DR. WARREN ROBBINS, founder and Director Emeritus, National Museum of African Art and guest speaker at the opening of the Exhibition of Traditional African Sculpture hosted by the Pierians at Morgan U. Sunday, Dec. 2 is pictured with (L to R): Vivian Washington, Pierian president; James E. Lewis, director, Morgan Art Gallery and Gabriel S. Tanabe, curator.

Pierians hosts at exhibit of Traditional African Art

The Pierians did it again. This organization of women, interested in their cultural development through the arts, repeated what they have done so magnificently since 1958.

In association with the Gallery of Art of Morgan State University, the club on Sunday evening, Dec. 9 presented an exhibition of traditional African sculpture, at a black tie affair, attended by 200 people.

The art was a vicarious journey through Western Africa, and it was powerful in many respects. The most commanding piece was a mask in black, red and white, towering over everything else, but there were also tiny animals of all kinds in brass—all dating back many many years.

To appreciate this exhibition of 118 pieces, one must visit the Gallery of Art of Morgan State University, open every week day, 9:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., in the Murphy Fine Arts Center, Hillen Road south of Cold Spring Lane.

The exhibit was "The Robert B. Mayer Collection" and was composed, according to the catalog, of "Superb examples from the wide ethnic group of sub-Saharan Black Africa." It is now in the possession of Mrs. Robert B. Mayer and was gathered by her late husband.

Mrs. Mayer could not be present at the Morgan opening, but a fabulous and authoritative slide show and lecture were given by Dr. Warren M. Robbins, founding director emeritus of the National Museum of African Art of the Smithsonian Institute.

Dr. Robbins dealt with the "Influence of Traditional African Art on Picasso."

James E. Lewis, Henry O. Tanner professor art at Morgan, introduced the speaker.

At the end of the slide presentation, Dr. Earl S. Richardson, president of Morgan, expressed the appreciation of Morgan State University to the Pierians for their contribution to the institution. He also expressed the hope that "our students could hear and see such a lecture as we have seen and heard this evening."

The countries represented in the exhibit are Ghana, Guinea: Angola, Zambia, Ivory Coast, Zaire, Nigeria, Liberia, Cameroon, Upper Volta and Mali.

As might be expected there are many pieces from the Ashanti people from the Yoruba tribe of Nigeria.

In addition to the masks of warriors, the subjects that are notably stressed are the mothers and child, which are shown.

Although there is nothing in the collection from Benin, which is famed for its brass, there are many exquisitely sculptured pieces from the Ashantis of Ghana, depicting equestrian figures, woman with mortar and pestle, necklaces, and birds and other animals.

The evening during which champagne and cheeses were served, was arranged by the Pierians Art Show Committe, of which Hazel Fleming was chairperson.

The other members were Geraldine Desbordes, Evelyn Haysbert, Louise Lamb, Agnes Reeves, Alice Russ sil and Ruth Welling. Vivian Washington is president of the Pierians.

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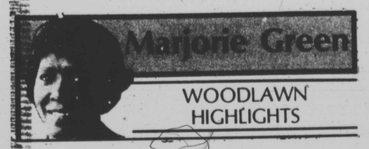

Marjorie Green

WOODLAWN HIGHLIGHTS

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE FULTZ AND GIVENS FAMILIES

An 8 lb. 9 oz. granddaughter named Lauren Ashley was born into the family of Joseph and Edith Gibson on Monday, December 10. The proud parents, who bundled the baby in warm blankets for the journey home from Provident Hospital, are George and Constance Givens. George is a hairstylist at Studio 307. Grandmother Edith is an Educational Specialist with the Department of Fine Arts in the Baltimore City School System. Grampa Joseph is a local attorney.

A week after the happy event at the Fultz house, Alfred and Betsy Fultz welcomed a 9 lb. 11 oz. baby girl named Sarah Elizabeth as a new addition to their family. The blessed event took place at St. Agnes Hospital. The happy couple has another beautiful daughter named Jessica.

PROMOTIONS

Houston Elvoid, Benefit Authorizer in the Office of Disability Operations, SSA, recently informed his family that he has been promoted to the position of Benefit Authorizer Technical Assistant.

