Parren J. Mitchell Campaign for Congress Committee composed of nearly 100 members and adding more

From the time some 80 citizens met Jan. 31 in Baltimore to organize the Parren J. Mitchell For Congress Committee up until this week, the number has gone up far over 100 persons. In fact, scores more have volunteered to serve, "to guarantee the re - election of Maryland's first and only black congressman."

According to Attorney Larry Gibson, "Countless more citizens have urged Congressman Mitchell to run again and help guarantee his going back to Washington."

The group headed by Clarence T. Bishop, campaign manager and with Attorney Anthony W. Robinson as treasurer, has charge of fundraising, handling distribution of campaign materials and recruiting others to join the gigantic effort which in the past has returned Mitchell to the seat he has held since first elected in 1970.

Many activities are on the drawing board to lead to victory in May.

Thursday, Feb. 23 is the Ministers Breakfast set for 8:30 a.m. at Douglas Memorial Community Church, Lafayette and Madison Aves. Chairmen are church pastor, Rev. Marion Bascom and Rev. Vernon Dobson, who reveal some 150 or more pastors of various denominations will be present "to honor our Congressman Parren J. Mitchell."

A crowning event is the Saturday, March 31, 8 to 9 p.m. Parren Mitchell Gala to be held at the B and O Railroad Museum with over 4,000 guests expected. Attorney Anthony Robinson, treasurer of any member of the committee may be reached for the $35 individual tickets.

Other events between now and May will be announced shortly.

The Parren J. Mitchell Campaign for Congress Committee has the address of Post Office Box 7036, Walbrook Station, Baltimore, Md. 21216.

The headquarters the Mitchell group has held many years is at 1902 N. Eilamont St. with the phone, 301-962-4531. Cong. Mitchell's Washington Office is 2367 Rayburn House Bldg., U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515. Phone — 202-225-4741.

The Baltimore Federal Office address is George Fallon Federal Building, Room 1018, 31 Hopkins Plaza, Baltimore, Md. 21201. Phone — 301-962-3223.

Congressman Mitchell has represented the 7th Congressional District of Maryland since he took his seat in the House of Representatives, January, 1971. His election November, 1970 made him the first and only black Maryland citizen ever to sit in the hallowed halls on Capitol Hill. He has been re - elected each time to return to Congress.

Before election in 1970, Mitchell was a professor of Sociology and assistant director of the Urban Studies Institute at Morgan State College (now University). Between 1965-68 he administered the Community Action Agency in Baltimore and the Maryland Commission on Interracial Problems and Relations.

His fight in Congress has been first of all for minority business but Mitchell's continued overall thrust has been to close the economic gap between the "haves and the have nots," a battle which has gained him wide respect among all congressmen and Americans regardless of color.

His Mitchell Minority Enterprise Act (Public Law 95-507) signed into law in 1978 has been cited as "the most important minority business statute ever enacted into law."

His skills and knowledge as a superb lawmaker (he has a Univ. Md. law degree) are admired even by his most fierce opposers. His accomplishments during 14 years in Congress are legend.

Here are the names of the persons who formed the organizational Committee To Re- Elect Congressman Parren J. Mitchell:

