Join us for a socially-distanced event, Tuesday 9/28 at 4:00pm, to share with each other what standing in these historic sites meant to you.

We will be collecting stories of your experiences at these sites, which will be compiled and published as a booklet. You may use the “Your Thoughts” pages (or equally sized paper if you prefer not cutting your passport). There will be raffle drawings for those that write submissions too, with gift card prizes!

To get the passport, register for the event, or find out more, contact: bgillen@elizpl.org, jcupo@elizpl.org, or call 908-354-6060 x7203 or x7237
YOUR FAVORITE QUOTE

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“All History is current; all injustice continues on some level, somewhere in the world.”
— Alice Walker

“HISTORY, n. An account mostly false, of events mostly unimportant, which are brought about by rulers mostly knaves, and soldiers mostly fools.”
— Ambrose Bierce, The Cynic’s Dictionary (1906)

“We can only understand the present by continually referring to and studying the past; when any one of the intricate phenomena of our daily life puzzles us; when there arises religious problems, political problems, race problems, we must always remember that while their solution lies in the present, their cause and their explanation lie in the past.”
— W. E. B. DuBois

“Progress, far from consisting in change, depends on retentiveness. Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”
— George Santayana

This passport contains historical insight into each destination shown on the map above. Visit as many destinations as you can and, on the blank pages provided, write down/draw your thoughts, feelings, and emotions as they pertain to each place.
BOXWOOD HALL

The home of Elias Boudinot, President of the United States under the Articles of Confederation. Alexander Hamilton stayed here and George Washington once stopped by for lunch. But others lived at this estate, people with scant records and not mountains of biographies. Eight slaves are listed along with their worth in an inventory of the estate of Samuel Woodruff, the builder and first resident of Boxwood Hall, after the pigs, and before the horses: Pompey, Mando, Will, Bettey, Commodore, Maria, Philip, and Stephen. We can glean a little from this document; Bettey was a young woman and Maria was a child. Will, valued the highest at 95 pounds, may have been an artisan. But sadly, their stories are for the most part lost to time.

Take a tour of Boxwood Hall to learn more!

2021 MOST CHALLENGED BOOKS

- **Reason**: Banned and challenged for profanity and vulgarity and sexual overtones
- **Reason**: Banned and challenged for misrepresenting U.S. history, causing division, being inaccurate and harmful, and for being "leftist political propaganda masquerading as history."
- **Reason**: Banned for being sexually explicit
- **Reason**: Banned and challenged for profanity and sexual overtones.
2021 MOST CHALLENGED BOOKS

Reasons: Challenged, banned and restricted for LGBTQIA+ content, conflicting with a religious viewpoint and not reflecting "community values".

Reasons: Banned and challenged for profanity, drug use, and alcoholism, and because it was thought to promote anti-police views, contain divisive topics, and be "too much of a sensitive topic right now".

Reasons: Banned and challenged for racial slurs and their negative effects on students, featuring a "white savior" character, and its perception of the Black experience.

Reasons: Banned and challenged because it was thought to contain a political viewpoint and it was claimed to be biased against male students, and for the novel's inclusion of rape.
Your Thoughts
Your Thoughts
THE TENEMENTS
Housing Conditions

2 Broad St, Elizabeth, NJ 07201

Mark the space to indicate you’ve stopped by the Courthouse!
In early 1741, a series of fires broke out in New York City. A witness reported seeing a slave near one of the fires, and the population, paranoid about a possible conspiracy to revolt by the slaves and Catholics, started a witch-hunt-like series of trials. Though no conspiracy was ever proven, 30 blacks and 4 whites were executed; some individuals were hung, while others were burned at the stake. But the witch hunt was not just restricted to New York.

On two occasions right here in Elizabeth outside the courthouse, three people were burned at the stake, likely for their supposed involvement in the plot. Like so much of the history of slavery, we know very little of the personal detail of the victims. We know the names of the judge and the Elizabeth freeholders that presided. We know the name of the man who sold the shackles to hold them. We know the names of the men who sold wood for the burning. But we don’t know the names of the three innocent people who were burned alive in the midst of racist hysteria.
Your Thoughts
Your Thoughts
Not Just a Barbershop

After World War II, Black veteran, Stephen Sampson, returned to the States looking for ways to make a positive impact in his community. In 1947, he teamed up with local NAACP leader, Granville Nesbitt, to lead a protest of the local Howard Johnson’s (formerly located on Route 1 & 9). The hotel and restaurant had discriminatory policies, and 100 people gathered to peacefully picket around the building. In doing so, they initiated one of the very earliest campaigns in the Civil Rights Movement, right here in Elizabeth. But Sampson was a busy man, and dedicated all aspects of his life to the cause. He opened a barbershop on the corner of Reid and East Grand streets. He named it “Not Just a Barbershop.”

To get a haircut at "Not Just a Barber Shop", you first had to learn to operate the shop’s voting machine. He also housed an enormous collection of books on African-American history, books that none of the local public libraries had. As Black History Month became recognized, the public school teachers would come to his barbershop library for books on the subject.

Mark the space to indicate you’ve stopped by the site of the former barbershop!

Stephen Sampson Senior Center
800 Anna St, Elizabeth, NJ 07201