

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, August 4, 2021

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Media Advisory

**Global Expert on African Burial Grounds To Speak On Martha's Vineyard Roots and Campaign To Memorialize Resting Places of Enslaved Africans**

Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts>>>Peggy King Jorde slightly bristles at being called a 'seasonal visitor' on Martha's Vineyard. Not only does the Southwest Georgia native, who resides in Englewood, NJ, have family ties on the Island dating back more than a century, she knows enslaved Africans were working for free as early as the 1700s on what is now widely considered 'the playground of the Black elite'.

"When we call ourselves 'seasonal', we're discounting, discrediting and ignoring the shoulders we are all standing on," said King Jorde. "I speak here of the enslaved and



*Preservationist Peggy King Jorde's cousin, Evelyn Kiner, is highlighted in a group photo circa 1920, along with Rev. Oscar E. Denniston, founding pastor of Bradley Memorial Church on Masonic Avenue.*

their heirs, who were 'working' long before any of us began 'summering' here. My family was part of that larger narrative of enslavement and resettlement."

King Jorde makes no secret that 'remembering' the enslaved is at the heart of her calling and life's work.

A global expert on memorializing African burial grounds, she's best known for leading the campaign to create what became the U.S. National Park Service's African Burial Ground National Monument in New York City.

**King Jorde will be this month's featured guest speaker of the [Martha's Vineyard chapter of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History \(MVASALH\)](#). The nonprofit will host the expert who will share a lecture and slideshow, including a film trailer of an upcoming documentary that features her work. The virtual presentation and fundraiser will take place on Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 3 p.m., with details at [this link](#).**



*Photographed at Menemsha, preservationist Peggy King Jorde will speak at virtual ASALH event Tues. Aug. 17, 2021 at 3 p.m.*

King Jorde will be 'on Island' during the virtual event. It's here she has vacationed with her family during the last 15 years. But family roots here run longer and deeper.

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MINNESOTA CLUB.—3  
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New students from M  
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HARVARD SHOOTING  
bers of the University  
the Shooting Club may  
five dollars to H. F. L.  
either at 27 Thayer  
grounds of the club  
Next regular shoot will  
afternoon from 2 to 4 p.

In 1898, King Jorde's great grandfather, Robert Sydney Kiner, ran the above-pictured ad for his clothes cleaning and tailoring services in an issue of *The Harvard Crimson*.

Bradley Memorial Church at 10 Masonic Avenue.

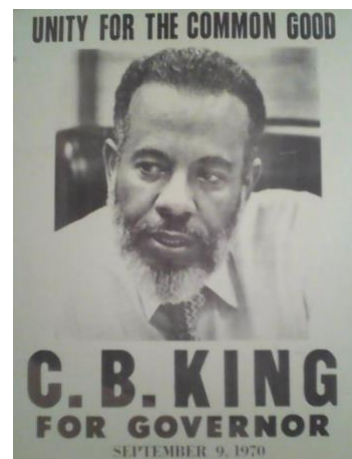
His daughter, Evelyn, pictured in a historic group photo there along with founding pastor Rev. Oscar E. Denniston. King Jorde said Evelyn often recounted her father as among one of the first African Americans to build a business and home with two other friends in Oak Bluffs. Records also show her brother, Carroll, was born in Oak Bluffs.

Meanwhile, King Jorde's father's side of the family is no bit player in America's Black freedom struggle.

The Albany, Georgia native is the only daughter of the late Attorney C.B. King, who represented scores of civil rights demonstrators, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the Albany Movement. A white sheriff split open her father's scalp during that campaign while he attempted to visit a jailed white demonstrator who was a client. In 1964, King Jorde's father would go on to become the first Black to run for U.S. Congress since Reconstruction from Georgia, and, in 1970 was drafted as the first Black to run for governor from the state.



William Henry Kiner of Oak Bluffs poses for a photograph with his two sons, Carroll and Addison.





*Fellow preservationist Annina van Neel Hayes and King Jorde stand in a Southwest Georgia cotton field, a photo captured during the production of the documentary film 'Story of Bones'.*

would reshape federal plans to construct an office building on top of a colonial-era burial ground for enslaved Africans in Lower Manhattan. Her work resulted in NPS' African Burial Ground National Monument & Interpretive Center.

Since then, King has played roles in multiple memorialization projects, including ones in Upper Manhattan, the Bronx and, more recently, an antebellum cemetery in Newnan in her native Georgia.

Three years ago, a London-based film crew flew her out to the British Overseas Territory of St. Helena in the South Atlantic, to be interviewed and share her take on a development project threatening what is 'the largest burial ground of enslaved Africans direct from the Middle Passage'. King Jorde is slated to appear in that documentary, entitled "A Story of Bones" due to be released in 2022.

King Jorde is also the sister of documentary filmmaker Clennon L. King, who helped lead the campaign to persuade Oak Bluffs Selectmen in 2019 to unanimously vote to remove two plaques honoring Confederate soldiers who fought to preserve slavery.

For media outlets interested in interviewing Ms. King Jorde, please contact Clennon L. King at [clennon@augustinemonica.com](mailto:clennon@augustinemonica.com) or by phone at 207.450.3585. Thank you.

A graduate of The Putney School, King Jorde earned a bachelor's in architecture and design at Bennington College during which time she also attended the Architectural Association School of Architecture in London, England before her pursuit of a graduate degree in architecture at Columbia University. In the mid 1990s, she accepted a Loeb Fellowship at Harvard University's School of Design owing to her groundbreaking work around New York's City Hall.

While serving in design and construction for multiple NYC mayoral administrations, she was hand-picked by Mayor David Dinkins, to oversee a project that

Form A.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

No. 302 RETURN OF A BIRTH.

To the Clerk of the City or Town in which the birth occurred.

(FILL OUT WITH INK. ALL NAMES TO BE IN FULL.)

Date of Birth, . . . . .	August 15, 1907
Full Name of Child, . . . . .	Kiner
Sex, Color and if Twin, . . . . .	Male - Negro - Single
Place of Birth, . . . . .	Oak Bluffs, Mass.
Full Name of Father, . . . . .	William Henry Kiner
Maiden Name of Mother, . . . . .	Edna E. Reeve
Residence of Parents, . . . . .	Boston, Mass.
Occupation of Father, . . . . .	Theological student
Birthplace of Father, . . . . .	Stanton, Virginia
Birthplace of Mother, . . . . .	Salisbury, N. Carolina

Dated at Oak Bluffs, Mass. Aug 26, 1907

Signature and residence of person making return. } Hubert T. Dean, III  
Oak Bluffs, Mass.

*Pictured above is the 1907 Oak Bluffs' birth certificate of William H. Kiner's son, Carroll.*

---The End---