

# SoulVision®

M A G A Z I N E



**Inside**

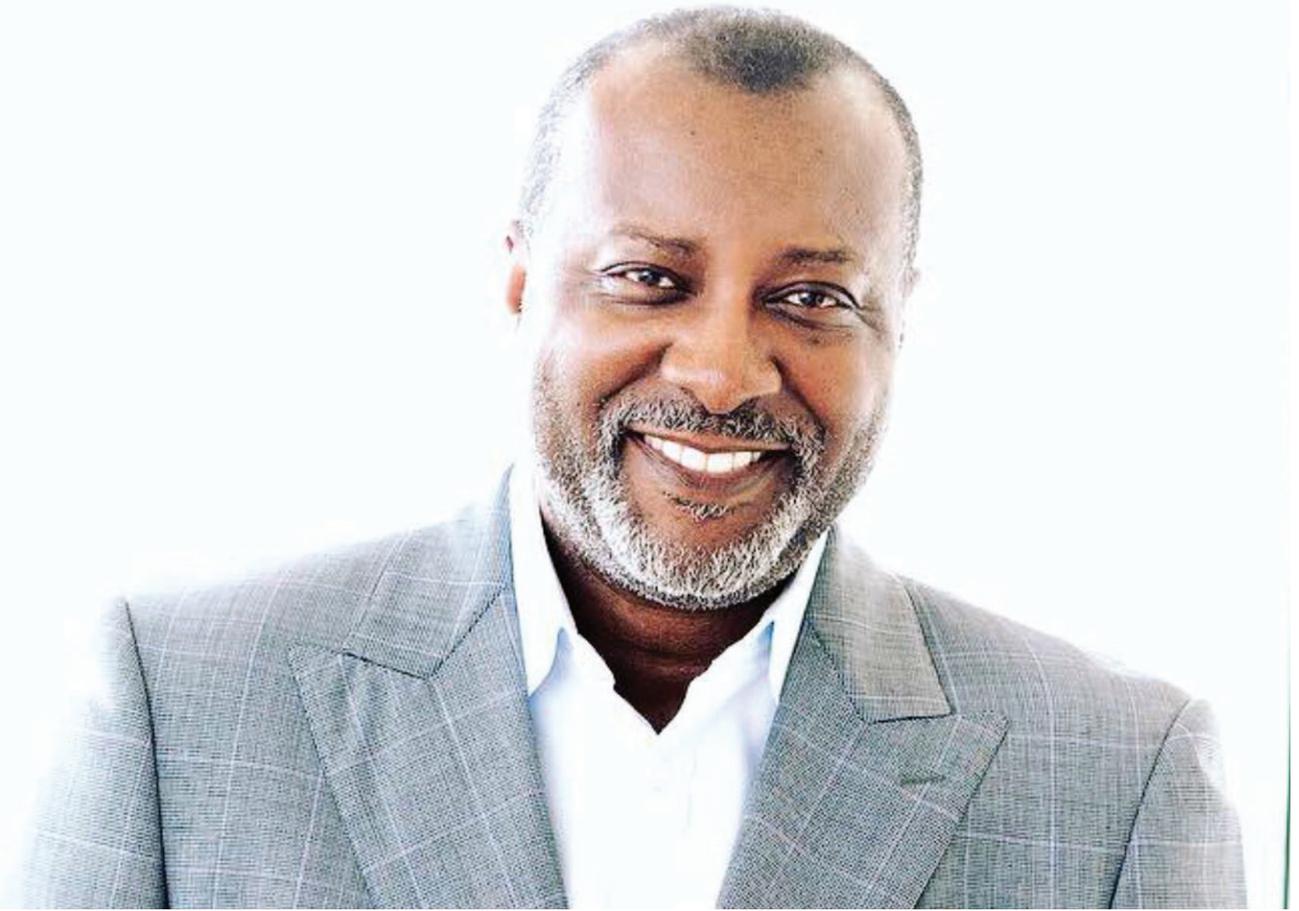
**SOULIDIFL**   
PRODUCTIONS



**Special Edition  
October 2019**

EDITORS NOTE

# BK Fulton



*Photo by Jessica Knox Photography.*

## | “It’s always the right time to be kind . . . .”

Recently, I was moved almost to tears as I read about a little boy who loved the University of Tennessee/UT so much that he drew a design of the school’s logo on paper and pinned it to his shirt for “College Colors Day” at his elementary school. He was teased by some students who did not even participate in the school pride day. His excitement was crushed and he went home to his mom in tears. A teacher decided to post the ordeal on social media. Supportive notes of love and UT pride started coming in from all over. The University also sent him a care package and decided to make his shirt an official selection at the VolShop—their store for ordering UT gear. Pre-orders for the shirt crashed the VolShop commerce site with some 50,000 orders and counting. Some of the proceeds for the sale of the young man’s “U.T.” shirt will go to an anti-bullying foundation. Further, UT has offered the young man a scholarship in 2032!

I am convinced that if we can teach hate and meanness, we can teach love and kindness. In this special issue of SoulVision Magazine, we try out a new cover story format and focus on creators who love what they do so much that they have become new innovators in old spaces. We even take the covers off the creative souls working to deliver Souldify Productions (creators of SoulVision Magazine and SoulVision.TV). Enjoy . . . and don’t forget to choose kindness and love. You get a new look when you have SoulVision.

