Douglass High — 100 years remembered in a week

(AFRO Photos by Val Smith-Madden)

AS ONE GRAD TO ANOTHER—Kweisi Mfume, local city councilman, and Douglass High School alumnus, chats with Serena G. Mills, '43 grad and vice president of the Douglass Alumni Association during the grand gala ball hosted at the Convention Center Saturday, Oct. 15 to culminate the Douglass graduates' celebration of the school's 100th year.

A SMILING ANDREA HOLMES (Standing left) whose mom was a member of the 'Class of '45' speaks with Thelma Leeds, of the 'Class of '48.'

FORMER DOUGLASS HIGH PRINCIPAL Edna Over Campbell (R) chats with another guest.

AWARD WINNER Elta Fax (L) (Class of '26) chats with table mate Virginia Day, a 1954 grad.

FROM THE SIXTIES—Joe Massey (L) (Class of '65) and Clarence Burley 1969 graduate, during a happy moment during the festivities.

MR. AND MRS. NATHANIEL WALKER enjoy her reunion. She's a member of the 'Class of 1967.'

LADIES FROM THE 20'S—Four ladies from the Douglass High Class of the 20's are (L to R): Louise Garner, Class of '27; VaCountess Payne, and Georgianna Chester, Class of '28 and Mary West Miller, of the Class of '27, who later became a Douglass High teacher.

The gala ball which culminated the week of celebration by Douglass High School Alumni who were joyously marking 100 years of existence for the institution which for many years was the only high school for blacks in Baltimore was held Saturday, October 15.

4,000 Douglass graduates, ranging from the classes of the 1920's until the present, thronged the Convention Center from 7 p.m. until 1 a.m.

They reminisced, they danced to the tunes of the Gene Walker Allstars; they feasted on a sumptuous sit-down dinner. They had a ball.

Awards were made to people who had either served Douglass High in some capacity for many, many years or who were distinguished Douglass alumni.

Two awards were made posthumously—one for the late city councilman Norman V. A. Reeves (received by his widow, Iris, now filling his seat on the council), the other for Dr. William Dean.

Mayor schaefer was there to pay his respects and the alumni received a congratulatory letter from President Reagan.

However, though the ball glittered with Douglass grads done up in their finest and engaged in animated conversation and lively camaraderie, the rest of the week prior to the ball was one filled to the brim with truly meaningful and history-making events - as profound as the fact that Douglass High is now a century old.

On Monday, Oct. 10, the alumni were royally entertained and saluted by another long-standing Baltimore institution, the 31-year-old Arena Players.

At Douglass High's old and longest-used site, (where most of the week's activities were held) approximately 16 actors from the

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REPRESENTING THE 70's are (from left) Maggie Bradford, 1971 grad and Dorothy Taylor, of the 'Class of '78.

WHOOPING IT UP are (from left): Alumna-Blanche Cox, 1926 grad, Mary C. McKinney (history teacher) and Lota Howard, also a 1926 graduate.

JUDGE ARRIE DAVIS, 'Class of '57' and table mate Calverta Frazier, 'Class of '52' take in the scene.

CLUB NOTES

CHI WIVES BEGIN GOLDEN HERITAGE MEMBERSHIP

Chi Wives (spouse of doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are members of the Chi Delta Mu Fraternity gathered for their first time of the year at the Westview Lounge for a dinner meeting

New members Wilhelmenis Young and Jacequeline Chambers were welcomed.

The club voted to take out a Golden Heritage Membership with the NAACP ($1,000) and to make a contribution to the Coleman Eye Foundation, which gives glasses (free of charge) to needy children.

National president and local club member is Mrs. Fannie Mathias. Local president is Mrs. Lorraine Brown. The next National Conclave will be held in Atlanta, GA in June '84.

Officers of the local Chi Wives are, in addition to prexy Lorraine Brown, Mesdames Bernice McDaniels, vice president; Ponjola Priest, recording secretary; Barbara Owens, financial secretary; Mabel Young, corresponding secretary; Mabel Byrd, treasurer; Frances Mitchell, chaplain and Robbie Chissell, public relations.

