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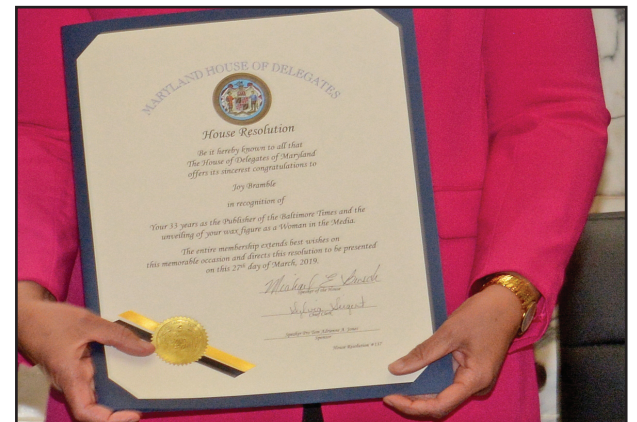
A Baltimore Times/Times of Baltimore Publication

Wax Figure of Joy Bramble as a Woman in the Media Unveiled



On March 27, 2019, a wax figure of Joy Bramble, publisher of *The Baltimore Times* was unveiled at the Maryland State House in front of family, friends and supporters. (Left to right) Rev. Dr. Peter Bramble, husband; Dena Wane, director of Special Projects, *The Baltimore Times*; wax figure next to Joy Bramble; Jocelyn Cara Bramble, daughter; and P. David Bramble, son. (Story on pages 10-11)

Photos by Gar Roberts



Baltimore Symphony Orchestra presents *Porgy & Bess* April 11 - 14, 2019

By Ursula V. Battle

Music Director Marin Alsop and The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO) will present a semi-staged production of Gershwin's classic American opera *Porgy and Bess* with the Morgan State University Choir. Performances will be held April 11, 2019 through April 14, 2019.

The April 11, 2019 performance will be held at the Music Center at Strathmore, located at 5301 Tuckerman Lane in North Bethesda, MD. The April 13, 2019 and April 14, 2019 performances featuring the Morgan State University Choir will be held at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall located at 1212 Cathedral Street in Baltimore.

For over a century, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO) has been recognized as one of America's leading orchestras and one of Maryland's most significant cultural institutions. BSO performs annually for more than 350,000 people throughout the State of Maryland.

"On the rare occasion when the BSO presents semi-staged opera we get really excited," said Ab Sengupta, director of Artistic Planning for the BSO. "We feel we are doing something special and unique for the Baltimore community. It will be a full, operatic experience."

The cast of the upcoming production includes lead opera and popular-music performers, many of whom reprised their roles from the BSO's 2016 production of *Porgy and Bess*.

Porgy and Bess is an English-language opera by the American composer George Gershwin, with a libretto written by author DuBose Heyward and lyricist Ira Gershwin. It was adapted from Dorothy Heyward and DuBose Heyward's play *Porgy*, itself an adaptation of DuBose Heyward's 1925 novel of the same name. The BSO's production will feature well-known hits such as "Summertime" and "It Ain't Necessarily So."

Since its debut in 1935, the story of the crippled beggar transformed by his unexpected and improbable love for Bess, has been performed all over the world by theatre and opera companies.

According to the BSO, the original production also had historic, Baltimore



Porgy and Bess is an English-language opera by the American composer George Gershwin, with a libretto written by author DuBose Heyward and lyricist Ira Gershwin. (Left) Vocalist Laquita Mitchell will play "Bess." (Right) Sportin' Life" will be portrayed by vocalist Larry Hylton.

Photo Credit: Jordan August

roots. Anne Brown, who originally played 'Bess,' was a Baltimore native and trained at Morgan before going on to become the first African-American vocalist to attend The Juilliard School.

"For us, this is a really special occasion where the orchestra can do something with drama, narrative, lots of action, lighting effects, and a director who really brings a great deal of expertise," said Sengupta referencing the talents of Alsop.

Alsop is an inspiring and powerful voice who passionately believes that "music has the power to change lives." She is recognized for her innovative programming and for her deep commitment to education and to the development of audiences of all ages.

Her success as Music Director of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO) has been recognized by the extension of her tenure until 2021. In Baltimore,

Alsop launched OrchKids, for the city's underserved youth.

Directed by Eric Conway, The Morgan State University Choir is one of the nation's most prestigious university choral ensembles. While classical, Gospel, and contemporary popular music comprise the choir's repertoire; the choir is noted for its emphasis on preserving the heritage of the spiritual, especially in the historic practices of performance. The Morgan State University Choir has

performed for audiences throughout the United States and all over the world.

"We have a large chorus and cast of principals," said Sengupta. "The many people behind the stage also made this possible. Attendees can expect a full chorus, principle roles in costume and lots of movement on stage. The production is phenomenal."

Tickets for *Porgy and Bess* are available at: BSOmusic.org or at BSO Ticket Office by calling 410-783-8000.

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Local author shares her story in memoir 'Defying The Verdict: My Bipolar Life'

Baltimore— Charita Cole Brown was diagnosed with a severe form of bipolar disorder during her final semester as an English major at Wesleyan University. Doctors predicted she would never lead a “normal” life. Despite that prognosis she sought treatment and went on to marry, raise a family, earn a master’s degree in teaching and enjoy a fulfilling career in education.

Her powerful story is chronicled in her debut book, “Defying the Verdict: My Bipolar Life” (Curbside Splendor Publishing, June 2018). Brown will be in conversation with Dr. Karen Swartz (of the Johns Hopkins Mood Disorders Center) at Barnes and Noble, 3330 St Paul Street, Baltimore on Wednesday, April 10, 2019 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Bipolar Disorder (formerly known as manic depression) is highly treatable. However of the estimated 5.7 million Americans living with the disorder over 50 percent refuse to seek treatment. The fact that the suicide rate for people who have bipolar disorder in the United States is 20 times higher than that of the general

