



Adonis Fleming: A Native Son Who Is Making A Positive Impact On The Development Of Reading



Adonis Fleming is a proud native of Reading and a graduate of Alvernia University.

One of the tragic local trends is the large number of local talented college and university graduates who are living and working in other parts of the United States. One notable exception to that trend is Adonis Fleming, a proud native of Reading and a graduate of Alvernia University.

Fleming was formerly employed at the Reading Recreation Commission where he was the Assistant Recreation Supervisor where he oversaw the afterschool programs, summer playground programs, and soccer, basketball, and flag football programs. Currently, he is pursuing a Masters Degree at Alvernia University. In his role there as a Graduate Assistant, Fleming is responsible for managing outreach and engagement activities on behalf of the O'Pake Institute for Entrepreneurship and Economic Development. His official title is the Graduate Assistant of Community Outreach. Fleming also chairs the O'Pake Institute's Cultural Coalition, which is a volunteer-based, Berks County focused strategic planning and executions group that aids in identifying and attending to some of Reading's social and economic issues.

Adonis Fleming is indeed, a blessing for Reading and Berks County!

Inside

- Mark Your Calendars: NAACP Freedom Fund Gala ⇒ Page 2
- Kudos for Bessie Crenshaw ⇒ Page 4
- A Word from the Publisher ⇒ Page 7

... plus much more!



Our Finest Hour

On August 4, 2022, Berks County's African American Community honored our 2022 high school graduates. This activity, the 33rd ANNUAL DR. RONALD E. SMITH SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNITION DINNER, was planned and implemented by the Dr. Ronald E. Smith Scholarship Committee.

Dr. Ronald Smith is an anesthesiologist who practiced for many years at Reading Hospital before he retired and moved to South Carolina.

As president of the Reading Chapter of the NAACP, Dr. Smith started this activity 34 years ago. Because of the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Ronald Smith Scholarship Committee did not have this event last year.

The Mistress of Ceremony of the evening was Dionne Stubbs, the Membership Committee Chairperson for the Reading Chapter of the NAACP. The invocation and



Rev. Jerry Jones and Rev. Dr. Bruce Alick

the benediction were provided by Rev. Jerry Jones, the Pastor of St. John's Missionary Baptist Church. We were also blessed by the presence of Rev. Dr. Bruce Alick, the Pastor of Zion Baptist Church

Rob Flowers, the Director of Community Relations & Equity, and Head Football Coach, for Daniel Boone High School eloquently presented words of inspiration.

Those in attendance were entertained by the musical talents of Malachi Rodwell on the clarinet and the singing of Malia and Twyla Ewen.

continued on page 5 ⇒

Dr. Tiffenia Archie: Our Own Superstar



Dr. Tiffenia Archie

University providing leadership to Title IX, Equal Opportunity Compliance, and Institutional Diversity, Equity, Advocacy and Leadership (IDEAL). IDEAL leads campus-wide diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) including faculty, staff, and student engagement and retention, supplier diversity and business procurement, gender and sexuality inclusion, and education and training. Dr. Archie is a co-creator of the Certificate in Diversity Leadership, a collaboration with the College of Education and Human Development.

Dr. Archie has been involved in a number of professional organizations including the Association of Black Women in Higher Education (ABWHE), serving two terms

Tiffenia D. Archie, Ph.D., a native of Reading, Pennsylvania and a daughter of Rafiq and Karima Archie, of Reading was recently promoted to a new position, Associate Vice President and Chief Inclusion Officer at Temple

as Philadelphia Chapter President, the National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME), PA-NAME, the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education (NADOHE), and the Pennsylvania Association for Liaisons and Officers of Multicultural Affairs (PALOMA). She is the current Vice Chair of the Albright College Board of Trustees, chairs the Student and Campus Life Committee, and is a member of the Investment and Governance Committees. Dr. Archie is also a Board Member of Inter-Faith Philadelphia.

Dr. Archie was the 2010 Recipient of the Outstanding Leader in Education Award presented by ABWHE and the 2020 Winner of the Jacob Albright Award, the highest honor given to an Albright College graduate.

