



## Branch Newsletter

# October 2023

By the Communication, Press & Publicity Committee

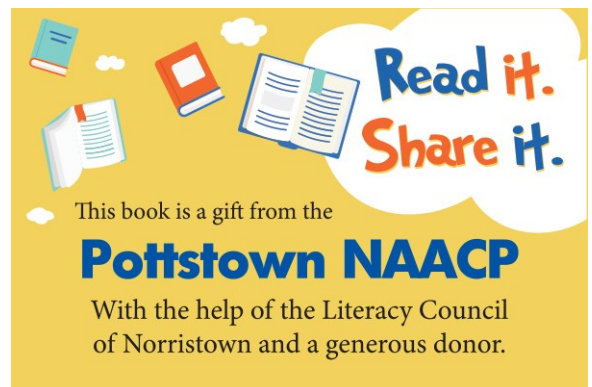
### **ANNOUNCING OUR NEW PROJECT: READ THIS BOOK!**

An anonymous donor has approached us with his mission. He is interested in literacy, and he wants us to give books to Pottstown children of color, ages birth to 8 years.

We have accepted the challenge. With enthusiasm. The amount he is donating will allow us to distribute literally THOUSANDS of books. We have dubbed the project the “Pottstown NAACP Road to Reading.”

“Reading is a wonderful thing,” said branch President Johny Corson. “A book can teach you whatever you want to know. It can make you anything you want to be and take you anywhere you want to go. You can be a firefighter or a nurse, a king or a queen. A book can take you to the moon and back.”

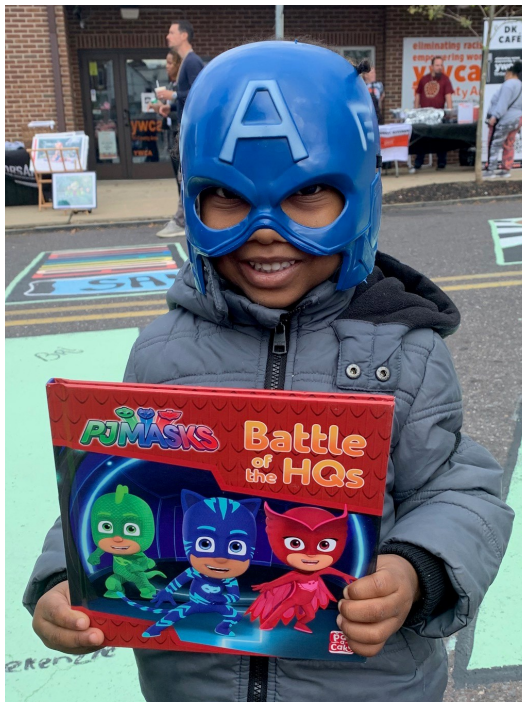
We will be working with the Literacy Council of Norristown, which will help select and purchase books. We will be looking for businesses and other locations willing to “host” a bookshelf. We hope to engage with other organizations who can help us get the word – and the books – out to kids. We need small bookshelves. And we will be seeking volunteers. If you can help or if you have ideas, call Bob and Sandy Bauers at 610-327-1213. Stay tuned for more details.



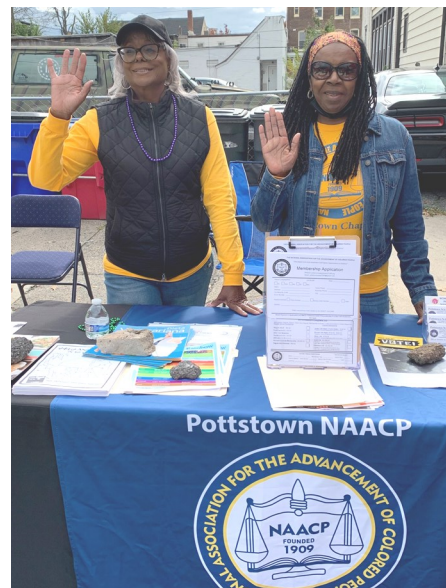




**Our first  
book  
give-away!**



The branch set up a table at last Saturday's block party, hosted by the YWCA Tri-County Area as part of its annual Week Without Violence. We launched our new literacy effort (see story on previous page), bringing books. And books. And more books. By the end, we had given 211 books to kids. Annette Kobb, Paula Corson, Kerry Pidcock-Lester and Bob and Sandy Bauers helped them make their choices.





## **OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING...**

... is Thursday, Oct. 26, 7 p.m. at the Ricketts Center, 658 Beech St. For those who can't make it in person, here's a Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84995648174?pwd=QlAyaHZkWIJXZWk1T3FWcHNFNnJlOQOT09> Meeting ID:849 9564 8174 Passcode:

### **Election Day is Tuesday, Nov 6. VOTE!**

Not sure where your polling place is?

