

The Arts & Books

IN BREAK: Local groups prepare to honor Dr. Martin Luther King **IN ARTS & BOOKS:** Piano tuner strives for the right note

HAPPENINGS

Books

King Week begins
Gaston County Schools and the Human Relations Commission will host author Tonya Bolden as part of Martin Luther King Week. She will read from her works and discuss them 3:30-5 p.m. today at Highland School of Technology.

Diamond tales
Author Richard Kurin will talk at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Schiele Museum about legends surrounding the 45-carat Hope Diamond. Copies of his book, "Hope Diamond: The Legendary History of a Cursed Gem," will be on sale in the museum store. Kurin is director of the Smithsonian Center for Folklore and Cultural Heritage. There's no extra fee, just regular Schiele admission, which is \$4 for adults and \$2 for students and seniors. Museum members and residents of Gastonia are admitted free.

Iraq looting
Author Matthew Bogdanos will give a lecture based on his book, "Thieves of Baghdad: One Marine's Passion to Recover the World's Greatest Stolen Treasures," in Charlotte Jan. 18. He will speak at 7 p.m. at Wachovia Theatre at ImaginOn. Tickets are \$4 for members of the Mint Museums and \$5 for general admission.

Art
Winter nature
Works by various artists — including Kaye Cloninger, Claudia Deskin and Linda Funk — will be on display Jan. 15-March 18 at Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden. Cloninger, Deskin and Funk will attend a reception for members and invited guests will be held 6-9 p.m. Jan. 18 for "Art at the Garden." The cost is \$25.

Music
Clover singing
Kathy Mattea brings her one-woman show to the Clover School District Auditorium at 8 p.m. Jan. 30. Mattea's musical style draws from folk, bluegrass, gospel, country and Celtic. She has won Best Female Vocalist twice from the Country Music Association. Tickets are \$15. Call (803) 222-8018.

Gospel show
The Harlem Gospel Choir will be at McGlohon Theatre in Blumenthal Performing Arts Center in Charlotte Saturday. The group, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary, travels around the world. Shows are at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets are \$24.50-\$29.50. Call (704) 372-1000 or visit www.blumenthalcenter.org.

Theater
Season announced
Flat Rock Playhouse announced its 2007 season, which will begin March 31-April 1 with a spring festival. The shows, in running order, are "The Velveteen Rabbit," "Smoke on the Mountain Homecoming," "Taking a Chance on Love," "Cinderella," "Nuptials," "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," "Harp and Harmonicas," "Sherlock Holmes — The Final Adventure," "Sourvenir — A Fantasia on the Life of Florence Foster Jenkins," "Smokey Joe's Café," "The Legend of Sleeping Hollow," and "A Tuna Christmas."

BEST SELLERS

Fiction best sellers for the week, according to Publishers Weekly

- 1 For One More Day**
Mitch Albom (Hyperion)
- 2 Next**
Michael Crichton (HarperCollins)
- 3 Cross**
James Patterson (Little, Brown)
- 4 Shadow Dance**
Julie Garwood (Ballentine Books)
- 5 Hannibal Rising**
Thomas Harris (Delacorte)

Non-fiction best sellers for the week, according to Publishers Weekly:

- 1 You: On a Diet**
Michael Roizen, Mehmet Oz (Free Press)
- 2 The Audacity of Hope**
Barack Obama (Crown)
- 3 The Innocent Man**
John Grisham (Doubleday)
- 4 Marley and Me**
John Grogan (Morrow)
- 5 Culture Warrior**
Bill O'Reilly (Broadway)

DESIGNS on CAROLINA

Alexander Julian gets next to James Taylor in new display at Chapel Hill Museum

By NANCY MOORE
Gazette Staff Reporter

Fashion designer Alexander Julian didn't think twice when asked where he'd like for his display to be placed at the Chapel Hill Museum.

"He said he wanted to be next to James Taylor," said director Traci Davenport. "He said they used to play together and fish in Morgan's Creek."

The museum is hosting "Uncommon Threads," a retrospective of Julian's career Jan. 11-March 25. Parts of that exhibit along with personal items will be used for a permanent display, which will be adjacent to Taylor.

"Uncommon Threads" premiered at the Briggs Robinson Gallery in New York in June 2006. It featured a chandelier made out of shirts and ties.

A native of Chapel Hill, Julian worked in his father's fashion store before opening his own shop, Alexander's Ambition, on Franklin Street when he was 19. It proved to be aptly named. He moved to New York in 1975, with the goal of winning a Coty Award before he was 30. After winning four, Julian became the youngest designer elected to the

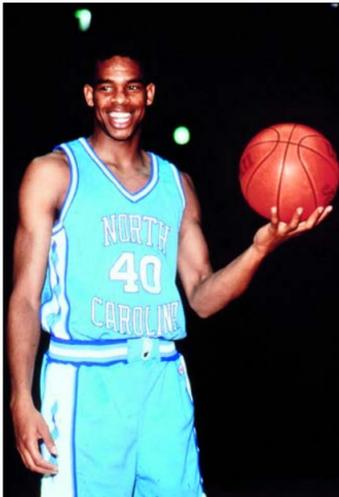
Fashion Hall of Fame.

Not content to design the clothes, Julian created the fabric itself. His textile patterns are part of the Smithsonian's permanent collection.

