



Terrell Tells

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MARY CHURCH TERRELL LITERARY CLUB
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI* FOUNDED 1912

Terrell Responds to COVID-19 Pandemic



Protective masks were presented to the residents of Federation Tower, a senior residential apartment complex, located in Clinton, MS, and owned by the Mississippi State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc. and Youth Affiliates. The masks will be given to residents as personal protective equipment from the highly contagious COVID-19 virus, which has shown to have greater impact on those 60 years and older, as well as on African Americans. They are also useful since adherence to the requirements of the *Shelter in Place Orders* has prohibited many from exercising their daily routines. Additionally, the Club provided puzzle books for the residents to help relieve some of the mental and physical stress of ongoing confinement. Terrell Club Sisters presenting the masks and puzzle books are (from left to right) Mrs. Belivira Junior, Courtesy Chair; Dr. Delores Hopkins, President; and Mrs. Alberta Smith, 1st Vice President.

June 2020

Spring/Summer Edition





Terrell Tells

PAGE 2

President's Message



Greetings Terrell Club Sisters,

We are witnessing a constant sea of change as we experience the deadliest health crisis in our life time. The coronavirus or COVID-19 has impacted our lives in an unprecedented manner. A new vocabulary has become a part of our daily conversations: shelter in place, social distancing, PPE (personal protection equipment), face shields, etc. COVID-19 continues to deal a devastating blow to the entire world; it knows no boundaries. Notably, senior citizens, people with pre-existing conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, etc., as well as people of color - black and brown alike - are experiencing tremendous losses. We often refer to our daily life experiences as "the new norm." Sadly, we must consider the possibility that the world, in our lifetime, may never return to what was once "normal."

As Federated Women, we do not despair or mire in hopelessness. Instead, we seek ways to come together in mind, spirit, and service. Whether or not we are able to meet collectively, we continue the work of our mission and purpose - to serve our communities and extend a hand to others. In keeping with this commitment, we rise to the occasion. Club sisters have shared that they are making calls, volunteering to help those who are confined and unable to venture outside their homes, dropping off food and other necessities, and picking up medications, etc. Also, on behalf of the club, several sisters delivered protective masks and puzzle books to the residents at the Federation Tower in Clinton.

History often repeats itself and provides meaningful lessons. In a time of great crisis, as this country sought to survive as it separated from its former homeland, Thomas Paine wrote these words: "These are the times that try men's souls; the summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service in their country, but he who stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman." Paine wrote these words as a part of his effort to inspire Americans to become active in saving the country in a time of war. Today, we are in a war of survival as a people and as a country. We can apply Paine's words to the challenges of COVID-19. We stand committed to uphold our purpose to "Lift as we Climb" by providing support and service in our communities. This is our charge.

In the months ahead, as we weather this pandemic, let us continue to check in with each other, share kindness through words and deeds, and assist those in need. It is important that we follow the guidelines provided by the scientists and doctors as they seek a cure and/or vaccine to eradicate the COVID-19. Finally, let us pray that our nation will rise stronger, united in love, kindness, and good will toward all.

Sisterly,

Delores W. Hopkins

Dr. Delores W. Hopkins, President



Terrell Tells

PAGE 3

Women Impacting Civil Rights

Terrell's first meeting of 2020 celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday by featuring African American women that impacted the Civil Rights Movement. Members shared information on the lives and contributions of local, state, and national female civil rights activists. Several of the women are featured below:

IDA B. WELLS-BARNETT – A journalist, educator, and one of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs.

DAISY BATES - A journalist who documented the battle to end segregation through a weekly newspaper, and whose home served as the headquarters for meetings to integrate Central High School in Little Rock, AR resulting in nine African American students (the *Little Rock Nine*) attending the all-white school.

MAE BERTHA CARTER - She and her husband were plaintiffs in the NAACP-backed lawsuit that led to the abolition of the Mississippi dual school system in 1970, when in 1965, the Carters enrolled seven of their school-aged children in previously all-white schools in Drew, MS.

