

HCC LIVING HISTORY PROJECT

Do you have a story to tell? Contact the HCC at jpacl@crispusattucks.org or jkirkland@crispusattucks.org



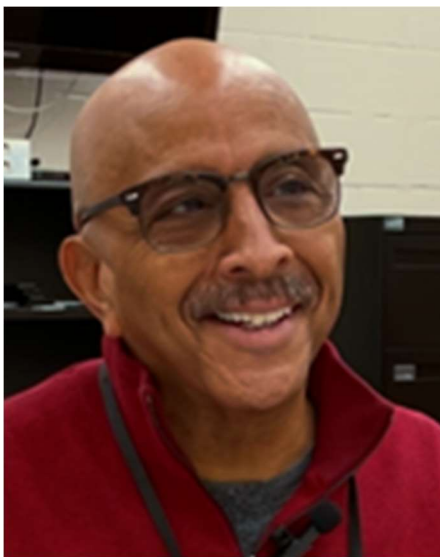
BUILDING THE HCC

See page 10 for an update.

CAY HCC Journal

Journal of The Crispus Attucks York History and Culture Center

We will explore the history and culture of York’s African American community to foster an open dialog about past, present, and future racial issues while promoting multicultural harmony.



Barry Freeland

HCC LIVING HISTORY PROJECT The Back-Alley Community

Barry Freeland grew up in an African American enclave in York City known as the Back-Alley Community. He recalls as a child that it was one of the poorest neighborhoods in the city with no access to hot water. However, he fondly remembers the strong sense of family and community that pervaded the neighborhood. All of the other moms in the neighborhood were referred to as Aunt; Aunt Betty, Aunt Florrie, etc. Children were taught to take pride in their appearance and to apply themselves in their studies. The old Crispus Attucks on Maple Street was the center of the Black community with a myriad of activities including etiquette and sports; it was a true experience of important life lessons. As a 10-year old boy, his mother took him to the March on Washington.

He remembers the electric atmosphere of ‘Resurrection City’, where people who were staying overnight were camping on the Mall. He was strongly moved by the enormity of the crowd, the singing, and the many historical figures as they gave their speeches. “It was truly a coming

together of the people”, Mr. Freeland said. He remembers Vice-President of the United States Hubert Humphrey as he arrived to witness the march.

He described his educational experience in York as relatively positive. He had both Black and White friends who visited each other’s homes. Barry believes the kids got along a lot better than the adults. (Continued on page 2.)

HCC CELEBRATES THE CACS ART SHOW

Students from the Crispus Attucks Charter School put their best artwork on display for the CACS Art Show featuring a wide variety of pieces from different artistic movements and genres. (Continued on p. 4)

1970 YORK CHARRETTE

With memories of the 1968-1969 Race riots still fresh in everyone’s minds, the idea of the 1970 York Charrette was proposed by Lionel Bailey of the York Community Progress Council to find solutions to the rampant problems that plagued York including high unemployment, virulent racism, poor housing conditions, inadequate public transportation, poor education, and limited access to healthcare. (Continued on p. 9)

CAY HISTORY SPOTLIGHT

This issue will highlight the story of Dr. George Bowles, a founding member of Crispus Attucks. Dr. Bowles received his medical degree in 1906 and served the York community as a physician and tireless advocate for equal rights his entire life. (Continued on p. 6)



The Back-Alley Community (continued from p. 1)

When asked about the circumstances that contributed to the 1968-1969 Race Riots, Mr. Freeland recalled several incidents with the York City Police. Barry remembers returning from a high school football game and being trapped by York City Police on the George St. Bridge when they barricaded both ends and released their attack dogs to maul the kids. He remembers the callous behavior of the Police, "It was nothing to see the Cops come up into your neighborhood and literally go grab somebody and beat them with their nightsticks. They were always running up in our neighborhood and just beating people and getting away with it. There were several friends of mine who had family members killed by the police. They took a friend of mine's father down to the ball field; he never came home alive. A friend of mine, whose uncle lived on Penn Street, Cops went over there, shot from out back, killed him, no repercussions. It was like being in Birmingham, Alabama, right here in good ol' York."