Dr. Archie is a world traveler. She started traveling at the young age of 19 and has been traveling ever since. She has been to Cuba, Dubai, Sweden, Finland, Italy, Spain, South Africa, Tanzania, Senegal, Greece, and Morocco, just to name a few. She will expand her travels to countries in Asia. The things she values most in life are her faith, family, and friends.

THE DRUM

NEWSPAPER

A Book Review of *The TEM Care Approach* by Nicholas V. Johnson



This book is a guide for starting and operating a successful business. Its author, Nicholas Johnson, is a successful businessman who shares the steps he took for his success.

Johnson lists the mentors who inspired him and the exact advice set forth by each mentor. Most inspirational are the

seemingly overwhelming obstacles that Johnson conquered. Here are some of the recommendations he set forth:

1. Take your education seriously.
2. Realize that passion is not enough.
3. Find mentors.
4. Add value by bringing solutions, not complaints.
5. Learn to delegate.

The TEM Care Approach can be ordered (both Kindle and paperback editions) from Amazon.

Mark Your Calendars: for the **FREEDOM FUND GALA** of the **READING BRANCH OF THE NAACP**

OCTOBER 30, 2022

This most important event will feature Reverend Dr. Bruce Alick, the Pastor of Zion Baptist Church as its Keynote Speaker.



Stacey Taylor, President,
Reading Branch NAACP



Reverend Dr. Bruce Alick,
Pastor, Zion Baptist Church

Table of Contents

Adonis Fleming	1
Our Finest Hour	1
Dr. Tiffenia Archie: Our Own Superstar	1
Book Review: <i>The TEM Care Approach</i>	2
Mark Your Calendars	2
Do You Know	2
Black Heroines	3
About Us	3
Kudos for Bessie Crenshaw	4
Super Bo & Super Sally	4
Question of the Month	5
Guest Article by Rosa Parra	6
A Word from the Publisher	7
Answers to Do You Know	7
Subscription Form	7
Spiritual Directory	8

AFRICAN AMERICAN *Do you know?*

1. What is the name of the seminal work in sociology (published in 1899) that required that its author W.E.B. Dubois to spend a year in Pennsylvania for research?
2. Who was the preeminent black journalist of the 19th century who published the *New York Age* from 1887 to 1907 when it was the most notable newspaper in the United States?
3. Who was the co-discoverer (along with Admiral Robert E. Perry) of the North Pole in 1909 who (because of his race) was not rationally recognized for this feat until 1948?
4. Who was the heavyweight champion who won the title in 1909 and inspired the play and the movie, *"The Great White Hope,"* about the desperate need for a white heavyweight boxing champion?
5. Who was the brilliant pianist/composer, whose "rags" were revitalized in the Academy Award winning film, the "Sting" in 1973, 56 years after his death?
6. Who was the renowned Kansas born artist whose first inspiration to paint occurred when at the age of 13 in 1872, he saw a landscape painter seated in a bench in Fairmont Park in Philadelphia?
7. What name do most African Americans use to refer to (Her maiden name is Sarah Breedlove) the self made millionaire who made her fortune in the haircare business?
8. Who was the articulate, outspoken feminist, who was considered too radical by most of the mainstream civil rights leaders of her time (1862-1931)? She established the Alpha Suffrage Club in 1913 to agitate for African American women's right to vote.
9. Who was the renowned dancer who is considered the early role model for the greatest black comedians of modern times?
10. Who was the brilliant scientist who revolutionized agriculture with hundreds of discoveries in his laboratory at Tuskegee Institute (now University)?

The answers can be found on page 4.



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BLACK HEROES

BLACK HEROINES BORN IN OCTOBER

Fannie Lou Townsend Hamer (1917 – 1977)

Fannie Lou Hamer, the youngest of 20 children of two sharecroppers, Jim and Ella Townsend, was born in October 6, 1917 in Montgomery County, Mississippi. Seeing her parents victimized by poverty, she had wished that she was white. However, one day her mother told her "...Respect yourself as a black child, and you will grow older and respect yourself as a woman. Then, one day, others will respect you." Having lived most of her life in rural poverty, Hamer was famous for saying, "I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired."



history.com

In 1944, she married Pap Hamer. She wanted to have children (she did adopt 4 daughters.), but she was sterilized without her permission by a white doctor. The incident emphasized the lack of control she had in her own life.

