

The mission and purpose of the African American Cultural Society, Inc. is to preserve and perpetuate the cultural heritage of African Americans through educational, artistic, intellectual and social activities and services deemed to be in the interests of the entire community.

**Maintenance Reserve Fund
2021 Campaign for
Donations thru June 2021
Help to keep our Cultural
Center in good condition!**



**Send a check today to renew
your membership for
July 2020 thru June 2021
Your commitment is needed
now more than ever!**

From President Joe Matthews...

I hope everyone is continuing to remain safe and to practice good and safe health guidelines.

At AACS we are continuing to focus on what is happening in our city and county concerning COVID-19, especially the numbers being reported on the virus. We are also trying to stay committed to our upcoming cultural, social and community events.

Cultural Program

The previously planned speech and book signing by A. Peter Bailey remains on schedule, but due to the pandemic we are now planning a virtual program. Mr. Bailey will be broadcasting his speech from a location near his home to our audience in Palm Coast and other locations where social distancing will be maintained. Save the September 26 date; the time soon will be announced.

Committee Reports

We are approaching a milestone in the life of AACS. The year 2021 will mark our 30th year of existence.

A 30th Anniversary Steering Committee has been formed, chaired by **Stephanie Matthews**, and including nine other volunteers. The committee has already conducted three meetings and has made tremendous progress. A theme and a list of potential guest speakers have been developed. Hopefully, we will be able to secure participation by at least one of those identified by the committee.

Also, in the planning process, we will be promoting several of the activities planned for 2021 as part of our anniversary celebration. Stay tuned for future updates on the anniversary plans.



(continued on next page)

AACS Needs You!

The continued success of AACS is highly dependent on qualified and dedicated directors and officers, strongly supported by the membership at large. It is the responsibility of members with the capability to successfully perform the duties of directors and officers to step forward. It is also the responsibility of each member to identify qualified candidates, encourage them to run for office, and support their candidacy.

Please consider becoming a candidate to serve as AACS Director, First Vice President, Recording Secretary, or Treasurer. Each position to be filled by election this year has a three-year term starting January 2021. Duties of each position are stipulated in the AACS Bylaws.

Current directors with terms ending this year are **Daniel Isaac, Melba J. McCarty, and Jean M. Tanner**. Current officers with terms ending this year are First Vice President **Sybil Dodson-Lucas**, Recording Secretary **Geraldine Wright**, and Treasurer **Merritt A. Robertson**. Each person is eligible to serve another consecutive term in their current position.

As usual, each candidate for a position must complete an application and be nominated by a petition signed by four AACS members. Please promptly complete the forms in this edition of The Scribe and mail them to AACS, Elections Committee, P.O. Box 350607, Palm Coast, FL 32135-0607. Qualified candidates will be introduced at the September General Membership Meeting. "Floor nominations" for each position will be sought as part of that meeting.

A slate of candidates will be finalized and published in the Scribe's October edition. Mail-in election ballots will be sent to each FY 2021 financial member in adequate time to allow for return by AACS' Election Day, November 20. Election results will be announced at the General Membership Meeting on November 21.

Please step-up to keep your organization strong with good leaders. "It takes a village," but without leaders, our village will not thrive.

From President Joe Matthews continued...

Outreach

I know by now many of you have heard about the event of Thursday, August 6th. On that day, AACS sponsored a Motorized March Commemorating the 55th Anniversary of the Signing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The event was successful and exceeded all our expectations. It was reported by the authorities that we had over 111 vehicles and one motorcycle. We estimated about 250 participants.

The lead vehicle in the March was driven by Board Chair **Edmund Pinto**. The vehicles had their 4-way emergency flashes on and were equipped with signage identifying the event. The route proceeded past the three early voting locations in Palm Coast and ended at the steps of the Flagler County Courthouse, where a short program took place.

Program speakers included Flagler County NAACP President **Linda Matthews**, me and several local political candidates. Kudos to all those that found time to support the event, especially AACS members. Special appreciation to Chairman Ed Pinto and Cultural Center Administrator **Blanche Valentine** for organizing and coordinating the March.

And until next time, as always "It Takes a Village".

The Scribe

The Scribe newsletter is published monthly by the African American Cultural Society, Inc., P. O. Box 350607, Palm Coast, FL 32135-0607, and telephone 386-447-7030. The African American Cultural Society (AACS) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization founded in 1991.

