

THE COMET III

A PUBLICATION OF BOOKER T. WASHINGTON FOUNDATION

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From the President

The first month of the New Year has passed and we cannot seem to gain a positive focus and move forward with improving involvement of Washingtonians in promoting the BTW-Monteith Cultural Center. We need your input and presence if we are to be successful. We have invested too much money and time into this project to just allow it to fall by the wayside like an abandoned piece of refuse.

Now for some very positive news, our website will soon be available for your daily perusal. We will try to update it bi-monthly. The newsletter will be posted as well as other news of interest to Washingtonians and the community at large. We will still have to pay membership dues because we will have to pay to maintain the site. Please pass the word to others so that they can go to the site and view its contents. Encourage them to submit items to be posted.

Albert Griffin

Roasting Jean

*You are cordially invited to the Funds, Inc. **Roast and Toast** in honor of **Jean Sanders Hopkins, Thursday, February 4, 2010** at Special Occasions Restaurant, 2500 Decker Boulevard. The festivities begin at 6:00 p.m. with dancing and greetings. Dinner and Roast begin at 8:30. Cost is \$40.00 per person. Corporate tables are \$200.00. Please come out and support this worthy cause as you enjoy the roasting of one of the most energetic Washingtonians to ever glide into your circle.*

FROM THE CLASSES

Classes of 1934 & 1937

We continue to stay in contact with as many classmates and other Washingtonians as possible. This is done mostly by telephone since most of us have taken ourselves from under the steering wheel and try to content ourselves to being very good passengers.

Thanks, all of you who attended the unveiling of the Bell South 2010 Calendar. Your congratulations and well-wishes were really appreciated. My heart just leapt when I was greeted by so many of you. Did you ever imagine that not one but three Washingtonians would grace the same calendar in the new decade?

Our doors may have closed, but it does not stop our achievements and service.

Continue to keep us in your prayers.

Fannie Phelps Adams, reporters

Class of 1943

October 2009

Hi there, Washingtonians. Some of us are experiencing those ailments that seem to afflict the more mature quicker and more severely at the onset of colder temperatures. Your reporter, Josephine Hall has also felt the cruelty of the change in the weather. I am much better now, thanks to good family and medical care.

Pauline Richardson, Josephine Hall and others from the class attended the 143rd Session of the Columbia Annual Conference, Seventh Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, September 13-19, 2009. Rev. Dr. James S. Cooper Host Pastor. I am sure everyone who attended the conference really enjoyed a remarkable well-planned and welcoming week. It was like a mini-reunion. We saw so many folks whom we had not seen for at least a year. Sarah W. Bowman was very excited to see so many of us.

The following week **Nathaleen M. Jenkins and Josephine Hall** attended the 22nd Annual Midlands Area Senior Games at the Capitol Senior Center. Richland County Sheriff, Leon Lott was the keynote speaker. He told the audience to stop staying home on the telephone and watching television all of the time. Get out and enjoy being with others as long as you are able. It will help to keep your mind and body active longer. He sees us as older adult Americans who are looking very good. This annual event is free to senior citizens.

Congratulations to **Mrs. Fannie P. Adams** for being honored. We love her and are proud of her. We hope to soon see her on the Black History Calendar.

We learned of the passing of Melvin Starks, Terzah Gooden's cousin.

We hope all will have a safe and happy holiday season.

January 2010

The holidays are over; 2010 is here. Looking back, Washingtonians have news to share.

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Pauline B. Richardson's family enjoyed their annual Christmas Dinner at Saluda Shoals Park.

Terzah Gooden, her daughters and son spent New Year's Day enjoying each other while preparing and devouring a delightful meal. Her daughter, Kimberly, shared and celebrated her recent promotion.

Nathaleen Jenkins enjoyed a warm, wonderful holiday with her sons who are also Washingtonians.

The great big Jefferson Family celebrated Thanksgiving at Iris Jackson's; '74, (last BTW class), home and Christmas at her parents, Ida and Walter Jackson's; '55, home. Also included was cousin, Gertrude Hunter Approbato formerly of Tucson, AZ.

We were able to contact classmate, Sarah W. Jackson, recently. She was excited to hear from us.

Nathaleen Jenkins and Josephine Hall attended the home going services for our dearly beloved classmate, George Butler. He was the only male classmate who ever met with us. We will miss his 20 years of support and dedication.

Thanks to all the Washingtonians who extended warm, heartfelt sympathy to Cornelius Jefferson's, '51, family. He was the last surviving brother of the great Jefferson Family from Arthur Town.

We extended sympathy to Maggie McCleod Cochran in the loss of her sister, Dorothy Love, Hackensack, NJ, and her nephew Harold Love, Texas. Both were cousins of the Jefferson Family.

Josephine Jefferson & Pauline Richardson, reporters

Class of 1955

Well, the class has survived the Christmas and New Year Holidays and everything they had to offer. Now it is time to get back to work.

