

Northside News

Reaping What We Sow

Seeds are hopes that are yet to be, gardening is nurturing those ideas with the belief that they will come to fruition. Reaping the harvest is celebrating the realization of that vision, sharing gratitude for the sacrifices made, getting back what we put in. In this issue, we highlight some of the beautiful gardens you will find around the neighborhood, visual representations of the pride that people have in nurturing our spaces, the pride that people have in nurturing this community.

-Diana Koo

The Community Was Never Going To Let Me Fail

The community was never going to let me fail because our community can not fail. Our community is rich with powerful activists, healers, story tellers, teachers, faith leaders, parents/guardians, friends, and change-makers. Our neighborhoods have always been filled with this abundance and will continue to be- even in the face of struggle. We continue to weather the storm of the Covid-19 pandemic. We struggle through and climb the housing market that puts more weight against our aspirations of preserving Northside as a diverse, family-friendly, vital, intergenerational community. We triumph over institutional racism, that wild multi-headed beast like the mythical creature Cerberus who guards the underworld- attacking our community with the vicious heads of property valuations, public health disinvestment, generational trauma, and the spirit of defeat. But, ‘the devil is a liar!’

When love is at the center, victory is imminent. I learn and relearn that truth again and again. You would think after eight years in the school of Northside this lesson would be mastered. What I am realizing is that this is a lifelong lesson. It is a practice.

Over the past two years our world has changed completely. Our community, local, national, and global, has had to constantly adapt to the pandemic, new administrations, incredible violence, and new ways of operating that wouldn’t be in our wildest imaginations a few years ago. Even the mundane task of going to the grocery store has become an action of calculated risk.

How do I put into words what is in this body? How do I put into words the change that has happened in my spirit? How do I explain the incomprehensible? How can I comprehend the mass choir of emotions that have run through this body over the past two years? Everyday comes with a lesson. Literally everyday comes with either a new lesson or a lesson that needs to be learned again. There has been so much un-learning. I am un-learning taking too much on and not asking for help. I am unlearning withdrawal. I am unlearning and renegotiating my relationships with doubt and fear. Doubt and fear do not drive how I move. They can not be ignored, but they can not be the loudest voices in the room. They are dear friends that are at the table with joy, sadness, anger, creativity and courage.

After these past two years of leadership, who am I? I am a son of Northside. I am a student of my community. I am a dancer, an artist, a slow and deep thinker. I am an eager beaver who sits at the knee of my elders, ancestors, and the generation of leaders rising up behind me. I am a context queen. I am a deep listener. I am an imperfect being. And at the end of the day, I am a young man who has been called into this role, trying everyday to serve.

written by George Barrett, Executive Director

Introducing the Jackson Center 2022 Summer Fellows

Dariann Rickerson (she/her/hers) is currently a second year MPH candidate in the Healthy Equity, Social Justice, and Human Rights concentration within the Gilling’s School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is from Queens, NY and earned a Bachelor of Science in Community Health and Human Rights from CUNY Hunter College in New York City (2018). Dariann is broadly interested in measuring structural racism, epigenetics, and social determinants of health to reduce/eliminate racial disparities in health. Since graduating from undergrad, she has worked for the Bureau of Mental Health at the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) of NYC, Cityblock Medical Practice (a wraparound healthcare delivery company for historically marginalized communities), and Life Camp Inc. (a gun violence prevention non-profit in South Jamaica, NY). UNC has given Dariann the opportunity to be a part of various community-based projects and initiatives, including work with the Rogers-Eubanks Neighborhood Association (RENA), and Marian Cheek Jackson Center, and this coming fall with the Southern Coalition for Social Justice. As a summer fellow in the education and eldercare program at the Jackson Center, Dariann’s work spans from designing an environmental justice workshop for the Freedom School Program this summer, to creating entrance and exit surveys for education programs, and program evaluation.



Rachel Broun is a rising senior at Emory University studying anthropology and women’s, gender, and sexuality studies. Originally from Carrboro, NC she joined the Jackson Center working as a Summer Fellow focused on public history in 2022. She is excited to learn more about the community she has



grown up in and to become an active part of preserving its history. She has already interviewed two student service partners for the Northside News and has been overseeing our grocery box deliveries to 60 households every week. She will also be interviewing neighbors for the upcoming Gateway project and creating a library of audio clips for oral history-based lesson plans and online exhibits. In her free time she enjoys crafting, watching Real Housewives, and attempting to keep her plants alive.

Jean Hecker is a geography student at UNC-Chapel Hill, originally from Virginia. As the Jackson



Center’s Summer 2022 Housing Justice Fellow, Jean is excited to contribute to the preservation and celebration of the Northside neighborhood. She spent her first few weeks helping interested homeowners with filling out applications for Habitat for Humanity’s new houses in Northside. The rest of the summer, she’ll be doing research on local stone masonry for a historical preservation application, writing and curating housing justice resources, and developing a marketing plan to attract market-rate buyers to the neighborhood. Jean’s interests include historical and urban geography, sustainable food systems, and environmental and housing justice. In her downtime you may find Jean spending time with her dog, knitting, or rollerblading.



Sophie Dubois moved to Chapel Hill in 2020 to pursue her undergraduate education at UNC. Sophie studies Geography, Ecology, and Art History. This summer is Sophie’s first in Chapel Hill and she couldn’t be more excited to spend it at the Jackson Center, absorbing and enacting stories with residents and team members. She helped neighbors in Tin Top and Pine Knolls organize two porch parties last month, and will be recruiting service partners for the Good Neighbor Initiative door-to-door walk and Community Cookout this fall. In her free time Sophie enjoys hosting shows and DJing for WXYC (89.3 FM), learning about plants and places around her, and cooking when she can!

