

The Banneker Grapevine



Newsletter of the Banneker Ballroom Dance Club of Washington, DC

October 2016

President's Message

By Brenda Manley



Where does inspiration come from? This question occurred to me recently when my youngest son told me that I should not get my fashion inspiration from DuPont Circle where I work. It got me thinking about the different areas of my life and what inspires me to action.

Perhaps this season of change can make us contemplative, too. For all of us, it is an autumn full of color. There is a national election and time to select a leader. The world seems to be spinning out of control. Things will be different. Yet, we are inspired to action.

Poet Hermann Hesse wrote, "I have been and still am a seeker, but I have ceased to question stars and books; I have begun to listen to the teaching my blood whispers to me." So, did you travel this year or take a course; did you speak pleasantly to a stranger or make a new friend; did you attend the home-going service of someone special or welcome a newborn to the family; did you volunteer your time or share your talents; did you down-size or gaze into an ocean blue; did you dance the Tango or the Nae Nae; did you visit the National Museum of African American History and Culture and, if so, did you cry?

There is a section of this museum devoted to great African American thinkers and Benjamin Banneker is among them. His story is well known. He stood as a self-taught physicist, astronomer and author—brilliantly inspired!

The Banneker Ballroom Dance Club encompasses a rich story, as well. A story stimulated by everyone who has been a part of its wonderful organization. We take stock in the realization that we not only carry on the tradition of ballroom dancing but something more important. We carry the name, Banneker. We share the history and blood of a man who spoke truth to power, endeavored for his people and showed by example that, when inspired, we can accomplish much.

2016-2018 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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*Banneker Ballroom Dance Club
of Washington, DC
PRESENTS*

**HOME FOR
THE HOLIDAYS**
ANNUAL HOLIDAY GALA

*Ballroom
Hand Dance • Line Dance*

Sunday, December 11, 2016 • 7:00pm – 11:00pm
Martin's Crosswinds
7400 Greenway Center Drive • Greenbelt, MD 20770
Tickets: \$65.00 per person • Attire: Black Tie

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On the Right Track!

Submitted by Sherrill Chase

To experience the breadth and wonder of America by rail had been on our bucket list for a long time. This past September, Deryck and I were able to fulfill that ambition. Over a two-week period, leaving Union Station in Washington D. C. with a group of 40 others, we traveled via Amtrak, through the country's "bread basket," across southwest deserts and to the land of glitz and glamour. Once arriving in Chicago, bus tours took us



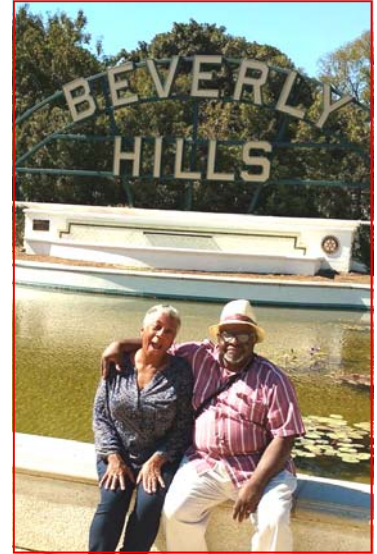
This travelling group is ready to go!

to its downtown district; its well-renowned Southside; the Lake Michigan shore; and even got a peek at the residence of President Obama. From there, on to Flagstaff, Arizona, to the Grand Canyon. Although we had visited the Canyon before, we found the awesomeness, wonder and beauty of the Canyon no less magnificent. We continued by bus to Las Vegas and then to our California destinations.

Surprisingly, seeing the hand, and footprints, of favorite stars like Sidney Poitier and Denzel Washington in front of the TLC (formerly Grauman's) Chinese Theater was actually exciting. We also walked along the star-studded pavement of Hollywood Boulevard, and toured Beverly Hills.

