

# AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM OF BUCKS COUNTY

*Happy* **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**February Events Schedule:**

- Feb 3 1:30pm** Slavery, Friends, and Freedom in Bucks County  
Pine Run Village Senior Living, 777 Ferry Road, Doylestown, PA
- Feb 4 7pm** Slavery, Friends, and Freedom in Bucks County  
Friends of Northeast Philadelphia at Pennepack Baptist Church  
8732 Krewstown Rd, Philadelphia, PA
- Feb 4 8pm** Frederick Douglass Returns to the Newtown Theatre  
120 North State Street Newtown, PA 18940
- Feb 12 7pm** Book Club Zoom with Common Place Reader  
"Sister Mother Warrior" by Vanessa Riley
- Feb 24 8:30am** Central Bucks Underground Railroad Bus Tour  
Departs from First Baptist Church in Langhorne
- Feb 28 10am** A Legacy of Service: Honoring 4 Centuries of African American Soldiers  
First Baptist Church of Langhorne, 215 East Richardson Ave, Langhorne PA

**Go to [www.AAMuseumBucks.org](http://www.AAMuseumBucks.org) to learn more**

 **AFRICAN AMERICAN  
MUSEUM OF BUCKS COUNTY**

## Black History Month

**We are planning several events for Black History Month this year. Please join us!**

**In this newsletter:**

- 1. Ceremonial handing of the key from Bucks County to the Museum**
  - 2. Statement from the Museum on removal of exhibits related to slavery at the President's House site at Independence Hall in Philadelphia**
  - 3. Upcoming event - A Legacy of Service**
  - 4. Upcoming Event - Dionne Carole concert**
  - 5. "Standing on My Sisters' Shoulders" Film Screening**
  - 6. AAMBC Visits Bucks County Technical High School**
  - 7. Frederick Douglass Returns to the Newtown Theatre**
  - 8. Giovanni's Dillicious Pickles**
  - 9. Book club**
  - 10. "Slavery, Friends, and Freedom in Bucks County" Presentations**
  - 11. Underground Railroad tour date in February**
  - 12. Hidden Figures**
  - 13. George School/AAMBC Memoir Project**
  - 14. AAMBC adult and kids T-shirts available!**
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### **Key Ceremony**

On February 9th, the Bucks County Commissioners handed a ceremonial key to Museum President, Linda Salley and Vice President, Bill Reed.

We are truly thankful to Bucks County Commissioners Diane M. Ellis-Marseglia, Robert J. Harvie Jr., and Gene DiGirolamo, as well as COO Margaret McKevitt, and all the staff who have supported the Museum so strongly.

Please note that the construction work inside the Museum is not yet complete but we are getting closer and closer.

More photos of the ceremony are available on the Museum's website in the Photo Gallery.



Statement from the African American Museum of Bucks County:

On January 22, 2026, representatives from the National Park Service dismantled and removed exhibits related to our nation's complex history of slavery at the President's House Site at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The African American Museum of Bucks County condemns any attempt to minimize or erase the history of slavery. Such actions undermine truth, accountability, and our collective memory. Remembering the history of our enslaved ancestors is essential to justice, healing, and reconciliation.

We stand with our neighbors, friends, historians, and fellow Americans in honoring our country, all of its people, and its complicated history. We affirm that the only path toward reconciliation for the atrocities committed against enslaved people begins with remembering—together.

## HONORING FOUR CENTURIES OF AFRICAN AMERICAN SOLDIERS

# *A Legacy of Service*

*Date* FEBRUARY 28, 2026  
*When* OPEN HOUSE 10 AM TO 4 PM  
*Where* FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LANGHORNE  
215 EAST RICHARDSON AVENUE  
LANGHORNE, PA

ENJOY A FAMILY-FRIENDLY EXPERIENCE AS YOU GUIDE YOURSELF THROUGH RE-ENACTORS PORTRAYING SOLDIERS FROM 4 WARS, WITH HISTORICAL ARTIFACTS AND VETERANS SHARING THEIR STORIES.

