Alphas celebrate Founders' Day with awards

DURING FOUNDERS' DAY PROGRAM Alpha president Beta Alpha Chapter, MSU Corvelli McDaniel (L) presents award to Bro. Vincent Whitmore, Kappa Kappa Lambda Chapter for Advisory Services to MSU Chapter.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., celebrated its 78th anniversary with a series of activities that began in early December with a candlelight service at the First Baptist Church in Guilford, MD, sponsored by the Columbia Chapter.

Guest speaker was Brother Thomas R. Hunt, Past Eastern Regional Vice-President and current Comptroller of the Fraternity. He made a most dynamic presentation in which he stressed the negative impact of "Reaganomics" on blacks and the poor.

The Delta Lambda Chapter took the leadership role in continuing the Founders' Day Celebration with a cocktail and dinner program at the Blue Crest North. Graduate Chapters and local college fraternities participated on the program.

Following a delicious dinner, the President of Delta Lambda Chapter, Bro (Dr.) Clayton Stansbury was introduced as the Presiding Officer for the occasion. His spirited comments set the tone for an afternoon of unexpected surprises as he and other chapter presidents made awards and paid tribute to brothers past and present who had contributed so much to the growth and contributions of the fraternity.

One of the highlights of the afternoon was the presentation of the fraternity's Appreciation Award (Posthumously) to Bro (Dr.) Frederick H. Dedmond. His wife, Dr. Flossie Dedmond, was present to accept the award.

She was most eloquent in her comments as she responded to the citation which cited her husband's many accomplishments as an educator, community leader and officer of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. at the national and local levels.

Dr. Frederick Dedmond was personally responsible for helping over 100 Morgan alumni receive scholarships to graduate schools throughout the United States and abroad. Among his many honors and awards was the State of Maryland Certificate of Service Award in 1969 by Gov. Marvin Mandel.

Bro Dedmond was a life member of the fraternity who rarely missed attending national and regional conventions along with his wife Flossie. They were inseparable.

He was well known on the national and local levels and his wisdom contributed immeasurably to many of the fraternity's projects. Bro Dedmond passed and entered Omega Chapter on Feb. 11, 1981.

During the awards ceremony a large picture of Bro Dedmond was unveiled. It was handsomely displayed, and Mrs. Dedmond consented to let the fraternity display this picture in a permanent location in the Delta Lambda Fraternity House.

Bro Henry G. Parks, Jr., a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. received the fraternity's Political Action-Community Action Award' for his outstanding achievements as founder and chairman of H.G. Parks, Inc., politician, Board member of numerous major corporations and as a devoted member of the fraternity. He was unable to attend because of a long standing out of town engagement. Bro (Dr.) Maurice Dorsey accepted the award in his absence.

Parks served as President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity at Ohio State Univ. for three years during his college days and has been an active member of Delta Lambda Chapter since 1946. He received the Alpha Award of Honor and the Eastern Regional Award of Merit because of his many achievements both nationally and locally. Delta Lambda Chapter feels honored to salute such an outstanding Alpha brother.

The following awards were presented by the Awards Committee—Joseph Thomas, Leon Gilmore and Allen Vessells.

To Fifty-Year Alpha Brothers: Robert Brooks, Arthur Jones, Clifton Jones, A. Paul Moss, Rufkin Fisher, Allen H. Vessells and Frank Walker;

To Twenty-Five Year Brothers: Howard L. Allard, Curtis DeVance, Russell N. Kelley, Charles F. Robinson and Mervin Thompson;

Special Awards included Neophyte of the Year, won by John Turpin; Senior Alpha Award, won by Clifton Jones; Charles R. Campbell (Memorial Award), won by Joseph B. Breacy; Frederick H. Dedmond (Memorial Award), won by Calvin Burnett; Appreciation Award, won by Donald O. Wilson and Appreciation Award won by Joseph B. Breacy.

The President's (Delta Lambda) Awards went to Alonzo F. Halreton, Glendi E. Johns, Vernon Pennington, Charles Pinchback, G. Robert Pinkett, Joseph P. Press and William Proctor.

Alpha Jewels were Henry A. Callis, Charles H. Chapman, Eugene K. Jones, George B. Kelley, Nathaniel A. Murray, Robert H. Ogle and Vertner W. Tandy.

Delta Lambda Recipients were Martin K. Austin, Jr., Joseph Yates, Wesley Shelton, Charles F. Robinson, Jacob D. Howard, III, Ramon C. Wright, Sr. and Russell V. Kelley.

