

The Valley Weekly

"Whoever is in control of the hell in your life, is your devil."
- John Henrik Clarke

FREE

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Volume 4, No. 22

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Friday, February 9, 2018

Rosetta James Foundation Event Will Add Class of Seven



Mrs. Amy Lewis Draper



Mrs. Effie Gaines



Mrs. Jacquelyn Ifill



Elder Dorothy B. Johnson



Mr. Bob Petty



Mrs. Alice Sams



Mrs. Rosa Walker

The 12th Annual Rosetta James Foundation "Honoring Our Elders" Celebration will be held on Saturday, March 10, 2018, at The Jackson Center, 6001 Moquin Drive in Cummings Research Park, at 5 p.m.

Named in honor of a local, long-time activist, volunteer and civil rights advocate, the Rosetta

James Foundation recognizes individuals who have given consistently, unselfishly and untiringly of themselves in service to mankind, worthwhile causes and institutions.

The seven distinguished elders slated to be honored in 2018 are: **Mrs. Amy Lewis Draper, Mrs. Effie Gaines, Mrs. Jacqueline Ifill, Elder Dorothy B.**

Johnson, Mr. Bob Petty, Mrs. Alice Sams and Mrs. Rosa Walker.

For nomination as a Rosetta James "Honoring Our Elders" honoree, individuals must be at least 70 years of age; maintain active volunteerism in several community, religious, civic and/or social organizations/agencies; and exhibit high moral and ethical

standing.

The Foundation also honors "Pioneers" who have made significant, often groundbreaking, strides in their careers. The four Pioneers include: **Dr. Army Daniel, Mrs. Loretta Spencer, Mrs. Beulah Toney and Dr. Arthur L. Walker.**

The Foundation will award scholarships to local current and prospective students of historically black colleges and universities. Tickets are \$50/each. For information or tickets, call (256) 536-9717 or visit www.rosettajamesfoundation.org



Burritt Celebrates BHM: *The Underground Railroad* was presented on February 3 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. in recognition of Black History Month. *The Underground Railroad* had no tracks or train cars, but it moved thousands of slaves from the South to freedom. Participants experienced following the clues from one "safe" house to the next in a simulation; heard the music from the era and learned its significance as they create a craft to remind them of the methods these courageous individuals used to escape slavery and build new lives for themselves. They were also able to learn some of the exciting stories of the brave women and men who risked their lives to achieve freedom for themselves and for others. The entire program included a lecture, a walking tour and activities suitable for children and adults. Visitors were invited to view the Rosenwald School exhibit in the Burritt Mansion. Over 5,000 Rosenwald Schools were built to educate African American children in the South during the early 1900's. A Rosenwald School event is planned for February 17th. Additional information can be found at <https://burrittonthemountain.com/>.

Black Women Leaders Guests on Junior League Panel

A recent Junior League leadership luncheon featured two prominent African American female businesswomen and leaders—Beth Richardson (Madison Market President for Progress Bank (first photo) and Kim Lewis, CEO of PROJETXZY (second photo) on a leadership panel. Mayor Battle also par-



ticipated in a civic leadership talk prior to the panel at a luncheon on February 8 at 11:30 a.m. at Redstone Federal Credit Union.

Liz Hurley of WAFF-TV was slated to moderate the panel.

The Junior League of Huntsville hosted the luncheon as part of an annual training series to achieve the part

of its mission focused on developing the potential of women.

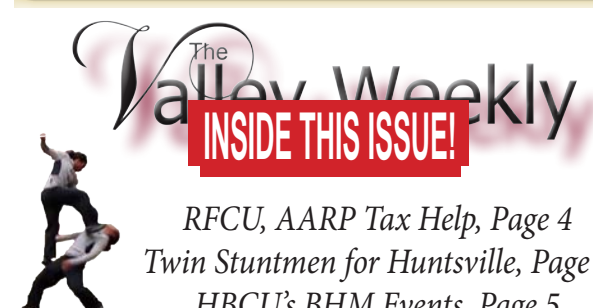
The Junior League of Huntsville is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leader-



ship of trained volunteers. It is committed to inclusive environments of diverse

individuals, organizations and communities. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

Nancy Washington Vaughn serves as president. For more information, visit jlhuntsville.com.



