

# The Beacon

*A Newsletter of the New York Coalition of One Hundred Black Women, Inc.*  
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## From the President...

As we approach this holiday season, let's pause to reflect on the valuable gifts we possess. I am not talking about the latest smartphone or the most fashionable designer outfit. No, I am referring to the gifts of health, friendship and love for one another that are available to us free-of-charge. Take a moment to recall the feeling of awe that comes when listening to Handel's Messiah or the smile on a child's face when they see the first snowfall of the season. Think of your family, friends and co-workers who may be able to visit with you face-to-face this year thanks to the effective vaccines that have been developed and the easing of travel restrictions. Remember that even in the midst of a pandemic, there is still much to be thankful for.

However, while you are enjoying your holiday celebrations, please don't forget those who are without the blessings we may take for granted. For many, the holiday season can be a time of loneliness and sadness. A phone call, a handwritten holiday card, or a homecooked meal can do much to brighten the season for those who feel isolated. It costs little to share your "gifts" with those who are less fortunate.

Now as I look forward to the year 2022, I would be remiss if I did not thank you all for your support during this year. We have continued to work together and have accomplished more than we could have anticipated. Despite the obstacles we continued to face, we have persevered. I thank you and ... "I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

**Barbara Kairson, PhD**  
**President**



## Support a Black Owned Business

During the pandemic many Black-owned businesses have struggled to remain open. You can provide a "lifeline" for them during this holiday season by supporting some of the Black-owned businesses in our communities. Here are a few of the ones you might be interested in:

- **Bldv Bistro** - is a family-owned, Southern-inspired culinary labor of love. Located at: 2149 Frederick Douglass Blvd @ 116 Street, New York, NY (212) 678-6200.
- **Seasoned Vegan** - offers vegan dishes prepared with organic ingredients. Located at: 55 St. Nicholas Avenue @ 113 Street, New York, NY (212) 222-0092.
- **Calabar Imports** - This store is a source for stylish, eclectic and affordable fashion clothing, fashion accessories, jewelry, home decor and gifts. Located at: 708 Franklin Avenue, Brooklyn, NY; 351 Tompkins Avenue, Brooklyn, NY; and 2504 Frederick Douglass Blvd., New York, NY.

These are only a few of the many Black-owned businesses in New York City. Let's show them some love!

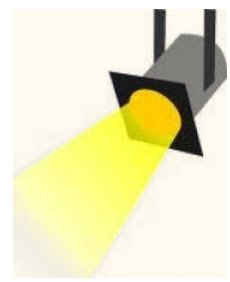


In October members of the Arts and Culture, Community Service and Global Affairs Committees participated in a joint venture by collecting clothing and non-perishable food items that were taken to the Haverstraw African American Park in Haverstraw, NY and donated to Virginia Norfleet, a community activist and founder of the Haverstraw African American Connection. The collected Items were sorted for distribution to Haiti, Louisiana, and to Haitian refugees who have been relocated in Rockland County.

Thanks to Marilyn Warren, 2nd Vice President; Laura Green, Chair and Maxine Spence, Co-Chair of the Arts and Culture Committee; Abaynesh Asrat, Chair and Laura Green, Co-Chair of the Global Affairs Committee; Elizabeth Carde, RN, 3rd Vice President; Danielle Doucette, Financial Secretary; Hope Danville-Quinlan, Recording Secretary; and longtime Coalition members Dolores Bedford, Geraldine Cobbs and Evangeline Vaughn for working to make this project such a tremendous success.







## ***NYCOBW Shines a Spotlight on The Honorable Debra A. James***



The Honorable Debra A. James is a justice of the New York County Supreme Court, Civil Term in the First Judicial District of New York. She was born in Knoxville, Tennessee and during her early childhood, her family relocated to St. Albans, Queens. Judge James was elected to the Supreme Court bench in 2014 and previously served as a judge for the Civil Court in New York County. During her eighteen-year tenure as Civil Court Judge, she served as an Acting Justice of the New York County Supreme Court for eleven of those years.

Judge James received her B.A. degree in American government and political science in 1975 and her J.D. degree in 1978 from Cornell University. After graduating, Judge James worked as the assistant corporation counsel for New York City. She represented municipal corporations in trial and appellate courts. In 1983, she served as associate counsel for New York State Mortgage Loan Enforcement and Administration Corporation and later went on to work for the New York Mortgage Agency. Prior to running for judgeship on the New York Civil Court, she served as general counsel for the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation and remained in that position until her election to the Civil Court bench in 1995.\*

Judge James has resided in Harlem for more than twenty years and she is a member of numerous professional and civic organizations. She is an avid reader, an art collector, and she enjoys listening to jazz, big band, and Latin-inspired music.\*\*

The New York Coalition of One Hundred Black Women proudly shines this month's Spotlight on Coalition sister, The Honorable Debra A. James.

\*[Trellis.law/judge/debra.a.james](http://Trellis.law/judge/debra.a.james)

\*\**The History Makers, The Digital Repository for the Black Experience - [thehistorymakers.org](http://thehistorymakers.org)*



**THE OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF  
THE NEW YORK COALITION OF ONE  
HUNDRED BLACK WOMEN, INC.**

**WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY PEACE, JOY,  
AND HAPPINESS DURING THIS HOLIDAY  
SEASON**