

**RADICAL BLACK WOMEN  
OF HARLEM TOUR**

**RADICAL  
BLACK  
WOMEN**

**CREATED BY  
ASHA FUTTERMAN  
+ MARIAME KABA**



# **RADICAL BLACK WOMEN OF HARLEM TOUR**

## **CREATED BY**

Asha Futterman  
Mariame Kaba

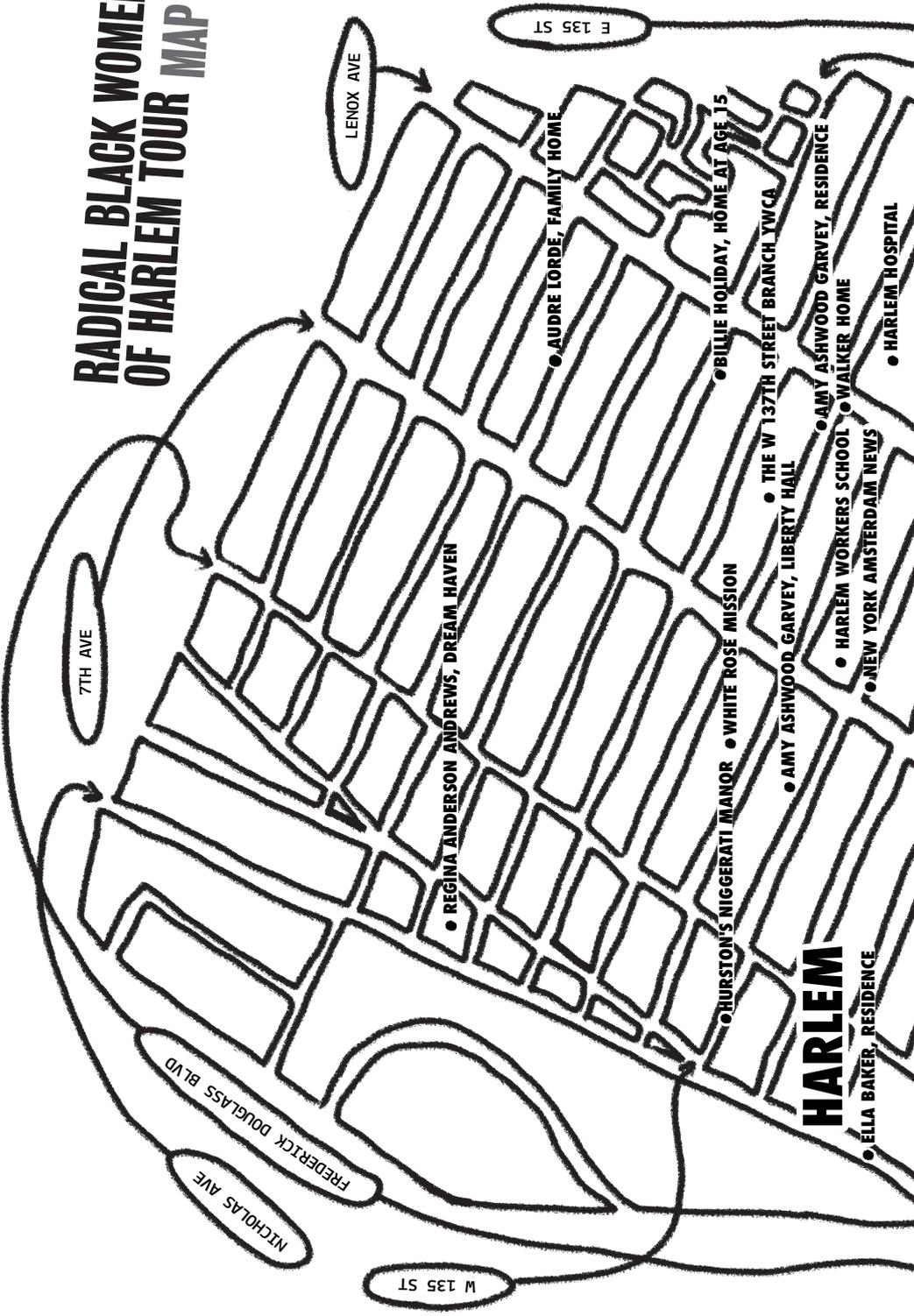
## **MAPPED BY**

Arrianna Planey

## **DESIGNED BY**

Neta Bomani

# RADICAL BLACK WOMEN OF HARLEM TOUR MAP



7TH AVE

LENOX AVE

E 135 ST

REGINA ANDERSON ANDREWS, DREAM HAVEN

AUDRE LORDE, FAMILY HOME

BILLIE HOLIDAY, HOME AT AGE 15

HURSTON'S NIGGERATI MANOR

WHITE ROSE MISSION

AMY ASHWOOD GARVEY, LIBERTY HALL

THE W 137TH STREET BRANCH YWCA

## HARLEM

ELLA BAKER, RESIDENCE

HARLEM WORKERS SCHOOL

NEW YORK AMSTERDAM NEWS

AMY ASHWOOD GARVEY, RESIDENCE

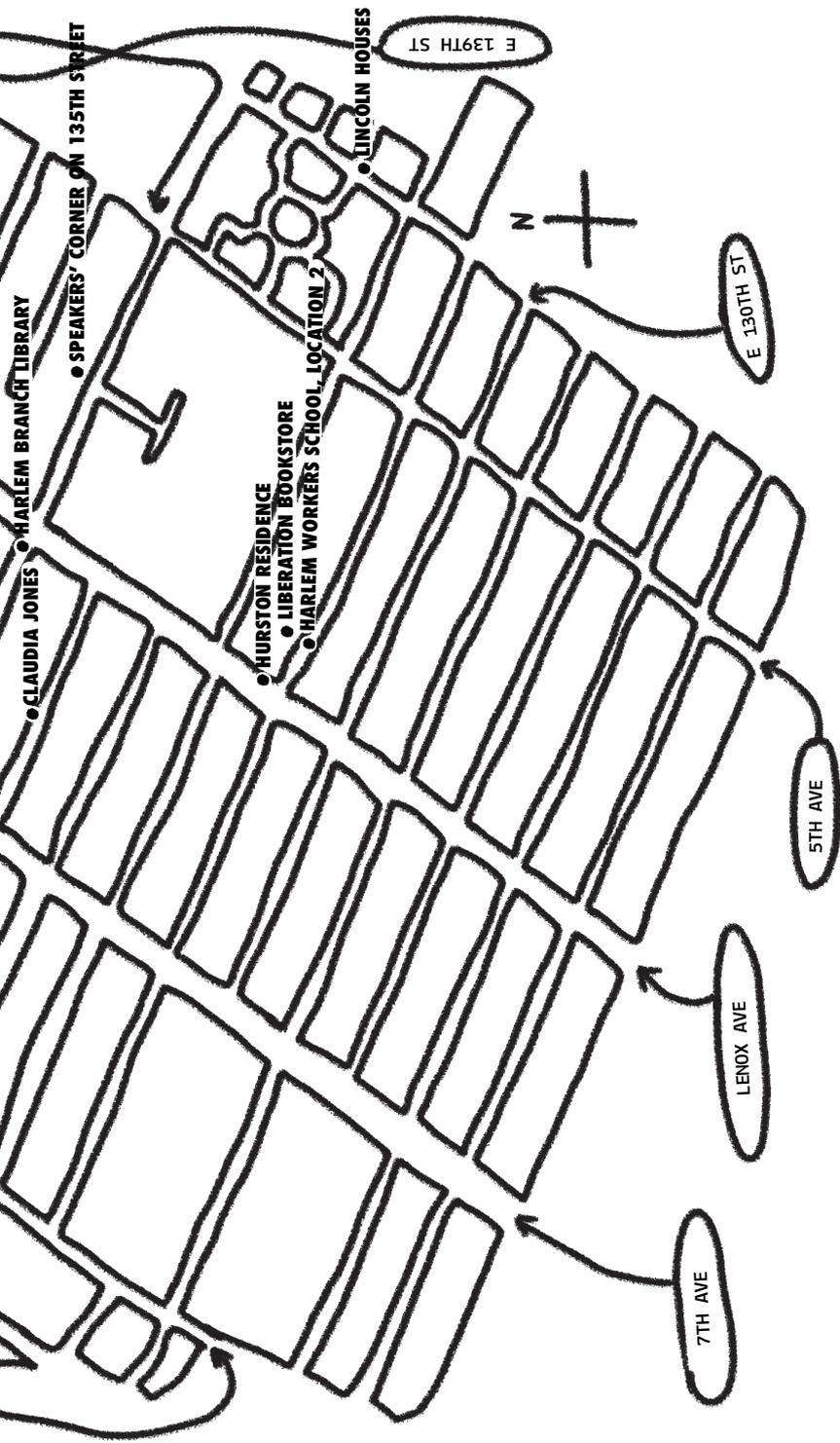
WALKER HOME

HARLEM HOSPITAL

FREDERICK DOUGLASS BLVD

NICHOLAS AVE

M 135 ST



**KEY**

- TOUR STOP

ESRI, HERE, GARMIN, ©OPENSTREETMAP  
CONTRIBUTORS, AND THE GIS COMMUNITY

## RADICAL BLACK WOMEN OF HARLEM



### **WILLIANA JONES BURROUGHS**

200 WEST 135TH ST  
415 LENOX AVE

Williana Jones Burroughs (1882-1945) was a Black Communist leader. She was born in 1882 to a formerly enslaved woman in Petersburg, Virginia and moved to Manhattan when she was five years old. After she graduated from Hunter College, Burroughs started a teaching career that led her into the world of Black Harlem intellectuals and elites, and introduced her to communism. She joined the New York Teachers' Union and wrote for the Daily Worker and organized within the Communist Party around the "Negro Question." In 1928, Burroughs was chosen as one of two Black communist leaders to go to Moscow to attend Communist International's (Comintern) Sixth Congress. She also worked with Louise Thompson Patterson on the campaign for defense of the Scottsboro Boys, and organized within the Harlem community with the Harlem Tenant's League. The Harlem

Tenant's League focused on how poor housing led to disproportionately high death rates among Black residents and mobilized hundreds of Black women in the Harlem community. From 1933 to 1934, Burroughs ran the Harlem Worker's School. In 1934, Burroughs ran for Lieutenant Governor of New York with communist party organizer Israel Amter. Although she and Amter didn't win, they received more votes than any other communist leader has ever received in a gubernatorial election. She died in 1945.



