

Ida's Legacy

IDA B. WELLS LEGACY COMMITTEE



**Fundraising Luncheon
Featuring Hillary Rodham Clinton**

April 12, 2018 • Sheraton Grand Chicago

Ida B. Wells

LEGACY COMMITTEE



The purpose of Ida's Legacy is to develop the next generation of progressive African-American women candidates who are willing to speak truth to power, work in the best interests of their constituents, keep voters informed and engage political activists around public policy decisions that positively or adversely impact their respective communities.

Ida's Legacy is inspired by the bravery and selflessness of Ida B. Wells-Barnett, whose advocacy for quality education, a free black press, women's rights, civil rights and the safety and protection of all American citizens is still relevant.

Ida's Legacy will follow in the footsteps of its namesake to build a political power base of African-American women in the ongoing pursuit to improve the quality of life of marginalized people and communities.

Ida's Legacy launched our events with a political and economic power breakfast featuring Julianne Malveaux, Ph.D. in November 2017. In February 2018, we hosted a forum for black women candidates seeking political offices at all levels of Illinois government. **Liberty and Libations**, planned for this summer at a community location, will provide an informal opportunity for both networking and listening to guest speakers.

With your support, we look to schedule at least four annual events designed to bring together a variety of those interested in promoting the values championed by Ida B. Wells. To ensure receiving the latest in Ida's Legacy news, request addition to our mailing list at office@idaslegacy.com.

Ida B. Wells Legacy Committee

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GUEST OF HONOR

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Born in Chicago, Hillary Rodham Clinton graduated from Wellesley College and Yale Law School, after which she began her life-long work on behalf of children and families by joining the Children's Defense Fund. She moved to Arkansas in 1974, where she married Bill Clinton and became a successful attorney while also raising their daughter, Chelsea.

As First Lady of the United States from 1993 to 2001, Clinton championed health care for all Americans and led successful bipartisan efforts to improve the adoption and foster care systems, reduce teen pregnancy and create the Children's Health Insurance Program.

A pioneer in breaking the "glass ceiling," she was the first First Lady elected to the United States Senate and the first woman elected to statewide office in New York. In 2007, she began her historic campaign for president, winning 18 million votes and becoming the first woman to ever win a presidential primary or caucus state.

Following four years as America's chief diplomat and President Barack Obama's principal foreign policy adviser, Clinton made history again in 2016 as the first woman nominated for president by a major U.S. political party.

Clinton has authored seven best-selling books. What Happened – released in September of 2017 – spent 16 weeks on the New York Times Bestseller List. She and President Clinton reside in New York and are the proud grandparents of Charlotte and Aidan.

PROGRAM

- Welcome:** Delmarie Cobb
Founder
Ida B. Wells Legacy Committee
- Greeting:** Deborah Crable
Mistress of Ceremonies
- Invocation:** Rev. Iva E. Carruthers
General Secretary
Samuel DeWitt Proctor
Conference

LUNCH

VIDEO INTRODUCTION

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Icon Award to Hillary Rodham Clinton
Ida's Legacy Award to The Chicago Reporter
Community Renewal Society, accepted by Rev. Robbie Craig
Interim Executive Director

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING REMARKS

- Benediction:** Rev. Marrice Coverson
Pastor
Church of the Spirit, Chicago

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sponsors

Friend (\$5,000-10,000)

JB Pritzker, Democratic Nominee for Illinois Governor

Fred Eychaner, Chicago Businessman

Next Generation (\$3,000)

Planned Parenthood of Illinois PAC

In-Kind

Mistress of Ceremonies - Deborah Crable

Introductory Video - Darlene Hill, Broadcast Journalist

Award - Debra Hand

Signage - Productive Displays

Floral Arrangements - John West, JW Landscapes

Production Director - Fred Bridges, APV Multimedia Inc.

Art Direction - Walter Freeman, ef Design Group

Photography - Sarah Matheson

Advisory Committee

Delmarie Cobb

Judith Cothran

Robert Cotter

Ayesha Crockett

Anthony Daniels-Halisi

Ce Cole Dillon

Walter Freeman

Jan Kallish

Laurel Appell Lipkin

Betty Magness

Alice J. Palmer

Carole A. Parks

Mark Payne

Josephine Perry

Karen Pittenger

Ann Smith

Mary Smith

Overlooked

By Amisha Padnani and Jessica Bennett

March 8, 2018*

Obituary writing is more about life than death: the last word, a testament to a human contribution. Yet who gets remembered — and how — inherently involves judgment. To look back at the obituary archives can, therefore, be a stark lesson in how society valued various achievements and achievers. Since 1851, The New York Times has published thousands of obituaries: of heads of state, opera singers, the inventor of Stove Top stuffing and the namer of the Slinky. The vast majority chronicled the lives of men, mostly white ones; even in the last two years, just over one in five of our subjects were female.

