

The Comet II

July 31, 2018

Volume 25 No. 3



Booker T. Washington Foundation

www.bookertwashingtonfoundationsc.org

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* DEATHS *

Gertrude Sims Wilson '64
Betty Taylor McRant '62
Arline Green Murphy '63
Silas Hambrick '67
Dr. Henry Marshall '59
Katie Bell Lites '54
Mary Epps Turk '56
Marjorie Katherine Polite '40
Mattie S. Harmon Elmore '57
Verica Reese Hipp-Davis '57
Francena Willingham '67
Leon Sultan '47



President's Voice

Greetings Washingtonians!!!

The month of June brought hundreds of Washingtonians, family members and friends together to celebrate the heritage and legacy of Booker T. Washington High School. With the theme: Lest We Forget...The Legacy Lives!, friendships were renewed, BTW chats occurred, and memories were revisited and restored. Now, there is an opportunity to expand upon what we will share for the rest of 2018 and to look forward to when we meet again in 2019.

Great news!! The Internal Revenue Service granted the Foundation its **501(c)(3)** status which exempts the Foundation from federal income tax under the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions to the Foundation under IRC Section 170. We are now classified as a public charity, and the Foundation is qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under specific IRS Sections. So, what lies ahead for the Booker T. Washington High School Foundation?

We are inviting Class Presidents and Class Representatives to a meeting on ***Sunday, September 30, 3:00 pm at the Booker T. Washington-Monteith Cultural Center to reorganize the BTW Alumni Association.*** Join us as we seek to strengthen the connection between alumni, the Foundation and the community. The Alumni Association had a rich history of engagement and the Foundation wants to restore and ensure strong alumni involvement with this reorganization. You are invited to attend this meeting, if interested in becoming involved. During the State of the Foundation meeting in June, a document was prepared, and a report given on the State of the Foundation. To that end, the Foundation is preparing its strategic plan, updating the bylaws and seeking to deal with major maintenance and repairs matters for the facility.

We are excited about the inclusion of members of the Millennium Society as members of the Foundation Board as the bylaws were changed for this inclusion. The future of the Booker T. Washington Foundation lies with those who are joining the Foundation as members of the Millennium Society and the soon to be reorganized Alumni Association.

Mark your calendar for the fourth weekend of June 2019; dates: 28,29,30 as we plan for the Heritage Weekend. Details will be provided in the January issue of The Comet and on the website. As we seek to keep everyone abreast of the happenings and opportunities for the Booker T. Washington Foundation, the website will be updated and other social media avenues will be used.

I look forward to what we will do to keep the history and heritage of Booker T. Washington High School in the forefront during 2018 and 2019.

Lest We Forget...
Gloria Graham Boyd '65
President



Class of 1943



Greetings Washingtonians,

Oh, we have plenty of news concerning our Annual Heritage Weekend which was sponsored by the Booker T. Washington High School with Gloria Graham Boyd, president of the Foundation along with other officers and members, with Kimberly Greene and Matthew Addison as chairpersons of the weekend Committee. We thank Doris Glymph Greene for the vision of honoring the class' milestone of observing our 75th year Reunion. She, along with all committees involved, deserve our heartfelt thanks for this grand occasion at the Trinity Baptist Church's Education and Conference Center, Friday, June 22, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.

From the Junior Class (1944) of BTW High School, Gladys Butler Goforth led our procession. We felt as though we were graduating all over again. Classmates present followed with escorts from the Class of 1961. Present were Wilhemina Johnson Gordon, Josephine Jefferson Hall, and Nathaleen Martin Jenkins. Pauline Blocker Richardson was featured in a video discussing her day at Booker T. Lillian Delaney Edney was hospitalized the morning of the banquet. Rosa Goodson Walker was unable to attend. We missed their presence and prayed they would be well soon. All remaining members of the class were contacted, but, due to health restrictions, were unable to attend. They are: Ethel Dantzer Thurman, Evanston Illinois, Rubye Brown Collins, Johnnie Mae Terry Wheeler, Elizabeth Taylor, Terza Strother Gooden

Class of 1955

Washingtonians,

President, Albert Griffin is back home and his wife Sarah is his caregiver. I urge you remaining members to continue the work that you were doing before Al became ill. It is time for one or more of you to say, "Enough of this moping and self-pity!", and get moving. Everything should not fall apart because he is unable to be the driving force of all of you. Show him by continuing.