We boarded the train at the Union Station in Los Angeles and headed east. We stopped for two nights in Albuquerque, New Mexico where we were introduced to the heroic and painful history of the Pueblo native Americans and their benevolent philosophy of life. Except for a brief layover in Chicago, it was a straight trip home.

Our greatest challenge was the four nights of travel on the train. A beautiful trip, this coast-to-coast adventure gave us a deep appreciation of this country's greatly diverse landscape.



Sherrill and Deryck enjoying the L.A. sites.

The View from a Tennis Tournament Volunteer

Submitted by Jeanne Fox Alston



I was watching a men's doubles tennis match, marveling at the speed and power at which shots were hit, as well as the angles, when one of those angled shots hit me in the chest. Ouch!

It was a late afternoon in July and I was ushering at the Citi Open, the professional tennis tournament held every summer at the Rock Creek Tennis Center. I've attended it for years, but decided to help support the event this summer by serving as a volunteer.

What was the experience like? Mostly it was hot, really hot with little shade. On the day that I was hit by the tennis ball (I was fine), I was in the corner of one of the side courts. I was familiar with all four of the

players, but didn't have a particular interest in any of them, or even men's doubles unless the Bryan brothers (top-ranked American team) were playing. In other words, had I paid for admission that day, I would have skipped that match. Similarly, I would have passed on the second-round match of a young Japanese player who had knocked out one of the top American women.

However the matches I saw while ushering gave me newfound appreciation of the grit and dedication of all of the players, even the qualifiers. It was also illuminating to peek behind the curtain, so to speak, at such a large event with so many moving parts. Each day, there was a tent full of ball kids, ushers, airport greeters and more, all volunteering in service of love of the game.

By the end of the week, all I wanted to do was get out of the sun. But by winter, that will probably be forgotten. So when the call goes out again for volunteers, I'll re-up.

Memphis Family Comes Home

Submitted by Cecelia Savage Dade-Winfield

Memphis, Tennessee – In 1932, Americans were still feeling the harmful effects of the Great Depression. The economy continued to deteriorate, jobs were scarce and banks were failing. One bank that didn't fail was First National Bank in Memphis, where Archie Savage, Sr. was the Head Custodian. The father of ten later became the Manager of Glo-Tone Studio on Vance Street, where he taught himself to take and develop pictures. He eventually purchased Glo-Tone and was the photographer for *The Hamiltonian*, the yearbook named after Hamilton High School where several of his children attended.

The Savage family was a church-going Christian family. Mr. Savage and his wife Mattie stressed



Cecelia (L) with siblings, Canary, Hester, Mary, Youlon, and Rosetta in front of their childhood Memphis home.

education, hard work, good citizenship and public service. All ten children attended college and eight of them earned multiple degrees.

In 1949, while attending a photographer's convention in Chicago, Mr. Savage was invited to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He moved his family to Milwaukee, believing it would provide his children with more opportunities and a better life.

In case you haven't guessed, this is my family. Even though we all eventually left Memphis, the city never left our hearts. That's why the Savage siblings, our children and grandchildren came back to our roots, 100 strong, and reminisced on those earlier times for our 2016 reunion in "The Bluff City".

FROM COLOMBIA—Not Columbia

(From the T shirt slogan at gift shops in Colombia)

Submitted by Lakshme Someswaran

I had the blessed opportunity to learn to "do nothing" for 10 days when by son and family asked me to join them on a "Do Nothing Luxury Vacation" in Cartagena Colombia – and I did it, though I am guilty of making my bed each morning.

The day started with a hot cooked breakfast each morning of Arepa (pronounced ArRapaa), a well-buttered and deep fried bread filled with cheese and egg, followed with fresh exotic local juices that I cannot pronounce. Last, but not least, was an indoor pool outside my bedroom door where I swam with my 4-year old (going on 18) granddaughter before and after breakfast, and before and after lunch.

We also enjoyed the ride in the horse-driven cart, for about two blocks to local seafood restaurants each evening. Interestingly enough, one restaurant we visited had the menu, wine list, and desserts printed on wine bottles. This resulted in 3 pounds of lard I accumulated around my belly, and I now have to work hard to remove.



