THE LADY ELK

By Mattie J. Hawkins

Hostess and host of the month.

They went all out to see that their guest had an enjoyable time at their three-day celebration last week end at **Crisfield Pride Lodge No. 194 and Light of Crisfield Temple No. 86** Fifth Annual Organization Day Celebration with Bro. Rudolph V. Jones, chairman, Bro. John E. Jones, Jr. co-chairman and Dgt. Brenda Waters and their committee who left no stone unturned. Friday night more than 200 enjoyed open house and the talent show and disco. Their theme was "Out of the Ashes".

The Lodge was organized in the summer of 1914. In 1974 the home of the Lodge burned destroying everything. They rebuilt it in 1987 and are now making great strides.

Saturday, April 21 Grand Exalted Ruler Donald P. Wilson arrived and was met at the Salisbury, Md. airport by more then 75 members and escorted to Crisfield Pride Lodge No.194 where he was welcomed by daughters and brothers after which he was entertained by the Dancing Juvenile Girls of the Pride under the direction of PGER Roland Brown,city councilman. Mayor Richard Scott presented the key to the city to Grand Exalted Ruler Wilson who accepted it with gratitude. Other presentations were made by Exalted Ruler Alonzo Brown, District Deputy Franklin Murray, Dgt. Ruler Joyce Torney. Chief of Police Clarence Bell gave the welcome to the city. Following an enjoyable program a delicious lunch was served.

Among others taking part in the program were Bro. Orlando Purnell, who gave a prayer; Eric Banks, soloist; Bro. John Jones, history of the Lodge; Dgt. Brenda Waters, the purpose followed by all singing "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

Many other presentations were made to Grand Exalted Ruler Wilson after which he tendered thanks and complimented the brothers and daughters on the great progress they had made. He said he was delighted to have been asked to share the week with them.

Bridal Event

YOU ARE CORDIALLLY INVITED TO ATTEND "MOTHERS AND BRIDES TOGETHER" BRIDAL EVENT

Join Hecht's and BRIDE'S Magazine for a different kind of Bridal Event. It's not just for the bride & groom...it's also for their mothers.

MAY 5 AT ANNAPOLIS, MAY 6 AT MONTGOMERY MALL.
Meet the experts
- Lisa Comegna, BRIDE'S Magazine Senior Merchandising Editor
- Lauren Smith, author of "Colors for Brides"
- Maggie Pallett, National Bridal Director for Noritake

- Plus, join us for a special slide presentation for Mothers of the Bride and Groom
- Enjoy refreshments courtesy of the Annapolis Ramada Inn. For reservations, call (301) 266-0800, ext. 540 or 499. May 5, at Annapolis, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.
- Enjoy a breakfast buffet courtesy of Ridgewells Caterer. For reservations, call (301) 469-6800, ext. 507 or 499. May 6, at Montgomery Mall, 10 a.m.-12 noon.

MAY 12 AT LANDMARK AND FAIR OAKS.
Meet the experts
- Angela Oberg, BRIDE'S Magazine Editor
- Lauren Smith, author of "Colors for Brides"
- Barbara Houser, Protocol and etiquette consultant
- Jean Moses, Waterford historian

- Plus, join us for a Mothers of the Bride and Groom fashion show
- Breakfast buffet courtesy of the Radisson Plaza Hotel at Mark Center. For reservations, call (703) 354-1900, ext. 515 or 499. May 12, at Landmark, 9 a.m.-11 a.m.
- Enjoy refreshments courtesy of Westfields's International Conference Center. For reservations, call (703) 591-3900, ext. 515 or 419. May 12, at Fair Oaks, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

REPRESENTATIVES

TABLETOP
- Waterford
- Wedgwood
- Lenox
- Waltzgraff
- Oneida
- Royal Doulton
- Orrefors
- Gorham
- Dansk
- Mikasa

HOUSEWARES
- Krups
- Henckels
- Oster
- Braun

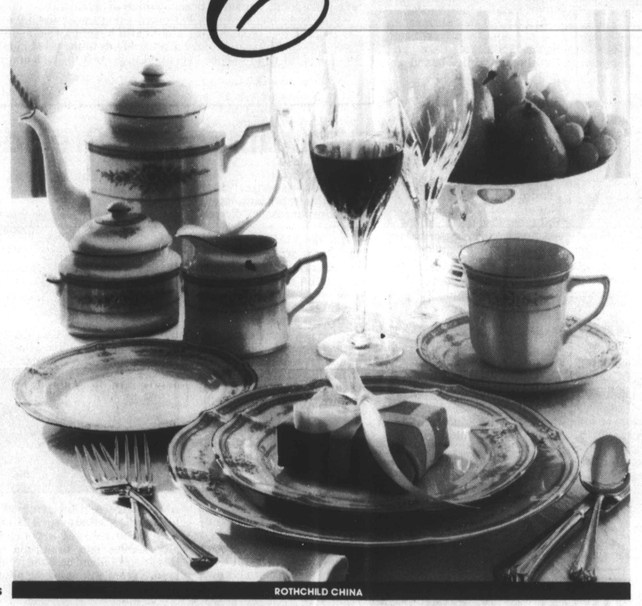
COOKWARE
- LeCreuset
- Farberware
- Revere Ware
- Calphalon

