

The Comet II

April 30, 2021

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Booker T. Washington Foundation

www.bookertwashingtonfoundation.org

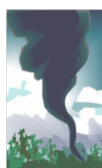
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About Our Organization

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. With the availability of the COVID-19 vaccine, it is our hope that all who desire to be vaccinated have taken or will take advantage of the opportunity to be vaccinated. Remember to be safe and follow all established guidelines. COVID-19 is with us and will remain!

History Quick Point...

From the beginning in 1916 until its closing in 1974, Booker T. Washington High School was a center for the education and training of young Blacks of Columbia, South Carolina. The historic school began with elementary grades and became a standard high school in 1924. For many years it was the largest public high school for Blacks in South Carolina, and one of the few schools in the state accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

One of the underlying factors which aided the school's progress was the dedicated faculty and staff of highly trained men and women who were committed to helping students develop and strengthen their basic skills.

BTW had seven principals during its history: Mr. C.A. Johnson (1916 - 1931); Mr. W.J. Cochrane (1931 - 1932); Mr. J. Andrew Simmons (1932 - 1945); Mr. John H. Whiteman (1945 - 1950); Mr. Harry B. Rutherford (1950 - 1965); Mr. Stonewall Richburg (1965 - 1972); and Mr. Samuel A. Heyward (1972 - 1974). Public school desegregation in the state and the expansion of the University of South Carolina led to the closing of BTW in 1974 and utilization of the school's facilities by USC.

Plans for 2021 Heritage Celebration have been approved and the information will be shared with you soon. We will seek to keep you informed using the existing media resources, and the expanded social media resources that we will explore.

Announcing the 45th Annual BTW High School Foundation Heritage Celebration...

The Foundation Board of Directors approved plans presented by the Heritage Celebration Committee for the 45th Annual BTW High School Foundation Heritage Celebration.

Heritage Celebration 45 (HC45) Timeframe: June 2021 - February 2022

Concept/Theme: Bridging the Generations Upon Our Foundation

— continued on page 3

Class of 1943



Hello Washingtonians! How are you? We are bringing news from the "Faithful Few".

After a talk with **Wilhelmina Johnson Gordon**, I realized she loves to talk about the wonderful foods from yesterday's kitchen. She continues to be able to bake a variety of desserts and other mouth watering goodies when her legs cooperate and do not inflict aches and pain. We pray she will be able to continue to be able to do what she enjoys the most for a very long time.

Hattie M. Adams Marley, another devoted class member, is doing well, especially with the loving care of her children which has enabled her to remain at home. Congratulations, children. Keep up the good work. Your reward is seeing and knowing that you can keep your mother and each other smiling and in perfect peace. We miss Hattie's garden and flower yard with the regular yard of the week sign.

Nathaleen Martin Jenkins' sons continue to take extra special care of her. Lester, Jr., who lives with her and Gregory, who lives and works in New York, are special sons. Glad to know that the recent travel restrictions have been lifted so that Gregory can come home and spend quality time with his mom and brother.

Your reporter, Josephine J. Hall spent Easter with her granddaughter, LaKeisha N. Edmonds Oriole and her four sons. We had a great time laughing, talking, eating, and playing games. I was invited back for a delicious Sunday dinner along with other family members. Washingtonians, you should get together with family and trusted friends occasionally, from time to time.

Now we must sadly report on some celebrations of life. We attended our neighborhood president, David Hayes', wife, Dorothy Hayes' passing. She

was the "Queen of Little Camden". Ida Jefferson Jackson, '55, and I were speakers at her homegoing. We represented the church. We also mourned the loss of assistant coach, Damien Jackson, at Dreher High School. His life of service will be missed. Coach Jackson was a part of many schools and touched the lives of many young people and their families.

Mother's Day will soon be here. Happy Mothers' Day for mothers past, present, and future. Below is my Mother's Day Tribute from years ago:

Just Smile

*Did you ever feel like you were down and out?
Did you ever feel like you could hardly get about?*

Well, it is not the end of the last mile,

So, just smile.

*There are times when you feel like you don't have a friend
and you wonder on whom you can depend.*

It never goes out of style,

So, you just smile.

Children, if you don't have one thing or another,

If you don't have a fine gift for your Mother,

Even if you have nothing to give,

Be glad that she lives.

She will always accept the love of her child

With a smile!

Be Blessed,

- Josephine Jefferson Hall, Reporting

COVID-19 Treatment Progress. . . Stay Updated!

Biomarker Testing: In recent years, our understanding of genetics has advanced far enough to allow scientists to codify the genetic breakdowns that lead to tumor growth. This is done by testing for biomarkers—the expression of certain genes that can be measured and correlated with health, disease or treatment.

Biomarker testing is most widely known for its expanding use in oncology, but it can also be used to identify treatments for everything from heart disease to neurological conditions. As more biomarkers and surrogate endpoints are identified and utilized, they can enhance the research and development process of new medicines by providing new ways to measure disease activity and the impact of the medicines being studied. Recently, scientists have begun examining whether certain biomarkers indicate a person is more likely to develop a severe coronavirus infection and require more intensive treatment. This knowledge could help physicians better prepare and guide treatment for COVID-19 patients.

For decades, biopharmaceutical companies have advanced science investing in new technology, research and medicines, which have become crucial to fighting the pandemic. The potential COVID-19 treatments derived from immunotherapy are just one example of how the industry, in close coordination with the NIH, academia and patients, leads the way to treat and defend against disease in all its forms.

Learn more about the efforts underway to develop solutions to help diagnose, treat and prevent COVID-19.

