

The Valley Weekly

Volume 1, No. 32

Friday, April 17, 2015

FREE

*"I speak for myself, for I am free."
- Wild Cat (Seminole)*

Phillips CME Male Chorus Holds Anniversary

Phillips Christian Methodist Episcopal Church Male Chorus hosted its 23rd Anniversary on April 12, 2015. The theme was "Come Let Us Worship Through Scripture and Song."

The theme scripture was Psalm 122:1: "Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell in unity." Bro. Vincent Varner served as Master of Ceremony during this celebration, which was presented in memory of the Founding

Director, the late Mr. Kenneth E. Smoot, Sr.

Bro. DeShazeio Merriweather and Bro. Wayne McDonald are serving as interim directors since the passing of Bro. Smoot on February 14, 2015.

Dr. David Peterson is the pianist, supported by alternate pianist Dr. Henriene Smoot. Sis. Winifred Rivers (Retired) is organist and Dr. Horace Rice is the percussionist. Rev. Keith E. Ellison is Pastor of the church, which is located at



200 Davis Circle.

In addition to the Phillips CME Male Chorus, music was rendered by Bro. Charles Briggins of

First Missionary Baptist Church, Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church Male Chorus and Mr. Scott Taylor.

Program Will Focus on Spiritual Care of the Aging

"The Spiritual Care of the Aging and Their Care Givers" will be held on Tuesday, May 5, as part of the Huntsville Association for Pastoral Care School of Applied Ministry class, 6-9 p.m. (supper and registration at 5:30).

The activity will be held in the Community Room of First Baptist Church, 600 Governors Drive.

Among the presenters will be Dr. Edith Fraser, Retired Professor of

Social Work, Alabama A&M University and currently adjunct professor of social work for Oakwood University; and the Rev. Traci Loveman, chaplain, Amedysis Hospice.

CEU's will be available for nurses and social workers at a cost of \$35 (except for sponsoring churches). To register or for more information, contact malmcarl@hotmail.com or (256) 883-6539.

Valley Hosts Confucius Institute Grand Opening

The festive grand opening celebration of the Confucius Institute at 140-year-old Alabama A&M University was scheduled for Thursday, April 16, at the Von Braun Center North Hall at 6 p.m. Organizers planned for hundreds of people, who were able to register for free at AAMU's website. AAMU and Nanjing Forestry University of China teamed to host the activity.

Dr. Lloyd Walker, AAMU dean of the College of Agricultural, Life and Natural Sciences, told prospective attendees to expect

a large opening show with a great deal of Chinese pageantry and artistry, entertainment and performances from China and the U.S. In the last days leading up to the Grand Opening, Walker predicted even more assistance from Chinese officials to fine tune and stage the celebration, working in tune with nearly a dozen campus committees.

The Confucius Institute-Alabama A&M University Confucius Institute (CIAAMU) is the result of six years of coordination between AAMU and its

Chinese partner institution, Nanjing Forestry University, evolving from a program that provided for meaningful student/faculty exchange research opportunities.

Confucius Institutes collectively promote and teach Chinese culture and language around the world. They develop Chinese language courses, train teachers for teaching Chinese, and provide

information about contemporary China. On the economic front, CIS facilitate business operations between USA and China.

Today, the Chinese economy represents the second largest in the world; second only to the United States.

There is also a significant Chinese investment in the United States. Currently the Chinese investment in the U.S.

exceeds \$43 billion. Right here in Alabama, the investment exceeds \$301 million. With the opening of the Golden Dragon Copper Tubing Plant in Wilcox County, and the 3D Printer Factory in Dothan, Alabama, Bloomberg calls Alabama "the new hub of Chinese manufacturing."

As AAMU continues to prepare its students for the globally competitive world of the 21st Century, the Confucius Institute at AAMU will provide a platform for addressing the strategic goal of internationalizing the curricula

to be responsive to current and emerging needs. There is a high probability that some graduates from AAMU will take positions with one of the U.S. companies in China, and the University wants to be sure that they are prepared.

CIAAMU currently offers courses such as Introductory Chinese, Chinese Writing, and History and Culture of China to students and greater Huntsville. It is planning for more cultural, educational, and business related exchange programs in the near future.





Panoply is the Southeast's premier arts weekend, where Huntsville's innovative spark shines through a festival of art, music and more.

The 33rd Panoply Arts Festival will be held April 24-26. More than 65 Arts Council members and local performers will entertain across five performance areas in the park, joined by two major visiting artists (The Indigo Girls and The Secret Sisters) who embody both the well-loved and new sounds of Southern music.

