

THE AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PORTSMOUTH

JUNE 2018

WVEC SEEKS KNOWLEDGE OF BLACK HISTORY FROM AAHSP MEMBER ED JOYNER

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Scholarships

The African American Historical Society has two scholarships available. The Bertha W. Edwards general education scholarship is available to Portsmouth graduating high school seniors. The Charles E. Johnson, Jr. history research scholarship available to college students studying or engaged in historic research, Contact us to apply.

The African American Historical Society of Portsmouth, in partnership with WVEC 13 News Now reporters, held Black History Month Story Time during the month of February at Portsmouth Public Library Churchland Branch and the Portsmouth Colored Community Library Museum.

The event was spearheaded by Doris Shelton of AAHSP, who has coordinated many of AAHSP's past Black History Month programs. Shelton

coordinated with Janet Roach of WVEC to have the station's reporters come out and read to the children grades K–3rd grade. Reporters included Eugene Daniel, Janet Roach, and Philip Townsend.

The reporters were very enthusiastic about reading to the children. Daniel brought books from his own collection to read. At the end of story time, each child received one free book, written by an African American author, depicting African American characters, courtesy of AAHSP.

On October 31, 2023, Ed Joyner of The African American Historical Society of Portsmouth was interviewed by WVEC's Anne Sparaco to give his views on his early years as a civil rights activist, Black History, and the decisions to keep Critical Race Theory out of public schools.

Joyner spoke of his early years at Morgan State University, an HBCU, in Baltimore, MD. Joyner was one of many freshmen and other students who protested the segregation of the White Castle in a local shopping center in Baltimore. He and his classmates knew that the fight for freedom was not over when they attended their commencement, given by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., so they

were sure to pass the torch to the underclassmen coming after them. Joyner had the opportunity participate in one of the Freedom Riders bus trips to Birmingham AL, when he narrowly escaped the burning of one of the busses simply because he returned a day early from the rally to attend work.

Having grown up in the small, segregated community of Lincolnton in Portsmouth, VA, Joyner expressed the importance of all students knowing all US history, including Black history and Critical Race Theory so that they can pass this on to their children and better understand how our past affects our future.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH STORY TIME WITH WVEC 13 NEWS NOW



We are on the web!

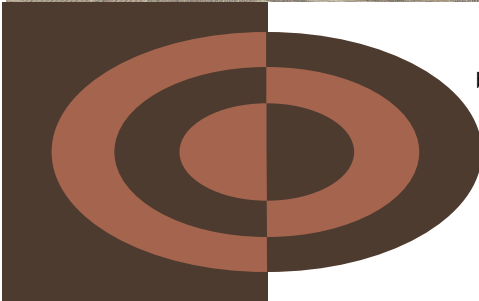
www.blackhistoryportsmouth.org

The Society's Mission

This organization is dedicated to collecting local African history and promoting, encouraging, and coordinating original historical activities, relating to African Americans in the Portsmouth area through oral and written interviews and other research activities. The organization is also interested in identifying locations and owners of African American artifacts, pictures and/or photographs and other objects.



AAHSP Members Andrea Thomas, Claudette White, Dons Shelton & Inez Randolph with WVEC's Eugene Daniel



OVER 25 YEARS OF RESEARCHING AND PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF PORTSMOUTH, VA.

AAHSP

- President - Charles Johnson
- Vice President - Mae Breckenridge-Haywood
- Secretary - Inez Randolph
- Treasurer - Gina Potts
- Assistant Treasurer – Position Open
- Media Specialist - Cynthia Harges
- Public Relations - Claudette White

Contact Us

blackhistoryportsmouth.org

P. O. Box 2468
Portsmouth, VA 23702
Public Relations Officer
Claudette White
Phone 757-617-1452

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

THE AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PORTSMOUTH

\$30

NAME _____

DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PORTSMOUTH'S BLACK HISTORY AUTHORITY

Starting October of 2023, local and national television stations started to prepare for Black History Month programming. With over 25 years of experience in gathering and preserving the historical facts, artifacts, and historical sites in the City of Portsmouth, VA, The African American Historical Society of Portsmouth has become the go to resource for information.

Between October and February, our officers and members were interviewed by WVEC 13 News Now, WTKR, and CBN. Charles Johnson, the society's president was interviewed by WTKR;s

Anthony Sabella about the Mt, Calvary Cemetery Complex. Billie Cook was interviewed by WVEC's Janet Roach on genealogy. Vice President Mae Breckenridge-Haywood was interviewed by CBN's Derek Floyd about Black History in Portsmouth, VA. Our cover story highlights the interview of Ed Joyner with WVEC's Anne Sparaco The society has grown over the years by taking on projects like the Portsmouth Colored Community Library Museum, the Mt. Calvary Cemetery Complex restoration, and the historical marker for I. C. Norcom at I. C. Norcom High School.

IN MEMORY OF DINAH WALTERS

"You make sure they remember my name is Dinah, not Diana" said Dinah Walters to AAHSP President, Charles Johnson as she lay in hospice at the VA hospital in Hampton, VA. Dinah worked tirelessly at the Mt. Calvary cemetery to preserve the gravesites of her family and others. Dinah's work partnered her with Mae Breckenridge-Haywood to author book their book,

Inscriptions in Triumphs A quiet loner, Dinah had little to say but her words were powerful and intentional when she spoke. Dinah passed away earlier this year. She will forever be missed by each of us with AAHSP.

