Metro Church Briefs

Provident Inspirational Baptist Church, 850 Edmondson Ave., will observe its annual Family and Friends Night, Sunday, March 21, at 7 p.m.

The Mt. Moriah Baptist Church choirs, congregation and pastor, the Rev. Arthur Benn, also will be attending. Rev. Benn will be speaking.

Music for the program will be provided by Mt. Moriah's vocal chorous, male chorus and the Provident Inspirational P.I.B.C. Choir. Solos will be by Mrs. Arthur Benn and Mrs. Vera Newton.

All are welcome. Mrs. Mary Leak and Mrs. Mozelle Gundy are the program's co-chairpersons. Pastor of Provident Inspirational Baptist Church is the Rev. Clifton E. Freeman.

The Ever-Ready Circle presents the Swinson Jubilees and Mass Choir in concert, Sunday, March 14, 1982, at New Psalmist Baptist Church, Cathedral and Franklin streets, at 5 p.m.

The choir is under the direction of the Rev. Lawyer L. Swinson. The church's pastor is the Rev. Walter S. Thomas. Admission is free. For more information call 947-1608.

A revival at New Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, 1905 Poplar Grove St., will be March 16-19, at 8 p.m. The church's pastor is Rev. Hezekiah Williamson. Rev. Harvey Watkins will conduct the revival.

Family and Friends Day at Garrison Blvd. United Methodist Church, 2506 Garrison Blvd., at Alto Road, Sunday, March 14, 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The speaker for the morning services will be Rev. Linwood H. Leverette, assistant pastor of Mt. Pisgah. Music will be rendered by New Horizons Gospel Singers and the Male Chorus.

Dinner will be served after morning worship. At the afternoon services music will be performed by some of Baltimore's best singers. Rodney Boone is the chairperson of the program. The Rev. Joseph E. Cater is the pastor.

The Youth Ministries of Ames Memorial United Methodist Church, Cares and Baker streets, will sponsor the choir of the Fellowship Church of Christ, 1725 Division Street at Ames Sunday, March 21, at 3:00 p.m. Dinner will be served after the morning worship service. Beatrice Yoes is the coordinator. Dr. O. St. Clair Franklin is pastor.

The Annual Women's Day program at Ebenezer A.M.E. Church, 20 W. Montgomery St. will be Sunday, March 14 at 11 a.m. Dr. Lucia S. Hawthorne a Morgan State University professor is the keynote speaker. Music will be rendered by the women of the church. Mrs. Norma Bracy and Miss Juanita Addison are the chairpersons. The Rev. Reginald J. Daniels is the pastor.

The women of Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church, 12778 Manor Rd., will present the Imani Messengers of Bethel A.M.E. Church in concert Sunday, March 14 at 5:30 p.m.

The concert will take place at the Long Green Fire Hall located across from the Church. The chairperson of the program is Mrs. Coppie Phillips. The pastor of Mt. Zion is the Rev. Maurice T. Wilson.

The 76th anniversary of Women's Day of Waters A.M.E. Church, Orleans and Aisquith Streets, will be celebrated on March 14 at 11 a.m. The morning worship and celebration will be followed by a dinner at 1:30 p.m. and a program at 3:30 p.m.

Youth Day at Little Ark Baptist Church, 1263 E. North Ave. will be Sunday, March 14. The speaker for the morning service is Rev. Curtis Ferguson of the Little Arks. Service will be all day. Colenia Lyle is the chairperson and Michelle Barrett is the co-chairperson. Rev. Matthew Marcus is the pastor.

The ordination of deacons of the Ray of Hope Baptist Church, Harford Road and Parkside Drive, will be Sunday, March 14 at 4 p.m. Dr. Montaque Bracket, pastor of Central Baptist Church, will be the speaker. Rev. Charles M. Franklin is the pastor.

