Upcoming Events

2016 George C. Simkins, Jr. Memorial Golf Classic
Saturday, June 4, 2016

First Friday-1st Friday is a Downtown Greensboro Inc. initiative where participating businesses downtown open from 6-9pm on the First Friday of every month with free arts programming to showcase local artists, musicians and various other artistic endeavors.

June: Black Music Appreciation, June 3, 2016 6-8pm
July: Of Thee I Sing, July 1, 2016 6-8pm
August: Back to School, August 5, 2016 6-8pm
September: Folk Festival Kickoff with Dolby, September 2, 2016 6-8pm

Saturday Story Hour, every Saturday at 11am, Free & Open to the public. Saturday Story Hour is held every Saturday morning for ages Pre-K through Elementary School, and consists of a Guest Reader reading a story, (all of which are supplied by the ICRCM).

The museum WILL BE OPEN on Memorial Day, May 30, 2016, 9am-6pm

Juneteenth Celebration will take place June 18, 2016! Come enjoy moving performances, enlightening facts, and light refreshments as we celebrate this monumental day in history.

Make a secure online donation with your credit card at: http://www.sitinmovement.org/
We are now in our seventh year of operations at the International Civil Rights Center & Museum (ICRCM). I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to our Board of Directors, donors, staff, visitors and program participants who have enabled this institution to continue its vision as a historic landmark and as an exhibiting and collecting institution. I would also like to express our appreciation to the many volunteers who unselfishly step forward to support and help the ICRCM. Together we carry out the mission of ICRCM to foster an understanding of the worldwide struggles for social justice and equality. Hand in hand, side by side, we are moving forward to build a more just world.

As part of our dedication to social justice concerns, the ICRCM is very pleased to bring a powerful new exhibit to this community. “Cash Crop” is a free-standing and wall-mounted exhibit that focuses on the Middle Passage and demonstrates a new way to understand the horrors of slavery. As part of “Cash Crop,” we will offer programs that give voice to the many children in the world who work in extreme and unsafe conditions, for meager remuneration, if any at all. “Cash Crop” will also bring attention to the obscurity of human trafficking, which often ends with unimaginable outcomes for the victims which are out of sight to the rest of us. The “Cash Crop” exhibit will be in Greensboro on the second floor of the ICRCM until the end of August 2016.

As we continue our journey seeking to understand what leads to actions that inflict horrible suffering and the annihilation of basic human rights, let us remember the reason for the International Civil Rights Center & Museum being established in Greensboro. This Museum came out of a teachable moment in our nation's history that changed America forever.

I seek your continued support for this Museum because it is forever linked to the best traditions of this community and offers a key to its future progress.

John L. Swaine
Chief Operating Officer
On Saturday, January 31, 2015, the ICRCM paid homage to the courageous leadership of Greensboro’s A&T Four, who taught us that with courage and a love for justice, we can make our community and this world a better place to live. The gala is the Museum’s most successful fundraiser which enables us to provide financial support necessary to achieve the ultimate goal of education and is a learning tool for providing history from the past. Your generous support has helped us in our ongoing quest to fulfill our goal.

We honored and paid tribute to giants upon whose shoulders we stand; legendary figures, activists, and selfless leaders who blazed a path for others to follow and to advance. Augusta Thomas works for employee rights; Fred and Janol Whitfield model a life of service to others; Oba Kabiru Adewale Shotobi is transforming his nation; Robert “Bob” Brown champions equality and access; Congresswoman Alma Adams is a fearless advocate for justice and social change; Oprah Winfrey transcends boundaries; and Congressman John Lewis has faced the evil of injustice and valiantly triumphed. We salute and applaud their tireless efforts – and thank them for the positive difference they are making in the world for us all.

On behalf of the International Civil Rights Center & Museum, we thank you for your continued support – and for your contributions to this very important work.

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2016 Annual Fundraising Gala
56th Anniversary of the Sit-In Movement

On the cover:

Oprah Winfrey
Recipient of Alston/Jones International Civil and Human Rights

“Let us not forget that civil rights is not an issue of the past; it is a movement of the present that affects us all – and should inspire us all to serve others and make meaningful contributions that elevate humanity.”

