

Trailblazer Jayne Kennedy Overton Confronts Career, Scandal, and Triumph at Book Signing at BLVKBOOK Gallery on Nov. 20

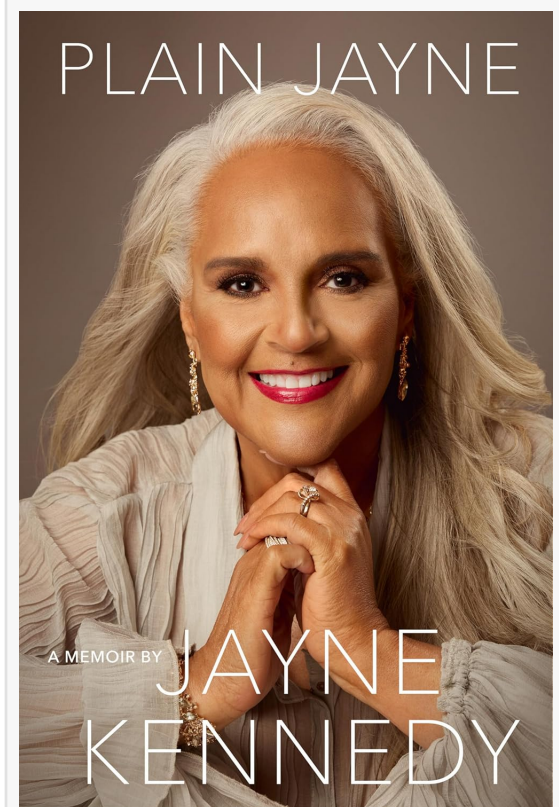
Presented by NCNW Lifetime Member Dr. Marie Y. Lemelle, MBA, PhD, President of the Beverly Hills Chapter, Southern California Black Chamber of Commerce

LOS ANGELES, CA, UNITED STATES, November 4, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Legendary sports broadcaster, actress, and cultural icon [Jayne Kennedy](#) Overton will be celebrated in an intimate Fireside Chat and Book Signing hosted by [Dr. Marie Y. Lemelle, PhD](#), on November 20, 2025. The event is set for 6 pm to 9 pm at BLVKBOOK Gallery, located on Level 8 next to H&M in the Beverly Center near Macy's Court. Red carpet arrivals from 6-6:45 p.m. Media check-in at 5:30 p.m. Park near Macy's Court on Level 4 in the Red Section, and take Macy's Men's store elevators to Level 8.

The evening honors Kennedy's remarkable journey as the first Black woman crowned Miss Ohio, a pioneering female sports broadcaster, and now a memoirist confronting both the triumphs and trials of her life in her new memoir, [Plain Jayne](#).

"Jayne Kennedy broke color barriers as a pageant queen, NFL sportscaster, and award-winning actress," said Dr. Lemelle. "She exemplifies how excellence can change culture and empower voices. Her legacy cannot be denied."

In her memoir, Kennedy recounts the devastating sex scandal that changed the course of her career and the personal, professional, and social challenges she endured. Her story is one of resilience, empowerment, and reclamation—a blueprint for anyone striving to regain their narrative and move forward with strength and grace.



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A Trailblazing Legacy

Before becoming a memoirist, Jayne Kennedy was a woman of firsts. In 1970, she made national history as the first Black woman crowned Miss Ohio USA. Eight years later, she broke another glass ceiling, joining CBS's *The NFL Today* and becoming one of the first female sports broadcasters, as well as the first African American woman in that role. At a time when women were primarily seen as outsiders in sports, Kennedy proved them wrong, cementing her legacy as a pioneer.

Her career encompasses:

Host of the syndicated series *Greatest Sports Legends*, the only female host in the show's history

Emmy Award winner for coverage of the 1982 Rose Bowl

NAACP Image Award winner for acting in *Body and Soul*

A recognized icon whose face graced magazine covers and television screens, symbolizing Black and female excellence in media

Revisiting a Painful Past

Despite her historic success, Kennedy's career faced a shocking setback in the early 1990s. A private home video with her then-husband, actor Leon Isaac Kennedy, was leaked to the public, creating a nationwide tabloid frenzy long before the internet normalized such incidents. She lost friends, opportunities, and visibility, and withdrew from the public eye. For decades, this unspoken shadow loomed over her otherwise groundbreaking legacy.

