

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.

Congratulations to our new directors, officers, and committee chairs!



Discounted dues rates now available for new members!

From President Joe Jones ...

~~~~~

My first message of the New Year should be one not only of reflection, but one of renewed commitment, and boundless optimism about the future of the African American Cultural Society and our people.



During my work life, optimism was a basic requirement for someone who worked as a sales and marketing professional, but it was careful reflection, a study of the historical data and a commitment to action that fostered success. Therefore, let's start the New Year by reflecting on and looking at some hard truths.

Last year we witnessed a continuation of the attacks on initiatives that were put in place to narrow the inequity gap between white and Black Americans created by four hundred plus years of enslavement and racial discrimination. Even during our current era of so-called equal opportunity, inequities still exist in every observed quality-of-life metric. Among the areas where these gaps persist are employment, education, housing, entrepreneurship and business ownership, criminal justice, income, and wealth.

Of all these categories, the greatest gap between white and Black America is in wealth accumulation. With the history of discrimination endured by our people, how could any other result be possible, as all the other listed categories had such a dramatic impact on wealth accumulation.

According to The Rand Corporation, white Americans make 73 percent more in annual income, are nearly two times more likely to own their homes, hold 10 times more wealth and are 28 times more likely to become millionaires than Black people. Yet with all those inequities, there are unprecedented attacks on voting rights, Black History and Culture, corporate diversity and inclusion, and affirmative action policies in corporate hiring and higher education.

The history of America has always been one of a negative reaction to any modicum of success or

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## Marjorie Gaines in the Spotlight

AACS Adult Member

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I was born in Pennington, Alabama, a small town in Choctaw County in October 1941.

My mother, Johnnie Mae McNeely, passed away at the age of nineteen. My grandparents Rosie and Wallace McNeely owned their home and raised me with strict rules: secure an education and a career.



My grandfather was a commercial fishman and on his property there were pigs, cows, chickens, and goats. My grandmother was a seamstress who designed and sewed dresses using an old pedal Singer sewing machine. Grandmother Rosie was a great cook who also made beautiful cabinets and canned vegetables.

I married Eddie Lewis Gaines at the age of fifteen and we were blessed with six children, three boys and three girls. In 1959 at the age of seventeen I graduated from Indian Springs High.

I left Alabama in 1963 for New York City. My first job was as a school crossing guard; the second, with the United States Post Office; and the third, with the New York City Department of Corrections.

I was assigned to the Women's House of Detention at Rikers Island for eight years. I then transferred to other facilities, including the Queens Courthouse. In 1989 I was promoted to Captain at the Brooklyn Correction facility. I retired in 1991 from the Department of Corrections after twenty years of service. During that time of employment, I was able to purchase a home in Queens, bought a new car, and began to travel to the Caribbean Islands.

In 1992 I enrolled at Queensborough Community College for Nursing and later received my B.S.N. degree from York College. You can find my name on page 149 of the 1999 edition of *Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges* for outstanding GPA students.

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advancement by its Black citizens, but these current assaults are different. We are now seeing changes in voting laws in a multitude of states that will disproportionately affect the Black vote. Our own Florida governor has boasted about outlawing Black History and openly declared that we don't want diversity and inclusion in the state's schools and businesses. While Black History is being removed from schools, courses extolling the virtues of "white American history" are being taught in Florida and other school districts by Prager University causing the company to grow at a tremendous rate (look them up). Not in our recent history have we heard government officials make a statement like former Trump policy advisor Steve Bannon made to a white nationalist group when he said "let them call you racist, wear it as a badge of honor." Even while reflecting on these hard truths, I'm optimistic.

Any student of Black history could tell you that we have experienced all of this in the past. As a matter of fact we have seen these periods several times. If we examine our history back to the first Reconstruction, we will see that any perceived period of advancement by African Americans in this country was swiftly met with attempts to halt that advancement because of what author Wesley Lowery termed *American Whitelash*.

We have withstood every cultural, political, and economic onslaught in the past and each time we emerged as a stronger people. This period will be no different. I'm encouraged that churches, civic and cultural organizations, as well as right minded individuals, have stepped up to combat these assaults on our freedom and culture. As your AACS President, I am privileged to see firsthand the tremendous sacrifices and contributions made by our membership to preserve the freedom and culture some would fight so hard to destroy.

Last year AACS took another giant step that not only signaled our commitment to our mission today, but also is a sign of our commitment to our mission in perpetuity. In 2023 we created our Permanent Endowment Fund. The fund was established using a generous contribution from the estate of Walter Boone and his family. While Walter's estate did not specify the donation for AACS' endowment fund, we believe that because of his thoughtfulness, he would be pleased with its use for that purpose. I'm sure that with your generous contributions, the Endowment Fund earnings will grow to the point where they will pay for the entire operation of the AACS Cultural Center and Museum.

In my humble opinion, the Permanent Endowment Fund will eventually rank second only to the building of the Cultural Center in historical significance. That's enough to fill me with "boundless optimism!" Let's get to work!

I have always kept in mind what Grandma said: the Lord will make a way, work, get a job and career. So that is what I did.

My story has not been an easy one. I have lost two sons, the first in 2012 and the other in 2023. But, my eldest daughter graduated from Cornell University, and two of my children have retired from the New York City Department of Corrections.

I have been able to travel to many places: Cuba, Canada, Italy, Paris, London, Thailand, Turkey, Greece, Africa, Dubai, Hawaii, and Panama.

I relocated to Palm Coast in September 2005. I joined AACS and have continued to travel with the Society. I have met so many AACS members from New York and various places, they are simply "The Best". Thanks to my grandparents' strict rules I made it though. God has been good to me.

Edited by Beverly D. Christopher, AACS Adult Member



In Memoriam

Elder Sims Jones

Family Household Member

November 2023

Wisteria E. Polite

Adult Member

November 2023

Seconia Reid

Silver Lifetime Member

December 2023

Ezekiel Walters

Adult Member

December 2023

The Scribe

The Scribe newsletter is published bi-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.

Current members of **The Scribe** Newsletter Committee are Lynda H. Baten, Beverly D. Christopher, Mamie R. Godfrey, Leila B. Jordan, Victor R. Krause, Michele A. Knox, and Sheila C. Platt. Ms. Knox and Mr. Krause were the primary staffers for the composition and editing of this edition.

African American Cultural Center & Museum
4422 North US Highway 1, Palm Coast, Fla.
386-447-7030

AACS Film Presentations Classic Black Cinema

42

Friday, January 12 at 4 p.m.

2013 biography/drama PG-13 128 min.



In 1946, Branch Rickey (Harrison Ford), legendary manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers, defies major league baseball's notorious color barrier by signing Jackie Robinson (Chadwick Boseman) to the team. The heroic act puts both Rickey and Robinson in the firing line of the public, the press, and other players. Facing open racism

from all sides, Robinson demonstrates true courage and admirable restraint by not reacting in kind and lets his undeniable talent silence the critics for him.

The Piano Lesson

Friday, February 9 at 4 p.m.

1995 TV drama/music PG 95 min.



Boy Willie (Charles Dutton), a sharecropper, travels to Pittsburgh in the 1930s hoping that his sister, Berniece Charles (Alfre Woodard), will let him have the piano that their enslaved uncle engraved in pre-Civil War Mississippi. Willie hopes to parlay proceeds from selling the instrument into ownership of the land his uncle

once worked. But when Berniece has other ideas, it becomes clear that the piano represents very different things to the siblings.



Friday, January 26 at 5 p.m.

Dominoes, Spades, Bid Whist, Pinochle, Monopoly, and more!

SNACKS ARE ON SALE



