R.S.V.P.

By Marie Phillips-Cooke
AFRO Woman's Editor

Ah . . . we're having an exciting summer. Just enjoying the days and all the gifts they bring. And from the reports we've received you, too are having a good time!

Like from the Baltimore members of the Carats, Inc., a national women's group, who are in from Atlanta, where they attended the third annual conclave, and copped two national officers.

They report that they've never seen the likes of the hospitality accorded them by their sister chapter in the Georgia city, beginning with flashing greetings on the airport marquee when they arrived on Friday.

Baltimore chapter president, Minnie Smoot, added a local flavor by hosting a champagne sip in her suite to toast fellow Baltimorean, Merlene Adair and her husband, Carl (Adair's Amoco, North and McCulloh), who were celebrating their wedding anniversary.

In attendance at the three-day sessions were some 150 members from eight chapters, located in Georgia, Maryland, Tennessee, Ohio, Michigan and New York.

Also present were their husbands, called Carateers.

The sessions at the Colony Square, featured business meetings, greetings from city officials at public gatherings, and the awarding of the national, conclave annual community fund contribution to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Georgia chapter.

And, of course, a variety of relaxing recreation events and the election. New national officers from Baltimore, which will host next year's conclave, are: Joan Phillips, second vice president; and Minnie Smoot, financial secretary.

Others elected: Adelaide Miller, Detroit, president; Celeste Hurley, Detroit, corresponding secretary.

Other officers, who were not up for election this year: Gloria House, N.Y., first vice president; Mattie Fonvielle, Macon, Ga., recording secretary; and Janet Sullivan, Columbus, Ohio, treasurer.

Baltimore members and their mates in attendance: in addition to those named: Gordine and Clarence Blount, Vera and Joe Carrington, Jeanne and Marvin Davis, Geraldine and Lionel Desbordes, Bessie and Wright Lassiter, Frances and Vernon Pennington, Dr. Robert Phillips, Dr. Roland Smoot, Ozella and Harvey Webb, Helen and Yancy Whittaker.

Other members and their mates are: Lil and Thomas Jones, Phylis and Marcus Moore, Ada and George Woodland and Janet and Alfred Woolridge.

Atlanta was also the meeting place the weekend before for the Continental Society Inc. . . which held its 23rd conclave at the Royal Coach.

In attendance over 500 delegates and mates from the 23 chapters located in Ga., Md., Calif., Ohio, N.C., S.C., Ala., Va., N.Y., Fla., N.J., Pa., Minn., and D.C. Rosa Stanback, Columbus, Ga., is national president.

Baltimore chapter members present included, Zelma Brown and Louise Mapp, who serve on the national board; and Mae Chamberlain, national membership chairperson, who attended with her husband, Mac. (She was so glad to make the trip, having done beautifully after being fitted for that artificial limb).

Other Baltimore members there: Daisy King and Connie Butler. Guests of the Chamberlains from Baltimore were Talley and Asalee Portee.

During the conclave, delegates voted to give their charity money — in excess of $4,500 — to the United Negro College Fund. The group meets every year in Washington.

Organized in 1963, in Philadelphia, Continentals focus on aiding underprivileged and disadvantaged youth. Locally, chapters give scholarships to deserving college-bound youth; summer camperships; plus they maintain a fund to supply shoes for needy youngsters.

They also support other programs under the group's theme, HEER (health, education, employment and recreation).

Zelma Brown, mentioned above, heads the Baltimore chapter, which this year contributed over $4,000 to projects in keeping with the theme.

Other members of the Baltimore chapter are, Mary Tucker, Frances Branch, Doris Smith, Katherine Gross, Delores Sykes, Lillie Branch, Odessa Dyson, Audrey Harden, Serena Holmes, Ellen Howard, Priscilla Marshall, Sue Jones, Mattie Mumby, Emily Peck, Helen Quarles, Margaret Turner, Elmira Washington, Delores Young, Servilia Carroll, who is national auditor.

New Continentals are Marlene Mohammed, local principal, and Ann Parker, Baltimore County health administrator. They were installed in an impressive candlelight ceremony following the club's June meeting.

Golden Anniversary

The Phillip Valentines (Willana) have been celebrating their golden wedding anniversary in a most complete and unique way beginning with the dedication ceremony at the Pennsylvania Avenue AME Zion Church, and concluding with a Caribbean cruise.

