



## John M. Harlan High School Alumni Association, NFP

*"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence is not an act, but a habit"*  
Aristotle

# THE HARLAN TIMES

Volume 2

Fall 2009

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## NEW BOARD

Our new board will take office on January 1, 2009 and their terms will end in December 31, 2011. The new board members are:

President	Kenneth Webb, Class of 1964
Vice President	Theodore Mustiful, Class of 1973
Past President	Seth McCormick, Class of 1964
Treasurer	Charletta Mattox-Askia, Class of 1969
Assistant Treasurer	Floyd Simpson, Class of 1969
Secretary	Cheryl Kirk Jackson, Class of 1969
Public Relations	Theodore Mustiful, Class of 1973
Membership Chair	Sharon Harvey Massey, Class of 1965
Fund Raising	Judith GrandPre' Smith, Class of 1969
Historical Committee Chair	Elsie Hamilton Jones, Retired Faculty
Historical Committee Co-Chair	James Patrick, Class of 1968
Picnic Committee Chair	Joey Thurman, Class of 1977
Picnic Committee Co-Chair	Shirley Booker, Class of 1975
Member	Rebecca Taylor Nicholes, Class of 1968
Member	James Patrick, Class of 1968
Member	Jamal Rasheed, Class of 1972

## WEBSITE

We encourage you to visit our website for the latest updates and information. The address is:

[www.jmhaa.org](http://www.jmhaa.org)

Please contact us at [www.jmhaa.org](http://www.jmhaa.org) for your upcoming events, reunions, parties, and fundraising activities.

We will keep our old website, which you can also visit. The address is:

[www.groups.msn.com/JohnMHarlanAlumniAssociationIncChicagoIL](http://www.groups.msn.com/JohnMHarlanAlumniAssociationIncChicagoIL)

## WEBSITE (continued)

### *Chicago Public Schools Alumni Website*

As a reminder, this website has names of all graduates of Chicago Public Schools starting in grammar school through college. You can look up any graduates name in the system and see what schools they went to, etc. It's a great networking system.

Each school has its own "page". Harlan has theirs. It provides updated information on the school, some background information, famous people who attended the school, and information about our Alumni Association, NFP. We can also post our activities on this website.

We support the efforts and commitment of the Chicago Public Schools alumni website and invite and encourage you to visit them at:

[www.cpsalumni.org](http://www.cpsalumni.org)

## MEMBERSHIP *"Honoring Our Heritage"*

In November 2009, renewal notices for membership dues and donations will be mailed. Membership applications are also available on our website.

Currently we have 162 members and are actively trying to increase our membership.

If you know of any Harlanites who are not members, but want to become one, we ask that you have them contact Sharon Harvey Massey (Class of 1965), who is Chairman of the Membership Committee at 773: 391-5416 or via email at [Sharon@jmhaa.org](mailto:Sharon@jmhaa.org).

## RICHARD E. THOMPSON FUND

The Richard E. Thompson Fund was established on February 16, 2008 by the John M. Harlan High School Alumni Association, NFP, (JMHAAs) in memory of the late Richard E. Thompson, affectionately known as "Mr. T" to assist students at Harlan Community Academy.

The purpose of this fund is to allow individuals and organizations an opportunity to contribute, through JMHAAs, to the ongoing programs and projects of Harlan Community Academy. The funds will be used for the basic and essential needs of the students, (i.e., supplies, materials, text books, equipment, activities that engage students directly, such as, woodshop, arts, technical training, athletics, etc.).

The use of these funds will be authorized and dispensed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors of the JMHAAs.

## 501c3...CHARITABLE DONATION STATUS

Your donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. There are many ways in which you, as alumni, can help us in our efforts to assist Harlan students through your financial gifts via 501c3.

## 501c3...CHARITABLE DONATION STATUS (continued)

We ask you to consider a donation at any time or when renewing your membership each year to help us with our programs at Harlan.

If you would like to make a donation specifically to the *Richard E. Thompson Fund*, please *make a separate check or money order to “JMHA Richard E. Thompson Fund”.*

Please remember that there are increasing needs for materials, equipment, and services that directly affect students at Harlan Community Academy. Your donations make a difference in supplying needed materials, supplies, and services to the students.

## BACK TO ROOTS FESTIVAL

We had an excellent turnout for our “*Back to Roots Festival*”, which was held on February 6, 2009. There were 12 vendors, food, dancing, and networking. This is one of our membership activities and we welcome new ideas and venues.

We are in the process of planning our 2010 “*Back to Roots Festival*”. Please visit our website for a confirmation date as soon as it becomes available.

## PICNIC

Our Annual All Class Reunion Picnic was held on Sunday, July 26, 2009 at Grove 5 in the Dan Ryan Woods. It started at 10:00 AM and ended at 6:00 PM. Many classes returned with their tents for their particular graduation year. This event has attracted Harlanites from many different classes. Class reunions have also planned their activities around the “*All Class Reunion Picnic*”, which assists in broadening our base and connecting alumni.

