

# The Glamorous Life

By Barbara Robinson

The winter social season has begun. Having spent Christmas in New York and New Years in Puerto Rico, I had to turn down invitations to the numerous dinners and parties that accompany the Las Vegas holiday season.

The past **Holiday Season** Dr. Martina Callum had her sister Agnes Lightfoot and her family visiting from Somerset, New Jersey. Sharon Gwynn's parents came to visit from Tucson, Arizona. Gerry and T (Thomas) Leigh had guests over for dinner. Gerry cooked collard greens from T's garden. The Doctors Dougan and the Doctors Thornton, Dr. Beverly Neyland, Floyd Henderson, Flo and Eddie Gray all had holiday parties.

The **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Committee** culminated the King week festivities with its 15th annual banquet Saturday at the Mirage Hotel. What a wonderful idea, a cocktail hour with African American art surrounding the guests. Unfortunately Dr. James McMillan had a heart attack while attending the banquet. The room was decorated with so many beautiful people. A lot of people were wearing black which is very trendy in New York. While long, the program was ethnically diverse. We saw the marvelous African dance troupe led by Abayome Goodall. We heard from the Jewish Federation of Children's Choir as well as our own New Bethel Baptist Choir. The Negro National Anthem was sung acapella (without music) by Dequan Levy who has a great voice. As usual, Larry Weekly was an excellent Master of Ceremonies.

Las Vegas Society turned out for the banquet; Sherman Rutledge, The Richard Blues, Eva Simmons was radiant in her red dress, Dr. Eugene McGaugh and his talented quilt making wife Elwyn, Juana Hart and her two beautiful teenage daughters, Sharon Segerbloom, Wendell Williams and his beautiful wife Zelda, Dora Harris and her to die for white gown, Byron Goynes, Tyree Carr the Chairman of the Board and his wife Mary Carr in her exciting red pants suit, the

Ken Brasses and the Rev. James Rogers were seated at the First Interstate Bank table. David Washington and his beautiful wife Marsha who is the organization's 2nd Vice President. Steven and Lynette McDonald, she is eight months pregnant with little Adam. The Doctors Linda and Bill Dougan and their son Billy, Dr. Cheryl Edwards, Bob and Anna Bailey, Bobby and Emile Heath, Attorney Jimmy Porter and his handsome son, Principal Shirley Barber, the Kirby Burgesses, The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority's Roosevelt Tosten, Attorney Lizzie Hatcher, Hattie Canty and Jim Arnold represented Culinary at their table. Saw Eddie and Cynthia Watson who were so happy both of their daughters are at Morris Brown College in Atlanta. Their oldest daughter Rhea is due to graduate with honors next December. Spoke with Dr. Metchum who is teaching at UNLV.

**Elected Officials** who attended and spoke a few words included Lieutenant Governor Lonnie Hammargren, Congressman Ensign, Senator Reid, North Las Vegas Councilman Theron Goynes; Senator Bryan represented by Brenda Williams, City Councilman Matt Callister. Chairman of the County Commission Yvonne Atkinson Gates came with her husband Judge Lee Gates who gave an impassioned speech reflecting on the need for African American Federal Judges.

Grand Marshals for the week's festivities were Judge Addelior D. Guy III and Area Superintendent of Elementary Schools Eva G. Simmons. Dr. Guy was unable to attend because of ill health. We are praying for his rapid recovery.

I know Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was smiling down on Las Vegas this past week. The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Committee did itself proud. Celebrations in his honor couldn't have been nicer. This year's parade won the honor of being Las Vegas' biggest parade ever. KCEP Radio carried coverage of the

parade. Next year one of the television stations should cover the event.

**Surprise Birthdays** couldn't be better than the one Sandy Colon Peltyn gave her husband Roger. The party had a foot massager, a tarot card reader and a Karaoke machine. Everybody was dancing to the wonderful live music provided by Sweet Louie and his group. When guests left they were given a lunch box with a bagel, cream cheese, tomato juice, aspirin, alka seltzer, vodka and the Sunday R-J.



Keynote speaker Jawanza Kunufu enjoys the banquet with MLK Operations Manager Belinda Thompson, accompanied by Sherman Rutledge

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