

AMA Open House: Sharing Of Knowledge, Love, Commitment And Food

by Mattie Ann Callier-Spears

On Friday, Sept. 30, the Albina Ministerial Alliance Cascade Campus Day Care facility, hosted an "Open House for the parents of the children the facility houses on a day-to-day basis.

There are three teachers, full-time, who teach 20 students, whose ages range from 3 to 5 years, each day. The teachers are: Elaine Harrison, Jeffery Lewis and Armande Loiseau.

When I entered the building, Joyce Harris -- the director of the Black Education Center, one of the Area Coordinators for the Saturday School Program and, also, a Curriculum Consultant for

the Portland Public Schools, was speaking to the parents and teachers about concerns and values being taught in the home. She said, "Good behaviors should be modeled by the parents and guardians if that is what is expected of the child."

She went on to say, "We, as parents, are the primary teachers in the lives of our children. Think about it. What role do you play? As educators of our children, we know when to push back."

She directed her comments to the parents when she said, "You are good teachers. Give good, strong directions and instructions on how something should be done and should not be done in

the home and outside the home."

Mrs. Harris gave an example of a time when she had an opportunity to go into the home of one of her students to interview a parent. She was astonished by the absence of any cultural items, such as: pictures, figurines, and-the-like. "This was a Black home, very well kept; but, there was no representation of that family's heritage sitting out in plain view. What I saw were little figurines with blonde hair and bouffant dresses." She went on to say "We, as parents, should bring our children to the awareness of what their cultural heritage is. This should begin in the home. Don't wait until the child gets to the classroom. And, parents, don't relinquish that right to any instructor."

Mrs. Harris shared a wealth of knowledge. "Once a child begins to learn, it changes their attitudes about what they can and cannot achieve in life. If pimping and drug selling is all they have to learn -- then, that's what they will learn. If our child knows that there are black doctors, electricians, dentists, and astronauts; then, they will see that they can achieve. The sky is the limit!"

In her closing remarks, she stated "A child growing up in an environment with the wrong mes-

sages becomes confused. His/her environment should reflect the culture of its people. Let your children know about their cultural heritage."

Following the guest speaker, Mrs. Elaine Harrison gave a slide presentation. "There is a new curriculum being utilized and taught this year -- 'Cognitive Thinking Skills'. The program has 6 to 7 units, which are self regulating. One of the main directives is that it requires the child to remember sequences ... putting things in order." Then she shared, with the parents, the new game that the children love this year -- the 'Busy Bee Game'. "This game helps the child learn how to follow instructions."

The teacher's day begins at 7:00 a.m. each day and the student begins at 9:00 a.m. "When a child arrives early, or on time, he has the opportunity to have more time during the 'Free Time period' as she went on.

The slide show drew much laughter from the assembled group.

One parent asked "What is that that the children are doing?" Mrs. Harrison answered, "They are playing a new game called 'The Pendulum'. Its a game that Jeffery brought back from OMSI." The parent replied, "My son just

loves that game. He was trying to explain it to me. Now I know what he was talking about."

This was the most entertaining and the most tasty Open House I've ever attended. Before the guest speaker began, everyone went into the kitchen area and prepared for themselves a bowl of Creole Gumbo or a plate of a Chicken and Rice dish that tasted so good that it would make you slap your Mamma down. M-m-m-m good! It was prepared by one of the teachers, Armande Loiseau.

There was salad, punch, cake, nuts, candy and chip-n'-dip on the well dressed table. I was told that the cake was donated by Albertson's Bakery on North Killingsworth. A plaque was presented to Mr. Carl Johns for his volunteered services to the day care facility.

Everyone left the gathering with a greater understanding of what the program was all about and just exactly what their child was being taught. They, also, left with a full stomach.

COMMUNITY INTEREST ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ennis Whaley Choral Ensemble was presented in concert on Oct. 9, at the Hughes Memorial United Methodist Church located at 111 Northeast Failing Street. They had a wonderful afternoon of music and praise.

First AME Zion Church, located at the corner of North Vancouver Avenue and North Skidmore Street, held its 126th Church Anniversary Celebration, from Thursday, Oct. 6 through Saturday, Oct. 8. The program began each night at 7:30 p.m.

First AME Zion is the oldest Negro Church (still standing) in the city of Portland. Thursday night, Rev. Victor Brown, pastor of Community Church of God, was the speaker of the evening; Friday night, Rev. Milton Green, pastor of the Bethel AME church, was the speaker of the evening. On Saturday, everyone enjoyed the "Annual Anniversary Banquet" guest soloist Mrs. MAC Spears. All persons who were members of the church from 20 years on up to 43 years, was honored.

The Community Church of God held an Appreciation Service for Pastor Victor R. Brown and wife, Dr. Hazel Brown on Sunday, Oct. 9, at 4:00 p.m. in the evening. Services were held at the First A.M.E. Zion Church on the corner of N. Vancouver Avenue and Skidmore Street.

Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church celebrated its First Anniversary on Wednesday, Oct. 5 through Sunday, Oct. 9. Theme: "A Praying Church" Acts 12:5 Guest speakers included: Bishop W.G. Hardy, Mt. Sinai C.O.G.I.C.; Rev. Roy L. Tate, Christ Memorial C.O.G.I.C.; Dr. Milton Green, Bethel A.M.E. Church; Sis. H. B. Daniels, Greater Mt. Calvary C.O.G.I.C.; Rev. Anthony Wilson, Goodwill Baptist Church of Seattle.

There was a semi-formal banquet held at the Cosmopolitan Hotel at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 8. Sis. Dorothy Robertson and Rev. Robert Houston, Sr., co-chairpersons. Rev. Johnny Pack, IV, pastor.

On Sunday, the church held a mammoth concert featuring a choir from California to culminate the week's celebration. They came in bus loads!

The Portland Alliance Church, 1832 N.E. 39th, held Spiritual Renewal Services featuring the international evangelist Rev. Charles Williams. The services were Oct. 7-9 and they began at 7:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday evening and 10:50 a.m., Sunday Morning and 6:30 p.m. on Sunday evening.

Rev. Williams has an international radio broadcast aired weekly on a 14 station network. He has conducted evangelistic and renewal crusades throughout the United States, Canada, England, The Caribbean Islands, Mexico, South America, many countries in Africa.

The Alliance Church welcomes Rev. Williams as a former director of Black Ministries in North America for the Christian Missionary Alliance.

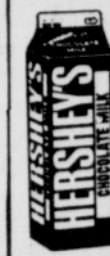
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