

AVERY

WINTER 2016

MESSENGER

#PRAY4CHARLESTON



A Publication of the

AVERY RESEARCH CENTER

FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

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Printed by Nelson Printing

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MESSAGE FROM
President Glenn F. McConnell '69
College of Charleston

This summer was unlike any summer we've experienced. A storm came into Charleston on a fateful night in June that would change the lives of many and the fabric of our city for years to come. On June 17, 2015, Cynthia Hurd, a beloved librarian at the College, had her life taken from her, along with eight other remarkable individuals in the tragic shootings at Emanuel AME Church, located just a few blocks away from the heart of our campus.

In the aftermath of that horrific event, we—the people of Charleston—decided not to let the violent act of one define us and turn us into something we are not. Instead, all of Charleston came together in unity and grace and made a conscious decision not to tarnish the memories of the Emanuel 9, but rather honor the victims for who they truly were by embracing each other with kindness, love, and forgiveness. By not being pulled into the hate and dark that was the evil act of one, we emerged from the storm and are able to stand in the light and walk by faith toward things not seen.

It's wonderful that many corporate sponsors are taking this walk with us, particularly Google, Denny's, and Boeing. I look forward to seeing the goodness and substantive change that will come from the discussions on race that will be hosted by the College and take place over the next year. I am pleased the Avery Research Center will have a primary role in this education initiative. The Avery Research Center is a point of pride for the College of Charleston and an important academic resource for the Lowcountry, the state, and the nation.

My congratulations to all who work at/or are affiliated with the Avery Research Center on the 150th anniversary of the Avery Institute and the 30th anniversary of the Avery Research Center. I look forward to celebrating more Avery milestones with our campus and Charleston communities.



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AVERY RESEARCH CENTER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PATRICIA WILLIAMS LESSANE, PHD

Greetings Friends,

Welcome to the New Year! In 2015, we celebrated the long and fruitful legacies of both the Avery Normal Institute and the Avery Research Center. It was full of informative public lectures and dynamic physical and online exhibitions. We developed and produced *The South Carolina Black History Bugle* on behalf of the South Carolina Department of Education, extending our reach throughout the state. We also raised \$150,000 in corporate and individual support to commemorate the sesquicentennial anniversary of the Avery Normal Institute that culminated with an electric evening honoring radio personality and philanthropist, Tom Joyner. We truly had cause to celebrate last year.

But we also had cause to mourn, to reflect, and to plan our way forward after losing nine of our beloved Charlestonians, including the College of Charleston's very own Cynthia Hurd. The terrorist attack on the Emanuel 9 was a wake up call for all of us. It revealed the collective work we all must do in order to make this country a welcoming place of equal opportunity for everyone—whether natural born or naturalized. If we are to have a brighter future, it is incumbent upon each of us to do our parts.

The Avery Research Center will continue to serve as a beacon for the College of Charleston and local Charleston communities. Through a generous grant from Google, we established the Race and Social Justice Initiative last fall. This funding has allowed us to continue the work that we outlined in our 2012-15 Strategic Vision for the Avery Research Center. This spring, we will bring two social justice giants to campus—Marian Wright Edelman, author and president of the Children's Defense Fund; and Bryan Stevenson, author of *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* and founder of the Equal Justice Initiative.

In closing, I'd like to thank all of our donors and supporters, but especially Ms. Brenda Lauderback (Denny's), Mr. Mark Lattanzio (SunTrust Bank), Mr. Omar Rambaran (SunTrust Bank), Ms. Cathy Boags (Avery Institute Board), Mr. John Buncum (Avery Institute Board), Mr. John Dillon (Denny's), Mr. Tom Joyner (Tom Joyner Foundation), Mr. John Busch (College of Charleston Board of Trustees), and Mr. and Mrs. Keith Waring (City of Charleston, Mayor Pro Tem) for their philanthropic leadership and belief in all that we do here at the Avery Research Center.

Happy New Year!

pwl



AVERY INSTITUTE
PRESIDENT
JOHN BUNCUM

Dear Friends,

I hope you and yours have had a joyous holiday season. On behalf of all of us on the Avery Board of Directors, I would like to wish each of you a very prosperous 2016. Our annual meeting was held on June 13, 2015. The thrust of this meeting was a panel discussion on "The History of Avery—150 Years", moderated by Dr. Marlene O'Bryant-Seabrook with panelists including former Avery Institute student and teacher, Mrs. Cynthia McCottry-Smith; Avery graduate and the first Avery Institute President, the Honorable Lucille S. Whipper; and the College of Charleston's Dr. Bernard Powers. I would like to thank each of our members for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend the annual meeting. This gathering kicked off our sesquicentennial anniversary celebration.

The 2015-2016 Board of Directors was also installed at this meeting. Joining the board this year are Rick Gutowski, Roslyn Harper, and Charles McKenzie. We are grateful to each of them for the offer of their time, talent, and resources to the Avery Board. We would also like to thank the returning board members for their continued service.

The Avery Institute Board held its first meeting after the summer break on Monday, August 31, 2015. Officers elected were President, John Buncum; Vice President, Barbara Nelson; Treasurer, Roslyn Harper; and Secretary, Vanessa Richardson.

On September 10, 2015, we continued our sesquicentennial celebration with a reception at the Avery Research Center. The reception was well attended by our members and former Avery students. The 3 Mo~La~Dic Divas+1 provided the entertainment. Special thanks to all on the sesquicentennial committee and all of the board members who took on extra responsibilities to make this event possible. Last but not least, thanks to all of the members and former Avery students for supporting the event financially and physically with their attendance.

The Avery Research Center continued the celebration two weeks later on September 26, 2015 with a fundraising reception commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Avery Institute along with the 30th anniversary of the Avery Research Center. Radio personality and philanthropist Tom Joyner was honored and was the first recipient of the Septima P. Clark Award for Excellence in Black Education. Hats off to Dr. Patricia Williams Lessane and the staff at the Avery Research Center for the first-class job they did on this event, and kudos to all of you for helping the Avery Research Center achieve their fundraising goal. Your contributions to the Avery Institute were instrumental to that feat.

Again this year, the Avery Institute Board will work to promote the Avery Research Center's effort to collect and display more archival collections donated by the local community. We will also work with the Avery Research Center as it develops partnerships with other archival centers and institutions.

Finally, as this is the first opportunity I have had to address you as the Board's President, I would like to express my gratitude for the confidence that my fellow board members have placed in me to guide the work of our Avery Institute Board. It is indeed an honor and a privilege for me to serve and represent you, the members of the Avery Institute. I will strive to continue the work of my predecessors to achieve the success and well-being of the Avery Institute and the Avery Research Center.

