

Huntsville's 19th Century Black History - p. 7

FREE

Honoring Clyde Foster, p. 6

Friday
January 13, 2023
Vol. 9, No. 19
ValleyWeeklyllc.com



Juanita Sales Lee

"Live simply so that others may simply live." - bell hooks

Alphas' 38th MLK Unity Event Set

The Delta Theta Lambda Education Foundation of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., will host a virtual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Celebration on Monday, January 16, 2023 starting at 8 a.m.

The event marks the 38th year of hosting this event and the featured address will be given by Ambassador Andrew Young. Ambassador Young is a civil rights icon and one of the last living leaders of the Civil Rights movement. Additionally, he is an international diplomat who has worked untiringly for the advancement of civil rights and liberties around the globe.

Ambassador Young is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated,

having been initiated during his undergraduate tenure at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

Proceeds from the Unity Breakfast are used solely by the Delta Theta Lambda Education Foundation to aid students in their pursuit of academic excellence through the awarding of scholarships, mentoring, tutoring and the administration of leadership training.

Today, the Delta Theta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha continues its commitment to the community through the fraternity's education foundation that provide scholarships to outstanding students and training to a new generation of leaders that include mentoring programs and



partnerships designed to ensure the success of children and the future.

Viewing logistics: YouTube: tinyurl.com/38MLKBreakfast; Facebook: Huntsville Alphas; and Web: www.dtalphabet.org.

TV: Beginning at 8 a.m. - WZDX (Fox54); Charter/Specrum - 8; Comcast - 5; DirecTV - 54; Google Fiber - 5; and WOW- 4/905.

Radio: WJAB90.9FM.

Visit the Delta Theta Lambda Chapter website (www.dtalphabet.org) for viewing information.



Legacy Center to Hold Pancake Social, Seeks Volunteers

In light of the National MLK Day of Service on Monday, January 16, The Legacy Center will hold a "Senior Serve & Pancake Social" to serve the seniors of the Huntsville Housing Authority.

Volunteers are needed to serve as breakfast cooks, musicians, clean-up crew, greeters and delivery persons. Register by January 12 by calling (256) 777-4224 or e-mail info@LiveYourLegacyHere.com.

Share the volunteer spirit with congregations, organizations and businesses.

HPL Offering Series of Computer and Workforce Development Classes

The downtown Huntsville Madison County Public Library, located at 915 Monroe Street, is offering several online and in-person computer classes throughout January.

Persons have an opportunity to register for online classes in Excel, Intro to Google Drive, and Advanced Excel Data Validation.

In-person computer classes will be offered for personalized tech assistance, as well as to receive training in Photoshop Elements,

Microsoft Word and Cybersecurity Basics.

Workforce development classes will be offered in-person at the North Huntsville Public Library, located at 3011 Sparkman Drive. The courses include Basic PC - Class 1; Email Basics; Basic PC - Class 2; Video Conferencing 101; Basic PC - Class 3; Internet Basics; and Intro to Microsoft Office.

For additional information, call (256) 851-7492 or visit <https://hmcpl.org>.

Pump It Up: For Women's Heart Health

Central North Alabama Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. invites the public to attend its annual Go Red for Women FREE Lunch-n-Learn Health Fair.

Cardiovascular Disease is the number #1 killer

of women. Pump It Up promotes heart health awareness and is a fun opportunity to learn about heart health, how to reduce your risk of heart disease. Wellness health checks will be available. Attendees will receive a FREE heart

healthy lunch.

PUMP IT UP will be held on Saturday, February 4, at the Turner Surles Community Resource Center, 702 Sycamore Street NW, Decatur, Ala. Visit www.cnaadst.org or call (256) 658-6649.



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Ways to Lower Blood Pressure Without Medication

Beat hypertension and lower your blood pressure with simple lifestyle changes to protect yourself from this hidden health problem. According to research or other evidence, the following self-care steps may be helpful: Take some CoQ10

Taking 100 mg a day of this powerful antioxidant may have a significant impact on your blood pressure after one to several months.