Photo Courtesy of York Daily Record (YDR)

During the riots, Mr. Freeland vividly remembers the silhouettes of burning buildings and fireballs against the night sky. He witnessed the National Guard halftracks as they rolled down York's streets. One of his good friends was shot while taking cover under a car.



1970 York Charrette

After the turmoil and violence Barry witnessed in the riots, he participated in the youth section of the 1970 York Charrette and was a member of the "Get It Together" club that attempted to foster racial harmony among York's young people. Children were let out of school to attend Charrette. The following year, in 1971, York High had a winning basketball team. Barry feels that this did more to bring everyone together than Charrette. The 1970 York Charrette was organized by York community leaders. It brought together people from different ideologies and religions including African Americans, Black Panthers, suburban Whites, members of the Jewish

community and other faith-based organizations. Charrette also included young people. His opinion of Charrette is mixed. He is not sure if Charrette resulted in positive change in the community, "but it did open up some eyes". Ultimately, he felt that city leaders sympathized emotionally but lacked the resolve to implement sustainable change.

Mr. Freeland joined the U. S. Navy out of high school as an Engineman, serving from 1971 to 1975. For the first time, he experienced racial animosity from sailors recruited from the deep South. Barry saw KKK signs posted in the heads (bathrooms). The situation deteriorated so badly that Naval leadership had to intervene. A Charrette like experience was held on the ship sponsored by the U. S. Navy in an attempt to restore order and harmony among the crew.

(Continued on p. 3)

OPERATION FREQUENT WIND (Continued from p. 2)

Mr. Freeland participated in the chaotic U. S. withdrawal from South Vietnam in April, 1975 known as Operation Frequent Wind. He remembers the desperation of the Vietnamese as they fled the communist advance. The troopships that had once been used to put Marines on the beaches were now being used to ferry hundreds of Vietnamese refugees to the safety of his ship, U.S.S. Mobile (LKA-115). Barry's squadron of amphibious ships rescued approximately 75,000 refugees during the week-long withdrawal. "We woke up one morning to thousands of people fleeing for their lives in little 'junk' boats" into the South China Sea, Mr. Freeland said. "It harkened back to big slave ships", the way we put hundreds of refugees into the cargo holds in a last-ditch attempt to rescue as many as possible.

They placed huge containers of cooked rice into the cargo holds to feed them while transporting them to safety. The refugees were then transferred to larger vessels. His ship immediately returned to pick up more desperate Vietnamese. Complications arose when helicopters landed on the ship's helo-deck.



Photo Courtesy of Naval History and Heritage Command



USS Mobile (LKA-115) Photo Courtesy of United States Navy

They would offload evacuees and then jettison the helicopter over the side. He remembers the desperation of a South Vietnamese pilot who was refused permission to land because American choppers were already inbound. The pilot jumped from his aircraft as he ditched it into the ocean and was rescued by ship's boats, suffering only a fractured rib. All of this went on non-stop 24-hours a day until the window of evacuation closed forever.

Mr. Freeland said it was a very traumatic experience that impacts his life even to today. "I try to take that experience and apply it in a real positive manner in what we do here at Crispus Attucks." Barry strives to educate young people about what true service and sacrifice really means. He regularly poses the question to youth and young adults:

**“What can you do to enhance and serve your community?
What can you do to make life better?”** -Barry Freeland



Solar Eclipse 4/8/24

SOLAR ECLIPSE

On Monday, April 8, 2024, a partial solar eclipse could be seen from York PA. A solar eclipse occurs during a new moon when the moon passes perfectly between the earth and the sun. The city was not in the path of totality. As a result, the sun was approximately 90% blocked by the moon. The photo shows the eclipse near apogee.



