

New book combats negative images of black men



Dr. Larry White, Sr. is CEO and founder of VIPeVENTS Concierge LLC. The visionary author from Glen Burnie, Maryland, recently led and launched book project entitled "When Men Lean In We All Win: Revitalization, Education, & Representation." White hand picked successful black men who all give back to their community to contribute to the anthology, which presents black men in a positive light. During National Book Month and beyond, White wants others to remember that literacy is a rite to passage to provide guidance about how to get ahead through education and knowledge. White's project incorporates how economics and business work, in addition to fostering personal development. (See article on page 13). Courtesy Photo

Public-private coalition launches campaign to educate Black community on importance of flu shot

By Stacy M. Brown

Reverend Dr. Terris King, the Pastor of Liberty Grace Church of God and CEO of King Enterprise Group, believes the coronavirus pandemic makes the coming flu season all the deadlier.

It's the reason why he is helping to lead a coalition of pastors, health advocates, and city leaders to raise awareness for a flu vaccination as Baltimore prepares for what's predicted as a brutal flu season.

The coalition also includes Bishop J. L. Carter of Ark Church, the Minister's Conference of Baltimore and Vicinity; Rev. Alvin C. Hathaway Sr. of Union Baptist Church; Bishop Donté L. Hickman Sr., of the Southern Baptist Church; Pastor Michael Phillips Senior, Pastor of Kingdom Life Church; and Rev. Pamula D. Yerby-Hammack, City of Abraham Church and Ministries.

"I don't want our people to suffer from the duality of both COVID and the flu," expressed King, who joined other Baltimore leaders and the nonprofit research and education organization, The National Minority Quality Forum (NMQF) in developing a pilot program to raise awareness for the flu vaccine.

King noted that the Black communities in Baltimore and Prince Georges County have a lower rate of flu vaccination than the rest of Maryland.

The coalition seeks to educate the community about the benefits of a flu vaccine, and where to get the shot this fall.

"I got involved simply because I'm the area of Baltimore, the 21215-area code, that's the hardest hit. My congregation has been hit really hard," King said.

"Even though we have services on Zoom, I've had people on Zoom in hospital beds with COVID. I don't want people to get the sniffles because we are



(Left) Lois Privor-Dumm, senior research associate at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; and Reverend Dr. Terris King, Pastor of Liberty Grace Church of God and CEO of King Enterprise Group. (Right) Participants at a recent flu vaccine clinic in a safe outdoor location which provides parishioners with a further sense of comfort during a trying time.



Courtesy Photos

susceptible to COVID by going to the emergency room with the flu and encountering those who have the virus."

For the flu vaccine program, the NMQF's Center for Sustainable Health Care Quality and Equity (SHC) has joined with the Baltimore City Health Department, Coppin State University's Helene Fuld School of Nursing and the International Vaccine Access Center at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

They will offer flu vaccine clinics adjacent to two Baltimore City churches in the coming weeks as a coalition.

The rate of COVID-19 illness and death is high in the Black community, which is even more reason for these

communities to protect against the flu, according to health officials.

Bringing the clinics to the churches in a safe outdoor location can provide parishioners with a further sense of comfort during a trying time, coalition officials said.

"What the flu season does to us as a community is to allow us to emphasize self-help and prioritize your body while helping others," King said. "I want folks to watch their diets and everything else

they are supposed to do to be holistically healthy and to build that immune system. I want them to be healthy because we are experiencing a second wave of the coronavirus."

For more information, visit <https://health.baltimorecity.gov/flu> to see a map of places offering flu shots in Baltimore City or visit <https://nmqf-shc.org/flu-vaccination/> to learn more about closing disparity gaps in vaccinating communities of color.

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The Annapolis Times

(USPS 5840) is published every Friday by *The Baltimore Times/Times of Baltimore*, 2513 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218. Subscriptions by mail \$60 per year. Standard bulk postage paid at Baltimore, MD 21233.

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Guest Editorials/Letters

Reinventing fitness in the COVID-19 era

By Alex Rothstein

COVID-19 is a terrifying wake-up call for out-of-shape Americans.

More than four in 10 U.S. adults are obese, and 60 percent have at least one chronic disease, putting them at high risk of serious COVID-19 complications— or worse. Individuals with chronic illnesses are 12 times more likely to die from the virus.

In light of President Trump's recent COVID-19 diagnosis, the dangers of having any of those conditions have been thrust into the national spotlight. Trump is in a high-risk age group, clinically obese, and has "elevated" blood pressure— all of which put him at risk for more severe complications.

For decades, healthcare professionals have cautioned people about the dangers of obesity. But those warnings have largely gone unheeded. Until recently, too many Americans viewed exercise as the ticket to a beach body— not the first line of defense against deadly diseases.

COVID-19 is changing that mistaken belief. Now, it's incumbent upon health professionals to help Americans get in shape.

Everyone knows that exercise promotes good health. But many don't understand how. Exercise increases blood flow throughout the body, meaning that more immune cells can circulate at a higher rate. Over time, that immune response builds up. A study published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine found that among people who engaged in aerobic exercise five or more times per week, upper respiratory tract infection decreased by 40 percent over 12 weeks.

Staying active also reduces body fat and inflammation, which helps to fend off infections and prevent chronic conditions.

Americans are starting to finally realize that staying fit isn't just about looking good— it's about strengthening the immune system.

Fortunately, the fitness industry is trying to accommodate this mass awakening.

Many gyms moved fitness classes outdoors and online for the first time. Organizations like the American College of Sports Medicine have actively campaigned for outdoor fitness resources in disadvantaged communities.

Further transforming Americans' relationship with exercise— and making it a critical component of their health and wellness plans— will also require the help of exercise science professionals. These individuals are trained to develop individualized wellness programs that consider people's age, health, culture, and other factors that influence their ability to maintain a healthy routine.

Someone at risk of developing high blood pressure may know they need more exercise, but have no idea where to start. An exercise science professional can help set realistic and achievable goals— something as simple as a short morning walk. That person can then develop longer-term habits that incorporate more vigorous exercise into their routine.

Or, exercise science experts can educate chronic disease patients about the ways physical activity can help manage their conditions— from reducing the pain associated with rheumatoid arthritis to increasing insulin sensitivity for diabetics.

These professionals can also adjust their methods based on clients' individual comfort levels. Many Americans still don't feel safe entering brick-and-mortar gyms. In response, exercise science professionals can build other innovative tools and training models, such as remote platforms and outdoor workout settings.

COVID-19 has disrupted our society. But it has also created an opportunity to improve our country's health— by transforming exercise into the primary weapon in our fight against disease.

Alex Rothstein is an instructor and program coordinator for the exercise science degree program at New York Institute of Technology. This piece originally ran in Fortune.



Letters to the Editor

Editor:

I was pleased to learn the European Union invested €2.7M of public funds into Meat4All, a Spanish-based consortium researching cultured-meat. For those who don't know, cultured meat is grown from cells, without slaughtering animals.

The United States should invest more resources to help develop this revolutionary protein, which will benefit human health, the environment and animal welfare.

Dr. Mark Post debuted the first

cultured-beef hamburger in 2013. It cost an astonishing \$280,000 to produce. Since that time, the price has dropped substantially.