V.S.U. ALUMNI MEET DR. SYPHAX

Members of Baltimore - Metro Chapter were met and welcomed recently on "City Line," WJZ TV, hosted by Jackie Hall and Daniel Henson. The occasion offered an opportunity for the group to greet V.S.U. alumnus, Dr. William Syphax, special guest. Dr. Syphax shoe showed great enthusiasm for Mass Black Business Ventures as he introduced his "Blueprint for Black Economic Survival; E-MC2."

MC2"

Dr. Syphax, who has been variously cited as one of this Country's outstanding Black economists, has authored two books on Minority Economics.

Syphax presently serves as director of Phoenix Food Systems, Washington, DC, a company which has proven to be a successful example of "E-MC2," a business venture made possible through the cooperative efforts of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, civic and social minority business interest groups.

Following "City Line", the alumni were luncheon guests at the home of Carolyn and Harold Young, the daughter and son in law of Dr. Syphax.

Carolyn proved herself a very gracious hostess and an exceptional gourmet cook, as the guests enjoyed the delectable menu of chicken A la King, spiced rice, layered seven ingredients salad, fruited ambrosia (Young's Family Style), home baked rolls, effervescent tea and cafe au lait.

During the exchange of pleasantries, Dr. Carl Adair announced and aksed for support from the alumni in his bid for 5th District City Council Representative.

Elnora Burton, president, extended accolades to the Young Family for their hospitality and gave a Trojan style farewell to Dr. Syphax with best wishes for a safe return to his home in Arlington, VA.

J.U.G.S. READY FOR FALL GALA

Justice, Unity, Generosity, Service, Inc. is preparing for its 14th annual Living Ads Ball - "Over the Rainbow". This gala dinner dance takes place at The Forum, November 18th at 8:30 p.m.

All the J.U.G.S., Inc. members, some 20 women, are busy selling tickets and attending to the many details that insures an elegant and fun evening.

They are also making arrangements for the many out-of-town members who will arrive from chapters all over the country who will contribute their support for this major fund raising event.

All proceeds from Friday nights' ball will go to various charities, all to further the health, education and well being of Baltimore's children.

As a result of this year's fund raising efforts a $6,000.00 pledge to the Kennedy Children's Center of the Johns Hopkins Hospital will be fulfilled.

In addition to this and other local commitments J.U.G.S., Inc. has contributed thousands of dollars to the United Negro College Fund — this charity being the national organization's joint project.

J.U.G.S., Inc. began in 1953 in Memphis, Tenn. Its founders Josephine Johnson Bridges and Sarah McKinney Chandler joined with other women in Memphis for the purpose of raising money to help children.

Through their inspirational leadership, eight additional chapters were formed from Baltimore to Los Angeles, CA.

A unique feature of the "Living Ads Ball" is a performance given by 15 talented young women. Through music and dance they salute the major advertising contributors.

There are only a limited number of tickets for what is always one of Baltimore's Best evenings. Contact J.U.G.S., Inc. president, Patricia Hall at 624-0926 for ticket information or to purchase a "Living Ad"

For additional information on the organization please contact Ms. Hall at 624-0926.

(AFRO Photo by P. G. Greene)

GOLDEN HERITAGE MEMBERSHIP—Members of the local Chi Wives who present a down payment on a Golden Heritage Membership in the NAACP are (from left): Mabel Byrd, treasurer; Lorraine Brown, Chi Wives president, presenting check to Mrs. Enolia McMillan, local NAACP head and Robbie Chissell, public relations and a volunteer solicitor for NAACP memberships.

PHILOMATHIANS HEAR IRIS REEVES

City Councilwoman Iris Reeves was guest speaker at the monthly meeting of the Philomathians a study club last week.

Hostess was Dr. Flossie Dedmond who held her meeting in one of the beautiful small parlors of the Tawes Student Union at Coppin State College.

