

ROSWELL ROOTS

2023



CELEBRATING
THROUGHOUT
FEBRUARY

Presented by Roswell Recreation, Parks,
Historic and Cultural Affairs Department

month-long exhibits

JANUARY 24-MARCH 20

- ▶ **STAND, a Roswell Roots Juried Exhibit** at Roswell Cultural Arts Center. *Page 4.*

JANUARY 24-MARCH 10

- ▶ **Inspired, a Student Art Exhibit** at Roswell City Hall. *Page 4.*

JANUARY 8-MARCH 28

- ▶ **My View From Seven Feet**, a Joe Barry Carroll Exhibit at Mimosa Hall. *Page 5.*

events at a glance

SUNDAY, JAN. 29

- ▶ **STAND, a Roswell Roots Juried Exhibit Reception** at Roswell Cultural Arts Center, 5:30-6:30 p.m. *Page 4.*
- ▶ **Lyrics & Lyre: An Evening of Poetry and Music** at Roswell Cultural Arts Center, 7:30 p.m. *Page 6.*

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 1

- ▶ **Inspired, A Student Art Exhibit Reception** at Roswell City Hall, 3-5:30 p.m. *Page 4.*

THURSDAY, FEB. 2

- ▶ **Black History in Roswell: Honoring Our Past** at Roswell Public Library, 2-3 p.m. *Page 13.*

FRIDAY, FEB. 3

- ▶ **Spirit of Harriet Tubman** with Leslie McCurdy at Roswell Cultural Arts Center, 10 a.m. *Page 7.*
- ▶ **Black Opry Revue** at Roswell Cultural Arts Center, 7:30 p.m. *Page 7.*

SATURDAY, FEB. 4

- ▶ **Spirit of Harriet Tubman** with Leslie McCurdy at Roswell Cultural Arts Center, 10 a.m. *Page 7.*
- ▶ **Bid Whist Card Party** at Roswell Adult Recreation Center, 12-3 p.m. *Page 8.*
- ▶ **Groeway Community Group's Annual Black History Production** at Roswell Cultural Arts Center, 2-6 p.m. *Page 13.*

SUNDAY, FEB. 5

- ▶ **Super Museum Sunday**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. *Page 14.*
- ▶ **Leveling the Playing Field, a Part of Super Museum Sunday**, at Mimosa Hall, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. *Page 14.*

THURSDAY, FEB. 9

- ▶ **Author Talk with Birdel Jackson** at Mimosa Hall, 6:30-7:30 p.m. *Page 11.*

SATURDAY, FEB. 11

- ▶ **Black History Brain Bowl**, Virtual, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. *Page 8.*
- ▶ **Open-Hearth Cooking** with Clarissa Clifton at Smith Plantation, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. *Page 15.*
- ▶ **Exploring Black Experiences in Roswell Tours** at Historic House Museums, 11:30 a.m. & 2:30 p.m. *Page 14.*

SUNDAY, FEB. 12

- ▶ **Djoli Kelen Inc. presents Revolutions in Rhythms and Movements** at East Roswell Recreation Center, 12-4 p.m. *Page 9.*

THURSDAY, FEB. 16

- ▶ **Author Talk with Sharon Vines** at Mimosa Hall, 6:30-7:30 p.m. *Page 12.*

SATURDAY, FEB. 18

- ▶ **Exploring Black Experiences in Roswell Tours** at Historic House Museums, 11:30 a.m. & 2:30 p.m. *Page 14.*
- ▶ **Reflections on Slavery** at Mimosa Hall, 1 & 2:30 p.m. *Page 15.*

SUNDAY, FEB. 19

- ▶ **Groeway Community Group presents Telling Our Story** at Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church, 3-4:30 p.m. *Page 15.*

THURSDAY, FEB. 23

- ▶ **Artist Talk with Joe Barry Carroll** at Mimosa Hall, 6:30-7:30 p.m. *Page 12.*

SATURDAY, FEB. 25

- ▶ **Black Health and Wellbeing** at Adult Recreation Center, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. *Page 10.*

SUNDAY, FEB. 26

- ▶ **Open-Hearth Cooking** with Clarissa Clifton at Smith Plantation, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. *Page 15.*
- ▶ **Exploring Black Experiences in Roswell Tours** at Historic House Museums, 11:30 a.m. & 2:30 p.m. *Page 14.*

STAND, a Roswell Roots Juried Exhibit

January 24-March 20 • FREE

Reception: Sunday, January 29, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Open Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Roswell Cultural Arts Center, 950 Forrest St.

