

The Banneker Grapevine

Newsletter of the Banneker Ballroom Dance Club of Washington, DC

November 2018

President's Message

By Candace Thomas



Star Light, Star Bright, Stars Are Out Tonight! We enter a new season of the year. I invite everyone to join us for the Holiday Gala on Sunday, December 9, 2018. The Gala committee is hard at work and will, no doubt, produce another banner event. Please see our Gala flyer and purchase a table or tickets. I look forward to seeing you there enjoying the dancing, socializing and the cuisine.

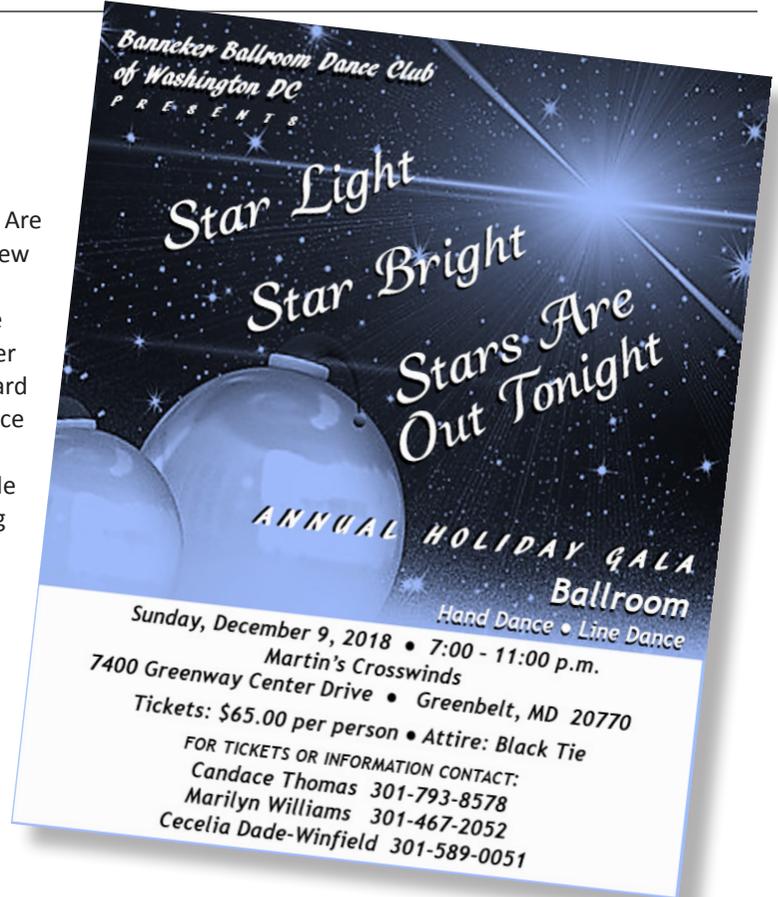
This past September, we began a new chapter in the life of Banneker Ballroom Dance Club of Washington D.C. We welcomed a new administration and many new members to the Banneker fold. It's wonderful to see the Banneker family consistently growing. We celebrate the new members and also are ever grateful for the longstanding members and friends who continue to support Banneker year in and year out. We could not succeed as an organization without the dedicated support of you all.

As long-standing Banneker members know, the organization is always striving to do more in the community in an effort to continue fulfilling our mission in new and innovative ways. On September 24, we held our first joint fundraiser with Dancing Classrooms (dancingclassroomsdc.org). Dancing Classrooms is an organization that introduces ballroom dancing to fifth graders. This event was a new endeavor on Banneker's part and is innovative in that it really does encourage and facilitate a future generation of ballroom dancers. How special and vital is that?

The event was a great success. I specifically want to thank Cecelia Dade Winfield and Robert Jones for their tireless efforts in bringing this event into being. Cecelia and Bob have been working with Dancing Classrooms for years, laying the foundation that we are now building upon. I extend great appreciation to the members of the Dance Team who performed at the fundraiser. They represented Banneker well and added to the majesty of the event. Additionally, I truly value the former and current members of the Executive Board whose assistance made this event possible, exciting and successful. A million thanks also go to all of the Banneker members and friends who made donations, purchased tickets and attended the event. It's important to note that without Banneker members and friends being willing to make these outlays of time, energy and effort the organization would not be able to sustain itself and to advance.

Finally, I want to thank the outgoing administration for their assistance during the transition to the new administration. I also appreciate the support of my current administration and the Banneker members who have offered words of support and encouragement. We've made a wonderful start. Let's continue to work together to maintain Banneker as a banner ballroom dancing organization.

See you at the Gala!