~~~~~ Congratulations to the recent winners!

The winners in October 2023 were **June N. Bethel**, **Dennis Gales**, **Ellen M. Parker**, and **Sheila C. Platt**.

The winners in November 2023 were **Rhenda R. Brodnax**, **Marie Winston McCray**, **James Scott**, and **Henry L. Smith**.

The winners in December 2023 were **Beverly D. Christopher**, **Sondra L. Henderson**, **Herman L. Price, M.D.** (Monthly and Quarterly Prizes), **Barbara Solomon**, and **Edna Krause Thorman**.

If you are interested in joining the Club, you can join the new cycle at any time. Each owner of a number can win multiple times. You do not need to be present at the monthly drawings to win.

In the Next Three Months \$2,550 In Remaining Prizes Will Be Won In Fifteen Drawings!

Call **Berkeley Chandler**, 200 Club Committee Chair, at (386) 793-4958, to select one or more of these remaining numbers in the current cycle: 014, 028, 034, 036, 039, 040, 043, 046, 053, 056, 057, 058, 061, 068, 080, 083, 090, 096, 097, 118, 140, 145, 146, 152, 153, 154, 155, 170, 175, 182, and 185.

Then pay \$104.00 for each number with a check made payable to "AACS - 200 Club." 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 200 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 this cycle!

AACS 2023 Election Results

By **Victor R. Krause**, AACS Gold Lifetime Member and Director

Election of Directors

There were three nominees on the ballot and nine write-in candidates for election to the Board of Directors. No write-in candidate received more than 3% of the vote.

The balloting results are **Lynda H. Baten**, 89%; **Angela Johnson**, 78%; and **Vanessa James Foxe**, 80%. Each nominee has been elected to the Board of Directors for a three-year term ending December 31, 2026.

