

THE Anchor News

Serving the Central Texas Community
Celebrating 18 Years!

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Free



It's so hard to say good-bye to Lester McDowell

"I called him the Energizer," said Lois McDowell. "He just never stopped moving, never stopped going," she said, reminiscing about her husband, Lester McDowell.

That bouncing baby boy entered this world on August 15, 1951, to Mr. Andrew Jackson "A.J." and Mrs. Opal Lee Scott McDowell. He was the seventh of eight children.

At a young age, Lester joined Wesley United Methodist Church. He later converted to the Catholic religion and united with St. John The Baptist Catholic Church where he was a faithful member and servant of God.

Lester was educated in the Waco Independent School District. He attended J. H. Hines Elementary School, R.L. Smith Elementary School, and G. L. Wiley Middle School. He graduated from A. J. Moore High School in May of 1970. While in high school, he was a member of the A. J. Kirk Choir, National Honor Society, Who's Who Among

American High School Students, and Science Club. He learned the importance of a good work career early and began his work journey by purchasing a lawnmower in order to cut yards and earn money. Lester also worked at Plantation Foods, Boykins Anderson Funeral Home, and Safeway Grocery Chain.

Lester graduated from Paul Quinn College in Waco and earned his Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education on December 13, 1974. While at Paul Quinn College, he was



LESTER MCDOWELL

initiated into Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Iota Kappa Chapter in 1974 as a Charter Member along with line brothers Claudell

Leake, Hershel Robinson, Leon Roddy, Jeff Dunner, and Reginald Archer.

He married his high school sweetheart, Lois Jacqueline Cotton, and to this union, two daughters were born, Madelyn Opal McDowell, named after

her maternal and paternal grandmothers, Madelyn Cotton and Opal McDowell, and Andrea Jaquay McDowell

See **MCDOWELL**, pg. 14

It's so hard to say good-bye to Kenneth Anderson

The Waco community mourns the loss of a special friend, Kenneth Wayne Anderson. Ken was born on March 9, 1947, the last child of Walter Anderson Sr. and Lucille Horne-Anderson in Waco, Texas. On the night of December 21, 2020, he was called to Glory by our Almighty God. He confessed a hope in Christ at a young age and continued working for the Lord in both New Hope Baptist Church and later Carver Park Baptist Church, where he served as deacon and sang in the sanctuary, celebration, and male choruses. He was also co-chair of the Carver Park building committee for the new edifice located at 1020 Herring Ave. He was an active member until his death.



KENNETH ANDERSON

sy Kittner, McLennan Community College's Director of Human Resources, says it best. "Ken's wonderful smile and calming demeanor welcomed students, staff, and faculty to the LTC and campus for 15 years."

He attended WISD schools and was a 1965 graduate of G. W. Carver High School. He lettered in three sports while in school: football, track, and baseball. He is a member of the G. W. Carver Baseball State Championship team.

A hardworking man who never met a stranger, Ken retired from Texas Power & Light in 2003, after 30 dedicated years of service. Bored with retirement, he worked another 15 years as Campus Security for the McLennan Community College Police Department. Ken viewed his work at MCC as a ministry and cherished the opportunity to impact many lives. Earlier in his career, he worked

Ken met and married Theodora Kelly-Anderson and through this union three children were born: Hope Muriel Bryant, Sean Kelly Anderson, and Heather Loren Carter. Theodora Kelley-Anderson preceded him in death. On September 11, 1993, he married Rosalind Russell and through love and marriage, he gained another son, Justin Heath. Mr. Anderson was also preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Walter "Shorty" Anderson, Jr. and Bobby Joe Anderson.

Ken was warm and friendly to everyone he knew and met. He was known for his kindness and willingness to be supportive to all. His friendly smile and positive words will never be forgotten. Mis-

See **ANDERSON**, pg. 16

Delta Soror to give keynote this Sunday at MLK event

This Sunday, January 17, Joyce Washington of Martin, Tennessee will serve as keynote speaker at a virtual Sunday worship service at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco (UUWaco). The congregation will celebrate the life and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his profound influence on today's Black Lives Matter Movement.

Guest and member check-in begins at 10:30 am and service begins at 11:00 am. After the service, all are welcome to participate in an informal conversation beginning at Noon.



JOYCE WASHINGTON

Before the service begins, participants will join others for a brief period of "live," friendly interaction with others in the virtual sanctuary. Zoom instructions for joining the service will be posted at www.uuwaco.org on Saturday, January 16.

Washington retired after serving as a catastrophe team leader for Allstate Corporation, where she worked for 42 years. Upon her retirement, she immediately turned her energy

See **KEYNOTE**, pg. 9



Photo by Any Given Day Photography

J.L. AND LINDA CRAWFORD

A co-owner of *The Anchor News*, J.L. Crawford is the director of operations for the paper. He is also an instructor at McLennan Community College, a Bible teacher, and a LegalShield Senior Manager. Linda Crawford is co-owner and editor of *The Anchor News*. She is an instructor at McLennan Community College, a Bible teacher and a conference, workshop and motivational speaker.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR...

So much has happened in the last year. Life has changed as we know it...for now. This month's *Anchor* is dedicated to "the good and not so good of 2020."

We also want to honor just

2020—the year of devastation and presidential failure

BY LINDA DAVIS

Fear, panic, abandonment, a state of confusion, insecurity, and hopelessness—these are the feelings that permeated me throughout 2020. As many of us gathered with family and friends on New Year's Eve 2019 to ring in the new year, throwing up confetti, blowing horns, and toasting glasses, as the clock struck midnight, nothing could have prepared us for what lay ahead. Never could we have imagined that our lives would soon be impacted, and changed forever by a global pandemic. The Coronavirus is so deadly that it is compared to the Spanish Flu of 1918 that killed 675,000 Americans, and nearly 50 million worldwide, according to the CDC. Many hopes and dreams came to an immediate halt, as our worlds turned upside down, soon resembling, a full season of the Twilight Light Zone, continuously playing out daily on CNN. In disbelief I felt dazed looking at the TV screen as the death toll continued to rise. Soon after, it was no longer business as usual in the United States, and across the world.

In March of 2020, President Donald Trump issued a national lock-down in an effort to prevent a rise in COVID19 cases. The

president assured the American people that the virus was no big deal and would soon be over in a couple of weeks, falsely comparing it to the common flu. Spreading false hope of optimism, he painted a picture of Americans across the country gathering safely for Easter Service, still insisting nation's shutdown was not necessary. Since day one, this president and his administration have completely failed in the handling of the Coronavirus. The president's biggest, and most apparent mistake was lying to the American people regarding the seriousness of COVID19, and waiting weeks to take action once advised about the outbreak in China. Had he taken immediate actions, he could have prevented many cases of Coronavirus and saved thousands of lives. Instead, we witnessed a president that played down the seriousness of the virus, while refusing to wear a facial mask, and encouraging others to do the same. It soon became clear that the only concern Trump had during this time was protecting, a then, booming economy as we headed into the 2020 Presidential Election. Knowing fully well that his chances of winning were tied to the numbers reflected on Wall Street, he never had a strategic plan in place to handle the pandemic. Trump and his administration failed to take the lead, shifting all responsibility to each state's governor to handle the purchase, organization, distribution, and administering of necessary PPE, ventilators, testing supplies, testing and contract tracing. There was no true leadership nor guidance on a national level.

We were all stunned over the death toll that ripped through the state of New York, as it was the first state to lose a life to CO-



LINDA DAVIS

VID19. As an onlooker, I found it hard to imagine what life must have been like for the victim's family members losing loved ones to COVID19, and not being allowed to be at their bedside as they took their final breath. I was more outraged over the shortage of PPE (Personal Protection Equipment), provided to frontline workers, risking their lives and the lives of their family members while we, the American government, left them out in a war zone unarmed. It felt as though we were living in a third world country, as we watched nurses, and doctors draped in trash bags fastened with tape, because the hospitals had run out of gowns. We heard their personal stories detailing the reuse of N95 mask for days at a time, masks that were only meant to be worn once, and then discarded. Many shared heartbreaking stories stating how they slept in their vehicles, and garages out of fear of spreading the potential virus to their love ones at home. It was shameful, and embarrassing to witness health care workers being forced to work without mandatory supplies. Once again, the president was slow to act, intentionally prolonging issuing

the National Defense Production Act, an act signed into law in 1950 (Military Times, 2020). As a result, there were delays in providing test kits, testing and contract tracing, and the production of the simplest of supplies, such as necessary missing swabs from most test kits. If that wasn't bad enough, the testing devices were inadequate, frequently providing false readings.

President Trump and his administration aren't the only ones that gave the American people a reason to have pause, as other leading institutions we have put our trust and faith in, to govern the country with integrity, trust, loyalty, and accountability had failed us as well. Health organizations were inconsistent in their representation of true facts and data.

