

# The Banneker Grapevine

Newsletter of the Banneker Ballroom Dance Club of Washington, DC

November 2019

## President's Message



we can de-stress and practice emotional hygiene through socializing and interacting with one another.

Nonetheless, it is important to take the foot off of the gas and hit the brake. We'll end this year with an elegant gala Bright Lights of the Season. I hope you will join us for this black-tie affair on December 8th. Let's exhale!

Then, it will be time to look forward to the New Year 2020. In January we'll start the year with the Waltz, a big favorite with the Club. February will lend us another opportunity to put on a mask at our Mardi Gras Social. As the weather warms up we will dance the Salsa and Foxtrot and end April with our 'Spring Fling'. We'll elect a new administration for Banneker in June and finish the season with our Spring Gala on June 14th.

Let's make a point to invite someone new to socialize with us at Banneker during the new year and re-invite friends and family to join us for our fabulous galas.

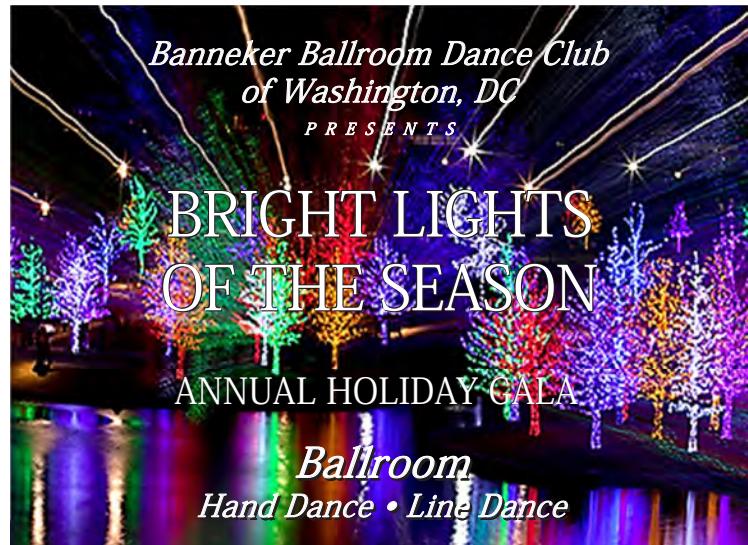
—Brenda Manley, *Interim President*

### 2018-2020 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Brenda Manley — *Interim President/Vice President*  
Deryck Chase — *Treasurer*  
Shermaine Jones — *Assistant Treasurer*  
Mary Duarte — *Secretary*  
Cecelia Dade-Winfield — *Assistant Secretary*  
Carl Carlton — *Member at Large*  
Robert Jones — *Ex-officio*

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Sunday, December 8, 2019

7:00pm – 11:30pm

Martin's Crosswinds

7400 Greenway Center Drive  
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Tickets: \$65.00 per person  
Attire: Black Tie

Dinner by Martin's • Cash Bar  
Music by DJ Greg

FOR TICKETS OR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cecelia Dade-Winfield 301-928-4688 Shermaine Jones 301-873-1807

[bannekerballroomdance.com](http://bannekerballroomdance.com)

[facebook.com/bannekerballroomdance](http://facebook.com/bannekerballroomdance)

# Our Turks and Caicos Adventure

By Deryck Chase

One of the stops on our vacation this year was Grand Turk (of the Turks and Caicos Islands). As is our custom, my wife and I went on a tour to find out more about this 7-square-mile island. I was amused by the donkeys that roamed freely as they reminded me of my childhood in British Guiana. I enjoyed the tales of ghost houses and of the island's proximity to the Bermuda Triangle. I also learned that Turk was so named because of a native cactus that looks like it is topped by a "fez". But what interested me most was the now-defunct salt industry and its connection to the enslavement of African people.

According to Wikipedia, "The Turks and Caicos consists of many small low-lying



islands, and every larger island in the archipelago has at least one natural salt water pond or lagoon. These ponds often have some connection to the ocean. In some cases this is by natural inlets or channels. Others are replenished by abnormally high tides or subterranean cave systems. As the trapped ocean water

in these ponds evaporate in the typically hot Turks and Caicos climate, salt crystals naturally collect in places."

