

NORTHSIDE NEWS

Virtually Instructed : Education Builds Community

This month’s edition of the Northside News highlights our Education Team and their efforts to build community, tell the truth, and disrupt the common narrative of Chapel Hill and Carrboro’s utopian and accepting facade of culture. “Education Is Elevation”- a quote from social media personality @theconsciouslee is not the impetus for our work but rings true in the work we do at the Jackson Center. Education elevates all that embrace it. We are all on the journey to our highest potential as we learn from our past accomplishments to our future enlightenment. Education doesn’t just happen in classrooms it is a way of life; a discipline, because learning happens everywhere and everywhen. Becoming better versions of ourselves is innate within us and learning brings us closer to our mountaintop. -BLH

Reflections on Sharing & Learning: Northside’s Legacy Across Generations

Since March 2020, so many things have changed for us: from remote learning, to staying at home, to growing our collective awareness of viruses and public health. This pandemic has been full of losses and small joys. In reflection, I’d love to share with you and celebrate some of the joys and resilient adaptations that I’ve seen in the Marian Cheek Jackson Center’s Learning Across Generations (LAG) education programs!! Learning Across Generations shifted its model from a completely in-person workshop model to a virtual and hybrid learning model. This shift has allowed people of all ages to gain access to Chapel Hill and Carrboro’s local Black history.

As I speak to more students, we’re constantly coming face-to-face with the fact that we need to enhance the way that we educate each other to reach wider audiences. Learning Across Generations is available to anyone and everyone who would like to learn the stories of the long-term residents, including neighbors who were at the forefront of local civil rights activism. We are abundantly lucky to have the teaching presence of our Community Mentor Team, which includes local freedom fighters, seasoned educators, military veterans, and former elected officials—all of whom are passionate about sharing Northside’s legacies and stories with the next generation.

This year we’re rolling out some new materials, and will continue to deliver some old ones! We created two sets of Black History flashcards, and are continuing to provide virtual and in-person workshops, as well as a free online curriculum on our website. The ABCs of the Movement are two sets of flashcards that cover topics of the Movement for Black Lives. The first set of flashcards cover different people who were impactful to organizing today; some of the individuals featured are Harold Foster, Ida B. Wells, and Zora Neale Hurston. The second set of flashcards cover different topics related to organizing such as intersectionality (the way that multiple forms of discrimination interact), misogynoir (prejudice against Black women), and xenophobia (the fear of foreign people).

We offer K-12 workshops highlighting Northside’s rich history. Topics include: the Hidden Hill (covering the untold history of Chapel Hill and Carrboro), the Methods and Practices of Oral Histories, and the Freedom Movement.

Check out LAG for yourself today! LAG-Online is our digital curriculum, which adapts our workshop content into a digital format for students (old and young!) to learn at their own pace. It is available for free online at: <https://jacksoncenter.info/lag-online>

The Freedom School: In July 2021, the Jackson Center, Activate IFC and Southern Vision Alliance co-hosted a weeklong virtual Freedom School that covered topics related to Chapel Hill’s local history, with a focus on oppressive systems, the school-to-prison pipeline, movement leaders, and the importance of personal narratives.

We’re thankful to be working with you all again this year. While movement leaders are important and help to shift our work forward, it’s the work of entire communities to facilitate that change. If you’re a long- term resident, educator, student or community member who is interested in becoming more involved in the Learning Across Generations program, you can reach out at aisha@jacksoncenter.info

Aisha Booze-hall



Empowering Excellence thru Exploration (E3) Camp

The fourth annual Empowering Excellence thru Exploration Camp (E3 Camp) was held July 12th - 30th at Glenwood Elementary School. This three week program is for African-American middle/high school students, who are exposed to the Art and STEM fields. All of the attending 22 students were engaged and exposed to the above mentioned fields: by going on three field trips, having hands-on activities and receiving career knowledge from on site professional presenters. Community donations assisted with each student receiving \$800 worth of school supplies for their upcoming 2021-22 school year.