2018-2020 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Candace Thomas – *President*
Brenda Manley – *Vice President*
Deryck Chase – *Treasurer*
Shermaine Jones – *Assistant Treasurer*
Bonnie Allen – *Secretary*
Cecelia Dade-Winfield – *Assistant Secretary*
Carl Carlton – *Member at Large*
Robert Jones – *Ex-officio*

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A Trip of Renewal

by Cecelia Dade-Winfield

When I scheduled a cruise down the Iberian Peninsula, I could not have imagined how impactful this decision would be in the months that followed. My husband passed away in March 2018, and I lost my dog months later. This 17-day cruise would take my sister, niece and me to many new and exciting places and countries.

Our September journey began with a flight to Amsterdam. There, over the course of three days, we visited the Anne Frank House, the well-known “Red Light District” and many other historical sites. We then boarded the Celebrity Cruise Ship, which sailed to Lisbon. In Lisbon, we toured famous streets by tram and visited old castles and cathedrals. After Portugal, our ship went on to Belgium and the city of Bruges. We saw the Basilica of the Holy Blood, the Belfry of Bruges and the Gruuthuse Museum. Our Belgium tour was capped off with their famous Belgian chocolate! After re-boarding, we headed to Paris, also known as the “City of Light”!

In Paris, we were awed by visits to the Louvre, Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame Cathedral. Last, we sailed to Spain,



Darline Barber, Canary Girardeau and Cecelia Dade-Winfield

where we toured the beautiful cities of Gibraltar, Cartagena, Seville, Bilbao and Barcelona. We visited the Roman Theatre Museum, Spanish Civil War Museum, Guggenheim Museum and ancient cathedrals. We even saw monkeys on the hillside as we rode the cable car to the

top of Gibraltar. We also were treated to beautifully dressed flamenco dancers performing their stylish twirls! We ended our trip with two days of shopping and touring in Barcelona.

We flew home with our spirits lifted and our souls renewed!

An Investment in My Life

By Jody Roberts

A lot of folks think of summer as the hot season. It's often referred to as uncomfortable. I actually like hot weather and enjoy the sun while wearing a hat and sunglasses. I love going to outdoor concerts and cookouts, and get excited as the longest day of the year approaches.

This past summer, I attended numerous concerts. I endured parts of the Capital Jazz Fest in the rain. I also went to the Birchmere to hear a few favorites: Mother's Finest and War. I even made a couple of journeys to Wolf Trap to catch the infamous O'Jays, Gladys Knight and the son of Fela, Femi Kuti. I enjoyed my share of cookouts from the annual Fourth of July to the SK8 Family Cookout.

“An Investment in My Life” may sound like a stock option. However, it's actually



my granddaughter, Jackson. She was nearly 16 months old as the summer began. I usually watch her three times a week. I leave my schedule open, just in case her parents request additional assistance. Our days are filled with “Head, Shoulder, Knees and Toes,” reading countless books (that she may have already torn), and throwing food, bowls and cups off the high chair.

Jackson loves electronics as well. She has that delicate swipe that I don't even possess. I have yet to take her to a live concert but she has a few favorite tunes, including “Summer Madness” by Kool and the Gang, “I Stand Accused” by Isaac Hayes, “Ngoma Kurila” by Miriam Makeba and Bongi Makeba and “There Are No Mirrors in My Nana's House” by Sweet Honey in the Rock. Well, I'm sure you get the idea that an investment in Jackson is an exciting “Investment in My Life!”



Dance and Travel: Two Great Things

By Estelle Franklin

When I joined the Banneker Ballroom Dance Club in fall 2015, I had been dancing only a year or so. You see, I was doing my favorite thing – traveling – when I was introduced to ballroom dancing.

While on a cruise around the world, I decided to take the ballroom lessons offered every sea day (there were about 60 of them), and to dance/practice every night (about 110 of them). By the time I got off the ship, I was hooked. Looking for local places to dance led me to Banneker.

Between that trip and others, I have been to about 55 countries. From September 2017 to August 2018, I went to China, Ghana, Jordan and Egypt. On every trip, I try to find something off the beaten path to do. A lot of times it involves a bicycle or some walking or hiking or food and, preferably, a local beer.

These days, I also try to get in a little dancing as well. My most memorable travel dance experience to date was in Beijing. I was returning from a meal with my roommate when I heard music. It took a little while to place, but after a moment, I thought, “That’s waltz music!” Not what I expected at all! I had to check it out, so we followed the music until we arrived at a square where people were dancing.

I watched for a while, but then I saw a gentleman practicing by himself. He spoke no English and I certainly spoke no Chinese, but we both spoke language of dance. After communicating through a few gestures, we were dancing. I never imagined I would be waltzing in a square in China, but waltz away I did. After a few times around the square, I had to go. So I thanked him in gestures, he smiled and I was on my way. An unexpected moment. Dance is universal.



