

# The Valley Weekly

*"Every people should be originators  
of their own destiny."  
- Martin Delany*

**FREE**

Volume 1, No. 21

Friday, January 30, 2015

## Museum's Gala to Feature African-American Artist

The Huntsville Museum of Art has announced the selection of its featured artist for the 24th annual gala events March 4-7.

Dean L. Mitchell was born in 1957, in Pittsburgh, Pa., and grew

up in Quincy, Fla. A graduate of the Columbus College of Art & Design in Columbus, Ohio, Mitchell is noted for his



figurative works, landscapes and still lifes. In addition to watercolors, he is accomplished in other mediums, including egg temperas, oils and pastels.

Mitchell has been featured in numerous publications, including the *New York Times*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *American Artist*, *Artist Magazine*, *Fine Art International* and *Art News*.

**The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.**

- Franklin D. Roosevelt  
(Born Jan. 30)

## Jeans 'n Classics to Present Music of King of Pop

The Huntsville Symphony Orchestra's Jeans 'n Classics will return with "For Michael: The Music of Michael Jackson" on Saturday, February 28, in the Mark C. Smith Concert Hall of the Von Braun Center at 7:30 p.m.

Jeans 'n Classic was responsible for bringing Valley music lovers the music of Queen two years ago. Just last season, the music of ABBA was highlighted. This year, Jeans 'n Classics will return for what promoters are referring to as "a Michael Jackson songfest!"

From "Billie Jean" to "Thriller," the music of the King of Pop will be celebrated.



Joseph Lee is the slated guest conductor.

For additional information, call (256) 539-4818.

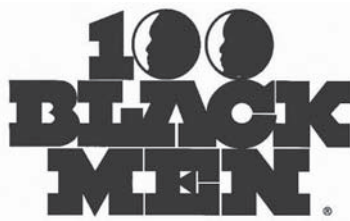
## Primarily Black Military Units to Be Discussed

Bill Emerson will discuss his research on the formation of regular Army units in the early 20th century. Join him for a

free discussion at the Huntsville Public Library on February 22. The time has yet to be determined. Call (256) 532-5940.

## Scholarships for Graduating High School Seniors

The 100 Black Men of America Greater Huntsville Chapter announces its 2015 Scholarship Application. Contact Ronnie Davis at [rjdavis@knology.net](mailto:rjdavis@knology.net) or visit [www.100bmoaghc.com](http://www.100bmoaghc.com).



## AAMU Mourns Untimely Death of Beloved Coach

Funeral services were slated for Wednesday, January 28, in Birmingham, Ala., for a beloved Alabama A&M University coach.

James Wright, assistant men's basketball coach, died Wednesday, January 21, at age 46. Head Basketball Coach Willie Hayes and Director of Athletics Bryan Hicks spoke with and consoled the basketball team.

"We ask that you pray for Coach Wright's family and keep them in your thoughts," Hicks said. Wright was called "a tireless recruiter" who was in his fourth year with the Bulldogs.

"We've lost a great coach, a great man and a great person," said Hayes. "I've known him since high school ... I've lost a great friend."

Wright graduated from Jackson-Olin High School in Birmingham, Ala., and Jackson State University, where he excelled in basketball. He also was a member of Macedonia Baptist Church (Ensley) and a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.



Wright



Noon funeral services were held at the church with burial in Oakland Cemetery. A Kappa Memorial Service was held on the preceding Tuesday.

Survivors include a daughter, Yuvonda Gray; grandson, Jordan Haley; granddaughter, Dallas Byner; mother, Paulette Wright; and sister, Angelica Wright.

## 2015 Black History Month Theme

*"A Century of Black Life,  
History and Culture"*



## Reception Held for Hurricane Katrina Commander Russel Honoré

A reception at The Ledges was held on January 21, 2015, for the man who served as Commander of Joint Task Force Katrina and who was responsible for coordinating military relief efforts for Hurricane Katrina-impacted areas across the Gulf Coast.