Why you ask. It was all in an effort to appease the President. We're now in the middle of January 2021 and according to the CDC, over 300,000 Americans have lost their lives to the Coronavirus! Even with a vaccine, thousands more Americans are expected to die before the pandemic ends.

The Trump administration promised to vaccinate 20 million Americans by the end of 2020, another failure on their part, as only 2 million Americans had received the vaccine. As we continue grieving, we mustn't forget the lives lost in 2020 to police brutality and racism.

On January 20, 2021 President Elect Joe Biden and Vice-President Elect Kamala Harris will take their rightful place in our Presidential History. We rejoice with them in their victory! We acknowledge a long journey ahead in the next 4 years to come, however it'll be a whole lot easier to cope knowing we have the White House back in order.

THE Anchor News



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PURPOSE

The Anchor News, dedicated to serving the community and surrounding areas, focuses on positive news and accomplishments of minorities.

POLICY

Anchored on the principles of scripture, *Anchor News* will at

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Signed opinion articles do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial staff. Unsigned editorials reflect the opinions of the editor.

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The comments and opinions of our readers are welcomed. Letters

and articles should be e-mailed. Letters should be no longer than 200 words and must include a name and phone number. Article submissions should be no longer than 450 words and should include an original head shot (in jpeg format) along with your name, address and phone number. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, space, potentially libelous material and copyright infringement. We also reserve the right to refuse derogatory, irrelevant and malicious submissions.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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REMEMBERING 2020, THE GOOD AND THE NOT SO GOOD

Ann Harder retires from 25 ABC KXXV

—FROM FEB. 2020—

BY EMILY BAIRD, CREATIVE SERVICES DIRECTOR

Award winning journalist Ann Harder will retire from 25 ABC KXXV in her 25th year at the television station. February 28th will be Ann's last day behind the desk where she has anchored since 1996.

"Ann has been a tremendous leader of the 25 News team and valued member of our community for decades. I am always amazed and impressed with her dedication to central Texas, loyalty to our viewers and love for everyone who she encounters. We are very proud of Ann and the legacy she is leaving." Said Adam Chase, 25 News General Manager.

"I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to serve our viewers. It's been my honor to be invited into their homes here in Central Texas. The privilege of bringing them news and information has been a tremendous joy in my life." Ann said. Throughout her years at 25, Ann has earned many awards. Among her honors, Ann has been given the Junior League of Waco Eva Award for excellence in volunteering; she was named a Distinguished Alumni of the Waco Independent School District; and in 2005 was honored as the National Media Person of the Year for the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Ann came to KXXV-TV in 1996 after years as an award-winning radio news broadcaster for WACO AM/FM. She began as primetime tv news co-anchor with Ray Peters



ANN HARDER

for the 6 and 10 p.m. newscasts, then added the 5 p.m. newscast to her duties in 1999. Bruce Gietzen was her co-anchor for 13 years from 2003-2016. "I had the privilege to sit alongside Ann for 13 years at the KXXV anchor desk,

and she is not only a rock-solid journalist but a wonderful friend and a huge asset to the community. Ann earned the respect of her peers in our newsroom and every newsroom in Central Texas, and she will be missed." Bruce Gietzen said.

Ann currently anchors the 11 a.m. news and co-anchors 5 and 6 p.m. newscasts with Lindsay Liepman and Chief Meteorologist Matt Hines.

In 2017, Ann began hosting the station's lifestyle show, "Central Texas Living" until it ended in December of 2019. "While I'm retiring from daily news anchoring, I plan to continue telling the stories of interesting Central Texans and happenings in the area on digital platforms." A noted vocalist, Ann sings for many civic and church groups throughout Cen-

tral Texas. She has served on a number of local boards including WISD Ed Foundation and MCC Foundation and currently is on the Waco Symphony Board. She's served for many years as narrator for the Baylor Symphony Children's Concerts. Ann is married to Mike Harder and they have three sons, two daughters-in-law and three granddaughters: Adam and his wife Kendal and their daughter, Ruby; Joel, Donelle and their daughters Philece and Farrow; and Evan.

The city of Waco is planning a proclamation honoring Ann's contribution to the community during their February 18th city council meeting.

25 ABC plans to celebrate Ann's impact on the station and Central Texas on February 28th during the 6pm newscast.

He turned a century!

—FROM FEB. 2020—

BY RUBY MCCRAY

Olen Hamilton, better known as Uncle Olen, turned 100 on Thursday, December 26, 2019! His nieces, nephews and many of his friends honored him with a birthday celebration at the Bellmead Civic Center. He was crowned King with a beautiful golden crown, not only for a day, but for the rest of his life.

People came from everywhere! He had friends and relatives from as far away as the state of California and naturally from Waco, Dallas, Fort Worth, Georgetown, Austin, San Antonio, LaRue, Tyler and many other surrounding areas.

Since he's an avid domino player who has won several trophies, the celebration room had long rectangular tables decorated with white tablecloths with black and white checkered runners. In addition, there was a black and a white fluffy rounded tissue pom pom on each table, along with black and white intertwined crepe streamers horizontally swaged on the wall.

One of his great nieces made very detailed black and white centerpieces for each table. Each centerpiece was in a black square basket with a black band full of white pokey dots. On that band were two small hand-made rectangular shaped dominos with the black line perfectly centered to



OLEN HAMILTON

form two squares.

Inside the basket was a large domino leaning against the three black and white dots or candy cane striped spindles. Two of the spindles were the same height with one being obviously taller. On top of each was a black cupcake wrapped in black and white striped crepe paper. On each cupcake were two small dominos. There was a small amount of silver garland under each cup to enhance it.

Those who were sitting in the chairs with the numbers underneath received the centerpieces at the end of the celebration.

There was plenty of food for everybody— party trays of fruits, cheeses, meats, sandwiches, crackers, veggies for salads. Uncle Olen's church members, domino buddies and other friends

brought food.

We were entertained with music by Uncle Olen's great nephews. Riesel's own home-grown Joel McCray of J & B Music, Arlington, Texas, performed on the keyboard. One of his other great nephews, Rodrick Sanford, of Austin, Texas performed with his mellow baritone voice singing "To God Be the Glory." I followed with "The Lord's Prayer" on Alto Saxophone. We both were accompanied by McCray on keys. Later, when one of Uncle Olen's buddies requested "When the Saints Go Marching In," I was honored to play it on the harmonica.

Uncle Olen received many gifts, greeting cards, hugs, kisses and well wishes. One of his best buddies, Ernest Dieterich, has a friend, Doug Matthys, who has met Uncle Olen on several occasions. By his being a young Veteran and knowing that Uncle Olen is a World War II Veteran, he shared the Veterans' aspect of the celebration. Uncle Olen received several special awards—a certificate of congratulations from our State Representative Doc Anderson, a Texas Flag from the Texas House of Representative, a certificate from our Governor of Texas, Greg Abbott, a United States Flag and a letter from Senator Brian Birdwell and a certificate and a Life-Time Membership card from the Veterans of Foreign Wars anywhere in the United States.

Matthys gifted Uncle Olen with 12 coasters from an eating establishment stamped with the year "1919." He was also instrumental in getting Gordon Collier of Channel 10 to come out and take footage of the celebration which aired that evening. He arranged for Douglas Nissan, Waco, to provide a complimentary vehicle which went to Uncle Olen's

home to chauffeur him to the celebration. The car remained there to chauffeur him back home. The automobile was driven by Sam Cryan, a Vietnam Veteran.

Uncle Olen will never forget his special day. Many of the guests said that this was their first 100th Birthday celebration. I'm the only one out of us six siblings who has ever attended one.

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REMEMBERING 2020, THE GOOD AND THE NOT SO GOOD

TFNB to open Elm Street bank location

–FROM MARCH 2020–

BY LINDA CRAWFORD

As a little girl, $0 \times 1 = 0$ made no sense to her. She worked hard on her multiplication tables, and eventually, this child from Water Valley, Mississippi, fell in love with math and numbers in general. It was in her hometown that Dorthesia Love got into banking and loved every minute of it.

Love has now been in the field for nearly 40 years and credits The First National Bank (TFNB) president, David Littlewood, for giving her the opportunity to be part of such a positive experience. Love has been

with TFNB for 14 years. “David was looking for someone, and a friend told him about me.”

Love was excited about the possibility of working at TFNB, “because the bank at that time was small, and I am from a small town near Oxford, Mississippi. First National was the perfect fit for me.”

Starting at TFNB in July of 2006 as a loan processor, she was in that position for years, working at the South Bosque and McGregor locations.

“I just don’t believe there is a better bank to work for. Even now that we have several locations, I am still proud to work for TFNB because we are adamant about making dreams come

true,” said Love. “We still operate with that hometown, small bank feel. We want people to know they are not just a number to us.”