▲ **Lakshmi Someswaran** celebrated the birthdays of her son and daughter-in-law while all were visiting Cartagena, Columbia in August.

◀ **Michael Sims’** nieces, who live in Houston, visit for a week each summer. This summer, they went ice skating at the same rink used by the Washington Capitals and visited the African American Museum of History and Culture. Part of the week also was spent in New York City, where the girls got to see Times Square.

▼ Students from Stoddert Elementary’s **Dancing Classrooms** program, and their instructors, perform at the September fundraiser for the program.



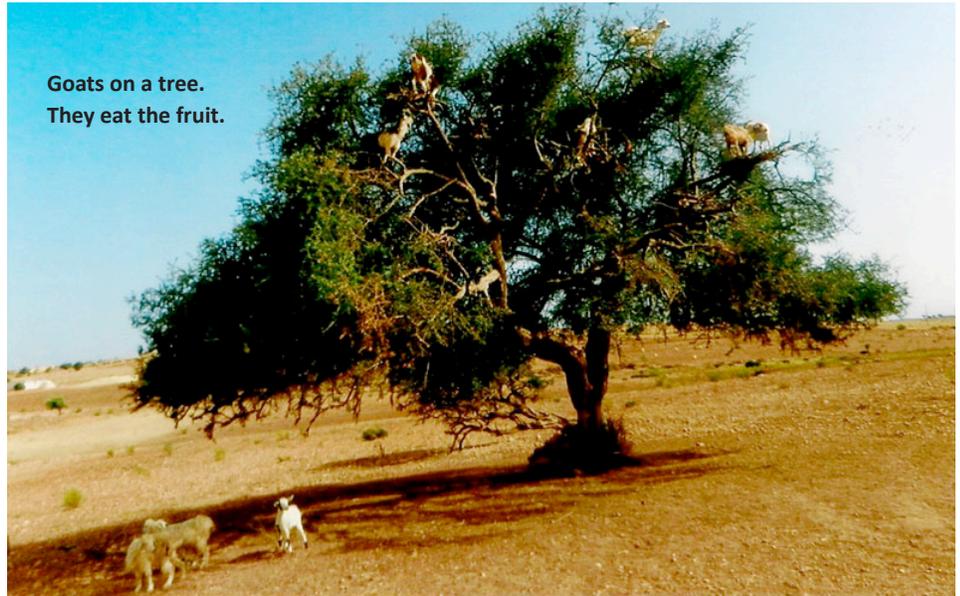
Back to Africa

By Pearl Spencer

It felt good to step onto the continent of Africa, even though we were in Morocco. Morocco is the northernmost country of Africa and is populated with Berbers and Arabs. They speak three main languages — Arabic, French and the indigenous language — and consider themselves Europeans.

Morocco is made up of four imperial cities. Rabat, the capital of Casablanca, has the world's largest production of leather. There, we saw raw animal skins washed and dyed to make beautiful handbags and other goods.

In Fez, we visited the royal palace, museums with exhibits of ancient relics and a well-kept Jewish cemetery in a Muslim country. We also saw the ruins of an ancient Roman city that was destroyed by an earthquake, then drove to one of the highest elevations. There we got a breathtaking view overlooking the city's medina, a historical walled-off area. We shopped at a co-op run by women who make Moroccan oil. Along the way, we were amused to see goats climbing trees to get the fruits.



We toured the city of Marrakesh on a horse-drawn carriage. Our tour included a visit to the beautiful botanical gardens inspired by French designer Yves St. Laurent; the beautiful stained glass walls of a Catholic church, belly dance performances and a restaurant stop. We also saw miles of cork trees along the roads.

On our return to Casablanca, we saw

the Hassan II Mosque, the largest in Morocco, and the Mohammed V Square and Notre Dame Cathedral. Our trip ended with a stop at the Ritz Cafe, where the famous movie "Casablanca" was filmed ("Here's looking at you, kid"). We also had a last chance to see the beautiful Atlantic Ocean and the Atlas Mountains, which divides Morocco from the Sahara Desert.

50th Anniversary Celebration

By Brenda Crockett

This summer marked an important milestone for Ron and me, our 50th wedding anniversary. I still cannot believe that we have been married that long. As we planned how to celebrate the occasion, I asked our children and grandchildren to come to Washington to join us to mark this special event.

We planned to take the family to our favorite restaurant on July 27th for a wonderful meal. However, our children had other ideas. They wanted to throw us a party and worked very hard to get almost the entire Crockett clan (about 70 people) together as well as members of my family,



The extended Crockett family

members of our wedding party and other guests who had attended our wedding. I found the guest book from our wedding

and had the anniversary guests sign it. So in some cases, there were two signatures for the same guest, which was wonderful.

