



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

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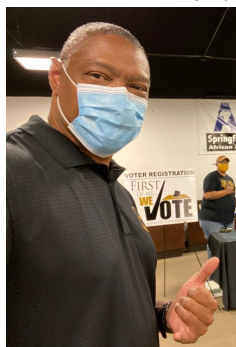
**INSIDE
LOOK**



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**Organizations Hold
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Drives**

Voter Registration Initiatives

By Nell Clay

The Board of Directors of the Springfield & Central Illinois African American History Museum (AAHM) have been moved and inspired by the massive, diverse crowds protesting against justice and were inspired to do something. Have you thought about what you can do to help the cause and make your voice heard? There are so many issues that need to be addressed. How do you pick one and focus on that? How can we impact positive change in our community?

**“OUR VOTE IS OUR MICROPHONE,
ABSOLUTE RIGHT, AND OBLIGATION**

The AAHM in cooperation with several organizations in our community, served as hosts for voter registration drives. In order to make a significant impact in our community, state and our country, we need to work together to get everyone in Springfield and Sangamon County who is eighteen and older registered to vote. After registering, everyone must vote.

See Initiative, pg.8

VOTE VOTE VOTE

By Nell Clay

VOTE LIKE THE LIVES OF THE NEXT GENERATIONS DEPEND ON IT

There are some of you that are seriously contemplating not voting in this election. I am sure you have your reasons. I want to tell you that this is one of the most important elections in our lifetime and why.

KNOW YOUR HISTORY

First Slaves

- **White Lion** - In 1619, a Dutch ship, the White Lion, captured 20 enslaved Africans in a battle with a Spanish ship. They landed at Jamestown, Virginia for repairs from the battle. For food and supplies, the Dutch traded the enslaved Africans to the Colonials as indentured servants.
- Indentured servants could eventually work themselves out of slavery after a set period, i.e. 7 to 9 years, and become free.
- Slavery in the US eventually changed to “Chattel” slavery because farmers wanted permanent labor that was free. With Chattel slavery, neither the enslaved person, nor anyone that was born into their family could ever be free.

- From 1619 to 1869, 250 years, Africans were forcefully taken from their country, sometimes marched for weeks in shackles, beaten at the will of their ruthless captors, and held in bondage before being placed in the bowels of revolting, insalubrious slave ships.

- Even though President Abraham Lincoln got the Emancipation Proclamation passed in 1863, all slaves were not set free. Only slaves in designated states and parts of some designated states were declared free.

- On June 19, 1865, Union General Gordon Granger led thousands of federal troops to Galveston, Texas to announce that the Civil War had ended, and slaves had been freed. This date celebrated as “Juneteenth” is the date that slavery ended for all.

- For 250 years, enslaved Africans were forced to build, develop, cultivate crops, thereby increasing the wealth of their captors while being treated worse than animals. Women and children were raped. Families were separated at will. They were whipped if they tried to educate themselves. They were beaten if they did not work hard enough, long enough, fast enough, or did not produce enough. They were dehumanized, demoralized, brutalized, degraded, and debased.

See VOTE, pg.4



OUR MISSION

* We will tell authentic stories about African American life in Central Illinois, past and present, celebrating and sharing our history and culture while planning our future.

* We will do this through scholarship, oral history, exhibits, partnerships, our board of directors, our supporters and our friends. We are and will continue to be community builders.

* We recognize that our stories are unique but connected to those of other communities and we will support those interconnections. We will be integral to the cultural life of our area. We will partner with like-minded organizations. We will be proactive in our community. We will study and apply best practices in business, scholarship and communication.

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Letter from the President

October, 2020

Our work at the Springfield & Central Illinois African American History Museum (AAHM) over the past nine years has touched, informed, surprised, and educated many about African American History related to Springfield, Central Illinois, Illinois and our nation. It has only been possible because of members and friends like you that have consistently supported the AAHM.

