



THE INFORMANT

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

SUMMER 2020

www.hfdhsaainc.net

THE HFDHSAA WEBSITE

In today's digital world it is imperative that an effective organization is connected to the world wide web in order to provide its members with access to expeditious information and function to its greatest capacity. There are many benefits to having a website such as: providing around the clock access to information, providing a more cost-effective method of disseminating information, reaching a greater number of people, giving access to more resources and expanding the organization's membership base. During this most unusual period (March - June 2020) since the onset of the Covid -19 pandemic, a team of alumni lead by Walter G. Brooks Sr., Chairman of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and Jeurnene "Chippy" Bass, our technical consultant/ website builder have continued to work on our website. The Historic Frederick Douglass High School Alumni Association, Inc. website is up and running. Our new website address is www.hfdhsaainc.net and we invite you to visit and start using this new tool that will keep you informed and connected to the Alumni Association, your activities, classmates and friends.

As mentioned in the above paragraph, one of the advantages of having this new tool for more effective communication is to decrease the association's operating expenses. Production, printing and postage are extremely costly. Just think, those funds can be used for scholarships and other programs to benefit our students. Our goal is to reduce cost as much as possible. We do not intend to do this by cutting anything out. We will continue to produce the Informant four (4) times per year. It will be on the website and mailed to members who request it. We are giving you an opportunity to help by simply letting us know your preference. Enclosed in this communication is a Membership Renewal Form, please take a minute to fill in the information on the back stating which option you prefer. We realize that many of our members do not have computers and we want to ensure that you continue to receive the *Informant* and other mail via U.S. Postal Service. Please check-out the website. You will be DOUGLASS PROUD!!!

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The year 2020 will forever be etched in the memories of the world's entire population because it has been a time when regular activities throughout the world have been interrupted. The treacherous communicable disease, COVID-19 (the Coronavirus), has caused suffering and death throughout the world and have required every aspect of life in the United States and other nations to change for everyone. Jobs, schools, churches, social and political activities have been and will continue to be altered and curtailed. The only way to prevent the spread this lethal illness is to avoid being exposed to the virus and practice these actions to help prevent the spread. Wear a face cover -Wash your hands - Keep safe distance from others. Until scientist discover a vaccine that will provide immunity against COVID-19, we must protect ourselves and others by helping prevent the spread.

We have all been affected by this pandemic. Many of our associates, friends, neighbors and family have contracted the virus and some have died. According to the scientist and public health officials we are close to discovering the inoculation that will provide us with the protection needed to stop the spread. Until that time, we must stay the course and keep the faith.

THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Currently, we are unable to publish a calendar of meetings and events for the upcoming school year due to the unpredictable status of Covid-19. We plan to continue having meetings via social media. Please use the new website and the Historic Frederick Douglass High School Alumni Association's Facebook Page to stay connected. If you or your class has information that you feel is important and wish to see it on the website or in future issues of the Informant, materials may be sent to:

Historic Frederick Douglass High School Alumni Association,
Inc.
The Publication Committee
P.O. Box 25151
Baltimore, Maryland 21229-0251
or
Email: publications@hfdhsaainc.net



WELCOME!



Our Mascot The Mighty Duck

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

Like most organizations and institutions across our nation, The Historic Frederick Douglass High School Alumni Association Inc. has had to alter its calendar of activities and events due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. Since March 2020 we have postponed Alumni Weekend 2020, the publication of the Informant and many other activities; however, the Board of Directors and Executive Board of the Alumni Association have continued to function in a limited capacity. We have used teleconferencing and Zoom Meetings to continue to work with and support the students, staff and administrators of FDHS.

DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS

Dollars for Scholars, the HFDHSAA's scholarship program, under the leadership of the Scholarship Committee, has continued to provide scholarships for college accepted qualified seniors. These financial awards will assist them with tuition, books and other related college expenses for the 2020 - 2021 school year. Due to the irregular schedule, the Scholarship Committee is still conducting virtual interviews with candidates. Additionally, the Association has assisted with funding and by participating in closing activities saluting the graduating seniors.

FDHS COMMENCEMENT 2020

Graduations for Baltimore City High Schools took place virtually from **June 10-18, 2020** and were aired live on Facebook and YouTube. The Frederick Douglass High School Commencement was held on June 14th at 3:30 p.m. Speeches were made by Mr. Craig Rivers, Principal, Deji Orebanjo, Senior Class Administrator, the 2020 Valedictorian and BCPS Officials just to name a few. During the commencement each graduate was acknowledged, and diplomas were conferred. This graduation was different from the traditional ceremonies, however; it was a wonderful tribute to our graduates. During the ceremony Johnnie Forman Jr., President of the HFDHSAA extended greetings to the one hundred fourteen graduates. This delightful event exemplified Frederick Douglass High School's motto of *"Pride, Dignity and Excellence"*

IN MEMORY OF...

Shirley Mae Bruce '58
Helen Payne Bobb 'F57
Geraldine Bowman 'F56
Damon Fulton 'F56
William Henry '59
E. Gaines Lansley Jr. '65
Edward D. Green 'J49
Cardell Jones 'F51
John Jowers 'J51
Rebecca Miller 'J53
Dr. Vattel Theodor Rose '61
Bernard Stokes 'J56
Bernard Webster 'F56
Robert Wheatly 'J53
Barbara Winn 'J56



In Memory updates can be sent to Eleanor Everett '56
Co-chairperson of Membership at (410)223-5133

THE HFDHSAA NEEDS YOU!!!

Calling all alumni, associates and friends of Frederick Douglass High School to serve as torchbearers in honoring and preserving the history, values, traditions and legacy of our school. In today's society our youth and school needs are many and varied. We need you, your talents and your time. Please consider volunteering to work on one of the Association's Committees. The committees are listed on the back of the Membership Application and on the Association's website. Just check your interest and we will contact you. **THANK YOU SO MUCH! WE NEED YOU!**

SHOUT-OUTS! AND KUDOS!!

- Kudos to the Classes and Individuals who generously donated funds to the Dollars For Scholars during school year 2019-2020.

- Kudos to Ms. Aniece Y. Vincent, Guidance Counselor at Frederick Douglass High School, who retired at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. Ms. Vincent spent forty-five years in public schools as a teacher and counselor in North Carolina Schools and Baltimore City



Schools. A dedicated advocate for students and a valuable resource who supported the programs and initiatives of HFDHSAA. Thank you and congratulation from the Alumni Association.

THE HFDHSAA LEADERSHIP TEAM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Sharon Hassan, Co-Chairperson
Mary C. Radcliffe, Secretary

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