Lieutenant General (Ret.) Russel Honoré was paid tribute for his 37 years of service to his country, particularly as the 33rd commanding general of the U.S. First Army at Fort Gillem, Ga., and as the 2nd Infantry Division's commander while he was stationed in South Korea.

A native of Lakeland, La., in Pointe Coupee Parish and the youngest of 12 children, Honoré earned a Bachelor of Science degree in vocational agriculture from Southern University and A&M College in 1971. He also



earned a Master of Arts degree in human resources from Troy State University (Ala.), as well as

an honorary doctorate in public administration from Southern University and A&M College.

## Team Redstone Observes Martin Luther King Day



*Civil rights activist and Selma, Ala., native Sheyann Webb-Chrisburg (left) with General and Mrs. Dennis Via.*

“Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day ON, NOT a Day OFF” was the theme for TEAM Redstone’s 2015 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Observance on January 21, 2015.

NASA’s Robert Drake rendered the National Anthem, Elder Oscar Montgomery prayed and Oakwood University’s Gospel Choir sang.

Selma native Sheyann Webb-Chrisburg (pictured above with General and Mrs. Via), civil rights activist, Tuskegee University graduate and co-author of the noted book *Selma, Lord Selma*, spoke to a capacity crowd in the Bob Jones Auditorium of the Sparkman Center on Redstone Arsenal.



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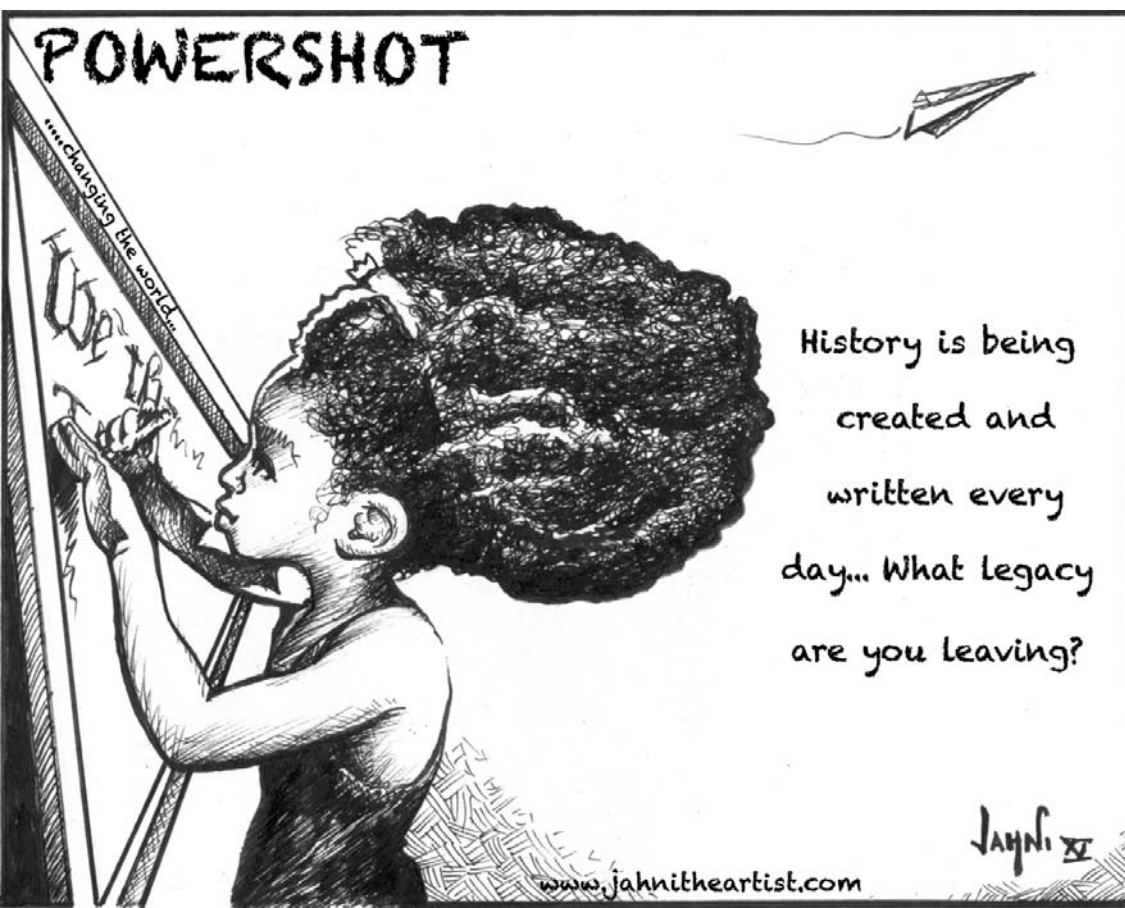
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## The Valley Weekly

