

October 2019

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THE

INFORMANT

THE VOICE OF THE HISTORIC FREDERICK DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

MARY RADCLIFFE, PUBLICATION CHAIR '65

DESIGNED BY, JAMES PATTERSON '06



Welcome from the President



Brenda G. Thomas, '75

It's Welcome Back to School time! School is in full learning mode right now. There are a few new teachers and administrative staff! We welcome Ms. Laura Schulz, Assistant Principal, and the new teachers and staff. Mr. Craig Rivers, Principal, and his staff hit the ground running with a smooth opening day of school! We had great alumni support on the first day of school. We helped students get to their classes, helped with the security entrance to get into school, and helped to keep the hallways clear as well as organized the school supplies, we collected and turned over to the school. Thank you everyone who participated and those who wanted to participate, but for whatever reason did not get the opportunity.

Frederick Douglass High School is a uniform school. Every student must be in uniform. Hats off to the Classes of 1953 and 1970 who collaborated and purchased 50 brand new shirts for the school to use in their Uniform Lending Program. The Class of 1970 already donated khaki pants. Attend the General Membership meeting to see what is going on at the school and with the Association. Learn how you and /or your class can help the school and the Association.

Homecoming festivities took place the week of October 21-25, 2019. Were you there? If not! Let's do so by supporting the Blue and Orange during Homecoming week next year. See You Next Year for Homecoming 2020! Quack! Quack!

We are currently electing officers for the Alumni Association's Executive Board for 2020-2022 term. Thanks to the Nominating Committee for opening the nomination process to all persons interested in running for office. All current dues paying members should have received a communication extending an invitation to run for office or nominate a candidate. By now, all current dues paying members should have received ballots via U.S. mail to select the candidate of your choice or "write in" a candidate. If you did not receive a ballot, please contact the Alumni Office, 443-642-6077 or e-mail us at: fdhsaa-inc@gmail.com before November 20th. If you received your ballot, please return it as soon as possible to our P.O.Box: Historic Frederick Douglass High School Alumni Association, Inc.; P. O. Box 25151, Baltimore, MD 21229. **Remember YOUR vote counts!**

We still have work to do! We have been charged with assisting in getting the school renovated so that students have a quality place to learn with curriculum to guide them in their future endeavors, preparing them for college and/or careers of their choice. We know the building can look more like a place of learning so we need you to step up and help us make Douglass a place where students want to come and where they can get an excellent education. There is still work to do – will you help out? Join us at one of the General Membership Meetings (3rd Thursday in each month at 6:00 p.m.) to help us organize to get the school renovations started! It may mean taking turns to attend School Board Meetings, contacting our politicians, connecting us to the right people to help us get the job done.

Remember, you select your schedule for volunteering and supporting. Wouldn't it be wonderful to fill the halls of Douglass with Alumni Volunteers as we move to uphold our motto: "with pride, dignity and excellence"! We look forward to seeing or hearing from you real soon!

"Brenda!"

OPENING DAY 2019 AT FREDERICK DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL

Baltimore City Schools opened on Tuesday, September 3rd this year. Students arrived on time at 8:00 a.m. with the schedule they received over the summer. The Frederick Douglass High School Staff and members of the Alumni Association were on duty greeting them as they entered the campus, directing them to the tables set up outdoors to receive their actual schedule for the year before moving orderly through the halls onto their first class. The students were excited to see one another as they compared schedules to see if they had similar classes. Most of the students were already in uniform and ready for the school year.

Welcoming the students were Mr. Craig Rivers, Principal, along with our four (4) Administrators: Mr. Christopher Cash, Dr. Deji Orebamjo, Mr. Jermaine Skinner, and Ms. L. Schulz, the teachers, support staff and Guidance Counselors. The students appeared to be eager to return to school. Douglass is not a school with air conditioning, therefore; the extremely hot weather forced us to close early during the first week of school.

We had Alumni from many different classes present sporting our proud orange tops and blue bottoms! All Alumni had something positive to say about their experience on opening day! Mr. Rivers and his staff were happy to have the Alumni present helping with the opening day! Everyone enjoyed their time with the students and the parents who were there to register their children. What a Great Start of a Great Year!!



