

COMMUNITY

SECTION B

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JULY 23, 2009

Celebrating 180 Years of Right-Living

90th Birthday celebration held for husband and wife.

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The secret to Robert and Daisy Durrah's long lives can't be found on the shelf at the local health food store or in the "healing waters" of some ritzy spa. In fact, it's no real secret at all.

"We have just tried to live right," Mrs. Durrah said Sunday during a celebration marking both her and her husband's 90th birthdays. "It has not always been easy, but that's what we've done."

Dozens stopped by the afternoon cook-out at the couple's Winston Lake Estates home to pay their respects and thank the Durrahs for their decades of contributions to the community.

A more formal affair — a sit-down dinner — was held the day before. Both events drew many family members and friends who travelled some distance to the city to mark the momentous occasion. The cook-out was held on Mrs. Durrah's actual birthday (July 19); Mr. Durrah turned 90 on June 30. The couple has been married for 62 years.

The Durrahs are well-known for the decades they spent as educators. As the driver education instructor at Atkins High School, he enabled hundreds of students to get behind the wheel. She helped shape young lives at schools like the now-defunct Mebane Elementary and Columbia Heights.

Party guests Lena



Robert and Daisy Durrah sit beside their former neighbor, Ella Bohannon (far left).

Photos by Kevin Walker



Attendees of all ages were on hand for the celebration.

Crowder and her sister, Jeannette Lewis, first met Mrs. Durrah when she was their faculty advisor at historic Gillespie-Selden Institute in Cordele, Ga.

"She was the best," said Crowder, who was one of just a handful of Winston-Salem residents fortunate enough to attend the respected all-black high school. "She went out of her way to help us in any way that she could."

Artesa Bohannon brought her mother, Ella, to the event. The Bohannon family has been attached at the hip to the Durrah clan since the early 1960s, when the families were neighbors on 11th Street.

"The Durrahs were my parents," said Artesa Bohannon, a teacher at

See Birthdays on B3

Community Calendar

Food and clothing giveaway

Phalanx Fraternity will host a hot dog dinner and clothing giveaway on Saturday, Aug. 1 at the corner of Patterson Avenue and Northwest Boulevard from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The organization is inviting candidates seeking office to come out and support the effort and help serve. For more information, call Ronnie Sockwell at 336-416-7270 or e-mail rsockwell@bellsouth.net.

Kindergarten kick-off

The Children's Museum of Winston-Salem will host Kick-off to Kindergarten on Saturday, Aug. 15 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The fun event will help kids fight off anxiety about starting kindergarten by offering a day of fun. This event is included in the \$7 cost of admission or free with Museum membership. The museum is at the corner of Liberty Street and Brookstown Avenue.

Trip to WSSU game in NYC

A trip is being planned to the WSSU/Morgan State game at New York's Giants Stadium. The Urban League Football Classic will be on Sept. 19. Trip-goers will spend three days and two nights in NYC. Call 336-749-1192 or 336-722-9668 or email triadtravelersgroup@gmail.com for more information.

Atkins alums to sell food

The Atkins Alumni Association will sell fish dinners for \$6 on Saturday, July 25 in the parking lot across from New Evergreen Cemetery on New Walkertown Road from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Business seminar

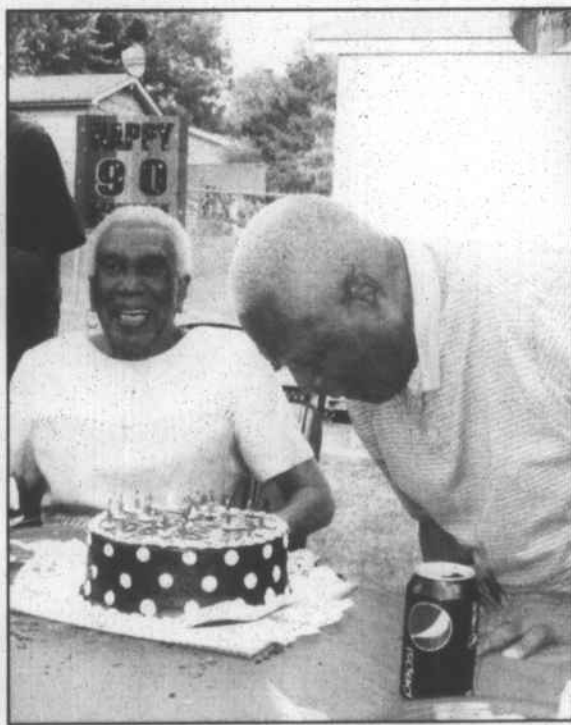
The non-profit Micro Enterprise Loan Program of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Inc., will host another small business success seminar on Wednesday, July 29th from 6 to 8 p.m. at the East Winston Library. This seminar is designed to help entrepreneurs and small businesses become more profitable. The seminar is sponsored by The S.G. Atkins Community Development Corporation, the Wachovia Foundation and Southern Community Bank. The seminar is free and open to the public, however, seating is limited so please RSVP to Darryl Little at 336-722-9600.

Family Reunion

The Walter and Ella Allen Gwyn 45th Family Reunion will be held July 24 to 26. The theme is "Never Could Have Made It." The attire is African/American. On Saturday, July 25, there will be a banquet from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Hawthorne Inn & Conference Center. On Sunday, July 26 at 11 a.m., there will be a church service at New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church, 1212 N. Dunleith Ave., where the Rev. Dr. Samuel Cornelius is senior pastor. Dinner will follow at 1:30 p.m. at Golden Corral Restaurant, 4965 University Parkway. For further information, contact Zoe Gwyn at 336-774-1744.



Lena Crowder and Jeannette Lewis.



Mr. Durrah helps to blow out the candles.



Ray Bailey with Mrs. Durrah.



Annette Scippio (standing) chats with guests.



Bobby Durrah lights the candles.

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