After seeing things get worse and worse as a result of the landowners who exploited sharecroppers by keeping them continuously in debt, Hamer vowed "... to do something for the black man of the South if it would cost my life." She became a powerful singer and orator for the rights of Blacks. Most of her work was done with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

Notwithstanding the fact that she was fired from her job, beaten severely and arrested, she continued to register blacks to vote. She became a major force in the uplifting of blacks economically and politically in Mississippi.

In 1968, Hamer was one of the founders of the Pig Bank, a livestock cooperative that helped poor people in Mississippi get more meat in their diets.

In 1969, she founded the Freedom Farm Cooperative, a project through which 5,000 people were able to grow their own food and collaborate ownership of 680 acres of land.

Mae Jemison (1956-)

Mae Jemison was born October 17, 1956 in Decatur, AL and raised in Chicago, IL. She earned a Bachelor's Degree from Stanford University in Chemical Engineering and Medical Degree from Cornell University.



wikipedia.com

After completing medical school in 1981, she served in the Peace Corps in Sierra Leone and Liberia. There as the Peace Corps medical officer, she provided medical care, wrote self-care manuals, and developed and carried out guidelines for safety and health issues.

In 1987, she was one of only 15 of (2,000 applicants) admitted by the National Aeronautical and Space Administration. She is the only black female to travel into outer space.

Jemison left NASA in 1993 and founded a technology research company. She later formed a non-profit educational foundation and, through the foundation, is the principal of the 100 Year Starship project funded by DARPA. Jemison also wrote several books for children and appeared on television several times, including in an episode of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. She holds several honorary doctorates and has been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame and the International Space Hall of Fame.



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ABOUT US

THE DRUM is published 6 times annually in February, April, June, August, October, & December.

OUR MISSION IS TO CELEBRATE BLACK ACHIEVEMENT AND SUCCESS.

Please call us at 610.372.5049 or email us at readingdrumnewspaper@gmail.com or write to us at **THE DRUM**, P.O. Box 12711, Reading PA, 19612 with topic suggestions.

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Unless otherwise indicated, all articles herein are written by the Publisher/Editor, Joseph Amprey.

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THE DRUM

NEWSPAPER

Kudos For Bessie Crenshaw



Bessie Crenshaw and President Hawkinson

On August 25, 2022, Dr. Kenneth S. Hawkinson, the President of Kutztown University presented Bessie Crenshaw with the Kutztown University Presidential Medal. The President's Medal is presented by the President's Office to individuals who bring honor and distinction to the University and who serve as examples to the students and the alumni. Crenshaw is being honored for being an agent of change.

In 1946, when she was still Bessie Reese, a graduate of Reading High School, Crenshaw enrolled at Kutztown State College (now Kutztown University). She made history, in 1950, by being the first African American to graduate from that institution.

When Crenshaw graduated in 1950, she was unable to get a teaching job in

her hometown, Reading. Therefore, she taught African-American students in North Carolina for 19 years in a segregated setting. While there, Crenshaw earned a Master's Degree from North Carolina Central State College (which is now North Carolina Central State University).

When the Reading School District was ready to hire black teachers, Crenshaw returned to Reading in 1969 and taught elementary school for 20 years.

In addition to being an outstanding teacher, she volunteered for several altruistic community organizations. Her membership in the "Help One Another" organization, which was founded in 1962 by Reba Templeton. The organization raises money to provide textbooks through the "Youth of Yesterday" program, another community organization in which Crenshaw has membership.

Crenshaw's passions include education and helping others in their quest to get an education. She has been a tutor for the Literacy Council, a Campfire Girl leader and a volunteer at the Black Heritage Center. At the Center, a group of women sorted, compiled, and filed educational material about Black History, which could be used by schools or persons seeking information. The Center no longer exists and much of the materials have been given to the African-

American Museum (now housed at Albright College).

Finally, Crenshaw raised two talented daughters who earned Bachelor's and Master's Degrees. Her oldest daughter, Celeste, is an award-winning writer, film and television producer, and her youngest daughter, Freda, is a career social worker and recent author.

