If you ask me

By Bettye Mass

Hats off!

The players on the bandstand were serious, they paid strict attention to the director, and the sounds which came from their instruments were melodious.

The director — Bill Cummings — took time at intermission to introduce them, and to tell of their training.

They stood proud as he called their names and the audience applauded. They were:

David Hairston, sax. a music teacher at Garrison High; Mitchell Coates on bass, a student at Morgan State University, and his brother, Marsden, a Walbrook student, who plays guitar;

And, Jonathan Barnes, trumpet, a Walbrook student and Steve Williams, the drummer, a student at Berke School of Music in Boston. The players' average age is 18.

Mr. Cummings, himself a Baltimore city music teacher, explained the young men, are talented and have great promise. The audience responded with applause.

Hats off to the young musicians in Bill Cummings band. And a special salute, too, to Mr. Cummings for taking time to share his many talents with young people and to encourage them to continue their musical studies.

Continue your nominations to this column's — Hats Off Section. We seek here to single out young people who are doing outstanding jobs.

Reason: We feel too many of us adults criticize young people when they do wrong, but too many of us never take time to say a "well done" when they do a professional job as the young Cummings musicians did.

Hats Off!

Big Sisters

We heard the Bill Cummings combo, mentioned above, at the Big Sisters' annual Yule party on Saturday evening.

This is the event where members invite guests to come and enjoy themselves and help others. Guests were urged to bring canned goods for needy families on the AFRO's Mrs. Santa list. They did.

Lilyan Slater chaired the party. Imogene Douglas co-chaired. Iris Williams is president. Other members: Gladys Parker, Lucille Brown and Ida Nicholas.

Cuff Note: The Cummings band played a variety of music, suiting the tastes of younger guests and those of us not so young.

Nice gesture: There were special serenades to those celebrating anniversaries.

The crowd was pleased when Lil Slater and her hubby, Ed, took front and center. It was their 31st anniversary.

Also saluted — Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Byrd, wed 41 years, and the David Scotts, 34 years.

Yule visitors

Our town of B-More has been jumping with holiday visitors. Mr. and Mrs. James R. Butler of Gordonsville, VA, were here to visit her brother and sister-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. Josh Mitchell.

Lynn Jacobs and daughter, Tracey, are here from Los Angeles, visiting her parents, the Earl Andersons.

Also here from LA, Baltimore-born Tom Hawkins and Elaine Manna Swann.

Dr. and Mrs. Edward McDaniels' holiday guests included their godchild, Carol Washington, and hubby, Michael, from Pleasantville, NJ, with their year-old daughter, Nyle Lynn.

Also, Mrs. Washington's mother, Mrs. Frances Dorsey, here from Moorestown, NJ, and from Philly, cousin, Merva Wesley, her sister, Marsha and their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Wesley. The senior Wesleys guested with her sister, Elaine Smith.

Rev. Robert Newhold, former pastor of Grace Presbyterian, now a high church official in NY, was in town for the 25th wedding anniversary celebration of the Abdelia Campbells, (Edna), on Sunday morning at Providence Baptist Church.

Juanita Morton's houseguests were Diane and Donald Pearson of Plainfield, NJ, where both are on the faculty of Plainfield High.

Yulettide was particularly happy for two Baltimore families — the Franklin Williamses, (Lucille), and Judge and Mrs. Milton Allen, (Martha).

Their children were here — Dr. Joanne Williams Allen, the physician, and her hubby, David Allen, the lawyer, came from Athens, GA, with grandchildren, Ethan, 3, and Arcu, 10.

Newlyweds

The newlywed Ulysses Ralph Lees Jr., of Brooklyn, NY, holidayed with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyal Randolph, (Nikki).

Bride is the former Bonnie Randolph of our town.

They exchanged vows on Dec. 4, at the King's County, NY, Supreme Court.

The bride is a 1972 grad of Coppin State College here, and is employed as a sales representative with a N.Y. personnel agency.

Bridegroom, son of the senior Ulysses Ralph Lees of Brooklyn, is a 1965 graduate of N.C. A and T State University.

He is executive director of Project Upgrade Inc., of the NYC Businessmen's Committee for the Employment of Ex-Offenders.

Both these young people have outgoing personalities, and to hear them talk of their hopes and dreams makes you proud, particularly when you remember it seems only yesterday when the bride was a toddler.

