



### Harold Jacobs, Treasurer Emeritus

I am the second child of Lawrence and Sadie Jacobs. I was born in Harvest, AL, June 11, 1941. My parents were lifelong members of the Oakwood College (University) Church and so am I.

In 1954, we moved to Oakwood. Here, I completed my elementary, academy and college education.

For 35 years, I worked at what is now the Aviation and Missile Command (AMCOM), Redstone Arsenal, Alabama. After retirement, I was fortunate to teach at Columbia College, Alabama A&M University and Oakwood College (University) for a short time.

January 1992, my brother, Lawrence Jacobs Jr. passed suddenly. He was serving as head treasurer (whom I worked with) at that time. After his death, the church board voted me to serve as head treasurer. Since that time, I've had the pleasure of serving under Pastors Ward, Pollard, Nixon, Newborn and Byrd. It has been a pleasure and honor. Thank you, Oakwood University Church, for your trust.

### Acknowledgements

To Dr. Carlton P. Byrd, and each of the Pastoral Team members, Dr. Williams, Pastor Goodridge, Pastor Raphael, Pastor North, and Pastor Wilson, we say "Thank You" for your daily service and care for the church family and community friends.

To our Church Officers, Leaders, and Media Team, may God bless you as you continue to serve Him and our church family in many arenas in the **New Year 2021**.

To our SAM Leadership Team, "Thank You" for your continued cooperation and service to those in need, especially Elder Katherine Davis for her weekly visits with delicious food.

To our health care professionals, medical teams of doctors, nurses and total hospital staff, we are grateful for continued service and dedication to patients in restoring good health.

Thank you to the DAP members for your weekly service in food distribution and designing the screens for the New Year's Eve Communion Service.

Reminder, take time to say, "Thank you", to your postal workers who deliver your mail.

To Vivian Brown, we say "Thank you" for your talent and designing the Newsletter.

Remember, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matt. 5:16



In His Service,  
Dr. Jessie M. Godley Bradley,  
Senior Adult Ministries Leader



Newsletter designed by Vivian Brown

### Celebrating Black History Month

# Senior Express

Oakwood University Church  
Dr. Carlton P. Byrd, Senior Pastor



### Letter From the Editor—Dr. Jessie M. Godley Bradley

### Happy New Year Family and Friends 2021!

God has blessed us to see another day, and the beginning of a New Year! **We can rejoice, count our blessings, and jump with joy.**

Many Nonagenarians and Centenarians are smiling and **sharing** their love with families, **looking** forward to the day, when we all get to gather again. An Adventist Life Style Study has begun, and 90 year old citizens and older are requested to participate. "Life at it's Best" Bernard Beale is the coordinator. Thanks to Chlora Jones and our church clerk, Marilyn Lang for assisting us in this endeavor.

Let's go down **memory lane**, and see some of the past experiences that made us rejoice: **Visiting** the sick and shut-ins, **singing** at the nursing homes, **presenting** custom made blankets and footies to residents, **attending** photography classes weekly, "and often **traveling** out of state to capture selective photos in nature, **attending** bread making classes, making bread, rolls, and cakes, **knitting and crochet classes, and computer classes**. Thank you to the leaders/team and coordinators of these past historical memories and the seminars: "Go Red Heart Health," "Think Pink". Did you have a "Secret Sister"? Remember the AARP "Catch Me if You Can", **Scam**-Seminar with Bill Hawkins.

**2020** has been an unforgettable year. We have witnessed world changing activities during this COVID-19 pandemic. **Cherish** the time you and your family enjoy together. Many families have lost loved ones and must face a **New Year** 2021 with different plans and focus. Our prayer for you is to focus on God, with an **attitude** of **gratitude**, and not focus on the turmoil around us. 2020 will go down as one of the most challenging years in our time. We will never return to what we called "normal" after this pandemic. In the midst of our hurt and our pain, we look forward to our Lord's soon return. **Be the reason someone smiles today.** Your **kindness** and **skill** makes a difference in **every** life you touch.



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Black/Blue Podcast  
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## **A Brand New Beginning**

by Darlene Sala of Encouraging Words

I wonder if your past is keeping you from being your best right now, in the present. Past sins do that, you know. David Eckman writes,

Sin walks us into a huge warehouse filled with video clips of us and says, "This is your life. We have thousands of clips of your failures. Many of them are so embarrassing that you wouldn't want to show them to your children. That is all you are, and we have the record of it. So you might as well surrender to sin within, because you can't be better than this. You are these clips—and nothing else."

