



William O. Lockridge COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

EMPOWERING. EDUCATING. ENRICHING.

The William O. Lockridge Community Foundation, founded in 2011, is a non-profit organization located in Southeast Washington, D.C. The Foundation promotes access to higher education to students in Wards 7 and 8 by offering scholarships, transportation assistance to college and international travel.

Spread Your Wings

Volume 4: Edition 3

September 30, 2022

MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER/CHAIRWOMAN

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Third Quarter 2022 Newsletter of the William O. Lockridge Community Foundation (WOLCF). The newsletter is one of several vehicles that we use to keep you and all community residents aware of the great work we are doing with our students in Wards 7 and 8.

The WOLCF had a very busy summer. In late June, we awarded \$46,000 in scholarship assistance to 15 high school seniors in Wards 7 & 8 for the 2022-2023 academic year. Each of these students was recognized at an awards ceremony at the James E. Bunn Amphitheater in Southeast DC. I cannot tell you just how impressed the Scholarship Application Committee was with the essays and in-person interviews with our leaders of tomorrow. Here at the WOLCF, we are expecting great things from the Class of 2022 Lockridge Scholars and know that they will not disappoint.



Inside

* Welcome New Board Member	p.2
* Congratulations: Barbara Jones.....	p.2
* Did You Know?	p.2
* US Foreign Service Initiative	p.3
* The Spice is Right	p.3
* International Ambassador Programs: Benin	p.3
* In Their Voices	p.5
* Dancing with the Scholars XII	p.10
* Who we are	p.11
* Upcoming Events	p.11
* Contact us	p.11

More inside!

Pg. 3

WOLCF WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER ADEWALE FARID

Adewale Farid is a native of Abbeville, Alabama but has been in the DMV area for over 22 years. He is a 10-year military veteran serving in the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Army. Adewale is a graduate of Howard University. In addition, for the past 16 years, he has served in Wards 7 & 8 as a science educator. Currently a teacher at KIPP DC, Adewale is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., and Prince Hall Masons in Washington, DC. Welcome to the WOLCF Board of Directors, Adewale!



CONGRATULATIONS TO BARBARA JONES



A special shout out to our very own Barbara Jones, Co-Chair of the WOLCF Events Committee. On Thursday, August 25th, community residents gathered at a community block party at the new DC PREP Charter School in Southeast DC. Among the speakers were Ward 8 Councilmember Trayon White, and Barry O. Brinkley, Chief of Staff, DC Prep.

A highlight of the block party was the naming of the school's amphitheater in honor of Barbara Jones. Barbara was pleasantly surprised by this unexpected honor and in her brief remarks, spoke of her lifelong love and commitment to the Ward 8 community.

Congratulations Barbara! You are loved by all of us here at the WOLCF.

DID YOU KNOW?

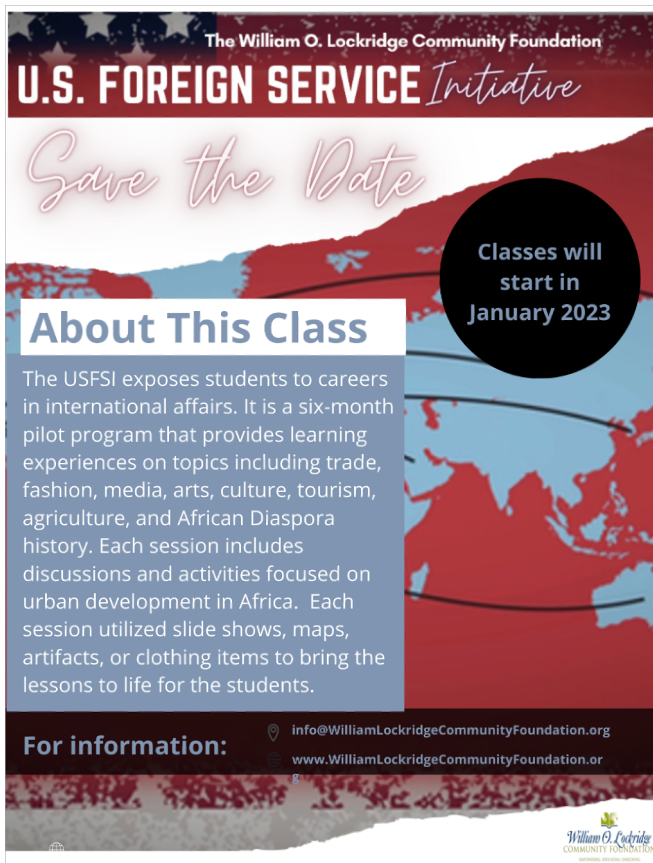
Ward 8 has the highest number of students in public schools that in any other Ward in the District.



cont.



