

The Honorable **Lucille Simmons Whipper**

Lucille Simmons Whipper credits her education at historically black institutions for instilling in her the will to make a difference wherever she found herself. In 1944 she was a student activist at her high school, Avery Institute. Her graduating class sought to desegregate the College of Charleston. And later, while a student at Talladega College (AL), she became involved in a movement to integrate college student organizations throughout the state. Mrs. Whipper continued her graduate education in political science at the University of Chicago and later earned a certificate in Guidance and Counseling at South Carolina State University.

In the late sixties Mrs. Whipper and others organized *Operation Catch-Up*, a tutorial program for high school students. She served as director of this countywide program placing many high school graduates in colleges and universities throughout the country. The College of Charleston's *Operation Catch-Up* was a forerunner of the Upward Bound programs found today on college campuses.

Accepting an appointment to serve as Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Human Relations at the College of Charleston in 1972, she became the first African-American administrator and developed the College's first affirmative action plan. While at the College, she recruited faculty, community members, and alumni of Avery Institute (founded in 1865) to organize the Avery Institute of Afro-American History and Culture. With the support of members of the Charleston County Delegation and the President of the College, the Avery Research Center at the College of Charleston was established. It is nationally recognized for its archival collections on African-American history.



Having served as vice chairman of the Democratic Party Convention in 1972 and later elected to the Charleston District Twenty School Board, Mrs. Whipper's community activities led to more serious political involvement. In 1985 she became the first African-American female to serve as an elected state official from the Tri-County area. Mrs. Whipper served with distinction as a member of numerous committees and was appointed to many commissions on the local and state level serving for years on the State Human Affairs Commission. She cosponsored legislation dealing with medical, family, educational, health, and social issues in addition to sponsoring two important pieces of legislation — one making marital rape a crime and the other requiring the monitoring of state agencies in reaching their hiring goals for minorities and females.

As the wife of a distinguished pastor and religious leader, the late Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Whipper, Sr., she was involved in various aspects of church life. Presently, she serves her denomination as faculty member of the National Congress of Christian Education, and First Vice President of the Woman's Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina. She is a former member of the Morris College Board of Trustees.

Mrs. Whipper is the recipient of numerous awards including Honorary Doctorates of Humane Letters from Morris College, (1989), and the University of Charleston (1992); Legislator of the Year 1992, Mental Health and Human Services; SC Legislator for 1992, SC Chapter of National Association of Social Workers. She was inducted into the SC Black Hall of Fame in 1995 and awarded the order of the Palmetto in 1996.



December

2003

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

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Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a public bus in 1955.

Historian Charles Wesley was born in 1891.

First issue of "North Star" newspaper published in 1847.

American Anti-Slavery Society organized in 1833.

Mary McLeod Bethune, educator, founded National Council of Negro Women, 1935.

In 1971 Lewis Franklin Powell was confirmed as Supreme Court justice.

Lester Granger was named executive director of the National Urban League in 1941.

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Entertainer, Sammy Davis, Jr., was born, in 1925.

Entertainer, Red Foxx was born in 1925.

Ralph J. Bunche becomes the first Black person awarded a Nobel Peace Prize, 1950.

P.B.S. Pinchback became the first African-American governor of an American state, Louisiana, in 1872.

Joseph H. Rainey (S.C.) first African-American elected to Congress in 1870.

First Black women complete officer training for the WAVEs, 1944.

Congressman, John Langston was born, in 1829

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Hanukkah begins at Sunset

Maggie Lena Walker, banker, died in 1934.

Andrew Young of Georgia named ambassador and chief delegate to the United Nations in 1976.

Noble Sissle, lyricist and bandleader, died in 1975.

PUSH founded in 1971. 13th Amendment ratified in 1865.

Carter G. Woodson, historian, born in 1875.

South Carolina seceded from the Union in 1860.

Motown Records established in 1959 by Berry Gordy, Jr.

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First Day of Winter

Christmas Day

Kwanzaa Begins

Historian and author of "Destruction of Black Civilization," Dr. Chancellor Williams was born in 1898.

Alice H. Parker patented the gas heating furnace in 1919.

Irwin C. Mollison, first African-American judge of the Customs Court was born in 1898.

In 1971 Rev. Jesse Jackson organized Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity).

In 1924 DeFord Bailey, Sr., became the first African-American to perform on the Grand Ole Opry.

Pioneer of blood plasma research, Dr. Charles Richard Drew, established a pioneer blood bank in New York City, 1941.

Earl "Fatha" Hines, famed jazz musician and father of modern jazz piano, was born in 1905.

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New Year's Eve

Thomas Bradley was born in 1917.

Blues composer and singer Bo Diddley was born in 1928.

Odetta Felious Gordon, the folk singer and activist known as "Odetta" was born in 1930.