



Accurate County Desegregation, Human Rights, "Was Harriet Here?" and Building Naming History

November 27, 2023

Our recent newsletter that went out about two weeks ago began with "RECLAIMING HISTORY" and it dealt with our book signing event on Saturday 11/18 in Old Ellicott City. Despite the last-minute announcement that went out via email, we had a packed house upstairs at Backwater Books (seats filled and folks standing) and several people who weren't able to find parking to be able to come hear about the book/findings. In the clutch, Howard County Recreation and Parks had three new banners on display for end-of-season visitors to the log home that featured the work our nonprofit shared with them. Private-public partnership in action to benefit community! The three researchers involved in the nonprofit's Truth Lab Roundtable initiative were on hand telling their stories about what the process felt like and meant to them to be able to be involved in reclaiming the history of Levi and Eliza Jane Gillis' home for the benefit of the community. It felt almost as good as when our book and other items were buried in the time capsule outside of Levi's home in a celebration with public officials present not long ago.

This newsletter piggybacks off of the same theme. In May 2022, a local commission was formed by Executive Order to review the findings of an original 2021 naming commission, review names not examined by that commission, create a plan to get community feedback and obtain it, and give recommendations to the County Executive in a final report. The first two reports were dispensed to the community to solicit their feedback regarding the content created in them by researchers. A final third report was also generated, which is being dispensed to the community using the resources of this nonprofit. Since two of the county assets that were to be examined was at the direct request of the County Executive (one of them- the log home- was always part of the nonprofit's plan) this information is being sent out using this newsletter vehicle to YOU. The Executive Director of this nonprofit, along with fellow researcher Wayne Davis featured in the photograph below, were the co-chairs of that local commission. We hope you enjoy the history contents of this third report half as much as we did creating and putting our names on it for the benefit of our county. Can't wait to hear

from our community about it! Yes, it does contain information regarding an "Independent" _____, a local Supreme Court nominee, desegregation history, and so much more! Truly a labor of love.

As our nonprofit's tagline contains, quite on purpose: *Truth FIRST, Then Reconciliation.*

Marlena Jareaux
Executive Director
HCLTR, Inc.

P.S. Please pass this on to a friend! Link to report #3 and materials used by the commission to create it are being hosted by our nonprofit and can be found by clicking on the green button below.

**THOUGHTS?
DID WE MISS
ANYTHING?**

*I want to have my voice
be heard on this topic...*

-county citizens

**Tell us:
publicspaces@hocoltr.org**



Public Spaces Commission report link

Reminder: We were invited by the Maryland State Archives to be their Lunch and Learn presenter for the month of February 2024 (Black History Month) in association with Enoch Pratt Library which we of course accepted! That led to another presentation invitation in the county that will be announced soon. For information about the state archives presentation click [here](#) where you can also register:

[Maryland State Archives, Events](#)

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