

Magnificent 7 Newsletter

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08

SEPTEMBER 2023



About Ali Hackett and The Magnificent 7

The Magnificent “7” is a concept created by Ali Hackett to inform his many listeners and friends about the happenings in the World of Music. He joined forces with Mark Abrams, a Multimedia Engineer to create the highly successful Friday Night Live Facebook/YouTube Live Show from 9:00pm to 10:00pm with 7+ music enthusiasts to include: Ali Hackett, Sharon Matthews-Gainey, Mark Abrams, Rita Allen, Diane Parker, Quaintella Asberry, Vonnie Aviles, Kevin Powell, Michelle Watson-Sawyer, and Honorary Members: Donna Fisher, William “Smoke” Howard & Joanne Brown.

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KING'S KOFFEE & KONVERSATION



Reality of Mortality

I first want to give a heartfelt thanks to all of you who read & respond to the **Koffee & Konversation** articles that I write in this newsletter. Writing these articles is one thing, but your comments, statements, and even questions are really awesome. They inspire me to continue on with this venture.

Thank You All!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

In **recent days** I have been doing a lot of thinking about my own **mortality!!** I remember when I was younger **Dad** would jokingly say I'm checking the obituaries to see if my name is in there. We don't need to check the newspaper obituary now, because of the internet, all the news is everywhere, all the time real and fake!! Also, I am around that age now that was the age of my parents.

Before I start, I **don't know** if I have the **answer or not**, or even if there is an answer, but these articles are **created for**

conversation...with me or somebody.

No one knows how long they are **going to live**, but at the same time no one is trying to **leave here early** or before their time!

When we were younger, we **looked at death** and kept moving (that obviously depends on who the person was that passed), but now and in today's times, death seems to hang around a lot more & a lot longer. (Maybe it's just me, but I think not) I am not glorifying death, or trying to be morbid, but as most of you remember this was a topic that we didn't talk much about with our parents, or anyone else. Dealing with death in today's time is a concern because I personally have seen so many different stages of the grieving process. It's been said that everybody grieves differently, and in their own way, and I find that to be very true.

At this stage of your life ...**Is Your House In Order?????**

This question causes pause...enough to really consider the way of the world, and what's going on in it.

So, my question for you is...**What Did You Do Today?????**

***Did you laugh hard?**

***Did you hug someone, and tell them you love them?**

***Did you share your knowledge and kindness with someone?**

***Did you listen to some music?**

These few simple things help me to go forward in my life, I'm very hopeful that they will help you.

Responsible comments are requested. Please share your thoughts with me at **alihackettpresents.com**

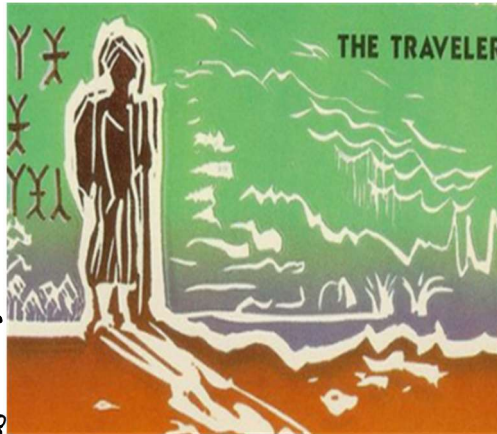
Submitted By Ali Hackett 9/23

AFRICAN ASTROLOGY

"THE TRAVELER"

04 SEPT - 03 OCT

ELEMENT: AIR
 SENSE: SIGHT
 SENSITIVE BODY PARTS: FEET & JOINTS
 FAVORABLE DAY: THURSDAY
 FAVORABLE MONTHS: JANUARY & SEPTEMBER



"THE TRAVELER" IS MORE THAN A WANDERER BUT IS ALSO A COSMIC MESSENGER AND OFTEN A CLOSE COMPANION OF POETS AND INTELLECTS. YOU NATIVES OF THIS SIGN ARE OF A COMPLEX NATURE WHICH CAN BE MISCONSTRUED BY A DEMANDING AND SOMETIMES SUPERFICIAL CIRCLE OF FRIENDS.

