

NORTHSIDE NEWS

VOTE AS IF YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT, BECAUSE IT DOES!!!!

Voting Denied...Voting Suppressed... A Vote Earned!

Percy Joyner, a World War II veteran understood the times of segregation and he shared his story to his girls, and grandchildren. His story of persistence caused a legacy of voters to understand the importance of voting. He received the right to vote but he paid a price. He realized to get the right to vote he would have to be rejected to learn the process to gain the right. His first-time attempt to register he was rejected at the door and told, “Coloreds could not vote!!”

This did not stop him. The next time he went he was told to recite the Constitution. When he began, he was stopped and told to leave because he did not know it. They judged him and denied him because he did not know to add punctuation marks as he recited the Constitution.

Rejected twice yet he returned a third time. Now, he knew the rules and was not going to be denied the right to vote again. He arrived in a suit being courteous and began reciting the Constitution with confidence until he received his right to vote!! Once he started, he did not stop, he kept reciting until he received the paperwork that he completed giving him the right to vote. It was a proud moment he never forgot.

For years, he and my Mother left home at 6 am to walk to the polls before catching the bus to work. He educated others on the process and made sure they knew the rules to pass the test knowing the Constitution before they reached the door. He made sure his daughters and grands were registered to vote. We considered it an honor to receive “The Talk on voting.” It is a privilege to vote and our right.

My Dad, Percy A. Joyner passed on May 5, 2020 at the age of 94 years old. Thursday, October 15th is the first election that he will miss since being registered. He passed with an assurance that his family of voters were proud of his stand and courage. He left knowing that voter apathy did not exist in his descendants now and that his descendants yet to be born will hear his story. The price he paid to vote seals our fortitude and commitment to stand in lines, participate in getting out the vote rallies and educate others to take their voting right seriously. Thank you, Daddy, we will not forget your sacrifices and we, your daughters, grandchildren, and great and great/great grandchildren will always vote from generation to generation!!!

Dr. Phyllis Joyner



Mr. Percy Joyner and daughter,
Dr. Phyllis Joyner

Words From Our Director of Education and Communication Emeritus

Over the last few years in my capacity as the Jackson Center’s Director of Education, I have seen how impactful a lesson on civil rights history can be when students hear about struggles that occurred on the streets of their hometown. These stories are even more powerful when told by the people who lived them. Over the last few years, I have had the opportunity to work with a team of local history makers known as the Community Mentor Team. These wise, warm, and witty elders volunteer their time to go into classrooms and tell their stories to kids. My greatest joy as education director was learning from them. Here are just a few things they taught me:

Listen to your elders. By this, I don’t mean to do everything they say. I mean, listen to the stories they tell. Learn YOUR history. And don’t shy away from asking them questions that will help you get at some greater truth. Don’t judge. Listen, and then use what you learn to live a life of purpose. When they tell stories, the mentors are always saying, “This is what we did. You can do this, too.” Mentors tell kids to be proud of who they are and where they come from and to know that they have greatness within.

Listen to kids. As Community Mentor Gwen Atwater once said, “Children have opinions just like adults do. And if you don’t listen to them, they’re never going to be strong, responsible citizens.” She ought to know, since she was a teacher at FPG for 35 years-- and she was a great one. Community Mentor Freda Andrews, also a life-long teacher, encourages kids to speak out and put their ideas into words.

Step out of your comfort zone often. Cross cultural boundaries. Be bold in asking questions of those who are different from you in some way. People generally like to talk about themselves, especially when they sense you really want to know more about them. When you ask about others, you also learn about yourself. And you discover what connects you to others as well as what makes you unique.



Dr. Andrea Wuerth

Speak your truth. Opening up and being fully present builds relationships that last. The mentors share a common history in a close-knit community and know each other – and each other’s families-- so well. But at the same time, they are so open towards newcomers. Their acceptance, honesty, humor, and kindness made it possible for me to speak my truth, too. I am honored to call Rev. Albert, Ms. Carolyn, Ms. Pat, Ms. Gladys, Mr. Ronnie, Mr. Stan, Mr. Braxton, Ms. Linda, Ms. Freda and Ms. Gwen my friends.

When learning across generations occurs—when kids listen to elders, when elders listen to kids, when everyone goes a bit outside of their comfort zones, and when relationships take off-- sparks fly. Over the last few years, I have seen this happen countless times, and so I know that this is the way we can make education meaningful and transformative.

The Jackson Center’s educational work will continue to be inspired by the stories told by Community mentors. We’ve got workshops—even online versions so kids can hear mentors’ words at home—activity bags filled with stories and activities for families to learn more about local history, and a Soundwalk, an audio tour families can take. Let’s get the word out. Let’s make sure that ALL kids learn their history and realize that they, too, are HISTORY MAKERS.