CLAUDETTE COLVIN - Nine months before Rosa Parks' bus protest that resulted in the *Montgomery Bus Boycott*, she was one of three girls that boarded a bus in downtown Montgomery, AL who refused to give up their seats. She was arrested and put on probation.

JOAN TRUMPAUER MULHOLLAND - A Freedom Rider from Arlington, VA, was the first white person to integrate Tougaloo College in Jackson, MS. She became a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and was held on death row in Parchman Penitentiary.

AYLENE QUINN – Her restaurant in McComb, MS became the location for secret meetings between the Council of Federated Organizations, and local businessmen during the Freedom Riders Movement.

DORIS SMITH AND DOROTHY WILLIAMS - Twin sisters, both known for their work in the civil rights movement. In 1984, Doris Smith became the first Black woman to serve on the Jackson, MS City Council.

JEANETTE SMITH - The wife of Dr. C. E. Smith - the first Black physician in Hattiesburg, MS - served as President of the Forrest County NAACP and was known for her work through the national level. Many of the nation's civil rights leaders who came to Hattiesburg stayed at the Smith's home, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

ANNIE DEVINE - In 1964 Canton, MS native Annie Devine joined Fannie Lou Hamer and Victoria Gray Adams to become the first Black women to speak before the United States House of Representatives for the Progressive Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, which she helped found.

WYLMA KING – In 1977 she was elected the first African American President of the Mississippi Association of Educators. Mrs. King, a member of Mary Church Terrell Literary Club for more than twenty years, authored the Club's New Members Induction Ceremony, and is a former Club Woman of the Year. Pictured above left to right are Club Sisters Ruth Hobbs, Delores Hopkins, Annie Archie, and Wylma King.





Terrell Tells

PAGE 4

Reaching Out to Others



For the past five years the Terrell Club has selected Matt's House, a Stewpot Ministry Women's Shelter, for the Club's Human Relations Day activity. Club members met at Matt's House on January 18, 2020 and presented a financial donation of \$157.50. The donation was earmarked to purchase bus passes for residents to provide transportation for those seeking employment, a requirement of the shelter. Transportation assistance was identified by Matt's House management as a timely need. The financial donation was collected from club members.

Expressions of gratitude were provided by Resident Manager Ms. LaRonda Davis. Currently, there are eight adult females and five children residing at the shelter. Members pictured above are left to right: Alice Doss, Community Outreach Chair Ramona Cork, Resident Manager LaRonda Davis, Terrell Club President Delores Hopkins and Special Projects Chair Alberta Smith.

She is Getting Better

In February, Club Sister Ruth Hobbs celebrated her **105th Birthday!** Mrs. Hobbs has been an active member of Terrell since 1986. She is our resident sisterly relations liaison and delights in sharing spiritual readings and providing us with fun and games at meetings. She is also one of our energetic fundraisers. Congratulations and many more years!





Terrell Tells

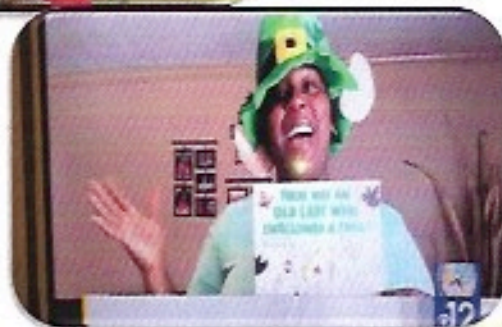
PAGE 5

The Story Lady

Club Sister Tonia Smith has been a school librarian for 10 years at the Scott Central Attendance Center in Forest, MS. Reading stories to the students has been a favorite part of her job. Now, faced with the coronavirus pandemic, and the students not being able to return to school, she decided to give them something they were missing – going to the library for their weekly activity. Thus, she began reading stories.

