

# COMMUNITY FOCUS

Winston-Salem Greensboro High Point  
The Choice for African-American News

MAY 3, 2001

SECTION C



## Community Calendar

Exhibition features works by students

The Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA) will present Dreamscapes: Visual Poetry, an exhibition featuring works by K-12 students from the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County system, May 12 through June 3.

This annual collaboration with the public school art program will focus on dreams and the connections between visual art and language. Inspiration will come from SECCA's Artist and the Community project Lesley Dill: Tongues on Fire: Visions and Ecstasy and from the works of other 20th century artists dealing with visions and dreams, notably the Surrealists.

An opening reception for Dreamscapes: Visual Poetry; Lesley Dill: Tongues on Fire: Visions and Ecstasy; Homegrown I: Celebrating the Arts of North Carolina and Susan Shatter: Paintings will be held on Friday, May 11, from 7-9 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call SECCA at (336) 725-1904 or e-mail general@secca.org.

### Happy Mother's Day from the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra

On May 10 and 12 at the War Memorial Auditorium, the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra will perform Beethoven's "Ode to Joy Symphony No. 9." As an ode to all mothers on this Mother's Day weekend with the purchase of an adult ticket, you can bring your Mom for one-half off. This is just a small way to tell her, "Thanks for being such a great Mom."

Ticket prices are \$27, \$20, \$15 and \$12.

This offer is available only at the Greensboro Symphony Box Office. Call 335-5456 extension 223 for more information.

### Redistricting input sought

**RALEIGH** - Local residents will have a chance to offer their input on new boundaries for congressional and legislative seats during public hearings at several area locations at 7 p.m. Friday, May 4.

Lawmakers will hold the May 4 public hearing at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, with videoconference hook-ups at Winston-Salem State University and at Guilford Technical Community College in High Point.

Legislators redraw state House and Senate and U.S. House districts every 10 years to reflect population shifts based on the decennial census count. The new plans must be enacted before candidates begin filing in January 2002.

Sen. Brad Miller, D-Wake, is co-chairman of the Senate Redistricting Committee, along with Sen. Frank Ballance, D-Warren, and Sen. Steve Metcalf, D-Buncombe.

Reps. Ronnie Sutton, D-Robeson, and Larry Justus, R-Henderson, are chairmen of the House Legislative Redistricting Committee. Reps. Thomas Wright, D-New Hanover, and Ed McMahan, R-Mecklenburg, chair the House Congressional Redistricting Committee.

The hearings will last up to two hours. Speakers are asked to limit their remarks to five minutes and to provide a written copy of their remarks to the committees. A sign-up sheet for speakers will be available at each site one hour before the hearing.

Anyone who wishes to submit written comments to be included in the public record may send those comments to Redistricting Committee, 300 N. Salisbury Street, Suite 545 Legislative Office Building, Raleigh, NC 27603 - or send their comments via e-mail to publiccomment@ncleg.net.

For more information on attending the hearings, call Bill Gilkeson or Erika Churchill at the N.C. General Assembly, (919) 733-2578. For details on the Greensboro hearing site, contact Angela Constantino at (336) 334-5414. For the Winston-Salem location contact Cecilia McDaniel at (336) 750-2632. For the High Point site contact Beverly Gass at (336) 334-4822.



La Nouveaute Bridge Club celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1961.



La Nouveaute Bridge Club celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1986.



La Nouveaute Bridge Club celebrated its 65th anniversary on April 28, 2001, at the Anderson Center. Left to right: Billie Jones, Ruth Oliver, Carolyn Black, Virginia Newell, Marie Burney, Rita Bultman, Virginia Wiseman, Mary Andrews, Kay Clark, and Arlayne Tate. Front row: Billie-Matthews (treasurer), Marian Wilson (alumna) and Clara Gaines, president.



Irene Hairston, Elsie Blackman and Gladys Oldham strategize about their moves.



Clara Gaines, president of La Nouveaute Bridge Club, called the meeting to order.

# Lunch and Bridge

La Nouveaute Bridge Club celebrates 65 years of fun and fellowship at luncheon

BY FELECIA P. MCMILLAN  
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

When the founders of La Nouveaute Bridge Club organized the group in 1936, they embodied the meaning of the colloquial French phrase "New Kids on the Block." Now they boast of being the oldest bridge club in Winston-Salem. Having celebrated their 25th anniversary in 1961 and their 50th anniversary in 1986, the club members invited special guests to join them at the bridge luncheon to celebrate their 65th year in Winston-Salem at the Anderson Center on Saturday, April 28. The group spent one hour eating lunch and four hours playing bridge.

Having spent fond moments chatting and socializing during the opening reception, the club members found it challenging to tear themselves away from each other and get down to the business of lunch and bridge. According to Clara Gaines, president, the purpose of the club is simple.

"When the club was established, some ladies wanted to get together for the purpose of playing bridge as well as for the purpose of enjoying each other's company," said Gaines. "At that time, there were few outlets for entertainment. We had to make our own fun. What is our purpose? We have no purpose, as such. We are the purpose."

Most of the founding mothers were teachers, businesswomen, housewives and librarians. They were Nell Bausman, Dee Brandon, Vah Cromwell, Imogene Ellis, Eleanor Hall, Medora Hill, Bea Jordan, Ethel Stith, Nell Wright, Faye Cash and Tillie Jeffers. Gaines recognized the two alumnae members also - Marian Wilson, who was present, and Macie Brown, who was absent due to illness.

Gaines joined the group in 1955 at the invitation of her colleague at Atkins High School, Ethel Stith. Gaines taught English and Stith taught physical education. At first, Gaines was reluctant to join, but her friendship with Stith sealed her interest in joining.

"Blacks did not have much social life. Bridge was a very good outlet," said Gaines. "We met twice a month at first."

The group has had only three presidents - Medora Hill, Marie Burney and Clara Gaines. Billie Matthews is the treasurer. Like the early founders, the current

group maintains a membership of 13. Now the group meets each third Saturday from 1-5:30 p.m. at homes of different members, except in the months of July and August. Just as the founders did in the 1930s, the ladies take out their fine china, crystal and silverware to adorn their dinner tables. Although the dinner table decor sets the tone for elegance, dinner and bridge become a casual affair. However, in the beginning, the dress code was more formal.

Marie Burney, a member of the group for 27 years, remembers the difference.

"We used to dress up. We always had on heels 27 years ago," said Burney.

Gaines added, "I'd come in pajamas if I could. I just want to relax. But in the '50s and '60s, they were really serious."

According to Burney and Virginia Newell, the founders were serious about more than their attire. They required strict adherence to the rules of the game.

"We just play bridge for fun, but the founders were experts, staunch bridge players. They would strive for excellence," said Burney. "If you did not follow suit or if you did not play the right card, they would look at you crossly."

"No one was allowed to talk during the progressions," said Newell. "It could be very distracting when you are trying to concentrate. It is like playing golf and a person is about to putt. No noise is allowed because the golfer must concentrate."

"They went by the letter of the law," said Burney.

"Now we walk all over the place," said Gaines. "The founders never had any cross words, but they had a look they would give you if you played the wrong way."

Billie Jones commented, "If we were getting mega bucks, it might make a difference."

When the group started, the prizes were 25 cents, 50 cents and one dollar. For the luncheon, the prizes were genuine lead crystal vases and jewelry cases.

All of the members have different levels of skill. Each of them learned to play under various circumstances.

Gaines considers herself "a mediocre player."

"I just take it lightly. I wear it loosely, but I love it because it is mind-boggling and it involves different strategies," said Gaines.

See Bridge on C2