



Saginaw Branch NAACP

100 Years Fighting the Battle for Justice and Equality 1919-2019

NAACP SAGINAW BRANCH FREEDOM FUND PROGRAM

The inaugural Freedom Fund Dinner of the NAACP Saginaw Branch was hosted in 1970 under the leadership of Branch President Bernice Barlow. Today, the Saginaw Branch Freedom Fund Dinner has evolved into one of the community's largest and most diverse fundraising events with more than 600 guests attending annually. The NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner features a fulfilling meal, inspiring entertainment, special awards and recognition for local and some of the world's renowned keynote address speakers.

The local Freedom Fund Dinner was organized at a time in Saginaw when the community was battling significant civil unrest and frustration in the black community due to housing segregation, employment discrimination and police harassment and deep segregation in the public school system.

It's worth noting that the annual Freedom Fund Dinner along with membership dues are the two primary sources of financial support to the Saginaw Branch. We are extremely grateful for the broad base of support received from the private sector, churches, clubs and social organizations, local media, and the hundreds of citizens throughout the region.

Mr. Odail Thorns has served as Chair of the annual Freedom Fund Program for 15 years.

What follows is a pictorial review of the most recent Saginaw Freedom Fund Dinners featuring the keynote speakers, community ambassador award recipients, young professional honorees and S.T.E.M. stars.

2014 Freedom Banquet						
	2014 Speaker Rev. Jonathon C. Augustine	2014 Honoree Patricia Franklin-Lindsey	2014 Honoree Gerald Kariem	2014 Honoree Renee Johnston	2014 Honoree Rev. P. David Saunders	
	2015 Freedom Banquet					
		2015 Speaker Dr. Calvin Mackie	2015 Honoree Ana Hidalgo	2015 Honoree Carl Williams	2015 Honorees Saginaw African Cultural Festival Committee	2015 Honoree Heidi Bolger

**2016
Freedom Banquet**



2016 Speaker
Mayor Karen Weaver



2016 Honoree
Mary Claybrook-Currie



2016 Honoree
Dr. Betty B. Jones, PhD



2016 Honoree
Judge MT Thompson



2016 Honorees
Saginaw Arson Watch

**2017
Freedom Banquet**



2017 Speaker
Florida State Attorney 9th
Judicial Circuit Court



2017 Honoree
Glendorah Lawrence



2017 Honoree
Angela Williams



2017 Honoree
1st Lt. Marvin Jenkins



2017 Honoree
Eric Gardner

**2018
Freedom Banquet**



2018 Speaker
Marilyn E. Atkins
Retired
Chief Judge 36th District Court



2018 Honoree
Dr. George Ross, PhD



2018 Honorees
Dr. George Ross &
Elizabeth Ross



**48th ANNUAL FREEDOM FUND DINNER
Church Membership Chairpersons**



THANK YOU