Election of Officers

There were three nominees on the ballot and nine write-in candidates for election to the Executive Board of Officers. No write-in candidate received more than 3% of the vote.

The balloting results are **Richard P. Barnes**, 93%, elected First Vice-President; and **Barbara A. Green**, 92%, elected Corresponding Secretary, and **Merritt A. Robertson**, 93%, elected Treasurer. Each new officer has been elected for a term ending December 31, 2026. The President will fill the position of Recording Secretary by appointment for one year.

Thank You for Your Service

Your devotion to AACS by serving in a leadership position is deeply appreciated.



Kurt R. Bottoms
Director
2021 - 2023



Daniel Isaac
Director
2018 - 2023



Gloria Singleton
Cor. Sec.
2018 - 2023



Jean M. Tanner
Director
2018 - 2023



Meshella E. Woods
1st Vice-President
2023



Geraldine Wright
Rec. Sec.
2018 - 2023

2024 Directors and Officers



Lynda H. Baten
Director



Alton W. Dempsey
Director



Chauncey Dunham
Director



Vaness James Foxe
Director



Angela Johnson
Director



Victor R. Krause
Director



Sybil Dodson-Lucas
Director



Joseph L. Matthews
Director



Stephanie E. Matthews
Director



Richard P. Barnes
1st VP



Berkeley O. Chandler Jr.
Sergeant-at-Arms



Barbara A. Green
Corresponding Secretary



William K. Hopson
Chaplain



Joseph T. Jones
President



Orlando Johnson
Financial Secretary



Melinda J. Morais
2nd VP



Merritt A. Robertson
Treasurer



Reinhold Schlieper
Parliamentarian

TBD
Recording Secretary

Maintenance Reserve Fund Projects

By **Joseph T. Jones**,
AACS Subscribing Silver Lifetime Member & President

Generous donations by members and friends support the Maintenance Reserve Fund to finance major facility maintenance projects.

During 2023, a long list of completed projects have nearly depleted the Fund. Many thanks to Gold Lifetime Members James and Jeanette Wheeler for their recent generous donation of \$5,000, as we begin to concentrate on long overdue repairs needed in the Cultural Center's kitchen facility.



On-site Storage Shed: A large 12-foot by 32-foot shed was recently placed behind the building. Skirting at the bottom of the shed has been installed and the entire unit has been painted the same color as the Cultural Center building. Landscaping required by the City of Palm Coast should be completed during January. Once the landscaping is done, the installation of cement walkways, steps, and a loading ramp will complete the installation.

AACS 1st Vice-President Richard Barnes and Sergeant-at-Arms Berkeley Chandler will oversee the inventory, transfer, and proper storage of items in the new on-site shed from the Cultural Center building and from our present offsite rental storage unit.



Every AACS member is invited to share and celebrate their life story, milestones, or major life events in the newsletter, usually in the column titled "In the Spotlight." Please contact me at 386-313-5611 to be included in a future edition. Thanks in advance!



Beverly D. Christopher
AACS Adult Member

In the AACS elections this past November, no candidate received sufficient votes for election to fill the position of Recording Secretary from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2026. However, write-in votes for this Officer position were received by members Loretta Bryant, Hazel Edwards, Linda Epps, Eileen Hopson, and Geraldine Wright.



Per the AACS By-Laws, I am asking for these and other members to step up and be considered for appointment to fill this key Executive Board position during 2024. Until a replacement is elected in November, my appointee would be responsible for the minutes of each monthly Executive Board meeting and of each monthly General Membership meeting. Please immediately contact me at 215-605-6128 if you wish to temporarily serve your organization as Recording Secretary.

Joseph T. Jones
AACS President

The Scribe welcomes letters and articles from AACS members. Material intended for publication may be emailed to aacspalmcoastpa@aol.com. Please include your full name and telephone number. All letters and articles for *The Scribe* are subject to editing, unpublished letters and articles cannot be acknowledged, and responses to published letters may be unobtainable.



21st Annual Youth Black History Program

An annual free public celebration!



Sunday, February 18, 2024

4:00 p.m.

AACS Cultural Center & Museum
4422 US Highway 1 North, Palm Coast, FL

***BACKWARD NEVER...
FORWARD ALWAYS!!!***



Come see and encourage community young people!

*The African American Cultural Society, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
Its mission is to preserve and perpetuate the cultural heritage of the African Diaspora through social, educational,
artistic, and intellectual activities, and services deemed to be in the best interest of the entire community.*

**Please call Patricia Bottoms, Youth Black History Committee, at 917-669-5535.
email: pkbottoms@aol.com for donation and scholarship award information.
Scholarship donations also accepted online at www.aacspalmcoast.org**

Rob's Recollection...

