

THE HEART & SOUL
OF CHICAGO

MARCH 2023
FREE



CHICAGO PEOPLES VOICE

College Of Lake County names

Eleanor Murkey Community Center

*See Story
Beginning Page 8*





The E.Reed Report: March 2023

I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings

E d i t o r ' s

Note: I wrote this essay over 2 years ago in the midst of the pandemic. When I thought about the Memphis incident, it made me think about these words and though dated, they echo a much needed say about the

conditions of African Americans in America. And even though it appears the Memphis 5 especially with their not guilty plea added a new twist, it's the same ole game perpetrated against our people, and it is not uncommon. It is often us, that hurts each other. I am printing excerpts from the article. Please enjoy.

..... When we look at well-being indicators such as health factors, economic factors, and social factors, Blacks seem to be suffering over and above all others and we ask the question, Why?

Maya Angelou wrote a book entitled, "I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings". Some say that Angelou's metaphorical title begs for an explanation, while Angelou never gave one, philosophers say that the bird sings for it longs to be free.

Another explanation, is that, this is all that the bird can do.

In America racism is so dominate and ever present that it has killed and continued to kill the black spirit. Racism is epitomized in the George Floyd incident. Black men have been targeted and negatively impacted by police brutality, economic deprivation and inequities, social and civic discrimination, and drug victimization for 200 years and it has not stopped.

The invention of cell phones with high resolution cameras are allowing people to prove it and bring things to light, but these things have been happening all along. Many incidents have been as brazen as the white officer putting his full weight on a handcuffed black man as he lay on the ground dying, as in the George Floyd case. African Americans and others who see and witness this kind of travesty are singing, rioting, protesting, because their voices are not and have not been heard. The Johnson era civil rights laws, and equal opportunity legislation that helped to create a black middle class with certain protections were dumbed down and made null and void by more systemic racism and racist policy leaders like what we have in the White

House. The Bush and Reagan Administrations stripped the EEOC of its power and effectiveness.

Whites suffer no or very little repercussions for discriminating against Blacks. They do it in employment practices, economic deprivations and other ways that adversely impact the community. When I say economic deprivations, I mean that they do not participate equitably with non-white vendors for key business opportunities, and deprive black businesses of business. White led organizations will not re-invest into the community that they are in by patronizing Black businesses, even when doing so is in their best interest. Thus widening the disparity gaps.

Many organizations take money from the poorer community, that is supposed to be directed for the poverty-stricken communities, and find a way to re-direct it to White consumption and use. And they get away with it because the cameras are not on them, and the burden and logistics of proof are beyond the victims. Yet, these communities, and these people are dying with the knee and full weight of these organizations on their necks. And you had better not say anything about it, the white knee will press even harder.

As in the George Floyd story, people are saying, enough is enough. We have had all that we can or are willing to take. You don't want to listen to our calm, logical pleas then listen to our protests, riots and "by any means necessary rhetoric".

I was recently told by a well-heeled White male and I quote him, "Your voice is no more important than anyone else's" as he worked to discriminate against me and practice his White privilege routine, with his knee on my neck.

Well, my Voice IS as important as anyone else. So was George Floyd's voice as he lay on the ground with a White knee on his neck being suffocated to death. "Please. I can't breathe." His voice went unheard, and, I guess his voice was no more important than anyone else's either. But that voice, in pain, may just be the single catalyst that will help to turn this world around and open-up a new dialogue of many voices who will sing, sing for justice, sing for peace.

We can't fix the racial disparities in this country without addressing racism, and racist practices.

Yes, I do know why the caged bird sings. It longs to be free. It sings for me.

The Chicago Peoples Voice is a publication of the Soaring Eagle Community Development Corporation, the Soaring Eagle Publishing Division. The Chicago Peoples Voice, now in it's 28th year of publication is a community newspaper dedicated to providing positive news and information to the communities of Lake County. Letters to the editor and other correspondence may be sent to The Chicago Peoples Voice, PO Box 1038, Waukegan, IL 60079. Email correspondence may be sent to info@chicagopeoplesvoice.com. Our telephone number is 847-473-5501.

