



The Potomac Vision

2003-2004
Annual Issue

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

June 2004

Potomac Valley Section's 1st Annual Silent Auction/Champagne Jazz Brunch

The Potomac Valley Section (PVS) held a Silent Auction/Champagne Swing Jazz Brunch on Sunday, April 18, 2004 at the Indian Spring Country Club. The event was a great success, with approximately 400 attendees. The renowned jazz pianist Marcus Johnson and the Marcus Johnson Project provided exceptional music. Hand-dancing entertainment was provided by the SMT Dance Academy.

Nearly 60 items were presented for auction including sports tickets, jewelry, 8 days/7 nights in Orlando, portraits and a Designer's Black Fox Ladies Hat. More than \$7,000 was raised from this fundraiser event.

The Rites of Passage's (ROP) boys and girls served as host and hostesses. Committee members were: Vivian Boyd, Jennifer Glen, Carol James, Lynn Moore Hill, Tiffanee Neighbors, Barbara Parker, Nicole Simpson, Lana Wimberley-Bowman, Tish Winfield and Daniel Wilson. Chairpersons were Ethel Lawhon, Tina Mance-Lee, and Jeanette Wolfe.



Above: Renowned Jazz Pianist Marcus Johnson performed at the 1st Annual Silent Auction/Champagne Swing Jazz Brunch



*Ethel B. Lawhon, Tina Mance Lee, Jeanette Wolfe
Chairpersons, Silent Auction/Champagne Swing Jazz Brunch*

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Message from our President

Dear Members and Associate Members,

This has been a tremendous year! When I reflect upon our many accomplishments, I realize how fortunate I am to have been surrounded by many beautiful, strong, dependable, willing and dedicated members and officers. The cliché “you are only as strong as the people you are surrounded by,” rings so true for our section.

As we press toward year 2005, let us pledge to continue our work in the same excellent manner so that our purposes and ideas translate into positive outcomes. I am excited about the upcoming year, for I know that “*the best is truly yet to come.*”

With Grateful Appreciation,



Effie Smith Macklin, President, National Council of Negro Women, Potomac Valley Section

PVS ELECTION RESULTS

2004-2005 Officers

The election of officers for the upcoming program year took place during the general meeting on Saturday, May 15, 2004. The officers for the 2004-2005 year are:

President -----	Effie Smith Macklin
1 st Vice President-----	Janis Nix
2 nd Vice President-----	Juanita Thomas-Aruldoss
Correspondence Secretary-----	Evette Lesesne
Recording Secretary-----	Lynn Moore-Hill
Financial Secretary-----	Ardell Bell
Treasurer-----	Evelyn Hill
Historian-----	Cherry Richardson
Parliamentarian-----	Nicole Simpson
Chaplain-----	Emily Henry

Welcome New Members

The Membership Committee had a very successful year with over 80 new members! The Membership Recognition Program took place on Saturday, January 24, 2004. The new members received a certificate of membership, a membership packet of information and a precious flower. The following is a list of new PVS members:

