

ARTS & LIFESTYLE

RiverRun board newbies

The 17th Annual RiverRun International Film Festival will be held April 18 – 27, 2015 in Winston-Salem, Festival organizers announced recently.

Two new members have been added to the RiverRun Advisory Board – filmmaker Barry Jenkins and animation producer Linda Beck – both of whom served as 2014 jurors for RiverRun for films in competition.



Jenkins

Jenkins is an award-winning filmmaker based in Oakland, Calif. He worked as an assistant on the television movie "Their Eyes Were Watching God." His feature film debut, "Medicine for Melancholy," was released in theaters by IFC Films and hailed as one of the best films of 2009 by A.O. Scott of The New York Times.

In 2010, Jenkins co-founded the commercial collective Strike Anywhere Films. A nominee for several Spirit and Gotham Awards, Jenkins' recent projects include the shorts "Tall Enough," "A Young Couple," "Remigration" and "Chlorophyl." In addition to being a curator and presenter at the Telluride Film Festival, he is a United States Artists Smith Fellow and was recently named one of the 20 Directors to Watch in world cinema by The New York Times.

Beck is a producer and development scout with a passion for connecting artists and executives. She has produced content for children (Nickelodeon, Disney) and adults (History Channel, A&E, PBS) and is equally at home in both animation boutiques and major networks. Beck is co-president of ASIFA-East, the East Coast Chapter of the International Animated Film Association.

Fundraising book sale

The Shepherd's Center of Greater Winston-Salem will hold its 27th Annual Used Book Sale on Thursday, May 1 and Friday, May 2 from 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. and on Saturday, May 3 from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Parking and admission are free.

The sale will be held in the Education Building at the Dixie Classic Fairgrounds. Entrance for parking is through Gate 5 from Deacon Boulevard.

Thousands of used books and other items will be on hand at exceptional prices. All proceeds from the sale benefit the Shepherd's Center's programs and services for older adults in our community.

The Shepherd's Center is an interfaith ministry whose mission is to support and promote successful aging through direct services, educational, volunteer and support programs for older adults. The center relies heavily on individuals for the financial and volunteer support of our ministry with older adults in the community.

For more information, contact the Shepherd's Center at 336-748-0217 or visit www.shepherdscenter.org.

Youth Symphony concert

The Winston-Salem Symphony Youth Symphony will perform a free concert on Sunday, May 4 at 7:30 p.m. at the Stevens Center of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, 405 W. Fourth St. This concert will be Maestro Matthew Troy's final concert with the Youth Symphony.

"Ensuring that this concert is free and open to the public is just one of the many ways that the musicians of the Youth Symphony give back to the community," said Troy, associate conductor of the Winston-Salem Symphony and Music Director of the Winston-Salem Symphony Youth Symphony. "These youth orchestra concerts are a chance to

hear high caliber musicians who are the stars of tomorrow and this will certainly be the case with the May 4th concert. I am especially proud of their hard work and dramatic growth during my tenure as conductor."

The Winston-Salem Symphony Youth Symphony is for advanced students and is conducted by Troy. The Youth Symphony will perform "Rosamunde Overture" by Franz Schubert; "Lt. Kijé Suite" by Serge Prokofiev; and "Piano Concerto No. 2, Mvt. 1" by Camille Saint-Saëns, which will be performed by Paul Cline, winner of the Youth Symphony Concerto Competition.

The Winston-Salem Symphony Youth Orchestras is part of the Winston-Salem Symphony and includes about 130 student musicians. The Winston-Salem Symphony Youth Orchestras are currently comprised of three full orchestras for aspiring musicians in the first through twelfth grades.

For more information, visit wssyo.org.

Curtis stopping by HP Library

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Award-winning children's author Christopher Paul Curtis will help kick-off Children's Book Week with a visit to the High Point Public Library, 901 Main Street in High Point, on Monday, May 12 at 6:30 p.m.



Curtis is the author of seven books for children and young adults, including "The Watsons Go to Birmingham – 1963," which was recently made into a successful television movie.

The Flint, Mich. native's other titles include "Bud, Not Buddy," "Buckin' the Sarge," "Mr. Chickee's Funny Money," "Mr. Chickee's Messy Mission," "Elijah of Buxton" and "The Mighty Miss Malone."

Curtis spent his first 13 years after high school on the assembly line at Flint's Fisher Body Plant, where he hung car doors.

His writing has been greatly influenced by his family. His grandfathers were Earl "Lefty" Lewis, a Negro Baseball League pitcher, and 1930's bandleader Herman E. Curtis Sr. of Herman Curtis and the Dusky Devastators of the Depression.

