution due to the death of one of our long term members, Dr. Lawrence Houston. The Resolution was presented at his memorial service on August 15, 2001. Dr. Houston was dedicated to his profession and he was a pioneer in his contribution to Black Psychology. He studied under the well-known psychologist, Dr. Cecil Sumner at Howard University. Dr. Houston's brilliance and strength as a psychologist can be seen in his achievements and his ability to be diverse in his career work. He was promoted to a Full Professor at Trenton State University. He later left for a position of Full Professor at Rutgers University in the department of Africana Studies. Dr. Houston was later elected chairman of the Department.

Dr. Houston has written a book and numerous articles on Africana Studies and Adolescent Psychology. He developed a course called "Psychology of The Black Experience" and wrote a text specifically for this course. The "Outstanding Teacher Award" that he received speaks to his ability as an instructor. Dr. Houston has also received the highest degree you can obtain as a diplomat in Clinical Psychology. A scholarship was developed September 2001 in Dr. Houston's name due to his outstanding accomplishments. NJABPsi would like Black students to be knowledgeable about Dr. Houston's contributions and to develop the effort to follow in his footsteps.

Visions for the Future

I believe that the number one goal for the future of NJABPsi is the importance of stability. The organization must begin to find ways to enhance membership and motivate future leaders for NJABPsi. The maintenance of the executive board manual could be helpful is maintaining the stability of the executive board. Developing a strong foundation that enhances the mission of NJABPsi I believe is also important. To this end providing professional support for one another and enhancing the mentoring and training our students is extremely important. Finally, once this is accomplished I believe the NJABPsi can then focus on collaborations with other organizations that have similar goals.

file AB4: New Jersey

DANIEL E. WILLIAMS, PH.D.

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST
COUNSELING - PSYCHOTHERAPY

(201) 756-1713

256 GENEVA PLACE
PLAINFIELD, N. J. 07062

OFFICE HOURS
APPOINTMENT

Dear *Ms Gary*

Our third organizing meeting of Black Psychologists in New Jersey will take place on Saturday, October 13, 1973 at 3 o'clock at the home of Dr. George Jackson - 367 Fairview Ave, Orange, N.J. Telephone 674-0939.

Our second meeting (9/30/73) was attended by only six people. Nevertheless our discussions were productive. The following officers were proposed; President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Program Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. These officers would constitute the Executive Committee. This Committee would meet continuously; planning meetings and speaking for the organization. Whenever issues arose a member of the Executive Committee would be empowered to speak for the organization. However, he/she would have to get prior consent from the President and send him/her a copy of the release.

The following standing committees were proposed; Prisons, Education, Research, and Social Action.

We were informed by George Jackson (the President-Elect of the National Organization) that a charter can be obtained from the Executive Secretary of ABPsi by making the request and forwarding the minutes of the meeting at which such action was approved.

Local chapters charge whatever amount they wish for dues.

The Treasurer submits a quarterly report to the National Organization indicating monies taken in, expenditures and balance.

It was also suggested that we spend some time, at our meetings, in professional development. Individuals might present therapy cases, diagnostic cases, research, etc.

Please join us on Saturday, October 13, 1973 at 3 o'clock at George's home in Orange.

Sincerely,

Daniel E. Williams
Daniel E. Williams

NOVEMBER MEETING OF N.J. ABPsi

The meeting of New Jersey Association of Black Psychologist was called to order by our President, Daniel Williams, Ph.D. at 4:15 P.M., At that time two potential members were recognized, Doris Bradshaw and Denise Joyner. There was a discussion about the ballot that was sent to members. After the discussion a motion was made by Gerald Jackson to discard the present ballots and start from scratch. Motion was seconded by Terry Scott-Myers.

A suggestion was made to have the nominations from the floor. The nomination was than open^e for President. Nominations were made for President. Nominations^{ed} closed on one name, K. Monroe.

Nominations for Vice President were; Duncan Walters, Rxyno Jackson, Harrell Roberts. Harrell Roberts declined. Nominations closed on the two names.

