

Gather Place Museum: America 250th Initiative – First-Person and Lecture Programs Overview

188 South Canal Street, Yardley, PA 19067 | INFO@GATHERPLACE.ORG | 215.595.2722



As part of Gather Place Museum's **America 250th** initiative, these immersive, first-person reenactments celebrate 250 years of resilience in the pursuit of liberty, justice, and equality. Audiences experience the lives of America's leaders, changemakers, everyday heroes, and local history—highlighting both well-known and often-overlooked stories—through authentic performances, lectures and interactive Q&A sessions.

Ideal for: classrooms, libraries, museums, women's leadership programs, civic and community organizations, churches, and historical societies.

Now scheduling at your location or at Gather Place Museum - Cost: \$300 per program (*negotiable per various options*)

Lecture: Hannah Penn: Pennsylvania's *first* First Lady of the Commonwealth

This 1-hour program honors Hannah Penn's quiet yet extraordinary leadership, offering audiences an inspiring glimpse into how a woman helped shape America's early foundation. This immersive lecture is designed to captivate, educate, and entertain.

Experience Hannah Penn's remarkable story that brings to life the First Lady of Pennsylvania—who governed the colony after her husband William's passing. Through historically grounded storytelling, audiences see Hannah's steadfast role in guiding a diverse community through religious tolerance, diplomacy, and leadership.

Ideal for classrooms, libraries, women's leadership programs, and civic organizations.

Program Highlights:

- **Audience Connection:** Q&A allows audiences to connect Hannah's 18th-century vision with today's ideals of democracy and inclusion.

First-Person Reenactment: Susanna Warder – Life as an enslaved person at Pennsbury Manor

This 1-hour program gives voice to Susanna Warder, an enslaved woman born in 1701 at Pennsbury Manor, the country estate of William Penn. Her story sheds light on an often-overlooked chapter of our state's history—life in Bucks County as enslaved individuals from the late 1600s through the 1800s. This portrayal is based on primary source research by Mary Ellyn Kunz, Pennsbury Manor's longtime (31-years) former Education Coordinator, whose dedication to historical preservation ensures these important stories are told.

A Gather Place Museum Reenactor brings Susanna's world to life in a moving first-person performance. Through her perspective, audiences learn about the realities of enslavement in early Pennsylvania, the work demanded on estates like Pennsbury, and the complex legacy of William Penn and his family.

Ideal for classrooms, libraries, museums, community-based organizations and theatres

Program Highlights:

- **First-Person Reenactment:** Susanna Warder's story as an enslaved woman and others who lived and worked at Pennsbury Manor in early Pennsylvania.
- **Untold History:** Opens dialogue about how these hidden histories connect to America's founding and its ongoing story.
- **Audience Connection:** Q&A invites reflection, discussion, and learning together.

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First-Person Reenactment: Abigail Adams: “Remember the Ladies” Our Nation’s Foundation

This 1-hour program pays homage to Abigail Adams, one of America’s most influential First Ladies, whose wisdom and advocacy remain timeless.

A Gather Place Museum Reenactor embodies Abigail Adams—wife of John Adams and mother of John Quincy Adams—bringing to life her famous call to “remember the ladies.” Through compelling scenes, Abigail’s letters, and subtle costume transitions, audiences experience her intellect, influence on policy, and enduring partnership with her husband. Costume details reflect 18th-century domestic and political life.

Ideal for classrooms, libraries, museums, women’s leadership programs, community-based organizations and theatres.

Program Highlights:

- **Immersive Reenactment:** Highlights Abigail’s voice as an early advocate for women’s rights.
 - **Audience Connection:** Q&A session deepens understanding of Abigail’s legacy and exploring her role in shaping America’s democracy.
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First-Person Reenactment: Lucretia Mott - The Women’s Suffrage Movement

This 1-hour program honors Lucretia Mott’s pioneering leadership in abolition and women’s rights, bringing her fearless advocacy to the stage. Lucretia Mott—Quaker, abolitionist & women’s rights pioneer—helped ignite the suffrage movement and had deep ties to **Bucks County!** 🗣️ She spoke in **Newtown** (with Frederick Douglass), **Yardleyville** (Underground Railroad hub), and across **Doylestown, Fallsington, Langhorne, Solebury & Buckingham**.

Through a powerful portrayal, a Gather Place Museum Reenactor embodies Mott as a minister, abolitionist, and suffragist. The performance unfolds across key moments in her life—from her work with the Anti-Slavery Society to co-organizing the Seneca Falls Convention. With simple costume touches and compelling storytelling, audiences step into the movement for equality.

Ideal for classrooms, libraries, museums, women’s leadership programs, community-based organizations and theatres.

