

Portraits of Leadership:

African American Entrepreneurs on Staten Island

Opening reception at the Staten Island Museum's History Center & Archives

Date: Saturday, February 12, 1:00pm – 4:00pm
Location: Staten Island Museum History Center & Archives
Snug Harbor Campus, Building H
1000 Richmond Terrace, SI, NY 10301
Admission: Free

(Staten Island, NY - January 2011) *Portraits of Leadership: African American Entrepreneurs on Staten Island* is designed to inspire and uplift through sharing the stories of some of the accomplished African Americans in the Staten Island Community who continue to have a positive impact both at home and in the global community.

At the exhibit's opening reception, **Saturday, February 12, 1:00pm – 4:00pm at the Museum's History Center & Archives in Building H on the Snug Harbor Campus**, we will meet some of the pioneers as they share their love of life, hear what drives them along as well as who has inspired them in a DVD presentation. There will also be a companion CD in which others from the community orate their stories.

The DVD will feature a diverse selection of eight community leaders including Debi Rose, Dolores Morris and her family, Reverend Demetrius Carolina, Kevin Buford, Patricia Anne Taylor, Gerald Barclay, Ruby Dailey and Amanda Johnson.

Dolores Morris, a recently retired HBO producer and 5 time Emmy Award Winner, recalls the significance of her Grand-Father's moving company in the early part of the 20th century, Morris Moving Company, who would move African American families when other companies would not. Ms. Morris has been a member of the Staten Island Museum's Board of Trustees since 2010.

Similarly, African Americans were denied service by white funeral directors in the early part of the 20th century. Billups Funeral Home, owned by the family of **Council Member Debi Rose**, provided necessary assistance that helped to maintain community and developed the kind of family values that allowed Council Member Davis to reach the heights she has.

Reverend Carolina is a major force at the Central Family Life Center in Stapleton. The Reverend and the center have been serving their community in countless ways for many years.

Patricia Anne Taylor is an accomplished officer with the Staten Island Women's Bar Association. For years Ms. Taylor has campaigned for civil rights and a better life for all who are in need regardless of their race, culture, or standing.

Kevin Buford continues to use the spoken word and his sense of entrepreneurship to inspire and mobilize positive activity in the Staten Island community and beyond.

Film maker **Gerald Barclay**, who hails from the Liberian Community in Park Hill, Staten Island, is recognized nationally and internationally thanks to his film *KILLA HILL* that chronicled the 'story' of Park Hill.

The youngest entrepreneur featured in *Portraits of Leadership*, a videographer on the rise, is Amanda Johnson. Ms Johnson, connected to the Temple of the Arts and inspired by Sajda Mussawir, she embodies the spirit of moving forward.

Lastly, *Portraits* features Ruby Dailey who, at 102 years of age, encourages us all to move along regardless of race. Ms. Dailey now resides in the Clove Lakes Nursing Home and shares her incredible story from picking cotton to owning a home in Staten Island.

The exhibit will be on display for FREE public viewing at the **Staten Island Museum's History Center** on the Snug Harbor Campus, Building H, 1000 Richmond Terrace, through November 1, 2011. Hours of operation are **Tuesday – Saturday 1:00pm – 4:00pm.**

The Museum's production team for *Portraits of Leadership* includes, Director of Exhibitions and Programs, Diane Matyas; Folklorist, Chris Mule; Curator of History, Patricia Salmon; Assistant Archivist, Cara Dellatte and Cynthia Copeland. The project's content was developed by the Museum's Community Outreach & Arts-In-Education Coordinator, Jeannine Otis and esteemed videographer and photographer, Willie Chu.

Photo Caption:
Morris Family, Norcie, Dolores, & William.
Photograph by Willie Chu. 2010.

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About the Staten Island Museum: For 129 years, the Staten Island Museum has been fostering and sustaining scientific and cultural heritage on Staten Island. Founded in 1881, NYC's only general interest museum explores the arts, natural science, and local history through permanent and changing exhibitions and welcomes over 80,000 adults and school children to a comprehensive array of programs. Located two blocks from the Ferry Terminal, visitors can embark on a voyage through time in the Staten Island Ferry exhibit; see rocks glow in the dark along with oddities in the Hall of Natural Sciences and experience the life of Staten Island's first inhabitants. For current exhibitions, visit statenislandmuseum.org.

Staten Island Museum (St. George)

75 Stuyvesant Pl.
Staten Island, NY 10301

Museum Hours:

Monday – Friday: 11am– 5pm
Saturday 10am–5pm
Sunday 12pm-5pm

Main number: (718) 727-1135

The museum building is wheelchair accessible. Call (718) 727-1135 for assistance.

Admission

Adults \$3.
Students and Seniors: \$2.
FREE to members and children under 12.
FREE Lunchtime Break: Every Tuesday between 12–2pm

History Center & Archives *New Location*

1000 Richmond Terrace
Snug Harbor Campus, Building H
Staten Island, NY 10301

Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 10am – 4pm by appointment
Please contact Cara Dellatte at (718) 727-1135, ext. 122