Black History Month Presentation

OVERVIEW

The following is a brief sketch of the unique perspectives associated with Gary’s presentation regarding Black History Month. The presentation scheduled debut at Broward College in Florida, on Black History Month of 2016. For scheduling information, emailing to ConsultingGary@aol.com, and type scheduling in the subject area.

The presentation will reference the occasion of Black History Month in the context of the advancement of black American politics by way of civil rights to President Barack Obama, Transfer Day (1917), the roots of former enslaved Africans in the “New World”, Virgin Islands and Caribbean, and the contribution of Africa to Christology.

The substance of three releases speaks to the specific themes of Gary’s presentation:

1. “Black Politics 2.0” (published 2014) explores the advancement of African American politics from the civil rights period to the political advent of President Barack Obama.
2. “Transfer Day” 1917 (published 2013) the date references purchase of the Danish West Indies, now known as the United States Virgin Islands. The roots of African Americans in the Virgin Islands and Caribbean are explored as the colonial experience on the islands occurred 200 years prior to the European settlement of mainland America and is a different phenomenon.
3. “Epiphany, Three Wise Kings of the Magi” (published 2008) explores the establishment of the Ethiopian Orthodox Coptic Church of North and South America, to 2006. The narrative of the work explores the advent of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church in the context of Africa’s contribution to world Judeo-Christianity.

Gary James has 5 books to his credit: ERACISM, EPIPHANY: Three Wise Kings of the Magi, Transfer Day, Black Politics 2.0, and Magnum Opus. He was born and raised in New York City in the baby boom generation and traveled to South Africa, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Japan, South Korea, Netherlands, Switzerland, England and Canada. Gary currently resides on St. Croix, in the United States Virgin Islands. Gary was the Co-host of News and Views, radio talk show aired on WPAT 930 – AM in New York City, and is currently the host of “Conversations with Gary James,” that streams live on the Internet at 8 PM – 9 PM every 1st and 3rd Thursday on “Its Your Perspective Talk Show’ in the Virgin Islands. He is a featured writer for ACE News Service based in the UK, and has an extensive Internet presence.

Black History Month Themes and pertinent biographical sketch

1. Advancement of black American politics by way of civil rights to President Barack Obama

The video trailer for the book is here: http://youtu.be/nFGuQmmRQBM

Staff organizer (1966-1071) National Welfare Rights Organization (NWRO), one of the core civil rights organizations that operated within the Democratic Party’s liberal and progressive wing based in New York City. He was a leader of the grassroots activist wing of the Republican Party (1980-2008) in New York City. He also ran the black desk in 1984, during the re-election campaign of Reagan-Bush. Gary has managed many local candidates for elective office.
2. Transfer Day (1917), the roots of former enslaved Africans in the “New World.”

The Virgin Islands are a colonial possession of the United States, under the authority and jurisdiction of the United States Congress and the US Department of Interior. The inhabitants of the former Danish West Indies now know as the United States Virgin Islands, are recipients of statutory American citizenship as of 1927. The history of former enslaved Africans in the Virgin Islands is completely different from African American history on mainland America, from slavery to emancipation to freedom. Gary traced his ancestry to Johannes James born into slavery in 1825, on St. Croix, and lived on Estate Heritage and worked as a cooper. Records of the estate indicate that Johannes’ parents (Helena and Adam) lived on the Estate as well but the records indicate that they were “un-baptized” suggesting that they were recent arrivals from Africa. After completing some preliminary research Gary said, “Black History in the Virgin Islands is completely different from the mainland black American experience. I was shocked and amazed to learn the names of Virgin Islanders like Herbert Harrison, Rothschild Francis, D. Hamilton Jackson, Casper Holstein and some many others that play consequential roles in the Harlem Renaissance, and beyond…” The Transfer Day video trailer is here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Busc_tTzJ9o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Busc_tTzJ9o)

3. The contribution of Africa, by way of Ethiopia to world Christianity

The establishment of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church is a covenant with the heritage of Balthazar, of Ethiopia, one of the Three Wise Kings of the Magi. Subsequent to Balthazar presenting his offering of myrrh to the infant Jesus the Christ, he returned to Ethiopia and issued the “Nezgid” (call to worship), establishing Ethiopian Orthodox Church tradition. The Ethiopian Orthodox Church is a member of the Eastern Orthodox (Oriental) branch of churches that include, the Coptic (Egyptian) Orthodox Church, Syrian Orthodox Church, Greek Orthodox Church, Armenian Orthodox, Russian Orthodox Church, among others. The Eastern Orthodox branch of churches that observe the Julian calendar, while the Roman Catholic Church adheres to the Gregorian calendar.

The Easter Orthodox branch of churches predates the Church of Rome by more than 300 years, and these early Christians in the Middle East, Africa and Asia were persecuted, executed and crucified by the Roman Empire until 313 AD, when Roman Emperor Constantine signed the Treaty of Milan, which ended the legal confiscation of property owned by Christians. Constantine converted to Christianity in 312 AD, and he convened the First Ecumenical Council (Council of Nicaea 325 AD), which established Roman domination of Christianity in the western hemisphere until the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century.

Gary James was sponsored by, and studied under the guidance of his mentor and spiritual father His Excellency, Dejazmatch Amaha Abera Zion Kassa, from 1983 to 2003. Gary James has taken vows as a priest in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church-Coptic Rite and is the Dean of Deacon and Students (North & South America) in the [www.BalthazarMonastery.com](http://www.BalthazarMonastery.com). He is also the clerk of the Ethiopian Orthodox Coptic Church of North and South America’s Synod.