

LIFESTYLES

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Pinochle Bugs of Charlotte inducts new members. From left to right: Marie Watkins (Mrs. James), Wanda Reeves (Mrs. Richard), Nancy Stroud (Mrs. Gerado), Ernestine James (Mrs. James), Samesta Hill McCatherine (Mrs. James), Annie G. Hunter (Mrs. Wright) and Lynne Motley (Mrs. David).

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Pinochle Bugs Induct Members

The Pinochle Bugs of Charlotte inducted seven new members into the local chapter of the Pinochle Bugs Social and Civic Club, Inc., at a round of gala activities at the home of Bug Mildred Dillard. The new members are: Marie Watkins (Mrs. James), Wanda Reeves (Mrs. Ernest), Samesta Hill McCatherine (Mrs. James), Annie G. Hunter (Mrs. Wright) and Lynne Motley (Mrs. David).

One focus of membership in the national organization and the local chapters is the Mother-daughter combinations. The Charlotte Chapter boasts of having two: Bug Ester Page Hill and daughter Samesta Hill McCatherine and Bug Alma Motley and daughter-in-law bug Lynne Motley.

The chapter is making plans for a civic project for 1988; that will involve the youth of our community. The first social activity for the club was: An International Smorgasbord at the home of bug Frances Phillip and Pest Jonas.

Five members will attend the 32nd Annual Boule Meeting hosted by Portsmouth Virginia Chapter of Pinochle Bugs of Norfolk, Virginia, on November 7. Delegates from 23 chapters will be in attendance. Bug Esther Hill, local chapter president, is the delegate. Other Bugs attending are Bug Anne Hunter, Bug Juanita White and Bug Lynn Givens. Bug Lynn Givens is the daughter of Bug Ophelia Blackburn of the Portsmouth Virginia Chapter.

Singles From All Denominations Unite

By Loretta Richardson
Post Staff Writer

A few black churches in Charlotte have seen the need for a ministry that addresses singles. While some of these groups have catered to only members of its congregation, Rev. A.C. Hunnicutt, pastor of Greenville AME Zion Church and singles group coordinator, Carrol Bradshaw, on Friday November 13 at 7:30 p.m. plan to kick off the first meeting of interdenominational single Christians.



Rev. A.C. Hunnicutt

The need arose, according to Rev. Hunnicutt, "because there are so many single people, divorcees and widowers who have things in common to share. We couldn't think of a better institution than the church to sponsor this type of Christian meeting."

When the fragments for the single group idea fused, Rev. Hunnicutt recalled that Carrol Bradshaw entered his office and voiced her concern about that particular segment of the population. "She had expressed a lot of interest in the singles group idea. So I thought she would be the perfect person to coordinate the group. She presented a format and set the wheels into motion."

Since the idea launched, Ms. Bradshaw has sent approximately 74 letters concerning the singles groups to churches of all denominations.

"In the letters we are encouraging ministers to make the singles



Carrol Bradshaw

in the congregation aware that we're trying to organize this group. We want everyone to know that this group is not solely for members of Greenville Memorial, but for the community-at-large," supplied Ms. Bradshaw.

Prior to the organization of the interdenominational group, Rev. Hunnicutt commented that there weren't many choices for singles. "But this way they can interact and do different things together. The time can be spent more fruitful than going to bars."

"Our mission is to minimize the boredom and loneliness, singles often face. We want to stimulate an environment that singles will start enjoying their status," answered Ms. Bradshaw.

At the first meeting which will take place at Greenville Memorial AME Zion Church, located at



At the recent Matthews Murkland Presbyterian Church annual Laymen Day Breakfast, Mayor Harvey Gantt was the special guest and Lawrence Tolliver, vice president of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, was the guest speaker. Pictured are

the men of Matthews Murkland and their guests enjoying the early morning meal, seated (clockwise) are: John Lee Black, Jim Burke, Eugene Stitt, U.L. Foulk, Kenneth Price, Tolliver, Gantt, and Walter 'Dub' Cuthbertson.

Guardian Ad Litem Speaks For Battered, Abused Kids

By Jalyne Strong
Post Managing Editor

Through no fault of their own, many children find themselves the subjects of Juvenile Court proceedings.

These children are the victims of child abuse and neglect. They have been taken from their homes because of these acts against them and the court must decide what's to be done with them.

The children can be any age from birth to 18 years. They are new borns, toddlers, young kids and teenagers. Obviously, they are not capable of fully representing themselves in the adult arena of the judicial system. They need help.

The Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) program will assist them. Members of this program are volunteers from the community who work for the child's welfare and ultimately will be the voice of the child in court.

Judi Strause is the coordinator of the GAL program. She recruits, trains and supervises the organization's volunteers. She explains, "We look for people from all walks of life." The utmost requirement for GAL volunteers, says Strause, is a "sense of caring."

With that premise to start from, the volunteers receive intense training about the juvenile justice system, social service agencies and the dynamics of abuse and neglect in order that they



may be well prepared for their roles as GALs.

The GAL is a representative for the child before the court, social service agencies and the community.

Throughout his or her involvement with the child the GAL acts as: One, an investigator, independently conducting a thorough investigation on behalf of the child. Two, a monitor, monitoring the agencies and persons who provide services to the child. Three, a protector, protecting the child from insensitive questioning and the harmful effects of being embroiled in the often adversary court process. Four, a spokesperson, assuring that the

child's wishes are heard. And five, a reporter, presenting information and preparing a written report which becomes a permanent part of the child's record.

Overall, comments Strause, "The volunteer's main role is to be an advocate for the best interest of the child. They recommend creative and common sense solutions with the objective of helping the child obtain a bright and secure family life."

In 1983 Charlotte's Guardian Ad Litem program became the model for state legislature that mandated every alleged abused or neglected child have a Guardian Ad Litem appointed to him or her.

Today Charlotte's program has 45 volunteers currently working with the program. But the need remains great. Points out Strause, "Filings (of abuse and neglect cases) are increasing."

"One third of the volunteer GAL workers work full time," explains Strause. "However, volunteers have to have flexible work schedules." The people involved in the program are, Strause describes, dedicated and committed.

Strause has plans to begin a training program for GAL in the next week. Volunteers are needed and all that is required is that they are caring, mature and responsible.

For more information call Strause at 342-6804.



The Charlotte Contemporary Ensemble recently made a donation of a piano to the Afro-American Cultural Center.

Ensemble Presents AACC Gift Piano, Prepares For Purlie Fall Concert

The Charlottes Contemporary Ensemble has fulfilled one of its major goals and the Afro-American Culture Center has had a dream realized with the recent presentation of a piano from the Ensemble. It is the first major gift presented to the Center since the building was restored and remodeled for its present use.

In honor of the CCE and its gift, the Afro-American Cultural Center hosted a program and reception at the Center to formally receive the piano. Ensemble director Frank Williams said, "The gift was seen as both practical and needed. We had given special performances at the Center in the past and we always had to rent a piano. So when we asked ourselves 'What could we do to help the Center?' the answer came quickly. We wanted our gift to be lasting and significant, for others to use, in addition to ourselves so we decided to ensure that we presented the Center with a quality instrument."

The Charlotte Contemporary Ensemble came together in 1979 after several Charlotte-Mecklenburg music teachers decided to read through some music together. They enjoyed the fellowship so much that soon after the meetings started the Ensemble was born.

Today the 28 member organization continues to provide quality music around the Queen City.

They perform before audiences of all types and are widely known for their own performances, which include sacred, secular, gospel, anthems, ballads and Broadway music. In fact, CCE used proceeds from their previous performances to purchase the piano for the Afro-American Cultural Center. Now the group is looking ahead to one day establishing a scholarship fund to assist promis-

ing high school grads with their college education.

Rehearsals are also underway for the Ensemble's Fall Concert. The production, which features closing scenes from the hit Broadway musical "Purlie", will take place, 6 p.m., November 22, 1987 at West Charlotte High School Auditorium. Tickets are \$6 for adults, and \$4.00 for students.

AKAs Host Cluster Meet

"Service With A Global Perspective" was the theme of the eighth annual Western Carolina Cluster, recently held on the campus of Johnson C. Smith University.

After registration and a continental breakfast, visiting sorority members were greeted by Marian Yates, president of the organization; Charis Dannelly, city council; Clarissy C. Knox, graduate level of the Pan Hellenic Council and Dr. James R. Law, vice president of academic affairs at Johnson C. Smith University.

Cluster activities were presented in two parts highlighting on the national program theme. The first session focused on "Maintaining Our Programs of Service" and was presented by

Marye J. Jeffries, Karen Davis-Dixon, Barbara W. Davis and LaCara Riddick.

The afternoon session included a panel discussion emphasizing "Work With Historically Black Colleges". A question and answer session was provided. Panelists were were Dr. Cleon Thompson, chancellor of Winston-Salem State University; Dr. Tyrone Beines, executive assistant to the chancellor at N.C. Central University; Dr. William Greene, president of Livingstone College and Paul Hailey, assistant professor of English at Johnson C. Smith University.

For entertainment, sorority members modeled stylish fashions and musical selections were provided by Alpha Lambda Omega Choral Ensemble.