Known Transitions:

Katie Bell Lites, '54; Mary Epps Turk, '56; Marjorie Katherine Polite, '40; Mattie S. Harmon Elmore, '57, sister of Mary Harmon White, '55, Verica Reese Hipp-Davis, '57

Your Roving reporter, Alonzo Phelps

and Hattie M. Adams Marley.

This reporter, J. J. Hall, graciously accepted the "Living The Legacy Lifetime Award" for the class of 1943 from The Foundation, and a special Black and Gold ribbon from the Class of 1961, our adoptive class. We give special thanks to persons who interviewed and videoed us: BTW Class of 1961, Dr. Bobby Donaldson, Associate Professor and Director of the Center for Civil Rights History and Research, and the University of South Carolina who made this unforgettable occasion possible. The names are too many to mention.

A delicious meal was served at the banquet. We congratulate all persons who received scholarships. Other classes in reunion, 1958—60 years; 1963—55 years. Many others attended the Saturday picnic and Class photo session that were held at the BTW/Monteith Center, and the John Work Chorus concert held at the BTW building at USC, on Sunday, June 24 at 6:00 p.m.

We are elated that we have not had a death in our ranks this quarter. We will continue to pray that the next quarter will find us continuing to stand with no death to report. We are all at least 90-plus years of age and are doing well while enduring the life-alterations that come with longevity. To God be the glory for the great things He has done, is doing, and will do.

Your Reporter, Josephine Jefferson Hall

***REMINDER...Calling Class Presidents and Class Representatives
September 30, 2018, 3:00 pm, Alumni Reorganization***

GIVING OPPORTUNITY...FUND DRIVE

The Booker T. Washington Foundation is seeking your assistance to raise \$3000 to complete the repair of the floor at the Center.

Contributions are tax deductible and may be sent to: BTW Foundation, PO Box 1641, Columbia, SC 29202.

The Fund Drive will continue until the \$3000 goal is reached or exceeded.

Any funds received above the amount will be used for other needed repairs.

Thank you.

Class of 1956



We are so thankful for all of our classmates who reach out and try to stay in touch. So many of us expect the president to call the meetings, make the reports, and call all of the members whenever we learn of something noteworthy to report. The president may not get the initial call, but once received, is expected to spend hours on the telephone calling everyone. If a message is left, very few return the call, but will call someone else to find out what is going on.

Thanks to all of you who responded and participated in the Heritage Weekend events. You made me proud. We had more from out of town than in town. Franklin Bonner and wife, Carolyn, came in spite of having just come out of the hospital the week before; Melvin Hodges and wife, Birdie, from California via Atlanta, GA, and Cresswell Elmore who was supposed to be out of the country, but had to postpone due to the death of his children's mother, ex-wife, Mattie Lee Harmon Elmore. Mary Sims Scott and I are the only locals who were in attendance. Others who gave regrets: Ollie Williams Milligan, Sarah Watson Griffin, Elaine Lakins Hampton, Julia M. Weeks Cleveland, and Daisy Lowman Lackridge, who serve as caretakers or are experiencing health conditions that prevent them from driving at night. Uber, where are you?

We are sorry to report the passing of classmate, *Mary Epps Turk*, in Detroit MI. Condolences from the class were e-mailed and read at the funeral. I have heard through Julia Cleveland that the family was very pleased.

- JC Patterson, Reporter

Class of 1957



Washingtonians,

Our class attended the Forty-Fourth BTW Heritage Banquet on Friday, June 22, 2018 at the Trinity Education Community and Conference Center in Columbia, South Carolina. Classmate Matthew Cohen travelled from Severn, Maryland to join us for the Forty-Fourth Heritage Celebration!

President Jestine B. Coaxum, and classmate Mary D. Williams were in attendance at the First Meeting of the Millennium Society at the BTW Foundation Monteith Culture Arts Center on Saturday, June 23, 2018. Jestine and Mary attended the John W. Work Chorus concert at Second Calvary Baptist Church.

Following the performance at Second Calvary Baptist Church, Jestine, and Mary revisited the BTW Foundation Monteith Culture Arts Center, and joined fellow classmates for a class photo and a picnic.

