

REMEMORY BLOCK PARTY

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:
Saturday, April 29th, 2023

SOUTHSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER

11:00-11:10 Welcome/Thank sponsors

Joint Statement: Jessica + Shacoya + Jasmine

11:15-11:20 Walking Tour with Dr. Nia (to the Lodge)

THE LODGE 536 GREEN STREET)

11:20- Book Giveaway (ongoing): Food + Music + Celebration

TABLE 1: Books

TABLE 2: Paris Baguette

TABLE 3: Healthy Food for All – salad bar + literature

11:50-12:00 (Re)Memory/Storytelling with Bertha Allen Meeks

12:00-12:50 Story Hour

2:00 Welcome/Rememory Ceremony

Joint Statement: Jessica + Shacoya + Jasmine

2:00-2:45 Food + Music + Conversation

TABLE 1: Community Table (volunteer: newsletter sign-up; community playlist –

Tompkins County Public Library rep.)

TABLE 2: GIAC – showcase poetry and visual art

TABLE 3: Food: Legacy ADRM hotbox/meal packs – HFA salad bar cont.

TABLE 4: Books

2:45-3:15 PANEL: Student Activism in Ithaca

[MODERATOR] Dr. Sean Eversley Bradwell

Amber Aspinall (Cornell/BSU/Wari House Alum)

Journey Singleton (Ithaca College/IC Rise-Up)

Trinity Odom-Reed (Ithaca High School/I-Rise)

3:15-3:30 Q&A

3:30-4:00 Community Offerings/Open Mic

4:00-4:10 Dr. Leslyn McBean-Clairborne remarks

4:10-4:30 Community Demands (future possibilities)

4:30-5:00 Dance/clean-up

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Southside Community Center 11-1PM

320 Wait Ave. 2-5PM

In 1969, the first Africana Studies Center was established in Ithaca, both marking and making Black history in Upstate NY. But on April 1st, 1970, less than a year after its founding, the Center was destroyed as the final victim in a string of fires that targeted Black Ithacan spaces, including the Southside Community Center. These fires sought not only to eliminate space but also to quell the spirit of Black resistance and unrest that had by then already gripped the country for more than two decades. From the Underground Railroad, to the oldest Black church where sermons were delivered by Frederick Douglass, and a historic Willard Straight student occupation that triggered national unrest across university campuses, Ithaca's Black history is rich, yet remains only partially spoken. Following the 53rd anniversary of Africana's destruction, we are taking back that space and giving it to Ithaca's Black and Indigenous elders and youth so they may speak that history.

Join us April 29, 2023 for a Rememory Block Party, which will kick off at Southside Community Center with a community book giveaway before moving to 320 Wait Ave. where food, music, poetry, and conversation will bring Ithaca residents, students, and local Black and Indigenous organizations together in celebration of what was not destroyed: our memories, our stories, our connections, and a world of future possibilities. Free transportation (via TCAT) will be provided to 320 Wait Ave. and will remain available to bus folks back to Southside at the end of the gathering. This event is free and open to Black and Indigenous folks of all ages living in the Greater Ithaca area. We extend a special invitation to you for a day of expression, communion, conversation, and celebration! Featured speakers will represent Southside, GIAC, Lifelong, Ithaca High School, Ithaca College, and Cornell University while reserving an open mic for inspired memory keepers in our communities. Activities will include: story hour with elders, local catering and music, book giveaway (all ages), speeches from community leaders, and resource networking with local organizations, including Healthy Food for All and the Tompkins County Public Library.

To learn more about the history that the Rememory Block Party will commemorate, we invite students and community members to a free *Agents of Change* screening at Cinemapolis on Saturday, April 22nd from 12:30-2:30.