

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 ...

Why Voting Matters

George Henry White was elected to the U.S. Congress in 1896 as the representative from the Second Congressional District of North Carolina. The southeastern North Carolina district encompassed the community of Welches Creek, which was a thriving mixed race rural community, and home to the African American congressman. A few others who called this place home were Millie-Christine, the world-famous conjoined twins; C. C. Spaulding and Aaron Moore, founders of the North Carolina Mutual Life insurance Company; the family of Oprah's lifetime partner, Stedman Graham; and the relatives of my father.



George Henry White was a very effective congressman. He introduced the first anti-lynching bill in congress, and he also delivered appointments and many benefits to both Black and white residents of the Second District. Nearby Wilmington was an even greater marvel. It was the largest and most successful city in North Carolina at that time, and it was 75 percent Black. A coalition of liberal whites and African Americans wielded political as well as economic power there.

How was it possible to elect a Black man to Congress in a former Confederate state, just 34 years after Emancipation? How was it possible for Black people to prosper in the Antebellum Southern city of Wilmington? The answer was simple. Recently liberated Black people in the Second Congressional District and the city of Wilmington were very serious about their hard-fought access to the ballot box. THEY VOTED!!

Hard work and their participation in the political process yielded tremendous quality of life gains for the Black communities in the area. Just as African Americans were beginning to realize tangible gains because of voting, local racists were devising a plan to stop and even reverse their progress.

Antagonists in Wilmington proclaiming that

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Berkeley O. Chadler Jr. in the Spotlight

I am the son of Berkeley "Oscar" Chandler Sr, a merchant marine, and Hilretha "Pearl" Corbin Chandler, who worked as a domestic cleaner. They married in April 1943, and I was born on February 21, 1944, at Flower Fifth Avenue Hospital in Manhattan, New York City.



We moved to the Morrisania Section of The Bronx where I was joined by my sister Brenda, only 17 months later, as she always tells me! We attended P.S. 2 and J.H.S. 55. I went on to attend Samuel Gompers Vocational and Technical High School. Upon high school graduation, I enlisted and served in the U.S. Air Force from 1962 to 1966. I was stationed in New Jersey for 16 months and then the United Kingdom for 28 months – I loved it!

Shortly after honorable discharge, I began working as a mail carrier at the U.S. Postal Service's Stuyvesant Station in lower Manhattan. While there I heard from a friend that International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local Union 3 was opening its doors for an apprenticeship program. My age was a problem at first, but it was solved after 8 months. During that time I had been a yellow cab driver, mostly at night in Harlem.

The apprenticeship lasted one and half years and I graduated in June 1973, becoming a Journeyman Electrician with the training and experience to work independently on electrical systems. I worked in the five NYC boroughs: in banks, hotels, hospitals, etc. After 38 years with the IBEW, my wife and I relocated to Palm Coast.

We arrived in December 2005 and joined

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"we will not be ruled by n.....s", burned Black newspapers, Black businesses, and Black owned homes. They murdered more than 60 people and staged an outright coup, overthrowing the elected city government and chasing Blacks out of town and into nearby swamps. To stamp out further advancement, every former Confederate state including North Carolina, enacted a "Grandfather Rule" as a requirement for voting. Meaning, if your grandfather had not voted prior to January 1, 1896, you were not eligible to vote. No Black person's grandfather voted in North Carolina prior to 1896, so the law removed all Black people from voting rolls. When the Grandfather Rule was overturned, they instituted poll taxes, arbitrary literacy rules, changes in residency requirements and voter intimidation to halt Black voting. Those rules worked perfectly. George Henry White was forced from office. North Carolina did not elect another Black congressman for over 100 years.

In my opinion most leaders chosen during the last election will not act in the best interest of America or the best interest of our membership, but now is not the time to panic. Now is the time to remember the setbacks after the first and second reconstructions that ushered in domestic terrorism and legalized the oppression that I referenced earlier. Those challenges were far worse than the ones we face today. We overcame then and we will overcome again.

Now is the time to double down on your commitment to stand with those who fight to preserve your culture and improve your standard of living. If our turbulent history has taught us anything, it has taught us that there is a direct correlation between advancements in our standard of living, and our participation in the political process.

