



2024 Nomination Form

Nomination deadline: Friday, February 23, 2024

Apply Online

www.CityOfWS.org/WalkOfFame

Mailing Address

City of Winston-Salem
Suite 336
P.O. Box 2511
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102

Physical Address

City Hall
101 Main Street
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101
Suite 336

Nominee's Stage Name: Bonnie Poindexter Given Name: Bonnie Sapp Poindexter

Dates of Winston-Salem Residency: from 1978? to 2016 (ex: 2015 to 2020)

Category: Music Visual Arts Dance Motion Pictures
 Theater Television Writing Radio

Criteria:

- The nominee(s) exhibited sustained excellence in his or her field for at least five years.
- The nominee(s) made distinguished contributions to the community and civic-oriented participation.
- The nominee(s) is deceased (must provide copy of death certificate or obituary).
- The nominee(s) was a resident of Winston-Salem for at least five years.
- The nominee(s) made a significant contribution to the arts or entertainment industry in one or more of the following areas: music, dance, theater, writing, visual arts, motion pictures, television, or radio.

A "significant" contribution would be iconic in terms of renown and the impact on the artistic disciplines or popular culture.

Nomination To Include:

- Attach nominee's performance/accomplishment biography which must include at least 5 years of accomplishments in the arts, culture, or entertainment field.
- Attach a list of nominee's civic/community involvement.
- Attach a copy of nominee's death certificate or obituary.

Sponsor Name: Mariedith Appanaitis

Address: 5460 Meadowlark Court

City: Winston-Salem State: NC Zip Code: 27106

Email: mappanaitis@gmail.com

Phone: Work: (336) 725 7101 Home: (336) 725 7101 Cell: (336) 403-5481

Signature: [Handwritten Signature] Date: 2/7/2024



BONNIE POINDEXTER
1225 STADLER RIDGE ROAD
WINSTON-SALEM, NC 27106
336-659-1992 – Home
336-403-7438 – Cell

EDUCATION: Bachelor of Music from UNCG
Center for Creative Leadership Non-Profit Management Course
Leadership Winston-Salem
Piedmont Triad Leadership
Foundation for Community Encouragement Facilitator Training

EXPERIENCE: 22 years as Executive Director of the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation Greater Triad Chapter
Executive Director of FIRST, Inc.
Several Interim Executive Director positions since retiring
From the March of Dimes in 2002- (Arts Council, Sawtooth School for Visual Art)
Executive Director of Piedmont Opera from 2007 to 2009
(contracted with Piedmont Opera to work as their ED for two years)

ACHIEVEMENTS: Winner of the first All Around Best Chapter Award
From March of Dimes – 1995
Lifetime Achievement Award from Winston-Salem
Urban League
Women of the Triad Winner – 2008

AFFILIATIONS: Chair of the Board of The Foundation for Community Encouragement (National org. founded by Dr. M Scott Peck)
Former Board Chair of the Winston-Salem Children's Chorus
Former Board member of Piedmont Opera, Urban League,
Today's Woman, Forsyth County Coalition to Reduce Infant Mortality.

Like to sing, read and travel. Mother of two grown children

Bonnie loved the babies.

Bonnie came to Winston-Salem more than sixty years ago. She lived here and made an incredible impact on her community until she died in 2016. She was a young, divorced, single mom with no college degree. She put herself through school and earned a degree in Music at UNC-G while working at Summit School and raising her two young children. She soon became the March of Dimes regional director for 22 years. She ran the Greater Triad Chapter of the March of Dimes for decades, winning numerous awards. During that time, she raised 1.2 million dollars annually. That's more than 25 million dollars to improve the health of moms and babies in the greater Triad (that's on 1990 dollars!) That amount in 1997 is equivalent in purchasing power to about \$47,779,750.78 today.

Bonnie loved the arts.

Bonnie loved to sing. She was, after all, a music major from UNCG. After retirement from the March of Dimes, Bonnie applied her love of the arts to the community by becoming the interim director of First, Inc., The Forsyth County Arts Council, SECCA, and Piedmont Opera (twice), all while working as an executive with Dr. M. Scott Peck's Foundation for Community Encouragement. She loved being an interim in her retirement. She came in, stabilized a nonprofit, got it up and running, then moved on to another project. At Piedmont Opera, she raised money to produce "The Light in the Piazza" (the story of a tobacco family from Winston-Salem) on stage. Piedmont Opera was the first opera company in the world to produce this show as it exited Broadway. In 2015, she won the Beverly Sills Award at Piedmont Opera for outstanding service.

Bonnie was also very involved with the Winston-Salem Youth Chorus. She co-founded WSYC and was on the board for many years. WSYC was dedicated to educating talented youth in music and choral skills while offering them abundant opportunities to share their talents locally and beyond. She drove its fundraising events by creating The Mad Hatter's Tea Party.

She volunteered at The Little Theater and sang in the Winston-Salem Symphony Coral. She also was heavily involved with the Augustine Project of Winston-Salem. This is a North Carolina-based nonprofit that aims to improve the reading, writing, and spelling abilities of low-income children and teens struggling with literacy skills.

When she wasn't fixing nonprofits or volunteering, she was traveling to see art and culture worldwide. She traveled to every continent except Antarctica ("no art to see or hear" in her short, 75-year-old lifetime. Bonnie died from a very

aggressive bone cancer in 2016. She told Mariedith Appanaitis, "I just didn't do enough."

Bonnie was a mentor.

