

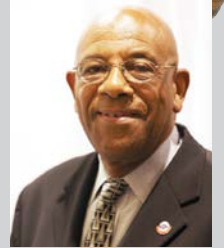


Turn the Lights On! - p. 4

Friday
November 1, 2024
Vol. 11, No. 9
ValleyWeekllyllc.com



SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mr. Robert "Bob" Wilson

"The power of the ballot we need in sheer defense, else what shall save us from a second slavery?" - W. E. B. Du Bois

Church Street CPCA to Celebrate 150th

Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, located Downtown Huntsville at 228 Church Street, is celebrating its 150th Church Anniversary the weekend of November 22-24, 2024.



The year-long celebration has delved into the

'four pillars' of spiritual awakening, kingdom growth, relation-

ship building and stewardship. Dr. Mitchell M. Walker, Sr., serves

as pastor. For additional info, visit churchstcpca.org.

Message from Administrative Team of 'Concerned Oakwoodites'

One year ago, we stood together, united by a shared vision: to save and restore our beloved Oakwood University. We believe the announced resignation of Dr. Leslie Pollard as Oakwood's president marks a significant moment in this quest.

But this is just the beginning. We must continue to stand as one, supporting our university with unwavering solidarity while pursuing the following:

Transparency and Accountability

We continue to demand transparency and effective communication as we move forward. We urge the Board of Trustees to

make public any recent audits or evaluations that have been conducted, including one by Deloitte. Further, we call for a reconstitution of the Board, with new bylaws that prioritize transparency, accountability, efficacy, and reduce the percentage of denominational employees with appointed or ex-official seats.

We also de-

mand transparency in the search committee process for our school's next president. We support a thorough and effective search, one that prioritizes merit and not predetermined outcomes.

A Collective Effort for Change

Over the past year, we've shared our concerns and reminisced about the cherished

memories that bind us to Oakwood. But true change requires collective action.

All Oakwoodites must be involved: the Board, administration, faculty, staff, students and their families, supporters, and of course alumni. In the meantime, we will continue to pray for our institution and its future leaders.

County Supports 'Operation Green Light'

In advance of the upcoming Veterans Day holiday, Madison County has announced plans to illuminate county buildings green from through November 11 as part of Operation Green Light for Veterans, a nationwide effort

uniting counties to support military veterans. The initiative in Madison County is led by Commissioner Violet Edwards and raises awareness around the unique challenges faced by many veterans and the resources available at the

county, state, and federal levels to assist veterans and their families.

"Transitioning back to civilian life can be an especially tough time for veterans. 'Finding the mission again' and creating a purposeful life is criti-

cal," said Commissioner Edwards. "The green light lets the veterans know we see them and are cheering for them every step of the way."

Counties are sharing participation on social media using the hashtag #OperationGreenLight.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

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Washington One Minute

by Ron Hamm

Here are the top issues and events in Washington for this week:

1. CONGRESS. The House and Senate are in recess until Tuesday, November 12.

2. THE WHITE HOUSE. President Biden casted his ballot Monday in Wilmington (DE), before returning to Washington to make remarks thanking National Guard service members who provided support

in North Carolina in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. On Monday evening, he hosted a celebration in honor of the Diwali Hindu Festival of Lights. On Tuesday, he traveled to Baltimore for an event to tout his Investing in America agenda. On Wednesday, he met with President Nikos Christodoulidis of the Republic of Cyprus at the White House and on Friday he will be in Philadelphia to make remarks on his support for

unions. According to The New York Times, as of last Tuesday, President Biden has had 213 of his judicial nominees confirmed to the federal bench with 89 days to go in his presidency (compared to former President Trump's total of 234).

3. SUPREME COURT. Last Friday, the Supreme Court released its December calendar, which will include a case on the challenge to a 2023 Tennessee law banning gender-affirming care for transgender patients under the age of 18 and a case on the Food and Drug Administration's efforts to bar flavored e-cigarettes. Last Tuesday, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected

a claim by January 6 defendant Couy Griffin that the government needed to prove he was aware that the Capitol grounds were restricted because a Secret Service protectee, then-Vice President Mike Pence, was inside. Without that proof, Griffin contended, prosecutors fell short of showing that he "knowingly" breached the Secret Service-protected perimeter. The court ruled that requiring prosecutors to prove that the trespassers were aware of a Secret Service protectee's presence would be illogical and "impair the Secret Service's ability to protect its charges."