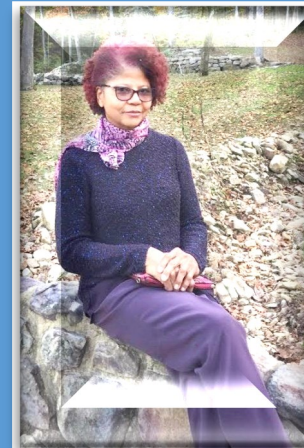
Perhaps that's where you are right now—convinced that your past is who you are, and nothing can change. There's good news: you can have a brand new beginning, because, as Mr. Eckman puts it, "Jesus has burned the warehouse!"<sup>[1]</sup> Isn't that great news! The Bible tells us,

For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus (Romans 6:6, 7, 11).

Let me put it as simply as I can. Those video clips are a true picture of your past, no doubt about it—you might as well admit the facts. But Jesus died on the cross for your past. He paid the penalty that justice demands for your wrongs so that you could be forgiven. When you accept God's forgiveness, it's as if you died and rose again to a new life. And that's where God wants you to live—in the present, not the past.

As a Christian, you are not the sum total of your past. You are who God says you are—a brand new person with a brand new beginning.

<sup>[1]</sup> David Eckman, *Becoming Who God Intended* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2005), 153.



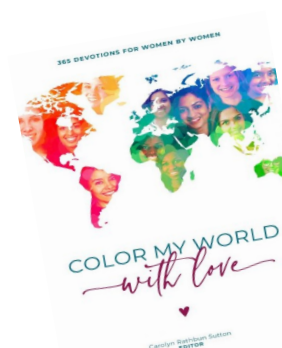
"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and hope" (Jer. 29:11, NKJV)

Kingdom Challenges: HOPE: For the Disquieted Soul, is the second of the Kingdom Books collection. It consists of traditional poems and contemporary prose, with passages of Scripture to help bring hope to persons challenged and damaged by difficult life events and circumstances. For many people, restlessness, helplessness, and hopelessness have become an integral part of everyday existence,

to the extent that life seems meaningless and enshrouded in gloom and darkness. Some individuals are haunted and traumatized by past experiences, while others struggle with present-day issues that cause suffering and disturbance to the soul and undermine both physical and emotional health and wellbeing. COVID-19 has also created havoc, causing suffering, death, destruction, unemployment, isolation, and major, drastic changes to normal everyday living and functioning. The concept of Hope signifies a patient waiting with expectation for something better, that we do not yet possess.

Kingdom Challenges: HOPE for The Disquieted Soul, addresses contemporary issues, that seriously affect people's lives, boldly exposes wrongdoings, calls for responsibility and accountability, and offers a solution to the problems, with support from Scripture. It reminds us that Jesus is the true solution to our problems and the source of an abundant and fulfilled life.

I trust that this book brings hope, peace, and purpose in this troubled world for those experiencing disquietness, and is a source of hope and anticipation of everlasting life in God's kingdom. So what I say unto you, I say unto all. **"Do Not Lose Hope". By Rhoda Benjamin**



**Eva M. Starner**  
**April 7**

What's in Your Heart?



**Maple Smith**  
**November 25**

What Makes Me Happy Working  
For The Lord?

