

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 5

Grammy award-winning pianist **George Winston** at Spirit Square's McGlohon Theatre at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$27-\$35 and can be purchased at Performing Arts Center box office, calling (704) 372-1000 or online at www.blumenthalcenter.org.

Afro-American Cultural Center screening of **"Negroes With Guns: Rob Williams and Black Power,"** 6 p.m. The documentary details self-defense by black Americans in Monroe against the Ku Klux Klan and includes a panel discussion with director Churchill Roberts and Mabel Williams, Rob Williams' widow. For information, call (704) 374-1565 or log on to aacc-charlotte.org.

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.

"Voices: Brothers Speak Out," 7 p.m., Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 1401 Central Ave. Highlighting lesbian and gay African Americans. Guest speakers, entertainment and talkback discussion. Free admission, but donations accepted at the door.

Monster Jam, 8 p.m., Charlotte Coliseum. Tickets \$16.

Voting rights luncheon, Family Dollar Room, Johnson C. Smith University. Free roundtable event focuses on voter education and voting rights. Speakers begin at 11:30 a.m., lunch served at noon. For information, call Kristin Hillman at (704) 293-4779. Sponsored by Democracy Charlotte, Mecklenburg Voter Coalition, Mecklenburg Ministries and Democracy North Carolina.

Charlotte First Fridays, Four Points Sheraton, 201 South McDowell St, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. For information, call Thomas Washington at (704) 777-5083.

February 7

"Together Again ...An Evening with Tammy Faye and Tammy Sue Baker" at Unitarian Universalist Church Sanctuary, 234 North Sharon Amity. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. with concert starting at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 with proceeds benefiting Regional AIDS Interfaith Network. Tickets are available at White Rabbit Books and Things, 1401 Central Ave., Paper Skyscraper, 330 East Blvd. or the RAIN office. For information or to order tickets, call (704) 372-RAIN.

Loaves & Fishes **Charlotte Has Heart Food Drive and Cheese Ball,** Founders Hall. Event features chef Chris Ivens-Brown, auction and Neil Davenport Jazz Trio. For tickets and information, call (704) 523-4333 or log on to loavesandfishes.org.

February 8

Independent film production will shoot scenes at Dixie's Tavern. Background actors needed ranging in age from mid-20s and up. Wear your "bar-going" or club clothes. Another shoot will be held Feb. 15.

February 12

Kimberley LaMarque's "Tribute to Rosa Parks," Plowden Auditorium, Winthrop University, 8 p.m. Tickets \$5 and \$7.

February 13

Afro-American Cultural Center will present **"COTO: Chocolate on the Outside"** through Feb. 14, 8 p.m. Admission is \$7 for members and \$10 for non-members.

"Annie" 8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, Central Piedmont Community College. Sponsored by CPCC Theatre. Tickets are \$12 and continues on Feb. 14, Feb. 20-21 and Feb. 15 and 22 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets on sale at CPCC box office from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday or calling (704) 330-6534.

Kid Rock and Twisted Tucker Band, 8 p.m., Cricket Arena. Tickets \$35.

"Charlotte Squawks with LUV," Blumenthal Performing Arts Center. Fundraiser for WTIV pokes good-natured fun at Charlotte events and people. Individual tickets are \$25 per person and Valentine's Day patron tickets are \$100 with cocktails, and dinner with the cast. For information, call (704) 372-1000 or log on to www.wtvi.org or www.performingartsctr.org.

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.

Mothers day breakfast, 7 p.m., Cochrane Middle School media center. Guest speaker will be Cheryl Atkinson, assistant regional

superintendent, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

Djoliba Don, an African drumming and dancing company, Children's Theatre of Charlotte. Also performs Feb. 21.

February 21

Charlotte Section of National Council of Negro Women Brotherhood/Sisterhood Banquet, 7 p.m., United House of Prayer for All People, 2321 Beatties Ford Road. Donation is \$25 per person. Guest speaker is Dr. Manderline Scales, state convener, NCNW/N.C. For information, call Mattie Caldwell at (704) 376-9955.

"The Road to Manhood" workshop, 9 a.m.-4:40 p.m., J.T. Williams Middle School, 2400 Carmine St. Registration is \$40 for one adult and one youth. For information, call (704) 535-3248 or log on to www.walkingthetalk.net.

February 24

Kelly Clarkson and Clay Aiken at Charlotte Coliseum. Tickets are \$35 and \$45 and available at the Coliseum and Cricket Arena box offices; charge by phone at (704) 522-6500; Ticketmaster outlets and ticketmaster.com.

February 27

Rudy Currence and Dezeray's Hammer, Peabody Field, Winthrop University. Free admission. Currence performs at 8 p.m.; Dezeray's Hammer at 9:30.

February 28

LTD Promotions and E.E. Waddell Community Center present Winterfest Comedy Jam, Stanly Senior Center, 283, North Third St., Albemarle. BET comedians Minister P, Reggie Byrdman and David Martin scheduled to perform. Show starts at 9 p.m.