As a non-profit organization, The Arts Council relies on corporate sponsorships, foundation support, grants, individual donations and in-kind gifts to sustain its broad-based programs and community services.

Please consider the following donor opportunities or call The Arts Council at (256) 519-2787 to learn more about how your gift can make a difference.

For individual stage schedules, visit www.artshuntsville.org.

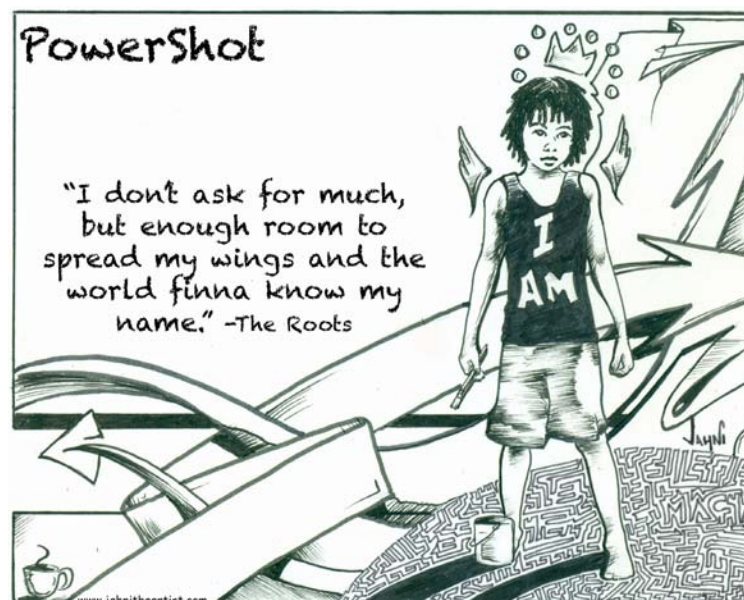
Kidney Foundation Walk April 25

Alabama Kidney Foundation North Alabama Kidney Walk will be held April 25, 6-11:30 a.m. at Westminster Christian Academy. The pre-event setup is April 24 at 3:30 p.m.

The annual Kidney Walk is the premier fundraising event of the Alabama Kidney Foundation. Some 30 volunteers are needed

for setting up, walk day registration, overseeing the children's area, food & beverage, door prizes, and team pictures. Volunteers are also needed for clean-up after the event.

This volunteer opportunity is sponsored by Alabama Kidney Foundation.



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Items for consideration for publication in The Valley Weekly should be submitted at least TWO weeks in advance to above address or by e-mail to info@valley-weeklyllc.com. Items do not necessarily reflect the views of the Valley Weekly, LLC.

The Valley Weekly

Ad Rates Single Issue

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From the Editor



Houston Person Jazz Performance:

From the top: Diane Reynolds and Laura Clift; Pat and Bob Wilson; and Carolyn Parker and Dr. Uthman Abdur-Rahman.

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

Ever since I was a child, I desired to go places and do things! For example, I knew by middle school that I wanted to go to college. By high school, college was my only way out of the small town where I grew up for fear that I might be stuck there as an adult. I saw generations of it, where the grandparents lived in a section of the family's 'home house,' where the married children and the grandchildren planted their families in various homes within the family's front, side or back yards. This was not only prevalent but many times expected. This trend still exists in some families today. For me, one of the sure ways to have options was college. I am still committed to the notion that "college" is one of the best options, along with military service, to go places.

While in college, I met people from places about which I could only read or see on TV or at the theatre. The longer I stayed in college, the more diverse people I came to know. Diversity allows us to embrace and appreciate differences. Most of the people who were in my 'familiar circle' during my eight years of college through the Ph.D., were there because they wanted to either go places or do things. Today, we are able to connect in many ways. I believe this explains my commitment today to 'college' when it comes to prioritizing my time and efforts.

Last month, we gave 15 high school and college students \$1,000 scholarships to assist them with college. As a small family foundation, The Rosetta James Foundation, is committed to providing diverse students with scholarship support to go diverse places. We have had many applications and would have liked to support each applicant who is committed to going to college and places that will contribute to productive citizenship in the future. With everything going on around us today, one has to wonder if we could ever get young people to focus on going places and doing productive things, what a different world it would be. From my childhood, I wanted to exceed expectations, compete successfully in the contests, write for the student newspaper, work on the editorial staff of the yearbook, join the clubs and honor societies, go to the proms, footballs and basketball games, join a sorority, attend the concerts, go to the movies and theme parks, hang-out with like-minded peers and the like. I did some of it and some of it had to wait. Today, I am still pursuing some of it--more akin now to ticking off that bucket list.

