

# The Comet II

April 30, 2019

Volume 26 No. 2



Booker T. Washington Foundation

[www.bookertwashingtonfoundationsc.org](http://www.bookertwashingtonfoundationsc.org)

## \* Board Officers

Gloria Graham Boyd, President  
Kimberly Greene, Vice President  
Crissandra Elliott, Secretary  
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John Spells, Historian  
Matthew Addison, Chaplain  
Jean Hopkins, BTW Liaison

## \* DEATHS \*

Dr. John R. Stevenson, former  
RCDI Superintendent  
Ernest Bates, Eddie L. Long, '55  
Lula M. Myers  
Paul L. Pearson  
Mary Simpson James  
Bobbie Jane Argo Goodwin  
Cole Wilson  
Willie Brown, Jr.  
Weston Aurou Furgess, Sr.  
Mary Furgess Cooper  
Billy E. Singletary, Sr.  
Lorene Delores Clark Jones  
Debra Ann Robinson-Reeder  
Mary Elizabeth Harris Davis  
Hattie Marie Smith, '56  
Harold Andrew White-CAJ, '58  
Catherine Tucker Gholson '58  
Rosa Lee Kelly Wright '63  
Willie Long '55



## President's Voice

The Mission Statement of the Booker T. Washington High School Foundation is to perpetuate the heritage and history of BTW, maintain relationships with alumni, develop and build partnerships with community supporters, and to keep the traditions of BTW in the forefront. We all have an opportunity to help bring the mission statement to fruition by being informed, being supportive and being or becoming actively engaged in the events and activities planned by the Foundation.

Our motto, "Lest We Forget" is before us as we plan to celebrate the Heritage Weekend, June 28-30, 2019 in Columbia, South Carolina. This year's theme is: "It's A Family Affair", and the planned events will bring together families and friends to celebrate the rich heritage of Booker T. Washington High School. You may visit the Booker T. Washington Foundation website at <http://bookertwashingtonfoundationsc.org> for additional information about the Heritage Weekend. Ticket information is also available.

As we forge ahead, we would like to inform you that the Foundation Board approved the reorganization of the Booker T. Washington Alumni Association. The Alumni Association held meetings on September 30, 2018, October 28, 2018, January 12, 2019 and March 23, 2019. The elected officers are: President-Matthew Addison ('62); Vice-President- Roosevelt Green ('63); Secretary-Patricia Green ('63). Other officers will be elected at a later date. The next Alumni Association meeting will be held on Saturday, May 18, 2019, 2:00 pm at Wesley United Methodist Church, Gervais Street. All Alumni and interested persons are asked to make plans to attend.

We are indeed excited about the 501(c3) status that was granted to the Booker T. Washington High School Foundation in June 2018. Contributions to the Foundation are now tax deductible. We will be seeking grants that will enable the Foundation to broaden its financial base.

The Booker T. Washington Foundation is working towards the development of its Strategic Plan and seeking legal advice on the development of a *Statement of Authority* which will be used to protect the use of the name of Booker T. Washington High School. Once developed, this document will be shared with the public.

Finally, you are reminded that information about the Millennium Society and the application for the Millennium Society is available on the website. Information about the Commemorative Tree, housed at the Booker T. Washington facility on Whaley Street; *Booker T. Washington Way*, is also available on the website. I am asking that you take advantage of all the available opportunities to help us keep the Booker T. Washington High School history and heritage at the forefront in our community, our state and our nation!

*"Lest We Forget"...*

Gloria Graham Boyd, '65  
President



## Class of 1943



Greetings Washingtonians,

It's time to hear from the "Faithful Few"

A Very Happy Easter to all of you

A bit of highlights:

We are trying to keep in touch by calling each other. Pauline Blocker Richardson received a surprise visit from classmates Nathaleen Martin Jenkins and Josephine Jefferson Hall recently. Oh, we were delighted to talk and laugh about the good old days at Booker T. Washington High. Pauline is recuperating nicely at Brian Center, St Andrews. Your reporter received an award from Zion Chapel Baptist Church Celebrating their 115<sup>th</sup> Senior Ushers Ministry Anniversary for original poetry. I was grateful and hope to keep trying. This was presented along with the ushers. The Annual Senior Day was held at Seawell's on Rosewood Drive. This event has been a grand affair for 42 years with former Chairman of County Council, Bernice Scott and other elected officials, Churches throughout the community, various organizations and working crews. Everyone had lots of fun received healthy information and went away with something. Many Washingtonians were there. We are grateful and hope this will continue for years to come.

