

Chapter History



CHARTER MEMBERS, 1940

First row — left to right: Angella Hayes, Frankie Dean, Lillian Bailey Huffman, Marion Stubbs Thomas (National Founder), Ruth Whitted
Second row - left to right: Lynn French, Burma Whitted, Ethylburt Payne, Sandaral Brown (ERST), Charlie Mae Brown (NVP), and Nellie Thornton, (ERD)

LILLIAN BAILEY HUFFMAN
ANNE BURWELL
FRANCES DEAN
DORIS GREGORY

ANGELA HAYES
OLIVE LINDSAY
ELINOR M. MCGUIRE
FRANCES PAYNE

ETHYLBERT PAYNE
LILLIAN PERRY
ALTONA ROBINSON
MELBE W. SYPHAX

HORTENSE WALTON
BURMA WHITTED
RUTH WHITTED
THELMA WIGGS

**Chapter History
including current (last 2-3 years)**



1940-2007

67 Illustrious Year....

In 1938, through contacts with relatives and friends, news about the Philadelphia Jack and Jill club Marion Thomas started for her children and their friends spread throughout the east coast. Elinor McGuire, Lillian Howard Huffman and former Philadelphia Club member Lillian Baugh Perry were all personal friends of Marion's. So with her encouragement, ten mothers met at the home of Elinor McGuire for the purpose of initiating a Jack and Jill Club in Washington DC. Our "founding trio," Elinor, Lillian Bailey and Lillian Perry, had previously met to lay the groundwork and formulate club plans. In 1940 they completed their plans. They were dedicated to carry out the philosophy as set forth by Mrs. Stubbs — the idea of having children meet socially for play and activity. The mothers agreed to the idea and officers were elected with Mrs. McGuire serving as the first president. Thus on March 16, 1940, Washington, DC became the third "club" following Philadelphia and New York. Elinor was elected as the first president; Lillian B. Perry, elected as Vice President and chair of the mothers program committee; and Lillian C. Bailey secretary. Other elected officers were Doris Gregory, treasurer; and Angela T. Hayes chair Children's activities committee. Under the leadership of Elinor McGuire, interesting mother's meetings and delightful children's meetings were held. In 1938 Elinor McGuire wrote in a letter to the members of the Washington DC Jack and Jill Club which stated in *part*:

"Our purpose was to bring together children of our friends, giving them the opportunity not only to form friendship, but to play together, to learn together through cultural activities and to grow and develop into good citizens"

The first year was a success as the chapter grew in strength and purpose. Interesting and stimulating children's activities were planned. For many years the meetings were combined with activities at the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA where youngsters shared toys from a large box made by mothers. By the end of June 1941 the first mother's banquet and family picnic had been held. Our first charitable contributions were made to the Behavior Clinic at Freedmen's Hospital (Howard University Hospital) and in 1941 the mothers sent a deserving child from the community to Camp Clarissa Scott. The Chapter also donated oxygen tents to Freedman's Hospital. During 1942 the archives compiled and presented our first scrapbook with pictures of all the J&J families. Our first constitution was written and adopted and dues were set at \$.25 per child—Charter member Burma Whitted recalled in 1988 "We used ideas from Parents Magazine for discussion groups."

From the beginning, the group focused on the children - forging friendships and fashioning cultural, civic and service activities when options were limited by the segregated society. After four successful years in Philadelphia, New York and Washington, enthusiasm and interest in Jack and Jill spread westward..." In 1946 Mrs. Dorothy Wright, president of the Philadelphia club, felt that Jack and Jill had reached a point when consideration of organizing groups into a national organization was indicated. The national organization was born on June 1, 1946, when representatives of eight of the ten former clubs— Philadelphia, New York, Washington, Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Columbus, Baltimore and Boston — met to lay plans for the national organization. In August 1947 Jack and Jill was incorporated.

The DC Chapter flourished during world war II and by 1942 had 60 members. In 1952 dues were up to \$8.50 per member and there continued to be many successful social and service activities.

The Chapter eagerly planned for the teen conference scheduled for June 1953 on the campus of Howard University..

In 1960 the chapter celebrated its 20th birthday with a reunion and a play performed by the children. All the age groups had exciting events and the teen dance was very successful. Our chapter continued through the 1970's and 1 980's to produce imaginative and successful programs for children. The annual fundraisers were spectacular events, generating media publicity and raising record funds for the benefit of local charities. One very successful event in 1974 was the world premier at the Kennedy center of the opera "Til Victory Is Won".

In 1974, in art effort to give back to the community, the chapter raised funds to contribute to many organizations serving children and seniors. The Chapter raised \$17,000 in 1974 during the "Christmas Shoppe" fundraiser. The proceeds went to furnish the pediatric playroom at Howard University Hospital. The Chapter also allied with Africare and Jack and Jill foundation to build a birthing clinic and safe drinking wells in Mali, West Africa. Over the years Washington chapter mothers ably served as regional and national officers of Jack and Jill Incorporated..

Today we continue with programming that meets the developmental of our children and our times. Moms plan activities infused with the developmental nuances of our children, age group objectives and our national theme. We adopted monthly themes to promote substantive activities: September - Our Family; October —Education; November —Leadership Development and Public Speaking, December — Our World; January —Our Community through Service; February- Our Heritage; March -Science and Technology; April - Our Health; and May - Our Moms.