Good luck to them in their new life together.

AID MRS. SANTA — Members of Big Sisters Club of Baltimore mixed pleasure with helping the less fortunate at their annual Yule party on Saturday, their guests brought canned goods for the AFRO's Mrs. Santa. Left panel, Big Sisters Lil Slater and Iris Williams, president, pose with gifts. Right panel, Sara Jerkins and Gladys Parker, also Big Sisters, accept gifts from guests, Mr. and Mrs. Montford Brown. Club also gave $50 donation to Mrs. Santa. Other committee members, Imogene Douglas and Ida Nicholas.

Mr. and Mrs. U. Ralph Lee NY newlyweds visit. See If You Ask Me

TALENTED YOUTH — Young musicians who played under direction of Bill Cummings, won admiration of listeners. From left, kneeling, Jonathan Barnes, trumpet; David Hairston, sax. Standing, Mitchell Coates, bass; Steve Williams, drummer; Mr. Cummings, and Marsden Coates, guitar. For details, see If You Ask Me.

Wo-Be-Co

Members of that women's civic club, WO-BE-CO, (Women Behind The Community), held their usual holiday gathering on Sunday.

They invited spouses and friends to join them for worship at All Saints, then went on to Cross Keys for brunch.

Club president, Shirley Swafford, and hubby, Orville, had as their guest, her mother, Mrs. Grace Gaines, of New Orleans.

Other members and mates there, Eugenia and Bill Britt, Marian and Alfonso Searborough, Marie and Earlie Francis, Gwen and Joe Howard (Judge Howard), Leonora and Charles Cheek;

Also, Cardrienne and Jim Griffin, Essie and Wendell Sutton, and Debbie Carter, Marie Bessick, Carolyn Holmes and Mary Robinson.

More people

Shirlean and Charles Richardson pulled a birthday party surprise on her mother on Saturday at their Woodbine home.

Mother, Mrs. Shirley Diggs, (Margaret) was really thrilled. NY guest there, family friend, Bernice Hall.

Baltimore Chapter of Continental Societies' 26th annual gathering on Sunday at Martin's West, attracted a large number of out-of-towners and helped raise funds for their many charities.

Their second annual Helen Gattis Award went to William Sykes, the educator and pioneer — it couldn't have happened to a better person.

Seen in the crowd: Leon and Kit Watkins of DC. He's the EEOC officer for the Aviation Administration.

Frank and Helena Lambeth and John and Mary Kelly, all of DC, and Paul and Connie Leake of Deale, MD, were also here.

And more

Another holiday party which attracted a crowd of beautiful people was the Saturday affair hosted by members of Les Tames. It was at Bonnie Ridge.

Olivia Weems is president. Members are: Elnora White, Hortense Henry, Gladys Scott, Marjorie Green, Forest Ayers, Virginia Patterson, Ginna McCoy, Rosetta Logan and Irene Terry.

More club groups helping others at Christmas: Members of the Northeasterners provided toys and gifts and gift gloves for needy on AFRO's Mrs. Santa list. Mae Peck is president. Sara Browne chaired affair at Jewell Marsan's.

Members of the well-known study club, the Du Bois Circle, decorated a tree and provided entertainment for the House of Ruth. Edna Campbell is president.

Gracious hosts: Algernon and Carrie Dorsey's pre-Yule Open House attracted a large number of friends to their Liberty Heights Ave. home.

It was aglow with colorful decors. Tasty dishes were artfully arranged in the spacious rooms, where guests chatted and relaxed.

More people being gracious hosts: Members of Johnson C. Smith Alumni party was Saturday at the Alpha House. Joe Yates is president.

NY Eve gatherings included the Khamatics Club at the Forum, the Hob Nobbers at the Justen Marsans, and a gathering of neighbors and friends at Judge and

(Continued on Page 19)

Anthony P. Thompson Dead at 20. See If You Ask Me

MORNING STAR BAPTIST CHURCH
"The Witnessing Church"
1063 West Fayette Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21223
SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 1982
Communion Sunday
8:00 A.M. — SPIRITUAL PRAYER AND HEALING SERVICE
Music: Mr. Samuel Jonathan Ray
9:00 A.M. — CHURCH SCHOOL
Ms. Juanita Geither, Superintendent
9:55 A.M. — CHURCH TRAINING
Dea. James Gilliard, Director
10:50 A.M. — MORNING WORSHIP Preaching.
Rev. Dr. Samuel Ray
"God Is With Us"
Everyone is Invited to These Services
Reverend Dr. Samuel Ray, Pastor

