

# NATIONAL NEWSLETTER "SUMMER EDITION"



**The Bessie Coleman Foundation, Inc.**  
- Queen Bess - An American Legacy -



Jun/Jul/Aug/ Volume 1, Issue3

## *IT LOOKS LIKE A GOOD DAY TO FLY!*

### *Happy Anniversary Queen Bess June 15, 1921*

*On June 15, 1921, Bessie Coleman received her pilot's license from the renowned Federation Aeronautique Internationale, becoming the first American to obtain a pilot's license from the French school and the first licensed black pilot in the U.S.*

*BCF encourages ALL members to host events across the country during the week of June 15<sup>th</sup> to promote awareness of this major accomplishment by Queen Bess.*

### *Fourth Annual "Fly-Sister-Fly" Empowerment Breakfast*

Bessie Coleman Foundation (BCF), Inc., will host the Fourth Annual "Fly-Sister-Fly" Empowerment Breakfast on August 5, 2009 at the Marriott Buckhead in Atlanta, GA. This year BCF will honor the ASA flight crew who made history in Feb 09 as being the first all black female commercial flight crew in the U.S.

#### *2009 Sisters of Distinction*

*Atlantic Southeast Airline's Captain Rachelle Jones, first officer Stephanie Grant, and flight attendants Diana Galloway and Robin Rogers*



BCF will also hold its annual general membership meeting and Board of Director's meeting during the week of Aug 4<sup>th</sup>. Dates and times of the meetings will be posted on the website in June.

For tickets and more information about the breakfast and other activities, contact Crystal Harris at [pilot36088@yahoo.com](mailto:pilot36088@yahoo.com).

Ticket price only \$45.00 Register at <http://obap.org/convention2/>

#### *BCF Executive Board & Board of Directors*

- \*National President -----Thelma Rudd
- \*Secretary -----Jennifer Myers
- \*Parliamentarian -----Nancy Lawrence
- Board Member -----Norma Ely
- Board of Directors Chair --Hannah Dixon
- \*Vice President ----Jacqueline Pilot
- \*Treasurer -----Sandra Campbell
- Board Member -----Doreen Branch

\*Board of Directors

## *America's Recognition of Aviation's Pioneer Women of Color*



Janet Bragg  
1907 - 1993



Bessie Coleman  
1892 - 1926



Willa Brown  
1906 - 1992

### *77<sup>th</sup> Annual Flyover Lincoln Cemetery Chicago, IL*

On May 2, 2009, Chicago paid tribute to Bessie Coleman, along with other Black female aviation pioneers such as Janet Bragg and Willa Brown during the 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Flyover at Lincoln Cemetery. This event drew many dedicated aviators from around the country to reflect on the accomplishments of these three women and their contributions to the aviation and aerospace industry.

Next year's ceremony will be held on May 1, 2010 and BCF is looking for members who are interested in being a part of this wonderful tribute.

For more information contact Thelma Rudd at [trudd@wearthelegacy.com](mailto:trudd@wearthelegacy.com) or Jennifer Myers at [jmyers@wearthelegacy.com](mailto:jmyers@wearthelegacy.com).

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Thelma Rudd,  
National President of  
Bessie Coleman  
Foundation, Inc.

Greetings of Peace from Thelma,

While talking with one of BCF's 2006 Fly-Sister-Fly honorees, commercial airline pilot Tara Dillon Wright, she shared a story about her son. When asked if he was going to be a pilot like his mom, he replied - "No, pilots are women!"

We know that most pilots are men, but when our s/hero, beautiful, fly, brown-skinned Bessie Coleman became the first American to earn an International Pilot's License on June 15, 1921, the skies opened up for all of us. Queen Bess proved that the laws of aeronautics apply regardless of the sex or skin color of the pilot and her actions were key critical to a more recent historical moment. On February 12, 2009 Captain Rachelle Jones, First Officer Stephanie Grant and flight attendants Diana Galloway and Robin Rogers made history for being the first all African-American female crew to operate a commercial jet revenue flight Atlantic Southeast Airlines (ASA).

The officers and directors of the Bessie Coleman Foundation, Inc., formally request your presence at our Fourth Annual Fly-Sister-Fly Empowerment Breakfast on Wednesday, August 5, 2009 at the Marriott Buckhead in Atlanta, GA. Please spread the word! The entire historic Atlantic Southeast Crew Captain Rachelle Jones, First Officer Stephanie Grant, and flight attendants Diana Galloway and Robin Rogers will be present and will be honored. USAF Brigadier General Stayce Harris will facilitate a panel discussion with these remarkable women. For more information on this important venue please contact Crystal Harris - [pilot36088@yahoo.com](mailto:pilot36088@yahoo.com).

You do not want to miss out on this unique networking opportunity. BCF will empower our sisters by providing fertile ground for the exchange of ideas and business cards! This event is being hailed as the largest convention of female aviators of color!

It looks like a good day to fly,

*Thelma L. Rudd*

Thelma L. Rudd, President  
Bessie Coleman Foundation, Inc.

\*\*Articles of interest for the "Fall Edition" must be received no later than Aug 15, 2009. Send to [jmyers@wearethelegacy.com](mailto:jmyers@wearethelegacy.com)

ANNOUNCEMENTS  
Bessie Coleman Aeronautical Lab

Crenshaw High School in Los Angeles, CA is the home of the Bessie Coleman Aeronautical Lab. BCF is a proud supporter of this program is looking for volunteers to visit with the students during the 2009/2010 school year. If you are interested, contact Dr. Nancy Lawrence at [lawre353@erau.edu](mailto:lawre353@erau.edu).

ACTIVITIES

June

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Jun 13 - BOD Meeting  
Happy 88<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
"Queen Bess"  
June 15, 1921, Bessie Coleman received her pilot's license from the renowned Federation Aeronatique Internationale

June 27 - General Meeting

"Continuing the Legacy in Aviation"  
Writing Competition  
Jun 1 - Aug 1

For more info contact J.Myers at [jmyers@wearethelegacy.com](mailto:jmyers@wearethelegacy.com)

July

Jul 14 - 18 - Aviation Career Education (ACE) Camp hosted by Organization of Black Airline Pilots (OBAP) in Atlanta, GA

Jul 17 - 19 - BOD Mtg, Atlanta, GA (Tentative)

Jul 26 - 28 - "Women Soar" at Oshkosh

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Aug 4 - 8, 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual OBAP Convention, Atlanta, GA for more information go to [www.obap.org](http://www.obap.org)

Aug 4 - 5 Fourth Annual BCF Convention, Atlanta, GA

Aug 5 - Fourth Annual BCF Fly-Sister-Fly Empowerment Breakfast at the Marriott Buckhead in Atlanta, GA to register go to <http://obap.org/convention2/>

We're on the Web!

See us at: [www.wearethelegacy.com](http://www.wearethelegacy.com)

Bessie Coleman Foundation, Inc.