



Peabody High School National Alumni Association, Inc.

President's Message

Happy New Year to All!



This has been an exciting, productive and enjoyable term for me serving as your president. I am both honored and proud to have been able to serve for the 2009-2011 term and I hope I served you well. Thank you all for supporting me and our Association. With a renewed spirit, I am looking forward to the 2011-2014 term. I firmly **BELIEVE** that our goals will be accomplished and we will continue to move forward as we support Peabody Middle School and this Alumni Association.

If you have not been attending our monthly alumni meetings, I request that you become involved and ask that you "save the dates" this year and attend the meetings. There are so many exciting things happening in our meetings. The first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. we gather in the library of Peabody Middle School to discuss and implement ways of strengthening the Association. My desire this term is to have all local members that can attend and participate in the alumni meetings.

We have two of our long-range goals almost near completion and I **BELIEVE** before the end of my term those goals will be completed: 1) The Historical Marker is almost ready to be unveiled. I have submitted the marker wording to the appropriate City Officials for approval, and I have coordinated with the First Baptist Church Board of Trustees and received permission from the Church to have the marker placed on their property (which is in the closest proximity of the first Peabody African School and on the Civil Rights in Education Heritage Trail). Next on the agenda, I will meet with the Planning Department and the Architecture Review Board to apply for the Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) for the marker. I would like to give a "Hug of Appreciation" to Councilwoman Treska Wilson-Smith who has been a God-send as she assisted me in handling tedious details of getting the marker etched and ready for the unveiling. 2) We are still working on the draft of the proposal and document that will be presented to the City in support of the Alumni Association gaining possession of the old Peabody Building on Jones Street. Your suggestions, ideas, concerns and views are welcomed as we prepare the first draft of the memorandum of Understanding (MOU). My next plan of action is to submit a proposal to the Cameron Foundation requesting funds to assist in renovating the building. Please be reminded that we are a 501(c)(3) organization and your generous contributions to the Restoration Project are tax deductible. Your name will be added to the wall of contributors.

I have not forgotten our commitment to Peabody Middle School and I hope we will again soon be making another contribution to assist the school in the educational enhancement of our students. I plan to meet with Dr. Farquharson, Principal of Peabody Middle School and/or Dr. Parrish, PCPS Superintendent to discuss the needs of the students and the school.

Thanks and appreciation to the out-going Executive Officers and Board Members. I extend a special "Thank You" to those persons who elected to serve as Officers again this term. I am privileged to be working with a few new Officers and Board representatives for the 2011-2012 term. These members are representing the various odd-year classes and are the spokespersons for their graduating class. Is your class represented on the Board? (cont'd)

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President's Message cont'd

Thank you for your trust and for giving me the opportunity to serve. Just know that I am proud to be a Peabodian and a member of this Alumni Association. We have touched so many lives by what we do, and each day we are definitely shaping the future for our students. Know that you are appreciated for all that you do for the Peabody Alumni Association. Please continue to **BELIEVE** in me and in the things that we strive to do as we continue our quest for noteworthy accomplishments.

"Our goals can only be reached through a vehicle of a plan, in which we must fervently BELIEVE, and upon which we must vigorously act. There is no other route to success."

.....Pablo Picasso

Thelma Jefferson
('67)



Peabodian of the Quarter

Mary Jones Gomez Wilson is the second of three children born to the late Mack Jones, Jr. and Elnora J. Banks. She is a native of Petersburg and a 1950 graduate of Peabody High School. As a student, she was a cheerleader and a

member of the girls basketball team.

In 1950, she became the first clerk at Virginia Avenue Elementary School. From 1959-1987, she was assigned to work at Peabody High School. In 1995, she retired from Walnut Hill Elementary School.

Mrs. Wilson is a member of Mount Olivet Baptist Church. She also holds membership in the Petersburg Chapter No. 33, Order of the Eastern Star (Past Matron); 16th District O.E.S. (Past Chair); and the Peabody National Alumni Association. For many years, she has been an avid bowler and a member of the Petersburg Education Association Bowling League. She is also a member of the National 600 Bowling Club.

In her leisure time, Mary enjoys experimenting with new recipes, traveling, and spending time with friends and family. She is the proud parent of two children (one deceased) and two grandsons. Her favorite scripture is :

"All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come." (Job 14:14).

Quite often in sharing her thoughts, you will hear her say, "time brings on change."





Christmas Gala was G-r-r-r-e-a-t

As usual, everyone enjoyed the fellowship, food and fun at the Annual Christmas Gala held on December 16th. Nothing was more festive than to see the Christmas lights, decorations of red and green and some of the guests dressed in their attractive festive color of red.



