



THE CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

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Blossoming Together

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The President's Message

Greetings, Charmette sisters!

As we transition from the cool breeze of winter into the fresh growth of spring, we also conclude our nationwide Chapter visits and turn our attention to our National Convention. I am pleased to report that your Executive Board has invested countless hours of the past few months in planning what we hope will be the most exciting and invigorating National Convention ever. Convention Chair Demetrice Rufus, Co-Chair Audre'L Davis-Jones, and the Convention Committee have left no stone unturned in securing stellar workshop leaders and superb programming for our entire Charmette families.

By now, you should have received our Convention Memo and the links to convention registration and hotel registration. Hopefully, the enthusiasm of the Executive Board and Convention Committee has been transmitted through our written communications, and you are becoming as eager as we are to experience the extraordinary events which have been planned.

Our attention to the National Convention did not distract us from our commitment to individual Chapter visits, and the final chapters to be visited during the first quarter of 2023 ensured that they were last, but not least. Each one displayed a unique nuance which we will never forget.

Vice-President Wanza and I were honored to be hosted by the Mother Chapter (Palm Beach County) and Treasure Coast in late January. We then jetted to North Carolina and South Carolina in early February. Finally, the Hillsborough County, Duval County, St. Johns-Putnam-Flagler County, and Broward County Chapter completed our tour in late February, with the most special event being our personal time at the home of our 8th National President Charmette Laura Martin. We found her in good health and spirit and were elated to have the opportunity to reminisce with her and to share recent updates about our beloved organization.

There were other major accomplishments during this quarter, as well. Charmettes Ava Gilley and Vencella Glasford-Burnett of the Miami-Dade County Chapter and I were honored to witness the renaming ceremony of the St. Thomas University College of Law in honor of Charmer Benjamin Crump (husband of Leon County Charmette Genae Crump). The law school is only the second in the nation to be named for an African-American, and the first ever named for an African-American practicing attorney. Charmer Crump's commitment to social justice has been embraced by the law school, and the joint venture promises to produce young lawyers who will diligently pursue the public good.

Charmette Wanza and I were also presented with a special treat from the Treasure Coast Chapter which entertained us at the famed Martin Downs Country Club, one of only 13 black-owned country clubs in the United States. The facility boasts exceptional accommodations and expansive grounds. What an honor it was to enjoy such a picturesque and significant site!

As the buds of spring continue to bloom, be on the lookout for the dissemination of ongoing Convention updates. Be sure to register early to ensure that you will be able to enjoy all that has been scheduled. We are looking forward to a grand time with you.

The SPOTLIGHT



Benjamin L. Crump College of Law

St. Thomas University Law School celebrated a renaming honoring Benjamin L. Crump, prominent civil rights attorney. This momentous occasion was attended by National President Cecily Robinson -Duffie, Charmette Genae Crump (Wife of Benjamin Crump and Leon County Charmette), and Miami-Dade County chapter Charmettes



Got news? Contact Me!
reporter@thecharmettesinc.org





The SPOTLIGHT

The Charmettes Incorporated also recognized Charmer Benjamin Crump with a gift honoring him for his tremendous achievement, tireless work, and service by representing those families afflicted in our nation. Congratulations to Charmer Benjamin L. Crump!

Pictured right: Benjamin Crump with his Charmettes Incorporated honor gift.
Pictured below: A closer picture of the honor gift.





Chapter Highlights



St. Johns-Putnam-Flagler



St. Johns-Putnam-Flagler Charmettes group picture at our Annual Bowties and Pearls Dinner Dance.



Pictured Left: Winner of the 50/50 drawing, Charmette Barbara Hughes.



Pictured Right: Winners of the the best Bowtie and Pearls contest: Marcus Baker Sr and Mildred Oliver



St. Johns-Putnam-Flagler



Picture (far left) of attendees at our Annual Bowties and Pearls Dinner Dance. A great time was had by all.



Picture (above right) of new Members installed on December 17, 2022.

Pictured L-R: Charmettes Kathryn Simmons, Victoria McRae, and Harriet Lewis.

The following Charmettes represented our chapter at the 2023 MLK Brunch at the Calvary Life Center in Palatka, Fla. L -R: Charmettes D'Arcy Miller, Roegina Simmons, Brenda Lockhart and Harriet Lewis.