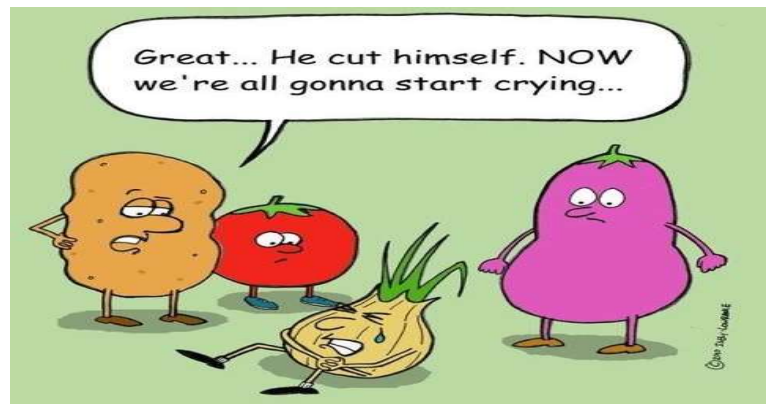
THE CHARACTER OF THOSE OF YOU BORN UNDER THIS SIGN COMPRISES A MARVELOUS MIX OF FLUCTUATION AND PERMANENCE AS A RESULT OF THE DUAL STRENGTHS PRESENT IN THE MATERNAL BREAST OF THIS GEOMANTIC FIGURE.

AS "THE TRAVELER" YOU HAVE A TWO-FOLD DESTINY. YOUR DEPARTURE MAKES YOUR VILLAGE SAD, BUT ALSO VERY HOPEFUL. SO YOU CAN EXPECT YOUR ARRIVAL IN A NEW PLACE WILL RAISE BOTH FEAR AND ADMIRATION.

TO TRAVEL IN WESTERN AFRICA MEANS TO MOVE ON THE FEARFUL FRINGE OF TWO WORLDS: THE LEVEL OF ROADS AND TRAILS AS WELL AS THE SUBTERRANEAN AND SPIRITUAL STRATUM THAT MURMURS WITH MYSTERIES OF FORGOTTEN ANCESTORS. THESE MYSTERIES COME BACK IN THE FIBER OF THE TREES, IN THE RIDGES OF DUNES, IN THE CHAOS OF ROADS, AND THE SONGS OF THE WIND AND THE RAIN.

MORE SENSITIVE THAN YOU CAN BEAR TO BE AND SOMETIMES SUBJECT TO A FEELING OF PERSECUTION, YOU MUST RELY ON YOUR INTUITION AND GO ON WITHOUT ILLUSION. THUS, RECONCILING YOUR OUTWARD AND INNER TRAVELS, YOU WILL KNOW HOW TO TEMPER YOUR AFFECTIONS AND LIMIT YOUR MOVEMENTS TO WHAT IS STRICTLY NECESSARY. AS A RESULT YOUR BURDENS WILL BE LIGHTER AND YOU WILL WALK THE PATH OF COURAGE AND ENLIGHTENMENT.

Jokes of the Month



Teacher:

"Whoever answers my next question, can go home."
One boy throws his bag out the window.

Teacher:

"Who just threw that?"

Boy:

"Me, and now I'm going home."

ALI'S MEMORIES... THE GODFATHER - JAMES BROWN

Shared By Ali Hackett



Hey Oldie Lovers,

Growing up, everybody I knew, young and old, rich or poor knew who James Brown was!!!! He was a hero to us younger folks...not only in the show biz world, but later on the social scene, especially in the Black Community. He was billed as the "Hardest Working Man In Show Business" because he left it "all" out on the stage when he finished a show. From doing his famous splits, and his stage slides, and the famous throw off the cape routine, put many of us youngsters in the intensive care unit for days!!! (from passing out!!!) Oh yes, the Temptations, Smokey Robinson & the Miracles, the 4 Tops, Otis Redding, the Mad Lads, Gladys Knight & the Pips, and so many more were the "Bomb" but James Brown was the man!!! From his styled "Pompadour" to his Shark Skinned Tight Pants, to his Sharp Toed Shoes...James Brown did for many of us!!! Anybody and everybody tried to immolate him in one way or another. I think the cape was the biggest thing going!!!



(See ending for another story about the cape)

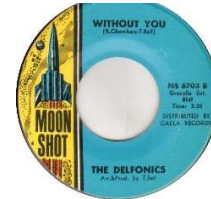
Here is one of my stories about James Brown. I was working at WTNJ Radio in Trenton, NJ. At that time we were located on the then downtown Trenton Commons. There was a song by James Brown that I was absolutely crazy about, the song is It's A New Day (taken from the Revolution Of The Mind Album). The song is approximately 7 plus minuets long, and in the 70's when this song came out, the record business was just beginning to make longer playing records, and some of the radio stations were just allowing their jocks to play the long versions, especially on the FM side, gradually on the AM side. As I have said many times I have been blessed in this business, my bosses have seen the dedication and hard work in me, and have allowed me to do my own shows, with out any guidance from them. Anyway, **James Brown** was in town to play at the **War Memorial Building** (in **Trenton, N.J.**) this Saturday afternoon before the show, I was on the air at the studio. I was a little hungry, so I asked the late **Don Juan Banks** to come in and sit in while I ran downstairs, and across the walkway to **Gino's (Kentucky Fried)** to grab something real quick. **Juan was an intern learning the radio and he showed me how to get and read the news, and in return I showed him how to spin records on the tables.**

