

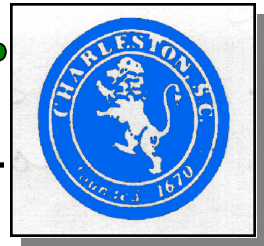
Charleston Club Tattler

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Harriet Tubman - Perfect Choice for the \$20 Bill

Harriet Tubman - Coming to Your \$20 Bills



A year ago, Treasury Secretary Jack Lew announced that a woman would appear on the \$10 bill. But the popularity of the musical *Hamilton*, and renewed interest in the man, complicated matters. So on April 20th Secretary Lew announced that first secretary of the treasury, Alexander Hamilton will stay on the \$10 note. And that a woman will appear on the \$20, and Andrew Jackson's face currently occupies the front of the \$20 note, will be replaced by Harriet Tubman, who won the Women on 20s online poll last spring.

It's hard to imagine a more fitting choice: A woman born into slavery who shepherded so many enslaved people to freedom through her Underground Railroad taking the place of a man who worked as a slave trader and went on to force tens of thousands of Native Americans off their land through the Indian Removal Act, many of them dying on the Trail of Tears.

And what a woman to take that spot. Harriet Tubman escaped from slavery in her 20s, fleeing Maryland for Philadelphia - and immediately returning to smuggle her family north. She returned to the South again and again, bringing more slaves north, even helping to ferry people to Canada when the Fugitive Slave Law left them vulnerable even in Northern states. Tubman famously "never lost a passenger" on her Underground Railroad, and her work earned her the nickname "Moses." She started out as a nurse in the Union Army before becoming a spy and an armed scout - she freed at least 700 enslaved people in the Combahee River Raid, as the first woman in the war to lead an armed expedition. After the war, she was also an activist for women's voting rights.

Tubman's service to her nation, went under-recognized in her lifetime, and she lived in a state of financial stress. The standard war veteran pension at the time was \$25 a month; after the death of her second husband (Nelson Davis), Tubman was granted \$8 a month. After a year of fighting, Congress gave her a little bit more: \$20 a month. Harriet Tubman on the \$20 makes clear that women have shaped this country for the better and have made invaluable contributions - contributions they made despite being largely barred from political participation.

Hamilton will stay on the front of the \$10 bill and the back will welcome several women's rights icons. Writes Lew: "Treasury's relationship with the suffrage movement dates back to the March of 1913, when advocates came together on the steps of the Treasury building to demon-

strate for a woman's right to vote, seven years prior to the passage of the 19th Amendment. The new \$10 design will depict that historic march and honor Lucretia Mott, Sojourner Truth, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Alice Paul for their contributions to the suffrage movement." The \$5 bill keep Lincoln on the front, and on the back will "depict the historic events that have occurred at the Lincoln Memorial," including Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech.

Dixon & Ford Challenge Sen. Scott and Sen. Kimpson

The candidates' filing for the Nov. 8th general elections are in, and there are two surprises - former Charleston Sen. Robert Ford will run as a Democrat against incumbent S.C. Sen. Marlon Kimpson and Democrat Thomas Dixon will challenge incumbent U.S. Sen. Tim Scott. Both challengers are long shot hopefuls.

Dixon is founder of the Coalition: People United To Take Back Our Community, a founding member of the local Black Lives Matter organization and a member of the Carolina Alliance for Fair Employment (CAFE). The Illinois native never has sought public office. Ford is a veteran politician who first served on Charleston City Council before being elected to the S.C. Legislature. Scott and Kimpson both are serving their first terms in office.

Dixon announced in February he would attempt to unseat the controversial Scott, a Republican, who is S.C.'s first Black U.S. Senator since Reconstruction. Scott served two terms on Charleston County Council before being elected to the state legislature. During his initial term in the legislature, he was appointed in 2012 to fill the unexpired term of Jim DeMint. Tim Scott won the seat in a 2014 special election. Scott has enjoyed exceptional favor in Republican-dominated South Carolina and has no opposition for the June 14th primary election. He is highly favored to win the general election against Dixon.