## | “If we can teach hate and meanness, we can teach love and kindness.”

BUSINESS

# We Are Soulidify Productions



*From left: Nicholas Powell (Co-founding Editor of SoulVision Magazine), BK Fulton (Founding Chairman, CEO of Soulidify Productions), Queon “Q” Martin (Executive Vice President of Soulidify Productions). Photos by Jessica Knox Photography.*

## | “To go far, we must run together.”

Inside **Soulidify’s** “production house” in Richmond, VA, four men representing different generations sit down to give an overview of the company’s creative output over the last couple of years. At the center is Chairman and CEO BK Fulton. He’s flanked by his team Queon “Q” Martin, Nicholas Powell, and Monty Ross. The camera starts to roll and BK begins the interview with, “We’re just a bunch of guys trying to bring something positive to the world.”

Soulidify Productions is the brainchild of BK Fulton. He noticed a disparity in the way women, people of color, and people of good will were represented on the big screen. BK says stories involving female and minority characters are too often portrayed through a “deprivation lens.” Simply put, the usual portrait was not positive and this skewed view perpetuates harmful stereotypes and caricatures of women and minorities. BK saw an opportunity for a more complete and informed narrative. This vision spoke to his soul. Accordingly, in 2016, he created Soulidify Productions. Within its first year, Soulidify Productions produced four feature-length films, a milestone that has never been achieved before in independent film history. Fast forward to 2019, we find that Soulidify Productions has evolved into a full-fledged film and media company. The company has produced ten SoulVision Magazine issues (twelve issues by the end of the year), published four Mr. Business books (seven by the end of the year), earned distribution for all four of its feature-length films (less than 4% of independent films usually get distribution), and soon will launch a digital streaming TV network called SoulVision.TV. In 2019, the Soulidify assets will be accessible to anyone on the planet.

## We Are Soulidify Productions (continued)



BK Fulton

Soulidify Productions champions the “achievement narrative.” For too long in Hollywood, the dominant depiction of people of color has been one of sadness and low expectations. It has become folklore that the minority characters don’t always make it to the end of films. If the minority character does somehow make it to the end of the film or does something with great achievement, they are usually assisted by a “white savior.” While this history has been addressed by some filmmakers like Barry Jenkins (*Moonlight*) and Ryan Coogler (*Black Panther*) who challenge the stereotypes of what a black person should look like on the big screen, there is still much work to be done. *What if that minority character lived? What*

*if we told the story of figures in history that achieved but, because of their race, were never acknowledged?* These are the kind of stories Soulidify is looking to produce and acquire in the future. BK cites the story of Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges as an example. He was the champion fencer in all of Europe in the late 1700s, a master violinist, virtuoso and composer as well as the inspiration behind the *Three Musketeers* and *The Count of Monte Cristo*. However, very few know of Saint-Georges. He is also unknown to those familiar with the classical music genre even though he influenced Mozart who followed him. In fact, in a twist of fate, Saint-Georges is often called the “Black Mozart” even though he was more than a decade older than Mozart and was considered the best violinist and composer of his time. Fortunately, the world will soon know his story. Soulidify has enlisted an emerging screenwriter to write a screenplay about the great Saint-Georges.

“We’re just a bunch of guys trying to bring something positive to the world,” BK says.

Reaching a younger and more technically connected generation is very important for the Soulidify brand. The *Mr. Business: The Adventures of Little BK* series answers the call for more diversity in children’s literature. Based on the books’ social media presence, Mr. Business has reached a diverse set of young readers. Its success proves one assumption wrong: white kids cannot relate to a character of color. “*Mr. Business: The Adventures of Little BK* covers pivotal moments in my life where I learned major lessons and figured out how to deal with challenges and change,” BK says. “All children go through these things. As part of our commitment to community building and learning, Soulidify and the Mr. Business team work with the book’s publisher to develop free lesson plans for each book. We give away the lesson plans to teachers, homeschoolers, and parents via our website. It is said that ‘... if you want to touch the future, you should touch a child.’ We have created this resource to

## *We Are Soulidifly Productions (continued)*

be accessible to young people so they can see a young and positive child in chocolate skin going through the same situations they are going through and winning.”

In the coming months, we will launch our new digital streaming TV network called SoulVision.TV (SVTV). The network will show inspiring and humorous content 24/7 and on-demand. It will be a free ad-supported streaming TV network on all major platforms including mobile. “It will be on all of the leading streaming platforms—Apple TV, Roku, Amazon Fire, and all mobile platforms, tablets, most smart TVs and home computers,” BK explains. BK says the network has almost 100 hours of programming (more to come) with an emphasis on authentic and positive human stories. A favorite short of his, titled *I Like Being 98*, follows 98-year old Evelyn and her determination to help a friend in need. The short is authentic and heart-warming. The network will have a mixture of long-form and short-form content including feature films. Tim Reid is the Vice Chairman of the Network and will lead the creation of a web-based channel on the network that focuses on Africa, the Caribbean and the Americas.

“We intend to be among the very best digital TV networks,” Q says.

With SoulVision Magazine, BK Fulton and Nicholas Powell set out to give young people and those interested, “blueprints for success.” SoulVision is a play on the idea that everyone has a soul and through dialogue and sharing, we can appeal to each other’s souls (truth) to hopefully reach a common understanding. We have the opportunity to sit down with some of the leaders in the entertainment, politics, and business sectors and hear them speak honestly about how they got to where they are today. SoulVision Magazine does that. The magazine interviews are designed to give an unfiltered look at its interview subjects. Consider for example, our extensive interview with civil rights advocate and former president of the National Urban League, **Hugh Price**. The interview

is the longest article SoulVision Magazine has ever published and it’s one of the best and most popular.

