April 2023

By the

Communication, Press & Publicity Committee

**NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING:**

Our regular general membership meeting will be 7 p.m. Thursday, April 27, at the Ricketts Center, 658 Beech Street. Fred Stine, Community Action Coordinator with the Delaware Riverkeeper Network will be our speaker. The Network is proposing to have a Black history/storytelling event that happens while all the participants – including kids -- are paddling down the Schuylkill River in canoes.

For those who can’t make the meeting, we’ll also have a Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84995648174?pwd=QlAyaHZkWlJXZWk1T3FWcHNFVnJOQT09>

Meeting ID: 849 9564 8174 Passcode: 937480

**Art contest winners announced**

Young idealism was on display at Bethel AME Church recently in a ceremony to

recognize the winners in the third annual MLK Youth Arts Competition, sponsored

by our religious affairs committee.

Prior to passing out prizes and pizza to young artists, Rev. Garrison Lockley,

chair of the committee and pastor at Bethel AME, told the group of family

and friends that the theme was “a call to make a difference.”

And so, the young contestants did, producing works that imagined a world

without gun violence, with clean oceans, with communities free of trash and the peaceful, just world advocated by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Rev. Lockely said the 20 entries hanging on the walls of the church fellowship hall were the most in the contest’s three years. In the elementary school class, prizes went to: Grace Meyer, first place; Ben Freeman, second; and Milan Everette, third. Middle school winners were La’Daviea Haddock, first; Elly Haigh, second; and Karisa Lobos, third.

Coordinator for the contest was Marie Haigh, a branch member and Chair of

Pottstown Community Arts. Branch President Johnny Corson attended along with

several other branch members.



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**NAACP book club**

Earlier this month, our book club met and discussed [Black Man in a White Coat: A Doctor’s Reflections on Race and Medicine](https://www.amazon.com/Black-Man-White-Coat-Reflections/dp/1250105048/ref=sr_1_1?crid=135YAOOO0QN98&keywords=black+doctor+white+coat+book&qid=1676391747&sprefix=white+coat+black+doctor%2Caps%2C73&sr=8-1), by Damon Tweedy, M.D. It’s an exploration of the difficulties Black doctors and Black patients face. We’ll meet again on Monday, May 8, to discuss  [*The Personal Librarian*](https://www.amazon.com/Personal-Librarian-Marie-Benedict/dp/0593101537)by Heather Terrell and Victoria Christopher Murray. This is a work of historical fiction  -- described on Amazon as “a remarkable novel about J. P. Morgan’s personal librarian, Belle da Costa Greene, the Black American woman who was forced to hide her true identity and pass as white in order to leave a lasting legacy that enriched our nation."

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.

**Empower-palooza!**

The Victim Services Center of Montgomery County is holding an “empower-palooza” on Saturday, April 27, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the George Washington Carver Center, 249 Jacoby Street, Norristown. The family event is focused on keeping kids safe and empowering them for the future. There will be a children’s story time, workshops, vendors, food and more.

**While you’re in Norristown …**

The [Montco 30% Project](https://www.montco30percent.com/) is holding an affordable housing rally from 1 to 2 p.m. on the steps of the Montgomery County Courthouse. They’ll be calling on elected leaders and decision-makers to address the current housing crisis. Approximately 30 percent of Pennsylvanians rent their homes, and too many of them spend more than 30 percent of their income – enough to stress their budgets -- on housing.

**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.

**As for July …**

We always march in Pottstown’s July 4th parade. So get ready to step out.

That’s also the day of the Rotary Club’s annual Duck Race fundraiser. Organizations that participate – and that sell at least 300 tickets – get $4 for each ticket sold. Last year, we made $530 from the race. This year, Rotary sent Annette Kobb a starter set of 200 tickets, which sell for $5 each. If you’d like to sell some, or if you’d like to buy some, TEXT Annette at 484-366-1466 or email her at [annettek53@gmail.com](mailto:annettek53@gmail.com).