Thank you again for your continued support of the Avery Institute and the Avery Research Center.

AVERY ARCHIVES NEWS

An Interview with Barrye Brown Reference and Outreach Archivist

In August 2015, Barrye Brown joined the College of Charleston Library staff as Reference and Outreach Archivist at the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture. Below is an interview with Barrye upon her arrival.



Ms. Barrye Brown

CAN YOU TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOUR PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND?

I have a BA degree in History from Dillard University, a MA degree in Atlantic World History with a focus on African-Atlantic Diaspora from Rice University, and a MSLS degree with a concentration in Archives and Records Management from UNC-Chapel Hill. Prior to coming to the College of Charleston, I worked as a Carolina Academic Library Associate for the Southern Historical Collection and the Stone Center Library at UNC-Chapel Hill.

WHAT LED YOU TO A CAREER IN THE ARCHIVAL PROFESSION?

My journey to the archival profession really stems from my love of history, particularly African-American history and culture. My grandmother, who was born in Georgia in 1909, inspired that passion. She raised me and told me a number of stories about growing up as a Black woman in the South—traveling with her father, who was a minister teaching at all-Black schools; how she met Zora Neale Hurston while her father was working at Selma University—rich, colorful stories about her everyday lived experiences that made history tangible and accessible. I wasn't hearing these stories in school, and I wanted to make sure these kinds of stories would be told widely. As such, I continued to pursue my interest in African-American history while in undergraduate and graduate school. As I was conducting research as a graduate student, I happened to have a conversation with an archivist about my desire to preserve African-American history. She asked if I'd ever thought about pursuing a career in archives. From there, I reached out to professors and archival professionals to obtain more information and guidance for entering the archival profession. Fast-forward a few years, and here I am.

CAN YOU TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOUR ROLE AT THE AVERY RESEARCH CENTER?

As Reference and Outreach Archivist, I am responsible for public services operations and work as part of a team to support research, teaching, and learning at the College of Charleston. I help facilitate research, as well as promote Avery Research Center's unique archival holdings. Most days, I am in the Phillis Wheatley Literary and Social Club Reading Room helping people on their research journeys; but I can also be seen out and about in Charleston participating in a number of outreach activities.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF WORKING AT THE AVERY RESEARCH CENTER?

For me, I really love that I get to work at an archives whose mission promotes the collecting of materials from diverse and underrepresented groups. The collections at the Avery Research Center provide critical insight into the African-American experience, not only in the Lowcountry, but also throughout the African Diaspora. Reflecting back on my upbringing and my grandmother's stories, the collections at the Avery Research Center represent the untold narratives of local African Americans that are largely overlooked in the broader historical narrative of the United States. Many of the collections have been donated by local Charlestonians, so I have greatly enjoyed the many opportunities to speak directly to donors and researchers about their family histories and lived experiences in Charleston and abroad. As a recent arrival to the city, these daily conversations and interactions have taught me so much about Charleston in such a short period of time. Another great thing about working at the Avery Research Center is my colleagues. As a new archival professional, I sincerely appreciate the guidance, encouragement, and support I have received thus far. Their professional advice and insights, as well as institutional knowledge, help me immensely in my day-to-day responsibilities as Reference and Outreach Archivist.

ANY EARLY IMPRESSIONS OF CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA YOU WISH TO SHARE?

Charleston is a lovely city, rich in history with a very distinct regional culture. Coming from the Gulf Coast (Mobile, Alabama), I'm finding the weather is pretty similar to what I'm accustomed to, though the flooding here is so much worse than back home. I'm having a great time so far learning more about Charleston's history, the food and culture, and getting to know the people of the "Holy City".

ANYTHING ELSE YOU WISH TO ADD?

I'd like to invite everyone to stop by the Avery Research Center to not only say "hello" but also to learn more about African-American history in the Lowcountry. As an archive, museum, and space for community and public programming, the Avery Research Center has a long history of providing educational opportunities to the College of Charleston campus and the larger Charleston community, as well as national and international visitors.



(l-r) Barrye Brown assisting patrons Charles Randolph-Wright and Julia-Ellen C. Davis

DIGITAL LIBRARY NEWS

MATERIAL FROM THE FOLLOWING COLLECTIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON THE LOWCOUNTRY DIGITAL LIBRARY:

- The Somebody Had to Do It Collection (video and oral histories):
<http://lcdl.library.cofc.edu/content/somebody-had-do-it>
- The Walter Pantovic Collection (slavery and African-American historical documents and photos):
<http://lcdl.library.cofc.edu/content/walter-pantovic-slavery-and-african-american-history-collection>
- The Avery Normal Institute Memorabilia Collection (photographs and memorabilia):
<http://lcdl.library.cofc.edu/content/avery-normal-institute>

The Avery Research Center is pleased to announce that, in partnership with the Lowcountry Digital Library (LCDL) at the College of Charleston, we received a major grant in 2015 from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) for an eighteen-month project to digitize archival collections that document the history of twentieth-century civil rights activism in Charleston and the surrounding Lowcountry region. The materials selected for this project provide valuable insight into nationally significant civil rights leaders from South Carolina, such as Septima P. Clark, Bernice Robinson, Cleveland Sellers, and others. They also document organizations and clubs in the Charleston area that shaped civil rights activism in South Carolina and beyond. Through this digitization project, the Avery Research Center and LCDL will increase access to materials that greatly enhance scholarly and public understanding of leaders, networks, and strategies that shaped the twentieth-century civil rights movement on the local and national level. Once digitized, these materials will be available through the Avery Research Center Collections in the Lowcountry Digital Library: <http://lcdl.library.cofc.edu/content/avery-research-center>.

Work will begin on our NHPRC grant in January 2016. Some of the collections will be inaccessible during this period and researchers should contact the archives to be sure materials are available.



The Somebody Had to Do It Collection: First Children of Integration in Charleston School Dist. #20, 1963, Charleston, SC, Isaiah DeQuincey Newman Papers, courtesy of the S.C. Political Collections, U.S.C.

RECENT DONATIONS

MRS. ELIZABETH POINSETTE-FISHER—CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Avery Normal Institute Memorabilia, including photographs of the 1920 Avery Institute senior class; ten-karat gold Avery ring (1920); Avery satin gym shirt (#17) and shorts; blue cotton gym shirt; gold satin bomber jacket (#15); gold satin pants with blue trim and lower zippered legs; blue wool felt pants with gold piping trim and lower zippered legs.

MR. WILLIAM SMYTH—CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Six (6) audio cassette tapes of Sea Island music and culture by/or from Ron and Natalie Daise.

