

# Reynolda House/SECCA/Graylyn to hold Open House

For the first time, the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA) will join Reynolda House, Museum of American Art, and Graylyn Conference Center of Wake Forest University for a joint Holiday Open House on Sunday, Dec. 15 from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m.

Reynolda House, Museum of American Art, is a historic home built between 1914 and 1917 by Katharine and Richard Joshua Reynolds. It will be decorated with a two-story Christmas tree, traditional wreaths, garlands, holly and magnolia from the estate grounds. The afternoon entertainment will include the Reynolda Brass band at the front entrance. In the living room, the Ensemble Singers, the Madrigal Singers from Grimsley High School, the Carver Key Notes Choir and The Ambassadors, will perform. The Wake Forest Community Dance group of dancers, ages four to 17 years, will perform during the interludes. In celebration of Hanukkah, there will be an exhibit of Menorahs,

and a demonstration of a Hanukkah computer program.

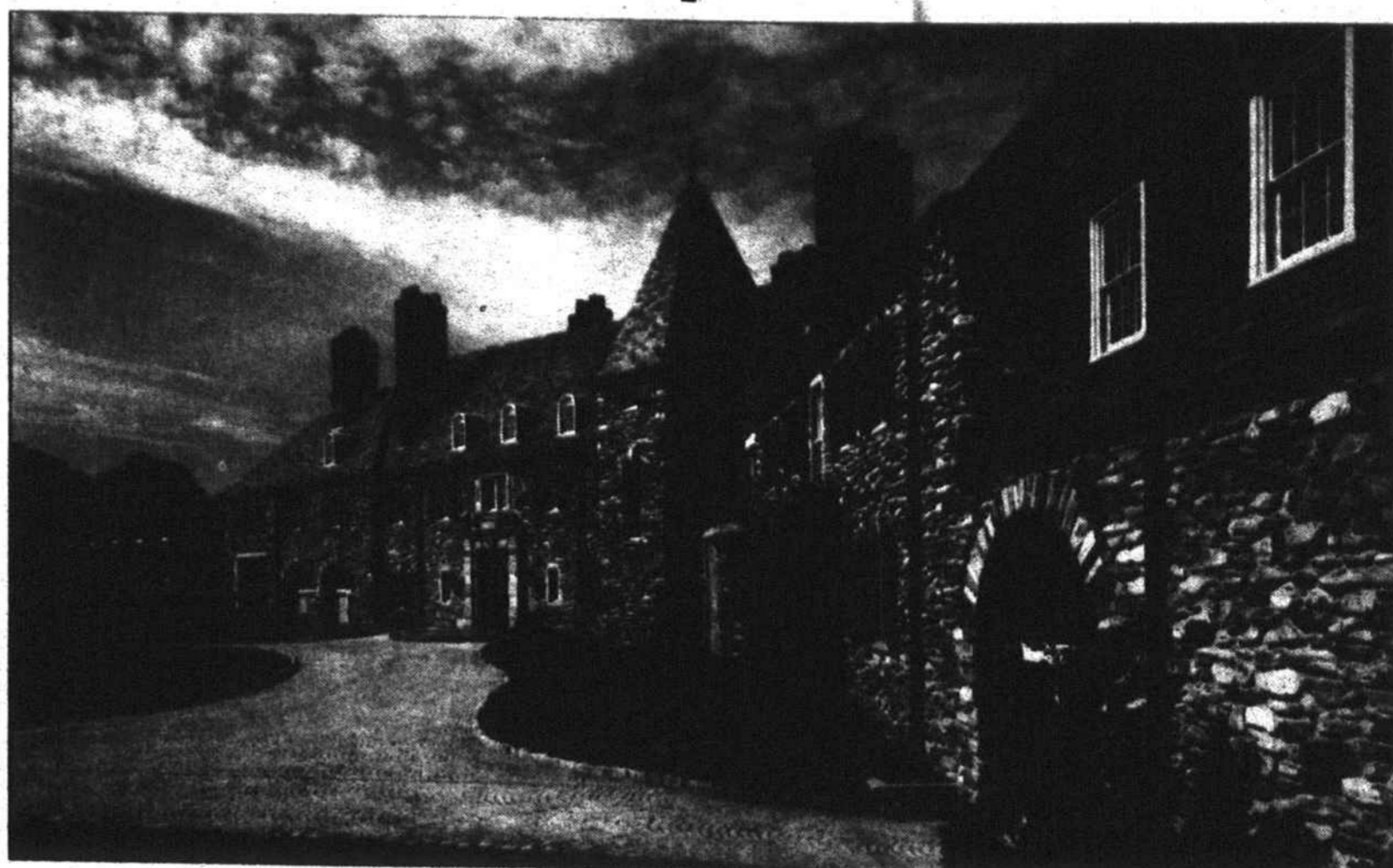
For international festival flavor, there will be two Japanese tea ceremonies and traditional Indian music. In the indoor swimming pool area, the Hussite Bell Ringers from Christ Moravian Church and the Highland Ringers from Highland Presbyterian Church will perform.

