

COMMUNITY FOCUS

Winston-Salem Greensboro High Point
The Choice for African American News

JANUARY 4, 2001

SECTION C



Community Calendar

Smiley appearance

Author and talk-show host

Tavis Smiley will sign copies of his latest book at Special Occasions on Jan. 19. The book, "How to Make Black America Better," features several commentaries by Smiley and other well known blacks. Smiley will sign books beginning at 6 p.m. Special Occasions is on Martin Luther King Drive in Winston-Salem. To order advance copies of the book, call the store at 336-724-0334.



Smiley

Girl Scout cookie sale

It looks like cookie time again. Girl Scouts, Tarheel Triad Council will begin taking orders on Jan. 5.

Expect Girl Scouts appearing on your doorstep or taking orders at churches, schools and grocery stores. You can enjoy your fill of Thin Mints, Caramel deLites, Peanut Butter Patties, Peanut Butter Sandwich, Shortbread and Upside-Down Frosted Oatmeal Cookies. If you prefer a reduced fat variety, ask for Reduced Fat Lemon Pastry Cremes. And be sure to try the delicious Animal Treasures (mouth-watering shortbread cookies dipped in rich fudge and embossed with endangered animals).

Cookies will be delivered the week of Feb. 17 in new packaging with different colors, yet the same great taste you have come to expect.

The Girl Scout Cookie Program helps girls learn all kinds of important skills related to handling money, goal setting, teamwork, meeting the public and more.

Less than one-third of the purchase price of the cookies goes to pay for the cookies. The remainder of the purchase price stays in the local community. What sets the program apart from most youth product sales is that a portion of the revenue goes to troops so the girls can make decisions about how it is spent. Tarheel Triad's board of directors budgets the remaining proceeds for covering expenses related to providing Girl Scout services to more than 16,000 girls and 6,500 adult volunteers in its 13-county jurisdiction.

Independence Party invites prospective candidates to meeting

North Carolina's newest political party, the Independence Party, is inviting prospective candidates for elected office in Guilford and surrounding counties to its steering committee meeting at the Guilford Tech-Jamestown campus Saturday, Jan. 6.

Andy Nilsson, chairman of the IP steering committee, outlined the agenda for the 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. meeting in Room 047 of the Medlin Campus Center. "We have a number of business items to address, including plans for our Grand Kick-off in March and our state convention in June. Around noon, however, we will interview prospective candidates for public office. The steering committee will answer questions from prospects and ask questions too."

Kwanzaa turns 35

African-American holiday has picked up in popularity over the years

BY FELECIA P. McMILLAN
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

Kwanzaa is a spiritual and cultural celebration that is observed each year from Dec. 26 through Jan. 1. The word Kwanzaa is derived from a Kiswahili phrase, "matunda ya kwanza," which means "the first fruits of the harvest."

Kwanzaa was first celebrated in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, a black studies professor and black activist. He started Kwanzaa to connect African-American people to their ancestral beginnings. This year, the Kwanzaa observance will celebrate its 35th birthday. America's fastest growing holiday, Kwanzaa is observed by an estimated 18 million people.

The origin of the holiday follows on the heels of the Watts riot in Los Angeles. After the police beating of an African-American motorist, the Watts community erupted in violence. Karenga searched for a way to bring the community back together.

Karenga identified seven basic areas that define culture: religion, history, social organization, economic organization, political organization, creative production and ethos. Amiri Baraka (Leroi Jones), of the Black Arts Movement, transposed the seven principles, or Nguzo Saba, by applying Kiswahili terms to each of the principles: Umoja (Unity), Kujichagulia (Self-Determination), Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility), Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics), Nia (Purpose), Kuumba (Creativity) and Imani (Faith).

As this holiday continues to grow, Winston-Salem has embraced its charge for unity among communities. In Winston-Salem, public observance of the holiday began at the East Winston Library in 1979 when Dwayne and Rachel Jackson brought the idea back from a celebration in Greensboro. According to Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin, library director, Forsyth County Public Libraries, the Jacksons were very involved at the time with an organization called The Friends of the East Winston Library. The commemoration was held at the East Winston Library and was also honored at the mini-libraries in Happy Hill Gardens, Sprague Center and the Martin Luther King Center.

