

Charleston Club Tattler

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Avery's 1st Grade Roll Call, 70 Years Later

1944's First Graders Have "Roll Call" ... 70 Years Later!



It was September 1944, and the beginning of the new school year for Charleston's (black) six year olds, who were ready to embark on the journey of a lifetime. During the weekend of Sept. 12~14, 2014 eighteen (18) former first graders; their families and friends met in Charleston for one more "Roll Call!" It was billed as Avery's First Grade Class of 1944 and yes, there were former Avery teachers to help with the event; Cynthia McCottry-Smith, Lois Simms and Johnnie Johnson Wineglass. Everyone knew that they were going to have FUN!

There were months of Sunday evening organizational tele-con meetings. Committee members were; Reggie Barrett, Cynthia McCottry-Smith (their 1st Grade Teacher), Charles McKenzie, Kenneth O'Neill, Joseph Soriano and Geneva Wilkins. All of the planning was done, and on the morning of Friday, September 12th they gathered at the Avery Auditorium on Bull St. Master of Ceremonies, Charles McKenzie and Geneva Wilkins made the introductions of all the classmates in attendance. A highlight of the event was the very entertaining reading of the Roll Call, those living and departed who were in that September 1944 First Grade Class at Avery, seventy years ago. Mid afternoon the group had an upscale "Ole School Lunch" at Avery. Later that evening the group journeyed over to Mt. Pleasant for a Charleston-style Crab Crack & Oyster Roast at Charles McKenzie's home.

They couldn't eat there in 1944, but the group decided to have breakfast at the Francis Marion Hotel before enjoying an afternoon Low-country City Tours around the Holy City. Saturday evening they had a Dinner Harbor Cruise aboard "The Spirit of Charleston" where they feasted on a delightful dinner meal; they danced and enjoyed the charming scenic sights of the city. Cruising underneath the Arthur Ravenel Bridge at night was the big thrill of the evening. Needless to say, all of the ole 1st Grader Class-

mates, Friends and Averyites had a Ball!

Any Charleston reunion would not be complete unless there were some Shrimp & Grits for breakfast. So, early Sunday morning the group returned to the McKenzies' for one more gathering, with breakfast Shrimp & Grits and said their goodbyes! *Good Show 1st Grade Class of 1944!*

Rose Randall - New President of The Charleston Club

Rosalie "Rose" Chisolm Randall, is the newly elected president of the Charleston Club. The slate of new officers was installed at the June 14th meeting. Rose Randall became the Club's new President, Reggie Russell as Treasurer, Norma McKayhan as Business Manager and Adrienne "Mimi" MacBeth as Chaplain. The newly installed slate of Charleston Club officers conducted the September meeting. The other officers of the club remained unchanged.



Rose attended Burke High School as a member of the class of 1959 but graduated from Immaculate Conception High School in the class of 1960. She and her husband, Ben Randall, have been active members of the Charleston Club for over 20 years. For several years the Randalls have hosted the annual Charleston Club's summer fellowship at their homes in Camp Springs and Upper Marlboro, MD. Recently Rose served as the Business Manager and Chair of the Planning Committee and one of the architects of the very successful 2012 Charleston Club Reunion in DC.

People to Watch...

Bakari T. Sellers (D) is running for Lieutenant Governor of S.C. in the November 4th elections. He is the youngest son of well-known South Carolina civil rights leader, and Voorhees College President, Dr. Cleveland L. Sellers Jr. His opponent is Henry McMaster (R), a former state attorney general, federal and state prosecutor. Sellers recently challenged his opponent to resign his (McMaster's) membership in the Forest Lake Country Club (Columbia, SC) with a history of excluding black people from membership. South Carolina has an outgoing Democratic lieutenant governor, John McGill, and unfortunately the democrats are heavy underdogs to retain the Lt.Gov. Office in Nov; Sellers is in an uphill race against McMaster.





Sellers is a man to watch, he is the future in SC; he isn't alone in returning home to fill a need in his community, but Bakari is certainly atypical. A high school freshman at 12, high school graduate at 16, a college graduate at 20 (Morehouse '05), a state representative by 22, and an attorney by 23 (USC '08), the now 30 year old, standing at 6'5" he

was believed to be the youngest African American legislator in the country. All the evidence suggests he was designed to stand out and groomed to lead. But for Bakari, leaders aren't necessarily born, but created by every facet of society that takes an interest in them: "It's incumbent upon me and you, the church, local businesses - all of us - to raise individuals and instill in them a sense of community by showing them that the community cares for them. You have to show them that they can find love outside of gangs and the streets."

Late Summer Wedding in The Charleston Club!

