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AFRO MOTHER OF THE YEAR

Mrs. Lillie Smith, mother of 10, is winner

"God Bless Mommie," "We Thank Thee," "Only One Mother," "A Prayer for Mother," are only a few of the titles of the 150 prayers, poems and in memoriams that were sent to the AFRO Reflections Department as entries in the Mother's Day Contest.

After the judges carefully reviewed each entry that met the May 1 deadline and deliberated for many hours, "She's Everything" written by 20-year-old, Phillip Smith was chosen as the winning entry.

Mrs. Lillie Smith, mother of 10, is the 1976 AFRO Mother of the Year.

Mrs. Smith who was thrilled about the poem written by her son said, "It was a really nice poem. I liked it." (Cuff Note: This writer feels that Mrs. Smith was so excited that she was just about speechless.)

The children of Mrs. Smith are: Otis, 38; Delores, 27; Howard, 25; Wayne, 24; Patricia, 22; Phillip, 20; William, 21; Al, 18; Alonzo, 15 and Brunell, 14. She has 11 grandchildren.

Mrs. Smith attends the House of Prayer on Ashland Avenue.

Mrs. Smith and her son will receive $25 each from the AFRO. In addition, Mrs. Smith will be given a corsage on Mother's Day morning.

Second Place

Second place winner is Mary Parker a 10th grader of Walbrook High School. She wrote a poem about her mother, Mrs. Bernice Parker, wife of the Rev. John W. Parker former pastor of St. Lukes AME Church, Ellicott City, Md.

Mrs. Parker is the mother of four children. They are James, 24; Mrs. Sarah Chambers, 20; Mary, 16 and Matthews, 14. She has one granddaughter, Dawn Chambers.

Mary's winning prayer is entitled, "A Mother's Day Prayer." She will receive a cash award of $25 for her entry.

WINNER

She's Everything

Dear God, I can't help but love my mother, because my
mother is me.
She's my head, because she's always with me,
She's my mind helping me to think,
She's my eyes helping me to see things better.
She's my ears hearing me when I call,
She's my mouth feeding me.
She's my teeth, chewing me out when I am wrong.
She's my lips for she is always kissable,
She's my neck for she is stiff in her decision,
She's my shoulders when I need someone to lean on,
She's my arms teaching me to reach out for what I want
She's my heart for without her I could not have lived
She's my stomach keeping food for me
She's my legs teaching me to walk in the right path,
She's my feet teaching me to stand up proud
I can't help but love my mother, because my mother is me.

Phillip Smith

(AFRO Photo by Sustenia M. Phillips)

MOTHER-OF-THE-YEAR is Mrs. Lillie Smith mother of 10, pictured here with her son, Phillip, 20, who wrote the winning prayer, "She's Everything." Mrs. Smith will receive $25 and an orchid corsage from the AFRO on Mother's Day. Her son will receive $25 for his winning entry.

SECOND PLACE

Mother's Day prayer

M is for mother, she's
pleasant and sweet
O is for opening her heart to
me.
T is for tenderness, God gave
her to
H is for Heaven where she
strives to go.
E is for effort put forth to
wealth
R is for reaching out to give
me help.
S is for saying she loves me
true
D is for dear mother I love
you too.
A is for able to search and to
find
Y is for yes, she's droughtful
and kind.
P is for praying each night on
her knees
R is for religion in which she
believes.
A is for always hoping me
much success
Y is for yore, to her they were
the best.
E is for excellent, what a
mother should be
R is for rendering her services and love to me.
S is for saying she loves me
true

Mary Parker

HONORABLE MENTION

To my second mother on Mother's Day

This short blessing is to my
second mother, A woman
very dear to me:
Her name is Mrs. Couch, Mrs.
Ruby Couch,
And she helped set my spirits
free . . .
When my mother passed, and
I thought it was the
beginning of my end;
This wonderful lady, with
open arms and heart,
"Reached out," and took me
in! . . .
She nourished me with Love,
Hope, Faith, and Understanding —
Things that just don't grow on
trees;
She strengthened my love in
God, hope for a brighter
day, Faith in myself —
And the understanding of the
birds and the bees . . .
"Second Mother, Oh Second
Mother!"
How I Love you, so,
You've put life in my soul,
and Love in my heart,
And this, I want you to know;
With the rising of the sun, a
special day comes near,
A day in honor of you;
This day is known as
"MOTHER'S DAY"
And this blessing lies deep
and true . . .
"Happy Mother's Day!"