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Award Recipients

Sit-In Participants Award
Augusta Thomas

Vanguard Award
Oba Kabiru Adewale Shotobi

Lifetime Community Service Award
Fred Sr. & Janol Whitfield

Unsung Hero Award
Robert “Bob” Brown

Trailblazer Award
Congresswoman Alma Adams

Alston/Jones International Civil and Human Rights Award
Oprah Winfrey

International Historic Legends Award
Congressman John Lewis

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Congresswoman Alma Adams
Nancy Vaughn, Mayor of Greensboro
Fred S. and Janol Whitfield
This year’s gala was one of the most successful events, since the opening year of the Museum. Special thanks to our financial donors and special donors who contributed:

Belk Home and Dillards for tables arrangements, Clemmons Florists for the flowers, Crown Automotive for vehicles use, Quaintance Weaver and the Biltmore Hotel for special guest accommodations, Arrowhead Printing for gala programs, Bennett College Journalism students and the many volunteers.

#Ignite4Change

2016 Annual Fundraising Gala

LIST OF SPONSORS

Quest for Justice Sponsor
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United Guaranty Corporation
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Food Lion (Event)
ITG Brands

VF Corporation
BB&T, Community Development Dept.
AFGE Local 1738

Ignite 4 Change Sponsors / Donors $5,000/$7,000
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AFGE District 5, 6, 7
AFL-CIO Office of the President
American Postal Workers Union

National Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO
Cone Health
United Steel Workers District #9

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OBA Kabiru A. Shotobi
St. James Presbyterian Church
John L. Swaine
University of North Carolina Greensboro
United Auto Workers
Wells Fargo
Fred Whitfield
Joseph A. Williams, Attorney
Still Giving: Life and Legacy of Augusta Thomas

On Saturday evening, January 31, 2016, Augusta Thomas received the 2016 Sit-in Participant Award at our Annual Gala. Ms. Thomas is currently serving her third consecutive term as National Vice President for Women and Fair Practices (NVP) of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE). Prior to attaining national office, Thomas served more than 42 years in positions of local and regional union leadership.

This outstanding union leader began her career in the federal government in 1966 as a nursing assistant at the VA Hospital in Louisville, KY where she joined AFGE on her first day on the job. In her union local, Augusta Thomas served in positions of treasurer, secretary, chief steward, executive vice-president and president. She was one of the union’s original District fair practices coordinators. Since then, she has been reelected continually as national fair practices affirmative action coordinator for District 6 covering Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky. In recognition of her outstanding work on civil, human and workplace rights, her District developed an award named in her honor. She has also been recognized by the Commonwealth of Kentucky for her efforts to promote racial equality and economic development.

Augusta Thomas was a veteran fighter for civil rights and social justice from Junior High School days in her native Louisville, KY and already a mother of six when she decided (against the advice of both her worried husband and her father) to drive with her sister to Greensboro, NC in early February 1960. She had seen on the news that the Woolworth’s Sit-in had begun in Greensboro. As she saw it then and sees it now, “If I didn’t come to the aid of the four young men, and the next person didn’t, and the next, then who would come to their aid.”

ICRCM Board member Richard Koritz observed this same generous spirit of Augusta Thomas from the moment he notified her that she would be receiving the award at the ICRCM Gala. “She immediately made it clear that she would be at the disposal of the museum for whatever we needed. She was concerned to use the honor, not to build herself up, but to build up the strength of the Museum. She is marvelous.”

To be back in Greensboro, North Carolina, where I sat at the lunch counter of the Woolworth’s Five and Dime with so many other young people fighting for a better life, was truly remarkable! This museum is a treasure!”

Upcoming Fundraiser: 2016 George C. Simkins, Jr. Memorial Golf Classic

2016 George C. Simkins, Jr. Memorial Golf Classic Saturday, June 4, 2016

Join the International Civil Rights Center & Museum for the 2016 George C. Simkins, Jr. Memorial Golf Classic. The event will be held at the Forest Oaks Golf Course on Saturday, June 4th. To participate in the event or to sponsor a hole, please visit: www.sitinmovement.org.

Dr. George Simkins Jr.

