

# The Valley Weekly

*"If you want peace, you don't talk to your friends.  
You talk to your enemies"*

- Archbishop Desmond Tutu

**FREE**

Volume 2, No. 48

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

Friday, August 12, 2016

## Huntsville Aims to Lure PWR

The Parliament is the oldest, largest, and most inclusive interfaith gathering in the world. It attracts 10,000 attendees from 80 countries and 50 faith traditions for several days of plenaries, workshops, dialogues, sacred music, films and more. Since the first Parliament in 1893, this historic event has taken place in Chicago, Cape Town, Barcelona, Melbourne, Monterrey and Salt Lake City.

A group of Huntsvillians is working to place the Rocket City's hat in the ring to host the conference.

The project has strong initial momentum, notes the Interfaith Mission



Service. Unity Church on the Mountain has stepped forward as the first congregation to write a letter to IMS in support; they have identified a volunteer representative; and they have donated financially.

A core team of volunteers has established a working relationship with the Huntsville Convention and Visitors Bureau

(CVB) and the Von Braun Center, both of which are ready and eager to support the Parliament. They have raised the \$2,500 needed to submit a first draft hosting proposal. And they have been in communication with PWR leadership, which has offered encouragement and support.

IMS and willing member congregations will be asked to participate in seeking sponsorships and partnerships and in raising working capital to demonstrate local engagement and commitment to the initiative.

## Broken: The Spiritual Care of the Divorced

The next HAPC-sponsored School of Applied Ministry class will be "Broken: The Spiritual Care of the Divorced," Tuesday, September 13, 6-8:30 p.m. (supper and registration at 5:30), Community Room, First Baptist Church, 600 Governors Drive (Entrance 7). Presenters: Rev. Brad Hall, associate chaplain, Huntsville Hospital; Rev. Jim Norris, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Pastoral Counselor, The Vine Pastoral Counseling Center and Kathy Sieja, Licensed Professional Counselor (Retired). CEUs will be available for nurses and social workers. Cost: \$35 (includes supper). No charge for those from sponsoring churches. For more information or to pre-register: [malmcarl@hotmail.com](mailto:malmcarl@hotmail.com) or (256) 883-6539.

## Yelp Places Huntsville in Top 10 for Customer Service

The popular mobile app Yelp recently announced its first annual Bizzie Awards, placing Huntsville in the Top 10 among cities for customer service.

The inaugural Bizzie Awards celebrate the most customer-friendly small businesses and communities in America. The Bizzie Awards recognize and celebrate 25 businesses who go above and beyond to serve their customers on Yelp. And their ratings show they're winning over customers offline as well!

To determine Bizzie Award winners, Yelp looked at businesses of all types and measured them based on their proactive approach to customer

engagement online with Yelp, including sharing information with customers about their business history, specialties and service offerings.

However, Yelp also examined its own "trove of data" to spotlight the cities with the highest concentration of businesses that meet the same criteria in providing outstanding customer service. These are the top 10 cities in the US where, according to Yelp, local businesses go above and beyond to serve their customers online and off.

1. Sandy Springs, Ga.
2. Fargo, N.D.
3. Scottsdale, Ariz.
4. Overland Park, Kans.

5. Centennial, Colo.
6. Naperville, Ill.
7. Irvine, Calif.
8. Stamford, Conn.
9. Broken Arrow, Okla.
10. Huntsville, Ala.

Yelp aims to connect people with great local businesses, and these awards demonstrate that those connections can contribute to the success of a small business, as well as the local community where they operate.

The Bizzie Awards will be an annual program to celebrate businesses that use Yelp to maximize their service offering for--and connection to--customers, online and off.

## Incoming CG of SMDC Dies at Arsenal

Maj. Gen. John Rossi's recent death at Redstone Arsenal sent shock waves of grief west to Fort Bliss and El Paso, where he had strong ties, according to the El Paso (Tex.) Times.

Redstone Arsenal officials released the name of the 55-year-old, of Long Island, N.Y., who was slated as the incoming commander of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

Rossi previously served as the commanding general of the U.S. Army Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill, Okla. Prior to that assignment, he served as the director of the Army Quadrennial Defense Review Office in the Pentagon.

For more information, contact the USASMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs Office during duty hours at (256) 955-2171 or after duty hours at (256) 698-8246.



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St. Luke Christian Church  
Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)  
Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

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## Your Washington Recap

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

1. The House and Senate are in recess until September 6.

2. On Saturday, President and Mrs. Obama left D.C. for a two-week vacation on Martha's Vineyard through Sunday, August 21.