4. CAMPAIGN EVENTS. On Sunday, Vice President Harris made a series of campaign stops in Philadelphia. On Monday, she and Vice Presidential nominee Tim Walz held a rally and concert in Ann Arbor (MI) and on Tuesday gave her campaign closing speech on the El-

lipse in Washington, D.C. (notably the site of former President Trump's Stop the Steal Rally on Jan. 6, 2021, that preceded the insurrection at the Capitol). On Wednesday, Harris hosted a rally in Raleigh (NC) in the morning and later a rally and concert in Madison (WI). On Thursday, she held a campaign event in Phoenix (AZ). Mr. Trump gave his closing campaign speech Sunday in New York City at Madison Square Garden and had stops in Atlanta (GA), Allentown (PA), Green Bay (WI), Henderson (NV), Milwaukee (WI), and Salem (VA) to close out the last full week of the campaign. The Harris/Walz Campaign announced that it had raised \$97.2 million in the first half of October – compared to the Trump/Vance's \$16.2 million. Since January 2023, the Biden (now Harris) Campaign has raised a total of \$997.2 million compared to a \$388 million total for the Trump Campaign.

5. HIGHER EDUCATION. While undergraduate enrollment has increased this fall, the number of freshmen has sharply declined. According to preliminary enrollment data from the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, freshman enrollment dropped by 5 percent this fall, marking the first decline since the beginning of the pandemic in 2020. Four-year public and private nonprofit colleges experienced the largest decreases in first-year students, with declines of 8.5 percent and 6.5 percent, respectively, compared to the same time last year. In contrast, freshman enrollment at two-year colleges fell by 1.1 percent.

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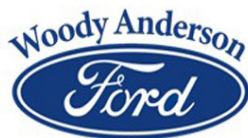


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The Valley Weekly

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Celebrating the Spirit of Community and the Bountifulness of the Harvest Season

Oh, well! There's always next year. This past Saturday, the Alabama A&M University Bulldogs rallied, but they couldn't pull off a win at Legion Field during the Annual Magic City Classic against the Alabama State University Hornets. The Bulldogs lost 27-19. As a former Vice President for Student Affairs, I have fond memories of sitting in the 'dog pound' during basketball season with my family, leading chants like "Who let the dogs out?" The energy and home court advantage we enjoyed were palpable, and watching our Bulldogs' valiant comeback attempt on the football field last Saturday was a reminder of that exhilarating spirit experienced each harvest season.

Yes, fall is upon us, bringing with it a beautiful tapestry of colorful leaves and the promise of gathering for long winter nights. Recently, I had the pleasure of visiting my son, William, and his family in California. It brought back fond memories of my own childhood, gathering with family, sharing soul food, and cherishing those connections that matter most.

Harvest season is a time for reflection and preparation. I remember the days when we'd gather late crops, ensuring we had enough to sustain us through the winter. The smell of sweet potatoes baking in the fireplace remains a cherished memory. My mother had a talent for preserving our harvest—whether canning, freezing, smoking, or pickling—there was always something delicious waiting in the cupboards.

As children, we'd venture out to gather firewood, jumping over ditches and crossing tree limbs to find the prized kindling that kept our home warm. Those experiences shaped our understanding of hard work and the importance of preparation. "Slaughter day" was another family tradition, a day filled with activity as we processed the livestock that would feed us for months to come.

The essence of fall is a reminder of God's blessings—the crisp mornings, warm sunshine, and the hustle and bustle of preparing for Thanksgiving. I encourage everyone to set aside something special for the winter months. There's nothing quite like the aroma of turnip greens simmering, sweet potatoes in the oven, and hot water cornbread sizzling in the skillet.

