

The Comet II

June 30, 2017

Volume 24 No. 2



Booker T. Washington Foundation

www.bookertwashingtonfoundationsc.org

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* DEATHS *

Bedshford Japarker Blackette '65
Johnnie Lee Bookert
Carolyn C. Brown '63
Robert Brown '60
Robert Louis Burton
Janice sue Cleveland '74
Mary Newton Davis, '49
Vivienne Lorraine Jones Diggs '44
Carolyn B. Epps '62
Willie LeeRoy Hare '60
Robert Hayes '64
Celestine Argro Hill '62
Iola Jenkins Hoff '42
Frazelle Robinson Jackson
Charles Delano James '64
Edith Peterson Jones
Thelma Butler Mason '52
Rowena Lowman Matthews-Hicks '63
Lloyd Patterson
Henrietta Pinkney '70
Berry Randolph '57
Barbara Edmond Richardson '71
Thomasina Davis Singleton '39
Frances Elizabeth Stone '56
Maxine Nelson Walters '49
Rosa Lee Champion Washington '34
Frank Wilson
George Wright '66



President's Voice

Greetings Washingtonians!!

The Heritage Events on June 23 and June 25 were a time of celebration, a time of jubilation, a time of visitation and a time of continuation. For forty-three years, we have perpetuated our history and heritage during the Heritage Banquet and John W. Work Chorus Concert. These events are memorable as they bring together hundreds of alumni, friends and BTW supporters.

Through the years, the Booker T. Washington Foundation has sought to ensure the Booker T. Washington High School remains in the forefront of our minds, and in the hearts of alumni and the community. Booker T. Washington was indeed a historic school and a testament to the educational journey it provided for thousands of students during its sixty (60) years of existence.

With jubilation, we forge ahead to carry out the mission, vision, goals and objectives of the Foundation. In an effort to ensure that there is active involvement by BTW Alumni, an informational meeting will be held on Sunday, September 24, 4:00 pm at the Booker T. Washington Monteith Cultural Center. This will be the first step toward the reorganization of the Booker T. Washington High School Alumni Association. All Class Presidents, Class Representatives and interested Alumni are asked to make plans to attend. During this meeting the purpose for reorganization will be explained, an organizational meeting time, date and location will be determined.

As I reflect upon the 2017 Heritage Banquet and John W. Work Chorus Concert, I would like to extend a special *thank you* to the Foundation officers who served on the Steering Committee, all persons who sang with the John W. Work Chorus, Dr. Carl Wells, the

2016 Millennium Society volunteers, the University of South Carolina, especially, French Brewer, Shirley Mills, Dr. Bobby Donaldson, Geneva Currie, and Bobby Gist, Beryl Dakers, The Brookland Banquet and Conference Center and the Booker T. Washington Foundation Board of Directors.

To all of you who supported the 2017 Heritage Banquet and John W. Chorus Concert, a special *thank you*. Please mark your calendar for Friday, June 22, and Sunday, June 24, 2018. Once finalized, plans for our upcoming event early in 2018 will be communicated.

"Celebrating Our History and Heritage...Lest We Forget"

Gloria Graham Boyd '65
President



Class of 1943



Greetings Washingtonian!

It has been a while since you heard from this class. Your reporters reached only a few members who were able to give an update.

Nathaleen M. Jenkins' sons Gregory, New York and Lester, make a great team caring for her. She is very grateful to have such doting sons. Pauline B. Richardson was not feeling well, but her BTW spirit and hopes are still high. Rubye B. Collins is still under the weather. Her nephew, from Atlanta, Georgia, checks on her regularly. I have not been able to contact Rose W. Goodson for some time. Hope all is going as well as can be for her and others.

I, Josephine J. Hall, have been my usual busy self. Participated in nephew Darris Hassell's Community Appreciation for his untiring and selfless service to education, communities, and religious activities. Darris is the son of Betty J. Hassell, '58; and nephew of Ida J.

Jackson, '55. Participated in the birthday celebration for cousin, Marian Coulbourne, a BTW graduate. I am still being called upon to do original readings at various programs. I recently performed at Millcreek Baptist Church's annual Rainbow Tea. I am currently working with a hobby designing hats. The last one was for Senior Day at Seawell's on Rosewood Drive. This annual affair is sponsored by former council woman, Bernice Scott, and others. Lots of prizes, fun, and fellowship.

