

NORTHSIDE NEWS

MAY BLACKNESS BE VASTNESS

This month's issue is in honor of all the varying identities of Blackness. Blackness is a Vast description of a multifaceted culture. Blackness is not and never will be a monolithic identity. Just seeing a few examples of it displayed, misrepresented and under contextualized in a racist media industry run by a few anti-black, fearmongering billionaires doesn't and will never make you an expert. Nor does it give you the right to cast fallacious narratives about all Black People. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. SO FREE PALESTINE!! This doesn't mean go out and harm Jewish people, this is saying stop killing Palestinian people. This is not antisemitism it is pro human. Because oppression of any kind is wrong, and it has happened here in colonial U.S. The massacre of First Nation folks was the blueprint for this type of occupation and the connection of our struggles will be ever present if we do not fight for freedom on all fronts. None Of Us Are Free Til All Of Us Are Free. Freedom is a RIGHT not a privilege!
-Notes from the Editor and Northside resident B.L Harrison

What does being Black mean to me?

Anonymous
Being Black feels like joy. It feels like love. It feels like growth. It's like learning that Nina Simone went to high school in Asheville. Like learning how to swim. Being Black feels like exhaling after a long time of being under water... like sunrises, and dark nights and cookouts and sweet kisses. It smells like banana pancakes and ocean spray.

Anonymous
I feel like we're a culture within a culture and that a lot of it is about determination and the ability to get past survival to triumph in prosperity.

Carrboro Citizen
Being Black to me means that I have to remain cautiously optimistic with full knowledge of my history and aware of the mechanisms of change. It means that one day my children's children will not have to deal with the things that I have had to deal with. My father dealt with racism and my father dealt with colorism. My grandfather dealt with racism, and my grandfather dealt with colorism. I dealt with racism, and I dealt with colorism. I am cautiously optimistic that my son will not have to deal with racism and colorism in the same way that I have had to deal with it.

Aisha Booze-hall
Before asking other people what being Black meant to them, I would probably have said that being Black to me means being proud and fully whole and something along those lines. Now I am feeling more honest. While there is pride behind Blackness, that has not always been the case for me. In all honesty, being Black is something that I learned about before I knew that was my experience. I don't know how I navigated life before knowing of my Blackness but I remember the exact moment I realized that while race is a social construct, it would mean something in my life. I was in 7th grade and hanging out with my friends between classes one day when I looked in the mirror and really saw myself for the first time. Some kid had called me a slur that mixed my race and religion and when I looked in the mirror I saw my Black skin and remembered thinking "hmm" - it just was.

My parents and grandparents taught me Black history and the importance of education. We had summer school in addition to what the school taught us to make sure we knew our history. At home the level of education was immaculate. In classrooms this was a different story. At the same time, I learned to code switch almost as easily as I learned to breathe. It would be many years before I ever learned how to wear my Blackness all of the time... to not wonder why my hair is greasy, or not be upset that my thighs are large; to see my beauty and power as strength; to wonder about how I fit into the collective effort of Blackness when I was a young girl who liked math and pop music and didn't know much about commercialized Blackness at all. Unfortunately, it wasn't until much later that I learned more of what Blackness was and everything that I loved about my culture.

In college through the love of history I was able to find people just like me lightly littered through history books; the women who worked to uplift but weren't always spoken about. When younger I thought because there was a lack of people who looked like me highly visible, being black and women that maybe they did not exist. Baby, when I learned where to search for stories - like oral histories instead of academia like Maya Angelou said «through love I was liberated». Through my struggle I found that my contributions of self love, self care and pride added to the collective efforts of people just like me. That loving myself was in fact, everything, and worked against those who felt someone both black and woman didn't deserve luxury. Being Black feels mighty good.

- Collected by Aisha Booze-hall

What is Juneteenth?

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. Note that this was two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation - which had become official January 1, 1863. The Emancipation Proclamation had little impact on the Texans due to the minimal number of Union troops to enforce the new Executive Order. However, with the surrender of General Lee in April of 1865, and the arrival of General Granger's regiment, the forces were finally strong enough to influence and overcome the resistance. The National Museum of African American history calls Juneteenth "our country's second independence day" that "shows the value of never giving up hope in uncertain times."