As I begin to plan for the winter ahead, I am reminded of November 16th, which would have been my late husband Bill's birthday. After 42 wonderful years of marriage, I can confidently say I would do it all over again. The loving memories we created and the love we shared continue to inspire me each day.

Finally ... next Tuesday marks Election Day. Regardless of your political leanings, embrace the freedom we have as Americans to vote. Participating in our democracy not only strengthens our community but also enriches our understanding of the issues that shape our lives. Let's celebrate our community, our traditions, and the spirit of togetherness that defines us. *Until next week ...*

Dorothy



HMBCC Meetings

The Huntsville Metro Black Chamber of Commerce promotes, creates and fosters economic development opportunities. HMBCC meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday at 12 noon. Call (256) 427-2650 or e-mail info@hsvblackchamber.org. VISIT

NOVEMBER 1 - FRANCIS ARINZE - Francis Arinze is a Nigerian cardinal of the Catholic Church. He was Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments from 2002 to 2008. He led the Secretariat for Non-Christians (later renamed the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue) from 1984 to 2002. He has been a cardinal since 1985 and the Cardinal Bishop of Velletri-Segni since 2005. Arinze was one of the principal advisors to Pope John Paul II and was considered papabile at the papal conclave that elected Pope Benedict XVI in 2005. On April 25, Benedict named him Cardinal Bishop of Velletri-Segni, a post-Benedict himself had held until he was elected Pope. On December 9, 2008, Benedict accepted Arinze's resignation as the Congregation of Divine Worship prefect. [- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.org](http://BlackCelebrityBirthdays.org)



Council Meetings

Huntsville City Council's regular meetings are held on the 1st floor of the Municipal Building on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

Spiritual Game Plan

Valley Weekly
PRESTON BROWN'S



“Turn the Lights On”

neighbors. When we do this, people will see your

Matthew 5:16 says, “In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your father in heaven.”

We as Christians are everywhere—factories, schools, hospitals, auto dealerships—but sometimes people don’t notice us because we are not letting our lights shine. But it’s time to turn the lights on. We do this by being kind to people, being patient with people, and forgiving people when they do something that offends us.

There should be something different about the way we treat people or the way we talk to people or the way we behave around people because we have the love of Jesus inside of us.

You see, our responsibility to people is to love them and never to give up on them. This is one of God’s most important commandments. To love God and to love our

good deeds and perhaps want to follow your lead and give God some praise.

Prayer: Most Loving Father, help us to be mindful of the people around us that we can influence the most.

Question:


How many days of the week do you let your light shine so that others can see the good work that God is doing in you?

Stay encouraged, my brothers



and sisters, and make sure you purchase a copy of my books, *Spiritual Game Plans For A Successful Life* and *A Champion Game Plan for Life*, at amazon.com.

NEXT WEEK:
“Whose Side Are You On?”

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Funeral services will be announced at a later date for **OLLIE LANIER** (b. 1970); **MR. ARMANDO RODRIGUEZ** (b. 1972); and **MS. DEBORAH WILLIAMS** (b. 1950).

Funeral service for **MS. MILDRED JOHNSON-CHAMBERS** (b. 1943) will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, November 2, at Restoration Church, 5810 Wall Triana Hwy., Madison, Ala.



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Funeral services will be announced at a later date for **MR. TRAYVON HARRIS** (b. 1987); **MR. GEORGE EDWARD LOCKHART** (b. 1971); and **MR. EDWARD LEWIS** (b. 1962).

Funeral service for **COL USA (RETIRED) LEWIS (“LEW”) J. GOLDBERG** (b. 1947), a former Huntsville resident, was Monday, October 28, at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home & Crematory, 1500 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria, Va.

Funeral service for **MS. MAMIE RENEE LEWIS** (b. 1965) was Saturday, October 26, at the Lakewood Church of Christ with Pastor Gerry Binford officiating.

Funeral service for **MRS. JUANITA JORDAN MOORE** (b. 1947) was Saturday, October 26, at the Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor O. Wendell Davis, officiating.