3. Tuesday, August 9 was the Wisconsin primary pitting House Speaker Paul Ryan up against GOP businessman Paul Nehlen. Nehlen, who has been endorsed by folks like Ann Coulter and Sarah Palin, is expected to lose the primary.

4. 2016 Presidential Watch. Donald Trump was in Michigan Monday to deliver a major policy speech at a luncheon at the Detroit Economic Club. Hillary Clinton addressed the same group on Thursday.

According to a new Washington Post/ABC poll released yesterday, Clinton leads Trump nationally 50% to 42%. Trump and Clinton are tied at 60% among respondents who answered "no" to "are they honest and trustworthy?" However, Clinton leads Trump 71% to 35% on who better understands world affairs.

It has been reported this morning that CIA veteran and former House

staffer Evan McMullin will announce an independent presidential bid as an alternative Republican nominee to Donald Trump. The 40 year-old McMullin has never held elective office.

5. The U.S. Department of Education's Inspector General on Friday again weighed in on the thorny regulatory issues that surround how federal funding flows to competency-based education programs. At issue is whether competency-based programs offered outside of a campus setting should be classified as "distance education" or "correspondence education." The distinction, which is based on the level of faculty involvement, has important implications for how much federal student aid students in such programs are eligible to receive. The Obama administration and Democrats and Republicans on Capitol Hill have all said it shows promise for improving college access and affordability. But Friday's audit is the latest in a string of reports from the Inspector General that scrutinize how federal rules are applied to the program.

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## Spiritual Fitness for the Care Giver

"Spiritual Fitness for the Care Giver" will be presented by Dr. Dale Fletcher of The Faith and Health Connection ([www.faithandhealthconnection.org](http://www.faithandhealthconnection.org)).

The presentation will be held August 20 at 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of First Baptist Church, 600 Governors Drive (Entrance 6). Cost: \$35 (includes continental

breakfast and lunch)

CEUs are available for nurses and social workers at no extra charge. Sponsored by Health Ministries of First Baptist Church, the Huntsville Association for Pastoral Care, and the Congregational Health Program, Center for Faith and Health, College of Health Sciences of Samford University.

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## City Council Meetings



Huntsville City Council Meetings City Council regular meetings are held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

City Council work sessions also held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

For more information, call (256) 427-5011.



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## From the Editor



Ahh ... I *Know* You Thought We Forgot You!

First Lady Mable McCall, Dr. John Wesley Hall, Sr., and Sister Geraldine Williams. All lives are precious. When I was young, from time to time, we would have a husband and wife who did not have children of their own. That was unusual in the 50s, 60s and 70s for farm families. We had lots of siblings to help take care of the chores associated with farming. The more the merrier!

In the past several weeks, we have lost some very precious people in this community. Beyond the three that we write about today, there are many, many others who have passed away. I knew these three and would like to share them with you this week.

Lady Mable McCall was the former First Lady of historic St. John AME Church. I knew her best as the wife of former AAMU Chaplain, Dr. Homer McCall. He was my Chaplain when I returned at AAMU as an employee. Dr. Henry Bradford was my Chaplain when I was a student. Both represent great men of God.

The McCalls planted deep, fertile seeds in Huntsville. They raised their children here and eventually retired here. After retirement, they moved to Maryland to be near their adult children. In my opinion, a real testament to children's love for their parents is when they want those parents to be near them, so that the children can take care of them as they become elders. Mable was the friendly, supportive wife--always there to be Dr. McCall's helpmate. We will miss her loving spirit and kind heart--our Delta Friend. Blessings to Dr. McCall and his family.

Dr. John Hall was a quiet storm. Basically, I knew him via his wife, State Representative Laura Hall. When I read his biography on the funeral program, I went "Wow." I knew we have The Ohio State University "thing" in common; however, I learned so much about him that I did not know. My interaction with him had always been courteous and professional. He was friendly, well-spoken and an Alpha Man. The depth of his impact and service will be remembered for years to come. Blessings to Rep. Hall and her family.

Sister Geraldine Downing Williams was my sister, friend and neighbor. Her youngest daughters, Heather and Erin, grew up with my children, and our families had many "touch-points." I received a text from a former co-worker that she was 'sorry to hear about the passing of my sister.' Geraldine and I were not birth sisters; however, we have shared each other's joys and sorrows, to the extent that sometimes our families were considered as related. I am often asked, "Are you from Brundridge, too?" A compliment indeed because the people I know from Brundridge are loving, smart and beautiful. She was a servant, warrior, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend. And, she was an Alpha Kappa Alpha woman.

