Virtual Discussion Series

A People’s History of Wilmington

For more information and registration, visit uncw.edu/engagement/peopleshistory

Co-sponsored by the Third Person Project, UNCW Equity Institute, Office of Community Engagement and Applied Learning, Department of English and Department of History, UNCW is an EEO/AA institution. Accommodations for disabilities may be requested by contacting 910.962.3500 at least 5 days prior to the event.

Prince Morrow: A Lost Story of Black Wilmington
Thursday, March 25, 3:30 p.m.
The well-known musician and researcher Rhiannon Giddens, winner of a both a Grammy and a MacArthur “Genius” grant, will discuss one of the most fascinating Black figures of 19th-century Wilmington, an enslaved Muslim scholar named Omar ibn Said. Giddens wrote an opera about Said that was performed to great acclaim at the 2020 Spoleto Festival in Charleston. The discussion will range between unknown history and creative transformation. *Time different from other weeks in the series.

Cape Fear Rag: The Forgotten Jazz Roots of Wilmington, North Carolina
Thursday, April 8, 6:30 p.m.
North Carolina writer and historian Larry Reni Thomas grew up on the north side of Wilmington. His 1993 book, The True Story of the Wilmington 10, was among the first to focus attention on the injustices of 1971. Thomas, a well-known radio announcer, hosts Sunday Night Jazz on WCOM-FM, Chapel Hill-Carrboro. This talk may surprise local historians with its revelations regarding the contribution that Wilmington made to the evolution of what is called “America’s only indigenous art form.”

On the Record: Recovering the First Black Daily in the South
Thursday, April 15, 6:30 p.m.
Award-winning writer John Jeremiah Sullivan and Third Person co-founder Joel Finsel will discuss the findings of the Daily Record Project, a local initiative dedicated to finding, digitizing and studying the few extant copies of the Wilmington Daily Record, the pioneering Black newspaper at the center of the 1898 massacre and coup. This presentation will include never-before-seen artifacts and documents related to those events, which continue to cause ripples in our city and nation.

Voices from the Ashes: Black Wilmington Culture of the Early 20th Century
Thursday, April 22, 6:30 p.m.
Richard Yarborough, a distinguished professor of African American literature at UCLA, is also a great-nephew of the opera singer Caterina Jarboro, who was born in Wilmington in 1898. He has spoken perceptively about her life and work, as well as those of Charles Chesnutt, David Bryant Fulton and other crucial figures of Wilmington’s cultural history. UNCW associate professor Helena Spencer will facilitate the discussion and share some of her research on the legendary singer.