

# THE LAUREL OF ASHEVILLE

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## *Color Beyond the Lines: A New Film* Chronicles Hendersonville's Black Community and Education

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The Center for Cultural Preservation will premiere a new film, *Color Beyond the Lines*, on Saturday, June 21, documenting the rich and challenging history of the Black community's journey toward educational equity.

For years, Weintraub has been working on an oral history project with the Hendersonville Black History Research Group. "I was blown away by how much I didn't understand about the extent of discrimination the Black community faced and the hardships they had to overcome," he says.

"What became clear in interviewing dozens of Black elders here is that they understood that if they were going to be totally free, they needed to have a quality education. And that's the focus of the film, the creation of great institutions of learning that became precious aspects of the Black community."

The Research Group was vital to the creation of the film, introducing Weintraub to alumni of the 9th Avenue School, a historical centerpiece of Black education in Henderson County. Weintraub worked with two historians who had also laid the groundwork on local *Black history*: Betty Jamerson, author of *School Segregation in Western North Carolina* and Jennie Jones Giles, a local history educator. "They helped put me in touch with former students, teachers and businesspeople who gave me a window into the life of a very vibrant Black community that had to be self-sufficient because they received little support from the greater community for many years," he says.

The premiere of *Color Beyond the Lines* will commemorate the 60th anniversary of school integration in Hendersonville.

Tickets for the premiere can be purchased at [SaveCulture.org](https://SaveCulture.org) and all proceeds benefit the Center for Cultural Preservation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving mountain heritage through oral history and documentary film.



*Starting four members of the statewide champs, the 1972 Hendersonville High School Bearcats*