Later she was given the opportunity to work in operations, fulfilling that responsibility at the McGregor location and then South Bosque as well. When the bank opened the Triangle location on Valley Mills Drive, Love was promoted to Senior Vice President. Little did she know she would be part of making an Elm Street dream a reality.

Plans are now underway for TFNB to break ground in the next few months on Elm Avenue. Love said bank officials are now meeting with locals to get their input. “We need to know from the community what they are looking for in a bank. Even though we will offer all of the services that are available at our other locations, we need to know what the people need.”

Love hopes the residents are excited. She believes TFNB can give the community financial opportunities that were not readily available before. Thus, as part of the plan to meet community needs, TFNB is establishing committees. “People might have great ideas that



DORTHEIA LOVE

we haven’t talked about, so we have three categories of committees: community leaders, pastors or faith-based leaders, and business leaders,” Love explained. The bank’s temporary location is 700 Elm Avenue while its permanent location will be 713 Elm Avenue. Jeff Wall, now with TFNB, will be part of the team as well.

For years East Waco residents have invited local businesses to come into the neighborhood. President of the local NAACP, Dr. Peaches Henry commends “TFNB for being the first

bank to open in East Waco” in many, many years. She continued that the bank’s “arrival in the area fills a longstanding economic void. As a community bank, TFNB has the opportunity to partner with East Wacoans in a significant way. Entrepreneurs of color are looking forward to having access to capital while individuals are excited about having a bank located in the neighborhood. TFNB is making an investment that will pay off for it and for East Waco.”

Love’s excitement, however, goes beyond the concept of establishing a new bank location. One of her biggest desires is to help people. “It’s not just about loans and checking accounts,” she explained. “It’s about trust and building relationships, about keeping my word and letting the community know I can be trusted. It’s about helping people, even with everyday things in general. For me, it’s about being able to one day retire, knowing the things I have done do matter; they changed lives. Having a hand in the establishment of an East Waco location will be a great way for me, years down to road, to happily end my career. The reality of it all has put a new fire in me!”



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The Equity Fund to provide grants and microloans

–FROM JUNE 2020–

The Center of Business Excellence (CBE) under the leadership of the Cen-Tex African American Chamber of Commerce has launched the Cen-Tex Minority Business Equity Fund, the first locally funded financial lending program designed exclusively for minority owned small businesses located in McLennan County.

The Equity Fund will provide grants and microloans up to \$2500 to assist minority owned small business owners with immediate relief of economic hardships caused by personal emergencies, natural disasters, or national pandemic events.

The relief is designed to offset the potential risk of reduced operations, labor force, or revenue that could severely impact minority entrepreneurship and community welfare.

The CBE is conducting an inaugural capital campaign: The Kick-Start Club. The campaign



PICTURED ARE RACHEL PATE (LEFT), VICE PRESIDENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND JOHN BIBLE, CEO/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CHAMBER.

is open to any donor seeking to invest in the success of minority owned small businesses. The goal is to raise \$100,000 within a few weeks. Donors of \$10,000 or more will receive an exclusive gift in appreciation of their generosity. All contributions are tax deductible and will be under the custodial

care of TFNB Your Bank for Life. The management and disbursement of all funds will be governed by an independent local Board of Directors.

Please contact Rachel E. Pate, Vice President of Economic Development, CTAACC: 254-235-3204 or by emailing rachel@centexchamber.com.

REMEMBERING 2020, THE GOOD AND THE NOT SO GOOD

Statement of the murder of George Floyd

—FROM JUNE 2020—

**BY DR. PEACHES HENRY
PRESIDENT OF NAACP, WACO**

Before George Floyd was killed by police in Minneapolis two weeks, African Americans were already reeling at the shooting of Breonna Taylor in her own bed by police in Kentucky, the shooting of Ahmaud Arbery by a white former police officer and his son in Georgia, and the attempt by a white woman to weaponize the New York Police Department against Christian Cooper. Simultaneously, African Americans were dealing with these events in the midst of a Pandemic that is disproportionately killing them.

The murder of Floyd was not an isolated incident; it was the latest in a string of horrible anti-Black violence. It is directly related to the systemic racism that plagues our country at an even more alarming rate than the coronavirus. The African American community—which is defined by people not by geographical borders—has been in a state of emergency long before the first COVID-19 case was brought to light. While we are heart-broken by the violence that we are witnessing and by no means condone looting and destruction of property, we must focus on the precipitating cause. Americans have taken to the streets across this country out of rage at longstanding police brutality and despair that nothing is being done to end it.

The victims in these cases of anti-Black violence represent an African American Everyman in that every African American knows that he or she could easily be caught up in identical circumstances on any given day. Texas has recently dealt with its own case of an African American man, Botham Jean, being shot and killed in his own home, while eating ice cream on his sofa. The Arbery case especially hit home with me, because every day my own 25-year-old son jogs in a predominately white neighborhood—his own neighborhood. Each morning I hold my breath as he walks out our front door and exhale only when the door opens to reveal that he has survived his daily jog. Until he returned home because of the pandemic, my son could have encountered the white woman in Central Park, because he is a law student in New York.

When Amy Cooper attempted to weaponize the New York Police Department against Christian Cooper (no relation), she knew exactly what she was doing. When Christian Cooper insisted that Amy Co-

per leash her dog according to the ordinances of Central Park, she refused and deployed her white privilege to subjugate him. Outraged by his refusal to submit (to the point of forgetting that she was being videotaped), she married her racism to the systemic racism that she depended on to suppress this African American man who refused to bow to her privilege. Her threat—"I'm going to tell them there's an African-American man threatening my life"—encapsulates the state of race in America. She reveled in the racial power that she leveraged against that Black man. She had every expectation that her racist call identifying her "attacker" as an African American would receive a corresponding response from law enforcement. This situation could have ended in the death of Christian Cooper, and Amy Cooper knew that. Thus, Floyd's murder was salt poured on an already open and festering wound for African Americans.

Let me be clear. Protestors have not claimed George Floyd as a hero or a martyr. When he left home on May 25, Floyd did not intend to be slain by a police officer and become a figure in the latest episode of the never-ending saga of police brutality. It was the police who forced African Americans to add yet another name to that list of notable Black deaths. No, Floyd is neither a hero nor a martyr to African Americans. He is a symbol of the precariousness of Black life in America. He is a reminder of how easily many pivot from the hideous taking of a man's life to handwringing over property damage.

Thus, Floyd's murder was the latest piece in the patchwork quilt of African Americans brutalized or killed by law enforcement officers who rarely face consequences for their actions. The brutality displayed by Derek Chauvin as Floyd pleaded for relief for eight minutes and forty-seven seconds is heart-wrenching to watch. To hear that man wail for his mother was so deeply disturbing. Whether or not you are an African American mother, you can respond to the call of a child for his mother in all desperation. That call should have touched every mother's heart. The disregard for Floyd's life present in the demeanor of not only Chauvin but all the officers present should enrage every American. What is more maddening, however, is that Chauvin had received 18 complaints and was still on the job. This is the injustice that drives African Americans to despair, rage, and the streets. Chauvin and the other officers should be charged,

**DR. PEACHES HENRY**

convicted, and sentenced for the wanton killing of Floyd. However, these officers are only a part of the greater problem we must acknowledge and rectify. We must redress the systemic racism that led to this tragedy.

I was pleased to see the multi-generational, multi-racial group that peacefully protested at the two rallies held in Waco. As Common says, "No one can win the war individually / It takes the wisdom of the elders and young people's energy." De'Viar Woodson consulted with the Waco NAACP and then organized and led a powerful event. I am proud of him and the other young Wacoans who helped him. They are continuing the work begun by activists of past generations. It is worth remembering that Martin Luther King was just twenty-six when he led the Montgomery Bus Boycott. College students began the lunch counter sit-ins sometimes against their parents' and professors' wishes. John Lewis was nineteen when he and twelve Black and Caucasian students became the first Freedom Riders. The young people in Waco and across this country are sacrificing their health in light of the coronavirus pandemic and in the face of the violent tactics of some law enforce-

ment officers to demand that this country live up to its ideals. Yet they are marching with hope. They are protesting so fervently, because they believe that change can happen. We should not squander their sacrifice.

Protests are a necessary starting point for change, but they cannot be the only action that individuals take. This latest grave injustice must result in more than protests, rallies, and vigils.

We must support the enactment of laws and policies that address police brutality, hold law enforcement officers accountable for their actions, establish citizen review boards, discourage contracts that make it difficult to discipline officers with documented histories of bad behavior, and develop appropriate and transparent use-of-force policies.

