

'Read to Me' Festival

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respected and revered our elders," said Gail Anderson from the Healing Force. Joseph and Sonji Anderson helped to present African culture through music and dance.

Jose Aruego's books for young readers have earned the applause of critics, teachers, librarians and parents, as well as the affection of children everywhere. Born in the Philippines, Aruego has written more than three dozen books, including "Rockabye Crocodile" and "We Hide, You Seek." He shared his artistic talent with the children using the overhead projector. He showed them the stages of some of his most adored characters.

Two-time Grammy nominee David Holt is an award-winning musician, storyteller, historian, television host, and entertainer. He is dedicated to performing, preserving and promoting traditional American music and storytelling. He also plays 10 acoustic instruments.

In special booths the Junior League Read to Me Storytellers, celebrities and volunteers from the community

read stories. According to Pike, the inspiration for the program was motivational speaker Jim Trelease, author of the "Read Aloud Handbook." He spoke to parents, teachers and caregivers on Friday as a kickoff for the festival. The program was designed to educate parents and caregivers on the importance of reading aloud to children.

Dr. Lorraine Stewart, a professor of education at Wake Forest University, attended this session. "It was an excellent presentation. It helped to reinforce the need for parents to be involved with their children. It helped parents understand how they can be creative in reading to their children," she said.

"We were looking for a fun and persuasive way to convey the message of reading to the community. We feel that the most powerful way to reach parents is to involve their children in the activities of reading and storytelling," Pike said.

Rene Andrews from Children's Outreach Forsyth County Public Library praised the festival for its encouragement of reading aloud to children. "It helps develop critical thinking skills, analytical skills,

creativity and problem solving, as well as it helps them appreciate cultural differences," she said.

Patricia Poe was pleased with the size of the crowd. Last year 600 participated, but this year by noon more than 900 had already registered.

ArtQuest, Center for Creative Arts, and Sawtooth Center for Visual Arts collaborated on the Creation Station. The Winston-Salem Piedmont Triad Symphony provided musical magic, and more than 30 residents and local camp representatives were present to provide activities. SciWorks provided various science exploration activities, and YMCA, Winston-Salem Parks and Recreation, and Tanglewood Park assisted with recreational fun. Throughout the day, participants received door prizes such as books, software, coupons and more. Carolina Backyard provided an outdoor



Becky Lofland and her puppet friend, Androgeena, entertained children and adults alike.

play set as a raffle gift. At the Motherhead booths, participants received free books.

Students from the Drama Guild at Mt. Tabor High School, Reynolds High School and Hanes Middle School par-

ticipated as volunteers. They dressed up like favorite characters from children's books. Barnes and Noble, USborne, Pages Books, and DK Books provided books at the book fairs. Matt Thornton said it

made him feel good to interact with the children and he loved it when the children recognized who he was. Eliza Webster, who played Aladdin, said she had the most comfortable costume.

Former cop, active church member to preach trial sermon

James N. Brannon Sr., son of Marion B. Simmons and the late Nathaniel S. Brannon, will preach his initial sermon Sunday, March 23, at 11 a.m. at St. John Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, 650 N.W. Crawford Place.

Brannon was born in Belmont, N.C., and has resided in Winston-Salem for more than 40 years. He graduated from Atkins High School, where he excelled in football and baseball. He began his college education at Virginia State University and left to complete four years in the U.S. Air Force, from which he was honorably discharged. He continued his college education at Winston-Salem State University, from which he graduated in 1975 with a bachelor's degree in sociology.

Brannon was employed by the Winston-Salem Police Department for 10 years. He is currently employed by Johnson Controls.

Brannon is a diligent worker at St. John. He has served as superintendent of the Sunday school and chairman of Steward Board II. He is currently the director of the Board of



James N. Brannon Sr.

Evangelism and vice chairman of the Steward Board. Brannon is interested in community outreach efforts. He was instrumental in implementing St. John's Intercessory Prayer Hour, held each Sunday morning from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Brannon is currently enrolled in the CME Bishop's School for Ministers.

He is married to the former Garcia Foriest and is the father of one son, James N. Brannon Jr., a graduate student at Hampton University.

The public is cordially invited.

Hanes Memorial, CME Church to celebrate 3rd Women's Day

The Women of Hanes Memorial CME Church, 819 Highland Ave., will celebrate their third annual Women's Day March 22 and 23. The theme for the occasion is "Christian Women Renewing Their Lives Through Christ."

On Saturday, March 22, the celebration will begin at noon with a Luncheon/Fashion Show. Scheduled quest speakers are the Rev. Sandra Gripper of Reynolds Temple C.M.E. Church, Delois R. Huntley of the Winston-Salem Urban League and Dr. Deborah Daniels of Bennett College. Gripper will speak about spirituality. Huntley will speak about faith, and Daniels will speak on education.

McCarter says one of her missions in the ministry is to

help and encourage women to "be all that [they] can be for Jesus." She says women must rise, without a doubt.

McCarter is married to the Rev. Sheldon McCarter, pastor of Cleveland Avenue Christian Church in Winston-Salem. She was educated in the Rocky Mount city schools and is now enrolled in the Certificate of Theology Program at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Okla. She is employed at the Optometric Eye Care Center as an optician intern. She and her husband have two children, Xavia and Alana. The public is invited. Dr. Lloyd L. Watkins Sr. is pastor of Hanes Memorial. Chair of the event is Josie N. Clemons.

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