### **REGINA ANDERSON ANDREWS**

103-105 WEST 135TH ST  
580 ST. NICHOLAS AVE

Regina Anderson Andrews (1901-1993), born in Chicago in 1901, defied the stereotypical image of the bookish, spinster librarian. In addition to being a librarian, Andrews was a radical activist, playwright, and entertainer. Regina began working as a librarian in the Chicago Public Library system making up half of one percent of Black librarians in the U.S. When she moved

to New York, she worked at the 135th Street Harlem branch of the New York Public Library system (NYPL), which was the only branch that hired Black librarians. At the Harlem Branch, Andrews set aside workspace for famous Black writers, like Langston Hughes and Claude McKay. Andrews also developed a theatre in the basement of the Harlem Library Branch and co-founded the Krigwa Players with W.E.B. Du Bois. The Krigwa Players, later known as the Negro Experimental Theatre, was a groundbreaking theatre company, instrumental to the Little Theatre Movement in Harlem. Andrews went on to become the first Black supervising librarian at the previously all-white, 115th Street branch of the NYPL.



### **ELLA BAKER**

103-105 WEST 135TH ST  
452 NICHOLAS AVE

In 1960, Ella Baker (1903-1986) called for a student conference to organize the spontaneous sit-ins spreading throughout the South. Those who gathered formed the Student Nonviolent Coordinat-

ing Committee (SNCC); Baker was both the organization's mentor and its fervent supporter. To her, it was "crystal clear that the current sit-ins and other demonstrations are concerned with something bigger than a hamburger... The Negro and white students, north and South, are seeking to rid America of the scourge of racial segregation and discrimination - not only at the lunch counters but in every aspect of life." Baker served as director of branches of the NAACP and as the first executive director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). As an advisor to SNCC, she helped to organize voter registration projects and was pivotal in forming the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party in 1964. Baker believed in democratic, grass-roots activism that stressed the role of many ordinary people, not of individual leaders. She lived this philosophy, inspiring a generation of young people in the civil rights movement to do the same.



### **CLAUDIA JONES**

SPEAKERS' CORNER ON 135TH STREET

Born in Trinidad, Claudia Cumberbatch Jones's (1915-1965) family immigrated to New York when she was just nine years old. In Harlem, Jones's family lived in poverty, and her mother died working an un-unionized factory job when Claudia was

## RADICAL BLACK WOMEN OF HARLEM

just 12 years old. The Scottsboro Boys case drew Jones's attention to the work of the Communist Party USA. At 18, Jones joined the Young Communist League and quickly rose through the ranks of the Harlem Communist Party to become one of the few Black women leaders in the Party. Jones wrote in the Daily Worker about the struggles of poor Black life. For instance, she wrote a column titled "Half of the World," which tackled what the communist party called "the woman question." Jones's most cited work is her essay titled "An End to the Neglect of the Problems of Negro Women," which was published in Political Affairs in June 1949. In the essay, Jones suggested that Black women experience triple discrimination as workers, as Black people, and as women. Jones was sent to prison four times for being a member of the communist party and for her writings. In December 1955, she was deported to London. While in London, she founded the West Indian Gazette and started a carnival at Notting Hill which millions of British Caribbeans attend every year to this day. Jones died at the age of 49 from a heart attack stemming from her lifelong struggle with tuberculosis. She is buried in Highgate Cemetery to the left of Karl Marx.

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Lorraine Hansberry was born and raised on the South Side of Chicago. She moved to New York in 1950 to study under W.E.B. Du Bois, who said Hansberry was his favorite student. In New York, Hansberry published a few poems and wrote for a lesbi-



### LORRAINE HANSBERRY

#### SPEAKERS' CORNER ON 135TH STREET

an journal. While she did write, Hansberry was mainly a full-time activist. She was known for giving speeches at speakers corner and was an active organizer and protester. In 1951, Hansberry covered and participated in a gathering billed as a "Sojourn for Truth and Justice." A group of 14 Black women leaders issued "a call to Negro women to convene in Washington, D.C. for a Sojourn for Truth and Justice." The manifesto was a response to the wave of repression that they were living under. The conveners were concerned about many issues including racial terrorism (lynchings, police violence, wrongful convictions, etc.) and ending the Korean war, colonialism, South African apartheid, poverty, and more. Later, after marrying Robert B. Nemiroff, who gave her space and financial support to write, Hansberry wrote A Raisin in the Sun and became the first Black woman to produce a show on Broadway. After Raisin, Hansberry

wrote two other plays. Although she was married to Nemiroff for most of her adult life, Hansberry self-identified as a lesbian, wrote about homosexuality, and had many women partners in her lifetime. She died of cancer at 34 years old.



### **SALARIA KEE**

#### **HARLEM HOSPITAL ON 506 LENOX AVE**

Born in Milledgeville, Georgia in July 1917, Salaria Kee (1917-1990) grew up to become "the most prominent black woman in the international campaign to defend Republican Spain (p.104, McDuffie)." In 1933, Kee led a demonstration against segregationist policies at the Harlem Hospital with five other Black nurses. Her activism continued when Italy conquered Ethiopia in 1935. Kee worked with a group of Black nurses at Harlem Hospital to raise funds for medical supplies for Ethiopia. In March 1937, at 23 years old, she traveled to Spain where she met with Black volunteers from the U.S., the Caribbean, and Africa. Kee was appointed by the International Medical Unit as the head surgical nurse in a hospital near Madrid.

She supervised white nurses and treated Spanish civilians and wounded volunteers of all nationalities. When she returned to the U.S. in May 1938, she went on a national speaking tour about her experiences in Spain. She died in Akron, Ohio on May 18, 1990.