Pictured below are, top row, left to right Freda Michener, Crenshaw's younger daughter, Mike Reese, her nephew, and Celeste Crenshaw, her oldest daughter. And on the lower row, on the left is Sharon Davis the President of "the Youth of Yesterday, an organization with which Crenshaw worked.



"Never underestimate the power of dreams and the influence of the human spirit. We are all the same in this notion: The potential for greatness lives within each of us."

Wilma Rudolph



As Ms. Jones leaves the school, she is carjacked.

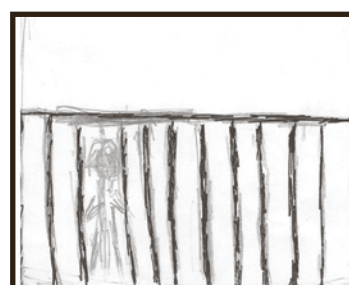


Before the carjacker can get very far, he is stopped by Sally.



Sally calls the police who arrest the carjacker.

2 months later, the carjacker is sentenced to prison.



Sally convinced the judge to reduce the prison sentence if the carjacker learns a trade or earns a college degree while he is in prison.



THE DRUM

NEWSPAPER

Our Finest Hour

⇒ continued from page 1

Congratulations, to the following 2022 high school graduates: Reading High School: Nasiah Charles, Tariq Jordan, Breonna Lockhart, Xavier Davis, DeShawn Wilson, Jayden Jones, and Justin Walker; Wilson High School: Kymari Clark, and Jabrea Dominique Flowers.

We are grateful for the contributions of the following organizations for this program: The Community Scholarship Committee, Bethel AME Church, the Reading Branch of the NAACP, and The Sisterhood. The nurturance of our youths is our most important responsibility. For Reading's African American Community, this was our finest hour.

Pictured below is one of the aforementioned performers and 7 of the honorees:



◆

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THE DRUM Question of the Month

QUESTION:

Should BARTA arrange for regular bus services between Reading and Philadelphia?

DATE: September 9, 2022

LOCATION: BARTA Bus Station on Franklin Street in Downtown Reading.

RESPONSES:



Loretta Coleman:

A bus services between Philadelphia and Reading might be good.



Ruben Gonzalez:

It could help some people.



Janette Kelly:

Yes.

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THE DRUM

NEWSPAPER

Teaching Minority Children About Nutrition

by Rosa Julia Parra, CEO, Palo Magazine



Rosa Parra

Did you know that Blacks & Hispanics are at higher risk of hypertension, diabetes and obesity? If I were asked if Hispanic & Black parents are educating kids about healthy eating, I would say that most are not. Don't get me wrong, it's not because we don't care about our children, it's just that we have been shaped culturally to eat before there isn't enough to go around. Therefore, we usually eat fast and in larger

quantities. But changes need to be made quickly as there are many concerns regarding the obesity epidemic among Hispanic & Black children.

I would say that the first step would be understanding the "why." We tend to repeat what our parents say or do. We must remember that they came from a different generation and believed things such as: a plumper figure equals to health and vitality and being skinny is associated with having poor health or starving. Hispanics constantly



say things like "mija estas flaca, tienes que comer," meaning "you're skinny, you need to eat." Another example, when a Hispanic or Black family serves a plate to someone, the carbohydrates usually take up half the plate. I know this wasn't just in my Hispanic household, this is for Black people as well; as they like to say things like "these kids need some meat on their bones." Also, I noticed if people were poor growing up and now, they have money or access to all these foods, they may think it's ok to pig-out especially on foods that their parents couldn't afford growing up.

Now that the holidays are approaching and that is generally when people eat till they drop is a perfect time to start re-thinking how and what we feed our children and fix our broken food system. We must start them at an early age. We need to make sure that in our Hispanic & Black tables and fridges we are introducing more greens, veggies and healthy options and stop giving our kids juice and sodas and give them plenty of water. The way I see it, we are giving our children a recipe for heart disease, diabetes, and high-cholesterol and many other known side effects to eating poorly. Parents teach your children the importance of their health, but don't forget you must practice what you preach.