Sandra A. Allen	Tristeza Duncan	Kimberly H. Macedo	Cynthia H. Simpson
Carolyn M. Awkard	Amber Dyer	Nyemale Macedo	Nicole D. Simpson
Virginia Baltimore	Yolanda C. Edmonds	Nerissa Mark	Shirley Smithson Martin
Christine Barry	Juanita Flood	Patricia A. Mark	Jeneen Stewart
Ashley Bayton	Othel Y. Freeman	Jaymesa M. Michie	Bianca Strauss
Lauren Bayton	Kelly Harper	Roline Milfort	Zuri Sullivan
Francenia Beech-Martin	Jane Hobdy	Alean R. Miller	Ida J. Summers
Kierra Bell	Christine Holt-Schofield	Janis Mitchell	Corine Talley
William E. Bennett	Ayana Hypolite	Tiffanee Neighbors	Sadie Y. Tyndell
Hank Boyd	Mary E. Jacobs	Sheila G. Parker	Christen Westbury
Gwendolyn Brown	Tawana P. Jacobs	Crystal Peaks	Carmen N. White
Mattie W. Brown	Lynn M. Jefferson	Cassandra Peters-Johnson	A. LaMar Williams
Danielle A. Bryant	Hope De Johnson	Roslyn Polk	Barbara Williams
Krystle Clarke	Kelly Jonas	Kassandra Powell	Jacqueline Williams
Senora Coggs	Deborah D. Jones	Jean Proctor	Kayla Williams
Joyce J. Coulbourn	Mary J. Jones-Brown	Naomi Randolph	Linda W. Williams
Vanessa Cox	Clotile N. Knight	Jessica Ross	Lana Wimberley-Bowman
Andrea Daniels	Joyce Knight	Leola Saucier	Crystal Wilson
Amari T. Davis	Shereen Lokeman	Vonda K. Scipio	Katie A. Wormley
Ethel L. Duncan	Debra Lopez	Kisa Shannon	Mattie Wright
			Altheia Wyche

***PVS Salutes the Membership Committee
for their efforts during the membership drive!***



Membership Committee (from left to right): Carol James, Thelma Toler, Jeanette Wolfe, Anna McClain, Vivian Boyd, and Pearlana Allen.

Not shown: Tish Winfield, Barbara Williams, and Verlinda Willis

Noteworthy News!

Dr. Dorothy Height awarded the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor

On March 24, 2004 the President of the United States presented Dr. Height with the Congressional Gold Medal in the Rotunda of the United States Capitol on her 92nd birthday. Dr. Dorothy Height is the Chair & President Emerita of the National Council of Negro Women. The Gold Medal is the highest recognition of the United States Congress. The medal was authorized by a unanimous vote of both Houses in the Congress. Rep. Diane Watson wrote the original medal legislation. Senator Hillary Rodman Clinton and Senator Carl Levin joined in sponsoring the legislation with Rep. Watson.

Dr. Height expressed "...I accept this medal in the name of the millions of people, particularly women, whose work goes unnoticed. For the inscription on the back of the medal, I chose the picture of our headquarters at 633 Pennsylvania Avenue facing the Capitol, and the quotation of my saying 'African American women seldom do just what they want to do, but always do what they have to do.'

An article in the Washington Post newspaper recognized Dr. Height's honor (see right).



Dr. Height and Quincy Jones at the Uncommon Height Gala

2004 Uncommon Height Awarded to Quincy Jones

Quincy Jones received the 2004 Uncommon Height Award on March 18, 2004 for his legendary contribution to humanity through music and the arts. The 6th Annual Uncommon Height Gala took place at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, DC. Famed poet and author Maya Angelou presented the award to Quincy Jones. The Uncommon Height Award is presented to a person who exemplifies the spirit and tradition of Dr. Dorothy Height.

Following the award presentation, NCNW's board of directors and Daimler Chrysler surprised Dr. Height by unveiling a wax figure in her likeness for the Great Blacks in Wax Museum in Baltimore, MD.

rites of passage (rop)

A Potomac Valley Section Program for Young Ladies

2004 ROP CROSSOVER CEREMONY

The ROP ceremony took place on Sunday, May 23, 2004 at 3pm at The People's Community Baptist Church (TPCBC). The theme was: "On the Wings of Eagles, on the Shoulders of our Ancestors". The ROP members were exceptional in their dance performances and their 'personal statements of promise'. The guest speaker, Dawn Carter, provided an encouraging and inspiring message for the members to guide them in their upcoming years. Mel Cummings and Judi Moore Latta conducted the ceremony in an elegant manner. The ROP chair, Stephanie Cummings, as well as the committee members are commended for their commitment and diligent work with our young ladies.