St. Johns-Putnam-Flagler

2022:
The St. Johns-Putnam-Flagler Charmettes participated in The 7th Annual Dothea H. Smith Cancer Walk

The SJPF County Chapter of the Charmettes celebrated our anniversary with Charmettes Patricia Robinson and Roegina Simmons at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Federal Point, Fla with Rev. Theodore McRae and congregation. A wonderful time was had in service.





LEON COUNTY

Annual Debutant Mother Daughter Tea



Finished table with
desserts, scones, finger
sandwiches, and teas.

Mothers and
Debutantes (pictured
right and below).



Debutantes and mothers shared a special moment they'll cherish for years to come during our annual tea.

Ornate chandeliers and wall scones warmed the elegant room that served as the perfect backdrop for the occasion. Each table featured tiered foods, including finger sandwiches, scones, desserts, and a variety of teas.

As Debutantes took turns delivering tribute speeches, they all talked about the love of their mothers and how that love shaped them to become the young women blossoming before our eyes. Mothers were moved to tears, and they embraced their daughters with hugs and sweet words of their own.

In addition, each attendee received a keepsake program that featured a custom image of a Black mother and daughter enjoying a High Tea – an image that was created through artificial intelligence otherwise known as AI.

The use of AI for the program was the Chapter's attempt to marry cutting edge technology with our time-honored tradition of a Mother Daughter Tea. This image, along with others created for our Chapter, was shared more than 270 times on Facebook by the AI artist.



LEON COUNTY

Award named for Chapter President's commitment to preserving MLK's legacy



Photo Caption: Leon County Schools Superintendent Rocky Hanna and Dr. Malinda Jackson-James

Leon County Chapter Reporter makes history as longtime journalist



Leon County Chapter President Dr. Malinda Jackson-James was honored during the countywide Martin Luther King Day Breakfast in January for launching the annual award recognition now 30 years in existence. Charmette James, a longtime educator and administrator who retired from Leon County Schools 14 years ago, realized the need to expose youth to the importance of King's contributions. Consequently, The "MLK Dreamers and Doers Award" was launched and, effective this year, the award will bare two levels of recognition. The elementary level award will be named for Dr. Malinda Jackson-James. The "Secondary MLK Dreamers and Doers Award" will be named for the the person who followed Dr. Jackson-James in her role and maintained the implementation of the program.

After 20 years at the Tallahassee Democrat, Charmette TaMaryn Waters is the longest tenured Black female reporter in the newspaper's history. Her career spans coverage of human interest, K-12 education, local government, nonprofits and, most recently, business and economic development. Her work has garnered several awards and recognition as she continues to report on topical issues and major developments reshaping the capital city of Florida.



LEON COUNTY



Junior Debs at the homeless shelter.



Junior Debs feeding men and women in historic Frenchtown.



Junior Debs at the homeless shelter.



Junior Debs doing good work while fostering fellowship on MLK Day.

Several of our young Junior Debutantes took times to make a difference during the Community Clean Up event, hosted by the Urban League of Tallahassee



Community Clean Up.



MIAMI-DADE



The Miami-Dade Chapter of the Charmettes hosted their annual Walk-A-Thon fundraising event, at Mount Tabor Baptist Church, in Miami. The course was set in the church's parking lot and walkers averaged about 1-2 miles along the trail entitled "It's a Charming Walk 3K," as it drew out walkers as young as teenagers through our lovely and beautiful seniors.



MIAMI-DADE



The Cancer Project Committee pulled this walk off with limited time, but did an amazing job, getting sponsors to support this effort. It's still not too late to help make a difference. Visit <https://miamidadecharmettes.org/events>, where you may still contribute to this great cause. Once again, hats off to this committee for yet another successful Walk-A-Thon.

The Charmettes, Inc. Miami-Dade County Chapter



*Amina McNeil, Shakerra Dunn, Nakia Ruffin,
Cecily Duffie, Kyrrah Williams*

The Miami-Dade Chapter hosted a Post Holiday Party where they had an opportunity to fellowship with family and friends, amongst each other and welcome their new members to the chapter. It was a grand event and beautiful evening enjoyed by all.



MEMPHIS



The Memphis Metropolitan Chapter held its 4th Annual Cancer and Prayer Event on Saturday, March 25, 2023. The theme "Women of Faith Working Together for a Cure for Cancer", In Romans 8:28, It states, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."