By **Robert W. Whiting**, AACCS Gold Lifetime Member

The AACCS celebration of the African discovery of the Solar New Year commemorates, celebrates, and honors our ancestors for one of the greatest achievements in the world – the discovery of the Solar Year. History solidifies and connects us with our ancestors' achievements and accomplishments. History is our bridge to the past and a guide for the future. The great Marcus Garvey stated: "A people without knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots."

The African New Year Sunrise Celebration was awesome in 2023. It had rained most of the previous night and continued to rain in parts of Palm Coast during the morning. Several people told us they would attend but it was raining where they lived. We were blessed with no rain on the beach, a beautiful sunrise, and a wonderful turnout which included Mayor David Alfin. There was an amazing inspirational prayer by Michele Knox and very spiritual libations to honor our ancestors by Nil-Sowa-La.



During the hour we spent at Jungle Hut Beach, there was thunder and lightning in various parts of Palm Coast, but not over the beach. After we packed our vehicles to leave, one of the most beautiful rainbows appeared that I've ever seen. We saw an aspect of nature for the first time, a double rainbow.

I've experienced three days in my life where I felt the presence of divinity; the pure bright white light and blissfulness during a deep meditation, looking into the eyes of man in Botswana Africa and seeing a reddish color funnel that connected me to my ancient ancestors and celebration of the AACCS African New Year. Those were all truly blessed days and experiences.

Happy 6263! **Mark your calendars for the African New Year 6264 Celebration on Friday, June 21, 2024.**

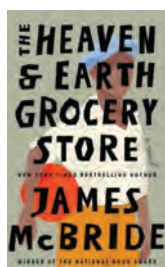


Books I've Enjoyed!

By **Sheila C. Platt**, AACCS Gold Lifetime Member

When I was eight years old, friends of my parents gave me two books for Christmas that have influenced the trajectory of my life. It wasn't so much the books (*Little Women* and *Anne of Green Gables*), but the idea that reading could be taken outside the classroom and bring hours of pleasure at home.

I joined the public library and this lifelong love of mine began. I hope to share that love in this, and future columns.



For this inaugural column, I've selected James McBride's *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store*. I had read *Deacon King Kong*, an Oprah Book Club selection from 2020, and was amazed at his remarkable depiction of characters, from neighborhood drug dealers to respected church elders. He gave each of them motivation, warmth,

and dignity.

In his latest New York Times bestseller, McBride does the same. The story opens very *Law and Order*-like, with a skeleton found at the bottom of a well in Pottstown, PA, 1972. The State Police question the current occupant of the land, an old Jewish man, and get nowhere. They promise to return soon. The next day Hurricane Agnes hits Pottstown, (a factual event) and floods that area of the state, sending the body floating into the Schuylkill, down into the Chesapeake Bay, and out into the Atlantic Ocean...never to be further investigated.

After that very brief opening, the story flashes back 47 years to the Chicken Hill section of Pottstown, an area whose demographics include Jews, Blacks, and immigrants. McBride brings these populations to life through the eyes of a Jewish theater owner, Moshe, who marries Chona, the owner of a grocery store she inherits from her father – hence, the title. At the urging of one of her husband's Black employees, Chona accepts the responsibility of hiding a deaf Black boy from state authorities who seek to institutionalize him.

The plot moves slowly as McBride spends more time focusing on characters than action. We almost forget those first few pages and the discovery of the body in 1972. But, of course, we do learn the identity, and surrounding plot events, as all loose ends are tied together for a very satisfying conclusion.

As of this writing, *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* has spent 13 weeks on the *New York Times'* Bestseller's List and has been named by Amazon as its Best Book of the Year. Honors richly deserved!





**COME
& ENJOY
the AACCS**



Jazz Brunch

Saturday, March 9, 2024

Doors Open: 10:45 a.m.

Brunch: 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Menu

Shrimp & Grits
Fried Flounder
Chicken & Waffles
Egg Casserole
Fried Apples
Salad

===

Banana Pudding
Orange Juice, Cranberry Juice
Tea, Coffee, Water

Live Music: until 2:15 p.m.

Raffle Drawing: 2:20 p.m.

At the

African American Cultural Center & Museum

North US Highway 1, Near Whiteview Parkway
Palm Coast, Florida • Tel: 386-447-70304422

TICKETS



No Refunds

***Contact Omni Committee Members
to purchase tickets***

Lynda Baten 586-7672 ~ Kurt Bottoms 597-5786
Alton Dempsey Sr. 446-4030 ~ Hazel Edwards 586-4177
Joe Matthews 627-1174 ~ Jean Tanner 445-8403
Janice Williams 446-3055 ~ Geraldine Wright 916-718-9090
or AACCS Office 447-7030

***Purchase Tickets Online at AACSPalmCoast.org
(additional fee for online purchase)***



Permanent Endowment Fund

Building Our Future

By **Orlando N. Johnson**, AACS Family Household Member & Financial Secretary

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Happy New Year! Since its establishment in March 2023 the Permanent Endowment Fund (PEF) has grown to \$39,180, including recent gifts of \$6,000 from Prosperity Seekers Investment Club of Palm Coast, an additional \$2,200 from the estate of Original Gold Lifetime Members Walter and Jean Boone, and \$250 from Silver Lifetime Member **Marie Winston McCray**.



