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lifestyles, fashions, women, Reflections food, youth, society, clubs

Charming nurses shed their white uniforms to don a more casual attire on St. James Church moonlight cruise last week. Mrs. Liz Johnson, left, a newcomer to Baltimore from Dallas, Texas, chief nurse at the Veterans Administration Hospital at Loch Raven, relaxes on the port side, or is it starboard of the Port Welcome with Mrs. Rosetta Sands, assistant dean of nursing at the University of Maryland.
Waiting to weigh anchor in the inner harbor are (L to R) Mrs. Amy Weaver, Mrs. Gwen Tarter and Mrs. Elaine Wright.
AT BOTTOM: Trying to catch a breeze on top deck during this heat wave are Earl Anderson and Mrs. Eileen Snow.
Getting down to the serious business of eating picnic style are Mrs. Anethia Williams, Mrs. Carolyn Willis, Roland Williams and Mrs. Palestine Anderson.
Mrs. Thelma Rogers and Mrs. Connie Neal flash big smiles as they settle down for a four hour cruise down the Chesapeake Bay.

Speaking of Women

(A look at what black women are doing locally.)

By Dr. Sidney Kobre

Prof. Gretta A. Middleton, director of the Business Administration and Secretarial Sciences Division at the Harbor Campus of the Community College of Baltimore, has always been interested in seaport and business activities.

She traces this interest back in time to her childhood when she lived in Charleston, S.C., which, like Baltimore is also a seaport town.

Gretta's family lived on a street near the water and she often watched the ships sail into the port. She developed a love for the sea, but she also got business experience. Her father was a building contractor, and the entire Middleton family often helped him with his office work and payroll. Her aunt, too, owned her own real estate firm, and Gretta, even as a young girl, worked for her aunt.

"From my father, I got the feeling that women could compete in the business world and there were opportunities for them," she explained. "He often said there was no distinction between men and women in business. It was what you knew and what you could do which counted most. I've always remembered that."

Ms. Middleton feels strongly about this viewpoint today and points out that both black men and women have opportunities in business, in international trade and banking and finance.

"New doors are opening for blacks," she added, "and they should take advantage of the opportunities, preparing and training for the rewarding careers.

"Opportunities exist in accounting firms, real estate concerns, department stores, banks, insurance companies, and, of course, in shipping companies and other business related to Baltimore's port, the fourth largest in the U.S. Eight billion dollars worth of goods move through the port yearly," she said. "This means jobs and opportunities."

It will be noted that Prof. Middleton has added "international business" as well as "banking and finance" to her business interest. As she moved through life, responding to the opportunities offered her because of her intelligence and seriousness, she acquired additional skills, knowledge and concerns. Fortunately, she was able to blend these together successfully, making use of all her educational, government and travel experiences from which CCB students benefit.

After receiving her bachelor of arts degree in business and political science at Bennett College in Greensboro, N.C. in 1965, Gretta won a regional competition award to participate in the Foreign Affairs Program at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C. There she obtained her first taste of international business. At the state department, she learned much, assisting an official in the collection of information on African nations as well as two European countries — Great Britain and France. The position, however, lasted only for the summer.

Now deciding to broaden her viewpoint, she traveled for six months in the U.S. and then obtained a job as a social worker for the New York Department of Social Services.

Business, however, seemed to exert the greatest magnetic pull on Gretta, for she next registered at New York University, studying international economics and the administration of developing countries. This study led to her master of arts degree which was awarded in 1972.

She continued her studies and expects to receive her Ph.D. degree in international studies from New York University. Additional travel in 17 European and African and Latin American countries added to her first-hand knowledge of international trade.

Back in the U.S., the young woman broke down some barriers. She became the first black woman bank examiner for the Federal Reserve Bank in New York State.

"As I traveled with a bank examining team in New York and New Jersey, I — a black and a woman — attracted much attention, particularly in small towns. Residents walked along the main street and peered through the bank windows at me," she said.

As the Federal Reserve officials needed a director of the agency's college student recruitment program, she was selected for the job, traveling from Maine to Louisiana.

After four years of this kind of work, Mrs. Middleton thought she had enough business experience to become a college instructor.

She joined the staff of the School of Business and Public Administration at Howard University in Washington. Then she received a call from an administrator at the new Harbor Campus of the Community College of Baltimore, in the spring of 1976, telling her about the position as director of the Business Administration and Secretarial Sciences Division.

"I came over to Baltimore and looked over the downtown campus," she explained. "It was an ideal spot for me. Baltimore is an international seaport — and I always loved port activities. The World Trade Building was being constructed just a few blocks away from the Harbor Campus. The Harbor Campus, too, is in the middle of the Baltimore business community and I love it. Here was an opportunity to continue my interest in business and international trade and to teach."

Prof. Middleton has helped to develop the business curriculum at the Harbor Campus. She does some teaching but also directs the department which has several full-time and a number of part-time instructors who work for local companies.

The curriculum Prof. Middleton is developing offers a variety of business career programs, but also focuses on harbor-related and international trade programs. She teaches a foreign trade as well as an office procedures course.

Blacks have new opportunities also in banking and corporation finance," Prof. Middleton added. "The graduates can find careers in Baltimore City and Baltimore County in large and small banks, both at central headquarters and the many branch offices.

"CCB grads will discover opportunities in savings and loan associations and credit unions," she said.

"Students can build personally satisfying and rewarding careers in marketing and sales and advertising. And, in Baltimore, as elsewhere, I find that good secretaries are always in demand and our graduates obtain positions in a variety of companies and professionals' offices," Prof. Middleton said.

MS. GRETTA MIDDLETON
Professor of Business and Administration, Community College of Baltimore, Harbor Campus.

Miss Brown weds Mr. Jones

Miss Helen Romaina Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard (Helen) Brown of Loyola Northway became the wife of Jerome Frank Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel (Romaine) Jones of Pentridge Road in services July 9.

The service was held at the Ebenezer AME Church with the Rev. Ronald W. Murph officiating. A reception followed at Martin's West.

Maid of honor was Jacqueline Carr. Bridesmaids were Lelia B. Hubbard, Iris M. Hack, Carolyn A. Miller, Candra V. Woods.

Best man was Millard Brown. Ushers included Raymond Fears, Donald Dutton, Gerald Miller, Alvertis Williams.

The couple honeymooned in Cape Cod, Mass.

The bride is a graduate of Towson State University while the bridegroom is a graduate of the General Motors Institute in Michigan.

Planning your wedding

THE AFRO-American Newspapers is glad to run wedding, engagement and anniversary stories and a photograph of the bride-to-be or couple free with each story, however, in order to provide this service, we must ask that engagement announcements and photographs be submitted to us no later than ONE MONTH before the wedding. Wedding forms and anniversary information and photographs must be submitted to us no later than ONE MONTH after the affair.

(Rettberg Photo)
MRS. JEROME F. JONES
(Former Miss Helen R. Brown)

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