



# Meccazette

Oasis of Washington, Desert of D.C.  
1908 ~ Centennial Year ~ 2008  
Illustrious Commandress—Ada A. Whitley

Mecca Court No. 2  
DOI-PHA  
www.meccacourt2.com

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## Beginning of our Second Century!

This Inaugural Meeting is the first day into the Second Century of Mecca Court No. 2. On this night we will celebrate the Inaugural Address of Illustrious Commandress *Ada A. Whitley* as she presents her plans and programs for the coming year.

The members of the Divan for 2008 to assist her are as follows: Elected Officers—1st Lt. Commandress, *Sylvia L. Owens*; 2nd Lt. Commandress, *Mollie Q. Covington*; High Priestess, *Vera H. Smith*; Oriental Guide, *Patricia L. Young*; Ill. Recordress, *Aline S. Thomas*; Ill. Treasurer, *Patricia A. Irving*; 1st Ceremonial Dt., *Sonia R. Young*; 2nd Ceremonial Dt., *E. Milla Jordan*; Inside Spy, *Barbara B. Dixon*; Outside Spy, *Cynthia J. Taylor*.

Appointed Officers are: Marshal, *Brenda L. Bradford*; Asst. Marshal, *Mary E. McWilliams*;

Musician, *Jacquelyn S. Kelley, HPC*; Asst. Musician, *Mary C. Chisholm, HPIC*; Asst. Recordress, *Yvonne R. Smith, HPC*; Correspondence Asst., *Barbara A. Wells*; Directress Jr. Isiserettes, *Elaine D. Thomas-Jackson*; Asst. Dir. Jr. Isiserettes, *Minerva F. Sanders*; Directress Sr. Isiserettes, *Sharon Cain-Smith*; Asst. Dir. Sr. Isiserettes, *Annette Scarborough*; Asst. to the Recordress, *Carolyn Hunter, HPC*; Asst. Treasurer, *Barbara T. Jones*; Editor Meccazette, *Elizabeth L. Howard, HPC*; Co-Editor Meccazette, *Charlene F. Barnard*; Special Asst. to the Ill. Comm., *Brenda Makins*; Court Reporter, *Betty C. V. Reed, PC*; Publicity, *Martha L. Beasley, HPC*; Admin. Assts., *Mary A. Allison; Betty J. Alexander, HPC; Raina L. Taylor*; Website Administrator, *Renee Kearney*; Photography Coordinator, *Yvonne R. Smith, HPC*; Photographers: *Betty C. V. Reed, PC; Bonita L. Bell; Rosalie E. Powell* and *Eunice J. Dingle*.



Gavel



Ill. Comm. Whitley; Imp. 2nd Lt. Mitchell & IDD Swanson at MWGM's Receiving Line & Reception Dec. 29, 2007.

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**Deadline for Articles and Pictures for next issue—Friday before next Court Meeting (Feb. 22, 2008)**

### Special points of interest:

- Photos from MWGM's Receiving Line & Reception
- Ill. Commandress Kick-Off Meeting

## Calendar of Events

### JANUARY 2008

- 22—Inaugural Meeting, Mecca Ct. No. 2, Ballroom, 7:00 PM.
- 26—Knights of Pythagoras Prayer Breakfast, 9 AM, Ballroom.
- 30—Jurisdictional Meeting, 6:30 PM, Ballroom.

### FEBRUARY 2008

- 2—School of Instructions for ALL DAUGHTERS.
- 10—MWPHGL Second Sunday Forum, Black History Program, 4:00 PM, South Hall.
- 12—Mecca Court Line Officer's Training, 7:00 PM.
- 23—Divan Meeting, 10:00 AM

26-Regular Meeting, 7:30 PM, Ballroom.

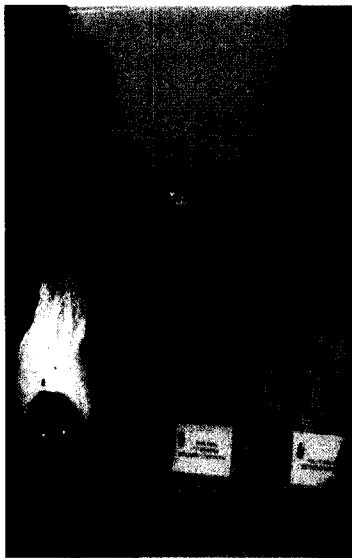
## Community Outreach at the HSC Pediatric Center By PC Betty C. V. Reed and Dt. Renee Kearney

On December 22, 2007, several Mecca Court daughters and friends wrapped hundreds of Christmas gifts for clients of the HSC Pediatric Center located at 1731 Bunker Hill Road, NE. Mecca Court has been supportive of many of the programs of this facility for many years. The HSC Pediatric Center is a premier special needs services organization for children, adults and families. For over a century, children and teens have received services such as rehabilitative and transitional care. The clients, as a result of disease, injury and premature birth, have complex disabilities that include de-

velopmental delays, cerebral palsy and brain injuries. The mission of the center is to facilitate access to appropriate services for individuals with special needs and their families in the Washington, DC metropolitan area, and to participate in related local, regional and national projects with government, private and philanthropic organizations. Mecca Court is proud to have forged a long term relationship with the Center.

One of the yearly projects is wrapping toys and gifts to be presented to the children and young adults housed at the Center. Hundreds of toys, gifts and

wrapping paper are donated each year and volunteers come from all over the city to participate. This year, Mecca Court representatives included Ill. Comm. *Ada A. Whitley*, IDO *Jane Robinson Levant*, Dts. *Lula Council*, *Cynthia Taylor*, PC *Betty C. V. Reed*, Dt. *Renee Kearney*, HPC *Yvonne R. Smith* and Dt. *Joyce Debnam*. Dt. Taylor's grandson, Christian helped also. It was fun wrapping the gifts with the colorful wrapping paper to catch the clients eyes. We then went caroling through the different units. Hopefully, our caroling was somewhat soothing.



