

Remembering is Resistance

2022



MARYLAND

MHEE GREEN 1902.1852	JACOB HENSON 09.28.1859
JAMES CARROLL 08.11.1872	JAMES ROBERTS 10.12.1895
GEORGE PEER 01.30.1880	SYDNEY BASHBACH 07.06.1890
JOHN DODDS 02.27.1890	WILLIAM ANDREWS 06.09.1897
GEORGE BRISCOE 11.24.1885	GARFIELD KING 08.26.1898
HEZEL RICHARDSON 12.12.1884	WRIGHT SMITH 04.03.1898
TOWNSEND COOK 06.02.1885	LEWIS HARRIS 01.25.1900
HOWARD GODDER 03.11.1885	HENRY DAVIS 12.21.1896
CHARLES WHITELY 06.08.1888	JAMES REED 07.24.1901
BEN HANCE 05.12.1887	WILLIAM BURNS 04.01.1905
JOHN BIGGS 11.23.1887	RING JOHNSON 12.24.1911
ASHLEY GREEN 05.12.1891	MATTHEW WILLIAMS 12.09.1921
JAMES TAYLOR 03.21.1892	UNKNOWN 12.31.1918
GEORGE HEMP 06.02.1894	GEORGE KEENE 04.08.1918
STEPHEN WILLIAMS 10.28.1894	

ALEXANDRIA
VIRGINIA

JOSEPH MCCLAY
04.23.1897

BENJAMIN THOMAS
08.08.1899

ALLEGHANY COUNTY
VIRGINIA

CHARLES WILLEY
04.17.1899

JOHN MCCLAY
04.27.1900

ROBERT MORTON
04.27.1904

MoCoLMP
Montgomery County Lynching Memorial Project

Mr. George Peck (1880) | Mr. John Diggs-Dorsey (1880) Mr. Sidney Randolph (1896)

As the Montgomery County Lynching Memorial Project (MoCoLMP) enters its 5th year, we are proud of our ongoing efforts to remember our county's painful history and to work towards racial healing and reconciliation. During 2019–2021, MoCoLMP held Soil Collection Ceremonies in Poolesville and Rockville, honoring the three men who were lynched in the county. In 2022 we launched our next big project—creating permanent historical outdoor plaques to mark these events. We also continued our education and engagement activities, broadening our outreach to the public and to schools. These activities led to significant growth, with our membership now at 350.

ENGAGING POOLESVILLE

MoCoLMP's main goal in 2022 was to begin work towards installing our county's first historical marker in memory of lynching victim Mr. George Peck (1880) in Poolesville. The Poolesville community has



Poolesville "Conversation Circle"

A Very Local Issue: Installation of a Historical Marker to Recognize the Lynching of Mr. George Peck, 1880



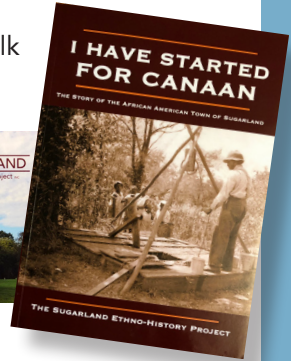
been enthusiastic in its response. Historic Medley District, the local historical society; the Black Student Union and faculty members at Poolesville High School; the Town Commissioners; Hosanna Community Church; and other local leaders who were

involved in the 2019 Soil Collection Ceremony for Mr. Peck have been active participants.

A highlight was a Conversation Circle attended by 40 people, primarily Poolesville residents. The public forum, held at Poolesville High School, allowed participants to share their thoughts and feelings

regarding the future installation of a historical marker in Poolesville close to the site of the lynching of Mr. Peck. Trained facilitators, including Poolesville High School students and faculty, as well as members of MoCoLMP, provided an overview of the three known lynchings in Montgomery County and set out ground rules to create a safe space for speaking. Each participant in the conversation circle was given the opportunity to talk for several minutes without interruption.

A book group was formed to read *I Have Started for Canaan*, by the Sugarland Ethno-History Project, with the goal of learning more about one of the historic Black communities near Poolesville and Beallsville.



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

MoCoLMP continued to show our photo exhibit, “It Happened in Rockville: Remembering Two Lynchings.” The exhibit was developed by photographer Earl Dotter and our History and Exhibits Committee. The Rockville Memorial Library



Photography Exhibit

IT HAPPENED IN ROCKVILLE REMEMBERING TWO LYNCHINGS

Remembrance Walk and Soil Collection Ceremony Memorial Tribute

Remembering the memories of Rockville lynching victims, Mr. John Diggs-Dorsey and Mr. Sidney Randolph

OPEN February 1-28, 2022
Monday-Saturday | during library hours
Atrium of the Rockville Memorial Library
21 Maryland Ave., Rockville

Community members are saying:

