



Celebrating 25 years

The Wright Information

“A Legacy of Excellence”

February 2018
Volume IX

John J. Wright Alumni Association Newsletter

www.JJWAlumni.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK...

“We love thee so, our dear old school...”

Best wishes for a happy and prosperous new year. We are looking forward to an energetic and productive 2018 for the John J Wright Alumni Association.

"Save the Date" and plan to attend and participate in the activities planned for the year. This is an historic year for the alumni association and for the John J Wright classes ending in "8" - the Class of 1948 (seventy years); 1958 (sixty years) and 1968 (fifty years) - the last graduating class of John J Wright Consolidated School. Let's celebrate with thanksgiving the gifts of the years.

The John J Wright Alumni Association needs your membership and participation. Join us and share your talents, skills, expertise and experiences. Programs and activities provide an opportunity to fellowship with classmates and school mates. In order to continue the legacy of John J Wright, we support our youth with scholarships and stipends. Alumni and past scholarship recipients are reminded to "reach back" and support those who follow. We know scholarships make a

difference in ever increasing cost. We appreciate the efforts of all alumni, family and friends who have generously given, and continue to do so, over the years.

The history of our education - community one room schools, Spotsylvania (Snell) Training School, John J Wright School, John J Wright Consolidated School, to the integration of schools in 1963 and 1968 - is significant. It must be remembered and shared with younger generations, as well as future generations. The sacrifices, culture, contributions and achievements "in spite of" are the shoulders on which we stand. The John J Wright Museum located in the former Sadie Combs Johnson Library in the John J Wright Educational Cultural Center, established in 2010 will stimulate memories and discussions.

We remember classmates and school mates we've lost during the year. We pay tribute to our oldest alumni, Mrs. Julia Pryor Fauntleroy, Class of 1941, entered eternal rest December 25, 2017.

Constance Braxton
JJW Class of 58'

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SCHOLARSHIPS AND ELIGIBILITY



Through fundraisers and generous donations, the Alumni Association has, since 1996, awarded more than \$90,000 in scholarships and stipends to eligible students. 2017 proved once again with help from all of our dedicated members and pledges, we can help others achieve their goals. JJW Alumni awarded a total of five (5) scholarships in the amount of \$6,000.00.

The recipients were:

Scholarship Recipients (\$1500.00/each)

Allen Brown
George Mason University

Jasmine Brown
James Madison University

Stipend Recipients (\$1000.00/each)

Ketura Cook
Old Dominion University

Justin Lucas
Virginia Commonwealth University

Ayanna Sims
North Carolina A&T University

Eligibility

Applicants must be a financial member of the alumni association or the offspring of a financial member. Offspring may be biological, step, adopted, foster or

grandchild. The financial member upon whom the applicant is basing his or her eligibility must be a financially current member of the alumni association and for at least two consecutive years prior to the year of the application. (i.e; 2016, 2017 and 2018).

Application Availability

The application is now available! Please visit our website: jjwalumni.org or write: **JJWAA Scholarship Committee, PO Box 1061, Spotsylvania, VA 22553.**

A complete application package must be submitted (*postmarked*) to the Scholarship Committee by April 15, 2018.

Note: Scholarship and Stipend amounts are determined by the number of eligible applicants and available funds.

For more information please contact: Sandy Coleman
Email:
sandy_imani@verizon.net

WAYS & MEANS

T-Shirts; Polos, Caps and other items are available for purchasing. Items are: Blue w/white lettering or White w/blue lettering with John J Wright Logo!

Raffle Tickets

Don't forget to get your Raffle Tickets early. Tickets will be available March through July. Cost will be \$2.00 per ticket; 3 for \$5.00 or 6 for \$10.00!

First Prize: \$300.00
Second Prize: \$200.00
Third Prize: \$25.00
Fourth Prize: \$25.00
Fifth Prize: \$25.00
Sixth Prize: \$25.00

Contact an Officer or Committee Chair for tickets.

Drawing will be July 21, 2018 at JJW Park Site (3:00pm) @ Friends & Family Day.

JJWAA Upcoming Events

BINGO SOCIAL

B I N G O				
14	29	38	52	74
4	18	33	46	62
7	16	★	60	71
9	27	44	51	67
12	23	35	47	73

Date: March 24, 2018

**Where: John J Wright Parksite
7565 Courthouse Rd
Spotsylvania, VA 22551**

Time: 5pm – 7pm

Donation: \$10.00

No tickets will be sold at the door.

