

# Charleston Club Tattler

Volume 18, Issue 88

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

Website: <http://charlestonsclub.org>

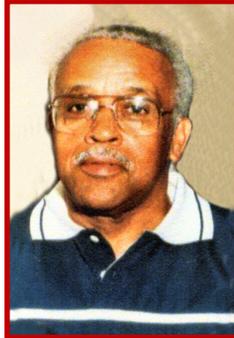
December 1, 2015



## Gene Seaberry - Club Treasurer Dies!

### Charleston Club Treasurer of 1980s Dies, He was 91 Y.O.!

Joseph Eugene "Gene" Seaberry affectionately known as "Gene" for most of his 91 years! He was the Treasurer of the Charleston Club in the 1980s. He and his wife, Hazel were faithful members of the Charleston Club for many years! He was born Joseph Eugene Seaberry on October 2, 1924 to Joseph E. Seaberry, Sr. and Beatrice DeVeaux Seaberry in Parler, SC (just west of Santee, SC).



At an early age the family moved to Charleston and Gene attended Avery, and graduated in the Class of 1943. Gene served with distinction in the U.S. Army from 1943-1946 as a cargo checker during The War Years. He was the recipient of the Bronze Service Star, Good Conduct Medal, & World War II Victory Medal. Honorably discharged in 1946, he enrolled at S.C. State, where became a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and received his B.S. Degree in Industrial Education in 1950.

Soon thereafter he started his 35 year work career with the U.S. Postal Service as a Postal Clerk. In 1952 he married Johnnie Mae Graham, and the couple had two children, Beatrice and Joseph. The life of Gene Seaberry was full of his love of John Wayne movies, Duke Ellington Era music (Take the A Train), and sports. In 1975 he married Hazel L. Wilson and the family grew; he acquired two step children; the Honorable N. Denise Wilson-Taylor and Dr. Dennis N. Wilson. Their blended family worked, Gene and Hazel moved to the DC area and couple continued dancing to "their music," frequent family trips to Hot-Shoppes, the movies, baseball games...and the Washington Redskins! Gene may have loved baseball, but he was now (through thick and thin) a TRUE Washington Redskins Fan! Go Go Redskins!

Family, friends and the Redskins became his way of life; in 1984 at the age of 60, he retired. He became more active in the Charleston Club, the S.C. State Alumni Association (Washington Chapter) and his beloved, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. One would have to say...Gene loved retirement, he could spend more time with those he truly loved...his grandchildren and step-grands. They were ALL one big family, and he LOVED every bit of it!

In recent years, both he and Hazel had to slow down because of health issues. We saw less of them at Charleston Club meetings, but we knew their hearts were with us.

Gene's Home-Going Service was on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> in Southern Maryland. It was truly a Celebration of his life! There were opening prayers and scripture readings from his

daughter-in-law, Rev. Marva Wilson of Salisbury, NC. There were Hymns (*"Take me to the King"* and *"I'm Going Up Yonder"*), and acknowledgements by Denise Wilson-Taylor...but it was the "Reflections" that were the most moving! How does a son (Joe, III) say goodbye, to his earthly father (remembering all the baseball games, the 'father/son' conversations during college days, or the times his dad was just being his dad...but couldn't remember his name) without a tear or two...he doesn't! And Joe, III was Gene Seaberry's son, he teared up and so did everyone in that chapel. His daughter, Beatrice had not planned on making public reflections...but the spirit came upon her...and she too made a moving tribute to her Dad! At least a half-dozen people were moved to express their genuine LOVE for this "GOOD MAN" and what Gene Seaberry was to them and what good deeds he had done!