### **MADAME C.J. WALKER**

#### **108-110 WEST 136TH STREET**

Madame C.J. Walker (1867-1919) was born Sarah Breedlove in Delta, Louisiana in 1867. She was raised on farms in Delta and in Mississippi, was married by age 14, and was widowed at 20. Walker went on to become a successful hair and cosmetics entrepreneur - and, by the early 20th century, the richest self-made woman in America. Walker saw her personal wealth not as an end in itself but as a means to help promote and expand economic opportunities for others, especially Black people. She took great pride in the profitable employment - and alternative to domestic labor - that her company afforded many thousands of Black women who worked as commissioned sales agents. Walker also was well known for her philanthropy, supporting Black educational and social institutions from the national to the grassroots levels.

## RADICAL BLACK WOMEN OF HARLEM



**A'LELIA WALKER**  
108-110 WEST 136TH STREET

A'LeLIA Walker (1885-1931) was the only child of Madame C.J. Walker and hosted one of the most memorable salons of the Harlem Renaissance. In "The Dark Tower," a converted floor of her New York townhouse, she entertained Harlem and Greenwich Village writers, artists, and musicians, as well as visiting African and European royalty. Her parties, along with her regal beauty, lavish clothing, and glamorous lifestyle, inspired singers, poets, and sculptors. Langston Hughes called her the "joy goddess of Harlem's 1920s"; Zora Neale Hurston outlined a play about her and her mother; and Carl Van Vechten based his Nigger Heaven character, Adora Boniface, on her. A'LeLIA helped her mother found the Madame C.J. Walker Manufacturing Company in 1905, then opened its New York office and beauty salon in 1913. Upon Madame C.J. Walker's death in 1919, A'LeLIA Walker became president of the company. Her interest in Africa led her in 1922 to become one of the only westerners to visit Ethiopian Empress Waizeru Zauditu.



**VICTORIA EARLE MATTHEWS**  
262 WEST 136TH STREET

Victoria Earle Matthews (1861-1907) was born in Fort Valley, Georgia to an enslaved mother. After Emancipation, Victoria's mother moved her family to New York. In New York, Matthews wrote stories about her childhood which were published in New York Weekly, Waverly magazine, and other periodicals. Matthews became a freelance journalist writing for numerous newspapers, including the New York Times, the New York Herald, the New York Globe, and later became a journalist for the New York Age, a respected Black newspaper. Matthews also published a novel, Aunt Lindy, under a pseudonym. In 1892, Matthews organized an event to honor and fundraise for Ida B. Wells's anti-lynching efforts. Matthews's event raised money for Wells's pamphlet, "Southern Horror: Lynch Law in All Its Phases." Wells called the event "the greatest demonstration ever attempted by race women for one of their own number." In 1897, after Matthews's only son died at 16, Matthews founded the White Rose Mission with the purpose of establishing a Christian "Home for

Colored Girls and Women, where they may be trained in the principles of practical self-help and right living." Matthews died of tuberculosis in 1907 at the age of 45. In 1918, the White Rose Home and Industrial Association for Working Girls and Women moved to 136th Street in Harlem, where it remained in operation until 1984.



**ZORA NEALE HURSTON**  
267 WEST 136TH STREET

A writer in the Harlem Renaissance during the 1920s, Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960) was the most prolific Black woman writer of her time. Born in Eatonville, Florida (the first incorporated all-Black township in the U.S.), Hurston was the daughter of a minister and school teacher. She wrote numerous short stories for literary magazines before entering Barnard College in New York as its first Black student. Hurston graduated in 1928 and then continued to work in graduate school at Columbia with the famous anthropologist, Franz Boas. Over the next 30 years, she produced eight novels and three compilations of short stories, all reflecting her interest in anthropology and women's issues. Her best-known work, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, is a fictional autobiography. A noted anthropol-

ogist, Hurston became a believer in voodoo. In the 1930s, Hurston made two trips to Haiti and Jamaica. She died poor and mostly erased, buried in an unmarked grave. It was writer Alice Walker who brought her books back from obscurity and put a tombstone on her gravesite that read "Zora Neale Hurston: A Genius of the South."



**LOUISE THOMPSON PATTERSON**  
267 WEST 136TH STREET

Born in 1901 in Chicago, Louise Thompson Patterson (1901-1999) moved often as a child. Patterson later was one of the first Black women graduates of UC Berkeley, and after graduation, followed W.E.B. Du Bois and Langston Hughes to Harlem. In Harlem, Patterson helped Hughes and Zora Neale Hurston prepare their writing for publishing, mentored Ralph Ellison, worked with the International Labor Defense and the Civil Rights Congress, and joined the Communist Party USA (CPUSA). Patterson became a full-fledged organizer in the CPUSA through the Scottsboro trials. She was the main organizer of a high-profile protest in

## RADICAL BLACK WOMEN OF HARLEM

support of the "Scottsboro Boys" (nine Black boys who were falsely accused in Alabama of raping two white women on a train in 1931). Locking arms with Ruby Bates, one of the white women who had falsely accused the boys of rape, Patterson marched along with 5,000 others toward the White House demanding the freedom of the Scottsboro Boys and others. During the 1930s, Patterson was a member of communist-sponsored groups such as the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, the International Worker's Order, and the International Labor Defense. These groups confronted issues that affected the daily lives of Black workers, poor people, and more. For instance, they addressed evictions, provided food, and led hundreds of marches and strikes. Patterson was 50 years old when she served as the executive secretary of Sojourners for Truth and Justice. She was a cultural worker, an organizer, a feminist, a committed internationalist, and a revolutionary who traveled to the Soviet Union and around the globe.