The soloist from our wedding sang a special song for us at the party. It was a lovely surprise because he had written it for us.

I think the people who had the most fun were the children who were five and under. Our youngest attendee was our 2-month-old grandniece, and she was really impressed! Ron and I had a wonderful time with

many great memories, thanks to our wonderful and generous children, Ronald and Deryn.



Do you remember Dupont Underground? Well it has re-opened and this summer featured an art exhibit called "Video Works". The exhibit to the left is called "Drawing 5B, dual channel video, 3:00:00" by Washington DC native, Pamela Hadley. Drawing 5B is based upon perception theory and systems of vision. This piece rewards extended viewing by continuously revealing itself over time. Aside from the air being a bit stale, it was quite awesome to experience this makeshift gallery of remarkable moving works of art.

—Brenda Manley

Good Music and More

By Daryl Watson

The 7th Annual Soul Train Cruise will set sail from Ft. Lauderdale and cruise the Caribbean from January 20 - January 27, 2019. My wife and I have sailed on the last two Soul Train Cruises, and I recommend them to anyone who loves R&B music and wants to have a good time. What I like most about the cruises is that they are a week-long backyard party, predominantly of black people 60 and over. In addition to the outstanding music, there are other activities such as Bid Whist, Jeopardy and Family Feud. I can guarantee that you'll have a good time!



Daryl and his wife, Renee Watson



JULY

William Anthony
 Angele Baker
 Faye Campbell
 Veda Carter
 Sherrill Chase
 Cliff Collins
 Margaret Crump
 Cecelia Dade-Winfield
 Edwina Davis
 Teresa Dent
 Ethel Hawkins
 Tuleda Johnson
 Rosalind Palmer
 Darlene Robinson
 Lois Robinson
 Diane Scott-Jones
 Odette Smith-Forte
 Lauri Williamson
 Sandra Wilson
 Mary Wolf

AUGUST

Judy Bizzell
 James Commissiong
 David Corry
 Tamara Coward
 Emma Davis
 Mary Duarte
 Moreen Freso
 Jean Gilmore
 Harrison Hawkins
 Paul Hester
 Inger Hogan
 Connie Jackson
 Joe Jackson
 Janice Latimer
 Janice Leek
 Marcella Nelson
 Vincent Parker
 Michael Sims
 Earnestine Wiggins
 Jeanne Woods
 Agnes Yates

SEPTEMBER

Pat Commissiong
 Earl Armstrong
 Elvina Barnes
 Lisa Bell
 Pauline Hazel
 James Jenkins
 Yvonne John
 Delria Johnson
 Frenchie Lumpkin
 Anita Marshall
 Gail Mayers
 OJ Moore
 Joseph Nelson
 Martha Parks
 Thelma Price
 Philippa Smith-Tyler
 Pearl Spencer
 Mikihana Tan
 Minnie Taylor
 Jim Travis
 Angela Underdue
 Francis "Bob" Yates

OCTOBER

Robert Adams, Jr.
 Bonnie Allen
 Loretta Argrett
 Cynthia Carpenter
 Mr. Coward
 Brenda Crockett
 Estelle Franklin
 Deborah Grimstead
 John Harps
 Cohinta Hester
 Norma Kelly
 Stan Kelly
 Andrea Littlejohn
 Brenda Manley
 Charles McDaniel
 Gwendolyn Means
 Maria Mims
 Publana Pereira
 Howard Phippen

AmboNdem Tazanu
 Fern Underdue
 Roberta Wright

NOVEMBER

Tami Bey
 Michael Dupigny
 Sandra Handon
 Emma Jordan
 Sherrie McReynolds
 Cecile Mitchell
 Katherine Moseley
 Barbara Owens
 Jody Roberts
 Keelie Taylor
 Jacqueline Temple
 Jeffrey Thompson
 Olivia Upshur
 Francine Vinson

DECEMBER

James Baker
 Saundra Brown-Asante
 Raymond Contee
 Janice Dada
 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

Club Calendar

November 2018

6, 13, 27: Tango

December 2018*

4: Tango
 9: Christmas Gala

January 2019

8, 15, 22, 29: Waltz

February 2019

5, 12: Rhumba
 19: Bop
 26: Mardi Gras Social

March 2019

5, 12, 19, 26: Foxtrot

April 2019

2, 9, 16, 23: Salsa
 30: Social

May 2019

7: Salsa
 14: Tango
 21: Merengue
 28: Line Dance (Diane Brooks)

June 2019

4: Cha Cha
 9: June Gala

Class Times

7:00 pm – Introduction
 7:50 pm – Open-floor Dancing
 8:15 pm – Intermediate

Class Location

6310 Chillum Place NW
 Washington, DC 20011
 National Association of Letter
 Carriers (NALC) Union Hall
 Second Floor

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