21st ANNIVERSARY 1982
THE GREATER NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH, INC.
2730 W. NORTH AVENUE
JANUARY 3RD, 1982
Thru JANUARY 28th
11:00 A.M. — Preaching by the pastor
3:30 P.M. — Serving of the Lord's Supper
Preaching by Dr. Walter Thomas
New Psalmist Baptist Church and congregation
6:30 P.M. — "1st Musical Jamboree of 1982"
Featuring the 'Original Evening Star G.S.
Guest groups invited
The Steps of Grace, The Sanctuary Choir, The Coles Singers, The Senior Choir, The Lyric Specials, The Youth Choir, The Butler Singers, The Gospel Chorus, The Millennets, The Guilford Specials, Mrs. Mildred Simpson and Company, Altonas Gospel Singers, Mrs. Elizabeth Waters and Company, Mrs. Emma Kinzer and The Lyric Specials, The Griffith Specials and Miss Monica Mayer
1st and 2nd and 3rd prizes given.
The public is invited to attend.
January 4 — "Trustee Board"
New Zion Baptist Church,
Rev. A. B. Waters, Pastor
January 5 — "Pastor's Aid Circle"
The Mt. Olive Freewill Baptist,
Bishop Leo K. Caesar
January 6 — "Gas and Electric Circle"
New St. Marks Baptist Church,
Dr. Allen Jones, Pastor
January 7 — "The New Members Circle"
The New St. Johns Baptist Church,
Dr. Eugene McKinney
January 8 — "The Church School Anniversary"
Pleasant Grove Baptist Church,
Dr. Nathaniel Sapp
DR. LEONARD E. HICKS, Pastor

PERKINS SQUARE BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday, January 3, 1982
Church Day
8:00 A.M. — Early Morning Worship
Sermon by the Pastor
9:15 A.M. — Church School and New Members
10:30 A.M. — Open Heart Service
11:00 A.M. — Morning Worship
Sermon by the Pastor
Installation of 1982 Officers
6:00 P.M. — Baptist Training Union and New Members Class
REV. RICHARD OGLE Pastor

Season Greeting
Moved To New Location
NEW TRINITY CHURCH
National Congregation Church of America
4200 Liberty Heights Ave.
SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 1982
10:30 A.M. — Sunday School
12:15 P.M. — High Noon — Morning Worship
Sermon By the Pastor
3:00 P.M. — By Special Notice
8:00 P.M. — By Special Notice
Wednesday 7:30 P.M. — Prayer Meeting held in the chapel
Bishop M. D. Norton Sr., D.D.
Founder & Pastor
ALL ARE WELCOME

ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Lafayette Square, Baltimore, Maryland
The Reverend Donald O. Wilson, Rector
Dr. Robert T. Ford, Deacon
Maurice Murphy, organist—Choirmaster
8:00 A.M.—Holy Communion
9:00 A.M. Church School
11:00 A.M.—Choral Eucharist Sermon
The Public is Cordially Invited To Attend

DOUGLAS COMMUNITY CHURCH
"The People of the Way"
Lafayette and Madison Aves
MARION CURTIS BASCOM D.D. Minister
James S. Hammond, M. Mus. Director
JUANITA HALL DAVIS Organist
Sunday, January 3, 1982
Eight and Eleven O'Clock
"On Affirming Whose, and Who We Are"
Marion Curtis Bascom Preaching
For the Beauty of the Earth — Kocher/Davis
Beautiful Savior — F. Melius Christiansen

NUTTER Funeral Home
3035-37 W. NORTH AVE.
WI. 7-6655
WI. 7-4818
"A SERVICE WHICH INSURES CONFIDENCE"
AT A PRICE YOU CAN AFFORD NOT CONNECTED WITH ANY OTHER FUNERAL HOME

SHOWTIME

Bruno M. Jerry... Baltimore native in 'Disney World On Ice'

IDA PETERS

The ice show "Disney on Ice" has as one of its principals a young, gifted and black ice skater, who is one of our own. This skater is 23 year old Bruno Jerry of Baltimore, Md.