### *Tickets*

ADULTS | \$10.00  
CHILDREN (5-12) | \$5.00  
CHILDREN (UNDER 5) | FREE

[aamuseumbucks.org/events](http://aamuseumbucks.org/events)



GET TICKETS HERE

**SPECIAL WOMEN'S HISTORY EVENT**

*featuring*

**DIONNE CAROLE**

**THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID:  
A SOULFUL CELEBRATION**

**SUNDAY MARCH 15  
3 PM- 4 PM**

**RECEPTION  
4:00-5:00 PM**

**PENNSWOOD VILLAGE  
1382 LANGHORNE NEWTOWN RD.  
NEWTOWN, PA 18940**

**TICKETS \$20**

**Featuring music from legendary greats:  
Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughn, Aretha  
Franklin, Natalie Cole, Dionne Warwick and more!**

**Get tickets at:**

**[AAMUSEUMBUCKS.ORG/EVENTS](http://AAMUSEUMBUCKS.ORG/EVENTS)**



**GET TICKETS HERE**

# STANDING ON MY SISTERS' SHOULDERS

A film by Joan Sadoff,  
Dr. Robert Sadoff & Laura J. Lipson

**FUNDRAISER** sponsored by  
The African American Museum  
of Bucks County  
to support  
The Peace Center



To honor Women's History Month:  
Showing of the documentary film  
**Standing on My Sisters' Shoulders**

followed by light refreshments  
and a discussion led by  
**Sherry Hanck and Barbara Simmons**

**March 8, 2026**

**2:00 - 4:00 PM**

First Baptist Church of Langhorne  
(215 E. Richardson Ave, Langhorne)

**\$20 Suggested Donation**

"A film every American should  
see and never forget."

—William Ferris, PhD

National Endowment for the Humanities

**WMM** A WOMEN MAKE MOVIES RELEASE



Reserve your spot at:  
[www.thepeacecenter.org](http://www.thepeacecenter.org)

For more information:  
215-750-7220



GET TICKETS HERE



On February 5 and 6, 2026, many Museum Board Members and staff visited Bucks County Technical High School to teach the students there about African American history. We felt the students were very interested and it was a great success. We have visited the school annually for the last five years. We are glad to partner with Bucks County Technical High School to help educate the future of Bucks County. (More photos are available in the Museum's online photo gallery.)



## [Frederick Douglass Returns to the Newtown Theatre](#)

On February 4, 1864, Frederick Douglass visited Newtown and spoke at Newtown Hall, now known as Newtown Theatre. On February 4, 2025 – exactly 162 years later – the theatre hosted nationally acclaimed Frederick Douglass impersonator Darius Wallace to the theatre to deliver “Frederick Douglass: The Self-Made Man & The Work of Rebuilding a Nation.”

The event was nearly sold out and several Museum representatives attended. Everyone was impressed and inspired. And a percentage of ticket sales from the Frederick Douglass presentation were donated by the Theatre to support the African American Museum of Bucks County. Thank you Newtown Theatre!

GET TICKETS HERE

**Many thanks to Giovanni's Dillicious Pickles for supporting the Museum! Please consider visiting them at 802 Bristol Pike, Croydon, PA, United States, 19021.**



Giovanni's Dillicious Pickles

February 1 at 10:45 AM · 🌐



This Black History Month, we're putting purpose behind our pickles.

For the entire month of February, for every non-cucumber pickled vegetable sold including pickled mushrooms, pickled carrots, pickled cauliflower, and more we will donate \$1 to the African American Museum of Bucks County.

Food preservation has deep roots in African American history. Long before modern refrigeration, preserving vegetables through brining, fermenting, and canning was essential for survival and sustainability. These traditions were passed down through generations and became a cornerstone of Southern and American cuisine.

One powerful example is Edna Lewis, a pioneering African American chef who grew up in a farming community founded by formerly enslaved people. She celebrated seasonal cooking and traditional preservation methods, including pickling, at a time when Black Southern foodways were often overlooked.

Edna Lewis was an asset to American cuisine because she preserved more than recipes. She preserved culture, dignity, and history. She helped the culinary world recognize that African American food traditions were not only foundational, but refined, intentional, and worthy of respect.

At Giovanni's Dillicious Pickles, we believe preserving vegetables and preserving history go hand in hand.

When you choose those pickled mushrooms or carrots this month, you're not just adding flavor to your plate. You're helping preserve stories that matter.

Not a pickle fan? You can donate directly through their website <https://www.aamuseumbucks.org>

Thank you for supporting local history, local culture, and local impact.

