



**GREENSBORO MASSACRE:  
LESSONS FOR TODAY**



October 29, 2019

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## **PRESS ADVISORY**

Events related to the lead-up to the Commemoration of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Greensboro Massacre\*:

1. A national story on the Commemoration of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Greensboro Massacre will be featured on NPR's Morning Edition, Friday, November 1. The piece is produced and reported by David Ford. Ford is a reporter for the Triad and High Country NPR-affiliated radio station 88.5 WFDD. His reporting will include interviews with survivors and city leaders, as well as with others who will help lead commemoration activities and events.
2. Attorney and author Flint Taylor will be interviewed on the WUNC program "The State of Things" with Frank Stasio about his 2019 book The Torture Machine: Racism and Police Violence in Chicago at 12:40PM (EST) Tuesday, October 29. A nationally known civil rights lawyer, Mr. Taylor will serve as a panelist for the upcoming conference that is part of the Commemoration of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Greensboro Massacre in 1979. The 1979 murders of five young activists at the hands of the KKK and Neo-Nazis is still a matter of dispute between survivors, their social justice activist supporters, and the political and law enforcement leadership of the City of Greensboro, which has yet to issue an apology for the role local police played in 1979 encouraging and surveilling the violence and then failing to prevent it.
3. On October 26<sup>th</sup> at the Greensboro History Museum, a Community Symposium on History & Reconciliation focused on instances of racist violence in Greensboro's history. Joyce Johnson (Beloved Community Center), Dr. Spoma Jovanovic (UNCG), and civil rights advocate Lewis Pitts reflected on the Greensboro Truth & Reconciliation Commission organized in 2004-6 as a response to the 1979 Greensboro Massacre. Members of the Guilford County Community Remembrance Project Coalition shared the facts of the brutal lynching of Eugene Hairston in 1887. Future approaches to history and reconciliation in the city were explored by Dr. Omar Ali (UNCG), Dr. William F. Harris II (International Civil Rights Center & Museum), and Dr. Valerie Ann Johnson (Bennett

College). The event was co-sponsored with the Beloved Community Center, UNCG Department of Communication Studies and NCA Center for Communication, Community Collaboration, & Change.

4. Nationally acclaimed contemporary Urban Latin Dance company, CONTRA-TIEMPO, will be engaged in a weeklong community residency with local colleges, immigrant advocacy groups, and other community organizations in Greensboro leading up to their free performance of “joyUS justUS” at NC A&T State University on Saturday evening, November 2. Their innovative, activist approach to their work, which involves engaging diverse communities in telling their own stories, culminated last week in a sold-out performance at Stewart Theater on the campus of NC State in Raleigh. Founder and Artistic Director, Ana Maria Alvarez, explains the company’s non-traditional approach of using deep community engagement to address social justice issues in their art: “We intentionally and intensely engage diverse audiences to inform, inspire, ignite, question, and continuously re-fuel our creative process. Community engagement and artistic production are inextricably linked. We cannot authentically exist outside of the communities that we inhabit. The experiences, cultural creations, and ‘we- stories’ of our communities are the inspiration and motivation for our dance-making. Our ability to inspire and be inspired by our beloved communities fuels our hope that art can help create a better world.”

For details about Commemoration events, visit [www.greensboromassacrelessonstoday.org/](http://www.greensboromassacrelessonstoday.org/)  
For other information, email [info@greensboromassacrelessonstoday.org](mailto:info@greensboromassacrelessonstoday.org).

\*NOTE: These four items are not part of the Commemoration weekend events but are part of the preliminary activities leading up to it.

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