



# NEWS

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS**  
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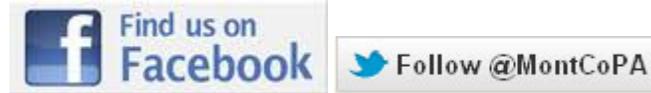
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**RELEASE: April 28, 2014**

**History Book Club at the Peter Wentz Farmstead**  
**Thursday, May 1, 2014 at 3:30pm**

**Worcester, PA (April 28, 2014)** – Join the newly-formed Wentz Book Club for a guided discussion of “The Trials of Phillis Wheatley” by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. The Book Club will meet at the Visitors’ Center at the Peter Wentz Farmstead on Thursday, May 1, 2014 at 3:30pm. Preregistration is required.

Phillis arrived in Boston on a slave ship in 1761 when she was around 7 years old and was purchased to be a house slave by the wealthy Wheatley family. Phillis began writing poetry at an early age, yet her legitimacy as the author of her works came under speculation in the spring of 1772, resulting in a series of trials overseen by some of Boston’s wealthy elite. After several months of interrogation, Phillis was finally able to prove her ability to write prose and was recognized as the author of her poetic works. As part of the discussion of “Trials,” book club members will also read a selection of Wheatley’s poems to gain a better understanding of her life during the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Consider joining the Book Club for an engaging and informative discussion about this famous African-American woman and her life in colonial Boston. The Book Club plans to meet regularly to discuss other books or writings, as determined by the club members. Preregistration is required so that the staff may notify club members of any last-minute changes.

The Peter Wentz Farmstead is located at 2030 Shearer Road in Lansdale, PA. The restored 18<sup>th</sup> century Pennsylvania German historic site is owned and operated by the County of Montgomery and receives support from the Peter Wentz Farmstead Society. The site is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00am to 4:00pm and Sunday from 1:00pm to 4:00pm with guided tours every forty-five minutes.

For more information about this program and others, please contact Kimberly Boice, Museum Educator at the Peter Wentz Farmstead, at 610-584-5104, or email her at [kboice@montcopa.org](mailto:kboice@montcopa.org). Visit the website at: <http://www.montcopa.org/index.aspx?NID=929>.