As you know, we were closed due to COVID19 from March to August 2020 and only recently reopened with limited hours. We are now open Thursday through Friday, 12-4 pm and Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm. We are requiring masks, social distancing and practicing all the recommended safety guidelines. You must call and make an appointment to visit the Museum because of capacity guidelines.

We have worked to stay connected with you throughout this social distancing period by loading text, informational videos, and biographies on our website. You can still visit our website and see them.

We are in the process of finalizing an exhibit about the four oldest African American churches in Springfield. So, if you want to see our current exhibits, come by the Museum soon for we must take an exhibit down before we can put one up. The church exhibit should go up by the 1st of November.

For all those that became sponsors in our Virtual Fundraiser, this information will be posted on our website on October 29, 2020, the same day we had planned our annual fundraiser. We thank you and know that we sincerely appreciate your support. For those of you who have not donated, you still have time to go to our website and become a sponsor.

Stay safe, and God bless.

Nell R. Clay, President
AAHM Board of Directors



SMILE AMAZON.COM

Here is an easy way to have donations given to the museum. Do you buy from Amazon? Go to smile.amazon.com and find where you can select a charity.



\$200 million donated to charities

Shop at smile.amazon.com or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app to generate donations.
[amazonsmile](https://smile.amazon.com)

Designate Springfield African American History Foundation.

Amazon donates a percentage of each purchase to the museum without you doing anything else except feel good about how you, without paying a penny, were able to support the museum.

Thank you for your support!



is the quarterly newsletter of the Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum, 1440 Monument Avenue, Springfield, Illinois. Sue Massie, editor

AAHM Commemorates American Icons



By James Lewis

John Lewis grew up in rural Alabama. While in college in Nashville, he became a leader in the civil rights movement and the new organization, the Student Non-Violent Coordinating

Committee (SNCC). John's work for social justice drew him into the Freedom Rides (1961), into speaking at the March on Washington (1963), and into organizing the Voting Rights March from Selma to Montgomery (1965), leading to the Voting Rights Act.

John then became a Congressman from Atlanta, serving as the conscience of the Congress—and the country—for the remainder of his life. One of his last public acts: standing in appreciation of Black Lives Matter Plaza, next to the White House. John wrote *Walking With The Wind* about his early years and three graphic books about the March from Selma to Montgomery. He asked us all to seek out “good trouble,” as we stand with each other and try to make our world better for each other.

I met John Lewis—twice. For me, just talking with him briefly—among the highlights in my life! In 2014, John walked into the room, to speak at lunch at a United States Attorney's conference. Every United States Attorney got up, surrounded him, spoke with him, had a picture with him. For us, he was a shining light in the struggle for justice—our struggle. It took us a while to settle back down and listen to what he had to say—and what he had to say was powerful to us all.

What did I say that day when I spoke with him? I told him that I had three civil rights arrests in Mississippi (in 1965 and 1966) - these are badges of honor for civil rights workers. I said that I thought he had about 20. I underestimated him: he said it was about 40.

And then, in 2015, John came to the University of Illinois at Springfield, to talk about his graphic novels, providing the people's point of view about the voting rights struggle in Selma, Alabama. During dinner in the PAC, I got to talk with John about our colleagues in the struggle. I have a picture of the two of us talking, and I treasure this picture. After dinner, he spoke to a large and enthusiastic audience in the big auditorium, and he acknowledged me. He acknowledged me! I will always be touched by this moment of grace.

I loved meeting and talking with him. I love reading about him. He is my hero. He is America's hero, in America's fundamental struggle—to honor its ideals and its purpose.

NOTE: Jim Lewis was a civil rights worker and civil rights lawyer in Mississippi (1965-1973), the United States Attorney for Central Illinois (2101-2016), and is now Treasurer for AAHM.

By Kathryn Harris

Maya was right when she described a phenomenal woman and Ruth Bader Ginsburg (Notorious RBG) hit all the right notes. She and “The Notorious BIG”, Christopher Wallace/Biggie Smalls shared a thing or two in common: Both called Brooklyn, NY “home” and both made and changed history: The Notorious BIG in music and The Notorious RBG in law.



