



Sankofa Collaborative
looking back • moving forward

SLAVERY - IT HAPPENED HERE, TOO
Looking Into the Past

October 11, 2023 - Workshop Agenda

- ❖ **8:30 am – Check-In and Continental Breakfast**
- ❖ **9:00 am – Welcome and Opening Remarks**
 - Tiffany Allen, Grounds For Sculpture
 - Gigi Naglak, NJ Council for the Humanities
 - Sara Cureton, NJ Historical Commission
- ❖ **9:30 am – Excerpts from “The Ground on Which We Stand”**
 - Luna Stage
- ❖ **10:15am – Break**
- ❖ **10:30 am – Connecting with Africa**
 - Jocelyn Francis-White
 - Shazel Muhammad
 - Guy Weston
- ❖ **11:45 am – Lunch**
- ❖ **12:45 pm – Tracing Individual and Family Histories**
 - Catherine Medich
 - Sharece Blakney
 - Paul Schopp
- ❖ **2:00 pm – Break**
- ❖ **2:15 pm – Documenting Community Histories**
 - Christopher Matthews & Peggy Norris
 - Elaine Buck & Beverly Mills
 - Dolly Marshall
- ❖ **3:30 pm – Thank You and Wrap-up – Enjoy the Grounds For Sculpture!**



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**The Unfinished Revolution:
The African American Experience
from Slavery to Today**

Sankofa Collaborative Workshop Series

2023: Slavery - It Happened Here, Too

2024: Jim Crow in New Jersey

**2025: The Great Migration to New Jersey –
Is This the Promised Land?**

**2026: Civil Rights in New Jersey Then and Now –
Will Black Lives Ever Matter?**

Two workshops will be held each year, focusing on:

Spring – sites in New Jersey interpreting the topic

Fall – sources for research, interpretation, and action

Sponsored by

**NEW JERSEY COUNCIL
FOR THE
HUMANITIES**

Historical NEW JERSEY
COMMISSION



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WITH GRATITUDE TO THOSE WHO MADE THIS WORKSHOP POSSIBLE

New Jersey Council for the Humanities, Sponsor



New Jersey Historical Commission, Sponsor



Grounds For Sculpture, Sankofa Collaborative Member & Workshop Host



G R O U N D S F O R S C U L P T U R E

Generous gifts from individual donors

THANKS TO PRESENTERS AND SPEAKERS

Luna Stage was founded in 1992 by Jane Mandel and became a professional theatre in 1995. For its first 18 years, the company made its home in Montclair, New Jersey. In 2010, Luna became a partner and tenant of HANDS, a community reinvestment and revitalization organization. It moved to the Valley Arts District as an anchor organization to inspire creativity, vitality, and community engagement in the Valley. With deep commitment to serving the audience that resides in its traditionally-underserved neighborhood, its artistic programs reflect our neighborhood and region. As producer, educator, and innovator, Luna Stage works with artists of multiple disciplines, backgrounds, and perspectives; prioritizes partnerships that amplify underrepresented voices; and works to eliminate barriers to participation and nurture the next generation of audiences and artists. Luna Stage has contributed to the development of over 100 new works for the stage. Its World Premieres have had ongoing life on regional, New York, and international stages.

Ari Laura Kreith, Artistic Director

Betty Holloway, Historian

Turron Kofi Alleyne, actor

John Keller, actor

Naja Selby-Morton, actor

Tiffany Allen is the Manager of School and Group Visits at Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, NJ. Her role at GFS is to provide a welcoming space for youth and adult groups that are interested in general visits, tours, workshops and more. She is currently on the planning committee for Sankofa and a lead on the Community Advisory Council at GFS. She also enjoys connecting with and bringing art-based programming to the local community. Tiffany worked as the STEM Experience Manager for the Girl Scouts of America and with the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University as Manager of Early Child Initiatives and Manager of Community Engagement/Teacher Naturalist. In addition, Tiffany has experience as the Grow Up Great Coordinator with the Barnes Foundation and completed her Master's in Museum Education at the University of Arts, Philadelphia.

