

The Northside News

A printlink for neighborhoods of change

INTERGENERATIONAL EDUCATION AND MENTORSHIP

Adopting a community-first vision for the Jackson Center’s Youth & Education program, we ask: Who can tell the history of Northside better than those who actually live[d] it? Who can historically characterize the local struggles for freedom and equity better than those who were some of the primary gatekeepers and resounding embodiments of resiliency and strength? Who can instill a sense of hope and inspire students to take charge better than the folks we honor as our local heroes? Serving as the core of our *Learning Across Generations* curriculum, our Community Mentor Team is comprised of a group of Northside neighbors, residents, and often activists who are dedicated to engaging students in our local civil rights history workshops through the sharing and telling of their own personal stories and experiences.

The contemplations shared below are reflections from a few of our Community Mentors who were asked about the particular impact and importance of intergenerational education and mentorship. Their reflections honor and capture the personal mentors that they cherish in their own personal lives.

“The thing that touched my heart to this day was my grandfather, because at the time he was about 75 or 80 years old. And it would be like 95 to 100 degrees some days when we would be outside demonstrating and marching. One day, I said, “Granddaddy, why are you out here in this **heat** like this?” And he said, “I’m marching for my freedom too.” And that touched me so I said I would never give up the fight because of those words. Yep, sure did. He was one of the inspirations for me.”

-- Ms. Freda Andrews

“I got so involved with history and teaching because of Ms. Kristen Terry; she was my third grade teacher, sixth grade teacher, and first principal. She was the kind of teacher who made sure that we knew who we were. She made sure that we knew our history. I first learned about African American inventors in the third grade and then the sixth grade. We didn’t have new books, and sometimes we didn’t have any books, but She would have us do research and learn about them. My first report was on George Washington Carver. I loved that man and our reports and projects! That’s where I got all of my “Oh, I want to do that! I’m going to be a teacher to make sure that our children learn.”

-- Ms. Gwen Atwater

“When you saw the guys from Lincoln High School, they would walk like they were gods. That’s what they instilled in us and we just loved it. There were two guys that were kind of mentoring me, but I didn’t know that was what they were doing. You know, they would take me fishing, they would buy me hamburgers, they would take me to football games. And I’d think, *why are these guys doing that?* But the most important thing--or what I remember a lot was, this guy--they called him Rock Cotton. He had bought this white cutlass--it was white in the inside and white on the outside, and he would wash that cutlass. I mean he scrubbed it until it was shining! And he would come and find me and say, “Come here! Get in this car!” But I was scared to get in the car because it was so clean. And he was mentoring me, but that car was just that clean so I was scared to sit in it; I’d get in and sit down but try to hold my feet off the carpet. But anyways, they mentored me and I didn’t even know that’s what was going on.”

-- Mr. Earl Bynum

“Now what was going on at Lincoln? Citizenship; being a responsible citizen. At Lincoln, it was structured in the sense that if you were an upperclassmen, you had to be an example. If you were in the tenth grade, you had to be an example for those in the ninth grade. You see? And if you wanted to participate in the band, football program, basketball program--you had to be a pretty good student.”

-- Reverend Albert Williams

If interested in learning more about our Community Mentor Team or joining us at our next Community Mentor Team meeting, please contact us at (919) 960-1670 or contact@jacksoncenter.info.



A few community mentors from left to right: Ms. Freda Andrews, Ms. Lillie Burnette, Reverend Albert Williams, Mr. Earl Bynum, Della Pollock, Ms. Gwen Atwater, Mr. Ronnie Bynum, Yvonne Cleveland, Megan Stanley, Ms. Pat Jackson

AN EXCERPT FROM "MS. PAT'S TOWN"

I have lived here all my life. My daughter grew up here. We went to school here. She went to UNC-Chapel Hill. ... This is MY town!

—Ms. Pat Jackson, April 19, 2017

I recently had the privilege of listening to Northside resident Pat Jackson talk about her experience growing up in Chapel Hill—first under segregation, then in the early days of school integration. She credits a community support system for helping her to get through those years; the same community also helped her raise her daughter. That daughter, she stated ever so proudly, graduated from Chapel Hill High School and went on to get a Ph.D. in psychology.

When she emphatically says, looking straight at her audience, “This is MY town!” Miss Pat is staking her claim. Her simple statement is a battle cry for her and for the other Northside residents who have always had to fight for visibility and voice in the university town in which they have lived for their entire lives.

Miss Pat is a woman on a mission, willing and very able to connect with students sitting in classrooms in the same school she helped integrate 50 years ago. When asked last week by students about her childhood, Miss Pat began with anecdotes and observations about segregated Chapel Hill.

