



LYJ-AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Verden Separate Schoolhouse
CELEBRATING
100 YEARS
1910-2010

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LYJ-AAHS Honored with National and Statewide Awards

Loretta Y. Jackson-African American Historical Society (LYJ-AAHS) has been honored by the Country School Association of America (CSAA) and the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Through its National Schoolhouse Registry Program, the CSAA recognizes school buildings that contribute in some positive way to the appreciation and understanding of the country school buildings that are at least 50 years old, that have been restored, renovated or reconstructed to retain the integrity of their original design, and are well maintained. At the site of the Verden Separate school, a dedication ceremony for the presentation of the CSAA Recognized Schoolhouse historical marker to LYJ-AAHS was held during the CSAA Tenth Annual Conference held in Chickasha, OK on June 21-23, 2010. CSAA hopes that this registry and marker will not only serve to identify school buildings of historical and/or architectural significance,



Verden Separate One Room Schoolhouse, celebrating its 100th year, received National and Statewide awards.

but will also recognize preservation achievements.

LYJ-AAHS was also selected and received the 2010 State Historic Preservation Officer's Citation of Merit on June 10, 2010 during the statewide preservation conference's awards presentation ceremony and banquet in Okmulgee, OK. The Citation

of Merit is awarded annually for important contributions in the preservation of Oklahoma's rich heritage. Loretta Y. Jackson, LYJ-AAHS Founder, stated, "The CSAA Schoolhouse historical marker and the Oklahoma Historical Society's Citation of Merit are significant because we are celebrating the Verden Separate School's 100th year". (Cont'd, pg2)



Loretta Y. Jackson receives Landmark School Plaque from Richard Lewis of CSAA



On behalf of LYJ-AAHS, Cynthia W. Anderson (l) receives Citation of Merit Award for Preservation Efforts from the Oklahoma Historical Society

Verden Separate Schoolhouse Featured in National Magazine

"In the Spotlight, Finally", the opening statement in the June/July 2010 issue of the *Old-House Journal* Magazine featuring the "preservation perspectives" of the Verden Separate Schoolhouse.

Old-House Journal is a 37-year-old magazine devoted to home

restoration and preservation, and have a nationwide audience of about 100,000. "I'm interested in getting more information about your African American



Historical Society Museum/ One Room School House for a potential profile in *Old-House Journal* magazine. I think the story of how you saved this school is an interesting one", says Demetra Aposporos, Editor-in-Chief of *Old-House Journal*.



Dr. Earnest Holloway, Pres. Emeritus of Langston Univ., was CSAA Conference Keynote Speaker



Brian Crockett visits Verden Separate School with LYJ-AAHS board member, Barbara A. Thomas

“Set in the midst of cotton and cane fields — this room had no view... but it held a vision.” — excerpt from the Verden Separate Schoolhouse story “A Room with Vision”, performed by Delanie Brewer, written by W. Jerome Stevenson



(l to r) Linda L. Samuel-Jaha, AKA Public Service Program Chair, Loretta Y. Jackson, award recipient, Honorable Judge Vickie Miles-LaGrange, AKA Mid-Western Regional Dir., Dr. Barbara A. McKinzie, International President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

LYJ-AAHS Chosen for Hands-on Experiential Learning Project (HELP)

Mid-America Arts Alliance, a regional arts organization serving cultural organizations in its member states of Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas, has selected LYJ-AAHS as one of 15 Oklahoma museums to participate in the Hands-on Experiential Learning Project (HELP).

Cynthia W. Anderson, Board Member of LYJ-AAHS commented, “We are very pleased to have been chosen for this project. We try very hard to make our organization a vital part of our community. Receiving hands-on training to assist us in our efforts is a real privilege.”

HELP is a program of Mid-

America Arts Alliance’s Professional Development divisions, which develops and provides institutional advancement, capacity building, and professional development opportunities for Mid-America’s constituents. HELP combines

workshops, on-site consultant visits, and online tutorials to assist museums in goal-setting and evaluation. Participating museums will concentrate on improvements related to non-profit governance. Training will be directed to museum trustees as well as museum staff and will focus on essential components of good governance.

Mid-America Arts Alliance is implementing HELP in Oklahoma in partnership with the Oklahoma Arts Council and with support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Oklahoma Museums Association.



l to r) Brian Crockett, HELP On-Site Consultant, and Cynthia W. Anderson, LYJ-AAHS Board Member

DID YOU KNOW?



☀ Loretta Y. Jackson, Founder, was recently honored by the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., during their 20th Mid-Western Regional Conference, for her work in the area of “The Economic Growth of the Black Family”. The award presentation was held on Thursday,

March 18, 2010 at the Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center in Norman, Ok. Four individuals, Cheryl Monts, Bruce Fisher, Cynthia Usher, and Afrisa Anderson, provided a brief interview for Jackson’s award presentation video.



(l to r) Cynthia Usher, Lawton AKA & LYJ-AAHS Board Member, Dr. Barbara A. McKinzie, International President of AKA., Loretta Y. Jackson, Cheryl Monts, President of Lawton AKA., Afrisa Anderson, Lawton AKA, OK Rep. Anastasia Pittman

National and Statewide Awards (con’d from page 1)

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annually for important contributions in the preservation of Oklahoma’s rich heritage. Loretta Y. Jackson, LYJ-AAHS Founder, stated, “The CSAA Schoolhouse historical marker and the Oklahoma Historical Society’s Citation of Merit are significant because we are celebrating the Verden Separate School’s 100th year”.

Previous LYJ-AAHS Verden Separate School Project awards and recognitions include: National Register for Historic

Places-2008; Oklahoma Museums Association’s Restoration & Preservation Award-2008; Named an Official Centennial Project by the Oklahoma Centennial Commemoration Commission-2003; Oct. 2007 article in the “Distinctly Oklahoma” magazine.