On Saturday evening, we had the great pleasure of going out to The Cooper House to support the Tennessee Valley Jazz Society, a wonderful organization that promotes jazz in the Valley. Jazz saxophonist Houston Person was in concert. I cannot sing or play a musical instrument; however, the appreciation for different genres of music, the arts and theatre connects us in an unusual way. So, who said "there is not a local market for jazz" in Huntsville? You should have been at The Cooper House last Saturday. It's always good to see so many great Huntsvillians. Ah, what a diverse audience, what a crowd, what great music! Let's go places.

Until next week ...

Dorothy

BBB Spring Cleaning

Spring Shred Day in Huntsville

The Better Business Bureau is hosting a Shred Day in Huntsville on Saturday, April 18, from 8:30 a.m. until 12 p.m. at Redstone Federal Credit Union, located at 220 Wynn Drive, Northwest.

The Bureau will be accepting unneeded and outdated personal documents, old hard drives and electronics. Take advantage of free document shredding, hard drive destruction and electronics recycling. Please note that there is a limit of three bags or boxes of documents per person and that cardboard and three-ring binders cannot be accepted.

BBB staff and representatives from partnering organizations will be available to answer your questions about preventing identity theft and to provide resources from victims. Just show up with your old or unwanted items, and they will do the hard part for you!

The parking lot will be set up in order to provide drive-thru style services. Secure Destruction Services, Document Destruction Services, Tech Stars, Inc., and Partnership for a Drug-Free Community will



be set up so that each of their services can be conducted immediately.

Just hand your items through the window or pop your trunk, and they will grab your items and destroy or recycle them securely-- no need to even get out of your car!

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Day of Caring and Sharing

Union Chapel M.B. Church members will be giving new and gently used items to the community on Saturday, April 18, from 7-11 a.m. This will be a Yard-Free Day. Items will be located on the front lawn of the Church under a tent. Tables will be set up to organize adult and children clothes, shoes, accessories, toys, books, household items, furniture and other items that are no longer of use to our families. All items will be free to the general public. Items will be accepted as early as 7 a.m. For more info, call (256) 852-1150.



Union Chapel to Host Friends and Family Day

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church is hosting a Friends and Family Day on Sunday, April 19, 2015.

The community is invited to celebrate Friends and Family Day during both the 7:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. worship services.

Organizers are calling it a wonderful opportunity to invite friends and family members who have been away from church for a while or who do not have a church home. Everyone is welcome.

Acurian Health Cholesterol Study

Acurian Health is conducting local high cholesterol research studies. The deadline for those individuals desiring to participate is April 24, 2015.

People who qualify to participate in one of these studies may receive compensation up to \$1,000, in addition to no-cost study medication and study-related care from local doctors and specialists.

To inquire about this research, please call (855) 897-5423. The

website is: <http://www.highcholesterolstudies.com>.



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April's Donate Life Month: Are You an Organ Donor?

135 days. That is how long 31-year-old Ashley Foster has been waiting for a stomach, pancreas, and small intestine. Ashley is waiting for her second multi-organ transplant at the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio. She received her first transplant in 2008, and she continues to get sicker as she waits. Last year, I met Ashley in Cleveland, where I was recovering from a small intestine transplant.

I received a small bowel transplant on June 18, 2014, from a deceased 8-year-old girl. Before my transplant, I was completely dependent on IV nutrition to survive, and I could not eat solid food for almost three years. Only because of the gift of life I was given, I am now able to eat and sustain for myself without tubes or IVs, something I have never done before in my life! The selfless act of my donor is something I will cherish for a lifetime. I consider my donor a hero.

I was very fortunate to get the "donor call" within 15 days of being put on the waiting list. Others like Ashley are not as fortunate. I know children and adults who have waited five years or more for all types of organs.

A little boy waited five and a half years and got the "donor call" on his sixth birthday last October. A young woman in her 30s is waiting for her third multi-organ transplant. She has been waiting for over seven months. The stories are endless. But these agonizing wait times can change if the United States had more registered organ donors. The need for organs is much higher than the number of donor organs in throughout the country.

According to the American



Transplant Foundation, currently there are more than 123,000 people in the U.S. on the waiting list for an organ transplant. However, because of the scarcity of donor organs, on average 21 people die every day waiting for a life-saving organ transplant.

Whereas, one deceased organ

donor can save up to eight lives through organ donation and can save more than 100 lives through tissue donation. You have the power to change these grim statistics!

Go to www.organdonor.gov and register with your state as an organ, eye, and tissue donor. All ages, races, and genders can register. But don't end there. Inform your family and close friends of your decision.