Drink (a little) alcohol

Yes, you heard us correctly. According to a review of 15 studies, the less you drink, the lower your blood pressure will drop—to a point. A study of women at Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital, for example, found that light drinking (defined as one-quarter to one-half a drink per day for a woman) may actually reduce blood pressure more than no drinks per day.

Take a Breath

Slow breathing and meditative practices such as qigong, yoga, and tai chi decrease stress hormones, which elevate renin, a kidney enzyme that raises blood pressure. Try 5 minutes in the morning and at night for low blood pressure. Inhale deeply and expand your belly. Exhale and release all of your tension.

Get some dark chocolate in your life

Dark chocolate varieties contain flavanols that make blood vessels more elastic and increase the chances of low blood pressure. In one study, 18% of patients who ate it every day saw blood pressure decrease. Have half an ounce daily, and make sure it contains at least 70% cocoa.

Gargle with garlic

600 to 900 mg a day of a standardized garlic extract

can improve heart and blood vessel health, and also has a mild blood pressure-lowering effect.

Read the Labels

Avoid using too much table salt, limit salty fast foods, and read labels to find low-sodium foods in your grocery store. Labels on foods is one of the sneakiest ways salt gets into your food. It's right there on the label, but many of us don't take the time to read it. Trust me, if you just turn over the package and read it before you buy it, it will save your life.

Take minerals

Supplements of calcium (800 to 1,500 mg a day) and magnesium (350 to 500 mg a day) may be helpful. These recommendations are not comprehensive and are not intended to replace the advice of your doctor or pharmacist. Continue reading the full hypertension article for more in-depth, fully-referenced information on medicines, vitamins, herbs, and dietary and lifestyle changes that may be helpful.

Lose a little weight

If you find yourself a little overweight (5 to 25 pounds) begin to exercise a little more with just a 20-minute walk every day for a week then boost it up to 30 minutes and cut back on your calories. You'll see what can happen.

Get support

It's medically proven time and time again that supportive family and friends can help improve your health. They may encourage you to take care of yourself, drive you to the doctor's office or embark on an exercise program with you to keep your blood pressure low.

- BlackDoctor.org

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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY DEATHS



NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME
2501 Carmichael Avenue NW
Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-8189

Graveside service for MR. FRANKIE LEE PRUITT (b. 1970) was held Sunday, January 8, at the Pine Grove Cemetery (Deposit, Ala.).

Funeral service for MR. ANTONIO ROBINSON (b. 1993) will be Sunday, January 8, at Douglas Tabernacle Primitive Baptist Church with Elder Dr. Mario Ford officiating.

Funeral service for MR. MICHAEL FORD (b. 1959) was held Sunday, January 8, at Saint Mark Baptist Church.

Funeral service for ATTORNEY ALPHONSO BECKLES (b. 1942) was held Saturday, January 7, at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME
4315 Oakwood Avenue NW
Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481

Funeral service for MINISTER CAROLYN PRYOR TOWNSEND (b. 1953) will be 11 a.m., Saturday, January 14, at the Fletcher's Chapel Primitive Baptist Church (30592 Hardiman Road, Madison, Ala.) with Pastor Kenneth Langford officiating.

Funeral service for MS. MICHELLE RENEE TULLIS (b. 1965) was held Sunday, January 8, at the Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Minister Joseph Harris officiating.

Memorial service for MR. WILLIAM HORACE MCCRARY (b. 1935) was held Saturday, January 7, at Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Elder Mario Ford officiating.

Funeral service for MS. CYNTHIA ANN WILLIAMS (b. 1963) was held Saturday, January 7, at the Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Reverend Ernest Bailey officiating.

Funeral service for MR. CAMERON O'SHAI WITT (b. 1993) was held Saturday, January 7, at the Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church (13376 Dupree Worthey Road, Harvest, Ala.) with Elder Kourtney Wesley officiating.

SERENITY FUNERAL HOME
2505 University Drive NW
Huntsville, AL 35816 (256) 539-9693

Graveside service for MR. ALEX DAVIS (b. 1973) was held Friday, January 6, at Oakwood Memory Gardens, 1 HL Cleveland Way, Huntsville, Ala.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

CHAMPION GAME PLAN

PRESTON BROWN

HOW TO GET BETTER IN 2023

In Jeremiah 29:11, it reads: "I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not harm you, a plan to give you hope and a future."

