

happenings

July

20 "Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me!" the National Public Radio weekly quiz show tapes at Blumenthal Center's Belk Theatre at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20-\$35 and on sale at the Blumenthal Box Office at (704) 372-1000 or www.blumenthal-center.org.

22 **Shindig on the Green**, Martin Luther King Park, Asheville. Celebration of traditional and old-time bands, ballad singers, storytellers, big circle mountain dancers and cloggers. Free. For information, call (828) 259-6101, extension 345 or go online at www.folkheritage.org

23 **Dirt Divas Ride for MS Society**, 8:30 a.m., Waxhaw Elementary School, Old Providence Road. Mountain biking club raises money to fight multiple sclerosis. Registration is \$15. For information, e-mail info@dirtdivas.net or log on to www.dirtdivas.net.

Local Author Day, Joseph-Beth Booksellers, 2 p.m. Authors Deborah Dunn ("Trapped in the Magic Mirror"), Harold Cooler ("Chicora Chronicle") and Patrice Gaines ("Moments of Grace" and "Laughing In The Dark") will sign and discuss their books.

24 **Buffalo Soldiers Greater North Carolina Chapter** hosts 140th anniversary at Sheraton Four Seasons in Greensboro. For a schedule of events, log on to www.ncbuffalosoldiers.org.

25 "Bombay Dreams," a musical about India's bollywood, the world's largest film industry, Belk Theater. Tickets are \$20 to \$61 and on sale at the Performing Arts Center Box Office at (704) 372-1000 or online at www.blumenthal-center.org or www.carolinatix.org.

27 "Noises Off," 7:30 p.m., Meroney Theater, 213 South Main St., Salisbury. Tickets \$15, \$12 for seniors and students. Performances through July 30 (2:30 p.m.) Tickets available at the box office by calling (704) 693-5471.

29 **Family Day**, Afro-American Cultural Center, 12-6 p.m. Charlotte Sister Cities will bring a taste of Ghana featuring cuisine from Kumasi, Charlotte's Sister City. Children's Dance Ensemble, workshops and fashion show in addition to traditional wood carvings for sale.

Back to school bash, Roosevelt community in Clover, S.C., 4 p.m. Games, music and refreshments at Roosevelt Community Park to bring in a new academic year. For information, call (803) 222-0927 or (704) 460-8147.

Comedian Bruce Bruce, 8 p.m., Owens Auditorium. Tickets are \$33.50, \$38.50 and \$43.50.

August

1 **American Idols Tour**, Charlotte Bobcats Arena. Featuring top 10 finalists Ace Young, Chris Daughtry, Paris Bennett and Taylor Hicks. Tickets are \$68.50, \$48.50 and \$38.50 and available at Blumenthal Performing Arts Center ticket office, charge by phone at (800) 495-2295 or charlottebobcatsarena.com.

3 **Mountain Dance and Folk Festival**, 7 p.m., Diana Wortham Theatre at Pack Place in Asheville. Performances through Aug. 5. Tickets are \$15; \$8 for children under 12. Three-night package is \$36. For information, log on to www.folkheritage.org or call (828) 257-4590.

4 **Ride for Pride**, 8 a.m., 404 Armour St Davidson. Three bicycling routes - 62, 31 and 10 miles - to raise money for Trips for Kids-Charlotte and the MS Society. All routes will be marked and volunteers will guide and support riders. Registration is \$15 before Aug. 3 and \$20 after. ANSI or SNELL-approved helmets are required. Register online at cannonballs-cycling.org

EclecFest, RealEyes Bookstore, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Nikki Giovanni and Crystal Andrus will be featured presenters. Continues Aug. 13. Karaoke contest for teens with free voice lessons and studio time for the winner. Games and moon bounce among the events for children. Giovanni will appear Aug. 13 at Neighborhood Theatre, 6 p.m. Tickets are \$25 in advance. Andrus will lead seminars on publishing at Green Rice Gallery Aug. 13. Workshop is \$10.

Charlotte Literary Festival, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Real Eyes Book Store, 3306 North Davidson St. Festival features Nikki Giovanni and 80 authors. Includes book signings, workshops, seminars, live bands and kids' corner. Concludes Aug. 13.

26 **Great Gatsby Party** sponsored by National Multiple Sclerosis Society Mid-Atlantic Chapter, Wachovia Atrium. Food and beverages from Charlotte's top restaurants, silent auction and swing dance and costume contest. Tickets are \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door. Call Catherine Turner at (704) 525-2955 or visit www.nationalmssociety.org/nsc.

September

Earth Wind & Fire, Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre. Special guest Chris Botti. Tickets are \$24 and \$54.

Pride Sunset Jazz Festival kicks off at Halton Theater at Central Piedmont Community College and continues through Sept. 10. For information, call Torrey Felmster at (704) 375-9553.

DANCE

Shindig on the Green



ASHEVILLE FOLK HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Shindig is a celebration of traditional and old-time bands, ballad singers and big circle mountain dancers in Asheville. The festival will be held Saturdays in July

WATCH

Kinetic Works SummerDance



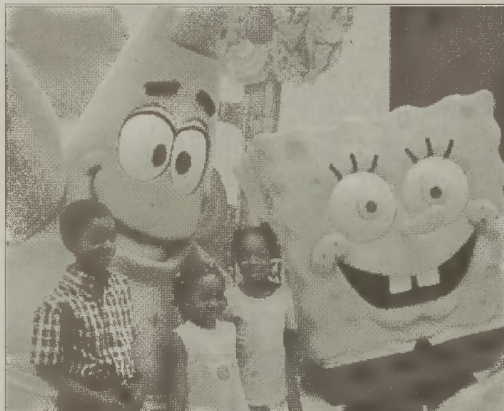
PHOTO:JEFF CRAVOTTA

Dance comes out of the theater into a public arena with concert performances by Kinetic Works Dance Company at the Dowd YMCA, 400 East Morehead St. New works and revivals by choreographer Martha Connerton featuring SPANCE, a sports dance. Performances Aug. 4 and Aug. 11 at 7:30 p.m., Aug. 5 and Aug. 12 at 4 p.m. Admission is \$12 in advance for the general public, \$15 at the door and \$10 for YMCA members. For information, call Martha Connerton at (704) 338-1533.

