

## Happy New Year!!!

### Urgent Matters:

- **Mark** your 2021 calendars for IWF MI gatherings, which are normally the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month.
- **IWF MI Board Meeting: January 26**

### 2021 Virtual Member Gatherings

- **January – No Meeting**
- **February 3 – 6:00 pm - 2019 Covid-19 and Vaccine Dialogue - Led by IWF-MI Chapter Members Marianne Udow-Phillips and Betty Chu** [Click here to register](#)
- **March 3 (Wed) – New Member Meeting**  
Virtual Meeting with fun activities aimed to engage and reintroduce 2020 New Members
- **April 7 (Wed) – Women In Leadership Panel -**  
Virtual panel discussion with Linda Hubbard, Kathleen Ligocki, and Lashinda Stair

### President's Message

Dear IWF Sisters,

I had a cheery Happy New Year message ready to go out with all the exciting news contained in our monthly newsletter in January. After the events of the last week, I couldn't allow Pat to send that message from me. It seemed out of sync with how I was really feeling. Like all of you, I felt devastated about the attack on our US Capitol building this past week. It's a building I worked in during graduate school at GWU and I watched in horror at the disrespect shown that building, our democratic institutions and to our faith in the American electoral process. I don't have any answers as to what to do next, but I do have a personal resolve that I must do whatever I can to ensure that our nation heals and restores respect for



each other and this country's symbols and institutions which we all love and believe in.

I'm proud to be IWF-Michigan's new board President and to serve you in that capacity. You elected a diverse and thoughtful board, a microcosm of our membership – smart, accomplished leaders who have already asked me great questions – What does IWF-Michigan stand for? What do we want IWF to accomplish? What are our values as an organization and how best can we collectively lead? Our Board is going to meet later this month to start tackling those questions. You can be sure that everyone of you will have the opportunity to be a part of this process. Reach out and offer your thoughts, suggestions and comments. Let's make 2021 a watershed year that brings us all together and leaves the world a better place.

Love and virtual hugs to all of you,

Carolyn

### News & Member Sharing:

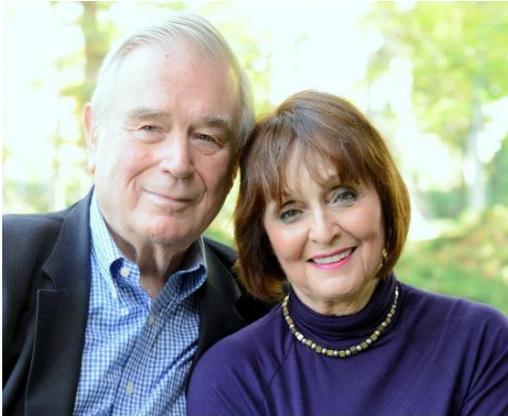


**Dr. Darienne Hudson**, President and CEO of United Way for Southeastern Michigan, was honored as 2020 Lamplighter at Menorah in the D Hanukkah celebration in Downtown Detroit. The organization honors individuals in our community who actualize the vision of sharing the light. [WXYZ Detroit](#)

**Dr. Hudson** is thrilled to announce the organization's receipt of a \$25 million contribution from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott. It is the largest single donation the organization has received in its 100-year history. These funds will be immediately invested in supports for households impacted by the pandemic as well as United Way's long-term programming in the community. [Detroit Free Press](#)

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Adapting to the "necessary and important" like everyone else, **Nancy & Bill Barker** still managed to keep in touch with the world. Bill



celebrated his 90th birthday with Zoomed greetings beamed in from around the globe, and together they served as Honorary Chairs of the first and hopefully only virtual version of Midland's *Adoption Option* annual fundraiser.



And speaking of babies, they long-distance welcomed a "great grand", Louise Hazen Ferguson, born across the border in Vancouver, BC. "Looking forward to seeing that lovely city and that lovely baby one day soon!"

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**Linda Solomon's** story "The Gift of A Letter" was recently published in the *Detroit Free Press*. "We are searching for ways to be close when we cannot be close. Writing handwritten letters this holiday and sharing how much someone means to you and to your life is the gift that is a forever keepsake. A handwritten letter shows someone how much they matter to you. Detroiters, of all ages, share their handwritten letters to loved ones in my story. A daughter who has not seen her mother since March because of Covid safety rules has written a letter of love to her mother she cannot see except through an open window. Her letter is now in her mother's hand - the hand she cannot hold," Linda writes.



