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Adult Chapter Meetings

Monthly, 3rd Thursday, 6PM
Virtual Meeting
(except in December)

Youth Council Meetings

At Lincoln High School

Business Name

Lincoln Branch NAACP
P.O. Box 81322
Lincoln, NE 68501-1322



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Message from the President

Greetings and well wishes,

Recently we received the 2021 Nebraska Crime Commission Report which provides us with another indicator of how we are progressing with law enforcement and criminal justice issues in Nebraska. The data from the report suggest that racial profiling still exists, despite legislative efforts to address this issue. There seems to be an issue with holding officials accountable for enforcing the laws. We must ask if selective law enforcement is allowed in Nebraska? Ask your state senator and law enforcement officials, Why?

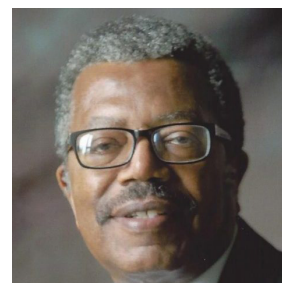
With the Supreme Court's ruling on Roe v. Wade, it is still too early to assess the impact on communities of color and the poor. If actions play out as expected, however, women of color will be most affected.

We cannot just stand by and watch. We must demand a solution. Vote!

Education is a driving force in NAACP. We must be constantly engaged at all levels. Public education is a must in all communities, since private educational options are not available to families with limited income and many special needs. We must make sure that persons selected to lead and represent us are strong proponents of diverse public education, even if we don't need it. How can we do more? Vote!

We look forward to working with ACLU and private attorneys to provide pro bono legal assistance to the public that may otherwise go unattended. This opportunity will be offered on a trial basis. I hope you will refer those you know who may take advantage of this opportunity.

We can never overemphasize the need for and our dependence on your membership support to assure a strong and vibrant NAACP Branch that addresses the needs of our community. Your membership is key to our achieving success. If you have not renewed your membership within the last year, please do so. Also, ask a friend or family member to join or gift them with a membership. Thank you for all you do for the Lincoln Branch NAACP.



M. Dewayne Mays, PhD
President

Dewayne Mays
President, Lincoln Branch NAACP

Lincoln Branch NAACP Sends Letter to Lincoln Mayor and City Council Members Urging Them to Support the Niskithe Prayer Camp and Reconsider Proposed Housing Development

Editor: Below is a copy of the letter Dr. Dewayne Mays, President of the Lincoln NAACP, sent to Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird and members of the Lincoln City Council on May 22, 2022, urging them to reconsider the decision to approve a proposed housing development that would encroach on a site that is sacred to Indigenous people.

To Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird and members of the Lincoln City Council:

The Lincoln Branch NAACP, part of the oldest civil rights organization in this nation, supports the efforts of the Niskithe Prayer Camp to protect a southwest Lincoln site that is sacred to Indigenous people. We call on you, Mayor Gaylor Baird, to honor your own stated view of a city government that "at its best, helps people coexist and reach their full human potential."

We appreciate the city government's commitments to diversity and inclusion. In the case of the Wilderness Crossing development, the NAACP Lincoln believes that to be inclusive means to understand and value the perspective of the Niskithe Prayer Camp and to allow its leaders to have agency and determination. Please do not limit your consideration of their perspective on this housing development to a narrow Euro-American sense of law, land and boundaries.

The Prayer Camp's own stated mission says it best: "We are a prayer camp peacefully occupying the land in resistance to Indigenous erasure. We ask for your solidarity & prayers as we take action to protect our ceremonial grounds, the land, waters, and non-human relatives from the proposed development."

The word "erasure" is one of deep significance that should alarm anyone seeking to help each community member reach their full human potential.

This sacred site, where Indigenous people have taken part in sweat lodge ceremonies for more than half a century, needs more protections and setbacks than a commercial or residential area would need.

Something must be done: a park could be placed opposite the sweat lodge site. All of Snell Hill could be preserved from development. In recognition of the historic dispossession of Native people from millions of acres of their homelands, these 160 acres – a relative speck on the map – could be given to tribes.

Lincoln could take an important step forward by making accommodations to protect the sacred sweat lodge site and by recognizing the desperate need for Indigenous voices in city planning. It would set our city on a more inclusive path to a more inclusive model for people to coexist and reach their full human potential. We urge you to seek this growth in city government, in listening, and in understanding what must be done. Please show respect for the perspective of the Niskithe Prayer Camp and its leaders.