The ceremony of love and dedication was led by the Rev. M. Marshall H. Strickland, pastor, and was attended by a score of relatives and friends. Mr. and Mrs. Valentine were attended by their best man, William Hilton, and by a girlhood friend, Mrs. Olivia Cammack, both of Washington, D.C.

The dedication ceremony, consisting of appropriate prayers for the continued happiness of the couple, scriptures and music, was sacred and spiritually uplifting. James Henry, Mrs. Peulah Moore and Mrs. Angela Brown were the soloists, singing the "Lord's Prayer," "Through the Years" and "O Perfect Love," respectively.

Mrs. Barbara Shaw and Mrs. Beulah Maxwell coordinated the celebration.

The celebration continued in the spacious Multipurpose Center of the church where the couple received friends at a lavish buffet. Mrs. Annie Williams and Ms. Mary Canon catered the buffet.

Friends showered the couple with gifts and money. From that day on, the couple continued to receive felicitations from friends and relatives. This year will conclude with a very special gift from Mr Valentine to his wife in a Caribbean cruise.

(Photo by Irving Phillips)

GOLDEN YEARS — Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Valentine (Willana) have been celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in a most unique way. See: R.S.V.P. for details.

BALTIMORE CARATS — When the Carats held their third annual conclave in Atlanta this past weekend, many of these Baltimore chapter members and their mates, called Carateers, were in attendance. From L to R: Frances Pennington, Helen Birt, Minnie Smoot, president; Gerri Desbordes, Ada Woodland and Merlerie Adair. Standing, Gordine Blount, Janet Woolridge, Jeanne Davis, Joan Phillips, who was elected national second vice president; Phyllis Moore, Vera Carrington, Lil Jones, Helen Whittaker and Bessie Lassiter. Not pictured, Ozella Webb. See: R.S.V.P. for details.

Lambda Kappa Mu Sorority, Inc.

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3. Iota Kopelle Youth Group — outstanding youth growth of the year.
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5. The contribution to the expansion fund.

Columbia Capers

By Pinnie L. Ross

"Yes the black pageants have helped open the doors for blacks to enter other pageants. Every black contribution has helped some way or another to shape every teenager every elementary school child into becoming what they are."

Miss Maryland National Teenager Pageant has a new state queen. She is charming sixteen year old Leanita Ragland, a senior at Howard High School in Columbia. Miss Ragland won the Maryland National Teenage Pageant title recently at Towson State University where the pageant was held.

A sponsorship fee of $150 is required of each contestant and the contestant who sells the highest amount of ads receives the Hospitality Award.

The contestants were judged in the areas of scholarship, leadership, community service, poise, personality and appearance.

The new queen will receive among other prizes an all expense paid trip to Atlanta, Ga. to compete on the national level in August, a weekend at Rackin Horse Ranch, a tiara, banner and flowers.

Her reason for entering the pageant was, because she felt she could become better acquainted with her peers. "I wanted the experience since the opportunity was available. I don't pass up opportunities, I like to take advantage of them."

It was the very first time for Miss Ragland to ever enter a pageant, however she has had many experiences in competition in the area of art. Just recently she accepted an invitation to the Annual National Council of Jewish Women, 20th Art Exhibit held in Cherry Hill, N.J. She was the only black female participant among 200.

In my interview with Miss Ragland I asked what motivated her to enter the pageant. "I wanted to prove to my friends and myself that I could do it," the very energetic young lady said. She is captain of her Drill Team at school and reorganized the whole team and designed the costumes. When asked what she gained from the pageant", she answered "It was a fantastic experience, but most of all meeting the people was the best part of the experience."

Her advice to girls entering any contest is to enter to have fun, meet people of your own age, but most of all, "go in to do your best and take one step at a time, and don't go in thinking that you've got to win. "Lots of girls program themselves on winning and when they don't win, it's because in some cases they have concentrated too much on winning, then they become very bitter when they don't win."

Each girl delivered a one minute speech on the pageant theme. "What's Right About America."

"What's right about America is its ability to change, at the time of American birth she had slaves, some were my ancestors, however conditions have changed lately and America has gotten better, she continues to say, America is not perfect, but has a lot of good assets, lots of good things have happened such as the pageants. No nation on earth has been blessed with the conditions of being 100 percent perfect, not even America."