Advertising appearing in this publication does not constitute endorsement of its content by AACS. Income from donors helps to offset a portion of the expense involved in the production of this publication.

Maintenance Reserve Fund

The Maintenance Reserve Fund's current balance is inadequate to handle the cost of major repairs, as well as costs for significant anticipated repairs over the next several years.

Last September, the Board of Directors announced the start of the Maintenance Reserve Fund 2021 Campaign, due to end in June 2021. The Campaign is designed to raise \$125,000 to correct the inadequate Reserve balance. **Every member is asked to donate during the Campaign in anticipation of AACS' 30th Anniversary in 2021. Although monthly pledge payments are encouraged, one-time gifts help us to reach the goal!**

Fund 2021 Campaign



One-time and recurring gifts made since last September to the Fund by the following members and friends are deeply appreciated: Advanced Urology Institute, **Richard Barnes, Lynda Baten, Gloria Benjamin, Walter Boone, Alfreda Brown, Ira Brown, Edith Cunningham, Harry Davis, Lucy Davis, Alton Dempsey, Jackie Dempsey, Daniel Esannersen, Geraldine Finley, Vanessa James-Foxe, Mamie Godfrey, Rosalee Griffin, Howard Holley, Marian Howell, Daniel Isaac, Redonia Johnson, Alberto Jones, Sylvia Jones, Victor Krause, James Lee, Ralph Lightfoot, Sherise Lindsay, Joseph Matthews, Stephanie Matthews, Jeroline McCarthy, Louis McCarthy, Melba McCarty, Marie Winston McCray, Naomi Meachem, Melinda Morais, Ellen Parker, Wanda Phillips, Edmund Pinto, Sheila Platt, Roy Powell, Shelley Ragsdale, John Reid, Seconia Reid, Adelaide Richards, Merritt Robertson, Brenda Russell, Reinhold Schlieper, Angelika Schlieper, John Scully, Kelly Scully, Anne Smith, Douglas Smith, Clay Simpson, Raleigh Stockton, Jean Tanner, Maisie Thompson, Myra Middleton-Valentine, James Wheeler, Jeanette Wheeler, Robert Whiting, Harriett Whiting, Janice Williams, and Meshella Woods.**

Happy September Birthday!

Each of the following members is wished a healthy and joyful birthday!



Anas Benjelloun (16), Dora M. Campbell (14), Morris R. Carter M.D. (10), Rev. Charlene E. Cothran (28), Kenneth Davis (15), Lucy G. Davis (24), Matthew Deckman (20), Bertrand W. Green (2), Ethel Green (10), Sandra Hairston (15), Steven Haynes (5), Dr. Lasherica Jefferies (20), Mary Jennings (14), Teldra V. Jones (4), Dr. Kwando M. Kinshasa (21), Helen Mason (21), Jeroline D. McCarthy (23), Charles L. McCray Sr. (19), Arthur L. McLaurin (26), Ellen M. Parker (22), Mary Rogers-Grantham (27), Ruby Sims (4), Raleigh Stockton (25), Jeanette B. Wheeler (22) and Nile C. Williams (5).



July 2020 Edition Errata

The following member names should have been included in the "We Are AACCS!" list shown on page 4:

Alfreda M. Brown, Ira H. Brown Ph.D., Berkeley O. Chandler Jr., Beverly Chandler, Elizabeth Isabell, Beverly Johnson, Redonia Johnson, Donald Jones, Shirley Jones, John Lucas, Sybil Dodson Lucas, Charles L. McCray Sr., Marie Winston-McCray, Brenda C. Russell, Chrystal Stockton-Pope, Raleigh Pope, Christien S. Williams, Julian A. Williams, and Reese T. Williams.

Financial Results

Financial results for the recently ended Fiscal Year 2019 on June 30 were better than anticipated considering the effects of the pandemic on planned meetings and events.

Total consolidated income for the year was \$88,522. Income components were Fundraisers -24%, Center Rentals - 15%, Memberships - 31%, and Donations/Grants - 30%. Total consolidated expenses were \$85,722. Expense components were Cultural Programs - 20%, Center Maintenance/Utilities - 40%, Center Workers - 17%, Center Insurance/Licenses - 15%, Center Office - 6%, and Professional Services - 2%.

