

THE COMET II— BTW's 95th Year/37th Reunion

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Deaths

- Robert Lee Garrison, 1955
- Richard Willard Pearson 1958
- Marion Ronald "Sonny" Hodges 1956
- Dr. Dennis Earl Norris 1954
- Rozena Free Washington 1962
- Willie Talbert Coker
- Josephine Carryall Brown 1950
- Zack Weston 1941
- Emma Rosetta "Smokey" Garrett 1960
- Beatrice Taylor McKnight 1956
- Joe Louis Garvin 1964

The President's Voice

Washingtonians, as we zoom toward the first half of the year and the Heritage Weekend, I am delighted to inform you that more and more of you are becoming interested in the preservation of the Booker T. Washington High School name and Legacy. While interest is good, interest accompanied by some finances is even better. The Board is asking that everyone begin to communicate with someone from his/her class and begin motivating them to come out and participate in the Annual Heritage Weekend. We are not getting any younger and we are becoming more senior with each passing day. We need more involvement from the younger Washingtonians

and their off spring (s).

Thanks to all of you who have paid your annual foundation's Maintenance Fee of \$25.00. We depend on your generosity to maintain the BTW Cultural Center and the website. If you have not visited either, try to do so as soon as possible. You will be delighted by what you see and experience.

The deaths of so many Washingtonians this quarter is sobering and eye-opening. Do not put off participating in the Foundation's Activities this year. Tomorrow is not promised.

Good news travels slowly. We are meeting bi-monthly and planning ways to retain and maintain our footprints on the



E-Mail your suggestions to A. Kelley

Columbia, South Carolina and World markets.

You may e-mail your suggestions to Annie Kelley at akelley55@aol.com. We do need your input if our efforts to have a viable center are to be realized. Let us hear from you soon

Al Griffin, President

John W. Work Chorus

John W. Work Chorus rehearsals began Tuesday, April 26.. Rehearsals are held every Tuesday , 7:00-8:00 p.m.at Francis Burns United Methodist Church. Michael Felton is the director. There will be no re-

hearsals on May third and June seventh. Next rehearsal is Tuesday, May 10. **The culminating concert will be held Sunday, June 26 at 6:00 p.m. at the University of South Carolina Law Center.**

Ask male and female relatives and friends to join us in this great performance. We especially need bass/ baritone and tenor voices- male and/or female.

Margaret Tipton, Coordinator

Class of 1943

Classmates, the Heritage Weekend will soon be here and it is always a "Grand Affair". Please contact Rubye B. Collins for further information. As many of you as can should try to attend.

Pauline B. Richardson and spouse are still recovering. Give them a call. It is good to hear from all of our classmates. Johnnie M.T. Wheeler's children and grandchildren have kept this only child, busy through the years.

Nathaline M. Jenkins and Josephine J. Hall are looking forward to attending the Little Camden Community Park's "Fish and Fun" in the park Flea Market in May. This is an annual fund raiser sponsored by the Toliver-Harrington Fundraising Committee.

We touched base with Nancy J. Bryant and Mattie T. Cooke, all concerned about our next meeting along with Terza S. Gooden. Maggie M. Cochran is unable to attend, but is always delighted to hear about news concerning our classmates.. Ethel D. Thurman who resides In Chicago, IL, appreciates being kept informed.

We will celebrate our 68th reunion this year. Date, tome and place will be announced soon.

Thanks, classmates for sharing your sympathy with the Jefferson Family

during the recent loss of their niece, Karen J. Tate, daughter of the late Simpson Jefferson. services in Washington, DC.

We welcome all news of interest.

So long for now. Let us be thankful for things being as well as they are. We are all still here by the grace of God.

Reporters,

Josephine J. Hall
Pauline B. Richardson

Class of 1964

What a great time we had at our March meeting hosted by John & Julia P. Edwards and James Prince. We were so elated to have **Iona Brown Williams**, mother of renowned singer, **Angie Stone**, attend her first meeting.

We wore "black and gold" at the meeting as directed by host, Julia. After dining on a variety of great foods we culminated our meeting with our usual photo session.

Classmates in the Spotlight

Vivian Hopkins Hernandez, teacher at Carver=Lyon Elementary School has again been recognized as Richland District 1 Elementary Social Studies Teacher of the Year.

Doris J. Andrews Received the Distinguished Professor Award from the Honors College of Benedict College.

Geraldine S. Parker Was Women's Day speaker at Zion Hill Baptist Church.

Condolences: We regret hearing of the demise of classmate, **Joe Louis Garvin**.

Let us keep the following classmates, who recently lost loved ones, in our thoughts and prayers: **Vivian Peterson Blakely's** father, *Prince Peterson*; **Dr. Merrill White's** mother, *Merrill B. White* and **Mary Anderson Sumter's** husband.

Twenty=five members were in attendance. Seven were unable to attend.

Doris Andrews & Geraldine Parker reporting.

Class of 1957

Hello Washingtonians! God Bless you at Easter..

On Sunday, March 13, our class continued its annual tradition of worshipping together. Worship service was held at the Bible Way Church World Wide, 3111 Piedmont Avenue in Columbus, SC. where we were ex-

tended gracious welcome and hospitality. Bishop Roy Belton, pastor and classmate Corine T. Morris was our hostess. Sr. Elder Willie Mullins, Assistant Pastor, delivered the morning message.