Nicholas is the youngest member of the central team. He is the primary writer for the magazine. Throughout his time as an undergrad at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), BK was his mentor. After graduation, he had difficulty finding a natural fit for his primary talent: writing. It was in the fall of 2018 when BK came to him with a proposal for an online publication. It was an early, foggy morning when he received a text from BK with a skeleton of what the magazine would be about. Nicholas would become the co-founding editor. In BK’s condo, they brainstormed the idea of the magazine. It would gather positive coverage of urban communities worldwide. It would be an extension of the mission of Soulidifly Productions: telling positive stories. Nicholas started to work on the layout with Q and Manny Taveras who is responsible for coding and delivering the layout of each magazine issue. The magazine ended up being way more than positive coverage of the urban communities, it has become a go-to resource for creatives and “movers and shakers” from all walks of life. “It’s ‘fire’ and ‘100%’ real,” BK likes to say. “Our readers love it.”

Monty and Q are essential team members for keeping Soulidifly Productions afloat and profitable. They both prioritize analytics and ask the hard questions. BK will call Q or Monty early in the morning with ideas on the business of the company and its films and other assets. Monty and Q are quintessential New Yorkers. In the early 90s, they crossed paths without even knowing it. Growing up in Brooklyn, New York, Q was fascinated with the films Monty produced with Spike Lee. He remembers seeing Monty in Spike’s Joint, the official storefront for Spike Lee’s films merchandise and memorabilia, as a teenager. It would be years until they would actually meet and work together at Soulidifly Productions. When they finally met, Monty proclaimed that he admired and paid attention to Q’s work when he was with MoviePass. The feeling was mutual.

## *We Are Soulidfly Productions (continued)*



*Nicholas Powell*

Monty is President of Film and Production and has given his input and knowledge of filmmaking to all of Soulidfly's films including, *River Runs Red*, *Love Dot Com: The Social Experiment*, and *I Angry Black Man*. Monty also served as the creative director for the upcoming documentary *Unity Ride*. Two men (one black and one white) look past their often dueling political perspectives on a cycling trip across the country for a greater purpose. To decompress from the hustle and bustle of the day, Monty will head down to Crossroads on Forest Hill with his sketchbook and drawing pencils and sit at a table by himself; headphones in. He'll draw whatever inspires him at the moment.



*Monty Ross, President of Film & Production of Soulidfly Productions photographed at Soulidfly's production house in Richmond, Virginia.*

*Photos by Queon "Q" Martin.*

## *We Are Soulidifly Productions (continued)*

Monty met BK through James Person who is President of Soulidifly's Stage & TV division. Monty got an urgent call from James. He said that a man named BK Fulton wanted to meet with him to discuss making movies together. While Monty was teaching film finance at Old Dominion University (ODU) and facilitating interns at Hampton University, BK was meeting with Eleanor Earl, a professor of film and English at the University. This is where they finally connected. BK asked Monty to help with a future film project. Monty thought this was it. Then, he started to get phone calls at 4:00 AM from BK about working on all Soulidifly projects.

The initial project BK and Monty set out to make was proving to be costly and too ambitious for a first film. So, the two men came up with a new plan: make two films for half of the budget. These two projects ended up being *Love Dot Com: The Social Experiment* and *I Angry Black Man*. That summer of 2017 would change Monty's life forever. Monty packed his bags and moved to Richmond to work full time. The rest is history. The production team just completed their fifth feature film and are already working on their sixth with a few documentaries on deck as well.

**“It’s not just me in the mirror. It’s US in the mirror. If you want to go fast, sometimes you have to run alone, but if you want to go far, we have to run together,” BK says.**

Queon understudied with Martin Scorsese and Joel Schumacher. This experience with some of the greats helped him to fine tune his interest in film and production. It also told the world he was a serious filmmaker and creative. Q also likes to express himself through his black and white photography. His Instagram page, Carter Magazine, is a careful curation of black and white photos of African-American historical figures. Queon met BK through

MoviePass creator, Stacy Spikes. Q relocated to Richmond, Virginia after having conversations with BK about ways to take Soulidifly Productions to the next level. Q is the Executive Vice President of Soulidifly Productions in charge of operations and marketing. He is also a news junkie and loves to have the tv tuned to CNN or MSNBC when he is not watching SoulVision.TV. He likes to say he’s keeping his eye on the competition to learn how the “major” networks are using their streaming services to deliver reports about important and current issues. “We intend to be among the very best digital TV networks,” Q says.



Queon “Q” Martin

## *We Are Soulidify Productions (continued)*

Q's ultimate focus is making sure that Soulidify's range of products (books, films, a digital magazine and its TV network) convert into real dollars for the company. He is also the CEO of their development brand for emerging creatives, Body Snatchers Productions. The company's very first website didn't have that "cool" factor he was looking for. The updated site shows all of what the production company has to offer with an easy to use navigation interface. The landing page's background video features the company sizzle reel which time-lapses through Soulidify's products. "Every product we develop for purchase is available via a clickable link. Soulidify's digital space is now a complete ecosystem with multiple cross branding opportunities," Q proclaims with a smile. "We've got the goods fellas!"

