

LOWRY SPEAKER SERIES
PRESENTS

**“AN OVERVIEW OF
DENVER’S AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY”**

We will host a moderated panel discussion with author Charlene Porter, Judge Gary Jackson, Rene Gash, and Dr. George Junne. All our guests are African Americans, and Ms. Porter, Judge Jackson and Ms. Gash are from multi-generational Denver families.

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2020
7:00–8:30PM**

THE EISENHOWER CHAPEL, 293 ROSLYN STREET, DENVER, CO

This event is free and open to the public, but **RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED.**

Visit www.lowryfoundation.org to reserve your spot

(limit of 45 socially-distanced audience members – **FACE MASKS REQUIRED**).

This presentation will also be presented on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89693367610>.

For more information, please call (303) 344-0481

OUR GUESTS WILL TALK ABOUT:



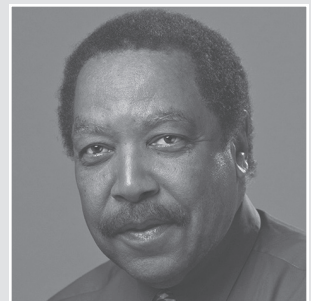
CHARLENE PORTER:
Her father’s Country Club neighborhood, and great-grandmother’s home near what is now the Governor’s Mansion



JUDGE GARY JACKSON:
Growing up in North Cherry Creek and having a second home in historic Lincoln Hills



RENE GASH:
Her Five Points family history



DR. GEORGE JUNNE:
Black communities in Colorado and specifically Dearfield, an historically Black majority settlement in Weld County



LOWRY SPEAKER SERIES

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UPCOMING LOWRY SPEAKER SERIES EVENT:

A SPECIAL VETERANS DAY PRESENTATION WITH LISETTE CLEMONS

The Lowry Speaker Series is pleased to offer a special Veterans Day presentation by welcoming Lisette Clemons. A Colorado native and a teacher by trade, Lisette is the wife of Dean Clemons USAF (Retired), the commander of the communications squadron at Lowry when it closed in 1994.

As a military wife, Lisette had the pleasure of being with our fine men and women in uniform. She has volunteered with many organizations that support military families, and her greatest honor is being an Arlington Lady.

The Arlington Ladies are a group of women who attend the funeral of every member of the United States armed forces who is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Lisette will talk about the background of Arlington National Cemetery, the mission of the Arlington Ladies, and follow with stories about life on Lowry Air Force Base in its final years.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2020
7:00–8:30PM

THE EISENHOWER CHAPEL, 293 ROSLYN STREET, DENVER, CO

This event is free and open to the public, but **RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED.**

Visit www.lowryfoundation.org to reserve your spot

(limit of 50 socially-distanced audience members – **FACE MASKS REQUIRED**).

Can't join us in person at the chapel? We will be streaming the event live here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7788103222>

For more information, please call the Lowry Foundation at (303) 344-0481

CHARLENE AUVERNE PORTER



Author of compelling, opulent stories rooted in African American heritage, faith, aspiration, courage, industry, tenacity, and valor. Co-FOUNDER, Chief Visionary Officer, Board Chair, HATTIE McDANIEL MUSEUM, Denver, Colorado

Charlene Porter, author of Denver Post #1 Local Bestseller *Boldfaced Lies*, is a fourth generation Denverite. All her grandparents settled in Denver during the late 1890s and early 1900s. She is an avid golfer, grateful skier, and dedicated community volunteer.

After graduating from George Washington High, she was the first in her family to attend college out-of-state; at Howard University in Washington, D.C. Freshman year she was also an administrative intern in the U.S. Capitol office of Colorado Senator Peter Dominick. A portion of sophomore year she taught pre-school in New York City. Junior year she became the first Black person hired by trade publication *Broadcasting Magazine*, as a proofreader. Senior year she was a fulltime editor and writer for the National Association of Broadcasters. That same year she accepted the commission by Washington D.C.'s NBC affiliate, WRC-TV, to write three, hour long, docu-dramas. About... Benjamin Banneker; Frederick Douglass; and Harriet Tubman.