"...the NAACP Lincoln believes that to be inclusive means to understand and value the perspective of the Niskithe Prayer Camp and to allow its leaders to have agency and determination."

-Dewayne Mays

Lincoln's historical origin is predated by the historical settlement on the lands now known as Lincoln, Nebraska. The preservation of remaining sensitive Indigenous sites in the city of Lincoln must be preserved. The leadership of the city of Lincoln, the mayor, the city council, the housing commission, have a responsibility of preserving the cultural significance shared by the Niskithe Prayer Camp and its leaders. This means preserving these sacred sites so that future generations will be afforded the opportunity to understand who we are in Lincoln, Nebraska. We must not neglect this opportunity for reconciliation. We therefore urge you to reconsider your decision and seek the input from the perspective of the Niskithe Prayer Camp and its leaders.

Respectfully submitted by the Lincoln Branch NAACP
Dewayne Mays, President

Thomas Christie, Retired LPS Administrator, Receives Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Nebraska Wesleyan University

Jackie Egan

The NAACP Lincoln Branch membership wish to congratulate Thomas Christie on receiving the Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Nebraska Wesleyan University at the May 7, 2022, Commencement. Here is what was said about Dr. Christie in the Wesleyan University Commencement Program:

"Unsure of what to do after his graduation from Lincoln High School, Thomas Christie toured Nebraska Wesleyan University with his principal. Thanks to the principal's advice and the encouragement of two multiracial organizations whose mission was to get minority students into college, Thomas enrolled at NWU.

"Here, he played football and joined Theta Chi Fraternity and

the Afro-American College Society. Admittedly, he was challenged both academically and financially. But, thanks to his hard work in the classroom and a benefactor who helped pay for his education, Thomas earned a Bachelor of Science in sociology and anthropology. He vowed immediately to give back to his community as a thanks to those who invested in him.

"His career started at the Malone Center where he paired Black children with elders and college graduates. His focus on mentorship caught the attention of his former high school principal who recommended a career in education. That led Thomas back to Nebraska Wesleyan to earn a teaching certificate.

"He'd spend the next 43 years with Lincoln Public Schools as a teacher, coach and administrator. He led the district's multicultural work, making a profound impact on students and staff. As a teacher, Thomas started leadership and mentoring groups and ethnic caucuses to ensure minority students were better represented on the student council. For 19 years, he coached football and wrestling, leading his wrestling teams to championship and runner-up titles. (continued on page 3)

Thomas Christie, con't.

In 1996, he was named the district's multi-cultural/community administrator, directing multicultural programs, recruiting minority teachers and championing work to help all staff become more culturally proficient. He started the annual LPS Multicultural Institute, which brings national speakers to address multicultural issues.

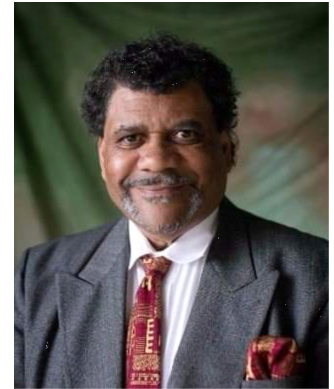
"Thomas has served as president of the Clyde Malone Center Board. He has also served on the Mayor's Multicultural Committee since its inception, the Lincoln Public Schools Foundation, TeamMates Mentoring Program, NeighborWorks

Lincoln and the Lighthouse. He has chaired the education committee of the Lincoln branch of the NAACP, and is a founding member of the MLK Freedom Breakfast Committee.

"Thomas is a Lincoln High Distinguished Alumnus, a member of the Lincoln High School Athletic Hall of Fame and the first recipient of Lincoln Public Schools' Leola Bullock Award.

"He and his wife, Brenda, have two children, Fayola Christie and Yohance Christie."

The Lincoln NAACP Chapter thanks Dr. Thomas Christie for his long, distinguished career.



Dr. Thomas Christie

Lincoln NAACP Awards Scholarships to Two Graduating High School Students

On May 27 during the Lincoln High School graduation ceremonies, Dr. Dewayne Mays, president of the Lincoln Chapter of the NAACP, awarded \$1,000 college scholarships to two graduating seniors in the Lincoln Youth Chapter.

High school students who are members of the Lincoln Youth Chapter are encouraged to apply for these scholarships during

their senior year. The goal of the Lincoln Youth Chapter which is part of the NAACP Youth in Action is to encourage students to take leadership roles not only in the Youth Chapter but also in school, community, and church organizations in order to serve the youth of the Lincoln Community by focusing on civil and social rights activities.

