

# COMMUNITY

Your stories, your voices

JULY 31, 2008

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## Community Calendar

### Bowling Day

Piedmont Nursing Group Inc. and Goler Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church will sponsor the Silver & Green community Bowling Day on Aug. 9 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Creekside Bowling Lanes at 1450 Trade Mart Boulevard. This event will be held every 2nd Saturday of each month along with a canned and non-perishable food drive. The public can enjoy free games of bowling and fellowship. Sponsorships and donations are welcome. For more information, please call 336-497-4708.

### Meet the Principal

Downtown Middle School, 280 South Liberty St., Principal Annie Fleming-Weaver will host a "Meet the Principal" event on Sunday, Aug. 10 in the school's cafeteria from 3-4 p.m. There will be punch, cookies and a discussion about the principal's vision for the school this year. Please post this event in the calendar. Call the school at 336-748-3838 for further questions.

### Workshop for beginning drummers

Living Rhythms Drum School will offer a 90-minute Introduction to African Drumming Workshop, which includes a rental drum, on Sunday, Aug. 3 from 4 - 5:30 p.m. at the Golden Flower Tai Chi Center, 612 N. Trade St. The class is \$20. To register, call 336-774-3898 or download registration form from [www.livingrhythms.com](http://www.livingrhythms.com).

### Atkins Reunion

The Atkins High School classes of 1943, 1944 and 1946 through 1951 will celebrate their 11th Biennial Reunion Aug. 8-10, 2008. These classes are the oldest group of Atkins High classes that still celebrate a joint reunion. This group has gathered every other year, except for 2000, when the All Atkins High School Millennium event was held. This year's theme is "Yes We Still Can - We are the Camels."

The activities will include the Chew & Chat Fellowship, Karaoke, individual class business meetings, photo sessions, games, R & R, a formal banquet, a church worship service (Galilee Missionary Baptist Church) and an old fashion picnic/cook-out.

### Big Four Choir rehearsals to begin

The Big Four Choir will hold rehearsals each Monday during August, beginning on Aug. 4 at 6:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church on Highland Avenue.

The choir - composed of alumni and friends of the city's four former black high schools - will provide music during the Big Four Worship Service, which will be held Oct. 23 at First Baptist Church. This year's Big Four celebration is being hosted by the Atkins High School Alumni. New choir members are welcome. For additional information, contact Edna Smith at 748-9008.



Donna Dalton Edwards points to herself.



Jamie Chamberlin with her young cousins Frederick and Maya.



Frank Dalton with his wife, Mary Pearl.

# FAMILY AFFAIR

Family has gathered for the past 75 years for reunion

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

It was 1933, and in San Francisco, the first beam of steel was erected for the nearly 9,000-foot long Golden Gate Bridge; at movie houses, the first of several film versions of "King Kong" was packing in audiences; and an ocean away, Hitler, one of history's most notorious figures, was tasting his first morsels of power as he was elevated to chancellor of Germany.

History was also made that year in Stokes County - but little did the Dalton family know that when they gathered for its very first reunion. Over the decades since - through wars, recessions and the triumphs and tragedies that all families experience - the Daltons have come together annually to enjoy life, love and legacy.

The Daltons' landmark 75th Family Reunion took place over the weekend in Winston-Salem and Stokes County, drawing hundreds of kinfolk from every nook and cranny in America.

"It is a tradition that gets better every year," said Eleanor Dalton Williams, who serves as the president of the reunion, which Ebony magazine has called one of the oldest black family reunions in the nation.