Nominations opened for secretary, those nominated were; Jeanette Thornton, Elrick Murray, Alva Brown. J. Thornton declined, motion was made to close the nomination on the two names & seconded.

Nominations open^d for Treasurer. One name nominated, nominations closed on the one name; Evelyn Darrell. The elections were held.

Present N. J. ABPsi Officers:

President	Katye Monroe
Vice President	Duncan Walton
Secretary	Elrick Murray
Treasurer	Evelyn Darrell

After elections a motion was made to give a gift to our President Daniel Williams for dedicated service to the organization since its inception. A committee was asked to work out plans for getting the gift along with planning a special occasion for the same. Committee Chairperson - Gerald Jackson, members - D. Walton and T. ^{Scott}Myers, Ann Aiken.

Announcements were given: Including the following:

- Job Vacancy - contact Terry Scott-Meyer
- Minority Fellowship - contact George Jackson, applications must be made before January 1, 1976 through Dr. D. Taylor Psychological Association.
- Dues for National and Local - Katie Monroe
 - \$25.00 Local
 - \$35.00 National
 An additional suggestion was made to look into the possibility of reducing local dues.
- Meetings will continue to be on the third Saturday of the month. However, the December meeting will be moved to December 13 because of the approaching Holiday Season. Meeting for December will be held at Dr. George Jackson's House, 267 Fairview Orange, N. J.

New Business

Dr. George Jackson will not be able to host the meetings after December and suggested that we start to look for a meeting place. Terry Scott-Meyer offered her place for the January meeting.

It was suggested that the executive board should audit the books.

Terry Scott-Meyer also agreed to be our next speaker. At the December 13th meeting she will discuss Sickle Cell Anemia.

Dues was collected;

William Brown	25.00	
Doris Bradshaw	60.00	Nat'l & Local
*Katie Monroe	25.00	
Alva Brown	25.00	
Harrell Roberts	25.00	
*Terry Scott-Meyer	25.00	
Eleanor Attaway	25.00	
Duncan Walton	25.00	

Treasurer's Report

Balance in treasury \$1400.00

Business

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 P.M.

PROGRAM:

Dr. Daniel Williams gave a presentation - He first discussed the licensing procedure in the state and how the Licensing Board (Board of Psychological Examiners) is set up.

Dr. Williams presentation on Testing was extremely interesting and informative.

Allow me to extend a big THANK YOU to him on the part of the entire body.

THANK YOU DAN - We really enjoyed it.

SPEECH OF GEORGE D. JACKSON, CHAIRMAN
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK PSYCHOLOGISTS
AUGUST 15, 1975 - NATIONAL CONVENTION, BOSTON

Though we bring our Association and its convention to this City of Boston in America's 200th year, we know that the money we spend here does not go to our "friends". But Boston is no different, not better nor worse, than other cities. Rather Boston is what America is. And as Black psychologists we can only hope to enhance Black life through individual responsibility and collective action if we comprehend that what we suffer is what America is.

It might be contended that this is a political position having relevance only for the social psychologists and those interested in social activism. But psychology is ~~the~~ the study of human behavior. As such it must be prepared to examine all components which give rise to and shape behavior. Or we will be compelled to don those constraints which make the approach to psychology a study defined by the oppressor. For the oppressor under the guise of intellect would make investigations into fads and fetishes. This year we study biofeedback - the money is there. Next year, before we have answers, we study hypertension - for the money may be there. And in the gone years we studied perception, cognition, cross-cultural phenomena - the money was there. But nay question have we ever resolved . . . But psychology handled this way is the study of human behavior.

The white oppressor, creates starvation, wars and other scourges of racism. Then manufactures a profession creating jobs to study the effects of his heinous work. But the budget is only good for a year.