Family at seafood restaurant



Menu on wine bottle

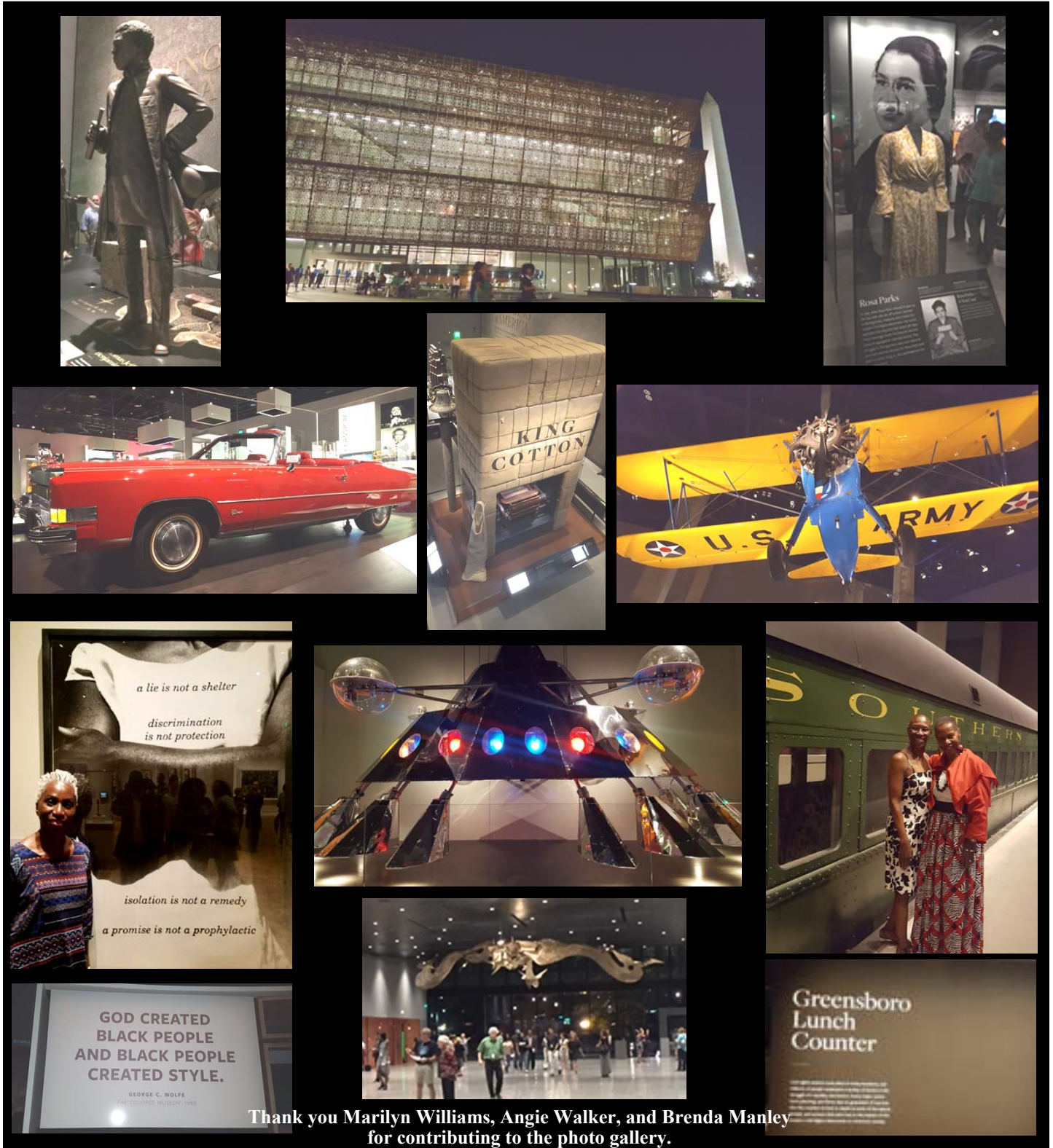


Lakshme at historic museum

Smithsonian's 19th Crown Jewel

On September 24th 2016, President Barack Obama officially opened the National Museum of African American History and Culture on the National Mall in Washington, DC. It is the 19th member of the Smithsonian Institution family of museums and research centers. For the thousands of visitors who have braved the long lines to gain entry to both the museum and the exhibits inside, it has been time well spent.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to visit this beautiful and inspiring museum, you are in for both a privilege and an education. It is truly "One For The Ages."



Thank you Marilyn Williams, Angie Walker, and Brenda Manley for contributing to the photo gallery.

Birthdays!

July	August	September
Angele Baker Faye Campbell Veda Carter Sherrill Chase Cliff Collins Margaret Crump Cecelia Dade-Winfield Teresa Dent Ethel Hawkins Tuleda Johnson Rosalind Palmer Darlene Robinson Lois Robinson Diane Scott-Jones Odette Smith-Forte Lauri Williamson Sandra Wilson Mary Wolf	Judy Bizzell James Commissiong David Corry Tamara Coward Richard Crutchfield Emma Davis Mary Duarte Jean Gilmore Harrison Hawkins Paul Hester Inger Hogan Joe Jackson Connie Jackson Janice Latimer Janice Leek Vincent Parker Michael Sims Earnestine Wiggins Jeanne Woods Agnes Yates	Pat Commissiong Earl Armstrong Lisa Bell Pauline Hazel James Jenkins Yvonne John Delria Johnson Frenchie Lumpkin Anita Marshall Gail Mayers OJ Moore Martha Parks Thelma Price Philippa Smith-Tyler Pearl Spencer Mikhana Tan Minnie Taylor Jim Travis Angela Underdue Francis "Bob" Yates
October	November	December