Bill had back surgery at Huntsville Hospital on the day she passed away. I saw her children huddled at the Hospital that evening. All I could say was, "You all know that you are loved deeply." They are a loving family. It's just like Geraldine to insure that we have a future 'touch-point.' Fate would have it that she was a perfect match with her brother Chris who needed a kidney. Thanks for the good Lord, wonderful medical staff at Vanderbilt University Hospital, he has her kidney and was able to attend her Homegoing Service. Last week's International Sunday School lesson was titled "Safe in God's Love" from Romans 8:28-39. What a perfect testimony of the faithful. Blessings to the entire Williams and Downing Families. We will not forget you. And, we are indeed--SAFE!

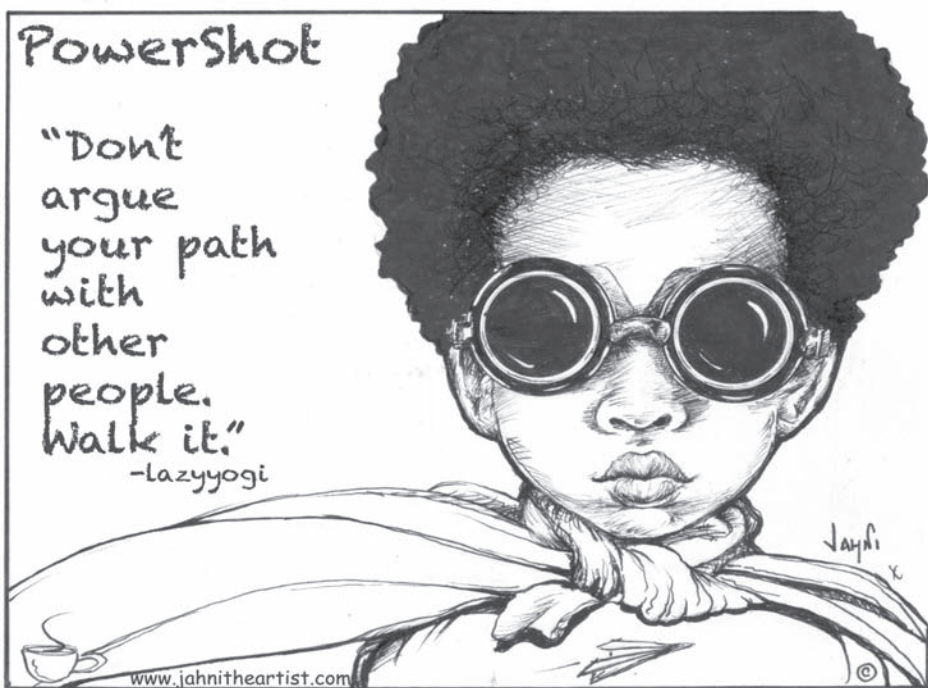
Until next week ...

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

*Dorothy*

## PowerShot

"Don't  
argue  
your path  
with  
other  
people.  
Walk it."  
-lazyyogi



## Physician Honored by UASOM

Dr. Dana Todd, a physician from Greensboro, Ala., received the University of Alabama School of Medicine (UASOM) Young Alumni Award.

Since she was an 11th grader in the University of Alabama's Rural Health Scholars Program, she has known that she would go back to complete

her medical degree and return to the Black Belt.

Todd was also a Rural Minority Health Scholar at the University of Alabama for three summers while attending Alabama A&M University as a biology major. Todd completed family medicine residency in Tuscaloosa and was highlighted in a



Washington Post article about young physicians from Alabama's Black Belt.

*"Life is to be lived,  
not controlled,  
and humanity is  
won by continuing  
to play in face of  
certain defeat."*

~ Ralph Ellison

## OU Chief Elected Regional VP

Oakwood University Police Department Chief Melvin Harris recently participated in the Historically Black Colleges and Universities - Law Enforcement and Executives and Administrators (HBCU-LEEA) annual national training conference in Daytona Beach, Fla., and

was elected as one of six regional vice presidents for the organization. At the conference, continuing education courses were provided that included training on important regulations and issues such as, Title IX, the Cleary Act, student mental health, violence, and sexual assault.

The HBCU-LEEA conference was especially significant in light of the recent unrest and violence in the U.S.

As a result of attending the conference, Chief Harris and a student leader (to be selected) have been chosen to participate in a future conference.