The stories she reads are those that can assist them on the Accelerated Reading Test, a requirement for some of the students. Parents have applauded her for her efforts and shared that her storytelling has helped their children maintain some normalcy through this pandemic. In addition, while their little one sits and listens to "story time," it gives them a few minutes in the day to do some of the things they need to do around the house.

Tonia's many praises led to her being featured on the local CBS affiliate, WJTV-TV, in April on the 6:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon **Cool School** segment. She was delighted to be chosen to do something she loves. She uses her **Facebook** page (Tonia Smith) to share her stories, and now has a **YouTube** channel titled "storylady2020" to reach children whose parents may not have a Facebook page. As a result, her storytelling has expanded not only to other school districts, but to other states as well. Thank you, Club Sister, for an innovative, enriching, and fun activity!

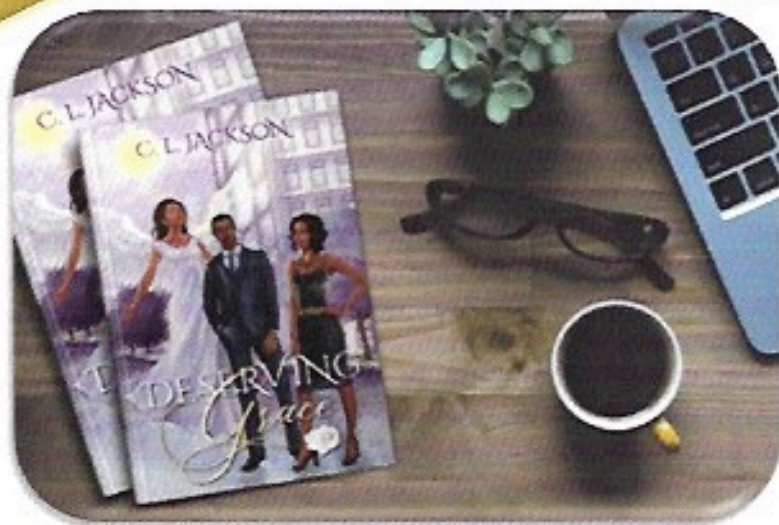




Terrell Tells

PAGE 6

Terrell Sister Writes Book



Dr. Candice Love Jackson has worked most of her adult life in education. In and out of Mississippi she currently serves as a professor at Jackson State University. So how did she start writing. In her own words: "I started writing after leaving a position that taxed me personally and professionally. For the first time since I was fifteen years old, I was unemployed, which my similarly situated colleagues and I called "consulting and exploring." So I started reading for pleasure. I wanted something completely non-academic. I

noticed that there were very few novelists of color, particularly African American women, writing in the romance genre. Of course, my academic training was such that I was supposed to write a modern-day *Invisible Man*, or *Native Son*, or even a *Queen and Slim* film, but I thought, isn't Black Love just as revolutionary? Black readers need to experience Black Love as pure and as romantic as anyone else. So, I decided to try my hand at writing, to loosely quote Toni Morrison, "the books I wanted to write." I wanted a story set in Jackson, Mississippi, that not only acknowledged our history and issues, but also celebrated love and romance."

Now you be the judge! Her book, **Deserving Grace**, can be purchased on Amazon, but until then here is a tantalizing synopsis: When Kenzo A. Dallas's young wife succumbs to cancer, he vows never to fall in love or hurt a woman again. He devotes his life to honoring his wife's memory, and after five years, he has become a respected real estate developer and philanthropist, comfortable in his life of solitude in Jackson, Mississippi. After working overseas for the State Department for several years, Grace Harrington returns to her childhood hometown of Jackson, Mississippi, to lead a task force against human trafficking. Grace wants to focus her energies on serving her community and transform her family's land into a haven for survivors of abuse. She doesn't need or want any distractions. When Grace Harrington threatens to block Kenzo's real estate development honoring his deceased wife for her own agenda, their worlds and passions collide. Sounds like a good read!