A well-known and respected civil rights activist and Greensboro dentist, George Simkins, Jr., served as president of the local NAACP (National Association of Colored People) chapter from 1959 until 1984. In 1955, he and several other black men were arrested for trespassing after they played nine holes at the all-white, municipal Gillespie Park Golf Course. He and the others appealed their convictions all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled against them by a 5 to 4 vote. North Carolina Governor, Luther Hodges reduced their sentences. Opposed to integrating Gillespie, the city closed the course. It reopened seven years later, but in the meantime nine of the original 18 holes were destroyed.

Dr. Simkins also was involved in court actions to desegregate Wesley Long Community and Moses Cone hospitals, the public libraries, and the municipal tennis and golf facilities. He also was among those whose lawsuit resulted in a federal judge ordering the Greensboro City Schools in 1971 to use busing to bring about total integration of the schools.

In 1998 the Greensboro Parks & Recreation Department chose to name its indoor tennis facility at Barber Park after Dr. Simkins.
La’Tonya Wiley brings performance skills learned in theater to real life by doing tours at ICRCM, engaging visitors and leading them to experience the Museum in a powerful way.

Leading tours at the museum is a meaningful experience for her as well. “It offers an opportunity to really connect with people,” says La’Tonya. “Once people experience the museum, they realize what a jewel it is.”

The travel site Trip Advisor has glowing reviews of ICRCM that often mention La’Tonya: “Our tour guide, ‘LT’ did an awesome job. The presentation was so vivid that my children can’t wait to go back to school tell about all they learned. And we learned so much also. Job well done, LT!”

La’Tonya can see how the ICRCM tour helps people understand better. “There’s the ‘Aha moment, when you can see the wheels turning,” she says.

Oba Kabiru Adewale Shotobi is an engineer, a successful businessman and a well-respected community leader. He spent 20 years of dedicated service as an engineer at West African Portland Cement, rising to Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer. He is currently Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Kadesh Petroleum, Ikorodu, Lagos State.

Oba Kabiru Adewale Shotobi is a scion of the great Lasunwon Ruling House of Ikorodu. His father was Alhaji Bisiriyu Eniayebaje Shotobi of the Adegorushe Compound, Ajina, Ikorodu. His mother, Madam Sidikat Ebudola Shotobi was also of Rademo Ruling House, he is a bona fide blue blood Prince of Ikorodu. As an international ambassador of goodwill, he has generously donated his formal regalia as part of the museum’s permanent collection. Shotobi is the 2016 recipient of the inaugural Vanguard Award, presented by the International Civil Rights Center & Museum.

**Ways to Give: Supporting Your Museum**

**1960 Society/February One Club**
The 1960 Society is an annual giving program that supports the programs and activities of the International Civil Rights Center & Museum. Charter members are the individuals, groups and companies who created the 1960 Society and joined prior to the opening of the Museum. Join Our February One Club! We invite charter campaign members and new members to join our new ‘February One Club’ by making a one-time gift or three-year commitment.

**Building a Better America Through Core Democratic Values**
Individual contributions are especially important and valuable to the Museum. A gift in 2016 will help us continue to fulfill our mission and fund other valuable programs and operations for the museum. Your contribution will help support our commitment to youth education. This initiative allows you to directly sponsor student visits to the museum, which include individually tailored pre- and post curriculum so students get the most out of their visit.

**Make a One-time Direct Donation**
Go online to donate by credit-card or send a check to:
Sit-in Movement, Inc.
134 South Elm St., Greensboro, NC, 27401

**Purchase a Museum Membership**
Go online for information on our updated membership prices and benefits. Complete the attached form, visit us in person, or call ICRCM directly to purchase a membership.

**Book ICRCM for your next event**
Whether our 180 seat auditorium, our elegant lobby, the full-service classrooms, or flexible changing gallery and break-out area, our space and location cannot be beat.

Contribute through the Combined Federal Campaign using this designated code: CFC #22409

**Make a secure online donation with your credit card at:**
http://www.sitinmovement.org
WASHINGTON - U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) celebrated the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during a special naturalization ceremony at the International Civil Rights Center & Museum in Greensboro, NC.