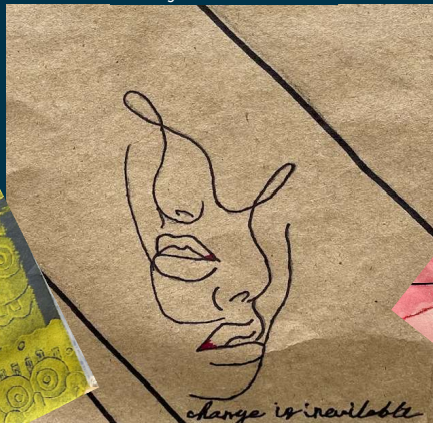
Crispus Attucks Charter School Art Show Winners (Left to Right) Jeishmarie Rodriquez-Soto, Ashley Cruz, Galilea Cook, CACS Art Teacher Mrs. Valery Zahm, Deanalis Velez Gonzalez, Jerell Simms. Not pictured are Wildaliz Estevez Jimenez, Isaiah Cortes-Lizardo, Anjoelynna Garcia, Arismany Alvarado.

HCC CELEBRATES THE ARTS

On March 22, 2024, the Crispus Attucks Charter School held a fantastic Art Show. Recognition was given to students across nine categories of artistic expression. These included M. C. Escher linoleum printing, Charles Deuth watercolor, cubism self portrait, fibercraft, tattoo design, Dutch still life, album covers, and Frank Lloyd Wright stained glass windows. Those in attendance voted for the best in each category and best in show. It was a wonderful exhibition that highlighted the artistic talents of CACS students. All of the winners and Mrs. Valerie Zahm (CACS YouthBuild Art Teacher) are to be congratulated for their efforts and dedication to bringing Culture and the Arts to CAY. Please see the following page for some of the colorful art from the show.



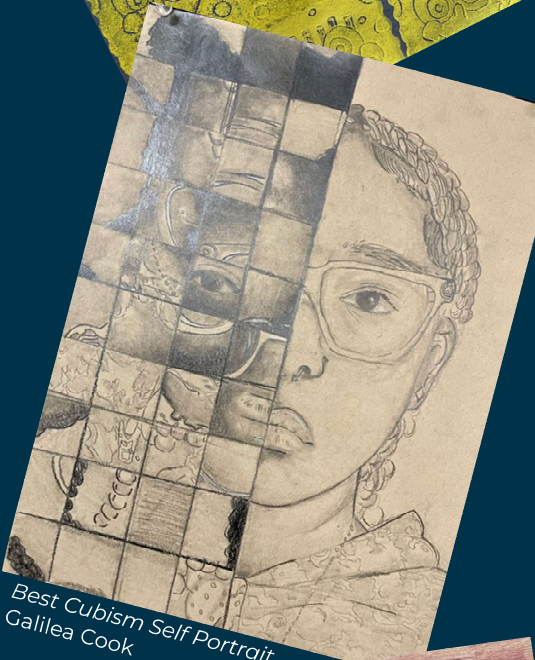
Best Linoleum
Deanalís Velez Gonzalez



Best Tattoo Design
Ashley Cruz



Best Watercolor
Arismay Alvarado



Best Cubism Self Portrait
Galilea Cook



Best in Show
Deanalís Velez Gonzalez



Best Fibercraft
Wildaliz Estevez Jimenez



Best Dutch Still Life
Isaiah Cortes-Lizardo



Best Album Cover
Jerell Simms



Best Class Window
Anjoelynna Garcia

DR. BOWLES (continued from p. 1)

Dr. George W. Bowles was born in York, Pa. in 1881. He was the Son of Mr. Adolphus & Mrs. Harriet Bowles of this town. His father Adolphus Bowles, was born in 1850 here in York. They lived at 127 West Princess Street. His Father Adolphus was employed in the Small building downtown as an Elevator Man. George was always an intelligent and motivated individual. He was the First Black Man to graduate from York High in 1898, although he was the second Black Person overall. Mrs. Emma Robinson, longtime school teacher of this town, was the very first person of color to graduate from York High in 1886.

