

# 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. 25 – Crafternoon for all ages

Carver School Road Library will hold "crafternoon" for all ages today, Thursday, 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. 26 – Black History Month Finale Show

The Black History Month Finale Show will be held on Friday, Feb. 26, at 7 p.m. at the Hanes Auditorium of Salem College Fine Arts Center and is the culmination of several programs held throughout the year. Students work diligently to organize a first-class show that you are sure to enjoy. Families and the community are invited to celebrate black history through historical presentations, dance, song, skits, spoken word and much more. Refreshments immediately follow. A percentage of the proceeds will benefit a charitable organization. Tickets are \$5 in advance (adults), \$7 at the door (adults), \$3 for children ages 4 to 10, and children 3 and under are free. Sponsored by BADU (Black Americans Demonstrating Unity). For more information please contact the BADU President, Kenysha Clear: at [kenysha.clear@salem.edu](mailto:kenysha.clear@salem.edu) or the BADU Advisor, Dr. Krishauna Hines-Gaither, at [k.hines-gaither@salem.edu](mailto:k.hines-gaither@salem.edu).

### Feb. 27 - Black History Celebration

St. James Missionary Baptist Church, 3606 Ogburn Ave., will hold a black history celebration on Saturday, Feb. 27 at 1:00 p.m. The celebration will include soul food cuisine. Members of the congregation will recount the highlights of black history events over the decades and their experiences with these events. We invite the community to join us in celebrating Black History Month. This is a casual-dress event.

### Feb. 27 – Human Relations Department to hold Showcase of Song

On Saturday, Feb. 27, the Human Relations Department will hold its fourth annual Black History Month Showcase of Song at noon in the James A. Gray Auditorium of the Old Salem Visitor's Center, 900 Old Salem Road. The event will include secular and non-secular musical performances (vocal and instrumental) that illustrate the link between the African culture and modern-day African-American culture. The program will include drumming, choirs, poetry, dance and more. For more information call CityLink 311.

### Taylor-Jones makes black history as senior speaker

After serving for nine years as both an alternate and delegate for Forsyth County, on Friday, Oct. 9, 2015, Dr. Althea Taylor-Jones of Kernersville was elected as speaker – the principal officer and official spokesperson for the North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Legislature – for the two-year term 2016-2017. She is the first African-American to be elected to that office in the 22-year history of the organization.



Dr. Jones

The North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Legislature (NCSTHL) has served as the voice of the state's older adult population, bringing legislative attention to matters that impact the well-being of seniors, persons with disabilities, and their caregivers. It was created by the North Carolina General Assembly with the passage of Senate Bill 479 in July 1993.

For additional information regarding the NCSTHL, visit the website at [www.ncsthl.org](http://www.ncsthl.org)

### Did you know ...

that George Clinton, the founder of the funk group Parliament, was born in Kannapolis, North Carolina in 1941, and he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1997, along with 15 other members of Parliament-Funkadelic?



Photos by Todd Luck

Mandela Society President Nonnie Egbuna, Advicor Tripp Jeffers with members Shawn Brim, Alexis Douglas, Phyllis Elliott and Ashley Douglas, were among those involved with SciWork's African-American Scientists & Inventors exhibit.



A Super Soaker that hangs above the exhibit for its inventor, Lonnie Johnson.

Phyllis Elliott is shown with an exhibit on her cousin Dr. Jabari Elliott, a researcher and a Ph.D-MD student at Washington University.

## Exhibit shows contributions of Parkland's Mandela Society

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

The Super Soaker was invented by African-American engineer Lonnie Johnson.

This is just one of the facts on display this month in SciWorks' African-American Scientists & Inventors exhibit, which features five scientists that were researched by students in the Mandela Society, a Parkland High School club that focuses on race and social issues. Research on ten other scientists in the exhibit was done two years ago by students at North Forsyth High School. The display features information provided by the students, along with visuals added by the museum. Some displays even have QR codes to access more information about the scientists' fields of study online.

"We researched five black scientists, their inventions and their contributions to modern society," said Mandela Society President Nonnie Egbuna.

She said that the club divided into groups to research each scientist, focusing on lesser known scientists

who contributed to modern society. Along with Johnson, the scientists they researched include Patricia Bath, who is the first African-American to complete an ophthalmology residency, the first black female doctor to receive medical patents and the inventor of the Laserphaco Probe;

Dr. Herbert Smitherman, a Proctor & Gamble chemist who contributed significantly to products like Crest toothpaste and Crush soda; and Claudia Alexander, a NASA scientist

who was the last project manager of the Galileo mission to explore Jupiter.

"It goes to show that people like us have dreams too and, with the right type of work ethic and dedication, you can create something that people really use on a daily basis," said Shawn Brim, a Mandela Society member who wants to go into the biomedical field.

Elliott did her exhibit on her cousin Dr. Jabari Elliott, a researcher and Ph.D-MD student at Washington University. She said she thought it would help inspire people like her who want to be scientists, to see the path they can take to achieve their dream.

"I decided to get someone more modern and younger - because he was still in medical school - to be more relatable to us," said Phyllis Elliott.

SciWorks Director Paul Kortenaar said he was so impressed with the student's work that he's considering taking the parts of the exhibit and putting them in related parts of the museum for year-round display.

"African-American scientists shouldn't only be honored in February," he said. "People who come to visit the museum should be aware of the research that goes into these new inventions and new discoveries all the time, not just during February."

SciWorks is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.



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