



# The Connection

## The Charmettes, Incorporated Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 3, July 2020

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# The President's Message



Greetings Charmette Sisters:

What a Spring! The COVID-19 pandemic has rocked our sense of security as individuals, a nation and as an organization. We want to know more and recognizing our “new normal” carries much uncertainty, still we continue to try to meet the challenges we face.

Many of us are, or know someone who is an “essential” worker. Some of us are working from home, some are not working, and we are not sure when/if our children will be able to return to school as we knew it. Our prayers are with members who have had to mourn the loss of family and friends during this time. And there are those of us who have been and are directly affected by this virus and we continue to pray for you. We also remember those whose family and friends are residents in health care facilities and pray that you have found ways to connect in spite of the restrictions on visiting.

We are mindful of the differences local, state and national officials are having in making determinations as for our present and future behavior. This is a time that we could not have imagined a year ago and so we are in need of new information. In essence, what can we learn from this teachable moment. A teachable moment that allows the organization to arise above the “unknown” and grasp hold of the opportunity to offer new innovation and new insight to move forward in serving our communities. An opportunity that must be sensed and seized NOW! As we move forward to support our members and chapters, we also look inward to understand what these changes mean for us as individuals.

We are an organization that values our relationships and connections. Now we must create additional way and venues for our work. As we embark upon our Seventieth Anniversary in 2021, I am excited about the future of The Charmettes, Incorporated and the new opportunities and new possibilities that we face together. As we recognize the changes we are seeing, we are working to secure ways for our organization and members to interact and to serve our communities in this different environment. Over the next several months we will be seeking input from chapters and members as to how we can be efficient and effective, even as we may have limitations on our face to face opportunities.

The Charmettes, Incorporated will continue to stand strong, we are All in this together and I thank each of you for desire and commitment to continuing to serve your community

I hope you are able to find a quiet moment to step back from the whirlwind around you and find joy, peace, enjoyment and especially a safe summer!

Sisterly,

*Catherine D. Lewis*

National President

# Information from Leon County

## Mother/Daughter High Tea

Our chapter hosted a Mother/Daughter High Tea that received high praise from all in attendance. It was an opportunity for our Debutants to bond with their loving mothers and create memories that will last a lifetime.



### **COVID-19's impact**

The ripple effects of the global pandemic forced our Chapter to pivot and reschedule our calendar events, including our signature Debutant Presentation.

While our Debutants and families were looking forward to this grand event, our members decided to err on the side of caution and not put anyone in harm's way with a large gathering during the height of the national response.

However, if appropriate, we are working hard to bring a modified version of this signature event this year.

## Charmettes in the news

We continue to celebrate our sisters making headlines for their good deeds. In March, Charmette Diane Sheffield joined an elite assembly of local leaders honored annually for Women's Month through the Tallahassee Democrat, the capital newspaper.

Here's snapshot of that article:

25 Women: Capt. Diane Sheffield 'always wanted to help people'

As the middle child in a pack of 10, Capt. Diane Sheffield remembers growing up in Madison County in a house that was the hub of the neighborhood. "My mother cooked every day," she says, "and people would come over because they knew they would get a good meal."

When she moved to Tallahassee in 1980 for school, she brought some of that home cooking — and an intrinsic sense of compassionate leadership — with her. She earned a degree in criminology from Florida A&M University and relocated to the St. Petersburg area to work in a work release program. "I thought about going into social work, but I knew I wanted to work in detention," she says resolutely. "I always wanted to help people."

She returned to Tallahassee in 1994 to join the Leon County Sheriff's Office Department of Detention, where she worked her way through the ranks to lieutenant in 2016 and then in 2018 was promoted to Captain. With that step, she became the first black female to obtain the rank of captain in the county. This year, she adds being one of Tallahassee 25 Women You Need to Know to her growing list of accomplishments.

Source: Tallahassee Democrat



# Information from Palm Beach

On January 25, 2020,  
The Palm Beach County Chapter of The Charmettes, Inc.,  
Attended the Susan B Komen Race for the cure.



Fancy Hat Brunch  
Men and Women of Faith, Praying for Strength & a Cure

Sponsored by,  
The Palm Beach County Chapter of The Charmettes Incorporated



Ann McCurdy,  
Chairperson



Grace Episcopal Church  
3600 North Australian Avenue  
West Palm Beach, FL  
Saturday, February 29, 2020  
10:00 am



This program was lovingly  
dedicated to our Former  
President and Cancer  
Survivor Dr. Wanza D.  
Sermons-Lee, Ed.D



