

AIDS Council benefit



By Artellia Burch

artellia.burch@thecharlottepost.com

The AIDS Council of Gaston County will hold its annual "Taste of" event Las Vegas style. This year's event will celebrate Vegas with casino-style games, entertainment and food.

Visual arts will take center stage with dance, stand-up comedy, a legends show and silent auction of original works by regional artists.

Guests will be able to enjoy a sit down dinner inside Rodi Restaurant Bar and Bakery, which supports the AIDS benefit annually.

According to the U.S. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, estimate that 850,000 to 950,000 U.S. residents are living with HIV, one quarter of whom are unaware of their infection.

Approximately 40,000 new infections occur each year in the U.S., about 70 percent among men. Of newly infected men, approximately 50 percent are black and 64 percent of newly infected women are black.

Carla Pope and Traci Smith owners of Rodi Restaurant Bar and Bakery donate the proceeds of the dinner every year since 1999 to support the AIDS Council.

"If each person does whatever they can, no matter how great or small the message that AIDS is preventable will eventually make a difference," said Pope.

If you're interested in purchasing a table for Taste of Las Vegas or for more information about the party call (704) 853-5238. Advance tickets are \$30 and admission is \$35 at the door.

Friend or Foe-Choosing Your Wedding Party



By Rob Stein
THE WASHINGTON POST

I attempted a few years back to date a high-school sweetheart. All I could think about were the great times that we had back then and a part of me thought we could recapture those special moments too many years later. Needless to say, it didn't work out.

Thoughts around choosing your wedding party will often take you back to your sandbox days, little league baseball, or some other memorable and cherished moments. What I've learned is, "people change." Many couples become disappointed over their choice of wedding party members as they delve into the finer details of the impending wedding and marriage.

One person (let's call her Ethel) put it so eloquently when she was asked to be a member of a particular couple's wedding party. Ethel didn't know the groom, so she insisted that a "get-to-know-the-groom" conversation take place prior to her acceptance of the bride's invitation. The groom declined and so did Ethel. She took the position

that being a member of the wedding party bestowed a responsibility far more reaching than wearing a pretty dress and taking the wedding snapshots. Ethel insisted she was being asked to stand before God and accept the responsibility of witnessing a spiritual union and making a commitment to do whatever necessary to help keep the couple together "until death due you part".

Choosing your wedding party should take on the same spiritual commitment as expressed by Ethel. Couples, many times, choose their wedding party for reasons unrelated to the sanctity of the commitment. Couples should sit down together and determine some very sound reasons for choosing individuals, who will witness their marriage. It will be helpful for couples to determine why they are considering each person and be prepared to share those reasons with them. A set of expectations should be developed and shared as well. **A list of questions for prospective wedding party members will be essential:**

1. Are you in agreement with our plans to marry?
2. Are you able to make

the financial commitment to be in the wedding?

3. Are you able to make the time commitment to our celebration?

4. What type of spiritual support are you able to provide to us as husband and wife?

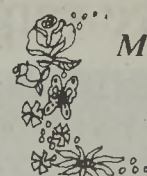
5. Can we rely on you during both the good times and challenging moments of our marriage? How will you support us?

6. Can we rely on you for prayerful advice?

7. What advice do you have for us as we begin our planning process?

Couples who take the time to talk through the selection of their wedding party and reaching sound decisions that will support their impending marriage stand a much better chance for everlasting love. When prayers go up, blessings do come down.

Written by Waililian Howard of Waililian & Company: Events, Training & Consulting Specialists. Contact her at: 704-376-9476 or wiaandco@yahoo.com



McCarroll's Catering, Inc.

Betty McCarroll, Owner
P.O. Box 16382
2300 Beatties Ford Road
Charlotte, North Carolina 28297
Phone: (704) 399-1887 or (704) 392-6234

A. Tyrone McCarroll
Phone: (704) 394-2733
Fax: (704) 392-1103

Wedding Receptions • Barbecues • Corporate Events



CURTIS WILSON Photographer

Commercial
Weddings
Portraits
Fashion
Events

Office: 704-541-3487
cwilson4@carolina.rr.com



Palm
Reading

Psychic Readings by

MS. GABRIELLE

Reader & Advisor

Tells Past, Present and Future

704-537-7518



Tarot
Reading

PATRICK

"He is a respectful and courteous child. A pleasure to be around."

-Social Worker

About Patrick (DOB 10/12/91):

- Enjoys football and basketball
- Likes to draw and is very creative
- Participated in karate
- Has stated that he would love to have a parent to fish and play sports with him
- Hopes to be the president of the USA
- Enjoys participating in church activities
- He needs a family that has lots of love and patience

**Mecklenburg County
Youth & Family Services**

For more information contact:

Joyce H. Stukes 704-432-0660
stukejh@co.mecklenburg.nc.us

Folk Arts Camp Offers Unique Encounter With Tradition

Children ages 8-12 will make music, share stories, dance and create traditional crafts under the leadership of master musicians, dancers and artisans.

- July 26-30 and August 2-6
- 8:30AM to 5:30PM
- St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
3601 Central Ave., Charlotte
- \$225 per week
- Limited scholarships available

Contact Camp Director, june@folkartscamp.org or call (704) 491-5646.



CHARLOTTE
FOLK SOCIETY
www.folksociety.org



Need a college savings plan for your grandchild?

North Carolina's 529 plan.

Tax-Free. Flexible. Affordable.

800-600-3453 www.CFNC.org/Savings

North Carolina's
**National College
Savings Program**

College Foundation of North Carolina
Helping You Plan, Apply, and Pay for College