I ran downstairs and got my food, and got back very shortly. When I got back, I decided to play **It's a New Day by James Brown**, it would give me enough time to eat something without rushing. So I played the song and ate my food, I finished just before the song was over, when I got on the mike and said the slogan by **Georgie Woods - So Nice I Need To Play It Twice!!** I played it again, by this time it was getting good to me so I backed it up again..I backed it up a **4th time**, totally unheard of!!! When I tell you I was in a **"ZONE"** I was!! I backed it up a **5th time**, my phone lines were lit up, everybody listening, and in **Trenton** knew I loved the song!! **Exactly, 5 mins** after I took the song off and played something else, **James Brown came in the studio!!!** **Don Jaun Banks passed out!!!** **James Brown said, Hey Man I love what your doing with the music, I want you to come and work for me at my radio stations in Atlanta. He then slapped down 10 X One Hundred Dollar Bills on the console, and said is this enough to get you started?** As big of an offer as this was I couldn't except it (at least not at this time), I was **in the service, stationed at Mc Guire AFB.** He told me to look him up after I get out of the service for a job. By the time I got out **James had lost the stations.** We laughed and talked for about an hour, before it was time for him to get to the show. He asked me was I coming to the show, I told him I was, he said I'll leave word for you to come to my dressing room to hang out with me and the guys. I was a great show at the **War Memorial Building, James Brown tore it up!!!**

Sidestory about the cape:

Before you can become the **"best"** you have to not only work at it, but it's a process that is acknowledged by your peers!!! When **James Brown** came on the scene, there were already bigger names, one in particular was **Solomon Burke** who was known as the **'King of Rock & Roll'**. Solomon **used a cape** in his show as well, and **before** James Brown. One night **James Brown** was appearing on the same show as **Solomon**, when **James** asked **Solomon** to allow him (**James**) to only wear the cape that night, and that **Solomon** present it to him during the show, and paid him **\$1,000 dollars**. **Solomon** took the money, and agreed. That night on the show **Solomon did not present James with the cape, and Solomon used it the way he had been doing in his show!!!**

I'm going to leave it there for now, because this leads into some sticky stuff afterwards!!!



Inside Kevin's Mind

(Shared By Kevin Powell)

Welcome back everyone to another segment of "Inside Kevin's Mind". I am your host Kevin Powell.

I would like to continue my article on music from the 60's with the difference between the content of music by the North and the South.

The 60's came around the time of my early teenage years when such record labels like Motown, Stax, Volt, Moonshot, Arctic, Gamble, and Philly Groove.

The differences I noticed in the selection of instruments used between the south and the north was that in the south many of the instruments used were primarily horns, guitars, and drums. Whereas instruments used by record labels in the north had much more of orchestra type musical background used during that era.

Not saying that both were not unique to each other's audience it's just during that time period for me as a teenager my music preference was more in tune with the music coming from the north. The reason for that was because I was accustomed to hearing those songs alot during that time.

Just like artists from the south did not get much radio exposure in the north, I can say the same that many artists from the north did not get much radio exposure in the south during that time period either. So, I will leave you now and we'll pick this conversation back up next month. So until then have a safe and blessed holiday from your friend Kevin Powell.

**Would love to hear your thoughts!
You can send your comments to
Kevin.Magnificent7@outlook.com or to
our Facebook Group Page:
Ali Hackett and The Magnificent Seven**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Shared By Ms. Q

September Upcoming Events

The Blind Boys of Alabama: Friday, September 15th @ 7:30pm - The City Winery, Philadelphia, PA

NE-YO-Champagne and Roses Tour with Robin Thicke & Mario: Sunday, September 17th @ 7:30pm – The Mann Center TD Pavilion, Philadelphia, PA

Janelle Monae: Monday, September 18th @ 8pm - The Met, Philadelphia, PA

The Pointer Sisters: Saturday, September 23rd @ 8pm - Parx Casino, Bensalem, PA

Fantasia with special guest, Joe: Sunday, September 24th @ 7:30pm - The Mann Center TD Pavilion, Philadelphia, PA

Karyn White: Wednesday, September 27th @ 7:30pm - The Winery, Philadelphia, PA

Raphael Saadiq Revisit Toni! Toni! Tone!: Thursday, September 28th @ 8pm - The Met, Philadelphia, PA

The Gospel Reunion Tour: Friday, September 29th @ 7pm - Wells Fargo Center, Philadelphia, PA

October Upcoming Events

Audra McDonald: Tuesday, October 3rd @ 7:30pm - Verizon Hall, Philadelphia, PA

Brown Sugar- Rolling Stones Tribute Band: Friday, October 6th @ 7:30pm - The Winery, Philadelphia, PA