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HAAHP Documents Area's Race Relations

Huntsville African American History Project (HAAHP) is a research project documenting race relations in Huntsville, Alabama, especially the struggle to complete its transformation from segregation to integration.

HAAHP is co-directed by Jane DeNeefe, an independent scholar and activist living in Huntsville, and John McKeerley, a Huntsville native, history professor and oral historian at the University of Iowa.

The main focus of HAAHP has been to create an archive of high-quality audio oral history interviews, which are now being prepared for deposit at Huntsville-Madison County Public Library in March 2018.

To celebrate this milestone and observe Black History Month, a YouTube channel has been created

called Voices of HAAHP. A new video will be uploaded each day in February, highlighting first-person stories of Huntsville during the Civil Rights Movement and space race.

So far, interviews have been released with Sheryll Cashin about her family integrating

Blossomwood; Val Ginter describing the old courthouse; and Willie Hereford's memories of strict racial segregation downtown.

February 4th's video was Ivy Joe Milan talking about the black business district around Holmes and Church Street, and on February 5, Bobby Hayden talked about harsh working conditions for black people during his parents' generation. And so it will go for each day in February, one new first-person story of Huntsville per day.

Each "video" is an audio segment with a still photo.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH Each caption will include basic background information and a transcript of the clip.

Voices of HAAHP will highlight themes of housing, schooling and work as those patterns shifted for African Americans in Huntsville, especially through the 1960s and 1970s.

But each interview, because it is based on someone's personal biography, ranges beyond those dates and themes. The whole interviews that will be placed in the archive are around an hour each. The selections highlighted on YouTube will average around five minutes.

Topics this month will include the black neighborhood on Adams Street, where Huntsville Junior High is now, personal choices families had to make related to the early days of Huntsville's school desegregation case, white flight out of the northwest, the garbage strike, and how VISTA came to Huntsville.

For more information about HAAHP, please friend on Facebook, subscribe to the YouTube channel for one new video a day during Black History Month, and share your favorites.

Reporters, scholars, family history researchers, students and history buffs should find the collection useful.

The public is invited to join the effort to understand Huntsville history as one whole story that includes people of color, both achievements and hardships.

An honest reckoning of the old racial injustices that still affect Huntsville today is the best way to move forward as one whole city with a shared history.

Stillman Prez to Speak at Fellowship Presbyterian

Dr. Cynthia Warrick, the seventh president of Stillman College will be

the guest speaker at Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Huntsville, Ala., Sunday, March 4, at 10 a.m. The observance will be the

Annual Women's Day Celebration honoring women who answer God's call to leadership and service.

The 2018 theme is: "Celebrate the Gifts of

Women: Women Called to Lead With Love".

Dr. Warrick began her tenure as the interim president of Stillman College in January 2017.

Prior to being named to this position, she was a Senior

Fellow at the Thurgood Marshall College Fund and also served as President of the Society for Diversity in the Biomedical Sciences, based in Houston, Tex.



Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

Luke 15:7 says, "I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."

You know, one of the things that I love most about Jesus is that He meets us where we are, but refuses to leave us there. He meets us in our sinful ways and says "go and sin no more". The main theme in the book of Luke is that Jesus came to seek and save the lost. And, He was especially sensitive to those who were hurting. Because He knew that hurting people hurt other



people. That's why He had no problem eating with sinners and tax collectors.

In this scripture, Luke talks about the love that God has for sinners and he explains them in the form of "lost things". First, a lost sheep. Then, a lost coin. And then, a lost son. In all of these stories the "lost" are

found, and when it happens, everyone rejoices. Even the angels in heaven rejoice.

The message that is revealed here is, God places great value on one repenting sinner. Therefore, clarifying his mission that He came to seek and save sinners. Jesus came to deal with much more than the financial statement or the building fund. So He reminds us that there should be more rejoicing over a redeemed soul, than paying off any debt that the church incurs.

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters

Spotlight on Our Elders ... Featuring

Mrs. Evelyn Streeter Rich

For more than 50 years, Mrs. Evelyn Streeter Rich committed her life to education and community causes and activities. She began her career as a classroom instructor, teaching and nurturing young children to develop an inquiring mind to become responsive and productive citizens.

