



Lodge to honor luminaries

Several local businesses and three individuals will be honored at the seventh annual Salem Lodge #139 Black History Month Community Awards Banquet and Robert A. Miller Scholarship Gala on Saturday, Feb. 21 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, 3050 University Pkwy.

Clark S. Brown Funeral Home, Douthit Funeral Services, Gilmore Funeral Home, Hooper Funeral Home, Johnson-Howard-Robinson Home of Memory,

Hartsfield

Russell Funeral Home and the National Black Theatre Festival will be honored for their many years of economic development and long-standing support to the local community.

In addition, Ben Piggott, Council Member James Taylor and the Rev. Samuel J. Cornelius will be honored for their long-standing history of service and empowerment that have contributed to the improvement of the quality of life in the Winston-Salem community and the greater North Carolina area.

District Court Judge Denise Hartsfield will be the keynote speaker. The event is a fundraiser for an endowment in the name of Robert A. Miller, a longtime community leader and one of the first African-American news reporters at the Winston-Salem Journal. Miller was a founder of the Victory Masonic Credit Union and a member of Salem Lodge.

"Brother Miller was an outstanding businessman with a long affiliation with Victory Masonic Credit Union and Prince Hall freemasonry who was always willing to dispense knowledge and wisdom to anyone that would ask," said Kendrick Smith, the Worshipful Master of Salem Lodge. To serve as a sponsor or to purchase tickets to the event, call 336-771-2600.

Museum offers tour

The Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA) at Old Salem Museums & Gardens is offering a special tour during February in honor of Black History Month.

The tour, titled "A Hidden Legacy: The African American Influence in Southern Decorative Arts," will be offered on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays throughout the month of February. Tours will take place at MESDA in the Frank L. Horton Museum Center, 924 South Main St. in Winston-Salem.

On Wednesdays and Fridays (February 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25 and 27), tours will take place at 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Saturday tours (7, 14, 21 and 28) will be held at 11 a.m., with an additional 2 p.m. tour on Feb. 21. The tour is also available by advance appointment during regular museum hours by calling 336-779-6140 at least one week in advance.

Club celebration

The Northwood Estates Know-Your-Neighbor Club will have its annual "African-American History Month" celebration on Monday, Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. at the Carl H. Russell Sr. Community Center, 3521 Carver School Road.

The speaker/presenter will be John X. Miller, managing editor of the Winston-Salem Journal.

The general public is invited to attend, however reservations are urged. Please call (336) 767-4087 to make reservations.

Naomi W. Jones is president of the club, and Millie T. Davidson is chairwoman of the program committee. Rudolph V. Boone, Sr. (vice president) is the coordinator for this particular celebration.

Statements on Black History Month

Democratic National Committee (DNC) Chairwoman Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement in recognition of Black History Month:

"This February, we celebrate Black History Month. It is an opportunity to recognize the invaluable contributions that African-Americans have made to our nation. Through innovations in technology, advances in medicine, athletic and artistic achievements, and promoting social justice, just to name a few, African-Americans have helped move our nation toward a more perfect union.

The understanding and appreciation fostered by Black History Month strengthens our resolve to continue on the path of progress."

Republican National Committee (RNC) Chairman Reince Priebus released the following statement on Black History Month:

"This Black History Month, as we reflect on the generations of African-Americans who contributed immensely to the fabric of our country and to the Republican Party, let us honor their legacy not just by what we say, but also in what we do," Chairman Priebus said. "We pay tribute to those who have paved the way by rededicating ourselves to advancing the issues that matter most, from increasing economic opportunity to expanding educational options. It is our responsibility as Republicans to make sure every American, regardless of background, has an equal opportunity to achieve their own American Dream."



School's name reflects Black History Month founder

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Black History Month began as Negro History Week in 1926, designated for the second week in February, to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass.

Later it branched into a monthlong recognition of black Americans and their achievements.

Carter Godwin Woodson (December 19, 1875 – April 3, 1950) is known as the father of Black History recognition. He was a black historian, author, journalist and the founder of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. He was a founder of "Journal of Negro History" in 1916. Many schools set aside a time each year to focus on Black History.