Macy Gray: Wednesday, October 4th @ 7pm - The Keswick Theatre, Glenside, PA

Buddy Guy: Friday, October 6th @ 8pm - Parx Casino, Bensalem, PA

Dionne Warwick: Saturday, October 7th @ 8pm - Parx Casino, Bensalem, PA

The Doobie Brothers: Sunday, October 8th @ 8pm - Hard Rock Live @ Estess Arena, Atlantic City, NJ

The Spinners: Friday, October 13th @ 8pm - Parx Casino Xcite Center, Bensalem, PA

Lauren Hill & The Fugees: Monday, October 23rd @ 7:30pm - Wells Fargo Center, Philadelphia, PA

Damien Escobar: Tuesday, October 24th @ 8pm - The Keswick, Glenside PA

George Clinton & Parliament Funkadelic: Friday, October 27th @ 8pm - Parx Casino Xcite Center, Bensalem, PA

Johnny Mathis: Saturday, October 28th @ Caesar's Casino - Atlantic City, NJ

November Upcoming Events

K.C. & The Sunshine Band: Friday, November 10th @ 8pm - Estess Arena @ Hard Rock Live, Atlantic City, NJ

Paul Anka: Friday, November 10th @ 9pm - Oceans Resort Ovations Hall - Atlantic, City, NJ

Ms. Gladys Knight: Saturday, November 11th @ 8pm - Parx Casino Excite Center, Bensalem, PA

Chicago: Friday, November 17th @ 9pm & Saturday, November 18th @ 8pm - Ocean Resort Casino, Atlantic City, NJ

Air Supply: Saturday, November 18th @ 8pm - Parx Casino Excite Center, Bensalem, PA

Brian McKnight: Friday, November 24th @ 8pm - Rivers Casino, Philadelphia, PA

Anita Baker: Friday, November 24th @ 8pm - Hard Rock Casino, Atlantic City, NJ

Ashanti- Friday, November 24 @ 9:00- Hard Rock Casino- Atlantic City, NJ

December Upcoming Events

Jeffrey Osbourne & After 7: Saturday, December 2nd @ 8pm – Caesar's Casino- Atlantic City, NJ

Earth Wind & Fire: Friday, December 8th & 9th @ 8pm - Estess Arena, Hard Rock Casino, Atlantic City NJ

Patti Labelle: Saturday, December 9th @ 7:30pm – The Met, Philadelphia, PA

Englebert Humperdinck: Friday, December 15th @ 8pm - Sound Waves at Hard Rock Casino, Atlantic City, NJ



Entertainment Guest Spotlight: The Marvelettes

(Shared By Diane Parker)



The Marvelettes were an American [girl group](#) that achieved popularity in the early to mid-1960s. They consisted of schoolmates [Gladys Horton](#), [Katherine Anderson](#), [Georgeanna Tillman](#), Juanita Cowart (now Cowart Motley), and Georgia Dobbins, who was replaced by [Wanda Young](#) prior to the group signing their first deal. They were the first successful act of [Motown Records](#) after [the Miracles](#) and its first significantly successful female group after the release of the 1961 number-one single, "[Please Mr. Postman](#)", one of the first number-one singles recorded by an all-female vocal group and the first by a Motown recording act. Founded in 1960 while the group's founding members performed together at their glee club at [Inkster High School](#) in [Inkster, Michigan](#), they signed to Motown's Tamla label in 1961. Some of the group's early hits were written by band members and some of Motown's rising singer-songwriters such as [Smokey Robinson](#) and [Marvin Gaye](#), who played drums on a majority of their early recordings. Despite their early successes, the group was eclipsed in popularity by groups like [the Supremes](#), with whom they shared an intense rivalry.

Nevertheless, they managed a major comeback in 1966 with "[Don't Mess with Bill](#)", along with several other hits. They struggled with problems of poor promotion from Motown, health issues and substance abuse with Cowart the first to leave in 1963, followed by Georgeanna Tillman in 1965, and Gladys Horton in 1967. The group ceased performing together in 1969 and, following the release of [The Return of the Marvelettes](#) in 1970, featuring only Wanda Rogers, disbanded for good, with both Rogers and Katherine Anderson leaving the music business.

The group has received several honors including induction into the [Vocal Group Hall of Fame](#), as well as receiving the Pioneer Award from the Rhythm and Blues Foundation. In 2005, two of the group's most successful recordings, "[Please Mr. Postman](#)" and "Don't Mess with Bill" earned million-selling Gold singles from the [RIAA](#). On August 17, 2013, in Cleveland, Ohio, at Cleveland State University, the Marvelettes were inducted into the first class of the Official Rhythm & Blues Music Hall of Fame.

