



Church Women United in Austin

P O Box 14336

Austin, Texas 78761-4336

March 2021 Newsletter

Website: www.churchwomenunited.org
Email: cwuaustintx@gmail.com

From our President, B J Johnson

Until we can gather again safely, we will attempt to put more information in the Newsletter to simulate a gathering. Our CWU board meeting will continue via Zoom.

We hope that all of you survived the ice/snow/power outage/water debacle without too much trouble. We pray that everything is back to normal in your homes and lives now.

We plan to produce and distribute a digital copy of the Yearbook with as much information as we can gather. Plan to send in your dues soon so that you can be included in the Yearbook.

I have ordered Celebrations material to include in the newsletter. Due to backlogs in the mail, the information is not available for this newsletter but will be sent out to you when it arrives.

Everyone take care, be safe, and God Bless you all. Blessings, BJ

Remember the Courtesies

We are depending on you to help us acknowledge and support our sisters when they are sick or bereaved. Please call Mary Terrell, 512-651-5572 (home) or 512-906-8826 (cell), if you know of any courtesies to be extended. Courtesy cards were as follows:

<i>Get Well Cards to:</i>	<i>Sympathy Cards to:</i>
<i>Ruth C. Ellison</i>	<i>Alan & Susan Holman</i>
<i>Johnnie Mae Grattan</i>	<i>Doris Wilhite</i>
<i>Ann Ader</i>	
<i>Rosanne Becker</i>	
<i>Roscoe Overton</i>	
<i>Janis Marshall Todd</i>	

*Let us continue to be in prayer for those named and those
whose names we may not know.*

Prayer changes things!



Drum Roll please... Announcing the 2020 winner of the Valiant Woman Award... Mary Terrell!

On Tuesday, March 2, our honoree for CWU Valiant Woman 2020, Mary Terrell, was lured to Red Lobster by the offer of a belated birthday lunch with Pat Hochstetler. Mary was quite surprised to find B.J. Johnson and Susan Holman greeting her at the door with flowers and a certificate. After the requisite photo ops, the ladies enjoyed a delightful time of celebration and eating, made more special by actually being together in person after such a long time. The presentation was read aloud, and a fun time enjoyed by everyone. Special thanks to Valiant Woman Committee members Susan Holman and Johnnie Overton, as well as President BJ Johnson and Pat Hochstetler for their help in making this possible.



Honoring Mary Terrell CWU Valiant Woman May 2020

Even though circumstances have intervened, and it has taken us almost a year to actually present this award, we are immensely pleased to honor Mary Virginia Terrell as our CWU Valiant Woman for 2020.

We all know Mary as the long time CWU member who is willing to volunteer for anything, and always with a smile on her face. That can-do spirit led her to organize a "circle of sisters" at her home church Grant Worship Center whose sole purpose is to serve as greeters, so you can picture the warmth and love that Mary exudes being spread all around!

As with many of our friends at CWU, I knew little about Mary's life outside her church, but her sister Sharon was graciously willing to help with that. Mary was born and grew up in San Antonio, along with her parents Elizabeth and Wesley Terrell and 2 brothers and 2 sisters. Mary was the youngest of her siblings for seven years until the unexpected arrival of her baby sister Sharon. Though she did not enjoy giving up that status in the beginning, she and Sharon are very close now. Mary graduated from Sam Houston High School and received her licensure as a Certified Nursing Aide from St. Phillips College, San Antonio. Over the years, she used her caregiving skills at various nursing homes, rehabilitation centers and hospitals in San Antonio and Austin, including St. David's. Her entire family was quite musical and her brother Billy, a school principal, serves as the 10th District Director of Music of the AME Church. Mary was blessed with a beautiful voice and served as an active and faithful member of choirs at Bethel A.M.E. and Emmanuel A.M.E. in San Antonio. In addition to singing in the Southwest District and State Conference Choirs, she is a long-time and valued member of the Grant Worship Center Choir.

Someone who has known and worked closely with Mary for over 23 years at Grant Worship Center shared this, "Mary is beyond dedicated as a member, dependable, organized and never forgets anything, and always follows through on her commitments." She is active in the Church School where she serves as secretary. She is a faithful attendee at the annual conference where she sings in the conference choir. In recognition for all her contributions at Grant, she was named "church member of the month" this past May 2020.

