

# NORTHSIDE NEWS

January 2018

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The Marian Cheek Jackson Center For Saving and Making History

## New Northside and Pine Knolls Residents: Be a part!

If you are new to the neighborhood, welcome! You can become an active part of this community by participating in community forums, town hall hearings, and planning groups. Or you can pick up a paper route and deliver the monthly *Northside News* or submit a story. We encourage you to join the celebrations and porch parties and help with our home repair program or the Heavenly Groceries food ministry at St. Joseph's CME.

You can patronize the many local businesses. But most importantly, take the advice of neighbor Louise Felix who always says, "Wave as you pass!" And stop by the Jackson Center to learn more about the rich local history and to accept a personal welcome to the neighborhood. If you want to get involved, you can begin by emailing [contact@jacksoncenter.info](mailto:contact@jacksoncenter.info) or by calling the Jackson Center at 919-960-1670.

## Meet Ms. Lillie

Ms. Lillie Edwards has lived on Gomains Street in Northside her entire adult life. She hails from Wake Forest, NC, and moved to Durham with her family when she was seven. After graduating from high school, she found a position taking care of children in Northside, met her husband, Robert, who lived across the street, and became part of the fourth generation of Edwardses in Northside. Since then, she's raised up two more generations: her three children and two grandchildren, CJ and Lydia.

Ms. Lillie worked for UNC Hospital for 31 years, preparing meals and supervising staff. She has been involved in St. Joseph's CME church ever since moving to Northside. Church, community and family have always been central in her life, and she is still an active volunteer at the Heavenly Groceries food ministry.



In fact, she says, she was part of the team that began the food ministry: "I remember the kitchen committee had to go to Raleigh to the [food] bank to get food.... But we would make dates [for distribution.]. We just didn't have that much." They got socks and underwear as well as food. She says, "Now it's better because we get so much more." And the food ministry is thriving because of faithful neighbors like Ms. Lillie.

You can read about Heavenly Groceries and at [jacksoncenter.info](http://jacksoncenter.info) and click, "Get involved."

## Crossing the Tracks

Mr. Ronnie Bynum remembers what it was like to be one of the first black students at Carrboro Elementary. At an evening event in late November, Ronnie told an audience of more than one hundred students, teachers, and parents in the Carrboro Elementary school auditorium the stories he remembers from those days. In the mid-1960s, the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City school district had just begun the desegregation process, and some Klansmen from Carrboro decided to direct their anger against elementary school students. Whenever he left his house and got on the school bus, Ronnie feared the worst. Instead of stopping in front of the school, the bus driver would stop a distance away from the entrance where a group of local Klansmen would be waiting. "They would chase me into the school every day; and they would be waiting when we got out." They taunted and threatened him.



At this time, Klan members were burning crosses on lawns and holding very public rallies, terrorizing residents and threatening people who challenged segregation and Jim Crow laws.

His best friend, he said, was a white boy, the son of a Klan member, who defied his parents and played with Ronnie at school and at the Bynum home even though they could not acknowledge each other in public: "If his father had known about our friendship, he would have beat his son."

Fellow students often were allies when teachers overlooked him. Ronnie told the audience how a teacher refused to call on him in class when he had his hand raised, even after other students tried to point out Ronnie. When he told his grandmother stories about what was happening in the classroom, she asked him where he was sitting. When he said he liked to sit in the back, she had some advice for him that he has never forgotten: "My grandmother taught me if I ever wanted to be recognized, be in the front. Be the best you can be."

After a lively question and answer session, students designed freedom signs. Among the messages were "Everyone is welcome here," and "The secret of happiness is freedom. The secret of freedom is courage." The evening concluded when they carried their signs, chanting, around the school. One sign was directed right at the young Ronnie, evidence that his message had made an impact: "We support you. We love you."

## Neighbors Who Nourish

### Warrior of Food and Love: Vimala Rajendra

How to thank someone whose bounty seems endless? Who shares pans of the best chicken and slaw, the most mouth-watering samosas and fritters—in justice and joy, at once filling bellies and creating community? Who so generously exemplifies the power of abundance? How?: Receive. Eat. And rejoice. We have received, eaten, and been nourished—body and soul. Today we are honored to share in regaling local food warrior and Northside neighbor, Vimala Rajendran, who was featured in the December issue of *Christianity Today*, both for her culinary accomplishments and for the love she practices in every aspect of her work and life. In an essay on the "Power in the Plate," food writer and theologian, Kendall Vanderslice, goes to the heart of Vimala's particular gifts:

At Vimala's beloved Chapel Hill café, chef Rajendran serves dishes that narrate her own lifelong journey befriending neighbors across continents. "If a dish shows up in my restaurant or at my table, it's because I have met at least one person from that region who opened their recipes to me with the history and what goes into it," she said. Many dishes reflect the cuisines of her home country of India, in particular the Kerala region—where the apostle Thomas is said to have traveled after Jesus' resurrection. Others reflect the flavors of the Middle East and Thailand, reminders of the global spread of spices, informing cuisines for generations to come.