Our future is in our hands, or should I say in our vote. When we have greater voter participation, as in 2008, 2012 and 2020, we win. When our participation is lower, as in 2004 and 2016, we lose. Now is the time for a Clarian Call for us to "DO SOMETHING" to not only keep our history and culture alive, but to return to the 75 - 95 percent voter participation that produced congressmen like George Henry White and communities like Welches Creek and Wilmington.

In his speech to Congress upon his exit on January 29, 1901, George Henry White said, "***This is perhaps the Negroes' temporary farewell to the American Congress but let me say; Phoenix-like he will rise up some day and come again.***"

Because history has taught me that we are such great people, I don't see just a temporary setback in this last election. I see ***Phoenix Rising!!***

AACS in January 2006. I have been active in AACS ever since. I started with **William Dabney** in the Omni Committee and continued as a committee member years after his passing. I also joined the Adopt-A-Road project with **William Skinner**; we patrolled Whiteview Parkway from Belle Terre Parkway to Whippoorwill Drive, picking up trash and cigarette butts.

Then I had the enjoyable experience of working with **James Allen** in The Men of AACS and the projects it tackled: a new center floor, bathroom painting, outside lighting, and grounds beautification including the white chains in the parking lot.

These are some of the shoulders I have stood on in my experience with AACS: **Alfreda Brown**, past chair of the 200 Club Committee; past AACS presidents **Ed Pinto** and **Joe Matthews**; the help of **Victor Krause**; and **Rob Whiting** for the Jazz Breakfast. Also, I wish to recognize many faithful AACS members including **Richard Barnes**, **William Seeney**, and the late **Kurt Bottoms**.

There are more I could and should recognize: my Creator; **Beverly**, my wife of 26 years; and being blessed with my children, Khalid, Nazeer, and Isis, plus eight grandchildren and one great-grandson.

In closing, I would like to mention that at the recent AACS Awards Ceremony, EACH awardee was still active in various capacities. **We keep giving!**



AACS 2024 Christmas Tree
Flagler County Library, Palm Coast, Fla.



In Memoriam 2024

Emery Barksdale Jr.
Family Household Member

John G. Blake
Adult Member

Verna C. Jackson
Adult Member

Morris L. Cowell
Family Household Member

Marvin C. Ellison Jr.
Family Household Member

Dr. Alberto N. Jones
Silver Lifetime Member

James T. Lee Sr.
Silver Lifetime Member

Vivian Richardson
Adult Member
Past Board of Directors Chair
Past President

Gladys Spann
Original Lifetime Member

Willard Earl Singleton
Family Household Member

Kurt Roland Bottoms
Silver Lifetime Member

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, Mamie R. Godfrey, Leila B. Jordan, Victor R. Krause, Michele A. Knox, and Sheila C. Platt.**

Permanent Endowment Fund



The Gift That Keeps Giving

by **Orlando N. Johnson & Robert W. Whiting,**
Co-chairs, Fundraising Campaign

Happy New Year 2025! We're off to a great start! Since the Permanent Endowment Fundraising Campaign was officially launched in March 2024, donations have grown from \$39,000 to \$83,200 as of December 2024. Forty households have contributed to the campaign success thus far. Thank you, thank you, for your continuous support!



PEF Fundraising Campaign Objective

The campaign consists of several stages. The goal of the first stage is to raise the PEF to \$200,000 by AACS's 35th anniversary in 2026. The overall goal is for the PEF to reach \$1,000,000 when about \$50,000 might be earned each year for AACS operating purposes. The PEF is designed to provide present and future sustainability for operations as well as increasing AACS' outstanding legacy.

Since receiving the first donation in April 2023, AACS has been practicing the Kwanza principal of Ujama which is Cooperative Economics. We are proud that we have invested 40% of the PEF in African American Financial institutions. The financial institutions currently selected for deposit of Fund dollars are Ariel Investments, Carver Federal Savings Bank, and Vanguard Investments. We are proud to report that a return of \$6,960 or 10.5% has been achieved in December 2024 to bring the total value of the PEF to \$90,160.

As we continue to raise the PEF to our goal for the 35th anniversary, we would like to reach out to the greater AACS family, as well as to the Palm Coast community. Please consider joining the present forty household donors by contributing to the Permanent Endowment Fund today. It is truly *The Gift That Keeps Giving.*

Names of AACS members appear in bold font.

African American Cultural Society, Inc.
Annual Report
7/1/2023 – 6/30/2024

Dear Members of the African American Cultural Society, Inc.,

As Chairperson of the Board, I am proud to present our annual report for fiscal year 2024. This report provides an overview of our work in the past year. The organization's mission 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.