Giovanni's Dillicious Pickles 🍷🥒

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### AAMBC Book Club

The AAMBC's Book Club meets monthly on Zoom to discuss a different book each month. The next meeting is **Thursday, March 12, 2025 at 7:00 pm via Zoom.**

The next book is The Devil's Half Acre: The Untold Story of How One Woman Liberated the South's Most Notorious Slave Jail by **Kristen Green**.

The inspiring true story of an enslaved woman who liberated an infamous slave jail and transformed it into one of the nation's first HBCUs In The Devil's Half Acre, New York Times bestselling author Kristen Green draws on years of research to tell the extraordinary and little-known story of young Mary Lumpkin, an enslaved woman who blazed a path of liberation for thousands. She was forced to have the children of a

brutal slave trader and live on the premises of his slave jail, known as the "Devil's Half Acre." When she inherited the jail after the death of her slaveholder, she transformed it into "God's Half Acre," a school where Black men could fulfill their dreams. It still exists today as Virginia Union University, one of America's first Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

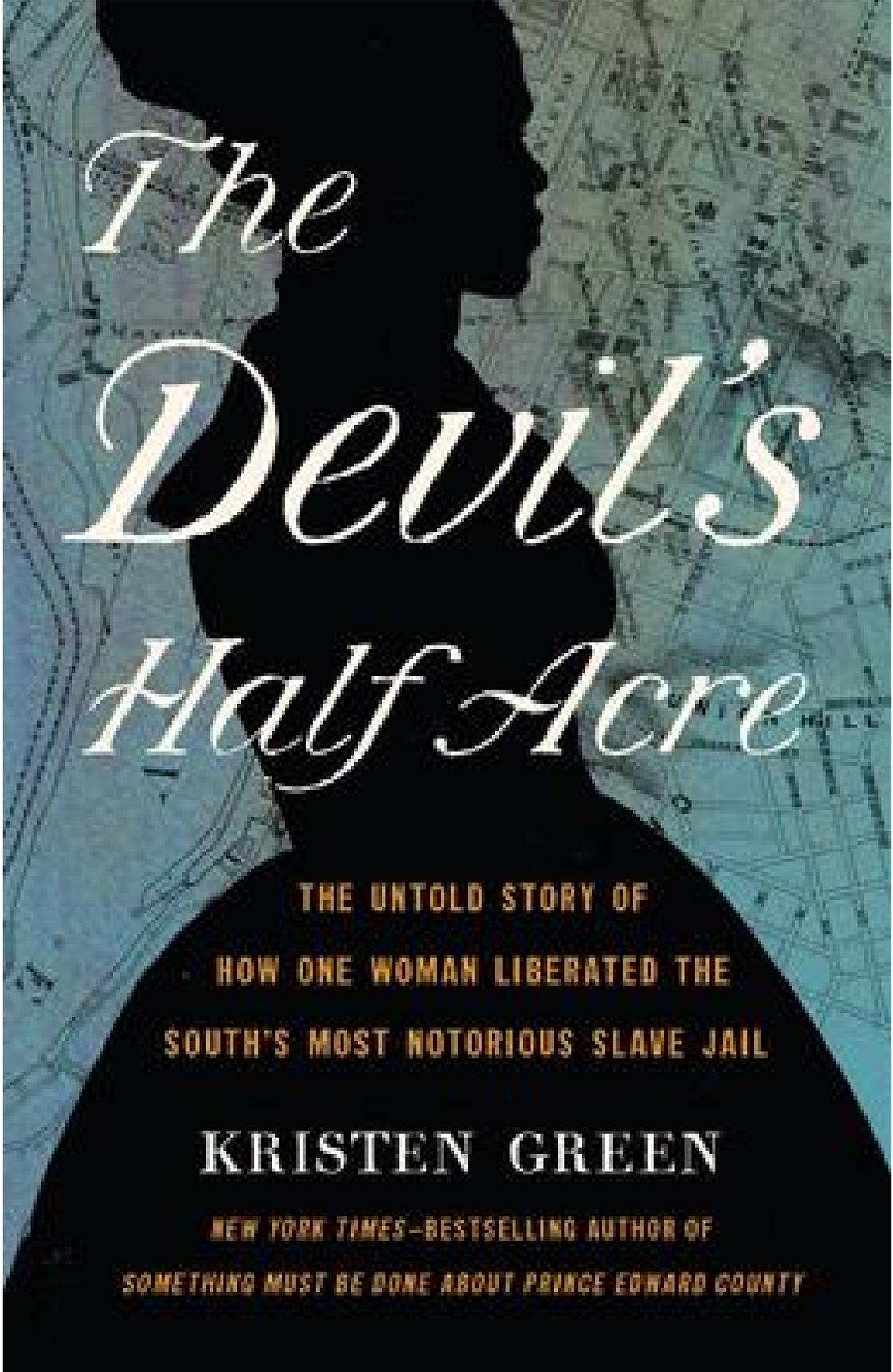
A sweeping narrative of a life in the margins of the American slave trade, *The Devil's Half Acre* brings Mary Lumpkin into the light. This is the story of the resilience of a woman on the path to freedom, her historic contributions, and her enduring legacy.