You know, God has a long-range plan for each of us. No matter how good things are now, they can be better. No matter how bad things are now, they can get better.

You see, God has only one thing in mind for your future, and that's "better".



God wants us to be better spiritually, better emotionally, and even better financially.

I can remember losing my wife of thirty years and I kept thinking how can things get better? How can this be God's plan for my life? Because she was only 51 years old. But now I have learned that many people lose loved ones in their lives and when they do, we have to make the decision to either "get busy living or get busy dying".

The choice is ours. But here's the thing,

when we partner our efforts with God and accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, nothing can stop His plans for our lives. You see, we need to first see ourselves being better before we can ever realize ourselves getting better. Our faith in God allows us to do amazing things, because if we can see it we can conceive it!

So, no matter what you have been through or what you are going through right now, it is all in His good and perfect will for your life. Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways submit to him, and he will make your




paths straight."

As we enter into 2023, let us all remember that God has a great plan for your life!

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters, and make sure you purchase your copy of my book, "A Champion Game Plan for Life," at amazon.com.

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JANUARY 13 - SHONDA LYNN RHIMES is an American television producer, screenwriter, and author. She is best known as the showrunner—creator, head writer, and executive producer—of the television medical drama Grey's Anatomy, its spin-off Private Practice, and the political thriller series Scandal. Rhimes has also served as the executive producer of the ABC television series Off the Map, How to Get Away with Murder, and The Catch. - BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com





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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

Thru January 2023

Huntsville Museum of Art
Presents
"Donato Giancola"
Downtown Huntsville
Huntsville, Ala.

Thru January 29

Winter Park
The Orion Amphitheater
Huntsville, Ala.
TheOrionHuntsville.com

January 13-15

Comedian Kevin Fredericks (aka KevOnStage)
Stand Up Live Huntsville
Huntsville, Ala.
(6:30 p.m.-1/15)
7 p.m.

January 14

The Alabama Chapter of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)
4th Annual Scholarship Gala
The Westin Hotel
6800 Governors Drive W
Huntsville, Ala. West
6 p.m.

January 15

Winter Park at the Orion
11 a.m.

January 16

"Meet the Players"
Huntsville Hurricanes
1300 Meridian Street N
Huntsville, Ala.
2 p.m.

January 19

"Terrariums: Bringing

Gardening Indoors"
Huntsville Botanical Gardens
4747 Bob Wallace Avenue - Huntsville, Ala.
Members, \$60; Non-members, \$110
6-7:30 p.m.

January 20

"Clue: On Stage"
Playhouse
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.
7:30 p.m.

January 21

"Nature Needs Our Help"
Nature Academy
Huntsville Botanical Garden
4747 Bob Wallace Avenue SW
Huntsville, Ala.
(256) 830-4447
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

"The Encore Concert: Kristoffer LeShaun Live"
The Electric Belle
Stovehouse
Huntsville, Ala.
7:30 p.m.

January 23

Alabama Legislative Update
The Jackson Center
6001 Moquin Drive
Huntsville, Ala.
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

February 7

"Garden Planning"
Nature Academy
Huntsville Botanical Garden
4747 Bob Wallace Av-

enue SW
Huntsville, Ala.
(256) 830-4447
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

February 10-18

"Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind"
Lowe Mill ARTS & Entertainment
Huntsville, Ala.
7-8:30 p.m.

February 11

Music Explorer's Club
Huntsville Symphony Orchestra
Mark C. Smith Concert Hall
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.
erica@hso.org
(256) 539-4818
10:15 a.m.

March 11

Rosetta James Foundation
"Honoring Our Elders"
Day Gala
Von Braun Center
South Hall
12 noon
www.rosettajamesfoundation.org
(256) 536-9717

March 25

Garden Prep for Spring
Huntsville Botanical Garden
4747 Bob Wallace Avenue SW
Huntsville, Ala.
\$35-\$60
10 a.m.-12 noon
www.hsvbg.org

Huntsville Havoc
"Military Night"
Von Braun Center
7 p.m.