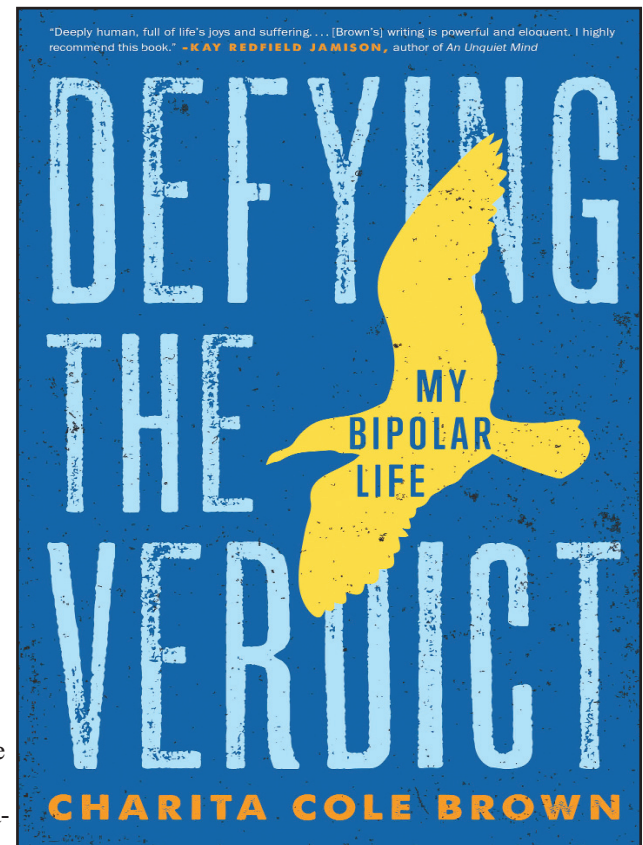


Charita Cole Brown has lived in bipolar recovery for more than twenty-five years. She chronicles her powerful story in her debut book “Defying the Verdict: My Bipolar Life.” Courtesy Photos

population is even more sobering.

“I felt compelled to write this book to help reduce the stigma for people living with bipolar disorder and to encourage people living with the disorder to seek treatment,” Brown said.

To learn more about Charita Cole Brown and her memoir “Defying the Verdict: My Bipolar Life,” visit: www.charita-colebrown.com.



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Editorials/Commentary

Over 17,000 choices for future prime real estate not going to last much longer

"Baltimore County [is] the epicenter of the largest Section 8 relocation program in the United States." according to Steven McIntire, failed Republican candidate for Maryland House of Delegate's district 42A representing Towson, despite a strong endorsement from Gov. Hogan. McIntire's 2018 campaign focused heavily on the 'conspiracy' among the "Baltimore City political machine," certain Baltimore County politicians and HUD to dump low income Baltimore City residents in the county, along with the crime, noise, drugs and malaise that he believes accompanies them.

Steve McIntire is not alone on the subject of Section 8 as a raw deal for Baltimore County residents' absorption of Baltimore City's 'problem.' Pat McDonough a failed 2018 Republican candidate for Baltimore County Executive is equally vocal on the subject. "Everywhere I travelled during my campaign...I heard strong opposition and serious concern about Section 8 housing. Citizens claimed that crime had increased and there was a serious decline in the quality of life in their neighborhoods," lamented McDonough.

Political partisanship and racial overtones notwithstanding, at its core is the fact that a decision was made some time ago regarding the master plan for development of the Baltimore metropolitan region that obviously included the mass migration of low income Baltimore City residents out of communities that are contiguous to the Inner Harbor and central business district, many of whom have found new residency in Baltimore County. "Instead of the failed city projects of old, they plan a massive relocation plan using Section 8 vouchers," Steven McIntire complains.

The City of Baltimore, as Maryland's largest metropolis and regional business hub, would never command the level of investment downtown over the last 30 years including the Inner Harbor, two professional sports stadiums, Port Covington, Johns Hopkins' building spree and miscellaneous billions of dollars in public and private investment and construction, if a plan to protect and grow those investments was not in place long ago.

The Section 8 program which began in earnest in Baltimore City in the 1980's generally corresponds to a pattern of outward migration from the city, including 'white flight', of 165,000 residents since 1980. In the same period between 1980 and 2017, Baltimore County's population grew by 177,000, from 655,000 to 832,000. The correlation is apparent.

This confluence of events becomes more evident with an examination of gentrification patterns in Baltimore City since the 1980's. According to governing.com, gentrification of Baltimore between 1990 and 2000 was nine percent, affecting 15 among Baltimore's 200 census tracts in poorer communities. Gentrification is defined as inward migration of more highly educated, wealthier new residents into historically low income neighborhoods causing a rise in property values and standards of living that trigger an exodus of longstanding poorer residents who can no longer afford the costs to live in their increasingly, affluent neighborhoods.

Between 2000 and now gentrification in Baltimore City was 23.2 percent, expanding to 39 of Baltimore's 200 census tracts. Geographically, the pattern of growth is concentrated in the Inner Harbor/central business district spreading in every direction from there. Curiously, the neighborhoods due north and east of the Inner Harbor, home to the Johns Hopkins metropolex, does not appear to encompass the gentrification zone.

For the hardworking, low income, taxpaying residents of Baltimore City who haven't lost the faith, consider this: You've made a good bet. Baltimore is alive and not going anywhere if major public/private investment is an indication, besides the ten or so colleges and universities staying put. You would do well to pursue ownership of one of the 17,000 vacant residential properties Baltimore City owns, and do it now.



Community Affairs

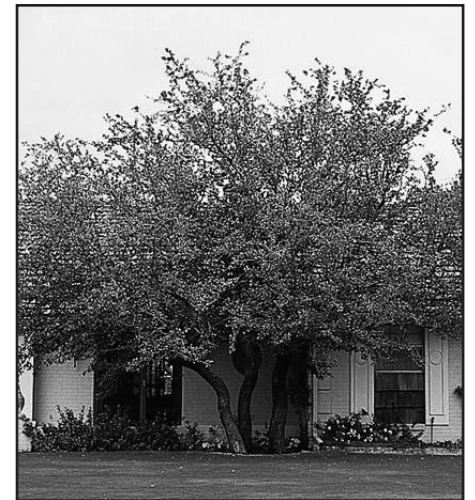
Celebrate National Arbor Day by Planting Trees

Receive 10 free shade trees by joining the Arbor Day Foundation

Nebraska City, NE.— National Arbor Day is Friday, April 26, this year, and the Arbor Day Foundation is making it easy for anyone to celebrate the annual tree-planting holiday. Join the Foundation in April and receive 10 free shade trees.

By joining the Foundation in April, new members receive the following trees: red oak, sugar maple, weeping willow, baldcypress, thornless honeylocust, pin oak, river birch, tuliptree, silver maple and red maple.

The free trees are part of the Foundation's Trees for America campaign. "These trees provide shade in the summer and vibrant colors throughout the fall," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "Through the simple act of planting trees, one person can make a difference in helping to create a healthier and more beautiful



planet for all of us to enjoy."

The trees will be shipped postpaid with enclosed planting instructions at the right time for planting in April or May. The 6- to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge.

To become a member of the Foundation and receive the free trees, visit arborday.org/april or send a \$10 contribution by April 30, 2019 to:

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Stop invisible lynchings in America

*By Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.,
President and CEO, National
Newspaper Publishers Association*

No form of lynching should be tolerated or permitted in America. A lynching is defined as putting a person or a group of people to death by hanging a person or group with or without legal due process.

