

NYSNAACP FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING REPORT



New York State Conference President Hazel Dukés (left) and NY State Conference Treasurer Lottie Tann provide instruction for the correct handling of branch finances.

(Please see the description of the Quarterly Meeting in the President's Report, located on the first page.)

The Interfaith, Social Justice-Oriented Book Club



Poet Daphne McKnight graced our book club with the gift of her poems at the final book club meeting for "The New Jim Crow".

As you know, our branch spearheaded an interfaith, social justice-oriented book club. In the months of November and December we read Michelle Alexander's "The New Jim Crow." Thank you to the Westchester Jewish Center for hosting us. The good news is that we've decided to keep the group going. Our next book will be Ta-Nehisi Coates' "Between the World and Me." Stay tuned for more information.

Port Chester-Rye NAACP Supports the "Sustainable Port Chester Alliance".



Seven members of our branch turned out on a freezing cold night to join other community groups letting the Port Chester Board of Trustees meeting see our intention to secure a Community Benefits Agreement from Starwood.

(By Westchester County Business Journal)

The Sustainable Port Chester Alliance is a coalition of residents and civic, community, and labor organizations created in response to the plans submitted to the village board.

The organization that includes leaders from Human Development Services of Westchester, Communication Workers of America Local 1103, Port Chester/Rye NAACP, and Building and Construction Trades Council of Westchester and Putnam counties, is seeking a Community Benefits Agreement that would ensure the village gets a fair shot at project-related construction jobs, housing, and funding for its schools.

The alliance is seeking guarantees from Starwood that subcontractors would hire locally, that village schools not be shortchanged via tax abatements, and that traffic concerns be addressed. The Community Benefits Agreement would need to be signed by both sides.

Grangenois-Thomas, a Port Chester resident for more than 25 years and member of the Port Chester/Rye NAACP, said Sustainable Port Chester is not an opposition group, rather saying its members "advocate for responsible development at the United Hospital site."

[Note: Starwood Capital hired a research polling firm to determine public reaction to its proposed development of the former United Hospital property. In a village with a population of at least 28,000 residents, this firm telephoned 200 persons and asked their opinions. From this data, they concluded that 64% of village residents approved of the developer's proposal. However, the Sustainable Port Chester Alliance presented petitions to the Village Board of Trustees from 500 residents who were **not** in favor of the plan in its present form.]