



THE WIGGINS SOCIETY

ABOUT PAUL CUFFEE SCHOOL

Established in 2001, Paul Cuffee School is known for its innovative academic and enrichment programs, its excellent teaching, and its deeply rooted culture of respect and personal responsibility. Serving Providence public school students in kindergarten through high school, the Paul Cuffee School focuses its curriculum on core academics, with a particular emphasis on literacy. We believe that our urban students must attain the necessary literacy skills to advance on their path toward college, meaningful employment, and a purposeful life.



WHO WAS PAUL CUFFEE? *

Paul Cuffee was a self-educated African American ship captain who started one of New England's first racially integrated public schools in the 18th century after his own children were denied access to their village school. Proud of our namesake's entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to social justice, we regularly remind ourselves that if Captain Paul Cuffee could accomplish what he did in his day, surely we can in ours!

* Rosalind C. Wiggins edited *Paul Cuffee's Logs and Letters*



ROSALIND (POSY) C. WIGGINS

March 1917 - August 2005

A LETTER FROM POSY'S KIDS

“ Our mom, Posy Wiggins, had many careers in her lifetime. She was a sculptor, a painter, a writer, and a teacher. She reinvented herself several times, but one thing never changed: she was outraged by injustice. For many decades, and right up until she died, she integrated all of her talents and worked tirelessly for social and racial justice. An historian and educator, she taught African-American history to high school, church, and general audiences. A scholar, she worked in the archives of the Rhode Island Black Historical Society. A writer, she edited and published *Paul Cuffe's Logs and Letters*.

During her long life she accumulated an eclectic collection of books by and about African Americans. A love of literature, art, music, poetry, and history is evident in the titles of the books she acquired. Her involvement with Paul Cuffee School in its early years made it an easy decision for us, upon her death, to donate the collection to its library, except that the School didn't have any more than a room with empty shelves at that time. As she would have wished, the collection has grown to include books and media appropriate for all ages.

While the Collection is growing every year, it is still small compared to the daily need for high quality, curriculum-linked resources. We hope that generous friends like you will help us keep Posy's memory and passion for justice alive by making a donation to the Rosalind C. Wiggins Endowment Fund and by joining The Wiggins Society. Your gift will enable Paul Cuffee School students to find new, important books and resources in her collection each year.

Many thanks.”

Stan, Patsea, Elijah, and Peter - Posy's children

21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS DEPEND ON STRONG LIBRARIES

At Paul Cuffee School, our elementary, middle, and high school library collections are aligned with the curriculum at each grade level...

- to allow students to deepen their knowledge of a topic, whether ancient civilization or contemporary jazz, with age appropriate materials carefully chosen by our teachers and librarian for this purpose.
- to reflect and appeal to students' experiences and sensibilities.
- to expose students to a range of satisfying and challenging materials that will prepare them for the increasingly complex world and global economy they will inherit.

Creating a strong library collection is a huge challenge for a young school like ours that has depended entirely upon charitable donations to build its infrastructure. *(The shelves in our recently opened high school library-media center are calling out to be filled.)*

Knowing that many of our students have few, if any, books in English at home, and that only 3 out of 10 have computers with Internet access, sharpens our resolve.

*A well-equipped
library with a
rich inventory is
inextricably bound
to a high-quality
education.*





MAKE AN IMPACT

If you share Rosalind “Posy” Wiggins’s passion for social justice and her interest in ensuring that our children’s knowledge of history includes the contributions of African Americans, please become a member of *The Wiggins Society* today!

Membership in *The Wiggins Society* (yours for a donation of \$35 or more) entitles you to attend events, to hear speakers, and to receive *Bridges*, our annual newsletter highlighting the year and describing the collection’s impact on learning. To acknowledge your contribution, your name will be printed on a permanent bookplate inside a Wiggins Collection book.

One Wiggins Book Leads Students to Another, and Another...

Jaaron Andrade is passionate about basketball. In fourth grade he was assigned to write a biography for Black History Month. Luckily for Jaaron, he’d spent a lot of time in the school library, enough so that Librarian Megan Madden knew about his love of sports and of basketball, in particular. She found just the book for him: a biography of Wilt Chamberlain written at a fourth grade reading level.

Jaaron discovered how “Wilt the Stilt” broke the record for the number of points scored in a single game, which he eagerly

shared with his classmates. Then he went back to the library and pulled another Wiggins book off the shelf, this one about Martin Luther King, Jr. Jaaron hasn’t stopped reading since.

The Wiggins Collection fosters pride among our students while it provides a window onto the heritage and accomplishments of African Americans. The Collection is a vital part of the teaching and learning at Paul Cuffee School and among our extended community members. Your membership and gifts to The Wiggins Endowment help us to grow the Collection!

MISSION STATEMENT

The Wiggins Society

honors Posy Wiggins' spirit and commitment to social justice by supporting the Wiggins Collection at the Paul Cuffee School libraries and by building awareness in the community of the history and heritage of African Americans.

The Wiggins Collection

provides books and other resources by and about African Americans in the libraries at the Paul Cuffee School to include their history, identity, and their literary heritage.



THE WIGGINS SOCIETY

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Providence, RI 02908
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www.paulcuffeeschool.org



JOIN A GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL COMMITTED CITIZENS!

You can become a member of *The Wiggins Society* for an annual fee of just \$35, but a larger donation will allow us to grow *The Wiggins Endowment* that will support additions to the Wiggins Collection for years to come.

If you're already a member of *The Wiggins Society*, renew your membership every year before Posy's birthday on March 17th and stand in solidarity with Posy's ideal of racial equality and justice. Invite others to join you, or make a gift in their honor!

GIVING IS EASY!

Select from the charitable giving categories available on the membership form and **help Paul Cuffee students to become culturally competent and socially responsible citizens of the world!** Stay tuned for announcements of speaker series, special events, and our Wiggins Celebration each spring when we feature a special guest and honor all Wiggins Society members with free admission!

*Thank you, and please
encourage others to join our cause!*

BECOME A WIGGINS SOCIETY MEMBER!



I want to begin renew sponsor
an annual *Wiggins Society Membership* at the
following level of support:

\$35 \$70 \$100 \$250 \$500

*Membership is \$35 minimum per individual and includes your name
in a Wiggins Collection book.*

Please use my additional gift of \$ _____
to buy more books and resources for the

Rosalind C. Wiggins Collection

Adds books and resources by and about African Americans to Paul
Cuffee School's library.

Paul Cuffee School's General Library

Adds new books and resources to the general collections. Our goal is
to add 2 books per child every year! \$25 puts 1 book on the shelf.

Please direct my additional gift to help grow the
Rosalind C. Wiggins Endowment

\$100 \$500 \$2,500 Other:
 \$250 \$1,000 \$5,000 \$ _____

Annual endowment distributions help us maintain the Collection.

I want to make a legacy gift. Please contact me.

MEMBER INFORMATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

- Please make checks payable to **Paul Cuffee School**.
- Secure credit card donations can be made online at
www.paulcuffeeschool.org or by completing the following:

Account # _____

Expiration Date _____ Visa MasterCard

Signature _____

*To remember Posy's birthday, the membership period is from
March 17 of each year to March 16 of the following year.*