However, in the no so distant past, the hideous act of racially motivated lynching African Americans was considered legal, judicial and moral under state and federal laws.

The Congress of the United States finally has a bill pending enactment that makes lynching a federal crime. We support this long overdue anti-lynching federal legislation.

However, there are other forms of lynching that are still occurring across the nation, without due process of law and without a national public moral outcry. Why? Because today some lynchings are invisible.

There are no bloodthirsty mobs of people salivating their pleasures at the sight of a fresh black body swinging lifelessly via a rope around his or her neck hanging from a tree or from the institutionalized gallows of history.

On college and university campuses in too many states, what is increasingly

until their innocence is proven.

This is not about guilt or innocence. This is about denial of due process. For thousands of the accused students the outcomes are fatal to their education and life goals.

I know that this is a controversial subject that many would prefer to remain

This year marks the 400-year anniversary of the enslavement of African people in America. The horrid history of racism and racially-motivated lynchings of African American men, women and children is a gruesome reminder of the depravity of humanity, as well as the malicious lack of due process when a person or group is deemed expendable to satisfy the rage, fear and hate of "others."

In the past lynchings were very visible. Today Title IX-related lynchings on colleges and universities are less visible, but this form of injustice must be exposed and challenged in Missouri and in every state.

Equal justice and the constitutional right to due process should be afforded to all without regard to race, ethnicity, religion, gender or sexual orientation. This is the reason we add our voice and advocacy to encourage the Missouri legislature and all other state legislatures to stop Title IX-related invisible lynchings from occurring.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is a civil rights leader and the President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) based in Washington, D.C. He can be reached at dr.bchavis@nnpa.org.

“Disproportionately, young African male college students and others are being summarily expelled from college based solely on mere allegations of sexual misconduct violations of Title IX rules without any due process of law or findings of fact. College administrators are arbitrarily determining that these targeted students are guilty and expendable until their innocence is proven.”

happening should be called an invisible and insidious form of lynching.

Disproportionately, young African male college students and others are being summarily expelled from college based solely on mere allegations of sexual misconduct violations of Title IX rules without any due process of law or findings of fact. College administrators are arbitrarily determining that these targeted students are guilty and expendable

silent about. But as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. clearly warned: “An injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

Currently, in the state of Missouri, there is important pending legislation (HB 573 and SB 259) in both the Missouri State House and Senate that seeks to stop and prevent these kinds of invisible Title IX-related lynchings from occurring at Missouri colleges and universities.

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Deacon Jones Foundation awards education grant to Baltimore City young emerging artists

By Stacy M. Brown

There are numerous reasons why the Deacon Jones Foundation selected Baltimore City for its young emerging artist grant, according to Elizabeth Jones, the foundation's co-founder, president and widow of the former football great.

"The urban culture of the city is so well represented in the many arts and entertainment districts," Jones said. "We found the dedication of city leaders, teachers, administrators and art institutions to be extraordinary and once we spoke to Maryland Art Place (MAP) in depth about their KIDOO (Kid Out of Order) exhibit, we felt it was a perfect fit."

The Deacon Jones Foundation and Maryland Art Place announced that a "Young Emerging Artists Education Grant" has been awarded to Baltimore in support of local programming to engage and enrich the lives of students.

"The importance of helping develop creative minds has long been a passion of mine. It is with these student's gifts to society our communities will become stronger," Jones said.

During the first year of the scholarship program in 2015, eligible students received scholarships in the amounts of \$500, \$1,500, and \$5,000.

The scholarships offer young artists an opportunity to work with an accomplished artist in a mentor format. It also gives talented young people a chance to showcase their work in a professional environment.

"Their works will be available for sale, which is thrilling," Jones said. "We hope those who participate gain knowledge of the art world that they otherwise may not have known until much later in their



The Deacon Jones Foundation and Maryland Art Place announced that a "Young Emerging Artists Education Grant" has been awarded to Baltimore in support of local programming to engage and enrich the lives of students. (Above) Deacon Jones and Elizabeth Jones
 Courtesy Photo/LifeofDad.

lives. We hope they value the time with an accomplished artist and learn from his experiences and guidance."

Founded in 1997, The Deacon Jones Foundation's primary objective is to develop leaders and to provide young, talented and intelligent students the tools to become positive role models.

"We are thrilled to have been awarded a Young Emerging Artists Education Grant," said Amy Cavanaugh-Royce, executive director, MAP. "It is with these funds we will develop students into stronger role models as well as help them build on their creative talents."

Jones says that the Deacon Jones Foundation believes that artistic expression of

all types is an integral part of a student's education, offering each individual a way of communicating that is a valuable asset throughout their lives and the lives of those they touch.

"Deacon and I started the Deacon Jones Foundation to enrich the lives of our youth. To give opportunity where none existed," Jones said. "As an artist, if this opportunity had presented itself to me in my youth I would have been overwhelmed with excitement.

"To be able to impact the lives of so many young persons is deeply personal and I am looking forward to following the growth of the students and to seeing their work."

The works of the local students will be exhibited during Kid Out of Order (KIDOOO) at MAP on Friday, April 5, 2019 at 7 p.m.

Guests can browse the artwork of over 250 artists while enjoying an open bar and light fare. Tickets to KIDOOO are \$45 at the door. For parents/guardians and youth tickets are \$30. Admission is free for all participating artists.

Maryland Art Place is located at 218 West Saratoga Street in the Bromo Tower Arts & Entertainment District.

To learn more about The Deacon Jones Foundation, visit: www.decaonjones.com.

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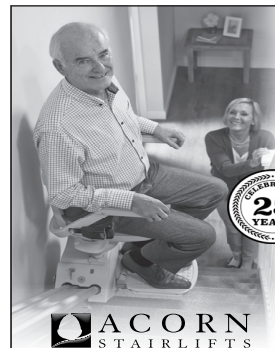


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What's next for Ravens at wide receiver position?

By Tyler Hamilton

The Baltimore Ravens have an unproven group of wide receivers after releasing veteran Michael Crabtree and losing John Brown to the Buffalo Bills via free agency. The current group of wideouts Jordan Lasley, Jaleel Scott, Chris Moore, Quincy Adeboyejo, and Willie Snead IV is not the most intimidating group.

Baltimore was not active on the free agent market. In the past, the Ravens found success by bringing in veterans such as Derek Mason, Anquan Boldin and Steve Smith Sr. However the same plan didn't work for Crabtree.

