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CARVER MUSEUM FOCUSES ON WOMEN IN 2021

“What happens when women use their power? Simply, they speak and stand in truth,” says Terry Miller, curator of the new 10-month virtual exhibit launching on March 1 from the Carver 4-County Museum’s website. The exhibit is an exploration of the lives and work of 10 women of color – one showcased each month from March through December - who worked in the counties of Culpeper, Orange, Rappahannock and Madison.

Featured in March is the extraordinary mathematics educator and public servant, Murcelle A. Coleman (1922-2014). “She was not only a critical thinker, but a strategic one as well,” says Hortense Hinton-Jackson, Vice Chair of the George Washington Carver Regional High School Alumni Association (GWCRHSAA) and chair of the organization’s History Committee. “Mrs. Coleman taught at Carver from 1965-66. For more than 40 years, though, Orange residents particularly benefitted from her high school teaching, as well as her work on the Planning Council, School Board, and Town Council, among others. That, however, was the second act of her life. More important to us was to show the progression of her passion for knowledge, the sources of her joy and confidence in every economic and racial environment, and the ability to make and maintain meaningful relationships over a lifetime,” noted Hinton-Jackson.

“In so doing,” says Miller, “Mrs. Coleman demonstrated that black girls historically excelled in math and science. When did that end? Was it discouraged at integration? Her experiences are illustrative of choices to accept or deny opportunities, even when equipped with the Master of Public Health degree earned in 1947 from Yale School of Public Health in Connecticut. Her life helps us understand the manner in which women’s lives can be competing layers of duty until they unfold in a field of clarity – producing renewed energy to speak and act for good.”

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“When Women Use Their Power: Murcelle A. Coleman” will debut on March 1, 2021 on the website of the Carver 4-County Museum, [www.carver4cm.org](http://www.carver4cm.org). During this time of COVID-19, the museum will feature the exhibit’s 10 installments virtually on the first of each month. The Carver 4-County Museum, opened in February 2019 in the original library of the former George Washington Carver Regional High School (now The Carver Center), is a program of the GWCRHSAA, Inc. Museum staff may be reached at [carver4cm@gmail.com](mailto:carver4cm@gmail.com). For more information about this exhibit, contact Hortense Hinton-Jackson at 540-829-6331 or Terry Miller at 571-328-8087.

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