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## **Legislature Chairwoman April Baskin Presents 2023 Black Doll Exhibit at Buffalo's Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Branch Library**

*Special Opening Presentation on Thursday, February 2 features Connie Porter,  
Lackawanna native and author of the American Girl Addy Books*

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(Buffalo, NY) Erie County Legislature Chairwoman April Baskin today announced that the annual Black Doll Exhibit will be presented at the Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Branch Library, 1324 Jefferson Avenue from Thursday, February 2 – Saturday, April 1, 2023. This year's exhibit celebrates Black History and Women's History months through fashion dolls under the theme *"We are Beautiful: An Evolution of Black Dolls."*

"Now in its fourth year, I am happy to bring back the Black Doll Exhibit," Legislator April said. "It is inspiring, encouraging and uplifting to so many young people in our community. Each year, Curator Lisa Jacobs-Watson expertly displays dolls from her collection - which totals well over one hundred. Through our partnership with the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System, we have been able to reach a large audience of all ages and backgrounds as we showcase this important exhibit every year."

"This year when planning the exhibit, I knew it was important to stress the beauty, strength and empowerment we – young girls, teens, adult and senior women - all have within ourselves," said Ms. Jacobs-Watson. "I hope the dolls can bring encouragement and joy to our community."

There will be a special opening presentation ceremony on Thursday, February 2 at 6:00 p.m. at the Merriweather Branch featuring Lackawanna native Connie Porter, author of the award-winning American Girl historical fiction *Addy* books. Six of Ms. Porter's books have sold over 3 million copies. Attendees can enter to win an Addy doll and participate in a doll craft program.

The Merriweather Branch Library is open:

Monday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.;

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 12 noon – 8 p.m.; and

Sunday 12 noon – 5 p.m.

The Library is closed on federal holidays, including Presidents' Day, Monday, February 20.

For more details call: 716-883-4418 or visit [www.BuffaloLib.org](http://www.BuffaloLib.org)

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