

# The Valley Weekly

Volume 2, No. 20

[www.valleyweeklyllc.com](http://www.valleyweeklyllc.com)

Friday, January 29, 2016

FREE

*"I had no idea in 1933 what economics was, but I did well in the subject from the start."*

*- Sir William Arthur Lewis  
Nobel Laureate in Economics*



Montgomery, Alabama

*A Closer Look at Blavity's ...*

## Top 15 Places Blacks Under 30 Should Definitely Visit

Are you a young, single African American under 30 who harbors a real passion for travelling to meaningful locations around the world?

Well, last spring, Blavity.com came up with its "15 Epic Places Every Black American Needs to Visit Before They Turn 30." To be honest, however, the list would prove exciting to anyone, but for African-conscious blacks and Pan-Africanists, in particular, there's that extra "umph."

Before you know it, the travel season will be upon us. Here's a great source of travel locales for consideration and planning. Enjoy!

### 1. The Pyramids of Giza, Egypt

2. Elmina Castle, Ghana

3. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

4. The Inca Trail to Machu Pichu, Peru

5. Old San Juan, Puerto Rico

6. International Balloon Festival, Albuquerque, N.M.

7. Blyde River Canyon and the Panorama Route, South Africa

8. Kruger National Park, South Africa

9. Old Havana, Cuba

10. Jerusalem, Israel

11. Carnival at Trinidad & Tobago

12. Cape Peninsula in Cape Town, South Africa

13. Hanuman's Temple in Jaipur, India

14. Montgomery, Alabama

15. The Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Mo.

Perhaps, an interesting companion piece is Tomika Anderson's "5 Places Black People Can Move to When They've Had Enough of America" (TheRoot.com). Anderson's list includes:

5. Dubai

4. Hong Kong

3. New Zealand

2. Costa Rica

1. Thailand

## New Class Will Focus on Preserving Valley Marriages

A two-month course has been designed to assist interested Valley couples in preserving their marriages.

The course, "Why Talking Is Not Enough," will be held at Unity Church on the Mountain, located at 1328 Governor's Drive in Huntsville, Ala. The course will run from February 4-March 24 from 6:30-8 p.m.

Course promos appear to target those couples who are "frustrated" and who have "tried everything."

The series of classes has been designed to provide attendees information on how marital



change takes place, how to go about motivating partners to pursue change, why talking is not enough, how to grow spiritually through the relationship, and how to attain peace and harmony

in one's relationship.

To register, contact Debbie at (256) 337-8200 or Debbie@marriagecoaching.life. For more information, visit [www.marriagecoaching.life](http://www.marriagecoaching.life).



**SIMPLY SIMS:** Hundreds of friends, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity brothers, St. John AME Church members, and student-athletes attended the memorial service at Alabama AA&M University recently for Waylon Sims (inset), who tirelessly served as the coordinator for the Academic Enhancement Center for the Department of Athletics. The Prichard, Ala., native and proud Tuskegeean died after a brief illness.

**Where to Find Your  
FREE Copies of  
The Valley Weekly**

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Alphonso Beckles, Attorney at Law

Bob Harrison Senior Wellness Center

Books a Million - N. Parkway/University Drive

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Bryant Bank - Church Street

Burritt on the Mountain

Chris' Barber Shop

Depot Professional Building

Dunkin Donuts

Eagles' Nest Ministries

The Favour Group

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Fellowship Presbyterian Church

Garden Cove Produce

Health Unlimited

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Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church

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Lakeside United Methodist Church

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Mamma Annie's

Marshall England - State Farm Agent

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Moe's - Village of Providence

Nelms Memorial Funeral Home

North Alabama Center for Educational

Excellence

Oakwood University Post Office

Phuket's in Providence

Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church

Progress Bank - Madison

Progressive Union Missionary Baptist

Regency Retirement Village

Rocket City Barber Shop

Sam and Greg's Pizza

Sav-A-Lot

Sneed's Cleaners

St. Bartley PB Church

St. Luke Christian Church

Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at

Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

**Black History Month Primer:**

## Mary Elizabeth Vroman

Few African Americans are aware of the literary contributions of Mary Elizabeth Vroman, a woman who achieved much during her brief 43 years of life.

