Baltimore's Best honored in impressive ceremonies

AFRO Photos
By P.A. Greene

Ms. Beatrice Gaddy was cited as an outstanding Baltimorean who initiated an emergency food distribution in her home which after became the Patterson Park Emergency Food Center, Inc.

Miss Baltimore's Best 1981 and Miss Maryland 1983, Amy Elliabeth Keyes, sang "The Rose." Other program participants were the Handel Choir; Miss Baltimore's Best 1982 Mary Beth Haroth and Karen Stopa, pianist, Miss Baltimore's Best 1983.

Roland Smith is congratulated by Mayor Schaefer as volunteer coordinator of student musical programs. He has been honored with citations from Gillis Memorial Church, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority among his many honors.

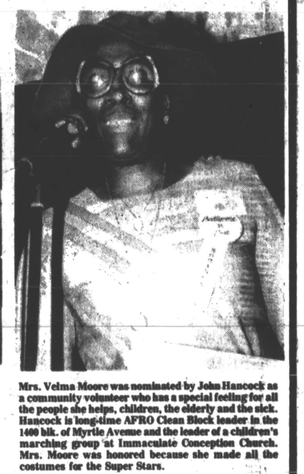
Silver-Silver and Blue

Ms. Aissatou Mijiza nominated by Mrs. Penny Schwarz because she volunteers many hours to promote art and cultural affairs through her weekly one-hour show on WEAA at Morgan University.

Raynor T. Banks, Customer Service for the Mass transit Administration was cited for helping to organize a food and clothing drive for the AFRO's Mrs. Santa. For more than four years he has organized the AFRO's Mrs. Santa Softball Marathon which has raised thousands of dollars to feed hungry families.

Christ Hinton of the Baltimore Colts was nominated by Coach Earl Banks for taking part in the Adopt-A-Family Program, the Colts Corral of the Maryland State Penitentiary, and for his regular visits to local elementary schools.

Baltimore Best — 1983



Mrs. Velma Moore was nominated by John Hancock as a community volunteer who has a special feeling for all the people she helps, children, the elderly and the sick. Hancock is long-time AFRO Clean Block leader in the 1400 blk. of Myrtle Avenue and the leader of a children's marching group at Immaculate Conception Church. Mrs. Moore was honored because she made all the costumes for the Super Stars.

Ms. Ruth T. Banks, nominated by Mrs. Shirley Easoi told the audience "I'm glad I was able to help somebody less fortunate." As a dedicated 20-hour-a-week nursing home volunteer, she supplies personal items as well as individual attention to the patients.

Mrs. Camilla Sherrard was honored as a Silver and Blue finalist for volunteering countless hours over 20 years to The Arena Players. She has given invaluable support to Art and Culture in Baltimore.

16th Semi-Annual Awards Presentations

The City of Baltimore honored 26 citizens and organizations in impressive ceremonies at the Joesph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall, Tuesday night. The 16th Semi-Annual Awards presentation cited each person as a splendid example of the community's vital spirit.

Presiding was Mrs. Floraine Applefeld, volunteer executive director of the Baltimore Is Best Program. Mayor William Donald Schaefer presented each winner with a uniquely designed sterling silver keepsake, along with a handsome award certificate.

Highlight at the end of a long evening was the presentation of the "Best of Baltimore's Best" award to Mrs. Betty Hamburger, a Pikesville resident. Mrs. Hamburger was cited for her work in the areas of aging and for being an early pioneer in civil rights as well as continuing her efforts for the betterment of the quality of life for all citizens of Baltimore.

The evening opened at 5 p.m. with a reception for all the Silver and Blue Award winners. At 6:30 p.m. all 200 nominees were presented Certificates of Recognition in the Meyerhoff Lobby. Later, they were acknowledged and presented with long-stem roses.

Randall Shaull, as a full-time volunteer for 10 years, has been responsible for the Irvington News-editing, layout, artwork, typing, printing, advertising, and distribution-thus promoting strong community relations.

Ms. Leslie Brudnell, as Chairman of the Baltimore City Special Olympics, Ms. Brudnell goes beyond the call of duty evenings, weekends, and during summers to make rewarding competition for retarded youngsters possible at the city, state, and national levels.

Handel Choir of Baltimore, Herb Dimmock, Director. One of the oldest cultural institutions in our city, this Choir performs innumerable programs free of charge to Baltimoreans.

Matthew Zahner, Baltimore's "Ambassador of the Airways". This enthusiatic Baltimorean has focused international attention on our City, through his shortwave radio contacts.

Chris Hinton, an outstanding athlete with the Baltimore Colts he has taken part in the Adopt - A - Family Program, the Colts Corral at the Maryland State Penitentiary and visits regularly local elementary schools in his mission to bring encouragement and hope to City youngsters.