The 32nd Annual Men's Day program will be Sunday, March 14, 11 a.m. at Hemingway Temple A.M.E. Church, 2701 Woodview Rd. in Cherry Hill. The Rev. John Hurst Adams, Bishop of the Second Episcopal District is the speaker for the morning service. Special guests include Samuel J. Ennis Lodge No. 104, Perry Johnson, and Jerusalem Temple No. 4 A.E.A.O.N.M.S. Inc. Herbert B. Stevenson. A musical program will be rendered at 3:30 p.m. David Dozier is the chairman. Rev. Dr. M. Arthur Camper is the pastor.

The 74th annual Women's Day program at St. James A.M.E. Church, 615 Green St., Havre de Grace, Md., will be Sunday, March 14 at 11 a.m. Rev. Renita Weems, of Allen Church, Jamaica, Long Island, N.Y. is the speaker. A musical program will be rendered at 4 p.m. Dinner will be served after the morning service. Geraldine W. Cox is the chairperson and Rev. Robert M. Pritchett, Jr., is the pastor.

The Pastor's Aide Society of Ebenezer Baptist Church will celebrate their anniversary Sunday, March 14 at 3:30 p.m. Rev. Harold Carter, Jr., is the guest speaker. Mrs. Blondine Knight is the chairperson. Rev. Clarence E. Poole is the pastor.

The F.R.E.D. Banquet will be Thursday, March 18 at the Downtown Hilton, Fayette Street at 7 p.m. Rev. Harold Carter, pastor of New Shiloh Baptist Church is the keynote speaker. Rev. C. C. Alexander is the chairperson for the banquet program.

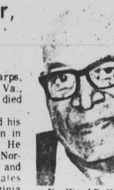
The Willing Workers of First Charity Baptist Church will present the Young Adult choir in concert Sunday, March 14 at 3:30 p.m. Clarey Bush is the president. Rev. P. A. Kearney is the pastor.

Area Obituaries

Perkins Square pastor, Dr. Ward Yerby, dies

Funeral services for Dr. Ward D. Yerby, 84, pastor emeritus of Perkins Square Baptist Church, were Friday, March 12, at the church, 2500 Edmondson Ave. at Warwick Ave. Burial was at Arbutus Memorial Park.

Described as a preacher, teacher, leader and statesman, Dr. Yerby, was the son of Jacob and Alice Yerby. He was born in Sharps, Richmond County, Va., on Aug. 9, 1898. He died March 8, 1982.



Dr. Ward D. W. Yerby as he appeared in 1972

Dr. Yerby received his elementary education in Richmond County. He was a graduate of Northern Neck Academy and received an associates degree from Virginia Union University.

He also attended Shelton College where he received a bachelor of Divinity degree. He was awarded an honorary degree, Doctor of Divinity from his alma mater, Virginia Union University.

Dr. Yerby was pastor of Perkins Square Baptist Church for 41 years. He was pastor emeritus for 11 years.

A loving husband, father and humanitarian, he is survived by his wife, Portia H. Yerby; a son, the Rev. William H. Yerby; and a sister, Georgie Dickens.

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THE THIRTY SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH
1354 NORTH CAREY STREET
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21217
Sunday, March 14, 1982
9:30 a.m.
Sunday School w/ Mr. L. M. Carter, Superintendent
11:00 a.m.
The Pastor will preach. Music by the Choir of the Church.
3:30 p.m.
Dr. Shelton A. Fleming Choir and Congregation of the Mount Olive Baptist Church, Dundalk, Maryland
Monday, March 15, 1982
7:30 p.m.
Rev. C. E. Burston, Choir and Congregation of the Mt. Hatfin Baptist Church. The Willing worker club in Charge.
Tuesday, March 16, 1982
7:30 p.m.
Rev. Joseph L. Davis, Choir and Congregation of the New Mt. Zion Baptist Church. The Missionaries in Charge
Wednesday, March 17, 1982
7:30 p.m.
Rev. Neal G. Gilchrist, Choir and Congregation of the John Wesley AME Zion Church. The Pastor Aide and the Emergency Club in Charge
Thursday, March 18, 1982
7:30 p.m.
Dr. Dennis Barrow, Choir and Congregation of the Northeast Baptist Church. The Young People Choir in Charge
Friday, March 19, 1982
7:30 p.m.
Dr. James H. Reynold, Choir and Congregation of the Bethany Baptist Church. The Sunday School in Charge

