



The Connection

The Charmettes, Incorporated Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 4, September 2020

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The President's Message



Greetings Charmette Sisters:

As we move from the official end of Summer and prepare for Fall, after months of anxiety and uncertainty we find the COVID-19 pandemic is still present. While we have faith for a more certain future I am buoyed by the positive and uplifting thoughts and prayers of our Charmette world.

We have placed our trust in science, we use face coverings in public, avoid crowds, dutifully wash our hands and have learned new phrases like “social distancing” and “community spread.” We’ve also marveled at the human capacity for finding purpose, meaning, change and creativity in the midst of a crisis and are creating the stories that we will share with children, yet unborn.

Life has been challenging and isolating these past months. I believe as Chapters and the organization move forward in the midst of this pandemic, we may experience a vast spiritual awakening, possibly even a new age of enlightenment and innovation springing from lessons of the pandemic. We know that we carry with us the strength, values and resilience of our founders Gwendolyn Baker Rodgers and Frankie Drayton Thomas, and with those qualities we will face the new challenges, together.

Since its inception, our mission has been to give back and to be a beacon of light in the communities we serve. This year, The Charmettes, Incorporated contributed \$17,950 to Howard University Cancer Center in support of cancer research efforts. Prior to the pandemic and during COVID-19, many chapters partnered with local organizations to provide educational scholarships and wishes of love for kids with pediatric cancer, supporting the transformative power of education and healing on the lives of children and youth. Even in difficult times, we have found ways to serve.

As we begin this program year be excited, be proud, be even more committed to enriching and expanding our service and our story; Our organization will celebrate its **70th** Anniversary on July 17, at our 65th National Convention 2021 in Atlanta, Georgia. We have a proud history behind us, we have the gift of our phenomenal service in this era, and we are poised for even greater contributions as we move forward.

Sisterly,

Catherine D. Lewis

National President

Celebrating 70 Years of Charmette Pride!



The Psalms attributes 70 to Strength! As we advance upon the coming year of Charmettes~Strong, as we do so in Unity and in Love. Therefore, as we approach the 65th National Convention on June 17, 2021, we will be embarking upon The Charmettes Inc., 70th Anniversary! Truly A Year Worth Celebrating of Charmettes Pride!

I am reminded of our rich History, our Mission Statement and Guiding Principles which are the foundations of our existence and the fundamental underlying of our growth that has been laid before us. We have evolved since 1951 when two friends Gwendolyn B. Rodgers and Frankie D. Thomas conceived the idea in forming this illustrious organization for "Black Women." So, it is fitting and "in real time" to reflect upon the very words of our eminent founders, Gwen and Frankie.

We look to their profound and encouraging words to up-lift our spirits and to inspire us as we look forward to the promising and the unchartered future we are vigorously heading into.

"The world, with its natural social forces, continues to be in a state of unrest, however, we Charmettes, along with the rest of the world are seeing the dawn of a new era. The dye is cast—what now? Where shall we go from here? Are we Charmettes prepared to meet the challenge which lies ahead? The new era will be a period of social reconstruction. Our entire social system will be revamped. We must move forward with the rest of the world to assume our new roles. And so, dear Charmettes, with these thoughts in mind, let us move forward into this new era with more vigor, enthusiasm and determination." Frankie D. Thomas November 1964 (during the Ninth General Meeting in Miami, FL).

"You have made our growth orderly and our heritage proud. You have exemplified the true meaning of not asking what Charmettes can do for you, but what can you do for Charmettes. By this injection of love and dedication, you have made us an organization to be respected and envied. Within these few years, our growth has been fantastic; but most important, it has been growth without sacrificing quality or integrity." Gwendolyn F. Rodgers May 1986, (during the Sixteenth Annual Convention, Palm Beach, FL).

As the National Historian, I am both honored and humbled to have the task of following the history and rediscovering the paths once blazed by the Phenomenal Women before me, while breaking new grounds in leading the way to new discoveries.