Vroman was an author of several books and short stories, including "See How They Run", a short story published in 1951 that was ultimately made into a movie.

Available records set her birth in Buffalo, N.Y., around 1924. However, records also note that she was actually raised in the British West Indies.



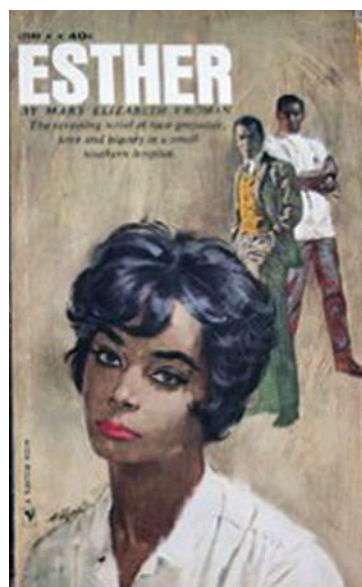
She attended Alabama State Teachers College (now Alabama State University) in Montgomery and graduated in 1949. It should be added that ASU had a commendable reputation at the time for excellence in the training of African-American teachers.

As a schoolteacher in Alabama, Vroman wrote her first short story, "See How They Run", based on her experiences in the classroom. The story appeared in *Ladies' Home Journal* in June 1951. Vroman was given the 1952 Christopher Award for the work, and it was made into a 1953 film entitled "Bright Road." Her work on the film earned her admittance to the Screen Writers Guild, becoming the organization's first African American female member.

As an author, her stories and screenplays depict the challenges of poverty and disadvantage. Vroman died in 1967 from complication following surgery.

Among her works are: *See How They Run; And Have Not Charity* (1951); *Bright Road; Esther* (1963); *Shaped to Its Purpose: Delta Sigma Theta, The First Fifty Years*; and *Harlem Summer*.

- Jerome Saintjones



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256-534-1360

## 18th Annual Junior Cotillion Slated

Alpha Omega Chapter of Eta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. is accepting applications seventh, eighth and ninth grade female and male students interested in the benefits of participating in its 18th Annual Junior Cotillion. Activities will be provided over a six-week period that will include learning sessions and entertainment with focus on bullying, Black History, etiquette, internet savvy, and more.

Deadline for the application is February 6th. Consider registering your 7th, 8th, or 9th grader for this activity. Contacts are: Ms. Yolanda Harris, Committee Chairwoman - 256-565-0039 (Cell) or Mrs. Brenda Bennett, President, Alpha Omega Chapter -256-714-2200 (Cell).



The purpose of Eta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. is to promote and develop closer fellowship between business and professional women and to work for their welfare; to obtain for women the opportunity for the highest standards in all business fields; to aid high school graduates by awarding scholarships to further their education in business and professional fields; and to contribute financially to local and national charities and to promote and assist in programs designated for improving the well-being of developmentally and intellectually disabled citizens.

### LET'S CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION

#### The "Color" of Law: Mass Incarceration and Prison Privatization

#### Our CommUNITY

A Public Forum to promote mutual understanding, dignity, respect, and cooperation among all economic, ethnic, racial, religious, and social groups in the City of Huntsville.

#### SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

Dr. Latasha McCrary, Staff Attorney at Southern Poverty Law Center and UAH alumna

#### SAVE THE DATE JANUARY 28, 2016

6 PM / CHARGER UNION THEATER

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## The Valley Weekly

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## From the Editor

*Ah, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.!*

Last Monday, the Nation paused to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This year, I was unable to attend the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Breakfast planned and executed by Dr. King's own fraternity brothers, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. It is always a standing-room-only breakfast crowd, supported across the entire spectrum of the community. Before 10 a.m. that morning, I received an e-mail from Elder Butch Damson with the following message embedded:

### The Words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

*"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"*

*"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."*

*"I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of war and racism that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality ... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word."*

I was on business travel, landed in Atlanta and opened my e-mail to her message. Typically, we attend the annual Unity Breakfast at the Von Braun Center on the third Monday in January. This e-mail was a reminder that even though I was not there, someone was thinking of me with respect to honoring the life and legacy of Dr. King. The three quotes were some of Dr. King's more memorable and poignant reminders as to why we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday as a National holiday. Many of us "think" about what we ought to be doing, but few of us actually do, take the first step, and love unconditionally, including ME.