Above: Rites of Passage members and leaders

ACTIVITIES DURING 2003-2004

The ROP young ladies have been very active and involved in the following activities:

- Presented a Black History program on Saturday, February 28th at TPCBC. The program included a dance performance, duets, and 'Who Am I' performances by ROP members.
- Attended an Inner Beauty session with Rev. McCarley on December 20, 2003.
- Completed 2 hours of community service at the Forest Glen Nursing Home.
- Volunteered at the 2004 Women's Legislative Briefing on January 25, 2004 and received community service hours.
- Attended and participated in the NCNW's Montgomery County Section Health Fair seminar on April 24, 2004, along with the Potomac Valley Section (PVS) members
- Served as hostess at the Silent Auction/ Champagne Jazz Brunch.
- Participated in a High Tea at Indian Springs Country Club on May 16, 2004.

CURRENT ROP 2004 ACHIEVEMENTS

Kelly Harper and Zuri Sullivan - Both have been accepted into the Leadership Training Institute (LTI) at Kennedy High School next year.

Kemi Ajisekola - Will be featured in the upcoming play, the 'Wizard of Oz'. She will be playing the Tin Man.

Bianca Strauss - Has been admitted into the Middle Years Program at Richard Montgomery High School. This is a step up from the AP class.

Krystle Clarke and Kemi Ajisekola - Both will be participating in the National American Miss Pageant in July 2004.

Nerissa Mark, Jillian Macklin, Kamry Minor and Nyemale Macedo - will be participating as debutantes in Alpha Omega Omega Chapter of AKA Sorority this summer.

Christen Westbury - Voted Princess of her middle school. She attends Montrose Christian School in Rockville, MD.

NEWS ABOUT ROP MEMBERS

Brittany Jackson (ROP 2001) - Will be attending Washington University, St. Louis, MO, in the fall to study biology. She received a full scholarship!! Go Brittany!!

Ayana Hypolite (ROP 2004) - Has been accepted to Barry University in Florida and Howard University. No decision has been made as to which school she will attend. She would like to major in Pre-Med. She also received 2 Alpha Phi Alpha awards. The first was the Martin Luther King Award for Citizenship. The second was a Jesse Owens Award for Athletics. Congratulations Ayana!!

ROP Book Award Scholarships: This \$250 award is a one-time only scholarship for graduating seniors who completed the ROP Program. The awardees were announced during the 2004 ROP Crossover Ceremony on May 23, 2004. Congratulations to:

Ayanna Hypolite
Howard University

Brittany Jackson
Washington University

Danielle Richardson
Howard University

April Stovall
Morgan State

PVS in the Community

2004 Women's Legislative Briefing

The Montgomery County Commission for Women sponsored the 2004 Women's Legislative Briefing. The Potomac Valley Section was a co-sponsor along with over 70 other women organizations. The event took place on January 25, 2004 at the National 4-H Conference Center in Chevy Chase, MD. There were over 400 attendees. Dr. Dorothy Height, Chair and President Emerita of the NCNW, was the keynote speaker and she related her life of service and leadership for civil rights and social justice. Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan and State Senator Gloria Lawlah, Chair, Women Legislators of Maryland were also speakers.

Workshops included topics such as preventive health, the State legislative and budgetary processes, issues and challenges of immigrant women, and family medical leave.

PVS Rites of Passage participants, led by Stephanie Cummings, volunteered and helped to assemble the kits for the Briefing and performed other needed services during the Briefing. Effie Smith Macklin, Carla Bayton, and Ethel B. Lawhon served on the Planning Committee for the Briefing. Effie and Ethel also made financial contributions as sponsors of the Briefing.



Standing from left to right:
Shirley Johnson, Carla Bayton, Effie Smith Macklin, Jeanette Wolfe.
Seated: Dr. Dorothy Height

Annual Montgomery County Women's Fair

Many PVS members attend the Annual Montgomery County Women's Fair, which took place on Saturday, March 27, 2004, at Blair High School. The keynote speaker was Charlene R. Nunley, Ph.D., President of Montgomery College.

