

## Dawn Brewer

**Dawn Brewer** also affectionately known as DD is a consultant, event planner, seamstress and actress. She is a Jersey girl born and bred. As the middle child of 5 she learned to be a negotiator and this skill has taken her on the ride of her life both personally and professionally.



While attending the University of Washington in Seattle she caught the acting bug. With college behind her she redirected her life to that of wife and mother and began a career in the financial services industry. Dawn worked diligently for 21 years rising through the ranks. She retired from the credit union and banking world as the VP of Marketing for Coca-Cola Credit Union. She is an award-winning marketer and led a team providing leadership in brand development, new product implementation, and innovation.

Over the years she has been an avid volunteer for multiple organizations and churches. Dawn currently serves as the Membership and Chapter Coordinator for the African American Credit Union Coalition.

Dawn is a 20 year cancer survivor with a real zest for life. When she is not spending time with her husband, blended family of 6 children and 15 grandchildren she can be found traveling, line dancing, sewing, roller skating and playing cards.

**Her life motto** is to “*Continue Making Memories*” for they will last and no one can take them from you!

## Amy Benton



**Amy Benton** has been practicing yoga for many years. As a licensed Occupational Therapist, Amy worked a great deal within the geriatric population. She noticed that yoga could also be of great benefit to this group as well as others, and after spending several decades practicing at home and with others she became a certified instructor in the ancient practice.

Since then Amy has been teaching in multiple studios as well as privately. Amy's consistent desire to learn and progress has kept her in constant training and education as she always strives to learn more and do better. Amy has a passion for guiding people to discover all the ways in which yoga can enhance their lives. She enjoys working with people with all levels of experience, from those who've never tried yoga to people who have practiced for years.

Her classes are designed to provide a "just right" challenge and to keep her students safe. They include a mix of asanas (physical poses), pranayama (breathing practices), mudras (hand positions), and meditation. Amy offers both group and private instruction.

## **Janniece V. Leonard**

Business Consultant  
Marketing / Email / Project Management



**Janniece Leonard** is the Chief Problem Solver of eClick2Business, and brings over 18+ years of marketing and advertising experience to a wide range of for profit, non-profit and small business clients. Having caught the marketing bug while working with organizations such as Black Enterprise, Emerge and Money magazine, her passion for helping small business owners grow and succeed became more evident.

### **Contact info:**

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## Muriel D. Hepburn



**Muriel D. Hepburn** has more than forty years of extensive business experience in non-profit, corporate, education, and public accounting industries. Her skills and expertise are concentrated in financial and managerial accounting, cash management, budgeting, human resource management, strategic planning, operations, and auditing.

Muriel graduated from Florida State University (Tallahassee, Florida) with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and a MBA, with a concentration in Finance and Accounting. She is an active certified public accountant (CPA) licensed in the State of Georgia. Additionally, she is a certified associate in project management (CAPM).

Muriel has held executive positions with major organizations, including Vice President with Equifax, Inc. and Deputy Director with the National Black Arts Festival, Inc. For several years, she owned a financial consulting practice that provided financial accounting, consulting and income tax services to small businesses and individuals. As an experienced consultant, she provides financial and managerial expertise as well as training to board members, finance executives and senior management.<sup>1</sup> As an educator, she has held adjunct business and accounting positions with various colleges and universities in Georgia. Currently, she is an Assistant Professor of Business Administration and Accounting at Atlanta Metropolitan State College.

With a strong belief in life-long learning, Muriel promotes the establishment of quality educational institutions and the provision of quality educational services for children in her community. She has been a PTA president at both the elementary and high school levels and has served in several leadership positions in the Fulton County School System.

*(See over...)*

## **Muriel D. Hepburn**

Muriel is a longtime active member of The Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church (GPGBC), Atlanta. For twenty-five years, she coordinated the GPGBC children's ministry. She is committed to giving back and making a difference in the lives of others, often mentoring children and adults. Muriel serves as a mentor and volunteer for Leaders of Tomorrow (LOT), an organization of the National Black MBA Association of which she is a member. Also, Muriel serves on the Board of the Tarik Black Foundation, Inc., Memphis, Tennessee.