Post believes a similar burger will cost \$10 to make in the near future. As wonderful as this progress is, the price will need to be reduced further in order to compete with slaughtered meat.

This can be achieved by publicly funded research.

Jon Hochschartner
Granby, CT

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Responding to: 'Baltimore Museum of Art is gradually getting gutted'

By Dr. Alvin C. Hathaway

As a child growing up in the Upton Community in the block of the Union Baptist Church where I now serve as the Senior Pastor, I fondly remember visits to the Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA).

I would imagine posing as "The Thinker," the bronze sculpture by Auguste Rodin that once stood on a pedestal at the entrance. I would walk through the museum and see fine European inspired art, and artifacts from around the world. I fondly remember looking at the names of spaces within the museum named for persons who donated artwork to the museum.

The Baltimore Museum of Art is the curator of art and the shaper of artistic ideas within our community. I remember the African inspired artifacts that were collected from tribal lands around the world and loved the three dimensional quality and the distinct differences of masks from difference regions.

As a child, I never thought that the shaping of my artistic mind was

conceived by a mind set different than mine. It was shaped by a Eurocentric mindset. I've always seen the Baltimore Museum of Art as a place that welcomed artistic imagery, paintings and artifacts from all cultures and races. I never thought that the playing field was not

One cannot place a value on having internationally recognized African American artist Mark Bradford visit Union Baptist Church in the Upton Community to engage its residents and the community in a discussion with the Board Members, The Director and its staff.

Johnson Community Center today. BMA made art accessible and attainable.

BMA didn't stop there. They involved local, artistic talent whose work is on display throughout the country, people such as, Larry "Poncho" Brown whose work hangs in some of the more exclusive collections in the world; Aaron Maybin, Earnest Shaw, and others.

The African American community of Baltimore City is becoming more engaged with the BMA because the BMA understands they must see art from the eyes of its residents and place value from an Afrocentric context.

I appreciate the direction of the BMA as it invests in the contemporary and cultural artistic leaders that will shape and establish value in the future. Just think, if the BMA had valued Romeare Bearden as he was walking the streets of Baltimore or "Bay Bay" Williams whose "Crying Black Child" impacted the Civil Rights movement, as children became involved in the struggle. They would have expanded the meaning of excellence to include artists of diverse backgrounds.

I applaud the BMA, its director, Board of Directors and staff for boldly acquiring the resources to expand its collection to include artists from diverse cultural, racial and ethnic backgrounds.

As we envision tomorrow, we must step into a world where art is accessible to the many and not the few. We must envision a world where value is assessed to Afrocentric work as it has been to European work. If the playing field is to be leveled, value must be a measure as we envision a tomorrow that is inclusive and where equality is the standard.

Reverend Dr. Alvin C. Hathaway, Sr., is senior pastor of The Union Baptist Church in West Baltimore

"BMA created the concept of pop-up museums and located its first temporary museum on the corner of Druid Hill Avenue and Dolphin Street. Residents old and young would create art in the space Union Baptist provided, and the art created hangs in the Cyber Center of our Harvey Johnson Community Center today. BMA made art accessible and attainable."

level in terms of the African American artistic impression.

Against that backdrop, I read the Reader Commentary entitled, "Baltimore Museum of Art is gradually getting gutted" in the October 8, 2020 issue of The Baltimore Sun and perceived it as an attack on the Board of Directors and its Director for selling paintings in its collection to make room for expanding their collection to become more inclusive of the totality of contributors to the field of art. The Baltimore Museum of Art should reflect cultural diversity in its collections as well as in their displays.

For the past four years, I have worked closely with the BMA, its director and various staff members exploring ways the BMA could be more inclusive and engaged within the community. It began by focusing upon a theme, "Envisioning your tomorrow." A theme intended to bring the BMA and its resources into the community as an agent of change.

Bradford's story enthralled all in attendance and inspired many to see art as a value that must be protected and expanded. Bradford demonstrated to us the beauty of art in our story and the items we had in our hands. He took hair accessories and translated them into collectable art. He mentored a graduate student of the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), Stephen Towns and gave his career a boost by purchasing some of his art and promoting him within the art world. Bradford and the BMA didn't stop there. They adopted Greenmount West and introduced art directly into the community for the youth and residents to be inspired and engaged.

BMA created the concept of pop-up museums and located its first temporary museum on the corner of Druid Hill Avenue and Dolphin Street. Residents old and young would create art in the space Union Baptist provided, and the art created hangs in the Cyber Center of our Harvey

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BCPS learning specialist releases guide to navigating employment for Black teens

By Alanah Nichole Davis

The idea for a guidebook came to first time author Dunbar High alumna and longtime youth advocate Albert Phillips Jr. after years of providing supportive employment services to hundreds of Baltimore's most vulnerable and under supported youth. This year, Phillips wrote and released, "Y'all Hiring?" a practical, culturally relevant guide for black youth seeking to obtain, maintain and exit a job in a thoughtful manner.

Phillips, age 30 is a youth advocate and graduate of both Morgan State University for undergrad and Johns Hopkins University for his masters in education here in Baltimore, his hometown.

Despite being a product of academia, Phillips credits both of his grandmothers and his fiancée, whom he now supports on her journey to becoming a lawyer for his success. He says his grandmothers still pray for him and his paternal grandmother who is new to Facebook at 70 plus, is cheering him and his new book project on every step of the way.

His grandmothers weren't his only supporters. He started a Kickstarter at the height of the pandemic in April, and was backed financially by 168 people to the tune of \$4,814 to help bring his book project to life!

"In the middle of a global health pandemic where millions of people are losing jobs and the global economy is being turned on its head, people supported me. Through stress, tears and heightened anxiety, people showed up for me— trusted me to show up for our youth," said Phillips, who is forever grateful to his early supporters.

Immediately following high school and throughout his journey in academia, Phillips worked with organizations like YMCA, Big Brothers Big Sisters,



Youth advocate, Albert Phillips Jr. released his debut book "Y'all Hiring" a practical, culturally relevant guide for black youth seeking to obtain, maintain and exit a job in a thoughtful manner.



Courtesy Photos

THREAD, and the UMBC Choice Program where he has expounded on his expertise on the needs of youth and their families in Baltimore City.

Currently, Phillips works as a work-based learning specialist with Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS) in the Office of College and Career Readiness, helping students gain access to work-based learning opportunities, including career exploration, professional development and career preparation.

The wordsmith is inspired by his father Albert Phillips Sr., an educator who invested in his son getting a better education— even if it meant moving neighborhoods. Because of the example set by his father, Phillips says he is invested in the youth today.

"The youth are a pivotal part of our world and if we continue to neglect and forsake them, then we're going to

continue to see a lot of issues when it comes to violence and not being connected to school," said Phillips.

The Baltimore native says his book "Y'all Hiring" provides a much-needed framework that reminds teens of their greatness while preparing them for the world of work. He further said that his first job was with an extension of Youth Works as a camp counselor over at Harlem Park at the age of 14. He details his experience with a manager and how he handled challenging situations in finding differences in upbringing, work styles, and obedience in the workplace.

In the book, there are three parts chronicling getting a job, promotions and even leaving a job.

"The book is not theoretical and I use my real-life experiences throughout... I use examples of where I messed up so that hopefully our teens can avoid that,"

Phillips said.

