

The Comet II

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Booker T. Washington Foundation

www.bookertwashingtonfoundationsc.org

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About Our Organization

The Booker T. Washington Foundation began as a way to remember our school which closed in 1974. It was a way to keep the family together and to give our legacies an idea of why we are so passionate about our Alma Mater. Scholarships are awarded to persons who apply and withstand the rigorous prerequisites and requirements. The dues for membership is \$35.00 per year, payable by April 15 of each year. \$25.00 of the total helps pay for utilities and upkeep of BTW/Montieth Cultural Center.

Our Motto:
"Lest we forget."

From the Desk of the President . . .

Greetings Washingtonians!

The Year 2021 continues to present new challenges for us as we seek to deal with the ongoing pandemic. We know that our lives have changed and will never be the same. To that end, let me extend expressions of sympathy to all who have experienced the loss of family members because of COVID-19, and thankfulness to those who may have been affected by COVID-19 and recovered. Remember to follow the established guidelines and be safe.

As we plan for 2021, we will seek to keep you informed using the existing media resources, and the expanded social media resources that we will explore. We are working to update our website and will inform you once the transformation is completed.

Task Force Groups

The Foundation has organized five (5) Task Groups with the following statement of purpose: to advance the historical, organizational, financial and community service endeavors of the Booker T. Washington High School Foundation, and to perpetuate the excellence and relevance of Booker T. Washington High School.

The five (5) Task Groups are: Strategic Planning, Board Organization, History, Financial, Building and Properties. Each Task Group has specific charges that will be carried out by task group members. Persons serving on the Task Groups include members of the Foundation Board of Directors, members of the Alumni Association and members of The Millennium Society.

The Board of Directors has approved the Mission Statement, Vision and Value Statements for 2021-2022.

Mission Statement

The Booker T. Washington High School Foundation is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to perpetuate the heritage and history of BTW, maintain relationships with alumni, the Alumni Association, and The Millennium Society, develop and build partnerships with community supporters, and keep the traditions of BTW in the forefront.

Vision

We will strive to maintain the heritage and history of Booker T. Washington High School.

- Continued on page 4



Class of 1943



Hello Washingtonians!!!

How have you been Washingtonians, since the last news in 2020? The "Faithful Few" are still blessed to see every new day that we have never seen before, enclosed in our right minds, and still able to sometimes be able to do some things for ourselves, sometimes with the help of others. We trust all is well with you and yours.

Taking a look back into 2020, we are going to let you see and hear some of the events that have gone on with us. First of all, some of our dear faithful members and friends have left us. Pauline Blocker Richardson passed away. Nathaleen Martin Jenkins and Josephine Jefferson Hall represented the class at Pauline's Celebration of Life Service. Her family was grateful for everything we have done through the years. We will continue to lift up Georgella B. Foust, her sister from the BTW Class of '55 and all of their wonderful support for their dear sister. The memories will always be dear to our hearts. We are still trying to move on.

Jesse Thorne Edmonds, assistant secretary on the Board of Directors for BTW High was very faithful. I attended her Celebration of Life recently. She was grandmother and great-grandmother of my grands also. She will surely be missed. Washingtonians, I cannot thank you enough for being a part of my great Drive Through Birthday Celebration at Caughman Road Park in November. My granddaughter, Lakeisha N. Edmonds, her four sons, and the Edmonds Cousins along with my family planned the occasion. So many from in and out of town, from all over were a part of it. I am still getting well wishes!!! It was truly awesome. I am richly blessed for each and every year. Once again, my wish is the great wishes that you will continue to do the best you can as long as you can. It means so much to keep in touch.

- Josephine Jefferson Hall, Reporter

TAX TIME

The 2020 tax season has begun. Have not heard whether there will be extensions as we experienced for filing our 2019 tax. Begin now to gather your information to insure that your return(s) will reach the Internal Revenue Service and the South Carolina Department of Revenue prior to the April 15th deadline.

- J. Patterson

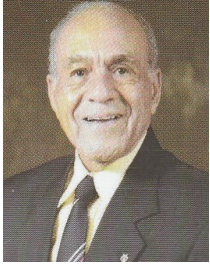


Whenever some of us hear those words we are filled with trembling and dread, yet we will not take the precautions for avoiding the contraction of this sometimes deadly contagion. Now a new, highly contagious strain has been discovered in two regions, (the Low Country and Pee Dee), of South Carolina. This South African variant, (SARS-CoV-2), is known as B.1.251.

We must be diligent and take seriously all of the precautions required to help prevent the spread of this deadly disease. Its run is far from over.

