



1200 Block Rosewood Street Community Club

Seated at the table from left to right are: Mrs. L.F. Betts, treasurer; J.H. Betts, president; Mrs. Ruth Spaulding, Mrs. S. Harris, chaplain; and John Gray. Standing (from left): Mrs. V.J. Davis, Mrs. E.R. Williams and B.L. Williams, hosts; Ms. A. Bailey, Mrs. L. Jenkins, L. Jenkins; Mesdames M. McCullough, M. Coleman, C. Morrison; J.E. Cromartie, Mrs. M.H. Cromartie, chairman, Human Concerns Committee; M. Michaux, Mrs. E.L.

Michaux, assistant secretary; Mrs. J. Gray, chaplain; Mrs. J.C. Locust, R.D. Locust, chairman, Social Committee, and Mrs. P.D. McCoy. Not shown in the picture are Mrs. D. Stroud, Mrs. O. Sanford, Mrs. M.V. Alston, secretary; F.H. Alston, Mrs. C. Wagstaff, oldest member who was recently honored by the Club; P. Carter, B.D. Carver, The Clyde Moores, The R.E. Blunts, Mrs. S. Johnson and S.D. Morrison. Photo by Henry Garner

## Rosewood Street Community Club Holds Christmas Party

The 1200 Block Rosewood Street Community Club held its Annual Christmas Party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby L. Williams, 1221 Rosewood Street, December 12. Persons shared the beautiful decor of the Williamses' home. Highlighting the affair were seasonal music, m, and a delicious assortment of Christmas foods.

Realizing the need for close community organization with emphasis on human concern, civic, political, cultural, economic and community action components of Durham's community, was organized December 5, 1967 at the home of the first president, Mrs. V.J. Davis. It was an outgrowth of strong efforts by the late Samuel H. McCullough, the F.H. Alstons and other concerned neighbors.

The organization meets quarterly; two meetings — Christmas and Summer — are social meetings and others are structured for business. Some of the focus of the Christmas Social Hour was directed to the observance of the Club's 13th anniversary. Members believe that they have improved their community and as a unit, have helped enhance the growth of the larger Durham community.

According to a spokesman, "Members of the 1200 Block Rosewood Street Community, are keenly aware of the disorganization in our world order and in segments of our Durham Community. Hence, we will continuously strive to assist our fellowmen in the elimination of hatred, 'house calls' where a team of senior volunteers go to people's homes to mark items. The JSPOA's legislative committee, formed in 1974 began as an educational project. Experts were called in to discuss the workings of the political process. Then, geared to fight for the issues, the seniors invited political candidates to the centers for discussion of their concerns. The committee's input is now sought regularly in the planning and decision-making process.

It is not uncommon to see seniors at shopping centers mulling voter registration tables. Nor is it surprising that local politicians take note of this important and growing constituency. A financial affairs committee, says Hill, provides seniors with valuable "how-to" information on writing wills, paying taxes and fighting inflation. In 1973-74, the committee led a fight to persuade the banks to offer free checking accounts to older people, now a not uncommon practice. The movement to involve seniors in the decision making process of the community is growing all over the nation. It is fair to say JSPOA provided considerable impetus to it under the guidance of Hector Hill. In order to recognize the many contributions Hill has made and

bigotry and any other components that divide our community. Our overall efforts will be directed toward assisting Durham in her quest to become an All-American City."

The award has in no way slowed down Hill's activism. In fact, he says with a laugh, "no matter how many strides we make, there is always that next step which much be taken."

## Going Strong

by Gerry Johnson

### In Praise of Contribution

"Retirement should be a time of creativity, of contribution", according to 69-year-old Hector Hill whose life reflects this belief. Hill retired from a second career in 1973 and settled happily into newfound leisure, expecting to steep himself in his photography and music. Little did he realize that these would lead him into a leadership role in his community and ultimately to the establishment of an award in his name. It all began when the Trinidad-born resident of Queens, New York visited the Archer Avenue Senior Center and "met a wonderful group of people." His talents in photography were quickly put to use and he started teaching the subject — from the basics ("even the instamatic crowd") to advanced film processing. His piano helped provide entertainment in the center, as well. It was, however, his eagerness to contribute and "do more" that led Hill to be tapped in 1973 for what was then a rather unique senior citizen advisory



council. The council, an offshoot of an umbrella organization called the Jamaica Service Program for Older Adults (JSPOA) was to hold a series of meetings with civic and social agencies to ascertain needs and the resources which could meet them. Since its formation in 1972, JSPOA has been highly successful in mobilizing all segments of the community to provide a comprehensive system of services for the elderly in the southeastern areas of Queens, home for ap-

proximately 70,000 people 60 and over. With advocacy and the provision of needed programming its central mission, JSPOA has launched a series of projects which have not only proved vital to the well-being of its constituency, but might well serve as a viable model for other communities. Hill, who served as JSPOA's Advisory Committee chairman from 1973 to 1977, told a writer from the National Council on the Aging that a top priority was, and is, safety. A committee was established and the police assistance enlisted. This committee, which has involved as many as 200 people at one time, has two major thrusts — prevention of crime and protection of property. Block Watchers were organized and each watcher assigned a code number by the police. If a watcher sees something suspicious on the street, the code number is called in and the police respond immediately. Operation I.D. called for older people to bring articles susceptible to theft into the senior centers so that social security numbers could be etched on them. This program has now expanded to include

to encourage others to follow the same path, JSPOA, in 1979 created an annual Hector Hill award for "excellence in community service."

The award has in no way slowed down Hill's activism. In fact, he says with a laugh, "no matter how many strides we make, there is always that next step which much be taken."

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Christmas Basket Time

That's what members of Zafa Court No. 41 and Zafa Temple No. 176 said on December 20, when they packed and delivered Christmas baskets to needy families in Durham. Nobles standing from left are: R. Barot, Sr., co-

chairman; G. Armstrong, J. Armstrong, N. Burton, E. Gilmore, Sr., J. Gooch, W. Hill, chairman, R. Murchison, R. Mack and E. Lester. Not pictured are members of Zafa Court No. 41. Photo by Silas L. Mayfield



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