



THE INFORMANT

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

SPRING 2024

www.hfdhsaainc.net

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On behalf of the Historic Frederick Douglass High School Alumni Association, Inc., it is my pleasure to introduce the newly elected officers of the Alumni Association. The Nomination Committee worked diligently to identify and vet qualified candidates who met the standards set by the Alumni Association. These candidates exemplified the ability and willingness to provide our Association with the kind of leadership skills needed to preserve our *141-year legacy of "Pride Dignity and Excellence"* which we inherited from those who came before us. We are pleased to welcome our new Leadership Team!

Our Officers for the 2024 - 2026



Torren Smalls 2004
President



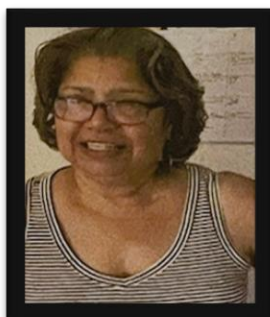
Kevin Jackson 1978
1st. Vice President



Yolanda Scott 1968
2nd Vice President



Patricia Cherry 1965
Treasurer



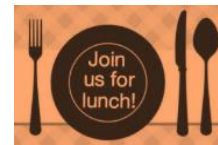
Rhonda Kershaw 1972
Corresponding Secretary

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

FREDERICK DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI WEEKEND CELEBRATION MAY 3RD - 5TH



ALUMNI DAY CONVOCATION & LUNCHEON



DATE: FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2024
TIME: 10:00 A.M.
DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL
MARY WEST AUDITORIUM

BOWLING PARTY FUNDRAISER
DATE: SATURDAY, May 4, 2024
TIME: 4 P.M. - 6 P.M.



BOWLERO PIKESVILLE
1723 REISTERSTOWN RD. 21208
COST: \$50.00

ALUMNI WORSHIP TOGETHER
SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
39111 GARRISON BLVD.
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
REV. DR. STEVEN J. RUSSELL, JR.

FDHS HISTORY-RENOVATION UPDATE

Frederick Douglass High School of Baltimore City was established in 1883 as the “Colored High and Training School”. It is the second oldest high school created for the education of African American youth in our nation. The results of systemic racism and discrimination lead to the selection of poorly equipped leaders, unqualified instructional staff and too few resources sent to West Baltimore’s pinnacles of learning to deal with this multitude of issues.

In the Fall of 2010, the groundwork was laid to address Baltimore City Public School’s aging and inadequate school buildings. By the end of December 2020, under the umbrella of the 21st Century School Building Program, eighteen (18) elementary, middle, and high schools have been completed and opened, one (1) is in the Planning stage, seven (7) are under construction, and three (3) are in the construction document/development stage. In December 2019, several additional schools were added to the list to start the new and/or renovation process. Frederick Douglass High School was included in this new group. At the initial meeting, the Frederick Douglass community was informed that tentative plans were underway for Frederick Douglass High School and Joseph C. Briscoe Academy to share the Gwynn’s Falls Parkway Campus. The Historic Frederick Douglass High School Alumni Association expressed concerns and since that time have advocated to insure the preservation of the legacy, heritage, values, traditions, standards, and culture established throughout the one hundred thirty-eight (138) years of the existence of Frederick Douglass High and working to insure that the motto of “Pride, Dignity and Excellence!” would not vanish.

These two programs will remain as separate schools, with co-location, not a merger at the Frederick Douglass High School location. The renovation is scheduled to start at the end of the 2023- 2024 academic year. The renovation project will take approximately two (2) years, during which time the school’s staff and students will re-locate to the Northwestern High School building beginning in the fall Of the 2024-2025 academic year. The Alumni Association will also have space to maintain our office in this temporary location while the renovation is underway. We are committed to continuing to support the administrators, staff, and students in every way possible.