STAND celebrates the Association for the Study of African American Life and History's (ASALH) annual theme, Black Resistance. The mission of ASALH is to promote, research, preserve, interpret and disseminate information about Black life, history and culture to the global community.



Sherri Richards



Sharon Crumley

Inspired, a Student Art Exhibit in Partnership with Fulton County Schools

January 24-March 10 • FREE

Reception: Wednesday, February 1, 3-5:30 p.m. • FREE

Open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Roswell City Hall, 38 Hill St.

Fulton County Schools, along with the Roswell Roots Committee and the City of Roswell, showcase student artwork at City Hall in honor of Black History Month. Inspired focuses on the Association for the Study of African American Life and History's annual theme, Black Resistance.

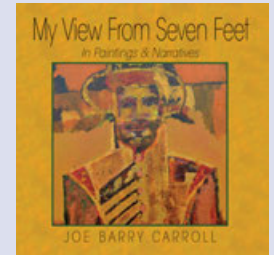


My View From Seven Feet, a Joe Barry Carroll Exhibit

January 8-March 28 • FREE

On display during public events or by appointment, Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Mimosa Hall, 127 Bulloch Ave.

Former NBA All-Star Joe Barry Carroll's art from the exhibit and book, *My View From Seven Feet*, will be displayed in Mimosa Hall from January thru March. *My View From Seven Feet* is Carroll's musing on the mythical qualities some want to assign to a person standing seven feet tall. Carroll expresses his "view" in the form of figurative and abstract paintings that are celebratory, reflective, and hopeful. The exhibit is curated by Tara Y. Coyt.



Opportunities to meet Carroll and view the art at Mimosa Hall includes:

February 5 – Leveling the Playing Field, 2 p.m. Info on page 14.

February 23 – Artist Talk, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Info on page 12.



performance series

Lyrics and Lyre: An Evening of Poetry and Music

Sunday, January 29, 7:30 p.m. • Tickets \$18 at RoswellCAC.com
Roswell Cultural Arts Center, 950 Forrest St.

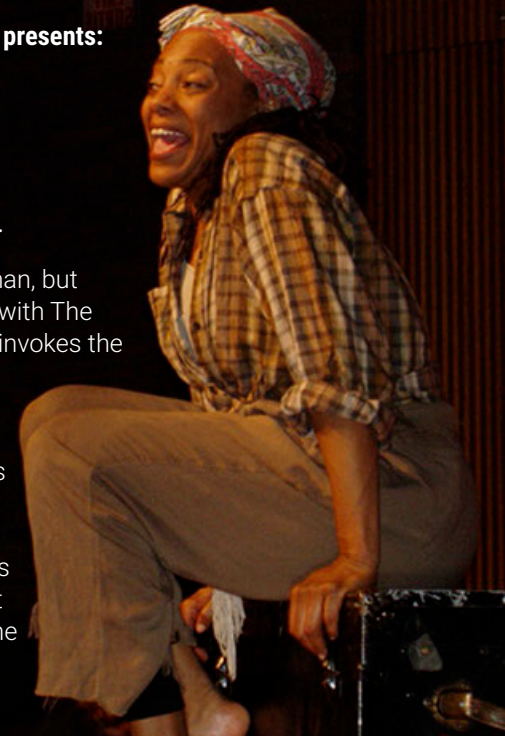
Poet Ashlee Haze & Philosophy Media Group Present Lyrics & Lyre: an Evening of Poetry and Music to kick off the 2023 Roswell Roots Festival. Featuring poets Ashlee Haze, Adán Bean, Mia Willis, and Jon Goode, this unique performance merges literature and music with accompaniment by cellist Okorie "OkCello" Johnson, harpist Rayn, bassist Téja Veal, and violinist Carey Durham.