His two daughters Frenchett and Glenisa Ages 11 and 14 years respectively, shared in the excitement created by the good news. In addition to Houston, Ms. Mattie Laboo, Disability Examiner was promoted to a Disability Consultant position.

Ms. Minnie L. Little and Ms. Vanessa S. Burston also received recent promotions. Both were named Mail and File Supervisors in the Division of Operational Services.

BELATED BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

World War I veteran, E. Sumler Parron celebrated his 100th birthday on Thursday, December 13, 1984. Mr. Parron served as a "Dough Boy" with the French Army.

MITTEN TREE

During the Christmas holiday season, Social Security employees donated over 17,000 hats, gloves and scarves to area children throught the SSA Mitten Tree Project. Over 12,000 of the total items collected were given by employees in the Dickinson Building.

The gifts have been delivered by coordinators in the Baltimore City and County school systems for distribution to youngsters in need of warm clothing.

HOLIDAY FUN

Members of the Les Tams Service and Social Club celebrated the yuletide season with a luncheon at Hausners Restaurant on Eastern Ave. The luncheon included a surprise salute to James "Mack" and Jenny McCoy. Both Mr. and Mrs. retired from their respective jobs shortly before the holiday began.

Following the luncheon the group gathered at the beautiful Yosemite Ave. home of Chris and Irene Terry where they sampled more holiday goodies.

Included among the members and guests enjoying the fun were Willard and Forriest Ayers, Alfred and Olivia Weems, Gladys Scott and daughter, Hortense Henry and guest, Chris and Irene Terry, James and Marjorie Green. Mrs. Virginia Patterson, another club member were off to North Carolina visiting relatives.

Have a Happy, safe and prosperous New Year!

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OUR WORLD

A REAL SPARKLER:

Continentals' Yule Charity Ball

AFRO Photos by Bruce Smallwood and John H. Murphy III

IN JOVIAL SPIRITS during the annual Christmas Charity Ball hosted by the Baltimore Chapter of the Continental Societies, Inc. at Martin's West Sunday, Dec. 30 are (from left): Marlene Wise Mohamed, Victoria Hughes, Harold Wise, Delores and William Sykes

TAKING A BREAK FROM THE DANCE FLOOR ACTION (L to R): Eleanor Johnson, Liza Lindsey and Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Brown.

SAVORING THE FESTIVITIES are (from left): William Adams, Madeline Campbell and James Walker.

BASKING IN THE WARM ATMOSPHERE of the evening are (L to R): Hubert Simmons, Frank Lambert, Helena Lambert and Audrey Simmons.

One of the most festive of the season's parties was the Baltimore Continentals' annual Christmas Charity Ball held last Sunday evening at Martin's West. The black-tie gala, which attracted nearly 1,000 patrons, was a benefit to raise funds for the organizations's charities for underprivileged children.

The Baltimore Chapter of the Continental Societies, Inc., organized 29 years ago, is part of a national organization whose goal is to improve the quality of life for youth while assisting them in becoming responsible citizens through volunteer programs, and by financial and volunteer services to established youth-serving institutions.

The funds will be used for Camp Farthest Out, Children's Shoe Fund, College Scholarships, Camp Glyndon for Diabetic Children, AFRO Charities, Maryland Educational Opportunity Center, Kidney Foundation Research, Blue Chip-In; and the House of Ruth.

In addition, members will offer tutoring services, health and career workshops, and cultural and recreational activities.

During the affair, the organization's 5th annual Helen O. Gattis Memorial Award was presented to the Foster Grandparents Program. Under the umbrella of the Family and Children's Society, the program embraces children's institutions throughout the State of Maryland.

The plaque, given to a person or organization in the community recognized by the Continentals as involved in the service of underprivileged or disadvantaged children and youth, was accepted by Ms. Willa Bland, chairman of the Foster Grandparents Program Advisory Board. Mrs. Clarice Brooks directs the program.

Dr. Sue Jones is president of the Baltimore Continentals. Mrs. Zelma Brown was chairman of the affair, Mrs. Frenzella Credle, co-chairman; Dance Committee members were Mesdames Sevilla Carroll, Phyllis Thompson, Helen Quarles, Margaret Turner, Ruth Ross and Muriel Johnson.

