The 10th Anniversary Gala took place on Friday, November 2, 2007 at Martin's Crosswinds. The event was a great success, with over 300 attendees, including County Executive Ike Leggett, Legislative Delegate Herman L. Taylor Jr., and Pastor Haywood A. Robinson, III. Ethel Lawhon served as mistress of ceremonies. Lori Anne Williams and ensemble provided exceptional jazz vocals and music.

Jeanette Wolfe, PVS President, recognized the charter members, and made a special presentation to the founding members. The founding members are:

- Evelyn Hill
- Phyllis Davenport
- Cherry Richardson
- Delores Lincoln-Willis
- Audrey Banks*
- Gerald Roper
- Letitia Winfield
- Carolyn Shackleford
- Mary Watters

*Not present at the Gala

The Gala also served as a fundraiser for PVS programs. Over 25 donated luxury items were presented for auction including designer purses, theater tickets, and artwork. Adriana Furs in Bethesda, Maryland donated the featured item: a ranch mink cape valued at $5,000.

The 10th Anniversary Committee Chairperson was Carol James. The Co-Chairs were Vanessa Davis, Ethel Lawhon,
Message from our President

Dear Members and Friends,

What an exciting first quarter we’ve had. We started the program year off with a record number of volunteers for the Black Family Reunion, which was held on the National Mall in September. During the Reunion, we were privileged to meet the granddaughter and great granddaughter of Mary McLeod Bethune. Members also volunteered in September for the Congressional Black Caucus. On behalf of the Potomac Valley Section, I connected with the Montgomery County Women’s Advisory Council, a powerful group of women leaders in Montgomery County.

Highlighting October events was our record number of Bethune Achievers, Life Members, and the recognition of Dr. Melbourne Cummings as Distinguished Educator at the Bethune Recognition Program. Kim Barry also gave us a great presentation at our general meeting on “Women and Domestic Violence.”

In the community, the Seniors’ Committee had an October Fest at the Forest Glen Nursing and Rehabilitation Home, the Social Outreach Committee made a donation on behalf of the Section to an orphanage in Kenya, and the Education Committee hosted a parent workshop.

The culmination of our 10th Anniversary celebration was the Gala on November 2nd. Read about it in this issue of the newsletter. We had a great time closing the event with the ‘electric slide’. A heartfelt “thank you” to all who participated in making this Gala a success.

In December we’ll participate in the 53rd National Convention, hold a Membership Recruitment Drive, and partner with The People’s Community Baptist Church and Montgomery County Department of Health & Human Services in providing toys and gifts to needy children. We will also participate in the distribution of holiday food bags.

Let’s keep “Continuing the Legacy”. There is no better group of NCNW servants than those with the Potomac Valley Section. I pray God’s blessings on each of you during this holiday season. Happy Holidays to each of you!

Sincerely,

Jeanette Wolfe
President, Potomac Valley Section, National Council of Negro Woman

Top Democratic leaders recognized Shirley Johnson for her political, community and professional achievements. A tribute to Shirley took place on October 28, 2007 at the Bauer Drive Community Center. County Executive Ike Leggett served as the master of ceremonies. Shirley's commitment to the Democratic Party was described as "legendary". Congressman Chris Van Hollen presented a replica of his tribute to Shirley that he made on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, which is now a part of the Congressional Record. Recognition also came from Congressman Al Wynn. Ike Leggett and Marilyn Praisner, Council President, proclaimed October 28 "Shirley Johnson Appreciation Day." The Montgomery County Council acknowledged Shirley as "District 19’s Hardest Working Democrat". Shirley is the president of District 19 Democratic Club, and a charter member and former officer of the African American

Did you know?

