

"Arts That Capture Life" Festival Opens Black History Month Celebration at West Las Vegas Library

"It's important that people be informed of African culture and history. For too many years Africa, and its people were generally left out of the history of the United States," said Trish Shapiro, Las Vegas resident, Black History teacher and photographer.

Black History Month, to be celebrated at the West Las Vegas branch of the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, recognizes Afro-American contributions to the rich fabric of American life. The celebration begins at 6 p.m. (Sunday February 1 with the opening of a month-long art exhibit followed by a festival of art, dance, song, film and drama.

"The 4th Annual Art Exhibit in Honor Of Black History Month," said Deborah Richards, assistant administrator and coordinator of the events, "will feature works by local artists of all ages and ethnic backgrounds. Included in the show and on display for the first time in Las Vegas, will be an exhibit of African ceremonial masks, on loan from the Cassell Collection."

The program, "Arts That Capture Life," will celebrate performing arts with such groups as "The Gaston 5" and "The Harmonettes" gospel singers. Also scheduled are the "J.I.H.A.D. Youth Group," and "The Video Dancers." Ta'Afili Sagapolutele will demonstrate the Tahitian Fire Dance and Stacey Sommons will dance a ballet while entertainer Joe Carter salutes actor Paul Robeson.

Also featured at the

reception, Trish Shapiro will show "African Safari" color slides of the exotic wilds of Kenya and Tanzania, "bringing the world and little closer in the understanding and appreciation of other

peoples and cultures."

All the events at West Las Vegas Library, 1402 "D" Street, are free and open to the public Call 647-2117 for further information.



Purchased by the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District in 1986, this painting by Beni Casselle is representative of the art work on display in the 4th Annual Art Exhibit in Honor Of Black History Month.

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Also pictured: (top photo) Stephanie Quon and Shiloh Hosmer will perform with the Video Dancers during "Arts That Capture Life" along with members of the JIHAD Youth Group, (bottom photo) pictured as follows: Smallest girl (in front)-Sumayah Ramadan; and left to right, Stacey Simmons; Dionne Wickers; and Shasta Ramadan.

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