“Dr. King dedicated his life to the principle of equal opportunity for all,” said USCIS Director Alejandro Mayorkas. “It is fitting that our agency, as the administrator of our nation’s legal immigration system, honor Dr. King’s legacy. We are dedicated to fulfilling our nation’s promise as a beacon of hope and opportunity.”

The International Civil Rights Center & Museum is an archival center, collecting museum and teaching facility devoted to the international struggle for civil and human rights. The museum memorializes the nonviolent protests of the 1960 Greensboro sit-ins that served as a catalyst for the civil rights movement.

Honoring Dr. King’s life’s work speaks not only as a reminder of the power that all Americans hold as individuals, but to the collective strength Americans possess when we come together to shape a brighter future.

USCIS honored Dr. King’s service and sacrifice at several other special events across the country, including a ceremony on Jan. 11 at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tenn., and another at the King Center in Atlanta, Ga., on Jan. 14 where speakers included Elder Bernice A. King, daughter of Dr. King, and Martin Luther King, III.

Alternative Breaks, a nationwide initiative, gives students the opportunity to build their active citizenship while learning from community partners who face social justice challenges every day. This initiative sent 641 students to 36 different cities in 24 different states, as well as in Ecuador and Peru during 2016 spring break.

Twelve student activists signed on to learn more about Civil Rights, both past and present, and in order to do this they packed into two mini vans and travelled to Greensboro, North Carolina to spend a week with the International Civil Rights Center and Museum.

“ICRCM taught me to understand the struggles that people go through every day and how they deal with them,” said Matt Belanger, Sophomore at CMU, “My Alternative Break experience with them was life changing.”

Other students on the break echoed many of the sentiments saying that the knowledge they gained learning about the A&T Four has taught them to be courageous in their own lives.

“Any one of us can lead against injustices as we see them,” said CMU senior, Charnae Sanders, “The A&T four didn’t wait for an invite to be served at that counter, they demanded that right.”

The Sit In Museum is a place where individuals of all backgrounds can come together to see firsthand how Civil Rights movements have changed and shaped the United States. The museum itself is an educational tool, however visitors can learn even more by getting to know the staff.

“Nakia and John were so great to us all week,” said Erin Breen, Junior at CMU and Student Site Leader, “It was a privilege to be able to talk to them to better understand the issues that Greensboro faced all those years ago, and are still facing today. Being there with them was truly a once in a lifetime chance.”
Growing up in North Carolina, Stephen Hayes attended North Carolina Central University for undergraduate studies, before moving on to earn a MFA in sculpture at Savannah College of Art and Design. It was there that he conceived “Cash Crop.” Beginning as his thesis show in 2010, the collection has since grown, traveled to cities across the South, and continues to exhibit among different historical societies, gallery spaces, and museums.

FIGURAL SCULPTURES

The cast figures of “Cash Crop.” The most emotionally crucial segment of the exhibition is the piece “Cash Crop,” composed of 15 casts in full life size. Each of the men, women and children is confined by shackles and bound to a wooden shipping pallet. The striking figures represent the 15 million African people ripped from their homes and families and brutally transported to the New World between 1540 and 1850. Visitors to the exhibit may walk in between the statues and have the experience that can evoke a deep feeling of trepidation and discomfort.

“Cash Crop,” with statues cast in fragile concrete from the artist’s friends and family, is one of the original works from Hayes’s thesis exhibition. The agonized but strong expressions, the scale and immediacy of the figures demand the viewer’s attention. Stephen Hayes said, “‘Cash Crop’ was created so people will truly feel and understand in a new way what these people endured through and sense how powerful they were to endure.”

“Expounding upon the subject of slavery, ‘Cash Crop’ draws parallels between the economics of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade and the third world sweatshops of today, connecting to contemporary human rights violations.”

Bobbi Booker, Tribune Staff Writer

Modern Slavery

There are 21 to 29 million slaves in the world today. The selling of human beings globally is estimated to generate 35 billion dollars each year.

George Takei, Actor of Star Trek Fame, Visits Museum

“This International Civil Rights Center is one of the important museums of America. We saw both the richness and the tears of our country. The tour is something we’ll remember the rest of our lives. And it wasn't enough. We’re going to be coming back.”