R.S.V.P. With Marie

By Marie Phillips-Cooke
AFRO Women's Editor

Imani means faith (in Swahili) — faith in ourselves, for without it we are lost, faith in others that we may grow strong. Imani is the final expression of the Kwanza celebration, an expression of love.

We consider ourselves fortunate to have been invited to experience the fruits of two rich events over the past two weeks — we're happy. Both represented a great deal of preparation, genius and creativity. They were for real.

A sister by the name of Janice Collins has a friend named Mary Jo Leverette Booth. Now, Janice and Mary Jo have been buddies for over a decade — they have a bond. Through the years, they've walked together, talked together, shared with one another, been together in fair weather and stormy weather — you know, friends.

Just recently, Mary Jo's husband received a charge to go to a Baptist church in Ohio. Janice knew she would lose the physical presence of her friend, but deep down inside they would always be together. So Janice decided to bid farewell to Mary Jo in such a way that she'd never forget home. . .

"Footprints In the Sands of Time" (Mashariki Akosua Nsombi), a surprise testimonial to Mary Jo by Janice and loved ones was held Dec. 16 in the social hall of Heritage United Church of Christ. Family members and intimate friends came to witness a most unique program.

Divided into some four segments, the program was a major production — really! "From Whence We Come," featured the Alke' Bu' Land Dancers and drummers (exciting!), African Priest Bede; a naming ceremony (explanation of honoree's names in a tongue of motherland); fashion show by Miecha fashions and griot, Denise Fox.

"I Know Why A Caged Bird Sings," a dramatization, by Rozzie Maddox, Betty Glascoe, Janice Collins and Angela Savage. And another by Linwood Leverette, Sadie Leverette, Patricia Leverette, Timothy and Ronnie Leverette, Winston Gray, Vivian Jenkins, Mary Wiggins and Janice.

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER was the surprise testimonial given in honor of Mary Jo Leverette Booth by Janice Collins Dec. 16 at Heritage Church of Christ. Left photo shows Mrs. Booth watching the unique program; center, a dramatization, "I Know Why A Caged Bird Sings" (Miss Collins is standing in background), and right, the family. From L to R: Timothy, Patricia and Mrs. Sadie Leverette, the honoree's mother and Mrs. Booth, in back: Lynwood, Clrence and Ronald Leverette. (See: R.S.V.P. with Marie for details).

(AFRO photos by Norma Spencer)

Ronald and Eric Leverette (the latter brought greetings from the family); Del. Troy Brailey on behalf of Acting Governor Blair Lee; Mrs. Janice Houser, from Westchester, Pa. public schools; Ms. Ann Glascoe, St. Paul's Baptist Church; our sweetheart, Verna Day, Arena Players; and Vivian Jenkins, dancer, each participated in the final portion of the salute. Also, Mrs. Sadie Leverette, her mother; the Rev. Charles Booth, her husband; Linwood Leverette, another brother and Janice. We were invited to give the benediction.

Mrs. Booth, 27, is a native of Durham, N.C. and the daughter of the late Rev. Joe N. Leverette and Mrs. Sadie Leverette. The family moved to Baltimore in 1964 where she completed her public school education and in 1968 went on to Morgan to major in sociology.

While in Baltimore, she served in various capacities at New Metropolitan Baptist, St. John AME, Mt. Pisgah CME, and New Shiloh Baptist Chkrches.

Throughout her life, Mrs. Booth has been known as a "quiet storm, whose erroneous efforts make little miracles possible."

In '71 she wed the Rev. Charles Edward Booth and moved to Westchester, Pa. where he was pastor of the St. Paul Baptist Church.

Francine's Dance Reunion

On Monday evening, the day following Christmas, we found ourselves still filled with the spirit — bursting with it! This season was going to be the greatest celebration of all time — really! So when 8 p.m. came around and we arrived at the lavishly - renovated Belvedere Hotel on Charles Street, our thoughts were confirmed, the celebration was not yet over.

Several weeks ago, Gwendolyn Biddle, the longtime dance instructor, designer, home economics teacher and world traveller, sent out beautifully engraved invitations to all of her former dance students inviting them to attend a 25 - year anniversary affair.

Let's call it a reunion.

We arrived, entered the lobby, and found ourselves greeted by a hostess who directed us to the guest book. Much to our surprise, on the same table was a display of photographs that dated back 25 years. There were pixs of her very first dance students (no calling of names here!!). It's remarkable how so -o -o many still have the same features but all grown up. (Some even have children who're as old now as they were in the photos.)

Miss Biddle saw to it that her guests (students and their counterparts and parents) were treated "real fine." Food tables contained hot and cold gourmet pick - me - ups like tiny veal parmesan hors d' oeuvres, caviar, and imported cheeses. Another had a flaming dish and still another featured a champagne fountain. And, there was disco music for dancing.

About midway the evening, several of Miss Biddie's students performed to the vibes of African drums and other instruments and to contemporary numbers. The highlight of the performance was a rare appearance by the star of Francine's School of Dance — Gwen Biddle, herself.

