



GROVES CONFERENCE

on Marriage and Family

From the Desk of the President

Sharon M. Ballard, PhD, CFLE



Greetings!

Hello and happy new year!

As I am writing this, Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday is being honored followed by the National Day of Racial Healing. This timing coupled with this year's conference theme of "Civil Rights and Intersecting Identities: Social Movements for Equality & Justice" is conducive to reflection on the racial health of Groves as an organization. Like any other entity in the United States, Groves has a history that involves structural racism and the marginalization of people of color. As we face continued racial tension and increasing restrictions on diversity and equity initiatives in this country, it is time for Groves as an organization, to revisit our commitment to inclusion, equality, and social justice.

Roger Rubin, in a chapter in the second volume of the Groves Monographs entitled "African American Families, Ethnicity, and Scholarship" stated that "Social justice has been an implicit theme in the history of the Groves Conference on Marriage and Family" and that "...social justice is built into Groves' DNA" (2012, p. 195). Yet in this chapter, Rubin also candidly described the varied history of Groves since its founding in 1934. This history includes the time of segregation when parallel Groves organizations existed, the difficulty that Groves had in truly integrating the two organizations following the end of Jim Crow, and the differing experiences of Black and White Groves members throughout the years. I encourage you all to read this important chapter of Groves history that Roger Rubin wrote in 2012. The full text is available on our Groves website at <http://www.grovesconference.org/monographs.html>.

I also invite you to connect with other members as we engage with the Groves theme of Equality and Justice in both the conference and our virtual book group. This will be our third annual virtual book group and it will be held Wednesday February 21 (see details and registration info in this newsletter). We will be discussing *We Do This 'Til We Free Us: Abolitionist Organizing and Transforming Justice* by Mariame Kaba. This book and the subsequent discussion led by Dr. Karmen Smith, will be the perfect springboard for the conference.

The 2024 conference "Civil Rights and Intersecting Identities: Social Movements for Equality & Justice" will be held in Harlem, NYC June 12-15, 2024 (see more info including registration in this newsletter). Dr. Eboni Baugh, 2024 Groves conference co-chair said that she is pleased with the number and quality of the presentation proposals and that those attending the conference will leave transformed! Together, these two events provide a vehicle for

2024 Winter Newsletter

Contents

- Pg 1 *From the Desk of the President*
Sharon Ballard
- Pg 2 *Conference Sponsorships Sought!*
- Pg 2 *Membership Committee Report*
- Pg 3 *2024 Groves Book Club*
- Pg 4 *2024 Groves Board Election Ballot*
- Pg 5 *2024 Conference explores Civil Rights and Intersecting Identities*
- Pg 6 *Call for Manuscripts – Families as Sources of Strength, Healing & Hope*
- Pg 7 *Look for us on Facebook!*
- Pg 7 *Groves Board Members*

examining our racial health and moving the organization forward through discussion, reflection, and shared learning. I hope that you will join me for these transformative events!

As we continue to examine issues of social justice and their effect on families, we need all of you. Groves membership operates on the calendar year so this is the time to renew your membership! We have moved past the exclusionary practice of invitation only membership and encourage self-nominations. However, it is still meaningful when you invite or nominate a colleague. When you nominate a colleague, Karmen Smith, our membership chair will follow up with them regarding their membership. Please renew your membership at <http://www.grovesconference.org/membership.html> and invite or nominate a colleague to join you in this amazing organization. Groves is 90 years old this year and going strong. Let's pull together and ensure that we will be celebrating our centennial together in 2034 as a vibrant, inclusive, and inspiring organization!

Sharon

Seeking 2024 Conference Sponsors!

We welcome individual and organizational sponsorships or any amount to help offset the costs associated with the 2024 conference in Harlem, NYC. Sponsorships of \$100 or more can have ad space in the conference program and may include materials in our conference packet. We also welcome donations specifically to support scholarships to help students attend the conference. If you are interested in either of these opportunities, contact Linda Vukelich at lmvukelich@gmail.com.

Membership Committee Report

Groves Membership Committee Chair, Karmen Smith, PhD



It's 2024 and another great year for Groves!

