

You're Invited to our 19th Annual Celebration of Black History

Join others from
across the region for a
special day of
exhibitions and
programs that explore
Black History



Friends of Black History

Mission Statement:

The goal of the Friends of Black History is to provide opportunities for the community to appreciate the significance of African-American history and culture and to discover how African-Americans have contributed to the rich tapestry of American history.

Members:

Patricia J. Ackah
Winona Brown
Cecelia Crommarty
Virginia Hammond
Ruth Harmon
Maureen Stevenson (deceased)
Mary Washington (deceased)



Friends of Black History gratefully
recognize the support of Laura Arnhold,
Library Director, The Library Board of
Directors and the Library Staff

Upper Merion Township Library
& Friends of Black History
present the
19th Annual
Celebration of Black History

Snapshots of Black History



February 24, 2018
10:00am - 3:30pm

Enriching Minds
Building Community
Connecting to the World
**UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP
LIBRARY**
umtownship.org/library
175 W. Valley Forge Rd.
King of Prussia, PA 19406
610-265-4805 / 610-265-4806

Welcome

The Upper Merion Township Library is pleased to sponsor the 19th Annual Celebration of Black History.

The generous support of the BCA grant allowed the Friends of Black History to provide this annual program that celebrates the African-American experience. In addition, the library offers a wide array of books and online resources on African-American history and culture – many of which are written and illustrated by famous African-American authors and illustrators. We invite our community to enjoy these resources for children, teens and adults alike. The Friends of Black History, the Upper Merion Township Board of Supervisors, the Library Board and staff encourage you to honor the achievements of African Americans during Black History Month and throughout the year.

Laura Arnhold, Director
Upper Merion Township Library

Programs

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Vendors

Jewelry, clothing, hand crafted items and more

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Kids Crafts and Activities

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Mr. Keith Henley, Historical Interpreter
Take a journey through the life of Langston Hughes, African-American poet, novelist, and playwright

12:00 PM - 1:15 PM

Soul Food Sample

Sample African-American soul food

1:15 PM - 2:15 PM

Step Dance

Performance by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.- Rho Chapter

2:15 PM - 3:15 PM

Warren Cooper and Soul Sensation Present THE NEGRO SPIRITUAL: A HERITAGE OF PROTEST & PRAISE

Visit Our Vendors

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Hakim's Book Store

Nina Bolden - Queen Nina

Amazingly Gifted and Blessed Workshop, LLC

Tyronne Carter - Children's Book Author

ADC Kid

Nahj Grant

Girl Scout Troop 742

King of Prussia Historical Society

K2 Holistic Hair & Skin Products

Brown Baby Cakes

Jewelry by Jesse

Lillian Smith - Sisters

Pamela Tuck - Children's Book Author

Verona Vance - Monday's Child

Kathleen Wainwright - Children's Book Author

Makamina. INC

and many more

Slaves in Montgomery County and Upper Merion

1790 Census: 114 Slaves in the whole of Montgomery County

1800 – 33 slaves in Montgomery County

1800 – 177 “Taxable Inhabitants” in Upper Merion and
4 Slaves in Upper Merion:

Margaret, age 37; Hector, age 40; Nero, age 27; Ann, age 23

1807 – No slaves remained in Upper Merion

1830 Census: 1 slave left in all of the county.

RUn away from Richard Bevan, of Upper Merion, in the County of Philadelphia, on the 23^d of April last, a negroe man, named Frank, of short stature, can speak good English, and is mark'd with the small pox: Had on when he went away, a light coloured old homespun cloth jacket, with flat pewter buttons, brown homespun cloth breeches, with mohair buttons, an old felt hat, neither shoes nor stockings; but as it is thought he has got money with him, he may get other apparel, change his name, or say he is free, as he is a lying, artful fellow, and has done the like before. He formerly belong'd to William Macneell of Philadelphia. Whoever takes up the said negroe, and brings him to his said master, or to William Rakestraw, of this city, or secures him, so that his master shall have him again, shall have Twenty Shillings reward, paid by
RICHARD BEVAN.
N. B. As he may attempt to go to sea, all masters of vessels are desir'd not to take him. ⊕