The citywide observance began around 1992 when various churches, organizations and individuals invited the public into their homes and community centers to cele-

brate together. The participation has grown over the years. The current Citywide Kwanzaa Committee meets regularly to plan festivities for Kwanzaa, Juneteenth and other observances. Rutherford Moorman has served as the chairman of the committee for the past two years. He attended each night of the celebration.

During the observance of the fifth principle, Nia (Purpose), at Grace Presbyterian Church (USA), Moorman expressed his joy about being involved in such a worthwhile practice. WC Publishing, N.C. Association of Black Storytellers and Grace Presbyterian Church sponsored the event on Saturday, Dec. 30, at Grace Presbyterian Church, where the Rev. Samuel Stevenson is pastor.

"Each night has a different message, and I am thrilled that the tradition is growing," said Moorman. "When we started publicly celebrating the holiday 20 years ago at the East Winston Library, we only had 60 folk and we celebrated all seven principles in one night. But now we have at least 100 people per night for seven nights. Yes, we are growing."

Moorman would like to see more black businesses take ownership of the Kwanzaa observance, and he would like to see the audience grow to standing room capacity.

"We have corporate sponsorship, and that has been very helpful, but I want to see more black businesses get involved," Moorman said.

The corporate sponsors have assisted by providing food and beverages for the Karamu (feast) and by sponsoring entertainment provided by the Otesha Creative Arts Ensemble and The House of Prayer Band.

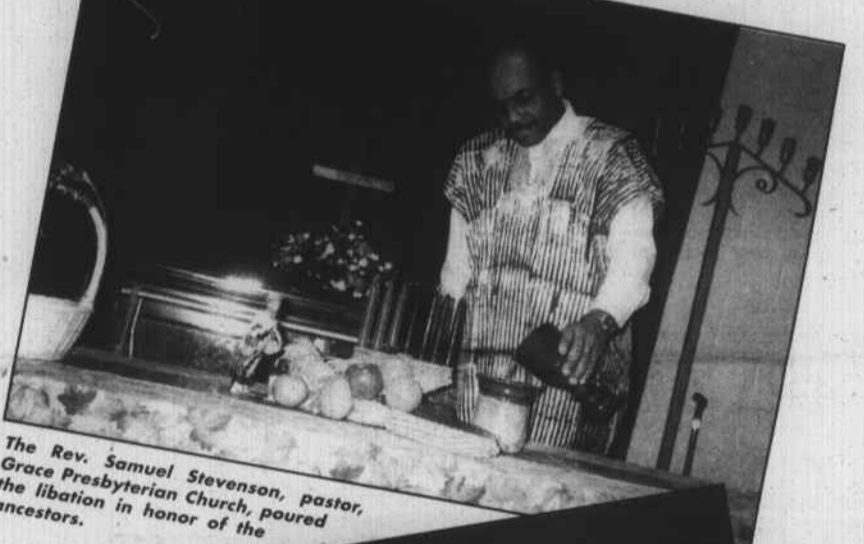
During the Nia observance, James Rousseau was the master of ceremonies. Rousseau awarded Lucile Faulkner a copy of the recent release "Crowns: Portraits of Black Women in Church Hats" because she was the oldest person in the audience. Faulkner was pleased about her recognition.

"Thank you very much. I got a few aches and pains, but I'm still here," Faulkner said.

Rev. Stevenson offered the Unity Cup (Kikombe cha Umoja) and offered the libation in honor of the ancestors, past, present, and future. He gave the audience opportunity to call out the names of deceased family members and leaders. He also recognized those yet unborn. In his explanation of



Tina Yarborough of the Otesha Creative Arts Ensemble demonstrated the magic of the Stakaree along with youths from the audience.



The Rev. Samuel Stevenson, pastor, Grace Presbyterian Church, poured the libation in honor of the ancestors.



The United We Sing Choir sang "Hold Up The Light" and "This Little Light of Mine" during the observance of NIA (Purpose).

All photos by Felecia McMillan

See Kwanzaa on C2

Watchnight Whirl



The sanctuary at Emmanuel Baptist Church was not large enough to accommodate the crowd. Many parishioners stood or sat in folding chairs in the hallway.



The crowd at Union Baptist Church numbered in the thousands. They were treated to music and powerful words as they waited for the new year.



The drummer at Shiloh Baptist Church helped the congregation bring in the new year with music.