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Born in Richmond, Virginia in 1912, Dorothy Height (1912-2010) grew up in Pennsylvania and later studied social work at New York and Columbia Universities. She was initially accepted to Barnard College but when she arrived there, she was told that the school already had two Black students and was denied admission. In 1937, as assistant director of the Harlem YWCA, Height assisted Eleanor Roosevelt at a meeting of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW)



**DOROTHY HEIGHT**  
175-179 WEST 137TH ST  
THE W 137TH STREET BRANCH YWCA

and was spotted by NCNW president Mary McLeod Bethune. Twenty years later, Height became president of the NCNW. A veteran civil rights campaigner and organizer, Height also shaped national and international policy regarding the rights of women - first in the early 1960s as a member of President Kennedy's Commission on the Status of Women, and over the years in United Nations forums on women's political and economic issues. Height was a human rights activist and organizer in local to international arenas for more than 50 years, and devoted her life to marshaling the creative energies of Black women for their own empowerment.

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The first Black woman to be ordained as an Episcopal priest, Pauli Murray (1910-1985), spent much of her activist life helping to dismantle barriers of racial and gender discrimination. "I entered law school preoccupied with the racial struggle and single-mindedly bent upon becoming a civil rights lawyer but I graduated an unabashed feminist as



**PAULI MURRAY**  
 175-179 WEST 137TH ST  
 THE W 137TH STREET BRANCH YWCA

well," Murray said in 1956.

She often attributed her fighting spirit to her upbringing in a Midwestern working-class family that put a premium on education, character, and upward mobility. From integrating Washington, D.C. lunch counters in the 1940s during her law school days at Howard University through her co-founding of the National Organization for Women in the early 1970s, Murray took challenges head-on. In discussing sexism at Howard, she said, "The only way I could counter it was to lead my class. Which I did. For three years." She went on to teach at several universities and compile a massive reference work on state race laws. In her later years, Murray turned her energies to the spiritual, attending the Virginia Theological Seminary and serving as an Episcopal priest in Baltimore.

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Amy Ashwood Garvey (1897-1969) was born in Port Antonio, Jamaica in 1897. She co-founded the Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communi-

ties League (UNIA), the largest and most influential Pan-African organization of the 20th century. Garvey served as general secretary of the organization, fund-raised relentlessly, and helped popularize The Negro World newspaper.

While Garvey was fiercely dedicated to the Pan-African cause, she also was disappointed with the roles that women were allowed to play in the UNIA. She left New York in 1922 and moved to London, where she opened a restaurant in the West End which became a gathering spot for people like George Padmore, C.L.R. James, and Jomo Kenyatta.



**AMY ASHWOOD GARVEY**  
 552 MALCOLM X BLVD  
 LIBERTY HALL ON 120 WEST 138TH STREET

When Garvey returned to the U.S. in 1944, she became active in the campaign to elect Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. to Congress. In 1945, she co-chaired, alongside W.E.B. Du Bois, the opening sessions of the Fifth Pan-African Conference in Manchester, England. Garvey lived in West Africa from 1946-1949 and was involved in the anti-co-

## RADICAL BLACK WOMEN OF HARLEM

lonial struggle. For the rest of her life, she split her time among England, the Caribbean, West Africa, and the U.S. Over time, Garvey became more vocal in addressing women's issues. In the late 1950s, she organized a community center in London and was active in the aftermath of the Notting Hill race riots of 1958. Garvey died in Jamaica in 1969.



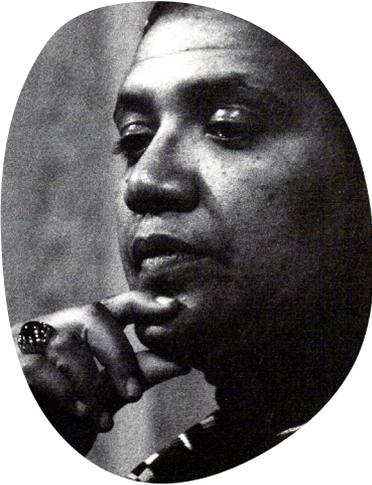
**BILLIE HOLIDAY**  
108 WEST 139TH ST  
151 W 140TH ST

Billie Holiday (1915-1959) was born Elenora Fagan in Philadelphia on April 7, 1915. Early in her life, Holiday worked cleaning homes and running errands for a brothel. At 15, she moved to Harlem with her mother. Her first singing job was in a club in Jungle Alley on 133rd Street, and she made her recording debut in 1933. In the late 1930s, Holiday was recording with Columbia records. It was then that she began to sing *Strange Fruit*, which she continued to sing for 20 years. Immediately after she sang *Strange Fruit* in front of a mixed-race audience, she received her first threat from the Federal Bureau of Narcot-

ics. After this, several undercover FBI agents were sent to track Holiday's every move, and she was sent to prison in 1947 for possession of narcotics. She was released a year later, but not allowed to sing at any jazz clubs that sold alcohol (every jazz club in the U.S.). Still, she performed a sold-out concert at Carnegie Hall and recorded some of her biggest hits around this time. Though the FBI constantly tracked Holiday because of her activism, she refused to be silent on issues of racism. After she was put on trial for a third time, many singers were too scared to sing *Strange Fruit* in public. In 1959, when she was 44 years old, Holiday became very sick and was hospitalized due to liver disease. While hospitalized, the FBI confiscated all of Holiday's belongings. Holiday was not given proper medicine when she was in the hospital and - while protestors marched outside the hospital chanting "Let Lady Live" - she died surrounded by FBI agents and penniless as a result of consistently being cheated out of her earnings. Holiday's music genius and legacy continue to influence American culture and inspire jazz singers.

