

December, 2023

Occasionally we are asked "what is the Anti-Racism Affinity Group of Greater Newburyport?" and "can I join?" We are a small group that has been meeting since May, 2017 to support, discuss, and learn about systemic racism and intersectional issues generally, as well as mentor others beginning their journeys of anti-racism.

We support and challenge one another in our own education through books, movies, articles, podcasts, workshops, etc., and look at ways to share these ideas and information with the community, with individuals, and with others who wish to begin their own learning pods.

We stand in solidarity with all those working to end racism, inequality, war and imperialism, while also supporting efforts to build power in working class communities of color. Collective and individual liberation for all!

This is our Facebook page, [Anti-Racism Affinity Group of Greater Newburyport](#)

Please feel free to share this email, or give others my email address (mentalchatter@yahoo.com) so they can get on the (blind carbon copy) mailing list. This newsletter began in Feb., 2021.

**PLEASE SUBMIT ANY POTENTIAL ADDITIONS BY THE 25<sup>th</sup> of EACH MONTH**

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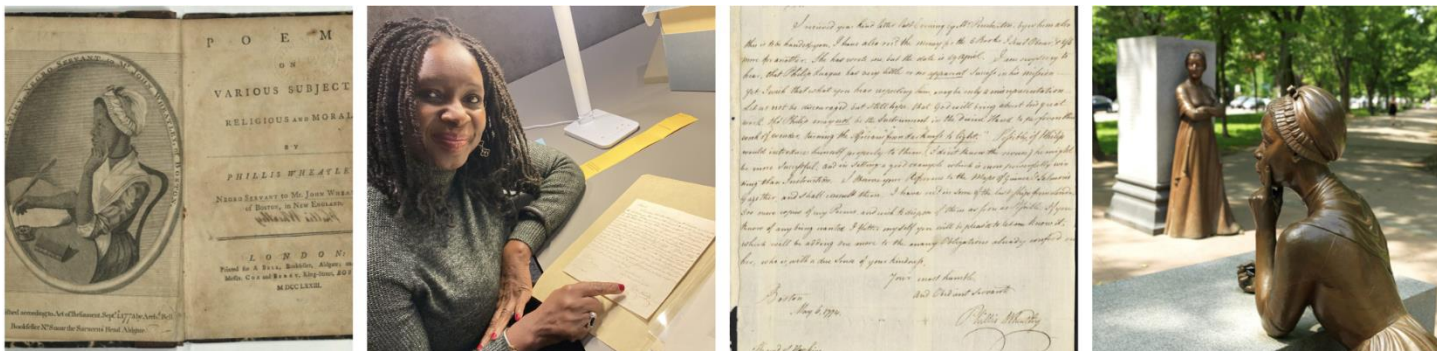


This November, Revolutionary Spaces debuts ***Phillis in Boston***, an original new play dramatizing a key moment in the life of both the nation and the celebrated poet Phillis Wheatley, enslaved author of the landmark book "Reflections on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral." Published in London in 1773, it was the first known book of poetry by an English-speaking person of African descent and the third book published by an American woman. Wheatley's book was brought to Boston on board the Dartmouth, the same ship that carried the controversial tea that would later be thrown in the harbor on December 16, 1773—the night famously known as the Boston Tea Party.

***Phillis in Boston*** will run from **Friday, November 3 to Sunday, December 3, 2023**, with preview performances on November 1 and November 2.

<https://revolutionaryspaces.org/explore/upcoming-programs/phillis-in-boston/>

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# FACES OF PHILLIS

BY ADE SOLANKE

[www.AssociatesBPL.org/Phillis](http://www.AssociatesBPL.org/Phillis)

DECEMBER 4TH  
2023 @ 6 PM  
RABB HALL, BPL

A staged reading and  
panel discussion about  
*Phillis Wheatley Peters*

HOSTED BY THE ASSOCIATES OF THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



The Associates of the Boston Public Library cordially invites you to the fifth annual Pierce Performance, **Faces of Phillis**, by Adeola Solanke. This staged reading and panel discussion commemorates the 250th anniversary of the publication of Phillis Wheatley Peters' groundbreaking book, *Poems of Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*, in 1773. **The show will be available virtually for one week following the production.**

Read more [here](#)

Reserve your free ticket [here](#)