MR. GEORGE E. FRIERSON, III—ALCOLU, SOUTH CAROLINA

Photocopied documents (court documents, letters, photographs, and newspaper articles) pertaining to the case of George Stinney, Jr. In 1944 at the age of fourteen years old, Stinney was the youngest person in America to be executed by the electric chair in Columbia, South Carolina. The donation also includes photographic images from the "Rededication of Hope Stone", July 11, 2015.

MR. MARION WASHINGTON—CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Twelve (12) black and white photographs of Longshoremen in Charleston, South Carolina, circa 1940-1980s.

MR. SAM COOPER—AUSTIN, TEXAS

Framed Avery Normal Institute diploma and graduation booklet (1938) issued to Julius Raymond Cooper.

REVEREND SIDNEY DAVIS—CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Documents, architectural blueprints, and photographs created by Zion-Olivet Presbyterian Church members (134 Cannon Street, Charleston, South Carolina). Donation also includes documents and photographs generated by "The Joseph Project", a youth mentoring program, circa 1995.

MR. CORNELIUS E. MACBETH—CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Four (4) color photocopied documents pertaining to Dr. Robert MacBeth. Documents include a marriage certificate, newspaper clippings of funeral notices, and "Deaths" page from family Bible.

PUBLIC HISTORY INITIATIVES

by Mary Battle, PhD

CELEBRATING A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE!

2015 was an important year at the Avery Research Center. The Avery Research Center is located in the historic building that once housed the Avery Normal Institute, which served as a hub for Charleston's African-American communities from 1865-1954. 2015 marked the 150th anniversary of this influential school's opening, as well as the 30th anniversary of the Avery Research Center, established at the College of Charleston in 1985.

To commemorate these significant anniversaries, the Avery Research Center hosted numerous events and lectures throughout the year. These events began with a public



Tom Joyner, Sr. receiving the Septima P. Clark Award for Excellence in Black Education. (l-r) Dr. Patricia Williams Lessane and Tom Joyner, Sr. Photo by Hakim Abdul-Ali

reception in September 2015 sponsored by the Avery Institute Board to celebrate the various community members and organizations that have supported their philanthropic efforts over the years. Also in September, the Avery Research Center hosted a fundraising event featuring radio host Tom Joyner as a special guest. This reception concluded with the Avery Research Center successfully reaching and surpassing its 150th anniversary fundraising goal of \$150,000.

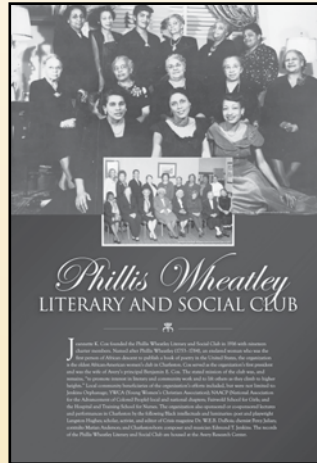
On October 31, 2015, the Avery Research Center held a public reception to commemorate the history of the Avery Normal Institute and the Avery Research Center. The event featured the Honorable Lucille Whipper, an alumna of the Avery Institute, a former South Carolina State Representative, and a former President of the Avery Institute Board; Dr. Bernard Powers, a Professor of History at the College of Charleston who spoke about the historical significance of the Avery Normal Institute in Charleston and South Carolina; and Ms. Leila Potts-Campbell, a former associate director of the Avery Research Center and daughter of Avery's last principal, Mr. John F. Potts.

BROWN BAG SERIES 2015

In addition to the commemorative events, the Avery Research Center hosted a number of presentations that emphasized the importance of Black education. For example, highlights from the ongoing monthly Brown Bag Series included a presentation from Dr. Jon Hale, a professor of Educational Studies at the College of Charleston, who discussed the influential life of Ms. Lois Simms, a graduate of the Avery Normal Institute in 1937 and a teacher in the 1940s and 1950s. Dr. Marlene O'Bryant-Seabrook, another Avery alumna, also delivered a presentation on her work as a lifelong educator in Charleston, and displayed quilts that demonstrate her tremendous accomplishments as an artist and a teacher.

TEXT PANEL PROJECT

Finally, with generous support from the Avery Institute Board and SunTrust Bank, the Avery Research Center staff launched a project to update signage throughout the building and revamp the permanent exhibition in the Nineteenth-Century Classroom. The current exhibition provides an overview of Avery's history as a school and research center, and features



New text panel for the Phillis Wheatley Literary and Social Club Reading Room

highlights of photographs and documents from the Avery Research Center's archives. Working with the cultural resource firm Brockington and Associates, the Avery Research Center will soon feature an update of this exhibition that expands on the current exhibition and displays durable, visually engaging exhibition panels. New signage throughout the building will improve the tour experience for the thousands of visitors who come to the site each year. This exhibition and signage update project is scheduled to open to the public in 2016.

ANNOUNCING THE COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON'S RACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE

In July 2015, the Avery Research Center, Addlestone Library, African American Studies, and the Lowcountry Digital History Initiative (LDHI) at the College of Charleston received a major grant from Google to launch the Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI) in response to recent tragic events in the Charleston area, including the shooting death of Walter Scott by a police officer in April 2015 and the mass shooting at the Emanuel AME Church in June 2015. The mission of RSJI is to promote public awareness and dialogue about race and social justice issues in the Charleston area, the state of South Carolina, and beyond. With support from Google and various cosponsors and community partners, RSJI is working with numerous entities to facilitate public events, exhibitions, and various projects that advocate awareness of the history and ongoing struggles of racial injustice in Charleston, South Carolina and throughout the United States. Please see the Avery Research Center Spring 2016 Calendar for upcoming RSJI events. As new events and projects develop through RSJI, the project team will continue to update this page under "Programs" on the Avery Research Center's Website:

<http://avery.cofc.edu/programs/the-race-and-social-justice-initiative/>.

Partners: The Coastal Community Foundation, Charleston County Public Library, SunTrust Bank, the International African American Museum (IAAM), the Women's Resource Project, Inc., the Sophia Institute, and the Phillis Wheatley Literary and Social Club (PWLSC)

2015 SUMMER
INTERN'S
REFLECTION

WITNESSING HISTORY

by Jazmin Isaacs

As the 2015 Stanford/Avery Research Center Summer Intern, I expected I would be engaging with several types of historical media, places, and programs. However, what I did not anticipate was witnessing history in the making, yet that is exactly what happened when I arrived days after the shooting at the Emanuel AME Church. Through this event, I began to see history not as linear or stagnant, but as a living thing from which I had the privilege of experiencing and learning.

