

By Bettye Moss

If you ask me

Hats off!

Hats off to 17 - year - old Bonita, (Bonnie) Billingsley. She was selected as youth of the year by the MD League of Women's Clubs.

At the group's 38th annual conference on Saturday, she rewarded luncheon guests with a dramatic reading. It described the hurts of black youngsters experiencing segregation. You could hear a pin drop when she performed.

Now a senator at Milton, Academy in Milton, MA, she did advance college work here in Baltimore's Western High.

She had engaged in a number of volunteer and cultural activities. Baysitting, child care assistant, children's theatre aide, counselor in training at the YMCA, volunteer at Harbel Community Center.

She has taken courses in drama at the Baltimore School for Performing Arts. In her short lifetime, she has won a number of honors for speech, drama presentations, as well for typewriting, reading tutoring and English. During her high school days, she was an honor student and maintained perfect attendance.

There is much, much more. Keep your eyes on this young lady, she's going places. If she keeps up her present pace. And, she is a friendly, unassuming youngster.

Please continue your nominations to this column's Hats Off section. Help us identify young people who are doing outstanding things.

It is a fact that so many of us adults only notice our young people when they do poorly.

Md. League

Young Miss Billingsley, mentioned above, is the daughter of Morgan State University president, Dr. Andrew Billingsley and Mrs. Billingsley, (Amy).

Another young woman who displayed great talent at the Md. League luncheon was Mrs. Vicky Kelly, 31 - year - old mother, who is expecting a second child this summer.

Her glorious voice had guests on their feet. (She sang "Amazing Grace," and "I Believe").

Mrs. Kelly, who has been blind since childhood, is living proof that talent does not let a handicap keep you from sharing your joy with others.

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This year's MD League Conference was at the Forum. Sessions at 9, with members making reports on the group's 10 - point program.

The 10 a.m. housing workshop featured remarks by experts, and before the luncheon there were special presentations.

Exhibits were attractively supplied by business people and club members.

Luncheon speaker, Thelma T. Dakey, speaking on the theme, "If not you, who? if not now, when?" challenged the group:

"Wouldn't it be great if we utilized all the power of all the clubs in Baltimore to work on one project?"

There were well - deserved awards to Al Stewart, who received a contribution for Morgan U's WEAA, which he directs, and to longtime Md. League workers, Mrs. Thelma Rice and Mrs. Marion J. Jackson.

Mrs. Gloria H. Luster is president. Mrs. Bernice White chaired the conference. Mrs. Emma Dudley was in charge of the exhibits, and Mrs. Shirley Macklin and Mrs. Yvonne Archer, headed hostesses.

About people

Note to Baltimore area clubs: If you did Not have a representative present at the Md. League on Saturday, you missed a real treat.

The 200 plus members present this year were a far cry from the large turnout in previous years. Baltimore club women who believe there is POWER in numbers- as speaker Daley observed - should pay their dues NOW, and see that their representatives participate in this very worthwhile umbrella group. It needs YOU and YOU need the organization.

One group which supports the League in large numbers - the King's Landing Women's Service Club. It had four representatives present, Mildred Nelson, Mary Smith, Mamie Jones and Gertrude McKella.

Also at Forum on Saturday afternoon were members of the Baltimore Urban League Guild.

Their event was a card party chaired by Charlotte Riley and Ruth Fauntleroy. Clarice LaV Brooks is president.

When we looked in on them, members and guests were busy with cards, vying for handsome door prizes". . . In fact, it was so quiet, we thought for a minute nobody was there. But, they had a nice crowd and guests seemed to enjoy the afternoon of games - bridge, pinochle and pokeno.

More people

It's a girl for Mr. and Mrs. Herbert M. Mosley erd, (Sharon). Infant weighed in a 6 pounds, 4 ½ ounces on March 27, at Sinai Hospital, has been named Jina Sheri.

Dac is an officer at Northwestern Police Station. Mother, is a nursing student at Community College of Baltimore.

Baby, their first, is a first graddaughter for Mrs. Jewell Mosley Marsan, and a first grandchild for Mr. and Mrs. Raymond George, (Lois), of Baltimore.

It's grandchild No. 5 for Stepdad, Justen Marsan, and no. 2 for Mrs. Marsan. Her first is 11 - year - old Russell Grant Lake, son of her daughter, Florence Lake and Hubby, Russell, of Los Angeles.