“It was always clear: there was White Town and Black Town.” And it was in the all-black Northside neighborhood – the churches, the schools, the Hargraves Community Center, the homes of her friends and relations– where she and the other kids found sanctuary.

During the school week, her teachers (also members of the Northside community) taught and disciplined students as if each child were their own; on Sundays, everyone she knew went to church and “everything that happened in the community came to church.”

In other words, your business was their business. Familiarity was a source of strength for the kids of Northside. Support was freely given, and expectations were high: “You didn’t even think of stepping out of line back then.”

They also were taught the rules of segregation: don’t ever be where you’re not supposed to be.

The university after work hours.

Downtown on Franklin Street.

In residential neighborhoods where white people lived and where the fraternity houses were.

Pretty much anywhere in white, working class Carrboro.

Her parents and, later, Miss Pat herself worked for the university. And yet, they were prevented by the color of their skin from claiming that part of town as their own.

The selection above is written by Andrea Wuerth after attending one of our Learning Across Generations workshop at Chapel Hill High School with Community Mentor Ms. Pat Jackson. Andrea is a volunteer participant in the Center’s Learning Across Generations curriculum and oral history archive development. To continue reading her blog post, please visit: www.jacksoncenter.tumblr.com



It's A **TINY** CELEBRATION!

Join us for an open house benefit!

FRIDAY OCTOBER 13 | 4:30-6:30P
601 CRAIG ST

FEATURING: QUICK TOURS,
TINY TREATS, AND BIG JOY!!

Make your donation **TODAY** or at the event!

Donations are being accepted through jacksoncenter.info or checks made payable to Jackson Center



All donations will be shared between the MCJC and Pee Wee Homes.

As part of the Northside Neighborhood Initiative, the Marian Cheek Jackson Center collaborated with Pee Wee Homes (with the invaluable support of Orange Habitat) to create a “tiny home” duplex in the heart of Northside. At 320 sq. feet each, these tiny homes show HUGE ingenuity in construction and affordability!



SUPER SPECIAL DISCOUNT ON 200 YEARS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSIC!

Octavia E. Butler’s Parable of the Sower
Created by Toshi Reagon and Bernice Johnson Reagon
Music and Lyrics by Toshi Reagon and Bernice Johnson Reagon
Directed by Eric Ting
Based on the novels *Parable of the Sower* and *Parable of the Talents*

Description
Singer-songwriter-guitarist Toshi Reagon is a celebration of all that’s progressive and uplifting in American music. Written by Toshi in collaboration with her mother—iconic singer, scholar and activist Bernice Johnson Reagon—this powerful theatrical event brings together 200 years of Black music to give life to Octavia E. Butler’s acclaimed science fiction novel, with revealing insights on gender, race and the future of human civilization.

Dates
Thursday, November 16th @ 7:30 pm | Friday, November 17th @ 8:00 pm

Tickets
Use promo code **“PARABLE”** to purchase your \$10 tickets today! Price originally \$15. The code **“PARABLE”** can be used:
By phone @ 919-843-3333
In person @ UNC’s Memorial Hall Box Office at 114 East Cameron Ave
Online at https://www.carolinaperformingarts.org/ros_perf_series/octavia-e-butlers-parable-of-the-sower/



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

I live in the Northside community where there is an elementary school. With all of the things going on now, especially the rallying around the Silent Sam statue on UNC’s campus, what can I teach my children about these statues and buildings that are in close vicinity to the Northside/Pine Knolls community?

The Silent Sam statue was erected in 1913 during a time in American history called the Jim Crow era; for some, this is known as a white philosophy. Many of these statues, buildings, and plaques were named after people who had strong views on this subject. What all of us can do is demand that our school system, starting from elementary, educate our students about this issue that weighs so heavily on everyday lives, especially in America. We have an opportunity now to meet these issues head on and educate our children while they are in school about the way these things happened and the need to talk through where we are now and how far we have come.

The Northside community and many of the people who are helping to maintain the African American history and status in the Northside/Pine Knolls area, feels that it is important that we all know this history and honor those who are still struggling for all people to reach the American Dream. That is why the Jackson Center, Empowerment, Self-Help, Community Home Trust, University, Town of Chapel Hill, Carrboro, Orange County, and the Center for Civil Rights, have joined together so people can reach the American dream. However, in order to reach the dream we all must have the right education about where we come from and where we want to go.

The Northside Community represents hope because we came from a dark place where we thought there would be no more, but through hope and people willing to help, we are still here.

A HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

Please join us at St Joseph CME Church October 17-19, 2017 as we celebrate our revival. The theme for the week is Principles of Discipleship: Life of Building the Kingdom of God. We will jump start each night with powerful praise and worship service led by Spirit of Praise from 6:30-7pm. At 7pm our pastor, Rev. John A Cradle will lead our worship service. Rev Carl W Kenny II will deliver the message each night. We look forward to a wonderful time in the Lord! You are also invited to join us on Sunday morning, October 22 for the culmination of our revival celebration, Homecoming Day! Sunday School will begin at 9:15am, followed by praise and worship at 10:45am and worship service at 11am. Dinner will be served immediately after worship service. Won’t you come and be our guest!



ARCHIVE TRIVIA

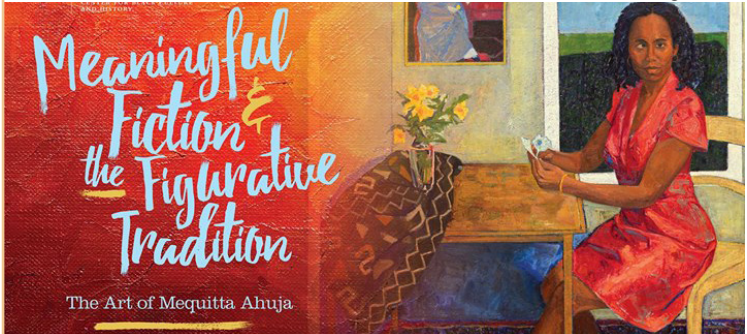
Why did St. Joseph CME Church (photographed to left, 1960s) serve as one of the primary community gathering sites for the Civil Rights Movement in Chapel Hill?

Think you know the answer to this month’s archive trivia? Call the Jackson Center anytime after 9am to win a prize!
Last month’s answer: The Jones Family

COMMUNITY BOARD

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 9/4 Alison Swaim | 9/17 Charles A Booth |
| 9/6 Loryn Clark | 9/23 Kai Schwartz |
| 9/14 Joe Alston | 9/24 Stephanie Barnes-Simms |
| 9/16 Janeria “Nissie” Rigsbee | 9/26 Mama Kat |
| Rev John A. Cradle Sr | 9/29 Jane Farrar |

 **september birthdays**



The Art of Mequitta Ahuja Exhibition Opening Reception
Thursday, September 14th - 7:00-9:00 pm
Sonja Haynes Stone Center | 150 South Rd, Chapel Hill

The Stone Center will feature the work of figurative painter Mequitta Ahuja this fall. The exhibit opens Thursday, Sept 14 at 7pm with a special reception and artist talk with Ahuja and will be on display through Nov 22. Ahuja is motivated by big ideas like painting as a record of our changing notions of beauty or how to make paintings that communicate clearly and invite the creative participation of the viewer. Her unique ethnic heritage; she is the daughter of an African American mother and a South Asian Indian father; informs her work as well.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Festifall
Sunday, October 1st - 12:00 PM -6:00 PM
Historic West Franklin St

The 45th annual Festifall Arts Festival will provide a unique opportunity for the community, art enthusiasts, and artists to interact. A vibrant market of handmade artworks along with live performances presents a day of discovery for the festival’s attendees as they engage with the local art community. Over 100 artists, 3 stages of entertainment and interactive cultural activities will line the streets.

St. Joseph CME Church Male Chorus Plate Sale Fundraiser
Friday, October 13th - 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM
510 W. Rosemary St.

Choice of 1 meat, 2 sides, hushpuppies, dessert and drink for \$8.00. Options to choose from include: Grilled Chicken, Fried Fish, String Beans, Baked Beans, Potatoes Salad, and Cole Slaw. Delivery available for 5+ orders in Chapel Hill. Please come to the Jackson Center if interested in filling out a pre-order form.

St. Paul 5K Fundraiser
Saturday, October 14th - 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Carrabba’s Italian Grill | 101 N Merritt Mill Road

Enjoy a plate of grilled chicken, pasta, caesar salad, homemade dessert, and a beverage for the cost of \$13.

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education Candidates Forum
Monday, October 16th - 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Chapel Hill Town Hall | 405 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd

The Orange Unit of the League of Women Voters of Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties, the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools (CHCCS) PTA Council, and the Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP are co-sponsoring a forum for the public to hear from the candidates for the CHCCS Board of Education. Each candidate has been invited to present opening remarks, followed by a question and answer period, and then closing remarks. The forum is free and open to the public and free parking is available.