

# Liaison Committee Show Helps Needy Families

By TONI ANTHONY  
(Daily Defender Staff Writer)

The prospects of many Chicago area needy families will be brighter for the coming holiday season, as a result of a benefit fashion extravaganza held by the Liaison Committee.

The fashion show benefited over 200 large families, who might otherwise have a bleak holiday, with Christmas baskets containing turkey and all the trimmings, and fruit, nuts and candy for the children.

\* \* \*

The benefit, entitled "A Black and White Fashion Fantasy," got underway in the ballroom of the Ascot House. Guests were treated to a rare and romantic evening of song, refreshments, and fashions influenced by African and European culture.

Fashion coordinator and modeler, Mrs. Vera Shipp, put guests in the mood with her seductive voice, and guided them on a fashion tour of two continents in her "moon helmet," an otherworldly hat created just for Mrs. Shipp by Pauline Carter.

The first stop on the whirling "Shipp" was the Mediterranean, where patrons viewed the newest trends in lounge wear.

The "see through look" was modeled by Margaret Fuller, in luscious black lace bikini pants, with a matching bikini "see through" top.

\* \* \*

Statuesque LaVerne Williams modeled the "nude look" in black crepe lounging pants, with a jeweled top, imported from Rome, Italy.

Guest model, Mrs. Hayes

Mayes, Jr. enlivened the lounge wear scene in a hot tomato velvet jumpsuit, with peek-a-boo sides and rhinestone body jewelry; and Mrs. Loistene Rountree, chairman of the Liaison Committee, moved the fashion scene to Africa, with African print pajamas accenting the "bare look" in tones of green, purple, orange and gold.

Daytime wear hit the fashion ramp with an upswing, in all fabrics, colors, styles and lengths.

LaVerne Williams tantalized guests in a pure silk tangerine dress with a peek-a-boo bodice, held together with a jewel, a matching tangerine coat, featuring a vanilla bow, vanilla gloves and shoes.

\* \* \*

Dr. Fulton, of Fultonia Health Food Center, was radiant in an electrifying blue Italian knit suit, with cut-away sleeves, giving the cape effect, and featuring a print inner side.

If fashion's whims can be relied upon, the mini dress is here to stay. Charlotte Jackson modeled a scintillating yellow leather mini with a matching coat, and a white hat and white boots; and Wilma Adams swung the scene to Africa in a wild hot pink and yellow mini — a California original.

Tonda Eleta Staples illustrated her individuality in a charming chocolate brown and white skunk poncho, worn with chocolate brown pants — a real teddy bear for the Bears.

Guests "oohed and aahed" when Dennis Smith made his striking appearance in blue on blue — blue coat, light blue pants, blue shirt, blue silk neck scarf, navy blue socks, and blue shoes. Shades of blue!

\* \* \*

The hour was after five, the mood, indigo, and the look? Fox and ostrich feathers. Merdi Lee swished onto the runway in a delectable brown pleated chiffon dress, trimmed in brown and white ostrich feathers; and Delores Payton followed in a pure white crepe mini, with a bow at the wrist, and trimmed in? Yes, white ostrich feathers.

Peggy Oliver was elegant in a Turner and Magit creation — a gray tweed coat, with a fox collar, and fox front trim, and matching gray hat; and Tonda Eleta Staples was a real fox, in a white crepe mini dress, with a plunging neckline, cunningly covered by a white fox stole.

Toni Rice created a sensation in the evening wear scene in a sheer black, layered chiffon dress, supported by jeweled straps; and Mrs. Shipp completed the scene in a smashing after-five tissue threaded silver coat over hot pink, designed for her by Mrs. LaVerne Williams of Chicago.

For a change of pace, body jewelry, in jeweled body chains, belts, vests and jackets, from Sam White's Kansas City collection were shown, and turs from Turner and Magit were modeled, with Mrs. Louise Rencher, program chairman, and creator of the evening of fantasy getting in on the fun by modeling her very own full length mink.

\* \* \*

The fashion swirl was climaxed with a formal wedding scene, in which Mrs. Rose Con-

ley stole the show in her own creation — a full length gown with a cerise top, and an overskirt of lifelike silver roses. Charming Tonda Eleta Staples appeared as the maid of honor in a gorgeous jeweled, floor length dress of cinnamon, orange and tangerine, with a scooped out hemline, and jeweled orange veil and shoes.

Models for the show were DUR employees, and from the Vera Shipp School of Charm. Models appearing in the show were Charlotte Jackson, the bride, Tonda Eleta Staples, maid of honor, LaVerne Williams, Rose Conley, Toni Rice, Lesterine McCurine, Willa Adams, Mil "Tandy," Jo Ann Overstreet, Lilder Sherrrod, Pamela Sherrrod, Emma Wilkerson, John Powell, Sharon Littlejohn, Pearl Wilford, Peggy Oliver, Carl Williams, Kim Weygan, Margaret Fuller, Hazel Glover, Lee Ann Brown, Delores Payton, Mertie Lee, Bob Davis, Gwen Ridgell, Laura Algum, Loistene Rountree, Dennis Smith, and guest models, Mrs. Hayes Mayes, Jr., Dr. Alvenia Fulton, and Mrs. Edward "Doc" James (Vi James) of Gary.

Hats worn by the models were created by Charlotte Walker and Miss Doris Rizer handled the professional make-up for the entire show.

\* \* \*

European and Afro-American dances were performed by Ada Holmes and Gail Taylor, respectively, and Joyce Washington Major sang "Quiet Night," and "This Girl's in Love."

The ball was attended by Commissioner Lewis W. Hill, and Milton Stevens and Cleary, of the Property Management Division of DUR.

Mrs. Shipp takes the "Black and White Fashion Fantasy" to the Jewish Baha'i Temple in Gary next week, and to the Twenty Grand Ballroom, in Detroit, Mich., on December 28.