

# SoulVision<sup>®</sup>

M A G A Z I N E

**Chris Howard's  
Principal of Integrity**

**September 2020**

EDITORS NOTE

## BK Fulton



*Photo by Queon “Q” Martin*

### | “What are the conversations we need to have today?”

Recently, we were blessed with a commissioned gift of figurines from the great [Acori Honzo](#). He sent us images of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X. The surreal life-like figurines are arranged in a conversation on a park bench somewhere in America. What would they talk about today? They started out in very different places and before they were assassinated in '63 (Malcolm) and '68 (King), their views had become very similar. What are the conversations we need to have today? Thank you Acori Honzo for making these for Soulidify Productions. Check out our latest project – a book about two men becoming friends after a conversation. Be sure to get your copy of [The Tale of the Tee](#). We each can become the change we seek.

*BK Fulton – September 2020 (continued)*



*Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X have a conversation on a park bench somewhere in America.  
Figurines by Acori Honzo. Photo by Queon “Q” Martin.*

In this issue we keep the conversations going with the amazing story of a man who was destined to lead. Dr. Chris Howard is the President of Robert Morris University (RMU) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Prior to this appointment, he was the President of Hampden-Sydney College in Hampden Sydney, Virginia, and one of the youngest university presidents in the nation. We also feature Sean Powell, a social innovator who is bringing a new kind of cool to social justice, we check out the wines of Theodora Lee, we chat with newcomer and lifestyle influencer Avery Banks, and take a closer look at the work of Emmy-winning filmmaker Loki Mulholland. Finally, we keep the recognition of achievement going with a quote from Charles Reynolds, the first African-American federal bank examiner in the history of the United States. Thank you for reading our magazine. You get a new look when you have SoulVision!

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CELEBRITY

# Chris Howard's Principal of Integrity



*Chris Howard, president of Robert Morris University (RMU). Photo by Michael Will.*

## | “Great leaders are transparent, fair, and consistent.”

Chris Howard's story began in Plano, Texas, where he experienced the difficulties of being one of a few black people in a predominantly white neighborhood. Chris recalls moving from Little Rock, Arkansas to Plano, Texas, and walking into his fourth-grade classroom. The school was modern for its time. There were no walls, so you could see into the next classroom. He was the only black student in his entire fourth-grade class. It was easy for young Chris Howard to feel alone in a sea of faces that did not look like him. At some point, he realized he was not as academically prepared as his classmates. The reality of inequality settled in. He became the stereotypical young angry black boy. “1979 Plano, Texas, was not a place where white people were politically correct and understood sensitivities around black people,” Chris explains. “So hearing the n-word, not necessarily thrown at me, but just hearing it on the playground affected me negatively. I got into lots of fights.”

## Chris Howard's Principal of Integrity (continued)

When he reached middle school, he began to understand how he could amend his past transgressions. “In Texas, all sins can be forgiven if you can play football,” he says jokingly. He was a great football player. He caught up academically and continued to work hard. By the time he had graduated Plano Senior High School, he was student body president, the cadet colonel commander of his ROTC battalion, and captain of his football team. “It was a journey from fourth to twelfth grade,” he recalls. “There was a lot of blood, sweat, and tears from all parties involved but by the end of it, they are people who I absolutely learned to love like they were my own kinfolk.” Chris went on to graduate from the United States Air Force Academy, earning a BS degree in political science. He received the *Campbell Trophy* for his stellar academic and football performance. He then was named a Rhodes Scholar and earned his doctorate in politics at the University of Oxford and an MBA with distinction from the Harvard Business School.



Chris Howard became the eighth president of RMU in February 2016. Photo by Joe Appel.