Alphamen of the Year were Brother Charles T. Mitchell and Brother Wilbert L. Walker.

Yellow roses were presented to Dr. Flossie Dedmond and Mrs. Mildred Campbell (Pres. Alpha Wives).

At the conclusion of the program the Alpha Wive's President, Mrs. Mildred Campbell, presented Delta Lambda Chapter a check in the sum of $2,000.00 to assist in completing some facets of the Alpha House.

Mrs. Catherine Adams and Dr. Flossie Dedmond were recognized as being co-founders and charter members of the Alpha Wives.

Brother Joseph Bracy and his committee were lauded for putting together an excellent Founders' Day Program. The other committee members were brothers: Martin Austin Co-Chairman; Ramon Wright Sr., J. D. Howard, R. Royal White, Vincent Whitmore, W. Burgess and D. Knowles.

The Founder's Day final activity was a worship service at the St. James Episcopal Church on Sunday Dec. 9.

There was a large turn out of Alpha brothers at this very inspiring service. Father Wilson had just received the President's Appreciation Award on Dec. 3 for his many contributions to his church, community and the fraternity. He is truly an Alphaman among Alphamen.

Deltas Founders' Day here Sunday

DELTAS' FOUNDERS' DAY SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS are (L to R) Sorors Lillian F. Gundy, Louise Hare Jackson, Gertrude L. Neale, Bernice Mitchell McDaniels, Ellen Dolvey Howard and Patsy C. Nwagbarocha.

This award is presented to sorors serving the chapter for at least 15 consecutive years.

The 1985 Vashti Turley Murphy Award recipient is Soror Beryl Warner Williams who has been a chapter member for 35 years. During that time, she has held elective office; chaired and co-chaired several committees and served on numerous others; and supported the chapter and its projects whenever and wherever needed.

The Founders' Day Award is presented to sorors who have served the chapter for at least five consecutive years. This year's six recipients are Sorors Lillian F. Gundy, Ellen Dolvey Howard, Louise Hare Jackson, Bernice Mitchell McDaniels, Gertrude L. Neale and Patsy C. Nwagbarocha.

These industrious sorors have a combined membership in Baltimore Alumnae of 139 years. They, too, have held elective office, and given many hours in committee leadership and participation.

Baltimore Deltas salute these seven sorors who personify Delta's love for, and committment to, improving the quality of life in our community.

Dr. Beryl Williams
Vashti Turley Murphy Award Recipient

AKA Founders' Day set

The Seventy-seventh Founders' Day Celebration of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the oldest black service Sorority in America, will be held on Saturday, February 16, at the Forum, 4210 Primrose Ave. at 12 noon. This year's observance will be opened to the general public.

The dynamic guest speaker from Columbia, SC will be Dr. Marianna W. Davis. Dr. Davis is known throughout the United States for her participatory efforts on Boards, Commissions and for her publications in the literary and musical world.

Her most recent creation was "To Capture A Vision Fair" an arts production of music, drama, and classical dance, performed before an audience of 8,000 in Washington, DC during the summer of 1984. Some may remember her singing of "A Tribute to Black Women" in Hynes Auditorium, Boston, MA in 1982 at the A.K.A. Boule.

Dr. Marianna W. Davis
AKA Founders' Day speaker

Dr. Davis by profession is a Professor of English and a Division Head at Benedict College, Columbia, SC. She is the recipient of many awards as well as having traveled in 49 United States of America and 7 foreign countries.

Her foreign travels include the Soviet Union, North Africa, Spain, Denmark, England and Canada.

Another highlight of this year's celebration will be the recipient of the highest award given by Epsilon Omega Chapter—the Vivian Cook Award. In addition the Community Service Award and the Undergraduate Award will be presented to a worthy candidate.

This year the newly organized AKA Chorale under the leadership of Lillie Myers and Genevieve Wisner will be featured.

Chairing this event is Dr. Nancy Bennett. Mrs. Jennie Jenkins is Co-Chair. Mrs. Heloise Frazier is the newly elected Basileus of Epsilon Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

The officers and members welcome with extended friendship your attendance at this historic Founders' Day Celebration. Our doors are opened.

Gwynnvale resident wins RCA VIP Award

The Gwynnvale Civic Association is the recipient of the RCA Volunteer Incentive Program Grant as a result of the initiative of one of its residents, Barbara Williams.

All RCA employees who consistently give of their time and dedication to community service are eligible to qualify their organizations for RCA (VIP) grants ranging from $100 to $1,000.