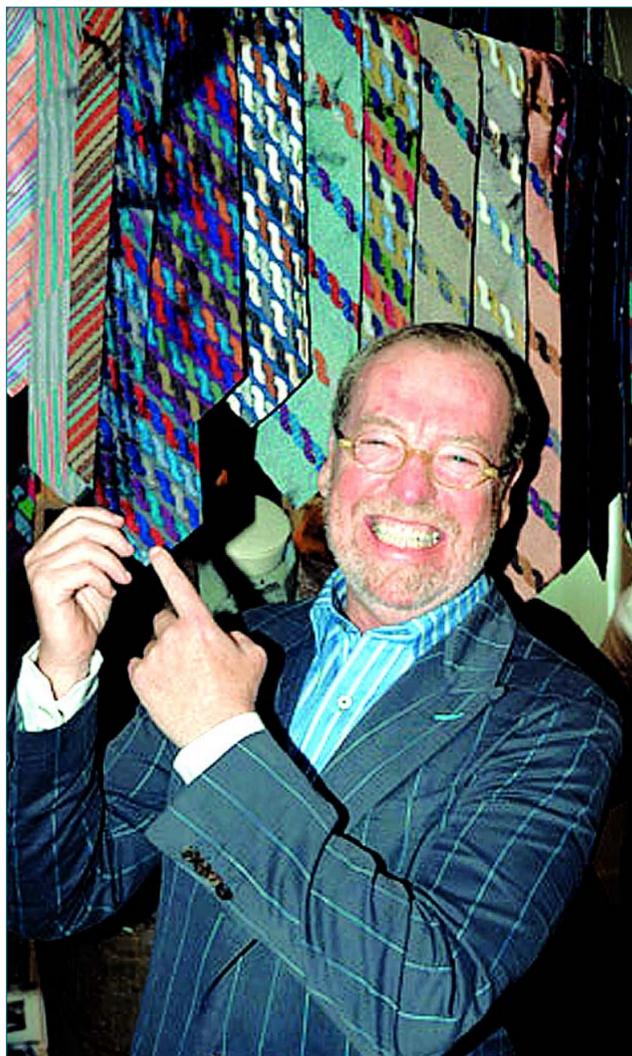
After making a name in men's and women's fashion, Julian expanded to home furnishings and furniture. He also designed uniforms for the Carolina Tar Heels and the Charlotte Hornets and costumes for "The Player," Robert Altman's movie.

He founded the Alexander Julian Foundation for Aesthetic Understanding and Appreciation, which funds projects.

You can reach Nancy Moore at (704) 869-1829.



Julian designed uniforms for the Charlotte Hornets (above) and the University of North Carolina basketball teams.



Special to The Gazette

Chapel Hill native Alexander Julian, a big fan of the color teal, has made his mark in many phases of the apparel industry.



Julian designed costumes for 'The Player' starring Tim Robbins (above).

Film festivals in Kings Mountain, Charlotte now seeking entries

Upgraded your video camera for Christmas and want to show off your filmmaking skills? Two area film festivals are seeking entries for their 2007 events.

The early-bird deadline for the Eighth Annual Reel to Reel Film Festival in Kings Mountain is Feb. 28 with a final deadline of March 31.

The festival will be July 18-21 at the Joy Performance Center, 202 S. Railroad Ave.

It has grown from about 70 submissions in 2000 to more than 200 last year, according to Violet Arth, marketing director for the Cleveland County Arts Council.

The reputation of the festival has grown with more national and international submissions and more profes-



sional work. But Arth said that doesn't mean local work is not welcome. "We love North Carolina en-



tries," she said. The categories are documentaries, features, shorts and animation. Awards are given to amateurs and professionals in each category. Entry fees range from \$15-\$50.

For more information or to submit an entry, visit www.ccarts-council.org/realtoreel.

The Second Annual Charlotte Film Festival has five categories — narratives, documentary, short film, student

film and animated shorts. The deadline is April 1 with the festival scheduled for Sept. 13-16. The festival screened almost 70 films during its first year, shown at various locations.

Entries must have been made since January 2005 and can't have been shown in Charlotte before the festival.

For more information or to submit an entry, visit www.charlottefilmfestival.org.

— Nancy Moore

Photographic views of North Carolina on display at library

The Gaston County Public Library is pleased to host the Faces of Our State: A Photographic Exploration of North Carolina exhibition at the main library, 1555 E. Garrison Blvd., Gastonia, now through March 30.

Next week

Author/educator Brenda Flanagan to present "Short Story Writing: Women's View" at the library.

This special touring exhibit, on loan from "Our State" magazine, includes 27 photographs of Tar Heel residents across the state,



CAROL REINHARDT
At the Library

Mark Wagoner; Jill Davis; Kim Fenneman; Jack Daulton; D.H. Hessel; Alan Watson and Bruce Roberts.

From North Carolina's coast

to the mountains, the portraits included in the exhibition also mirror the wide range of backgrounds and experiences that have shaped our contemporary population.

Wagoner, who has been practicing the art of photography for more than 25 years, has pictured a decoy carver on Knott's Island, a Lumbee retired teacher in Pembroke, a teacher and student at the Gateway Education Center in Greensboro, and a Latino man and youth enjoying a public park.

Davis has captured the image of a woman enjoying the

solitude of a North Carolina beach. Fenneman shows a fisherman pulling in gill nets on the Bay River in Pamlico County.

Hessel offers vignettes of a group of Army Reservists in Hickory, middle school football players in Granite Falls, a Hmong girl in native dress in Lenoir, and a biker cruising on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Watson shares pictures of a fiddler player in Mount Airy, and owner Lou Ella Byrd at the bar of the legendary Rabbit's Café in Asheville.

Roberts has contributed a portrait of a mountain chair-

maker of the early 1960s, a photo of a Charlotte policeman on duty in the rain in 1959, and a study of a student and teacher in a War of Poverty program near Rockingham in 1965.

Roberts, a long-time photography contributor to Time Life Books as well as "Time" and "Life" magazines, is a former director of photography for Southern Living magazine and a regular contributor to Our State magazine.

For more information, call (704) 868-2164, extension 4.

Carol Reinhardt is program coordinator for the Gaston County Public Library.

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