Clarissa Edwards

HONORABLE MENTION

My Secret Prayer

You come to mind so often
That it certainly would be,
A pleasure to be able
To come visit personally,
But some things just aren't
possible
So I choose this way for now
To let you know that warmest
thoughts
Are with you anyhow.
Happy Mother's Day Mom.
P.S. I am entering this prayer
not for money exactly, but
because I am here in this
filthy cell, living in a part-
time hell. I wish I had
listened to what my mom
said.

Gary A. Mosby

THIRD PLACE

A poem

(This Is In Memory of My Mother, Mrs. C. M. Holly Who Passed Away March 11, 1961.)

I wasn't prepared when the
time came,
But I knew from then on,
things wouldn't be the
same.
In a time of stress and strife,
Someone dear had gone out of
my life.
As I lay in my bed with
"Momma's" face in my
mind,
Hoping maybe an answer I'd
find.
I said "She's gone, now I'm
all alone,
My Mom has gone to her final
home."
Her voice came to me so dear,
and tender,
And what She said I will
always remember.
She told me not to worry, to
have no fear,
But just to remember, God is
always near.
To keep Him always close in
my heart,
And through His love we will
never be apart.
How well I remember what
she meant to me,
And I thank God for Her
precious memories.

Barbara Holly

HONORABLE MENTION

How do you choose?

It's hard to describe a love for
mother
It can't be compared for there
is not another.
She's all the things that's
already been said,
So why not just close your
eyes instead.
And how do you choose in this
letter game
When all the letters are
saying the same?
So no matter if you are a
daughter or a son,
If there be a winner then we
all have won.

Howard Smith

HONORABLE MENTION

Sweet Rosalie

Our mother's name was
Rosalie
She was kind and beautiful as
could be.
She bore four beautiful
children, and that is true,
Their names are Patricia,
Clarissa, Bernard and Lew.
She was an angel and a
goddess all together in one,
She and her children always
had fun.
She was a church-going
woman and she loved to
sing,
She IS more precious to us
than anything.
Mom, you were the only
person we could all understand,
Now our family is not a
family without your loving
hand.
You left us on a Sunday
morning when we were all
fast asleep
We sometimes ask ourselves,
"Oh God why?," you were
so very sweet.
We'll never forget you
mother, No there just ain't
no way,
Your life is our life, and this is
only one in a million
prayers to you on Mother's
Day.

Lewis Edwards

Thank you

I want to take this time out
to thank God for you Mother
and to let you know how much
I care for you.
As my memories take me
back down memory lane, I
remember a whole lot of
things, but most of all I
remember you there, always
by my side.
When no one else cared, you
were there to pick us up one
by one when we fell. Standing
up straight and tall, teaching
us to pray both day and night.
Mother I hope that I turn out
all right. And as you go on
living from day to day. I take
this time out to thank God for
Mother's Day.

Frances Dixon

FOURTH PLACE

A prayer

As I write this prayer I am
sure
The angels in Heaven shall
open the doors
And send to my heart words
from above
To a sweet woman whom I
very much love.
Dear God, full of grace,
Bless my mother's beautiful
face.
Bless her from sickness and
distress
She's in your hand to do
what's best.
Guide her O Lord through
these dark days
In her sweet eyes show her
the way.
Be with her O Lord, I ask you
each day
And touch her O Lord on her
knees as she prays.
If times when Satan will try to
come in
Wash from her heart sickness
and sin
Be with her Lord, spare her
each day
And give each Mother a
Happy Mother's Day.

Angela Dunlap

I love her

Dear Father of love and
understanding, my Mother
is at rest.
But you knew what was best.
Father I thank you for the
strength you gave her to
raise us the best she could.
For my mother could have
put us in a home instead of
raising us alone.
Father I thank you for when
my mother stepped into
motherhood, that's where
my mother stood.
God she didn't have wings to
see but she was an angel to
me.

Sarah Scott

Mother

To one who bears the sweetest
name
And adds a luster to the same.
Who shares the joys who
cheers when sad
The greatest mother, I will
ever have
Long life to her, for there's no
other
Who can take the place of my
mother.

(Mother: Peggy Ellison)
Mindy Ellison

(AFRO Photo by Benjamin M. Phillips)

SECOND PLACE WINNER is Mary Parker, 16, a student of Walbrook Senior High School, who is pictured with her mother, Mrs. Bernice Parker, wife of the Rev. John W. Parker, former pastor of St. Lukes AME Church, Ellicott City.

