

## The Mole O Gram

*"Capturing the True Spirit of Moledom through Enhanced Relationships".*

Pre-Conclave Edition: June, 2016

### "The President's Corner"

Mole Doris R. Asbury  
National President



Dear Mole Sisters,

For our pre-conclave issue of the **Mole-O-Gram**, I want to first say thank you to the chapters that have shared news on their events and milestones this year. We've thoroughly enjoyed reading about your sensational activities!

The **Mole-O-Gram** is our way of keeping in touch and sharing our **Mole** happenings with our **Mole** Sisters. Many of our chapters are having several events that they want us to know about before we receive the **Molerama**.

I, truly, feel that the **Mole-O-Gram** has fulfilled its purpose: to allow us to keep in touch during the year. Please know that it doesn't replace the **Molerama**, but complements it by allowing you to tell your exciting stories more often.

If your chapter didn't submit an article this year, we want you to make sure to get prepared for next year. We enjoy reading about what you are doing to keep the spirit of **Moledom** alive!

I am looking forward to seeing each of you in Raleigh and will greet you with a **"Happy"** attitude as we enhance our relationships. We will take care of the business and then we will enjoy ourselves and one another.

The **Rocky Mount Chapter** has worked non-stop to ensure that you will enjoy your visit to the Capitol City of North Carolina-Raleigh. The Convention Center and Marriott staff members are excited about us coming and will do whatever is necessary to make you want to return. Come to Raleigh ready to experience a **"Touch of Elegance Down East"**

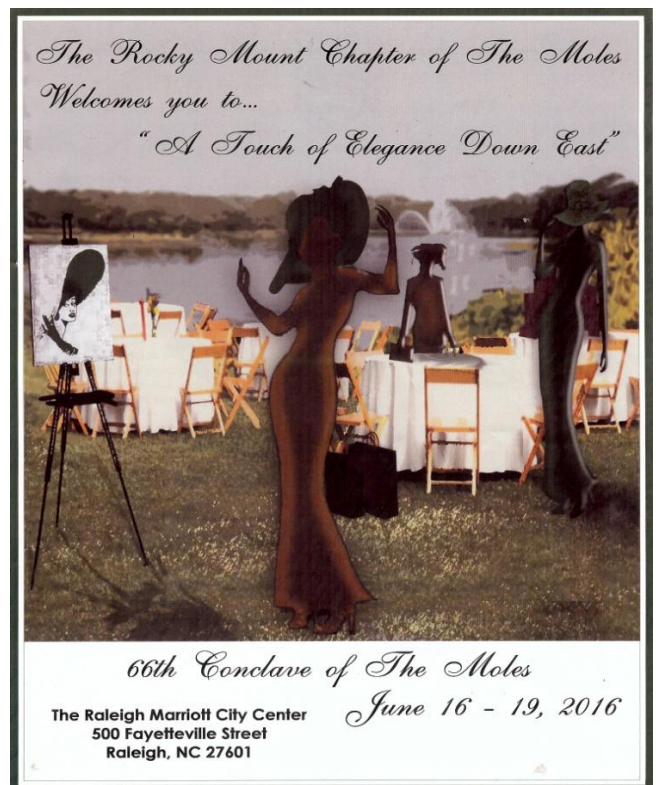
and to adhere to our motto: **"Enjoy Yourself; It's Later Than You Think".**

My sincere thanks to **Mole "Bunny"** and the committee for telling our stories this year! A job well done!

Sisterly,  
Mole Doris  
Mole Doris

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## THE 66<sup>TH</sup> CONCLAVE OF THE MOLES HOSTED BY: THE ROCKY MOUNT CHAPTER



**JUNE 16 - 19, 2016**  
**RALEIGH MARRIOTT**  
**CITY CENTER**  
**RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA**

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*A Special Message from the*  
*Rocky Mount Chapter*



*Remember: "Enjoy yourself; it's later than you think."*

**THE ROCKY MOUNT CHAPTER OF THE MOLES  
WELCOMES YOU TO...**

*"A Touch of Elegance Down East"*

***My Dear Mole Sisters,***

*We have enjoyed every minute, planning this grand conclave especially for you.*

*Our experiences in life give us the mindset to share our love with others and open up our heart and soul for a more cohesive group.*

