

ITAZUKE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



AUGUST 2022

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This is my last newsletter. I have been the editor since 2014 and it is time to get a fresh look and other viewpoints. The newsletter is being re-envisioned, with a whole new approach. Instead of one editor, there will be a committee of members to give input to the newsletter. So far, that committee will be Janice Arbuckle Bloomer ('67), Pam Shupe Lyden ('74), and Mary Anderson Baker ('68). Later next year, Bob Darden ('72) has agreed to help out also. If you would like to join the group, please contact Jan Bloomer at beginningsjb@gmail.com.

We hope to make it less business and more social and personal. One idea has been to highlight one of our members so we can learn more about them and what they have done since leaving Itazuke. So, in this issue, we will highlight Bob Darden!

2022 Reunion Update

Just a reminder that our reunion in Las Vegas is coming up shortly, September 27 – 29, 2022. If you still need the registration form, or details, they are available on the Itazuke website (Itazuke.org) or on our Facebook page.

As of today, we have 80 guests who have registered for the reunion. Let's get going and make it to 100! We have yet to meet our hotel room goals for the 3 days, meaning that the hotel will charge us for the hospitality suites and banquet rooms we use. Help us save money by booking your rooms today. Rooms reserved at our special rate are available until August 25th at which time they are made available to the public at standard prices. Don't miss out!

Terry Yamashita ('65), Barbara Morris-Yamashita ('68), and Matsuo Kohler ('66) have lots of plans for the 3 days. Here is their schedule:

Monday: Registration Desk & Hospitality Room open late afternoon. A 50/50 raffle will be held where half the proceeds go to the IAA and the other half to the winner. Tickets can be purchased at either location. The Hospitality Room will have Quilt raffle tickets available, Silent Auction items displayed, and Joe Boling, our Historian, will be setting up his display.



Tuesday: Registration Desk & Hospitality Room open all day until evening festivities begin. Banquet Room 6:00-11:00 PM. Appetizers; Bar; welcome, announcements, and moment of silence by Dave Gibson. DJ begins at 7:00 PM.

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Wednesday: Hospitality Room open all day until evening festivities. (Hours TBD). Banquet Room 7:00 - 12:00 PM. Dinner; Bar; Itazuke Band starts promptly at 8:00 PM. The Board is having a couple of games during Band intermissions. Winners of 50/50, Quilt & Silent Auction will be announced. Payments and pick up of winnings take place in the Banquet Room.

Thursday: Farewell Breakfast 7:00 – 10:00 AM

If this is not enough, The Orleans Hotel has many amenities, including a bowling alley and movie theaters, as well as gambling.

Board Election

We are again conducting the Election for IAA Board Members online via the Election Buddy application we used before. This way we do not tie up our time at the reunion with a business meeting; allowing more time to visit with each other. Most will receive a ballot to your email address on file on August 12th (unless you unsubscribed with the last election). Please look for it and vote promptly. The election ends September 13th. If you do not receive your ballot, check your spam folder for email from itzukealumni@gmail.com. Otherwise, we may not have the correct email address for you in the database. You should check with our Secretary, Mary Anderson Baker (chapperb1@gmail.com) to make sure we have your correct data. Those members who have requested hardcopy newsletters will receive a printed ballot in the mail that must be returned before September 13th.

You are also invited to join the Itazuke Alumni Association Business Meeting on Zoom. There is a maximum of 100 attendees.

Date: Thursday, September 15, 2022 8:00 PM Eastern time
(7:00 PM Central time, 6:00 PM Mountain time, 5:00 PM Pacific time).

Please register by Sept 13th for the Business Meeting by notifying the IAA Secretary, Mary Anderson Baker (chapperb1@gmail.com) of your request. She will verify your membership in the IAA and then provide you with the Zoom link to be able to join the meeting.

2024 Reunion

Where would you like to have our reunion in 2024? We are looking for a group who will host this reunion and create a Reunion Committee to organize it. Good news is you get to choose a location near you. Reunion Committee guidelines can be found on the website for those contemplating this. We will consider all offers to host. If there are no members who volunteer, then the option would probably be to join the Overseas BRATS group. We did that before in Colorado Springs and it was okay, though the consensus was that we like our own better.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT – BOB DARREN (Class of '72)



Bob writes: "We arrived in the 'Zuke in Summer of 1967 and left in Summer 1969 ... my 7th, 8th and 9th grades. I'm the son of Col. Robert F. and Joann Darden and my younger brother Steve and sister Danni also enjoyed their time in Japan."