Many women attribute their successful careers in Winston-Salem's nonprofit arts community. She ran a tight ship. She empowered young women to advocate for themselves and helped them integrate into the community. She encouraged nonprofits to create a strong work/life balance. She nurtured young talent. Bonnie mentored Mariedith Appanaitis (who has run the marketing at Piedmont Opera for 18 years and worked at Riverrun International Film Festival), Connie Quinn (SECCA, The Little Theatre, The Arts Council of WS/FC, and now executive director at Piedmont Opera) and Kristi Marion (who ran marketing at Riverrun, The NC Zoo and now Wake Forest University.) These women have continued Bonnie's legacy by mentoring other young women in our arts community.

Bonnie loved her Deacons.

She loved Wake Forest. Her much-beloved dog, Deacon, was named after them. Deacon is still alive. Bonnie's husband, Gus Poindexter, died two years ago. After her death, Gus did the upkeep of the grounds (mowing and shrub trimming) at SECCA and at Piedmont Opera in her memory.

Today, many of our arts organizations owe their stability to the leadership of Bonnie Poindexter.

Many other people will speak to Bonnie's contributions to the arts and life in Winston-Salem:

Connie Quinn, Executive Director of Piedmont Opera
James Allbritten, Artist Director for Piedmont Opera
Barbara Beattie, founder of the Winston-Salem Youth Chorus
Kristi Marion, Wake Forest University
I'm sure Milton Rhodes would also speak for Bonnie.
Cameron Kent, retired reporter at WXII

https://journalnow.com/news/local/bonnie-poindexter-a-force-in-triad-nonprofits-dies-at-75/article_c2ae57e4-b8c8-504d-91e3-725d3f1f3179.html

Bonnie Poindexter, a force in Triad nonprofits, dies at 75

Michael Hewlett

Feb 5, 2016



Bonnie Poindexter died Thursday at her home. "She did not hesitate to run full-steam into the fray," one person said.

Bruce Chapman/Journal

Michael Hewlett

Bonnie Poindexter, who led numerous organizations, including the March of Dimes and Piedmont Opera, died Thursday at the age of 75.

She died at her home after an illness.

Jamie Allbritten, the artistic director for Piedmont Opera, said staff members there kept saying one thing over and over Friday about Poindexter.

“Bonnie was a force,” he said. “Bonnie was a force.”

And indeed, she was, according to those who knew her. Allbritten said she was an often calming presence, but “she did not hesitate to run full-steam into the fray and start to solve any and all problems.”

Poindexter served about 22 years as the executive director of the Triad chapter of the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation and retired in 2002. She also was involved in other organizations, including Leadership Winston-Salem, the Winston-Salem Symphony Chorale, the Winston-Salem Children’s Chorus and the Little Theatre of Winston-Salem.

People are also reading...

- 1 Wake Forest Baptist physician assistant accused of inappropriately touching female patients. N.C. Medical board suspends license of Carlos Fernando Burgoa-Rio.**
- 2 Ask Sam: How many animals can someone have in Forsyth County?**
- 3 A Winston-Salem police officer shoots and kills a man who pointed a rifle at officers on Teresa Avenue**
- 4 Old Salem buys Single Brothers House, Boys' School and Vierling House**

Poindexter stepped in several times to serve as interim executive director for several arts organizations, starting after 2004. She was named the interim executive director of the Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. She served as the interim director of the Sawtooth School of Visual Art in 2005. She was the interim executive director of Piedmont Opera on two occasions — once in about 2006 and again in 2007.

Poindexter studied voice at UNC Greensboro, where she graduated in her late 30s. She also sang in church and did stints in Piedmont Opera's chorus.

"I was a coloratura soprano in my younger days," she said in an interview with the Winston-Salem Journal in 2007.

She never thought her life stopped after her retirement.

"I want to have my cake and eat it, too," she said. "We're healthier than we used to be. You're not going to die after you retire. There are a lot of years I felt I could contribute."

Mariedith Appanaitis, the director of marketing for Piedmont Opera, said Poindexter hired her for her first job at the March of Dimes.

"She just kept me under her wing," Appanaitis said.

She said Poindexter mentored her and other women who now have positions in the arts community, including Connie Schroeder, the director of development at SECCA, and Kristi Marion, the publicity and marketing manager for RiverRun International Film Festival.

Allbritten said that as recently as December, Poindexter ran a committee meeting at Piedmont Opera and was the vice president of a committee for audience development.

Catherine Heitz New, the vice president of development for the Arts Council, said Poindexter served the local arts community at a time when her help was needed most.

"She provided crucial leadership during these times of transition for these organizations and thus positioned them for the growth fans enjoy today," Heitz New said.

Appanaitis said she had a chance to talk to Poindexter after she got sick. Poindexter, who had traveled to almost every continent, except Antarctica, told Appanaitis she wished she had done even more.

“If we do even half as much as she did, our world will be a fantastically better place,” she said.

mhewlett@wsjournal.com (336) 727-7326 @mhewlettWSJ

By Michael Hewlett

https://journalnow.com/entertainment/bravo-light-in-the-piazza-is-brilliant/article_8952f080-c709-530c-9175-208dcc96c4ec.html

BRAVO! 'Light in the Piazza' is brilliant

By Ken Keuffel, JOURNAL REPORTER

Oct 12, 2008

Patrons were on their feet Friday evening at the Stevens Center, giving Piedmont Opera's remarkable production of Adam Guettel's musical *The Light in the Piazza* a well-deserved standing ovation. James Allbritten, the show's conductor, had just taken a bow.

Oddly, the final curtain didn't fall as it usually does after the conductor walks on stage. Allbritten asked audience members to settle down and take a seat.

