

Businessman Joe L. Dudley celebrates birthday and raises funds for museum

BY TIMOTHY RAMSEY
FOR THE CHRONICLE

A black tie gala was held in honor of the legendary founder of Dudley products, Joe L. Dudley Sr., and late Chicago-based business tycoon and civic leader, S.B. Fuller, on Sunday May, 22. The gala was an effort to raise funds for the construction of the Fuller-Dudley Entrepreneurship Museum and to celebrate Dudley's 79th birthday.

Dudley started his company with "\$10 and a dream" and is the best-selling author of "Walking by Faith." His company is the only third-generation black-owned business in the country.

"It's all about entrepreneurship, helping our people become job makers and not job takers," said John Raye,

publicist for Dudley. "The whole idea is to empower black people to go into business for themselves. So the point of the Fuller-Dudley Institute of Entrepreneurship is designed to encourage people to become business-minded individuals."

Raye stated that they plan to not use loans or grants from the government, but to raise the funds themselves to build the museum. He also stated that there are plans to have the museums all across the country in an effort to teach entrepreneurship.

"I am very honored to be in the presence of Mr. Dudley," said Dr. Jackie Mayfield, owner of Comprotax and long-time friend of Dudley. "It's all about what we do for the community and not for ourselves. It's gonna take us being self determined as a people to get out of the quagmire that we are in. And it's gonna take people who have



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Dudley

done it before to show the younger professionals how it is done. With the enthusiasm of the younger individuals, mixed with the wisdom of the older folk, I think we can do quite well."

The Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan was also in attendance as a keynote speaker in an effort to raise funds and close out the historic event.

According to Raye, this is just step one in the plans to be able to reach people from coast to coast.

Fellowship

from page A1

organ solo of "A Mighty Fortress is Our God."

Imam Effrianguan Muhammad, representative of Farrakhan for the Winston-Salem Local Organizing Committee, observed the significance of this interfaith gathering.

"I have never witnessed such a gathering before in Winston-Salem. Muslims and Christians were encouraged to get up and embrace each other. I have never experienced that before," said Muhammad. "I have only experienced this with our great friend and pastor Dr. John Mendez and his friend and brother, the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan. Because the love was genuine, it literally brought tears to my eyes."

"This is something we have always desired, that black Muslims and black Christians can come together in genuine love. This was an example of what genuine Christian love and interfaith dialogue should look like," said Muhammad.

Mendez was elated and

overjoyed that this extended family had come together.

"This day is like a miracle to me. Only God could have made this possible. There is a preacher in the house. I am honored to present someone I have known most of my life. Growing up in Harlem and on 116th Street, where the mosque was located, I often passed by, and Minister Farrakhan would always take time to talk to me," said Mendez.

"When I was student body president at Shaw University, I invited Minister Farrakhan there to speak to the student body. This morning, I bring him again to Emmanuel Baptist Church," Mendez said. "He has been a voice for the oppressed, a prophet to this land. He taught all of us how to stand for justice, for truth. He taught us how to deal with persecution and rejection and still come out on top. I present one of the greatest orators in America, in the world. The Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan."

Before Farrakhan took the stand, Willie Johnson, a junior at Carver High

School, dedicated an original poem in Farrakhan's honor. The poem is titled "What is a Leader?" The final lines of the poem are: "And so, Minister Farrakhan, continue to stay strong/ Because God always knew that you were the greatest leader in the world/ Before you were born."

Farrakhan thanked Johnson for the poem, and extended a charge to him that he become the leader that he wrote about.

"In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful. We give Him praise and thanks. ... As Salaam Alaikum. Peace be unto you. I want to first apologize to you. You have never been to church and been searched," said Farrakhan.

"I can imagine the trauma you went through. Martin Luther King's mother was shot down in church. Pastors have been killed while they preached. They did not search. Eight black people were shot down during Bible Study. We even need to search the preacher," Farrakhan said.

"I am honored beyond words to be here today.

Muslims and Christians are worshipping together in a time when Muslims, Christians and Jews are killing each other in different parts of the world. There is peace, love, brotherhood among us. Surely, God has made us an example for the entire world," Farrakhan said.