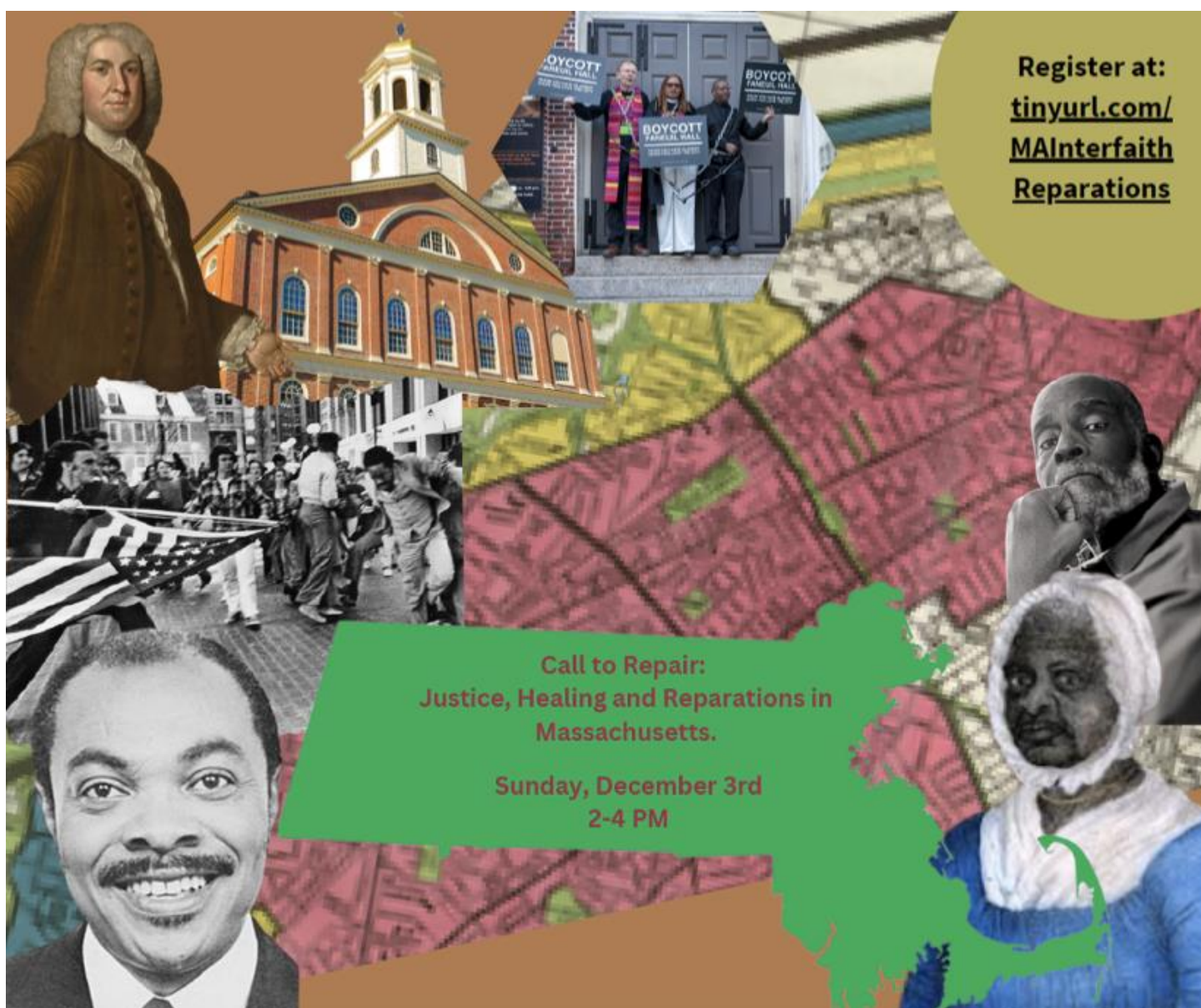


Thursday, November 30 | 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM | Atlantic Blackbox | Online  
*Enslaved Christians: Black Church Members in the Era of Cotton Mather*

Historian Richard Boles' nuanced and trenchant exploration of the role of Puritan theology in New England slavery, and the way that enslaved people shaped the society around them, is the fourth lecture in the series, **Enslavement & Resistance: New England 1620-176**, offered by Atlantic Black Box.

This presentation offers the unique insights of Dr. Richard Boles, a scholar who has spent more than a decade researching the religious experiences of African Americans and Native Americans in colonial New England.