Fortunately, at the Avery Research Center, I was exposed to wonderful people who already had this mindset and who wholeheartedly believe that history, specifically African-American history, is something that requires active engagement. At the Avery Research Center, this means community outreach—such as special programming, tours, and preserving collections for later public access. Without efforts like these, the valuable context and information that historical materials provide can be forgotten. I saw firsthand what can happen when a community ignores or does not acknowledge segments of history; it can lead to conflict between past and present.

Charleston, especially, is characterized by these conflicts. During my stay, I witnessed Confederate flags used on protest signs in acts of defiance as well as on country music T-shirts in acts of celebration. I saw ancestral burial sites that are now parking lots, and a slave plantation that used to be a hot wedding destination. All of these are examples of tensions between a Charleston with one foot in the slave trade and the Confederacy and a Charleston trying to move forward. However, progress takes time; and as my tenure at the Avery Research Center showed me, true progress cannot happen until we continue to tell and respect the stories of race relations in the past: the stories of the flag, of those plantations, and of our ancestors. If nothing else, I learned progress ultimately comes when we begin to see history as anything but past.



Ms. Jazmin Isaacs



The Stanford University/Avery Research Center Summer Internship Program allows Stanford undergraduate students to gain professional training and hands-on experience in transcribing and processing archival collections and oral histories by working in the Avery Research Center archives. Our Stanford University summer intern for 2015 was Ms. Jazmin Isaacs, who joined us after completing her first year at Stanford University. During the internship, Jazmin inventoried and organized The Charleston Chronicle/Jim French Photograph Collection. Once again, we thank Dr. Harry J. Elam, Jr. (Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, Professor in the Humanities at Stanford University) for his continued support of the Stanford University/Avery Research Center partnership!

CONGRATULATIONS!

CONSEULA FRANCIS, PhD



Dr. Conseula Francis was appointed as the Associate Provost for Curriculum and Institutional Resources in 2015. Prior to joining the Office of the Provost, Francis was the Director of the African American Studies Program and an Associate Professor of English at the College of Charleston. Francis earned a PhD in English from the University of Washington in 2002. Conseula Francis's teaching discipline was African-American literature. Her book, *Conversations with Octavia Butler*, was published by University Press of Mississippi in 2009 and was nominated for a 2011 Locus Award. She has also written articles on the Harlem Renaissance, race and superhero comics, fanfiction, and urban erotica. Her teaching and research interests include Black intellectual thought in the twentieth century, the African-American novel, Black science fiction, Black romance, and comic books.

NO SANCTUARY IN CHARLESTON

by Patricia Williams Lessane, PhD

Excerpts reprinted from The New York Times, June 18, 2015

Today [June 18, 2015] Charleston, nicknamed the Holy City, is in mourning. We are still dealing with [April's] shooting of an unarmed black man in a northern suburb; and in the hours since this latest shooting, many of us in the African-American community were left asking: Is there any sanctuary left? [F]or a while things were good. But then Trayvon Martin was gunned down in Florida, and almost instantly black people seemed to be under attack. Then came the police shootings of Michael Brown, Tamir Rice[,] and Walter Scott—[Scott's happening] just a few miles away[...]in North Charleston—revealing the threat of violence we face every day. And this month we saw the footage of teenagers being manhandled by the police in Texas and Ohio.

Churches have historically provided a bulwark against such violence, especially here in the Deep South. From the “hush harbors” where enslaved Africans would steal away to worship, to the spirited praise houses that were once the spiritual cornerstone of Charleston’s Gullah community, to the hidden passageways on the Underground Railroad, to the church basements that doubled as strategic operation centers during the civil rights movement [in the mid-twentieth century], the black church has always been the one place where we most often felt protected and nurtured. Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church played all those roles in Charleston. Called the Mother [Emanuel] Church, it was founded in 1816 and was an important site in black Charleston’s struggle for liberation.

YET EVEN THIS CHURCH COULDN'T PROVIDE SANCTUARY FROM HATE.

On Wednesday, Mother Emanuel lost its leader, the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, and eight of its members. Not since the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, [AL] almost 52 years ago, which left four little girls dead, have we experienced such pain and loss on this level at one of our churches. I can't help but think of this senseless act of terror, the largest mass shooting in the country since 2013, within the historical context of the Birmingham bombing, but also within the very current context of the increasing terror we African-Americans [sic] face on a daily basis.



Rev. Clementa
Pinckney

This daily threat of terror does not exist within a vacuum. It looms within the growing prison-industrial state, against the backdrop of school-reform debates, [and] our slow movement toward gun reform. What comes next.[sic] We must, of course, honor the spirits of Clementa Pinckney and of my friend Cynthia Hurd, a veteran librarian who loved books and encouraged all children to read, and of the seven other victims. We must also resist the comfortable fiction that, whatever racial turmoil exists elsewhere, genteel Charleston is a place of calm. The killing of Walter Scott showed otherwise; Wednesday's mass murder must spur us to action. We must do more than acknowledge the fact that, for all our legal advances, I can walk into any number of Charleston's finest restaurants and not see anyone who looks like me.

That means committing ourselves[...]to fixing the systemic barriers—in education, employment and housing—to black upward mobility that make it virtually impossible for poor African-American children to ever catch up with their white counterparts.



Cynthia Hurd

HISTORICAL TIMELINE: E

1791: A coalition of free and enslaved Black worshippers form the first congregation. They were initially members of Charleston's white Methodist Episcopal Church.

1816: Breaking away from the white Methodist Episcopal church, the Rev. Morris Brown and others start the process of forming Black churches in Charleston.

1818: The Hampstead Church opens at the corner of Reid and Hanover streets.

1822: One of the church's founders, Denmark Vesey, is executed along with dozens of others for plotting a slave rebellion. In the aftermath, the church is burned.

1834: Following a ban on all-Black churches, its congregation meets in secret.

1865: With the end of the Civil War, the church is formally reorganized under the name Emanuel.



EMANUEL AME AND DENMARK VESEY

Excerpts reprinted from *The New York Times Magazine* article, "Before Charleston's Church Shooting, A Long History of Attacks" by Douglas R. Egerton, June 18, 2015

"... Reports of yesterday's [June 17, 2015] tragedy have invariably noted that an earlier incarnation of the Emanuel Church was home to Denmark Vesey, a lay minister who was one of the church's founders, but the connections between Vesey, the congregation's long history of activism and the events of June 17 run far deeper than that.