Sisterly,

Audre'L Davis-Jones

Charmette Audre'L Davis-Jones,
National Historian of The Charmettes, Inc.

Information from Leon County

Greetings from the Sunshine State!

The members of the Leon County Florida chapter are thankful and thrilled to begin this year. We have elected new officers, who have pledged to continue to uphold the phenomenal achievements of this chapter. The new offices are listed below:

- Chapter President - Charmette Malinda Jackson-James
- Chapter Vice President - Charmette Beverly Williams
- Chapter Secretary - Charmette Miriam Marlow
- Chapter Reporter - Charmette Pamela Tanner Coleman
- Chapter Parliamentarian - Charmette Emma Dawson
- Chapter Treasurer - Charmette Aurelia Alexander
- Chapter Financial Secretary - Charmette Dana McCray

The chapter is earnestly planning to virtually present our 2020 debutantes to the Tallahassee community. This activity is tentatively slated for December 19, 2020. More details and highlights to come. We are immensely proud of two of our former Debutantes; Robin Seniors and Adrianna Williams, who are currently heavily involved in the national young people outreach for presidential candidates Joe Biden and Kamala Harris.

Plans for the 2021 Debutante presentation are in the formative stages. The 2021 presentation will highlight 50 years of presenting outstanding and talented young women from Tallahassee and surrounding areas.

During this pandemic season, the Leon County Chapter sisterhood plans to be very creative in our community outreach activities. We will continue our partnership with Oak Ridge Elementary School, and foster a new relationship with Griffin Middle School.

Our faith and steadfastness in the ideals and principals of the Charmette organization will continue to guide our members as we meet the many needs of our community.

Information from Madison County



Charmette Presley earns doctorate

Madison County Charmette Glyndell B. Presley recently earned her doctorate in education degree from Northcentral University. Dr. Presley's research focused on the alternative corrective measures used by Black teachers to lessen discipline, especially with intellectually disabled Black males. Her specialization is in curriculum and teaching.

Dr. Presley said the journey was long and bumpy, but credits her accomplishment to her strong faith in God and the support of family and friends.

"I started this journey with two very special people in my life, my son and my mother," she said. "They didn't live long enough to see it come to fruition, but I am now Dr. Presley because they were an integral part of my life."

A consummate professional, she has proven leadership as a university administrator having served as Director of Publications, editor, and an adjunct professor at her Alma mater Florida A&M University. Now as a secondary educator she teaches English, Reading, and Journalism.

Prior to working in higher and secondary education, she worked as a senior reporter for the Capital Outlook Newspaper owned by the late Roosevelt Wilson, her former professor. She also worked as a general assignment reporter for the Thomasville Times Enterprise.

Her lineage in the Charmettes, Inc. includes the membership of several aunts and a cousin from the Hillsborough Chapter, including National Treasurer Evelyn M. Keeton, Juanita Cannon, and Benettie G. Davis.

Presley is a life member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, and serves as the historian for her chapter, Beta Delta Sigma (Tallahassee, Fla.). She is also a member of Delta Kappa Gamma International Society for Key Women Educators.

In her free time she enjoys spending time with her granddaughter, Ryleigh.

Information from Marion County



THE REV. DR. JOY L. GALLMON

Charmette Joy L. Gallmon was awarded a Doctor of Educational Ministry degree from Columbia Theological Seminary of Atlanta, Georgia during a virtual Commencement Service on Saturday, May 16, 2020.

Reverend Doctor Joy L. Gallmon, fondly known as "Pastor Joy," is the senior pastor of St. Mark AME Church Milwaukee, Wisconsin and is a native of Ft. Pierce, Florida. She is the daughter of Charmette Earline S. Gallmon of the Marion County Chapter and Charmer Jacob L. Gallmon of Ocala, Florida. She is a charter member of the Marion County Chapter. Pastor Joy is also the mother of two, David Jacob and Janis.

