

NAACP NEWS



VOLUME 21 - #2 FEBRUARY, 1978

--- AWARD-WINNING NEWSLETTER OF THE MID-MANHATTAN BRANCH ---

270 West 96th Street, First Floor

New York, N. Y. 10025 (212) 663-7600

bumbry concert

GRACE BUMBRY, internationally acclaimed operatic soprano gave her first recital in a decade in New York on Wednesday evening, January 25 at Carnegie Hall. The artist celebrated the twentieth anniversary of her musical career as she performed the benefit concert for the NAACP. Ms. Bumbry explained that this was something she had wanted to do for a long time.

She was extremely well received, and in the words of David Kearsse's review in the N. Y. Amsterdam News "Grace Bumbry deserved all the countless encores and bouquets she received at the conclusion of her benefit concert..."

Ms. Bumbry performed two arias and two groups of German lieder, by Brahms and Schumann. She also sang a French group by Duparc and closed with four spirituals, which according to Harriett Johnson in her review in the New York Post "...she performed most movingly, with taste, avoiding any sense of excess or over-emotionalism."

Ms. Johnson stated further that "...the fates gave her a great voice which is still there and she has the power to communicate and even, at times, to thrill."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: (Continued on p. 5)

February 15 - Membership & Entertainment Committee present - "Night At the Copacabana" from 6 P.M. to Midnight

Thursday, February 23 - General Membership Meeting - 6 P.M.

Thursday, March 2 - Executive Committee Meeting at 6 P.M.

Thursday, March 9 - Rebound Board Meeting at 6 P.M.

Thursday, March 16 - General Membership Meeting 6 P.M.



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

A DIFFERENT LOOK AT UNEMPLOYMENT -- WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

To those of us in the civil rights movement who are concerned with the unemployment rate for black Americans, I have some bad news. This country's current economic upturn will enter its fourth year in March and, as we all know, many black citizens are still waiting for their fair share of the job market.

The average length of the 28 previous expansion periods for America works out to 33 months and that average includes five upturns prolonged by wartime activity. Economists of all persuasions believe that our economy will continue strong throughout 1978 which would make this present economic uptrend a record 45 months. So where are the jobs?

One problem lies with the definition of unemployment. My thesis is that until the federal government restructures its statistical approach, it will never really comprehend the tragedy of black unemployment and do something effective about it.

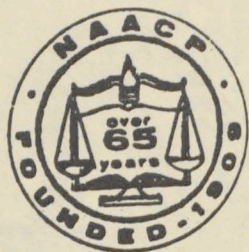
For example, the official government rate of unemployment for October 1977 was 7.0% (December, it was 6.4%). Of that, 1% were looking for employment for the first time; 2% were re-entering the job market, having voluntarily withdrawn for a while; 1% quit their jobs; 1% had been laid off temporarily and 2% had been fired.

So less than half the unemployed had been laid off, a third of these were simply waiting to be recalled and the rest would, on average, statistically find jobs in six or seven weeks.

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NOTICE * Due to the inclement weather, production and delivery delays of the NAACP NEWS may cause this issue to arrive late: If so, we regret any inconveniences.

MID-MANHATTAN'S



NAACP NEWS

Published Monthly by the Mid-Manhattan Branch

PRESIDENT (1969-1977): William J. Greene
PRESIDENT: Ira Haupt, II

EDITOR: Gerard Schriffen
PUBLISHER: Frederick A. Morsell

President's Column (continued)

With that type of information reaching President Carter, one can readily understand his lack of zeal in handling the problem.

To compound the distortion in these figures, new factors have come into play. Women, in greater numbers, have entered the labor force, and since they move in and out of that force with greater volatility, often being just second breadwinner (due to inflation), if they do not find work instantly they show up as officially unemployed. The same holds true for teenagers who are looking for supplemental earnings.

At the same time, those suffering from economic hardship are not included in the official figure which is based on a sample -- 47,000 households. One member of each household is interviewed each month. Anyone claiming to be out of work or looking for a job is included. No cross-checking is done. Everything is automatic and uncritical.

In fact, the unemployment rate can be almost anything anyone wants it to be. If one chooses to limit the definition to full-time workers, it would be 6.6%, to heads of households it would be 4.6%. To people laid off or fired, it would be 3.2%. Limited to those unemployed for more than 15 weeks the rate would be 1.9%. So the unemployment rate doesn't mean what most people think it means.