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Funeral services will be announced at a later date for **MR. CHARLES PALMER** (b. 1968); **MR. RUBIN BENDOLPH** (b. 1962); **MRS. CARRIE B. WARNER** (b. 1936); and **MRS. BLANCHE JAMES** (b. 1928).

Wednesday, November 6, 2024: "It's the Morning After in America, . . ."

"Behold, I make all things new." - Revelation 21:5

More than 20 million Americans have already voted in the 2024 presidential election.

In Georgia, a record-setting 310,000 eligible adults voted on Tuesday, October 15, the first day for early voting, compared to 136,000 on the first day in 2020.

The *Miami Herald's* Is Harris or Trump leading with early voters in swing states? Poll finds 'sea change' reports that 49% of Democrats plan to vote early, and the same 49% plan to vote on November 5; 42% of Republicans plan on voting early, while 55% choose to cast their ballots on election day.

Forty-four percent of independents plan to vote early, and 45% intend to vote on Election Day.

For many who have seen the capacity-crowded Harris-Walz rallies, diverse Zoom meeting calls, and unprecedented high volunteer-signups, this strongly portends for a Harris-Walz victory.

Therefore, here's my take on the morning after, . . .

On Wednesday, November 6, 2024, the day following the final voting day, the following scenarios could be occurring:

- A Black pregnant couple awakens, knowing that their unborn daughter's first name has been confirmed;
- Janitors in union halls and church fellowship auditoriums nationwide are busily sweeping up last night's confetti, while some argue over a discarded campaign sign;
- White suburban housewives on November 5th eagerly yet quietly closed their voting booth curtains and voted for their daughters' future reproductive rights;
- A few of their husbands, however, could have won Oscars for Best Supporting Actor. They got coaxed by male colleagues to attend and become one of the 190,000 "White Dudes for Harris" Zoom call attendees, and secretly donated as part of the \$4M raised that night - and then voted, as secretly! And
- A retired Asian couple in their cramped high-rise apartment wondered aloud, "Maybe now we can finally purchase our first home, because someone in the White House will look like us, . . ."



Then, John and wife Susie Chen scurried from their breakfast table into their living room to hear and see their new President-elect, that first woman of color, . . .

In Part 2, I'll introduce "Madame President-elect, Sistah Boomerang!"



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Millennial Moment

by Gloria B. Caldwell

Train Yourself ...

You know I love to ask a question. How many times do you look at something you admire, or desire to do and say, 'Well, they've been doing it so long and I haven't started yet'? Yes, they sure have; however, at one point, they started off just like you. Whether it was forced or chosen, they had to create a pattern and continuously work towards the said outcome. You have to train yourself. Train your body. Train your mind. Train all things to react and respond the way you want. Whether your desire is to obtain more information, be fit, eat right, respond more calmly, be fear-

less, or even to be happier. So, that's an easy thing to say, but how do you do it? Glad you asked. You can train yourself through consistency and practice. Set specific goals, establish routines, and incorporate small, manageable changes. Surround yourself with supportive influences, stay mindful, and celebrate progress. With patience and determination, you can cultivate positive habits for a



healthier and more consistent life. Now don't mistake consistent with mediocrity. Consistency, in the frame of mind, means continually moving towards a greater you. Isn't that's what you want? Sure you do!!

You've got this. Let's get to work! Lace Up!
Let's Go!!!

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Spooktacular
 Fall Festival
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 Parks & Rec-
 reation

Showers Rec-
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 6-9 p.m.