Chris Howard believes that his family history holds the clues to how he landed where he is today. His parents' humble beginnings started in Texas. They both grew up picking cotton; black people were not permitted to work in stores. His mom, Caroline, who was his biggest inspiration, grew up with no indoor plumbing and, for a portion of her freshman year in high school, no electricity. Notwithstanding all of this, his mom was valedictorian of her

high school and his dad was salutatorian at his. His parents met at Prairie View A&M University. While his dad graduated, his mom left school after they were married and went back to school off and on. She ultimately graduated from college the same year his older brother graduated high school. Throughout his years as a youth, while he was going to school, she was too. He saw his mom sacrifice and work hard and diligently to make a great life for him and his brother. Caroline graduated cum laude from the University of Texas at Dallas.

He saw how active she was in the community and the barriers she broke down. She was treasurer and head of the PTA at his high school and helped elect the first African-American City Council member of Plano, Texas. Yet, she was still at every band performance, football game, and track meet. He remembers the time his mom had gotten a C+ in one of her classes as a student at the University of Texas at Dallas. “She said to me, ‘I got a C+ in this class. I am so happy. I worked so hard to get this C+,’” Chris says. “It was the only C+ she had ever made. She had made all As and Bs throughout her collegiate career. But I thought to myself, what a great example for me to see this strong black woman who emphasized that if you worked hard and tried your best, you should be proud of that.”

“I think people enjoy the most success when they do the things they do best.”

Chris Howard loves the quote attributed to Mark Twain, “The two most important days of your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why.” For Chris, that moment arrived when he became president of Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia around 2009. Sure, at that point in his life he had work experience in the military, corporate America, intelligence, and the non-profit space, but he didn't feel those opportunities were his purpose. “When I got into this college presidency thing, it was challenging,” he explains. “Then I started to think that this is challenging but rewarding. I'm giving back. I think people enjoy the most success when they do the things they do best.”

## Chris Howard's Principal of Integrity (continued)

Chris is an outlier in the pool of university presidents. “The average school president is a 61-year-old white male. I’m 51 and I’ve been president for over a decade,” he explains. But he declares that the title or accolades are not what’s most important. What is most important is that he feels he is doing something meaningful. Chris considers his greatest achievement to be raising his two sons Cohen and Joshua Howard with his wife, Barbara, a native of Johannesburg, South Africa, who grew up under the Apartheid system. “These are the kind of young men who you would want to have sitting at your table,” he says of his two sons. He tells his sons that regardless of who you are or what you’ve achieved, you should always be respectful. “You don’t have to be a Rhodes Scholar to be respectful,” Chris says. “You don’t have to be a graduate of Harvard Business School to appreciate other people and what they do in their struggle. I’m very proud of who they are and who they have grown to be.”

When asked how he manages to do so much, he says he is inspired by his ancestors who were born into slavery. He cites being just three generations removed from chattel slavery. “My great-great-grandfather Amos Howard was a slave,” he explains. “I’ve been given a lot, so I must give. That motivates me. This history is not lost on the opportunities that I’ve been able to seize.”



RMU President Chris Howard and First Lady Barbara Howard.  
Photo by Michael Will.

Chris is also motivated by his parents’ characteristic of standing by their word. “My mom and dad were not wishy-washy people,” he explains. “They did what they said they were going to do.” In his job, he holds everyone accountable. He goes through the mental process of understanding what they need and if they can accomplish what is in front of them. If they can both agree that it can be done, then he will hold them accountable. This is the same standard he holds himself to. “I understand the world is gray,” Chris says. “I understand that there are circumstances and issues, and I’m not inhumane, but I think as a leader if I can try my best to be transparent and fair and consistent, the organization will be successful.”

COVID-19 has put a strain on higher education. He believes he has a capable team that will get the university through a tough and uncertain time. There is his nine-member cabinet that reports directly to him. Then there is the leadership council and a board of trustees. “We are like a battle-hardened combat team that is going on into the next fight with the hindsight of being successful in the previous battle,” he explains. He references Jim Collins and his book *Good to Great*. In the book, Collins explains that in hardships, you have to be pragmatic and realistic at the same time. Chris Howard and his team have made the decision to reopen their campus for the fall semester with the option for students to have the comfort of taking their classes online or in-person.

