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Teenarama Inc.

Message from the President



Dear Members,

The winter holiday season at the close of the year and at the beginning of a new one is a great time to take stock and give thanks. We have taken stock. We are taking this time to thank the people who have helped Teenarama, Incorporated in some way. You have given time, money, or other resources to support Teenarama, Incorporated and thus our scholarship recipients. Your devotion has helped us award scholarships, provide coats to disadvantaged children, and sponsor activities that provide a venue where people who love to hand dance can do so in a pleasant, social atmosphere. Your patronage also makes it possible for us to contribute to activities that help to preserve the legacy of the art form known as "DC Hand Dance."

Teenarama, Incorporated has had many successful ventures. We attribute the success of these ventures to your affirmative response when we approach you selling tickets or asking for your support in other ways. We are grateful to Lawrence Smith for the generous monetary donation. Mr. Smith's donation increased the amount of the scholarship and made it possible for our most recent recipient to purchase a much-needed computer for school. Thanks to Nancy Smalls and NPS Enterprises, Mike Goodwin and Starcres Realty, Inc., Captain Eric Slaughter and Capitol Yacht Charters, Beverly Lindsay-Johnson and Kendall Productions, and Teenarama Board members for door prizes and items to raffle. Giant Food Stores donated hot dogs, buns, and other staples of food for our Kiddie Cabaret. We appreciate Just In Time, Incorporated, the DC Lottery Board, and Teenarama Board members who donate the items we give as gratuities to our patrons as a token of our appreciation. Finally, dance events could not be successful without the services of a competent DJ. We are blessed with James Taylor (aka, Jam Master J or Jamm'n J) a professional and an expert.

The Board is exploring ways to reward your future support of our mission and goals. We are revamping the membership process and believe some changes will make membership renewal more convenient and provide opportunities that will benefit members of this organization. We are excited and making plans for the coming year.

We wish you and your family a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year and encourage you to "Keep on Hand Dancing."

AFRICAN AMERICAN COWBOYS STILL RIDE!!!

Article by Laverne A. Parks



Picture caption: (Left to right) Abe Parks, Laverne A. Parks, Vice Mayor Eddie L. Martin, Lita Gray, and Eric Bowers

Members of Teenarama Incorporated (TI) usually hand dance. On Saturday, June 14, 2008, Eddie L. Martin, Bill Pickett Cowboy and Vice Mayor of the City of District Heights hosted Lita Gray, Eric Bowers, Abraham (Abe) and Laverne A. Parks at the western cabaret sponsored by the Bill Pickett Rodeo. It was a wonderful affair held at the District Heights Community Center. TI members hand danced and danced a number of different western line dances.

Mr. Martin armed with a six-shooter and sporting one of his many rodeo prize belt buckles was a gracious host who regaled TI members with stories about the African-American cowboys and cowgirls of the famous Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo. The Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo is an innovative, educational and exciting perspective on the history, challenges, and excitement of Black Americans in the western United States. It celebrates the life of the legendary Black cowboy Bill Pickett and other blacks who greatly contributed to the development of the west. In November 2008, the 25th Anniversary of the Bill Pickett Rodeo was held at the South Point Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

MEMBERS' CORNER

Thinking of You!

Prayers and well wishes go out to

Joann Piper Johnson

Robert Frye aka Captain Fly



Passing of Herb Grimes, Co-Producer of the documentary, "Dance Party: The Teenarama Story".

Producer and director Herb Grimes a dancer on the original Teenarama Dance Party show that aired on WOOK-TV Ch. 14 in Washington, DC from 1963 to 1970 departed this life on Friday, November 7, 2008. Herb's homegoing service was on Friday, November 14, 2008, at the St. Theresa Avila Church, 1244 V Street, SE

(13th & V), Washington, DC 20020.

Herb was President of his production company, Nyle Productions, and was a 10-year veteran producer and director at WHMM-TV (now WHUT-TV Howard University Television) in Washington, DC. Herb was an award winner in his field. He received such distinguished awards as the regional Emmy and Ciba Award as Co-Producer of the program "All Things Considered.....Black" and a regional Emmy Award for the documentary "Dance Party: The Teenarama Story" (2006 PBS), which also received the Telly and Aurora Awards for broadcast excellence.

Herb was a friend and an asset to the Teenarama Incorporated organization. The members of Teenarama Incorporated extend our condolences to the Grimes family. Rest well friend.

Passing of Reverend Earl Luckett

Reverend Earl Luckett, beloved father of Reginald and Frances Luckett of our Teenarama family passed in December 2008. Reggie "Lucky" was a regular on The Teenarama Dance Party in the 60s and became one of the Founding Board Members of Teenarama Incorporated, some 30 years later. Frances is on the Board and serves as our Scholarship Chair. Please keep their family in prayer.

On Monday, December 15th the home going service was held at St. Paul's Christian Community Church at the corner of 14th Street and Tennessee Avenue, N.E.. Reverend Luckett pastored at St. Paul's for many years and was Pastor Emeritus when he passed.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Ya!