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SCHOLARSHIP

Thanks to past contributors of the Alumni Association for their assistance with providing funds for scholarships awarded to graduating seniors of our beloved alma mater. Letters have been mailed to class representatives requesting their assistance in contacting class members to encourage them to contribute to the Alumni Association Scholarship fund. Funds received enable the Alumni Association to provide scholarship assistance to graduating seniors in pursuit of higher education goals, whether the traditional college/university or a Trade School. Scholarship awards also serve to preserve the history and rich legacy of the Historic Frederick Douglass High Alumni Association, Inc.

SCHOLARSHIP DONATION THANK YOU

It is with great appreciation and thanks that we wish to acknowledge the \$20,000. 00 scholarship contribution received from the Estate of Margaret B. Wells '53. Mrs. Wells was associated with the Wells Publishing Company. Prior to her death, she had expressed a desire to contribute to the Alumni Association in a meeting at her home with Patricia Rhodes.

We are grateful to the Estate of Mrs. Wells for her consideration and generous contribution to the Historic Frederick Douglass High School Alumni Association, Inc. and we encourage all alumni to consider the Alumni Association in their estate planning, as well as making contributions to preserve the rich legacy of our alma mater and to ensure that our motto of “Pride, Dignity, and Excellence” continues.

DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION



The Commencement for the graduating seniors of Frederick Douglass High School will take place on June 8, 2024 at 2 P.M at the Physical Education Sport Complex of Coppin State University. The President of the Alumni Association will induct the graduates into the Alumni Association. We encourage our alumni to attend.



Memorials

Helen Payne Bobb 'F57	Geraldine Bowman 'F56	Norman Branch '40
Shirley Mae Byrd 'J56	Thelma Byrd 'J56	Binah P. Cane '57
Celia Carr 'J56	Elise H. Clark '37	Msgt Melvin Daniels '69
Loretta I. Dates-Smith '56	Charlotte T. Davenport '42	James Diggs 'J66
Damon Fulton 'F56	Andrew Gaskins '58	Jean V. Julius-Goldsmith '43
Edward Green 'J49	John Green '47	William Henry '59
Milton M. Hillery '60	Ben Holmes 'F58	Stanley Holmes '63
Florence Jenkins '60	Cardell Jones 'F51	Johnny Jowers 'J52
E. Gaines Lansey, Jr. '65	O'Donel Levy '64	Barbara L. McNeil '60
Delores B. Mears '55	Hannibal Mickens 'J57	Rebecca Miller 'J53
Dr. Samuel L. Myers '36	Alfred H. Radcliffe 'J68	Dr. Vattel Theodor Rose '51
Bernard Stokes 'J56	John S. Ward '44	Roxie A. Watson '69
Bernard Webster 'F56	Barbara Winn 'J56	Clarence L. Young, Jr.
Calvin Ball, Jr. '61	Martin Luther Cotton '43	Evelyn Van Hook '41
Ethel M. Witherspoon '63	Alice E. Johnson '52	Audrey M. Kennedy '51
Norris Johnson '70	Denise Holland '70	Merriman O. Wilson '54
Velma Branch '44	Edward Tildon '56	General J. Timothy Boddie '49
Dr. Ruth J. Pratt '39	James Alston Jr. '57	Eva Lokeman Bowling Walters '41
Min. James Fuller '65	Juan White '65	Rev. Dr. Alfred C. D. Vaughn '57
George Washington Jones, Jr. Esq. '71	Jean B. Owens '46	William A. Dorsey, Esq. '56
Vernon M. Fuller '63	Shirley Clark '53	Judge Arrie Wilson Davis '57
Joseph Parham '46	Margaret B. Wells '53	Karen Jackson '76
Rodney Orange '60	Beverly Todd '66	

Dr. Samuel L. Myers passed on Jan 8, 2021 at the age of 101. He was truly a *Trail Blazer and History Maker* who throughout his life exemplified the characteristics of our alma mater which are (Pride, Dignity, and Excellence). For more information on Dr. Myers click on this link "[Samuel Myers' Biography](#)".