



African American Museum of Bucks County

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Welcome to the 2018 Spring Newsletter



A Message from AAMBC President, Linda Salley

We have been busy! Our Spring Edition focuses on the AAMBC's activities we have been up to so far in 2018 including MLK Day, Honoring the "Hidden Figures" of Bucks County, Black History Month and many others celebrations of African Americans' contributions in general and specifically within Bucks County.

As you know, the AAMBC's objective currently as a mobile museum is to promote cultural awareness and embrace the past and current contributions of African Americans who lived, worked and have contributed to the arts, sciences, sports, education, law, politics and other aspects of life in Bucks County.

The vast African American contributions within and outside of Bucks County are too numerous to address during African American month in February of each year. So, we continue our efforts to inform and educate the general public that African American history should not be celebrated only during February but should be noted 365 days of the year as the foundation of the past and a pillar of American life every day.

We have accomplished much these past months, and we have much more we would like to do! And you can help! Join us at our General Membership meeting on June 30 to learn more about the museum, hear a fascinating speaker, become a museum member, and find out how you can get involved as a volunteer!

Also, join us at 2 upcoming events: On June 23 at 2 pm, we are partnering with the Mercer Museum of Doylestown to present Black American Racers, and on July 28 we are holding an all day tour of African American Heritage. You can find out more about these events later in this newsletter. We hope to see you soon! Enjoy the newsletter!

Judge Clyde Waite Honored: A "Hidden Figure" of Bucks County

The Honorable Common Pleas Court Judge Clyde W. Waite, the first and still only African American Judge in Bucks County was honored during a tribute dinner on February 2, 2018 by the African American Museum of Bucks County (AAAMBC) and the Doylestown Historical Society at the Bucks County Bar Association in Doylestown. More than 200 people assembled in a diverse gathering to recognize Judge Waite's decades of accomplishments.

Judge Waite is one of the "Hidden Figures" of Bucks County, local African Americans being recognized by the African American Museum of Bucks County. "This is an effort to educate our young people and the general public about the rich history and contributions of African Americans in Bucks County, which is the core mission of the

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museum”, stated Linda Salley, AAMBC board president and executive director. “Judge Waite is a role model to our African American youth and adults that come through the court system. When you see a person that looks like you, you trust they will tell you the truth. It inspires you to do better in spite of the fact that you are before the judge”, said Salley.



Waite said there needs to be diversity everywhere. “I believe to have a truly functional community there’s a need to become familiar with those of different races, socio-economic levels and any other characteristic that distinguishes a person”, he stated. “There’s such suspicion of the unknown. The only way to combat that is to become familiar with those who are unlike you. The black and white context, it is just as import for the black community as it is for the whole community.”

Waite has served as a Bucks County Judge for 14 years. He has lived in the county for nearly five decades.

Among the many civic contributions he has made in Bucks County are: serving on the board of directors of the Bar Association of Bucks County, St. Mary’s Medical Center, the Bucks County Legal Aid Society and the Aldie Foundation. He has also served with the Lower Bucks YMCA, the United Way of Bucks County, the Kingswood Betterment Society and the NAACP Bucks County Branch.

Historical Reenactment

The AAMBC sponsored a *Historical Reenactment of American History from 1775 -1866: the American Revolution, the Underground Railroad, and the Women’s Rights Movement, through the beginning of the Civil War*. Attendees had an opportunity to meet, greet and learn about many historic figures. The event was held at the First Baptist Church in Langhorne, PA. on February 18, 2018.



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Visit to Without Walls Learning Center

March was *National Women's History Month* and Ms. Octavia Greer, pre-school teacher at Without Walls Early Learning Center in Westville, NJ, wanted to celebrate this time with her class. Since her class is very diverse, she felt it would be wonderful if the children learned about great historical women that looked like them.

On March 28, Linda Salley and Carol Johnson, representatives of the AAMBC, made a presentation not only to Ms. Greer's class but also to two other classes. There were approximately 30 children and teachers in attendance.

The children learned about Harriet Tubman, the famous conductor of the "Underground Railroad". The museum brought dolls to show the uniforms of the Union and Confederate soldiers and Carol explained slavery, the Civil War, and the bravery and passion of Ms. Tubman. They also displayed one of the museum's quilts, while Linda told the story of the Secret Codes of the Slaves.



Not only were the children enthusiastic and attentive, but the teachers all commented on how much they had learned, and how many important details had never been taught to them when they were in school.

The Learning Center was very pleased with the program, and would like the museum to return. This was great exposure for the AAMBC and another way to expand our presence in various communities.

Museum Exhibits

Do you have a curious mind that loves to research and learn about various subjects such as history, art, science, or literature? Are you creative? If you enjoy research, photography, film, writing or design, the Exhibits Committee would love to talk with you!

The African American Museum of Bucks County's Exhibit Committee develops exhibits for the museum. We have participated in displays and educational programs in libraries, schools and special event programs in Bucks and Philadelphia counties. Most recently, we had exhibits featured in the Northampton and Bristol locations of the Bucks County Free Library.

