



# Paul Robeson House Newsletter

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2020

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

This has been a most interesting summer for us all. It will be one that we all will remember. Not only were we faced with COVID-19, but also with the killings and unrest throughout the country. As a result of the virus, we will be closed until January. Then we will decide how to proceed.

I want to thank two extraordinary volunteers for their support during this period: Christopher Rogers, volunteer program director, for his leadership in securing several grants and funding as well as developing our virtual programming, and Sherry Howard, volunteer PR director and publicist, for making sure we were always on target.

A reminder: We received a grant from the **National Trust for Historic Preservation** to hire our first paid executive director, funding from a **GoFundMe** campaign in conjunction with the Colored Girls Museum for structural repairs, renovations and other projects, and a grant from  
(cont'd p.2)

## CALENDAR



The WPCA is seeking an executive director to lead the organization and its Paul Robeson House & Museum into a new phase. We have always relied on volunteers to guide the WPCA - starting with founder Frances P. Aulston, followed by Vernoca L. Michael. We look forward to having a new person come on board and start a new chapter in the life of the WPCA.

**Deadline for applications is Oct. 9, 2020.** Job description, salary and other information can be found at <http://paulrobersonhouse.org>

## Songs of Freedom and Hope



V. Shayne Frederick and trio.

On August 7, V. Shayne Frederick and his trio performed a benefit concert live from the Paul Robeson House & Museum to help raise funds for needed structural repairs. In line with protocols for safety, the concert was streamed on Facebook. You can check out Shayne's latest release *Blacklight* here:

<https://distrokid.com/hyperfollow/vshaynefrederick/blacklight>

## COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

**Friends of Blackwell Library and Friends of Malcolm X Park** are looking for **West Philadelphia teens ages 13-15 to be Junior Ambassadors**. Junior Ambassadors will represent teens as Friends members. Help plan teen events and activities and receive a monthly stipend. **Applications will be available starting Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>**. For further information, contact [dvcam137@gmail.com](mailto:dvcam137@gmail.com).

## Director's Message (cont'd)

**Independence Public Media Foundation** to produce a multimedia project about the fight for racial justice in Philadelphia during 2020.

Over the next few months, one of the most important things we all can do is to participate in our most basic right - **"To vote."** This election is one of the *most important* of my lifetime and yours. For more information, go to **PAVOTES.org**.

Finally, I want to thank all WPCA volunteers, our partner organizations and the Omega Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. I also want to thank my family members Donna Ginyard, and Dr. Stephen and Adele Jones for organizing a celebration of my 75<sup>th</sup> birthday in June with a drive-by party! I appreciate all who participated.

Vernoca L. Michael



## Calendar (cont'd)

### August Wilson and Beyond Seminar has started.

UPenn students, Paul Robeson House community, and home-schooling parents and teens explore August Wilson's 20th Century Cycle, ten plays that depict Black life in Pittsburgh's Hill District during each decade of the 20th century.

**Classes will take place on Zoom on Mondays, 2-4 pm.** Space is still available, and you can join any time. For more information or to sign up, contact Suzana Berger, [suzanab@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:suzanab@sas.upenn.edu) or call 215-680-3488.

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If you missed any of our virtual events, you can watch them and other videos on our YouTube channel:  
<https://bitly.com/2IMHboA>.

**We Are Each Other's Harvest:**  
<https://youtu.be/C7sHE7kTqas>

**Free the Land/A Black August Special Forum:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oORb0zW3FGo>

**50 Years of Kule Mele Dance & Culture:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4SzkpybL2k>  
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## UPDATES

This summer, the WPCA worked with the **Walnut Hill Community Association** in its community *Feeding Program*, which served more than 4,000 meals to Walnut Hill residents. Board members of the association first started the program by providing meals to the elderly. Then the group received a generous grant that allowed it to expand the meals to the entire Walnut Hill community.



Meals were served at Max Paul Walnut Hill Community Farm and provided by local caterers.

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**VOTE AS IF YOUR LIFE DEPENDED ON IT!**

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**West Philadelphia Cultural Alliance/  
Paul Robeson House & Museum**

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**Phone: 215-747-4675**

**Email: [wphlca@gmail.com](mailto:wphlca@gmail.com)**

**Hours: Thurs-Sat., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Tours: Closed to the public until further notice.**