Our annual fundraisers benefit causes such as the National Black Child Development Center, The Thompson Sextuplets and Jack and Jill Foundation. Our activities include: Walk for the Homeless, DC SPARK, BET Open Mic with Colin Powell, the Rap It Up campaign, Mom's day at the Beach; Duck Pin Bowling; Family Day of Service; Financial Savvy Teens Seminar; African Scavenger Hunt at the African Arts Museum; Holiday Party at D. C. Village with our own teen "Santa"; the Rock Creek Nature Center; College Preparation Seminars; White Water Rafting; Romare Bearden exhibit; Service at Martha's Table; COPA; Collecting for Project Harvest; Valentine's Evening out with the Dads; School Backpacks for DC homeless children; Teens' Annual Party; Holiday FamHy Brunch celebrating Christmas around the World ; Bone Marrow and Blood drive; Sunday afternoon "Family Dinner," Do the Write Thing Essay Challenge, the Thompson sextuplets and the Jack and Jill foundation are among our charitable endeavors.. Our annual holiday brunch, Jumoke and family activities emphasize friendship, family and fun.

Our Chapter commemorated Jack and Jill's 50* annniversary with a luncheon at the Blackburne Center at Howard University. It was truly memorable in that most of the surviving Chapter Presidents and officers were in attendance. Our 50* Anniversary was celebrated at a reunion brunch also attended by Founder Marion Stubbs Thoas and National President Nellie Thornton. We celebrated the 60* anniversary by compiling a historical video for chapter members led by Stacey Reddick and Sheryl Lucas. Many past presidents were interviewed on tape for this video. During the past decade our chapter sought to enrich the lives of our children and the children of the community. In 2005 we celebrated our 65* anniversary with a candle lighting ceremony and

Today, while we face similar societal challenges - our children, families and social circles are diverse and opportunities available. Faced with challenges unique and yet the same we reflect upon our past and our future to develop ways to ensure our Jack and Jill village flourishes despite our multi-faceted lives.

Founding Mother -- Elinor McGuire
Lynne, Jonathon and John



Elinor



Graduate, Lynne McGuire (Daughter-in-law); grandson Jonathon (2005 Alumni); and son John

John



WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER
JACK AND JILL INCORPORATED
~~PRESIDENTS~~
1940 TO THE PRESENT

*Founder, Elinor H. McGuire**
1940-1941



Patricia W.
Morris*
1972-1974

Elinor R. Waller*
1941-1942

Opal B. Hyde
1974-1976



Bernice C, Resson*
1942-1944

Johnnie R. Brown
1976-1978

Hortense Fitzgerald
1944-1948
National Secretary to 3rd National
President and DC Chapter member
Edna Seay

Lorethea F. Davis
1978-1980

WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER
JACK AND JILL INCORPORATED
~~PRESIDENTS~~
1940 TO THE PRESENT

Elise D. Martin
1948-1950

Alma A. Brown
1980-1984



Thelma H. Fitzhugh
1950-1952

Dianne Mance
1984-1986

Marian H. Bluit
1952-1954

Lynn C. French
1986-1988

Lynn C. French: ® making presentation to
Chapter Founder Lillian Bailey Huffman



WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER
JACK AND JILL INCORPORATED
~~PRESIDENTS~~
1940 TO THE PRESENT

Burma A. Whitted
1954-1956

1956-58 - National Program Director
during administration of 3rd National
President and DC Chapter member
Edna Seay



Carolyn Williams
1988-1990

Gwendolyn Robinson*
1956-1958

Lilia Abron
1990-1992



Carolyn French
1958-1960

Shirley Robinson Hall
1992-1994



WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER
JACK AND JILL INCORPORATED
~~PRESIDENTS~~
1940 TO THE PRESENT

Jacqueline Robinson
1960-1962

1st President Foundation 1968-1975
Honorary Life Member



Stacey Hall Reddick
1994-1996

Member- At-Large



Margaret L. Murray
1962-1964

Dayle Walden Hall
1996-1998



Evelyn G. Wallace
1964-1966

Lynnette H. Haynes
1998-2000



WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER
JACK AND JILL INCORPORATED
~~PRESIDENTS~~
1940 TO THE PRESENT

Yetta W. Galiber
1966-1968



Grace E. Speights
2000-2002
President Board of Directors
Foundation



Elaine C. Hancock
1968-1970

Denise Gibson-Bailey
2002-2004



Pearl Watson Boschulte*
1970-1972
10th National President 1974-
1978



Anita Cooke Wells
2004-2006



WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER
JACK AND JILL INCORPORATED
~~PRESIDENTS~~
1940 TO THE PRESENT

The Honorable Anna
Blackburne Rigsby — 33rd
President
2006-2008



Malva Daniel Reid
President
2008-2010

Mother of the Year Summary
FORMER MOTHER OF THE YEAR RECOGNITION RECIPIENTS

Program Year	Mother	Accomplishment Summary
1989-1990	Carolyn Ousley Williams	Chapter President
1990-1991		
1991-1992		
1992-1993		
1993-1994		
1994-1995		
1995-1996	Joan Christopher/Tawana Hinton	
1996-1997	Carolyn Dawes/Laurel Tucker	
1997-1998	Dayle Walden Hall	Chapter President
1998-1999		
1999-2000	Marcella Jones	<u>JUMOKE</u>
2000-2001	Stacey Reddick	Chapter President, Regional Officer
2001-2002	Grace Speights	<u>Chapter President</u>
2002-2003	Betty Noel Cushenberry	<u>Senior Teen Administrator</u>
2003-2004	Barbara Marshall-Bailey	<u>Editor/Webmom</u>
2004-2005	Beverly Branton Lamberson	Chapter Directory
2005-2006	Annie Whatley	<u>2005 Mother's Conference Co-Chair</u>
2006-2007	Denise Gibson-Bailey	Past President
2007-2008	The Honorable Anna Blackburne Rigsby	Chapter President