MEMPHIS



The Memphis Metropolitan chapter welcomed Dr. Sharon Hightower of Southwest Community College, who spoke to the audience on current African-American Cancer Statistics. The brunch was filled with education, fellowship, and fun.





MEMPHIS

To cap off the event, Memphis Metropolitan Chapter President Demetrice Rufus represented the Chapter and Organization beautifully as the event was featured on Local Channel 3 News in Memphis. All in attendance were treated to food, giveaways, and supported local vendors.





TREASURE COAST



The Treasure Coast
Chapter of The
Charmettes, Inc

27th Annual Purple Tea
"Sock It to Cancer" took
place on Saturday
March 25, 2023 at Gator
Trace Country Club in
Fort Pierce, Florida

Back Row (L to R)
President Vicki Hayes-
Seymour, Vice Luvenia
Morgan, Manager
Dianne Williams-
Johnson, Treasurer
Janice Williams,
Reporter Twonnett
Brunson, Amelia Scott,
Dr Angie Bailey,
Chaplain Susie Rolle,
Vernita Toombs, Eva
Pressley, Debbie
McNiesh, Recording
Secretary Delores Hayes
Sitting (L to R) Eilean
Clark, Financial
Secretary Sarita Ricks,
Dr Christine Taylor,
Delores Hines, Historian
Minnie Spivey
Not Pictured Sergeant at
Arms Nicolette Owens,
Parliamentarian Brenda
McKenzie, Flossie
Jackson, Iris Woulard-
King, Kay Idlette, Brenda
Everett, Mary Bennett
and Verna Hunter



POLK COUNTY



Polk County
Charmettes
Enjoying bowling
@Sisterhood event
in December
...also Ugly Sweater
Challenge

Pictured Far
Left: Polk
County
Chapter
President-Sister
Dr. Shirlie E.
James



Polk County Chapter
Charmer, Roderick L.
James-Enjoying the
event and managing to
'squeeze' a win from his
major competition,
Charmie AJ Lindsay
Very close win

Pictured far left:
Charmettes setting
up the scoreboard
L-R, Charmette Sister
Dr. Shirlie E. James
and Rosonia Lindsay-
James



POLK COUNTY



Charmie-AJ
Lindsay smiling
for his 'almost
victory' and
Charmer Rod
James.

Pictured far left:
Bowling Lane for
Sisterhood event
for Polk County
Chapter
Charmettes



March 11,2023
Polk County
Chapter
Charmettes
distributed food
and other
products with
Partner Circle of
Love, Polk
County, 3-11-23



LAKE COUNTY



The Lake County Charmette Chapter was very proud to participate in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Commemoration parade on Saturday, January 21st. This year theme was "Standing United in Times of Change, Challenge, and Controversy."



Lake County's very own Charmette Carolyn Samuel was the chair of the Dr. MLKCC parade committee. The Lake County Charmettes were well represented.





LAKE COUNTY



A few of the ladies of The Lake County Chapter participated in Eustis 28th Annual African-American Heritage Celebration parade honoring Black History Month on Saturday, February 20th in Eustis, Florida. The annual theme for the celebration is UNITY-United Neighbors in Touch with Youth



RICHMOND

Community Service Benefits OUR Children, Too

The Richmond Metropolitan Chapter Community Services Committee is diligent in finding projects that the Chapter can do together, as well as individually and/or with just a few members. Yes, unbelievably, the COVID-19 virus is still with us. Today, it continues to be classified as a 'pandemic', it is still dangerous and overwhelming. Much research has been done, revealing unsatisfactory and sometimes helpful information that is shared with public authorities, as well as doctors, the overall public, and anyone interested in being up to date.

Because families and individuals are still struggling to make ends meet; basically, with having food for their children to eat, suitable housing, jobs, transportation, etc., which allows our Chapter to help in positive manners to fulfill our civic responsibility to serve our various communities.

Therefore, we decided to adopt a class at Mary Scott Elementary School, Richmond, VA to share our love, caring attitudes, and our desire to make things just a little more realistic for the students. Although the School is designated for pre-school children, it appears that the students know and understand what is going on around them.

The Chapter previously reported giving each student in the class a new winter coat for Christmas. We are now focusing on a weekly visit to the students for a "Storytime" hour. We all know that a four-year-old is not going to sit still for an hour; therefore, another activity is included.