The book club is led by Liz Young, owner and operator of Commonplace Reader. Liz and Commonplace Reader have been strong supporters of our Museum, and are sponsoring the upcoming Gala. We love independent bookstores and we are so appreciative of Liz and Commonplace Reader!!

This independent bookstore is located at 49 S Main Street, Yardley, PA. If you are interested in joining the book club, please email Liz at [liz@commonplace-reader.com](mailto:liz@commonplace-reader.com).

All are welcome!

Email Liz Young to join the AAMBC's Book Club

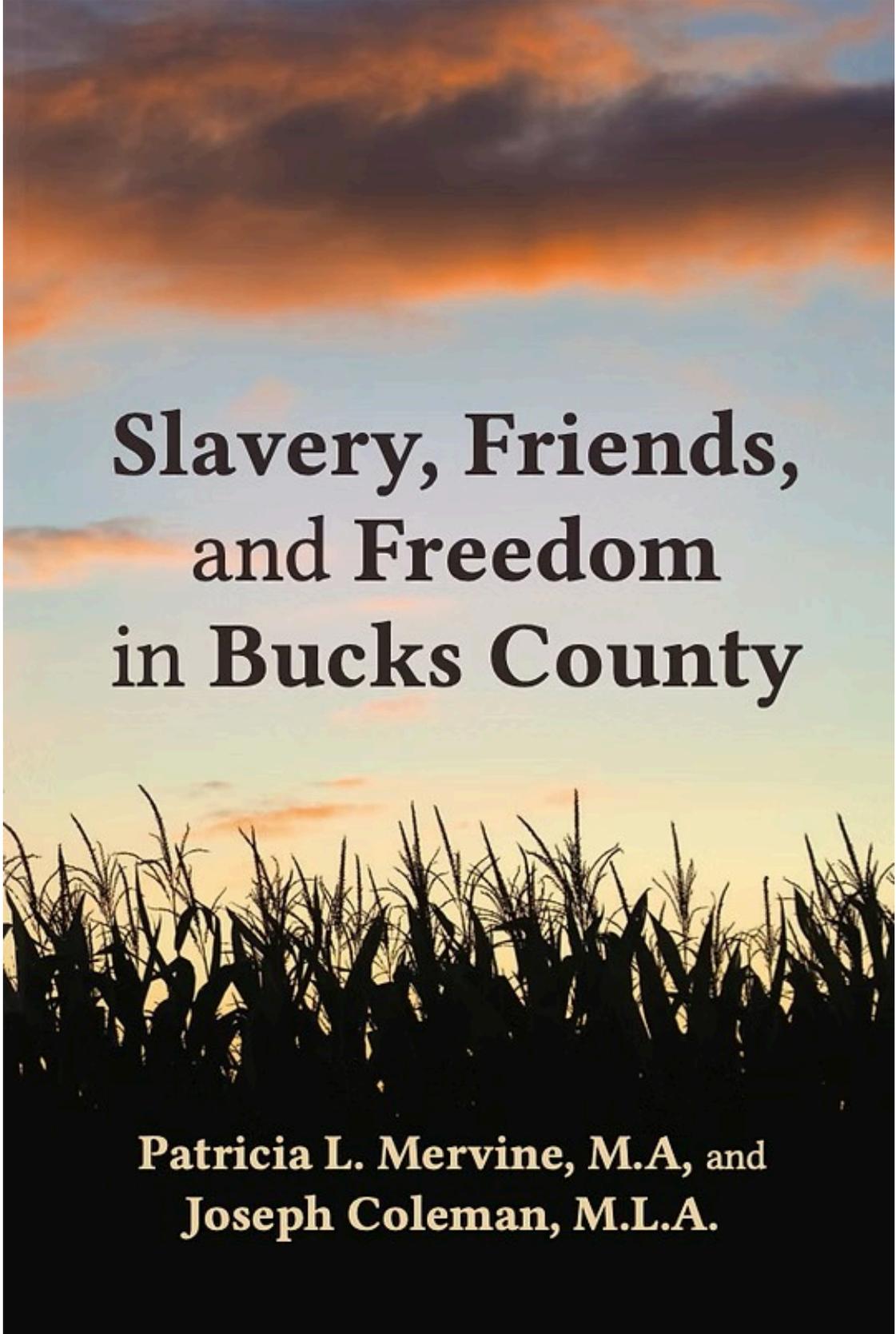


*The  
Devil's  
Half Acre*

THE UNTOLD STORY OF  
HOW ONE WOMAN LIBERATED THE  
SOUTH'S MOST NOTORIOUS SLAVE JAIL

KRISTEN GREEN

NEW YORK TIMES-BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF  
*SOMETHING MUST BE DONE ABOUT PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY*



# Slavery, Friends, and Freedom in Bucks County

**Patricia L. Mervine, M.A., and  
Joseph Coleman, M.L.A.**

**“Slavery, Friends, and Freedom in Bucks County”**  
**Presentations for 2026**

The history of African Americans in Bucks County dates back to the 1630s, and is full of stories of courage, resilience, compassion, and determination. When the new African American Museum of Bucks

County opens in 2026, you will learn about many people, places, and events in Bucks that will amaze you.