DOUGLAS MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CHURCH
"The People of the Way"
Lafayette and Madison Aves
Dr. Marion Curtis Bascom, Minister
James S. Hammond, M. Mus., JUANITA HALL DAVIS Organist
SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 1982
Eight and Eleven O'Clock
Marion Curtis Bascom preaching
8:00 O Come, Let Us Sing Unto the Lord — Swann
In Thee Do I Put My Trust — Beebe
11:00 We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder — Dett
I'll Never Turn Back, No More

Funeral service for Rev. John Mason, 82

Funeral services for the Rev. John H. Mason, 82, were Monday, March 8, at First Corinthian Baptist Church. Interment was at Arbutus Memorial Park, Wednesday.

A second memorial service for the Rev. Mason was Wednesday at the Pennsylvania Avenue AME Zion Church. He died Friday, March 5, at his home in the 4000 block of West Coldspring Lane after a lengthy illness.

He was the pastor at First Corinthian Baptist Church from 1957 until his retirement in 1972.

Rev. Mason was ordained to the ministry in 1955. He served two years as assistant pastor at Bethany Baptist Church, before taking over the pastorate of the First Corinthian Church, when it opened April, 1957.

A native of Portsmouth Va., he moved to Baltimore as a child and graduated from Frederick Douglass High School. He also attended Morgan State University and the Virginia Union Theological Seminary in Richmond.

He is survived by his wife of 26 years, Mrs. Minnie Harp Mason; a daughter, Marlene Elliott, of Baltimore; a stepson, Air Force Col. Solomon Harp III, of Columbia; a stepdaughter, Beatrice Royster; two brothers, James E. Mason, of Philadelphia and Clarence Mason, of Washington; a sister, Irene Bula, of Norfolk, Va., and nine grandchildren.

Barbara A. Vance, 36, C&P Telephone Co. worker

Funeral services for Barbara Ann Vance, 36, were Friday, March 5, at St. Frances Xavier Church, Caroline and Oliver Streets. Interrment was at Arbutus Memorial Cemetery the following day.

A native of Brinkley, Ark., Ms. Vance was born Nov. 30, 1945. She was the daughter of Nevada Ray Vance and Jesse Vance. She died Tuesday, March 2, at Johns Hopkins Hospital following complications of open heart surgery.

She moved to Baltimore, with her family, at an early age. She was baptized at St. Frances Academy.

Barbara A. Vance

A 17-year-employee of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Co., she was a traffic engineer with the operator services division at the company's Charles St. office.

Some of her duties included insuring the availability of sufficient equipment for toll operator assisted services to Maryland customers.

Ms. Vance was a resident of Cedonia. She spent her free time traveling, reading and was active at her church.

She is survived by her parents; a sister, Grace Riddit and a brother, Elderado Vance.

John Colbert Sr., Alabama native

Funeral rites for John Colbert, Sr., 81, were Wednesday, March 3 at Baptist City Temple of Baltimore, Dolphin Street.

Mr. Colbert, Sr. was born Aug. 26, 1900 to Elijah and Lora Colbert in Bessmer, Ala. He died Feb. 28 in Maryland General Hospital.

Mr. Colbert received his early education in the public schools of Alabama and moved to Baltimore at a very young age. He was employed by the Steamship Trade Association as a longshoreman until his retirement in 1963. He was a member of the Longshoreman's Union, Local No. 858.

In the 1930s Mr. Colbert toured the black churches and participated in the production, "Glory Bound," which was a joint venture between Ebenezer, Leadenhall and John Wesley churches.

Mr. Colbert was a former member of Leadenhall and John Wesley. At the time of his death, he was a member of City Temple Baptist Church.

He is survived by a wife, Laylor; a daughter, Irene Shavers; a son, John Colbert, Jr.; 22 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren.

