



# The Potomac Vision

2007-2008, Issue 3

Potomac Valley Section (PVS) Newsletter  
National Council of Negro Women, Inc.

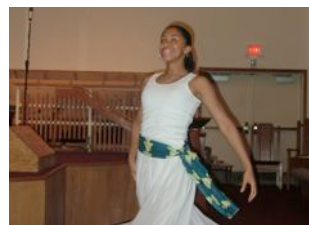
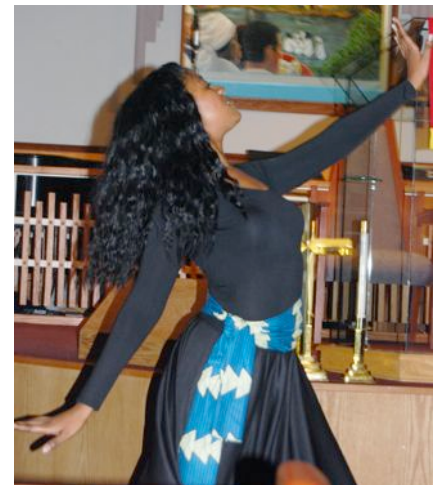
June 2008

## *PVS' Rites of Passage Crossover Program*

We've all heard "it takes a village to raise a child". However, those of us who attended the NCNW Girls' Rites of Passage Crossover Ceremony saw first hand a glowing example of that adage. On Sunday May 4th, "the village" came out in full support of twelve young ladies who 'crossed over'. Eight long month of hard work and learning about spiritual enrichment and life skills, inner and outer beauty, becoming financially savvy, and fine dining, all culminated to a wonderful and emotion-filled program on a beautiful Sunday afternoon.

This year's theme "The Power of a Woman" was illustrated through dance, song, and countless words of strength and encouragement. The ceremony was quite symbolic and even colors played an important role as they represented various aspects of the girls' journey into womanhood. Green represented where the girls were when they began, as well as, their love and thirst for education. Red served as a symbol of where the girls are today and the fire that burns within; while black, not only represented the many strong women and men who came before them, but also signified the women the girls will become. In another symbolic moment during the program, the young ladies' mothers joined them on stage raising their hands with lit candles, as the elders lifted them up and pledged: "we love you; we support you; we celebrate your promise."

The guest speaker, Dana Williams, PhD, praised the young ladies for their accomplishments thus far, but stressed that the end of the ROP Program was only the beginning. Dr. Williams asked that the girls understand both their privilege and responsibility and discussed the requirements of reaching a higher level of consciousness. She also imparted numerous jewels of wisdom that they could take with them on their continued journeys. Finally, Dr. Williams challenged the ladies both individually and collectively to transcend the ways of youth with dignity and poise and reminded them that they must continue to walk in favor and grow in grace as they become women of power.



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## Message from our President

Greetings,

September will mark the end of my two years as President. The time has quickly gone by. It has been an honor to serve the Potomac Valley Section and our community. It has been inspirational working under the administration of our great leader, Dr. Dorothy I. Height. I have tried to lead, building on our vision to be the benchmark toward which the National organization points and other Sections aspire. We have enjoyed many successes. Take the time to read through our annual report for a reflection of our achievements. There is still much work to be done. I know you will give the new leadership as much support as you have given me during my term.



Above (l to r): Dr. Dorothy I. Height, President Emerita, NCNW and Jeanette Wolfe, President, Potomac Valley Section

Let's continue on to reaching greater Heights! Thank you for your support. Praise God for his direction and guidance and from whom all blessings flow.

Sincerely,  
Jeanette Wolfe  
President, Potomac Valley Section

## Did you know?

**NCNW** houses a Washington-based International Development Center (the IDC) and a regional Africa office located in Dakar, Senegal. Both were established in 1975. Since that time, NCNW has worked in 26 African nations implementing development projects in education, micro credit, women's empowerment, health, capacity-building, and

**LeVonne Alexis'** grandson, Adam Woodrow McCoy, graduated from Hampton University in May. He will be commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the IIS Army.

**Jillian Macklin**, daughter of **Effie Smith-Macklin**, made the Dean's list at Spelman College. Jillian is a former PVS ROP Sage and Mentor.

**Cherise Lesesne**, daughter of **Evette & Darryl Lesesne** was inducted into the honor society of Alpha Lambda Delta in February. Cherise is a freshman at Spelman College with a 3.5 GPA. In addition, their son, **Christopher Lesesne (right)**, is a senior at Morehouse College, graduating Summa Cum Laude with a major in Physics and minor in Mathematics. He plans to attend a graduate PhD program in Fall 2008.