March 5

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

Whitney M. Young Jr. award dinner, sponsored by Urban League of Central Carolinas. Tickets are \$125 for Urban League members; \$150 for non-members. For tickets or information, call Robin Brown at (704) 373-2256 or log on to www.urbanleaguecc.org.

March 27

Bassey, Dinkins ATC Cafe, Winthrop University. Nigerian poet recently appeared on Russell Simmons Presents Def Poetry. Admission \$5 with Winthrop ID; \$7 general public.

BowlForKids' Sake, 12-5 p.m., Northcross Lanes at the Lake, I-77 at exit 25, Huntersville. Sponsored by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Charlotte to raise funds and build awareness for mentoring relationships. To form a team or become a sponsor, call Delta Sanders at (704) 829-6624.

March 31

Yanni, Charlotte Coliseum, 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$55 and \$35 and on sale now.

April 2

"Hansel & Gretel" through April 25 at Children's Theatre. Tickets \$12 for center seats; \$10 on side. Recommended for ages 5 and up.

April 30

Shania Twain, 7:30 p.m., Charlotte Coliseum. Tickets are \$80, \$65 and \$45 and on sale now.

DANCE TO THE MUSIC



CHILDREN'S THEATRE OF CHARLOTTE

Djoliba Don, an African drumming and dancing company, will perform at Children's Theatre of Charlotte Jan. 20-21.

'COURAGE' FANS



PHOTO/PAUL WILLIAMS III

Harvey and Cindy Gantt Charlotte greet National Public Radio correspondent **Juan Williams** at the opening of "Courage: The Carolina Story that Changed America" last week at Levine Museum of the New South.



PHOTO/PAUL WILLIAMS III

Gwen Thomas of Bank of America and **Stephanie Counts** joined **Bridget Ann Hamden** of JPMorgan Chase at the United Way's African American Leadership Initiative Council's thank-you event last month at Hearst Tower. U.S. Rep. **Mel Watt** (D-N.C.) introduced the event's special guest, Rep. **Stephanie Tubbs Jones** (D-Ohio), an advocate for health and human service issues.

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.

Vision and Beyond Ministry and Written Word Productions will hold auditions for stage play Feb. 7 at 3 p.m. at 732 Mt. Gallant Road in Rock Hill. Male and female performers ages 18-45 needed for East Coast tour. For details, call (704) 713-1676 or (803) 324-9823.

Life As Art Productions, is holding auditions for "Reservations," a play written by April Turner, Feb. 8-10. Interested actors must call (818) 625-8995 for an appointment. "Reservations" examines the histories of Native American and African American peoples. Rehearsals begin April 15 and the play premieres at the Afro American Cultural Center March 5-6.

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.

BareBones Theatre Group's playwriting workshop, **PLAYMAKERS,** is seeking serious playwrights to participate in monthly writing workshops at the SouthEnd Performing Arts Center. Interested playwrights should have several completed scripts or several scripts in development to bring into the workshop. Contact BBTG Play-Makers at (704) 332-5300 for more details.

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.

Mill Community seminar series Feb. 5, 12, 19 and March 4 at 1 p.m. at Levine Museum of the New South. Writers, artists and photographers explore culture and history of Piedmont textile communities. Free with museum admission of \$6 for adults; \$5 for seniors and children.

Black Heritage Tour and Pilgrimage sponsored by Queen City Tours and Levine Museum of the New South. Saturdays in February at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Three-hour tours of historical sites around Charlotte. Tickets are \$30 for adults 13-54; \$28 for seniors and \$26 for children 5-12. Discounts of \$5 if purchased by Jan. 31. For reservations, call (704) 566-0104 or log on to www.queencitytours.com.

Job Fair, Matthews United Methodist Church, Feb. 5 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the church gym, 801 S. Trade St., Matthews. For information, call Mary Elizabeth Murphy at (704) 535-5610 or log on to www.ministryatwork.org.

High school computer competition and computer training program Feb. 21, 10 a.m., 11312 Gold Pan Road. Program provides environment for students to compete on an academic level.

"A Wonderful Wedding Bridal Extravaganza," Jan. 25, Charlotte Merchandise Mart, 12-5 p.m.

EXHIBITS

"Spirit of Freedom," and **"Cultural Collection: the Art of Collecting,"** Afro-American Cultural Center from 6-9 p.m. Roundtable Fellows exhibition runs through Feb. 29 and represents African American, Native American and Latin American cultures and artistries.

"Through the Lens: Women's Perspective" at Mint Museum of Art, 2739 Randolph Road. Coffee at 10 a.m. followed by lecture at 10:30 a.m. Three women's photographers - **JoAnn Sieburg-Baker, Diane Davis** and **Carolyn DeMeritt** - will discuss their work, challenges and aspirations. For information, call Priscilla Dabney at (704) 366-9808.

"Seeking the Center: Paintings, Prints and Constructions of Zanne Hochberg," Feb. 9-March 26, Patrick and Rutledge Galleries, Winthrop University. Opening reception Feb. 6 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Curator Andrew Svedlow lecture Feb. 15 at 3 p.m., Rutledge 119.