

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Black History Cultural Program and Luncheon, "A Celebration of Culture II", 11:30 am, Clark County Library Theater, Flamingo Road. Guest host, KVVU Fox 5's Public Affairs Director Lillian McMorris. Entertainment and educational segments highlighting African American culture followed by a catered luncheon by Buster's Barbecue. \$7 for luncheon. Call 565-4264. **Legal and Financial Issues for the Alzheimer Patient**, 1:30 - 3:30. Please join representatives from the Alzheimer Association as they present valuable information for anyone caring for or assisting an Alzheimer patient or family member. Class space is limited. Call 434-6500.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

2nd Annual Bid Whist and Spade Tournament and Game Party, Dona Maria Tamale Mexican Restaurant, 3205 N. Tenaya Way, (Cheyenne and Interstate 95). Tickets \$15. For more info. Call 645-4294. **Nevada Association of Fashion Design (NAFD)**, 3 - 4:30 pm, Clark County Library Conference Room, Flamingo/Maryland Parkway. Fashion Network member & guest meeting. Call 731-9278.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

The Greater New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church Men's Day Program, 3 pm, The Greater New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church, 1100 North D Street. For more information please call Brother Cliff Taylor at 254-8362.

MONDAY, MARCH 1

Race for the Cure Registration Forms, are available to anyone who stops by a Las Vegas-area Chevron or Chevron/Terrible Herb service station. In addition, local stations will accept donations for the Susan G. Komen Cancer Foundation. Through March 20.

TUESDAY, MARCH 2

Breast Cancer Coalition of Nevada Meeting, 6:45 pm, Wells Fargo Building, 3800 Howard Hughs Blvd., 8th floor. Please call 361-5394. **Film Series Begins with "Ladybird, Ladybird"**, 7:30 pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 800 South Brush St. Based on a true story, chronicles a mother's struggle to keep her family together by leaving her violent past behind. Call 229-6383

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

Head Start Health Fair, 9 am - 2 pm, Head Start Center, 1818 Balzar. Vision/hearing checks, Blood pressure screening, Drug and alcohol abuse information, Parent and child stress management analysis and diet nutrition analysis. Call Sally J. Ellis at 647-2370. **Wednesday's Woman in Celebration of National Women's History Month**, 7 pm, West Las Vegas Library, Guest Speaker: Dr. Tsuruta, Associate Professor of Literature and Composition in Black Studies at San Francisco State University. **Hispanics in Politics Breakfast Meeting**, 7:15 am, Doria Maria's Restaurant, 910 Las Vegas Blvd. South. Members of the public are welcome. For reservations call 387-3821.

THURSDAY, MARCH 4

Side Street Strutters Concert, 8 pm, Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV Campus. A musical journey back to the roots of jazz. \$15 per person. Call 648-8962.

SATURDAY, MARCH 6

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Meeting, 2 pm, West Las Vegas Library. Calling all interested potential members. Call 631-7099. **"Mother and Child Fashion Show"**, 7 pm, F.N. Addison Center, 1122 North D Street. The Women's Day Committee of the Greater New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church is sponsoring this event. Call Sis. Annette Lewis at 646-6261 or 651-0525. **North Las Vegas Library Family Craft Time**, 10:30 am, 2300 Civic Center Drive. Initial Stamps; What does your name mean? Join us for a fun "Family History" Program and make up your decorative initial stamp. 633-1070. **Images of Chile Exhibit Reception**, 2 - 4 pm, Rafael Rivera Community Center, 2900 East Stewart Avenue. Artifacts, photographs, discussion and typical food. Call 663-0337.

SUNDAY, MARCH 7

City Wide Usher's Service, 3 pm, Second Baptist Church, 500 West Madison Avenue. The message is being rendered by Pastor Willie Davis of the Second Baptist Church. Second Baptist Church Male Chorus and the Church Praise Dancers will be featured.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9

Film Series presents "Mitsuye and Nellie: Asian American Poets", 7:30 pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 800 Brush St. In recognition of Women's History Month depicting heroic women. Call 229-6383.

THURSDAY, MARCH 11

40 Free Mammograms on a First-Come, First-Serve Basis, Chevron/Terrible Herb Station, 8 am - 5 pm, 1001 E. Lake Mead Blvd., NLV. Women are recommended to bring a written doctor's referral.

ONGOING

Easter Basket Drive, Fox 5 is sponsoring this drive. Donations of baby food, new clothes, candy and toys will be accepted at Channel 5. Proceeds to benefit Child Haven, a temporary shelter for abandoned, abused neglected or dependent children. Call Lillian McMorris, 435-5555. **Northwest YMCA Fitness Classes** Every Tuesday & Thursday, 1:30 - 2:30 pm. Enjoy afternoons of fitness and socialization with adults your own age. For information please contact the YMCA at 240-6922. **Senior Computer Classes**, Mon., Tues. & Fri.'s each week. Computer U Learning Centers are providing computer classes at the Green Valley office of Senior Friends. Monthly Computer Club held the second Wed. of the month. Reservations required. Call 220-9495.