April 1

The 3rd Annual Women's Expo Event
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, Ala.
11 a.m.-4 p.m.

PowerShot

"You gotta get all the way in it if you really plan to win it."

J. T. Moore



"It is the lives we encounter that make life worth living."

- Guy de Maupassant



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Rebuttal ...

Rebuttal...
A moment of silence speaks volumes. Keeping a closed mouth and smile, in times where you have nothing positive to say, is mental medicine for the soul. Every comment, or opinion, does not beget a response.

How many times have you been in a conversation where someone was giving you their unsolicited advice for free? (How kind) Or a good ole opinion offered about your life, or path, or about the position or plan God has given you?

This could be a suggestion about how you operate, what you shouldn't be doing, how you handle your kids, what they consider too much for you, or what someone feels you aren't equipped to do ... etc. People poke their noses in places where they have no experience or calling.

Sometimes they are speaking out of genuine concern. Sometimes they are speaking from a place where they have had no courage to do what it is you're doing? Sometimes it's to throw you off, just to see how strong you are or how much stick-to-it-ness you have.

Other times they could be challenging your choices or trying to see if they can knock you off track.

But why do you feel that any of those situations deserve a counter argument? Especially if it is something they have never succeeded in. Or, if it's something God has given to you ... that they were not

Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell



positioned by God to have a part in!

Why get spun up about something you have the final say about? Why are you defending something only to find yourself frustrated, at the end of the exchange, about something you have complete control over!!!!

Just hush! If you listen, there could be a nugget that you gain during their "advising" ... or not!! Don't waste major words on minor conversations. *Shhhh*, be silent.

If God put it into motion, allow Him to fight the battles of the naysayers for you. What do you think Noah, David, or Nehemiah would have accomplished if they were listening to what others had to say about their assignments?

There would have been no Arc. Goliath would have prevailed. The walls wouldn't have been built around Jerusalem if Nehemiah would have been paying attention to others.

God will lift you up,

promote you, and honor you while others are steadily chatting. You will lose focus, momentum, time, energy, and credibility trying to argue down every person's opinion about your assignment.

Leave it to God. Keep pushing, building, loving, doing whatever it is, He has called you to do. Time will reveal! No one has the power to stop your purpose ... unless you give it to them!!



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Perspectives on
God Views
+
Current News
by tim allston

Try this: Happy New Day's (not "Year's") Resolutions for 2023!
"Give us this DAY our DAILY bread" - Matthew 6:11.
(Part 1 of 2)



This popular text from the Holy Bible, history's all-time and annual bestselling book, can serve as our cure-all for making-then-aborting New Year's resolutions.

The Lord's Prayer of Matthew 6:9-13 was Jesus' answer to his disciples' request of Luke 11:1, "Lord, teach us to pray . . ." Verse 11's seven words, "Give us THIS DAY our DAILY bread" (emphases added), can serve as our cure-all for making then breaking New Year's resolutions. This prayer was to get the disciples (now us) to focus primarily on the immediate - the ignorance of which starts most of our failings.

Perhaps the reason that approximately 77% of us New Year's Resolution makers fail with our January 1st promises is that, contrasted to Jesus' counsel, we devalue today's opportunities and reach instead for tomorrow's long-term wishes. And fail.

The greatest gift we have is today - which is why it's called "the present"! Or, stated another way in Psalm 118:24, "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

Therefore, let's all begin 2023 with a new resolution but NOT for December 31st - or even January 1st! - but with a New Day's Resolution, say, January 11 - or, as Wolfgang Mieder said, "life is hard by the yard, but a cinch by the inch"!

Join me today and together, let's take this first "New Day's Resolution" step.

W. H. Murray: "Concerning all acts of initiative and creation, there is one elemental truth, the ignorance of which kills countless ideas and wonderful plans: the moment that one commits oneself, the Providence moves too. A whole string of incidents issues from that decision, entailing a whole stream of incidents, meetings and material assistance, which no man could have dreamt would have come his way."

