

# AAHM Sojourner

Newsletter of the  
**SPRINGFIELD AND CENTRAL ILLINOIS AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MUSEUM**

VOLUME 3, NO. 1

WINTER/SPRING 2019

## INSIDE LOOK



**Kevia Maloney**  
**AAHM**  
**Coordinator**

PAGE 3



**Race Riot**  
**Remembrance**  
**opens at HSHS**

PAGE 3



**2018 Gala**  
**Co-chairs: Jany**  
**& Lawrence**

PAGES 4-5

## The Obama Ball Celebration of the Historic Inauguration

The Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum (AAHM) will host a 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball Celebrating the Inauguration of Barack H. Obama as the first African American President. You are invited to join us. The event will be held on January 26, 2019 at the Hoogland Center for the Arts, Theatre 3, 420 S. Sixth St., Springfield, IL from 7 to 11 pm.

The attire is formal and music will be provided by the "Soul Experience Band." A limited number of tickets are available for \$50.00 and tickets will not be sold at the door. Tickets may be obtained from AAHM Board members, the Museum's website at [www.spiaahm.org](http://www.spiaahm.org), or go to [www.illinoistimestix.com](http://www.illinoistimestix.com), then click on "Find an Organization" or by contacting the Museum at 217-391-6323.

On January 20, 2009, Barack Obama was sworn in as the first African American President in U.S. history. He began his political career in the Illinois legislature, then as a U.S. Senator from Illinois and launched his successful campaign for the presidency on the steps of the Old State Capitol

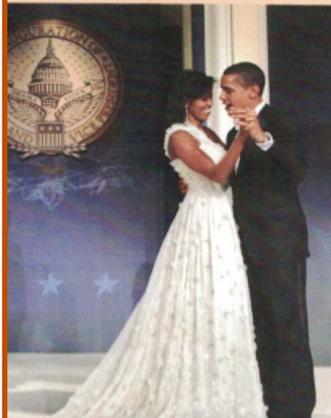
in Springfield.

*"The Obama years were ones in which more people not only began to see themselves in the changing face of America, but to see America the way he always has – as the only place on Earth where so many of our stories could even be possible."*

(The Obama Foundation)

## 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball

*Celebrating the Inauguration of*  
*Barack Obama,*  
*First African American President*



Saturday, January 26, 2019  
 7-11p.m.  
 Formal Attire

The Hoogland Center for The Arts  
 420 S. Sixth Street, Springfield, IL 62701

*"Music by "Soul Experience"*  
*Heavy hors d' oeuvres*

Tickets are \$50 per person  
 No tickets sold at the door.  
*Limited number available!*

For tickets: [spiaahm.org](http://spiaahm.org); or Call Museum at 217-391-6323, or M. Gillespie at 217- 816-1754



# Letter from the President

Dear Museum Friends,

*As we enter 2019, I can't help but look back over 2018 and be thankful to you for how you helped the Board of Directors of the Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum accomplish so much.*

*With your generous support as a member and sponsor of events and exhibits, the Museum educated and inspired visitors from all over the world about local and national African American history. We have had visitors from China, Australia, Canada and Africa as well as from 15 different states. We hosted thought-provoking programs and informative exhibits by partnering with leaders of our community. We have a first rate Website hosted by Jenni Dahl, a wonderful Face Book page hosted by Elizabeth Alexander, and a newly added Instagram page hosted by Yewande Marquis. You supported our Annual Fund-raising Gala in great numbers.*

*With your support, we will continue to educate and hopefully transform the way Americans view our shared history, culture and values.*

*We will always need help from committed members and supporters like yourself. That's why I'm hoping you will help the Museum start 2019 on a strong note – and help us reach an even wider audience in 2019. Can I count on you to send a tax-deductible donation? You can send a beginning-of-the-year donation between \$100 - \$500 to the Museum by mailing it to AAHM, P.O. Box 301, Springfield, Illinois 62705.*