Miss Biddle is not new to the Baltimore community. After graduating from Howard University in 1950, she came here and designed dresses for models of Walters Academy and for the Arthur Murray Dance Studio. In 1952, she decided to open the Francine School of Dance and converted the basement of her Bentalou Street home into a studio where she could teach young people.

A 1969 AFRO article quotes her as saying, "It was something I always wanted to do. I love working with young people."

The school was named for her late mother, to whom Miss Biddle accredits her early dance training. She, too, was a dancer. Mother and daughter shared in activities, including arranging entertainment units at army and navy bases during the war.

Miss Biddle began her dancing career studying under local Washington teachers. She has since then studied at the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo School, Ballet Repertory, June Taylor Dancers and Lougi's Jazz Center, all in New York City.

Also, she has studied Hindu, Spanish and Oriental dancing.

Special TV Guest

Our good friend, Dorothy Alvez the poet, is receiving some long overdue recognition these days. Ed Gerald, the WTOP - TV 9 producer invited Dorothy to recite her original work, "The Day Before the Night Before Christmas" on the Christmas Eve "Sunshine Special." "Surely, it pays to wait . . .

Trudy's Thing

When members of a busy hospital operating staff decide it is time to say thank you to each other and do it at an elegant dinner dance, that means somebody had to work hard.

In the case of the Lutheran Hospital Friday evening affair at Blue Crest, it was Trudy Edwards whom the crowd of over 250 cheered for her successful efforts. She's the anesthetist.

When the applause died down, Trudy credited others for their assistance, including her committee members and Dr. Edward Hunt, who helped them with arrangements.

It was a glorious turnout - in the festive crowd were representatives of all areas of the hospital, including the John McDanielses (he's the executive vice president and administrator).

Also about, handsome Philadelphia couple who have recently settled here, Dr. and Mrs. James Samuel (Anne). He's the vascular surgeon. Dr. Rafael Rodriquez, chief of the anesthesia department, was there — and lending a helping hand to Trudy at her table, and later at her Randallstown home, where a number of guests dropped in — Dr. Ralph Howard, the well - known medic and civic leader.

Just Arrived Department

On early Christmas morning while many of us were preparing to open our gifts, Larry Turner Jr., was preparing to make his debut — on earth. And he did!

Baby arrived around breakfast - time, 10:05 a.m. at Mercy Hospital. What a perfect gift for mom and dad, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Turner, Sr. (Marva) of Exeter Street. (Dad works at a local refrigeration company; mom is a student at Dunbar Evening High); paternal grandmother, Mrs. Charlotte Turner; maternal grands, Marvin Venable and Mrs. Shirley Cardwell, and baby sis, four - year - old Nichole.

God's blessings for a Happy New Year!

Marriage Licenses

Linard Harrison, 1904 Druid Hill Ave. to Sheila Bentley; Robert Fleming Maddox, 2344 W. Lexington St. to Annette Alexander, 5424 Gist Ave.

Ronald Lee Bradford, 1526 Retreat St. to Linda Minette Carter, 1526 Retreat St.; Gary W. Miller 3011 Overland Ave. to Catherine L. Sharrifer, 3011 Overland Ave.

Charles Milton Barnes, 57 Monastery Ave. to Jane Carol Bandy 3463 Park Heights Ave., Freeman Brown, 2334 Edmondson Ave. to Rose Hall, 2334 Edmondson Ave.

Gerald L. Cooper, 14 Mountbatten Court, Balto. Co. to Hilda Louise Simpson, 3119 Presbury St.

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ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

YWCA offers cooking for men, Feb. 2-23

We hear that men like to eat good food. Now the Central YWCA is offering them the opportunity to prepare what they consume. A new course, "Uncomplicated Culinary Arts Especially for Men," will be offered on Thursday, February 2-23, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the YWCA, 128 W. Franklin St.

In a just released description, the course promises to "unravel the mysteries of cooking", while teaching basic procedures and how to make breads, casseroles and quick easy meals. Of course, tasting will be allowed. Call the Central YWCA, at 685-1460 for further information.

The YWCA is partially funded by the United Way of Central Maryland.

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Selected courses and programs also scheduled at Evening College Centers in Columbia, at the JHU APL Center and on the Goucher College Campus.

IN-Person registration for second term classes;

January 18 Wednesday 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. EL 2 Shriver Hall, Homewood Campus
January 19 Thursday 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. AK Shriver Hall, Homewood Campus
January 20 Friday 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. (open to all students) Shriver Hall, Homewood Campus

The Johns Hopkins University admits students of any race, color, sex, and national or ethnic origin to all programs and activities.

The Diet Corner

By Helen K. Fleischer
Director,
The Diet Workshop

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!!!!!

Happy sound of a dieter having the last laugh!

Cost of sugar got you down, Bunkie? Not me! I haven't touched the stuff in years. It's one inflationary spiral that has not touched my food budget one bit. (The standard joke is that when you come for coffee at my house, you snitch a sugar packet from the local diner en route!)