The figure is further distorted in another way. Economists identify several types of unemployment: frictional, structural and cyclinal. There is also another type which one can call policy induced.

(Continued on p. 5)

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NOTE: We are still in need of sponsors.
The yearly contribution to the NAACP NEWS
is only \$15. Send us your check today!

NAACP PROJECT REBOUND - HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY

The educational component of the NAACP Project Rebound has completed a 10-week session of review in English, Math and Social Studies. The course, which prepares individuals for the high school equivalency examination has an enrollment of about 23 students. The Tuesday and Wednesday evening classes have been well attended, considering the extreme weather conditions of late.

On February 13 and 14, the classes will take a preliminary examination at Charles Evans Hughes High School. The course will then continue for another ten weeks and lead up to another examination for the general educational development (G.E.D.).

Educational counselors, William Murray and Robert Vance provide guidance services to the students which often leads to college entrance or occupational training programs. These services are also available to anyone interested in educational advancement. An appointment can be made by contacting Mr. Vance or Mr. Murray at 663-7600 or 666-1800.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Dorothy Walker, Joseph Hughes and Chairperson, Lucille Maillard attended the Sunday Morning Worship Service of the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church on 29 January, 1978.

We were cordially received by Pastor Leonard Williams who addressed the congregation on the importance of the program of the NAACP and its lengthy effective functioning.

Ms. Maillard was introduced and in her appeal, pointed to some of the activities of our branch such as our Political Action Committee, our recent showing of the film on the J.P. Stevens boycott and the programs of Project Rebound.

Since Youth Day was being celebrated, Ms. Maillard pointed to the fact that the youth is the future of the church and that we also encourage youth involvement in our branch.

After the service, the committee members conversed with those in attendance and accepted memberships.

We expect to establish regular contact with the church through a liaison. That person will solicit members, inform church of the activities

The Peddie School

ANNOUNCES

TRUSTEE MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

For Students Entering Grades 9-11 Sept. 1978

These full scholarships are based on academic merit, free of any financial need restrictions, and limited to boarding candidates.

Candidates must rank in the upper quarter of their class; other criteria include previous school record, secondary admissions test scores and teacher recommendations.

These are special scholarships established by the Board of Trustees of the Peddie School and limited in number. Applications must be received by June 1, 1978.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND APPLICATION, CONTACT:

DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS
THE PEDDIE SCHOOL
HIGHTSTOWN, NEW JERSEY 08520
TELEPHONE: 609-448-0997

of our branch, and advise us of any joint endeavors we might participate in.

On January 29, 1978 from 3:30 - 6:30 A.M., JOSEPH PERKINS, Executive Director of NAACP Project Rebound, Inc., Pat Reynolds, Director of the On-The-Job Training, and Robert Malone, Job Developer appeared on WPLJ - "The Carol Rattner Show."

Some of the discussion centered around the unique employment problems of the ex-offender, funding, client selection, etc. There were questions and comments telephoned in from interested listeners in the metropolitan area, and some calls from as far away as Kent State University in Ohio and the State of Washington.

We anticipate a follow-up program utilizing clients that have been serviced by Project Rebound on Ms. Rattner's show in the near future.

We congratulate MRS. TERRY MONNESS COHEN, our representative at the Gilbert Jonas Co. on the arrival of her daughter on February 1, weighing 8 lbs.

NEW YORK STATE ANNOUNCES

As part of its service to our membership, NAACP NEWS will print monthly announcements regarding New York State Civil Service positions. Written tests to be held March 18, 1978:

Exam #	Title	Salary
24-607	Clerical Positions - Grade 5	\$ 6,450
	Account Clerk	
	Audit Clerk	
	Statistics Clerk	
The written test will NOT be given in Albany NOR in New York City.		

24-625	Environmental Analysis Asst.	\$ 9,029
24-626	Environmental Analyst	\$10,714
24-628	Environmental Analyst, Assoc.	\$17,429
24-629	Environmental Analyst, Princ.	\$21,545
24-627	Environmental Analyst, Senior	\$13,404
20-931	Tax Compliance Agent	\$ 9,746