History Origins and initial success

The group that would become the Marvelettes formed at [Inkster High School](#) in [Inkster, Michigan](#), a suburb located west of [Detroit, Michigan](#) by fifteen-year-old glee club member [Gladys Horton](#) in the fall of 1960. Horton enlisted older glee club members [Katherine Anderson](#), [Georgeanna Tillman](#), [Juanita Cowart](#), and a high school graduate Georgia Dobbins (May 5, 1942 – September 18, 2020) to join the group. The members struggled to come up with a name for their new act until one of the members jokingly took a stab at their own singing abilities, saying "we can't sing yet." Horton altered the saying to "the Casinyets".

In 1961, the quintet, now called the Marvels, entered a talent show contest on the behest of their teacher and ended up finishing in fourth place. Though only the first three winners were offered a trip to audition for the fledgling Motown label, two of the girls' schoolteachers advised that they be allowed to audition too. Upon auditioning for Motown executives including [Brian Holland](#) and [Robert Bateman](#), they had a second audition with bigger staff including [Smokey Robinson](#) and the label president and founder, [Berry Gordy](#), who while impressed with their vocal styles advised them to come back with their own composition. Returning to Inkster, Georgia Dobbins contacted a local musician named William Garrett, who had an unfinished blues composition titled "[Please Mr. Postman](#)"; Garrett allowed Dobbins to use it as long as he received songwriting credit if the song became a hit. Despite having no previous songwriting experience, Dobbins took the song home and reshaped it overnight to reflect the teenage sound of [doo-wop](#).

Prior to returning to Motown, Dobbins left the group due to her growing family and her father, who advised her not to continue her career in show business. Dobbins' departure left Horton in full charge of the group. To replace her, Horton asked another Inkster graduate, [Wanda Young](#), to replace Dobbins. When the group returned and performed their composition, Gordy agreed to work with the group but under the advice that they change their name. Gordy renamed them the Marvelettes and signed the act to Motown's Tamla division in July 1961. The following month, the group recorded "Please Mr. Postman", which was polished by Brian Holland, Robert Bateman and [Freddie Gorman](#), another songwriting partner of Holland (before Holland became part of the Holland-Dozier-Holland team), who moonlighted as a mailman, as well as the song "So Long Baby", sung by Wanda. Tamla issued "Please Mr. Postman" on August 21, 1961. The song then climbed to the top of the singles chart, reaching number one that December. making them the first Motown act to have a chart-topper on the [Hot 100](#).

To follow up on this success, Motown had the group record "Twistin' Postman" to take advantage of the [twist dance craze](#) and the re-release of [Chubby Checker's "The Twist"](#). The song eventually peaked at number 34 on the pop chart in early 1962. Before the end of 1961, Tamla issued the first Marvelettes album, also named [Please Mr. Postman](#), but it failed to chart. The group's next single, "[Playboy](#)", marked the second time one of their singles was written by a band member, this time by Gladys Horton. Like "Postman", the song was retooled by other writers and upon its release in early 1962, reached number 7. A fourth hit, "[Beechwood 4-5789](#)", co-written by [Marvin Gaye](#), reached number 17. During 1962, two more albums would be issued by the band including [Smash Hits of '62](#) (later issued as [The Marvelettes Sing](#)) and [Playboy](#). Following the success of "Beechwood", R&B radio stations also frequently played the single's flip side, "Someday, Someway", which paid off sending the song to number 8 on the R&B chart; their first double-sided hit.

Due to their success, the group had to leave school in order to perform and despite the promise of tutors to help with their schooling, they were never granted any. Due to their young ages and Horton being an orphaned ward of the courts, they eventually were taken in by [Esther Gordy Edwards](#), who bused them to Motortown Revue shows. After several successful Top 40 recordings, the group released the modest success, "Strange I Know", which peaked at number 49. In early 1963, the group was shortened to a quartet when [Juanita Cowart](#) opted to leave, citing a mental breakdown caused by stress from performing on the road, and a mistake she made in describing the group's background, during an appearance on [American Bandstand](#). Carrying on as a quartet, the group issued one of [Holland–Dozier–Holland](#)'s early compositions, "[Locking Up My Heart](#)", which peaked at number 44. It was one of the first singles to feature Horton and Young in co-leads. The success of "Locking" was probably tested due to strong airplay by the song's B-side, the Young-led ballad "Forever", which also received a pop charting, peaking at number 78. Then Berry Gordy composed and produced the single, "My Daddy Knows Best", but it was their lowest charting at the time, number 67.

