“History shows that it does not matter who is in power or what revolutionary forces take over the government, those who have not learned to do for themselves and have to depend solely on others never obtain any more rights or privileges in the end than they had in the beginning.”

Source: Carter G. Woodson, The Mis-Education of the Negro

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Photo Journal of notable Woodlawn residents and famous scientists, mathematicians, athletes, artist, and political heroes. We also pay tribute to notable Woodlawn residents.

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Save the Date

The Next NW Quadrant of Woodlawn meeting will be held
February 18, 2017 | 11:00a – 12:30p
POAH
6144 S. Cottage Grove, Chicago, IL

Support Local Culture & Arts Programs:
Visit the DuSable Museum of African American History

A people without knowledge of their history, is like a tree without roots . . . African Proverb
What Shall I Tell My Children Who Are Black
By, Dr. Margaret Burroughs
Source: http://amistaducc.org/wordpress/2013/07/19/what-shall-i-tell-my-children-who-are-black-margaret-burroughs/

What shall I tell my children who are black, of what it means to be a captive in this dark skin?

What shall I tell my dear one, fruit of my womb, of how beautiful they are when everywhere they turn they are faced with abhorrence of everything that is black?

The night is black and so is the boogeyman. Villains are black with black hearts. A black cow gives no milk. A black hen lays no eggs. Storm clouds, black, black is evil and evil is black and devil’s food is black…

What shall I tell my dear ones raised in a white world. A place where white has been made to represent all that is good and pure and fine and decent, where clouds are white and dolls, and heaven surely is a white, white place with angels robed in white, and cotton candy and ice cream and milk and ruffled Sunday dresses and dream houses and long sleek Cadillac’s and Angel’s food is white… all, all… white.

What can I say therefore, when my child Comes home in tears because a playmate Has called him black, big lipped, flat nosed and nappy headed?

What will he think when I dry his tears and whisper, "Yes, that’s true. But no less beautiful and dear."

How shall I lift up his head, get him to square his shoulders, look his adversaries in the eye, confident in the knowledge of his worth. Serene under his sable skin and proud of his own beauty?

What can I do to give him strength? That he may come through life’s adversities As a whole human being unwrapped and human in a world of biased laws and inhuman practices, that he might survive.

And survive he must! For who knows? Perhaps this black child here bears the genius To discover the cure for… cancer

Or, to chart the course for exploration of the universe. So, he must survive for the good of all humanity. He must and will survive.

I have drunk deeply of late from the fountain of my black culture, sat at the knee of and learned from mother Africa, discovered the truth of my heritage.

The truth, so often obscured and omitted. And I find I have much to say to my black children. I will lift up their heads in proud blackness with the story of their fathers and their father’s fathers.

And I shall take them into a way back time of kings and queens who ruled the Nile, and measured the stars and discovered the laws of mathematics.

I will tell them of a black people upon whose backs have been built the wealth of three continents.

I will tell him this and more. And knowledge of his heritage shall be his weapon and his armor; It will make him strong enough to win any battle he may face.

And since this story is so often obscured, I must sacrifice to find it for my children, even as I sacrifice to feed, clothe and shelter them.

So this I will do for them if I love them. None will do it for me. I must find the truth of heritage for myself and pass it on to them.

In years to come, I believe because I have armed them with the truth, my children and their children’s children will venerate me.

For it is the truth that will make us free!

Dr. Margaret Burroughs was an African American artist, writer and a co-founder of the DuSable Museum of African American History. She was a prolific writer, with her efforts directed toward the exploration of the Black experience and to children, especially to their appreciation of their cultural identity and to their introduction and growing awareness of art.
Historical Moments in the Northwest Quadrant of Woodlawn

“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it” . . . Santayana

Protestors demonstrate against racial discrimination at the White City Roller Rink (63rd and South Parkway, later King Drive) in 1949.

