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Monthly Magazine About and For Older Adults of the Greater Winston-Salem Area

Special Recognition Award

Rachel L. Jackson



Rachel P. Jackson is not an entertainer, but she is a superstar nevertheless. The longtime Winston-Salem community advocate is considered one of the city's matriarchs, and many cherish her wisdom, guidance and advice.

Jackson's career ceased when she retired after many years from the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Library, but her work did not end. She is an elder and dedicated member of Lloyd Presbyterian Church, one of the South's oldest black houses of worship. As an officer of the nonprofit Mothers for Justice, Jackson pushes for criminal justice reform and the end of the school-to-prison pipeline. Jackson is also a dedicated volunteer who has given her time to the N.C. Black Repertory Company, National Black Theatre Festival and many other organizations and causes.

Outstanding Achievement in Scenic Design

Harlan Lenn



Harlan Penn has a connection to Winston-Salem: He earned an MFA in scenic design from UNC chool of the Arts after receiving his undergraduate degree in theatrical design from Florida A&M. He quickly made a name for himself by designing sets for theater companies around the nation, including the St. Louis Black Repertory Company, the Birmingham Children's Theatre and the Theater Alliance of Washington, D.C.

"Jitney," "Broke-ology," "Chicago," "Grease," "Crowns," "Seven Guitar" and "Blues for an Alabama Sky" are among his favorite credits. As a teacher at the Hillcrest High School Theatre Institute in Jamaica, Queens, Penn is inculcating a new generation of theater professionals. He is also the founder of the American-Caribbean Theatre Alliance (he is of Bahamian descent), which has a mission "to educate, promote, and produce live professional theatre with an emphasis on technical theatre for the people of Caribbean."