

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Events

Now through Feb. 29 – Movies celebrating African-Americans

The Carver School Road Library will be showing movies celebrating the achievements of African-Americans. Call 336-703-2910 for dates and times. All ages are welcome.

Feb. 18 – Black Male Symposium

Today, Feb. 18 at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., the Black Male Symposium and theatrical performance will be held in K.R. Williams Auditorium on the campus of Winston-Salem State University. The symposium will feature the play "We Shall Overcome" by Forget Me Not Productions, directed by Garrett Davis, and will be followed by a panel discussion at 11:30 a.m. about the play and other civil rights issues. (There will be no panel discussion after the 6 p.m. performance.)

Feb. 18 – Black History Month Panel

The Black History Month Panel will be held today, Feb. 18, 4:30 p.m., in the Shirley Auditorium of Salem College Fine Arts Center. It is a space to have an open discussion on issues of inclusivity related to (but not limited to) race, class, gender & sexual orientation. The panelists include Salem students, Salem faculty, and representatives from the Winston-Salem community. An open question and answer session follows the panelists' position statements. All are welcome to attend. Sponsored by BADU (Black Americans Demonstrating Unity). For more information, please contact the BADU President Kenysha Clear at kenysha.clear@salem.edu or the BADU Advisor, Dr. Krishna Hines-Gaither, at k.hines-gaither@salem.edu

Feb. 18 and 25 – Crafternoon for all ages

Carver School Road Library will hold "crafternoon" for all ages on Thursdays at 4:30 p.m. Join us for a special Black History Month program using everyday, inexpensive materials to create a wonderful take-home craft. Call 336-703-2910 for details.

Feb. 19 – Lego Lab

The Carver School Road Library will host a Lego Lab with a Black History Month theme on Friday, Feb. 19 from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Feb. 19-21 – 'We Shall Overcome' play

The play "We Shall Overcome," created by acclaimed playwright Garrett Davis, will be staged at Hanebrands Theatre for four performances Feb. 19-21 as part of the 2016 Gdavis Urban Theater Series. "We Shall Overcome" delivers a profound message of finding hope, dignity and spiritual growth even during times of adversity. The play explores the creation of the Southern Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) which resulted from sit-ins organized by Ella Baker. Baker was the Director of the Southern Christian Leadership Council (SCLC) (played by Latonya Simms from Mama's Girls), who was concerned that SCLC, led by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (played by Brian Cager) was out of touch with younger African-Americans who wanted the civil rights movement to make faster progress. For further information, visit www.weshallovercome.me.



Davis

Through Feb. 21 - The Stained Glass Playhouse presents "The Piano Lesson"

In Honor of Black History Month, the Stained Glass Playhouse will host a production of "The Piano Lesson" by renowned African-American playwright August Wilson at Marvin United Methodist Church, 4401 Indiana Ave. Performances will take place at 8 p.m. on the following days: Friday, Feb. 19, Saturday, Feb. 20, and at 3 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 21. The director of the production is Rob Taylor and the stage manager is Maybelle Steele. The cast includes: Damon Davis, Derrick Parker, Hayden Crawford, Kathryn Mobley, Ameerah Slade-McKinney, Buncho Carter, Austin Frye and Sherri Williams. Tickets are available for adults at \$16, for seniors at \$13, and for students at \$11. To purchase tickets, visit www.stainedglassplayhouse.org or call 336-499-1010.

Feb. 21 – Building a Safer Community Forum

The Friends of The Malloy Jordan East Winston Heritage Center Library located at 110 East 7th Street will host a forum in honor of Black History Month on Sunday, Feb. 21 from 2 to 5 p.m. The theme will be "Building a Safer Community," which will include various topical discussions centered on the police interactions in our community. Several officials of the city have been invited to discuss various topics and answer questions that can help us all make our communities a safer place. Some discussions will be: what to do if you are stopped by the police; what are the rights of a school resource officer; what are our rights with cameras filming a police incident; why are we still dealing with these issues and where do we go from here; among other topics. Everyone is asked to come and support this community forum. Students are welcomed as well from local schools and colleges. For more information, call Andrea Walker at 336-749-5090.

Feb. 21 – City Police, Fire Departments to honor retired personnel, contest winners

On Sunday, Feb. 21, the Police and Fire departments will honor their retired personnel and the winners of the Black History Month coloring and essay contests during the third annual Public Safety Black History Month Celebration. The celebration will be held at 3 p.m. at Galilee Missionary Baptist Church, 4129 Northampton Drive. During the program, the Police Department will honor retired Captain Terry Jones and retired Sergeant Stephen Hairston for their service. The Fire Department will honor retired Captains Gary Brown and Aldine Cloud for their service, and Battalion Chief Shirese Moore, the first female African-American in the department to hold this rank. The public is invited to attend. For more information call CityLink311.

Did you know ...

that using the knowledge of Onesimus, a slave, an inoculation method for smallpox practiced in Africa saved numerous lives after a smallpox epidemic broke out in Boston in 1721?

