



Pandemic & Racism: ***“What’s Going On”***

AfterGlow Chorus & Friends

Oakland, CA
August 7 & 14, 2022

Part I: Pandemic - Disease of the Body

Senzenina (“What Have We Done?”) South African protest song

Senzeni na? Sohlangana eZulwini. / What have we done? We'll meet in heaven

Soloist: Chris Poston

Hear My Prayer, O Lord Henry Purcell

I've Been in the Storm So Long arr. Jeffrey Ames

Soloist: Julian Nesbitt

If I Ain't Got You Alicia Keys

Soloists: Jae Williams, Bry Law

Abide with Me Henry Francis Lyte (arr. Greg Jasperse)

Part II: Racism - Disease of the Soul

Honoring & Remembering May 14, 2022 (Buffalo, NY): Reading of Names & Moment of Silence

I Know I've Been Changed arr. Damon Dandridge

Soloist: Samantha Fentress

What's Going On Marvin Gaye (arr. Max Addae)

Soloists: Claire Chaix, Jake Nousomme, Chris Poston, Jazzy Rodriguez, Lucca Troutman

Hold On arr. Isaac Cates

Someday We'll All Be Free Donny Hathaway

Soloists: Swen Ervin & Kymry Esainko

Done Made My Vow arr. by Nolan Williams, Jr.

Stand Up (from “Harriet”) Cynthia Erivo

Soloist: Jae Williams

Part III: Healing & Moving Forward Together

Summerland

William Grant Still

Soloist: Kymry Esainko

Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen

Johannes Brahms

German:

*Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen,
Herr Zebaoth!
Meine Seele verlangt und sehnet
sich nach den Vorhöfen des Herrn;
mein Leib und Seele freuen sich
in dem lebendigen Gott. Wohl denen,
die in deinem Hause wohnen,
die loben dich immerdar*

English:

*How lovely are thy dwelling
places, O Lord of Hosts!
My soul requires and yearns for
the courts of the Lord;
My body and soul rejoice
in the living God. Blessed are
they that dwell in thy house;
they praise you forever*

**No Love Dying
Higher Ground**

Gregory Porter
Stevie Wonder

Guest Artist: Darrell Edwards

Once Upon Another Time

Sara Bareilles arr. Max Addae

Soloist: Lucca Troutman

You're All I Need to Get By

Ashford & Simpson

Soloists: Freshta Atiqi, Swen Ervin

Sparrow

Emeli Sandé (arr. by Katherine Bodor)

Soloists: Julian Nesbitt, Gretchen Baglyos

Total Praise

Richard Smallwood

Please join us for an informal reception after the concert

***Honoring & Remembering May 14, 2022:
Tops Market, Buffalo, NY***

The following profiles were compiled from various news reports



Ruth Whitfield (86 years old)

Ruth Whitfield was returning home from visiting her husband in a nursing home when she stopped by Tops to pick up groceries -- "a daily ritual," her son, Garnell Whitfield said.

Ruth Whitfield was in the store when the gunman opened fire and was among the 10 who died in the shooting, Garnell, a former Buffalo fire chief, said.

Garnell described his mother's devotion to her family, especially her husband, whose health has been declining over the past eight years.

"She was there just about every day, taking care of him, making sure he was well cared for by the staff, washing, ironing his clothes, making sure he was dressed appropriately, making sure his nails were cut and clean and shaved," he said. "All of that. Every day."

Even as her own health began to weaken, Ruth Whitfield still tried to visit her husband each day, taking days off only when she felt too debilitated to make the trip, her son said.

After suffering "a very difficult childhood," when she became a mother, Ruth Whitfield "was all about family," Garnell said. Ruth also sang in a choir



Aaron Salter (55 years old)

Aaron Salter, a retired Buffalo Police officer, was killed after he confronted the gunman, who entered the store wearing military fatigues, body armor and a tactical helmet.

Aaron was working as a security guard and shot the assailant, Buffalo Police Commissioner Joseph Gramaglia said. But the bullets had no effect due to the bulletproof vest the suspect wore, and the gunman returned fire, striking Aaron.

Gramaglia described Aaron as a "true hero" who undoubtedly saved more lives during the encounter. "He went down fighting," Gramaglia said. "He came in, he went towards the gunfire. He went towards the fight."

One Tops employee, a mother of seven, said that she and her 20-year-old daughter, who was working at the register, would not have known the gunman was headed in their direction.

When she saw Aaron pull out his weapon, they knew they had to run, and they both made it out alive, she said.

Aaron was a "beloved" employee of Tops, several years after he retired from the police department.



Geraldine Talley (62 years old)

In her final moments, Geraldine Talley, who'd come to Tops Family Market Saturday afternoon for a few items, sent her fiancée down an aisle to retrieve something off a shelf.

Before they could reunite, she was murdered. Her fiancée survived the massacre.

"I am so angry, just devastated. This is so hard for our family right now," said Kaye Chapman-Johnson, her younger sister. "Our sister, we had so many plans together, so many plans, and everything has just been stripped away from us.

"Our lives will definitely never be the same again. We talked every day."

