

PRESTON BROWN: Realizing Your Full Potential - p. 3

FREE



Gloria Asks: 'What's Your Focus?' - p. 5

Friday
January 26, 2024
Vol. 10, No. 21
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mrs. Dorothy B. Johnson



Scenes from MLK Unity Breakfast - p. 7

"Where is the Life we have lost in living?" - T. S. Eliot

Rosetta James Foundation Will Honor Six at March 9 Day Gala

The Rosetta James Foundation is proud to announce the addition of six distinguished men and women to its 2024 class.

The annual "Honoring Our Elders" Celebration will be held as part of Day Gala activities scheduled for Saturday, March 9, at The Jackson Center (Cummins Research Park) at 12 noon. The six will be honored for blazing unique trails throughout their professional careers, as well as maintaining their active volunteerism, says President Dorothy W. Huston.

Named in honor of the late local, long-time activist, volunteer and civil rights advocate, the Rosetta James Foundation event recognizes individuals 70 years of age and over who have given consistently, unselfishly and untiringly of themselves in service to mankind, worthwhile causes and institutions.

The 2024 honorees include retired educators **Brenda Beale** and **Rufus Gilmore**; **Gregory Douglas Miley**, engineer; corporate communications leader **Linda Spalla**;



BEALE



GILMORE



MILEY



SPALLA



STRONG



WALKER

religious and higher education administrator **Mary Strong**; and **Dr. Mitchell Walker**, pastor of Church Street Presbyterian Church of America (CPCA).

Mrs. Brenda Beale is a retired educator who has amassed experience in leadership, communications, relationships, adaptability, teamwork, decision making, planning and problem solving, as well as public relations.

She is a Diamond Life member of the Huntsville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and has served as advisor to the University of Alabama collegiate chapter. She is a member of the Alpha Omega Chapter of Eta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. She has been an active Silhouette for more than 45 years

with continuous support of the organization and the men of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

She has served as Past President of the Huntsville, Ala., Silhouette; past board member of Crisis Services of North Alabama; past president of Redstone Arsenal Military and Civilian Club Board of Directors; and member of the Alabama A&M University Bulldog Club.

She is also a member of Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Huntsville, Ala.

Mr. Rufus Gilmore, III, former manager of Council Federal Credit Union in Huntsville, Ala., has amassed a long history of noble work in the fields of accounting and higher education. The Birmingham,

Ala., native earned the Bachelor of Science degree in business administration with an emphasis on accounting from Miles College. He later earned the Master of Business Administration degree in accounting from Clark Atlanta University. Gilmore pursued additional studies at the University of Georgia and Alabama A&M University (AAMU).

In the area of higher education, Gilmore has served with distinction as a part-time accountant at J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College; accounting executive for the AAMU Foundation; and as assistant professor at AAMU, ultimately retiring from the latter.

Other experiences include service as an assistant



Opal Lee on Huntsville Visit to AAMU (J. Saintjones)

Juneteenth Activist Reclaims Texas Property at 97

Opal Lee, the woman who spearheaded the drive to make Juneteenth a federal holiday, has acquired the Texas land from which her family was driven by a racist mob in 1939. The mob set the home afire only days after the black family had moved in. Still curious about the property some generations later, Lee found out the lot was vacant and owned by a local Habitat for Humanity chapter, which donated the property to Lee with an offer to build on it. Lee hopes to be able to move in by her 99th birthday. [Special Thanks: Erica Fox Washington]

The Valley Weekly

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The Valley Weekly

Publisher

The Valley Weekly, LLC

Editor-in-Chief

Dorothy W. Huston, Ph.D.

**Editorial Consultant/
Senior Editor**

Jerome Saintjones, Ed.S.

Editorial Assistants

Linda Burruss

Phyllis Chunn

William Huston, Sr.

Gary T. Whitley, Jr.

Advertising Associate

Phyllis Chunn

- Contributing Editors -

tim allston

Lamar A. Braxton, Jr.

Minister Preston Brown

Gloria B. Caldwell

Ron Hamm

Margaret Kelly, Ph.D.

Gary T. Whitley, Jr.

