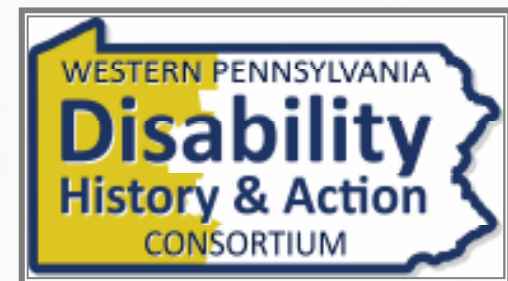


The Intersection of Race and Disability Project

Presented by Alonna Carter-Donaldson-Project Scholar

Western Pennsylvania Disability History and Action Consortium

- Founded in 2015
- The Western Pennsylvania Disability History and Action Consortium is a community-based archive that preserves and honors the historic struggle of people with disabilities to attain human and civil rights – and shares the lived experiences of today – in order to promote community access, participation and equal opportunity.
- **Partners-** Senator John Heinz History Center, Institute on Disabilities at Temple University, Achieva (Fiscal sponsor)
- **Funders:** PA Developmental Disabilities Council, Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust, FISA Foundation, A.W. Mellon Foundation, Individual donors



Steering Committee Members



Individuals

Senator John Heinz History Center

Institute on Disabilities at Temple University

Achieva

Community Living and Support Services (CLASS)

National Alliance on Mental Illness – Southwestern PA (NAMI)

- Inside Our Minds
- PEAL Center
- Pennsylvania History Coalition Honoring People with Disability
- Polk State Center
- Transitional Paths to Independent Living (TRPIL)
- Disability Options Network

FISA AND ACHIEVA

FISA Foundation champions equity, justice, safety and inclusion for women, girls, and people with disabilities, combatting systemic racism that impedes progress for these populations in southwestern Pennsylvania.

<https://fisafoundation.org/>

Achieva advocates for, empowers, and supports people with disabilities and their families throughout their lives.

<https://www.achieva.info/>

Everyone on this Slide Lives/Lived at the Intersection of Race and Disability



Race, Disability, & Intersectionality

6 million African Americans in the U.S. live with a disability of some kind

According to a 2020 report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Black Americans experience higher rates of disability compared to other races and are employed at a rate of 20.5% compared to 31.3% for people of other races.

Black or African American students with disabilities are more likely to receive disciplinary removal than all students with disabilities

About 30 to 50 percent of all people killed by law enforcement officers are disabled, according to a study by the Ruderman Family Foundation.

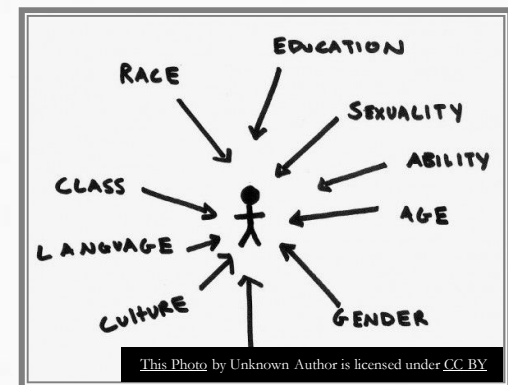
Where Are The Stories?



- Advocate and Activist Vilissa Thompson coined #DisabilityTooWhite
- BIPOCs represent large parts of the disability community, but their stories are often untold

The Intersection Race and Disability Project

Documenting and Sharing the History of Western Pennsylvanians with Disabilities who are People of Color in order to Expand the Historical Record and Advance Equity in Disability Rights. In addition, the project will contribute to systemic change through community engagement that explicitly connects this history to the contemporary struggle for racial equality, civil rights, and social justice – and supports advocacy for equitable policy and practices



This Project Explored the Questions

What do we need to know about people of color who live at the intersection of race and disability in Western Pennsylvania?

How have people of color led efforts to establish disability rights?

How has race affected access to treatment or services?

How have people faced interpersonal or systemic racism and ableism?

