

# The Comet II

July 31, 2019

Volume 26 No. 3



Booker T. Washington Foundation

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

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## \* DEATHS \*

Billy Goodwin '63

Gladys Butler Goforth '44

John Jones

Isaiah Tillman '64

Carl Van Williams (Teacher)



## President's Voice

The Foundation is ecstatic about the extensive participation during the 2019 Heritage Weekend. The "Back on the Block" Welcome Mixer, the Heritage Banquet, the Black and Gold Day and the John Work Chorus brought together alumni, Millennium Society members, family members, friends and supporters with the theme: *"BTW...It's a Family Affair"*. It was indeed a time when we were able to "Sing a song of glory, a song of work and fun! We look forward to what lies ahead in 2020. Save the dates of June 25, 26, 27 and 28 for our next Heritage Celebration. We are excited!

The Alumni Association has been reorganized and has elected officers and scheduled regular meetings. The organization is working to develop bylaws along with effective ways of communicating its established, purpose, mission, vision, goals, objectives and strategies to alumni and friends. The Alumni Association provides an extension and a way to reach out to classes, and persons who attended Booker T. Washington High School. The Alumni Association will use *The Comet* to inform you of opportunities, and its work.

The Booker T. Washington Foundation is working towards the development of its Strategic Plan and seeking legal advice on the use of the Booker T. Washington High School name by all entities. This Intellectual Property legal document, once obtained, will be used to protect the use of the name of Booker T. Washington High School and once developed and approved, will be shared with the public and all entities directly and indirectly associated with Booker T. Washington High School.

We are indeed sadden by the loss, since January 2019, of those who attended Booker T. Washington High School, who taught at Booker T. Washington High School or who were supporters of Booker T. Washington High School. Let us reach out and keep their families in our thoughts and prayers.

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 participate, to communicate, and 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



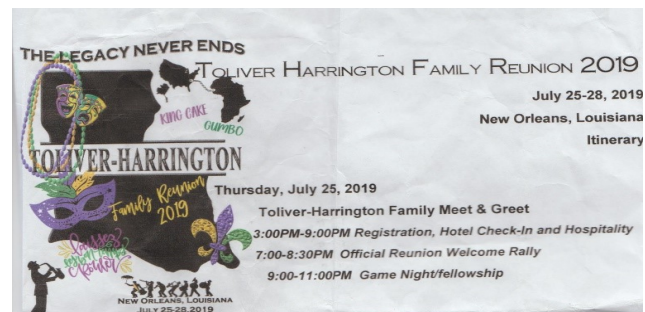
## Class of 1943



Hi there Washingtonians!!

We are here with lots of news to share. First our Annual Heritage Weekend celebration was a grand affair. We commend everyone who participated in the planning. Everyone present would agree that this is one of the best events where all were able to speak from their tables. Nathaleen Martin Jenkins and Josephine Jefferson Hall continue to represent our class every chance we get and we will continue through the grace and mercy given, as long as we are able. Congratulations to all graduates. This reporter had several family members who received honors this year and enjoyed the ceremony at the Palmetto School of Career Development where her granddaughter, Lakeisha Edmonds Oriol, received her degree in Medical Administrative Assisting, March, 2019. At the celebration dinner, 'Engage At Every Age', honoring older Americans in our homes, churches, and communities, was held at Bible Way Church, Atlas Road. I represented my church, Brown Chapel AME, Arthurtown, with an original monologue entitled "Ole Miss Tanzy Sly". All present enjoyed it.

Josephine Jefferson was on the road attending the Hall Family Reunion in Batesburg-Leesville June 20-21 at the American Legion Hut. By request, I recited "Just Because It Was Family Reunion Time". I was also recognized as the family Matriarch. So much of this occurred while I was a guest at Town Place Suites Marriott, February 5th-July 24th, after my house was razed and rebuilt. I was glad to return home. I am taking time to thank everyone for the kind thoughts and best wishes. I was home only a few hours preparing to ride the bus to New Orleans, Louisiana, for the Toliver-Harrington Family Reunion. Family and friends from throughout the



United States attended. The 'Golden Girls', Ida J. Jackson, '55, Bettie J. Hassell, '58, and Josephine J. Hall, received awards. Josephine recited "Family Reunion". I encourage all of you to participate in your family reunions, whether large or small. Enjoy your time together and relish the memories.

We pray that our co-reporter, Pauline B. Richardson, will continue her recovery and be back with us soon.

Once again, thanks Washingtonians for allowing us to share with you.

J. J. Hall, Reporting

## Class of 1955



Hello Washingtonians,

The Class of 1955 makes this quarterly report: We are continuing to remain as active as we possibly can. Most of us are getting to the time of life where we do not drive after dark, stay up late, attend every meeting, dance the night away, or travel a lot. We have basically become homebodies doing only what we cannot avoid and trying to stay active enough to keep our joints supple enough to move whenever we need to get up and go.

