

Spring 2024 Issue



Quarterly Newsletter of the Francis L. Cardozo Senior High School Alumni Association, Inc.

IT'S ELECTION TIME!

We will have an Election of Officers in September. The following positions are available for election: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Correspondence Secretary, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer.

Election of officers shall be by balloting by the membership. Ballots, containing the slate and provision for write-in candidates for each office to be filled, with full instructions for marking, shall reach the membership at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting and shall be returned to the Association in a signed envelop at least 10 days prior to the annual meeting.

Election to an office shall be determined by a plurality of votes cast. The results of the balloting shall be announced at the annual meeting.

Each term of office shall be elected every three (3) years.



Cardozo Alumni Spotlight

**PATRICIA CASSELL
McCRIMMON**



Patricia Cassell McCrimmon, a Cardozo High School alumnae, has come full circle. She attended Cardozo, graduating in 1959. During her school years there, Patricia was involved in a number of extra-curricular activities. She was a member of the National Honor Society. She was a member of the Thespian Club. Her most significant moment, at Cardozo, was starring as Lady Macbeth in the annual Spring Play. Patricia held the position of Editor of the "Cardozo Owl" newspaper. She also served as Editor-in-Chief for the yearbook (1959).

Patricia remembers that at Cardozo "the teachers allowed you to think you could be anything you wanted to...this inspirational message was delivered daily...work hard, study and the world can be yours."

After high school graduation, Patricia moved on to higher education, earning several college degrees including a doctorate. Years later, she returned to Cardozo employed as a Mathematics Teacher. Fast forward, Pat left the classroom teaching math and became an assistant principal at Cardozo. She considers this as the highlight of her career – returning to her alma mater to teach mathematics and later becoming the Assistant Principal (in 1980) and then Acting Principal.

Patricia continues to connect with Cardozo by staying actively involved with the Cardozo Alumni Association. A special note – her class (Class of 1959) will be celebrating their 65th Class Reunion this year!!!

The Alumni Association meets every third Tuesday of the month on Zoom. Meeting time is 7:00PM.
Zoom Link: zoom.com/j/89786914782: Meeting ID; 897 8691 4782; passcode code: 453514



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Cardozo High School Alumni,

I hope this message finds you well and filled with the spirit of renewal that comes with the arrival of Spring. As we embrace the changing season, I'm thrilled to share some exciting updates and reflections from the Francis L Cardozo Senior High School Alumni Association.

Celebrating Achievements: I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the alumni who have achieved milestones, big or small, during this quarter. Your successes are a testament to the resilience and determination instilled in us during our time at Cardozo High School. Whether personal or professional accomplishments, we celebrate each and every one of you.

Scholarship Program Update: Thanks to your ongoing support and generosity, we will be able to provide financial assistance to several deserving students. Your contributions are truly making a difference in the lives of young scholars, empowering them to pursue their dreams and make a positive impact on the world.

Alumni Engagement Initiatives: We have been actively organizing various engagement initiatives. From Cardozo Open House, installing championship banners in the new gymnasium, to providing support for the athletic banquet to create opportunities for meaningful connections and collaboration. Your participation is invaluable, and I encourage you to stay engaged with the association.

Upcoming Events: As we look ahead to the coming months, I'm excited to announce that we will be hosting our annual Alumni Cookout in August. This will be a fantastic opportunity for alumni of all generations to come together, enjoy good food, and reminisce about their time at Cardozo. More details will be shared soon, so be sure to mark your calendars and join us for this fun-filled event.

Call for Volunteers: Our association relies on the dedication and commitment of volunteers to thrive. If you're passionate about giving back to your alma mater and making a positive impact in the lives of current students, I encourage you to consider volunteering with us. Whether it's serving on a committee, organizing events, or mentoring students, there are plenty of ways to get involved.

Stay Connected: Finally, I want to remind you to stay connected with us through our social media channels and alumni website. It's through these platforms that we share updates, alumni spotlights, and other relevant information. Your engagement helps keep the Cardozo spirit alive and strengthens our community bonds.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude to every one for your continued support of the Francis L. Cardozo Senior High School Alumni Association.

Together, we are making a lasting impact on the lives of current students and shaping our alma mater's future.

Sincerely,

Albert Elliott

President, Francis L. Cardozo Senior High School Alumni Association



SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE



This school year, four (4) graduating seniors will receive a \$1,000.00 post-education scholarship. For more information, contact Scholarship Chair – Sondra Roberts.

Scottie Irving Day

Saturday, March 16, 2024 was proclaimed as *Scottie Irving Day* in the District of Columbia. On that day, Bryan "Scottie" Irving, Class of 1983, was recognized for his contributions to the city's construction and development industry for the past 30 years. He is the Founder and Principal Owner of Blue Sky Construction and Development LLC. He has also served the city as a dedicated community advocate.



Other contributions include mentoring students at his alma mater - Cardozo, sponsoring the Citywide Championship Football Game, and fighting for affordable housing, homeownership and business opportunities for Black and Brown city residents.

Congratulations Scottie!!!

Mr. Robert Gill, Cardozo's Legendary Marching Band Director



Mr. Robert Gill, Sr. transitioned March 21, 2024. When word came out about his passing, people started reminiscing about his dedication to Cardozo's Music Department. In particular, his hard work to have a marching band at the school. His tireless efforts and determination culminated in the Cardozo Marching Band performing at the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California.

