

# COMMUNITY

Your stories, your voices

APRIL 24, 2008

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## Community Calendar

### Happy Hill Reunion meeting

The William C. Sims, Sr. Recreation Center will host a meeting with the Anderson Senior High School football team camps every Saturday starting April 26 at 10 a.m.

They are preparing for the 2008 Happy Hill Reunion, which will be held on July 11 and 12. They would like to honor the Anderson Senior High School Champions in football from the years 1962-1967 on July 11 at the reunion kickoff. For more information, contact Ben Piggott at 727-2837 or Rock Biting at 336-784-8475. The center is at 1201 Alder St.

### Rabies vaccination clinic

A rabies vaccination clinic for dogs and cats only, 3 months or older, will be held Saturday, April 26, from 12 noon - 3 p.m. at the Dixie Classic Fairgrounds Cattle Barn, Gate 9 on 27th Street. The cost is \$5 per pet, cash only. Microchipping will also be available for \$20. Call 703-3110 for more information.

### Bone and soft tissue donation

WFUBMC orthopaedic surgeon Dr. William Ward will discuss bone and soft tissue donation procedures and will show examples of results in recipients on Thursday, May 1 at BestHealth in Hanes Mall at 4:30 p.m. Call 716-2255 to register.

### Black Rep performs

The NC Black Repertory Company is performing "Ethel Waters, His Eye is on the Sparrow," May 2-4 at the Arts Council Theater, 610 Coliseum Dr. Broadway veteran Mabel Robinson will direct and choreograph the show, which stars Jannie Jones.

Call 336-723-2266 to order tickets and for group rates.

### Spring Concert

North State Chorale will sponsor a Spring Concert May 3 at 7:30 p.m. at Brendle Recital Hall, Scales Fine Arts Center, Wake Forest University. Dr. Richard E. Cook is Artistic Director. Tickets are \$15 and \$12 for students and seniors. Children under 12 admitted free.

To order or for information, call 725-0858.

### Neighborhood festival

The Konnoak Hills Neighborhood Festival and Spring Blood Drive will be held Saturday, May 10, from 12 noon until 4 p.m. at 3401 Konnoak Dr. Featured musicians include Philo Middle School Orchestra and the Philo Players, Feedback, Konnoak Elementary Step Team, Tim Binkley and Friends, Lamb of God Bell Ringers, Central Carolina Children's Chorus, and Blarney Pilgrim. Activities for children will be held on the church lawn. Admission is free. All proceeds from food sales will be donated to Konnoak and Philo Schools. The Red Cross will receive units of blood from 11 - 3:30 p.m. For more information call 788-9321.

## HER DAY

Community celebrates birthday of one of its own

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Seemingly, even Mother Nature paid homage to Dr. Maya Angelou on Saturday.

Thunderstorms threatened to cut short or, at the least, dampen an outdoor celebration for the living legend. Hundreds of local people gathered at Corpening Plaza to celebrate the 80th birthday of Angelou, who has called Winston-Salem home for more than 25 years.



Dr. Maya Angelou

Rain was an uninvited guest and it knew it. Only a relatively few drops fell during the more than hourlong event. The sky opened up only after the festivities had ended. Event planner Cheryl Harry, who runs Triad Cultural Arts, got help from the City of Winston-Salem and several other sponsors to pull off the celebration, which featured a long list of poetic, musical and other tributes to Dr. Angelou, who sat majestically beneath a canopy graciously accepting each and every accolade.

The bestselling writer, poet and Wake Forest University professor was visibly moved by many of the tributes. She threw up a fist in celebration as three young girls in colorful dresses performed traditional Guatemalan dances.

And when the young members of the Amani Children's Choir performed a melody of African songs, Angelou shouted, "yes!" several times.

"This is what we look like at our very best," Angelou said of the racially diverse choir and crowd gathered to honor her. "These children singing African songs to an African-American in Winston-Salem. Think about it."

Angelou and the hundreds gathered rose to their feet when Mayor Allen Joines announced that First Street in the heart of the city would be honorarily named "Dr. Maya Angelou Way." Joines also proclaimed Saturday "Dr. Maya Angelou Day" in the city.

Angelou actually turned 80 on April 4. The celebration was planned for Saturday to accommodate the author's busy travel schedule.

