

The Valley Weekly

*“What would we be without women?
Scarce, sir ... mighty scarce.”
- Mark Twain*

FREE

Volume 1, No. 26

Friday, March 6, 2015

Rosetta James Foundation “Honoring Our Elders” at Annual Gala

Six distinguished men and women will be honored at the Ninth Annual Rosetta James “Honoring Our Elders” Celebration scheduled Saturday, March 14, at The Jackson Center in Cummings Research Park, 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.

Comprising the 2015 honorees are: Mrs. Laura B. Clift, retired educator, Huntsville City Schools; Rev. James Lane, pastor, Taylor’s Chapel Primitive Baptist Church; First Lady Mary E. Lane, volunteer and family patriarch; Gen. (Ret.) James Link, distinguished U.S. Army veteran and former president/CEO of Teledyne Brown Engineering; Mrs. Judy Link, avid community volunteer for numerous non-profits; and Mother Pinkie High, church matriarch and senior citizen advocate.

To be considered 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,



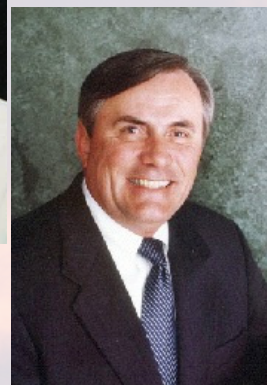
Mrs. Laura B. CLIFT



Rev. James LANE



Mother Mary E. LANE



Gen. (Ret.) James LINK



Mrs. Judy LINK



Mother Pinkie HIGH

civic and/or social organizations/agencies; and exhibit high moral and ethical standing.

The Rosetta James Foundation will also honor four additional individuals for significant career achievements. The recipients of the Foundation’s “Pioneer Award” will be announced at the festive event.

The Rosetta James Foundation will award scholarships to local current and prospective college students who are active volunteers. For tickets (\$50), call (256) 536-9717.

Celebrate Women in March

Women’s History Month had its origins as a national celebration in 1981 when Congress passed Pub. L. 97-28, which authorized and requested the President to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982, as “Women’s History Week.”

Throughout the next five years, Congress continued to pass joint resolutions designating a week in March as “Women’s History Week.”

In 1987, after being petitioned

by the National Women’s History Project, Congress passed Pub. L. 100-9, which designated the month of March 1987 as “Women’s History Month.”



Between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed additional resolutions requesting and authorizing

the President to proclaim March of each year as Women’s History Month.

Since 1995, Presidents Clinton, Bush and Obama have issued a series of annual proclamations designating the month of March as “Women’s History Month.” For more information, visit <http://womenshistorymonth.gov/about.html>

County Legislative Delegation Holds Open Forum



The Madison County legislative delegation held an open forum in the Huntsville City Council Chambers on Monday, February 23. This pre-session is typically held prior to the delegates return to Montgomery for the legislative session.

Members of the Johnson High School ROTC posted the colors to a capacity crowd, members of which made comments on various issues, including charter schools, common core, medical marijuana and home rule.

Citizens signed in to make three-minute statements.

The delegation consists of the members of the State Senate and House of Representatives elected to represent Madison County in Montgomery. The session began on Tuesday, March 3. Senator Bill Holtzclaw of Madison moderated the 7 p.m. session.

Concerned citizens can contact members of the delegation by calling (256) 539-5441.



Diversity Forum Announces Graduates of First Class

Cohort 1 of the Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium graduated on Tuesday, March 3, at The Jackson Center in Huntsville's Cummings Research Park. Community businesswoman and volunteer Sonja



Enfinger



Enfinger spoke to the graduates on the topic of "Networking."

Graduates were encouraged to use the information and networks they developed over the eight-week Colloquium to make an impactful and positive difference in the community.

Cohort 2 is scheduled to begin on April 7. Additional information can be found at the DLC website at www.diversityleadershipcolloquium.com

Trayvon's Mother Visits Oakwood



Sybrina Fulton, the mother of Trayvon Martin, was presented the Black History Month Achievement Award at Oakwood University Church on Saturday, February 28, for her work in the area of violence prevention.

Fulton urged the worshippers to be involved through non-profits and churches with the goals of "saving our children."

According to Fulton, citizens must ensure that America is a better country for everyone by doing something, because "we cannot afford to lose our children."

She indicated that she did not choose to do what she is doing but that her work is an assignment. Upon accepting the award, she thanked everyone for supporting the Trayvon Martin Foundation.

Special guests included the Aeolians, University Choir and Orchestra, along with the Central State University Choir of Wilberforce, Ohio.

Oakwood University Church is part of a worldwide organization with more than 15 million members in countries around the world. Dr. Carlton P. Byrd is currently the Senior Pastor.

