

For me, gratitude has been the root of love. How grateful am I to have had the opportunity of working in a place of love for ten years. The Marian Cheek Jackson Center for Saving and Making History has loved, beyond difference, beyond struggle, through critique, however the core of the work here calls us to “love first” to be enamored with learning, preserving, and sharing. Through this work I have found real love starts within, and then its shared out. In love, I have found what kind of person I aim to be, the core tenets of who I am, are because of what I have learned working in this neighborhood. It is a part of me, as I am of it. It is through love that we can sustain this call, to be a light, to be hope and faith. To sustain this kind of love you must find a way to love and respect yourself, and fight to not have that be undone no matter what life brings your way, this is very difficult. You will also need people, this work can not be done alone, careful what bridges you burn. There is religious text that says “it is impossible but that offenses will come” so work your way through them and keep the love. Understand that change is inevitable, but how things change is something you can add to. You cant stop the river from flowing but flowing with it you can learn guide or direct it. Love will change you, love evolves and so will you. As this is my last note as editor and chief of the Northside News and last days as a staff member at the Jackson Center, it has taken time to muster the words to say: I’ll see you, from the same eyes just a different chair, a different building with the same heart.

-B.L. Harrison

Engaging the Next Generation of Community Leaders: 2nd Annual Sankofa Freedom School

This summer, we welcomed a new cohort of 15 middle and high school students to the 2nd annual Sankofa Freedom School, a summer program where students learn about local Black activism and organizing history, strategy, and tactics. The Freedom School is a collaboration between the Jackson Center, IFC Activate, and the Southern Vision Alliance, with a mission to mobilize the next generation of community leaders.

The first week students spent time learning about the power of their voice and environmental justice. Through this experience, students visited the Pauli Murray Center for History and Social Justice, where they went on an interactive walking tour of the neighborhood where Dr. Murray grew up and learned about their life and legal advocacy. On Thursday, the cohort visited the Rogers-Eubanks Neighborhood Association (RENA) Community Center, where local freedom fighter and long-time Rogers Road resident David Caldwell shared over 40 years of his neighborhood’s struggle for environmental justice. In addition to these trips, students participated in workshops on environmental justice, eloquent rage, and oral history, and completed a bridge-building team activity.

Students’ second week was focused on political education and power. They began the second week with a haiku writing and performance workshop and participated in a workshop on the school-prison pipeline. On Wednesday, they threw a porch party at the house of Chapel Hill Town Treasure, the late Velma Perry (her home on Lindsay St. is currently in the Northside Landbank as part of the Northside Neighborhood Initiative). Lindsay St. neighbors, Jackson Center staff, and Freedom School partners came together to celebrate. From grilling food, filling water balloons, or gathering wood for the fire-pit, each student took on a role in making the porch party happen. Civil rights historian, speaker, and activist Danita Mason-Hogan was the guest of honor, speaking on the history of Freedom Schools and her work with young people. On the last day, students learned the critical movement skill of measuring success and went on a field trip to Weaver Street Market where members of the E.Q.U.I.T.Y. Alliance shared their ongoing advocacy to make their workplace more diverse and inclusive.

Special thanks to Brandwein’s Bagels, Grata Diner, Weaver Street Market, Vimala’s Curryblossom Cafe, Mediterranean Deli, Holy Trinity Anglican Church, and Well.co for contributing meals and supplies! Here some picture below.



WELCOME TO NORTHSIDE

Dear new student residents,
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 communities! 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 visit us at 512 W Rosemary St. We can’t wait to meet you!

-The Jackson Center

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1) Families gathered for the 2021 Halloween Parade that was organized by Northside neighbor Breana and the Student Leadership Group
2)NRF Ayah (center right) at the Good Neighbor Initiative door-to-door walk with Carrboro Mayor Damon Seils (left), Jackson Center Student Leadership Group member Jack Kramer (center left), and Jackson Center Student Leadership Group faculty advisor Molly Demarco (right)
3) 2021-2022 Student Leadership Group members

Be An Active Student Neighbor!

