

COMMUNITY FOCUS

Winston-Salem Greensboro High Point

The Choice for African American News

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SECTION C



Community Calendar

Church to celebrate Founder's Day

St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME) will celebrate its annual Founder's Day on Sunday, Feb. 11, during the 11 a.m. worship service. Everyone is invited to come and witness this experience.

The speaker for the occasion is the Rev. Daniel Wesley Jacobs Sr. He is the administrative dean of Turner Theological Seminary at The Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Ga. His education: Morris Brown College in Atlanta, bachelor of arts - cum laude - philosophy and religion/sociology. He is chairperson of the Board of Christian Education for the Sixth Episcopal District of the AME Church.

Rev. Mary F. Peterson is the pastor. Patricia M. Phillips is the chairperson with Mrs. Mona Lovett as co-chairperson. The theme is "Looking at the Past, Setting a Course for the Future." The celebration will start with the Praise Team (The People Movers). The combined Unity/Men's Choir will bring the music. Sis. Carolyn Scales will lead prayer. Rev. James Acolatse will introduce the speaker, followed by a list of other church participants and lunch. Everyone is asked to wear African attire.

The Young People will express themselves at 4 p.m. with "Black History, An Evening Of Talent." Youths from around the community have been invited to participate.

UNCG to host cultural arts, forums, and dances for Black History Month

GREENSBORO - The Office of Multicultural Affairs at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro will sponsor the following events for Black History Month:

Feb. 3, 7 p.m., Aycock Auditorium, "North Carolina Challenge Step Show" presented by the Rho Beta Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. Admission will be charged. Tickets are available through the University Box Office.

Feb. 10, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Cone Ballroom of the Elliott University Center (EUC), '70s and '80s ball sponsored by the Neo Black Society (NBS).

From 8 p.m.-2 a.m., The Painted Plate, a ball sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Admission will be charged.

Feb. 17, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Cone Ballroom, an African-American Cultural Festival featuring an arts and crafts area for children, vendors, music, African dancing and fun. This event is free and open to all ages of the public.

Feb. 27, 6 p.m., Virginia Dare Room, Alumni House, NBS poetry and oratorical contest open to the public. The topic is "Fulfilling the Deferred Dream" and the deadline to apply is Feb. 17.

Feb. 28, 6 p.m., Alexander Room, EUC, political forum "Are We Still on the Auction Block?" sponsored by NBS and co-sponsored by the African-American Studies Department.

For more information on these events, contact Multicultural Affairs at 334-5090.

Libertarian meeting

The Libertarian Party of Forsyth County will meet Wednesday, Feb. 7, at 7:30 pm, South Fork Recreation Center, 4403 Country Club Road, Winston-Salem. The program will be a viewing and discussion of the ABC News program "Are We Scaring Ourselves to Death?"

The program examines how government regulations intended for our safety and well-being come about, and what the unintended consequences of these regulations can be. The meeting is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served and door prizes awarded.

For more information, call 768-8127.

Junior League holds Read to Me Festival

Junior Leaguers share plans for Children's Museum of Winston-Salem

BY FELECIA P. MCMILLAN
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

By 9 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 27, a long line stood waiting at the door of the Winston-Salem Junior League's "Adventures Through Reading" Read to Me Festival. This fourth annual event attracted more than 2,000 children, parents and caregivers to the M.C. Benton Convention Center for a reading explosion.

Upon entering the festival, characters from childhood stories greeted attendees as they milled around the floor. Students from Summit School portrayed Cinderella (Courtney Jackson), Aladdin (Jay Godfrey), The Dragon (Jason Howland), Madeline (Caroline Cox), Curious George (Max Freeman), Dopey (Chris Kierstead), Bashful (Drew Kennedy) and Sneezzy (Michael Gordon), among others. They also assisted with face painting and the create-a-book stations.

