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# Buffalo Soldiers Research Museum Newsletter

## April 2011

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Our Presentation at the Association for African American Historical Research and Preservation's 2011 Black History Conference



### *Collecting World War 2 Buffalo Soldiers' Oral Histories*

Between ice and snow storms in Indianapolis, our flight arrived on schedule in Seattle, WA on February 3. We enjoyed a little sightseeing before heading to the Northwest African American Museum on Saturday morning, February 5, 2011.

The museum (pictured above) is a beautiful old school house converted into a multi-purpose building. Part of it houses seniors while the front, first floor is the museum (pictured below with Carmon). The exhibits throughout the museum were informative and diverse. The theme for most displays included information about the lives of blacks in the northwest - education, religion, civic duties, and the military were highlighted. The mayor of Tacoma, Marilyn Strickland, was the featured speaker. She inspired us as described the impact of her bi-racial (Black and Korean) heritage in politics.



More than 100 people were in attendance and participants were lively and involved. Due to the weather, the other two presenters for our session were unable to attend so we filled every moment with information about World War 2 Buffalo Soldiers. We shared stories about how we worked with several World War 2 veterans to document their memories and provide their stories to a variety of audiences. We told our

listeners about the artifacts we have collected - including voice recordings, photographs and uniforms.

We met many educators and historians. In the photo (at right), Robert Moore, US Marshal, is signing his book - *The President's Men: Black U.S. Marshals in America* - for George. Many of the conference participants were interested in finding ways to inform today's youth about important historical events. We were reminded of the need to continue our efforts... We will.



## Landmark Travel Guide

### *Pritzker Military Library - Chicago, Illinois*

We visited the Pritzker Military Library, located at 104 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, and discovered a wonderful resource. It has moved to a new location but the building was built in 1912 so it had character, lots of hardwood, and views of Millennium Park. Check their schedule before you go since Tuesdays are reserved for members and anyone with a military ID. Wednesdays - Saturdays are open to the public but reservations are recommended.

The Pritzker Military Library is dedicated to building a collection and developing programs that bring soldiers' stories to the public. More than 35,000 books, periodicals, and other publications are available for use. A collection of historical posters, photographs, and a variety of artifacts are on display throughout the two floors of the gallery and library. A special exhibit of a WW2 Medal of Honor recipient, Hershel Williams was also on display.



Military authors and historians are scheduled nearly every week to discuss their work. Lectures are available via television broadcast, Internet webcast, and audio podcast. The lecture hall/auditorium seats 110 people. Computers are available or you can bring your iPod and use their free wi-fi. They say that this is more than a library and we would agree. It is a delightful educational experience.

The upcoming program schedule includes -

Thursday April 7, 6 pm - James Livingston, Noble Warrior: The Life and Times of Maj. Gen. James E. Livingston, USMC (Ret.) Medal of Honor (live webcast)

Wednesday, April 13, 12 noon - Jonathan W. Jordan, Brothers, Rivals, Victors: Eisenhower, Patton, Bradley and the Partnership that Drove the Allied Conquest in Europe (live webcast)

Thursday, April 28, 6 pm - Rick Atkinson, 2010 Pritzker Library Literature Award for Lifetime Achievement Military Writing (live webcast)

Saturday, April 30, 10 am - Anne Nivat, Interview with Ed Tracy (live webcast)

For more information, visit [www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org](http://www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org) or call (312) 374-9333.

## Going Green

This photo was taken in Indianapolis in early March, 2011. The ice was beginning to melt so to have some fun - George used pieces of ice blocks for tree art. Yes, it is a form of art therapy. Spring will be here soon. It is time to start planning...

### Spring to Sustainability with Green Festivals, 2011

April 9-10	San Francisco
May 14-15	Chicago
May 21-22	Seattle
October 1-2	New York City
October 29-30	Los Angeles
November 12-13	San Francisco



Green Festivals are a celebration of what is working in our communities and highlight the possibilities for our future. At all of the festivals, approximately 30,000 people gather who have an interest in social justice, ecology, and a sustainable economy. More than 100 speakers are highlighted at each festival; they offer workshops to learn more effective ways to save the planet. Shopping for green items as well as food and wine are available for all. A Green Kids Zone is also an attractive feature to begin planting the seeds of being environmentally friendly consumers. For more information visit - [www.greenfestivals.org](http://www.greenfestivals.org)

## Herbs to Delight Your Senses

Thinking about starting an herb garden, check out some fragrant herbs described below.

**Chamomile** is a perennial that can be useful as groundcover in a sunny location. It has white flowers in the summer and a sharp apple scent. The dried flowers can be used to make tea.

**Lavender** is a somewhat woody perennial that grows from 1½-3 feet tall. The leaves are narrow, 2 inches long, and gray-green in color. The flowers form in June and July on long stemmed slender spikes. It grows best in a dry, well-drained, sunny location. Wet, poorly drained soil can lead to disease problems.

Lavender makes a nice edging for walkways or flower borders. It works well with other blue, purple or pink flowering plants. Harvest the flower spikes when the blooms are opening and air dry them on a screen or hang in bunches. It has a subtle fragrance and the dried flowers can be used to scent closets and drawers.

**Lemon Balm** is a perennial that is similar to mint. The leaves have a strong lemon scent and can be used in salads, fish, poultry, vegetables, fruit, and iced drinks.

**Lemon Thyme** is a low-growing evergreen perennial that is useful as an edging plant or in a rock garden. The leaves have a strong lemon scent and can be used to make tea or flavor vegetables, seafood, poultry, fruit or jelly.

**Lemon Verbena** is a shrub-like plant with leaves in groups of three and slender white flower spikes in late summer. It is best to grow it in a container to develop a strong lemon scent. The leaves are used to flavor fruit drinks, fruit salads, and jelly.

**Mint** is an upright growing plant that can reach 2 feet in height. It emits a warm, spicy scent. Peppermint flowers are a lavender shade and spearmint flowers are pink. It is best to keep this plant in check since it can become quite invasive and weedy if left unattended. It flourishes in a moist, partially shaded to sunny area. Harvest the leaves as needed or cut entire stems 1 inch aboveground just before flowering. If you keep mint mowed, it will create a thick carpet or groundcover.

Fresh mint can be added to salads or summer beverages. The dried leaves make an aromatic tea that aids digestion. Spearmint has a slightly milder flavor than peppermint.

**Scented geraniums** are tender, shrubby perennials with soft, hairy leaves. They release distinctive fragrances which include rose, mint, fruit, or spice categories. Plant them outside moist, well-drained soil in full sun. Pinch the plants to encourage branching. These geraniums are useful as borders, in rock gardens or can be grown in a container. The scents are good as potpourri or in preserves, dressings punches, vinegars, teas and sachets.

**Sweet woodruff** is a low-growing spreading perennial that has a pleasant hay scent when dried. It has white flowers in the spring and provides excellent groundcover in shady locations.

Info taken from N. Pollard, University of Illinois Extension

***Enjoy the smells of your summer herb garden!***

For more information about the Buffalo Soldiers, other African American soldiers and Going Green, contact the

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