This year's recipients are two graduating high school seniors, Shahla Abraham and Alaa Ismail, both from Lincoln High:



Alaa Ismail

Committed to:
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Global Studies

Scholarships and/or Awards:

LHS Ned Prucha Memorial Award
LHS Outstanding French Student
Lincoln Journal Star Class Act
Lincoln Rotary Club #14-High School Student Leadership Award
NAACP Lincoln Branch-NAACP Lincoln Branch Community Service Scholarship
summa cum laude
University of Nebraska Lincoln-Regents Scholarship

Alaa Ismail is an outstanding honor student at Lincoln High School.

Alaa plans to pursue a degree in Global Studies and Sociology with minors in Arabic and French at the University of Nebraska Lincoln.



Shahla Abraham

Committed to:
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Political Science and History

Scholarships and/or Awards:

Asian Community and Cultural Center-Asian Community Center Scholarship
Foundation for LPS-LHS Donald J. Loudon Scholarship
magna cum laude
NAACP-NAACP Lincoln Branch Community Service Scholarship
Nebraska Wesleyan University-Board of Governors Scholarship
University of Nebraska Lincoln-Husker Traditions Scholarship

Shahla Abraham is a scholarly student at Lincoln High School.

Shahla plans to attend the University of Nebraska Lincoln majoring in Political Science and Global Studies.

Lincoln NAACP Committee Members

Chair of Education Committee
Thomas Christie

Chair of Legal Redress Committee
Catherine Wilson

Chair of Political Action Committee
Currently Open

Advisory Committee
Chassidy S. Jackson-Goodwin

Newsletter Editor
Frank Edler

Assistant Editors
Kathleen Rutledge, Mary K. Stillwell, and
Micaela Fikar

Update on the August Opening of the New Lincoln Northwest High School

Cedric Cooper, Principal

The Northwest Family is excited to begin our journey in August. The community is an integral part of our success as a school. It was our pleasure to join the community during several Airpark and the Roper area events. The egg hunt was a fantastic time. We had staff and scholars attend the event. It was fun to watch the little kids run for eggs and candy while with their families. The neighborhood cleanup this past Saturday was another great time with community members from the Lincoln Housing authority and Arnold Neighborhood Association - again, we had Falcons from our athletic teams and staff lending a helping hand! The FUN night at Arnold was an absolute blast on Friday, May 6! We had several staff and scholars help with the event. It was a thrill to watch our families interact with future Falcons. Last Saturday, we had a great event at the Roper end-of-year carnival. It has brought us so much joy watching families smile, interact, and share family time.

We have a few updates on the progress of our school. The construction crews are working extremely hard to get us ready for the opening of the school year. You may have noticed that the areas around the school are being cleared out so the remainder of the concrete can be laid, landscaping can be finished, and our sports complex is starting to take shape. We ask that you continue to be patient as it will take us time once we move into the building to get acclimated and work out the bugs of being in a new space. Our custodians are cleaning the classrooms and

preparing for furniture to be moved into those spaces.

Our school's enrollment is close to 450 and continues to climb by the day. If we continue to grow at the rate that we are growing, we may see close to 500 students on the day when we open. The first day of school will be for 9th-grade students only, with the sophomores and juniors coming the following day! We know that everyone is excited, and we share the same excitement with you! Look for more information about LNW in the summer mailer that will go out to families in late June or early July.

The staffing for our school is almost complete. We have hired our teaching staff for next year and still have a few classified positions to fill. In the coming months, we will have our entire staff intact. As of last week, our team has conducted well over 200 interviews to staff our building. We have enjoyed meeting so many people and know that we have hired the right staff for our school! In the middle of July, we will have a week of staff development with our team to learn more about each other and how to better service our school community!

As a staff, we pride ourselves on being of service to the community that we serve. You will hear me refer to our team as servant leaders. On several occasions already, we have been visible. We want to always be of service to you and grow together as a family. The summer is around the corner, and we plan to be visible throughout.

Go Falcons!



Cedric Cooper, Principal
Northwest High School

Lincoln NAACP Joins in Malone Community Center Juneteenth Celebration

The Malone Community Center hosted its 35th annual Juneteenth Celebration at Trago Park on Saturday, June 18. Three large tents bursting with organization tables representing every conceivable service provider from health to police to the ACLU, not to mention activities like face-painting and dancing made Saturday a very festive affair. Yes, dancing! In the nearly 100 degree sun! At least seventy people! But heat was no threat to the celebration of freedom.

The festivities began at 11 a.m. with opening remarks from John Goodwin, executive director of the Malone Center, and encouraging, aspirational words from Lincoln Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird. Music was provided by Big Country.

