

Keeping Vigil Over the Dream

Community event to honor life, legacy of MLK on anniversary of his death

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Union Baptist Church and Triad Cultural Arts have announced that they will be collaborating to host a vigil to mark the anniversary of the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"I just remember feeling a real sense of loss," Cheryl Harry said of King's death. "It was tragic; it was like, 'Where do we go from here?'"

Harry is the executive director of Triad Cultural Arts, a community-based non-profit that was founded late last year. She conceived of the vigil as a way to honor the civil rights leader's many contributions and to pay homage to the sorrow that so many felt on that day 40 years ago. The vigil will be held tomorrow, April 4, at 6:01 p.m., marking the very moment the shot rang out in Memphis, Tenn. in 1968.

"Dr. King was such a notable leader and this is a historic moment and of course it needed to be remembered," she said. "The children of Israel ... had to wander around for 40 years, and this is actually 40 years after his assassination ... it has a lot of symbolism in it."

Harry, who also serves as program director at Union Baptist Church, has enlisted the help of Rev. Sir Walter Mack Jr. to boost awareness about the vigil. Mack, a self-described "Kingian," says he was happy to lend his support to the cause.

"King was just masterful, from a black preacher's perspective," he declared. "This man mastered addressing the pathos and the psychological mindset of the black community."

King's principles are echoed in the outreach work of the church, which strives to end inequities that still exist today, Mack asserts.

"You cannot move forward without looking backward," the pastor stated. "While we are on our way to the Promised Land, we are not there yet; there are still problems ... that we need to address, and part of us addressing that is recognizing that we're not yet in the Promised Land."

Several community lead-



Anderson

ers have also signed on to aid in the effort.

Rudy Anderson of Winston-Salem State's Office of Marketing and Communications will never forget that fateful day when he learned of Martin Luther King's murder. Despite being a mere teenager at the time, Anderson says he was devastated by the news.

"It changed my world," he recalled. "It felt like I had been kicked in the stomach; like our country was disintegrating in on itself."

Though King's birthday has been recognized nationally for more than 20 years, Anderson felt it was important to also commemorate his untimely death. He says he was glad to learn that someone in the community was recognizing the tragedy.

"It was a wonderful idea," he said of the vigil. "I felt that it was a very elegant way of commemorating what he has done and meant to so many of us."

Fittingly, Harry has asked vigil participants to gather on Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. in the corridor between Fifth Street and New Walkertown Rd.

"We're just encouraging people to come out and stand during that time," she said. "You can join in at any point."

Mack says he hopes to see a big turnout for the event.

"It would be wonderful if a significant occasion like this could draw a couple thousand people," he commented. "I think that would be fitting for the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., being that his life symbolized bringing people together ... we're hoping that it can do that."



Archived Photo

Dr. King died 40 years ago in Memphis.

Davis Cup Block Party planned Sunday

Tennis stars expected to appear

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

A U.S. Davis Cup Block Party will take place Sunday, April 6, from 2 - 5 p.m. at Hanes Park. The free event is family-friendly and will celebrate the upcoming Davis Cup Quarterfinal tie, which will be played April 11-13 at the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum and pit the United States against France.

Activities will include a QuickDraw QuickStart tournament for 10 & Under and 8 & Under. QuickStart Tennis, is an innovative new play format that will help to get more children 10 years of age and under into the game. There will also be a N.C. One-Day Adult tournament.



File Photo

An on-court carnival area will include a prize court, cardio tennis station, on court games, QuickStart demo court and racket demo court A vendors' area, art station, on-court carnival area and a cardio tennis station will also be set up.

Members of the US Davis Cup Team. Andy Roddick and James Blake will play singles, and Bob and Mike Bryan will play doubles, according to U.S. Davis Cup Coach Patrick McEnroe.

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NOTICE OF A CITIZENS INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP FOR THE PROPOSED REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE NO. 322 OVER 20TH STREET ON SR 1725 (UNIVERSITY PARKWAY) IN WINSTON-SALEM

TIP Project No. B-4745

Forsyth County

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will hold the above Citizens Informational Workshop on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, between the hours of 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center, 2001 Pittsburg Avenue, Winston-Salem, 27105.

Interested individuals may attend this informal workshop at their convenience during the above stated hours. Department of Transportation representatives will be present to answer questions and receive comments from the public about this project. The workshop is being held to present the purpose and need for the project, as well as alternatives being considered.

This project proposes to replace Bridge No. 322 with another bridge on a new alignment. The new bridge will be built in construction stages alongside the existing bridge.

Anyone desiring additional information may contact Ms. Natalie Lockhart, Project Development and Environmental Analysis, Bridge Unit, 1551 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1551, phone (919) 715-5508, fax (919) 715-1501 or email: nlockhart@dot.state.nc.us.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who wish to participate in this workshop. Anyone requiring special services should contact Ms. Lockhart as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.

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North Carolina's National College Savings Program is a program of the State of North Carolina, established and maintained by the State Education Assistance Authority as a qualified tuition program under federal tax law, and administered by College Foundation, Inc. Investment Options feature funds from NCM Capital Management Group, LLC; J. & W. Seligman & Co. Incorporated; Wachovia Bank, N.A. through its affiliate, Evergreen Investment Management Company, LLC; the State Treasurer of North Carolina; and The Vanguard Group, Inc.

The features of a qualified tuition program are complex and involve significant tax issues. The earnings portion of withdrawals not used for qualified higher education expenses are subject to federal income tax and a 10% federal penalty tax, as well as state and local income taxes. The availability of tax benefits may be contingent on meeting other requirements.

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