



JACK AND JILL OF AMERICA INC

...At Mid-Atlantic Mother's Workshop

Jack & Jills Focus Attention On Vital Communities Problems

Special To The Post

Presidents and many members of the Mid-Atlantic Region, Jack and Jill of America, Inc. gathered this weekend to focus attention upon and strategically plan "effective ways" to combat Reading deficiencies, loss of Child Care Centers, Unemployment, Poor Health Facilities, Hunger and Poverty.

Rev. Paul W. Drummond, Pastor, St. Paul Baptist Church, gave inspirational remarks. The distinguished group was welcomed by Mrs. Virginia Woad, President, Charlotte Chapter and Councilman Harvey Gantt. Mr. Gantt stressed the value of "Interested and Involved Parents with their own children and with all children." "Our children are the present and future of Mankind," Councilman Gantt stated. "We must alleviate the evils of society, or find effective methods of dealing with Society's ills."

Samuel Thomas Jr. accompanied by Donald Holland, furnished beautiful music for the opening general session and the impressive luncheon. One of the highlights of Mid-Atlantic Regionals success this year is the highly successful "Reading Laboratories" being conducted at St. Augustine's College, Raleigh, N.C. by the Raleigh Chapter. These laboratories are using widely varied methods and material on Saturdays for up-grading under-achievers in Reading. The faculty consists of Chapter mothers who are Reading Specialists in Raleigh Public Schools and colleges.

Alpha Alphas

Plan For State

Convention

The finalization of plans for participation in the annual state meeting highlighted the meeting of the Alpha Alpha Chapter of Alpha Pi Chi Sorority here last week.

According to a club's spokeswoman, Alpha Alpha Chapter expects its largest representation ever in Rockingham, N.C. on Sunday, April 25.

A report from president Virginia Stepteanu and Mrs. Ethel Haynes revealed that the organization will have "A Bicentennial Challenge to Alpha Pi Chis' Living and Learning in '76" as its theme for the state meeting.

The ladies, who met at the spacious home of Mrs. Hallie Zanders of 1012 Westbrook Dr. Saturday night, also heard committee reports from Mrs. Mable Dykes, chairman of the Rush Committee; Mrs. Willie B. Roper of the Public Relation Committee; Mrs. Mable Reader of the Carnation Committee, and Mrs. Marie Adam, chairman of the program committee.

The attending members were Mrs. Lula Mae Brown, Mrs. Mable Dykes, Mrs. Thera Garvin, Mrs. Carolyn Gibson, Mrs. Ruth Johnson, Mrs. Ethel Maxwell, Mrs. Mable Reader, Mrs. Willie B. Roper, Mrs. Bessie Simpson, Mrs. Virginia Stepteanu, Mrs. Johnnie Young and hostess Mrs. Hallie Zanders.

Teen members of the chapter and college students are involved in the program at different levels of responsibility. There has been such heightened interest in the program the enrollment has rapidly risen. The program, open to visitors, has been featured by the public minded media. Mrs. Alice Salomon is the Raleigh Chapter President. The Jack and Jill of America Foundation yearly funds projects throughout the Mid-Atlantic Region, which is comprised of North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

The Foundation, established in 1968 and incorporated in the state of Illinois, funds programs to alleviate problems in Reading, Health deficiencies, cultural, educational and emotional deprivations throughout the seven regions of the country. Mrs. Lydia Pride, Mid-Atlantic Regional Director, is an incorporator of the Jack and Jill of America Foundation. The Raleigh Foundation Reading Laboratories pointed out and illustrated the importance of a good reading program having strong elements of all programs in order to develop the "whole child." Art was one of the subjects used in a strong reading program.

Periodic testing and evaluation has determined surprising results in progress of the children attending the program.

B.D. Roberts, local Educator and Artist, delighted the group with his interesting Art Exhibit. Mr. Roberts' art represented media in Landscaping, Portrait, Abstract, Nature, Bicentennial, Black Life; both rural and city. Mr. Roberts urged the mothers to expand their children's interests by exposing them to the Arts. "A child with widened interests enjoys life and adjusts to the complexities of society more easily," stated Mr. Roberts. He dedicated one of his poems to the visiting mothers of the Mid-Atlantic workshop.

The poem is entitled "I am a Black Man"
I am a Black Man,
Filled with urgent needs,
Living in the Seventies,
Surrounded by Avarice and Greed.

I am a Black Man,
Flushed with the Challenge of Life,
to meet the Competition,
Expect Disappointments,
and still be ready to fight.

I am a Black Man,
Crawling from Ignorance,
dark pits, into the big, wide world of Life.

And on toward Cultural Bliss.
I am a Black Man surrounded
by worlds of light, Trying,
Striving for Knowledge, to end
my awful plight.

I am a Black Man,
Black and Unafraid,
Knowing that my future life
can be no worse than my
honored dead.

The mothers evaluated the present programs offered the regional teens. Awards to teen chapters are given at the Fall Teen Regional Conference. Teens regionally compete for the Carol Robertson Award, through their accomplishments in Scholarship, Citizenship, Talent and recommendation from their local chapters; the "Teen Achievers" are teens honored for their involvement in the local chapter's progress during the year; "The Teen Hall of Fame" lists the most Outstanding Teens of the Region yearly; "The Congeniality Chapter (Teen) Award" honors the Chapter, voted by all the teens attending the teen conference as the most Service-Minded and Congenial Chapter at the Conference.

An "Exchange Idea" bulletin is published for Chapters that incorporates; Implemented activities, Ideas for Service Projects by mothers. Mrs. Helen Caldwell, Elizabeth City, N.C. is the National Program Director, Mrs. Esther Marionneaux, Salisbury, N.C. is Regional Secretary-Treasurer and Mrs. Lydia Pride is Regional Director. This outstanding meeting was held at the Holiday Inn, N. Tryon Street.

The National Convention will convene in Denver, Colorado with the theme, "Rights, Privileges and Liberties."

Here This Weekend

600 To Attend AKA Conference

The local chapters of Alpha Lambda Omega (alumna chapter) and Gamma Delta (undergraduate) of Alpha Kappa Sorority are host to the Twenty-Third Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference which will be held at the Sheraton Center on South McDowell Street on Friday, March 19 through Sunday, March 21. The Mid-Atlantic Region comprises the states of North Carolina and Virginia.

Public Meeting

Planned To

Discuss Loop

North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT) officials will hold a public meeting to discuss the proposed segment of the Charlotte Inner Loop from York Road to I-85 and the airport connector from the Inner Loop to north of the proposed new terminal. The hearing, scheduled for March 30 at 7:30 p.m., will be held in the Army National Guard Armory at the Airport in Charlotte.

At the meeting, DOT officials will explain the proposed design, which is for a four-lane divided roadway with a variable width median between lanes. The right-of-way width will also vary between 240 and 440 feet, and it will have controlled access area.

Interchanges will be located at the Airport Connector and Mulberry Church Road. Wilmont Road, West Boulevard, Hill Drive and Old Dowd Road will intersect with the Inner Loop at the same elevation. Wilkerson Boulevard will be separated but will not be an interchange.

DOT officials will also discuss right-of-way requirements and procedures, render relocation advisory assistance, and explain the State-Federal relationship.

Keep your out-of-town friends informed on what's happening in Charlotte by sending them a copy of the Charlotte Post each week. The cost is only \$8.00, plus tax per year.

Already, 600 delegates have registered for the conference.

The conference is slated to open on Friday at 3 p.m. and will adjourn at noon on Sunday. The theme of the conference, "The Bi-Centennial Year: A Salute to Women - Past, Present, Future," is in keeping with the bi-centennial theme of the national organization. The conference will open with greetings from two local officials - Harvey Gantt and Rowe Motley.

Mrs. Doris Asbury, chapter president, will be the presiding official at the opening session. In this capacity, she will present the Regional Director, Mrs. Janet J. Ballard of Richmond, Virginia. As Regional Director, Mrs. Ballard has the responsibility of implementing the total conference program.

The program of the conference will focus on national program targets which include an nation-wide emphasis on reading experiences for children who are performing below grade level, the United Negro College Fund, the NAACP, and the Cleveland Job Corps for Women. Currently, the local chapter is sponsoring a weekly tutoring session for



Mrs. Doris Asbury
...Chapter president

inner-city children each Saturday at Gethsemane A.M.E. Zion Church on Campus Street.

During the three-day conference, business matters will be discussed in plenary sessions. Other main features will include an awards luncheon at which time past Regional Directors and undergraduate chapter presidents will be featured. The annual banquet will be held on Friday evening at which time the Region will recognize two gentlemen whose services and civic responsibilities to their commu-

unities, the state and the nation deemed outstanding by the Regional Awards Committee. This award, known as the "Man-of-the-Year" award will be presented to Attorney Julius LeVonne Chambers of Charlotte and Dr. Pregell Robinson of Raleigh. Both will be presented inscribed plaques by Mrs. Ballard.

The Rededication Breakfast and an outdoor morning meditation service will be held on Sunday. The worship service is scheduled for Marshall Park followed by the solemn rededication service at the Sheraton Center.

The Conference Planning Committee was chaired by Mrs. Barbara W. Davis. Other members of the Committee included Mrs. Doris Asbury, Mrs. Anne Law, Mrs. Vivian Williams, Mrs. Elizabeth Dargan, Mrs. Elizabeth Randolph, Mrs. Mattie Grigsby, Mrs. Berth Robinson, Mrs. Marie Grier, Mrs. Marilyn McClain, Mrs. Dorothy Bratton, Mrs. Thomasena Caldwell, Miss Essie Harper, Mrs. Mildred Alridge, Mrs. Christine Brown, Mrs. Vinie Watkins, Mrs. Eva Wiley, Mrs. Elsie Woodard and Mrs. Wilhelmina White.

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