For more information visit e3camp.com.
Anissa McLendon

Virtual Learning or In-Person Learning : A Teacher/Student/Parent Perspective

Ms. Kim Fearrington is an Instructional Coach at Northside Elementary. Her role is to support teachers and students. Her experience during this pandemic has shown her how building relationships is vitally important. Reaching kids was challenging so developing that relationship with the parent really helped the students, especially African American students. Children need to be guided every part of the day so when they were not in the building, they didn’t have that push. In most cases, parents had to become the child’s teacher and sit with the child. This was difficult if the parents had to go to work. Socially, school is very important but by being in the home setting and because of the pandemic, a lot of students didn’t get to interact socially outside of the home. Now that they are back in school, they are doing a lot better.

Malic Kincaid, an eighth grader at McDougle Middle School said he enjoyed the virtual learning in that he could be comfortable and not have to dress out. The downfall to virtual learning for him was that it was hard to pay attention when he and his siblings were in the same room. He was very glad to be back in school and to see his friends. It feels easier to get work done. And he is really glad that he can do his science projects now that he is back. Malic wants to be a Zoologist.

Ms. Tiffany Watson is a parent with three school aged children. When asked how she felt about virtual learning and in-person learning, Tiffany was very glad that her children were able to go back to the classroom. Working from home and balancing her children’s classroom time was not working, because she really didn’t have the time to give them the attention they needed and what they received while in the classroom. She was happy to be able to spend the time with her children and the teachers were always available by email to ask questions. The positive note in the home schooling was that Orange County did not hold anyone back. Teachers were good at reaching out to make sure students could increase their grades or get extra credit. The virtual learning helped Tiffany see what the teachers were seeing and the different learning styles of each of her children.

The Hammers are Buzzing at Cobb Street!

In August, the Marian Cheek Jackson Center staff volunteered at the Orange County Habitat for Humanity construction site on Cobb street to swing some hammers. The Jackson Center staff worked through the heat to install Hardiplank siding on one of the units. Ms. Janie Alston generously came by to bring much-needed refreshments for the team!

The property at Cobb street was sold to the Northside Neighborhood Initiative (NNI) land bank. The Alvis and Augusta Bynum families are legacy sellers who sold the property to the landbank to preserve the history and legacy of the Northside neighborhood.

The Compass Group is the leadership group that drives the direction and strategy of the landbank and NNI work. It is composed of 23 Northside, Pine Knolls, and Tin Top residents. The Compass Group identified this property to be designated for affordable housing with aging-in-place options. Orange Habitat, one of the NNI partners, purchased the property from the landbank and is building four affordable housing units, two of which will be ADA accessible.

We are excited to welcome more families to the Northside neighborhood!



In Memoriam

*James Britt, Jr.
September 23, 1950-August 19, 2021*



*Kenneth Burgess
June 1, 1961-August 31, 2021*



October Birthdays

*Roxy Farrington October 3rd
Anna Patterson October 6
Megan Stanley October 9
Deborah Burnette October 13
Jonetta Roberson October 22
James Burnette October 23
Destiny Burnette October 23
Teresa Shaw October 24
Charley Norwood October 31*

Upcoming Community Meetings

Keep Northside Streets Safe

Chapel Hill Town Staff and community leaders from the Jackson Center and EmPOWERment are hosting community meetings to hear from neighbors about safety concerns on neighborhood streets. The meetings will be held on:

**Tuesday October 5, 10 AM & 6 PM
VIRTUAL via Zoom
Thursday October 16, 6 PM**

In-person at the Hargraves baseball field. Chapel Hill Town staff are working to keep streets safe for all people – walking, biking or driving; age 8, 18 or 80. Neighbors and residents know better than anyone what is happening on their streets. Use the link below to tell Chapel Hill staff and community leaders about street safety concerns that you have (Speeding on Church, Wrong Way on Cotton, for example). This survey will help staff prepare to address specific concerns and come up with potential solutions at the community meetings in October! Please consider sharing your experience at the link below, or contact Jordan Powell at jpowell2@townofchapelhill.org or 919-968-2728. Survey link is here: <https://chplan.us/Streets>

**ADONIS K9 CUTS
GROOMING SALON
LOCATED IN CHAPEL HILL
(984)-261-4435**

**CONGRATULATIONS
BINGO CHAMPION
Ms.Charley Norwood!!
August 2021**

Welcome to Northside!