“You don’t have to be a graduate of Harvard Business School to appreciate other people and what they do in their struggle.”

We asked Chris what advice he would give to someone who would like to follow a similar path. He humorously responds, “Are you crazy? Are you sure you want to do this?” He then reframes his answer. “In all seriousness, it is a magnificent honor and—as they call it in the military—the covenant of a command,” he says. “To be the chief empowerment officer, to be able to help people,

## *Chris Howard's Principal of Integrity (continued)*

students, staff, alumni, friends of the university achieve their hopes and dreams and aspirations is a real honor.” Chris makes it clear that being a school president can be a “thankless” job, so if one is okay with that then they are perfect for the job. While Chris took a non-traditional route to his position, the traditional route consists of moving through the academic ranks. “There is plenty of need here. We touch every aspect of the human condition in civil society. If you really want to make a difference in the world, take a look at it,” he encourages.

Chris Howard makes it a priority to take care of his mental and physical health. “I try to keep my weight within 5 pounds of what my fighting weight was,” he says. “That’s how I calibrate how I’m taking care of myself because quite often the stress is greatest when you think you don’t eat right, don’t exercise, or hydrate.” Chris is aware of the immense responsibility leaders have on the success of the organization. “When you move up in leadership roles you actually lose grip of what you can control, but you’re responsible for so much more,” Chris says. “You recognize as a leader, you cannot do everything by yourself. It requires working through others to get things done and that can be really scary.”

He recalls a meeting with his cabinet earlier this year. It was when the coronavirus was fairly new. He recommended focusing on what they can control. He explained that they could control staying fit, keeping up with dental hygiene, putting on sunblock, and staying hydrated. As he explains, all of these things were “good for them” and in their control. “It’s a metaphor,” he explains. “There are other things you can control in terms of your work schedule, discipline, attentiveness, how you run meetings. You have to distill it down to what you can control and do your best to be understanding that there are going to be things beyond your control and be at peace with that.” As a leader, Chris recognizes it is his ultimate responsibility to revolve his work around empowering his team and the people he serves.

After a long discussion, Chris notes that he is proud to be the president of Robert Morris University. “We turn 100 in 2021 and I’m excited to see what we are going to be in the next 100 years,” he says. “I’m excited about the arc and journey of the institution that I’m leading in a region like Pittsburgh which is very much a microcosm of society—medicine, technology, education, and very blue and red politically. Being a part of that and that vibrancy is going to dictate where our country is going to go in the future. I’m very excited to be on this ride.”



*Chris and Barbara Howard meet with students at RMU's RoMo's Cafe at its Moon Township campus.  
Photo by Michael Will.*

MOVIES

# Loki Mulholland's Search for the Truth



Photo by Danor Gerald

| “Tell stories with a heart that moves people.”

Loki Mulholland is a filmmaker born and raised in Arlington, Virginia, whose work explains some truths about our country's history. “I like telling stories with a heart that moves people and expands their understanding of the world around them,” he explains. “But first and foremost, I want people to be invested in the characters I portray.”

Woolworth's sit-in, the Freedom Rides, the March on Washington, the Meredith March, and the Selma to Montgomery March, among others. It was during the filming of his award-winning film about his mother, *An Ordinary Hero*, that the inspiration came to create his Emmy-winning documentary *The Uncomfortable Truth*. It was a conversation with Luvaghn Brown, a Freedom Rider, during the filming of *An Ordinary Hero* that set everything in motion. However, Loki hit a wall and after a little encouragement from his mother to continue, he decided to take a different approach to the history of institutional racism in America by looking into his own family history.

## *Loki Mulholland's Search for the Truth (continued)*



*Photo by Tyson Maughan*

He discovered that his ancestors were slave owners, and their descendants continued the legacy of white supremacy until his mother fought to dismantle it. Loki Mulholland continues his mother's fight for equality through his filmmaking. His most recent documentary, *After Selma*, explains how the progress of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 continues to be systematically destroyed through widespread voter suppression.