The 15-year-old daughter of **Rabbi Tamara Kolton** has written a letter to her friend Alex, telling him how much she misses him and how worried she is about him. A grandmother, **Vernice Davis Anthony**, shares words of love and wisdom with her 14-month-old grandson. His letter read to him by his father. A letter he will read and re-read throughout his life. To read the full article, [click here](#).

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### **Anne Mervenne**

was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of LifeSecure Insurance Company based in Brighton. LifeSecure is a subsidiary of BCBSM.



This January, **Linda Orlans** will have the privilege of working on society's most pressing challenges with some of the most passionate and talented people in the world. For the past 10 years, Harvard University's Advanced Leadership Initiative (ALI) has invited 50 people from around the globe to spend a year tackling social issues that require innovation, collaboration and a commitment to make significant change for a better society. Challenges in education, climate, healthcare, economic development, nutrition, social justice, gender equality and democracy are high on their list for positive change.

Linda has gratefully accepted the invitation to join the faculty at Harvard, to turn what she has learned over her lifetime into something meaningful for others. Linda is passionate about making access to civil justice more accessible and affordable for all people. It is estimated that 80% of people who go to court do so without a lawyer; many people do not know how to use our justice system to right a wrong, to defend themselves when wrongfully accused. Better known as a Justice Gap, Linda looks forward to joining the thought leaders at Harvard and her other ALI cohorts to make the future better for all people.

"The goal of Harvard University is to make the world a better place, and it starts with bringing people together who share that passion. I am humbled and excited to join the thought leaders at Harvard to rethink and find solutions to some of society's most challenging issues," said Orlans. The program begins January 2021.



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**Marianne Udow-Phillips** retired from her role as the Founding Executive Director at the Center for Health and Research Transformation (CHRT) at the University of Michigan on December 18. Going forward, she will remain as a Senior Consultant at CHRT and faculty at the University of Michigan School of Public Health and Ford Public Policy School, along with being an independent consultant.



As part of the commemoration of her retirement, Representative Abdullah Hammoud arranged for this lovely proclamation and for both the US flag and the Michigan flag to be flown in her honor. “His tribute was incredibly meaningful to me (along with some other lovely [video](#)

[tributes](#)) and I thought I would share it,” Marianne writes.



**Patricia K. Poppe**, a General Motors Co. veteran who now runs the Michigan utility CMS Energy Corp., will be PG&E’s fourth leader in the last two years, taking over January 4, 2021.

Her task is monumental. Not only must she reform a sprawling enterprise that’s been found responsible for sparking numerous deadly wildfires, but she also has to regain the trust of the public and government officials including Gov. Gavin Newsom, who had threatened to take over the company if it didn’t correct its “culture of ineptitude.” And she has to do it while cutting \$1 billion in costs. [Click here to read the full Los Angeles Times article.](#)

After serving six years at the helm of one of southeastern Michigan’s most prominent philanthropy organizations, **Tonya Allen** is stepping down as president and CEO of the Skillman Foundation for another job.



“It’s disappointing to leave, but I also feel very called to leave,” Allen told the *Free Press* on Sunday. “I have to do this journey before me. It’s heartbreaking because I love the Skillman Foundation, I love Detroit, I love Detroit’s children.” Allen will step down in February to lead the McKnight Foundation in Minnesota. [Click here to read the full Detroit Free Press article.](#)

Please save the date and plan to attend the third annual Lewis-Ezekoye distinguished lectureship in Africana Studies, hosted by Barnard College on **January 25, 2020 at 6:00pm ET.**

The lecture will be presented virtually and will feature Professor Ruha Benjamin <<https://www.ruhabenjamin.com/about>> of Princeton University, author of *Race After Technology: Abolitionist Tools for the New Jim Code (Polity 2019)*. **Professor Benjamin's work** examines the relationship between technology and systemic racism, offering tools for a socially-

