

FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATION

37TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREAT DEBATE PRODUCTION

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREAT DEBATE HONOR SOCIETY

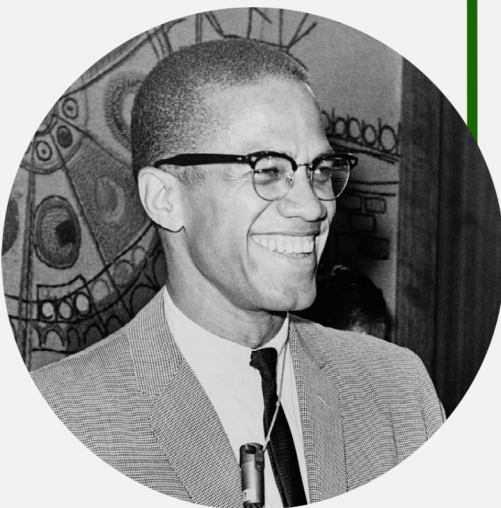
A Public Policy Debate:

Black Colleges Need Reparations and Africana Studies Departments to Overcome Decades of Arrested Development and Cultural Alienation

TENNESSEE
STATE
UNIVERSITY

CHEYNEY
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PRAIRIE
VIEW A&M
UNIVERSITY



Virtual Great Debate
Wednesday, February 02, 2022
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. EST

Dedicated to

Callie House

(1861 – 1928)

After the Civil War (1861 - 1865) in the United States of America, the Confederate Veterans and their widows were awarded reparations in the form of lifetime pensions. Ironically, the 40 acres and a mule reparation for the ex-African Chattel slaves was rescinded during reconstruction (1865 - 1877). When President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, and Andrew Johnson from Tennessee became president.

Born in 1861 into slaveholding Rutherford County, Callie Guy, later known as Callie House, was a pioneering African American political activist who campaigned for slave reparations in the burgeoning Jim Crow-era American South. In her youth, Callie House lived with her widowed mother, sister, and her sister's husband, Charlie House. In 1883, she married William House, a possible relation to her sister's husband, and together they had five children.

For an occupation, House took in laundry from other African Americans and from white patrons to support her family. In the mid-1890s, possibly spurred by greater economic opportunities and wider kinship networks, Callie House moved her family to south Nashville.

In south Nashville, various pro-reparations movements, advertised in pamphlets circulated throughout the local African American community, intrigued House. Inspired, House teamed with Isaiah Dickerson to organize the National Ex-Slave Mutual Relief, Bounty, and Pension Association in 1894. Before moving to Nashville, Dickerson worked as a political activist for William Vaughan, a white newspaper editor of the Omaha, Nebraska, Daily Democrat, who sought reparations for African Americans as a way to supply the South with much needed capital. Dissatisfied with the paternalistic mission of Vaughn's organization, Callie House and Isaiah Dickerson traveled extensively throughout southern and border states gathering support for the new organization that would provide relief and services on a local level while agitating for reparations on a national level. In 1898, Tennessee laws chartered the Ex-Slave Pension Association that House and Dickerson started.

On a local level, the National Ex-Slave Mutual Relief, Bounty, and Pension Association functioned similarly to immigrant aid societies that emerged in urban areas in the early 1900s and existed throughout African American communities following the demise of the Freedman's Bureau. Through the efforts of Callie House and other organizing agents, local chapters were established and funded through monthly dues to provide burial expenses for members and to care for those who were sick and disabled.

Nationally, the Ex-Slave Pension Association held conventions, elected national officers, and worked for the passage of congressional legislation in support of ex-slave reparations. The national organization also provided traveling expenses to reparation lobbyists and local chapter organizers.



However, Callie House and her organization faced opposition from both African American leaders and government officials. The passage of segregation laws throughout the South fostered this antagonistic climate. White southerners viewed the reparations movement with suspicion; they saw Callie House's organizing efforts as confusing and misleading to African Americans. From the white perspective, there was no chance of Congress passing reparation legislation; so whites assumed that the organizing efforts of House and Dickerson were defrauding African Americans of their hard-earned money.

In response from supposed complaints from white constituents, the U.S. Pensions Bureau, the governmental agency that supervised the dispersion of money to Union veterans, started covert surveillance on Callie House and the association. In 1899, Callie House received notice that the Post Office had issued a fraud order against her and her organization, ostensibly because they were, according to postal authorities, soliciting money under false pretenses.

Continued federal hostility led House to step down from her post as assistant secretary of the Ex-Slave Pension Association in 1902. She continued to organize local chapters throughout the South, but after the failure of Alabama Congressman Edmund Petus's reparations legislation in 1903, the reparations movement in Congress lost momentum and support eroded. Facing the prospect of stalled legislation, Callie House enlisted the aid of attorney Cornelius Jones to sue the Treasury Department for \$68,073,388.99 in cotton taxes traced to slave labor in Texas. In 1915, they filed the suit in district court and, although the litigation raised the profile of the slave reparations issue, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals dismissed the suit, citing governmental immunity from litigation.