Waco is about to hire a new police chief. The City has the opportunity to hire a person of color to head the Waco Police Department. Hiring an African American chief of police would send a powerful message about racial equity. A properly vetted African American chief would change the long history of the Waco Police Department's lack of diverse leadership in the top ranks. An African American chief would have the potential of attracting minority candidates to the force who could progress through the ranks creating a critical pool of possible future leaders. An African American chief would help develop sound, trusting relationships with Wacoans of color. We must advocate for the hiring of a African American police chief of color via social media, letters-to-the editor, phone calls, and attendance at city council meetings.

Because the NAACP is always fighting for justice, we have policies ready to implement and laws

to enact right now. The NAACP was ready to immediately pivot from working on the COVID-19 pandemic to the George Floyd murder and uprisings to place policies and laws before city councils, state legislatures, and the US Congress. The Waco NAACP has been meeting on a quarterly basis with the Waco Police Department for nearly five years. The Minneapolis NAACP was at ground zero protesting in the streets and meeting in the council room. The NAACP is working all over the country. We invite you to join the Waco NAACP in its fight against police brutality and for racial equity.

Above all, we must all vote in local, state, and national elections. Our vote is the single most powerful weapon we have to combat police brutality and systemic racism. It is our vote that causes politicians to act. The measure of the value of our vote is how desperately our opponents fight to keep us from exercising it. If you do not think that a vote matters, consider what has been going on in this country for the last three and half years. That is the result of voting. It is crucial that every Wacoan who participated in the rallies also vote in upcoming elections. If they do not, the rallies will have been an empty gesture.

The chaos that we are currently experiencing might lead some to believe that we will not come through this moment. I wholeheartedly disagree with that premise. If we can begin to see each other as collaborators in this vast struggle for the soul of America that has been going on since its founding, we can transform this country. Rather than allow this moment in our country's life to drive us to hopelessness, let it be the catalyst for a renewed commitment to justice.

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REMEMBERING 2020, THE GOOD AND THE NOT SO GOOD

One Fellowship welcomes new pastor

—FROM JULY 2020—

In the last two decades, Rev. Beverly Connelly has moved over thirty times. “You realize after a while that moving at 25 is totally different from moving at 61,” Connelly said.

But moving has been a part of her life as long as she can remember. Though this one has been tiresome, she is overjoyed to move to Waco, Texas, where she will serve as the pastor of One Fellowship UMC. And what makes it extra special is the fact that the former pastor, Rev. Bryan Dalco, is her long-time friend. She says he is one of her mentors as she has known him for the last three years.

As part of the Texas conference, she has had the opportunity to work with Dalco as they have attempted to begin a Black Methodists for Church Renewal chapter in this area. In their attempts to bring this organization here, they became friends. Later, Connelly was invited to serve on the Board of Ordained Min-

istry and she and Dalco currently serve in this capacity together. “He has acquainted me with this conference and with the history of the city of Waco and the ministries here. He is well connected in community events and non-profit ministries,” explained Connelly and “he has been instrumental in helping me understand the various needs in the Waco area.”

Connelly grew up in a military town as the third of four children, enjoying academic and religious life amid cultural diversity. After graduating from UMHB with a BS in elementary education, she taught in the classroom for several years. She met and married Joey D. Connelly, who felt called to ministry. They had two children, Joshua and Cherish. Joe attended seminary at Perkins Theological Seminary. Then the Connellys went on to help start a new church, Jubilee UMC, in Duncannonville, Texas.

They served at Jubilee during Joe’s seminary years and later served in New Orleans, Louisiana. In 1999, Connelly felt the



PASTOR BEVERLY CONNELLY

call to ministry and matriculated to Raleigh/Durham, where she attended Duke Divinity School. After graduation, the family returned to New Orleans, just ahead of Hurricane Katrina.

“I served as a hospital chaplain for several years until Hurricane Katrina displaced our family, and we moved back to Texas.”

In 2006, upon returning to Louisiana, the UMC Bishop re-

quested that she serve in the parish setting. As a parish pastor, Connelly enjoyed integrating the ministries of dance and drama into the worship services.

“We were able to build active children and youth ministries by involving youngsters in these ministries,” said Connelly, but after a divorce in 2011, Connelly returned to Texas, once again, and began teaching in the public-school setting.

“Teaching children was very healing for me. Despite being in a school setting, I began a teacher devotional and prayer time. Teachers and administrators often found themselves in my classroom, with various prayer requests.” Having the best of both worlds, Connelly was overjoyed.

Connelly’s daughter and her husband served as worship leaders of the English ministry within a Korean Church in the Killeen/Ft. Hood area. When the senior pastor discovered her mother was an ordained elder in the UMC, he asked Connelly to serve as the part-time English minis-

ter. She served this congregation for four years and saw immense growth during those years. Later, Connelly requested a permanent transfer from the Louisiana Conference to the Central Texas Conference. Her request was granted in 2017.

Connelly was happy to serve the members of Community of Hope UMC, in Mansfield, Texas for two years but after some time, she requested to move closer to her aging mother, who is battling dementia. Fortunately, the Bishop and Cabinet, fulfilled this request, and she is looking forward to serving as the pastor of One Fellowship. Even though she is excited, Connelly anticipates there being many challenges, as she serves “in a new ministry setting, while pastoring (primarily) in this “virtual” way,” she said.

“I have spoken to many members by phone and have had a ‘Meet and Greet’ session by Zoom. I am finding this congregation easy to love and look forward to serving them and to serving the Lord with them.”

Local citizen celebrates 100 years of life

—FROM AUGUST 2020—

When Rosetta Manning-Mainor Stone came into this world 100 years ago, parents Arthur James and Myrtle Holmes Alexander Manning were so excited to finally have a baby girl. Born in a small rural community in Leon County on July 20, 1920, Rosetta brought them great joy as they already had three little boys.

When the family moved to Bosque County when Rosetta was six, they discovered that the elementary school was quite a ways from their farm. Thus, Rosetta’s Aunt Vernon suggested that she live with her grandmother, Mentha Manning, better known as Big Mama. Big Mama’s house was located at 504 Lottie Street in Waco and was truly the place where many Mannings hung out.

Here Rosetta met many more of her daddy’s family members. She met Aunt Babe, Aunt Ruth, Aunt Glenn, and Aunt Robin. She also met Cousin Julia Ann, Cousin George, Cousin Walter, and Uncle Cicero. Yes, this was the place where her education began, as she met many

relatives across the years and learned how she was related to them all.

At age six, Rosetta was about to experience many firsts. East Waco Elementary (now Hines Elementary) was her first grade experience. Professor Hines was her first principal, and Mrs. Hines was her first grade teacher. Throughout the years, many teachers took a great interest in Rosetta, motivating her to go even further. As a result, she attended and graduated from A.J. Moore High. Mr. J.J. Wilson was the principal and Miss Ethel Ophelia King was the class sponsor. Commencement was held at New Hope Baptist Church at 915 North 6th Street in Waco on May 30, 1939.

Following her high school graduation, she enrolled in Paul Quinn College but attended only one year. Due to economic factors and limited financial resources, Rosetta left college and worked at the famous Goldstein Miguel Company taking home a weekly salary of \$9.90 with a 10 cents deduction for Social Security.

But times and needs would change. WWII would cause

many young men and women to leave home to serve their country, Rosetta included.

Through the local Texas Employment Office, Rosetta was hired to work as a dietary aid at a defense plant in Hanford, Washington. As family members looked at a United States map, they faced the fact that she would be a very long way from home. Still, Rosetta left Waco on October 22, 1943, boarding the MKT Railroad train.

It would be during this time that Rosetta would meet her future husband. As faith would have it, Henry Mainor was looking for someone to talk to because he, too, was a long way from his home, Yazoo, Mississippi. Rosetta and Henry became good friends and eventually married on January 10, 1944.

During her time on the

West Coast and after having six children, Rosetta decided she wanted a career,

so she enrolled in Tacoma Technical College and became a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN). And even after adding two more children to the fold, she worked at several hospitals and performed private duty care, before finally retiring at age 79.

The Mainors lived on the West Coast for nearly a quarter of a century. Later, they moved to Texas and lived in Killeen, Belton, and Temple, finally settling in Waco. Henry died in 1995. In 1999, Rosetta later married Phillip Stone, who passed away in 2011.

Rosetta and Henry treasured their children. Of the eight, Rayfer Earle, Charles David, and Reuben Gary are deceased. The remaining five live in Waco and

continue to love, honor, and respect their mother, and for her 100th birthday, Henry, Fred (Brenda), Reggie (Tanya), Brenda (Wilson) and Marcia (John) planned a quiet, one-month long birthday celebration. They asked family and friends to send their mom birthday cards, hoping she would get at least 100 cards by July 20, and according to Brenda, they reached that goal long before Rosetta’s actual birthday.

Rosetta is blessed with many other relatives. Of her 11 siblings, she has one surviving sister, Lillian Manning. She also has 24 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren and 13 nieces and nephews.