CLC recognized by Achieving the Dream as a 2023 Leader College

College of Lake County (CLC) today announced that it has been designated a Leader College by Achieving the Dream (ATD), a national nonprofit dedicated to advancing community colleges as hubs of equity and mobility in their communities.

“I am honored that College of Lake County has achieved Leader College designation,” said CLC President Dr. Lori Suddick. “This designation recognizes the improved outcomes for students that are being achieved as a result of the transformative change efforts implemented over the past several years by dedicated faculty and staff throughout the college. CLC is committed to building an equity-minded and student-focused culture.”

Leader Colleges play an important role in accelerating the adoption of effective practices within the ATD Network and across higher

education. Leader Colleges are recognized for the quality of their work in whole-college reform, resulting in increased completion rates for all students. Leader Colleges develop innovative ways to work with other colleges to share knowledge and facilitate an exchange of ideas about evidence-based reform strategies.

CLC is part of the ATD Network, made up of 300+ colleges committed to advancing equity and supporting student success at their institutions and throughout their communities. CLC has been a member of the ATD Network since 2019.

CLC is recognized as a Leader College in the ATD network because of its good work over the last few years to improve the student experience. CLC will continue improving outcomes for students through two selective experiences.

CLC was one of nine schools selected for the second cohort for the Racial Equity Leadership Academy (RELA). RELA is a one-year engagement that began Feb. 13. It is an intensive institute designed to support teams of leaders as they develop bold, strategic ra-

cial equity plans and implement actionable change efforts at their institutions.

Additionally, CLC was one of four schools selected for Building Capacity for Change: Strengthening Professional Learning on Your Campus (BCC), a program designed to help colleges engage educators and build student success. Working with campus-based teaching and learning teams, BCC empowers colleges to apply a comprehensive framework for high-impact professional learning to campus needs and goals.

About Achieving the Dream

Achieving the Dream (ATD) is a partner and champion of more than 300 community colleges across the country. We know that with the right partner and the right approach, colleges can drive access, completion rates, and employment outcomes — so that all students can access life-changing learning that propels them into community-changing careers.

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Full scholarships in short-term programs available to students in the communities of North Chicago, Waukegan, Round Lake and Zion in the fields of:

- Automotive collision repair (Grayslake Campus)
- Automotive technology (Grayslake Campus)
- Healthcare office assistant (HOA) certificate (Lakeshore Campus in Waukegan)
- Heating and air conditioning (HVAC) engineering technology (Lakeshore Campus in Waukegan)
- Phlebotomy (Lakeshore Campus)

Funded by the Workforce Equity Initiative (WEI) Grant from the Illinois Community College Board

** Limited number available. Visit website for eligibility and grant terms.*

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Starting Thursday, Feb. 23rd, Marvin C. will be going door-to-door to help residents complete the survey.



www.waukegansurvey.com



Black Chamber and Lake County Chamber Joins Forces Hosts Black Expo During Black History Month



The Black Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with the Lake County Chamber of Commerce held a Black expo in honor of Black History Month. The event was held Friday and Saturday, February 24 and 25th. on the 2nd Floor of the Associated Bank Building in Gurnee.

There were 30 vendors who participated with about 150 people who attended the events.

“I wanted to highlight our

small businesses that the community is not aware of. So that Lake County what our small businesses exist,” says Lydia Lewis, Executive Director, Black Chamber of Commerce of Lake County. “I want make this an annual event.”



Vendors share a moment with the Chair of the Lake County Chamber of Commerce, Michael Darling, and Lydia Lewis Eecuiis, Eecutive Director of the Black Chamber of Commerce of Lake County share a moment with vendors at the event.



Seniors May Now Use Ride Lake County

Lake County, Pace Suburban Bus, and the Lake County Coordinated Transportation Services Committee (LCCTSC) came together with members of the community to launch Ride Lake County, a borderless, countywide paratransit service that provides transportation to anywhere in Lake County for seniors ages 60+ and people with disabilities.

Before scheduling their first ride, residents must register through Pace by calling their call center at 1-800-201-6446. Residents can register as either a senior (60+) or as an individual with a disability:

The Pace Call Center will ask for an *RTA Reduced Fare Permit number for residents registering as an individual with a disability

Registering as an individual with a disability

For riders registering as an individual with a disability, Ride Lake County is using the Reduced Fare Permit to verify the status of an individual's disability to determine eligibility. Riders registering as an individual with a disability can either provide proof of disability benefits or have their doctor fill out a proof of disability form to obtain the Reduced Fare Permit.

