

ARTS & LIFESTYLE

Of Interest ...

Applications available for Omega Talent Hunt

Applications are now available for the Omega Psi Phi Talent Hunt Contest, slated to take place in March 2010. All high school music students are eligible. Contestants must play or sing a memorized piece of semi-classical or classical music.



Prize money will be \$300 for first-place; second-place, \$200; \$100 for third-place. The first-place winner will also represent the Psi Phi Chapter at the Sixth District Annual meeting.

Music students and teachers can contact Emory Jones at 336-655-1019 or emoryjones1@hotmail.com for more information and/or an application.

Opera will collect for Food Bank

Piedmont Opera will host a food drive to benefit Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina.

The Opera will accept donations of non-perishable food items at its productions of "Hansel and Gretel" at the Stevens Center on Oct. 2 at 7 p.m., Oct. 4 at 2 p.m. and Oct. 6 at 7:30 p.m. The Hot Shots youth group of High Caliber Stables will assist with food collections during the productions.

"We are pleased to participate in this food drive that will provide vital assistance to people in the greater Triad area. In difficult times like these, it is critically important that community institutions work together to provide help to the less fortunate," said Piedmont Opera Executive Director Frank Dickerson.



Dickerson

Hunger is a significant problem in Winston-Salem, Forsyth County and throughout the 18 county service area in Northwest North Carolina. The network of nearly 400 partner agencies indicate that the demand for food assistance from clients has increased 76 percent over last year.

For "Hansel and Gretel" tickets, call 333-724-3202 or go online to www.piedmontopera.org.

Nominations being accepted for new N.C. Poet Laureate

Nominations for the state's next poet laureate, the ambassador of North Carolina literature, will be accepted through Oct. 9 online at the Web site of the N.C. Arts Council, www.ncarts.org.

The post, created by the General Assembly in 1935, uses the office as a platform to promote N.C. writers and the potentially transformative qualities of poetry and the written word.

The poet laureate receives a \$10,000 annual stipend funded by the N.C. Arts Council, along with support from staff. While each poet laureate leaves his or her own personal imprint on the program, duties typically include public activities with schools, community groups and the press, and contact with writers and readers by mail, email and/or through a Web site.

Though all state poet laureates have made important contributions, the most recent laureate, Kathryn Stripling Byer (2005-2009), launched the position into cyberspace. She developed the Writers & Books Web pages on the N.C. Arts Council's Web site, highlighting N.C. writers of poetry, fiction and non-fiction. She also started her own blog, My Laureate's Lasso, covering the literary scene of the state.

A selection committee will pick the next poet laureate.

Ken DeVaney hired to run A&T's TV studio

North Carolina A&T State University's state-of-the-art TV studio, located on the third floor of Crosby Hall, is under new management.



DeVaney

Ken DeVaney, an award-winning videographer with more than 20 years of experience in television production has been named television studio manager. He initially worked part-time in the studio. DeVaney will be responsible for managing television productions and working closely with students on their video production class projects.

While working in the Triad, DeVaney covered the rise of High Point's very own Fantasia Barrino as she became an 'American Idol' in 2004 and the Carolina Panthers run to the Super Bowl in 2003. DeVaney began his own production company in 2006 and has worked with a variety of clients.

He snatched the Savvy Award while working on the city's Channel 13 show, 'City Connections.' The St. Louis native received a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism from Northwest Missouri State University. He is married to Kimberly Graves and they have a one-year-old daughter, Zoe.

Professor explores changing face of news

Baym says people like Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert are helping the industry

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Thirty years ago, a quarter of the American population gathered around their televisions nightly to hear an anchor from one of the major networks recount the day's events.

Today, that single voice of authority has been diluted. People gather news from many sources — even shows created to mock the news.

Dr. Geoffrey Baym, an associate professor of media studies, explains that transformation in his new book, "From Cronkite to Colbert: The Evolution of Broadcast News." In the book, Baym guides readers through the metamorphosis of broadcast news from the stately Walter Cronkite to the often sarcastic approaches of Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert, hosts of the popular faux news programs "The Daily Show" and "The Colbert Report," respectively.

Baym argues that, as mainstream news has changed, broadcasts have morphed into echo chambers for political propaganda, worked to appease corporate and political forces and fulfilled the public's fancy for infotainment news rather than perform its fundamental mission: to give citizens the information they need to be free and self governing.

"We might really like to know about Michael Jackson's death, but that in no way helps us be free and self governing," Baym said. "And if we hear about Michael Jackson's death 24

See Book on A9



Baym



Submitted Photo

Awadagin Pratt has played around the world.