## Champion Game Plan for Life

Once we enter a relationship with God, it causes us to constantly change for the better. Sometimes we may not like the changes in our lives, but it is always for our good. You see, God will do something *to* you before He can do something *through* you. So if we are not prepared to be patient, then we don't need to get

into a relationship with God, because He is looking for people with a made up mind and will be in it for the long haul. So, let us all celebrate the progress that we are making and stop moaning about what's left to be done ...

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters!



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**On This Day** - Friday, August 12 - LILLIAN EVANTI - World famous opera star, Evanti, a soprano, debuted in 1927 in Delibes's Lakmé at Nice, France. She graduated from Howard University with a bachelor's degree in music and studied in France and Italy. - [BlackinTime.info](http://BlackinTime.info)



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## Working/Class

I never thought I would ever say this as a kid, but I would love to go back to the days when I would be back-to-school shopping and getting ready for class around this time.

I actually enjoyed school; it was a time to gain knowledge, be sociable, and active. I've always been an advocate for education because I recognize its importance. School is the first step we take toward success. We begin to learn who we are and what we like to do. Now that I'm in the real, work world, I realize what classes were preparing me for. Duties and deadlines are a part of both school and work.

People often say: "I don't know why I'm learning this calculus, I'll never use this in the real world." Yes, you may not do algebra on a day-to-day basis in your job, but you will have to use the problem solving skills that class taught. Most importantly it prepares you with the responsibilities that the real world requires. Every job requires that you perform a task and take care of business. All of the papers, homework, quizzes, exams,



assignments, projects, and study groups were tasks that school required, which is a lot of what you do in different ways for your job!

The work world is basically school for adults; instead of your attendance counting for grades, it counts towards your pay. Your principal is boss, your teachers are your supervisors, your classmates are your coworkers. School is a cycle in our lives. We are constantly placed in an environment of learning and growing. You never stop learning, even when you graduate and you're finished with school.

Whether you are the CEO or a student, there is something new you learn everyday.

Photo:  
www.twiniversity.com  
All the Best,  
Amoi Savage

## Florence Among Best College Towns

The University of North Alabama and the city of Florence, Ala., got approving nods from *Southern Living* when it listed the university and city as No. 4 on its list of the South's Best College Towns, reported the *TimesDaily*.

The Southern Living list includes 21 Southern colleges and towns with less than 350,000 inhabitants that are "beloved by their fan bases" and alumni.

Southern Living, in compiling the list, looked for towns "in which the college is a driving force in the character of the town."

UNA Admissions Counselor Mary Daniel stated that being on the list is "invaluable" since the Southern Living brand is a known and trusted name.

"We all know how great Florence and UNA are," Daniel said. "I've lived in Florence my whole life, and I think it blows many, many other towns away."

The university has been promoting the list through social media -- as have many students, alumni and



friends of the university -- and soon UNA will list Southern Living's shout out in its recruiting and promotional material.

Daniel said the university will tout this latest recognition next week when 100 rising high school seniors are on campus for the MyUNA day for potential students. The listing also brags that UNA is among the most affordable colleges.

*"Every emotion that is in the human mind is there for a positive reason."*

*- Amos Wilson*

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## Fans Rejoice Over New Harry Potter Release

Across the country, millions gathered at their local bookstores for a momentous occasion--the next Harry Potter novel.

Marketed as the eighth installment of the Harry Potter series, "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" is actually a two-part screenplay. Set 19 years after the previous novel, Harry Potter is now a father, husband and employee with the Ministry of Magic.

"Cursed Child" was released on July 31, which was the titular character and author, J.K. Rowling's birthday. Penned by Rowling, Jack Thorne and John Tiffany, the screenplay was released to coincide with its live production in London's West End. Originally shrouded in mystery, "Cursed Child" had been in previews since June, but officially opened on July 30, a few hours before the manuscript was released.

The two-part play is said to span over five hours, and tickets are sold out



Emily Faust holds the first copy of "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" sold at the Bridge Street Barnes and Noble.

until May 2017. For many, the manuscript will be the closest they will get to experiencing the production. Within 48 hours of its debut, the screenplay sold well over 2 million copies, beating bestselling record breakers like "Fifty Shades of Grey." Despite its success, fans waiting for the next novel shouldn't hold their breaths.

At the London premiere, Rowling said in an interview that the screenplay would be the last adventure for everyone's favorite boy wizard, stating, "He goes on a very big journey during these two plays and

then, yeah, I think we're done."