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# From the Editor



*Dr. Danny E. Blanchard*



*Kenneth Anderson*

*“It is always a delight to hear inspirational voices of the past and present.”*

January 16th's edition of TVW had an editorial reference to the commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday. In that piece, I indicated that we would be commemorating King's 76th birthday, instead of his 86th birthday.

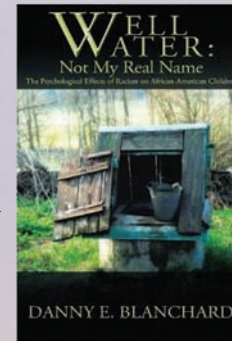
Well, that error in counting gained me a telephone call from long time family friend, Rev. G. W. Lindsey. What a delight to have heard from Rev. Lindsey. He indicated to me in his very direct, yet kind manner that “he was sure that it was a typographical error.” Upon reaching back to grab a copy of the paper, he was exactly correct. Thanks, Rev. Lindsey, for reading TVW and keeping us on point with our facts and innformation. I was very delighted to hear your voice on the line. Our families used to get together each Easter Season when his grandchildren and our children would hunt for eggs and candy, while the adults enjoyed great fellowship and food. The children are grown-up now, and we are still here. Blessings to the Lindsey and Ford families. It is always my delight to hear inspirational voices of the past and present.

I joined Kenny Anderson on Sunday, January 25th, on the “2nd Chance” radio broadcast at Oakwood University, [www.wjou.org](http://www.wjou.org) or 90.1 FM. While there, I had the opportunity to see Dr. Ramona L Hyman, who was promoting the upcoming African American Healers Conference; Jane Bloemetjie, Christina Smith and Charlotte Phillips, who discussed National Marriage Week 2015; and Dr. Danny E. Blanchard. Dr. Blanchard was interviewed about his new book, “Well Water - Not My Real Name: The Psychological Effect of Racism on African American Children.” During the radio program, I had an opportunity to talk about the 9th Annual Rosetta James Foundation “Honoring our Elders” Celebration, which will occur on March 14th at the Jackson Center. There is much to do in the local community. We just need to decide how much of it we want to partake.

Thanks to all of our on-line readers each week. Our advertisers are awesome and make the printed copy possible. The superlative team of volunteers, writers, designers, and promoters are the reason for TVW. We have been blessed with some wonderful January weather. We hope you have enjoyed it as much as we have.

Until next week ...

*Dorothy*





## Concordia Curricula and Teachers - Part 2

by Charles Mercieca, Ph.D.  
Global President

As far as all subject areas are involved, Concordia International University will concentrate on making sure that each of the involved subject areas will serve as an effective instrument to bring about a permanent world peace. The human life is definitely the most important element of every human being. All people would rather live in good health and with enough money to get by than to live with one foot in the grave while they have all the riches in the world.

The job of every teacher lies in the ability to show children how they can become instruments of peace through the knowledge of each subject area, which has the potential to bring about world peace. Let us give an illustration. The teacher of history may demonstrate how people suffered, losing their property and their lives through needless and useless wars. This would be a reflection by way of meditation in addition to the teaching of historical events.

