

This Is *Our* Story:

Changing Narratives to Build Racial Equity

FEBRUARY 15, 2023

WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL



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PRELUDE

Presented by the
Cathedral College
of Faith & Culture as
part of *Light in the
Darkness: The Racial
Justice Windows project*
at Washington
National Cathedral.

Support for *Light in the
Darkness* is generously
provided by the Mellon
Foundation and the
Ford Foundation.

Learn more at
cathedral.org/windows.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

The Very Rev. Randolph Marshall Hollerith

CATHEDRAL DEAN

The Rev. Canon Leonard L. Hamlin, Sr.

CANON MISSIONER & MINISTER FOR EQUITY & INCLUSION

OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Yolanda Pierce

PROFESSOR AND DEAN, HOWARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF DIVINITY

PANEL CONVERSATION

Dr. Sarah Barringer Gordon

ARLIN M. ADAMS PROFESSOR OF CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AND PROFESSOR OF HISTORY,
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

The Honorable Suzan Johnson Cook

FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

MODERATOR

Dr. Gwendolyn Dubois Shaw

CLASS OF 1940 BICENTENNIAL TERM ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

AUDIENCE Q&A

IN-PERSON AND ONLINE AUDIENCE MEMBERS CAN SUBMIT
QUESTIONS BY SCANNING THIS QR CODE



BENEDICTION

The Very Rev. Randolph Marshall Hollerith

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Gwendolyn DuBois Shaw



Gwendolyn DuBois Shaw is the Class of 1940 Bicentennial Term Associate Professor in the Department of the History of Art at the University of Pennsylvania. Her research focuses on portraiture and issues of representation, with an emphasis on the construction of race, class, gender, and sexuality in the United States. She has previously served on the faculty of Harvard University and as the Director of Research, Publications, and Scholarly Programs at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery. In addition to her books, *Seeing the Unspeakable: The Art of Kara Walker* (Duke: 2004) and *First Ladies of the United States* (Smithsonian: 2020), she has also curated numerous exhibitions, including *Portraits of a People: Picturing African Americans in the Nineteenth Century* (2006), *Represent: 200 Years of African American Art at the Philadelphia Museum of Art* (2015), and *I Dream a World: Selections from Brian Lanker's Portraits of Remarkable Black Women*, now on view (through August 2023) at the National Portrait Gallery.

Sarah Barringer Gordon



Sarah Barringer Gordon is the Arlin M. Adams Professor of Constitutional Law and Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania. She is well known for her work on religion in American public life and the law of church and state, especially for the ways that religious liberty developed over the course of American national history. She is a frequent commentator in news media on the constitutional law of religion and debates about religious freedom. In 2015-16, Gordon was a Guggenheim Fellow, and in fall 2017, she held the Maguire Chair in Ethics and American History at the Library of Congress. Gordon has also served as the President of the American Society for Legal History and serves as co-editor of *Studies in Legal History*, the book series of the Society. She is the author of *The Mormon Question: Polygamy and Constitutional Conflict in Nineteenth-century America* (University of North Carolina Press, 2002) and *The Spirit of the Law: Religious Voices and the Constitution in Modern America* (Harvard University Press, 2010).

Yolanda Pierce



Yolanda Pierce is Professor and Dean of the Howard University School of Divinity. She is a scholar of African American religious history, womanist theology, and race and religion. In 2016, Dr. Pierce was appointed as the Founding Director of the Center for African American Religious Life at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. Previously, she served as the Founding Director of the Center for Black Church Studies and Associate Professor of Religion and Literature at Princeton Theological Seminary. As a first-generation college student, Pierce earned degrees from Cornell University and Princeton University. Dr. Pierce has written several books, essays, and articles for academic and trade journals including *Time Magazine*, *Theology Today*, and *Christianity & Literature*. Her newest book is *In My Grandmother's House: Black Women, Faith, and the Stories We Inherit*, and she is currently a columnist for *The Christian Century*. Dr. Pierce has been the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including fellowships from the Ford Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, and the Pew Foundation.

Suzan Johnson Cook



Suzan Johnson Cook was the first female and African American to hold the position of U.S. Ambassador for International Religious Freedom. Nominated by Secretary Hillary Clinton, and appointed by President Barack Obama, she was the principal advisor to the President of the United States and Secretary of State, for religious freedom, globally, having all 199 countries in her portfolio, and integrating religious freedom into the foreign policy and national security discussions. She represented the United States in 28 countries and more than 100 diplomatic engagements, bringing faith leaders and women to the Religious Freedom table. Additionally, she has been the faith advisor to two U.S. Presidents, three cabinet secretaries, as well as political and celebrity leaders. She served as President Bill Clinton's only faith advisor on the historic "President's Initiative on Race". On the front lines of 9/11, she helped New York and our nation through traumatic times, and become known as "America's Chaplain". She formerly served 3 NYC congregations and was the first female chaplain of the NYPD.

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