

BLACK FAMILY GENEALOGY AND HISTORY SOCIETY  
MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 2023 BUSINESS MEETING  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2022, 10:00AM (Arizona Time) ZOOM ROOM  
MARIE SCOTT – PRESIDENT

**BLACK FAMILY GENEALOGY  
AND HISTORY SOCIETY**



Phoenix, AZ

**Presents:**

*"Awakening the Griot: The Power of  
Telling Stories"*



**Chief Condra Ridley**

*Please join us on Saturday  
January 14, 2023,  
10 am Arizona time for this  
BFGHS Virtual Event*

*Chief Condra Ridley has been a Fort Wayne, Indiana resident all but nine years of her life. While attending Pepperdine University in Los Angeles, she gained exposure to various cultures and her lifelong interest took root. When she returned to Fort Wayne, she began working for Allen County Public Library where she was able to share her love of books, reading, and African & African American history and culture with children and their families for 28 years.*

*In 2022, Condra was a recipient of the Lifetime Achievements Award, by Arts United, Fort Wayne Indiana.*

*For additional information & registration, please email BFGHS at [contact@bfghs.org](mailto:contact@bfghs.org)*

**MEMBER'S PRESENT**

Marie Scott, Jeryse Kelly, Paulette Smith, Phyllis Grimes, Gwen Humphries, Paulette Howard, Rosalind Matthews, Michael Ostler, Debbie Ostler, Dr. Gail White(guest), Martelle Chapital-Smith, Elaine Hadnot, Chief Condra Ridley (guest speaker), Birtie Owens, Janis Forte, Katherine Ayers, Thomas Campanella, Linda Morris, Cevaughn Henley, Lee Peavy, Angelita Reyes(guest), Damita Moore, Charles Taylor, Isaiah Shamsiddean, Jonda Shamsiddean, Ann Hines, Arlene Everett, Sheila Moore, Gayle King

**GUESTS**

Angelita Reyes – guest of Paulette Smith

Dr. Gail White – guest of Marie Scott

9:55 – 10:00 a.m. Guidelines for Virtual Presentations; Meetings – Social Media-IT Committee

[NOTE: Attendance – Members and Guests ... please type your name into the “Chat” box.]

10:00 – 10:02 a.m. - Meeting Called to Order, Welcome and Message ... Marie B. Scott, President

- Check into the Genealogy conferences for 2023. Some of them are free. They are well worth attending.

10:02 – 10:03 a.m. - Introduction of Speaker ... Paulette Smith, Chairperson, Program Committee

10:03 – 10:50 a.m. - Presenter: Chief Condra Ridley

Topic: “Awakening the Griot: The Power of Telling Stories.”

[Vicky Daviss-Mitchell Presenter’s Series]

While Condra was Manager of the Pontiac Branch Library, she became a promoter of adult literacy by offering the "Each One Reach/Teach One" program in collaboration with the Literacy Alliance. After attending a Storytelling Conference in 1986, Condra was inspired to begin storytelling as a way to motivate reluctant readers to experience the joys that good literature can provide. In 1997, Condra was appointed Youth Services Specialist and delighted in early literacy advocacy, storytelling, and presenting book-related programs to children in schools, preschools, daycare centers, and youth facilities all around Northeast Indiana for 12 years. In August 2008, King Adetunji David Ajayi of Ekiti, Nigeria honored Condra and four other community servants with the title of Chief for their contributions toward building better relations between cultures in Fort Wayne and abroad. In 2022, Condra became a recipient of the Lifetime Achievements Award, by Arts United, Fort Wayne Indiana.

- Excellent storytelling presentation!

□

10:50 – 11:05 a.m. – Q & A ... Members and Guests (Questions must be placed in the “Chat.”)

11:05 – 11:07 a.m. – Poll Regarding the Presentation ... Zoom

11:07 – 11:14 a.m. – Introduction of the Exec. Board and Board ... M. Scott

- Headshots of the Executive Board will be revealed in February

11:14 – 11:30 a.m. – Reports ... Approved by the Board and Uploaded to the Website, or Emailed to Members

- Financial Reports – Lamont Monroe, Treasurer and Paulette Howard, Financial Secretary (for questions)

- Minutes – Gayle King, Recording Secretary (for questions)
  - Membership Committee – Updates ... Rosalind Matthews, Vice President & Chairperson
    - New membership fees effective January 1, 2023.
    - Some members were overcharged on their membership dues; you will receive a refund.
      - 36 members have paid to date.
      - 5 new members have joined since the last meeting.
    - Working on going electronic with the Membership Application.
  - Program Committee – Updates ... Paulette Smith, Chairperson
    - Updates also from Phyllis Grimes. DNA Workshop will meet quarterly. 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, “Bring your Brick Wall. January 18, 2023, 6:30PM.
    - Updates from Rosalind Matthews. Workshops for beginners will be held quarterly. The first workshop to be held on January 19, 2023, at 7PM.
    - Document workshop to be held on January 26, 2023; please bring a death certificate.
  - Corresponding Secretary – Updates ... Michael Ostler
  - Social Media/IT Committee – Updates ... Jeryse Kelly, Chairperson
    - How to store information and archive via Dropbox.
  - Bylaws Committee – Updates ... Cheryl Franks, Chairperson
    - Not in attendance today.
  - Grants Committee – Updates ... Margaret Hangan, Chairperson
    - Not in attendance today.
- 11:30 – 11:35 a.m. – Announcements, Birthdays, Brag Bites & Member Highlights
- 11:35 a.m. – 12:27 p.m. – Breakout Rooms for Research & Discussion
- 12:27 - 12:29 p.m. – Closing
- Be careful how you use documents
  - Census.gov for Census instructions
  - Root Tech conference is free and virtual for 2023
- 12:30 p.m. – Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Gayle L King  
 Gayle L King  
 Recording Secretary  
 January 30, 2023

