



## Highlights from the NASW Social Work Pioneers® 2010 Luncheon

More than 100 NASW Social Work Pioneers® and their guests attended the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Pioneers' Event on October 23, 2010. The program was held in Washington, DC at the Cosmos Club through the sponsorship of club member Joan O. Weiss. It was the largest and most representative group that has attended the annual event to date, and the room was filled to capacity.

Bernice Catherine Harper served as Chair of the Pioneer Luncheon Program Planning Committee consisting of 12 NASW Pioneer volunteers. Pioneer steering Committee Co-Chair Betsy Vourlekis served as moderator for the morning program. NASW Foundation Director Robert Arnold brought greetings



*Bernice Harper, left. Right, Betsy Vourlekis and Dorothy Harris. Below, Ruth Cohen and Joan O. Weiss.*



*Sherman Ragland and Juan Ramos, above. Below, Nancy Humphreys. At right, newly elected Pioneers, and Patricia Martin-O'Meally.*

on behalf of Elizabeth J. Clark, NASW Executive Director and President of the NASW Foundation, who was unable to attend due to an injury. (She is recovering well.) Following the opening remarks, Juan Ramos announced the "Pioneers in Memoriam," remembering those Pioneers who have died during the past year. Patricia Martin-O'Meally introduced the 24 Pioneers newly elected in 2010, of whom ten attended with friends and family members.



On behalf of Pioneer Fundraising Chair, Jessie P. Smith, Robert Arnold reported on the current status of NASW Legacy and Pioneer funds at the NASW Foundation. The program listed the names of 63 donors to the Legacy and Pioneer programs throughout 2010. Thank you, all!



Bernice Harper introduced the first keynote speaker, Nancy Humphreys, DSW, ACSW, an NASW Past President and Founder and Director of the Nancy A. Humphreys Institute for Political Social Work at the University of

Connecticut School of Social Work. Dr. Humphreys gave a keynote address entitled, "The American Dream: Is it Obtainable and Sustainable in the Second Decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?" The second keynote continued in the theme of a clear-eyed look at today's challenges, while envisioning a path to a more hopeful future. NASW Past President Dorothy Harris introduced the afternoon keynote speaker, Jeanette C. Takamura, PhD, MSW, Dean of the Columbia University School of Social Work.





Jeanette Takamura

Dr. Takamura presented on “The Role of Social Work in Helping Individuals Become the Architect of their Futures.” The speakers frankly discussed the challenges facing the social work profession now and in the future, the need for social workers to become more involved in the political arena, and the technological advances with which social workers will have to contend in the day to day application of their social work services.



Ida Nicholson, Nicole Willis, Betty Willis and Annie Brown. Below, Marie Raber, Jim Zabora and Harris Chaiklin.



Social work student volunteers

Before lunch, attendees viewed exhibits developed by Kenneth Carpenter. A panel depicted each of the five years a luncheon has been held, with pictures of attending Pioneers and special remembrances. The annual group photo was taken of all NASW Pioneers present. In addition, group portraits were made of the new 2010 Pioneers, and of the social work students attending the luncheon. Students and faculty from the Howard University School of Social Work and the National Catholic School of Social Service filled two tables each,

with students graciously volunteering help throughout the event.



Bob Arnold presents an award to Ken Carpenter



Bernice Harper and Jesse Harris



Lenne and Hal Lipton

Bernice Harper presented remarks remembering Ruth Irelan Knee, co-founder of the NASW Social Work Pioneers, who died in October 2008. The NASW Foundation presented an award to Ken Carpenter in gratitude for his volunteer support for the NASW Legacy and Pioneer Programs, especially for his tireless efforts to maintain Pioneer biographies and document Pioneer contributions.



Cudore Snell and Douglas Glasgow, Jack and Ethel Hansan, Joyce Higashi.



**NEW PIONEERS**  
**NOV 2009 – OCT 2010**

- Gemma Beckley
- Katharine Briar-Lawson
- Deanna Lott Burrell
- ✓ Robert Connolly
- Sylvia Firestone  
*(deceased)*
- Mose Firestone
- M. Robert Gomberg  
*(deceased)*
- ✓ Ruby Morton Gourdine
- Mary Hannick
- ✓ Ella Harris
- Harry Lloyd Hopkins  
*(deceased)*
- Ann Elise Kasteler  
Hutchings
- ✓ Sr. Mary Vincentia  
Joseph
- Charles Levy *(deceased)*
- ✓ Rufus Lynch
- ✓ Robert A. Mays
- Raymond Peacock
- ✓ William Pollard
- Harry Specht *(deceased)*
- Patricia Volland
- ✓ Sue Ward
- Darrell Wheeler
- ✓ Paul Widem
- ✓ James Zabora
- ✓ *Attended the event.*



*Above, Evelyn Kays-Battle and Mark Battle.*

*Below from left, Golda Edinburg and Gary Bailey, Ruby Morton Gourdine and Beryl Carter Rice, Bob Cohen, Paul and Barbara Widem and Barbara Soniat.*