Loki co-hosts a podcast series with Luvaghn Brown titled *The Uncomfortable Truth*, based on the same name as his Emmy-winning documentary. Season one covers issues on racism in America and today's most pressing topics while looking to the past for guidance. "It's based on a relationship of trust," Loki says. "That is what allows us to get deep on issues of race. We're able to go where other people feel like they can't."

Loki's next project to be released is a documentary about the life of Medgar Evers and his family. He is also finishing a documentary about the true story behind the lynching of Emmett Till. Project after project, Loki Mulholland is exploring our past so that current and future generations have the knowledge and know-how to call out injustice wherever it rears its head.

*To learn more about Loki Mulholland, visit [lokimulholland.com](http://lokimulholland.com) and follow him on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).*

## Avery Cheatham-Banks: Caring for Self



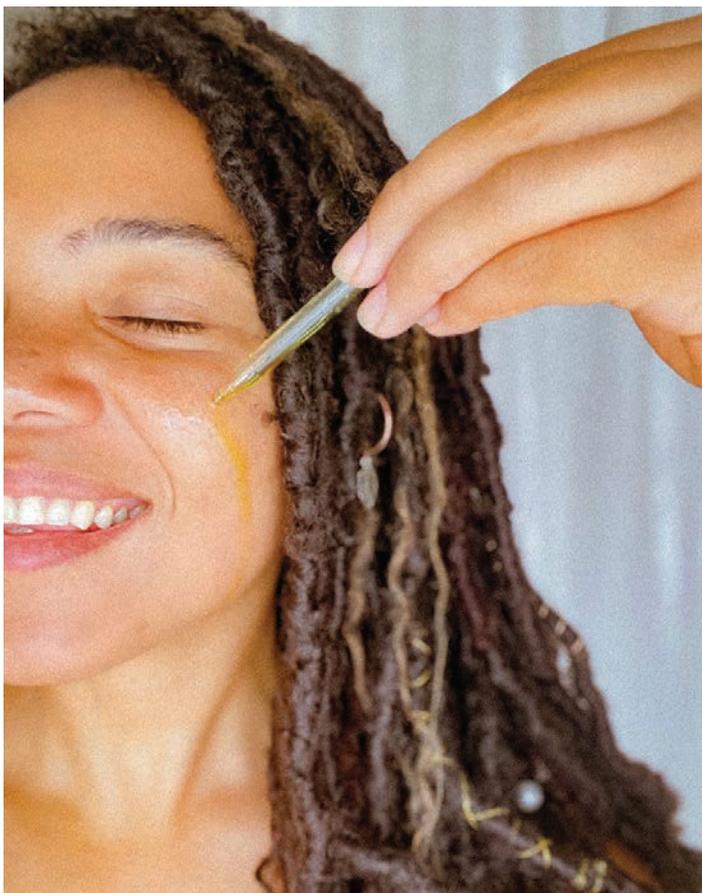
*Avery Cheatham-Banks stops to smell the flowers. Photo by Clara Rose Photography.*

### | “Embrace your transition and growth.”

Avery Cheatham-Banks is an emerging influencer and clean life guru. The Richmond native, who now works out of her home in downtown Silver Spring, Maryland, shares beauty and lifestyle tips through her brand The Boheaux. The Boheaux is a “cleanish/greenish” beauty and lifestyle passion project, blog, and Instagram page. “I’ve always been a skincare fanatic, and in the past 10 years or so, I have taken my interests to adopt a holistic lifestyle and use cleaner ingredients on my skin and in my everyday life,” she says.