At AACS' November General Membership Meeting, **Dr. Irving Robinson**, President of the Prosperity Seekers Investment Club of Palm Coast (PSIC) presented a check in the amount of \$6,000 on behalf of fellow club members Charlotte Prince, **Barbara Greene**, **Angela Johnson**, **Orlando Johnson**, and **Christine Robinson**. Dr. Robinson shared that from its inception in 2002, the PSIC has made philanthropy a key component of its legacy. Dr. Robinson also spoke of supporting the trajectory and legacy of African American organizations such as AACS.



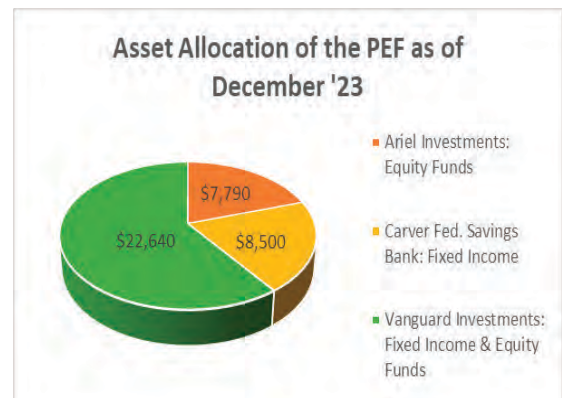
Orlando Johnson, Dr. Irving Robinson, and Joesph Jones.

I recently had a conversation with Gold Lifetime Member **Rob Whiting** about his long-term vision for the AACS and his thoughts about the establishment of the Permanent Endowment Fund. Through the Harriett and Robert Whiting Giving Fund, \$10,000 was donated in 2023 to the PEF in memory of Orion and Anna Jackson Whiting, and James and Almetto Alexander.

Rob said "Upon relocating to Palm Coast, AACS was practically our first home when we moved here. From day one, I became a member of the Education Committee. My wife, **Harriett**, who is also a Gold Lifetime Member has been involved in the Youth Black History Program and the Membership Program. My vision is for the organization to be self-sustaining. By that I mean an endowment fund earning money to cover AACS' day-to-day operations. I believe the accomplishment of a large permanent endowment fund is paramount for AACS to maintain its longevity, a place for our children and grandchildren."

"The AACS has been the foundation for Harriett and I to obtain enjoyment, develop friendships, and satisfy cultural enrichment. AACS is the main reason we moved to Palm Coast! Furthermore, the AACS is the social, cultural, and educational enrichment hub for Palm Coast and surrounding communities."

Since the PEF inception, AACS has invested approximately 40% of donations in two of the nation's leading African American financial institutions: Ariel Investments and Carver Federal Savings Bank.



The AACS Budget and Finance Committee hopes to quickly grow the PEF to at least \$1,000,000 over several years to accomplish the primary goal of supplying most funds for AACS day-to-day operations. Our primary emphasis is to continue to invest a considerable sum of the endowment dollars via the institutions that represent AACS goals and values.

I and other members of the PEF Fundraising Campaign Committee, comprised of **Angela Johnson**, **Victor Krause**, **Sybil Lucas**, **Rob Whiting**, and **Meshella Woods** are diligently working to officially launch the campaign in March 2024. Details of the launching will be forthcoming as the new year unfolds. *We're Building for Our Future!*

## Strengthening Bonds, Enriching Lives

By **Ralph E. Lightfoot**, AACS Family Household Member

AACS stands at the forefront of community engagement, reaching out to the diverse populace of Palm Coast, Florida, and beyond. Committed to fostering a sense of belonging and shared cultural heritage, the mission and purpose of this dynamic organization 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 best interests of the entire community.



**The AACS Membership Committee:** This key committee has the goal of increasing enrollment by welcoming all members of the community who share the AACS vision, both locally and beyond. Its responsibilities encompass the development and distribution of membership literature, the maintenance of a recruitment presence at cultural events, and the management of membership data for communication and voting purposes.

The AACS Membership Committee boasts a roster of dedicated individuals. Their collective expertise and unwavering commitment to the AACS mission drive the committee's success. **Mamie Godfrey** is the newly installed Committee Chair, **Jean Tanner** is Chair Emeritus, and **Brenda Russell** is Committee Secretary.

