R.S.V.P. With Marie

By Marie Phillips-Cooke
Reflections Editor

It was nearing deadline — about two hours away — on Wednesday morning and I was trying to conjure up a meaningful beginning for this column. I wanted something out of the ordinary, something unusual. Church folk say when you want something — anything — YOU'VE GOT TO ASK FOR IT. I did. The telephone rang twice and the persons on the other end had not only one "beginning," but two! The first was the Rev. Naomi Durant, affectionately known to thousands of her Gospel Soul listeners (WEBB Radio) as "The Pastor" who was ecstatic as to the number of believers who took a "leap into faith" by fasting and praying for 18 hours beginning at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday and ending at 6 p.m. on the same day.

The Day of Fast and Prayer was for those persons hardest hit by the current cold weather, especially those in Buffalo and the suburbs of upper New York state and in Ohio. The Rev. Mrs. Durant told this writer that some 10,000 of her listeners and members of her New Refuge Church had participated.

'Second Beginning'

The second "beginning was a call received from a loved one, since childhood days, Dr. Roland B. Williams, who among many things is president of the Baltimore Alumni Chapter of Howard University.

The group is planning to cite four of the town's most outstanding citizens: Mrs. Vivian Cook, Dr. Herbert M. Frisby, Dr. John Camper and Dr. Frank Sykes on Feb. 27, 5 p.m. at the Baltimore Sheraton Inn.

Members are calling it the Charter Day Dinner. Mazie Rea and Barbara Petitt are chairing the event. Contact persons are Thelma Ashe, 462-2362, and Mamie Woodford, 947-2424.

Winter Vacationers

Back in town from a winter vacation in Jamaica and looking well-rested and vibrant with sun tans are the Baltimore group — Lucrelia and Ben Whitten, Dorothy and Charles Brown, Jean and Marvin Davis and Charlotte and Jesse Little — who were the guests of Dot and Stanley McConner of Chicago. Dot is vice president for administration at the Johnson Ultra-Sheen Company and Stan is former executive director for adult and continuing education in the Baltimore City Schools and currently dean for adult and continuing education at Chicago State University. (You might recall our front page story announcing this couples marriage in April of 1974.) It was Charlotte Little, a college friend of Mrs. McConner, who introduced the couple. The McConners felt that regrouping persons who had made some impact on their relationship from this area would lend itself to a week of fellowship and reminiscing — and it was.

Twas late one Sunday evening last when phones in this area began ringing with invitations to spend a fun-filled week at the privately owned villa of George Johnson, the owner and president of Johnson Company, known as Shangri-La in Itunaway Bay.

It's said that the group spent a glorious week at the villa — days were spent lounging around the beautiful, unusually designed (twin, double ring pools) with an occasional dip, hiking around the beautiful hillside, playing tennis on the olympic sized tennis court on the grounds, shopping in nearby towns, playing bridge and pinnocle, and tours. There was no rigid itenary planned — each did his and her "own thing". Evenings found the group dining in elegance on the open patio which overlooked the bay from the top of the hills. Women modeled their beautiful long dresses each evening and the men were most handsome in "Esquires" latest fashions. After dinner, the group usually gathered for talk and coffee followed by dancing on the patio to a live Jamaican band, a trip to the club for Jamaican entertainment; and assorted games in the game rooms at the villa.

Woman of Year

A few months back, the AFRO and the Greyhound Corporation cited a "little lady" as their Woman of the Year. Remember — Mrs. Eleanor Smallwood — we all recall how she made us cry on the afternoon of the presentation. Birthday greetings to our lady. She marked 73 years on Jan. 23.

Golden Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Beauford, Sr. of 2650 Aisquith St. recently marked their 50th wedding anniversary. Included in the celebration were their children: Robert Beauford Sr., Lelan Haynes, Eddie Beauford; 13 grandchildren, and three great-grands. Unable to attend were two sons, William and Edwin who live in Los Angeles, Calif.