Primarily due to donations and grants, there was an operating income gain of \$2,800 for FY 2019, or 56% of \$5,000 budgeted before the pandemic occurred. Special thanks to the Grants Committee for their ongoing hard work in obtaining much need operating funds!

Donations of \$45,088 to the Maintenance Reserve Fund's Campaign 2021 during the year were less than expected. The year-end Fund balance was \$40,860, after expenses of \$21,983, primarily for center air conditioning unit upgrades. Overall, the bank account balance increased by \$28,640 to \$62,128 from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

Financial results are regularly reported at each General Membership Meeting. The annual budget for the recently begun Fiscal Year 2021 will be reviewed in the next edition of *The Scribe*.

Annual dues must be paid before October 1 for your membership to remain active.

Send a check today for \$50 if you are a Young Adult Member (Age 18 to 34), for \$100 if you are an Adult Member, or for \$150 if you are Family Household Members living at the same address.

Dues may be paid online without extra credit/debit card fees at [AACSp.org/eventbrite.com](https://aacs.org/eventbrite.com).

Please make your check payable to AACCS, P.O. Box 350607, Palm Coast, FL 32135-0607

Membership Category _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Member
Name(s)

Birth
Mo./Day

Phone
Number

Email
Address

_____/_____
_____/_____

Alabama, not just a tour

By Joseph T. Jones, AACS Family
Household Member

~~~~~  
*Many thanks to Mr. Jones for the following report of AACS' June 2019 quad city tour of Alabama, consisting of the cities of Montgomery, Tuskegee, Selma and Birmingham.*

With a prayer for safe travels, fifty-four AACS members and friends began the journey of discovery that is also taken by over five million visitors from all over the world each year. Considered the birthplace of the modern Civil Rights Movement, Montgomery, was our destination and base location for day trips to the surrounding areas of historical significance considered ground zero in the struggle of Black people in America for human dignity.

After being joined on our first day of the tours by a local guide, we were off to Birmingham, a place once referred to by its citizens as the most segregated city in America. Our first stop was the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. The church was a location for meetings to plan for marches and demonstrations in Birmingham. When the church was bombed by local Klansmen, killing four little girls, it also became an international symbol of the racial hatred of whites toward Blacks in America.

Just across the street from the church stands the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, where our group was guided through exhibits, photos, recordings and artifacts of the movement. Housed there is the actual door to the jail cell from which Dr. Martin Luther King wrote the famous "Letter from Birmingham Jail." From the window of the institute, you can see Kelly Ingram Park, the staging area for the hundreds of children and young people who participated in the protests. Although brutalized with Billy clubs, fire hoses and dogs, before being jailed, those young people return to the park at every opportunity for their next protest assignment.

Bethel Baptist Church served as the headquarters for the Birmingham Civil Rights Movement from 1956 to 1961. The church was bombed three times and is considered where the Civil Rights Movement began. Fred Shuttlesworth, the dynamic young pastor at the time, is considered a giant of the movement.

The next day brought a whirlwind of meaningful activity in Montgomery. The highlights were the National Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, where the exhibits of man's inhumanity in the name of white supremacy caused utterances of disbelief, displays of anger, silent stares

and even tears. A visit to the Dexter Parsonage Museum and the home where twenty five-year old Martin Luther King lived at the beginning of the Movement, gave us more insight on his life and served to further humanize the great civil rights icon. Nothing defines the struggle for civil rights in Montgomery more than the bus boycott. The Rosa Parks Museum brings to life the history of the person and the Movement that not only changed America, but also changed the world.

On our visit to Selma, we toured the historic Brown Chapel AME Church. After walking across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, we visited The National Voting Rights Museum located at the base of the bridge.

In Tuskegee we felt our spirits soar like the famed Tuskegee Airmen, when we viewed their triumphs, as well as, those of Booker T. Washington and Dr. George Washington Carver at Tuskegee University. It was a perfect way to end our journey.

While the fight for equal rights, and justice for Black people went on everywhere in America, no other region has more historical significance to the struggle than the Alabama sites we visited, which can be considered the epicenter of the movement. This area is our Boston Harbor, our Bunker Hill, our Yorktown and our Appomattox. It is not only the center of African American history, but also the pivotal history that changed America and the world. The area requires more than just a visit or a tour. It must be "experienced". Talk to the "foot soldiers" who were just children when they fought to bring about change. Place your finger into the hole in the wall created by bullets fired into The Bethel Baptist Church. Remember the violence that occurred on "Bloody Sunday" as you freely walk with dignity across The Edmund Pettus Bridge. Visit the location of a church where four little girls died and, also, visit the house where Martin Luther King lived. Reflect on the lives of the four thousand Black people who were lynched after the Civil War and are immortalized there, and, also the lives of many who were lynched, but not documented.