Now the attention turns to the draft. Baltimore has historically struggled when it comes to selecting wide receivers in the NFL Draft. First-round picks on players such as Breshard Perri-man, Travis Taylor and Michael Clayton never materialized. New GM Eric DeCosta needs to hit on the wide receiver position in this year's draft.



Ole Miss wide receiver A. J. Brown catches a pass during field drills at the 2019 NFL Combine in Indianapolis. Brown may be a potential pick for the Ravens offence during in 2019 NFL Draft.

Courtesy Photo/NFL.com

Ole Miss receivers A. J. Brown and DK Metcalf present solid options. Brown is a player who can be a reliable slot receiver and used as an 'X.' He caught 85 passes for 1,320 yards and six touch-

downs. He specializes in gaining yards after the catch.

Metcalf is a dangerous deep threat that reminds some people of former Cleveland Browns and New England Patriots receiver Josh Gordon. At 6' 5" and 237 pounds, Metcalf ran a blazing 4.33 sec-

ond time in the 40-yard dash at the Scouting Combine. Putting that size and speed on the outside will be very attractive for quarterback Lamar Jackson.

Then there is Iowa State receiver Hakeem Butler who grew up in the Greenmount neighborhood in East Baltimore before moving to Texas. Butler is a big (6-foot-6), fast receiver that would be a huge target for Jackson. His ability to make contested catches with ease is a weapon in the res zone.

Other first-round options include Arizona State' N'Keal Harry and Oklahoma's Marquise Brown. If the Ravens opt to select a wideout later, Ohio State's Parris Campbell and South Carolina's Deebo Samuel are options.

With the reconstruction of the Ravens offense underway with new coordinator Greg Roman, new weapons need to be imported to get it going. Long-term receiver coach David Culley joined the coaching staff and will also play an integral role in building the new offense.

Which ever new wideouts are added this year will have to buck the trend of unsuccessful picks in the past.



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Arena Players continues 65th season with 'Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years'

By Stacy M. Brown

Arena Players, Inc. continues its 65th Season of theatre with "Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years," a performance written by Emily Mann and directed by Arena Player Alum Randolph Smith.

"[I] find it fascinating to hear such wisdom spoken so easily and freely by these women," Smith said in a news release to the Baltimore Times. "They were living history. And they continually give food for thought in every expression of faith in their family."

Adapted from the oral history written by the centenarian Delany sisters—Sarah (Sadie) and Elizabeth (Bessie)—with Amy Hill Hearth, "Having Our Say" is an intimate evening of theatre that reveals the power of sisterhood and the tight bonds within the African American community, according to the release.

Valerie Lewis of Baltimore remembers the stories of her "aunties, mom and her sisters, feeling a kindred spirit" in her portrayal of Sadie Delany.

Though born in North Carolina, the visionary sisters invite audiences into their New York kitchen in "Having Our Say" where they share stories of their careers, family, and friends seasoned with folk wit.

Bessie Delany died in 1995 at the age of 104 while Sadie Delany died in 1999 at the age of 109.

The two became internationally known after the Guinness Book of World Records recognized the sisters as the world's oldest authors. Children of a former slave, the sisters used their father's example to forge careers in education and dentistry respectively, according to a biography.

In all their parents had 10 children and the elder Delany sister was the first black person permitted to teach domestic science in New York high schools. She obtained her undergrad and master's degrees from Columbia University in New York. The younger Delany sister was the second-black female dentist licensed to practice in New York. She too was raised on the St. Augustine campus and followed in her sister's footsteps to attend Columbia University, obtaining



Adapted from the oral history by centenarian sisters Sadie Delany (left) and Bessie Delany (right) with Amy Hill Hearth, "Having Our Say" is an intimate theatre production that reveals the power of sisterhood and the tight bonds within the African American community. "Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First Hundred Years" runs at the Arena Players on weekends between April 11 and 28, 2019.

Photo Credit: Marianne Barcelona/Courtesy of Arena Players

her dental degree.

The Delany sisters worked from the 1920s until their retirements in the 1960s, blazing trails behind them as it was a rarity for Black women to earn advanced degrees and have careers at that time.

They captured their battles with racism and sexism over the course of their lives in their book, "Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years."

Arena Players' Performer Vanessa Stewart connects with her character, the elder sister Bessie Delany, in a personal way as well.

"I'm a big ole' 'Daddy's Girl,' too and some of these scenes remind me of talking to my dad," Stewart said.

"Having Our Say" runs Friday through Sunday, April 12 -28, 2019 at the Arena Players, Inc. Tickets are available by phone at 410-728-6500 or online at: www.arenaolayersinc.com.

Having Our Say Performance Schedule:

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Saturday, April 13, 20 & 27, 2019 at 8 p.m.

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Portion of 33rd Street named after late Baltimore sports legend Frank Robinson

By Demetrius Dillard

City leaders and community members gathered to pay homage to one of Baltimore's most prominent sports icons, Orioles Hall of Famer Frank Robinson, at a street dedication ceremony in the Waverly neighborhood on Tuesday, April 2, 2019.

The portion of East 33rd Street between Ednor Road and Ellerslie Avenue now has orange, Oriole-branded street signs that read "Frank Robinson Way," directly behind the location of the old Orioles Memorial Stadium.

Baltimore City Council President Bernard "Jack" Young was the lead spokesman for the event since Mayor Catherine Pugh could not attend due to a leave of absence. Young, who will serve in Pugh's stead until she returns, expressed kind remarks for Robinson in his time behind the podium.

"Today, we officially proclaim this portion of East 33rd Street as Frank Robinson Way," said Young, who got to know Robinson in person. "We are honored that



The section of East 33rd Street between Ellerslie Avenue and Ednor Road, once the location of the Baltimore Orioles Memorial Stadium, has been named "Frank Robinson Way" in honor of late sports legend Frank Robinson.

Photo by Demetrius Dillard

this baseball great was once a player and manager for the Baltimore Orioles, that he made history right here in this city."

Robinson, who led the Orioles to their first World Series title in 1966, built a reputation as one of the greatest out-

fielders and power hitters in MLB history. He died on February 7, 2019 at his California home at age 83.

He spent more than six decades as an influential figure in the sport, retiring as a two-time World Series champion

(1966, 1970), 14-time all-star, two-time league MVP, and the league's last triple-crown winner.

Baltimore City Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke had a few words after Young spoke. She is a representative of District 14, which is partially composed of the section in which the ceremony took place.

"It's my district and we're so proud to have 33rd Street in front of the old stadium area named after our biggest hero of all of Orioles baseball, and that's Frank Robinson," Clarke said. "That's why I came, I wouldn't have missed it for anything... He was a man of integrity, and character and talent."

