



**Hear It Through The
Grapevine!
The Newsletter For
Brookdale Orchard
Feeding the Mind Body & Soul
Special Thanks4Giving Edition
November 28, 2023**

In This Issue

**Ladybug Lessons, Litanies & Lyrics: Drive-by Conversation
Welcome to the Grapevine! Again
The Campaign for Tubman Hall**

**Mittie Imani Dreamweaver's
Ladybug Lessons, Litanies & Lyrics
*A Drive-by Conversation***

Nothing lengthy, just a moment to thank those of you who took time to visit our website, to those who sent kind words of congratulations for our accomplishment “thus far” and encouragement to keep moving forward, and to those who were willing and able, for your contributions and pledges to our funding campaigns and mission.

When I sat out to develop brookdaleorchard.org, I made a conscious decision to not have a “*donate*” button positioned as the first thing you see when you enter our site. As much as we want and need financial support from our website visitors, I believe – and thankfully Brookdale Orchard friends and associates with whom I consulted agree, that giving will be inclined by those who take the time to wade through our website and virtually share in our journey. In this first week since announcing the launch of our site and campaigns, we have found this to be true.

So, we are truly thankful for those of you who have taken the time to click and scroll through

(continued on page 2)

“Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars, to change the world.”

Harriett Tubman



**Harriet Tubman Print of Oil Painting by Paul Colins
Great Beautiful Black Women Collection**

(Drive by Conversation continued from page 1)

our story and subsequently donated funds, inquired about volunteering, and/or pledged to do one, the other or both. **#Thanks4Giving!**

And now that Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, and Cyber Monday are over, if you have not already done so, we hope that you will consider visiting our website, explore our journey, and if you have any spare change to share, show us a little love on this **#GivingTuesday and beyond.**

The Campaign for Tubman Hall

Two of my most prized possessions are waiting for a new home in Tubman Hall. One, a first edition print of Paul Collins' portrait of Harriet Tubman (on page 1), one of the twelve women featured in his 1978 "Great Beautiful Black Women" exhibit, gifted to me by the City of Atlanta Department of Cultural Affairs upon my departure from service in 1979 as its first director of the Artist-in-Residence Program. The other, an amazing wire mesh and found objects sculpture (right) depicting Harriet Tubman by Zairean born Augie Nkele gifted to me by the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs' South Dallas Culture Center upon my departure from service as director in 1996. Both organizations knew that she was and continues to be my "spirit guide."

Her strength, her faith, her fearlessness, her defiance against all odds, her unwavering commitment, perseverance, and passion for disenfranchised black people longing to be free motivates me to dare to dream daily about the possibilities for Brookdale Orchard and the community we serve.

Please join with us in making Brookdale Orchard's Tubman Hall Education and Production Center a reality, and giving Harriett the portrait and Harriett the sculpture a new home where more people can share in their amazing craftsmanship and beauty!



**Harriet Tubman by Augie Nkele
Mesh, Wire and Found Objects**

Subscribe to *Grapevine!*

If someone on the *Grapevine* mailing list forwarded it to you and you wish to continued receiving the free monthly newsletter, please subscribe at brookdaleorchard.org/join-the-mission/

Grapevine is a publication of New Myths & Legends Productions and Publications, Cleveland, Ohio 44106. Mittie Imani Jordan, publisher. Photographs by M. I. Jordan unless otherwise credited. © 2023 All rights reserved. Inquiries to ladybug@brookdaleorchard.org

Join The Mission!

Without fanfare that we cannot afford, we have launched the funding campaign to raise \$500,000 to restore and retrofit a 1921 building anchoring Brookdale Orchard to serve as our education, training, and brand production center. While jumping through the algorithms and deadlines of philanthropic entities, without financial resources for fund development staff (it's a "catch 22"), we need to include funding support from individuals, congregations, and social organizations, and offer several levels as giving corresponding with the Orchard's signature symbols of the Underground Railroad Quilt Codes of Freedom.

We are especially hopeful of significant support from the black community as the building will be named Tubman Hall in honor and recognition of Harriett Tubman, who committed her life to the physical, emotional, and mental emancipation of enslaved – and some free – black people in America. Everyone's gift will be publicly recognized on the branches of the "Tree of Life" sculpture to be displayed in the lobby. For more information on this and our other funding campaigns, please visit brookdaleorchard.org/education/

Thanks4Giving!



Welcome to the Grapevine Again!

For those of you who were accustomed to receiving your emails from Ladybug at Kumbayashore, she has moved off the lake and returned to the nearby inland orchard! Yep, she's back! And as verbose as ever!

In April 2021, having shut down Kumbaya on the Shore due to Covid restrictions, the Ladybug *Lessons, Lyrics and Litanies* missive was titled "Work While You Wait," in which you were invited to the dedication of the first garden in Brookdale Orchard, a community mission established in 2016 by St. Matthew United Methodist Church and the resident controlled Rockefeller Park Community Restoration and Development Association.

Since that time, we have acquired twenty additional parcels of land bringing our footprint to 22 lots over three streets, dedicated our second garden, a 14,600 square foot memorial garden sponsored by current and former families and congregations associated with the orchard community, established a weekly gardening club of women residing in/or connected with the Orchard community, employed a small part-time grounds crew of men who live in the neighborhood and walk to , conducted a six-week Summer School Without Walls and twice-weekly fall Wisdom Garden for neighboring 3rd through 8th grade children and youth, served as a summer week-long mission site for twenty-three teams from six states: Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, and perhaps most significantly, we have acquired a building anchoring our site plan which will serve as our education and production center in achieving our vision to establish a produce and by-product market brand of jams, jellies, juices and pastries from the harvest of a community-controlled, income earning fruit and vegetable orchard in the heart of Cleveland's Hough neighborhood.

As not to belabor this introduction, I welcome you to virtually visit us at brookdaleorchard.org with hopes that you will join our mission! If you did not know, now you know. Because you've heard it through the **Grapevine!**

Brookdale Orchard

With a **mission** to improve the quality of life for our people and the appearance of our neighborhood, and to preserve the integrity of the natural environment as a place for peaceful community growth and gathering, the **vision** for Brookdale Orchard is to establish a produce and by-product market brand of jams, jellies, juices, and pastries from the harvest of a community-controlled, income earning fruit and vegetable orchard in the heart of Cleveland's Hough neighborhood.

Established in 2016 as an inter-generational program garden, Brookdale Orchard is a mission of St. Matthew United Methodist Church and the resident established Rockefeller Park Community Restoration and Development Association. Bordered by Superior and Wade Park Avenues, and East 79th Street to Rockefeller Park the orchard currently sits on twenty-two parcels of land spanning three city blocks from East 86 to East 89 between Brookdale Court and Wade Park Avenue.