Black children are relegated to the most pernicious environment imaginable. When the cries against this outrage become too loud, the Federal government brings relief in the form a a 7 year project to study the efficacy of "compensatory ed". When we "play ball" in this game, we are not studying human behavior. Rather we make a scholarship of what the enemy wants while failing to understand what the enemy is. White America has reached a level

of incivility unparalleled in the history of humanity. And what we suffer is what America is.

I am not suggesting that we abandon the much-needed work with those who are mentally and emotionally disturbed. I am suggesting that data is perceived, processed and utilized by motives and behavior which are determined by forces that go beyond the significant familial figures.

Several years ago the Congress of African People met with members of OAU and pointed out that Black Americans have more education and more resources than any Black Nation in the world. It was suggested that for this reason Black Americans should be able to participate in the OAU. The members of OAU examined the data and pointed out that Black Americans current well-being depends on continued exploitation of the African nations. Incidentally, Gerald Ford made the same observation about our "wealth" and used the same data in his presentation before the NAACP convention to prove how well Blacks are faring in this country. He indicated that we Blacks can expect from his administration more of the same good treatment we have been getting in this country. I agree with the OAU; this apparent relative prosperity is a tragicomical empty facade built upon the exploitation of our African brothers and sisters and other oppressed peoples. According to the Bureau of Census the median annual income of Black families was \$1576 less than that of white families, while in 1973 it was \$5326 less. Infant and Maternal mortality rates have decreased but for Blacks they are still significantly higher than for whites. Black life expectancy is generally lower than for whites. Death from suicide and homicide is high and increasing. While the National unemployment rate may be about 9.2%, for Blacks it is over 14% and for Black youth over 40%. Clearly the quality of Black life in this country has not improved when compared with that of whites.

What then is our role? What is the nature of our individual responsibility? And to what end should we direct our collective action? How may we enhance Black life?

We Blacks have pursued every collective action imaginable. We free the Scottsboro brothers only to witness the Trenton 6. We free an Angela Davis only to witness a Jo Ann Little. We see George Jackson, Martin, Malcolm and Medgar gunned down in our midst. Not only are we powerless to protect our leaders, but the small gains which they died to attain are not transmitted to our next generation. We fight for equal rights and in the process get ripped off by white women. We fight for our protection as a minority and the white power structure pits other minorities against us. In peace and in war we have waged battles, gained for others while receiving crumbs for ourselves. We Black psychologists must understand that our dilemma is not simply a result of class - rather the issue is race and class. It follows, therefore, that we must work together collectively with each other accepting our individual responsibility for each other. Our first coalition must be with ourselves.

We must orchestrate liberation programs in spite of our diversity and Black psychologists must assist us in achieving this end. We must forge alliances over which we have meaningful control. We must learn to handle power without debilitating fear and anxiety or co-optation. Very often when brothers and sisters stand at the threshold of power they are indecisive. As Brother John Henrik Clarke describes it, they are arguing whether to cross the threshold with the right foot or the left. And don't let one get the idea that someone else might get through the door first. We have taken jobs in prisons, schools and with the Federal government. Through these vantage points some of us hoped to help liberate our people. Now we simply

hope to at best provide some measure of protection. When we are effective in carrying out our responsibilities we get "ripped off". With guilt and schizophrenic-like behavior we attempt to work in a system that is cruel and immoral. But working in the system should not be confused with working with the system. This system must be replaced and the land must change hands. Indeed, social change is all around us. And the once powerful reactionary America has lost its omnipotence. In Africa, in Asia, in South America and in the Caribbean - even in Europe itself - socialism is coming into being. I am not attempting to make a hero of Karl Marx or Lenin, or Trotsky or any of the Johnny-come-lately purveyors of scientific socialism. Nevertheless it is clear that socialism is advancing, however you wish to define it. As a matter of fact, our ancestors had socialism long before colonial exploitation. We speak of a new era where man harnesses of nature to help himself and his brother, where hunger is unknown and racism is erased by human dignity. We must begin taking those steps which will break the cycle referred to before. Such steps require courage, conviction and commitment - and a cold concise analysis.