Roswell Cultural Arts Center Family Series presents: The Spirit of Harriet Tubman with Leslie McCurdy

Friday-Saturday, February 3-4, 10 a.m.
Tickets \$12 at RoswellCAC.com
Roswell Cultural Arts Center, 950 Forrest St.

There are many plays about Harriet Tubman, but none share her entire life story like a visit with *The Spirit of Harriet Tubman*. Leslie McCurdy invokes the 'spirit' of Harriet Tubman as she portrays the life of the famous Underground Railroad conductor, recreating stories familiar and some rarely told, using words said to have been Harriet Tubman's own. Appropriate for all ages, this one-woman show connects past and present, explores the faith and conviction that drove Harriet Tubman to follow her dreams and how she continues to inspire generations to do the same.



Black Opry Revue

Friday, February 3, 7:30 p.m.
Tickets \$32.50, \$27.50 for military, seniors, and students at RoswellCAC.com
Roswell Cultural Arts Center, 950 Forrest St.

Black Opry Revue is a home for black artists, fans, and industry professionals working in country, blues, and folk music. This collective of performers, including Julie Williams, Aaron Vance, Roberta Lea, Mel Washington, and Carmen Dianne, brings the long-overlooked contributions of Black Country artists to the forefront and challenges perceptions of what it means to be a country musician in America. Black Opry's stellar line-up of acclaimed artists brings a celebratory evening of music and storytelling to Roswell Cultural Arts Center's stage.



education

Bid Whist Card Party

Saturday, February 4, 12-3 p.m. • Tickets \$15
Roswell Adult Recreation Center, 830 Grimes Bridge Rd.

The King and Queens Chapter of the American Bridge Association (ABA) and Roswell Roots are proud to be sponsoring the 6th Annual Bid Whist Card Party. The game of whist, a precursor to both bid whist and bridge, has been around at least since the 1700s, when it was a favorite of London gambling houses. During the Civil War, African-Americans were introduced to the game and were said to have put the “bid” in bid whist. Boxed lunch included with the purchase of a ticket.



Djoli Kelen Inc. Presents: Revolutions in Rhythms and Movements

Sunday, February 12, 12-4 p.m.
FREE, Registration Required

Djoli Kelen brings a day full of dancing, drumming and storytelling sessions, including highlights centered around Continental African, Diasporic, and Contemporary/ Black dance, music, song, and history. The day includes a “bring your own lunch” featuring a reading of the essay “Hot Feet and Social Change”, followed by a guided discussion with Sule’-Joel Adams, Executive Producer of Whole Heart Productions. Djoli Kelen is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving, highlighting, and advancing the transformative power of African as well as African Diaspora dance, music, and culture in America.



Black History Brain Bowl

Saturday, February 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
VIRTUAL, FREE
Registration Required

Middle school students are invited to engage in a lively and challenging head-to-head trivia of Black History. Bowl questions will be Black History related and cover a wide range of academic topics such as science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM). Presented by North Fulton Area Section of National Council of Negro Women, Incorporated® and the Phi Phi Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®.



Black Health and Wellbeing

Saturday, February 25, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

FREE

Roswell Adult Recreation Center, 830 Grimes Bridge Rd.

An educational day for the whole family with interactive demonstrations, medical professional speakers, engaging storytelling and more focused on the importance of positive health and wellbeing. Be sure to bring your eager minds and comfy shoes, because you might just break a sweat or learn something new! Enjoy organic brewed tea from **Soul Food Holistic Healing** while listening to heart happy storytelling from beloved storyteller **Babatunde**.

Interact with **Double Dutch Aerobics** for a high energy aerobics class and demonstrations. In addition, learn helpful steps to make a positive change in your life from life and marriage coach **Devon Croom**. Get an adjustment and learn about chiropractic practices for all ages from **Elevate Chiropractic** and meet **Dr. Melody McCloud**, who will be discussing today's top health challenges. **Roswell's Creation Station** will also be serving the creative soul with an interactive craft for the whole family.



cultural spotlight series

Author talk with Birdel Jackson

Thursday February 9, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

FREE, Seating Limited - Registration Encouraged

Mimosa Hall, 127 Bulloch Ave.