Website Administrator

Calvin Farier

Mailing Address:

The Valley Weekly

2204 Whitesburg Drive- Suite 220

Huntsville, AL 35801

(256) 651-9028

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

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The Valley Weekly

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The Valley Weekly Washington One Minute

by Ron Hamm

Here is what's happening in Washington, D.C., the nation's capital, this week:

1. CONGRESS. The Senate is in session this week and the House has a one-week recess. Last week, in a markedly expeditious manner, the House and Senate (faced with a Friday snowstorm forecast coinciding with a government shutdown deadline on the same day) managed to approve on Thursday an extension of a temporary funding measure (known as a continuing resolution) to keep the federal government open through March 1 and 8, 2024. This week, the Senate may take up a \$111 billion supplemental spending bill to provide aid to Ukraine and Israel if a negotiating team headed by Sens. Chris Murphy (D-CT) and James Lankford (R-OK) can finalize a compromise of border policies intended to address the situation on the Southern border. Last Friday, the House Ways and Means Committee in a bipartisan vote of 40-3 approved a \$79 billion tax package to expand the child tax credit and renew business tax breaks.

2. THE WHITE HOUSE. Last Friday, the President signed H.R. 2872, which averted a federal government shutdown and extended a temporary funding measure through March 1 (for the Ag, Energy & Water, MilCon/VA and T/ HUD approps bills) and March 8, 2024 (for the other 8 approps bills). On Monday, President Biden convened a meeting of his Reproductive Health Care Access Task Force to mark

the 51st anniversary of Roe v. Wade. On Tuesday, he attended a campaign event in Manassas, VA. On Saturday, the President will travel to Columbia, S.C., to be the guest speaker at the "First in the Nation Celebration Dinner," a week ahead of the Feb. 3rd South Carolina Primary (the first contest in which his name is on the ballot). Last week, the President touted the University of Michigan's Survey of Consumers that showed consumer confidence increased 13% in January (reaching its highest level since July 2021) and soaring over the past 2 months by 29%, the largest 2-month increase since 1991.

Huntsville 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.

3. SUPREME COURT. The court has no oral arguments scheduled until Feb. 8 when it will hear the case of Trump v. Anderson to decide whether the Colorado Supreme Court erred in ordering former President Trump excluded from the 2024 presidential primary ballot.

4. LOUISIANA CONGRESSIONAL MAP. Last Friday, the Louisiana legislature, meeting in a special session called by Gov. Jeff Landry (R), completed work on a new congressional map that includes a 2nd majority Black district, likely causing current Rep. Garret Graves (R-LA) to lose his seat. This redistricting is the latest consequence related to the June 2023 Supreme Court opinion *Allen v. Milligan* that ruled Alabama had to create a second majority Black congressional

district to comply with Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

5. TITLE IX. The U.S. Department of Education is likely to miss the pending March 2024 deadline it set for finalizing two highly anticipated Title IX regulations. One of the Department's regulatory plans would direct how colleges investigate and potentially punish sexual assault while the other would prohibit blanket bans on transgender athletes participating in sports teams aligning their gender identities. However, colleges and schools could bar transgender players from joining teams if they decide they need a sex-based restriction to preserve fairness or prevent injuries. The Biden administration has prioritized reshaping policies around Title IX, a law banning sex-based discrimination, including sexual assault, in federally funded colleges

and K-12 schools. The Education Department has missed its deadline for releasing final Title IX rules several times. The rules likely will not be ready in time for March either since the Education Department has not yet transmitted them to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for evaluation, a required step. The OMB Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, or OIRA, has up to 120 days to review the regulations. Even if the Education Department sent OIRA the regulations in the next week, the rules wouldn't be ready until at least May if that office uses its entire 120 days to evaluate them.

Hamm Consulting Group
300 New Jersey Ave, NW Ste. 900
Washington D.C. 20001
T: 202-596-8384
rhamm@hammconsulting.com
www.hammconsulting.com



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THE VALLEY WEEKLY
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DEATHS**

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Funeral service for MR. CARL ROBINSON (b. 1960) was Saturday, January 20, at Serenity Funeral Home.

Funeral service for MR. JOHN COLEMAN (b. 1955) was Saturday, January 20, at Serenity Funeral Home.

Funeral service for MS. DEANDRA DANIEL (b. 1989) was Friday, January 19, at Mt. Calvary Seventh Day Adventist Church (1201 Meadow Drive, Huntsville, Ala.)

NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW
Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-8189
www.nelmsmemorial.net

Funeral service for MS. YVONNE MAYO THOMPSON "MEMA" (b. 1949) was Saturday, January 20, at Saint Rebecca Primitive Baptist Church.

Funeral service for MR. LAWRENCE JONES, JR. (b. 1939) was Sunday, January 14, at the House of Hope and Restoration with Pastor Jarman Leatherwood officiating.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

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www.royalfh.com

Funeral service for MRS. LINDA JUANITA HENDERSON SMITH (b. 1960) will be Saturday, January 27, at the Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church (1919 Brandontown Road NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Dion Watkins officiating.

Funeral service for MR. WILLIE JAMES "BUBBA" MARTIN (b. 1935) was Sunday, January 21, at the Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church (1919 Brandontown Road NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Dion Watkins officiating.

Funeral service for MR. WILLIE W. HEREFORD (b. 1932) was Saturday, January 20, at Phillips CME Church (2185 Winchester Road NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Gregory Scott officiating.

Funeral service for MR. MELVIN STARKS (b. 1953) was Saturday, January 20, at True Light Church of God in Christ (6380 Pulaski Pike NW, Huntsville, Ala.)

Funeral service for MRS. BETTY J. DRAPER DAMPER (b. 1947) was Saturday, January 20, at the Draper Memorial Church of God in Christ (313 Beirne Ave NE, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Jesse Draper officiating.

The Valley Weekly
**Spiritual
Game Plan**
PRESTON BROWN'S

**"Realizing Your Full Potential"**

Luke 5:5 Simon, who is later called Peter, says, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

When Jesus saw Peter fishing, He saw the potential in Peter to do greater things. He saw that he could be a fisher of men. But there was a process that he and the

disciples would have to go through.

You see, one of the ways we realize our full potential is through our process: The little things that we do everyday that help us prepare for the great things that God wants to do in our lives.

Our process reveals our potential, especially when it is tied to a purpose. For example, if you are training to run a marathon, there

is a process that you have to go through that will help you realize your full potential.

Our spiritual journey requires a process, as well. And, that

process involves reading God's word, daily prayer, and meditation, as well as fellowshiping with other believers. Anything in life worth doing has a process. All we need to do is apply our potential to the right purpose. And that purpose is whatever God has gifted you to do.

Prayer: Dear God, help us to realize that in order for us to reach our



full potential, we have to embrace the process that helps us achieve the goals that you have for us in our lives.

Question: What are some things that you can do to help you reach your full potential?

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters, and make sure you purchase a copy of my books, *Spiritual Game Plans For A Successful Life* and *A Champion Game Plan for Life*, at amazon.com, Westbow Books or, if you have a PayPal account, e-mail me at prestonbrown81@gmail.com, and I will send you an autographed copy.

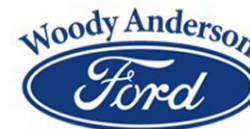
NEXT WEEK:
"Having a Solid Foundation"

**"Love betrayed
has an entirely
different sound
than hatred outright."**

- N. K. Jemisin

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A New Generation Of Service

The Valley Weekly
VALLEY
EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

January 26
 Concert
 American Spiritual Ensemble
 Host: Huntsville Chamber Music Guild
 Trinity United Methodist Church
 Huntsville, Ala.

Huntsville Botanical Garden
 Tickets: hsvbg.org/featheredfebruary
 Huntsville, Ala.

January 26-27
 BTL Presents "STOMP"
 Mark C. Smith Concert Hall
 Von Braun Center
 Huntsville, Ala.

February 2
 Mardi Gras at MidCity
 MidCity & The Camp
 Huntsville, Ala.

January 27
 Under the Moon Productions Presents "Age of Aquarius" - \$10
 Maggie Meyers Irish Pub
 1009 Henderson Road NW
 Huntsville, Ala.
 8 p.m.

February 3
 Paint for a Purpose
 Supporting the Miss Black Rocket City Foundation
 (Supplies, refreshments, sips included; \$50/person)
 6200 Mastin Lake Road NE
 Huntsville, Ala.
 6:30-9 p.m.

February 1
 "Feathered February"

February 7
 Alabama Tactical Officers Association's Event
 5827 Oakwood Road
 Huntsville, Ala.
 8 a.m.