The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), established in 1942, staged protests and sit-ins like this one throughout the 1940s and 1950s to break down racial barriers in housing, public accommodations, and recreational activities.

Photographer: Kaufmann & Fabry Co.
Source: Chicago Historical Society (ICHi-17209)

White City/Park City Bowl and Roller Rink
Address: 345 E 63rd St, Chicago, IL 60637, US

**Labor Trail**
From January to March 1946, African Americans picketed White City Bowl and Roller Rink to force the owners to admit black patrons. White City, which was so-named because it was the last remaining facility left after the White City Amusement Park burned down in the late 1920s, had long excluded black customers. The owners claimed the facility was a private club with the right to exclusive membership. They failed to prove that they required dues or membership cards from its white patrons, and on March 16, 1946, the rink owners finally caved to a coalition of black organizations that included the Committee for Racial Equality (CORE), the Chicago Council Against Racial and Religious Discrimination, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Alliance of Postal Employees, the United Auto Workers-CIO, the Chicago Urban League, the Dining Car Employees Union, the United Steel Workers-CIO, and the Socialist Workers Party. In 1947, the rink was turned over to new management, reopened as Park City Bowl, and opened its doors to customers of all races.

Source: [http://www.communitywalk.com/location/white_citypark_city_bowl_and_roller_rink/chicago/il/strikesriots/238358](http://www.communitywalk.com/location/white_citypark_city_bowl_and_roller_rink/chicago/il/strikesriots/238358)

In 1945, the land on which White City had stood was designated for a co-operative housing development for African-Americans. The irony, as reporters from black newspapers like the Chicago Defender quickly pointed out, was that the history of the White City Amusement Park had been one of de facto segregation. Black people were discouraged from attending during the park’s early years. As far back as 1912, there had been comments that the name "White City" was very appropriate, given how it seemed to be a park for white people, and where black people served as objects of ridicule: one game was called the "African Dip", and it involved patrons throwing projectiles at the head of a black person, and trying to hit him. Black columnists were irate that some black men willingly took these kinds of jobs. Admission policies were desegregated when the neighborhood changed and more people of color resided nearby. The housing development was to be called Parkway Gardens, and at the time, it was seen as a hopeful sign that a neglected neighborhood would have new housing.

The same anti-black policies that had beset the amusement park also applied to the roller rink at the park. The rink was still open, and during in the 1940s, it became the site of demonstrations and brawls as Blacks fought for their right to roller skate indoors. In 1942, the Congress of Racial Equality was involved in one of these rallies. In 1946, the Congress of Racial Equality sued the management of the rink, saying it was violating the Illinois Civil Rights Law. Eventually, the White City rink (which was named White because of the million electric light bulbs being so bright it could be seen for 15 miles) was desegregated and changed its name to Park City. However, the Park City rink closed in 1958. Today, White City Amusement Park, which was once considered the equal of other turn of the century parks like Coney Island, is all but forgotten; but in its heyday, it was known as "the city of a million electric lights", because its tower was an amazing sight that could be seen for 15 miles.

Notable African Americans

The mission of the Northwest Quadrant of Woodlawn is to pursue economic development through education, job training, partnering with community agencies and the promotion of cultural diversity.

For more information about 1Woodlawn and the four community quadrants visit the website: www.1woodlawn.com/#aboutus

Notable Woodlawn Residents

Bishop
Arthur M. Brazier
Gwendolyn Brooks
Oscar Brown Jr.
Bessie Coleman
Dr. Leon Finney
Ma Fuller
Sam Greenlee
Herbie Hancock
Lorraine Hansberry
Christopher Lee
Joe Louis
Jesse Owens
Reverend Mother Consuella York

1Woodlawn NW Quadrant Leadership

N. Jeane Clark
NW Quadrant Leader
enon@msn.com

Christine Valderrama
Information Officer
nwquadio@aol.com

For updates, please add your contact information to our mailing list: nwquadio@aol.com