In 1916 Postmaster General A. S. Burleson sought an indictment against Callie House. On May 10, 1916, Nashville District Attorney Lee Douglass filed indictments against House and other officers of the National Ex-Slave Mutual Relief, Bounty, and Pension Association charging that they had obtained money from ex-slaves by fraudulent circulars proclaiming that pensions and reparations were forthcoming.

The district attorney's evidence was flimsy. None of the victims of the supposed fraud were named, and the literature in question stated only that the monies paid to the national organization would be used to promote the passage of legislation for slave reparations. Additionally, Callie House still resided in the same home in South Nashville that she had originally moved to from Rutherford County, undermining the allegation that Callie House personally profited from her work with the association. Although the evidence was weak, an all-male, white jury convicted Callie House on the charge of mail fraud, resulting in a sentence of a year and one day. She served her sentence in the Jefferson City, Missouri, penitentiary from November 1917 to August 1, 1918, earning early release for good behavior. Following her release from prison, she resumed her work as a laundress in her local south Nashville community.

While the national component of House's organization dissolved with criminal charges against it, other individuals and organizations continued House's efforts to secure reparations and assistance for African Americans throughout the twentieth century. Callie House's grassroots organizing, in the midst of a white supremacist culture, foreshadowed the rise of other African American groups and individuals, making her a pioneer within the African American community. Callie House died on June 6, 1928, and is buried in the old Mt. Ararat cemetery in Nashville in an unidentified grave.



THE GREAT DEBATE

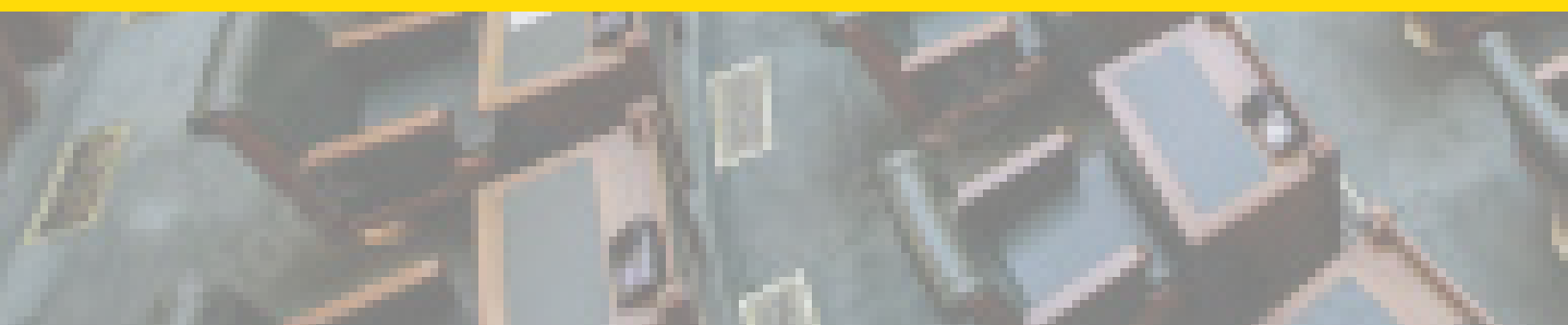
History is Prologue.

The Great Debate Production was founded in 1985 and the Great Debate Honor Society, Inc. in 1992 by our Emir and Griot, Dr. Amiri Yasin Al-Hadid.

He envisioned the Great Debate as an intellectual and cultural project in the “letter and spirit” of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz and John Coltrane. Three of the most iconic orators, debaters and classical Jazz musicians of the 20th century respectively. The Great Debate is a dialectical pedagogy designed to study the theologies and methods of change and transformation employed by Dr. King, El-Shabazz and Coltrane. The Great Debate is also an intellectual and cultural forum that debates current issues and social problems utilizing these perspectives.

The Great Debate is designed to develop intellectual skills and increase cultural awareness as an integral part of the curriculum at universities such as Howard University, Cheyney University and Tennessee State University as well as other institutions seeking to develop scholars, leaders, and critical thinkers for the campus, community, and professions upon graduation.

The Great Debate Honor Society, Inc. has a chartered national grand chapter with three university chapters. The Honor Society intellectual culture is rooted in the Triple Heritage of African, Christian, and Islamic beliefs and value systems. Our classical foundation is based on the ancient Egyptian concept of Ma’at – Truth, Balance, Order, Law, Morality and Justice.



