

# The Comet II

January 31, 2013



Booker T. Washington Foundation

www.bookertwashingtonfoundationsc.org

## President's Voice

### \* Board Officers

Henry Hopkins, President  
Geraldine S. Parker, Vice President  
Mary Hammond, Secretary  
Wilhelmina Kinard, Asst. Secretary  
M. LaNelle Kohn, Treasurer  
Crissandra Elliott, Asst. Treasurer  
Ida S. English, Parliamentarian  
Rev. Odell Wiggins, Chaplain  
Jean Hopkins, BTW Liason

### \* Deaths

Viola Mims Lewis  
Rosa Frances Ellis  
Eloise Taylor Colvin  
Mable Schumpert Craft, 1946  
Freddie James Strother  
Abbie Inez DeSaine Hammond  
Regina Gale White-Robinson  
Mary Sue Ayers Frazier  
Alice Elizabeth Jenkins Lindsey  
Carolyn Cecila Lloyd Carter  
John Thomas "Man"/"Sump" Sumpter  
Charles B. Watson, Sr.  
Thelma Hoffman, Teacher

Last year was a very blessed year for all Washingtonians. We saw faces at the Heritage Weekend that we had not seen in many years. What a blessing to be able to still tell the story and recognize someone you have not seen in more than forty years!

The BTW Foundation's board is presently working with USC and others and anxiously waiting to see the end results of the refurbishing of the BTW Fine Arts that is now a part of the university's campus.

Once we get everyone on board and following the protocols that are in place, we will be able to move forward and hopefully make the BTW/Monteith Building a viable and vibrant attraction for the city and tourists. Meanwhile, along with ownership comes responsi-

## Class of 1957

Happy New Year Washingtonians!

Our Annual Holiday Fellowship was held on January 3, 2013 at noon at the Brookland Baptist Banquet and Conference Center, West Columbia, South Carolina. We enjoyed a sumptuous

meal as we fellowshipped with class members, family and friends. We still do our quarterly worshipping with a classmate at his/her place of worship then enjoy an informal gathering where we chat and chew and

abilities and recurring bills. Your contributions are needed if funds are to be available to pay insurance, utilities, maintenance, virtual technology, etc. Staffing will be required if tours and other programs are offered to the public. Your 2012 contributions were greatly appreciated. Now it is time to pay your \$25.00 for 2013 on or before April 15. Each contributor will be acknowledged on our web site and the Heritage program booklet.

We are currently seeking suggestions for improving our Heritage Weekend Celebration. Board members, class presidents and decade coordinators are asked to share all information with others. For updates, please visit the

foundation's Web page at [www.bookertwashingtonfoundationsc.org](http://www.bookertwashingtonfoundationsc.org).

We have lost a lot of Washingtonians to sickness and/or death this quarter. We must stay in touch with family members and do whatever we can to make the pain and burdens easier. Please try to attend our bi-monthly meetings, on the second Sunday of the odd months, 4:00 p.m. at the BTW/Monteith Cultural Center.

- Henry Hopkins



bring everyone up to date on what is happening with all classmates we have contact with. Pray for us and our sick and shut-in members.

- Mary Davis Williams, William L. Davis, Jr.  
& Frazier Davis, reporters.

## Class of 1943

Fellow Washingtonians, "It's beginning to look a lot like" winter, although we've been experiencing some very mild days and enjoyed them.

I have been able to reach a few of the faithful to find out if they had any news to share with you in the Comet. Nathaleen M. Jenkins, her sons Gregory and Lester, went to her niece Barbara Fludd's, daughter of Emmaline Jenkins Bennett '42, home for Christmas dinner and spent a joyful time together with family. Pauline B. Richardson was delighted to have her husband, AP Richardson, home for Christmas. They along with her sister Georgella B. Faust's '55, granddaughter from Washington, DC, Kimberly Stubbs along with other family members, gathered at the Richardson home during the holiday season.

Please send your dues to Ruby B. Collins. Visit the BTW Foundation's website if you have further questions or need other information.

Most of us have been a little under the weather, but we are doing

fine for the shape we are in. The class of 1943 will celebrate its 70<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion this year. WOW!

**Highlights:** This reporter maintains an active lifestyle and "like the old river, I just keep rolling along." I have attended worship services, grand kids' school activities, and funeral/home going services. I am writing poetry. Hope to have another volume in print in the near future.

Thanks to all of you who have given me words of encouragement and show an interest in acquiring some of them. We were saddened by the death of Flavian Coleman. He was eulogized by nephew, Seminacian Coleman, ministerial candidate, who gave a powerful and inspiring message.