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Born in Harlem to West Indian parents on February 18, 1934, Audre Lorde (1934-1992) began writing poetry when she was in high school. She earned a Master's Degree in Library Science at Columbia University and worked as a librarian while raising her children. In 1968, while a poet-in-residence at Tougaloo College - a historic Black college



**AUDRE LORDE**  
108 WEST 142ND ST

in Mississippi where the campus was under siege by white people who routinely shot at or arrested students for non-crimes - Lorde realized she wanted to use poetry as a weapon against social and political forces that assailed marginalized members of society. "I realized I could take my art in the realist way and make it do what I wanted," she said, "altering feelings and lives." Lorde held teaching posts at multiple universities, was named New York State Poet Laureate, and co-founded with Barbara Smith and Cherrie Moraga Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press in Harlem.



**MADAME STEPHANIE ST. CLAIR**  
117 W 141ST ST

Madame Stephanie St. Clair (1897-1969) may have been born in Guadeloupe and may have been 13 or 23 years old when she arrived at Ellis Island in 1913. Soon after her arrival, St. Clair worked as a numbers runner in an illegal gambling ring. In 1923, with \$10,000 in savings, she launched her own "policy bank" - even though in the 1920s, Black people owned less than 20% of Harlem's businesses. St. Clair funded community projects, employed hundreds of people, loaned money to those who needed it, and more. She became known in Harlem as "Queenie" and was one of the largest policy bankers in Harlem. In the 1920s and 1930s, Madame Queenie's power and wealth could not be underestimated. She earned over \$200,000 a year and employed hundreds of people. St. Clair was heavily surveilled and harassed by police even though she paid bribes to keep them at bay. After she was imprisoned, St. Clair decided to go to war against the police and others. She took out ads in the Amsterdam News and other Black newspapers calling out corrupt cops, white mobsters, and even some politicians. St. Clair also wrote a column in the Amsterdam News where she would offer "Know Your Rights" advice to her fellow black Harlemites. She married Harlem activist Sufi Abdul Hamid and was accused of shooting him in 1938. He survived the shooting, and St. Clair maintained that the gun went off accidentally during a struggle between them. There is no information about how long she was incarcerated in prison or when she was released. St. Clair is thought to have died in New York in 1969.

## RADICAL BLACK WOMEN OF HARLEM



### **MARVEL COOKE**

**2293 ADAM CLAYTON POWELL JR. BLVD**

Born in Minneapolis in 1903, Marvel Cooke (1903-2000) left for Harlem in the 1920s to become a writer. She came to Harlem to work as a journalist at Crisis. Cooke lived at 409 Edgecombe, "The White House of Harlem," where she lived near other Black intellectuals, writers, and artists such as Faith Ringgold, Thurgood Marshall, and Roy Wilkins. After Crisis, Cooke became the first woman journalist at the Amsterdam News. She is most famous for publishing a five-part series in the Amsterdam News with Ella Baker titled "The Bronx Slave Market." Cooke was a member of the communist party, well known by the FBI as a highly connected communist and well known in her community as a communist recruiter. Much of Cooke's journalistic work reflects her relentless pursuit to expose exploitation of Black workers in Harlem. After striking at the Amsterdam News in an effort to gain better working con-

ditions, Cooke quit and started working at the Daily Compass in 1950. Cooke was the first Black and first woman reporter at the Daily Compass. After two years of working at the Daily Compass, she shifted her focus toward organizing. Cooke served as treasurer for the Angela Davis Defense Committee, raising thousands of dollars and organizing mass international support to release Davis from prison. She also headed the New York Council of Arts and was national vice chairman of the National Council for Soviet-American Friendship.



### **ESLANDA GOODE ROBESON**

**250 SEVENTH AVE - NEAR 133RD STREET**

Born in Washington, D.C. in December 1895, Eslanda Cardozo Goode (1895-1965)—or Essie, as she was more commonly known—moved to New York City with her family as a young girl after the death of her father. She studied at both the University of Illinois and Columbia University and was awarded a B.S. in chemistry in 1923. She met Paul Robeson while living in Harlem and married him

in 1921. After years of working at New York-Presbyterian Hospital, Essie became the first Black person to hold the position of head histological chemist of surgical pathology.

Essie also took on the role of her husband's manager and promoter. She was a shrewd business person and a zealous advocate for Robeson's talent. Later, she studied anthropology and became a prolific writer and pan-Africanist thinker. Essie advocated for women's rights and was a committed anti-colonialist. She traveled the world alone and with her husband, with a particular interest in Africa. Essie would co-found the Council on African Affairs and the Sojourners for Truth and Justice.



**UNA MULZAC**  
421 MALCOLM X BOULEVARD

Una Mulzac (1923-2012) was born in 1923 in Baltimore and moved to the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn as a little girl. After graduating from high school, she got a secretarial job at Random House, where she became interested in publishing. Around 1963,

Mulzac moved to Guyana (then known as British Guiana) to start a bookstore and to work for the party of Cheddi Jagan, a revolutionary Marxist. One day a package arrived at the bookstore and exploded when a colleague opened it, killing him. Mulzac suffered wounds to an eye and her chest. She moved back to the U.S. in 1966 and opened Liberation Bookstore - the legendary bookstore that existed on West 131st Street for 40 years. Liberation Bookstore was an important community meeting center for authors, militants, and activists.