A Message

I thank the Lord for sending
me my life of love, mother.
For she is all a child needs all
season round. She helps me
when I am blind to facts.
She's my sunshine when I am
feeling rain. She's my crutch
when I am wounded within.
She's my smile when I am
frowning.
Lord, I ask you to bless her
for she needs the sunshine, a
crutch and a smile when she
is wounded within also. For I
know she is weary and tired.
But, she's all I got so keep
her strong and confident, for
her confidence in me has kept
me out in the open and not
shrugged up in my shadow.
Lord I thank you for giving
me my strength, my eyes, my
pathway to a joyful future,
my Mother. Amen.

JUDY JONES

Thank Thee

Thank Thee Heavenly Father
above the trees,
For giving a sweet, sweet
mama like her to me.
We both have shared plenty of
things,
Then all of a sudden she
developed wings.
Mama departed the eighth of
May
Just before her very special
day
Which everyone knows as
"Mother's Day"
I know we all aren't here to
stay.
But Almighty God how I love
her today.
You relieved her from all
stress and strain
Oh Heavenly Father,
Elizabeth is her name
I know there is nothing to be

(Continued on Page 30)

Speaking of women. . .

(A look at what black women are doing locally.)

Do you know a dynamic woman — an outstanding community leader, church worker, businesswoman, mother, club woman — who is great in her own right? The AFRO wants to know about her. Send a brief biographical sketch and black and white glossy picture (or we can arrange to take a photo of her) to: Speaking of Women, c-o AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPER, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203. Sorry, pictures can not be returned.

(AFRO Photo by Morgan L. Spencer)
Mrs. Elaine Harris

Elaine E. Harris was recently honored at a surprise Promotional and Farewell dinner party — hosted by the Tenant Council of Bel-Park Towers, located on Belvedere Avenue.

Mrs. Harris who recently marked her 24th year in the field of housing had been manager of the senior citizens complex since its opening in June, 1974. Recently, she was promoted to Housing Manager II and transferred to the Gilmor Homes.

"Mrs. Harris was more to the tenants than just a housing manager; she was a mother, a friend, a sister and whatever else she could be to help the tenants. Mrs. Harris always had time for anyone who had a problem or just needed company," Ethel Upshur, staff member of the Bel-Park Tower, told the AFRO this week.

As a tribute to Mrs. Harris the tenants made the following remarks:

— "The residents of Bel-Park Tower welcome the new manager, William C. West, but will miss Mrs. Harris. She has been the manager of this development since it opened. Parting is always such sweet sorrow."

— "A woman loved and respected by the staff and senior citizens of Bel-Park Tower. She served as a most dynamic manager. Although she has been working for the Housing Authority for 24 years, each job that was assigned for her to take over was new to her. But it was not long before she began to feel the love and came to love Bel-Park Tower."

— "Because of her enthusiasm and respect for her staff and tenants, she was able to bring out the best in all."

—"For many years she has tried to make each building

(Continued on Page 30)

Community calendar

May 7

The Lawyers' Wives of Baltimore observes its 28th anniversary with a Silver Anniversary Bicentennial Ball, The Blue Crest North, 401 W. Reisterstown Rd., 7 p.m.

May 7-14

Bowie State College Fine Arts Festival Week, Bowie State College, Bowie, Md.

May 7-14

Bowie State College holds Fine Arts Festival Week. The Opening Convocation, May 7, features an address by Commissioner Benjamin L. Hooks of the Federal Communications Commission with an introduction by The Honorable J. Glenn Beall Jr., U.S. Senator from Maryland. For more information call: Kathleen Kelly, Assistant For Communications at 262-3350-723-0646, ext. 227 or 231.

May 7

The Rev. Dr. James Harris, an associate minister of the Concord Baptist Church and field evangelist has returned to our city for six weeks of Gospel Revial Crusades. Dr. Harris will be ministering at the Bibleway Baptist Church located at 2423 E. Biddle St., 7:30 p.m. each evening. The Rev. J. Williams is the host minister. The public is cordially invited to participate.

Baltimore Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. sponsors its annual "Night in Monte Carlo," Hilton Hotel, Pikesville, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.

May 8

The Arnold Mitchell 1976 Open Championship Tournament held featuring the best martical arts demonstration on the East Coast, Coppin State College Gym; eliminations at noon, finals at 8 p.m. Benefit: Epilepsy Association. Tickets on sale at Coppin State College, Music Liberated, Epilepsy Association, and Arnolds Mitchell's Karate School.

A Fashion Show and Luncheon by Women's Day Committee of Garrison Boulevard United Methodist Church, 2506 Garrison Blvd., 3 p.m. Fashions by Pauline Brooks Boutique.

The Roland Park Public School No. 233 annual May Mart to benefit the school, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Parents of the Famous A's Little League Baseball Team sponsor a "Chicken and Fish Fry," 2300 Barclay St., noon-10 p.m. The proceeds will benefit the purchasing of baseball equipment. For information call: 235-6480.