Muriel has been married almost forty-three years to her loving and supportive husband, Clifford. They have three adult children, Christopher, Mariel and Milann, who have exemplified through their own accomplishments, the benefits of their parents' commitment to excellence, love of education and serving others. They are doting grandparents to one grandson and two granddaughters. They enjoy domestic and international travel. Muriel is an avid reader and an enthusiastic Scrabble™ player. She enjoys cooking and creating special dishes for her family.

Muriel Hepburn's ongoing passion is to help individuals build generational wealth, thus, achieving financial freedom and stability. She facilitates training sessions on financial literacy, budgeting, savings and credit.

## Dr. Portia K. Wayne

**Dr. P. K. Wayne** is an educator and published author. A graduate of Spelman College, Wayne continued on to earn a Master's in Teaching and Learning, and a Doctorate in Higher and Postsecondary Education. She was a committee member of the Institution Review Board at Argosy University for two years.

P. K. Wayne is the founder of The Write Aide, a non-profit organization advocating for literacy. The Write Aide serves the greater Atlanta metro area, focusing on the importance of literacy at home and providing community members with free books and literacy strategies. In 2017-2018, The Write Aide served DeKalb and Rockdale Counties as Community Representative on the Partnership for Community Action Head Start Policy Council.

For younger readers, P. K. Wayne has penned three children's books titled, *A Bad Hair Day*, *Booger Bites: A Nose Picker's Battle with an Icky, Sticky Habit* and *A Dinosaur in Decatur*.

Most recently, Dr. Wayne has released her debut novel, *Strings Attached*. All books by P. K. Wayne are currently available on Amazon, Barnes and Nobles and various local bookstores.



## Juantisa Hughes

**Juantisa Hughes** is a powerhouse woman of God with the anointed gift of extemporaneous preaching and teaching. Her purpose-driven assignment to reach the masses through the word of God has led her to help women from all over the world to believe God in the areas of marriage restoration and body transformation from the inside out. Born in Albany, GA to Mary Jenkins and the late Johnny Haines, she learned at an early age the meaning of hard work. Humble beginnings, life altering experiences and a strong but small village of support fueled a passion in Juantisa to serve others. She is a licensed and ordained Minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ, Wife to a loving Man of God; Roy Hughes III, Mother to two gifted sons; Roy & Royce. Juantisa is also a Doctoral Candidate, Hair Salon Owner, Fitness and Life-style Coach.

### **A Message to You from Juantisa:**

I know the importance of sowing seeds. I used to think it was all about acts of kindness & financial giving. I came to realize that EVERYTHING we do is SEED sowing. The type of seed we sow & the ground in which it's sown determines what we reap. To honor God we must understand that our bodies are the essential sowing ground for ALL that is to manifest in our lives.

For the word tells us; *Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.* (1Cor 6:19-20).

So, with every prayer, workout, nutritious meal & drink of water know that you're honoring God by sowing into your God given temple and you can expect to reap a harvest ... inside and out.



**Melody M. Maddox**  
Sheriff, DeKalb County, Georgia

For Sheriff Melody M. Maddox, law enforcement is more than a job. It is an honorable profession and a way of life to which she is deeply committed. To her, that means creating a safer environment for DeKalb County's adults, seniors and young people.



Her successful 20 plus-year career in law enforcement includes experience with various agencies serving the metropolitan area. She began in the profession with the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office and went on to serve with both the City of Atlanta Police and the DeKalb County Police Departments. In 2008, she applied that experience to the creation of the public safety office for the rapidly-expanding DeKalb Technical College – now Georgia Piedmont Technical College (GPTC). There, she became the office's Assistant Chief of Police and, subsequently, the college's first female Chief of Police. She was the only woman in that position within the Technical College System of Georgia's 22 colleges statewide. In 2013, Sheriff Maddox relinquished that position to pursue her longtime goal as an elected official in law enforcement. She was the only female among seven candidates seeking election as DeKalb County Sheriff in 2014.