Family members make the decision for an individual if he or

she did not register as an organ donor at the time of death. Having such an intimate conversation with your loved ones is an expression of your respect and love for them. It is truly an unselfish act with a lasting legacy.

Finally, share and promote organ donation with friends and family. Your decision could save a life ... or several!

- Swapna Kakani

Caption: Ashley and Kakani (r) after pedicures and manicures to celebrate Donate Life Month.

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Calendar at a Glance

Thru April 17
3rd Interdenominational Spring
Revival
Sponsors: Huntsville Alumni Chap-
ter of Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc.
St. Bartley P.B. Church
3020 Belafonte Avenue
7 p.m.

April 17-19
Spring Plant Sale
(Open to the Public)
Grisham Pavilion
Huntsville Botanical Garden

April 24
AAMU Annual Black Tie
Scholarship Gala
Von Braun Center North Hall
6 p.m. (256) 372-8344

April 25-May 3
WJAB-FM 90.9 Jazz-A-Thon
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Huntsville Botanical Garden
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242
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

May 3-July 26
"Huntsville Women Artists"
Huntsville Museum of Art

June 22-28
Jazz-N-June Festival

September 3-6
GWRRA Rocket City Road Trip
WING DING 37

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MATRIMONY! Candice Anderson, the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Chris Mullins of Harvest and Mr. Tim Hamilton of Russellville; and Eric, the son of Ms. Mary Dailey and Dr. Theodis Acklin of Huntsville, were married recently during a ceremony at Annabella of Cedar Glen in Huntsville with Pastor Travis Acklin, brother of the groom, officiating the ceremony. The bride is a 2014 graduate of the University of Alabama Huntsville with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. She is employed as a Registered Nurse at Huntsville Hospital. The groom is set to graduate from the University of Alabama Huntsville on May 3, 2015. He will receive a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. After the couple's honeymoon to Destin, Florida, they will reside in Madison, Alabama.

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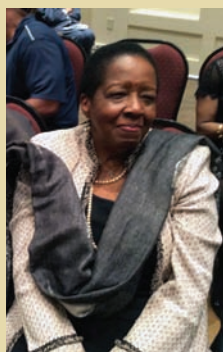
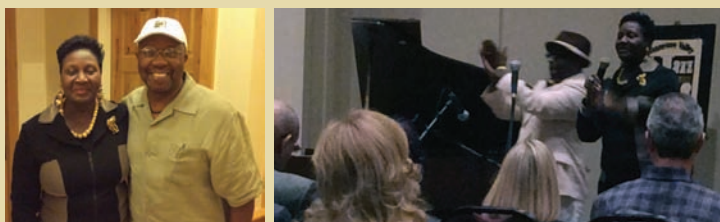
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Jazz Set with the Great Houston Person



JUST CHILLING: Jazz saxophonist Houston Person (seated, right) and group are joined by Tennessee Valley Jazz Society's Howard Bankhead (standing, right) at the legends April 11 performance at the Cooper House in Huntsville, Ala. Below, WJAB-FM's Elizabeth Sloan-Ragland poses with Bankhead, greets audience; Cynthia Adams and friends; State Representative Laura Hall; Marshall England, Sloan-Ragland, Jerome Saintjones; and diverse audience of 200.



"Helping Hands" of FMBC Help Homeless

Currently, there are several homeless men, women and children in Huntsville who are sleeping on the ground. Operation Green Team and First Stop challenged the Huntsville community to assist these individuals by making sleeping mats from plastic bags.

First Missionary Baptist

Church (FMBC) Helping Hands Ministry, under the leadership of Pastor Julius R. Scruggs, accepted the challenge. The FMBC membership brought plastic bags, which were transformed into sleeping mats, pillows and tote bags. Eight sleeping mats, two pillows and four tote bags were presented to The Operation

Green Team and First Stop for the homeless.

Each tote bag was filled with snacks, water and religious reading material. The FMBC's Helping Hand Ministry will continue to assist the homeless throughout the year with this project.

- Shirley B. Clemons

NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE 2015 *Women Advancing The Kingdom*

APRIL 17th – 19th, 2015

7:00 PM FRIDAY

9:00 AM SATURDAY

10:30 AM SUNDAY

Co-Pastor Jennifer Davis
Conference Host

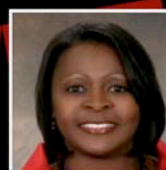
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Mission:

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

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

Tuition Payable Upon Acceptance

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

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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

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; or e-mail info@diversityleadershipcolloquium.com. Tuition and photo will be required only if accepted to participate.