

Young people will take lead during Feb. 13 Moral March

BY CASH MICHAELS
FOR NCBPA

For the past ten years, the annual Historic Thousands on Jones Street Moral March and People's Assembly in Raleigh has not only always involved young people, but also empowered them as well.

"Every moral reconstruction movement has had young people at the center of its development," Rev. William Barber, president of the NCNAACP and convener of the upcoming Moral March/HK on J People's Assembly on Feb. 13, says. "In the 1960s during the civil rights movement, in the second reconstruction, youth - black, white and Jewish - were at the center. And so it must

be as we build a modern day third reconstruction moral movement today."

This year, young people, known as the #JusticeSquad, will actually lead the Moral March through downtown Raleigh to the Fayetteville Street Mall side of the State Capitol, where the People's Assembly will take place. It is there where young activists will then pass out pledge-to-vote cards and literature to attendees for both the March 15th primaries and the Nov. 8th general elections. There will also be tables for voter registration.

Applicants can register online at HKonJ.com on the home page by clicking the "sign up" link per the third choice under

"Over 50 years ago there were young folks out in the streets registering people to vote, fighting for this cause."

-Ty Lawson, N.C. NAACP

"#Become a MoralMarch Volunteer."

"Dr. Barber felt that it would be amazing if this year, we had 200 young people leading this march," Ty Lawson, N.C. NAACP Field Secretary, said. "We're getting the youth involved and saying, hey, it's our time."

"Over 50 years ago there were young folks out in the streets registering people to vote, fighting for this cause. Now it's time for us to answer the call of duty. It worked then; it's going to work now. We're going to make sure we get the job done."

Indeed, voter registra-

tion for the March 15th primary ends on Friday, Feb. 19, with early voting beginning on Thursday, March 3 and ending Saturday March 12 at 1 p.m.

Young people have always played a role in the Forward Together Movement, Lawson says, recalling how he took part several years ago. "We've built a movement that's inclusive. This is an inter-generational movement, and everyone has their eyes on the prize - making sure that our right to vote is no longer being attacked. And our Youth Council and College Division is very strong doing great work and mobilizing for HK on J."

Lawson says the strong,

principled leadership of N.C. NAACP Pres. Rev. William Barber inspires everyone across race, gender and generational lines, but he is particularly inspirational to young people.

"He's such a charismatic leader. Young people across the state see that leadership and wisdom. It's not a movement that has young people on one side and older people on the other. It's a movement that has all of our issues at the core."

Lawson says young people who take part in the Moral March should be proud.

"This is our moment. This is the generation that this world has been looking for, and we need to answer to that call."



Submitted photo
The performance at the International Civil Rights Center and Museum stars Jason McKinney as Paul Robeson.

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Civil Rights Center to present 'Paul Robeson'

SPECIAL TO
THE CHRONICLE

GREENSBORO — "Paul Robeson," a musical and spoken portrayal of the world-famous scholar, actor, singer, lawyer, all-American athlete and civil rights activist, comes to the International Civil Rights Center and Museum, 134 S. Elm St., Greensboro, Feb. 4-7.

Tickets are \$25 for general admission seating and are on sale at the Community Theater of Greensboro box office: 336-333-7469. The show is produced and presented by United in Music.

Before King dreamed, before Thurgood Marshall petitioned and Sidney Poitier emoted, before the big breakthroughs in

Hollywood and Washington, before the Jim Crow signs came down, and before the Civil Rights banners went up, before Spike Lee, before Denzel Washington, before Sam Jackson and Jesse Jackson, there was Paul Robeson.

The performance stars Jason McKinney as Robeson, the African-American Renaissance man who rose to prominence in multiple arenas at a time when racism and segregation was rampant in the United States. Robeson used his fame as a performer to become a voice for people who were marginalized both at home and abroad. Despite a hugely successful career on stage and in films and international popularity, he was

eventually silenced and his career effectively ended by prejudice and McCarthyism. Phillip Hayes Dean's "Paul Robeson" sheds light on the life of this courageous, influential and complex man whose message remains relevant for today's audiences.

United in Music's Christopher Bagley co-stars as Robeson's long-time collaborator Lawrence Brown.

"Paul Robeson's life story reminds us of the important work he did so bravely to advance the civil rights discussion," said Bagley, "and those issues could not be any less important today. We are reminded every day that there is still so much work to be done to end racial discrimination."

if one person is denied the right to vote, something has to be done.

"If one is discriminated against, that is one person too many," said Barber. "The law is unequal, intimidating, and unnecessary. We've seen this before;

these are Jim Crow tactics in the 21st century."

Although it is unclear when Judge Schroeder will make a ruling on the case, both sides have until Thursday, Feb. 11, to submit any additional evidence.

The Chronicle (USPS 067-910) was established by Ernest H. Pitt and Ndubisi Egemonye in 1974 and is published every Thursday by Winston-Salem Chronicle Publishing Co. Inc., 617 N. Liberty Street, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101. Periodicals postage paid at Winston-Salem, N.C. Annual subscription price is \$30.72.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
The Chronicle, P.O. Box 1636
Winston-Salem, NC 27102-1636

WINSTON-SALEM'S POVERTY RATE HAS BEEN THE HIGHEST OF NORTH CAROLINA'S LARGEST CITIES FOR MORE THAN 10 YEARS

IN 2014:

- More than 24 percent of Winston-Salem citizens lived in poverty, based on their household income.
- 32.6 percent - almost one out of three - children in Winston-Salem lived in poverty
- 46.5 percent of Hispanic/Latino residents and 30.6 percent of Black/African-American residents lived in poverty.

The Poverty Thought Force needs input from everyone who can help shed light on the causes and solutions to poverty: those living in poverty, professionals and volunteers with agencies that serve the poor, experts who have studied the causes and consequences of poverty, and anyone whose private or work lives are affected by the consequences of poverty.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

► **Feb. 23, 6 - 7:30 p.m.**
Biotech Place at Wake Forest Innovation Quarter
575 N. Patterson Ave. Winston-Salem
• Education & Life Skills
• Housing & Homelessness

► **March 17, 6 - 7:30 p.m.**
St. Peter's Church & World Outreach Center
3683 Old Lexington Rd, Winston-Salem
• Health & Wellness
• Jobs & Workforce Development

Learn more and register to attend:

PovertyThoughtForce.com

If you do not have access to the Internet, call (336) 758-4021 to register. Space is limited. Those who register after space is filled will be placed on a wait list.

WINSTON-SALEM POVERTY THOUGHT FORCE

"If our morality does not lead us to take action the economics of poverty should. We will all pay if we do nothing."

BETHESDA CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DERWIN L. MONTGOMERY

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