November 1

Mania: The Abba Tribute
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November 2

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Hosts: The Marine
 Corps Reserve Center
 and the Semper Fi Rid-
 ers
 2900 Drake Avenue SW
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How to Plant & Care for
 Trees with the Madison
 Beautification Board
 Huntsville Public Li-
 brary
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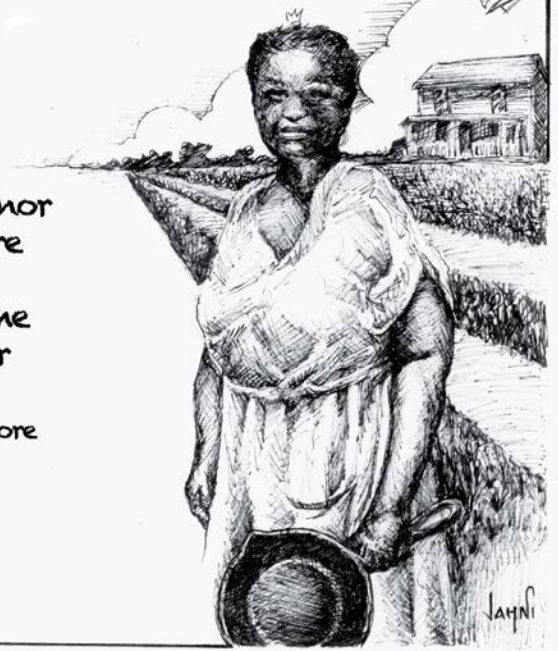
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"Associate yourself with people of good quality,
 for it is better to be alone than in bad company."

- Booker T. Washington



Rosetta James Foundation "Spotlight on Our Elders" ... Featuring

Mr. Robert Wilson

Robert Wilson was born January 23, 1939, in Gastonia, N.C. He received his education at Pleasant Ridge Elementary School and Highland High School. In 1954, he earned the Boy Scouts of America Eagle Rank, and in 1956 he was mayor of student government. Wilson went on to receive a B.S. degree (1960) in mechanical engineering from North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, N.C. He continued his studies in professional management at Florida Institute of Technology (1975-77).

His work assignments in engineering and management were in the states of New Jersey, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky and Alabama. His winning management style led to numerous honorary and other awards. Wilson retired in 1994.

Wilson was raised a Christian at Pleasant Ridge AME Zion Church. He became

a Presbyterian in 1963, was ordained an elder in 1964 and was ordained a deacon in 1972.

Wilson volunteered his time and talent as Secretary/Treasurer, Vice President and President of North Alabama Presbytery, Presbytery Men, where he earned the "Church Man of the Year Award." Wilson was the Logistics Committee Chair for the National Council of Presbyterian Men (NCPM) Assembly in Louisville, Ky., in 1991, where 2,000 men from the United States and South Korea participated. He also volunteered his time and talent as President of NCPM in 2001-2003. At Fellowship, Wilson claimed the infrequently bestowed distinction of "Honorary Presbyterian Woman."

Wilson was confirmed as Vice Moderator of the 217th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in June



2006 and served for two years with the Rev. Joan Gray of the Greater Atlanta Presbytery. The Huntsville community continues to benefit from Wilson's generosity of time and talents. Wilson was active in the community with the Boy Scouts of America; the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAHuntsville; and AARP's Driver Safety Program.

Wilson counted among his diverse interests traveling, reading, tennis, golf and spoiling his grandchildren. He married Dr. Patricia Isles Wilson, retired professor of Alabama A&M University. They had one son and four grandchildren. The Wilsons resided in Madison, Ala.

"Spotlight on Our Elders" is a weekly feature sponsored by the Rosetta James Foundation to promote volunteerism and activism in our community among those who are 70-plus. The Foundation also provides scholarships. Learn more about us at www.rosettajamesfoundation.org. Know an outstanding elder (70+) that you would like to see featured? Send us a photo and 250-word write-up to info@valleyweeklyllc.com.



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November–March: Tuesday - Saturday: 10am - 4pm & Sunday: noon - 4pm

This Sunday's Lectionary

Sunday, November 3, 2024
Twenty-Fourth Sunday
After
Pentecost



(Track 2, Year B)
First Lesson:
Deuteronomy 6:1-9
Psalm 119:1-8
Second Lesson:
Hebrews 9:11-14
GOSPEL:
Mark 12:28-34

Finding Your Connection with Autumn and Winter Gardening

(BPT) - Whether you're a master gardener, complete novice, or something in between, fall is the perfect season to start enjoying or extend this popular family-friendly hobby.