Young Jerry has four distinctions - 1) he is one of the few black principals in the Ice Follies; 2) he has been skating for only 7 years; 3) he started by way of group lessons during public sessions; and 4) he skated competively for the first time at the age of 16.

Becoming a figure skater was not easy for young Jerry. It all started with his parents, Roosevelt and Gloria Jerry, giving him a Christmas present of ice skates.

Bruno fell in love with the ice and began imitating other skaters. At the age of 14 his first lessons were held group style in the corner of the Orchard Rink in Towson, MD. by Gail Roeper.

Having observed his talents, Gail later engaged Bruno in private lessons. He became a member of the Baltimore Figure Skating Club, graduated from Lake Clifton High School in 1975 and entered Brandywine College in Delaware where he continued his daily lessons under the instruction of Ron Ludington at the Skating Club of Wilmington.

Bruno transferred to the University of Delaware where he majored in Biology (with hopes of being an Orthodontist) but continued his instructions with Ludington.

Coach Ludington, who Bruno holds in high esteem and who, along with Bruno, was betting on the 1980 Olympics at Lake Placid for which Jerry placed 5th in the Eastern Division tryouts. Coach Ludington's faith in Bruno was such that he was quoted in the January 1, 1977 edition of The Evening Sun as saying - "The real story with Bruno is incredible. Most good skaters begin on the ice at the age of five or six. Bruno didn't start until he was 14 and he has been skating only five years now. It's amazing but it only go to prove what a tremendous athlete he really is. He is so strong and so flexible it's unbelievable."

It has been said that Bruno accomplished and progressed faster in five years than many top performers accomplished in ten. He has completed extensively and always placed well ahead of the original schedules predicted for him by his coaches.

In one year he had finished all his Silver Dances. Within 5 years of skating he had won the South Atlantic Junior Men's Division held in Atlanta in 1976, placed 8th in the Junior National Championships at Colorado Springs, became a Bronze Medal Winner in the 1977 East Coast Championships in Boston and placed second in the Eastern Championship in New York.

During audition for the Ice Follies, Young Jerry was so impressing that his pro, Diane Agle, was hired to help choreograph the show.

Innovative ideas are much a part of Bruno's personality. During the summer of 1980, prior to beginning with the Ice Follies, he took professional dance lessons with the Alvin Ailey Dancers as he felt that it might enhance his career. Bruno received much praise and encouragement from the great Alvin Ailey himself. Last year, Bruno appeared on Evening Magazine in Baltimore and several radio talk shows in Washington, D.C.

Reaching these accomplishments, however, were not easy for young Jerry. His success can be attributed to the exhausting schedule he followed since approximately 1972 and the 100 support he received from his devoted family.

Having reached his first ambition - being a tryout for the 1980 Olympics and eventually landing full time employment with a professional show such as the Ice Follies - certainly attests to the fact that hard work, perseverance and faith can eventually lead to success. Bruno has accomplished his goals and more! With his talents and the way he displays them, this great black Ice Skater can only go to the top. He is quite deserving of "Soul On Ice."

Lake Clifton grad returns to his hometown in triumph as star of Walt Disney's World On Ice opening Jan. 6 at the Civic Center. Proud mother and father Roosevelt and Gloria Jerry. She is Medical Records Librarian at Jenkins Memorial; he's retired Army man. He became interested in skating when his mother bought him a pair of skates at Montgomery Ward for Christmas when was 14. He played with the show in DC last year. This is his first professional appearance in Baltimore.

Curtain Calls

WASHINGTON

By Charles Farrow

Few people can tell you exactly what there is about The Nutcracker Ballet that fascinates so many, young and old, and makes it an important part of the Christmas holiday. When presented properly, it has the fairy tale splendor of colour, the light hearted imagery of fantasy and the wonderful music of that ballet master, Tchaikovsky. And then there is the dancing that is the froth on the setting that lasts the whole evening.

In Washington, tradition demands the lavish staging by the Washington Ballet on the stage of the Lisner Auditium and the production that is a truly grand event for children, an extra present for the Christmas holiday.

The approach taken by the Washington Ballet is one that soft pedals the darker side of the actual story in favor of sentiment, family togetherness and the fairy tale spectacle of a young girl-child's Christmas night dream of sugan and spice.