Welcome New Officers

Best wishes are extended to the 2020-2022 officers: Delores Hopkins (**President**), Chris Tanner-Watkins (**1st Vice President**), Lori Johnson (**2nd Vice President**), Tamarra Washington (**Recording Secretary**), Valerie Blue (**Assistant Recording Secretary**), Tracee Thompson (**Corresponding Secretary**), Ursula Harris (**Financial Secretary**), Ramona Cork (**Treasurer**), Barbara Richardson (**Chaplain**), and Marilyn Brittain (**Historian**). We look forward to your successful leadership!



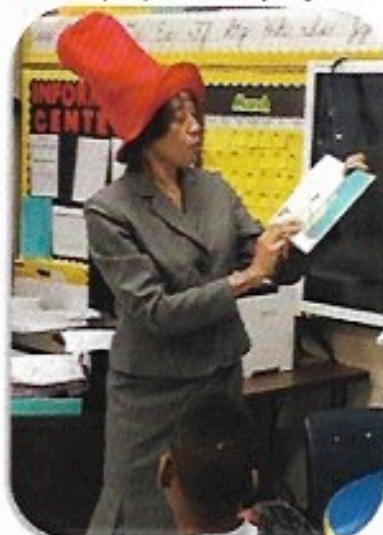
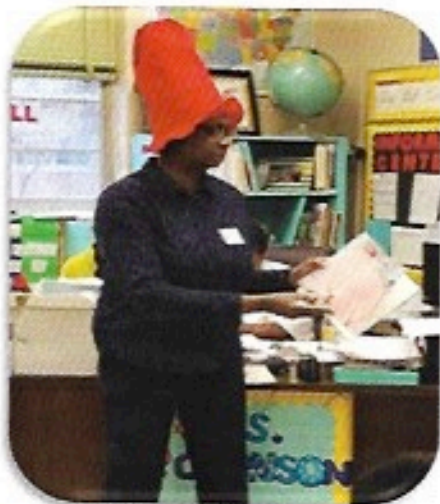
Terrell Tells

PAGE 7

Read Across America



Timberlawn Elementary School in Jackson celebrated the 116th birthday of American artist, author, cartoonist, and book publisher Theodor Seuss Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss. In March, club sisters connected with other volunteers at the school as they read from his books to the students in various grade levels. The celebration focuses on motivating children to read as it improves their performance in school. Members joined the spirit of the celebration by wearing the signature Dr. Seuss hat. Pictured above are left to right: Alice Doss, Lilla White, Principal Ms. Horton, Alberta Smith, Jacquelyn Staffney and Valerie Blue. Pictured below are Lilla White (left) and Jacquelyn Staffney (right).





Terrell Tells

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MARY CHURCH TERRELL LITERARY CLUB
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI* FOUNDED 1912

Our Green Angel



During recognition of Girl Scout Sunday at Farish Street Baptist Church, the Green Angel Pin is given to a person who embodies the Girl Scout Law in her daily life. This year's recipient lives her life in that manner, whether it is visiting or preparing a meal for the sick and shut in members, reaching out to the less fortunate, or simply encouraging a young person and some seasoned ones with her many wise sayings that only she can come up with! She is always going beyond the call of duty for everyone. She is a role model for her girls who have been Girl Scouts, and an avid supporter of her grandchildren who are also Girl Scouts. She is that grandmother who will spend her nights and early 4 o'clock mornings baking cakes so her granddaughter will have the opportunity to travel abroad with Girl Scouts. It is extremely wonderful to present the 2020 recipient of the Green Angle Pin, First Lady (and our club sister) Gladys Marie Johnson (Pictured on the right with her daughter Club Sister Tonia Smith on the left).



The Newsletter Committee

Mrs. Terryce N. Walker, Chair
*Dr. Ramona Cork * Dr. Lori Johnson*
*Dr. Delores W. Hopkins * Mrs. Alberta Smith*
*Dr. Candice L. Jackson * Mrs. Tonia Smith*

Wishing you a safe summer!