Author and Storyteller Birdel Jackson will discuss his autobiography, *Growing Up Donnie & Kaki: the First 18 years*, which follows the journey of Birdel and his sister, Carol Ann, through their first 18 years growing up in segregated Memphis Tennessee through the 1940's and 50's. Birdel Jackson now resides in Alpharetta, retired from his successful career as a civil engineer. He is a member of the Academy of Distinguished Engineering Graduates of the University of Toledo and the Georgia Institute of Technology. In addition, Birdel serves as President for the Jackson-Davis Foundation providing engineering scholarships in honor of his grandparents, Gladys Davis Jackson, who attended Spelman College, and Birdel F. Jackson, Sr., who attended Rust and Knoxville Colleges.



Author talk with Sharon Vines

Thursday February 16, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
FREE, Seating Limited - Registration Encouraged
Mimosa Hall, 127 Bulloch Ave.

Author Sharron Vines began her love of literature as a teen when she became an avid reader of romance and suspense novels. She soon began writing poetry and letters, but never dreamed it all would result in her writing a novel of her own. Her talent and passion for writing blossomed into the book, "Artist Wife," published in 2019. Her second novel, "Grace's Seasons," was published in 2022.

Sharron has a Bachelor and Master of Business Administration Management from American Intercontinental University. Her passions are family, tennis, photography, and mentoring; and, oh yes, communications! She resides in Stone Mountain, Georgia with her artist husband, Roederick Vines.



Artist talk with Joe Barry Carroll

Thursday February 23, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
FREE, Seating Limited - Registration Encouraged
Mimosa Hall, 127 Bulloch Ave.

My View From Seven Feet is NBA All-Star Joe Barry Carroll's musing on the perceived mythical qualities of a person standing seven feet tall. Carroll expresses his unique "view" through figurative and abstract paintings that are celebratory, reflective, and hopeful. Each is paired with a short narrative that further conveys the artist's ruminations on relationships, legacy, success, sports, culture, responsibility, and more. The exhibit is curated by Tara Y. Coyt.



local history

Black History in Roswell: Honoring Our Past

Thursday February 2, 2-3 p.m.
FREE
Roswell Public Library, 115 Norcross St.

The Black history of Roswell, Georgia is rich and complex. This presentation highlights the struggles and triumphs of African Americans in the Roswell area, beginning with enslaved people brought from the coast by the founding families and ending with the Civil Rights Movement. Elaine DeNiro, Archivist for the Roswell Historical Society and City of Roswell, will present original documents pertaining to the area's Black history. Charles Grogan, Roswell's Black Historian, and Sandra Taylor will share their personal experiences about growing up in a Black neighborhood in Roswell, GA.

Groveyay Community Group's Annual Black History Program

Saturday, February 4, Vendor show at 2 p.m., Performance at 4 p.m.
Tickets \$30, Students with school ID \$15, Free for 3 and under
Roswell Cultural Arts Center, 950 Forrest St.

Groveyay Community Group presents its annual Black History Program to honor Black American culture, traditions, achievements and history. The program will be emceed by local Fox 5 News anchor Christine Sperow, and feature the prestigious choral talents of the Spelman Glee Club. Other local performers will showcase their talents as well, making this production a well-rounded celebration of Black American arts in its various expressions.



Super Museum Sunday

Sunday, February 5, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. • FREE

Barrington Hall, 535 Barrington Dr.
Mimosa Hall, 127 Bulloch Ave.

Bulloch Hall, 180 Bulloch Ave.
Smith Plantation, 1935 Alpharetta St.

Visit Barrington Hall, Bulloch Hall, Smith Plantation, and Mimosa Hall throughout the day to learn about Roswell's early history. Visitors will learn about the experiences of all who lived in Roswell during the 19th century and beyond. New tours and exhibit panels exploring African American experiences will be available at each site.