Antioch Baptist Church, Ridgeway, SC celebrated their pastor's First Anniversary, Sunday April 14, 2019. Rev.

Flavian Coleman is the pastor. Many family members, well-wishers, and friends were there.

We sadly report the passing of our beloved classmate Terza Strother Gooden, known as "T-Mae". Nathaleen N. Jenkins and Josephine J. Hall represented the class at the funeral. The family was very grateful. T-Mae was a very gifted person and it was she who really started us to meeting as a class about 25 years ago with approximately 15 members. We will try to continue on.

Some of us also attended a celebration of life for Dr. Willie Long. He was a dedicated member of BTW class of 1955. Ida J Jackson represented the class of 1955 with timely remarks.

Thanks to all Washingtonians who have supported our class through the years with our fund raiser, the black and gold BTW baseball caps. We were able to support the BTW scholarships for many years. We have a few caps left so if you would like to purchase one, call Nathaleen Jenkins at (803) 252-6498.

Hope all is well, so long for now.

Josephine Jefferson Hall and Pauline Blocker Richardson,  
Reporters

## Heritage Weekend 2019 . . .

The Heritage Weekend will be observed Friday evening-Sunday, June 28-30, 2019. Cost is \$75.00. Banquet will be held at the Trinity Baptist Conference Center on Richland Street on Friday and John W. Work will be held at the Booker T. Washington Auditorium, University of South Carolina Columbia campus, Wheat Street, at 6:00 p.m.

## Class of 1955



Hello Washingtonians, It is I again trying to bring the news of the class, although our memory is getting short with age.

Our February 2, 2019 Class meeting was held at Mrs. Oretta Young's home and we had a good get together, talking about old times and good times we have had in our lives, also the trips we have taken to see our classmates who live abroad.

On April 27<sup>th</sup> of 2019 Albert and Carrie Jean Bell Tucker hosted this meeting and what a wonderful time we had with the members like we had at Oretta Young, Walter and Ida Jackson, Ora Bell Cumming, Gloria Prioleau and yours truly Alonzo Phelps were there. Some of the other members couldn't make the meeting because of illness, but we wish them a speedy recovery.

I talked to Kapanar Lewis Prince and Martha Anderson on the phone and was told they are always thinking about the class and they keep us in their hearts and hope to see us within the near future.

Alphonzo Edmond and I visited Albert Griffin last week and he is always in good spirits and wants to know how the class is getting along.

## Class of 1956

Hello Classmates and other Washingtonians,

Not much news to report this quarter since most of you just received a class letter. Please try to follow up as soon as possible. I heard from Shirley Joseph Newbern. She probably will not be able to attend our gathering in June, but she sent her dues. I also heard from Cresswell Elmore. He is alive and well. He has not been ill, he was away visiting his daughter. We had a very good laugh about his "illness".

We regret to report that classmate Hattie Marie Smith has been reported as having transitioned to another climb. Thanks to those classmates who attended classmate Surlina Simpson Jumper's sister, Mary Simpson James' life celebration services.

Happy Birthday greetings to all of you who are celebrating your special day this quarter. I hope you will enjoy every minute and then some more.

Please keep all of us in your prayers. Call two or three each day just to let them know you are thinking of them. Dust off your di-

I talked to another classmate Richard (Peter) Reese last week and he was in good spirits and hope to get with the class when his health permits. He is in the old folk class. (ha, ha).

Oretta Young is getting stronger from her back operation she encountered, but don't let it get you down Oretta, keep on keeping on. Alophozo Edmond is getting over his illness and moving about slowly, but he said he is going to beat this illness.

As you know Roland Harris is in the E-Rory Stone Veteran Home on Harden Street Extension. No visitors are allowed at this time but we will let you know in the future.

Well class, our members are getting short, with Mr. Willie L. Long and Ernest Bates leaving us, we must strive to stay together as long as we can, although our time is coming, so keep on praying.

Next time your roving reporter,  
Alonzo Phelps

rectory and get busy. If you get an e-mail address or new telephone number, please text, e-mail, or US Postal Service mail it to me so that it can be shared with others. Most of us have surpassed our 3 score and 10 years. We are now living by the Grace and Mercy of the Almighty so let us be thankful and try to bring a ray of brightness into someone else's life every day.

Thanks to Sarah Griffin who offered her home for us to meet and also prepared a delicious and surprising repast. She has also said we can come again if no one else offers to host the meeting.