Ford and Kimpson will face off in the June 14th Primary elections. (Charleston Chronicle 4-6-2016)

Washingtonian Magazine Features Charleston

The April 2016 issue of The Washingtonian Magazine has an excellent article about Charleston. "*How to visit Charleston, the Washington way!*" ... a city where history is told not on a



monumental DC scale but more intimately. The article has good looking pictures of the city and talks about the Soul Food and drinks. Needless to say, it takes the reader downtown to the mansions and the water views. We might

have to look into the restaurants and bars they mentioned, some are new and others are “ole-school!”

Charleston Club Goes Bowling – Fun Time For All!

Members of the Charleston Club met on April 12th at the Rinaldi's Riverdale Bowling Center in Riverdale Park, Maryland for an afternoon of “Bowling Fun.” No one told the group that there were going to be a couple of



“ace bowlers” in the group! There were a few “gutter balls” but as the saying goes... “what goes on at the bowling alley, stays at the bowling alley!” Needless to say, Estelle Perry and Jametta W. Martin kept the group on the right path... the two of them were by far, the best bowlers of the day! Clarence McNeill and Ben Randall were bidding for the most gutter balls, but the ladies saved the day. Clarence wanted to score a perfect “300-Game” before he celebrated his 75th birthday on the 23rd of April; it didn't happen, maybe next year, Mr. Muscle! Bowling proved to be very enjoyable, and everyone had a great time.

Burke and C.A. Brown Classes - 70th Birthday Celebration

Members of Burke and C.A. Brown's Class of 1964 are planning a big 70th Birthday Party during September 16th ~18th, 2016 in Charleston. Plans are for a Meet & Greet, Crabs and Wings Feast, Tours of Charleston, Prime Rib and Seafood Buffet Birthday Dinner Celebration, and the weekend finale with church services on Sunday at Calvary Episcopal Church, 104 Line St. There's a Bulldogs/Panthers newsletter circulating with a call for all those turning 70 years old this year to join in the planning and the FUN! Jeanette Holmes Steward and Andrea Lawrence are points of contact; Andrea for information - 843.819.7003.

A Reunion 61 Years in the Making (1955-2016)

“**Better Late Than Never**” was the theme of the April 30th –1955 Classes of Burke, Charleston and Rivers High Schools joint celebration of their 61th Anniversary. The idea originated five years ago with Ned Felder and some friends/associates from the other two schools. Burke High on President Street, Charleston High on Rutledge Ave. and Rivers High on King Street were the “big three” public schools in the City in 1955. The historic celebration took place on Saturday, at Wadmalaw Island's Leadenwah Creek with the theme for the occasion ... “**Better Late Than Never.**” The Burke graduates were planning for an entire weekend of events, in keeping with their long tradition of “getting together” as often as possible!

In 1955, consumerism took off in a big way with the sale of some 7.9 million cars in the U.S. with 7 out of 10 families owning a motor car, and new laws were putting in place requirements for *seat belts* to be installed on all new cars. The **average wages** were \$3,851 per year, and the minimum wage was recently raised to \$1.00 per hour. The **first McDonalds** was erected in 1955 and more fast foods and **TV dinners** were appearing including fish fin-

gers. The first cans of *Coca-Cola* are sold, up till then it had only been sold in bottles. **Rock and Roll** music continued to grow in popularity with **Elvis Presley, Bill Haley and the Comets, Chuck Berry** and **The Platters**. On the world stage, 1955 saw USS Nautilus (SSN 571) submarine, the world's first nuclear-powered submarine was put to sea on January 17th. On April 18th, Albert Einstein dies in Princeton, NJ of heart failure; and the world reads that **Jonas Salk's** polio vaccine is safe and highly effective in preventing the **Polio Disease**. Later that year, the original **Mickey Mouse Club** television program made its debut on ABC and **The \$64,000 Question** begins on television.