Leveling the Playing Field: Celebrating Black Sports and Athletes (part of Super Museum Sunday)

Sunday, February 5, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

FREE

Mimosa Hall, 127 Bulloch Ave.

Discover the history and impact of Black sports and athletes in the local and national communities. Visit the Negro League Sports Memorabilia Display, owned and operated by Roswell resident George Crumley, who will also give a brief presentation on the history of national leagues at 11 a.m. At 2 p.m., a panel moderated by Former NBA All-Star Joe Barry Carroll, will feature Roswell natives who will reflect on their experiences as Black athletes playing for schools like Bailey Johnson, Roswell High, and the City's recreational teams. Roswell's Creation Station will also be on-site for a fun sport-themed make and take craft for our younger visitors! Joe Barry Carroll's art from the exhibit and book, *My View From Seven Feet* will also be on display. Opportunities to meet Carroll and view the art at Mimosa Hall can be found on Page 12.

Exploring Black Experiences in Roswell Tours

Saturdays, February 11, 18, and 26, 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Included with Home Tour Ticket Purchase.

Visit Barrington Hall, Bulloch Hall, and Smith Plantation for tours highlighting Black experiences in Roswell dating back to the city's founding. Learn about the lives and families who built historic Roswell.

Open Hearth Cooking with Clarissa Clifton

Saturday, February 11 and Sunday, February 26, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

FREE

Smith Plantation, 935 Alpharetta St.

Living history interpreter and cook, Clarissa Clifton, demonstrates open-hearth cooking using recipes from both African and Black American traditions. Clarissa explains the methods of cooking over an open fire using traditional cast iron cookware. *Please note this is for educational demonstration purposes only. Visitors may not participate or taste food due to safety concerns at this time. Demonstrations are offered free to the public and located in the Cookhouse behind the historic house museum.*



Reflections on Slavery

Saturday, February 18, 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

FREE

Mimosa Hall, 127 Bulloch Ave.

In this half-hour theatrical presentation, actor John Doyle portrays a man reflecting on the lives and experiences of the enslaved people of Roswell, from their shared history in coastal Georgia to their daily lives before, during, and after the Civil War. He touches on themes of the interconnected lives of all people in this small town and how enslaved people tried to maintain some agency over their own lives.

Groveyay Community Group presents: Telling Our Story

Sunday, February 19, 3 p.m.

FREE (Donations are accepted)

Pleasant Hill Community Center
725 Pleasant Hill St.

Located beside Historical Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church

Stories and interviews will be told by past and present residents. Listen to the stories, lessons, and words of wisdom from current and past Roswell residents discussing their experiences growing up in the area.





Roswell Roots is a community-wide, month-long festival that honors our diverse community and celebrates Black History Month. Roswell Roots aims to educate, impact, and promote cultural awareness. Programs and events focus on welcoming all community members and offer an opportunity for all ages to engage and participate.

Committee Members

Sharon Crumley, 2023 Committee Chair
Nancy Bishop
Theresa Carrington
Marie Epps
Mike Harris
Mary Lucas

Roswell Recreation, Parks, Historic & Cultural Affairs Department

Jeffrey Leatherman, Director
Steven Malone, Deputy Director
Beckie Hawkins, Cultural Arts Manager
Corinne Sutherlin, Cultural Arts Supervisor
David Crowe, Cultural Arts Coordinator
Dena Bush, Historic Assets Manager
Dustin Klein, Historic Assets Coordinator

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



FULTON COUNTY
REMEMBRANCE COALITION



Groveway
Community Group



North Fulton Area Section,
National Council of Negro
Women, Inc.



RUBICON STUDIOS



Phi Phi Omega
Chapter, Alpha Kappa
Alpha Sorority

Roswell Historical Society
Preserving & Promoting Our History



Roswell Roots, celebrating its 22nd year, is made possible by the City of Roswell, Recreation, Parks, Historic and Cultural Affairs Department, the Roswell Roots Committee and our community partners and vendors.

ROSWELLROOTS.COM