Pianist Pratt will join Symphony

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Acclaimed piano virtuoso Awadagin Pratt will headline the Winston-Salem Symphony's SHELebration on Sunday, Oct. 10 at Reynolds Auditorium. The event celebrates a new orchestra shell inside of the recently-renovated Reynolds Auditorium. The Friends of R.J. Reynolds Auditorium organization raised the \$250,000 needed to design, fabricate and install the shell.

The concert will start with Symphony Music Director Robert Moody and the orchestra playing Leonard Bernstein's "Candide." Pratt will join the orchestra to play Gershwin's jazzy piano concerto, "Rhapsody in Blue." Performances of Smetana's "Overture to The Bartered Bride," and Tchaikovsky's "Overture to 1812" are also planned.

Along the way, the audience will be treated to performances by outstanding local performing groups including Winston-Salem State University's Burke Singers, conducted by D'Walla Burke; Ron Rudkin's Jazz Trio; the UNC School of the Arts Percussion

Ensemble, directed by John Beck; the Youth Symphony String Quartet; and the R.J. Reynolds High School Marching Band.

Pratt played numerous recitals throughout the U.S., including performances at Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles and Chicago's Orchestra Hall. He has also toured the world, making stops in places like Japan, Israel, South Africa and Europe. The 1992 winner of the Naumburg International Piano Competition, Pratt is an Angel/EMI recording artist whose recordings include "A Long Way From Normal," "Live From South Africa" and "Transformations."

He is an associate professor of piano and artist-in-residence at the College Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati. He is also the artistic director of the Next Generation Festival in Lancaster, Pa.

Tickets are \$15 - \$55 (student rush tickets are \$5), and are available by calling the Symphony Box Office at 336-464-0145 or online at www.wssymphony.org.

Bitter-Sweet

In the November/December issue of AARP The Magazine, singer Natalie Cole talks openly about the death of sister, Carol "Cookie" Cole, who ironically passed away from cancer a few hours after Natalie Cole received a life-saving kidney transplant last May.



WSSU Photo

The Burke Singers

Acts to give free shows at Old Salem

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Historic St. Philips Church in Old Salem, the oldest black church in the state, is playing host to a series of musical events this fall that will celebrate African and African-American music.

The free concert events began on Sept. 19, with a performance by the Joe Robinson Quartet, whose frontman, Robinson, grew up in Happy Hill, the equally-historic African American community adjacent to Old Salem. Three other Saturday concerts are planned, all at 3 p.m. A reception will follow each show.

Next up, on Oct. 3, are The Burke Singers — Winston-Salem State University's female a capella ensemble. Under direction of Dr. D'Walla Simmons Burke, they perform African-American music and politically-inspired songs.

Burke will return on Nov. 7, with the Winston-Salem State University Choir. Members will engage the audience with gospel music, Negro spirituals and South African arrangements. The North Carolina Jazz Repertory Orchestra Octet will perform on Dec. 5. The Durham-based group will perform classic jazz, big band music and holiday music.

"The concerts are a great way for Old Salem to celebrate the contributions of Africans and African Americans to the country's musical heritage," said Old Salem President and CEO Lee French.

The series is supported by a grant from the Morris and Lillian Sosnik Memorial Fund of The Winston-Salem Foundation.

Sunday series coming back to Trade St.

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Arts on Sunday series will return to the Downtown Arts District on Oct. 4.

On each Sunday, from 1-5 p.m., the sidewalks along Trade Street, between 6th and 7th streets, will feature arts and crafts exhibits, live music, dance, artist's demonstrations and activities for kids. The series, which is free and open to the public, provides a showcase for local artists to share and sell their work.

The Oct. 4 kickoff is billed as "Blues-A-Palooza." Setting the blues theme will be the Big Ron Hunter Band, who will perform at 1 p.m. Matt Walsh (2:30 p.m.) and the Dam Fino Band (3:30 p.m.) will also share their music stylings.

The Oct. 11 theme is "Rhythm of Art" and will feature dance and poetry forms from around the world. "HarvestFest" is theme of the Oct. 18 event. A streetside farmers' market will join the arts attractions. The bluegrass band Wyndy Trail Travellers and the Voices of God's Children Gospel Choir will perform. The last Sunday in series, Oct. 25, is being billed as "60s Sunday" and will feature the sounds of DJ Ralph and the Beatles tribute band, Backbeat.



PR Image

Big Ron Hunter and his band will play Sunday.