After working as a luxury retail manager for years and getting laid off from her job at a real estate startup, Avery had an idea. “When I was suddenly homebound, I refocused my energy on resurrecting my Instagram page,” she explains. “I decided in May to put my pen to paper and create a brand that focuses on leading a less toxic, sustainable lifestyle. I’ve gotten to meet so many amazing people and brands while curating The Boheaux.” The Boheaux includes Avery reviewing and sharing her favorite clean beauty products and creating homemade skincare treatments. Avery has also exposed her audience to “mindful movement,” exercises that encourage individuals to be more in tune with what their body is feeling. In less than 3 months, The Boheaux has found success in the clean lifestyle space. Beauty publication Byrdie recently featured Avery’s DIY hair mask, and brands like Acure and [Mountain Rose Herbs](#) have featured The Boheaux on their feeds.

## *Avery Cheatham-Banks: Caring for Self (continued)*



*Avery Cheatham-Banks tries out a natural face serum by vegan skincare line by Meow Meow Tweet. Photo courtesy of Avery Cheatham-Banks.*



*Avery Cheatham-Banks makes a homemade facial steam in the garden with her dog, Loki. Photo by Clara Rose Photography.*

Right now, Avery is laying the groundwork to open her own Boheaux vintage e-shop. “In my quest for sustainability, I’ve taken to thrifting and antiquing for housewares and clothing,” she says. “I get excited about finding treasures with a past life, and it’s a dream of mine to curate a Boheaux-approved clothing collection and second-hand housewares for my audience to shop.” Avery is on her way to being a voice of influence in the self-care space.

*To learn more about Avery Cheatham-Banks and the Boheaux, visit [theboheaux.com](https://theboheaux.com) and follow their [Instagram](#).*

## Sean Powell's Commitment to His Community



*Sean Powell. Photo by Will Roye.*

| “We have to work together in these tough times.”

Sean Powell knew that he wanted to help others long before he graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University's School of Business in 2011. Growing up, his mother was a foster parent to children who were dealing with disabilities. This awakened a sense of altruism in Sean that continues to motivate him. He imagined creating a foundation. Engage, The Foundation was started after Sean and a couple of friends had successful experiences mentoring school-aged boys within the city of Richmond. Engage has evolved into an assortment of programs and projects that span the city. In June 2021, he will launch the Houston International Sports Film Festival (HISFF). The festival will give filmmakers a platform to tell their stories and launch their careers. “Being an independent filmmaker can be incredibly rewarding, but it is important that you look within yourself and channel the drive needed to tell a story that makes a difference in the world,” he says. “I know what it takes to scratch and claw your way to just finishing a film, let alone getting it out into the world.”

## Sean Powell's Commitment to His Community (continued)



Sean Powell and his son outside Workshop RVA.  
Photo courtesy of Sean Powell.

Sean's latest project is called Workshop RVA, a co-living, co-working retail and studio-boutique based in Richmond, Virginia. He launched the space in August 2018. Due to COVID-19 and multiple protests in the city, Workshop RVA has restricted its services. "During this historical time of COVID-19 and police brutality protests, we've continued to motivate the community towards self-help through our youth empowerment program *Young Business Builders*, Disaster Behavioral Health Education & Services developmental programming, and our collaborative working platform," Sean explains. He says that while they can only allow member and by-appointment shopping, Workshop RVA has continued to support the local West Broad Street area, which was one of the principal sites of unrest in Richmond, with wholesale shopping for the vintage retail stores in the area.



"End Police Brutality." Photos courtesy of Sean Powell.

The limited ability to offer real-time and place experiences for his patrons led Sean to develop an online membership structure for people to use Workshop RVA's network, space, products, and services. His goal is to ultimately help others have a platform and space to succeed in their creative and business ventures. "We encourage everyone to utilize our platform to work together through these tough times," he explains.

Along with Workshop RVA, Sean has developed Eco-Friendly Fundraiser – a program designed to encourage local businesses and individuals to commit to using renewable energy sources. Sean Powell's initiatives will continue to create stronger bonds in his community and could become a model for other cities.