WE ALSO WENT RED AT THE PHSNAA DECEMBER MEETING

Even our mascot "Mr. Peabody" and Muriel Spratley were in the spirit of the season and wore red during our December 6th meeting. As we were enjoying the delicious food prepared by PHSNAA members, Yvonne Paige was marveling over the prize she had won, which was a Christmas basket decorated in red and filled with "goodies."



AFRO-AMERICAN

History Month

Empowerment Through Education / February

Black History, or National African American History, Month is an annual celebration of achievements by Black Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history. In honor of Black History Month, let's take a look back at some of the "historical firsts" in Black history. There are so many more. Make a list of your own.

- ❖ First private citizen honored with a national holiday, **Martin Luther King, Jr.** A champion of civil rights, Martin Luther King's powerful, nonviolent pursuit of equality made him an American icon.
- ❖ First black U.S. President – **Barack Hussein Obama.** President Obama's 2008 victory was an extraordinary moment in history.
- ❖ First black Major League baseball player, **Jackie Robinson.** Robinson stepped onto the baseball field in 1947 and broke the color line.
- ❖ First black Academy Award winner for best actor, **Sydney Poitier.** Poitier won best actor for his role in "Lilies of the Field" in 1963.
- ❖ First black Academy Award winner for best actress, **Halle Berry.** Berry won best actress in 2002, making her the first African American female ever to do so in the Academy's 74 years of existence.
- ❖ First black Secretary of State, **Colin Powell.** Powell blazed the path for African Americans at the top of government.
- ❖ First black female television host and billionaire, **Oprah Winfrey.** A media personality, actress, producer, philanthropist, and executive. Winfrey is one of the most powerful people in the world.
- ❖ First black golf champion, **Tiger Woods.** Winning the Masters Golf Tournament in 1997 wasn't the only time the golf legend made history. In 1999, he broke racial barriers for a second time becoming the first African American to win the PGA Championship.
- ❖ First black billionaire, **Robert Johnson.** Businessman Johnson made his mark on the entertainment world founding Black Entertainment Television (BET), the first cable TV network aimed at African Americans.
- ❖ First black Miss America, **Vanessa Williams.** In 1985, Williams became the first black Miss America in the show's 63-year history.
- ❖ First black Supreme Court Justice, **Thurgood Marshall.** Marshall was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1967 by President Lyndon B. Johnson. He served on the court for 24 years.
- ❖ First black heavyweight champion, **Jack Johnson.** Johnson held the boxing title from 1908-1915.
- ❖ First black Grammy Award winners, **Ella Fitzgerald** and **Count Basie.** In 1959, Fitzgerald won best female vocal performance and best individual jazz performance. Basie won best performance by a dance band and best group jazz performance.
- ❖ First black elected governor, **L. Douglas Wilder.** Virginia's 66th governor, Wilder won in 1989.
- ❖ First black tennis champion, **Althea Gibson.** In the 1950's, Gibson won just about every tournament there was, including the Grand Slam in 1956 and Wimbledon in 1957 and 1958.
- ❖ First black senator, **Hiram Revels.** The Mississippi senator was appointed in 1870 during the Reconstruction Era.
- ❖ **Elizabeth "Bessie" Coleman** was the first female pilot of African American descent and the first person of African American descent to hold an international pilot license (1921).
- ❖ First black female bank president, **Maggie Lena Walker** was also the first woman to charter a bank in the United States.
- ❖ **Mary Jane Patterson** was the first African American woman to receive a B.A. degree (1862).
- ❖ First black principal of Peabody High School in December 1882, **Alfred Pryor.**

55TH Class Reunion



Mark your calendar. Plans are being made for the class of 1957 to celebrate their **55th Class Reunion** from Friday to Sunday, October 12-14, 2012.

The Committee is searching for classmates. Please spread the word. Contact Joan Overton-Henry (703) 978-4254 or Willard Taylor (301) 336-7212 for more information.



In Memoriam

One of the most difficult things to deal with in life is the death of a loved one. We would like to send our sincere sympathy to all Peabody alumni and families of alumni who have suffered the loss of a loved one in the last two years. We have not been able to be with everyone physically; however, we want you to know that all of our prayers and thoughts of love were sent to you in our absence, and we pray for continued comfort in your time of need.

We hope you find comfort in the following scripture and poem:

"Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous fall."