We hope to be able to celebrate our Diamond Jubilee in 2018.

Any questions call: Josephine Hall at 803-252-7412

- Josephine J. Hall & Pauline B. Richardson reporters

(SEE PAGE 7 FOR PICTURES)

Class of 1954

TO OUR DEAREST WASHINGTONIANS! GOD IS GREAT! LIFE HAS BEEN GOOD! We have been able to deal with the struggles, woes, and other stuff that come our way.

Our meetings are still held monthly at Lizard's Thicket Restaurant on Forest Drive, or at a class member's house.

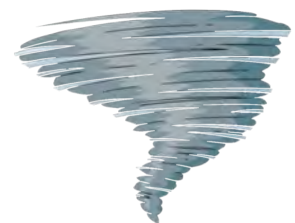
Valencia Harmon, the granddaughter of Carrietta Wilder Lewis, Stacey Hampton, the grandson of Margaret Mack Hampton, two of our legacies, have completed their first year of post-secondary education. We are very proud of them.

Our 2016 Christmas Celebration was held at Fatz Café. Since it was such a pleasurable experience, we are certainly considering it as a place we may return to celebrate this year.

We were devastated by the death of our classmate, Rev. Antonio Bonner, who celebrated with us. He is truly missed.

The class is planning a trip to Canada before the end of summer. Come and travel with us. Enjoy the camaraderie, fun and friendship.

Katie Bell Lites, President
Marian B. Tucker, Reporter



Class of 1955

Classmates and Fellow Washingtonians,

There is not a lot of news to share this issue. We are sad to report that a son of our beloved classmate, Mary Hamilton Brown, has passed. Our condolences and prayers go out to the family and friends of the late, Kenneth Brown. The Class of 1955 made sure to support our classmate during her time of need.

As you probably know, the classmates of 1955 have, or are about to reach 80 years old! Carol Hampton Brooks will be celebrating her 80th birthday, Saturday, September 3, 2017 at the Jewish Community Center. She would like for as many of her classmates as possible to attend. Fellow classmate, Oretha Young, will celebrate her birthday in August.



Class of 1956

Hello Classmates and Washingtonians!

Wake up and be glad you are reading another issue of Comet III! I do not know if the first part of this report should just be an editorial and then class news. Have you thought about the fact that the last graduates/attendees left BTW more than 40 years ago so all are at least 50+? We are not going back so we need to look ahead and envision the future, even if it is a little scary. Do not be afraid to live. Get out there and live the BTW credo...Do something good for someone each day while you can and you will feel better for the doing. Step outside your box. Stop letting the walls close in on you. Catch the rays of the early morning sun. Become invigorated. Do not be sad and grumpy too long. Life is too short!

Thanks to those seven classmates who participated in the Heritage Weekend activities. We had a wonderful time. Hope to get some of the pictures soon.

We will have been out of high school 62 years in June 2018 so most of us, if we were 17 when we graduated, will be 79. Is that not cause for celebration? Can we come together, go somewhere, do

We are also planning our Christmas party. Additional details will come soon!

Your Roving Reporter, Alonzo Phelps

something, and enjoy the time? Think about it.

Next meeting will be Saturday, September 16, at 11:00 a.m. Call several classmates and encourage them to attend. We need everyone's input. Let us not wait for the next funeral to get together. Do it now!

We are all experiencing some type of health issue(s). Do not let it define you. Decide to overcome. I have been hospitalized, had allergic reactions to medicines, during the entire month of July, but I am up and doing this newsletter as I have done since October 1995 and pray that I will be able to do it even longer. I thank God daily for nurturing children, family, friends, and Church. You all cared and prayed for healing.

Condolences to the families of: Edith Peterson Jones and Vivienne Lorraine Hones Hall Diggs, '44

- Johnnie M. Corley Patterson, reporting.

Class of 1957

Greetings, Splendiferous Salutations, and God's Blessings to all Washingtonians and others!