**Committee Activities:** The committee's initiatives are as varied as the community served by AACS. Activities include discount membership dues programs for new and existing members, phone

campaigns, email outreach, and membership appreciation events. These efforts create a warm and inviting atmosphere for both new and existing members.

**Community Impact and Ambitions:** AACS currently boasts a record of almost 400 members in a community of approximately 14,000 African Americans in Palm Coast and surrounding areas. The Membership Committee aspires to continue growing this number in coming years. Importantly, membership is open to all, regardless of residency, reflecting AACS' commitment to inclusivity.

**Future Goals:** The committee's vision for the future is ambitious yet attainable, to regularly increase membership over the next few years. A key strategy involves engaging younger generations to ensure they connect with and embrace their cultural heritage.

**Community Partnerships:** Beyond its individual efforts, AACS collaborates with esteemed organizations such as the Flagler NAACP, SURJ (Standing Up for Racial Justice), the Carver Foundation, and the Lincolnville Museum in St. Augustine, further strengthening their impact on the community.

In conclusion, the AACS Membership Committee's unwavering dedication to inclusivity and community engagement has positioned it at the cornerstone of the African American Cultural Society's mission. With their sights set on the future, AACS is poised to continue making a difference in the lives of the people they serve.

Originally published November 2023 in  
Minority Voices Newsletter



Edith "Dee"  
Cunningham



Donna  
Easterling



Leona  
Fowlkes



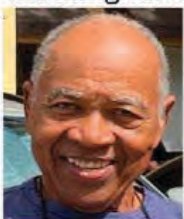
Mamie  
Godfrey



Victor  
Krause



Brenda  
Russell



Walter  
Seaton



Jean Tanner



Jeanette  
Wheeler



Harriett  
Whiting



Janice  
Williams



## Thirty Years of Holiday Gift Giving!

By **Sharon M. Waring**, AACS Adult Member and Holiday Gift Giving Committee Chair

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On December 8, 2023, the Cultural Center's hall came alive with the sounds of children laughing as they entered. They were there to attend AACS' 30th Annual Holiday Gift Giving event. As they entered the lobby they were given a neon bracelet to start off their surprises.

I provided the guests with a welcome and introduction; Dorothy Nixon gave the benediction. The children were then treated to a McDonald's Happy Meal. A craft project was given to each child to create their own masterpiece. There was also a face painter available for anyone who wanted the decoration.

The lights went out and "Here Comes Santa Claus" started playing. Santa and Mrs. Claus came out with Santa bellowing "Ho Ho Ho Merry Christmas". The children were so excited that they ran up to them and some even hugged Santa's leg. Oh, they were so excited and moved!

As Ms. Lillian, Director of RCMA Child Development Center, called each child's name, they ran up to Santa for their long-awaited gift. All the parents were so glad that they were able to take pictures of their child with Santa and Mrs. Claus. There were also some local community children in attendance. As the event ended, all the happy faces left with a gift and goodie bag filled with treats!

Many thanks to everyone who supported this year's program. You made it possible for these children to attend a Christmas Party. Some of the parents as well as Ms. Lillian offered thanks to AACS for such a wonderful event. Even the face painter told me she would most certainly do this again next year as she so enjoyed the children and the festivities. These gracious "Thank You" statements are a testament to the good that is created by the generous donations of AACS members and friends!



AACS Family Household Members Claude N. Larece and Michele A. Knox with some guests

2024 New Year's Day Luncheon

By **Sheila C. Platt**, AACS Gold Lifetime Member

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Happy New Year! AACS began 2024 with its Annual New Year's Day luncheon. As the photographs indicate, those in attendance enjoyed a fun afternoon. Board Chair Stephanie Matthews assumed the chair of the event in December when she realized no plans had been made to celebrate the New Year.



Remarkably, Stephanie put together a committee of Lynda Baten, Sybil Dodson-Lucas, Joe Matthews, Luella Peniston-Cochran, Gloria Teel, Blanche Valentine, and Jeanette Wheeler. This group achieved the almost impossible task of organizing a major event in a very short time.



The Cultural Center hall was beautifully decorated in festive white and red. The luncheon meal provided by Coozies Catering included traditional New Year's Day fare: black eyed peas and rice, baked chicken, sliced roast beef, pig feet, collard greens, candied yams, tossed salad, cornbread, and dinner rolls with peach cobbler for dessert. The meal was enjoyed by everyone.

There was much laughter, many door prizes, and even some dancing. AACS knows how to bring in the New Year!