This year has been such a blessing to her. Often wondering if she has surviving classmates from that 1926 first grade class and the 1939 high school graduation class, Rosetta is just grateful to be alive. But what’s her secret to a century of living? Rosetta says no matter what she did or where she went, no matter what she said or what she faced—good or bad, happy or sad, her secret to a long life is really simple: “I always put God first.”



ROSETTA MANNING-MAINOR STONE

REMEMBERING 2020, THE GOOD AND THE NOT SO GOOD

Local scout completes Eagle Project amid pandemic

—FROM AUGUST 2020—

Andrew Jones, a senior at Waco High School and a member of Troop 453, has completed his Eagle Scout project, a prayer garden at his church. Jones started the garden in March, but in the wake of a global pandemic, he did not complete it until recently. Originally scheduled to be completed in April, the Prayer Garden came to an immediate standstill after Governor Greg Abbott issued a statewide mandate “to shelter in place” due to the corona virus outbreak.

The Prayer Garden has been one of Jones’s goals since he helped a fellow scout create one several years ago. Once the governor’s mandate was lifted, Jones, providing leadership, and with the help of his troop, family, friends, and church members, completed the final stages of his project in July.

He has already witnessed the positive impact the prayer garden has on the members of his church, Second Missionary Baptist,, as well as the surrounding East Waco Community. One such person is his pastor, Rev. Nika Davis. Davis says Jones’s “achievement of the rank of Eagle scout is an outstanding accomplishment. His vision, discipline, and commitment to complete his prayer garden project is a credit to his leadership abilities.”

Davis refers to the project as a ministry because the “entire community benefits from this unique space to spend time in communion with God.”

Davis’s wife, Beverly, agrees. She, too, says the garden represents communion with God. The location of the garden, says Beverly, makes it easy for anyone who needs to spend time with the Lord, to do just that. “Andrew has achieved a major accom-



ANDREW JONES

plishment in his life that will live far beyond his years on earth. I

am delighted to know an Eagle Scout.”

Jones’s other community activities and school honors are varied. He has worked with church food pantries and was part of Austin Avenue’s clean-up project, and he is on an accelerated academic track, taking advanced placement courses at his school. Touting a 3.2 GPA, Jones is a member of the National Honor Society and the A/B Honor Roll. In addition, he is part of LEAD (Leadership, Education and Development Program). The program pairs him with a community leader, who serves as his mentor and provides educational field trips, college tours and exposure to local businesses. Jones is also a proud member of the Waco High Lions football team. After graduation, he plans to attend McLennan Community College and later transfer to the University of Texas at Arlington or

the University of North Texas.

Jones thanks his church, family, friends, and troop for their support. He is especially grateful to his LEAD mentors, Evan Klaras and Brad Ryals of Keith ACE Hardware. In addition, he gratefully acknowledges the contributions of community sponsors: HEB, Bill Haddox Insurance, Phipps Memorial, Lowe’s, Home Depot, Westview Nursery, the First National Bank of Central Texas, Piz-za Hut and Shipley’s Donuts.

He is the son of Patrick Jones, Sr. and Amelia Mornes-Njoku and the grandson of Kenneth and Patsy Jones and Doris Brown. The garden is dedicated to the memory of his paternal great-grandparents, Frank and Evelyn Jones, and maternal great-grandparents, Lee and Victoria Jefferson.

Jones hopes the garden will bring years of peaceful joy and calm relaxation to all who enter its sanctuary.

Killeen’s virtual black art & film festival celebrates success

—FROM SEPT. 2020—

BY W.B. GUNTER

In 2019, plans were underway for presenting to the public an art and film festival from the perspectives of Black artists and filmmakers. Luvina Sabree’s vision was to create a space for black filmmakers to tell their stories from their perspectives. Sabree is founder of the Armed Forces Natural Hair and Health Expo, held annually in Killeen. It has been a huge success with celebrity guests, entertainment, and seminars. She is no stranger to big events and packing a venue. The Art and Film Showcase is another part of that evolution of bridging community engagement and the business of art and film together. The film festival was set to open in March, 2020 but had to be postponed due to COVID-19. It had to be rescheduled until September 5, but to save money and lives, Sabree made the decision was made to bring the showcase virtually.

Sabree met with filmmaker, director, and owner of KZamore Entertainment, Kerry-Ann Zamore Frazier to discuss the festival and how to ensure the production would align with the vision. Frazier connected Sa-

bree with people she collaborated with on some of her productions. After meeting with everyone, a dynamic team of individuals worked independently to encompass the vision and establish a blueprint for future endeavors, but why a Black art and film festival?

Sabree says, “I want us to tell our own stories. Clearly, we have to provide a place to create and show our stories from our perspectives and in a positive light. I didn’t want those stories that bring us down or the typical stories we often see and hear.”

Perhaps her insight is cut from the same cloth that created The Harlem Renaissance, and The Hughes Brothers. That’s the type of vision John Singleton and Barry Gordy evoked. The theme of this production was, “Telling Our Stories.”

The team, Sabree, Frazier, Vic Hall, Kisha C.G, and Antonio and Serenity Edward, rolled up their sleeves and got busy. Each member of the team has a “can do will do” work ethic, exhibits the utmost professionalism, and leadership qualities that exceed expectations. Initially, the plan was to sell 100 tickets through Eventbrite. The workshop tickets sold out and more sold out for general admission tickets. In



LUVINA SABREE

the virtual world, guest capacity matters as well.

The festival opened virtually the morning of September 5th with writing and acting workshops for children and adults. Presenters included Erik Bernard, Danyelle Weatherford, Kerry-Ann Zamore Frazier, and Kaylynn Wilkerson. Saxaphonist, AD Bonner delighted the audience with beautiful music, and the feedback was phenomenal. Artists who spent time creating live art included Wanda Gunter, Devan Mingo, Dreka, Ayden, and Greyson Thomas, Jean-Pierre Verdijo, and Teshelle Za-

more-Combs. To learn more about this event, please visit, <https://shiz.tv/wp-content/uploads/KilleenArtFilmShowcase-2020Public.pdf>.

If you would like to participate in future art and film events, continue honing your crafts, upload examples of your talents, and allow your body of work speak for you even before the interview and audition process begins. Next year will be here before you know it, and pandemic or not, Luvina Sabree said, “a virtual component will be a part of other events.” Our stories are a part of our legacy.

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REMEMBERING 2020, THE GOOD AND THE NOT SO GOOD

Emerson promoted to Deputy City Manager

—FROM SEPT. 2020—

Reprinted by permission from City of Waco's E-letter.

Deidra Emerson, recently promoted to Deputy City Manager with the City of Waco, began her career in public administration with the City of Fort Worth in 1995. She began as a temporary employee and advanced to increasingly responsible positions of: administrative assistant, Contract Compliance Specialist, Contract Compliance Supervisor, Assistant Housing Director and Director of Municipal Court Services.

Emerson is active in professional and civic activities. She is a member of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators (NFBPA), currently serving as the local chapter President. She is a member of the Fort Worth City Credit Union Board, serving as the Secretary and the National Association for Court Managers. She has served on the United Way Tarrant County Educational Council and is a graduate of the NFBPA Mentor Program and Leadership Fort Worth.

A member of Delta Sigma



DEIDRA EMERSON

Theta Sorority, Incorporated, Emerson has a Bachelor of Arts in business management from Dillard University in New Orleans, Louisiana, and a Master of Business Administration from Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth, Texas. Emerson is a native of Richmond, California.

She enjoys spending her free time with her family, mentoring young adults and traveling.

Dr. Ayana Daniels starts new journey as chiropractor

—FROM OCT. 2020—

Dr. Ayana Daniels, aka Dr. Yani, is a new chiropractor in the Waco area. As a St. Louis, Missouri native, her life has been interesting, as she grew up in a military family moving from state to state. Through these adventures, Daniels was able to adapt to new environments and gather individual life skills.

From a young age, she knew she wanted to help and care for others. Upon graduating from University of Missouri at Saint Louis with her bachelor's in psychology, Daniels explored a variety of job opportunities. And even though her career driven journey did not begin with chiropractic, she felt as though her strong belief in her faith brought her to chiropractic.



DR. AYANA DANIELS

In her journey, even the beginning, she knew her life goal was to serve in health and wellness where she would be able to assist those in pain. What made this goal different, however, was her desire to serve people without the use of medicine.

She learned the concept of

giving back to her community through her affiliation with the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated Fall 2009 initiate, public service sorority. What brought her to the Waco area, was not only the family environment, but also her caring and personable relationship with Dr. Shamonica Trunell, owner of Hillcrest Chiropractic Clinic, PLLC. Trunell's belief in Daniels as a chiropractor adds depth to her practice here in the Waco area.

