

Rhode Island Slave History Medallions



Honoring legacies of the enslaved

— PRESS RELEASE —

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Black History Month Program Live and Virtual

The public is invited to attend an illustrated Black History Month lecture, “Benevolence and Success in the Era of Slavery: Duchess Quamino and William Ellery Channing,” to be held February 26 at 2:00 p.m., presented by the Rhode Island Slave History Medallions, live at Channing Memorial Church, 135 Pelham St., Newport. and simulcast online on Channing’s YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/c/ChanningMemorialChurch>) or go to You Tube and search “Channing Memorial Church, Newport RI”.

The speaker is Akeia de Barros Gomes, Ph.D., anthropologist, senior curator of Maritime Social Histories at the Mystic Seaport Museum, and Visiting Scholar at the Center for Slavery and Justice at Brown University. She will talk about the lives and relationship of formerly enslaved nanny and baker Duchess Quamino of Newport and the abolitionist William Ellery Channing, a renowned early leader and longtime minister of the Unitarian Church.

The program commemorates the installation of a RI Slave History medallion at the historic Channing home at 24 School Street on Historic Hill. The medallions have a QR code that when scanned by a digital device offers details of the site’s slave history in documented narratives accessible at the public archive www.rishm.org.

Duchess Quamino’s cakes gained renown and it was said George Washington requested her plum cake when he was in Newport. As a baker, she was eventually able to raise enough money to buy her own freedom and that of her family. Reverend William Ellery Channing helped usher in the period of Enlightenment and for whom The Channing Memorial Church was built.

Please register for free attendance at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com). In person attendance will be limited to just 100 individuals with masks, who have preregistered online for socially-distanced seating per COVID protocols. For more information, contact RISHM director Charles Roberts at info@rishm.org.