

Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Emancipation Association hosts annual celebration of freedom

By FELECIA P. MCMILLAN
Special to the Chronicle

Each year, the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Emancipation Association recognizes the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation on Sept. 22, 1862, and its coming into effect January 1, 1863, during an emancipation service. This year it was held at 11 a.m. at Dellabrook Presbyterian Church, where the Rev. Carlton Eversley is the pastor. Attorney Patricia Y. Ford offered the reading of the proclamation. The keynote speaker for the morning was Dr. Alvin J. Schexnider, chancellor of Win-



The audience listened intently as Dr. Schexnider spoke of the need to salvage our youth.

ston-Salem State University. Eleven high school students were recognized for their outstanding scholarship. The finalists were Sharena Davidson of North Forsyth High School and Nikki Aikens, also from North Forsyth.

Attorney Harold L. Kennedy III, president of the association, announced that each year they present two \$500 scholarships to deserving youths. This year there were 30 applicants who completed applications and went through an interview process. Through the offering at this function, the organization raises funds for the next year's scholarships. The Rev. J. Ray Butler, pastor of United Cornerstone Baptist Church, started the offering with a donation from his church of \$100. Dellabrook Presbyterian Church matched this donation. The treasurer reported \$712.50 for this year. Other churches are invited to donate throughout the year.

Robert W. Long, the treasurer of the organization, introduced the speaker of the hour, Dr. Alvin J. Schexnider.

Schexnider told the audience of the spirit that was ever present in the lives of slave ancestors. In spite of the horror of slavery, he said, slaves organized into communities and became tribes. They taught their children how to bond through slavery, Jim Crow and Reconstruction.

The hope and wish of the slaves, he said, was that their progeny would do better than they. "Through these scholarships we enable our youth to go forward, to do better than we," he said.

He posed the question, "What did we have when we had nothing?" His answer was that we had responsibility to our family, to our neighbors, to each other and to our race.

Schexnider said African Americans have lost sight of the need for personal responsibility by focusing more on rights than responsibility. He commented that it takes a



Dr. Alvin J. Schexnider was the keynote speaker for the Emancipation observance Jan. 1 at Dellabrook Presbyterian Church.

with a 3.9 GPA. She is presently enrolled in AP English, AP German, AP math, AP computer science, and AP physics. She is the president of the National Honor Society, vice president of the Key Club,

vice president of National Youth Achievers, vice captain of her school's cross country team, having been named All-Conference in outdoor track in 1995. She said her goal is to become an astronaut. She plans to attend college at either the U.S. Air Force Academy or North Carolina A&T State University.

The nine scholarship finalists who received certificates were Nicole Martin from Carver High School, Yakhia Hill from East Forsyth, James Ford from Carver, Adrienne Wilson from Carver, Kellie Hashy from Carver, Kamyra Varner from North Forsyth, Jason Carter from North Forsyth, and Joan Simpson from Carver.

A moment of silence was observed in honor of the late Bro. Robert Miller, who was very active in the organization and will be greatly missed.

The officers of the association include Harold L. Kennedy



Attorney Harvey L. Kennedy, chairman of the scholarship committee (top) announced scholarships as President Harold L. Kennedy III issued

III, president; Dr. J. Ray Butler, vice president; Mildred Griffin, secretary; Evalena Clayborn, assistant secretary; Robert W. Long, treasurer, and Harvey L. Kennedy, chairman of the Scholarship Committee. The membership committee includes Mary Philson, Leroy Anderson, and Alma Barber.

The Annual Membership Meeting and Election of Officers of the Association will be held Monday, January 13, at the Black-Phillips-Smith Neighborhood Government Services Office, 2301 N. Patterson Ave., at 7:30 p.m. New

group effort to move forward. "We no longer see someone else's success as our success ... We must embrace the idea of being a credit of our race," he said. He admonished the audience to spend time with troubled youth, in our homes, on the streets and in recreation centers. He said they need to be reminded about their need for high technology skills in order to compete in this economy. "We must find a way to salvage our youth," he concluded.

Eversley said, "The most exciting and inspiring thing about this morning is that we heard the vitae of some of the most talented African-American students in the city. We must be doing something right to have these fine results."

Nikki Aikens ranks first in her class of 297 students and has a 3.9 grade point average. She is presently enrolled in advanced placement (AP) English, AP Spanish language, Spanish V, AP math, AP psychology and anatomy. She is the secretary of her school's National Honor Society, president of the Spanish Honor Society, and president of the Math Club and is active in many other school and community activities. She said she wants to become a psychologist and plans to attend college at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Sharena Davidson ranks second in a class of 297, also

'Sigma Claus' spreads cheer at Tobaccoville Headstart Center

Sigma Claus, under the disguise of Santa Claus, recently paid a visit to Family Services Headstart Center at Tobaccoville. Sigma Claus was sponsored by Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., Delta Sigma Chapter of Winston-Salem. Their motto is "Culture for Service, and Service for Humanity." Thus, they chose a satellite center of Headstart to spread the blessings of the season. The center recently experienced a break-in in which significant educational equipment was stolen. The brothers of Phi Beta Sigma responded when they heard the news:

President Darryl Prince appointed Rodney Ellis, who serves as the center's parent liaison to the Family Services Headstart Program, to coordinate the Sigma Claus effort. Based on his recommendation, the brothers collected several pieces of educational equipment to be given to the center. They also brought along Sigma Claus, dressed in full Santa Clause attire and gear, loaded down with gifts for the children of the Center. The children had gone out earlier to see Saint Nick. They appeared surprised and excited to see him walk through their door.