In 1954, Rich received the Bachelor of Science degree with honors in elementary education from Alabama A&M University. In 1968, she received the Master of

Arts degree in Elementary Education from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Ala. During her professional career, she served as an elementary education classroom teacher at several schools in Alabama.

In recognition of her contributions and service to the community, she received several notable awards: 2002 and 2004 Golden Soror of



the Year, Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; 2000 Soror of the Year, Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; 1995 Distinguished Alumni Citation, and National Association For Equal Opportunity In Higher Education (NAFEO) alumni honors.

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From the Editor

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Pink Goes Red!



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter presented “Pink Goes Red” for heart health at First Missionary Baptist Church on February 2.

The event featured a health forum with Dr. Vivian Obo-ko-Cole Hicks and Dr. Warren Quinton Foster, moderated by AKA and WJAB’s own Erica Fox. Kimberly Collier led a Zumba Fitness session that was followed by a Heart Healthy Meal.

Miss Covered Bridge talked about her platform, which includes being health through the activity of dancing.

The primary goal for the evening was to promote awareness of heart and stroke disease in women.

According to Dr. Hicks, African American women have a higher rate of cardio vascular disease than any other group on the planet. She indicated that obesity is the highest cause of death in women because consuming too many calories and inactivity leads to hypertension, high cholesterol and diabetes.

Obesity causes more deaths than smoking cigarettes, cancer, and homicide together, she said.

Dr. Foster recommended a low sodium diet with more fruits and vegetables. The DASH diet was suggested: Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension. The Mediterranean diet was also suggested as a good option.

Physical activity is as important as dieting. Helpful hints included staying away from drive-thru windows, taking the stairs instead of elevators, parking at the end of the parking lot with the goal of taking at least 10k steps per day or walking 150 minutes each week.

About 200 attendees were encouraged to stay heart healthy by cutting caloric intake, stop smoking, remaining active and watching sodium and fat in their diets. Donations were accepted for the American Heart Association. Finally, as women, we should know our family history. Our history will motivate us to make good dietary and activity choices.

Be heart healthy, fit and aware. Until next week ...

Photo Credit:
LaDonna McCann

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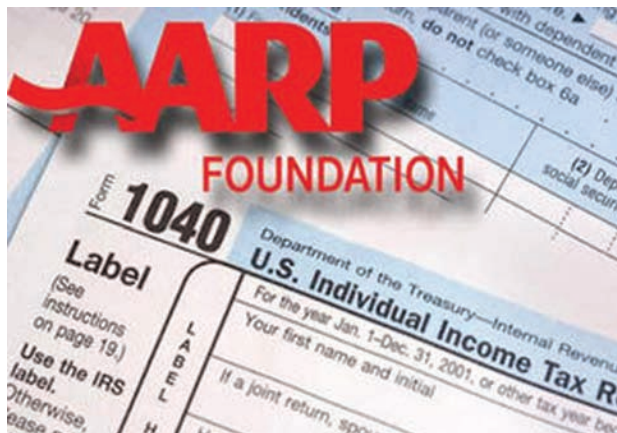
RFCU, AARP Offering Free Tax Assistance

Redstone Federal Credit Union® partners with AARP to offer free Saturday tax prep

Redstone Federal Credit Union and the AARP Foundation have announced a new partnership that will offer free Saturday tax preparation assistance to families in the Tennessee Valley.

Tax preparation sessions will be offered by a team of IRS-certified tax preparers at Redstone's The Atrium, 220 Wynn Drive, in Huntsville. Starting Saturday, Feb. 3, 2018, taxpayers with appointments can get tax help from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Taxpayers don't have to be a member of AARP or Redstone to get their taxes done. The services are available to people of all ages and available through April 14, 2018.

Peggy Jackson, AARP Tax-Aide representative,



said they are excited to partner with Redstone to provide the Saturday hours.

"This is the only Saturday site we have in Madison County. It is something we have been striving for over the past 10 to 12 years," Ms. Jackson said. "This will afford working people an opportunity to have their taxes prepared without them having to take time off from work."

Assistance is available by appointment only. To secure your appointment, please call the Huntsville Senior Center at 256-513-8291. For more informa-

tion, go visit: <https://www.redfcu.org/specials/free-tax-prep.html>.

