



FORWARD LOOKERS FEDERATED CLUB

Forward Facs

www.forwardlookersfederatedclub.com

VOLUME 7 • ISSUE 1

MAY 2022

Greetings from the President:



Forward Lookers Federated Club collectively extends warm greetings to our readers of this iconic document. I bring you heart-felt congratulatory remarks. We are grateful for this publication because we are displaying our work in Federation by our gifted and talented members, and we acknowledge our annual awards and scholarship recipients. Additionally, we celebrated our **50th year** Founder's Day and **36th year** Heritage Celebration.

These activities brought us much delight and elation; they were outstanding and historical experiences for us. Our theme: **Celebrating a Past, Cherishing the Present, and Claiming our Future Through Leadership, Scholarship, and Service** is representative of who we are as we remain committed to our mission, vision, and goals to "Lift as We Climb."

My desire is that Forward Lookers Federated Club reaches new heights and deeper depths. We received accolades from guests in attendance for our accomplishments and look forward to more achievements. Again, I greet you on behalf of Forward Lookers Federated Club, "Lifting as We Climb."

Respectfully,

Monocia Connors
FLFC President



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Forward Lookers Federated Club celebrates 50 years of service

Malena W. Dow



A Heritage Exhibition, reflecting the program services, activities, and contributions of Forward Lookers Federated Club, adorned the College Hill Baptist Church Family Life Center, as the Club celebrated its 50th year Founder's Day observance Friday, February 11, 2022.

The exhibit of photographs, memorabilia, historical documents, souvenir program books, and award-winning scrapbooks chronicled program services, activities, and contributions of the Club during its 50-year existence and honored those who have led and supported the organization.

Forward Lookers, a local affiliate of the Mississippi State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, the regional Southeastern Federation of Colored Women's Clubs and the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc., was organized in 1972 under the leadership of Clara Alexander Jackson and Dr. Jessie B. Mosley. The Clara Alexander Jackson Scholarship is awarded annually to two elementary education majors attending HBCUs in Mississippi.

After acknowledgement of charter members Mavis Chambliss, Kattie McCullough, and Patricia Alexander Sims, who were unable to attend, a procession of past Club presidents preceded the welcoming and introduction session.

A ceremony, ***We Remember*** (In Memoriam), honored Club founders, leaders, and twenty-one deceased members.

After a viewing of the exhibits and a photo session, the program proceeded in three acts, based on the Anniversary theme, ***Celebrating A Past, Cherishing the Present, and Claiming Our Future through Leadership, Scholarship and Service.***



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Act I of the celebration: ***Celebrating a Past***, included a skit which reviewed and celebrated the 50-year history of Forward Lookers Federated Club while honoring its founder, charter members, and past and present memberships. The skit also gave credence to the cadre of generous supporters during its existence.

Cherishing the Present was the focus of Act II, which featured a video presentation summarizing the current works, services, and activities that Forward Lookers and its members are currently engaged in. The six focus areas covered monetary donations, community services, scholarships, media/technology, leadership, and our heritage celebration.

The focus of Act III was ***Claiming Our Future***, and it included an in-depth assessment to encourage members to “move out of their comfort zones” into a more futuristic trendsetting mindset, thus setting the stage for the development of future sustainability, evaluation, and programmatic strategic planning.

After a brief recap, the socially distanced event was concluded with a prepackaged, personal lunch to go. The well-organized, historical observance was instructive and inspiring, giving incentive for needs to be met, as the Club moves forward to the future.

Founder's Day Highlights





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36th Year Heritage Celebration

Monocia Connors

After a year of planning and preparation, Forward Lookers Federated Club celebrated its 36th Annual Heritage Celebration on Saturday, February 12, 2022, via Zoom. Our virtual method of gathering enabled us to come together safely. Our program included our honorees, special guests, and supporters. **Dr. Shirley Hopkins-Davis**, a member of Pearl Street A.M.E. Church, and the Former International President of the Women's Missionary Society A.M.E. Church, rendered the invocation and benediction. **Ms. Carolyn Coleman**, a member of Cade Chapel M.B. Church, rendered a solo.