Upcoming Birthdays
12/7: Mary Watters
12/11: Ida Fletcher
12/16: Patricia Dunmore
12/17: Hazel Scofield
12/20: Effie Smith Macklin
12/23: Claudine Wiley
12/24: Kimberly Macedo
12/26: Kara Brown
1/1: Courtney Bright
1/2: Christine Bradford
1/8: Doris Howard
1/15: Cynthia Vause
1/27: Carol James

Nicole Adolph & her husband Carl are expecting their first child. She is due on June 6, 2008. Nicole is the PVS' Parliamentarian & Bylaws Committee.
The Bethune Recognition Program and Luncheon was held on Sunday, October 14, 2007 at the Grand Hyatt in Washington, D. C. Several PVS members were in attendance for a record year of recognitions.

**Congratulations to our:**

**New Life Members**

LeVonne Alexis  
Beverly Brooks Anderson  
Jacqueline Dennard  
Carol James  
Kelly Jonas  
Shirley Shannon  
Patsy White  

**Bethune Achievers**

LeVonne Alexis  
Kelly Jonas  
Lydia Leftwich  

Above: *(l to r)*: Lydya Leftwich, Jacqueline Dennard, LeVonne Alexis, Kelly Jonas, Melbourne Cummings, Carol James, Beverly Brooks Anderson, and Patsy White

Above *(l to r)*: Josephine Thomas (Bethune Recognition Program Chair), Rev. Brenda Girton-Mitchell (Outstanding Woman in Industry Award Recipient), Dr. Dorothy Height, Melbourne Cummings (Distinguished Educator Award Recipient), and F. Jane Cotton (Distinguished Community Leader Award)

**Distinguished Educator Award**

The *Distinguished Educator Award* was presented to Dr. Melbourne Cummings at the Bethune Recognition Program on Sunday, October 14, 2007 in Washington, DC. Dr. Cummings has served as Professor and Chair of the Communication and Culture Department at Howard University for 15 years. In this position she helped establish Howard University as the nation’s leader in graduating African American PhD's in communication, many of who have remained highly active and visible in the profession as leaders and mentors. She expressed “I have always enjoyed teaching and mentoring, and both have been core values of my professional, civic, and church life. In fact, teaching and mentoring are the themes in my life’s song. I thank you for honoring me for doing what I love.” Dr. Cummings is one of the founders of our girls Rites of
One Shared World

The Potomac Valley Section handled registration for the One Shared World program held June 30, 2007, at Trinity Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C. There were several speakers including Shirley E. Barnes, Former U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Madagascar; Elizabeth Latham, Executive Director, U.S. Committee for the United Nations Development Program; and Elvia Duque, Director for International Affairs, AfroAmerica XXI. Jeanette Wolfe, PVS President, chaired the Registration Committee and members were: Carla Malone, Cynthia Simpson, Carol James, Ethel Lawhon, Ida Fletcher, Vanessa Davis and Wanda Brown. Millie Bryant and Nora Nelson also attended. One Shared World is a national education campaign that aims to generate dialogue about how America tackles global poverty. Through the program we were able to learn more, connect more, and discuss how we can do more to help sisters in developing countries live better, healthier and more secure lives by overcoming poverty, hunger, illiteracy and disease.

Montgomery County Section Friend’s Choir

Do you sing? The Montgomery County Section is forming a choir to perform at their Black History month program, which will be held on Saturday, February 23, 2008. The choir director indicated that there will not be too many rehearsals. The rehearsals will take place at Clinton AME Zion Church in Rockville, MD. If you are interested please contact Jeanette Wolfe wolfej1@aol.com or 301-404-4555.

Black Family Reunion

The 22nd Annual Black Family Reunion was held on September 9 & 10, 2007 at the National Mall. Several members served as volunteers and/or attended events during the weekend including Carol James, Jeanette Wolfe, Lydia Leftwich, Ava Penny, Delores Lincoln-Willis, Yvonne Dowtin, Shirley Smithson Martin, and Iris Ellis. The keynote speaker for the Prayer Breakfast was Rev. Allen Gray, the grandson of Yvonne Dowtin. Members meet and interacted with the granddaughter and great granddaughter of Mary McLeod Bethune, the Founder of NCNW.

Above (l to r): Delores Lincoln-Willis, Jeanette Wolfe, Yvonne Dowtin and Rev. Allen Gray.