### July Birthdays

- 7/3: Jasmine Pullen
- 7/5: Althea Wyche
- 7/6: Linda Brown
- 7/7: Tristeza Duncan
- 7/15: Lauren Bayton  
Maxine Small Nettleford
- 7/16: Cherry Richardson
- 7/19: Anna McClain  
Iris Ellis
- 7/22: Shirley Smithson Martin
- 7/26: Carla Malone
- 7/30: Kristin Kelly

### July Wedding Anniversaries

- 7/1: Deborah King  
Deserene Worsely
- 7/7: Joanne Catabois
- 7/10: Carla Malone
- 7/11: Hazel Scofield
- 7/21: Wanda Brown
- 7/24: Cynthia Simpson  
Theresa Cunningham
- 7/30: Celeste Bennett

# PVS Elects New Officers

The installation of new officers (*see right*) took place at the Section's closeout luncheon meeting on Saturday, June 21, 2008. PVS welcomes and supports our elected officers for the 2008-2010 program years:

- |                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| President:                      | Ethel Lawhon     |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President: | Ida Fletcher     |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President: | Linda Farmer     |
| Corresponding Secretary:        | LeVonne Alexis   |
| Recording Secretary:            | Tracey McKnight  |
| Financial Secretary:            | Monica Baltimore |
| Treasurer:                      | Marietta James   |
| Parliamentarian:                | Paula Hamm       |
| Chaplain:                       | Mildred Wilson   |
| Historian:                      | Cheryl Ibanez    |



## Greetings from Incoming Officers

First, I thank God for each of you. I am truly grateful to you for the honor that has been bestowed upon me to serve as your next President of The Potomac Valley Section of The National Council of Negro Women. I realize the crucial duties and responsibility of this position to which I have been elected. I enter upon my duties with a sense of humility, with an awareness of the copious obligations, and with a certain level of anxiety, lest my abilities fail to keep pace with my eagerness to render the service you expect.

**PRESIDENT:**  
Ethel Lawhon



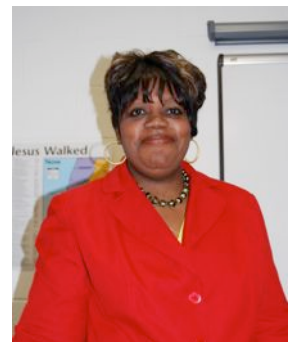
It is with great excitement, humility, and honor that I take on the office of Parliamentarian. I am pleased to serve an organization that is doing tremendous things to empower, educate, and support women. It is an outstanding slate of leaders with whom I will serve and an equally impressive outgoing slate of officers that have paved the way for us. I anticipate that together we will continue to prosper and even reach new heights. I look forward to serving you, this Section, and the greater NCNW organization. I pray God's peace and blessings upon you.

**PARLIAMENTARIAN:**  
Paula Hamm



Thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve you. With a high degree of honesty, loyalty, and integrity, I promise that I will do my best as the PVS Financial Secretary. I will also work harmoniously and tirelessly with Section officers and members to carry on the vision of Mary McLeod Bethune and the mission of NCNW. Accordingly with a spirit of humility, I believe that we can individually and collectively, through teamwork, accomplish what we seek to achieve.

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY:**  
Monica Baltimore



**CHAPLAIN:**  
Mildred Wilson



I am delighted to be given the opportunity to serve as NCNW-PVS chaplain. I look forward to providing spiritual and moral support to our members. As we continue to grow and our outreach expands, may each committee remain prayed up, focused, and assured that through Christ all things are possible. I am looking forward to working with you in continuing the legacy of Mary McLeod Bethune and The National Council of Negro Women.

## Noteworthy News

### Race for the Cure

Several members of the Potomac Valley Section participated, along with nearly 50,000 breast cancer survivors, co-survivors, celebrities, and activists, in the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Susan G. Komen National Race for the Cure. The event, held on the National Mall, raises money to fund breast cancer research and community health programs for the medically underserved in the National Capital Area.

Breast cancer survivor Lydia Leftwich, of the PVS' Rites of Passage and Membership Committee, served as a team captain for this year's race. She was interviewed by WUSA Channel 9, and featured in video prior to the event. It was five years ago that Lydia found a lump in her right breast and right away she knew something wasn't right. "The tumor was really high in the chest cavity. It wasn't a typical tumor where it was located within the breast" she reports. Lydia had a mastectomy, then chemo, and radiation. She is now cancer free. "My faith in God helped me to get through the ordeal." Lydia now encourages all women to do self-breast examinations and to get mammograms.



*Above: Lydia Leftwich*

### African American Festival of Academic Excellence (AAFAE)

Several members of the Potomac Valley Section volunteered to support the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual African American Festival of Academic Excellence, which took place on Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at the University of Maryland College Park Cole Field House. Tish Winfield and Delores Lincoln Willis coordinated the volunteer effort. The mission of the event is to honor African American students who have demonstrated academic excellence. Students received awards and scholarships. They also received greetings from prominent guests such as Isaiah Leggett, Montgomery County Executive and Nancy Navarro, President of the Montgomery County Public School Board.