The Hopkins grad and first time author believes that anti-blackness permeates current American work culture, and even though a lot of businesses proclaim that they are equal opportunity employers or were quick to come up with Black Lives Matter slogans to show their supposed support of people of color, the policies needed are not being put in place.

"It's a political move and it's trendy to show you care about Black people— but policy, structure and increases in pay, and accountability for the treatment of Black talent within organizations is what we really need in the workforce," said Phillips.

It comes as no surprise with all that 2020 has brought us that milestone bans regarding the way our hair grows from our heads naturally affecting job acquisition are being enacted. Milestone bans like "The Crown Act" are coming into effect in 2020, nearly 60 years after the end of the Civil Rights Movement.

"Not that it eradicates racism or all of a sudden makes people more sympathetic but I think this was an integral ban because now people have something to leverage if they ever feel they are being discriminated against. And, I talk about that in my book a bit, as it relates to teens," said Phillips.

The book, which is dedicated to the black youth of the world, is the first in a series that Phillips plans to release in the future.

"They should know that they are valuable, omnipotent and exactly what our ancestors prayed for... If not the youth, then who else will lead us to a world of solace and serenity," Phillips answered, when asked why focus on youth and why now?

For more information about Albert Phillips Jr. or to purchase his book, visit: www.albertphillipsjr.com.

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The Cavanagh House: Ending the cycle of poverty

By Fatiha Belfakir

Participants at the Cavanagh House are getting ready for their classes. They are eager to learn and explore new skills in order to gain new employment with higher wages.

Cavanagh House, a nonprofit organization in Reisterstown, Maryland, was established to break the cycle of poverty through education and support.

Cavanagh House offers trade and apprenticeship programs including upholstery, sewing, and a computer surface pattern design free of charge.

It's a volunteer driven organization with 100 percent of money raised going towards the program. The instructors, Board of Directors and Executive Director are all volunteers who donate their time and expertise without any type of compensation. The sources of funding consist of donations, fundraising events, grant awards, our online retail store and a pop-up home decor and gift boutique.

Stacy McAleer, founder of the Cavanagh House, told the Baltimore Times that her overall philosophy and mission for leading the organization is to serve the community by devoting special attention to people who have very limited opportunities and means, by empowering them with the knowledge and skills that eventually will lead to a career.

"We believe that by providing the people we serve with the opportunity to acquire skills and experience "hands-on" training, they will be positioned to obtain beneficial employment and better provide for their families," said McAleer.

Sharon Gomez, 43, a single mother of six kids and a program participant at the Cavanagh House knows how it feels to live on a low income. She believes that people who are living in poverty don't



Cavanagh House was established to break the cycle of poverty through education and support. The organization offers trade and apprenticeship programs including upholstery, sewing, and a computer surface pattern design free of charge.
Courtesy Photo/Cavanagh House

have the resources to learn about finances, how to save, and how to balance life, work and family, successfully.

"In this lifestyle, it is important for a single mother to learn different trades, whether trained, or not, to get some income. Cavanagh House offers a golden chance to learn a trade for no cost, depending if eligible, it is [too] big [an] opportunity to miss," said Gomez.

Across Maryland, many families are struggling to survive on a low income. Lack of affordable housing often forces poor households to spend more than half of their income on housing. Poor households are also more likely than other renters to sacrifice other necessities like healthy food, pursuing education, and or learning new job skills to improve their financial situation.

Gomez said that the hardest part of living with a low income is the lack of resources and support. People were biased towards her as she was labeled as a person who was evicted, alone and ignorant.

"There was a severe lack of moral support from the family, little-to-none in the church, and social services did not approve any type of benefits until 4-5 months after I applied," said Gomez. "I applied for medical, food and cash assistance at the time. I was not receiving benefits. Nevertheless, the services are inadequate for clients who are actively seeking to make a change, and my actions demonstrated that I was trying to get on my feet, after I lost my home," added Gomez.

A prolonged exposure to poverty can lead to both long-term physical and

mental health consequences. According to The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 8.7 percent of people who lives below the poverty level report severe psychological distress.

"There's usually underlying mental health issues and imbalance in structure because the single parent has to work—sometimes two jobs (if not more), just to survive. Therefore, we are very stressed and we are on survival mode constantly," said Gomez.

The Trades Program at Cavanagh House is free to all participants. Upon completion of a series of skills classes, participants will enter a paid apprenticeship in which they will earn money while gaining the experience and training needed to obtain a job in their specific trade.

In order to gain eligibility to enroll in Cavanagh House trade program, participants must be 17 years or older with a low income with 6th grade reading and math skills. Also, participants must expressed commitment to attend all instructional classes and work on skills outside of instructional time, have the ability to reach, bend, stoop, stand for long periods of time and lift up to 20 lbs. (applicable to the upholstery training only), be drug free and sober and finally be able to legally work in the United States.

Gomez continues to master new skills at the Cavanagh House while Learning how to make and to save more money to improve her financial situation to better support her family.

"My main focus right now is to continue learning the art of upholstery and attaining an eye for fashion. I do not know where this journey will take me to; however, I can see myself doing this for a long time," said Gomez.

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MD Governor, Attorney General provide funds for legal services for residents facing eviction, homelessness

Annapolis— Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh and Governor Larry Hogan announced that \$11.7 million in general funds will be directed to the Maryland Legal Services Corporation to provide legal services to families facing eviction and other housing security issues.

As many national and local studies establish, counsel in eviction cases often means the difference between families staying in their homes or losing their homes. Maryland Legal Services Corporation (MLSC) makes grants to nonprofit organizations that provide civil legal services for low-income Marylanders. MLSC's funds have been decimated in the wake of the pandemic, resulting in less legal services for Marylanders at a time when the need is highest.

"Maryland was one of the first states in the nation to implement a moratorium on evictions for tenants affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and we continue to provide targeted relief to help those in need," said Governor Hogan. "These additional resources are yet another way that we are following through on our commitment to do everything we can to help Marylanders weather this storm, get back on their feet, and recover."

"One of the most urgent issues facing our state is the wave of evictions that so many residents face as a result of the pandemic," said Attorney General Frosh. "We need to keep families in their homes and off the



streets. I'm pleased we are able to dedicate this money, recovered through the hard work of our lawyers, for this vital purpose. I also want to thank the members of my COVID-19 Access to Justice Task Force for their advocacy for increased legal services funding and their work to help Marylanders facing the loss of their homes."

Of the funds announced \$8.7 million was recovered by the Securities Division of the Attorney General for unlawful conduct during the financial crisis and may only be used for housing-related purposes.

"These funds could not have come at a more critical time for the preservation of Maryland's civil legal aid safety net," said Susan Erlichman, executive director of the Maryland Legal Services Corporation, the state's major funder of civil legal aid. "MLSC is experiencing an unprecedented funding shortage due to the impact of COVID on our main revenue sources, and the action taken today translates into literally tens of thousands of Marylanders facing evictions and other matters who otherwise would have had no place to turn, now able to get the legal help they desperately need."

MLSC makes grants to nonprofit organizations that provide civil legal services for low-income Marylanders.

For more information about the work of the COVID-19 Access to Justice Task Force, visit: <https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Pages/A2JC/default.aspx>.



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Local couple creates Winsults, the modern answer to The Dozens

By Stacy M. Brown

First, there was The Dozens, a game popularized in the African American community in which two competitors square off insulting each other until the other gives up.