The awarding of the Clara Alexander Jackson Scholarships at this celebration to scholars majoring in education and enrolled at **Mississippi Valley State University** and **Alcorn State University** are reflections of our founder who valued educating and molding young minds into productive citizens. The *Heritage Award* was presented to a worthy individual who made an impact on the local, state, and national levels to help improve the lives of others. The *Service Award and the Uplift Awards* were presented to individuals who go the extra mile to demonstrate their commitment to help solve issues within the community through volunteering their time and energy. We are proud to recognize all these individuals for their outstanding services.



Asianna A. Norman from Clarksdale, Mississippi, was reared in Mound Bayou, Mississippi by her maternal grandparents, and is a 2012 graduate of John F. Kennedy High School in Mound Bayou, Mississippi. She is an Elementary Education major with areas of concentration in English and Early Childhood Education. She says, "Education has always been a passion of mine and whenever anyone asked what I wanted to be as a child, I would always say, I am going to be a teacher."

She believes that becoming an elementary school teacher is by far the easiest decision she has ever made. She has completed all requirements for graduation at Mississippi Valley State University and is currently employed as a third grade ELA assistant in Clarksdale, Mississippi.



Kyia Irving, a native of Utica, Mississippi, is the daughter of Mr. Patrick and Mrs. Kisha Irving. Kyla is a senior Elementary Education major with endorsements in English and Literacy (Reading) at Alcorn State University. Kyla chose this major because she loves working with children. She desires to have an impact on the lives of those she will teach. She stated, "It is my job to motivate students so that they will want to learn."



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Our Service Award was presented to Derrick Johnson. Mr. Johnson is a veteran activist who has dedicated his career to improving the lives of Mississippians. For years, he led campaigns for voting rights and equitable education.

Mr. Johnson serves as President and CEO of the NAACP. He has elevated the voice of NAACP and its visibility, as well as called for a national response to the coronavirus pandemic and racial disparities in healthcare outcomes, access, coverage, and services. He has been featured on CNN, MSNBC, CBS, on behalf of the Black community and all those who are affected by systemic oppression and prejudice.



Our Heritage Award was presented to I. D. Thompson, PhD. After 41 years of educational leadership, professorship, professional acting, motivational speaking, team building and theatre production, Dr. Thompson has shifted his career focus to empowering others to maximize their capacity as teachers, leaders, coaches, learners, and lifters. In 2019, he retired as pastor of Metropolitan Mississippi Baptist Church in Clarksdale, MS. He has an extensive professional background. Additionally, he has received numerous awards and recognitions including being

recognized as the 2007 Mississippian of the Year by the American Legion Department of Mississippi and is listed in the Inaugural Edition of Who's Who in Black Mississippi.



Our Uplift Award was presented to Forward Lookers Federated Club Sister Helen McLaurin McDowell Jackson, "A loving heart is the truest wisdom." Mrs. Helen Jackson is a soft spoken, noble federated woman. She was reared both in Mississippi and Chicago, Illinois. She earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education from Tougaloo College. She began teaching at Martin Hand Elementary School in Jackson, MS.

Mrs. Helen Jackson is a distinguished and dedicated Federated woman. She has worked diligently to uplift our federated clubs on the local, state, district, regional and national levels. She has been an asset to Forward Lookers Federated Club since joining in 2006. Her contributions have been phenomenal to include assistant secretary, a volunteer mentor for the A-TEAAM in the Jackson Public School District. She has served as a member and chair to various committees on the local and state levels.

Forward Lookers Federated Club is pleased to honor our awardees and scholarship recipients for their outstanding qualities that lend toward a successful community, state, and nation.



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Women's History Month

Ruth Huddleston

Each year, March is designated Women's History Month by Presidential Proclamation. International Women's Day has been commemorated across the world on March 8th since 1911, and every U.S. President has marked March as Women's History Month since 1995. Though March is designated as Women's History Month, the perspectives and accomplishments of women are part of curricula all year long.

