

Fuller From page A1

ow accuse her are: Leigh Rose, 140 Arbor Road; Deborah Coleman King, 2883 Robinhood Road; Roy McGill, 940 Partridge Lane; and Elsie D. Popkin, 740 Arbor Road. They say their losses total in the thousands of dollars.

Fuller's supporters claim that the accusations are racially-motivated and that she is being victimized by her former employers -- who are white -- because she is a black woman. "I'm more than expected of a domestic worker."

"The only reason she is being accused of taking these things, is because she took them," said King. "All they need to do is go to the police station and look at the photos of the things recovered from her home. My husband does not have paintings away. Who gave her three paintings of Joes?"

"We believe that Mrs. Fuller is innocent of the crimes of which she is accused," said McPherson. "Mrs. Fuller's struggle is our struggle. In fighting for her full vindication, we fight for our own."

Other members of Black Women for Justice are Dr. Glenda Hill, associate professor of English at Winston-Salem State University; Elwanda Ingram, professor of English at Winston-Salem State University; Mazie Woodruff, former county commissioner; Barbara Be and Magdalene Watson, public school teachers; and business owner Minnie Ervin.

Ervin, owner of a beauty supply store, says she has employed Fuller for years and continues to do so. "Mrs. Fuller is a very loyal, honest and efficient person," she said. "I have never known her to take anything."

She said she had left Fuller alone in her (Ervin's) home and business on several occasions. "We have left her in the shop with all the money and receipts and not known how much money was there," said Ervin, "but when we tallied the money and receipts the next day, they would always come out right."

The Rev. Leon White, director of the N.C. Commission for Racial Justice of the United Church of Christ, was the keynote speaker for the rally. He said that Fuller was being persecuted by people who view domestic workers as "non-people who have no worth other than to clean floors."

"When they found out she had a house and was trying to do things for herself, they said 'something must be wrong, let me look around my house and see what's missing,' Mrs. Fuller's only mistake was that she tried to have something," he said.

To Fuller he said, "You are a great lady, hold your head up. Keep your eye on the prize. It is people like you who have made some of us doctors and lawyers."

The rally, which attracted about 25 people, was not without its share of character witnesses.

Cindy Merola, a white woman, said she had known Fuller for almost 14 years. She said she met Fuller while working for the Department of Social Services and soon got to know other members of the Fuller family. She said that Fuller impressed her as being "very mature and family-oriented."

"I know there is no way she could have committed these crimes," she said, "and I'm behind her 100 percent."

Former county commissioner Mazie Woodruff also spoke in behalf of Fuller. "Versell is a humble kind of person who comes from a loving family."

"Hold your head high," she said to Fuller, "and don't let it worry you because if God is on your side, who else do you have to worry about?"

The Mt. Zion Baptist Church Choir performed several musical selections during the rally, which culminated with remarks from Rev. John Mendez of Emmanuel Baptist Church.

"The struggle is against injustice," he said. "The truth of the matter is people like Versell Fuller will get crushed by the system, because legal cases cost so much."

Mendez solicited donations for Fuller's defense. "We need everybody to unite behind this cause," he said. "Let's make a personal sacrifice."

McPherson said the Black Women for Justice will continue to exist beyond the Fuller case. "We want this organization to be one that domestic workers feel they can come to for assistance," she said. She said they hoped to be able to provide educational assistance, legal assistance and consultation to domestic workers.

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YMCA From Page A6

s excellent. They're very caring people and they're very concerned about their (the children's) development."

With two years under their belts, Orange said the staff at the preschool is looking ahead to making the program even better and to expanding its services. She said she hopes that at some point the center's staff will be able to provide training in early childhood

development to other day care centers and to other day care professionals.

"I hope we will expand in terms of size and we hope to fine tune the things we can do," said Orange. "We're one of the few centers with a professionally-trained early childhood staff. I'd like to see us strengthen some of the areas within the program and I think that will come."

COMMUNITY NEWS DEADLINES ...

The *Chronicle* welcomes community news and calendar items. Announcements should include the day, time, place and sponsors of the event, plus a number to call for additional information. They should be addressed to the *Winston-Salem Chronicle, Community News*, P.O. Box 1154, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102.

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