At the Belvedere on Tuesday evening, over 300 persons turned out to salute Betty Williams, longtime school executive. More on this in an upcoming issue.

At Madison Ave., Presbyterian Church on Sunday, a piano was dedicated in memory of Mrs. Lillian Parrott Murphy.

Granddaughter, Marjean Fuhn, and the pastor, Rev. Reginald Daniels, led the dedication.

Mrs. Murphy organized the church's first mixed choir and was director for over 25 years. She was the first lady elder ordained in the church.

Madison Ave., choir, directed by Clarence Henderson, did itself proud on this memorial day. Their rendition of Sanctus was magnificent, Rebecca Sydnor was soloist.

It was so beautiful you wanted to stand up and applaud. To think so much beautiful music came from only 11 voices!!!

And more

In the Madison Ave. church audience: Joel Newton, who is bubbling over.

He and his wife, Sara, have every reason to be proud.

Their daughter, Karen, 27, is completing her studies at the University of Wisconsin Medical School.

She returns home in June to interne at the University Hospital- anesthesiology. Good girl!

Our daughter - in - law, Brvena had foot surgery at Bon Secours Hospital last week, is home, doing well.

Our visit to the hospital enabled us to meet another visitor, Thomas Gillard, residential aide at the McCulloh Homes. He reported that his sister, Mrs. Garnett Boone, the nurse, was much improved.

At Provident, Samuel R. Owings Sr., the retired school principal, is doing well after surgery.

Good news about a former Baltimorean: Dr. Thomas P. Fraser, the educator, and onetime interim president at Morgan U here, he will be inducted into the SC Hall of Science and Technology on April 2.

He is the second contemporary member and recipient of the LeConte Medallion at the ceremony set for Chaflin College in Orangeburg, S.C.

Sign on the times: Forsythia, the yellow harbingers of Spring, are out in all their glory at Garnett Park, located at Druid Hill and Lafayettes Aves. Perfectly gorgeous!

Lovely Isabel

Family and friends filled Trinity United Presbyterian Church Thursday evening, (March 25), for last rites for Isabel Rossiter McConnell.

Mrs. McConnell, 72, was the beloved good nieghbor, civic, and church worker who was described as "a beacon light who loved serving others."

Mrs. McConnell was a native of Newton, KS, received her bachelor's at Sterling College there, and did graduate work at Howard University.

It was there she met and married Dr. Roland C. McConnell, the Morgan U. professor who survives. They were wed 45 years.

Mrs. McConnell had a long career in education, and research, and retired after 30 years service with the Department of the Army.

In Trinity Church, she was an elder, a deacon and Clerk of the Session for many years.

Under her direction, the Fellowship Hall was redecorated, and will be named in her honor this month.

Kind lady

An unusually pleasant and kindly lady, Mrs. McConnell served on numerous civic boards and community organizations.

She was an officer and member of the Morgan U. Faculty Wives, the Du Bois Circle, Morgan Park Garden Committee and Improvement Association, Sigma Wives and Iota Lambda Sorority, and Friends of the Peale Museum.

Members of these organizations served as honorary pallbearers.

Active pallbearers were: Elbert Bishop, Craig A. Hobson, Willlie Jones, Wendell L. McConnell Jr., Stewart Orange and Wilbert Walker.

Nutter Funeral Home was in charge.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. McConnell is survived by sisters, Beatrice Townsend, Reta Rossiter and June Thaw; and brothers, Guy and Patrick Rossiter.

Cuff note: Mrs. McConnell was in the process of writing a history of Morgan Park.

During her active years, she was an ardent supporter of the performing arts, maintaining membership in the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and the Baltimore Opera Company.

Relatives recall that her suggestions to city officials led to many improvements in the Morgan Park area and the general Baltimore community. They will remember her, "initiative and resourcefulness" in all her endeavors.

Gov. Hughes

Gov. Harry Hughes paid a tremendous tribute to State Senator Verda F. Welcome at her



Alphonso K. Butler

birthday salute on March 19 at Martin's West. Here are his verbatim remarks:

"I give a lot of speeches in a lot of places about a lot of people . . . but, Verda, this is something special. You and I have been through many fires together . . . some we started and some we put out and never in all that time have I ever doubted my respect for you . . .

"Verda . . . I stand six feet three, but all five feet three of you towers over me and anybody else who ever marched forth to do the people's work.

"How proud I am to have been by your side in fighting for the cause of civil rights in the Sixties — and in having you by my side now when so much of what we've both fought for is on the line.