Tent City Gone, But Homeless Are Still With Us

The tent community beneath I-26 near Huger Street in Charleston is gone. The last residents, about 30 individuals, were moved to transitional housing at the Charleston County's warming shelter on Leeds Avenue in early April. For several months ‘Tent City’ and its more than 100 squatters had been a focal point for homelessness. But Tent City's disappearance doesn't mean homelessness has been eliminated. Last year the lure of living independently in clusters of tents created tent communities that cropped up in plain view along the Meeting Street corridor in downtown Charleston. Three clusters, one with an estimated 100 residents sprang up on the bike path beneath the I-26 overpass at Huger Street and two smaller clusters developed beside the roadway at Meeting and Lee streets and at Huger and Meeting Streets.

Well-meaning individuals and organizations reached out to help the residents of what became known collectively as ‘Tent City.’ But their charity encouraged even more tent dwellers. The situation rapidly became unsustainable. In response, Charleston officials along with several non-profit organizations partnered to address the situation. At a Feb. 4th press conference city officials unveiled a 10-point plan to remove the tents and assist the residents. The plan includes cleaning up the sites, removing the tents, collaborating to co-ordinate charitable donations, assisting Tent City residents in finding shelter, insuring neighborhoods are protected throughout the process, coordinating funding and creating a committee to identify long term solutions to homelessness. Charleston Office of Communications Director John O'Toole speaking candidly, said Mayor John Tecklenburg is committed to building long term initiatives to impact homelessness. Tecklenburg is a former member of Crisis Ministries Board of Directors. Crisis Ministries operates the area's largest homeless shelter. But the homeless crisis emphasized by the development of Tent City is not just a Charleston problem, O'Toole said. Various entities including regional and statewide governments and agencies must come together to make the commitment that addresses homelessness in its largest context, he said. That's the next step in the city's plan, he added. (Charleston Chronicle 4-13-2016)

\$15 Minimum Wage Protest in Charleston

Underpaid workers from the Charleston Area took part in the biggest-ever day of strikes and protests demanding a

\$15 minimum wage on April 14th. Charleston was one of a record 300 worldwide where tens of thousands of underpaid workers, including those working in fast-food, home care, and child care demanded corporations to pay workers wages they can live on and pay their fair share of taxes.



American families are being forced to scrape by because big corporations are ripping off workers, ripping off taxpayers, and ripping off communities. To get richer, big corporations manipulate the rules to avoid paying fair wages and their fair share of taxes, forcing working people and taxpayers to foot the bill. The workers' protests, timed to hit before Tax Day (April 15th), highlighted how workers and communities are being starved of the money needed to build a bright future, and are left with impossible choices over how to care for their children and elderly parents and how to meet their basic expenses.

McDonald's, the world's second largest employer and industry leader in the fast-food and service economy, is a symbol of what is wrong with the economy. There are nearly 64 million workers being paid less than \$15. Industrywide, low pay forces more than half of fast-food workers to rely on public assistance to support their families, costing taxpayers \$7 billion a year. And across the economy, nearly three-quarters of people aided by public assistance are members of a family headed by a worker, costing taxpayers more than \$150 billion.

Charleston's Foremost Black Nurse Succumbs To Cancer

Dr. Ida Latisha Johnson Spruill, one of the most accomplished nurses and one who was totally dedicated to her profession and the Black community, died March 16th after a two-year battle with cancer. She was the youngest of 15 children born in Effingham near Florence. She graduated from Whitemore H.S. in Conway, earned a B.A. Degree from North Carolina Central University, a M.S.W. Degree from Atlanta University, a B.S.N. Degree from Tennessee State University, a M.S.N. Degree from the Medical University of South Carolina and a Ph.D. Degree from Hampton University.