Black Accountants Here

When the National Association of Black Accountants, Inc., meets next week at the Baltimore Hilton Hotel it will open its convention to the public with a National Awards Dinner on Saturday, Feb. 12. The Hon. C. DeLores Tucker, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, will give the keynote address.

Speaking of Mrs. Tucker, she will give the annual Women's Day address at the Bethel AME Church in late March. More about that later.

(AFRO staff photo by Theresa Humphrey)

IN THE CROWD at the special inaugural reception held at the Cannon House in the Washington, D.C. on Jan. 20 were Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Cox (Thelma). The Coxes were among those 1,000 Marylanders who attend ed the gala affair arranged by a committee headed by Erma Perry.

Alpha Chi Pi Omega

Nusi Alpha Chapter of Alpha Chi Pi Omega Sorority held a recent gala party at the northwest residence of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Holland. Members, attractively dressed for the festive occasion were: Gladys Bell, Lee Anna Campbell, Susie Stockhouse, Irene Chisholm and Lena Holland.

Guests included: the John Johnsons, William DeMineses, James Rosses, James Cardwells, George Sheltons, Edward Clapps, Mesdames Luvenia Edward, Julia King, Margaret Drummond, Edith Adams; Roxanne Neal, Rosie Smith, Doris Williams, Grace Snead, Marie Cousin; and Messrs. Edward Campbell, Arthur Stockhouse, M. Brooks and M. Banks.

Jack and Jill

The Baltimore Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. recently observed its 39th Founder's Day of this national organization by combining a fund raising activity and a celebration.

Following dinner, the group saw the play "Ladies Night at the Turkish Bath", a contemporary comedy performed by an adept cast following the first act, the officers, committee chairpersons and members of the organization were acknowledged and Marian Patterson, chapter president, gave a brief summary of the history of the group.

Three cakes were brought forth by the waiters and as the audience sang "Happy Birthday", the organization's officers blew out the candles on each. One of the cakes was especially appropriate having a scene of Jack and Jill falling down a hill. The cakes were cut and later served to all. The funds raised from this activity will be used to continue support of the Jack and Jill Foundation, as well as local, civic and community activities.

We Wives Meet

Vashti McKenzie was the guest speaker at the monthly meeting of We Wives which met at lunch last Saturday at the home of Iris Lloyd.

Mrs. McKenzie, public relations specialist and AFRO columnist spoke on "Women's World 7: How Women Can Broaden Their Horizons At Any Age."

That Time of Year

It's almost that time of year: The 33rd Annual Blue Ribbon Tea, sponsored by the Women's City-Wide Committee for Delinquency Prevention, a subcommittee of the Eastside Community Committee, to be held on Sunday, March 6, 4 p.m. at the new Harford Heights Elementary School, 1901 N. Broadway St. Bessie Nichols is this year's chairperson; Thelma D. Roye is president of the committee. The guest speaker will be Myrna Powell. More about the Tea in coming weeks.

Queen's Gambit

Don't forget to tune into WEAA Radio's Queen's Gambit on this coming Monday morning—and every morning — from 10 to 11 when this writer will talk with four community women on the topic of the Professional Woman Volunteer.

My guests will be Toni Harker-Buckson, director of volunteer services at the Urban Services Agency; Eleanor Bryant-Graham, director of social services at the Waxter Center and supervisor of the Young People's Department at Bethel AME; Ida Caplis, an Urban Services volunteer and Francine Tucker, a parent volunteer at the Martin Luther King Parent-Child Center.

Each week I talk with women of various professions who tell how they prepared themselves for their chosen fields and ask them to offer suggestions to those women who might be interested in entering into a specific field. In coming weeks my guests will represent the law, medicine, education and business sectors, as well as some non-traditional areas such as contracting and construction.

NOTE: (WEAA Radio, 88.9 FM in stereo, is Morgan State University's "new baby" and it's bouncing!