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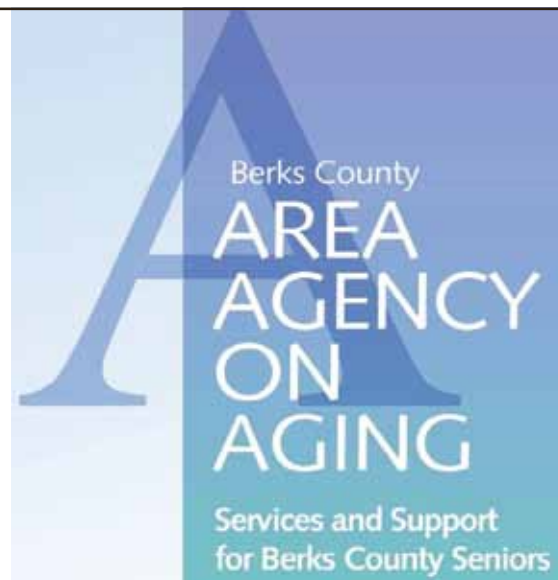
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The Berks County Area Agency on Aging is the gateway to aging programs and supports. We offer information on community resources, health and wellness programs, senior community centers, in-home services and access to legal assistance, care management, caregiver support services. Ombudsman (advocates for consumers in long-term care facilities) and elder abuse protection.

633 Court Street | 8th Floor
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THE DRUM

NEWSPAPER

A word from the publisher: Joseph Amprey, Ph.D.



**PLEASE EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT
AND RESPONSIBILITY TO VOTE
IN THE GENERAL ELECTION
NEXT MONTH ON NOVEMBER 8, 2021**

Exercising your right and responsibility to vote is very important. Many of our ancestors fought and died for our right to vote. In many states, legislators are making it even more difficult for people of color to vote. If you are not registered, please contact the Office of Election Services, by telephone, **610.478.6490** or email, elections@countyofberks.com, and register to vote.



VOTE IN THE GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 8, 2022



Answers to Do You Know

1. The Philadelphia Negro
2. T. Thomas Fortune
3. Matthew Alexander Henderson
4. Jack Johnson
5. Scott Joplin
6. Henry Ossawa Tanner
7. Madam C. J. Walker
8. Ida B. Wells Barnett
9. Bert Williams
10. Dr. George Washington Carver

OCTOBER IS
NATIONAL
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE
AWARENESS
MONTH



**BREAST
CANCER**
AWARENESS MONTH



"For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others."

~Nelson Mandela

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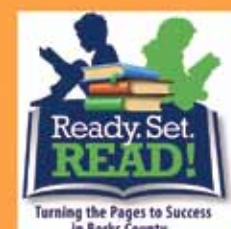
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610.372.8004

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Apostle Edna Lewis

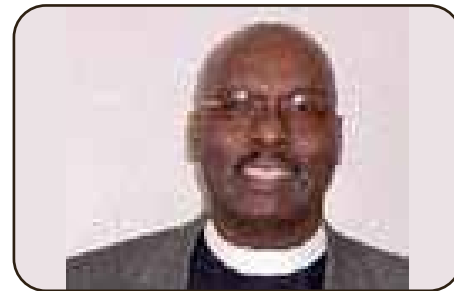
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Pastor: Apostle Edna Lewis

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Bishop Brookins

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH OF GOD

130 W. Buttonwood Street,
Reading, PA 19601

610.374.0790

Pastor: Bishop Robert E. Brookins

Sunday Service Times:

Early Morning Worship: 8:00 am

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:15 am

(Holy Communion every 1st Sunday)



ISLAMIC CENTER OF READING

18 S. Noble St, Reading, PA 19611
610.478.1338

Service Times:

Religious Talk every Friday at 1 pm



Pastor Bell

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

621 Church St., Reading, PA 19601
484-220-3783

Pastor: Pastor Jeffery D. Bell

Service Times:

Sunday Services: 9:15 a.m.

& 11:15 a.m.

Bible Study: Wednesday - 7 p.m.



Pastor Kelly

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WASHINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Service Times:

Sunday Worship: 10:30 am



Reverend Dr. Alick

ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

224 Washington St.,
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610.376.5944

Pastor: Reverend Dr. Bruce Alick

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*Praying is to the Soul
what breathing is to the Body*



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