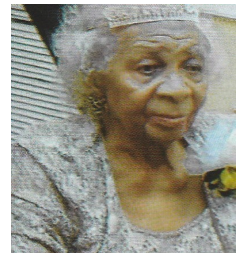
- J. Patterson

- SPOTLIGHT -



William H. Cannon is a 1946 graduate of B TW. He and his five brothers were/are loyal Washingtonians. His academic path carried him to Allen University from which he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1950. After furthering his education and being employed in various institutions, he and his brother, Matthew, returned to teach at his beloved BTW. His creed is in Ecclesiastes 3:1, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heavens." In this year he will celebrate his 93rd birthday, God willing.

Colie Mack Washington is the oldest surviving Washingtonian and the only surviving sibling of 14. On her birthday September 6, 2021, she will be 103 years young. She is a graduate of the BTW Class of 1940. Her academic path took her to Allen University, Winthrop, South Carolina State, Benedict, and the University of South Carolina. She is the mother of three children: Donald, Jacqueline and James, Jr., who are BTW graduates.



Hello Washingtonians! It is hard to believe that the first month of the New Year is over. Since I am older, I can understand the metaphor, "time flies". In this eleventh month of our life of "the new normal" we have had to learn how to live and cope with a horrid virus that does not look at status, wealth, age, gender or ethnicity. It has ravaged countries, cities, families, businesses, and the entire world's way of life. Catch words are safe distancing, masking up, sanitizing, stay at home, limit social contact, mutations, and virtual everything. With all of the gloom and doom surrounding us we still press on to the mark of the higher calling. You will gain greater insight as you read this edition of the newsletter. Never before have I recorded and reported on so many Washingtonians who have left this clime for one that no one has returned from to tell us what it is like. We just use our vivid imagination to believe that the souls are in a better place. We will continue to have some sense of normalcy in our lives, but we must also accept that whenever changes occur we must adjust to those changes and institute life-altering personal changes if we plan to survive.

* DEATHS *

NO CLASS ARTICLES REPORTED

Rosa Samuel Collins, '38, Juanita Corley Hall, '40, Mary T. Howell, '47, Margaret Louise Glenn, '49, Mozell Simmons Myers, '51, Ms. Sgt. Johnnie James, '52, Malachi Jonathan James, '53, Theodore Rose, '58, Josephine Draft Stone, '68, Mildred Hayes, '68, Benjamin Montgomery, '69, Cassandra Bates Brown, '71, Betty Hall Mitchell, '74, Raymond Mitchell, '74

NO CLASS DATE KNOWN

Carolyn Ruth Jones Hunter, Earline Davis Robinson, Haskell Ruff, Dessie Murray Scott

- Johnnie Patterson, Reporting

Class of 1956



Hello Washingtonians,

We are happy to report that the New Year has greeted us with some good news: Sarah and Albert Griffin are back in their house after a fire displaced them for over four months.

Albert has been able to return home from rehab. He receives extra care from home health caregivers. God is merciful, awesome, almighty, loving, and caring.

Sadly, we must report the deaths of four classmates: Marietta Boulware Wider, Pearline Noble Young, Frazelia Corley Crumlin, and Sallie Ann Reed Plair Sparks.

We received returned mail for quite a few classmates. We do not know if they have moved or are deceased. If any Washingtonian knows of the whereabouts of Edith Friday Wilson, West Lin, Oregon; Curtis Abney, Jamaica, NY; Minetta Neal Dames, New York/ St. Julian Place, Columbia, SC; Betty Brown, Columbia, SC; Helen Brown Johnson, Bronx, NY; Sylvia Dawkins White, Columbia, SC; Betty Rumph Gaines, Hopkins, SC; and Sarah Brown Adams, Lusby, Maryland. Please let me know.

I am including the names of two affectionate ladies who taught me a lot about human nature. They died before the October 2020 issue was mailed. They are Pauline Blocker Richardson, '43 and Martha Ruff, '47.

I want to thank classmates, Ollie M. Williams Milligan and Willie M. Spann Belton for your calls and updates.

CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF:

- Frazelia Corley Crumlin - Sallie Ann Reed Plair Sparks - Marietta Boulware Wider - Pearline Noble Young
- Johnnie Mae Corley Patterson, Reporting

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT'D

Value Statements

We value the history of Booker T. Washington High School.

We value the teachers, staff, and alumni of Booker T. Washington High School.

We value the descendants of Booker T. Washington High School alumni.

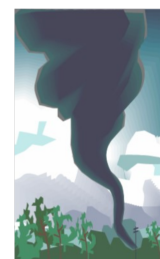
We value The Millennium Society of the Booker T. Washington High School Foundation.

We value community and corporate supporters.

We value our relationship with Richland School District One.

We value our relationship with the University of South Carolina.

We value the opportunity to educate the Midlands community about the history of Booker T. Washington High School and its impact globally, nationally, regionally and locally.



