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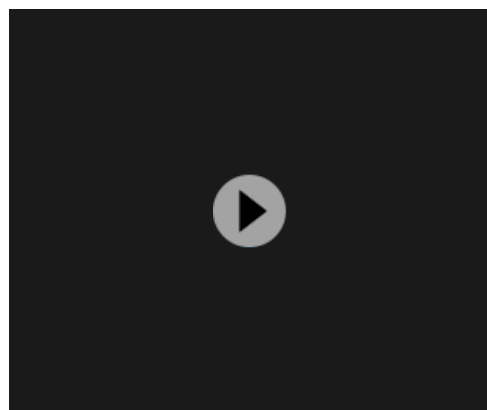
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AROUND TULSA

People & Places: Dinner of Reconciliation shares spirit of harmony

■ Fundraiser honors John Hope Franklin's legacy

Video



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People & Places: Dinner of Reconciliation shares spirit of harmony



The John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Park is arguably Tulsa's best physical, most symbolic representation of reconciliation. The park includes a memorial to the Tulsa Race Riot of 1921.

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Peggy Helmerich (left), Lynn Peacher and Kristin Bender gather at Philbrook Museum of Art ahead of the annual Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award event Dec. 6. STEPHEN PINGRY/Tulsa World

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Posted: Sunday, November 17, 2013 12:00 am | Updated: 10:22 am, Sun Nov 17, 2013.

By JASON ASHLEY WRIGHT World Scene Writer | 0 comments

Reconciliation.

Merriam-Webster defines it as an "act of causing two people or groups to become friendly again after an argument or disagreement."

Although it's relatively new to the collective community conscious, the John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Park at 321 S. Detroit Ave. is arguably Tulsa's best physical, most symbolic representation of reconciliation specifically, an accord sought long and hard since the Tulsa Race Riot of 1921.

The park, which was dedicated in October 2010, was named after Dr. John Hope Franklin, an Oklahoma native and alumnus of Booker T. Washington High School who went on to be a celebrated American historian, even winning the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1995, 14 years before

he died.

Although his namesake park honors a brilliant man who strove to include black presence into America's history, the John Hope Franklin Center for Reconciliation aims to "transform society's divisions into social harmony," said its part-time executive director, Jocelyn Lee Payne.

Helping hone that vision are fundraisers like the fourth Dinner of Reconciliation, a communitywide dinner honoring Franklin's legacy at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at Greenwood Cultural Center, 322 N. Greenwood Ave.

In 2001, the Oklahoma Commission on the 1921 Tulsa Race Riot reported that Tulsa still functioned as two cities, divided largely along racial lines, explained Payne, a Tulsa native who will become the center's full-time executive director in January.

"National and local demographics may have increased the complexity of the situation, but recent events suggest the divides continue," she said. That's why the center is crucial to the Tulsa community.

"Its programs uniquely encourage people to come together across all the divides to learn with, from and about others, thus opening possibilities for building stronger ties of understanding and creating a stronger, more unified community," Payne said.

The center was established in 2007 in response to the commission, and its first phase involved designing and building Reconciliation Park, which incorporates a memorial to the Race Riot, she said. The second phase is the ongoing programming in the areas of education, scholarly research, community outreach and archival preservation.

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In addition to reconciliation, it promotes trust among individuals of diverse communities through scholarly work that combines theory and practice to generate constructive community engagement in Tulsa and beyond.

With the center's vision of transforming divisions into harmony, it offers programs that affirm Franklin's lifelong devotion to study, reasoned analysis and social progress, Payne said.

Along with the annual Dinner of Reconciliation, the center has presented four national symposia on race and reconciliation; sponsored a documentary study to capture the memories of the Tulsa Race Riot as they have been passed down through families; worked with the University of Oklahoma Center for Applied Research for Non-profit Organizations to create a baseline survey that measures the Tulsa community's attitudes and understanding of racial issues, including Tulsa's history; and conducted community dialogue sessions to raise community awareness of the survey findings.

"Our country has struggled to get to true civilization," said Steve Turnbo, a center board member.

"Will Rogers said, 'We will never have true civilization until we have learned to recognize the rights of others,'" Turnbo quoted.

That's why the center is so important, he said.

"When we start communicating with our hearts instead of our heads, we will become better people with better souls," Turnbo said.

For more, visit jhcenter.org

Jason Ashley Wright 918-581-8483

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Tough Cookies

The Tulsa chapter of the Association for Women in Communication is presenting a panel of seasoned print and broadcast journalists Ziva Branstetter and Nicole Marshall Middleton of the Tulsa World, along with KOTV's Lori Fullbright to discuss their most memorable and difficult stories they've covered, as well as how their efforts have changed public awareness and people's lives. Levity that evening will come in the form of Tough Cookie cocktails and appetizers, plus participants can dress up as famous female reporters, if they wish.