Geraldine was one of nine siblings and was "an amazing sister, mother, aunt," said Chapman-Johnson. "She just was truly an amazing woman. And I'm going to miss her dearly."

She helped care for her brother-in-law after he had an aneurysm that left him partially blind. Talley's death has left her family "destroyed," added her sister. "I'm hoping that we can all move on."



Celestine Chaney (65 years old)

The 65-year-old survived three aneurysms and breast cancer which inspired many people to wear pink to honor her.

"She was a very peaceful, sweet person and I feel like people should learn to be like that themselves," said Chaney's granddaughter, Kayla Jones.

Chaney's granddaughter says she hopes her grandmother's positive attitude can inspire others to lead positive lives especially when things aren't going your way in life.

"Just to keep the peace, and for the most part, you know, everybody should work on that and work on themselves and love themselves so they can be able to treat others better or with the respect they deserve," Jones said.

And, her pastor said not only did Chaney bounce back and battle everything she faced in life, he said she was a warrior. While he said she had a quiet spirit, he recognized that to her family and friends, she was the life of the party.

He also said she was a hero because she was able to do extraordinary things, raise a wonderful family, and be a blessing to her grandchildren.



Andre Mackneil (53 years old)

He was engaged to Tracey Maciuliwicz, with whom he lived and shared his life along with their son Andre Jr. He loved basketball, playing the guitar, writing poems, listening to music, but most of all Andre was a very family oriented man.

Mackneil was at the store on Saturday to buy a cake for his three-year-old son's birthday. "He bought his son a cake and never came out," his sister Vyonne said.

Lynda, Vyonne's 15-year-old daughter, described a caring uncle who was always there for her. "He was the first one to say happy birthday," she said. "He just made the world such a better place. He always used to come over and just sit on the couch and talk. He always had the best advice for me when I was in such horrible situations," she said.

They loved making funny videos on Tik Tok together. "He was so sweet, the funniest Tik Toks, just all of it ... he was such a good man," Lynda said.

And Lynda describes her uncle as someone who made her feel so special. "He always made Sept. 8 so special to me because I came back on the day his mom was taken from him and he always made sure I knew I was special. So that will always be a special day to me. Because of him. It wasn't for anybody else, not even for myself. But it was for him," Lynda said.



Pearl Young (77 years old)

Pearl Young, affectionately called "Pearly," was born in Alabama, where she still has family. She was many things: a mother, a wife of a pastor, a grandmother, a substitute teacher in the Buffalo Public Schools, a Sunday school teacher and a head of a local food pantry.

Pearl moved to Buffalo in 1967 after marrying her husband, Oliver Young Jr.. For 25 years, she helped run her church's soup kitchen.

"Even if it was nothing but soup and bread, whatever she could do, she would just always avail herself to help the people," Bishop Glenwood H. Young, Young's brother-in-law said. "That's what she was noted for ... her life was full of giving."

A member of Good Samaritan Church of God in Christ, Pearl helped prepare and hand out food at the park for Saturdays. Pearl's unwavering faith and loving personality propelled her through life. She was a licensed missionary who fed people through scripture and through meals.

"You could see her dancing and running down the aisles. Every time she came to church--there was never a time she came to church that she did not run around church and rejoice and shout. She was one of the loudest persons in church, that's just who Pearl Young was. She was just a vibrant, vibrant person — full of life and always an encouraging word," he said.



Heyward Patterson (67 years old)

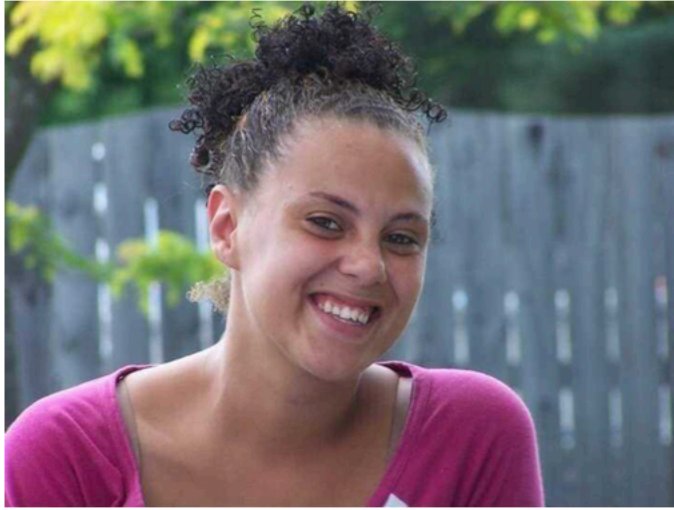
“Deacon Patterson, he was great in the community. Great in the church. He loved his pastor. He loved his family and we are going to miss him dearly,” said Patterson's friend Leonard Lane.

The two sat next to each in church for years. Heyward was a deacon at State Tabernacle Church of God.

Lane recalls a gospel song Heyward often quoted. "He said, 'trouble in my way, I'm going to have to cry sometimes,' And guess what, trouble is here now and we do have to cry, but we know what, Jesus will fix it," Lane said.

Heyward is being remembered for his willingness to help others — volunteering to drive seniors to appointments or the grocery store, which is what he was doing when he was killed.