Africans were brought to the Turks and Caicos by British colonists in the 1600s to work in the salt industry. Slaves stood in the ponds all day, raking salt. It is claimed that breathing in all that salt contributed to extraordinarily long lives since many of the population lived well into their 100s. Slavery on the islands ended around 1834.

The industry came to an end in the early 1900s because the Turks and Caicos are small with a limited number of ponds that could be developed. They could not compete with other locations. The islands now depend on tourism and seafood exports and has become a popular destination for offshore investments.

## Underground Railroad

By Brenda Manley

It was illegal to steal yourself up until 1865. However, for those enslaved who dared to try it, the underground railroad trail in Sandy Spring, Md., was one of the thruways that provided a path for that ambitious and dangerous crime.

For their Charter Day activity, members of the Delta Phi Chapter of Alpha Pi Chi National Sorority visited the grounds of Woodlawn Manor Cultural Park in Montgomery County to walk the trail of the Underground Railroad. The Tour of the Underground Railroad Experience Trail, 16501 Norwood Road, Sandy Spring MD is about two miles—four miles roundtrip. It is, of course, a pretty well-beaten path nowadays. Here, one can easily imagine crossing through fields of

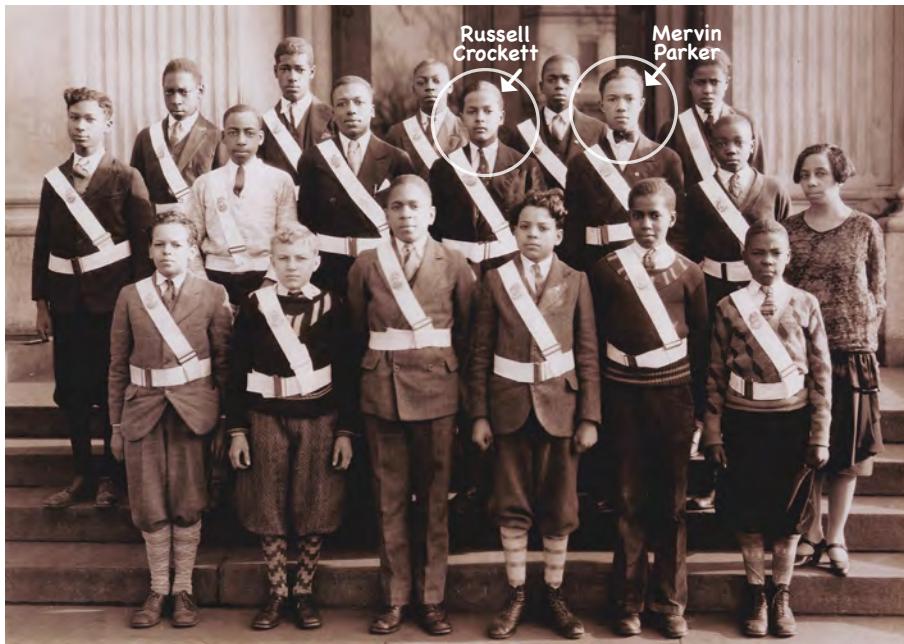


Cecelia Dade-Winfield and Brenda Manley, far left, with members of Alpha Pi Chi Sorority

corn or tobacco, tripping and falling over underbrush in the still dense woods, with only moonlight to light the night sky. It is perhaps somewhat harder to imagine that the real life experience took 927 miles on foot--cold, wet, hungry and hunted--to Chi

complete the journey from Sandy Spring to Canada.

It was a good experience, albeit sobering, to take the guided tour. If you plan a visit to Sandy Spring, call ahead, wear comfortable shoes and bring a bottle of water.



## It's a Small World

By Brenda Crockett

This story begins in the late 1920's. Russell Crockett was attending Shaw Junior High School in Washington, DC, when a new student, Mervin Parker, arrived from a country school in Maryland. Mervin was automatically put back one year since he had come from a rural area, a prevalent practice at that time. Since he was older than the other students, he was not warmly welcomed at first. Russell immediately befriended Mervin, and they became fast friends until they graduated from Shaw. They went to different high

schools and lost track of each other.