As cooler temperatures set in, spending time outdoors becomes even more enjoyable, with fall's vibrant foliage offering a beautiful, colorful backdrop for your gardening projects. The plants and flowers you grow and display this autumn and winter won't just beautify your outdoor space - they'll also help create an inviting atmosphere. Whether you're hosting your family and friends on brisk sunny afternoons for sporting events or unwinding by the firepit on cool evenings, your garden will enhance the color and comfort of your home.

And gardening is totally on trend right now! Home services website Thumbtack has declared 2024 the "Year of the Backyard," highlighting homeowners' increased interest in upgrading their outdoor spaces. According to the survey, 62% of respondents plan to invest in landscaping projects. Similarly, Axiom's 2024 Gardening Outlook Survey echoes this enthusiasm, finding that gardeners are planning to spend more time and money on their

gardens.

If you're ready to embrace this trend, Ball Horticultural Company offers expert tips on the best plants and flowers to elevate your outdoor space this gardening season.

Embrace fuzzy sweater feelings

To encourage the cozy feelings of fall, you'll love the deep, warm red color of Echinacea Double™ Scoop Strawberry Deluxe. These striking blooms with double flowers thrive in full sun, are drought and deer resistant, and stand out with their vivid color.

You can balance any of your bright flower colors with the stunning white-silver leaves of Centaurea Silver Swirl, perfect for borders or within your flower beds. Their mounding form and wavy leaf edges add texture to any landscape design. Plus, their silver color catches the moonlight and glows on evenings spent on the patio.

Both plants will thrive throughout autumn and can be found in garden centers in late summer for fall planting and mixing.

Enjoy #SpookySeason

To get into the Halloween spirit this October, embrace darker, moodier colors and intriguing textures in your



flower beds or planters.

For a touch of drama, Cool Wave® Pansy Violet Wing, with its deep purple blooms and cheerful white-and-yellow center, is ideal for moody autumn gardens. It outperforms other pansies, quickly filling in garden spaces, and thrive through frost, making it an excellent choice for hanging baskets or patio containers.

For contrasting texture, consider Asparagus FuzzyFern Frizz. This versatile plant thrives in both sun and shade, indoors or outdoors, and offers a frothy texture for flower bed borders, baskets, or planters.

Get cozy in the kitchen

If you love cooking, Kitchen Minis™ Bon-sai Basil is the perfect choice to decorate your kitchen counters and windowsills - and boost your flavors! Using your own home-grown herbs

fine-leaf basil plant doesn't even need chopping - just sprinkle them directly over your dishes. You'll enjoy bountiful harvests straight from your kitchen counter in flowerpot sizes as small as 4 inches.

Have yourself a colorful holiday

Nothing says "happy holidays" quite like a vibrant Poinsettia. But did you know there are several varieties of shape and color?

For example, Poinsettia Peach Glow offers an eye-catching, unique novelty color perfect for a pop of unexpected color. If you're looking

for something playful, Poinsettia Christmas Mouse features adorable, mouse ear-shaped bracts, unlike anything else on the market! This poinsettia is easy to care for and will charm both children and adults alike. For a stunning holiday plant, the Early Elegance poinsettia series includes a stunning, vivid marble color, along with one of the truest pink colors available for poinsettias.

With these options to help inspire your fall and winter gardening, you can make your outdoor and indoor spaces more vibrant, fun and colorful, all season long.



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Notes of a Native Son: *The Art of 'Letting Grow'*

by *afroblastik* [John 'Jahni' Moore]

My studio is located in a transitioning neighborhood. With that come people who are transitioning - with some of them currently unhoused. I planted watermelons on the rocky terrace out front. Miraculously they grew like crazy. The fruit thrived in my alternative urban rock-strewn garden. I saw the project as an extension of what I do as an artist. This was both an installation and performance art. I would see people passing by and taking photos of the strange combination of watermelons and the wide open eyes that I had painted onto some of the rocks.

