

The Comet II

July 31, 2021

Volume 28 No. 3



Booker T. Washington Foundation

www.bookertwashingtonfoundationsc.org

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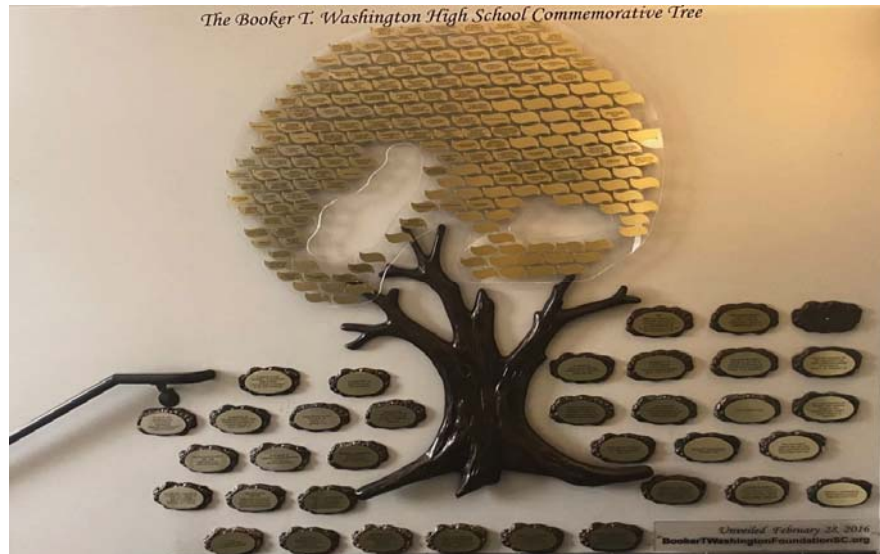
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About Our Organization

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."

The Booker T. Washington Commemorative Tree



The Commemorative Tree was unveiled on February 28, 2016, and is housed on the second-floor stairwell of the Booker T. Washington Building at USC, 1400 Wheat Street. To date, of the 200 leaves on the tree, 132 leaves are engraved, leaving 68 open for engravement. There are 34 engraved stones around the tree.

Donation categories

- **Donation: \$100.00.** This donation entitles each person/donor to one (1) leaf on the Booker T. Washington High School Commemorative Tree.
- **Donation: \$300.00.** This donation entitles each person/donor to one (1) stone placed around the BTW Commemorative Tree.

Designation of funds

Funds raised are designated for scholarships and may also be used for administrative cost related to maintenance of the tree.

Ordering Procedures

Checks should be made payable:

Booker T. Washington High School Foundation

Memo Line: Commemorative Tree

The brochure is available on the Foundation website.

The Order Form with payment should be returned to: Class President or

Mailed to: The BTW Commemorative Tree

Post Office Box 1641 Columbia, SC 29202

- Questions may be directed to: Geraldine Parker @ 803.530.1087
parkergrs@bellsouth.net

Your support of the Commemorative Tree is requested as it has been five (5) years since the Tree was installed and few contributions made since the initial installation. Our goal is to fill this tree and start another tree.

Lest We Forget...

Gloria Graham Boyd, President

Class of 1943



Hello Washingtonians, it is news time from the "Faithful Few".

Nathaleen Martin Jenkins' son Gregory will be with her until the end of August to assist with whatever needs to be done for his mother. Great idea Gregory!

We were unable to reach Wilhelmina Johnson Gordon at this time. We will continue our attempts to touch base and pray for success by the final publication for 2021, in October.

CORRECTION: We incorrectly reported that David Hayes, our Little Camden Neighborhood Organization president's wife had passed. The name should have been Ladson Hayes instead.

We sadly report the passing of our beloved classmate, Hattie Mae Adams Marley, in April. After graduating from BTW, she worked several years at Berry's on Main and later at Lourie's selling ladies shoes and handbags. She was affectionately known as "The Shoe Lady". Hattie was able to look at your feet and fit you in the perfect pair of shoes. We commend her children and family for taking special care of her which allowed her to remain at her home. Her lovely flower yard and vegetable garden will be the legacy that Hattie has left behind.

