



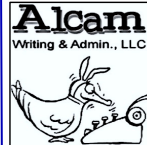
News, Views & Entertainment

Free

"More of the Best of the Valley"

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Alcam Writing & Admin LLC



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Shelton Historical Society to host annual meeting on Sunday

The annual meeting of the Shelton Historical Society will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Huntington Congregational Church Fellowship Hall, 19 Church St.

Robert Novak, Jr. will describe events as depicted in newspapers from the past in a talk entitled, Yesterday's Headlines.

A lifelong Shelton resident, Novak penned the popular historical column "Hometown History" in the Huntington Herald for 15 years, and serves as the City's Municipal Historian.

A former executive director of the Derby Historical Society, he now conducts this popular program at local libraries, health facilities, and organizations.

Novak has compiled an extensive collection of historic scans from local newspapers over the years.

Yesterday's Headlines



There will be a brief business meeting prior to the presentation. The meeting is free and open to the public, though donations are welcome. Refreshments will be served.

In case of inclement weather, please refer to the Shelton History Center's Facebook page.

Shelton Historical Society maintains its archival collections, which includes newspaper clippings, business ledgers, personal diaries and letters, scrapbooks, and maps from the late 19th and early 20th century.

The Society owns Shelton History Center, a museum complex of six historic buildings located near the Huntington Green, and provides programs of historical interest to the community.

For more information or directions, contact Tracey Tate (203) 925-1803 or visit www.sheltonhistoricalsociety.org



Huntington Congregational Church

Movie Review: *Hidden Figures*

By Patricia Villers

If you see only one movie this year, make sure it's *Hidden Figures*.

My husband, Ralph, and I don't often go to the movies but Sunday we decided we were overdue for a trip to the theater.

Hidden Figures, directed by Theodore Melfi, is a fantastic film. I left the theater feeling inspired, and heartened to see barriers being broken by three brilliant African-American women who were employed at NASA.

The movie is based on a true story about Catherine G. Johnson (played by Taraji P. Henson), Dorothy Vaughan (Octavia Spencer), and Mary Jackson (Janelle Monáe). The three mathematicians faced workplace obstacles - racism and sexism - in a world reserved for white males during the Space Race.

Their behind-the-scenes, often unappreciated work in the 1950s and '60s was the key to the successful flight of Col. John Glenn, the first astronaut to orbit the Earth on Feb. 20, 1962.



The movie also offers many glimpses of their family lives that illustrate how ahead of their time these outstanding women were. They were wives and mothers who had challenging careers - that was not always the case for females in mid-20th century America.

At the risk of dating myself I vaguely remember the Space Race. I recall when Alan Shepard became the first American in space, and when Glenn orbited the Earth. The movie brought back those early childhood memories for me.

President John F. Kennedy's stated goal to put a man on the moon before the end of the decade - which of course was realized in 1969 - was an outgrowth of the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union. And NASA employees found themselves in the middle of that stressful war.

Hidden Figures deals with segregation and serious societal issues but in the end it's an inspiring, feel-good movie.

It has its critics, as all movies do, but these real-life women are clearly role models for a younger generation of females looking to launch careers in the fields of mathematics, engineering, and the sciences.



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The Valley had some snow cover earlier this month and it created this tranquil winter scene on the grounds of the Kellogg Environmental Center in Derby. Photo by Patricia Villers



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The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers direct deposit to your private account(s), however we do not offer instant refunds. All services for tax preparation are free of charge. The VITA program at TEAM is staffed by local volunteers who are trained and certified by the IRS. We reserve the right to refuse tax preparation services to those who may require complex services beyond our scope and/or to those unable to provide documentation regarding their income.