### Common Strengths and Weaknesses

The teacher of geography may show that all boundaries that separate nations are purely artificial. For example, the western part of Poland was a part of Germany before World War II. Then it became part of Poland. The people there were still Germans but then they were viewed as Poles and had to travel with a Polish passport. The teacher of Biology may show that all people are an integral part of humanity. Any malady in a nation may be found into another, which explains our same strengths and weaknesses in a number of ways.

The teacher of mathematics may use the variety of people's experiences to show that all share the same human nature. Of course, this will be in addition to imparting the concept of numbers and so on. Also, the teacher of foreign languages may demonstrate the great similarities we have between languages which especially have a common root, like the Romance languages, which may be enlisted as Spanish, Italian, French, Portuguese and Romanian. They are all derived from Latin, which was in operation for several centuries.

In brief, the primary objec-

tive of Concordia International University is to implement in students the concept that all people are members of the same human family whose obligation is to respect each other. A study of history shows that people always fought because of diversities between them. Diversities may be proven to be a source of enrichment in a variety of ways. Hence, this would be a good way to justify our obligation to create harmonious relations. Very often we learn well from each other because of such diversities.

In view of this, our institutions of learning need to teach not to just impart knowledge, pass the test, graduate and get a job, but for purpose of creating good relations among all people. During the decade of the eighties when Pope John Paul II was in Mexico he was asked: "Do you think that the world peace is possible?" He replied: "Yes, but only after two of the great evils of the 20th century are gone." He referred to communism and capitalism because, he said, "they both advance their causes through the exploitation of people."

**Next Week:** Part 3: Chance for Permanent Peace

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# Strengthening the Ties that Bind Families Together

“Be fruitful and multiply” is the instruction God gave Adam and Eve when He blessed them as husband and wife. Hence, God created the family.

The family forms the backbone of our society. Everyone comes from some type of family. Our co-workers, teachers, students, politicians, doctors, lawyers, etc., all come from a family.

When we have strong, healthy families, we will have a stronger and healthier society. Sadly, our society has been bombarded by social ills (bullying, cyber bullying, negative social media activities, homicides, suicides, divorce, domestic violence, robberies, etc.). The writer maintains that reducing these ills require actions from the family.

The U. S. Bureau of the Census defines the family as “two or more persons related by birth, marriage, or adoption, who reside together.” Given the social changes over the years and relaxed values, a contemporary definition of family is defined as “two or more individuals who share the same household and pool resources. Unfortunately, many people live together who



do not meet the definition established by the U.S. Census Bureau. They are referred to as experimental families by some family experts.

Regardless to who comprises the family, we need to focus on ways to help family members strengthen their bond and contribution to society. There is “no perfect” family, and all families can be strengthened. Following are some traits family researchers have discovered in healthy families.

- Spend time together on a regular basis
- Demonstrate commitment to family
- Encourage all family members
- Express appreciation for all family members
- Respect family members' uniqueness
- Engage regularly in religious/spiritual activities
- Have open and regular communication
- Distinguish and assign family roles and responsibilities

- Adapt to/cope with change, even if outside help is required
- Promote social connectedness (family ties and community)
- Engage in community service
- Promote civic involvement

After reviewing the above list, choose the traits you are currently executing in your family, and identify those you can try to improve in 2015 to help strengthen the ties that bind your family together.

Unfortunately, research reveals that the popularity of social media has reduced the time family members spend together, and communication in families has declined dramatically. The writer profoundly believes that the family (especially those with children, adolescents and young adults), can play a vital role in reducing the social ills in our society, if they make a concerted effort to use the traits that characterize healthy and strong families.

Submitted by Dr. Margaret J. Kelly

#### References:

Roberta M. Berns, Child, Family, School, Community, Socialization and Support, 2013.  
 Jerry Bigner, Parent-Child Relations, 2013.  
 M. Duggan & A. Smith, Social Media Update 2013, Pew Internet and American Life Project, googledrive.com  
 U. S. Bureau of the Census, 2014

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# Huntsville Happenings

by Gary T. Whitley, Jr.

