AKA's hold Founders' Day to mark sixty first year

SOROR DELORES THORNTON (L) chairperson of the sixty-first Founders' Day celebration of the Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority hosted Saturday, Feb. 20 at La Fontaine Bleu, Erdman Ave.,

AFRO Photos by Roman Hankewycz

poses with Dr. Flossie Dedmond, who wrote and produced the drama depicting AKA history which was dramatized during the program and Soror Gilda J. Garrett, chapter basileus.

UNDERGRADUATE AWARD RECIPIENT Tonya Cooper (R) of Towson U.'s Lambda Beta Chapter, who was honored for scholarship and community service, poses with Mrs. Odessa Dunston, graduate advisor, Morgan State Univ., Alpha Delta Chapter.

FOUNDERS' DAY CO-CHAIR Soror Delores Hobbs (far right) poses with Soror Heloisé B. Frazier, anti-basileus.

FIRST VIVIAN J. COOK AWARD RECIPIENT. Mrs. A. Bernice Hunley (L) is pictured with (from L) Dr. Doris H. Reese, Mrs. Rubye Walker, Mrs. B. R. Simpkins and Mrs. Geraldine Dorsey.

MORE AKA SORORS (L to R) are Mrs. Phoebe Goff, Mrs. Thelma V. Rutherford (of Zi Omega Chapter, Washington, DC); Mrs. Beverly Reid and Mrs. Zell McDonald.

By Pattie Hodges
AFRO Women's Editor

The sixty-first Founders' Day Celebration hosted by the Epsilon Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Saturday, Feb. 20 at La Fontaine Bleu, Erdman Ave. was marked by touching semtimentality and the bold and true confidence of finer womanhood.

At 12 noon, sorors and their guests assembled for the social hour of sip and chit-chat, to the background music of the Bob Smith Trio.

Many sorors were beautifully decked in the traditional pink and green of the sorority.

The program for the afternoon, theme of which was 'Sisterly Yours Through the Years', was in four phases.

During Phase I, the Occasion was given by Soror Delores Thornton Birthday; greetings by Soror Gilda J. Garrett, chapter basileus, a vocal selection, rendered by Soror Mary Robinson and the invocation by Soror Heloise Frazier, anti - basileus of the chapter.

Phase II, the delicious luncheon itself, was served on round tables, each clothed in green, with pink napkins, and each with a lovely centerpiece of a bed of ivy, topped with Baby's Breath, pink satin and grossgrain ribbon bows and a green velvet bow on top. From each centerpiece there jutted pretty pink silk rosebuds—enough for each person at each table.

While being served guests enjoyed the melodious strains from the Bob Smith Trio.

Phase ITT, included the Awards Presentations and Special Recognition. Introduction of dais members was done by Soror Delores Hobbs, co-chair for the affair.

Recognition of visiting sorors was done by Soror Claire S. Dorsey. Visiting sorors included Esther Pollard, of Washington, D.C., past national tamiochus, past regional director and member-at-large; From Zi Omega Chapter in Washington. From that same chapter were Sorors Thelma Rutherford, Wendy Bailey Davis, Jessie Perkins and Devera Redmond.

Other chapters represented included Delta Chi Omega (Annapolis); Iota Lambda Omega (Columbia); Epsilon Nu (of Lincoln Univ. in Philadelphia, Pa.) which was represented by Yvonne Boyd, Basileus whose mom was with her; Alpha Delta (Morgan Univ.); Epsilon Kappa (Coppin); Lambda Beta (Towson Univ.); Lambda Chi (UMBC) and Alpha Omicron (Univ. Md., Eastern-shore) represented by Rhonda Johnson.

Recognition of the AKA 'Golden Girls' (sorors with 50 years or more of service to the sorority) was done by Soror Edna Campbell, past supreme basileus, who gave remarks on the staying quality of the Golden Girls, their service through the years and their development of the AKA program and all of its facets.

New Golden Girls honored with long-stemmed pink silkroses were Sorors Mamie Woodford and Emma Gilts. Others recognized were Sorors Vernice Reynolds, Beatrice Hurt and Soror Stubblefield. All other Golden Girls stood to be recognized.