Her memoir, *Plain Jayne*, confronts this period candidly, offering lessons in resilience, self-empowerment, and the courage to reclaim one's narrative.

Event Overview and Community Impact

The fireside chat, hosted by Dr. Marie Y. Lemelle, MBA, PhD, will feature an intimate conversation with Kennedy on her career, advocacy, and memoir. Guests will engage in a book signing and networking reception surrounded by BLVKBOOK Gallery's curated artistry, celebrating culture, excellence, and representation.

In the spirit of gratitude, the event will also serve as a community drive, collecting:
Unwrapped toys

**THURS, NOV 20, 2025
6:00PM - 9:00PM
BLVKBOOK GALLERY**

Legacy Meets Luminary.

Platinum Star by the Fireside

Marie Y. Lemelle
Conversation Host

Jayne Kennedy
Fireside Luminary

PLAIN JAYNE

JAYNE KENNEDY

Beverly Hills Fireside Chat & Book Signing with Jayne Kennedy

PLATINUM STAR

Evening Highlights

- Fireside Conversation + Audience Q&A with Jayne Kennedy Overton
- Book Signing of her acclaimed memoir
- VIP Reception & Photo Moment's surrounded by featured art installations
- Gratitude Drive — unwrapped toys, baby items & non-perishable food donations

by the Fireside

Anisa Molineaux
Red Carpet Host

Thanks TO OUR SPONSORS!

Admission is Free!

833-296-7827
info@platinumstarpr.com

Featuring Art by:
• Belle Aire and Emmy Lu

**DATE: THURS, NOV 20, 2025
TIME: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
BLVKBOOK GALLERY
BEVERLY CENTER
8TH FLOOR (NEXT TO H&M
PARK ON LEVEL 4 - RED SECTION
(MACY'S MEN'S STORE AREA)
MACY'S MEN'S ELEVATORS TO LEVEL 8**

**MODERATED BY
DR. MARIE Y. LEMELLE, MBA, PHD
PRODUCED BY
KEN JONES & MARIE Y. LEMELLE
PRESENTED BY: PLATINUM STAR PR & MEDIA GROUP
BLVKBOOK GALLERY | CURATED CULTURE
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BLACK CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE (BEVERLY HILLS CHAPTER)**

Together with Lumino Niche & Lakota Friends Circle, we're collecting toys, baby essentials, & non-perishable foods for Native families through Gather Our Children Home & RST Maternal & Child Health.

Platinum STAR PR & MEDIA GROUP

BLVKBOOK

BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

OFFICIAL BOOKSTORE

Platinum STAR PR & MEDIA GROUP

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Non-perishable food items
Baby essentials

All donations will benefit families impacted by the January 2025 fires and support local nonprofits to ease the burden of halted financial assistance and furloughs.

Books will be available for sale on-site, and guests requesting a signed copy are kindly asked to purchase it at the event. Cashless entry fees are:

\$70 – Includes book

\$40 – Admission without book purchase

RSVP at info@platinumstarpr.com

About Dr. Marie Y. Lemelle, PhD

Dr. Lemelle is President of the Beverly Hills Chapter of the Southern California Black Chamber of Commerce, CEO of Platinum Star Public Relations, Inc., and International Goodwill Ambassador for DreamChild Foundation, Accra, Ghana. She is an award-winning journalist and communications strategist, producing events and media campaigns that elevate Black innovation, leadership, and cultural storytelling globally. IG @platinumstarpr

About BLVKBOOK Gallery

“

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Dr. Marie Y. Lemelle, PhD



CBS NFL Today in the 70s: Bottom row (l-r) Irv Cross, Jayne Kennedy and Brent Musburger. Top: (l-r) Jimmy the Greek and Jack Whitaker.

BLVKBOOK Gallery is a premier art destination showcasing visionary Black and multicultural artists. Located on Level 8 of the Beverly Center, it provides a creative space that bridges art, identity, and community, offering cultural experiences that elevate diverse narratives.

For more information, visit: www.blvkbook.com

Ken Jones
Platinum Star Media Group
213-276-7827
[email us here](#)
Visit us on social media:
[LinkedIn](#)
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Hosted by NCNW Lifetime member Dr. Marie Y. Lemelle, PhD, the President of the Southern California Black Chamber of Commerce President, the Fireside Chat with Media Icon Jayne Kennedy is an empowering moment for women.

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/864361688>

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