Fast forward to 1967. Ron Crockett met Brenda Parker at a lunch that summer. On their second date, when Ron came to Brenda's house to pick her up, her father, Mervin, answered the door. When Ron introduced himself, Mervin asked if he was by any chance Russell Crockett's son. He said that he was, and Mervin went downstairs to search for a picture he wanted to show Ron. It was a picture of the Shaw Junior High School patrol boys. Russell and Mervin were standing next to each other on the steps of the school. Their renewed friendship thrived for the next 35 years.

## Surviving Breast Cancer

By Pearl B. Spencer

July 1990 will always remain green in my memory. That's the day my doctor told me that the lumps in my left breast were cancerous. My journey started 29 years ago and, thanks be to God, I am still cancer free.

I recall how I found the lumps. I had a dream in which I saw my deceased grandmother, all dressed in white, trying to warn me about something. I woke up scared, crossed my hands on my breasts and felt the lumps. The next day, I called my family doctor, who ordered a biopsy.



When the results came back, my doctor had me come in as soon as possible. I had surgery twice to make sure there was no more cancer around the two lumps. This was followed by 45 days of radiation and chemotherapy. My hair started to fall out in the shower, but I was ready for that and had bought a wig. I did some research in order to fight this disease. I drank lots of green tea. I tried to avoid fried foods and ate lots of fruits and vegetables with my meals. I also drank some aloe vera juice and during radiation I rubbed the aloe vera gel on my breast, which stopped the burning. I still get nauseated sometimes, but I suck on candies or chew gum, which helps. Most important is that

## Winnipeg and Folklorama

By Roma Gumbs

My brother and his wife live in Winnipeg, Manitoba. My sister, Patricia, and I visited them in August during Folklorama. This festival is held every August for two weeks. This year was the 50th celebration and 45 countries participated. Each country showcased its culture with food, dance and posters. We visited the pavilions for the United Kingdom, Greece, Korea, Israel and Germany. The dancers were all very entertaining, especially those at the Israeli and Greek pavilions.

During our trip, we also visited the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. The museum is at the confluence of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers, and this site was a trading post for the indigenous peoples for centuries. The building itself is made of steel and glass and designed to take visitors from the darkness at its base to the light at the top in the Israel Asper Tower of Hope. We toured the Mandela exhibition with its vivid portrayal of the struggle for human rights in South Africa.

Of course, the best part was being with family, reminiscing, cooking, baking and eating!

I still have a lot of support from family and friends.

I try to get some exercise, and I thank God every day for what He is doing for me and all cancer survivors. I do believe that my guardian angel came to me in that dream. I have to stay positive and examine my breasts every month to make sure there are no lumps. Sometimes I get paranoid and feel all over for lumps. I also make sure that I get a mammogram and blood test each year before seeing the oncologist. Since retiring, each day I join the walkers at the Mall of Prince George's County to get my daily exercise. I feel so blessed to have survived this deadly disease for 29 years.

# Baubles Bangles and Beads Gala







## 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  
 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  
 Publiana Pereira  
 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.

## Club Calendar

### November 2019

5, 12, 19: Tango

### December 2019

3: Tango  
 8: Christmas Gala

### January 2020

7, 14, 21, 28: Waltz

### February 2020

4, 11, 8: Rhumba  
 25: Mardi Gras Social

### March 2020

3, 10, 17,\* 24, 31: Salsa  
 \*Business Meeting

### April 2020

7, 14, 21: Foxtrot  
 28: Spring Fling Social

### May 2020

5, 12, 19: Samba  
 26: Line Dance (Diane Brooks)

### June 2020

2: ChaCha/Bachata  
 9: Waltz/Foxtrot  
 14: Annual 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

## Contact Us

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 202-256-7218

## Website:

[Bannekerballroomdance.com](http://Bannekerballroomdance.com)

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## Newsletter Committee

Jeanne Fox-Alston