Well, Washingtonians, this is all for this quarter. Please try to contact a classmate whom you have not seen or heard from in quite a few years. Try to stay in touch with them and add another each quarter. You may be surprised to how many persons you may be able to reach who have been waiting for just such an encounter. Try it, you may like it.

- Josephine J. Hall, Reporter

## Class of 1955

Well, classmates, we have made another year without the loss of a member. This lets us know we are doing something right with our health.

No meeting was held in November due to so much illness, but we overcame through God's grace and mercy. In December our annual class party was held as a luncheon at O'Charley's Restaurant and what a togetherness that was! We exchanged secret pal gifts. I believe everyone got what he/she wanted. Our 2013 cruise has been cancelled because the committee came up with something better. A flyer will be sent to all members. Our January meeting was held at Alonzo Phelps' home. The ten members present had a "stomp down" old meeting. We changed from monthly to bi-monthly meetings.

We were hoping Melvin Pearson would be in attendance to give us an update on his sister, Thelma Pearson Hoffman, former BTW English teacher, who died in Ohio

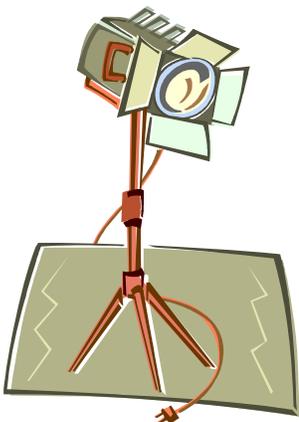
and was cremated. Her daughter, Janice Hoffman, plans to bring her remains to Columbia and hold a memorial service.

Classmates keep the correspondence coming because this is the only way we can keep in touch with each other. Frankie Jones Wilson's husband is on the critical list. Please lift him up in prayer. Eloise Stocker, Walter Jackson, Janie Summons Gardner, Bennie Hair, Carrie Jean Bell Tucker and all

other classmates whose names are not mentioned, need your prayers. Until next quarter, classmates, I'm your roving reporter.

- Alonzo Phelps, Reporter

## Willie L. Ruff in the Spotlight



Willie Leon Ruff, Ph. D., 1956, recently received an e-mail from one of his past medical students informing him that he had found a 1962 article telling when and how he, Dr. Ruff, was able to pursue his doctorate.

The article reads as follows: "Dr. John B. Eubanks, Professor of philosophy in the school of education was the principal speaker at the second annual alumni-student banquet at Tuskegee Institute on March 11, 1962. During his speech he informed attendees that the "Chemistry graduate student, Willie Ruff, had been granted a fellowship by Case Western Reserve University for advance studies toward his Ph. D. in biochemistry."

This article was found by a student fifty-one years after the

professor gave the speech.

Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio is considered one of the nation's top research universities.

Willie Leon Ruff was one of the top ten students in the Booker T. Washington High School 1956 graduating class. He was the speaker for the Heritage Weekend banquet quite a few years ago. Leon and his wife had one daughter whose life was cut short while out of the country by a reckless driver. They now enjoy retirement life between their homes in Virginia and Florida.



## Class of 1964

### 2012 in Revue

BTW Class '64 held its January meeting at the home of our dynamic hostess **Doris Johnson Andrews** assisted by **Gloria Richardson Priester**, March meeting at the home of our jubilant hosts, **Jimmy (Gardenia) Ruff**, May meeting at the home of our beautiful hostess **Barbara Seabrook (Thomas) Spry**, September meeting at the home of magnificent hostess **Moretta Toatley Brown**, and November meeting at the home sensational hostess **Sandra Krider Johnson**. As always, these were joyous gatherings each having representation from three states: Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

At each class meeting, there is a business session, picture taking session, scrapbook update, and finger licking good food. We truly have fun, fellowship, and food galore!

Class was especially happy to have out of state classmates **Jacqueline Washington** (Atlanta, Ga.), **Eugene Carter** (Fayetteville, NC), and **Jo Tillman Boyd** (Charlotte, NC) in attendance along with our faithful South Carolinians.

**Moretta Toatley Brown** was presented the Class '64 Thanksgiving Award which is a mone-

tary gift annually presented to a classmate who has been ill and/or provided outstanding service to the class. Thank you Moretta for all that you do for the betterment of the class.

Kudos (Through the Looking Glass of All our Children) **Torica Cornelius** of Atlanta Georgia, daughter of **Eunice Watson Cornelius**, album /CD "A Beautiful Mess", was released on August 4, 2012. Torica wrote all of the songs on her tracks. Music is her passion as she lives the dream of her deceased brother, Todd, who introduced the world of music to her!!! Best Wishes Torica!!!

**Connell Maynor**, son-in-law of **Eugene Carter**, head Coach at Winston Salem State University, (WSSU), in Winston Salem, North Carolina continues to excel as a football coach. Connell 's team was undefeated during regular season in 2012, posting a 14-0 record.