Although she was small in stature, she was a force to be reckoned with. Her service on the Supreme Court of the US (SCOTUS), from 1993 until her death on September 18, 2020, was phenomenal as well.

RBG was the second woman to be appointed to the Court and she often aligned herself with the more liberal justices. She wrote many of the significant majority opinions of the Court and was an advocate for gender equality and women's rights. Noteworthy cases which came before SCOTUS during her tenure included *US v Virginia* (VA Military Institute; women were admitted); *Ledbetter v Goodyear* (equal pay for women); *Roe v Wade* (abortion rights); and *Shelby County v Holder* (voting rights). She was also known for her dissenting opinions as in *Shelby County v Hunter* and *Burwell v Hobby Lobby* (contraceptive use).

RBG was first in her class at Columbia Law School and was a mother during this time; she taught at Rutgers Law School and her alma mater at a time when few women were law school faculty members. She was a huge opera fan; her relationship with SCOTUS Justice Antonin Scalia, her ideological opposite, was admirable.

Her wit and wisdom can be summarized in some of her quotes:

“It is not women's liberation; it is women's and men's liberation.”

“I try to teach through my opinions, through my speeches, how wrong it is to judge people on the basis of what they look like, color of their skin, whether they're men or women.”

“My law school class in the late 1950s numbered over 500. That class included less than 10 women.”

“My approach, I believe, is neither liberal nor conservative. Rather, it is rooted in ...our democratic society.”

“Fight for the things you care about but do it in a way that will lead others to follow you.”

To learn more about RBG, visit your local library or bookstore and watch the 2018 documentary, “On the Basis of Sex”.

So, what are YOU reading?

With this Newsletter issue, we are starting this column....

Board President Nell Clay is reading: Derrick Bell: *Faces at the Bottom of the Well* (1992)
And she recommends anything by E. Lynn Harris, an excellent fiction author; *Digital Fortress* (1998) by Dan Brown, who also wrote *The DaVinci Code* (2003); and Michael Eric Dyson: *Tears we cannot Stop* (2017)

Kathryn Harris, writer for this column, has a few books to recommend: Jeff Rosen: *Conversations with RBG* (2017)
Erica Armstrong Dunbar: *She came to Slay; the life and times of Harriet Tubman* (2019)
Colson Whitehead: *The Nickel Boys* (2019), a novel about a Southern reform school during segregation
Jon Meacham: *His Truth is Marching On; John Lewis and the Power of Hope* (2020)
Ibram X. Kendi: *How to be an antiracist* (2019)
Robin DiAngelo: *White Fragility; why it's so hard for white people to talk about racism* (2018)

Application for Our Town Grant

By Shannon Dewith-McCormack and Betsy Dollar

Each year the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) awards Our Town grants to fund artists-community collaborations that help strengthen communities by making systemic improvements in capacity building and using the arts and culture to advance economic, physical and social changes. We submitted our application in August 2020, requesting \$150k grant approval – this means NEA would award \$75k and the City, County and others would match with dollars and in-kind of at least \$75k. With the help of Senator Dick Durbin's office and many others – we submitted our application and look forward to the NEA's awards announcement April 2021. We will, of course, continue to keep the community informed and engaged. Below are excerpts from the application:

