The Scribe

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

Juneteenth is coming! Celebrate at AACS June 17, 2023



Discounted dues rates now available for new and renewing members!

From President Joe Jones ...

One thing is abundantly clear to me after three months as your President. This is not what I had planned for my retirement.

My guess is that many of you, freedom fighters and culture warriors, had not expected to work this hard during retirement either but



here we are, serving in our churches, fraternities, sororities, NAACP, the African American Mentoring Program, and many other social and political organizations as well as AACS.

Why do we do it? Why "should" we do it? Why should we sacrifice so much of the time to service that we had anticipated would be spent playing golf, reading on the beach, and drinking rum? I believe that most of us are motivated to serve because there is such a great need.

We are now experiencing attacks on racial justice and disrespect for our culture not seen in the past sixty years. The work being done by AACS and like organizations are a front-line defense against those who war against our culture and racial justice as well. I am also inspired and motivated by those who came before me to this organization. Those folk now pictured on our walls, most of whom I have never met, but our thirty-year written history informs me that they saw a great need and could not look away. They had to do something to fill the need. They, along with many others, sacrificed some of their golf time and "dollars" to make AACS a reality.

Since they did the heavy lifting to set us on a firm foundation, we have a duty to grow and improve this great organization and pass it on to the next generation. The more recent leaders and members of AACS are also to be commended for their service. You are responsible for our tremendous growth of programs and activities at AACS while keeping us financially sound, even while being shut down during a worldwide pandemic.

All the talent and resources needed at AACS already exist in our Palm Coast community. If only more of us chose to use our talents and resources to help AACS accomplish its mission, it could make an impact possibly unimaginable to our founding members.

If you are not motivated to serve by our current and founding members' dedication and hard work, perhaps you can be persuaded by the words of a true American hero:

"Service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth." Shirley Chisholm

A Message from Blanche Valentine AACS Cultural Center Administrator

I am a retired Military Civilian Personnel with a background in Combat Logistics Supply and Support. My last assignments were in Djibouti, Iraq, and Afghanistan as Camp Manager.



As much as I loved providing supplies to troops, I am absolutely enjoying my work at our beloved AACS. Members have often asked me what I do that keeps me so busy. Well....

When the Center's roof was being replaced, the building was closed, and I worked in the office through all the overhead pounding, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Also, I have supported any number of programs and events and learned so much from members who've developed these outstanding programs and turned them into time honored traditions. Mostly, I've grown close to and enjoy every call I answer and every member who calls in.

AACS is so much more than a non-profit organization. It's a family and we are so connected through life experiences and places we've passed through. Our center is unique because we've all come to AACS to enjoy our final chapters in life, to laugh, to love, and to mourn as an extended family.

"This is the house that Jack built y'all" and we'll forever remember this house.

Save The Dates!

May 2023									
3^{rd}	Line Dance Group	6:30 p.m.							
5^{th}	Financial Transactions Comm.	10:30 a.m.							
8 th	Executive Board of Officers	11 a.m.							
10^{th}	Membership Committee	10:30 a.m.							
u	Line Dance Group	6:30 p.m.							
$12^{th} \\$	Financial Transactions Comm.	10:30 a.m.							
16 th	African Study Group	11 a.m.							
17 th	Line Dance Group	6:30 p.m.							
19^{th}	Financial Transactions Comm.	10:30 a.m.							
22^{nd}	Board of Directors	11 a.m.							
24 th	Line Dance Group	6:30 p.m.							
25^{th}	Scribe Newsletter Committee	11 a.m.							
26^{th}	Financial Transactions Comm.	10:30 a.m.							
27th	General Membership Meeting	11 a.m.							
31st	Line Dance Group	6:30 p.m.							
	June 2023								
	The First New Year Exhibit Opens								
1 st	The Scribe Newsletter Committee	11 a.m.							
2^{nd}	Financial Transactions Comm.	10:30 a.m.							
7 th	Line Dance Group	6:30 p.m.							
9 th	Financial Transactions Comm.	10:30 a.m.							
"	Budget & Finance Committee	Noon							
12^{th}	Executive Board of Officers	11 a.m.							
14^{th}	Membership Committee	10:30 a.m.							
u	Line Dance Group	6:30 p.m.							
15 th	The Scribe Newsletter Committee	11 a.m.							
16^{th}	Financial Transactions Comm.	10:30 a.m.							
17 th	AACS Juneteenth Celebration	2 p.m.							
19 th	Board of Directors	11 a.m.							
21st	African New Year Sunrise Service	6 a.m.							
u	African New Year Celebration	10 a.m.							
u	Line Dance Group	6:30 p.m.							
23^{rd}	Financial Transactions Comm.	10:30 a.m.							
24 th	General Membership	11 a.m.							
28th	Line Dance Group	6:30 p.m.							
29^{th}	The Scribe Newsletter Committee	11 a.m.							
30^{th}	Financial Transactions Comm.	10:30 a.m.							
	July 2023								
	Summer of Soul Exhibit Opens								
7^{th}	Financial Transactions Comm.	10:30 a.m.							
14^{th}	Financial Transactions Comm.	10:30 a.m.							
12^{th}	Membership Committee	10:30 a.m.							
21^{st}	Financial Transactions Comm.	10:30 a.m.							
28^{th}	Financial Transactions Comm.	10:30 a.m.							