Annie Mae Wilmer

Funeral services for Annie Mae Wilmer, 68, were Friday, March 5, at William C. March Funeral Home. Interment followed in Mount Zion Cemetery.

Mrs. Wilmer was born March 2, 1914 in Holly Hill, S.C. to Mrs. Josphanie Forgle. She met and married Mr. Joseph Wilmer.

She is survived by three sisters, Mrs. Mattie Mae Fingerson and Mrs. Carrie Fields of Charleston, S.C. and Mrs. Desilee Addison of Mount. Fffa.

William Henry Potts, choir founder, dies

Founder of the Baltimore Singers Choir died Saturday, Feb. 27 at Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore.

Last rites for William Henry Potts, 79, were Thursday, March 4 at Trinity A.M.E. Church, East Hoffman Street. Interment followed Friday in Mount Auburn Cemetery.

Mr. Potts was born July 29, 1902 in Atlantic City, N.J. to Thomas E. and Henrietta R. Potts. He moved to Baltimore at an early age and attended the Baltimore City Public Schools.

In 1920, Mr. Potts enrolled in Morgan State University where he pledged the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, organization.

He became a member of Trinity A.M.E. Church at an early age and was a member of the finance board and the Steward's board until his health failed.

In 1942, Mr. Potts married Peicalia W. Nixon. He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Vivian Nixon Gordon; five grandchildren, Miss DeVoch Gordon, Mr. Cornelius Gordon, Jr., Mr. William Gordon, Mr. Joseph Gordon and Miss Delisa Gordon; and five great-grandchildren.

Rev. Edward Litmon

Funeral services for the Rev. Edward E. Litmon were Wednesday, March 3, at William C. March Funeral Home. Interment was at King Memorial Park.

The Rev. Litmon was the son of Frank and Lula Litmon. He was born in Anderson County, Walhalla, S.C., on March 27, 1892. He died Feb. 27, 1982 after a brief illness.

He left Walhalla sometime in 1910 and moved to Baltimore, where he studied to become a minister. Rev. Litmon was the pastor of Rainbow Key Baptist Church until illness forced him to retire.

Survivors include his sisters, Mrs. Christine Stith and Mrs. Corrine Wharton, of Baltimore.

Steven Green, 58, dies

Funeral services for Steven Green, 58, were Tuesday, March 9, at Greater Harvest Baptist Church, West Saratoga Street. Interment followed Wednesday, March 10 in Arbutus Memorial Park.

Mr. Green was born Oct. 8, 1923 in Mollusk, Lancaster County, Va. to George and Jennie Green.

He attended Lancaster County public schools and joined the Queen Esther Baptist Church at an early age. He also was a member of First Galilee Baptist Church.

He joined the U.S. Armed Forces where he served for two years. After his discharge, Mr. Green relocated to Baltimore where he met and married Louise Robinson in January, 1946.

Mr. Green was employed at the Bethlehem Steel Corporation until his retirement in March, 1981.

He is ssurvived by his wife, a son, Steven, Jr.; 10 grandchildren, four sisters, Mrs. Lucille Smith, Mrs. Mamie Perry, Mrs. Susie Williams and Mrs. Elizabeth Brown; and three brothers.

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Irvin Turner, co-founder Arena Players, memorialized

IDA PETERS

In the role of Othello with Johns Hopkins Playshop.

1975 — Arena Players were $321,100 richer when they received check from city Housing Commissioner Robert C. Embry for playhouse renovation. From left, the late S. Leroy Taylor, treasurer; Irvin Turner, managing director; Mrs. Camilla Sherrard, chairman of board and Mr. Embry.

Irvin H. Turner, co-founder with Samuel H. Wilson, Jr. of the Arena Players, was memorialized in services Thursday night at Douglas Memorial Community Church.

He died Sunday, March 7 at his home in the 3500 blk of Rhom Rd. in Woodlawn of a heart ailment. His remains were cremated on Tuesday. He was 58.