Birthdays

Did we miss your birthday? Perhaps you did not tell us when it occurs. Send us an e-mail.

January

Donna Waters—1/18

February

Theresa Knight-Johnson-2/1

Dorothy Clanagan (Totsie) 2/06

Abraham Parks—2/15

Ron Hunter—2/18

March

Mevlin Tahir-3/11

Albertis McCray-3/22

Robert Frye-3/28

Valerie Brooks-3/31

Laverne and Abe Parks—Anniversary 3/1

April

Jody Jackson-4/27

Barbara Herbert-4/27

William Lee (Pete) - 4/28

May

James Preston-5/25 (Founding Board Member)



We Need Your Skills & Resources

The Teenarama Incorporated (TI) Board knows that we have members with varied talents, skills, and resources. If you are a member in good standing, have special skills or expertise and a little time to volunteer, please contact our Public Affairs Officer, Laverne A. Parks. There are many ways to volunteer with TI without committing to a long-term obligation. One such opportunity is to participate in one of our community outreach projects.

TI members have participated in community service projects. We have sponsored coat drives and helped with various aspects of an annual talent show for military veterans at the Soldiers Home in N.W., D.C. Last year (2008) was the first time we participated in this project. TI member Marvin Talley was our liaison with the Veterans Administration. It was a rewarding experience.

If we are invited this year, we would like to share this experience with some of our members. If you are available on the evening of the talent show, you can spend a few hours to thank our veterans for their huge sacrifice of service to our country.

If you are interested in obtaining more information about TI volunteer opportunities, you should leave a message for Laverne on the Teenarama hotline at 301-942-2375.

2008 Board Member & Member of the Year Profiles

Congratulations are extended to Abraham H. Parks as our recipient of the 2008 Board Member of the Year Award. This is the first time the Award has been presented and he is very worthy of it. Abe has contributed significantly to the success of Teenarama Incorporated. He served as the Membership Liaison Chair and assumed his duties responsibly. He is credited with: - redesigning our marketing brochure; - maintaining the Membership Directory - developing business cards for the Board. Additionally, Abe wrote the proposal for our 2008 Scholarship Cruise. Abe is a native Washingtonian and graduate of Calvin Coolidge High School who attended classes at American University. He is a former Marine, honorably discharged who served in Viet Nam on the Medical Battalion. He is a retired Police Commander after 31 years for the Washington DC Metropolitan Police Department. He rose through the ranks quickly and helped draft the first domestic violence policy for the District of Columbia. Additionally, he served on many Boards and Task Force such as the DC Police & Fireman's Retirement Board.

Congratulations to Joshua Royster our Member of the Year. We admire his enthusiasm, resourcefulness and motivation. Joshua served on the Meet and Greet committee last year. He was instrumental in suggesting our first scholarship cruise, which was very successful. Also, he sold the most tickets for the event.

Joshua is a native Washingtonian who served in the Navy from 1963-1969. He is graduate of Federal City College where he received a Bachelor's degree and worked towards a Master's degree.

Board of Directors

President

Yvonne "Little Bits" Mills

Vice President

Lita Gray

Executive Secretary

Donna Waters

Treasurer

Dorothy "Totsie" Clanagan

Membership Officer

Albertis McCray, Jr.

Special Events Officer

Robert "Captain Fly" Frye

Public Relations Officer

Laverne A. Parks

Sergeant-at-Arms

Michael Goodwin



COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Frances Luckett, Scholarship

Abraham H. Parks, Membership Liaison

Ron Hunter, Webmaster

FOUNDING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dorothy Clanagan

Robert Frye

Lita Gray

Reginald Luckett

Albertis McCray, Jr

James Preston

Donna Waters





Teenarama Hot Line: (301) 942-2375

We're on he Web:

***[http://teenaram.blinks.net/
index.html](http://teenaram.blinks.net/index.html)***

***[http://
dancepartytheteenaramastory.com](http://dancepartytheteenaramastory.com)***

OUR MISSION

It is the mission of Teenarama, Inc to:

Support local and national activities designed to promote the preservation of the art form known as "DC Hand-Dance"

Conduct workshops, and participate in charitable events that educate our youth about social cultures/skills which foster meaningful life experiences that will enable them to carry out the legacy of the Teenarama experience:

Award scholarship to youth desiring to further their education in the arts; and

Network and develop partnerships with community based organizations and institutions that share Teenarama's goals and objectives as they relate to our youth.

SPOTLIGHT: 2008 Scholarship Recipient

Katherine R. Turner is our 2008 Scholarship recipient and we are very proud of her. Congratulations Katherine. She is a graduate of Oxon Hill High School in Oxon Hill, Maryland. She maintained honor roll marks in high school with a grade point average ranging between 3.0 and 3.85.

She is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree as a full time student at Ithaca Col-

lege in New York. Her "ultimate goal is to become a professional actress". Over the past 4 years, she has used her extra curricular time to participate as a member of various dance and theatre companies.