Riders can apply for the Reduced Fare Permit in the following ways:

Online at fares.rtachicago.org

- 1) In-person at one of the RTA's local offices.
- 2) Please call 312-913-3110 to find the RTA office located nearest to you to fill out an application.
- 3) By mail or downloading application. application from the RTA website and mailing to the address listed on the application

Residents can call the Pace Call Center at 1-800-201-6446 daily between 5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. to book a trip.



Riders can schedule a trip any day of the week from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. with the exception of certain holidays. Riders can reserve a trip as far as seven days in advance or as little as two hours in advance.

Ride Lake County is sponsored by Lake County and Pace Suburban Bus. The service is funded in part by grants from the Regional Transportation Authority. Local matching funds for these federal grants are provided by Lake County.

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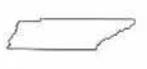


Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Quotes

-"Let us realize the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice."

-"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

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CLC Ribbon Cuts For Eleanor Murkey Community Center



CLC President Dr. Lori Suddick along with CLC Board Trustees and community leaders join Eleanor Murkey as she cuts the ribbon.

The College of Lake County held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Eleanor Murkey, retired Dean of the Lakeshore Campus on Sunday, February 5, 2023. Hundreds gathered in standing-room-only fashion both in the main reception area and in the overflow room where well-wishers could observe via a live video feed. The honor bestowed was the naming of the Eleanor Murkey Community Center.

The program was divided into three segments, the beginning, the middle, and continuous beginnings with speakers appropriate to each season of Eleanor Murkey's tenure at the College. Charles Murkey, Eleanor's older brother, gave a humorous insight into Eleanor's early life, giving an example of her jumping off the back of a moving truck just to see how it felt. Kate Harris, the wife

of former Alderman Frank Harris, spoke about Eleanor's first assignment at the college as an outreach worker and the poor conditions of the facilities wherein Eleanor had to work. One by one, individuals like Dennis Moisio, the first Lakeshore Advisory Council member, Ray Edwards, Brandon Ewing, Carolyn Purdue, Anita Hanna, and others spoke about Eleanor's leadership, her tenacity, and how she mentored and influenced their lives and the lives of others in the community.

Former long-term director of the CLC Gospel Choir, Mark Cosey, lead an ensemble of talented singers who gave renditions of popular songs bringing back memories of cherished performances down through the years.

Continued on next page...



Eleanor Murkey (center) with brothers and sisters sitting with extended family standing.

Mayor Ann Taylor and Mayor Leon Rockingham, Jr. were on hand to thank Eleanor for her many contributions. Mayor Ann Taylor appointed Eleanor to the Waukegan Housing Authority where she serves as Chairman. Eleanor is also the Chairman of the Vista Health System Board of Trustees. Sharon Epps dedicated a poem and Dr. David Weatherspoon provided an instrumental solo.

In reflection, Eleanor said that the whole program was overwhelming.

“I am just as proud of that program as I am the naming of the community center,” says Eleanor Murkey. “I was quite emotional when I was told by Dr. Rich Hainey that this was going to happen, I was very emotional and delighted because I’m still alive and my family is here to witness it. And when I saw the people there, I am still overcome by it. You do what you do, but you somehow don’t realize people’s reaction or the impact that you have upon them.”

Eleanor said that she wanted to extend specific thanks to the committee including Dr. Lori Suddick, CLC – President, Dean Jesus Ruiz, JoHaan Cotton Wilson, Patricia Jones, Nydia Ortiz-Cahue, Rose Sajuan, and Dean Ruiz’s administrative assistant.

“I would like to include Anna M. Robinson my oldest sister. The love and pride that she pushed and how she reminded me of the strength of family.

Eleanor explained how she appreciated Dr. M. Jeanne Cotton who told her to be bold and occupy her space. “Go forward, keep running until someone tells you to stop. Don’t doubt yourself. Just do it”

Eleanor included Kate Harris and her late husband Alderman Frank Harris.