To learn more about Sean Powell and Workshop RVA, visit [workshoprva.com](http://workshoprva.com) and follow them on [Instagram](#). Purchase Workshop RVA's "LOVE WINS ALWAYS" T-shirt to support their *Young Business Builders* Program and Eco-Friendly Fundraiser [here](#).

BUSINESS

# Theodora Lee's Fruitful Tillage



*Photos courtesy of Theopolis Vineyards*

## | “Don’t reinvent the wheel.”

Theodora Lee is a partner and trial lawyer at Littler in San Francisco, and the founder and owner of Theopolis Vineyards, located in the Yorkville Highlands of Anderson Valley in Mendocino, California. Her passion for wine began when she relocated to San Francisco from Texas in 1987. “I was influenced by my law firm mentors, many of whom owned vineyards,” she explains. She recalls one law firm mentor who grew grapes in the Dry Creek Valley AVA and the summers she spent hanging out in Healdsburg, California. These moments led her to fall in love with the Vineyard Lifestyle.

## *Theodora Lee's Fruitful Tillage (continued)*

Her vineyard dreams came true after she enrolled in several viticulture classes at UC Davis. Theodora was continuing a long family history of cultivating the land. "As the granddaughter of Texas sharecroppers and the daughter of a cattle farmer, I learned how to drive a tractor at the age of 8," she says. "My farming roots continued in California." In 2001, she purchased sheep land in the Yorkville Highlands of Anderson Valley. Theopolis Vineyards was established two years later in 2003.



Theodora Lee is known by another alias in the wine world. She is known as "Theo-patra, Queen of the Vineyards." "Some creative types caught a glimpse of me with my silver-hair atop a tractor and dubbed me "Theo-patra, Queen of the Vineyards," she explains. Nonetheless, the moniker is well earned. Her wines have been praised by the critics. Wine critic Robert Parker gave wines made from her grapes a 94-96 point rating, and she has earned gold medals from the Sunset Magazine International Wine Competition. These are just a few of her accolades.

Theodora Lee is currently working on her first red wine blend called Theo-patra's Cuvée Cerise. She thinks it will be successful with millennials and fine wine connoisseurs alike. "It will be a complex cuvée of Syrah, Mourvèdre, and Petite Sirah," she says. "The rich cranberry dried plum, and elegant spice creates a beautiful potpourri on the nose." She hopes to release the wine blend in winter 2020.

Theodora is excited to be expanding her brand. She hopes to grow from her normal 800 cases a year to 1,000. She says she will continue to bottle the wines that her customers know and love as well as her new blend. "We will increase our production to meet growing demand," she says. "We thank everyone for their support. This has truly been a dream come true."

*To learn more about Theodora Lee and Theopolis Vineyards, [visit theopolisvineyards.com](http://theopolisvineyards.com) and follow them on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).*

## CHEF'S CORNER

# Chef Chris Scott



Photo via Bravo TV

“This one is certainly my go-to whenever I’m entertaining or have company over, goes fabulously with cocktails.”



Photo courtesy of Chris Scott

## Crispy Deviled Eggs with Cracklin' Collard Greens

**Course:** Dinner

**Cuisine:** American

**Prep Time:** 1 hour

**Cook Time:** 10 minutes

**Total Time:** 1 hour and 10 minutes

**Serving Size:** 4

## Ingredients

- 8 eggs from cardboard, not styrofoam, carton (keep your carton)
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 3 tsp salt, divided
- 2 tbsp flour
- 1 cup (100 g) seasoned Italian breadcrumbs
- 6 tbsp mayo (90 ml)
- 1 tsp mustard
- 1 tsp sugar
- 4 cups (960 ml) vegetable or canola oil, for frying
- 1 collard green leaf, de-stemmed and cut into 1-inch pieces