Philadelphia native, Guion Bluford, the first African American female astronaut, Mae Jamison, and former Bucks County resident, Winston Scott, were the African American Astronauts featured in the Northampton Library.

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Visitors to Grundy Library could view an exhibit about African American inventors who created items that made life easier for all of us. The individuals highlighted included as Dr. Patricia Bath who invented the machine which allows physicians to remove cataracts and Jan Matzeliger who created the machine which allows shoes to be mass-produced.



If you stopped by the Bucks County Visitors' Center on Street Road in Bensalem, PA. during February and March, you would have seen a shadow box exhibit featuring Harriet Tubman and learned about her journey to freedom.

We would love to have you join us! Come to the museum's next General Membership meeting on June 30 to learn more or to volunteer!

DID YOU KNOW?

Julian Abele became the first African American Architect to design a major museum in the United States when he laid plans for the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Abele was the first African American graduate of the University Of Pennsylvania School of Architecture. Abele also designed the Free Library of Philadelphia.



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Despite Abele's sophistication, accomplishments and influence as an architect, racism did limit the public recognition of his role. Racial prejudices deterred him from visiting the Duke University campus he designed and delayed his admission to the American Institute of Architects until 1942. Racial prejudice was also the reason Julian Abele did not sign his name to architectural designs he did for the Trumbauer's Architectural firm until after Trumbauer's death.

SAVE THESE DATES

June 23, 2 PM: Mercer Museum in Doylestown: Black American Racers Event

June 30: 10 AM: General Membership Meeting and Presentation, Langhorne, PA

July 28: 9 – 3 PM: African American Heritage Tour of Lower Bucks County

RACING
A NEED FOR SPEED

Special Program:

Black American Racers: Breaking the Color Barrier in Motorsports

Panel & Book Signing

Saturday, June 23, 2018
2:00 PM (Doors Open at 1:30 PM)
FREE with Museum Admission
Mercer Museum

Co-sponsored by the African-American Museum of Bucks County

MERCER MUSEUM & FONTHILL CASTLE
StaRtsoosion Affiliates

mercermuseum.org

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June 30: General Membership Meeting and Presentation

The next General Membership Meeting of the AAMBC will be held on Saturday, June 30, 2018 at 10AM at the First Baptist Church in Langhorne, PA, 215 East Richardson Ave. Please enter the meeting at the rear of the church from the parking lot. Everyone is welcome to attend to learn more about the museum, the various volunteer opportunities and upcoming activities.

Jesse Crooks will be the guest speaker. He plans to preview some of the topics he will also be covering on the July 28 African American Heritage Tour including black communities in the county, the underground railroad, and the process of emancipation in Bucks County and how former slaves and their descendants picked up the pieces after slavery.

July 28: African American Heritage Tour of Lower Bucks County



 African American
Museum of Bucks County
presents

African American Heritage Tour of Bucks County

Saturday, July 28 ★ 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Tour stops: Bristol, Harriet Tubman Statue;
Newtown, St. Mark's AME Zion Church and Macedonia Baptist Church
and the Continental Tavern in Yardley, Site of Underground Railroad**

Cost: \$70.00 per person and includes tour and lunch at the Tavern. Space is limited.
To register for this event, fill out the form below and mail it with your check made out to AAMBC to
AAMBC, 215 East Richardson St., Langhorne, PA, or go to www.infoaambc.org and click the event registration link.
Once you are registered, we will send additional information about the event.

For questions or additional information, please contact:
Carol Johnson, 215-752-1909 or aambcmuseum@gmail.com

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE TOUR OF BUCKS COUNTY - SAT., JULY 28 infoaambc.org

Check Enclosed

Name _____ Address _____
Phone _____ Email _____
How many attending _____ Total amount of check _____

Mail form to: African American Museum of Bucks County, 215 East Richardson Avenue, Langhorne, PA 19047
AAMBC is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are tax deductible under IRC Section 170(e).

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Become a Member of the Museum

The general public and organizations can become members of the Museum. Types of memberships available are:

- ❖ \$3000 Harvey Spencer Diamond Life Membership
- ❖ \$2000 Millard Mitchell Gold Life Membership/ Corporate Membership
- ❖ \$1000 Adult Silver Life Membership
- ❖ \$250 Small Business Membership
- ❖ \$150 Social Organization
- ❖ \$100 Religious Organization
- ❖ \$30 Adult Membership
- ❖ \$15 Youth Membership (< 21 years of age)

Membership Benefits include receiving a quarterly AAMBC newsletter.

\$3000 Harvey Spencer Diamond Life Membership – 20% discount to all AAMBC events

\$2000 Millard Mitchell Gold Life Membership/ Corporate Membership – 15% discount to AAMBC events.

\$1000 Adult Silver Life Membership – 10% discount to all AAMBC events

FOLLOW THE MUSEUM

Our website (<http://infoaambc.org/>)

Our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/AfricanAmericanMuseum/>)