Two decades ago Brothers William . Patterson and Paul Robeson placed a petition before the United Nations Secretariat charging this government with genocide against Blacks. Malcolm X planned to again take our case before the United Nations. The United States government through gross neglect in the areas of health, education and welfare, through using our people as cannon fodder and through calculated design apparently made The Choice, as Brother Yette documents, to adopt a genocidal pattern. We Black psychologists with our research skills have the capacity to document, perhaps as no other group can document, the pattern of genocide in this country. But as Brother Dubois so sharply and sadly learned, scholarly documentation and exposure of the truth does not by itself cause change.

What is needed is documentation plus action. As my last official act as Chairman of the National Association of Black Psychologists I ask this Convention to approve by acclamation the following proposal:

- a) The Association of Black Psychologists appoint a task force to develop documentation to be presented to the United Nations and to state before the world on behalf of Black Americans

WE CHARGE GENOCIDE

In the present context genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy in whole or in part a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, as such:

- a) Killing members of the group;
- b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

With this definition in mind on behalf of Black America and against the government of the United States WE CHARGE GENOCIDE.

Biographical Sketch: GEORGE D. JACKSON, Ph.D.

Address: 367 Fairview Avenue
Orange, New Jersey 07050

Telephone: 201-674-0939 Home
212-430-3323 Office

Current Employment: Associate Director of Children's Services,
Director of Community-School Programs
Sound View Throgs Neck Community Mental Health
Center, 1165 Morris Park Avenue, Bronx, New York

Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Albert
Einstein Medical School, Yeshiva University

Prior Employment includes:

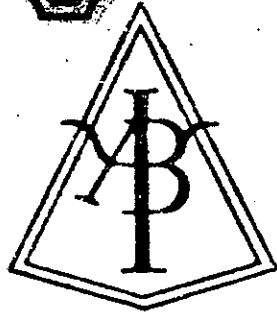
Dean of Academic Affairs, Essex County College, Newark, New Jersey
Director of Black Studies Center, Seton Hall University, South
Orange, New Jersey

Assistant Director in Charge of Counselling and Psychological
Services, Newark Skills Center, Newark, New Jersey

Senior Psychologist, Essex County Penitentiary, Caldwell, New Jersey

Education: New York University Ph.D. Clinical Psychology

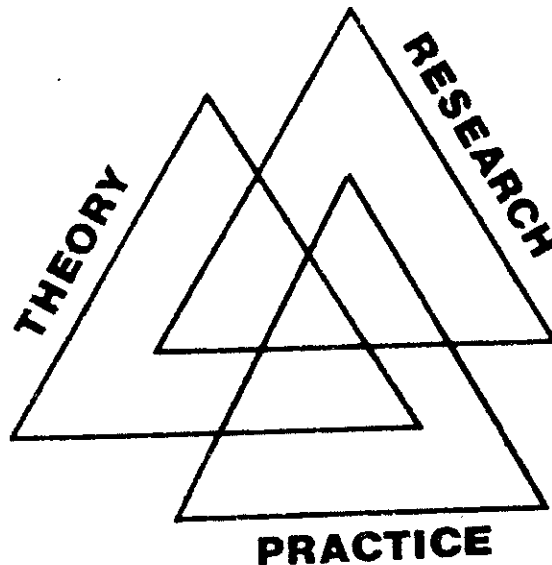
Chairman, National Association of Black Psychologists, August 1974-
August 1975



The Association of Black Psychologists

Presents its

13th Annual Convention Banquet and Dance



***“Perspectives in Psychology:
Theory, Research, Practice
and the Black Professional”***

**Regency Ballroom
Cherry Hill Hyatt House
Saturday, August 16, 1980
6:30 p.m.**

Saturday, August 16, 1980—6:30 p.m.