Earlier this year, Sheriff Maddox joined the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office as Chief of Administration. On July 1, 2019, then Sheriff Jeffery Mann appointed her Chief Deputy. The position is the highest ranking non-elected position in the agency and it is responsible for the planning and administration of the jail, courts, field and training operations.

*(See over...)*



**Melody M. Maddox**  
Sheriff, DeKalb County, Georgia

Sheriff Maddox is P.O.S.T. (Peace Officer Standard Training) certified and she is certified as a defensive tactics instructor. Her professional affiliations include the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police (GACP), International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), Women in Public Safety, DeKalb County Chief's Association, National Sheriffs' Association, and the National Organization for Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE).

Sheriff Maddox earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Morris Brown College, an MSA degree in General Administration from Central Michigan University, and a her master's degree in African-American Ministries from the Newburgh Theological Seminary/Newburgh College of the Bible. She is a graduate of J. E. Brown High School.

A tireless community service advocate, Sheriff Maddox is a 2017 graduate of Leadership DeKalb. She is a frequent guest speaker at Career Days and senior centers. As CEO of Woman 2 Woman Personal Awareness and Safety Training (W2W P.A.S.T.), Sheriff Maddox has an established reputation throughout the community as an expert in women's self-defense training and personal safety. Through her W2W P.A.S.T. Prom Sponsorship program, she encourages academic excellence that awards DeKalb high school seniors with a cash gift and prom essentials.

She is a member of the DeKalb County NAACP, National Council of Negro Women, Women for Morris Brown College, Saint Philip AME Church and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She has been recognized for her exemplary community service on the Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN), and in The Ivy Leaf, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. national magazine. Women Looking Ahead newsmagazine featured her in its 2019 salute to Georgia's Most Powerful and Influential Law Enforcement Officials. An Atlanta native and DeKalb County resident, Sheriff Maddox has a daughter, Indira, three grandchildren, and one god-grandchild.

## **Lorraine Cochran-Johnson**

Super District 7 Commissioner

*Courage must come from the soul within,  
The man must furnish the will to win;  
So figure it out for yourself, my lad,  
You were born with all that the great have had.*

~ Edgar A. Guest



Lorraine Cochran-Johnson is originally from Greenville, Alabama and an eighteen-year DeKalb County, GA resident. Lorraine attended Troy University where she received a B.S. Degree in Political Science and Criminal Justice; a M.S. in The Administration of Criminal Justice; and, received the M.P.A. in Public Administration with a concentration in Economic Development and Grant Writing from Auburn University before attending John Marshall Law School.

Lorraine has over a decade of experience in print media, mass communications, and management. A seasoned grant writer, Lorraine has developed state and federal proposals since 1994 that resulted in the procurement of millions in CDBG funding for state and local entities through the Auburn University Economic Development Institute. As a community activist and parent, Lorraine is a past president of Pine Ridge Elementary (2006-2007) and Chapel Hill Middle School (2008-2009) PTA and independently secured over \$200,000 in funding for school revitalization and digital technology in 2017.

*(See over...)*

## **Lorraine Cochran-Johnson**

Super District 7 Commissioner

As a professional, Lorraine spent over a decade at Creative Loafing Newspaper. An entrepreneur, Lorraine founded Salons Unlimited Magazine, a publication that started with 5,000 print issues in Atlanta and grew to a 56,000 circulation in 31 U.S. cities in three years before being sold in 2010. In 2009, Lorraine became a founding member of United Front Media, a premiere film and visual media company specializing in content development where she produced commercials for the City of Atlanta, MARTA, KIA and Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport. In 2015, Lorraine joined Real Times Media as the General Manager of the Atlanta Daily World Newspaper and Associate Publisher of Who's Who in Black Atlanta and VP of Business Development for RTM Properties – AtlantaDailyWorld.com and Atlanta Tribune: The Magazine, before resigning to pursue public service.

Lorraine strongly supports positive initiatives in economic development, education, public safety and home ownership. Moderator of DeKalb's PDS-24 television show EngagementNow, Lorraine works with show producers to develop content crafted around issues relevant to modern education. The wife of Ret. Lt. Col. William H. Johnson, III, niece of Annie Page and the Mother of Martin Luther King Jr. High School International Baccalaureate student Zion Cochran, Lorraine values family and community above all else.