Of the many things that January is, it is National Mentoring Month. One of my former AAMU students, Shamika Williams Minisee, asked me about two weeks ago, "Who are you mentoring, Dr. Huston?" Then, she followed up with the statement: "I want you to mentor me." I jumped back in my SUV, pulled off, and wondered "Why me?" Bill and I have mentored many (youth, college students and young professionals) over the past 34 years, even before we had children of our own. Many of them have gone far and have done extraordinary things--such as mentoring others.

We believe this is one of the single most important impacts we can make--to help educate and contribute to the success of others as volunteers and contributing citizens in the communities in which we reside. Education made the difference in our career success; therefore, we stay with what we know! Sometimes, people will say, "I am a mentor." We encourage our readers to determine before month's end if mentoring is a skill set and passion that they have, understanding that in order to mentor one must have a willing protégé.

Thanks, Butch and Shamika. January has been a good month for me. I keep pursuing that mission of positivity, inspiration and education. You have both served to continue to inspire me.

Stay warm and be blessed. Until next week,



*Dorothy*

*When you can't find a printed copy of The Valley Weekly around town, follow us on-line at [www.valleyweeklyllc.com](http://www.valleyweeklyllc.com).*

# Getting Ready to File Your Tax Return: Health Coverage Reporting Requirement

It's always a good idea to prepare early to file your federal income tax return. Like last year, certain provisions of the Affordable Care Act affect your federal income tax return when you file this year.

Here are two things you should know about the health care law's coverage and reporting requirements that will help you get ready to file your tax return.

- The Affordable Care Act:
- requires that you and each member of your family have qualifying health insurance coverage for each month of the year,
  - qualify for an exemption from the coverage requirement,
  - or make an individual shared responsibility payment when filing your federal income tax return.
  - Most taxpayers will simply



check a box on their tax return to indicate that each member of their family had qualifying health coverage for the whole year. No further action is required.

- Use the chart on IRS.gov/aca to find out if your insurance counts as qualifying coverage.

You or your tax professional should consider preparing and filing your tax return electronically.

Using tax preparation software is the easiest way to file a complete and accurate tax return.


There are a variety of electronic filing options, including free volunteer assistance, IRS Free File for taxpayers who qualify, commercial software, and professional assistance.

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Join us and learn about the different programs these colleges have to offer.

\* DOOR PRIZES  
\* FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOP @ 10:30 A.M.  
For additional information, contact Pamela Thompson at: (256) 509-4554

# The Academy Awards Gets the Big Picture

There has been plenty of conversation about the lack of diversity in The Oscars 2016 nominations. Many actresses and entertainers, such as Jada Pinkett-Smith and Spike Lee, have mentioned boycotting the event all together since there is absolutely no representation from the African-American community in this year's contenders.

I was one to say that the real issue is that there needs to be more African-American representation in movie executive positions and as decision makers in the entertainment industry.

According to the LA Times, "Academy voters are markedly less diverse than the moviegoing public, and even more monolithic than many in the film industry may suspect. Oscar voters are nearly 94% Caucasian and 77% male, The Times found. Blacks are about 2% of the academy, and Latinos are less than 2%." (latimes.com)

The good news is, the Academy has heard our concern and is now making the proper adjustments for the future to see to it that there is diversity in their membership.

In the face of growing criticism of the Oscar nominations' lack of diversity, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced Friday (Jan. 22) that it has taken action "to increase diversity within its ranks."

In a release, the Board of



Governors says it has approved 'substantive changes' regarding the Academy's membership, governing bodies and voting members. The goal is to double the number of women and diverse members by the year 2020." (Zap2it.com)

That was the exact answer I was hoping for. Instead of focusing solely on the award show attendance and nominations, we have to demand our presence in top, show business positions

such as: movie executives, movie marketers, film distributors, film financier, Academy members, producers, directors, writers, and more.

The numbers don't lie, and as long as we are struggling to make up 10% of the Academy, we still have some ways to go and work to be done.

Now that we have gotten to the root of the issue, voiced our concern, and sparked social media support, we must continue to do our part in: creating diverse content, supporting minority film projects, and demanding representation in filmmaking and executive positions.

by Amoi Savage  
www.amoisage.com

(Photo: en.wikipedia.org)

## Calendar of Events

### January 30

Easter Special Taping  
ABC Television & Breath  
of Life Television Minis-  
tries  
Oakwood University  
Church  
5500 Adventist Boulevard  
11 a.m.