Dancing, the main ingredient in any ballet is mounted in fragile, brilliant clusters by the dance company with the spotlight falling gently on the members of the ballet school. Each year the strength of the teaching of the WB school is demonstrated by the excellent, professional quality performances given by the students.

Using a cast that alternates performances and roles the WB professionals are able to give you excellent variations in interpretations in roles. Amanda McKerrow, the reigning ballerina of the comdanced the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy on opening night. Janet Shibata, recently joining the company from the American Ballet, dances the Sugar Plum Fairy role on alternate evenings.

Dance devotees are never left out in the cold when it comes to the dancing portions. The mystical dream scenes where the boldly dynamic dance is a requirement of this ballet, the WB is a delight. Amanda McKerrow, an obvious favorite shows the form that made her a medal winner. The dancers never feared to take their talents to individual limits. The male dancers tend to give strong, effective support as did John Meehan as the Cavalier.

As is the rule for most classical dance, this ballet has a thin story requiring a massive suspension of belief in favor of an acception of things as presented through the dynamics of dance and the intensity of the music. In this production staged by Mary Day and Martin Buckner, you get what you came for exhuberant theatricality, happy dancing and healthy sentimentality.

Meet Brandi....

BRANDI WELLS

The true goal of every recording artist is to ascend to stardom's highest plateau. But to get there, certain components must fuse together to expose that one crucial element... talent. With the release of "Watch Out", the explosive debut album from WMOT Records' latest diva, Brandi Wells, it should be just a matter of time before stardom opens its arms wide and embraces her.

Indeed, the age of four is quite early for someone to launch a career in music. But at her birthplace in the Philadelphia suburb of Upper Darby, Pa., this is just what she did. Brandi used television jingles as her first training element. By age nine, Brandi had turned professional.

She had joined The Twilights, a group that performed in and around Philadelphia. Sharing lead vocals with one of the male members, Brandi began to develop her strong gift with the poise and precision of a veteran. "My father didn't want his 'little girl' to become a singer, but mom was the one who encouraged me continuously," states Brandi with smooth articulation. And it wasn't long after that the group received an invitation to perform on the stage of Philly's famous Uptown Theatre as entries in the James Brown Talent Contest.

As consistent first place winners, The Twilights began to attract a great deal of attention from such notables in the industry as Kenneth Gamble and Leon Huff, who were already established as top producers. But it doesn't stop there. When the famed Motown Review made its annual tour through town, The Twilights were often asked to serve as an opening act.

The Motown tours included some of the biggest names at that time, such as Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross, Smokey Robinson, etc. It was on these shows that Brandi truly excelled by delivering the type of performance usually given by a seasoned professional. It was obvious that Brandi Wells was a natural talent.

In 1972 Brandi joined the group Brown Sugar, who sang behind

Band, Damon Harris, Philly Cream, and Billy Paul.

Breeze signed with WMOT Records and released their own hot single titled "See-Saw". The tune did rather well on the east coast and later became a monster hit in Europe, which led to a very successful European tour.

Breeze evolved into Slick, whose first album, simply titled "Slick", was huge success. "Space Base", the single off that album, went top 3 on the pop charts in England. Their second album, "Go For It", gave rise to the top 20 R&B hit single, "Sunrise".

With all of those credits behind her, plus the guidance of WMOT's Alan Rubens, Brandi Wells proudly presents her debut solo LP, "Watch Out", as a true reflection of her versatility. Tunes on the album range from her funky up-tempo first single, "Watch Out", to songs like "When You Get Right Down To It", which was previously recorded by The Delfonics, but takes on an entirely new dimension as Brandi's style gives the tune a fresh, uncluttered approach. The LP also shines throughout as Brandi works with an all-star selection of musicians including Thom Bell, Dexter Wansel, Michael Pedicin, Jr., etc.

Then of course there's Brandi's voice, which rings with subtle energy and depth. "I have always tried to be original in everything I do," proclaims the tall, young beauty who turned down a modeling career to sing. And with this interesting combination of songs, three of which she co-wrote, it will be her originality and determination that will propel Brandi Wells to stardom in a classy way.

Glenn Doughtey, Santa Claus with Arena Players' Youtheatre

Former Baltimore Colt Glenn Doughty and Santa Claus wished 250 Baltimore inner city school children a Merry Christmas at a special performance of the Arena Players Youtheatre at the National Aquarium on Tuesday, Dec. 22, at 3:45 p.m.