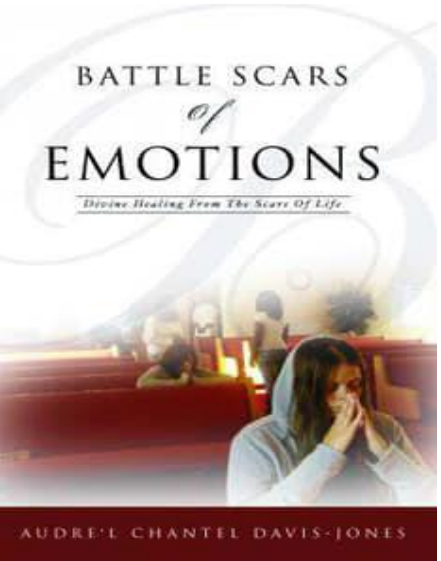
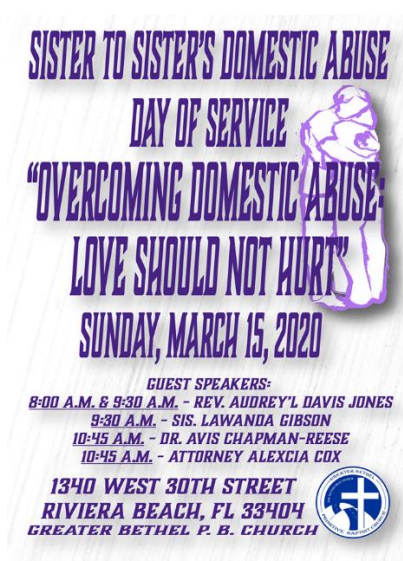
On March 14, 2020, The Palm Beach County Chapter of The Charmettes, Inc., Charmettes Keturah Howard, Vice President and Patricia Howard, Reporter attended The Treasure Coast Chapter of The Charmettes, Inc., 23rd Annual Purple Tea



President Vicky Seymour



On March 15, 2020, The Palm Beach County Chapter of The Charmettes, Inc., attended the Domestic Abuse Day of Service Program. President Audre'L Davis-Jones was one of the guest speakers who shared her book "Battle Scars of Emotions"



Charmettes: Latoya Wilson, Dr. Wanza Sermon-Lee, Barbara Wilson, Marian Stubbs, Elder Robert Henley III, Pastor of Greater Bethel Primitive Baptist Church, Riviera Beach, Florida, President Audre'L Davis-Jones, Latricia Donley, and Roslyn Siders

Left to right: Lawanda Gibson- Domestic Abuse Organization, Attorney Alexcia Cox, Charmette Marian Stubbs, Dr. Avis Chapman- Reese and Charmette Rev. Audre'L Davis-Jones, President



# Information from Richmond Metropolitan

## MEMBER NEWS ~ In Memory of our beloved members.



Charmette Lois Cumber



Charmette Mary Conyers

## COMMUNITY SERVICE INVOLVEMENT ~

\*Our Chapter collected and presented toys to the MCV/VCU Children's Hospital for Valentine's Day. \*"Getting Facts" Cancer Awareness Information Presented each month by **Charmette Bonita Grant**. A different Cancer highlighted at each regular monthly meeting. FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES ~ "Holly Ball" December 27, 2019



Past & current Presidents were honored with beautiful surprise gifts by the members.



Charmette Bonita Grant with Guest



Charmette Annette Henry with Guest

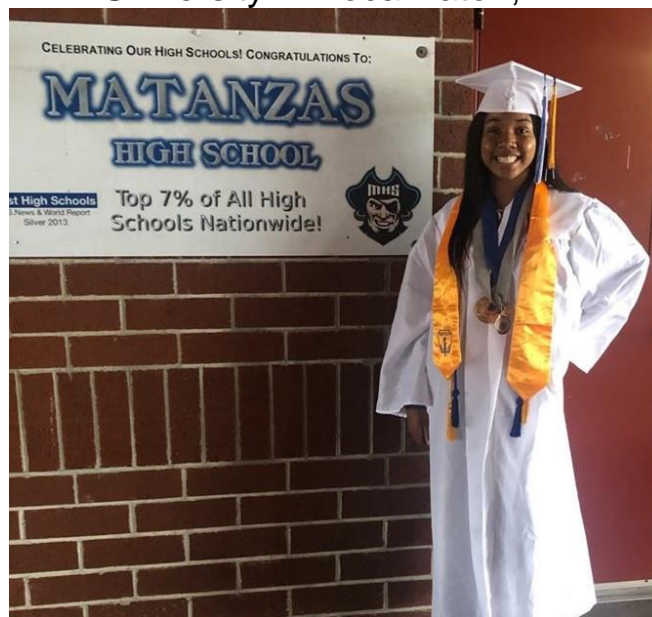
Up Coming Calendar Activities ~ New officers to be installed June 2020 via teleconference

## Information from St. Johns-Putnam-Flagler

Congratulations to the 2019-2020 Putnam County recipient of the St. Johns-Putnam-Flagler Co. Chapter of the Charmettes Scholarship Ms. Tamecia Epps. Tamecia is a graduate of Q.I. Roberts Jr.-Sr. High School in Florahome, Fl. and is the daughter of Eugene Epps. She was actively involved while attending school as the Asst. cheer coach for both cheer teams at Q.I. Roberts, 2019-2020 President of the Spanish Club and Secretary and Treasurer of the National Art Honor Society. She is also a Cambridge Diploma Recipient. She will be attending the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, Fla to Major in Communications. Presenting the scholarship to Tamecia are left to right: Charmettes Rogenia Simmons, D'Arcy Miller and Sonya Hughes.



