



CIAA commish has love for WSSU

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YWCA pushes anti-racism pledge

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A Mother's Love



From left, seated: Mothers Dorothy Patterson, Mae Alice Archie, Frances Lindsay, (middle row) Sharon Smalls, Izora Moore, Earnestine Rucker, Dometric France, Eva Gray-Allen, Carolyn Carson (back row) Mary Ingram, Thelma Todd and Mildred Willams.



Sharon Smalls speaks as co-organizers Carolyn Carson (left) and Carmen Carlton look on.

Honors bestowed upon community matriarchs

BY LAYLA GARMES
THE CHRONICLE

Mother's Day came a little early for a group of local women. More than two dozen ladies were treated to a sumptuous meal and celebratory program in their honor during the first ever Unsung Mothers of Grace and Faith

Honoree Celebration at the Piedmont Club last week.

The Club's posh Cardinal room was decorated with dramatic floral arrangements and festive pink and white accents for the April 27 event, which was organized by Carmen Carlton, Carolyn Carson and Sharon Smalls. The three friends joined forces with 11 other women to host the gathering as a tangible way of honoring the women who have played important roles in their lives and the lives of others, including church mothers.

See Mothers on A8

Shall We Dance?



Photo by Todd Lack

The Winston-Salem Foundation's Michael Clements dances with Eryn White during last week's Take the Lead fundraiser at Benton Convention Center. Look for more about the event in the May 9 issue of The Chronicle.

Barber: GOP lawmakers will be judged by God

BY LAYLA GARMES
THE CHRONICLE

Rev. Dr. William Barber II says North Carolina is on trial. "I come by here to say to all those that wield political power, you're on trial; you face the judgement of God," declared Barber, the president of the North Carolina State Conference of NAACP Branches. "North Carolina is on trial; this state is on trial, right here and right now."

Barber addressed a crowd of NAACP members and supporters during the Winston-Salem Branch's Freedom Fund Dinner on April 26. The annual gathering drew nearly 300 attendees to Mount Zion Baptist Church last week.

"This is a great event on behalf of the oldest, the boldest, the toughest, the strongest civil rights organization in the world: the NAACP," declared local NAACP President S. Wayne



Photo by Layla Garmes

Rev. William Barber addresses attendees at the gala Friday.

See NAACP on A2



Photo by Layla Garmes

Imam Nabil Elfallah stands in front of the Annoor Islamic Center in Clemmons.

Keeping the Faith

Muslim leaders say don't paint Islam with broad brush

BY LAYLA GARMES
THE CHRONICLE

Local Muslims say the April 15 Boston Marathon bombings did not help efforts to convince Americans that their religion is one of peace, love and brotherhood.

"I think the language that the media uses has given individuals the impression of equating this religion with violence. Anyone that knows anything about the religion of Islam, they know that the religion of Al-Islam does not condone any kind of violence," said Imam Irshad Hasan, who has led Winston-Salem's Masjid Al-Muminun for more than 20 years. "In my opinion, it's just the act of somebody who has no value for the sanctity of human life. That's not the action of a Muslim - that's just the action of a deranged mind."

Alleged bombers Dzhokhar and Tamerlan Tsarnaev did, ironically, educate many about the vastness of Islam, the world's fastest-growing second largest religion.

The Tsarnaev family are European Muslims from Dagestan in the former Soviet Union. The largely Muslim nation has been gripped by a long running bloody conflict between two Muslim sects. Muslims come in all colors and from every corner of the globe, but many in western culture still subscribe to what Hasan calls a "Crusaders mentality," where Islam is the enemy. In cases of terrorism on

American soil where there are no connections to Islam, such as the Newtown, Conn. shooting or the Okalahoma City federal building bombing, the religion of the perpetrator is not mentioned, Hasan noted.

"You never hear about them being Christian terrorists or them being white extremists," he said. "... We as a society, we have to question ourselves as to why we make that association."

While some in the community have rushed to judgment when it comes to Islam, others have gone out of their way to show their support for members of the masjid (another word for mosque), Hasan said. Following 9-11, he said he received more positive calls than negative.

Imam Nabil Elfallah said some members of his congregation at the Annoor Islamic Center in Clemmons expressed concerns about their safety and the safety of their respective businesses after it became clear that the alleged bombers were Muslim, but their fears were allayed as the days passed with no harassment or changes in their businesses.

"All of them, they were worried because they used to live here in the time of 9-11," he said. "... (but) people are living their normal life; everything is okay."

Elfallah, who moved to the U.S. from Morocco four years ago, was accosted for praying in New York's Empire State

See Muslims on A2



Hasan

Veterans help get students closer to D.C.

BY LAYLA GARMES
THE CHRONICLE

Fifth graders at Ashley IB Magnet Elementary School got a history lesson and a boost for a future learning experience earlier this week.

Representatives from the HARRY Veteran Community Outreach Services visited the school Monday to talk with students about their experiences as military servicemen. The group left something behind for the children as well: a \$1500



Alicia Bailey

See Ashley on A8



Photos by Layla Garmes

HARRY veterans (from left) Bobby Ingram, Donald Williams, Jerry Anderson and Melvin Davis Jr. listen as Ciat Shabazz speaks.

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