Children were seated and treated to various snacks prepared by the college arm of Delta Alpha of WSSU. Ms. Dunlap, the center's lead teacher, expressed her thanks to the brothers, as did her assistant, Ms. Johnson. They went on to express some of their other needs for the center. The brothers decided that they would look into setting up a partnership with and adopting the center as one of Delta Sigma Chapter's major service projects. As a partner, Delta Sigma would provide tutors, storytellers, center program helpers, etc.

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Thursday, January 16, 1997

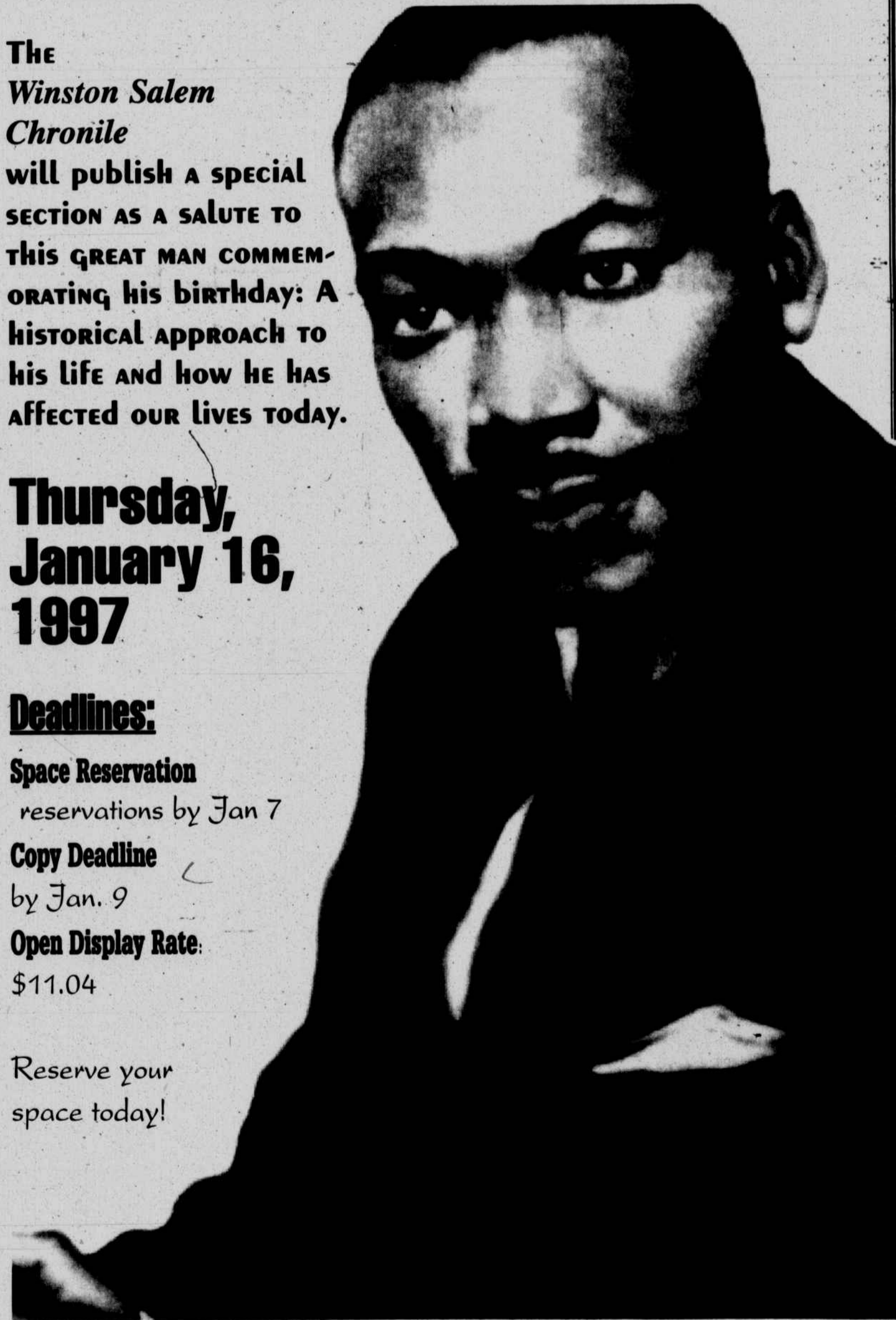
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