

# Celebrating Women's History Month



## A Revolutionary Encounter in London

### A Conversation Between Phillis Wheatley and Benjamin Franklin

Monday, March 31

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

#### A REVOLUTIONARY ENCOUNTER IN LONDON ~ Play

**A Conversation Between Phillis Wheatley and Benjamin Franklin.**

**Play Written and Directed by Debbie Wiess. Featuring Local Actors Cathryn Philippe and Josiah George.**

On May 8, 1773, enslaved African poet Phillis Wheatley departed Boston for London to oversee the final preparations of her book of poetry *Poems of Various Subjects, Religious and Moral* for publication later that summer. Copies of her first edition would come to Boston in the fall on board the *Dartmouth*, one of the three vessels involved in the events of the Boston Tea Party. Phillis' arrival in England created much buzz on both sides of the Atlantic, and during her six-week stay in the British capital she was the toast of the town, meeting many notables, among them American Founding Father Benjamin Franklin, who had been living there for almost 18 years, advocating for Colonial interests before the Crown and Parliament. This well-researched drama, which uses the words of both figures as much as possible, is an imagination of their historic meeting, unfolding in real-time 252 years after it took place. The play is set in London, England, one afternoon, early July 1773, in the beautiful salon in the opulent London mansion of the wealthy family of John Thornton, where Phillis Wheatley is lodged for at least part of her stay.

**Discussion topics will include race, gender and class.**

**For more information, call the Council on Aging at 617-349-6220.**



This program is for ages 60 years and older.  
Cambridge Senior Center  
806 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139  
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