

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Events

Today, Feb. 23

Forsyth Tech Black History Month Celebration

Forsyth Tech is celebrating Black History Month with a very special event. Guest speaker Rev. Alvin Carlisle, president of the Local Chapter NAACP, will give a motivational speech about bridging the generational gap and encouraging students to get involved in their community. Then, leaders with the Mazie Woodruff Center, in conjunction the Forsyth Tech Foundation, will launch the Mazie Woodruff Scholarship Fund being created to help eliminate barriers and increase literacy for students. The event will be held on Feb. 23 at 10 a.m. at Forsyth Tech, Mazie Woodruff Center, 4905 Lansing Drive, Winston-Salem.

Feb. 25

2017 Anna Julia Copper Center

Black History Month Showcase of Song will be held on Feb. 25, from noon to 1:30 p.m., James A. Gray Jr. Auditorium, 900 Old Salem Road. It will feature African-American music from various genres. Choirs and dance teams from area high schools, churches, universities and the community organizations will sing and dance. Other genres of music that reveal the struggle and triumph of African-Americans such as gospel and jazz will be performed by musical ensembles, and spoken word. The program is sponsored by the City of Winston-Salem's Human Relations Department and co-sponsored by the St. Philips Heritage Center. It is free and open to the public. No reservations required. Part of Old Salem Museums & Garden's Black History Month event series.

Feb. 25

WFU Black History Month Program

The Wake Forest University Gospel Choir along with the Black Student Alliance of Wake Forest will be hosting a Black History Month event titled "The Celebration of Black Arts" on Feb. 25 at 5 p.m. in the Scales Fine Arts Center, Brendle Auditorium on the Wake Forest campus. The program is free and open to the public.

Feb. 26

Forsyth County Public Library

The Forsyth County Public Library will have Hazel Mack, attorney and former member of the Black Panther Party, as a special guest on Sunday, Feb. 26 at 3 p.m. Mack will speak at the Malloy Jordan East Winston Heritage Center, 1110 E Seventh St, sharing her story in celebration of Black History Month. She will share her experiences as a member of the Black Panther Party and the role it played in the Civil Rights Movement, and the impact it had on the local and national communities. For more information, call 336-703-2950.

Feb. 27

Carl H. Russel Sr. Community Center

The Carl Russell Sr. Community Center, 3521 Carver School Road, presents Brother Imhotep's Black History Video Lecture Series and Discussions 2017 on Feb. 27 from 7 to 9 p.m. This is a very special Black History presentation viewed in the eye of Imhotep, or "Yusef Suggs," a graduate of WSSU. For more information, contact Ben Piggott at 336-727-2580 or Brother Imhotep at 336-671-2268.

February, Tuesdays through Saturdays African American Heritage Tour

On this tour you will learn the stories of many of the enslaved African Americans who lived in Salem from the early years of its founding in 1766 and of the African Moravian congregation that was organized in Salem in 1822. You'll also learn the hidden legacy of African American influence in Southern Decorative Arts. Offered Tuesdays through-Saturdays between 9:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. Tours are typically one hour. Recommended for adults, minimum age: middle school students. Group size: 10 minimum; 25 maximum. Price per person \$17 per person (plus applicable NC sales tax). Reservations and payment are due at least 30 days in advance and is non-refundable. Call 1-800-441-5305 to schedule an African American Heritage Tour.

Now

High Point Museum

The High Point Museum in partnership with the International Civil Rights Center and Museum and the Guilford County Register of Deeds recently opened a new exhibit. "Bills of Sale: Slave Deeds of Guilford County," will be open until April 15. In 2015, the Register of Deeds made these slave deeds, dating from 1774 to 1826, available online. These deeds show transactions concerning men, women, and children of color. The records provide opportunities to reflect on the inhumanity of the trade in people, but they also open research avenues for those looking for family connections. The museum is located at 1859 E. Lexington Ave., High Point. Free admission. For more details, contact 336-885-1859

Have a Story Idea?

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Photos by Timothy Ramsey
Retired Firemen Robert L. Grier, left, and Willie J. Carter pose with a current fireman after the celebration.

W-S departments honor retirees

BY TIMOTHY RAMSEY
THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem Police and Fire departments in conjunction with the Recreation and Parks Department held their fourth annual Black History Month Celebration on Sunday, Feb. 19 at Galilee Missionary Baptist Church.

The celebration honored African-Americans who made an impact in the Fire and Police departments before and soon after those departments were integrated. The winners of the coloring and essay contests were also recognized for their achievements.

