



# JAMES O. JESSIE DESERT HIGHLAND UNITY CENTER

# COMMUNITY NEWS

Desert Highland/Gateway Monthly Newsletter

February 2020

## MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

**F**ebruary is here bringing with it an extra day. That's right, it's Leap Year! Thanks to Leap Year 2020 multiple holidays are lined up perfectly on weekend days: Valentine's Day is a Friday, Cinco de Mayo and Taco Tuesday are on the same day, and Christmas Day and New Year's Day 2021 will start us on three-day weekends. This extra day happens every four years, so this year we can have an exciting extra day of programs, activities, and events for everyone. Happy Leap Year!

## WORDS OF THE MONTH

Harriet Tubman once said, "Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."



We all have the ability to do great work, we just have to apply it to our lives.

## COMMUNITY NEWS STAFF

### Editor

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Visit the

James O. Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center

Web Site at: [www.palmsprings-ca.gov](http://www.palmsprings-ca.gov)

To contact "Community News," call (760) 416-5716

**James O. Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center**

**480 Tramview Road • Palm Springs, CA 92262**

## BLACK HISTORY ACTIVITIES 2020

The Palm Springs Community is celebrating thirty-three years of Black History Month activities. If you have not already participated in any of the activities, below is a list of more to come:

**February 1: Sip & Paint** located at Antigua Kitchen & Bar in Downtown Palm Springs, on the corner of Palm Canyon and Tahquitz Canyon. Painting begins at 4:00 p.m. and the price is \$50. The evening includes instruction from a skilled painter, great appetizers, and beverages.

**February 6:** at 5:00 p.m. hang out at the **Black History Month Art Museum Collaboration** at the Palm Springs Art Museum. There will be guest speakers, entertainment from local youth, and refreshments will be provided.

**February 9:** the annual **Gospel Fest** will be held at 2:00 p.m. at the James O. Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center's Outdoor Performance Stage. This great event will share sounds of song and dance in a spiritual environment. This event is free to everyone, and if you would like to participate, sign-up now.

**February 22: Adult Basketball Tournament.** registration starts at 9:00 a.m. with tip off at 10:15 a.m. at the Demuth Community Center. The fee is \$10 per player. This is a fast-paced, full-court-action basketball tournament. Teams consist of 7 players minimum per team. Players that sign up without a team will be placed on a team by or with consent from tournament organizers. Players signed up for a team may not switch teams after playing for another team. Get your team registered early for first choice seeding. Let's lace those shoes up and play!

**February 29:** the **33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Black History Month Parade and Town Fair** in beautiful Downtown Palm Springs. Parade begins at 11:00 a.m. on Palm Canyon Drive from Arenas Road and ends at Alejo Road. If you would like to participate in the parade, turn in your application before February 15. After the Parade, join us for family fun, food, and live entertainment at our Town Fair from 12 noon until 6:00 p.m. at Frances Stevens Park.

## JR. NBA 3-On-3 BASKETBALL LEAGUE

The Jr. NBA players have been playing games for 20-30 minutes every Tuesday and Thursday, after each practice. The teams have blended together as one team to practice different challenges, and in return, they win treats. Many of the youth had a chance to participate in the MLK Youth Basketball Classic where a few of our players came out champions. Congrats to Bishop Miller V, Kevin Murrell, and Kaylaun Smith. Let's have fun and play hard!!

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## DRILL TEAM AND DRUM SQUAD

Currently, the James O. Jessie Drill Team and Drum Squad has been practicing for upcoming parades and events. Everyone is invited to see this group perform at the following locations:

**February 6:** 5:00 p.m., Palm Springs Art Museum

**February 12:** 1:30 p.m., Palm Springs Leisure Center

**February 20:** 6:00 p.m., VillageFest (Downtown Palm Springs)

**February 29:** 11:00 a.m., City of Palm Springs Annual Black History Parade & Town Fair in Downtown Palm Springs. Come out and support our youth!

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## MATURE ADULT PROGRAM

We are finally in the month of February and we all know that it is Black History Month. To help celebrate, the Mature Adult Program members will be talking all month long about different Black Scholars that paved the way for us, as well as participate in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Black History Month Parade on Saturday, February 29, 2020. We encourage all Mature Adults to join our program which meets every Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. with our staff Ms. Angie Cannady, in the JOJDHUC meeting room. Looking forward to seeing you!

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## DANCE CLUB

The Dance Club has been preparing for upcoming events. They have performed at VillageFest with the Drill Team and will be back at VillageFest to perform at 6:30 p.m. on February 20. Practices are held from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

## UPCOMING JOJDHUC ACTIVITIES

**After-School Homework/Tutoring:** Monday through Thursday from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Staff assists youth with their schoolwork.

**Early Childhood Literacy Program:** Every Monday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Staff teaches Pre-K students the fundamentals that prepare them for kindergarten.

**Pickleball:** Courts available every day from 10:00 a.m. through 1:00 p.m. in the Gymnasium

**Sewing Class:** Open to ages 10 years and up, the class is held from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. every Friday.

**Workout Wednesdays:** Youth do their homework and then do a facilitated workout from 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. every Wednesday.

**Youth Encouragement Program (YEP):** Youth in grades 6 – 12 participate in uplifting/motivational sessions held 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. every Thursday.

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## EARLY CHILDHOOD LITERACY

The Early Childhood Literacy Program is in session, serving the communities with the effort to prepare our early learners for a great head start in preschool and kindergarten. This is a community-based program that will jumpstart your child with activities such as learning shapes, colors, number recognition, pre-reading, prewriting skills, outdoor play, opportunities for socialization. The group also attends the field trips to the library and other fun locations. Parents are actively involved with parent meetings, field trips, and much more. For more information please call the Center at (760) 323- 8271 and ask for Mrs. Gray.

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## COMMUNITY ACTION MEETING

Attention members, the next Community Meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the James O. Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center Community Room on Tuesday, February 11, 2020.

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### Digital Newsletter list

*The JOJDHUC Newsletter is now digital. We are offering our newsletter through email and would like to have your email address to place on our email list. Please respond by calling 760-416-5715.*