After graduating from York High, Dr. Bowles attended and graduated from Livingstone College, a Historically Black University in North Carolina, affiliated with the A.M.E. Zion Church. He then pursued a four year Degree in Medicine at Howard University in Washington D.C. Dr. Bowles graduated number one in his class from Howard

University on June 1, 1906. He was awarded

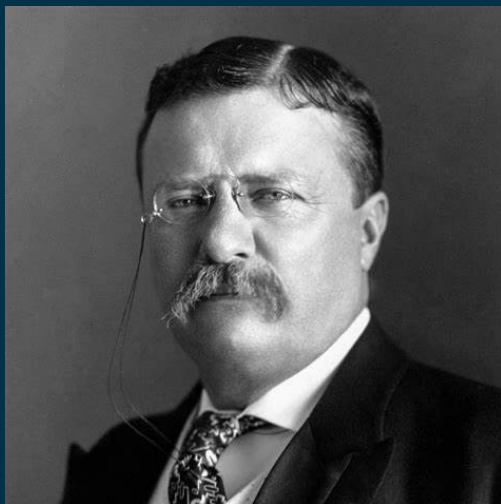
his diploma personally by U.S. President Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt. In 1906, immediately after graduation, Dr. Bowles returned to York to become the First Black physician to practice in this city. Dr. Bowles became more than just a Doctor. He became a Guiding Light in the development of York's Black community for the next several decades.

Dr. Bowles was well known in this city and commanded great respect, especially among the leading citizens here, both Black and White. He was President of the Peoples Forum, a Black organization which stressed education and vocational activities in York. In 1910 the Peoples Forum opened and operated a tobacco factory on Penn & Smyser Street in York. The factory was under the direct supervision of Dr. Bowles and employed about 50 Negroes. The factory was one of the greater accomplishments of the Peoples Forum Vocational and Employment initiatives. The workers were paid between \$2.50 and \$9.00 per week. Dr. Bowles intended the Forum and its initiatives to be a Great force for uplift among the Colored race in this city. The Forum was non-sectarian and held a regular meeting every Sunday at A.M.E. Zion church which was on East King Street at the time. Other officers of the organization were; Marion J. Armstrong Vice-President, S. Milton Gibson, Secretary, Albert Foster Assistant Secretary, Paul Foster corresponding Secretary, Nathan Gibson Chaplin, George Chapman Bible Instructor and John C. Reeves Treasurer.

In 1915 Dr. Bowles, whose office was at 112 West King Street, was one of three representatives from the State of Pennsylvania to be appointed by then Governor Tener to attend the Emancipation Celebration marking the fiftieth anniversary of Negro Freedom, which was to be held in Chicago. (Continued on p. 7)



Dr. George Bowles. Photo colorized of Jeff Kirkland



President Theodore Roosevelt. Photo courtesy of Whitehouse.gov

In March of 1916, Dr. Bowles and others, organized a committee of persons interested in uplifting the colored people of this community. They called a mass meeting for the expressed purpose of forming a local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The objectives of the organization would be to form a center for popular education, to create a bureau for the study of local racial conditions and to seek the overall welfare and advancement of the Colored people of York.

A short time later Dr. Bowles and a delegation of York Negroes met with Mayor Hugentugler to petition against the showing of the racist film "Birth of a Nation". The delegation felt that the already considerable prejudice against the Negro race in York would be made far worse by the showing of this anti-Negro film which was based on the Thomas Dixon, Jr. book "The Clansman". Other members of the delegation were; Rev. J.A.S. Cole, Pastor of A.M.E. Zion church; Rev. G.S. Burton Pastor of Shiloh Baptist church; Rev. W.E. Williams, George I. Reed, G.H. Chapman, and B.T. Montgomery.