SECCA is in the former home of James G. Hanes, an industrialist. It will feature eight Christmas trees in the lobby decorated by local organizations, individuals, and businesses. Price Davis will decorate SECCA's entry way and SECCA's two volunteer organizations will continue the theme in the living room and library. The entertainment will include the Golden Triad Chorus of the Sweet Adelines International, the Bethania Moravian Church Band, Emmanuel Baptist Church Choirs, seasonal piano music, the bag pipes, and a roving clown will delight all ages.

Graylyn Conference Center was the home of Nathalie and Bowman

Gray. It is being decorated by the Fairview Moravian Church's Women's Fellowship. The house will be filled with five Christmas trees, poinsettias, wreaths, garlands, and candles including greenery, berries, and ivy from the estate. The entertainment will include the fairview Moravian Church Band, Beck Baptist Church and Centenary United Methodist Church Handbells, harpist Carol Rauch, pianist Earl Myers, and a horse and buggy owned by David and Sam Ogburn will be on the grounds. An exhibit by artist David Armstrong will be in Graylyn's gallery. Armstrong has been represented by the Hammer Galleries in New York City since 1971.

Tickets for the Open House will be sold at the door of the historic houses the afternoon of the event. There will be door prizes at Graylyn and SECCA. Refreshments will be served at the houses. Admission is \$7 for adults and \$3 for children ages 12 and under. For more information, call (919) 725-5325.



Graylyn Conference Center, facing south.

Photo by Jackson Smith

## The African-American experience coming

In the next few months The Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County will present some of the best visual, literary and perform-

State University and a special reception will be held in honor of Ms. Sanchez by The Arts Council and the English Department of WSSU.

Ensemble to the city for residency, masterclasses, and workshops as well as an evening performance at the Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium on the campus of Winston-Salem State University. The three day event will involve the entire community. Presented in partnership with the Winston-Salem State Alumni Association, Wake Forest University Dance Department, the Spirit of Life Community Choir, and the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools this presentation provides a unique opportunity for diverse arts groups in the area to collaborate.

The Dance Ensemble is known for creating a dance language that crosses all cultural lines. Founding Artistic Director, Cleo Parker Robinson has created most of the company's diverse repertory. The group's 14 dancers have performed throughout the United States including the 1990 American Dance Festival in Durham.

A special part of this residency and performance is the opportunity for everyone in the community to be involved. Not only will there be a chance to see the dancers perform - some people can actually become dancers themselves for the night!

During the three days the dance ensemble will be in Winston-Salem they will hold workshops and masterclasses throughout the city and county at public and private schools as well as colleges and universities. On February 27, a special audition will be held for local dancers to participate in the evening performance on February 29.

Combined with the young men and women in the Spirit of Life Community Choir, the dancers chosen to participate in the dance performance will make up a unique group of local performers working and learning from one of the premiere dance organizations in the country.

In March of next year, The Arts Council and the Winston-Salem State University Alumni Association will co-sponsor the presentation

of Jomandi Productions' nationally acclaimed "Sisters." On March 21, at 8 p.m. in the Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium this unique drama will present a powerful forum for the issues and problems we all face today. The Atlanta-based professional black theatre company - Jomandi Productions - is well known to many in this area for their works depicting the African-American experience. They have performed in the National Black Theatre Festival as well as productions sponsored by The Arts Council including "Queen of The Blues" and "Do Lord."

For more information concerning these events please call 722-2585.

## ARTS REACH

By REGGIE JOHNSON



ing artists working today to this community. These special events will focus attention on those among us with the courage to use their talents in creating and recording the African-American experience for today and for the future.

Through their talents they express what we are with a language that transcends all class and age boundaries. Whether using a paintbrush, their voices, their bodies or pen, it is the artists in our community that challenges and entertains us. It is also the artist that records our world and leads us in the celebration of the African-American experience.

