

# Burnt Toast II seeking new members

By John T. Stephens III  
Sentinel-Voice

Want to improve your verbal skills? Then Burnt Toast II wants you.

Burnt Toast II grew out of a former Toastmasters' club. Toastmasters is an international organization dedicated to increasing the oratorical skills of its members. Burnt Toast members met weekly and its members practiced everything from voice pitch to delivery, as peers critiqued their ability.

"We felt the need to start a Toastmaster's group that would identify with the ur-

ban community and enhance our speaking and writing skills," said David Wallace, vice president of Burnt Toast II. "Our goal is to become master orators. We want the community to know that we exist and that we are extending an opportunity to join (us)."

Adds treasurer Faye Duncan Daniel, "The purpose of Burnt Toast is to have a toast master's group with an African-American agenda. Anyone who has a fear of public speaking or have a speaking problem can come join us. The healthiest toast

you can eat is actually burnt toast."

Methods used to improve diction include prepared speeches and unplanned and impromptu presentations—all of which are critiqued—and a word of the week.

Speakers are judged on grammar, word usage, timing, conversational style, tone and other evaluative criteria. Rankings are issued accordingly, such as Competent Toastmaster (received after 10 acceptable speeches and Distinguished Toastmaster (the highest level).

"Before we know a per-

son, we hear them first," Wallace said. "Ebonics and swing, there is a place for that, but we need to take it up a notch."

The original Burnt Toast formed in 1995 and had 42 members before collapsing due to members' inability to meet in the mornings.

Burnt Toast II meets 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the Martin Luther King Community Resource Center, 2424 Martin Luther King Blvd., Building C. Annual dues are \$40.

Those interested in more information can call 455-0774.

## Field trip, activities designed for young men

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Nonprofits are combining forces on a festival and Hoover Dam field trip for young men in West Las Vegas.

The African-American Cultural Arts Foundation, New Nation Transdenominational Ministries and the California Cutz Barber Shop are sponsoring Young Men-Young Minds Event from 7:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 30, at Mountain Crest Park (Durango and Craig Roads).

The free festival will include sack and wheel barrel relay races, tug-o-war, a horseshoe toss, basketball, volleyball, dance contest and other games.

"Embracing the young kids in the inner city or in the community," Joe "Jo-Jo" Stanley, coordinator of young men and owner of California Cutz, cites as the event's purpose.

"(We are) exposing them to different cultural, educational, and recreational activities. You don't know how many kids ages five to 12 that have never been outside of the West side. We want to give them the opportunity to be exposed to positive experiences outside of their neighborhoods."

Nearly 50 young men will go to Hoover Dam. Passes will be issued on a first come-first served basis to youth with permission slips.

Plans are to make the festival and trip an annual event, then do it every three months.

"We're focusing on the young men at this juncture," Stanley says. "They have higher statistics for getting involved in gangs and adjusting in school. Get their attention at a young age, keep them from being a statistic."

Those interested can call 638-2020.

## Artists ages 50+ invited to compete in juried contest

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Artists 50 and older are invited to submit two-dimensional or three-dimensional artwork for the third annual fine arts competition, "Celebrating Life!," cosponsored by the City of Las Vegas Arts Commission and the Department of Leisure Services Senior Citizens Programs Division.

Cash prizes and ribbons will be awarded in several media categories, including drawing/printmaking, painting, pastel, photography, sculpture and/or watercolor. There is no fee for entries, which are due May 8 to 9.

Entry forms and submission criteria are available for pick up at the Derfelt Senior Center, 3333 West Washing-

ton in Lorenzi Park or by mail.

The work must have been completed within the past three years and be ready for display.

Only one entry per artist is permitted. A panel of judges will select the artwork that will be in the final exhibition, which will run from May 17 to June 20 at the Derfelt Se-

nior Center. The first place winners and Best of Show will also be displayed at the Lloyd D. George United States Courthouse from June 24 to July 18.

A "meet-the-artists" reception and awards ceremony will be held on May 17, 1 to 3 p.m., at the Derfelt Senior Center. In addition, two artists will be presented with lifetime achievement awards in recognition of their excellence in, and dedication to, the visual arts.