However, a charter school in Winston-Salem can focus

on Black History year-round. It bears the name of the Father of Black History, Winston-Salem Legal Aid Attorney Hazel Mack founded the Carter G. Woodson School, according to the school's website.

Mack was dissatisfied with the education her daughter was receiving at her neighborhood public school. The Carter G. Woodson School opened in fall 1997 with 175 students.

The Carter G. Woodson School employs 57 professionals, including school director Ruth Hopkins. The student-teacher ratio at CGWS has consistently been 16:1.

Fifty-nine percent of students at the Carter G. Woodson School are African-American, 55 percent are Hispanic/Latino and 2 percent are multi-racial. Over 94 percent participate in the National Free and Reduced Lunch Program.



AP Photo/The Herald, Tracy Kimball
Members of the Friendship 9, from left, John Gaines, W.T. "Dub" Massey, Clarence Graham and Willie McCleod clap after a judge declared that they had been wrongly convicted of trespassing and their records would be tossed out Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2015, at the Rock Hill Municipal Court in Rock Hill.

Famed US civil rights protesters have convictions erased

BY MEG KINNARD ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA, South Carolina — A judge has tossed out the convictions of nine South Carolina black men who integrated a whites-only lunch counter during the height of the American civil rights movement.

Judge Mark Hayes on Wednesday, Jan. 28, made the ruling for the men known as the Friendship 9.

"We cannot rewrite history, but we can right history," the judge said. He then signed the order, and the prosecutor apologized to the men.

Fifty-four years ago, in 1961, eight college students and one civil rights organizer were convicted of trespassing and protesting at McCrory variety store in Rock Hill.

The men's refusal to pay bail money into the segregationist town's city coffers served as a catalyst for other civil disobedience. Inspired by their courage, demonstrators across the South adopted their "jail not bail" tactic and filled jail

cells. The media attention helped turn scattered protests into a nationwide movement.

W.T. "Dub" Massey and seven other students at Rock Hill's Friendship Junior College—Willie McCleod, Robert McCullough, Clarence Graham, James Wells, David Williamson Jr., John Gaines and Mack Workman—were encouraged to violate the town's Jim Crow laws by Thomas Gaither, who came to town as an activist with the Congress of Racial Equality.

About a year had passed since a sit-in at a segregated lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, helped galvanize the nation's civil rights movement. But change was slow to come to Rock Hill. They decided to challenge matters by getting arrested in February 1961 for ordering lunch at McCrory's variety store, and were convicted of trespassing and breach of peace.

Author Kim Johnson, who published "No Fear For Freedom: The Story of the Friendship 9" last year, went to Kevin Brackett, the solicitor for York and

Union counties, to see what could be done to clear their records.

"This is an opportunity for us to bring the community together," Johnson told The Associated Press before the ruling. "To have the records vacated essentially says that it should have never happened in the first place."

Brackett's request to a Rock Hill judge came too late for McCullough, who died in 2006. But some of the others returned to town ahead of the hearing to reflect on their experience.

The men's names are engraved on the stools at the counter of the restaurant on Main Street, now called the Old Town Bistro. A plaque outside marks the spot where they were arrested. And official and personal apologies have been offered to the men over the years.

In 2009, a white man named Elwin Wilson who tried to pull one of the protesters from a stool nearly 50 years earlier returned to the same counter, meeting with some of the men. They forgave him.

African-American anchorwoman to speak on her life

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

WXII News 12 anchorwoman Wanda Starke will talk about Black History as part of the Carver School Road Branch Library's First Thursday Friends Seniors Group event.

The presentation will be today (Feb. 5) at 11 a.m. at the library, 4915 Lansing Drive.



Starke

Starke has been with WXII for over 10 years and is very active in the community. She is also an award-winning journalist.

Starke will discuss "Black Life, History and Culture," speaking on her 37-year journey from coast to coast and how she arrived at where she is today.

This program is free and open to the public. Call 336-703-2910 for more information.



Habitat for Humanity
of Forsyth County





Want to be a Homeowner?

Come to an orientation session to learn more about the Habitat program.

Monday, Feb. 9
6 p.m.
339 Witt St.
Winston-Salem

For more info, contact:
Martha Pair 765-8854, ext 131
martha.pair@habitatforsyth.org

Space is limited. No children, please.