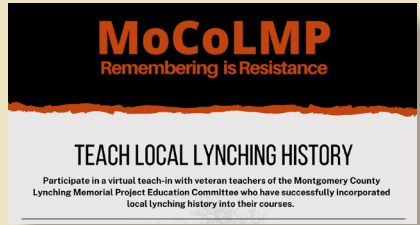
***“A must viewing
for our schools.”***

***“An informative, beautiful
and moving exhibit.”***

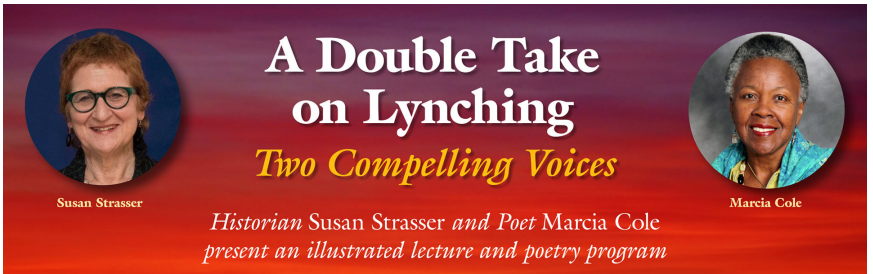
displayed the exhibit during Black History Month (February), followed by a showing at Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center in Silver Spring, from March 25–April 29. It was also shown at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School. A guest book kept at the exhibits reflected positive feedback and the need to tell the complete story of our past. View the online version of the exhibit [here](#).

WORKSHOP FOR EDUCATORS

In November, MoCoLMP's Education Committee, co-chaired by Lesley Younge and Caitlin Atkins, led a workshop on teaching about lynching and racial terrorism. During interactive workshops, veteran teachers who have successfully incorporated local lynching history into their courses demonstrated activities and shared resources and best practices. Liz Miller, a second-generation fine artist and teacher for Baltimore County Public Schools, discussed her work and screened her short film *Remembrance Blessing*. The teach-in was part of Montgomery County's Remembrance and Reconciliation Month. The program will be offered to other audiences in 2023.



In March, MoCoLMP partnered with the county Commission on Remembrance and Reconciliation for a Zoom-based cultural and educational event, "A Double Take on Lynching," presented by a white historian Susan Strasser and African-American poet Marcia Cole.



The team brought out into the open this hidden part of American history. Strasser presented her thorough research, showing the breadth and reach of the lynching practice. Cole focused on the individual occurrence through poetry, creating a narrative from different perspectives. Their combined efforts gave extraordinary power to the subject. View Cole reading her poetry [here](#).

REACHING THE PUBLIC

MoCoLMP had a literature table at several large public events in the county. We shared a table with the county Commission on Remembrance and Reconciliation, as part of the Juneteenth celebration in Germantown. We handed out literature and talked with community members about our county's history. The display included

“The public narrative a nation creates about what is important is reflected in memorials and monuments. Who is honored, what is remembered, what is memorialized tell a story about a society that can’t be reflected in other ways.”

–BRYAN STEVENSON,
EQUAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

the jars of soil collected during the soil ceremonies and proved to be an effective tool for engaging the public. We also distributed literature in Poolesville and at Button Farm in June as part of Heritage Days, and in September at the 30th annual Poolesville Day.



In July, MoCoLMP steering committee member Tony Cohen co-presented with Montgomery History Archivist Sarah Hedlund at a Peerless Rockville program on the lynchings of Mr. John Diggs-Dorsey (1880) and Mr. Sidney Randolph (1896).

WORKING WITH LIKE-MINDED GROUPS

MoCoLMP members were invited to the new Freedom House Museum in Alexandria for a special visit and conversation, led by our partners at the Alexandria Black History Museum and the Office of Historic Alexandria. We continue to collaborate with our friends in Alexandria on programs of common interest.

MoCoLMP and the Montgomery County Remembrance and Reconciliation Commission share a strong and productive working relationship. MoCoLMP’s Tony Cohen served on the Commission’s advisory board in 2022, and is helping the Commission plan for two markers to be placed in Rockville. The markers will honor Mr. Diggs-Dorsey and Mr. Randolph.

We are proud to be a member of the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project (MDLMP), the statewide association which includes Community Remembrance Projects like ours in 13 of Maryland’s 18 counties. MDLMP supports our efforts, including hosting an annual conference in Baltimore, which many MoCoLMP members attended.

MoCoLMP MISSION

The Montgomery County Lynching Memorial Project (MoCoLMP) seeks to educate and engage the community about the history and legacy of lynching and racial terrorism in Montgomery County, Maryland; to gather soil from the three known lynching sites in the county; and to work with community groups and the Montgomery County Commission for Remembrance and Reconciliation to procure the installation of historical markers commemorating these events. As a grassroots organization we partner with the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project and are a designated Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) Community Remembrance Project.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Beth Baker, Tony Cohen, Alexa Fraser, Holly Syrrakos, Derrick C. Tabor

AMONG OUR PARTNERS

(in alphabetical order)

City of Rockville	Maryland Lynching Memorial Project
Clinton African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church	The Menare Foundation
Coming to the Table-MoCo	Montgomery College Office of Equity and Inclusion
Equal Justice Initiative- Montgomery, Alabama	Montgomery County Commission on Remembrance and Reconciliation
Gaithersburg Community Museum	Montgomery County Office of Human Rights
Historic Medley District	Montgomery History
Jay Mallin Photos & Film	Mt. Calvary Baptist Church
Jerusalem-Mt. Pleasant	Peerless Rockville
United Methodist Church	
Poolesville Presbyterian Church	

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To join the Montgomery County Lynching Memorial Project's listserv or to get involved in its ongoing work in Montgomery County, Maryland,
email: mocolynchingmemorial@gmail.com

To donate: <https://bit.ly/mocolmp>



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Maryland Lynching Memorial Project, a 501(c)(3) corporation, is the fiscal sponsor of the Montgomery County Lynching Memorial Project. Your donations may be tax deductible.