Marva Delores Toliver Diamond, '61, cousin of Ida J. Jackson, '55, Betty J. Hassell, '58, and your reporter, Josephine J. Hall, along with her husband, children, grandchildren, and friends will miss her dearly. Marva was very talented and creative. She served as a church mother at Bible Way Church, Atlas Road. She passed away in June.

Another Washingtonian and cousin, Robert "Bobby" Cochran, '63, passed away recently in Berkley, California. He began a career early at BTW. His love for music took him to more than 20 foreign countries with B. B. King and Edwin Hawkins. He helped develop the song, 'O, Happy Day', that became a worldwide favorite throughout Christianity.

Now for the great news for remembrance: Brown Chapel AME Church reopened its doors after being closed for more than a year due to the pandemic. Before service began, our pastor, Rev. Moses Rembert, presented Trustee Kenneth Corbin with an award for his heroic deed of protecting the lives of children as though they were his own, as a trained school bus driver. Congratulations to

Trustee Corbin, from Zion Hill Baptist Church, his pastor, Rev. Clyde Bennett, members, family and friends. All churches in the Arthurtown Area/Community say hats off for a job well done.

Congratulations to Thalia Butts, a former BTW Foundation scholarship recipient, recently graduated summa cum laude from Claflin University with a degree in mass communications. Thalia is the daughter of Harold and Toni Hassell Butts, granddaughter of Betty Jefferson Hassell, '58, niece/grand niece of Josephine J. Hall, '43, and Ida J. Jackson, '55. The entire family is proud of Thalia and her accomplishments.



While at Claflin Thalia was an Alice Tisdale Presidential Scholar, was Valedictorian, studied abroad as a full exchange student at Kansai Gaidai University in Osaka, Japan and served as charter president of the Claflin University Association of Black Journalists.

Thalia is currently a Content Strategy intern at Squarespace. She will attend graduate school at the University of South Carolina in the fall on a full scholarship as a University of South Carolina Rising Star Fellow.

- Josephine Jefferson Hall, Reporting

Class of 1955



Hello, Class of 1955 Reporting.

Happy to report that Alonzo "Your Roving Reporter" Phelps continues to improve after enduring several surgeries and illnesses.

Walter Jackson, Ida J. Jackson's spouse, will leave the hospital soon. We pray for a rapid and full recovery. Richard "Peter" Reese is still under the weather. Give him and Gloria Prioleau a cheer up call.

We thank Carrie Jean Bell Tucker for committing to try to reach out to classmates at least once a month. Hope she continues to have more good days than bad days. We also thank her husband, Albert, our honorary classmate, for his continued love and care of her which enables her to do what she does best.

We ask prayers for our entire class as well as for all Washingtonians and friends. Thank you for your loyalty.

Class of 1956

Hello Washingtonians!

We are happy to report that we celebrated our 65th year with the Foundation in June, through ZOOM. Quite a few classmates were able to access the site and view the activities.

Happy to report that Sarah Griffin's husband, Albert, former Foundation President, continues to amaze us with his positive outlook on life even though he requires assistance for most activities. Give them a call or send a card. This will cheer them so much.

Happy most of us have agreed to pay our dues and support the Foundation's efforts to maintain and grow the organization.

Just So You Know

Received a call from Annie Williams', '51, daughter who informed us that she passed in January, so no need to continue sending newsletter. We thanked her and expressed our deepest condolence.

(Picture at the right) Alexis Williams, Millennium Society Member and Vice President Kamala Harris

Kamala Harris (then Senator) and Alexis Williams, at a Roundtable discussion at the Capital City Club during a 2018 Pre-Presidential campaign visit in Columbia, S.C.

Alexis is a Millennium Society Member , and is the daughter of Mary Davis Williams, Class of 1957, and Roger Williams Class of 1959.