Robert Gill grew up in DC. He graduated from Spingarn High School, and matriculated to Howard University School of Music where he earned a degree. When he started teaching music at Cardozo, the school had no band. At the time, McKinley was the only school in the D.C. Public School System to have a marching band. He started out with bugles and drums from the ROTC, and then, borrowed instruments from Shaw, Banneker, Lincoln, and Garnet-Patterson junior high schools.

As time went by, interest in being part of the band grew and the band size swelled. Invitations to perform at events started coming in. To name a few, the Cardozo Marching Band performed in the Cherry Blossom Parade, Mayor Marion Barry's inaugural parade, NFL and NBA half-time shows, and the 1976 Bicentennial Parade. The band also started receiving a number of First Place awards. As Cardozo's band director, Mr. Gill realized how participation in the band helped students get college scholarships. And, some of his former students became band directors at schools across the country.

On January 1, 1981, Robert Gill saw his dream come to fruition when the Cardozo Senior High School Marching Band, 160 strong, became the first band from Washington, D.C. to march in the Rose Bowl Parade. This experience raised Cardozo High School's standing in the local community and nationally.

After 10 years at Cardozo, Robert moved to the corporate world. He earned a Master's Degree and returned to Cardozo as Assistant Principal. He, later, served as principal at Roosevelt Sr. High, Johnson Jr. High, and Kelly Miller Jr. High. Mr. Gill retired from public education in 2006.

Mr. Robert Gill, Sr., as well as the Cardozo Marching Band, will forever be a part of Cardozo and Washington DC history.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

for the 10th annual
Cardozo Cookout

SATURDAY

AUGUST 24, 2024

NOON to 7PM

CARTER BARRON, LOT 24
WASHINGTON DC

Contact: cardozodcupdate@gmail.com

2024 Cardozo Graduation
Monday, June 17 - 10:00AM
George Washington University

IT'S DUES TIME!
Time to pay membership
dues which cover
May 1, 2024 to
April 30, 2025.

Cardozo Alumni Association
Annual Membership
- \$20.00

Make check or money order
payable to:

CARDOZO HIGH SCHOOL
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

Mail payment to:

Karen Turner

P.O. BOX 56286

Washington D.C. 20040

Membership Committee Chair-
Sondra Roberts

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday,
October 26, 2024
10th Annual
Purple and White
Scholarship Fundraiser
Dinner & Dance Gala
Martin's Crosswinds
Greenbelt, MD
7pm – 11pm
Tickets - \$80.00

Hello Class of 1974

Are you ready and excited
about celebrating your
50th Class Reunion.

We need to hear from you.
SPREAD THE WORD!!!

Contact Marlene Franklin
for more information at
240-595-0440.



History of Cardozo High School

Commercial Education for Negroes in the District of Columbia began in 1887 as a 2-year business course offered as part of the Colored High School set aside in the Miner Building, 17th and Church Streets, N.W. The principal was Dr. Francis Lewis Cardozo. In the first year there were 18 students taking the commercial course and in the second year twenty-four. There were 11 teachers at the Colored High School, but only one taught commercial subjects. At the end of the school year, Dr. Cardozo suggested, in his report to the Board of Education, that stenography and typing be added, but this recommendation was not carried out until during the 1890 school year. In 1907, the course was lengthened to four years and the following subjects were added: Arithmetic, English, Drawing, Physical Education, Biology, Music, Penmanship, Commercial Law, Physical Geography, Physics, Commercial Geography, Commercial and Industrial History, and Accounting and Finance.

Cardozo High School was founded in September 1928 upon the recommendation of Dr. G. C. Wilkinson, First Assistant Superintendent of Schools with the cooperation of several local businessmen. The Cardozo High School was set apart by the Board of Education to enroll pupils desiring commercial subjects.

Cardozo was organized in the building at M Street and New York Avenue, NW under the principalship of Mr. R.N. Mattingly. In February 1933, the school was moved to 9th and Rhode Island Avenue, NW. During its first school year, Cardozo had a principal, clerk, and 14 teachers. The school moved to its current location, 13th and Clifton Streets, NW, (formerly the site of Central High School) in August 1950.

Several decades later, renovations of the school began in December 2011. Cardozo was re-opened in August 2013 as the Cardozo Education Campus, a combined middle and high school.

Did You Know?

A 1949 study of the DC public schools, commissioned by Congress, recommended closing Cardozo (at that time, located at 9th & Rhode Island Avenue NW) altogether and contemplated alternative uses for Central, fueling demands by residents that Central be opened to black students. When activists delivered a 10,000-signature petition to the school board and garnered support from groups across the city using the slogan "Central for Cardozo," the board finally voted to move Cardozo into the Central High School building in time for the 1950-51 school year. Central High School was renamed Cardozo.

The school was later a venue for civil rights rallies. On March 12, 1967, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke to an audience of 3,800 in Cardozo's stadium. He had come to DC to support community control of federally funded urban renewal in Shaw. In May 1968, a National Welfare Rights Organization Mother's Day March concluded at Cardozo. Six thousand people came to hear speeches by Coretta Scott King and Etta Horn, among others.

- Information Source:

<https://historicsites.dcpreservation.org/items/show/924>



2023-2024 Alumni Association Officers

Albert Elliott - *President*
 Karen Roberts Turner - *Vice President*
 Sharon Smith - *Secretary*
 Quentess Davis - *Treasurer*
 Sondra Roberts - *Scholarship Chair*
 Membership Chair
 Contact us at:
cardozodcupdate@gmail.com

CARDOZO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER STAFF

Vinette Saunders (Class 1974), Teresa Brown (Class 1983)

Have information for the Cardozo Alumni Association newsletter? Email to alvivvin@yahoo.com.