

Photos by Todd Luck

Bill Scheidt with the legendary Mamady Keita.

## Drumming legend endorses local school

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

A renowned African drumming school has come to Winston-Salem, joining 13 other sites around the globe that were founded by legend Mamady Keita.

Living Rhythms, which for years has taught and performed West African drum music in and around Winston-Salem, is now known as Tam Tam Mandingue (TTM) North Carolina, joining a network of schools known for preserving and passing on the art form.

Keita was in town last week to help open the school, which, like all of the schools, teach his instrument of choice – the djembe.

Bill Scheidt, founder and director of Living Rhythms, passed a rigorous test of musical knowledge to qualify for TTM recognition. Though classes will continue as normal, Scheidt said the TTM distinction is a great honor.

"It gives us really a way to ... give credit to where the music came from," said Scheidt of the new name.

The former Living Rhythms conducts weekly evening classes for those who want to learn the djembe, a hollow wooden drum with animal skin covering the top. It also conducts workshops at places like schools and businesses. Students and instructors from the school often perform at downtown art events.

Scheidt and Keita share a close bond. Keita held a meeting of directors from his U.S. schools at Scheidt's home during his visit to Winston-Salem. Keita refers to Scheidt as "family," often calling him his "son" because of their close bond.

"It's not all of my students that enter into my 'family,'" said Keita. "(Scheidt) not only wants to learn the music of the djembe, he wants to learn the spirit of the djembe, the heart of the djembe – the mindset, the awareness behind the djembe."

Scheidt said he first heard African drums years ago while walking to a concert with friends. He followed the sound through the parking lot to find people playing the djembe. He listened to them for hours. He would spend years after that learning African drums and mastering the djembe.

"From the very first time I heard the sound of the drum, there was something inside of me that pulled me to the drum," said Scheidt.

Some may think playing the djembe is simple, but Scheidt says, think again. He says it's music that has developed for at least the last 800 years, making it just as sophisticated as jazz or classical.

Scheidt studied under Keita, whose name is well-known in the African drumming community. What Elvis was to rock 'n' roll or what Mozart was to classical, Keita is to drums, said Scheidt.

Keita is from a small vil-



Drummers take part in a jam session.

lage in Guinea and was drawn to drums at an early age. By age 14, he was touring the world, playing the djembe with the National Ballet "Djoliba." In 1988, he started teaching drums in Brussels, Belgium. In 1991, he opened up the first TTM school, also in Brussels.

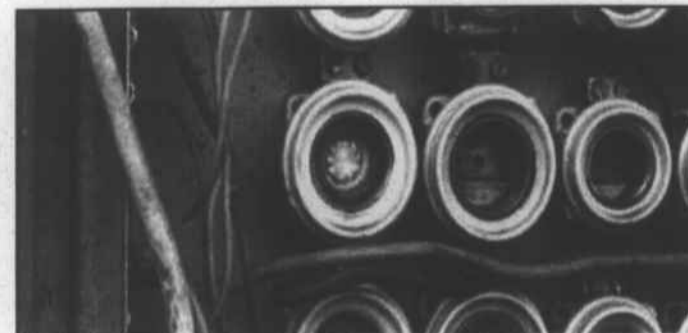
During his career, he's released 10 albums, had five documentary films about his life made and performed European concerts that have drawn 15,000 people. Even with all that, Keita says that knowing the rich history behind the djembe is one of his proudest accomplishments.

He lights up when he talks about the djembe, which he says creates a music not bound by gender, race or nationality. He says he's glad so many from around the

world are interested in the instrument, and he hopes that it's not just a passing fad.

"The world has discovered that the djembe is an instrument of joy," said Keita. "And the world has come to understand that, through the djembe, you can really express yourself, and the world has come to understand the djembe unites people together."

In celebration of TTM North Carolina, certified TTM instructors and professional level students from across the nation performed for a standing room only crowd at Golden Flower T'ai Chi Center on Trade Street during last Friday's gallery hop. The next night, a ceremony honoring the name change was also held at the T'ai Chi Center, where TTM North Carolina holds its classes.



