

Reporting ZOOM Meeting of 18 Jan 2021

Calendar of Events

Last Week: 1/11 CAPTAIN/Community Human Services
Director Andy Gilpin

This Week: 1/18 Martin Luther King, Jr Day- African Americans in
Schenectady History, Presented by Laura Lee

Next Week: 1/25 Landis Arboretum

Coming Up:

Note: Regular ZOOM Meetings are held Mondays at 6:00 pm.
Check your e-mail inbox the day of the meeting for the computer ZOOM
ID# and Password, as well as the phone number you can use to phone
in if using your cell phone to participate.

*Please give suggestions for future programs to Dan Stec.
Find us at bhblrotary.org and on Facebook*

*Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create
lasting change – across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves*

MLK Presentation, The History of People of Color in Schenectady, – Laura Lee

Laura Lee, Rotarian and Historian, shared a presentation on the history of African Americans in the Schenectady region. This presentation was developed with Marsha Mortimore, a member of the Duryee Memorial AME Zion Church, and the Schenectady Silhouettes. The presentation was developed because people of color were not represented in our history books. Background on notable events in black history that occurred in Schenectady and multiple historical documents are included in the presentation. Research has been done in private, church and government records, at libraries, archives, historical societies, museums, historic sites and cemeteries. Also examined was diaries, family genealogies, photos, movies, music and art, and memories of older people, There is still more history to learn and include in the presentation. The program has been shared in some Schenectady City Elementary Schools and is available to others.

Laura Lee has an excellent grasp of Schenectady history and shared a wealth of knowledge during the presentation. Some of the Schenectady black history discussed during the program included:

1. The arrival of Africans to Schenectady in 1660;
2. The origins of slavery on the Mabee Farm;
3. The Schenectady Massacre of February 8, 1690;
4. Isaac Groot Duryee's assistance in founding Schenectady's first African Church in 1837;
5. Schenectady's first free public school for colored people;
6. The involvement of blacks in the Civil War;
7. Vale Cemetery's rich history;
8. Union College President's driver,
9. Moses Viney, and his road to freedom;
10. the celebration of Juneteenth--Laura noted that Juneteenth celebrates the reading of the Emancipation Proclamation and is similar to the July 4th Independence celebration.
11. The history of the Mohawk Colored Giants, a successful Negro League baseball team; and
12. A detailed look at some of the important black "firsts" in the city.

To view the presentation:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AKPNOIM1Iku-8xsbsDPxj0S12p2rC12Z/view?usp=sharing>.

Announcements and Updates

1. 300 Hand and Foot Warmers were donated to the National Guard preparing for the Presidential Inauguration.
2. Club will be donating to a need to supply feminine hygiene products to local food bank.
3. Operation Hunger is up and running. First delivery made last Thursday. Drop off your donations at Gil's lobby.
4. Care Cards will be shared with residents at Kingsway. Start making those Valentine Day Cards!
5. Club has received donations in Len Porter's memory. Donations will be added to scholarship fund.
6. EventGroove, a software application that allows our club to collect donations online, is up and running with a posting for donations for the Polio Polar Plunge. Please consider a donation.

Reported by Maryellen Symer