Permanent Endowment Fund

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that a Permanent Endowment Fund (PEF) has been established. Gifts to the PEF will not be spent but will be invested to generate funds for AACS' operating purposes. This year AACS members will be asked to vote and put PEF operating policies in the Bylaws.

The PEF is starting with capital funds of about \$19,580, including a very generous gift of \$18,580 from the estate of AACS founder and past president **Walter Boone**, a \$500 gift from Treasurer **Merritt Robertson**, a \$350 gift from Director **Victor Krause** in memory of member **Mavis Smith**, and a \$150 gift in memory of member **Clarence Brodnax**.

For this calendar year, the Board of Directors approved investment of PEF capital funds in certificates of deposit and mutual funds with The Vanguard Group, Inc., the largest provider of mutual funds; Carver Federal Savings Bank, the largest blackmanaged and publicly traded Minority Depository Institution in the U.S.; and Ariel Investments, the largest minority-owned investment firm.

Membership Dues Discounts

If you have yet to join AACS or renewed your membership, do not delay! Take advantage of the new discounted payments for new members and for multiyear membership renewal shown below. Please pay online at the AACS website or send your dues payment check today to AACS, Membership Committee, P.O. Box 350607, Palm Coast, FL 32135-0607.

Discounted Initial Rates for New Members Month Joined Young Adult Family \$ 6.25 \$12.50 \$18.75 April - June **Discounted Rates for Multiyear Renewal** Renewal Period Young Adult Family **Two Fiscal Years** \$80.00 \$160.00 \$240.00 Three Fiscal Years \$105.00 \$210.00 \$315.00

The Scribe

The Scribe newsletter is published 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.

Current members of the Scribe Newsletter Committee are Lynda H. Baten, Beverly D. Christopher, Mamie R. Godfrey, Leila B. Jordan, Victor R. Krause, and Michele Knox.





The African American Cultural Society's Cultural Committee

Presents the Highly Acclaimed Film



Wednesday, May 17th @ 4pm

Your Continued Free-Will Donations Support the Festivities of Our Annual Celebration















Refreshments on Sale

African American Cultural Center and Museum of Florida

4422 US Hwy 1 Northbound, Palm Coast 32164 GPS: Bunnell, FL 32110



386-447-7030





Congratulations to recent 200 Club winners!

Winners in March 2023 were Nazeer Amon, Anne C. Gibbs (Annual Prize), Sondra L. Henderson, Juanita McGruder (Quarterly Prize), Seconia Reid, and Douglas M. Smith.

Winners in April 2023 were **Richard P. Barnes** (2 Prizes), **Edith "Dee" Cunningham**, **Geraldine A. Finley**, and Charles E. Krause III.

Renew Now for the New Cycle Now Underway!

If you are interested in joining the Club, you can join the new cycle at any time.

