



Volume 1, No. 42

"For the varieties of bigotry spring from a common root. To tolerate one form, either wittingly or not, is to accept all the rest."

- Randall Robinson

FREE

The Valley Weekly

Friday, June 26, 2015

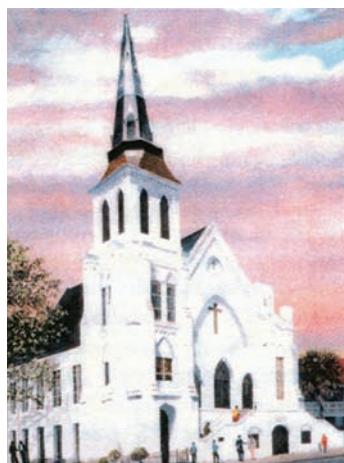
Mother Emanuel AME Weathers Storm

The portal of entry for the ancestors of millions of African Americans became mired in racial violence when a troubled 21-year-old killed nine evening worshipers at historic Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, S.C., just days before Father's Day.

"Mother Emanuel," the home church of slave revolt leader Denmark Vesey, is considered the oldest African Methodist Episcopal church in the American South. Its promising pastor since 2010, Rev. Clementa Pinckney,

also a state representative, was among those killed during a shooting tirade. Other victims included Cynthia Hurd, 54; Susie Jackson, 87; Ethel Lee Lance, 70; Rev. DePayne Middleton-Doctor, 49; Rev. Clementa Pinckney, 41; Tywanza Sanders, 26; Rev. Daniel L. Simmons Sr., 74; Rev. Sharronda Singleton, 45; and Myra Thompson, 59.

Charleston historian Damon Fordham called the incident "a wound to the psyche" of Charleston's black community.



IMS Announces Annual Interfaith Institute

The Interfaith Mission Service of Huntsville, Ala., announces the annual Wildacres Interfaith Institute July 27-30.

The Greater Carolinas Association of Rabbis (GCAR) sponsors the annual Interfaith Institute at Wildacres Retreat in North Carolina, now in its 33rd year.

Every year, up to 100 Christians, Jews, and persons from

other faith traditions participate in interfaith dialogue about issues of mutual concern, led by well-known leaders and scholars from various faith traditions.

The theme for this year's institute will be "Holy Remembering: Discovering God in Memory and Scripture." Rev. Dr. James Howell will guide the learning as participants share their stories. Howell is senior pastor at Myers

Park United Methodist Church in Charlotte, N.C., and adjunct professor of preaching at Duke University Divinity School.

More information about the scholar and registration can be found at <http://gcarwildacres.com/interfaith-institute>; website: <http://gcarwildacres.com>; e-mail Rev. Michael Watts at mwatts23@nc.rr.com; or call (919) 934-5905.



MDA Engineering in Art: Children from local Boys and Girls Club participate in the "3D Art in Motion" segment merging STEM and art during a culminating program at the AAMU Art Gallery. The effort was facilitated by Dr. LaRonda Conley. Pictured above (l-r) are: Jaden Rice, Blake Johnson and Tahjee' Nelson.

Concerts in Park in Full Bloom

The Arts Council and the City of Huntsville's Department of Parks and Recreation are in full swing with the 2015 Concerts in the Park season. The Concerts will continue Monday evenings through August 3. Reginald Jackson and Friends, and the Emily Joseph Band are slated for June 29.

The series showcases a mix of musical genres from rock and roll, pop and top 40 to swing, country, bluegrass, Celtic and jazz. The free concerts take place in downtown Huntsville on the Huntsville Museum of Art outdoor stage in Big Spring International Park from 6:30-8 p.m. The series is open to the public; however, concert goers should

bring their own seating. Leashed pets are welcome.

Concert goers will have a variety of dinner choices available as The Arts Council and the City of Huntsville will host local food trucks at the weekly Concerts.

The Concerts in the Park are a co-production of the City of Huntsville Department of Parks and Recreation and The Arts Council, Inc.

The series is presented with support from DirecTV, John Blue Realty, Legacy Homes, Progress Bank and Sally and Chuck Allen.

This year's concert lineup features 19 performance groups, including seven acts that are new to the series.

New Exhibit Opens at Huntsville Museum of Art

Connections:

Diane Fox |

Beauvais Lyons

June 27 – September
27, 2015

A new series at the Huntsville Museum of Art is primarily focused on regional contemporary artists with shared sensibilities.