Thank you in advance for your renewing your membership with Groves. Your loyalty and support sustain and strengthen Groves to continuously provide our members with valuable benefits and actively develop our community. THANK YOU for making what we do possible.

We hope you've been able to personally

benefit from your membership with Groves. We're always open to suggestions and feedback from each valued member. Call me at 727-992-4929 or email me at ksmith22@antioch.edu to share ideas for how to best meet your needs. As we embark on 2024, we sincerely hope that you will join us for another outstanding year of great programs and professional development.

It was a pleasure to bring Groves to NCFR in November. We saw many of you there too. Thanks for stopping by! Whether we saw you there or not, we would to see you at one of our upcoming events. Join us online for the book discussion in February and join us in person in NYC for the Groves Conference. Look for more information on both in this newsletter.

Good news! Renewing is as easy as ever. Click on this link, [www.grovesconference.org/membership], and follow the prompts.



Spread the word!

Do you have colleagues who would benefit from Groves membership and participation? Please pass this information along to them.

“The small nature of Groves has allowed me to feel a connection to a professional organization unlike I’ve previously experienced. The Annual Conference Meetings are intimate, provocative, and enlightening. Groves is intentional about selecting relevant topics for our times and, therefore, for family scientists.”

Who We Are: The Groves Conference was begun in 1934 by the late Professor Ernest Groves, who was among the first academicians to give a course in marriage and the family in an established university, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Our members are an interdisciplinary and interprofessional organization of faculty, researchers, students, and family professionals.

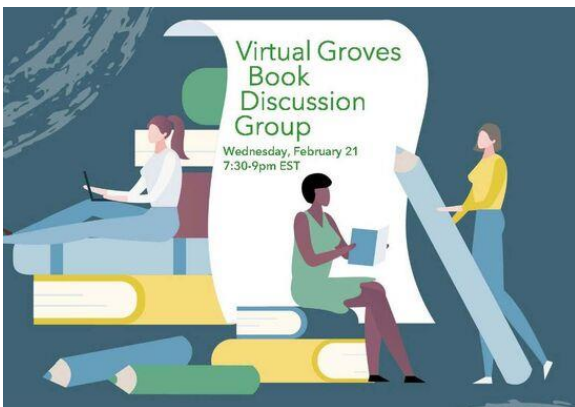
What We Do: Host annual conferences, offer access to quarterly newsletters, provide annual members-only scholastic and achievement awards, publish special edition monographs, and facilitate other events that support our members’ professional and academic development

Who We’re Seeking: Scholars, Professionals, and Students in Family Science, Family Life Education, Human Development, Marriage and Family Therapy, Sociology, Psychology, Social Work, Theology, Child Development, Health, Addictions, and Other Mental Health Professionals.

Do you know someone who would be interested in joining? Open up the Groves community to them – share this link [www.grovesconference.org/membership] to become a member of Groves and learn more about the Groves Way!

Groves Book Discussion Group – Wednesday, February 21, 7:30-9:00pm – via zoom

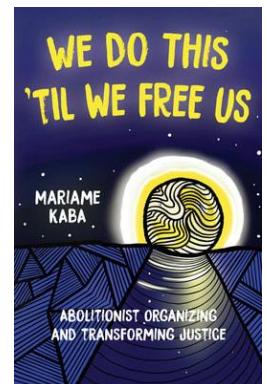
Wednesday, February 21, 2024 Virtual Groves Book Discussion Group



Please plan to join us and connect with other Groves members and discuss this fascinating and powerful book!

Discussion Facilitator Dr. Karmen Smith

Each year we choose a book related to the conference theme. The 2024 conference theme is Civil Rights and Intersecting Identities: Social Movements for Equality & Justice and will be held in Harlem, New York City, NY, June 12-15, 2024.



The book that we have chosen is *We Do This 'Til We Free Us: Abolitionist Organizing and Transforming Justice* by Mariame Kaba. "Organizing is both science and art. It is thinking through a vision, a strategy, and then figuring out who your targets are, always being concerned about power, always being concerned about how you're going to actually build power in order to be able to push your issues, in order to be able to get the target to actually move in the way that you want to." In this timely collection of essays and interviews, Mariame Kaba reflects on the deep work of abolition and transformative political struggle.

Participation in this event is free for Groves Members.

