

**HIDDEN HISTORIES SOCIETY YUKON**  
**Activity Report April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020**

**Main events** of the year were:

May 2019

- HHSY sponsored a free event for Asian Heritage Month in collaboration with Tai Chi Yukon, Solstice Haiku, Japanese Canadian Association of the Yukon, the Japanese Tea Group, and the Canadian Filipino Association of the Yukon. The event included demonstrations of Calligraphy and sumi-e by Japanese Canadian artist Michael Abe from Victoria, BC. Japanese bento lunch and refreshment sales, haiku readings, Asian history and cultural displays and activities.
- **Landscapes of Injustice Project public presentation:** a research project at the University of Victoria, focused on the dispossession of property of Japanese Canadians during the 1940s. The evening talk included information on the elementary school lesson plan that is being piloted in Coquitlam, North Vancouver and Toronto.

August 2019

- Honouring our Yukon pioneers – A group led by Lillian attended the gravesites of black and Asian Yukoners

October 2019:

- In partnership with Solstice Haiku, haiku readings by kjmunro and California poet Susan Dideroni at Baked Cafe
- In partnership with Solstice Haiku, public haiku writing workshops with kjmunro and Susan Dideroni

February 2020

- HHSY hosted a free public discussion of the film “Willie” with the film’s director Laurence Mathieu-Leger for Black History Month. Willie O’Dea was the first black hockey player in the NHL.
- Stand Up comedy with George Rivard at Antoinette’s restaurant for Black History Month.
- The McBride Museum organized a Way Back Wednesday for Black History Month. Peggy D’Orsay presented on the black soldiers who built the Alaska Hwy and the Canol Rd. Charlotte Hrenchuk presented on Lucile Hunter. Two shawls belonging to Lucile Hunter from the museum’s collection were displayed for the first time. HHSY provided the pop up displays on the Black soldiers and Lucile Hunter.

**Main activities** of the year were:

- Successfully negotiating with Heritage Canada to use funds allocated after the Asian Heritage Month events for planned events we were unable to complete.
- Planning for Black History Month events. The book panel on CBC for Black History Month did not go ahead as planned due to a series of unforeseen circumstances.
- A public event was planned for May 2020 during Asian Heritage Month with the focus on the Asian residents who owned/operated their own small business or owned/operated mining claims in the Yukon. We hoped for assistance from the

audience to build up profiles on each person. The event was to include the release of the Inventory to the History of Asian Yukoners, researched and compiled by Peggy D'Orsay. However, due to COVID-19, the event could not take place.

- Peggy contributed new information on Lucile Hunter and Asian residents.
- At Charlotte's request, Julie Menard read the French journal of a young black man's adventures in the Klondike published in the 1920's. It was decided not to pursue a translation for publication.

**TENTATIVE PLANS 2018/19:**

- Planning for May 2020 Asian Heritage Month public event with the focus on the Asian residents who owned/operated their own small business or owned/operated mining claims in the Yukon. The event was to include the release of the Inventory to the History of Asian Yukoners, researched and compiled by Peggy D'Orsay. However, due to COVID-19, the event could not take place.
- Post the updated version of the black history resource to the website.
- Post the Asian history resource to the website.
- Planning around the restrictions of COVID-19.
- Research project on Asian and Black miners. Perhaps funding available from mining companies, Chamber of Mines etc.
- Celebratory "village fair" for Black History Month including celebrating black owned businesses in Yukon.
- Proposal to the Hougen family for a bust of Lucile Hunter.

**Report by 2019/20 HHSY Board members:**

President: Charlotte Hrenchuk

Vice-president: Kaitlin Normandin

Treasurer: Midori Kirby

Secretary: Lillian Nakamura Maguire

Directors: Paul Gowdie, Georgianna Low, Naresh Prasad, Linda Johnson