Regrettably, I will be unable to sing with the John W. Work Chorus this year. I will be winging my way to Seattle Washington at that time.

Johnnie M. Corley Patterson, President/Reporter

## Class of 1957



God's Blessings To All Tornadoes,

At our Annual Christmas Class Celebration, January 3, 2019, our Classmate Minnie Murray Johnson invited us to be her special guests at Williams Chapel A.M.E. Church, Orangeburg, South Carolina, Sunday, March 10, 2019 for our Annual Class Worship Service. Because of the anticipated forecast for inclement weather, including tornado warnings, Mrs. Johnson recommended that the Worship Service be cancelled for safety reasons. Therefore, information about future Class Worship experiences will be forthcoming.

We offer our heartfelt condolences to our Classmate Doris "Tootsie" Blanding. Her Brother, Dr. Willie Lee Long, Class of 1955, died on March 27, 2019. Several classmates attended the Celebration of Life for Dr. Long, Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at Union Baptist Church, 1800 Germany Street, Columbia, South Carolina.

God has blessed each of us with talents, skills and creativity. It is our common goal to share good news and thank God for our gifts and abilities. Worthy of honor, we extend our congratulations to Julian B. Coaxum, who will be receiving a Master of Arts in Executive Leadership Degree from Liberty University, Lynchburg, Virginia, May 11, 2019. He is the son of Class President, Jestine B. Coaxum and the late Henry B. Coaxum. Currently, Julian is the Chief of Police at Dillard University, New Orleans, Louisiana.

What a grand privilege it was to read "The State" Newspaper, Sunday, March 24, 2019 and find a three-column article in the local section—"Blue Marlin Owner Opens 'Laid Back' Seafood Restaurant" by

Isabella Cueto, also on Facebook and Twitter. Moments of Ole Tornado Pride surfaced when we saw the glowing commentary about Classmate Delores Pat English and her sister, Ellen Suber who stopped by the new Seafood Restaurant "Oak Grove Fish House" in Lexington to celebrate an early birthday supper for Pat on March 25. All of our classmates, who have shared their personal information, receive BTW black and gold handmade birthday and Christmas cards from Classmate Benbernetta Hentz Charles, Huntsville, Alabama.

It is a pleasure to report on the academic success of our hardworking students. One hardworking and very involved young lady is Gabrielle Simone Haynes. On February 15, 2019, Gabrielle was inducted into the W. J. Keenan High School Beta Club. She is a junior, member of the honor society and chorus. Gabrielle is the granddaughter of Classmate William and Frazier Davis and grandniece of Classmate Mary Davis Williams.

We lift up all of our Washingtonians in prayer who have health challenges as well as those who have had to say goodbye to their loved ones.

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

## 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](http://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 [andy316@netzero.net](mailto:andy316@netzero.net), Geraldine Stroman Parker (803)754-8093 or email [parkergrs@bellsouth.net](mailto:parkergrs@bellsouth.net), Ida Spells English (803)779-3734 or email [minieschild@yahoo.com](mailto:minieschild@yahoo.com), or M. LaNelle Kohn (803) 865-1547.



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

## Class of 1958



Since June of 2018 the BTW Class of 1958 has enjoyed several wonderful activities. During August we celebrated our 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion along with the CAJ Class of 1958 with a luncheon at the House of Prayer and a dinner and dance at the Delta House. This year we had our annual Christmas party at the Delta House. Also we have had several breakfast meetings at the Golden Coral.

Elijah (1958) and Lillian Green have celebrated 50 years of marriage.

With deepest sorrow we regret that the following persons have passed:

Alzena Williams – wife of Buster Williams (1958)

Samuel H. Green – brother of James Green (1958)

Catherine Tucker Gholson – 1958 Classmate

Our class has made the following contributions within the last year:

\$200 Fannie Phelps Adams Scholarship  
( We have contributed to this fund since its inception)

\$100 BTW Monteith Cultural Center

\$300 Floor Repairs at BTW Monteith Cultural Center

Vernell Spells Ross, Reporter

## Class of 1963

The BTW Class '63 and CAJ Class '63 continue to share all of their activities: class meetings, picnics, trips, and reunions. Officers were chosen with representation from each school: President- James E. Parker (BTW), Vice President-Robert Brown (CAJ), Secretary Julia Meadows (BTW), Assistant Secretary –Margaret Brunson Davis (BTW), Treasurer-Deborah Jones (CAJ), and Parliamentarian-Catherine Waldo Hargrove (BTW).