While we've seen the last of Potter, the franchise is far from dead. "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them," the first in a trilogy of films is slated to hit the big screen in November of this year. The film is based on the Harry Potter companion book of the same name, which was also written by Rowling. It follows Newt Scamander (played by Academy Award winner Eddie Redmayne), a young wizard who embarks on a magical adventure in New York City.

Unlike the previous series, the trilogy will take place in the 1930's. In addition to this, Universal Studios have "The Wizarding World of Harry Potter," a theme park attraction that allows fans to physically step into the world of witchcraft and wizardry in their respective Florida and California locations.

*Photo and Story by Reginald Allen*

## St. John AME Candidates Forum Set

St. John AME Church, located at 229 Church Street (Downtown), will hold a "Candidates Forum" for

candidates vying for Huntsville City Council District 1 on Tuesday, August 16, from 6:30-8 p.m. All five candidates

(Hon. Richard Showers, Michelda Johnson, Devyn Keith, Robert Hewlett and Peter Proctor) have been confirmed.

## Valley Deaths

- Funeral service for **Mr. Paul Hill, Jr.** will be announced later.

- Funeral service for **Mrs. Patricia Ann Servant** was scheduled for Saturday, August 13, at 11 a.m. at Douglas Tabernacle Primitive Baptist Church with Pastor Robert Rogers officiating.

- Funeral service for **Mr. Jimmy Ray Crutch, II** was held Saturday, August 6, at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

- Funeral service for **Mrs. Lucille Walker** was held August 5, at Douglas Tabernacle Church with Pastor Robert Rogers officiating.

- Funeral service for **Mr. John F. Jackson, Sr.**, were held August 5 at Union Hill CPCA with Rev. Edward Anderson officiating.

- Funeral service for **Mrs. Mattie L. Williams** Johnson was held August 4 at Briar Fork Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America with Pastor Theodis Akclin officiating.

- Nelms Memorial Funeral Home

## Alabama A&M University Bulldog Football 2016 Season

Sept 3 @ Middle Tennessee - Murfreesboro, TN  
Sept 10 @ Mississippi Valley State - Itta Bena, MS  
**Sept 17 vs. PRAIRIE VIEW (Louis Crews Classic)**  
**Sept 24 vs. SOUTHERN**

Oct 1 @ Texas Southern - Houston, TX  
**Oct 8 vs. ALCORN STATE (Homecoming)**  
Oct 15 @ Arkansas Pine Bluff - Pine Bluff, AR  
Oct 29 vs. Alabama State (Magic City Classic)

**Nov 5 vs. GRAMBLING**  
Nov 12 @ Jackson State - Jackson, MS  
Nov 19 @ Auburn - Auburn, AL



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## Monte Sano Art Festival Expands

The Monte Sano Art Festival will return to Monte Sano Mountain September 17-18. This year, organizers have expanded the festival to two days for the first time in the festival's history.

The Monte Sano Art Festival has been a sought-after tradition in the Rocket City for nearly two decades.

In 2016, MSAF will feature more than 140 of the region's finest artists in an array of media. Along with the outdoor festival exhibi-

tors, 2016 will continue to feature local food trucks and musicians throughout the park. This festival is always a highlight of the arts calendar!

Monte Sano Art Festival Hours are: Saturday, September 17 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, September 18 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Monte Sano Art Festival has always depended on the kindness of friends. Volunteers are essential to planning and presenting the festival.

The Monte Sano Art

Show originated in 1999 when Debra Simpson, an artist residing in the Monte Sano community, wished to establish a show in an outdoor setting. With a group of friends, Simpson made plans for the first show which was held on October 30, 1999, in the parking lot of the Monte Sano Assessment and Enrichment Center at 820 Monte Sano Blvd.

For more information contact Lisa Bollinger at (256) 519-2787 or [lbollinger@artshuntsville.org](mailto:lbollinger@artshuntsville.org).

## B&GC Sponsoring "Slow Roll"

Slow your roll. The Boys & Girls Clubs of North Alabama are depending on it for the

1st Annual Slow Roll Bike Ride on August 20 at 7 a.m. at Raytheon Company, 401 Jan Davis Drive, in

the Cummings Research Park. Registration: free for kids; \$10, teens; and \$30, adults.

## Artist Releases New CD

With the heat of the summer, and sweat on his brow, Huntsville artist Jonathan Laird celebrates the release of his first published single, "Bigger Than Myself."

Inspired by pop culture heroes, both young and old, this music aficionado puts his own twist on some very familiar sounds.