In addition to Redstone, appointments are also available at eight other locations during the week.

"We're excited about this partnership with AARP and to open our facility to be used by the community. Providing free tax preparation services can save a family up to \$300. By doing this, we help them free up room in their budget for other necessities," said Laura Ernzen, Assistant Vice President of Consumer Marketing Strategy.

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February 9 - ALICE WALKER - Pulitzer Prize-winning author. Best known for her novel, "The Color Purple" and her work, "The Temple of My Familiar."

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Washington in a Minute



Here are the top issues of the week in Washington, D.C.

1. The House and Senate are in session this week. Congress had until midnight Thursday (Feb. 8) to pass an omnibus FY2018 appropriations bill or extend the current stop-gap measure to keep the federal government open. The House was expected to approve another extension through March 22, 2018, on Tuesday. Starting this Wednesday through Friday, House and Senate Democrats headed to Cambridge, Md., (about 87 miles from the U.S. Capitol) for their annual policy retreat, keynote by former Vice President Biden on Wednesday.

2. President and Mrs. Trump travelled to Cincinnati to visit a cylinder factory in the Blue Ash suburb and Cincinnati Children's Hospital. On Thursday, the President spoke at the National Prayer Breakfast and then met with Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales at the White House (Morales announced that he was moving the Guatemalan embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem two weeks after President Trump last December).

3. Reportedly, the

Trump Administration plans to seek a 13% boost to the Pentagon's budget, phase out funding for the International Space Station, and cut the Department of Energy's renewable energy program by 72%.

4. According to the Roll Call newspaper, on Wednesday, the Congressional Budget Office revised its estimate of when the federal government will reach its borrowing limit to an earlier point than it had previously estimated. Without action from Congress, the Treasury Department will only make it into the first half of March 2018 before running out of cash to pay its bills.

5. Sens. John McCain (R-AZ) and Chris Coons (D-DE) plan to unveil an immigration plan that offers Dreamers a path to citizenship and mandates a comprehensive study be conducted to determine what border-security measures are necessary. According to the Wall Street Journal, the bill stops well short of almost all of the president's demands--including immediate funding for the wall along the southern border--and is likely to meet a chilly reception from conservative Republicans. However,

the bill could also benefit from good timing, as the March 5 deadline draws closer and lawmakers grapple with the political consequences of failing to reach any agreement.

6. Last Wednesday, House Oversight and Gov't Reform Committee Chair Trey Gowdy (R-SC) became the 41st Republican House Member to announce that he was leaving the House (compared to 16 Democrat Members). The 41 GOP departures include 9 committee chairs, including House Appropriations Committee Chair Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ) and House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chair Bill Shuster (R-PA).

7. Last week it was reported that Vice President Mike Pence will begin a series of three dozen fundraising events in March around the country to raise money for House and Senate GOP candidates, including at least 1 stop in his home state of Indiana to campaign against fellow Hoosier, Senator Joe Donnelly (D-IN).

8. Last Wednesday, the Department of Defense announced that it was extending Boeing's contract through 2023 to manage the U.S. missile defense system intended to stop North Korean or Iranian intercontinental ballistic missiles, a deal worth \$6.56 billion. Boeing will reportedly add 20 new ground-based interceptors to the 44 sites already located in California and Alaska.

9. Last Thursday, North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein led an

effort of 12 state attorneys general who wrote a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke asking him to cancel a proposal to allow offshore drilling for oil and gas along the Atlantic and Pacific coastlines (except for Florida which the Trump Administration has exempted from the plan at the request of FL Gov. Rick Scott). The 12 states who signed the letter are: NC, CA, CT, DE, ME, MA, MD, NJ, NY, OR, RI, and VA.

10. In a Monmouth University poll of 806 adults released last Wednesday, President Trump's approval rating jumped 10 points over the last month to 42%, though a majority of Americans still registered disapproval of the president (however, that number decreased from 56% to 50%). The poll was taken before the President's State of the Union address on Tuesday. Most worrying for Democrats was the news that their lead in the generic ballot survey had shrunk to 2 points from a 15-point lead over the GOP in December.