Sharece Blakney is a New Jersey-based independent historical consultant focusing on American slavery and freedom in the 18th and 19th centuries. Blakney assists museums, libraries, and historic sites in investigating and sharing the stories of African Americans through archival research, interpretive planning, and collection processing. She holds a BA in Africana Studies from Rutgers University-New Brunswick, a BA in History from Kean University, an MA in American History from Rutgers University-Camden, and an MI with a concentration in Archives & Preservation from Rutgers University-New Brunswick. She is currently working with Morven Museum & Garden to uncover the history of enslaved African Americans by Richard Stockton, a Declaration of Independence signer, and his descendants. In addition to essays published with the National Women's History Museum and the Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia, Blakney's previous projects examined themes of abolitionism, Black women activists, and racial violence in nineteenth-century Philadelphia and throughout New Jersey.

Sharon Elaine Buck, who prefers to be called Elaine, is a founder of the Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum. As co-author of *"If These Stones Could Talk,"* Elaine proudly received the Kirkus Book Review in October, 2018 and in 2019 the New Jersey Author's Award Non-fiction Popular Works Category presented by the NJ Studies Academic Alliance by the History and Preservation Section of the NJ Library Association and the Special Collections Archives at Rutgers University. In 2020 Elaine partnered with the Museum of the American

Revolution on identifying potential 1801 Montgomery Township, NJ African American and female voters for their exhibition entitled, *"When Women Lost the Vote."* On December 23, 2020. Elaine was also featured in the New York Times in an article entitled, *"Helping the Stones Talk: Recovering Black History."* This story also appeared in the online Smithsonian Magazine on December 24, 2020, and in the Chicago Tribune, on December 26, 2020, entitled *"Uncovering Lost Black History Stone by Stone."* For Black History Month, February 2021, Elaine was interviewed by veteran journalist, Pat Battle, for an NBC (Channel 4, NYC) segment entitled, *"Uncovering Mercer County's Forgotten Past."* as well as with Crystal Cranmore, *"Unearthing Black Contributions in New Jersey"* for ABC (Channel 7, NYC). In 2021 Preservation New Jersey awarded Elaine the Doris C. Carpenter Award for her work on the March of America's Diverse Army and the Solomon Northup Family Award for uplifting the memory of enslaved people. In June 2022 Elaine Buck was a contributing historian and was featured in the New York Emmy nominated New Jersey PBS Special *"The Price of Silence, The Forgotten Story of New Jersey's Enslaved People,"* produced by Truehart Productions. In 2023 *"African Americans of Central New Jersey: A History of Harmony and Hostility,"* co-authored by Beverly Mills and Elaine Buck, was released. In 2023 Elaine was selected by the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice's Reparations Task Force to work in partnership with Institute staff to act as a counsel co-chair on the History of Slavery. Also in 2023, Elaine joined the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's New Jersey Structural Racism Project which was created to analyze how racism shaped the outcomes of communities of color in New Jersey.

Jocelyn Francis-White holds both a Master of Arts in Teaching from Montclair State University and a Master Of Arts in Educational Leadership from the College of New Jersey as well as a Bachelor of Arts in African, African American studies from Douglass College/Rutgers University. A native Trentonian, Ms. Francis-White served in the Trenton Public Schools district for 40 years in both classroom and leadership positions. In October of 2017, Ms. Francis-White entered the business world as an entrepreneur and opened Big Easy of Trenton restaurant, opening a second Big Easy site in August 2023 in Ewing. Jocelyn Francis-White is a trustee with the William Trent House. She is, also, a trustee with the Serenity Garden, an urban oasis for anyone that has been impacted by any type of violence. As a global traveler, she has visited the continent of Africa (East, West, South and North) seven times.

Dolly L. Marshall is a historic preservation activist, researcher, genealogist and lecturer. An avid researcher, Ms. Marshall is working on a book about her notable family history that includes many distinguished individuals. Some of Ms. Marshall's ancestors' stories can currently be seen at the Museum of the American Revolution's Black Founders Exhibit: The Forten Family of Philadelphia, whom Ms. Marshall is a descendant of through her maternal lineage. Ms. Marshall leads many community partnerships related to African American experiences and the African diaspora, bringing this crucial part of history to life for the public. Ms. Dolly Marshall is the Historic Preservation Specialist for the City of Camden, NJ, a Trustee of Mount Peace Cemetery Association and volunteers her time as a docent at the NJ State House. She is a member of the Association of Black Women Historians, the NCNW, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, and the Association for the Study of African American Life & History. She is the recipient of the 2023 Daughters of the American Revolution "Women in American History Award," and an Award of Recognition from the NJ Historical Commission. Ms. Marshall's work has been recognized with the following accolades: a Public Service Award from the Preservation Alliance for greater Philadelphia, the David H. Knights New Preservation Initiatives Award, the Chancellor's Award for Diversity, Inclusion and Civic Engagement, Paul Robeson Library Award for Research, Africana Studies Award, and the Edward J. Bloustein Community Service Award Rutgers University-Camden. She was featured on the front pages of The Burlington County Times, The Courier Post and the Daily News February 20, 2022, editions.