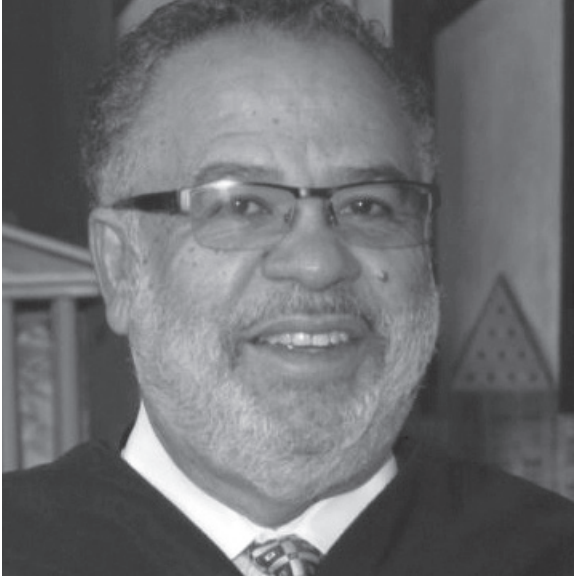
She later moved to CA and enrolled in night classes at American Film Institute and UCLA. The following year she accepted a position at the University of Southern California as an administrative assistant in the newly created History Media Institute. The university's policy of free credit hours every semester for fulltime employees permitted her to take School of Cinematic Arts classes. A subsequent stint in Walt Disney's accounting department, located in a high-rise office building overlooking the remnants of Burbank orange groves and Universal Studios back lots, motivated her to work on finishing more "spec" (sample writing) scripts.

She also began working toward her Secondary Teaching Credential at Cal State LA. The parents of students she was teaching on a long-term substitute basis at a Los Angeles Unified School District high school urged the principal to offer her a full-time contract; thus, beginning an eleven-year blessing. She often describes her tenure in the classroom as, "opening a jewel box every day." Her world had expanded to include Armenians, Chinese, Belizeans, Koreans, Uzbekistanis, Guatemalans, East Indians, Indigenous Americans, Baldwin Hills debutantes, South Central scholars, and many others. A forever highlight is being twice nominated into Who's Who Among America's Teachers by students who were in the top ten percent academically.

She eventually made her way back to Denver. She published her first novel (which became an eleven-week local bestseller and was an NAACP Image Award finalist); was a precinct captain for President Obama's campaigns; as well, received her "Divine Assignment" to pursue establishing the HATTIE McDANIEL MUSEUM. In tandem, a traditional publisher offered Charlene a contract for her biography of Ms. McDaniel. *Golden Dreams: How Hattie McDaniel Broke Barriers in Hollywood and Beyond*.

Also, Charlene was inducted into the George Washington High Alumni Hall of Fame; is a current student in the Regis University Mile High MFA program for Creative Writing; a prospective member of her father's Rotary club (Mile High Rotary); an active member of Scott United Methodist Church. and a Student Private Pilot. Her dream airplane: A ruby red and Oscar gold Cirrus SR22. The foundation of her life is conveyed by Hebrews 10:24. "Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works."

GARY M. JACKSON



Gary M. Jackson, a native of Colorado, grew up in Denver and graduated with honors from George Washington High School. He received an academic scholarship to the University of Redlands in California and earned his undergraduate degree and J.D. from the University of Colorado in Boulder.

He began his legal career as a deputy district attorney with the Denver District Attorney's Office in 1970. In 1974, he was assigned to the Civil Division of the United States Attorney's Office, District of Colorado.

In 1976, Gary entered private practice and became a partner in the law firm of DiManna, Eklund, Ciancio & Jackson. In 1982 Michael DiManna and Gary Jackson formed the law firm of DiManna & Jackson, a partnership that continued until Gary's appointment by Mayor Michael Hancock to the Denver County Court bench in January 2013.

In 1971, Gary was one of the founders of the Sam Cary Bar Association, an organization dedicated to promoting professionalism and the exchange of ideas among African-American lawyers.

Numerous other community organizations have benefitted from Gary's leadership and involvement, including the Northeast Denver Youth Services, the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble, and the Denver Urban League. With his participation in the Sam Cary Scholarship Endowment Fund and the Delta Eta Boule Foundation (of which he is Chairman), these organization have awarded deserving African-American students nearly a quarter million dollars in scholarships. Gary also has generously shared his legal knowledge and experience through mentoring programs and instruction at colleges and law schools throughout Colorado.

