

# AROUND AND ABOUT LITTLE ROCK

By Wanda Hamilton

**F.I.R.E.S. (Finding incentives Reaching and Empowering Students)** opened the summer season on June 1, 2013. The Firefighters All White Affair was held at the Clinton Presidential Center. Fire Chief Gregory Summers and Joseph Gray, F.I.R.E.S.'s Executive Director greeted the crowd. They thanked attendees, officers, board members and sponsors for their support. The evening was filled with music by Violinist Michael Ward, Dell Smith and Integrity, Violinist Lexington Porter and the William Staggers Band. Guests dressed in all white enjoyed libations, appetizers and danced the night away. The proceeds from the event will go to fund EMT (emergency medical technician scholarships).

HEARNE FINE ART, BOOKS & CUSTOM FRAMING celebrated its silver anniversary.

The celebration included Artists' talks, a Meet and Greet session featuring Essence Best selling Author Victoria Christopher Murry, "Never Say Never", and Arkansas author Akasha Hull, "Neicy". Long time exhibitors Aj and Marjorie Smith showcased their silverpoint drawings, "Reflections In Silver" at the Friday 14, 2013 reception. Marjorie said "I have worked with silverpoint for over 25 years and it still fascinates me. This drawing technique uses silver wire as the drawing tool. Silverpoint requires discipline because it does not lend itself to erasing. The process is slow, but the results are sublime." A.J. said "Silverpoint drawings are fitting for this 25th anniversary celebration. I have been with the gallery since the late 1980's. My drawings in this exhibition are from my recent series Faces of the Delta. I commend Hearne Fine Art's

continuing commitment to the art of African Americans." The exhibit will continue through August 3, 2013.

**JUNETEENTH:**  
The annual cel-



bration kicked off June 14th at Mosaic Templars Culture Center with a theatrical performance of "Voices From The Front Porch," written by S. Juain Young. The storyline's focus is for people to remember the importance of our ancestors fight for freedom. It will remind them of the stories they heard their great-grandmothers and other family members recount on the front porch. The all day festival on the 15th

included Kids Zones, a Rock Climbing Wall, Taekwondo Performances, Magic Show, Zumba and Salsa Dancing.

Musical performances were presented throughout the day and food booths were available. The musical lineup included: Gloryland Choir, Akil Ato, International Percussion Collection with Emerge, Butterfly & Irie Soul, Billy Jones Blues, Stephen B. Steward and Gospel Recording Star Isaac



**SPOTLIGHT ON:**  
Michele Wright who was promoted CEO of the Greater Ozarks-Arkansas Region. She will oversee the Red Cross's blood services to 52 hospitals in Arkansas, SW

Missouri, and the greater Memphis area. She studied at Tuskegee, the University of Tennessee Space Institute and the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville where she received her doctorate. Her career path includes work with Savient Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Genentech Company in Little Rock.

**IN MEMORIAM:**

Donald and Donna Creer, known for their musical talents in Little Rock and beyond died June 12 after a blaze in their home. Donna was an inductee into the Broadcasters Hall of Fame and at her death was an on-air announcer at 94.9 Hallielujah FM. She was completing her 26th year as the Executive Director of the Magnet Review Committee in Pulaski County. Donald was a talented vocalist. His performances were anticipated in the annual Handel's Messiah Presentation

as well as at other events in Little Rock and beyond. A celebration of their lives was held at Little Rock's St. Mark Baptist Church. A musical tribute was included in the "Family Hour" service.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**

For a limited time, the exhibition "Tribute to George Washington" will be at the Clinton Presidential Center. It will open Friday, June 28, 2013 and close July 12, 2013. The opening includes a tour, reception and book signing by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Joseph J. Ellis. The exhibition will feature George Washington's personal copy of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights; correspondence and a portrait of Washington painted by artist Gilbert Stuart in 1797. The program is free; however reservations are required.