As an actor, managing director, set designer he was one of the Arena Players' most active members and served as a member of the Board of Directors until his death.

Arena Players in Baltimore is one of the oldest theatre groups of its kind in the country with few salaried employees and operated by unpaid volunteers and a women's auxiliary.

Sam Wilson, faculty member at Coppin State College and president of Arena Players for 29 seasons, recalled that he first met Irvin Turner at a social affair some 30 years ago while Turner was still a student about to graduate from Temple University.

He says they worked to bring black-oriented community theatre to Baltimore to provide an outlet for talent and lead the way toward desegregation of the arts.

In 1953, the original members of the Arena Players were Harvey Denmark, Jimmie Bell, Irvin Turner, Joseph Wilson, Julius Wilson and Doris Oliver. Turner starred in the first production, William Saroyan's one-act drama, "Hello Out There".

Wilson also remembers that the Arena Players have had a lifelong love affair with the works of Langston Hughes and Irvin Turner helped establish contact with the late great playwright and created the letters which later brought Hughes to Baltimore to receive Arena's highest award in 1966. Turner acted as technical director for two of Arena's most successful productions "Simply Heavenly" and "Tambourines to Glory".

"He was a creative, very organized person", said Wilson. "He was always very cooperative in helping young people develop. Even after he became ill with heart problems and got a pacemaker he came down to help with our January, 1982 production of "222" and offered suggestions".

Mrs. Camilla Sherrard, chairman of the Board of the Arena Players says that Irvin Turner was a very interested and concerned member of the Arena Players. "He worked on every little detail. He strove for perfection and when it was time for a play to open, every last little detail had been taken care of".

Mrs. Sherrard says that Turner made a major contribution to the growth and development of the arts and his passing is a great loss.

A native of Baltimore, Turner graduated from Douglass High School and served in the United States Marine Corps from 1943 to 1946. He received a scholarship to Temple University in Philadelphia and majored in painting, dramatics and the dance. He graduated from the Tyler School of Fine Arts at Temple in 1951 and earned a degree in education in 1952.

He was an accomplished artist and teacher working in the Baltimore school system for 27 years. He taught art for many years at Booker T. Washington Junior High No. 130 and retired as Art department head at Greenspring Junior High in 1979.

A member of Actor's Equity, he was active for many years as a performer with Theatre Hopkins where one of his early starring roles was in "Othello".

His performances included roles in productions at Center Stage including the Arthur Miller play "Death of a Salesman", and Lonne Elder III's "Ceremonies in Dark Old Men", both with the late Richard Ward.

He also had professional roles at the old Hilltop Theatre and played with Charles Colburn in "You Can't Take It With You". He was involved in television and did commericals for Blue Cross and the Area Council on Alcoholism.

During his tenure as managing director of Arena Players he directed "Twelve Angry Men", "Dial M for Murder", "A Story for a Sunday Evening", "Last Menagerie" and "The Best Man".

He was honored by the Arena Players with their highest award in 1969 along with Cab Calloway and Ed Bullins.

He is survived by his wife, the former Sylvia Patterson; a daughter, Tai Holly Turner; a son Dana Lloyd Turner of San Francisco; three sisters, Eva T. House, Rosie M. Turner, and Dorothy T. Jackson. Also a brother, Theodore I. Turner, Jr.

The family is requesting that instead of flowers donations be made to the Arena Players, Inc. where Turner spent nearly 30 years of volunteer service to build the "Possible Dream".

Season 24 — 1977-78 Turner with Vernon Blackston starred in Clay Goss' "On Being Hit."

Turner had key role in Center Stage's "Death of a Salesman."

SHOWTIME

Early 1960s Arena Players production featured "Dark of the Moon." Irvin Turner played John, The Witch Boy and June Thorne played Barbara Allen.

1953 AFRO file photo shows Turner as he looked when he graduated from Temple University.

D.C. Curtain Calls

"TRINITY" has been in the Joffrey Ballet's programming for many seasons and is being danced this season by Edward Morgan, a newcomer to the exciting company celebrating its 25th anniversary. The Joffrey Ballet is now at the Opera House of the Kennedy Center.

