



PRESERVATION LONG ISLAND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 1, 2025

Preservation Long Island to host Black Poetry Day Program on October 18, 2025 at Joseph Lloyd Manor in Lloyd Harbor

Tours of Joseph Lloyd Manor and a presentation by professor and author James G. Basker.



Joseph Lloyd Manor garden. Courtesy of Preservation Long Island.

Lloyd Harbor, New York — Preservation Long Island is pleased to host a celebration of Black Poetry Day and the 314th birthday of Long Island writer **Jupiter Hammon** at Joseph Lloyd Manor. The program will feature a presentation by author and professor **James G. Basker**, entitled *The Black Presence in the Founding Era*. Joseph Lloyd Manor will open at 3:00 PM for self-guided tours and light refreshments. Professor Basker's talk will begin at 4:00 PM.

Drawing on the hundreds of lives represented in his recent book *Black Writers of the Founding Era* (Library of America, 2023), James G. Basker, president and CEO of the Gilder Lehrman

Institute of American History and Richard Gilder Professor of Literary History at Barnard College, Columbia University, will talk about the rich variety of life stories and contributions to the American founding made by such people as Jupiter Hammon, Lemuel Haynes, Phillis Wheatley, James Forten, Benjamin Banneker, and many others whose names were almost lost to history.

Black Poetry Day is observed each year on the birthday of Jupiter Hammon (1711–before 1806), America’s first published Black poet. Enslaved by the Lloyd family, Hammon lived and wrote at Joseph Lloyd Manor (c. 1767), where he composed some of his most significant works on the moral conflicts of slavery and freedom in the early United States. In 2020, the site was designated a National Literary Landmark in his honor.

“I am excited to welcome James Basker to Joseph Lloyd Manor to help us celebrate Jupiter Hammon’s 314th Birthday and Black Poetry Day to honor the legacy of Jupiter Hammon,” said **Jackie Powers**, Preservation Long Island Executive Director. “Hammon wrote powerfully about liberty, justice, and perseverance, and we hope this event will bring more attention to his inspirational words.”

“In the context of the upcoming commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, Jupiter Hammon’s life and writings offer a uniquely nuanced view of slavery and freedom on Long Island before and after the American Revolution,” said **Andrew Tharler**, Preservation Long Island’s Director of Education and Engagement. “Hammon is among the earliest writers of this period whose words provide a perspective from the Black community.”

Hammon’s known works include at least six poems and three essays published during his lifetime. At Joseph Lloyd Manor in 1786, he penned “An Address to the Negroes of the State of New-York” and “An Essay on Slavery.”

Event Details:

Black Poetry Day Program – “The Black Presence in the Founding Era”

Date: Saturday, October 18, 2025

Time: 3:00-5:00 PM

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

Tickets: Free for PLI Members | \$10 Non-Members

Registration and details: <https://preservationlongisland.org/black-poetry-day-2025/>

Support

The Black Poetry Day Program is funded in part by the **Margaret Sullivan Fund**.

About the Speaker

James G. Basker is president and CEO of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and Richard Gilder Professor of Literary History at Barnard College, Columbia University. As president of Gilder Lehrman since 1997, Basker has overseen the development of major history education initiatives, including a national network of affiliate schools, teacher seminars, traveling exhibitions, digital archives, the Hamilton Education Program, and the National History Teacher of the Year Award. He is an elected member of the Society of American Historians, a former fellow of the American Antiquarian Society, and a former trustee of the New-York Historical Society. He serves on the boards of the Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize and the Frederick Douglass Book Prize, the Board of Marymount School, and the Board of the Association of American Rhodes Scholars.

About Preservation Long Island

Preservation Long Island is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization whose mission is to celebrate and preserve Long Island's diverse cultural and architectural heritage through advocacy, education, and the stewardship of historic sites and collections. <http://preservationlongisland.org>

About Joseph Lloyd Manor

Located in the Town of Huntington, Joseph Lloyd Manor (c.1767) is one of four historic properties under Preservation Long Island's stewardship. Built at the end of the colonial period for Joseph Lloyd (1716–1780), the house was the seat of a 3,000-acre provisioning plantation known as the Manor of Queens Village, established in the late 17th century on the ancestral

lands of the Matinecock people. Jupiter Hammon (1711– c.1806) one of the first published African American writers, was one of the many people of African descent enslaved at the site. The house was designated as a National Literary Landmark™ in 2020 by the United for Libraries and Empire State Center for the Book in honor of writer Jupiter Hammon’s literary achievements.

<https://preservationlongisland.org/joseph-lloyd-manor/>

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