## Preparation

1. Place 6 of the eggs in a pot, with enough cold water to cover completely. Add the baking soda and 1 tsp of the salt. Cover, and bring to a boil over high heat, then reduce to medium-high and cook for 8 minutes.
2. Remove the eggs from the pot and shock in ice water. Peel the eggs immediately, and cut them in half, horizontally.
3. Carefully remove the yolks and place in bowl. Add the mayo, mustard, sugar and remaining 2 tsp of salt, and whisk together until totally smooth and free of lumps. Place in a pastry bag and refrigerate for 1 hour.
4. Rinse the empty whites in cold water, making sure they are free of debris.
5. In a bowl, whisk together the remaining 2 eggs and flour. In another bowl, add the breadcrumbs.
6. Dip the cooked egg whites in the raw mixture and then the breadcrumb mixture, making sure they're completely and evenly coated, inside and out. Place cut side down on a plate.
7. In a small saucepot, add the oil and heat to 350°F (175°C). Gently place the breaded egg whites in the oil, and deep-fry until golden brown all around, about 3 minutes total.
8. Arrange the egg whites, cup-side up, in the egg cartons.
9. Making sure the oil is still at 350°F (175°C), add the collard green pieces. The oil will likely splatter, so you may want to use a splatter guard or lid. As soon as the leaves get crispy (it literally takes about 5 seconds), remove with a slotted metal spoon. Drain on paper towels and season with salt.
10. To serve, using the piping bag, evenly divide the filling mixture between the fried shells. Garnish each with a fried collard chip.

*Chef Chris Scott is the executive chef and co-owner of Butterfunk Biscuit Company in New York, New York. The restaurant will open in Harlem in 2021. Chef Chris Scott is also a chef/teacher at the Institute of Culinary Education. Follow his [Instagram](#) to learn more.*

COMMUNITY

# Joan Trumpauer Mulholland Foundation: Justice for All



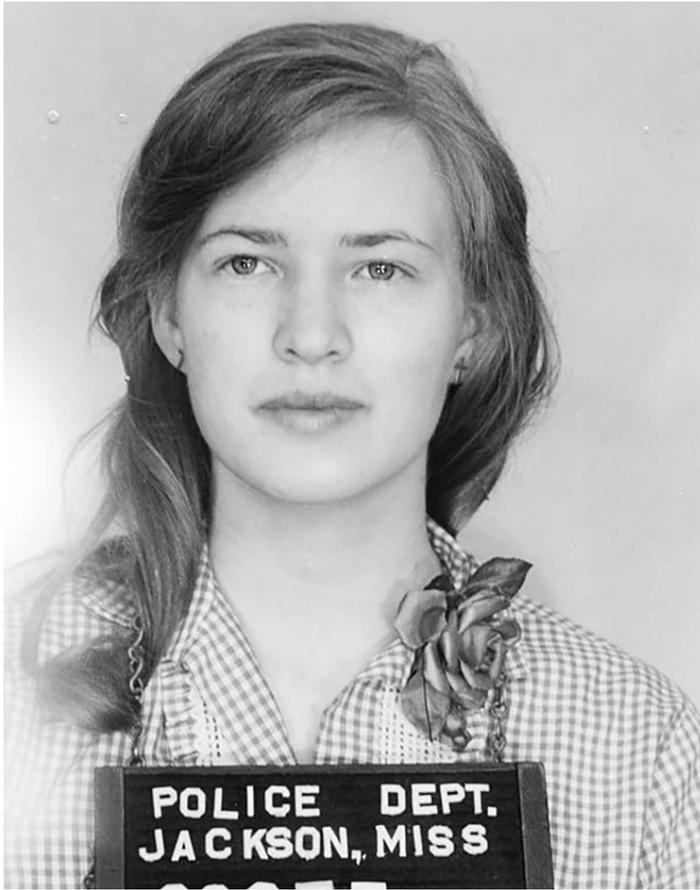
*Joan and Loki Mulholland. Photo by Danor Gerald.*

| “We are fighting to end racism through education.”

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.