Also at the event were Baltimore Police Commissioner Michael Harrison and Maj. Natalie Preston, commander of the northeastern district of the Baltimore Police Department.

In 1974 Robinson became the first black manager in MLB history, assuming the leadership role over the Cleveland Indians. The Texas native also managed the San Francisco Giants, which made him the first black manager in the National League, the Baltimore Orioles and the Montreal Expos, which later became the Washington Nationals—with a managerial career spanning longer than 30 years.

Robinson is still the only player in the history of Major League Baseball to win the Most Valuable Player award in both the National League and American League.

"There is no one who is honored more in Baltimore City than Frank Robinson Sr. for so many, many reasons of excellence, integrity, just representing us the way we're so proud to be represented," Clarke continued.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Young unveiled one of the "Frank Robinson Way" signs at the intersection of 33rd Street and Ellerslie Avenue as attendants responded with an exuberant "yay" and applause.

The Orioles will recognize Robinson, also a civil rights pioneer, in a celebration before their divisional matchup against the New York Yankees at Camden Yards Stadium on Saturday, April 6 at 6:15 p.m.

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Wax Figure of Joy Bramble as a Woman in the Media Unveiled

By Ursula V. Battle

Another pioneering trailblazer has just been added to the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum (NGBW) located on E. North Ave. in Baltimore. That wax figure is that of Baltimore Times Publisher Joy Bramble. Prior to its installation this week in the museum, the breathtaking likeness was unveiled during an Official Unveiling ceremony held on Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at The State House in Annapolis, MD.

“People are calling from all over the world,” said Bramble. “It was a very humbling experience.”

Several noted dignitaries which included Maryland Speaker Pro Tem Adrienne A. Jones, members of the business community, and Bramble’s family and friends, were in attendance. The event was also attended by current and past employees of the paper.

“Everyone is talking about fabulous the event was,” said Bramble, who is a native of the Caribbean island of Montserrat. “The wax figure has captured the very essence of our family. I am grateful to the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum. I never imagined myself being important enough to be in the Great Blacks in Wax Museum. It’s a crowning accomplishment.”

Bramble’s Baltimore Times Newspaper Group began with a simple, yet extraordinary goal: counter the negative images often portrayed of African Americans in the media by highlighting and celebrating the positive contributions made by blacks to their community, their workplace, their churches and in their families.

The Baltimore Times publication was birthed on the kitchen table of Bramble, and her husband, The Rev. Peter Bramble, in November 1986. The Brambles began printing “positive stories about positive people” and watched their company grow from a one-computer operation in their kitchen, to one of the largest circulated African American publications on the East Coast.

“I thank my husband, and all the people of Baltimore who helped me to do this,” said Bramble. “They understood my desire to give a better picture of Baltimore. The event was unbelievable.”

Bramble’s accomplishments were highlighted in a skit, entitled “Not Good, But Greater.” The skit was written by this



Joy’s cheering section— her grandchildren (left to right) Vera, Jonah, Sydney, great niece Reagan and Dean.



(Left to right) Speaker Pro Tem Adrienne Jones of The Maryland House of Delegates presents the House Resolution to Joy Bramble in recognition 33 years of publishing the Baltimore Times and the unveiling of her Wax Figure as a Woman in The Media.
Photos by Gar Roberts

reporter, and was performed during the occasion. Directed by Dr. Gregory Branch, the skit featured the gospel trio ‘Serenity’, and chronicled how Bramble proved her naysayers wrong time and time again.

“The skit was amazing,” said Bramble. “People can’t stop talking about it.”

In addition to the unveiling of the wax figure and the skit presentation, the event also featured entertainment by Joystar, and vocalist Imani Wj Wright accompanied by guitarist Muammar Muhammad. The historic occasion also featured lunch, which was catered by Agape House.

The event was a collaborative effort, which included Bramble’s Family, NGBW, and Baltimore Times Business Manager Dena Wane.

Bramble’s son David was among those who spoke during the event.

“What is so amazing about The Baltimore Times is that it was literally started with nothing,” said the younger Bramble. “Not just no money, but no experience, no special relationships, no rich uncle to back you up when there was trouble, no parents to provide money, no friends with great advice - just a bold idea, self-confidence and an unbelievable worth ethic that carries with my mother till this day.”

Prior to the unveiling, Bramble was recognized with proclamations in the House Chambers in the Senate presented by Senator Shirley Nathan-Pulliam and in the House of Delegates presented by Speaker pro tem Adrienne Jones.

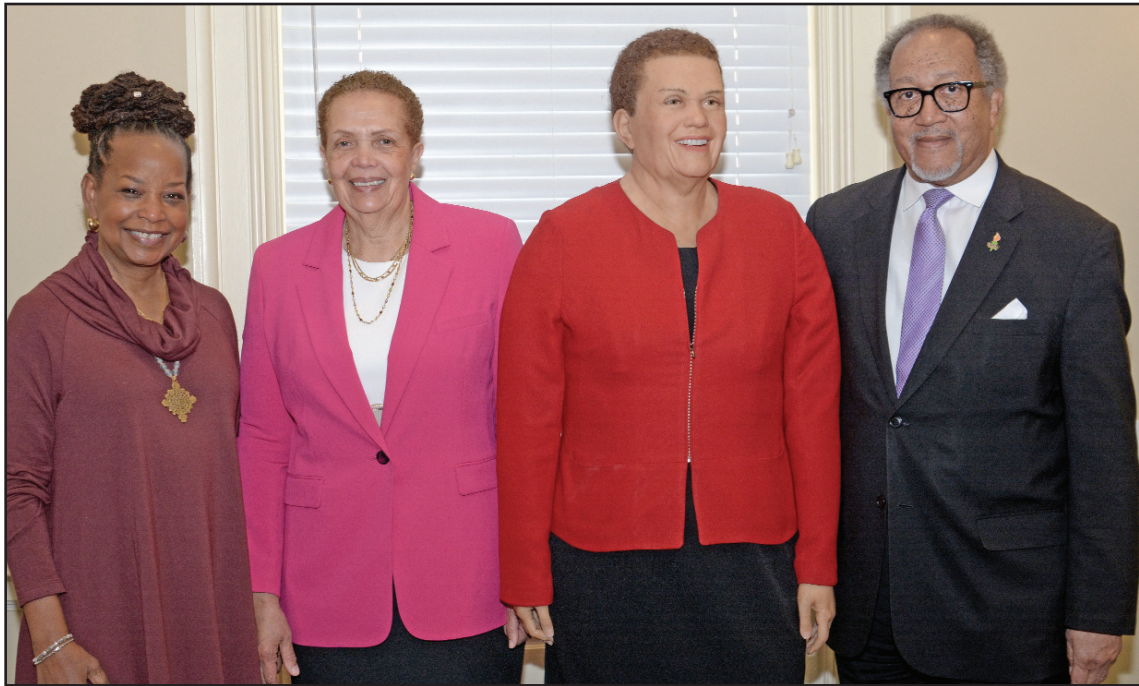
“From the moment we started in the House and Senate with the Resolution noting Joy’s accomplishments, every aspect of the event was amazing,” said Dr. JoAnne Martin, Co-Founder of The National Great Blacks in Wax Museum. “Annapolis was such an appropriate setting.”