Departure of Georgeanna Tillman and renewed success

By 1964, the majority of American vocal groups especially all female bands such as [the Shirelles](#) and [the Ronettes](#) started struggling with finding a hit, after the arrival of [British pop and rock acts](#). In the meantime, other Motown girl groups such as [Martha and the Vandellas](#) and [the Supremes](#) were starting to get promoted by Motown staff with the Vandellas becoming the top girl group of 1963. The following year, the Supremes took their place as the label's top primary female group after a succession of hit recordings that year, culminating in the release of their second album, [Where Did Our Love Go](#), which Motown was able to promote successfully. Some sources claim "Where Did Our Love Go" was turned down by the Marvelettes. Gladys recalls "When they played 'Where Did Our Love Go' they played 'Too Many Fish in the Sea'. We picked 'Too Many Fish in the Sea' because it had all the music and all the bongos. We were all together and said at the same time we didn't want 'Where Did Our Love Go'."

That year, the Marvelettes reached the top forty with the [Norman Whitfield](#) production, "[Too Many Fish in the Sea](#)", reaching number 25 with the recording. By now, Motown had begun its charm school hiring choreographer [Cholly Atkins](#) and [Maxine Powell](#) to refine the label's acts. Atkins began polishing the Marvelettes' dance moves, while Powell taught the group to be more graceful, telling them and every other Motown act that they would "perform in front of kings and queens". Meanwhile, two of the Marvelettes got married: Georgeanna Tillman married longtime boyfriend Billy Gordon of [the Contours](#) and Wanda Young married her longtime boyfriend [Bobby Rogers](#) of [the Miracles](#) changing her name to Wanda Rogers. By the end of 1964, Georgeanna Tillman, a longtime sufferer of [sickle cell anemia](#) was diagnosed with [lupus](#). By early 1965, struggling to keep up with their stringent recording sessions and touring schedules and her illnesses, a doctor of Tillman's advised her to leave performing for good. The rest of the Marvelettes carried on as a trio from then on.

In mid-1965, Wanda Rogers took over as lead vocalist, as Motown producers felt Rogers' voice was more suitable for this role than Horton's. With Rogers as lead, the group had a hit with "[I'll Keep Holding On](#)", which reached number 34 while "Danger! Heartbreak Dead Ahead" settled for a number 61 showing but was number 11 on the R&B chart. Later in 1965, the group released the [Smokey Robinson](#) composition, "[Don't Mess with Bill](#)", which brought the group back to the top ten, reaching number 7 and becoming their second single to sell over a million copies. From then on, with Robinson mainly in charge, most of the Marvelettes singles would feature Rogers on lead. In 1966, they had a modest success with "You're the One" and by the end of that year, they reached the top 20 with "[The Hunter Gets Captured by the Game](#)", also composed by Robinson. In 1967, the group recorded the [Van McCoy](#) composition, "[When You're Young and in Love](#)", which had been originally recorded by [Ruby & the Romantics](#). The song reached number 23 in the U.S. and peaked at number 13 in the [UK Singles Chart](#), becoming their only British hit.

Decline

By 1967, Gladys Horton had reconsidered her involvement with the Marvelettes. After her first child, Sammie, was born with [cerebral palsy](#), Horton decided to leave the group entirely, doing so before the release of the hit "[My Baby Must Be a Magician](#)". The song peaked at number 17 and was noted for featuring [the Temptations'](#) [Melvin Franklin](#) providing the opening line. With Horton out, [Harvey Fuqua](#) introduced the group to Ann Bogan who became Horton's replacement. However, by the time Bogan joined the group in 1968, most of the musicians of Motown's early years had left, mainly due to financial disputes with the label. The group struggled with recordings after the release of "Magician", with Motown offering little to no promotion. The 1968 singles "Here I Am Baby" and "Destination: Anywhere" were only modestly successful, peaking at number 44 and number 63 respectively. The release of their 1969 album, *In Full Bloom*, failed as did its only single, the remake of [Justine Washington](#)'s "That's How Heartaches Are Made".

Wanda Rogers, who had suffered from a number of personal problems for some time, became unreliable and difficult to work with. Concert scheduling was difficult as she sometimes failed to turn up for performances. In 1970, Rogers recorded songs for a solo album, produced by Smokey Robinson and including covers of earlier Motown recordings, which Motown decided to market as [The Return of The Marvelettes](#). As this album featured no other Marvelettes, original member Katherine Anderson refused to participate in appearing on the cover of the album due to what she felt was Motown's disrespect towards her and the group. The album was only a modest hit, reaching number 50 on the R&B albums chart and featured no charted hit singles. Following this, the group disbanded with Katherine Anderson settling briefly as a staff writer for Motown.^[2] After Motown moved to Los Angeles in 1972, Anderson and Rogers left the business altogether, returning to Michigan with Anderson settling in her hometown of Inkster while Rogers moved to Southfield, Michigan. Meanwhile, Gladys Horton had moved to [Los Angeles](#) where she raised her three sons.

