

LIA at Work

Literacy InterActives, Inc.

a nonprofit organization www.literacyinteractives.org

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Literacy InterActives, Inc.

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2020 - 2021

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Big Wins for the Community and Literacy InterActives in 2020

What is black and white, and *red* all over? We all know the answer to that childhood riddle! A newspaper! Yes, but Literacy InterActives, Inc. (LIA) demonstrates through community-building that literacy is more than reading a newspaper or a book in to-



day's world. A community service-driven nonprofit, LIA brings to our constituents two major awards for its ongoing commitment to promoting the vitality and recognition of the meaning of "literacies" in the 21st century.

LIA is the recipient of the George W. B. Stoner and Melville Jennings Research and Education Award from the renowned organization, Preservation Virginia. The prestigious award recognizes an entity that has made a significant contribution to the cause of historic preservation in Virginia through its

research, interpretation, and educational programming. LIA has its mission in all three of those areas.

Since 2007, an essential part of LIA's goals has focused on the historic preservation of the Parker Sydnor historic log cabin site in Mecklenburg County, Virginia as a means for showcasing interactive literacy. Literacy is vital to being informed about our cultures, history, and technology. Preservation Virginia was impressed by LIA's "wide-ranging research achievements and creative use of film and social media," which have helped to advance its intersection of social justice and historic preservation.

"While our award recipients represent widely different areas of expertise, they share a common bond," said Preservation Virginia CEO Elizabeth S. Kostelny. "They are helping Virginia's communities and historic places of memory become stronger, more vital and economically sustainable through preservation, education and advocacy." As a complement to the Preservation Virginia award in 2020, LIA also received a generous grant for programming from Virginia Humanities.

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George Floyd and the Impact for Social Justice

On May 25, 2020, the horrific killing of George Floyd (1973-2020) in Minneapolis by a white policeman who knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes, brought an astounding tsunami wave of protest in the nation and worldwide. Among the marching, rallies, prayer ceremonies, vigils, and peaceful protests prompted by the movement of Black Lives Matter, the act of kneeling has come to symbolize protest against police brutality; and the fervent need for global and positive social transformation. Literacy InterActives is committed to working for social justice and racial equity. While some have attempted to politicize George Floyd's death and the worldwide protests, we must recognize the global outcry not as a partisan conflict, but rather as a demand for human rights and social justice.

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Advisory Council

LIA has an Advisory Council of community, regional, and national consultants who help us to pursue our mission with new directions that will advance our community initiatives and collaborations. Come and join us!

Contact:
Cameron Patterson at 434 426 6606 or email: pattersoncd3@gmail.com



2020 VENUES

Literacy InterActives, Inc.

- National Trust for Historic Preservation Symposium on Plantation Weddings
- Preservation Virginia Award for Achievement in Historic Preservation Research
- National Trust for Historic Preservation Diversity Scholars Award
- National Trust for Historic Preservation National Virtual Conference
- Summer Roadmaps: African American History & Culture Online mini-series
- ARCUS Leadership Academy for Historic Preservation 2020-2021
- National Humanities Alliance Virtual Conference

Mark Your Calendar for LIA Spring 2021!
Online Workshops:
 Preserving Your Church History,
 Funeral Program Memories,
 and Your Church Culture

George Floyd, continued from page 1

With a cell phone, a Minneapolis teenager captured the indelible moments of injustice for the world to see. Darnella Frazier is the 17-year-old who recorded the entire



George Floyd as the rejected stone, a new martyr, whose tragic death has become a symbolic cornerstone for the renewed movement for social justice and for the urgent reckoning with systemic racism and police brutality in the United States.

There is another pandemic. Racism is a pandemic that continues to devastate our society. Both viruses, COVID-19 and racism, affect society's entire well-being. From *The Vision of Race Unity* we learn, "Racism runs deep. It infects the hearts of both white and black Americans. Without a conscious, deliberate, and sustained effort, no one can remain unaffected by its corrosive influence and both groups must realize that such a problem can neither easily nor immediately be resolved."