Charles Farrow

Washington is on its toes again this week. Dancing with class and virtuousity as they can muster are the Joffrey Ballet at the Opera House now into their second week and the Washington Ballet which opened at the Lisner Auditorium for three days of performances.

The presence of these two intensely committed companies acknowledges DC's ability to support very handsomely, the world of the dance. The audiences, continue to be large and quickly acknowledge their appreciation of this elegant art form, the classical ballet.

The fact that the Joffrey Ballet is celebrating its 25th anniversary is no small achievement. The separate qualities that unite to form this attractive company indicate the consummate craftsmanship and dedication and inspiration that is brought to the dance.

The company fairly crackles with enthusiasm, combining a quality of staging and creating a ballet and the production with the concept of the dance at hand. The Joffrey is not merely content with perfect line or intricate movement for movement's sake. There is a recognition of what is one dancer, one vital dancer, in concert with several other dancers, can bring to a choreographer's idea, a composer's music and that dancer's range of performance.

The dancers are believeable figures given to a sureness and dedication to style in movement; whatever seems necessary, they put out there. The opening night performance was an artistically rewarding mix in those attitudes, the dancers did not seem to be in awe of what they were doing.

You have to applaud the fierce drive of Robert Joffrey's company and I remember some many years ago when I saw them for the first time, a small company dancing in a New York hotel during a program for a fashion promotion of new fabrics! I have never forgotten the inherent youthfulness and abandon of that collection of dancers. Time has gone by many, many years and I still have the feeling of excitement and the joy of the dance's only reason for being.

Over at the Lisner Auditorium, the Washington Ballet continues the electric program that is drawing large crowds to concerts. It's a combination of intriguing material and talented competive dancers that almost rise to the popularity achieved by professional athletic teams with the super stars that are the crowd pleasers.

Currently riding a heady series of successes in international ballet competitions, the Washington Ballet is adding to the depth of its repertory. The Spring series of concerts which began this past Wednesday will add several new performances that will bring additional luster.

You will have a chance to get a close look at Bonnie Moore, company apprentice — she is not a member of the regular company as yet — who won the first prize in Switzerland this past January. Ms. Moore, a talented 16 - year- old dancer of superb ability, will dance the "BLUE BIRD PAS DE DEUX" from "THE SLEEPING BEAUTY" and will be partnered by the 1981 winner of that same competition, Pablo Savoye.

That innovative ticket policy will be in effect one hour prior to performance time, $2.00 at the Saturday matinee and $3.00 for the Friday and Saturday night performances. It definitely beats the prices to a movie or the price of a six pack of beer or a bottle of wine.

There is one missing quality to this company that must soon be addressed. That is the absence in Washington's only active ballet company of black dancers. The reasons for this absence is explained away by many convoluted attitudes. Mostly they are the reasons given by the rest of the large ballet companies in the U.S. and abroad and also the reasons that led to the creation of the Dance Theatre of Harlem.

At this corner we are interested in the artistic director and founder, Mary Day's comments on this subject and will forward them to you as soon as they are available.

The programming dates for the WB are through 13. They can be reached at the box office number 362-4644.

Have you ever gone to the theatre as I did to the National theatre and sat through the beginnings of a play, in this case "MORNINGS AT SEVEN," resplendent with an attractive set, delicate play writing craftsmanship and performances that are comfortable and embroidered with a certain acting elegance? The cast moves easily perhaps because of its stars who are well past puberty and into their 60th year, gives reasonable, performances well matched and deceptive in their perfection.

Well, without warning, you wake up to the proposition that this is not your ordinary American slam bang, upstart cutsey play of one liners. "Mornings At Seven" is a delicate treating of little incidents in thelives of little people of little consequence outside of a little circle of participants.

