Pierians, Inc. celebrate its first Founders Day

Sunday, October 30, The Pierians, Inc. Baltimore Chapter held its first celebration of Founders' Day. The affair was held at the Baltimore School for the Arts at 712 Cathedral St.

The Pierians, Inc. was founded by the late Annette C. Johnson and founding members in 1958.

Its goal was to bring together persons interested in the promotion of fine arts and other artistic endeavors;

To enhance the enjoyment of the arts through the pursuit of study and other activities; to give recognition to individuals in the community for their contributions to the arts;

And to encourage further study through giving of awards and scholarships to students of the theatre, music, art, dance and related fields.

The Pierians, Inc. became a national organization in 1982 and held its First National Assembly in October 1983.

The program included an Invocation by Pierian Lydia Mussenden, immediate Past National President, Greetings from the present national president, Pierian Pearl Brackett;

The Occasion by the president of the Baltimore Chapter, Pierian Agnes Reaves; a Pierian Rededication led by Pierian Gwendolyn Tarter and a Benediction by Reverend Vashti McKenzie.

The afternoon main feature was a program presented by students from the Baltimore School for the Arts with David Simon, the school's director, presiding.

The student participants were outstanding and all have the potential for greatness.

A presentation of $1,000 was made to the Endowment Fund of the Baltimore School for the Arts from the Baltimore Chapter.

Founding members of the Pierians, Inc. in addition to Annette C. Johnson who are still active with the organization are Pierians Hazel Fleming, Charlotte Mebane, Jewel Moseley, Lydia Mussenden, and Gwendolyn Tarter.

Officers of the Baltimore Chapter of the Pierians, Inc. are as follows:

Agnes, A. Reaves, President; Geraldine F. Desbordes, Vice President; Alice Russell, Recording Secretary;

Marion Smith, Corresponding Secretary; Evelyn Haysbert, Treasurer; Jacqueline Lewis, Financial Secretary;

Jewel Moseley, Parliamentarian and Vivian E. Washington, Historian

ARTISTIC REUNION — Founding members of the Pierians Inc., a fine arts appreciation group, celebrated its first Founders Day, Oct. 30 at the Baltimore School for the Arts. Members are (l to r) Jewel Moseley, Charlotte Mebane, Hazel Fleming, Lydia Mussenden and Gwendolyn Torter.

CELEBRITY MEETING—Stars met with Delta's Arts and Letters Commission at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C. last weekend to discuss a new Delta program in the arts and a continuing report to Delta on the status of Black women in the arts. Left to right Micki Grant, lyricist, author and playwright of "Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope," and "Your Arms Too Short to Box With God;" Theresa Merritt, television star of "That's My Mama;" Ruby Dee, who's starring in the Broadway play, "Checkmates;" Dr. Yvonne Kennedy, president, Delta Sigma Theta; (standing) Dr. Jeanne Noble, chairwoman of the Arts and Letters Commission and professor in the graduate school of City University of New York (CUNY); and Dr. Nancy Randolph, former national secretary of DST and a member of the commission. The celebrities are Deltas.

Col. Harris to speak at Alpha Founders Day

Delta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, Inc. sponsors a Founder's Day Celebration Sunday, December 4, at the Forum.

"Honoring the Past and Taking Aim of the Future," the event will feature Col. Jesse Harris, Chief of Social Science Service, U.S. Army.

Further information, Joseph Bracey at 466-6093.

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The discussion was on AIDS

Health workers gather to learn

By Alisa Samuels

Nearly 80 citizens and local health workers gathered to receive an AIDS class Nov. 9 at the Bethel A.M.E. Church.

Dr. Beny J. Primm, a member of the president's AIDS commission, discussed and lectured on acquired immune deficiency syndrome and drug abuse.

Primm was invited to speak on behalf of the city's health department, the Baltimore Urban League and the Chi Delta Mu Professional Fraternity AIDS Education Project's joint program called "Substance Abuse and AIDS in Minority Communities".

The coalition's AIDS and substance abuse program is a part of the health department's monthly wellness series that promotes public AIDS understanding and supports those infected with the human immune deficiency virus (HIV).

Primm, 61, said his slide presentation, statistics and facts may have been redundant for some of the health professionals.

"There may be some people back there who know AIDS 101, 201, 202, 301 and 302,...I wish that somebody could award you a degree," after the presentation said Primm.

Primm spoke on the HIV virus as an infection and then as a disease.

To date, 75,000 Americans have been diagnosed with AIDS, which attacks and destroys the body's T4-cells (the command cells) making the body immune to various diseases, including pneumonia.

The doctor said the president's AIDS commission decided in June more attention should be focused on the HIV infection, instead of AIDS, which is the end-point of the HIV infection.