- (Information submitted by **Ann Jennings** from the Internet)

Class of 1955

Hello, Fellow Class Members and Washingtonians, I, your "Roving Reporter", have been dealing with some major health issues since the first of the year, and have been unable to fulfill my duties and responsibilities. Thanks to my family for their continued love and care and my BTW Family for your love and prayers, I think I have finally turned the corner toward wellness. I have talked to several class members and hope that one or several of them will pick up the class's torch and carry on the reporting. We will pay our dues to the Foundation before the next quarter. Continue going forward, looking ahead and staying strong.

- Your Roving Reporter, Alonzo Phelps

Class of 1956



Greetings, Class and Fellow Washingtonians,

We wish to make this short report for the quarter. I have tried to contact our class members. Some are unresponsive, a few are enduring long-term illnesses that require round-the-clock care, several are serving as care givers to children and other family, some cannot envision moving from here to there and have become fearful of facing an uncertain future, yet there are those of us who are envisioning coming together to celebrate our 65th year at some time before year's end.

Members, your yearly financial obligation of \$55.00 is due. Please send it to the treasurer ASAP.

Happy to report that we have not heard of any deaths. Continue praying for each other that we can enjoy good health as long as possible. Pray for the healing of our minds and our spirits, and our physical well-being. Also for the family of Mary L. Sims Scott.

Please note: The telephone number and e-mail address for Johnnie Patterson that is listed in the Comet II is incorrect. It should be: johnniepatt@aol.com; phone number: 803-622-3956.

- Johnnie Mae Corley Patterson, Reporting

President's Message Cont'd

Booker T. Washington High School Foundation

Intent: Create opportunities for BTW intergenerational gathering and engagement

Format: Hybrid of virtual and in-person events during 2021/2022 COVID-19 transitions

We are indeed excited about continuing this annual tradition for the Booker T. Washington High School alumni, Millennium Society, family members, friends and supporters. We will use media sources to get the word out and ask that you 'get excited', 'spread the word', and make plans to participate!

Let's We Forget...

History Quick Point...

In June 1975, the first annual Heritage Banquet was held at the Masonic Temple. The first scholarships were presented to Sheila Bates and Walter Curry. Julius Jefferson '41, Catherine Thomas (Columbia Pan Hellenic Council) and the Class of 1974, the last graduating class received the first Heritage Awards for outstanding contributions to the Foundation.

Gloria Graham Boyd, President '65

Class of 1963



BTW/ CAJ Class '63 still enjoys joint meetings. Because of the pandemic, class has not been able to have the usual in person bi-monthly meetings on 2nd Sunday at 6:00 PM at Robert Brown's Place on North Main Street. Class has, however, been able to keep in touch via phone calls. This month, class met via conference call. It was not the same, but it was a joy being able to hear each other's voices and ideas.

Congratulations

Rev. Leroy Cannon celebrated his 25 year anniversary as chaplain of the Richland County Sheriff Department. He's featured on the Sheriff Department's Facebook page along with Sheriff Leon Lott who presented him a certificate.

Condolences

BTW/CAJ Class '63

BTW/CAJ Class '63 loss 3 members and 2 family members since last publication of Comet II:

Members: **Cornell Bailey**, BTW, **Charles "Chuck" Green**, CAJ and **Bernadette Green**, CAJ.

Family: **Sarah Bluford**, sister of Roosevelt Bluford and **Rev. Bernetha Thomas**, cousin of John Joyce of whom he resided.

- Reporters: James E. Parker and Jacob Jones

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: **bookertwashington-foundationsc.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 dorisan-drews33@gmail.com, Geraldine Stroman Parker (803)754-8093 or email par-ker@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

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Comet II

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*** DEATHS ***

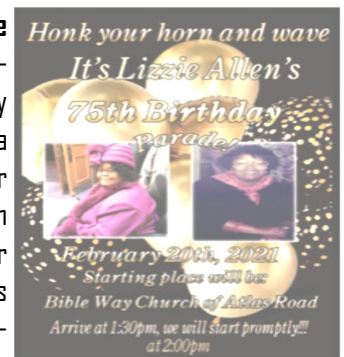
Deaths will not be reported
as a separate category.
They will now be reported
under each class news.

**Class of 1964**

It has been a year since we have been able to come together for in person meetings. Prayerfully this will soon change because many of us have had our vaccines and continue to be cautious by following CDC guidelines.

We have come to that point in our lives where many of our classmates have health challenges or mobility constraints. A Few classmates even tested positive for Covid-19, but are now okay. Our sick list continues to grow; however, we still manage to keep in close contact via phone calls, email, social media, and some drive thru 75th Birthday Celebrations.

Our most recent Drive thru Celebration was when classmate **Lizzie Blanks Allen's** family planned a beautiful afternoon for her 75th Birthday to include elected officials, classmates, church members, family and friends. Lizzie's yard was beautifully decorated and adorned with a fancy professionally prepared banner and balloons. She sat on her lawn like a queen on her throne as vehicles starting procession from Bibleway Church of Atlas Road to drive pass her house as she and her family waved from her well-manicured lawn. AC Jackson Productions prepared a video capturing the entire event that included special messages from classmates, family and friends. What a joyous occasion!



Daniel Pete Green also had a grand celebration in California for his 75th birthday. All he wanted was cards from classmates, family and friends. The cards and calls exceeded his expectations.

(Throwback Picture: Class Luncheon sponsored by Daniel)

We hope that by the next printing of Comet II, we will be able to resume our regular meetings because the pandemic will be over.

Condolences

Class regrets the passing of the following:

Matthew Addison III, son of Matthew '62 and Frances Jenkins Addison '64

Robert A. Hollins, nephew of Eunice Watson Cornelius

Eddie Roy McKie, brother of Melvin McKie



(Throwback Picture)

Doris Johnson Andrews and Geraldine Stroman Parker, Reporters