*Please don't hesitate to let us know if we can be of service to you during your stay at **the 66th Conclave of The Moles.***

***Mole Julia***

***Mole Julia Congleton Bryant, President  
Rocky Mount Chapter***

***Mole Shirley***

***Mole Shirley Rogers Boone, Courtesy Chair  
Rocky Mount Chapter***



*The Rocky Mount Moles - Hard at Work*

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### *Mole Moments, Milestones and Memories!!*

#### *Columbia*

##### **GRADS AND GROUNDBREAKERS**

The **Columbia Chapter** "proudly" announces graduations (listed below) within our **Mole** family. We wish all of these bright and talented young people "Godspeed" as they go forth into the world!

Mr. Houston Massey Bennett graduated from Spring Valley High School. He will attend Coastal Carolina Honors College. He is the son of **Columbia Chapter President, Mole Cynthia and Mule James Bennett**.

Ms. Lauryn Harriford graduated from Dutch Fork High School. She will attend Clemson University in the fall and will major in Engineering. Lauryn is the daughter of **Mole Lavita and Mule Ward Harriford**.

Mr. Frederick C. "Trey" Jones III, graduated from Heathwood Hall Episcopal School. He will attend Claflin University in the fall, majoring in Business Administration. Trey is the son of **Mole Kimberly and Mule Fred Jones, Jr.** He is, also, the grandson of **National Courtesy Chair, Mole Bunny and Mule Fred Jones, Sr.**

Mr. Evan Major graduated from Dutch Fork High School and will attend The Citadel in the fall. Evan is the grandson of **Alumna Mole Vivian and Mule Frank Washington**.

Mr. Justin Tyler Taylor, also, graduated from Heathwood Hall Episcopal School. He will attend Furman University with an academic scholarship. His major is undeclared. Justin is the grandson of **Mule Robert "Butch" (Mole Sandy) Taylor**.

Our very own **Mole Edna Reese Langley** was recently honored by the Columbia Urban League Guild. She received the renowned *Towering Leadership Award* in recognition of her community contributions to the quality of life in South Carolina as well as her support for her husband, **Mule Willis "BJ" Langley's**, efforts to fulfill leadership responsibilities in the Midlands.

The **Columbia Chapter** received and "reluctantly" granted requests from four of its cherished active

members to transfer to Alumna status. They include: **Moles Loretta T. Hammond (Inducted – 1988); Doris W. Johnson (Inducted – 1975); Cheri V. Stevenson (Inducted -1966), and Bernice Y. Tobin (Inducted - 1988)**. These elegant women worked tirelessly to ensure that the Columbia Chapter became and remained "a very special group"! We look forward to sharing many more **1<sup>st</sup> Friday - Mole Nights** and **Labor Day Weekend Celebrations** with our precious **Mole Sisters** in their new membership status. We will always "Speak Their Names" with sisterly love and gratitude.

#### *Empire City*

##### **EMPIRE CITY – ONWARD AND UPWARD!**

**Mole Cynthia J. Gresham**, the newly elected President of the **Empire City Moles**, was recently appointed as the Eastern Area Chair of Alumna/Platinum Affairs for the Links, Incorporated. Congratulations **Mole Cynthia!**

**Mole Gloria and Mule George Dixon** just returned from Iceland and **Mole Yvonne Allen** recently returned from Japan.

**Mole Jacqueline and Mule Frank Smith's** granddaughter, Lauren (of Virginia), graduated from high school with honors and will attend Hampton University. Congrats!

**Mole Rhonda and Mule Karim's** daughter, Khidhra (of Virginia), received her Doctorate of Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania.

**Mole Terri Wisdom and Mule Bernardo's** granddaughter, Sahar (of Florida), was inducted into the 11th Grade Honor Society and received an award in Psychology. Their youngest grandson, Bryce Cairo, is a proud graduate from PVK; the oldest grandson, Masia Basir, and middle granddaughter, London Lalibela, both achieved Honor Roll status. Well done! Additionally, their daughter Maya Jones, a wife and mother, received her Master's Degree with honors in Instructional Classroom Design from Kaplan University.

**Mole Tanya and Mule Edward Odom's** daughter, Camille (of New York), graduated from high School with honors and will attend Spelman College. Kudos Camille!