ENTERTAINMENT

Famed choreographer Alvin Ailey honored

NEW YORK (AP) — "Hymn," a 33-minute dance Judith Jamison created in tribute to Alvin Ailey, was the centerpiece of the next WNET "Great Performances."

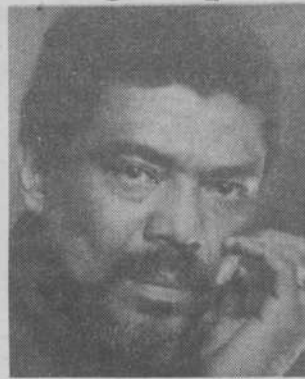
The hourlong show, "A Hymn for Alvin Ailey," aired Wednesday on PBS and included interviews with former dancers, photographer Jack Mitchell and Ailey, the dancer-choreographer who founded the popular Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

Ailey died 10 years ago at age 58 but "he still can emotionally move us," says Jamison, in her 10th year as artistic director of the company. "He thought dance should take you someplace emotionally."

Jamison says that with "Hymn" she was attempting to have a conversation with Ailey, to tell him that the company is continuing in the way he envisioned.

When she was thinking about choreographing "Hymn" for the company's 35th anniversary, in 1993, Jamison went to the theater to see Anna Deavere Smith's one-woman show in which she created characters for people she had interviewed in Crown Heights, Brooklyn.

"Her technique sparked me," Jamison says. "I said to her, 'Why don't you interview my dancers about Alvin and let's see what we



ALVIN AILEY can work from there."

Smith interviewed the dancers and in the PBS show, she appeared near dancers while they dance, speaking the dancer's words in what she perceives to be the dancer's voice or accent.

Not every dancer is eloquent, Jamison says, but they all were real, which Ailey would have liked.

"Some things they talk about are so mundane and some are so important. It's what we really all are. We can't be profound 24 hours a day. I think it was very important for dancers to express how they felt about being with Alvin or being young and not being with him," Jamison says.

She said Ailey believed in individuality, meaning he didn't choose dancers of only one body type, height or color. "He always said, 'Let me help you along to become this person you're going to be.'" And he brought many choreographers' work into the company, along with his

own dances. The company continues to bring in new dances. The 40th anniversary season in New York in December saw four premieres, one by Jamison, one by French choreographer Redha and two by company members Lisa Johnson and Troy O'Neil Powell.

Jamison joined the Ailey company in 1965 and soon became a star. Of the dances Ailey created for her, the most famous is the solo "Cry," about the trials and strengths of black women. The dance was a birthday present to Ailey's mother.

"Alvin used to say, 'I want the audience to see how difficult this is.' He didn't always want you to look like you had the ease of the movement," Jamison says. "He thrived on how hard we worked to show the emotion of the pieces."

In "Hymn," Jamison used some of Ailey's choreographic movements as a tribute. In the beginning and end, she says, she used abstract versions of "Wade in the Water" and "I Been 'Buked," two sections from

"Revelations" Ailey's masterwork. "Of course, I wanted to invoke those shapes in my way and I did that on purpose," Jamison says.

"Hymn" was filmed in May 1997 in a theater in Purchase, N.Y., as well as the "spiritual walking" section at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, where Ailey's funeral was. The show also has brief footage of the funeral, which was attended by 5,000 people.

Jamison would like the TV show to be available to college movie theaters, film festivals and video stores. "I want it to be as accessible as Alvin wanted the dance company to be — and it still is," she says.

The 31-member company is on a U.S. tour through May 15. The Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble tours all the time. It gives graduates of Ailey's school two years of experience before they audition for the senior company.

"Alvin's spirit is alive and well. As long as we're doing his work," Jamison says, "his spirit will always be there."

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WHOOPI GOLDBERG



DANNY GLOVER

Whoopi happy with 'Squares'

NEW YORK (AP) — Whoopi Goldberg doesn't want to hear trash talk from people who think her doing "Hollywood Squares" is a major comedown for the Academy Award-winning actress.

"I don't need to have three films coming out and watch my hair fall out worrying about the opening weekend gross," Goldberg says in the Feb. 13-19 TV Guide. "I like this schedule and the money is good." Through her clout, the "Hollywood Squares" center square and executive producer has been able to get such guests as Robin Williams, Billy Crystal, Danny Glover, Melanie Griffith, Rosie O'Donnell, Trisha Yearwood and Garth Brooks.

"Some of them are doing this as a favor to me. Some figure it can't hurt their careers," Goldberg said. "I cherish all the people who have said yes because they don't care what the perception is."