

INTRODUCTION

Listen and listen again. That is the first operating principle of the Marian Cheek Jackson Center for Saving and Making History. The historically African-American neighborhoods of Chapel Hill, North Carolina-- Sunset, Potter's Field (together now referred to as "Northside"), Tin Top, Pine Knolls, and Windy Hill-- have been home to people who built a thriving, largely self-sufficient community under segregation and who were bold leaders of this town's civil rights struggle. These neighborhoods have produced countless teachers, civil servants, university service providers, business owners, church leaders, craftsmen, artists, activists and volunteers. This community has always been vibrant and close-knit, like so many other African-American communities all over the South.

The children in elementary, middle, and high schools today will inherit that legacy. The more they know about it, the better. And so that is why we developed a multimedia curriculum for today's students. By going "on-line" with many of our workshop offerings and project suggestions, we want to share what we've got with anyone wanting to teach about Southern history, the history of segregation, the civil rights movement, African-American communities, and social justice struggles. Our decades-long deep-dive into local, oral history and experience with civil rights education has taught us so much that we'd like to share with teachers everywhere.

"Without a past, you have no future."

Marian Cheek Jackson

We hope these warm-ups, projects, activities and lessons will help strengthen relationships in your classrooms and lead to a greater appreciation for each students' history. We encourage you to listen and listen again.

In your words and actions, let kids know that we are all part of a diverse community, and we all bring something to it. We've got resources for you to use, but the biggest resource is your own imagination, your willingness to disrupt conventional history narratives by featuring African-American voices, and your desire to help each student realize that they are historymakers.

If you have comments, questions, or want to share some of your own teaching experiences, please contact us. We're all ears!