Read more and register [here](#)



**Register at:**  
[tinyurl.com/MAInterfaithReparations](https://tinyurl.com/MAInterfaithReparations)

**Call to Repair:  
Justice, Healing and Reparations in  
Massachusetts.**

**Sunday, December 3rd  
2-4 PM**

This event is a virtual Interfaith Reparations Gathering bringing together organizations, communities and congregations across Massachusetts to learn and discuss how the reparations movement is progressing locally and how we can move it forward. At this event, national and local Black leaders in

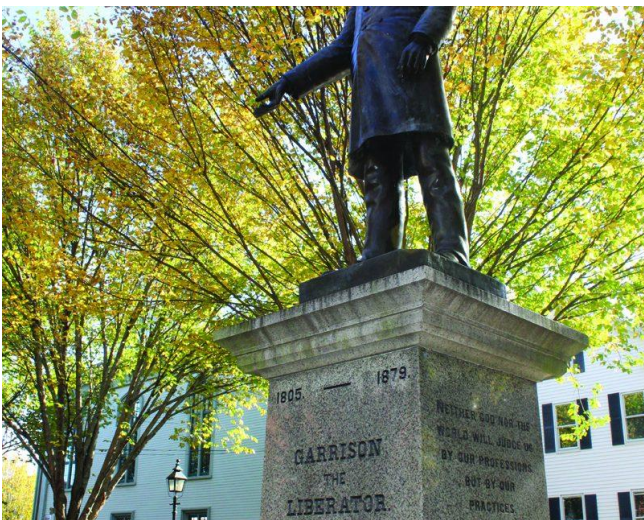
the reparations movement will speak to our shared sense that reparations are not a transaction but rather a spiritual and ethical practice. This event is open to all those interested in building their understanding of and work towards reparations. This is the first event among more to come from the Reparations Interfaith Coalition, a new and currently a predominantly white group of faith and ethically based communities dedicated to moving reparations forward in MA. We hope to leave you with action ideas for education, advocacy, and ways to make material reparations. This event is part of a national [Sacred Reporative Season launched by the Grassroots Reparations Campaign](#).  
Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/MAInterfaithReparations>

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## 'Grant Us Our Liberty'

by [Stewart Lytle](#)

Tuesday October 31, 2023



William Lloyd Garrison's statue in Brown Square Photo by Stewart Lytle

NEWBURYPORT – William Lloyd Garrison, the outspoken abolitionist against slavery and one of this city's most esteemed sons, would be pleased with the new interpretative sign being installed next week near his statue in Brown Square across the street from City Hall.

Entitled Grant Us Our Liberty, the bronze sign is part of the Newburyport Black Initiative, which highlights a largely unknown history of Newburyport. One of 10 signs planned for parks, the rail trail and downtown, it will tell the story of black activists who lived in the city during the 18th and 19th centuries.

**The sign will be installed at 3 p.m., Dec. 5**, during the week of the annual Garrison lecture, which will be held at **7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Old South Presbyterian Church**.

Northeastern University Professor Kabria Baumgartner, who helped found the NBHI, will join Mayor Sean Reardon and Andrea Gaut Eigerman with the Friends of Garrison in speaking at the unveiling of the sign.

The purpose of the interpretive signs is to “Explore and amplify previously unacknowledged voices from the past, consider historical themes and storylines from new perspectives and enhance and inform Newburyport’s collective understanding of its past and contribute to a more

inclusive history of our community,” said the city’s senior planner Geordie Vining.

**As part of the festivities around Garrison’s birthday, Vining will deliver a half-hour lecture at 7 p.m. on Wednesday Dec. 6.** His lecture, Expanding the Spotlight: Black Abolitionists from Newburyport in the Age of Garrison, will be held in the program room of the **Newburyport Public Library**, followed by a discussion.

Vining said earlier that the black history signage will “enhance the essential character of the city, enhance Newburyport’s National Historic Register District and serve a significant number of residents” who have not been given the recognition they deserve in this historic city.

The featured speaker at the annual Garrison lecture this year is Kerri Greenidge, the Mellon Associate Professor in the Department of Studies in Race, Colonialism and Diaspora at Tufts University. She also co-directs the African American Trail Project and is co-director of Tufts’ Slavery, Colonialism and Their Legacies Project.

Garrison was best known for his widely read anti-slavery newspaper The Liberator, which he founded in 1831 and published in Boston until slavery was abolished in 1865.