Presentation of Awards Rationale was done by Soror Nancy Bennett.

The Updergraduate Award, presented by basileus Gilda Garrett, given for outstanding scholarship and service to the community went to Tonya Sherry Cooper of Towson University. She got a lovely rotating plaque a charm, (called a rotating plaque because the next year's winner will get it.)

Certificates for this same honor were received by runners-up Valeria A. Carter, Gloria Johnson of Alpha Delta Chapter, Morgan Univ.

The Vivian J. Cook Award created to commemorate and honor the late founder Soror Cook and to recognize a soror who represents what she stood for was presented by Soror Garrett to A. Benice Hunley, who also received a lovely plaque.

During her presentation, Soror Garrett spelled out the honoree's name, using the letter to name sterling qualities she exhibits as a woman and a soror. The honoree also got a standing ovation from her sisters.

Also acknowledged during this segment were unsung heroes, sorors who labor hard and serve well. Soror Genevieve Wisner was singled out as the winner to represent all who were in this honor category.

Phase V — "Beyond Yesterday, to a Brighter Tomorrow" included a dramatization of the history of Alpha Kappa Alpha Inc. as it reflected and enhanced the nation's growth.

It was written and produce by Soror Flossie Dedmond, past chapter basileus, and enacted (quite well indeed) by several sorors, who through the years of the AKA Program, and some who sang music appropriate for the various scenes, accompained by the Bob Smith Trio.

I shared a table with Sorors Rhonda Owen, Cheryl Banks, Deleanor T. Harris, Virginia Dean, Joyce Denise L. Leonard, Hope M. Price, Ernestine H. Wilkinson and Mary B. Adams, former city council woman and currently of the State Central Committee, 40th D., and I felt it was an afternoon well spent — both enjoyable, informative, and uplifting.

The Founders' Day Committee included: Sorors Delores L. Thornton, Chairman; Delores Hobbs, Co-Chairman; Rosalind Allen, Bernice Beaird, Justyne Boyd, Gwendolyn E. Browne, Edna Campbell, Janet Cooper, Flossie Dedmond, Giselle Green, Henrietta Harcum, Beatrice Hurt, Bonnie Lee, Ruby M. Taylor;

Also Gwedolyn Barbour, Nancy Bennett, Patricia Tyler Brent, Edwin Burke, Geraldine Coleman, Jerilyn Cargway, Claire Dorsey, Gladys Hampton, Evelena Henderson, Brenda Johnson, Delores Spriggs, Helen Thornton and Carlo Westcott.

Advisors were sorors Heloise Frazier and Gloria Jones.

PROUD MOTHERS — Pictured some of the proud mothers, whose children graduated from the Baltimore Chapter of Jack and Jill of America. The group was honored recently at the 44th annual Founder's Day at Provident Hospital. Seated, from left to right, are Mattie Mumby, Ida M. Peters, Charolette Sherrington, Marian Haynes, Zadir Koger and Kathleen Carter. Standing, left to right are Mrs. Junanita Gates, Mary Young, Bernice Brandon, Juliet Bragg, Carolyn Willis, Ann Fuller, Doris Holmes and June Gee.

CHERYL JOHNSON models during the recent Founders' Day celebration of the Baltimore Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc.

JACK AND JILL enrollees, pictured at the Baltimore chapter's 44th Founder's Day were a group of 3 to 6 - year - olds: Marc Bragg, Shae Habersham, Paul Williams, Kelly Willis and young Robyn Bragg, far right.

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Columbia Capers

From file clerk to chief, Career Counseling, Library of Congress

By Pinnie L. Ross

"My family is important to me. It is a deciding factor between a person who succeeds and a person who does not, who is culturally deprived, and one who may pass a Federal Examination."

Those words came from Sylvia Cooke Martin as I had an in-depth interview with her last week.

Mrs. Martin was dressed like a typical business woman, wearing a black two piece suit and a classic white blouse; she had every ounce of confidence that any person could obtain. The lady has it.

Sylvia C. Martin is a native of Baltimore, Md. She was reared in a Baltimore project with her parents Mrs. Clara and Emanuel Levy Cooke.

