



ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY®

301 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, NW | SUITE 2204 | WASHINGTON, DC 20001
202.238.5910 | ASALH.ORG

Bettye J. Gardner, Ph.D.

ASALH President 1995-1997

Bettye J. Gardner, Emerita Professor of History, Coppin State University, received her B.A. and M.A. degrees in History from Howard University and her Ph.D. from George Washington University. At Coppin State University she served as the Dean of the Division of Arts and Sciences, and Chair of the Department of History, Geography and Global Studies. She has been Project Director and/or Consultant for a variety of Humanities projects and National Conferences including the Smithsonian Conference on Historically Black Colleges, the Humanities Council of Washington's Symposium, "In Vogue: Black Culture and Identity in the Jazz Age", "Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: Remembering His Legacy", "Lifting the Double Burden: A Critical Review of Race and Gender" (NPS), and "1968 and Beyond" (National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution). She served as a Federal Commissioner of the Mary McLeod Bethune National Historic Site and represented ASALH on the Congressional Task Force on "The Use of Slave Labor in the Building of the U.S. Capitol".

Her articles have appeared in *The Journal of Negro History*, *The MD Historical Magazine*, *The Negro History Bulletin*, and *Southern Studies*, and she has contributed essays in the following books: *The State of Afro-American History*, *Black Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia*, the *Encyclopedia of African American Education*, the *Encyclopedia of Blacks in Business*, and *The State of Black Baltimore*; and she has lectured extensively on 19th Century African American Communities with a special focus on Baltimore's Free Black Community.

Her honors include the John Blassingame Award (Southern Historical Association) in 2004 for her scholarly work and her mentoring of African American students; the Outstanding Educator Award (Baltimore Chapter, Howard University Alumni Association) in 2005; and the Bethune Service Award (Association for the Study of African American Life and History) in 2006.

ASALH MISSION

To promote, research, preserve, interpret and disseminate information about Black life, history and culture to the global community.



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Dr. Gardner served as National President of ASALH (1995-1997) and served for several years on the Executive Council of ASALH. During her years on the Executive Council, she chaired ASALH committees including Program Chair for two Annual Conferences, the Black History Month Luncheon, the Awards Committee, and the Woodson Home Site Committee (with Elizabeth Clark Lewis and Barbara Spencer Dunn as Co-Chairs). Under the leadership of Bettye Gardner and Barbara Spencer Dunn, they planned the 2015 ASALH Centennial Program in Washington, DC, with NPS, and the 2021 Woodson Birthday Symposium also in partnership with NPS.

In 2021 the Woodson Home Site Committee was awarded the "National Capital Area's Hartzog Group Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service for their remarkable contributions to the Carter G. Woodson National Historic Site". For the last sixteen years the Woodson Home Site Committee has been involved with the interpretation, rehabilitation, preservation, and programming at the Woodson Site. From the Fall of 2019 through 2020 the committee restructured the final exhibit gallery dedicated to Dr. Woodson's legacy. Additionally, the committee also secured the donation of approximately 200 historic photographs and 140 original artifacts, many of which will be featured in the permanent exhibit. She also Co-Chairs the National Heritage Sites Research Committee managing the Task Agreement between NPS and ASALH through a Master Cooperative Agreement.

Dr. Gardner was first introduced to Negro History Week and Dr. Woodson through school and community programs in her hometown. Later, as a History Major at Howard University, the connection between Dr. Carter G. Woodson and ASALH was reinforced by Drs. Rayford Logan (Mentee of Dr. Carter G. Woodson), and long-time Executive Council members, Joseph Harris and Lorraine Williams. It was through these faculty members and other well-known historians that she met at ASALH Conferences (Drs. Benjamin Quarles, John Henrik Clarke, John Hope Franklin, Charles and Dorothy Wesley) that she understood the role that ASALH played in continuing the legacy of Dr. Woodson. As the torch is passed to younger generations, they must commit to continuing the work that Dr. Woodson and his contemporaries began.

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