Upon Daniels' graduation from the renown Logan College of Chiropractic in Chesterfield, Missouri, Trunell sought her out, offering her the opportunity to join her practice. After accepting the position, Daniels moved proudly with her son, Nico, to begin her new journey as a chiropractor.

Barefield re-elected to the Waco City Council, representing District 1

—FROM NOV. 2020—

Andrea Barefield was recently re-elected to the Waco City Council, representing District 1. She is the Executive Director of the Texas Brazos Trail Region, part of the Texas Heritage Trails Program. Texas Brazos Trail's mission is to educate, engage and promote cultural and heritage tourism in the 18 county Texas Brazos Trail Region. Before joining the Region, Barefield was the Main Street Manager for City Center Waco. There, she was able to develop, cultivate and grow a sense of community in Downtown



ANDREA BAREFIELD

Waco through historic preservation, economic development,

and placemaking.

Barefield was elected to serve on the Waco City Council representing District 1 in 2018 and is currently Mayor Pro Tem. She serves on the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame Museum board and the Airport Advisory board. She continues her love for working with young people by serving as Council Liaison for the Waco Youth Council. She is coaching them in civic leadership training and helping them cultivate special projects like recycling and educating other young people about their carbon footprint.

She serves on the Texas Downtown Association Board, Waco ISD Foundation Board, Prosper Waco Board, Creative Waco Cultural Arts Task Force, NAACP Executive Committee as 2nd Vice President and Economic Engagement Chair, Communities in Schools Board, StartUp Waco Board, Community Visioning Board and Texas Lyceum. Barefield is also a proud member of the Waco Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

Barefield has a public relations degree from Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, where she met husband Elijah. They have been happily married for 18 years and have two beautiful sons, Drew and Jaxon.

A VIRTUAL SERVICE FOR

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. & Black Lives Matter

Please join friends of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco - UUWaco - on Sunday, January 17, 2021 to celebrate **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Black Lives Matter.** This will be a "virtual" worship service whose link will be posted at www.uuwaco.org on Saturday, January 16th at Noon.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Joyce Morris Washington

Racial Justice Advocate
Martin, Tennessee

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KEYNOTE

Continued from page one

towards Social Justice Advocacy. Even while in her corporate position, she was a champion for diversity, inclusion, and equality.

Now, in her role as a Social Justice Advocate, Washington's mission is to help eradicate systemic and institutional racism, and to represent people with "no voice," such as the working poor, low-income families, and individuals. But UUWaco board member, Anita Knight, says this way of life is not new for her long-time friend. Knight, President-Elect to the Board of Directors, says Washington was a strong career leader with a Fortune 100 Company during her career, overseeing teams of people providing emergency services to many thousands of victims of catastrophic disasters countrywide.

"Now, as a retiree, Joyce focuses her energy as an advocate and formal facilitator for racial justice pursuant to eradicating systemic and institutional racism," says Knight.

As a certified Racial Justice Facilitator, Washington now leads workshops on the implicit bias in today's race relations. Her audiences typically consist of individuals seeking to understand different racial perspectives and to embrace and acknowledge the true history of our country. Participants include other community activists, seminary students, teachers, social workers, church groups, and social services groups from many non-profit agencies.

Washington co-chairs the Weakley County Reconciliation Project whose mission is to engage communities in conversations on matters of race. This group is actively working to acquire and install a Lynching Memorial within her county. Five to six blacks were known to have been lynched there. In addition, Washington is Chairperson of the Martin Housing Authority serving low-income families and individuals. She also is a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration, a master's degree in business administration, and a second master's in strategic communication.

Washington has three grown children and seven grandchildren. She grew up in Northwest Tennessee. Using her motherwit and God-given passion to "Do the right thing. Not the popular thing," she and a dedicated cohort of retired women consistently hold vigils for transformation and justice within Weakley County. They began this activity in the week following George Floyd's death. People can see them with their signs – rain or shine – at least once a week.

According to Knight, UUWaco is inviting and welcoming to this particular service many people of various ethnicities, backgrounds, locations, and affiliations (both religious and secular) "to listen, learn, and join us to discuss pathways to civil justice."

REMEMBERING 2020

Bellmead's Jasmine Neal wins council seat

—FROM NOV. 2020—

Jasmine Neal recently saw victory in the race against William (Bill) Ridings for the City of Bellmead Council Member - Place 4 position. She won with 61.1% of the vote while Ridings, the incumbent, received 38.9% of the votes. Voters cast 223 votes for Neal and 142 for Ridings.

Neal was born and raised in Waco, Texas and is a proud graduate of University High School. She earned a bachelor of Business in Management degree from Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi, and is currently working on a master's of Business Administration degree at Tarleton State University.

Neal embarked upon an entrepreneurial career as a small business owner when her grandmother, the late Dr. Evelyn Thompson-Neal passed the torch, hoping to continue her legacy at Young Expression Childcare, LLC in Bellmead. Neal currently works as Director of Operations and has been affiliated with the company for over 10 years. By applying business principles to many civic and non-profit organizations, Neal has been involved in several successful ventures.

Commissioner Patricia Miller is very pleased with the outcome of the race. Miller is the McLennan County Commissioner for Precinct 2. Looking over the political landscape of McLennan County, Miller said she was reminded of the words of former president Bill Clinton. "Citizen service is the very American



JASMINE NEAL

all of us working together. Our mission is nothing less than to spark a renewed sense of obligation, a new sense of duty, a new season of service."

For Miller, "The candidacy and victory for Council Lady Elect Jasmine Neal imbues a sense of pride, that all women and minorities may see public office as a viable avenue for their talents, input, and vision. I congratulate her and wish her well and look forward to working with her on behalf of the citizens of the City of Bellmead and McLennan County.

As a team-oriented leader, Neal enjoys motivating people to meet their goals and exceed their expectations.

idea that we meet our challenges not as isolated individuals but as members of a true community, with

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(Reviewed in the United States on August 20, 2019)

"I absolutely love this book! I could not put it down and read it in two days. There is so much good stuff in this book that I am reading it again. It is inspiring, encouraging and will bless you."

5.0 OUT OF 5 STARS FIVE STARS | AMAZON CUSTOMER

(Reviewed in the United States on May 21, 2018)

"This is an amazing book. It is entertaining, compelling and convicting. A definite must-read for everyone!"

5.0 OUT OF 5 STARS | EASY READ AND APPLICABLE TO MY LIFE

(Reviewed in the United States on March 27, 2019)

"After God, Destiny, and a Glass of Wine, I felt like I could take the author's response to certain circumstances and apply to my own life. Each chapter is a life learning lesson of praising God through hard times, and walking into God's plan for my life. It may appear as an easy read, because I read it in one day my first time reading it. Then I had the opportunity to re-read and breakdown each chapter week by week."

Rey

5.0 OUT OF 5 STARS | EXCELLENT BOOK

(Reviewed in the United States on June 13, 2020)

"This is an amazing book. I found it helpful in navigating my fear of not reaching my full potential. It helped me understand how I can have a positive God-ordained destiny. Excellent work!"

Dr. Mia Moody-Ramirez



GOD, DESTINY, AND A GLASS OF WINE AVAILABLE ON AMAZON

57 million Americans have legal issues

SUBMITTED BY J.L. CRAWFORD, LEGALSHIELD, SENIOR MANAGER

(That's a Whole Lot of People) The Legal Needs Of American Families Study (Legal Needs Study) shows that working Americans and their families face a myriad of legal issues on almost a daily basis. The study shows that 57 million full-time working Americans experienced at least one significant legal event in

the past 12 months, but only 60% of those who experienced such an event actually sought out the services of a lawyer to help them. The areas of greatest need identified in the survey include auto and traffic issues such as traffic tickets and accidents, family issues such as adoption and divorce, and estate planning concerns such as wills, trusts, and estate or inheritance management. The Legal Needs Study also shows that legal problems know no eco-



J.L. CRAWFORD

nomie boundaries. All income levels experience legal issues or events at about the same rate - 66%.

Look at the list below (from <http://www.legalshield.com/top25legalissues/>).

- Automobile accident
- Identity theft
- Execution of a contract
- Inherited property
- Secured a home mortgage/refinanced home
- Filed bankruptcy
- Divorce
- Friend who owes you money files for bankruptcy
- Speeding ticket or traffic violation
- Injured someone accidentally
- Prepared a will
- Leased a vehicle
- Marriage

- Challenged a will
 - Leased an apartment or home or bought a time share
 - Creditor taking legal action
 - Set up a trust
 - Adoption of a child/Child Support
 - Became executor of parents' estate
 - Property was damaged while in storage
 - Was subpoenaed
 - Dog bit someone
 - Vehicle damaged while parked on street
 - Sued by tenant
- Is your challenge listed above? Preexisting problems are covered, so give me a call at 254-717-4927. Hurry. With LegalShield, "...we can help you worry less and live more." Please see my ad in this issue.*



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Linda McDonald, ABR

Is it time to change?