Later years

In January 1980, former Marvelette and original member Georgeanna Tillman died from complications of lupus, in her mother's house in Inkster, at the age of 36. Shortly afterwards, several of the former members filed suit against Motown, complaining of not receiving any royalties from their work. In 1989, Gladys Horton tried to reunite the original Marvelettes after being offered a contract with [Motorcity Records](#). Wanda Young was the only other Marvelette to agree to sing on the recording. Following this, Horton continued to perform, sometimes as "Gladys Horton of the Marvelettes". Due to a legal disagreement with Larry Marshak, who bought the Marvelettes' name from Motown after the label lost rights to the name, Horton would fight for years to retain ownership of the name. Marshak had several groups billing themselves as "the Marvelettes", but the women who portrayed themselves as the Marvelettes were much younger than the original line-up, and had not recorded on any of the Marvelettes' original Motown hits.

By 2006, thanks to the efforts of former [Supremes](#) singer [Mary Wilson](#), legislation had been launched in 33 states via [the Truth In Music Act](#) to prevent performers from using the name of a group that didn't have at least one original member, causing the groups who Marshak had hired as Marvelettes to bill themselves as "Tribute to the Marvelettes". Both Horton and Katherine Anderson began fighting to get back ownership of the name and were in their final stages of having the name returned to them when Horton died from a stroke at a California nursing home in January 2011. Following their exits from the Marvelettes, both Georgia Dobbins and Juanita Cowart remained in Inkster and settled into life outside the entertainment industry, with Cowart being active in her Inkster church choir. Katherine Anderson resides in Inkster and mentors several Detroit-area vocal groups. Ann Bogan, the latter-day member of the group, now lives in [Cleveland, Ohio](#) and became a part of the [New Birth](#) and their subgroup, Peace & Happiness, before retiring to raise her children. All the surviving members of the group at that time, including Dobbins and Rogers, were interviewed for an episode of their lives on the [TV-One](#) show, [Unsung](#).

Georgia Dobbins died of cardiac arrest on September 18, 2020, at age 78. Wanda Rogers was living in [Westland, Michigan](#) with her daughter until her death on December 15, 2021, also at age 78.

Legacy

In 2005, the group was awarded two gold plaques for their biggest hits, "Please Mr. Postman" and "Don't Mess with Bill" after the [RIAA](#) had certified the singles as million-sellers. The following year, Horton appeared on the PBS concert special, *My Music: Salute to Early Motown*, along with other Motown stars from the label's early years. Some of the group's recordings were later sampled for songs by rap musicians, most notably [Jay-Z](#)'s song, "Poppin' Tags", sampled the group's 1970 cover of [Smokey Robinson](#)'s composition, "After All", from his 2002 album, *The Blueprint 2: The Gift & The Curse*.

In 1995, they were honored with the "Pioneer Award" at the Rhythm & Blues Foundation. In 2004, the group was inducted to the [Vocal Group Hall of Fame](#). In 2006, Marc Taylor issued the biography, *The Original Marvelettes: Motown's Mystery Girl Group*.

The group's story had been documented several years before in [Goldmine](#) magazine from a 1984 article.

In 2007, the Marvelettes were voted into the Michigan Rock and Roll Legends Hall of Fame.

In 2009, as part of Motown's 50th Anniversary celebrations, a new limited-edition triple-CD set on the group entitled *The Marvelettes: Forever – The Complete Motown Albums Vol. 1* was released. This featured the group's first six albums, some of which had never been released on CD. *The Marvelettes: Forever More – The Complete Motown Albums Vol. 2*, which included their later albums and bonus material, was released in 2011. Their much-covered 1961 million-selling #1 hit tune "Please Mr Postman" was inducted into the *Grammy Hall of Fame* in 2011.

The Marvelettes were nominated for 2013 induction into the [Rock and Roll Hall of Fame](#). They became eligible for induction in 1987. Although they did not garner enough votes for induction, they made the ballot a second time for induction in the year 2015.

On August 17, 2013 the Marvelettes were inducted into the [Rhythm and Blues Music Hall of Fame](#) in Cleveland and again in June 2017 in Detroit, Michigan

Sadly today there is only one of the original members alive Katherine Anderson.



