



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Velmanette Montgomery

Senator Montgomery celebrates the co-naming of Dr. Joan Maynard Way and honors Dr. Maynard's legacy.

SENATOR VELMANETTE MONTGOMERY October 17, 2017

| ISSUE: **EDUCATION, COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT, WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT, CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS, AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY**



We must make sure that we are not written out of the history books, out of the libraries, out of our own communities. The only way to do that is to make sure we talk about people like Dr. Joan Maynard who build institutions. We have to maintain that our history, our people and their contributions are appreciated and are important and let no one forget

Senator Montgomery proudly attended a ceremony to coname part of Buffalo Avenue after Dr. Joan Maynard. Dr. Maynard was a founding member, former president and former executive director of the Society for the Preservation of Weeksville and Bedford Stuyvesant History, now Weeksville Heritage Society.

Dr. Joan Maynard was an artist, a community organizer and a preservationist who devoted decades to preserving what remains of Weeksville, one of America's first freed black communities. Weeksville was started by longshoreman James Weeks in the 19th century and quickly became a thriving community of free blacks with its own churches, schools, businesses and cemetery. By the late 1960s, Weeksville was largely replaced by present day Brooklyn but remnants of the community remained, including a row of homes that were slated to be demolished for new housing.

When she learned of this tangible history right in Crown Heights, Dr. Maynard leapt into action and made the preservation of these homes her life's work. She advocated tirelessly for the preservation of these homes, securing the site a place on the National Register of Historic Places. She was devoted to the education of her community, children and adults alike and was committed to helping black children foster a sense of pride in their own history.



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Senator Montgomery joined her colleagues and many others in honoring Dr. Joan Maynard's work and spirit, stating, "She spoke softly but there was an urgency; a tenacity. You couldn't rest in her presence."





SPELLING AND READING LESSONS.

1
bat, cat, rat, boy, top, run, sun
dog, hog, log, ring, wing, the, see
has, map, bark, and, can.

2
the bat can fly. the dog can bark,
and the boy can run. the sun is up.
I can see the sun. I see the map.
The boy has a top.

3
free, life, live, lives, took, love
loves, man, now, will, thank, God
work, hard, good, house
right, learn, land, made, free, slaves
stand, God, should, ought, serve, read
stand, union, ever, now, and.

4
I am free and well. I will love God
and thank him for it. and I must
work hard and be good and get me
a house and lot.

Looking to God.

At night before I close my eyes,
and in the morning when I rise,
pray for safety, health and grace,
Lord before me place,
in the business of the day,

THE WEEKSVILLE LADY

Among the most iconic photographs in the archives of the Weeksville Heritage Center is that of "The Weeksville Lady." This small tintype of an unidentified African American woman was found during archaeological excavations of historic Weeksville properties in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Scientific analysis allows us to date the image to approximately 1890. Although her story remains a mystery,

"The Weeksville Lady" exemplifies grace and beauty, and her image remains how the power of photography can provide a visual history of the African American community that is often lacking through other sources. She is a critical primary source for the study of historic dress among local costume designers and textile artists, and remains a representation of the Weeksville style of the late nineteenth century.



THE BIBLE.

The Bible is the holy book. It tells us all about God and how he lives and where they lived; and Jesus Christ the Son of God died to save sinners. We must read and learn to read the Bible. It tells us how to please God and how to get to heaven.

HISTORY

History will tell you all about the different nations, and great events that ever have been. It will tell you how the first people came to this country and about the colored people and other people. It is delightful to study history. As soon as you can read in this little paper, called *Light*, you will be able to read history.

ARITHMETIC.

Arithmetic is the science of numbers. It is sometimes called the language of which there are different letters or characters, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 0, called a cipher. These may be used so as to express every number. One is the base of all numbers. Hence to one, every other number bears a certain relation. Numbers may be added together, and may be divided or multiplied, therefore four general divisions to Arithmetic, addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

Can you count?

GEOGRAPHY

Geography is the science of the outside part of the earth. If you can read well enough to stand it, you may turn to Geography found at another place in this little paper.

GRAMMAR

English grammar teaches you how to speak and write the English language correctly. If you wish to know more about it, you can find the English grammar in another place in the *Torchlight*.

To learn more about Dr. Maynard's legacy, visit:

<http://www.ourtimepress.com/dr-joan-maynard-street-co-naming-ceremony-saturday-oct-14-at-weeksville/>

<https://www.brownstoner.com/brooklyn-life/weeksville-heritage-center-joan-maynard-crown-heights/>

To visit the Weeksville Heritage Center and to learn more about this cultural gem, visit

<http://www.weeksvillesociety.org>

To learn more about the street re-naming honoring Dr. Maynard, visit

<http://www.kingscountypolitics.com/tearing-statues-erecting-new-ones/>