BK looks to his team with admiration. He's grateful for their hard work, passion, and dedication to the brand. "It's not just me in the mirror. It's US in the mirror. If you want to go fast, sometimes you have to run alone, but if you want to go far, we have to run together," BK says. "We are the new narrative personified. The old view of us would have been one of lack '... four brothers in Richmond making movies, nah they ain't doin' nothin'.' The current view is 'what, they did that?! They've got real movies. They've got books on Amazon. They've got a TV network streaming worldwide to over 400 million eyeballs!'" BK laughs. "Surprise, surprise, baby. Surprise, surprise." Soulidify Productions is the real deal. If you didn't know, now you know.

**View Video at <http://soulvisionmagazine.com/we-are-soulidify-productions/>**

**For more see: [www.soulidify.com](http://www.soulidify.com) and follow them on Instagram [@soulidifyproductions](https://www.instagram.com/soulidifyproductions), Facebook [@SoulidifyProductions](https://www.facebook.com/SoulidifyProductions), and Twitter [@SoulidifyFilms](https://twitter.com/SoulidifyFilms).**

## BUSINESS

# Coviello Salinès Take's First Place



| “Let the universe lead you.”

Coviello Salinès knows he's on to something big. His product and brand, Amour Genève, is more than just wine with an “electric blue” hue. It is an inspiration for those dreamers to keep going. His work is a gleam of hope in the midst of tragedy. He has taken first place by creating something the world has never seen.

Coviello's parents migrated from the Caribbean to the South Bronx, where he spent much of his early childhood. “They were rarely home,” he says. “They worked around the clock to provide us the life they never had.” His dad was a serviceman. His mom, a correctional nurse at Bellevue Hospital. When his father had the time, he used it to teach young Coviello the wonders of Neurology. He wanted his son to become a neurologist or neuroscientist. “He wanted me to be like the early Ben Carson, so he would bring home large brain books for me to study,” he says.

Life changed for Coviello when his father was deployed to Tobyhanna, Pennsylvania. “My life changed very drastically when dad got deployed. I was put into a school that was predominantly white,” he says. “This was around age 9 or 10. So, throughout my compulsory education, I was always around white kids. This was initially a very trying and traumatic experience for me. The area was very traditional in views and not accustomed to cultural change at all.”

## *Coviello Salinès Take's First Place (continued)*

“As beautiful as the world is, there is so much destruction in it. It’s important to be observant and steadfast. I’ve learned to be passive towards negative energy and to passionately embrace positive energy.”

His new community did not know much about his culture and he knew little about theirs. It took a while to get acclimated. Sports kept him sane during this time. “I did a lot of track and cross country. I wrestled and played soccer,” he says. “I had a lot of great coaches that would keep me on the right track through my high school career. They became my family since I had no family in the area.” Because his parents were busy working, they didn’t have time to come up with a strategy to help him adjust to his new neighborhood and school. “You start to lose identity and it took me a very long time to figure out who I was at a time when I thought I already knew who I was,” he says. “But bouncing back and forth through different demographics and geographies had some lifelong benefits. It allowed me to understand what it is that makes the world tick.” This moment in his life made him come to the realization that people are more alike than different. He admits this experience was important to his long-term personal development. “If I didn’t go through that period of disruption I would not have been as original as I am today,” says Coviello.

Aside from his parents, Coviello’s grandmother, Sarah Rosario, was a big inspiration for him growing up, especially after his parents got divorced. “She raised me when my parents were gone. She was known as the woman who would never turn away a child in need,” he explains. “I was always intrigued by the way she carried herself and the way she kept us all in line.” She was fundamental in developing Coviello’s discipline and common knowledge. Around this time, his creativity and entrepreneurship grew. “I was always interested in

luxury and fashion. I was inspired by many designers and started to sew and create Miskeen-inspired art apparel as a child,” he says. “I was quite a creative child without even knowing it.” He likes to say that he was raised by families of many cultures and backgrounds: Italian, Puerto Rican, Black, and many more he cannot name. He was a child of the world.



As an entrepreneur, Coviello has learned the hard lesson that not everyone has your best interest at heart. Similarly, you have to find people who are willing to support your vision. “It is very rare that you will find people who really understand everything that you’re doing, let alone accept it,” he continues, “either from them not being able to do it themselves or them seeing you in a certain light. There were a lot of people that would look at me and say, ‘ok you can’t do this but wouldn’t explain why,’” which to him, wasn’t very helpful or worthwhile to his entrepreneurial journey. “It is very important to know your own mind and your own story,” he says. “Because people can use their version of you against you. As beautiful as the world is, there is so much destruction in it. It’s important to be observant and steadfast. I’ve learned to be passive towards negative energy and to passionately embrace positive energy.”

During his childhood, he was taught to ski by his parents who enjoyed the sport in their better years. “My father used to share stories with me about his travels to Europe.

## *Coviello Salinès Take's First Place (continued)*

He was in love with the nature of the city Genève,” he explains. “We planned to go there one day but it never came to fruition.” Amour Genève was inspired by this trip that never came to fruition. Coviello says Amour Genève means “the love for Genève” in French. “I wanted to make sure this rare and original blue wine was something that was created around my father,” he says. “The love that he had for Genève and the love that I had for my father created this.” If you look at the illustration on the bottle, you will see a picturesque view of the city of Genève.