Non-member registration fees: \$25 (\$15 for non-member students) [Click here to register](#)



Calling all Groves members!

Have you valued your Groves membership and wondered about getting more involved? Have you considered service on the Groves Board or a conference planning or other committee? Contact Groves President Sharon Ballard (ballards@ecu.edu) to learn more and share ideas.

Groves 2024 Board Election Ballot

Groves Members are asked to vote for 2 Groves Conference on Marriage and Family Board positions with the term starting in May 2024 after the annual conference.

Candidate for At-Large Board member

Secretary (uncontested) Karen Doneker, PhD



Bio: Dr. Karen Lee Doneker (she/her) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Family Studies and Community Development at Towson University in Towson, Maryland. Karen earned her Ph.D. from the University of Delaware in Human Development and Family Studies. Her areas of teaching focus on theory, policy and research design and writing. Dr. Doneker has extensive experience in disabilities studies and United States policies for individuals with disabilities. Her research has centered on caregiving across the lifespan and has included both policy and theoretical works. Education policy, pedagogy and the history of the field of family science are also areas of focus. Karen currently serves as the Editor in Chief of the Family Science Review.

Platform Statement: I first became involved with Groves when I was a co-host for the conference in Kennett Square, PA. I am interested in helping build Groves and offer quality conferences and publications. With the pandemic and the current budget issues at Universities, planning conferences on relevant topics that are also affordable is important. Groves can offer innovative ways to advance the discourse on relevant topics and advocate for science and social justice. Most recently, Dr. Doneker served on the Board in an At Large position from 2021-2024

Member-at-Large (uncontested) Helyne Frederick, PhD, CFLE



Bio: Helyne Frederick, PhD, CFLEDr. Helyne Frederick is currently a faculty member in the UNC Chapel Hill School of Education, and directs the undergraduate program in Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS). She is passionate about helping students and professionals maximize their skills in providing services for children and families. She previously served as an Associate Professor and Program Director for the Family and Consumer Sciences Program at Winthrop University in South Carolina. She developed an HDFS program for Winthrop and led the program to obtain the Certified Family Life Educator credential from the National Council on Family Relations. Dr. Frederick also directs the HDFS internships at UNC which places students in

educational, health, and social services organizations.

Platform Statement: Dr. Frederick served as the 2017 Groves Program Chair and as Secretary 2020-2023. Her experience in those leadership roles will be a valuable contribution to the Board along with her other professional expertise.

Voting is open! [Click here for the Groves 2024 Board Election Ballot](#)

June 12-15, 2024
Harlem, New York City, NY

Civil Rights and Intersecting Identities: Social Movements for Equality & Justice



Groves Conference 2024 Chairs –

Eboni Baugh (East Carolina University) – Carol Johnston (Kansas State University)

Groves Conference 2024 Registration - [Registration Open!](#)

Full Conference Registration includes heavy hors-d'oeuvres at opening reception, 2 lunches, 1 dinner and 1 excursion.

- Groves members: \$649
- Students: \$549
- Nonmembers: \$749
- One-day registration: \$400

Late registration (after March 15, 2024): Add \$50 to applicable fee

Cancellation policy: No refunds can be made after April 30, 2024 and paid fees will be considered a donation to Groves.

Conference Theme and Description:

Society has a tumultuous history with regard to human rights and civil rights. Despite progress, the contemporary revisiting of previously held rights is placing intense pressure on families, individuals, and communities. As family scientists, it is imperative that we respond by learning, engaging, and acting with intentionality. The appropriate response is not to rescue, but to amplify voices and experiences, moving beyond mere allyship. The 2024 conference program will serve to center the primary mission of Groves Conference on Marriage and Family within the current landscape of social justice movements.

The primary mission of Groves is to foster critical thinking about issues in the area of family science and to promote social action and social justice. A variety of session formats are used (e.g., workshops, roundtable discussions, immersion experiences, field trips, plenaries, seminars, posters, etc.) designed to generate reconceptualizations of family-related issues. They are ultimately intended to hone a social tapestry that will improve the quality of life within and among families of the world.

Goebel-Macklin Award

The Goebel-Macklin Award supports a promising graduate student presenting at the annual conference. One graduate student is chosen based on his or her presentation at the conference and the award is made toward the end of the conference.

