

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 19

Original Kings of Hip-Hop Christmas Bash, 7:30 p.m., Cricket Arena. Tickets are \$27.50 in advance; \$32.50 day of the show.

Charlotte Housing Authority and Prudential Carolinas Realty will sponsor a HOPE VI winter fair, Carole A. Hoefener Community Services Center, 6-8 p.m.

December 20

Jingle Bell Rock Holiday Oldies Concert, 8 p.m., Owens Auditorium, 2700 E. Independence Blvd.

December 21

Carolina Panthers vs. Detroit Lions, 1 p.m., Ericsson Stadium.

Christmas candlelight service, Simpson-Gillespie United Methodist Church, 3545 Beaties Ford Road, 5:30 p.m.

December 22

The Double Door Inn will celebrate its 30th anniversary Party with The Monday Night All Stars. For information, call (704) 376-1446.

No School Holiday Camp, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. through Dec. 24, Mallard Creek Recreation Center. For youth ages 6-12. Registration fee is \$50 and must be paid by Dec. 17. Participants should bring lunch, drinks and morning snack each day. Afternoon snack and drink will be provided. For information, call (704) 548-8234.

December 26

Crunkville Christmas Jam - Lil Jon & Da Eastside Boyz. Cricket Arena, 8 p.m. Tickets are \$40 and \$35.

100 Black Men of Greater Charlotte Inc. will host the second annual "Holiday Affair" from 8 p.m.-1 a.m. at Four Points Sheraton, 201 S. McDowell St. The Rough Draft Band and a DJ will provide music and live poetry readings will be featured. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. Dress code is festive after 5 attire. The hotel is offering a \$59 room rate including breakfast buffet the night of the event. For tickets or information, call (704) 375-7300 or log on to 100blackmenofcharlotte.org.

December 27

Continental Tire Bowl, Ericsson Stadium, 11 a.m. Virginia vs. Pittsburgh. Tickets available through Ticketmaster or Ericsson Stadium box office.

December 29

No School Field Trip - Norcross Bowling, Mallard Creek Recreation Center, 8 a.m.-6:15 p.m. For young ages 6-12. Registration is \$20 and must be paid by December 19.

December 30

No School Field Trip - Discovery Place, Mallard Creek Recreation Center, 8 a.m.-6:15 p.m. Registration is \$20 and must be paid by December 20.

December 31

Jubilate, 7 p.m., Charlotte Coliseum. Tickets are \$32.50 and \$19.50.

"Thomas Moore's New Year's Eve Celebration for Children and Families," 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. at Children's Theatre, 1017 E. Morehead St. Professional and amateur musicians and dancers will perform in the hour-long variety show. Tickets are \$6 for children under 12, \$8 for adults general admission and can be purchased at Black Forest Books and Toys, 115 Cherokee Road. For tickets and information, call (704) 332-4838.



Moore

Noon Time New Year's Eve Celebration, Southview Recreation Center, 11 a.m. For youth ages 5-12. Free. For information, call Sheran Stitt at (704) 392-7452.

New Year's Eve Party, Greenville Recreation Center, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Free for all ages. Games in the gym, refreshments and basketball shootout. For information, call Jason Hurley at (704) 353-0216.

January 1

Dell Curry/Bank of America High School Basketball Shootout, Charlotte Latin School, Beck Student Activities Center, 9502 Providence Road. Through Jan. 3. Features some of the best boys and girls teams and players in the country. Tickets available at all Krispy Kreme Doughnut locations or at the Dell Curry Foundation office or log on to www.dellcurryfoundation.com

Polar Bear charity run, 11 a.m., T-Bones on Lake Wylie. Participants can ski, wakeboard, tube, hydrofoil to benefit 12-year-old Dakota Gay, who is battling cancer. For information, call Kevin Hussey at (704) 525-6660.

January 12

Auditions for "A Midsummer Night's Dream" Piedmont Players Theatre, 213 South Main St., Salisbury, at 4 p.m. Show for middle school and high school students. For information, call (704) 633-5471.