Dr. Augustus A. Adair
Ms. Catherine Adams
Del. Curt Anderson
Frederick Bailey
Senator Clarence Blount
Senator Troy Brailey
Michael Bryant
James Bracy
Ms. Gloria Bryant
John Burleigh
Michael Butler
Evelyn Chatmon
Irvin Conway
Audrey Davis
Del. Clarence Davis
Ms. Arlene Fisher
Thomas Goines
Attorney Lalii Gadhia
Titus Garnett Jr.
Dave Glenn
Attorney Larry Gibson
Willie Glover
Ms. Zatella Giles
Sampson Green
Dr. Irving Hamer
Ms. Nina Harper
Col. William B. Harris
Ms. Lucia Hawthorne
Ms. Mariam Hecht
Daniel P. Henson, III
Malcolm Shabazz
Terry Taylor
Kenneth Townsend
James Vereen
William Whetstone, Jr.
DeWayne Wickham
Ronald Willis
Leonard Jackson
Therm James
Edwin Johnson
Ms. Lovelene Johnson
Arnold Jolivet
Del. Ruth Kirk
(Former) Del. Lena K. Lee
Jerry Lymas
Councilwoman Jacquelyn McClean
Councilman Nathaniel McFadden
Ms. Andrea McCoy
Senator Clarence Mitchell, III
Councilman Michael Mitchell
Councilman Kweisi Mfume
Ms. Madeline Murphy
Harold Nash
Ron Nichols
William Nicholsonne
Rodney Orange
A. Recardo Perry
De. Wendell Phillips
Leon C. Purnell
David Rascoe
Councilwoman Iris Reeves
Ms. Mildred Reddick
Ms. Marva Rigsby
Attorney Anthony W. Robinson
George Russell, attorney
Michael Scales
Robert Hecht, Sr.
Senator Nathan Irby
Charles P. Stokes, Jr.
Johnnie Mae Thompson
Robert Turner
Councilwoman Agnes Welch
Attorney Blaine White
Harry C. R. Williams
Delegate Larry Yougg

CONGRESSMAN PARREN J. MITCHELL, Maryland's lone black congressman.

CONSTANCE HELOISE MOORE
Feb. 12, 1945-June 27, 1965

Concert Sunday recalls a beautiful girl's dream

The Sunday, Feb. 19, 4 p.m. Memorial Concert marks the 18th year of fundraising for Sharon Baptist Church, Stricker and Presstman Sts. will recall the dream of a beautiful girl who died before she could realize study in college to be able to teach the handicapped.

Constance H. Moore was the daughter of Rev. James L. Moore, pastor and his late wife whose funeral was held Feb. 16, 1984. The Memorial Concert marks the 18th year of fundraising for scholarships.

At 5 p.m. the committee presents the Chancel Choir of Douglas Memorial Community Church with J. Spencer Hammond, director. Elaine B. Paige is Trustee chairman; Dr. Moore, executive director of the Committee.

DEDICATION SET FOR FEBRUARY 24

110-year old Annpolis church becomes $ multi-million museum of black history

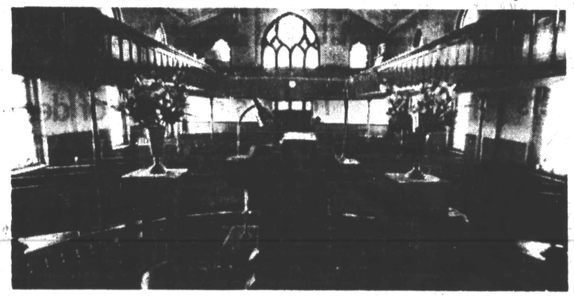
By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

Various ceremonies beginning Feb. 24 with the dedication and extending into March, will mark the actual opening of the Banneker - Douglass Museum of Afro-American Life and History in Annapolis.

The museum is the restored 110 - year - old Mount Moriah Church at 84 Franklin Street in the heart of picturesque National Landmark Historic District of Annapolis.

Expected during the year are thousands of visitors from throughout the region as well as from Washington and Baltimore, as well as historians and museum lovers throughout the nation.

Mount Moriah was built in 1784 by the AME congregation and the Douglass - Banneker Museum idea an outgrowth of the 1969 efforts of State Senator Verda F. Welcome, a supportive governor and the Maryland General Assembly which created the Maryland Commission on Afro-American History and Culture.



IN ITS heyday, glorious Mount Moriah Church, Annapolis, looked like the above. Today, the proud auditorium has been restored with over $1 million in state funds and serves as an arena for exhibits of Maryland's black history. The stained glass windows glow in exact copies of the original but benches are gone to allow exhibit space.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS

The Museum is the chief project of the Commission which has dedicated itself to the restoration of the church and the establishment of the Museum. Carroll Greene Jr. is executive director, Dr. Roland McConnell, Commission chairman.

COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners are: Rev. James J. Fuller, Baltimore; Dr. Louis R. Harlan, Prince Georges County; Mrs. Phebe R. Jacobsen, Annapolis; Mrs. Mary S. Johnson, Baltimore; William H. Kiah, Cambridge; Dr. Roland C. McConnell, Baltimore; Dr. Elizabeth M Oliver, Baltimore; Mrs. Verda F. Welcome, Baltimore; Mrs. Angeline F. Williams, Annapolis.

Banneker Douglass Museum Foundation Inc. members are Mrs. Yevola S. Peters, president, Rev. Robert Powell, vice - president; Mrs. Marion W. Carroll, secretary; Miss Mary V. Wiseman, treasurer;

Friends of the Banneker - Douglass Museum; Mrs. Rushie Croxton, President; Miss Barbara Jackson, Mrs. Rachel Brown, vice-presidents; Dr. Delores C. Hunt, recording secretary; Mrs. Alma L. Hilliard, financial secretary; Mrs. Marian A. Glass, treasurer; Mrs. Marian W. Carroll, historian; Mrs. Irene S. Mills, parliamentarian

The Museum is helped in its support by the Banneker - Douglass Museum Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit, tax - exempt group created under the laws of Maryland to provide resources and financial assistance to the Maryland Commission on Afro - American History and Culture in the development of old Mount Moriah as an educational, historical and cultural facility.

A project sponsored by the Banneker - Douglass Museum Foundation is the publication of "The Black Presence in Maryland" from the 1634 founding of the state to the present. The volume to be printed and circulated by the AFRO - AMERICAN Newspapers is in celebration of the 350th anniversary of the state of Maryland and will be published lather this spring.

The museum will feature:

— Afro - American arts and crafts.

— Hall of National Greatness — which will honor black Marylanders who have distinguished themselves nationally.

— Permanent and temporary history exhibits.

— Gallery of Black Maritime History, tracing the story of "Blacks and the Sea" in military, commercial and scientific maritime history.

— Craft demonstrations.

— Lectures and films.

— Reference library on Afro-American history in Maryland.

— And will sponsor portable exhibits to travel statewide to schools, libraries, and historical organizations.

BENJAMIN BANNEKER
1731 - 1806

Benjamin Banneker, freeborn in Baltimore County, became the pioneer American black man of science.

Receiving a basic education at a small Quaker school near his home, he early showed mathematical talent. In 1753, at age 22, he constructed a wooden striking clock.

Banneker owned over 100 acres of farmland in the village of Oella, and farming became the basis of the Banneker Family's economic security.

Banneker's pastimes included creating mathematical puzzles and playing both the violin and flute.

In his later years, he took astronomy seriously and computed almanacs for a number of years. In 1791, his first almanac for Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Virginia brought him fame overnight.

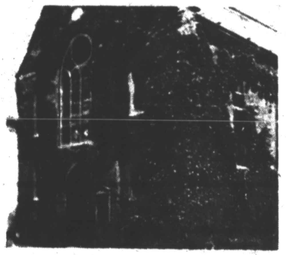
He sent one copy to Thomas Jefferson, then Secretary of State, along with a now famous letter criticizing Jefferson for not actively opposing slavery.

He was selected to serve on the team of surveyors chosen by Banneker's neighbor, Major Andrew Ellicott, to lay out the city of Washington.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS
1817 - 1895

Frederick Douglass was born a slave in Talbot County. After his escape from slavery in Baltimore, he became a famous Abolitionist, newspaper editor, and civil libertarian not only on behalf of blacks, but also of women, Indians, and the Irish.

For many years he edited his own newspaper, The North Star. Its slogan: "Right is of no sex—Truth is of no color—God is the Father of us all, and we are all Brethren.

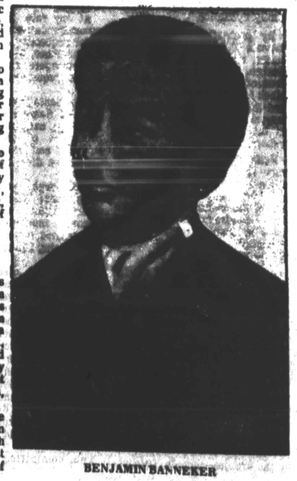


TODAY THE OLD IVY COVERED WALLS are now bare to show off the 110-year-old bricks. The frame of the ancient church is still as stately as when constructed in 1874 at the exact spot, 84 Franklin St. in the heart of the historic district, Annapolis.

