

Weatherford to sign copies of new book

BY CHERIS HODGES
THE CHRONICLE

Local author Carole Boston Weatherford will sign copies of her latest book Sunday at Special Occasions on Martin Luther King Drive.

Weatherford's latest book, "Sink or Swim: African American Lifesavers of the Outer Banks," charts the history of Pea Island Lifesavers.

"Lifesavers were the precursor for the Coast Guard," Weatherford said.

The Pea Island Lifesavers were awarded the gold lifesaving medal in 1996, nearly a century after their heroic acts.

Weatherford, who has written four other books, said the inspiration for "Sink or Swim" came after she read an article about the medal ceremony.

"I thought that it would be a good story for children," Weatherford said.

An eighth-grade student and two graduate students were involved in helping the African American Pea Island Lifesavers receive their medal.

Weatherford said the story of the lifesavers gives children a positive role model to look up to.

"The Lifesavers are strong role models. They achieved against the odds and were committed to excellence," she said.

Weatherford thinks it is important to tell children stories that give them pride.

"We have to combat so many negative things (and images)," she said.

"We need to give children a reason to feel proud. That is a large part of what I do in my writing. I want to inspire (the children) to learn about themselves."

Weatherford said she is interested in African American history, and writing books like this one gives her a chance to learn more about little known black history.

"(It) is a shame that so much of our history is unknown to our people."

The hardest part for Weatherford when she wrote this book was controlling her rage at an incident that happened to the lifesavers.

"It was a challenge to discuss racial issues in a way kids can understand and not convey my own anger," Weatherford said.

"The black lifesavers station house was burned down and it was thought to be done by some white lifesavers."

The white commander of the lifesavers never charged anyone in the arson, saying it might cause more racial hatred, Weatherford added.

It was also challenging for Weatherford to write about the rescue techniques of the lifesavers. Since 100 years had passed since the rescuers worked, the technology changed and many of the things the lifesavers used were dated.

Yet, Weatherford tells an accurate, historical story. "Sink or Swim" is written in language children can and will understand. "It is really what you would call a boy book," Weatherford said. "It would be a good gift for a boy."

She said the book appeals to older children and adults, which is something she tries to do with all of her writing. Weatherford said she writes books to "appeal to the child in everyone."

Weatherford started writing children's books when she was a new mother. She had already published some poetry. So she wrote her first book-length poem, which became a board book.

She will appear at Special Occasions between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Weatherford is also a freelance writer for The Chronicle.

St. Peter's Christmas musical - 'The Vision'

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

St. Peter's World Outreach Center's reputation for producing original plays, written, directed and starring members from their Christian Arts Ministry, is well deserved.

These awesome productions are being scheduled frequently and are this ministry's medium to bring the word of Jesus to the Triad area, stated CAM's director, Ms. Dorothy Bigby.

Ms. Bigby brings decades of knowledge and expertise to the stage with previous experience as founder and executive director of the North Carolina Creative Children's Theater, which she founded and directed. Ms. Bigby has directed and performed in over 25 productions from California to Canada and is definitely in her element at St. Peter's, where she mentors and encourages new writers in stage productions.

Ms. Bigby's awesome versatility showcases her talents as she designs and sews costumes, sings, directs, writes and performs in stage productions as well as develops others to develop their gifts and talents. In recent years, Ms. Bigby has made several television commercials and was involved in one industrial film, "Betsy's Choice"; a major motion picture, "Once Around"; and was one of the final two choices for Bubba's mother in the Hollywood hit movie, "Forrest Gump."

Ms. Bigby has also worked as a full-sized model, doing runway work for local and community fashion shows. Her works have appeared on television several times and she has written over 20 plays and cantatas since 1987 that have been performed by theater groups, churches and community organizations.

Ms. Bigby is known for her untiring work in helping newcomers grow and develop in their love for Christian theater arts.

"One's success can be gauged by the success of those who study under you and fulfill their visions and dreams just as people made room for me to fulfill mine. I'm not retiring or quitting, but I want to see the gifted youth and adults move forward. I am proud to have played a part in paving the way for these gifts to be used in God's house."

St. Peter's Christian Arts Ministry is planning for its Christmas musical, "The Vision," which will be performed on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 17 and 18, and again on Sunday, Dec. 19, at 11 a.m. at St. Peter's, located at 3683 Old Lexington Road in Winston-Salem.

"The Vision" is written in vignettes (small stand-alone scenes) that depict the marvelous story of Christ's birth through the eyes of the angels as they stand overlooking Earth and today's world.

Bishop James C. and Mrs. Joyce Hash Sr. invite the community to include one of these great performances in their Christmas celebrations.

I N D E X

- OPINION A6
- SPORTS B1
- RELIGION B8
- CLASSIFIEDS B11
- HEALTH C3
- ENTERTAINMENT C7
- CALENDAR C11

This Week In Black History...

Dec. 16, 1834 - George Ruffin is born in Richmond, Va. He will be the first African American to obtain a law degree from Harvard University and will be a lifelong champion for African American suffrage and equality.

Dec. 16, 1976 - Andrew Young is appointed ambassador to the United Nations by Jimmy Carter.

Dec. 18, 1865 - Congress ratifies the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery.

Dec. 19, 1875 - Carter G. Woodson is born Canton, Va. A founder of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, of the Journal of Negro History and Negro History Week, Woodson will write many books on African American history.