**Debra DeBerry**  
Clerk of Superior Court  
DeKalb County, GA



Debra E. DeBerry hails from New York City with over 20 years of experience and service in the public sector. In 2003, her career in DeKalb County commenced as Chief Deputy Clerk of Superior Court. In her current position as Clerk of Superior Court, DeBerry manages ninety (90) employees who provide services to the citizens of the county and she also manages an annual departmental budget of over \$6 million.

Since coming to DeKalb County, DeBerry has overseen the DeKalb County Jury Commission, served on the DeKalb County Juvenile Court Citizen Review Panel, was appointed to the Global Advisory Committee (GAC) reporting to United States Attorney General Eric Holder, served on the AIDS/HIV Task Force, and has been a volunteer and contributor for Hosea Feed the Hungry and Homeless Initiative. Ms. DeBerry also formed a relationship with Briggs and Associates, an agency which assists the mentally and physically challenged with employment and has hired three (3) employees through the agency.

DeBerry began her municipal career with the Watershed Management Department for the City of Atlanta as an Environmental Compliance Engineer. Her primary responsibility was protecting the community by ensuring that hazardous material disposal met the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards.

*(See over...)*

## **Debra DeBerry**

She also worked in the Office of Community Affairs where addressing the needs and concerns of the community were primary functions. During her time in the Office of Community Affairs, DeBerry was tasked with comforting those experiencing loss as she did during the Atlanta Financial District Shootings. Compassion for people is at the core of Ms. DeBerry's being and is one of the cornerstones of her administration as DeKalb County Clerk of Superior Court. DeBerry also worked briefly in the Fulton County District Attorney's Office before joining DeKalb County.

Ms. DeBerry's experience in leadership is vast; she served as a member of the Operations Staff for the 1996 Olympic Games and was a Goodwill Ambassador to Black College Spring Break students. Prior to working in the government sector, DeBerry worked at General Motors for 20 years. In her position at General Motors, she managed over 100 employees and a multi-million dollar daily budget. Most importantly, DeBerry excelled in establishing work flow processes and in increasing efficiencies.

DeBerry is an active member and former board member of the National Association for Court Management (NACM) as well as a member and third year Mentor for the National Forum for Black Public Administrators (NFBPA). DeBerry played an integral role in WestCare being formed in Georgia. Since 2009, she has served as a community liaison and advisor for WestCare. She has also worked diligently with the Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative.

DeBerry is passionate about public service and works tirelessly to support her community and those in need. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James DeBerry exposed her, at an early age, to the Civil Rights Movement, especially the importance of justice for ALL. She has volunteered with countless charitable organizations, and on numerous community improvement projects resulting in several letters of commendation from dignitaries.

Ms. DeBerry understands commitment and hard work first-hand from raising her son as a single mother. Ramon is DeBerry's only child. He is currently a Deputy Sheriff.

## **Antoinette L. Dunstan**

Education Specialist | Mentor Leader | Speaker | Trainer | Philanthropist | Innovator



Antoinette L. Dunstan has 8+ years of executive and management experience in youth and economic development, social enterprise, entrepreneurship and education. She has 15 years of behavior modification coaching and program management experience.

Antoinette is the Founder and Executive Director of The First Ladies Youth Leadership Foundation, Inc. Its mission is to train and equip girls around the world to be positive global change agents; and to dominate in the ten strategic cultures of the nations of the world with strength and dignity. The Foundation's ten pillars of focus are: purpose, mentorship, sisterhood, high school/college readiness, etiquette/social skills, civic engagement/social change, leadership, career readiness, entrepreneurship and building healthy families. With a passion for girls' empowerment Antoinette and her team consider every mentee as a priceless gem.

For 10+ years, Antoinette has served the Rockdale community as an Education Specialist in the public-school sector. During this time, she has been afforded the leadership opportunity to pilot the school district's first peer leadership program and to direct the largest community and school-based mentorship program both at the middle school level. She also spearheaded her school's first community youth forum. Antoinette has had the unique pleasure of being a panelist for "Unmasking Mean Girls", being a co-facilitator for "Why Peer Intervention is Viable" at the National Youth At-Risk Conference in Savannah and for the "Using the Power of Peer Leadership to Move Your School Culture and Climate from Good to Great" at the Innovative Schools Summit in Las Vegas.