PARTICIPATING UNIVERSITIES

A wide-angle photograph of the main building of Tennessee State University. The building is a large, multi-story structure with a central portico supported by columns and a small clock tower on the roof. It is surrounded by green lawns and trees. In the foreground, there is a paved walkway and a small circular area.

Tennessee State University

VS

A photograph of the main building of Prairie View A & M University. The building is a large, multi-story structure with a central portico supported by columns. It is surrounded by green lawns and trees. In the foreground, there is a paved walkway and a small circular area.

Prairie View A & M University

VS

A photograph of the main building of Cheyney University. The building is a large, multi-story structure made of stone with many windows. It has a gabled roof and a small portico on the left side. There are trees and a paved walkway in the foreground.

Cheyney University

PROGRAM FLOW

OPENING CEREMONY

MODERATORS

MRS. JAMILA H. TYRRELL, PRESIDENT, **MR. RICO X**, PARLIAMENTARIAN, AND **MRS. KELLI X**, TREASURER, GREAT DEBATE HONOR SOCIETY, INC., GRAND CHAPTER

LIBATIONS

AKOSUA REED MEMBER, GREAT DEBATE HONOR SOCIETY, INC., GRAND CHAPTER

BLACK NATIONAL STAR SPANGLED ANTHEM

M.E. AND SAANEAH, MUSICAL ARTIST AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JEFFERSON STREET SOUND MUSEUM

PROLOGUE

DR. AMIRI YASIN AL-HADID, EMIR, FOUNDER, AND GRIOT OF THE GREAT DEBATE HONOR SOCIETY, INC. GRAND CHAPTER, NARRATOR **OLAKETI SHUTE-PETTAWAY**, VOICE OF THE ANNUAL AFRICAN STREET FESTIVAL

INTRODUCTION OF GREAT DEBATE JUDGES

ATTORNEY ZULU ALI, ZULU ALI & ASSOCIATES

MS. KENNISS HENRY, NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION CO-CHAIR, N'COBRA

MS. YVETTE MOYO, CO-FOUNDER OF REAL MEN COOK AND MOBE

DR. AMILCAR SHABAZZ, PRESIDENT, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF BLACK STUDIES, INC.

IMAM ZAID SHAKIR, CO-FOUNDER ZAYTUNA COLLEGE

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DR. RAYMOND WINBUSH AKA TIKARI BIOKO, RESEARCH PROFESSOR & DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE FOR URBAN RESEARCH AT MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

RA CAROL WOODARD, COMMUNITY RELATIONS MANAGER, THE EQUITY ALLIANCE

MOTTO: "BELOVED COMMUNITY FIRST AND COMPETITION SECOND"

DEBATE COACHES

MR. CURTIS WORD, HONORS SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR, CHEYNEY UNIVERSITY

DR. CHRISTOPHER MEDINA, DIRECTOR OF FORENSICS, PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

MR. SEAN ALLEN, DIRECTOR OF FORENSICS, TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

PROGRAM FLOW

LIGHTING OF THE COMPETITION CANDLES

MODERATORS & GREAT DEBATERS

OPENING ARGUMENTS (5 MINUTES EACH)

DR. KING, JR

KENNEDY SAULS, PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

EL-SHABAZZ

MAYA MCCLARY, TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

SYNTHESIS

HAROLD MITCHELL, CHEYNEY UNIVERSITY

CULTURAL VIGNETTE I

“CHANGE THE NARRATIVE,” TAMIKA “MIK” PONDS, CHEYNEY UNIVERSITY

REBUTTAL ARGUMENTS (5 MINUTES EACH)

EL-SHABAZZ

SANAE CHESTNUT, TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

SYNTHESIS

ADAM HANSEN, CHEYNEY UNIVERSITY DR.

KING

ARI KING, PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

CULTURAL VIGNETTE II

HONORING OUR QUEEN MOTHER

CLOSING ARGUMENTS (5 MINUTES EACH)

SYNTHESIS

AMIR CURRY, CHEYNEY UNIVERSITY

KING

MAIA MCFARLAND, PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

EL-SHABAZZ

CHRISTIAN JOHNSON, TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

CULTURAL VIGNETTE III

“BULLET CRY,” DE'TRAELYN HUBBARD, TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

EPILOGUE

MR. TOMMIE L. LEWIS, JR. VICE-PRESIDENT, GREAT DEBATE HONOR SOCIETY, INC. GRAND CHAPTER

The African Pledge

**We will remember the humanity, glory,
and suffering of our ancestors
and honour the struggle of our elders;**

**We will strive to bring new value,
and new life to our people**

We will have peace and harmony among us

We will be loving, sharing, and creative

We will work, study, and listen, so we may learn:

Learn so we may teach.

We will cultivate self-reliance

**We will struggle to resurrect
and unify our homeland;**

We will raise many children for our nation;

**We will have discipline, patience,
devotion and courage;**

**We will live as models,
to provide new direction for our people;**

We will be free and self-determining;

We are African people...