The meeting at Albert and Carrie Bell Tucker's house was very enjoyable, especially the food and togetherness, that included singing the Alma mater and Praising God. Other members present were Alonzo Phelps, Ida Jackson, Ora Cummings, Oretha Young, and Gloria Prioleau. It really felt like a great reunion!

## Class of 1956

Hello Classmates and other Washingtonians,

Where, oh where have our classmates gone? We get it that you cannot attend every meeting, but you are still active and doing what you want to do, so why not pick up the telephone and give some classmates a call every now and then.

Thanks to Sarah Griffin, Ollie Mae Milligan, Melvin Hodges and his wife, Birdie, Harrison Williams and his wife Mary, and Johnnie Mae Patterson; we represented the class at the Heritage Weekend activities. We also held a pre-55th year meeting on Saturday, June 29th at Fatz Café, on Forest Drive. In addition to the above-named persons, the following persons attended: Mary Scott, Mary Greene Young, Willie Mae Belton, Grover Jenkins and his wife Betty. Harrison Williams volunteered to chair the planning committee for our grand celebration next year, so

A few of us attended the Heritage Weekend activities and enjoyed seeing each other, as well as others of you, whom we had not seen since last year, or for years, especially those persons from other classes who shared the table with us. Alonzo Phelps, Mary Brown, and Ida Jackson represented the class.

We continue to pray for the continued healing of our president, Al Griffin, and classmate Roland Harris who remain in the nursing home. Visits to them seem to cheer them very much. Classmates Alphonso Edmond and Peter Reese are working to become stronger. Continue to pray for our class members who are experiencing health issues that prevent interactions with others. Give them a call if you have not seen them in a while.

Your Roving Reporter, Alonzo Phelps

classmates pull out your class directory, contact Harrison and tell him what you will do to make our 2020 celebration a memorable one.

We were saddened to learn that Harrison's brother departed this life on the day of the banquet. Our meeting at Fatz was a bittersweet affair; somber for the loss of life yet celebratory for the life that remains.

Johnnie M. Corley Patterson, President/Reporter

## Class of 1963



Greetings,

The BTW/CAJ Class '63 continues to enjoy meetings and planning joint activities. Presently, we are looking forward to our September 7th fish fry to be held at Robert Brown's place on North Street in Columbia.

We will have our annual Christmas party at the Delta Life Development Center on Saturday, December 21st. We always have great fun, food, and fellowship.

We attended the Heritage Weekend Celebration on June 28-30 at Trinity Education Community Center, where we were honored guests in 2018, as we celebrated our 55<sup>th</sup> reunion.

Beverly Garrick Family, along with the BTW '63 Class, sponsored a bowling tournament on June 22nd, at the Royal Z Bowling Center. Proceeds from this event were used to sustain the Beverly Garrick Scholarship.

### Condolences:

The Class sends its regards to **Delores Epps Goodwin '63** in the passing of her husband, **Billy Goodwin '63**. Billy was an integral part of our class.

James E. Parker and Jacob Jones, 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

## SCHOLARSHIPS . . .

### Congratulations to 2019 BTW Foundation Scholars

#### Fannie Phelps Adams Scholarship

**Melkevis Janard Pearson, Jr.** is the son of Ms. Liketie Jones and Mr. Melvin Person, Jr. He is the grandson of Mr. & Mrs. Melvin '73 (Ethel Livingston '74) Pearson. He is a graduate of A. C. Flora High School in Columbia, South Carolina. Melkevis was awarded a \$2,000.00 scholarship.

**Breanna Nicole' Calhoun** is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Raymond (Bertine McDaniel) Smith and granddaughter of Mrs. Nellie R Dean McDaniel '61. She is a graduate of Lower Richland High School in Columbia, South Carolina. Breanna was awarded a \$1,500.00 scholarship.

**Clarence Jaiden Hassell** is the son of Mr. Clarence R. Hassell and Mrs. Samantha Golston Williams. He is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. John '50 (Vermelle Collington) Golston. He is a graduate of Cox Mill High School in Concord, North Carolina. Clarence was awarded a \$1,000.00 scholarship.

#### Beverly Garrick Scholarship

**We congratulate and wish much success to Makaila Cameron Cordell, the recipient of the \$1,500 Beverly Garrick scholarship.**

**Mikayla** is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. William (Jacqueline) McKie and granddaughter of Joann Bruce Rose '65. She is a graduate of Decatur High School in Decatur, Georgia.