This talented teen was among the two blacks out of twenty at Howard High School to be inducted into the Honor Society. She is secretary of the Black Student Union, an honor roll student, editor of the BU students school paper.

In the visual arts area, she was chosen as the gifted and talented out of fourteen students and she was also chosen as one out of twenty people in visual arts from the State of Maryland.

Miss Ragland's plans for the future are to pursue her career in the field of communications and art. "Through my art I can express myself and when I see my art work displayed and people say 'Hey' I like that, you are communicating through your work."

The young teenager was asked what subjects she used for her art work. She replied, "Whatever makes other's happy, what pleases the public, because you can't ever survive in a society without pleasing people around you."

Miss Ragland is the daughter of Lt. Col. and Mrs. Sherman Ragland. Lt. Col. Ragland is retired from the U.S. Army and is employed as Chief of Citizens Participation of Community Health, HEW in D.C. Mrs. Ragland is assistant professor in Special Education at Coppin State College. They have one son, Sherman Ragland II.

Thought For Today

Aggressiveness is the quality that lights the spark for constructive, bold action. Aggressiveness must be pleasant, not pushy or quarrelsome.

Miss Leanita Ragland
Miss Maryland National Teen-ager 1978

"Credit — How To Get It and Keep It" is being held July 26 at 1 p.m. A staff member from the Commission on Consumer Credit will discuss ways of establishing credit in your own name and how to maintain a good credit rating.

For more information and to register for any workshop, call the Center for Displaced Homemakers at 243-5000. CDH is located at 2435 Maryland Ave.

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Last year, we offered over 110 different entrees. So if you ate here yesterday, you haven't been here lately.

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"YOUR GRANDDAD WAS A SATISFIED CUSTOMER"

Partyline

By Michele L. McRae
and
Marion Baker

The family and friends of Miss Barbara Paulette Brock helped her to mark her 29th birthday in style Sunday at a beautiful outing hosted by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Manson (Elizabeth) Brock Sr. at their King Park Estate home in Randallstown.

Some 200 guests greeted the honorees throughout the day and enjoyed swimming, pool games, good food, conversation and drinks.

Miss Brock, a teacher at Calverton Junior High School in Baltimore was laden with gifts from many guests.

Among those about to help her celebrate were her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Manson (Marnie) Brock Jr., another brother, Craig, godsister, Michele and son, T. J.; Brenda Claiborne, Jocelyn and Ronnie Trammel, Brenda and Bryon Thomas, John and Ann Mitchell, Joe and Sandra Mitchell;

Sissy and Don Byrd, Yvonne Wood, Troy Thompson, Darryl Turner, Alvin Hunt, Ronald Epp, Nina and Myrtle Scott, Helen Waters of Columbus, Ohio, Kenneth and Diane Waters, and daughter; Mr. and Mrs. George and Clarkie Fuller, Mr. and Mrs. George Boston, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Billie and friend, Denise Hawkins;

Mr. and Mrs. Odell (Jackie) Brock Jr., Ruth and Herbert Glover, Linda Gibson, Blossom Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. Nick (Doris) Floyd, Cynthia and Darryl Floyd and children, Mr. and Mrs. George Boston, Mr. and Mrs. Cecily Best, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin McDaniel, J. Randall Carroll and Anna Spain.

A Retirement Fete

Edward Z. watson Jr. was feted at a retirement celebration recently at Martin's West upon completion of 30 years service to the Baltimore City Public Schools. Judge Robert B. Watts was toastmaster for the affair.

Dr. Pearl Cole Brackett, a longtime friend of Eddie's presented the honoree to the approximately 200 guests. Mrs. Theda M. Wilson, superintendent of Region VI, Baltimore City Public Schools outlined the occasion. The invocation was given by the Rev. Sidney Daniels of the Emmanuel Christian Community Church.

Upon the presentation of the retirement gift, a check for $600 to the honoree, Mr. Watson stated that he was going to donate the check to the National Asthma Center at Denver. He did just that.

In a letter he received from Mr. Gershtension, executive vice president of the Center commending Eddie for his generosity and thoughtfulness, he said that a plague in honor of Mr. Watson is being placed in the Clinical Research Building in his honor.

