

COMMUNITY



Rev. Marion R. Blair



Naomi McClean



Roberta C. Blue



Julia R. Boler



Mae C. Corley



Georgia M. Smith



Dorothy R. Williams



Dorothy E. Wynecoff

Angelic Echoes To be Honored Nov. 20th

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

Nearly 10 years ago, on September 16, 1984, a group of ladies gathered for a "historical picture viewing reception" honoring the forty-fifth anniversary of the first black public stenographic services and the first black business school in Winston-Salem. Both were founded by Winston-Salem native Naomi C. McLean.

After singing a selection at the reception, nine ladies who were graduates of the Star Stenographic School of Business, were encouraged by the Rev. Dr. Marion Blair, pastor of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Troy to start a choir.

The choir, the Angelic Echoes were founded.

Dr. Blair talked about how she sang and suggested that they become a choir. McLean said, "With his support we used his name as the founder of the group."

McLean said the Angelic Echoes have performed at churches and anniversaries and have paid tribute to her on numerous occasions.

On the evening of Nov. 20 at the Winston-Salem Urban League, McLean will honor her former students and celebrate the ninth anniversary of the Angelic Echoes.

"They are graduates of mine who have all gone on to become successful," McLean said. "They have honored me and now I'm honoring them."

McLean started the business school in 1941 and at that time was the only black licensed public stenographer in Winston-Salem. The school has produced graduates who went on to work for major businesses such as R.J. Reynolds and Sara Lee.

"At typing demonstrations during commencement, sometimes I would blindfold them and the audience loved it," she remembered. "Some of them said I was strict, but they had to get their lesson and it paid off."

The program, which begins at 5 p.m., will feature guest participants and the Angelic Echoes will sing the final selection. Blair, founder of the group, will be the guest speaker.

Needlepoint Exhibit at Delta Arts

An exhibition featuring the work of Marie Campbell is currently on display at the Delta Arts Center.

The exhibit of cross stitched quilts will be open until Dec. 17. The Winston-Salem community is invited to join Campbell at the Delta Arts Center Sunday, Nov. 14 at 3 p.m. for the opening reception.

The center is open Monday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m.

Nikki Giovanni Says Political Views Not Changed

▲ Noted poet performs at Brendle Recital Hall Friday

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

A renewed interest in black history and black literature among college students has allowed revered poet/author Nikki Giovanni to read her poetry and lecture at colleges and universities across the country.

Giovanni, a revolutionary poet during the 1970s, said people from all ethnic groups are again becoming interested in black culture.

"I think there is a great interest in black history among black and white youths," she said in a phone interview. "You can just witness rap (music) and how it has crossed over so many lines and witness (the popularity of) Malcolm X."

Giovanni, a professor of literature and creative writing at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, will lecture

and read her poetry at Wake Forest University tomorrow at 8 p.m. at Brendle Recital Hall. She said it was "disgraceful" for some men to accuse nobel prize winning author Toni Morrison for male-bashing in her writings.

"(Morrison) is not only a nobel winner, not only a great writer, but a much desired one," she said. "Some men say you are bashing the man, but look at some of the things they do to women. I think it's all foolish and I think it should stop, but I think the women are criticized when we try to explain our reality."

Giovanni said that on Friday night she plans to read her poetry, and introduce some of the writings from her new book *Racism 101* which is a collection of essays.

Throughout her career, she has written nearly 20 books and made

several records. But she is cautious to say whether her political leanings have changed over the years.

"I don't really know because you never know what peoples' perception of you is," Giovanni said. "I think that in terms of my interests, they remain the same. Equality is still a problem. If you just look at the resurgence of the white supremacist groups you know that racism is still present."

Ernest Wade, director of minority affairs at Wake Forest and program sponsor, said the event is being given at the students' requests.

"They have been interested in her work and never really exposed to someone like that," Wade said. "We thought it would be an excellent opportunity for them to see and experience some of the foundation people."



Nikki Giovanni

In her lectures, Giovanni talks candidly about real-world issues and said she sees a lot of good high school and college poets.

"I think poetry is like a photograph where you can take a picture of the real world," she said.

Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$3 for students. Call 759-5864.

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