Our January meeting was held at the home of Roland and Lorene Harris. It was good to get back together again to start the New Year off on the good foot. Ha! Ha!

Our Christmas Party was on time and very enjoyable, especially the dancing and swinging to the old sounds of yesteryear. The revealing and exchanging of Secret Pal gifts was the highlight of the evening. I hope all of the classmates who participated were surprised by their gift and their secret pal, I know I was.

Our Raffle Tickets Sale went well. I am sorry I didn't win anything.

The winners were:

Mary Jones Brown-----	\$ 100.00
Alphonso Edmonds-----	\$ 50.00
Harold Lewis-----	\$ 25.00
Anthony McCollum-----	\$ 25.00
James White-----	\$ 25.00

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Again, I want to thank everyone who made this raffle a success. It really helps build the class's treasury so that we can do more outreach. Therefore, if you did not win this time, next time you may just be a winner.

Please pray for our sick and shut in and infirm, especially, Roland Harris, Frankie Jones Wilson, Zack Prioleau, Eloise Stocker and me, as well as all of our class members whom we hear from often and those with whom we have minimal contact or knowledge. May the good Lord ease our aches and pains because we are all at the age that we need "all the help we can get".

We hope everyone will be able to access the BTW website and see what your committees have been doing to make this Legacy, through the Foundation, something you will enjoy and will show your family and friends. We hope that you will be able to go on line in a few months.

"Your Roving Reporter", **Alonzo Phelps**

Class of 1956

We are very happy to report that Beatrice Taylor McKnight is doing well after her recent hospital stay.

Johnnie M. Bowman Pickett is recuperating at home after a two-week hospitalization and two surgeries. We thank God for her spirit of resiliency.

Mildred Whetstone is improving. Dialysis has a way of draining ones energy and spirit. Please give her a call and/or go by and visit her.

We were happy to see Elaine L. Jumper at our January meeting. We know your health will soon be 100 % again.

Condolences to Albert Norris on the death of his brother, Rev. Hills Norris, Jr. Classmates, send him a card and/or give him a call to stay in touch and to show him that you care.

Class of 1957

We extend love, joy and peace to Washingtonians in the New Year. We are extremely excited about anticipated growth and financial blessings for our **Booker T. Washington Foundation** in 2010. The motive of giving reveals the character of the giver more than the gift itself.

Our annual holiday fellowship luncheon was held on Tuesday, December 29, 2009, at noon, at Brookland Baptist Banquet and Conference Center. Eighteen classmates and family members attended. Everyone was happy to see one of our faithful classmates, Benbennetta Charles, who traveled from Huntsville, AL, for our luncheon.

Always remember to pray for those who are sick, shut-in, and bereaved members.

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Mary Davis Williams, William L. Davis, Jr. and Frazier Davis, reporters

Class of 1963

BTW Class '63 along with CA Johnson Class '63 held their annual Christmas Party at the Delta Life Development Center. The event was catered by Julia Meadows, Gwendolyn Meadows and Margaret Wilson Tipton. What delicious refreshments!

We were entertained by **Maxcy Gregg Park Line Dancers**. They performed every kind of line dance imaginable.

Participating members were James Owens, Leon Goodwin, John Turnipseed, Jacob Jones, Geraldine Joseph Gibson, James E. Parker, Catherine Waldo Hargrave, Margaret Brunson Davis, Nell Goodwin, Herbert Amaker, Nell Oglesby, Sylvia Stroman Jackson, John Smith, Julia Meadows, Billy Goodwin, and June Brown.

Class Trip: BTW/CAJ are still making preparations for a trip to Miami and Key West, FL July 25-31, 2010. Others are welcome to join us on the basis of available space. Trips are taken biannually.

Classmate in the Spotlight: James Owens was pleasantly surprised with a birthday party recognizing his special day, given by his family and Sylvia S. Jackson, at Delta Life Development Center, where many classmates, family and friends were in attendance.

Jacob Jones and James E. Parker, Reporters

Class of 1964

Our Annual Christmas Celebration was held at the home of James and Marie Adams. The affair was catered by Ruth Williamson-The Best Kept Secret in Town.

The class surprised **Geraldine Parker Stroman** with an appreciation plaque, card and a monetary gift. Class members took turns expressing how Geraldine made an impact on their lives and how she encouraged them to participate in class meetings and other activities. Thanks for the beautiful affair.

Participants were: **James Adams, Willie Adams, Frankie Campbell-Point, David Clarkson, Sandra Crider-Johnson, Shirley Ferguson Irving, Ernie Glymph, Dolores Herbert-Anderson, Joseph Holston, Vivian Hopkins-Hernandez, Emanuel Irving, Doris Johnson-Andrews, Catherine McGorder Whatley, Melvin McKie, Willie Myers, Samuel Pelzer, James Prince, Julia Prince-Edwards, Carolyn Reed-King, John Robinson, Gloria Richardson Priester, Barbara Seabrook-Spry, Jessie Thorne-Edmonds, Jo Tillman Boyd** (Charlotte, NC), **Moretta Toatley-Brown, David Tucker** (Atlanta, GA), **Margaret Walker Ervin, and Merrill White**

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(Atlanta, GA).