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Twin Stuntmen Cameo on Groundbreaking Cable Series

by Reginald Allen

Stunt choreographers Calvin and Kevin Ross, better known as the Blasian Twins, just got a shocking addition to their resume. On Jan. 30, the Huntsville natives made an appearance on "Black Lightning," the newest addition to CW's wave of supers.



The two appear in the third episode titled, "Lawanda: The Book of the Burial," alongside Grammy Award winner Jill Scott, who made her debut on the freshman series as villainess Lady Eve.

Based on the DC Comics character, "Black Lightning" stars Cress Williams as the titular shocker. Once a celebrated crime-fighter, Jefferson Pierce hung up his tights to raise teenage daughters Anissa (Nafessa Williams) and Jennifer (China Anne McClain). When a local gang threatens the safety of his family and community, the hero-turned-high school principal must become the very thing that tore his marriage apart: The Black Lightning.

No stranger to the world of film and cinema, Calvin and Kevin amassed myriad accolades for their work in front and behind the camera while studying at the University of Alabama. Throughout their collegiate career, the two had their films showcased at the Black Warrior Film Festival and Campus Movie Fest, where they were bestowed the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Other credits include "Baby Driver," "Heavenly Mother" and "Love," which starred former WWE wrestler David Otunga and his junior. Last July, the twins announced plans for "The Executioner," an action-heavy, Sci-fi web-series.

"Black Lightning" airs Tuesday nights on the CW at 8 p.m. Previous episodes can be streamed online or on the CW app. For information on Calvin and Kevin, visit their website www.theblasiantwins.com

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Valley Deaths

- Nelms Memorial Funeral Home -

Funeral service for DR. GLENDA E. GILL (b. 1939) was held Tuesday, February 6, at First Missionary Baptist Church with Rev. Jerry Pool officiating.

Graveside service for MRS. ALICE KELLY MCCOMB (b. 1945) will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, February 5, 2018 at Meadowlawn Garden of Peace with Pastor Tremaine Snodgrass officiating.

Funeral service for MR. DAVID CARTWRIGHT (b. 1969) was Monday, February 5, at Fellowship of Faith Church with Pastor Troy Garner officiating.

Funeral service for MR. CHARLES E. TURNER will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 3, 2018 at Meridianville Primitive Baptist Church with Elder Maurice Childress officiating.

- Royal Funeral Home -

Memorial service for MR. WINSLOW MCDONALD FLOOD (b. 1930) will be Sunday, February 11, 2018, at the Royal Chapel of Memories.

Funeral service for MRS. MACHELLE D. MARTIN-TAYLOR (b. 1960) will be 12:00 p.m., Friday, February 9, at the Royal Chapel of Memories.

Funeral service for MR. JESSE HUTTON (b. 1940) was held Sunday, February 4, at the Draper Memorial Church of God in Christ (313 Beirne Avenue Huntsville, AL 35801) with Pastor Dave Draper officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. GLADYS COLE (b. 1933) was Saturday, February 3, at Mt. Moriah Primitive Baptist Church (820 W. Irvine Avenue Florence, AL 35630) with Pastor Leroy Sawyer officiating.

Oakwood University School of Nursing & Health Professions

Public Notice of Upcoming Accreditation Review Visit by the ACEN

Oakwood University Department of Nursing wishes to announce that it will host a site review for continuing accreditation of its baccalaureate nursing program and registered nurse to baccalaureate nursing program by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

You are invited to meet the site visit team and share your comments about the program in person at a meeting scheduled at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 14, 2018, at Cooper Science Complex Room 600 – Board Room, Oakwood University, Huntsville, Alabama 35896. Written comments are also welcome and should be submitted directly to: Dr. Marsal Stoll, Chief Executive Officer, Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, 3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850, Atlanta, GA 30326 - E-mail: mstoll@acenursing.org

All written comments should be received by the ACEN by February 8, 2018.

Called 2 Preach

by Pastor/Founder Michael D. Rice
Grace Gethsemane Mission Church

Are You Guilty of Identity Theft?

Identity theft is an unfortunate crime that has risen to a level that makes identity monitoring a much-needed service.

Advertisements show companies promising to guard personal information, such as driver license numbers, as well as social security numbers, that perpetrators use to open lines of credits, wipe out bank accounts and steal tax refunds.

These individuals are guilty of identity theft. However, this is not the kind of identity theft that I am speaking of.