Adopt A Child With Cancer Program

Although there are limitations, the Family of our new child with cancer, has reached out to the Chapter for some assistance in areas that will bring a smile to the child's face and allow him to know that he is loved and cared about, as well as a help to the Family in meeting all of his needs. The Family has requested time to get acclimated with his diagnose and treatment sessions.



ATLANTA



On February 18th, the Atlanta Metropolitan Chapter are honored to welcomed our newest Charmette sister, Ms. Niki Banks. From left to right... Deborah Harvey, Ebony Jean-Louis, Ruby Jones, Bernice Vaughan, Rhonda Raglin, front center- Niki Banks, Stefanie Turman, Priscilla Wright, Mandisa Jones, Jenneca Childress



On February 20th, the Atlanta Metropolitan Chapter Chamettes was overwhelmed with joy to volunteer for the Gilgal, Inc. A recovery residence for homeless women in Atlanta, GA From left to right.

Ruby Jones, Rhonda Raglin, Priscilla Wright, Jenneca Childress, Stefanie Turman, Bernice Vaughan, Ebony Jean-Louis



ATLANTA



On March 26th, we hosted our annual cancer fundraiser, "Women Brunchin For a Purpose." This was a sold out event! The guests enjoyed various vendors, food, spoken word, music, dancing, silent auctions and more!!



WASHINGTON D.C.



The Washington DC Metropolitan Area Chapter of the Charmettes, Inc. was pleased to meet, greet, and sponsor dinner for a group of students from Wiley College on Sunday, March 26, 2023. The students were touring the DMV during their Alternative Spring Break. Wiley College is a four-year college in Marshall, Texas. It celebrated its 150 years Anniversary in March 2023 and is one of the oldest HBCU colleges west of the Mississippi.

Our chapter recently welcomed Charmette Audrey Middleton into our chapter. Audrey is a former member of the Atlanta chapter and the Ocala chapter. She relocated to Pennsylvania and joined our chapter. Audrey is a gifted milliner whose hats are unbelievably creative and stand out in any setting. She is also a furrier and her furs are gorgeous. We are pleased that she joined our group.



PALM BEACH



On January 27, 2023, the National President, Cecily Robinson-Duffie, and National Vice President, Wanza D. Sermons-Lee came to Bridges of Riviera Beach to visit with the Palm Beach County Chapter. The evening was filled with knowledge, creativity and fun. Refreshments were provided. Each member in attendance received a gift from the National President and Vice President.





PALM BEACH



Palm Beach County Chapter of
The Charmettes, Inc.



Sign-up today to participate in the

2023 West Palm Beach MORE THAN PINK Walk
Saturday, January 28, 2023

Team: Palm Beach County Chapter of The Charmettes, Inc.

Meyer Amphitheater
104 Datura St. West Palm Beach, Florida 33401
Hope Village and Parade of Hope Volunteers
Walk: 7:00 AM | On-site Registration Opens
8:15 AM | Warm-Up Stretch



What an exciting day for our chapter as we ventured out to share in the fun and support for cancer. Palm Beach Chapter of The Charmettes, Incorporated participated in the Susan G, Komen Race for the Cure!. Our members shared this honor with our friends and family. We are proud to be a supporter of Race for the Cure, Palm Beach County.





PALM BEACH



The Charmette, Inc. supported the Integrated Healthcare Systems' 2nd Annual Healthy Heart Walk & Health Fair on Saturday, February 4, 2023. The walk was scheduled to begin at 9:00 am but due to inclement weather, the walk itself was cancelled, and all activities took place at the IHCS location under the covered driveway area.



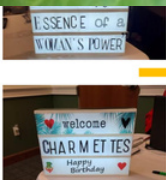
The event was well attended by community and local sponsors such as St. Mary's Hospital, Humana, the Quantum Foundation and many more. The health fair offered health screenings, CPR demonstrations, healthy exercise demonstrations, healthy cooking demonstrations, a tour of the medical facilities, chiropractic care, and much more, all free to participants.

"Fancy Hat Breakfast 2023"



"Family and Friends Enjoying Breakfast"

March's Monthly Chapter Meeting



The Charmettes that attended were Jennifer Wright, Patricia Howard, Sharon Wood, Antonia Spence, and Sharon Lee. It was a great community event.



MARION COUNTY



Marion County Charmettes (pictured left) were honored in March 2023 as volunteers for the Salvation Army during the holiday season.



In January 2023, Marion County charmettes participated in MLK Day in the Park (pictures center and below).

