Medgar Evers, a Mississippi native, left high school at age 17 and joined the U.S. Army during WWII. He fought in the infamous D-Day invasion of Nazi-occupied France and served in the military until 1946. After, he attended Alcorn College, got married, graduated, and moved to Mound Bayou, MS. While there, Evers was employed as an insurance agent and became active in the Regional Council of Negro Leadership. He helped organize boycotts against white-owned gas stations that refused to let blacks use their restrooms and attended RCNL’s annual conferences.

In 1954, Evers applied to the University of Mississippi Law School, but was rejected due to the color of his skin. This gained attention from the NCAAP, and later that year Evers became the organization’s first Field Secretary in Mississippi. Even after the Brown vs. Board of Education case that ruled segregation in public schools unconstitutional, black students faced obstacles with admission. Evers continued to work for the desegregation of the University of Mississippi, succeeding when James Meredith became the school’s first black student in 1962.

Evers’ role in the NAACP included setting up new chapters, organizing protests, and investigative work. After Emmett Till’s murder, Evers found potential witnesses to testify, secured them in protective custody (continued on page 2)

Pittsburgh’s First Lady

When thinking of Pittsburgh’s most influential figures over its history, Daisy Lampkin may not be one of the first names to come to mind - but perhaps she should.

Born Daisy Adams in Reading, PA, she moved to Pittsburgh after completing her education. Soon after, in 1912, she married restauranteur William Lampkin. Mrs. Lampkin became an avid suffrage advocate and got her start in social justice by joining the New Negro Women’s Equal Franchise Federation. She developed her skills as an orator and protest organizer, and was named the organization’s President in 1915.

After WWI, Lampkin won a contest held by the Pittsburgh Courier. She became a stockholder, wrote stories, and used the platform to raise money for social justice causes. In 1929, she became Vice President of the paper, helping it become the world’s top African-American run newspaper in the 1950s.

Lampkins’ biggest asset may have been her ability to motivate others. She organized the first Red Cross chapter among black women , (continued on page 2)
and secretly escorted them out of the town after a not-guilty verdict.

As Evers’ reputation grew in Jackson, MS, so did the threats on his life. Several failed attempts on his life culminated in his assassination outside of his home on June 12th, 1963. His killer wouldn’t be brought to justice for 30 years.

Evers’ death was mourned nationally; thousands attended his funeral at Arlington National Cemetery and crowds demonstrated in Jackson. Although no longer alive, Evers’ spirit has never perished.

His death was a catalyst for social reform, and touched one of his colleagues, Marion Jordan. After the tragedy, Jordan and Florence Reizenstein, both members of Pittsburgh’s Urban League Education Committee, were compelled to take action in the name of equal education. Together, they began a program to garner funds for 76 black high school students who were accepted into college but didn’t have the means to attend. To raise money, they wrote a letter to several influential individuals asking for assistance. This was the birth of NEED.

NEED is hardly the only organization to carry on Evers’ legacy. The city of Jackson renamed their airport after Evers and erected a statue in his honor. Medgar Evers College was established in 1970 as a part of The City University of New York. The Medgar & Myrlie Evers Institute was created to cultivate social and economic justice. The couple’s house in Jackson was recognized as a National Historic Landmark last month.

We salute Evers’ courage in the face of adversity and vow to keep his dreams alive.

Pittsburgh’s First Lady (continued)

set up local chapters of the Urban League and NAACP, and was the Vice-Chairwoman of the Colored Voters Division of the Republican National Committee. She was the only woman to attend a 1924 meeting with President Calvin Coolidge concerning racial equality.

Lampkin’s work gained recognition from the NAACP, and she was named the organization’s first Field Secretary in 1930. A year later, she arranged for the NAACP’s national convention to be held in Pittsburgh. Her knack for fundraising and organizing new chapters led to her promotion to National Field Secretary in 1935. Soon after, she took on an ambitious campaign to pass a federal anti-lynching bill through Congress. To raise awareness and money, she led a button fundraiser that produced nearly $10,000 despite the Great Depression.

Lampkin was also credited with recruiting attorney Thurgood Marshall to join the NAACP’s Legal Defense Committee. Marshall would go on to play a critical role in the litigation of the Brown vs Board of Education case that deemed segregation in public schools unconstitutional.

After resigning as a Field Secretary, Lampkin served on the NAACP’s executive board. She retired as one of the organization’s most prolific fundraisers and increased membership more than any other executive.

When Lampkin died in 1965, she left a nearly unparalleled legacy of social progress. Although not a Pittsburgh native, she is the epitome of the city’s quest for justice and equality.

Father of Black Nationalism

It was in Martin Delany’s blood to live courageously. He was born in Virginia in 1812 to an enslaved father and free mother. Delany was barely able to walk when attempts were made to enslave him. These attempts were only thwarted because his free mother carried him and a sibling 20 miles to a courthouse.