Charleston Club members **William Perry** and **Estelle Grant-Owens** pulled off a summer surprise on club-members, they got married on September 5th at the West Lanham Recreation Center in Landover, MD. More than a dozen Charleston Club members were in attendance. The bridal party consisted of the groom's brother, **Herman Perry** as the Best Man, and the bride's sister, **Mary G. Dunkley** served as the Maid of Honor. The bride was escorted down the aisle by her son, **Jackie Grant, Sr.**

William and Estelle were "the toast of the town" at the club's September 13th meeting. Few members in the club knew that the two were dating; let alone serious about joining hands in matrimony! The happy couple traveled home for a September 27th reception at the Greater Refuge Hall at 203 Huger Street to "celebrate and party" with family and friends in The Holy City. Two of Estelle's sisters served as hostesses for the Charleston event; Marvetta Grant and Barbara J. Grant-Jackson.

Charleston Club Tattler ~ One liners...

- **Lexus Giving \$100K to 10 HBCUs!** Lexus' Versus and Flow series, in its 4th season on TV One, is more than entertaining. The luxury automotive brand has stepped into the higher learning realm with scholarships to 10 HBUs. The Lexus *Verses and Flow Scholarship* will award students at HBCUs for their academic excellence as well as their community involvement. Selected universities and colleges include: **Clark Atlanta Univ., Florida A&M Univ., Grambling State Univ., Hampton Univ., Howard Univ., LeMoyne Owen Col., Morehouse Col., N.C. A&T Univ., Spelman Col. and Xavier Univ.** The program started on August 18th and will award a \$5,000 scholarship to two deserving students at these selected HBCUs.
- There weren't real losers at the Aug 30th **Chef's Competition** hosted by the non-profit organization **Shrimp and Grits Charleston** at the **Charleston Visitor Center**. The critics chose **Eli's Table** was the best tasting iteration of the

local staple, but every sponsor, restaurant, and/or participant came out on top for having experienced a night filled with seafood, spirits and sweat. Even the humidity couldn't stop this ingenious collaboration of Charleston businesses from flourishing. The event raised over \$1,000 dollars for fellow non-profit Charleston Animal Society. Fifteen chefs took part in the contest and each brought their A-games. Ticketholders received enough tokens at the gate to sample each restaurant's attempt at victory.

- **Nordstrom Rack** to open in old East Cooper **K-mart** center in Mt. Pleasant. Nordstrom Rack, a popular off-price apparel chain confirmed plans on Sept 3rd to open a store in the Mt. Pleasant shopping center. The remodeled shopping center will be known as **Bowman Place** and will be anchored by **Nordstrom Rack** and **Dick's Sporting Goods**. Nordstrom Rack will open in the fall 2015 and is opening two other S.C. locations - in Greenville and Columbia.
- Protesters demanding **higher wages and unionization for fast food workers** marched in a nationwide protest against low wages in the U.S. fast-food industry culminated in hundreds of arrests on Sept. 4th as activists stepped up their campaign for higher pay and better benefits for workers at companies such as **McDonald's, Burger King** and **KFC**. In Charleston, a group of about 25 fast-food workers demanding a \$15-an-hour wage sat in the middle of the Spring St. near the downtown **McDonald's** and blocked traffic for more than an hour. This was a part of the nation-wide protest that started on Facebook to raise the issue of the minimum wage debate.
- **Hurricane Hugo - 25 years later!** It's been 25 years since Hurricane Hugo made landfall north of Charleston just before midnight on **Sept. 21, 1989**, with maximum sustained winds of 138 mph. The eye of the Category 4 hurricane was 35 miles wide, with storm surges of 15 to 20 feet above normal. It punched through all of South Carolina and still packed hurricane winds as it passed through Charlotte, NC and into Virginia. Hugo killed a total of 49 people and left 60,000 people in the S.C. homeless.
- He was known for combative interviews and rollerblading through the streets of Charleston; former **Chief of Police, Reuben M. Greenberg, IV** died in Charleston, he was 71 years old. Chief Greenberg, who was the first black and first Jewish chief, he became a legend. He added a K-9 unit, harbor patrol, and a crime lab to the police department. He served 23 years as police chief from 1982 until his retirement in 2005. Greenberg was being cared for in Charleston when he passed on September 24th 2014.

Happy Birthdays!

October Birthdays:

Jeanette Steward-Oct. 2nd ~ **Jerry Ravenell**-Oct. 4th ~ **Ned Felder**-Oct. 7th ~ **Bonnie Edwards**-Oct. 8th ~ **Zeni Jackson**-Oct. 12th ~ **Bobby Brown**-Oct. 13th ~ **Jametta Martin** - Oct. 18th ~ **Sharon Snow**-Oct. 20th ~ **Elisabeth Greene**- Oct. 22nd ~ **Brian Smalls**-Oct. 22nd ~ **Mary Dunkley**-Oct. 27th.
- The Fly on The Wall !