Douglass actively recruited black soldiers to serve in the Civil War (including his sons Charles and Lewis).

Some 186,000 black men responded. Abraham Lincoln said of Douglass. "He is the most meritorious person I have ever met."

In 1889, Douglass was appointed to the post of U.S. Minister to Haiti. He died at his home in Washington in 1895.



BENJAMIN BANNEKER

AFRO Profiles:

William H. (Billy) Murphy, Jr.

William H. (Billy) Murphy, Jr. Former Circuit Court judge and politial candidate he is involved in the Jesse Jackson run for the presidential nomination.

By Arthur Johnson
AFRO Staff Writer

"I will run for mayor in 1987," Billy Murphy said Tuesday early in our interview. This was even before we were both settled in our seats as he hastily lunched in his office on a health salad between clients and a Black History Month speech he was to deliver in less than an hour at Paul Laurence Dunbar High School.

"I don't believe I'll be running against Schaefer and by then, hopefully many people in the public who were not convinced that blacks and women were getting a raw deal will realize it," says the former Circuit Court judge who last year unsuccessfully challenged the mayor's 12-year stronghold on the city.

(AFRO Photo by P. A. Greene)
THROWING HIS HAT INTO THE RING — Judge Murphy announced his candidacy for the mayoral seat in May 1983 with two of his sons, Hassan and Seth, by his side.

Now he has returned to private practice in a downtown Charles Street office. He represents the National Black United Fund and the Friends of Morgan (with Edward Smith, Jr.) among others and provides free services for worthy causes. A law partner with attorneys Nelson Stewart, Ray Stokes, Roslynn Pugh and Will Abercrombie; at 330 N. Charles St. Murphy reflects on the aftermath of the election which Schaefer won by a landslide.

After the election when the Blacks for Schaefer group trekked to City Hall to collect on its political debt in return for delivering black votes to the incumbent mayor, they were told they were not needed, says Murphy.

"They violated the rule that if you do not have unity you don't have strength. The Blacks for Schaefer made the mistake of not having a community to bargain for. When Schaefer won they were caught in a position where he could say 'I don't need them.' "

This position of powerlessness could have been avoided had the group been part of an organized black community, according to Murphy.

Regardless of whether the mayor decides to run again Murphy says his mind is made up to run.

And will he run against another black candidate?

"The question is, will he run against me?" Murphy responds.

In the interim Murphy says he will devote his time to gearing up for another shot at the mayoral seat, practicing law, spending "a lot of time with my kids," (Rebecca, 18, a senior at Western High School; Hassan, 15; and Joshua, 13, both of whom attend Gilman; and Seth, 8, who attends Mount Washington Elementary), and helping to organize a citywide effort to unite the community behind worthwhile political candidates.

Murphy's involvement with the Jesse Jackson presidential campaign is on a front burner right now. he will be one of the citywide co - chairmen of Jackson's campaign, which the former judge heralds as one of the most poitically significant events in the U.S. of the past ten years.

"For the first time we're seeing the emergence of a national leadership from the black community who has a vital perspective on not only the so-called black issues but on the whole variety of other issues—foreign policy, the defense budget; arms control talks, import/export quotas and immigration of refugees from darker nations."

Mr. Murphy believes that the last comparable black leader was Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"King recognized that as long as whites could confine you to 'black' issues, you do not have the power you have when you become the leader of all the people.

"When King discovered that power. he was killed."

Jackson's candidacy has not only widened the perspective of black people internationally concerning their political possibilities as a race, but broadened the perspective of white people about black people as well, according to Mr. Murphy.

Jackson's impressive participation in the televised Democratic candidates' debates "inspired a new generation of young blacks to participate in the political process and provided a model of excellence of the kind we formerly saw on the basketball court or the football field or when Michael Jackson comes to town," Mr. Murphy continued.