Lawrence Stappler, generous with his food services. Mr. Stappler, owner of Overlea Caterers, has donated much to many worthwhile organizations in the City, which represent people of all ages.

Larry Waranch, a practicing attorney in Baltimore, Mr. Waranch volunteers many hours of legal services on behalf of Baltimore's abused children.

William Whiteford, by documenting on film how the elderly cope with the issues concerning them. This Baltimore film maker has promoted the image of our City as one that cares about people.

Ms. Aissatou Mijiza, volunteers many hours to promote art and cultural affairs in Baltimore, through her weekly, one-woman radio show.

Mrs. Camilla Sherrard, volunteering countless hours over 20 years to a Baltimore theatre group- The Arena Players, Mrs. Sherrard has been an invaluable support to art and culture in our city.

Roland Smith, in addition to being a custodian in City Schools, he is a volunteer coordinator of student musical programs.

Gary Thomas, a Baltimore high school student. This exceptional young man who is handicapped has volunteered his services to an after-school day care center, where the children love him for all the services he provides for them.

Ms. Beatrice Gaddy, this outstanding Baltimorean initiated an emergency food distribution program in her home, which later became the Patterson Park Emergency Food Center, Inc. SILVER AWARD WINNERS WERE;

Ms. Ruth T. Banks, as a dedicated 20-hour-a-week nursing home volunteer, supplies personal items as well as individual attention to the patients.

Tyler's Country Clothes, donated uniforms to Girl Scouts who cannot afford to buy them and sells uniforms at cost to those who can.

WPOC-FM 93 Radio, local radio station adopted the Johns Hopkins Children's Center as the beneficiary of its extensive charity fund-raising drive, thereby benefiting countless handicapped youngsters.

Don the Magician, performs free of charge for children at many hospitals-Johns Hopkins, Saint Agnes, Children Hospital and other non-profit organizations

(Continued on page 19)

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Religion In Modern Life

Singer Ricky Fowler comes back home to Baltimore after tour

By Eddie King
AFRO Staff Writer

He's been practically all over the United States. He's been to Belgium, Holland, France, West Germany and Switzerland.

So what is he doing back in Baltimore?

Ricky Fowler has come home.

And home he has, to a city that has prospered tremendously and advanced into the bright lights of stardom, a phenomenon with which Ricky has become quite familiar.

It was no more than 10 years ago when you could have marched down to the House of God Church on Polk Street and see a little 13-year-old belting out songs in the style and manner of the accepted gospel greats

He was smooth, charismatic and charming and endowed with undiminishing energy.

There was a lean and a bend and even some skips that brought stunned viewers to their feet.

Much of that same style has not erased itself from Ricky's flamboyant style.

Just last week before an estimated audience of 500 at the Calvert Education Center, he crooned the lyrics of "Amazing Grace" with all the emotional sensationalism associated with the best.

The lean and the bend were there, and there was a skip too, and all this with an ear-shattering volume expected of only hard rock singers.

But it was hard rock. Ricky "rocked" the house and even 15-year-olders stood in amazement at this now 23 year - old, 5'3" figure no bigger than themselves.

Ricky is now appearing in a touring Langston Hughes off - Broadway musical entitled "Black Nativity," his first professional production.

Now on leave from the play until Spring, he has found time to produce video tapes; that is, engaging in the actual writing and directing of the script.

It was in the midst of one of those moments that he recalls his start.

"I can recall as early as seven-years-old singing in our church, House of God (Keith Dominion). But I guess my big day came when I was nine and was offered to sing on a program given by singer Katie Jackson, also a member of the church.

"A week after that, offers came from everywhere. There were television shows and radio talk shows and before I knew it, I was traveling extensively."

In 1977, he did his first recording; a 45 called "If You Ever Change Your Mind" which did moderately well on the charts. In 1978, Rev. Isaac Douglass introduced Ricky Fowler and The Dynamics on the same album.

It wasn't until 1983 that his first solo album, "One Step Closer was released; a nine-song album written mostly by Rev. Isaac Douglass and Julius Brockington.

"I'm not a contemporary gospel singer, but I'm not a traditional gospel singer either. I'm just, I guess, a gospel singer," declared Ricky.

A lover of the big band sound, most of his music is engulfed with brass and percussion arrangements and a slight lean toward the strings.

Ricky deems himself as a versatile artist. He can sing anything. His albums usually testify to that with a mixture of contemporary, choir and quartet sounds.

"One of my most memorable experiences involved a performance at the Carter-Barron Auditorium in Washington, D.C. I did three minutes of a song called, "Spread The News" and the audience went wild. As I left the stage, the enthusiasm of the crowd provoked my manager to make me return to the stage.

"But lo and behold, it was to go around and come through the aisle where the audience was. Sure enough they made a path for me through the aisle with bodyguards around me and everything.