February 9
 Crafting Social: A Special Galentine's Event
 Burritt on the Mountain
 Huntsville, Ala.
 5:30 p.m.

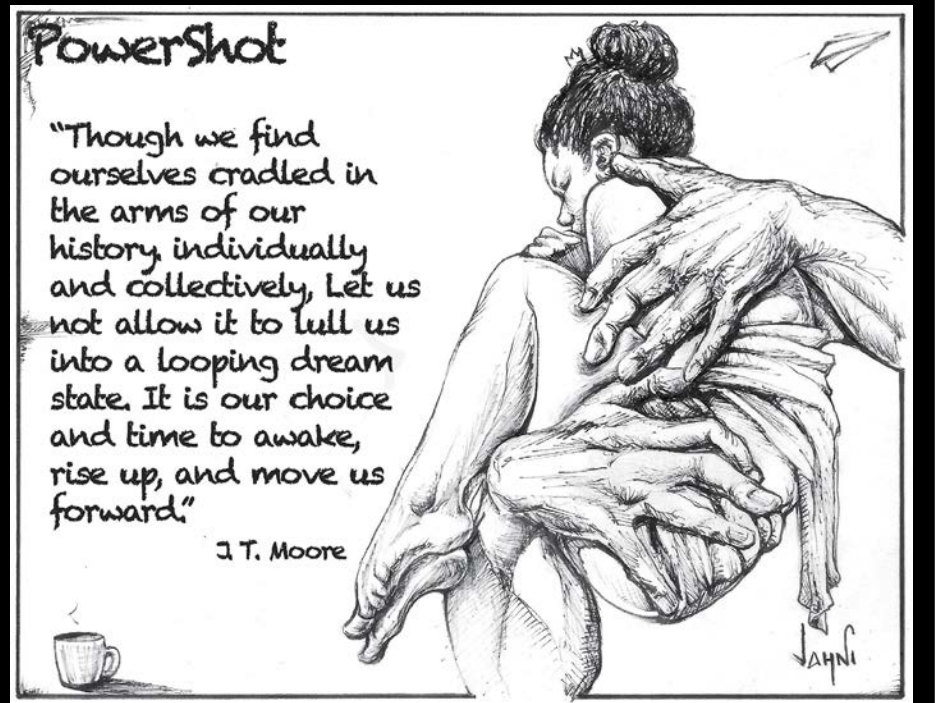
February 10
 All Girls State Chess Championship
 Alabama School of Cyber Technology and Engineering
 9 a.m.

ADC Membership Breakfast
 Bob Harrison Senior Wellness and Advocacy Center
 9 a.m.

March 9
 Rosetta James Foundation "Honoring Our Elders" Celebration/Day Gala
 Huntsville, Ala.
 12 noon

Concert
 Lawrence Brownlee
 Host:
 Huntsville Chamber Music Guild
 Huntsville, Ala.

March 11-15
 Cove Martial Arts Academy
 K-5th Grades (\$250)
 Owens Cross Roads, Ala.
 9 a.m.-1 p.m.



"I love my family, even as I critique their dysfunctionalities."

- bell hooks

"There is no charm equal to tenderness of heart."

- Jane Austen

JANUARY 26 - ANGELA DAVIS - Angela Yvonne Davis, a native of Birmingham, Alabama, is an American political activist, philosopher, academic and author. She has served as a professor at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Ideologically a Marxist, Davis was a longtime member of the Communist Party USA (CPUSA) and is a founding member of the Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism (CCDS). She is the author of over ten books on class, feminism, race, and the US prison system.



- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.org

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What's Your Focus?

Millennial Moment by Gloria B. Caldwell

What's Your Focus?

What have you set your eyes on? Whatever that is, it's your driving force. If it's material things, you will have a constant strive towards things that will steadily depreciate. This can bring temporary pleasure, but will not provide lasting happiness.

If it's relationship, you will continue to be a server of man. Relationships with others can be unpredictable and often dependent on the actions and responses of others. No matter how

much effort you put into serving someone, their



pixabay.com/houseoflegacy

reactions and decisions are ultimately out of your

control. If it's money, this is something that can vanish in an instant. It is subject to economic fluctuations and can come and go with the changing tides of life.

Whatever it is ... health, wealth, attention, etc.,

understand you are not in control!