Dr. Bowles along with Rev. Thomas Montouth and his wife Mary were also instrumental in procuring the Community House for Colored People, established on North Duke Street in 1917. It had a reading room, reception room, game room and a small gymnasium. Community House was under the auspices of Faith Presbyterian Church. In addition to Bible study classes, domestic science and art classes, boys and girls clubs, and an employment bureau, the Community House also became famous for its Community Lyceums or forums. These lyceums were held every week, alternating between several Negro churches in the community.

In 1917 Dr. Bowles married the lovely Helen Hunter Taylor, a school teacher in the Harrisburg public schools and musician of marked ability. She was the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Lorenzo Taylor, who were prominent in the Colored circles of Harrisburg.

Also in 1917, Dr. Bowles was elected as a member of the House of Delegates of the National Medical Association, an organization of Negro doctors, surgeons, dentists and pharmacists.

In 1930, Dr. Bowles approached Rev. Montouth, Rev. Orr, and others to found CAY to meet the growing needs of York's African Americans, using Community House as a model.

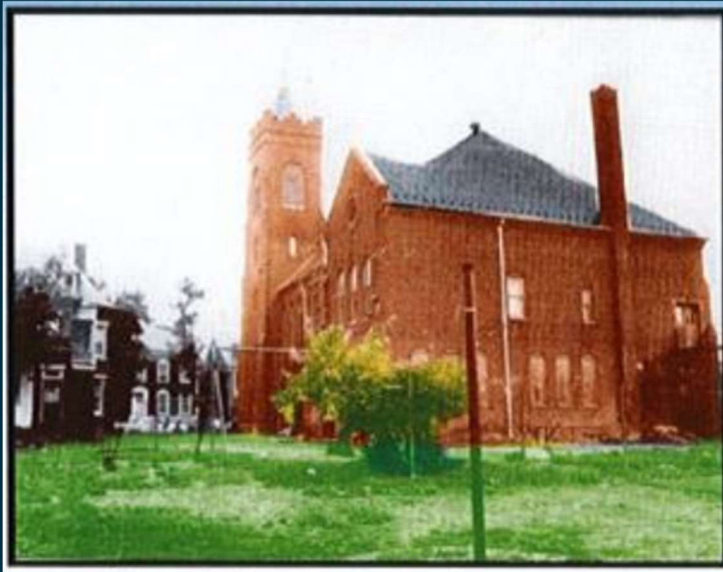
In 1938 he was elected as President of the National Medical Association. As President of this organization, Dr. Bowles was honored by the Pennsylvania Institute of Negro Health for his "outstanding contributions" and for his activity in planning for better Negro health in the United States. He testified before the U.S. Senate committee on a national health bill.



Boy Scout Troop 11

For 10 years Dr. Bowles chaired the advisory committee of the National Negro United Public Health Services in Washington. In 1942 he was appointed by Governor Gifford Pinchot as a member of the Pennsylvania Inter-Racial Commission. Locally he served for six years as Chairman of the Inter-Racial Commission of York. In addition to his character building efforts at Crispus Attucks, he was instrumental in insuring that the young Black males of York had an opportunity to build their character and leadership skills by participating in the Historic Boy Scout Troop #11, which he, along with others, worked diligently to sustain. (Continued on p. 8)

Dr. Bowles was a prolific writer and a powerful speaker. He would write many letters to the local newspapers trumpeting the need for Negro Unity to address the problems in the Negro community. During a celebration recognizing the two hundred and ninety sixth anniversary of the Negro in this country, held at St. Pauls Hall on West Jackson Street, Dr. Bowles spoke on the subject "Will the Education of the Negro Solve the Race Problem?" For a speech at the Bethel A.M.E. church on Newberry & King Street, Dr. Bowles chose as his topic "Race prejudice and Some of It's Causes". At another Lyceum at Bethel A.M.E Church, Dr. Bowles spoke on "The Negro Problem Real & Imaginary".