Mary has been a member of Austin Church Women United for almost 20 years, much of that serving as an active member of the CWU board. We can always count on Mary to come early and stay late, bringing her cheerful face to greeting at the registration table and with any other work to be done. In addition, she has served on the Ecumenical Celebrations Committee, contributing by calling volunteers to participate in our programs and frequently showing up in skits herself! Currently, she is the Courtesies Chair of the Ecumenical Development Committee, showing her love and concern for others through her dedication in sending cards or flowers to members who are ill or experiencing grief over the loss of a loved one. She has also expanded our reach-out to home-bound members, sending "thinking of you" cards on a regular basis. This is a ministry to which Mary has conscientiously devoted herself with hundreds receiving these "care notes." In the Fall 2019 when we could still "do things," she expanded her interest in the wider CWU family by attending the CWU State Leadership Training in Ft. Worth with President B. J. Johnson. They learned a lot, had a fun time, and came home with souvenir mugs!

With great respect for outstanding service to her church, her community, and Church Women United of Austin, we are honored to present Mary with the Valiant Woman Award for 2020.

This is the first call for nominations for Valiant Woman 2021, which we hope will be presented in a timelier manner. This honor is awarded annually by the Austin unit to a woman who has given outstanding service to the community of Austin and has helped build and shape Church Women United. Please refer to your CWU Yearbook for a list of past nominees. An electronic copy of the 2020 Yearbook is on the Home Page of our website www.churchwomenunited.org. Please submit the attached form, or the required information, to Susan Holman, Valiant Woman Committee, jaholman@swbell.net or 610 East 43rd St. Austin TX 78751.



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Valiant Woman Biographical Information

Please type or print clearly.
Use additional paper as needed.

Name of the woman to be honored_____

Address of the honoree_____

Telephone or cell number of the honoree_____

Please include a brief biographical description of the honoree. Include information about their family, church involvement, activities of the faith community, community activities, school activities and their level of education. Submit a photograph that will be returned.

Why do you recommend this individual?_____

Name of person submitting this form_____

Your Church Women United Unit_____

Your Church Name_____

Your mailing address _____

Your phone or cellular number _____

Your e-mail address_____

The deadline for submitting applications is Wednesday, April 10, 2021

Send to:

Susan Holman, Valiant Woman Committee,
jaholman@swbell.net or 610 East 43rd St. Austin TX 78751

Johnnie Overton submitted the following Black History Trivia Questions for the February Newsletter. Below are the questions with the answers. How did you do?

BLACK HISTORY TRIVIA – WHO AM I?

1. In 1976 I was the keynote speaker at the Democratic National Convention at which I nominated President Jimmy Carter. **ANS: BARBARA JORDAN**
2. I was a pioneer in the field of tennis and the first African American to play at the U.S. Open in 1950. **ANS: ALTHEA GIBSON**
3. I am a native of Atlanta, TX and the first African American to become a licensed pilot. I received my license on June 15, 1920. **ANS: BESSIE COLEMAN**
4. Black History Week became Black History Month in 1976. I was the originator of this recognition. **ANS: CARTER G. WOODSON**
5. I was the first African-American mayor of New York City. **ANS: DAVID NORMAN DINKINS**
6. I was one of the first African-American women to earn a college degree, and became known as a national activist for civil rights and suffrage. I also help found the National Association of Colored Women (1896) and served as its first national president. **ANS: MARY CHURCH TERRELL**
7. I was the first Black woman elected to the United States Congress, representing New York's 12th congressional district for seven terms; and the first woman to run for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination. **ANS: SHIRLEY ANITA CHISHOLM**
8. I was the first Austin city council representative for Austin's District 1 created by the Citizens Districting 10-1 plan. **ANS: ORA HOUSTON**
9. I was raised in New Orleans and became the first gospel singer to receive international recognition. I was called the "Queen of Gospel Song." **ANS: MAHALIA JACKSON**
10. I have served CWU as the NE Regional Coordinator, National Training Coordinator, and the Personnel Committee. I attend New Life United Methodist Church. Rochester CWU is my home unit. **ANS: MIRA J. WASHINGTON**

Also included with this newsletter is a copy of the April Forum flyer that was e-mailed out in February. It will be our first Zoom meeting since Covid began.