

Event joins Franklin together

'Week of the People' celebrates diversity

STAFF REPORT

FRANKLIN: The township kicked off its annual "Week of the People" observance with a variety showcase held Sunday at Franklin Middle School.

For the second straight year, "Week of the People" activities are celebrating the township's diversity.

"The purpose of this event is to bring together members of a diverse community to share and celebrate what we have in common," said Isaac Dorsey, executive director of the Somerset Community Action

Program and chair of the "Week of the People" organizing committee.

This year's week-long event comes on the heels of two murders earlier this year. On July 12, Keenan Sanders, a 20-year-old township resident, was shot dead in his driveway. Three days later, 18-year-old Ammar Simmons was shot following an altercation at the Franklin Township Little League Complex.

"Given what the community is going through at this time following the murders of our youths, nothing could be better for us at this time

than being united in our diversity," Dorsey said. "Youth violence and poverty are central to SCAP's mission, but the solution to these issues must come from the broader community."

He continued, "This type of event brings us together so that we can learn and understand each other and determine what contributions we can make toward coming up with solutions."

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■ From left, Marilyn Rautio of South Bound Brook and Asia and Debra Luckey of Franklin perform with C.P. Lacey, as Ike Turner, and Annette Price, as Tina Turner in Franklin Township on Sunday.

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"Week of the People" activities continue through Sunday.

The "Taste of Franklin Expo" will be held tonight from 6 to 9 at the Senior Center at 505 DeMott Lane.

On Wednesday, an interfaith service and discussion will be held at the Elizabeth Avenue Fire Department at 2 Wiley St. from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The Franklin Diversity Film Festival will be held Thursday at Franklin High School from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m.

On Friday, a diversity leadership breakfast will be held at the Senior Center from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

The "New Dawn Back to School Bash" will be held Saturday at Naaman Williams Park on Matilda Avenue from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The week will conclude next Sunday with the Hamilton Intercultural Celebration at John's Plaza at 720 Hamilton St.



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■ Lucretia Anderson of Princeton and her daughter Ashaya, 11 months, enjoy the performances during Sunday's Variety Showcase at the George Ackerman Athletic Field that helped kick off the