

# Charleston Club Tattler

Volume 18, Issue 82

A publication of The Charleston S.C. Club of Washington, D.C. Area

Website: <http://charlestonsclub.com>

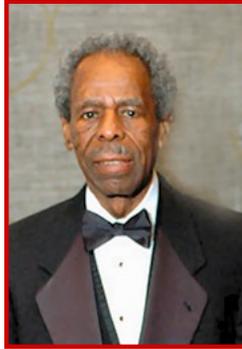
March 1, 2015



## Remembering Rev. Nathaniel Young

### Remembering the Rev. Dr. Nathaniel Young

Rev. Dr. Nathaniel Young and his wife, the Rev. Dr. Carolyn Greene Young have been members of the Charleston Club for many years. In September 2013, the Youngs hosted their Charleston Club meeting at a local restaurant in Fredericksburg. They were married for 49 years, in fact their children, Nathaniel II, Karen and Paula were planning a gala 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration for them in June 2015. Rev. Nathaniel Young died on June 10, 2014, he was 73 years old. Many articles and accolades were written about this heroic man of God, his passing was a significant blow to his family and the community at large. Every year Rev. Young took great delight in making the annual NAACP Scholarship Awards to local students in his area. This past January 19<sup>th</sup>, at the annual Martin Luther King Day celebrations, the NAACP announced that this award will be given in Rev. Young's name. In the Fall 2014 edition of "The Crisis" magazine there is an inspiring article about the late Rev. Dr. Nathaniel Young's impact.



Nathaniel "Nat" Young was born on July 24, 1940, in Charleston. The family lived on Walnut Street (on the East -side) prior to moving to Spring St. in the early 1950s. Nat attended public elementary and middle school in the city, and then it was on to Burke High School. Nathaniel entered the halls of Burke in September 1954, only a few months after the Supreme Court's unanimous decision declaring segregation in public schools unconstitutional. On May 17, 1954, Chief Justice Earl Warren delivered the opinion of the Court; stating that "We conclude that in the field of public education the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal. . ." Some would say, that the Supreme Court's decision of 1954 was a catalyst that ignited a spark in Nathaniel Young's life. He took his academic studies to a higher level, he garnered honor roll status, he participated in student government, he was elected president of his high school senior class and a higher education level (college) was his goal. Nathaniel Young enrolled in South Carolina State College in the fall of 1958, he "enjoyed" mathematics...he was good at it! And so, he majored in mathematics and received his B.S. in mathematics, graduating with honors (Cum Laude) in 1962. While at SC State he was very active in academic, social and civil rights organizations, he became a member of his beloved, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Meanwhile, while Nathaniel was at SC State, his high

school sweetheart, Carolyn Greene was a student at Hampton Institute, in Virginia. Carolyn, she too wanted to attend SC State, but her family wanted her to follow their family's Hampton tradition. Nathaniel and Carolyn continued their relationship through their college-years via letters, phone-calls, campus visits and "as always" trips home during the holidays. In June 1965 they got married in Charleston, and as the saying goes; the rest is history!

During the mid-1960s, Nat served in the U.S. Army as an Air Defense Officer. He worked for the Spotsylvania County school system for 21 years; to this day, his students remember his unique teaching style. In the ministry, Rev. Young continued in his education and received advance degrees from Fredericksburg Bible Institute and Seminary: Bachelor of Theology, Master of Theology, Doctor of Theology and Doctor of Religious Education. He became an instructor at the Fredericksburg Bible Institute and Seminary and the Arm of the Lord Bible College. He served as associate minister of Shiloh Baptist Church (New Site), pastor of Laurel Hill Baptist Church for 14 years and the pastor of Beulah Baptist Church for 11 years. In service to his community, he led an exemplary life "of giving back..." He served as immediate past president of Virginia State Conference NAACP and chairman of the Fredericksburg School Board, and he directed an after-school program for "at risk" students at Spotsylvania Middle and Courtland High schools. He was a loyal devoted Life NAACP member since the early 1960's and worked tirelessly *to make equality a reality for all*. Undaunted by the challenges that laid ahead, this man of faith and quiet determination was bent on using his time to make a lasting difference.