Speaking of Women, Jacqueline Fleming was elected to the nominating committee of Girl Scouts of Central Md. Will serve two years.

Woodlawn Highlights

... by Marjorie Green

Once again the Ramada Inn was the setting for one of SSA's fantastic retirement parties. The party was given in honor of Elizabeth Griffin, coverage examiner in the Bureau of Data Processing.

The honoree started working as typist in the Candler building some 23 years ago. During those years her supervisors and co-workers have thought of her as a "rare" individual.

Mrs. Willie Tyler expressed her admiration for Elizabeth with the dedication of an original poem that stated "Through the years we have measure her happiness in her every smile. If we asked her to summarize the things she believed to be worthwhile — we are sure she would say a prayer, a good deed and a smile."

Mrs. Giffin's first supervisor, Guy Garner was among the 90 dinner guests who attended the Ramada Inn celebration.

The Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Calvin R. Giffin, the retiree's son and daughter-in-law made a special trip from their home in Beaufort, N.C. to participate in the celebration. The Rev. Mr. Griffin is pastor of Purvis Chapel AME Zion Church in North Carolina.

Other relatives and friends present were: Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hamm (Jessie), Mrs. Dale Smith, Bishop and Mrs. Winfield Showell, Mrs. Gladys Fulton, Mrs. Katie Hayes, Mrs. Catherine Jacobs, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wilson, Mrs. Virginia Coleman, Mrs. Edythe Wyatt, also Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. William Johnson, Mrs. Olivia Leazere;

Mrs. Marian Borum, Mrs. Rosa Sneed, Mrs. Marietta Traynham, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jackson (Virginia), Mrs. Esther Charis, Mrs. Margaret Brown, and Mrs. Elizabeth Muse.

Mrs. Elizabeth Vaughn, the retiree's aunt who was unable to attend, sent a dozen long stemmed red roses for the special occaion.

Those who appeared on the program were: Mr. James Rice, Mrs. Marge Loud, Bishop Winfield Showell, Mrs. Willie Tyler and Mr. Jerry Schantz. Mrs. Valerie Turner, SSA retiree also attended.

A member of First Apostolic Faith Church, Mrs. Griffin's future plans include active participation in church activities, travel, and volunteer work in a nursing home.

On Sunday, Feb. 6, at 3:30 p.m., the SSA Bible Break Bunch will celebrate their third annual anniversary service at the First United Church of Jesus Christ. Pastor Monroe R Saunders will be pianist for the group. Paris R. Washington Social Security employee and member of the church will preside.

Equal Opportunity Manager, Arya Jackson was the guest speaker at the Federal Women's Program session held last week in the Altmeyer Auditorium.

Her topic was, "Males, Myths, and Ms.'s — In the Federal Work Force." Ms. Jackson appeared recently at the Federal Women's Program conference. Her dynamic presentation created interest in the return engagement.

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(AFRO Photo)

LITTLE LADY — Mrs. Eleanor Smallwood, the 1976 AFRO-Greyhound Woman of the Year, marked her 73rd birthday on Jan. 23.

(AFRO photo)

SPEAKER — C. Delores Tucker, secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the highest ranking black woman in state government in the country, will address the awards dinner sponsored by the National Association of Black Accountants, Inc., on Feb. 12 at the Baltimore Hilton. Cecil E. Flamer is chairman.

SWEETHEART — Mary Carter Smith, affectionately called "East Baltimore's Sweetheart," will be honored by the Black Arts Museum (BAM) on Sun., Feb. 13, 5 p.m. at the Museum, 1767 Carswell St. For information call Angela Collins, women's auxiliary chairperson, 243-9600.

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Columbia Capers

By Pinnie L. Ross

Ben Prestbury, who appeared in Cliff Mason's "Midnight Special" with film stars Raymond St. Jacques and Thomas Anderson, has founded a production company called "A New Experience" and is moving toward the goal of establishing another legitimate theater here in the Baltimore Metropolitan area.