KUDOS

Doris Andrews' daughter, **Genitra**, received her Master's Degree in Physical Therapy from Howard University, Washington, DC. The White Coat Ceremony was held December 5, 2009. Great job Genitra!

Barbara Spry and husband, Thomas, recently returned from a European Cruise. Also they were honored as "Contributors of the Year" by the SC/HIV Council.

Vivian Hopkins was all smiles at our last meeting as she let us know that she was a newlywed. She is now Vivian H. Hernandez. Vivian was recognized at the Richland I December board meeting as a recipient of the Palmetto Award for Distinguished Social Studies Teachers. Way to go Vivian!

Julia Edwards and husband, John, recently celebrated their 29th wedding anniversary. She finally braved the open seas to go on their anniversary cruise. Hurray Julia!

CONDOLENCES

We would like to keep the following classmates who recently lost loved ones in our thoughts and prayers: **Samuel Pelzer**-mother-in-law; **Doris J. Andrews**-father; **Carolyn Bracey Johnson and Joe Louis Garvin**-daughter; **Julia Edwards, and James Prince**- sister, Betty Jean Prince Lane, '59 and **Bernetha Fanning Wise**-brother, Willie James Fanning, '67, .

Doris J. Andrews & Geraldine S. Parker, reporters

Deceased Washingtonians for First Quarter

- Frank Jones**
- Queen Esther Caldwell Hayes**
- Betty Jean Prince Lane** 1959
- Georgeanna Louise Graves Moore** 1930
- Melvin "Big Mac" McDaniel** 1971
- George Washington Butler,II** 1943
- Charles "Bookie" Williams**
- Herbert Martin Goodwine**
- Onesimus Richardson**
- William "Sonny" Boykin, III-** 1952
- Robert Elliott Smith** 1941
- Rev. Hills Norris, Jr.**
- Andrew "Turk" Thomas Martin**
- Frank "Dan" Muller**
- Charlie Coleman, Sr.**
- Frank Jones**
- Alphonso Adams**
- James O. Jackson, former Social Studies teacher at BTW.**
- Leroy Williamson** 1961

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Thank you, from **Faye Smith Mandell**, daughter of **Annie Mae Jackson Smith**, '34, May 3, 1916—November 2, 2009.

Faye wants Washingtonians to know that she appreciated your cards, calls and especially the mention of her mother's death in the 2009 fourth quarter Comet II. She said her mother talked with fond memories of her years at Booker T. Washington High School. During her final months Annie Mae continued to remember Ruby Leevy Johnson and Fannie Phelps Adams.

It is so encouraging when a class will continue to maintain that close contact with a member who has had to relocate to a far away place in order to be with a caregiver.

Keep up the good contacts and works Washingtonians. This is how we were trained.

Spotlight on Washingtonians

Judge Mildred Weathers McDuffie, Class of 1952 has been selected by the United Negro College Fund's National Alumni council to receive the Prestigious Outstanding Alumni Award. The award recognizes alumni who have made significant contributions to their alma mater, the community and/or the UNCF.

The award will be presented at a special ceremony at the UNCF-NAC/NPAC Conference scheduled for New Orleans on February 3-6, 2010.

The Comet II Reporters who have consistently made sure there has been news for Washingtonians-Though it may have sometimes seemed trite and personal, they have been faithful for ten or more years. If you have not made a commitment to share news with your class reporter, do it today. This paper could not have been so successful for the past fifteen years without their contributions, hard work and dedication.

Albert Griffin, Booker T. Washington, 1955 who not only leads his class, but the Foundation too. Most folks would have given up after suffering cardiac problems and other health issues, but he went through, got up and kept going. Sure there are days when he would like nothing better than sitting around taking it easy, but his love for BTW makes him go out to represent us every day. He is the ultimate passionate leader who keeps meetings going smoothly, accomplishing goals that will keep the name of Booker T. Washington High School, Columbia, South Carolina alive for our children and children's children. Thanks Al. We do not say that often enough.

Rev. Solomon Jackson, recent \$259.9 million Powerball winner and former Washingtonian. Recently donated a gift of \$10 million

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to Morris College in Sumter, SC a school he attended in the late seventies and early eighties. He also donated 1.7 million dollars to USC to renovate the Booker T. Washington auditorium and to convert it into a museum that would perpetuate the history of our school.

Booker T. Washington Foundation

P. O. box 1641

Columbia, SC 29203

Phone (803) 754-224

Web address: bookertwashingtonfoundationsc.org

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If you do not receive a paper, please call J. Patterson at home 803-798-3177 or cell 803-622-3956.



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