Coviello’s outlook on his business opportunities is nothing short of forward thinking. He knows his wine brand and other ventures are innovative. He’s not looking for the approval of others, but seeks understanding. He reflects on some of the most renowned innovators of their time who pushed on, regardless of public opinion. “Elon Musk didn’t look for approval when he was constructing Tesla. Albert Einstein wasn’t looking for acceptance and approval when he was calculating his formulas and theories,” he says with enthusiasm. “What does it matter what the industry thinks? If the idea is pitched correctly and with authenticity, the work can drive the idea forward into reality.”

**“I wanted to make sure this rare and original blue wine was something that was created around my father. The love that he had for Genève and the love that I had for my father created this.”**

We ask if he thinks there will ever be imitators and whether he has experienced negative feedback. “It’s funny because I don’t have too many naysayers these days,” Coviello says. He understands not everyone is a chemist, engineer or in medicine. They will not understand the more technical aspects of wine creation. That is where proper branding comes into play. “I have to share our story. I know I have to share the whole aspect of what this product is. I have to

help people to understand the methodology and process behind my product. Knowing how much to share and what to keep is the key,” he explains.

He admits he isn’t reinventing the wheel. “I’m just creating something that people have never seen before. If it drives creativity, it drives creativity,” he says. “I’m going to continue being me and doing what I do. People don’t always embrace creativity as they should and greed can be overpowering, but there is always an open space for creativity.”

One of Coviello’s proudest moments was the day the European Union and the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) sent him a letter of clarification for his formula. “It was a validation of what my father would always try to put into my head,” he says. “When I was young, I didn’t understand it. Now I see that this is all bigger than me.” He recalls when his father would watch National Geographic and the Sunday morning news. He was particularly a fan of programs detailing the lives of the Indigenous people. His father explained to him that if you really look into someone’s eyes, you can feel their passion and story. “Now when I look into people’s eyes and share my story with them, I can tell if they really understand it. That’s how I know my wine is bigger than me; how I figured out that I had made something special—the first naturally blue wine in the world. It’s the most rewarding feeling.”

“My greatest achievement is actually doing this—creating a wine product that has never been done before,” he says. “I’m a firm believer in the idea that things are brought to us for a reason. This was something I felt I had to do. So, this has been my greatest achievement—sticking with a process after more than 300 attempts and creating Amour Genève.” Coviello often wonders why it was him. Why was his product chosen to be approved? “This is the universe speaking,” he concludes.

Coviello believes anything is possible. “It takes persistence, being true to yourself and not listening to the negatives,” he explains. “I truly believe you can do whatever you feel like

## *Coviello Salinès Take's First Place (continued)*

you want to do.” He dismisses what he deems as the “cookie-cutter shape of presuppositions” when society speaks about paths to success. He feels the educational system needs immediate reform to better prepare students for the trials of entrepreneurship. Art can liberate minds for greatness.



He’s a skier and a golfer. With humor, he admits people wonder how he has time to do these things. “Networking and connecting with people has always been my strong suit,” he says. “That is something I’ve always loved to do. It keeps me balanced.” To be a successful entrepreneur, Coviello emphasizes the importance of being present and not glued to the phone or computer screen. “To be a successful entrepreneur you have to understand all aspects of life, aspects of many cultures, and understand how to pivot,” he says. “Pivoting is very important.”

He continues to ponder the mentality needed to be a successful entrepreneur. “Understanding what direction to take at any given time—when to move, where to go, and how to time your movements is very important,” he says. “You have to learn patience. Relaxing can help that; whether it be meditation or just going on walks.” For a brief moment, he reflects on one of his father’s favorite pastimes: walking. “My father would go out in nature and relax. I find myself doing that a lot now,” he says. “It’s crazy. You can’t deny the gene pool,” he laughs.

As an entrepreneur, Coviello has a few projects in the pipeline including logistics applications and dealing with the important issue of mental health. “I’m working on a few interesting projects with some colleagues of mine. Most of them deal with mental health. Being a black entrepreneur in America can sometimes be very trying. I appreciate those in the industry who are keen on mental health and ask me how I’m feeling. ‘Where is your mind?’ ‘How are you?’ ‘Where are your levels of stress?’ I think those are questions we don’t ask each other enough.” This is an issue that hits close to home for Coviello.

In 2010, Coviello lost his father. “I lost my father very tragically. We still don’t know what happened,” he says. “Mental health is what sent him down a destructive road. I always wondered in those moments of his life, where was he? Nobody had ever asked him how he was doing; how was his mind. He never really discussed it and I wonder if it was something I could have changed.” With his father’s memory in mind, Coviello says he will continue to carry on his legacy. He looks to the universe to lead the way, after all that is what got him here in the first place.

*To learn more about Amour Genève’s blue wine, visit their website [amourbluforever.com](http://amourbluforever.com) or follow Amour Genève on Facebook [@Amourgeneve](https://www.facebook.com/Amourgeneve) and Instagram [@amourgeneve](https://www.instagram.com/amourgeneve).*

# Susan Ragland's Vibrant Urban Folk Art



*The Re-Mix by Susan Ragland*

## | “Express your joy in your art.”

Susan Ragland has an eye for the glowing and dynamic. It shows in her artwork. She’s a self-taught artist with origins in Washington, DC. Her art style falls under the category of urban folk art, a name she coined to describe her art. “Urban folk art describes work that’s hip, cool and contemporary. I’m a non-classically trained artist who paints outside the traditional art-making conventions,” she explains. “I highlight the beauty of black and brown people in my gouache and acrylic paintings. My intention is to imbue each work with soulful, kinetic, dynamic and kind energy expressed often through the hair or the hands.”