The Rev. Dr. Nathaniel Young was a staunch freedom fighter, who stood for the political, educational, social and economic equality of all people. He was dedicated, a very loyal and faithful person, who served not only his church and his community but served as an example to others. His Home-going services were June 16, 2014 at Spotswood Baptist Church in Fredericksburg. Interment services were at Quantico National Cemetery, Triangle, VA. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life."*

### Sergeant Jasper Apartments To Be Demolition

The Sergeant Jasper apartments are slated for demolition; it opened near Colonial Lake at 310 Broad Street when it was constructed in 1949. It has been home to thousands of students and young professionals for nearly seven decades. There was nothing else like it in downtown Charleston, and it's not likely to be replicated ~ affordable apartments in a good location within walking distance of down-

town, right by the most scenic lake in the city, with some of the best views anywhere. It's scheduled to come down in March 2015, destined to be replaced by something fancier.



Meanwhile, the old building is offering one final gift to the community ~ possibly the gift of life for those caught in house fires. Charleston Fire Department is using the 14-story building as a training center for its 330 firefighters.

Charleston has few high-rises. The top floor of the Serjeant Jasper is the 15<sup>th</sup> floor, even though it's a 14-story building, because there is no 13<sup>th</sup> floor. The views from those windows on a sunny day are stunning; Colonial Lake and the Arthur Ravenel Bridge from one side, the Ashley River and the marina from the other. The Beach Co., which is redeveloping the site, has said the next buildings will be four to seven stories. Plans include some apartments, but the price range has not been announced. It's highly unlikely they will be as affordable as Serjeant Jasper. When residents were told last year that they had to vacate the 221 apartments, a studio was renting for \$835 a month, water and electricity included. The last residents moved out in Aug. 2014.

### Leonard and Lillian McNeill – Twins Turn 90 Yrs. Young!

The McNeill twins, Leonard M. and Lillian M. celebrated their 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday with a gala affair in Charleston. The world's most famous twins since Jacob and Esau celebrated their birthday on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 (actual birth date Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>) in the Charleston area. The twins were born on Sunday, January 18, 1925 in Charleston; theirs is a story for a Hollywood movie. The family decided to give them a BIG PARTY!



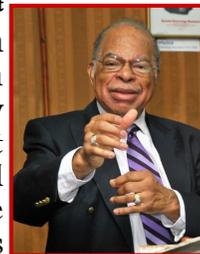
The celebration took place with 170 family members and friends at St. Matthews Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in North Charleston. Among the attendees were Maggie Turner and her son, (U.S. Army) Major General (Ret.) Abraham J. Turner (cousins) and Ret. U.S. Marshal Fred Stroble. Gen. Turner served as Commanding General of the U.S. Army Training Center and Fort Jackson, SC. Fred Stroble was (one of the first) and the longest-serving deputy U.S. Marshal in South Carolina history, filling the post from 1972 until his retirement in 1995.

Everyone enjoyed an afternoon of fun, good food and festivities. The twins are both in "good health" and enjoying their "golden days." At the gala they received a multitude of good wishes and a proclamation from Charleston Mayor, Joseph P. Riley, which noted their achievements, cited their love for the Holy City, and proclaimed Saturday, January 17, 2015 as LEONARD M. and LILLIAN M. MCNEILL DAY, "CHARLESTON'S MOST BELOVED AFRI-

CAN-AMERICAN TWINS" in the City of Charleston.