Provident Hospital holds public meeting to encourage awareness of the vital role Provident Hospital plays in the community, and to make the public aware of many services available. Also it is encouraging the enlistment of volunteers for fund raising campaign. Prominent state and city officials speak concerning Provident's need for community support. All persons interested in attending this meeting are invited, Emanuel Chambers Auditorium of the hospital, 2600 Liberty Heights Ave. For more information, call 225-2293 or 496-2512.

May 8

Wedding of Miss Elsie Herrington and Michael Collier of the Pittsburgh Steelers. Gospel Tabernacle Church, 3100 W. Walbrook Ave., 2 p.m.

Arnold Mitchell 1976 Open Championship Tournament, benefit: Epilepsy Association, Coppin State College Gym, noon.

A Public Meeting at Provide[illegible] Hospital, Emanuel Chambers Auditorium, 2600 Libert[illegible] Heights Ave., 10 a.m.-noon.

May 9

A Tribute to Black Women Through a Sunday Afternoon of Black Music featuring Trinity Presbyterian Church Choir, Mrs. Kathi Groves, directress and the Charles Bagley Chorale, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Walbrook and Ellamont St., 3 p.m.

The Spirit of Chesapeake Lodge No. 1107, I.B.P.O.E. of W's, Marching Patrol will sponsor a bus trip to Chester, Pa. Buses leave the Elks home, 2009 Frederick Ave.

Ladies Guild of the Church of St. Cecilia is sponsoring a Mother's Day Dinner, Sheraton-Baltimore Inn, Broadway and Orleans St., 2-4:30 p.m. For tickets call, Mrs. Bernadette Goode, 542-3417 or 947-6300.

SEND COMMUNITY NOTES

You can have your notices included free on the AFRO'S Community Calendar. Send the dates of meetings, civic and social events, wedding, parties . . . anything of community interest to: Community Calendar, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md. 21203

Bowie Festival Week

The City Council of Bowie issued a proclamation at their last meeting declaring May 7 through 14, as Bowie State College Fine Arts Festival Week.

The Proclamation was read by Councilman Richard Arnold, and presented by Mayor Audrey Scott to Bowie President Samuel L. Myers who urges community participation in the week's events.

In celebration of the Bicentennial, this third annual festival, "The Humanities: The Pursuit of Happiness," will feature the Naval Academy Band in concert, a costumed American Pageant, a media forum on "Communications in Bicentennial Perspective," and appearances by national, state and community leaders.

Free events during the week will include plays, concerts, distinguished speakers, a poetry contest, art exhibits and lectures.

The Opening Convocation on May 7 featured an address by Commissioner Benjamin L. Hooks of the Federal Communications Commission with an introduction by J. Glenn Beall Jr., U.S. Senator from Maryland.

At the conclusion of the Opening Convocation, a sapling from the Wye Oak was planted at Bowie State — one of eight Prince George's County locations selected by the P.G. County Bicentennial Tree Subcommittee for this honor.

Other Activities

On Monday, May 10, there will be an exhibit and art lecture by Lois Pierre-Noel, professor at Howard University. Her work has been exhibited widely in this country and abroad including Paris, Haiti, Pakistan, Luxembourg, Turkey, Moscow and South Rhodesia.

Since 1937, Ms. Pierre-Noel has had some 35 one-man shows, and her last one, a retrospective covering 40 years of painting, was held at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

On Tuesday, May 11, The South Sea Islanders from the City of Bowie will present a program of Polynesian Dances.

The Media Forum, "Communications In Bicentennial Perspective," will be headed by Ted V. Sirrell, vice president and executive director of the National Newspaper Association. The forum will take place on Wednesday, May 12, at 10:30 a.m., and will also include Maureen Bunyan and Bob Strickland from WTOP-TV, and Jim Vance from WRC-TV.

Bowie State's Repertory Theatre Company will present three one-act plays on Friday and Saturday evenings in the Martin Luther King Center Auditorium. Products of the late 60s, "The First Militant Minister," "Plantation," and "Contribution" offer an evening of comedy and satire.

On Thursday evening, May 13, Congressman Paul S. Sarbanes will introduce featured speaker Carlos Campbell, deputy administrator for the National Bicentennial Commission. The Naval Academy Band will share the stage with a concert of American Music. Vocalist Gayle Slater of the Academy Band will be highlighted in this celebration of American Heritage.

All events during the Fine Arts Festival are free and open to the public. For further information and a complete listing of activities, call 262-3350, ext. 227 from the Bowie & Washington area; or 723-0646, ext. 227 from the Baltimore & Annapolis area.