Prestbury, who believes that there must be a greater number of theaters that will provide avenues of employment for local performers, training for local technicians, and a showcase for local playwrites, has selected as his base of operation Slayton House, in the Village of Wilde Lake, here in Columbia.

His first production will be Mart Crowley's "The Boys in the Band," which is scheduled to run Feb. 18-20 and 24-26, with a two-for-one preview night on Feb. 17. Curtain will be 5 p.m. on Feb. 20 and 8 p.m. for all other performances. Tickets for "The Boys in the Band" are available at all Social Security EAA Centers and T Slayton House, or you may call 594-9210.

Prestbury, along with his two associates and co-founders Verna Day and Betty Purnell, have decided to follow "Boys" with Neil Simon's "Never too late" in April and Tennessee Williams's "Streetcar Named Desire" in June.

The world is truly getting smaller day by day. This saying is supported by the surprise meeting we experienced in Amsterdam, Holland last month.

During our first day in Holland we had the occasion to meet three beautiful women in the persons of the Burk's; Virginia and her daughter, Twinkles, and mother, Edner.

During our conversation we discovered that charming Mrs. Edner Burk's son is a teacher and coach in the Columbia school, and another son is the assistant football coach at Delaware State College.

Virginia who sponsored the trip for her mother is a child care coordiantor for National Institute of Health, Washington, D.C. The Burk's went to Paris before Amsterdam, and then to Copenhagen and London after leaving Amsterdam. Their trip took two weeks.

Twinkles, the daughter of Virginia, celebrated her 12th birthday during her stay at the Sonesta Hotel. She received wooden shoes, with other gifts and had a traditional Dutch dinner.

We enjoyed a half-day ride with the Burk's at a quaint sea side villiage at Volandan.

Mr. and Mrs. (Edner) John Henry Burk are longtime residents of Chestertown, Md. They are the proud parents of 10 children, all of them are educators. (Cuff Note). And orchid to the loved Mrs. Burk. She should receive "The Mother of the Year Award."

Thought For Today
Friendship
A friend is one who:
Pushes you on the swing
Pulls you up the ladder
Pats You on the back
And hugs you good-bye.
Katherine N. Davis

CHILD'S PLAY—Mark Tutman, (front center) son of Howard and Carolyn Tutman marked his 10th birthday on Jan. 22 and celebrated it on Jan. 23 at his home in Randallstown. Young Tutman and his guests were entertained by "Jeff the Magician", pictured at right. The honoree's guests included: Jesse Edwards, III, Robert Grider, Frank Savage, Jr., Rodney Rittenhugh, Michelle and Rodney Hart, Tony Troy, Reuben Scribner, Jackie Brown, Tracy Patterson, Dennis Dillard, Darolyn Milburn, Mark McQuay, David Schwartz, Aaron Robinson, Thomas Robinson, Renee Ross, Jason Tutman, his brother; Lisa and Melanie Byrd and Anthony and Angela Johnson.

ACTOR Ben Prestbury, who starred with Raymond St. Jacques, (standing, right), and Thomas Anderson in "Midnight Special," has founded a production company in Columbia.

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Catonsville Notes

... by Liz Williams

Sympathy cards to the family of Samuel L. (Sammy) Boyd who was shot down in front of his Dennlyn Rd. home. We feel like family to this family. We met Sam and Tyna. Sammy's parents 20 years ago when I returned to work after having been on maternity leave.

This wonderful couple and their son have been wonderful friends not only to my family but to all of their neighbors, co-workers, both confined due to broken bones due to falls on the ice; Mrs. Josephine Burton (Mardeew) who was at St. Agnes; Emma Henson (Samuel) who had returned to the hospital, after having had a fire at her home.

Elizabeth Washington our very good friend and neighbors, entered Provident

(Continued on Page 24)

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