She added, “The mood was right, the entertainment was right, and the food was right. Everything was impeccably organized. The play was the icing on the cake. It was extraordinary.”

Several wax figures from the museum were on display just outside of the suite where the ceremony took place. Following the program, Bramble’s figure was placed amongst them. Attendees posed for photos with the figures.

“The wax figures looked great,” said Dr. Martin. “I was proud for the museum to have that kind of presence.” Victoria

The figure will be installed in the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum



(Left to right) Denise Rolark Barnes, publisher, The Washington Infomer; Joy Bramble; Wax figure of Joy Bramble; and Dr. Ben Chavis, President and CEO the National Newspaper Publishers Association



Dr. Joanne Martin, President and CEO of The National Great Blacks in Wax Museum.



The Cast and crew of the skit "Not Good But Greater," which highlighted the remarkable accomplishments of Joy Bramble. Written by Ursula Battle of Battle Stage plays, they brought the house down!



Recording artists "Serenity" provided lovely melodies with comic relief. critical to the success of the skit.

*Continued on Page 11
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Harper portrayed Bramble in 'Not Good, But Greater.'

"It was an incredible moment in time to have the opportunity to play the role of

Joy Bramble and share her remarkable success story," said Harper who is also from the Caribbean. "She may have had her set of naysayers and doubting Thomas' along the way, but she had a quality I truly admire, which is determination. No matter

what, Joy remained focus on fulfilling the dreams God put in her heart."

Carol Williams, who also participated in the skit added, "It was a blessing to participate in this skit, which paid tribute to Joy's many accomplishments. She is an

inspiration to us all, and a shining example of what can happen when you are determined, and never give up on your

*More photos available at:
www.baltimoretimes-online.com*

Morgan State University Professor Talks about Inner City Youth and Survivornomics TM

By Lorece V. Edwards, DrPH, MHS,
Morgan State University

African American youth have historically been disproportionately affected by an array of environmental stressors (exposure to violence, living and playing in high-risk scapes, and adverse childhood experiences) that have put them at higher risk for poor adjustment outcomes (Adams III et al., 2003). Despite their hardships, not all of these youth fall victim to negative and stressful environmental and community level influences (Miller & MacIntosh, 1999). In spite of the many social, environmental and political factors that shape health and influences outcomes. The importance of resilience cannot be overlooked. We must remain vigilant in exploring the processes through which resilience is achieved giving full consideration to the world in which they live. There is a T'Challa and Killmonger in every youth.

Extensive research has conclusively demonstrated that children's social class is one of the most significant predictors— if not the single most significant predictor— of their educational success. Moreover, it is increasingly apparent that performance gaps by social class take root in the earliest years of children's lives and fails to narrow in the years that follow (Elias, 2013). That is, children who start behind stay behind—they are rarely able to make up the lost ground. This trajectory supports as well as stamps the school to prison pipeline. The school-to-prison pipeline is a process through which students are pushed out of schools and into prisons (Elias, 2013). In other words, it is a process of criminalizing youth that is carried out by disciplinary policies and practices within schools that put students into contact with law enforcement.

Instead of pushing students out of school, we need to “rethink schools” and make them responsive to the contemporary needs of our children and young adults. There needs to be teacher trainings, appropriate resources, perceived-risk assessment, and the development of culturally appropriate and compatible trauma-informed curriculum. Furthermore, we must give full consideration to



Community violence affects all racial and ethnic groups, but African Americans living in low-income urban neighborhoods experience higher rates of community violence and crime than other racial and ethnic groups. Growing up under the conditions of adversity by being victims of violence or witnessing violence has longterm effects. Toxic stress experienced early in life can have a cumulative toll on an individual's physical and mental health (Above) “Hands Up” artwork by Asia Ross.

Courtesy Photo/Asia Ross

the communities that our kids come from. Schools need to be a safe place where children feel they belong and want to attend. No Child left behind and No Child found on a MurderInk search. According to Dr. Bertina Love (2019), our educational system is maintained by the profits from the suffering of children of color. She suggest that, instead of trying to repair a flawed system, educational reformers offer survival tactics in the forms of testtaking skills, acronyms, grit labs and character education, which Love eloquently calls the educational survival complex. The educational survival complex is a system in which children are left learning how to survive (Love, 2019).

More than just the facts. Many young parents drop out of college to care for their children having difficulties matriculating through school. Black children constitute 18 percent of students, but they account for 46 percent of those suspended more than once and are more likely stereotyped as youth with behavioral problems (Elias, 2013). Schools with a high percentage of low-income students and/or students of color for the most part have fewer resources, spend less on staffing, lack adequate instructional materials, and have worse physical building conditions than their counterpart schools serving higher income or more racially and ethnically diverse (or more uniformly white) stu-

dent bodies. These conditions may eventually translate into lower educational attainment for the residents of a neighborhood as a whole.

According to Massey and Tannen, 26 percent of all African Americans in the United States live in hypersegregated metropolitan areas. Among African Americans living in metropolitan areas, 53.1 percent of African Americans live in metropolitan areas characterized as highly segregated or hypersegregated. Racially segregated black neighborhoods create high-risk landscapes that increase the threat to black lives, whether in the form of disproportionate exposure to lead poison and toxic waste,

Article continued on page 13

Morgan State University Professor Talks about Inner City Youth and Survivornomics TM

Article continued from page 12

educational inequality, redlining, sub-priming, or transit inequity. Racial segregation escalates danger in all forms for residents who live in disinvested, red-lined black neighborhoods, creating what we call “high-risksapes” where the threat of death and harm are perceived as immanent rather than far off, especially for black youth and emerging adults. High-risksapes alter risk portfolios and perceptions of residents’ risk and place concerns for health, education, employment, STIs, alcohol, and substance use low on the list of concern because the threat of violence and the exposure of cumulative community violence mandates of survival in environments of concentrated poverty and unresolved traumas (historical trauma and the epigenetic effect) rank as primary concerns.