Mr. Cooke died in 1954 just after she graduated from Douglass High School.

With tears in her eyes as she recalled her high school graduation held in old Poly auditorium. Her mom and her sisters and brothers were cheering for her to receive a high school scholarship which would enable her to attend college, and finally happened.

All names had been called by the principal and the graduation was over just when a voice was heard saying, "There is a 4 year scholarship for Sylvia Cooke. "My mother yelled for joy. I was very happy. The Black politicians of Governor Marvin Mandell had finally come through," she said.

The four -year scholarship gave her the opportunity to attend the University of Maryland at College Park. She was the first black to live on campus at College Park after the Supreme Court decision in 1954.

She is the recipient of a B.A. degree and a Masters degree in Policy Science at College Park. She also completed one year of graduate study in public administration at the University of Virginia.

Mrs. Martin started her career in the Federal Government as a file clerk at the Social Security Administration in 1965. It had been her dream to become a GS-5 supervisor.

Things began to look up for the intellect after her first file clerk job. In 1966 she was one of the 10 selected nationwide from more than 700 applicants participating in rotational assignments in State, local and Federal encironment to acquire a thorough understanding of the system of health care delivery in the U.S.

From 1967-69, as a manpower development specialist she processed a full range of personnel forms, conducted selected interviews, counseled employees.

In 1969 - 1970 she was one of 20 selected nationwide from 1300 applicants, designed and formulated implementation procedures for SSA upward mobility program.

From 69 to present, conducted work shops at various colleges with subject areas including personnel administration, economics, career counseling and development.

Sylvia Martin was in high gear. She was the Senior Career Development Specialist, Social Security and Health Care Financing Administration in Baltimore, Maryland.

In 1978 Mrs. Martin reached for the sky and received it. From File Clerk to Chief, Staff Training and Development, Library of Congress, Washington, DC.

The Library of Congress is one of the largest and prestigious institutions in the world. This lady is responsible for career counseling and development activities for approximately 5,000 employees at all levels.

She supervises a staff of ten who design career development and educational programs and counsel staff. She coordinates these programs with the Affirmative Action Office, Health Service Office, and Employee Relations Office, supervisory development communication training. She also serves as Acting Director of Personnel.

Mrs. Martin sat her career goals to help minorities make the step to cross over. "I not only want to help them to move physically, but want to help them to make the adjustment, so that they are comfortable with their new position."

Sylvia Cooke Martin

As she lifted her voice, but yet very calmly, she had this to say, "The Library is not a forerunner on civil rights. There are a very few women and a few 14's and 15's and only two super grades now, and only one Black chief in Personnel."

One of the things she does in counseling minorities is to get them to see that it is far more beneficial for them to make the best of a bad situation. She said, "What can I learn from this and how can I use it to my advantage?" rather than sit around and complain.

As her voice became very soft and tears filled her bright eyes, she said "The older I get the more I value my family. As I look back and think about my success, I know it was the strength of my family."

A smile peeped through her face as she recalled the days of her good old grandmother, her dear mother who always kept poetry books in the house and would read them to her sisters and brothers and her aunts would say, "Have you learned a new word today?"

Of times when they would give them new words to master. Her deceased father, who would always take them to the Baltimore Harbor, where they were expected to identify the ships by flags or to the free concerts, and again they were expected to know the instruments.

If we stop and think for a moment where Black people have come within the past 100 years, we would have to point to the deciding factor, that it was the strength of our families.

Mrs. Martin is the proud mother of two grown children. Donald, her son, is a senior at the University of Maryland majoring in Mathematics, Statistical Research.

Daughter Marcey finished Howard County College with a 3 point average. Mrs. Martin said, "My children are my best friends."

The church plays a very important role in everyone's life, and it sure does in the life of Sylvia Cooke Martin's. She is a very active member in Provident Inspirational Baptist Church.

The Rev. Clifton Freeman is the fine minister. Both of Sylvia's grandparents were ministers. She feels that going to church allows her to practice Christianity and reach out to people, and it gives her a feeling of belonging.