Happy New Day's Resolutions!

Tim Allston
Certified Life Coach &
Amazon Best Selling Author-Publisher

Local Attorney Leads Push to Recognize Impact of Pioneer Clyde Foster

Few men have made a societal impact that stretches across so many distinct categories as has Clyde Foster. The Alabama A&M University alumnus was a pioneer whose life was a catalyst in computer science, in the chronicles of a local municipality, at NASA, in the civil rights movement, and in sectors of public education.

Attorney Juanita Sales Lee, retired Chief of General and Administrative Law Division at the U.S. Army

likely mesmerized in his early school years in the Magic City by the mighty Maroon and White Bulldogs of Alabama A&M University. After high school, Foster selected AAMU from a pool of primarily historically black colleges and universities.

Upon graduation from Alabama A&M University in 1954, Foster was drafted into the U.S. Army. He served for two years, one year stateside and the other in Germany. After his military service, he taught briefly and his

World War II group of German scientists that the federal government had brought to Tennessee Valley soil.

The December 1968 edition of The Normal Index heavily focused on the University's new Bachelor of Science degree program in computer science. Foster served as a director of AAMU's Computer Science Center, taking a nearly two-year-long leave from his duties at NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Ala. The Center was located within the Division of

a degree in computer science, the first such degree offered in Alabama.

Thus, during a time when the U.S. was consumed with the Vietnam War, civil rights issues, and a growing drug culture, among many others problems, Foster was attuned to the propensity of computing to speed up routine operations and to free staff "to concentrate on problems which can be solved by man."

But Foster brought AAMU into a new age in ways beyond a strong computer curriculum. Only a few years after

prepared to secure the jobs assigned to black people in a hostile Jim Crow South. Many of those jobs centered around such vocations as teaching, nursing, farming and some technical aspects. Thus, when Foster approached a Civil Rights era administration about establishing a computer science curriculum to prepare students to send rockets into space, there was understandable skepticism. AAMU had the tools to prepare students to build on earth. Foster's big task was to convince administrators to think bigger and to believe they could build in space. He ultimately succeeded, and his alma mater became the first Alabama university to offer a computer science degree program.

Foster and Public Education.

In addition to his many contributions to Alabama A&M University, Foster impacted public education early on in his career. Following his stint with the military, the AAMU alumnus landed a teaching job near Selma, Ala., although he wanted to move back to the Madison County vicinity and did. He served on the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, on an appointment made in 1974 by Alabama Governor George Wallace, and he was reappointed by Governor Fob James. Representing Triana, Ala., Foster was a force on the committee that impacted the formation of the Madison (Ala.) City School System.

Foster and NASA. Foster worked at the Army Ballistic Missile Agency until the formation of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in 1960. He then transferred into the space program. At that post, Foster started out as a physical science aide and later a mathematics aid in the Computation Laboratory. After completing additional mathematics courses, the young pioneer boosted his classification to

