

SPORTSWEEK

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Annual Ball celebrates youth

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WINSTON-SALEM GREENSBORO HIGH POINT

Vol. XXVII No. 30

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CHRONICLE

The Choice for African-American News

THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2001

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Breaking new ground



Marion Wooten, center, who was the executive director of the Bethlehem Center for more than 40 years before retiring, made remarks at the groundbreaking.

Bethlehem Center begins \$1.4 million expansion

BY PAUL COLLINS THE CHRONICLE

In 1927 day care was a new concept in Winston-Salem. Although black women worked outside the home, usually a member of the family stayed home and cared for the children.

Marian Brincefield (Wooten), then a young woman, assumed the responsibility for making the concept of day care a reality, and what is now Bethlehem Community Center was born.

Marian Wooten served more than 40 years as the center's executive director before retiring. She is now in her nineties.

She returned to Bethlehem Center last Thursday for a special occasion - the groundbreaking for a \$1.4 million expansion that will double the size of Bethlehem Center (Cleveland Avenue location) and allow it to serve younger children.

A few dozen people attended the ceremony. They stood side by side in front of the speaker's tent, which flapped in the brisk wind on this sunny day.

Sarah Hamlin, president of the center's board of directors, said during her remarks: "It is a milestone, an important one, but it is also a beginning of new challenges and new involvement."

Next a group of 4-year-olds sang "Jesus Love Me, This I Know."

Rev. Hurley Thomas, Winston-Salem district superintendent, United Methodist Church, gave the opening prayer.

A liturgy for groundbreaking followed, in which the speaker asked for God's blessings on the center and the crowd responded each time. "We break this ground today," as the ground-breaking participants, one by one, dug a shovel of dirt. Those who shoveled were: Hamlin; Rev. James Ferree; Patricia Shouse, the current executive director of Bethlehem Center; Jean Davis, senior executive vice president, Wachovia Bank, N.A.; Joyce

Adger, director, poor and needy division, Kate Bitting Reynolds Charitable Trust; Rev. Nam Jin Jun, executive secretary, institutional ministries, General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church.

When it came time for Shouse to make remarks, she said: "I would like to recognize Marian Wooten, who was able to be with us today. She has been ill and she has just been released from the hospital. I received word last night that there was a possibility she might be with us today. We are very, very happy that she is able to be here and see this in the making....She and I talked yesterday, and she was very, very excited and very much on her head to come to this groundbreaking but at that particular time the doctor had not released her. So we're very happy to see her this morning."

Some members of the audience helped Wooten walk to the podium. Wooten said, "I'm certainly happy to be here and...to help you appreciate what is happening in Winston-Salem."

Shouse thanked everyone for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend. "We also want to thank all of you for helping make this dream a reality." She said dedication of the expanded facility is scheduled for the spring of 2002.

In an interview, Sarah Stepney, director of support services for the Bethlehem Center, said, "We hope to be able to double in size. We're expanding 7,500 feet. We...will be able to take care of younger children. Right now we start taking children at 13 months. With this new addition, we'll be able to take children at 6 months. We should be able to take an additional 125 children. Right now, our capacity is at 115."

"Right now we serve from ages 13 months to 5 years. We have a before- and after-school program and a summer (enrichment) program (children 5 to 12 years of age);

See Groundbreaking on A4

Asst. superintendent sees freshness as asset

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

The last six months has been a whirlwind for Angelia Fryer.

She became Dr. Fryer last October after years of evening classes at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte resulted in her earning a doctorate in education. Around the same time, she was set to leave her post as principal at Briarwood Elementary School in the Queen City to head a middle school in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system.

But before she could get settled in her new job, Fryer got another offer she could not refuse - a chance to defect to the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County system for a job as an assistant superintendent.

Fryer has been quietly serving

as the new assistant superintendent for elementary schools since the middle of January. It is the first time in her more than 20-year education career that she has not been in the thick of a school environment.

Fryer served as a teacher and assistant principal before taking the helm at Briarwood, where she became a much-loved member of the school. She was named Principal of the Year by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg PTA Council in 1994 and served on the State PTA Board of Managers.

A shiny plaque from her adult and adolescent friends at Briarwood is prominently displayed in her new office. Leaving them and her hometown of Charlotte was not easy, she said.



Charlotte native Angelia Fryer says she has been very impressed with the city-county school system so far.

See Fryer on A3

Praise-on at Noon

Local churches trying to reach the masses with midweek services

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

Those who live in the community framed by Cleveland Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive don't need a calendar to know which Wednesday rolls around. They simply listen for the sounds of urgent feet and excited conversation or peer at the hundreds of cars parked any and everywhere there's a spot in which they can fit.