The 200 Club rules are designed for those who like to win. Numbers from 001 to 224 are offered for purchase to AACS members and the public at a cost of \$104 each. All purchased numbers are placed in the lottery drum for every drawing during a monthly General Membership meeting. Starting in April, the club offers: fifty-three weekly prizes of \$100, one for each Saturday in the year; four quarterly prizes of \$250, each in June, September and December 2023, and March 2024; and one annual prize of \$1,000 in March 2024. Due to the number of Saturdays in the 2023-2024 calendar, there is an extra weekly prize!

Each owner of a number can win multiple times. You do not need to be present at the monthly drawings to win. Since there will be no General Membership meetings in July and August 2023, July winners will be drawn at the June meeting, and August winners will be drawn at the September meeting.

Call **Berkeley Chandler**, 200 Club Committee chair, at (386) 793-4958, to select one or more remaining numbers in the current cycle. Then pay \$104.00 for each number with a check made payable to "AACS – 200 Club".





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



May: Alvin L. Brown (02), Dr. Myra Middleton Valentine (03), Gloria L. Benjamin (04), Edward H. Brown Jr. (04), Richard P. Barnes (05), Sonia E. White (05), Walter I. Seaton (06), Gloria Dickens Singleton (08), Foster L. Vestal (10), Urita Hodge (11), Daniel D. Isaac (11), Vikki Taylor (12), Valerie R. Betts (13), Sheila Grant (13), Ronald W. Stephenson Sr. (13), John H. White (13), Carmen Yvette Bynum (14), Eleanor H. McDaniel (14), Cornoldi Daniel (18), Crystal Stockton-Pope (18), W. Earl Singleton (19), Ezekiel Walters (19), Luella Peniston (21), La'Vonne Curtain (22), Joyce B. Gary (22), Betty C. White (22), JoAnn Jacobs (24), Norma O. Walters (25), Dr. Lawrence E. Gary (26), Marvin C. Ellison Jr. (28), and Morris L. Cowell (29).



June: James Womack, Mitchele Jean-Francois (03), Emma J. Kendrick (03), Ann L. Clark (05), Darlene T. Cowell (07), Carolyn L. Hawkins (08), Kedron Abbott (11), Deborah Powell (11), Tracey Rowell (11), Jazmin Collier (12), Ray C. Henderson (14), Karen R. Saunders (15), Lynnette Callender (18), Imani Kinshasa (18), David L. Fowlkes (19), William L. Seeney (19), Jean Lanier (21), Judy Davidson-Latimer (27), Wanda J. Phillips (27), Hermione G. McLemore (28), and Patricia A. Bottoms (29).



Youth Black History Event Marks 20th Year

by Jeroline D. McCarthy, Gold Lifetime Member

In the wake of a rejection of an African-American history course for Florida students, the Youth Black History Committee ushered in a recent "20th Annual Youth Black History Program," gathering a crowd at AACS.



"Today marks 20 years in the life of Youth Black History, a special event for AACS," said Mistress of Ceremonies Jill Prime. During the "Spotlight on 20 Years," Bryanna Ivey, a program alumna, articulated that the Black experience "is vital in helping this nation grapple with the truth about

institutional racism and its impact on all of us."

Edwina Mezo Brown shared the stage, personified as "Heritage," and offered a perspective of our ancestors' legacy. Young vocalist Jaiyse Williams provided a powerful performance of "A Change Is Gonna Come."

Expressing emotions that our ancestors might have had after being freed in 1865, the skit, "Freedom," cast a Council of Freed Persons – with "Freedom" portrayed by Faith Robinson; "Doubt," played by Joy Prime; "Iggy" and "Faith," role played by Sheldon Hadley; "Hope," Jill Prime; "Fear," Miles Lee; and the "Voice of Reason 1 and 2," Najee Monroe and Maxwell Lee, respectively.

Our ancestors dedicated themselves to building houses, churches, schools, colleges, and acquiring businesses and thriving towns - and contributing to science, technology, math, medicine, music, art, and humanities despite jealousy and the rage of others. Celebrating were Matanzas High School Steppers with a rhythm and blues percussive dance, directed by Khadijah Jones.