Pastor Joy is a graduate of Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing and holds a Master of Divinity Degree from Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia.

Information from Memphis Metropolitan

The Memphis Metropolitan Chapter participated in Civic Saturday on March 28, 2020. Mrs. Sara Perpener, the Event Coordinator invited organizations/vendors to set up tables. Civic Saturday was a great success. Interested individuals were given brochures regarding The Charmette Organization.



Local artists displayed their talents, one being a drawing of Harriet Tubman as shown in the photo above.

Principal Patrick Certion of Dexter Elementary dropped by our table as well.



The Memphis Metropolitan Chapter passed out Scholastic books to the students in attendance that was donated by Mrs. Janice Robinson, a substitute teacher and avid believer in student education.

As we strive in the new normal during the Pandemic, social distancing and stay at home orders across our country, let us be mindful of I Corinthians 13:13 “And now abide faith, hope and love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

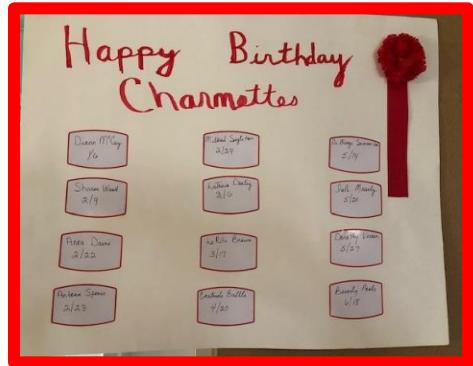
Information from Palm Beach

Share The Love

On Sunday, June 28, 2020,

The Palm Beach County Chapter of The Charmettes, Inc., celebrated the following birthdays via Virtual Zoom!

Diann T. Mc Coy – January 6



Sharon Wood – February 9

Anna Davis – February 22

Antonia Spence -February 23

Mildred Singletary – February 24

Latricia Donley- March 6

LaRita Brown – March 17

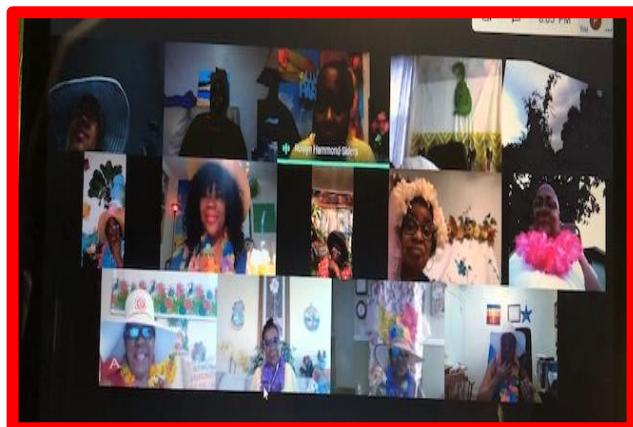
Gertude Battle – April 20

Dr. Waniza Sermons-Lee, Ed.D - May 14

Iola Mosley -May 20

Dorothy Vereen May 27

Beverly Poole – June 18



**On July 31, - August 1, 2020
The Charmettes Retreat
Via Virtual Zoom**

Theme:

“Gracious and Attractive in our Voices in Love”



Madame President Audre'L Davis Jones And Madam Vice President Keturah Howard



Original Charters Members, Charmette Gertrude Battle and Charmette Edith Coleman

Palm Beach County Chapter

Virtual Zoom Retreat

First, I would be remiss if I did not say thank you to an absolutely amazing committee that worked together to produce our first virtual Retreat! These committee members were always on their “A” game and always available to make sure the goals were met! Gifts and talents are just in abundance in this group!

Thank you for all of your donations and support to make our Virtual Retreat a success!!