VIRTUAL JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION






A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION
VIRTUAL + IN-PERSON EVENTS

Community Cinema Events to Showcase Our History

Explore From the Rock Wall: Living Histories of Black Chapel Hill/Carrboro (www.fromtherockwall.org) and view short films of our neighborhoods recorded by H. Lee Waters in the 1930s. At these special showings, neighbors will host conversations about community history and ways to keep it growing on From the Rock Wall.

When:
Tuesday, June 1 at 2:00 PM
&
Monday, June 7 at 5:30 PM

Where:
The Chelsea Theater
1129 Weaver Dairy Rd Suite AB, Chapel Hill, NC 27514



Admission is free but registration is required due to limited seating. We will keep a waitlist for next time! Call the Marian Cheek Jackson Center at 919-960-1670 or email contact@jacksoncenter.info now to reserve your spot. Refreshments: We're happy to be able to offer all participants a popcorn and soda. (Other concessions will be available for purchase.)

COVID safety: The Chelsea adheres to all CDC, state, and local regulations and is following CinemaSafe guidelines (<https://thechelseatheater.org/cinemasafe/>). Masks are required. Seating inside the theater will be strictly spaced. Hand sanitizer and disposable masks will be available. Because seating capacity is limited, we must take advance reservations for this event. Call or email today so we can save you a seat at the movies!

Can't make it? Visit www.fromtherockwall.org to explore our community history on your own—or with family and friends. Search for "Waters" to find the two historic films we'll be showing at the Chelsea. Click on RESPOND to tell your piece. And reach out to rockwall@jacksoncenter.info if you have any questions or would like more information.

"... freedom is being handed out to us in Installments"
-Bishop Thomas L. Hoyt Jr.

Property Valuations Update

In just a few short weeks, we have supported Northside neighbors to submit over 50 individual appeals. This effort took hundreds of hours and the collective effort of 40+ volunteers, Jackson Center, and EmPOWERment Inc, staff. More than 650 Orange County community members have signed onto the community letter in support of Northside residents’ asks. See these asks below.

- 1. Work with Northside leaders to identify what caused these mistakes in the valuations across Northside.
 - 2. Reduce/correct the property tax valuations for homeowners in Northside in a holistic manner. This should require, at the least:
 - a) Reducing the over-assessed land value significantly across the board.
 - b) Differentiating housing values more carefully by type and condition given the conditions of the Northside Conservation District and the extreme differences between the long-term homeowner homes and larger student rental properties.
 - 3. Extend the timeline for Northside residents to make informal appeals by a month.
 - 4. Increase County support for neighborhood preservation and retention efforts, including funding for additional capacity for neighborhood organizations working on these issues.
- If an appeal was submitted, you should be receiving your updated valuation in early June. If you are not satisfied with the value, contact the Jackson Center for info on the next steps of the appeal process.
- Visit https://jacksoncenter.info/property_tax_inequities/ or give us a call 919-960-1670 to Join and Take Action.

On this Memorial Day
We Remember Those Who served in Our Armed Forces and Sacrificed
Their Lives For Our Freedoms

When I heard this quote it was the first time I had read about anyone who reminded me of my father. “... Jasmine, Paul and Monte are tall people and by the time she is grown, my little sister will reach six feet They get it from our father; Alton Cullors, a mechanic with big, dark brown hands he uses to work the lines at the GM plant in Van Nuys, hands that hold me, hug me, and make me feel safe. He smells of gasoline and cars, smells that still make me think of love and snuggles and safety almost three decades on.”

(an excerpt from When They Call You a Terrorist, p.10, Khan-Cullors)

My father entered the Navy when he was such a young man. He was 18 years old and he fought for his life for years. When I was that age I was fighting to have fried chicken 3 times a week. Needless to say, we were not the same. There is no way that I can thank him enough for his service and for enabling me to have a life that is filled with a different kind of struggle than he had. The man he is today is someone who will work his butt off to make sure the women in his life have what they want and need. I tell my Dad he has the player’s curse because the house has always had 4 girls, so the house was always full of 5 women (his daughters and wife) and him. I know we had to be so much but he always handled it well. At the same time, I know it’s a blessing that he has all of us in his way to show him flowers and beautiful things. My dad, like many veterans, went through really tough moments in the war. Most of which I am sure I could not conceive or that he wants to talk about.