We were blessed by the spirit-filled service. Corine and the choir members surprised when they entered the sanctuary attired in black and gold in honor of the class and our Alma Mater.

We dined with eighteen family and friends after services, at the United House of Prayer.

We look forward to seeing and fellowshipping with each of you at the Heritage Weekend events in June.

Reporters

Mary D. Williams
William L. Davis, Jr.

Class of 1954

Hello Classmates and other Washingtonians. We have been silent for some time, but we will try to report at least twice a year.

Classmate Wilhelmina Rhoe inducted into the 2010 Hall of Fame of the South Carolina Democratic Women's Council at its Annual Fall Forum, Saturday, November 13, 2010. at Seawell's Restaurant, Columbia, SC.

Dr. Earl Dennis Norris, lived in Cleveland Heights, OH, died Friday, No-

vember 5, 2010.

Our Christmas Celebration was held at Red Lobster Restaurant with friends and classmates.

Several of our classmates have not been receiving the newsletter. We hope this problem will be corrected now that it has been brought to the attention of the producer of the Comet II, Thanks for the fine job you are doing

Marian B. Tucker, Reporter

This information should have been reported in the January issue, but I inadvertently overlooked it. Please accept my sincerest apologies.

Please contact Annie Kelley @ 803=754-2246 if your class has not reserved a table. Please do so by May 31.

Class of 1956

Johnnie M. Corley-Patterson was elected president of the class after the untimely death of Beatrice Taylor McKnight.

She has appealed to many class members to resume/continue their support of the class and Foundation.

We are currently enlisting members to purchase a ticket for the Heritage Weekend activities because we have submitted Melvin Hodges

name to the planning committee as the prospective speaker for the Heritage Banquet in 2012.

Thanks to the eleven classmates who attend the memorial services for Marion "Sonny" Hodges. Former classmate and brother of classmate, Melvin "Sancho" Hodges.

Condolences to the families of Beatrice Taylor McKnight, former president of the class, Marion Hodges ,

former classmate and classmate Dewey Scott's mother, Dessie Mae Dawkins Scott.

Congratulations: Dewey Scott's son, Randy on his appointment to the post of Police Chief for the city of Columbia, SC.

Thanks to all of you who have committed to support all of the programs the class is actively involved in.

Heritage Weekend

The Booker T. Washington Foundation will hold its annual Heritage Weekend, Friday, June 24, Saturday, June 25 and Sunday, June 26. Activities begin with the banquet at The Embassy Suites Hotel on Greystone Boulevard. Dr. Donaldson, historian, will be the speaker. The banquet begins

promptly at 7:00 p.m.

The picnic will be held at the Community House at Weston Lake at Ft. Jackson. Be sure you receive your wrist band when you pay your fifty dollars (\$50.00) for the weekend or you will not be able to participate. The John W. Work Chorus will be held on Sunday

at the U.S.C Law Center at 5:00 p.m. Be sure you have your ticket or you will be required to pay ten dollars (\$10.00) at the door. Your weekend ticket is a three-part ticket. Be sure you keep it with you and present it at each affair. Thank you for your support and we hope to see all of you on

The Comet II

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Lest We Forget!

[bookertwashingtontsc.org]



**Booker T. Washington
Foundation**

Class of 1955

Hello classmates and Washingtonians! We are very strong in spirits and looking for Higher Grounds , especially after the fierce tornado that nearly devastated an entire section of the Greenview Community. I had never witnessed a tornado's horrendous devastation so up close and personal. I was one of the fortunate souls whose property was spared severe damage and loss. We all thank God for the South Carolina Baptist Convention's Rapid Response Emergency Preparedness Team that arrived quickly and supervised and orchestrated the clean-up, saving many of the affected families thousands of dollars for tree cutting, removal, and clean up. We want to say thanks and God Bless

You!

Where were our local groups? We are supposed to have such programs, but they did not show up yet.

We met at the home of **Evelyn Montgomery** in February and **Alphonso Edmonds** in March. Both served soul food dishes that were to "die for".

We were saddened by the death of classmate **Robert "Pop" Garrison**. Let us pray for our sick, shut-in and bereaved families, especially **Eloise Newton Stocker**, and **Janie Summons Gardener**, as well as **Ida Jefferson Jackson** who is recuperating quite well from knee surgery. Whenever you pray, please pray for these and for all of our other classmates who are going through various life

Spotlighting Rozena Free Washington

1944-2011

Rozena Free Washington was a daughter, sister, wife, mother, and grandmother who will be greatly missed. She was also a Booker T. Washington Foundation and Alumni Association "Cheerleader" she shared her musical skills with us on the John W. Work Chorus. Whenever we began rehearsals she was usually one of the first participants to arrive. She came with praise and enthusiasm that soon infected and affected all of us. Rozena always encouraged everyone to be enthusiastic and to spread the message of love, loyalty, music and friendship.

So Long Rowena, You will be sorely missed.

altering experiences. It may be a physical, mental, financial, emotional or spiritual downturn that has befallen one of us, but, we all need prayer and LOVE.

Roland Harris and his "crew" are busily putting the finishing touches on plans to make our 56th Year Reunion a grand affair.

We do enjoy a well planned occasion for getting together to fellowship, chat and chew and try a little rug cutting and heel kicking up even if we cannot kick very high or shake a leg as vigorously.

This is all for now so this is your Roving Reporter signing off until next quarter.

Alonzo Phelps, Reporter