DOMESTICS
- Revman

COSMETICS
- Estee Lauder
- Lancome

JEWELRY
- Richelieu
- Marvella

WEDDING SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES
- BRIDE'S Magazine
- Wedding Pages
- Radisson Plaza Hotel at Mark Center
- Miles Steilbel Musical Entertainment
- Exquisite Balloon Creations
- Westfields International Conference Center
- Annapolis Ramada Inn
- Ridgewells Caterer

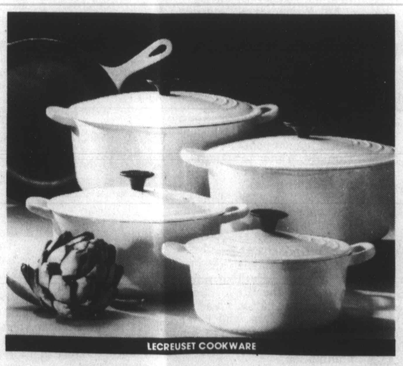

ROTHCHILD CHINA

WIN A TRIP TO THE BAHAMAS.
Brides who register with our Bridal Registry become eligible for our Grand Prize honeymoon trip to the Bahamas at Carnival's Crystal Palace Resort and Casino, including round trip air via CARNIVAL AIR LINES arranged by Ober Travel. If you don't win the Grand Prize honeymoon trip, you will still be eligible to win a honeymoon package to Bermuda at the Mermaid Beach Club, sponsored by the Bermuda Dept. of Tourism in conjunction with the Mermaid Beach Club.

BRIDAL REGISTRY

Register your wedding gift selections with Hecht's computerized Bridal Registry system, a simple, gracious way of letting your family and friends know of your gift preferences. By registering at any of our stores, your selection will be available to all 27 branch stores in Washington, Baltimore and Southern Virginia.

BRAUN AROMASTER COFFEEMAKER


LECREUSET COOKWARE

REVMAN

HECHT'S
ESPECIALLY FOR YOU!

The Afro-American Section B

METRO PROFILE

■ Lifestyle B2
■ Area Entertainment B7
Saturday, May 5, 1990

HOMELESS WOMEN:

WHERE ARE THEY SHELTERED?

By Helen Glover Cook
AFRO Staff Writer

The 1990's ushers in a decade when the underlying reasons for homelessness have become so universal that the absence of shelter no longer carries the obligatory stigma it once did.

Most families no longer live together throughout the duration of its member's lives. Broken marriages,a greater acceptance and practice of alternate lifestyles, longer life spans and loss of income can lead to the absence of permanent shelter.

Add to these variables, the higher prices paid for food, clothing and living,space and it becomes clear why homelessness is no longer the exclusive domain of a subculture peopled by "bums". *When women find themselves faced without shelter where can they turn?*

Barbara is typical of many women who find themselves unable to economically cope after the break-up of a marriage. Her husband refused to pay alimony and Barbara found herself looking for a job at the same time that her rent was already two months in arrears.

When Barbara finally found a job after unsuccessfully searching for months, she found that the pay only aggravated her situation because, she said,"What I make in take home pay does not cover my rent, food, transportation or lunch money, let alone allow me anything extra for clothes or entertainment.

"When I became homeless my children were automatically placed in Foster Care. I can visit then but they are in a home in Bel Air Md. so I have to find transportation to see them."

"Even after saying all of this I know that I am still lucky because it has been worse for me and continues to be worse for a lot of the homeless that have no where to live."

Barbara went to work for an agency whose chief administrator knew the director of a women's shelter. An appointment was arranged for Doris and she was able to move into the shelter immediately.

She said, "Now my biggest problem is behind me.I can now concentrate on finding an apartment without feeling the pressure of having no place to go."

Barbara was lucky. She found a shelter that not only has a track record that is unblemished but it also offers its residents a thoroughly safe, clean environment "where they can concentrate on putting their lives together again", said Women's Housing Coalition Director, Carol A. Melvin.

"Our residents are not subjected to a long list of rules. We do ask that they clean up after themselves and have all company out of the house by 11 o'clock. Naturally alcohol, drugs and fighting are taboo as they are in all group homes, for obvious reasons. We want to keep our good standing in the neighborhoods were we have houses.

If one our residents wants to stay overnight outside of the resident all we ask is that they call and let us know first said ",Ms. Benns. We offer living space for up to a year which gives a woman in transition time to become settled in her lifestyle."

The Women's Housing Coalition (WRC) runs three shelters for women in the Upton, Fremont and Edmonson neighborhoods. Housing Outreach Counselor, Mary Benns says,"We do not publicize our location because we often house battered women who want to break ties with the battering spouse. That would be hard to do if they knew where to contact the wife or girlfriend".

The WRC is currently reviving a 13 room Charles Village house that will be the first house designed to accommodate single women in privacy as well as offer access to the handicapped.

