

The Northside News

A printlink for neighborhoods of change

WITH EXUBERANT GLADNESS

But the end is reconciliation; the end is redemption; the end is creation of the beloved community. It is this type of spirit and this type of love that can transform opposers into friends. It is this type of understanding goodwill that will transform the deep gloom of the old age into the exuberant gladness of the new age. It is this love which will bring about miracles in the hearts of men.

Martin Luther King, from "Facing the Challenge of a New Age," 1956



1. We The Resilient. On January 21, 2017, over 500,000 people marched through the streets of Washington, D.C. as well as other cities across America for the annual Women's March. **2. Friends of the Jackson Center.** Many of our Northside neighbors and friends participated in the marches. Former JC Director of Operations & Development Manju Rajendran and Chapel Hill Civil Rights Attorney Al McSurely are featured at the Women's March in Raleigh, N. C. **3. Local Northsiders.** McMasters St. resident Kevin Giff (left) and friends rallied at the Women's March in Washington, D. C. **4. Sea of Pink.** BOA member Jacquelyn Hall (back row, second to left) marched in D.C. for 7 hours with family and friends including Ros Pelles, Director of Civil, Women's, and Human Rights at the AFL-CIO (back row, furthest right). **5. Black Lives Matter.** On February 11, 2017, the largest HKonJ to date occurred in Raleigh, N.C. Over 80K joined in! The NAACP created the space for marchers to rally for civil rights, support vulnerable and newly targeted groups, and protect against harmful and oppressive legislation. **6. Catalysts for Change.** Members of the Community Empowerment Fund and the Jackson Center joined together on Jones St. Saturday. **7. Face-to-Face with Oppression.** Craig St resident and professor at UNC's School of Public Health Whitney Rivers stood strong in Raleigh.

HARGRAVES: A LEGACY CONTINUED

Hargraves Community Center, formerly known as the Robeson Street Center, has long been a Northside staple. The story of the center's development reflects the struggles and triumphs embedded in the neighborhood's history.

It began with concerns expressed by the Negro Civic Club about the lack of a recreational facility for the black community. In 1939, the group formed the Negro Community Center Association that, in turn, raised funds, purchased land, and deeded it to the town. Construction began in early 1941. Neighbors contributed mightily: many provided money, materials, and labor. The project was interrupted by World War II and was only completed after the B-1 Navy Band, which accompanied the preflight training school to a Jim Crow Chapel Hill, needed black barracks.

Hargraves soon became the site of important recreational and social activity. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Edwards first offered programs as live-in custodians. In 1951, Ms. Lucille Caldwell was hired as Director, becoming the first black professional recreation administrator in the state. Since then countless youth have spent formative years participating in programs and benefiting from the efforts of those who first envisioned the center.

Ms. Coretta Sharpless, principal of Northside Elementary, was once one such youth and fondly recalls the time she spent at Hargraves. "I remember learning how to swim right there in the pool," she said. "It felt like we were all a family. People like Mr. Nate Davis were instrumental in the development of so many young people." Hargraves, still led by the incomparable Mr. Davis, continues to be central to the Northside community.

FINDING THE LIGHT

On November 8th, I was a bundle of nerves.

I was finalizing the materials for one of the Jackson Center's educational workshops in the face of all the anxiety and exhaustion associated with the turbulent election season. Scheduled for the next morning, Brentton and I were planning to visit first graders at Northside Elementary to introduce them to our educational programming Learning Across Generations. The power of oral history coupled with the rich history, strength, and wisdom of our Northside neighbors represents the core of LAG, which can best be described as a narrative retelling of the Civil Rights Movement in Chapel Hill.

On November 9th, I was hollow.

Paralyzed and confused, I didn't know how we at the Jackson Center were going to share stories of progress and discuss civil rights efforts immediately following an evening where we as a nation moved backwards. Where we as a nation lifted the veil of candy-coated racism and elected a symbol of blatant hate. I didn't know how I would face the pure faces of first graders, knowing that the world around them was quickly

making the marginalized more vulnerable.

After talking with teachers following the election, the priority became clear -- we as a community must support and instill hope in our students. We must inspire and protect them; we must equip them with context and knowledge that buffers their understanding of struggle against division; we must push through by finding a glimmer of hope.

With this thought in mind, I would like to ask y'all -- our fellow neighbors and friends -- how should we do this? Looking through the lens of historical struggle, what do you think kids need to learn that our community can support? Many of our neighbors are increasingly vulnerable, so what strategies or approaches should we engage to address their interests? Whose oral histories should we share? I would love to hear from you!

Please call (919) 960-1670 or email megan@jacksoncenter.info with your response and/or if you have an interest in joining our Community Mentor Team, who teach, support, and guide our youth both inside and outside the classroom.

written by Megan Stanley, Youth & Education Coordinator of the Jackson Center

FIRST NORTHSIDE GATEWAY HONORS FREEDOM FIGHTERS



of St. Joseph. The gateways to Northside will be a set of historic Chatham-stone walls and pillars with plaques at entryways to the neighborhood that will welcome people to Northside and honor various aspects of the neighborhood's history.

