

## Wheatley's wisdom called 'overwhelming'

WHEATLEY, from 1A

*God Sufficeth All Things*, which set writing by the Bab, founder of the Baha'i faith, to music. Mashaw has since sung the song many times.

Mashaw did it again Tuesday, this time accompanying herself by strumming a lyre.

"It has been a great bounty to have her music in my life," Mashaw told the gathering of family and friends. "She was just a wonderful person and very gifted. She lived her faith and her

music."

Wheatley was trained at Tuskegee College and Chicago Musical College and joined groups performing throughout the United States and Canada, including the Midland Chautauqua Circuit, the Kentucky Harmony Singers and the Shaver Group.

She moved to Battle Creek in 1941 and gave up life as a professional entertainer. She worked for the War Manpower Commission and then for the Michigan Employment Security Commission, retiring in 1968.

During that time, she continued to write music, sang and gave private music lessons.

Those who met her through her music often went on to know her on a deeper level.

Mildred Lisby – who for about 10 years has coordinated the Thanksgiving Festival at Washington Heights United Methodist Church and Community Ministries – could always count on Wheatley to sing and play the piano on the festival program.

"All I had to do is call her," Lisby said.

Lisby and Wheatley went on to become good friends who visited regularly.

"The wisdom was overwhelming that you got from her," she said. "I'm going to miss her very much."

Wheatley also was an inspiration to her grandchildren, said Winnie Wallace, who shared a reading from Wheatley's grandchildren and great-

grandchildren.

"We loved you not only for who you were, but for what we have become because of you," said the granddaughter.

After the service, she reminisced about Wheatley's firm, but loving hand.

"She always gave us that wisdom," she said. "Even if she was fussing at us, she had that gentle firmness that let us know what we should be doing."

## Wheatley, [Page 2A, continued from Page 1A].

Clipped By:



dark\_thunder

Tue, Apr 25, 2017