“These were the people that I could lay my head on the chopping block for. They would tell you the truth and hold you accountable in terms of what you were doing. They did not believe in shortcuts.”

More next page...



Eleanor with long-term secretary, Nydia Ortiz-Cahue and Husband.



Eleanor with CEO of Vista Health System, Jon Rozenfeld.



Community leaders gathered to celebrate the occasion including State Senator Adrienne Johnson, State Representative Rita Mayfield, Judge John Joanem, School Board President Brandon Ewing, Waukegan Township Supervisor Marc Jones, Mayor Leon Rockingham, Marilyn and Dennis Mosio, Sharon Epps and many more.

When asked what her most significant accomplishment was, Murkey says that she just started out trying to get the college and the community connected with services.

She explained that she was able to do what came to mind. One of those ideas that came to mind was to start a community choir that was first directed by Dr. Sandra LeConte. Later Mark Cosey, a young up-and-coming choir director entered. The CLC Choir went from a few singers to attaining national recognition.

Eleanor explains that one way to get the attention and engagement of the community was to bring in headliners in a new program that she conceived called the Salute to Gospel Music and the Harambee Award to honor the support of the ministers. The first year, they brought The Winans to a standing-room-only house.

The strategy was to get the attention of the community, then share with them what the College of Lake County had to offer. It worked. The small outreach center grew from a very humble beginning to a full-fledged degree-granting campus. Eleanor, using this strategy, brought to the community great personalities such as Maya Angelou, Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis, Nikki Giovanni, James Cleveland, Shirley Caesar, Rance Allen, The Barrett Sisters, and Hezekiah Walker, just to name a few.

At the end of the celebration, Eleanor Murkey spoke. She began with a moment of silence in memory JoHaan Cotton Wilson. JoHaan was a member of the ribbon-cutting committee.

She invited Adena Staben to the podium, sharing that in the early years, there were three of them working to bring the CLC Outreach Center to fruition. Those individuals were Adena Staben, Charley Nistrom, and Elma Tillman.

“It was our conversations that led to this building,” Murkey said with Adena Staben at her side. We just started talking about what we needed and started putting it on paper and look how far we have come.”

“This is an honor, that will stand for centuries,” Eleanor stated.



Anna Mae Robinson, Eleanor's Oldest Sister

More...



Eleanor Murkey with Dr. Jeanne M. Dolphus Cotton and the Cotton Family.

The Salute to Gospel continues to be an annual treat for the community. But Eleanor's contributions to humanity go far beyond the boundaries of the college campus. During her 33 years in higher education at CLC and afterward, Eleanor emerged as a dynamic teacher and life coach. She uses her personal story of a young girl whose mother died when she was 12 years of age and grew up separated from her siblings.

She shares how she was classified as Educable and Mentally Handicapped during her elementary and secondary education and yet rose to be dean of an \$80 million campus with an annual enrollment of 4,000 students. She is a mentor indirectly and directly to thousands more. She is a champion of the potential

of the human spirit.

The College of Lake County memorialized these attributes by naming the Eleanor Murkey Community Center in her honor.

Eleanor has received many honors including being named the Most Influential African American of Lake County. She has served on many boards, most recently, she is the Chairman of the Board of the Vista Health System of Waukegan and the Chairman of the Board of the Waukegan Housing Authority. She is also a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

-by Elroy Reed, Publisher, The Chicago Peoples Voice

NAUW Hosts Annual Luncheon, Rosewood Survivor Keynotes



Lizzie Robinson Jenkins, President, Founder and CEO of the Real Rosewood Foundation, Inc., with Virginia Tate, Mistress of Ceremonies, and Jeanette Keyes, NAUW Chapter President during the Annual Luncheon.

The National Association of University Women, North Shore Branch, held their annual African American Educators Luncheon on Saturday, February 18, 2023 at the Double Tree Inn in Mundelein. The event featured Afrocentric Vendors, a supple luncheon, presentation of scholarships, recognition of the Educators of the Year Awards and a Keynote address by Lizzie Robinson Jenkins.

Lizzie Robinson Jenkins, President, Founder and CEO of the Real Rosewood Foundation, Inc. highlighted the event with the heart-felt story of Rosewood, a bane in American History.