One of the purposes aside from my love of growing things was to

have something to share with the neighborhood. Something organic in more ways than one. At the end of the visual feast there could be an actual one. As the succulent fruit began to mature, I started noticing that they also began their departure. Day by day I saw the watermelon patch grow a little more patchy. The neighborhood definitely understood the assignment. I took a sense of satisfaction and joy in the dual nature of my "project".

Finally, there was one small melon left. A friend told me that if I wanted one I better go ahead and get it. Many had expressed their dis-



may that I didn't get the opportunity to enjoy the fruit of my labor - that all of the melons had been stolen. I didn't see it that way. I felt no anger or sense of violation. I think inherent in a creative person's nature is to share. This may have negative consequences at times but our creative reserve is also heavily equipped for recovery.

Sure it would have been nice to try one of the melons but the overall intention was coming to pass.

One evening, as I left, I eyed the last little melon tucked close to the steps. It did not look ripe at all but I knew if I didn't get it, I wouldn't have one at all. Putting my things in the car, I walked back over and plucked the little fella from its bed. When I got home, I gave it to my daughter to play with. She wrapped the little melon a blanket and babied it for about a week.

One morning she came down with it and put it on the counter in the kitchen as she passed by. "I wonder if

that thing is any good." I said out loud. "You want to see? Her answer surprised me. I definitely thought she would be sentimental about it. A little while later we had a bowl full of deep red fully ripe-looking fruit. She volunteered to be the guinea pig. I let her without hesitation. Her first bite told me it was better than I thought it would be. I took a bite. It was ridiculously delicious. We almost ate the entire bowl but stopped ourselves to save some for the rest of the family.

I'd assumed the melon wouldn't be ripe because of its size and since it had been carried around for a week or so. I was wrong on both accounts. That little melon carried a wealth of les-

sons. This whole thing showed me the benefit of sometimes letting go of ownership to embrace shared joy and community. Rather than feeling the need to guard what I grew, I saw the plants as art and a gift to the neighborhood. Generosity is its own reward. When the last melon, babied for a week, unexpectedly ripe and delicious was enjoyed together with my family, it served as a reminder that good things come not only from control but also from surrender. This experience tied the harmony between creating and sharing. Art is life and life is art, especially in moments when we allow others to fully partake in what we've cultivated.

Village of Promise One Table Huntsville Returns November 25

Village of Promise (VoP) announces the return of One Table Huntsville for its sixth year, a community gathering to celebrate diversity and foster connections through shared meals and storytelling. The free annual community meal represents one meal, one day, one table, and one city - united in food, fellowship, and fun for all. VoP's goal for the event is to bring people from all walks of life together, give thanks, foster connections, cre-

ate unity, and celebrate diversity. All are welcome and invited to the Big Spring Park celebration on November 25, 2024, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

"Join us at One Table Huntsville, where everyone has a place at the table," said Village of Promise CEO, Dana M. Gillis. "Come as strangers, leave as friends, and let the power of conversation and connection bridge the distance between us."

When: Monday, November 25, 2024 | 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM.

Where: Downtown Huntsville, Big Spring Park, 200 Church St SW, Huntsville, AL 35801

Who: Open to all Community members.

Why: VoP's goal for the event is to bring people from all walks of life together, give thanks, foster connections, create unity, and celebrate diversity.

- *Enjoy delicious food catered by Chef Allen Noble and vegan offerings by Vujee Vegan.*
- *Engage in storytelling sessions that celebrate our diverse community.*
- *Opportunities to connect with neighbors and build lasting relationships.*
- *No cost to attendees*

Additional Information: For more information on 2024 One Table Huntsville or for volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, visit our

website and our social media platforms on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

About Village of Promise: Village of Promise (VoP) empowers families to advance out of poverty using a multi-generational approach, promising support through a continuum of services, and inspiring them to achieve their goals and contribute to their community. VoP is a Family Advancement Center

addressing the needs of children and families in distressed, high-poverty neighborhoods. VoP serves the community through daycare, early childhood development, Pre-K-4, and family success programs and training.

For more information on Village of Promise, call (256) 536-8052 and/or visit VoP's website at <https://www.villageofpromise.org/> and social media pages on Facebook and Instagram.