



BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Briefs

Bob Brown wins civil rights award

Time Warner Cable News GREENSBORO — International businessman Robert "Bob" Brown of High Point received the "Unsung Hero" award at the International Civil Rights Center & Museum gala on Sunday, Jan. 31.

Brown worked closely with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"They put up their lives," explained Brown, "They put up everything to make sure that this country lived up to what it's supposed to be living up to."

Brown said the fight was not over yet, as recent events involving race progress because people have not stopped fighting for equality.

"Across the board, we need equal opportunity," explained Brown, "That's not always the case. Wherever it is not the case, we need to go knock the doors down."

Urban League celebrates

The Winston-Salem Urban League invites the community to a "Black History Month Celebration: Photograph and Art Exhibit" featuring the works Owens Daniels, photographer, and Leo Rucker, artist, on Friday, Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. at the Urban League, 201 W. Fifth St. This is the first event of the Urban League's Black History Month Arts and Cultural Series.

The exhibition and musical review will take place in the Urban League hall with an entrance on Trade Street. For information contact Patricia Sadler at the Urban League at 336-725-5614 extension 3014.

Walker to speak about history

Dr. Corey D. B. Walker, Dean of the College of Arts, Sciences, Business and Education, Winston-Salem State University, will speak about "History They Didn't Teach You in School" at noon on Saturday, Feb. 6, in the James A. Gray, Jr. Auditorium at the Old Salem Visitor Center.

Walker, who also is John W. and Anna Hodgkin Hanes Professor of the Humanities, will discuss his book, "A Noble Fight: African American Freemasonry and the Struggle for Democracy in America." The book explores the beginnings of the Black Masonic movement and its significance in African-American history and society. Walker will sign books following the discussion.

The cost is \$20, which includes a Jamaican Lunch prepared by Irie Rhythms Restaurant.

Reservations must be made in advance by calling 1-800-441-5305.

Did you know ...?

That Benjamin Banneker (1731-1806) was rumored to be the first to study the relativity of space and time, beating Einstein by two centuries and that he wrote a protest letter to Thomas Jefferson for abolition?

Black women lead Women's Fund in improving lives

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Women's Fund Director Sabrina Slade and Board of Directors Chairwoman Alison Ashe-Card are working to make the lives of local women better.

The Women's Fund of Winston-Salem, an initiative of The Winston-Salem Foundation, celebrated its 10th anniversary in November during a luncheon in which it gave out \$108,000 in grants for projects that help women and girls.

Slade describes the organization as a "massive giving circle" funded by the membership fees of 800 women. The board's grants committee narrows down the grant proposals each year, which are then voted on by all the members of the fund, who ultimately choose what projects receive the grants.

The organization's main focus is economic security for women and girls. A study the group commissioned last year found that the local poverty rate for women and girls has risen.

"We are not really wanting to put a Band-Aid on the problem; we're trying to deal with the root causes of the issues," said Alison-Card.

"They're both wonderful leaders and positive leaders, and I enjoy working with them," said Betty Alexander, president of the ACEY Group, which is part of The Woman's Fund.

Slade became the director of the Women's Fund in 2013 and handles the day-to-day operations. She graduated from UNC-Charlotte with an industrial psychology degree, intending to work in the corporate world. She "fell into" the non-profit world in 1995 and has been working in it ever since. Her past positions include executive director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Durham and Orange County, director of the local United Way Volunteer Center and vice-president of the Glade Street YWCA. She



Photo by Todd Luck
Women's Fund Board of Directors Chairwoman Alison Ashe-Card, right, and Director Sabrina Slade work together.

said she's been able to touch many lives in a positive way working with non-profits, especially the Women's Fund.

"When I go home at night, I feel really good about what I do," she said.

Ashe-Card is an attorney who practiced for 14 years at Womble-Carlyle before becoming the assistant director at the Office of Career and Professional Development at Wake Forest Law School. Ashe-Card, who got her JD from American University, said she got into law to help people and joined the Women's Fund as a member years ago for the same reason.

Both women said African-Americans have been active in the non-profit sector for a long time.

"I think the African-American community historically has been servant leaders. I think a lot of it comes from strong ties with the church," said Alison-Card. "And so for many of us, it's a natural fit to be servant leaders in various circles."

Slade said she had many local role models in African-American women who have led local non-profits.

"When I entered in '95, I already saw myself in African-American women in this field: (former Urban League President) Dee Smith (Wylie) and (YWCA CEO) Florence Corpening, I actually worked for Florence," said Slade. "So I had role models to talk to, so I could see myself in different leadership

positions." Slade said, however, that African-Americans sometimes aren't as included in fundraising efforts, something she's trying to change as president of the Triad Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Alison-Card is also working to change that too, since she also chairs the Black Philanthropy Initiative (BPI) of The Winston-Salem Foundation, which seeks to raise money from African-Americans to give to non-profits serving the black community. Alison-Card said the work she does for the Women's Fund and the BPI is practically like another full-time job but it's worth it. She said it's important for African-Americans to accept positions on boards so they can have a voice in local organizations. She's been on many boards over the years, including current stints on the Winston-Salem Urban League board, the executive committee of the Women's Council at Forsyth Medical Center, and the Winston-Salem State Board of Visitors.

Alison-Card, a married mother of two, and Slade, a divorced mother of one, both do their work and volunteerism while still finding time for family life.

"People say 'how do you do all that?'" said Alison-Card. "And you know what? I just do."

Managing Editor Donna Rogers contributed to this report.

HELP THE CHRONICLE CELEBRATE

BLACK HISTORY MONTH!

In February, The Chronicle will produce a special section for Black History Month. We want to know your stories about living in historically black neighborhoods in Winston-Salem & Forsyth County now or in the past.

WE ASK THAT:

-You put your name, address, phone number, email address & neighborhood on your story.

-You send your brief story to us in 500 WORDS or less.

-You type your story or write it LEGIBLY in a document that is NOT jpeg format.

-You label your story:
BLACK HISTORY MONTH STORY.

-If you send or drop by any photos, please label them completely and provide captions for them so that we can properly handle them.

DEADLINE:
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2016



EASTON COMMUNITY



We will choose the best stories for the special section. We look forward to reading about your Black History!

Please send your story to one of the following:

letters@wschronicle.com or 617 North Liberty Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101