ALUMNI HELPING HANDS OPENING SCHOOL

The primary purpose of the Historic Frederick Douglass High School Alumni Association is to work with the principal, faculty, staff, and students of Frederick Douglass High School in advancing and preserving its history, tradition and legacy of high social standards, academic excellence, and leadership. Currently, under the leadership of Mr. Craig Rivers, Principal, the Alumni Association's paramount focus is the restoration of Frederick Douglass High School to its greatness. Within our ranks of the thousands of graduates who successfully completed Frederick Douglass High school are a host of individuals with the desire, talents and expertise necessary to provide any assistance needed to supplement the staff and community efforts. The annals of history bear proof of the greatness of the Historic Frederick Douglass High School.

On opening day of the 2019- 2020 school year, there were over twenty (20) members of the Historic Frederick Douglass Alumni Association, representing graduating classes dating back more than sixty-five (65) years who arrived at the school at 7 a.m. to welcome the students and support the administration in assuring that the day would be successful. We came to serve and assist by greeting students and parents, and guiding students to their assigned locations.

What a wonderful and fulfilling day we had as *"Helping Hands"*. It was as though we were *"Turning Back the Hands of Time"* being a part of Opening Day at Frederick Douglass High School once again. The members of the Alumni Association look forward to future opportunities to assist when needed to serve the students of Our Alma Mater. *Hail to Thee Oh Douglass High!!*



***Other alumni were present prior to picture being taken*



NEW BASEBALL FIELD AT FREDERICK DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL

Frederick Douglass High School's baseball and softball teams will no longer have to practice on concrete thanks to the new Brooks Robinson Field opening Tuesday. The Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation opened the field at Group1001 Park. It will serve as the home field of Frederick Douglass High School baseball and softball teams.

"We want the kids to have a wow factor, they come out and they go, 'Wow,' and then they want to do something on the field, which then gives them a chance to spend more time in a productive way than maybe getting in trouble someplace else," Cal Ripken Jr. said. Brooks Robinson Field at Group1001 Park is a synthetic turf ballfield designed for baseball and softball, and it includes a removable pitcher's mound, dugouts, a digital scoreboard and bleachers. "I'm jealous of all the kids that will get a chance to play on the facility on field like this. I longed for that kind of thing. You had to wait until you got to the big leagues before that happened," Ripken said.

The Major League Baseball Players Association and the MLB Youth Development Foundation have provided a batting cage for use by the Mighty Ducks baseball and softball programs. "I like the field. It's a new opportunity for the youth to have some fun," said Keyon Newbill, a Frederick Douglass baseball player. "I think the field is good and I like how big it is, because we went all last year without a field, so it's a good opportunity for us," said Haleek Lewis, a Frederick Douglass baseball player.

"Yes, this is a baseball field in dimensions, but we don't care if they play baseball on the field or not. We want them to actually play something, work together, take some responsibility in their lives and then learn how to be teammates along the way," Ripken said. "I came to Baltimore, believe it or not, in 1955 right out of high school, and I just found out after being here a long time, meeting my wife and getting married in 1960, that this was a great place to live. To be here with family, I get opportunities to do a lot of things, but it just came natural for me to kind of give back what I could to the city," Robinson said.

To date, the Ripken Foundation has completed 88 multipurpose synthetic turf facilities in 23 states and Washington, D.C., including 13 completed parks throughout Maryland.

Softball and baseball season can't come soon enough. Play ball!



HFDHSAA SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Thanks to contributions from alumni, their various classes and supporters of the Historic Frederick Douglass High School Alumni Association, Inc., \$18,000.00 was awarded to graduating seniors of our beloved alma mater on Alumni Day, May 3, 2019. All alumni and graduating classes are encouraged to continue to contribute to the Historic Frederick Douglass High School Alumni Association, Inc. Scholarship Fund. This will enable us to provide assistance to graduating seniors in pursuit of their higher education goals, as well as to preserve the history and rich legacy of the Historic Frederick Douglass High School Alumni Association, Inc.

Contributions may be sent to the Historic Frederick Douglass High School Alumni Association, Inc., P.O. Box 25151, Baltimore, Maryland 21229. *Submitted by Patricia Rhodes*

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

If you have not sent in your membership dues for the July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 membership year, please take the time to renew your membership now. We also encourage you to remind your classmates to join the Alumni Association. The work of the Association depends on membership dues and contributions.