Spruill began her career in nursing 1984 in Florence and became a staff nurse at MUSC in 1986. She worked at the Charleston County health Department and Franklin C. Fetter Community Health Center. Dr. Spruill was dedicated to the health and well-being of Black people. She committed herself to enhancing her abilities to serve the healthcare needs of the Black community. In 1995 Spruill became Nurse Manager for Project SuGAR. In 2014 Dr. Ida L. Spruill, Ph.D., R.N. was named a recipient of the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers by President Barack Obama. She was one of 102 recipients named, was the only South Carolinian to receive the award and was one of only two nurses receiving it. Dr. Spruill said she wanted to help diabetes sufferers better

understand the disease and how they could manage it. That desire led her into research. Spruill was known as a visionary and activist who fought for the social justice and medical equality that was so much a part of her DNA, her young son once asked if he ever would wear a t-shirt that was not emblazoned with some cause. Dr. Ida L. Spruill was known as one who carried the torch!

Mrs. Grace Goodwin McDowell entered into eternal rest on Friday, April 1, 2016 in Charleston, she was 85 years old. Mrs. McDowell was the widow of Stanford J. McDowell; mother of Edward Graham (Denise), Rodney Goodwin and Vanessa Goodwin of Charleston; sister of Douglas McArthur Goodwin (Gwendolyn); sister-in-law of Mrs. Eartha D. Goodwin. Mrs. McDowell was a retired employee of the City of Charleston Police Department. Her funeral services were Friday, April 8th at Wesley United Methodist Church, on Meeting Street with interment that followed at Sunset Memorial Gardens in North Charleston.



Charleston - Best City for Pet Travelers

Charleston beats Colorado Springs, CO in the final round of the *Best City For Pet Travelers* competition. Inspired by the NCAA basketball championships, *GoPet-Friendly.com*, a pet travel website, hosted a March Madness-style competition for pet friendly destinations since 2012. This year, fans nominated 110 locations as the best places for people to travel with their pets and, round by round, the places receiving more votes in each match-up advanced in the tournament.



Charlestonian Cathy Bennett (Lee Bennett's wife) nominated her city. Cathy and Lee Bennett spearheaded this effort, both recently move back to Charleston from Woodbridge, VA. To propel Charleston to the win, Cathy Bennett gained an endorsement from the city's new mayor, John Tecklenburg, received the support of popular pet-friendly Fuel Restaurant in downtown Charleston, and The Pet Mahal matched dollars for votes donating \$100.00 to the Charleston Animal Society in the Championship round. Cathy says her deep passion for Charleston allows her "countless opportunities to enjoy [the city's] rich historical beauty, beaches, parks, lodgings, cuisine, and boutiques with my boys (dogs)." She continues, "It was time for the entire world to know—Charleston is by far the Best City for Pet Travelers!" Thanks to this competition, people who enjoy traveling with their pets know far more about the pet-friendly attractions of small cities like Charleston.

Charleston Club Tattler ~ One liners ...

- **Simmons-Pinckney Middle School** Dedication & Open House was on April 7th in Charleston. Charleston County School District 20 hosted and Open House and dedication of the renamed Rhett School. CCSD Dist. 20 Simmons~Pinckney MS has been named after Master

Blacksmith Philip Simmons Foundation, Inc. & slain S.C. Sen. Rev. Clementa C. Pinckney. The Lowcountry Voices, the Oscar Rivers Jazz group performed. The Burke High Color Guard Army ROTC and Burke High School Culinary Arts students were on hand to assist with the event.

- In ceremonies on April 27th, The South Carolina Hall of Fame inducted **Joe Riley**, the longest-serving mayor in Charleston history and 19th Century slave, **David Drake**, a slave from the Edgefield, SC area whose pottery is on display in many museums are the latest inductees into their Hall of Fame. David Drake was known not only for his pottery, but for his literacy and some of his pottery works were inscribed with poems. Each year the S.C. Hall of Fame honors a living and a deceased South Carolinian for their contributions to the state.
- **President Barack Obama** will deliver the address at the **2016 commencement ceremony** at **Howard University** on May 7th. The address will be the third time in his presidency that Obama has delivered a commencement address at a HBCU campus. Much of his education agenda has focused on increasing academic achievement for students of color, including boosting high school graduation rates, slashing the number of drop-outs, and making higher education more affordable in order to boost college enrollment and graduation rates.
- **Spoletto Festival USA & Piccolo Spoleto May 27 – June 12, 2016** The 17 day event is one of America's major performing arts festivals. It showcases both established and emerging artists in more than 150 performances of opera, dance, theatre, classical music, and jazz, the event has become one of the BEST shows in Charleston.