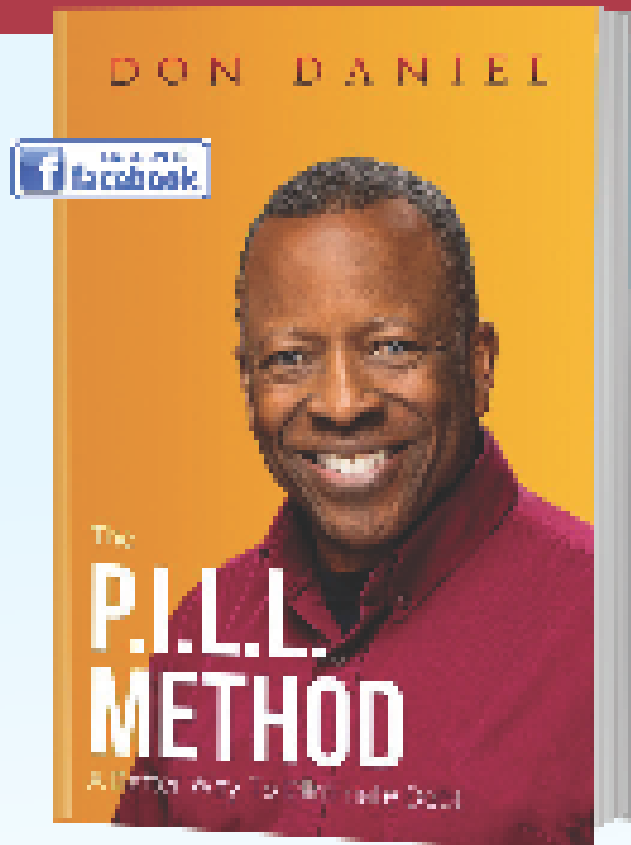


**Flore Aubry-Hamilton**  
**December 19**

God's Goodness



# Finally! There's a book about A BETTER WAY TO ELIMINATE DEBT



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**CHAPTER FREE!**

*From the Creator of:*



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- » Learn how financial education and advanced technology are used to cut interest payments by as much as 75%!
- » Learn how to eliminate all debt, including student loans and jumbo mortgages in 7 to 9 years without sacrificing lifestyle!

*This program is more  
powerful than the Debt  
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## Oakwood University Church & Southern Union Women's Ministry Leader Devotional Contributors to the 2021 Women's Ministry Devotional Book



**Shirley Iheanacho**  
**January 1 - I Will Hold Your Right Hand**  
**September 3 - God Bless You**



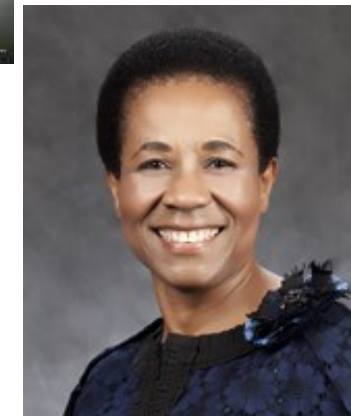
**Vivian Brown**  
**January 20**  
Miracles - I Didn't See Them Coming!



**Lydia Andrews**  
**March 23**  
The Missing Cellphone



**Shirley Scott**  
**June 15**  
Sheer Delight



**Prudence LaBeach Pollard**  
**August 3**  
Weaver of the Fabric of Life



**Yvonne Donatto**  
**September 8**  
God Cares for His Children

## Oakwood University Church

### Elects New Officers in the Treasury Department



**Tricia McDonald**

**Treasurer, Oakwood University Church**

Tricia McDonald graduated from Oakwood College now Oakwood University with a BS in Business Management in 1991. She went on to further her education and received her MBA from Alabama A&M University in 2003.

Tricia has been a member of the Oakwood University Church since 2013 and calls this wonderful place her home. She was the Treasurer/CFO at Madison Mission SDA church for seven years.

She currently works for Headquarters Army Materiel Command (HQAMC) at Redstone Arsenal as a Budget Analyst.

She loves nature, decorating, has a recent love for gardening, and enjoys trying new recipes. She has two young adult children who are the joy of her life. Samuel, 22 and Sierra, 20.

Dr. Everett Roper has been a member of OUC for over 40 years and has served the church in various capacities. He is no stranger to the Treasury Department having served as a counter for more than 20 years.

Dr. Roper is a 1988 graduate of Oakwood Adventist Academy (OAA). He holds BS, MS and PhD degrees in engineering all from The University of Alabama Huntsville as well as a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) degree from The University of North Alabama.

Dr. Roper is currently a Deputy Product Manager for the US Army at Redstone Arsenal. He is also a former Assistant Professor in the Business Department at Oakwood University where he continues to serve as an Adjunct Professor. In addition to these responsibilities, Dr. Roper has been the sole owner of his own real estate brokerage for more than 20 years, and is a licensed real estate broker. Additionally, Dr. Roper is currently the school board chairperson and former alumni association president of our beloved OAA.

Dr. Roper is married to Dr. Kem Roper, who is the Writing Center Director at Alabama A&M University. They have two charming daughters—Eryn, a freshman at Oakwood University and Edyn, a freshman at OAA.