Introduced by Philomathian Vice-President Marian Patterson Mrs. Reeves analyzed the results of the recent city elections and pointed out how blacks and whites voted in all black and white precincts.

She noted that the aim was to obtain 10 seats in the City Council but that failed because too many candidates filed in the second, fifth and sixth districts ending up in an enormous white voter turnout.

She told the group that she still faces a major challenge in the fifth district as she is facing three Republican candidates.

It is important to the black community to get out and vote in November and to maintain the nine seats in City Council and maybe pick up a tenth for a majority of blacks on the Council.

She said that working with Council President DuBurns, the black City Council President, blacks ought to be able to see some positive change in Baltimore.

She urged clubs and organizations to offer volunteer service and financial help to get black people in office who are qualified have skills and experience.

Special guests were Mesdames Jewel Marsan, Bernice Hundley Flozella Clark Catherine Perry Vynna Skinner and Dr. Geraldine Waters.

Mrs. Gloria Phillips is president. Members about were Dr. Beryl Williams Dr. Irene Diggs Dr. Elizabeth Moss Dr. Thelma Bando Dr. Regina Henry Dr. Ruth Brett Quarles.

Mesdames Helen Lee Ida Peters Mae Peck Amy Billingsly Jeanne Davis Myrtice Bennett Marie Fraser.

At the end of Mrs. Reeves' speech the group responded with a contribution to her campaign and pledged to carry the word to other groups.

Single PARENTING

By Kelly Hill

Anyone interested in improving his-her health? Do you want to make money? are you a single parent—female-male?

Then I am sure, if you said YES, you will want to hear about a new program for single parents here in the Baltimore area—The Single Parent Diet Workshop.

Tony Brown, well-known columnist, supports this program. Bruce Lightner of the Lightner Funeral Home in North Carolina wrote to 225 black mayors asking them to identify individuals who want to make available a health plan to get rid of or reduce the epidemic obesity, high blood pressure, heart disease and diabetes in the Black community. And, because of Lightner's work (funeral parlor business), he knows the causes of death among black people.

For the single parent who is subjected to much more stress than the average family, you can make money, be healthy and live longer. This is no joke.

Diabetes, along with other diseases, strikes Afro - Americans especially hard. It is a pronounced killer.

Tony Brown had this to say about diabetes. "Although it is 90 percent preventable, it devastates, literally, 11 million Americans and kills another 300,000 every year.

It afflicts over six percent of all whites and almost 10 percent of all blacks in a population of nearly 230 million.

If you're an African-American, there's even more bad news - especially if you're obese, with poor eating habits."

What Tony is trying to say is that blacks have a 50 percent higher rate of diabetes than whites. And that blacks who have this disease have Diabetes Type 2, which has to do with the amount of fats and cholesterol in the blood and body.

So, putting it all together, being black, single, a parent, with diabetes, obesity, etc. sure enough means you are on your way to being put to rest in a coffin.

Lightner decided that blacks especially should have some type of low-caloried food plan that works. Nothing fly-by-night, but something clinically proven to improve your health.

As a single parent, your health and your future will determine how your child's life will be. You certainly owe it to not only yourself, but your child to at least begin to think about it or take notice of your own diet.

If you really want to hear about this program, and keep in touch with other single parents who will be part of this program, attend the very first session of the single parent "creative-alternatives to dieting workshop" at Morgan State University, Thursday, October 27, from 7-9 p.m. at Morgan U. at the McKeldin Center, Room 319.

For more info call 367-8285.

On Saturday, Oct. 29 from 1-4 p.m. at the Mary E. Rodman Recreation Center, located at 3510 W. Mulberry St. (off of 3500 Edmondson Ave.), Black Single Parents will have its first annual Halloween Party.

Admission is $2.50 for children, free for adults. Let your child trick-or-treat in safety. Come join us. Entertainment, giveaways, refreshments, Halloween candy, bobbing apples, etc.