From January to June 2022, the WOLCF held its first U.S. Foreign Service Initiative. The pilot program, which falls under the International Ambassadors Program (IAP), exposed twelve 8th, 9th, and 10th graders either residing in Wards 7 and 8 or are residents to professional and nonprofessional careers options overseas with the U.S. Government and private sector, not only in Africa but around the world. The Initiative will resume in January 2023.



In addition, the WOLCF took five students to Cotonou, Benin, from July 16-25, 2022, as part of its International Ambassador's Program (IAP). One of the requirements for this trip was each Lockridge Ambassador had to write and submit an essay on the trip within two weeks of our return. I'm pleased to include each of these essays in this newsletter and announce that the one written by the winner of our essay contest, Logan Bunn, will have hers published in *The Washington Informer*.

Finally, please mark your calendars for *Dancing with the Scholars (DWTS) XII*, which will take place at THEARC on the evening of Saturday, November 19, 2022. The year's theme is *Men in Black*, and you will not want to miss this exciting evening of entertainment and fun for an important cause.

I hope that you are enjoying reading these quarterly newsletters and agree that the WOLCF is making a difference in Wards 7 & 8 by providing opportunities for, uplifting, and raising the profiles of our young people.

Thank you to not only our sponsors but to all of you, for your continued support of the WOLCF.

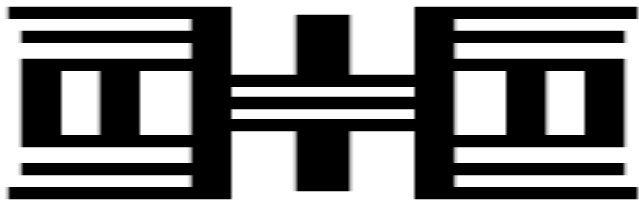
Sincerely,

Wanda D. Lockridge
Founder/Chairwoman

The Spice is Right

SPEARMINT

While this herb is used in all sorts of products, from jams to mouthwash, it is also used to support health and well-being. It can help with occasional digestive complaints, support relaxation, and perhaps most noteworthy of all, help support memory.



INTERNATIONAL AMBASSADORS PROGRAM (IAP) TRIP TO COTONOU, BENIN

On Saturday evening, July 16th, the Lockridge Ambassadors departed Washington Dulles Airport for Cotonou, Benin. They returned to the United States late on the evening of Tuesday, July 25th.

The 2022 Lockridge Ambassadors are:

Kameron Beale
Amirah Bunn
Logan Bunn
Stefan Lockridge
Madison Mackie

Travel to Africa for Lockridge Ambassadors falls under the WOLCF's International Ambassadors Program (IAP). In previous years, and in addition to Ghana, Lockridge Ambassadors have traveled to Cameroon. The next trip to the African continent will be to Sierra Leone in 2024.

A special thanks to Ada Anagho Brown, President of Roots to Glory Tours, who organized the visit to Cotonou, Benin.



In Their Voices

The International Ambassadors who traveled to Benin, Africa in July 2022 share their experiences through in an essay contest. The following five essays provide a synopsis of a 9-day educational journey away from Wards 7 and

Hello, I'm Kameron Beale and I went to Benin, Africa with the William O. Lockridge Community Foundation. So originally, we were supposed to go to Benin two years ago, but due to Covid we went this year, so I was super excited and had time to build momentum. I took a 6-hour flight to Istanbul, Turkey in Europe, and then we had a 7-hour layover and then another 9-hour flight. So, the trip was long and interesting, but my experience was pretty good in Turkey.

When we got to the airport it was very different, with lots of different technology, people speaking different languages, and some people didn't have manners. They had the same fast food as we have in the USA including Subway, Popeyes, Pizza Hut, etc.; The airport was huge and had lots of different stores and food places. When we landed in Benin, Africa it was different.

We got off the plane and were standing on the airport tarmac waiting for the bus to pull up to take us to the airport. As soon as we got there, I saw a huge roach. I was like "what in the world" and it just crawled away like it was nothing. We got bags and stuff and headed towards the van. This is where we meet Boris and the other guy, I forgot his name. We packed our bags in the van and got on the bus to the hotel.