For almost two-decades, exposure to community violence has been designated a “public health epidemic” for adolescents and young adults residing in economically disadvantaged, urban neighborhoods (U.S. Surgeon General 2001). Not only is community violence an enduring public health challenge in many high-poverty, urban communities (Tung et al., 2018), exposure to community violence/trauma in early life may profoundly affect a youth’s development in multiple domains from early childhood into adolescence and beyond (Griffin, Bradshaw, & FurrHolden, 2009). Community violence affects all racial and ethnic groups, but African Ameri-

cans living in low-income urban neighborhoods experience higher rates of community violence and crime than other racial and ethnic groups (Crouch et al., 2000). Alarming, several studies document that between 45 percent and 96 percent of urban, African American youth have witnessed violence in their communities, ranging from assault to murder (Gaylord-Harden, Cunningham, & Zelencik, 2011), and 16 percent to 37 percent of youth have reported being victims of aforementioned violence (Spano & Bolland, 2013). Growing up under the conditions of adversity by being victims of violence or witnessing violence has long-term effects. (Center on the Developing Child, 2019).

Significant early adversity can lead to lifelong problems. Toxic stress experienced early in life and common precipitants of toxic stress— such as poverty, abuse or neglect, parental substance abuse or mental illness, mass incarceration, education inequalities and exposure to violence—can have a cumulative toll on an individual’s physical and mental health (Center on the Developing Child, 2019). Among our youth, the “struggle for existence” requires extraordinary coping skills. To face the immense challenges of high-risk scapes, exposure to community violence, lead poisoning, school safety, and a cadre of other adversities, they must adjust to the hardships associated with learning how to survive.

SurvivornomicsTM is a term coined that emerged from a theory developed by public health scholars and activist at Morgan State University’s School of Community Health and Policy identified as the Perceived Risk Hierarchy Theory TM (PRHT) (article found in the Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved May 2017, 28 (2). SurvivornomicsTM, is not traditionally defined

in the ethos of traditional sciences. Rather, survivornomicsTM is the integration of two sciences: survivability and economics. The best way to describe survivornomicsTM is the ability to quantify and measure resiliency and personal mastery over intense physical and emotional states. As we blend these emerging concepts, a costbenefit analysis calculates the ratio of benefit over cost. Simply put, a cost benefit analysis is made to identify how well or how poorly an individual adjust or thrive in the face of adversity and/or intense emotional states.

SurvivornomicsTM proffers that youth and emerging adults residing in disadvantaged, hypersegregated and marginalized communities live, adjust and thrive in the face of adversities while finding resilience. Because the challenges they face are multi-factorial and involve so many different systems, we must think critically and avoid becoming rigid in our deliberations. The problems confronting our youth are voluminous: morbidity, education inequality, residing in high-risk scapes, cumulative exposure to community violence, as well as un-addressed adverse childhood experiences (ACES). We can no longer afford the luxury of ignoring the deleterious

dilemmas facing of our African American youth. This work immediately calls for a deeper thinking and understanding of the all-encompassing features of their everyday lives. We must charge forward recognizing the lack of effectiveness in our current systems. Let’s transform dialogue to action and create a structuring framework for this segment of the population that refuses the disposability of African American youth.

Tupac Shakur also known by his stage names 2Pac and Makaveli, was an American rapper, writer, and actor. He left us with these words: “Death is not the greatest loss in life. The greatest loss is what dies inside while still alive. Never surrender.”

If you are interested in making a difference in the life of youth. Please be a part of the Morgan State University West Baltimore Get Smart Drug Free Community Coalition. Our goal is to delay, reduce and eliminate alcohol and substance use among youth ages 12 – 17 in West Baltimore. For more information, please contact Dr. Lorece Edwards at 443-885-3566 or Lorece.Edwards@morgan.edu. *A special thanks to Dean, Dr. Kim Sydnor, Dr. Ian Lindong and Dr. Randolph Rowel.

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Rambling Rose

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Rosa Pryor Trusty

Hello everyone, how are you? Spring is finally here, Thank God! My "Rosemobile" is all gassed up and ready to go, so mark your calendar and let's have some fun!

John Lamkin II is performing at Caton Castle Lounge on Saturday, April 13, 2019 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. featuring: John Lamkin II, Michael Hairston, Bob Butta, Michael Graham and Jesse Moody. For more information, call 410-566-7086.

Vernard Gray is hosting a free event featuring the Pan African Soundtrack which will be presented by the Charmaine Michelle Ensemble at Anacostia Art Center located at 1231 Good Hope Road, S.E. in Washington, D.C. on Sunday, April 14, 2019 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sherrita Harris on drums, Trey Serrells on sax; Justin Taylor, piano; and Jeron White on bass.

Gwynn Oak Ravens Roost will host a Bull & Oyster Roast on Saturday, April 6, 2019 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Lodge, located at 2932 Nine Mile Circle in Catonsville just off Frederick Road. Call Doc Gregory at 443-506-7996 for more information.

The Painters Mill American Legion presents Dr. Phill Butts Big Band at an evening on the Red Carpet with a tribute to Nancy Wilson performed by Song stylist, "Larzine" on Saturday, April 13, 2019 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Painters Mill American Legion located at 4424 Painters Mill Road in Owings Mill, Maryland. For more information, call 443-676-4543.

The SBLC salutes "The Stars Among Us" at their annual gala" on Saturday, April 13, 2019 from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. at the Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel, 202 E. Pratt Street.

SBLC is a nonprofit that provides functional literacy, life skills training and



DJ Sugar Chris invites you to his "Wednesday Night Sing-A-Long & Dance Party" every Wednesday 6-11 p.m. at the Corinthians Bar & Lounge, 7107 Windsor Mill Road, Windsor Mill. Free all night & "Happy Hour from 3-7 p.m.



Dwayne Johnson & Waren Beads will host the Westport/Mt. Winans Reunion Cabaret Style on Saturday, April 6, 2019 from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Patapsco Arena, 3301 Annapolis Road in Baltimore. Cherry Hill's own "The Five Shadows" and DJ Sean Marshall will be featured. For more information, call 443-851-0214.

career preparation services for adults. The evening is a fundraiser and will feature live music by Advanced Party Solutions, a photo booth, games, a raffle



There was an awesome turn out for Trinity No 5 Order of the Eastern Stars, PHA March community service project with the help of S.T. Kendall Lodge #153 and Jerusalem Temple #4 where a full buffet breakfast was served to the residents of Sarah's Hope, Baltimore's largest homeless shelter for families, providing 150 beds.



The Meritocrats Spring Fling Cabaret takes place Saturday, April 13, 2019 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Diamondz Hall, 9980 Liberty Road in Randallstown. BYOB and BYOF. For tickets, call Cleve Brister at 410-358-5740.



