

FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

Contact: Bob McGill



Mailed February 14, 1985

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - Dr. John H. Thomas III, of Cincinnati will conduct a "Black Family Workshop" at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27, in New Bethel Baptist Church, 1507 Hillman Street.

Dr. Thomas, who has had extensive experience counseling and working with Black families, will be dealing with pertinent family issues. Among them will be: building stronger, healthier and more supportive families through effective communication between children and adults; improving self-concept and fostering positive family feelings; and examining ways to enhance family life.

The workshop is sponsored by New Bethel Baptist Church, Mt. Calvary Pentecostal Church, the Youngstown Chapter of Links, Inc., the YSU Black History Month Committee and other local organizations.

Participating in the program will be Rev. Lonnie A. Simon, host pastor; Geverna Levels, YSU admissions counselor and member of the university's Black History Month Committee; Joan Boyd, president, the Youngstown Chapter of Links, Inc.; Cynthia Riggins, New Bethel director of Christian Education; Dr. Norman L. Wagner, pastor, Mt. Calvary Pentecostal Church; and Rev. Lawrence Shells, pastor, Christian Bible Baptist Church.

Dr. Thomas received his bachelor's degree from the University of Detroit and his master's and doctoral degrees in clinical psychology and counselor education from the University of Cincinnati. He previously worked for the Butler County Mental Health Center, Cincinnati Institute of Justice and was an instructor at the University of Cincinnati.

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He has been cited by "Who's Who Among Black Americans," and has received many awards. He has produced and hosted his own radio program in Cincinnati, "Practical Christian Counseling," since 1983.

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YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - A Faculty Forum, "The Computer, the University and the Future" will be presented at 9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28, in Lecture Room 132 of Youngstown State University's DeBartolo Hall (College of Arts and Sciences).

Faculty Forums are free and open to the public. They are offered by the university's College of Arts and Sciences to provide students, faculty and the public with information and insight into various topics by qualified experts from many fields.

There will be time for open discussion of the issues involved. A reception will follow at approximately 9:30 p.m. in Room 121-122.

Speakers and their topics are: Dr. R. Dandapani, Austintown, associate professor, Mathematics and Computer Science Department, "Harry Meshel Building (YSU's high-tech center) and It's Implication to Computer Science Education"; Dr. David C. Genaway, Canfield, university librarian, "Information Identification and Retrieval in an Academic Environment: Past, Present and Future"; Dr. Daryle W. Mincey, Liberty Township, assistant professor, Chemistry Department, "Computers in Chemistry and Chemistry in Computers"; Dr. L.A. Viehmeyer, Poland, chairman, Foreign Languages and Literature Department, "C.A.I. Variables."

Dr. James P. LaLumia of Youngstown, assistant professor, Speech Communication and Theatre Department, will be moderator.

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YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - Dr. Jo Ann Lanier, a Youngstown native and graduate of Rayen High School, has returned to her hometown as a full-time faculty member at Youngstown State University's Dana School of Music in the College of Fine and Performing Arts.

She is a daughter of Joel Lanier and the late Odessa Lanier of Youngstown. She holds three degrees and is working on another.

At Dana, Dr. Lanier is directing the University Chorus, Dana Women's Choir, and teaching voice. She also continues to present lectures and recitals at other colleges and universities.

While in high school, she won the Omega Psi Phi national talent competition as a singer at age 14. When she was 15, she was organist and choir director at Price Memorial AME Zion Church. The next year, at 16, she became the youngest person to solo with the Youngstown Philharmonic Chorus. She also played violin in the Youngstown Junior Philharmonic Orchestra.

Dr. Lanier received her baccalaureate degree at the Cleveland Institute of Music in 1966. While there, she was president of the student body and her senior class, was soloist in numerous churches, and was a member of the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus directed by Robert Shaw and George Szell.

Upon graduating, she received a voice fellowship to Tanglewood Berkshire Center summer programs and studied under Phyllis Curtin. In 1968, she received her master of music degree in voice from the New England Conservatory, Boston. While there, she gave recitals at Harvard University and was soloist in numerous

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churches and at Barrington (R.I.) College and the MIT Glee Club.

Dr. Lanier began her doctoral degree work at Cleveland Institute of Music and Case Western Reserve, which offer joint doctoral studies in music. She received that degree at Pacific Western University, Encino, Calif., and has continued work toward a second doctorate at the American Conservatory of Music, Chicago, where she is a student of Wilma Osheim.

Dr. Lanier has held a variety of positions. She was music instructor at Central State University, Wilberforce; director of music at Karamu Theatre, Cleveland; head of the Voice Department, director of the Opera Division and head of the Black Music Division at Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; and assistant professor of music at Knoxville (Tenn.) College, and at Berea (Ky.) College.

In addition to her teaching and performing career, she has assisted universities in Black culture and music, and in 1984 was a featured lecturer and performer at YSU's Black History Month.

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