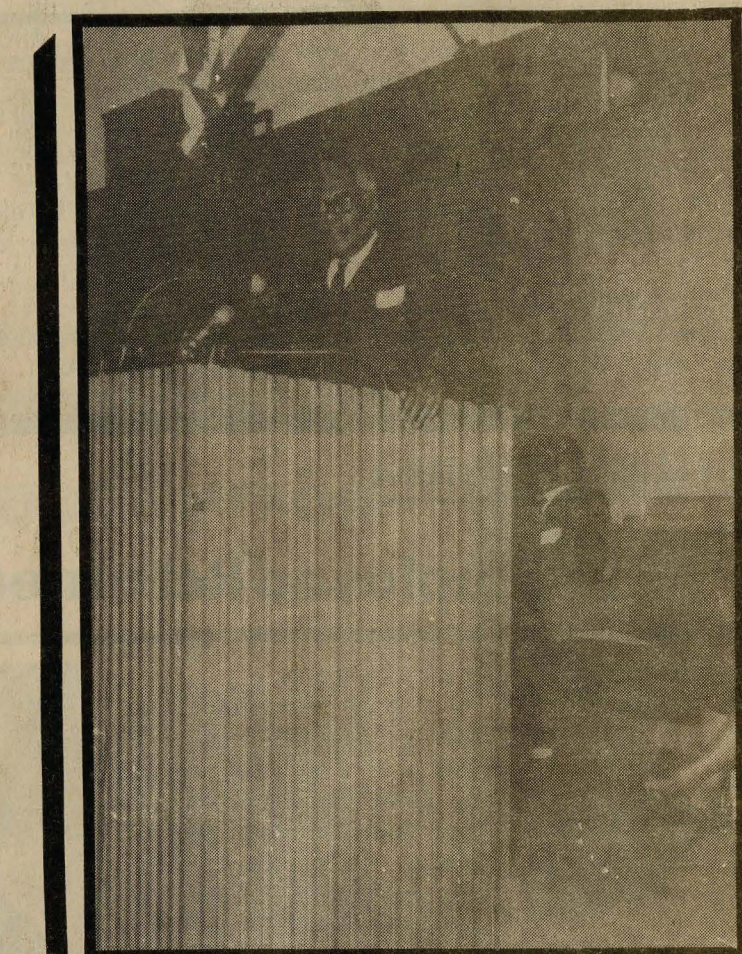


NAACP Jubilee Commemoration A Success

Nearly 300 members of Seattle's Black community converged on Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church for the NAACP Jubilee Day program held Sunday, Jan. 4. The program was designed to kick-off the new year with a renewed, firm commitment to civil rights.

During one portion of the program, attendees witnessed the installation of the recently elected Branch Board of Directors by keynote speaker Nathaniel Colley, NAACP attorney, Sacramento, California. The eloquent and dynamic Colley challenged the Board membership to keep the Branch president inspired to be an effective leader. Those accepting the call to duty included: Lacy Steele, president; attorney Philip Burton, first vice president; Constance Herring, second vice president; William Whittaker, treasurer; members, Gordon Cureton, Coter Cunningham, Magnolia Daniels, Oscar Eason, Judge Donald Haley, Florence Harrell, Grover Haynes, Bernice Holland, attorney Gwendolyn Howard, Judge Charles Johnson, Joyce Johnson, attorney LeRoy McCullough, Sharron McMullin, Carolyn Riley Payne, Mae Phillips, Ernestine Robinson, James T. Smith, Sr., Cynthia Travis and Katherine Vasser.

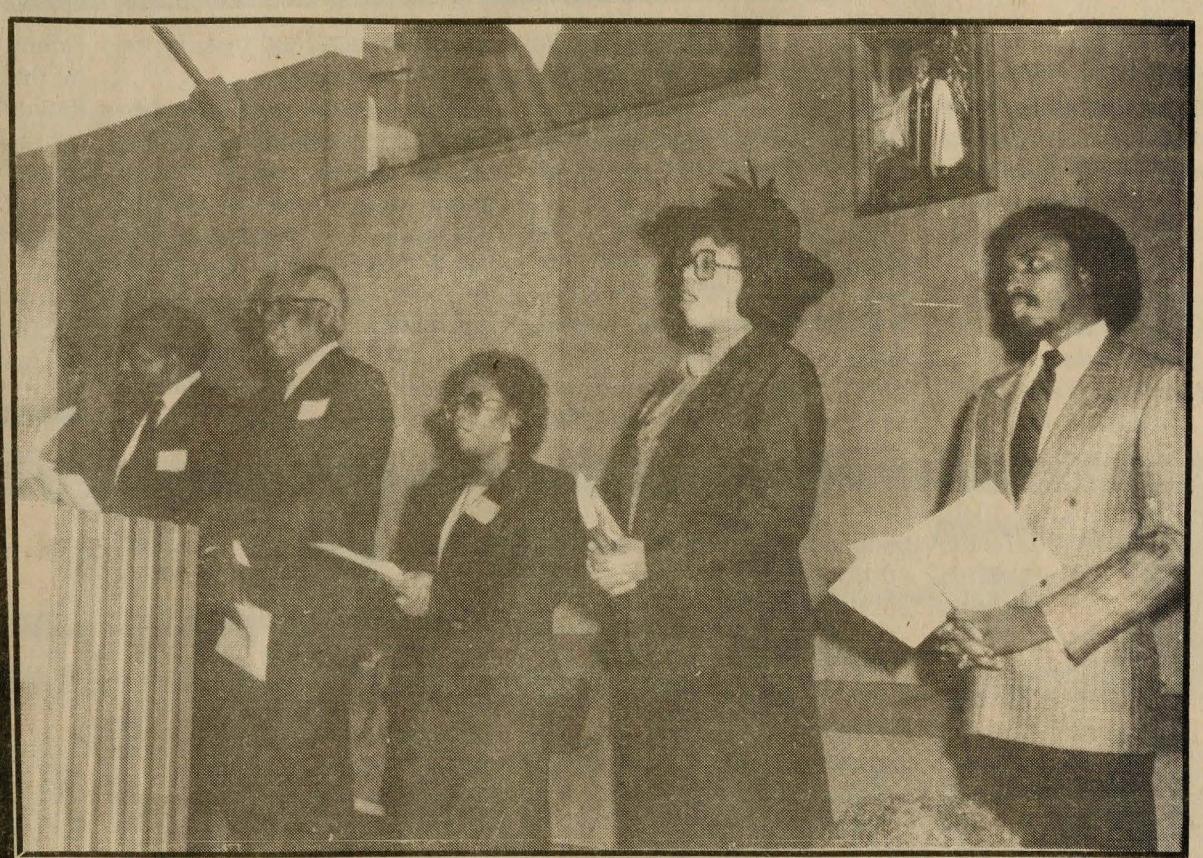
Another program segment consisted of a presentation by