With a passion for social skills transformation, community outreach, leadership and education Antoinette has taught elementary - college level students in learning centers, public and private schools, civic organizations, and churches the art of etiquette and the principles of servant leadership.

Antoinette received her Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Clark Atlanta University. Currently, she is in training at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolence and is a member of the National Center for Civil and Human Rights Women and Girls Collaborative. She is a recipient of the Rockdale County Public Schools' Laura Barnes Honorary School Social Worker Award. She enjoys spending time with her remarkable parents and family, singing classical music, salsa dancing, working out, live jazz and traveling. She credits her late mentor Earnestine (Tina) Vaughn, a marketplace leadership trainer for spring-boarding her passion for mentorship. Antoinette is devoted to pleasing God and living on purpose, while helping others find their divine purpose.

## *Kuaretta Lawrence*

**The Leading Voice, LLC**

*Inspiring and accomplished public speaker,  
life enrichment coach, YouTube channel host, avid  
writer and editor, and entrepreneur*



Kuaretta holds a bachelor's degree in Theology and is currently the Vice President of Education, in the Georgia Commerce Toastmasters club in Duluth, GA. She has been a public speaker for the past 13 years and has addressed audiences great and small in the corporate, religious, and community sectors. Her speaking commitments have been: Keynote speaker, Mistress of Ceremony, Minister, Conference Speaker, and Motivational Leader.

Kuaretta speaks with elegance and compassion, as she encourages her audiences to believe in themselves. Using powerful stories and her own life testimonies, Kuaretta inspires others to think on a higher level and commit to action, so they can advance every day. She effectively reaches her audience and creates an energetic, heartfelt experience where everyone walks away inspired.

Kuaretta's goal is to positively affect the world, one inspirational speech at a time. She knows, when her audience is influenced to believe in their dreams, the world is automatically enhanced.

**Evelyn K. Dudley**  
**Inspirational Poet**



**Evelyn K. Dudley** has been writing poetry since she was sixteen years old. She is also a nature lover and a culinary enthusiast. Miss Dudley customizes poems to suit any occasion, and affectionately signs the pieces (Purpose Designs).

Inspired by the book of Psalms, which she deems the poetry of heaven, Miss Dudley has written a special series that's close to her heart, she calls Solmz. (Pronounced Psalms).

Miss Dudley's work has been showcased in public libraries, spoken word performances and as healing tools for the bereaved and shut-in. Her poem, "The Journey" is featured on the back of the funeral program of the late Coretta Scott King. Miss Dudley currently resides in Sumter, SC



## Dasha Price

**Dasha Price** is a Clinical Massage Therapist at Massage Art Studio LLC located in Decatur, Georgia. Dasha cultivates a healing environment that allows the body to come back to a state of homeostasis (balance). Specializing in 17 different modalities of Massage Therapy, Dasha can aid in relieving most soft tissue ailments that create discomfort and pain from both acute and chronic conditions.



### **A message from Dasha:**

Each year that I practice Massage Therapy, I find a deeper respect and passion for my work. I find that the more in tune that I am with myself, the more effective my touch becomes. I pride myself on results, not just short term, but lasting results that you feel. I began my studies in South Florida in 2005, but upon the recommendation of one of my instructors I furthered my studies at Atlanta School of Massage which was rated number 2 in the country and graduated as class president in 2009. In 2017 I went back to school and received an Associates of Science in Massage and Natural Health. It is with great pleasure that I can share my gift of healing touch with those both near and far. I enjoy massage as it has become a lifestyle and my aim is to educate that it is not just a luxury.

For more information or to schedule an appoint, send all email requests to [messageartstudio@gmail.com](mailto:messageartstudio@gmail.com) or visit [www.messageartstudio.com](http://www.messageartstudio.com)

### **My favorite quote:**

*The art of medicine consists in amusing the patient while nature heals the disease ~ Voltaire*

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