January 13

Oliver, Owens Auditorium, 2700 E. Independence Blvd. Through Jan. 18.

January 16

Barney Live On Stage, Cricket Arena. Through Jan. 18.

January 18

Legacy Classic Basketball Tournament, 3:30 p.m., Charlotte Coliseum, 100 Paul Buck Blvd. Livingstone vs. N.C. Central; Winston-Salem State vs. Johnson C. Smith. Tickets are \$35, \$25, \$15.

January 23

"Oedipus Rex," through Jan. 31 at Children's Theatre. Tickets \$12 for center seats, \$10 for side. Recommended for ages 12 and up.

March 5

"Madeline" at Spirit Square through March 14. Reserved seating tickets \$15; general admission \$10. Recommended for ages 5 and up.

February 6

Opera Carolina presents "Porgy & Bess." N.C. Blumenthal Performing Arts Center. Tickets: Grand tier \$90, orchestra - \$75. Premiere seating includes pre-reception (6-7:45) with performers. Premiere tickets must be purchased by Jan. 30 through the Urban League website at

www.urbanleaguecc.org. All other tickets must be purchased through the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center Box Office. Call (704) 372-1000 to order. Mention the Urban League by name when you place your ticket order and a portion of the ticket cost will benefit the agency.

February 20

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" Piedmont Players Theatre, 213 South Main St., Salisbury. Tickets are \$6 for general admission. For information, call (704) 633-5471.

ECHO FOR THE SEASON



PHOTO/WADE NASH

Excelsior Club Humanity Organization volunteers hosted their annual seniors Christmas party last week at the Excelsior Club. ECHO provided food and gifts for neighborhood seniors, and will do likewise Saturday for children.

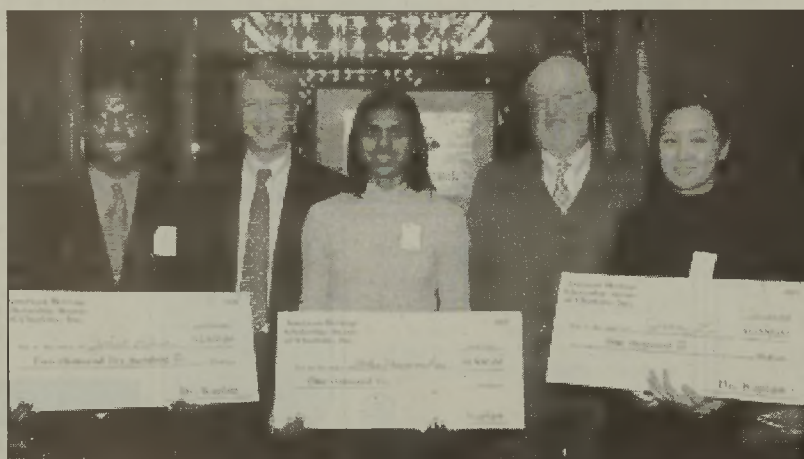
FAN CLUB



PHOTO/PAUL WILLIAMS III

Dancer/actor/director Debbie Allen had her share of admirers in the Afro-American Cultural Center board Monday at a reception at the AACC. Allen was in Charlotte to help raise money for restoration of Brainerd Institute, a prep school in Chester, S.C.

DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS



PHOTO/PAUL WILLIAMS III

Jarrod Blue of Independence High School (left) earned first place in the American Heritage Scholarship Award with a \$2,500 grant. Althea Mascarenhas of Myers Park (center) was second with \$1,500 and Jenny Li (right) of Providence was third with \$1,000. Larry Kaplan D.C. (second from left) and Dennis Watts D.C. (second from right), owners Accident and Injury Center, sponsored the award.

PROFESSIONAL PARTY



PHOTO/PAUL WILLIAMS III

Attorney Julius Chambers (center) and brother Kenneth Chambers MD (second from right) greeted Bank of America attorney Eric Montgomery, attorney Corie Pauling and Karen Breach MD, president of Charlotte Medical Society at the second Charlotte Doctors and Lawyers Ball at the Westin Hotel.