Regency Ballroom

Cherry Hill Hyatt

Program

- Presiding *Melvin Rogers, Ph.D.*
President, DVABPsi
- Invocation *Rev. Frank Tyson*
- Introduction of Table Guests *Melvin Rogers, Ph.D.*
- Dinner
- Introduction of Keynote Speaker *Portia Hunt, Ph.D.*
Chair, Regional Program
- Keynote Address *Benjamin Hooks*
Executive Director, NAACP

Recognition of Convention Committees *Dianne Salter, Ph.D. and
Morris Chandler, Ph.D.
Co-Chairs, Coordinating Committee*

ABPsi Awards *Elizabeth Davis, Ed.D.
Chair, Awards Committee*

Introduction of Outgoing Chairperson *Rita Smith, Ph.D.
Chair, Local Arrangements*

Outgoing Chairperson's Remarks *Joseph Awkard, Ph.D.*

Installation of Officers *Drs. Awkard & Williams*

Incoming Chairperson's Remarks *Daniel Williams, Ph.D., ABPP*

Benediction *Rev. Frank Tyson*

Entertainment

Dance and Music *The First Light Quintet*

Convention Committees

Coordinating

Morris Chandler, Co-chair
Dianne S. Salter, Co-Chair
Portia L. Hunt
Faruq Iman
Michael Lindsey, Treasurer
Trevor Sewell
Rita Smith

Regional Program

Portia L. Hunt, Chair
Elizabeth Davis
Leon Green
Ingrid Hill
Howard Johnson
William Lyles
Trevor Sewell
Nsenga Warfield-Coppock
Teres Scott-Myers

Local Arrangements

Rita Smith, Chair

Registration

Madge Willis, Co-chair
Laurene Finley, Co-chair
Lynne Brown
J. Otis Smith
Kenneth Hopkins
Samuel Winslow, Sr.

Services

Russell Jackson, Co-chair
Anita Bell, Co-chair
Harry Robinson

Facilities

Faruq Iman, Chair
Donald Jackson
Rickie Dean

Entertainment

Eugene Frasier, Co-chair
Fredericka Waugh, Co-chair
Margaret Moore

Exhibits

Ruth King
Morris Chandler

Publicity

Thomas Gordon, Chair
Rita Smith
Melvin Rogers
Ghary Gibbs

THE PURPOSES AND MISSIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF BLACK PSYCHOLOGISTS – A HISTORY

By Robert L. Williams, Ph.D.,

A Founder - 1968

Past President 1969-1970

Elder of Elder, Emeritus 1999

...I am a former member of The American Psychological Association (circa 1962-1965). As one of the founders of the ABPsi, I served as its second president (1969-1970). ...In addition, I wrote the history of ABPsi's early formation and development in the initial issue of The Journal of Black Psychology (Williams, 1974).

ABPsi was organized in September 1968 in San Francisco when a group of Black Psychologists decided to form an organization that would:

- 1) promote and advance the profession of African Psychology
- 2) influence and affect social change and
- 3) develop programs whereby psychologists of African descent can assist in solving problems of Black communities and other ethnic groups

I would like to provide some clarity as to why ABPsi was organized. There was a consensus among Black Psychologists present at the 1968 American Psychological Association meeting in San Francisco that APA:

- 1) had not related to the needs of the Black community
- 2) had used the Black community as a resource for research
- 3) had never utilized its own resources to assist the Black community in overcoming the effects of white racism; and
- 4) had failed to utilize its resources to eradicate racism within the White community.

The formative group of Black Psychologists submitted seven (7) Petition of Concerns

which propose the following:

- 1) APA officially endorse the Kerner Commission's Report of Civil Disorders
- 2) APA develop or implement policies related to the Black community
- 3) APA bring to bear its resources to finding solutions to the problems of racism and poverty
- 4) APA establish a committee to study the misuse of standardized psychological instrument
- 5) APA re-evaluate the adequacy of certified training programs in clinical and counseling training programs in terms of their relevance to social problems
- 6) APA recommend to each psychology department steps to be taken to increase the number of Black students into their graduate programs
- 7) APA in consultation with representatives of ABPsi implement and evaluate the progress of the recommendations listed above.

The response to ABPsi's Petition of Concerns was evasive and nonproductive.

