

# NNPA tabs Lenora Carter 2003's top publisher

By Hazel Trice Edney  
Special to Sentinel-Voice  
NEW ORLEANS (NNPA) - Lenora "Doll" Carter, chief executive, managing editor and publisher of the Houston Forward Times, has been named the National Newspaper Publishers Association's "Publisher of the Year."

"She's a very exciting person and she has really given her all. She's really stepped up to the plate," says NNPA Foundation President Brian Townsend. "She's available 24 hours a day as she serves on two different boards on behalf of our members."

Considered the organization's highest honor, the Publisher of the Year is voted on by member publishers for dedicated service to NNPA and journalistic excellence.

Carter, who succeeded her deceased husband, Julius Carter, as publisher of the Texas paper in 1971, is a member of the NNPA and the NNPA Foundation boards.

Her numerous awards include the NAACP Mickey Leland Humanitarian Award, Black Women in Journalism for Outstanding Accomplishment and Achievement in the Communication Industry (Pioneer Award); the Toombs-Brown Award from Professional Black Women's Enterprise, Inc., the "Pace Setter" Award from Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., Gamma Phi Sigma Chapter, and the 2002 National Council of Negro Women Pacesetters Award.

The evening began with

Townsend announcing the death of Arizona Informant Publisher Cloves Campbell Sr., 73. He had died earlier in the day of a sudden heart attack at the newspaper office. A moment of silence followed before resuming the awards program.

In the 2004 Merit Awards competition, the Philadelphia Tribune has continued its winning streak. In its 178th year of publication, the Tribune received five top awards, the same number of awards it won last year.

This year's five included the coveted John H. Sengstacke General Excellence Award. Sengstacke was the former publisher of the Chicago Defender and a chain of newspapers that included the Pittsburgh Courier. In 1940, he was the driving force behind the founding of the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association, a forerunner of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, NNPA.

The Tribune also won first place for Best Column Writing, Best Entertainment Section, Best Youth Section, and Best Special Edition.

With those honors also came the John B. Russwurm trophy for Philadelphia Tribune Publisher Bob Bogle, an NNPA former president. The Russwurm Award is the award presented to the publisher whose paper received the most points in all Merit Awards categories.

The second highest award winner was the Indianapolis Recorder with three first places, Best Editorial Cartoon, Best Church Page, and



Houston Forward Times Publisher Lenora "Doll" Carter, NNPA Publisher of the Year, receives the award from NNPA Foundation officers Dorothy Leavell, treasurer, and Brian Townsend, chairman.

Photo credit: NNPA/Hazel Trice Edney

Best Layout and Design for a broadsheet paper.

Separately, NNPA publishers also competed for the A. Philip Randolph Messenger Award, which honors selected newspapers for journalistic excellence in the field of civil rights. The Messenger Award is named for the newspaper published by Randolph, founder and president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the nation's first Black trade union and an elder statesman of the Civil Rights Movement.

Messenger Award winners were: Nayaba Arinde, New York Daily Challenge, civil rights news story; Linn Washington Jr., The Philadelphia Tribune, civil rights editorial/commentary; James W. Breedlove, La Vida News; The Black Voice, Education Editorial/Commentary; and Bhakti Larry Hough, The

Community Times, education news story.

The Merit Awards recognizes the talents of Black newspapers and publishers.

Merit Award winners were:

**General Excellence** — First: The Philadelphia Tribune; Second: The Washington Afro; Third: The St. Louis American

**Best Editorial** — First: Baltimore Afro-American; Second: Houston Forward Times; Third: The Seattle Medium

**Best Column Writing** — First: The Philadelphia Tribune; Second: The Atlanta Voice; Third: The Jackson Advocate

**Community Service Award** — First: Dallas Examiner; Second: The Charlotte Post

**Best News Story** — First: Minneapolis Spokesman/Recorder; Second: Philadelphia

Tribune; Third: New

**Best Feature Story** — First: New York Amsterdam News; Second: Houston Defender; Third: New Pittsburgh Courier

**Best News Pictures** — First: Los Angeles Sentinel; Second: Philadelphia Tribune; Third: Minneapolis Spokesman/Recorder

**Best Editorial Cartoon** — First: Indianapolis Recorder; Second: Los Angeles Sentinel; Third: Dallas Examiner

**Best Layout and Design (Tabloid)** — First: New York Amsterdam; Second: The Skanner; Third: The Chatham-Southeast Newspaper