BY JERRY SNIDER

As a health coach, I'm excited to offer a Health Q&A column for the readers of the Anchor News.

QUESTION: Hi Jerry. I'm worried about my son. He's almost 50 years old and has started having headaches that turn to migraines. He's overweight, wears a CPAP at night, and just retired from a very stressful job. He tries to eat well but I've also seen him splurge a bit too often. He goes to the doctor, which is good, but I'm afraid his doctor is not giving him proper advice. How do you know when your doctor isn't giving you the help you need? -Casandra

ANSWER: Well Casandra, this is not a super common issue but it does happen. It's really good that your son is not afraid to go to the doctor for check-ups. Far too many men his age are willing to suffer in poor health rather than go to the doctor. So that's a huge win in my book.



JERRY SNIDER

Before he switches doctors, you may want to ask your son if he's truly trying to follow the doctor's recommendations. If your son is splurging too often on unhealthy foods, he may not be following all the other recommendations such as using his cpap machine every night. It also sounds like your son might need to have a conversation with the doctor and share how he truly feels about the suggested changes. There's definitely a breakdown if the recom-

mendations aren't working but it may not be the doctor at fault.

If your son has that conversation and his doctor is unwilling to change the approach (and your son is following the plan exactly as the doctor explains) then it may be time to look for a second opinion. You might be surprised, but most doctors are actually okay with this. They don't mind having another doctor offer an opinion if it will make your son healthier.

To find a new doctor, your son simply needs to do a little research. There are several places (including friends and family) to find reviews on doctors. One common place is actually your local church. Pastors and doctors interact more than you think. A pastor that's been in the area for a while can always provide a list of good doctors.

What it all boils down to is your son is ultimately responsible for his health. If he doesn't believe in the advice he's given, he should look

for a second opinion. But be careful of "Dr. Google" as it's an unreliable source when attempting to make a self-diagnosis.

Praying your son finds healthier days ahead.

Have a question for Jerry? Send it to jerry@allinhealthandwellness.com. Jerry Snider is an exercise physiologist, health

coach, and owner of All In Health and Wellness. He has authored two books available on Amazon: *No More Sugar Coating and Confidence Through Health*, and is the host of the podcast *Confidence Through Health*. Visit www.allinhealthandwellness.com to learn more about Jerry Snider.

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Can mankind improve upon God? Part 1

BY RUBY MCCRAY

Allow me to begin by asking you not to read this article in a mean-spirited tone; this is not my intention. Neither I nor anyone else can make the Bible say what they want it to say; the Bible says what it says if quoted correctly. Yes, the Bible was written by man, but it was dictated by God through the Holy Spirit. I'll give an example from the Old Testament and Scripture passages from the New Testament.

"Now it came to pass in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, that this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying: 'Take a scroll of a book and write on it all the words that I have spoken to you against Israel, against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spoke to you, from the days of Josiah even to this day. It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the adversities which I purpose to bring upon them, that everyone may turn from his evil way, that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin.'

"Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah; and Baruch wrote on a scroll of a

book, at the instruction of Jeremiah, all the words of the LORD which He had spoken to him." Jeremiah 36:1-4

Since Jeremiah was confined, he asked Baruch to go into the house of the LORD on the day of fasting and read to all of the people what was written. He said that perhaps the people would turn from their evil way, because great was the anger and fury of the LORD that He had pronounced against the people.

They proclaimed a fast before the LORD to all the people in Jerusalem and in Judah, and Baruch read from the scroll. Michaiah heard the reading and told the king and all the princes about it. The princes sent Jehudi to command Baruch to bring the scroll to read it to them, which he did. Jeremiah 36:4-15

"Now it happened, when they had heard all the words, that they looked in fear from one to another, and said to Baruch, 'We will surely tell the king of all these words.'" Jeremiah 36:16

They asked Baruch from where did the words come? He told them that God told Jeremiah who called him to write them. The princes said they



EVANGELIST
RUBY MCCRAY

would certainly tell the king; but in the meantime, he and Jeremiah should go into hiding and tell no one where they are. Jeremiah 36:19

The princes stored the scroll in the chamber of Elishama the scribe before they told the king about it. The king sent Jehudi to bring it and read it to him. When he had read three or four columns, the king took the scroll, cut it with the scribe's knife and threw it into the fire without fear. However, some tried to dissuade him to no avail.

"And the king commanded Jerahmeel the king's son,

Seraiah the son of Azriel, and Shelemiah the son of Abdeel, to seize Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet, but the LORD hid them." Jeremiah 36:26

After the king cut up and burned the scroll, the LORD came and spoke to Jeremiah again. He told him to take another scroll and have Baruch write all the words that were in the first one plus more besides. I'm asking you to read in your Bible from this point onwards for the sake of space. Jeremiah 36:27-37

Are you able to understand better how we got the words recorded in the Bible? We are taught that Moses wrote the first five Books of the Bible, the Torah; yet, Moses wasn't born until the second Book, Exodus. How could he have written the first Book, Genesis, and the beginning Book of Exodus? He did it just like Jeremiah. It was dictated by God.

Now, let's look at some Scripture passages in the New Testament concerning how the Bible was written.

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruc-

tion in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16, 17

"And so we have prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:19,20

This is only one of the reasons why we need to get the Bible back into every one of our classrooms from Pre-K through University. We all need to know and speak the same thing.

Please join me in February as I introduce the reason for this foundation. All Scripture is taken from the New King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise stated. You may not believe me...just what if I'm right!

Ruby McCray is the founder of A City of Refuge Ministries. For questions or comments e-mail rubyacorm@yahoo.com or write to A City of Refuge Ministries, P. O. Box 2025, Waco, Texas 76703.

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Ways to liven up your home after the holidays

SUBMITTED BY
LINDA MCDONALD

1. Get colorful. From throw pillows and blankets to rugs and drapes, a pop of color can brighten any room. Colors like dark teal, burgundy, olive or slate gray would be a warm addition to any room in the house.

2. Let the sunshine in. The sun may not be shining much during the winter, but there are ways to allow for more light to enter your space. Aside from opening a window

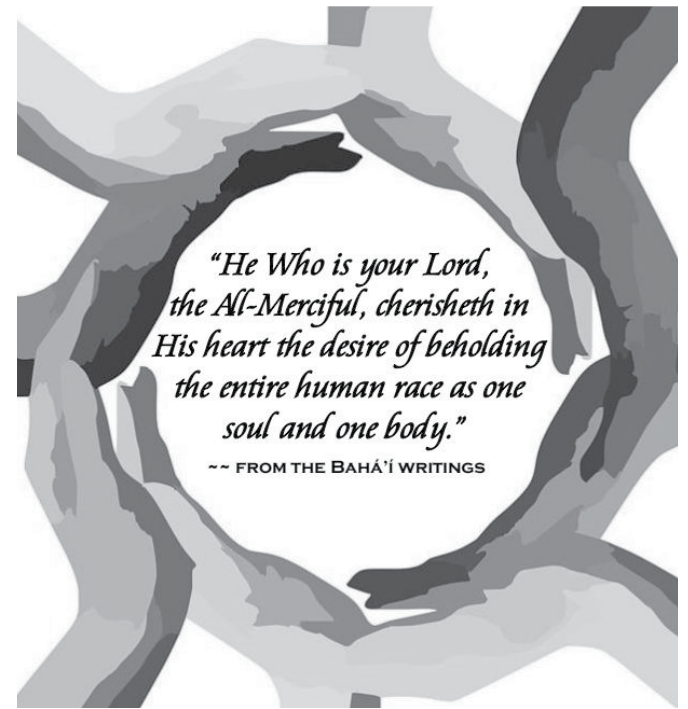


LINDA MCDONALD

to let in natural light, adding a mirror or translucent shades to your favorite room can also create more brightness.

3. Plants, plants, plants. Activate your green thumb in the wintertime with a few houseplants. Not only will they help you look forward to spring, but they will remove toxins and keep your home clean.

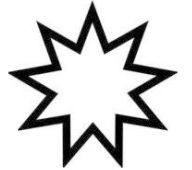
4. Warm it up. Jolly Old St. Nick may have retired to the North Pole for the year, but that doesn't mean you can forget about your fireplace. Jazz up your mantel with candles, wreaths, pinecones and evergreen clippings to keep the spirit of the season alive. Call Linda McDonald, ABR, CRS, GRI, PMN, SRS, TRLP, "The Real Estate Lady," for all of your real estate needs: Coldwell Banker/Apex Realtors, 254-855-1717.



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~ FROM THE BAHÁ'Í WRITINGS

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McDOWELL

Continued from page one

whose initials are A.J.M. after her paternal grandfather.