Elizabeth Spencer, who wrote the 1960 short novel on which *Light* is based, was in attendance, and Allbritten wanted everyone to see her stand before applauding her for the wonderful seed she had planted.

This kind of page-to-stage connection rarely happens in the theater. It turned out to be one of many magical moments in a show that will go down as one of the best in Piedmont Opera's history.

People are also reading...

- 1 Man gets life in prison for killing Winston-Salem man whose body was never found**
- 2 Ask Sam: How many animals can someone have in Forsyth County?**
- 3 A Winston-Salem man gets a prison sentence after pleading guilty to killing another man in 2022**
- 4 Old Salem buys Single Brothers House, Boys' School and Vierling House**

Light, with dialogue by Craig Lucas, is a Tony Award-winning musical from 2005. It is one of those deceptively simple love stories in which layers of more profound meaning lie below many surface charms. It invites us to open our hearts and, ultimately, to feel the redemptive power of love.

If some serious themes emerge about special people and their place in the world, they are often conveyed with a light, often humorous touch, heard in some of Lucas' lines and seen in much of stage director Dorothy Danner's staging. The latter comes to resemble an intricately choreographed and precisely rendered dance. And Guettel's music, an attractive amalgam of the sounds of a Broadway musical and opera reminiscent of the Romantic era, soars like few other scores of our time.

In *Light's* plot, two Winston-Salem tourists are vacationing in Florence, Italy, during the 1950s. On Friday, the audience laughed and cheered when the name "Winston-Salem" was sung, though it happened in a rather earthy manner that can't be fully described in this family newspaper. Suffice it to say that Florence's often-nude sculpture differs significantly from that of Winston-Salem.

One of the tourists, Margaret Johnson, played by Jill Gardner, is married to a tobacco-company executive. The other is her daughter, Clara, played by Sarah Jane McMahon. Clara is 26, but she has the mental development of a 10-year-old as the result of a traumatic brain injury in childhood.

When Clara falls for an Italian man named Fabrizio Naccarelli, played by Erik Bryan, Margaret struggles with what to do about the love affair. Should she, as her husband Roy (John S. Rushton) desires, keep protecting her daughter? Or should she let go and allow her to have as much happiness as possible?

Gardner, as Johnson, is up to each of the many challenges facing her. She sings beautifully, narrates some of the story in a way that doesn't feel jarring, and, in her acting, convincingly illuminates her character's growth from an overbearing protector to a liberated, independent thinker.

As for McMahon, she accomplishes the near-impossible task of playing a character (Clara) who is both a woman and a girl. She is swept away with infatuation and sexual feelings, and, like a young child, she becomes unhinged and overwhelmed by unfamiliar environments. In the end, McMahon finds the right middle ground. We are convinced that she knows what she wants and senses how the world sometimes views her, but she is unable to express it with consistent clarity.

There is much to admire in the Naccarelli clan as well. This includes, in addition to Fabrizio, his brother, Giuseppe (Kyle Guglielmo, and Giuseppe's wife, Franca (Dawn Pierce). Fabrizio's parents are played by Jon Garrison and Marilyn Taylor.

No matter what the Naccarellis speak or sing, be it fluent Italian or broken English, they capitalize on moments of exaggeration, surprise and language barriers to tickle the funny bone.

Or, as is especially the case with Signor Naccarelli, they entice us to join them on the most moving and meaningful of mystical journeys.

■ Piedmont Opera will present *The Light in the Piazza* at 2 today and 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Stevens Center. For tickets, call 336-724-3202.

■ Ken Keuffel can be reached at 727-7337 or at kkeuffel@wsjournal.com.

https://journalnow.com/entertainment/taking-a-chance-on-love/article_23a18a4a-aff7-5eb3-a32c-ae14deaf5eaa.html

Taking a chance on LOVE

By Ken Keuffel, JOURNAL REPORTER

Oct 5, 2008



Jill Gardner (left) plays the mother and Sarah Jane McMahon the daughter in *The Light in the Piazza*, set in Italy in the 1950s.

By Ken Keuffel, JOURNAL REPORTER

It's finally going to happen.

When Piedmont Opera presents Adam Guettel's *The Light in the Piazza* three times in the Stevens Center beginning Friday, the performances will mark the first time that the company has staged a work by a living composer other than Gian Carlo Menotti. Piedmont Opera, which was founded in 1978, staged Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors* irregularly before he died last year.

Light, a Tony Award-winning musical, opened in 2005 at the Vivian Beaumont Theatre in New York. It is based on Elizabeth Spencer's 1960 novel of the same name. James Allbritten, Piedmont Opera's artistic director and resident conductor, began pushing to bring the show here after he heard a CD and attended two performances in New York.

"I'm excited," Allbritten said. "It (*Light*) is the work of a living composer who is writing in our own time, with our own voice, about two ladies from our hometown."

People are also reading...

- 1 **10 WS/FCS schools incorrectly reported information about assaults involving students, causing district numbers to be inflated.**
- 2 **Brooke Shields stops by West End store**
- 3 **Ask Sam: How many animals can someone have in Forsyth County?**
- 4 **Olive Tree family opens new restaurant in Mocksville**

The two fictional ladies in question are Winston-Salem tourists vacationing in Florence, Italy, during the 1950s. They do much to explain why Allbritten wanted Piedmont Opera to become one the first organizations to put on *Light* after it ran in New York, was broadcast on television and went on a national tour. "Never has there been an opportunity for a Winston-Salemite to come to the theater and sort

of ... look at these people and self-examine and think and wonder what it's like to be really in those people's places,"

Allbritten said. One of the tourists, Margaret Johnson, played by Jill Gardner, is married to a tobacco-company executive. The other is her daughter, Clara, played by Sarah Jane McMahan. Clara is 26, but she has the mental development of a 10-year-old as the result of a traumatic brain injury in childhood.