Now, one couple is taking things up a notch with a new game called Winsults, where you win by insulting others.

Lanee Higgins and Davon Ford came up with the game on Valentine's Day in 2019.

"Davon was roasting me. As he was laughing, he started saying this should be a game," Higgins recalled. On the spot, he started coming up with rules. From that day, Winsults was born."

Higgins said the couple realized they were onto something special after hosting a play-test event.

"We had just received the prototype and were ready to play. We had invited friends from all different circles to try out the game we created," Higgins related. "It's crazy how Winsults connected everyone in the room. Some of these people who had never met before were laughing together like they'd known each other for years."

Ford remarked that inviting strangers to play the game made the creation click for him.

"At first, I thought [people] were coming to tell us to quiet down, but they had come to play," Ford recalled. "Once they joined in the game with us, I knew we had something special."

Winsults is a card game that tests individuals' vocabulary and relationships.

In a Winsults deck, there are 26 alphabet cards, nine warp cards, and an instruction booklet that comes with a disclaimer.

Higgins and Ford said Winsults is best played with loved ones and those we are most comfortable with because the game captures the feeling of home.

"Imagine you're at a party, and you bring Winsults," the couple noted.

"You're playing against your significant other who you've only been dating for two weeks. It's your turn. You get the letter 'B.'"

"There are many insults that start with B—bum, bad, busted, big, burly—you go through them one at a time a five letter one that's particularly chaotic.



Lanee Higgins and Davon Ford came up with the game, Winsults on Valentine's Day in 2019. The Baltimore County couple says they realized they were onto something special after hosting a play-test event. Courtesy Photo

Forty seconds gone, only five seconds left to win the round. You can't think of any other B insults. Do you unleash the chaos? That's for you to decide."

Higgins and Ford said fate allowed their worlds to collide.

"I am from the Philly burbs. I grew up in Willow Grove and then later Warrington, Pennsylvania, and came to Maryland in 2010 to attend Hood College," Higgins said.

She moved to Washington, D.C. in 2014, but Higgins returned to Baltimore County to resume her teaching career after graduating college.

"Davon is the reason I am still here. Being in the Baltimore area now feels like home," Higgins said.

Ford declared that he's "from all over."

"I was born in West Baltimore but moved out to Randallstown when I was eight. I went to New Town High School and did a year at Morgan State before I dropped out to be an entrepreneur," he said. "For a while, I was bouncing around. I spent some time in Montreal then Miami, but after 2015 I finally settled down with Lanee in Owings Mills."

Before creating Winsults, both Higgins and Ford said they'd always enjoyed board games.

"I've always loved board games. I'm a

Monopoly fanatic, but no one wants to play with me because I'm a sore winner," Ford remarked. "Sadly, I didn't get to

play as many games as I grew older, but now we make it a point to play more."

Higgins recalled visiting her grandmother each Sunday as a child and playing board games with her sisters and cousins. She's kept at it.

"This summer, I compiled a list of 130-plus games created by Black game makers," Higgins said. "Since June, I've made it my mission to own as many as I can. I currently have 16. Some of my favorites are 'AUXGOD,' 'Actually Curious,' 'Verified the Game,' 'Tattoo Stories,' and 'Brilliant or B.S.' I also love 'Say it Loud!,' created by Baltimore game maker Jaquetta Bess."

The couple wants everyone to understand that Winsults is "more than just a product."

"We're tired of game companies trying to sell you something just to upsell you later," Higgins said. "We want you to buy Winsults once and only once so you can enjoy it for years to come."

To learn more about Winsults or to purchase the game, visit: www.winsults.com.

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Hotel Revival General Manager Appointed

Donte Johnson Named to Mount Vernon Place Conservancy Board

By Ursula V. Battle

Donte Johnson, general manager of Hotel Revival, was recently appointed to the board of directors for the Mount Vernon Place Conservancy. Hotel Revival is a 107-room, 14-story boutique hotel located at 101 West Monument Street, in Baltimore's historic Mount Vernon neighborhood.

"It's been an amazing experience," said Johnson. "As a native of Washington, DC, I have been blown away since my arrival in Baltimore. I have met some amazing people, and we have done some wonderfully interesting things at Hotel Revival. It's been a tough time for the industry, and to be in a community that is so supportive has been great for us. Baltimore has been good to me, and I will look to continue to serve in any way I can. Serving on the Mount Vernon Place Conservancy makes all the sense in the world."

Highlighting Lance Humphries, executive director of the Mount Vernon Place Conservancy, Johnson talked about what helped bring his new appointment to fruition.

"In the time I have been here at Hotel Revival, I've had a great relationship with Lance Humphries," said Johnson. "I often reached out to him about what was and what was not allowed when the Hotel wanted to throw hotdogs and hamburgers on the grill, or sponsor other things to help the community. I always stayed in contact with him. He and I organically discussed my joining the



Donte Johnson, General Manager of Hotel Revival, was recently appointed to the Mount Vernon Place Conservancy's board of directors. Courtesy Photo

board of directors, and Lance was happy to explore that possibility."

Humphries is elated to have Johnson 'aboard.'

"The goal of the Conservancy is to make Mount Vernon Place a world-class destination for the community, residents of the City of Baltimore, and guests from around the world," said Humphries. "Since it opened, Hotel Revival has been a great partner in supporting our programming, and we look forward to even more collaborations now that Donte is on our board."

As general manager for Hotel Revival, Johnson, 41, oversees and executes commercial strategy and hotel and property operations, including staff management, guest satisfaction and community relations. Since joining the

hotel team in 2019, Johnson has developed and fostered a mission focused on social impact, working with his team and local organizations and leaders to support both the community and a variety of philanthropic efforts.

Most recently, Johnson and his team orchestrated free weekly lunch and produce distributions to support those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. He also offered the hotel's first-floor restaurant space and kitchen to local small food businesses so they could prepare and conduct carryout through the hotel's valet lane while the state was shutdown.

Prior to Hotel Revival, Johnson served as both director and general manager of the Riggs Hotel Washington, D.C. In 2011, he was named to the "Washington

Business Journal's" highly coveted "Top 40 Under 40" list. He is also a recipient of the "Washington D.C. Mayor's Award for Environmental Excellence." Johnson earned his bachelor's in communications from Saint Peter's University in New Jersey.

The Mount Vernon Place Conservancy is a non-profit organization that, in partnership with the City of Baltimore, is charged with restoring, maintaining, and managing the Washington Monument and the park squares of Mount Vernon Place—a National Historic Landmark District.

"For me, it's about where I can help," said Johnson, who also served on the board of directors for the Hotel Association of Washington, D.C. "The schedule of programming in the park is the first natural opportunity for us to support. It's a natural fit for Hotel Revival. We are looking to build on what we have already done. We are a couple of weeks in, and already have some exciting ideas at work."

Johnson said a calendar of events is being planned, and includes a variety of activities ranging from art classes to tours.

"With the park being so close to Hotel Revival, it's a natural fit," said Johnson. "It's all about improving the quality of life for the park and its community. When I think about the things that set Hotel Revival apart from other hotels, it's the green space, residential vibe, being close to downtown Baltimore, and being situated in a legitimate community where you are surrounded by people who live here. If I walk out the door right now, people are throwing a Frisbee, or walking their dogs.