"It never ends, Verda. The poor who need our help. The old who need our caring. The young who need our hand. The end of one struggle is always the beginning of another.

"We run hat out of the house only to find it has simply moved to another address.

"We erase bigotry from the books of law and the courts of justice only to see it taunt us from behind a pair of eyes or mock us with a single word.

"Enemies"

"Your enemies and mine, Verda, will be around a lot longer than we will. They have always been here.

"But the beauty of this night is that you, too, are here, Verda. And one of you — is more powerful than all of them, put together. And they know it.

"This is your birthday, Verda. Welcome, but every day, you give birth to a better world and a kinder spirit. You make us know it. You make us feel it. And, for sure, you never let us forget it.

"Happy birthday, Verda . . . from everyone here who knows you and loves you, and for everyone who some day will."

Unusual man

Alphonso King Butler, who died March 9, at the age of 79, was one of Baltimore's most unusual citizens.

He was an inspiration to hundreds because he refused to let a physical handicap keep him down.

A retired employee of the Md. Workshop for the Blind, where he worked over 40 years, Mr. Butler lived on Calverton Heights Ave. in west Baltimore.

He grew up in Camilla, GA., and came to Baltimore, hoping to study and become a doctor.

While working on a summer job at Ft. Meade, he developed a serious eye infection which left him blind.

He enrolled in the Md. Blind School, graduating as head of his class.

He learned to play the violin and mastered the intricate types of chair caning, and he was skilled in leather work. (His wallets and handbags of original designs, were outstanding).

The late Miss A. Dukye Woode, music teacher at Coppin Normal School, organized there a junior branch of the National Association of Negro Musicians.

Mr. Butler, by then, a competent violinist, joined the group. He was a willing participant in all activities.

Friends remember him as "a smooth dresser," and one who was likeable with a radiant personality.

He was well informed on the topics and happenings of the day and current literature. He subscribed to the Reading Book program. He read and wrote Braille with amazing rapidity.

Good memory

Louise Kerr Hines recalls he visited her home one day with the score of a piano concerto. He wanted to play it on the violin, but was unable to find such a score.

She recounts: — "Together, for hours, we worked together. I read the piano score to him, note by note, as he transcribed it in Braille to a manuscript to be memorized, practiced, and used as part of his extensive repertoire. He made several radio and television appearances, once on the Tom Hawkins show.

"Once he bought a truck. With his nephew, they would make early morning trips to the wholesale fish market, and then sell seafood.

"During the World War II years, he bought a station wagon and had his nephew transport defense workers to their jobs. To use his own expression, 'I always had something going.'"

In addition to his wife whom he married in 1952, Mr. Butler is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Jessie Darnes, son, William Hoff; 7 grandchildren, 11 great - grandchildren, a sister, Mrs. Keturah B. Scroggins, brother, Aaron W. Butler, two sisters - in - law, Estell Weston and Iola Kennedy.





Ask him his name, and he'll tell you the story of his life.



Talking is new to him, and he loves the sound of every word. You see, he was born with a speech impairment. It hasn't been easy for him. But a lot of things aren't easy for a child with a speech or hearing disability. There are many, many speech and hearing disabled people in America fighting to overcome these problems. The Easter Seal Society helps them, but your support is needed to back these fighters.

BACK A FIGHTER

GIVE TO Easter Seals



THE LIVING CHURCH



Church leader stresses music training

By John W. Templeton

Even though the musical tradition of black religion goes back centuries, too many churches take their music for granted, and it shows, says Mrs. Willie Eva Smith, a nationally known expert in the music of the black church.

Mrs. Smith visited Richmond, Va., for a week to give church music workshops at the Riverview Baptist Church, pastored by the Rev. Ralph Reavis. Her stay was topped off by a concert by her students at the church. "Music is very, very important," said Mrs. Smith in an interview. "It's just native to the black church and that stems in large part due to our African heritage."

Mrs. Smith, an Alabama native who taught music from the elementary to junior college level in California for 24 years, has been leading church music workshops since 1974.

She is the organist for the winter board of the National Baptist Convention and an official of the Gospel Music Workshop of America. She also owns a music publishing house that carries more than 1,000 gospel titles.

"In the black church, the predominance of musicians are self-trained and have been doing the best they could," said Mrs. Smith. "My thrust is that we serve an excellent God and he deserves excellent worship."