*Rajendran hopes that every guest encounters the Bread of Life at her table. As she and I feasted together, I thought of Christ's words to the crowd that sat under his teaching: Those who eat of me will never hunger. But with each bite, I find myself ever ravenous for more: for the stories and spices simmered slowly together, witnessing to both the vastness of our Creator and the deep brokenness of the world. 'If you eat the food I made, you know that food is an expression of my very being,' Rajendran said. 'It's an offering to you to honor God's created being.'*

To taste the joy, visit Vimala's Curryblossom Café (in the courtyard behind Kipos on West Franklin) soon and often. To read more, put "Power in the Plate" in the search bar at [www.christianitytoday.com](http://www.christianitytoday.com). Thank you Vimala!

— Della Pollock

### Cooking as an Act of Love and Hope: Rosa Cruz

Anyone who has come to a Jackson Center holiday party knows they can expect an impressive spread of delicious food, much of which comes from the kitchens of Northside neighbors. Who can bypass Ms. Gladys Pendergraph's heavenly chicken salad, Donny "Hollywood" Riggsbee's famous fried chicken, or Hudson Vaughan's chocolate chess pie?



Cooking for other people is a personal, generous act, a way of bringing something of ourselves (literally) to the table. And among the offerings this year were some special neighborly contributions that brought old traditions from faraway places to Northside.

Like Vimala, Rosa's journey to Chapel Hill began in another country and is marked by struggle and resilience. Rosa, who fled a life-threatening situation in her native Nicaragua, raised her four children in North Carolina. Threatened with deportation which she calls a death sentence, Rosa now lives at a local church in sanctuary, waiting to be given a chance to remain in this country with her family. She is often discouraged and fearful; phone calls from her children, support of the community, and her faith sustain her. Cooking keeps her occupied and distracts her, and her irresistible *pupusas* and *tamales* have many fans, including everyone who sampled them at the Jackson Center's holiday party.

If you'd like to order *pupusas* or *tamales*—or if you want to help her make them, you can contact the sanctuary staff at 984-999-1461 or email at [sanctuarychapelhill@gmail.com](mailto:sanctuarychapelhill@gmail.com). *Muchas gracias*, Rosa. Our prayers are with you. *Que Dios te bendiga*.

— Andrea Wuerth

## Milestones: Ms. Sallie Pendergraft

Ms. Sallie Pendergraft celebrated her 100th birthday on Saturday, November 17th, at her home on Church St. She was born in Winnsboro, SC, lived in Durham as a child, and moved to Chapel Hill, NC, as a teenager. Ms. Sallie is one of the oldest living and active members at First Baptist Church. She co-founded the Lyon Park Family Life and Recreation Center in Durham and served for many years at the Holmes Daycare at Hargraves.



Ms. Sallie’s daughter, Christie Adisa, lives on Cole St. in a house purchased by her father Rufus Pendergraft; her only granddaughter, Imasha Adisa, joined in the celebration of her grandmother’s centennial. Congratulations and many blessings!

## End of an Era: Mr. Nate Davis retires after 47 years of service



In a 2012 interview, outgoing Hargraves Center director and community pillar, Nate Davis, reflected on what Hargraves meant to him as a child and today: “We could hang out . . . Sometimes we would sit on the ballfield until maybe 2 or 3 o’clock in the morning . . . Our parents knew where we were, the police knew where we were. . . . [Kids] don’t really do that anymore—and somehow we’ve got to find a way to bring them back in.” In next month’s *Northside News*, we’ll feature highlights from Mr. Nate’s upcoming conversation with the Jackson Center staff. For now, we’d just like to say for all to hear: Thank you, thank you, thank you, Mr. Nate, for the countless ways in which you’ve blessed the neighbors of Northside!

“No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.”

— MLK, Jr.

## Holiday Dominoes Tournament at Seymour Center



The winners of the Seymour Center’s holiday dominoes tournament were from First Baptist & Manley Estates. They are Clara Wilson-3rd Place, Josett Mack-2nd Place, and Rutha Rogers-1st Place. Their message to all seniors is, “Come out to the Seymour or Hargraves Center and have a good time while playing various games, interacting with others, and staying young all at the same time. See you there!”

