



# The Potomac Vision

2005-2006, Issue 1  
2005

Potomac Valley Section (PVS) Newsletter

December

## 2006 is an Election Year!!

The Potomac Valley Section (PVS) will hold its biennial elections in May 2006. The Officers will serve for two terms (2006 - 2008). During the current leadership (*see right*), the Section has been very productive and successful in serving our community in many aspects including education, senior citizens and youth programs (see page 7). The newly elected Officers will be expected to continue and expand the Section's efforts to make a difference in our community.

The Nominating Committee will be formed in January 2006. Persons who are interested in an Officer position should leave a letter expressing their interest, addressed to the Committee, in the NCNW mailbox at the Peoples' Community Baptist Church.

All names must be submitted to the nominating committee prior the April 2006 General Meeting. At the April 2006 meeting all interested parties will be presented to the general body. At this time, the nominees will be

### Qualifications and Expectations of Officers

All nominees must be from among the active and financially current members of the Section.

Officers are expected to regularly attend the monthly Executive Council and General Section meetings. Officers are to notify the President when they are unable to attend meetings. When an officer has missed three (3) consecutive meetings, that officer shall be contacted by the Executive Council to discuss her availability to



Above: Current PVS Officers  
Top Row / Standing (from left to right): Patsy White, Ardell Bell, Cherry Richardson, Nicole Simpson, Lynn Moore Hill  
Bottom Row / Seated (from left to right): Evette Lesesne, Effie Smith Macklin, Janis Nix, Evelyn Hill  
(Not pictured: Kelly Jonas, E. Patricia Stokes)

### **Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee will be formed in January 2006. The Committee can not consist of current officers or a member running for an officer position. The Committee will be responsible for evaluating the candidates and presenting the nominees to the general body. The Committee will also be responsible for elections and the installation of the new officers. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Nominating Committee, please contact Effie Smith Macklin (PVS

### Officer Duties

Please see the insert inside the newsletter for a complete description of officer duties.

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## *Message from our President*

Dear Members and Associate Members,

This program year is off to a tremendous start. We are embarking upon the advent season: a season that reminds us of how fortunate we are to have the opportunity to serve by giving of our time, talent and treasure. Our Section exemplifies the legacy of NCNW. Mrs. Bethune would be proud of our endeavors. When I reflect upon our many accomplishments, I realize just how fortunate I am to be surrounded by so many beautiful, strong, willing and dedicated members and officers. May we continue in a manner that pleases, produces and ensures promises to those lives we are charged with making a positive difference in. I charge each of you to dare to make your good better and your better your very best. Season's greetings and Happy New Year as you step into a new year.

As we press toward year 2006, let us all pledge to continue our works of excellence in the same manner so that

Most Sincerely,



Effie Smith Macklin, President  
NCNW, Potomac Valley Section



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

### **Did you know?**

Dana M. Atkinson successfully completed the Youth Leadership Montgomery program in November 2005. This past summer Dana completed a weeklong intense training program at the Maryland Leadership Workshop at McDaniel College, and has been recommended for the Advanced Leadership course this coming summer. Dana is a mentor in the NCNW Rites of Passage Program. Congratulations Dana!

Please share  
announcements, birthdays,  
wedding anniversaries,  
honors, and achievements  
with the PVS by sending  
them to the newsletter  
committee at  
roline\_milfort@yahoo.com

**Jeanette Wolfe's** husband, **Eugene Wolfe** (also a Section member) was recently selected as the Administrative Judge for the Montgomery County District Court. Congratulations to Eugene for this mark of distinction!

<p><b>Nicole Simpson</b> became in engaged to Carl Adolph in July. Nicole and Carl will get married on September 9, 2006.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Effie and John Macklin</b> celebrated their 24<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on November 14<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Brenda and Rev. Donald Kelly</b> will celebrate their 32<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary on December 20<sup>th</sup>.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Upcoming Birthdays</b></p> <p>Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> Effie Smith Macklin Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> Carol James Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> Jillian Macklin Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> Brianna Horne Kinder Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> Patsy White Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> Kelly Jonas Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> Constance Kinder Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> Lynn Moore Hill Mar 9<sup>th</sup> Sheryl Perkins Mar 17<sup>th</sup> Nicole Simpson Mar 28<sup>th</sup> Janis Nix &amp; Cynthia Simpson</p>
<p><b>Evette Lesesne</b> was inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau's International Nursing Honor Society on Sunday, December 11, 2005 at Howard University Hospital. Congratulations to Evette on this great honor!</p>		

# INSIGHT FROM CURRENT PVS OFFICERS

Below are insights from select PVS Officers sharing what they like most about their position. If you are interested in running for an Officer position, and would like to learn more about the position, feel free to contact the current Officer.

