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Year-End Newsletter

December 28, 2020

Holiday greetings from Howard County Lynching Truth and Reconciliation (HCLTR)!! We hope you all are staying safe and finding ways to enjoy this season despite the enormous challenges of the intersecting COVID-19 and racial trauma pandemics. We join with you in hoping that 2021 ushers in progress on both fronts.

HCLTR 2020 activities recap

The HCLTR Coalition formed during 2020 and established its mission and three phases of activities.

Mission:

To compile, and truthfully document and memorialize, the history of lynchings and near-lynching activities that happened in Howard County. Knowing this history of sanctioned violence and terror (Truth) is an essential first step to understanding and healing from the ways in which it continues to impact many of us today (Reconciliation). Advancing Truth and Reconciliation compels an inclusive and transparent process that is firmly rooted in moral Integrity in all and for all. The truth isn't always pleasant, but it can be handled with

compassion and mercy. To do this work, we must identify the ways in which power has driven – and continues to drive – the prevailing narratives.

Phases of activities:

1. Conducting community-driven research,
2. Facilitating community remembrance activities, and
3. Assisting the Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission with its work related to lynchings that happened in Howard County.

Activities during 2020 have largely focused on group internal structure and community-driven research (Phase 1). We were excited to launch our website on Juneteenth. It includes relevant state and local history that provides important context surrounding Howard County's history of lynching activities.

The HCLTR Coalition worked with the Howard County Library System (HCLS) to ensure public access to [On the Courthouse Lawn: Confronting the Legacy of Lynching in the Twenty-First Century](#), by Sherrilyn A Ifill. This book is an important resource to learn about Maryland's history of lynchings. The 12 copies we donated to the HCLS are available for sidewalk pickup in the following branches: Central, East Columbia, Savage, Miller, Elkridge, and Glenwood. In addition, HCLS purchased ebook and audiobook versions, which are also available. We announced in September that the publisher, [Beacon Press](#), has offered a discount of 30% off of the list price. Enter the code **hocoltr30** in the coupon/promotional code box in the shopping cart. The code is good for just a few more days through the end of December 2020.

This fall we released [The Tale of Two Hezekiahs](#), which tells the stories of two Hezekiah Browns, both of whom lived extraordinary lives, and one of whom we believe to have been the Hezekiah Brown who was erroneously reported to have been lynched in Howard County in 1884. Because it ended up being applicable to our next case and subject, Nicholas Snowden, we also briefly delved into whether or not any Howard County enslavers were compensated by the government for the loss of their "property" when slavery was abolished in Maryland. (Spoiler alert if you didn't read the December 11th blog!) The answer is yes.

The UMBC graduate students who examined Howard County history have completed their work for their class and our group. We're excited to unveil important aspects of their work, and anticipate that it will be our group's contribution to County dialogue during MLK's birthday celebratory events in January. We've also been receiving research from the Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission and have appreciated the support and check-ins from Commissioner Maya Davis. We look forward to assisting the Commission when they come to our neck of the woods for the mandated public hearing.

Call for bloggers!

Are you - or is someone you know - interested in using your voice to help shape the

narrative as HCLTR's work progresses through Phase 1 (Truth) and prepares for Phase 2 (Reconciliation)? We have been formulating a list of people who have contributions to share on HCLTR's blog page. It is important for us to hear stories that shed light on our shared history and highlight how it continues to shape the systems, structures, and culture in which we live today.

Please join us in creating a brave space where the truth is told with compassion and mercy. Email us at admin@HoCoLTR.org if you are interested!

Reflections from the Founders

As we close out 2020, we wanted to share our reflections on what this work means to each of the members in the Founders group.

Annora Hallendorff Bailey wrote

The Terror Campaign

The most recent [HCLTR posting about Hezekiah Brown](#) illuminated the ongoing terror campaign in white Howard County society, preserving the illusion that subjugating African Americans was a justified way of life, appealing to invented fears of violence toward white Americans. The Baltimore American newspaper reported the lynching of Reverend Hezekiah Brown....

[Read more](#)

Gina Richardson wrote

On The Cusp of History

I am not what you would call a history buff, but I have always enjoyed reading books about historical figures, watching movies and TV shows based on historical facts and hearing personal stories and lectures based on historical findings. I especially admire those who devote their time and resources in research to uncover hidden truths of the past and give voice to those whose voices have been silenced or prevented from telling their truth...

[Read more](#)

Lynn Mumma wrote

The Power of Stories

When I moved from Cape Cod, Massachusetts, to Howard County in 2010, my children were in the 3rd and 1st grades. I was excited to find a community that was so diverse that the elementary school had no racial majority. This was a radical departure from the nearly all-white community in which we had lived on Cape Cod. While the middle and high schools my children attended were also highly integrated, I noticed as they advanced through the grades that there was mounting academic and social segregation...

[Read more](#)

Marlena Jareaux wrote

I Can't Forget the 1863 Howard County Christmas

Each Christmas for more than 20 years now, I have been fortunate to celebrate it as a mother. Once my son graduated from Hammond High, he spent time away while at the University of Maryland but returned home for the holidays to celebrate. A recent "Facebook memory" appeared in my account that contained the photo of him when he was about 10 with his HC Parks & Rec trophy for tennis, and my immediate thought was that even now, I still see "my baby" in him. I'm sure I'm not in the minority when I write that there's very little I won't do for my son. This Christmas was a little different for me, in more ways than just COVID-19 related. Due to the work our group is doing, I ran across a story that weighed on my mind this Christmas. It's a story from many Christmases ago in Howard County, and it involves a woman and mother named Caroline...

[Read more](#)

An additional note

Some of you may be aware of an important set of historical documents on the [Slave Statistics Docket](#) of the Maryland State Archives website. These files list enslavers, broken down by county, who requested compensation for the loss of their "property" when slavery was abolished in Maryland. The lists are available in paper format for each of the counties that has a list, but several - including Howard County - were also digitized. We want to let you know that the webpage no longer includes a hyperlink to Howard County's electronic file. However, the information is still there. You can access it by clicking on the link to the paper version and scrolling down to [e-publication](#). Don't click on [View as Multipage PDF](#) because that link opens a page that says Access Restricted.

Importantly, we had requested the Howard County list from the Maryland State Archives. It remains accessible on HCLTR's webpage under the [HC Slavery History](#) tab.

We look forward to continuing this work in partnership with members of the Howard County community! Please email us admin@HoCoLTR.org if you are interested in helping, and if you haven't already, follow us on Facebook, where we will continue to post information of interest.

[HoCoLTR on Facebook](#)

Until the next time...

Founders:

Marlena Jareaux (Facilitator)

Lynn Mumma

Gina Richardson

Annora Bailey

Joy Owens (Consulting Member regarding Jacob Henson, Jr.)

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