

First Friday hopes to cure Friday night blahs

Monthly social returns to Winston-Salem

BY FELECIA P. McMILLAN
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

After a three-year absence, First Fridays is back in Winston-Salem.

The monthly event, a networking social for African Americans, was held last Friday at The Domicile.

According to Jeff L. Smith of SCNTriad Event Communications, who spearheaded the event, the group is trying a new approach to drawing the First Friday crowd.

The original local gathering began as a part of a national movement. Large cities such as Atlanta, Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles have long promoted First Friday events as a way to build relationships in communities.

In Winston-Salem, the function, which was organized largely by volunteers, fizzled out, Smith said.

"First Fridays had never been an organized event. People just said, 'Let's meet at a bar,' and a

volunteer organized that day's meeting," he said. "That kind of responsibility begins to wear on somebody's nerves after a while. So I decided this past spring that maybe it was time to take the event to an events planner."

LaTonya Broome Richardson of Event Experts fit the bill. Smith called her in July and asked for her assistance.

Smith and Richardson say the event isn't really a singles gathering.

"We want everybody to come out to mingle and network," Smith said. "We often don't have the opportunity to sit and talk to people outside of business. We wanted to bring this opportunity to those in the community who are often looking for activities outside of bars and clubs. There are not so many forums for them to do so. It seems that the city has been in a malaise for the last four years. We got past the RJR leverage buyout, the layoffs related to the recession. People have gotten in the habit of not being involved."

The 40 or so people who gathered for the function agreed.

John Hinton, who works

downtown, said, he came out to meet new people.

"I don't get to see many people during the day, so I think First Fridays is a good idea," said Hinton. "There needs to be more places for professionals to get together. Many black people work downtown but don't know each other. They may work for a big operation or a big corporation, and their work often takes them out of town, or they just put in their hours and go home."

According to Smith and Richardson, the Fourth Street Jazz Series, Alive at 5 and the community revitalization have encouraged locals to get more involved in the community and in coming to the downtown area. Since these events have come to a close, the duo think First Fridays has the potential to provide opportunities to meet with other professionals until summer comes around again.

"Fourth Street Jazz and Alive at 5 are entertainment-oriented rather than social relationship-oriented," event-goer Ty Daurity said. "In the past, socially-related groups such as the Jaycees and other organizations tended to be



LaTonya Broome Richardson, events coordinator; Jeff Smith of SCNTriad and Ty Daurity of Bank of America chat in the courtyard.

more inwardly-focused, so there were not as many opportunities to reach out to the community as a whole. This event is held on a national level in order to bring together people from different professions, different races, to give

them a chance to build meaningful relationships."

Smith said the location of the event, a spacious downtown art gallery with an outdoor gallery, provides more than a little ambience.

"They will have exposure to art, a professional crowd in order to mix, mingle with other professional people," Smith said. "We want to give people the chance to come to the Art District. This is

See First Friday on A10

Talking to children about divorce

BY PAUL COLLINS
THE CHRONICLE

GREENSBORO - When you are talking to your child about divorce, remember that children think differently than adults. This conversation will not occur just once. Encourage your children to express their feelings over coming weeks and months.

The Family Life Council of Greensboro offers these tips about talking to your child about divorce:

- Sit down together with all the children to tell them about the separation.
- Include positive, supportive, reassuring comments to the children, assuring that both parents will continue to love them.
- Tell the children how the divorce will affect their lives.
- Restate that the divorce is between the two of you, not between you and the children.
- Restate often that the children are not responsible for this happening.
- Do not blame each other in the children's presence.
- Assure children they can communicate with the absent parent.
- Talk about any changes in routine living.
- Listen to the child's feelings and concerns about living arrangements, visitation.
- Assure that the child is free to love you both.

• Encourage questions to continue and allow expressions of feelings.

• Include grandparents. Children's basic rights in divorce/separation:

- I have the right to love whomever I choose without guilt, pressure or rejection.
- I have the right to love as many people as I want without feeling guilty or being made to feel disloyal. The more love I receive, the more love I have to give. ("People" include parents, stepparents, relatives, friends, etc.)
- I have the right to have a regular daily and weekly routine, not one filled with disruptions, inconsistencies and alternating patterns.
- I own visitation. It is my right, not the right of my parents. I have the right to visit both of my parents, regardless of the grown-ups' wants or wishes regarding convenience, money or personal feelings.
- I have the right to be angry, sad and fearful, and to express those feelings.
- I have the right to love both parents, since they are both a part of me, and to be reassured that my feelings are OK.
- I have the right not to lay blame or choose sides.
- I have the right not to make decisions which should be made by adults.
- I have the right to remain a child. I should never be expected to replace my parents in their duties nor be placed in the role of

an adult companion, friend or comforter to my parents.