MCJC 2022 Summer Fellows In Action!!



From left to right
-Sophie and Pine Knolls neighbor Paschal at a porch party on Crest Dr.
-Rachel and Sophie interviewing service partner Pristine Onuoha.
-Jean, Sophie, and Rachel talking to long-term resident Sophie Mitchell and student neighbors.
-Rachel volunteering at the Community Cinema event.



Mr. Joseph Fearrington - Neighborhood Bush Hogger

I met with Mr. Joseph Fearrington, who is 101, and his daughter Ms. Clementine Self at Mr. Joe's home on N Graham Street to learn how instrumental Mr. Joe was with helping neighbors prepare their gardens. Ms. Clem shared their experiences:

"In the spring and fall, Daddy was instrumental in mowing large plots of land, and they would call that 'bush hogging.' People called and ask Daddy to come and prepare their fields for gardening. My mom kept a notebook of all the phone requests. People with a half acre or more just wanted him to mow. This required him attaching the bush hog to the back of his tractor, which allowed him to cover large parcels of land. He would plant silver queen corn everywhere so that the grass wouldn't take over the land again. He would also share the corn with the community. As a matter of fact, some guy in a helicopter saw his cornfield and wanted to know where it was located, but he wouldn't let him know because he didn't want other people on people's property.



Ms. Eva [Barnett] on the corner allowed him to plant turnip salad on her property. People in the community would come and ask, 'Mr. Joe, do you have any salad this year?'. His reply would be 'yes, you can go up to Ms. Eva's and pick what you want.' He didn't just plant straight turnip salad. He had mustard, kale, and rape (a green) mixed in with his turnip salad. When Daddy planted gardens, he never just planted a regular garden like most people; he would plant fields. Some of the vegetables that he planted were string beans, field peas, okra, squash, carrots, beets and cabbage. We spent many afternoons sitting here on the back porch shelling beans and cutting corn off the cob to put in the freezer, and when my Mom had enough, she would call her friends and say 'Come and get all you want!' They would come and bring their baskets and fill them up, because he always planted enough for the entire neighborhood.

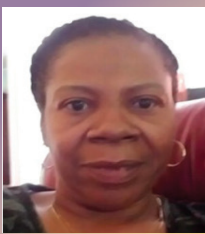
I remember when my youngest son, the one that just passed, came home from A&T, I let him know that, 'Granddaddy is going to the field today to pull some corn. Do you want to help him?' He replied, Yes, I'll go help him.' After working for a while, he said, 'Granddaddy, I thought you said there were deer out here?' Daddy replied, There are!'. Samori said, 'Well we need to leave some in the field for the deer!' In other words, he had worked long enough, the truck was full! His point was they did not need to pull any more!! . Daddy is a little bit of a perfectionist. His rows were always straight, his gardens stayed clean. He wanted everything to be in order. He took a lot of pride in his work. Gardening was something he loved and he enjoyed seeing things grow. My daddy never did anything small! Everything was big! (For the rest of the interview, you can visit our website www.fromtherockwall.org and search for Joseph Fearrington).

by Kathy Atwater, Community Advocacy Specialist

Garden Spotlights: Paul Caldwell, Geraldine Alston, Lloyd Long Jr., Carol Brooks



In Memoriam



Mrs. Lisa Jacqueline Edwards Durham
March 30, 1960 - June 14, 2022



Mr. Leroy Barry Griffin, Jr.
September 9, 1963 - June 19, 2022



Mrs. Glenda Oldham Hargraves
October 31, 1933 - June 20, 2022



Mrs. Mildred Farrar
March 2, 1927 - July 3, 2022



Mrs. Carrol Ann Jones Farrar
January 27, 1941 - July 9, 2022

Master Gardener Call

These gorgeous gardens from around our area represent the variety, joy, and abundance of the Northside Community.

We are doing an all-call for Master Gardeners, home gardeners, and others who have something to share with those around them. If you are interested in connecting with us at the Jackson Center to share your love of gardening with others in the area, reach out to the Education Coordinator, Aisha Booze-hall at aisha@jacksoncenter.info.



Freedom School Celebration

PORCH PARTY IN COMMUNITY



27 July
2022



Velma Perry House
308 Lindsay St.,
Front Vard



12:20pm - 2:00pm

Food
music &
games

- Guests may park at Hargraves Community Center as parking is limited.
- There will be vegetarian options available
- Please bring a side dish of your liking! :)

RSVP BY JULY 26 TO: DARIANN@JACKSONCENTER.INFO

COMMUNITY POOL PARTY

Free, but space is limited! Must call (919) 960-1670 to reserve a spot!
Cool off and celebrate the history of AD Clark Pool & Hargraves!

Friday
Aug. 12, 2022
5:30-8 PM
Hargraves



August Birthdays

August 1 - Jason James
August 2 - Sheila Alston
August 4 - Gracie (Polly) Webb
August 5 - Steve Pendergraft
August 5 - Kathy Atwater
August 6 - Mae McLendon
August 10 - Elizabeth McCain
August 10 - Seth Murray
August 12 - Ryan Lavalley
August 13 - Doris Wilson
August 13 - Warren Jones
August 14 - Roy Atwater
August 17 - Esphur Foster
August 18 - Anna Spencer
August 19 - Jesse Chavis
August 20 - Karie Lee
August 22 - Tiffany Watson
August 25 - Tonya Barrett
August 28 - Rosalyn Alston
August 28 - Sherdena Weaver
August 29 - Keith Edwards
August 31 - Freda Andrews