Other Continentals include: Mesdames Frances Branch, Connie Butler, Madeline Campbell, Odessa Dyson, Magdalene Fennell, Katherine Gross, Audrey Harden, Serena Holmes, Ellen Howard, Constance Jackson, Muriel Johnson, Marcella Jones, Priscilla Marshall, Marlene Mohamed, Ann Parker, Ms. Emily Peck, Mesdames Sina Reid, Ruth Ross, Doris Smith, Joann Trusty, Mary Tucker, Elmira Washington, Marjorie Washington, Gwen West, and Delores Young.

GIVING IN TO THE BEAT of the Bobby Felder Band are Elmira Washington and her partner.

RELISHING THE GOOD TIMES are (from left): Marguerite Walker, Maurice and Shirley Robinson.

SUSAN JONES (L) presents Willia Bland of the Family and Children's Society's Foster Grandparent Program, a plaque of appreciation.

THRILLED WITH THE SUCCESS of their ball are (from left): Continentals Zelma Brown and Frenzella Credle, chair and co-chair respectively for the event.

OUR WORLD EDITOR

PARTYLINE

HOLIDAY WRAP UP IN THE CLOSET

It was fun, fun and more fun and members of the staff of the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers with representatives from many departments gathered at the Closet, 223 W. Franklin St. Friday, Dec. 21 to usher in the Yule season.

Anthony Williams and Mitchell Bolling set up a super sound system which got partiers up to do their lively dance steps. Animated party patter was the order of the evening which began at 4 p.m. and lasted until 9 p.m.

The delectable menu of goodies and sippables of every variety added to the merriment of the evening.

Out for this fun fest were Ronnie Ingram, Eddie King, Sylviette Carr, Darlene Chaves, R.B. Jones, Bruce Smallwood, Dorris Robinson, James Johnson, Wanda Pearson, Freddie Howard, Mitchell Bolling, Rudolph Ford, Lawrence Means, Lorraine McCaskill, Valerie Smith-Madden, Charles Taylor, Chris Bell, David Bowen, Derek Smith, Kevin Curtis, Tracey Smith;

Also Tea Montier, Joe Davis, Anthony Williams, Laverne King (Sylviette's sister, visiting from New York), James Gray, Oswald Alexander, John Smith (of the Washington office), Carolyn Ballard, Denise Dorsey, Freddie Williams, Charlene Ballard and yours truly.

AT THE GATSBY

Party hopping is really great for exhiliration. Moving on from the AFRO Xmas party to the Gatsby, 1800 block N. Charles St. (also on Dec. 21) I had a chance to savor the frenzied gyrations on the crowded dance floor (and more food and thirst quenchers) at the party hosted by the Gatsby owners, V-103 and the AFRO's Friday Plus (via Bonnie Butler) which was also a great crowd pleaser. The music was irresistible.

This Yuletide treat was also a charitable activity with admission being either $3 or canned goods for the AFRO's Mrs. Santa project. Everyone had a ball while doing much for this worthy cause.

XMAS IN COLUMBIA

Enjoyable indeed was the large and festive family get-to-gether hosted Christmas Day by James and Helen Fitzpatrick at their lovely Celestial Way home in Columbia, MD.

The food was sumptuous, the fellowship superb, as members of the Fields family and their in-laws gathered from Virginia, New Jersey, Massachusetts, North Carolina and Baltimore.

On the scene were Mr. and Mrs. William Allbright, wife Marjorie and son Billy Jr.; Mrs. Evelyn Brown and daughter, Jacqueline; Shirley Fields, Mrs. Annie Fields, Mr. and Mrs. Irving Green and son Kenneth, of Ferndale, MD; Deborah Green of Columbia, Larry Glasco, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Fields, wife Doris, son Reggie, daughter Cheryl and her fiance Randy Smith, Mrs. Queenie Greene and yours truly.

ANGIE'S AFTER PARTY

Angie McClain, Corrections Supervisor and active Zeta hosted her yearly Christmas night of fun and festivity at her well-appointed Ludgate Rd. home. Fifty eight of Angie's immediate family members (who came early) and her friends (who dropped in after their Christmas day family activities) savored Angie's delectable soul food and desserts.

One would think you couldn't eat anymore after having eaten elsewhere, but when Angie cooks, "she burns", and calories or not, you eat.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Sandy East, that always super hostess held her annual Christmas Luncheon Thursday, Dec. 27 at her new home

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