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Atlanta

**A PRE-CONCLAVE MESSAGE FROM ATLANTA MOLE GLORIA PATTERSON**



Mole Gloria and mule Andy Patterson

**EXHIBIT AT NC MUSEUM OF HISTORY IN RALEIGH, NC**

**Mole Sisters,**

I am so excited to share with you that my wedding gown (48 years old) is part of a special exhibit at the NC Museum of History in Raleigh, NC during the time of the **Mole's** Conclave. The exhibit is entitled **"Made Especially for You"**. My gown was designed and made by Mrs. Willie Kaye, a renowned seamstress and designer in Raleigh who designed and made beautiful gowns for people all over the country. Many of you know Cynthia Roberson. Her gown is also a part of the exhibit. Neither Cynthia nor I knew that Mrs. Kaye had made our gowns until she mentioned going to Raleigh for an exhibit. Mrs. Kaye is the deceased grandmother of former Atlanta Mayor Bill Campbell. You're invited to make this exhibit (especially Gloria's gown) a part of your weekend activities during the **Mole's Conclave**. Thanks to my mom for preserving the gown and I can take credit for moving it carefully each time that we moved. The museum sent a representative to Atlanta to transport the dress to Raleigh and to restore it for the exhibit. I'm excited and I hope that you will be able to see the exhibit. The museum is located at 5 East Edenton St. Telephone 919-807-7891

Sisterly,  
*Mole Gloria Patterson*  
Atlanta Chapter



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## Columbia

### **"MY SISTER'S KEEPER"**

**BY: MOLE JODI GALLMAN**

#### **NATIONAL AND COLUMBIA CHAPTER PARLIAMENTARIAN**

When life changes (i.e. you bring your elderly parents into your home to give them the care they need) and you are faced with challenges that alter your established order of reality (i.e. your beloved husband and teammate experiences a health emergency); how do you cope when there is no family nearby to assist on the regular? You begin to question all you believe to be good and solid. You wonder, "How can I make it and maintain my sanity?" Well, you don't have to have all of the answers; you just need **My Sister's Keeper**...a special program of the **Columbia Moles**. That is exactly what my **Columbia Mole Sisters** were for me and my family:

- My sisters started a prayer line
- My sisters scheduled/delivered meals.
- My sisters sent cards, emails, made phone calls of encouragement.
- My sisters surrounded me with love and support.
- My sisters lifted me up and would not let me fall.

Take it from me..."**It's good to be a Mole!**"! From one Sister to another...everyone needs a **Sister's Keeper**...a Sister circle to help you over the rough patches and lift you up when you need it most!!



**Mole Jodi Gallman**

### **APRIL CHAPTER MEETING CELEBRATES "SPRING, SISTERHOOD, AND SPARKLE"**

The **Columbia Moles'** April chapter meeting celebrated "**Spring Sisterhood and Sparkle**". Chapter members (pictured left at meeting) and guests were hosted by **Mole Kim and Mule Fred Jones, Jr.** **Mole Kim** welcomed us by stating that her theme "represented the love and joy (*Spring*), the special bond (*Sisterhood*) and the individual uniqueness (*Sparkle*) that the **Columbia Moles** share". A floral arrangement featuring our signature white carnations adorned guest tables and each **Mole** was given a fashionable sun hat as their special gift. Our April meeting was a spring-fest that was filled with good food, great fun and priceless fellowship.



**The Columbia Chapter of Moles**

### **"A CINCO DE MAYO FIESTA" COLUMBIA'S MAY CHAPTER MEETING**

The **Columbia Moles & Mules** ended its chapter year with a **Cinco de Mayo Fiesta**. All were welcomed by **Senora (Mole) Edna and Senor (Mule) Willis "BJ" Langley**. The evening was, indeed, festive! A surprise performance was given by a professional Latin dance group whose members are from the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Mexico and Venezuela. Not only did **Rumbao** perform three, crowd pleasing routines; they also taught sexy, Salsa and Bachata moves to the attendees! **Mules, Moles** and guests enjoyed delectable cuisine prepared in Mexican tradition. **Mole Edna** gifted each male and female guest with maracas and beautiful, folding hand fans, respectively. **Muchas gracias** to **Mole and Mule Langley** for a fabulous evening! The **Moles** national motto was, definitely, in full effect...Enjoy Yourself; it's Later Than You Think!

