



## Branch Newsletter

# March 2023

By the  
Communication, Press & Publicity Committee

### **NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING:**

Our regular general membership meeting will be 7 p.m. Thursday, March 23, at the Ricketts Center, 658 Beech Street. We're focusing on elder health this month and will have two speakers.

Rebecca Clark Mays, the Meals on Wheels program director for [Family Services of Pottstown](#), will focus on its mission -- which is to connect with and improve the lives of all seniors in the Pottstown area who are nutritionally at risk, homebound, and isolated. They serve more than 80,000 meals a year to seniors in western Montgomery County. The majority of their clients are low-income and also may be homeless; hearing, visual, or mobility impaired; chronically ill; immigrants; people with developmental disabilities, and military veterans. Their ultimate goal? To eradicate senior hunger in Pottstown.

Aaron Shostak, volunteer coordinator for [Project Hearth](#) (Helping Elderly Adults Remain in Their Homes), will talk about how his organization got started and what it does. Among its services: professional in-home counseling, errand and transportation service, friendly visiting, telephone reassurance, handyman chore service.

For those who can't make the meeting, we'll also have a Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84995648174?pwd=QIAyaHZkWIJXZWk1T3FWcHNFVnJOQT09>

Meeting ID: 849 9564 8174    Passcode: 937480

## **Black History Month at Pottstown Middle School**



President Johnny Corson recently visited Pottstown Middle School to check out the classroom doors that students had decorated to honor Black civil rights leaders, scientists and others during Black History Month. The photo here shows Johnny along with David Charles, co-founder and CEO of The Strive Initiative, which has a student mentoring program at the school. This piece of artwork celebrates the accomplishments of Dr. Mae Jemison,

an engineer and NASA astronaut. They also toured some of the spaces that Charles has created as he continues to work to build positive culture in our schools and promote student success. One of them is a student lounge set up on the auditorium stage. To see more photos, [click here](#).

## **Help for Pottstown youths**

Pottstown has a lot of great community initiatives, and we are delighted to be able to help out with the eight-week youth leadership workshop [Community First](#) is hosting.

Thirty kids from ages 12 to 17 come to Montgomery County Community College every Monday to learn about skills they'll need as they emerge into adulthood. They learn about dining etiquette, how to dress for a job, how to budget and spend money wisely, and how to contribute to their community by volunteering and giving back. A visit to [In Ian's Boots](#), which collects gently used shoes and boots for people who need them, is planned. They'll learn about public speaking. Local businesses owners will come talk about how they got started and why they're doing it.

The Executive Committee voted to fund the fee for the classroom, a total of \$420.

## **WIN COMMITTEE**

The WIN committee, as usual, is out and about in the community. On Saturday, April 8, members will be at a community Easter fair from 1 to 4 p.m. at Riverfront Park. Some of the activities include an egg hunt, beanbag toss, wheelbarrow race, story walk, Ms. B's puppet show and more. If you're in the area, come check it out and join the fun!

On Saturday, April 22, the WIN committee will have a table at the YMCA's Healthy Kids Day. More than 1,000 Ys nationally take part in this annual event, aimed at helping kids make

healthy choices in their lives. Some of the focus is on nutrition, exercise and more. It will be 10 a.m. to noon at the Pottstown YMCA, 724 N. Adams Street.

### **Pottstown NAACP Accepts Superintendent Award**

On March 16th, 2023, on behalf of The Branch, Paula Corson, Chelise Wilkerson, and Annette Kobb accepted The Superintendent Award for community engagement. We share our gratitude to Superintendent Stephen Rodriguez for this recognition. Check out the pictures on our Facebook page.

### **U.S Rep. Madeleine Dean opens Pottstown office**

As far as anyone can remember, we have never had a congressional office in Pottstown. That has changed, with [U.S. Rep Madeleine Dean](#), a Democrat representing the Fourth District, opening an office at 1200 East High Street, Suite 105. The phone number is 610-382-1250.

### **NAACP book club**

Our book club held its second post-Covid meeting on March 13 to discuss [Barracoon, The Story of the Last "Black Cargo,"](#) by Zora Neale Hurston. It's described as the true story of one of the last-known survivors of the Atlantic slave trade – Cudjo Lewis, who was 86 years old when Hurston interviewed him in 1927. We asked questions and shared perspectives. A great discussion!

At our next meeting, Monday, April 10, at 6 p.m., we'll be discussing [Black Man in a White Coat: A Doctor's Reflections on Race and Medicine](#), by Damon Tweedy, M.D. In one of his first classes in med school, the professor mistook him for a maintenance worker. In lecture after lecture, he learns that disease after disease is more common in Black people than in whites. The publisher's description: "In riveting, honest prose ... it examines the complex ways in which both Black doctors and patients must navigate the difficult and often contradictory terrain of race and medicine."

Kerry Pidcock-Lester is arranging for the library to reserve books for us. If you would like one, just tell the librarian at the desk you'd like one of Kerry's books.

### **Join Pottstown Community Action at the Carousel**

[Pottstown Community Action](#) is hosting an event at the carousel on Saturday, March 25, from noon to 5:05 p.m. The group's president, Howard Charles, says he'll pay half the cost of a NAACP membership for the first 10 people to sign up. That's a \$15 savings! Thank you Howard Charles!

### **Juneteenth – put it on your calendar!**

Marlene Hedgepeth, who did such a great job planning last year's Juneteenth celebration, has kindly volunteered to do it again. Stay tuned for more details.