Psalms 55:22

Only The Best



*A heart of gold stop beating;
Two shining eyes at rest.
God broke our hearts to prove,
He only takes the best.
God knows you had to leave us,
But you did not go alone
For part of us went with you
The day He took you home.
To some, you are forgotten
To others just part of the past.
But to us who loved and lost you,
The memory will always last.*

Remembering the Life of PHS Faculty



Mrs. Bessie Reid Jones

(86), a native of Petersburg, departed this life on Thursday, December 15, 2011 at Southside Regional Medical Center. She was the oldest of nine children born to the late Otis Jerry Reid and Elizabeth Miller Reid on November 4, 1925. Also, preceding her in death were her husband, Albert W. Jones, Jr. and daughter, Dr. Venus R. Jones. She spent many of her formative years with her grandmother (the late Sarah P. Miller), affectionately called Miss Honey.

Mrs. Bessie Jones was educated in the Petersburg Public Schools and graduated from Peabody High School in 1942. After graduation, she attended North Carolina College (now North Carolina Central University) in Durham, NC where she graduated with a B.S. degree. She served as an adjunct instructor at the University two semesters after graduation. While attending college, she was united in holy matrimony to the love of her life, Mr. Albert W. Jones, Jr. whom she met at Peabody High School.

Mrs. Jones taught biology and chemistry and was senior class sponsor at Sussex County Training School from 1953-1957. She began teaching in Petersburg in 1959. Her students remember her as one who insisted they learn. She retired from the Petersburg School System in 1986 after thirty years of dedicated service as a science teacher. She was a member of the Virginia Avenue School Retirees Group and served eight years on the John Tyler Community College Board. She was an avid worker with the Civil Rights Movement. Through many activities, Mrs. Jones assisted many city residents to become voting citizens. She helped with sit-ins, marches, voter registration drives and "get out to vote" campaigns where she personally transported individuals to the polling precincts in order for them to cast their votes. On many occasions, Mrs. Jones was frequently in Richmond at the General Assembly or Washington, D.C., at the Department of Justice and the Department of Education seeking relief from legislation, which prohibited minorities from having basic rights like others in our society.

Mrs. Jones was a member of First Baptist Church, Harrison Street where she was a member and past president of the L.A. Black Circle.

She leaves to cherish her memories, two sons, Albert W. Jones, III (Midlothian, VA) and Culbert M. Jones (Petersburg, VA); one daughter, Vickie Jones Whitties (Meredith) of Norfolk, VA; two sisters, two brothers, several grandchildren, a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, friends and care giver, Carolyn Ridley.



A Wonderful Life Lived

Mrs. Florence T. Walker transitioned peacefully at home on Saturday, November 26, 2011. Mrs. Walker was born in Petersburg, VA on August 29, 1916, the fourth child of Robert and Augusta Tate.

As a superior student, Mrs. Walker excelled in mathematics and science. She graduated from Peabody High School in 1932, and enrolled in Virginia State College (University). She received both undergraduate and graduate degrees in mathematics. She was a legendary educator in the classroom. Her students appreciated her dedication and her commitment to excellence.

These factors propelled her students to heights in medicine, law, technology, science, and the arts.

She received Christ at an early age and was baptized at First Baptist Church, Harrison Street in Petersburg, VA. Once retired, she traveled extensively, spending several years in California with her devoted son, Adelbert and grandson, Justin.

She leaves a legacy to cherish of commitment and service to God. She is survived by her son, Adelbert and his wife, Cassandra; grandson, Justin; sister, Alice; devoted friends, Mrs. Sadie B. Gist, Mrs. Arnold Westbrook, and Mrs. Carla Hinton; cousins, other relatives and friends.

What Good Teachers Do

Good teachers plant a seed in someone's life and watch it grow.....

They water it well with encouragement so that the roots will be deep and well grounded.

They nourish it with knowledge of the ages so that it will develop strong limbs and branch out.

They give it the sunshine of their devotion to help it grow leaves and buds.

Then **they** watch it grow into a beautiful plant or tree that can weather storms of life and stay planted firmly in the soil.

Good teachers plant a seed in someone's life and watch it grow.....

Sherri Council

(Reprinted by permission of the author, Sherri Council, Silver Spring, Maryland)





The Joy of Being Retired

The month of December was an exciting month for Pacing Williams-Dugger. As she was making preparations for the approaching Christmas season, she was also making preparations for her retirement. What could have been any better gift to yourself than to retire one day before Christmas. December 24, 2011 was her last working day at Central State Hospital where she worked as a Human Services Case Worker. She retired with 15 years of service to the State.

Pacing is a 1969 graduate of Peabody High School. After graduation, she decided to move to New York. It is there that she got her first job as a Bond Auditor at First National City Bank. In 1973, she made a decision to return home and gained employment at ER Carpenter in Richmond, VA. Pacing decided to further her education and enrolled in Virginia State College (University) in the Department of Vocational Industrial Education, and majored in Cosmetology, receiving her B.S. degree in 1980.