When Clara falls for an Italian man named Fabrizio Naccarelli, played by Eric Bryan, Margaret struggles with what to do about the love affair. Should she, as her husband desires, keep protecting her daughter? Or should she let go and allow her to have as much happiness as possible?

Light may be an unusual, touching love story with a marketing-friendly connection to Winston-Salem. But it is not among those tried-and-true gems, such as Puccini's *La Boheme*, that Piedmont Opera routinely programs to attract a full house. There have been several unusual challenges involved in pulling it off.

The most pressing has been persuading local opera patrons to plunk down as much as \$70 to take in something they have either never seen before or do not know well. Last week, Bonnie Poindexter, Piedmont Opera's executive director, said that there were still "way too many tickets to be sold."

"Call now," she said. "I'm very nervous."

Poindexter also spoke of having to come up with lots of extra money to finance lighting, sets, costumes and sound (to amplify the spoken dialogue). All the technical stuff in *Light* "had to be designed from scratch," said Poindexter, who often saves money by renting a show's sets and costumes from other companies.

Guettel, the grandson of Richard Rodgers, is represented by the Rodgers and Hammerstein Organization. Piedmont Opera has already paid that organization several thousand dollars to secure a license for *Light*, and royalties will be due

when *Light's* run is over as well -- something all but unknown to Piedmont Opera, which produces older shows that have long been in the public domain.

All told, production costs have come to \$370,000 -- when, in most cases, the company will pay between \$200,000 and \$250,000.

"This was a real new endeavor for us," Poindexter said. "We didn't know if we could afford it.... There are a lot of people in this town who stepped up and said, 'We will help you.' We're not short. We raised it."

Unlike the cast members of past Piedmont Opera shows, those in *Light* have never done it before. Presumably, many are finding its vocal challenges similar to those of an opera -- which, technically speaking, *Light* is not, since it includes spoken dialogue and is not sung all the way through.

"You really need legitimate voices to sing this," McMahon said. "It's not something you can belt. You need to be classically trained to do the music justice."

Allbritten said that the music in *Light* "is remarkable enough that I think it completely stands the test of any opera house." He praised the way in which the show is constructed, both in terms of its libretto, by Craig Lucas, and its music.

"(It) is quite remarkable and very operatic," he said. "The construct has nothing to do with most musical theater that I know.... There is balance everywhere."

Allbritten pointed out that every musical has a title song -- and, more often than not, an "uncomfortable moment when everybody's trying to figure out how to shoehorn (it) into the show."

The way that *Light's* title song is inserted at the beginning of the show's second act comes off masterfully.

"Clara's upset," Allbritten said. "She's had to leave her boyfriend behind. Her mother has taken her to Rome (from Florence) to get her out of that situation. She

Clara) starts to sing about the moment in the piazza when the two of them met. She can't cogently put it together. She's (singing), 'He's all I think about. He's all I see. He is my light in the piazza.'

"It's the most effortless title song I can think of. It's amazing that they've managed to make that the center peg around which the whole show rises and falls down again."

As for the dramatics, Dorothy Danner, the production's stage director, said that she had never done anything quite like *Light* before.

"There's an elusive quality," she said. "I keep thinking it's like some impressionist painting.... It feels like it needs to be handled differently."

Allbritten seems to have done just that even before rehearsals began last month, having made a conscious decision to cast two Southerners to play the Johnsons. Gardner, who'll play Margaret Johnson, is from Winston-Salem. And McMahan, who'll play Johnson's daughter, Clara, is from New Orleans.

"We're in Winston-Salem," Allbritten said. "These two ladies are supposed to be from Winston-Salem. We have to get it right or the whole audience will walk out and go, 'What the hell was that?'"

Gardner suggested that her background would be an asset.

"Texture-wise, there's a lot that I bring to this piece because I am from Winston-Salem," she said. "I am very much a Southern woman. The accent is completely indicative of the area."

Gardner also spoke of her character's unusual "journey," a journey prompted by the fact that "a possibility that she never thought would open for Clara becomes a real reality."

In choosing to stand by Clara and her happiness -- and defying the expectations of

others -- Margaret "herself is liberated from cynicism, from bitterness, from guilt (and) pain."

■ At 11 a.m. Monday during a press conference on stage at the Stevens Center, Mayor Allen Joines will proclaim the corner of Fourth and Liberty streets to be Light in the Piazza Way.

■ Piedmont Opera will present *The Light in the Piazza* next weekend at the Stevens Center. Shows will be at 7:30 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m. next Sunday and 7:30 p.m. Oct. 14. The opening-night performance is a gala, with cocktails before the show and dinner after it. Cocktails and dinner cost \$75 per person. Tickets are \$15-\$70; see www.piedmontopera.org or call 336-724-3202.

■ Ken Keuffel can be reached at 727-7337 or at kkeuffel@wsjournal.com.

Office of the Mayor
City of Winston-Salem, NC

After Bonnie died, a street was named in her honor.

