

NORTHSIDE NEWS

The Marian Cheek Jackson Center For Saving and Making History

IN MEMORIAM

WE HAVE CHOSEN TO DEDICATE THIS ISSUE TO THE MEMORY OF JUST A FEW OF THE NEIGHBORS WHO PASSED THIS YEAR AND MADE ALL OF OUR LIVES BETTER. WITH THIS ISSUE, WE REMEMBER ALL OF THE SISTERS, BROTHERS, PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, FRIENDS AND ANCESTORS WHOSE VISION AND LEADERSHIP WE CONTINUE TO FOLLOW. GOD BLESS.

Ms Cynthia “Peaches” Ophelia French

Ms Cynthia French, better known to the community as “Miss Peaches,” departed this life on March 19, 2019. A celebration of her life took place at St. Joseph CME Church on March 27. She was born on September 4, 1951, and joined St. Joseph at an early age. She was known to be a compassionate, humble, loving and selfless person who would do anything to help family or friends. She helped raise many of her nieces, nephews and grandchildren, and also worked as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) for 15 years. She enjoyed cooking and living life! She will be lovingly remembered by her children Terry, Gregory and Mattie and the many people in her family and community whose lives she touched.

James Henry “Jim Bo” Atwater

Born on December 28, 1950, Mr. James Atwater graduated from Chapel Hill High School and attended Fayetteville State University before he was drafted into the army. He served in Vietnam from 1969-1972 and then worked for the Fred Baldwin Company for 30 years. He loved hunting and fishing and was a loyal fan of the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Tar Heels. Relatives and friends celebrated his life at a funeral held at St. Joseph CME Church on March 25.

Ms. Lillie Mae Garrett Edwards

Born in Wake County, NC in 1931, Ms. Lillie departed this life on March 26, 2019. Known for her unwavering faith, integrity, and her sweet and loving nature, she was a member of St. Joseph CME for more than 60 years, serving in many roles. She loved her family reverently and unconditionally and was known for her reassuring, honest, practical words: “If you lie, apologize. Ask God for forgiveness. Apologize to those who you hurt, and ...MOVE ON!” Stories of Ms. Lillie’s life were featured in the November issue of the Northside News. Her oral history can be heard on our website: archives.jacksoncenter.info.

Frederick Lewis Battle

The man known to many as “Fred,” “Butch” or “Toro” was called home on April 1, 2019, surrounded by the love and presence of his family. He would have been 76 years old on April 10. Throughout his life, he was a community activist and leader, earning accolades and respect for his countless achievements, commitment to his community, and for the strength, dignity and warmth of his spirit.

During his youth, Fred was a leader in the sit-ins in Greensboro and Chapel Hill that catalyzed the freedom movement. In his role as director of Hargraves Recreation Center, Fred helped to motivate youth to move on to rewarding personal and professional lives. He served his community in many leading positions-- local NAACP President, CHCCS school board member, Chapel Hill recreation department director, just to mention a few, and his legacy lives on in all of us who remain on the battlefield fighting for justice and equality. You can listen to Fred’s oral history on the Jackson Center website: archives.jacksoncenter.info.

Grief? What is it?

What is grief? Does it feel like
Gatherings of emotions,
Replaying feelings of
Individuals who have
Energized and impacted our lives
Forever with their steps and breath?
Think instead of combating this moment that feels
every bit eternal.
Befriend it, take long walks with it.
Pushing it away only builds a foundation on loose
sands.
When I was grieving, a glass-like life was shattered.
So naturally I Gathered all pieces that I know, first.
This includes all the good, beautiful, bad, and ugly
shards between us.
Things spoken of himself and those others spoke
about him,
Eulogies and sermons,
Lessons of family and life.
Po’ folks’ ingenuity, hearts rich in brilliance
All the Replaying and resetting of the fragments.
These emotions of transition often are raw ends
sharpened by loss
In his time with us and even more now that he has
ascended.
“He learned” us up good, wailing wisdom.
I had to find a way forward,
While all find their own way to it.
But emotional stability is something that comes with
time,
And at the pace of the Individual.
I find an Energizing solace in
That memory is neither
Created nor destroyed.
It can be transformed.
Love is now zenith,
Passings fuel me to be better, a day older.
We have always been entangled; that
Helps me through this transition of yours,
Now and Forevermore. -Brentton Harrison

“Those who have been in the race are now watching the race. And more than that, they are cheering us on, they are encouraging us to run the race. And they are telling us to lay aside all the extra weight, things that don’t matter. ... We have to stay in this race, run this race relentlessly, with patience.”