Barbara, Project Administrative Assistant for the RCA Service Company, Woodstock Job Corps Center, presented Ella Grace White Campbell, President of the Gwynnvale Civic Association, with a large check. The money will be used to finance the Association's community service programs.

Barbara won the grant because of her extensive volunteer activities in the community. Aside from assuming various civic activities whenever called upon, Barbara has served actively as youth service coordinator and youth projects chairperson for a number of years.

She has helped to recruit volunteers, organize committees and plan and implement youth projects.

BARBARA WILLIAMS (C), winner of the RCA Volunteer Incentive Program Grant for the Gwynnvale Civic Association, is flanked by (from left) Ella White Campbell, president, Gwynnvale Civic Association and Rosalind Hanks, manager, Employee Relations, RCA Service Corp.

Because of her efforts and the efforts of others like Barbara, youths in the Gwynnvale community have maintained high academic records. Ninety-eight percent of Gwynnvale's youths have graduated from high school and entered institutions of higher learning.

Juvenile delinquency in the community has been kept to a minimum. Youths have actively engaged in civic oriented projects that instill the virtues of good citizenship, good sportsmanship and respect for self and others.

Barbara has manifested her motto, "If one can help somebody, then one's living has not been in vain," into the delicate minds of youths.

—RECEPTION

Continued from Page 9

awaiting them including demonstrations on how fish are fed, an exploration of living coral and an opportunity to view how Puffin lives.

Moving to the Habitat Theater on level 3 of the aquarium, visitors found a sumptuous raw bar that sagged under the ponderous weight of the seafood that had been prepared for the guests on hand. As they progressed to the uppermost limits of the aquarium, the guests were treated to a magnificent visual display of underwater life that surpassed their wildest imaginations.

Those who continued the lengthy trek to the top of the aquarium found an opportunity to dine upon a sit-down dinner of baked duck breast smothered in gravy; wild rice and other assorted gourmet delectables.

During the evening, there was a fascinating display of a diver feeding his pet shark. Finally, the evening drew to a close as the visitors returned to the lobby of the Aquarium to collect their belongings and to further their relationships with media representatives. Greeting them was a plentiful cornucopia of coffee and pastries that were served on the lower level.

The Henry Hall Fund perpetuates the memory of a black man who spent his life pursuing intellectual achievements and studying aquatic life. Over the years of his life, Hall amassed a magnificent collection of exotic fish and, upon his death, he willed them to the National Aquarium in Baltimore.

Hopefully, each and every Baltimorean, as well as persons throughout the United States of America, will take the opportunity to visit the various exhibits of sealife that have been developed over the past few years including the specimens contributed by Hall.

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BALTIMORE GAS AND ELECTRIC

Religion In Modern Life

Naomi Durant: being different and controversial made her a success

GLAMOUR AND GLITTER are two aspects of D. J. Naomi Durant that have contributed to her being deemed as one of the most controversial ministers around. In this pix, she poses next to familiar Rolls-Royce she's often spotted in around town. The former D.C. D.J. now works in Baltimore. (Story is on page 18)

By Eddie King
AFRO Religion Editor

Pastor Naomi Durant is one of the most controversial ministers around town. Certainly, she is unconventional in her profession and a wee bit unorthodoxed in her ministry.

One might declare, however, that it is precisely the combination of these oddities that have made the 46-year-old matriarch the gospel personality she has become.

And a personality indeed!

"The Pastor," as she calls herself, has the highest rated gospel music morning program in the entire tri-state area in her capacity as morning jock for WBGR Radio Station.

As hostess of WBAL TV's Sunday morning religious broadcast "Gospel Variations," ratings have almost doubled since she took over in 1983.

Her church, New Refuge Holiness, located 2045 E. Monument Street, is one of the largest female pastored churches on the city's east side.

Just little less than a month ago, she was appointed the corporate program director of black gospel music for all six of the Mortenson Broadcasting Company's radio stations around the country, becoming completely responsible for gospel programming on each of the stations.

Among awards received, she was named the "Best Gospel Disc Jockey in America" in 1976 by the National Association of Radio and Television Artists.

Having been a part of every black radio station in the city except one, her name recognition alone manages to draw crowds everywhere her appearance is expected.

Many insist, however, that she is one of the least seen of her counterparts in public settings, one characteristic that has led to all kinds of guesses at the popular pastor's lifestyle.

The fact is that it is as simple as anyone's.