PROCLAMMATION

WHEREAS, on behalf of the City of Winston-Salem, I wish recognized Bonnie M. Poindexter for her many years of outstanding community service, leadership and volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, Bonnie Poindexter has passionately contributed to the Winston-Salem and Triad community for [redacted] years, creating a legacy of numerous initiatives that will continue to engage and enrich the community; and

WHEREAS, In Bonnie Poindexter's professional career, she served for thirty years as a non-profit executive. Twenty two of those years were spent as the Executive Director of the Greater Triad Chapter of the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation. In addition, she served as Executive Director of Piedmont Opera.

WHEREAS, After retirement, Bonnie has served as a veteran non-profit leader and volunteer. Her many achievements in support of the community include serving as Interim Executive Director for the Arts Council, Piedmont Opera and the Sawtooth Center. She was a Co-Founder of the Winston-Salem Youth Chorus and President/Co-President of Piedmont Opera and SECCA's volunteer organizations. She continues to serve in leadership roles on the Boards of a number of organizations. **Augustine Project?**

The City of Winston Salem, our community and citizens, wish to express our deep appreciation to Bonnie for her many contributions, passion and commitment. We encourage all citizens to follow Bonnie's example to become involved in the Community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Alan Joines, Mayor of the City of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim that _____ Street be named Bonnie Poindexter Way from _____ to _____.

https://journalnow.com/winstonsalemmonthly/augustine-literacy-project/article_19de1d5c-f7c5-11e3-8a17-0017a43b2370.html

Augustine Literacy Project

Winston-Salem Chapter

By **Judy Marie Willis**

Jun 30, 2014



Augustine Project volunteer Deb Howard tutors a local student.

Photo courtesy of Augustine Project

RELATED NEWS: - [Inside a Gaza Tunnel Where Israel Says Ham...](#) X

By Judy Marie Willis

“Tutor one child. Change two lives.”

Augustine Literacy Project, a nonprofit organization, helps to improve the reading, writing, and spelling skills of students struggling with literacy skills.



After originating in Chapel Hill, the program came to Forsyth County in 2001 thanks to a trio of local women—Rebecca Clingman, Trudy Winstead, and Susan Thompson Uphoff—who received permission to replicate the Augustine Literacy Project as an outreach ministry at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.

At its core, the project develops the literacy skills of economically disadvantaged children by training and supporting volunteers who provide free one-on-one multisensory instruction. Students who receive tutoring are recommended by parents, teachers, guidance counselors, and other staff members from WS/FC Schools.

People are also reading...

- 1 Juvenile and two men charged in series of shootings in Winston-Salem**
- 2 Man gets life in prison for killing Winston-Salem man whose body was never found**
- 3 10 WS/FCS schools incorrectly reported information about assaults involving students, causing district numbers to be inflated.**
- 4 Johnny's Farmhouse closes. Winston-Salem restaurant opened in 2022**

One of the project’s main tenets is to affirm each child’s potential. “We do things to help them succeed and structure the lessons to support their success,” says Clingman, a retired teacher who now serves as the project’s volunteer director. “To see a child read a word for the first time—there’s nothing you can do to touch that.”

RELATED NEWS: - Inside a Gaza Tunnel Where Israel Says Hart... X

She adds that the project has paved the learners and, in the process, gain a love their talents and intelligence to emerge thinks you are important and smart.”



After starting with five student-tutor pairs in 2001, the Augustine Project/W-S has grown to nearly 100 pairs with well over 150 local students being served. There are also 13 replication programs in other cities with more in the works.

All in all, it's a program that continues to make life-changing differences in the lives of local children.

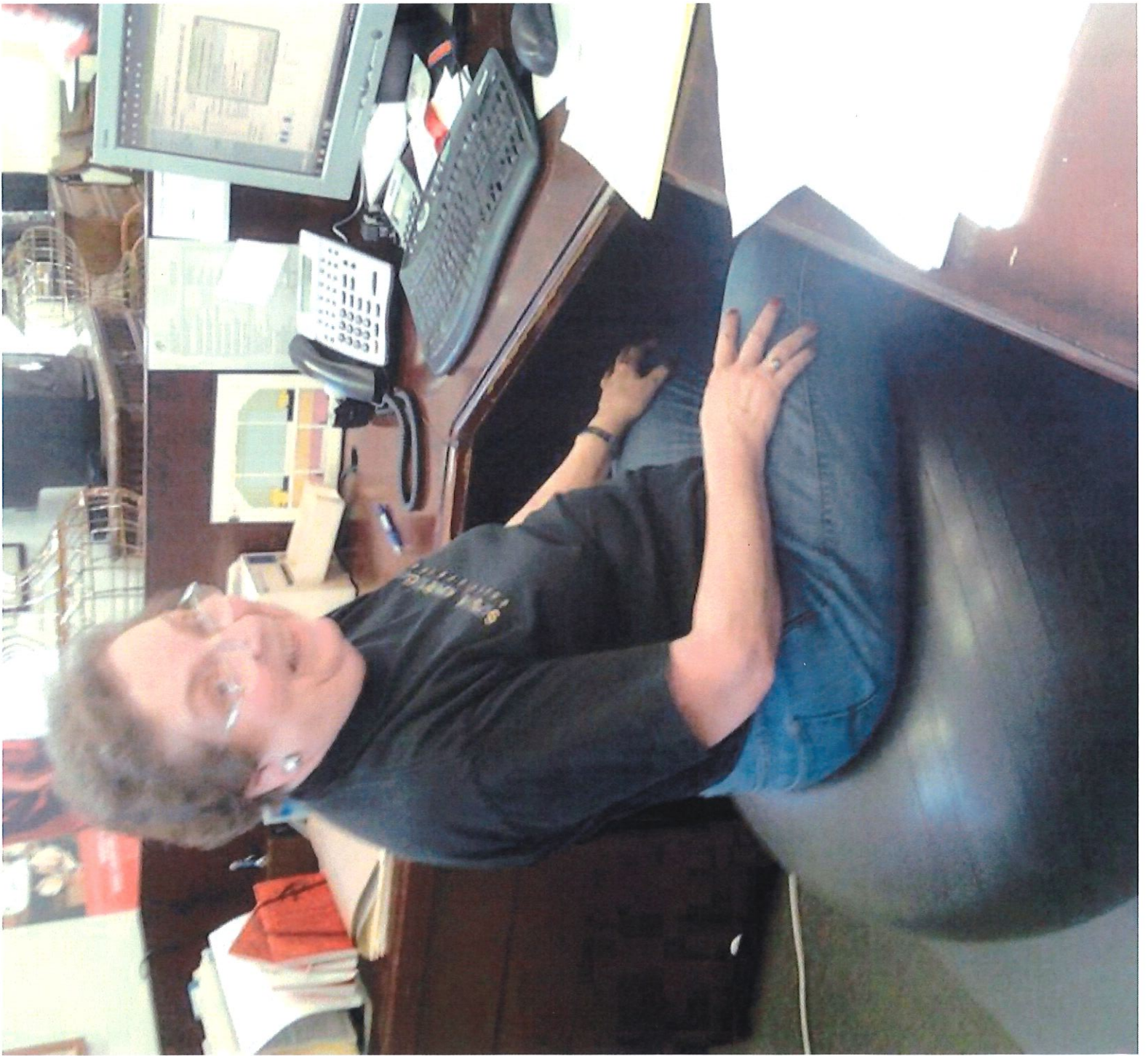
“We are so grateful to Becky, Trudy, and Susan for beginning this wonderful project in Winston-Salem,” says Henri Brown, the project's current director. “They had the wisdom to train volunteers to do this important work. Now it's up to us to carry their vision forward and find new ways to impact more students.”