Not sure whether you are registered to vote?

Need info on voting by mail?

Answers to all these questions and more is on the Montgomery County Voter Services website:

<https://www.montgomerycountypa.gov/753/Voter-Services>



### **You can help a child with sickle cell**

The branch is hosting a blood drive at the Ricketts Center, Thursday, Dec. 7, from 2 to 7 p.m. We welcome all donors. But we are making a special appeal to African-American members of the community because their blood may aid people with sickle cell disease.



*From the Red Cross, sickle cell "causes red blood cells to be hard and crescent-shaped (like a sickle) instead of soft and round. As a result, it is difficult for blood to flow smoothly and carry enough oxygen to the rest of the body, which may result in severe pain, organ and tissue damage, or even strokes. Blood transfusions help provide a lifesaving treatment during a sickle cell pain crisis by replacing sickled red blood cells with healthy red blood cells. Donated blood is the only source of this treatment."*

To make an appointment for the drive, visit [www.RedCrossBlood.org](http://www.RedCrossBlood.org) or call 1-800-733-2767

### **Protect yourself from disease**

Flu and COVID vaccinations are being offered free of charge by the Montgomery County Office of Public Health.

On Thursday, Oct. 26, from 2:30 to 7p.m., a clinic will be held at Bethel Community Church, 575 North Keim Street.

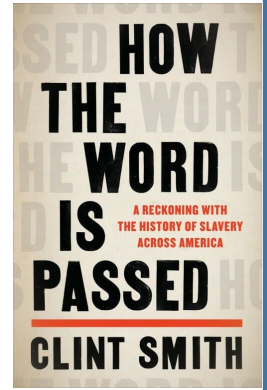
Availability of the vaccine changes sometimes, so click here to make an appointment or see information about additional dates and locations: <https://www.montgomerycountypa.gov/1121/Immunizations>

You may also call 610-278-5145 or 610-970-5040.

## **November Book Club Book**

If you haven't been to a Branch Book Club meeting, you're missing out! For our next meeting – Monday, Nov. 13, at 6 p.m., Pottstown Library – we've selected the prize-winning "How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America," by Clint Smith. As usual, the library has reserved copies for us.

From the blurb: "Smith leads the reader on an unforgettable tour of monuments and landmarks—those that are honest about the past and those that are not—that offer an intergenerational story of how slavery has been central in shaping our nation's collective history, and ourselves."



## **Support for swimming**

The branch recently sent a letter endorsing a Safety Around Water swim program at the YMCA.

Third-graders from Pottstown's four elementary schools spend a day at the Y learning the skills they would need to be safe in and around the water. Typically, they spend the morning doing land activities focused on aquatics – things like a life vest relay and a simulated pool noodle rescue. After lunch, they head to the pool, where they learn basic in-water skills, starting with simply getting used to putting their faces in the water.



The program, which serves 300 kids, is funded this school year. The Y is seeking funding for 2024-25.

"We know, statistically speaking, that Black and Brown kids are at a higher risk of drowning than other ethnicities," said Jonas Floyd, the Pottstown Y's Senior Team Leader. He said the program got great reviews from the teachers. As for the kids, "we actually had a couple kids saying they didn't want to leave the Y. When they got out of the pool, they cried. It was a testament to how much they enjoyed themselves."

## **No Place for Hate**

Boyertown High School, which had lost its No Place for Hate status, regained it for the 2022-2023 school year, we have learned from the Anti-Defamation League, which runs the program. We hope they maintain that status for the 2023-2024 school year.

## **NAACP statement on Israel**

The National NAACP and other leading civil rights organizations – National Action Network, Drum Major Institute and the National Urban League – have issued a statement condemning the violent attack on Israel. The organizations stood in solidarity with the Anti-Defamation League, which also condemned the violent attacks.

The statement reads:

"Today we are again witnessing the horrifying effects of violence upon innocent civilians in the Middle East. We condemn this terrorist attack on Israel in which civilians have been targeted, killed, and kidnapped. The long thread of Middle East history reaffirms that the region remains an unsettled boiling point.

We again reaffirm our commitments to one another and the certainty that throughout the world, our safety and futures are intertwined. We hold innocent civilians' families and our partners in our hearts, sharing prayers for their safety. We call on all our partners and colleagues to join us in solidarity because hatred and war must end."

The statement was attributed to Rev. Al Sharpton, Founder and President of the National Action Network (NAN); Martin Luther King, III, Chairman, and Arndrea Waters King, President of the Drum Major Institute (DMI); Marc Morial, President and CEO of the National Urban League (NUL); and Derrick Johnson, President and CEO of the NAACP: