

LIFESTYLES

AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN ON THE MOVE

Grier Heights Honors Naomi Drenan For Community Service

By LORA VANDERHALL
Lifestyles Editor

The Grier Heights community will recognize Mrs. Naomi Drenan on Sunday, August 20th, 2:30 p.m., at the Naomi Drenan Recreation Center at Grayson Park.

Drenan, 94, better known as the "Mama of Grier Heights", will be honored for giving over fifty years of community service.

Having moved to Grier Heights in 1922, she is one of the oldest residents of the community. Drenan grew up in a family of 13 children and she was unable to attend school beyond the third grade. She did domestic work to help support her family.

Her father had been active in the community and she followed in his footsteps.

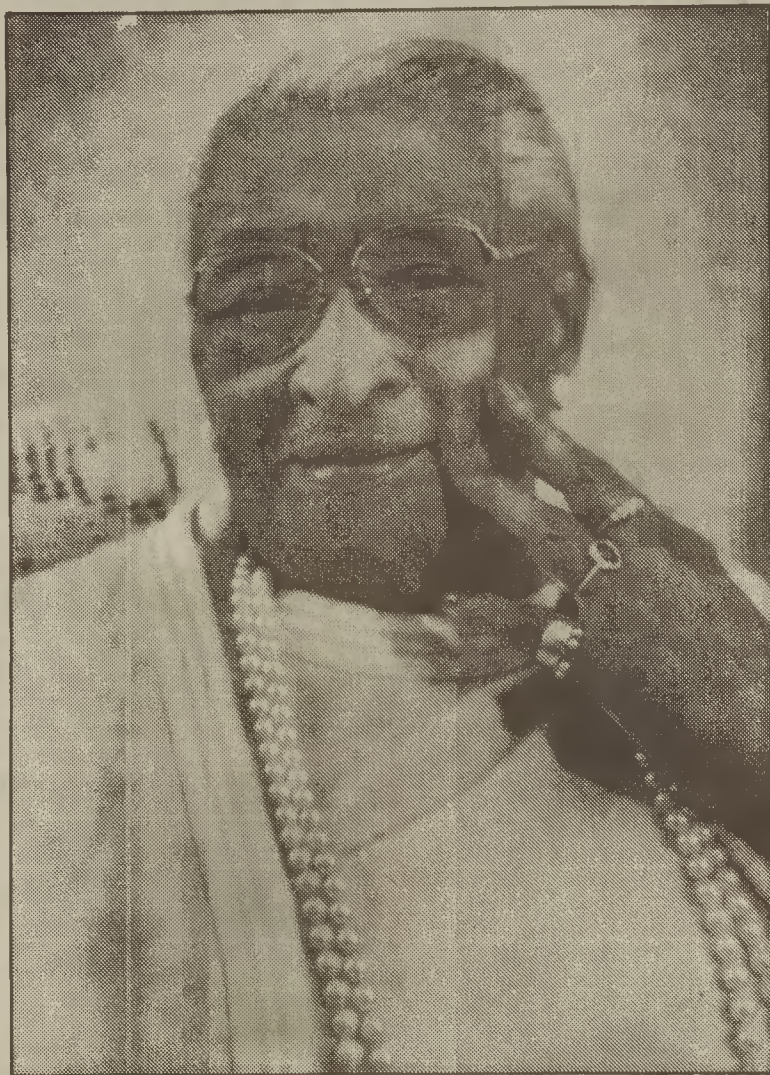
"I saw a need," she said. "I could see things my father did in the community. He had a common education but he had a good, solid mind."

Despite the lack of a formal education she has been a positive force and a trailblazer in the Grier Heights community.

She was one of the founders of Grier Heights Presbyterian Church. And before the church was established she taught Sunday school classes in her home.

Through her efforts Billingsly school was built.

For many years she was active in getting people registered to vote and she worked with local service organizations.



Drenan

In 1977, city park officials named the recreation center at Grayson Park after Drenan but for sometime the center was not recognized as such. She worked 18 years to get the park in the community.

The center has 13,000 square feet of floor space which includes a multipurpose gym for basketball and volleyball, several game rooms and a fully equipped kitchen. The park also has basketball

and tennis courts, a picnic shelter and playground equipment.

Several years ago Orange Street was renamed Drenan Street in her honor.

Sara Lee Gives Frontrunner Awards To Deserving Women

CHICAGO - Sara Lee Corporation recently announced four recipients of its annual awards program honoring women of achievement. The 1989 Frontrunners are: Cathleen Black, publisher of USA Today, (business); Nancy Landon Kassebaum, U.S. senator from Kansas, (government); Judith L. Lichtman, president of the Women's Legal Defense Fund, (humanities); and Toni Morrison, author and 1988 Pulitzer Prize winner, (the arts).

The Frontrunner Award was established by Sara Lee Corporation in 1987 to recognize women of outstanding achievement in the areas of business, humanities, government and the arts so that their qualities and accomplishments may inspire in others a desire to excel.

Sara Lee Corporation will make a \$10,000 donation in each Frontrunner's name to a nonprofit women's organization of her choice. This donation gives each recipient the opportunity to extend the value of the award to a cause to which she is committed.

Recipients were chosen from hundreds of nationally-submitted nominations by a selection committee of distinguished leaders in the four awards areas. Committee members are: Diana Brooks, president, Sotheby's; Felice Schwartz, president, CATALYST; D. Ronald Daniel, director, McKinsey & Company; Vernon E. Jordan Jr., lawyer and former National Urban League president; Irene Navidad, national chair, National's Women's Political Caucus; Marian Wright Edelman, president, Children's Defense Fund; Willie D. Davis, president; All-Pro Broadcasting, Inc.; Joan Manley, former group vice president and director of Time Inc.; Dr. Juanita M. Kreps, vice president emeritus, Duke University and former U. S. secretary of commerce; and Carol Bellamy, principal, Morgan Stanley & Company.

The 1989 Frontrunners were honored at a celebration luncheon, "A Salute to Women Who Run the World," in New York City. The event was hosted by John H. Bryan Jr., chairman and chief executive officer of Sara Lee Corporation. Guests included more than 200 successful and influential professional women.



Morrison

"The Frontrunner Award is Sara Lee Corporation's way of recognizing the many far-reaching contributions and often hard-won goals of women in all fields," Bryan said. "This year's recipients are especially noteworthy for the vision, leadership and professional commitment that they have exhibited throughout their careers."

Toni Morrison, novelist, is the recipient of the 1989 Frontrunner Award in the arts. Her five major novels, *The Bluest Eye*, *Sula*, *Song of Solomon*, *Tar Baby* and *Beloved*, have received extensive critical acclaim, including the 1988 Pulitzer Prize for *Beloved*, her powerful story about the remembrances of a runaway slave, and the 1977 National Book Critics Circle Award for *Song of Solomon*.

Ms. Morrison became Robert F. Goheen Professor in the Council of the Humanities at Princeton University this spring. She was appointed to the Albert Schweitzer Chair at the University of Albany by the New York

State Board of Regents in 1984 and held that post until 1989.

She holds a master's degree from Cornell University and has taught at Yale, Rutgers, Stanford, Bard College, Howard University, Texas Southern University and State University College at Purchase, N.Y. She was the Obert C. Tanner Lecturer at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and the Keannette K. Watson Distinguished Professor at Syracuse University in the fall of 1988.

Ms. Morrison was a senior editor in the trade department at Random House for 20 years.

She is a trustee of the New York Public Library, co-chair of the Schomburg Commission for the Preservation of Black Culture, and a member of the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She served on the National Council of the Arts for six years.



Hartford, Connecticut--Bishop Harris became an honorary member of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. Pictured (l-r) Dr. Yvonne Kennedy of Mobile Alabama, national president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Madeline Y. Lawson, Olney, Mary-

land, director of Delta's Eastern Region and Francello Phillips Calhoun, Hyattsville, Maryland, representative and Bishop Barbara Harris (second left).

Rev. Harris Becomes An Honorary Member Of Delta's Sorority

Rev. Barbara Clementine Harris, Suffragan Bishop Diocese of Massachusetts of The Episcopal Church, was recently inducted as an honorary member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., at the sorority's Eastern Regional Conference in Hartford, Connecticut.

The induction was followed by an ecumenical service in which the following Deltas participated: Dr. Yvonne Kennedy, national president of Delta Sigma Theta and trustee, Stewart Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) Church in Mobile, Ala.; Rev. Vashli Murphy McKenzie, Delta chaplain; Dr. Jeanne Noble, Episcopal lay leader, New York City; Mary Redd, general superintendent, The Covenant Baptist Church School, NYC, and Alease Griffiths, Elder, Hillside Valley Presbyterian Church, Orange, NJ.

Bishop Harris, 58, who met controversy surrounding her appointment in February as the

first female Episcopal bishop, joins other social and political pioneers who are honorary Delta members, including Winnie Mandela, Camille Cosby, Ruby Dee, Shirley Chisholm and Lena Horne.

Her elevation to the Episcopal bishopric was hailed by civil rights and women's groups, but opposed by conservative elements of the Episcopal Church.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., based in Washington, DC, and headed by Dr. Kennedy, is the nation's single largest black women's organization of college-trained women. Dr. Kennedy described Bishop Harris as a "dynamic trailblazer whom Delta Sigma Theta is proud to include as a soror."

A public relations executive most of her life, Bishop Harris has served as a parish priest

and also as a prison chaplain. She delivered a rousing sermon at the Eastern Regional Conference and later at St. Monica's Episcopal Church in Hartford.

Bishop Harris was very active during the Civil Rights Movement. She picketed for city jobs with the NAACP, marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and registered voters in Mississippi.

Not only was Rev. Harris' appointment to the bishopric a heavily debated move, but her liberal point of view on social and religious issues have also stirred conflict.

Bishop Harris' outstanding career, courage and advocacy of women's rights were compelling reasons for her choice as an honorary member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Dr. Kennedy said.

Truesdale Beat The Odds To Receive A Nursing Certificate

By WINFRED CROSS
Post Staff Writer

Education means a great deal to Marie Truesdale, even though she had to drop out of school while in the seventh grade.

But a little thing like the lack of a high school diploma didn't stop her from fulfilling one of her life's goals. The 63-year-old mother of 12 recently completed a program to become a nursing assistant.

And she graduated with honors.

Truesdale, called "Mom" by just about all that know her, received a nursing assistant certificate August 4 from American College of Allied Health in Charlotte. She has worked as a housekeeper in the Chamber of Commerce building on Trade Street for 23 years. She got the idea to enroll in the program from one of the school's representatives who saw her cleaning the glass doors of the building one day.

"She would walk up and down the street talking to people about the school," Truesdale said. "She told me I looked like a nurse and asked if I was interested. I had to think about it. I always check things out to make sure they are on the level before I get into it."

Once enrolled, she really got into it. Truesdale maintained an A average during the 11-month program that includes 30 weeks of class work and 18 weeks of clinical training. She received a special certificate for completing her class work with an average of 95.

Truesdale also received a special certificate for attendance, missing just two days during the program.

"I always wanted to be the best at what I do," she said and I've always good with school work," she said. "I wouldn't have missed those two days but I had death in the family."

Truesdale worked seven hours per day on her job while she worked on her certificate at night. She also had two of her 25 grandchildren (she's got 4 great-



Truesdale

grandchildren also) living with her at the time. Her daughter, Retta Little, said that is an accomplishment in itself.

"When I went to school, I had two kids and I thought they would drive me crazy," Little said. "She had those grandkids and even took care of everybody when they got sick. I don't know how she does it but she does."

But Truesdale never felt overburdened.

"It wasn't difficult at all. I really had a lot of fun doing this," Truesdale said. "This is a field I really should have been in long ago."

To get into the program, she had to pass the school's "Ability to Benefit" evaluation, a 50 ques-

tion test that determines if a student can enroll in a program. According to Lynne Moody, administrative supervisor at American College, she passed the examination on the first try.

"We are so proud of her. She did exceptionally well (during the program)," Moody said. "I think she was a great inspiration to all the students because she was older and had already raised all those children."

And all those children--eight daughters and four sons--are very proud of their mother.

"We think it's great. We are all very proud of her," said her daughter Retta. "It's about the best thing that's ever happened

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