In March 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first presidential proclamation during Women's History Week to align with International Women's Day.

On August 14, 1981, the U.S. Congress established Women's History Week as a federally recognized commemoration of the accomplishments, perspectives, and experiences of women in the United States with a Joint Resolution, Public Law 97-28. This week became a month-long celebration in 1987 when Congress passed Public Law 100-9 and then subsequent resolutions requesting that the United States president make an annual declaration.

Did you know Women's History Month has a light-bulb moment of memorials, monuments, and statues dedicated to historic women? For instance, Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial, New York City, NY; Virginia Women's Monument, Richmond, VA; Barbara Jordan Statue, Austin, TX; Rosa Parks Statue, Montgomery, AL; Gwendolyn Brooks Statue, Chicago, IL.

The Library of Congress provides access to a Women's History Month site that includes a collection of resources created by the National Archives and Records Administration. You can enrich your knowledge about resources for Women's History from National Park Service and Smithsonian Education / Women's History.

As federated women, we will empower ourselves to engage committee work that provides an opportunity to help our organization grow.



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Breast Cancer Awareness: A Personal Testimony

Donna M. Williams

In 1993 (29 years ago), I discovered a lump in my left breast. I was not 40 years old; I had never had a mammogram. At that time, baseline mammograms were covered by insurance after the age of forty. I immediately went to my gynecologist and was sent to the hospital to have a biopsy of the left breast. The biopsy came back 'suspicious'- not positive or negative, but 'suspicious.' Remember this was 1993. The surgeon's recommendation was to have the mass removed. I went into surgery not knowing if the mass was cancerous or non-cancerous.

Before surgery, the surgeon asked me if he should wake me up to let me know if the mass was cancerous, and if so, did I want a lumpectomy or a mastectomy? I told him not to wake me up, but to do what he needed to do. After the surgery, I found out that a mastectomy had been performed. The surgeon told me that he had removed all the cancer, and the cancer had not penetrated the breast wall. The cancer was in the early stage, was moving fast through the body, as I had a breast exam less than six (6) months earlier. The cancerous mass had been found in time. I said, "Thank you, Lord." Even though the cancer had not penetrated my breast wall, because of my age, I was recommended to have six (6) chemotherapy treatments to be sure all the cancer was out of my body.

This was twenty-nine years ago, and when I wake up every morning, I say 'Thank you Lord.' God has been good to me.

As women, we must listen to our bodies and be our own advocates for services. Do some research. Be prepared to question the treatment for your illnesses. Do not be afraid to ask the hard questions; it is your body. I have found, in some cases, doctors prescribe drugs that have not been tested on our population (African Americans).

Thank God for good nurses, doctors, surgeons, and all medical professionals in our lives. Our health is so important, and I thank God for His Mighty blessing!



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Trunks for Seniors

Carol J. Cooper

Forward Lookers Federated Club sponsored the fourth annual “Trunks for Seniors” with a ***Meet and Greet Program and Reception*** at Cade Chapel Missionary Baptist Church Fellowship Hall on Sunday, August 8, 2021. Graduating Seniors from three area high schools were selected. The three recipients met the criteria established by the Trunks for Seniors committee by having a financial need, having the required GPA upon graduating from high school, and having been accepted into a 2-year community college or a 4-year college or university.

Tyra Patterson, an honor student, graduated from Jim Hill High School had been accepted to Mississippi State University in Starkville, Mississippi. Shani Shiddiq graduated from Murrah High School and had been accepted to Prairie View A&M University in Prairie View, Texas. Anthony Richards graduated from Callaway High School and had been accepted to Meridian Community College in Meridian, Mississippi.

At the ***Meet and Greet Program and Reception***, the three recipients were overwhelmed, surprised, and overjoyed, thus repeatedly thanked the ladies of Forward Lookers Federated Club for our generosity, kindness, and benevolence to receive trunks filled with personal items and everything needed to decorate their freshman dormitory room.