Our hearts and minds were filled with very special memories as we embraced "Ole Tornado" students, administrators, and friends of the Booker T. Washington High School Family during our past class reunions. Imagine the joy we felt as the executive Planning Committee brought to a culmination, the exciting plans for our 60th-year reunion. What is more, we have One Heart-Lifetime of Treasured Memories of a Rich Heritage, Great Traditions of the Black and Gold, and Legacy of Booker T. Washington High School Tornadoes, Columbia, South Carolina: 1916-1974. Highest Commendations to our president, Jestine Brown Coaxum and treasurer and BTW Foundation Board Member, Wilhelmina Kinard, who always provide exemplary leadership for every event.

Point of privilege and inasmuch as our graduation ceremony was held, Friday, June 7, 1957, honoring 119 students. We extend a message of love to those classmates who were unable to personally celebrate with us. There are specials in loving memory of those beautiful voices in our class that have been silenced but not forgotten. PEACE.

Our reunion theme was "Tornado Spirit-60 Years of Glory, Work and Fun". This was a salute and testimony to our Alma Mater. Our grand initiative was to have as many classmates as possible attend the 43rd Annual Heritage Weekend Celebration, Friday evening, June 23 at the Brookland Baptist Banquet and Conference Center. Several classmates sacrificed and came from Alabama, California, Florida, and Texas. As a class in reunion, the Foundation afforded us a participating role in the evening's events. Classmate John E. Evans, San Antonio, Texas, graciously blessed the food. A delightful meal and opportunity for fellowship followed this joyful assembly and program.

Classmate Benbennetta H. Charles of Huntsville, Alabama, presented each classmate with her handmade gold corsages and boutonnieres for the reunion weekend.

All praises and thanksgiving to God for the largest group ever assembled for morning worship at St. Paul AME Church, Kennerly Road, Irmo, South Carolina, where Reverend Dr. Derrick Scott is pastor. Executive Pastor and classmate, Reverend Dr. Simon P. Bouie, served as our gracious host. We were truly blessed to have Sister Willie Omia Bouie and other family members and friends as our honored guests. Attorney Stanley L. Myers delivered the morning message during The Sports Ministry's "Jersey Sunday". In your walk with God, like Moses, he told the worshipers to consider five elements he had learned from Bible Study and participation in sports. He challenged all to always give your best to God, perform every task with great detail, dream work/teamwork and accountability. A delightful meal was served after worship. Special gifts of souvenir ink pens, bookmarks and treats were passed out during dinner.

- William & Frazier Davis and Mary D. Williams, reporting.



Congratulations to 2017 BTW Foundation Scholars

Fannie Phelps Adams Scholarship

Reginald Beauregard Nesbit II is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Reginald B (Audrey) Nesbit, Sr. and grandson of Mr. & Mrs. Albert P. ('55) (Sarah Washington '56) Griffin. He is a graduate of A. C. Flora High School. Reginald plans to attend Clemson University and pursue a degree in Business with a concentration in Economics.

Thalia Monet' Butts is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Harold (Toni H.) Butts, Jr. and granddaughter of Mr. & Mrs. Ray Allen (Betty A. Jefferson '58) Hassell. She is a graduate of DeKalb School of the Arts. Thalia plans to attend Claflin University with a Mass Communication major and minor in Spanish.

Kwesi Daman Jackson is the grandson of Bruce K. Jackson ('72). He is a graduate of Dreher High School. Kwesi plans to attend Coastal Carolina and major in Chemistry with a minor in Music.

Beverly Garrick Scholarship

Brandon Paul McClaine is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Antony (Tammy) McClaine and grandson of Titus Gary ('67). He is a graduate of Blythe-wood High School. Brandon plans to attend Winthrop University and pursue a degree in Middle Level Education.

Susan Brown Freeman Scholarship

Elijah Cornelius Glover is the son of Melissa Glover. He is a graduate of Eau Claire High School. Elijah plans to attend Benedict College and major in Mass Communication or Information Technology.

M. Sue Frazier Scholarship

Noah Stephon Samuels is the son of Rodney S. Samuels and Paulanda M. S. Samuels and the grandson of Ethel Spells Samuels ('62). He is a graduate of West Mecklenburg High School. Noah began attending Central Piedmont



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 review 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, Geraldine Stroman Parker, Ida Spells English or M. LaNelle Kohn. Doris can be reached at (803)754-7736 or email andy316@netzero.net and Geraldine can be reached at (803)754-8093 or email par-kergrs@bellsouth.net.