"Hotel Revival and the Mount Vernon Place Conservancy are looking to navigate through the COVID waters. We want to provide substantive programs while keeping social distance. The sky is the limit with the talent we have on our team."

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Yasmin Young Gets to 'the Root' of Her Success

UMBC Grad Owner of Diaspora Salon in Charles Village

By Ursula V. Battle

"In more recent centuries, our identities and distinctiveness in appearance have been suppressed and shunned by the mainstream. For us at Diaspora Salon, we celebrate our ancestry by outwardly adorning our curly and coily natural hair. It is our crown." — Yasmin Young

Yasmin Young loved styling hair, and knew she wanted to pursue a career in cosmetology. A recent graduate of UMBC at the time, she also knew she wanted to attend The Aveda Institute Washington, DC. However, there was just one problem.

"I didn't know how I was going to pay for it" recalled Young. "I had spent most of my student loans on my undergraduate degree. I didn't want to finance another degree."

Then, Young heard about the 'Catwalk for Water Fashion Show," a scholarship competition that promotes water awareness by featuring looks that blend style and sustainability.

"I created an outfit out of Spanish moss dyed in my bathtub, recycled magazine pages that I folded, then sewed together to make a corset, Styrofoam plates, with the center removed, then wrapped in yarn, and so many more cool parts did I include on the outfit," recalled Young. "Once I got to the school, I did my model's hair and makeup, with the hair being inspired by West African hairstyling, and the makeup being inspired by the same."

Young won, becoming the first recipient of the inaugural scholarship. She said the \$22,000 that came along with winning the competition in 2013 paid for her education, and helped jumpstart her successful natural haircare career.

Today, Young is the owner and operator of Diaspora Salon, a boutique hair salon located at 2412 N. Charles Street in Charles Village. The salon features a team of highly skilled hairdressers trained in the specific needs of naturally curly and coily hair types.

"Going back to the days of Egypt, for



Yasmin Young specializes in natural hair care.
Photo Credit: Roy Cox



Yamin Young pictured with her model after winning the Catwalk for Water Fashion Show in 2013. Photo Credit: Roy Cox

Black women, hair has always been our thing of beauty, and one of our best features," said Young. "It is our crown."

Young said her shop's name is 'rooted' in that history.

"Diaspora relates to the dispersing of our people from Africa," said Young. "We have gone into the depths of the earth all over the world. Our salon represents the similar stories Black women have regarding their hair.

"We all have similar stories of sitting between the legs of our moms, grandmothers, aunts, and other women as they plaited our hair. Those stories have been

handed down from generation to generation."

Diaspora Salon is focused on the preservation and continuance of various Diasporic cultures and heritages outside of Africa through hairdressing.

"When I first started, there were about 250 people in our database," said Young. "We now have about 4,500. Most of it is word of mouth. One of the things that makes me different from my competitors is my constant professionalism in terms of how I handle my clients. I am always on time and I communicate with my customers. As a business owner, you also

have to be consistent with results and the experience.

"If you provide beverages at a client's first appointment, you have to provide beverages at the second, and third appointments. You have to be aware of your numbers. That means looking at your retention rates and follow-up appointments. That is how hairdressers make their income. I also come to work displaying the current hairstyle and clothing trends. You have to be professional, and look professional."

Young said she is constantly investing in education.

"As a business owner, I have to invest in myself and my team. It's an evolution that never ends as a business owner and service provider."

Young is a native of Baltimore and grew up in Randallstown. She is a 2002 graduate of Randallstown High School, and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Visual Arts with a concentration in graphic design from UMBC.

The 36-year-old said her interest in natural hair care was sparked after seeing R&B recording artist Jill Scott.

"I was in high school when I first heard about Jill Scott," recalled Young. "I was 16 or 17 trying to find my niche and style and where I fit in the world. I was looking through Jill Scott's album cover and also saw her in Essence Magazine and her style just clicked for me. I realized her hair was natural. I decided to go natural. She really inspired me.

"I got the opportunity to meet Jill Scott in Philadelphia. "She complimented me on my hair."

The entrepreneur talked about her future plans.

"My goal is to expand our salon in Baltimore and move into different areas," said Young. "In the next two years, I would like to expand closer south to service clients in Virginia and Washington, DC. The sky's the limit."

Clients are taken at Diaspora Salon by appointment only. For more information, visit www.diasporasaloon.com.

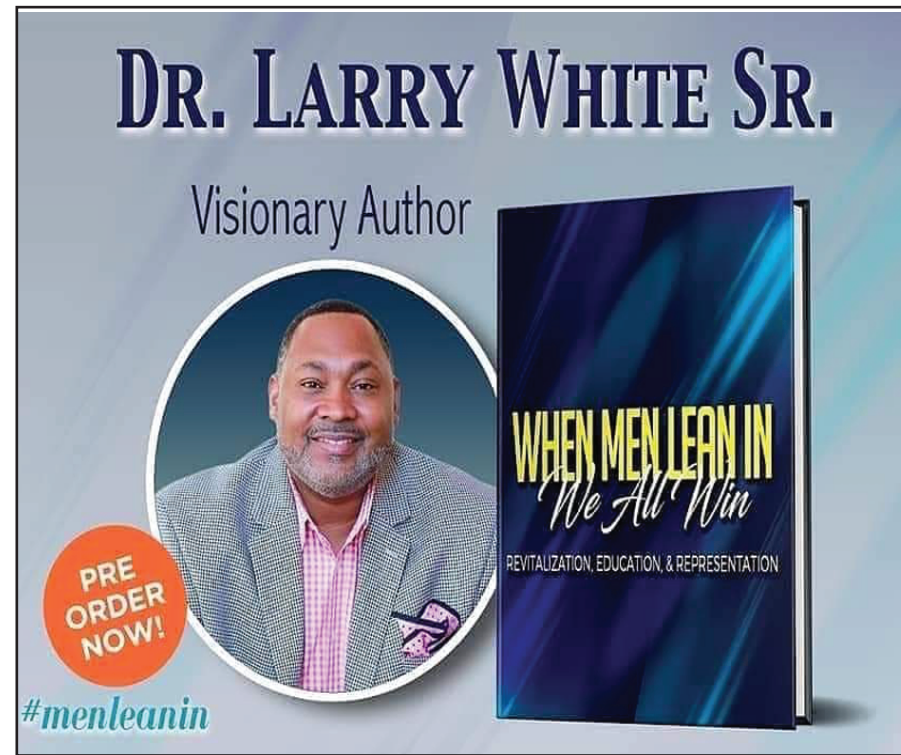
New book combats negative images of black men, celebrates leadership and perseverance

By Andrea Blackstone

In mainstream media, positive stories featuring black men and boys are often presented less frequently in print and on television. Newspapers like *The Baltimore Times* play a critical role in chipping away at preconceived notions of people of color. During National Book Month and beyond, authors like Dr. Larry White, Sr. are joining the ranks of individuals who strive to celebrate the upward trajectory of black men through literature, while inspiring others to join a positive movement. Taking action to accomplish goals such as embracing empowerment and entrepreneurship; exhibiting leadership; tackling inequities; revitalizing communities; giving back; representation in the classroom; and strengthening family households are all elements connected to White's call to action for black men to "lean in."

