

LOCAL NEWS

Silver-haired storytellers sought to talk about race relations

By **LEE SHEARER** updated Thursday, March 13, 2014 - 11:33pm



Rabbit Box is looking for silver-haired people who have stories to tell about race relations, preferably about race relations in Athens.

The Athens storytelling collective has scheduled an introductory meeting 10:30 a.m. Saturday for those who have such stories to tell. Anyone who can share is invited to come to the staff conference room of the First Presbyterian Church of Athens at 185 E. Hancock Ave.

Parking is available behind the church at 170 Dougherty St.

The meeting will begin to set the stage for a 7 p.m. "Silver Box" storytelling event on May 14 at Melting Point called "My Life in Black and White."

People 65 and older will tell personal stories about an incident or time in their lives where race played a major factor, said Mary Whitehead, a volunteer with Rabbit Box.

The stories might be about participating in the Civil Rights movement, an experience of racism, but they can be recent as well as years ago, she said.

"If it happened yesterday it doesn't matter," said Whitehead. "We just think this history is really important to get out."

The "Silver Box" title for the event is a play on the phrase "silver fox," Whitehead said. "That's one of the greatest traditions of storytelling, the stories of older people."

For those who might not feel comfortable telling a story in front of a big crowd, another Silver Box show will be held at the Athens Community Council on Aging, but a date is not yet set.

Others might prefer to share stories one-on-one at the University of Georgia's Russell Library, which seeks people and their memories for its "First Person Project." The project's goal is to document the lives of everyday Georgians based on the idea that everyone has been an eyewitness to history.

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In the days and weeks after Saturday morning's introductory meeting, people who volunteer to share their stories will also be able to participate in a series of free storytelling workshops with individual coaching, Whitehead said.

For more information about Rabbit Box, see <http://rabbitbox.org>. To learn more about the First Person Project, see http://www.libs.uga.edu/russell/fpp/fpp_splash.html. And for questions about Saturday's meeting and the upcoming Silver Box storytelling, email Whitehead at whitehead888@att.net.

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