

PFLAG trys to build bridges with blacks

Public invited to free social event tomorrow

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The local chapter of PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) is reaching out to the black community through a new initiative.

"Out Like Us!" is the name of the new outreach effort. It is chaired by TaMeicka Clear, a local African-American activist and student. The campaign will kick-off tomorrow, with a downtown networking,



Dr. Eversley

entertainment and social event at the Downtown Arts District Association (DADA) Center, 526 N. Liberty St. The event will feature the Loyale Modeling Troupe of Winston-Salem State University and speakers like the Rev. Roger Hayes, of the Church of the Holy Spirit Fellowship; the Rev. Dr. Carlton Eversley, of

Dellabrook Presbyterian Church; as well as local spoken word artists. Admission is free and the event is open to the public.

"On behalf of the Out Like Us! Committee, I'd like to extend an open invitation to any and everyone," said Clear. "I am very excited to be involved in something so proactive and important to the black community as well as the same gender loving (SGL) black community. We are expecting a wonderful night filled with talented spoken word artists, exceptional speakers, a fantastic fashion show and many opportunities to connect with the community as well as give the community the opportunity to connect with PFLAG. I look forward to spending a wonderful night with the local SGL community, their families, and friends. So please come and be OUT Like Us!"

PFLAG is hoping the event and future efforts like it will expose more in the community to the organization, which holds regular support meetings, social events and an annual awards program where businesses, churches and individuals are honored for their support of equal rights for all people.

"It is important to create opportunities for



The Rev. Roger Hayes pastors Church of the Holy Spirit Fellowship.

us to come together and discover how we can help each other with the issues that often surround the full acceptance of our same gender loving (SGL) family members," said local PFLAG President Thomas Farmer. "Many people in our community have never heard of PFLAG. We are very excited about this opportunity to network and share PFLAG's message of love and acceptance for all gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people with the many family members and straight allies of SGL people, as well as SGL people within the African American community."

The Out Like Us! event will be Friday, Jan. 18. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the program begins at 7:30 p.m.

News Clips

North Forsyth graduate completes basic training

Air Force Airman Aaron W. Barth has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises, and special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force. Barth is a 2002 graduate of North Forsyth High School.



Barth

Kiplinger's: UNCG among best values

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro ranks 68th among the 100 best values in public higher education, according to the February edition of Kiplinger's Personal Finance. UNCG ranked 53rd last year and 75th the year before.

The magazine analyzed data from more than 500 colleges and universities to compile its rankings and considered cost, financial aid, debt at graduation, standardized test scores, admission rates, freshman retention rates, student-faculty ratios and graduation

rates.

UNC Chapel Hill ranks first on the list, a position it has held for seven straight years.

Four other North Carolina state universities earned spots in the rankings: NC State ranks 13th, Appalachian State 27th, UNC Wilmington 36th and UNC Asheville 40th. On the magazine's 2007 list, NC state ranked 12th, Appalachian 31st, Wilmington 35th and Asheville 36th.

Opera receives WSF grant

The Winston-Salem Foundation has awarded Piedmont Opera a grant of \$25,000 to help fund its production of "The Light in the Piazza," which will run Oct. 10, 12 and 14 at the Stevens Center of the North Carolina School of the Arts. The grant is made from funds provided by the Community Arts Fund and the Charles Babcock, Jr. Field of Interest Fund.

Piedmont Opera is the first regional opera company to secure a license for the show, which won six Tony Awards, including Best Score and Best Book. The grant will help to defray the cost of building the set for the production.

"The set and costumes will be available for rent after the production to other companies. Money from these rentals will be used to build Piedmont Opera's endowment," stated Bonnie Poindexter, Executive Director of Piedmont Opera.

"The Light in the Piazza" tells the story of Margaret Johnson, a middle-aged woman from Winston-Salem, who takes her beautiful daughter Clara to Florence, Italy for a vacation in the spring of 1953 and Clara's unlikely love affair which results.

Tickets for Piedmont Opera's 2008-2009 season will go on sale in April. For more information about The Light in the Piazza, go to piedmont-opera.org.

Parkland to tout magnet program

Parkland Magnet High School will give the community an opportunity to learn about

its International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme and cultural arts offerings from 6:30 - 8 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 18.

Parkland teachers, parents and students will be on hand to answer questions about the school's magnet program. Visitors will have an opportunity to see presentations of student projects, arts demonstrations and exhibitions, and performances by art and foreign language groups.

The school's magnet program is open to students from throughout Forsyth County. Transportation is provided.

Advance tickets will be available at Parkland's school store for \$3 per person or \$5 per family. Tickets sold at the door the night of the event will be \$5 per person or \$10 per family. The admission price includes coffee and a sampling of international desserts.

For more information, call the school at 771-4700.

NC Symphony to pay tribute to Nat King Cole

The North Carolina Symphony will present a Nat King Cole and Paul Robeson tribute concert on Friday, Jan. 18 at the Meymandi Concert Hall in Raleigh beginning at 8 p.m. The concert is sponsored by the law firm, Poyner & Spruill.

During the performance, one of the great American voices heard today, Jubilant Sykes, will bring his own soulful, jazzy stylings to the music of Nat King Cole and Paul Robeson. Symphony guests will hear memorable songs like "Nature Boy" and "Straighten Up and Fly Right." Tickets are on sale now and available through Ticketmaster.

"This program honors two great African-American performers, Nat King Cole and Paul Robeson, and we will also pay a special tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. just days before the national holiday named for him," said Scott Freck, general manager and vice president for artistic operations for the North Carolina Symphony.

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