Lincoln's hometown has one of the largest income disparities between black and white residents in the country. The overall Black population is 19.9% with over 50% residing on the Eastside. 80% of Eastside homes are owner-occupied with 40% of those owned free and clear, 10% more than rest of city. However, it has Hypervacancy – 20% or more of the blocks have vacant lots or buildings. Black poverty rate is higher than all of the downstate Illinois cities studied in 2019, 41% for black residents, and 11% for white residents. The 10th Street railroad tracks physically divide the Eastside from downtown. Downtown is undertaking revitalization efforts and a new transportation center is planned for the area west of the tracks in 2025. Although conversations around holistic equitable redevelopment on the Eastside are happening there is a divided state of mind on how and where to begin. Disparities and inequities are evermore glaring by COVID19, and the angst and longing for justice has been reawakened by the social justice protests and dialogues. This is evidenced by the over 6,000 mostly masked diverse participants of the BLM car march and rallies, the near dozen online race conversations and book clubs, and the overwhelming cross-sectional input and support for this application. May 31st has been legally declared Black Lives Matter Day. Community residents are working to preserve 4 Eastside cultural sites: 1908 Race Riot excavation, the Colored Fire Station, the Dr. Taylor arts & science school for coloreds, and the Lincoln Colored Home. The community-driven Better

Angels Wayfinding plan (BA) will provide a creative way to connect Eastside cultural places and spaces to over 10 cultural sites downtown and across the city. The BA timeline coincides with redevelopment planning and preservation efforts already underway. This project allows us to turn the walls that divide us – physically and socially – into bridges that connect us.

Art heals. Telling one's story and being heard is healing and empowering. The key design component for every aspect of this project is the stories collected from the people. Documenting the ideas, experiences, challenges, hopes, and dreams, history and culture of Eastside residents will inform and drive the creative process for the artists/designers and the final products. Community approved jury-selected artists will collaborate with the community to develop a Better Angels Wayfinding plan (BA) that connects Eastside historic and significant spaces and places to the rest of town. This creative placemaking builds upon and fills the gap for current segregated development and preservation plans. A documentary film will combine community stories and history with BA plan generation and mural production. The target population is Eastside residents especially black males, and youth and young adults. Individually and collectively the projects give voice and agency to Eastside citizens in a permanent way and provides a space for arts/culture and history to heal, unify, and to influence and spur equitable economic development.

To not only give voice, but responsive ears and creative hearts will validate the experience and offer opportunities and avenues for awareness, change, social justice, significant physical improvement, and economic growth. Making the invisible visible, the core issues can be seen and actively addressed. The Eastside community is mighty and already organizing for change. Our partners represent a spectrum of age groups strengthened through relationships. Everyone wants to be heard and to be part of positive change. Everyone is ready for change; this is an opportunity to change toward a Better Angels Springfield.

The Springfield Better Angels Walls to Bridges project is but one steppingstone toward creating a sustainable hometown by intentionally focusing upon revitalizing our Eastside **with** the Eastside community. Not **for** the Eastside community.

Shine a Light Project

By Ken Page, President, Central 3 Community First Project, Inc.

The 501c3 “Central 3 Community First Project, Inc.” for the Prince Hall Masons of Central Lodge #3 received a grant from the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln. The project focuses attention on historic African American landmark buildings on Springfield’s near eastside. Three eastside historic landmarks are in great need of restoration. They are the First Black Firehouse, the Lincoln Colored Home, the Taylor House/ Ambidexter Institute for African American Children. Other buildings and sites of former buildings also have significance to our city’s Black history. This project will develop support for preservation of the landmark buildings and will generate public interest in renovating buildings throughout the neighborhood, helping to revitalize the area. Landmark African American Sites.

- Springfield’s Firehouse No. 5 stands as a memorial to the brave African American firefighters who served here and as a reminder of a racially segregated past. Because of this, Firehouse No. 5 is a part of the city’s history worth remembering and preserving. Built in 1902-03, it opened with horse-drawn fire wagons and was considered one of the best units in the town, being responsible for responding to fires east of 10th Street. Not all its history is pleasant, as it was the first firehouse to answer the alarm to extinguish the homes and businesses of black citizens that were torched by angry white mobs during the 1908 Race Riot. This riot led to the formation of the NAACP. This significant historic structure is now owned by Central Lodge #3 of the Prince Hall Masons, the oldest and longest continuously operating African American fraternal organization in Springfield, having been established in 1867.



