

ARTS & LIFESTYLE

Of Interest ...

N.C. African American Heritage Commission to announce goals

The African American Heritage Commission (AAHC) has plans to promote heritage awareness, enhance economic development and support heritage education. In a news conference slated to take place next week, the commission will present study results and action goals.

Launched in 2009, the AAHC has been creating new partnerships and supporting programs to "assist the Secretary of Cultural Resources in the preservation, interpretation and promotion of African American history, arts, and culture," as was legislatively mandated with its creation in 2008.

"The commission will focus on four priority goals of sustainability, partnerships, recognition and awareness," explains newly-installed AAHC Chair Freddie Parker.

N.C. Department of Cultural Resources Secretary Linda A. Carlisle, Rep. Larry Womble, Sen. Floyd McKissick and Parker will speak to the value of heritage education, workforce development, cultural tourism and cross-cultural collaborations. Acting AAHC Director Michelle Lanier will review the results of the commission's information-gathering process that visited six communities, listening to more than 200 citizens. Analysis of this research was the basis for development of the AAHC's vision, mission and priority goals.

Among needs identified by citizens in Asheville, Charlotte, Winston-Salem, Spring Lake, New Bern and at the N.C. State Fair in Raleigh were for a more inclusive curriculum in public schools, job creation and partnerships. Already, the commission has implemented some of these ideas through funding publications, internship positions and teacher education.

Sinbad reality show to air

WE tv has announced that it has green-lit its next original series, "Sinbad's Family Affair," showcasing the life of comedian Sinbad and his family. Six, one-hour episodes will capture the ups and downs the famous comedian has faced over the years and his tireless climb back to the top of his game.

"Sinbad's Family Affair" premieres on Tuesday, April 12 at 10 p.m. and will air on consecutive Tuesday nights.

Fifteen years ago, Sinbad was at the top of his game — with a hit sitcom, successful talk show, a promising movie career and the perfect family. And then it all went away. TV shows were canceled, the film roles dried up and he and his college sweetheart got divorced. For many people, it would end there... but Sinbad is doing it all over, and this time he's doing it right. He fired his agent, kicked his 30+ person entourage off the payroll and kept his focus on his original passion: stand-up comedy.

He remarried his ex-wife, Meredith, and moved back into their original home. Their children, Paige (25) and Royce (22), are working to build their own careers, but they haven't stopped tapping dad for financial support. "Sinbad's Family Affair" shows the humor and drama that fuels this family as they face financial struggles, privacy issues and the perils of living together as a family once again.

Triad author recalls childhood bullying in book

Bullying is something that author Margaret Norton knows a lot about. When she was in elementary school, she says she was bullied so severely that she spent every lunch period in a bathroom stall.

In her new book, "When Ties Break: A Memoir about How to Thrive After Loss," Norton shares what it was like to be bullied by her classmates.

In writing her story, she took a close and honest look at her own life. The result was an exceptional and inspirational memoir. She shares years of wisdom gained from struggling to fit in with and understand others. By sharing her story, she hopes to make individuals more aware of the negative consequences of bullying. Being bullied can lead to low self esteem, poor choices and a lifetime of unnecessary pain. It's a myth that bullying is normal behavior for children and those bullied will get over it.

As a Personal Life Coach and inspirational speaker, Norton shares how, through God's help and her own courage and perseverance, she not only thrived after loss but came out on top with a renewed spirit and a greater sense of worth. She currently resides in Greensboro, where she is involved with Writers' Group of the Triad, Guilford Nonprofit Consortium, Daystar Church and the Christian Coaches Network.

Published by Tate Publishing and Enterprises, her book is available from bookstores nationwide, through the publisher at www.tatepublishing.com/bookstore, or by visiting barnesandnoble.com or amazon.com.



Parker



Sinbad

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Published by Tate Publishing and Enterprises, her book is available from bookstores nationwide, through the publisher at www.tatepublishing.com/bookstore, or by visiting barnesandnoble.com or amazon.com.



Parker

Famed clarinetist McGill giving free concert

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Clarinetist Anthony McGill, who received national attention performing with Yo-Yo Ma, Gabriela Montero and Itzhak Perlman at Barack Obama's inauguration, will perform Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 7:30 p.m. in Dillard Auditorium of the Anderson Conference Center on the campus of Winston-Salem State University.

The performance, which is free and open to the public, is being presented by WSSU's Lyceum Cultural Events Académie Series.

The winner of an Avery Fisher Career Grant, McGill currently serves as principal clarinetist of the New York Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. Prior to this position, he was associate principal clarinet of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. An experienced chamber musician, McGill has participated in numerous prestigious festivals including La Musica International Chamber Music Festival, Tanglewood, the Music Festival of Menlo, Italy and the Marlboro Music Festival. He has studied at the



Anthony McGill has taken his talent across the nation and world.