Dear new student residents,
Now that we are a month into the fall semester, I'm sure your schedules are pretty hectic trying to balance classes, homework, work, friends, after school clubs, your mental and physical health, etc. If you find yourself with some free time, we recommend walking around the neighborhood and introducing yourself to your neighbors. Not just student tenants, but also the long-term residents, who have experienced the cycles of students moving in and out year after year after year. You might not be used to knocking on doors of people you don't know, but you will quickly find that this is a very friendly and welcoming community. Incredible people live in these homes and the only barrier between you and them is saying hello!

The place we call "Northside" includes two historically Black neighborhoods with roots four and five generations deep: Pottersfield & Sunset (including the stretch known as Lloyd/Broad). Just down the road off Merritt Mill are two more neighborhoods that used to blend into Northside: Pine Knolls and Tin Top. Home to renowned civil rights, labor, and education leaders and rich in traditions of intergenerational learning and mutual support, Northside/Pine Knolls/Tin-Top represents the best in American communities. To learn more about the vibrant history beneath our feet from the people who lived it and who renew it every day, take the "Soundwalk of Northside: Histories of Home" audio tour available to download here: <https://jacksoncenter.info/soundwalk>

Better yet, give a shout to your neighbor and share a few moments on your walk home: you'll be glad you did.

If you are receiving this newsletter, you are part of the broader Northside/Pine Knolls/Tin-Top community! Be on the lookout for events like Porch Parties every month in the Northside News where you can start connecting with everyone. We can even help you throw your own Porch Party for your street if you're interested! To learn more about us, the Marian Cheek Jackson Center, you can check out our website jacksoncenter.info, follow us on social media, or snail mail us at 512 W Rosemary St. We can't wait to meet you!

Welcome To The Neighborhood!



In September 2017, our current executive director (and former Northside neighbor), George Barrett, wrote a piece for the Northside News that welcomed new residents to the neighborhood. In the excerpt below, George shares how he was transformed by living in our close/connected neighborhood.

"... I grew up in a neighborhood where people kept to themselves so I have had to learn how to live in a close/connected neighborhood. I have had to learn that in Northside love for your neighbor is present even when you feel like you don't deserve it. I have had to learn how I personally put up petty and trivial walls (one might even say a bubble) that prohibited me from creating space to love others over myself and access the freedom to experience the blessings that surround me everyday. For everyone new to our neighborhood or returning after some time away, welcome! I encourage you from the deepest center of my spirit to tap into this abundant love that is the bedrock of our community. Visit your neighbor on the porch and open yourself up to immersive listening of the history makers that surround you. Be a voice of change, join a community coalition, volunteer your time and gifts. Help someone who is moving into a new home carry in a heavy load because that could be the same person who will help carry your heavy load down the road..."

-George Barrett

YOU'RE INVITED!

The Good Neighbor Initiative works to promote positive living experiences in neighborhoods where students and non-students live. You may remember us from last month! The Good Neighbor Initiative, in which the Jackson Center is a major partner, will be hosting a community breakfast, with **free (!) food and drink from Brandwein's Bagels, Tonya's Cookies, N.A.N.D.O's Donuts, and B3 Coffee. Come through!**

When: Saturday, September 18th from 9-11 AM

Where: Hargraves Community Center

216 N. Roberson St.

Everyone is welcome, including residents, students, families, and any friends you want to bring. If you have any questions please contact erin@jacksoncenter.info and/or bachenhe@email.unc.edu.