I will no longer be responsible for correlating news for the newsletter after the October issue. I believe that after doing this for more than 20 years, I need to pass the baton to someone else who have fresh eyes and new ideas. I have enjoyed my time doing this, but I also feel it is the right time to let go. Thanks Washingtonians for the opportunity to serve you.

- Johnnie Mae Corley Patterson, Reporting



Class of 1963



Greetings,

BTW/ CAJ Class '63 resumed in person meetings in June. Members who attend meetings have been vaccinated and practice social distancing. Classmates from both schools meet together bi-monthly on 2nd Sunday at 6:00 PM at Robert Brown's Place on North Main Street. The main item on the agenda has been collecting funds to support the Beverly Garrick Scholarship which is sponsored by the Garrick Family and the BTW Class '63. Other activities have been suspended until this virus is under control.



Congratulation to Stiles Edward Parker, son of Antwan and Dawn Parker and grandson of **James E. '63 and Geraldine Stroman '64 Parker** for being a recipient of BTW Foundation/Fannie Phelps Adams 2021 Scholarship.

Condolences: Class regrets the transition of **Robert Cochran**, and brother of Leon Goodwin, **Belton "Big Dooley" Goodwin**.

James E. Parker and Jacob Jones, Reporting

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 dorisan-drews33@gmail.com, Geraldine Stroman Parker (803)754-8093 or email parkergrs@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



Congratulations to 2021 BTW Foundation Scholars



Madison Michelle Britt, daughter of Johnny and Angela Britt, Jr, and granddaughter of John '51 and Vernelle Collington Golston, graduated from Sachse High School in Sachse, Texas. She plans to attend University of Houston, majoring in Exploratory Studies. Madison is a Garrick Scholar.

Amelia Raquel Kitt, daughter of Wilton and Cleo White Kitt, and granddaughter of Mary Johnson Kitt Barber '65, graduated from Patrick Henry High School, Roanoke, Virginia, plans to attend Virginia Tech, majoring in Computer Science. Amelia is a Fannie Phelps Adams Scholar.



Malachi Everette Lewis, son of Edward and Pamela Glenn Lewis and grandson of Lucy Ann Counts, graduated from Irmo High School, Columbia, South Carolina. He plans to attend Benedict College, majoring in Sports Management. He is a Susan Brown Freeman Scholar.

Stiles Edward Parker, son of Antwan "Rodney" and Dawn Parker, and grandson of James '63 and Geraldine Stroman '64 Parker, graduated from Tucker High School in Tucker, Georgia. He will attend Kennesaw State University, Atlanta Georgia, majoring in Mechanical Engineering. Stiles is a Fannie Phelps Adams' Scholar.



Alexandria Nicole Pearson, daughter of Renaldo and Kenya Pearson, and granddaughter of Richard '58 and Maxine Peterson '58 Pearson, graduated from Holy Innocents Episcopal School in Atlanta, Georgia. She will attend Robert Morris University majoring in Sports Medicine. Alexandria is a Fannie Phelps Adams' Scholar

Marquel Jacques Pearson, son of Melkevis Pearson and Liketie Jones and grandson of Melvin '73 and Ethel Livingston '74 Pearson, graduated from Dreher High School, Columbia, South Carolina. He plans to attend Coastal Carolina, majoring in Engineering Science. Marquel is a Beverly Garrick Scholar.



Class of 1964



It has been 16 months, and counting, since we have been able to come together for in person meetings. Even though we have not been able to resume in person meetings, classmates have still been very active and have much news to share.

Congratulations to the following:

Ann Gardner Jennings was crowned on Mother's Day as Mother of the Year at her church, MANIFESTATION Church.



Doris Johnson Andrews and family had a 98th Birthday Drive-thru Celebration for her mother, Mary C. Johnson Dantzler in June. Procession included the Dodge Charger Club, Deputies, her pastor, and many other decorative cars.

Willie and Lucille Adams' sons, **Michael and Brian**, coordinated and sponsored their parents' 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration.



Geraldine Stroman Parker's aunt, Ethel Stroman Waiters, celebrated her 100th Birthday Drive-thru Celebration on Sunday, July 25, in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Her aunt is her father's last living sibling out of 10 children.