The YMCA on Franklin Street houses both single women and those with families. Director, Sheila Matthews says, "We accept women on a first come first serve basis.Single women are housed on a separate floor from those with families."

"We encourage the housing of the entire family unit because we do not want to break up families by insisting that unmarried couples separate. Often those couples have children and we do not want the children to suffer as a result of a family unit split, said Ms. Matthews."

" Sheila Williams, Area Coordinator for YMCA Shelters said, "Our residents receive three meals a day which are prepared by a full-time staff of cooks supervised by the same nurse that oversees the infant nutritional care program. The average stay is 6-8 weeks.

"Often an extension is granted to a resident, usually because there is a hold-up from the Department of Housing.In these situations a person is granted a place but it must be repaired or otherwise fixed for habitation."

My Sister's Place at 128 W. Mulberry Street is strictly a daytime facility that accepts walk-ins with no questions asked and those wishing a change of clothes or a bath can do so in privacy.This is the place that accommodates many of the downtown "street people" and "Bag ladies"

Mary Ellen Vanni, Director of My Sister's Place ,says "We often bridge the gap between City and state agencies when we provide a place to someone referred by those agencies.We offer daytime facilities only. Women can come in have a shower, bath, do laundry and receive referrals to somewhere to spend the night if that is what they wish.

"We also try to identify which city or state agencies and programs meet their needs. We measure our success by the number of returnees we have. We are successful if a woman thinks that we are to be trusted enough that she will return to our door.

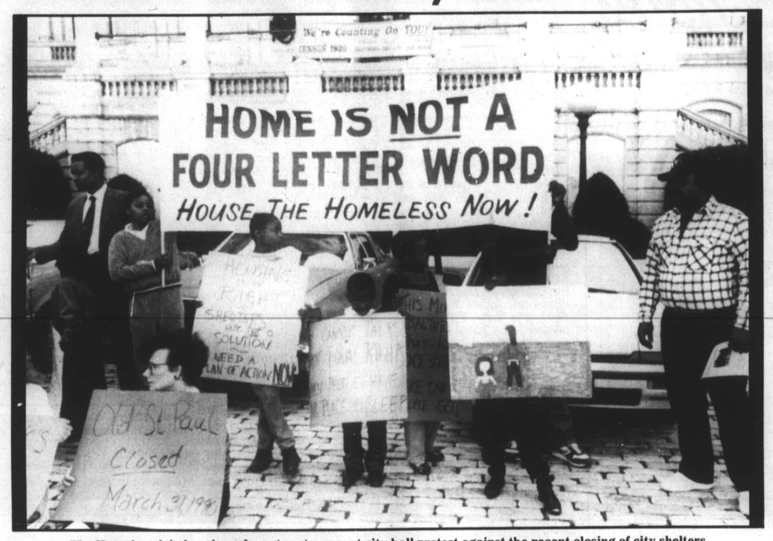
"The most important thing we do is offer a safe haven for those women on the streets", said Ms. Vanni.

Last week a demonstration was held outside of Baltimore's City Hall protesting the closing of seven shelters which house a total 218 beds for the homeless.

The South Baltimore Mayor's Station (35 beds), St. Ann's Catholic Church (80 beds), Mt. Calvary Church (12 beds), St. Bartholomew (8 beds), St John's Church (12 beds), St.Marks's, Old St. Paul's Church (8 beds).

Protesters lined the City Hall sidewalk displaying slogans saying; Home is not a four letter word and House the homeless. Traditionally many shelters close from April to November when the weather is not prohibitive to sleeping outdoors. The protesters insist that shelter is necessary throughout the year.

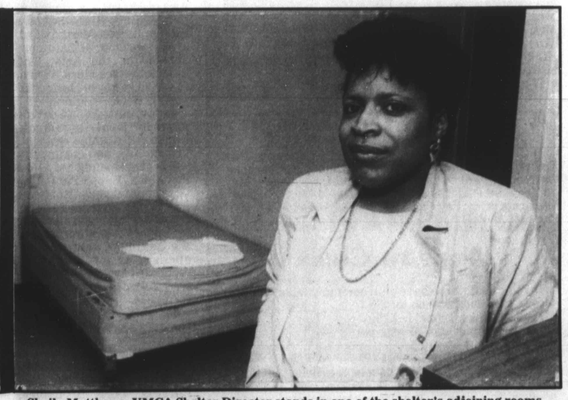
David Stratton , a homeless demonstrator who makes his bed in front of the Mitchell Courthouse said,"We hope that the citizens of Baltimore will adopt a more compassionate attitude toward the homeless' housing needs as a result of the demonstration."



The Homeless join housing advocates at a recent city hall protest against the recent closing of city shelters that collectively house over 218 beds.

Womens Housing Coalition Director, Carol A. Melvin and Housing Outreach Counselor, Mary Benns proudly display the clean home-like atmosphere provided in the WHC shelters.

Foster Grandparents Tryphena Mackall and Allean Owens sit in the playroom surrounded by toys and educational games awaiting the arrival of the YMCA shelter's children.


Sheila Matthews, YMCA Shelter Director stands in one of the shelter's adjoining rooms. These rooms are used to house families.