**GRACE CAMPBELL**  
LAFAYETTE HALL ON 131 STREET AND 7TH AVE

Grace Campbell (1882-1943) was born to Jamaican immigrants in Georgia in 1882, and she moved to New York in 1905. Campbell was a community organizer in Harlem, leading the Harlem Tenants League with Williana Burroughs. Campbell founded the 21st branch of the Socialist Party and was the first Black person to join the Socialist Party. In 1919

## RADICAL BLACK WOMEN OF HARLEM

and 1920, she ran for office in the New York State Assembly on the Socialist ticket. Although she did not win the election, Campbell received 10 percent of the vote. Later, she moved away from the Socialist Party and founded the African Blood Brotherhood (ABB) with Cyclic Briggs. The ABB was founded as a response to racism in the Communist Party USA. While many communists in the U.S. attempted to forg racist exploitation, the ABB believed that racism was the root cause of capitalist exploitation and centered the "Negro Question." In the 1920s, Campbell joined the Communist Workers' Party in the U.S. She was tracked by the FBI for most of her life, but she remained involved in communism and activism until she died in 1943.



### **WILLIE MAE MALLORY**

**LINCOLN HOUSES ON 2110 MADISON AVE**

Willie Mae Mallory (1927-2007) was born in Macon, Georgia in 1927. She moved to New York City with her mother in 1939 and lived in Harlem. Mae Mallory played an integral role in the Black freedom movement in the U.S.

Mallory organized with various leftist organizations (including briefly with the Communist Party). In 1957, she sued the New York Board of Education challenging their zoning policies, which she argued forced Black children to stay in inferior schools. Mallory became the spokesperson of the group that became known as the Harlem 9. The Harlem 9 demanded an "open transfer" policy that would allow them to send their children to schools outside of their district and also would allow community control of Harlem schools through parent associations. Before there was a FREE ANGELA or FREE ASSA-TA campaign, there was a FREE MAE MALLORY campaign. In August 1961, Mallory fled from North Carolina to Ohio in fear for her life. She and journalist Julian Mayfield had visited Black radical Robert Williams and his family in Monroe, North Carolina. During that visit, Williams was falsely accused of kidnapping an elderly white KKK couple, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Stegall. As a result of these (false) charges of kidnapping, Mallory and the other Monroe Defendants faced a harsh prison sentence and years of legal troubles. While she was incarcerated at Cuyahoga County Jail, Mallory wrote letters and shared her thoughts about the experience. Mallory died in 2007 at the age of 80. She is buried in an unmarked grave in the Frederick Douglass Memorial Park on Staten Island.

## BACKGROUND HARLEM, NEW YORK

Harlem is both an idea and a place. What became known as the "Black Mecca" began as a farming village inhabited first by the Lenape and then by the Dutch. The first Black people in Harlem, both freed and enslaved, worked on farms in the area known as Nieuw Haarlem. Nieuw Haarlem was formally established as a settlement by Peter Stuyvesant in 1658 and was named after the Dutch city of Haarlem. For generations, the sole connection between Nieuw Haarlem and Nieuw Amsterdam was a diagonal road built on an old Native path: a street we now call Broadway.

Once railroad lines made it to Harlem, more people began to build and settle in the community. A subway line completed in 1904 made Harlem more accessible to people living in southern parts of New York City. In the early 1900s, crowds started to visit Harlem for entertainment, visiting local theaters, clubs, and speakeasies.

In 1904, Philip A. Payton, Jr. founded the Afro-American Realty Company and launched a drive to bring Black people to Harlem. He used outdoor billboards to advertise and also put ads in elevated and subway trains. In December 1905, a New York Herald headline announced "Negroes Move Into Harlem." The article pointed out that "[d]uring the last three years the flats in 134th Street between Lenox and Seventh Avenues, that were occupied entirely by white folks, have been captured for occupancy by a Negro population... The cause of the colored influx is inexplicable."

According to a 1910 Census, Harlem had a population of around 500,000 - only 50,000 residents were Black, while 75,000 residents were native-born whites and the rest were immigrants from Ireland, Germany, Hungary, Russia, England, Italy, and Scandinavia. Between 1910 and 1930, New York City's Black population increased from 91,709 to 327,700, making it the world's largest Black urban center. Harlem became a magnet for Black southerners fleeing poverty and racial terrorism. They were joined by Caribbean and, to a lesser degree, African immigrants looking for opportunities. From 1920 to 1930, the Black population of Harlem increased by over 158 percent to 186,000. By 1930, Harlem had become the largest and most diverse urban Black community in the U.S.

While the majority migrated from the South, one quarter of Harlem's Black residents were foreign born, immigrating from over fourteen Caribbean nations. During the depression years, the unemployment rate in Harlem hovered around 60 percent, and almost half of the families in the neighborhood were on government relief. By 1940, the population of Black people in Harlem reached 267,000, including 33,000 school-age children.