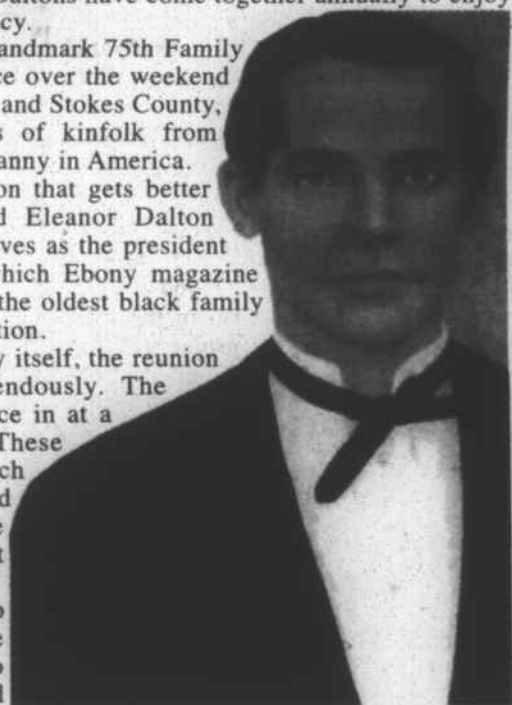
Like the family itself, the reunion has grown tremendously. The first one took place in at a small house. These days, events stretch over three days and require large parks and banquet halls.

"If we keep going like this, we may have to go to four days," said Rodessa Dalton Mitchell, who works for the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce. "We have very creative people in the family who are always thinking of new things to do."

One of those ideas became reality a few years ago when the family started a golf tournament. Proceeds from the event go to scholarships for all the year's graduating high school seniors.

Another highlight this year was the reunion banquet, which was held at Winston-Salem State University's Anderson Center inside a banquet hall named for one of the family members. Alice Dalton McNeil and her husband, Herman, have been financially generous to WSSU; a few years the school thanked them with the McNeil Ballroom.

Dalton McNeil is one of endless examples of the success the family has been blessed with. They are doctors, lawyers, edu-



Patriarch Granville Dalton

See Reunion on B11

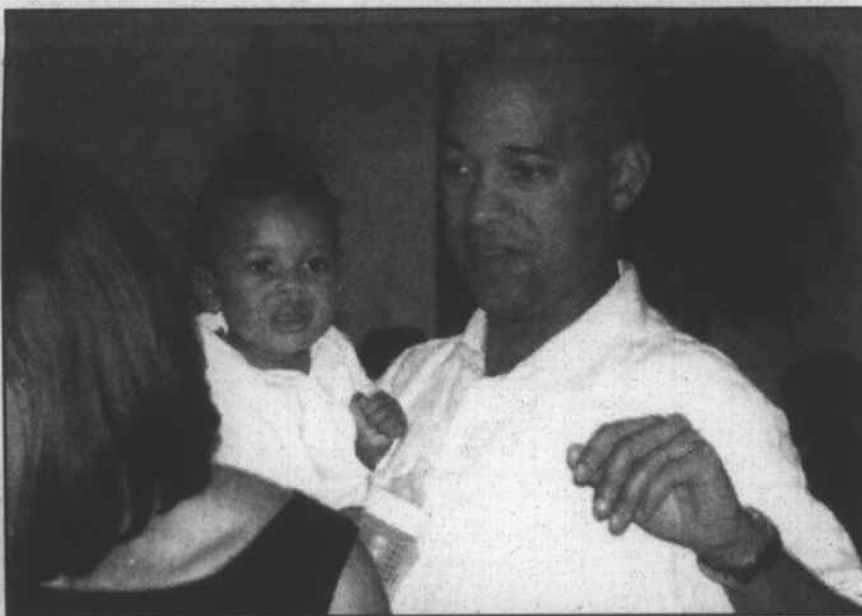


Dalton family members from left: Doug and Rodessa Mitchell, Dr. Walter Singleton, Eleanor Dalton Williams, Trés Vance, Michael Williams, Skip Dalton, Cassandra Dalton and Dr. Dana Dalton.

Photos by Kevin Walker

Shawn Cole makes his way around the banquet hall with son, Anderson.

Below: Wayne and Lena Dalton look through the reunion booklet.



Shirley Dalton Duckins passes out raffle tickets to family members (left). Later, she points out some of her brothers and sisters in an old photograph to another family member (right).