Renowned world-wide Gospel singer Fred Hammond will be performing at the Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races in Charles Town, West Virginia on Friday, April 5, 2019 at 9 p.m.

showcase, and more. A buffet

style dinner will be served. For more information, call 410-960-0230.

Well my friends, I will see you somehow, somewhere. I have to go now. But

remember, if you need me, call me at 410-833-9474 or email me at rosapryor@aol.com. UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.

Keeping your sanity: Getting started in the music business, Part I

By Imani Wj Wright

I've been trying to grow my hair out for the past year now, but it's not happening as I've spent too much time pulling it out! That's a joke but sometimes the stress of trying to be successful can be tortuous. This holds true for many professions, but the one I'm currently dealing with is the Music Business.

I have developed this theory a few months ago: "Some careers have a path created and you learn how to walk it, in the music business, you're creating the path as you walk it." So, I've developed this five part series for all the fledgling artists trying to figure this thing out, just like me.

First things first, do not live in an illusion. Art can be "touchy," our pieces are as dear to us as family, so we become very attached. Being attached to your art is a good thing. It enhances the connection and fluidity of the creative process. Due to our love for our pieces, we can become blind to the reality of its true worth. What I mean by that is the song

may or may not be as good as you think it is. Even though this may be difficult to do, step away from that song you just mixed and mastered for a solid three days. After the hiatus, listen to it like a consumer. Ask yourself, does it sound professional? Would you listen to this and think it's good work? Is it mixed well? Also, don't be afraid of to get feedback. Ask three or four people to listen to it and hopefully they will give it to you cut and dry.

Along with not living in an illusion, comes the knowledge of where you currently stand in your career. There are too many instances where I've seen artists stop working as hard as they should because they've accomplished a small short term goal or performed at an open mic and then feel as if their performance duties have been met for the next five months.

Never feel too big. Feeling big causes complacency and a false sense of where you are and where you want to be. Emails should be a part of your weekly, if not daily routine. I'll get into email



Baltimore Native Jason Noble, professionally known as DJ SUN has opened up for some of the most prominent names in Hip Hop— Meek Mill, Migos and Travis Scott to name a few.

Photo Credit: Olivia Mosley

regiments in part 2 of this series.

The career of Baltimore native Jason Noble, professionally known as DJ SUN has been steadily propelling upwards.

He has opened up for some of the most prominent names in Hip Hop— Meek Mill, Migos and Travis Scott to name a few. He has also appeared on HBO, Showtime, and VH1.

I had a chance to speak with him recently, and when I asked how he manages when faced with the many obstacles in the industry, he responded, "In the DJ community there is a huge sense of responsibility. One of these responsibilities is to make "it" (events) happen by any means. This means if you're not getting booked for shows, throw your own, if there [are] no venues

in your city, use a house, if you don't have speakers, hook up to someone's car— etc.

This mindset and approach is great not only for DJs wishing to build a crowd, but for scenes that wish to take the next step toward becoming recognized and respected."

Noble is a serious example of how to create your own lane. You will be hearing much more from him in the upcoming weeks. Follow him on Instagram @spunbysun.

In the meantime... Stay Virtuous. Stay Idealistic. Stay Progressive. To contact Imani WJ Wright, email: iwright@btimes.com.



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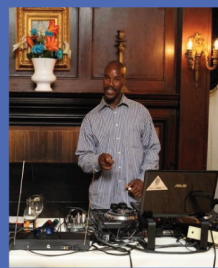
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Four ways to be a positive force in the lives of others

News & Experts— Do you think you have an impact on others? The truth is we impact everyone around us every-day— both positively and negatively.

“We can make a huge difference if we become more intentional about having a positive impact on others,” said Dr. Bobby J. Grossi, a motivational speaker and author of the book *Destiny is Not Hereditary: How Becoming A Better You Impacts Others*. “Those who go through their lives focused on themselves and their own needs never realize the immense power they have.”

Grossi says even something as simple as opening a door for a stranger may put that person in a better mood and possibly change their interactions with others.

“Many people don’t see the full extent of the impact they make because one action can set off a chain reaction that reaches far beyond the starting point.” Grossi said. “There are many ways you can choose to be intentional about how you impact others. You also can choose to be positive and supportive rather than negative and critical.”

Grossi offers a few suggestions on how to have a more positive impact on those around you:

•**Become a mentor.** Sharing your skills with others will give you a sense of



responsibility and pride while the receiver will be on their way to mastering something entirely new. “Someone, somewhere is keen to learn the skill you possess,” Grossi says.

•**Spend time with a senior citizen.**

You can light up an older person’s day by spending quality time with them over a cup of tea and a nice chat, Grossi says. You also may find they have plenty of wisdom to share with you.

•**Become involved in a charity.** There is a charity for virtually every worthwhile endeavor. What are you passionate about? Find a charity where you can share your passion and impact the lives of others. Plus, you will meet others who are as passionate as you are.

•**Change your “script.”** Instead of asking “what can I get?” ask “how can I help?” “We have many programmed responses we make every day in life that are automatic,” Grossi says. “We never even think about them.” Changing your script can be as simple as saying “thank you” instead of “ok.” Small changes in your internal scripts can make a big difference not only in the lives of others, he says, but how you feel about yourself.

“Some people think they don’t matter enough to make an impact on other people,” Grossi says. “This is because they might not see the full extent of the impact they make because one action can set off a chain reaction that reaches far beyond the starting point.”

*Dr. Bobby J. Grossi is a motivational speaker and author of the book *Destiny is Not Hereditary: How Becoming A Better You Impacts Others*. He lives in Linden, Michigan with his wife and three children. For more information about Dr. Bobby J. Grossi, visit: www.drboobyjgrossi.com.*

Reginald Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture Needs Volunteers

The museum is dedicated to serving the community by providing multifaceted support through meaningful interactions with history and material culture of Maryland African Americans. Volunteers are needed to assist at the Information Desk, as Docents, for Special Events, and more. There are ongoing opportunities on Saturdays and Sundays for assistance with greeting guests and patrons at the main entrance and to work with kid’s activities during public hours. The minimum age for volunteers is 14. Volunteering is open to adults, seniors, college, and high school students. Service learning credit hours can be earned by high school students. We are accepting applications for the following volunteer positions: Special Event Volunteer, Administrative Assistant, Curatorial Assistant, and Visitor Services. Contact Joy Hall at 443-263-1800 or email: hall@lewismuseum.org; or visit the website: www.lewismuseum.org.

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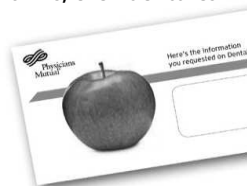


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