Why Harlem, NYC?

- Rich history of cultural impact, civic participation, and movements for social justice
- Home to many cultural institutions (Apollo Theater, Studio Museum) and access to urban and suburban communities including local colleges and universities—City College of New York’s School of Medicine, Columbia University, Hunter College, and Barnard College
- Close proximity to LaGuardia airport (hub for all major airlines - American, Delta, Jet Blue, Southwest, and United)
- Possible excursions during the conference (Pride Tour, Civil Rights Tour, drag show, dinner at iconic soul food restaurants, etc.)
- Pre- and post-conference experiences - e.g., other NY Boroughs (Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn & Coney Island), proximity to NJ & CT, Broadway and off-Broadway shows, Times Square, Central Park, Statue of Liberty & Ellis Island, and Niagara Falls.

Groves Block Hotel Reservations

Renaissance New York Harlem Hotel

233 West 125th Street, New York, NY 10027

Phone: 332-266-8722

Conference rate available June 12-15, 2024

- \$329 per night (limited King rooms available for \$309)

Book before Wed, May 8, 2024 to get this conference rate. [Book your group rate for Groves Conference](#)

Call for Manuscripts!

Groves Monograph: Families as Sources of Strength, Healing and Hope



Co-Editors: Raeann R. Hamon, Ph.D., Messiah University

rhamon@messiah.edu

Chloe D. Merrill, Ph.D., Transformational Symmetry Consulting

transformationalsymmetry@comcast.net

This monograph will elaborate on the theme of the 2022 Groves Conference on Marriage and Family held in Paradise Island, Bahamas. We encourage those who presented at the conference to submit their work but invite additional scholars to submit their manuscripts on the theme, as well.

Families serve as an essential source of strength, healing and hope during times of challenge and hardship. For this monograph, we'd like to focus on scholarship and professional practice which capture the role that families play in helping its own members and the larger society manage the vicissitudes of life. What family strengths are essential? How can relationships experience healing and reconciliation? What role does hope play in times of trouble?

Please submit your full manuscript by **September 30, 2024**. We plan to review manuscripts as they come in, providing feedback to authors. We anticipate a publication date winter of 2025. If you have an idea that you would like to discuss for the monograph, please contact Raeann or Chloe.

Manuscripts can be emailed to rhamon@messiah.edu.

Look for us on Facebook!



Check out the Groves Facebook page and connect with Groves and fellow members whenever you want!

Seeking 2024 Conference Sponsors!

We welcome individual and organizational sponsorships or any amount to help offset the costs associated with the 2024 conference in Harlem, NYC. Sponsorships of \$100 or more can have ad space in the conference program and may include materials in our conference packet. We also welcome donations specifically to support scholarships to help students attend the conference. If you are interested in either of these opportunities, contact Linda Vukelich at lmvukelich@gmail.com.

2023-2024 Board of Directors

President (2021-2024) Sharon Ballard (East Carolina University)

President Elect (2023-2024) Chloe Merrill (Transformational Symmetry Consult.)

Treasurer Yuliana Rodriguez (University of North Carolina Chapel Hill)

Secretary (2021-2024) Helyne Frederick (University of North Carolina Chapel Hill)

At Large Members Raeann Hamon (2024-2025) • Colleen Murray (2020-2023) • Karen Doneker (2021-2024)

Membership Chair (2021-2024) Karmen Smith, PhD (3H Counseling, LLC)

Parliamentarian Kevin Lyness (Antioch University)

Groves Monograph Series Editor Kevin Lyness (Antioch University)

Awards Chair Barbara Settles (University of Delaware)

Nominations Chair Anisa Zvonkovic (University of Georgia)

2023 Program Chair: Heather Sedges, PhD, CFLE (University of Tennessee)

2024 Program Chairs Raeann Hamon (Messiah Univ), Chloe Merrill (Transformational Symmetry Consult.)

Student/New Professional (2022-2025) Carrie Bergeson (East Carolina University)

Corporate Representative Kari Adamsons (University of Connecticut)

Groves Manager Linda Vukelich grovesmanager@yahoo.com - L.Vukelich@comcast.net



GROVES CONFERENCE
on Marriage and Family