The exhibit showcases critically acclaimed husband and wife artists Diane Fox and Beauvais Lyons from Knoxville, Tenn., whose lithographs and photographs use animals as the key protagonists in their works.

Fox's black and white and color photographs document the artificial displays and stuffed animal specimens found in natural history museums worldwide,



Beauvais Lyons - Ornithological Quadruped: Long-tailed Marmot Heron, 2012, color lithograph, 33 x 29 inches; Diane Fox - Penguins' Eggs, Harvard Museum of Natural History, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 2011 - archival pigment print, 37 x 27.5 inches

THE BIG PICTURE

Our Study, Vision & Plan for the City of Huntsville

Even More Interesting Facts on "The Ville"

Huntsville is a growing city. It is the largest municipality in North Alabama, and is the primary city of its Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes Madison and Limestone Counties. The bulk of the city is in Madison County, with the remainder in Limestone County.

The population of Huntsville as of July 2014 was approximately 188,226, an increase of 4.5 percent since the 2010 Census and 19 percent since the turn of the millennium.

Cumulative Population Growth (1970-2014)

Since 2010, Huntsville has accounted for 52 percent of Madison County's population growth, which is consistent with growth in recent decades (except the 1990s).

Look Out, The Ham!

The City of Huntsville has been the fastest growing major city in Alabama over the past fifteen

years. The city is projected to reach 200,000 residents by 2020 and become the largest city in Alabama by the year 2022. Note: These numbers are for cities proper only, not metropolitan areas; Birmingham-Hoover will remain as the state's largest metropolitan area for the foreseeable future.

America's "Biggest" Cities, 2014

Huntsville reached a "peak density" of 3,287 ppsm (people per square mile) in 1950. As Huntsville expanded, the population density dropped, and the city's density is now 879 ppsm as of 2014—a slight increase from 2010's 874 ppsm. This makes Huntsville the third most sprawling, non-metro government city in the country, behind Norman, Oklahoma and Anchorage, Alaska.

A key challenge to having such a low-density city is maintaining the infrastructure required for such a broad area.

emphasizing their removal from the natural world.

Lyons creates exquisitely crafted lithographs that parody the pedantic scientific prints of the nineteenth century and

hint at new truths. Organized by HMA.

A Gallery Walk with Artists Diane Fox and Beauvais Lyons will be held June 28 at 2 p.m.



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The Valley Weekly

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

From the Editor

Ah, South Carolina!

Wednesday and Sundays are important days in Christian homes. While growing up, we had to really be sick to miss 'prayer meeting,' Sunday school, or first and third Sunday church service. You see, our pastor preached at two churches. He came to our church on first and third Sundays and went to another church on second and fourth Sundays. To this day, I do not know what he did on *fifth* Sundays.

The massacre of nine (9) congregants at Emanuel AME Church is unbelievable. When individuals in our society get to the point that they act out on their belief that one human is superior to another, it proves that little real progress has been made. My mother worked for a local doctor in town who called her 'nigger, nigger' in his commands for her to get on her knees to clean the floors again and again. She shielded us from most of this as young children, but shared much of it when she felt like we were old enough to understand that much of what she endured was because she had to work. She needed her job that paid \$20 or \$30 a week, got to bring home refrigerated leftovers from week's past, old clothes, shoes that were too small for our feet but that we had to squeeze into, books with pages torn out and broken toys.

Some people wonder today why we are not grateful that she had a job and why we insist on telling these old stories of the past. If I were a gambler, I'd bet that had this stranger entered our church on a Wednesday night and sat for a while, one of the men there would have approached him in a welcoming way, escorted him to the door for a private exchange about how they could 'help' him. The elders were trusting people. They welcomed strangers; however, they verified!

My own children are adults; however, we have taught them the 'trust but verify' concept. Someone told me once that if you do not trust anyone, you are someone who likely cannot be trusted. I am not sure about that, but what I do know for certain is that "God can be trusted" and beyond that life's lessons have taught me to still try to verify.

"Now is the time for mourning and for healing, but let's be clear: at some point, we as a country will have to reckon with the fact that this type of mass violence does not happen in other advanced countries. It doesn't happen in other places with this kind of frequency and it is in our power to do something about it." - President Barack Obama

"The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but the silence over that by the good people." - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Violence and arms can never resolve the problems of men. - Pope John Paul II

"When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace."
-Jimi Hendrix

What say you? Until next week ...



