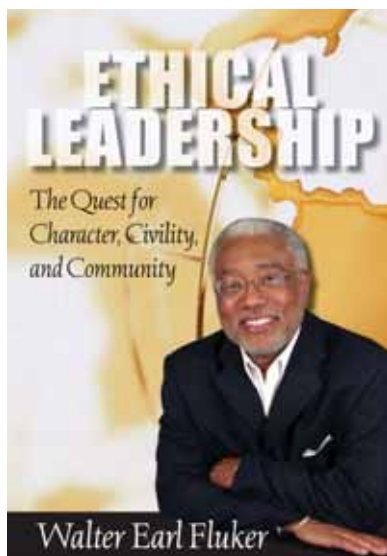


Ethical Leadership: The Quest for Character, Civility and Community

BY WALTER E. FLUKER

PUBLISHED BY FORTRESS PRESS



WALTER E. FLUKER, executive director of the Leadership Center at Morehouse College, is looking to spark a deep public discussion on ethical leadership in his new book, *Ethical Leadership: The Quest for Character, Civility and Community* (Fortress Press, 2009).

“Our nation is involved in two costly wars; struggling with a financial crisis precipitated by unscrupulous practices on Wall Street and Main Street; we’re recovering from a presidential campaign that degenerated into character assassination based on religion, race and an unresolved cultural war,” he said. “And now we’re hearing from a confused and bewildered citizenry asking the question, ‘Which way is north?’ What we try to do in this book is address this question, based upon traditions.”

Fluker uses the moral traditions of the African American community as a model of where ethical leadership should start.

“What we try to do is ground it within the cultural narrative of African Americans,” he said. “If you want to understand how you get a Barack Obama, or a John F. Kennedy or a Fannie Lou Hamer...you must examine the traditions and cultural narrative that shape a certain sense of character, civility and community.”

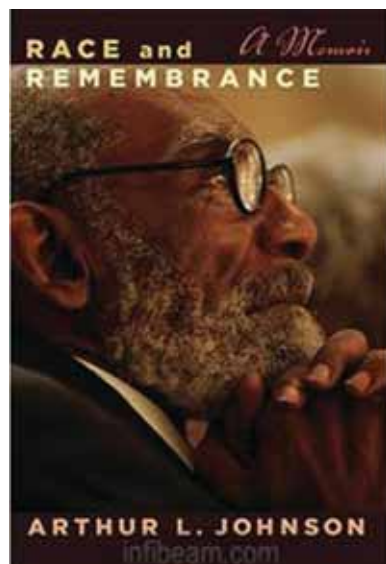
Fluker wants readers to come away with two main lessons: accepting a new model of ethical decision-making that focuses on discernment, decision and deliberation and an understanding that leaders have to not only have a deep knowledge of their external worlds, but also of their internal environments. ■



Race and Remembrance

BY ARTHUR L. JOHNSON '48

PUBLISHED BY WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS



MOST COVERAGE of the civil rights movement focuses on efforts in the South, but the successes of that historic era were also secured by the enormous effort and personal sacrifice of others who fought racial discrimination and poverty in other parts of the country, as well.

Arthur L. Johnson '48 was one of those soldiers on the frontlines of the fight. *Race and Remembrance* tells his remarkable life story, in his own words, as a Detroit civil rights and community leader, educator and administrator whose career spans much of the last century.

A Georgia native, Johnson graduated from Morehouse College in 1948 and later Atlanta University then moved north in 1950 to become executive secretary of the Detroit branch of the NAACP. Under his guidance, the Detroit chapter became one of the most active and vital in the United States.

Johnson says he had never planned to write a book, until about three years ago when a complete stranger approached him on the street and urged him to share all of his “great work.” Johnson mulled it over then decided that a memoir could remain as a legacy for future generations.

“I want them to know that nothing is impossible,” he says. “This last presidential election is testimony to that.”

Along with his dedicated work with political organizations, including serving as deputy director of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission, Johnson also maintained a steadfast commitment to education and for nearly a quarter of a century served as the vice president of university relations and professor of educational sociology at Wayne State University. Johnson also gives readers a look into his personal life, including his relationship with his grandmother, his encounters with Morehouse classmate Martin Luther King Jr. '48 and the loss of his sons. ■



Editor's Note: This column is open to Morehouse alumni, faculty and staff who have recently published books. Please contact Add Seymour Jr. at aseymour@morehouse.edu to submit your work.

FOOTNOTES

Baad Bitches and Sassy Supermamas: Black Power Action Films

By Stephane Dunn

Published by University of Illinois Press

Stephane Dunn remembers being a child during the colorful decade of the 1970s when blaxploitation films with stars such as Richard Roundtree and Pam Grier appearing in films like "Shaft" and "Foxy Brown" were all the rage.