The Montgomery County Women's Fair is a full day of activities for women in the metropolitan Washington, DC area. With educational workshops, speakers and exhibits, the event provides a stimulating opportunity for women to: a) explore a variety of topics for personal and professional growth, b) network with other business, professional, and home-based women, and c) address relevant issues affecting women around the area.

NCNW members are encouraged to participate each year. Mark your calendar for next year's Women's Fair in March 2005.

Maryland Women's Hall of Fame

PVS member Shirley Johnson attended the induction ceremony for Emily Edmonson (1835-1895), one of the five women inducted in the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame in Annapolis on March 23, 2004. Shirley also prepared a letter of endorsement for Emily's nomination.

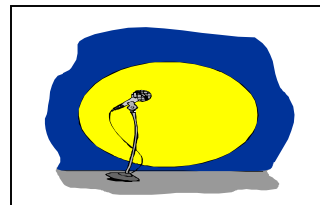
Emily Edmonson overcame the oppression of slavery, championing the emancipation of slaves, by working as an outspoken abolitionist alongside Frederick Douglas and others. After living for many years in Sandy Spring, Maryland, Emily and her husband moved to Anacostia, where they became founding members of the Hillsdale community. Ms. Edmonson's story was highlighted in an article written by Mary Kay Ricks in the February 17, 2002 edition of the *Washington Post Magazine*, "A Passage to Freedom," and is documented in *A Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin*, by Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, in 1852.

NCNW PVS will help identify nominees for the October 2005 submission.

Information about the Women's Hall of Fame and the inductees can be found at the County Commission's Women's History On-Line Archives (www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw).

Did You Know

Spotlight on our Members



NCNW Member *Shirley L. Johnson* awarded the '2004 Kelsey Cooke Volunteer of the Year Award'

On Saturday, May 1, 2004, Shirley received this prestigious award from the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee. The award is granted in recognition of the outstanding volunteer activity by a Democratic party activist. Shirley received the award at the Committee's Spring Ball at Indian Spring Country Club, where there were over 700 attendees.

Shirley received written and published congratulations from County Executive Douglas Duncan, Congressman Chris Van Hollen, District 19 State Legislature Delegates: Hank Hollen, Adrienne Mandel, and Carol Petzold, Senator Len Teitelbaum, the African American Democratic Club, the District 19 Democratic Club, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Theta Omega Omega Chapter, NCNW, family members and friends.

In 2002, Shirley was inducted into the Montgomery County Human Rights Hall of Fame. Shirley received recognition from the Maryland House of Delegates for this honor.



Above: Shirley Johnson

Jillian Macklin recently graduated from Youth Leadership Montgomery. Jillian is one of 22 students from Montgomery County Public and Independent Schools selected to participate in this rigorous 8-week program. She was also offered a full summer internship to South Africa by the International Youth Leadership Institute. Jillian is a graduate of our Rites of Passage (ROP) program, a former ROP mentor, and is currently serving as a SAGE (Sisters Always Giving Excellence) for our ROP program.



Above: Vivian Boyd

Vivian Boyd received the 'Outstanding Woman of the Year Award' and the 'Lifetime Achievement Award'. Both of these awards were in connection with her work as the Director of the University of Maryland's Counseling Center and as an Associate Professor in Counseling and Psychology at University of Maryland. The 'Woman of the Year Award' was awarded in April 2004 in recognition of Vivian's leadership at the Counseling Center. The 'Lifetime Achievement Award' was awarded by the Association of College and University Counseling Center Directors in November 2003. Vivian is the first woman and first person of color to receive this award.

Above: Jillian Macklin

Weddings this summer

Carla Bayton
Theresa Barber

Government Retirements

Carolyn Shackelford, Tish Winfield, and Thelma Toler

Beverly Arnette is being treated to an Alaskan Cruise in August by her daughter Cynthia Ingram.

PVS received the Bethune Recognition Certificate for our late pastor, **Rev. T.J. Baltimore**. It was framed and presented to his mother, **Mrs. Virginia Baltimore**.