Lester began his teaching career in the Waco Independent School District in 1976. His first teaching position was at Brook Avenue Elementary School. He moved up to the middle school level and worked at his middle school alma mater, G. L. Wiley, and G. W. Carver Middle Schools for the next thirteen years. During this time, Lester continued his education at Prairie View A & M University and earned his master's degree in administration on May 7, 1978. While at Carver, he was a science teacher. Principal Faye Weaver valued his educational contributions and often said of his adventures and experiments, "En-

ter the science lab at your own risk."

Lester advanced and became assistant principal at G. W. Carver under Principal Weaver's leadership and guidance. He returned to the elementary level as the principal at Lake Waco and Provident Heights Elementary Schools. In 1999, he served as principal at G. L. Wiley Middle School until his retirement in 2003. After retirement, Lester attended Dallas Institute of Funeral Service and received his Associate of Applied Science Degree in Funeral Service on November 16, 2007.

His love for education and the students led him out of retirement to become a temporary preferred administra-



LESTER McDOWELL

tor from 2014 to 2020 at eight WISD campuses. His last assignment in 2020 was at Alta Vista Elementary School.

Lester developed an extraordinarily strong relationship with students, parents, and staff members. He supported every school with a positive attitude and was always energetic and full of life and joy. Thus, his wife affectionately called him the energized battery because he just kept going and going.

Lester served on the La Vega ISD Board of Trustees from May 6, 1989 until May 2, 1992 and was Board President from 1991 to 1992. The energized battery kept going as for a brief period in 2012, he served in the City of Bellmead as a city council member with great distinction. He also served on the BEDC from January 2017 until his demise. He was a huge advocate and promoted the cities of Bellmead and Waco every chance he could.

Lester had a dream to own a funeral home and accomplished that dream with the ownership of McDowell Funeral Home. There are currently two locations-- in Hillsboro, Texas and Waco respectively. He will watch over his second location in Waco from Heaven as it is being constructed from the ground up. His daughter, Andrea, has worked closely with him to see his dream reach fruition as she co-labored with him daily in preparation to continue his legacy. He was blessed to have both of his daughters as trained funeral directors to continue his legacy.

On Thursday, January 7, 2021, the Lord called him home to receive his wings. He was 69 years old. Lester was preceded in death by his parents, Mr. A.J. and Mrs. Opal McDowell; his brothers, Anderson and Allen McDowell; and his special niece and goddaughter, Tara McDowell.

His legacy will continue on through the survivors of his life: his dedicated wife for 48 years, Mrs. Lois Jacqueline

McDowell; his loyal and dutiful daughters, Madelyn Opal McDowell-Butler (Steven) and Andrea Jaquay McDowell; his beloved grandsons, Paw Paw's Baby, Cedarian Emil Lester McDowell, Sterling Bryson Butler, Sullivan Blake Butler, Brenton Jaylon Thomas and Ayden Jaquay Thomas; his sisters, Doris Ann Bell, Delores (Wille Earl) Foster, and Diane McDowell; his brothers, Charles Ray McDowell, James Earl (Linda) McDowell, and Ruben (Charlene) McDowell; his father and mother-in-law, Edwin H. Sr. and Madelyn C. Cotton; his sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, LaNell (Wilbert) Curtis and Charlayne (Timothy Sr.) Foster; and five godsons; two god-daughters, nieces, nephews, and cousins and a myriad of special and devoted friends, colleagues, students, and acquaintances.

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. Revelation 21:4

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Dreams and Fulfillment

BY MONA DUNKIN

A plethora of current issues>Welcome to an anticipated new year with renewed hopes and dreams.

The dream is not your responsibility. The dream is a life purpose mysteriously given to you in accordance with your DNA gifting of talent, unique personality, distinctive experience, and rare insights. The dream is from God.

Fulfillment of the dream is your responsibility. Fulfillment is accomplished through desire, belief, and action. These three elements used together harmoniously attune the required inner work for thoughts to become flesh. Recognizing this mystery draws the curtain back to see more clearly.

There is an unaware part of your being that governs thinking, feelings, and actions. Most call it the unconscious mind. I refer to it as our creative mind--- mind that makes up 90% of our internal functioning, giving directions to organs and systems as well as being the seedbed for stray words to take root and grow – whether those words were given as wisdom or random bird droppings. Although we may consciously want to manifest something wonderful, we may, at the same time, unknowingly sabotage our own efforts.

Desire includes having, doing and being. Measure your desire to change against your desire to remain the same. The mind may go along with the daydream while resisting the work needed to make it happen. Old ruts may be rutty but they are familiar and the brain too often slips into a half-hearted intention of "I'll do it tomorrow." In this familiar old rut, it stays inactive with hardly any conscious effort.

Note, the soul does not understand make believe. That is why a true dream never dies.

Belief must match the desire. Measure your belief in you. Measure your belief in your purpose. Nothing is ever accomplished alone. Measure your belief in others. Measure your belief in God. Assume good intentions. Expect the best or better.

When doubt arises, join Tim-the-Tool-Man-Taylor and



MONA DUNKIN

“Back that trolley up!” There are thoughts that need to be kicked off. There are behaviors to be left behind. There are emotions to be felt and released - emotions, such as fear. There are ideas, attitudes and abilities that are rushing to catch up and hop on board.

Action is a natural by-product of desire fertilized by belief. Once the thinking neurons are in place, the body jump-starts, raring to go. Proof is in the practice. Employ the power of spaced repetition.

Empowerment comes to us a bite at a time. It starts off as information, nurtured by understanding and application that grows into belief, that leads to practice that produces outcome.

How do you eat an elephant? “One bite at a time!” Sure, it is one bite at a time – but it’s more than that; it’s one bite at a time with space for digestion and elimination. It’s one bite at a time shared in community, community that gives new recipes and additive spices.

Caution: Since it is human nature to present self in the best light, we can easily lie to ourselves – to self-delude. Pay attention to feedback – internal and external. Whether you lean to the light or shadow side of life depends largely on your motivation. Overt actions are subtle indicators of obscured attitudes. Self-evaluate not only actions but also motive behind the actions.

Take another look at those sluffed off dreams that keep resurfacing. Genuine is hard to fake. Maybe you were born for such a time as this. Fulfill your responsibility to your God-given dream and it will become reality.

Contact Mona for personal success coaching, speaking engagements, or Choice Theory Basic Intensive Training. Mona Dunkin, Faculty, Glasser Institute for Choice Theory, Speaker and Life Coach. Solution Principles, P O Box 774, Elm Mott, TX. 254-749-6594. www.monadunkin@gmail.com www.monadunkin.com monadunkin.blogspot.com

The consequences of rejecting the Lord

BY MATTHEW REED

Dysfunctional governments and a world in turmoil are direct results of mankind rejecting God. The salvation of God is rejected when we reject the doctrine that Christ brought to us. Yet there are those that dare to petition God for blessings without repentance and returning unto God. How any Christian with knowledge of God’s word could do so is beyond my understanding.

You might say where-in have we rejected Go? When we determined that people of the same sex could be married. The Word of God says in Matthew 19:4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, 5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh)?

When we determined that it’s all right to abort (kill babies), handcuff prisoners and then murder them, and to dispense the law with respect of persons, we have rejected



PASTOR MATTHEW AND LADY HELEN REED

God. When we worship the works of our hands and receive as god anyone or anything other than God almighty, who gave us salvation through (by) his son Jesus, we have rejected God. When man rejects the Word of God, he has rejected God. And because the world is guilty on all of these accounts, we have this chaos we are experiencing today.

So, what is the answer? Repent, receive the gospel and return to God. Then and only then will He return unto us. Then and only then will order be restored. Resolution: repent or perish.

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ANDERSON

Continued from page one

for the Gatesville State School for Boys, Union Pacific Railroad, and was a Veteran of the United States Air Force. His hobbies included hunting, watching westerns, and spending time with family and friends. He was a good cook and was known for his greens and fried short ribs.

Loved ones who will cherish his memories are his loving and devoted wife, Rosalind Russell-Anderson; children, Hope Muriel Anderson-Bryant and husband, Joseph, Sean Kelly Anderson, Heather Loren Anderson-Carter and husband, Wesley, and Justin Heath Denwitty and wife, Morgan; five grandchildren, Terry Bailey, Jr., Poppy-Anna Bailey, Kennedy Loren Carter, Reagan MaKenzie Carter, and Eden Lavarn Anderson; two sisters, Erma Sterling and Pearl McKnight; sister-in-law, Brenda Anderson; and a brother, Billy and wife, Laura Anderson ; mothers-in-law, Ruth Ollivette Russell and Annie Russell; grandmothers-in-law, Robbie Mae Bonner and Anthree Silmon; and brother-in-law, Rodney and wife, Gail Russell; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight; I have finished my course; I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for

me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. II Timothy 4:6-8

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