NOTES

Central United Methodist Church will sponsor "Adventures in Learning" for seniors from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Registration is \$18; \$5 lunch or bring your own. Subjects include Tai-Chi, learning Spanish, do it yourself home repair. For information, call (704) 338-1511.

Children's story times Saturdays at 2 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, 4720 Sharon Road. For more information, call (704) 554-7986.

Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, 6500 S. New Hope Road, Belmont Admission \$8 for adults and children 12 and older; \$4 for children between 4 and 11. Garden open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m., closed Christmas and New Year's.

Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County meet second Wednesday at 2821 South Blvd. Meetings with refreshments served at 6:30 p.m., followed by a speaker. Open to all registered Democrats.

Matchmaker Tennis sponsors clinics to teach new players the basics of the game. To sign up, log on to www.matchmakertennis.com and click on the events calendar link.

Mecklenburg EMS Agency offers free car seat checks first and third Thursdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at 6410 Conference Drive. Trained technicians are available to install car seats safely.

Afro-American Cultural Center CultureCamp, first Saturday of the month. Cultures that will be explored include Native American, Vietnamese, Hispanic and African traditions. CultureCamp will run in conjunction with AACC's Heritage Saturday Tour program, which travels to cultural sites across the Southeast. General admission \$3, first 10 children free. For information, call (704) 374-1565.

Forgotten History of North Carolina Streetcars, 2 p.m. December 27, Levine Museum of the New South. Free with museum admission.

McCrorey Family YMCA is accepting nominations for the Martin Luther King Jr. Spirit Award through Jan. 3. The winning recipient will be honored at the 10th annual MLK Prayer Breakfast Jan. 19 at the Adam's Mark Hotel. To make a nomination, call the McCrorey YMCA at (704) 716-6510 or 716-6513.

"The Littlest Angels" Children's Theatre of Charlotte, through Dec. 21. Performances by the Tarradiddle Players. Tickets are \$12 and \$10.

"Lonely Planet," a play by Steven Dietz, Jan. 8-25 at Bare Bones Theatre Group, 201 Rampart St. Admission \$15 for adults, \$12 for students and seniors. To reserve tickets, call (704) 332-5300. For information, log on to www.barebones.org.

EXHIBITS

"Celebrating the Legacy of Romare Bearden," a juried exhibition, at Mint Museum of Art and the McColl Center for Visual Art. The exhibition offers Carolina artists the opportunity to show the impact of Bearden on their own works.

"American Quilt Classics 1800-1980: The Charles and Fleur Bresler Collection" at Mint Museum of Craft + Design through January 4, 2004. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$5 seniors and \$3 for anyone age 6-17. Closed on Mondays and major holidays. For information, call (704) 337-2000 or log on to www.mintmuseum.org.

Works of **Dale Chihuly** at Jerald Melberg Gallery through-Dec. 27. An intimate exhibition of organic, innovative glass sculptures. Chihuly's works include baskets, pears, macchias and seafoams.

Art and Design Faculty Exhibition, Winthrop University Galleries, 107 McLaurin Hall, Rock Hill, S.C. Exhibition runs through Jan. 23. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Closed Nov. 26-28 and Dec. 22-Jan. 2. For information, call (803) 323-2493.

Linda Fantuzzo, "New Paintings" 525 N. Tryon St. in the Odell Building through Dec. 2. Fantuzzo is best known for mellow, textured landscapes and still-life paintings. Gallery hours by appointment only. Call (704) 373-1464 for information and appointments.

John Hill, Edward M. Smith Gallery, Davidson College through Dec. 1. Free. Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays, 12-4 p.m. weekends. For information, call (704) 894-2519.

Holiday Group Show, 525 N. Tryon St. in the Odell Building. Works by gallery artists John Nickerson, Linda Fantuzzo, Peggy Rivers and Maja Godlewski. From Dec. 7-mid-January. The show brings together some of the South's leading artists, with a diverse show. Call (704) 373-1464 for information and appointments.

Courage: The Carolina Story That Changed America, January 30-31, Levine Museum of the New South.