We are reminded of Congressman John Lewis's profound words, "Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Do not become bitter or hostile. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble." ✨

death scene of George Floyd when Derek Chauvin, the white policeman, knelt on Floyd's neck. Frazier silently performed a singular act of courage as she must have known that a monumental act of injustice was taking place in front of her. Frazier's hard to watch video called out to the world. For her unflinching courage Frazier has been

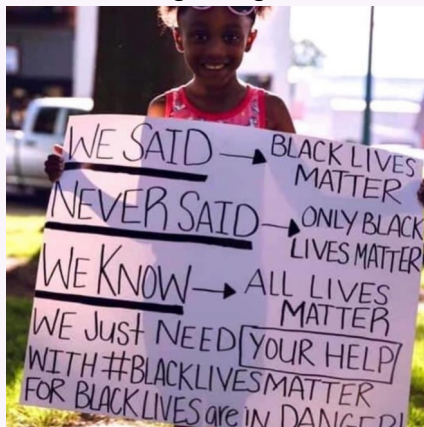


Photo Credit: Sarah Smith Wills

honored by PEN America, the renowned literary and human rights organization, with the inspiring and distinguished 2020 PEN/Benenson Courage Award.

The Reverend Al Sharpton referred to

"Literacy is more than reading a book. LIA connects the literacies of culture, public



history, and digital technology through creative initiatives and programs in order to maximize new

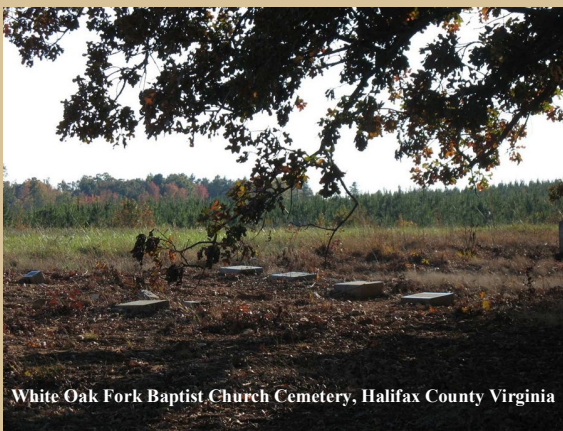
directions for diversity and bridging our communities."

Literacy InterActives, Inc.

“The projects funded...use storytelling, history, and art to explore the diverse array of cultures in Virginia,” said Matthew Gibson, Virginia Humanities executive director. “These projects will serve everyone in the commonwealth and help us better understand where we’re all coming from.” In 2021, LIA will sponsor two virtual workshops that connect historic preservation to the preservation of individual church histories and church genealogies. Facilitated by recognized genealogist and author, Char McCargo Bah, the first workshop is entitled, “This is Us: Preserving and Sharing our Church Histories.” There is undisputed popular enthusiasm for interactive history-telling or story-sharing work and “doing” history in workshop settings.



Dr. Michelle J. Pinkard, poet, scholar, and associate professor of English at Tennessee State University, will present an interactive virtual workshop on the collecting of funeral service programs and other related keepsake artifacts entitled, “Conversations with the Ancestors: Women Collecting Church Funeral Service Programs.” Dr. Michelle Pinkard is an expert on the provenance of women’s customs that honor funeral service programs as collectible historical



White Oak Fork Baptist Church Cemetery, Halifax County Virginia

artifacts. Both workshop topics are relevant to preservation, church histories, and Parker Sydnor’s tombstone making that memorialized the dead.

LIA extends its appreciation to the host of supporters and the LIA Board of Directors who have assisted with their expertise in advancing the LIA mission. Linda Davenport, owner of Galleria on the Lake in Clarksville, VA, and long time supporter, nominated LIA for the Preservation Virginia award.

Because of pandemic restrictions, the LIA workshops will be virtual with possibly a limited hybrid component (in person). Stay tuned for the announcement of time and dates of the spring 2021 workshops. The workshops are free and open to the public. ✨

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Angelita Reyes

LIA Board Members’ Community Service in the time of COVID and Racial Reckoning

Inez Arnett-Ferrer volunteers with the Clarksville Food Pantry in Virginia. The Food Pantry provides significant help to local families in need, especially those who are affected by COVID-19. With Inez spearheading the fundraising for civic involvement, LIA presented a check in the amount of \$500 to the Food Pantry. Pictured here is Inez social distancing with Robert Thaxton, president of the Clarksville Food Pantry. Working for the good of the community is one of the ways to make an impact through service leadership.



ways to make an impact through service leadership.