Suddenly you realize that by the end of the first act, that what had started off as a ho - hum affair, has suddenly begun to matter to you. In "Mornings At Seven" you find that nature and time, especially time, has a way of dealing with individuals and their hurts. In this play first performed in 1939, the times were not receptive to such a self - centered and quiet story. Now the times welcome just such a low voltage issue.

The issue is that of four sisters, three who live next to each other, whose lives have remained tightly knit for their entire adult life. It was a long time coming, but one indelicate moment which happened in the distant past, suddenly threatens to destroy living patterns of 40 years.

Russell Nype and Maureen O'Sullivan in a scene from 1980 Tony Award winning comedy "Morning's At Seven" at the Mechanic March 23.

These personal hurts are dealt with in a quiet inward manner. They are almost treasured and held close. As the story and the lives unravel, situations endured for many years fail, but even now there is a refusal to bail out and the story has become important to you.

Night scene seen

BOB MATTHEWS

Set out this week to attempt to find out what has happened on the scene since the demise of The Ritz. Kinda wondered where the crowd which once gathered there now did its socializing.

The Tuesday night set, which was once the domain of the Ritz, called the Bob Clay night, has moved to the Gatsby's. We are told that it is party time as before in the new surroundings.

Two of the popular bartenders at the old Light St. club, Chris and Woo, have taken up their trade at D-Joint, with a goodly portion of the incrowd following them there.

So, as it shakes down, the Ritz crowd can now be found essentially, in three locations. D-Joint, Gatsby's and 5-Mile House. While only Gatsby's features live music on a regular basis, the ambiance of the other two clubs puts them in the forefront for scenery.

Have no idea who is playing Gatsby's this weekend, but we did try to get the infor for you.

The Left Bank Jazz Society presents Sonny Stitt this Sunday, along with Marc Cohen, piano; Tommy Cecil, bass, and Hugh Walker, drums.

It is a rhythm section Sonny has played with previously, so we don't anticipate any trouble there. As for the problem So Sonny once had, we have been told that it no long occurs.

Must say that the last time we saw Sonny, he was drinking Perrier water strictly, although we feel he may have moved on a trifle to other things, though in moderate proportions.

Any any rate, Sonny Stitt is a living legend, and anyone who needs a lesson in jazz derivations, especially bebop, should not miss this opportunity to hear one of the greatest.

The LBJS sessions have become increasingly popular, with each set this year drawing respectable crowds. And well it should, for in addition to exquisite music, the food and other niceties available seem to be top rate at all times.

Just got the word that the April 4 slot, which was an open date in the bookings calender for the society, will be filled by vocalist Dakota Staton.

The Sportsmen's Lounge is on track this weekend with Albert Dailey confirmed for the Fri.-Sat. night sets. For the Saturday afternoon jazz jam, Dailey's Workshop is planned.

Mickey Fields, Andy Ennis and Johnny Polite will be on hand for this set, which should be a delightful reunion of old musical friends.

Down at the King of France Tavern of the Maryland Inn, Joe Pass, who has been called the world's best guitarist, will be in residence for this week and next.

Over in D.C., our favorite tenor saxman Dexter Gordon is holding forth at Blues Alley. He'll be there through Sunday night.

At Mr. Y's, O'Donel Levy is there tonight and tomorrow, with bassist Keeter Betts and pianist Ray Bryant. This has got to be a spectular set.

For those who can pick up D.C. TV stations, tonight (Fri.), WETA, Channel 26 is to present Bennet and Basie Together at 9:15 p.m. Naturally it features Tony Bennett and Count Basie, and is one of a series of three concerts.

Also on 20 tonight at 11:30 p.m., Carmen McRae at Blues Alley is scheduled. For the record, Anita Ellis will be on the tube on March 19 at 11:15 p.m., along with pianist Ellis Larkin.

Tenor saxist Dave Hubbard will be appearing at The Closet this weekend, along with drummer Billy Murphy, and bassist Larry Kingling.

And, drummer Bobby Ward is still doing his thing at the Club Astoria. At The Birdcage Saturday night, Tiger Lil is presenting a group called Gentlemen of Jazz.