

A Place Called Home

Author Sherman Wooden from Montrose , PA , a local historian and author, presented a program based on his book ***A Place Called Home*** . This book details the history of African Americans and their desperate flight to flee from slavery using the Underground Railroad and finally getting to freedom usually in Canada. This area of NY and PA played an important part of the Underground Railroad. Many African American settled in the area of Montrose, Wilkes Barre, Scranton , PA and the Southern Tier NY areas after the Civil War because of their experiences with the people of the area who bravely helped them or their relatives to freedom.

AAUW's Mission is to promote diversity. We wanted to make members and guests aware of the importance of diversity and the important role many brave Americans from this area in NY and PA in this dangerous flight to freedom. It is part of our local history.

Branch Goals: We wanted everyone to know the history our area and the PA area played in noble undertaking and to inspire further reading on the subject and perhaps trips to other areas in Northern NY that also played important roles in the flight of the slaves.

Specific Steps: Getting an authority to speak of the history and plight of African American slaves. We purchased and displayed several large posters of prominent African American leaders of that time in history and in more recent times: Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks and Booker T. Washington. They were displayed and discussed at this program and will be used and shared with other groups as inspiration for future program especially during Black History Month.

Community Visibility: An article in the Press and Sun-Bulletin drew an unusually large number of non-members. It was held at the Endicott Visitor Center. This is a new and very welcoming community center which has proved to be a very visible and attractive meeting area.

Impact of the Community: This was hard to measure but the program was well received . We had several members of local African.American organizations attend including the AME Zion Church and Martin Luther King Committee.

Lessons Learned: Newspaper publicity is most important. It is not always as much as we expect despite our submissions but this time the information appeared in a timely fashion and was given more space than we often receive.

Submitted by Program Committee Member Donna Spearman and Program Chair Betty Sabo

Subject: Newspaper clip
From: "Don Manning" <dmanning@stny.rr.com>
Date: Mon, 14 Mar 2011 21:53:17 -0400
To: "Betty Sabo" <bettysabo@gmail.com>

Betty,
Here is the Feb 16 newspaper clipping.
Mitzi

Feb Mtg.jpg

PRESS & SUN-BULLETIN
Saturday, January 22, 2011

VESTAL

Author to speak at library

The American Association of University Women will host a lecture by Sherman Wooden, former director of multicultural affairs and director of student Affairs at the University of Scranton, at 7 p.m. Feb. 16 in the large lecture room at the Vestal Public Library.

Wooden will speak on the motivation behind African-Americans settling in the Montrose, Wilkes-Barre, Scranton and Southern Tier areas. He is the co-author of a recently published book, "A Place Called Home," which examines the settlement of black residents in the Scranton area. He is the director of the Center for Anti-Slavery Studies in Montrose.

— Jennifer Micale

Feb Mtg.jpg	Content-Type: image/jpeg
	Content-Encoding: base64