Experience the place where so many freedom fighters were murdered, yet our people refused to be intimidated when they sang with conviction, "Before I be a slave, I'll be buried in my grave and go on to my Lord and be free."

## In Memoriam

**John Robert Lewis**

February 21, 1940 – July 17, 2020



**Orlando N. Johnson**  
Registered Investment Advisor and  
Financial Planning Specialist  
389 Palm Coast Parkway SW  
Suite 4, Palm Coast, FL 32137  
T: 386-597-0057 | C: 386-503-3886  
F: 386-445-6123



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**Leslie F. Giscombe, MBA**  
Founder & CEO

Tel: 386-234-2014  
Cell: 386-931-4637  
Fax: 386-675-0605  
leslieg@aaeassociation.org  
www.aaeassociation.org

601 Innovation Way  
Daytona Beach, FL 32114

4883 Palm Coast Pkwy NW, Unit #1  
Palm Coast, FL 32137

2153 SE Hawthorne Road, Suite 101 (GTEC)  
Gainesville, FL 32643



**EDITH "DEE" CUNNINGHAM**  
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300 Palm Coast Pkwy NE  
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REALTOR - SFR  
www.melindamorais.com

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### **The Scribe**

Advertising Rates per edition  
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Half-page: \$50      Full page: \$100



# The Scribe

August 2020

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PERMIT NO. 30  
Flagler Beach, FL



*Stay Safe and Stay Well!*

## African American Cultural Society, Inc.

**Cultural Center Building:** 4422 North US 1, Palm Coast, Florida

**Telephone:** (386) 447-7030

**Website:** AACSPalmCoast.org

**Facebook:** AACSPalmCoast

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 350607, Palm Coast, FL 32135-0607

**Email:** Info@AfricanAmericanCulturalSociety.org

## AACS Activities

### Cultural Center Building

Office Hours 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. **(V)**

### 200 Club Number Enrollment

Completed

### New Members Only Reception

Wednesday, October 14 @ 11 a.m. **[T]**

### Pompano Beach Excursion

May 5-6, 2021 **[T]**

### Cultural Film Presentations

No presentations in July and August

### Dance Classes

Tuesdays 4:30-6 p.m.  
postponed until further notice

### General Membership Meetings

Saturday, September 26 @ 11 a.m.  
**(V)**

### Membership Dues Reenrollment

In-progress

### Juneteenth Celebration

Completed

### Washington, D.C. Museum Trip

### Pyramid Players Golf Tournament

Saturday, April 10, 2021 **[T]**

### An Afternoon with

A. Peter Bailey

Saturday, September 26 **[V]**

### Membership Directory

Photo Session

postponed until further notice

### Annual

Member Appreciation Cookout

Saturday, May 22, 2021 **[T]**

**[C]** Cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic   **[O]** Online Video   **[T]** Tentative   **(V)** Virtual (remote) activity



## **Application for AACCS Officer or Director Position**

### **Primary Info:**

1. Position applied for: \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Full legal name: \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Residential Address: \_\_\_\_\_
  4. Mailing Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_
  5. Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_
  6. Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_
- 

### **Education:**

7. HS Graduate: ☐ or GED Graduate: ☐ circle post year HS education: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

### **Work Experience:**

8. Job Title(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer(s): \_\_\_\_\_

The number and titles of employees you've supervised:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Your name, if different from present: \_\_\_\_\_
10. Have you ever been convicted of a Felony?: Yes ☐ No ☐

### **Other Experience Beneficial for the position applying for:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **References (Optional):**

- a. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
- a. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
- 

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

***(Please return this form to Nominating and Election Committee)***



# OFFICIAL NOMINATION PETITION

The undersigned, “Members In Good Standing” Nominate:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

for the office of: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print)

---

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print) (Signature)

2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print) (Signature)

3. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print) (Signature)

4. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print) (Signature)

---

I, \_\_\_\_\_ ACCEPT THIS NOMINATION  
(Nominee)

FOR THE OFFICE OF: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please return this form to the Nominating And Elections Committee)