"I say that if you've been occupying that organ for 30 years and you haven't improved yourself through training and workshop, then you are asking for the day when the minister comes up to you and says "We have another organist," said Mrs. Smith.

"Teachers, doctors, lawyers all have continuing education to keep fresh."

She has authored two books "The Minister of Music and "O Sing Unto the Lord a New Song," a complete handbook for the pastoral church music program.

Mrs. Smith encourages churches to have a minister of music, who maintains a training program, teaching voice, piano and organ to both young and old. She also thinks choirs should be versatile.

"I'm against using five choirs," she said. "You should have one choir and teach them to sing everything, anthems, spirituals and all."

Her message appears to be getting across. "A lot of people have heard my workshops and have decided to go back to college to get music degrees," added the music specialist.

Her itinerary for the year is a busy one: Shreveport, New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Oakland, San Jose, Columbia, S. C., Greenville, St. Petersburg, Hawaii and Ohio through the first half.



VICE — The Rev. Douglas B. Sands (right) is the founder of VICE (Volunteers in Christian Evangelism). VICE recruits church members to do one hour of evangelistic work, help the needy or any type of volunteer work that might help another citizen. Rev. Sands is shown with Ms. Annie Stanback. There is no age limit for VICE members.

Elder Lillie A. Ross will serve on Presbyterian board

Elder Lillie A. Ross of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church has been elected to serve on the Review Team for Southern Virginia Presbytery in the Synod of the Piedmont. She is the only member of the Review Team from Maryland to participate.

She is now serving a second three year term on the Division of Mission and Ministries of the Synod. At the March meeting of the Baltimore Presbytery, Elder Ross was elected a commissioner to the annual meeting of the Synod.

She received the first Valient Woman's award for her outstanding work in the growth of Church Women United of Greater Baltimore. Elder Ross is the director of Christian Education for Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, where the Rev. Reginald Daniels is pastor.



Elder Lillie A. Ross

Elder Ross is an executive board member of the Association of Presbyterian Church, charter member of the board of directors of Contact Baltimore, Teleministries, Life member of the NAACP, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Business and Professional Women's Club and Church Women United of Greater Baltimore.

How to get church news in the AFRO

For coverage of any church events, mail your announcements to Ms. Pam Widgeon, religious editor, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md. 21201 or call 728-8200 Monday through Friday afternoon. There is no charge for news or photographic coverage. Publication of any church news is contingent upon factors of time and space available and organizations from all religious denominations, as space permits. Send me a copy of your church bulletin, and newspaper.

Easter sunrise services at Mt. Sinai

Members of Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, 922 East Preston St., will have Easter sunrise services on April 11, 7 a.m. at their church. The Rev. William Brown is the pastor.

Following the sunrise services, breakfast will be served at 9 a.m. As part of the sunrise services, there will be a play, "Upper Room at Calvary." Mrs. Gloria Allender is publicity chairperson.



SENIOR CITIZENS shown at the Abundant Life Towers Home, will be among the 2,500 senior citizens who will be attending a gospel show on Sunday, April 4 at the Civic Center. The gospel show is being sponsored by New Refuge Deliverance Holiness Church, Inc. The Rev. Naomi C. Durant is pastor.

Spring concert at Grace Presbyterian

The Chancel Choir of Grace United Presbyterian Church is preparing special music for this season, under the direction of Kenneth M. Dean Jr., minister of music. The concert will be held on April 4, 11 a.m.

"Gallia" a motet by Charles Gounod with text from Matthew 23:37-39 will be presented. A festival service of the resurrection will be held on April 11 with music for organ, brass and percussion instruments. The Chancel Choir will render Alleluja from the motet Exsultate Jubilitate by Mozart and Achieved Is The Glorious Work from Hadyn's Creation.

St. Bernadine's Catholic Church will sponsor a gospel show on April 2, 7:30 p.m. at the church, Mount Holly Street and Edmondson Avenue.

Among gospel groups participating are Leroy Caesar and Wings of Faith, Shirley Caesar, Berean Baptist Church Choir, St. Bernadine's Church Choir.

Metro church briefs



NEW PRESIDENT — Rev. Alfred E. D. Vaughn, pastor of Grace Memorial Baptist Church and president of the Baptist Clergy in Action, was elected as president of the Educational Congress of the Eastern Region of the Progressive National Convention last week. The meeting was held in Pittsburgh, Pa., The Eastern region is composed of 14 states and 500 churches. The group will meet at Morgan State University in June.