Curtis' books have been awarded one Newbery Medal, two Newbery Honor Awards and three Coretta Scott King Awards, along with many other prestigious honors.

Curtis is also expected to spend the day meeting and presenting programs to the students at Montlieu Academy of Technology. His library event is free and open to the public. Call 883-3666 or visit www.highpointpubliclibrary.com for more information.



Curtis

See acclaimed playwright's shows for free

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Two plays by Garrett Davis, a nationally acclaimed playwright who lives in Winston-Salem, will be staged here during the Dementia Counseling & Care Conference.

The Twin City Quarter Marriott will host the conference from May 8-10; however, the plays, "Forget Me Not" and "Mama's Girls," will be staged at the Arts Council Theatre, 610 Coliseum Drive.



Davis

"Forget Me Not" will play on Thursday, May 8 at 7:30 p.m. This production has been touring the country since 2009 and is currently on a national tour sponsored by the African American Network Against Alzheimer's. It's the story of one family's struggle to accept the fact that the head of their family has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

"Alzheimer's disease is impacting over one million African Americans and their families in devastating ways," said Stephanie Monroe, director of the AAN. "That number is projected to double in the coming years. 'Forget Me Not' will help us spread the word about this disease and encourage communities to join our national effort to find a cure by 2020."

"Mama's Girls" will be staged on Saturday, May 10 at 3 p.m. The performance is supported by AARP's Prepare to Care program, an initiative that helps caregivers. The play depicts how a family deals with the care of their aging mother.



The cast of "Mama's Girls."

"As many of the play's attendees provide care for loved ones and others in the community on a regular basis, 'Mama's Girls' will not only entertain, but inspire," said AARP NC State Director Doug Dickerson. "The play will provide useful information which they can apply in their everyday lives."

Davis, CEO and founder of Gdavis Productions, also heads the nationally acclaimed Forget Me Not Project and serves as an ambassador for the National Alzheimer's Association. He was named the 2012 Alzheimer's "Advocate of the Year."

Both performances are free and open to the public. For instructions on how to obtain a free ticket needed for admission, contact Gdavis Productions Offices at 336-448-1805.

Student Poet Laureate crowned

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Mariah Rowdy, a junior at Reynolds High School, has won the 2014 Poet Laureate competition.

"I am so surprised," Rowdy said. "There are so many amazing poets here." Rowdy's poem – "Black and White" – explored what it was like to have one parent who is black and one parent who is white and to find yourself not quite in either world.

It opens with:

*Black and White
Mixed
Told we are too white
For the black kids
And too black
For the white kids
Never fitting in
Always standing out*

Her parents – Norman Rowdy and Karen Lordeman-Rowdy – were both there. Rowdy, who plans to become an elementary school teacher, is a member of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Board.

"She is so smart and so courageous," said Superintendent Beverly Emory.

Twenty-four students wrote poems for the seventh annual Poet Laureate Project, which is jointly sponsored by Forsyth Education Partnership and Winston-Salem/Forsyth County



Winner Mariah Rowdy (center) with Nonnie C. Egbuna and Mary Kerr (right).

Schools. First place came with \$100, second with \$75 and third with \$50.

In the first phase of the competition, judges read the students' poems and awarded points based on content. Later, students recited or read their poems – some did a little of both – to the audience in the school system's Education Building, and judges awarded additional points for presentation. The combined scores determined the winners.

Nonnie C. Egbuna, a sophomore at Paisley IB Magnet School, placed sec-

ond; and Mary Kerr, a junior at Atkins Academic & Technology High School, placed third.

Egbuna has been performing for a while.

"I do shows all the time," she said. "For a couple of years now, I have been doing it seriously."

Kerr has been writing poetry on and off since the fourth grade.

"I do it for the sake of it, but winning

See Poets on A9

WSSU singers headed to Big Apple

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The choir from Winston-Salem State University will be among the Distinguished Concert Singers International for the performance of "The Cry of Jeremiah" at its New York City premiere at the Lincoln Center on Saturday, May 10, at 7 p.m.

Composed by Dr. Rosephanye Dunn Powell, who is one of American's premier women composers of choral music, "The Cry of Jeremiah" is in four movements and follows the prophet's feelings of abandonment and redemption by God. Powell combines the ancient text with music that draws from both the African American heritage and classical music traditions.

The program is part of the Distinguished Concerts



Members of the acclaimed WSSU Choir.

International New York (DCINY) spring series. DCINY strives to make music accessible and affordable to all patrons while

presenting music from many genres including classical, jazz and world music. Their concerts take place at such world renowned venues as

Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center.

Tickets are \$40 and available online at www.lincoln-center.org.