

Marcus

from page A4

Marcus' daughter, kaypri, an actor, writer and producer who does not use a last name, visited North Carolina, where she was slated to attend her mother's 60th reunion at Raleigh's Meredith College and host a reading and signing of the book, which she co-authored, at Knollwood Baptist Church.

"My mom's story, I truly feel, could change a lot of hearts and minds," said the Teaneck, N.J. native, who picked up the torch to complete her mother's story after Marcus' Alzheimer's set in several years back. "...It's not just a story of this white woman falling into herself and realizing the effects of racism. It's also a story of her coming into herself and realizing that she's important, that her story matters, that she matters."

kaypri says her mother and her father, the late Rev. Chester Lee Marcus, a black man whom her mother met through her racial justice work, dated in secret for close to a decade. While her father was at the forefront, participating in historic movements such as the March on Washington, her mother took a different tack, working quietly and diligently behind the scenes.

"I think she kind of beat herself up for not being at the marches and on the front lines," kaypri said. "I think through the process of writing this book, she realized that she did make a difference, but she realized it late in life, and I wish she'd realized it sooner."

City native Angela Gerena-Diaz, a program specialist for the Partnership for Drug Free America and social justice advocate, is a friend of the Marcus family. She read the book from cover to cover during a three-day span, and said she was deeply moved by the sentiments behind it.

"It was just amazing that she tells it from her perspective," said Gerena-Diaz, who is black and Latina. "It was just raw and real, and we need to start having those kinds of conversations - truthful and straight to the point."



Submitted Photo
Dorothy Hampton Marcus poses with friends at the Saginaw, Mich. summer camp.

As a student at Meredith, Marcus became involved in a series of dialogues with students at the historically black Shaw University that kaypri says sparked her mother's interest in the struggle for racial equality. After her junior year of college, Marcus served as a counselor at an interracial camp for children in Saginaw, Mich.

"That summer changed her life. That summer, she was like, 'I want to do this for the rest of my life.' That was her passion. That's when she realized she could make a difference if she helped enlighten people's minds, and that's what really set her off," related kaypri, who spent hours researching, sorting through her mother's newspaper clippings and notes and interviewing people she worked with decades ago to bring the story to life.

In 1990, when racial unrest in Teaneck was sparked by the fatal shooting of black teen Phillip Pannell by a white police officer, kaypri says her mother sprang into action, aiding in the racial dialogues and playing a "significant role" in efforts to heal racial wounds in the culturally diverse town. Marcus also helped to found the Teaneck Community Chorus, a racially diverse singing group that celebrates the musical traditions of all its members and is still in existence today.

kaypri says her 81-year-old mother was once an aspiring missionary, but she found a less traditional - yet equally important - method of sharing God's love.

"She had gone to school to be a missionary and follow in her sister's footsteps," she said, "and what I say in the book is she did become a missionary, but not in the way she expected."

kaypri, a frequent Reader's Theatre guest at the National Black Theatre Festival who is best known for her one woman show, "Babygirl: The coming of age sitcom/drama of a media-codependa-lova-holic," admits she was reluctant to put her own career aside to finish her mother's book. These days, kaypri regards the work, which she published through her company Priscilla Belle Productions, with a spirit of gratefulness, believing it is something she was called to do.

"This is my greatest contribution, telling my mom's story, and I just hope it will inspire other people to tell their parents' and grandparents' stories," she said. "...It's a great example of how someone can fall into something completely unplanned and find their passion, and that's something that is universal."

Gerena-Diaz believes the book, which she describes as "amazing,"

truly has something to offer its readers with its "raw, in your face" honesty and poignant recollections of one woman's quest to better herself, her community and the nation.

"Her experiences were real. She sat down, she learned, she stumbled, she

discovered," Gerena-Diaz said of Marcus. "I feel that because she didn't know, she wasn't afraid to ask."

"I Didn't Know What I Didn't Know: A Southern White Woman's Story About Race" is available

in e-book and paperback editions on amazon.com. For more information about the book, find "I Didn't Know What I Didn't Know" on Facebook. For more information on kaypri, visit <http://www.kaypri.com>.

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Frats

from page A5

see. WSSU students also also raised funds for Next Step Ministries, Inc., an area nonprofit that helps domestic violence survivors.

"Hearing about the violence toward these women made me want to do even more. As men, we have a responsibility to educate our peers. We have the power to make real change happen," said Orlando Mitchell, WSSU's director of Greek Life and Special Programs.

Fraternalities at Elizabeth City State University, NC State,

Duke and Elon University took part in similar activities. On social media, the men involved with the campaign used #fraternities4family to give their message a broader reach.

"In my daily work, I have seen the harms wrought by domestic violence and wanted to find a way to reduce the number of victims," Ullman said. "I believe that men are essential to ending this type of violence. That's why I decided to work with fraternities."

Learn more about the initiative at <http://www.charlesullman.com/our-firm/fraternities4family/>.

IFB

from page A4

President Delmer Wall. Tanya Wilson received the Kathryn W. Garner Volunteer of the Year Award for her outreach and support of IFB's community programs. Ann Johnston, a long-time IFB board member, received the IFB Commodore Funderburk Award. The Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) received the IFB Customer of the Year Award. DeCA oversees 248 commissaries in 13 countries worldwide, and has partnered with IFB since 1998. More than 35 employees in IFB's Asheville facility work on the DeCA contract, packaging and distributing impulse items that are then shipped to commissaries all over the world.



Ann Johnston



Tanya Wilson

Galilee Missionary Baptist Church

5K RUN WALK

2014

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

'BURNING CALORIES FOR A CAUSE'

PRE-REGISTRATION BEGINS MAY 27 - JUNE 6

Online and Church Office

10 NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS OR \$10 CASH TO REGISTER

Event T-shirt to the first 100 to register

7:15 a.m. -- Onsite Registration & Warm Up

8:15 a.m. -- Shot Gun Start

All proceeds will benefit the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest NC -- "Together, We Can Solve Hunger"