### February 5

30th Pastoral Anniversary  
Celebration  
Honoring Pastor Wayne P.  
Snodgrass of Progressive  
Union Missionary Baptist  
Church  
The Jackson Center  
Cummings Research Park  
\$50/person

### February 12

Dancing with the President  
and First Lady of Alabama  
A&M University  
"Glitz and Glamour on  
The Hill"

Ernest Knight Center  
7p.m.  
Tickets \$25; Students,\$10  
VIP Table for 10 - \$300  
Benefits the AAMU  
Bulldog Pride Committee  
Contact: 256-652-6948

### February 14

60th Anniversary Obser-  
vance  
Holy Cross-St. Christo-  
pher's Episcopal Church  
*Keynote Speaker:*  
Reginald E. Cathey, Award-  
winning Actor  
3740 Meridian Street  
Huntsville, Ala.  
3 p.m.

### February 14

CONCERT  
Fantasia, Leela James  
BJCC Concert Hall  
Birmingham, Ala.  
7 p.m.

### February 20

HBCU College Fair  
Union Chapel MB Church  
Family Life Center  
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

### March 3

Black Tie Dinner and Live  
Auction  
2016 Gala Art Exhibition  
Huntsville Museum of Art

### March 18

Inaugural Education  
Banquet for the Julius R.  
Scruggs Child Develop-  
ment Center and Academy  
Guest Speaker: Selwyn M.  
Vickers, M.D.  
First Missionary Baptist  
Church  
Blue Spring Road  
Huntsville, Ala., 6 p.m.

Read Online!  
valleyweeklyllc.com

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. | Central North  
Alabama Alumnae Chapter  
"Being In Tune With Your Heart Player"

Annual  
Go Red  
Luncheon



12 o'clock pm  
Saturday  
February 6, 2016  
#40  
Huntsville Marriott Hotel  
5 Tranquility Base  
Huntsville, AL 35808

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. | Central North Alabama Alumnae Chapter

Founders Day Gala 2016

Saturday, March 19, 2016  
Six o'clock p.m.

The Jackson Center  
6001 Moquin Drive  
Huntsville, Alabama 35806  
\$50 | Formal Attire

Featuring: Mrs. Cynthia Butler - McIntyre, Past National President

Holy Cross-St. Christopher's Episcopal Church  
60th Anniversary  
Celebration  
"The Beauty of Diversity"  
Sunday, February 14, 2016  
Three O'Clock  
in the Afternoon  
Guest Speaker:  
Award-Winning Actor and  
Huntsville Native  
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Two Blocks South of Alabama A&M!  
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# The *Down* Side of *Up*

by Jerome Saintjones

Hardly an hour of television viewing goes by in which there is not some commercial presenting through inuendo the unmistakable benefits of some tried-and-true male enhancement drug.

Sometimes the culprit is a sensuous woman who suggests that only a complete sap would not want to *fix* things in the performance arena. At other times, humor is sent in to either play upon any feelings of male inadequacy, just hours before bedtime.

But, thanks to the Internet and boundless curiosity, it is very easy to find that, despite the onset of the major male enhancement pills that have flooded the market since 1998, tinkering with Mother Africa (*aka* "Nature") could have unintended consequences.

In addition to a sizeable list of side effects associated with the drugs is a parallel list of the unanticipated--the kind of effects that only asking the right questions (and carefully reviewing governmental stats) can reveal.

For instance, recent studies report that, while divorce rates overall seem to be stabilizing or even declining, there is a doubling of the rates among couples over age 50, a key focus of male enhancement drug advertising.

At the onset, say pre-1990s, many older men with performance issues had to contend with female sympathy, scorn, emotional cruelty and sometimes their initiation of divorce.

Interestingly, after the male enhancement drug revolution



--often pushing more than 10,000 prescriptions a day--men not only felt like bulls again, but many of them preferred to be bulls in other pastures.

Some sources suggest that similar situations emerge when increased male libido is countered by a female partner with lackluster interest, or interest, at least, not equally yoked. It appears, these researchers note, that these same men have starting seeking 'balance' outside of their established relationships.