This past year has been a busy one for us. We have hired a new Facilities Supervisor, Ms. **Belinda Rush**, who is doing a fantastic job. We made several maintenance improvements to our Center, including the purchase and installation of a new storage shed, which enabled us to discontinue paying for offsite storage, an upgrade of the restrooms and sound system, all outside doors repaired, replacement of the Great Room floor and painting of the kitchen and bar area. We increased our membership from 399 to 427 members. We established the Permanent Endowment Fund, which has grown to over \$80,000 already with an earnings rate of almost 13%. We had three successful student intern curated exhibitions, *The Summer of '69*, *The Summer of Soul* and the *Make Your Own Story* book festival. We hosted two Smithsonian traveling exhibits.

In support of our Center operations and cultural programs, we continued with several successful fundraisers: the New Years' Day luncheon, Jazz Brunch, Golf Tournament, Stay at Home Tea, and 200 Club. These funds helped to support celebrations of Kwanzaa, Juneteenth, African New Year, and our annual membership appreciation cook-out.

We celebrated the 30th Annual Holiday Gift Giving and 20th Anniversary of our Youth Reality program. Two of our longest serving chairpersons, **Jeanette B. Wheeler** (Youth Reality) and **Jean M. Tanner** (Membership) decided it was time to retire and hand the reins of their successful committees over to someone else. We appreciate all of their years of service and thank them profusely for all they have done for AACCS.

Finally, I'd like to thank each of you for your support as we continue to fulfill the mission of the African American Cultural Society, Inc.