"The Sky is NOT the Limit," is the official slogan the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber uses when marketing our area to potential new industries. This slogan holds true as our community is progressive and forward thinking when it comes to the latest innovations in engineering, technology, advanced manufacturing, aerospace, security and numerous fields of study. Being a community with an above average population with respect to higher education attainment, it comes as no surprise that two of our local post-secondary institutions would be recognized for their unwavering commitment to Huntsville's economic development goals.

Recently, the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) was named a National Security Agency/Department of Homeland Security Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance/Cyber Defense. As we all know, cyber-security threats are on the rise and America must be prepared. In addition to this designation, UAH is also the recipient of a National Science Foundation Scholarship for Service program that will grant academic scholarships to UAH students who will study Information Assurance/Cyber-Security. Hopefully with UAH being a



leader in these efforts for our Defense community, Huntsville will be able to benefit first from any forthcoming security advancements.

While UAH is preparing a generation of cyber-security professionals, Drake State Community and Technical College has tapped into a new industry that will attract significant local interest. Drake State will launch in March a non-credit certificate class in craft beer. As Huntsville becomes a hub for craft breweries, Drake State is seizing the opportunity to produce future qualified brewers locally. While a first in Alabama, a few other colleges in the U.S. currently have programs and courses for craft beer. Cheers to Drake State for this new initiative. If tasters are needed for this program, I will be sure to announce it for those interested.

# DLC

Tennessee Valley

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- Resume
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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

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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.

#### 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 a premier provider of diversity training for inspiring 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 inspiring 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 obtaining 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 four quarterly, eight week colloquia. The sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. Participant cannot miss more than 2 sessions.

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Enrollment limited to: 16 - Tuition: \$795

#### 2015 Schedule

**Spring**  
(March 7, 2015)

April 7 - May 26 - Deadline to register

**Summer**  
(June 7, 2015)

July 7 - August 25 - Deadline to register

**Fall**

Oct 6 - Nov 24 - Deadline to register (Sep



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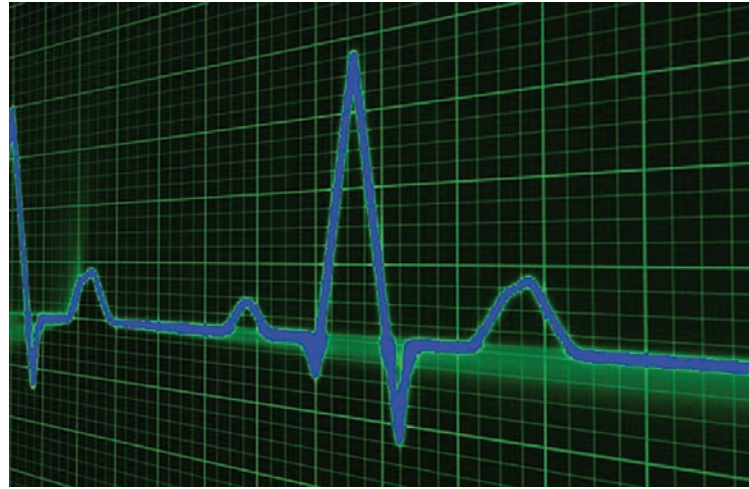
The Affordable Care Act requires that each member of our family either has qualifying health insurance coverage for each month of the year, qualifies for an exemption, or makes an individual shared responsibility payment when filing our federal income tax return. Some with moderate-income may also qualify for financial assistance to help cover the cost of health insurance purchased through the Health Insurance Marketplace. We will fall into one or more of the following categories:

- **Check the box.** Most will simply check a box on your tax return to indicate that each member of your family had qualifying health coverage for the whole year. No further action is required. Qualifying health insurance coverage includes coverage under most, but not all, types of health care coverage plans. The chart on IRS.gov/aca can be used to find out if your insurance counts as qualifying coverage.

- **Exemptions.** Some may be eligible to claim an exemption from the requirement to have coverage. Eligible individuals need to complete the new IRS Form 8965, Health Coverage Exemptions, and attach it to their tax return. Some individuals must apply for some exemptions through the Health Insurance Marketplace. However, most of the exemptions are easily obtained from the IRS when filing a return.