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The Valley Weekly

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From the Editor



Celebrating Women this Month! One of my all time favorite songs is "No Charge" by Shirley Caesar. Over the years, I have used it as personal inspiration, for training purposes and for many women's events where I have been engaged. The lyrics are:

"My sister's little boy came in the kitchen one evening while she was fixing supper and he handed her a piece paper he had been writing on. And after wiping her hands on an apron, she took it in her hands and read it, and this is what it said:

*For mowing the yard five dollars and for making up my own bed this week one dollar
For going to the store fifty cents and playing with little brother while you went
shopping twenty five cents
Taking out the trash one dollar and for getting a good report card five dollars
And for raking the yard two dollars
Total owed: one fourteen seventy five.*

Well she looked at him standing there and expecting and a thousand memories flashed through her mind, so she picked up pen and turned the paper over and this is what she wrote:

*For the nine months I carried you holding you inside me no charge
For the nights I sat up with doctored you and prayed for you no charge
For the time and tears and the costs through the years; There is no charge
When you add it all up the full cost of my love is no charge.*

*For the nights filled with grey; And the worries ahead
For the advice and the knowledge; And the costs of your college; There is no charge
For the toys, school, and clothes; And for wiping your nose ... There's no charge son
When you add it all the full cost of my love is no charge.*

*Well you know when I think about that I think about the day that Jesus went out to Calvary and gave his life as a ransom for me. When I think on the words "if any man be in Christ he's a new creature," I like to think about the very minute that he shed his blood, my debt was paid in full.
And I want you to know today, when you add it all up, the full cost of real love is no charge."*

When you can't find a printed copy of The Valley Weekly around town, follow us on-line at www.valleyweeklyllc.com.

As believers, we celebrate Christ, our mothers, grandmothers, aunts, wives, sisters, nieces, daughters, and women who care for and about us. This month, let's pause and take time to say "thank you" to the women in our lives. My mother inspired me, taught me courage and loved me, without charge. Ah, women ...! Until next week,

Dorothy



Valley Becomes Winter Wonderland

The Tennessee Valley experienced a “winter wonderland” on Wednesday, February 25. All of the local schools were closed for two days along with the local,

state and federal government offices in the area, and most businesses and industries.

The National Weather Service (NWS) in Huntsville issued the

winter storm watch for North Alabama on February 24. Yet, many local citizens were leery about the advisory because the snow did not begin to fall until late afternoon on Wednesday.

According to NWS, some local areas reported as much as 8 to 12 inches of snow.



Well Water: Not My Real Name

The Psychological Effects of Racism on African-American Children. The Need to Understand Change

Danny E. Blanchard

Racial identity, or the significance and meaning that individuals attribute to race, is recognized as a key factor in how African Americans cope with racism experiences. Unfortunately, however, the few studies that have examined African Americans' responses to racist events have failed to account for differences across situations that African Americans experience, making it difficult to ascertain whether differences in coping are due to person variables, the situation, or both. In my book, I adopted a stress and coping approach to examine the relations among racial identity, racism-related stress appraisal, and coping with lifetime racism experiences.

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Youth Development Association Fills Void in Services

In the midst of a society that emphasizes specialization and short cuts, where you can tweet, post, poke, tag, pin, blog, update and digg is the Youth Development Association, Inc., an organization that slows down and takes the time to develop its young participants.

YDA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that promotes the advancement of young people, with a focus on growth opportunities. YDA fosters quality edu-

cation through intervention, such as employment skills training, intervention reading and math and science tutoring. Additional components of the program include diversity awareness, the opportunity to engage in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) modules developed by UA Huntsville Minority Graduate Student Association and the National Society of Black Engineers. The participants are also exposed to

the arts and life skill development components of community and citizenship responsibility, and they receive information on obesity and fitness through tennis and golf.

Although open to all, YDA programs are especially aimed toward underserved youth and communities in Huntsville and Madison County, with an emphasis on the Title One schools. The YDA initiative aims to reduce dropout rates and to increase college attendance. Program participation has been linked to reductions in discipline problems in homes, schools and society.

Touching the lives of youth and young people is the goal of YDA, and it is shown through the training and hiring of underserved students, including those

majoring in education from Alabama A&M University, Oakwood University and University of Alabama in Huntsville.

YDA is North Alabama's only National Junior Tennis and Learning (NJTL) Chapter of the U.S. Tennis Association. Together with the USTA and the White House initiative led by Michelle Obama, YDA is the local chapter of "Let's Move."

Proudly, YDA has impacted area tennis teams. Since 1991, over 300 YDA students have



completed or are currently in universities around the country, and the fiftieth tennis student received a scholarship to UAH. YDA programs are available in North Alabama and Southern Tennessee.

For information about sponsoring a participant, mentoring or volunteering, contact Rev. Al Garrett at (256) 603-0807 or e-mail y.d.a@knology.net, locate them on Facebook, or visit the website at tennispro3.wix.com/ydasite.



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- T.D. Jakes

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Taxable or Nontaxable?

All income is taxable unless the law excludes it. Here are some basic rules that will help you file an accurate tax return.

Taxed income. Taxable income includes money you earn, such as wages and tips. It also includes bartering, an exchange of property or services. The fair market value of property or services is taxable.