White is widely known as the CEO and founder of VIPeVENTS Concierge, LLC. The author of four books, Navy veteran and business leader who gives back to the community hails from Anne Arundel County. While the world is struggling to navigate through a perplexing pandemic, the visionary felt that it was an ideal time to offer a hope-filled literary journey through an anthology called "When Men Lean In We All Win: Revitalization, Education, & Representation." Including White, 15 authors from Chicago, North Carolina, Atlanta, Georgia, Maryland, the District of Columbia and Virginia were hand selected to share reflections of black excellence. Their talents range from engaging in entrepreneurship, military service, and movie production to community leadership, while positively impacting the world.

"We have a lot of experience from being a chef to being best-selling authors, so we're just trying to set a great example of who black men really are, and not the depiction of who you see on the six o'clock news," White said. "I knew that their (the co-author's) stories



would be powerful, because in a time of a pandemic, peaceful and non-peaceful demonstrations, there's a lot is going on... So this book, "When Men Lean In We All Win" is medication. It's a sign of relief that there are some people out here that care about you. Even during the pandemic, we're still trying to speak to empower and encourage people. They can be better."

White explained that he had an idea for the book's title after watching a NBA (National Basketball Association) Cares project. NBA Cares serves as the league's social responsibility program. White decided to turn one of his workshops into a television show before orchestrating his latest literary project. White said that he wants men who need to step their "leaning in" game up, to do so. He aspires to present men as role models for youth and other black men who may not be connected with the same kind of platform.

Vincent O. Leggett, an Annapolitan who is the founder and president of the Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation, is one of the elders who contributed to the book. The admiral grew up in Baltimore

and migrated to Annapolis in the eighties. Leggett's anthology story is entitled 'Black Families Matter: Inspiring Men Into Action In Troubled Times.'

White reminded that for over 30 years, through documenting blacks of the Chesapeake Bay's maritime and seafood processing contributions, Leggett has empowered people in the state of Maryland. The historian who has written two books about these subjects knows a great deal about pressing forward while leaning in to achieve more than just professional ones.

Leggett added that men who participated in the book project have had a wide variety of life experiences, but one thread that runs through each of these narratives is overcoming difficulties.

"With myself, as well as my other contributing authors, we had ups and downs and fell down, but we got up and want to pass on a legacy that others can learn from, so they don't have to make all of the same mistakes or wrong turns that many of us made," Leggett said, mentioning the importance of knowing how to navigate society's system.

White added that "When Men Lean In We All Win" provides insight about how economics work, in addition to personal and business development.

"So we're looking for this book to be a rite of passage for these young black boys to say if Vince Leggett can write his third book, and Dr. White can write his fourth book, this can be you as well," White said.

Books may be ordered via <https://www.vipeventsconcierge.com> in the 'Purchase Your Book Now' section. The Kindle version is also available on Amazon. Multiple book launches will be held. A hard launch will be held on Nov. 7, 2020, and a virtual launch on Dec. 12, 2020, due to COVID-19.



Vincent O. Leggett—an Annapolitan, historian, elder and admiral— contributed to the book. He feels that leaning in entails wholeheartedly pressing forward toward a goal, while leaning in to family and community. Fifteen co-authors provided stories for "When Men Lean In We All Win." Courtesy Photos

Rambling Rose

Local Musician Celebrates Gabrielle Goodman's Birthday



Rosa Pryor Trusty

Hello everyone, I pray that you are healthy and trying to enjoy life during this very unusual situation with the COVID-19. It's so very hard, I know, but we got to do what we got to do— this too shall pass.

I know many of you have heard that I was a little under the weather and have been in the hospital for severe stomach pains. The doctors are trying to figure out what is causing the pain. Every test they have given has come back negative. So, I will be seeing another specialist next week and we will see what will happen. I am feeling great now— just keep me in your prayers and I will also keep you in mine.

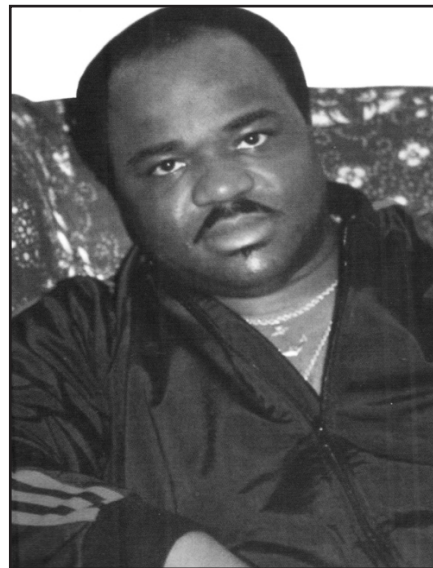
In the meantime, keep your mask on and stay away from crowds. Your life is not worth losing for a damn party. We all just have to wait as long as it takes then you will be around to talk about it. I too miss the nightlife and the hustle and bustle in the clubs, bars, concerts, casinos, parties, live jazz shows and cabarets and just socializing with friends, but I am very content waiting until it is really safe. You should too.

Well, technology has figured out a way you can see and enjoy your live entertainment without being present in person. It is not for me, but many of you who has a computer or smart phone, this is the way to go. They call it "live streaming." Yep! That is what I have

been told. They are doing it all over the country as well as the world.

So, check this out. My goddaughter, Gabrielle Goodman is celebrating her birthday with a big Birthday Bash Live Stream Concert with some of my other musical children. The line-up is off the hook! My girl, Baltimore's own Gabrielle Goodman as you know is a dynamite jazz singer. Well, she will be performing at the An Die Musik with her brother, David Alan Bun on piano; Lionel Torrance on saxophone; Warren Wolf on vibes; Moe Daniels on piano; Kevin Walker on bass; and Jesse Moody on drums. Now you know this event will be "popping!" Honey Child! With Gabrielle singing, Lord Have Mercy!!! I would love to be in the audience for this one. But no one can, so they are live streaming it.

You know Gabrielle was raised in Baltimore in a musical family. Her mother was a classical singer and her father was a jazz trombonist. She attended Peabody preparatory school and briefly Oberlin College. She transferred to the Peabody Institute Conservatory, where she studied under the direction of Alice Gersti Duschak and Gordon Hawkins and graduated in 1990. Gabrielle is a protégé of Roberta Flack and began her international performance career as a back-up singer for Flack in the mid-1980s and continued to tour and



Moe Daniels on piano, Warren Wolf on Vibes; David Alan Bunn on piano; Jesse Moody on drums; Lionel Torrance on saxophone; and Kevin Walker on bass will be the musicians that will be sharing the stage with Gabrielle Goodman Birthday Bash Live Streaming Concert Friday, October 23. This is an encore of their August 22 performance.

record with the legend for several years opening for Miles Davis, Ray Charles, the Crusaders and other legends in Japan, Switzerland, Brazil and other prestigious venues all over the world. It is just so much more I can say about these gifted and talented artists, but just don't have the space. So if you have the tools to live stream, please check it out and let me know how it was.

Unable to attend, but I was told that there was a candlelight vigil on October 15 on the parking lot of Corinthians in Windsor Mill, Maryland for my little brother, DJ Sugar Chris who passed away from complication from COVID-19 the first of the month. I was also told the parking lot was packed and it was televised on one of the TV stations— again my condolences to his wife and family. Baltimore will truly miss him. He was an angel on earth so I know he will be an angel in heaven. He was very, very special to me.