Delany’s paternal grandfather died trying to escape slave-catchers, and his father had to buy his freedom.

After Delany’s mother was reported for teaching her children how to read and write, she moved the family to Chambersburg, PA to ensure their continued freedom. Here, Delany was able to continue his education.

At age 19, Delany walked 130 miles west to Pittsburgh. He became a student at Trinity A.M.E. Church on Wylie Avenue, (continued on page 3)
Salute to Two of NEED’s Finest

Many students have come through NEED over the years and gone on to successful and meaningful careers. We’d like to take time to recognize two of these former recipients for their unique and valuable contributions to Pittsburgh.

Bill Robinson and Bill Strickland were both a part of NEED’s first classes of students in the mid 60s. Both committed their lives to the betterment of the community.

Robinson graduated from Schenley High School in 1960, and went on to earn a degree at Ohio State University. In 1972, he earned a masters degree in political science from Duquesne University. He would go on to teach political science, African American history, and public administration at several colleges around the city, including Pitt, Carlow, Point Park, and CCAC.

Robinson served on the Pittsburgh City Council from 1978 to 1985. During his time on the council he served as chair of the Committee of Planning Housing and Development, the Supplies Committee, and Committee on Business Practices and Investment Policies. In 1988, Robinson was elected to represent the 19th Legislative District in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He held the position for 14 years, serving on committees for education, tourism, health, and urban affairs, among others.

Strickland grew up in the city’s North Side and attended Oliver High School. While there, he was inspired by an arts teacher, Frank Ross, to get involved in arts, education, and the community. While earning a degree at the University of Pittsburgh, Strickland founded the Manchester Craftsmen’s Guild. The Guild started as an after-school program for inner-city youth to learn arts and pottery. Due to the success of MCG, Strickland was asked to take over the Bidwell Training Center, a career training program created to combat the rising unemployment rates after the decline of the steel industry.

Robinson was able to procure funding for a new facility with upgraded classrooms, workshops, and an auditorium. In 1999, the Manchester Bidwell Corporation was established as the parent organization to the MCG and BTC. The corporation serves nearly 4,000 youth per year teaching arts, culinary arts, music, ceramics, technology, and more. The same business model is being implemented in similar organizations around the country.

Robinson and Strickland both epitomize the goals of NEED. We salute their leadership.

Father of Black Nationalism (continued)

a school run by Reverend Lewis Woodson. Delany became involved in abolitionist activities, including the Underground Railroad and the Vigilance Committee, which helped relocate fugitive slaves. He later founded the abolitionist newspaper, The Mystery, which was the first African American paper published west of the Allegheny Mountains.

Delany attended Jefferson College, and later apprenticed under some of Pittsburgh’s leading physicians during a cholera outbreak. He maintained his own cupping and leeching practice, which was thought to be the primary method for treating the disease.

Fellow abolitionist Frederick Douglass came to Pittsburgh in 1847 and met with Delany. They conceived the North Star, an anti-slavery newspaper. As co-editor, Delany embarked on a tour of Ohio and Michigan to recruit subscribers. In Columbus, he was chased and threatened by a white mob, narrowly escaping. Delany and Douglass would later part ways due to ideological differences.

In 1950, Delany was accepted in Harvard Medical School, but faced criticism from white students. Under heavy scrutiny, the dean expelled Delany and two other black students. Enraged, Delany turned his focus to the idea of black emigration, feeling that blacks would never be granted equality in America. After writing a book, he took two trips to Africa to procure land for a new colony. His dreams would never come to fruition, but earned him title “Father of Black Nationalism.”

Delany returned to the U.S. during the Civil War and was granted a meeting with President Abraham Lincoln to discuss the formation of a black corps run by black officers for the Union Army. Impressed, Lincoln granted his request and Delany became the first black field officer in the U.S. Army.

After the war, Delany was involved in politics. He died in 1885, and is remembered as one of the most important black leaders of his era. He is memorialized in Pittsburgh with a historical plaque next to PPG Plaza.
Snapshots of NEED’s History

Former NEED President Herman Reid at QUBE Cable facilities.

Former NEED President, Kermit Morrissey.

Former NEED Executive Director, Christine B. Jones.

Former NEED Assistant Director, Cecil Taliaferro.

Former NEED President, Sylvester Pace (far right) with scholarship recipient.

Sylvester Pace and Kweisi Mfume, former President of NAACP.

NEED Scholars Night on KDKA-TV.

Herman Reid preparing for an interview.

Former NEED President Dr. Herold Silver.
Snapshots of NEED’s History

NEED co-founder, Florence Reizenstein.

Chris Moore, of WQED, giving a keynote speech at scholarship dinner.

Cecil Taliaferro with President of Dynamic Danettes Civic Club President, Gladys Brown.

Sylvester Pace awarded on African American Heritage Day at PNC Park in 2005.

NEED founder, Marion Jordan, with Mayor Joseph Barr.