Congratulations to Ms. Cayla Goff who is the 2019-2020 Flagler County recipient of the St. Johns-Putnam-Flagler Co. Chapter of the Charmettes college scholarship. Cayla is a 2020 honor graduate of Matanzas High School in Palm Coast, Fla and is the daughter of Carla Spencer of Palm Coast. She plans to attend Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Fl.



Congratulations to the 2019-2020 Recipient of the St. Johns-Putnam-Flagler County Chapter of the Charmettes Inc, Ms. Daidreuna Donaldson, a graduating senior from St. Augustine High School. Daidreuna is graduating with honors from the Interact Club, the JROTC, Suma Cum Laude, AICE program, National Honors Society and the Graduation Medal. She is the daughter of LeQuita King of St. Augustine, Fla. Pictured with Daidreuna are left to right: Charmette Willie M. Willis, Principal of SAHS Dr. DeArmas Donaldson, Charmettes Rhoda Ferrell and Linda M. Willis. Daidreuna will be attending Florida International University in Miami, Florida and majoring in Computer Engineering and concentration in Cyber Security.



## Information from South Carolina Midlands

**Charmette Annette Hammond**, new member of the South Carolina Midlands Chapter hitting the ground working. **Charmette Annette Hammond** – Founder of local nonprofit Blanketing Families host “I’m Booked” community campaign.



Charmette Annette Hammond was featured on (WOLO-25) on Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, as she hosted the “I’m Booked” community campaign. The campaign promotes literacy and encourages kids to read during the uncertainty of COVID-19 and protests against literacy around the world.

She notes that there is so much going on in and outside of our communities and the world. A lot of our children just get caught up in the distractions that takes them away from the important things in their life and what they really need to do. Charmette Hammond stated “we want our children to continue to read, – Reading is information, Reading is Power. If you can master the information, it gives you the power.” Thanks to the many donations, the organization was able to give books and blankets to 100 local children.

## PROUD CHARMETTE SISTERS

### Congratulations To Our Graduates



#### **Ja'Miyah Michelle Levy**

Congratulations to our own Ja'Miyah Michelle Levy niece of proud aunt, **Charmette Jannette Moorer**, who graduated from Ribault Senior High in Jacksonville, Florida named Valedictorian of the class of 2020 and was Miss Ribault 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner Up. Ja'Milyah is currently ranked number one out of two hundred and ninety (290) of her peers and will be attending Florida Mechanical and Agricultural University (FAMU) in the fall where she intends to major in political science on a pre-law track.

Ja'Milyah is extremely involved In school and her community. A member of the National Honor Society, where she holds the office of President, National Beta Club, National Society of Leadership and Success, National Society of High School Scholars, Future Lawyers and Leaders, Early College, where she earned her Associates in Arts Degree at the age of 17. Additionally, she is a member of The Lady Trojills, a sisterhood organization at Jean Ribault that mentors' young ladies and completes community service and the Mayor's Young Leaders Advisory County (MYLAC), a group of 50 prestigiously selected students brought together to voice the concerns of their peers and community to the mayor of Jacksonville.



Ja'Miyah volunteers with Feeding Northeast Florida and mentors young ladies at Northwestern Middle School where she instills motivation and self-confidence in today's youth to remember to always persevere and not let your circumstances define your life today and your future. Ja'Miyah is the daughter of Shawn Poler and granddaughter of Michel Marshall.



## Jayla Iyanna Robinson

Jayla Robinson is a graduate of the Dreher High School Class of 2020, in Columbia, South Carolina. She was in the top 25 percent of her class with a 4.3 GPA. - A Honor Roll the entire year. Jayla will be attending Winthrop University in the Fall majoring in Secondary Education and Mathematics.

### AWARDS:

Columbia Urban League Young and Gifted award for academic achievements in English 4, Algebra 3, and American Government.

Jayla is the niece of Charmette Cora Allen Mitchell and Charmette Anne R, Bolton and the daughter of Vanessa Montgomery Robinson and Frank Robinson.



## Ashley Dominique Blanding

Charmette Frances Blanding's granddaughter and Charmette Beatrice Richardson's great-niece, Ashley Dominique Blanding, graduated from Florida State College at Jacksonville, in Jacksonville, Florida. She received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biomedical Sciences with Honors conferred date 28 April 2020. Ashley is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Society. She is currently at basic training, Ft. Sill, Oklahoma in the United States Army and will train as a Medical Laboratory Specialist.

### **Note from the Reporter: I am now accepting submissions for this quarter.**

Thank you very much for reading this issue of The Connection. In the next issue, we will have more highlights from our Chapters. If you would like to submit information to be included in an issue, you can email me at [charmetteadrienne@gmail.com](mailto:charmetteadrienne@gmail.com) by the following deadlines: **For the July Issue, June 25th**; for the October Issue, September 25<sup>th</sup>; for the January Issue, January 5<sup>th</sup>; and for April Issue, March 25<sup>th</sup>. Thank you again and have a wonderful day.