

'Racial Disparities' art opening draws huge crowd

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The collaborative between WhiteSpace Gallery, the Forsyth County Healthy Community Coalition and the Institute for Dismantling Racism proved to be the perfect formula for overwhelming community success.

More than 250 people attended the exhibition opening of "Dispassionate Discourse: Examining Racial Disparities" last Friday at WhiteSpace, which is located in the historic Piedmont Leaf Lofts at 401 E. 4th St., Suite 202.

The exhibit features local, regional and national artists from places such as Russia, San Francisco, Atlanta, New Mexico, Durham, Raleigh and Winston-Salem. The artists' work interpret the impact of racial disparities in the spheres of economics, education, health, the justice system and everyday life. A portion of the proceeds from art sold will benefit the Institute for Dismantling Racism.

Jim Toole conceptualized the idea for the show a year ago and approached Marlon Hubbard and Chevara Orrin, co-owners of WhiteSpace Gallery, last summer to curate the exhibition.

"The idea behind this exhibition was to encourage honest dialogue and reach beyond the surface of the timid race-related conversations that we typically engage in," said Orrin.

The diverse crowd included blacks, whites, and Latinos, as well as college students, arts patrons, political leaders, and community and healthcare advocates. Toole called the evening "electric," while Ted Robinson praised the exhibition for its inclusiveness.

Artists who attended the exhibition included Alix



Photographer and WhiteSpace co-owner Marlon Hubbard, from left, with artists McArthur Freeman, Jene'e Wick, WhiteSpace co-owner Chevara Orrin, artist Bobby Roebuck and Jim Toole, who conceived the exhibition.



Joe Sutherin with Winston-Salem State University's Dr. Roy Belfield and Judy Sutherin.

Hitchcock, a professor at Wake Forest University; and Scott Betz, a professor at Winston-Salem State University. Artists

McArthur Freeman, Jene'e Wick, Bobby Roebuck, Cathy Garrity, sculptor Sharif Bey and photographer Marlon Hubbard



Artist Emeka performs.

were also on hand. "Dispassionate Discourse: Examining Racial Disparities" is on view through Feb. 28.

Gallery hours are Saturday 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. or by appointment. For more information, call 336-722-4671.

Seniors celebrate the holidays

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Skyland Senior Citizen Club presented their annual Christmas program with a dinner at Rupert Bell Recreation Center. The theme of the program was "Celebrating Emmanuel - For Unto Us A Son Is Given." The mistress of ceremony was Mabel E. Johnson.

"O Little Town of Bethlehem;" and "O come all Ye Faithful" were the opening selections sung by the members and guests. The welcome was given by Maggielena Keit; prayer was spoken by Belma Dobson and scripture by Shirley Williams.

The Rupert Bell Choir, under the direction of Elizabeth Speight, sang a medley of holiday songs. Mary W. Pearson introduced the speaker, the Rev. Larry L. Smith, pastor of Mars Hill Baptist Church. His message was taken from Luke 1:26, "Shopping For Christmas."

He said the greatest gift is the "Gift of Life," and the gifts to shop for are humility, patience, generosity, love, joy and peace. He also said to get Jesus in your life because that's the greatest gift. Jacqueline Williams gave a presentation to Rev. Smith for sharing his message at the program.

Ronald Beverly, district supervisor of Recreation and Parks presided over the installation of officers for 2008.

Officers are President, Helen Phillips; Vice President, Belma Dobson; Recording Secretary, Shirley Smith; Assistant Secretary, Pat Kelly; Financial Secretary, Larn Dillard; Treasurer, Mary G. Britt; Assistant Treasurer, Jacqueline Williams; and Advisor, Dorinda Phillips. Gifts were presented by President Helen Phillips. Remarks were given by Dorinda Phillips. Grace was given by Mary G. Britt and dinner was served.

The benediction was done by Rev. Larry L. Smith. Everyone enjoyed a holiday feast prepared and served by Skyland Senior members.

Coalition for Drug Abuse Prevention hands out awards

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Coalition for Drug Abuse Prevention recently presented its 16th Annual Community Service Awards at St. Paul Episcopal Church.

The Community Service award winners were:

- Evangelist Carol E. Fulton, founder and executive director of Children of Zion Outreach Ministry which responds to the needs of pregnant teen mothers and fathers. She also counsels and ministers to several disadvantaged and high-risk youth programs within the city of Winston-Salem;

- Willie G. Richardson, a retired assistant principal at Kernersville Elementary School. In response to the needs of the community and the federal mandate of, "No Child Left Behind," Richardson created and developed the Youth

Educational Enhancement Program (YEEP), located at Mt. Zion Baptist Church;

- Cleopatra Solomon, recently retired from the Winston-Salem Urban League. Her passion is working with youth. Not only has she been instrumental in rating and securing funding for artistic youth programs at the Urban League, but also at Mt. Zion Baptist Church where she is the official "Cultural Keeper" for youth during Kwanzaa and Juneteenth celebrations;

- Joel Weston of Weston & Associates is a huge supporter of the Hanes Hosiery Recreation

Center. Joel and his family provide tickets to Wake Forest athletic games, Winston-Salem State University athletic banquets, various award dinners and other special places. On an annual basis, they also give cash donations for purchasing trophies and uniforms and the "Hand the Net" contest in July;

- The Youth Advisory Council (YAC), a collaborative effort between the Health Department and the Coalition for Drug Abuse Prevention. YAC has taken the lead in addressing teen tobacco and drug prevention issues in the community. They have demonstrated the ability to utilize their unique talents and skills in order to respond to local



Richardson

Bhutto

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"Benazir Bhutto tried to help her people and now she is free. We are now the ones who are entrusted on this Earth to make the difference," said Spangler.

