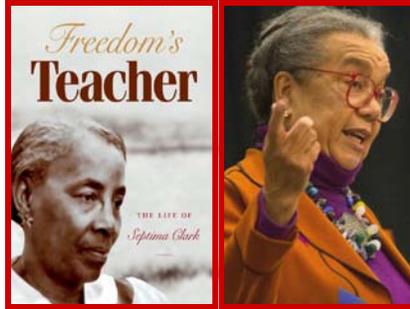




Tributes to S.C. Heroes

Septima Poinsette Clark and Marian Wright Edelman

Septima Poinsette Clark and Dr. Marian Wright Edelman were inducted into the S.C. Hall of Fame on Monday, February 24th at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center.



Septima P. Clark (Avery-1916), was a teacher and civil rights activist who was called the "Mother of the Movement" by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. She was born in Charleston on May 3, 1898. Her father was a former slave, and her mother was from Haiti. Clark, who died in December 1987, developed literacy workshops and promoted education so that African-Americans could qualify for voting and civil rights. She was in the group that accompanied Dr. King to Norway to receive the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 and earned many honors of her own, including the Living Legacy Award in 1979, which was presented by President Jimmy Carter, and the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's highest civilian award, in 1982.

Edelman, a Bennettsville SC native (June 6, 1939), is an advocate for disadvantaged Americans and founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund. She graduated from Spelman College in 1960 and Yale Law School in 1963, and became the first black woman to be admitted to the Mississippi Bar. Edelman also is a civil rights activist and directed the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund office in Jacksonville, Miss.

The South Carolina Hall of Fame was dedicated in 1973 to recognize one (1) contemporary and one (1) deceased citizen each year that has made outstanding contributions to the state's heritage and progress. It was designated by law as the state's official Hall of Fame in 2001.

Denmark Vesey - "Spirit of Freedom" Monument

Hundreds turned out for the unveiling of the Denmark Vesey "Spirit of Freedom" monument in Hampton Park on Saturday February 15th. The project was many years in the making. Vesey and his co-conspirators plotted insurrection but were exposed by informants. The repercussions were fierce: Vesey and 34 others were publicly hanged, 37 more were banished, four whites were fined and the church building was destroyed. The rebellion struck such fear into the hearts of



the white minority at the time, they insisted on answering it with brutality and newly organized militias to keep the city's blacks under control.

That history was recognized on Feb. 15th in Hampton Park when a monument to Vesey was unveiled before several speakers and hundreds of appreciative onlookers. The monument committee was formed in 1996 by Charleston County Councilman Henry Darby and Curtis Franks of the Avery Research Center; it took 18 years to see the effort through to completion. The city provided critical support, including a corner of the park and careful landscaping that began three years ago. The monument, a life-size rendering of Vesey, was made by Ed Dwight, a Colorado-based artist. Committee members and speakers all said the monument was an important step taken to fill in the historical gaps - to widen recognition of slavery's terrible legacy and the full cost of freedom. Vesey's actions of 1822 can inspire anyone who cares about liberty, Franks said. "The spirit of freedom is so pervasive." Mayor Joe Riley, admiring the site, said it was neither hidden nor too prominent, affording people a contemplative spot to pay their respects to an important historical figure. "The undeniable fact is this: Denmark Vesey was free," Riley told the assembly. "He was a free black man, No one owned him, he risked his life and gave his life to make enslaved people free."

The Rev. Joe Darby, speaking as a leader of the AME Church, was perhaps the most outspoken about the controversies surrounding Vesey and the effort to memorialize him. "Some people see Denmark Vesey as a dangerous terrorist," Darby said. "Most see him as a freedom fighter. My hope is that this monument will add to the full story of our southern heritage." Committee member Dorothy Wright echoed the need to tell the whole story of America's history. "We did not come to glorify or complain, we came to notate and explain," she said. College of Charleston history professor Bernard Powers said too many people don't know about Vesey. "Today, many people are still unable or unwilling to grasp the pertinence of slavery and freedom," he said. "They don't have the conceptual framework or proper vocabulary to understand Denmark Vesey." Vesey had known what it was like to be someone else's property, and he had known about the suffering experienced by captured Africans during the Middle Passage: he had been sold at 14 to the captain of a slave ship and accompanied him on many trading voyages.