Free black man masters making furniture during time of slavery

BY JUDIE HOLCOMB-PACK FOR THE CHRONICLE

Slavery was the order of the day in North Carolina in the early 1830s, but one free black man became so influential that the General Assembly passed a law in his favor after pressure from the white people in his community. Who was this man? Thomas Day.

Thomas Day was born in 1801 in Halifax County, Virginia. Record-keeping was not very accurate at that time, but it is believed that his mother was a Native American. Tom was born free because his mother was free. He was educated, could read and write, and at an early age began learning the woodworking trade, probably as an indentured servant. According to Virginia law, his indenture had to end when he reached the age of 21.

In 1823, Tom moved to Milton, North Carolina, intending to stay for four years to learn the furniture trade from local craftsmen, after which he would return to Virginia to marry his sweetheart, Acquilla, another free black who lived in Halifax County. Almost 30 years later, Tom wrote this to his daughter, "I came here to stay four years, and am here 7 times 4." He lived in Milton for the rest of his life.

But how did he become so influential that he could persuade the General Assembly to change a law in his favor? That is the fascinating part of his story.

As Tom's reputation for quality furniture grew, so did his reputation as a good man. He was described as "a first-rate workman, steady and industrious." Tom was also a devout Christian and during that time, traveling preachers held camp meetings throughout the South. These were open to all – black and white, enslaved and free – and Tom attended these revivals. This gave Tom the opportunity to get to know and become friends with many of the town's white people.

In 1827, Tom spent \$550 and purchased his first workshop. He advertised in the Milton Gazette, thanking his patrons for their business and advertising that he carried mahogany, walnut and stained furniture, including bedsteads. Soon planters were asking him to complete whole rooms of furniture. His business was booming, but he couldn't forget his true love, Acquilla.

Tom continued to work toward his goal of marrying Acquilla and bringing



Photo by Eric Blevins

Pieces from the Thomas Day Collection in the N.C. Museum of History, Raleigh, are shown.

'Thomas Day, Cabinet Maker'

The Clemmons Branch Library, 3554 Clemmons Road, will present "Thomas Day, Cabinet Maker: Man in the Middle" on Monday, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m. Filmmaker and educator Laurel C. Sneed will present a lecture on Thomas Day, remembered as the black craftsman who ran the largest furniture business in the state during the time of slavery. A skilled artisan and savvy businessman, Day's shop turned out striking beds, bureaus, tables, sofas, and chairs that are just as highly coveted today as they were over 150 years ago. This dynamic, mediated presentation encourages audience participation as they analyze historical evidence and explore the mystery of one of our state's most extraordinary and fascinating historical figures. Call 336-703-2920 for information and to sign up for the program, which is a North Carolina Humanities Council Road Scholars presentation.

her to live with him in Milton. However, a law passed in 1826 almost brought an end to his dream. The law stated that no free blacks could enter the state. Those who crossed the state line and stayed for more than 20 days paid a fine of \$500, an exorbitant fee in those days. Ignoring the law meant arrest and enslavement for 10 years.

Tom decided to move his business to Halifax County and marry Acquilla. When the residents of Milton heard this, they sent a petition to the General Assembly in Raleigh requesting that a bill be passed allowing Acquilla the privilege of migrating to the state, free from fines and penalties. The law passed and in 1830 Tom married Acquilla. She moved to Milton and shortly after they began to start their family.

The 1830 census shows that Thomas Day was truly an unusual man. Not only was he a free black person living in a slave state, he was also wealthy. He was an artisan who trained white apprentices. He owned two slaves, which allowed him to teach them a trade as well as to protect them.

Tom's marvelous furni-

ture was sold throughout North Carolina. He made

King for City Council Northeast Ward

Keith King

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"Dedicated To Providing You The Best Service."

UNC-TV airs talk with Harvey Gantt today

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

In this installment of Biographical Conversations, UNC-TV's first person documentary series, Shannon Vickery interviews Harvey Gantt. It airs at 10 p.m. today, Thursday, Feb. 18.

Gantt's journey began in the segregated neighborhoods of Jim Crow Charleston, eventually leading to the mayor's office in Charlotte, through two high-profile Senatorial campaigns against one of the nation's most powerful incumbents, to an enduring legacy as a founding partner of one of America's most prestigious architectural firms.

Along the way, he led a lunch counter protest in Charleston while still in high school, and then, at

the age of 20, singlehandedly integrated Clemson University, becoming the first African-American to attend a public college in South Carolina.

After college graduation, marriage, and a move to Charlotte, he began his climb up both the professional and political ladder. With partner Jeff Huberman, he began his own architecture firm.

And on the political front, he joined the Charlotte City Council, and ultimately served as mayor.

A few years later, his campaign to defeat Republican Senator Jesse Helms became an international news story.

But Harvey Gantt went on to design some of Charlotte's most striking buildings, sealing his enduring legacy.

FEB 21 WED SUNDAY

Winter Wonderland AT THE BALLPARK 2016

JOIN ESR IN HONORING LATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LOUISE G. WILSON DINNER SILENT AUCTION ENTERTAINMENT

GENERAL ADMISSION \$65/
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