

Volume 2, Issue 2

Summer 2013



MAAM: Official South Africa Site for Minnesota's Nelson Mandela Day



Gathering on the lawn of the Museum were a couple hundred children, adults and community gardeners for a day of service to honor Nelson Mandela's 95th birthday, an international celebration set aside by the United Nations. With the South Africa Consul Political, Fransie Cooper on hand to present SA's proclamation to MAAM, the children and local gardeners dedicated three trees and a bench in Mandela's honor. Also on hand for the activities and presentations were (photo l-r) Jodie Johnson, Coventry Cowens, Olympian Nelson Vial, SA Consul: Political - Fransie Cooper, Roxanne Givens, Senator Jeff Hayden, Harry Davis Jr., Shirlynn LaChapelle, and Judge LaJune Lange. The ceremony attracted many passerby's who joined the planting of flowers and hostas.

Helping make the day happen were our event sponsors who came together quickly to donate flowering plants, trees, mature hostas, and sod for the northwest lawn. Also, bottles of water, fruit and treats for the children and volunteers. Master gardeners LaDonna Redmond and Ronnie Weisman volunteered their landscaping knowledge for the trees and sod. Thank you to all sponsors that supported this special day. (7/18/2013) (cont. pg.4)



MINNESOTA AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER

MAAMCC LEGACY

Dred Scott and Historical Visit

The sun shown bright on Minnesota the day **Lynne Jackson, great-great granddaughter of Dred Scott** visited MAAM and Fort Snelling. Keeping pace with a busy schedule (May 21-24, 2013) that included presentations in Bloomington and at University of St. Thomas for high school students, Ms. Jackson was enthusiastic about this first full trip back to the Minnesota territory since Dred and Harriett Scott left in the 19th Century. Joining the MAAM delegation at the fort was Leonard Prescott, the great-great-grandson of Philander Prescott, and his Dakota wife Mary whose history was intertwined with Fort Snelling in the years around 1863. See more information on the Dred Scott history on the MAAM website www.maamcc.org.

Jackson, executive director of the Dred Scott Foundation based in Missouri, was impressed with the tour and land her relatives lived in., and the hospitality shown to her by Prescott, former chairman of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community. Her visit to Fort Snelling was a collaboration with MAAM and the Minnesota Historical Society.

Al McFarland, community journalist of the program "Conversations with Al McFarlane" took time to interview Lynne Jackson at MAAM's Carriage House, and advertised the Dred Scott Minneapolis Central Library symposium.

Many thanks to Bill Johnson and Leonard Prescott for their arrangements and hospitality; to James Burroughs, Chief of Equity and Engagement, and Brittany Wilson, executive assistant to Equity and Diversity with Minneapolis Public Schools, and to Prof. Nekima Levy-Pounds, Director of the Community Justice Project, at University of St. Thomas and for making the Minneapolis Public Schools forum possible!~



Building Legacy Project Records Our History



Five college students have spent six months preparing themselves for the beginning of an important MAAM project called **Building Legacy**. This project involves the recording of the history of black Minnesotans and preserving the legacy of their contributions to this region of the United States. As a part of a collaboration with Public Allies, an organization hosted by Pillsbury United Communities, MAAM founders Roxanne Givens and Coventry Cowens coordinated training sessions (Feb.-July 2013) for the students in interviewing skills and media pro-

duction with the volunteer support of experts from the community. Training experts included Benjamin McHie, PhD, African American Registry, Ed Irwin, Youthprise, Shvonne Johnson, and Harry Davis, Jr, MAAM founder.

The Public Allies leadership students are Danny Berhane, Brittany Deleon Buckley, John Vang, Elizabeth Farmer, and Amira Jama. (Photo) Several historians from the Twin Cities participated in this program and told their families lives and achievements.. Their stories can be seen at the Museum.

Afro Cuba Trip

Havana, Mantanzas, and Santiago
December 15-23, 2013

A well seasoned, educational venture into Afro-Cuban culture and life—jazz, arts, and sports with special guests. Limited to 25 people—spaces filling up fast.

Co-sponsored by MAAM.

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Students with Rev. Noah and Mrs. Hallie Smith. (7/19/2013)



MAAM is for the children!



Movie "42"—theater event at Edina Southdale 16 and honored guests. (4/13/2013)



Planting of trees honoring Mr. Mandela—SA Consul: Political Ms. Cooper and Project Sweetie Pie volunteers. (7/18/2013)



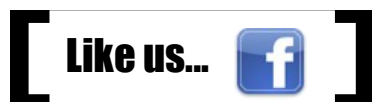
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Summer 2013 – Quarterly Publication
612-872-1655

~Produced by MAAM Volunteers~



MAAM Mission: The Minnesota African American Museum (MAAM) is an educational, cultural and archival museum dedicated to researching, presenting, acquiring and preserving the history of African Americans in Minnesota. As a community resource, MAAM seeks to ignite discovery and fuel interest in learning experiences derived from studying history presented through museum exhibits and educational/artistic programs. Through the Minnesota African American Museum visitors to Minnesota and Minnesota citizens alike will see how African American history has contributed to the long term health and vitality of the Twin Cities and the State.

Join us on this journey and become a member! If you are looking for a way to help sustain MAAM's growth, contributions are appreciated, in all amounts. This is Minnesota history to keep. Visit the MAAMCC website for membership forms. www.maamcc.org

MAAM is more than a place, it's an experience!

VOLUNTEERS: At MAAM we offer volunteer opportunities for all passions, ages, and communities in Minnesota performing various tasks from the most simple to the highly skilled, that can be accomplished in an hour to several days. Say Yes! MAAM to volunteering. Let us know at info@maamcc.org, 612-872-1655.

MAAM Around the State...

• Beginning this summer into September, the Minnesota African American Museum will have the privilege of displaying the Minnesota winners of the **National Dream 50 Art Contest** honoring Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream. Hundreds of local school students participated in this national event, and the metropolitan area winners will be recognized at MAAM. ~

• The **Major Taylor Bicycling Club of Minnesota** made MAAM their starting point for the ride to Rondo Days in St. Paul on July 20, 2013. With special guest 1984 Olympian Silver medalist Nelson Vial the group celebrated their Urban Bike Fest which also included a reception at the Carriage House and film fest. They also donated bikes to youth at Rondo Days. ~

• The **Minnesota African American Museum** gratefully acknowledges the individual, family, corporation and foundation donors who have made contributions for all purposes during the past fiscal year. These donors have helped ensure the achievement of our mission continues to move forward! **Premier partners:** 3M, Best Buy, General Mills, Wells Fargo, Target, Pohlad Foundation, Carlson-Craft, and Thermo King. ~



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