



# JAMES O. JESSIE DESERT HIGHLAND UNITY CENTER COMMUNITY NEWS

Desert Highland/Gateway Monthly Newsletter

January 2018

## MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

**H**appy New Year from the staff at the James O. Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center! During 2017 we added many new programs to our facility. One addition was "A Matter of Balance," a fall prevention class, and other new activities included pickle ball and Workout Wednesdays. Our final improvement to the James O. Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center was our newest staff member, Angela Cannady. In 2018 we plan to continue the work we have done and develop more activities and programs that will meet your recreational needs.

As the Community Center Manager I want to thank all the staff and volunteers that help the center function throughout the year. An extra-special thank you goes out to YOU, the patrons who take part in the many programs, activities, and services we have to offer.

## WORDS OF THE MONTH

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr stated, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." We need to remember that in order to get positive outcomes we, too, must be and respond in a positive way.



## COMMUNITY NEWS STAFF

*Editor*

Jarvis Crawford

Visit the Desert Highland Web Site at

[www.palmspringsca.gov](http://www.palmspringsca.gov)

To contact "Community News," call (760) 416-5716

**James O. Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center  
480 Tramview Road • Palm Springs, CA 92262**

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2018

February is Black History Month all over the country, but here in Palm Springs we celebrate it in style and with fun beginning in January.

The Palm Springs Black History Committee is actively seeking participants for the **Annual Gospel Fest**. We are looking for soloist, youth/adult choirs, praise dancers, steppers, gospel comedians, gospel poets, etc. This Gospel fest will start at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 28, 2018 at the United Methodist Church, 1555 Alejo Rd., Palm Springs.

On January 13, 2018 will be the **Annual 3-On-3 Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Basketball Classic** held at the Palm Springs High School Gymnasium located at 2401 E. Baristo Road, Palm Springs, Ca. 92262. The tournament has three divisions which are 17 & Under, 14 & Under, and 10 & Under. Registration starts at 9:00 a.m. and tip off will be 10:15 a.m.; fee is \$10 per player with teams of no more than four players on a team and no less than three on each team. Players that sign up without a team will be placed on a team by tournament director and only tournament director can increase team size to five players if needed or determined by availability.

Applications are being accepted for the **Tiny Tot's and Lil Miss' Pageant** in conjunction with Black History Month. The Tiny Tot's portion of the pageant is open to girls and boys 0-4 years of age. The Lil Miss portion is open to girls ages 5-12. We are in need of volunteer escorts for each contestant. If you can help, please contact Linda Gray at 760-323-8271.

**Other events are listed as follows:**

**January 14, 2018= The Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Celebration**, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. at St. Paul's in the Desert

**February 3, 2018= Annual Awards Gala**, 6:00 p.m. at the Palm Springs Hilton

**February 15, 2018= The Artists and Their Works** at the Palm Springs Art Museum.

**February 17, 2018= Adult Basketball Tournament** Registration starts at 9:00 a.m. and tip off at 10:15 a.m. at the James O. Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center.

**February 24, 2018= 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Parade and Town Fair** in beautiful Downtown Palm Springs.

## A MATTER OF BALANCE CLASS

For the second time this year we brought the “A Matter of Balance” class back to the James O. Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center. Many older adults were able to take advantage of the class over the past four weeks and as a result, they are able to manage falls and increase their activity levels. The program began November 28, 2017 and ended December 21, 2017. Classes were from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We will be starting new sessions in the near future.

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## WORKOUT WEDNESDAYS

January is here and our Workout Wednesdays will continue throughout the holidays and school breaks at the JOJDHUC. Now that football is over we want to get right back to training bodies and muscles with games and light-weight training. It's so much fun to see our youth play a cooperative collective activity that teaches them to have team work, good sportsmanship and leadership, along with increasing strength and social skills. We have a coach on staff with 30 plus years of coaching experience in football, wrestling, basketball, baseball, soccer and track.

Your child can become a member with a \$5 Membership Fee. Participants have access to the computer lab to do their homework and then workout from 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., giving everyone the chance to be home at a reasonable time. Join us for Workout Wednesdays in our air-conditioned facility, or just come hang out in a safe, staff-supervised environment.

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## SEWING CLASS

Have you always wanted to sew or just fix your favorite dress, or maybe your zipper is broken? Come to sewing class and we can show you how to replace your zipper and save some money. Sewing class has just finished sewing a unity flag project for one of the pickle ball players for display. We welcome ages 10 years old to adult. Classes are held from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and again at 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., every Friday. We will supply the sewing machines and one yard of fabric of our choice you will just need to bring white or black thread. Don't worry if you don't know how to use the machine we will teach you.

## WINTER CAMP

Winter Camp is well on its way. We recently enjoyed taking excursions to the Santa Rosa Mountains, and we are planning to go to the movies to watch Wonder and to visit the White Water Reserves in the upcoming week. Come learn about the desert we live in and have fun, too.

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## UPCOMING JOJDHUC ACTIVITIES

**After School Homework/Tutoring:** Monday through Thursday from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Staff assists youth with their school work.

**Drill Team and Drum Squad:** Every week practice is held from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

**Early Childhood Literacy Program:** Every Monday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Staff teaches Pre-K students the fundamentals that prepare them for kindergarten.

**Pickle ball:** Held every day from 10:00 a.m. through 1:00 p.m. in the Gymnasium

**Sewing Class:** Open to ages 10 and up, the class is held twice, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and then again at 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., every Friday.

**Workout Wednesdays:** Youth do their homework and then do a facilitated workout from 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. every Wednesday.

**Youth Encouragement Program (YEP):** Youth in grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> participate in uplifting/motivational sessions from 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. every Thursday.

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## DRILL TEAM & DRUM SQUAD

James O Jessie Drill Team and Drum Squad had their first performance in the Desert Hot Springs Christmas Parade. Our little ones were amazing and the drummers were outstanding. Our season is not over and we are still encouraging more youth to join. So come and make the cut and let's have fun. Practices are held from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays. We are accepting everyone 5 years of age and up, adults are welcome to join. For more information, please contact Ann Collins at the JOJUC, 760-416-5716.

