

# Sisters give back through dance

Lee Brown

Special to Sentinel-Voice

After 10 years of professional dance, sisters Jani and Jewel Jeppe decided it was time to impart their knowledge via the arts, sciences and dance.

Teaching sporadically in their spare time since the 1980s, the identical twins started three years ago to focus more on training the next generation of aspiring artists. The duo, who also double as hair stylists once a week at Isis Salon, teach through Movement Ministries, said Jani, the younger of the twins by four minutes.

The faith-based dance group is programmed at Victory Missionary Baptist Church, their house of worship. Dance is used as a form of praise and worship.

Nearly 40 churches participate in Movement Ministries. Victory's program has six women that present to the church community the second and fourth Sundays.

"We're always looking for different ways to give praise,"

Jewel said. "We used to teach before, but it wasn't the same fulfillment until it became a spiritual praise type relationship in the dance. I think we were ready to transfer from being performers to teachers. At the other level it wasn't as focused or as intense, but now - with teaching - a new found purpose is there."

They got involved in dance at age 17 when they stumbled upon a summer modern dance program at their high school.

Since graduating with bachelors' degrees in dance from New York's Adelphi University in 1984, the Brooklyn natives have taught professionally at New York's Alpha-Omega Theatrical Dance Company and locally at the Fern-Adair Conservatory of the Arts and the Simba Dance Studio under the direction of Laverne Ligon.

The past few months they have been guests teaching in the Clark County School District, where they also substitute teach. Both are presently acquiring their



teaching certificates to teach physical education.

"We have our degrees in dance, and to be able to teach in the school system we have to go through an educational subject," Jani said.

Added Jewel: "We are studying mostly basic science courses because we have all the natural movement courses. We've found our purpose in teaching and ministering to ourselves and others, using dance and movement and accenting that,"

(See Twins, Page 3)



Talented twins Jewel (above left) and Jani Jeppe teach dance to youngsters at the West Las Vegas Cultural Arts Center. (Left) Dancers follow Jani Jeppe as she demonstrates a graceful move for their upcoming performance next month at the cultural arts center.

LV Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

# Baby Find looking for additional 'resource mothers'



Resource mothers (left to right) Charlotte Cole, Mary Jackson and Mary Hall, in the program take a few moments to relax and regroup before trying to recruit more volunteers.

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Baby Find, a program sponsored jointly by the Clark County Health District and United Way, needs resource mothers.

Resource Mothers are, in effect, "big sisters" to at-risk pregnant women living in West or North Las Vegas. For at least 2 hours each week, these surrogate moms support, advise and spend quality time with young mothers-to-be.

Resource Mothers also have a talk show on KCEP FM 88.1 monthly.

Fran Courtney, director of nursing and clinics for the

Clark County Health District, conceived the Baby Find concept in 1993.

"The real purpose of the program is to prevent the low birth weight rates and the high infant mortalities in our community and particularly in the African-American community," said Baby Find Outreach Coordinator Danya Thomas-Pena.

The low birth weight rates and teenage pregnancy rates

in the 89106 and 89030 zip codes, which comprise West and North Las Vegas, are the highest in Clark County.

Qualified applicants must be at least 21-year-old mothers, must be able to volunteer from two to six hours per week in six month intervals, attend training, be in good health and have reliable transportation.

For more additional information, call 383-1411.

# 330 youths enjoy free NCAA sponsored summer camp

John T. Stephens III  
Sentinel-Voice

UNLV was the site this summer for National Youth Sports Program which teaches children 10-16 cultural enrichment and sports activities. A federally funded program which is promoted by the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) also offers science, math, drug and alcohol prevention as well as

career guidance.

"It creates opportunities for students to experience a higher educational learning environment," said Joni Flowers, instructor at Community College of Southern Nevada and Educational Coordinator for the juvenile sports program, "Explore career choices and exposure to other cultures."

The summer activities (See Youth, Page 3)

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