## Ask Keith

**Q:** Now that Mr. Nate Davis has retired as Director of Hargraves Community Center, what would you like to see in the new person stepping into the big shoes Mr. Davis left behind?

**A:** I hope it will be someone who is very interested in our young children because our children need leadership and they need someone who cares. The Northside Community was built on love, caring, and being there for each other. The Hargraves Community Center and its supervisors were the heartbeat and the glue that held all of us together, no matter what community you lived in.

**Stay tuned!** We will be featuring more responses to this question in our February issue of Northside News.

## Northside Trivia

**This month’s question:** Who lives on either side of you? Call in if you know. If you don’t, there’s no time like the present to find out!

*Last month’s answer:* The three most popular songs (in order of popularity) are: “All I Want for Christmas Is You,” by Mariah Carey; “Rock Around the Christmas Tree,” by Brenda Lee; and “The Christmas Song” (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire...), by Nat King Cole.

**How it works:** If you think you know the answer, call the Jackson Center at (919) 960-1670 any time from 9-5 to win a Northside button! Whoever ends the year with the most buttons will be our Northside News Trivia Champion and receive a trophy!



## February Birthdays

2/1 Barbara Wall  
2/3 Pearl Cole  
2/8 Yvette Matthews

2/15 Sarita Nwachukwu  
2/16 Calvin Smith  
2/24 Della Pollock  
2/25 Brentton Harrison  
2/26 Margaret Clark

If you are interested in receiving a digital copy of the newsletter, send us your email address! [contact@jacksoncenter.info](mailto:contact@jacksoncenter.info)

### MLK Day Celebration in Carrboro

January 19, 2019  
Saturday, 11AM, 1-3 PM

**Groundbreaking of Dr. MLK, Jr. Park, 1120 Hillsborough Rd.**  
*Free*

**Life and Legacy Celebration**  
Event will provide spoken word and other performances, and activities.

1/19: **Century Hall/ Century Center**  
Saturday 1PM-3PM

### University/Community Annual MLK Banquet

January 20, 2019  
6PM (5PM reception)

**Friday Center for Continuing Education**  
*Tickets: \$30*

The MLK University/Community Planning Corporation raises scholarship funds for high school students and UNC students who work to improve the quality of life for everyone in the community. They also award Martin Luther King, Jr. Citizenship Awards. This year’s speaker will be Dr. Reginald Hildebrand, who retired from UNC in 2016. Questions? Call 919-962-6962 or email [diversity@unc.edu](mailto:diversity@unc.edu).

### The Talk by Sonny Kelly

January 24- February 10 and February 14-17

January 24- February 10  
Thur, 7:30PM  
Fri/Sat, 8PM, Sun, 2PM  
**Durham Fruit DURHAM**

February 14-17,  
**Playmakers Theater, UNC, CHAPEL HILL**

*Tickets: \$5-\$20. Northside neighbors receive 30% discount. Use code: FRIEND 30. A one-man show about the difficult conversation a father must have with his son in a racially divided America. To purchase tickets: [bulldogdurham.org/the-talk](http://bulldogdurham.org/the-talk) and don't forget to enter "FRIEND 30" for your discount. Or call (919) 843-5666.*

### Give Kids a Smile Day, UNC-CH School of Dentistry

February 1, 2019  
Friday, 9AM-4PM

**385 S. Columbia St.**  
*FREE for children under 18 years of age*

Each child must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian who will remain with the child during the event. Appointments are first-come, first-served basis. No fees will be charged. Services include: dental exams, cleanings, extractions, sealants, Fillings, crowns, x-rays, fluoride. (919) 726-8057 [uncgkas@gmail.com](mailto:uncgkas@gmail.com)

### “Steppin’” into Becoming a Worthy Woman

February 16-17, 2019  
Saturday, 8AM-4PM

2/16:  
**9201 Seawell School Rd. (Smith Middle School)**

2/17:  
**510 W. Rosemary St. (St. Joseph’s CME)**

*Early Bird (2/1): \$25/person  
Regular (after 2/1): \$35/person*

This conference is for women who want to renew faith around many topics including addiction, single life, and finances.

Ticket info: Clara Smith (919) 906-7048

### St. Paul Village Community Walk & 5K Run

March 2, 2019  
Saturday, 9AM

**101 N. Merritt Mill Rd.**  
Early Bird (2/1):  
*\$20/person  
\$40/family  
Regular (after 2/1):  
\$25 & \$45*

Run begins and ends at McDouggle Middle School. There will be awards, door prizes, food and family-friendly fun activities. Register at: [stpaulamechapelhill.org](http://stpaulamechapelhill.org) (919) 967-3961