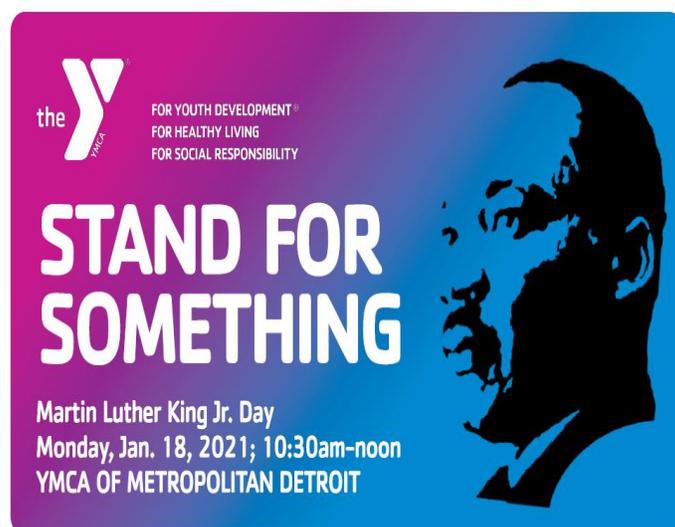
conscious approach to tech development.

This lectureship was endowed in honor of **Denise Lewis** and Adaeze Ezekoye at their alma mater Barnard College, Columbia University in New York, and aims to advance scholarship and exposure to thought leaders in fields of study affecting African Americans, Africans and the Diaspora.



Lewis and Ezekoye will provide opening remarks at 6:00pm followed by Professor Benjamin's presentation. The program will end at 7:30pm following a question-and-answer period.

Denise advises that Barnard College will be sending a communication with the specific link for registering for the lectureship. Please contact Denise for more details.



Together, we can make every day better when we Stand for Something. We invite you to our inaugural MLK day panel discussion to experience a meaningful dialogue with some incredible metropolitan Detroiters:



**Khalilah Burt Gaston**  
Glidepath Strategies Founder & President: 20 years specializing in urban planning creating equitable communities



**Ray Moulden**  
Licensed Allstate Owner & Insurance Agent, finance professional, and active civic volunteer



**Mekhi Daniels**  
Musician, high school student, and active participant in the Achievers program at YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit



**Rochelle Riley**  
Director of Arts & Culture for the City of Detroit, Author, and 20 year honored nationally syndicated columnist

**YMCA OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT**  
1401 Broadway, Suite 3A, Detroit, MI, 48226  
P (313) 267-5300 ymcadetroit.org

Join us on Youtube at [youtu.be/Z1GmXDnQKil](https://youtu.be/Z1GmXDnQKil)  
Everyone is welcome. The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit strengthens communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

## Upcoming IWF Global Conferences:

There are two global conferences each year with *outstanding content and women leaders from all over the world* in attendance. Each Fall IWF global members gather in North American (US or Canada), and each spring on another continent.

We encourage all our members to attend a global conference. Because this year's global conference is virtual, it is easier (and more cost-effective!) than ever to experience the richness of this Global Sisterhood you are now part of.

- **Seattle – Sept. 29 - Oct 1, 2021**
- **Santiago, Chile – May 18-20, 2022**
- **Detroit, MI – Fall 2023**

Kim Pittel



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## Reminders:

Newsletter items are due by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Please keep submissions to no more than two *short* paragraphs. Email: [pdalrick@comcast.net](mailto:pdalrick@comcast.net)

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## IWF-Michigan 2021 Board Members:



Carolyn Cassin  
President



Shirley Stancato  
Vice President



Beth Chappell  
Treasurer



Pam Reid  
Secretary



Dr. Betty Chu



Beth Gotthelf



Donna Inch



Denise Lewis

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## IWF Global Member Portal

We encourage you to use this platform to reach out to IWF members. [members.iwforum.org](http://members.iwforum.org). To take part, begin by logging into the portal and creating your profile. For any assistance with logging in or any questions, please contact [iwf@iwforum.org](mailto:iwf@iwforum.org). If you have not done so, please update your member profile on the [IWF Michigan Website -- www.iwfmichigan.org](http://www.iwfmichigan.org)