Above (l to r): Jeanette Wolfe, Evelyn Bethune(granddaughter) & Elizabeth Bethune(great granddaughter) of Mary McLeod Bethune, Shirley Smithson Martin.

Above (l to r): Ava Penny and Iris Ellis.
Social Outreach Committee
Co-Chairs: Luda Shields & Altheia Wyche

On November 6, 2007, the Social Outreach Committee provided a $250.00 donation of new clothing to the Kenya Clothe-A-Child Drive to support children in an orphanage in the Northwest part of Nairobi, Kenya. Items purchased included dresses, shirts, pants, jeans, socks, and underwear for children between the ages of 6 and 14 years of age. The donations were provided to Minister Randy Story who delivered these clothing items directly to the orphanage.

The Social Outreach Committee has a number of activities planned for the upcoming year, including holding a coat drive with the Seniors Committee, preparing Valentine's Day gift bags for women at a homeless shelter, and providing a book award to a foster child planning to attend college next year. Contact Luda Shields (hlshiel03@verizon.net) or Altheia Wyche.

Education Committee
Chair: Wanda Brown

The Education Committee hosted a Parent Dialogue entitled “Ensuring Middle School Success” on Saturday, November 17, 2007 at The People’s Community Baptist Church. The conversation focused on 1) what skill sets need to be developed in 2nd through 5th grades to ensure success in middle school and 2) selecting the appropriate middle school to meet child and parent needs. The participants discussed what success looks like in elementary school, as well as the parents’ role and how it changes from elementary to middle school. Other topics discussed included cognitive and emotional development, media and peer influences, community programs, after school programs and summer programs. The presenters were Vivian Boyd, Wanda Brown, Madeline Coleman, Beverly Jackson, and Juanita Harris. Kimberly Brown managed registration.

Seniors Committee
Co-Chair: Delores Lincoln Willis & Joyce Knight

The Seniors Committee held an ‘October Fest’ program at the Forest Glen Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center on Thursday, October 11, 2007. Thirty-two residents filled the day room in anticipation of the event. The theme for the program was “Halloween or Hallowed Beings – A Conversation with God”. Joyce Knight and Mattie Brown coordinated the shopping and the program. They provided the residents with colorful Halloween hats. Other committee members added touches of Fall to enhance the occasion. In addition to the distribution of gifts, the program included music, prayer, original poetry reading, and a wonderful interactive music session by Iris Ellis. Margie Sanders, Nora Nelson, Delores Lincoln-Willis, Millie Bryant, and Mary Watters also participated in the program.

Delores Lincoln-Willis commented that “Once again, we were reminded of how blessed we are when we share with those who need us the most. May God continue to supply us with many more opportunities to serve.”
ROP Visit to Manor Care Nursing Home, November 2007

Academic Festival of Academic Excellence (AAFAE), June 2007

PVS 2006-2007 Program Year Closeout Luncheon, June 2007
### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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<td>Jan 22, 2008</td>
<td>Deadline for Primary Election Registration</td>
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<td>Jan 27, 2008</td>
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<td>Feb 12, 2008</td>
<td>Presidential Primary Elections</td>
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<td>Feb 16, 2008</td>
<td>PVS General Membership Meeting</td>
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<td>NCNW Sunday at TPCBC</td>
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### Newsletter Staff

- Roline Milfort
- Mary Jones-Brown
- Cynthia Simpson
- Beverly Brooks-Anderson

### Newsletter Photographers

- Delores Lincoln-Willis
- Hope Johnson
- Roline Milfort

### 2006 – 2008 Committee Chairs

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<td>Rites of Passage</td>
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<td>Seniors</td>
<td>Delores Lincoln-Willis &amp; lovce Knight</td>
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2006-2008 Officers. Standing (l to r): Nicole Adolph (Parliamentarian), Marietta James (Treasurer), Gwen Monroe (Financial Secretary), Cherry Richardson (Historian), Pat Stokes (Chaplain). Seated (l to r): Carla Malone (Recording Secretary), Kelly Jonas (2nd VP), Jeanette Wolfe (President).