Lincoln NAACP set up a table in tent 3 where Dewayne Mays,

Jareldine Mays and Rebecca Gonzales, all officers of Lincoln NAACP, did the heavy lifting with respect to sharing information about the NAACP, recruiting new members, and voter registration. Jareldine Mays' foresight in bringing a huge bag of ice-cold water bottles was appreciated by many.

The first Juneteenth Celebration put on by the Malone Center happened on Saturday, June 20, 1987, and featured a festival as well as an evening dance. It also included a fund raiser that involved throwing sponges full of water at local dignitaries (see photo). The *Lincoln Star* highlighted the 1987 celebration by writing an editorial (June 23) entitled "A Celebration of Freedom" that ended with the following words: "It was the beginning of what Malone Center supporters hope will become an annual recognition of the right of every American to strive for the American dream." Congratulations to the Malone Community Center for its thirty-fifth Juneteenth -- and still going strong!



Catherine Wilson and Rebecca Gonzales
share some humor.



Face-grazing fund raising

Deputy Attorney General Gene Crump catches a wet sponge during the Juneteenth Celebration, a fund-raiser at the Malone Community Center. Juneteenth is a holiday first celebrated June 19, 1863, in recognition of black Texans' receiving news of the Emancipation Proclamation abolishing slavery. Saturday's events included the booth giving players a chance to toss wet sponges at local dignitaries, a talent show and a money-raising jail.

Here's how the Malone Community Center celebrated its first Juneteenth in 1987. The date for the first Juneteenth in the caption should be 1865.



Jareldine Mays holding up an NAACP card at the Lincoln NAACP table.

"I, too, sing America"

by Langston Hughes

I, too, sing America.

I am the darker brother.
They send me to eat in the kitchen
When company comes,
But I laugh,
And eat well,
And grow strong.

Tomorrow,
I'll be at the table
When company comes.
Nobody'll dare
Say to me
"Eat in the kitchen,"
Then.

Besides,
They'll see how beautiful I am
And be ashamed-

I, too, am America.

Update on the Truth and Reconciliation Project and Why It Is So Important

Kathleen Rutledge

Spurred by discussions about racial justice at annual Mandela picnics, the NAACP Lincoln and Nebraskans for Peace Lincoln joined forces to start a Truth and Reconciliation process a few years ago.

So how's it going?

The part about telling the truth -- engaging historians to write a truthful, accurate and more complete history of race and racism in Nebraska -- is going well and picking up momentum. "Roots of Justice: Historical Truth and Reconciliation in Lincoln and Nebraska" has a team of historians researching sections on Native Americans, African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans and Recent Arrivals. A preliminary bibliography is already online at <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/truth/1/>.

The history project has drawn financial support from more than 100 individuals and organizations and three foundations: Lincoln Community Foundation, Weitz Family Foundation and Woods Charitable Fund. The goal is to create a digital resource that would be online in 2023.

Once that history is done, then comes a hard part: how to introduce this history into community conversations and inspire actions to remedy the harms done.

-- Will Nebraskans pay attention? Dismiss it? Attack it?

-- Will knowing more of what happened in the past give rise to understanding why things are as they are today for many Nebraskans of color: access to education, housing patterns, occupational challenges, overrepresentation of Blacks and Latinos in jails and prisons, wealth gaps, health disparities?

-- Will awareness of Nebraska's history of unjust treatment of people of color give rise to more than "self-soothing gestures," as historian Andrew Delbanco asks in "Endowed by Slavery" (*The New York Review*, June 23, 2022)?

Delbanco, in writing about universities confronting their historic ties to slavery, quotes Ruth Simmons, the first African American president of an Ivy League college:

"... reaching back in history to judge how historical figures acted and judging them in the context of more evolved and enlightened laws and human rights protection can be a treacherous undertaking. It can also consign us to an endless succession of accusations and revisions that detract from the urgency of current behaviors and problems."

As the Harvards and Yales grapple with what they owe to descendants of enslaved people, some may be tempted to think this is a remote issue for Nebraska. Not so.

A *High Country News* investigation (landgrab.org) points out that the land grant university system, which gave rise to the University of Nebraska and many others, was based on the transfer or dispossession of lands from Indigenous tribes. NU, for example, received 89,920 acres of land from the federal government.

