



## Branch Newsletter

# December 2023

By the Communication, Press & Publicity Committee

### NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

Our membership meeting will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 28, at the Ricketts Center, 658 Beech Street.

Here's a Zoom link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84995648174?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84995648174?pwd=QlAyaHZkWIJXZWk1T3FWcHNFVnJJOQT09)

[pwd=QlAyaHZkWIJXZWk1T3FWcHNFVnJJOQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84995648174?pwd=QlAyaHZkWIJXZWk1T3FWcHNFVnJJOQT09) Meeting ID:849 9564 8174 Passcode: 937480



### WIN committee gets festive

Once again, the WIN committee decorated one of Pottstown's holiday trees. It's in front of the Deliah and Dean grocery at 219 E. High Street. They dubbed it the Tree of Hope. Pictured are (from left) Judith Memberg, Annette Kobb, Marlene Armato, Rev. Robin Brown, Jamesha Edwards and Shonte Lofton.

***Wishing all of you the happiest of holidays and a healthful, wonderful 2024! — President Johnny Corson***



# Books, books, and more books



By 7 p.m. on Dec. 18, Santa had departed, the cupcakes were gone, the party at Bright Hope was over, and the branch had given away 144 books. We also gave out books at a Ricketts Center holiday party the week before. Since starting our literacy initiative on Oct. 16, we have given away 2,796 books to 15 entities, including schools, social service organizations, and more.

One of those was Family Services, whose Director of Community Prevention Services, Eve Bieber, wrote to thank the NAACP. "Looking forward to continued partnership in efforts to increase literacy and bring smiles to children in Pottstown," she wrote. Amen. Watch us in 2024!



**AT LEFT:** Part of the group at the Bright Hope party. At the rear are John Armato, Annette Kobb, Johnny Corson, Bob Bauers and Regina Astheimer. In front are Rev. Robin Barrow and Sandy Bauers.

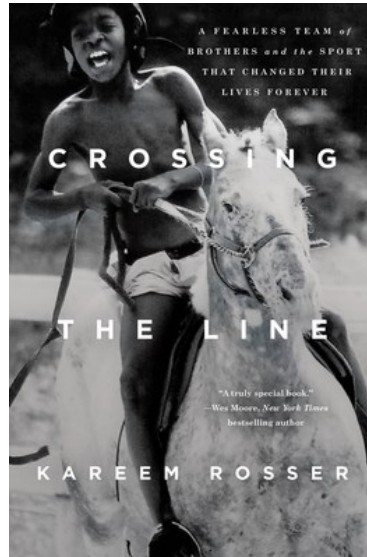




## Our next NAACP Book Club book

For January, the book club has chosen *Crossing the Line: A Fearless Team of Brothers and the Sport That Changed Their Lives Forever*, by Kareem Rosser. Born and raised in West Philadelphia, Rosser became captain of the first all-Black squad to win the National Interscholastic Polo championship.

We'll meet on Monday, Jan. 8 at 6 p.m. at the Pottstown Library. Library copies of the book have been reserved for us.



## Successful blood drive

The branch hosted a blood drive on Dec. 7 at the Ricketts Center. Later, the Red Cross's Ann Beal wrote to tell us: "Thank you for all your efforts! The community responded! You were able to collect 23 donations on a goal of 18!!! Wonderful work."

Thanks to all who helped.



We're always visible in the community. President Johnny Corson recently attended the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation's Charter Dinner. Pictured above are (from left) David Kraybill, Jaime Paris, Howard Brown, Marlene Wood, Johnny Corson, Grace Kraybill, Phyllis Harwood and Craig Colistra.

## **Out And About**

In the fall, President Corson met at a Harvest Festival with (below, from left) Daniel Cooke, Eileen Solomon, Pastor Linda Anthony and Bishop Michael Anthony — all working on an anti-gun violence initiative.

Below right, Marlene Armato and Charlotte Howard wrap presents as part of a fundraiser at Boscov's. They were raising money for WIN Committee initiatives, including making monthly donations of food and supplies to the Salvation Army family shelter.