When we got to the hotel, we were welcomed with pineapple drinks from the host staff and went upstairs to settle down, I was fatigued from the 6-hour time difference and it took me a while to adjust and get into the routine, but basically the whole we were there we did a lot, the food was pretty decent I ate a lot of fries. We went to see 2 different kinds of different villages, and I learned how to line fish and learned about traditions in the country.

We also recorded a song and showed it to a few people in Benin. We were with some local Benin kids most of the week too, who was cool and as interested in American culture as I was in theirs! The most depressing part of the trip was The Door of No Return, where so many of our ancestors were taken into slavery and never saw their home country again. The trip was overall fun, I bought some gifts back for my family as well as exchanged some with our hosts.

Kameron Beale

Traveling can be an adventure that you remember for a lifetime. For example, being able to travel to the continent of Africa as a 14-year-old heading to school after a 3-year pandemic. As we went through multiple security gates and airports, I couldn't help but wonder what the experience for the next 10 days will be like. Well, let me tell you about my favorite experience. Out of all the amazing things we were shown and able to do, my favorite of all was the studio, making a song

First, I would like to applaud whoever came up with the idea. It's not only a song that was catchy & stuck in my head but me, Little Stef, Maddie, and Logan coming up with our bars was interesting and fun. I loved being able to let loose, be happy, sing, dance, etc. while in that type of environment. Anything in the arts or creative side has always had a special place in my heart so It'll always be a wonderful memory. With that being said the art gallery was also mesmerizing.

I think going to the museum on our last day after touring and learning was an excellent plan. To finally be able to see some of the contexts we learned visually was breathtaking, especially the transitioning part of seeing new age art and being able to see and compare it to an American artist in your head. I would also like to say how I may have highlighted these two main activities but during the whole trip, I enjoyed the smaller minimalistic things like the moments I got to bond with our travel buddies (puzzles

and playing games) shopping (cough cough buying way and I mean way too many bracelets) and even the lectures or times when the group was down and we had the talks to check in, to understand, to improve and to uplift each other.

Lastly, I want to say how this traveling experience gave me friends that made me comfortable, made me laugh, got me in good trouble, and more. Within the weeks before the trip, I was terrified and didn't know how to feel. I was scared of something new and the fear of being or feeling uncomfortable/out of place. Staying late with my ambassadors goofing off and eating together was what got me through the trip. Connecting with people your age from the same area who act alike or feel similar at times was amazing. It felt like a new home away from home.

All things considered, I learned 1) Life is what you make it 2) Never not be grateful 3) Enjoy the world around you 4) Admire & want to learn about other cultures. Thank you, Ms. Wanda, Stefan, and the entire William Lockridge Foundation.

Amirah Bunn

When my mom told me I was going to be an International Ambassador with the Lockridge Foundation, I didn't know what to think. I didn't know what to think about going to Benin which is in Africa. At a meet and greet we some food similar to what we would be eating in Africa. We also learned that usually in Africa they eat mostly with their hands. At first, it was a little weird using my hands, but I got over it. I was very excited that I tried something new for the first time.

Getting to Benin took a long time! Once we got there, we did a lot of things and met many new people! There were students from Benin who traveled with us. They mostly spoke French but knew a little English. It was cool hanging with them. The best part of the trip was getting to create music with our new Benin friends. Mr. Stef and Mr. Desmond wrote the first part of the song, and we came up with the rest of the song. It was about coming to Benin. Another fun part was going to a place called Abomey. There we went on a boat trip and explored different houses and shops and restaurants on the water. I got to try to catch some fish as the people did there. I caught one fish and Ms. Wanda caught one fish but we threw them back in the water so they could live. I also learned how to row a boat. I thought it was pretty fun in general.

We also go to meet kings. One king was King Beyonze. He wasn't really a talkative type of king. He had his manager translate for him. We really just introduced ourselves and talked about what we are learning/experiencing on the trip.

Personally, I thought it was actually very fun to meet a king. Then after we left, we went to a museum to learn more about our ancestors and more about the Dahomey Kingdom.

Then we went to the beach where we saw the "Door of No Return", the place where my ancestors were taken from their homes and forced to go to other places. I learned that at night the slaves would walk from their fort to the beach, chained together and eyes closed. They were scared and they didn't know each other that much to trust one another or know what would happen to them.

We did so much more before leaving but I can't tell it all here. When it was time to leave, I couldn't really let go of the fact that I wouldn't be able to see my new friends anymore. We all shared good moments together. I can't believe for only 10 days I was in Africa and really didn't want to leave. I wish we could just stay for a couple more days, but we didn't plan that.