RELATED NEWS: - Inside a Gaza Tunnel Where Israel Says Ham... X

*The Augustine Literacy Project needs local tutors, dc
4391 x1504 or go to www.augustineproject-ws.org.*



Popular in the Community









THE FOUNDATION FOR
COMMUNITY ENCOURAGEMENT
Encouraging people to discover new and better ways of being together.



MICHAEL SCHMIDT
6SC



FEB 29, 2016



30 REACTIONS

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BONNIE POINDEXTER (MAY 23, 1940 – FEBRUARY 4, 2016)

Community building has lost one of its great advocates and facilitators.

Bonnie's contributions to the Foundation for Community Encouragement (FCE) and community building were significant, varied, and frequent. She was a facilitator, Board member, Council member, volunteer and friend. Over many decades, Bonnie touched a multitude of people through formal and informal community building practices.

The following excerpts from emails that Bonnie wrote seem a poignant way to illustrate how exceptional Bonnie was, to draw from her wisdom, and to celebrate her essence and belief in community.



Bonnie's Resume

Let me say just another word about my experience with the Foundation for Community Encouragement. I am now a volunteer, as is everyone who works for FCE at this point in our history. I help answer inquiries from our web site. In the mid 80's, I was trained by Scotty to facilitate Community Building Workshops. I have worked from coast to coast and border to border in the US. I have worked in Canada and Taiwan. I served as the Chair of the Board of Directors of FCE. I have also sponsored workshops for specific groups to tackle big issues like reducing infant mortality here in NC.

...I tell you this to let you know that I am familiar with both the CB model and the Foundation.

About FCE

I know of no better set of learnings to become more fully human and have the capacity to sustain relationships over time than the ones offered by Dr. Peck through his Foundation for Community Encouragement Community Building Workshops.

For those of us who worked with the Foundation for the 20 years of its existence our mantra, which not adequate but the only words we have is: "It changed my life."

I think that those of us who find our way to FCE are almost always in deep need of love and are scared by various life histories that make our behavior more paradoxical than for folks who – either aren't as needy – or who never look deep enough inside themselves to discover their needs. The preceding is not an "I" statement, but for me, is nonetheless true. I long since gave up believing that community building was a panacea for helping me with my emotional, psychological needs. It just gives me tools to make life more understandable and helps me help others, all of who are in need of discovering what CB has to teach – respect for one another through emptiness and deep listening.

- ...while we get lots of inquiries about the model and there continues to be more and more need throughout the world for the skills learned in CBE and Ws, we have not solved, to date, the dilemma about how to sell our Elixir of Love that has made my life immeasurably easier, happier and more worthwhile.*

On Community

I can tell you that many folks will be very resistant to participating in the circle. I can remember the first time I sat down in a CB circle I was scared to the point of nausea. If it hadn't been for a greater pain dealing with a personnel issue at my job at the time, I would likely never have submitted to the process. I am telling you this so you won't be surprised, disappointed or deterred by folks reaction to your suggestion of using this model to begin your project.

The learnings gained in participating in the model are for many of us life changing. That certainly includes the bettering of our relationship with our family.

In my search for intimacy and the alleviation of human loneliness, I have assigned unrealistic expectations to the CB model, and thus, in times past, have been disappointed when it falls short of being all things for all people.

I think what we have to offer is some powerful experiential learning about how to communicate. In an intentional community it would seem to me that having some specific tools to be able to "hear" each other at the deepest level possible for we humans would be an important skill. That is what the model has taught me and others. It is life changing to be able to empty one's self of one's own agenda in order to hear another.

The length of a CBW is three days.

