



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 10, 2024

Preservation Long Island and the Town of Huntington African American Historic Designation Council Partner to Celebrate Black Poetry Day and the 313th Birthday of Long Island writer Jupiter Hammon

October 19, 2024 from 2 PM to 4 PM at Joseph Lloyd Manor in Lloyd Harbor, New York



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

Lloyd Harbor, New York— Preservation Long Island and the Town of Huntington African American Historic Designation Council have partnered to celebrate Black Poetry Day and the 313th Birthday of Long Island writer Jupiter Hammon, America’s first published Black poet. The free event will take place on October 19th at Joseph Lloyd Manor, and will include tours of the historic house, a poetry reading by author David Mills and refreshments in the garden overlooking Lloyd Harbor.

Jupiter Hammon (1711–before 1806) was born into slavery at Henry Lloyd Manor on October 17, 1711, a date now celebrated as Black Poetry Day. Hammon went on to compose several of his most significant works about the moral conflicts of slavery and freedom in the early United States while later enslaved at Joseph Lloyd Manor.

Designated as a National Literary Landmark™ in 2020 by the United for Libraries and Empire State Center for the Book in honor Hammon’s literary achievements, Joseph Lloyd Manor (c.1767) is one of Preservation Long Island’s historic houses and a site that enslaved generations of people of African descent.

On Saturday, October 19th, Joseph Lloyd Manor will open at 2:00 PM for self-guided tours and refreshments. Beginning at 2:30 PM, author David Mills will read original poetry from his award-winning book *Boneyarn*, the sole book of poems about slavery in New York, and discuss how Hammon used Biblical imagery in his writing to question the institution of slavery.

This is a free event. Space is limited, and advance registration is recommended. For more information and to reserve free tickets visit:

<https://preservationlongisland.org/jupiter-hammons-birthday-celebration/>

Date: Saturday, October 19, 2024

Time: 2:00-4:00 PM

Place: Joseph Lloyd Manor (1 Lloyd Lane, Lloyd Harbor)

Cost: FREE (Reserve tickets in advance online at preservationlongisland.org)

About Preservation Long Island

Preservation Long Island is a not-for-profit organization committed to working with Long Islanders to celebrate and preserve our diverse cultural and architectural heritage through advocacy, education, and the stewardship of historic sites and collections.

<http://preservationlongisland.org>

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/>

About Town of Huntington African American Historic Designation Council

The African American Historic Designation Council (AAHDC) is a subcommittee of the Huntington Historic Preservation Commission. Five voting members, one appointed by each Town Board member for a term to coincide with that of the sponsoring Town Board member. Chairperson appointed by a majority vote of the Council Members. Town Historian shall be appointed as ex-officio, non-voting member.

About David Mills

Author David Mills holds an MFA from Warren Wilson College and an MA from New York University. He's published four poetry collections: The Sudden Country, The Dream Detective, After Mystic, and Boneyarn—the sole book of poems about slavery in New York. Mills is a winner of the North American Book Award, a recipient of the Langston Hughes Society Award and is the poet-in-residence for the Bronx Historical Society. The Juilliard School of Drama commissioned and produced a play by Mr. Mills. He has also recorded his poetry on ESPN and RCA Records and has had his works displayed at the Venice Biennale.

About Joseph Lloyd Manor

Located in the Town of Huntington, Joseph Lloyd Manor was completed in 1767 for Joseph Lloyd (1716–1780). The house was the center of the Manor of Queens Village, a 3,000-acre provisioning plantation established in the late 17th century on the ancestral lands of the Matinecock Nation. Jupiter Hammon (1711–before 1806), one of the first published African American writers, was one of the many people of African descent enslaved at the site. The house remained in the Lloyd family until 1876, eventually becoming the country house of Mrs. Anna Matheson Wood (1882–1980) who donated the property to Preservation Long Island in 1968.

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