Nathaniel Colley

Bernice Holland and City Council President Sam Smith to NAACP fully paid Life Members presents, Minnie H. Browne, Seattle's Golden Heritage

member. Smith and Holland extended the Seattle Branch's heartfelt appreciation to these dedicated persons. Golden Heritage memberships are



Pictured left to right: Judge Charles Johnson, Attorney Nathaniel Colley, Sharon McMullin, Nyra Gray and the Rev. Robert Manaway, Sr.

READING TOGETHER

Talk Groups

By Dorothy W. Robinson

There are many issues regarding race, economics and politics which are carefully avoided in social conversations because they can be quite controversial. Opposing opinions can clash like swords, tearing friendships apart and leaving a trail of hostile feelings and wounded egos.

Yet, if we don't exchange opinions with each other, our silence becomes so loud that we can't hear ourselves think, leaving us vulnerable to the opinion molding power of television.

Fortunately, while television holds a threat in one hand, it holds the solution in the other. The "TV Talk Show," in which controversial topics are raised and thrown open for discussion, has become the model for talk groups in homes, churches, libraries — wherever a group can find a place to gather and hold a discussion.

The talk group avoids the usual pitfalls of controversial discussion by posing an issue for discussion, then using a book as its information source and pivotal point. For example, one talk group posed the question: "Are we leading our children astray with false values?" as the issue to be discussed, and used the book "Linden Hills" by Gloria Naylor as its information source. This is a novel which steps down hard on the toes of the Black middle class, as it presents some very recognizable characters who have achieved success, but who have lost their souls in the process. The talk group was able to handle this volatile issue, however, by directing their fiery agreements and disagreements toward the characters in the book, rather than toward each other.

Like the "TV Talk Show," a panel of two or three people serve as the "experts" for the discussion, which keeps the talk group from falling into a lecturer/classroom type atmosphere. The panel reads the book, or certain parts of the book, and gives a compact, three to five minute presentation of information from the book which addresses the issue under discussion. The panel interacts with the audience not so much in a question/answer type exchange, but in a sharing of views and opi-

nions. The panel's purpose is to present the author's views and opinions as they relate to the discussion.

While the talk group uses the issue rather than the book as its centerpiece, the book serves to keep the discussion from flying off into all directions. It helps when the moderator can keep the discussion of the issue directed toward the book so that disagreements do not become personalized.

The result of the growing trend in talk groups is that more people are gaining access to the information and ideas found in books, while at the same time, they are being given the opportunity to examine and exchange their own ideas and opinions.

Organizations seeking to promote community interaction and involvement might consider using the talk group as a vehicle. It promises to be the key to an informed and thinking community.

BLACKNEWS BRIEFS

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT STRENGTHENS VOTING RIGHTS ACT

Washington, DC — The Justice Department took steps last week to strengthen the voting rights act designed to prevent discrimination against Black and other minority voters. Under the new policy the department could reject election law changes in thousands of local communities if it is determined that the changes could result in discrimination. Such rejections could come regardless of whether the local officials intended to discriminate. In essence the department adopted the so-called "results test" long advocated by civil rights groups. Last week's decision represents a reversal for the Reagan Justice Department which last year had announced its intention to weaken enforcement of the Voting Rights Act.

SOUTH AFRICA DENIES WINNIE MANDELA VISIT TO BALTIMORE

Baltimore — The South African government has denied a passport to Black activist Winnie Mandela. The decision prevented her from appearing at a Baltimore, Maryland tribute in honor of slain U.S. civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Mrs. Mandela, wife of the jailed "father" of South Africa's Black liberation movement Nelson Mandela, had been invited to speak at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institution's sixth annual birthday tribute to Dr. King. South Africa's White minority government gave no reason for the passport denial.

NAACP CRITICAL OF RECORD INDUSTRY

Los Angeles — The NAACP is issuing a report highly critical of the music industry. The report accuses the industry of widespread employment discrimination against Blacks and failing to promote Black acts which do not have "crossover appeal" to Whites. According to the civil rights organization "Black artists are responsible for 25-30 percent of the revenues of the record industry" while the industry itself "allows for total control and domination by Whites." The NAACP is reportedly planning to meet with major record companies in a bid to pressure them to increase employment and opportunities for Blacks.

VANESSA WILLIAMS MARRIES

New York — The nation's first Black winner of the Miss America beauty contest Vanessa Williams got married last week to her business manager Ramon Hervey. Williams was forced to give up her crown when Penthouse magazine published nude photographs for which she had posed prior to winning the contest. Williams recently finished filming her first movie—a new detective film entitled "Under The Gun."

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