

“JOY!”

A Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 1 / Issue 1 - March 2022

HELLO AND WELCOME TO “JOY!”

We are excited to share our first edition of “JOY!” with you. This newsletter will distribute on a quarterly basis and will archive on our website.

The Kathlyn Joy Gilliam Museum (“KJGM”) has been in existence since 2014. It is the actual home of the late **Kathlyn Joy Gilliam** who was one of Dallas’ most courageous civil rights and educational activists. We have welcomed busloads of visitors to the home to view Mrs. Gilliam’s many books, awards, photos, and writings. If you have not yet scheduled a tour, we ask that you consider doing so when our doors are reopened. In addition to exploring the Museum’s artifacts, the award-winning documentary, “No Ways Tired: Kathlyn Gilliam” (produced and directed by Q Ragsdale) is shown to visitors who would like to learn more of Mrs. Gilliam’s activist work.

The Museum has also developed the KJGM Youth Debate team – training 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students the proper way to debate, without insult and conflict and with proper research of resolutions. This program develops reading skills, public speaking and builds vocabulary.

The Museum offers reading programs throughout the year. “**Reading Under the Oak**” is a fun summer program for younger students. This program allows for dialogic reading. Additionally, after each reading, students are allowed to choose a book of his/her choice to take home. Our intent is to make reading fun and exciting! Reading programs for students of all ages are encouraged at the Museum.

In addition to informing JOY! readers of events and issues, this newsletter will highlight a KJGM youth debater (past and present) each quarter under **Jasmin’s Corner**.

Jasmin Johnson was our second-place winner of last year’s speech contest. She is currently an 8th grade student at Grand Prairie Collegiate Academy. She aspires to become a writer. We welcome and encourage her with opened arms as we do with all our students. Jasmin is an exceptional student who adds great energy to our communication team.

The following articles will provide details of where we are, how we got there and our plans for moving full speed ahead.

We believe you will be inspired in JOY!

KJGM

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pg. 2 – Learn more about the KJGM capital campaign and its status

Pg. 2 – Find out the latest on the reconstruction of KJGM

Pg. 3 – Check out Jasmin’s Corner!

OUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



On November 21, 2020 and again on January 1, 2021, an unknown individual(s) attempted to close the doors of the Kathlyn Joy Gilliam Museum by causing two fires. The first fire caused significant smoke damage. The second fire caused major damage to the facility. We have no idea who would do such a thing. However, in the spirit of Mrs. Gilliam, we are not deterred. We are working diligently to ensure the Museum remains a success for the community as well as for all boys and girls.

Our online Capital Campaign may be viewed by going to www.kathlynjoygilliammuseum.org. There you will find several levels of sponsorships as well as our need for "in-kind" donations. We hope you will take a moment to view.

RECONSTRUCTION STATUS

Thanks to our very generous donors, the Museum has met its construction budget. Repairs commenced on January 10, 2022 and are expected to be completed within the next six (6) months. The Museum remains in need of "**contingency funds**" as projects of this magnitude often develop unexpected issues. Also, "**in-kind**" donations (i.e., program volunteers; retired and current educators; program items such as laptops, school supplies -- pens, pencils, pads; replacement fixtures (interior and exterior lighting); replacement furniture (rocker/sofa table)) as well as monetary donations for non-reconstruction needs are welcomed.

Please visit the website to determine how you might assist or call us at 469.458.0208 or 469.878.3945. We are happy to visit with you.

FUNDRAISING EVENT

On August 19, 2021, retired Texas State Representative Harryette Ehrhardt opened her beautiful historical home for a fundraiser event for the Kathlyn Joy Gilliam Museum. There, the KJGM Board of Directors were introduced to several guests. A few of our KJGM Youth Debate Team students were available to speak to the guests. KJGM Museum Curator, Dr. W. Marvin Dulaney and Debate Coach Emeritus, Mr. Robert Edison as well as the Honorable Carla Ranger, retired DISD Trustee and the Honorable Diane Ragsdale, former City Council Representative, were all on hand to meet and greet the guests.

Mrs. Gilliam and Representative Ehrhardt served together on the Dallas Board of Education for five years. They worked as a great team and became the best of friends.

A heartfelt thank you to Representative Ehrhardt for her ongoing support of the Museum.



DISD Board photo with Mrs. Gilliam and Representative Ehrhardt

Jasmin's Corner



Jasmin Johnson

Brayden Brown is one of our amazing KJGM Debate team alumni. He is a 10th grader at Wilmer-Hutchins E tech Collegiate Academy. He has a 4.0 grade point average and loves to play basketball. Although he is unsure of his career choice, we know he is going to make an incredible choice.



Brayden Brown

Brayden joined the team in 5th grade and was with us for a year. Debate has given him stronger persuasive and critical thinking skills. He has noticed an improvement in how he articulates and proves his points and ideas. Brayden experienced many great things while on the team. He traveled to Atlanta, GA with the team to participate in the Atlanta Urban Debate League competition and visited various stupendoussites while in Atlanta. The debate team is a great experience. We have many more brilliant alumni!

Brayden has a bright future ahead of him!

Thank you to our Restoration sponsors!



National Trust for Historical Preservation

"This project in part has been funded by a grant from Fondren Fund for Texas of the National Trust for Historic Preservation."



National Council for Negro Women, Minnie H. Page Section



Union Pacific Foundation



Hoblitzelle Foundation



The Meadows Foundation


For a complete list of stewards and donors, please see our website at:
www.kathlynjoygilliammuseum.org


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