Some types of income are not taxable except under certain conditions, including:

- *Life insurance* - Proceeds paid to you because of the death of the insured person are usually not taxable. However, if you redeem a life insurance policy for cash, any amount that you get that is more than the cost of the policy is taxable.

- *Qualified scholarship.* In most cases, income from this type of scholarship is not taxable. This means that amounts you use for certain costs, such as tuition and

required books, are not taxable. On the other hand, amounts you use for room and board are taxable.

- *State income tax refund.* If you got a state or local income tax refund, the amount may be taxable. You should have received a 2014 Form 1099-G from the agency that made the payment to you. If you didn't get it by mail, the agency may have provided the form electronically. Contact them to find out how to get the form. Report any taxable refund you got, even if you did not receive Form 1099-G.

Here are some types of income that are usually not taxable.

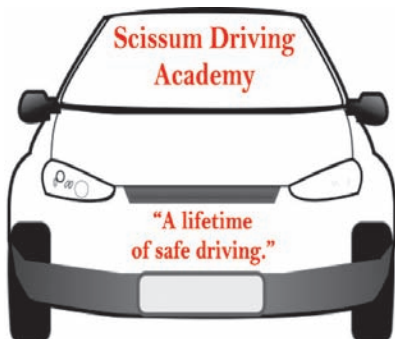
- Gifts and inheritances
- Child support payments
- Welfare benefits
- Damage awards for physical injury or sickness
- Cash rebates from a dealer or manufacturer for an item you buy
- Reimbursements for qualified adoption expenses (For more information, see Publication 525)

Submitted by
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Advocacy ... When It Comes to Mental Health

There are many things I have learned from my daughter, who lives with Bi-Polar Disorder. But the most important thing I've learned is that we need to become the best advocate for them we can be. It can make the difference between life and death.

They need that one safe place they know is constant and dependable that they can go to when their world begins to "tilt". They need understanding. That requires learning about their illness; connecting with support groups and taking full advantage of NAMI and what they have to offer to equip us to better serve their needs.

I encourage parents to take the course offered by NAMI called "Family to Family," and it is FREE. It is awesome. You will be empowered with knowledge. Many people suffer unnecessarily because family members are totally ignorant and live in denial of what the problem is and how to live and cope with it. That only adds to the overall problem. When my daughter had her last break (#4) if I hadn't taken the power back she would not be in the state of mind she is in today. All praises go to God, first and foremost, for the healing and favor He has granted her, but I learned what it is to be an

Advocate. I had to fight back those negative forces around her. I had to become her shield and protection. And we can't leave everything to God; we have to engage ourselves inside of their world and not try to make them adapt to our world. So I encourage you to "advocate" for your loved one like never before. This is the greatest gift you can give them for this is LOVE in action.

by Bonnie Spencer/
Aka "Chirping Bird"
Nanticoke Tribe/Millsboro,
Delaware

Ladies of UCMBC Sponsor Birthday Luncheon

The setting was The Ledges Country Club on Saturday, February 28, at high noon. A group of 15 ladies from Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church sponsored a luncheon in honor of First Lady Dora Davis' birthday.

Each sponsor invited another lady to attend for a total of 30 ladies. This has become an annual event honoring the First Lady.



Ivory W. Reedus, LUTCF

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Naturally 7 Healdines 2015 UNCF Gala



Globally-acclaimed vocal group Naturally 7 will be the special guest performers at the 37th Annual UNCF (United Negro College Fund) Gala on Thursday, April 2, at 6:30 p.m. in the Von Braun Center North Hall.

The event will feature a special presentation by Rey Almodovar, chair of the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce and CEO of Intuitive Research and Technology Corporation. "We thank the community

for continuing to partner with us," said Cheri Wilson, director of development at Oakwood University, North Alabama's only UNCF member institution.

In it's ongoing celebration of diversity, this year's Gala will feature a Latin theme. Oakwood has more than 80 students of Hispanic descent currently enrolled. Most are U.S. residents, but others are from Cuba, the U.S. Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Bermuda and Gambia.

For more information about the Gala, sponsorship or to purchase tickets, visit www.ougiving.com or contact Cheri Wilson at (256) 726-7584 or e-mail uncf@oakwood.edu.

Calendar at a Glance

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.

AAMU Wind Ensemble
Carlton J. Wright, Director
Fellowship of Faith Christian Church
3703 North Memorial Parkway
Huntsville, Ala., 6 p.m.
FREE

12
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- Maya Angelou

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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.

Location: 415-A Church Street - Downtown Huntsville
Enrollment limited to: 16 - **Tuition:** \$795

2015 Schedule

Spring April 7 – May 26 - Deadline to register (March 7, 2015)

Summer July 7 – August 25 - Deadline to register (June 7, 2015)

Fall Oct 6 – Nov 24 - Deadline to register (September 6, 2015)

To Apply

- Application Form
- 3 References
- Resume
- Photo

DLC Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium APPLICATION FORM

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

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 _____

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