## HARLAN COMMUNITY ACADEMY EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

### *Engineering Magnet Track*

In September 2009, Harlan Community Academy started an Engineering Magnet Track. The Magnet Track will be a program within the school, but will accept students citywide. This program will serve 60 incoming freshmen during the 2009-2010 school year and one grade each year until the track serves grades 9-12. This program welcomed a “New Era” of academic excellence and achievement.

### *Chicago Public League Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame*

The Chicago Public League Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame conducted its’ annual Hall of Fame Recognition Brunch at the Hawthorn Race Course at 3501 Laramie Avenue in Stickney/Cicero on Saturday, May 16, 2009.

The Harlan City Champion Teams of 1967, 1970, and 1971 were selected for induction in the Team Category. In addition, Gilbert Jordan, who played on the 1970 and 1971 teams, was inducted as the team player.

## **HARLAN COMMUNITY ACADEMY EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS (continued)**

### ***Homecoming Football Game and Dance***

On Friday, October 16, 2009, Harlan's Homecoming Game was played **School** at Gately Stadium. The score was ??-??. Afterwards, Harlan sponsored a Homecoming Football Game Dance in the school's gymnasium and a "Meet & Greet" for the parents/family of Harlan students in the school cafeteria. \*\*\*Find out who played Harlan in the homecoming game and the score.

This was a wonderful event for the students, faculty, staff, LSC and alumnus to meet and greet each other on common ground. There was food, music, dancing, and networking.

### ***Debate Team***

Brandon McNamara was a member of Harlan's Debate Team. Because of his dedication and debate skills, he won a full scholarship to Northwestern University.

Robert Pincham (Class of 1969), Harlan's debate coach, along with the Forensics Debate Program has won numerous awards over the past three years, including taking 4<sup>th</sup> Place in the citywide 2007-2008 competition. All of his debaters have received college acceptance letters from schools at the University of Illinois, Howard University and Vanderbilt University.

We congratulate the Debate Team and Mr. Pincham for his dedication to excellence.

## ***50th ANNIVERSARY "This is Harlan High" CELEBRATION***

### ***Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009***

Harlan's 50<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Committee comprised of various people from different classes. This spectacular gala was a two night event on September 25<sup>th</sup> and September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

On Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, an "Old School Jazz Festival" was held in the school's auditorium from 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM. Stanley Abernathy (Class of 1965) organized the musicians, featuring former Harlanites from around the country. It was a magnificent combination of sights and sound that showcased the talents of these marvelous musicians.

Lucius Bell, (Class of 1969), organized a choir for the program and numerous others gave unselfishly of their time and talents to produce mesmerizing musical moments.

On Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, the Black Tie Dinner Dance and the Harlan Hall of Fame Induction was held at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place, 2233 South King Drive, in Chicago, Illinois from 5:00 PM – Midnight. This was a sold out event.

Teachers and alumni, past and present, showed their support for this affair. There were over 300 people in attendance, including several current Harlan students, along with the principal, Mr. Reginald Evans. The food and festivities marked a historic milestone for the school.

## ***50th ANNIVERSARY ... "This is Harlan High" CELEBRATION (continued)***

### ***Elsie Hamilton Jones, Retired Harlan Faculty, Keynote Speaker***

Mrs. Elsie Hamilton Jones, retired faculty from Harlan High School, researched the building, foundation and beginning features of Harlan High School. She encompassed the energy and efforts of how our former school was built and the student population.

She was gracious enough to share some of her speech with us:

*"This really is Harlan High! As I walked to the podium in silence, I was awe struck...admiring and looking at all the faces that once walked down the hallowed halls of Harlan to academic success and just plain good citizenry.*

*I began my teaching career at Harlan, 2 ½ years after it opened and have the only distinction of spending all of my 34 years there until my retirement. I am extremely proud of this record.*

*To meet the demands and challenges of a growing population and to relieve the overcrowded Fenger High School, John Marshall Harlan High School was built in 1957 and opened its doors in the fall of 1958 to an enrollment of 850 young people.*

*During the 1960's, Harlan was among the top outstanding high schools in the city with 90%-95% of the students going on to colleges across the country; including our most prestigious colleges. This trend continued, to a limited degree, in the 1970's and 1980's. College enrollment began to decline across the nation.*

*But we can be extremely proud, because over the years, Harlan has produced many successful graduates ranging from no "D's" to Ph.D.'s; medical doctors, skilled craftsmen, professional writers, celebrities, businessmen and women, pharmacists with very successful businesses, a few millionaires (one was in my division who dropped out of Harlan, but later returned to school to earn a Bachelors and 2 Masters degrees), very talented educators, outstanding musicians, and God bless them, religious leaders and professional gospel singers.*