Also, during the ***Meet and Greet Program and Reception*** Tyra, Shani, and Anthony shared with the ladies their future goals and objectives that influenced their selected major and the reason for attending their selected Community College and University.

In addition, the parents of Tyra, Shani, and Anthony were in attendance and expressed their appreciation for the club’s kindness, amazing graciousness, and support to help students who are about to embark upon a new endeavor.



Anthony Richards



Tyra Patterson



Shani Shaddiq



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Service to Stewpot

Irene Booker

During these turbulent times of COVID-19, frustration, fear, and the need for services grew in our community. Forward Lookers has found ways to continue our motto of “Lifting as we Climb,” and remain focused by providing for the needs of children and families.



In December, we held a food drive for Stewpot to provide canned and dry foods for Christmas meals for families. Sixteen of thirty-eight members participated, and 279 food items were collected.

In January, Irene Booker, Carol Burns, Mary Collier, Malena Dow, Lottie Hill, and Mattie James McQuarter volunteered to serve meals at Stewpot Community Services. Approximately three hundred meals were served in person and home delivered.

In celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., nine members of Forward Lookers participated in “a day on not a day off.” Members donated thirty-nine winter items to Stewpot which included twenty-nine blankets, eight coats/blankets and two sleeping bags.





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Oakley Youth Development Center is Alive and Well!

Mary J. Collier

Oakley Youth Development Center, formerly known as Oakley Training School, is a juvenile correctional facility of the Mississippi Department of Human Services and is in rural Hinds County, Mississippi near Raymond. It is Mississippi's sole juvenile correctional facility for children adjudicated into the juvenile correctional system.

Located on 1,068 acres of land, Oakley has a capacity of 150 students. Presently, only a child who has been adjudicated delinquent for a felony or who has been adjudicated delinquent three or more times for a misdemeanor offense may be committed to Oakley. Oakley may retain custody of a child until the child's twentieth birthday but not for longer, according to the Center's website.

As in times past, Forward Lookers Federated Club continues to support the staff and residents of Oakley by providing moral and emotional support to the staff and assisting with tangible needs of the Center. For Christmas, Forward Lookers donated HDMI cords to assist with technology, movies, and games for the enjoyment of the students. In doing so, our goal is to nurture and uplift the standard of life for the youth in such a way that their lives will be impacted with positive change.



Coach Scott (Oakley), Mary Collier and Lottie Hill



Games for Oakley



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Lynch Street Independent Living Facility Christmas Project 2021

Ann Moore, Community Outreach Committee Chair
Monocia Connors, President



Historical Moments

Debra Rayborn

This quarter's moment in history spotlights membership. Forward Lookers Federated Club began in 1972, fifty years ago, with the merger of two groups. One group, organized by Mrs. Clara Alexander Jackson, included Patricia A. Sims, Kattie G. McCullough, Ella W. Robinson, Violet Williams, and Mavis Chambliss. The other group, organized by Dr. Jessie Mosley, included Kathy Mosley, Jacquelyn B. Roberts, Theodosia Brown, and Jacquelyn Dedeaux.

The club's membership fluctuates but has flourished over the years. Of particular mention are the following two distinguished membership recognitions:

- In 1990, the Mississippi State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc., and Youth Affiliates (MSFCWC) awarded Forward Lookers the "Club of the Year" Award for its membership achievement; and
- In 2007, Forward Lookers was recognized at the MSFCWC Convention for recruiting the largest number of new members.

There are currently 38 Forward Lookers Federated Club members.



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Ambassadors and GEMS Choose to Grow

Mary J. Collier

Ambassadors of the Evers Academy for African American Males (A-TEAAM) and Empowering Scholars through Tutoring Education Engagement and Mentoring for girls (ESTEEM) GEMS engaged in a weekly *Choose to Grow* Curriculum spanning from October through April at Powell Academy of Military Science. The weekly sessions were facilitated by coordinators Gwendolyn Chess and Mary J. Collier. The school liaison, Cathy Cheatham, was tasked with getting us online and ensuring the scholars were present and in-session. Special thanks to mentors Monocia Connors and Debra Rayborn for staying the course and not giving up when technology was not on our side.