**Dr. Everett Roper**  
**Assistant Treasurer,**

**Oakwood University Church**

**A Salute to Harold Jacobs, Treasurer Emeritus , for your many years of faithful service to the Oakwood University Church!**  
**See page 12 for additional information**

## BLACK AND BLUE PODCAST SERIES



**Host:** Bernard Beale, M.S.B.M., Health Enthusiast, Author and Businessman, Founder of 35 Days to Good Health

**Co-Host:** Patti Herring, Ph.D., RN, Professor, School of Public Health, Loma Linda University, Investigator Adventist Health Study. Areas of special focus include family and community violence, child advocacy, divorce and mediation relating to protecting children.

There are these amazing Black/African American people who are defying the odds and are living in what we believe is a hidden “blue zone.” The untold stories of people who are alive and well, living into their 90s and 100s is truly amazing! What are they doing right and what can we learn from them? We are having one-on-one conversations with these American treasures in their undiscovered home right here in the United States in the Oakwood University Church and the Huntsville, Alabama area.

“In 2004, Dan Buettner teamed up with National Geographic and the world’s best longevity researchers to identify pockets around the world where people live measurably longer and better. In these blue zones areas, they found that people reach age 100 at rates 10 times greater than in the United States.” <https://www.bluezones.com/2014/03/blue-zones-history/>

We believe we have discovered one of the most overlooked group of people on the planet that demonstrate longevity and good health. We will have interviews with many of these people who have lived a long life and are still living well. Their stories are compelling! My co-host Dr. Patti Herring and I will share our enjoyable precious moments interviewing and talking to our special guest. Join us in our podcast and year-long journey, “Life at its Best,” Black and Blue Series.

Each interview is recorded and our team edits and prepares for posting, viewing, and listening. **Our broadcast platforms include: Spotify.com, Apple, Social Media: Facebook, YouTube and others.** Session durations are 30-45 minute.

You won’t want to miss these precious moments!

**Subscribe and forward to a friend. You will be so glad you did.**



## Black and Blue Podcast Series

**Listen to our podcast interview with Mrs. Annell Wright age 102:**

**Click/Visit:** <https://anchor.fm/bernard-beale/episodes/Our-Interview-with-Mrs--Annel-Wright-age-102--Black--Blue-series-em0tqm/a-a2opqup>



## Can you identify these famous African Americans?



February 2021

Black History is more relevant than ever. Two of the historical and greatest Civil Rights leaders were Nelson Mandela, and Martin Luther King, Jr.

A wave of excitement rippled across our faces as we listened to, “I Have a Dream” speech on August 28, 1963. **WE ARE STILL DREAMING!**

### Black History Month Word Search

F	T	C	P	U	L	R	S	K	N	A	M	B	U	T	A	V	L	G	F
S	U	D	E	P	W	H	L	W	O	Z	P	T	R	T	K	W	I	P	P
N	U	O	H	F	C	U	A	G	S	S	U	B	K	H	H	W	V	X	O
E	D	K	S	R	L	Z	V	D	N	F	W	K	I	N	G	A	I	P	A
W	T	J	A	R	I	G	E	N	I	O	Z	K	S	U	P	R	C	Y	B
O	C	M	F	M	V	W	R	O	B	Y	R	J	J	T	Q	A	E	O	V
B	L	U	E	S	I	M	Y	I	O	J	N	T	V	L	H	W	R	A	Z
M	R	O	O	I	C	A	D	T	R	A	O	M	S	U	W	G	C	K	N
C	O	M	F	C	U	N	W	A	O	Z	I	F	Z	M	Q	I	I	C	S
A	G	D	Q	A	H	K	O	P	E	Z	T	E	Z	K	R	M	U	R	M
R	R	G	E	R	G	M	R	I	A	E	A	E	D	F	O	A	I	R	H
V	E	E	T	E	P	K	C	C	T	O	G	J	A	L	B	R	N	J	P
E	E	Q	Q	H	R	L	K	N	G	A	E	E	Y	N	I	L	O	L	R
R	N	F	K	U	J	F	P	A	L	E	R	F	K	G	W	B	I	L	U
N	F	A	T	Y	A	B	D	M	H	N	G	G	H	S	O	X	T	Y	P
D	I	K	R	E	V	L	O	E	K	Q	E	T	E	Y	U	Y	I	Z	L
X	E	Q	U	V	O	T	I	N	G	V	S	C	C	T	P	T	L	Y	J
G	L	X	T	B	K	L	S	T	D	U	B	O	I	S	N	C	O	H	M
L	D	N	H	L	A	L	H	Q	Y	O	T	P	R	P	V	I	B	X	S
W	P	S	O	U	L	H	I	J	I	T	U	V	D	A	K	O	A	G	Z