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*Enjoy yourself; it's later than you think!*

**Hosts: Mole Edna & Mule Willis "BJ" Langley**  
(Pictured Center Below)



**Rumbao Latin Dance Group**  
(Pictured Above)

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### Columbus

#### **MOLES AS EDUCATORS**



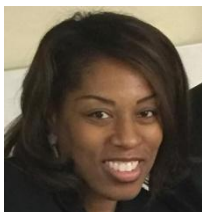
**Matriarch Mole Margaret Prillerman** began her career in education working with children who suffered from speech impediments. She, also, worked with staff in Dayton and Columbus to prepare for the desegregation of schools. **Mole Prillerman** ended her career as an administrator for Columbus City Schools.

**Mole Victoria Jackson, Chapter President**, was a teacher in the Columbus City Schools for 30 years. She received many awards as an educator, but her most cherished award was seeing the special smile when a child GOT IT!



**Mole Kitty Johnson** is a retired teacher with 31 years of service. She taught elementary and middle school students in the Columbus City Schools. She is, also, a mentor for student teachers from Ohio Dominican University.

As an elected official with the Columbus Board of Education, **Mole Carol Perkins** had the honor and privilege of leading the Board of the largest school district in the state of Ohio, with an annual budget of \$1.2 billion. During her tenure on the board, she maintained the position of Board President.



**Mole Vicky Hurst's** purpose as an educator is to serve her students and any other children she meets outside of the classroom, by helping them view their education as a valuable tool. She has been a teacher for 21 years and currently teaches 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

**Mole Jan Jennings** began her career teaching high school English in the New York City Public Schools. After obtaining a Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology, she worked as a School Counselor, focusing on therapeutic counseling and college placement.



**Mole Mattie B. James** has served in the early childhood field for over 40 years as a social worker and an administrator for the Head Start program. In 1985, **Mole James** founded her agency, Child Development Council of Franklin County. The agency is still going strong and serves over 3,000 children, newborn to five years of age.

**Mole Janis Wright** taught Accounting and Business Communication at Columbus Paraprofessional Institute. She was Founder/CEO of The Learning Resource Center which has offered preschool, before/after school care and summer camps to Columbus students for 25 years.



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### Empire City

#### CHAPTER SUPERLATIVES



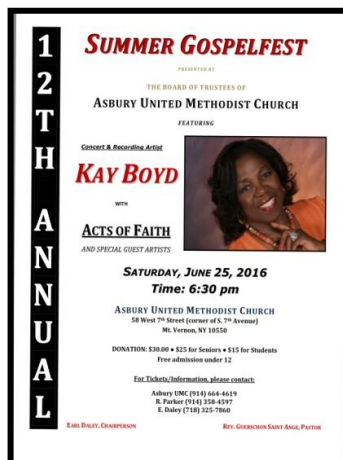
Chapter President, Mole Terri Wisdom

Current **Mole President, Terri Wisdom** in front of her restaurant New Harlem Besame, hosting the 4th Annual Harlem Derby Event. New Harlem Besame is located at 2070 Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard just one block from the world famous Apollo Theatre. For more info call [646 261-5397](tel:6462615397) or go to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or [newharlembesame.com](http://newharlembesame.com). Come home to New Harlem Besame and mention The Moles Special!



Mole Rhonda McClean-Nur

**Reverend (Mole) Rhonda McClean-Nur** received the Lifetime Award from the Bronx Chapter of Women in Business for her life-changing work with homeless children and families in the arts. She is an actress, griot, educator, drama therapist, certified spiritual counselor and has recently gone into private practice. **Mole Rhonda** resides and works in Harlem, New York.



Songstress **Mole Kay Boyd** has an Annual Concert coming up so if you are in the area, stop by! She is, also, planning a trip to South Africa next year through her travel agency - please inquire. **Mole Kay** took a group to Dubai earlier this year. Kudos, **Mole Kay**!



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### Newport News



**Mole Erma Covington** opened a non-profit rooming home, *Beds Without Cells*, for highly functional, mentally ill clients, in an independent living environment. **Mole Erma** has been an advocate for the mentally ill, relative to the criminal justice system and housing. She will continue to advocate in Virginia while pursuing a PhD in Criminal Justice Law and Policy. **Mole Erma** recently retired after 30 years with the federal government as a financial analyst to develop *Beds Without Cells*.