The "Old" CA at 123 E. Maple St. Photo colorized of Jeff Kirkland

Dr. Bowles served on the Board of Directors of Crispus Attucks for over 20 years. Crispus Attucks had a resounding impact on the growth and development of York's Black Community during and after the tenure of Dr. Bowles. Dr. Bowles statement on the founding of Crispus Attucks was prophetic. He said, "We have a National Purpose in forming this organization. We will be a character-building organization. We want to influence the young in order to bring them into Harmony with our ideals. We hope in the development of our center to bring to bear influences that will create conditions which will enable another rising generation to develop character and to perpetuate the best of our culture and traditions. The overall purpose of our organization is for the

promotion of the social and moral welfare of the Colored people of York. To us this means up-building character by creating and developing activities and conditions that will help the individuals to live happily and normally with each other."

Dr. George Bowles is a Giant in the History of York.

"The highest type of leadership among my race is asking only for two things, fair play and equal opportunity."

– Dr. George Bowles

1970 YORK CHARRETTE (Continued from page 1)



1970 York Charrette. Photo Courtesy of YDR

Charrette was an eight-day summit involving participants from all walks of life. It took place over an eight-day period between 19 and 27 April, 1970.

Problems over legitimacy quickly became apparent when Lionel Bailey wanted to screen the film “Battle of Algiers” at a local theater. The movie depicted the unrest and turmoil of the Algerian revolution. Charrette leadership put a stop to the screening just as it was about to be shown over fears that it would inspire revolutionary fervor among youth who had expressed more militant methods for bringing about the desired changes in York. From that moment on, many young African Americans in attendance at the Charrette started referring to it as a “controlled show”.

Participants felt that those in charge of Charrette were actively limiting the scope of change and referred to the outside experts guiding conversations as puppets. Some improvements that can be partially attributed to the 1970 York Charrette were the formation of the York Development Corporation and the York Health Corporation. However, these ventures already had considerable corporate support prior to Charrette.

Topics that needed to be addressed the most, such as police brutality and in particular their canine corps, were not on the official agenda until Charrette participants became very insistent on their inclusion. Police officer Gerald Sweeney, then head of York’s K9 Corps regularly used racial epithets and encouraged fellow officers to use dogs on African Americans, often resulting in serious assaults and injuries.

As part of their inquiry, Charrette leadership requested a report from the police department about the use of dogs over the past 18 months. However, the police presented a erroneous report covering only the previous three months and falsely claimed that dogs had been used against whites 16 times and only once against African Americans resulting in laughing and jeering from the 450 strong crowd. Despite impassioned speeches and emotionally charged accounts of the misuse, the K9 Corps was not disbanded and continued to operate until 1973. Opinions remain divided over the effectiveness of the 1970 York Charrette even more than 50 years after the event took place.

**“Not everything that is faced can be changed,
but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”**

-James Baldwin

BUILDING THE HCC

The East and West stairwell and elevator encasements are nearly complete. The scaffolding is due to come down. We will begin installation of the steel structure for the Rev. David Orr Event Hall and other sections on April 22, 2024. The installation is expected to take approximately four weeks. Construction crews will then shift their attention to the timber framing of the main building.



The Two Towers – The West and East Stairwell and Elevator Encasements



CAY CEO Bobby Simpson, 2024 Annual Meeting

“This History and Culture Center is being built to tell our story and our history and no one can tell our story better than we can because we lived it. There will be no sanitizing of the truth and we will be telling the whole story, not half the story - the true story of what it was like growing up in York and living under those conditions ... It doesn't matter if 1 million people tell you what you cannot do, or if 10 million people tell you no, if you get one yes from God that's all you need. We here at Crispus Attucks received our YES many years ago.”

- Bobby Simpson