Stiles Edward Parker, grandson of **James '63 and Geraldine Stroman '64 Parker**, was a BTW Foundation/Fannie Phelps Adams 2021 scholar. He will attend Kennesaw State University, majoring in Mechanical Engineering.



Lindsay McKie, a 2020 BTW Foundation/Fannie Phelps Adams Scholar and granddaughter of **Melvin '64 and Jerald McKie**, made the Presidents list (Made all A's) for Spring semester at Kennesaw State University in Atlanta, Georgia

Vivian Benson Corbin's husband, **Kenneth Corbin**, appeared on Good Morning America after he was honored in Richland School District II in Columbia, SC after his heroic job of saving students on his bus during a hijacking by a Fort Jackson recruit. He received accolades from the SC State Department of Education, Richland County Sheriff Department, Richland II Superintendent, SC State Superintendent, Richland School District II School Board, and many more. He was dubbed a hero by all, but he gives all the credit to his children on his bus.



Doris Johnson Andrews and Geraldine Stroman Parker were featured on panel to share history of the Booker T. Washington Foundation scholarship during Webinar for 2021 Heritage Celebration.

Well, this is all the news for now. Prayerfully, when next Comet II is printed, we will be back to our normal method of coming together for meetings and other gatherings.

- Doris Johnson Andrews and Geraldine Stroman, Reporters

Booker T. Washington Foundation

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* DEATHS *

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



Information on the DELTA Coronavirus Variant

What is the Delta coronavirus variant?

Originally known as B.1.617.2, the Delta variant is the most infectious version of the COVID-19 virus to date. It was first identified in India in December 2020, where it quickly overwhelmed that country's health care system.

How widespread is the Delta variant in the U.S.?

It's becoming more widespread every day. Infections nationwide tripled in July, from about 13,000 cases per day to more than 56,000.

How contagious is this variant?

It's extremely contagious, more than any other variant. Preliminary research suggests that the Delta variant spreads from person to person more swiftly than the common cold or chickenpox. SARS-CoV-2 is the original coronavirus that mushroomed out of Wuhan, China last year and led to the COVID-19 pandemic. Variants quickly emerged, including Alpha, which was first identified in the U.K. Alpha is estimated to be 50% more contagious than SARS-CoV-2. Delta is estimated to be 50% to 60% more contagious than Alpha.

What makes Delta more contagious than other strains?

Delta infects people with a heavier virus load, which means they exhale more virus particles for others to catch. The variant's mutations are also believed to make it more effective at attaching itself to cells in human airways.

Does it cause more severe illness than other variants?

Scientists are still investigating this, but a study published in The Lancet medical journal estimated that the risk of hospitalization after infection with Delta could be 85% higher than with Alpha. In China, doctors are reporting that patients with the Delta variant are sicker than those they treated early in the pandemic. And their condition seems to go downhill much faster. Recent Scottish studies suggest that people infected with the Delta variant are almost twice as likely to be hospitalized as those infected with the Alpha variant.

Does the Delta variant cause any unusual symptoms?

COVID-19 Delta symptoms include headache, fever, sore throat – the same as those caused by other variants and the original SARS-CoV-2 virus. However, two typical COVID-19 symptoms are absent in Delta patients – cough and loss of smell.

Who's most at risk for the Delta variant?

People who are unvaccinated.

In the United Kingdom, where Delta is the dominant strain, studies showed that children and adults under age 50 are more than twice as likely to become infected. This is the age group with the lowest vaccination rate.

Will current COVID-19 vaccines work against the variant?

Yes, absolutely. We know that vaccines protect people against the Delta variant. But a single dose doesn't offer as much protection. It's vitally important to follow up and get that second dose.

Can we expect future Delta mutations?

Viruses are built to mutate. With each mutation, a new and stronger variant can emerge. The best way to prevent this is to vaccinate as many people as possible. Variants are less likely to emerge when a pandemic is brought under control.