Angelita Reyes developed and facilitated a 7-week virtual mini-series entitled, “Summer Roadmaps: Quick Reads & Short Takes on Race & Culture in the USA.” The mini-series was in response



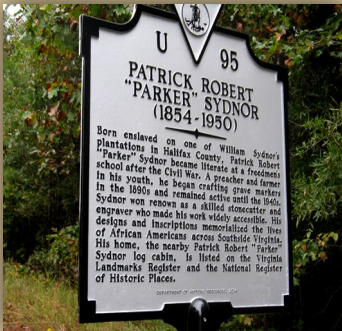
to the national “race reckoning” following the tragic killing of Mr. George Floyd in May 2020. Angelita assembled four tech savvy millennials for the virtual mini-series. The all-volunteer team included Rex Widmer, Chelsea Cleghon, Isaiah Wall, and Alexandria Reyes Schroeder. 300 people from 22 states, Canada, India, and Mexico enrolled in the Summer mini-series. Sponsored by the Local Spiritual Assembly of the Baha’is of Tempe, Arizona, the series was free and open to the public.

Cameron Patterson was appointed by Governor Ralph S. Northam to serve on the Virginia African American Advisory Board. Cam also serves as a Board member for the Southside Community Hospital in Farmville, VA. According to Cam, “Our big role has been to support staff as they navigate the daily changing environment related to COVID-19.”

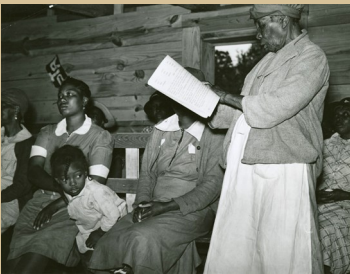
Alexandria Reyes Schroeder volunteered to help clean up small business sites in Minneapolis that were damaged following the killing of George Floyd. Helping to fill the need for poll workers during the pandemic, she also enthusiastically volunteered as a poll worker for the August 2020 Minnesota primary and the November 2020 general election.

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“Bridging our Communities”



The Virginia historical highway marker commemorates the Parker Sydnor historic log cabin site for statewide significance and national integrity. Mecklenburg County, VA
Photo courtesy of Ania Rzeszutko



82 year-old woman learning to read in the 1930s. Attaining literacy was an achievement as well as a rite of passage for African Americans.
Photo courtesy of The New Public Library on Unsplash



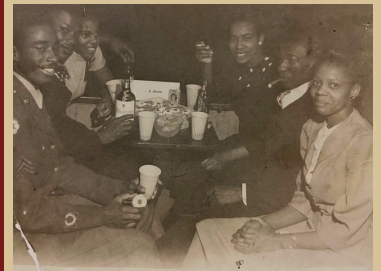
Protecting ourselves and caring about others during the time of coronavirus.



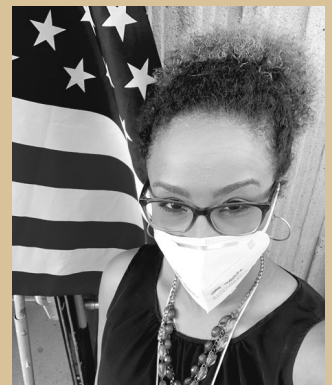
Mission Statement

Literacy InterActives, Inc.

is a 501(c)(3) organization that promotes and advances the interactive learning and literacy of cultural history, education, and technology. Through interactive literacies we bring diverse communities together as stakeholders in order to make a positive difference in today's world.



Of the African American Great Migration: We are the ancestors' dreams in Virginia.
Photo courtesy of Joan Shields



Alexandria Schroeder as a volunteer poll worker on Election Day 2020 in Minneapolis, MN.
Staff photographer



Marching for social justice. May 2020

Community Service, continued from page 3

LIA board members and volunteers are committed to service projects and honorable causes in their local and regional communities. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. envisioned the Beloved Community as a society based on justice, equal opportunity, economic and social inclusiveness, and love for humanity. ✨

“Let us then employ properly this moment of time allotted us by fate, and leave the world contentedly; like a ripe olive dropping from its stalk, speaking well of the soil that produced it, and of the tree that bore it.”

Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations*



“So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth.” Baha'i Writings