Christopher (Chris) Matthews is a historical archaeologist and professor of anthropology at Montclair State University. His work is focused on the archaeology and history of marginalized and racialized communities in North America with a focus on the mid-Atlantic region. Matthews is the author and editor of several books including *The Archaeology of American Capitalism* and *The Archaeology of Race in the Northeast*. His most recent book, *A Struggle for Heritage: Archaeology and Civil Rights in a Long Island Community*, examines how conflicting histories reinforce social and racial inequalities in both local communities as well as in professional heritage work.

Catherine Stearns Medich is a Reference Archivist with the New Jersey State Archives with close to 20 years of public service. She is integral in managing the reference section of the Archives, and assisting users with the many, varied collections maintained at the State Archives. Catherine has particular knowledge of the military collections, including the State's Civil War collections, and the New Jersey State Militia records, which she was also responsible for processing and organizing. She is a frequent guest speaker at local genealogical conferences and clubs, where she reviews and explains the types of records held at the New Jersey State Archives, and how to access them. Catherine is a graduate of Dickinson University with a Bachelor's Degree in History, and holds two Master's Degrees from Rutgers University, in Art History and Library Service.

Beverly Mills is a co-founder of the Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum and co-author of *"If These Stones Could Talk."* Beverly proudly received the Kirkus Book Review in October 2018 and in 2019 the New Jersey Author's Award Non-fiction Popular Works Category presented by the NJ Studies Academic Alliance by the History and Preservation Section of the NJ Library Association and the Special Collections Archives at Rutgers University. In 2020 Beverly partnered with the Museum of the American Revolution on identifying potential 1801 Montgomery Township, NJ African American and female voters for their exhibition entitled, *"When Women Lost the Vote."* On December 23, 2020, Beverly was featured in the New York Times in an article entitled *"Helping the Stones Talk: Recovering Black History."* This story also appeared in the online Smithsonian Magazine on December 24, 2020, and in the Chicago Tribune, on December 26, 2020, entitled *"Uncovering Lost Black History Stone by Stone."* For Black History Month, February 2021, Beverly was interviewed by veteran journalist, Pat Battle, for an NBC (Channel 4, NYC) segment entitled, *"Uncovering Mercer County's Forgotten Past."* as well as with Crystal Cranmore, *"Unearthing Black Contributions in New Jersey"* for ABC (Channel 7, NYC). In 2021 Preservation New Jersey awarded Beverly the Doris C. Carpenter Award for her work on the March of America's Diverse Army and the Solomon Northup Family Award for uplifting the memory of enslaved people. In June 2022 Beverly Mills was a contributing historian and was featured in the New York Emmy nominated New Jersey PBS Special *"The Price of Silence, The Forgotten Story of New Jersey's Enslaved People,"* produced by Truehart Productions. In 2023 *"African Americans of Central New Jersey: A History of Harmony and Hostility,"* co-authored by Beverly Mills and Elaine Buck, was released. In 2023 Beverly was selected by the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice's Reparations Task Force to work in partnership with Institute staff to act as a counsel co-chair on the History of Slavery. Also in 2023, Beverly joined the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's New Jersey Structural Racism Project which was created to analyze how racism shaped the outcomes of communities of color in New Jersey.

Shazel Muhammad is a TEDx speaker, international keynote, CEO of Eunoia Global, and founder of African Link Initiative, a 501(c)(3). Her work has been featured on BBC News, ESSENCE, and local news and media. As a certified DE&I practitioner, mentor, coach, and trainer, Shazel has reached more than 10,000 adult learners globally. She actively supports youth leaders, helping them develop a sense of belonging, identity, purpose, critical thinking, and leadership skills. Shazel has trained more than 3,000 students in the U.S. and over 1,000 more in rural communities on in Kenya and The Republic of Sierra Leone, where she enjoys dual citizenship. She serves on several boards and as Debate Judge with the DC Urban Debate League and did also for The

Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation's Great Communicator Debate Series. Shazel's service includes being a team partner for K.I.N.D. (Kids in Need of Defense) to help protect unaccompanied children who enter the U.S. immigration system alone.