Gene leaves to cherish his memory his beloved wife of 40 years, Hazel L. Seaberry. His children; Beatrice Seaberry Edmondson (Tony) of Canyon Country, CA, Joseph E. Seaberry, III (Brenda) of Accokeek, MD, two step children: the Honorable Denise Wilson-Taylor, Washington, DC and Dr. Dennis Norman Wilson (Marva), of Salisbury, NC, four grandchildren, three step-grandchildren and one step great-grand. And, a host of relatives and good-friends. Internment was Monday, November 9, 2015 at Quantico National Cemetery in Triangle, VA.

### John Tecklenburg Wins Mayoral Race!

Charleston businessman John Tecklenburg won the runoff election to be the next mayor of Charleston. Tecklenburg won with 57.5 % (13,513) over S.C. Rep. Leon Stavrinakis who received 42.5% (9,986). Just 270 votes separated them in the six-way general election Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>, but on the 17<sup>th</sup>, Tecklenburg won by 3,527 votes. The total turnout for the Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> election was about 19 percent of the electorate.



Mayor-elect John Tecklenburg said... now the work of managing a city begins. He said he wanted to look at improving basic city services, setting a high standard of ethics in the city's government, make it easier for residents to talk to elected officials, implement greater tourism management, manage growth, add a senior center in West Ashley and a community center in Daniel Island, as well as focus on drainage and flooding problems around the city.

"This year was a defining moment in our city's history," he said, referring to the mass shooting at Emanuel A.M.E. Church. "It was an assault on humanity, an assault on civilization." Tecklenburg said he was moved by the city's

reaction, leading with grace and compassion after the shooting, helping those hurting the most to heal. He said he wanted to see that carry through to all parts of the city - education, the jobless rate, and more housing affordability. "That's how we earn the name of being the Holy City is by helping our brothers and sisters," Tecklenburg said, paraphrasing John F. Kennedy: "Ask not what Charleston can do for you, but what you can do for Charleston."

Riley has been mayor for 40 years, his last day in office will be Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>; Tecklenburg takes over on Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>. Riley has served as mayor longer than anyone in Charleston's 345-year history.

### YWCA Honors Christine O. Jackson

The YWCA Greater Charleston, founded in 1858, is opening a new chapter in its long life. The YWCA moved into its building at 106 Coming Street in 1964. One of the last events to be held at that location was "An Afternoon Tea Party" of 160 guests honoring Christine O. Jackson on Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. The "Hats Off to Christine O. Jackson" affair was open to the public and guests were encouraged to wear hats and gloves!

Jackson was executive director of the YWCA for 36 years, retiring in 2004. Her cousin and childhood schoolmate was Coretta Scott King. Jackson launched Charleston's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration after Dr. King was assassinated in 1968, along with many other programs serving minorities and women.

The 5,000-square-foot building on Coming Street was listed on the real estate market a year ago for \$5.7 million. It sold a few months later for \$8.25 million. The buyer was a group led by Mount Pleasant-based real estate developer Anthony McAlister. His firm has built several student housing projects for and near the College of Charleston.

Garcia Williams currently is interim executive director. She said it's been a busy transition. This historic organization, dedicated to the empowerment of women and the elimination of racism, takes on even greater significance in light of the recent events in the greater Charleston community and those across the country," she wrote in an email. "Ms. Jackson serves as a true role model as we navigate the challenges of these crucial times. The ultimate goal during my tenure is to secure the legacy established by Ms. Jackson providing a roadmap for success during this pivotal and transitional period." Williams said the patrons of the YWCA and the organizations board of directors will ensure that no momentum is lost.

Board Chairwoman Kerri Forrest said a search is underway for a permanent director, and the YWCA hopes to introduce its new leader at the January MLK Celebration. The organization will re-locate temporarily in Fairfield Park in West Ashley, until a permanent building can be secured. "The great thing about the YWCA is that it has a long history here in the community," she said. And the Jackson years were especially rich. "There are tons of sto-

ries about people learning life and job skills during that period." The YWCA recently announced that Charleston Mayor Joe Riley will serve as honorary chairman of the Martin Luther King Jr. Business and Professional Breakfast, set for Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> 2016 at the Charleston Marriott. It will be Riley's 16<sup>th</sup> time. Riley co-founded the event with Jackson in 2000. The breakfast is a signature event of the MLK Celebration, now in its 44<sup>th</sup> year. It is considered the state's largest tribute to the slain civil rights leader.