*According to the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin, Harlan holds the eminent distinction as being the only high school in Cook County – and I'm adding probably in the state – to have 8 active judges on the bench. God forbid that we forget just ordinary citizens who have – as Oprah often says – the most demanding job of all – our stay-at-home mothers and fathers who are raising children and grandchildren.*

*Your teachers are extremely proud of you. Mr. Miller would really be proud to say 'This is Harlan High!' He coined the phrase and was Harlan's first Assistant Principal and was the organizer extraordinaire. All the principals he served under: Mr. Moore, Dr. Connery, Mr. Keat, Mr. Lewis...tasks were made much easier because of his brilliant organizing skills. It was he who instilled pride in students and teachers alike.*

## 50th ANNIVERSARY ... "This is Harlan High" CELEBRATION (continued)

### ***Elsie Hamilton Jones, Retired Harlan Faculty, Keynote Speaker (continued)***

*From a teacher's perspective, I was asked to give a history synopsis of Harlan. The problems your alma mater is facing today needs your support desperately.*

*I appeal to you on behalf of the John Marshall Harlan High School Alumni Association, NFP from a teacher's perspective to please get involved. Just reading and hearing the mass media should alert you to action. The alumni board is very dedicated and needs your help.*

*Please alums, reach out to your alma mater. Harlan was there when you needed them...now Harlan needs you."*

## 50th ANNIVERSARY DVD

This 80 minute documentary captures the John Marshall Harlan High School groundbreaking in 1957 and the opening of Harlan in the 1958-59 school year. With interviews from former teachers and administrators, including the late Mr. Richard E. Thompson (Mr. T), Elsie Hamilton Jones, Dr. Byron J. Hooks, Coach Sherman Howard, Dr. Edward Robinson and students representing classes from the 1950's through the 2008.

The documentary will provide you a trip down memory lane with year book photos, familiar music, and nostalgic moments in academics, sports, and Jones Snack Shop. It captures the accomplishments of Harlan graduates throughout the world. This video will make you truly proud to be a graduate of Harlan. To the best of our knowledge, no other school in Chicago has completed such a story on their high school. You may purchase a copy of this rare DVD by contacting Ted Mustiful at [Ted@jmhaa.org](mailto:Ted@jmhaa.org).

## HALL OF FAME

The Hall of Fame Ceremony was included as part of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. There were 15 former Harlanites inducted into the 2009 Hall of Fame. The inductees were:

Darron Edward Bowden	Class of 1980
JoAnn Fastoff Blackman	Class of 1967
Dean Paul Gant	Class of 1970
Ghalib Ghallab	Class of 1968
Sharon Harvey Massey	Class of 1965
Dr. James Byron Hooks	Teacher
Sherman Howard	Coach
Horace Jones	Class of 1965
Charletta Mattox Askia	Class of 1969
Cynthia Milsap	Class of 1977
James Patrick	Class of 1968
Porter Myrick	Class of 1966
Anita Ponder	Class of 1975
Derryl Reed	Class of 1965
Mark Washington	Class of 1966

## HALL OF FAME (continued)

Each inductee received the beloved Falcon statue... *"Nestling a black glass disc under its wing, the falcon exudes a feeling of both strength in its glare and grace in its flight"*.

*Congratulations* to our new Hall of Famers!

## PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM FOR HARLAN COMMUNITY ACADEMY

The proceeds from the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event along with additional monies from the John M. Harlan High School Alumni Association, NFP will be used to purchase a permanent new public address sound system for the auditorium.

Currently, a portable sound system is being used, which is carted from one area to another. With this new sound system, the students, staff, parents, and visitors can enjoy better sound quality and acoustics.

## PIANOS FOR THE BAND AND MUSIC ROOMS

When Ghalib Ghallab (Class of 1968) and Stanley Abernathy (Class of 1965) toured the music and band rooms at the school, while they were in town for the jazz fest, they were devastated by the absence of working pianos. Through Ghalib's efforts, two pianos have been donated to the school, so that the fits of music can be delivered for years to come.

We appreciate their contributions and thank them for providing assistance.

## TRANSITIONS...*Fallen Falcons*

The following Falcons made their transition:

Donna Baker McCraney	Class of 1966	February 2009
Madelyn Myrick Norton	Class of 1964	March 13, 2009
Cheryl David Dunmore	Class of 1967	April 3, 2009
McNair Grant	Class of 1965	April 11, 2009
Lowanda Bell	Class of 1968	

## KUDO'S

Crystal Phoenix Tyler, Esq., (Class of 1985), has written and directed a play entitled *"Child Support."* The play debuted at Northeastern Illinois University on October 30, 2009.

## SAVE THE DATE

### *Back to Roots Festival*

February 2009

### *7<sup>th</sup> All Reunion Annual Picnic*

July 2009

**\*\* Visit our website for updated information, once it becomes available**