- Eva Carroll Monroe (1868-1950) created and operated the Lincoln Colored Home, the first orphanage for African American children in Sangamon County, from 1904 until 1933. As of early 2019, the building, though empty and boarded up, still stood at 427 S. 12th St. in Springfield. It was a struggle to create the home and keeping it open never got any easier.

Monroe moved to Springfield from Kankakee in 1896 and went to work at the Prince Sanitarium, a private surgical facility at Seventh Street and Capitol Avenue, according to an application for historic designation on file at Lincoln Library. One day, the application says, “Mrs. Monroe ... spotted several ragged little children on the street. She took them into her own meager lodgings and determined to establish a safe haven for children such as they who were not welcome at the Home for the Friendless, (a) ‘whites only’ orphanage in existence at that time.”



- The historic John Wycliff Taylor House on the near-east side of Springfield (902 South 12th Street) is in critical condition and in need of restoration. The 20-room, two-story home on some 30 acres of unincorporated land, was built in 1856-7 by Judge John Wycliff Taylor, a contemporary of the Lincolns. Ten years later he sold the house, and it became the Ulrich Home for Fallen Women where hundreds of women and their children born out of wedlock were cared for and reintegrated into society. In 1901 the house became the Ambidexter Industrial and Normal Institute for African American children, modeled after the Tuskegee Institute. Arts and sciences were taught as well as domestic skills and period trades. A glee club and a literary society were formed. Funding, however, was always a struggle. The newly formed Institute was denied the use of a public-school building and so purchased the Taylor House. An addition was built to accommodate its growing enrollment.



VOTE, continued from pg.1

African Americans after the Civil War (1865- 1872)

In 1865, after the Civil War, the long process of Reconstruction began. Congress passed new laws to give African Americans freedom.

The 13 Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ratified in 1865 officially ended slavery.

(Section 1) Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

This section of the 13th Amendment was later used to create a new form of systematic slavery – a prison system of slaves. Blacks were arrested, fined, and placed in prisons in huge numbers for things for which Whites were not even arrested. These prison camps were run like slave camps.

The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ratified in 1868, granted citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in the United States, including former slaves, and guaranteed all citizens equal protection under the law

The 15th Amendment ratified in 1870 states: “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.”

Reconstruction.

During the 12 years following the Civil War and the abolition of slavery, former slaves made meaningful political, social, and economic gains. Black men voted and even held public office across the South. Biracial experiments in governance flowered and Black literacy surged, surpassing those of whites in some cities. Black schools, churches, and social institutions thrived.

As the prominent historian **Eric Foner** writes in his masterwork on Reconstruction, “Black participation in Southern public life after 1867 was the most radical development of the Reconstruction years, a massive experiment in interracial democracy without precedent in the history of this or any other country that abolished slavery in the nineteenth century.”

Many scholars have identified more than 1,500 African American officeholders during the Reconstruction Era. Historian **Canter Brown, Jr.** noted that in some states, such as Florida, the highest number of African Americans were elected or appointed to offices after 1876 and the end of Reconstruction.

But this moment in history was short-lived. Whites realized that the right to vote, gave Blacks too much power.

As **W.E.B. Du Bois** wrote, the “slave went free; stood a brief moment in the sun; then moved back again toward slavery.”

According to **Douglas Blackmon**, author of “Slavery by Another Name,” the choices made by Southern white supremacists after abolition, and the rest of the country’s accommodation, “explain more about the current state of American life, black and white, than the antebellum slavery that preceded.” The right to vote was systematically taken from Blacks.

Ways Blacks Were Kept From Voting

Violence - They were threatened, beaten, killed, homes burned down, lost their jobs and even forced from their homes.

Literacy Tests – Slaves were not allowed to learn how to read.

Property Tests – Only property owners could vote.

Grandfather Clause – If your grandfather voted then you could vote.

Purges – Names were purged from the voting role without notification.