**Yolanda Pelzer**, daughter of **Samuel "Tank" (Rosa) Pelzer** did a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem in September at the 9-11 ceremony where **President Obama** was in attendance and she also sang the National Anthem at one of the Jacksonville Jaguars ' games in November. What a beautiful voice. See video at this link <http://youtu.be/uChNhJcSLSA>

**Laria Andrews**, daughter of **Doris Johnson Andrews**,

a Mecklenburg County social worker, sang a solo at a candlelight vigil held on the steps of Hal Marshal Resource Center, Charlotte, NC. Vigil was held to remember the homeless who died in 2012. Laria was featured in the Charlotte Observer.

Read more here:

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2012/11/19/3677457/homeless-vigil-111912.html#storylink=misearch#storylink=cpy>

**Angie Stone**, daughter of **Iona Brown Williams**, world renowned Grammy winner, singer, producer, and actress released her latest Album/CD "Rich Girl" in September. Angie has graced the covers of many publications, including Ebony and Jet.

Continued Success to **ALL our CHILDREN**

### Condolences

Charles Watson, brother of Eunice Watson Cornelius, Brookland Baptist Church  
Carolyn Lloyd Carter, sister of Eugene Lloyd -Francis Burns United Methodist Church

*Doris Johnson Andrews and Geraldine Straman Parker, reporting*

## Class Of 1954



Happy New Year All! Hope your holiday was great. We will sadly miss our beloved classmate, Eddie Hendrix, who served as our vice president and travel coordinator. Through his efforts we traveled to Bahamas, Canada, Mexico, New York, Massachusetts, Illinois, Louisiana, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina beaches.

Life is a gift, precious and short. We held our Holiday Celebration at

Fatz Cafe' on Forest Drive on December 20, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

We featured classmate Mozelle Simmons Myers, a woman of many professions and owner/manager of many business enterprises. She holds professional certifications as a Registered Cosmetologist instructor, nurse, recreation coordinator, and business woman. Mozelle recently received a commendation and Certificate of Appreciation, awarded by the Director of the William Jennings Bryan Dorn Veterans' Hospital, Columbia, SC for the efficient

manner in which she assisted in preventing a patient from committing suicide. It was one of many awards for her interventions which improved the lives of others and her community.

She retired after thirty-six years of nursing with the Federal Government. She was married to the late Master Sergeant Odie Myers. To this union two children were born. Her philosophy of life is "When God blesses you, you must bless others."

- *Katie Bell Lites, President*  
- *Marion B. Tucker, Reporter*

**Booker T. Washington Foundation**

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The BTW Foundation tries to help graduating legacies reaching to new academic heights.

**Important Dates:**

- \* Annual Foundation dues are due by March 15 of each year.
- \* Scholarship Applications are due on or before April 15
- \* BTW Heritage Weekend: June 28-30, 2013

**Class of 1956**

The Class of 1956 enjoyed its winter gathering at Generations. We were very grateful to class members who helped make our outreach project, donating stuffed animals to Richland Memorial Children's Hospital. Everyone seemed to want to do more.

Marion Harrison has inspired us to become proactive in contacting some of our classmates whom we have not seen since we graduated, especially those in Columbia and surrounding areas in South Carolina. We would appreciate any assistance from everyone. We will try to send out a quarterly class newsletter to reach some and encourage others to join us for several informal "chat-n-chew" sessions during the year.

Please pray for our sick and shut in and bereaved. Call someone and let them know you are thinking of them.

Send news tidbits to Marion Harrison, 1433 Claremont Circle, Savannah, Georgia. Phone: (913)232-4353; email [marionharr@comcast.net](mailto:marionharr@comcast.net)

**Scholarship Information**

The Booker T. Washington Foundation has several scholarship opportunities available to graduating seniors. All applicants, except for the Susan B. Freeman Scholarship, must be the legal child or grandchild of a Washingtonian. Susan B. Freeman Scholarship is restricted to seniors planning to attend Benedict College. Applications are available on the BTW website: [bookertwashingtonfoundation.org](http://bookertwashingtonfoundation.org). Applications are due by April 15, **not post marked on April 15. Be sure to read and follow instructions for completing application.** Applicants

are chosen based on a point system. Some applicants have not received scholarships because they failed to complete everything that's required on application which caused them to not receive points in certain categories.

Question may be directed to Doris Johnson J. Andrews, Geraldine S. Parker or any other member of the scholarship committee. Doris can be reached at (803)754-7736 or email [andy316@netzero.net](mailto:andy316@netzero.net) and Geraldine can be reached at

(803)754-8093 or email [parkergs@bellsouth.net](mailto:parkergs@bellsouth.net).

