

ARTS & LIFESTYLE

Of Interest

N.C. man named American Legion historian

An Army veteran from Raleigh has been appointed as national historian of the 2.4-million member American Legion, the nation's largest veterans organization.

N. Larry Rozier, a retired accountant who served with the U.S. Army Engineer Command in Germany, is a member of American Legion Swift Creek Post 530, where he is post adjutant. He has also served as the department historian for the North Carolina state American Legion.



Rozier

He retired as an accountant for the North Carolina State University in 1999. He also has served as a Boy Scout leader and a member of the board of directors of the Swift Creek Fire Department. He and his wife Cathy have two children, Christopher and Eric.

He will serve a one-year term as The American Legion's national historian. He took the oath of office along with National Commander James E. Koutz of Boonville, Ind. He is one of 12 national officers.

Winston-Salem Theatre Alliance holding auditions for musicals

The Winston-Salem Theatre Alliance will hold auditions for "Legally Blonde the Musical" and "Stand By Your Man: The Tammy Wynette Story" on Saturday, Oct. 6 at Theatre Alliance, 1047 Northwest Blvd. Auditions will begin at 9 a.m. for both productions.



Wynette

Both shows are musicals, so those who audition should have a prepared song. An accompanist will be provided, as well as a CD player for those wishing to perform to an audio track. The audition will also include a dance combination and readings from the script.

In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Theatre Alliance will donate \$1 per auditionee that wears pink that morning to a local breast cancer foundation.

It is Theatre Alliance's intention to provide an educational, rewarding, mostly fun and artistic experience for all participants in its productions.

For questions regarding auditions, contact Artistic Director Jamie Lawson at thissideofoz@triad.rr.com.

Local doctor to debut third CD Saturday

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Osaru will release his latest CD, "All the Way," during a concert event at the Underground Theater at the Community Arts Center, 411 West Fourth St., on Saturday, Sept. 29. The event will begin at 7:30 p.m. The first 50 guests to arrive will receive a free copy of the new disc.

Osaru uses a wind controller and keyboard to deliver his unique smooth jazz sound. The London-born, Nigerian-bred musician/vocalist taught himself to play eight instruments.

"This is what I enjoy doing," he told The Chronicle in 2010. "I enjoy playing for people; I want them to feel the music the same way I feel it."

His stage name Osaru is an abbreviation of his middle name, Osarumwense, which means "God has been good to me," in the language of his native Edo tribe. Away from the stage, he is Dr. Theodore Igbinigie, a Novant Health internist.

"All the Way" is his third disc. It comes after his debut, "Home," and his sophomore effort, "Home



File Photo

Osaru has released his third CD.

with the Keys." He produced all the CDs and wrote all of their songs.

Osaru's biggest fan is his wife, Itohan Igbinigie, who often hawks his CDs as he performs.

"He's very passionate about his music, very dedicated, very talented," Mrs. Igbinigie, a speech therapist, said about her husband in 2010. "I just feel very

happy for him because I know how hard he's worked."

Tickets to Saturday's CD release are \$10. To reach the venue, call 336-793-8000.

For more information about Osaru, visit www.osarumusic.com or contact osarumusic@osarumusic.com.

Author Watts returning to UNC Charlotte

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Nationally-recognized author Stephanie Powell Watts will return to her alma mater, UNC Charlotte, on Oct. 3 and 4 for a public lecture, a fiction writing workshop for students and a classroom visit.

Watts will read from her fictional writings on Oct. 4 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the Denny Building, Room 120. The public is invited.



Watts

An English faculty member at Pennsylvania's Lehigh University, where she teaches fiction and creative non-fiction, Watts grew up in Caldwell and Wilkes counties and earned her English degree from UNC Charlotte in 1997. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Missouri, where she was a Gus T. Ridgel fellow.

She was named one of two Hemingway Foundation/PEN Award finalists earlier this year for her debut short story collection, "We Are Taking Only What We Need" (BkMk Press.) The honor is considered the country's most important prize for a first work of fiction. She also was a finalist for the John Gardner Fiction Award, USA Book News and ForeWord Reviews. The book earned a place on the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award longlist.

The story, "Unassigned Territory" earned the prestigious Pushcart Prize in 2007, another top literary honor. Her stories have been included in "New Stories from the South: Best of the Year," 2007 and 2009. One story was named a 2007 Distinguished Story in "Best American Short Stories," edited by Stephen King.