Mrs. Rose Levin Smith, former head of NEED’s Screening Committee, with two scholarship recipients.

President Rabbi Silver with his successor, Marion Jordan.

Dr. Helen Faison, former Superintendent NEED board member.

Cecil Taliaferro (right) and NEED scholarship recipients at 45th Annual NEED Scholarship dinner.
The 54th Annual NEED Scholarship Dinner is less than a month away. The dinner will be held on March 2, 2017 at the Wyndham Grand Downtown Pittsburgh. Registration and reception start at 5:00 PM and doors open at 6:00 PM. We will be honoring 50 students for their academic accomplishments and attainment of our scholarships. Several sponsors will also be making speeches. Individual tickets are being sold for $75 apiece. There are also several different sponsorship opportunities available, each featuring different amenities. Advertisement opportunities are available in our program booklet. Please contact our office for further details if interested in sponsorship or advertising. Join us for a celebration of Pittsburgh genius and toast to the future of some of the city’s brightest young minds. We look forward to seeing you there and thank you to everyone getting involved.

Special Thank You

We would like to take the opportunity to extend our gratitude to the Silver Cord Association of Ministers’ Wives and Ministers’ Widows, who selected NEED as their charity for 2017. They will be holding their 81st Annual Easter Bonnet Luncheon Extravaganza and Fashion Show at the Lemont Restaurant on Monday, April 17, 2017. A portion of the proceeds from the luncheon will benefit NEED. Thank you for the support and we look forward to the event!
Employee Spotlight: David Jones

David Jones has been a major contributor to the success of NEED for over a decade. He’s dedicated his life to serving the youth and making Pittsburgh a stronger community.

Mr. Jones holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Criminology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a Master’s Degree in Education with an emphasis on Chemical Dependency from Penn State University.

About 10 years ago, Mr. Jones met former NEED President Sylvester Pace at a conference in Philadelphia. Pace was in need of mentors, and was interested in working with Jones; after a meeting, Jones obliged and began his work with NEED.

Mr. Jones serves as the Coordinator for the African American Male Mentoring Initiative (AAMMI). He currently works in a dozen local schools, helping students understand the importance of education. Mentoring sessions include teachings of black history.

Realizing that the struggle for students often begins before high school, the AAMMI moved into middle schools this past year. In addition to preaching the power of education, the classes also teach life skills. At least 85% of Mr. Jones’ students come from single parent households. All students involved in the AAMMI have the phone number of Mr. Jones, who makes himself available any time students need help with school or with problems at home. Even after students graduate high school and move on from AAMMI classes, Mr. Jones keeps in touch and maintains relationships.

The results of the program have been astounding, especially during this past year. Although every year is different, this past year boasts a 100% high school graduation rate, and all students enrolled in college or an alternative post-secondary education.

Besides the AAMMI, Mr. Jones chaperones NEED’s Annual Historically Black College and University (HBCU) Tour. He serves as a voice on the ground for approximately 100 high school students who are selected to tour over a dozen colleges in the eastern and southern part of the United States. He describes the experience as eye-opening for students who have never traveled or considered possibilities outside of their hometown.

Outside of his work with NEED, Mr. Jones is the President and CEO of D.A. Jones and Associates Consulting. The company works with nonprofits and educational systems throughout the country, training teachers, promoting leadership, and improving systems. Jones is also a talk show host for the Urban Green Growth Collaborative podcast, which brings spotlight to people doing good in the community.

Regarding his career, Mr. Jones has this to say: “I understand the importance of education and mentoring and have a passion for both. Of all the things I’ve done in my life, I’m most proud of helping transform young minds and young lives.”

We thank Mr. Jones for his valuable and ongoing contributions to NEED.

Book of the Month:
The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead

This fiction novel gives the Underground Railroad a literal meaning; the secret passages are actually train tracks underneath the soil. The story follows a teenage slave girl, Cora, who despite witnessing horrific punishments from captured runaways, is determined to flee her Georgia plantation. She and a friend attempt escape via the Railroad but have a barrage of slave catchers, bounty hunters, and lynch mobs hot on their trail. Interludes in Cora’s story expand on the arc of secondary characters to give the novel a more complete perspective. Whitehead’s vivid depictions of the brutal, humiliating horrors of slavery are as shocking as the undeterred push for freedom and justice is compelling.
MISSION:

NEED provides career and college access services which empower youth from the Pittsburgh region to aspire to, learn about, and complete higher education.

SAT Problem of the Month (via CollegeBoard)

A company’s manager estimated that the cost $C$, in dollars, of producing $n$ items is $C = 7n + 350$. The company sells each item for $12. The company makes a profit when total income from selling a quantity of items is greater than the total cost of producing that quantity of items. Which of the following inequalities gives all possible values of $n$ for which the manager estimates that the company will make a profit?

A. $n < 70$
B. $n < 84$
C. $n > 70$
D. $n > 84$