

# Local group celebrates West African heritage

▲ The Liberian Organization celebrates Liberia's 145th year of independence with sounds of native music

By CAROLE RAGINS  
Community News Editor

Sounds of West African music made Granville Park come alive Saturday as members of the Liberian Organization of the Piedmont celebrated Liberia's independence day. Liberia is the oldest independent black nation in Africa and the second oldest in the world.

The celebration was designed for the children who are involved in many programs sponsored by the Liberian Organiza-

teenagers sat with their friends to talk and listen to music after the feast.

Through programs at the Boy's Club, the group teaches children elements of African culture and helps them gain a sense of pride and value for their African heritage.

"The organization has been instrumental in molding the minds of African-American children," said Ralph Pierson, vice president of the Liberian Organization.

Before the festivities began, guest speaker Gloria Woods, a lawyer for the

Mazoe Anderson, a 16-year-old member of the organization and native of Liberia, praised the organization. "I have learned the richness of the African culture, and I appreciate my Liberian support group that helps me in many ways to deal with the stigmas and stereotypes many people associate with people of Africa."

Aurelia Woods, 17, says she was surprised to see so many Liberian children and families who live in Winston-Salem. "I didn't know there were so many of them here," she said.



"Smiley the Clown" takes a picture with parents who are also members of the Liberian Organization.



Kids in the Liberian Organization sit on a park bench to talk. Pictured (from left to right) are Esf Gibson, Kenneth Allison, Aurelia Woods, Charlyn Brandy, Mazoe Anderson, and James Clark.

tion. An informal program was presented to about 60 children of all ages and their parents. The younger children played on the swings and sliding boards while the

Legal Aid Society, spoke on the importance of keeping the mind and body free of drugs. She urged the children not to be influenced by peers who may offer them drugs.

Pierson says it is necessary to teach children about their African heritage because the images the media portray of Africa are not positive. "I find most kids

that grow up, who do not go to the library and read, ask questions based upon what they have seen on television," he said. "What we're trying to do is to mold African-American minds so that they can take their rightful places as African-Americans in society."

An upcoming program will teach African culture and history from instructors who are children. Having children teach other children will bring them closer to the African experience.

"Some children say I am not African, I'm American, and we understand that," says Pierson. "But we tell them that they need to learn their history and where they came from in order to be productive people and to positively influence others in the community about themselves," he added.

"I try to instill in all the children that they are somebody. Once positive images are planted in their minds they have the potential to elevate themselves to higher goals," he said.

Members of the Liberian Organization also work outside the community by shipping food, clothing and medicine to refugees of the Liberian civil war, said Mathu Gibson, president. The organization continues to raise money for the relief effort and is currently seeking donors to help

transport goods to Liberia.

"You don't hear about Liberia in the news media anymore and many people think that everything is fine and dandy but that's not true. The war still goes on but it's not as savage as before," he said.

Gibson explained that there were three faction groups who had been fighting in Liberia since 1989 when rebel forces formed to overthrow the dictatorship government under Samuel K. Doe's reign.

Each year the group sets up displays at various schools during Black History month to acquaint children with the cultures of Liberia, Nigeria, and other countries in Africa.

The Liberian Organization of the Piedmont was founded in 1987 by James Y. Hunder Sr. and a group of Liberians. Their mission is to advance the African culture in human relations, and membership is open to people of all nationalities. The Piedmont chapter consist of members from the Triad area (Greensboro, Winston-Salem and High Point). There are chapters throughout North Carolina as well as the United States.

The celebration was sponsored by McDonald's, Bojangles, Wendy's, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, Royal Cake Co., Sara Lee Corp., Burger King and Church's Fried Chicken.

## Community

# EVENTS CALENDAR July

**How to Schedule Your Event:** Send your information, concisely and neatly printed or typed, to the *Chronicle* Calendar, 617 N. Liberty St., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102, before 5:30 p.m. the Monday preceding the week in which your event will occur. Our FAX number is (919) 723-9173.

### THURSDAY, JULY 23

7:30 p.m. — *The Wizard of Oz*, the musical play based on the Frank Baum classic, will be presented Thursday and Friday by students in the Mt. Tabor Summer Enrichment Program. Admission is free. The auditorium is located at 301 N. Hawthorne Rd. Call 727-2629.

