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[Home](#) > Calling All Community Historians & Lovers of Local African American History!

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## Calling All Community Historians & Lovers of Local African American History!



### Press Release

**For Immediate Release: January 25, 2019**

#### **Calling All Community Historians and Lovers of Local African American History!**

**Saturday, February 16, 2019: 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Merriweather Library**

February is Black History Month and what better time than now to focus on activities that contribute to preserving our African American history for generations to come.

The Uncrowned Queens Institute (UQI), the Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Branch Library and the Buffalo Genealogical Society of the African Diaspora (BGSAD) invite the community to participate in an exciting preservation project by submitting photographs for the Uncrowned Queens archives. On Saturday, February 16, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm, at the Merriweather Branch Library, 1324 Jefferson Avenue near East Ferry, members of The UQI and BGSAD, assisted by library staff, will be available to assist in scanning and uploading photographs to the Uncrowned Community Builders website: [www.uncrownedcommunitybuilders.com](http://www.uncrownedcommunitybuilders.com).

The Uncrowned Community Builders website features up to 10 photos with each biography. Members of the community are also invited to submit new biographies and photos as we continue to archive the stories of our local Community Builders.

As unique symbols of our past, old photographs capture history, giving us glimpses of neighborhoods, organizations, buildings, and more – many of which no longer exist. Documenting this history is a confirmation of that old saying, “One picture is worth a thousand words!”

“We know that photographs are powerful tools that can illustrate events and activities as well as enhance and highlight people’s stories. This is illustrated everyday with the impact of social media,” said Dr. Barbara Seals Nevergold, co-founder of the Uncrowned Queens Institute.

Founded in 1999 by Dr. Seals Nevergold and Dr. Peggy Brooks-Bertram, the Uncrowned Queens Institute, Inc., has the mission to document, collect, preserve and share the “life stories” of Buffalo’s African American Community Builders. Since 1999, the Institute has archived hundreds of these “stories” in our online historical collection. With the help of the community, we can expand these stories. We are pleased to partner with the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library and the Buffalo Genealogical Society of the African Diaspora in this important historical preservation project.

The Buffalo Genealogical Society of the African Diaspora (BGSAD) is pleased to assist the Institute in this project which encourages the community to share its stories. This is in line with our mission which is to assist members in researching and sharing genealogy and family

history. Also we aim to contribute to the scholarly research of the genealogical community at large.

"The Library System is thrilled to work with the Uncrowned Queens Institute on this important project and to provide opportunities that enable future generations to learn, explore and discover our City's rich heritage," said Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Director Mary Jean Jakubowski..

Joshua Mitch, Librarian and Manager of the Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Branch Library added: "The Merriweather Branch is seen as the hub of the community and we look forward to working with the UQI and local residents on this and future projects. See you on February 16."

For more information contact: Barbara A. Nevergold, PhD - Co-founder Uncrowned Queens Institute – [uqibuffalo@yahoo.com](mailto:uqibuffalo@yahoo.com)

**Tags:**

[Uncrowned Queens](#)

[photo scanning](#)

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