Dr. George Albee, then President of APA reported the following to ABPsi:

With respect to the request of the Association of Black Psychologists, for example, for APA endorsement of the Kerner Report...It is inappropriate for the board or council of the Association to "endorse" or to purport to speak for 30,000 members on any issue or issues.

Dr. Albee further reported that the theme for the 1969 APA Convention would be "Psychology and the Problems of Society." In addition the APA Convention Committee scheduled a series of relevant symposia, including several organized by ABPsi, as well as a social hour and business for ABPsi.

In spite of this non-supportive response, ABPsi continued to approach APA with reasonable proposals during the year 1969. We prepared a six-point statement on testing

calling for a moratorium on the testing of Black children:

The Association of Black Psychologists fully supports those parents who have chosen to defend their rights by refusing to allow their children and themselves to be subjected to achievement, intelligence, aptitude and performance tests, which have been and are being used to:

- 1) label Black children as uneducable
- 2) place Black children in special classes
- 3) potentiate inferior educators
- 4) assign Black children to lower educational tracks than Whites
- 5) deny Black children higher educational opportunities, and
- 6) destroy positive intellectual growth and development of Black children.

We asked APA to endorse the moratorium, but it became increasingly clear that APA was not about to endorse our statement. Also in keeping with our concern about the under representation of Black students in graduate programs, as President at that time, I developed a Ten Point program aimed at inviting graduate psychology programs to increase the number of Black graduate students. Each APA approved psychology program was asked to:

- 1) establish a permanent committee of Black graduate students
- 2) accept a minimum of 20% Black students each year in its graduate psychology programs
- 3) establish that the department commit itself for five years (which we now recognize that was too short of a time period)
- 4) establish that Black applicants be screened by a committee of Black graduate students

- 5) establish that evaluation of Black students by the committee be given the highest priority
- 6) establish that the application fee be waived
- 7) establish that adequate financial support be provided to Black graduate students
- 8) establish that a tutorial program be provided for incoming Black students
- 9) establish that reasonable financial support be provided to the Committee of Black graduate students and
- 10) establish that the Department will actively explore other programs designed to promote graduate training for Black people in psychology.

To support the Ten Point program, APA and ABPsi developed a Black Visiting Scientist program that was designed to permit Black Psychologists to visit historically Black colleges. Approximately 30 Black colleges were visited over a three-year program.

The Black Student Psychological Association (BSPA) was very active at that time, Black students were making heavy demands on APA. For example, at the 1970 APA meeting in Washington, DC, as Dr. George Miller walked to the stage to give his Presidential address, approximately 20 Black students rose and walked to the stage and requested that they be allowed to speak. The students requested, and were granted, a meeting with the APA Council of Representatives the next morning.

Also, during the same period APA organized the Commission for Accelerating Black Participation in Psychology (CABPP). The Commission (composed of representatives from ABPsi, APA and BSPA) met for one year to discuss how to implement the "areas of concern" as identified by the Black students. The upshot of the

year-long meetings was that APA commit funds for the BSPA to establish an office for a three-year period in the APA building. ABPsi was not too involved in this arrangement, since the Black students had their own organization.

...Some Black psychologists perceived that we were always treated in a "one down" position and that our growth would be stunted if we continued to seek resolve with APA, as if we were coming to the master's table, asking for a handout.

In 1970, the Association of Black Psychologists decided not to meet at the same time as APA. It was at that meeting that Dr. Wade Nobles introduced the notion of African Philosophy and African Psychology, to Black Psychologists (Nobles, 1972). We felt that we could not develop an African-centered psychology in a Euro-American organization. From that point on, ABPsi has developed an Afrocentric philosophy. The development of this Afrocentric theoretical foundation for clinical practice is imperative if we are to meet the mental health needs of people of African descent. The Association is presently moving toward developing an African-centered organization.

As you can see, the concerns expressed in 1999** are consistent with the initial concerns expressed in 1968, 1969, and 1970 during the establishment of the Association of Black Psychologists.