Her employment record is very extensive. She has been a substitute teacher with the Petersburg Public School System from 1980-1985. In 1985, she started a full-time teaching position at Flair Beauty Institute, later becoming the Director of Education for 13-1/2 years. She has also taught cosmetology at Colonial Heights Beauty Academy and Jazz Beauty Academy in Petersburg. In addition, she has worked as a beautician and nail/pedicure technician at Amanda's Beauty Boutique, which was owned by Brenda Coley. In 1996, Pacing embarked upon a part-time position at Southside Virginia Training Center – the first female barber. She was later able to get a full time position as a Human Services Case Worker. Another change in employment occurred in January 1997 when she went to Central State Hospital as a Forensic Mental Health Technician. Doing something extra, in March of 2000 she graduated from the Citizens Fire Academy of the Petersburg Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services. Her job presented opportunities for a transfer that she took advantage of and she went to the Virginia Centre for Behavioral Rehabilitation (VCBR) as a Security Officer, and finally in 2006 back to Central State Hospital.

Pacing has been enjoying her retirement in many ways, but her most favorite is “sleeping late.” Pacing has become very involved in the Peabody High School National Alumni Association; attending meetings regularly and presently serving on the Board of Directors. On occasion, you may see Pacing singing with her sister (Betty Williams-Hardy) and her husband (Lee Dugger), which is what they did at our Annual Meeting in September.



Peabody Middle School Student Competes in Spelling Bee



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All media, parents, students, employees, and supporters of the Petersburg City Public Schools were invited to attend the Petersburg City Public Schools Division-Wide Spelling Bee, which was held on January 10 2012 in the L. Douglas Wilder Auditorium of the Wilder Building on campus of Virginia State University.

Carrington Brown, a 6th grader at Peabody Middle School, placed 2nd in the 2012 competition.

Carrington moved to Petersburg in 2005 from Atlanta, Georgia with her parents, Kevin and Gloria Brown, and her brother Miles. She participated in her first grade-level spelling bee in September 2006. In January 2011, she competed in the 2010-2011 Division-Wide Spelling Bee and placed 2nd. She is a very determined, mind made up young lady and is already preparing for next year's competition.

CARRINGTON BROWN

"She is a lady of very determined character."
(George Bernard Shaw)





Make Valentine's Day Every Day

For a sweetheart or a friend
There's just no better way
To show how much you care for them
Then a gift on Valentine's Day.

It doesn't have to be expensive
A simple card will do
As long as you put your heart into it
And show that it's really from you.

Share love with family or with friends.
Tell them in your own way.
Let them know you really care.
Make every day Valentine's Day



A Lifetime of Good Health

Your Guide to Staying Healthy Part I



Healthy Heart and Stroke Prevention

Heart disease and stroke – two main cardiovascular diseases—are the first and third causes of death for women in the U.S. Learn what you can do to improve your health now and for years to come!

Steps you can take:

- ✓ **Don't smoke.** Smoking hurts your heart. So, if you smoke, try to quit.
- ✓ **Get your cholesterol tested.** If it's high (above 200), talk to your physician or nurse about losing weight (if you're overweight) and getting more active.
- ✓ **Know your blood pressure.** Have it checked to make sure you're on track! If it is high, talk with your physician about ways to lower it.
- ✓ **Get tested for diabetes.** If you have diabetes, keep your blood sugar levels in check! This is the BEST way for you to take care of yourself and your heart.
- ✓ **Eat heart-healthy foods.** Eat whole-grain foods, vegetables, and fruits. Choose lean meats and low-fat cheese and dairy products. Limit foods that have lots of saturated fat, e.g. butter, whole milk, baked goods, ice cream and fatty meats.
- ✓ **Keep a healthy weight.** Exercise regularly.
- ✓ **Get moving!** Get at least 30 minutes of physical activity on most days, if not all days of the week.
- ✓ **Eat less salt.** Use spices, herbs, lemon, and lime instead of salt.
- ✓ **If you drink alcohol, don't have more than one drink per day.** Too much alcohol raises blood pressure and can raise your risk for stroke and other problems.
- ✓ **Take your medicine.** If your doctor has prescribed medicine to help you, take it exactly as you have been told to.



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



NEWS

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*"Don't limit yourself.
Many people limit
themselves to what they
think they can do. You
can go as far as your
mind lets you. What you
believe you can achieve."*

*Mary Kay Ash
(1918-2001)*

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PLACE
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The Mighty Lions

"Reuniting/Renewing/Restoring/Rejoicing Peabody's Legacy"