"I went through the crowd singing and when I finally reached the stage and was still into my song, I suddenly realized my clothes had been ripped completely, the lining out of my jacket, my pants split and even a torn tee shirt.

"I was so wrapped up into my song that I didn't know I was being ripped to pieces. I had only acquainted these experiences to rock and roll singers, not gospel."

A new album will be released in the late spring called, "Come to Christ" which was recorded live at Bethel A.M.E. Church in March.

It features the background talents of Jerry Caesar and the Goodnews Singers, Armstrong Singers, Robert Smith and Pam Yerby, The Dynamics and the Alpha and Omega Foundation Singers.

"I take my music as a ministry. I get into more meaningful songs. It really doesn't matter to me whether people shout or not, but it does matter if they hear what I'm saying about Jesus. This is my ministry.

(AFRO Photo by Paul A. Greene)

BALTIMORE'S OWN recording artist Ricky Fowler is home on break from touring off-Broadway production 'Black Nativity,' giving him time to work on scores for his next album at home.

Metro Church Briefs

New Rehoboth Baptist

The Church Training Auxiliary presents to the Mt. Bethel Association Shelly Stokes in concert on Fri., Feb. 10 at New Rehoboth Baptist Church, 2504 N. Hilton St., 7:30 p.m. Donation is $3.

Ray of Hope Baptist

The Library Committee of the Ray of Hope Baptist Church, 3000 Parkside Drive, will present an evening of traditional and contemporary songs of praise, featuring the Vocal Choir and the Gospel Choir of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in observance of Black History Month. The program will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Mt. Zion Holliness

A big Pre-Va;entine Gospel Program featuring Clarence Fountain and the Five Blind Boys of Alabama will be held Sun., Feb. 12 at Mt. Zion Holliness Church, 5501 Liberty Heights Ave., at 3 p.m. Admission is $5.

Ray of Hope Baptist

The Junior Ushers of Ray of Hope Baptist Church, 3000 Parkside Drive, will present the Voices of Eastern in concert at the church at 4 p.m.

Simmons Memorial Baptist

The Organ and Piano Committee of Simmons Memorial Baptist Church, Pennsylvania Ave. and Cumberland St., will be celebrating their anniversary on Sun., Feb. 12 at 8 p.m. Rev. John Clanton, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Overlea, Md. will deliver the sermon

Greater New Hope Baptist

Rev. Philbert Joseph, pastor of the Miracle Cathedral Church, from the Republic of Trinidad, will be the guest speaker at the 11 a.m. service of Greater New Hope Baptist Church, 2720 W. North Ave. He will be followed at 3:30 p.m. by Pastor Leonard Hicks of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church.

Gillis Memorial CC

Rev. Virginia Wise and the Revelation's Choir will celebrate their first anniversary on Sun., Feb. 12 at Gillis Memorial C.C. Church, 4016 Park Heights Ave., featuring Baltimore's outstanding soloists and choirs at 3:30 p.m.

Ames Memorial

The Parham Choral Ensemble of Ames Memorial U.M. Church, Carey and Baker Sts., will celebrate their 7th Anniversary Program on Sun., Feb. 12 at 4 p.m. Rev. Anthony Muse will be the speaker.

City Temple

City Temple Senior Usher Board invites you to watch with them "The Parade of States" on Sun., Feb. 12 at 5 p.m. at the church, Eutaw Place and Dolphin St. Special guest will be Rev. Quay Rich of Grace Baptist Church.

Mt. Calvary Freewill Baptist

Mt. Calvary Freewill Baptist Church, 1607 E. Oliver St., will sponsor a musical program on Feb. 12 at 6 p.m. featuring the Mass Choir of New Antioch Baptist Church, The Armstrong Singers, Voices of Simmons, Rev. Samuel Banks and others.

First English Lutheran

A Valentine concert by His Harvesters, a men's gospel quartet from Mountain Christian Church in Harford County, will be sponsored by the Lutheran Hospital Auxiliary for the benefit of the Lutheran Hospital on Sun., Feb. 12, 3:30 p.m. at First English Lutheran Church, 39th and Charles St. Donation is $5.

Howard Johnson's Restaurant

The Aglow Fellowship-West Baltimore Evening Chapter invites you to an evening of Christian Fellowship at the Howard Johnson Restaurant on rt. 40 at Ingleside Ave. on Mon., Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Bethel A.M.E.

The Bryant for Bishop Committee of Bethel A.M.E. Church is asking that you join the Committee on Tues., Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. at the church, 1300 Druid Hill Ave. in a service of praying and preaching for the pastor.