Bhutto was the Muslim world's first female leader in 1988 when her Pakistan Peoples Party won open elections and she was sworn in as prime minister. Her party was re-elected in 1993, but Bhutto was forced from office and into exile amid allegations of corruption in her administration. She had returned to Pakistan in October of 2007 when charges of corruption were dropped. A failed assassination attempt took place on the day of her return.

The Rev. Linda Beal, president of the Ministers Conference of Winston-Salem, used her time at the podium to speak against the violence that took Bhutto's life. Fleming El-Amin appeared, not in his role as Forsyth County Democratic Chairperson, but simply as a Muslim. He offered wisdom from the Koran in both English and Arabic. Fleming told the audience that Islam is a "religion of peace no matter what you see on TV."

Tracy Maxwell delivered a message on behalf of Unitarian/Universalists. Maxwell is known locally for her anti-violence movement, Vigils for Healing, which conducts memorial services for those whose lives are taken by violence.

Rabbi Mark Strauss-Cohn, of Temple Emmanuel, delivered the Jewish message, and Judith Dancy, of the Winston-Salem Friends Meeting, spoke for Quakers. Rachel Jackson and Suki Tranquille also spoke.

When words weren't enough, song was used. Wilda Spalding sang a song, which was translated in sign language by her husband Dov Geller. A group of students from R.J. Reynolds High School also lifted their voices in song. Kelvin Sloan, the director of music at Dellabrook Presbyterian Church sang the African-American spiritual "Oh Freedom."

"Before I be a slave, I'll be buried in my grave and go home to my Lord and be free," the song goes.

The Rev. Carlton Eversley, the pastor of



Photo by Todd Luck

The Rev. Linda Beal speaks.

Dellabrook, said that the song was originated by slaves taken from their native Africa to endure harsh bondage in the American South.

"It is in that context that my enslaved African ancestors connected to this transcendent reality. That there is freedom over us that goes beyond the constitution of the United States, the preaching of the white church, the fief of state and federal legislatures," said Eversley.

He said that there was a divine sense of freedom, justice and equality - beyond the slaves' earthly circumstances - that was being appealed to. He said it speaks of the defiance of the oppressed, in spite of their physical circumstances, to not consent to injustice no matter what, even in the face of death.

Seemingly, the Pakistan Peoples Party is in agreement with Eversley's words. The party has chosen Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Bhutto's only son, to succeed her as chairperson. The 19-year-old Oxford University student hopes to someday follow in his mother's footsteps as leader of Pakistan.

"My mother always (said) 'democracy is the best revenge,' Zardari told reporters after his mother's death.

needs. Nine youth essay contest winners from the Winston-Salem Recreation and Parks Department were also honored for their essays on the topic, "How Youth Join Together to Fight Drug Abuse." The winners are: • Ages 9-12 - 1st Alysia Burton, Hanes Hosiery; 2nd Tristen Santos, Reynolds Park; 3rd Denard Williams, Rupert Bell; • Ages 13-25 - 1st Daniel So, Polo Park; 2nd Jordan Myers, Georgia Taylor; 3rd Shannon Herron, Hanes Hosiery. • Ages 16-19 - 1st Ryan Wright, Hanes Hosiery; 2nd Adrianna Rorie, Hanes Hosiery and 3rd Carolina Valle, Hanes Hosiery. The Coalition for Drug Abuse Prevention received support for the program from St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Crown Trophy, Hanes Mall, Tanya Wilson, Valarie Harris and Leeanna Lee.

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Marshall B. Bass Children's Fund to Host Summit on Children's Issues in Forsyth County

After 10 years of service to non-profit organizations serving children in our community, The Marshall B. Bass Children's Fund is seeking input on its effectiveness to help shape the future growth of The Fund.

On January 31, the Board of Directors of the Marshall B. Bass Children's Fund will convene a summit for the leaders of local non-profit organizations that serve children and their families. The purpose of the Children's Summit is to discover current and emerging issues facing children in Forsyth County. An anonymous opinion survey has been distributed to stakeholders. The results of the survey and the Summit will guide The Marshall B. Bass Children's Fund in crafting a strategic plan for the next ten years.

The Children's Summit will take place at the Glade Street YWCA from 8 AM to 9:30 AM. Executive Directors, Board Chairs and senior staff from organizations helping children in our community are invited to participate and be part of the discussion with The Fund's Board of Directors and the leaders from other children's organizations about how we can be of best service to children.

Call 659-7898 to receive a copy of the survey or to register to attend the Children's Summit.