Robert Adams, Jr Bonnie Allen Loretta Argrett Cynthia Carpenter Mr. Coward Brenda Crockett Estelle Franklin Deborah Grimstead John Harps Cohinta Hester Stan Kelly Norma Kelly Brenda Manley Charles McDaniel Gwendolyn Means Maria Mims Publina Pereira Howard Pippen Fern Underdue Roberta Wright	Tami Bey Sandra Handon Emma Jordan Sherrie McReynolds Cecile Mitchell Katherine Moseley Barbara Owens Jody Roberts Keelie Taylor Jeffrey Thompson Olivia Upshur Francine Vinson	James Baker Raymond Contee Lorna Greaves Eva Griffin James Gross Gwendolyn Ingram Thomas James Anna Laney Dennis McCall Ronda McCall Roland Randolph Jefferson Spears Pat Theodore Harry Townsend Janice Wallace F. Robert Yates Jr. Pearl Young

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Betty Wilkins, Eddie Witten



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Club Calendar

November 2016	December 2016	January 2017	February 2017
1 Social: Halloween 8, 15, 29 Class: Salsa 22 No class	6 Class: Hustle 11 Annual Holiday Gala (@Martin's Crosswinds)	3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Class: Waltz	7, 14, 21 Class: Rhumba 28 Social: "Baneker Then and Now"
March 2017	April 2017	May 2017	June 2017
7, 14, 21 Class: Foxtrot 28 Class: Styling	4, 11, 16 Class: Night Club 2-Step 26 Class: Merengue	2 Class: Salsa 9 Class: Salsa/Tango 16 Class: Tango 23 <i>Personal Coaching and Assessment with Michael</i> 30 Class: Line Dance	6 Class: Review session 11 Annual June Gala (@Martin's Crosswinds)
Class Times 7:00 pm – Introduction 8:00 pm – Intermediate		Class Location 6310 Chillum Place NW Washington, DC 20011 National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) Union Hall Second Floor	
Check our online calendar for updates at www.banekerballroomdance.com			



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