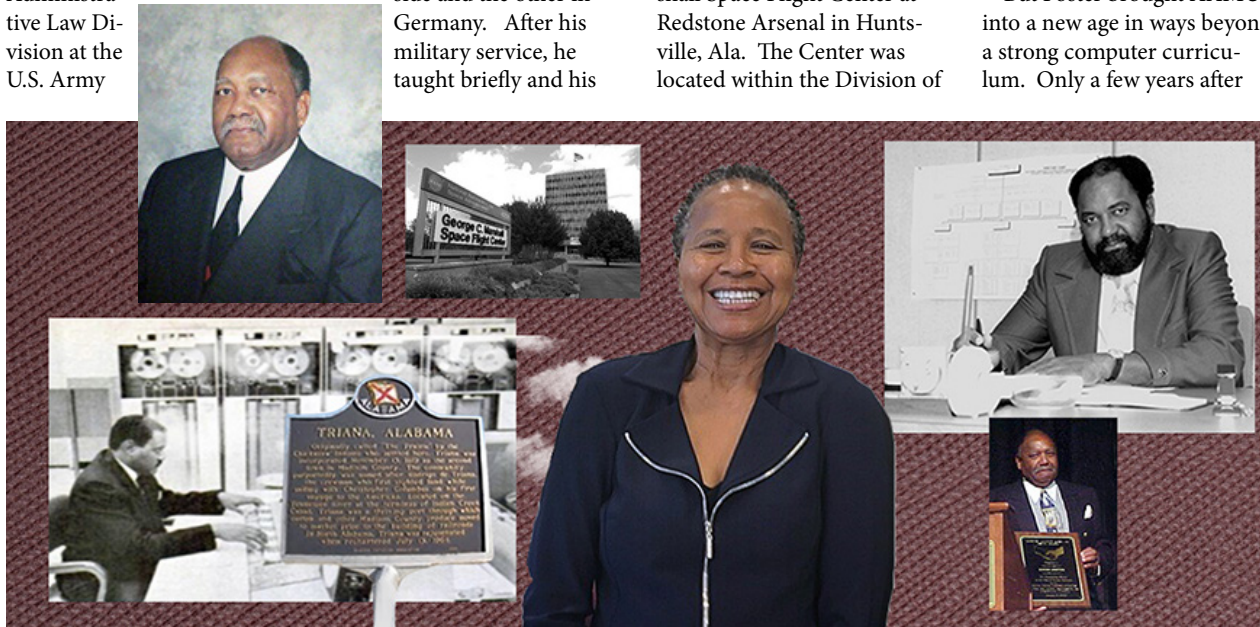
mathematician in the Computation Laboratory. This allowed him further entry into the world of computers, mathematical modeling, and computer programming. He remained at the lab for nearly 20 years, and he was one of only a dozen or so blacks working in a technical field. One of his culminating roles was his work as part of the Apollo space program.

Foster's history is interwoven with NASA's. President John F. Kennedy was faced with the need to deal with the "space race" and race relations at the same time. Sensing a correlation between Southern poverty and Southern racism, NASA was a tool used by the federal government as one means of achieving racial integration in the early 1960s through the infusion of good paying jobs into the Southern economy.

Foster's role in diversifying NASA, after moving into its EEO Office, and, in effect, transforming Huntsville into a desirable and progressive place to live and work, has been recorded by numerous sources. For instance, PBS.org (PBS.org – "Another Hidden Figure: Clyde Foster Brought Color to NASA" – 2019) recognized Foster's role in recruiting hundreds of African-American individuals to the rolls of the space program in Huntsville, Ala.

Entry into Civil Rights. Foster's move within NASA to its Equal Opportunity Employment Office in the mid-1970s was a major catalyst for change. He always counted his blessings, while earnestly realizing the negative impact that a lack of educational resources had on so many young black men and women his age throughout the Tennessee Valley and beyond. In an April 1990 interview with NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, Foster noted that a segregated, dual system of ed-

See CLYDE FOSTER, Page 8



Space Missile Defense Command, believes much more needs to be done to pay tribute to the quiet giant of a man. Foster's contributions, Lee asserts, were nothing short of phenomenal. Her quest to coordinate a sustained and substantial celebration of Foster began more than a year ago, when she began recounting his significance to various prospective supporters.

A former national president of the Federal Bar Association, Lee has been tireless in her pursuit of the tribute to Foster. Often, she has had to rebuild an obvious case.

The AAMU Connection.

Clyde Foster was born in 1931 in Birmingham, Ala., where he was educated in the public school system and was

wife assisted him in completing an application to Redstone Arsenal, where the Army Ballistic Missile Agency was located.

As early as 1952, Foster was part of a group of AAMU science students formed by Werner von Braun to put on a demonstration at the old Butler High School (later Stone Middle School). The purpose of the presentation was to help von Braun warm up the Huntsville "majority" population to the potential of a space program. There was a sentiment that Alabama's bad image when it came to race relations would tarnish the hopes for a growing space program at Marshall. Additionally, some local citizens were harboring feelings of resentment about the post-

Technology, then chaired by Dr. Walter H. Hollins. Foster was ably assisted by 1962 Morehouse alum Nathaniel E. Griffin, who worked part-time at the Computer Science Center as an instructor. His full-time duties were given to the Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) in Huntsville.