A practicing Presbyterian, Vesey was outraged by the pro-slavery brand of Christianity preached from the city's pulpits. White ministers were advised to lecture their black congregants on "their duties and obligations" and [to] avoid troublesome stories, like the exodus out of Egypt, or Christ's sermons on human brotherhood. When 4,376 black Methodists quit their white-controlled church in protest over the elders' decision to construct a hearse house—a garage—over a black cemetery, Vesey was an early convert [to the AME church]. As a carpenter, he may even have assisted in constructing the first Emanuel Church, which stood not far from the present building.

The African Church, as black Charlestonians called it, promptly attracted the animosity of the authorities. As a lay minister, Vesey, in his off hours, taught congregants to read and write—a violation of the state's ban on black literacy. State and city ordinances allowed for [black people] to worship only in daylight hours and only with a majority of white congregants. City authorities raided the church in 1818, arresting and whipping 140 "free Negroes and Slaves," one of them presumably Vesey. In 1819[,] they again shuttered the church, and in 1820 the City Council warned the Rev. Morris Brown not to allow his church to become "a school for slaves."

President Jean-Pierre Boyer of Haiti had recently placed advertisements in American newspapers, urging free blacks to bring their tools and skills and start life anew in his black republic. So, meeting in Vesey's Bull Street home and within the walls of the Emanuel, Vesey and his lieutenants called for domestic slaves to kill their masters in their beds and fight their way to the docks, where they would seize ships and sail south. Originally, the plan was set for July 14, 1822—Bastille Day—but the plot began to unravel, and Vesey moved the plans forward to the night of June 16. The uprising would begin when the city's churches tolled midnight, meaning that the actual black exodus out of Charleston would take place on June 17. Either the shooter in Charleston yesterday knew the importance of this date, or the selection of June 17 was a ghastly coincidence.

Continued on page 10

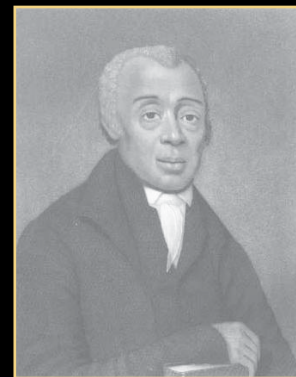
THE AME CHURCH CELEBRATING 200 YEARS (1816–2016)

The African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church grew out of the Free African Society (FAS) established by Richard Allen, Absalom Jones, and others in Philadelphia, PA in 1787.

The FAS members were stunned into action, realizing just how far white American Methodists would go to enforce racial discrimination after several FAS members were pulled off of their knees during prayer by officials at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

We had not been long upon our knees before I heard considerable scuffling and loud talking. I raised my head up and saw one of the trustees having hold of the Rev. Absalom Jones, pulling him off his knees, and saying, 'You must get up; you must not kneel here.' Mr. Jones replied, 'Wait until prayer is over, and I will get up and trouble you no more.' With that he beckoned to one of the trustees to come to his assistance. He came and went to William White to pull him up. By this time prayer was over, and we all went out of the church in a body, and they were no more plagued by us in the church.

-From the autobiography, The Life, Experience, and Gospel Labours of the Rt. Rev. Richard Allen



Richard Allen

In 1787, Richard Allen and others of African descent withdrew from St. George's and purchased a blacksmith shop, converting it into a church from where they worshipped and assisted members of their community. The new church was named Bethel.

In 1816, Allen called together sixteen representatives from Bethel African Church and other national African churches to an organizing meeting in Philadelphia.

Rev. Morris Brown of Charleston attended the meeting. Following that, the African Methodist Episcopal Church was organized, with Richard Allen as its first bishop.

EMANUEL AME CHURCH



1872: A wooden two-story church is built at the current site on Calhoun Street (formerly Boundary Street) in downtown Charleston.

1886: An earthquake devastates the church building.

1891: The current church building is constructed in a Gothic Revival style. It includes the original altar, communion rail, and other elements.

1909: Booker T. Washington speaks at the church.

1951: The brick structure is restored and redecorated; stucco is applied to the facade.

1962: The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. speaks at the church.

1985: It is added to the National Register of Historic Places.

EMANUEL AME AND DENMARK VESEY

As was too often the case, a handful of nervous bondmen informed their masters of what was afoot. In the aftermath of the failed plot, Vesey and dozens of his lieutenants were executed, and city authorities razed the church. Robert Vesey, Denmark's son, rebuilt Emanuel at its current location in 1865. After the pine structure was destabilized by an earthquake in the 1880s, congregants rebuilt the church that exists today. Even as white Americans forgot the story of Denmark Vesey, his struggle, and that of his church, lived on in the black memory. Frederick Douglass invoked his name during the Civil War, and in later years, the church honored his commitment to civil rights by hosting activists, including the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. In 1963, the church sponsored a peaceful protest march for civil rights, which city authorities dubbed a "negro riot" and called in state troops to put down.

More recently, the church, and particularly [Clementa] Pinckney himself, worked tirelessly to memorialize Vesey. Charleston is crammed with countless monuments and markers dedicated to white Carolinians, most of them slaveholders[;] but until last year, there was nothing to adequately mark the black struggle for freedom and equality. Pinckney was instrumental in funding the statue of Vesey that was finally erected in February 2014.

How We Commemorate Our Past

MONUMENTS ARE SYMBOLS OF A SIGNIFICANT TIME IN HISTORY AND SPECIFIC REMINDERS REPRESENTING LIFE, DEATH, SUCCESS, AND STRUGGLE. THEY HAVE THE POWER TO BRING HISTORY ALIVE TO NEW GENERATIONS.

"ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY years ago...America ratified the 13th Amendment, abolishing slavery throughout the country. It was a momentous victory. But it also prompted a protracted campaign to whitewash how slavery would be remembered, one waged in Southern parks and squares, on the region's university campuses and statehouse grounds...

"The Charleston massacre in June provoked serious conversations about how we commemorate our past..."

"Finally this year, after the Confederate sympathizer Dylann Roof murdered nine black worshipers in Charleston, SC, protesters began to demand the removal of proslavery memorials and flags from the commemorative landscape. This movement has now spread beyond the South and beyond the issue of slavery, as students from Bowdoin, Princeton and other schools have pushed their institutions to rethink the honors they have bestowed upon prominent racists...

"...Charleston's monument to Denmark Vesey—a former slave who plotted an unsuccessful 1822 slave insurrection—highlights the brutality of antebellum slavery as well as the lengths to which the enslaved would go to win their freedom...

"The campaign for a Vesey monument underscores the difficulty of memorialization projects rooted in a frank assessment of slavery. Advocates struggled to overcome fierce opposition for nearly two decades; they succeeded in 2014 only after agreeing not to place the memorial in a prominent city square, opposite the Calhoun monument, but in a park on the edge of Charleston...