Dec. 22, 1980 - Samuel R. Pierce Jr., a New York City lawyer and former judge, is named to President Reagan's cabinet as secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

New group helps students see future

BY CHERIS HODGES
THE CHRONICLE

Soon colleges and universities like Yale will be following in the footsteps of Winston-Salem State University.

WSSU is the first university to start a chapter of Future Focus 2020, an African American think tank that looks at diversity issues the nation will face as minorities become the majority.

At a meeting on WSSU's campus last week, futurist Robert Jennings told a group of 32 students, professors and politicians what the future holds for African Americans.

"We were founded with the mission of trying to engage urban America, and a large part of urban America is often African American, in futurist thinking," said Jennings.

Jennings said the group wants to make certain young African Americans, especially those on historically black college campuses, are involved in the organization.

Future Focus 2020 sent requests to all of the historically black colleges and universities in North Carolina telling the presidents and chancellors of these schools about the group's plan to start a chapter of the group on college campuses.

Jennings said he received only one response to the letters - from WSSU. The African Americans need to be aware of the issues facing blacks in the future.



Bob Jennings, a futurist with Future Focus 2020, discusses the role Africa will play in the 21st century during a meeting at Winston-Salem State University.

"We are not thinking further out into the future," Jennings said. "People probably just dismissed that and said I am just trying to make it through today. They didn't see the relevance of (thinking for the future)."

The faculty and students at WSSU saw the relevance of the group and decided to start the first chapter on their campus. The group's adviser, university archivist Carter Cue, said he has always been interested in futurist ideas and he

thought students should be exposed to the issues groups like Future Focus explore.

"I've always had an interest in futurist thinking," Cue said. "Dr. (Nat) Irvin mentioned what he wanted to do in terms of starting the type of organization here."

Irvin is the president of Future Focus 2020 and a former administrator at WSSU. Cue said he saw other African Americans who had

See Future on A5

Salvation Army helping needy

BY PAUL COLLINS
THE CHRONICLE

The Salvation Army hopes to collect about \$100,000 through its kettle Christmas drive in Forsyth, Yadkin, Davie and Stokes counties, said Kenneth Batts, kettle coordinator.

As of last Thursday, the Salvation Army was about half-way toward meeting its goal, Batts

said. "It's going pretty good," he said. "The economy is pretty good."

Last year, the kettle campaign giving "was down to \$80,000," Batts said. "The year before, I'm told it was about \$90,000."

The Salvation Army uses volunteer and paid bell ringers to collect at its kettle sites. (There are about 30 kettle sites in Forsyth

County.)

"I like helping out people and doing it for the Lord," Sandra Brown, a bell ringer, said. "When they put something in or when they don't, I say, 'God bless you and merry Christmas.' Sometimes people don't have (money to give). It's the thought that counts."

Most people give a little something, she said.

See Salvation Army on A9

Samaritan Ministries appeals for money

BY PAUL COLLINS
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Individual giving for the Samaritan Ministries is down, said Sonja Kurosky, executive director.

"My guess is people are not giving less. So many people have been asked (to give) on behalf of folks in the eastern part of the state ... (that) some of the dollars that went there might have been dollars (that would have gone) to Samaritan Ministries," Kurosky said.

As of mid-November, Samaritan Ministries, which runs a soup kitchen and a men's shelter, needed to raise \$250,677 by Dec. 31 to meet this year's budget of about \$404,000.

Samaritan Ministries is raising money through its penny drive, its appeal to about 6,000 individuals and its corporate campaign. If Samaritan Ministries does not meet its goal, it will apply for grants to help make

up any budget deficit.

"We provide over 100,000 meals annually and over 25,000 nights of shelter per year. We really do it on a bare-bones budget," Kurosky said. The food costs are only 32 cents a meal, and it costs Samaritan Ministries \$10 to cover a night of shelter, including dinner and breakfast.

Samaritan Ministries has a paid staff of eight full-time employees and three part-time employees. Samaritan Ministries has 350 active soup kitchen volunteers and 2,000 shelter volunteers annually. "We are the largest volunteer-based organization in Winston-Salem," Kurosky said.

"I think if everybody in this community gave a dollar, the hungry would be fed and the homeless would be sheltered," Kurosky said.

"We're keeping the faith. There are still opportunities to give individually," she said. Some suggestions: At business parties

or private Christmas or New Year's Eve parties, pass the hat for Samaritan Ministries. Or, instead of buying a Christmas gift for a friend, make a donation to Samaritan Ministries in the person's honor. "So many people just spend money on people on things they don't really need or don't even want," Kurosky said.

"My prayer is as we enter the new millennium we don't forget those who need basic necessities in Winston-Salem," she said. "As a society we need to reevaluate some of our focus. I think this is a great time to do it."

If you wish to make a donation, write your check to Samaritan Ministries and mail to 1243 Patterson Avenue, Winston-Salem 27107. For information, call 748-1962. To volunteer, call 748-1962 and ask for April Llenza.

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STUART LITTLE (PG) 1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30
BICENTENNIAL MAN (PG) 1:30 4:30 7:20 10:00
DEUCE BIGELOW (R) 1:15 3:15 5:15 7:15 9:15

WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG-13) 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:40
THE BONE COLLECTOR (R) 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
SLEEPY HOLLOW (R) 1:00 4:00 7:10 9:30
OMEGA CODE (PG-13) 1:15 3:15 5:15 7:15 9:15
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TOY STORY (G) 1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30 FRI & SAT
WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG-13) 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:40
GREEN MILE (R) 1:00 4:05 8:15
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THE BEST MAN (R) 7:00 9:30
POKEMON (G) 12:15 2:30 4:45
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