Former Prisoners – Many Blacks were arrested on minor charges and given fines they could not pay, therefore they had a prison record and could not vote or were in jail and could not vote or could not pay fines.

Poll Tax – Poor Black and Whites could not afford the poll tax, therefore could not vote.


Black Codes - Black codes were restrictive laws designed to limit the freedom of African Americans and ensure their availability as a cheap labor force after slavery was abolished during the Civil War. Though the Union victory had given some 4 million slaves their freedom, the question of freed Blacks’ status in the postwar South was still very much unresolved. Under black codes, many states required blacks to sign yearly labor contracts; if they refused, they risked being arrested, fined, and forced into unpaid labor.

Black Code Examples

- could not rent or lease farmland
- could not testify against whites
- could not start their own business
- could not carry a weapon
- could not serve on a jury
- could not marry a white

Precursor to Jim Crow Laws

- literacy test
- poll tax
- grandfather clause



Designed to reverse black advances, [Redemption and the KKK](#) organized efforts with white merchants, planters, businessmen, and politicians that followed Reconstruction. They employed vicious racial violence and state legislation as tools to prevent Black citizenship and equality promised under the 14th and 15th amendments.

It was not until the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified in 1920 that women gained “equal” rights to vote as men. This still did not guarantee the right to vote for African American women

1965 Voting Rights Act – Guaranteed all citizens the right to vote. The voter suppression laws were declared illegal. Even after these Constitutional Amendments and Act were passed, access to voting became something to fight for, not a guaranteed right. Voter suppression was prevalent throughout our country and became the way to keep our voices from being heard. In 2020, many states are still practicing various means and methods of voter suppression.

See VOTE, pg.7

As Long As We Are Searching - They Are Not Forgotten

By Elizabeth Alexander

This statement is the heart's call of people who search for their roots, their ancestors, their beginnings. Genealogy is defined as "the actual search for ancestors and descendants with your pedigree being a single direct line backward from yourself." As a person who has been searching for years, I can testify to the excitement and joy researchers experience as we discover previously unknown facts about, and connections with, our ancestors and newly uncovered relationships.

There are many websites that can enable these discoveries and allow you to maintain a record of your family tree. Some of these are free and others cost: Family Search.org, FamilyTree, Ancestry.com, Archives.com, Findmypast.com, My Heritage.com, 23andMe.com, Ancestry DNA, and many more. My personal experience is with Ancestry, 23andMe and Family Search.org.

There are millions of records available through these websites: census records, slave records, marriage, divorce and birth records, street addresses, ethnic records and so much more. I, for one, am building this legacy for my descendants. It is said that in each family there is one person who catches the fire for this research and builds for others of their bloodline. The hope is that one day another family member will become intrigued enough to carry on the search.

Because of my genealogical research I now have a direct line back to my great-great-grandfather who was born in 1815 according to the 1870 census. I also discovered the fact, totally unknown to my family, that my great-grandfather had served in the Civil War as a member of the United States Colored

Troops. Documentation of his service has been provided to me. I also now have the name of the owner of my enslaved great-grandfather; further investigation must be done to obtain more information.

African Americans have a difficult time tracing their ancestry, distinct from their slave owners, because of the slave trade as millions of people were forced to leave their native lands and forfeit their own heritage. There are groups who search diligently to unveil their past enslaved history. There are websites also that are dedicated to the search for slave records. "I've Traced My Enslaved Ancestors and Their Owners" is on Facebook, as is Rootwork Genealogy. Searching the National Archives might also render some clues.

I took a genealogical trip to two counties in two different states and through research and surprise discovery was able to stand at two different areas of my ancestors' former residences. The past resonated in me in those moments as I stood there visualizing their lives. Genealogical research requires patience, diligence, persistence and devotion to your family origins. After having spent so much time researching, I feel a kinship to my ancestors that I would never have imagined prior to this exploration of their lives.