Audience members, Janette White Van Dyke and Janice White Voles, recounted being beaten, spat on, and kicked while integrating St. Augustine schools during the Civil Rights Movement. Their brother, Samuel White, was part of "The St. Augustine Four." Another audience member, the **Rev. Lorenzo Laws**, as founder of the Fort Mose Historical Society of St. Augustine, said that the Fort Mose Museum rekindles its site as the first, free African territory in the U.S.

And, for such a time as this, Chair **Jeanette B. Wheeler** was recognized with a keepsake photo of a Youth Black History program from her committee – Richard P. Barnes, Patricia A. Bottoms, Melba J. McCarty, Harriett A. Whiting, and Annette Williams.

Coming Mrs. Wheeler's way as well was a Long-Term Service Award from Board of Directors Chair **Stephanie R. Matthews**, AACS President **Joseph T. Jones**, Jonathan Robinson, a program alumnus, and Jill Prime, representing the current performers.

A former educator, Mrs. Wheeler, 91, weighed in on the first recruited young people -



Jeanette B. Wheeler

in the company of their parents - at Walmart, then at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church and First Church, and at the sororities. Mrs. Wheeler is a driving force for young people learning about their history, and for financial support in awarding over \$100,000 in AACS scholarships for higher education.

She encouraged the young people, saying that her son, Johnnie Wheeler, as a kid, only wanted to play sports. He attended Howard University on a football scholarship, and was inducted into the Hall of Fame, and then went on to get his Ph.D.

"Young people, you are the stars," Mrs. Wheeler continued. "They know we love them. We would not put in all of this time, if we didn't love you, and wanted you to succeed."

Earlier, AACS President Jones had said, with our children knowing our true history, "it actually improves their overall academic achievement. (But) here's the problem," he added, "We know that, the researchers know that, and also your governor."



Receiving a keepsake photo, Jeanette Wheeler (seated) is flanked by her committee and the young people. PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT WHITING

The African Discovery of the Solar New Year

By Robert W. Whiting, AACS Gold Lifetime Member

The African "book" was nature. Nature was observed and tracked over hundreds of thousands of years. Once the secrets of nature were unlocked, medicine, astronomy, mathematics (properties of the right triangle), engineering, architecture and the written word emerged.



Unlocking the secrets of nature enabled Africans on the Nile to create the greatest and longest lasting civilization known to man. Every aspect of their lives was connected and in sync with nature. This ancient civilization laid the foundation for Western Civilization. The Greek philosophers traveled to Kemet (Egypt) for their education starting with Thales, the first Greek philosopher. Pythagoras spent 22 years studying in Africa. In addition, Greek philosophers encouraged their students to travel to Kemet for their studies.

The first solar calendar was developed by Africans approximately 4,240/41 BCE (Before Common Era) and was aligned with the natural flow of the solar year in the Northern Hemisphere. The calendar used in most parts of the world today was developed in Africa, copied, and modified by the Romans.

The Dendera Solar Calendar is the oldest Zodiac in the world. It was originally in the ceiling of a small chapel atop a temple outside the town of Dendera in Kemet. It has been dated to 30 BCE and is now housed in the Louvre in Paris, France. The ancient Kemetic (Egyptian) Dendera Solar Calendar included a year of 365 days.

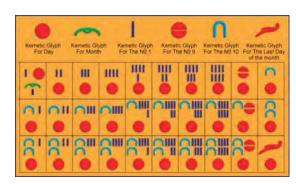
A solar calendar illustrates the season and dates based on the apparent position of the sun. The ancient Kemetic year consisted of three seasons four months long. There were three decans (10-day weeks) each month. Five days of the year were added to the 360-day calendar with celebrations in honor of Kemetic deities. These additional five days completed the 365-day year. The Kemetic solar calendar is the earliest recorded year in history.

The lives of the ancient Kemetians revolved around three seasons: the Khet (the time of the flood); the second season Peret (the time of growth); and the third season Shemu (the time of harvest). Africans observed and recorded the movements of the heavenly bodies and over time began to

understand the Presession of the Equinox, the 25,920-year cycle. The Kemetians named it the "Great Year." The Great Year consisted of twelve Ages. Each Age equals 2,160 years. The Spring Equinox moves in a retrograde motion every 2,160 years to the next month cycling through all twelve months/zodiac signs. Twelve times 2,160 (each Age) equals 25,920 years. The Great Year was discovered by Africans and taught to the Greeks. We are now in the Age of Pisces and moving into the Age of Aquarius.

