

Clark Virtual Museum LLC

NEWSLETTER

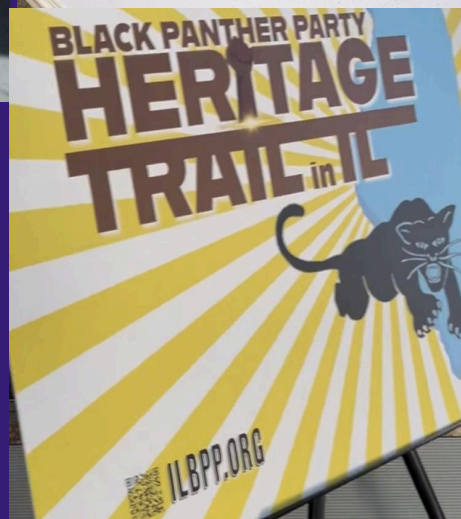
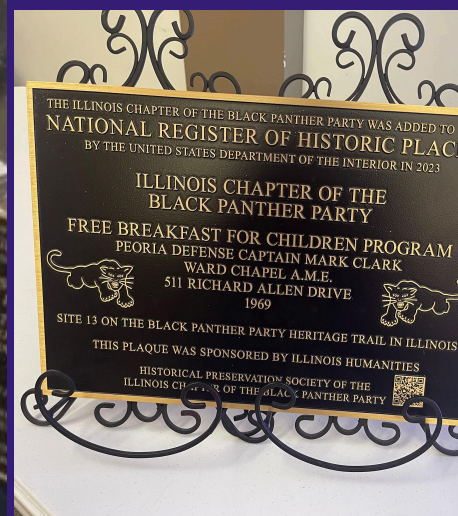
October 31, 2024

Clark Virtual Museum LLC

"More Than A Museum, We Honor The Life and Legacy of Our Ance"

What's New

- The Historical Preservation Society for the ILBPP Displays 13 historical Markers During Private Event At Better Boys Center for the Arts
- Peoria's Ward Chapel AME celebrates 178th Anniversary
- Ward Chapel A.M.E. receives Historical Preservation Society marker for BPP Breakfast for Children Program started by Mark Clark
- Preparing To Transport Ward Chapel A.M.E. Historical Marker



The Historical Preservation Society of the ILBPP Displays 13 Historical Markers during Private Event at Better Boys Center for the Arts



Leila Wills, Executive Director of the Historical Preservation Society for ILBPP speaking to attendees during private ceremony to kickoff Heritage Trail in Illinois.

On Sunday, October 27 the Historical Preservation Society of the Illinois chapter of the Black Panther Party officially kicked off the BPP Heritage Trail in Illinois. HPS members and sponsors gathered for a private celebration at the Better Boys Center for the Arts, 1512 S. Pulaski. The project aims to document and tell the stories of important sites in the history of the Illinois Black Panther Party.





Rose (Clark) Morris (sister of Peoria Defense Captain Mark Clark), Fredrica Newton (widow of Huey Newton, Billy “Che” Brooks former Deputy Minister of Education for ILBPP,, Dr. Patricia (Clark) Brown (sister of Peoria Defense Captain Mark Clark), and Flynn Rush (son of Congressman Bobby Rush) posing for photos.

13 historical markers were on display during Sunday’s kickoff celebration. The historical markers will be placed at sites of significant importance to the ILBPP throughout the Chicago area, and in Peoria. The markers include a QR code that visitors will be able to scan that will eventually lead to a webpage telling the story of the location. Leila Wills, Executive Director of the historical preservation society for the ILBPP, says her team is working on building those webpages.

Reference Articles

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/black-history/2024/10/27/illinois-black-panther-s-heritage-trail-civil-rights-black-history-fred-hampton-mark-clark>

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/2024/10/27/black-panther-historical-trail-c-hicago/>





Billy "Che" Brooks, former Deputy Minister of Education for the Illinois Black Panther Party standing in front of the Better Boys Center for the Arts.



On April 1, 1969, The Illinois Chapter of The Black Panther Party began it's first Free Breakfast For Children Program at North Lawndale's Better Boys Foundation. ILBPP Deputy Minister of Education Billy Brooks, and Deputy Chairman Fred Hampton Sr. started the program upon meeting with directors Warner Saunders and Eugene Perkins.



Preparing To Transport Ward Chapel A.M.E. Historical Marker



Rose (Clark) Morris and Leila Wills meet Architect John Gay of JAQ Corp. Intl, P.C. at storage space. (top left) Brian Morris checks marker while Leila Wills takes a phone call. (bottom left). John Gay takes measurements as Brian Morris holds plaque (top right). John, Rose and Brian pose for photo before transporting historical marker (bottom right)



Ward Chapel A.M.E. Celebrates 178th Church Anniversary



Rev. Dr. Elaine Gordon, Board Chair of Ward Chapel Development Corporation and former Pastor of Ward Chapel AME church In Peoria, poses for a photo during the 178th church anniversary celebration.

Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church in Peoria, Illinois celebrated its 178th church anniversary on Saturday, October 26th at the Life Together Center, 3625 N. Sheridan Road. Rev. Dr. Elaine Gordon served as Mistress of Ceremonies. Rev. Dr. Cyrus Burns, Pastor, Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church gave the invocation.

The theme of the celebration was *Honoring The Past and Looking Forward*. Pastor James Bailey was keynote speaker. (Pastor James Bailey shown at top right sitting next to Dr. Patricia (Clark) Brown). Acknowledgement of special guest, The Hon. Denise Jackson, City Councilwoman, District 1.



The 178th anniversary celebration continued with a scrumptious meal and video presentation showing photographs of Ward Chapel A.M.E. members throughout the years.



Dr. Patricia (Clark) Brown and Rose (Clark) Morris (sisters of Mark Clark) present Rev. Dr. Elaine Gordon and Rev. Dr. Cyrus Burns with a historical marker on behalf of the Historical Preservation Society of the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party.

Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church, the site where Peoria Defense Captain Mark Clark started a BPP Free Breakfast For Children Program in 1969, received the historical marker and designation as a significant site of the BPP Heritage Trail in Illinois. Ward Chapel A.M.E. was the only church in Peoria to support the BPP Free Breakfast for Children Program, the Panthers first official survival program.



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Our website: <https://ClarkVirtualMuseum.com>

For more information contact us via email:
clarkvirtualmuseum@yahoo.com

Best Regards, Rose X (Clark) Morris, Founder and Curator

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