Members of Joy and Devotion will sponsor a resurrection musical on April 3 and 4, 7:30 p.m. at Providence Baptist Church, 1401 Pennsylvania Avenue. The Rev. Marcus Wood is pastor.

The resurrection story in song is by Dallas Holm, Dottie Rambo, Tim Sheppard, Bill Gaither, Gloria Gaither, Brent Lamb, Lanny Wolfe and Lari Goss. John L. Lewis is director of Joy and Devotion.

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Five associate ministers of Mount Lebanon Baptist Church, 2320 Reisterstown Rd., will speak on the Seven Last Words on Sunday, April 4, 3:30 p.m. at the church. The Rev. Dr. Olin P. Moyd is pastor.

Easter Sunrise services will be held at the church on April 11, 6 a.m.

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The Greater New Hope Baptist Church will celebrate their annual anniversary banquet on April 13, 7 p.m. at LaFontaine Rouge, 3407 Belair Rd. Mrs. Emily Grant is chairperson, Mrs. Elsie Raynor, co-chairperson and the Rev. Leonard E. Hicks is pastor.

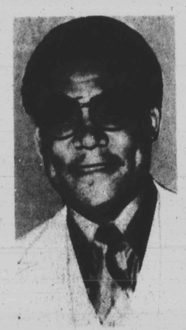
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The Ensembe of Israel Baptist Church will present its annual Easter cantata "Long Live The King" at Israel Baptist Church, Preston and Chester Street on April 4, 6 p.m.

The Rev. Lorenzo Graves, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Rev. Douglas Miles, of Brown Memorial, Rev. Mark Riddix, Mt. Zion Baptist, Rev. P. M. Smith will be the speakers. Ms. Joyce McNair-Hanner is director of the choir and the Rev. Harlie W. Wilson is pastor.

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The men of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Grindon and Mainfield Ave., will have their annual dinner on April 17, 3 p.m. at the church.



20TH ANNIVERSARY — The Rev. Lawyer Leonard Swinson, pastor of New Metropolitan Baptist Church, 1501 McCulloh St., will celebrate his 20th anniversary on April 12, 5 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency.

4,500 to attend Jehovah's Witness convention

More than 4,000 Jehovah's Witnesses from Baltimore will be at the Jehovah's Witnesses Assembly Hall on Sunrise Beach in Crownsville, Md., for a convention.

The convention will be held on April 3, 4, 10, 11, 17 and 18. The theme for the Bible educational program is "Blameless Lightbearers Amid a Twisted Generation." The session will begin at 9:55 a.m.

Dramatized presentations, Bible talks and discussions will emphasize the importance of accurate Bible knowledge and the faith of anyone who attends including adults and children.

Rodney Thompson, district supervisor for Jehovah's Witnesses will be the speaker on April 4, 11 and 18 at 2 p.m.

Holy Week begins Palm Sunday

Holy Week is the period when Christians remember the final events in the life of Jesus Christ. It is the most solemn week of the life of Jesus Christ. It is the most solemn week of the Christian year and a time of prayer and special services.

Holy Week comes as the last week of lent, just before Easter. It begins with Palm Sunday and ends with Easter Sunday. Palm Sunday, the first day of Holy Week, honors Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, when the people spread palms before him.

Roman Catholics call this day the second Sunday of the passion. They observe it with a solemn procession of palms on the Wednesday of Holy Week, called spy Wednesday. Christians recall Judas betrayal of Jesus. They honor the last supper on Maundy Thursday or Holy Thursday or they observe Good Friday in a somber manner in remembrance of the crucifixion.

Most Christian churches hold Good Friday services from noon to 3 p.m. to recall the hours of Christ's agony. The liturgy gives special attention to the words Jesus spoke from the cross. Holy Week ends on Easter Sunday with joyous ceremonies to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.

Friends honor Deacon J. Martin Capehart

A retirement banquet was held recently for Deacon J. Martin Capehart at Timothy Baptist Church, 1216 Saratoga St.

The affair was sponsored by the Deacons Conference of Baltimore and Vicinity. Deacon Capehart retired from the U. S. Naval Academy in March.

He has been a member of Timothy Baptist Church for 24 years and has served as Sunday School Teacher, Bible Class teacher, trustee, deacon and chairman of the Deacon Board since 1968.

He is president of the Baptist Deacons Conference of Baltimore and Vicinity and formerly served as fifth vice president of the National Deacons Convention of America.

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