Life's Celebrations

(Shared By Vonnie Aviles)

August Born Days



Professor Griff (Singer/Public Enemy) 8/1
Chuck D (Public Enemy) 8/1
Marsha Ambrosius (Formerly of Floetry) 8/8
Kool Moe Dee (Rapper) 8/8
Countess Vaughn (Singer/Actress) 8/8
The Edge (U2) 8/8
Taryell Jackson (3T) 8/8
Drew Lackey (98 Degrees) 8/8
Connie Stevens (Singer) 8/8
Leroy Bell (Formerly of Bell & James) 8/8
Willie Hall (Blues Brothers Band/Drummer/Booker T & The MGs) 8/8
Scott Stapp (Formerly of Creed) 8/8
J.C. Chazez (Formerly of N'Sync) 8/8
Rikki Rockett (Poison) 8/8
Barbara Mason (Singer) 8/9
Kurtis Blow (Rapper) 8/9
Barbara Mason (Singer) 8/10
Michael Bivens (Singer/Rapper/Manager/New Edition/Bell Biv Devoe) 8/10
Kenny Gamble (Producer) 8/11
Larry Graham (Singer/Guitar Player) 8/14
James "JT" Taylor (Lead Singer Kool & The Gang) 8/16
Madonna (Singer) 8/16
Ted Mills (Singer/Blue Magic) 8/19
Maxine Brown (Singer) 8/20
Leroy Burgess (Singer/Songwriter/Artist/Producer) 8/21
Dexter Wansel (Keyboardist/Yellow Sunshine) 8/22
Christopher Williams (Singer/Actor) 8/22
Ernest Wright (Founding Member Little Anthony & The Imperials) 8/23
Jeffrey Daniel (Dancer/Singer/Songwriter/Shalamar) 8/24
Walter (Singer/The O'Jays) 8/25
Shania Twain (Singer) 8/29

HONORARY MENTION

Tracy Green (Friend of Magnificent 7) 8/23
Dana Millwood (Friend of Magnificent 7) 8/28

August Anniversaries



Bono & Ali Stewart 1982 (41)
Sting & Trudie Styler 1992 (31)

August Fallen Leaves



D.J. Casper (Rapper) 8/7
Bobby Eli (Musician/Composer/Record Producer) 8/17
George Bussey (Singer) 8/20

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Magnificent 7 Friday Night Live Show

Every Friday Night on Facebook from 9pm – 10pm.

Guests from the entertainment field share their stories with us live. As always you are invited to join us with your questions and comments in our Chat Room.

Interested in the Magnificent 7???

Suggestions, advertising, announcements, sharing a story, comments or becoming a

member:

send all inquiries to:

P.O. Box 1161,
New Castle, DE 19720

or

Email to:

oldiesliveonfore@aol.com

C/O Ali Hackett

Advertising!!!

We would love to have you advertise in our newsletter on your upcoming event.

(All kind of packages and levels...some may include Radio time).

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contact us for information and pricing.

(215-833-1941)

Special Announcement from Ali Hackett

I would like to know your favorite song by a featured spotlight artist in this newsletter. You can send in your favorite song, and dedication to me at AliHackettPresents.com.

And on the 3rd Thursday of this month on my Radio show (RememberThenRadio.com), that will be the night I play your request and your dedication on the show.

If you would like to have your birthday or anniversary acknowledged in this newsletter or on the radio, all requests must be submitted to

AliHackettPresents.com

1 week in advance.

Follow Ali Hackett

Wednesday Evenings – TV Show

Salt...Pepper N Memories TV Show – 7pm

Comcast Channels: 66 & 966

Verizon Channels: 30

Internet Platform: phillycam.org/watch

Thursday Evenings

Oldies Radio Show: 8pm – 12midnight

Rememberthenradio.com

Friday Evenings

Facebook Live Show with The Magnificent 7 (9pm – 10pm)

[Facebook.com/groups/450902632941850](https://www.facebook.com/groups/450902632941850)

Friday Nights

King of The Oldies Radio Show: 10pm – 2am

WPPM 106.5 FM

phillycam.org/listen

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
HAZEL MILLIGAN
FROM THE MAGNIFICENT 7**

Publication Information

Ali Hackett & The Magnificent 7

P.O. Box 1161

New Castle, DE 19720

215-833-1941

Email Address: oldiesliveonfore@aol.com

Website: alihackettpresents.com

Facebook/YouTube: Ali Hackett & The Magnificent 7

LIST OF EDITORS, WRITERS & CONTRIBUTORS

Ali Hackett:

ali.magnificent7@outlook.com

Mark Abrams:

mark.magnificent7@outlook.com

Sharon Matthews:

sharon.magnificent7@outlook.com

Diane Faison Parker:

diane.magnificent7@outlook.com

Joanne Brown:

joanne.magnificent7@outlook.com

Rita Allen:

rita.magnificent7@outlook.com

Donna Fisher:

donna.magnificent7@outlook.com

Vonnie Aviles:

vonnie.magnificent7@outlook.com

Quaintella Asberry

quaintella.magnificent7@outlook.com

Michelle Watson-Sawyer

michelle.magnificent7@outlook.com

Kevin Powell

kevin.magnificent7@outlook.com

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