...People resist the three days as too long. I say to them – Three days to change your life is not a long time. (That is not hyperbole. This model has changed many lives, Including mine.)

It is my less than humble belief that Scotty's Community Building model can be applied to many, many different issues. As long as human beings are involved there is the opportunity to teach them to put aside their own agenda, open their heart, mind and ears and listen to understand another's point of view.

On M Scott Peck

Back in the day, when Scotty was alive and on the lecture circuit, FCE was busy and successful. When Scotty stopped lecturing around the world, our business stopped too. So, it has been about 12 years since we have had a staff. If folks haven't heard of Dr. Peck and Community Building, the best book for them to read is "A Different Drum", which describes the Community Building process.

I was trained by Scotty to facilitate the Community Building model in the mid 1980s. He was a VERY smart and caring man.

Bonnie on Bonnie

I used to sing in public, now just the shower. J

Bmp

Looking back at 73 years of living, one of my great learnings is that in order to eventually get the life you want you have to do extremely hard things and be willing to walk through great pain to the other side - which is the life you desire.

Rusty and I were brilliant as usual (tee-hee) in our role as facilitators for the Guelph CBW. (Well, maybe not brilliant, but certainly very experienced and caring.)

I think most people have written FCE off as a lost cause and moved on with other things. I have certainly tried to do that myself, but I am forever grateful and indebted to the model for "changing my life", so I keep coming back.

I am getting old and sarcastic (or maybe the sarcasm has nothing to do with age)...

I have as much need for love and caring as the next person - maybe more. Community building is hard work, but it feeds my need to be cared about at a level seldom found in our pseudo-world.

Bonnie on Facilitating

"It is not about you" is, for me, not helpful because when it is happening and the group chooses to focus on killing YOU rather than doing their work, it really is about you. I'm just sayin..... If you compare the killing to that of Christ's crucifixion, it

Bonnie Poindexter named interim Arts Council head

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Bonnie Poindexter, a veteran nonprofit leader and volunteer for several arts organizations, has been named interim director of The Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County.



Poindexter

Poindexter, the former executive director of the Triad chapter of the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, will begin work with The Arts Council on May 3 and continue until a new president and

chief executive officer is chosen. The Arts Council is conducting a national search for a new president to succeed

Robert Chumbley, who recently became general director of the Cleveland Opera.

During her interim leadership at The Arts Council, Poindexter will oversee day-to-day operations, enhance communications at the agency and oversee the completion of the annual cam-

paign.

Poindexter served 23 years as executive director of the Triad Chapter of the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, retiring in 2002. In that position she was responsible for the organization's work in 11 counties, including raising \$1.2 million annually.

Poindexter has been involved in numerous local organizations, including Leadership Winston-Salem, Piedmont Opera Theatre, Winston-Salem Symphony Chorale, Winston-Salem Children's Chorus and the Little Theatre of Winston-Salem.

Urban League goes to Washington

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

A Winston-Salem Urban League delegation - including Dr. Delores J. Wylie, president/CEO; H. Don Williams, board chair; Ra Vonda Dalton Rann, board vice chair; and Fran O'Rourke, executive board member - attended the National Urban League Day on Capitol Hill on March 24 and 25.

This event was historic for the National Urban League as affiliates from across the country gathered in the nation's Capitol to meet with legislators. Participation of Urban League affiliates across the country harnessed the influence of the Urban League membership to identify opportunities to engage in an ongoing dialogue with representatives in Congress. More than 300 Urban League representatives met face to face with members of Congress and senior federal officials to hear their agendas and priorities.

The legislative event featured top congressional lead-

ers, such as Speaker Dennis Hastert, Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, and Chairman of the Black Caucus Elijah Cummings. Each session provided Urban League members the opportunity to interact with the leadership of both houses of Congress.

The conference included an exciting luncheon discussion on the upcoming presidential election with insights from political commentators Donna Brazile and Armstrong Williams. Suzanne Malveaux, CNN News correspondent, moderated the panel discussion.

The Winston-Salem Urban League delegation, including staff and board members, met with Congressman Mel Watt, Congressman Richard Burr, Sen. John Edwards and Sen. Elizabeth Dole to discuss their priorities for this legislative

district.

Additionally, the National Urban League arranged for representatives of the executive branch to conduct a briefing on the administration's funding priorities and issues for the upcoming year.

The goal of the National Urban League Day on Capitol Hill is to establish and maintain ongoing communication with elected officials to advocate for the needs of constituents across the county. By doing so, the Urban League carries out the mission "to help African-Americans and other minorities achieve social equity and economic self-sufficiency" through advocacy and direct services.

Community residents who would like to become involved or support the Urban League's work may contact the Winston-Salem Urban League at 725-5614.



Smith



Police Chief Pat Norris talks to residents at an event in February.

Meet and Greet with new chief is slated for Friday

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Residents are invited to meet and greet Winston-Salem's new police chief, Patricia Norris, tomorrow from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Lawrence Joel Coliseum.

The Black Leadership Roundtable, the City of Winston-Salem Human Relations Commission, the Center for Community Safety, Mayor Allen Jones, CHANGE, the Hispanic League of the Triad, Neighbors for Better Neighborhoods and the NAACP are sponsoring the

event in support of Fair Housing Month and community safety.

Norris was appointed chief of police in February, making her the first African-American and second consecutive female to hold the position. She succeeds former Chief Linda Davis, who became chief in 1999.