The performance was musical version of the story of "The Pied Piper" entitled "The Magical Pied Piper" and was held in the Aquarium auditorium.

Glenn Doughty, who, in addition to being an ex-Baltimore Colt Wide Receiver, is a member of the Board of the National Aquarium. Mr. Doughty is also the owner and developer of the Shake and Bake Family Fun Center, a $5.2 million dollar sports complex presently being constructed on Pennsylvania Avenue.

The Arena Players Youtheatre, a program designed to enrich the cultural experience of inner city youths, offers a two-year course of study for youths between the ages of 13 and 20. The children develop skills in drama, music, speech, dance, mime and stagecraft, and are invited to be apprentices in the Arena Players, Incorporated.

Former Baltimore Colt, Glenn Doughty, joins Santa Claus to wish Kevin Money and 250 inner city children a Merry Christmas during a special performance of "The Magical Pied Piper," performed by The Arena Players Youtheatre at The Baltimore Aquarium.

Night Scene Seen

By Bob Matthews

The music world in Baltimore was totally upset by the death last week of drummer Jimhmi Johnsun, whose given name was James W. Johnson.

The occasion marked an opportunity for the jazz artists in town to carry out the wishes of Jimhmi, and mark the occasion in a manner that will serve as a model for funeral services and attendant activities.

There was a jazz memorial service on Monday evening, in which most of the local musicians performed before the open casket at the Phillips Monroe St. facilities.

The funeral was held at Union Baptist Church Tuesday evening, with the program befitting a jazz luminary. Our AFRO photographer - reporter was there to bring you a pictorial report, but was not allowed to take pictures.

Some of the events included: A solo drum passage by Harold White; a saxophone solo, "Lush Life," by Mickey Fields; the song, "Amazing Grace," sung by Lady Rebecca; and a solo by Benny Washington, one of Jimhmi's best friends.

Pallbearers were all local drummers with one exception, bass player, Andrew Rock. Others included Harold White, Reggie Glascoe, Don Bowie, Roland Thomas, Ronnie Dawson, William Goffigan and Warren Gantt.

My personal remembrances of Jimhmi was that of a drummer who had the capability of staying with the music no matter how far out or avant garde it became. At times, his drumming bordered on the genius—and was always tasteful.

— —

Some stories have happy endings, some just don't have endings at all, but the stories are interesting just the same. So, you'll have to pick the category of ending which suits this story.

Over the past year, have written about the various troubles which plagued the Chez Ja-Nel, Tiger Lil's Club over on Orleans St. It was shuttered for about six weeks this past summer, but the reasons why were not known.

Well, now we can tell you that there was a big flap with the Internal Revenue Service, which resulted in the place being shuttered until the IRS got their money.

That was Phase One.

Well, Lil came up with the money, and in the process, acquired enough to take care of some other outstanding obligations, but had to make some concessions and enter into a sort of partnership to do so.

Then, last week, it all hit the fan, with the result being new locks and keys put on all the doors of the club, so that Tiger Lil couldn't get in. For six days, the club was closed once again.

But—and this is the happy part—the club is now back in business. Plans are going forth to have a big blowout on tonight to celebrate New Year's—with the traditional black eyed peas, and all the rest.

Of course things seem harmonious, but there are overtones of impending crises. As any good reporter should, we checked in with the liquor board as we usually do, to see what is happening on the night scene.

Out of curiosity, asked in whose name the liquor license was issued. Tiger Lil was the answer. The plot thickens, as they are wont to say in mystery stories.

— —

Haven't said a heck of a lot about New Year's evening doings, for by now we have to assume you have made plans. Things do look a bit lean this year, for money is extremely tight, and we are amazed to discover the plethora of house parties scheduled.

There hasn't been a great deal of publicity about it, but the City of Baltimore is having festivities again this year in the inner harbor area tonight.

On the steps of the Science Center, there will be fireworks beginning at midnight, but this year, there will not be a big balloon thing as they attempted last year.

A reminder, all of the night clubs, bars and lounges have permission to remain open as long as they wish tonight, so most of them will be grooving until the wee small hours of the morning.

This is a good time to check out your local watering hole as you return from wherever you celebrated the New Year.

And from us — have a pleasant and prosperous new year. If you do that—we know it will be happy.

JAN