Retreat Committee Members:

Latricia Donley, Chairperson
Audre'L Davis Jones, President
Leola Horton
Dr. Wanza Sermons Lee
Beverly Brown- Poole
Sharon Wood

Marian Stubbs. Co-Chairperson
Keturah Howard, Vice President
Patricia Howard
Charette Hudnell Plummer
Roslyn Siders

Our Theme Committee, led by Charmettes Dr. Wanza Sermons Lee, Marian Stubbs, and Patricia Howard, began with setting the tone for the Retreat.



Theme: “Gracious and Attractive in our Voices in Love.”

Our Retreat Bag Committee led by Charmettes Charette Hudnell- Plummer, Beverly Poole and Sharon Wood just knocked it out of the park with our Charmette mini backpack, Charmette mask, Charmette water, etc. These members also donated some other items so we would have a wonderful gift bag!

Our Friday evening, Charmettes Dr. Wanza Sermons Lee, Keturah Howard and Roslyn Siders arranged the Scavenger Hunt. Dr. Sermons-Lee donated the monetary gift cards to the winners! This was team work.

Madam President Audre’l Davis-Jones demonstrated the Crafty No Sew Mask. Also, she custom designed and made our beautiful Charmette mask. They were included in our retreat bags!!

On Saturday after our opening session, we had a guest speaker, Carolyn Powery MS, owner of Prestige Etiquette and Image Consulting LLC. She provided an insightful presentation based on our theme! All were blessed to hear her words of wisdom. We were reminded that our words should be a blessing to others and not harmful.

President Davis-Jones, Charmettes Sermons-Lee, and Iola Mosley facilitated the order of business which included an overview of our Constitutional Bylaws, Operational Procedures and The Charmettes National Handbook. We had a working lunch.

Charmette Stubbs also was able to secure a Virtual Photography Campaign that was a lot of fun!! Charmette Howard developed a 2020 Retreat Video! Charmette Stubbs donated the cost of Zoom for the Retreat. Charmettes Leola Horton and Sermons-Lee became our virtual technologist for our Retreat.

The Virtual Zoom Retreat allowed all Charmette members the opportunity to participate. We had twenty-three participants!



Information from Richmond Metropolitan

The State of Virginia was/is on a mandated ‘Stay At Home’ order because of the worldwide pandemic, coronavirus COVID-19 from March 2020 to present.

The State has somewhat reopened in phases; however, it is not fully opened to all previously normal activities. We are reopening in phases, with no total reopening anywhere in sight. Currently, we are committed to wearing face masks and social distancing.

In the meantime, we are practicing safety, not only for ourselves, but for those who faithfully support our fundraising efforts. The road has been long; however, we are the better for it. All late winter, spring, and early summer events were canceled.

However, meeting virtually and utilizing the services of the United State Postal Services, the Chapter did elect and install new officers for 2020-2022. The installation was different; as well as effective. Our new officers are:

President	Pamela B. Smith
Vice President	Janice W. Gardener
Secretary	Melissa H. Dilworth
Assistant Secretary	Joyce S. Oliver
Treasurer	Sonata Parks
Financial Secretary	Evelyn P. Jamison
Parliamentarian	Marsha Meekins-Cheatham
Chaplain	Rosa Lewis
Historian	Sala Powell-Dabney
Reporter	Mamie D. Nunery
Sergeant-at-Arms	Joyce J. Wooldridge

Note from the Reporter: I am now accepting submissions for this quarter.

Thank you very much for reading this issue of The Connection. In the next issue, we will have more highlights from our Chapters. If you would like to submit information to be included in an issue, you can email me at charmetteadrienne@gmail.com by the following deadlines: For the November Issue, October 25th; for the January Issue, January 5th; for the April Issue, March 25th; and for July Issue, June 25th. Thank you again and have a wonderful day.

The Charmettes, Incorporated Celebrates its 70th Anniversary on June 17, 2021, At the 65th National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia



Look forward to special events that leads up to our “70th Anniversary Celebration” In upcoming issues of The Connection Newsletter