"Rather than relegating slavery to the margins of memory, we must place it front and center."

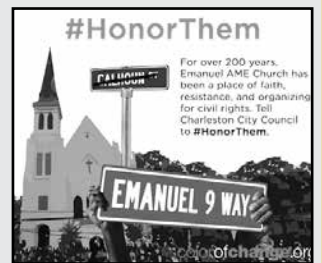
Excerpts reprinted from "America Needs a National Slavery Monument", by Blain Roberts and Ethan J. Kytle, The New York Times—Sunday Review, December 5, 2015

On July 9, 2015, the South Carolina House of Representatives voted to take down the Confederate flag from its more than half-century reign of the state capital grounds, thereby ending a long struggle for its demise. The flag, removed from its position on July 10, 2015, was used by the South during the American Civil War (1860-1865). It is seen by many as an icon of slavery and racism, while others consider it a symbol of heritage and history.



However, as the Confederate flag came down over a hundred miles from Charleston, the historic Emanuel AME still sits on Calhoun Street (originally called Boundary Street), named for the staunch proslavery advocate John C. Calhoun. A campaign launched by local Charlestonians, and a petition generated by **colorofchange.org**, vigorously appealed to the Charleston City Council to vote immediately and unanimously to change the street name of Calhoun Street to "Emanuel 9 Way" to memorialize the victims of the June 17, 2015 massacre. On September 9, 2015, Charleston City Council voted unanimously to pass a resolution to create the Mother Emanuel Way District, comprising the area of Calhoun Street between Meeting and Concord Streets.

ON FEBRUARY 14, 2016, WE CELEBRATE THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE RAISING OF THE MONUMENT TO DENMARK VESEY. LOCATED IN CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA'S HAMPTON PARK, THE MONUMENT IS A SYMBOL REPRESENTING THE SPIRIT OF FREEDOM.



MONUMENTS & MEMORIALS

Archiving the Aftermath of a Tragedy

Preserving Expressions of Condolence and Humanity

by Georgette Mayo

The horrific tragedy that took the lives of nine Emanuel AME Church parishioners and adversely affected five witness survivors on June 17, 2015 shook the world. Individuals, families, organizations, and members of all faiths have reached out to the victims' families, survivors, and congregants to express their sympathy. Tangible evidence is continuously sent in the form of cards, letters, flowers, stuffed animals, posters, paintings, books, artwork, quilts, and prayer shawls that express an outpouring of love, concern, and sympathy.



CALM VOLUNTEERS: (l-r) Michelle Palmore, Georgette Mayo, Melissa Bronheim, and Karen Emmons sort through letters, artifacts, and mementos left at Emanuel AME church. Photograph courtesy of *The Post and Courier*.

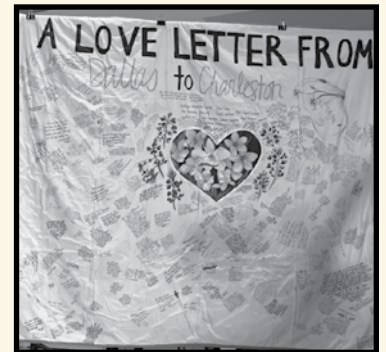
Members of the Charleston Archives, Libraries, and Museums (CALM) organization volunteer our time and archival skills to organize, relocate, and inventory the numerous gifts. A memorabilia subcommittee has been established to define a collection policy and

processing procedures. Our mission, in part, is to "preserve the history of the moment for the future; help tell the story to others through the use of the collection; and contribute to building a better, stronger, more united community."

Our first task was the maintenance of the temporary public-initiated memorial outside of Emanuel AME Church. CALM members worked on a daily, rotational basis to remove gifts for sidewalk safety and preservation. Days of torrential rain with flooding presented constant challenges in retrieving and preserving items, many of which sustaining damage. The large shrine, which had spanned the length of the church, was discontinued in September 2015 due to upkeep and time constraints. A smaller memorial located on the outside center of the church remains.

The second ongoing task is to sort and catalog the countless cards, letters, e-mails, textiles, and artwork sent in the mail. CALM members researched various collection policies and best practices of mass tragedy sites, including Sandy Hook Elementary and the Boston Marathon bombing. Currently, Emanuel AME Church gifts fill two rooms of approximately two hundred total square feet at Saint Julian Devine Community Center, an after-school

facility the City of Charleston has donated to the cause for a brief period. In one room, cards and letters comprise 1,000 feet of the space along with 400 shawls and quilts. Artwork is contained in the second room. An example of processing is the abundance of prayer shawls received that were mostly made into church "Shawl Ministries". Each shawl or quilt has its measurements taken, its fiber content (wool blend or acrylic) and design type (knit or crochet) identified, and the donor noted. The article is then photographed and the information is saved in a computer database. Cards and letters are individually input in the database, noting sender and date received. The final step is packaging items in archival acid-free boxes and labeling the boxes for long-term storage.



Quilt: "A Love Letter from Dallas to Charleston"

Emanuel AME Church still receives donations daily. CALM members continue to volunteer under the guidance of the Church Historian and longtime parishioner, Ms. Elizabeth (Liz) Alston. Our mission remains to inventory the received gifts while locating a larger, local climate-controlled facility in which to process and store items. We do this work in honor and remembrance of those who needlessly lost their lives, the survivors who witnessed this heinous crime, their families, and the overall communities that have been affected.



Emanuel AME Church historian Liz Alston holding a painting left outside of the church. Photograph courtesy of *The Post and Courier*.



ARTIST'S PAINTING OF EMANUEL 9 VICTIMS: Rev. Clementa Pinckney; Rev. Sharonda Coleman-Singleton; Tywanza Sanders; Cynthia Hurd; Rev. Daniel Simmons, Sr.; Rev. Depayne Middleton-Doctor; Susie Jackson; Ethel Lee Lance; Myra Thompson

AVERY RESEARCH CENTER SPRING PROGRAMS 2016

Here are highlights of the Avery Research Center's Spring 2016 programs.
Visit <http://avery.cofc.edu> for a full listing and description of upcoming programs.
Also, visit the Avery Research Center's Facebook page.

JANUARY

- 15 Brown Bag Series:** "A Tradition of Excellence: The History of Bellarmine College Preparatory's African-American Student Union" Julian D. Howard, 12:00pm-1:15pm.