Farrakhan attended Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) in 1955. At that time, his name was Louis Eugene Walcott. He had mastered the violin as his instrument of choice, and in 1993, he returned to Winston-Salem to perform the Meridolsson Concerto in the Gateways Music Festival held at Reynolds Auditorium.

"I am honored to be here in Winston-Salem. I came South on a scholarship to Winston-Salem Teachers' College. It was at that College that the profound love of black people was planted in my being," said Farrakhan. "I remember climbing all of those steps to go see a movie at the Carolina Theatre. We were treated as second-class citizens just to see a movie. Don't tell me about the Confederate flag. All

the hell we are catching — we are catching it under the American flag.

"How can they have a preacher except they be sent? The Doctrine of Liberation. Is it taught in these theological cemeteries of Great America? They do not degree you to come out and free your people from their grip," Farrakhan said. "God has to intervene. God has to raise up men and women who know God is. When you know God is the strength and the joy of your life, how can you walk away like a coward suffering inhumanities and not speak up about it?" he said.

Farrakhan spoke out about the homicides that occur when black males kill each other. Some of these murders are associated with gangsta rap.

"When brothers kill one another, the root of this crisis is the lack of knowledge of self, lack of love for self. Out of this roots comes lying, slander, murder, backbiting, betrayal of our people."

We need to replace that root with a new paradigm. We can tell we have passed from death to life because we love the brethren."

"Hip-hop is a part of a cultural evolution of the revolution that brought gospel, jazz, blues, music that brought us to where we are. Gangsta rap begins to use music to glorify and honor a life of drugs, crime, the B-word, violence. Hip-Hop, when it started, was a way to put wisdom in a rap with a beat. David said praise God with the psaltery and the harp. Praise Him on the loud cymbals. Praise Him with the dance. All things are to be done in praise to God. If hip-hop moves toward that direction, it can lift us rather than degrade us," said Farrakhan.

"I was most impressed with my university, WSSU. It is wonderful the things they have done to evolve WSSU. I am pleased with the direction the chancellor and staff are taking. I would say there is hope.

"I hope our young people will get self-determined to do something for themselves so that they will not have to lie down at the foot of white men begging to be blessed. I am very grateful for the opportunity to be invited by my friend and brother Rev. Mendez," Farrakhan said.



Photo by Tevin Stinson

The Salem College class of 2016 makes their way inside LJVM Coliseum last weekend. More than 200 received their undergraduate or graduate degree from the nation's 13th oldest college.

Grads

from page A1

School of Business, and a visiting professor at Harvard Business School. Her academic career includes involvement in diversity initiatives and membership on multiple university councils and committees.

During her 15-minute dissertation-style speech entitled "Choose Wisely," James told the students that every experience they encounter after graduation will be further preparation for the future. She also told the graduates to choose friends and peers.

"Every decision you make and every action you take is designing the life you deserve," she continued. "So choose wisely, for tomorrow is only as good as you make it today."

City native Brittany Smith is one of those students who is preparing for tomorrow today. While working toward her

master's of arts in teaching degree, Smith also worked as a teacher at Southwest Elementary School. Smith said she will continue to teach until she finds something else.

Smith said what she will cherish most about her time spent at Salem is the family atmosphere.

"Everybody here is really friendly and the professors are always willing to help," she said. "That family atmosphere is something you can't get anywhere else."

Education major from Lexington Danielle Beck said she plans to use her degree to become a teacher as well. Beck said she always dreamed of becoming a teacher and walking across the stage is something she has worked long and hard for.

"Today marks the end of a long journey," Beck said with a smile.

"It was hard at times, but it was well worth it. I am proud to say I am officially a graduate of Salem College."

"Every decision you make and every action you take is designing the life you deserve."

—Erika James, Dean of Goizueta Business School at Emory University

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Correction

The Chronicle apologizes for an error made in The Chronicle on May 19. The article, on page A1 has the headline "Alan Caldwell, Reynolds' civic engagement head, retiring." In the article, the name of Alan Caldwell's brother was incorrect. His brother is named Edward Lee. The Chronicle regrets any misunderstanding that may have resulted from this error. The Editor

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