Author/Historian, Pat Mervine, has presented at over forty locations on behalf of the AAMBC in 2025 including senior centers, book clubs, libraries, churches, historical associations and community organizations. Pat shares stories of the Abolitionist Movement and the Underground RR in Bucks County based upon extensive research she and her co-author, Joe Coleman did for their book, "Slavery, Friends and Freedom in Bucks County."

**Upcoming presentations:**

March 25, 6:30 PM - Lower Southampton Library

March 30, 6 PM - Northampton Library

Photos from the February 3, 2026 presentation at Pine Run Village are below.





**Our last two Underground Railroad bus tours were sold out. We have one tour available in February, and it is almost sold out:**

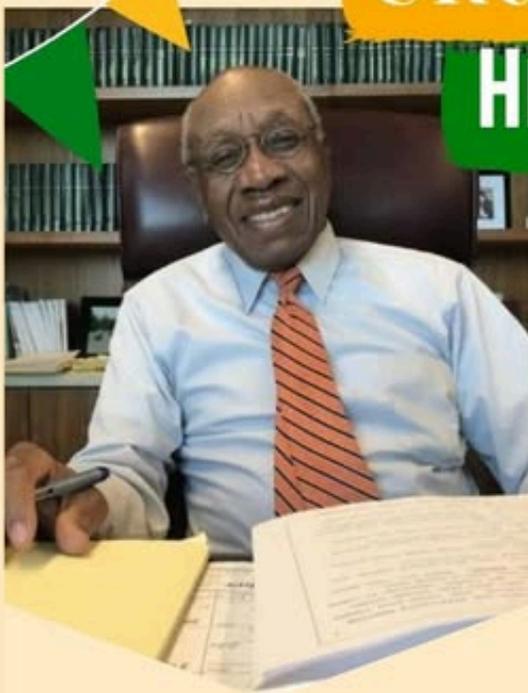
**February 24, 2025, Central Bucks  
Underground Railroad Tour**

**Get your tickets on our [EVENTS PAGE](#)  
before they sell out.**

**For questions, contact Cheryl Glover at  
[cglover@aamuseumbucks.org](mailto:cglover@aamuseumbucks.org)**

**More info is available here:  
[www.aamuseumbucks.org/the-underground-railroad](http://www.aamuseumbucks.org/the-underground-railroad)**

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# Untold Stories HIDDEN FIGURES

*of Bucks*

Judge Clyde W. Waite

The **first Black Judge appointed in Bucks County** as well as the **first Black person appointed to a county wide position.**

Howard University and Yale school of Law Alumni, Waite served the community as a Judge from 2003 to 2014. His dedication to adult education has led him to co-founding the Anna Middleton Waite Adult Learning Center named after his mother. This organization helps adults become more efficient with computer.