Photos courtesy of Richard Barnes



## Happy January Birthday !

M D C E A A R B  
O O V H I I D R O C C J  
L A D A A L E X N D Y S B N L U  
D Z O T E R E T B W E L A J E O E D U O  
C M O H H L E H H W R I E Z W A L N S J O  
O Q Z M X E N E O B M E D J Y A M R D G L  
E C E E R S O L Q G T C G O J R L E I R K  
H O N H O J M D A P P T A I N O N T S H A  
G V J A M E S Q O L Z S F R N N Z E E B S  
I A T T E R O L R S S J Y O A A C H R  
D R K E V I N A E A S D C E L L M F O  
E F G G K B N Y E L I R F I S D M  
C D S O L A C M A R I F F Z X V A  
B I E V A A N E C C T U P R L  
M T Y J O L G O O T O U L  
L H D O A W N C M S A  
A C N O R A H S N  
E D Y L C E U  
J U X L I  
I L A  
X

### January Birthday AACS Members

Numbers are day of the month

### WORD LIST:

|                              |                       |                             |                               |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| MILDRA B. Jackson (01)       | MELBA J. McCarty (09) | DONALD Jones ( 18)          | COL ERIC D. Garvin (ret) (27) |
| CAROL W. Jones (01)          | WALTER Sarden ( 09)   | BRENDAM. Andrews (20)       | REGINALD T. Bynum (28)        |
| JAMESE. Snow (01)            | SHARON M. Waring (12) | DONNA M Gray-Banks (21)     | ETHEL Pinto (28)              |
| CHARLES G. Williams Jr. (04) | VANESSA J. Foxe (15)  | EDITH "Dee" Cunningham (24) | JAMES L. Gibbs ( 29)          |
| SHIRLEY R. Jacob (05)        | JOHN W. Jordan (15)   | DR KEVIN James Sr. (24)     | LORETTA Bryant ( 31)          |
| JAMES Hinson (06)            | CLIFTON Shirley (15)  | ALLAN Gordon (26)           | SONDRA L. Henderson (31)      |
| EILEEN D. Hopson (06)        | ERIC Hambleton (16)   | HENRY Johnson (26)          | CLYDE Jones ( 31)             |
| REECE T. Williams (08)       | THEODORA Smith ( 17)  | RUSSELL A. Flowers (27)     |                               |

AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL SOCIETY, INC.

P.O. Box 350607, Palm Coast, FL. 32135-0607

\* Tel. 386.447.7030\*

## Happy February Birthday !

X F F L M N K D  
F L Y F W C G Z D G U S  
Y K I S W J E G A V R V S D V J  
Y E M H C E O E L W Q J V S D T H D W J  
N L L I S I S X O T I D A E X M X N Y W W  
T E B H U R E C R J F L N A O J A X B A I  
E K E Z C A P U I H E V X D U R X C R N W  
H R Q L P M H B A R L W R D U D R A Q B J  
M E A K I R W Z I F Y Y J J Q V B O R A C  
B V K Z Z E E K N V S V D M R B E C T  
G M S U U A F X E J E R A A Y N Q O U  
D M Z R B B T R R R I B W D U D W  
Q Y B Q T T E L J L U Y A A H K J  
U L Y E R D T L E L S L S A O  
Y R B Q V I H X W I H I B  
V E T W A P O N U H B  
B V D W V E M T E  
I E W F Q N R  
O B J Y N  
B C E  
I

February Birthday AACCS Members  
Numbers are day of the month

### WORD LIST:

|                             |                               |                            |                                |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| CYNTHIA Dodzik (03)         | BRENDA S. Davenport (08)      | JOAN H. Dabney (17)        | BERKELEY O. Chandler Jr.(21)   |
| MARIE W McCray (04)         | ELIZABETH Isabell (08)        | JOSEPH L. Matthews(17)     | GLORIA D. McGhee (23)          |
| JACQUALINE L. Whyte (05)    | WILLIAM L. Davenport Jr. (13) | BEVERLY D Christopher (19) | BARBARA Frazier (25)           |
| DR YVETTE Edghill Spano(07) | REV JURAN DJ MooreSr.(13)     | KURT R Bottoms (21)        | DR VALERIE Andrews-Herndon(27) |



## African American Cultural Center and Museum Building

4422 US Highway 1 North, Palm Coast, Fla.

### ***You Are Invited - Save the Dates!***

See *The Scribe* bi-monthly newsletter for updated event schedules.