Sunday, June 24, 2018, the class congregated at the Booker T. Washington High School Auditorium for John W. Work Chorus—in Concert performance.

Congratulations to Alexis Williams, daughter of Mary D. Williams, class of 1957, on her academic achievement! A Dean's List Academic Achievement Award recipient, Alexis was recently conferred a Master of Liberal Arts (ALM) from Harvard University. Eligibility is extended to ALM students graduating with a 3.8 or higher cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale. Alexis attends many of the functions and activities sponsored by the BTW Foundation.

- Mary D. Williams, and Alexis Williams, reporting

Class of 1963

The BTW Class '63 and CAJ Class '63 united 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 Rearden (CAJ), and Parliamentarian-Catherine Waldo Hargrove (BTW).

Class '63 started celebration of fifty-fifth (55th) Class Reunion by attending BTW Heritage Weekend in June. Celebration will continue with a banquet on Friday, September 21, 2018 at Spring Valley Country Club, a picnic on Saturday, September 22 at Richland County Recreation Commission on Campground Road, and worship service on Sunday, September 23 at St. John Baptist Church on Beltline Blvd.

Condolences:

Class is saddened by the passing of Arlene Green Murphy.

Reporters: James E. Parker and Jacob Jones

Journalistic thoughts . . .

Thanks to all of you Washingtonians who showed up at the South Carolina Archives on Friday, July 27, 2018, to support the proposal presentation to request that the Booker T. Washington Building at U.S.C. be considered for placement on the U.S. registry of historical sites and buildings. Our presence spoke volumes in support of this event. We were willing to support every agenda item since all of them were historical sites that directly or indirectly involved us in some way. I received a history lesson just listening to the presentations.

That said, we also need your solid support and presence whenever we try to do anything to support the name of our Alma Mater. You must be very positive in our attitudes about supporting any fundraising efforts the Foundation's Board undertakes. Just imagine, with an "I Can attitude" you can achieve a lot of the things you thought were impossible. Put your faith to work. Say, "I can save \$10 or \$15 dollars per month by June 2019, I should have accumulated between \$120 and \$180. I will have to do a little extra I will have to add a little extra each month since the first month, July, has already passed". This works. I do it all the time. I reduce my days for eating out by one per month, or buying fast food less. If you go to a mid-level restaurant, with servers, you are going to spend at least \$20 plus for your meal. If you do this every Sunday after church, count the cost for the month... \$80 to \$100 or more. Do this for the Mother (Latin-Mater) you say you love so passionately.

If the money does not come from you to support the Foundation's efforts to maintain the BTW/Monteith Center someone else may soon try to possess it. It is like a house. There are utilities, tax, grounds, and repairs that must be paid. Think on these things and seriously consider supporting the BTW Foundation. Begin today.

Thanks to all of you who helped plan the Heritage Weekend, also anyone who sang with the John Work Chorus. Some of us have been making it happen ever since the first performance after our school's doors were closed for the final time in 1974. Help us keep the story out there. Tell your children, your children's children, and their children. Write it on their hearts, minds, souls and spirits. Sing the Alma Mater. Explain what those words meant and still mean. Teach them so that they will know the way of the past, the life of the present, and the pursuit of the future. Sorry this newsletter is late, but I have had some technical difficulties that were finally resolved. Please forgive that it is going out to readers three days late. Finally, a hearty thank-you to Josephine J. Hall who always remembers to mail her news so that it gets to me by the 20th of the month.



ANNOUNCING...

The 2018 Heritage Weekend Committee wants you to continue the BTW celebration! You are invited to come relive and rejoice in the moments and memories of June 22-24, 2018...at the **Let's We Forget Foto Fest! Come out Sunday, September 30, 2-3pm** to select and order from event photos of our epic 44th Heritage Weekend. **Location: The BTW-Monteith Center** Each Class Photo and hundreds of Banquet, Black & Gold Day and John Work Chorus photos will be available for purchase. Introductory items and pricing are as follows:
Class Photo...\$10 each...5x7 Color Photo featuring 44th Heritage Weekend Keepsake caption
Event Photos...5x7 Color Photos...\$8 for One (1) Photo; \$15 for 2 Photos; \$20 for 3 Photos
Cash and credit/debit cards will be accepted.