• The decision regarding with whom I should live should never fall on my shoulders.

The Family Life Council offers a class that focuses on teaching parents to deal with the issues raised by divorce. The goals of the class, called Children of Divorce, are to: focus on the needs of your child; identify the positive things you are doing, both individually and together; help you understand what families normally experience during the divorce process; learn general guidelines on how to deal, or not deal, with your children during the separation and divorce.

Other goals: find ways to continue to share responsibilities with your spouse; understand what can be positive about such a process - it may mean the end of a long period of unhappiness, tension conflict and pain; it forces adults and families to redefine themselves in what can be healthier ways; it may restore a positive and calm home environment for all concerned - and identify resources in the community which can be helpful.

According to the Family Life Council, 74 percent of the parents who have attended the Children of Divorce class report creating a less acrimonious, more businesslike relationship with their child's other parent because of what they learned. Call 333-6890 ext. 221 for more information.

Beta Lambda hosts cluster meeting

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Beta Lambda Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa hosted the sorority's Cluster No. 5 meeting Aug. 28.

Cluster No. 5 includes Alpha Tau, Beta Zeta, Beta Lambda, Epsilon Eta and Epsilon Sigma. Representatives of all chapters were in attendance.

The cluster meeting started with pep singing and an ice-breaker, which was led by Soror Kathy Allen, cluster leader.

Roll call by chapters and official opening were led by Soror Etta F. Carter and Member-at-Large Soror Hazel Clay, followed by greeting from the host chapter's Basileus, Soror Daisy Staten, and the regional director, Etta Carter.

The theme of the meeting was "The Pursuit of Excellence - A Challenge to Fulfill." Workshops included such topics as recruiting and retaining members, strengthening the chapter, youth involvement, sisterhood.

Honey-baked ham was served for lunch. Belinda Staten Womack provided musical entertainment during lunch.

Sorors were given highlights of the 1999 Conclave.

Sorors Evelyn W. Sanders and Daisy Staten put up displays that received many favorable comments from the guest sorors.

Door prizes were drawn throughout the meeting.

The local chapter presented gifts to sorors Hazel Clay and Etta F. Carter at the end of the meeting.

The Cluster No. 5 meeting was very informative and affirming. Sorors in attendance expressed their appreciation to the host



From left to right: Sorors Valeria Edwards, Evelyn Sanders, Member-at-Large Hazel Clay, Regional Director Etta F. Carter, Basileus Daisy Staten and Patsy Squire.

chapter and commented on how much they had enjoyed themselves.

Seven educators founded the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa Inc. in 1923.

Phi Delta Kappa Sorority is a professional organization of teachers dedicated to the task of training youths of America to cope satisfactorily and effectively with today's problems.

The purpose of the sorority is to stimulate professional growth among teachers, to foster true sisterhood, to promote the highest ideals of the teaching profession and to encourage the development of the potential of youths.

The local chapter of Winston-

Salem - Beta Lambda Chapter - is involved in community service projects such as Reading Power, Teach-A-Rama, black history, Commission on Civil Rights and other projects to support, encourage and work with youths in education, social skills, ethics, attitudes and cultural standards.

To qualify for membership in Phi Delta Kappa, women must hold a degree, be certified by a federal or state department of education, be currently engaged in the field of education and meet other requirements of the sorority. Interested educators may contact Soror Evelyn W. Sanders at (336) 788-9456, Soror Helen Johnson at (336) 724-5656 or Soror Daisy Staten, Basileus, (336) 661-1625.

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 entitled
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 (A comical, thought-provoking, mind-probing, who-dun-it mystery)
 by Joyce McMillan
 at the
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 Tickets.....\$20.00 (Includes the production and a seven-course meal)
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 (For additional information, call (336) 722-2624
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Thank you GOD for Blessing the overall production.

Thank you to everyone who attended the concert.



Thank you for making this a huge success!!!

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