DECADE HIGHLIGHTS

This section represents excerpts from the DC Chapter History project which *is in process*. It represents highlights of each decade, and if available, selected writings from the mothers of that era

Creating the Legacy - 1938—1940

Decade Highlights:

Our Founders First Met - 1938

Washington DC Club Formed - 1940

Phyllis Wheatley YMCA - Meeting Place

"There is no more fitting monument to the determination and hard work of black women in WW1 era Washington than the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA. When the war began, the "colored" YWCA as it was known, was bursting at the seams in a building at 429 T St. NW. And bursting at the seams accurately describes what was happening as what was then the only YWCA for blacks not only in terms of a building it had outgrown but also in terms of its mission. As Washington's wartime population the black YWCA had to go mandate to provide better lodging for black women in the city. In cooperation with the Anthony Bowen YMCA on 12th Street, NW, it sought to deal with the challenge of thousands of African American soldiers, sailors, and job-seekers flooding into a town where racial segregation was rife, adequate accommodations few, and opportunities for honest black folks to get into trouble bewilderingly plentiful."



**To be resolved - statement from "Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated:
Into the New Millennium,"**

1940-1950 -The Formative Years

Presidents

Founder, Elinor H. McGuire 1940-41

Elinor R. Waller-1941-42

Bernice C Resson 1942-1944

Hortense Fitzgerald - 1944-1948

Elise D. Martin - 1948 - 1950



Surely, Jack and Jill must have been a great idea. Mothers in other parts of the nation liked the concept and Jack and Jill began to spread.

Finally, there was a need for unification And back in Philadelphia, they began to talk about nationalization.

In 1948, the Jack and Jill Club became Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated and from that day hence, has functioned successfully throughout the nation and outside of the continental United States.

Decade Highlights:

Dr. Charles Drew of DC — a scientist and physician who proved that blood plasma transfusions were possible and organized the first national blood bank
— paternal great grandfather of current chapter member Debbi Jams' children.
Chapter Dues - \$.25 per child
1947-58 First Up the Hill published featuring DC Chapter children
Alumni Club Formed
Percentages for Charity Determined
Calendars and Directories Started
First Mother's Banquet and picnic at Highland Beach - 1941
Sent a deserving child to Camp Clarissa Scott - 1941
First Charitable donations to the Behavior Clinic of Freedman's Hospital - 1941
1942 - First Constitution Written; the archives were compiled and our first scrapbook was presented with pictures of all the J&J families
Purchased an oxygen tent for the Children's Ward of Freedman's Hospital May 15, 1948 —
Giving Our Children The New Look — Educationally, Physically, Economically and Emotionally — The 3rd National Convention was held in
DC Hortense Fitzgerald DC Pres. First Convention with a theme; and Jack and Jill Day, "time for family round-ups," was adopted. Convention fee \$!; Rooms \$2 or \$4 per night; Conference fee \$1 28.74
1946 1st convention in Philadelphia
1946 meeting to Nationalize J&J — 8 of the 10 clubs sent representatives to this meeting, including DC (regional structure, constitution and bylaws)
August 28th 1947 - J&J Incorporated
1949- DC announced feasibility of a regional organization with more emphasis on programming
In 1947-48 Baltimore was identified as the largest chapter with 105 children and 61 mothers. Washington ranked second with 83 children and 60 mothers; New York, the third largest with 72 children and 44 mothers, was followed closely by Philadelphia with 63 children and 52 mothers (Up the Hill - 1947-48).

In their own words: excerpts from a paper written in 1941 entitled "HISTORY OF THE WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER OF THE JACK AND JILL CLUB,"

"...Our first year was a signal success in that it enabled us to get acquainted with one another and helped us to realize the problems connected with the efficient and fruitful management of a club of this type. The crowning event was a large picnic held a Highland beach for mothers, fathers and children.

Our second year opened with our initial meeting October 7, 1941. Elinor Waller, our new president presented the club with a workable plan for the year which was unanimously accepted by the mothers. The meetings for the children were still held at the YWCA, but mothers meetings were in the homes of various members.

An outdoor picnic, a Christmas party, and an Easter party augmented the regular children's meetings. Mrs. Payne, chairman of the children's meetings, was instrumental in the purchasing of many educational and interesting toys to be used at these meetings.

With Mrs. Roberts as chairman, the constitution committee offered as a guide by which this chapter could be governed. For raising money, Mrs. Ivy and Mrs. Nabrit headed a committee sponsoring a very profitable rummage sale.

The mothers are proud that in addition to doing a wonderful work for our own children, we have found means to help others, too. We are sending a worthy girl to camp Clarissa Scott for two weeks this summer and we were able to give to the Behavior Clinic at Freedman's Hospital \$20 to aid in the good work doctors and nurses connected with this clinic are doing.