### Exposed wiring isn't only a danger in houses...

which is why the city has drafted a minimum code for commercial structures.

COME LEARN MORE about the draft Minimum Nonresidential Ordinance at a public information session.

6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 11  
Room 530, Bryce A. Stuart Municipal Building  
100 E. First St. Winston-Salem

A question and answer period will follow a presentation on the draft code. The draft code is posted online at [www.cityofws.org/hsn](http://www.cityofws.org/hsn)



## News Clips

### Holiday Angel House project to launch

Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County, along with The Red Cross, Experiment in Self Reliance and the local school system, have joined together to form the Holiday Angel House project.

Other worthy agencies have "Angel Trees" providing for food, clothing and toys, all very much needed and wanted during the holidays.

"We wanted a way for those families most in need to receive household items they may not have due to unforeseen circumstances, disability or house fire," said Hilda Moore, director of Family Services at Habitat.

Partnering with those agencies that work directly with these struggling families allows Habitat Forsyth's Family Services Department and its ReStore to identify those most in need. The Holiday Angel House will allow concerned citizens to express gratitude for their blessings in these tough times by donating a gift certificate, in the shape of a roofing shingle, to a family in need.

On November 15, the Holiday Angel House will be revealed with the names of the families (not their real names) and what they need. Each shingle purchase (from \$5 to \$100) will be matched dollar per dollar by the ReStore.

Shingles can be purchased from Nov. 15 - Dec. 15. The ReStore is located at 341 Witt Street, down the street from Arby's at Stratford and Knollwood. For more information, go to [www.habitatforsyth.org](http://www.habitatforsyth.org).

### Recent Glenn grad completes airman training

Air Force Airman 1st Class Cathy M. Davidson has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises, and special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

She is the daughter of David Brokaw of Kernersville. Davidson is a 2008 graduate of Glenn High School.

### Black Chamber to meet

The Winston-Salem Black Chamber of Commerce will meet Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 6 p.m. at the Hewitt Business Center, 1001 S. Marshall St.

Dr. JaNae Joyner, project manager of the Consortium for Southeastern Hypertension Control's Hypertension on Wheels, will be on hand to follow up with chamber members who received screenings recently.

At 7:15 p.m., Dr. Notis Pagiavlas, associate professor of marketing and director of the Center for Entrepreneurship School of Business Administration at Winston-Salem State University, will discuss resources available to entrepreneurs and small business owners at the university. The SIFE (Students In Free

Enterprise) from Winston-Salem State University will also be present to meet business owners.

For additional information contact Randon Pender, 336-575-2006 or log onto [www.wsbcc.org](http://www.wsbcc.org).

### November is American Indian Heritage Month in N.C.

Gov. Mike Easley has proclaimed November as American Indian Heritage Month in North Carolina and encourages citizens to recognize and celebrate the achievements and contributions of the state's original inhabitants.

Additionally, President George Bush recently signed into law legislation to designate the Friday after Thanksgiving as Native American Heritage Day. The observance is meant as a day to pay tribute to their many contributions to the United States through appropriate ceremonies and activities.

North Carolina's annual celebration of American Indian culture and history will be held during the American Indian Heritage Celebration, a free event to be held at the N.C. Museum of History and on the Bicentennial Plaza from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 22. The event, a collaboration between the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs and the Museum, features dancing, storytelling, craft displays, hands-on activities, music and food.

North Carolina's American Indian population totals almost 100,000, giving the state the largest American Indian population east of the Mississippi and the eighth largest in the nation. Eight tribes – Coharie, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Haliwa-Saponi, Lumbee, Meherrin, Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation, Sappony and Waccamaw Siouan – are indigenous to North Carolina and actively participate in local, state and national affairs.

## Forsyth Tech Educational Bonds

thank  
for your vote of confidence  
YOU

By voting "YES" for the Educational Facilities Bonds on Nov. 4, Forsyth County residents have insured that Forsyth Tech will be able to add the classroom, shop and laboratory space we will need in coming years to meet the demands of our students. The success of the referendum indicates the value the people of Forsyth County place upon their community college, and

*we sincerely thank you for all your support.*