She is a member of the BBC singles, works with Flower of Fellowship Committee, is first chairperson for Woman's Day, the coordinator of a Prayer Breakfast.

She has a career development workshop to help people get jobs in her church. She had adopted children she takes to church each Sunday. Her belief is that the church is the place to give young people a start.

Her hobbies are photography, writing poetry, reading history books, economics and psychology.

In 1977 she started a genealogical research on her family which keeps her quiet busy in her spare time.

Mrs. Martin has won numerous awards, including a Distinguished Service Award from conference of minority public administration, professional award, Columbia Chapter of Business and Professional Women, Woman of the Year, Kappa Chapter, Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, The Commissioner's Citation, Social Security Administration highest award and the Education for Public Management Award.

In concluding my interview with Mrs. Martin, I asked her what words of wisdom she would like to give to the youth of Baltimore and the metropolitan area.

She had this to say. "In this day of time, the youth are used to instantaneousness. I would like to leave them with this quotation. 'The elevator to success is not running, take the stairs.'"

THOUGHT FOR TODAY
The elevator to success is not running, take the stairs.

AT THE BALTIMORE IS BEST AWARDS RECEPTION held recently at The Lyric Theatre. The camera captured Mrs. Floraine Applefeld (R) of the mayor's office, coordinator for the event with Mrs. Pattie Hodges (L) AFRO Women's Editor; and (from left) Mrs. Hope Quackenbush, head of the Mechanic Theatre (honoree and Mrs. Charles Williams, honoree for volunteer work with the Red Cross) who was nominated by Mrs Herbert Bridgeman (far right).

Pictures by Vanessa Johnson

Second Women's History Week set

Maryland will celebrate its second annual Women's History Week Mar. 7 to 13.

For the first time the entire country will observe the week because the U.S. Congress has proclaimed March 7-13 National Women's History Week.

A joint effort by the Maryland Commission for Women and the Maryland State Department of Education, the special week designed to enhance public awareness of the role of women in the history of the state and to heighten appreciation of women's contributions.

"New data on the role and importance of women of all backgrounds in a wide variety of fields is coming to our attention as the result of fresh research," said Anne Irvine, education department representative on the planning committee. "We see a need to bring it to the attention of teachers, scholars, students, and the public at large."

Jill Moss Greenberg, women's commission representative in the planning group, looks towards the day when Women's History Week may be phased out. "That time will come," she said 'when the sex of the individual ceases to have a bearing on opportunities afforded, rewards gathered, or the judgment of society on the value of the contribution."

Last year's first annual celebration featured speakers' bureaus, women's fairs, exhibits, and special school activities that included taping women's oral histories, poster displays, and panel discussions.

A kit of detailed ideas for classroom activities was prepared last year and a new one is now in preparation and will be sent to all public schools in the state.

Others plans now getting under way for the 1982 celebration include a half-hour instructional television presentation on modern career options for women and special focus on women by the Maryland Historical Society in its tours and displays.

Columbia NANBPW sponsors Black History Fair

The National Association Of Negro Business and Professional Woman, Columbia Chapter is sponsoring a Black History Fair, Saturday, Feb. 27, to be held at the Columbia Mall.

The Fair is the culmination of an alliance initiated by N.B.P.W. last fall when Black organizations were called together to join in planning an activity for Black History Fair.

Myrtle Jackson, first vice president of the organization is coordinator of the alliance.

Other sponsoring organizations and their representatives who are planning the Fair are Alpha Wives, Adopt Minority Children, Inc. Terri Kendrix; Concerned Parents, Inc. Irma McNeal; Kappa Silhouettes, Hilda Wallace; NAACP, Ruth Edwards.

Other member of NANBPW working with the alliance are: Jackie Banks, Sylvia Cooke Martin and Celeste Upsell.

Contributions and works of local and nationally known Black artists and leaders will be focused upon includes; Carolyn Briscoe, whose art work will be on exhibit; Rae C. Ross (Hari Dam Kaur) Columbia, New York and Stutgart, Germany, (picture of her performance will be on display) and Celonia Walden (youngest) book of Poetry will be on display and she will also read:

Also Joanne Lee and Rossalyn Penn.