Good to go

MEET

Nicktoons at Paramount's Carowinds



PARAMOUNT'S CAROWINDS

Paramount's Carowinds plays hosts to Nicktoon characters Aug. 4-6 from 11:30-1 p.m. Among the characters are SpongeBob SquarePants, Dora the Explorer, Little Bill and Wanda and Cosmo from "The Fairly Odd Parents." Tickets for lunch is \$12.99 for adults and \$7.99 for children ages 3 to 6. Call (704) 588-2600, (800) 889-4FUN or www.carowinds.com for information.

A FAMILY AFFAIR



EDWARDS AND WISE FAMILIES

the Edwards and Wise families got together July 1-2 at the Arbor Glen Outreach Center for a reunion. They planted a flower bed and garden to honor their roots and heritage.

Notes etc.

Concert for a Cause, July 22, Dixie's Tavern. Sponsored by Guys with Ties, Charlotte businessmen raise money for small organizations that benefit Charlotteans. Headliner is Two Step with Dear Carolina and Rhymes with Orange. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$20 at the door and can be purchased online at www.dixiescharlotte.com

Workshop for African American nonprofit, July 29, Carole A. Hoefner Community Services Center, 601 East 7th St. Registration at 8:30 a.m., workshops at 9 a.m. Cost: \$7 per seat. For information, call (704) 333-1690.

Memorial bricks available for Children's Memorial Walkway in Frazier Park. Orders from the adopt a brick program taken by Aug. 15 will be installed before the next service on National Children's Memorial Day weekend Dec. 9. The Memorial Walkway is a nonprofit organization. For information, call Jerry Mudge at (704) 509-6603 or log on to www.ccmw.org

Big Brothers Big Sisters sponsors "Little Moments" Aug. 8 at 2424 North Davidson St. Suite 110 at 12 p.m. Informational tour of BBBS. To reserve a space, call (704) 377-3963 or give@bbbscharlotte.org.

N.C. Central University alumni are sponsoring a bus trip to the NCCU/Southern football game Sept. 23. Cost is \$188, which includes a game ticket. Payment due by Aug. 15. Bus will depart Sept. 22 at 12 a.m. and return Sept. 24 at 11 p.m. Hotel is the Hilton Gardens. For information, call Judy Jordan at (704) 651-5682 or (704) 566-6061.

Step back in history Saturdays through Nov. 25 at **Historic Brattonsville** in McConnells, S.C. Costumed interpreters will bring to life aspects of 18th and 19th century living with themes changing weekly. Visitors can also witness life in the Carolina backcountry through activities such as farming, sheep shearing, cotton harvesting. Admission is free for Culture & Heritage Museum members, \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors, and \$3 for children.

Applications are being taken for **Neighborhood Excellence** grants. The grants sponsored by Bank of America, come in three areas: Neighborhood Builders to non-profit organizations working to promote vibrant neighborhoods (\$200,000 and grant funding); five local heroes (\$5,000 to the nonprofit of their choice) whose achievements and leadership contribute to neighborhood vitality and student leaders (eight-week paid internship), high school juniors and seniors with an interest in improving their neighborhoods. Apply online at www.bankofamerica.com/foundation. Deadline June 30.

Food Addicts Anonymous hosts meetings daily for people recovering from addictive eating and anorexia. There are no dues or fees and no weigh-ins. For information, call (704) 348-1569.

Torrence Lytle High School Alumni Association will honor former educators Aug. 12 at Zion Renaissance. For information, call Jackie Torrence at (704) 899-8588.

Charlotte Neighborhoods Family Day, Aug. 26, 12 a.m.-12 p.m., Charlotte Museum, 3500 Shamrock Drive. Tour the Charlotte Museum's interactive exhibit of Plaza-Midwood through maps and photos. Free for museum members, \$6 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors and \$3 for children.

Exhibits

Eco Art of the Carolinas, through July 30, Charlotte Art League, 1517 Camden Road. Pastel marshscapes and pigment giclee prints of the Charleston, S.C., area by Rose-Lynn Imbleau in Studio 14. For information, call (704) 376-2878.

Wild Life: The Art of Lauren Faulkenberry & Andrew Linton, through July 30, the Icehouse Center Gallery, 416 South Main St., Davidson. Free. Preview of the exhibit June 9 from 6-9 with public opening June 10 from 6-9 p.m. Call the Icehouse Center at (704) 892-7323 for summer gallery hours.

Works of Doug McAbee at McColl Center for Visual Art, 721 North Tryon St. Spartanburg, S.C., sculptor uses imagery that seems familiar yet hovers just beyond recognition. For information, call (704) 332-5535.

Exhibits Alive: Colonial Charlotte, Aug. 12, 2 p.m., Charlotte Museum of History, 3500 Shamrock Drive. The 18th Century Gallery features hands-on activities and demonstrations. No reservations required. Free for museum members, \$6 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors, \$3 for children.

Spanish Colonial Art from the Lilly and Francis Robicsek Collection, Mint Museum of Art, 2370 Randolph Road. Exhibit on display through September 10. Paintings, sculptures, silver and furniture from the late 17th through 19th century.