However, if you chase God, your life will take on its ultimate meaning. Focusing on God can release your purpose and fulfillment that no material possession or human relationship can provide.

It is in this pursuit that you find true satisfaction and contentment. You will align yourself with His desires for your life. Your focus will shift to eternal values such as love, righteousness, forgiveness, and faith.

It is not always easy and requires self-discipline, sacrifice, and faith. However, the rewards far outweigh the challenges. When you set your eyes on God, you become more aware of His presence in your life. You experience His peace, joy, and love in ways that cannot be explained by material possessions or human relationships.

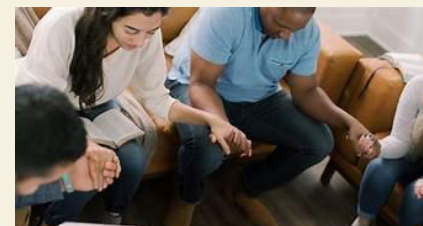
So, what is your focus?

What are you setting your eyes on?

Ask yourself.



Is Prayer in your "National Breakfast"? (Part 1 of 3)



On February 1, 2024, and each first Thursday in February since the 1930s, Washington DC's Hilton Hotel and U.S. Congress members host the National Prayer Breakfast. It brings together top business, social, and political leaders to pray.

With business, social, and political upheavals eyeballing us daily, let's focus for these next three weeks on how now more than ever prayer needs to be your and my "national breakfast."

In many people's minds, our nation is plummeting to its lowest point. In 1989, when I was at my lowest point financially and emotionally, my Mom and Dad sent me this pick-me-up quotation:

"Prayer is the answer to every problem in life. It puts us in tune with Divine wisdom which knows how to adjust everything perfectly.

"So often we do not pray in certain situations because from our standpoint the outlook is hopeless. But nothing is impossible with God.

"Nothing is so entangled that it cannot be remedied. No human relationship is so strained that God cannot bring about reconciliation and understanding.

"No one is so weak that he cannot be made strong;
 "No one is so ill that he or she cannot be healed; and
 "No mind is so dull that it cannot be made brilliant.
 "Whatever we need, if we trust God, He will supply it.

"And if anything is causing you worry or anxiety, let us stop rehearsing the difficulty and turn to God for Healing, Love, and Power."

I now share this message with you because it remains so powerful, personal, and portable. Read it, recite it and yes, even memorize it. I did, and it works. Every day.

Is prayer on your breakfast menu today? Next week, we'll talk about prayer's "secret sauce," and then conclude on the third and final week with a powerful example of prayer's results.



Tim Allston
 Leadership Player-Coach & Four-time Amazon Best-Selling Author
Where Jump Shots Meet Jesus,
www.timallston.com
 (256) 212-0949

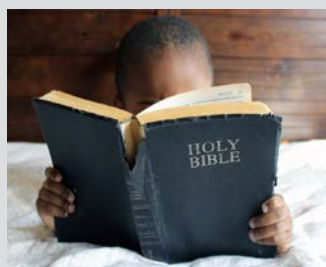
ON THIS DAY



On Jan. 26, 1863, the U.S. War Department authorized the governor of Massachusetts to recruit Black troops to the Union Army in the Civil War.

- zinnedproject.org

This Sunday's Lectionary



Sunday, January 28, 2024
 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

(Track 2, Year B)
 First Lesson:
 Deuteronomy 18:15-20
 Psalm 111
 Second Lesson:
 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
 GOSPEL:
 Mark 1:21-28



Rosetta James Foundation "Spotlight on Our Elders" ... Featuring

Mrs. Dorothy B. Johnson

Mrs. Dorothy B. Johnson is the true essence of a lady: quiet, dedicated, loyal, dependable, loving, a leader, unselfish, and always willing to help others.

She was born and grew up in rural Dodge County in Eastman, Ga., with nine other siblings, working on their family farm. She relocated to Huntsville in 1961 to pursue a job at Alabama A&M University. She is the wife of Joseph J. Johnson for 56 years; mother of three daughters--Cheryl, Jerita, and Cerisa--and the doting and proud grandmother of three grandsons -- Jeremy, Christian, and Jaylen. Her family is the apple of her eyes and if you want to see a big grin on her face, just ask her about her grandsons. She will be happy to tell you about their latest accomplishments and achievements.