AFRO photo by Robin McGinty

Attorney and Mrs. Richard V. Johnson marked their 14th wedding anniversary Sunday in festivities hosted at The Bolton House by the staff and management of WEBB Broadcasting Company.

Johnson's Mark 14 Years

Another glorious occasion last Sunday was the fourteenth wedding anniversary celebration of Atty. and Mrs. Richard V. Johnson.

The Johnsons were feted in activities hosted by the staff and management of WEBB Radio Station at the Bolton House.

Ernestine Uncles, representing the Mayor's office presented the honorees with an Anniversary souvenir Booklet. A representative of County Executive Ted Venetoulis, presented a letter from his office. Others also made presentations to the Johnsons', but the highlight was when the honorees presented awards.

Four Baltimore City Public School students were honored at the affair for achieving academic excellence in exceptional learning situations.

Miss Jones, Mr. Watkins

Mrs. Helen Jones Cooper of Arydale Avenue, Baltimore announces the marriage of her daughter, Miss Doreen Jones to Glen E. Watkins of Monravis Road. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Watkins of Chauncey Avenue.

Maid of honor was Janice Dunston and best man, Quentin Watkins.

The couple was wed at the St. Ambrose Catholic Church.

Other attendants included Sherrie Cooper, Yvette Cooper Wilistien Dargon, Heather Johnson, Arnold Landon, Gerald Landon, Donald Cooper and Mark Landon.

AFRO photo by Robin McGinty

AT RETIREMENT FETE — Mr. and Mrs. Clement (Beatrice) Nixon were caught in this AFRO photo at the recent retirement fete in his honor hosted at Martin's West. Mr. Nixon retired recently after serving 32 years at the Bureau of Recreation. He retires as assistant superintendent of the Bureau of Recreation.

Yancy Retirement

The Cross Keys Club House was the scene of the retirement party for Yancy Whittaker on June 30 after thirty years in the Baltimore Public School System in which he served as teacher, counselor, and Regional Specialist for Community and Student Affairs.

The Whittakers plan to spend the next few months traveling about the country. Yancy will undoubtedly find plenty of time for one of his loves, golfing.

During the party which was a gala affair, guests danced to the music of Claude Hubbard and dined on delectable food prepared by Mrs. Mary Williams.

The citations were a highlight of the evening; Yancy received the following: — a letter of commendation from President Jimmy Carter and Ernest Boyer, HEW Commissioner; a citation from Acting Governor Blair Lee, presented by Senator Clarence Blount; a citation from Mayor William Donald Schaefer; a citation from the Urban League presented by Ms. Maggie Lane.

And, a poem "Yancy" presented by a parent, Joseph Jones of the AFL - CIO; a poem "Reflections of a former boss" sent by Mrs. Aliya Cheskis-Cotel, former team member; a trophy from his golf club presented by Paul Scott and other presentations from participants included a plaque entitled "The Golfer's Eighteenth Psalm," a photograph album recapitulating the highlights of Yancy's position as Regional Specialist and a monetary gift.

Mrs. Helen Whittaker, who was attractively attired in one of the new print voiles, received a white orchid and an eight track tape deck, a gift presented by the Ricks family.

The following guests shared Yancy's big evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Adair, Mrs. Bernice Anderson, John Belcher, Miss Phyllis Bell, Mrs. Dorothy Bennett, David Benson, Mrs. Helen Birt, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Blount, Melvin Bordley, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Boston, Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Byrd Sr., Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Byrd Jr.

Miss Marguerite Castagna, Mrs. Allison Claggett, Mrs. Vondalee Clark, John Crooms, Mr. and Mrs. J. Davenport, Mrs. Jeanne Davis, Miss Gwendolyn Daye, Dr. and Mrs. Lionel Desbordes, Mrs. O. Dixon.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Fennel, Mrs. Leana Ferrell, Mrs. Kathryn Frisby, Mrs. Maxine Gaskins, Miss Edith Gordon, Mrs. Mabel Grant, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gray, Mr. and Mrs. William Griggs.

Mrs. Wilma Henson, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hillen, Mrs. Mary Hines, Roosevelt Hobbs, Miss Yvonne Holt, Mrs. Ella Hughes, Mrs. Jennifer Jones, Mrs. Jean Johnson, Joseph Jones.