Charlotte Brontë wrote “Jane Eyre”; Emily Warren Roebling oversaw construction of the Brooklyn Bridge when her husband fell ill; Madhubala transfixed Bollywood; Ida B. Wells campaigned against lynching. Yet all of their deaths went unremarked in our pages, until now.

1862-1931

Ida B. Wells [Excerpts]

Took on racism in the Deep South with powerful reporting on lynchings.

By Caitlin Dickerson

...[Ida B.]Wells is considered by historians to have been the most famous black woman in the United States during her lifetime, even as she was dogged by prejudice, a disease infecting Americans from coast to coast.

She pioneered reporting techniques that remain central tenets of modern journalism. And as a former slave who stood less than five feet tall, she took on structural racism more than half a century before her strategies were repurposed, often without crediting her, during the 1960s civil rights movement.

Wells was already a 30-year-old newspaper editor living in Memphis when she began her anti-lynching campaign, the work for which she is most famous. ... [S]he set out on a reporting mission, crisscrossing the South over several months as she conducted eyewitness interviews and dug up records on dozens of similar cases.

Her goal was to question a stereotype that was often used to justify lynchings — that black men were rapists. Instead, she found that in two-thirds of mob murders, rape was never an accusation. And she often found evidence of what had actually been a consensual interracial relationship.

She published her findings in a series of fiery editorials in the newspaper she co-owned and edited, The Memphis Free Speech and Headlight. The public, it turned out, was starved for her stories and devoured them voraciously. The Journalist, a mainstream trade publication that covered the media, named her “The Princess of the Press.”

...Wells saw lynching as a violent form of subjugation — “an excuse to get rid of Negroes who were acquiring wealth and property and thus keep the race terrorized and ‘the nigger down,’ ” she wrote in a journal.

* Reprinted from The New York Times

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/obituaries/overlooked-ida-b-wells.html>

Wells was born into slavery in Holly Springs, Miss., in 1862, less than a year before Emancipation. She grew up during Reconstruction, the period when black men, including her father, were able to vote, ushering black representatives into state legislatures across the South. One of eight siblings, she often tagged along to Bible school on her mother's hip.

In 1878, her parents both died of yellow fever, along with one of her brothers; and at 16, she took on caring for the rest of her siblings. She supported them by working as a teacher after dropping out of high school and lying about her age. She finished her own education at night and on weekends.

Around the same time, the Civil Rights Act of 1875 was largely nullified by the Supreme Court, reversing many of the advancements of Reconstruction. The anti-black sentiment that grew around her was ultimately codified into Jim Crow.

....Observing the changes around her, Wells decided to become a journalist during what was a golden era for black writers and editors. Her goal was to write about black people for black people, in a way that was accessible to those who, like her, were born the property of white owners and had much to defend.

Her articles were often reprinted abroad, as well as in the more than 200 black weeklies then in circulation in the United States.

....Wells also organized economic boycotts long before the tactic was popularized by other, mostly male, civil rights activists, who are often credited with its success.

In 1883, she was forced off a train car reserved for white women. She sued the railroad and lost on appeal before the Tennessee Supreme Court, after which she urged African-Americans to avoid the trains, and later, to leave the South entirely. She also traveled to Britain to rally her cause, encouraging

the British to stop purchasing American cotton and angering many white Southern business owners.

....[H]er husband and closest confidant, Ferdinand L. Barnett, a widower ...was a lawyer and civil rights activist in Chicago. After they married in 1895, Barnett's activism took a back seat to his wife's career. Theirs was an atypically modern relationship: He cooked dinner for their children most nights, and he cared for them while she traveled to make speeches and organize.

Later in life, Wells fell from prominence as she was replaced by activists like Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. Du Bois, who were more conservative in their tactics, and thus had more support from the white and black establishments. She helped to found prominent civil rights organizations including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the National Association of Colored Women, only to be edged out of their leadership.

During the final years of her life, living in Chicago, Wells ran for the Illinois State Senate, but lost abysmally. Despite her ebbing influence, she continued to organize around causes such as mass incarceration, working for several years as a probation officer, until she died of kidney disease on March 25, 1931, at 68.

Wells was threatened physically and rhetorically constantly throughout her career...[b]ut her commitment to chronicling the experience of African-Americans in order to demonstrate their humanity remained unflinching.

"If this work can contribute in any way toward proving this, and at the same time arouse the conscience of the American people to demand for justice to every citizen, and punishment by law for the lawless, I shall feel I have done my race a service," she wrote after fleeing Memphis, "Other considerations are minor."

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