Rev. Donald and Brenda Kelly's daughter, Brandy Kelly, recently graduated from George Washington University with a Bachelor's in International Affairs.

Cynthia Bolton has a new grandchild. **Sheila Parker** served as chair of the Women's Legislative Briefing. **Barbara Williams** relocated to Philadelphia. **Delores Lincoln's** grandson, Jordan Lincoln, is graduating from DuVal High School on June 8th. **Ismay Parrish's** daughter, Shani Parrish Whilby, graduated in May with a MS Degree in Speech Language Pathology and Audiology from Northeastern Univ.

Potomac Valley Section (PVS) Committee Updates

Legislative Affairs Committee

Chair: Shirley Johnson

The purpose of the legislative affairs committee is to devise and implement the public policy initiatives of the PVS. The Committee provides education to the community on legislative and policy issues relating to women and families. The Committee serves as principal advisor to the President on matters of public policy.

The principal duties of the Committee include:

- Monitor national, state, county, and local legislative development of interest to the PVS
- Advocate for issues of importance to the PVS and collaborate with community partners to develop the PVS position
- Deliver oral and/or written testimony on priority bills before legislative committees
- Submit letters to legislators providing recommendations for legislative action

The Legislative Committee has been very active in the 2003-2004 year. The Committee and other Section members have been involved in several legislative related activities. The following is a short list of their involvements.

- Leadership Montgomery Community Leadership Program
- 2004 Legislative Agenda for Maryland Women
- Montgomery County Historical Society Day (3-13-04)
- Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference (Sept. 24 - 27, 2003)
- Committee for Montgomery County, Annual Legislative Breakfast (12-11-03)
- Town Hall meetings sponsored by Congressman and State Legislators
- Voter Registration Training
- NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner (4-25-04)

Seniors Committee

Chair: Ismay Parrish

The objective of the Seniors Committee is to make a difference in the quality of lives of senior citizens in Montgomery County by: a) identifying a specific population in a nursing home to serve and b) developing and implementing a program of activities.

At least four times a year, the Seniors Committee conducts programs at the Forest Glen Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Silver Spring. The program includes prayer, scripture reading, music, fellowship and a light collation. During each visit, committee members bring gifts to the residents as a part of their sharing experience. The residents have indicated that they truly enjoy the visits.

- In November the Harvest season is recognized.
- In December there is a Christmas celebration. For example, on Dec.16, 2003, they visited the Forest Glen Nursing Home and performed Christmas carols and distributed baskets to 21 residents.
- In February there is a Black History program and/or Valentine's Day celebration. This year, the Black History Program was held on February 21, 2004.
- In the spring, there is an Easter or spring event. For example, on May 13, 2004, the committee hosted a Fashion Show at the nursing home. The members modeled contemporary clothing. They also incorporated scriptures about clothing from Genesis to Zechariah.

Finance Committee

Chair: Penny Polk

As we prepare for the 2004-2005 year, we must close our financial records for the current year. All members are requested to immediately submit all requests for reimbursements and outstanding funds for membership dues, lotion sales, theater performances and the jazz brunch.

Amenities Committee

Chair: Iris Ellis

The committee expresses its gratitude for the participation of the committee members throughout the year.

A motion was made and seconded to change the amount allowed for baskets, flowers, etc. sent to members from \$50 to \$75. The PVS by-laws were updated accordingly.

Potomac Valley Section (PVS) Committee Updates (continued)

Education Committee

Chair: Wanda Brown

The Education Committee members are committed to educational excellence. The committee members are Wanda Brown (chair), Crystal Wilson, Anne Goode, Yolanda Edmonds, Shereen Lokeman, Kimberly Macedo(vice chair), and Altheia Wyche.

The committee serves the PVS by addressing educational issues, which impact the children in our community. The committee is divided into three working groups:

- High Assessment Tests
- Partnering Strategically: analyzing ways we can partner with other groups to leverage support for specific educational issues
- Data Analyses: review, capture and understand the data relating to closing the gap for African American students

One of the highlights of the committee's involvement this year was the attendance and review of a parenting workshop which focused on 'Raising Successful African American Students'.