*Above (l to r): Ethel Lawhon with an AAFAE student and his family*



*Above: An AAFAE student with her family*



*Above: AAFAE students*

## Committee Updates

### Social Outreach

**Co-Chair: Luda Shields and Althea Wyche**

In April 2008, the Social Outreach Committee collected professional workplace attire donations from NCNW-PVS Section Members for the Wonderful Opportunities for Women (WOW) "Shopping Spree". The shopping spree was sponsored by the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center, which assists women who are re-entering the workforce who have been victims of domestic violence and other abuse or poverty.

Other activities included providing \$100 donations to two NCNW-PVS Section Members (Mildred Wilson and Hope Johnson) for a Medical Mission Trip to Ghana and donations of twenty \$20 gift certificates (Nail Tech Salon and Target) as Mother's Day gifts to women at the Dorothy Day Place Women's Homeless Shelter.



Above: Social Outreach Committee Members (l to r): Brenita Young, Luda Shields, Jackie Dennard, Crystal DeVance Wilson, and Althea Wyche

### Ways & Means

**Chair: Vanessa Davis**

The custom cookbook for NCNW-PVS is coming in September 2008. Pre-orders are being accepted by any member of the committee at \$10.00 per copy. Please show your support and commitment to the cookbook fundraiser by pre-ordering. The recipes will include the name, city, and state of the donor. Reserve your copy today! For more information contact Vanessa Davis at [Vanessa.davis@va.gov](mailto:Vanessa.davis@va.gov) or 301-847-1279.

### Amenities

**Chair: Iris Ellis; Co-Chair: Christine Bradford**

The amenities committee chair and the Section acknowledge the support and commendable service of the committee members at various events during the program year.

### Education

**Chair: Wanda Brown**

The Education Committee was the lead sponsor and host of a parent seminar on *The Role of Parents in Ensuring the Academic Success of African American Children in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. The Committee partnered with The People's Community Baptist Church Norwood Academy Saturday School and the Men's Fellowship Ministry. Over sixty families were present at the seminar, which was held on April 26, 2008.

The Education Committee participated in the Montgomery County History Day Program. As PVS representatives, we recognized the winners by awarding two \$50.00 cash awards (one middle school entry and one high school entry). Sobia Ahmad was selected as the high school winner. She attends Paint Branch High School. Her essay was about newspaper coverage of actual events and how their coverage might influence an audience's view of the incidents. Students Eva Branson, Erin Monchan, Dorothy Hastings, and Brittanie Campbell were the middle school winners for Grace Episcopal School. These students portrayed the integration of Montgomery County Public Schools.



Left: Middle School winners from the 2008 Montgomery County History Day Program



Right: Poster presentation by middle school students

## *Rites of Passage Mentors*



*Top row (l to r): Shiflett Deidre Douglass, Amber Newman, DeAndra Brown, Victoria Batts.  
Bottom row (l to r): Asha Abdullah, Michaela Jonas, Kayla Williams, Kelly Harper.*

## *The Young Ladies of the 2008 Rites of Passage Program*



*Angel Leach*



*Lyndsey Bryant*



*Solina Dyer*



*Erin Pendergrass*



*Quiana Hutcherson*



*Meisha Brown*



*Nn'eka Caldwell*



*Briana McCann*



*Jenai Carter*



*Phyllicia Patterson*



*Chandler Moore*



*Keirra Saunders*

# Seniors Fashion Show, May 2008



# Closeout Luncheon, June 2008



<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>MARK YOUR CALENDARS</u></b></p> <p><b>Jul 11:</b> 1<sup>st</sup> Annual National Black Women’s Town Hall Meeting</p> <p><b>Jul 13:</b> Crab Feast 2008 (hosted by Potomac Valley Alumnae Fund of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.)</p> <p><b>Aug 1:</b> The People’s Community Baptist Church 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration</p> <p><b>Sep 5-7:</b> NCNW 23<sup>rd</sup> Black Family Reunion Celebration</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Newsletter Staff</u></b></p> <p>Aleta Allmond Beverly Brooks Anderson Mary Jones-Brown Roline Milfort Keisha Robinson Cynthia Simpson</p>	<p>Newsletter Photographers</p> <p>Delores Lincoln-Willis Keisha Robinson Roline Milfort</p>
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**2008 Committee Chairs**

Amenities	Iris Ellis & Christine Bradford
Bylaws	Nicole S. Adolph
Social Outreach	Luda Shields & Althea Wyche
Education	Wanda Brown
Health	Celeste Bennett
Legislative	Shirley Johnson
Membership	Linda Farmer & Patsy White
Newsletter & Publicity	Roline Milfort
Rites of Passage	Sheryl Perkins
Seniors	Delores Lincoln-Willis & Tish Winfield
Wavs & Means	Vanessa Davis



**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 (2<sup>nd</sup> VP), Jeanette Wolfe (President), Carol James (1<sup>st</sup> VP). Not Pictured: Shirley Smithson-Martin (Corresponding Secretary).



National Council of Negro Women  
Potomac Valley Section  
PO Box 10031  
Silver Spring, MD 20914