All photos for sale were captured by professional photographers Cheryl Deas-Johnson and Regina Shannon.

Come join in commemorating our BTW Pride!





BTW Foundation Awards — 5 Scholarships

Susan Brown Freeman Scholar: Mario Trejo.

Mario is a graduate of Eau Claire High School. He is the son of Gema Verastegui. Mario plans to attend Benedict College.

Beverly Garrick Scholar: Vincent Lavon McClinton.

Vincent is a graduate of Ridgeview High School. He is the son of Jennifer Wilson McClinton and Vincent L. McClinton, and the grandson of Joseph Wilson '59 Roscoe James '62 and Maxine McClinton '67. Vincent plans to attend Midlands Technical College.

The 3 Fannie Phelps Adams Scholars are as follows:

Shobi Faith Foulks, Marcus Charles English, and Naima Marie Cooper

Shobi Foulks is a graduate of Dreher High School. She is the daughter of Angela L. Foulks and Zeborah D. Foulks, and the granddaughter of Brenda Jefferson White '63. Shobi plans to attend the University of South Carolina Upstate.

Marcus Charles English, Jr. is a graduate of Spring Valley High School. He is the son of Michelle Banks and Marcus Charles English Sr., and the grandson of Ida Spells English '66 and Charles Edward English '64. Marcus plans to attend Clemson University.

Naima Marie Cooper is a graduate of Drew Charter School, Atlanta, GA. She is the daughter of Dawn Cooper and Chris Cooper, and the granddaughter of Judy Jefferson Bradley '62 and Robert Bradley. Naima plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Congratulations and best wishes to all of our BTW Foundation Scholarship Award Recipients.

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 andy316@netzero.net, Geraldine Stroman Parker (803)754-8093 or email parkegers@bellsouth.net, Ida Spells English (803)779-3734 or email minieschild@yahoo.com, or M. LaNelle Kohn (803)865-1547.



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

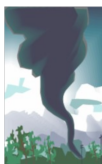
Comet II

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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**

Class '64 had three gatherings since the last publication of Comet II: Lunch and Jazz with Pete Green, Heritage Weekend, and Gertrude Sims Wilson's Funeral.

Our first gathering was at the Trinity Education Banquet and Conference Center where classmates, family and friends of Pete were treated to lunch. Entertainment was provided by Jazz Musician Dante' Lewis. Pete Green, our classmate from California sponsored the entire event. As usual, it was a fun-filled day enjoying the delicious food and reminiscing with classmates and friends. There were classmates in attendance from five states: California, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.



Trinity Education & Banquet Conf. Ctr. with Pete Green

Our second gathering was during the Heritage Weekend Celebration where our class had four tables. What a supportive class!



Our third occasion was at the home going service of Gertrude Sims Wilson. Catherine McGorder Whatley and Geraldine Stroman Parker gave reflections. Classmates served as pallbearers and floral bearers.



Classmates attending at least one of the above gatherings: James (Marie) Adams, Willie Adams, Frances Jenkins (Matthew) Addison, Deloris Herbert Anderson, Doris Johnson Andrews, Jo Tillman Boyd, Jasper (Sandra) Brown, Eugene (Denice) Carter, Vivian Benson Corbin, Francena Johnson Davis, Jessie Thorne Edmonds (Ray Miller), Julia Prince Edwards, Wardell (Ella) Epps, Merrill White (Marvin) Fears, Emma Dell Reese Ford, Ernie (Betty) Glymph, David Grant, Daniel Pete Green, Mary Wilson Guinyard, Thelma Jones Hall (Benny Brown), Barbara Epps Harling, Vivian Hopkins Hernandez, Ann Gardener Jennings (Troia Jennings), Sandra Krider Johnson, Melvin McKie, Lorenzo Mills, Willie (Shirley) Myers, Gladys Lewis Perry, Geraldine Stroman (James) Parker, Samuel "Tank" (Rosa) Pelzer, Frankie Campbell Point, Gloria Richardson Priester, James Prince, John Robinson, James Ruff, Murry Smith, Barbara Seabrook (Thomas) Spry, Dwight Thompson, David (Gloria) Tucker, Catherine McGorder Whatley and Bonnie Nix Wise.

Condolences: Gertrude Sims Wilson

Reporters: Doris Johnson Andrews and Geraldine Stroman Parker