A native of Winston-Salem and graduate of Winston-Salem State University, Norris has spent 30 years on the Winston-Salem police force. Before being promoted

to chief, Norris

will bridge between mit Police Depart Norris at Robert, have

Meet and ris will take p.m. at the I LJVW Collis information, ton at 776-2

Color

from page A2

stereotypes based on color are not unusual.

"Certainly they still exist and they are age old," she said. "And they very likely will always be around. And the ramifications of them are myriad. Lots of people - women and men - struggle with the skin-tone issue."

Taylor argues that light-skinned African-Americans are favored because they more closely resemble the white majority in the United States,



ple. You give a kid a doll in 2004, you'd find the same thing that Kenneth and Mamie Clark found more than 50 years ago. In fact, it's probably worse," said Cox, a psychologist.

She explained: "All you have to do is pick up Ebony and JET or Essence or any of those magazines that appeal to African-American people, specifically, women. You'll see it as clear as it was over 50 years ago. We are doing everything to not look African and to look as white as we possibly can." Cox said.

said. "Everybody wanted to talk to light-skin girls and they called me 'black girl' or made little names to make fun. It was like it was this disease or something because of my complexion, like it was bad to be dark-skinned."

Even some family members contributed. Smith recalled, "They just teased me, called me 'little black girl.'"

Omara-Alwala has been called that and worse.

"You realize how racism and discrimination, even within your race, has shaped your

Virginia National Women (N in many fe causes in' and issues

"I was community made me explained. "And I wa black com found my own indiv tics.

"Althou would say gender pari



Bonnie Ruth *Sapp* Poindexter



Photo added by Dick Pickett

BIRTH 23 May 1940

Waco, McLennan County, Texas, USA

DEATH 4 Feb 2016 (aged 75)

Winston-Salem, Forsyth County, North Carolina, USA

BURIAL Saint Pauls Episcopal Dalton Memorial Garden

Winston-Salem, Forsyth County, North Carolina, USA

MEMORIAL ID 158382809



Added by Dick Pickett

Bonnie Poindexter, a force in Triad nonprofits, dies at 75

By Michael Hewlett Winston-Salem Journal

Bonnie Poindexter, who led numerous organizations, including the March of Dimes and Piedmont Opera, died Thursday at the age of 75.

She died at her home after an illness.

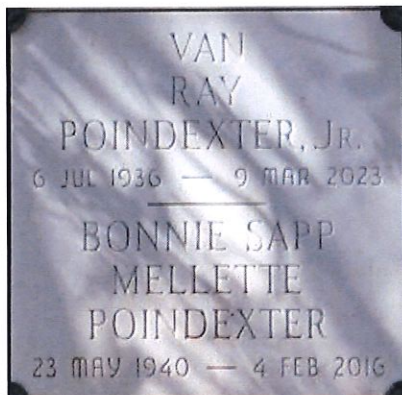
Jamie Allbritten, the artistic director for Piedmont Opera, said staff members there kept saying one thing over and over Friday about Poindexter.

“Bonnie was a force,” he said. “Bonnie was a force.”

And indeed, she was, according to those who knew her. Allbritten said she was an often calming presence, but “she did not hesitate to run full-steam into the fray and start to solve any and all problems.”

Poindexter served about 22 years as the executive director of the Triad chapter of the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation and retired in 2002. She also was involved in other organizations, including Leadership Winston-Salem, the Winston-Salem Symphony Chorale, the Winston-Salem Children’s Chorus and the Little Theatre of Winston-Salem.

Poindexter stepped in several times to serve as interim executive director for several arts organizations, starting after 2004. She was named the interim executive director of the Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. She served as the interim director of the Sawtooth School of Visual Art in 2005. She was the interim executive director of Piedmont Opera on two



Added by isabel

“I was a coloratura soprano in my younger days,” she said in an interview with the Winston-Salem Journal in 2007.

She never thought her life stopped after her retirement.

“I want to have my cake and eat it, too,” she said. “We’re healthier than we used to be. You’re not going to die after you retire. There are a lot of years I felt I could contribute.”

Mariedith Appanaitis, the director of marketing for Piedmont Opera, said Poindexter hired her for her first job at the March of Dimes.

“She just kept me under her wing,” Appanaitis said.

She said Poindexter mentored her and other women who now have positions in the arts community, including Connie Schroeder, the director of development at SECCA, and Kristi Marion, the publicity and marketing manager for RiverRun International Film Festival.

Allbritten said that as recently as December, Poindexter ran a committee meeting at Piedmont Opera and was the vice president of a committee for audience development.

Catherine Heitz New, the vice president of development for the Arts Council, said Poindexter served the local arts community at a time when her help was needed most.

“She provided crucial leadership during these times of transition for these organizations and thus positioned them for the growth fans enjoy today,” Heitz New said.

Appanaitis said she had a chance to talk to Poindexter after she got sick. Poindexter, who had traveled to almost every continent, except Antarctica, told Appanaitis she wished she had done even more.

“If we do even half as much as she did, our world will be a fantastically better place,” she said.

Family Members

Parents



William Neale Sapp
1912–1999



Irene Ruth *Lemly* Anstine
1914–1996

Spouse



Van Ray Poindexter
1936–2023

Created by: Dick Pickett

Added: 20 Feb 2016

Find a Grave Memorial ID: **158382809**



ruth-poindexter: accessed 06 February 2024), memorial page for Bonnie Ruth *Sapp* Poindexter (23 May 1940–4 Feb 2016), Find a Grave Memorial ID **158382809**, citing Saint Pauls Episcopal Dalton Memorial Garden, Winston-Salem, Forsyth County, North Carolina, USA; Maintained by Dick Pickett (contributor **47773500**).