Your membership dues enable us to continue working toward the restoration of “*pride, dignity and excellence*” at our beloved alma mater, as well as to provide graduating seniors with scholarship funding.

Membership dues should be sent to the Historic Frederick Douglass High School Alumni Association, Inc., P.O. Box 25151, Baltimore, Maryland 21229.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT 2019

On Thursday, September 19, 2019 Frederick Douglass High School had “***Back to School Night***” from 5 p.m. to 7p.m. This evening afforded parents opportunities to meet the Principal, the Administration Team, the Teachers, Guidance Counselors and other Support Staff. The event gave a glimpse of a typical school day at Frederick Douglass, informed parents about the curriculum, and how they can assist in helping their children to be successful in school. During this evening parents were able to sign up to participate in parent organizations and were informed of the many resources available at Frederick Douglass High School.

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS HOLIDAY GATHERING

Mark Your Calendars!! Save the Date for the Historic Frederick Douglass High School Alumni Association’s Annual *Holiday Gathering* on Thursday, December 12, 2019 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Historic Frederick Douglass High School Alumni Association, Inc.

2019-2020 MEETING DATES

(All Meetings will be held in the alumni office and will begin at 6:00 p.m.

If school is closed, meetings are cancelled.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

Wednesday, September 11, 2019
Wednesday, October 9, 2019
Wednesday, November 13, 2019
Wednesday, December 11, 2019
Wednesday, January 8, 2020
Wednesday, February 12, 2020
Wednesday, March 11, 2020
Wednesday, April 8, 2020
Wednesday, May 6, 2020
Wednesday, June 10, 2020

*Date shown changed by "Executive Order"

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS
THIRD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

Thursday, September 19, 2019
Thursday, October 17, 2019
Thursday, November 21, 2019
Thursday, December 12, 2019 *
Thursday, January 16, 2020
Thursday, February 20, 2020
Thursday, March 19, 2020
Thursday, April 16, 2020
Thursday, May 21, 2020
Thursday, June 18, 2020

**Holiday Gathering*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS QUARTERLY MEETINGS

Wednesday, September 4, 2019	Wednesday, December 4, 2019
Wednesday, March 4, 2020	Wednesday, June 3, 2020

In Memory Of

Sara Bragg Gray, '51
John Richardson, '51
Shirley Matthews, '70



Dr. Reppard P. Stone, Band Director taught music at Frederick Douglass High School 1971-1979

Fall - 2019

ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP

Please take a moment to pay your dues and support your alma mater. Your dues help to keep the Association functioning. Current members are eligible to receive all copies of ***the Informant***.

Dues (\$25) must be paid each year to keep your membership current. Dues are for the Fiscal Year- July 1- June 30. A dated receipt will be issued and mailed to you upon us receiving your payment. All current members receive a "Permanent" Membership card and number. It is never too late to become a current member. Thank you in advance for renewing your membership in the Association.

Life and Golden Life Members are paid up for life! Golden Lifetime Awards were given out on Alumni Day, Friday, May 3, 2019. You may become a Life Member or Golden Life Member at any time. You will receive a Certificate of Membership, membership card, and your name will be engraved on the plaque with other Life or Golden Life members that is displayed on the wall in the Alumni Office! You will be recognized during the 2020 Alumni Day Program! Please refer to the Membership Application for an explanation of the Types of Membership.

ELECTION OF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS FOR 2020-2022



The Historic Frederick Douglass High School Alumni Association, Inc. continues to be a strong enduring advocate for the Historic Frederick Douglass High School. The Association serves as a voice for legacy preservation, while aiding current and past students. We are now in the process of identifying and selecting candidates to run for officers for the Executive Board of the Association for the next two-year term of office (2020-22). The positions which need to be filled include: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary and Corresponding Secretary. A committee has been working hard this summer recruiting and interviewing qualified candidates. **WATCH YOUR MAIL!!** In early November, you will receive your ballot. Please follow the instructions, select the candidate for each position that you feel will do a great job for our Association. Please return the completed ballot in the pre-addressed envelope by December 9, 2019. Only current dues paying members are eligible to vote.

