

Naomi Tutu to keynote YWCA luncheon

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

A limited number of tickets and table sponsorships are available for the YWCA of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County's 31st Annual Women of Vision Award Luncheon. It will be held on Thursday, May 17 at the Anderson Conference Center on the campus of Winston-Salem State University.



Tutu

Female leaders in the community will receive awards in the following categories: education, non-profits, volunteer, public service, career, lifetime achievement and student leadership.

Naomi Tutu, the third child of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, will give the keynote address.

She was born in South Africa and has also lived in Lesotho, the United Kingdom and the United States. Growing up the "daughter of..." has offered Naomi many opportunities and challenges in her life. Most important of these has been the challenge to find her own place in the world. She has taken up the challenge and channeled the opportunities that she has been given to raise her voice as a champion for the dignity of all.

Individual tickets are \$40. Table sponsorships are \$1,500.

For more information or tickets, call 722-5138 or go to www.ywcaws.org.

WFU

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need to hear the story of the Ergens, who were not backed by wealth or position and began to have great dreams and found a way to bring them into reality," Hatch said.

Reckford is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he was a Morehead Scholar. He received his MBA degree from the Stanford University Graduate School of Business.

Always active in his local faith community, Reckford found a vocation helping to coach pastors in dealing with the management side of church life. In 2003, he turned his volunteer service into full-time ministry as executive pastor of a 4,300-member church in Minnesota.

In 2005, Reckford became the CEO of Habitat, an ecumenical Christian housing ministry that has helped shelter more than 2.5 million people in more than 100 countries.

72nd

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Hanes, whose other home is in Asheboro, said he is unconcerned about Bonham's allegations. Hanes said he presented more than 23 articles that proved his residential status to the Board during the lengthy March 14 hearing and believes the state Board will uphold the decision. Both of the homes Patterson owns are located in the district.

After the Board of Elections ruckus, things got uglier. A flier bearing Hanes' name was placed on cars parked at the Carl Russell Recreation Center during the candidates forum he hosted on March 29. The flier featured a photocopy of the deposition from his 1993 arrest for check fraud with the word "thief" scrawled across it in bold letters. Hanes, who said he was "young and foolish" at the time of the incident, said he made no attempt to track down the flier's origins.



Ellison



O'Neill

"It's not that it came to light, it's the manner in which people of this day and time decide that they want to challenge other candidates," said the father of two. "It's ego over ideals, and ultimately, we feel like that kind of politics is going to be rejected."

As for the election, Hanes said the people of the 72nd District will ultimately decide what kind of representation they want.

"I'll leave it up to the constituents of the district to decide whether they agree with the tactics that have been used against me by my opponents," he said.

Patterson says he was also targeted by defamatory fliers at a similar candidates forum just days later. The fliers Patterson found feature a photocopy of a court order for a civil case in Randolph County involving a woman named Amanda Johnson and a man listed as Shannon Dwayne Patterson. The NAACP leader's bio and picture are also printed on the flier, which is inscribed with the words "abuser woman!!!"

Attorney Eric Ellison, who is serving as legal council for the Patterson campaign, believes Bonham is behind the fliers. Ellison says Bonham intended to damage Patterson's campaign by distributing seemingly damning

information about a man in a neighboring county who shares the same name.

"The information put out about Mr. Patterson was an outright lie - not even close to the truth," Ellison declared. "He has been happily married for many years."

Ellison said the fliers violate the North Carolina General Statute 163-274, which states in part, "It shall be unlawful ... for any person to publish in a newspaper or pamphlet or otherwise, any charge derogatory to any candidate or calculated to affect the candidate's chances of nomination or election, unless such publication is signed by the party giving publicity to and being responsible for such charge."

"It violates North Carolina law and it violates any type of respectability that we would expect," Ellison said of the offense, which is considered a Class 2 misdemeanor under the statute.