	* * * *	
<u>Evaluations Of Training And Experience</u>		
27-693	Asst. Mgr. of Cont. Admin.	\$18,000
27-700	Budget Examiner, Assoc.	\$21,545
27-704	Budget Examiner, Principal	\$26,516
27-703	Budget Examiner (Empl. Rel), Associate	\$21,545
27-707	Budget Examiner (Empl. Rel.), Principal	\$26,516
27-701	Budget Examiner (Mgmt.) Assoc.	\$21,545
27-705	Budget Examiner (Mgmt.) Princ.	\$26,516
27-702	Budget Examiner (Pub. Finance) Associate	\$21,545
27-706	Budget Examiner (Pub. Finance) Principal	\$26,516
27-694	Mgr. of Cont. Admin.	\$25,000
20-841 *	Medical Specialist I	\$27,942
20-840 *	Medical Specialist II	\$33,705
27-695	Pub. Health Dentist (Research) II	\$27,942

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<u>Performance Test To Be Held April 15, 1978</u>		
27-692	Hearing Reporter	\$11,337
Test will be held in Albany, Buffalo, New York City, Rochester and Syracuse, and, if competition warrants, in Binghamton.		

* Applicants Accepted Continuously

For copies of announcements to Civil Service positions, contact: New York State Department of Civil Service, 55th Floor, 2 World Trade Center, New York, N. Y. 10047.

The Branch extends its thank you for the time devoted by Executive Board member, ALICE OSTROW in the preparation and presentation of the film "Testimony" which highlighted the struggle of the workers at the various J.P. Stevens plants in the South. Shown at the January general meeting, the film was followed by a question and answer period conducted by Paul Minkoff, Jeffrey Ballinger and Ed Allen of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union.

In conjunction with the discussion following the film, it was pointed out that several institutions, as prominent as Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company and Avon Products have directorates which are interlocked with J.P. Stevens Co.

Mrs. John A. Morsell, widow of the former Assistant Executive Director of the NAACP and mother of Fred Morsell, Mid-Manhattan Executive Board member, received a response from Gabriel Hauge, Chairman of the Board of Manufacturer Hanover Trust Co. regarding her inquiries on the matter.

Following are excerpts of that letter:

"The presence of our board of James D. Finley, Chairman of Stevens, and David Mitchell, Chairman of Avon Products, who is a director of Stevens, was the subject of extended discussion at our annual meeting of stockholders last April 22. At that time, a motion to strike their names from the ballot for election of directors was made and a lengthy discussion ensued. In the voting, the motion overwhelmingly failed of passage. Thereupon, the Inspectors of Election certified that they, together with other nominees for director, were duly elected for the ensuing year. This exercise of their franchise by the vast majority of our shareholders is a mandate which must be taken most seriously by the board and management of Manufacturers Hanover. In the coming weeks there will be the regular consultation with our directors regarding nominees for the board to be presented to shareholders in the proxy material in March.

In the meantime, as you know, events both in the courts and in the Congress currently are underway that point toward a disposition of important aspects of the controversy."

Late word arrived to the newsletter about the Senegalese African film festival running at the Museum of Modern Art which began January 26 and will run through to February 27.

Ousmane Sembene, highly honored at international film festivals is one of the four filmmakers whose works will be shown. Ababacar Samb-Makharam, Ben Diogaye Beye and Mahama Johnson Traore are the other filmmakers whose films will be shown in their original versions (Wolof, Diola and French). The prints will have English or French subtitles.

Of historic interest are the films of Paulin Soumanou Vieyra, the first African filmmaker, critic, and film historian.

Located at 11 West 53rd Street, the Museum of Modern Art can be reached by calling (212) 956-6100.

President's Column (continued)

For example, our unemployment compensation programs often fail the most needy while artificially enlarging and extending the pool of unemployed. That type of compensation may be stretching spells of unemployment by 30%.

Also new government regulations require people to register for work to get food stamps, welfare payments and many other forms of federal assistance. These people now become officially unemployed.

With all of these distortions it is scarcely a wonder that anything is done about unemployment. There are no true figures to believe in. That is why it is imperative for the NAACP to get involved in economic matters.

The Association is beginning to do so hesitantly. But it cannot do so until it brings the true facts to the American people and its government. The above statistical figures are distortions which will lull the government to sleep. And remember, we are about to enter our fourth year of economic progress. The time is drawing late. Where are the jobs?

The benefit ticket purchasers saw a broad spectrum of personalities from the business, labor and political fields.

Special appreciation for the success of the evening must be given to the Mid-Manhattan Branch members who contributed many hours towards coordinating the affair - Ms. Hazel Cogar, Ms. Alpha Louise Davis, Mr. Fred Morsell and Mr. Ira Haupt II, Branch President. No doubt many of you heard the radio commercials advertising the concert. The voice was done by a professional, our own Fred Morsell.



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