Acknowledgement of the Heinz History Center



Photo Courtesy of *Ebony Magazine*, Feb 1967

- Work has been done by our partner at Heinz History center on several exceptional individuals with disabilities
- Herb Douglas Sr, father of Olympian Herb Douglas Jr, was the first person to successfully use a seeing eye dog

Timeline to Date



Process

Researching and creating a short biography on each of the potential subjects

Created a selection criteria and took a poll with our advisory committee

Conducted oral history interviews with subjects, or people related to subject areas

- Disseminate through multiple platforms (social media, websites, newsletters, etc.)
- Engage with local media to promote stories
- Share with audiences like this one

Envision 2022- May 2022

Pitt Diversity and Inclusion Forum- July 2022

Heinz History Center- November 2022

Achieva- November- 2022

Racial Justice Summit- 2023

Presentations

Florence Reed b. 1944

- Co-Founder of Working Women With Disabilities, also known as 3WD
- Graduate of Miner's School (now University of the District of Columbia) and the University of Pittsburgh
- Former member of the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council
- Board member of CLASS
- Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.





scribbles

Women With Disabilities Dinner

Black, disabled and a woman. In some societies it would be three strikes you're out, but for Florence Reed, co-founder with Randi Rubin of Working Women With Disabilities Inc., it was incentive. The organization (begun in 1993 as a support group) held its First Annual Linda A. Dickerson Award Dinner Thursday at the University Club. Guest of honor Linda Dickerson was heralded as a person who understands and uses empowerment for the greater good. Among those applauding her good example were WWWD president Dolores Williams, Caroline Kaufmann, Diane Celidonia and Betty Patterson. — *Patricia Sheridan*

Pittsburgh Post-
Gazette
Pittsburgh,
Pennsylvania
29 Mar 2004,
Mon • Page 19

Maurika Moore b. 2001 & Rika's Hearts

- Named after Maurika Moore
- Founded in 2013
- Parents Cicely and Ron Moore started Rika's Hearts to give back to their community and to raise money for Rika's medical treatment
- Organizes events such as ANNUAL FAMILY FUN RUN/WALK FOR EPILEPSY
- Gives back to the community of Washington, PA



Stats

About 3.4 million
people in the U.S.
live with Epilepsy

578,000 African
Americans live
with Epilepsy

Henry Collins Bell

1862-1892



Henry C. Bell courtesy of the Western Pennsylvania
School for the Deaf

- Born in Pittsburgh to Martha Caroline Bell and Robert W. Bell
- Resident of the Hill District and later the Southside
- In 1868 showed up to the Third Presbyterian Church Sabbath School
- Was the first student of WPSD
- Learned to Sign his name and the Alphabet in 27 lessons
- Died in Wellsville, Ohio in 1891

Mr. **Henry Bell** of Wellsville, West Va., was being shown around the Institution this week, by Miss Mary S. Fowles. This was, we believe, his first visit here, and he was much interested in what he saw. His occupation is that of a barber, at which he is second to none. From here, he went to Pittsburg, Pa., to visit an uncle.

Mr. C. Carroll, also of Wellsville, West Va., was the guest of Miss Fowles, Tuesday. He went to Kansas City from here, where he hopes to obtain employment at his trade—shaft-maker.

The Deaf-Mute Journal August 18, 1892

We were not a little shocked, at the same time very sorry, to learn of the demise of Henry Bell, the colored mute, which occurred at Wellsburg, O., about three weeks ago. He passed away peacefully from earth, after an illness of about a week. He had been married for only two weeks, at the time of his death. It might interest your many readers to know that Mr. Bell had the distinction of being the first pupil admitted to the day school at Pittsburg. A small tablet ought to be erected and placed in the Edgewood Deaf-Mute Institution to his memory. A splendid idea!

The Deaf-Mute Journal December 8, 1892



Milton “Skip” Henderson 1961-2019

- Resident of the Hill District
- Worked for Three Rivers Center for Independent Living
- Served on the Statewide Independent Living Council
- Member of the Pittsburgh-Allegheny County Task Force on Disabilities

Disabled have it rough getting around

TRANSIT FROM PAGE A-1

aul Dick, retired vice president of St. Francis Medical Center, gets around in a wheelchair. He has been active in disability issues for a long time, and has had few problems with either the buses or Access vans.