In other words, somewhere out there are a pool of male senior citizens who have sparked relationships with younger, even if middle-aged, women.

Divorce lawyers have not only reported a rise in male enhancement drug-related divorces, but they have also witnessed instances where women have cheated and sought outside relationships with men with "lesser" libidos.

Another sinister development since the onslaught of male enhancement drugs over a two-decade period has been the increasing incidence of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) among older men. Years of innocent monogamy have placed some new Supermen (sometimes linked to sexually less-interested wives) on the prowl. Out there in the wilderness, some men frequent prostitutes and, because they have become accustomed to dealing with only one partner, they are not in the habit of protecting themselves.

The take-away is: if men and women actually felt *good* about themselves, no matter what and no matter at which age, then the manipulative American economy would probably, well, irrevocably droop.



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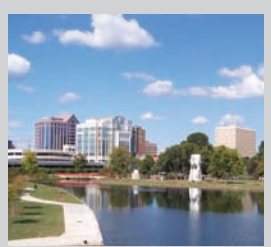
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**STAY INFORMED: Huntsville City Council Meetings**

City Council 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. City Council Work Sessions also held in the City Council 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.



**On This Day - January 29**  
 Oprah Winfrey - Noted for her television show, "Oprah," which became the highest rated talk show in television history. Winfrey is also an Academy Award nominated actress, a magazine publisher and the only Black American female billionaire. - BlackInTime.info



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 - Leontyne Price



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# DLC

## Tennessee Valley

# Diversity Leadership Colloquium V



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for Cohort V!*

### Vision:

The Diversity Leadership Colloquium (DLC) advances leadership excellence by advocating and progressing the affirmation and inclusion of diversity in strategic markets and communities of interest for competitive intelligence.

### Mission:

DLC's mission is to become an essential provider of diversity training for aspiring and experienced leaders throughout the lifecycle.

### Values:

Our values are: Collaboration for Excellence; Appreciation with Insight; Respect for Understanding; and Empathy for all ... C.A.R.E.

DLC offers aspiring and experienced leaders with opportunities to benefit from qualified and seasoned trainers, scholars, and business professionals who share and discuss research and best practices regarding attainment of excellence through diversity.

DLC is designed for individuals interested in gaining access to networks, mentors, and sponsors that have traditionally not been available to diverse members of the broader community. Enrollees will be exposed to topics such as: Understanding and Embracing Diversity, Organizational Culture and Structural Reform, Racial and Gender Intelligence, Social Justice and Equality, Networking and Mentoring, Politics, Heroes and Holidays, Critical Thinking and Self-Affirmation and Living the CARE Values.

Individuals and companies are making sincere efforts in verbalizing a commitment to diversity excellence. However, we must be trained to build the next generation of leaders who have the skill sets, tools and commitment to execute.

### Training Schedule

DLC will run two, eight-week colloquia in 2016. The sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. Participants cannot miss more than 2 sessions.

Location: 415-A Church Street - Downtown Huntsville

Enrollment limited to: 16 - **Tuition:** \$795

### 2016 Schedule

**Spring** March 8 - April 26 - Deadline to register (February 25, 2016)

**Fall** September 6 - October 25

### To Apply

- Application Form
- 3 References
- Resume
- Photo

## DLC Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium V APPLICATION FORM

**Requirements:** Application Form - 3 References - Resume -  
Photo and Tuition (Both Required upon Acceptance)

**Deadline:** February 25, 2016

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. Unit # \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (mobile) \_\_\_\_\_ Business/Home \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. Citizen?  Yes  No Enrolling Quarter \_\_\_\_\_

### Education

High School Attended \_\_\_\_\_ Graduated: Yes  No

College(s) Attended \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Degree \_\_\_\_\_ Career Field \_\_\_\_\_

### References

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail this Application Form, 3 Letters of Reference, and Resume to:** 415A Church Street-Ste. 100, Huntsville, AL 35801 - (256) 651-9028; visit us at [www.diversityleadershipcolloquium.com](http://www.diversityleadershipcolloquium.com); or e-mail [info@diversityleadershipcolloquium.com](mailto:info@diversityleadershipcolloquium.com). Tuition and photo will be required only if accepted to participate.