From the Winston-Salem Fire Department, retired Fire Captain Willie J. Carter and Retired Fire Engineer Robert L. Grier were honored for their years of service. Both were even given the rank of honorary Fire Chief.

"When I first heard about it I didn't think it was going to be anything like this," Carter said. "It makes me feel good because when I was working I had no idea of the impact it would have. Now it's just a feeling I can't describe."

Grier added, "I'd just like to praise God that it happened and I feel good

about it. To see the young black guys coming along and becoming chiefs makes me feel great. To see how blacks have come along in the department, all I can say is praise the Lord."

Retired Evidence Specialist Rose Jones was honored from the Winston-Salem Police Department. She said she really enjoyed her work and loved many of the individuals she worked with. She was known for her bluntness and always spoke her mind.

The young contest winners were acknowledged after the Police and Fire departments. The coloring contest winners were: London Toney (K-1st grade), Eliana Brown (2nd-3rd grade), Tia Cunningham (4th-5th grade) Aniyah Akers (6th-8th grade). The essay winners were: Zayah Kyle and Athaliah Arnolda (Elementary), Antwon Rucker and Jasmyn Pitt (Middle school), Zion Jones and Ariyana March (High School).

Yolanda Martin, Jasmyn Pitt's mother, said she was very proud that her daughter won especially with the number of participants that entered. There were over 200 total entries for the coloring and essay



Rose Jones of the Winston-Salem police department accepts her award during the celebration.

contests.

"I felt happy and surprised because I really didn't think that I was going to win," Pitt said. "I just wrote down what I felt so it was just a surprise that I won."

Gary Lash, district recreation supervisor, said it was great for the young people in attendance to see the living history of those honored from the Police and Fire Departments.

"It's a wonderful thing to have those children see a piece of history live and in person," Lash said. "They write about history and they color the pictures but when they get to hear history about the great things people have done for the city it really enlightens them and brings them up."

Pastor Nathan Scovens

sent a warm video welcome for those in attendance. The Rev. Chad Armstrong gave the closing remarks and thought the program went very well.

"Mr. Grier, Mr. Carter and Ms. Jones represent the foundation of Winston-Salem and they represent the foundation of this community," Armstrong said. "The young people who were honored today represent the future so it's an incredible day when you can meld and mix together not only the foundation but also the future and honor them in a way that pushes the entire community forward."

"At Galilee that's what we are honored to do and that's what today was about for us."

What's wrong with the education system?

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

More than 60 years after the landmark decision in Brown v. Education, which argued that segregated schools violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, blacks are still fighting for equality when it comes to the American education system. How do we change that narrative?

That was the question raised during a panel discussion hosted by the Carver School Road Branch Library last week.

The program, "Education Then and Now: Crisis in Black Education" brought together a diverse group of community members to openly discuss the issues that directly impact the schools that serve our communities. Retired librarian and graduate of Winston-Salem Teachers College (now Winston-Salem State) James Jerrell said one way we can break the curse is by getting more involved in our children's education. Jerrell mentioned when he was growing up it was required that teachers visit their students' home at least once a school year.

"I know things have changed since I was in school but I think somehow we have to improve the communication between teachers and parents," said Jerrell. "We have to go back to the old way of doing things by building relationships."

When asked if she thought student motivation should come from home or from teachers, rising junior at Paisley Magnet School, Kennedy Goode, said

although she believes having a parent who isn't interested in their children's education makes it harder on the teacher, schools should also have more motivational programs for students as well.

"If students have more motivational programs in school they will know teachers are there to help them succeed and they will know who to go to when they need help," continued Goode. "I think having teachers who show they care will motivate students to try harder."

The next big question was presented to Diamond Cotton, who serves as the principal at Rural Hall

Elementary School. Panel moderator, Dr. Antwain Tate Goode asked Cotton how she gets parents to participate.

"I try to make sure in our building that if we don't see a parent at school we go to the parent. I know it can be difficult for a teacher to do it alone so that is really not an option," she continued. "We really try to work together. It is important that the parent and the students understand that we are there to support them."

Others who participated in the panel discussion were Emma Allen, Annie Brown, Cayen Yong, Sallie Ledbetter, Dwayne Ijames

and Rev. Jasmyn Graham.

Following short a Q&A session, where students from Carver High School and Carter G. Woodson asked the panelist their own personal question on how to navigate the educational system, event coordinator Melanie Watkins said while public schools still lack resources, endure overcrowding, and policies that don't work, it is important that we continue to have these conversations.

"When I was putting this event together, I did not expect all of this, but this is exactly what we need if we want to push our community forward," Watkins said.

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