- **Individual Shared Responsibility Payment.** Those who do not have qualifying coverage or an exemption for each month of the year will need to make an individual shared responsibility payment with their return for choosing not to purchase coverage. Examples and information about figuring the payment are available on the IRS Calculating the Payment page.

- **Premium Tax Credit.** Those



who bought coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace should receive Form 1095-A, Health Insurance Marketplace Statement, from the Marketplace by early February. This form should be saved because it has important information needed to complete a tax return.

If the Form 1095-A is not received by early February, contact the Marketplace where coverage was purchased. Do not contact the IRS because IRS telephone assistants will not have access to this information.

Those who benefited from advance payments of the premium tax credit must file a federal income tax return. These individuals need to reconcile those advance payments with the amount of premium tax credit they're entitled to base on their actual income. As a result, some people may see a smaller or larger tax refund or tax liability than they were expecting. Use IRS Form 8962, Premium Tax Credit (PTC), to calculate the premium tax credit and reconcile the credit with any advance payments. The IRS has set up a special section at IRS.gov/aca with more information about the Affordable Care Act and the 2014 income tax return.

Low-and moderate-income

taxpayers can get help meeting this health-care requirement and filing their return for free by visiting one of the community-based tax help sites that participate in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (VITA/TCE) programs. To find the nearest site, use the VITA/TCE Site Locator on IRS.gov.

A trusted tax professional can also provide helpful information about the health care law. A number of tips about selecting a preparer and national tax professional groups is available on IRS.gov.

All taxpayers, especially those claiming the premium tax credit, should make sure you have all of your year-end statements in hand before you file your return. This includes Forms W-2 from employers, Forms 1099 from banks and other payers, and, for those claiming the premium tax credit, and Form 1095-A from the Marketplace. Doing so will help avoid refund delays and the need to file an amended return later.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate call me at 615-218-5209 or email me at deh\_cei@comcat.net or Fax me at 615-870-1220.

- Submitted by David E. Herron  
DEH & Associates Consulting, LLC

# Calendar at a Glance

## FEBRUARY

7  
Kappa Alpha Psi Decatur-Athens Alumni Chapter "Chocolate Elegance"  
Best Western Plus Vieira Ballroom  
Madison, Ala.  
Music by DJ Fresh  
Complimentary champagne fountain & appetizers  
Semi-formal attire  
Tickets available online  
Contact: (256) 289-3292

14  
Members Only Annual Valentine's Ball  
NSSF Facility, 6001 Pulaski Pike | 8 p.m.-1 a.m.  
Music by DraKar and An Experience  
\$35 advance | \$40 door  
Contact: Pat Moore at pdmoore1@bellsouth.net or a Members Only Club member

21  
HBCU College Fair  
Union Chapel MBC Family Life Center, 315 Winchester Road  
10 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Financial Aid Workshop at 10:30 a.m.

## MARCH

8  
Spelman Jazz Ensemble Concert  
Sponsored by the Huntsville Alumnae Chapter of the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College  
Marriott Hotel  
5 p.m.

12  
North Alabama NSBE Professionals Scholarship Program  
Apply today for scholarships on the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) chapter website

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## MINISTRIES

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The Fellowship of Faith Church

3703 Memorial Parkway, NW  
 Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 562-2222  
[www.tfofc.org](http://www.tfofc.org)

### WORSHIP TIMES:

- **Huntsville Campus** -  
 Sunday mornings @ 9:15 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.  
 - **Madison Campus** -  
 132 Maple Street  
 Sunday @ 8 a.m.

**Child Development Center  
 beginning at Five (5) Weeks**

*The Fellowship of Faith Church is simply a church full of men and women who have been saved through the miraculous, finished work of Christ on Calvary. And who knows? Perhaps you will find that the Fellowship of Faith Church is God's place for you!*

*Jesus is Exalted and  
 The Word is Explained!*