While this isn’t a perfect country by any means, it is a better one due to their efforts and they deserve the utmost respect for their work. People who have strong hands, and soft hearts, and who listen to hard directions make this country better. They have enabled me to be able to use my soft hands, and a loud voice to be a loud, Blackwoman and not feel fear. To be able to choose to be rooted in poetry and positivity and to do so without fear. Due to him, and people like him, I have pride in the country that we live in.

Thank you to those who put in months, years, and careers supporting the US. Thank you to the veterans we have lost. Thank you to those who fought and lost their lives for a country that never loved them. Thank you, thank you!

-Aisha Booze-hall

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month!

According to the US Census Bureau, the term “Asian” denotes “a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.” The term “Asian American” was first coined by student activists in 1968, to create political solidarity among people of Asian descent. The term “Pacific Islander” denotes “a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.” These terms are complex and contested, and it is important to recognize that each community has their own culture, languages, histories, and expressions.

This month was signed into law in 1990 to recognize the historical and cultural contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States. This month was chosen for several historic markers: the arrival of the first Japanese immigrant in May 1843, and the completion of the transcontinental railroad in May 1869, enabled by the efforts of up to 20,000 Chinese laborers.

This year, AAPI Heritage Month takes place following a surge in hate crimes against Asian Americans. The Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism reported that hate crimes against the AAPI community increased by nearly 150 percent in 2020. In March, six Asian-American women were killed in a spa shooting in Atlanta. Much of the harassment has been motivated by xenophobic associations of Asian-American people with the spread of COVID-19. According to a study conducted by the organization Leading Asian Americans for Unite for Change, 80% of Asian Americans report not feeling respected and experiencing discrimination. In our local area, Asian-owned businesses have reported fearing being targeted, as well as experiencing disproportionate economic challenges from the pandemic.

Beyond this month, what are some ways you can celebrate and support Asian-American and Pacific Islander communities? Read a book by an Asian-American author, watch a movie starring AAPI main characters, support an Asian-owned business, learn more about AAPI history (eg. the Secret War in Laos, Japanese-American Internment, or the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act), support organizations like North Carolina Asian Americans Together and __Refugee Community Partnership / Transplanting Traditions__, check out a cultural event, and get to know your Asian-American neighbors!

Aisha Booze-hall and Janet Xiao

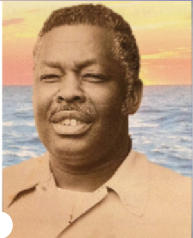


NOTHING ABOUT US, WITHOUT US, IS FOR US!!

In Memoriam



Ms. Anilizabeth (Ann) Young
March 15, 1943 - May 4, 2021



Mr. Lexington “Tip” Jackson
October 24, 1938 - May 12, 2021



Mr. Sinatra Gene Dunn
July 14, 1944 - April 25, 2021



Mr. Vincent Lewis Pledger
November 22, 1956 - May 12, 2021



Mrs. Mary E. Harris
May 2, 1923 - May 13, 2021



Mrs. Jacqueline Atwater
November 5, 1951 - May 9, 2021

Mr. Danny Eugene (Gene) Caldwell, II
October 3, 1983 - May 1, 2021
(Not pictured at family’s request)



COMMUNITY BOARD

June Birthdays

June 4	Janet Xiao
June 9	Louise Fellix
June 9	Phyllis Joyner
June 10	Michael Parker (Knotts Funeral Home)
June 16	Marcia Williams
June 16	Neill Goslin
June 16	Vickie Weaver
June 18	Boyd Jackson
June 18	Imasha Adisa
June 24	Loretta Perry
June 24	Rachel Glasser

THANK YOU

from Mr. Garland Foushee and his family! To all of our family, neighbors, and friends, thank you for the birthday drive-by; for the many cards, balloons, and gifts on May 17th, celebrating our father’s and grandfather’s 103rd birthday! Thanks also to the police officers and staff of the Jackson Center for helping make this possible! With much gratitude and appreciation! Alfred, Marlou, and Debbie (children) and James Pippin (grandson)

Like Gardening??

Hey neighbor! The Jackson Center is having a plant giveaway on **June 18th from 5 to 6 pm..** During this time there will be plants for anyone in the community who is interested! Begin planting soon. We look forward to seeing you. If you have any questions please email Aisha at aisha@jacksoncenter.info.

Looking for a Notary?

For a small fee, you can contact Northside Neighbor Karie Lee at 919-370-1972 if you have any documents that need to be notarized.