At this writing, several projects are pending. Our annual, in fact, our second annual mother's banquet will be held June 8, 1942 at which time our first scrap book will be presented to the club by the chairman of the scrap book committee. Our second annual picnic is in the process of being made, while a full rummage sale will be our first effort of our third year."

"Washington Chapter of Jack and Jill Club - a Review of the Activities for 1942-1943, June 8, 1943

"Greetings to the Jack and Jill Club Members:

One criterion for determining the success of a club of the nature of ours is to consider to what extent our children have enjoyed the activities and developed socially. This is difficult to determine, yet, I believe that each child has derived some social benefit if he has participated in our activities for the year. I also hope that each child has benefited by the mother's participation in our discussions of behavior and guidance.

The first duty performed upon taking the responsibility of this office on October 13 was to send a circular letter, expressing my concept of the club's objectives, to the membership with enclosures of (1) the tentative calendar of activities, (2) the organization of committees, and (3) a return postal card for ascertaining the availability of mothers and children to carry on the activities planned.

OCTOBER - The activities consisted of the Autumn Indoor Picnic, Harriet Roberts chairman, and the Halloween Parties, with Dorothy Atkinson and Elinor McGuire as co-chairman. Again Dorothy Atkinson graciously turned her large recreation room over to the Juniors on the afternoon of Halloween (and her birthday) and to the Seniors that evening,, to the pleasure of all present. Raffle books were issued by Bertha Ivy for the financial project - Thanksgiving Turkey Raffle.

NOVEMBER - Mothers were busy selling voices on the disposition of a Thanksgiving Turkey. The Juniors enjoyed using the contents of our toy chest under the guidance of Frances Payne, while over in the YW Gym, the Seniors in colorful costumes did folk dancing under the leadership of Mrs. Eleanor Sutler with Inez Greene and Edith Cook in charge.

DECEMBER - On the first evening of this month the officers were asked to meet at the home of the President; the minutes of this meeting which included the three-part program for the year of the Mothers; Meetings were read and adopted at our December Mothers' meeting. Mothers were given copies of the agenda which included as the special feature, The Problem Box, with the following pamphlets as the basis for discussion. (Pamphlets are from the Child Study Association)

1. Learning to use money, read by Lois Turner
2. A Promise, read by Norma Nabrit
3. A Game of Jacks read by Alicia Webb
4. Children's Quarrels, read by Inex Browne

At this meeting copies of the Directory of the Jack and Jill Mothers were distributed. Bertha Ivy, chairman of the Financial Project reported that the Turkey Raffle cleared \$105.00, after giving away two turkeys as prizes won by Hazel Johnson and Mrs. Dovonia Jefferson. Excluding the Chairman, Alicia Wobb sold the most votes.

Members present at the meeting attempted to express their gratitude to Mrs. Wims for the hospitality which she has shown the Club during the past two summers at her Venice Beach home by purchasing votes for an afghan raffled for the benefit of Venice Beach. The Club decided to have coordinators to be responsible for reporting prolonged illnesses of a mother or child in her group. In the case of an ill mother, a report is made to the Corresponding Secretary who will send a card; in the case of a child, the report is made to the child of the Senior Group who has volunteered to send out the cards. Jill Dorothy Ferebee volunteered to send cards to those children who were ill for a long time.

As usual on the second Saturday the Juniors played at the YWCA, but the Seniors suspended activity until the Joint Christmas Part at St. George's Parish Hall. This Christmas program was arranged by a committee with Lois Turner and Jazel Johnston as co-chairman.

JANUARY - Frances Payne delighted the Juniors with a large gift box of cookies to take at will during play. Dorothy Atkinson, chairman of the Senior children's activities assisted Lucille Hammond who was in charge of a theatre party for the Seniors to see "Tales of Manhattan."

FEBRUARY - This meeting which had as its second part the presentation of a guest speaker, was opened with the reading of the "Ten Commandments of Parents" by Paul. M. Pitman. Miss Grace LeMoine, a psychiatric social worker, in charge of the Child Guidance Center at the Catholic University of America, developed very effectively the subject we requested "The Techniques of Developing Correct Attitudes toward Sex in our children". Miss LeMoine is a graduate of Smith University and has a background of experience in Boston and New York State. In order to attain the full benefit of this lecture more than a dozen mothers at the December meeting had ordered together through Norma Nabrit, "Sex Education - Facts and Attitudes" from the Child Study Association. Mothers showed a real appreciation of the speaker's experience by firing questions of vital personal interest. Miss LeMoine was presented with the book, "The Democratic Spirit; a collection of American Writings from the Earliest Times to the Present Day", edited by Bernard Smith in 1941, to carry away with her as tangible evidence of our appreciation.

In the brief business meeting that followed, the philanthropic activities and philosophy of the club were discussed. Elizabeth Thornton offered plans for the Scrapbook. It was voted that the Treasurers notify delinquent mothers of their status. The joint Valentine Party committee with Ruth Savoy as chairman entertained at the YWCA with three movies in technicolor: "Little Boy Blue", "Felix the Cat", and "Aladdin and His Lamp"; a magician, Mr. Fetaque Sanders, an the wartime treat of ice cream, cake and candy — all midst Valentine decorations. Our first formal group picture of only Jack and Jill members was taken. Doris Gregory wrote a concise report of the party to a company the picture which was sent to the Afro American newspaper.