On January 25, 1992, Sonia Sanchez will come to Winston-Salem for a literary reading and workshop. Poet, mother, activist, professor as well as national and international lecturer on Black Culture and Literature, Women's Issues, Peace and Racial Justice, Ms. Sanchez brings her skills as one of our most important African-American writers to bare on the issues facing us today.

Sponsored in part by a grant from the North Carolina Arts Council, a state agency, and with support from Winston-Salem State University - the day of events with Ms. Sanchez offers a unique opportunity to meet, work with, and hear the words of a great American writer. The workshops and reading will take place in the Anderson Center on the campus of Winston-Salem

State University and a special reception will be held in honor of Ms. Sanchez by The Arts Council and the English Department of WSSU.

During the month of February, the Annual Black Invitational art exhibition will be held in the Milton Rhodes Gallery of the Sawtooth Building, 226 North Marshall Street, in Winston-Salem. Now in its third year, this exciting art exhibition helps to promote a greater awareness, understanding and appreciation of the visual arts and the contributions made by local African-American artists.

One of the main purposes of this show is to highlight the works of African-American artists living and working in the Triad. In the third year, we have been able to increase the number of artists participating and exhibiting. This year the exhibition will include works by Edward Hale, James Huff, Earnestine Huff, Van Hinnant, Eva Miller, Marshall Sudderth, and James Peck. Others are being approached to participate and expand our list of visual artists which will be announced to the public at a later date. The show will open February 6 with a reception that the public is invited to attend and will close February 29.

At the end of February, Winston-Salem will have some very special guests that will provide this community with an incredible opportunity to participate and experience one of the most exciting art forms alive today - modern dance.

On February 27-29, the Winston-Salem arts community will bring the emotional power of the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance

## Holiday musical back by popular demand

*Celebrations: An African Odyssey*, the magical holiday musical by Ricardo Pitts-Wiley that began a new Christmas season tradition in Winston-Salem last December, will open this Friday, December 6 at the Arts Council Theatre, 610 Coliseum Drive in Winston-Salem.

*Celebrations: An African Odyssey* has joined such old favorites as *Messiah*, *The Nutcracker*, and *A Christmas Carol* as critically acclaimed holiday performance "must-sees" in the triad. This powerful musical entertainment embraces its audiences with a simple message of universal love, peace, and understanding through a delightful combination of African, African-American spiritual, and gospel music, song, and dance.

*Celebrations: An African Odyssey* illuminates the journey of a beautiful, young African Princess whose determination to find out the complete story of the Baby King, (Jesus), leads to her capture and enslavement by the "people-stealers," (American slavetraders). When her journey takes her from

her native country of West Africa, and her people, the M'Cutu...to an American slave plantation, Princess Jaharri finally finds the "Lost King," and resolves the mystery of the "Baby King." She must now find a way to return to her homeland and her people to share this wonderful story. An exuberant cast of over twenty members will again take audiences on an unforgettable journey... an African Odyssey, into the lives of some incredibly strong and determined people, in Africa and in America.

The story begins in West Africa with the M'cutu celebration of "New Time," a twelve day celebration of song, dance, and feasting, for the birth, and rebirth of the land and of the people. For the second time, the "New Time" celebration is marred by the incursion of the "people-stealers," into the tribe and the royal family. The first time the king of the M'Cutu is stolen, this time it is the beautiful Princess Jaharri. Ironically, it is the capture of Princess Jaharri that leads to her solving the mystery of the "Baby King," and the "Lost King." After

sharing the strength of the slaves that she encounters during her enslavement, and being reunited with her grandfather, King Bari, Jaharri's determination to be free allows her to take the same ship that took her away from freedom and her people, to take her back home again!

This enchanting holiday extravaganza is for the entire family, especially children. According to playwright Riccardo Pitts-Wiley, when *Celebrations* was written, he was constantly thinking of his own son, who was 7 months old at the time... reminding himself to write for a child. Ultimately, anyone can appreciate the lasting value of this "people show," which truly is a celebration of strength and survival.

Additional performances of *Celebrations: An African Odyssey* are December 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21 at 8 p.m., and December 8, 15, & 22 at 3 p.m. in the Arts Council Theatre, 610 Coliseum Drive in Winston-Salem. For reservations and group rates please call 723-7907 between the hours of 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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