In an April 3 letter, Ellison asked Forsyth County District Attorney Jim O'Neill to look into the origin of the flier. Ellison says that a man named Tim Smith approached Pam Peoples-Joyner, a member of the Patterson Campaign, and gave her the fliers. Ellison said he followed up with Smith over the phone.

"I spoke to Mr. Tim Smith and he informed me that Mr. Jimmie Bonham paid him \$40 to distribute them," Ellison said of the fliers, which he says were slated to be dispersed at the forum.

Bonham denies having any knowledge of the flier and said he does not know anyone named Tim Smith.

O'Neill declined to discuss specifics, but said his office is investigating the complaint.

"I can confirm a complaint was made with our office. We are looking into the allegations contained within the complaint," O'Neill said. "I have contacted several state agencies in an attempt to get to the truth of the complaint and allegations."

Patterson said he was caught off guard by the fliers, but has no plans to retaliate.

"We will not fight back or do any derogatory or negative politics," said the city native. "I am not going to stoop to that level. Our campaign is all about integrity and honesty."



Photos by Kevin Walker

Y Splash youngsters (from right, front row) Oscar, Jilkadi, Ahmia, Emanuel, Alexandria, (second row, from left) Ty'mon, Zion, Jourdan, Rasiane, Alexia, Jacob and Solomon. The adults pictured (from left) are 21st Century's Alda Penaloza, parent Reyna Sosa, Howard Venable, Jamilla Shepperson, 21st Century's Katie Gehrs and the Y's Erin Polich and John Ravestein.

Splash

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targeted for the program. National statistics show that black and Hispanic children lack basic swimming skills. That fact was tragically driven home locally in 2009 when a six-year-old drowned in a city-owned pool that is just a hop, skip and jump from Kimberley Park Elementary.

"The goal is to prevent something like that from happening," said Jamilla Shepperson of Winston-Salem State University's Maya Angelou Institute for the Improvement of Child and Family Education.

Y Splash started after Angelou Institute officials, armed with the troubling swimming inequity stats, approached the Winston Lake Family Y - which boasts one of Eastern Winston-Salem's few public-use pools - with the idea of offering swimming lessons.

Currently, there are no grants or special funding to support the program. Roberts said since the Winston Lake Y has a competition-size indoor pool and a well-trained aquatics staff, it simply decided to absorb any extra costs incurred by offering the training.

Monday, the first day of training for Kimberley Park kindergarteners and first-



Reyna Sosa gives a hug of encouragement to her son, Oscar.

graders, was an abbreviated session. Fresh back from Spring Break, half of the kids forgot to bring their swimsuits. But all was not lost. John Ravestein, the Winston Lake Y's aquatics coordinator, used the time to talk about water safety.

"Our number one goal is for you to be safe around the water," Ravestein told the youngsters as they sat Indian-style poolside. "That is the most important thing."

In addition to safety,

Ravestein - who also coaches the Tyde, the YMCA's nationally-recognized competitive swim team - said he uses his limited time with the kids to teach the basics, everything from kicking in the water to floating. He incorporates a lot of games.

"I use games because we want kids to (equate) the pool with fun ... not with it being scary," he said.

Howard Venable, program director of the 21st Century afterschool program, said

only about half of the dozen or so Kimberley Park students taking lessons this week have some limited swimming skills. (Second and third grade students from the school will take lessons next week.)

Venable, who ironically learned to swim as a youngster in the pool at the Winston Lake Y, said swimming lessons and even the cost of pool passes are out of reach for the families of many of the kids in his program.

"Parents are so focused on food, clothing - the basics - that this is something that doesn't come into the picture," he said.

Reyna Sosa is glad that her two children are learning to swim, a skill she never acquired. Her son, Oscar, was one of the few kids who raised their hands to indicate that they could swim already. But Sosa said her kids' swimming skills are very limited. She'll feel a lot more comfortable with them being around water after their Y Splash lessons.

"They have some skills, but it is just not enough for me," she said.

It is not uncommon for Ravestein to see his former Y Splash students perfecting the skills that he taught them in the Winston Lake pool.

"That is one of the greatest parts about this," he said.

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