So, what lies ahead for the Booker T. Washington High School Foundation? During 2021, we will forge ahead with tasks that will perpetuate the heritage and history of Booker T. Washington High School through the work of the Foundation, the Alumni Association and The Millennium Society. We ask for your support of our efforts as we plan for our annual celebration and any other events.

Lest We Forget...

Gloria Susan Graham Boyd, '65

Class of 1963



Greetings,

Class '63 is still limited by the pandemic. We have not been able to have our usual bi-monthly in person meetings. This has caused us to delay some of the projects we were scheduled to undertake. We are optimistic about the day when we will soon be back together and not be hampered by CDC guidelines. But until that day, we encourage everyone to stay safe.

Since the last publication of Comet II, we had four classmates to transition: **John Rumph, Johnny Evans, Carnell Bailey and Gracie Seabrook Floyd.** We will continue to keep these families in our thoughts and prayers.



Gracie Seabrook Floyd

is a BTW graduate whose academic path took her to Allen University and Clemson University.

She made history as the first African-American and only African American woman to serve on the Anderson County, SC County Council. She served on the council for more than 20 years.

- James E. Parker and Jacob Jones, Reporting

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 Columbia, South Carolina Booker T. Washington graduate. Susan B. Freeman Scholarship is restricted to seniors planning to attend Benedict College. Applications are available on the BTW website: **bookertwashingtonfoundationsc.org**. Applications are scored independently by each committee member using a rubric. Scholarships are then awarded to the applicants with the four highest combined average scores.

The Scholarship committee reviews applications submitted. Scholarship recipients are recognized at the Heritage Weekend Banquet and are acknowledged at the John Work Chorus on Sunday.

Questions may be directed to Doris Johnson Andrews (803)754-7736 or email dorisandrews33@gmail.com, Geraldine Stroman Parker (803)754-8093 or email parkeergs@bellsouth.net, Ida Spells English (803)779-3734 or email minnieschild@yahoo.com, or M. LaNelle Kohn (803)865-1547, or email sciencelady@gmail.com.



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

Booker T. Washington Foundation

P.O. Box 1641 (Foundation)
Columbia, SC 29202
Attn.: M. LaNelle Kohn
803-865-1547

Comet II

431 Piney Woods Rd. Columbia, SC
29212
Phone: 803-798-3177
E-mail: jcpatterson@netzero.com

*** DEATHS ***

OBITUARY NOTE . . .

To ensure accuracy of information reported through *The Comet*, we are asking that all deaths of Booker T. Washington High School Class members be reported to *The Comet* staff through the Classes.

**Class of 1964**

2020 was an unusual year for Class '64. We were not able to continue having our customary in person meetings. So, we had to rely on alternative methods of keeping in touch. Many classmates are technologically challenged because social media was not our means of communication. We are used to hearing each other's voice, hugging and in person meetings. Life has changed and we have had to reach out to classmates who don't have access to social media. We placed our classmates in various groups and assigned a personal call leader for each group. We recently lost one of our call leaders, **Jessie Thorne Edmonds**. **Doris Johnson Andrews** stepped up to the plate and assumed Jessie's role of contacting classmates to share news and to inform them of class events and plans.

Our last in person meeting was at David Tucker's home in Snellville, Georgia. Jessie was a part of that meeting.

James Adams' family had a "Drive Thru Birthday Celebration" for him on Saturday, January 9, 2021. The parade gathered in the parking lot of Spring Valley Country Club. The procession consisted of at least 30 cars, including members of Class '64, his family and friends. What a joy it was seeing classmate **James Adams**, who had recently been released from the hospital, sitting in his yard as cars paraded by to greet him. We look forward to the time that we don't have to practice social distancing.

**Classmates photographed with members of President Biden's Leadership Team**

Vivian Hopkins Hernandez with President Joe Biden, **Geraldine Stroman Parker** with Secretary Marcia Fudge, HUD and **Doris Johnson Andrews** with Dr. Rosalyn Clark Artist, member of National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity for Secretary of Education.

Condolences

Class regrets the passing of the following classmates, family and friends of Class '64.

Class '64: **Jessie T. Edmonds**, **Julia Ann Pearson Ashby**, **Woodrow Nathan** and **Iona Brown Williams**, mother of renowned singer and actress, Angie Stone

Juanita Corley Hall '40 – Mrs. Hall was always there for Class '64. She secured the venue for our class reunions and our Christmas celebrations.

Gracie Seabrooks Floyd '63, sister of former classmate Wilhelmina Seabrooks Simms who preceded her in death

Mary Cokley, sister of former classmate Pearl Robinson DeShields who preceded her in death

- Doris Johnson Andrews and Geraldine Stroman Parker, Reporters