**Monday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 - 1 a.m.**

**New Year's Day Luncheon**

**Tuesday, Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> - 11 a.m.**

**African Study Group Meeting FREE**

**Saturday, Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> - 11 a.m.**

**General Membership Meeting**  
FREE refreshments 10:30 a.m.

**Sunday, Feb. 18 - 4 p.m.**

**Youth Black History Program**  
donations accepted for scholarships

**Tuesday, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> - 11 a.m.**

**African Study Group Meeting FREE**

**Saturday, Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> - 11 a.m.**

**General Membership Meeting**  
FREE refreshments 10:30 a.m.

**Saturday, Mar. 9<sup>th</sup> - 11 a.m.**

**Jazz Brunch**

**Tuesday, Mar. 19<sup>th</sup> - 11 a.m.**

**African Study Group Meeting FREE**

**Saturday, Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup> - 11 a.m.**

**General Membership Meeting**  
FREE refreshments 10:30 a.m.

**Tuesday, Apr. 16<sup>th</sup> - 11 a.m.**

**African Study Group Meeting FREE**

**Saturday, Apr. 27<sup>th</sup> - 11 a.m.**

**General Membership Meeting**  
FREE refreshments 10:30 a.m.

**Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> - 11 a.m.**

**African Study Group Meeting FREE**

**Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> - 11 a.m.**

**General Membership Meeting**  
FREE refreshments 10:30 a.m.

**Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup> - Noon**

**Juneteenth Celebration FREE**

**Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> - 11 a.m.**

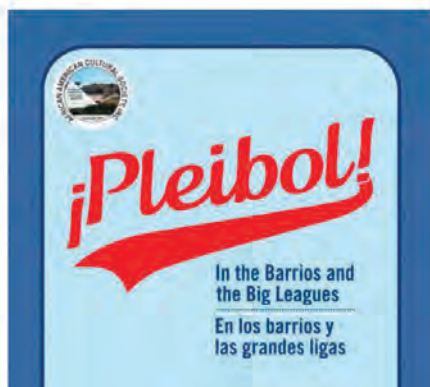
**African Study Group Meeting FREE**

**Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup>**

**African New Year Celebration**

**Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> - 11 a.m.**

**General Membership Meeting**  
FREE refreshments 10:30 a.m.



AACS is host to the Smithsonian traveling exhibition ¡Pleibol! November 26, 2023 - February 25, 2024 in it's Cultural Center and Museum Founders Gallery. The exhibit will be on display and Fridays 10 - 2 and Sunday 12:30 - 2. Evenings and Weekends by appt.

For nearly a century, baseball has been a crucial social and cultural force in Latino communities across the United States. And, for just as long, LatinX players have had a huge impact on the game. ¡Pleibol! examines how generations of Latinos/as have helped make the game what it is today. From youth and community teams to the Major League, the exhibition reveals how baseball brings people together regardless of race, class, or gender.

### **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL CAMPAIGN BEGINS JUNE 1, 2024**

| <i>Renewal Period</i>     | <i>Young Adult</i> | <i>Adult</i>    | <i>Family</i>   |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>One Fiscal Year</b>    | <b>\$50.00</b>     | <b>\$100.00</b> | <b>\$150.00</b> |
| <b>Two Fiscal Years</b>   | <b>\$80.00</b>     | <b>\$160.00</b> | <b>\$240.00</b> |
| <b>Three Fiscal Years</b> | <b>\$105.00</b>    | <b>\$210.00</b> | <b>\$315.00</b> |

Please pay online with a bank card at the AACS website or mail your dues check to the address shown below.

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

**Telephone:** (386) 447-7030 **Email:** cca@aacsinc.org **Website:** AACSPalmCoast.org **Facebook:** AACSPalmCoast





**The North East Florida Jazz Association**

presents **Music & Dinner** with the

**MELVIN SMITH  
JAZZ ENSEMBLE**

**Saturday, February 10, 2024**

**4:00-7:00 PM**

**Tickets: \$65 Members • \$70 Non-Members**

**Pine Lakes Country Club**

**400 Pine Lakes Parkway N • Palm Coast, FL 32164**

Please send **CHECKS** to NEFJA

**P.O. Box 352552 - Palm Coast, Florida 32135 OR ORDER ONLINE NEFJA.ORG**

For additional information please contact:

**Carolyn Hawkins 386-793-0182 • Chez Jacqueline 386-447-1650**

**Muriel McCoy 386-445-1329**

**Tickets Available at Chez Jacqueline**

**25-3 Palm Harbor Village Way • Palm Coast, FL 32137**

North East Florida Jazz Association is a 501(c)3 corporation

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# *The Scribe*

January/February 2024

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## African American Cultural Society, Inc.

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

**Website:** AACSPalmCoast.org

**Facebook:** AACSPalmCoast

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

**Email:** Info@AfricanAmericanCulturalSociety.org


## Find the AACCS on



**42**  
(2013)  
**Friday,**  
**January 13, 2024**  
**@ 4 p.m.**

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**Tag us in your photos using**  
**#AACSJunteenth**

The African American Cultural Society Inc, Florida's leading cultural institution dedicated to celebrating, preserving, and perpetuating the cultural heritage of the African Diaspora through educational, social, cultural, and intellectual activities and services. To make a donation and/or to become a member, please scan here:



**The Piano Lesson**  
(1995)  
**Friday,**  
**February 9, 2024**  
**@ 4 p.m.**