The question raised refers to the times when we seek to be God in our own lives and in the lives of others. When Moses asked God for His ID card on the back side of the Midian desert, He told Moses that His name is I AM.

This is God's covenant

name that He chose to reveal to Moses as the Self-Existing God who is whatever we need Him to be. That is His Identity.

When we seek to be our own God; trying to control the events in our own lives or the lives of others, that's identity theft.

The Bible is replete with prohibitive injunctions and instructions against this practice. The writer of Proverbs says that we are not to lean to our own understanding, but in all our ways acknowledge God and He will direct our paths.

The New Testament writer James warns us against



saying tomorrow or next year we'll do this or that, but rather say, "If the Lord is willing." The only way to prevent being guilty of identity theft is to proclaim as the saints of old: "God, You're God all by Yourself"

Local Islamic Center to Show Film on Bullying

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Program Host is Ms. Constance Winston, a community activist. A poem by

87-year old author, Seifuddin Ali, called "Resist the Bully," will be read.

For information call Wali Beyah at 256-479-9441.



Have you or someone you know experienced the traumatic effects of bullying?

The 30-minute film, "Bullying: A Shameful Dilemma," will be discussed at a free Black History month program on Sunday, February 18, from 2-5 p.m. at the W. Deen Mohammed Islamic Study Center at 2518-D Winchester Road NW, in Huntsville, Ala.

Lauretta Ali-Abdullah will interview young people and adults about the life-long effects of their traumatic experiences with bullying. The film was directed by Roderick Scott.



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Sneed's Cleaners

Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at

Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

Kevin Durant as Role Model

Need Help Apologizing? Publicly? Follow NBA megastar Kevin Durant - His Jan. 23rd NBA Game Ejection "A Great Learning Experience" for us, too!

The January 2018 poster child for über-performance both on and off the court is 2017 NBA Finals MVP/9-time All-Star/Hall of Fame shoo-in Kevin Durant ... and a standout of recovering from "ego-holism*" or addiction to self.

On Tuesday, January 23, NBA referee James Williams ejected "KD" during the Warriors vs. NY Knicks game. Q: What made this his 11th technical foul this season "a great learning experience" for him, admittedly - and us?

For those of us admittedly recovering from self-addiction, Durant's humbling response "checked all the three boxes" for starting the TOP ego-holism recovering process, namely:

- Targeted the problem;
- Owned the problem; and
- Proceeded to correcting the problem, stating:

"I wish I had handled that better obviously but it was kind of a heat-of-the-moment for me. I could be better. It was a great learning experi-

ence for me though ... I wasn't getting picked on last night. I was being a diva last night. I've got to just own up to it. I watched it when I got home. I was wondering why he was coming at me so hard but then I watched the plays I was like, Yeah, I looked like a jerk out there. It was bad. Luckily we won and we can move past it and I kind of owned up to it. I'll be better next time."

Additionally, the Herald reported, "While Durant had yet to hear from the NBA on Wednesday, he said he is prepared for whatever fine he receives. He also plans to say sorry in person the next time he sees Williams and vowed to handle himself more respectfully next time." (Update: NBA fined Durant \$15,000.)

In a culture where high-profile celebs often not only shun responsibility for their actions and in-actions, but seek to fault-find others, Durant stands now even taller than his 6'9" frame. Why? Durant's upfront statements led another NBA standout to make a similar admission: his 2016 NBA Coach of the Year, Steve Kerr: "Kevin knows he should not have said what he said after the game," coach

Steve Kerr said. "But this has been such a big topic this year. It does seem like maybe there's a little bit more relationship stuff than there used to be. I don't know why, I don't know why that is. I know the best officials to me are the ones who will talk to me and I also know they deserve my respect. And I've snapped a couple times this year and said some things that I shouldn't have. So it's a matter of trying to maintain composure and dignity and you still have to be able to complain about a call and the ref needs to be able to accept that he's wrong sometimes."

"And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted" (Matt. 23:12, NKJV).

*Huntsville's tim allston is the author of the free downloadable book, 7 Steps to Manage Ego Problems: The How-to Guide for "Somebody Else," available now at www.GetEgo-HelpNow.org.