The concept of the gateways was developed by a wide range of Northside neighbors and partners in dialogue with the Jackson Center several years ago. The first

As you may have noticed, the first "Northside Gateway" is under construction on the corner of St. Joseph CME Church property, with the generous support

gateway currently under construction on the corner of Roberson and Rosemary St will be in honor of the "Freedom Fighters," marking the civil rights struggle that was led by and involved so many of our neighbors and church members.

This first gateway will feature 8 granite panels (four purple placeholders can be seen in the photograph to the left) that will be etched with photographs, oral history excerpts, and additional text about the local civil rights movement. This gateway will permanently mark the corner, welcome all to Northside, and honor the legacy of our freedom fighters as the struggle continues.

Interested in finding out more? Want to be involved in this or in planning future gateways? Know a mason who can help build one of the next few gateways? Please contact the Jackson Center!

Visit us at www.jacksoncenter.info or 512 W. Rosemary Street or call us at (919) 960-1670!

DANCING THROUGH HISTORY

When you walk into the main entrance of Hargraves on a Wednesday afternoon, you'll see 8-10 elementary and middle school youth in jazz shoes, sweat pants, and yellow t-shirts moving across the floor with limitless energy. Turn your head towards the mirror and you'll see an older black woman with fiery red hair interjecting vocal instructions. This is Ms. Rashi Purefoy and the **Ebone Soul Strutters**.

The **Ebone Soul Strutters** is a recreational youth dance group made up of kids of color who engage in styles ranging from Hip-Hop to Inspirational/Praise dance. Led by Ms. Purefoy since 1978, this Hargraves-based program is free and open to the community. The group has a showcase every Winter and Spring and performs across Chapel Hill on request. Ms. Purefoy says her favorite part of the group is "the fact that it is so, so, old. And it is an historic part of Hargraves Center."

The **Ebone Soul Strutters** serves an important role in our community by giving opportunities for youth to engage in dance without financial burden. As a black male dancer myself, I

understand how inaccessible dance can be for youth in an area where families sometimes paying thousands of dollars a year just for their kids to take classes. But the Ebone dancers are about free, creative movement and a whole lot more. At 6 pm the class ends and Ms. Purefoy brings the whole group together in a semicircle on the floor. They close out with a call and response affirmation that Mrs. Purefoy has done for years. "Peace, love, and respect for everybody. I will not allow my circumstance to determine my future. I am strong, I am beautiful, I love my friends, but I got my own mind. I rise."

"I do that to let them know who they are. Let them know what we're about. And some of them need to hear that 'I will not allow my circumstance determine my future'. I want them to know that this is not the end of the world... if we have enough love and attention, we can make it."

The **Ebone Soul Strutters** meets every Wednesday from 4:30-6:00 pm in the main room of Hargraves Community Center. For more information, contact Hargraves at 919-968-2794.

written by George Barrett, Associate Director of the Jackson Center

CHANNELING THE SPIRIT OF DANCE



King ABBU & King True at 2016 May Day Festival.

The **Chosen Kings**, a hip hop and praise dance crew is comprised of young men who move with a deep intention of moving with and uplifting God. They are devoted to the craft of dance and its spiritual roots and spend every moment possible mastering their craft. Similar to a singer who moves up and down through the scale of a musical key with meticulous precision and

repetition, the **Chosen Kings** feel out every beat and move to amaze their audience and connect with the spirits of their viewers, whether at church or our May Day/Northside Festival. Through their fantastic combination of street dance, urban gospel, and hip hop, they seem to be dancing off the chains of spiritual bondage to exist in the highest form of praise and worship.

In addition to dancing their hearts out every chance they get, these young Kings also teach youth that dance can be used as a way to stay healthy and can be channeled as an outlet for creativity. They work throughout the Triangle and often get called to perform out of state to share their gifts and love of God.

To contact the Kings, please email chozenkingz2912@gmail.com.

ASK KEITH

Ms. Keith Edwards is a lifetime resident of McDade St. and a lifelong advocate for the community. Keith is widely known as a fighter for justice and receives calls from neighbors asking her about programs and referrals for help with household and community issues. To submit questions for "Ask Keith," call us at (919) 960-1670 or email at contact@jacksoncenter.info

Do you know of any scheduled events in our local area happening during Black History Month?

Black History Artists' Perspectives

Second Annual artist exhibition returns to the Hayti Center. Last year seventeen artists from Durham and surrounding areas presented oil, acrylic, charcoal and metal pieces and quilts that represented their individual styles and their collective talents. Contact info@hayti.org or call 919-683-1709 for additional information.