More than 150 volunteers hosted the various booths, exploration stations, face painting areas, create-a-book booths, play stations and reading aloud corners. Loy McGill, president of the Winston-Salem Junior League, and Ann Abernethy, chairman of the Read to Me Festival, saw this year's event as another great success.

"This Read to Me Festival is a celebration of reading, and it is our gift to the community," said McGill. "We hope kids of all ages will come and enjoy stories read, acted out, created their own books and experience all the joys that surround reading."

"So many families look forward to

this free event each year because children and their parents learn about reading to children, and there is such great entertainment," said Abernethy. "Our whole focus is read-to-me placement at schools during intersession, Breakfast Buddies and other programs."

The Junior League offers its services at a variety of Forsyth County locations: Best Choice Center, Easton Elementary School, Camp Carousel, Hand to Hand Parenting Center, Kids Cafe, Project New Start at the YWCA, Hanes Mall (Storytime) and Weed and Seed Initiative's Summer Youth Academy. The festival is sponsored by the Winston-Salem Junior League, the Smart Start Forsyth County Early Childhood Partnership, and Kaplan.

Read to Me is a parental influencing program that encourages parents and care-givers to read to their children at least 15 minutes each day. This shared literary experience has many benefits, according to McGill.

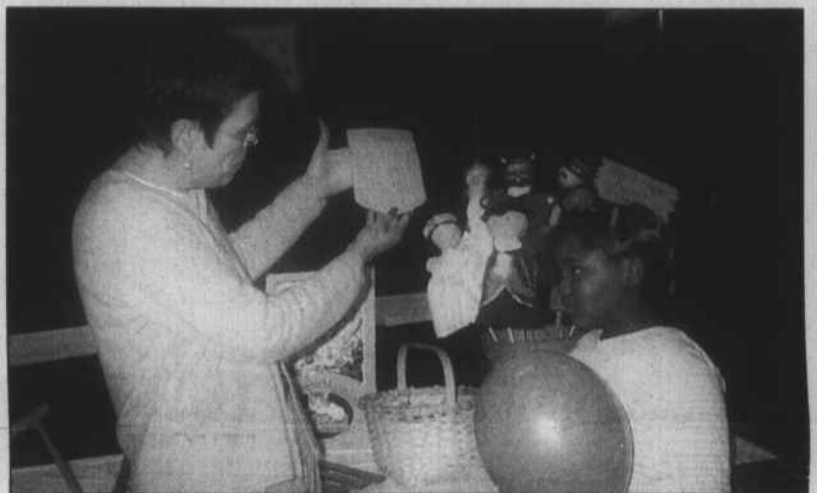
"This beautiful 15 minutes strengthens the parent/child bond, creates values-based background knowledge to use when approaching life, provides a reading role model and conditions parents/care-givers and children to associate reading with pleasure," she said. "Reading research confirms that regardless of sex, race, nationality or socioeconomic background, students who read the most, read the best, achieve the most and stay in school the longest."

Furthermore, McGill noted that this

See Junior League on C9



Left to right: Kamille Landingham; Christine Belcher, teacher at Downtown Elementary School; Susan Conger, chair of Children's Museum, look on as Ashleigh Bumbrey and Ben Ziglar design a model of the museum.



Peggy Park, director of Children's Museum at Old Salem, demonstrates the clay tile shingle designs as roofing to Kayla Caldwell.



Heather McCutcheon of the Central Library tells a story as the lively audience participates in a call and response.



At left, Cinderella (Courtney Jackson) greeted the chairman of The Read to Me Festival, Ann Abernethy.



Stephanie Sanders-Pratt helps her son Damon create an animal book while Jo Ayn Stovall helps her son Avery design a book about a scooter.



Librarian storytellers conduct a role play of "The Billy Goats Gruff" using youths from the audience.

All photos by
Felecia P.
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At left: Loy McGill, president of Tri League, and Ann Abernethy, chair of The Read to Me Festival, address Janice Ramadan's Brownie Troop 1187 from Galer Memorial AME Church.