The Joan Trumpauer Mulholland Foundation was created to “end racism through education while teaching people about the Civil Rights Movement.” The Foundation believes it is not adequate to just teach kids to not be racist. It is important to teach them to be anti-racist. This means actively working against individual and systemic racism. The Foundation offers book recommendations, guides for teachers to discuss misunderstood events in American history, and educational videos covering civil rights. “By giving children an honest look at our past, we can give them a frame of reference for the need of a brighter, more accepting future,” Founder and Executive Director Loki Mulholland explains.

## *Podium RVA: Empowering Youth Through the Written Word (continued)*



*1961 mugshot of civil rights hero Joan Trumpauer Mulholland.*

*Photo courtesy of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.*

Founded in 2014, the Foundation was created to preserve and share the legacy of civil rights hero Joan Trumpauer Mulholland (Loki's mother). By the time she was 23 years old, she had participated in over 50 sit-ins and demonstrations. Ms. Mulholland was a Freedom Rider who spoke up for justice and equality even when her family didn't agree. She not only dedicated her life to the movement, but crossed paths with vital and iconic figures of the movement including Martin Luther King, Jr., Medgar Evers, Fannie Lou Hamer, John Lewis, Diane Nash, and Julian Bond. Today, Ms. Mulholland has received numerous awards and recognitions, including the International Civil Rights Museum Trailblazer Award in 2019. She continues to give her support to meaningful projects and likes to engage the next generation of social activists.



*Joan Trumpauer Mulholland at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee, where she sits beside the statue that commemorates her participation in the Jackson Woolworth's Sit-in.*

*Photo by DeShawn Lewis.*

The Foundation is pushing to promote their A Million Students for Change campaign. The campaign provides the Foundation's curriculum for a million students for free. "We know that to end racism, we need to focus on students and teachers. That is what we're about," Loki says. Right now, they are developing new videos around Joan Trumpauer Mulholland's story that include a feature-length film about her life. The Joan Trumpauer Mulholland Foundation is a beacon of hope for a more equal and inclusive future.

*To learn more about the Joan Trumpauer Mulholland Foundation, visit [joantrumpauermulholland.org](http://joantrumpauermulholland.org) and follow them on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).*

LIVING LEGENDS

# Charles M. Reynolds, Jr.



*Photo courtesy of Charles M. Reynolds, Jr.*

Charles M. Reynolds, Jr. knew he had to make a good enough living to provide for his family. Accordingly, he left his teaching job in 1965 and accepted a position as the very first African-American Assistant National Bank Examiner in the South, and the first African-American National Bank Examiner in the United States. In 1971, he became the president of Citizens Trust Bank in Atlanta, Georgia. At age 34, he was one of the youngest bank presidents in the nation. Charles was responsible for the creation of Citizens Bancshares Corp, a bank holding company of Citizens Trust Bank. He oversaw more than \$32 million in assets; and he purchased a mortgage brokerage company so they could service FHA and VA loans. He subsequently relocated to Norfolk, Virginia, to head the Atlantic National Bank. Today, Charles is Chairman of the Board and CEO of Reynolds & Associates, Inc., headquartered in Washington, DC, providing Federal Bureau of Prisons offenders services to gain the essential skills they need to become productive citizens. He has owned this facility for over twenty-five years. Charles continues to mentor, uplift, and provide opportunities for economic independence for all people. May his words encourage you to find the strength to get through these challenging times.

*Charles M. Reynolds, Jr. (continued)*

“These are some of the most perilous and turbulent times we have had to endure for generations. It is understandable that we might want to withdraw from the world as much as possible — to escape and pretend all of our social, political, economic and personal issues have gone away; or to delude ourselves into thinking that there’s nothing we can do about these problems. But this is where our faith and our heritage come into play. We are resilient and resourceful. We are creative and collaborative. We are determined and devout. All of these qualities are built into our DNA, and equip us for times like these, if only we will tap into them. Let us mount up with wings of eagles and help restore normalcy and decency, opportunity, justice and liberty to our beleaguered world. Onward!” – **Charles M. Reynolds, Jr.**