"They're late once in a while, but most of the time, in my experience, they get there in the scheduled time frame," says Dick, who lives in Oak-



Martina Rial/Post-

Milton Henderson of the Hill District is lifted into an Access van by driver Thomas Gibbon for an appointment at HealthSouth in Harmarville. The driver was early for this ride, but may be up to 20 minutes later than the appointed time and still be considered on time.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
Pittsburgh,
Pennsylvania
14 Aug 2001,
Tue • Page 3

Marilyn McKinney

1947-2004



- Native of Detroit Michigan
- Former Program Officer for Pittsburgh Public Schools Students with Exceptionalities Office
- Secretary of the Pittsburgh NAACP
- President of the Greater Pittsburgh Alliance of Black School Educators
- Founder of African American Make A Wish
- Honored by the Creation of the Marilyn McKinney Award by the Local Task Force on the Right to Education

To me it is an idea. You just never stop fighting for the community. And she knew that there was so much more work to do and if she was going to go out, she was going to go out doing something that she loved. And she was going to go out helping Community because that's what she did for 30 years of her career... So, I think it's just You never stop. Never stop. Giving back to the community. There's always more work to do.

~Brian McKinney, son of Marilyn McKinney

I think her Legacy is that she really wanted to see the black community succeed. I think that is her Legacy. I think she wanted the black community to be seen as people... people with dreams and people with hopes and people who wanted economic success and people who wanted to be able to go to college, or to a trade school, to become, whatever it is, they want to do."

~ Ellen Estomin, friend and colleague of Marilyn McKinney



The Intersection of Race and Disability Class of 2022

Florence Reed

Rika's Hearts

Henry C. Bell

Milton Henderson

Marilyn McKinney

Themes



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- Education
- Access to Affordable Medical Treatment
- Non-Discrimination in the Workplace & Disability Employment
- Transportation Rights

Brown vs. Board of Education (1954)



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- Dismantled Plessy v. Ferguson “Separate but Equal Doctrine”
- Decided that schools should desegregate
- Laid the foundation for equal education

Rehabilitation Act of 1973

The **Rehabilitation Act of 1973**, Section 504 addresses protections for students with disabilities. Section 504 is a federal law designed to protect the rights of individuals with disabilities in programs and activities that receive Federal financial assistance from the department.

Section 504 states: “No otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States... shall, solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance....”

Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA) 1990

- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a law that makes available a free appropriate public education to eligible children with disabilities throughout the nation and ensures special education and related services to those children.
- The IDEA governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention, special education, and related services to more than 7.5 million (as of school year 2018-19) eligible infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities.
- Infants and toddlers, birth through age 2, with disabilities and their families receive early intervention services under IDEA Part C. Children and youth ages 3 through 21 receive special education and related services under IDEA Part B.
- Latest revisions in 2017- Rosa's Law and Supreme Court determined that "[t]o meet its substantive obligation under the IDEA, a school must offer an **IEP** reasonably calculated to enable a child to make progress appropriate in light of the child's circumstances."

Civil Rights Act of 1964

- It shall be an unlawful employment practice for an employer - (1) to fail or refuse to hire or to discharge any individual, or otherwise to discriminate against any individual with respect to his compensation, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment, because of such individual's race, color, religion, sex, or national origin; or (2) to limit, segregate, or classify his employees or applicants for employment in any way which would deprive or tend to deprive any individual of employment opportunities or otherwise adversely affect his status as an employee, because of such individual's race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.



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Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 1990



Jesse Jackson meeting with Justin Dart, Jr.
(Library of Congress)

- The Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)- Title I: Employment prohibits covered employers from discriminating against people with disabilities in all employment-related activities, including hiring, pay, benefits, firing and promotions. Covered employers include private businesses, educational institutions, employment agencies, labor organizations, and state and local government entities with 15 or more employees.

Transportation Rights

Part 37 of Transportation Services for Individuals with Disabilities Act:

- Reasonable accommodations must be provided on public transportation for individuals with disabilities as a provision of the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Chair lifts, adequate spacing for wheelchairs, and other medically necessary equipment
- Clear signage/Braille for those with vision impairment
- Proper audio accommodations



In Conclusion:

The struggle for disability rights and racial and social justice is ongoing

It is important to know the history of those who came before, both locally and nationally

It is our hope that the Intersection of Race and Disability project brings greater awareness.

Get In Touch!

- www.wpdhac.org
- info@wpdhac.org
- Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/WPDisabilityHistoryandActionConsortium/>
- 412-204-7199



Questions?