- **Mildred G. Hudson** is the new Executive Director of the **Jenkins Institute for Children**. Hudson is a retired S.C. Dept. of Corrections warden. The West Ashley native is a Middleton High School graduate. She earned a BA Degrees in Sociology/Social Welfare in 1975 from Johnson C. Smith University and previously served on the boards of several organizations including the YWCA of Greater Charleston. She is a former Regional Vice President of the S.C. Association of Community Residential Programs.
- Friday, **June 17th** is the one-year anniversary of the "Bible Study" shooting deaths of nine (9) parishioners of **Emanuel A.M.E. Church** in Charleston. Memorial Services are scheduled during the entire weekend 17–19.



• **Special Notice!!!** The next **Charleston Club meeting** will be on **Saturday, May 21, 2016**. It will be held at the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 7327, located at **8350 "F" Terminal Road, Lorton, Virginia 22079**. This is the same place we had our March 2016 meeting. From the Washington Beltway (I-495/I-95) head South. Take EXIT 166 A, toward Newington/Ft Belvoir – (.7 miles); Turn slight right onto Terminal Road and look toward... **8350 "F" Terminal Road** is on the right.



Mrs. Joyce Shokes Murray entered into eternal rest on April 7th in Washington, she was 78 years old. Mrs. Murray was a cousin of Charleston Club member, **Paula Edwards**. Born in Charleston, she was the daughter of the late, Reginald and Alma Shokes, and the sister of the late Reginald Shokes, Jr. Joyce graduated from Avery Institute's last graduating Class of 1954. Then she graduated from Fisk University and Howard University School of Social Work. She was married to the late Willie R. "Bill" Murray, Esq. She was a former social worker with the District of Columbia Department of Human Services for many years, she will be remembered as a loving, fiercely independent woman who was proud of her family, her alma mater, Fisk University, and her hometown of Charleston. Joyce frequently attended Charleston Club meetings, she enjoyed discussing genealogy and sharing old family stories. She was delighted when she accompanied the group on its White House visit during the 2012 Charleston Club Reunion in Washington. Memorial services was held on April 22nd at Shepherd Park Christian Church, on Eastern Avenue, N.W. in her honor. Contributions may be made in her memory to Fisk University.



Happy Birthdays!

May Birthdays:

Michael McKinney - May 2nd; ~ **Angela Martin** - May 3rd
 ~ **John Jackson** - May 5th ~ **Bernice Brooks** - May 7th ~
Vera Bradford - May 13th ~ **Lanard Geddings** - May 18th
 ~ **Leroy J. Bennett** - May 27th ~ **Georgia Chisolm** - May
 28th ~ **Gilbert Knowles** - May 30th.

June Birthdays:

Bobby Palmer - June 2nd ~ **Marva White** June 6th ~ **Reginald Russell** - June 10th ~ **Yolanda Y. Greene** - June 21st
 ~ **Hamilton Parker** - June 21st ~ **Bennie Louder** - June 27th
 ~ **Herman Perry** - June 29th ~ **Allen Coley** - June 30th.

July Birthdays:

Mary S. Gourdine - July 5th ~ **Estelle Perry** - July 8th ~ **John McNeil** - July 20th ~ **Catherine Briggs** - July 24th ~ **Paula Edwards** - July 30th.

August Birthdays:

Irene Green - Aug 10th ~ **Carl Greene** - Aug 10th ~
Thomasina Smith-Cook - Aug 14th ~ **Norma McKayhan** -
 Aug 17th ~ **Mildred McDow** - Aug 23rd ~ **Julia M. Harris** -
 Aug 24th ~ **Cynthia Coulter** - Aug 28th ~ **William Heyward** - Aug 29th.

- The Fly on The Wall!