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## **BLACK HERITAGE MONTH: RECOGNIZING NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS OF BLACK FEMALE PHARMACISTS**

The mission of Black Heritage Month is to educate the community on the importance of the history and significance of the Black culture. ABHP joined in this mission and celebration this year to educate both the ABHP membership and the pharmacy community on the important roles that black and

minority pharmacists have played in the health systems throughout history. By participating in Black Heritage Month, ABHP is able to provide an educational atmosphere of learning opportunities for students, pharmacists, and the community to acknowledge the contributions that black pharmacists have made to the profession of pharmacy. Our theme for the month is ***"Notable Achievements of Black Female Pharmacists"***

presented by John E. Clark, PharmD; Angela D. Massey-Hill, PharmD; Deborah Williams, MD, PhD

## ELLA NORA PHILLIPS STEWART

Ella P. Stewart (b. 1893; d. 1987), a native of Springtown, West Virginia, desegregated the University of Pittsburgh by being the first black student admitted in 1914. She graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1916 with her Ph.D. In the same year, Stewart passed the state examination becoming the first African American female pharmacist in the state of Pennsylvania and one the first African American female pharmacists in the country. She was the first African American woman to graduate from Pittsburgh University's College of Pharmacy. Years later, after earning her license and buying several drugstores in Pittsburgh, she moved with her husband, who was also a



pharmacist, to Toledo, Ohio, where they opened a pharmacy that would serve as a community center for African Americans. Ella Nora Phillips Stewart not only known for becoming one of the first African American female pharmacists, but also for her struggles against discrimination and her impact in the community. Stewart was involved in many community organizations, including the Enterprise Charity Club, the Ohio Association of Colored Women, and the National Association of Colored Women. Her involvement in these organizations and the obstacles that she has overcome has led to many awards in the Northwest Ohio area and at the University of Pittsburgh that bear her name. Stewart was a member of the first group of inductees into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame.

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## AMANDA GRAY HILYER

Amanda Victoria Gray Hilyer (b. 1870; d. 1957) was born in Atchison, Kansas, where she received her first education and she taught school there three years. Coming to Washington, D. C. in 1893, she became interested in kindergarten studies and prepared herself to teach on that level. She next entered Howard University and graduated in pharmacy to enter the pharmaceutical business in which she managed a drug store at 12th and U Streets, N. W., for many years. Arthur S. Gray, her partner and a pharmacist, became her first husband. They developed a flourishing drug center of customers and associates briefly passing, meeting, and forming acquaintances that extended to wider circles. Amanda Gray Hilyer knew and associated here with Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, Kelly Miller, Mary M. Bethune, Mary Church Terrell, Charles Sumner Wormley, Walter H. Brooks, Frances J. Grimka, David Rivers, Carter Woodson, and many others. These contacts afforded opportunity for insight into far-flung civic, cultural, religious, and social community possibilities. About the outbreak of World War I her first husband died, and she gave up the drug business for war-work as a director of hostesses in Army camps at Upton, Dix, and Taylor. She co-operated and founded the D. C. Phyllis Wheatley Y.W.C.A., and the S. Coleridge Taylor Choral Society. She was a member of the Treble Clef Musical Club for over 60 years, and a life-member of the N.A.A.C.P., and The Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. Amanda Gray Hilyer was frequently honored as a leader because of her ability, character, and integrity...

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## HARRIET BEECHER STOWE MARBLE

Harriet Marble (b. 1885; d. 1966) was the first African American woman pharmacist in Lexington, KY. She was born in Yazoo City, MS, the daughter of Solomon [or Saul] and Leah Ann Molette Marble. Harriett came to Lexington, KY, in 1921. Her pharmacy was located at 118 North Broadway, along with doctors' offices and an apartment on the third floor where Marble lived. Marble owned the building, which she had had renovated; the previous owners were Henry Ross and Jacob Speer, who owned the building when it had contained the People's Pharmacy, which opened in 1910. Harriett Marble was a graduate of Meharry Medical College. She made the top score on the test administered by the Mississippi State Board of Examiners in 1908 when she qualified for her pharmacy license. She was a pharmacist in Mississippi, Oklahoma, and at Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute [now Tuskegee University] in Alabama, prior to coming to Kentucky. . .

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## UNA WINIFRED ATWELL

Una Winifred Atwell (27 February or April 1910 or 1914 - 28 February 1983) was a Trinidad-born British pianist who enjoyed great popularity in Britain and other countries (including Australia) from the 1950s with a series of boogie woogie and ragtime hits. She was the first black person to have a number one hit in the UK Singles Chart, and still the only female instrumentalist to do so. Atwell was born in Tunapuna in Trinidad and Tobago. She and her parents lived in Jubilee Street. Her family owned a pharmacy, and she trained as a pharmacist, and was expected to join the family business. Winifred, however, had played the piano from a young age, and achieved considerable popularity locally. She used to play for American servicemen at the air force base (which is now the main airport). It was whilst playing at the Servicemen's Club at Piarco that someone bet her she could not play something in the boogie-woogie style that was popular back home in the United States. She went away and wrote "Piarco Boogie" which was later renamed "Five Finger Boogie".

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## MOLLIE MOON

Molly Moon (b. 1912; d. 1990) founded the National Urban League Guild in 1942 to raise funds for Urban League programs for racial equality and amity. Under Mrs. Moon, the guild grew to almost 30,000 volunteers in 80 guilds around the country. She received many awards for dedicated and innovative volunteerism. President George H.W. Bush recognized Mrs. Moon with an award that was presented to her by Mayor David N. Dinkins at New York City Hall on April 23, 1990 at the start of National Volunteer Week. Mrs. Moon was a leading figure in Manhattan in moving benefits for blacks below 110th Street. Among the positions held by Mrs. Moon were secretary of the Urban League's board of trustees and a board member of the Dance Theater of Harlem, the National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing and the Coalition of 100 Black Women. She was a former adviser on programs of the Food and Drug Administration and she led fund-raising efforts for the Henry Lee Moon Civil Rights Library at the headquarters of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Baltimore. Mollie Lewis Moon, a native of Hattiesburg, Miss., was a graduate in pharmacy from Meharry Medical College. She also studied at Teachers College of Columbia University, the New School and the University of Berlin.

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## DOLORES COOPER SHOCKLEY

Dolores Cooper (b. 1930 - ) was the first African American woman in the U.S. to earn a Ph.D. in pharmacology. She was also the first African American to earn a Ph.D. from Purdue University. Cooper was born in 1930 in Clarksdale, Mississippi to a successful family of professionals. Cooper attended an out-of-town private Presbyterian school in order to take the chemistry classes she needed to earn an advanced degree in science. After high school she earned a B.S. in pharmacy in 1951 from Xavier University in New Orleans. Having been accepted into eight graduate schools, Cooper chose to continue her studies at Purdue University. After earning her Ph.D. in pharmacology in 1955, Cooper received a Fulbright Fellowship to the Pharmacology Institute in Copenhagen which allowed her to hone her research skills. Dolores Cooper returned to the U.S. after that two year fellowship and began her career in research and teaching as an assistant professor at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. Cooper married William Shockley, a microbiologist, and the two raised four children. In 1988, Dolores Cooper Shockley was appointed chair of the Department of Pharmacology at Meharry, making her the first black woman to chair a pharmacology department in the U.S. .



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