### Howard's Charter Day to honor SC native Dr. J.W. Norris

Howard University will host its 91<sup>st</sup> Charter Day Dinner on Saturday, March 7, 2015, at the Washington Hilton in Washington. Howard's Charter Day Dinner is one of the most important events on Howard University's annual calendar. It honors alumni who have achieved distinction in their professions



and is the flagship event for rallying alumni and friends to provide philanthropic support for the University. Among this year's recipients of the Alumni Award for Distinguished Postgraduate Achievement is **Dr. J. Weldon Norris, D.M. (In the Fields of Music and Fine Arts Education)**, he is currently the Director of Choirs and Bands at Howard. Dr. Norris is a native of Jonesville, SC (18 miles SE of Spartanburg), he graduated from S.C. State College in 1955 with a B. S. in Chemistry and Biology. After a tour of duty as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve, Dr. Norris matriculated at Howard from which he was awarded the degrees of Bachelor of Music and Master of Music (music theory) in 1959 and 1960. He recently appeared as a commentator in two films for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), namely, **Al Green** and **Jessye Norman**. He created and recorded the music score for a film produced by the United States Park Service entitled *"To Do Battle in the Land"*, a documentary on **John Brown**. In 2013 he performed a concert for The Library of Congress *"African-American Spirituals of The Civil War"*. Prince George's County's **The Honorable Rushern L. Baker III (In the Fields of Politics and Public Service)** will be one of the other recipients.

### Blacks Missing Out In Charleston Hotel Boom

With scores of new hotels being built in the area conspicuously absent is an overt push from Black entrepreneurs amid the proliferation of new hospitality businesses positioning to take advantage of the area's burgeoning tourism and visitor industry.



A recent report noted one of the last vacant pieces of property on downtown Charleston's King St. sold for over \$3 million to accommodate a 54-room high end hotel project reportedly valued at \$17 M.

The Golden Dream Motel which closed in 2004, was the last Black owned business of its kind in the Charleston area. The motel was built in 1967, the first to serve Blacks in the North Area. Prior to then racial segregation limited lodging options for Blacks. There were several small motels and rooming houses catering to the Black community in downtown Charleston and West Ashley, but none in the North Area. Initially the motel had 20 rooms. Eight more were added two years later for a total of 28 rooms that

provided one of the few places in the metropolitan Charleston area offering modern, private convenience to its customers.

Most notable among the Black owned hotels of the past in Charleston were the St. James Hotel on Spring St. near Hagood St., Brooks Motel on Morris St., rooming houses at 75 Washington St. and 26 Morris St. and Ethel's Motel West Ashley on Old Wallace School Rd. The onset of integration gave Blacks more lodging options for the first time. Soon the Golden Dream, the last of the old Black owned hotels, found itself competing with large motel chains. And discrimination in lending played a key role in the slow choke hold that ultimately led to its closure. Although Charleston had a colorful Black hotel business community during the segregation, today's modern business climate makes the hotel industry an attractive one being neglected by Blacks. With almost 3,400 rooms available on the Charleston peninsula the opportunities for participation in the growing hotel industry are lucrative. Tourism's economic impact is over \$3.2 billion annually. The growth spurt in hotel development is a clear indication others see the business opportunities on the horizon. (Chasn Chronicle)

### Iconic Black Flower Ladies Disappearing From Charleston's Historic Charm

Charleston has been designated one of the world's most sought after destinations partly because of its rich history and culture. Much of that history and culture is based in the lifestyles of the Africans and their descendants who populated the region. But amid the world class sophistication that now characterizes Charleston, disappearing are the African cultural traditions. One of the most colorful characteristics of Charleston's history were the Flower Ladies. For generations Black women gathered the colorful wildflowers that grew abundantly in the rich soil near creeks and marshes. They wrapped their stems with the moss that also was abundant to preserve the blossoms that were taken to the city and sold to adorn the tables and showrooms of downtown homes.

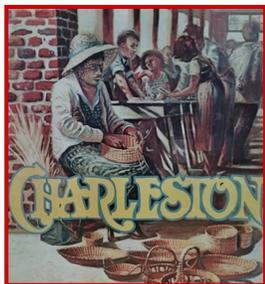
Until the 1960s Black women in long dresses and aprons sold their colorful wares alongside the streets of the historic district. The post office at Charleston's "Four Corners of Law" - the corner of Meeting and Broad streets - whose majestic steps daily was transformed into a field of flowers became the subject of postcards depicting the city's cultural icons. Beside the flower ladies were the sweetgrass basket weavers whose intricate craftsmanship began as a utilitarian function and morphed into an art-form synonymous with the city itself. Some sources say the tradition of the flower ladies took roots when former slaves in 1865 decorated the graves of Union soldiers at an antebellum race track, now the site of Hampton Park .