The Center at AAMU that Foster facilitated was equipped with state of the art technology for the period. The brand new IBM 360 Model 30 permitted AAMU major strides in research and development. It also allowed more automation of administrative tasks in key units, such as the offices of the Registrar, Dean and Business Administration. Finally, Foster's landmark Center enabled students to train for and to graduate with

he began working for NASA, Foster became irate when a supervisor expected him to train a white co-worker to become his boss. He went on to demand training programs for black workers despite segregation. Compromising the need with the times, NASA agreed to hold separate training sessions for black workers at Alabama A&M, frequently bringing in instructors from out of town. Nonetheless, over 100 black NASA employees took advantage of the separate-but-equal training.

It can be said that Foster helped propel AAMU into a new frame of thinking in terms of opportunities for its students. As a product of the post-Civil War era, AAMU had successfully prepared its students to become well

*Rosetta James Foundation Salutes
Its Growing List of ...*



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Dr. Annie Grace Robinson
Debra Scruggs
Arthurine Shackelford
Bettye Showers
Quennis Stevenson
Jordan Tippit
V L Thomas
Mary Vickers
Michelle Watkins
Xantheia Watkins
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wilson
Craig White
Gary T. Whitley Jr.
Trevite Willis

Huntsville's 19th Century Black History Telling Our Stories

THE FREEMAN'S BANK
Purpose: To give life to enslaved people by connecting them to their past and telling their stories through their descendants.

I would like to locate descendants of the depositors of the Huntsville Freedman's Bank and tell their stories.

The Freedmen's Bureau was established March 3, 1865. The purpose was to assist newly freed enslaved people. The Freedmen's Bureau established three banks in Alabama; Mobile, Montgomery and Huntsville. The Huntsville Freedman's Bank, located in the Huntsville Hotel, opened in December of 1865. Lafayette Robinson, son of John Robinson manumitted in 1828 and a livery stable owner, was the registrar. Depositors filed an application which included name of depositor, parents, siblings, wife and children. It also included in some cases the name of the plantation, military branch and occupation. This information can be found on Ancestry.com and at the public libraries. It is a great source of information for genealogists.

The Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture launched its Freedmen's Bureau search portal. This portal is designed to aid family historians and genealogists search for their ancestors and for scholars and students to research various topics found in 1.7 million pages of Freedmen Bureau records. The portal allows users to search records from the United States Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.

The following information dated October 2, 1867, was found in the Freedman's Records stating that **Charles Coleman** was brought here enslaved in the 1830's from Brunswick County, Virginia. His father's name was John and his mother's name was Cutchina. He mentioned that he had not seen his family in thirty - five years. Charles married a woman named Susan Miller Coleman. They lived near the Baptist Church, (St. Bartley) just over the fence. His occupation was planting. They had seven children; Corenna, John Wesley, Martinie, Motty, Freling

and Hyson. Charles' siblings were Ben, Alec, Jack, Moses (deceased), Robert, and Susan. All his siblings were left in Virginia except Alec. He was sold away first.

According to oral history, Charles' wife Susan was a laundress. After the death of Charles, she lived with her daughter, Mollie and husband Lucien C. Betts across from the Von Braun Center on Clinton Street near the overpass. Susan's death certificate lists her as being 104 years old, however, the family says she was 116 years old. They also indicated that at age 100, her beautiful gray hair turned black and she also regained her eyesight. Dr. Burgess Scruggs, the first licensed African American physician in the state of Alabama, was her physician.



Ollye B. Conley
Researcher
The Circle of Remembrance

This Sunday's Lectionary



Sunday, January 15, 2023
Second Sunday After
the Epiphany

(Track 2, Year A)
Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-12
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

CLYDE FOSTER: Renaissance Man (Continued from Page 6)

ucation left blacks in Madison County with only one high school, which was located in Huntsville, Alabama. That meant that those without the luxury of transportation to attend that one institution were left without the educational resources of a high school education.