Event details: 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 20, Tulsa Press Club, 415 S. Boston Ave.

Attire: Business casual or costume of favorite female reporter

Sponsors: TulsaPeople

Tickets: \$25 AWC members, \$30 nonmembers, \$15 students

For more: awctulsa.org

Bountiful Harvest for Clarehouse

Clarehouse provides a loving home, quality end-of-life care and access to hospice services to people in need. Now it needs help to continue that mission. This drive will collect

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Today's Top 5: See 35 | Inside today's Tulsa World | Tulsa World online | Friday, 11/15/13

Clarehouse's most needed items, with one particular need highlighted each day: Monday, paper towels; Tuesday, individually wrapped snacks; Wednesday, nonlatex gloves (all sizes); Thursday, Clorox wipes; Friday, copy paper (8 1/2 by 11).

Drop off: Monday-Friday, Nov. 18-22, Clarehouse, 7617 S. Mingo Road

For more: 918-893-6150 (call for pick-up), clarehouse.org

Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award

One of the most celebrated contemporary fiction authors in the English-speaking world, Kazuo Ishiguro is the 2013 recipient of this prestigious award from the Tulsa Library Trust and Tulsa City-County Library. A two-day affair, it includes an elegant evening with dinner at Southern Hills, followed the next day by a book-signing with Ishiguro.

Event details, gala: Friday, Dec. 6, 7 p.m. cocktails, 7:45 p.m. dinner, Southern Hills Country Club, 2636 E. 61st St.

Event details, book signing: 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, Hardesty Regional Library's Connor's Cove, 8316 E. 93rd St.

Attire: Black-tie gala, casual book-signing

Sponsors: Kristin Bender, Cascia Hall, Rich Fisher, Friends of the Tulsa City-County Libraries, Peggy V. Helmerich, Ken Lackey, John McCormack, Lynn Peacher, Southern Hills Country Club, The University of Tulsa

Tickets: \$150 gala, free book-signing

For more: helmerichaward.org

Christmas Luncheon and Fashion Show

"Sounds of Christmas" is the theme for the 61st annual Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary's Christmas Luncheon and Fashion Show, which will showcase hundreds of items in silent and live auctions.

Biddable treats range from Kansas City Royals tickets and a flight over Tulsa in a bi-plane to dinner at a Tulsa fire station and a Hard Rock golf getaway package.

Other highlights include Tulsa media celebrities as models in fashions from Miss Jackson's at Utica Square and one lucky participant will win something gorgeous from Moody's Jewelry.

Proceeds benefit the Salvation Army's social services at the Center of Hope homeless shelter, six Boys & Girls Clubs, four corps and the Adult Rehabilitation Center.

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Event details: Tuesday, Dec. 3 10:30 a.m. silent auction, 11:30 a.m. luncheon seating
Cox Business Center, 100 Civic Center

Attire: Business

Honorary chair: Konnie Boulter

Donors: Platinum Richard and Norma Small, The Oxley Foundation; Silver Stephanie and Al Howerton, Barnett Family Foundation, Debbie Cadieux, Ann McKellar, Burton Foundation, Bank of Oklahoma

Tickets: \$65

For more: Barbara Richards Horn, 918-747-8316

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Dinner of Reconciliation

A communitywide dinner honoring the life and legacy of famed historian and Tulsa native Dr. John Hope Franklin, this event provides an intimate opportunity for community members to come together, break bread, enjoy one another's company and share a vision of reconciliation both here in Tulsa and beyond. In addition to the dinner, highlights include a keynote address from Tulsa's own Clifton Taulbert, an internationally recognized author and consultant whose work focuses on community healing. His address, "Education: The Bridge from Yesterday to Tomorrow," will examine how a community can heal a painful past through education and open dialogue.

Event details: Thursday, 6:30 p.m. gathering, 7 p.m. dinner Greenwood Cultural Center, 322 N. Greenwood Ave.

Attire: Business

Co-chairs: Shelley and Cason Carter

Sponsors: Maxine and Jack Zarrow Family Foundation, Ruth Nelson, The University of Tulsa, Michael and Elizabeth Johnson Family Foundation, Neosource Inc., Reasor's, the Anne and Henry Zarrow Family Foundation, Marge and John Gaberino Jr., Congregation B'nai Emunah, Oklahoma State University-Tulsa

Tickets: \$20 adults, \$10 students

For more: jhfcenter.org

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