

# Baby advocate gives awards

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Chronicle was among the recipients of awards from the Outreach Alliance for Babies, a nonprofit organization that provides clothing and other necessities to infants whose families are facing financial challenges.

The organization also promotes learning by providing board books for parents and caregivers to read to babies, supports safety by distributing safe-sleep literature and donates new car seats.

The nonprofit says it has provided for more than 2,400 babies since its inception in 2005. The families of the babies must participate in a community agency that provides services for babies and parents.

Karl Yena, a retired RJR Nabisco executive who works annually with over 100 nonprofits in North Carolina, spoke at the banquet.

He said he is awed by babies' tenderness and what they can become.

"It's our job to help them reach their God-given potential," Yena said.

Besides The Chronicle, the following are the other recipients of awards, which were given on Thursday, March 26:

\*In memoriam, Dr. Simon Green Atkins and wife, Oleona Pegram Atkins, accepted by Simona Atkins Allen, granddaughter; and George H. Black, accepted by Sonya Weaks Black, great-granddaughter.

\*Dr. Harvey Allen, accepted by Simona Atkins Allen, spouse.

\*Children's Law Center of North Carolina, accepted by Executive Director Iris Sunshine and Amy Kuhlman, co-founder and director of operations.

\*Dr. Serenus Churn, accepted by Vera Stepp.

\*Annie Brown Kennedy.

\*Florence Corpening.

\*Katisha Blackwell/Family Blueprints of North Carolina.



Donna Rogers, left and center, managing editor of The Chronicle, accepts the award from the Outreach Alliance for Babies for The Chronicle and Publisher Ernie Pitt. At right is Linda Hege, chairwoman of the nonprofit's board, and at left is Phyllis Bonds, executive director of the nonprofit.

- \*Tim Sturgis, Program Manager/The Shalom Project.
- \*Carrie Scott and Valerie Glass, co-founders of Diaper Bank of N.C.-Greater Triad.
- \*Hernando Ramirez-Santos/Que Pasa Media.
- \*Russell Funeral Home/Carmen Russell Bonham.
- \*Dr. Sylvia A. Flack.
- \*Triad Dream Center/Pastor Michael Watson.

Photo by Erin Mizelle for The Chronicle

## Some highlights of Geneva Brown's life

\*She received a bachelor's degree in fine arts and Master of Science degree in education from N.C. A&T State University.

\*She received her certification in Elementary Education from Winston-Salem State University and certification in School Administration from UNC-Greensboro.

\*She studied at UCLA for six years before opening Moore Laboratory School in 1971.

\*She was chosen to open Moore Laboratory School, the school system's first open concept, non-graded multi-age grouping, year round school — the first magnet school in Winston-Salem. She retired from Moore after 19 years.

\*In addition to being Principal of the Year, she was recognized for her service on the N.C. Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

## Brown

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school system.

"She did spend a lot of time with her teachers and her students," her daughter said. "I think that's a big part of her life."

She worked in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System from 1954 to 1992 in various positions, retiring from the system after working in the front office.

Brown had students who would come up to her and say hello, praise her, thank her and tell stories about their interaction with her, her daughter said.

In 1992, she was elected to the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education, where she served for 18 years. She retired in 2011.

When Geneva Brown was on the school board, her focus was to "provide the best environment for students and help parents do the best they can," Wynne Brown said. She also was concerned about the staff and teachers at the schools, regardless of their race.

"She knew there were disparities in the system and there still are," but she spoke out to try to change the system, her daughter said. She tried to make sure all had the same opportunity.

"She didn't get to where she was by tiptoeing through the system," her daughter said. "She learned the system and mastered it."

In fact, that is what Geneva Brown did throughout her life. She mastered whatever she took on.

Take athletics.

Geneva Brown was an athlete in her younger years, playing softball and basketball. She later turned to golf and played with her husband of 44 years, Wendell Delworth Brown, before he died. She won many awards. She even announced the top 30 golfers in the world at the Master's Tournament in Augusta, Georgia, for three years. She was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Inc. sorority and was director of the AKA annual golf tournament for 10 years.

All of the work Geneva Brown did was bolstered by "a divine connection that carried her," Wynne Brown said.

She was a member of First Baptist Church, Highland Avenue, since 1955, serving as a Sunday school and Bible Study teacher, trustee, deaconess, and a member of the Women's Service Council.

"She had challenges; we all do," Wynne Brown said. "But she never let that stop her." Many might not know another aspect of Geneva Brown, her daughter said.

She was "very kind, compassionate and extremely sensitive."

The April 25 celebration at Atkins will have a formal program, designed to

represent various aspects of her mother's life, Wynne Brown said.

"She couldn't be contained in a box, so we hope to capture some of that in the memorial."

Wynne Brown said her mother's legacy is an enduring one.

"Our community will never be the same," she said. "We can't go back."

To see the full obituary of Geneva Brown, go to <http://www.clarksbrownandsons.com/Obituaries/Obits.html>.

## FREE LEAF MULCH

Last Give-Away at the Reynolds Pk. Rd. Site!

The City of Winston-Salem will offer free loading of leaf mulch (as long as supply lasts) on Good Friday, April 3; and also on the Saturdays of April 4, 21, 18, and 25 from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., at Reynolds Park Rd. leaf site, behind William Roscoe Anderson Jr. Recreation Center, 2450 Reynolds Park Road. You must bring a tarp or cover. All loads must be fully covered before leaving the leaf site.

NO RESTRICTIONS ON VEHICLES TO BE LOADED FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED

From I-40, take Hwy 52 North [from Business-40, take Hwy 52 South] to RAMS Dr. and left at top of ramp, take right onto M. L. King Jr. Dr., take left onto Reynolds Park Rd. after passing the recreation center, take immediate right onto paved street and proceed left to enter fenced-in area.

For more information, call 727-8000 or visit [www.utilities.cityofws.org](http://www.utilities.cityofws.org).



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