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RussellGroveNews

MAY 2016

RGA Reunion Weekend September 2-4, 2016!!!



Your RGA Reunion 2016 Committee, along with the Host Class of 1966, are working diligently to make this year's reunion a memorable and exciting event. Our goal is to continue to raise the bar for high expectations. The weekend activities will begin on Friday night, September 2nd with a members only Meet & Greet, and run through Sunday, September 4th with a church service. Our venue will again be the Four Points by Sheraton Richmond at 9901 Midlothian Turnpike. The cost for the weekend is \$50, the same as last year. We have also secured a block of rooms for Friday and Saturday night at a rate of \$109 per night per room. Call (804) 323-1144 to make reservations. Reserve early, rooms book rather quickly.

We have also reviewed your comments from last year's feedback forms and 99% were very positive. We are taking a proactive approach in addressing your concerns; however, please note that there are some limitations due to contractual restriction, hotel accommodations, and/or policy issues.

Registration forms will mailed in June.



RGA Host Reception / Informational Forum for High School Graduates and Scholarship Recipients

On Saturday, June 4th, the RGA will host a cookout and informational gathering at the Amelia County Fairgrounds. The purpose of the event is to recognize our 2016 scholarship recipients. Also, we will have former scholarship recipients share information about their college experiences and post high school experiences with other high school students. We encourage as many RGA members to attend and invite high school students and their parents. Archer's Barbecue will cater the event on **Saturday, June 4th 2 - 4pm at Amelia Fairgrounds**. Contact President Frank Tyler or Brenda Johnson for additional information.

Become a Mentor—

RGA Partners with Extension Service to launch Mentoring Program

RGA continues to find ways to support and encourage local youth to fulfill their potential. We recently joined with the Amelia County Cooperative Extension Service to implement a mentoring program. As partners, we will help promote community involvement, enrichment activities and provide mentors. Amelia is one of five Virginia counties to receive the \$46,000 mentoring program grant from Virginia Tech to support sixty (60) local youth and their families over an 18-month period. The "Youth and Families with Promise" (YFP) program is designed to improve academic performance, increase social competency, and strengthen family bonds. YFP targets youth, ages 10-14, along with their families.

The program uses three strategies to assist youth in developing a positive and productive future:

- 1. One-to-One Mentoring.** With the guidance of volunteer mentors, youth are provided opportunities to build academic and social skills. Mentor training will be provided.
- 2. 4-H and Other Activities.** Enrichment and other personal development activities, including 4-H, led by adult volunteers enhances social engagement and sense of belonging through leadership opportunities, community service and group projects.
- 3. Family Night Out.** These events offers group activities designed to strengthen family bonds through social interaction and fun activities.

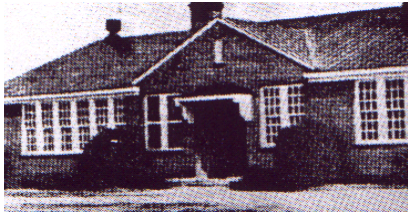
Want to become a Mentor? If you are interested and want to receive more information, email russellgrovenews@gmail.com.

HOW? WHAT? WHY MENTORING?

Colin M. Powell, former U.S. Secretary of State and General, U. S. Army, Retired

HOW do children learn, how do children gain expectations to put in their hearts and souls? They get it from the adults in their lives. In my case, I got it from my parents, I got it from my aunts, I got it from my uncles, I got it from my minister, I got it from my teachers, I got it from a lot of people. And if these people had not been in my life when I was a child, I don't know where I would have ended up. They kept me in place, they encouraged me, they gave me a sense of shame.

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Russell Grove Alumni Association, Inc.
 8701 Otterburn Road, Suite 103
 P. O. Box 213
 Amelia, Virginia 23002

Email address: russellgrovenews@gmail.com

RGAA REUNION 2016
Friday, September 2, 2016 – Sunday, September 4, 2016
More Details Inside



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RGAA OFFICERS

Frank B. Tyler, Jr.
 President
 804.432.6370

Ben Barley
 Vice president

Sylvia Hicks
 Secretary

Elaine Beard
 Assistant Secretary

Brenda Johnson
 Treasurer



Frank B. Tyler, Jr.
RGAA President

In the Spirit of Russell Grove

Greetings,

RGAA has several projects and events in progress, however, we need more members to be involved. We have struggled with attendance at our meetings. As a result, we have not reached a quorum and have been unable to conduct business. Meeting dates and times have been changed to accommodate more people, which has not resulted in increased attendance. I urge you to make a special effort to attend the May 14th meeting and the June 4th event. Your attendance and participation in RGAA's meetings and events is critical to the organization's viability. As always, feel free to call me about getting involved, questions or comments. See you soon!!!

Frank B. Tyler, Jr.

Mentoring *continued*

WHAT adults do for children, what mentors do for children is to pass on hundred previous generations of experience. And if that is not passed on to a youngster, the youngster will get that experience on the street and it may not be a good experience and that youngster will head in the wrong direction. So all of us, as citizens of this great country, have an obligation to not only raise our own children in this manner so that they can be a great new generation; we have an obligation to do this for all of our children, especially those children who don't have this family structure, or whose family structure needs some help. And that's **WHY** mentoring is so important. That's why each and every one of us who has some time, some talent, and a willingness to get in the life of a child will volunteer to be a mentor. It doesn't mean that you become their parent; it just means you're there for them, you check on them, see how they're doing, you encourage them, you give them your experience, you help them, help them deal with life. The beautiful part of mentoring is it's not just what you do for that child; it's what that child does for you. You will be changed by this experience; you will gain as much as that child will.



Fallen Falcons



Fannie Fitzgerald
 RG '47

Barbara Jones
 RG '61

RGAA alumnus noted for contributions to education in Prince William County

Fannie Wilkerson Fitzgerald, RG '47, died on April 7, at age 85, with a trailblazing career in with Prince William County Public Schools, VA. She was the daughter of the late Rev. Isaiah and Lavinia Wilkerson.



Her niece, Phyllis Eggleston Brown, RG '61, submitted an article for our newsletter in 2009 when a \$21 million school was named in her aunt's honor, Fannie W. Fitzgerald Elementary School. Last month, *The Washington Post* and *Potomac Local News* recognized her long service in education. Fitzgerald was one of four black teachers who made the courageous move that advanced inte-

gration and open doors to the diverse and inclusive school systems we know today.



Next RGAA Meeting

Saturday, May 14, 2016 at 1:00 pm.

Russell Grove Museum 8701 Otterburn Road, Amelia, VA