RADICAL BLACK WOMEN OF HARLEM



*New York Amsterdam News building at 2293 Seventh Avenue in Harlem.*

## **ONLINE RESOURCES**

A Call to Negro Women  
<[https://issuu.com/melanationzine/docs/a\\_call\\_to\\_negro\\_women](https://issuu.com/melanationzine/docs/a_call_to_negro_women)>

Black New Yorkers  
<<https://blacknewyorkers-nypl.org/migrations-and-black-neighborhoods/>>

Digital Harlem Blog  
<<https://digitalharlemblog.wordpress.com/2010/09/10/beauty-parlors/>>

Radical Black Women: A Study and Discussion Circle  
<<https://radicalblackwomen.com>>

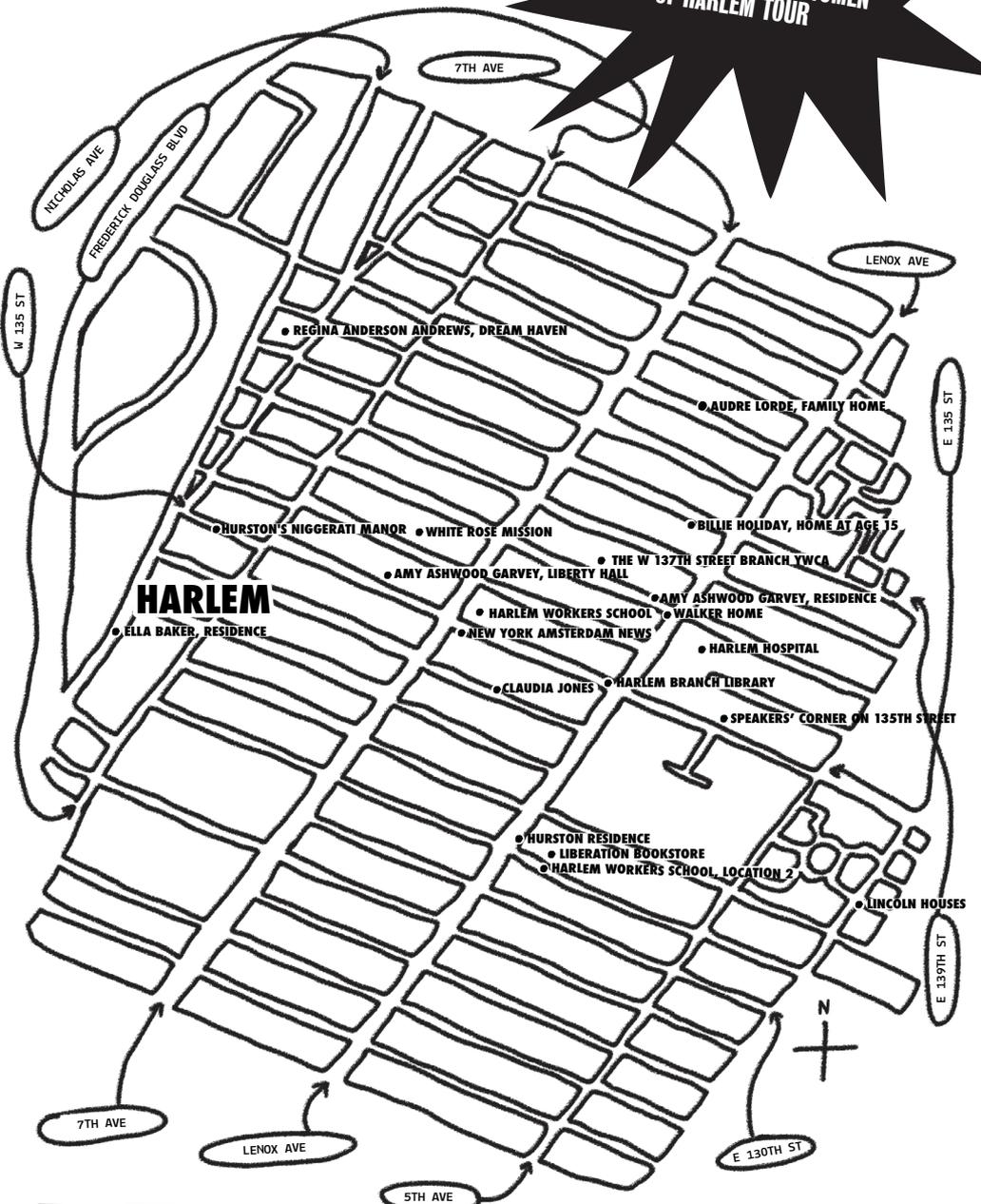
## **CONTACT**

Email us at <[jjinjustice1@gmail.com](mailto:jjinjustice1@gmail.com)> for questions and feedback.

## NOTES



# RADICAL BLACK WOMEN OF HARLEM TOUR



## HARLEM

- REGINA ANDERSON ANDREWS, DREAM HAVEN
- AURE LORDE, FAMILY HOME
- HURSTON'S NIGGERATI MANOR
- WHITE ROSE MISSION
- BILLIE HOLIDAY, HOME AT AGE 15
- AMY ASHWOOD GARVEY, LIBERTY HALL
- THE W 137TH STREET BRANCH YWCA
- ELLA BAKER, RESIDENCE
- HARLEM WORKERS SCHOOL
- WALKER HOME
- NEW YORK AMSTERDAM NEWS
- AMY ASHWOOD GARVEY, RESIDENCE
- HARLEM HOSPITAL
- CLAUDIA JONES
- HARLEM BRANCH LIBRARY
- SPEAKERS' CORNER ON 135TH STREET
- HURSTON RESIDENCE
- LIBERATION BOOKSTORE
- HARLEM WORKERS SCHOOL, LOCATION 2
- LINCOLN HOUSES

**KEY**  
● TOUR STOP