With a celebrated legal career spanning five decades, Gary has been recognized with many accolades and awards including: Colorado Super Lawyer (2006-2012), the National Bar Association's Wiley Branton Award, the Colorado Bar Association's Award of Merit (2011), the William Lee Knous Award (2010), the Order of the Coif from CU Law School (2003), the CU George Norlin Award (2008), and George Washington High School Inaugural Hall of Fame (2016).

The Honorable Judge Gary Jackson currently presides in the Criminal Division of Denver County Court. In 2018 the Colorado Judicial Institute recognized Gary with its Judicial Excellence Award for County Court Judge of the year. Mayor Michael Hancock presented Gary with Monte Pascoe Civic Leadership Award in 2018. In 2019 Colorado Law Week in its annual Barrister's Magazine selected Gary as Trial Judge of the year. In 2020 the Center for Legal Inclusiveness awarded Gary the Hon. Wiley Daniel Lifetime Achievement Award. Also, In 2020 Colorado Law Week and the Denver Bar Association awarded Gary its Judicial Excellence Awards.

JEFFREY RENE GASH



I'm a native Denverite. Born in 1942 at Denver General Hospital. I grew up near city park at 23rd and Race Street. I attended Columbine grade school, Morey Junior High and East High School, graduating in 1960.

I worked for Continental Oil and Colorado National Bank after attending college. In 1966 I was hired by IBM as a secretary for Field Engineering. In a few years, 1967, I was recruited by Braniff International Airways to be a hostess. I was the first black hostess for Braniff Airways. The term flight attendant came later. I flew 15 years for Braniff until the airline folded in 1982. It was a wonderful time in my life. I flew to many wonderful places and saw a lot of the world.

After a short time, I went to work for the State of Colorado. My first position was in Adams County as an administrative assistant in Human Resources. Eventually I made my way to the Auraria

Campus and worked for the University of Colorado, College of Business later to be named the School of Business. I worked there for 24 years until my retirement in 2007. As an administrative assistant, I served faculty and staff.

In retirement I joined the Symphony Guild, supporters of, and fund raisers for the Colorado symphony. In 2008, I believe the Denver East Chapter was started and I was the first president. It was very enjoyable, and I enjoy being in the guild. Presently, I do volunteering with the Symphony Guild, my church and also a civic group I belong to called Mothers of Many. We give scholarships to college bound young people.

GEORGE H. JUNNE, JR., Ph.D.



Professor and Program Coordinator, Africana Studies, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley

- Black American West Museum & Heritage Center (Denver)
 - Colorado Black Round Table
 - Overseas Brats
 - University Press of Colorado, Board of Trustees
 - Western Social Science Association
-

Education” award from Colorado Black Round Table. He’s the recipient of the Paleontological Society’s prestigious Harrell L. Strimple Award for his contributions and has three fossils named after him.

A writer, scholar and teacher, Professor of Africana Studies George Junne, Ph.D., is a specialist on African Americans and film, the Black American West, the Civil War and general African American history and culture. He has published six books and more than 50 book chapters and articles on periods ranging from the Civil War and emancipation to the Harlem Renaissance and Colorado’s participation in the civil rights movement.

Junne, who came to UNC in 1999, has traveled with students to Egypt, worked at Bogaziçi University in Istanbul as a visiting professor during summers since 2000, and been interviewed as an expert in USA TODAY and for various publications and films.

He was interviewed and filmed for an award-winning PBS documentary called Clara: Angel of the Rockies. One of the first African American women to live in Denver, Clara Brown was emancipated from slavery in Kentucky in 1858 and became a successful businesswoman in Colorado. He has worked to save and chronicle the history of an early 20th century African American settlement called Dearfield, located about 25 miles east of Greeley.

Junne’s honors include recognition from Denver Urban Spectrum for his 2015 exhibit titled “Me and the Dream Exhibit and Program,” in addition to the Paul Stewart Award from Black American West Museum in Denver and “Champion of Higher