Stephanie E. Matthews,
Board of Directors Chair

AACS Awards Celebration

By **Stephanie E. Matthews,**
Chair, AACCS Board of Directors

~~~~~  
On November 23, 2024, we held this year's luncheon celebration.

To be nominated for a Meritorious award, the person must have been a member of the organization for at least five years. In addition, the person must have made a significant contribution to AACCS in a leadership capacity, or with money saved or money raised, or their service simply made a highly positive impact.



The Meritorious Award awardees were **Alton W. Dempsey Sr., Jacqueline J. Dempsey, John Reid, Merritt A. Robertson, Sharon M. Waring, and Meshella E. Woods.** This group will join sixty other members who have received awards since the Meritorious Awards program was started in 1997.

The Long-Term Service award was started in 2013. To be nominated for this award the recipient must have been a previous Meritorious award winner and have continued to contribute their time and talent for at least five years since being awarded.

This year's Long-Term Service awardees were **Lynda H. Baten** and **Berkeley O. Chandler Jr.** There have been ten previous Long-Term Service awardees.

Each awardee received a pyramid shaped trophy; each luncheon attendee received a Christmas ornament with AACCS's logo on it. Member Cheryl Few entertained the gathering with two thoughtful songs.

President Joe Jones thanked the awardees for their service to the organization and I reminded the audience that volunteers are not paid. Not because they are worthless but because they are **PRICELESS!**



Shown are Merritt Robertson, Meshella Woods, Alton Dempsey, Jacqueline Dempsey, Board of Directors Chair Stephanie Matthews, President Joseph Jones, Lynda Baten, John Reid, Sharon Waring, and Berkeley Chandler.

## AACS 2024 Election Results

### Election of Directors

There were four nominees on the ballot and one write-in candidate for election to the Board of Directors.

The balloting results are **Mamie R. Godfrey**, 58%; **Sybil Dodson Lucas**, 62%; **Stephanie E. Matthews**, 80%; and **Meshella E. Woods**, 62%. Mrs. Lucas, Mrs. Matthews, and Ms. Woods have been elected Directors, each for a three-year term ending December 31, 2027.

### Election of Officers

There were three nominees on the ballot and fourteen write-in candidates for election as Officers.

The results are **Patricia Aldridge**, 96%, elected Recording Secretary; **Barbara A. Green**, 98%, elected Corresponding Secretary; and **Ira Moring**, 96%, elected Sergeant-at-Arms. Ms. Green and Mr. Moring have been elected to terms ending December 31, 2027; Ms. Aldridge has been elected to a term ending December 31, 2026. The President will appoint a Second Vice President to hold office until December 31, 2025.

## AACS 2025 Election

Service terms are ending this year for these directors: Alton W. Dempsey, Victor R. Krause, and Joseph L. Matthews. Terms are ending this year for these officers: President, Financial Secretary, Chaplain, Parliamentarian, and Second Vice President.

Please step up and become a candidate! Alternatively, please nominate another AACS member whom you believe will serve well in a position. Duties of each position are stipulated in the AACS Bylaws. Completed nomination forms found in the Center should be sent to the Nominating and Election Committee.

## Thank You for Your Service

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



**Chauncey Dunham**  
Director  
2023-2024

## 2025 Directors and Officers



**Lynda H. Baten**  
Director



**Alton W. Dempsey**  
Director



**Vanessa James Foxe**  
Director



**Angela Johnson**  
Director



**Victor R. Krause**  
Director



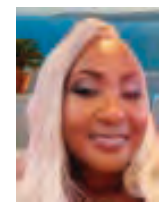
**Sybil Dodson-Lucas**  
Director



**Joseph L. Matthews**  
Director



**Stephanie E. Matthews**  
Director



**Meshella E. Woods**  
Director



**Patricia Aldridge**  
Recording Secretary



**Richard P. Barnes**  
1<sup>st</sup> VP



**Barbara A. Green**  
Corresponding Secretary



**William K. Hopson**  
Chaplain



**Joseph T. Jones**  
President



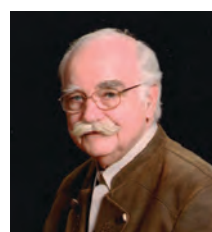
**Orlando Johnson**  
Financial Secretary



**Ira Moring**  
Sergeant-at-Arms



**Merritt A. Robertson**  
Treasurer



**Reinhold Schlieper**  
Parliamentarian

**Pending Appointment**  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP

# Happy January Birthday!

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

January Birthday AACCS Members  
Numbers are day of the month

## WORD LIST

|                              |                          |                                |                          |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| MILDRA B. Jackson ( 01)      | WALTER Sarden ( 09)      | BRENDA M. Andrews ( 20)        | JAMES L. Gibbs (29)      |
| CAROL W. Jones ( 01)         | SHARON M. Waring (12)    | EDITH Cunningham (24)          | KHRISTYE Jackson ( 29)   |
| JAMES E. Snow (01)           | VANESSA James Foxe ( 15) | HENRY Johnson (26)             | TRE Kingsberry (29)      |
| BARBARA Robinson ( 04)       | JOHN W. Jordan Sr. (15)  | ROTHAR A. Boswell ( 27)        | LORETTA Bryant ( 31)     |
| CHARLES G. Williams Jr.( 04) | CLIFTON Shirley ( 15)    | RUSSELL A. Flowers ( 27)       | DRJAMES Cauley (31)      |
| JAMES Hinson ( 06)           | THEODORA Smith ( 17)     | COL ERIC D.Garvin Jr.(ret)(27) | SONDRA L. Henderson (31) |
| EILEEN D. Hopson ( 06)       | ROBERT M. Bennett (18)   | REGINALD T. Bynum ( 28)        | CLYDE Jones (31)         |
| REECE T. Williams ( 08)      | GLORIA Lee ( 18)         | ETHEL Pinto ( 28)              |                          |
| MELBA J McCarty (09)         | TAAHIRA Lee ( 18)        | ROBERT Robinson (28)           |                          |

## Kwanzaa 2024

By Imani Kinshsha, Cultural Committee Chair

The Kwanzaa celebration held on Saturday, December 28, 2024, was a rousing success.