"He was serving, putting packages in his car when he got shot," Lane said. "So this legacy is going to be about serving. So what we have to is serve, regardless of what color skin you are. Regardless of what religious background you came from. Regardless of what ethnic background you come from. The most important thing is it's about serving the community, and that's what he was doing, was serving the community when he got shot."



Roberta Drury (32 years old)

When Roberta Drury was in the room you always knew it, say those who loved her.

"Robbie was the one to say hello first," wrote her sister, Amanda Drury. "She was never afraid to talk to anyone and made friends everywhere she went."

On family vacations, Amanda remembers that her sister was the one pulling everyone else into the water. "Jubilant" was the word her brother, Christopher Moyer, used to describe her. She was a fan of food and life and seemingly every song on the radio he didn't know.

After he was diagnosed with leukemia, eventually requiring a bone marrow transplant, she rushed to Buffalo eight years ago to be by his side. She babysat his two small children, made grocery trips to help out, and accompanied him on wing runs for his restaurant.

Roberta lived just 10 minutes on foot from the Tops Friendly Markets, and, on Saturday afternoon, May 14, she walked down the street the same way she always did, Moyer said.

But this time, she didn't return. She would never again be able to shout her love from her front window, or serenade her sister with Whitney Houston songs over the phone.



Katherine Massey (72 years old)

Katherine "Kat" Massey fought for her community.

She was an ardent advocate for civil rights and education and did everything she could to lift up Buffalo's Black community, said former Erie County Legislator Betty Jean Grant, who has been friends with Massey for more than 20 years: "We lost a voice.... We lost a powerful, powerful voice."

Massey was a member of "We Are Women Warriors," which Grant founded. Grant said she, Massey and Eva Doyle were the "three musketeers" of Women Warriors.

"She was unapologetic about making sure our community was not ignored," Grant said.

A year ago, she penned a letter in support of more federal regulation of firearms, in which she talked about both urban street violence and mass shootings.

"There needs to be extensive federal action/legislation to address all aspects of the issue," she wrote. "Current pursued remedies mainly inspired by mass killings – namely, universal background checks and banning assault weapons – essentially exclude the sources of our city's gun problems. Illegal handguns, via out of state gun trafficking, are the primary culprits."



Margus Morrison (52 years old)

Morrison, a father of six, was a bus aide who friends say loved the Bills and would do anything for anyone.

Raasha Thompson wants her children to remember their dad as someone who cared deeply about them.

"It's sad to have my children understand that their father's life was taken and it wasn't just from a sickness or something. Somebody actually took his life because of the color of his skin, and to get them to understand that was hard," Raasha Thompson.

Morrison texted Thompson on May 14, saying he was going to come by and bring something for the kids. That was the last time she heard from him. She says he worked hard as a bus aide and loved being around children.

"To do something that you love that was joyful to your soul, and something that you enjoy doing, so that's what he did. And I felt bad for the kids because I'm a school bus driver, so I can imagine when your aide or your bus driver doesn't show up again, what happened? They're going to ask questions, so they're going to miss this person that was a factor in their lives every day," Thompson said.

On the same day he was laid to rest at True Bethel Baptist Church, Morrison's mother and his daughter both marked their birthdays.

In partnership with Tops Friendly Market, the National Compassion Fund has established the **Buffalo 5/14 Survivors Fund** to provide direct financial assistance to the survivors of the deceased and those directly affected by this tragedy.

One hundred percent of the contributions donated to this fund will go directly to victims and survivors of this atrocity. Qualifying charitable donations to this fund are tax deductible.

The National Compassion Fund is the leading authority on financial assistance to victims of mass casualty events. It is a subsidiary of the National Center for Victims of Crime, the nation's leading resource and advocacy center for victims of all types of crime.

If you may be interested in contributing to **Buffalo 5/14 Survivors Fund**, we encourage you to please visit this website for more details:

<https://nationalcompassion.org/fund/buffalo-survivors-fund/>

AfterGlow Chorus

Sopranos

Gretchen Baglyos
Criss Burki
Claire Chaix
Alexis Clark
Samantha Fentress
Hayley Finetti
Leah Freeman Sloan
Natalie Hanson
Candida Haynes
Katy Kovacevich
Hoi Ning Liu
Laura McDonald
Alina Mysak
Meliza Orcher

Tenors

Bobbie Chen
Swen Ervin
Bryan Knauber
Jake Nousomme
Chris Poston

Altos

Freshta Atiqi
Bry Law
Mel Matas
Sele Nadel-Hayes
Sumire Rabb
Dom Refuerzo
Jazzy Rodriguez
Lucca Troutman
Jae Williams

Basses

Jeff Gilliland
Dave Hildebrandt
Terence Howzell
Andrew Li
Julian Nesbitt
Joe Orr
Gerrit Straughter
Ron Yadin

Darrell Edwards, Special Guest Artist
Kymry Esainko, Collaborative Pianist
Trevor Meseroll & Paul Caccamo, Rehearsal Pianists
Swen Ervin, Creative Director
Max Addae, Artistic Advisor
Arnold Lee, Music Director