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

Booker T. Washington Foundation

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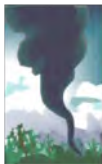
Comet II

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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 upkeep of BTW/Montieth Cultural Center.

Our Motto:
"Lest we forget."

**Class of 1964**

Our class gathered on four occasions since the last publication of Comet: 2 class meetings, Robert Hayes' funeral and Heritage Weekend.

For our first gathering, many of us traveled from Columbia to Fayetteville, North Carolina for our March class meeting. Meeting was at the home of Eugene Carter, but hosted by Eugene (Denice) Carter, Emma Dell Reese Ford, and Jasper (Sandra) Brown of Winston Salem, North Carolina. We were given the royal treatment. Following our business session, we ate and socialized, took group picture and gathered around the piano and sang Negro Spirituals as Eugene accompanied class on piano which reminded us of our John Work Chorus days.

We were on the road again for our April meeting. This meeting was held in Atlanta Georgia at the home of David (Gloria) Tucker, but hosted by our Georgia classmates: David (Gloria) Tucker, Merrill White (Marvin) Fears, and Jacqueline Washington. Geraldine Stroman Parker's son, Antwan and grandson Stiles, who live in Georgia, came by to greet us. As always, it was a fun filled meeting that culminated with our regular picture taking session and finger licking good food.

Our next event brought sadness as well as joy to our hearts: funeral of **Robert Hayes**. There was sadness in the death of our classmate and the joy of having had him as a vital part of our class. Eugene Carter was spokesperson for the class. The congregation at St. Luke was impressed by the togetherness of classmates who were adorned in our signature BTW "Black and Gold".

The fourth event, our **Heritage Weekend Celebration**, in June was another enjoyable occasion where our class had the most participants. We truly enjoy coming together and seeing fellow

Washingtonians.

Classmates participating in various events above: Willie (Lucille) Adams, Robert Bonnette, Jasper (Sandra) Brown, Eugene (Denice) Carter, Frankie Campbell Point, David (Elaine) Clarkson, Bernetha Fanning Wise, Dolores Herbert Anderson, Ann Gardner Jennings, Frances Jenkins (Mathew) Addison, Doris Johnson Andrews (Donna King), Francena Johnson Davis, Thelma Jones Hall (Bennie Brown), Sandra Krider Johnson, Catherine McGorder Whatley, Melvin McKie, Lorenzo Mills, Samuel (Rosa) Pelzer James Prince, Julia Prince (John) Edwards, Emma Dell Reese Ford, Gloria Richardson Priester, Barbara Seabrook (Thomas) Spry, Geraldine Stroman (James) Parker, Jo Tillman Boyd, Jessie Thorne Edmonds, David (Gloria) Tucker, Merrill White (Marvin) Fears and Mary Wilson Guinyard.

KUDOS

Stiles Edward Parker, grandson of **Geraldine (James) Parker** graduated from "Reach for Excellence" program. Stiles will attend Tucker High School in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Program.

Genitra Andrews (Paul) Hypolite, daughter of **Doris Johnson Andrews**, had her first child, son Hunter Joseph Hypolite

Zoe Andrews, granddaughter of **Doris Johnson Andrews**, was elected statistician of Southeastern Federation of Women and Youth Club at Southeast Regional Convention in Birmingham, Alabama

Corp. Terrance L. Acox (with Richland Co. Sheriff Dept.), son of **Ann (Willie) Gardner Acox Jennings**, was one of the Honorees for the Midlands Champions & Jr. Champions on the Move, honoring Trailblazing Men from our community.

CONDOLENCES

Class regrets the passing of 2 classmates: Robert Hayes and Charles James

- Doris Johnson Andrews and Geraldine Stroman Parker, Reporters

Class of 1943 Pictures (cont'd from page 2)



J. Hall wearing BTW cap, reciting an original piece.



J. Hall modeling a newspaper hat at Annual Senior activities.....Seawells.

2017 Heritage Banquet/John Work Choir

