

## Snow Ball



Quinn Langford  
Cedar Ridge H. S.

I go to Cedar Ridge High School in Round Rock, which is a relatively new school that isn't even nine years old yet. Since we are so young, we don't have a lot of traditions that make us unique from other schools in the area. The Junior Class Council, which I am a part of, wanted to create a tradition that would enable our class to leave a lasting legacy on campus years after we graduate, so we planned a winter formal for all grade levels called the Snow Ball. Most freshmen and sophomores don't get to go to prom, so the Snow Ball was an opportunity for them to go to a second dance af-

ter homecoming. At Cedar Ridge, underclassmen don't have many special events throughout the year, so we figured the Snow Ball would make them feel more included. We invited the Sophomore Class Council to plan the dance with us, and the profit we made will be split between the 2020 and 2021 proms.

The Snow Ball was held on Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> in the school cafeteria, which was turned into a winter wonderland complete with giant snowflakes and fairy lights. Light snacks, including endless popcorn, were served, and a decorated backdrop was set up against a wall for students to take pictures. Almost 200 people attended the Snow Ball, which is a pretty high number considering this was the first year this dance has existed. I never realized how many months of preparation go into planning a big event, and I'm proud to belong to a group of such driven and persevering students that were able to accomplish this feat.

## SPECTRUM THEATRE COMPANY TO PRESENT SPECIAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM



2 pm

Saturday, Feb 9th & 16th 2019

Austin, Texas - Spectrum Theatre Company, Austin's only African-American theatre company, will present a special Black History Month program, "Lift Every Voice: A Celebration of African-American Literature." The program will be performed at 2 p.m. at the Vortex Theatre, 2307 Manor Road, on Saturday, February 9 and Saturday, February 16.

Admission is \$15 general admission and \$10 for students and seniors, and no advance reservations are required.

This special performance of "Lift Every Voice" is a benefit for Spectrum Theatre Company and all proceeds will go toward future production costs. Following the performance the audience is invited to join in a short discussion with the actors. Parking is free but limited in the Vortex parking lot.

"Lift Every Voice" demonstrates the tremendous range and depth of significant African-American writers from the Harlem Renaissance to today. The program will include monologues from plays, poems, speeches, memoirs, and essays. Representative writers from the past include Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, Sterling A. Brown, James Baldwin, and Amiri Baraka. Modern and contemporary writers include Maya Angelou, George C. Wolfe, Jacquelyn Woodson, Charles Blow, Dominique Morisseau, Nikki Giovanni, and current U. S. Poet Laureate Tracy K. Smith. Spectrum actors will give voice to the beauty and power of the words of many great African-American authors.

"Lift Every Voice" is funded by the City of Austin's Cultural Arts Division and is presented in coordination with the Vortex Theatre.

## MLK



Zaila Pearl Rowland  
TOPS

Last week I did a project on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr for my writing skills class. I really enjoyed learning about him and all he did. Dr. King was born January 15, 1929 in Atlanta Georgia. His parents were Martin Luther King Sr. and Alberta Williams King. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr is important because he fought for the rights of black people in peace and he fought for equality for all mankind.

Two qualities that I believe Dr. King had were bravery because he wasn't afraid to go to jail for what was right and confidence because

he continued to be a civil rights leader even if people didn't agree with him. The most interesting fact I learned about him was learning how he died. He was assassinated on April 4, 1968 in Minnesota Tennessee by James Earl Ray. He was shot while standing on his hotel room balcony. He died an hour later at St. Joseph's Hospital. A great man lost his life because someone was ignorant, jealous, selfish and hateful. Two quotes that I like from Dr. Martin Luther King are "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter" and "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

I appreciate the day we celebrate MLK day and Black History Month. Our history is encouraging, and I am looking forward to learning about more African American leaders.

## Discovering the Excellence Within: Realizing My Greatness in South Africa



Jorian Reeves

By Jorian Reeves  
Xavier University,  
Louisiana's College of  
Pharmacy

(VILLAGER NEWS) - I had my first taste of global cultural learning in 2015 when I traveled to Qatar at the age of 14 for a week-long Arabic debate competition. Two years earlier, in seventh grade, I had started taking Arabic classes at Lindholm Math and Science Academy, a selective high school serving gifted and marginalized students in Chicago. Until I became a Frederick Douglass Global Fellow and studied in South Africa last summer, the Qatar trip had been my most extensive abroad

experience. But what transpired during the summer of 2018 in South Africa, made me realize that was only the beginning of my personal development.