"The time of infectivity to the time of the disease, one is sick. AIDS itself is the end result of that problem," said Primm.

Primm said the AIDS virus is "frail on the outside and tough on the inside. Once infected you are infected forever."

During his presentation, Primm traced the history of AIDS back to the first reported case in California in 1981 involving homosexual men. Many people thought AIDS was a gay disease but the country quickly discovered heterosexuals and intravenous drug abusers, who share dirty needles, were also susceptible to the incurable disease.

The disease is transmitted sexually, via contaminated blood products and from an infected mother to her unborn child.

Primm said, a shocking 10-20 million people in the world may have AIDS, but have shown no symptoms.

"There is no country now that has not reported a case of AIDS or HIV disease," the doctor said.

Lately, more women are contracting the disease from their husbands and boyfriends, who are bisexual. In the black community, many of the homosexual and bisexual men stay in the "closet", because they have no support system, so they have relationships with women also to cover up their bisexualism Primm said.

"In New York, AIDS is the second killer of young black men. It follows homicide. Intravenous drug use and alcoholism follow." Primm said.

Primm is the founder of the Urban Resource Institute and president of the Addictior Research and Treatment Corp. in Brooklyn, N.Y.

A slide frame of a black man with deep crated scars blanketing his chest and stomach after heavy intravenous drug use show the horror of the impact of drugs, which can often lead to AIDS.

Primm said he opposed city agencies giving addicts clean needles, because it sends a message to addicts that it is alright for them to use the "unpure" substances.

The use of Crack, a rock form of cocaine, is becoming a major problem for New York, Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles, CA. Primm said.

In urban crackhouses, places used for shooting heroin and crack, young men and women trade sex with multiple partners for drugs.

As a result, sexually transmitted diseases are on the rise, particularly syphilis, said Primm.

The cases of reported syphilis has leaped by 115 percent, rising from 2,111 to 4,548 in New York, reported the doctor.

Primm said more programs should target women, men and teenagers about being sexually responsible to avoid contracting AIDS.

"This is probably the health issue of the 80's and probably will continue until the turn of the century," said Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke who dropped by the Druid Hill Avenue church briefly.

Bethel was the first local church to begin an AIDS program.

Schmoke received a certificate of recognition from the Baltimore Urban League and Chi Delta Mu for his role in AIDS prevention in the city.

WARRIORS AGAINST AIDS — Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke and Dr. Beny J. Primm discuss the city's AIDS program at Bethel A.M.E. Church.

During the summer, the mayor appointed members of the health and political arenas to serve on the Mayor's Select Coordinating Council on AIDS. Dr. Keith Rawlings, AIDS coordinator for the city's health department, chairs the council that coordinates various AIDS programs in the city.

In February there were 253 reported AIDS cases in Baltimore. A month later there were 298 cases.

Dr. Maxie T. Collier, city health department's commissioner, said AIDS is increasing at a rapid pace. In October there were 541 total cases in Baltimore and 341 people have died since being diagnosed already.

"These statistics grow old very quickly, so that figure of 541 is already old by now," said the city's health commissioner.

Collier challenged the health workers and city residents to work together to combat AIDS and educate the public about safety.

"We don't have to have a sense of despair, but we can have a sense of hope and do something about it," said Collier.

The Centers for Disease Control funded the AIDS and substance abuse program.

She celebrates 100th

HOLDING UP THE LIFE-LINE OF 100 YEARS — Mamie Copeland turned 100 years old on Nov. 11, and a lifetime of family and friends joined in the celebration.

BELOW: Mrs. Copeland escorted by grandson-in-law, Theodore Pollard.

Strategies for today

By Marilyn Moats Kennedy

Q. I haven't been on a job interview in several years, and that makes me a little nervous. I'd like to make a good impression, but I don't want to *sell* myself into a job I'd hate in a few months. What's the best strategy?

A. Think of interviews as a mutual exchange of information, not a one-sided quiz. You will want to ask questions as well as answer them. Be prepared to talk about the results you've achieved on your present job and how you've made a difference.

Say, "In the past year I've saved the company X dollars by reducing the time it took to produce the XYZ reports." What you have accomplished is much more important than how long you have worked at a job.

In addition, ask at least three questions. 1) Can you describe a typical day? If you can't or don't want to work overtime, this is a good way to find out if the job requires it.

2) When was my predecessor promoted? If the job is a hot spot, you'll know when you're told, "We've had trouble finding the right person. We've had six people in this job in two years." Flee.

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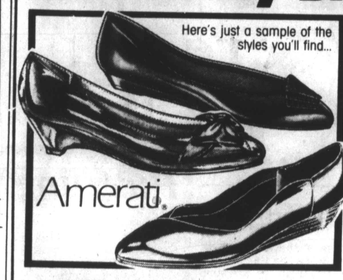

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