In her trademark way, Angelou thanked the crowd, the performers and the organizers for honoring and loving her as friends, fans and neighbors.

"I am you and you are me. I am grateful that I care for you," she said.

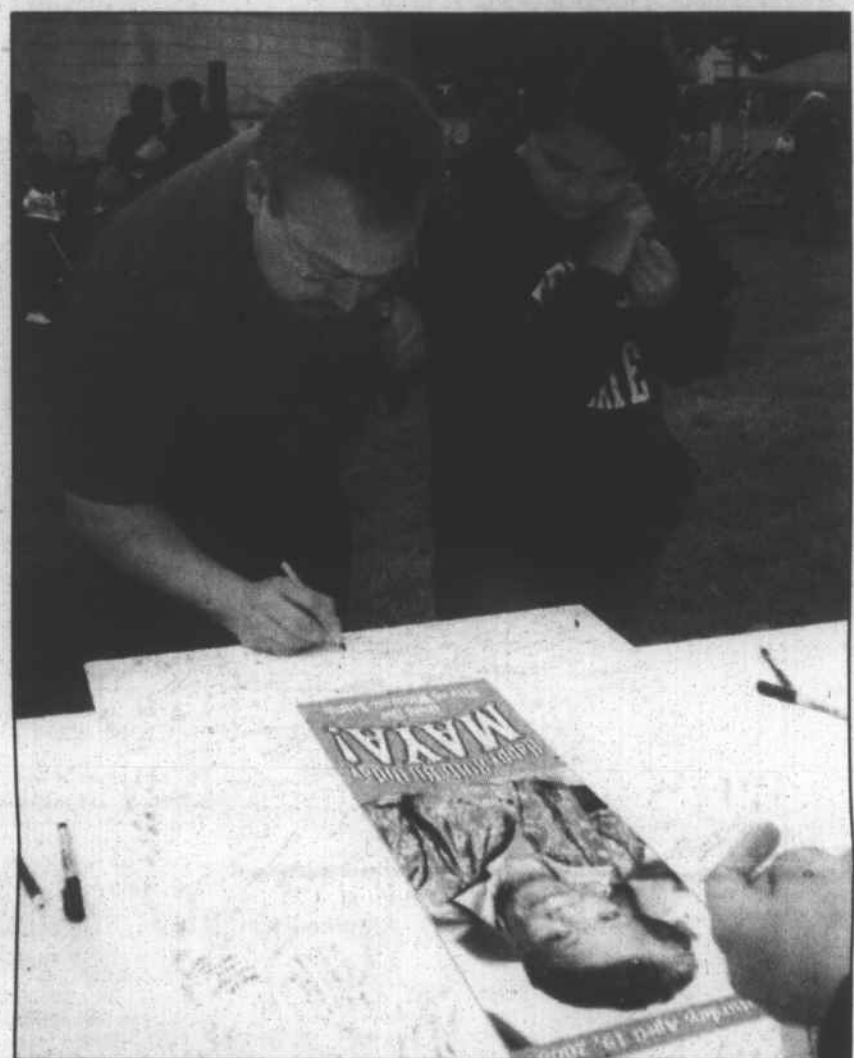
She requested that the crowd extend the same courtesy it has given her to other people, regardless of their race, religion or nationality.

"It is time to look beyond complexion and see community," said Angelou.



Photos by Kevin Walker

Above: Dancers from the Hispanic Arts Initiative perform to the delight of Dr. Maya Angelou.



Left: An attendee signs a huge birthday card for Angelou. By the end of the event, hundreds of people had added their signatures.



Dr. Serenus T. Churn Sr., Angelou's pastor, and Velma Watts, a good friend of the poet's, enjoy the action on Saturday.



Dr. Angelou greets a group of young people that presented her with flowers.



Attendees wave to Angelou as she leaves the event in a fancy golf cart.



Left: Erica Dunlap, Miss America 2004, holds her crown while thanking Angelou for being an inspiration.



Right: The crowd on hand numbered in the hundreds.



N.C. School of the Arts student Ciera Payton performs Angelou's "Phenomenal Woman" with the accompaniment of fellow student Travis Calvert.



Singers from Whitaker Elementary School prepare to perform Saturday.