Newport News **Chapter President, Mole Cosette Livas**, is a member of the Top New Business Club for the third year in row with the Over 2 Million in Delivered Volume Club of Walsworth Publishing Yearbooks Division, part of the South Atlantic Region. **Mole Cosette** is currently leading in Opportunities for 2017. **Mole Cosette** has been with company since 2010. She is pictured (front, right) along with her colleagues.

Anthony Jamal Sibley, son of **Mole Roslind and Mule Anthony Sibley**, a rising senior at Princeton University, was selected as a 2016 Arthur Liman Fellow in Public Interest Law, thereby attending a Yale Law School Colloquium and receiving a scholarship for a summer internship.

Dan McCoy White, son of **Mole Roslind and Mule Anthony Sibley**, an actor with credits in theater, television, movies, voice over, and video game characterization, has made television appearances on "The Young and the Restless" and "Hit the Floor". He is performing stand-up comedy in Los Angeles, CA, and at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Las Vegas. In May, he is scheduled for comedy shows in DC, NYC, and VA.

Elaina M. Blake, daughter of **Mole Vivian and Mule Dwayne Blake**, was 2<sup>nd</sup> runner-up in The Hampton Delta Foundation's Red and White Cotillion. She is a graduating senior from Bethel High School in Hampton, VA. She will attend Spelman College. Elaina is the granddaughter of **Chapter Past President, Betty Richardson**.

Mikaela D. Swann, daughter of **Mole Alexis and Mule Darren Swann**, was 1st runner-up in The Hampton Delta Foundation's Red and White Cotillion. She is a graduating senior from Grafton High School, Yorktown, VA. Mikaela will attend Howard University. She is the granddaughter of the **Past President of the Newport News Chapter and National Scholarship Chair, Dr. Elaine Eatman**.

**Mule William "Bill" Grace** received merit awards from the Professional Photography Association of American on three prints he entered in February. He is working to obtain his Master's Degree in Photography, which he hopes to achieve next year. One of his entries was awarded 2016 Court Honor.



**Moles of the Newport News Chapter** thoroughly enjoyed themselves at the Tidewater Cluster Shoe Fashion Show hosted by the **Norfolk Chapter** at Norfolk State University. (From left to right) **Moles Marqueta Tyson, Johnetta "Johne" Ewell, Gaylene Kanoyton, Glorya Roberts, Janice Grace, and Roslind McCoy Sibley.**



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Norfolk

**Mole Patricia King's** daughter, Lauren Jones, graduated from Eastern Virginia Medical College on the 21st of May. She received a Master's in Public Health. Erik Jones, Mole Pat's eldest son is playing Sebastian in The Little Mermaid in New Jersey. Mole Pat and her family just returned from a Caribbean vacation where they swam with the dolphins and rode horses on the beach.



**Mule Maurice D. Slaughter (Mole Cynthia Slaughter)** was featured in the Spring issue of Savoy Magazine as one of the Top 100 Most Influential Blacks in Corporate America.

**Mole Cynthia Slaughter** and **Mule Maurice Slaughter's** daughter, Tiara Kristina Slaughter, received her Master's Degree in Sports Administration from Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia on May 7, 2016. She is currently employed with Prime Sports in Atlanta as Senior Marketing Manager.



In March the **Norfolk Moles** hosted the 2016 Virginia Cluster. **Moles** enjoyed an afternoon of fun, food and fellowship at this event entitled **"Stepping with the Moles"**. There was a shoe parade and shoe contest. The lovely shoe contest winners are posing with their gift bags. A party is not complete without line dancing. The **Virginia Chapters of the Moles** live up to the motto: *Enjoy yourself; it's later than you think.*

**Mole Peggy Hagan** saw Beyoncé last weekend in Dallas. Her future son-in-law treated Peggy and her two daughters, Megan and Hazel to concert tickets. It was a birthday surprise for Hazel.

**Mole Lisa Holley** and her family just returned from a Disney cruise in the Caribbean. It was a surprise vacation for their daughter, Lauren.



