

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

When a partygoer tried to seat Marian Wooten at a table close to the speakers' podium at Wooten's 100th birthday celebration Saturday, Wooten quickly insisted that her hearing was fine. despite her advanced age. "The



blessed me," she said with wide grin. don't have any shortcomings With that

said. Wooten was quickly taken to the

table of her choice. A dining hall at Arbor Acres United Methodist Retirement Community - where Wooten calls home - served as the setting for the small, intimate gathering of some of Wooten's neighbors and friends. The celebration was hosted by the Book Club of Today, which was started by African-American women in East Winston 65 years ago.

Wooten has been a member the club for half a century. She



rights organiza Hairston tion has been part of Davis' life ever since.

"Anything that is going to help our black people, I want to be a part of," she said.

Davis, who now lives in Winston-Salem, was one of nearly 100 members of the city's NAACP Chapter who made time Tuesday evening to cast ballots in a new election that was ordered by the board of the National NAACP.

The new election came nearly seven months after Davis and other members first voted.

Incumbent president Stephen Hairston won that election decisively, but the results were challenged by JoAnne Allen, who had also sought the presidency. In her complaint, she alleged that Hairston violated NAACP rules by using the-chapter's membership roster to campaign for votes. She also claimed that people voted who were not allowed to.

The results of Tuesday's revote were much like the last results. Hairston beat Allen comfortably (67-23). Members also elected, again, the same slate of officers that won in November.

is the oldest current member of

See Wooten on A4 Marian Wooten flashes a smile Saturday during her birthday celebration at Arbor Acres.

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Payback?

Roundtable discussion focuses on reparations

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Maya Angelou said that

African-Americans have shown an incredible ability to turn the other cheek in the face of racism and hatred.

Even during slavery, she said, black women lovingbreast-fed white babies even though the slave women

Jeffrey X

knew that one day "the boys would rape our daughters, and the girls would sell our sons

"We tend to be a forgiving

people. It is amazing," said Angelou, a famed writer, poet and city resident who teaches at Wake Forest University.

She used poetry, song and thought-provoking observations Saturday to open up a roundtable discussion of the issue of reparations for the descendants of slaves. The roundtable, held at City Hall, was part of a daylong slate of events to celebrate Juneteenth, a holiday that marks the end of

slavery in this country. More than 80 people packed the City Council chambers while several more

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it.



Robin Tuttle lifts her dog, Rascal, last week at an outdoor concert on Fourth Street to give the dog a better view of the action.

Locals will get first dibs on gala tickets.

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Local folks are getting the first stab at tickets for the ritzy Ossie Davis Opening Night Gala for the Nat Seal

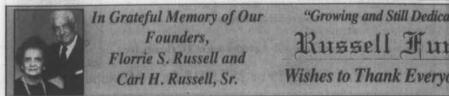
Black Theatre Festival, Festivar officials expect a national bom-bardment for the limited tickets in the weeks to come They advise that those who do want to attend, buy early.

The price per ticket, \$250, is nothing to sneeze at. But for those who love theater and stargazing, the gala may provide a once-in-a-lifetime experience



The Aug. 1 gala serves as the kickoff for the fes-tival, which will run through Aug. 6. Dinner will be served at the M.C. Benton Convention Center. The dinner will be attended by dozens of celebrities from

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