"It was all part of Abraham Lincoln's creed: 'The right to rise.' And though generations of land-grant graduates have exercised that right, few have thought to ask who actually paid for the opportunity, and how it was done. It came through the transfer or violent seizure of Indigenous land. Meanwhile, to this day, Indigenous people remain largely absent from student populations, staff, faculty and curriculum." -- *High Country News*.

NAACP Lincoln and Nebraskans for Peace Lincoln hope that fuller awareness of Nebraska's history of racial injustices, as well as resilience and triumphs, will bring about actions to address the urgency of current problems.



Nelson Mandela, first democratically elected president of South Africa, oversaw the national process of reconciliation between Blacks and Whites in South Africa that relied more on the use of restorative rather than retributive justice.



Langston Hughes in 1943

Household Hints: The Next Generation

"Household Hints" was the title of Brevy Hill Miller's column in The Voice, an African American newspaper owned and edited by Melvin and Ruby Shakespeare that was published in Lincoln from 1946 to 1953.

Spinach and Pear Salad with Bacon, Curried Cashews, and Honey Sesame Vinaigrette (6 servings)

(offered by Jackie Egan courtesy of Linda Brown 2021)

Honey Sesame Vinaigrette

- 3 T. white wine vinegar
- 3 T. Dijon mustard
- 2 T. honey
- 3 T. sesame seeds, toasted
- 1 tsp. minced garlic
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- ½ C. vegetable or peanut oil (I use ¼ C water; ¼ C oil)

Whisk together the vinegar, mustard, honey, sesame seeds, garlic, salt and pepper to taste in a bowl. Gradually whisk in the oil (& water). Set aside. May be made ahead and refrigerated.

Curried Cashews

- ¼ C. cashews (about 3 oz)
- 1 T. butter, melted
- 1 tsp. chopped fresh rosemary (I've used dried and it's ok)
- 1 tsp. curry powder
- 1 tsp. brown sugar
- ½ tsp. Kosher salt
- 1/8 tsp. cayenne (I use more)

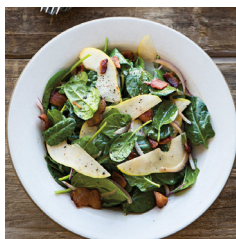
Preheat oven 400 degrees. On a baking sheet, toast cashews until golden, 8-10 minutes under broiler (Watch these carefully). Combine melted butter, rosemary, curry powder, brown sugar, salt and cayenne in bowl. Add toasted cashews still hot and toss with forks, thoroughly coating with spices and butter. May be made ahead, packaged tightly and left at room temperature.

SALAD

- ½ lb. bacon (I use turkey bacon)
- 12 C. spinach leaves
- 6 C. curly endive (I use mixed spring greens or whatever looks fresh and crisp)
- 2/3 C thinly sliced red onion (I sometimes leave this out—it's good either way—sometimes the onion is just too hard to digest)
- 3 small pears, halved, cored, thinly sliced
- 6 small bunches of grapes to place on the side of the salad plate (I like to slice bigger grapes in half and put them into the salad)

Place the bacon on a baking sheet (I cover with parchment paper), place in oven and cook until crisp—8-10 minutes at 400 degrees. Cut bacon into 1-2 inch pieces. Keep bacon warm. Bacon can be cooked ahead and reheated.

Place sliced pears into bowl and coat well with dressing (may refrigerate until ready to finish off salad). Combine spinach and endive, red onion, grapes. Put pears and dressing over spinach etc. Put warm bacon and seasoned cashews into salad or place on the side.



Mom's Frozen Fruit Slushies (15 servings)

(submitted by Eileen Vautravers based on her Mom's recipe)

Ingredients:

- 6 ounces or one-half 12 ounce can frozen orange juice (no water added)
- 6 ounces or one-half 12 ounce can frozen pink lemonade (if no pink, use regular) (no water added)
- 1 large size can 20 ounces crushed pineapple, juice and all (Dole is best)
- 1 quart 7-UP (4 cups)
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 large bananas (not too ripe, just yellow)
- If desired, also add 1 cup blueberries and 1 cup strawberries, or 2 cups strawberries

Place everything, except the ripe fruit, in a huge mixing bowl and stir to mix. Freeze until slushy. (This takes all day or overnight.)

If it is frozen hard, let it defrost. You can hurry the defrosting by stirring it. Then add the sliced bananas, cut-up strawberries and whole blueberries.

Place in serving dishes and freeze individually. May use styrofoam cups covered with wax paper or yogurt containers with plastic lids.

Thaw 30 to 45 minutes before serving.
Serves 15.

I make this once or twice each summer when the fresh fruit is in season. But, they stay frozen and can be enjoyed all winter!



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