

Close-Up

The Links Inc.: Providing hope

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Chronicle Staff Writer

Back in 1946 two women with a vision felt that post-World War II black America needed tending to, so they founded an organization dedicated to serving the needs of the black community.

The women were Sarah Strickland and Margaret Hawkins; both of Philadelphia, and their organization is known as The Links Inc., a highly regarded, predominantly black women's service organization. In 1950 the Links organized in Winston-Salem.

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-- Virginia Newell

and today the chapter is one of 13 in North Carolina.

"We're a service organization that's also concerned with civic, cultural and educational affairs," says Virginia Newell, president of the local chapter. "We're a group of women with talents, and we're dedicated to using those talents to help our community."

The Links, says Mrs. Newell, has a four-thrust focus on which chapters build their yearly programs.

Under the youth services thrust, the organization sponsors a summer camp in Alabama. The Links' current youth project is LEAD (Links Erase Alcohol and Drug Abuse). The youth services programs also deal with teen-age pregnancy and provide scholarships for students.

"I think one of the crowning factors of this organization is the fact that in 1984 we contributed \$1 million to the United Negro College Fund," says Mrs. Newell. "We're the first black organization to contribute that much at one time. That's the way we feel about our institutions and youth education."

The second thrust of the organization handles national trends and services.

"This part of our program is very important," says Mrs. Newell, "because we try to keep abreast of trends and issues that affect us as black women."

A third focus of the Links is international trends and services. Through this program the organization participates in global issues and provides worldwide assistance.

"We recently participated in the International Women's Decade Conference held in Nairobi, Kenya," says Mrs. Newell. "We are especially proud of our involvement with the African Wells projects. We try to reach out to people who need us in other countries as well as in this country."



The local chapter of The Links Inc. hopes to provide a prototype program at this Saturday's conference.

The arts, the fourth thrust of the program, are a major concern of the Links, and Mrs. Newell says, "Wherever arts are, we want to help them reach people. Everything can be an art."

Since the organization is a closely knit group of women, comparisons between the Links and sororities are common. However, Mrs. Newell says that while the Links and sororities share similar goals, there are a few differences.

"The sorority is much, much larger, and it has grown out of a college setting," she says. "The Links may or may not be college graduates."

"The sorority has a much larger base," Mrs. Newell continues, "because they have undergraduate chapters and graduate chapters. Because of their size, I feel that they could do much more. There are only about 5,000 Links nationwide. We also don't have the heritage that the sororities have."

Membership in the Links is by invitation, and Mrs. Newell says that prospective members are observed and extended invitations based on their work in the community and their desire to offer service to the community.

"Links are people who take their means and put them back into their community," says Mrs. Newell, who is in her fourth year as chapter president.

Saturday, Oct. 12, the Winston-Salem Links will sponsor the North Carolina Cluster Conference at Stouffer's Winston Plaza Hotel. The group will meet under their national theme, "Making History, Providing Hope."

"We're going to get together as friends and Link sisters," Mrs. Newell says. "We're going to discuss our concerns and our programming."

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THURSDAY, OCT. 10

• The Winston-Salem Delta Fine Arts Center will begin a six-week calligraphy class for adults from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. every Thursday at the Delta Arts Center, 1511 E. Third St. Classes are free; for more information call Brenda Henry at 722-2625.

FRIDAY, OCT. 11

• The Winston-Salem Zoning Board of Adjustment will conduct a special meeting at 3 p.m. in the Council Chamber, second floor, City Hall. The meeting is called to complete the public hearing scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 3, which was continued due to lack of a quorum.

SATURDAY, OCT. 12

• Winston-Salem State University will celebrate Parents' Day. The schedule of events includes a miniparade, displays, recreational activities and opportunities for parents to meet with faculty members. Registration will be held from 9 a.m. until noon in the Alumni/Public Relations building on campus. The football game between the WSSU Rams and the Howard University Bison will begin at 7 p.m. at Bowman Gray Stadium. For more information call Marilyn Roseboro at 761-2150.

• The United Afro-American Network will have drill team practice at Belview Recreation Center, 801 Moravia St. The group will organize a drill team for boys ages 9 to 13. The group will also host a fish fry at the center; plates and sandwiches will be sold. For more information call Geneva Payne at 788-2846.