MARCH - Special for the Juniors wable blowing but rain kept the Seniors from enjoying a skating party planned by Ethel Simmons. **APRIL** - The Club approved the report made by Norma Nabrit, chairman of the Publicity Committee, on the action taken in connection with the misuse of the Valentine Party picture in reference to Madame Chiang Kai-shek by the Afro-

American. Ruth Whitted reported for the Membership Committee the number of children in each age group, so that mothers may know what groups are so small should there be any vacancies in the membership at the June meeting. The Club endorsed having a Nominating Committee and Genevieve Hightower accepted the chairmanship; she selected the other members of the committee as has been the policy for all committees for this year. As our philanthropic activity, it was voted to use not less than \$50.00 and not more than \$75.00 from the proceeds of our Financial Project, for the purchase of an oxygen tent for the Children's Ward of Freedman's Hospital. It was decided that hereafter 75% of the proceeds of our money-making project would be used for some community activity and 25% for the two units of the club. The third part of the year's program was to be a Round Table discussion of pertinent problems concerning our children as planned and conducted by our Mother's Meeting Committee with Grace Williams as chairman; it was necessary to cancel this phase of our program.

The Joint Egg-Rolling was held on the Howard University Terrace on the afternoon of Easter Monday; Melbe Syphaz and Jewel Weir were co-chairman. Imagine Dixie cups and cakes for all now!

MAY - The Juniors rollicked on Warren Ivy's lawn, enjoying themselves with his gym set, sand box and their own toys; they were refreshed with cookies and kool-aid. The Seniors anticipated a Spring Hike with Grace Jones in charge on the following Saturday but it rained. On Hospital Day, May 1 2*, Freedmen's Hospital gave public acknowledgement to the Jack and Jill Club for its gift of four oxygen boxes which had to substituted for the oxygen tent due to Army priorities. The Pittsburgh Courier carried a picture and release of this gift which was on display.

JUNE - Agenda: 1. Report of the Family Outing Committee, Alicia Webb, chairman. 2. Delivery of group picture orders by Lucille Hopkins. 3. Alumni Group Proposal, Philadelphia correspondence. 4. Presentation to new babies of gifts purchased by Ora Woodard from fund of five cents tax for each gift. 5. Selection of new members to fill vacancies, if any, in small age groups. 6. Report of Nominating Committee Genevieve Hightower, chairman; election of officers. 8. Supper in the Dining Hall of Lucy D, Slowe Dormitory, Ruth Savoy, Chairman. Correspondence: Received: 1. Large number of return postal cards indicating cooperation with mothers for planning activities. 2. "Debs About Town" asked for Christmas gifts for USO party. Another letter expressing appreciation of individual cooperation. 3. USO Director inviting President to attend the Christmas party. 4. Information about the services of the Child Center at Catholic University. 5. Copy of the release written by Elinor McGuire about our Guest Speaker meeting. 6. notes of appreciation from Evelyn Davis and Elaine Dowling for cards. 7. Explanation of the Chinese orphan situation from Sue Thurman. 8. letter of resignation from Jennie Weir. 9. Thanks for gift from Dr. John Lawlah, Superintendent of Freedmen's Hospital. 10. Activities of Philadelphia Chapter from Mrs. Lela W. Jones, President. Sent: 1. Cards to Evelyn Davis, Elaine Dowling, Altona Robinson, Alfred Mathews, Martha Cassell and Julian Burwell. 2. Three letters to Miss LeMoine of Catholic University. 3. Afro-American 4. To Philadelphia Chapter about our activities. Another saying that group picture was being sent and asking for further information concerning mothers of the Alumni Group. 5. To New York Chapter about our activities. 6. Reply to Mrs. Sutler's request for list to contact mothers about a project.

Recommendations:

- That mothers notify the club when a child becomes two years of age

- That one child in each group be chosen to take the attendance of the children present at each meeting
- That an annual inventory be made of the contents, condition and needs of the Toy Chest
- That the activities for both groups include more music and dancing
- That a contest be sponsored for original writings and drawings for the scrapbook
- That the Washington Chapter inaugurate an Alumni Group
- That a membership roll similar to the one attached be used by the child of the Senior Group chosen to send cards in cases of illness.
- That attendance be improved by all mothers deciding to have our by-laws enforced

I wish to express indebtedness to Norma Nabrit for cutting stencils for the October communication; to Ruth Savoy for hectographing the Agenda and Director; to Angela Hayes for addressing notices to Juniors; to Erma Cornish for hectographing the Junior notices for March; to Genevieve Hightower for getting this roll and report mimeographed; and, to Aurelia Roberts for taking the attendance at the Senior meetings. To all of you I wish to express my sincere thanks for your cooperation

Respectfully Submitted,
 Bernice Chism Reason
 President of the Jack and Jill Club Mothers
 Washington Chapter"

Committees for that year were:
 Junior Children's Activities
 Senior Children's Activities
 Mothers Meetings
 Coordinators of Groups
 Autumn Picnic
 Halloween Party
 Christmas Party
 Easter Party
 Publicity
 Financial Project
 Scrapbook

Officers: Bernice Reason president, Harriet Roberts vice president; Hortense Fitzgerald recording secretary; Hortense Dalton Treasurer — Junior; Alice Mcalpin Treasurer — Senior; Colleen Williams Corresponding Secretary.