The Garrick Family and the Class of 1963 would like to thank all participants and contributors to the Bowling for Education Fundraiser. A special thanks to class members from 1958 through 1966 for helping to make it a success. Congratulations to the Highest Game Senior Male winner, **Buster Williams '58**, and Highest Game Female winner, **Jocelyn Council** of Atlanta, Georgia.

Aw-aw-awesome!

## Heritage Weekend . . .

Thanks to all of you Washingtonians, friends, and supporters of Booker T. Washington. The 45<sup>th</sup> Heritage Weekend celebration was one of the best. The Alumni Association spearheaded the Thursday evening 'Meet and Greet' at Springhill Suites, on the corner of Huger and Lady Streets. We saw so many folks whom we had not seen in years, many of whom we had not seen since their final days at Booker T.



The banquet on Friday evening at the Trinity Baptist Church banquet and conference center on Richland Street was nearly like it was when the initial celebration was held. Lots of glitz and glamour, suits and ties to behold. The extreme casualness of previous years seemed to have nearly disappeared.

The classes of the fours and the nines were in reunion. They served as a poignant reminder that we are becoming fewer in number as each year passes and we age or depart this clime. Therefore, Washingtonians, let us celebrate life every year. Plan now to be a part of the 2020 Heritage Weekend celebration.

The Millennial Society's efforts to recruit and mentor legacies (children of former Washingtonians) should be an inspiration to all of us. Please contact Kim Greene regarding membership.

**Booker T. Washington Foundation**

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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**

Wow! Time seems to pass fast after graduation. What a busy and fruitful times we've shared. Class had 2 gatherings since the last publication of Comet: class meeting and Heritage Weekend Celebration coupled with 55<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion.

Our first gathering, our April meeting, hosted by Gloria Richardson Priester, Vivian Hopkins Hernandez, and Geraldine Stroman Parker, was held at the home of Geraldine S. Parker. Our major focus was our upcoming 55<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion coupled with Heritage Weekend Celebration.

For our next gathering, our 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion, where we had representation at all Heritage Weekend activities: Thursday— Meet and Greet at Springhill Suites in the Vista, Friday –Heritage Weekend banquet at Trinity Education Community Center we had 5 tables and did our presentation through song, and Saturday –picnic and State of the Foundation meeting at BTW/Montieth Cultural Center. On Saturday afternoon, Class '64 had an informal luncheon at Big T's on Garners Ferry Road where we had 40 participants. On Sunday, we attended Trinity Baptist Church, after church service, we had lunch at Trinity Education Community Center, and on Sunday evening, we attended John Work Chorus at BTW Auditorium on USC Campus.

We really an had enjoyable 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion weekend. To continue our 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion Celebration, we will journey to Washington, DC on September 20 – 25 to tour the National Museum of African American History and Culture and the Museum of the Bible.

Participants in the various events above: Willie (Lucille) Adams, Frances Jenkins (Mathew) Addison, Doris Johnson Andrews, Jo Tillman (Doug) Boyd, Jasper Brown, Eugene (Denice) Carter, David (Elaine) Clarkson, Zack (Debbie) Clarkson, Francena Johnson Davis, Jessie Thorne Edmonds (Ray Miller), Julia Prince (John) Edwards, Wardell (Ella) Epps, Emma Dell Reese Ford, Ernie (Betty) Glymph, Clarence Goodwin

(Sandra), Mary Wilson Guinyard, Barbara Epps Harling, Joseph Holston, Ann Gardner (Willie) Jennings, Sandra Krider Johnson, Melvin (Jerald) McKie, Lorenzo Mills, Willie (Shirley) Myers, Geraldine Stroman (James) Parker, Samuel "Tank" (Rosa) Pelzer, Gladys Lewis Perry, Frankie Campbell Point, Gloria Richardson Priester, James Prince, Barbara Seabrook Spry, David (Gloria) Tucker Catherine McGorder Whatley, Bernetha Fanning Wise and Bonnie Nix (Elder Wise) Wise

**Condolences**

**Thelma Jones Hall** in the death of her brother, **John Jones**.

The family of **Isaiah Tillman '64**

**Kudos**

**Jessie Thorne Edmonds**-Jessie was recognized by First Nazareth Baptist Church as one of their Outstanding Women who have 50 years of exemplary service to the church and community.

**Gloria Richardson Priester**-Gloria was Women's Day speaker at Antioch Baptist Church where classmates **Catherine McGorder Whatley** and **Wardell Epps** are members.

**Eunice Watson Cornelius**- Eunice was Women's Day speaker at her sister's church in Washington, DC.

**Geraldine Stroman Parker**-Geraldine was named **Delta Dear of the Year** by the Columbia Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Doris Johnson Andrews and Geraldine Stroman Parker, Reporters