Logan Bunn

On my trip to Benin, I had a lot of fun because I learned a lot of things and how the people do things in Benin. Some of the things I learned was the Dahomey Kingdom partnered with the Europeans and helped import slaves to America. Also, the Dahomey Kingdom does not like water, and they cannot swim. Some tribes moved to the water and made places on the water with houses to get away from the Dahomey kingdom. At the village on the water, I rowed a boat and attempted to catch a fish.

We were there for 10 days and during those 10 days, I had a lot of fun. Some of the things I noticed were a lot of people had flip flops and most of the people had motorcycles to get around or they walked they also had phones. One of the kingdoms had a graveyard for dead kings and every grave had a wall with the blood of 41 people gunpowder pearls shells sea water and the blood of an animal. Also, most tribes cook and make stuff like fufu which is like harden mashed potatoes and they made peanut paste

Some of the things we ate while we were there were stuff like crepes which was kind of like a folded pancake with whipped cream. We could not eat any uncooked food and we also couldn't drink anything except bottled water. The trip helped me learn more about my ancestry and connect to my roots. On the last few days of the trip, we went to the American Embassy in Benin, and we met the Ambassador of the US. I learned that they take care of stuff like diseases from other countries and what happens when U.S. citizen gets trapped in the country.

Stefan Lockridge

On July 16 I was able to start a new journey, not a lot of kids my age get to experience. I got to take a 10-day trip to Africa. The first day was the first time all of us were in the same room together. I didn't expect for all of us to become so close in a matter of 3 hours. We had a 6-hour flight to our layover in Turkey. Our layover in Turkey was another 6 hours. While at our layover we got some food and did some shopping so the time would go by faster. Once our layover was over, we had another 10 hours. After a long intense 10 hours, we made it to Cotonou, a city in Benin. I was so ecstatic to be there. Once we left the airport, we went to Hotel Du Lac and got unpacked.

The next day was our first actual day of the trip. We woke up, got dressed, ate breakfast, met some kids from the village, and headed to Adjara to see them play drums. Playing the drums was by far my favorite part of the trip. I got to see where Go-go music originated from. After that, we went to meet King Toffa went to their local zoo, got to try some of their food, went back to the hotel, and got some sleep. The next day we went to the Cotonou market did some shopping, went to the African sound city studio to make a song, went to a dance class, went to get dinner, headed to the hotel, packed our thing, and said our goodbyes to the kids because it was our last day in Cotonou.

The following day we went to Abomey. We started the day with a boat ride, went fishing, saw where they lived and how they lived, then went to check into our hotel and get settled in, went on a walk,

and ate dinner. The next day we got to see how they make hats and rugs, went to the museum where the kings and some of their wives died, met King Beyonce, packed our things, and went to dinner. The next day we got on the road to go back to Cotonou, we made tie-dye shirts, got some food, went to the hotel to unpack, and went to the pool. The next day we went to meet the head priest, went to a snake exhibit, went through the door of no return, and went to dinner. The next day we went to the Artform international museum and went to dinner.

On the last day, we went to do some more shopping, we went back to the hotel to get ready to go to the American Embassy, went to our last dinner, ate our last dinner, and headed to the airport to come back home. I have to be honest I wasn't really sure what to expect from this trip, however, I will be honest it was an experience I'll never forget. Ms. Wanda is super dope for putting together a program for the youth in Ward 8 to see the world.

Lastly, the only horrible thing about this trip with the Lockridge Foundation is it's a one-time thing only, but I'm saving my money now so next year I can hopefully accompany the next group of ambassadors in 2023.

Madison Mackie

THE WILLIAM O. LOCKRIDGE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION PRESENTS



DANCING WITH THE SCHOLARS XII
"THE BATTLE OF THE KINGS"

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2022 | 7PM-10PM

THEARC THEATER

1901 Mississippi Ave SE, Washington, DC 20032

"Dancing with the Scholars" returns to THEARC Theater for its 12th edition, continuing the annual tradition to support students from a Ward 7 or 8 high school.

PURCHASE TICKETS HERE: [Tinyurl.com/DWTSXII](https://tinyurl.com/DWTSXII)



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Jacque Patterson, *Chair, Fundraising Committee*

Tatiana Robinson, *Chair, Young Adult Committee*

Upcoming Events

The Women King Screening/Panel Discussion

Atlantic Plumbing Cinema
October 8, 2022

Dancing with the Scholars XII

TheARC
November 19, 2020

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Barbara Jones, *Co-Chair*
Yolanda Fields

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US Foreign Service Initiative (Ad Hoc)

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