Our ability to continue as strong advocates for the Historic Frederick Douglass High School depends on your participation and support. We need your support now more than ever!!

THE INFORMANT

The Alumni Association plans to get current news to you four times each year. It is our goal to complete and distribute the Informant on or before the dates listed below, however; we need your cooperation in order to adhere to this schedule. Please send all information and articles for publication to fdhsaainc@gmail.com and to Mary C. Radcliffe at marycrad@yahoo.com or contact her at (410) 465-2115 or (443) 472-3842 at least three weeks before the date of distribution.

January Informant (Will be mailed by January 30th)

April Informant (Will be mailed by April 30th)

July Informant (Will be mailed by July 30th)

October Informant (Will be mailed by October 31st)

Please send the articles and information via e-mail to marycrad@yahoo.com. All articles should include the following information and electronic images to be included:

- Topic
- Date of Activity
- Location of Activity
- Time of Activity:
- Participants:
- Objective(s):
- Narrative: Should not exceed 100 words if possible.
- Person Submitted By

❖ Note: When submitting an activity/program remember to include answers to these questions: What? When? Where? Why? and How?

CLASS NEWS: 50TH REUNION OF THE CLASS OF 1969

The members of the Frederick Douglass High School Class of 1969 will celebrate their 50th Year Reunion on Saturday, November 2, 2019. They will celebrate this momentous occasion with a Gala held at the Forum Caterers located at 4210 Primrose Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21215. The proceeds from this evening of music, fun, remembrance and renewal of old friendships will be donated to the Frederick Douglass High School Alumni Association's Scholarship Fund. All Class of 1969 members are encouraged to come and bring a friend.

The cost of the event is \$75 per person. The attire is After Five. We are looking forward to seeing you on November 2nd. For tickets contact: Sylvia Coker at (410) 323-0849.

Holiday Gathering

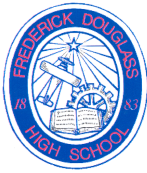


THURSDAY DECEMBER 12TH
5-8PM

PLEASE RSVP BY DECEMBER 5, 2019
SEND CONFIRMATION TO FDHSAAINC@GMAIL.COM

Media Center

2301 GWYNNS FALLS PKWY
BALTIMORE, MD 21217



Frederick Douglass High School Alumni Association, Inc.
 P.O. Box 25151
 Baltimore, Maryland 21229-0251
<http://fdhsaa.net/>

Membership Remittance Form

Name _____ Year _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: _____ (Home) _____ (Cell)

_____ (Work) _____ (Other)

E-Mail Address _____

Type of Membership:

- _____ **Regular Membership** **\$25.00 Annually**
 Must have attended or graduated from FDHS, has voting rights, can hold office.
- _____ **Associate Member** **\$25.00 Annually**
 Interested person(s). No voting rights. Cannot hold office.
- _____ **Life Membership** **\$250.00 (One Time)**
 May be either a Regular or Associate Member
- _____ **Golden Life Membership** **\$500.00 (One Time)**
 May be either a Regular or Associate Member

Note: Dues Are For Fiscal Year - July 1 through June 30
 (PAYMENTS RECEIVED AFTER MARCH 31 WILL BE APPLIED TO THE UPCOMING FISCAL YEAR)

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please make Check or Money Order Payable & Mail to:

Frederick Douglass High School Alumni Association, Inc. (FDHSAA, Inc.)
 P. O. Box 25151
 Baltimore, Maryland 21229-0251

Membership Card #
 (Office Use Only)

VOLUNTEER INTEREST:

TIMES AVAILABLE:

Having trouble connecting with your class members? Join the Alumni Association, others will follow.

MEETING DATE:
THE THIRD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH
 (WHEN SCHOOL IS IN SESSION)
 6:30 P.M. - ALUMNI OFFICE

FREDERICK DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL

HISTORIC FREDERICK DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. BOX 25151
BALTIMORE, MD 21229-0251

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We want to hear from you!

- Follow us on Social Media
- Submit Articles
- Be an advocate for Douglass by joining the Legislative Committee of the Alumni Association. Find out more by attending the General Membership Meeting the 3rd Thursday in each month.
- Just reach out!