Peggy Norris is a retired librarian and independent researcher. Her research focuses on Bergen County history, women's material culture as expressed in quilts and other textiles, William L. Bulkley, and genealogy. Norris is the author of *William L. Bulkley, 1861-1933: African American Educator and Reformer* and co-author of *Stitched and Woven: Bergen County Quilts and Coverlets, 1800-1976*.

Paul W. Schopp has worked in the local history and Cultural Resource Management (CRM) field for almost 50 years. During his career as a professional senior historian, Paul's specializations include transportation history, South Jersey and Delaware Valley history, and Black history in South Jersey. In the last-named field of endeavor, he has expended over 30 years in conducting research. He is well versed in African American settlements throughout the lower eight counties, the people who resided there, and the Underground Railroad in South Jersey. Paul's broad knowledge of source material aids him in his research efforts. He has prepared a total of nine National Register of Historic Places nominations, including four directly involving Black history. Mr. Schopp served as the Executive Director of the Camden County Historical Society for four years and is a published author, having written numerous articles and six books and pamphlets. During his career in the CRM field, Paul participated in preparing well over 200 professional reports, working with archaeologists and architectural historians. After almost 30 years in the CRM field, Stockton University recruited him to serve as the Assistant Director of the South Jersey Culture & History Center, a position he has held for nine years and continues to hold.

Guy Weston has been engaged in genealogy research for over 25 years, with substantial focus on his maternal ancestors in Timbuctoo, NJ, where his fourth great-grandfather bought his family's plot in 1829 for \$30. His introduction to genealogy came when he had to do research to obtain clear title on his family's parcel. More recently, he has been engaged in various research and public history initiatives to raise the profile of antebellum free African Americans in New Jersey history. These have included interpretive signage in Timbuctoo, coordination of a curriculum development project in collaboration with local teachers, and preservation efforts for the Timbuctoo cemetery, where the oldest gravestone is dated 1847. Guy currently serves as Managing Director of the Timbuctoo Historical Society, is a Visiting Scholar at Rutgers University, and serves as editor of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS) Journal. He maintains a website which can be found at www.timbuctoonj.com. He has a master's degree in Bilingual-Bicultural Studies from LaSalle University.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SANKOFA COLLABORATIVE TEAM

Bruce Daniels was the Facilities Director and Project Manager at Grounds For Sculpture (GFS) for over 30 years. He participated in the initial planning of the park and was responsible for all its building and landscape construction, as well as the day-to-day supervision of its operations. Daniels is the Vice President of the Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum (SSAAM) and has been acting as the liaison between SSAAM and GFS, helping to expand GFS's audience and programming.

Linda J. Caldwell Epps, Ph.D., is founder and CEO of 1804 Consultants, where she brings to clients more than 45 years of experience working with educational and cultural institutions, including The New Jersey Historical Society, New Jersey Network Television and Radio, and Bloomfield College. She served as a Ford Foundation-

funded consultant to several colleges and universities. She co-founded the Sankofa Collaborative in 2017, with the purpose of helping educators in schools, community organizations, museums, and libraries present, interpret, and discuss African American history and culture. Dr. Caldwell Epps holds a BA from Rutgers University's Douglass College, a MA in American Studies from Seton Hall University, and a D. Litt from Drew University. She completed the Institute for Higher Education Management program at Harvard University, the American Association of Colleges and Universities Diversity Institute at Georgetown University, and the Rutgers Institute for Ethical Leadership (IEL). In 2021 she was awarded an honorary doctorate from Princeton University.

Gary Garrido Schneider is Executive Director of the Grounds For Sculpture, having joined in 2014 after eleven-plus years at the Montclair Art Museum as Director of Education and then Deputy Director, where he provided leadership in the areas of audience engagement, education, marketing, visitor services, special initiatives, and museum-wide strategic planning and assessment. Gary received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Parsons School of Design at the New School and Certification in Arts Education from the Bank Street College of Education. He is a 2012 alumnus of the Getty Museum Leadership Institute at Claremont Graduate University.

Samuel Stephens, Ph.D., is Interim Executive Director for the Trent House Association, having completed a nine-year term as a Trustee of the Association's Board, which works with City of Trenton to maintain the 1719 William Trent House Museum and to provide programming related to the history of the House. With a background in sociology, Sam leads the Trent House Association's work expanding its research into and deepening its interpretation of Indigenous history in New Jersey, colonial slavery at the Trent House, European immigration to Trenton in the 1800s and early 1900s, and the migration of African Americans to Trenton during the Great Migration.