We will win!!!

Lift Every Voice & Sing

Lyrics by James Weldon Johnson (1871–1938) and set to music by his brother, J. Rosamond Johnson (1873–1954)

Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise,
High as the list'ning skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea
Sing a song full of faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the day that hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet,
Come to the place on which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the
slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by thy might,
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee,
Least our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget
thee,
Shadowed beneath the hand,
May we forever stand,
Tru to our God,
Tru to our native land.

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MAKE IT PLAIN CONSULTING

Establishment in 1996 in Nashville, Tennessee, Make It Plain Consulting is a business management firm specializing in human resources consulting, workforce training, performance coaching and economic inclusion. Our mission is to help our clients uncover their inherent strengths for sustained growth. Our business services include HR Consulting: culture assessments, employee engagement, outplacement services; Workforce Training: diversity, equity & inclusion training, leadership development, racial equity & implicit bias, cultural competence, emotional intelligence and team-building training; Performance Coaching: executive coaching, individual coaching, career coaching; and Economic Inclusion: stakeholder outreach, diverse labor recruiting and business development.

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OUR SPONSORS

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Tennessee State University, founded in 1912 is a public and historically black land-grant university in Nashville, Tennessee. The Forensics Team at Tennessee State University is honored to host this year's 37th Annual Great Debate, founded by Dr. Amiri Yasin Al-Hadid. This year's topic and public policy issue is "Black Colleges need Reparations and Africana Studies Departments to overcome decades of arrested development and cultural alienation". It is with great pride that we take part in such an historic event. We not only support the creation and sustainability of Africana Studies departments, but also value the skills that the activity of speech and debate has to offer. Speech and debate help to promote critical thinking, reading, writing, leadership aptitude and problem solving. It is our hope that the discussion of this topic's importance helps to further address the needs at Historical Black Universities.

GREAT DEBATE ACADEMY LLC

Great Debate Academy, LLC

Motto: "Knowledge.Debate.Culture"

The Great Debate Academy is an educational and cultural academy creatively engaged in the intellectual enterprise of learning, teaching, research, publications and community service. Our curriculum is based on the critical thinking skills found in the canon, theosophy and paradigm of El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz, John Coltrane and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Our mission is to build the Beloved Community envisioned by these humanitarians and drum majors for Human Rights.

Contact:

Email: thegreatdebateacademy@gmail.com

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 280658

Nashville, TN 37228-9998

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

JANUARY 15, 1929 – APRIL 4, 1968

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a vital figure of the modern era. His lectures and dialogues stirred the concern and sparked the conscience of a generation. The movements and marches he led brought significant changes in the fabric of American life through his courage and selfless devotion. This devotion gave direction to thirteen years of civil rights activities. His charismatic leadership inspired men and women, young and old, in this nation and around the world.

Dr. King's concept of "somebodiness," which symbolized the celebration of human worth and the conquest of subjugation, gave black and poor people hope and a sense of dignity. His philosophy of nonviolent direct action, and his strategies for rational and non-destructive social change, galvanized the conscience of this nation and reordered its priorities. His wisdom, his words, his actions, his commitment, and his dream for a new way of life are intertwined with the American experience.

EL-HAJJ MALIK EL-SHABAZZ (MALCOLM X)

MAY 19, 1925 - FEBRUARY 21, 1965

Malcolm X became a brilliant and charismatic speaker, building the Nation of Islam from 400 to 30,000 members. In 1964 Malcolm broke with the Nation and formed the Organization of Afro-American Unity. Journeying to Mecca, the holiest of Muslim shrines, he took the name El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz, and began speaking of international black consciousness and integration rather than racial separatism.

Historians consider Malcolm X among the half-dozen most influential African-American leaders in history. His book, *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, written with Alex Haley and published posthumously, is considered one of the most important non-fiction books of the 20th Century. Many black people felt that Malcolm X, by voicing the truth of their frustration and anger, gave them courage and self-respect.

His message was strength and pride and truth.

JOHN COLTRANE

SEPTEMBER 23, 1926 - JULY 17, 1967

John William Coltrane was an American jazz saxophonist and composer. Working in the bebop and hard bop idioms early in his career, Coltrane helped pioneer the use of modes and was one of the players at the forefront of free jazz.

He led at least fifty recording sessions and appeared on many albums by other musicians, including trumpeter Miles Davis and pianist Thelonious Monk. Over the course of his career, Coltrane's music took on an increasingly spiritual dimension, as exemplified on his most acclaimed albums *A Love Supreme* (1965) and *Ascension* (1966). He remains the most influential saxophonist in music history and has received numerous posthumous awards, including a Pulitzer Prize in 2007, and was canonized by the African Orthodox Church.