To purchase tickets, please contact Marilynn Brown on (540) 898-8260 or Lena Henderson on (540) 898-6260

Come out for lots of fun and prizes too!

SOCK HOP



Hope to see you there so dust off those "Dancing Shoes & Best 50's, 60's, 70's Outfit"

There will be a contest for "Best Dressed"!!

Tickets: \$20.00
April 28, 2018: 7 – 11pm
BYOB

The StoneSetters Club
3418 Shannon Park Dr.
Fredericksburg, VA

JJW "Oldtimers" BASKETBALL GAME

The John J. Wright Alumni Association is renewing the historic basketball rivalry between the JJW "Wildcats" and Walker Grant High School players dating back to many decades of the past. The co-ed game is being planned to take place at:

Where: JJWright Educational and Cultural Center
Date: Saturday, June 2, 2018
Time: 1:00pm
Tickets: \$10.00

This "Oldtimers Game" will feature many of the men and women who currently range in age from 55 to 75 years old, who

played varsity basketball for the two institutions during the decade of the 60s. I envision it being such a grand occasion and event that anyone with historic or current ties to either school "would not" want to miss this "Oldtimers Game" and all of the fun, fellowship, and comradery associated with it.

Should you have any questions or concerns pursuant to possible sponsorships, player participation, purchasing of tickets and any other pertinent matters, please contact **Gerald D. Tyler** at [**\(540\) 785-7700**](tel:5407857700)



FRIENDS & FAMILY DAY

7th Annual Friends & Family Day will be:

Where: JJWright Park Site
Date: Saturday, July 21, 2018
Time: 12:00 Noon – 4pm

Please save this date, come out and have a good time with friends and family. Enjoy lots of food, music, games, vendors, "Sha-Sha" the Clown & raffle drawing.

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP DANCE

Alumni, family and friends are invited to attend. Tickets are \$30 and will be available **August 2018 for purchasing**. Please contact the Committee Chair: Ms. Rochelle Bazemore-Fountain for more information

October 6, 2018
Tickets: \$30.00
7:00pm – 11:00pm

The StoneSetters Club
3418 Shannon Park Dr
Fredericksburg, VA

Classes ending in "8" will be honored (i.e., '48, '58, '68 and '78 post integration). We would like to have as many members of the above classes to attend this banquet. We would like your help in locating these individuals. Membership is not limited to graduates, it is open to all who shared the year. More details later.

For More Information on The Sock Hop, Friends & Family Day, Raffle Tickets, T-Shirts and all other items for purchase, please contact: Melvin "Butch" Lewis @ [**MLL46M@aol.com**](mailto:MLL46M@aol.com)

MEMBERSHIP CORNER



Membership is on an Annual basis: January – December

Dues are \$25.00/year

Dues are currently being accepted for 2018 and future years.

Please feel free to download the application from our website. Once completed, please mail to the address listed on form.

For more information please contact: Lena Henderson at hendersonle@att.net

Pledges and Donations

All pledges and donations can be sent to the JJW Mailing Address. No pledge or donation is too small and we appreciate your contributions.



Member “Shout-Outs”

John J. Wright Consolidated School – The Final Graduating Class of 1968

The last class to graduate from John J. Wright Consolidated School in 1968 consisted of 36 Seniors after a few classmates began the integration process early and chose to complete their high school education at Spotsylvania High School. The remaining classmates are proud to have been the final Mighty, Mighty Seniors to earn their diplomas from this astute institution of learning.

The year 2018 denotes the 50th year since these students walked down the auditorium aisle in caps and gowns and accepted their well earned diplomas. This year also represents the 50th year since the all Black consolidated school was integrated. We take pride in our accomplishments and we say a grand “Thank You” to all the teachers, principals, parents and school staff who dedicated their lives, time, money and love to the many students of John J. Wright Consolidated School. The Class of 1968 remembers with gratitude and appreciation Class Sponsor, Miss Martha Frye **who inspired every student to always strive to do their best, whatever the task.**

We take pride in our accomplishments and look forward to continued positive impact as we are given new territories to cover. Our goal as John J. Wright Wildcats forever, is continued self-development and to bring blessings and success to each person we touch.

Reunion Time is Fun Time!

The senior class of 1968 is planning its 50th anniversary reunion in the Spring of 2018. Students, teachers, principals, and school staff who were a member of this class or contributed to the education of this class at any time from 1956 to 1968, are invited. Information on location, a date and time is forthcoming. We look forward to sharing great memories, future aspirations, great food and music, laughs and even some old and new dance steps with everyone!