Lynette Youson, chairperson of the Sweetgrass Cultural Arts Association, remembers her grandmother gathering wildflowers and selling them on Broad Street beside other

women from East Cooper communities. That scene has long disappeared. The city, in its infinite wisdom displaced the women to Market Street where now only a few basket weavers can be found. The tradition of the flower ladies has disappeared, but a vestige of their heritage remains in the young boys who now sell palmetto roses fashioned from the leaves of palmetto trees, Youson says.

### Charleston Club Tattler ~ One liners . . .

- **Sweetgrass Express** is a new online publication to promote black heritage and tourism in Charleston. Although Charleston is steeped in Gullah culture and black heritage, Deona Smith said many who visit the Low-country don't know about it. Smith published Living Roots magazine, which focused on Charleston's African-American community, for three years until it went out of business during the recession. Since then, as Charleston's tourism industry flourished, she noticed a lot of the informational booklets in visitors centers failed to mention many of the tourist activities that focus on African-American history. The website was launched in mid-January 2015. . . [www.sweetgrassexpress.com](http://www.sweetgrassexpress.com)
- January 31, 2015 marked the **150th anniversary** of the signing of the **Thirteenth Amendment**, which abolished slavery (January 31, 1865). To commemorate the occasion new photos have been released showing some of the men and women who lived through that era, and were finally granted their freedom. In addition to pictures and interviews the project also captured a vast amount of recordings; which have now proven instrumental in helping us understand how African American vernacular has evolved over generations. *Slave Narratives: A Folk History of Slavery in the United States from Interviews with Former Slaves* can now be found at the Library of Congress. The e-book that showcases all of the interviews can be found on the internet.
- March 15, 2015 marks the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of when **S.C. State** and **Clafin** students marched downtown to protest the policies of segregation on **March 15, 1960**. The students estimated to be a thousand strong, began marching from Clafin College toward the Orangeburg town square; protesting the indignity of a system that still divided society into "colored" and "white" at doctors' and dentists' offices, at hospitals and even water fountains. The students faced arrest and the city fire department's powerful water hoses as they protested being denied basic human rights, including the right to sit down at local lunch counters and buy a cup of coffee. Their march occurred the month after the **February 1, 1960** sit-in demonstrations at Greensboro's N.C. A&T.
- **Selma's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ~ March 1965** was a turning point in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s: 1.) **March 7<sup>th</sup> ~ "Bloody Sunday"**: Some 200 Alabama State Troopers clash with 525 civil rights demonstrators at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, AL. 2.) **March 9<sup>th</sup> ~** The second attempt to successfully march from Selma to Montgomery, under the leadership of Martin Luther



King, Jr., stops at Selma's Edmund Pettus Bridge, the site of Bloody Sunday, to hold a prayer service and return to Selma, in obedience to a court restraining order. 3.) **March 18<sup>th</sup>** ~ A United States federal judge rules that SCLC has the lawful right to complete their 54-mile march to Montgomery to petition for 'redress of grievances'. 4.) **March 21<sup>st</sup>** ~ Martin Luther King, Jr. leads 3,200 Civil rights activists in the third (and final) march from Selma to the capitol in Montgomery.