I am one of those prophets of joy who feel that the high price of sugar portends nothing but good for the future of the country and the waistline. Not to mention the state of the teeth.

Only I do have a word of warning! Sugar has crept into everything you buy. So if you wonder why a food favorite has suddenly gone far higher in cost than seems proportionate — take a look at the label. Lurking close to the forefront in the ingredients, I'll wager you'll find the villain. That old devil — sugar!

Try this recipe for a sugarless delight:

Apple Snack

1 teaspoon low-calorie cherry flavoring
½ teaspoon cinnamon
¼ teaspoon cloves or allspice
1 apple, sliced thin

Mix low-calorie flavoring with cinnamon. Pour over apple slices. Let stand five minutes. Mix again. Pour into small dish and eat immediately. Serves 1.

There now, going without sugar is not so bad, is it?

Here are some other simple ways to cut back on hidden sugar costs.

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Seasons Greetings

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to my friends and all my patients.
Dr. Ada Lee

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HOLIDAY GREETINGS

to my family, all of the Bethel AME members, customers, and friends. God bless you, keep you and guide you through Christmas and all the New Year.

With Much Love,
Christina Williams

Hints For Homemakers

INEZ KAISER

Christmas is here before we realize it. There was a time when we waited until the last minute to make plans for this busy season, but that's not the case today.

'all' IDEAL FOR HOLIDAY CLEANUP

Linens are cleaned early these days to be nice and spotless for the big holiday dinner. CONCENTRATED "all" is the laundry detergent that you can depend on to get your whole wash as clean as can be, along with the linens.

In fact, "all" is the perfect detergent for just about everything you wash. That includes all types of clothing, curtains, table linens, small washable rugs or any fabric that needs cleaning.

It really comes in handy, particularly when there's a need to remove some of the most difficult stains that may be spilled during the holiday festivities.

Come to think of it, you might consider putting several boxes of CONCENTRATED "all" in a laundry basket and giving it to one of your homemaker friends as a Christmas gift. It is just those useful gifts we rarely think of that can be used the year round and are the most appreciated.

CONCENTRATED "all" can make every laundry day a merry one.

STOCK UP ON LIFEBUOY

Since we are talking about the holidays and the possibility of an extra guest in the home for visits, we must remember to have a sufficient supply of soap on hand.

Of course, our usage increases with the number of people in the house. You can be sure I have already seen to it that we have plenty of LIFEBUOY soap on hand.

The Kaiser family like LIFEBUOY because it does such a good job of keeping your body smelling clean. This is important even during the colder months. We wrap up to keep warm, but the body still perspires.

LIFEBUOY is truly dependable, it's like a tried and true friend that never lets you down. It does such an effective job of getting rid of dirt, while giving your body the deodorant protection it needs throughout the day.

So remember to have plenty of LIFEBUOY soap on hand for the holidays. It smells so good and works so well, your guests are bound to love it.

PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS!

This is one season of the year when most of us will find ourselves in close contact with people at all sorts of social events. These are real "close-up" situations, with family, friends and many others we're meeting for the first time.

This means that we have to be unusually careful about our personal appearance. That includes clean, white teeth as well as fresh-smelling breath.

For those of you who are not aware, CLOSE-UP toothpaste will give you that assurance on both counts. CLOSE-UP lets you put your money where your mouth is.

That's because CLOSE-UP toothpaste helps keep your teeth whiter and at the same time freshens your breath. It is a whitening toothpaste and mouthwash in one.

You still have time to take advantage of 70¢ worth of free coupons if you purchase the family-size package of CLOSE-UP toothpaste in December. You can use the coupons right on the package to save 25¢ on One-A-Day multivitamins, 15¢ on Clairol Herbal Essence shampoo, 15¢ on Johnson's dental floss and 15¢ on the purchase of Tickle antiperspirant.

CLOSE-UP toothpaste is a bargain any way you look at it. It certainly pays to use it—for whiter teeth and fresh breath.

SEE IF YOU CAN TASTE THE DIFFERENCE

Time brings about constant change in what we wear, what we eat and where we live. So, let me share an exciting idea with you.

Just use IMPERIAL margarine to season your cooking as well as to serve on hot breads, waffles or toast. IMPERIAL has a rich, creamy flavor and light texture—whether used as a spread or as a cooking ingredient.

In fact, IMPERIAL tastes so much like butter that most people can't even tell the difference. That's why we call IMPERIAL "the butter of margarines" in the Kaiser household.

IMPERIAL is now featuring an attractive holiday premium offer in which you can buy an automatic crepe maker valued at $24.95 for only $12.95 with proofs of purchase of any two packages of IMPERIAL margarine.

All you have to do is send $12.95 with your name and address and the proofs of purchase (weight designations from the packages) to Box 9436, St. Paul, Minnesota 55194. Please allow up to eight weeks for delivery. Offer expires June 30, 1978.

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