ABOLITION  
ARMSTRONG  
BOYCOTT  
CIVIL  
WAR  
EQUALITY  
INTEGRATION  
CROW  
OWENS  
RIGHTS  
SLAVERY  
TUBMAN

AFRICA  
ASHE  
BUS  
RIGHTS  
DUBOIS  
FREEDOM  
JAZZ  
MARCH  
PARKS  
ROBINSON  
SOUL  
TUSKEGEE

ALI  
BLUES  
CARVER  
CIVIL  
EMANCIPATION  
GREENFIELD  
JIM  
KING  
RACISM  
SEGREGATION  
TRUTH  
VOTING

JinxyKids.com



## How To Make Christmas Last All Year

by Katherine Davis, Chaplain

Most of the world has just celebrated the coming of Jesus to this planet. Unfortunately, some of us left Jesus out of His own birthday party. Nevertheless, that celebration is now over and so is the joy of the day. But Christmas can last all year long. Just strip away all the holiday traditions and we are left with the real source of joy – the birth of Jesus Christ, God's love-gift to mankind. Allow me to share with you five ways to keep the spirit of Christmas fresh in your mind throughout this New Year:

### KEEP THE JOY IN YOUR SOUL

When the angel announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds He said, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people” (Luke 2:10). That joy came because of the angelic announcement that God had provided a Savior. It's not the announcement of a birth that brings joy, but the birth itself. Happiness may come momentarily because of the Christmas presents we receive; but joy, lasting joy, comes only from **receiving** God's Christmas present to us – His Son, Jesus Christ.

### KEEP THE PRAISE ON YOUR LIPS

When the angel of the Lord announced the birth of the long-awaited Messiah, “suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God...” These angels had nothing better to do than praise God. Neither do we. After the shepherds had seen the baby Jesus, they returned to their flocks praising God. No doubt their praise lasted for days or months, maybe even all year. **“There are two times to praise the Lord: 1) when you feel like praising the Lord and 2) when you don't feel like praising the Lord”.**

### KEEP THE GLORY IN YOUR LIFE

The advent of Christ gave the shepherds a glimpse of God's glory. “And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were really afraid”. So how are we to keep God's glory shining in our lives if we haven't seen it? Remember His promise: “The Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly (Ps. 84:11). God has promised us grace and glory if we live righteously. Just learn from God's Word what He delights in, and then do it.

### KEEP THE STORY ON YOUR TONGUE

If you saw the angel and heard him announce the Savior's birth, and if you experienced the Shekinah glory shining down on you, could you keep quiet about it? The shepherds couldn't. This kind of news bubbles over. If the story is important to us, if we've been changed by it, we should love to tell it – to share it. All with whom we come in contact with should know that we are His and He is ours?

### KEEP THE SAVIOR IN YOUR HEART

The angelic announcement was “There's born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord”. There are two proper responses to this glorious news. You can tell the story to others; that's what the shepherds did. Or you can ponder the events of Christmas in your heart; that's what Mary did. We should perhaps do both. The joy of Christmas comes not from a day but from a Person – Jesus Christ. And knowing Him is surely a year-round, even a lifelong love affair.

Let's recapture the real meaning of Christmas and not lose sight of why it is so very special. As we step into the New Year in times of uncertainty, and with unknown trials awaiting us, let's face it with courage and confidence. Let us grasp the hand of our Saviour. “He is able to keep us from falling and to present us flawless before His Father and before the assembled universe with joy”.





## BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2021

### Celebrate Black History Month in Huntsville

***The theme for Black History Month 2021 is The Black Family:***

***Representation, Identity and Diversity*** and is scheduled every year by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History®, an organization founded in 1915 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the famed African American historian known as the “Father of Black History.”

The expansion of our city lies in the expansion of our minds, and throughout Black History Month Huntsville offers several opportunities for both visitors and locals to join in the celebration.