• High Point College will celebrate its homecoming during the weekend of Oct. 12, with class reunions scheduled for all classes ending with 5 or 0. Events will include the alumni/college golf tournament, a dance, a soccer match and a student talent show. For more information call the alumni office at 885-5101.

• The Winston-Salem Symphony will hold a "Concerts for Kids Carnival" from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in Winston Square. Kids from 3 to 10 will meet musicians from the symphony and play instruments. The carnival kicks off the "Concerts for Kids" series which begins Oct. 27 in the Stevens Center. For more information call the Winston-Salem Symphony at 725-1068.

• The Howard University Alumni Club of Winston-Salem will hold a pre-game tailgate picnic at 5:30 p.m. The picnic will be held just before the Winston-Salem State/Howard football game at Bowman Gray Stadium in the south gate parking lot. For more information call Larnetta Richardson at 725-4430 or 784-7997.

SUNDAY, OCT. 13

• The Winston-Triad Lupus Chapter will meet at Highland Presbyterian Church Activities Building on Cloverdale Avenue at 2:30 p.m. An audio-visual presentation will be given; final plans will be made for the upcoming medical seminar. For more information call 768-1493 or 724-6303.

• Wake Forest University will host a public debate and discussion between the Wake Forest Debate Team and Soviet Union representatives at 8 p.m. in Brendle Recital Hall. The topic will be "The Responsibilities of the USSR and the USA for Assisting the Economic and Political Stability and Growth of Developing Countries." The debate is free and open to the public. For more information call Allan Loudon at 761-3408 or 723-5022.

• The National Council of Negro Women Inc., Winston-Salem
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Social Notes

'Instant Theater': The '7-Up man' just having a ball at SECCA

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Chronicle Staff Writer

If you can imagine being in the same room with James Earl Jones, Fred Astaire and Ed "Too Tall" Jones all rolled into one body, then you have a pretty good picture of what it was like to be in the audience when Geoffrey Holder performed at SECCA last Wednesday night.

Holder presented a one-man show in "Instant Theater," which he himself terms "Geoffrey Holder just having a ball."

At 6 feet, 6 inches tall, Holder is a massive man, and few people would guess that his favorite pastime is something as tame as cooking.

"Yes, I love to cook. I especially enjoy mixing a variety of tasty spices and herbs," says Holder, who has published a book on the subject, "Geoffrey Holder's Caribbean Cookbook."

After his performance Holder
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Geoffrey Holder, the "7-Up man," shows that he's always had it, always will in his "Instant Theater" performance at SECCA (photo by Art Blue).

About Town

'Home' opens Black Repertory Company's seventh season

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Chronicle Staff Writer

"Home," the smash Broadway hit play, will open in Winston-Salem at 8 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 18, at the Arts Council Theatre, 610 Coliseum Drive.

The North Carolina Black Repertory Company opens its seventh season with a New York cast for the play. Additional performances will be held on Oct. 19 and 20, with a special matinee performance at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 20. Adult tickets are \$10 in advance and may be purchased at the Stevens Center Box Office or the NCBRC office on Coliseum Drive

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority recently held its annual Health Fair at East Winston Shopping Center. Members from Phi Omega and Gamma Lambda chapters sponsored the event.

Renee Williams provided the younger health fair patrons with a little fun while dressed in a clown's outfit.

Barbara Phillips is basileus of the alumnae chapter

The Alta Vista Flower Club held its September meeting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Feemster.



Larry McLaughlin listens to health care tips from public health nurse Mrs. C. Jones during AKA Health Fair (photo by James Parker).



Renee Williams, left, and Mrs. Kelly O.P. Goodwin share a laugh with a young Health Fair patron (photo by James Parker).

Mrs. Broome was the hostess for the meeting.

Committees were formed to begin work on programs for 1986. The club's sick members were also remembered

The Book Club of Today recently met at the home of Louise Smith.

Dr. Barbara Phillips presided at the meeting. Other hostesses were Barbara Hayes and Edna Revels.

The main business on the agenda dealt with the program committee report. The committee chairman is Modesta Earl. Plans were finalized on the year's program.

Other members attending included Bronnie Daniels, Irma Gadson, Maybelle Hedgley, Annie Kennedy, Wilma Lassiter and Marian Wooten

Community News Deadlines

The Chronicle welcomes community news and calendar items.

Announcements should be concise and typed or neatly printed. They should include the day, time, place and sponsors of the event, plus a number to call for additional information.