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Press Release

# Charlotte’s Historic Photo Preservation Day- FREE EVENT

## Featuring the James Gibson Peeler Photograph Collection

Charlotte, NC, April 16, 2016: Charlotte’s Historic Photo Preservation Day, sponsored by the James B. Duke Memorial Library at Johnson C. Smith University is a celebration of African American photographers, as well as promoting awareness on the important of preserving photographs and other artifacts. The celebration includes an exhibit of original photographs from the James Gibson Peeler collection. Peeler’s photographs are moments frozen in time that tells the story of the city of Charlotte; more importantly, his collection gives Charlotte citizens some insight into what it meant to be an African-American from the 1950’s into the 21st century. There is simply no better-preserved or more extensive collection in the city’s history that documents urban African-American life in Charlotte than that of James Gibson Peeler’s photographs.

The celebration will feature West African Djembe drumming with Allen Boyd, African dancing with West Side Cultural Arts, performance by Surya Swilley, JCSU Dance Major, and Haji Basim, International Folk Artist. The community can also participate in two workshops,

**10:30AM-11:30AM Photography in the Black Community:** For decades African American photographers have contributed significantly in capturing and sharing the lives of African American families and communities, including social, political, and religious activities. If these photos were not taken, what visual evidence of the African American community would be in existence? In short, photo preservation is very important in capturing, preserving, and making accessible precious moments in time. Discussions will evolve from this perspective.

**Guest speakers**: Michael Maxwell, Calvin Ferguson, and Dr. Suzanne Carothers

**12:15PM-1:15PM: Preserving Your Photographs:** Stored somewhere in someone’s’ basement, attic or closet one could find old photo albums, scrapbooks, dairies, newspaper clips, or letters. Despite the lack of preservation knowledge many family heirlooms survive but are slowly deteriorating. Everyone loves saving mementos from the past. But not everyone knows how to preserve their family photographs. Join Nooma Monika Rhue in learning simple steps for preserving photographs.

This is a **FREE** community event from 10:00AM-2:00PM. Help preserve Charlotte’s African American history by bringing old photos to be scanned from 10:00AM-1:00PM. **Sponsored by JCSU Library, Lyrasis, and the HBCU Library Alliance.**