The first Up the Hill was issued 1947 - 1948

UP THE HILL



JACK AND JILL OF AMERICA

**Article: DC Chapter Children
Up the Hill—1947-48
"Social Senses Developed by Washington Chapter"
by Hortense Fitzgerald**



Social Senses Developed
By Washington Chapter

"On March 16, 1940, the Washington Chapter of the Jack and Jill Club was formed, dedicated to carry out the philosophy of the club as set forth by Mrs. Stubbs in the establishment of the Philadelphia Chapter — the idea of having our children meet socially for play and activity. Therefore, for the past eight years, all the efforts of the Mothers of the Washington Chapter have been directed toward developing the social nuances of our children and affording them the correct and best type of social activities suited to their age level and interests.

Since our children range in age from three to fourteen years, the children's club is divided into age groups, each with a chairman. It is the duty of each chairman to organize the Mothers of their group in order to map out plans for each monthly meeting of the children, making some mother responsible

for each meeting. In this way, activities for the year are planned for each age level with each mother trying to make the month that is her responsibility the best of the year. These chairmen form our executive council and it is upon them that the success of the Jack and Jill Club depends.

The Mother's meetings for the most part, have been interesting and helpful to determine the success of the club by considering to what extent our children have enjoyed the activities and have developed socially. This of course is difficult to determine, yet we believe that each child has derived some measure of social benefit if he has participated in our activities for the year. Thus our meetings are for the major purpose of find out how we may best offer the correct recreational pursuits to our children in order to aid them in this social development. The chairman of each age group either brings problems of planning or executive to the meetings to be discussed and answered or she brings a resume of the activities already engaged in by her group. Mothers with problems concerning the better adjustment between them and their own children are also helped by taking the advice of some mother who might have also had a similar problem with her child.

One year, our agenda for the Mothers' meeting included as the special feature, "The Problem Box," with the following pamphlets as the basis for discussion:

- a. Learning to use money
- b. A Promise
- c. A Game of Jacks
- d. Children's Quarrels

All these pamphlets are from the Child Study Association. The material was ready by a mother and lively discussions followed. To organize our Mother's meetings another year, mothers handed in questions that were uppermost in their minds concerning their children. These questions were sorted and three questions were selected for discussion on the basis of their frequency of occurrence. To help us in our thinking on these problems, several experts in the field of Child Psychology were invited to talk to us. Among these were Doctor Max Meenes of Howard University and Miss Febre of Catholic University. Even though specific answers to specific questions could not be given, each mother felt that she was at least given a point of departure for coping with the many problems associated with the rearing of her children.

As we have tried to show by the preceding outline of activities, we always try to have a theme for our mothers meetings and a purpose both dedicated to affording our children a means of better adjustment to our complex way of living.

Since our beginning, we have sponsored a moneymaking project once a year. Three fourths of the proceeds from these projects are spent helping children who, through no fault of their own, are less fortunate than our own. Our attention has for a number of years turned toward the Children's' Ward at Freedman's Hospital. We have been able to present them over a period of years, with three oxygen tanks, washable robes and slippers for the nearly well children, and radio-phonograph for the whole ward. At one time, we were able to present \$25.00 to each of the Settlement Houses of the District for use as they saw fit in their Nursery Departments.

The moneymaking projects have been both interesting and varied. Rummage sales and raffles were used for a while with great success. For several years we procured subscriptions to Parent Magazine receiving our commission in accordance with their club plan. This type of project proved very successful since it not only afforded us an opportunity to receive a good magazine for our reading, but also enabled us to give an acceptable gift to our friends at Christmas time. Miss Erika Thimey and her Modern Dance Group in the "Pied Piper of Hamelin" presented at Armstrong High School was another highlight of our projects. Not only was the revenue received from this project most heartening, but also the enjoyment received from this novel entertainment by our children and hundreds of others more than repaid us for the time and effort expended in "putting over" an entertainment of this kind.

Thus by mutual consent and unity of purpose, the Washington Chapter of Jack and Jill bends all efforts toward developing the social habits in our children and constructing solid recreational projects for our children. In most cases our meetings for the children are stimulating, educational, healthful and bodybuilding. The beginning to learn the social graces - so necessary for gracious living — by our little girls from five to eight years; the development of a sense of fair play, the ability to play with others and the development of an active interest in sports for the boys from eight to twelve years are assets we are proud to offer our children. The success of the Jack and Jill club is not measured by how much money we are able to raise or how much publicity we get, but more by how much our children have gained from their meetings, and how adequately we have been able to meeting their recreational problems with a sound and valid program.

Officers include: Hortense M. Fitzgerald, President; Elsie Martin, Vice-President; Gwen Robinson, Secretary; and Evelyn David, Treasurer. Washington has an enrollment of 60 mothers and 83 children, divided into seven age groups.