Curtis Institute with Donald Montanato and at the Interlochen Arts Academy with Richard Hawkins.

Since his solo debut in 1991, McGill has appeared with the Baltimore and New Jersey Symphonies and with

the Tokyo, Guarneri and Avalon Quartets. He has been heard on Ravinia's Rising Star Series; toured with Musicians from Marlboro, performed at Carnegie Hall and appeared at Lincoln Center as a member of its Chamber Music Society

Two. McGill has also performed throughout Europe and Asia as a chamber and orchestral musician with artists including pianist Mitsuko Uchida and members of the Brentano Quartet.



ABES prepare for the big show.

Students to present Shakespeare with a twist

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Students from the Arts Based Elementary School (ABES) will put their unique spin on a classic play later this month.

With the help of local mariachi band Los Viajeros, the students will perform the original musical "Romeo and Juliet on the Border" at the Arts Council Theatre on Thursday, Feb. 24.

The play, a unique adaptation of Shakespeare, will incorporate songs and dances of the American cowboys and Northern Mexican vaqueros of the early 1900s. The project began when the students studied America's western cattle drive era of late 1800s. Their studies included an introduction to period folk and popular songs, dances and poetry, paintings and photos from the era. In addition, Bob Moyer, founder of "Shakespeare Lives!" and former director of the UNCSA high school drama program, joined ABES teachers in introducing students to Shakespeare, the Globe Theater and the timeless story elements of "Romeo and Juliet." Students examined "West Side Story" as an example of an adaptation of Shakespeare's play, before the idea was launched for their own production.

Director Jason Reitman to speak at local film festival

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Oscar-nominated director Jason Reitman, whose films include "Thank You for Smoking," "Juno" and "Up in the Air," will discuss filmmaking and his career at the fourth annual Reynolda Film Festival at Wake Forest University.

Reitman will speak April 2 at 7 p.m. in Wait Chapel. Tickets are \$5 for the public; the event is free to Wake Forest faculty, staff and students.

Featuring film screenings, a film competition and talks by scriptwriters, animators and film-industry insiders, the film festival will run March 30 to April 2. The festival is organized and led completely by Wake Forest students. The complete schedule of screenings and speakers and details on how to get tickets for the Reitman event will be posted on the Reynolda Festival Web site.

"Not only will aspiring writers and filmmakers relate to



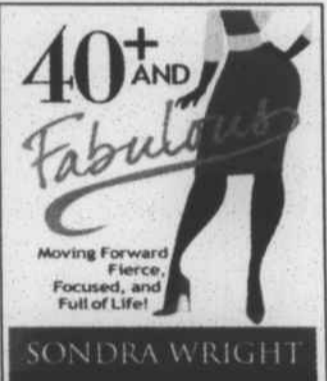
George Clooney in "Up in the Air."

Jason Reitman's great ability to convey meaningful messages in film, but also the specific themes of his pictures will certainly strike a chord with the festival's audience," said Clint Wilson, a Wake Forest senior and director of this year's festival. "Between 'Juno's' examination of the search for one's place in society and the notions of personal identity explored

through 'Up In the Air,' Reitman's films speak eloquently to this generation. As a storyteller, director, and acute social commentator, he is the perfect keynote speaker."

At age 33, Reitman has already made his mark as a screenwriter and director. He wrote and directed the 2009 film "Up in the Air." The film,

See Festival on A11



Local author says "Life Begins at 40+"

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Triad author Sondra Wright will discuss and sign copies of her book, "40+ and Fabulous," on Saturday, Feb. 19 from noon - 4 p.m. at Coffee at the Summit, 623 Summit Ave. in Greensboro. Proceeds from the day's book sales will benefit the Triad Youth Jazz Society.

"40+ and Fabulous" definitely embraces the concept of women mentoring other women.

When Sondra learned that the Triad Youth Jazz Society was an organization of kids mentoring kids, she just had to give her support to the organization.

"40+ and Fabulous" has been called "a tender, witty and down-to-earth collection of stories from women who will warm your hearts, tickle your funny bones and completely reshape your perspective on aging."

The book started with just the women in mind, but after the ladies had their say, it was time for a male's perspective. Part of what the guys share in the book is what they find most irresistible about women in their 40s and beyond.

Born in 1964, Wright says she is the last of the boomers and the leader of the 40+ and Fabulous Movement. She likes to call herself a catalyst for motivation, passion and high energy and works with women who want to take charge and create the life they love.

A graduate of N.C. A&T State University, Wright is a speaker, writer and small business entrepreneur. Her passion is inspiring the breakthrough and changes necessary for women to reach their maximum potential.

Learn more at <http://fortyplusandfabulous.com/book/>.



Wright