***A self guided option*** is also available **online**. Accessible via smartphone app, the **[Rocket City Civil Rights Driving Tour](#)** highlights areas of significance to the civil rights era in Huntsville. See sites like the Fifth Avenue School, the first public school in the state of Alabama to integrate, **Oakwood University, where Dr. Martin Luther King spoke during his visit to Huntsville in 1962**, and other points of interest rich in cultural heritage. ***The tour*** was created in partnership by the **Alabama Humanities Foundation** and the **Historic Huntsville Foundation**, with a mission to capture, document, and share oral histories of the successful, non-violent civil rights movement in Huntsville, Alabama.

There are plenty of ways to celebrate African American heritage year round in Huntsville. Stroll through historic **[Glenwood Cemetery](#)**, pay your respects at the **[Buffalo Soldiers Memorial](#)**, and take in the stunning, life-like portraiture of African Americans at the **[Weeden House Museum and Garden](#)**.

***Walking Tours*** allows you to stand in the shadows and walk along the footsteps of **[significant civil rights](#)** events that occurred in **[Downtown Huntsville, Alabama](#)**. Learn the events and the places where civil rights history was made. This two mile walk begins in the Medical District and ends along the Church Street Corridor. The 90 minute tour makes five stops and discusses over 10 significant places and events. From the first public school to integrate in the state to the location where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke, this guided tour will help you enrich your historical knowledge.

For more information on multicultural events in Huntsville, follow along with the **[City of Huntsville Multicultural Affairs Office](#)**. 256-883-3993

***See an Exhibit:*** Stop by the Huntsville Museum of Art for their exhibit: *Harlem, Hollywood, Broadway: African American Legends Photographed by Jack Mitchell*. The exhibit is up through March 22nd. If you visit on Thursdays at night, you can enter the museum for their \$5 after 5pm program.

Harlem, Hollywood, Broadway presents 36 vintage black-and-white and color photographs of important African American artists and performers captured by Mitchell between 1961 and 2001. Mitchell had a special relationship with the African American creative community, and photographed most of its most prominent members during his career.

***On February 22nd, celebrate African American history*** at **[Burritt on the Mountain](#)** with their program: ***“Forward from Slavery”: Stories of the Underground Railroad, Buffalo Soldiers, and Rosenwald Schools.***

The day will begin with an interactive Underground Railroad field trip presentation. Then learn about the Buffalo Soldiers that came to Huntsville October 1898. Learn how they became soldiers, what they ate, medical treatment, where they served around the world, and then meet a special Buffalo Soldier from the time. Finally spend some time in our Rosenwald School by experiencing a school day in 1918. Learn how our pledge of allegiance was said, then how they learned their lessons with no electricity, indoor plumbing, no heat, no air conditioning, and no computers. This will be a day of fun and learning you will not forget. Plan to spend the day or pick and choose to participate in some of the activities. This event is free to members or regular admissions rates apply.

***On February 18th at University of Alabama*** at Huntsville's campus is the **[Past, Present, and Future: A Black History Month Discussion](#)**. 5:30—7:00 p.m.

This FREE event will begin with a presentation by Sonnie Hereford IV as he shares his story as the first African-American to integrate a public school for whites in Alabama when he enrolled at Fifth Avenue School in Huntsville. A panel of black business owners from the Huntsville area will then discuss what types of business and social changes they have experienced within the Huntsville business community, and what they hope to see in the future.



THE UAH COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND COLLEGE OF EDUCATION PRESENTS:

# PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

A Black History Month discussion surrounding changes in business and education within Huntsville.

**Keynote Speaker:**  
**Sonnie Hereford IV**  
 The first African-American to integrate a public school in Alabama.

**Panel Discussion:**  
**Karen Smith**  
 Owner of Royal Funeral Home, the oldest black-owned business in North Alabama.  
**Thornton Stanley, Jr.**  
 Recognized by President George W. Bush as the Small Business Administration's Small Business Person of the Year.  
**Rose Magers-Powell**  
 1984 Olympic volleyball silver medalist, Head Volleyball Coach at AAMU, and Owner of Rocket City Volleyball Club.  
**Marvin Battle, Jr.**  
 Owner of Battle Construction, which has been in business for more than 63 years.  
**Hundley Batts, Sr.**  
 Owner of Hundley Batts and Associates Insurance Agency and the co-owner of WEUP Radio Station.