*Your beginning-of-the-year donation will help the Museum build on the remarkable successes that you have made possible throughout the previous year.*

*Please friend our Face Book page and visit our website at [www.spiaahm.org](http://www.spiaahm.org) to stay abreast of upcoming events.*

*Sincerely,*

*Nell R. Clay*

---

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Nell Clay,**  
*President*
- Sue Massie,**  
*First Vice President*
- Elizabeth Alexander,**  
*Recording Secretary*
- Minnie Gillespie,**  
*Treasurer*
- Doris Bailey**
- Carolyn Farrar**
- Kathryn Harris**
- Douglas Holt**
- Ocheng Jany**
- Ann Joseph, PhD**
- Ernestine Lawrence**
- James Lewis**
- Aaron Pearl-Cropp**
- Gail Simpson**
- Kevia Maloney,**  
*Museum Coordinator*

**AAHM website:** [spiaahm.org](http://spiaahm.org)  
**Address:** 1440 Monument Ave., Springfield, IL 62702  
**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 301, Springfield, IL 62705  
**Telephone:** 217-391-6323  
**Follow us on Facebook**

---

## **AAHM BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2019**

You may have noticed a few changes in the Museum's Board of Directors. First, Douglas King and Archie Lawrence are not listed. Both men have served on the Board since the inception of the Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Foundation, the precursor of the Museum itself. Museum by-laws allow directors to serve for two consecutive three-year terms. Both Mr. King and Mr. Lawrence have done so, serving faithfully as officers and board members. Now they must sit-out for one year.

Doris Bailey is now on the Board of Directors. Having resigned from the Museum Coordinator position, she applied for a seat on the Board. (We are pleased and grateful that Doris is continuing to be part of the Museum.) Elizabeth Buchta has resigned, having taken an out-of-town job.

The Board is an active and dynamic group. So many things can be explored and developed to continue improving and expanding the scope of the Museum. If you are interested in taking part in the Museum as a volunteer or as a Board Member, let us know. We look forward to expanding our capabilities with new faces and new interests.



The AAHM Sojourner is the quarterly newsletter of the Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum located at 1440 Monument Avenue, Springfield, Illinois.  
Sue Massie, Editor

# Kevia Maloney named AAHM Coordinator



Kevia M. Maloney has been selected as the new Museum Coordinator of the Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum.

Originally from Chicago, she received her Bachelor's Degree in African and African-American Studies from the University of Kansas. Maloney moved to Springfield in 2009 to attend graduate school at the University of Illinois at Springfield where she

earned a Master of Arts degree in Human Development Counseling.

In addition to coordinating the daily operations at the Museum, Maloney is a Licensed Professional Counselor and provides mental health therapy to adults at a Springfield agency on a part-time basis.

Kevia is married and is a mom to 12 year old twin daughters. She is happy to be a part of the Museum, and is looking forward to challenges of her new position.

You may have met Kevia at the Christmas Open House where she helped guests learn how to make tree ornaments by knitting, another of her talents. If you have not already, stop by the Museum and meet Kevia. You will like her!

## Race Riot Exhibit and Healing Garden Sculpture

HSHS St. John's Hospital recently unveiled an exhibit that commemorates the 1908 Race Riot, featuring a centerpiece painting by artist Preston Jackson depicting the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis caring for the victims of the riot. The unveiling also included a presentation of a gift from the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, a statue of a dove by artist Gianfranco Tassara, representing peace and healing. The 1908 Race Riot was one of the most violent riots against blacks in American history and led to the formation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

At the opening event, E.J. Kuiper, president and CEO of HSHS Central Illinois Division welcomed everyone to the unveiling at the new St. John's Hospital Women and Children's Clinic on Ninth Street. The clinic is located near the foundations of homes that were burned during the riot. Sister Maureen O'Connor, OSF, provincial superior of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, presented the dove statue and healing garden. A reflection from 1908 was offered by Nell Clay from the Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum. Preston Jackson, the centerpiece artist, spoke about his work. A closing prayer from Father Fredrick Mbiere blessed the new exhibit and garden.