Her work is influenced by William H. Johnson and Jacob Lawrence. “When I went to the Smithsonian and saw William H. Johnson’s exhibit, I marveled at how he painted realistic depictions of leaders from the legs up while making the feet and shoes look funky,” she says. Susan found appeal in his imperfections and irreverence of his artwork.

When speaking on Jacob Lawrence’s influence, she respects his form, style, and meaning. “I can feel the passion in his art. I resonated with the infusion of history within his pieces,” she explains. “I deeply admire his sense of movement and use of color. He showed precision in his placement of figures and background structures.”

## *Susan Ragland's Vibrant Urban Folk Art (continued)*



*Photo by Brianna Williamson*

While she doesn't "consciously try to emulate" these artists, she respects their "interpretation of the human form." "Perhaps I'm overly influenced by the fact they gave me the permission and courage to try out different pairings with shapes and angles," she says. "They both expressed folks' beauty in a simplified, non-realistic way."

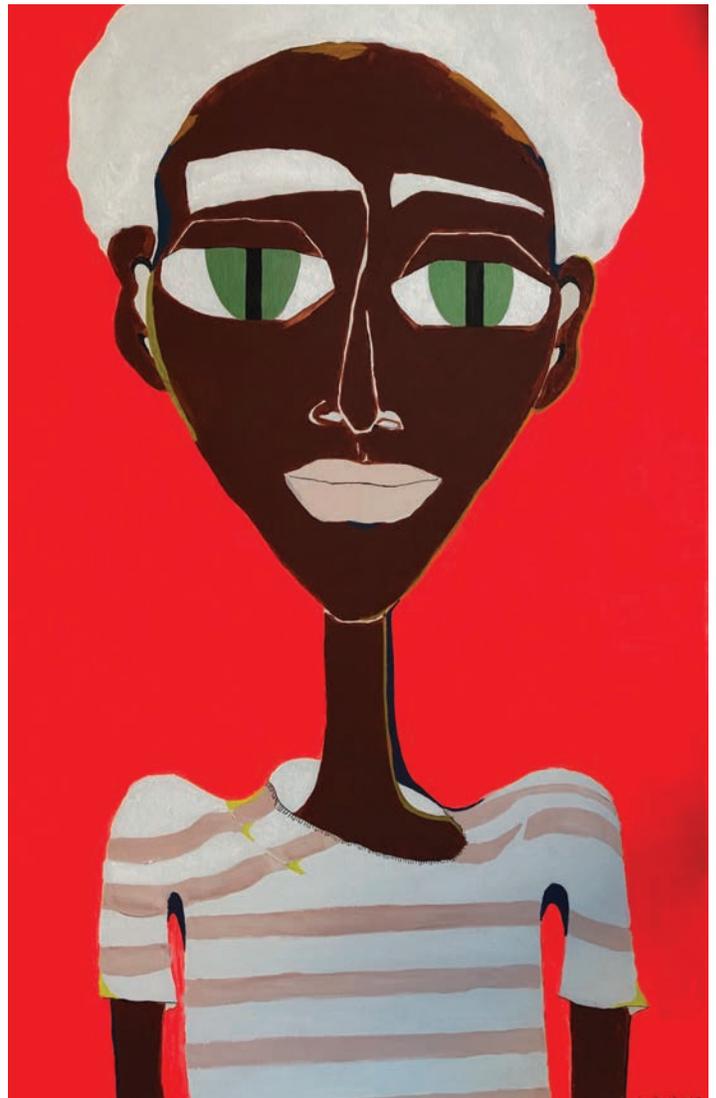
Susan is plenty busy with various creative projects this fall. "I'm in the process of providing the cover art and illustrations for two books," she says. "One is an academic text and the other is a children's book. I'm also working on some large pieces for an upcoming display at the Philadelphia Kimmel Center under the auspices of the Keystone Cluster Links."

Susan hopes her paintings will resonate emotionally with its observers. "I hope viewers feel the characters dance through their everyday activities," she says. "My paintings are vibrant, positive, and transmit a zest for life."

To learn more about Susan Ragland and her artwork, visit her website [susanragland.com](http://susanragland.com) and follow her on Instagram [@susanurbanfolkart](https://www.instagram.com/susanurbanfolkart).



*Best Friends by Susan Ragland*



*Face 27 by Susan Ragland*

BUSINESS

# Harry Watkins and Arvat McClaine Are a Dynamic Duo



*Photo by Inspire Marketing LLC.*

## | “Use your gifts to build others up.”

The husband and wife team of Harry Watkins, Ph.D. and Arvat McClaine, Ph.D. work together to make their greatest ambitions come true. They met in Richmond in the '80s, dated, got married and have been together ever since. Harry Watkins is a psychotherapist and political scientist. Arvat is a podcaster, author, and international motivational speaker. Together, they are advocates for continual improvement, preserving history and understanding how the past impacts our world today.

They are the owners of Bateau: A Coffee and Wine Experience located on Richmond, Virginia’s historic Canal Walk. The restaurant is inspired by the black bateaumen who contributed significantly to the regional economy by transporting tobacco and other goods across the James River. Harry stays busy creating additional opportunities to honor and acknowledge these men. “I’m working on a series of tributes (e.g. a state highway marker dedication and a Virginia General Assembly proclamation) to honor the contributions of the 18th-century black bateaumen of Virginia,” Harry says.