**Best Layout and Design**

(**Broadsheet**) — First: Indianapolis Recorder; Second: The Philadelphia Tribune; Third: The Dallas Examiner

**Best Special Edition** — First: The Sunday Philadelphia Tribune; Second: St. Louis American; Third: Jackson Advocate

**Best Circulation Promotion** — First: Seattle Medium; Second: St. Louis American; Third: Afro-American Newspapers

**Best Women's Section** — First: Richmond Free Press; Second: New Pittsburgh Courier; Third: Los Angeles Sentinel

**Best Youth Section** — First: The Philadelphia Tribune; Second: New Pittsburgh Courier; Third: Jackson (See Awards, Page 7)

## Anika

(Continued from Page 1)

Las Vegas Fire Department Chief David L. Washington was among those who came to share thoughts about Johnson-Cunningham's retirement.

"It gives me great pleasure to take this opportunity to stop by to acknowledge the work that Anika has done," Washington said. "She worked not only as a professional educator to ensure that our children get that positive influence to go out and become better citizens, but she also has been quite active in our community as an activist and on behalf of the people that I know. We appreciate her and wish her very well in her retirement."

Steve McCoy, a Clark County School District administrator, was Johnson-Cunningham's supervisor.

"It's just been delightful working with Anika," McCoy said. "She's been wonderful to work with. I didn't know her at all until three years ago, when she became the principal at Mackey. I knew of her because my daughter-in-law had been a teacher under her at another school. She told me about this wonderful assistant principal who was so supportive and helpful, and gave her tips on how to deal with parents of emotionally handicapped children.

"It was a pleasure working with her over the past three years," McCoy said. "I found Anika to be a strong advocate for kids. She is leaving a legacy at Mackey through a new vision that she has created with her staff through the magnet program focusing on leadership and communication."

Others who also paid tribute to Johnson-Cunningham included Lorraine Blume, principal at Griffith Elementary School; Pat Schmidt, principal at M.J. Christensen Elementary School; Sam Wright, son Ahmad Johnson, friends and relatives.

Her husband, Tim Cunningham, said his wife has been an inspiration and the backbone of the family.

"I think her focus and knowledge about African history for some family members who didn't grasp the concept, and seeing how we have evolved as a family, has been a tremendous asset not only to my immediate family but to our kids and grandkids," he said.

## Natural History Museum hits 100 years

WASHINGTON (AP) - "From precious seeds these men have sown, Gigantic plants and trees have grown," wrote poet Solomon G. Brown of the early history of the Smithsonian Institution and the developments and agencies it had given birth to.

Brown, the first Black employee of the Smithsonian, was remembered Tuesday as the National Museum of Natural History marked the 100th anniversary of the groundbreaking for its building.

Brown took part in that June 15, 1904 event, happy for the growing institution yet lamenting the loss of stately old trees along the national mall that had to be felled for the museum.

Christian T. Samper, director of the Natural History

Museum, recalled those concerns Tuesday and broke ground again on the museum lawn to plant a cedar of Lebanon in Brown's memory.

"As the Smithsonian's first African-American employee, Solomon G. Brown was keenly aware that history was being made. As a self-educated scientist and naturalist, he was proud of the important role the Smithsonian played in both his own life and that of this young nation," Samper said.

Sharing the honors were Clara Ellis Payne and her son, Darryl Brandon Payne, of New York, who are descendants of Brown.

The Natural History Museum is now one of the most popular attractions in Washington, featuring a massive elephant called Henry in its

rotunda, and displays ranging from the fossils of dinosaurs to the Hope Diamond to baseball's place in America.

It also houses the largest museum research staff in the world, Samper noted, focusing on topics from anthropology to zoology with botany, entomology, mineral sciences and paleobiology in between.

Brown, born in 1829, joined the Smithsonian in 1852 and remained in service there until he retired in 1906. He died that same year.

Brown began as a laborer and rose to clerk and later naturalist at the museum. While Brown had not been able to attend school as a youngster, he went to work for the city's assistant postmaster, Lambert Tree.

## Precious Pamper Time Hair & Nails

Booths Rentals: Hair Stylist \$75 per week  
Nail Techs: \$50 per week

Call Debra Cooks 647-2403 • 328-3559 cell  
1230 W. Owens, Suite 1