



NICK REYNOLDS / STAFF PHOTO
Nia Nunn Makepeace, executive director of the Southside Community Center, speaks to the crowd at a concert to conclude the Community Unity Music Education Program Thursday night.

Camp

Continued from Page 3A

program, now a dozen years old, for nine years.

An assistant professor in the department of education at Ithaca College and former school psychologist at Beverly J. Martin Elementary School, Makepeace creates a juncture of high-concept educational theory and artistic expression to set a curriculum of social justice and self-worth.

Tackling topics ranging from self-esteem to marriage equality, she finds ways to simplify modern controversy and issues in social justice in a format that her pupils — who range in age from 5 to 13 — can understand.

“It’s about simplifying complex messages through music,” Makepeace said. “All the kids are part of the conversation. Some people may ask, ‘How do you explain something like Black Lives Matter to a 5-year-old?’ I teach them the concept of being three-fifths of a human being and being perceived as a percentage of a human being, so our conversation is based around the idea we’re 100 percent human, then we’re good.”

The program started 12 years ago with her father, founder and CEO of Community Unity Music Education Program Fé Nunn, an educator who decided music and education could be brought together to create social awareness among even the youngest members of the community.

Though successful in its first three years, the

program really took off when his daughter took the reins, he said.

“It’s a happy experience, full of energy,” Fé Nunn said. “With her connection to the school district and her commitment to the community, it’s really incredible. You just have to listen to her to get it.”

The youngest Ithacans aren’t the only ones learning at the camp. Graduate students under Makepeace at Ithaca College are often recruited to conduct field studies at the camp, incorporating concepts of differing types of intelligence (or as Makepeace describes it, “Not how smart I am, how I am smart”) and using music in the classroom to create an engaging environment that promotes learning.

“There are no standards they have to make, no state test to pass at the end of it. It just focuses on the learning and the fun,” Ithaca College graduate student Ben Capeless said. “This camp really focuses more on the musical side of things, but making lessons more engaging in the classroom by adding music to them, finding what makes your students tick, what’s going to make them learn better, creating a movement or dance together to make learning a bit more fun, this camp sets a great example for that. It was a great experience.”

At the conclusion of each year’s camp, the children hold a concert for the community on the center’s playground. Part neighborhood cookout and part talent showcase, the concert, which was held Thursday evening, fills the yard with parents and teenagers and this year was attended by both

Ithaca City School District Superintendent Luvelle Brown and Mayor Svante Myrick.

Preparations for the concert were intense, Makepeace said, but the stakes were high. As she said to the children during a warm-up Wednesday morning, “You’re sharing joy. You’re sharing happiness, you can change somebody’s life.”

Near the concert’s end, Myrick stepped onto the basketball court, microphone in hand, to make a speech. He talked of his grandfather, who was a music teacher, and spoke of both the city and the nation, noting that though we’ve come far as a society, there is still progress to be made.

“As the mayor of a city, I live in a concrete world. Literally, my world is paved in asphalt, in plumbing systems,” Myrick said. “When we look at all the problems we have in the city and the world, we seem to think with the material — the concrete and the asphalt — we’ll be able to fix these problems.”

He said leaders — when faced with tough decisions — rarely look to the material world to make their cuts. They look to the arts.

“You can pave the streets, you can replace the water meters, you can attend to the material world,” Myrick said. “You

can feel like you’ve made a world worth living in. But if you make that world and lose your soul, what have you gained? We’ve made measurable progress both in Ithaca and across the country. Yet we are still in so much pain. We are still losing

too many black men, people of color, to police violence and brutality and mass incarceration. We are not solving these problems with concrete, asphalt or numbers. I want to say to Southside that we need water, we need streets and we need

lights, we need firefighters and, for the moment, we need police. But just as bad as we need those things, we need you.”

Follow Nick Reynolds on Twitter @IJCityWatch.

Christa L. Bissell



Licensed Real Estate Salesperson

CRS, GRI, ABR, SRES

Office: (607) 257-0800

Email: christa@aedelman.com



*Thanks for your votes!
I'm grateful for your
support and trust over
my 30 years in
Real Estate
Christa*

**CALL CHRISTA FOR
EXPERIENCE
WITH A PERSONAL
TOUCH!**

NY-0000747392



ZOMBIE MOVIE NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

Saturday, August 8, 7PM

See “Paranorman”
& “Night of the Living
Dead” at sundown,
plus activities and
more! Free and fun!

**JOHNSON
MUSEUM OF ART**



Always free • Tues–Sun, 10–5
museum.cornell.edu

@HFJMMuseum



QUALITY NEUROSURGERY CARE



James C. Metcalf, MD
Neurosurgeon

Progressive Neurosurgery

Clinically linked with University of Rochester
Medicine Neurosurgery

- Cranial and Spinal Neurosurgery
- Brain and Spinal Tumors
- Sciatica
- Stenosis
- Herniated Disk
- Spinal Fusions and Fractures
- Vertebroplasty



James C. Metcalf, MD
UR Medicine
Neurosurgery
at Progressive
Neurosurgery
of CMA



Barry Pollack, MD
Progressive
Neurosurgery
of CMA



Cayuga
MEDICAL CENTER

A Member of Cayuga Health System

For more information, call or visit us online:

ITHACA

16 Brentwood Dr.
Ithaca, NY 14850
(607) 269-0033

CORTLAND

1122 Commons Ave.
Cortland, NY 13045
(607) 428-8004

MONTOUR FALLS

September Hill
250 Steuben St.
Montour Falls, NY 14865
(607) 269-0033

cayugamed.org



NY-0000747394