Now that I have so much time on my hands between the stomach pains and the COVID-19 pandemic, I am still working on my new book about African Americans in Baltimore and Maryland—



Gabrielle Goodman birthday bash will be a Live Streaming Concert on Friday, October 23 at the An Die Music Live. Showtime is 7 p.m.



Flutist Mayu Saeki and Warren Wolf on piano will Live Stream in concert on Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 7 p.m. from An Die Music Live. Get access to the Live Stream (index.cfm?fuseaction=buy.event&eventID=69C06A84-FF35-AB6E-3704B82C667D0031).

a continuation of my second book. There are so many of you that I wish to help preserve your legacy. So send those pictures to my email as an attachment.

Well, I know I am out of space 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.**



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Ravens have a good feeling heading into bye week

By Tyler Hamilton

The Baltimore Ravens squeezed out a close 30-28 win over the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday, October 18, 2020. Baltimore was in control for most of the game until they held off a late surge by the Eagles.

This was a game the Ravens were supposed to win since the Eagles came into Sunday's game with a 1-3-1 record. It wasn't the easy win that analysts expected. Philadelphia made the game closer by putting up 22 points in the fourth quarter.

"This team, they have winners. They have guys who can make plays and step up in big moments. You have to tip your hat off to them; they fought hard," Calais Campbell said after the game. "They didn't quit; they just kept coming and they made a couple big plays. Obviously, we're going to break the tape and clean it up, but you have to respect that. In the moment when it really mattered— they're going for two— our guys came up big to close the game out. They made a play and made it interesting, but we knew they had to get two. So, we showed up and made a play when it counted and won the ballgame."

Eagles quarterback Carson Wentz pushed his way into the end zone for a one-yard touchdown to pull within two points with 1:55 left in the game. Philadelphia tried the two-point conversion to tie the game up but the Ravens stopped them.

Games like last week's matchup have a way of galvanizing a team. They learned that in tough times there are players that will step up.

"Usually when you go out there and beat teams by a lot sometimes teams get cocky. The Eagles put up a fight with us. Honestly, we needed that," Lamar Jackson said after the game.

"These are the kind of games that build character. This is a championship character that's built in moments like this. That's the kind of fight I like to see in my team," Campbell added.

The 5-1 Ravens currently sit behind the



Baltimore Ravens defensive lineman Calais Campbell says the team will regroup during the bye week and will be ready to face the Pittsburgh Steelers on Sunday, November 1, 2020 at M&T Stadium.

Photo Credit: Baltimore Ravens.com

still undefeated Pittsburgh Steelers (5-0) in the AFC North race. While the Ravens head into the bye week, the Steelers head to Nashville to face the Tennessee Titans.

A loss to Tennessee would set the Steelers up for a game that would determine who moves into first place in the division. Jackson said the Ravens have to keep moving forward during the bye week and come out ready for their clash with the Steelers.

Ravens vs. Steelers is one of the most intense rivalries in football. Baltimore gets the bye week just in time to get healthy. Campbell hasn't played the Steelers yet as a member of the Ravens, but he is looking forward to it and thankful his team got the bye.

"It's huge, just re-grouping. [We're] 5-1 going into the Bye [Week]; we get a chance to just catch our breath, get our bodies right, and then we come out of the Bye [Week] with a big one," Campbell said. "This is the game that they say, 'You're not really a Raven until you play against the Steelers.' So, I'm looking forward to the opportunity; it's going to be a great game. But during the Bye [week] I'm just going to relax, hang with the family and try to take care of my body, and then get ready to go to work."

High Museum of Art to Present Major Retrospective of Photographer Dawoud Bey

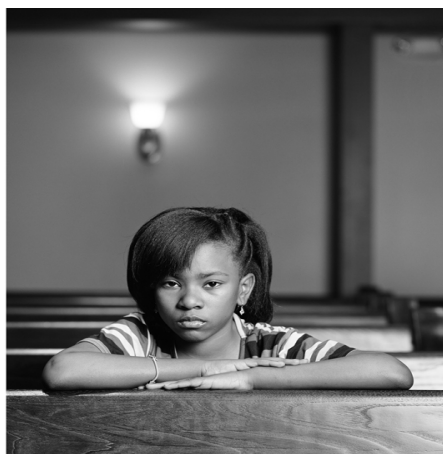
Featuring nearly 80 works that span the artist's 40-year career

ATLANTA, Oct. 16, 2020 — For more than four decades, renowned photographer Dawoud Bey has created powerful and tender photographs that portray underrepresented communities and explore African American history. From portraits in Harlem and classic street photography to nocturnal landscapes and large-scale studio portraits, his works combine an ethical imperative with an unparalleled mastery of his medium. Coming this fall, the High Museum of Art will celebrate his important contributions to photography as the exclusive Southeast venue for “Dawoud Bey: An American Project” (Dec. 12, 2020-March 14, 2021), the artist’s first full career retrospective in 25 years.

Co-organized by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA) and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, the exhibition will feature approximately 80 works that span the breadth of Bey’s career, from his earliest street portraits made in Harlem in the 1970s to his most recent series reimagining sites of the Underground Railroad (2017).

The High has enjoyed a long and fruitful relationship with Bey, who was commissioned in 1996 for the Museum’s inaugural “Picturing the South” series, which asks noted photographers to turn their lens toward the American South. For his project, Bey collaborated with Atlanta high school students to create empathetic, larger-than-life portraits. Made with the monumental 20- by-24-inch Polaroid camera, these photographs explore the complexity of adolescence as a time of critical identity formation and expand the concept of portraiture. The High now holds more than 50 photographs by Bey, one of the most significant museum collections of his work.

“Bey’s portraits are remarkable for their keen sensitivity and for how they elicit and honor their subjects’ sense of self, which is partly an outcome of the



Dawoud Bey, Mary Parker and Caela Cowan, Birmingham, AL, from the series The Birmingham Project, 2012; Rennie Collection, Vancouver; © Dawoud Bey



Dawoud Bey, Three Women at a Parade, Harlem, NY, from the series Harlem, U.S.A., 1978, printed 2019. High Museum of Art, purchase with Funds from Joe Williams and Tede Fleming, 2019.215. © Dawoud Bey.

artist’s collaborative practice,” remarked Sarah Kennel, the High’s Donald and Marilyn Keough Family curator of photography. “Given the museum’s long relationship with Bey and the strength of our holdings, we are thrilled to present this important retrospective. We look forward to sharing the artist’s photographs and his powerful and moving reflections on African American history and identity in their country with our visitors.”

Bey, born in 1953 in Queens, New York, began to develop an interest in photography as a teenager. He received his first camera as a gift from his godmother in 1968, and the next year, he

saw the exhibition “Harlem on My Mind” at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Widely criticized for its failure to include significant numbers of artworks by African Americans, the exhibition’s representation of Black subjects nonetheless made an impression on Bey and inspired him to develop his own documentary project about Harlem in 1975. Since that time, he has worked primarily in portraiture, making tender, psychologically rich and direct portrayals, often in collaboration with his subjects. More recently, he has explored seminal moments in African American history through both portraiture and landscape.