"These were always the people in the cultural sphere of things," said Dunn, a visiting professor in the English department specializing in African American cultural studies, film and literature. "But prior to the last four or five years, there has been a lack of intensive dialogue that highlighted the gender dynamics and also highlighted the females in these films."

Dunn hopes to spur quite a bit of discussion with her first book, *Baad Bitches and Sassy Supermamas: Black Power Action Films*, published by University of Illinois Press (2008).

In chapters such as "Race, Gender and Sexual Power in Cleopatra Jones" and "Black Power and the New Baad Cinema," Dunn explores the evolution of the role of black females in blaxploitation films. In her straight, in-your-face style, Dunn talks about how black women were initially portrayed as hyper-sexual, yet docile, obedient and submissive as in "Shaft" and "Superfly," but evolving into lead characters who were strong, tough and empowered women in films like "Foxy Brown," "Coffy" and "Cleopatra Jones." She also tackles the hip-hop community's embrace, to some degree, of the icons of that era.

"I thought there was a lot more to say and talk about, what is really the role of women and what are problems with the gender dynamics of film," Dunn said. "It was my own great, big critical shout-out to films that still had that nostalgic history."

Dunn is an Elkhart, Ind., native and graduate of the University of Evansville and Notre Dame, where she earned two master's degrees and her doctorate. She is an avid writer who is also a playwright. Dunn plans two more books in the near future, including one on former baseball player Curt Flood. She then plans to focus on plays she has been working on.

"I'm already off to the next project," Dunn said. "I'm always writing in my head."



The Promise of Justice

Edited by Mac A. Stewart '63

Published by the Ohio State University Press

On many accords, the *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka Kansas* case in 1954 was a landmark United States Supreme Court decision in the 20th century. It overturned the high court's earlier *Plessy v. Ferguson* ruling that declared separate public schools for black and white students as inherently unequal. But, more importantly, it paved the way for integration in public schools and sparked the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

The Promise of Justice, edited by Morehouse alumnus Mac A. Stewart '63, features 14 essays that assess both the importance and the legacy of the *Brown* decision. In examining the case from a variety of angles, the essayists uniformly agree to its importance, but share their unique interpretations of its meaning and impact.

"I feel it is one of the most important rulings in the country that has affected the lives of African Americans and other underrepresented minorities in this country," writes Stewart, an administrator at Ohio State University.

The diverse mix of contributors to this volume include legal specialists, sociologists, educators, political scientists, a child plaintiff in a related case and a federal district judge responsible for deciding in favor of integration, and then overseeing its enforcement in a major northern city.

Promise also provides a history of the legal milestones of integration in this country, judgments about the progress that has been made and the need for additional actions to assure racial equality under the law. Stewart says he was inspired to work on the book while compiling 10 of the essays for a special *Brown* anniversary issue of *The Negro Educational Review*, where he previously served as editor-in-chief. The four other pieces were written specifically for the book.



Howard Thurman's Great Hope

By Kai Jackson Issa

Published by Lee & Low Books

Kai Jackson Issa, the managing director of the Howard Thurman Papers, hopes her book, *Howard Thurman's Great Hope* (Lee & Low, 2008), will introduce the world-renowned author, theologian and educator to youngsters who may know little about Thurman and his influence on such leaders as Martin Luther King Jr. '48 and President Barack Obama.

"Children know about people like Dr. King," she said, "but they also need to know about people in black history who shaped and molded these people. Thurman was instrumental in helping shape King's non-violent protest thinking."

Thurman, who died in 1981, was cited by *Ebony* magazine as one of the 50 most important figures in African American history. His soaring oratory and teachings on non-violence and civil rights helped shaped the philosophy behind the civil rights movement.



Fighting for a Life

By David Hadden

Published By Clearlake Publishing

It's a modern-day David and Goliath story. **Fighting for a Life** by David Hadden chronicles Hadden's true story as a young down-and-out African American man who took on a corporate railroad giant and triumphed. His fight started after he was fired from his job as a train conductor for UTDC. Convinced that his termination was racially-motivated, he refused to accept the injustice without a fight and filed a discrimination lawsuit against his former bosses—albeit with little money and no lawyer to represent him.

Undeterred by the challenge, Hadden wrote his own legal motions longhand on school paper, all while studying case law at the local community college. Drawing inspiration from the Bible and Martin Luther King Jr.'s speeches, he ultimately prevailed—winning \$400,000 in the four-year court battle.

"I underwent a spiritual conversion that led me to take this path," says Hadden, who attended Morehouse from 1999 to 2001 until he pursued his career as a professional boxer full time. In this inspirational memoir, the courtroom and the boxing ring (he eventually won a middle-weight division Golden Glove championship) serve as a metaphorical representation of his life, which he navigates with a strength and conviction driven by his faith in God.

Hadden is now a licensed minister and founder of a non-profit organization that helps financially disadvantaged adults get back on their feet.