Dorothy

Facts of Juneteenth Shared Throughout Nation

Factoid #1

President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862. However, it took almost three years before the full emancipation of slaves was completed. On June 19, 1865, General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, to issue General Order No. 3, officially freeing America's final slaves. This date, known as Juneteenth, has been celebrated as Black Independence Day since then.

Tuskegeeans Planning Pancake Breakfast

Tuskegee University alumni will hold their annual Pancake Breakfast Scholarship Fund Raiser at Applebee's in Madison, Ala., on August 1.

The event will run from 7 a.m. until 10:30 p.m., and alums will report for safety and other instructions from the manager at 6:45 a.m.

This is a fun event of fellowship, good times, and a easy way to raise funds for the local scholarship. Tickets are \$5 each. See you at Applebee's. For more information, contact Lawrence "Mac" McRae at (256) 289-1215 or Lamar "I Got Dis" Braxton at (256) 655-4990.



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Factoid #2

Though President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1862, demanding that the Confederate states return to the Union or their slaves would be permanently freed, the order was ignored.

Even more undermining to

the Proclamation was the fact that it did not affect slave-holding states that didn't succeed from the Union, leaving a massive number of slaves still in bondage.

Factoid #3

Texas and Oklahoma are the only states that recognize Juneteenth as a legal holiday. But more

than 200 cities across the nation celebrate Juneteenth in some way, ranging from daylong festivals to longer events.

Factoid #4

According to Juneteenth.com, it isn't known exactly why it took two and a half years for slaves in Texas to learn that they had been freed. Some accounts claim that a messenger was killed while heading to Texas to deliver the news; others say that the slaves' owners purposely withheld the information from them.

General Granger began Order No. 3 with the following statement informing slaves of their new status as freed Americans: "The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a

Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free.

This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer."

Factoid #6

In the decades following Juneteenth, several former slaves would travel back to Galveston to celebrate their Independence Day. The day would include entertainment activities such as rodeos, baseball and barbecuing. Guest speakers and prayer services would also be featured.

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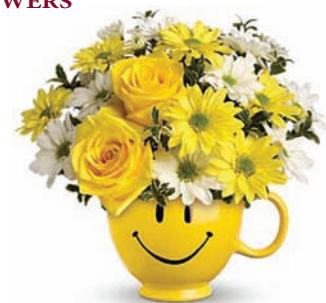
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4th of July Extravaganza at U.S. Space and Rocket Center

The public is invited to celebrate the 4th of July (Independence Day) at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center during what many refer to as "Huntsville's largest fireworks display and 4th of July celebration."

The activity will be held from 6-10 p.m., and the fireworks show will start at 9 p.m.

The event will not only feature impressive fireworks, but it will also offer food and patriotic entertainment from the 274th Army Materiel Command Band.

Visitors will be able to build their own rockets, experience Space Shot and meet TOPPS and RamJet from the Space and Rocket Center.

The main museum, all traveling exhibits and Davidson Center for Space Exploration will all be CLOSED during this time. Children 12 years old and under get in free to the USSRC during regular business hours on July 4.

To purchase parking pass (\$20 per vehicle), visit <http://www.spacecampstore.com/JULY-4-Fireworks-Extravaganza/TIEV15J4FE/185336/>.

American Ports that Received Slaves

When people think of American ports that were the landing point for slaves from Africa, the city of Charleston, S.C., most readily comes to mind. However, despite the fact that the lion's share of slaves to the New World were shipped to the Caribbean islands and South America, particularly Brazil, slave ships docked at the following and other ports.

(In Alphabetical Order)

Annapolis, Md.
Biloxi, Miss.
Boston, Mass.
Charleston, S.C.
Hampton, Va.
Mobile, Ala.

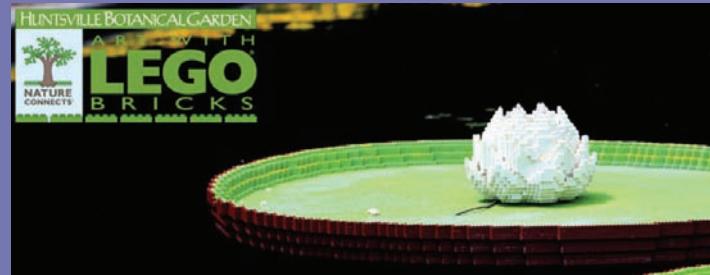


Scene from Mobile, Ala.

