

Dr. Beverly Harrison (New Jersey and South Carolina)



At an early age, Dr. Harrison's parents encouraged her to study African-American history that was missing in their Westchester, N.Y., school district curriculum. Visits to Harlem's Michaux's bookstore and private collection were the sources for her grammar and high school book reports. This penchant for studying and teaching lost, strayed, or stolen history remained with her and provided lively discourse with friends, colleagues, and strangers. A hobby developed with the discovery of African-American images on postal stamps. When biographical information was eliminated from stamps, postal clerks became the recipients of her discourse. While purchasing the Barbara Jordan stamp in Larchmont, New York, she met an African-American postal clerk who did not know that Jordan, whom Dr. Harrison held in high regard for her oratorical skills, was the first woman and African American to deliver the keynote speech at the Democratic National Convention. Harrison left the post office quite upset and vowed to use the Reflections newsletter as a teaching tool. Since that incident, she's distributed Reflections to postal clerks and friends in South Carolina, New York, New Jersey, and Chicago. An ESPER member since 2017, Dr. Harrison credits Della Moses, ESPER's N.J. chapter director, for her introduction to ESPER.