Are you interested in fostering community between students and neighbors in this historically Black neighborhood?

The Marian Cheek Jackson Center Student Leadership Group (SLG) is a committee of UNC students that aims to mobilize the UNC Student Body to connect and engage with the shared interests of Northside neighbors. They bridge the gap between the campus community and the residents of the historically African American neighborhoods of Chapel Hill and Carrboro. They do this by planning community events, fundraising, educating other students, and serving with the Jackson Center. Last year, the SLG worked alongside neighbors to organize a Halloween parade and a neighborhood music day for children and families. They have also coordinated auctions and benefit nights; packaged and delivered COVID care kits to Northside student residents; and applied for grants to support the work of the Marian Cheek Jackson Center.

Bridging the gap between students and long-term residents and educating students on the history of these neighborhoods is critical for getting students to think about their collective impact on these neighborhoods. For example, in Northside, investors have been buying up homes and turning them into student rental properties. The influx of students into the neighborhood resulted in quality of life challenges for long-term residents such as loud party’s, illegal parking, trash, etc. Students weren’t aware that these aren’t just student neighborhoods, but that they are living next to families and elders, some of whom have been in the neighborhood for generations. So that’s why the SLG works with the Jackson Center to facilitate relationship-building between students and long-term residents. To join the SLG or get involved with other service opportunities, email diana@jacksoncenter.info.

Northside Residential Fellows Introductions

Jillian O’Hail is a junior at UNC-Chapel Hill studying Environmental Science and Economics. For the past year, she has been on a gap year working in admin at a medical device start-up called restor3d, where she picked up more knowledge about ankles in one year than she could have ever imagined learning in her lifetime. She absolutely loved restor3d, but she is very excited for the change of pace that college will bring and the community that she is becoming a part of in Northside! What drew her to this program was her love of learning - She is inspired by the rich history and depth of this community and can’t wait to start absorbing perspectives that she may have never heard before. She is considering getting a master’s degree in City and Regional Planning, and she will be working with the Jackson Center to get real experience with sustaining diverse neighborhoods and promoting housing security in the community. In her free time, she loves hammocking outside, making smoothies, exercising (really in any way), and exploring arts/crafts and music (- She can’t wait to ask her LINK mentor about quilting!).



Jillian O’Hail (left), Julie Lee (center), Ayah Wahab (right)

Julie Lee is a recent graduate from UNC with degrees in Chemistry and Human Development and Family Studies. She is currently taking her gap year in which she will spend her time as a Northside Fellow, Nurse Aide, Hospital Volunteer, and Research Assistant. During her time here, Julie hopes to learn about what the living experience and significance of neighborhoods like Northside mean to their residents, especially those who grew up there the majority (if not all) of their lives. In addition, she is interested in learning more about how different organizations like PiAP and MCJC can come together to support longtime residents of Northside community in sustaining what they have built and will continue to build to teach to their future generations. In her free time, Julie likes to spend time with friends, go library hopping, and bake (not well, please lower your expectations).



Ayah Wahab is a Junior at UNC from Greensboro, North Carolina. She's majoring in Political Science and planning on adding a second major in Journalism. In her free time, she likes to sing, dance, and discover new music. Ask her about her albums or nails!! She loves to talk about them. Ayah initially heard about the fellowship from a TA last semester, and was intrigued by an opportunity to learn about Chapel Hill outside of the student bubble. It was the opportunity to learn about Black history outside of the classroom that led her to apply. Ayah hopes that she can do her part to help preserve Northside's vibrant cultural history as well as learn from long term residents about cultivating community.

NRF orientation led by Learning Across Generations Coordinator Aisha Booze-Hall and Ryan Lavalley from UNC Partnerships in Aging

Community Dialogue: Coal Ash

The Northside News is a community newsletter where different perspectives on what is happening in our community can be shared, and hopefully, be in a dialogue through public writings. The Town of Chapel Hill’s potential development on 828 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd (where the Chapel Hill Police headquarters is currently located) has been a point of conversation for several months. Below is another voice to add to that conversation from Northside neighbor Louie Rivers.