Why explore your Genealogy? It is an absorbing hobby, it educates you and your family about your ancestry, plus it gives you evidential testimony of your family's work, prayers and efforts that brought you to this point in your life. And finally, there is historical evidence you can hand down to your descendants for their enlightenment and encouragement about their family's history.

VOTE, continued from pg.6

Current Tactics Used to Keep People from Voting

- In most states former felons are not allowed to vote. Florida passed a law that allowed former felons to vote but then the legislature passed a second law requiring them to pay all past due fines prior to being allowed to vote.
- Purges – People are still being purged from the voter registry without notice.
- Reduction of polling places requiring people to stand in long lines and travel farther to vote.
- Government Issued IDs – Some require people to travel to special office and present a birth certificate and permanent address (temporary addresses are not valid) for an ID.
- Challenges to the validity of mail-in voting.

Illinois is not one of those states. In Illinois you can vote early. You can vote absentee ballot and you can request a mail-in ballot. You have no excuse.

There has been a long history of voter suppression in this country. The fact that the people in power are working hard to make it difficult to vote, should motivate you to vote.

I want to end this article with some of the words from the song, "Glory", because most people regardless of age, gender, or ethnicity have heard the words and understand and can relate to

them.

(with John Legend from "Selma" soundtrack)

[Chorus - John Legend:]

One day when the glory comes
It will be ours, it will be ours
One day when the war is won
We will be sure, we will be sure
Oh glory

[Common:]

Hands to the Heavens, no man, no weapon
Formed against, yes glory is destined
Every day women and men become legends
Sins that go against our skin become blessings
The movement is a rhythm to us
Freedom is like religion to us
Justice is juxtapositionin' us
Justice for all just ain't specific enough
One son died, his spirit is revisitin' us
Truant livin' livin' in us, resistance is us
That's why Rosa sat on the bus
That's why we walk through Ferguson with our hands up
When it go down we woman and man up
They say, "Stay down", and we stand up
Shots, we on the ground, the camera panned up
King pointed to the mountain top and we ran up.

VOTE LIKE YOUR LIFE AND THE LIFE OF ALL GENERATIONS TO COME DEPEND ON IT and "Get in some good trouble", John Lewis.

Initiative, continued from pg.1

Voter Registration Schedule

July 18, 2020 - 11am - 3 pm/ Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Kappa Sigma Zeta Chapter

July 21, 2020 - 3pm - 7pm/ Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Epsilon Sigma Sigma Alumnae Chapter

July 23, 2020 - 11:00 am to 2:00 pm/ Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc Springfield-Decatur Area Alumnae Chapter

July 25, 2020 - 12pm - 4pm/ Black Lives Matter

August 8, 2020 – 2pm-4 pm /League of Women Voters

August 15, 2020 - 1pm -3pm/ Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Nu Omicron Omega Chapter

September 12, 2020 – 12pm – 3pm./ Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity

September 22, 2020 - 5pm – 8pm/ Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Mu Delta Lambda Chapter

We thank each of the organizations that partnered with the Museum to hold voter registration opportunities, as well as the City of Springfield for providing Federal Census information. And thank you to everyone who came out to register, to donate, and to support the efforts in many important ways.



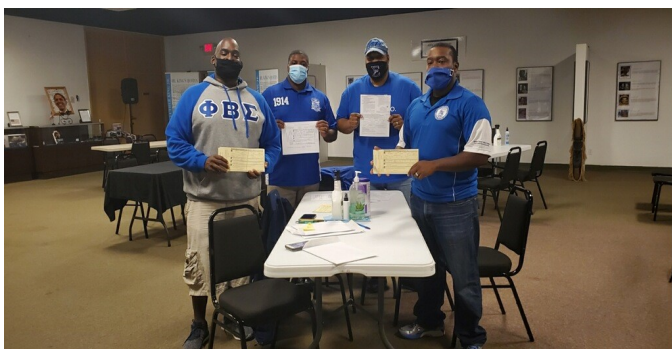
League of Women Voters holds Voter Registration.