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Kerri Greenidge, author of “The Grimkes: The Legacy of Slavery in An American Family,” will present the annual William Lloyd Garrison Lecture on **Saturday, Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. at Old South Presbyterian Church.**

Greenidge, a professor at Tufts University, will speak on “Go Forth and Enlighten Your Brethren! Black New England, William Lloyd Garrison, and the Legacy of Radical Abolition” in this, the fourth annual lecture sponsored by the Friends of William Lloyd Garrison. The annual lecture marks the birthday of the abolitionist and newspaper editor who was born in Newburyport. The lecture is free and open to the public.

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## Newburyport’s Annual William Lloyd Garrison Lecture

Newburyport celebrates William Lloyd Garrison’s legacy on his birthday. Every year, we invite a well known author, historian, or public speaker to talk about Garrison’s life, and how it is still relevant today.

The talk focuses on the legacy of slavery, its continuing impact on the United States, and current issues around diversity, inclusiveness, and LGBTQ acceptance.

# Social Media and Rising Extremism

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12 | 7-8:15 PM  
Live & Via Zoom



A discussion of the impact of social media on the spread of antisemitism, white supremacy, and other forms of hate, including among youth, and practical strategies for individuals, groups, and institutions to combat these issues.

Featuring Sabine von Mering, Professor of German and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Director of the Center for German and European Studies at Brandeis University and co-editor of "Antisemitism on Social Media."

*Sponsored by:*



*In partnership with:*



<https://hinghamunity.org/event/social-media-rising-extremism/>

Indulge yourself. Listen to, &/or download this Reflection & Resource Guide. It's a hopeful and inspiring approach to learning about liberation, abolition, and justice.



## Relax, Relate, Release

[Jana Smith](#)

*Relax, Relate, Release: Meditations for the Mind, Soul, Spirit, and Revolution* is a meditation project by [Jana Smith](#) that includes various themed audio tracks featuring empowering messages from Angela Davis, Dr. Maya Angelou, Lena Horne, Tabitha Brown, Nina Simone, Denzel Washington, and many others over soothing soundscapes. This project also includes a community-curated reflection/resource guide. (*Meditation transcripts are included in the guidebook for persons who are deaf/hearing impaired.*)

<https://www.insmeditations.com/>

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Native Organizers Alliance Action Fund

Tell Congress: Pass the Indigenous Peoples' Day Act!

Only 10 states celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day. The continued celebration of Columbus Day in the remaining 40 states is itself a celebration of the legacy of colonial land grabs and systemic racism, telling our people and our Tribes our existence and life ways can be excluded from the history of this land.

Now, members of the House and Senate have introduced the Indigenous Peoples' Day Act to officially rename the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples' Day.

[https://actionnetwork.org/letters/indigenous-peoples-day-act?link\\_id=13&can\\_id=e87aa9920851919fecdfa3bfe1ed9889&source=email-noa-on-the-ground-quarterly-news&email\\_referrer=email\\_2096913&email\\_subject=noa-on-the-ground-quarterly-news](https://actionnetwork.org/letters/indigenous-peoples-day-act?link_id=13&can_id=e87aa9920851919fecdfa3bfe1ed9889&source=email-noa-on-the-ground-quarterly-news&email_referrer=email_2096913&email_subject=noa-on-the-ground-quarterly-news)

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## When hatemongers get uncomfortable: A small victory

November 2, 2023 by Shay

<https://blackgirlinmaine.com/current-events/when-hatemongers-get-uncomfortable-a-small-victory/>

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**Massachusetts becomes fifth state in nation to make prison calls free**



<https://www.wgbh.org/news/local/2023-11-17/massachusetts-becomes-fifth-state-in-nation-to-make-prison-calls-free>

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Would you like to understand more about why there's interest in changing the MA state flag & seal?



**The image of a sword held over the head of a Native figure marks the Massachusetts state flag and seal, embellishing every state building and many more. The state motto, adopted in the 18th century from 17th century civil war republican Algernon Sidney, begins: “By the sword we seek peace.” (It ends “but peace only under liberty.”) Is it time to change these relics of heraldry and the 17th century? In this illuminating presentation, David Detmold of the Campaign to Change the Mass Flag, Elizabeth Solomon, elder of the Massachusett at Ponkapoag, and Brittney Whalley, Nipmuc, explain why they think it’s time for a change.**

<https://historicbostons.org/events/1-9kwr3-g7h5k-4zekj-a7bf3-d5ezl-spf6l>