Those interested can call 229-6601 or (229-4631 to request a form.

## Clark County Spring Fest ushers in new season

Special to Sentinel-Voice

What do a chicken, a bunny and lots of kids under age 10 have in common? They will all be attending the free Clark County Spring Fest, to be held on Saturday, March 22 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Clark County Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway near

Main and Bonneville.

The Board of County Commissioners and the Department of Parks and Community Services would like to invite you and your youngsters to attend this fun-filled event that will celebrate the arrival of spring in the Las Vegas valley.

Kids ages 10 and under

can look forward to lots of fun and games, face-painting, music, and an egg hunt. Light refreshments will be available for sale.

So, bring your family down to celebrate the beginning of the season with Clark County.

Those interested can call 455-8200 for details.

## Modern dance demonstration to broach Africa

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Katherine Dunham redesigned the art of modern dance in the 1930s by introducing elements from African and Caribbean folk cultures.

She will discuss her technique 3 p.m. Saturday, March 29, at the West Las Vegas Arts Center, 947 W. Lake

Mead Blvd.

Accompanying Dunham will be Keith Williams and Arthur Moore, both from her Center for the Performing Arts at Southern Illinois University.

There will also be featured performances by the West Las Vegas Dance Ensemble, followed by a panel discus-

sion with women representing various levels of education and leadership in the performing arts field.

Dunham has been a dancer, choreographer, anthropologist, teacher and writer for years.

Admission to this event is free. Those interested in attending can call 229-4800.

## Registration opens for Neighborhood Congress

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Registration for the fifth annual Neighborhood Congress is open for residents of all ages interested in learning about ways to make their neighborhoods better places to live. The free conference is open to the first 125 adults (age 19 and up) and the first 125 youth (age 13 through 18) who sign up. The event will be held on Saturday, April 5, at the Clark County Government Center in partnership with the state of Nevada and the cities of Henderson, Las Vegas and North Las Vegas. To register call 455-8533. You also can register online at this website: [www.accessclarkcounty.com/parks/neighborhoodservices/congress.htm](http://www.accessclarkcounty.com/parks/neighborhoodservices/congress.htm).

"Building Community Through Partnerships" is the title of this year's event.

"Neighborhood Congress is dedicated to bringing residents of all ages together to work on ways to improve our community," Clark County's Southwest Neighborhood Liaison Michael Shannon said. "The event gets bigger and better every year and this year's is no different. Organizers from all of the participating jurisdictions have lined up some very exciting workshops and speakers."

Neighborhood Congress is designed to bring residents together with neighborhood groups and local government agencies to learn how to preserve and enhance neighborhoods. The first series of workshops starts at 9 a.m. The second session begins at 10:30 a.m. Each session features four workshops with topics ranging from neighborhood beautification and code enforcement to partnering with police and homeowner associations.

Youth are welcome to register to attend any conference workshops but each session features a workshop organized specifically for teenage participants. The 9 a.m. workshop, called "Shared Leadership: A Practical Guide," is an interactive session with keynote speaker Connie A. Busse, a senior consultant with Chicago-based Family Support America. The workshop teaches key concepts to local youth, community members and local agency staff to help them brainstorm on ways to work together to achieve common goals. The 10:30 a.m. session features a Youth Employment Panel with representatives from Nevada Business Services, Clark County Human Resources, Nevada Partners and KCEP radio. Topics include job interviewing tips and summer employment opportunities.

Neighborhood Congress will be held on the first floor of the County's Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Pkwy. Registration opens at 8 a.m. A companion event called Kiddie Congress features recreation opportunities for children age 5 through 12.

The annual conference caps off with a noon luncheon featuring long-time civic activist Lillian McMorris, a native Southern Nevanadan, as master of ceremonies. The luncheon will highlight area winners of the Neighborhood Impact Awards. Each jurisdiction sponsor selects two recipients for demonstrating outstanding grassroots efforts to improve local neighborhoods. One award category honors a business, organization or individual citizen. A separate award category honors youth or youth organizations for their contributions.

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