

1st Annual **Black History** Program

Presented by the C.A.R.E (Cultural Awareness Recognition Education) Committee

Agenda

Welcome

Stephanie Weston

Black National Anthem

Performed by Committed (Via YouTube)

Keynote Speaker: Priscilla Ndiaye Robinson

Priscilla gives God the glory for her life's journey.



Priscilla, a native of Asheville, is a mother of two sons (Alonzo and Clarence “Cooking With Comedy,” 9 grandchildren, and 3 great-grands. She has also lived in Hawaii, California, Washington State, and traveled to Senegal, West Africa. A Federal Government retiree, she also worked for the Buncombe County Sheriff’s office. **Priscilla’s heart for people, dedication to social responsibility, and interest in helping, empowering, educating, and advocating granted her diverse opportunities to serve as a:**

- Licensed Therapeutic Foster Parent
- North Carolina Guardian ad Litem
- Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Representative,
- Federal Women Program Manager
- Lead Union Steward for Local 446 Union Steward
- Military Family Support Group Leader
- Graduated Shaw University with a Bachelor in Business Administration /Management
- Montreat College with a Master of Science in Management and Leadership

While attending Montreat, Priscilla completed a research paper titled, *The Impact of Urban Renewal* after being asked “What is the pulse of your city? Why are the Blacks so angry?”

- Twelve years ago, she started researching the UNCA Special Collection Acquisition files
- She worked with Professors from UNC– Chapel Hill, Duke University, and University of Maryland Information Studies in case studies referencing Asheville (Southside).
- Priscilla also collaborated with the UNC-A Diversity Center, Buncombe County Library, and North Carolina Humanities Council in publishing *Twilight of a Neighborhood*– which received the Harlan Joel Gradin Award for Excellence. More specific information may be found at www.urbanrenewalimpact.org
- “Saving Walton Street Pool/Park - one of the few remaining historical sites for Asheville’s Black community. It was recently designated as a local historical site through a collaborative effort with the Preservation Society and community members.

(Turn Over)

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- “Saving Livingston Street Elementary School a.k.a W.C. Reid Center. As chair of the Southside Community Advisory Board – in collaboration with Housing Authority and community members - the school was saved from being demolished and renamed after the last Principal of the school - Arthur Edington Training and Development Center.
- Saving her son from the wilds of the streets. She is a published author of *A Mother’s Cry; He’s Still My Child*
- Recipient of an Unsung Hero Award sponsored by Buncombe County Department of Health and Human Services, UNC-Asheville, and Date My City.
- Nomination for the Excellence in Public Service Award through the Greater Asheville Public Service Awards Program.
- Inclusion in documentary - *Living While Black in Asheville*
- Interviews by WLOS TV, Asheville Citizen-Times, CNN, and ABC News Nightline.

Fellowship

Interpretive Dance Performance Performed by Denise Carter



Native of Asheville, North Carolina Denise Carter has been teaching dance for over 20 years. This is a God-given gift that she has shared with the community of Asheville and the Charlotte community. She teaches small groups, large groups, and individuals. Denise has also done a lot of cheerleading coaching for several Little League and high school teams and that’s where her dancing started from cheerleading to dancing something that has always made her the happiest.

Speaker: Phyllis Utley



Phyllis Utley is an Indigneous Literary Word Artist since childhood in school, community, tribal and faith based venues. She follows the traditions of her Ancestors and embraces all aspects of her ancestry in North, South and Central America. She has also spoken at her Alma Mater Dartmouth College and at the Government Alliance on Race and Equity’s Annual Convening in New Mexico in 2019. She was selected as one of Asheville’s Hidden Influencer’s in the Mountain Xpress in 2017 and delighted to work with her Mentor, Nobel Peace Prize Women winner Leymah Gwobee at Columbia University’s Women, Peace and Security Program in 2018. She has presented at WordFest in Asheville is a member of Alternate Roots a group of artists and cultural organizers based in the South creating a better world together.

Closing Remarks and Dismissal