Chorale Performs in Baton Rouge

The Huntsville Spiritual Chorale performed at the 27th Annual Festival of Negro Spiritual in Baton Rouge, Saturday, Feb. 3, 2018 at The Church Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge, La.

The festival is hosted by Heritage and featured performances by several groups.

The Huntsville Spiritual Chorale, under the direction of Brenda and William Davis, was founded in 2001 with the performance and preservation of Negro Spirituals as the primary aim.

The performance



included: "Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit": (soloist, Frank Jones); "I Want Jesus to Walk With Me" (soloist, Robert Davis); "Ride On, Jesus" and "Rock-a My Soul" (soloists: Demetrius Davis and Kyla Pitcher).

The Chorale often performs the works of William L. Dawson, Moses Hogan, Roland Carter and others.



DLC Accepting Applications

Applications are being accepted for Cohort IX of the Diveristy Leadership Colloquium until February 27.

Classes will begin March 6 and end April 24, running 6-9 p.m. every Tuesday evening. Graduation will be held on May 1.

Applications are available online at www.diveristyleadershipcolloquium.com. Questions should be emailed to Mrs. Georgia Valrie at gvalrie1971@gmail.com or call (256) 656-4698.



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Success Always Leaves Footprints

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong became the first human to set foot on the moon. His footprints and a marker bearing the American flag became the hallmark of this great accomplishment. According to Booker T. Washington, a great African-American educator, author, orator and advisor to United States presidents, "Success always leaves footprints." The footprints serve as evidence of where you have been and the sacrifice made to achieve the act or outcome.

This epitaph also rings true with regard to footprints left by 11-year-old Denise McNair, one of four young black girls tragically murdered in the infamous bombing of the 16th Avenue Baptist

Church September 15, 1963 (Birmingham, Ala.). An innocent victim of a hate crime, Denise McNair's life was "snuffed out" by the actions of white supremacists who retaliated against African Americans for seeking civil liberties in the racially divided South.

The proof of her small footprints, a pair of Buster Brown black patent leather shoes, remain on display today in the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. These are the actual shoes pulled from the carnage. They are a constant reminder of a child's unchosen fate and a shameful depiction of our nation, which mandated enforcement of our Founding Fathers' promises -- "unalienable Rights" and "Life, Liberty and the pur-

suit of Happiness."

Although Denise's physical footprint was small, the civil and moral imprint she left was everlasting. The Birmingham bombing, recorded in history as "Bombingham," spread across the globe. This heinous act and other incidents of unrest reverberated to the nation's capital prompting the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which made discrimination against a person due to color, race or gender unlawful.

Today, more than half a century later, the Civil Rights Act continues to be one of the most revered acts of legislation ever placed into law. It reflects the greatest social change in America since slavery. The privileges sustained

through this legislation have woven a blanket of success and liberation for all Americans. It is manifest in the most significant aspects of American society namely education, industry and politics.

Simply visit the public school system, where approximately 72 million people annually matriculate in a great "melting pot" of higher learning. Over the last four decades, America has produced one of the most diversely educated societies in history. With over 100,000 public schools nationwide, all citizens are guaranteed admittance and equal privileges.

In corporate America, a growing cadre of females is leading Fortune 500 companies as Commanding

Executive Officers (CEOs). All of these women have broken traditional gender barriers by earning coveted CEO roles historically held by men. They are also present day beneficiaries of the Civil Rights Act, which prohibits gender discrimination in the workplace. In the political forum, both men and women of color have received appointments to the Supreme Court of the United States. Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, Clarence Thomas and Ruth Bader Ginsburg represent a level of diversity among Justices that is historically unsurpassed.

Like Neil Armstrong, Denise McNair's perpetual footprint is a great hallmark with a residual impact on our success today. It irrigat-

by Jacqueline Flakes Martin

ed and cleansed the nation, reaching down into the bowels of society to flush out prejudice, hate and bigotry. Evidence of her legacy is found in history books, world newspapers, documentaries and the legislation propelling the Civil Rights Act. However, the most compelling evidence now resides in a museum on display for all to see. It consists of Denise's Sunday shoes surrounded by her bible and purse, and a portion of the brick rubble from the bombing that claimed her life.

Her footprint forever marks our nation's success in the historical gains realized through the attainment of civil liberties and human rights.

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