**PRESIDENT:**  
Effie Smith Macklin

"It has been a great honor and opportunity to work with Section officers and members to revitalize our Section's programs. We have made an indelible mark in our community through our volunteerism, programs, and sponsorships. We have so



**1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT:** Janis Nix

"Words alone cannot express the gratification I've received in providing oversight to the ROP program. Also, it has been personally rewarding to be able to represent the Section at Nationally sponsored NCNW events as well as at local community events. The PVS is a world-class Section and I'm proud to be a part of it."



**FINANCIAL SECRETARY:** Ardell Bell

**RECORDING SECRETARY:**  
Lynn Moore Hill



"One of the perks of being the Recording Secretary is that you become very knowledgeable of all the programs and activities throughout



"What I like best about being the Financial Secretary is working with a dynamic group of officers, while serving the section in a meaningful capacity."

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**  
Evette Lessesne

*"It has been a rewarding experience to work with a dedicated and supportive team of officers. It not only has allowed networking within our Section, but has also provided the opportunity to meet and network with committee members and leaders"*



**TREASURER:** Evelyn Hill

"As Treasurer, I like that I am always on top of the financial status of the Section, right at the pulse of what the Section is involved in"



**PARLIAMENTARIAN:**  
Nicole Simpson



"Serving as PVS's Parliamentarian has been a rewarding experience. I learned a lot about parliamentary procedure, and the bylaws that specifically pertain to our section. It is the perfect position for someone interested in

**HISTORIAN:**  
Cherry Richardson



*"As the organizing President of the Section, I appreciate being the Historian because I can be a part of preserving the past and present history of our Section by documenting and recording our numerous activities in the community that make a difference."*



## Committee Updates

### Legislative Affairs Committee Co-Chairs: Shirley Johnson & Lorna Martin

Unity in The Community Meeting: On October 29, 2005 African American leaders of many community organizations gathered to discuss issues of mutual concern that needed to be addressed in a collaborative and collective manner in our community. Approximately 80 participants addressed various important issues such as business economic development, education and health disparities, affordable housing, legislative empowerment, and community collaboration. The next meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2006. More details will be forthcoming.

Voter Registration Drive: Volunteers are needed for the 2006 Montgomery County Library Voter Registration Drive. Training sessions will be held at the following times: 1) Wednesdays at 10am & 3pm thru March 8, 2006, 2) Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10am & 3pm from March 9, 2006 thru August 15, 2006, 3) Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10am & 3pm from September 26, 2006 through October 10, 2006. Evening classes can be arranged for groups by appointment. For more information contact Shirley

### Seniors Committee

#### Co-Chairs: Mary Watters & Cherry Richardson

The committee held a Fall Harvest Program at Forest Glen Nursing Home & Rehabilitation Center on November 10, 2005 for the residents. The program began with scripture and prayer. Millie Bryant shared 'Fall Reflections' which discussed the changing of seasons and preparing for winter. Maxine Jenkin shared a brief homily. Decorated fruit bags were presented as gifts to the residents.

*Right: Members of the Senior's Committee presented a Fall Harvest program at the Forest Glen Nursing and Rehabilitation Center*



### Health Committee

#### Chair: Celeste Bennett

Research at Vanderbilt University suggests that frog sweat may kill the HIV virus, which could lead to the development of a vaginal cream to help prevent AIDS. Researchers at Vanderbilt found that secretions from the skin of certain Australian frogs were effective in the test tube at killing the HIV virus, which causes AIDS. They hope these findings will lead to the creation of a topical ointment containing synthetic secretions that will help reduce the spread of the HIV/AIDS, a deadly worldwide pandemic. The health committee will distribute the full report at the next PVS General Meeting.

### Membership Committee Co-Chairs: Kelly Jonas & Patsy White

Welcome to our new PVS members!

Shawn V.Batts    Kimberly Brown    Aundrea Cline-Thomas    Annisa Cline-Thomas    Rosalind Cox

Currently, the PVS is 286 members strong! Please ensure that your membership remains current by submitting your annual dues for the 2005-2006 year (if you haven't done so already). Membership dues enable the Section to continue to support and sponsor community programs. If you are not certain about the status of your membership, please check with Kelly Jonas at [kjonas@verizongni.com](mailto:kjonas@verizongni.com) or 301-498-7414. You can submit your payment to Patsy White, Kelly Jonas, Evelyn Hill or Ardell Bell.