Following an elegant luncheon featuring the Cosmos Club's famed popovers, there were special presentations honoring Mark G. Battle. Jesse J. Harris served as moderator for these remarks and presentations. Mark Battle was instrumental along with Ruth Knee in the founding of the NASW Social Work Pioneer® program in the early 1990's. He served as Co-Chair with

**IN MEMORIAM  
NOV 2009-OCT 2010**

Miriam Dinerman  
Dorothy Height  
Irving Levin  
Mary Ann Quaranta  
David Roth

Booker Woods –  
husband of  
Dr. Bernice C. Harper



*Above, Mark Battle and Norma "Cindy" Gray Jones, Tim Harris and Ella Harris, Dale Masi and Jesse Harris, Pat Brownell and Elaine Congress.*



*Dorothy Pearson and William Pollard*



*Robert and Mavis Connolly*

Ruth Knee from 1997 until her death in 2008, and then continued as Co-Chair with Betsy Vourlekis. In Fall 2010, Mark Battle decided to step down as Co-Chair. The Pioneer Luncheon Program Planning Committee recommended that Mr. Battle be honored during the 2010 luncheon. Robert Cohen, a long-time friend and NASW colleague, presented a personal retrospective of his relationship with Mark. Several gifts were presented, including mementos from Jack Hansan, Bernice Harper, and Cudore Snell, a toast by Richard English, and a book of clippings and pictures from Mark's term as NASW Executive Director, his contributions as Pioneer Steering Committee Co-Chair, and his years of retirement from NASW. Barbara Glaser offered a tribute to Evelyn Kays-Battle, and presented Evelyn with a poem by Bernice Harper.

*Special thanks to volunteer photographer and videographer Patricia McDougall.*

**LEGACY and PIONEER  
PROGRAM DONORS  
Nov 2009 – Oct 2010**

Robert Carter Arnold  
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Michael Daley  
Louis DeMoll  
Anne Everette  
Vanette Graham  
Bernice Catherine Harper  
Dorothy V. Harris  
Ella Harris

*continued*



*Margery and Ken Carpenter, Jeanne Talpers and Barbara Glaser, Caroline Anderson and Virginia Karl. Below, Tommy Wells and Richard English.*

- LEGACY and PIONEER DONORS *continued*
- Jesse J. Harris
  - Nancy Humphreys
  - Katherine A. Kendall
  - David L. Kennedy
  - Shanti Khinduka
  - Sandra J. McCormick
  - Patricia Morisey
  - Linda Mockeridge
  - Estate of Helen Northen
  - Juan Ramos
  - Jessie P. Smith
  - Jeanette Takamura
  - Giovanna Tonelli
  - Sarah Jo Twitchell
  - Jennifer C. Watt
  - Camille Wheeler
  - Barbara W. White



Mark Battle thanked the attendees for their words and gifts, and offered remarks that he called a Farewell Address. Jesse Harris, who was elected to serve as Co-Chair when Mark stepped down, provided the closing remarks for the event.

*Below left, Verita and Rufus Lynch, Sue Ward. Evelyn Kays-Battle receives a poem from Barbara Glaser. Right, Joan Levy Zlotnik.*



- TRIBUTE GIFTS to LEGACY AND PIONEER PROGRAM, Nov 2009 – Oct 2010
- Sally Alexander, in memory of Chauncey A. Alexander
  - Gemma Beckley, in memory of Lester B. Granger
  - Samira Beckwith, in memory of Booker Woods
  - Susan Blumenfield, in honor of Helen Rehr
  - James Callicutt, in honor of Fernando G. Torgerson
  - Kenneth & Margery Carpenter, in honor of Bernice Harper and in memory of Booker Woods
  - Lois A. Calhoun, in honor of Ruby Gourdine
  - Robert & Ruth Cohen, in memory of Jack Sternbach
  - Golda Edinburg, in memory of Ruth I. Knee & Booker Woods
  - Eleanor Friedenber, in memory of Ruth I. Knee
  - Jeanne Gill, in honor of Nancy Humphreys
  - Roberta Graziano, in honor of Margaret C. Shriver
  - Joyce Higashi, in memory of Ruth Knee
  - Virginia Karl, in memory of Delwin M. Anderson
  - Bernard Nash, in honor of Kenneth & Margery Carpenter
  - Linda Nee, in memory of Emily Lay
  - Wilma Peebles-Wilkins, in honor of Golda Edinburg
  - Nancy Perlman, in honor of Mark G. Battle
  - William and Merriette Pollard in honor of James Dumpson
  - Catharine L. Ralph, in memory of Alicia L. Smalley
  - Bernece Simon, in honor of Rhoda Sarnat
  - Betsy S. Vourlekis, in memory of Ruth Knee and in honor of Mark G. Battle
  - Sue Ward, in honor of William Bechill
  - Julia Watkins, in honor of Katherine Kendall & Mark Battle
  - Joan O. Weiss, in memory of Ruth I. Knee
  - Josephine Yelder, in honor of Bernice C. Harper and in memory of Booker Woods
  - Joan L. Zlotnik, in honor of Mark Battle



*National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization's Don Schumacher, left, Galen Miller and John Mastrojohn, right, with Hal Lipton and Bernice Harper, center.*