**Mole Rosalind Brown** and **Mule Stafford Brown, Jr.** are pleased to announce the high school graduation of their younger son, Denzel. He will be attending the University of Virginia in the fall where he plans to be a pre-med student and major in Psychology. Their eldest son, Stafford Brown, III, was selected National Pan-Hellenic Outstanding Chapter President for the Lambda Zeta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



**Mole Jan Boykins** had the pleasure of participating in the successful campaign to elect Norfolk's first African American Mayor, **Mule Kenneth Alexander (Portsmouth Mole Donna Burn)**.

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*Petersburg*

**CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS**

Virginia State University's New President, Dr. Makola Abdullah, recently made several administration changes. One of the changes is **Mole Anita Coleman Wynn** is now the Acting Vice President for Institutional Advancement, overseeing fundraising, alumni relations and stewardship. Congratulations **Mole Anita**!

**Mole Barbara A. Ford** was the winner of a Nissan Altima. The raffle was sponsored by the Petersburg Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.. **Mole Benjamin Ford** is a member of the Petersburg Chapter. Life continues to be blessed for **Mole Ford**!



**Mole Jacquelyn Webster Billips** and **Mole Ulysses Stuart Billips, Jr.** celebrated 45 years of marriage on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. They commemorated the occasion with a lovely dinner and a night of dancing. They plan to continue the celebration with a trip to Vancouver, BC, Canada followed by a cruise to Icy Strait Point, Juneau, and Ketchikan, Alaska. The Billips are the proud parents of two children, Ulysses, III, Esquire and Chanel B. Jackson. They, also, have five grandchildren, Henry, IV, Evangeline, Kennedi, Reese, and Christopher.

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*Portsmouth*



Mayor Elect Kenneth Alexander and Family

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**MULE KENNETH ALEXANDER**  
**ELECTED NORFOLK, VIRGINIA'S**  
**FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN MAYOR**

History is made....**Mule Kenneth and Mole Donna Alexander**, with their sons; Kenneth and David are celebrating being the first family elect for Norfolk, Virginia. The former Virginia State Senator will be sworn-in as Mayor for the City of Norfolk on July 1, 2016. Congratulations, to the Alexander family!



Mole Nita Mensia Joseph

***PRESTIGIOUS APPOINTMENT FOR MOLE NITA MENSIA-JOSEPH***

**Mole Nita Mensia-Joseph** was appointed to the position of Chief Operations Officer for Chesterfield County Public Schools – a district ranked as one of the top 100 largest school districts in the nation. Her husband, **Mule Kevin Joseph**, is scheduled to retire on May 1<sup>st</sup> from the VA State Corporation Commission as a senior auditor/bank examiner.



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Washington, DC



Left to Right: **Mole Sandra Lawson**, **Mule Glen Benson**, **James Hardy (Sax)**, **Phil Miller (Drums)**, **Mole Pamela Benson**

The Washington DC Chapter of the Moles held its April meeting at the home of **Mole Pamela and Mule Glen Benson**. The theme for the evening was: "April in Paris: A Tribute to Billie Holiday." The room, food and activities evoked the mood of a Parisian night club. The **Mules** donned black Berets while the **Moles** wore beautifully lavish masks. **Mule Glen** surprised everyone with his incredible voice as he sang a medley of "Lady Day's" classics. A great time was had by all!



**Mole Mary and Mule Leslie Nelson**



Left to Right: **Mole Patricia Hobson Wilson**, **Mole Joy Austin**, **Joigie Hayes-Tolson**, **Councilman Brandon Todd**

**Moles Joy Austin and Patricia Hobson Wilson** are among the local committee members appointed to the Ward 4 Arts, Humanities and Culture Advisory Committee by Brandon Todd, Ward 4 City Council Member. Ward 4 encompasses the neighborhoods of Shepherd Park, Colonial Village, and parts of Crestwood in the District of Columbia. At our recent event, the Zenith Gallery along with the Committee highlighted the art of several artists who were, also, present at the event. They included Francesca Britton, Margaret DeLorme, Robert Freeman and Paul Kirkland. **Mole Joy** will host an upcoming event in June in her home with a focus on the humanities in the city.



**Mole Joan McKinley-Shelton's** son, Jim Shelton, Former U.S. Department of Education Deputy Secretary will lead Mark Zuckerberg's and his wife, Priscilla Chan's, national philanthropic initiatives in Education. These initiatives were founded in December 2015 and will be funded by billions of dollars of Facebook shares. Congratulations to, both, Mom & Son!