



January 2022

# CONSORTIA

SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER

## MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

It is my honor to serve as Director of the Consortium of Doctors in 'such a time as this...'

When I think about our organization I visualize a hand with five fingers connected to a wrist. Dr. Abigail H. Jordan, is the wrist; the root; our Founder. She was a visionary whose ideas are embedded in our Mission Statement to guide our work.

Look at our palm and see the lines imprinted there. You know them as palmar flexion creases. They exist to 'hold', 'fold', and 'stretch'. Look at our fingers; each different in lengths and in functions. Even our fingertips are purposely designed, with imprints to distinguish us from each other.

Nevertheless, while we work separately from one another, the most significant thing to elevate is the work we do together to perpetuate the goals of the Consortium. Whenever we put our 'hands to the plow' and work together, the load becomes lighter. Let us continue to embrace one another. Let us make space for each of our personal gifts. Let us embrace unity.

Respectfully,

*Marguerite*

Dr. Marguerite T. Birt



# Message from our Co-Director



## Cheers

TO THE NEW YEAR!

Greetings Sisters,

I come to you with a grateful heart to serve as your Co-Director. In the year 2022, I think it is important to remember we all offer value and we are uniquely created in the image of our maker. No one can beat you at being you, so stand tall as you are. As I have journeyed through life, I aim to serve and be a difference-maker. I look forward to working shoulder to shoulder with you all in service.

I leave you with this quote "Everyone has a unique role to fill in the world and is important in some respect. Everyone, including and perhaps especially you, is indispensable."

~Nathaniel Hawthorne

Until Soon,

*Regina*

Dr. Regina Henry





**“Historic Triumph of Dr. Abigail Jordan”, Mixed Media Montage by Aberjhani, 2019**

Aberjhani is an African American historian, poet, journalist, essayist, and fiction writer. His Encyclopedia of the Harlem Renaissance is one of the most referenced titles on the 1920s to 1940s cultural movement, and his first book, *I Made My Boy Out of Poetry*, is often described as a modern underground classic. He is a native Savannahian. Aberjhani was friend of Dr. Jordan and gave the Consortium of Doctors permission to use this mixed media collage during the 2019 conference, including as the cover page of the souvenir book. Aberjhani attended the 2019 Bouquet of Doctors Banquet in Savannah.

**Reprinted from The Art by Aberjhani website:**

Prior to the unveiling of the African American Family Monument on River Street in Savannah, Georgia, USA, on July 27, 2002, there were no public artworks commemorating the contributions of African Americans to the city's rich history. The absence of such recognition was particularly glaring because of Savannah's more than 50 percent black population. It was also problematic because of the numerous statues and public sites dedicated to acknowledging the lives and values of slaveholders who had attempted to separate from the United States and form their own confederacy.

Dr. Abigail Jordan insisted on a more balanced public representation of Savannah's history and for a decade led the battle to construct the African American Family Monument. She personally donated more than \$100,000 to help get the job done. The monument painted golden bronze in my "Historic Triumph of Dr. Abigail Jordan" montage seen here, is now one of the most visited in the city.

Abigail Jordan died January 9, 2019. The essay I first wrote about her for my book, *The American Poet Who Went Home Again*, has been revised for a forthcoming volume titled: *Dreams of the Immortal City Savannah*. Although completely different from the originals, the oil and watercolor rendered images of Dr. Jordan seen in this artwork, with one exception, were modeled after photographs she gave me with permission to use them in works documenting her legacy. (I invite anyone responsible for any original, and who wishes to be acknowledged for it, to contact me.) In the upper left quadrant, she is standing next to a bust of civil rights icon Rosa Parks.

Fittingly enough, Abigail Jordan was born at the height of the Harlem Renaissance so I am honored to present this artwork during the 100th anniversary of the renaissance.

# 2022 Planning Committee Chair Dr. Sylvia Carey-Butler



Three years ago, January 2019, I was in Savannah as a member of the Planning Committee that Dr. Birt co-chaired, for a site visit for the 28th Annual Meeting in July. We lost our founder, Dr. Abigail Jordan, two weeks before and her son scheduled her memorial service to be held while we were in Savannah so her beloved COD could be represented.

So many things have transpired since then and I am honored and privileged to be appointed the Planning Committee Chair for the 2022 Annual Conference under the direction of our new director, Dr. Birt.

The pandemic has changed many things, including our annual conferences; 2020 was postponed and 2021 was convened remotely. A survey was sent out this fall and the results show that there are members who need to meet remotely and members who would like to come to Savannah if it's safe.

Therefore, the Planning Committee is currently planning a dual track: there will be a remote meeting, and we are planning for the possibility that there are a few who will come to Savannah to meet. This hybrid form of meeting is becoming the "new normal" for many organizations.

As per bylaws, the 2022 meeting will have a business session that includes the election of officers. The COD Youth Essay Committee has restructured their event to include a video presentation from the students.



If some of us go to Savannah, we will visit the African American Family Monument with its newly installed plaque honoring Dr. Jordan and COD, worship Sunday morning at St. James AME Church, and plan other activities to reconnect the sisterhood.

Our "new normal" means we will not sign a contract with a hotel with meeting space and ballroom but rather look for small hotel as we expect there to be a small number of attendees. April 1st is the deadline for announcing if there will be a Savannah option for the meeting. The conference theme and draft agenda will be sent at the end of the month.



Sylvia Carey-Butler, PhD  
Vice President for Institutional  
Equity and Diversity  
Brown University



*The Best is  
Yet to Come!*



## **Consortium of Doctors Officers**

**Director: Marguerite T. Birt, EdD**

**Co-Director: Regina Henry, EdD**

**Secretary: Kenya Newby, PhD**

**Treasurer: Deborah Cole, DBA**

**Parliamentarian: Carolyn Tucker, PhD**

**Archivist Historian: Clara Small, EdD**

**Newsletter Editor: Tenielle Buchanan, EdD**