

COMMUNITY FOCUS

Winston-Salem Greensboro High Point

1974- Celebrating 25 Years - 1999

DECEMBER 30, 1999

SECTION C



Community Calendar

Biggs joins WSSU board
Gov. James Hunt has appointed Loretta Copeland Biggs to the Winston-Salem State University Board of Trustees.

Biggs, executive assistant U.S. attorney for the Middle District of North Carolina, spent seven years as a District Court judge for the 21st Judicial District of Forsyth County before joining the U.S. attorney's office.

Biggs was honored last year by Attorney General Janet Reno for her work during a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Her term on the board of trustees will expire June 30, 2001.

Black Rep holding auditions
The North Carolina Black Repertory Company will hold auditions for its 15th annual "Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration" Sunday.

Auditions are open to singers, dancers, actors, musicians and poets as well as performing groups. A piano will be available as well as a CD/tape recorder. Auditioners must bring their own pianist.

Groups and individuals interested in auditioning should contact LaShonda Fields at 723-2266 for an audition slot or more information.

Auditions will be held at the Arts Council Theatre, 610 Coliseum Drive.

Jarreau to open Pops series

Grammy Award winning vocalist Al Jarreau will kick off the Greensboro Symphony's Pop Series Jan. 22.

Jarreau, whose unique vocal style and innovative performances have made him one of the most critically acclaimed jazz vocalists of our time, has released a host of albums and CDs, including "So Good," "Breakin' Away" and "Heart's Horizon."

Jarreau began singing at the age of 4 and began performing shortly thereafter with his brothers in local talent shows in his hometown of Milwaukee, Wis.

After a brief stint as a rehabilitation counselor, Jarreau began performing with a jazz trio headed by George Duke.

Jarreau's silky vocals earned him a Grammy nomination in the early '80s for his performance of the theme song to the hit television series "Moonlighting."

Recently, the singer has begun a second career as an actor, making appearances on "Touched by an Angel" and "New York Undercover."

The concert will begin at 8 p.m. and will be held at Greensboro War Memorial Auditorium.

For more information about Jarreau's performance call 335-5456 or 373-2974.

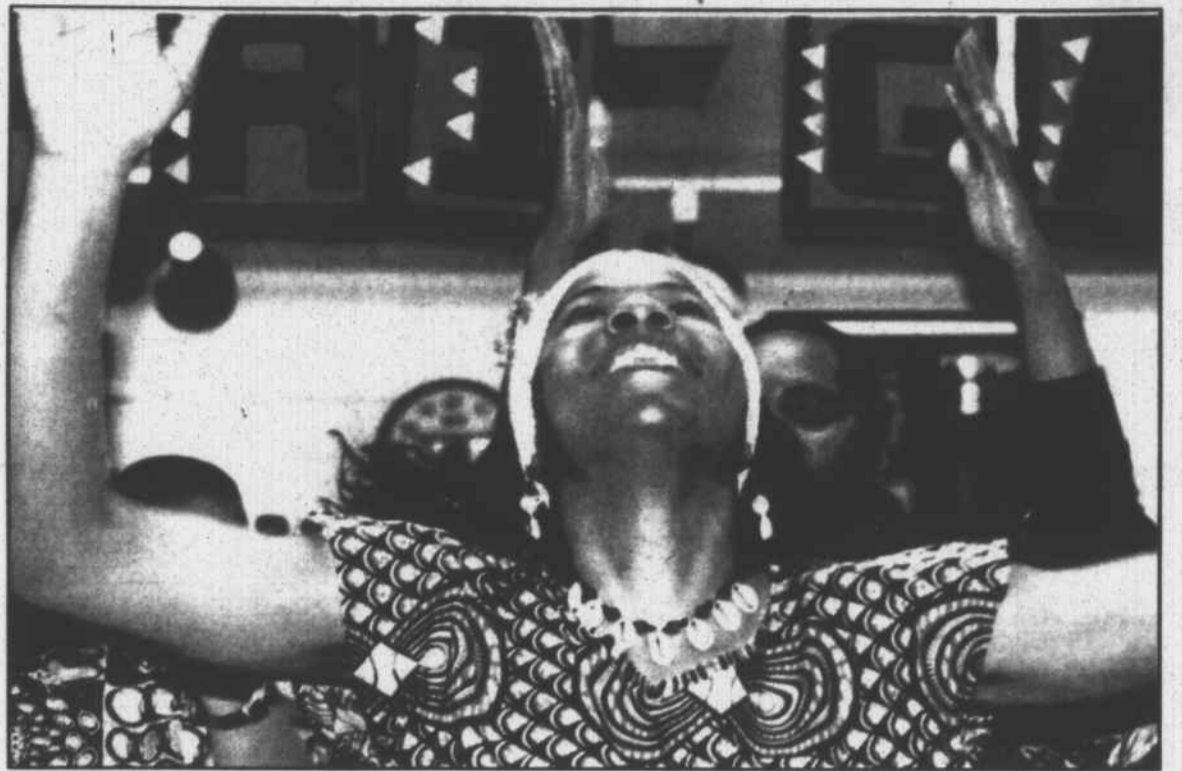


Biggs



Jarreau

Umoja



200 gather for Kwanzaa celebration

BY FELECIA P. MCMILLAN
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

Sunday night more than 200 gathered to mark the beginning of Kwanzaa.

Dressed in festive African outfits, complete with intricate headdresses for women and kufis, small brightly colored hats for men, they marched and danced around the Urban League to celebrate the official opening of a weeklong celebration of African American culture and history.

Pushed by the throbbing rhythms of the Otesha Creative Arts Ensemble the throng chanted Umoja, a kiswahili word for unity and the night's principle.

"Jambo! Habari gani?" said Urban League president Delores "D" Smith. "Hello, what's the news?"

The proper response from the audience is to state the principle for the evening from the Nguzo Saba, which was "Umoja."

Smith explained to the audience that the spirit of Umoja involves call and response.

"We are not here to entertain you. We are not here to put on a show," Smith said. "This principle means that all of you are to join together. Move a finger, a

toe in the spirit of the Creator's kindness in allowing you to be able to move. We come from a culture of call and response."

Smith told the audience that they were free to do whatever they choose.

"Do not sit stiff. Tonight is about all of us giving honor to the Creator for being here. How blessed we are," Smith said. "I don't see how any of you can keep still with those drums. The Creator has seen fit to have us in this place, in this space, having sound mind, and most of all, we have children in our midst."

Two young people came forward to share their talents with the audience: Todd Nelson and David Small. Todd, a Chronicle teen columnist, shared the monologue "The Most High God." He warned listeners to be wary of the wiles of Satan, who loves to find ways to divide people. He also admonished the crowd to ignore differences in skin color.

David, a young entrepreneur, shared a dramatic monologue called "Be Encouraged: Lord, Why Did You Make Me Black?" David reminded African American people of the power of uniqueness. He challenged the idea of blackness as a curse by touting its



Photos by Kevin Walker

At top of page: A member of the Otesha Creative Arts Ensemble rejoices during the second night of Kwanzaa. In the center of page: Renee Andrews of the East Winston Heritage Library leads children in the lighting of the Nguzo Saba. Above: A group of children act out a story that tells the meaning of Kwanzaa.