Sharp Street Memorial

There will be a Black History Month celebration at Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church, Dolphin and Etting Sts., on Fri., Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m. The program will be a musical presentation and narrative dramatization profiling the lives of three Black Methodist leaders: Harry Hosier, Frederick Douglass and Mary McCleod Bethune.

Eastern High School

Rev. Lewis B. Oliver, Jr. will sponsor the Rev. F.C. Barnes and Rev. Janice Brown from Rocky Mount, N.C. in concert on Fri., Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m. in Eastern H.S.'s auditorium in Easton, Md. There will be a bus leaving the 1400 block of Milton Ave. at 6 p.m. sharp. The trip will be $7.50. For further info. call 922-6052 after 6 p.m.

Holiday Inn

A Fashion Show in benefit of Women's Day will be sponsored Sat., Feb. 18 at The Holiday Inn, Lombard and Howard Sts., by the Payne AME Memorial Church.

Douglas Memorial

Douglas Memorial Community Church, Madison and LaFayette Aves., will celebrate Founder's Day on Sun., Feb. 19 preceded by a Prayer Breakfast on Sat., Feb. 18. The Sunday service will include an 8 a.m. service with Pastor Marion Bascum preaching followed at 11 a.m. with Rev. Dr. Carlyle F. Stewart, III of Detroit, MI.

Miracle Deliverance Center

There will be a mid-winter gospel extravaganza on Feb. 19, 3 p.m. at the Miracle Deliverance Center, 3108 Ellamont St. given by Doris McNeil. Donation is $4.

St. John A.M.E.

Dr. Russ Johnson president of the Black United Fund, will deliver his trial sermon at St. John A.M.E. Church, 810 N. Carrollton Ave. on Sun., Feb. 19 at 11: a.m.

Aberdeen Post Theatre

On Sun., Feb. 19 from 4 p.m. until 9:30 p.m., the USAOC&S Human Relations Office, in conjunction with Aberdeen Proving Ground's Equal Opportunity Office, will sponsor their eleventh annual Gospel Night to be held at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Post Theater. For further info. call 278-5598.

Gospel Spreading Church

The Number Two Choir of the Gospel Spreading Church of God, 4310 Edmondson Ave., announces their 14th Annual Gospel Impressions Program on Sun., Feb. 26 at 5 p.m. Admission is free.

Martin Luther King Jr., Community

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Church Cathedral Building Fund Committee will present the Morgan State University Choir in Concert in its 1984 Columbia performance on Sun., March 4, 4 p.m., in the Hammond High School Auditorium, Rt. 32, Columbia, Md.

Grace United Methodist

The Rainbow Blitz is coming to Baltimore on Fri., Mar. 9 and Sat., Mar. 10, a national complete youth ministry workshop featuring J. David Stone and a team of youth leaders representing Protestant and Catholic youth ministry. It will be at Grace United Methodist Church, 5407 N. Charles St.

Westport church has to move

By Eddie King
AFRO Staff Writer

It wasn't even a good year and a half before the roof began to leak and pipes began to burst.

Problems like these for the Mt. Calvary United Pentecostal Church in the 2200 block of Annapolis Road had become frequent within the last six months. "How hard we tried to convince the landlord to fix this building up," said Pastor Richard Harris. "And oh how promises kept coming until we had put almost $3500 into the building, sealing holes and paneling benches, etc."

Even a trip to court turned out in their favor said Rev. Harris.

House inspectors looked at the building and found it unconditional to live in and requested the movement of the church to another location.

But there was not another location to move to.

At the present, members of Mt. Calvary are divided and are attending other local church services in the Westport area.

(AFRO Photo by Paul A. Greene)

MT. CALVARY United Penecostal Deliverance Church located in the 2200 block of Annapolis Road in Westport has been forced to relocate because of landlord insufficiencies. Members are now scattered until a new church can be found.

How to get church news in the AFRO

For coverage of religious events and/or placement of announcements in Metro Church Briefs, write to Eddie King, AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers, 628 N. Eutaw St., 21201 or call 728-8200, Ext. 275 at least two weeks in advance of the event.

A salute to Mahalia Jackson

A deserving "Black History" salute this week goes out to gospel singing great Mahalia Jackson.

Mahalia Jackson was born 72 years ago in New Orleans, La., the home of blues, Dixieland music and a mixture of national strains from all over the world.

Aside from such hints and phrasing and production as could be suggested by records, Miss Jackson had no musical training.

She sang in her father's church choir from the time she was five years old. Although her body was small, her voice was big.

She went as far as the eighth grade and then had to work to help support the family.

Some years later, after singing around at various churches, she made a record, "Move On Up a Little Higher," which ended up selling more than two million copies. She was on her way.

By the time of her death in 1972, she had sung in almost all corners of the world, in Europe, France, England and almost the entire United States.

She was truly one of America's greatest pioneers in gospel.

Mahalia Jackson