FEBRUARY

- 4 Lecture:** "The Preston Cobb Story: The Georgia Case that Changed Capital Punishment in America" Joseph Cobb, Avery Research Center, 6:00pm
- 19 Brown Bag Series:** "The Presentation of the Atlantic Slave Trade in US and Brazilian School Textbooks" Nafees M. Khan, PhD, *Clemson University*, 12:00pm-1:15pm

MARCH

- 1 Race and Social Justice Initiative Lecture:** "A Conversation with Marian Wright Edelman" Marian Wright Edelman, *Author and President of the Children's Defense Fund*, Sottile Theatre, 44 George Street, Charleston, SC at 6:30pm. Cosponsored by the College of Charleston's Race and Social Justice Initiative funded by Google, the Women's



Resource Project, Inc., the Charleston County Public Library, the Phillis Wheatley Literary and Social Club, the Sophia Institute, and SunTrust Bank.

MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN, Founder and President of the Children's Defense Fund (CDF), has been an advocate for disadvantaged Americans for her entire professional life. Under her leadership, CDF has become the nation's strongest voice for children and families. Edelman will be introduced by former North Carolina State Senator Malcolm Graham, the brother of Cynthia Graham Hurd, who was one of the nine shooting victims at Emanuel AME Church in June 2015. Hurd was a Charleston native who worked for the Charleston County Public Library for over three decades. Edelman's *The Measure of Our Success* was one of her favorite books.

- 31 Race and Social Justice Initiative Lecture:** "American Injustice: Mercy, Humanity, and Making a Difference" Bryan Stevenson, *Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative*, Sottile Theatre, 6:00pm. Cosponsored by the College of Charleston's Race and Social Justice Initiative and the Coastal Community Foundation's Lowcountry Unity Fund supported by Google, Charleston County Public Library, and the Sophia Institute.



BRYAN STEVENSON is the founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative and one of the most acclaimed and respected lawyers in the nation. The United States has the largest prison population in the world, and the criminal justice system that puts the men, women, and children in these prisons is broken. Excessive punishment and abuse are widespread, and the collateral consequences are devastating lives and communities. An unflinchingly honest speaker, Bryan Stevenson talks about defending some of America's most rejected and marginalized people in this presentation. The stories he tells are heartbreaking, yet inspiring, and they motivate audiences to make a change.

Please visit www.prhspeakers.com for more information on this speaker.

APRIL

- 14 Lecture:** "Opening the Closed Society" Susan Glisson, PhD, *William Winter Institute at the University of Mississippi*, Avery Research Center, 6:00pm.
- 20 Brown Bag Series:** "Reconstructing America's Reconstruction Era" Michael Allen, *National Park Service*; and Ciera Gordon, *National Park Service Intern and Graduate Student in the College of Charleston/Citadel History MA Program*, Avery Research Center, 12:00pm-1:15pm. In this presentation, Michael Allen and Ciera Gordon will share their experiences working on the National Park Service's Reconstruction Era Theme Study.

AVERY INSTITUTE MEMBERSHIP NEWS



**Tony Bell,
Membership
Chairman**

Greetings,

As 2016 begins, we would like to thank you for your continued support. Hopefully, you had a chance to attend some of the amazing programs the Avery Research Center hosted in 2015, including the Avery anniversary celebrations in September and October.

The membership committee is busy updating member information on our respective lists. We want to ensure that members receive all pertinent information.

Also, remember to visit us online at: www.averyinstitute.us to see photo galleries of past events.

We appreciate you for doing your part to help keep the Avery Research Center relevant.

E-mail averyinstitute@gmail.com if you have any questions.



MUSEUM NEWS

This Far by Faith:

Carolina Camp Meetings, An African American Tradition

Representing a fourteen-year journey of research, this photographic exhibition included audio and video footage by Dr. Minuette Floyd, Associate Professor of Art Education in the School of Visual Art and Design at the University of South Carolina-Columbia. The exhibit explores the history and traditions of camp meetings that take place annually in the Carolinas on seven campgrounds. The exhibit, which has traveled around the state since 2003 and closed at the Avery Research Center on January 25, 2016, was very well attended and elicited much feedback from visitors sharing their camp meeting experiences. After viewing the exhibit and recognizing members of his camp meeting family in it, Mr. Ernest Brevard, the College of Charleston's Multicultural Student Programs Campus Outreach and Student Development Coordinator shared:

I've been attending [the] Mount Carmel Camp Meeting since I was a child. I'm from Lancaster, South Carolina. Camp meeting is like going to homecoming; that's the one time of year you know that you will see all of your family and friends in one place.



"Crowned Glory" Shady Grove
Photograph by Dr. Minuette Floyd

Dr. Floyd plans to write two books, one for children and one for adults that explains the African-American camp meeting tradition. Visit www.tfbyfaith.com for more information.

UPCOMING EXHIBITION

In conjunction with the centennial anniversary (1916-2016) of the Phillis Wheatley Literary and Social Club (PWLSC), the Avery Research Center will exhibit materials from the Phillis Wheatley Literary and Social Club Papers, 1916-2004 (AMN1031). The records of the PWLSC include a history of the club produced by the club's founder, Jeannette Cox; bound volumes of the club's minute books; programs; a member manual (2004); member profiles; newspapers clippings and correspondence, including copies of letters from W.E. B. DuBois and Mary McLeod Bethune. The exhibit will also feature materials from the private collection of PWLSC members.

AVERY INSTITUTE MEMBERSHIP 2015-2016

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Elmore Brown
Wendell F. Cox, Jr.
Herbert and Emily DeCosta
Judge Richard E. Fields
Philip Simmons
Lois Simms
Honorable Lucille S. Whipper

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(\$5,000+)

LaBrenda Garrett-Nelson
Harriet P. Williams

BENEFACTOR

(\$2,500-\$4,999)

Robert L. Simmons

CONTRIBUTOR

(\$500-\$2,499)

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Judge Richard E. Fields
Irmatrude Grant
Cheryl H. Love
Charles Marshall
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Geneva S. Wilkins

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(\$100-\$499)

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Barbara V. Nelson

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Baptist Church
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Padgett
John & Sandra Purvis
Daniel Ravenel
Vanessa M. Richardson
Priscilla M. Robinson &
Family
Renee Romberger
Luther W. Seabrook
Nelson Simpson
Kathy E. Smalls
Arthur J. Thomas
Robert & Kathleen Xidis
Pamela M. Zaresk

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(\$35)

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Barbara Braithwaite
Catherine Braxton
John Martin Bryan
Pauline E. Caffey
Mildred E. Carr
Richard Chisolm, Sr.
Tamara Cunningham Curry
Conrad Festa
Karen E. Fields
Robertta M. Frasier
Katchia Gethers
Harlan Greene
Christine W. Hampton
Joseph F. Hanley, Jr.
Marsha Lynn Hassell
Fannie Hicklin
Veronica P. Hoke
Johnnie J. Kidd
Amanda Garrison Lee
M.E.C.