New Orleans, La.
New York, N.Y.
Newport, R.I.
Savannah, Ga.
Mobile, Ala.

Source: Slavevoyages.org

Lego Exhibit at The Botanical Garden



The "Nature Connects Lego Bricks" exhibit will be on display at the Huntsville Botanical Garden through July 26.

The Garden is located at

4747 Bob Wallace Avenue in Huntsville, Ala., and is open from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. For admission and other information, call (256) 830-4447.



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Calendar of Events

June 27

Huntsville Spiritual Chorale
"Spiritual Jubilee Fest"
Fellowship Presbyterian Church
3406 Meridian Street - 5 p.m.

June 28

Microwave Dave Day in the City of Huntsville - Office of the Mayor

July 16-18

Play: The Pirates of Penzance
Admission Charged
Von Braun Center Playhouse
7:30 p.m. (Fri.); 2 & 7:30 p.m.

July 17

Space Exploration Celebration
U.S. Space and Rocket Center
Admission Charged, 5-9 p.m.

July 23

Drum Corps International-North Alabama

Featuring:

*The Cadets - Allentown, Pa.
Crossmen - San Antonio, Tex.
The Academy - Tempe, Ariz.
Troopers - Casper, Wy.
Pacific Crest - Diamond Bar, Calif.
Oregon Crusaders - Portland, Ore.
Jersey Surf - Camden County, N.J.
Cascades - Seattle, Wash.
Pioneer - Milwaukee, Wis.
Southwind - Mobile, Ala.
Louis Crews Stadium, 7 p.m.*

August 7

Omega Psi Phi Las Vegas Night
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5:00 p.m.

Experiencing and Expressing Gratitude

by Dr. Margaret J. Kelly



"In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

~Psalm136:1

I recently experienced the miraculous power of God hearing and answering my prayers--right on time--for healing from a devastating, deep valley health crisis, my grandson getting a summer job and strength to fulfill a promise to perform an important task.

I was so overcome with unspeakable joy when I sensed He was answering my prayers, that I was moved to pen a few comments about God's unmatched power to help us surmount the seemingly insurmountable,

and the profound need for us to express our gratitude for His priceless grace and mercy.

During my health challenge, which seemed like forever, I experienced the unmatched love of my two loving sisters and brother, encouragement and support from my pastor, first lady, some church members and a few loyal friends. They all were amazing angels from God.

What is gratitude? It is a positive experience that comes from recognizing gifts or blessings and feeling thankful. Gratitude is also an attitude, a way of perceiving life, in which individuals are willing to receive and acknowl-

edge the beneficial actions of others on their behalf.

Those who consistently display such an attitude are said to have a grateful disposition. Gratitude is also a habit that can be cultivated, causing one to focus on the blessings of life. Finally, gratitude can be viewed as a coping response to challenging or difficult circumstances.

William Arthur Ward reminds us that God gives us 84,600 seconds each day. I recommend that we use a few seconds daily to express our gratitude to Him and others who help us become the best we can be.

"Oh give thanks unto the Lord for He is good; for His mercy endures forever."

~Psalm136:1

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Want to Go On A Cruise but think it's too expensive? It has been proven that most cruises cost less than a trip to San Francisco-I can personally testify to this.

First, this is the time to decide what destinations you want to cruise to - - (I do mean destinations because when you vacation on a cruise ship, you go to more than one destination) - whether it's the eastern, western or southern Caribbean; whether it's Bermuda, Canada, Alaska or even Europe.

Second, call your travel agent and you will be booked on a cruise vacation that you will talk about for years to come. If you are on a budget, book your cruise at least a year in advance. When you book in advance and make your monthly payment, before you know it, your cruise will be completely paid in full.

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DLC

Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium IV



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. Participants cannot miss more than 2 sessions.

Location: 415-A Church Street - Downtown Huntsville

Enrollment limited to: 16 - Tuition: \$795

2015 Schedule

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

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- Resume
- Photo

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College(s) Attended _____

Highest Degree _____ Career Field _____

References

Name _____ Association _____

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Phone _____ E-mail _____

Name _____ Association _____

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