* This paper is an excerpt from a letter written by Dr. Williams, ABPsi Elder of Elders (1995-1999), to Dr. Suinn, President of APA on March 4, 1999. The entire letter was published in the PSYCH Discourse, ABPsi NewsJournal, April 1999 Volume 30(4).

** Dr. Williams is referencing the meetings (May 1998, March 1999 and August 1999) between Dr. Richard Suinn, President of APA and Dr. Samella Abdullah, President of ABPsi. Dr. Abdullah verbalized these concerns about APA: 1) not publicly denouncing the Federal Violence Initiative; 2) not challenging the routine psychological testing of Black children, 3) especially by European psychologists who lack cultural sensitivity and cultural competency; 4) not strongly influencing state licensing agencies to demand cultural competency as a skill, to be learned and demonstrated; and 5) for not articulating or publically acknowledging racism as a problem.

FOUNDERS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF BLACK PSYCHOLOGISTS

Harold Dent	Joseph Awkard Wiley Bolden Alvis Caliman Norman Chambers	Aubrey Escoffery
Robert Guthrie	Florence Farley Jane Fort George Franklin Alvin Goins Robert Green	William Harvey
Leslie Hicks		Thomas Hilliard*
Reginald Jones	Anna Jackson Walter Jacobs Adelbert Jenkins	Melvin King
Dalmas Taylor*	Lonnie Mitchell Wade Nobles	David Terrell
Charles Thomas*		Ernestine Thomas
	Robert Williams Joseph White	

* Deceased

Association of Black Psychologists – Council of Elders

The Council of Elders shall consist of founding members and persons selected by founding members of the Association from respective regional areas. The composition of the Council shall strive toward a gender balance. An elder is one who –because of age and maturity—is recognized for wisdom, leadership, community service and promotion of growth of the Association. An elder is at least 55 years of age, a life member, has a minimum of twenty years of membership and a record of leadership in the Association at the local and national levels.

The Council of Elders shall serve as advisors to the Board for the purpose of providing wisdom, guidance and conducting formal rituals and ceremonies ... The Council of Elders shall be responsible for providing clarification, interpretation or judgment regarding the traditions, beliefs, positions and ethics of The Association. In cases of disagreement or during moments of confusion, the membership should defer or look to the Council of Elders for opinion, clarification, direction and ultimately a decision. The Elders shall sit on the Board of Directors for meetings held in their respective region. The sitting elder shall be selected by consensus among the Council of Elders.

Members shall (a) acknowledge the presence of Elders at public gatherings; and (b) ask permission to proceed or to begin the meeting, discussion or event. **By-Laws of The Association of Black Psychologists, Article V, Section 2, B. (Revised October, 1994)**

Elder Dr. Anna M. Jackson, Elder of Elders 1999- Present
Founder and Life Member

Elder Dr. Robert L. Williams, Elder of Elders Emeritus
Founder and Life Member

Elder Dr. Afi Samella B. Abdullah, Life Member

Elder Dr. Bobbie Anthony Perez, Life Member

Elder Dr. Mildred Anderson, Life Member

Elder Dr. Asa Hilliard, III, Life Member

Elder Dr. Moriba Kelsey, Life Member

Elder Dr. James Savage, Jr., Life Member

Elder Dr. Nketchi Florence Townsend, Life Member

Elder Dr. Joseph White, Founder and Life Member

Elder Daniel E. Williams, Life Member --- Elder Dr. Willie S. Williams, Life Member