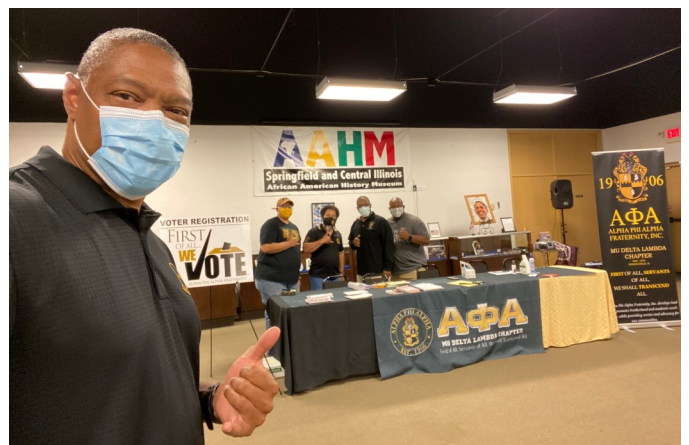
Black Lives Matter holds Voter Registration along with a school supply drive and hands out census information.



Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Kappa Sigma Zeta Chapter holds Voter Registration.



Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity holds Voter Registration.



Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Mu Delta Chapter holds Voter Registration.

Upcoming Events

**MUSEUM HOURS: ADJUSTED FOR COVID CONDITIONS.
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, NOON TO 4 P.M.; SATURDAYS 10A.M. TO 5 P.M.
MASK WEARING AND SOCIAL DISTANCING ARE REQUIRED
PLEASE CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR VISIT. 217.391-6323**

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

The world is transforming and finding new ways to engage while still practicing social distancing. Many organizations have turned to Zoom with friend meetups, board meetings, fundraisers, and even conferences. Here at the AAHM, we want to offer you free webinars in the upcoming months. There will be a range of topics and speakers to keep our members and community engaged and learning about local African American history, both present and past. We may have an appearance from Elizabeth Keckley or Sojourner Truth. Possible topics are also the "Great Migration" and Sundown Towns. Watch our Facebook page and website for all the details. If you have a topic you wish to see or know a speaker that might be engaging, please contact Jamie Stout at 217.719.0276 or jstout@alplm.org.

SECRET POSTCARD EXHIBIT

The Springfield & Central Illinois African American History needs your help and help from your friends and even your enemies to develop an exhibit for 2021. We want you to anonymously share your deepest secret thoughts on racism, civil rights, discrimination, harassment, or any related topic. This is called the **Secret Postcard Exhibit** because we do not want you to include your name on the postcard. The only identifier required is your age, gender, and ethnicity.

We want you to be unapologetically honest and reflect your deepest concern, darkest thoughts, brightest hopes, and everything in between. This deeply personal expression should be candid and authentically yours. You are welcome to send more than one postcard. We hope to get at least 1000 post cards.

There are postcards available at the Museum for you to complete or you can be creative and make your postcard. We do reserve the right not to display post cards that include profanity or that do not include the required identifiers. You may mail your postcards to P. O. Box 301, Springfield, IL 62705 or bring it to the Museum at 1440 Monument Dr., Springfield, IL 62702.

FOUR OLDEST AFRICAN AMERICAN CHURCHES IN SPRINGFIELD

Currently, we are finalizing an exhibit on the four oldest African American Churches in Springfield. As you know we had to cancel the National Negro Baseball League exhibit but it has been rescheduled for April 2021. More details will be forthcoming.

WHAT ARE YOUR IDEAS FOR NEW PROGRAMS AND EXHIBITS?

The Program Committee for the AAHM is looking forward to 2021 and would like to hear from you. The committee would like to know what programs and exhibits you would want to see at the Museum. We would also love to have you assist in planning and developing programs and exhibits. As we plan in this environment of the coronavirus, we know that most of our programs, at least at the beginning of 2021, will be virtual. Please email us at siaahf@yahoo.com with your ideas NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 1, 2020.



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