Mrs. Johnson obtained her B.S. degree in home economics from Fort Valley State College (now "University"), her M.S. degree in clothing and textile and psychology from Purdue University, and her Education Specialist degree from Auburn University.

Dorothy, sometimes called "Dot," is a retired educator from Calhoun Community College after teaching and supervising for 31 years.

In her honor, Calhoun Community College Child Development Center named its library the "Dorothy B. Johnson Learning Library" for her dedication and commitment to the child development program. Also, while at Calhoun, Dorothy earned many awards and honors.

Mrs. Johnson has been very involved with her church, Fellowship Presbyterian Church, for over 50 years. For her dedication, unselfishness, and hard work in ensuring the kitchen in the Fellowship Hall was equipped with the state-of-the-art commercial appliances, the Fellowship Hall was named the Dorothy B. Johnson Fellowship Hall.

Mrs. Johnson volunteered at the Manna House three days a week, where she was fondly called "Ms. Dorothy." Ms. Dorothy organized and helped prepare ready-to-eat foods, supervised distribution in the area of ready-to-eat foods, and supported Manna House financially.

Mrs. Johnson joined Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., on April 1, 1954, at Fort Valley State College. In the Huntsville Alumnae



Chapter, she has served as the treasurer, and chair of several committees, such as audit, economic development, scholarship, and Ebony Fashion Fair ticket committees. Also, she received several community service awards from Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. A visionary, she prepared and filed the papers to establish their 501(c) organization -- Diverse Educational Life Training Activities, Inc. (DELTA, INC.), where she has served as the president and treasurer.

In 2016, the Retired Teachers Association of Alabama presented Mrs. Johnson the Annual Volunteer Award for her services to the community.

Mrs. Johnson enjoys watching sports on TV, fishing, word scramble puzzles, catering, directing and planning weddings, and volunteering. She especially enjoys traveling back home to Eastman, Ga.

UAH Opens Constellation Concert Series Jan. 26

The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) opens its 2024 Constellation Concert Series with "Forever Young," featuring Karen Young & Her Gentlemen of Jazz, on Friday, January 26, at 7:30 p.m. in the Morton Hall Black Box Theatre Lounge on the campus of UAH.

Young, a soprano, is a voice instructor in the Department of Music in the UAH College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Young and players from the UAH jazz faculty will preview the release of their upcoming CD of jazz standards.

The performance is presented by the UAH Constellation Concert Series and UAH Theatre.

Along with the jazz concert, the spring 2024 series will celebrate Black History Month in February in collaboration with the UAH Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and highlight the talents of UAH faculty members in March.

"Songs of Love, Sorrow, Hope and Healing" will showcase soprano Dr. Phyllis Lewis-Hale on Thursday, Feb. 15, at 7:30 p.m. She will perform Afro-Creole folk songs and Negro spirituals.

Lewis-Hale is an instructor of music and the director of the Opera/Musical Theatre Workshop at Jackson State University in Jackson, Miss. Also on Feb. 15, she will present a free

master class open to the public from 9:40 to 10:50 a.m. with singers from UAH and Alabama A&M University.

The UAH Faculty Recital on Thursday, March 21, will feature Ken Ortlev on horn and Guthrie on piano. They will perform selections from the Romantic chamber repertoire.

Concert tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for students and seniors. Only debit or credit cards will be taken; no cash will be accepted at the door.

The concerts also will be livestreamed; access is \$10.

For more information on the UAH Constellation Concert Series, visit uah.edu/music/events.

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"Spotlight on Our Elders" is a weekly feature sponsored by the Rosetta James Foundation to promote **volunteerism** and **activism** in our community among those who are 70-plus. The Foundation also provides scholarships. Learn more about us at www.rosettajamesfoundation.org. Know an outstanding elder (70+) that you would like to see featured? Send us a photo and 250-word write-up to info@valleyweeklyllc.com.



Scenes from 2024 Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Breakfast

Sponsored by the Delta Theta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Monday, January 15, 2024 - Von Braun Center - 8 a.m.

Unity Award Recipients: Lynne Berry and Brenda Martin

Photography by Anthony Gibson



Photography by Jeff White



Unity Award presented to Lynne Berry.



Unity Award presented to Brenda Martin.