The ABPsi's Presidents' Council

PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF BLACK PSYCHOLOGISTS

Dr. Samella B. Abdullah	(1998-99)	Dr. Frederick B. Phillips	(1996-97)
Dr. Na'im Akbar	(1987-88)	Dr. Suzanne Randolph	(1989-90)
Dr. Joseph C. Awkard, Jr	(1979-80)	Dr. Melvin Rogers	(1985-86)
Dr. Joseph Baldwin a.k.a. Kobi KK Kambon	(1982-83)	Dr. David Terrell	(1981-82)
Dr. Maisha Bennett	(1978-79) & (1992-93)	Dr. Charles S. Thomas*	(1968-69)
Dr. Dennis Chestnut	(1988-89)	Dr. Henry Tomes	(1969-70)
Dr. Stanley Crockett	(1970-71)		
Dr. Dana K. Dennard	(1997-98)	Dr. W. Monty Whitney	(1983-84)
Dr. Halford H. Fairchild	(1986-87)	Dr. Daniel Williams	(1980-81)
Dr. Robert Green	(1968-69)	Dr. Robert Williams	(1969-70)
Dr. William Hayes	(1975-76)	Dr. Anthony Young	(2000-01)
Dr. Thomas O. Hilliard*	(1973-74)		
Dr. Anna M. Jackson	(1993-94)		
Dr. George D. Jackson	(1974-75)		
Dr. James S. Jackson	(1972-73)		
Dr. Reginald L. Jones	(1971-72)		
Dr. Kobi KK Kambon a.k.a. Joseph Baldwin	(1982-83)		
Dr. Mawiyah Kambon	(1999-2000)		
Dr. Ruth E.G. King	(1977-78)		
Dr. William Lyles	(1976-77)		
Dr. Linda James Myers	(1990-91)		
Dr. Timothy R. Moragne	(1991-92)		
Dr. Wade Nobles	(1994-95)		
Dr. Thomas Parham	(1995-96)		

* Deceased

October 15, 2004

Re: The NJABPsi Oral History Project

Dear Friends, Founders, Elders and Past Presidents:

Thirty-one years after several Black psychologists organized the New Jersey Chapter of the Association of Black Psychologists (NJABPsi), the effects of racism and discrimination have not ended. We are at a "perilous crossroads" in professional psychology and in the nation. Despite significant strides following the civil rights movement, many of the gains we have made are now threatened by our complacency and the current socio-political climate. We are delighted that you have agreed to participate in the NJABPsi Oral History Project. By intimately reconnecting our current NJABPsi members to our history as an organization, we will come to recognize our resources, power and responsibility to continue to work for social change. Embracing our history is vital as a retrospective and to identify current progress, problems and a future agenda for the organization.

Most of all, we want to honor you. You were willing to challenge authority, to take risks to make the world of professional psychology better for all of us. In this respect, you are exemplary. As psychologists of color, we often take for granted the price you paid in struggle and sacrifice so that we can participate more fully in mainstream psychology. Some of us have no idea the indignities and humiliations that you have endured in your careers. We would benefit from knowing more about your experiences and your decision to become active in ABPsi.

Attached is a list of questions that I would like you to ponder prior to the meeting. You will have approximately 15 minutes to speak about your experiences. A general discussion and question and answer period will follow. I am hoping to create an ABPsi timeline prior to our meeting and would appreciate any help you can provide. If you know of significant dates and/or significant contributions, please forward that information to me. I am also collecting photographs. I am requesting a snapshot of you with your bio and any reprints that you think might be interesting.

Finally, it is not enough to tell our stories, we must write our stories. I am asking all of you to forward a statement of your experiences to me no later than the end of October so that I can bind and disseminate your stories. This collection of writings and the timeline will be made available to participants at the Saturday Circle and to the general membership. Your stories will become a permanent part of our archives.

The meeting will take place on Saturday, November 20, 2004 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at the home of Dr. Yolanda Hawkins-Rodgers. Her address is 105 Euclid Avenue in Hackensack. Specific directions will follow.

Thank you for your vision, dedication, and commitment to pursue your own dreams and to help others pursue theirs. We honor you all.

Blessings,

Charlena Sears

Encl.

LIFT EVERY VOICE

Words by James Weldon Johnson

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 us resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the hope that the
dark past taught us,
Sing a song full of the faith that the present
has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun.
Let us march on
Till victory is won.

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 wine of the world,
we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy Hand
May we forever stand,
True to our God, True to our native land.