## ***Committee Updates (continued)***

### **Education Committee**

**Chair: Wanda Brown; Vice Chair: Kimberly Macedo**

The Education Committee is in the process of planning a parent workshop/conversation entitled, "The Journey of Male Development." The workshop will be offered in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2006.

The committee encourages Section members to attend Montgomery County Public Schools Board of Education Meetings. Please contact Wanda Brown at 301-460-7291 for additional information.

### **Rites of Passage (ROP) Committee**

*Chair: Sheryl Perkins; Co-Vice Chairs: Tina Mance-Lee and Nicole Simpson*

The ROP program is off to a great start! Orientation for the young ladies was held on Saturday, October 8, 2005. There are a total of 14 young ladies in the ROP program.

The young ladies participated in three workshops: 1) 'Communication Etiquette' by Hazel Creppy on October 22, 2005; 2) The 'Family Tree' on November 5, 2005 by Audrey Hinton; and 3) 'Inner Beauty' by Tawana Wheeler on December 3, 2005. The young ladies will take part in the 'Basic Sewing Skills' workshop by Joyce Knight, on December 17, 2005. This workshop will teach the young ladies how to sew buttons on garments, basic hemming, and demonstrate a basic sewing machine stitch.

The young ladies also participated in a community service activity at the Manor Care Nursing Home in Silver Spring on November 19, 2005. They made Thanksgiving decorations and played games with the residents. Our Sisters Always Giving Excellence (SAGE) mentors provided the entertainment, which included a fashion show and musical selections. Also, gifts were presented to the residents. It was a great time!

*Right: ROP young ladies at the sleepover party at the home of Ethel Lawhon on November 4, 2005. The sleep over was a great bonding and getting to you know gathering.*



### **Ways & Means Committee**

**Chair: Carol James**

*Our first fundraiser, which raised over \$500, was a success! Section members, ROP young ladies and their chaperones, and friends attended the play, "Cuttin' Up" at the Arena Stage on Sunday, November 6, 2005. The committee would like to extend a special thanks to Vanessa Davis, Evelyn Hill, Effie Smith Macklin, and Anna McClain for selling the most tickets.*

*Two additional fundraisers are planned:*

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Jazz Brunch and Silent Auction will take place on Sunday, April 23, 2006 at the Indian Springs Country Club.*

- Matinee performance of "Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill" at Arena Stage on Sunday, May 7, 2006. The cost of the tickets will be \$60 each.*

*NCNW kente cloth scarves are available for purchase from Carol James during meetings. The cost is \$35 each.*

# Noteworthy News!

## Help for NCNW's (National) Community in Mississippi

Thirty years ago NCNW (National) was instrumental in developing homeownership for low income families beginning with Gulfport, Mississippi and extending to Indianola and Cleveland, Mississippi. Not long ago, the families of Forest Heights in Gulfport, Mississippi were celebrating that after 30 years they have in their hands their deeds of ownership and pride in their accomplishment. Today 60 to 75% are still in their homes. They could not afford to evacuate during Hurricane Katrina. Their homes have been filled with three to four feet of water and as the water level lowers mold is rapidly growing causing serious illness. The NCNW (National) has made a special appeal for Gulfport, Mississippi, Forest Heights which was developed by NCNW as Turnkey III in cooperation with the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the support from the Ford Foundation. Your support can help meet some of the immediate needs now as the families struggle to help themselves to get on their feet. If you would like to support this initiative, make checks payable to NCNW for Disaster Relief and mail to: NCNW Disaster Relief, Attn: Cheryl R. Cooper, 633

## 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Montgomery County Women's Fair

On Saturday, April 1, 2006 the Montgomery County Women's Fair (MCWF) will hold its 26th annual event at the Montgomery County Conference Center, 5701 Marinelli Road, North Bethesda, MD. The theme of this year's Fair is "*WOMEN BUILDING BRIDGES*".

The MCWF is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization committed to providing an annual, financially affordable one-day program of activities to a diverse audience. This program offers educational and entrepreneurial information through workshops, presentations from local and state officials and a keynote speaker, as well as exhibits from local businesses and organizations. The event is planned and coordinated by a committee of volunteers representing various women's organizations as well as interested individuals. The Fair provides an environment to network, learn new ideas, and enhance leadership skills.

Opportunities for involvement in this event include: sponsorship opportunities, advertising, exhibiting, and workshop presentations. For more information, visit <http://www.mcwomensfair.org/index.html> or call 301-649-5551.