And, perhaps most importantly, "Jackson will help to defeat Ronald Reagan."

Of the opinion held by some factions in the community that Jackson's run is an exercise in futility, Mr. Murphy believes such thinking is self - defeating.

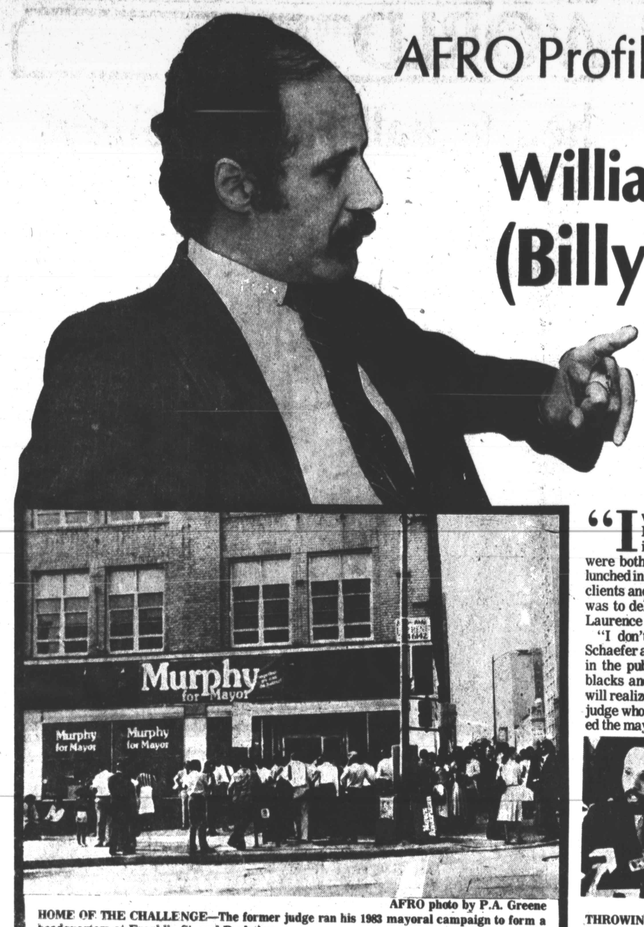
"People said this about me (in the mayoral race) and deprived themselves of power. The whites saw that we could win and spent $3 million against me," he says.

The vietnamese, African and American revolutionaries are all examples of people who have fought for their autonomy.

"If they had worried about the odds, they never would have won. We've got to stop thinking like that. The Jewish people have won elections and they are nowhere near the majority, but they never talk like that. When you argue your limitations you will become them. Have we forgotten Ed Brooke, Tom Bradley, and Harold Washington?"

Taking the stage at Dunbar High's auditorium for almost an hour, Mr. Murphy preaches, instructs and questions the teenagers about themselves ("If you don't like yourself you're not capable of liking someone else who looks like you"); their world ("People say, 'Are we ready for a black president?' Would they ask that question in Africa or the Caribbean?") and their responsibilities ("A boy can make a baby. it takes a real man to take responsibility for what he's made").

"I believe in you," the future mayoral candidate tells them at last, leaving them with a lasting impression of the man who would be mayor.



AFRO photo by P.A. Greene
HOME OF THE CHALLENGE—The former judge ran his 1983 mayoral campaign to form a headquarters at Franklin St. and Park Ave.

AFRO photo by P.A. Greene
CONFAB—Billy Murphy, Jr. and legal partners Nelson Stewart, Will Abercrombie and Roslynn Pugh. Not shown is Ray Stokes

AFRO photo by Mark Cain
[illegible] Murphy [illegible] posed for this photo at Billy [illegible] swearing [illegible] judge [illegible]. Pictured are brother Arthur; Mrs. Laura Minor, sister; Judge [illegible] Murphy; [illegible]; Mrs. Madeline Murphy, mother; and Mrs. Madeline Rabb, sister. Not pictured is brother Houston.

AFRO photo by P.A. Greene
A BUSY BOOKCASE [illegible] a busy schedule [illegible] but [illegible] budget space very good.