Shelby Robinson
JJW Class of 68'

Dear John J Wright Alumni:

Hello fellow Wildcats. Can you believe that it has been 25 years since we established our John J Wright Alumni Association? Time does fly as we get more mature. Think of all the changes that have occurred in our lives and in the world.

Remember when we really used the library, a dictionary, read a newspaper rather than googling on the internet, used money rather than debit cards? Now we can drive cars that can talk and park themselves; cellphones that we cannot live without rather than a land line telephone; and had the privilege of being a part of history with the election of President Obama. On a personal level, how many of our friends and classmates have we lost?

That is why it is so important that the John J Wright Alumni Association must continue to be a viable part of our community and our lives. For the generations that are following in our footsteps, we must keep the history of John J Wright Consolidated School alive. We must make this year a banner year for our alumni.

We need members to pay dues and be an active part of the association. Share your ideas and participate in events. When you receive your newsletter, call/contact classmates to ensure that they have also received their letter. Let's work together to make 2018 an unbelievable, memorable year for the John J Wright Alumni Association.

Elizabeth Taylor White
Spotsy High Class of 65'

Membership Challenge

I believe that acquiring a very good "quality education" serves as a great backbone-type of foundation and spring board from which to launch our adult careers. And this acquisition of good education occurs mostly in our secondary schools through the college and university years where we receive our academic degrees and other certified credentials as proof of having been well educated.

That said, and realizing the truth and utmost importance of the aforementioned statement, those of us, and many others who have benefited from getting a great educational start at John J. Wright, and then continued on with our higher educational pursuits by matriculating at various colleges and universities across America, should be quite willing to give back to help others acquire a good quality education as well. Also, the many people among us who never attended nor graduated from any college or university, but who nevertheless, went on to have highly successful professional and non-professional careers, should be willing as well in this reaching back process to help others.

As a member of the John J. Wright Alumni Association (JJWAA), I appeal to you to join with me and others in lending your support and the giving of your talents and treasures to help the many young people in our secondary schools and colleges today to get an even greater education than what we acquired ourselves. Please accept my challenge and get on board with the JJWAA, and support the numerous events and activities we

sponsor annually designed primarily to generate needed "**Dollars for Scholars**" for our young people to attend colleges and universities of their choice to further their education at the higher learning levels.

Become an immediate member yourself, and then join with Lena Henderson, JJWAA Membership Chairperson, me, and other current members as we collectively recruit additional new members from afar and near. Membership in the JJWAA includes regular, associate, and honorary members, and right now is the best time to join. Thank you!

Gerald DeForest Tyler
JJW Class of 64'



Community Outreach

During the past year, JJWAA participated in two Community Outreach programs in Spotsylvania County.

JJWAA was able to donate Ethnic Hair & Skin products to Families in Need. This is an ongoing project and we collect annually during Friends and Family Day.

Along with Spotsylvania Social Services, JJWAA participated in the "Make Christmas Happen" Program for Children in Need in December.

JJWAA sponsored five children for this program.

John J. Wright Museum

The museum, in the former Sadie Combs Johnson Library, is open 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

It is governed by a Board of Directors and supported by memberships, donations and fundraisers. Come and see what's new; share your story. Donate or lend your memorabilia to help preserve our heritage. Our website: www.jjwmuseum.org. Support the museum with your visits, memberships and donations

Mailing Address

JJWAA
P.O. Box 1061
Spotsylvania, VA 22553

Board Meetings

These meetings are held the first Saturdays of March, May, July and November. In January and September the meetings are held on the second Saturdays in each month. The October **General Meeting** is held on the same day as the Annual Scholarship Dance.

JJWAA OFFICERS

President: Constance Braxton
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Vice President:

Helen M. Henderson
Email: hmh1093@hotmail.com

Secretary:

Stacy Armstead
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Parliamentarian:

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COMMITTEES

Membership Committee:

Lena Henderson
Email: hendersonle@att.net

Ways & Means Committee:

Melvin "Butch" Lewis
Email: MLL46M@aol.com

Scholarship Committee

Sandy Coleman
Email: sandy_imani@verizon.net

Banquet and Scholarship Dance

Rochelle Bazemore-Fountain

Email: r_bazemore@hotmail.com

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Helen Henderson
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