## 52<sup>nd</sup> National Convention: Living the Legacy

Our Section President, Effie Smith Macklin, and our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Janis Nix, attended the NCNW 52<sup>nd</sup> National Convention, which took place from November 28<sup>th</sup> through December 4, 2005 at the J.W. Marriott Hotel in Washington, DC. Jennifer Brown, a youth mentee, attended along with the officers. The convention program included the NCNW Historical Legacy Tour, the Leadership Institute Development Program, Forums, Issues Sessions with distinguished panelists, Plenary Sessions, the Bethune Luncheon at Headquarters, and the Harambee Breakfast remembering NCNW members who have passed. Speakers included Bishop Vashti McKenzie, Dr. Crystal Kuykendall, Esq., Rev. Barbara Williams Skinner, Dr. Maya Rockey Moore, Rev. Lula G. Williams, Mary Thigpen, John Bryant, and Rev. Janelle Thompson.

The convention takes place every two years and is a great opportunity to learn, grow, and develop as a

## ***PVS in the Community***

The Section actively supports community programs and initiatives relevant to our mission. Member dues, as well as fundraisers, are the sole mechanisms that enable the Section to provide this support. Below you will find a sample of the programs that are currently being supported by our Section. If you would like to be involved in these activities during this program year, contact the primary contact

### **Women's Legislative Briefing**

Primary contacts: Shirley Johnson, Effie Smith Macklin

For the past few years, the Section has served as one of the co-sponsors of the annual Women's Legislative Briefing. Moreover, the Rites of Passage young ladies volunteer at the event to assist in the preparation of packets. The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Legislative Briefing, sponsored by Montgomery County Commission for Women, will take place on Sunday, January 29, 2006 at the National 4-H Conference Center in Chevy Chase, MD. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Susan Wood, former Food and Drug Administration (FDA) official in charge of women's health issues. Dr. Wood recently resigned from her post to protest what she described as the 'politicization of science'. In addition to the Keynote address, the program includes a plenary session on the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women, several informative workshops, and a reception. All are encouraged to attend this

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

Primary Contacts: Letitia (Tish) Winfield, Nora Nelson

The Section has supported the AAFAE over the past few years by volunteering in a number of ways at the festival and other events. Moreover, last year PVS was one of the sponsors for the festival. This was made possible by special contributions from members. The AAFAE is a family event that salutes the academic achievements of African American students in the Montgomery County Public Schools. The annual program includes awards, scholarships, prominent guests, entertainment, and food vendors

### **Montgomery County Juvenile Court Kids' Fund**

Primary Contact: Jeannette Wolfe, Brenda Kelly

The Section is a charter sponsor to the Montgomery County Juvenile Court Kids' Fund. The Kids' Fund is a new initiative designed to provide resources to children involved in the Juvenile Division of the Montgomery County Circuit Court. The Fund provides access opportunities and services in the community to kids that would otherwise not have them available. This includes money for variety of a goods and services such as eyeglasses, tutoring, summer camp, clothing, and many other needs.

### **Camp Sonshine & Faith Community Baptist Church Summer Camp**

Primary Contacts: Wanda Brown, Carla Malone

The Section is partnering with these camp programs and area schools to develop a plan to provide support for a limited number of students to attend the summer camps. Students from grades K- 8<sup>th</sup> will be recruited from select schools in Montgomery County. The Camp Sonshine at Immanuel Church and the Faith Community Baptist Church Summer Camp are located in Montgomery County. Section members are encouraged to support this initiative with financial contributions

### **Montgomery County History Day Competition**

Primary Contact: Wanda Brown

*The Section is an active sponsor of the Montgomery County History Day Competition by donating special prizes at the annual event. The student presentations included group & individual documentaries, exhibits, performances, and papers. A member of the PVS Education Committee serves as a judge for excellence in representing 'Minority History'.*

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Jan. 29, 2006:** Women's Legislative Briefing.  
**Mar. 21, 2006:** Uncommon Height Awards Gala  
**Apr. 1, 2006:** Montgomery County Women's Fair  
**Apr. 23, 2006:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Jazz Brunch & Silent Auction  
**May 7, 2006:** Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill at Arena Stage  
**May 20, 2006:** PVS Elections  
**Jun. 17, 2006:** Installation of PVS Officers

### Newsletter Staff

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Roline Milfort

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Mary Jones-Brown  
Beverly Brooks Anderson

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**Photographer**  
Delores Lincoln-Willis

## 2005 – 2006 PVS Officers

President:	Effie Smith Macklin
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President:	Janis Nix
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President:	Kelly Jonas / Patsy White (Acting)
Correspondence Secretary:	Evette Lesesne
Recording Secretary:	Lynn Moore Hill
Financial Secretary:	Ardell Bell
.....	Evelyn Hill
.....	.....



*Above: 2005-2006 Officers  
(Not pictured: Kelly Jonas, E. Patricia Stokes)*



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