

'Dream' poems inspire concert

BY JEANNETTE ROSS

The Langston Hughes dream poems — *I Dream A World*, *Dreams*, and *The Dream Keeper* — are the inspiration for the "I Dream A World" concert on Saturday, Feb. 12, at 4, at the Wilton High School Clune Center. It will benefit ABC of Wilton, which has been responsible for giving outstanding educational opportunities to dozens of deserving boys and girls for the past 15 years.

The concert commemorates Black History Month and it will coincide with an art exhibit featuring the work of Wilton students and Bridgeport artist John Lawson.

The concert will feature the work of guest composer Rollo Dilworth, who has written a number of pieces based on the Hughes poems. "He is a renowned composer of choral music and musical arranger," said Adrienne Reedy, herself a singer and board member of ABC of Wilton. Ms. Reedy is also friends with Mr. Dilworth. "When I heard these pieces, I was like, Rollo, we need to do something where we can get the community involved."

When she was a child in New Jersey, Ms. Reedy had the opportunity to work with Dave Brubeck, and she believed Wilton music teachers would welcome the opportunity to work with a composer. "To work with the person who wrote the music was always appealing to me," she said. "I just thought that would be something that would be fun."

I Dream A World

BY LANGSTON HUGHES

I dream a world where man
 No other man will scorn,
 Where love will bless the earth
 And peace its paths adorn.
 I dream a world where all
 Will know sweet freedom's way,
 Where greed no longer saps the soul
 Nor avarice blights our day.
 A world I dream where black or white,
 Whatever race you be,
 Will share the bounties of the earth
 And every man is free,
 Where wretchedness will hang its head
 And joy, like a pearl,
 Attends the needs of all mankind —
 Of such I dream, my world!

Janet Nobles is the choir director at Middlebrook. "She is thrilled to be working with Rollo," Ms. Reedy said. This is the third year Mr. Dilworth, who is a professor at Temple University in Philadelphia, has visited here. He will come on Feb. 11 and work with the students at school. Then he will direct his original pieces the afternoon of the concert.

Performing will be not only the Middlebrook School Choir, accompanied by Wilton orchestral students, but two Bronx Bethany gospel choirs.

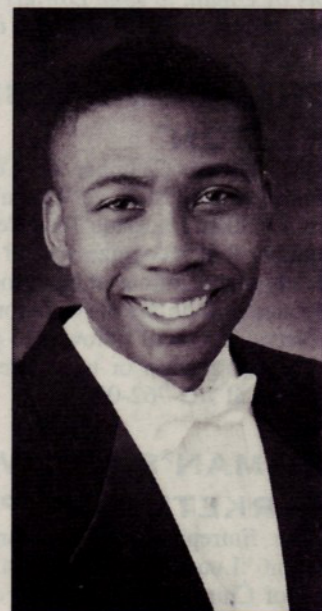
"This is a wonderful way to bring gospel music to celebrate Black History Month," said Ms. Reedy. "One of the choirs will do Negro spirituals and one will do traditional gospel music."

The art exhibit will be on display at the Clune Center's Zellner Gallery, and will fea-

ture the work of Mr. Lawson, Middlebrook students, and students from The Montessori School.

Ms. Reedy is excited about The Montessori School's participation. "We've added another part of the community," she said.

Mark Stephenson, The Montessori School's art teacher, said he was happy to share his students' artwork to support ABC of Wilton. "Although I have only recently become aware of the organization, ABC sounds like a wonderful program whose mission is fully consistent with the values of Montessori. I am always happy to present my students' work to a larger audience, and the students themselves are very excited about the prospect. Tying this in with such a worthy cause is a wonderful synergy, and I look forward to collaborating with ABC in the years to



ROLLO DILWORTH

come as well."

This is all a way, Ms. Reedy said, "of providing a gift to the community that would bring people together and celebrate."

All the work will be inspired by the Hughes poems and life experiences, she said.

ABC — A Better Chance — is a national program that provides academically talented minority students with access to good schools, both private and public, they otherwise could not attend. The Wilton program began in 1996 with two students living at the ABC House at 6 Godfrey Place, while attending Wilton High school. Since then it has grown, serving both boys and girls.

General admission to the concert is \$20, \$10 for students. For information, visit abcwilton.org or call Ms. Reedy at 203-834-1882.