



PRESERVATION LONG ISLAND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 18, 2020 (revised 3.26.20)

Preservation Long Island Announces Launch of the Jupiter Hammon Project

This initiative will expand interpretive programming at historic Joseph Lloyd Manor to reflect the multiple perspectives that shaped the house's history starting with Jupiter Hammon (1711–ca. 1806), the first published African American writer in the United States who lived, wrote, and was enslaved there.



Image caption: Joseph Lloyd Manor, Courtesy of Preservation Long Island

Cold Spring Harbor, NY— Preservation Long Island, a regional preservation advocacy nonprofit, is pleased to announce, [The Jupiter Hammon Project](#) an initiative that aims to expand

interpretive and educational programming at the [Joseph Lloyd Manor](#), an 18th-century Long Island manor house owned and operated by Preservation Long Island (PLI). The goal is to engage the site more fully to reflect the multiple events, perspectives, and people that shaped the house's history including [Jupiter Hammon](#) (1711– ca.1806), the first published African American author who was enslaved by the Lloyd family and whose work was published during his lifetime.

Jupiter Hammon's life and writings offer an exceptionally nuanced view of slavery and freedom on Long Island before and after the American Revolution. His works are especially significant because most literature and historical documents from the eighteenth century were not written from an enslaved person's point of view. Consequently, Hammon's writings provide powerful insights into the experience of the enslaved, as well as the social and moral conflicts slavery raised in the newly formed United States.

The Jupiter Hammon Project will include a series of collaborative roundtables discussing the legacy of enslavement on Long Island and the life of Jupiter Hammon. Three public roundtable events have been scheduled during the summer and fall of 2020 (links to event details provided below) to bring together scholars and professionals with local residents, descendent communities, and other diverse stakeholders across Long Island. These discussions will help develop a new interpretive direction for the historic Joseph Lloyd Manor that encourages responsible, rigorous, and relevant encounters with Long Island's history of enslavement and its impact on society today.

This innovative project will also provide educational content for the development of revised school curricula and serve as a model approach to program development for other sites of enslavement in the region. It will foster collaborative relationships with local descendants and community stakeholders so that their voices continue to shape PLI's mission of stewardship, advocacy, and education.

Summer and Fall 2020 Jupiter Hammon Project Roundtables and Venue Partners:

Weeksville Heritage Center (Brooklyn), August 22, 2020 (tentative)

Roundtable #1 – [Long Island in the Black Atlantic World](#): *Why did Long Island have one of the largest enslaved populations in the North during the 17th and 18th centuries?*

Suffolk County Historical Society (Riverhead), September 19, 2020 (tentative)

Roundtable #2 -[The Voice of Jupiter Hammon](#): *What do Jupiter Hammon's writings tell us about him as an educated individual surviving within the structure of enslavement?*

Joseph Lloyd Manor (Huntington), October 24, 2020 (tentative)

Roundtable #3 – [Confronting Slavery at Joseph Lloyd Manor](#): *How can Preservation Long Island best engage Joseph Lloyd Manor visitors with Jupiter Hammon's story, the region's history of enslavement, and segregation on Long Island today?*

Jupiter Hammon Project Partners:

Jupiter Hammon Project Advisory Council:

Irene Moore, Chairperson, Huntington African American Historic Designation Council;
Melisa Rousseau, Trustee, Huntington Historical Society and Center for Social Justice & Human Understanding; Denice Evans-Sheppard, Executive Director, Oyster Bay Historical Society;
Zenzelé Cooper, Program Manager, Weeksville Heritage Center; Georgette Grier-Key,

Executive Director, Eastville Community Historical Society; Charleen Francis, Education Chair, NAACP Huntington Branch; David Byer-Tyre, Director of Community Development, Hofstra University; Edward Dugger, Director of College Counselling, Friends Academy; Julia Keiser, Resource Center Manager, Weeksville Heritage Center; Joan McGee, Preservation Long Island Chief Educator

Roundtable Programs Moderator:

Cordell Reaves, Historic Preservation and Interpretation Analyst, NY State Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Subject area expert scholars and professionals.

- Craig Wilder, PhD, Barton L. Weller Professor of History, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; author of *Ebony & Ivy: Race, Slavery, and the Troubled History of America's Universities* and *In the Company of Black Men: The African Influence on African American Culture in New York City*.
- Ana Lucia Araujo, PhD, History Professor, Director of Graduate Study, Howard University; author of *Slavery in the Age of Memory: Engaging the Past* and *Shadows of the Slave Past: Memory, Heritage and Slavery*.
- Jennifer Anderson, PhD, Associate Professor of History, Stony Brook University; author of *Mahogany: The Costs of Luxury in Early America*.
- Cedrick May, PhD, Associate Professor of English, University of Texas Arlington; author of *The Collected Works of Jupiter Hammon, Poems and Essays* and *Evangelism and Resistance in the Black Atlantic, 1760–1835*.
- Jesse Erickson, PhD, Assistant Professor and Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Delaware; he is a bibliographer and researcher in the study of special collections, print culture, and book history.
- Dina Bailey, Director of Methodology and Practice, International Coalition of Sites of Conscience.
- Joseph McGill, Founder, Slave Dwelling Project.
- Jessa Krick, Associate Director of Collections, Historic Hudson Valley.

The Jupiter Hammon Project is supported by the following sponsors:

DeLaCour Family Foundation
Lloyd Harbor Historical Society
Rauch Foundation
Weeksville Heritage Center
New York State Council on the Arts
Humanities New York

Jupiter Hammon Literary Landmark Celebration

On Jupiter Hammon's Birthday, Saturday, October 17, 2020, *United for Libraries and Empire State Center for the Book* will recognize the house where Jupiter Hammon lived and wrote ([Joseph Lloyd Manor](#)) as a [Literary Landmark](#). During this ceremony the bronze plaque will be unveiled recognizing Jupiter Hammon and the significance of the Joseph Lloyd Manor. Poetry readings and tours of the house will also take place.

The Literary Landmark plaque is supported by the following sponsors:

Huntington African American Historic Designation Council

NAACP Huntington Branch
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.-Sigma Psi Omega Chapter
Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated, Suffolk County Chapter
The Links, Incorporated, Long Island (NY) Chapter

[About Preservation Long Island](#)

Preservation Long Island is a not-for-profit organization that works with Long Islanders to raise awareness, appreciation, and support for the protection of our shared past through advocacy, education, and the stewardship of historic sites and collections.

<http://preservationlongisland.org>

[About Joseph Lloyd Manor, Lloyd Harbor, New York](#)

Completed in 1768 for Joseph Lloyd, the third lord of the Manor of Queens Village, the Joseph Lloyd Manor House was the seat of a 3,000-acre agricultural estate. The British occupied it during the Revolutionary War and it is where Jupiter Hammon, an enslaved man, and the first published African American author, lived and wrote.

Preservation Long Island maintains and interprets historic sites and collections that embody various aspects of Long Island's history including:

Joseph Lloyd Manor, Lloyd Harbor <http://preservationlongisland.org/joseph-lloyd-manor/>
Custom House, Sag Harbor <http://preservationlongisland.org/custom-house/>
Sherwood-Jayne Farm, Setauket <http://preservationlongisland.org/sherwood-jayne-farm/>
Old Methodist Church and Exhibition Gallery <http://preservationlongisland.org/methodist-church/>

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Additional images available.

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