When: Feb 9-28 (Every Monday-Saturday)

Location: St. Joseph's Historic Foundation/Hayti Heritage Center

"Underground" the play

Triangle premier of a new musical that captures one slave's faith and determination to gain freedom for his family. Call 919-530-6242 for more information. Donations accepted at the door

When: Feb 17-26 (Every Friday at 10am and 8pm, Saturday at 8pm, and Sunday at 3pm)

Location: Farrison-Newton Communications Building at North Carolina Central University

Black and Blue Tours

A distinctive walking tour on the African American History of the University, with emphasis on the 19th and 20th centuries. To reserve a space please email mjfox@unc.edu. Call 919-962-1630 for questions and in case of inclement weather.

When: Feb 24th 3:00-4:30 pm

Location: Tour begins at UNC Visitors Center (Morehead Planetarium)

"In Conditions of Fresh Water" Exhibit

With their project and resulting exhibition—*In Conditions of Fresh Water*—artist Torkwase Dyson and attorney/environmental scientist Danielle Purifoy explore environmental racism based on their collaborative documentary research with citizens in two North Carolina and Alabama counties. There will be an opening reception and artists' talk at CDS on March 2, 2017.

When: March 2-June 3 9:15-5:00pm

Location: Lyndhurst and Kreps Galleries at 1317 W Pettigrew St, Durham, NC 27705

The Langston Hughes Project Performance

The Friday Center and Stone Center presents *The Langston Hughes Project, Ask Your Mama: 12 Moods for Jazz*. The Langston Hughes Project is a multimedia concert performance of Langston Hughes' kaleidoscopic jazz poem suite, featuring the Ron McCurdy Quartet. *Ask Your Mama: 12 Moods for Jazz* is a twelve-part epic poem and creative masterwork left unperformed at Hughes' death. Admission is free, advance registration is requested. Call 919-962-3000, 866-441-3683, or email fridaycenter@unc.edu to register.

When: March 5 3:00-5:00 pm

Location: Friday Center, 100 Friday Center Dr, Chapel Hill, NC

WILLS CLINIC SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY FEBRUARY 25TH -- SIGN UP TODAY!

Heads up if you don't have a will or need your will revised! The Jackson Center, in partnership with the Capital City Law Association and UNC's Black Law Student Association, is hosting a free wills drafting clinic on **Saturday, February 25th**. Appointments will be 1.5 hours long and times are as follows:

- 9:00-10:30am
- 10:30-12:00pm
- 1:00-2:30pm
- 2:30-4:00pm

Adults of all ages are encouraged to participate. Having a current will is one of the key ways to prevent land loss and ensure your plan for your home and other assets. Call the Jackson Center today to sign up for an appointment!

ARCHIVE TRIVIA

NAME THREE NORTHSIDERS WHO WERE ACTIVE IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS PROTESTS IN CHAPEL HILL

Think you know the answer to this month's archive trivia? Call the Jackson Center anytime after 9am to win a prize!

COMMUNITY BOARD

2/1 Barbara Wall
2/3 Sam Christensen
Pearl Cole
2/8 Yvette Matthews
2/12 Marian Jackson
2/14 Zach Kopkin

2/15 Pastor Troy Harrisor
Sarita Nwachukwu
2/16 Calvin Smith
2/24 Della Pollock
2/25 Brentton Harrison

 **february birthdays**

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PAINT BLITZ

Do you need the outside of your home painted? Apply for Habitat for Humanity's Paint Blitz today!

This April only, Habitat for Humanity of Orange County will offer an exterior home paint program for qualified families in the Northside and Pine Knolls community. Families that qualify will be asked to pay a flat fee of \$75 for the improvements.

Applications are due **March 17th**. The paint blitz will occur between April 4-8.

For more information or access to an application, please contact Adwoa Asare at (919) 932-7077 ext 233 or aasare@orangehabitat.org. Applications can also be picked up at the Jackson Center!

\$10 FREE GROCERIES

Cooking Matters Tour

Cooking Matters at the Store is a 90-minute tour that teaches you how to buy healthy food on a budget. After the tour you will receive a **FREE**:

- \$10 gift card to Food Lion to buy healthy food during tour
- Shopping and recipe workbook
- Reusable grocery bag

How Do I Sign Up?

To sign up, contact UNC Flourish at (919) 442-8269 or flourishcmats@gmail.com. Please leave a message with your name and the date, location, and time of the tour you would like to attend. We will return your call to confirm.

Tour Dates and Times

Various Food Lion Locations

Jones Ferry Mon, Feb 20 - 7pm
Weaver Dairy Tues, Mar 7 - 6:30pm
or Sat, Apr 1 - 2pm Thurs, Mar 23 - 7pm

NC-54 Fri, Mar 10 - 6pm
Fordham Blvd Sun, Apr 9 - 3pm

IN MEMORIAM

Helen Lee Stroud Edmonds, 89, passed away January 7, 2017. A native of Orange County, she was born on November 4, 1927 and has been a resident of Northside since 1968. She was known as a dedicated member of First Baptist Church, with an immense love for flowers and an especially warm ability to welcome others.