Credit goes to a well-functioning and committed team: Journal - **Dolores Clinton** and **Barbara Solomon**; Vendors - **Linda Epps** and **Cathy Pearson**; Models - **Barbara Green** and **Jackie Whyte**, assisted by **Nicole Sparrow**; Raffles - **Eileen Hopson** and **Gloria Singleton**. They made it all look easy.



Guests were welcomed this year by members of the Cultural Committee dancing the African Welcome song Funga Alafia! Chaplin **Bill Hopson** then provided an invocation. **Michele Knox** led us in all three stanzas of the Negro National Anthem, which was printed in the Journal.

**Joe Jones** welcomed guests with his President's message. The Drum Circle, arranged by **Melinda Morais**, played their hearts out which inspired one of our vendors, Nefertiti, to dance to the music!

Libation was performed by **Adisa Olubayo Bankole**; he requested permission to proceed with the ceremony from our eldest present senior member **Gloria Benjamin** (an African tradition).

**Ira Moring**, representing The Men of AACS, explained the Kwanzaa principles, while **Edwina Brown** lit the candles. Children in attendance, ranging in age from 5 months to 13 years old were given zawadi (gifts) provided by brother Moring.

Intermission permitted a bountiful and purposeful shopping spree.

"We Are Family" was the theme of the fashion show. It was fun as we watched models aged 2 to 80 years strut their stuff.

The mellow voice of **Larry Green** and poems by Adisa Bankole provided time for the new "Sounds Like Church" group, organized by **Milton Scott**, to change from models to singers. This was the premier performance for this male acapella singing group that was organized just three months ago. They presented two songs and received an encore to sing a third.

The \$200 cake raffle was a booming success with added second and third prizes. The first prize was won by Gary Banks. The \$100 gift card second prize went to **LeJia Jordan**. **Dr. Irving Robinson** won the \$50 third prize.

Departing guests were given a small bag of fruit as a thank you from AACS for their participation.

A heartfelt thank you to all our sponsors, donors, vendors, supporters and volunteers, we could not do this without you. I wish everyone a blessed and prosperous New Year!



The Drum Circle



President Joe Jones in the fashion show



A few Kwanzaa Celebration vendors



# *The Scribe*

*January 2025*

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## **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@aacsync.org**

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

**Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup> @ 11 am - General Membership Meeting *FREE***  
FREE refreshments at 10:30 am

**Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup> @ 3 pm - Movie Presentation *FREE***  
*Hidden Figures* (2016 PG 2h 7m)

**Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup> @ 4 pm - 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Youth Black History Program *FREE***

**Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 11 am - General Membership Meeting *FREE***  
FREE refreshments at 10:30 am

**Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup> @ 3 pm - Movie Presentation *FREE***  
*The Six Triple Eight* (2024 PG-13 2h 7m)

**Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> @ 11 am - Jazz Brunch**

**Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> @ 4 pm - Final date to join 200 Club for 2025-2026**

**Saturday, April 26 @ 11 am - General Membership Meeting *FREE***  
FREE refreshments at 10:30 am





# Enroll Now for the 200 Club April 2025 thru March 2026 Drawings

*Your continued support is needed for the major fundraiser  
sustaining the African American Cultural Society's Center!*

If you are interested in joining or retaining your number(s) in The 200 Club, the annual application process starts immediately, and will continue until Saturday, April 5, 2025. If you have not renewed your current number(s) by that date, for any reason, your number(s) will be made available to anyone seeking to support AACS.

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. The club offers fifty-two weekly prizes of \$100 for each Saturday in a month, four quarterly prizes of \$250 each in June, September and December 2025, and March 2026, and one annual prize of \$1,000 in March 2026.

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 2025, July winners will be drawn at the June meeting, and August winners will be drawn at the September meeting.

Contact Berkeley Chandler at (386) 793-4958 to make your number request or renewal known. Then pay \$104.00 for each number by check made payable to "AACS – 200 Club".

**Let us make this a year to remember with ALL 224 NUMBERS SOLD to support AACS!**

Berkeley O. Chandler, Jr., 200 Club Committee Chair

Joseph T. Jones, President

## The 200 Club Application

(Please PRINT)

**\$104.00 per number selected**

**Make your check payable to "AACS – 200 Club"**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Numbers (s) \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Check amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: AACS, P.O. Box 350607, Attn: 200 Club, Palm Coast, FL 32135-0607

Tel: 386-447-7030

Email: [Info@aacsync.org](mailto:Info@aacsync.org)

A non-profit, federal tax-exempt corporation via Section 501(c)(3)



# 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Youth Black History Program 2025

 PALM COAST *An annual free public celebration*

*Sunday, February 16, 2025*

*4:00 p.m.*

**AACS Cultural Center & Museum  
4422 US Highway 1 North, Palm Coast, Fl.**

*Embracing our past... "We are the Change We Seek!"*



*Join us as we come together to support and encourage our youth in the  
community!*

Please call Patricia Bottoms, Youth Black History Committee at 917 769-5535, or email [info@aacinc.org](mailto:info@aacinc.org) for donations and scholarship award information. Scholarship donations are also accepted online at [www.aacspalmcoast.org](http://www.aacspalmcoast.org)

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, education, artistic and intellectual activities, and services deemed to be in the best interest of the entire community.