



Branch Newsletter

July, 2025

By the Communication, Press & Publicity Committee

Member meeting: Thursday, July 24, 7 p.m., Ricketts Center.

If you can't make the meeting in person, here's a Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84995648174?pwd=QlAyaHZkWIJXZWk1T3FWcHNFVnJOQT09> Meeting ID:849 9564 8174 Passcode: 937480

In memory of John Lewis



President Johnny Corson in 2015 with then-U.S. Rep. John Lewis and Paula Corson. .

June 17 — the day civil rights icon John Lewis died — has become a national day of nonviolent action, with rallies throughout the country, including in Pottstown. For President Johnny Corson, it brought to mind when he and Paula met Lewis in 2015 after being invited to D.C. by then-U.S. Rep. Ryan Costello.

The event was the Congressional Commemoration of the 150th Anniversary Of the Ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment.

Corson remembers, "When we met Congressman Lewis, it was one of the most humbling moments of my life. The way he walked out of his office, and how his presence filled the room, I actually said in front of him and his staff that I was going to cry. And he said in his distinctive voice, 'young man, please do not cry!' "

Come out on the Schuylkill River with us
for family-friendly
fishing and paddling events

You are invited to join the Delaware Riverkeeper Network,
the Pottstown NAACP, and The Ricketts Center for

A SCHUYLKILL RIVER PADDLE

Unlocking Black History on the Schuylkill River

A FREE, family-friendly Pottstown Community Paddle

Justin Clement, from Pottsgrove Manor, will share stories about prominent historical African American figures of the region at stops along the paddle

Light snacks and refreshments provided!
Please bring a reusable water bottle.



Registration Required
bit.ly/Schuylkill2025



Saturday, August 2, 2025
When: 10:30 am - 4:30 pm
Meet at: Take It Outdoors
140 College Dr, Pottstown, PA 19464



The Schuylkill River Paddle: Unlocking Black History was financed in part by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program Environmental Stewardship Fund under the administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation administered through the Pennsylvania Environmental Council's Pennsylvania Water Trails Partnership Mini Grant Program.

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network, the Pottstown NAACP and the Ricketts Center are partnering to provide free, family-friendly fishing and paddling events in Pottstown, this summer and in 2026.

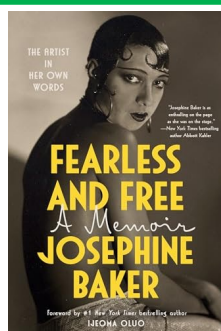
All equipment needed to fish, kayak, and build confidence in the great outdoors will be provided.

The first learn-to-cast and dry-land skills event will be on July 17, from 10:30am to 12:00pm at the Ricketts Center. On July 31, 10:30am to 12:30pm, we'll hold a shoreline fishing event at Riverfront Park. Register at <https://bit.ly/LearnToFish>

NOTE: All participants will be asked to sign a waiver before participating in any Learn-to-Fish activities.

Thanks to the R3 Education Grant Program, administered by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, for funding.

See the poster at left for information about the paddle and a registration QR code.



Our August Book Club Book: Josephine Baker's memoir

She was, as the title says, "Fearless and Free." Born in 1906 and the rage of Paris by the 1920s, she gained a big persona wearing very little when it came to her dance costumes. She was also an actress, singer, spy and civil rights activist. We'll meet Monday, Aug. 11, at 6 p.m. in the Pottstown Library. As usual, they are reserving copies for us.





Annette Kobb checks on the meat sauce



Joanne Washington stacks garlic bread

Dinner for 100? No sweat!



Two Rev. Robins — Barrow (left) and Bearden-Reed.

The Branch's WIN Committee recently hosted a dinner at Mission First for more than 100 people in need.

They turned on the burners in the early afternoon and didn't go home until well into the evening.

On the menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, garlic bread, salad and cake.

And there was enough left over to serve at a subsequent lunch!

Joining in the action were WIN Committee Chair Annette Kobb plus Rev. Robin Barrow, Rev. Robin Bearden-Reed, Paula Corson, Trenita Lindsay, Kerry Pidcock-Lester, Joanne Washington, Craig Way, Bob Bauers and Sandy Bauers.



Assembling goodies are (from left) Paula Corson, Kerry Pidcock-Lester, Rev. Robin Barrow, Craig Way (we see you behind the bags!) and Trinita Lindsay.



A festive Fourth

We had a lot of members in yellow NAACP T-shirts marching in Pottstown's July 4 parade. We were joined by the Montgomery County Elks Lodge 1271, Camp Son-Shine and the ever-popular Pine Forge Academy Drum Line.