In 1923, the all-black town, Rosewood, Florida, consisting of about 200 families, was burned to the ground after a 22-year old White Woman claimed (falsely) that a Black man had raped her. Director John Singleton produced a movie, Rosewood, where he depicted and dramatized the story.

Lizzie Robinson, a descendant of one of the family members

told first handed, the heart wrenching story that led to the killing, dragging, and hanging of at least 3 Black men and the scattering of the families who lived in the all-Black town, Rosewood.

“The White lady lied,” Lizzie Robinson said. “And they still lying on our Black men today.”

In the movie, Rosewood, Ester Rolle played the sheltering mother who faced off the angry mob of Ku Klux Klansmen, and said, “Now y’all all know that the man who rapped that girl was White.”

She was shot dead in the head as soon as the words left her mouth.

During the luncheon, five students were presented with scholarships and four individuals engaged in the educational system were were presented with the NAUW Educator of Year Award. Students presented with scholarships were Zornelle Duffie, Kameron Luster, Jaslyn L. Hurt, and Lauren M. Walker

Continued next page...



Lanelle Collins, Tiffany D. Taylor-Pipes, Andrea Bodden named NAUW 2023 Educators of the Year

NAUW Educators of the Year Awards

Andrea Bodden is a 35-year veteran of the North Chicago School District. She was named teacher of the year by her principal and subsequently named teacher of the year in Lake County by Sam's Club. She has also been featured in the Lake County New Sun for adapting a play, and she has been noted for having the highest NWEA MAP Scores in Math for the last fifteen years at the elementary level in District 187.

Romell Drake is a math teacher at the Edith Smith Middle School. He has been an educator for over 25 years. Mr. Drake encourages those around him and is inspired by the quote by Muhammad Ali that reads, "If my mind can conceive it, if my heart can believe it – then I can achieve it."

Tiffany D. Taylor-Pipes is a 7th grade English Language Arts teacher at Zion Central Middle School in Zion District #6. She has been an educator for over 14 years and worked in various capacities to support student development in and out of school.

Lanelle Collins serves as the Principal/Special Education Coordinator for the Round Lake Transition Center where the focus is to facilitate the transition from school to post-school activities for young adults between the ages of 18-22 in the areas of independent living skills, post-secondary education, social and leisure activities, and competitive integrated employment. In addition, she is the Out of District Placement Coordinator for Round Lake District 116.

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Mid-week Bible Study
Wed. 7:00 PM Thurs. 9:30 AM

Thursday

Youth Life & Learning Center—7:00 PM

~ **COMMUNITY SERVICES ~**

Substance Abuse Programs
Sunday; Tuesday; Friday;
Saturday, — 7:00 PM
Saturday

Food For Body & Soul (Soup Kitchen)
11:00 AM—12:45 PM

By Faith

Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made by things that do appear. Abraham, a man of faith, looked for a city which had foundations whose builder and maker was God, hadn't seen the city with his natural eyes, left his homeland and went out in faith searching for that city by the leading of God.

By faith Moses, forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: as seeing him who is invisible, choose to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasure of sin for a season. There were many heroes of faith in the bible, that believed God and followed

his leading, that had not seen the promises but realized that the promises were true, even though it was invisible to the natural eye.

Well, there is a place that is invisible to our naked eye, but as believers, walking in faith, we know that there is an invisible place that is real. This is the place that Jesus talked about as having a city and a temple within a kingdom. This invisible kingdom is actually the heavenly kingdom not on earth but where God dwells, this is also the place that was spoken of by John the Baptist preaching in the wilderness of Judaea saying repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven was at hand.

When Jesus was talking to the Pharisees and Scribes he said, that the kingdom was in the midst of them, as talking about himself as being the kingdom.

We enter inside this kingdom by Jesus Christ when we come to him and give our lives to him.

The scripture states that we are translated out of darkness into the kingdom of his dear Son. This kingdom is where God rules and his people are submitted to Him. Praise God we don't have to wait until we die in the body (a physical) death to enter his kingdom but by a spiritual death and resurrection into the body of Christ, and have come unto Mount Zion, and unto city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of Angels, to the general assembly and of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and where the spirit of just men made perfect.

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