Another important custom of the Ancient Kemetians was the start of the day in the morning versus other cultures starting the day at the end of the day. The world uses the African model of starting the day in the morning.

One of the reasons that Ancient Africans were able to develop a solar calendar more in sync with the solar year was the location of Kemet on the Nile River which overflowed every year. Once the heliacal rising (the Sun and Sirius rise together) of Sirius occurred on our present-day June 21^{st} , the Nile River would overflow approximately 20 days later. The Africans noticed every four years the heliacal rising occurred a day late. The heliacal rising of Sirius a day late every four years embedded the quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) day. It took 1,460 years to make a complete circle. Africans celebrate the New Year a day early every four years ($\frac{1}{4}60/4 = 365$). Therefore every 1,460 years the civil calendar of 365 days reconciles with the solar year of 365 $\frac{1}{4}$ days.



Africans on the Nile were the first humans in the world to discover the solar year which governs the time of the world today. Africans celebrated the New Year on our June 21st, the longest day of the year, with a thirteen-day festival that ended near July 4th. The world operates on African time.

AACS will celebrate the African New Year on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, with a 6:00 am sunrise service at Jungle Hunt Road Park, Palm Coast, Fla. After the sunrise service, there will be an African New Year Celebration at the AACS Cultural Center and Museum from 10 am until Noon.

Happy African New Year 6263!

The 2023 Annual Pyramid Players Golf Tournament

by Ralph E. Lightfoot, AACS Family Household Member

We thrilled are announce the success of the annual Pyramid Players Golf Tournament held on April 15, 2023, at the Cypress Knoll Golf and Country Club in Palm Coast. There were over fifty-six players who came together for a day of friendly competition and camaraderie.



We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to 4those who participated, volunteered, and donated to making it such a wonderful event. It was inspiring to see so many members of our community come together to support AACS and share their love for the game of golf.

The tournament format was a scramble, with teams of four players competing for the top spot. The winning team is pictured below.



Congratulations to them for their outstanding performance! AACS President Joseph T. Jones handed out the awards to the winning teams and took photos with each team.

In addition to the tournament, several other activities took place throughout the day, including a raffle and a group luncheon. These events helped to further foster a sense of community and support for AACS.

Many thanks to the Cypress Knoll Golf and Country Club for their hospitality and generosity in hosting our tournament. We would also like to thank our sponsors, donors, and volunteers for their support and contributions.

Overall, the tournament was a tremendous success, and we are grateful to everyone who played a part in making it such a memorable event. We look forward to continuing our efforts to promote the game of golf and support our community.











The Pyramid Players Volunteers are left to right, Sybil Lucas, Cheryl Few, Jacqueline Dempsey, Agnes Lightfoot, Blanche Valentine, Stephanie Matthews, standing left to right are Melinda Morais, William Seeney, and Joe Matthew

2023 Directors and Officers



Alton W. Dempsey Sr.
Director



Sybil Dodson-Lucas Director



Kurt R. Bottoms
Director



Daniel D. Isaac Director *Vice Chair*



Stephanie E. Matthews
Director
Chair



Chauncey Dunham Director



Victor R. Krause Director



Jean M. Tanner Director



Joseph L. Matthews
Director



William K. Hopson Chaplain



Joseph T. Jones
President



Meshella E. Woods First Vice President



Berkeley Chandler Sergeant-at-Arms



Melinda J. Morais 2nd VP



Orlando N. Johnson Financial Secretary



Merritt A. Robertson Treasurer



Dr. Reinhold Schlieper Parliamentarian



Gloria D. Singleton Corresponding Secretary



Geraldine R. Wright Recording Secretary

The Women of African American Cultural Society, Inc.

by Meshella E. Woods, AACS Subscribing Silver Lifetime Member

In celebration of Women's History and International Black Women's History, March – April 2023, AACS salutes Women leaders of the organization over the 32 years of its existence.





Jeanette Smith was one of the co-founders of AACS and the only woman in that role. She served as secretary of the Executive Committee and in many other roles throughout the founding history of the organization.