"Over the last few years as we developed plans for this building, HSHS St. John's Hospital sought input from a variety of community leaders and organizations on how to commemorate the tragedy and honor the victims of the Race Riots in the design of this new medical office building," said Kuiper said. "We are grateful for their suggestions which led to the creation of an outdoor healing garden and a lobby wall exhibit both of which bring us to today's event."

On the evening of August 14, 1908, the Hospital Sisters and their hospital, St. John's Hospital,



offered refuge from violence and cared for the injured, blacks alongside whites. Despite the horrific violence of this riot, inside St. John's there was peace. According to the archives of the Hospital Sisters, "When no more rooms were available at the hospital, patients were laid on mattresses on the floor — black and white patients lying side by side. Interestingly, once the injured entered St. John's Hospital, they set aside all prejudice, antagonism and hatred."

# 2018 Gala Highlights





# Good Tidings for Christmas ... at the Museum Openhouse



# 2019 Calendar of Events

**MUSEUM HOURS: TUESDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, NOON TO 4 P.M.; SATURDAYS 10A.M. TO 5 P.M.**

The AAHM is pleased to announce the following events scheduled for 2019.  
Mark your calendars and stay tuned for additional activities throughout the year.

**All events will be held at the Museum unless otherwise noted.**

## *JANUARY*

January 26, 7 to 11 p.m., Inaugural Anniversary Ball (The Obama Ball)  
Hoogland Center, 420 South 6th St., Springfield, IL.  
Tickets \$50, sold before the event.

## *FEBRUARY*

February 9, 5:30 p.m., Obama Exhibit Grand Opening  
February 23, 2 p.m., Black History Bowl  
February 28, 6-8 p.m., AAHM Membership Meeting

## *MARCH*

March 7, 5:30 p.m., AAUW Program Presentation  
March 16, 5:30 p.m., Women's National History Month Program  
March 23, 5:30 p.m., Middle Passage Exhibit Grand Opening

## *APRIL*

April 13, 4-6 p.m., Second Chance Christmas  
April 27, 5-7 p.m. Michael Bracey Exhibit and Book Signing  
5 p.m. meet and greet, 5:30 p.m. presentation

## *MAY*

May 4, 5:30 p.m., "Forgotten Illinois" . . . Forgotten African Americans in Illinois  
May 26, 3-5 p.m., Spring Fest . . . Food, Games and Fun for All  
May 26, 5-7 p.m., Early African American Families Grand Opening

## *JUNE*

June 3rd to 7th, AAHM Summer Youth Camp

## *JULY*

TBA, National Negro Leagues Baseball Exhibit Grand Opening

## *OCTOBER*

October 6, 12-4 p.m., "A Walk Through Oak Ridge Cemetery"  
October 10, AAHM Annual Fundraising Gala  
Crowne Plaza, 3000 S. Dirksen Pkwy, Springfield, IL 62703  
6 p.m., Reception/Silent Auction, 7 p.m. Dinner and Program

African American History Museum  
Springfield and Central Illinois  
P.O. Box 301  
Springfield, IL 62705-0301



## MEMBERSHIP

Members receive membership cards, the *Sojourner* newsletter and museum communications. Members at the Sustaining level and above also receive invitations to previews, grand openings and special VIP events.

### Membership Categories

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$ 25   | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$ 100-\$ 199 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$ 50       | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$ 200-\$ 499 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth/student \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Advancing \$ 500-\$ 999  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior \$20        | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member \$1,000      |
- Business Member \$500-\$999 (includes business listing at museum events)
- I would like to pay now for three years of membership . AMOUNT enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street address \_\_\_\_\_

City, state, zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Your check should be made payable and sent to the African American History Museum of Springfield and Central Illinois (AAHM), P.O. Box 301, Springfield, IL 62705-0301