From Rev. Troy Harrison’s eulogy for Ms. Marian Jackson

Mr. William McCauley

Mr. William McCauley passed away on April 1, 2019, at the age of 59. His funeral service was held at St. Paul AME. He was the son of Espher Atwater McCauley and is survived by his daughter, Nicole Humphrey, special aunt, Faye Farrar, aunts, cousins, and friends.

Ms. Kathy Burnette

Ms. Kathy Lynn Burnette Gomez, born June 2, 1955, passed away on May 1, 2019, after bravely battling an extended illness. To honor her memory, members of her graduating class, Chapel Hill High’s Class of 1974, many of them life-long friends--served as Pall Bearers and Floral Bearers at her funeral service at First Baptist on May 8. Known for her sense of humor, colorful spirit (and dress!), and for her strength and grace, she brought smiles and laughter wherever she went. In the words of the family members who knew her best: “You could always count on Kathy to share words of wisdom, whether you wanted to hear it or not. We each have a purpose in the world, and Kathy certainly walked in hers.”

“If you’re proud of yourself, you can succeed”

In a 2001 interview with Bob Gilgor, Mr. Battle discusses what it was like to grow up in a community where expectations of young people were high. He dedicated his life to giving back to the Northside community that gave him so much.

We were fortunate enough to win two state championships during my three-year tenure on the football team. And what it boiled down to, it boiled down to making the best out of the resources that you had... We weren’t fortunate enough to have lighted fields; the turf that we would practice on was just about clay. Red clay. And we made use of that, and we took those disadvantages and made them into advantages... I would walk down the corridors of the hall in Lincoln, and I can still hear some of the teachers speaking now, giving guidance, giving direction, giving praise... [The teachers at Lincoln] gave you the type of inspiration which made you want to succeed. There were no low expectations; they made every student feel that if you’re proud of yourself, you can succeed. And this is what benefitted me the most.”

“Our Lord, let not our hearts become perverse after Thou hast guided us; and bestow on us Thine mercy; surely, Thou alone art the Bestower.” (3:9) of the Quran

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”
Matthew 5:4

Ask Keith

Q: The school year is coming to a close. Are there any camps in the area for children during the summer months?

A: Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation has many day camps for children (ages 5-11) and teens (ages 12-13) throughout the summer. Camps include swimming, tennis, flag football, arts and crafts, science, ultimate frisbee and more! There are also weekly summer camps at Hargraves Community Center. Registration is still possible. To sign up visit www.townofchapelhill.org and search "summer camp" or call the Parks and Recreation Department at **919-968-2784**.

The Carrboro Recreation & Parks Department offers a variety of summer camps from June through August. Camps include adventure, art, music, sports, kayaking, science, math, fishing, drama, and more! Registration is open and on a first come-first serve basis. To sign up visit www.townofcarrboro.org and search "summer camp" or call the Recreation and Parks Department at **919-918-7364**.

Don't forget to check your local churches, schools, community organizations, and friends for other camps happening this summer!

Photovoice - Aging in Community

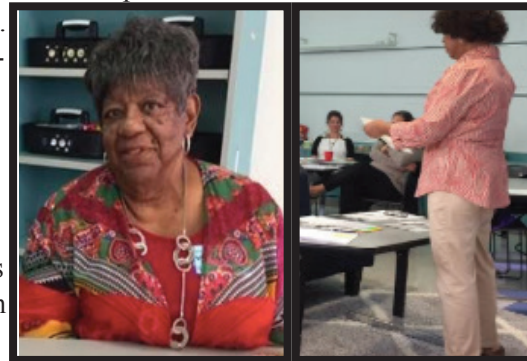
Last month, a few of our neighbors were engaged in a research project conducted by four graduate students from UNC, called Photovoice. The purpose of the project was to understand the benefits, challenges, and possibilities of aging-in-community. The information gathered helped to identify barriers to residents who want to remain in the neighborhood as they age. The project used photography to facilitate group discussions and to raise awareness of key community issues. Everyone was given a camera, taught how to use it, and asked to take pictures that they felt answered the following questions: (1) What is needed to care for someone? (2) What is good health? (3) What support do I wish I had? Thanks to our new graduate student friends--Simone, Nastacia, Nora and Sarah-- who conducted this project and also volunteered at the Northside Festival! The Photovoice sessions were great opportunities for us to hear from neighbors who are caregivers and to help us look for ways that our elderly can age-in-place in this Beloved Community which means so much to us all!