**MY DOLL HOUSE - By Burma Louise Whirred
Washington, D.C. - 8 Years old - 3-B Grade - Jack and Jill Age Group 5-8**

My dollhouse is my very special hobby. I have a weekly allowance. This money I save and buy furniture for my house. Sometimes at Christmas or on my birthday, friends give me furniture. Many of my friends in my age group of Jack and Jill enjoy my house with me. Some of the things I learn through this hobby are:



1953 HOUSE OF JIMMY S. GUYER, WASHINGTON, D. C.

1. To love a beautiful home
2. To keep a neat and tidy home
3. Different ways to add beauty to a home
4. The duties of different members of the family
5. How to serve beautiful meals
6. For what each room is to be used
7. To make the outside of the home beautiful as well as the inside"

1950-1960 - The Civil Rights Era

Presidents

Thelma H. Fitzhugh 1950-52

Marian H. Bluit 1952-54

Burma A. Whitted 1954-1956

Gwendolyn Robinson 1956-58

Carolyn H. French 1958-60

Decade Highlights

1951 - First Teen Conference held at Howard University

January 10, 1954 - Washington Chapter of Jack and Jill Inc. Made Its Radio Debut

1955 "Time to rejoice - when every child everywhere gets the Salk Vaccine" (from 1955 Up the Hill DC Chapter Mom Edna Seay 3rd National President; Hortense Fitzgerald Secretary

Burma Whitted, DC Charter Member 1956-58 - National Program Director
1952 - 60 children; Dues \$8.50
Idea for the establishment of Archives at Howard University - Moorland Spingarn Library
Carolyn French
(president) and Dorothy Porter Wesley (then curator of that collection)

Burma Whitted, National Program Director during this decade, was one of our charter members and past president. A signed copy of this original edition "*With My Love and Best Wishes, Burma*" is in the DC Chapter Archives at Moorland Spingarn Library, Howard University. In this edition Burma writes

Jack and Jill has never before had the history of the organization compiled and in printed form. Much time has been given by your Executive Committee in answering the questions constantly asked by chapters and individuals pertaining to some phase of Jack and Jill history. For this reason we have made the purpose of this manual twofold—to serve as the official guide for the direction of the program of the Jack and Jill, both National and local, and to give the history of the organization showing its growth and development..."

FROM THE 1955 UP THE HILL



OFFICERS — WASHINGTON CHAPTER OF JACK AND JILL
 Seated, left to right: Elinor McGuire, Treasurer; Evelyn Green, Vice-President; Burma Whitted, President
 Standing, left to right: Juanita Fletcher, Historian; Althea Little, Secretary; Gustava Brown, Corresponding Secretary

1955 Officers — (l/r seated) Elinor McGuire, Evelyn Green, Burma Whitted
 (l/r standing) Juanita Fletcher, Althea Little (historian), Gustava Brown



1955 mom/kids not pictured
 (Lucille N. Polk, mother of Loretta Polk, DC Chapter member Chapter)



TRICHTON CHAPTER, JACK AND JILL OF AMERICA, INC.
 The children and guests of the Christmas party. Members, front row: 1. Linda Williams; 2. Yvonne Adams; Back row: 1. Michael Mantzari; 2. Jeanne Paulino Williams; 3. Marie Clark; 4. Barbara Monahan; 5. Y. 'Caudie' Williams; Mrs. Ethel Lee and Mrs. Purdy Newberry.

The "Lollipops"
 Wanda Williams (Ifa Bayeza), Paulette Williams (Ntozake Shange), Barbara Marshall (Bailey)

1960-1970

Presidents

Jacqueline Robinson 1960-62

Margaret L. Murray — 1962-64

Evelyn G. Wallace 1964-01966

Yetta W. Galiber 1966-68

Elaine C. Hancock 1968-70

Decade Highlights

Chapter celebrated its 20th birthday with a reunion and play performed by children

Sponsored formation of a provisional chapter in Montgomery County — 1962

1968 Jack and Jill Foundation formed - DC Chapter mom Jacqueline Robinson instrumental in its creation

Chapter allied with Africare and Jack and Jill foundation to build a birthing clinic and safe drinking wells in Mali, West Africa

1st edition of J&J History and National Program Manual published in 1960 compiled and published by Burma Whitted, National Program Director

In 1968 members assembled at the Sheraton Park Hotel, Washington, from July 18-21. The chapter provided a full program of activities and extended hospitality to members and their families prespreading 104 of 120 chapters in 34 states. The theme of the 18th convention was "Youth Power in the Twentieth Century."

1970-1980

Presidents

Pearl Watson Boschulte 1970-72; 10* National President 1974-1978 'Let us be remembered for our efforts in healing, saving, and relieving the lot o children, especially those who have been the innovent victims of oppression, neglect, ignorance, poverty, racism, exploirtation and condemnation...God Bless.

Patricia W. Morris 1972-74

Opal B. Hyde 1974-76

Johnnie R. Brown 1976-78

Lorethea F. Davis 1978-1 980

Decade Highlights:

First Lady Betty Ford supports Christmas Shoppe during Opal Hyde presidency

"...grand *and profitable enough so that no child in the D.C. area would be without clothes, toys, books or food.*

"We thought we could change the world. Our goal was working for the cause. We were so sincere. We had the ability, the time and the wherewithal—so we felt strongly that we had to give back." Read 2002-2004 JJ DC News Issue 4 for more!

During construction of the new Freedman's hospital DC Chapter established and furnished Howard University Pediatric Playroom

The cost of the room was approximately 20 thousand dollars, 17 of which the Chapter paid off as a result of the Christmas Shoppe fundraiser!