She has been married for 20 years to Albert Durant, has five children—George, 27; Rodney, 26; Victoria, 23; Hope, 19; Pocket, 7 and two grandchildren.

And what projects her most is probably her "worldly" possessions which she does not prize much, but they reflect very much the taste of Baltimore's mystery woman.

Her 22 room house in Pikesville sustains six bathrooms, four fire places, a large dining and living room and a wine cellar.

She drives and is sometimes chauffeured in a 25-year-old unappraise Rolls Royce, property of her church.

She sports tailor made outfits—not suits—that show off the talents of locally based designer, Nakai. They often must be a mixture of long dresses or skirts — she does not wear pants—and plain colored blouses and jackets. Clothes she describes as "something that doesn't restrict me and make me feel reserved."

And jewelry. Contrary to popular beliefs, she only owns two real gold necklaces and a small assortment of gold bracelets and other pieces. Other jewelry often seen are gifts of varied material quality from brass-rosed necklaces to silver odd shaped earrings.

"I've worked for everything I have," said the Pastor. "I have two jobs and a husband who works and can basically afford most of what I want. My husband bought my house for me. I'm using my church's Rolls Royce and most of my jewelry has been given to me."

Preaching since 16-years-old, The Pastor founded New Refuge

Continued on page 14

Shown with Rev. Stuart Turner (left) praying for a baby, Bishop Naomi Durant (center) in this 1977 photo is caught in her prayer of faith that has been for years a part of her famous "Altar Call."

"THE PASTOR" has become the number one gospel d.j. in the tri-state area for WBGR Radio Station in Baltimore. She is currently program director for the station.

(AFRO Photos by P. A. Greene)

Metro Church briefs

Metropolitan Community

The Metropolitan Community Church of Baltimore, 241 Wilson St., is sponsoring an ice skating party on Sat., Jan. 26, 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the Columbia Ice Rink. For further info. call 523-6363.

St. Mark's U.M.

Chancel Choir of St. Mark's United Methodist Church will have Choir Day at the 11 a.m. worship service on Sun., January 27 featuring the Male Chorus of Central Baptist Church. St. Mark's is located at Garrison Blvd. and Liberty Heights Ave.

Union Baptist

Daniel Comegys will be in concert Sunday, January 27, 3 p.m. at Union Baptist Church, 1219 Druid Hill Ave.

Gillis Memorial C.C.

Ministers at Gillis Memorial C.C. Church, 1016 Park Heights Ave., will be celebrating their day, 1 p.m., Sunday at the church with special guests from Highway Church of Christ, including the pastor who will bring the afternoon message.

Morgan Christian Center

There will be a fellowship supper at the Morgan Christian Center parsonage on Sun., Jan. 27.

Ebenezer Baptist

The 20th annual recital of the combined choirs of Ebenezer Baptist Church will be held at the Calvert Educational Center, 200 E. North Ave on Sunday, 1 p.m.

Israel Baptist

Junior Missionaries of Israel Baptist Church will be celebrating their 2nd anniversary on Jan. 27, 3 p.m.

Miracle Deliverance Center

Deacon Abraham Cash will be honored at a pre-Valentine Day gospel extravaganza on Sunday, February 3, 3:30 p.m., at the Miracle Deliverance Center, 3108 Walbrook Ave. Featured guests include The True Tones of Wash., D.C., Gospel Harmonizers of S.C., Mighty Wonders, New Southern Silvertones and Phiffer Family.

Waters A.M.E.

Olton Singing Society will present its first sacred musical concert at Waters A.M.E. Church, 127 Aisquith St., on Sun., Feb. 3, 4 p.m.

Morgan State

Revs. Al Green and Shirley Caesar will be in concert at Morgan's Hill Field House on Sun., Feb. 10, 6 p.m., along with the Greene Sisters, Little Cedric and Hailey Singers and others.

Grace A.M.E.

Family and Friends Day at Grace A.M.E. Church will be held on Sunday, February 17. Families are invited to sing, recite poems, etc.

St. John A.M.E.

Noted soprano Annette Houston will be in recital at St. John A.M.E. Church, 810 N. Carrollton Ave., on Sun., Feb. 17, 3 p.m. $5.

St. Mary's Seminary

A discussion and lecture on liberation theology will be given at St. Mary's Seminary on Saturday, February 23, 7 p.m. For further information call Father Fred Ruof, 467-3212.

Miss Christian Teen

Miss Christian Teen will be selected on March 9 at the Baltimore Convention Center. For further info. call Gloria Temple, 687-4965.