Class '63 will share in Heritage Weekend Celebration on June 28-30, where we were honored guests in 2018 as we celebrated our 55<sup>th</sup> reunion. BTW/CAJ Class '63 is planning a fish fry in September and in December we will have our annual Christmas Celebration at the Delta Life Development Center.

Reporters, James E. Parker and Jacob Jones

## Beverly Garrick '63 Scholarship Fundraiser . . .

The sponsors of the Beverly Garrick Scholarship are having a **Bowling for Education** fundraiser at the Royal Z Lanes on Two Notch Road at 1 pm on Saturday, June 22, 2019. Come out and bowl or support some of the best bowlers from BTW HS and the surrounding area. Individual awards (M/F) by age group will be awarded.

For more information on registration, contact one of the following: Maxine Pearson '58, Joe Wilson '59, Bettye Byrd '60, George Glymph '61, Lucille Gaither '62, Jacob Jones '63 or Geraldine Parker '64. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

**Booker T. Washington Foundation**

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

**Comet II**

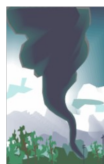
431 Piney Woods Rd. Columbia, SC  
29212  
Phone: 803-798-3177  
E-mail: jcpatterson@netzero.com

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**About Our Organization**

The Booker T. Washington Foundation began as a way to remembering 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 up-keep of BTW/Montieth Cultural Center.

Our Motto:  
"Lest we forget."

**Class of 1964**

Our class, Class '64 has been looking forward to our upcoming 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion. We will remember that Booker T. Washington High School is indeed our cherished Alma Mater that has brought us thus far on our way. It is indeed the school we will love forever and always. It is the one bright star that lights the road to all of our future fates and all our goals. So we will be participating in this reunion to share our appreciation for all that Booker T. Washington has done for us.

We will begin our 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion Journey by participating in all of Heritage Weekend, "BTW...It's a Family Affair!" June 28-30, 2019: Friday night celebration at the banquet at Trinity Education Community and Conference Center, Saturday -State of the Foundation meeting and picnic at BTW-Monteith Cultural Center and later continue celebration at Big T's, and Sunday-John Work Chorus.

Our culminating 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion activity will include a trip to the African American and Bible Museums in Washington, DC. Trip is planned for September 20-23, 2019. We will sit back, relax, and enjoy a comfortable ride via Diamond Tour Bus as we journey to Washington, DC where we will visit the Museums, as well as eat, drink and be merry as we tour the city.

Class '64 usually has great participation during events, even though many of our classmates have been experiencing health challenges, Class '64 still manages to have good participation at events and meetings. Our March meeting was held at the home of Jessie Thorne Edmonds, hosted by Jessie, Joseph Holston and Frankie Campbell Point. Classmates attending: Robert Bonnette, Frankie Campbell Point, Ernie (Betty) Glymph, Doris Johnson Andrews, Frances Jenkins Addison, Joseph Holston, Sandra Krider Johnson, Catherine McGorder Whatley, Melvin McKie, Willie Myers, Samuel (Rosa) Pelzer, James Prince, Julia Prince Edwards, Barbara Seabrook Spry, Geraldine Stroman Parker, Jo Tillman Boyd, David (Elaine) Clarkson, Emma Dell Reese Ford,

Eugene (Denice) Carter, and Gloria Richardson Priester. Classmates experiencing health challenges or are family care-giver include Iona Brown Williams, Jacqueline Washington, Zack Clarkson, Eddie Benjamin, Lizzie Blanks Allen, Luther Gladden, David Grant, Thelma Jones Hall, Levi Johnson, Milton Mosby, John Robinson, Willie Stroman, James Ruff, David Tucker, Jasper Brown, Bernetha Fanning Wise, Frank Tolliver, AP Williams, and Mary Wilson Guinyard.

**Kudos**

**Vivian Hopkins Hernandez** was selected as the American Legion, Department of South Carolina 2019 Teacher of the Year. She was nominated for this prestigious award by Post 215 in Columbia, South Carolina. Vivian will be presented this award at the Department Convention Award Luncheon on Friday, May 31 where she will be the honored guest of Department Commander John H. Britt.

Doris Johnson Andrews and Geraldine Stroman, Reporter



**Geraldine Parker -**  
"Columbia Chapter 2019 Delta Dear of the Year"