- February 22<sup>nd</sup> was **HBCU** (Historically Black Colleges & Universities) **Sunday** at **Shiloh Baptist Church**, 1500 Ninth Street, NW. The Rev. Jeremiah Wright of Chicago was the Guest Minister for this Black History Month Celebration. ALL HBCU Alumni/Greeks were asked to wear their school colors/paraphernalia to show their support of their HBCU's!
- **South Carolina Legislators** (Feb 6<sup>th</sup>) are considering an increase to teachers' salaries as a way to keep young teachers in the profession and be fair to those approaching the end of their career. In S.C., teachers are paid according to their degree and years of experience. The minimum salary for a first-year teacher with a bachelor's degree is \$29,600. At 22 years of service, the minimum is \$45,500. No increases for experience are required beyond 22 years. That means teachers in less fortunate districts are seeing their take-home pay shrinking.
- **President Obama** has earmarked approximately \$50 million to be used to restore the national park sites affiliated with the civil rights movement in his new budget plan (Feb 2015). The move is a way to commemorate this year's 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of August 6, 1965. Obama hopes to invest in sites such as the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail in AL, the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site in KS and two other "historic sites related to the integration of public schools." The **President plans to visit Selma to mark the 50 years since the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.** Made his march in March 1965.
- **Boeing** South Carolina has rolled out its first **787-9 Dreamliner** to be fully built and assembled in North Charleston. Local Boeing workers rolled the plane out of final assembly in late January to the delivery center where it will be finalized for customer, United Airlines; delivery in March 2015. Remaining work includes flight testing and painting. This first local 787-9 rollout comes a few months after Boeing began integrating the 787-9 final assembly into its 787-8 final assembly operations at the North Charleston facility in late Nov. 2014.
- The **1955 Cannon Street YMCA All-Stars** baseball team has been featured in national media stories and honored at the **Little League World Series**, and February 19<sup>th</sup> the team got its own historical plaque. The S.C. Dept. of Archives and History, with the sponsorship of the city of Charleston, dedicated the marker at Harmon Field. The ceremony was held at the corner of President and

Fishburne Streets. Charleston Mayor Joe Riley, along with historian Ramon M. Jackson, Burke H. S. principal Maurice Cannon, and Cannon Street All-Star team historian Gus Holt.

The two-sided plaque reads: "Harmon Field, established in 1927, was one of many parks across the country created with support from the Harmon Foundation, a national philanthropic organization. Though dedicated to the 'Recreation of All,' state law mandated the racial segregation of public parks and Harmon Field remained a facility for African Americans until it was desegregated in 1964. Among other uses, the park was a venue for games played by amateur and semi-pro baseball teams. **The Cannon Street All-Stars:** In 1953 the Cannon St. YMCA established the first African American Little League in S.C. and played games at Harmon Field. In 1955 the Cannon St. YMCA entered a team in the state Little League tournament. Rather than integrate, white teams boycotted and the Cannon St. All-Stars were state champions by forfeit. The All-Stars were invited to the Little League World Series, but not allowed to compete."



## Happy Birthdays!

### March Birthdays:

**Sandra McNeill** - Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ **Josephine Hamilton** - Mar. 6<sup>th</sup> ~ **Mary Wade** - Mar. 10<sup>th</sup> ~ **Ethel Bothwell** - Mar. 18<sup>th</sup> ~ **James Gilliard** - Mar. 20<sup>th</sup> ~ **Mignon Clyburn** - Mar. 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ **Kenneth Brown** - Mar. 24<sup>th</sup>.

with deepest  
*Sympathy*

### Sincere Sympathy to the Families of:

- **Deacon Eddie Fields, Sr.** entered into eternal rest on January 31<sup>st</sup> in Charleston, he was 93 years old. Deacon Fields was the beloved father of Charleston Club member, **Lt. Col. (Ret.) Terrance Fields** (Vonda). Home-Going Memorial Services were on February 6, 2015 at Morris Street Baptist Church in Charleston. Interment was at Sunset Memorial Gardens on Ashley Phosphate Road. Deacon Fields is survived by his wife, Mrs. Everlena Fields and their four children.
- **Mr. Hyman "Lil Juny" White, Jr.** entered into eternal rest on February 8<sup>th</sup> in Charleston. Mr. White was the beloved brother of Charleston Club member, **Carl White** (Arnette). Funeral Services were on February 14, 2015 at Murray Mortuary's Chapel on Rivers Avenue in Charleston. Interment was at Sunset Memorial Gardens on Ashley Phosphate Road.

*- The Fly on The Wall!*