Mrs. Maggie Lane, Ms. Patricia Lesavoy, Mr. and Mrs. William Lewis, Ms. Louise Lockerman, Ronnie McCan, Mr. and Mrs. James Mebane, Mr. and Mrs. Marcellus Moore, John Mohammad, Mrs. Ella Moore, Mrs. Josephine Neal, Mrs. Betty Nunn.

Mrs. Charles Owens, Rev. Lovell Parham, Mrs. Ruth Pratt, George G. Ricks, Mrs. Annis Roberts, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Scott, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Smith, Dr. and Mrs. Roland Smoot, Charles Spicer, George Stokes.

Mrs. Evelyn Thomas, Mrs. Margaret Turner, Mrs. Mary Turner, Lester Wallace, Mrs. Leatha Waller, Mr. and Mrs. Royal Weaver, Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Wheeler, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Winckler, Rev. James Wise, Mr. and Mrs. David Wright Jr., Mrs. Elsie Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Young.

Members of the committee were Ms. Edith Gordon, Mrs. Rowena Lewis, Ms. Patricia Lesavoy, Mrs. Elsie Williams, George Ricks, Ms. Yvonne Holt, and Mrs. Jean Owens.

Dealing with stress

The Center for Displaced Homemakers is offering a two - part workshop to help participants manage stress in their daily lives. Jim Pollitt, a test research analyst for the State of Maryland, will lead the sessions July 19 and 26 at 6 p.m. Participants will learn to identify, cope with and avoid stressful situations at home, on the job, as well as at social functions.

"Stress Management" is free for registered displaced homemakers and open to the public for a $2 fee.

CDH is again offering its very successful workshop, "Legal Problems in Separation and Divorce," July 28 at 1 p.m. Emily Rody, an attorney from the Women's Law Center, will provide information about the legal process required to obtain a separation or divorce in Maryland. Ms. Rody will also have information about the new laws that become effective in January 1979. There is a $1 fee for non - registered displaced homemakers.

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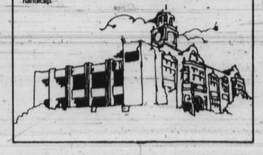

Woodlawn Highlights

By Marjorie Green

Last Saturday afternoon, members of the Woodlawn Toastmistress Club entertained residents from several city nursing homes at a cookout held at the home of Ms. Bernadette Smith. Twenty - five of the thirty club members participated in the song and games that lasted until after 3 p.m.

Mrs. Ada Armstead, owner of the cookout site also acted as a hostess. The senior citizens numbering around forty, came from the N.M. Carroll Home on Lafayette Avenue, the Seton Hill Manor, West Franklin Street, the Maryland Baptist Aged Home on Rayner Avenue and members of the St. Peter Claver Senior Citizen group.

Robert "Bob" Crum, founder of the Woodlawn Toastmistress club, served as chef. Club member, Jackie Watts surprised everyone with her gospel singing and tap dance routine. Ms. Betty Brown brought along her musical aids and led the group in singing. Raymona Robinson was program coodinator.

New club officers who will be installed on Wednesday, August 9, are: president, Bernadette Smith; first vice president, Martha Puryear; second vice president, Carol Walker; third vice president, Betty Brown; secretary, Dorothy Chavis; treasurer, Bob Crum and Dorothy White, council delegate.

Mrs. Dorothy Chavis has been a member of the Woodlawn Toastmistress club for two years. She first became interested in the group through a co - worker and friend, Ms. Lenora Jones, who is also a member of the Woodlawn Club. Although she has not competed in any of the speech contests, Dorothy feels that the association with the club has brought about many changes in her life. One noticeable change has been the improvement in her vocabulary and speech.

In August of this year she will celebrate 19 years with the Social Security Administration. She started as a clerk in the Numerical Register section of the old Falconer Building.

An active church member, Mrs. Chavis serves as vice president of the Deaconess Board, chairman of the Children's Ministry and general secretary at Fountain Baptist Church where she has been a member since early childhood.

Volunteer work with the Adjacent Neighborhood Association in East Baltimore keeps her occupied when she is not busy with her various church duties. Mrs. Chavis has recently made

(Continued on Page 28)

CONGRESSMAN PARREN J. MITCHELL

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