Huntsville's publication, "Valley Planet" voted him "Best Jazz Artist" in its "Best of the Valley" reader's poll in 2010. His songs have been spun on independent podcasts in Germany, New York, and the United Kingdom, and two songs from his current EP release, "Tangled Up In Me," have been aired on 104.3 WZYP out of Huntsville. His EP was produced by Cam DeVaney (Flyleaf).

Since then, Jonathan has not only continued growing as a singer/songwriter and guitarist, but he has also become very adept at recording, mixing and producing. Jonathan plays with Huntsville's renowned variety band, Unbroken.

Jonathan delivers a hooky slice of happiness by combining head-bopping grooves, silky vocals and picturesque lyricism.

It's a style of modern pop that meshes elements of Paul Simon and John Mayer with George Benson and Jason Mraz. He is currently writing songs for his first full-length recording, has shared the stage with



Independent Christian artists Jonathan Lee, Kathleen Carnali, Jason Albert and Norris Jones (Michael Jackson), and opened at festivals for Incubus and Sister Hazel. He has shared the studio with Buddy Hyatt (Toto) and Bruce Boughton (Reba

McEntire). He currently performs as a solo artist and is also a supporting musician for other artists. Jonathan has also played benefits ranging from The Arthritis Foundation to Relay for Life and Susan G. Komen.

Most recently, Jonathan released his brand new single, "Bigger Than Myself," available for online streaming and download at: <http://www.cdbaby.com>.

## Calendar of Events

### August 12

Annual Taste of Kappa  
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity-  
Huntsville Alumni Chapter;  
\$30  
Huntsville Museum of Art  
[huntsvillekappas.com](http://huntsvillekappas.com)  
7-10 p.m.

### August 12-13

AshaKiran's 2-Day Language  
Advocacy Workshop

AAMU Freshman Convoca-  
tion & Torch Lighting  
Huntsville Building  
Elmore Building  
12:30 p.m.

### August 18

Ground Breaking Ceremony  
for New Residence Hall  
Legacy Lake  
12 noon

### August 19

Food Truck Street Festival  
*Sponsor:* Jerry Damson  
Honda Acura  
Downtown Huntsville  
Lumberyard Parking Lot

108 Cleveland Avenue  
5-9 p.m.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity  
Vegas Night  
Von Braun Center East Hall  
(\$30 advance; \$40)  
Contacts: Rick Suttle, (256)  
655-6709, or Gerald Vines at  
(256) 682-1071

### August 19-21

Saved in the City Conference  
Free General Admission  
Von Braun Center  
[www.savedinthecityconfer-  
ence.com](http://www.savedinthecityconference.com)

### August 23

Municipal Elections

### August 25

Deadline to Register for  
Diversity Leadership Col-  
loquium  
(Class VI)  
Contact: [info@diversitylead-  
ershipcolloquium.com](mailto:info@diversitylead-<br/>ershipcolloquium.com) or  
(256) 536-9717

### August 28

Valley Conservatory Jam  
Session  
5-8 p.m.

### September 6

Fall Diversity Leadership Col-  
loquium Begins

### September 10

North Alabama Health and  
Wellness Fair

### September 11-December 11

Exhibition  
"Contemporary Art & Super-  
hero Action"  
Huntsville Museum of Art

### September 16

Food Truck Street Festival  
*Sponsor:* Jerry Damson  
Honda Acura  
Downtown Huntsville  
The Lumberyard Parking Lot  
108 Cleveland Avenue  
5-9 p.m.

Huntsville Symphony Or-  
chestra

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FOR CITY COUNCIL

AUGUST 23RD, 2016

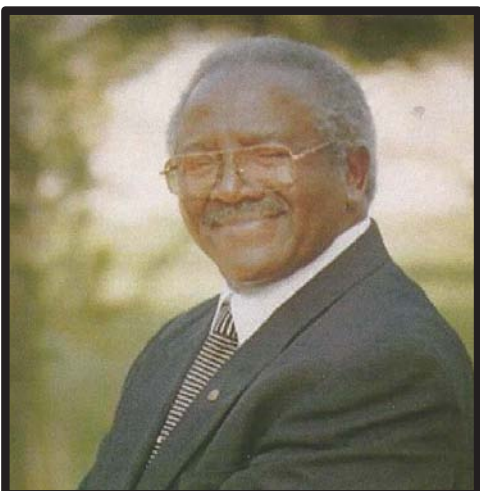
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