



# The Emissary

Volume 3 | Issue 3 | Summer 2024

## Announcements

- The 2023 Annual Report can be accessed online at [www.generationsforamerica.org](http://www.generationsforamerica.org).
- View the 2024 Scholarship recipients now on the website [www.generationsforamerica.org](http://www.generationsforamerica.org).
- Go to the *Generations for America* (GFA) website [www.generationsforamerica.org](http://www.generationsforamerica.org) for more information about our *Good Life Initiative* (Senior Citizen) and Scholarship Programs.
- Donate to GFA @ [www.generationsforamerica.org](http://www.generationsforamerica.org).
- Email inquiries about GFA to [grow@generationsforamerica.org](mailto:grow@generationsforamerica.org).

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## ***Message from the CEO***

Welcome to the summer edition of our quarterly newsletter, *The Emissary*. I hope you enjoy reading Generations for America's (GFA) newsletter while you are on vacation, relaxing on your porch or in the backyard.

In this issue, you will read about one of our amazing board members, an outstanding senior citizen in the community and read what one of our past scholarship recipients is up to. This issue will give you highlights on our 2024 Mother-Daughter Brunch held in May and you will read all about future technology, Artificial Intelligence (AI).

GFA board members will be attending their first annual planning meeting in August. We will be making decisions



about many exciting fund-raising activities for our supporters. Our goal is to produce results by awarding as many scholarship as possible and by providing our senior citizens programs that will improve their quality of life.

Your generous donations allowed GFA to award 15 scholarships this year. The 2024 GFA Scholarship recipients can be viewed on the website ([www.generationsforamerica.org](http://www.generationsforamerica.org)). I look forward to partnering with you this fall as we continue to support our programs.

The Board and I want to thank you for your continued support of Generations for America. Our focus areas are Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina. Our motto is to "Give Where You Live"! We accomplished our goal to award more scholarships this year than previous years.

We are a small, grassroots, nonprofit organization. With your prayers and donations, we are making a difference where we live. Again, thank you for your support.

Best Regards,

***Karen M. Newsome***

## Board Member Limelight!

### Sonya R. Jenkins

**Parents:** Artie & Gwendolyn Jenkins

**Son:** Marcus

**Granddaughter:** Cailynn (5 years old)

**Work:** Currently employed at Fortune 500 credit card processing company for over 21 years.

**My 2024 Motto:** Stay ready, so I don't have to get ready!

**Spare Time:** Trips, volunteering, shopping, watching volleyball, football, & basketball



## 2024 Mother-Daughter Brunch Highlights

*By Dr. Shakela Johnson*

Dr. Trimble, a professor at Alabama State University and accomplished author, served as the keynote speaker. Dr. Trimble shared several pieces of her work, "The Language of Joy," a poem written about her mother and the positive perspective a woman can choose to have in a daunting moment. Words of inspiration from Dr. Trimble and a song of encouragement featured "Keep Smiling," written and performed by Hasan Green. "Keep Smiling" certainly underscores the significance of the brunch in the bittersweetness of memories created and the fortitude to keep looking ahead. With a powerful singer like Hasan, along with The Rehoboth Band, providing the entertainment, it didn't take long before attendees were jamming in rhythm and celebrating.

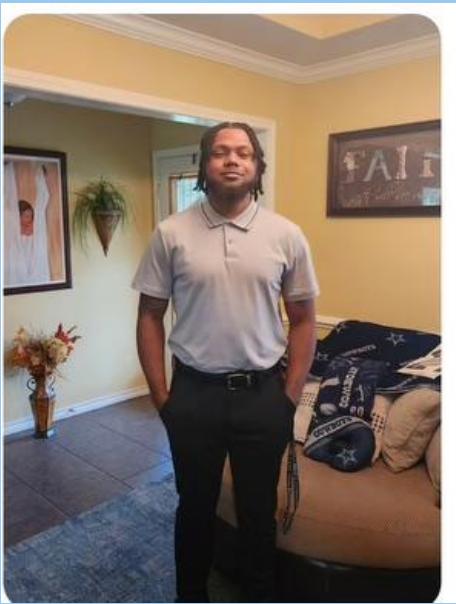
**Save the Date for 2025...Saturday, May 10, 2025!**

## Seasoned Citizen Spotlight!

### Atoska (Joyce) Gentry

By Verlinda Gentry

Joyce was born in Gary, Indiana and grew up in Auburn, AL. She graduated from Auburn High School and received a B.S. degree in Biology from Jacksonville State University. She's married to Mr. Jimmie L. Gentry, together they have two daughters Aiesha & Allysa. She is a faithful longtime member of Green Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Auburn, AL. She's secretary of the Benevolent Ministry and, a member of the Cemetery Ministry, Pastoral Anniversary Committee, and the Kitchen Committee. She's a Silver Star of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. in which she participates on various committees and community outreach services. She retired as a Research Assistant IV from Scott-Ritchey Research Center (SRRC) of Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine after 30+ years. After retiring she enjoys spending time with family, and friends, sports spectating, and traveling.



### Where are they now?

#### 2022 GFA Scholarship Recipient

By Carissa Williams

My name is Howard Carl Barron III. I graduated with my master's in business administration-accounting in December 2023 and I just finished a Graduate Assistance Basketball Coach position in March 2024. I am working at Red River Federal Credit Union in the corporate office as an Account Specialist in Texarkana, Arizona.

# What is Artificial Intelligence (AI)?

By **Carissa Williams**

Artificial intelligence is the theory and development of computer systems capable of performing tasks that historically required human intelligence, such as recognizing speech, making decisions, and identifying patterns.

Although the term is commonly used to describe a range of different technologies in use today, many disagree on whether these actually constitute artificial intelligence. Instead, some argue that much of the technology used in the real world today actually constitutes highly advanced machine learning that is simply a first step toward true artificial intelligence.

Though the humanoid robots often associated with AI (think Star Trek: The Next Generation's Data or Terminator's T-800) don't exist yet, you've likely interacted with machine learning-powered services or devices many times before.



## Artificial Intelligence Examples

At the simplest level, machine learning uses algorithms trained on data sets to create machine learning models that allow computer systems to perform tasks like making song recommendations, identifying the fastest way to travel to a destination, or translating text from one language to another. Some of the most common examples of AI in use today include:

**ChatGPT:** Uses large language models (LLMs) to generate text in response to questions or comments.

**Google Translate:** Uses deep learning algorithms to translate text from one language to another.

**Netflix:** Uses machine learning algorithms to create personalized recommendation engines for users based on their previous viewing history.

**Tesla:** Uses computer vision to power self-driving features on their cars.



Website:  
[www.generationsforamerica.org](http://www.generationsforamerica.org)



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“Give to Grow”  
“Give Where You Live”

## AI Benefits and Dangers

*By Carissa Williams*

AI has a range of applications with the potential to transform how we work and our daily lives. While many of these transformations are exciting, like self-driving cars, virtual assistants, or wearable devices in the healthcare industry, they also pose many challenges. Here are a few of the possible benefits and dangers AI may pose.

The advantages range from streamlining, saving time, eliminating biases, and automating repetitive tasks, just to name a few. The disadvantages are things like costly implementation, potential human job loss, and lack of emotion and creativity.

**Artificial Intelligence is quickly changing the world we live in.**

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