## Harry Watkins and Arvat McClaine Are a Dynamic Duo (continued)



*Bateau. Photo by Mindie Ballard.*

Harry and Arvat also own a mental and behavioral health services agency, Harry Co. Harry Co. works with at-risk children and adults with mental health challenges. Harry Co. nurtures their clients through crisis, moving them to stability and then on to live healthy and productive lives.

In her book, *When Black Women Speak, the Universe Listens*, Arvat shares the tools she uses to help move her life from a place of despair to a life that she absolutely loves. “Once you start understanding the laws of the universe and how to work with them instead of against them, you realize the personal power that is our birthright to create lives of abundance, joy and love,” Arvat says. In her course, *Do, Be, Have MORE*, Arvat teaches these laws of the universe and helps her clients access the life of their dreams.

Harry and Arvat love seeing the world together. They have traveled to all seven continents and have experienced amazing adventures. In addition to the thrill and challenge of experiences like climbing up Mount Kilimanjaro and the Great Wall of China, the couple says that travel has expanded their perspective of the world and of who they are in it.

*To learn more about Harry Watkins, visit Harry Co’s website [harrycorp.com](http://harrycorp.com). To learn more about Arvat McClaine, visit her website [arvatmclaine.com](http://arvatmclaine.com) and follow her on Instagram [@arvatmclaine](https://www.instagram.com/arvatmclaine) or Facebook.*

BUSINESS

# Judia Black Is Your Go-To for Everything Wine



| “Find joy in your everyday life.”

Judia Black loves to share her passion for good wine and good food. She is the founder and general manager of enJoie, a New York-based lifestyle, media, and events company. What started as a tradition in her childhood home in Montgomery, Alabama became a business venture for Judia. “I grew up in a family that embraced food as a way of sharing love and celebrating life’s pleasures, great and small.” Judia earned a Bachelor of Arts in mathematics from the distinguished Spelman College and a Master of Business in marketing and corporate strategy from the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan.

After graduating, Judia made significant strides in finance, strategic planning, and marketing at some of the most globally recognized brands and companies including Walt Disney, Goldman Sachs, Hallmark Cards, CIGNA, and the award-winning advertising/marketing agency Ogilvy.

## *Judia Black Is Your Go-To for Everything Wine (continued)*

In the summer of 2001, Judia became a certified sommelier (wine expert) by the American Sommelier Association (ASA). Throughout the years, she began to learn all she could about wine. In the fall of 2008, Judia set in motion her plans to create enJoie. “The mission of enJoie is to continue and extend my family’s passion for gathering around the table to families around the globe,” she says. “I set out to make learning about a food and wine lifestyle fun and accessible to all and to promote a cross-cultural exchange of flavors and ideas.”

“I’m working on our eCommerce site now. I’d like to make the shopping process easier and relatively friction-free,” she says. “I’m also working to add cooking classes and winery tours to our events and experiences.” Judia continues to find joy in sharing with the world all that inspires her every day. No matter where she goes, the “enjoyment of wine and food as a comforting experience” is a universal pastime. This gives Judia the motivation to continue to pursue what she loves.

“I set out to make learning about a food and wine lifestyle fun and accessible to all and to promote a cross-cultural exchange of flavors and ideas.”

*To learn more about Judia Black and enJoie, visit her website [enjoie.com](http://enjoie.com) and follow her on Instagram [@enjoielife](https://www.instagram.com/enjoielife) and Facebook [@Enjoielife](https://www.facebook.com/Enjoielife) or Twitter [@enjoielife](https://twitter.com/enjoielife).*

CHEF'S CORNER

# Chef Will Herring



## The Italian

**Course:** Lunch/Dinner  
**Cuisine:** Italian-American  
**Prep Time:** 12 minutes  
**Cook Time:** 2-3 minutes  
**Total Time:** 15 minutes  
**Servings:** 1

## Ingredients

- 2 slices Italian bread
- 3 slices salami
- 2 slices ham
- 2 slices turkey
- 2 slices tomato
- 3 rings onion
- sprinkle basil (1oz)
- mayonnaise (2 oz)
- Italian dressing (1oz)
- 2 slices provolone

## Preparation

1. Toast Italian bread.
  2. Microwave meat and cheese approximately 45 seconds or until hot.
  3. Layer meat and cheese on one piece of bread and put on panini grill, or broil in the oven until cheese is melted.
  4. Assemble mayo, Italian dressing, tomato, onion, and basil on the other slice of bread.
  5. Combine two halves of the sandwich.
  6. Cut in half, serve with a side of your choice.
- Will likes to pair The Italian with a side of chips or homemade fruit salad.

“Build the perfect Italian sandwich right in your kitchen.”

*Special Notes:* The Italian pairs great with a Pilsner. Will recommends the “Einbecker Brauherren Unfiltered Pilsner.” Check out Crossroads’ sixteen rotating taps at [crossroadsrva.com](http://crossroadsrva.com).

**Restaurant Information:** When in Richmond, Virginia, stop by [Crossroads Coffee and Ice Cream](http://Crossroads Coffee and Ice Cream) located at 3600 Forest Hill Ave for some of their appetizing coffee, food, and desserts.

COMMUNITY

## Sister Radio Documentary: Changing the Frequency



*From left: Director Andee Arches, Producer/Co-creator Cameron Robinson, and Co-director/Co-creator Erica Pomerance. Photo by Cameron Robinson.*

| “We are liberating women through the power of radio.”

Each month we highlight a community program that aligns with the values of SoulVision Magazine. We believe engaging with one’s community is critical to fostering positive change in the world.

