



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Westside Community Center Celebrates Black History Month with the Legacy of
Hiram Wilson, Texas Potter, and the Harlem Renaissance**

New Braunfels, Texas — On Monday, February 22nd at 1:00 p.m., Joe Reid will be talking about the life and legacy of his great-great-grandfather, Hiram Wilson, a freed slave who started Wilson Potteries, the first African American enterprise in the state of Texas. Wilson’s pottery business near Seguin produced beautiful and innovative stoneware that is found in museums and collections throughout the United States. This presentation will be in the downstairs meeting room at the Westside Community Center - 2932 S. IH-35 Frontage Road, in New Braunfels.

Reid is a retired engineer for NASA, who also worked for Harris Corporation and Tandem/Compaq/Hewlett Packard over the course of his long career. He has been involved with researching the origins of the Wilson potters and in so doing has become knowledgeable on the subject of slave genealogy. In 1999 he became a charter board member of the Wilson Pottery Foundation, a public non-profit organization. Currently he is the interim president of the foundation’s board of directors.

An ongoing exhibit on the Harlem Renaissance will be on display at the Westside Community Center beginning Monday, February 22nd through Friday, February 26th. The exhibit highlights some of the artists and authors of that era: W.E.B Du Bois, Zora Neale Hurston, Langston Hughes, Josephine Baker, James Weldon Johnson, and others. The exhibit has been made possible through the generosity of the Friends of the Library.

“The New Braunfels Public Library and the Westside Community Center are proud to help commemorate Black History Month in our community”, said Library Director Gretchen Pruett. “These programs highlight the many and varied ways that our lives are enriched by the contributions of black Americans, past and present.”

For more information contact Alix Samuels at 830-221-4301.

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