Dr. Andrea Wuerth

MCJC THANK YOU TO ANDREA

It’s with bittersweetness that we say a humongous “thankyou” to Dr. Andrea Wuerth for all her incredible work at the Jackson Center! During her two years on staff, she led our education programs and communications to new heights, more than doubling the reach of the Jackson Center’s civil rights education to schools across Orange County. Thankfully, this is not a “farewell”: Andrea is continuing to guide our education programs, will serve as a Community Mentor Team member, and will be doing oral histories with members of the staff team. Andrea, we will miss working with you every day, and wish you loads of joyous adventure in your next chapter!

-Love, the Jackson Center

WHY I VOTE

My parents, Amos and Martha McLendon were both born in southern eastern NC in the early 1900s. It was accepted that white people voted but Blacks and Native People did not – that was just the way it was. My father died in 1953 and never voted or even registered to vote.

In 1964 we moved to the Pines Knolls Community in Chapel Hill to join my two older sisters who were already living here (one in Tin Top and one in Pine Knolls). One of our neighbors and church members was Mrs. Rebecca Clark. She asked my mother if she was registered to vote. She made sure she registered to vote and made sure my mother made it to the polls on Election Day. You did not want Mrs. Clark “on your case”. My mother voted in her first Presidential election in 1968 and got to vote for the first and only Black Mayor of Chapel Hill – the Honorable Howard Lee, the first “politician” that she met in person.

I vote because my father did not, I vote because my grandparents could not vote and I vote for all of the mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles and cousins who could not and did not have an opportunity to vote.

Mae McLendon

*Pictured from left to right:
Mrs. Martha G. McLendon,
young Helen Galbreath,
Mr. Amos McLendon,
Mae B. McLendon*



Knowledge can be Power: A Poem

It's 2013, and it's late in the night // The NC G.A. passed a voting bill that gave me a fright // How can 300k voters be done away with a strike // They embolden the soapbox ballot bullies, now this young voter tastes despair // Discouraged, and unaware they took my voice // Until I was taught preparation, could secure my chioce // Voter suppression, isn't just the stuff of legend // Systemic oppression, is how I feel neglected and you everpresent // Now informed, I stand up, my arm now a hook for the souls // in hopes to escort others to the polls.

-Brentton Harrison

DON'T TELL SOMEONE YOU LOVE THEM BUT VOTE FOR SOMEONE WHO WILL HARM THEM!

Dr. Whitney’s Key Things for Voters to Know During Covid-19!!!

There are multiple ways to vote this year. There are things you can do to make each way safe and make sure that your vote counts. Here are the three options:

VOTE BY MAIL

* Make sure that you have a witness sign the envelope after sealing it. They also have to include some other information like their printed name and address, for example.

* You can look online to make sure that your ballot was received and counted:

https://northcarolina.ballottrax.net/voter/

VOTE IN PERSON

* Try early voting! You can try to pick a day and time with fewer people are around (maybe mid-morning or mid-afternoon).

* Wear your mask! Make sure it fits well and is comfortable.

* Keep social distance!

* Try to minimize time inside in the polling place. One strategy: Make notes for yourself beforehand on a paper you carry in so that you can fill out your ballot quickly.

ABSENTEE IN PERSON

* Bring your absentee ballot to an early voting site or your county elections office (Hillsborough for US). If you have an absentee ballot but would rather turn it in to a person, you can drop off in Hillsborough or at any of the early voting sites!

* Wear your mask!

* Keep social distance!

* Try to minimize time inside the polling place. Get in and out fast.

Dr. Whitney Robinson

My Vote Matters: Reflections from a First Time Voter

Welcome to North Carolina, where your vote may be the most important in the entire nation. As I prepare to vote in my first ever presidential election, I am constantly questioning if my vote actually “matters”. It seems everywhere I look I am reminded that I have to vote, but how much value does my vote as a 20-year-old college student hold. Well, the NC youth vote, may be the most important demographic in the entire nation on November 3rd.

North Carolina is one of six swing states that may ultimately decide the outcome of this critical election. Currently, NC is the single most competitive battleground state in the country, with Biden holding a miniscule +1.4% advantage over President Trump. With its 15 electoral college votes, NC is a gem for both candidates in their pursuit to secure the necessary 270 electoral college votes to win the election. How can the youth vote effect this margin and the election as a whole?

Well after meeting with Diane Robertson, the Political Action Co-Chair of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP, the impact of young voters became clear. Mrs. Robertson emphasized how NC was the only state in the country where the youth vote made a difference in the 2008 presidential election. With history likely to repeat itself, the NC youth vote, once again, will play a vital role in determining who our next president is.

Just in the last 8 months we have seen the world drastically change. Think about how much more could change in the next 4 years. On November 3rd young college students just like us will be able to make history in determining what the future of this country will look like.

Have a Plan. Go Vote. Make a difference.

- J.J. Tolentino

VOTING ABSENTEE FOR THE FIRST TIME

The 2008 election came down to about five votes per precinct in North Carolina. Having a voting plan is essential this year! The options are voting by mail/absentee, voting early in person, or traditional voting on election day.

