



ITEM FILE PHOTO

Dressed as Harriet Tubman, Dr. Shirley Wallace of Huntsville tells the story of the "black Moses" during last year's Black History Month program at the Samuel Walker Houston Cultural Center in Huntsville. "Tubman" told people young and old about how she helped thousands of slaves escape on the Underground Railroad. The center will be kicking off its celebration of Black History Month on Saturday with a 6 p.m. program.

# Celebrating freedom fighters

Samuel Walker Houston Museum hosting Saturday program featuring gospel performances

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The Samuel Walker Houston Museum and Cultural Center will be kicking off a number of programs taking place in honor of Black History Month throughout February, with a special celebration Saturday at 6 p.m.

The event, titled "An Old-Fashioned Gospel Program," will feature special performances from local church choirs, including Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, First Missionary Baptist Church and



MARISSA NUNEZ/THE HUNTSVILLE ITEM

A beautiful handmade quilt sits on display inside of The Wynne Home Arts Center. It is a part of a collection from the Texas Center for African American Living History, which will be on display to the public beginning on Saturday as part of the center's different programs honoring Black History Month.

The Wynne Home Arts Center will be hosting two programs during Black History Month

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To celebrate Black History Month, The Wynne Home Arts Center will be hosting two informative and interactive programs, beginning Saturday with a special reception from the Walker County Genealogical Society at 3 p.m.

The first-year program will include a special proclamation from Mayor Andy Brauninger at 3:30 p.m. and a local historical overview from longtime community member and activist Richard Watkins at 3:40.

"I think the Walker County

# WYNNE

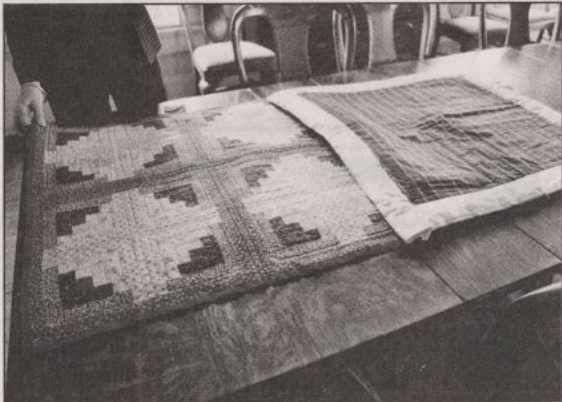
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Genealogical Society, as well as the Huntsville Arts Commission and The Wynne Home Arts Center, would like for this to be important to the community because it is important," cultural services coordinator Linda Pease said. "I know there are some other things happening in the community too, so how wonderful that we have a number of programs that are going to take place to recognize achievements of people. We'll have some little blurbs around the house that mention people."

From there, Kyle Ainsworth will give a special presentation titled "Honoring Black History," and rounding out the event will be performances from Jarell and Madeline Rochelle (dance), James Rochelle (poetry), Semone Robinson (artist and singer) and Chris Holmes (photography).

Throughout the week, the center will host a special exhibit of underground quilt replicas, which were all handmade and believed to have been used as a communication system to help slaves escape to freedom using the Underground Railroad.

"We are borrowing these from the Texas Center for African American Living History and they are replicas," Pease said. "The quilts hung along the way for people to escape and were in a particular sequence that guided people along their paths. Those will be here for people to see, and among them are some very familiar patterns, such as the log-cabin pattern and bow-tie pattern, and they



MARISSA NUNEZ/THE HUNTSVILLE ITEM

Linda Pease shows off a few of the handmade quilts that will be on display as part of The Wynne Home Arts Center's Black History Month Programs. The replica quilts are from the Texas Center for African American Living History and represent quilts used throughout the Underground Railroad as a communication system for slaves escaping to freedom.

all symbolize a particular message to people when they get to that point."

The programs conclude on Feb. 17 with a special presentation from Naomi Carrier, founder and chief executive officer of the Texas Center for African American Living History, beginning at 4 p.m.

Carrier will be doing a re-enactment of an Underground Railroad story titled "Fugitives of Passion," with a question-and-answer session to follow. Afterward, Carrier will be hosting a children's program titled "Secrets in Songs and Quilts" where children can learn more about the quilts used in the Underground Railroad and more.

Throughout the programs, copies of Carrier's book "Go Down,

Old Hannah," as well as copies of "The Underground Railroad" coloring book will be available for purchase in the Friends Sales Gallery. Carrier will be able to sign copies at the conclusion of the program. Both programs are free and open to the public.

"It's lovely to get to work with (Carrier) again, and she will be bringing several people with her to do the re-enactment and she will be talking about the efforts of people in Texas to get away," Pease said. "I think this is a part of everybody's history and we're delighted that we're going to have all of these events here."

For more information visit [www.thewynnehome.com](http://www.thewynnehome.com).