

The PhilateliKid

The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)

Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)

www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org

August 1, 2020 **Stay Safe Indoors! Collect Stamps!**

What is Harlem?

Harlem is a portion of New York City, formerly named New Amsterdam, which was settled by Dutch immigrants in 1624, and was surrendered to the English in 1665, who immediately changed its name to New York. On the northern edge of Manhattan is an area called Harlem, named after the city in the Netherlands, Haarlem, (spelled with two “a’s”) where many of the immigrants originally lived. In America, Harlem began as a Dutch village. Its history has been defined by a series of economic boom-and-bust cycles, with significant population shifts accompanying each cycle. Harlem was predominantly occupied by Jewish and Italian Americans in the 19th century, but African-American residents began to arrive in large numbers during the Great Migration in the 20th century. In the 1920s and 1930s, Central and West Harlem were the center of the **Harlem Renaissance**, a major African-American cultural movement.

The city of Haarlem, Netherlands is located 12 miles west of Amsterdam, the capital of Netherlands. Haarlem has been the historical center of the tulip bulb-growing district for centuries and bears its other nickname “Bloemenstad” (flower city) for this reason. (Source: Wikipedia)

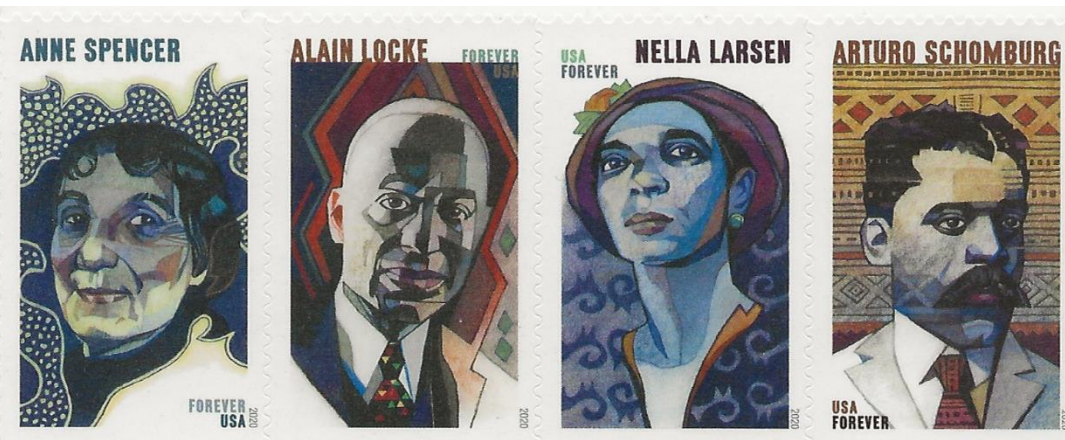
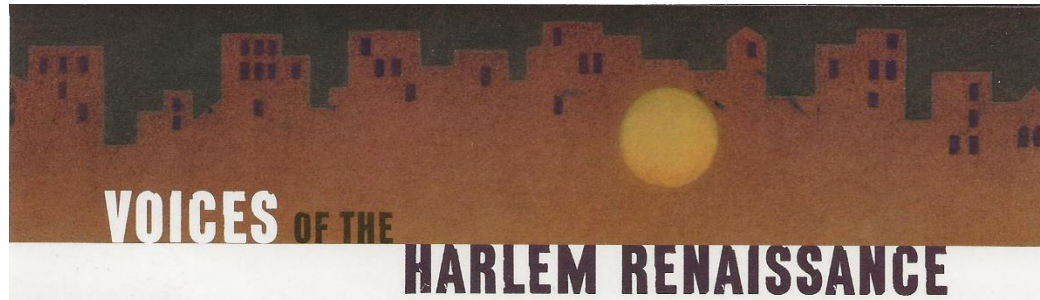
Harlem Renaissance

On May 21, 2020, the USPS issued a set of four stamps honoring 4 literary figures:

Nella Larsen, novelist; Alain Locke, writer, philosopher, educator, and arts advocate; Arturo Alfonso Schomburg, bibliophile and historian; Anne Spencer, poet. The two women are highlighted here.