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And yes, I was in bands in Itazuke and more 50 years later, I'm still playing drums. (I've been in a cover band called After Midnight with three other Baylor professors for more 22 years!)

As per your kind request, below is a short bio. I've also attached a couple of recent pictures, including one with Dr. Henry Louis Gates (you may know him from "Finding Your Roots" on PBS). I'm leaving Sunday for New York to begin filming my segments in his upcoming series on gospel music. Blessings,
Bob"

Bob's Bio:

Robert F. Darden is a Master Teacher and Professor of Journalism, Public Relations & New Media at Baylor University. He is an award-winning teacher, researcher, and author, widely cited, quoted and interviewed on a variety of topics in the international and national media. He is the author of more than two-dozen books, most recently:

- *People Get Ready: A New History of Black Gospel Music* (Continuum/Bloomsbury, 2005)
- *Nothing But Love in God's Water, Volume II: Black Sacred Music from Sit-Ins to Resurrection City* (Penn State University Press, 2016) and
- *Nothing But Love in God's Water, Volume I: Black Sacred Music from the Civil War to the Civil Rights Movement* (Penn State University Press, 2014)

In recent years, this former newspaper journalist has been interviewed and featured by the BBC, several NPR programs (including “Fresh Air with Terri Gross”), the PBS series “The Black Church: This is My Story, This is My Song” with Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr., and in numerous national magazines, newspapers, podcasts and webpages. His essays, features, editorials and columns have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Oxford American*, *Christianity Today*, *The Dallas Morning News*, *Huffington Post* and hundreds of others.

Darden is the most awarded professor in Baylor University history, having received virtually all of the university's significant teaching and research awards, including:

- Outstanding Teacher, College of Arts & Sciences
- Centennial Professor
- Diversity Award (with the Black Gospel Music Restoration Project)
- Cornelia Marschall Smith Award for Outstanding Professor at Baylor University
- Outstanding Researcher, College of Arts & Sciences
- Diversity Award (on his own)

In 2020, he was named Baylor University's 27th Master Teacher.

In May 2021, Darden was selected by the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation as a Piper Professor for the state of Texas. He is only the 12th Baylor professor so honored.

He was Gospel Music Editor for *Billboard Magazine* from 1984 to 1998. He was also Senior Editor of *The Wittenburg Door* from 1988 to 2008.

Darden is also the founder of the Black Gospel Music Restoration Project at Baylor (BGMRP), the world's largest initiative to identify, acquire, scan, digitize, catalog and make accessible America's fast-vanishing legacy of vinyl from gospel music's "Golden Age." The BGMRP provides the gospel music for the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History & Culture in Washington D.C.

Darden was named "Wacoan of the Year" by *The Wacoan Magazine* in 2011.

In 2020, he was named "Distinguished Alumni" of the Baylor Line Foundation.

He will serve as chief consultation on Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr.'s upcoming four-part documentary series for PBS, "The History of Black Gospel Music & Preaching."

He and his wife, Dr. Mary Landon Darden, live in Waco, Texas. They have three children and four grandchildren.



REMEMBRANCES



Phyllis Lyman Greenlee (class of '63)
passed June 1, 2022

William (Bill) Kahler (class of '61)
passed on September 13, 2021

Cheryl Croney Lewis (class of '64)
passed April 18, 2021

Danny Wagnon (class of '71) passed
February 2022

Thad Young (class of '60) passed
October 27, 2021

Thanks to everyone who provides information to us for those who have passed away. We try to keep our database up-to-date and this data is valuable to us. Please let us know if we have omitted anyone who you think we should know about.

**Itazuke Alumni Association
405 Hill St.
Capitola, CA 95010-3604**

Please do not forward

Itazuke Dependents School 1952-1971

Return Service Requested

**We're from Itazuke don't you forget
Our hearts can't forget!**

Predecessors:

**Hakata American School 1946
Fukuoka American School 1947-1952**

Successor:

Hakata High School 1971

**Closed physically in 1972:
“In our thoughts forever”**

**We've got the spirit and
we've got the pep.
We're from Itazuke
we won't forget**

IAA Officers for 2020 – 2022

President David Gibson '66
Vice President Monty (Robbie) Robinson '69
Secretary Mary Anderson Baker '68
Treasurer Jan Arbuckle Bloomer '67
Editor/Publisher Teresa Shea Green '69