Thus, when the robust launching of the space program occurred in Huntsville, many blacks were left out because they had not been able to climb upon foundational rungs of educational access that many of the jobs required. Nonetheless, Foster courageously encountered those barriers and even many more when it came to accessing opportunities for professional development on what he termed "the reservation."

Foster ably explained the hardships to upward mobility he experienced within the profession solely due to the problem of public accommodation. Often, training sessions and activities potentially leading to upward mobility were held in venues off-limits to African Americans and during a period in history when blacks were denied access to businesses and restaurants. Even if blacks made up significant numbers in Arsenal's workforce at that time, Foster said that it was highly likely that "the power structure" would have found ways to deny their mobility.

Foster and Triana, Alabama.

Not more than a decade after Clyde Foster's graduation in 1954, staff at Alabama A&M University became increasingly aware of his burgeoning leadership abilities. According to the May 1965 edition of *The Normal Index* (p. 9), the long-time University magazine, Foster was encouraged by Triana, Ala., town elders to apply his energies toward reviving the village to its former glory. That meant that he would first have to convince local authorities that the community literally was

worth placing on the map.

Cool persuasion, backed by a humble display of knowledge and tenacity would become a trademark of Foster. The University's account records that young Foster, the proud product of Alabama A&M University (then College), was able to bring a fledgling hamlet back to life. Through Foster's tireless efforts, on July 10, 1964, the Probate Judge of Madison County reinstated the town charter, along with granting full powers to the town mayor (Foster) and town officials (alums William Griffin, council chairman; and Robert C. Bailey, police chief). Many years later, Foster also led a legal battle against a chemical company that had poisoned the town's waterways with DDT, resulting in a \$24 million settlement for Triana residents.

This push toward the revitalization of the Town of Triana was conducted simultaneously, as Foster was chartering new territory as a pioneering African-American mathematician and computer scientist with NASA. In fact, in 1965, widely respected *Ebony* magazine ran a photograph of Foster processing telemetry in a computer lab within the Marshall Space Flight Center. The issue also acknowledged the young Foster as "a leader in getting jobs and advancing engineering education for African Americans."

Tributes to Foster. "Clyde Foster left a legacy which should be recognized and celebrated," stated Attorney Lee, in one of her appeals to AAMU administrators, securing their participation in a slate of activities planned for 2023. Other entities involved in the planned celebration include the William Hooper Council Community Development Corporation, Career Communications Group, Inc./Becoming Everything You Are (BEYA), NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center, the City

of Triana, Alabama, and others.

Lee is also facilitating a STEM event in February 2023 that will feature Dr. Calvin Mackie, a mentor, motivational speaker and entrepreneur.

The culmination of tributes could occur in March 2023, the application deadline for Foster's nomination for induction into the Alabama Men's Hall of Fame. The distinction recognizes Alabamians who have made significant contributions on a state, national or international scale within their professional field of activity.

Several years ago, AAMU recognized Foster's numerous contributions when it named the Clyde Foster Auditorium, located in the complex of the College of Business and Public Affairs/Office of the President.

He was also a champion of the erection of the William Hooper Council statue on the AAMU campus nearly 20 years ago.

Given her passion, Lee will make Clyde Foster's name familiar in homes throughout the Tennessee Valley and beyond.

- Jerome Saintjones

NAAACC Meetings

The North Alabama African American Chamber of Commerce (Huntsville) meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday at 12 noon.

The meeting location varies. Call (256) 564-7574.

"If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem."

- Eldridge Cleaver -

Huntsville City Council Meetings

Huntsville City Council's regular meetings are held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

Council work sessions are also held in the Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

For more information, call (256) 427-5011.

Kudos!



Good Evening!!

I am so happy to announce that my courses at J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College are complete and I will be graduating in May 2023. My goal within the next 3 months is to save up for my Alabama State Board Exam so that I can be licensed cosmetologist.

I am so thankful for the help of the Rosetta James Foundation and the generosity extended to me via the scholarship.

If there's any way I can be of service to the foundation in the future, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Katrina Jervis

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