The AFRO AMERICAN Newspaper, the oldest Black Newspaper in the country, will participate in the Fair.

Mrs. Ethel B. Hill is president of the Columbia Chapter, N.B.P.W.

Project Survival press conference set

The Concerned Citizens Committee is sponsoring the fourth annual fundraising banquet for the benefit of Urban Services Agency's Project Survival Program to be held at Martin's West, Wednesday, April 14.

A press conference and reception to formally launch the fundraiser will be held Thursday, March 4 at 11:30 a.m. in the Terrace Room East of the Baltimore Convention Center.

All media representatives are invited — from the local radio and television station and the local newspapers.

Representatives are also invited from high schools, as well as major sports figures, businessmen and politicians, at both the local and states levels.

Vernon Wolst is the director of Project Survival. Sharon Snyder is Project Survival's assistant director and the testimonial coordinator. Earl C. "Coach" Banks is general chair. Suzan Harrison is Publicity chair.

The honorees for this year's affair are two former prominent sports figures — "Jim" Parker, former lineman for the Baltimore Colts and Allen "Dickie" Burke, a former star basketball player, now of the Baltimore city Police Department's Community Relations Division.

Tickets for the affair may be purchased at 227 St. Paul Place.

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Woodlawn Highlights

Sixty at SSA receive OMBP Awards

By Marjorie R. Green

Sixty employees from the Office of Management, Budget and Personnel, SSA were presented awards by the Associate Commissioners, Ms. Beverly Bedwell during the recent OMBP 1982 Honor Awards program held in the Altmeyer building auditorium.

SELENA WILLIAMS, a Labor Relations Assistant was honored because of the outstanding way she performed various clerical and and administrative functions of her job.

An employee with 12 years of Federal service to her credit, Selena started her career in the Personnel Management section of the Bureau of District Office Operations. She was promoted to her present position last September.

Mrs. Williams was born in Florence, South Carolina under the sign of Pisces. She came to Baltimore 18 years ago. A 1969 Edmondson High School Graduate, Selena has one sister who is also employed by the government and a brother who is a soldier in the U.S. Army stationed in Korea. She resides in the Forest Park area.

Another recipient is Mr. George Brisco, a SSA Computer Operator. George started in SSA 10 years ago as a laborer in the Supply building. He has been a computer operator for five years. Born a Gemini in St. Mary's County, Maryland George did a three year tour of duty in the U.S. Army that took him to Georgia, Colorado, Korea and Germany. He has also been a member of the National Guard for three years.

Brisco received his award in recongnition of special achievements and his over all contributions to the Social Security computer supply system.

CHRISTINE C. SPAIN, an Employee Development Specialist born in Birmingham, Ala. under the Cancer sign, came to Baltimore in 1965 and started work as a clerk typist.

Prior to coming to Baltimore she worked for the Internal Revenue Service in St. Louis, Mo.

As an employee Development Specialist in the Training Policy Management Branch, Christine coordinates the Intergovernmental Personnel program. This is a program where there is an inter-change of personnel among SSA and non profit, non-federal agencies seeking employees with special skills. Her duties also include developing policies and procedures in Training and career development.

She received the citation for the administration for the I.P.A. program.

Christine comes from a family where she was the only girl in a family of seven boys. She and her husband Earl are the parents of five boys. They have three grandchildren.

The honoree attends Ebenezer Baptist Church in East Baltimore. There she works on the Usher Board and teaches in the Sunday School. She is also secretary to the Pastors Aid Auxiliary.

Scorpio is secretary VALERIE BROOKS' sign. A 1970 graduate of Edmondson Senior High School, Valerie accepted a clerk typist job in 1972 that led to her present secretarial position.

She received the Associate Commissioner award in recognition of work performed on the Congressional budget justification.

Mrs. Brooks and her husband Dwight are the parents of a six year old girl named "Kelli" Kelli is in the first grade at Rangel Heights public school.

Birthday Greetings

February 27 to Mrs. Susan Duda, secretary in the Division of Program Budget, Office of Financial Resources.

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