To vote by mail you will need to fill out a ballot request form. You can request a ballot online, through the mail, or by calling the Board of Elections. Soon after, a ballot will be sent to your address. To fill out and send off your mail-in ballot you will need a stamp and a witness. The witness should put their full home address in the witness box on the provided envelope. Anyone can witness your ballot. If you need help filling out your ballot or request form, only a near relative (daughter, son, mother, father, etc.) can help fill out these forms. Once filled out, you can mail your ballot in, bring it to any early voting location, or to the Orange County Board of Elections office. Be sure to sign and seal your envelope before turning it in. No matter what method you choose, the sooner the better!

To vote early (October 15-31) you can go to any early voting location in Orange County. The closest locations to Northside are Chapel of the Cross and Carrboro Town Hall. Curbside voting is available at these locations.

To vote on election day, November 3rd, you can vote like any other election. Absentee ballots will only be accepted at the Board of Elections office on election day. If you have questions or need help, call the Jackson Center at 919-960-1670 or Kate Shurtleff (252) 515-4655. Happy Voting!

Kate Shurtleff

In Memoriam



Mrs. Clara Matthews
May 23, 1919 - September 25, 2020



Mrs. Euzelle Smith
July 3, 1919 - September 29, 2020

Honoring the life and legacy of two Northside Centenarians. Your life of giving and service will always speak for you. Thank You

We are looking forward to honoring centenarians Mrs. Clara Matthews and Mrs. Euzelle Smith in next month’s tribute issue of the Northside News.

Ask Keith

Q: Do the polling sites for early voting and the polling sites on November 3rd provide drive through curbside voting for people who are disabled and/or have high risk medical conditions due to the pandemic? These are people who want to actually show up at the polls, because they want to make sure that their ballot is counted on that day. Please see the article by the Jackson Center’s Community Connector Mae McLendon gives the details for curbside voting.

Everyone, please exercise your right to vote!

“Please see the article below”



Legal Requirements for Curbside Voting

If you plan to vote in person either during the Early Voting Period or on Election Day and have a disability and you are unable to enter a polling place, curbside voting is available. However, there are conditions:

Pursuant to G.S. § 163-166.9, any voter may vote curbside if they are unable to enter the voting place due to age or disability:

(a) In any election or referendum if any qualified voter can travel to the voting place, but because of age or physical disability and physical barriers encountered at the voting place is unable to enter the voting enclosure to vote in person without physical assistance, that voter shall be allowed to vote either in the vehicle conveying that voter or in the immediate proximity of the voting place.

The term “disability” includes voters who:

- Are unable to enter the polling place due to age or physical or mental disability, such as agoraphobia.
- Have a medical condition that puts them at increased risk of contracting COVID-19.
- Should not wear a mask due to a medical or behavioral condition or disability, or
- Are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.

Neither fear of contracting COVID-19 nor refusal to wear a mask due to a personal preference rather than a medical condition makes a voter eligible to vote curbside. Any voter who votes curbside must sign the curbside affidavit. A person is not eligible to vote curbside solely because they are the driver or passenger in a car with a voter who is eligible to vote curbside.

When you arrive at the polling place the driver of the car should go to the area designated for curbside voting which should clearing marked in the parking area, and going over a sensor on the ground will alert poll workers that you are there. A worker will come to the car and get information and return with ballot and other paperwork. Be patient; there maybe more than one voter in line for service. The worker will place your completed ballot in the tabulation machine to be counted.

Mae McLendon

Grateful Birthdays

Thank you for celebrating with us!

Mrs. Lula Alston celebrated 90 years of life on September 22nd and would like to thank all who remembered her on her birthday and continue to bless her with gifts and surprises! Mrs. Lula says, she was overwhelmed with the outpouring of love she received and thanks everyone for making her 90th birthday so special!

Mr. Clarence and Mrs. Jane Farrar would like to thank everyone for helping them celebrate Mrs. Jane’s 86th birthday! The Sunday before her birthday, friends and family participated in a drive through and presented her with many, many gifts. On September 29th, her actual birthday, she received even more gifts and surprises! “It was the best birthday celebration I have ever received in my life! I will always cherish and remember this event! Thanks to everyone who participated! To GOD be the glory!”

November Birthdays

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|-------|---------------------------------------|
| 11/5 | Billue Baldwin |
| 11/6 | Eva Barnett |
| 11/14 | Aisha Booze-Hall |
| 11/16 | Paul Caldwell |
| 11/18 | Sallie Pendergraft (102 years young!) |
| 11/19 | Rufus Cotton |
| 11/22 | Olivia James |
| 11/23 | Christie Jakini Adisa |
| | Chandler Alston |
| 11/24 | Martrina Morrow |
| 11/25 | Joseph Fearrington(100 years young!) |
| 11/28 | Louis Wijnberg |
| | Margaret Stone |
| 11/29 | Belinda Caldwell |
| 11/30 | Betty Geer |

Realizing that Covid-19 is still going around this is just a reminder that we still need to protect ourselves from viruses that we know how to treat.

Remember to get your flu shots, and take care of yourselves!