Mayor Battle (c) with Unity Award recipients Lynne Berry and Brenda Martin.

Rosetta James Foundation to Honor Elders, Award Scholarships at Annual Celebration

Continued from Page 1

director of financial aid at Miles College; part-time instructor, Lawson State Community College; part-time instructor, Oakwood University; and manager, accounting department, Miles College.

Gilmore has also been affiliated with the Institute of Management Accountants, National Association of Black Accountants, and he served as an esteemed Director of Music at historic St. John AME Church.

Mr. Gregory Douglas Miley is a Dothan, Alabama, native, born as the only son among five sisters, to the late Harding, a nearly 30-year-veteran of the Dothan Police Department, and the late Delories, a domestic and Woolworth retiree.

Miley graduated from George Washington Carver High School in June 1969 and attended Wallace Junior College and Trade School, where he received a certificate in electronics technology in September 1971. He entered the U. S. Air Force that same month, serving four years as a Missile Systems Maintenance Specialist on the Hound

Dog missile and received an honorable discharge in 1975.

He furthered his education at the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) in 1979 after earning the B.S. degree in electrical engineering. Remaining in Huntsville, Miley began his engineering career in November 1979 at Teledyne Brown Engineering, and he would later work for various engineering firms throughout his nearly 40-year career.

The avid volunteer is an active member of Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 1067, Huntsville, where he loyally serves as chapter photographer.

Ms. Linda Spalla achieved great success in a 25-year corporate management career for the New York Times Company. Working her way up the ladder at WHNT-TV in Huntsville, Alabama, hers was a Cinderella story. Divorced, jobless, and homeless in 1975, she began her journey as a secretary and ended as the President and General Manager of the CBS affiliate owned by the New York Times Com-

pany. She led the television station from third to first place as General Manager.

She was one of the first females in top corporate television management in the Deep South, one of the early few for CBS and the first for the New York Times Broadcast Group. During this time, she was a wife, mother, daughter and community enthusiast who never lost her femininity or her Southern roots. Spalla resides in Huntsville, where she enjoys golf, reading, being a grandmother, extended travel to Paris and doing volunteer work in her community.

Her first book entitled *Leading Ladies* (2003) offers practical leadership tips for women, encouraging them to embrace their femininity as a leadership asset. In *Catch Your Breath* (2014), she presents a raw, honest series of meditations for caregivers based on her experiences in caring for her own mother. These will evoke both laughter and tears as they offer insight and courage to those caught in the caregiving web.

Through *Bernie's Paris* ... Travel Stories with Love

(2016), Linda describes with tender and often humorous clarity her 11 years visiting Paris, sharing her Parisian escapades.

Born in Ozark but raised in Talladega, Alabama, **Mother Mary Strong** is First Lady of Fountain of Life Ministries COGIC and has been married to Dr. James Strong for nearly 50 years. She is a licensed Evangelist in the Church of God in Christ. Locally, she has served as Trustee, Executive Board Member, President of Bible Band, Junior High and Adult Sunday School Teacher, Usher and many other positions. She presently serves as District Supervisor of Women for the Huntsville District COGIC. On the Jurisdic-

tional level, Mother Strong serves as Vice-President of the Executive Board of Women, President of the Credential Board and Treasurer for the Jurisdictional District Missionary Circle.

A business education graduate of Alabama A&M University, Mother Strong is also an alumnus of C. H. Mason Bible College and has received an honorary Doctor of Divinity from St. Thomas University. Mother Strong was employed by the U.S. Air Defense Command for four years, followed by over 30 years of service for Alabama A&M University's Department of Physics.

Pastor Mitchell Walker is a native of Dyersburg, Tennessee. He was born

on December 11, 1952, to Tom Millard and Zella Mai Walker. He began preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ at the age 4 years old at the then Rocksprings (Colored) Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Walker came to Church Street Presbyterian Church of America (CPCA) as pastor in 2000, after serving 23 years as Pastor of St. James CPCA in Cleveland, Tenn.

He is married to Mary Elaine (Friend) Walker and has three children and five grandchildren. Pastor Walker has served on many levels of the CPCA denomination.

Tickets are \$75. For sponsorship information, contact (256) 651-9028.

by Jerome Saintjones

*"Not knowing
when the dawn
will come,
I open every door."*


- Emily Dickinson

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.

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