Her short fiction, poems and essays also have appeared in "Oxford American," "New Letters," "African American Review," "Tartts IV," "Tampa Review," and "Obsidian III." With her North Carolina roots, Watts explores the themes of the South, family and religion. Watts is a former Jehovah's Witness who also worked in shoestring and furniture factories, and she draws from these and other experiences in her stories.

Watts and her husband, Bob Watts, wrote a community column for the Charlotte Observer in the mid-1990s. She has recently completed a novel, which is not yet published.

Blue Aces to Perform



PR Photo

The Blue Aces, a component of the United States Air Force Heritage of America Band, will perform at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 8 at Center City Park, 200 N. Elm St. in Greensboro. Assigned to Air Combat Command in Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va., the group puts on an energetic show encompassing a wide variety of musical styles. The group has performed for military and civilian dignitaries of the highest level, including the President of the United States. The concert is free and open to the public.

Actor to share story of child abuse survival

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

"Home Free," a benefit luncheon in Forsyth County to end domestic violence, will be held on Thursday, Oct. 11 from 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at Bridger Field House at BB&T Field. Hosted by Family Services, Inc. and the Children's Law Center of Central North Carolina (CLC), the event will feature keynote speaker Victor Rivers, an activist and actor. Rivers will recount his torture-filled childhood at the hands of his abusive father.

"The more we talk about it the less it hides in an atmosphere of shame, denial and silence," said Rivers, who chronicled his life in the book, "A Private Family Matter." "I am a product of a community coming together. I'm the child the village raised. I'm that kid that was taken in by my high school, and given seven homes to live in at a time I was 15 1/2, 6'2", over 200 pounds, and a gang member. They were able to transform this homi-

cidal, suicidal kid into the president of his senior class, captain of the football team who later earned a full scholarship to Florida State University to play football."

"Sadly, Victor's story is not unusual and he's not alone," said Iris Sunshine, executive director of the Children's Law Center, which intervenes on behalf of children caught in domestic violence proceedings.

She says while October is the designated Domestic Violence Awareness month, Family Services and the Children's Law Center work tirelessly year-round, offering services to both the victim and the offender in hopes of breaking the cycle of abuse before it escalates to a point of no return.

Some of the resources include Family Services' 24-hour domestic violence hotline, a domestic violence shelter for women and children, counseling services for victims and Safe

See Luncheon on A7



Victor Rivers



Legendary hitmaker Lionel Richie.

Artists coming together to promote worldwide peace

Legendary blues and rock musicians, including Eric Clapton, members of Guns N' Roses and Dave Matthews Band, Carole King, Sergio Mendes and Lionel Richie, are forming a new all-star band to promote world peace through music.

They will combine with internationally-renowned music masters from nine world cultures to launch a world tour, beginning with three concerts in Southern California this month, in celebration of U.N. International Peace Day, which was celebrated last week.

The concerts to promote U.N. Peace Day began three years ago through a joint venture between the United Nations and Listen for Life, which was founded in 1998 as a global family of music listeners, performers and producers.

The Listen for Life All-Star Band is the latest effort to expand the reach of the "global peace through music" mission, and follows prior Listen for Life concerts to commemorate U.N. Peace Day in the U.S., Bosnia, Croatia, Kenya and the U.K.

International recording artists from India, China, Vietnam, Bulgaria and the Mid-East are among those scheduled to perform at the concerts in Southern California. They will represent nine world cultures, and will play 17 different instruments unique to their region.

The remaining Listen for Life Musicfests in Southern California will be today (Sept. 27) at the Ford Amphitheatre in Hollywood and Sept. 29 at the famed Ramona Bowl Amphitheatre in Hemet.

Reynolds bio to be unveiled at museum

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The first official biography of one of the South's most influential elite couples will be launched at an author event at Reynolda House Museum of American Art at 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 4.

"Katharine and R.J. Reynolds: Partners of Fortune in the Making of the New South" is the first full account of the lives and impact of the couple. The event will include a talk by the author and a book signing.

Written by historian Michele Gillespie, the Kahle Family Associate Professor of History at Wake Forest University, the book traces Katharine and R.J.'s remarkable achievements against a backdrop of dramatic social, cultural, racial and political transfor-

mations. Gillespie relied on a variety of primary sources for the book, including the extensive archive collection at Reynolda House.

Gillespie is the author or editor of eight previous books, including "Free Labor in an Unfree World: White Artisans in Slaveholding Georgia, 1789-1860" and "Southern Society and Its Transformations." "Katharine and R.J. Reynolds: Partners of Fortune in the Making of the New South" is published by the University of Georgia Press.

Tickets are \$40, and include a copy of the book, which retails at \$32.95. Tickets are available by advance purchase only by calling 336-758-5150.