Jacqueline Browne was the first women to serve as chairperson of the Board of Directors 1995 - 1998. She contributed toward organizing the structure of AACS not long after it was initially formed in 1991, she was instrumental in developing the prospectus



which aided in moving AACS toward land ownership and funding the current facility.



Evelyn Corbin was also one of the early Board of Directors chairpersons and a member of the Design and Planning Committee for building the AACS Cultural Center and Museum, which was completed in 2001. Her family donated many of the artifacts that

remain a part of the AACS curatorial collection today.

Elva S. Lee is an AACS Original
Lifetime Member. Along with
Jenny Lea, James Hinson and
Professor Banks of Bethune
Cookman, Elva created the
original AACS Bylaws. When
the charter and Bylaws were
provided to the IRS for approval
of non-profit 501(c)(3) status,
they were accepted on first submittal.



Vikki Taylor served as President and is an AACS Silver Lifetime Member. She was a member of the Cultural Committee and served the community in numerous leadership positions.





Vivian Richardson is the first woman to serve in multiple leadership roles: President 2007-2008; Board of Directors Chair 2012-2015. Vivian continues to be active in AACS and in the Palm Coast community. She currently is president of the Afro-American

Caribbean Heritage Organization (AACHO).

Stephanie M. Ecklin is the youngest person to have been elected to an AACS leadership role. Stephanie served as President during 2014 - 2015. Her focus as President was involving young people. She understood the importance of leaving a legacy.





Stephanie R. Matthews has been an AACS member since 1992, and the longest tenured woman serving in a leadership role. She is an AACS Gold Lifetime Member and has served as Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, 2nd Vice President, as well as chairing the

following committees: 25th Anniversary, 30th Anniversary, Awards, Mortgage Elimination, Budget & Finance, and Holiday Gift Giving. Stephanie is currently Board of Directors Chair, having previously served as Board Secretary, and as Director of Grants Management.

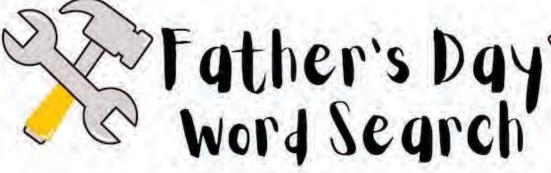
AACS greatly appreciates the leadership provided by these wonderful women!

Mother's Day Word Search

May	14.	2023
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MOTHERHOOD	E	A	G	R	A	N	D	M	A	D	A	Y	A	T	E	
MATERNITY	R	L	M	E	U	В	0	E	T	Ι	S	0	U	P	E	
FAMILY	R	E	G	G	L	C	В	I	T	0	Ι	R	G	A	M	
MEMORIES	В	A	В	Y	В	E	Ε	N	0	Т	R	E	Н	R	A	
LOVE	Y	A	D	Ι	R	D	0	0	Н	R	E	Н	T	0	M	
DAUGHTER	U	Y	М	E	М	0	R	I	E	S	N	P	F	D	A	
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BABY	С	H	A	F	A	M	Ι	L	Y	0	G	Ε	R	E	Ε	
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AACS, P.O. Box 350607, Palm Coast, FL 32135-0607, (386) 447-7030





JUNE 18, 2023

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GRANDPA	U	I	P	E	C	R	M	P	I	0	Ι	L	F	C	D	
PARENT	Y	T	N	S	R	E	T	L	M	D	E	T	R	E	D	
LOVE	S	T	R	0	N	G	P	A	T	G	S	E	D	X	Y	
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AACS, P.O. Box 350607, Palm Coast, FL 32135-0607, (386) 447-7030

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The Scribe May/June 2023

NON-PROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT NO. 30 Flagler Beach, FL



Saturday, June 17, 2023 **Noon – 5 p.m.**

<<LastNameHouse>> <<Address>> <<FirstOfLabelCityZIP>>

African American Cultural Society, Inc.

Cultural Center and Museum 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

32 Years of Leadership The Women of African American Cultural Society, Inc.







Evelyn Corbin, Director











Artist: Lary Lee Tinsley | Tinslee Fine Art