Sponsored formation of chapter in Prince Georges County

World premier at the Kennedy Center of the opera "Til Victory is Won"

1 974 - Chapter members: ninety-two mothers and two associates in the Chapter

DC Mom Pearl Watson Boschulte - Tenth National President 1974-1978



Far Left: Howard University Pediatric Playroom Dedication – March 13, 1976; Middle — "First Ladies Visit Library" Mrs. Opal Hyde, Walter Washington and First Lady Ford. Far Right – J&J Design by Local Newspaper for the Christmas Shoppe

"In 1976 the chapter dedicated a playroom worth \$15,000 at the new Howard University Hospital through its Therapeutic Child Life Program. The "Jack and Jill Toddler Program" serves as a recreational and educational area of the pediatric ward for patients as well as visitors. Parents and their children, six to eight years of age were guests of Betty Ford at a reception in the Diplomatic Reception Room following a tour of the Martin Luther King Library with the First Lady. On that occasion, Dr. Bennetta Washington, wife of then Mayor Walter Washington, welcomed the Jack and Jill guests. The Capitol Press Club selected the Washington Chapter in 1974 as one of the Top Ten Service and Social Organizations in Washington."

From "Work, Play and Commitment: The First Fifty Years"

1980-1990

Presidents

Alma A. Brown 1980-84
Dianne Mance 1984-1986
Lynn C. French 1986-88
Carolyn Williams 1988-1990

Decade Highlights

1 984 DC Chapter Hosted the national meeting for the third time at the Washington Hilton Hotel:

Theme: Focus on the Family: New Directions in Unity, Services and Survival
July 15* - 22nd Declared Jack and Jill of America Week in DC by then Mayor Marion Barry
Arhives at Moorland Spingarn Library finally realized

**1958 - Carolyn French Administration Excerpt from a letter from Carolyn French in 1993
(library established decades later):**

"I congratulate the chapter, however, on its determination to finally collect and store its records at the Moorland Center at Howard University. It was during my presidency and during the active membership of Mrs. Dorothy Porter Wesley, then curator of that collection, that the Washington Chapter voted to do that. It is human nature to find it difficult to translate an idea into action..."

1990-2000

Presidents

Lilia Abron 1990-1992
Shirley Robinson Hall 1992-1994
Stacey Hall Reddick 1994-1996
Dayle Walden Hall 1996-1998
Lynnette Haynes 1998-2000; Historian Sheryl Lucas

Decade Highlights:

Historian became official position within chapters - First "official" DC Chapter Historian -
Sheryl Lucas
JUMOKE - J&J Inc. and Africare Partnership
Death of Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, husband of past president Alma Brown
Sanderal S. Brown Mother of the Year Award Instituted
Commemorated 50th anniversary with a luncheon at the Blackburne Center at Howard University
with
surviving Chapter Presidents and officers were in attendance.
Founder Marion Stubbs Thomas and National President Nellie Thornton attended our reunion
brunch
Celebrated the 60* anniversary by compiling a historical video for chapter members led by
Stacey Reddick and Sheryl Lucas.
Many past presidents were interviewed on tape for this video Developed mission statement in
use today using educational, economic, social, cultural and service elements - Reddick
Administration

Holiday Family Cabaret - family - First Intergenerational holiday part - Mission - social and cultural growth

"Jazzmatazz" and "Function at the Junction" Fundraisers

Statement about retention of historical documents

"*Here Comes me Judge*" -counseling from one of our black US Federal Judges about teen problems with the law

Created Children's Resource Committee; developed child centered budget

"Tech Trek" for ages 7-18 - a computer game house that allows combined hands on and physical activities

"Mo Money" -11-14 presentations from minority stock broker from smith Barney inc about the secrets to financial success

THE WASHINGTON, D.C. CHAPTER OF
JACK & JILL OF AMERICA, INCORPORATED

J A Z Z A M A T A Z Z



ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

THE CITY CLUB OF WASHINGTON

Sunday, April 14, 1996

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER
THE CITY CLUB OF WASHINGTON
Sunday, April 14, 1996

SUSTAINING THE LEGACY
Presidents in the new millennium
2000 - 2008

Presidents

Grace E. Speights 2000-2002

F. Denise Gibson Bailey 2002-2004

Anita Cooke Wells 2004-2006

The Honorable Anna Blackburne Rigsby 2006-2008

Malva Daniel Reid, Ph.D. 2008-2010

Pictures need to be added on this page.

Grace Speights 2000-2002

Initiatives: —Focus on Mission, Communication, Organization and Member Involvement: Getting Our House In Order. Getting moms connected: Established website, encouraged moms to set up email and used email as communication tool. Efficiently run organization; exemplary leadership, re-energized Associates, teens

participation in Cluster oratorical competition; current Jack and Jill

Foundation President.

F. Denise Gibson Bailey

2002-2004

Initiatives: —Focus on Our Children; child centered activities; newsletter as chronicle of our history; monthly themes, weekly email update; MLK Day of Service; teens participation in Cluster oratorical competition; time-capsule for archives; email and voicemail chapter reminders; timely reimbursements

Anita Cooke Wells 2004-2006

Initiatives: 24* biennial regional mothers conference host; Grant: Hands-On Science; National Black Child Development Institute NBCDI Award - Service - NBCDI/SPARK; substantial

The Honorable Anna Blackburne Rigsby 2006-2008

Initiatives: Focus on Chapter Fellowship and community philanthropy; re-instituted fundraiser that raised over \$40,000 for local and Foundation; established Father's Day Outing and Picnic;

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