For our October issue, we highlight the Sister Radio Documentary. Sister Radio is an independent documentary that follows the partnership between WRIR 97.3 in Richmond, Virginia and Radio Sikoro in Ségou, Mali. Sister Radio’s primary focus is to uplift and empower women in Ségou, Mali. “The mission of the documentary is to raise awareness and lift up women’s voices,” Andee Arches, the documentary director says. “We ask ourselves, how do women feel as individuals behind the mic and what that kind of power looks like. There is a thousand-year-old tradition to silence women in Mali. Wives are not allowed to talk to guests until their husbands tell them they can. They don’t have a real voice in politics.”

## *Sister Radio Documentary: Changing the Frequency (continued)*



*Sister Radio girls (from left) Marie-Josef Kone, Saran Traore, and Massitan Coulibaly. The Sister Radio team followed the young journalists in Ségou, Mali as they went out on their assignments for the radio. Sister Radio is currently working on raising money to bring Massitan Coulibaly to Richmond for additional training on radio production. She will use the knowledge to educate girls back in Ségou. Photo by Andee Arches.*

Behind the scenes, the crew is made up of a younger group of creatives who are tackling an ambitious film project for the first time in their lives. “This one just fell on my lap as I was volunteering at WRIR. At first, it felt like an ambitious project but we are creating and learning as we go,” Andee says.

“I learned a lot through this process of just connecting with other people across the globe and learning more about their history,” she says. “There are huge populations of people that don’t feel comfortable living in their society, and feeling comfortable is super crucial to having a better society. No one should feel threatened whatsoever.”



*Sister Radio team interviewing (from left) Fatoumata Coulibaly, Kadi Samake, and Kadidia Samake. The three women speak about their efforts in uplifting women’s voices in the media. Fatoumata Coulibaly is a well-known feminist in Mali. Photo by Cameron Robinson.*

Besides Ségou, Mali, there are four other sister cities (sponsored by the Richmond City Council’s Sister Cities Commission) around the world: Thames, England; Windhoek, Namibia; Zhengzhou, China; and Saitama City, Japan. Andee and her team have captured enough footage to complete a short film that highlights their documentary efforts. The feature-length documentary will be released in 2020. “We want people to know the Sister Cities Commission and the Sister Radio program exists and for more people to be aware of what is happening in other cities,” Andee says. “We want to show the camaraderie of different cities working together towards the main goal of empowering and reclaiming women’s voices.”

*To give your support for Sister Radio Documentary, you can visit their website [wrir.org/sisterradio](http://wrir.org/sisterradio). To keep updated on the progress of the documentary, you can follow their Facebook [@Sister Radio Documentary](https://www.facebook.com/SisterRadioDocumentary) or their Instagram [@sisterradio](https://www.instagram.com/sisterradio).*

LIVING LEGENDS

# Brenda H. Andrews



*Brenda H. Andrews. Photos by Ernest Lowery.*

| “We are liberating women through the power of radio.”

Brenda H. Andrews is publisher, owner, and company president of the New Journal and Guide (founded in 1900). The Journal and Guide is the oldest black newspaper in Virginia and one of the oldest newspapers in the country. The New Journal and Guide gives visibility to issues affecting the African-American community, particularly, those issues that are not often discussed in mainstream media.

Brenda’s early life is entwined with Virginia and U.S. history. She and three other students integrated Lynchburg’s E.C. Glass High School and she participated in the 1963 historic March on Washington. In 1970, she graduated from California State University, Sacramento with degrees in English and psychology. After graduation, she taught for a short time before enlisting in the U.S. Army, where she started working in publishing. She edited a community paper in Nuremberg, West Germany and was an associate editor of the Army’s Newswire Service at the Pentagon.

With years of experience working in publishing, she became assistant to the publisher at the Journal and Guide in 1982. In 1987, she was promoted to publisher. Four years later, she was promoted to president and assumed ownership of the publication. At this time, the paper’s name was changed to its present title, the New Journal and Guide.

*Brenda H. Andrews (continued)*



*Brenda with children during a Kwanzaa celebration.*

In 2013, Brenda received the MLK Memorial Award from Old Dominion University (ODU). In 2016, she received the Tidewater Humanitarian Award from the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities. In 2018 the newspaper celebrated its 118th year. Andrews is responsible for bringing the newspaper into the digital age with the establishment of a dedicated website and social media presence. Brenda H. Andrews' legacy will live on in future generations who are just as curious and passionate about telling the truth as she is.

*To learn more about the New Journal and Guide, visit their website [thenewjournalandguide.com](http://thenewjournalandguide.com) and follow them on Facebook [@new.andguide](https://www.facebook.com/new.andguide) and Twitter [@NJGuide](https://twitter.com/NJGuide).*

“I believe that what we own is far less important than what we take ownership of. As the current owner of the New Journal and Guide Media Company, I take pride in being a steward of its history since 1900 and a promoter of its destiny. My ownership is in advancing this institution that was founded by others of like mind to offer a voice for blacks in America to tell our own stories from our perspective and to challenge racially-demeaning images and stereotypes designed to impede our progress. My work is for today and tomorrow as future generations will continue to turn to our archives for the living stories of blacks in America as they have been recorded week by week.”

– **Brenda H. Andrews**, Publisher, CEO and Owner, New Journal and Guide, Norfolk, VA, the Nation's 3rd oldest continuously published African American newspaper.