The Chapel Hill police headquarters at 828 Martin Luther King Blvd. sits on top of a large coal ash deposit generated by the UNC power plant in the 1960s and 70s (most of the coal ash is underneath the parking lot). The town is currently exploring plans to relocate police headquarters and to develop the property as a mixed-use site. The site will feature 80,000 square feet of office space and 175-250 apartments with some of the units being reserved for affordable housing. According to state law the residential units will be required to be above the first floor. I know that there are many questions about this proposed development and a lot of justified concern. I want to use this space to briefly examine some key questions associated with this situation.

What is coal ash?

According to the EPA, “Coal ash, also referred to as coal combustion residuals or CCRs, is produced primarily from the burning of coal in coal-fired power plants.” Coal ash can contain the following toxic chemicals: mercury, Chromium 6 arsenic, barium, lead, beryllium, cobalt, vanadium and selenium.

What are the effects of exposure to coal ash? The National Resources Defense Council reports that “short-term exposure can bring irritation of the nose and throat, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, and shortness of breath. Long-term exposure can lead to liver damage, kidney damage, cardiac arrhythmia, and a variety of cancers.” Exposure to coals ash can occur directly (direct contact with coal ash) or indirectly (such as contamination of water sources).

Can you safely develop on top of coal ash?

This is a complex question. There are a number of developed properties across North Carolina that are built on top of coal ash fill including airport runways, road projects, industrial parks and commercial buildings. There is currently no houses or apartments where coal ash is a structural fill. According to the North Carolina Department of environmental quality it is possible to safely develop on a coal ash site but it needs to be done with extreme care to avoid potential risk.

Why not remove the coal ash?

North Carolina environmental journalist Lisa Sorg reported that town officials have argued that removal would be expensive (more than \$16 million) and could potentially release toxic chemicals into the local environment.

What does this all mean?

I think that this is a complex issue for Chapel Hill. We are in dire need of more housing and the proposed site is well located in a transit corridor. However, there is risk with developing residential units above a coal ash site. In short there is no easy answers. I think that the way forward involves a deliberative process exploring potential options for the site that engages with technical experts, local citizens, town staff and elected officials. We can only move forward in dialogue and trusting that everyone involved in this process wants the best for Chapel Hill.

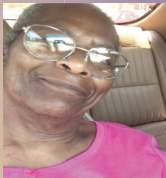
In Memoriam



Mrs. Hazel (Milliken) Atwater
Dec. 15, 1926 - Jul. 31, 2022



Mr. Napoleon Alexander “Bill” Farrington
Feb. 25, 1944 - Jul. 15, 2022



Mrs. Willie Deloris (McKinney) Davis
Jul. 12, 1944 - Aug. 3, 2022



Mr. Earlie (Coach) VanHook, Jr.
Dec. 1, 1930 - Aug. 10, 2022



Mrs. Hazel (Laney) Mikell
Mar. 7, 1946 - Aug. 11, 2022



Mr. Marquette D’Antoine Bowers, Jr.
Oct. 3, 2002 - Aug. 17, 2022

The Good Neighbor Initiative

2022
Community
Cookout

Join us on
September
28th 5:30-
7:30 PM

For free food, community
organizations, student
performances and more!



Hargraves
Community Center
216 N Roberson St
Chapel Hill, NC



Good
Neighbor
Initiative



To sign up as
a volunteer,
scan here

For more information contact sophie@jacksoncenter.info

You’re Invited!
David Lyles is

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AUGUST 27TH
2-5PM
Baldwin Park

BRING SOMETHING TO SHARE
COME AND CELEBRATE!

September Birthdays

Loryn Clark September 5
Corey Jones September 6th
Emma Thompson September 11
Joe Alston September 14
Stanley Foushee September 15
Nissie Riggsbee 16
Charles Booth September 17
Lula Alston September 22
Sherdina Dunn September 24
Stephanie Barnes-Simms September 24
Jane Farrar September 29
Andrea Wuerth September 29
Wyatt Woodson September 30