Membership Committee

Chair: Jeanette Wolfe

The committee had an outstanding 2003-2004 membership year. The committee recruited, reclaimed and retained members! As of May 15, 2004, there are 234 members made up of youth, associates, annual, life, and legacy life memberships.

Committee Activities this year included:

- Four Membership Open House Drives at The People's Community Baptist Church
- January program that recognized new members, life members and acknowledged deceased members
- Presentation of recognition gifts to members that participated in the recruitment drive
- Initiation of membership certificates for new members
- Welcome letters being sent to new members as well as letters to reclaim members
- Regular reports to National on PVS membership
- Regular reports to Bethune Recognition on contributing life members

Membership Committee members were: Anna McClain, Vivian Boyd, Pearlana Allen, Thelma Toler, Carol James Tish Winfield Barbara Williams Verlinda Willis and Jeanette Wolfe who served as chair

Ways & Means Committee

Chair: Jeanette Wolfe

The Committee has responsibility for fundraising activities to support the programs and goals of the Section. The committee had a very successful year in that they raised over \$10,000. The fundraising initiatives during the 2003-2004 year included the following:

- The Silent Auction/Champagne Swing Jazz Brunch was held as a new fundraiser for the Section on Sunday, April 18, 2004, at the Indian Spring Country Club. Approximately 400 people attended this event.
- The Section attended three plays: "Yellowman" and "Crowns" at the Arena Stage and "Having Our Say" at the Olney Theatre.
- The Section sold tote bags, NCNW kente cloth scarves, and the last of the PVS lotion.
- The Section raised \$720 for National NCNW through the Bethune Recognition Program. Raffle tickets were sold and two tables were purchased for the luncheon.
- The Committee supported the Membership Committee in the recruitment drive recognizing that increased memberships strengthen the Section's financial base

Committee members were: Jennifer Glen, Thelma Toler, Ethel Lawhon, Penny Polk and Jeanette Wolfe who served as Chair.

Silent Auction/Jazz Brunch, April 2004



NCNW Sunday at The People's Community Baptist Church, February 2004



PVS Black History Program performed by Rites of Passage Youth, February 2004



Shirley Johnson at Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee Spring Ball, where she received the Volunteer of the Year Award, May 2004



6th Annual Uncommon Height Awards Gala, March 2004



Seniors Committee, Forest Glen Nursing Home, May 2004



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sat., July 10, 2004: 129th Birthday Celebration of Mary McLeod Bethune at Lincoln Park in Washington, DC.

Sat. & Sun., September 11-12, 2004: National NCNW Black Family Reunion Celebration in Washington, DC.

Sat., September 11, 2004: PVS Executive Council Meeting

Sat., September 18, 2004: Next PVS general meeting

Sat., October 30, 2004: Deadline for Fall 2004 newsletter submissions

Sun., November 14, 2004: Bethune Recognition Program 30th Anniversary in Washington, DC. These celebrations will also be held in several cities across the country.

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PVS Section Officers

2003-2004

PVS Committee Chairs

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1st Vice President: Janis Nix
2nd Vice President: Jeanette Wolfe
Correspondence Secretary: Evette Lessesne
Recording Secretary: Lynn Moore Hill
Financial Secretary: Nora Nelson
Treasurer: Penny Polk
Historian: E. Patricia Stokes
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Chaplain: Emily Henry

Membership, Ways & Means: Jeanette Wolfe
Education: Wanda Brown
Rites of Passage: Stephanie Cummings
Senior Citizens: Ismay Parrish
Legislative Affairs: Shirley Johnson
By-Laws: Carla Bayton
Amenities: Iris Ellis
Newsletter: Roline Milfort
Finance: Penny Polk
Scholarship: Mablelene Burrell



National Council of Negro Women
Potomac Valley Section
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