When I started at Lindholm Academy as a seventh grader, I experienced a challenging environment, something more dynamic than anything I had experienced before. I relished in the opportunity to engage with a new culture through my Arabic language and dance courses because it provided an outlet for some of my feelings of displacement.

I felt lost and uncomfortable in my new

## CONLEY-GEURRERO SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER TO HOST BLACK HISTORY MONTY PROGRAM

(VILLAGER NEWS) - The Conley-Guerrero Advisory Board will sponsor a Black History Program on Friday, February, 15, 2019 from 10:30 am-11:45 am. Conley-Guerra is located at 808 Nile Street. The event is free.

The guest speaker will be Mrs. Olivia Green, retired Austin Independent School District (AISD) Teacher. In 1967 Ms. Green moved to Austin as a widow and in 1969 she began teaching at Pease elementary school. Unbeknownst to her, this was a pivotal turning point for AISD as Ms. Green was the first Black Teacher to integrate Pease. Ms. Green was honored for her



Olivia Green

dedication, contributions and commitment by Pease Elementary School, recognized for her dedication, contributions and commitment by Pease Elementary School, recognized in Phase II, #1 Am Black Austin Modern Black Portrait Exhibit, recipient of the Education Advocate Award, the Award of Black Excellence, "These are They" by St. John Regular Baptist District Association Senior Mission.

Ms. Green will speak on the 2019 National Black history Month Theme: "Black Migration" There will be a Special Performance by The Conley-Guerrero "Golden Ace" R&B Line Dancers. For information about this event and to make reservations, call (512) 978-2660.

environment. I was forced to push the boundaries to which I had grown accustomed, and at times, I struggled with the changes.

I often wondered: How did I get here? How did I become so privileged to be in a space with people so brilliant? I was surrounded by individuals who were intelligent and inquisitive, and I never thought of myself on that level. This began my quest to understand my worth.

My quest continued when I applied to be a Frederick Douglass Global Fellow as a college student at Xavier University. I was in complete disbelief when I was accepted for a study abroad to South Africa. I knew the program was prestigious and competitive, and I had a lot of self-doubt about my own abilities and sense of belonging.

Throughout my time in South Africa, however, I came face-to-face with the power of my excellence—and the power of what I could achieve. I never imagined myself hiking, never even gave it any thought. The 12-year-old girl who felt out of place in a new school wouldn't have ever pictured herself living in South Africa for four weeks.

The Frederick Douglass Global Fellowship program was also transformative for me because I had so many new experiences and was able to process them in liberating ways.

It was an emotional experience for me to see the vast range of socioeconomic lifestyles in Cape Town and compare them to my own transitions in Chicago from low-income neighborhoods to high-income neighborhoods. I was able to recognize my own privilege, gain a global consciousness about poverty, and ponder what steps I can take to help alleviate socioeconomic divide.

During these moments of deep reflection, I had a revelation: **"Honey, you have to come to grips with your power."**

I expected good things, not *great* things, to happen to me. Becoming a Frederick Douglass Global Fellow validated the excellence within me. All of my doubts were crushed beneath the soles of my feet, as I walked each step in South Africa.

I've learned that as soon as I stop fearing my greatness, my impact on society will be beyond anything I — or my 12-year-old self — could ever fathom.

## A Month of Inclusivity & Diversity

Austin, Texas – Austin Community College's student-led organizations will present weekly events for Black History Month this year surrounded by the theme of black migration, taking place at ACC's Eastview Campus' African-American Cultural Center that will be from 11 am to 1:30 pm on each Wednesday; February 6th (Kickoff Brunch featuring Chas Moore, Co-Founder of Austin Justice Coalition, Natasha Harper-Madison, Councilwoman of District 1 in Austin, Texas, Kazique J. Prince, Senior Policy Advisor & Education Coordinator at City of Austin for Steve Adler, and Jared Breckenridge, NAACP NextGen Leader & Commissioner for the Student College Commission), February 13th (Musical Showcase featuring Austin, Texas singers, spoken-word poets, and more), February 20th (Black History Month Trivia Bowl), and February 27th (Black Owned Business Bazaar).

These events are open to the public. We invite all Austin Community College students to attend and immerse themselves in black history, excellence, and knowledge.