### Boeing gives \$500K to Charleston's IAAM

Boeing Co.'s donation of \$500,000 toward the proposed International African American Museum (IAAM) brings the project



along Charleston Harbor closer to reality, with Mayor Joe Riley announcing Wednesday (Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>) that final design of the building and its exhibits has started. The \$75 million project is on pace to start construction in the spring of 2017, with Boeing's donation ~ along with public money set aside for the museum ~ providing the credibility Riley said he needs to seek support from other private businesses. Boeing announced its gift Tuesday (Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>) at a 2015 Equal Opportunity Day event organized by the Columbia Urban League. "Through our investment in this important museum of African American history and identity, we at Boeing hope to play a key role in helping tell the story of the largely overlooked history of African Americans in the Charleston area," said Tim Keating, the company's senior vice president of government affairs.

The gift is in addition to a \$250,000 donation Boeing made in 2011 and will be used to support the creation of the Family Heritage Center associated with the museum. Riley said that the center will help people of African descent trace their ancestry, using "processes including DNA to help trace their roots back to the specific region in Africa where their ancestors came from." The museum also will help develop curricula for public schools. Riley has said the impact African slaves and free blacks had on the country's economic, political and cultural development is largely absent from history books. "This museum will be a gift to our country and a source of immense pride for the citizens of South Carolina," he said.

About half of the money is in place, with the city and Charleston County contributing a combined \$25 million and the General Assembly setting aside another \$10 million. Riley said he is confident state lawmakers will contribute another \$15 million, leaving one-third of the money to be raised from private business and individuals. Riley, who leaves office in January, said the full amount has to be committed before the city can sign a construction contract, although all of it doesn't have to be in hand as long as "we have reasonable assurances that it will become

ing during the construction period.” Boeing’s donation brings the private contributions to about \$2.25 million. The company said it has invested more than \$25 million in South Carolina nonprofit organizations since 2010 and has volunteered approximately 7,000 times in more than 200 community projects. “The people of South Carolina have embraced us with open arms, and we want to give back,” Beverly Wyse, vice president and general manager of Boeing South Carolina, said in a statement. Wyse said Boeing’s donation to the museum “is significant to the cultural development and historical preservation of this area.”

### Xavier University Sends More Black Students To Medical Schools!

Today, Xavier University’s campus is mostly wedged between a canal and the Pontchartrain Expressway in Gert Town, a neighborhood in the western part of New



Orleans. It has some 3,000 students and consistently produces more black students who apply to and then graduate from medical school than any other institution in the country. More than big state schools like Michigan or Florida. More than elite Ivies like Harvard and Yale. Xavier is also first in the nation in graduating black students with bachelor’s degrees in biology and physics. It is among the top four institutions graduating black pharmacists. It is third in the nation in black graduates who go on to earn doctorates in science and engineering.

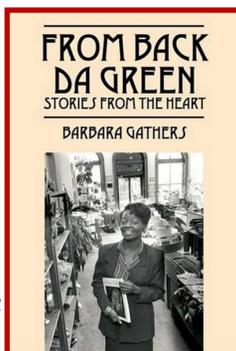
Xavier has accomplished this without expansive, high-tech facilities-its entire science program is housed in a single complex. It has accomplished this while charging tuition that, at \$19,800 a year, is considerably less than that of many private colleges and flagship public universities. It has accomplished this without filling its classrooms with the nation’s elite black students. Most of Xavier’s students are the first in their families to attend college, and more than half come from lower--income homes.