These stamps celebrate one of the great artistic and literary movements in American

history, the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s. These stamps honor literary figures, who moved among other notables such as **W.E.B. DuBois (2x), Zora Neale Hurston, Langston Hughes, James Weldon Johnson, Marcus Garvey,**



Paul Robeson, Bill “Bojangles” Robinson, Eubie Blake, Billie Holiday, Jelly Roll Morton, Ethel Waters, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, Cab Calloway, and numerous others, many of whom have been commemorated on U.S. stamps. (Persons above who are highlighted in green have been honored on other U.S. Stamps.)

Sources of the following are Don Neal, ESPER’s Reflections, Vol. 26. Issue 2, online photos, and Wikipedia.

Nella Larsen (1891 – 1964) née Nellie Walker



Nella Larsen was born in Chicago in 1891 to a Danish mother and a mixed race West Indian father. Knowing little about her father after his death when she was two years old, she was reared in the all-white home with her mother, remarried to a Danish man, and her half-sister. Author of several short stories, and two novels, *Quicksand*, and *Passing*

Passing

The term “passing” refers to what occurs when a person of one racial group is accepted or recognized as a member of a racial group other than their own. *Passing*, although a novel, is a true story about the world in which its author, Larsen, lived. *Passing* is about the monumental cultural transformations that took place in American society after WW I. (Note: in 1920 the term “mulatto” was officially dropped from the U.S. census, leaving people of mixed race no specific place to identify.) *Passing* is about hypocrisy, fear, secrecy, and betrayal. It takes place when two light-skinned black

women who have not seen each other in 12 years, by then both passing as white, reunite by chance at an exclusive hotel in Chicago, where blacks were “not welcome.” Clare, who has severed all ties with her past, is married to a white man, who is unaware of her African-American heritage. After meeting her friend, she is forced to grapple with her decision to pass for white in a way that is both tragic and telling. Since the late 20th century, *Passing* has received renewed attention from scholars because of its close examination of racial and sexual ambiguities and liminal spaces. It has achieved high status in many American universities.

Anne Spencer (1882 – 1975)

Anne Bethel Scales Spencer (née Bannister) was born on a Virginia farm, daughter of former slaves. Her poetry was featured in Alain Locke's anthology *The New Negro: An American Interpretation* and *The Book of American Poetry*, edited by James Weldon Johnson.

Although Spencer lived in Virginia her entire life, she had close relationships with many Harlem Renaissance writers and was an important part of that group of intellectuals.

Many of Spencer's poems convey a romantic concern with the human search for beauty and meaning in a disgusting world, as well as people's wasted attempts to enforce order on God's earth. Poems in this frame of mind include *At the Carnival* and *Change*.

A portion of the poem *At the Carnival*



The color of life was gray.
Everywhere the setting seemed right
For my mood. Here the sausage and garlic booth
Sent unholy incense skyward;
There a quivering female-thing
Gestured assignations, and lied
To call it dancing...
As though you know the dearth of beauty
In its sordid life...

ZOOM

Many people are downloading the free app called ZOOM, and for a limited time it can be used to create a free "meeting" for 40 minutes. It is free to attend a ZOOM meeting. Only the "Host" has to pay for meetings that last over 40 minutes. Occasionally, ZOOM can be used for longer than 40 minutes for free. If you have not already done this, consider downloading ZOOM and attending some of the virtual stamp club meetings that are now being held. This has not happened to me, but I understand that if you are at a ZOOM meeting

and the 40 minutes time limit is reached (this time limit may have been increased by now), the ZOOM company just drops everybody from the meeting.

Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are greatly appreciated and if \$10 or more you will be sent a written receipt. You also can donate via PayPal on our website -

www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org or www.yummystampcollecting.org which will redirect you to the same site.

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