



Prime Tyme Soul Cafe on University Parkway already is welcoming the National Black Theatre Festival before it starts on Aug. 3.

Photo by Donna Rogers

**Expected**

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plays that are based on various aspects of life.

"Letters from Zora: In Her Own Words," which is based on Zora Neale Hurston, is one of the plays. It stars stage, screen, television actress and dancer Vanessa Bell Calloway.

In an interview last week (see article on Page A1), Calloway said she is energized while at the NBTF.

Some plays also are based on books.

One play, "The Bluest Eye," is based on a book by Toni Morrison. That book is on display in a mega bookstore in Winston-Salem as one of the books everyone must read.

Plays will not be the only links to The Arts during the festival. Films will be shown, an international colloquium will be held, tributes and awards will be given and workshops will take place.

Even youth will have plenty to do during the festival, including attend Midnight Poetry Jam, in which poets of all skill levels can sign up immediately before the event to perform on stage. Youth also have other activities, including Teentastic activities on Aug. 6 through 8.

(See details in the National Black Theatre Festival tab inside *The Chronicle*.)

Some of the activities will be free, but most will cost admission. Estimates are that \$10 million will be

pumped into the Winston-Salem economy next week.

One business is already welcoming the NBTF.

Prime Tyme Soul Cafe on University Parkway, already has fliers and signs that say it "welcomes the Black Theatre Festival." and "Black Arts Festival." It is advertising entertainment next week and its soul food plate.

Winston-Salem Delta Fine Arts Inc., is sponsoring a 'late night blues dinner fundraiser' during the National Black Theatre Festival.

And 56 friends are traveling by bus from St. Louis to attend the festival. The group plans to attend the production of "At Last: A Tribute to Etta James" while they are here.



Vanessa Bell Calloway on stage as Zora Neale Hurston.

Photo courtesy of OPAS

**Calloway**

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Zora," written by Gabriella Pina, is about the life of Zora Neale Hurston, who was a renown African-American writer who wrote thousands of letters to her closest friends. The play reveals through the letters written by Hurston a side of her that was not widely known about her. Hurston's letters, which were not widely known about, follows Calloway navigating Hurston's life from her childhood to her death with the use of Hurston's letters.

Calloway, who has been a part of the National

Black Theatre Festival before, said, "I have been coming to the National Black Theatre Festival for years. Winston-Salem is such a great place that makes you feel special and wonderful."

Calloway also talked about the NBTF and her joy of seeing everybody along with the people who really appreciate the plays, and the energizing feeling she gets while at the NBTF.

When asked how long it took her to become Hurston, Calloway said before the first time she performed the play, it took her a month to learn the dialogue and then two months to become her.

Calloway who has been doing this play for four years, said every time she does the play she always finds something new in it, along with the playwright Gabrielle Pina.

Calloway said she looks forward to seeing her friend Debbie Morgan's one-woman show "The Monkey on My Back!" along with Rain Pryor's play Fried Chicken and Latkes that will both be performed on Thursday, Aug. 6. Calloway said she would love to see more plays, but since she is working as well it leaves her with limited time to see many plays.

**NBTF Briefs**

**Late Night Blues Dinner**

Winston-Salem Delta Fine Arts Inc., is sponsoring a 'late night blues dinner fundraiser' during the National Black Theater Festival, featuring Big Ron Hunter on Thursday, Aug. 6 at 10 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at door. Join us for fish and grits and more. On the walls of the art gallery: "We Are The Music Makers", a photography exhibit featuring the pioneers of Southern music through August 29. The Delta Fine Art Center is located at 2611 New Walkertown Rd. For more information visit [www.deltaartscenter.org](http://www.deltaartscenter.org) or call 336-722-2625.



**Friends of St. Louis travel for NBTF**

What began as a couple of friends from St. Louis, Missouri attending the first NBTF in 1989 has developed over the years to 56 friends traveling by bus to attend the 2015 NBTF in Winston Salem, NC.

