

Kwanzaa

from page A7

which also included musical entertainment, a brief awards presentation and the traditional lighting of the Kwanzaa kinara.

John Raye and his wife Rosie Smith are no strangers to Kwanzaa events. They attend them often, not only to celebrate the principles that the African American holiday celebration embodies, but to promote their ever-expanding number of business ventures.

"You come here for exposure and you come here to build a relationship with people," he said.

Raye, a retired news broadcaster, and Smith, a retired educator, went into business for themselves at an age when most simply retire. During this time of year, especially, they stay busy as representatives of Texas-based ComproTax, Inc., the largest black-owned income tax preparation company in the country. The couple, who will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this year, collect and prepares clients' income tax forms from their home.

Raye, a 70 year-old colon cancer survivor, wrote a book about his experience, "Why Cancer Couldn't Kill Me," and hawks a line of herbal health products that he claims keep him youthful and fit.

Kendra Davis used the event to promote her new business venture, K*Metamorphosis, a Christian



From left: K*Metamorphosis' Mattie Davis and Kendra Davis with clients Keyon L. Carter-El, DeWarren Carter and John Brown.

counseling service that offers help to those battling a variety of demons. But Davis, a former outreach employee at the Forsyth Correctional Center on Cherry Street who started K*Metamorphosis in 2010, used her time last week to highlight the free outreach services that her company offers to help inmates and ex-offenders thrive in the outside world.

Davis has helped to transform a growing number of ex-offenders. Several of them accompanied her last week. Each was given an opportunity to share their remarkable stories of personal redemption and success. Davis beamed as each of the four men spoke.

"It was an opportunity for these guys to be viewed in a positive light because they get some stigma in society that says they're ex-offenders," she said. "I wanted them to have the opportunity to be seen in the community doing something positive with themselves."

Other vendors included representatives from Elite Tax Service, LaTonya Dunlap, who sells eye-catching jewelry; Linda Tooten, who offers hand-crafted African instruments; and Betty Morton, who sells wallets, neckties, scarves and other accessories.

Joe "The Peanut Man" Watson worked the bleachers selling peanuts, candy and water, while pho-



Photos by Todd Lack

Joe "The Peanut Man" Watson sells a snack.



Linda Tooten displays some of her instruments.

tographer Bobby Roebuck snapped keepsake portraits of attendees.

Historian and author Dr. Lenwood Davis, a Winston-Salem State University professor, also set up shop to display his many books. Non-profit organizations like the NAACP, the African American Caucus of the Forsyth County Democratic Party and community

gardening organization Bless the Children also made their presence known.

Russell Center Supervisor Ben Piggott and Cheryl Harry, whose Triad Cultural Events was among the event's sponsors, presented awards to longtime black-owned businesses The Chronicle and Russell's Funeral Home.

The late George Black, a trail-blazing black entrepreneur, was also honored. His granddaughter, Evelyn Terry, was presented with a framed picture of Black standing in front of Wachovia Bank on West Fourth Street, one of the many Winston-Salem buildings constructed with Black's signature bricks.

Terry, who was brought to tears by the surprise tribute, said that Black, who died in 1980 at age 103, took a mud mill that was given to him to use as firewood and turned it into a brick yard that produced bricks now found in the finest houses and buildings in the city.

"Cooperative economics, that's what his was life was," said Terry about her grandfather. "He lived it."

County Commissioner Everett Witherspoon urged the crowd to practice Ujamaa every day of the year by using their dollars to make a statement.

"As an entrepreneur, you have to take chances to make your dreams come true," he said, "so we definitely have to buy black in support of our black entrepreneurs."

This should not be the most difficult part of your workout.

Are knee pain and decreased range of motion keeping you from doing what you love? Don't wait to get help. At Wake Forest Baptist Health, our orthopaedic surgeons are among the most experienced in the country performing MAKOplasty® Partial Knee Resurfacing. This minimally invasive surgery is less painful than traditional surgery and your recovery time is shorter. Call 888-716-WAKE for a free information kit or to make an appointment with one of our orthopaedic specialists.

ORTHOPAEDICS | Call 888-716-WAKE for an appointment.
WakeHealth.edu/orthopedics

Wake Forest
Baptist Health
A Mission to Care. A Mission to Cure.