“The question always comes: ‘Well, how did this happen, and why are we No.1?’ ” said Dr. Norman C. Francis, who recently retired from Xavier after 47 years as president. Excelling in biology and chemistry is only part of what gets students into medical school. Just as critical to Xavier’s success is the blueprint it created to help students navigate every step in the process of becoming desirable medical--school candidates. “Our formula is built on believing there is no point in time where a pre-med student at this university shouldn’t know what they ought to be doing to get into medical school,” Quo Vadis Webster, Xavier’s current pre-med adviser, told me. By the end of the first semester, Johnson and other pre-med students needed to turn in the first of many personal statements that were critiqued by the university’s writing center. These essays, written and rewritten several times, would eventually become the ones included in their medical--school applications.

### Barbara Gathers’ New Book — “From Back Da Green”

Barbara Gathers has a new book, just in time for Christmas Holidays!

Barbara grew up Back da Green, on Charleston’s west side. During the last 22 years, she has served as Equal Employment Opportunity Specialist and Manager in the Federal sector. She describes the challenges and successes she encountered on that journey in her new memoir *From Back da Green: Stories from the Heart*.



Gathers graduated from Burke (1963), then N.C. A&T (1967--“Aggie Pride” as their motto), and the University of South Carolina. With her degrees in hand, she taught school, worked as a case-worker, an educational counselor; in addition to her long-time employment fighting for the rights of employees. She ran a successful gift shop in Charleston called “*Unique Ideas*,” has published a book of poetry and founded the non-profit Women’s Resource Project, Inc. in Charleston. None of her achievements were easy, but Gathers met each obstacle with strength, a faith in God, and as shown in her memoir, with great - humor!

*Back da Green*, she explains, got its name from its location behind the entrance to the Gadsden Green Projects. She continues: “Nonresidents of the area often referred to *Back da Green* as a bad neighborhood, a ‘no-go’ area for nonresidents, and what might be referred to as ‘the hood.’”

Years ago, Barbara had heart-transplant surgery, it didn’t slow her down. To this day, she says, “I wear my donated heart like a badge of courage, as I continue to celebrate the miracle of my still-unfolding life.”

The resulting memoir is exciting and inspiring. The book concludes with a letter of encouragement to her from President Barack H. Obama.

Copies of the book are available for \$18.45 (\$14.95 for the book, plus \$3.50 shipping and handling) from the author, Barbara Gathers, (e-mail: [beegee177@aol.com](mailto:beegee177@aol.com)).

### S.C. State University Receives Two Big Checks

The first check came from Congressman Jim Clyburn and his wife Emily, who established the “Emily England Clyburn Honors Scholarship Program” with a check for \$70,000 to kick off the program. SCANA and SCE&G also presented a check to the university for \$100,000 that will be used for promoting the school next year.



Congressman James E. Clyburn and his wife, Emily, provided \$70,000 in support to their alma mater to benefit the James E. and Emily E. Clyburn endowment and to establish the Emily England Clyburn Honors Scholarship program. Both the Congressman and his wife are 1961 graduates, they have continuously supported the university’s fundraising efforts. Funding from the gift will be used to support seven Clyburn scholarships at \$10,000

each. The scholarships will be awarded, through the Honors College, to three freshmen entering the Honors College in the 2016-17 academic year, two in the following academic year, and two for students who will begin their studies in 2018. Clyburn said he hopes this investment into the education of future students will help those in need.

“We are extremely pleased to accept this generous contribution from Mr. and Mrs. Clyburn. Congressman James Clyburn and Miss Emily, his wife, continue to give unselfishly to South Carolina State University. The Emily England Clyburn Honors Scholarship program assures that the Clyburn’s legacy, as champions of education and as unwavering supporters of SC State, will forever leave an indelible mark at the university,” said Interim President Dr. W. Franklin Evans.