When Shirley Ann Williams attended the first festival with members of the St. Louis Black Repertory Theatre she started a two-year pilgrimage to Winston Salem. This tradition has continued over the past 26 years, although Shirley Ann died 2014.

On Aug. 6, Friends of St. Louis will celebrate her contributions by hosting a "Shirley Ann Day" at the Hampton Inn on Summit Square. This day will reflect on the love that Shirley Anne had for the NBTF and the friendships that have formed due to the NBTF.

A banquet has been planned. Sylvia Hamlin, executive producer of NBTF, will greet and inspire the group. Following dinner at WSSU. These friends look forward to returning to Winston Salem for the southern hospitality, educational experiences, food, friendships and theatrical productions.

**Kids**

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of partners, agencies, families themselves, the faith community, business community, it's going to take them all. ...

Every corner of our community has to feel this and believe this." "This is a game-changer for our community," said Leslie Hayes, Business Banking Division Manager at Wells Fargo Bank, which is the trustee for the Trust and represents the business community. "It's our children and our future."

Great Expectations will invest in strategies to increase community engagement, such as encourage community members to read to children; improve the systems that serve families, share knowledge and lessons learned and build provider capacity.

The initiative also will focus on direct services to children and adult caregivers in the following core priority areas:

- \*Improving child and family health.
- \*Improving self-regulation and executive function among children and adults.
- \*Improving parent-child interactions and adult caregiving capacity.
- \*Supporting children's oral language and vocabulary development.
- \*Building systems and strengthening families.

To start the initiative off and expand Great Expectations work around the community the Trust announced over \$1.4 million in grants to two government agencies and a business:

**\*\$330,000 to Forsyth County Public Library to establish Great Expectation corners for branches and two mobile units that cater to preschool students.**

**\*\$640,000 to Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools to improve the playgrounds at 23 Title One elementary schools. The playgrounds are open to the community after school, so the community will benefit, McNeil-Miller said.**

**\*\$430,000 to First Book, a nonprofit organization that gives children from low-income families the opportunity to read and own their first new books. The grant will allow First Book to give 1,000 educators books for children of preschool age in disadvantaged areas.**

Children from Winston-Salem State University's Head Start program took part in story time and refreshments, and each child attending was to receive a free book.

Carolyn Wood, a grandmother who works in the public library system, said during the presentation that community members can help with the initiative by reinforcing children's reading skills, such as reading to them at schools.

"They need an adult that makes the commitment to teach the children to read," she said.

**Denise D. Adams wins 30th District Prince Hall Affiliated 2015 Miss OES contest**

**SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE**

Denise D. Adams, a member of Rose McCloud Chapter #608 Order of the Eastern Star in Walkertown, won the 2015 Miss OES Queen's contest for the 30th District Order of the Eastern Star, P.H.A.

The contest was held on Saturday July 18, at the Prince Hall Masonic Temple on East 14th Street.

The first runner-up was Tonya Woods, a member of Meridian Chapter #308 and second runner-up was Shannon Fulp, a member of Sisters of Bivouac Chapter #530.

Other members who participated were

Marcelle Shell, Worthy Matron of Beauty of the West Chapter #36; Janice Ramandan, member of Queens of Olympic Chapter #620; and Jacqueline McKoy, member of Sisters of James H. Young Memorial Chapter #592.

Adams has been a member of Rose McCloud #608 for over 29 years and currently holds the position of secretary.

She is a member of Emanuel Baptist Church. She is a graduate of Morgan State University and is a lifetime member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

Adams has served as the Winston-Salem City Council member for the North Ward since

2009. She serves on many committees and boards for the city and other organizations.

Worthy Matron Latasha Wilson-Lane was mistress of ceremony for the program Gwendolyn Joyner, district deputy grand matron of District 30, presented the contestants with gifts and certificates and gave closing remarks.

A reception for the queen and her court and the guests was held immediately after the program in the Masonic Temple fellowship room.

Past Matron Carolyn Jones and Past Matron Cynthia Acker were the co-chairs for the 2015 Miss OES contest.



Adams

\$40
336-750-3220