1739

Ad for runaway slave
named Frank

1790
Ad for runaway slave
named Ishmael

Six Dollars Reward.
RAN away from the subscriber, living in Lower Merion township, Montgomery county, near the Gulf Mill, on the third day of April, a Negroe man, named ISHMAEL, about 6 feet high, yellow faced, walks limping, having had his feet frost-bitten, is very bow legged, and has had one of his thighs broke; had on, and took away with him, a red coat, faced with blue, with small buttons on it, a darkish coloured cloth jacket, a striped linen jacket, a pair of buckskin breeches somewhat worn, a pair of woollen stockings, old shoes, with iron buckles in them, old wool hat, two tow shirts, one of which he wears over his clothes to disguise himself. He is very fond of drink, plays on the fiddle, and has one with him, and would rather play on it than work. Whoever takes up said Negroe, and puts him in any goal or workhouse in the Thirteen States, so that his master may get him again, shall receive the above reward, and reasonable charges, paid by
§ DAVID BRIGGS.
N. B. All Masters of vessels are forbid to take said Negroe on board, or other people to harbour him, at their perill.

est. 1953

KING OF PRUSSIA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Abolitionists in Upper Merion



Jonathan Roberts (1771-1854 - pictured)
Eliza Roberts (1780-1865) (Jonathan's wife)
Mrs. Sarah Tyson (1825-1916 daughter of Jonathan Roberts)
William Jones and his wife Rachel
Sons of William Jones:
John Jones
Rowland Jones
Rees Thomas of Gulf Mills
William B. Thomas and his four daughters
Mordecai Moore (nephew of Jonathan Roberts)
Thomas Read and family

Eliza Roberts was especially sensitive to the plight of slaves. Her daughter, Sarah Tyson, wrote an account of how, on one occasion, Mrs. Roberts was responsible for freeing a family from bondage.

"In 1847, Mrs. Eliza H. Roberts visited friends in Virginia, the home of her early life and one much cherished by her, had the blast of slavery, with all its environments and heart-rending appeals been extinguished from her soil. It was her misfortune to find among her friends, the sad, sad story of accumulated debt, to such an extent that the poor, suffering slave was the first to answer to the auctioneer's hammer. One little girl was to be the first victim. With harrowed feelings, they sought to find a remedy. No response came to her but to pay the price and bring her to Pennsylvania, where she could be reared under the influence of freedom; otherwise her fate would have been to be sold to the far South and separated from all that was dear to her. The shadow of this unjust system still haunted the household, and more victims were threatened with the auction block. The next was the mother of the little girl, a woman of 35 years. Letters poured in beseeching Mrs. Roberts to again put forth her hand and advance the money, and she would willingly serve her until the debt should be cancelled. She had other children; two daughters, old enough to be serviceable, and two little sons. She entreated for the deliverance of all. An appeal was made to the antislavery society of Philadelphia to know if any funds could be obtained for their relief; but the answer came, "'hey could not take isolated cases, their work was for the removal of evil.' The anguished-stricken mother was almost crazed with grief, and rather than be separated from her children, determined to sever her hand from her body, that she might be condemned and no longer saleable. The good angel of mercy came to her relief, and hope delayed her resolve. Mrs. Roberts consented to advance the money for the mother and the two daughters. She determined to appeal to the philanthropic hearts of the people, and found a sympathetic response, and , within the limits of this county was able to make up the sum of \$300, the price asked for the two boys, she advancing \$1250 for the female portion of the family. ...The arrival of the happy family in a land of freedom can scarcely be described. They remained some time with Mrs. Roberts, but eventually settled in Norristown."

The freed slave, Emma Jackson, died at 82, respected by all who knew her.