-Kathy Atwater

Community Mentors Lead MCJC Educators Workshop

Ms. Gwen Atwater and Ms. Freda Andrews, both lifelong educators with deep connections to the Northside community, led the Jackson Center's first workshop for teachers in March. They shared lessons and experiences from their careers, focusing on how teachers must and can reach students of color who are often misunderstood and overlooked. Enriching the curriculum with freedom songs, poetry, biographies, and stories about African-Americans helps create a classroom atmosphere of mutual respect in which students feel like they are all equally worthy and capable of success.

Ms. Freda, known to many of her elementary school students as the "Poetry Lady," read from her favorite poems, including *Harriet Tubman* by Eloise Greenfield and *Hey, Black Child* by Useni Perkins. Deeply influenced by her childhood in Northside and activism in the local civil rights movement, she says, "I utilize poems to help instill pride in our children because when we grew up, black folks didn't feel like they were worthy of anything--or worthy to have the same advantages as others." Stressing how important it is to develop relationships with each student and teach the whole child, Ms. Gwen explains: "Children have opinions just like adults do. And if you don't listen to them, they're never going to be strong, responsible citizens ... I didn't say this was my class. This was my family." The educators workshop is part of the Learning Across Generations (LAG) program that brings community mentors into classrooms to share their histories of community, segregation, and civil rights. If you would like to join the Mentor Team, call the Jackson Center. **919-960-1670**



Ms. Freda still teaches at Oak Grove Elementary in Durham; Ms. Gwen retired after more than three decades of teaching at Frank Porter Graham Elementary, among other schools.

May and June Birthdays

5/3- Cleo Caldwell & Janie Alston
5/7- Valerie Foushee
5/15 Robert Edwards Jr.
5/16- Cheryl Edwards
5/17- Garland Foushee
5/19- Richelle Watson
5/24- Josh Davis
5/26- Gaylan Edwards
5/29- Jennette Farrington
5/30- Donnie "Hollywood" Riggsbee
5/30- Gladys Pendergraph-Brandon
6/9- Louise Felix
6/16- Marcia Williams
6/19- Mark McDaniel
6/24- Loretta Perry

Be Heard!!

Thursday, May 30th, 6-8 pm

Come out to discuss the 6-story 300 unit development proposed for the current Breadman's lot. It requires rezoning to extend into Northside. Your voice is important!

For more information, please contact the Jackson Center. **919-960-1670**

Location: Hargraves Center

Photos from the Northside Festival



Ms. Kathy Atwater and Ms. Yvonne Cleveland chat with new resident, Tatiana Davis.

Welcoming New Northside Neighbors

On April 29, the town of Chapel Hill hosted the official housewarming celebration for a newly renovated quadruplex on Sykes Street. This property was initially purchased by the Self-Help Credit Union through the Northside Land Bank and will serve low-income families transitioning from public housing. This is particularly exciting because the heirs wanted to keep these homes permanently affordable and made sure that happened.

If you are a property-owner and want to ensure your home remains affordable for future generations, contact Kathy, George or Hudson. **(919) 960-1670**.

Calling Artsy, Crafty Neighbors!

In an upcoming edition of the Northside News, We'd like to feature art and artists in our community. If you've got ideas or know some Northside artists: quilters, painters, poets, photographers, etc.

Contact Andrea at andrea@jacksoncenter.info.

???Northside Trivia???

This month's question: **What's the mural in the new Marriott AC Hotel on Rosemary Street all about?**



If you think you know the answer, call the Jackson Center at **(919) 960-1670** anytime 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!**

An artist's duty, as far as I'm concerned, is to reflect the times."

-Nina Simone

"The role of the artist is to make the revolution irresistible."

-Toni Cade Bambara