Kick-Off Meeting—January 19, 2008 at Craig Memorial Community Church.

(Top L to R): Dt. Brenda Bradford, Ill. Comm. *Ada A. Whitley*;  
(Bottom L to R): HPC *Zora E. M. Pride*—Grand Princess Commandress, Dt. *Sylvia R. Owens*.

On a bright Christmas Morning, when nothing was stirring, not even a "mouse", we returned to the HSC Center to gather with the other volunteers to deliver the gifts to the children. As we divided into teams to go to the units with the gifts, TWO Santa's came with us as we made our rounds. The children were delighted and excited to see Santa. Delivering the gifts and spending quality time with the children were Ill. Comm. *Ada A. Whitley*, IDO *Jane Robinson Levant*, PC *Betty C. V. Reed*, Dt. *Sonia R. Young* and Dt. *Renee Kearney*. Noble John Powell joined us in this exciting and rewarding com-

munity outreach event. The children were stimulated and happy to have someone spend "one-on-one" time with them and to unwrap the gifts and toys. It became a little challenging at times to figure out how some of those new toys operate, but they were eventually figured out to the delight of the babies. After a short stint caroling, we left with the other volunteers to return home to our families.

*The children were happy to have someone spend "one-on-one" time with them..."*

## Your Health & Safety - January Cervical Cancer Month By HPIC Thelma J. Tyler

Cervical cancer affects approximately 10,000 women in the US each year. It is the most common type of cancer for women worldwide and because it develops over time it is the one of the most preventable types of cancer. Deaths from cervical cancer continue to decline primarily because of the wide spread use of PAP tests to detect cervical abnormalities. Cancer of the cervix tends to occur during midlife.

Half of the women diagnosed are between 35 and 55 years of age. It rarely effects women under 20 and 20% of women diagnosed are over 65. Therefore screening should continue at least to age 70.

Causes of Cervical Cancer Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is found in about 99% cervical cancers. There are over 100 types of HPV, the majority of which are low risk and do not

cause cervical cancer. Precancerous cervical cell changes and early cancers of the cervix do not cause symptoms. Abnormal or irregular bleeding, pain during sex, or vaginal discharge may be symptoms of a more advanced disease.

Detecting Cervical Cancer The best way to determine if precancerous or cancerous cells are present is with a PAP test. In addition to a PAP test, your

doctor may recommend a HPV test. The HPV test determines whether the patient has an HPV infection with any of the high risk HPV types. This test cannot indicate if the infection is new or persistent. This information will assist your doctor in determining appropriate follow-up for cervical screening.

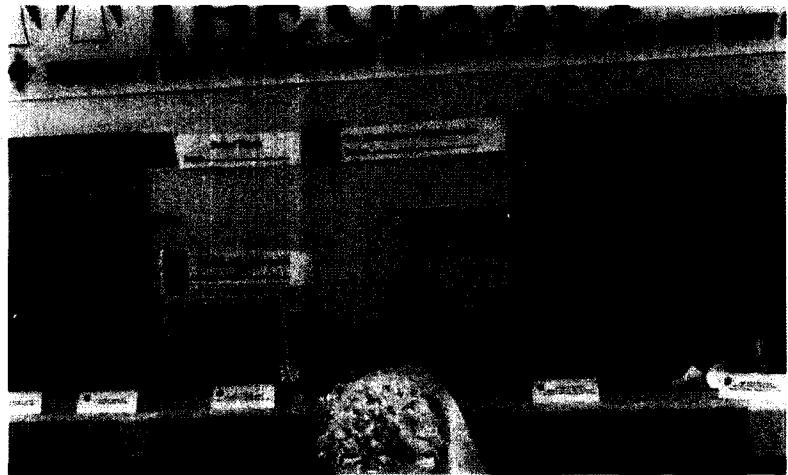
**Cervical Cancer Screening Saves Lives** Women in developing countries account for about 85% of both the yearly cases of cervical cancer and the yearly deaths from cervical cancer. In the majority of developing countries, cervical cancer remains the number one cause of cancer related deaths among women. A woman who doesn't have her three shot prevention vaccine and her regular PAP test screen and HPV test when recommended, significantly increase

her risk of developing cervical cancer.

**Protecting Yourself from Cervical Cancer** Cervical cancer is one of the most preventable cancers if diagnosed early. Regular PAP testing is the best method to protect against invasive cervical cancer. It is important to remember that cervical cancer takes many years to develop. PAP test determines the presence of abnormal cells early enough to prevent cervical cancer. In addition to routine PAP testing, you may want to consider minimizing risk factors that could contribute to cervical cancer.

**Risk Factors:**

1. Multiple sex partners.
2. Multiple full term pregnancies.
3. Sexual intercourse at an early age.
4. Chlamydia infection.
5. Cigarette smoking.
6. Use of oral contraceptives.
7. Weakened immune system or HIV infection.



(L to R): GWM Dianne Marshall Streat (PC); MWPGM Warren R. Whitley;

## Black History Moment!

1906—Pioneering aviator Willa Brown-Chappell is born in Glasgow, KY.

1935—Singer Sam Cooke best known for "You Send Me" and "Twisting the Night Away" is born in Chicago.



GWM Dianne Marshall Streat bringing greetings and remarks at the Kick-Off Meeting of Ill. Commandress Whitley.

(Bottom L to R): Dtrs. E. Milla Jordan, Mollie Q. Covington, Patricia L. Young and Sylvia L. Owens who was the Mistress of Ceremonies.