Althea Holmes Masterson
Amy T. McCandless
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Angel Payton-Harmon
Helen Phillips
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Bernard Powers
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Loretta Hughes

In MEMORY of ... JERRY LEON HUGHES

Arthur J. Thomas

*In MEMORY of ... MARY JANE McLEOD BETHUNE
1815-1955*

Rosmond Whipper-Black

In MEMORY of ... OGRETTA HOURAY

Dana Berlin-Starge

In MEMORY of ... JESTINE MATTHEWS

Mr. & Mrs. Nelson Simpson

In MEMORY of ... MARIE & HAROLD C. HOUSTON



THE PHILLIS WHEATLEY LITERARY AND SOCIAL CLUB CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS AND BLESSINGS 1916-2016

by Emily L. Moore, EdD, Historian

With 2016 comes the centennial celebration of the Phillis Wheatley Literary and Social Club (PWLSC). Founded in 1916, nineteen professional and highly motivated African-American women epitomized a new generation who believed it could set the stage for a different world in the lives of its children and its children's children.

"PHILLIS WHEATLEYS"

In its first century, only one hundred twenty-nine women have been nominated and selected for membership as "Phillis Wheatleys". They understood the power of knowledge and were willing to use it on behalf of their families and communities. Throughout the years, these women have provided the community with cultural events and have sponsored activities featuring noted African-American educators, writers, musicians, actors, political figures, and community activists of the times.

CENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES

In January 2016, PWLSC invited high school-aged teens in churches, clubs, organizations, and schools in Charleston County to enter an essay contest. Winners will be announced in April 2016 with monetary prizes presented in a ceremony to be held at a later date.

Formal centennial celebrations will begin February 18, 2016 with an Avery Research Center exhibit depicting the organization's journey while paralleling the history of African-American women in education, literature and arts, politics, and civic engagements. The exhibit will show through December 2016.

PWLSC is also cosponsoring a Race and Social Justice Initiative Lecture: "A Conversation with Marian Wright Edelman". Founder and President of the Children's Defense Fund, Marian Wright Edelman, will speak at the College of Charleston's Sottile Theatre on March 1, 2016 at 6:30PM.

Beginning the PWLSC's centennial anniversary by honoring its founders, sisters, and friends with an annual bell ringing ceremony, the "Phillis Wheatleys" continue in the footsteps of their predecessors as advocates, educators, and activists. The centennial will culminate with a gala event planned for December 2016.

PWLSC photos: Top (l-r) Members, 95th anniversary tea featuring Dr. Kendra Hamilton (2011); Members, program opening centennial celebration (December 2015); members, 80th anniversary (1996)

Bottom (l-r) members with 95th anniversary essay contest winners (2011); members, 90th anniversary (2006); guests and members at 65th anniversary (1981)





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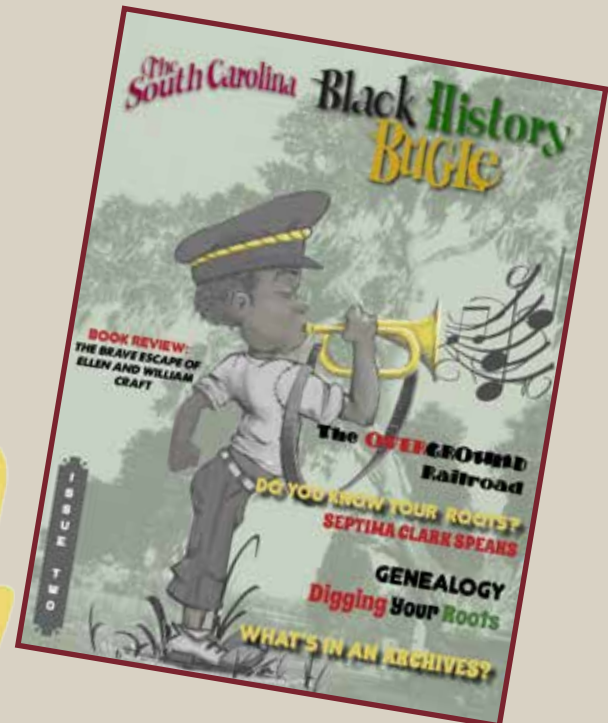
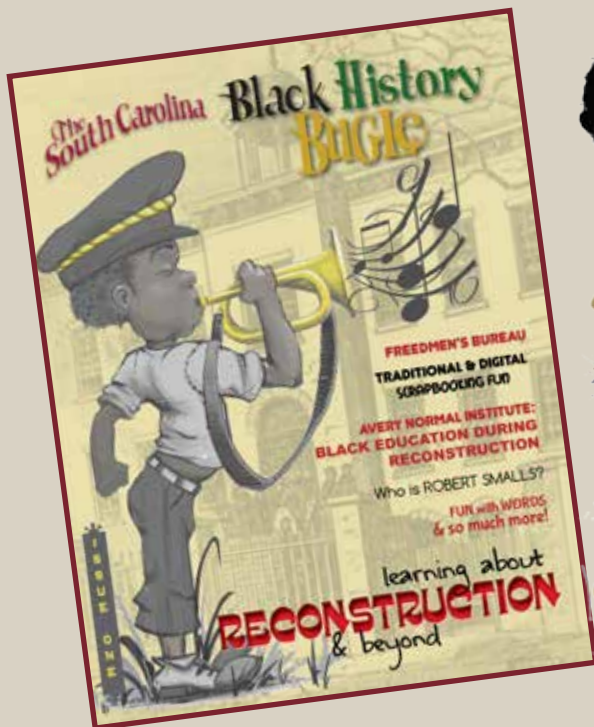
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Tours of the museum galleries are conducted five times a day, Monday through Friday (10:30am, 11:30am, 1:30pm, 2:30pm, and 3:30pm) except on College of Charleston holidays and winter break. Group tours of 5 or more and Saturday tours are by appointment only. For more information, call, 843.953.7609. Admission by donation.

The Phillis Wheatley Literary and Social Club Reading Room is open to the public year-round, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 10:00am-12:30pm and 1:30pm-5:00pm except on College of Charleston holidays and winter break. To contact the Reading Room, call 843.953.7608.

Visit <http://avery.cofc.edu> for more information.

The South Carolina Black History Bugle is an educational magazine and resource for fifth-grade students. It was developed by the College of Charleston's Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture for the South Carolina Department of Education.



Educators may e-mail our Reference and Outreach Archivist Ms. Barrye Brown at brownbo@cofc.edu if interested in receiving copies.