

Q&A ABOUT BLACK HISTORY

WITH **Cheryl Harry**

Cheryl Harry, Director of African American Programming, Old Salem Museums & Gardens

What is the movie or TV mini-series linked to Black History that has had the greatest impact on your life and why?

"Selma" – Because the film concentrated on one experience, I saw Dr. King as a Warrior and not as the "dreamer" that is so commonly used to describe him. He was gallant, strategic and spiritual all rolled into one.

What is the book linked to Black History that has had the greatest impact on your life and why?

"I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," by Dr. Maya Angelou. The story was identifiable to me as a junior high school student and relatable to my personality. I felt such a sense of pride after I completed the book.

What is the play or musical linked to Black History that has had the greatest impact on your life and why?

"A Raisin In The Sun" – It was about a family trying to achieve the "American dream" and though they were at odds with each other the family unit remained intact and they made a courageous move together.

What is the song linked to Black History that has had the greatest impact on your life and why?

Lift Every Voice and Sing – The lyrical metaphors are piercing to the soul and the charge and the challenge are timeless.

What is the poem linked to Black History that has had the greatest impact on your life and why?

All of Dr. Angelou's poetry speak to my passion. The poem that has had the greatest impact on my life is a collection of poems by Nikki Giovanni Blues: For All the Changes: New Poems. It was after reading this collection of poems that I decided to resurrect the Juneteenth celebration in 2005.

The Chronicle was founded in 1974. What news story linked to Black History in The Chronicle has had the greatest impact on your life and why? Or, what news story linked to Black History in general has had the greatest impact on your life and why?

The special tabloids that *The Chronicle* produces commemorating significant events in African American history, i.e., Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday and Dr. Maya Angelou's birthday and passing, National Black Theatre Festival, Black History Month, and the upcoming 150th Anniversary of the Emancipation (Juneteenth) are keepsakes.

The Chronicle is more than a weekly newspaper in city. It's a mirror that enables the community to see itself and reflect on the gains and pains and keeps us moving forward.



Cheryl Harry accepts her award from the N.C. Black Repertory Company's Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin (right).

Ms. Harry Bio

The Chronicle's 2013 Community Service Award Curator of the Arts Honoree

If Cheryl Harry has her way, every local man, woman or child will learn to embrace the richness of beauty of African American culture.

Cheryl has made it her mission to educate and enlighten. Through innovative and creative means, she engages the masses in black history. A lifelong educator, Harry created the nonprofit Triad Cultural Arts to preserve and promote African American culture and art. The organization sponsors the city's popular Juneteenth and Kwanzaa celebrations.

Through her Coming Eventz web site and e-newsletter, she keeps the community abreast of concerts, exhibitions, forums and other area happenings. Old Salem Museum and Gardens made the right call last year when it brought Harry on as its director of African American programming. Cheryl has vastly broadened the museum's offering and put a fresh focus on Old Salem's rich black history.

Earlier this year, Cheryl realized a longtime dream with the release of her local black history book. "Winston-Salem's African American Legacy" is a rich pictorial collection that takes readers on a decades-long journey. The book fills a void that has been left empty for far too long.

For embracing a mission to bring the past to the present, *The Chronicle* and the community are proud to proclaim Cheryl Harry as a Curator of the African American Arts.