The school year began with a discussion on racial healing, racial equity, and justice and was related to the life and legacy of Mr. Medgar Wiley Evers. Scholars were very engaged in a session on communication and learned the definition of communication, a "pitch," and why greetings, eye contact, and handshake are essential to effective communication. Scholars practiced these elements of communication. The Ambassadors and GEMS were introduced to a Circle of Trust. They were able to identify who's in their circle and discuss why they felt those individuals are trustworthy. For MLK, Jr. Day of

Service, scholars wrote thank you notes and distributed them to parents, teachers, and community leaders. Other topics included Respect, Career and Purpose, and Dining Etiquette. Scholars earned *Growth Bucks* from participation in each session and were able to redeem them for gifts from the *Choose to Grow* store.

The final session, which spanned several weeks, seemed to be the session of greatest interest to scholars. They gained an understanding of what it means to be an entrepreneur and demonstrated their knowledge and understanding of what it takes to be an entrepreneur. The Ambassadors chose to make kitchen trivets and the GEMS chose candle wax melts. They developed a business plan, made samples of their product, and pitched it to Shark Tank. Ambassadors Israel Magee and Tyler Wells won first place overall and received a monetary prize. Scholars then mass produced their products and sold all items at *Market Day* for which they earned additional money.

The Culminating Event: Awards and Recognition Luncheon with "Book Release" will be June 11, 2022, at Sheraton Flowood The Refuge Hotel & Conference Center.





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I've Got a Secret! A Secret Sister!

Mary J. Collier

When the Social and Entertainment Committee introduced the idea of **Secret Sister** to the Club in 2021, no one had any idea that it would be such a success, a 100% hit! So, in 2022, we decided to do it again and another hit it was. From their secret sister, club sisters received gift cards, money, soaps and lotions, scarves, candy, flowers, and many other gifts. The gifts brought smiles and lots of love to the sister receiving the gift. This activity is a keeper! Our oldest living Charter Member, **Mrs. Kattie McCullough**, at 97 years young, is pictured enjoying a beautiful bowl of fruit from her Secret Sister.

Uplifting Moments submitted by Jean C. Gore

"Don't wait for the perfect moment, take the moment and make it perfect."

Zoey Sayward

Life is too short to wake up
in the morning with regrets.

So, *love* the people who
treat you right and
forget about the ones who don't.
and *believe* that everything
happens for a reason ...

If you get a chance – *take it*;
if it changes your life – *let it*.
Nobody said that it would be easy.
They just promised it would be
worth it.



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Leadership is a lifestyle for Forward Lookers Federated Club

Mary J. Collier

Forward Lookers is proud to provide exceptional leadership on all levels of Federation. "Success is a bi-product of hard work, sacrifice and perseverance" and the sisters of Forward Lookers strive to exude each daily; therefore, exhibiting excellent leadership.

District IV officers include Donna Williams, Treasurer and Ruth Huddleston, Assistant Secretary. In Southeastern, Mary J. Collier serves as First Vice-President and Gwendolyn Chess as Secretary.

"It is better to lead from behind and to put others in front, especially when you celebrate victory when nice things occur. You take the front line when there is danger. Then people will appreciate your leadership." – Nelson Mandela



Forward Lookers Moving Forward

Jean C. Gore

"Leaders aren't born, they are made. And they are made just like anything else. Through hard work. And that's the price we all have to pay to achieve that goal or any goal." – Vince Lombardi

We congratulate our new officers on their newly elected leadership positions with Forward Lookers Federated Club. We know you will devote the time and energy to the duties and responsibilities of your positions. We support you as we continue to "*LIFT AS WE CLIMB*."