The East Winston site of Cleveland Avenue Christian Center is the focus of all the commotion. For the past six years the church has provided an alternative to the traditional lunch hour, serving up helpings of sizzling gospel music and old-fashioned preaching.

Cleveland Avenue has been one of the leaders locally in a growing movement to make church services more accessible to an increasingly hectic work force.

The noonday service, held each Wednesday at the church, has the feel of Sunday. The choir and praise team warm up the crowd with music; the crowd routinely responds with hand clapping and foot stomping. The service is capped off with a spirited rendering of "The Word" from the Rev. Sheldon McCarter, the church's pastor. The young pastor is known for his ability to work a room, delivering sermons that many in his flock say speak to their souls.

All of this - the roof-raising songs, the uplifting message - is done in 45 minutes, giving those who attend more than enough time to get back to their jobs. The church



The Rev. Sheldon McCarter makes a powerful point during a sermon at Cleveland Avenue Christian Center's noonday service.

Photos by Kevin Walker

even provides box lunches to those who come, knocking down another barrier that may prohibit people from attending the lunchtime event.

"We provide spiritual and physical food," McCarter said last week after the service.

See Churches on A5

Divas ready to invade Triad for festival

Ferrell, Freelon talk about music, life

BY CORTNEY L. HILL THE CHRONICLE

Pop culture. A world where only commercial music is acceptable. Eccentric. Music that is often considered to be on edge, differently, anything other than pop, rock or hip-hop. How do these elements combine? Oftentimes, they don't, but when one meets the other it creates an idea that is thought of as being innovative.



fresh, new. Take jazz, for instance. It is the basis for all musical genius and is the pioneer of what we listen to today. Though many artists in pop culture test the waters every now and then, "jazz" itself will never be considered "pop culture". However, such great artists as Nnenna Freelon and Rachelle Ferrell may never be heard on the radio, but examine their achievements and staying power and many will see that they are a forces to be reckoned with.



"Divas" is the title normally connected to Ferrell and Freelon. Although one is more known than the other, they both are veterans to the field. Sure, Ferrell has received national recognition, taken the world by storm with her six and a half octave range and is the only person who can leave the scene for eight years and come back to blow minds again. Never sleep on Freelon, for she packs a mean punch when it comes to a hard hitting success.

Coming to the Triad area in early April is the 2001 Piedmont Jazz Festival, where these two remarkable divas will appear. Freelon will make appearances on April 5 to kick off the festival, April 6 to give an artist workshop at Winston-Salem State University and she will give a final performance at the Benton Convention

See Divas on A2

The Book Club of Today celebrates its 61st anniversary



Club president Louise Smith offers remarks on the history of the club.

BY FELECIA P. MCMILLAN COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

The Book Club of Today, the oldest African-American book club in Winston-Salem, was founded by 12 women in 1940 who envisioned "an organization of civic and literary-minded women pledged to serious study of books, current events and community service," according to the club history. Four of the women were educators, and the remaining ones were housewives. All of them lived in East Winston on such streets as Cameron Avenue, 14th Street, 11 1/2 Street, 12 1/2 Street, Gray Avenue, Dunleith Avenue, Columbia Heights area and other streets.

According to the history, it was Roberta C. Farmer, the wife of real estate agent Samuel Farmer,

who called the women together. Meetings were always special occasions. They usually wore their hats, bags and gloves.

Their colors were blue and white, and for their flower, the founders designated carnations.

These women were Mabel Bruce, D.W. Clayborn, Essie O. Donoho, Edith Douglas Hammond, J. Hunter, Roberta Farmer, H.V. Price, Mary Jeffries, H.D. Malloy, Belle Diggs McCorkle, Vandelia Johns, Petronella Jones and U.S. Reynolds.

The current members of the club celebrated its 61st anniversary on Sunday, March 25, at First Baptist Church located at Seventh and Highland Avenue. The current group of 24 women is comprised of educators, professors, administrators, lawyers, political officials,

librarians and computer specialists. Although none of them came into the group as housewives, they still value the rich legacy of the original 12.

Relatives of the founders were presented at the gathering. Gwendolyn Hunter Ashley, Evelyn Sellers, Dr. H. Rembert Malloy, Dr. Rachel Diggs Wilkerson, Gloria Diggs Banks, Louise Hammond Davis, Ms. Brown, Dorothy Unthank of Baltimore, Md., Eliza Glenn Miller of Salisbury, Kimberly Livingstone, Avery Booker of Charlotte and Mary Bruce.

Andrea M. Bush, anniversary chairperson, served as the mistress of ceremonies. Bush set the tone for the year 1940 by citing significant facts and figures. A gallon of

See Book Club on A10