Bethel A.M.E.

March 24 will be the day the Department of Women Ministries at Bethel A.M.E., 1300 Druid Hill Ave., celebrate their annual day. Mrs. Jacqueline Jackson, wife of former presidential candidate Jesse Jackson, will be the speaker for the occasion. For further info. call Sandra Peal, 962-8629 (morning).

Myerhoff Symphony Hall

Virginia Union University Choir will be in concert at the Myerhoff Symphony Hall on Sunday, March 10, 3 p.m. $12.

St. Bernadine's

Broadway musical, "Momma, I Want To Sing," is where members of St. Bernadine Catholic Church are headed on April 27 in New York City. For tickets and further info. call Alease Gray, 466-6167.

Pilgrim Christian School

Pilgrim Christian Day School is having its annual Spring Festival on May 1 at the school, Liberty and Latham Rd. For further info. call Mrs. Bernice Gordon, 655-7199.

St. Bernadine's

Father Edward Miller, pastor of St. Bernadine's Roman Catholic Church will be honored June 16 at the new Palladium. For further info. call Raymond Robinson, 367-8598.

Music year '84 opens way for hits in '85

By Ernest P. White, Jr.

The Top Gospel Albums of 1984:

1. "Sailin", Shirley Caesar.
2. "Psalms," Richard Smallwood Singers.
3. "Testify", Timothy Wright & The Concert Choir.
4. "No Time To Lose", Andrae Crouch.
5. "Sing and Shout", The Might Clouds of Joy.
6. "What He's Done For Me", Reverend Clay Evans.
7. "I Still Love The Name Jesus", Douglas Miller & The True way Choir C.O.G.I.C.
8. "Angels Will Be Singing", Edwin Hawkins.
9. "No Tears In Glory", Reverend F.C. Barnes & Reverend Janice Brown. Brown.
10. "Lead Me", The Jackson Southernaires.
11. "The Impossible Dream", Albertina Walker & The Christ Universal Ensemble.

Nineteen Eighty-Five looks like a good year for new releases. The records released in the last quarter of '84 have to some degree reached announcers in time to get some public feedback, but for the most part, more time is needed.

Exceptions, however, include Keith Pringles "Perfect Peace", which with a little promotion assistance from Onyx International and the Benson Company could be a no. 1 record. The title cut is just that strong and could carry the album to the top.

Cassietta George has a hot release, in "I Want to See Jesus", again lack of promotion will keep it from doing what it could. Paul Beasley's release "My Soul Is Free" is good with first rate production. Neal Joseph is to be congratulated. Another Savoy release will die unless they do some promoting.

Charles Fold and the Cincinnati Chapter of the Gospel Music Workshop of America's two-record set "He'll Step Right In (Just When I Need Him Most)" is Fold's best effort in sometime, and should get the maximum exposure. Releases by the Tabernacle Echoes aren't reaching the right audience.

These records have received critical acclaim from major newspapers.

New releases from Phillip Bailey, Myrna Summers, Charles May, Wesley Boyd, Reverend Don DeGrate Delegation and the Winans, look quite promising. A word of advice to the record companies — get Luther Barnes in the studio, with some top flight studio musicians and background singers and let this talented young man reach his potential. He's being confined to second rate backup singers and they're weighing him down. Do yourself a favor and invest in this guy. He has talent to burn.

Perhaps the best produced album I heard all year was that of Leon Patillo's "The Sky's The Limit". It was scripturally, and musically rewarding. Some black announcers didn't play it because of the contemporary flavor. Too bad, you cheated your listeners.

And finally, if gospel music is to continue to grow and reach new heights, the white and black-owned record companies have got to invest more in your artist. The Light's and Myrrh Record Companies who spend big bucks on the Amy Grant's, need to spend some on your black artist. They're just as talented, all they need is some help from you. Use your imagination. Put the music into markets that have for years been reserved for white Christian artists.

If you promote the music there, in those untapped white communities, the records will sell. The calls I get from the conservative communities of Front Royal, and Leesburg, Virginia, from those white listeners who want to know why they've never been able to buy an Albertina Walker or Tramaine Hawkins album in local record stores tells me you're missing a golden opportunity.

After all, God's word in song coming from the lips of Richard Smallwood is just as soul saving as it is coming from the Bill Gather Trio.

Be for real, and let's get about the business of reaching all men and women with our joyous, uplifting gospel music. Regardless of race. After all, it is the Christian thing to do!!

Yours in Christ.