8 p.m. — Former NC School of the Arts (NCSA) president Robert Ward will be guest conductor for a concert tonight with the NCSA Summer Chamber Orchestra.

### FRIDAY, JULY 24

9 p.m. — Melva Houston will perform the hot summer sounds of jazz and blues at Francina's Southern Style Restaurant on 118 N. Davie St. in Greensboro. Call 919-273-4616.

### SATURDAY, JULY 25

4:30 p.m. — Reunion for Paisley High School alumni and friends of Kay Flowers and Jackie McCorkle of New York City, at Tanglewood Park, until 11 p.m. Call Kay Flowers at 788-5069.

7 p.m. — People for Truth presents Steve Cokely, "Live and Uncensored" for the first time in the Triad area, at the Know Book Store, 1602 E. Market St.

### SUNDAY, JULY 26

9:30 — Melva Houston will sing the blues and jazz numbers at Arthur's Blues and Jazz Club, 2507 High Point Rd. in Greensboro.

### MONDAY, JULY 27

7 p.m. — North Carolina Black Repertory Company will hold auditions for the Broadway musical, *Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope*. Auditions will be held at the Arts Council Theatre, 610 Coliseum Drive. Needed are: eight singers (four male, four female), eight dancers (four male, four female), and six actors (three male, three female). Call 723-2266.

### TUESDAY, JULY 28

1:30 p.m. — The Environmental Affairs Board meeting will be held.

### UPCOMING

• Carver High School Marching Band rehearsal will begin 9 a.m. until 12 p.m., August 3 in the bandroom at the high school. Bring an instrument and wear casual clothes for outside.

• Japanese Bookbinding will be taught August 3-5 at the Sawtooth Center for Visual Art. Multi-media artist Rebecca Hutchinson will teach the class. Call 723-7395.

• 4-H Electricity and New Technology Camp is now accepting applications for the camp, which will be held Aug. 2-6 at Betsy Jeff Penn 4-H Center near Reidsville. The camp is open to children ages 10-14. The cost is \$165 which includes lodging, meals, insurance, and other camp expenses. To get application forms or for more information, contact Carolyn High at 767-8213.

### ONGOING PROGRAMS

• Teen Family Planning Clinic is held Tuesdays at 3:30 on the second floor of the Reynolds Health Center. Contact Katrina Hamilton at 727-8172.

• Baby Love Parenting Classes are held from 3-4 p.m. on Wednesdays at the SCAN building at 500 W. Northwest Blvd. Contact Tammy Cashwell at 727-8172.

• Sittercize for Older Adults is held Tuesdays at 9:30 in the Cleveland area. Call 727-8172.

• The exhibit of recent paintings by Francis Brown Jr., originally scheduled to close July 2, has been extended through Aug. 14, 1992 at the Delta Fine Arts Center, 1511 Third St. The Center is open to the public Monday through Friday

from 12-5 p.m. Admission is free.

• Citizens Coalition for a Better Tomorrow is sponsoring "Hire A Teen," an odd-jobs/positive activities program for teens aged 13-18. Individuals and companies interested in hiring a teen, should call 761-0346.

• Senior Financial Care can help with budgeting, checkbook balancing, paying bills, or filing health insurance claims. SFC is a United Way agency. If you need assistance, call 725-1972 for an appointment.

• Crochet and Cross Stitch classes are being offered to senior adults at the William Sims Recreation Center on Thursdays from 1:30-3:30 p.m. through Aug. 27. The program fee is \$1.50 and the cost of supplies. For more information, call 727-2505 or 727-2837.

• The William C. Sims Center, 1201 Alder St., is offering free mediation classes on Wednesday and Fridays from 2-3 p.m. beginning July 15.

• The North Carolina School of the Arts Broadway Review Series will present the World Stage Premiere of Rodgers and Hammerstein's State Fair, at the Stevens Center from July 17 through August 16. For more information call 723-3533.

• The Nature Science Center will offer five new science camps for young people during July for grades kindergarten through sixth. The week-long workshops will begin July 13, 20, and 27, and will take place at the SciCamp location at Hanes Mall. The workshops will vary from two hours to all day sessions. For more information contact Allyson McCauley at 659-9020.

• The People for Truth presents Steve Cokely "Live and Uncensored" at The Know Book Store, 1602 E. Market St. in Greensboro. The event starts at 7 p.m.

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