The 2021 – 2023 Officers

President: Monocia Connors
Vice-President: Irene Booker
Secretary: Evelyn Bishop
Assistant Secretary: Xavier Jenkins
Treasurer: Theresa Hence

Financial Secretary: Carolyn Coleman
Correspondence Secretary: Bonnie Harris
Parliamentarian: Malena Dow
Chaplain: Evelyn Leggette
Immediate Past President: Mary Collier



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RECIPES from Jean's Kitchen

Jean C. Gore

Memorial Day, Summer Vacation and 4th of July are around the corner and families are gathering. You cannot gather without FOOD. Therefore, here are some recipes from Jean's Kitchen that will surely delight your taste buds. Happy Eating!

BBQ Ginger Chicken Wings

2 lbs. Chicken Wings
1 1" Thumb Ginger, sliced
Seasoned Salt and Pepper to taste

BBQ Sauce:

1 C. Ketchup
1 Tbsp. Honey
2 Garlic Cloves, minced
1 Tbsp. Worcestershire Sauce
1 tsp. Onion Powder
1 tsp Paprika
1/4 C. Water

Season wings with salt and pepper to taste. Place in a casserole dish and add slices of fresh ginger throughout the wings. Cook in 400-degree oven until browned and tender and brush with homemade barbeque sauce or use your favorite BBQ sauce and brush on lightly. Place back in warm oven to lightly toast, but do not burn. Excellent for munching on with guests.

Sweet Corn Salad

2 Cans Shoe Peg Corn
2 Ribs Celery
1/2 Green Bell Pepper
1 Small White (sweet) Onion
Mix the above ingredients together.

Dressing:

1 tsp Salt
1/2 tsp Pepper
1/2 Cup Oil
2 Tbsp Sugar
Pour over the corn mixture and let stand for a few hours.



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Baked Bean Casserole

1/2 lb. Sliced Bacon, diced
1 lb. Ground Beef or Sausage and/or Mix
1 Cup Chopped Onion
1/2 Bell Pepper, chopped
1 Large Can Pork n Beans
1 Can Lima Beans, rinsed and drained
1 Can Kidney Beans rinsed and drained
1/2 Cup Barbeque Sauce
1/2 Cup Ketchup
1/2 Cup Sugar
1/2 Cup Packed Brown Sugar
2 T Mustard
2 T Molasses
1 t Salt
1/2 Chili Powder

Mix all ingredients together well. Cover and bake for 45 Minutes.

Note: This is a very good recipe, but I used only Pork n Beans and cut back on the white sugar.

Glazed Baby Carrots

1 bunch Carrots, peeled and cut in 1" pieces or bagged Carrots
6 Tbsp. butter
6 Tbsp Sugar
1/2 tsp. Cinnamon or Ginger
Dash of Salt

Wash carrots, peel, and cut in 1" pieces. Cook in a small amount of boiling water, about 12 to 15 minutes or until slightly tender when tested with a fork. The time depends on size and degree of freshness. Drain thoroughly. Combine butter, sugar and cinnamon or ginger in a boiler. Cook, stirring constantly, until well blended. Add carrots and cook over a low heat. Turn carrots to glaze on all sides. Serves 6.

Buttermilk Pie

1/2 Cup (1 stick) Butter, melted
3/4 C Sugar
3 Tbsp all-purpose flour
3 Eggs, beaten 1 Cup Buttermilk
1 tsp Vanilla Extract
1/4 tsp Ground Nutmeg
1/4 tsp Salt
1 Unbaked 9-Inch-Deep Dish Pie Crust

Preheat oven to 350. Combine butter, sugar, flour, eggs, buttermilk, vanilla, nutmeg & salt in a large bowl; whisk until smooth.

Pour mixture into pie crust. Bake 45 to 50 minutes. until golden and a wooden toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

Cool completely on a wire rack. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate until serving time. Serves 8.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ NACWC Convention, Little Rock, AR, July 20 – 24, 2022
- ◆ MSFCWC Convention, TBA 2022
- ◆ SACWC Convention, Jackson, MS, July 2023