LYJ-AAHS Launches Video and Book, "Collection of Early Education Memories"

In anticipation of the centennial celebration of the Verden Separate School, the *Loretta Y. Jackson-African American Historical Society* (LYJ-AAHS) launched a project to collect video and written memories by former students and teachers who attended one room schools. It is hoped that by collecting the stories of individuals who attended or taught in one room schools from across Oklahoma and beyond, that the general



Edna Irby of Chickasha, OK, attended the Verden Separate One Room School.

public will know more about and appreciate these early educational efforts.

Individuals who provided oral history interviews that document and preserve their collective memories on video are: Mildred Fisher, Jimmie Houph, Janie Lewis Roberts, O.D. Darrington, Joel Bradford, Hurchel Caldwell, Bud Andrus, Irene Elizabeth Phelps, Pearl Schutten, Peggy June Ellis Cobb, Jessie M. Wright Grayson,



Nimrod Chapel of Jefferson City, MO, wrote about his school days in Oklahoma.

James Bradford, Weldon Watson, Edna McDonald Irby, Leroy H. (Hal) Zachary, and the Children of Sid & Katie Curry. An additional 15 individuals sent in their



Brothers James R. & Joel Bradford of Washington, Oklahoma.



Irene Phelps taught in a one room school-

written school memories. The video was shown during the Country School Association of America (CSAA) conference's special luncheon on June 21st for persons who contributed their memories of life in one room schools.

For information about purchasing the video and/or

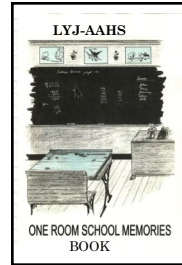
book, contact Loretta Y. Jackson at (405) 224-5297 or email requests at: lyjaahs3@suddenlink.net.



Edith Pearl McDonald Smith of California, attended the Verden Separate Schoolhouse.



Verla Nash attended school in NE Oklahoma



Verlin Richardson of Edmond, OK



Joyce J. Walters Cantwell taught in a one room school SE of Anadarko, OK

Bud Andrus of Chickasha, OK

More CSAA Conference & LYJ-AAHS School Centenary Program

The LYJ-AAHS hosted the 2010 CSA conference held recently at USAO in Chickasha. Richard and Catharin Lewis of League City, TX orchestrated the conference as well as the all-day bus tour of 5 restored OK schoolhouses. Over 30 states (including Canada) were represented at the conference. LYJ-AAHS commemorated the 100th Year Anniversary of the Verden Separate School and the school's story, "A Room with Vision", was exceptional entertainment! Check out the YOUTUBE video at www.csaa.typepad.com/country_school_associatio/.



OK Sen. Ron Justice; USAO Pres. John Feuer; Loretta Y. Jackson, LYJ-AAHS Founder; Dr. Ernest Hollaway, CSAA Keynote Speaker; Hank Ross, Mayor of Chickasha.



Over 100 schoolhouse supporters attended the Verden School Centenary Celebration, including OK Representatives T.W. Shannon & Leslie Osborn, Grady County Sheriff Art Kell, & Midwest City "Forerunners".



All-day bus tour, LYJ-AAHS volunteers Iola Gray (above r), Dr. Will Anderson, & Afrisa Anderson visits a restored schoolhouse in El Reno, OK



Verden Separate School "cake" was baked and donated by Jimmie Smith.



Bruce T. Fisher, LYJ-AAHS board member, recognizes special guests at the Centenary Celebration



DeLanie Brewer portrays 'Allen Toles' in the Verden Separate School story, "A Room with Vision", written by W. Jerome Stevenson

"You be polite, ya' hear. Listen to your teacher and learn everything you can. You don't have to be the best — just do your best. I may not get any doctors or lawyers out of you all but I pray that you'll be able to make an honest living. Be purposeful in this life and you'll make a difference. I love you and do good...."—excerpt from the Verden Separate Schoolhouse story, "A Room with Vision", performed by Delanie Brewer, written by W. Jerome Stevenson



Roilyn Achong, during AKA 80th Mid-Western Regional Conference in Norman, Oklahoma.

**Loretta Y. Jackson-African
American Historical Society**

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*"Preserving yesterday, today, for
tomorrow"*



**Verden Separate School
built by Allen Toles,
c. 1910, near Verden,
Oklahoma**



**Verden Separate School
relocated from Verden to
Chickasha, June 2004**



**Verden Separate School at
315 E. Ada Sipuel Ave.,
Chickasha, OK**



**Verden Separate School
Restored, 2007**



LYJ-AAHS MUSEUM & SCHOOL PROJECT

How you can help.....

The Loretta Y. Jackson-African American Historical Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to the collection, preservation and exhibition of items pertaining to the rich African American heritage, culture and education. The 'Loretta Y. Jackson-African American Historical Society Museum and One Room School Project' is an approved Oklahoma Centennial Commemoration Project and was funded in part through a grant made possible by the Oklahoma Legislature.

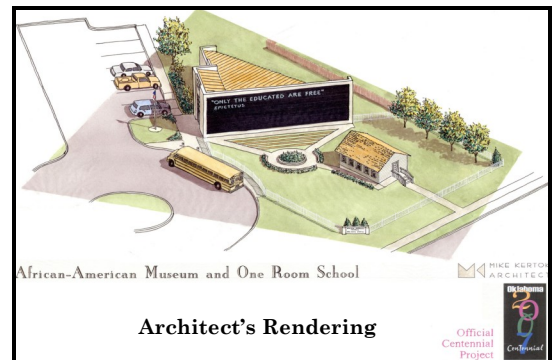
We appreciate your generous support of *PHASE IV: Museum and Partial Parking.*
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