*Happy Black History Month!*



AFRICAN AMERICAN  
MUSEUM OF BUCKS COUNTY

# Untold Stories

## HIDDEN FIGURES

### Nurse Gladys Nickleby Nelson

Gladys Nelson was the first African American staff member hired by the Doylestown School District. During the height of the polio epidemic, Mrs. Nelson set up the first community polio vaccination clinic in the country.

Dr. Jonas Salk was so impressed with the efficiency of her clinic that he used her model to open clinics across the country. Between 1955 and 1962, medics administered 400 million doses of the Salk vaccine at thousands of clinics, patterned after the Doylestown clinic.



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### **George School/AAMBC Memoir Project**

When intergenerational relationships are formed, something remarkable happens. Adults are heard. Students learn. Together, they reflect on well-lived lives -- of challenges, triumphs, joys, and sorrows -- against the backdrop of societal pressures and profound changes that occurred over their seventy, eighty, even ninety-plus years.

This was the experience during a very special partnership between George School and the African American Museum of Bucks County. For the past four years, teacher Courtney Bejgrowicz has led a Memoirs class. Students would each interview a resident of Pennswood Village and Friends Village over a four-week period, then produce a memoir, written in their adult partner's voice.

In January 2026, the Memoirs class had one significant difference. All fifteen adult volunteers were African American senior citizens, ages 67-97, with ties to Lower Bucks County. One was the seventh generation to be born in Langhorne. Several moved here from the South during the era of Jim Crow when they were children. As part of the Great Migration from rural South Carolina, they faced culture shock when they settled into suburban life in Bristol Township. At a time when Levittown was deliberately segregated, several of the volunteers found a strong community in the intentionally integrated new development of Concord Park in Bensalem. Acceptance was the norm, and life was good in this multi-hued neighborhood, but when one volunteer, as a young girl, moved from Concord Park to an all-white neighborhood in Warminster, she encountered the crushing

blow of racism for the first time. It wouldn't be the last. Other adult participants included five board members of the African American Museum of Bucks County. Their life experiences in the deep South and in the military revealed to their student partners the harsh realities of the 1950s and 1960s.

During the first session, the adults were asked why they chose to participate in this five-week class. The answers varied: to tell the history that isn't in the history books; to share the truth about events they lived through; to have an opportunity to reflect on their own lives; and to help the students with their education. What didn't vary was their commitment to the project. One volunteer drove down from West Orange, NJ; another from Allentown. All braved the deep freeze of January, despite some physical ailments that made the slow walk in from the parking lot even colder. If an adult or student had to miss a session due to illness (it was flu season, after all), they continued the interviews by phone or Zoom.

The last class was held on February 4. Fifteen students and fifteen adult volunteers sat around a large conference table in the school's library. They took turns reading the memoirs aloud. The stories elicited smiles, laughs, looks of surprise, and sad, knowing nods. Each student then presented their adult partner with a copy of the memoir with the adult's portrait on the cover, a framed photo of the student and adult together, and a beautiful ceramic mug full of treats. After a shared lunch, it was time for the students to go to their next class, but not before hugs, handshakes, and promises to stay in touch.

While the volunteers considered the memoirs class a rewarding opportunity to reflect on the people, experiences, and events that shaped their lives, there's no question that the memoirs class benefitted the students as well.

Engaging strangers of different ages, cultures, and backgrounds in conversation, becoming comfortable in asking probing questions, developing good listening habits, and understanding the viewpoints of others: these are essential communication skills that will enrich their personal relationships and serve them well in their professional lives.

Copies of the memoirs will be archived at the African American Museum of Bucks County. Plans are underway for making a video of the memoirs that can be shown in the museum. Another plan is to have a panel discussion with the volunteers to dive more deeply into their life experiences. And, of course, the volunteers and students look forward to being united this spring when they tour the new museum together. AAMBC thanks teacher Courtney Bejgrowicz, Head of School Justin Jordan, the George School students who signed up for the class, and the wonderful adult volunteers who shared their life stories. It truly was a memorable experience!

**Our T-shirts are available on our website now!!**

**These are super-high quality shirts that we only got recently. And until now, they were only available at events.**

**If you've wanted one, or want one now, they are on the website! Click [here](#)**



**We also now have kids shirts!! There are two different styles and they are each available in natural or black! They are available in kids sizes S, M, and L. They are \$15 plus \$5 for shipping.**

**They are on the website! Click [here](#)**



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African American Museum  
of Bucks County  
215 East Richardson Avenue  
Langhorne, PA 19047  
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Donate

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