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

- **Barbara D. Dilligard**, President of the **BHS Foundation** recently sent out a “**Need of Funds**” letter to continue its support of the 9 scholarship recipients currently completing their college and university studies, and the need for funds to offer the 2016 scholarships. The BHS Foundation has its 1) **Annual Foundation Drop-in** – December 26, 2015 – at the AKA Building on Meeting and Romney Streets. 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. and 2) **Tailgate Celebration** – In conjunction with the Modie Risher Basketball Classic in December 2015 on the Plaza at Burke High School. Showing the Charleston Community that Burke lives on and has a broad and fantastic following. 
- **Annette McKenzie Anderson** (aka~ Dr. Diva) and her group are performing at a Christmas “**A Divas’ Winter Wonderland**” at the Sargent Memorial Presbyterian Church, 5109 Nannie Helen Burroughs Ave. NE in Washington, DC on **Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>** at 4:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person with Ages 10 and under – FREE! The ensemble, “**3 Mo~La~Dic Divas + 1**” this is a Christmas Concert, that is sure to be FUN for one and ALL! See you at the Christmas Concert!
- The **Avery Research Center** is working with the staff of **Emanuel A.M.E. Church** to form a ‘living memorial’ of the hundreds of expressions of sympathy that were places at the entrance of Emanuel after the shooting.
- Families of the nine people killed at **Emanuel A.M.E. Church** and the five survivors will share **\$1.5 million** of the **\$3.4 million** donated to the church in the wake of the June 17<sup>th</sup> massacre. The church will keep the remaining \$1.9 million, according to a news release Wednesday, Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>. “As noted in past releases, the majority of the funds were made to the church itself,” the release stated. “Notably, the church has decided to contribute a significant portion of the funds received that were designated for the church.” The announcement marked the first time the church has offered specifics about how much money it had collected and what it would do with it. Funds will not be distributed until a lawsuit filed by Ar-

thur Hurd, husband of the late Cynthia Hurd, is resolved. The suit demands a full accounting of all donations that have been received since the shooting. “The pending legal action precludes the distribution of any funds by ‘Mother Emanuel’ until such time as the financial records are inspected,” church attorney Wilbur Johnson said in a statement. “The church anticipates distribution once that inspection has been finalized.”

- The **Charleston Club’s Holiday Social** will be on **Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup> 2016** at the **Heritage Hunt Golf and Country Club** in Gainesville, VA. Current plans are for the event to be from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m., look for more details when the announcement comes out! The Gift Exchange is still open, check your e-mail account for the ‘Gift Exchange Form’ that is online!

## Happy Birthdays!

### December Birthdays:

**William Perry** - Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> ~ **Wendy L. Rivers** - Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> ~ **Rhonda Garvin Barnes** - Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> ~ **Phillip Magwood** - Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> ~ **Ellis Greene** - Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> ~ **Adrienne “Mimi” Macbeth** - Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> ~ **Dolores M. Abrams** - Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> ~ **Fredricka “Freddie” Braswell** - Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> ~ **Gwen Felder** - Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> ~ **Irene Fields** - Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> ~ **Margo Lee Williams** - Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> ~ **Vivian L. Lott** - Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>.

## with deepest Sympathy

- **Mr. Nathaniel Robert Washington**, the beloved father of Charleston Club member **Najeema Davis Washington** entered into eternal rest Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup> in Charleston. Mr. Washington, was a S.C. State honor graduate (1962), a member of Omega Psi Phi, and a retired Assistant Principal (A.B. Rhett and Courtenay Elementary) and Principal of James Simons Elementary in the Charleston County School District. He was 75 years old. Nat Washington is survived by his beloved wife of 50 years, Mrs. Jenny Lou Washington and a host of family, relatives, co-workers in the school system and admirers. Home-Going Services for this outstanding Charlestonian were held on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at “Mother” Emanuel A.M.E. Church, with many Charleston Club members in attendance; **Clarence McNeill** and daughter **Najeema D. Washington** gave remarks/tributes. Burial was at Carolina Memorial Gardens on Rivers Avenue in North Charleston.   
~ *The Fly on The Wall!*