In 1783, Vesey relocated to Charleston where he remained enslaved for another 17 years - until luck set him free and outrage at injustice led to doom. He had hoped liberated blacks, in the wake of insurrection, would escape

to Haiti, which was the only place in the world where a slave revolt had been successfully accomplished, Powers said. Years later, as blacks were recruited to fight in the Civil War against the Confederacy they were implored to remember Vesey. In this way the links of history form a chain, Powers said. And now, finally, one of Charleston's most important historical figures has found a prominent place under the oaks of Hampton Park.

Home Depot "Retool Your School" Program

The Home Depot *Retool Your School* program is on again, this year the company has increased the total amount to \$250,000 (vs \$150,000) last year for the total awards. The Home Depot *Retool Your School* was established in 2010 to provide support and help for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The Home Depot will award one \$50,000 major grant, three \$25,000 campus pride grants and 13 \$10,000 minor grants to the winning schools for campus improvement and maintenance. Last year there were 67 schools in the program, this year there are 75 schools participating. Last year more than 2.6 million votes were received, a 55% increase over the previous year. Home Depot said, the HBCU community truly came together to support the participating HBCUs. Each year, they continue to get thoughtful proposals for projects to enhance some of our most precious jewels, our HBCUs. The Home Depot congratulates all participants, but specifically Oakwood University and Knoxville College and the 12 Tier II winners in 2013." Voting is online (only) and it ends on April 14, 2014.



Kids to Learn Gullah/Geechie Genealogy - This Summer

Paula Edwards has provided information concerning early registration for a Kids and Culture Camp during the summer of 2014, targeting children between the ages of 3-12. Brightwood ~DC's "High Quality Affordable Camp!" One of the features is a session on Gullah/Geechie Genealogy during the period June 30 - July 3. The sessions will be conducted by the Community Academy Public Charter School (33 Riggs Road NE, Washington, DC). There is a session for children to learn about the Gullah culture. Paula Edwards has additional information for those who may have questions about the camp. And/or www.kidsandculture.com; email info@kidsandculture.com. Description: Campers will embark on a cultural journey that includes the exploration of nature, music, foreign languages, sports, art, exercise, science, math, history, geography, and literature. Specialty classes such as chess and yoga are also included.



Ladies of Style ~ Fashion Show ~ March 15, 2014

"Ladies of Style" is coming to Martins Crosswinds! Our very own talented Charleston Club member, Erie Rambert is with the group sponsoring this fashion show. It is billed

as a dinner/door prizes event, featuring fashions for all seasons. Erie has been very busy the past few months designing and making a large number of the original designs that will be on display. The fashion show will have vendors on-site; it starts at 1:00 p.m. at Martins Crosswinds (7400 Greenway Center Dr.) in Greenbelt, MD. Erie will be at the March 8th meeting, she is named as a point of contact on the fliers!



Charleston Club Tattler ~ One liners . . .

- Annette McKenzie Anderson (Diversified In-Valuable Assistance (DIVA)), just returned from two weeks in "The Holy City" where she attended various events including two concerts - The "Lowcountry Voices" & Claflin University and College of Charleston. These were both Black History Month Concerts and she says... "were fabulous." At the Lowcountry Voices Concert, Mayor Riley participated on the program; several outstanding members of the community such as Charlton Singleton and Christian Jackson were recognized as VIPs. Annette and her group participated in a program for HBCUs on Sunday (February, 23rd) at Shiloh Baptist Church at the 10:55 service. HBCU Sunday has been celebrated at Shiloh for the past few years, several members of The Charleston Club were in attendance.

Happy Birthday

February Birthdays:

Marian Bennett ~ February - 3rd, Elizabeth Alston-Santos ~ February - 7th, George Johnson ~ February - 8th, Ralph McNeill ~ February - 9th, Rosalie Randall ~ February - 13th, Bernice Johnson ~ February - 18th & Brenda Owens ~ February - 25th !!!

March Birthdays:

Sandra McNeill ~ March 2nd, Mary Wade ~ March 10th, Ethel Bothuel ~ March 18th, James Gilliard ~ March 20th & Mignon Clyburn ~ March 22nd !!!



The members of the Charleston Club extend their love, prayers and condolences to the following families:

- Mr. John H. Russell II (Feb. 5th) ~ beloved brother of Club members Reginald W. and Emmett M. Russell.
- Mrs. Frances Mae Crawley (Feb. 10th) ~ beloved mother of Club members Brenda Owens (Michael).
- Mr. Adam Heyward (Feb. 13th) of Temple Hills, MD. Adam recently joined the Club this past January, he did not live to join us at our meetings. He is survived by his devoted wife Tina Heyward and family in MD.

~ The Fly on The Wall I