Program Highlights:

- **Authentic Representation:** Period accessories underscore Mott’s Quaker heritage.
 - **Audience Connection:** Q&A Inviting reflection on Mott’s vision of justice and inclusion.
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First-Person Reenactment: Harriet Tubman – “Her Life, Her Legacy – A Journey Through Time”

This 1-hour educational program pays tribute to the extraordinary life and legacy of Harriet Tubman. Through a historically grounded, first-person portrayal, audiences are introduced to Tubman’s journey from her childhood as Araminta “Minty” Ross to her later years as the renowned leader and freedom fighter known as “Moses.”

Created and performed by a Gather Place Museum reenactor, the program is presented in four distinct scenes, each capturing pivotal moments in Tubman’s life. Subtle, period-appropriate costume changes accompany each scene, enhancing the historical authenticity of the performance.

Program Goals and Impact:

- **Historical Accuracy and Immersion:** Audiences engage with Harriet Tubman’s life through a carefully researched and dramatized four-part performance.

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- **Cultural Relevance:** The program highlights Tubman’s enduring role as a national symbol of courage, resilience, and justice.
- **Audience Engagement:** The concluding Q&A fosters dialogue, personal reflection, and a deeper understanding of Tubman’s legacy.

Intended Audiences: This program is well-suited for schools, libraries, civic organizations, historical societies, museums, and community-based organizations, particularly during Black History Month, Women’s History Month, and commemorative events honoring leaders of social justice.

First-Person Reenactment: Frederick Douglass - America’s Abolitionists

This 1-hour program pays tribute to Frederick Douglass’s extraordinary journey from enslavement to one of the nation’s most powerful voices for freedom.

A Gather Place Museum Reenactor embodies Douglass in an immersive, first-person reenactment. Through vivid storytelling, audiences witness his escape from slavery, rise as an orator and writer, and his relentless fight for justice alongside fellow abolitionists. Costume details and staged transitions evoke the arc of Douglass’s life. **Ideal for** classrooms, libraries, museums, community-based organizations and theatres.

Program Highlights:

- **Immersive Reenactment:** From enslaved childhood to world-renowned abolitionist.
- **Audience Connection:** Q&A allows us to reflect Douglass’s words and current issues of justice, liberty, equality.

Lecture: America’s First Ladies of The United States—*From Martha to Michelle*

This 1-hour lecture celebrates the legacy of **America’s First Ladies**, guided by Michelle Obama as narrator and central voice.

A Gather Place Museum narrator portraying Michelle Obama weaves her groundbreaking journey with those of twelve influential First Ladies—from the nation’s first, Martha Washington, to Eleanor Roosevelt, Jackie Kennedy, Nancy Reagan, and others—culminating in her role as the first African American FLOTUS. Through **storytelling, quotes, and vivid visuals of each woman’s iconic style**, audiences experience how the role of First Lady evolved into one of leadership, influence, and cultural impact.

Ideal for classrooms, libraries, women’s leadership programs, and civic organizations.

Program Highlights:

- **Narrative Journey:** Our Gather Place “Michelle Obama” leads audiences through the stories of top 12 influential First Ladies.
 - **Audience Connection:** Q&A invites reflection, discussion, and learning together.
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Lecture: Langston Hughes – The Harlem Renaissance

This 1-hour lecture celebrates Langston Hughes, the poet and writer who gave voice to a generation and became a defining figure of the Harlem Renaissance.

Through vivid narration, Hughes’s own poetry, and high-quality visuals in a dynamic PowerPoint format, audiences are immersed in the sights, sounds, and spirit of 1920s Harlem. The program captures Harlem’s rhythm, its jazz-filled nights, and the pride of a people rising to claim their identity. Hughes’s words are interwoven with storytelling that highlights his role in shaping both literature and culture during this vibrant era of Black brilliance.

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Ideal for classrooms, libraries, literary festivals, cultural programs, and Black History Month events.

Program Highlights:

- **Immersive Lecture:** interwoven with Hughes’s poetry.
- **Audience Connection:** Engaging Q&A shares insights and references, bringing the Harlem Renaissance—‘Black Brilliance’—vividly to life.”

📣 Lecture: Rosa Parks - The Civil Rights Movement

This 1-hour lecture honors **Rosa Parks**, the woman whose quiet act of defiance ignited the Montgomery Bus Boycott and helped launch the modern Civil Rights Movement.

Audiences are invited into Parks’s world—her strength and dignity on that fateful bus ride, her lifelong fight for justice, and her role alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and countless others who shaped history. Through **dynamic narration, powerful storytelling, and high-quality visuals presented in a compelling PowerPoint format**, this program brings to life the courage, determination, and lasting legacy of Rosa Parks. **Ideal for** classrooms, libraries, civic organizations, women’s leadership programs, and community events commemorating civil rights.

Program Highlights:

- **Authentic Details:** Costume touches reflect Parks’s life and times.
- **Audience Connection:** Q&A Encourages reflection on civic courage and community change.



*Bring history to life with Gather Place Museum’s **America 250th** inspirational programs—powerful first-person reenactments and lectures that inspire, educate, and spark meaningful dialogue.*