“Dawoud Bey: An American Project” will include work from the artist’s eight major series and is organized to reflect the development of Bey’s vision throughout his career and to highlight his enduring engagement with portraiture, place and history.

The exhibition closes with works from two of Bey’s most recent series exploring African American history and collective memory.

“The Birmingham Project,” created in 2012 as a commission from the Birmingham Museum of Art, memorializes the victims of the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, and its violent aftermath. The series features expressive portraits of children who are the same age as the bombing victims paired with photographs of adults who are the ages those children would have been in 2012 had they lived. The photographs, along with an accompanying video piece, are stirring reminders of the precious lives lost and foreground the enduring legacy of racism and violence against African Americans.

In 2017, Bey completed “Night Coming Tenderly, Black,” a series of beautifully rendered and evocative images made in Ohio where the Underground Railroad once operated. As landscapes, the large black-and-white photographs mark a departure from the artist’s previous work, but they emphasize many of the same existential questions. The series, whose title is drawn from a Langston Hughes poem, conjures the spatial and sensory experience of an enslaved person’s escape to liberation as imagined by the artist. Shot by day but printed in deep shades of black and gray as if they were taken at night, these evocative and mysterious works explore blackness as both color and metaphor for race.

“Dawoud Bey: An American Project” will be presented in the High’s Wieland Pavilion Lower Level.



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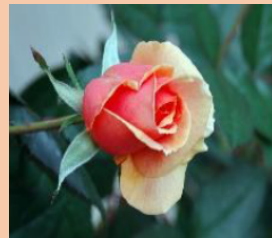
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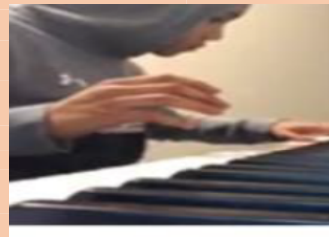
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Triple Threat Elite, Dance Troupe ~ McKenzie Washington, Cellist*



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1942 Negro Leagues World Series Bobblehead Featuring Satchel Paige and Josh Gibson Unveiled

1942 Negro Leagues World Series Bobblehead Featuring Satchel Paige and Josh Gibson Unveiled

Milwaukee— The National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum unveiled an officially licensed, limited edition bobblehead featuring Satchel Paige of the Kansas City Monarchs and Josh Gibson of the Homestead Grays squaring off in the 1942 Negro Leagues World Series. The bobblehead, which is the newest in a series commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Negro National Leagues, were produced by the National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum in conjunction with the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum and NegroLeaguesHistory.com.

Standing at home plate, the dual bobblehead features Paige and Gibson wearing their respective uniforms from the 1942 Negro Leagues World Series with Paige holding a ball and Gibson holding a bat. The bobblehead is based on the famous photo of the two taken at the World Series that was later made into a painting by Graig Kreindler that is card No. 23 in the Negro Leagues Centennial Baseball Card Set. The bobblehead base says “1942 Negro Leagues World Series” and has the names of both players on the sides of the base.

Each bobblehead is individually numbered to 1,942, and they are available through the National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum’s Online Store and NegroLeaguesHistory.com. The bobbleheads, which just arrived



and ship now, are \$50 each plus a flat-rate shipping charge of \$8 per order.

With Paige, who was born in Mobile, Alabama, and Gibson, who was born in Buena Vista, Georgia, being two of the game’s biggest stars and most popular personalities, the 1942 Negro Leagues World Series was a much-anticipated matchup between the American League champion Monarchs (27-12) and the National League champion Grays (47-19-3). It was the first World Series between eastern and western Negro Leagues champions since 1927. The Monarchs ended up sweeping the Grays in four games in the best-of-seven series. Paige appeared in all

four games on the mound, winning one of his two starts and saving another. The power-hitting Gibson was held in check by Monarchs’ pitchers, finishing the series 1-for-13 with no home runs. In Game 2, Paige got out of a bases-loaded jam in the seventh inning when he struck out Gibson on three pitches. The World Series featured seven future Hall of Famers and was played in four different locations – Griffith Stadium in Washington D.C., Forbes Field in Pittsburgh, Yankee Stadium in New York and Shibe Park in Philadelphia – which allowed more fans to take in the huge draw. The 1942 World Series title was the last for the Monarchs while the Grays, who split their season

between Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C., captured back-to-back crowns the next two seasons. The games took place nearly five years before Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier on April 15, 1947, when he became the first black player in Major League Baseball. Josh Gibson, who is considered to be one of the best to ever play baseball, never saw Robinson break the color barrier, as he died of a stroke in Pittsburgh on January 20, 1947, when he was just 35 years old. At age 42, Satchel Paige made his major league debut with the Cleveland Indians in 1948, when he became the seventh black player in MLB and the first former Negro Leagues player to pitch in a World Series, which the Indians won that year. In 1971, Paige became the first electee of the Negro League Committee to be inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame, while Gibson became the second Negro Leagues player to be inducted in 1972.

With the 2020 Major League Baseball World Series approaching, we’re thrilled to be unveiling the first bobblehead commemorating a Negro Leagues World Series,” National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum co-founder and CEO Phil Sklar said. “The 1942 Negro Leagues World Series is one of the most famous matchups in history, primarily because of the star power on both sides. Satchel Paige pitching to Josh Gibson is as good as it gets and now fans are able to capture the historic matchup in bobblehead form along with several other special Negro Leagues bobbleheads.”

The bobbleheads are officially licensed by the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum (NLBM) in Kansas City, Missouri and approved by the families. A portion of the proceeds benefits the NLBM as well as the respective families.

The dual bobblehead is one of 16 that the Museum unveiled today as part of the Negro Leagues Special Edition Bobblehead series commemorating the Negro Leagues Centennial. In addition to the Negro Leagues World Series Bobblehead, five special edition Satchel Paige Bobbleheads are being introduced featuring the star in his Baltimore Black Sox, Birmingham Black Barons, Bismarck, Pittsburgh Crawfords and Kansas City Monarchs road jerseys. Four special edition Josh Gibson Bobbleheads feature the star in his Homestead

About the Negro Leagues: The first successful Negro League was founded by Rube Foster on February 13, 1920 at the Paseo YMCA in Kansas City. Foster believed an organized league structured like Major League Baseball would lead to eventual integrationGrays, Santurce, Veracruz and Concordia jerseys. In addition, bobbleheads of the three women to play in the Negro Leagues, Connie Morgan, Mamie “Peanut” Johnson and Toni Stone, all who played for the Indianapolis Clowns are now available. The first Negro Leagues bobblehead of Minnie Minoso, the first bobblehead of Elston Howard and a special edition bobblehead of Rube Foster were also unveiled.

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Black Violin announces debut holiday album 'Give Thanks' out November 20th

Black Violin, the classical-meets-hip-hop duo of Kev Marcus and Wil Baptiste, announced *Give Thanks*, their debut holiday album will be released November 20, 2020.

"Give Thanks employs playful storytelling, whimsical strings, and hard-hitting rhythms to highlight the unifying pillars of the holiday season: Giving back to others and being wholeheartedly thankful," Black Violin says of the full-length. The announcement comes with the release of the album's title track.

Give Thanks follows the Black Violin's 2019 full-length *Take The Stairs*, which debuted in the top ten across multiple genre charts: #1 in Current Classical, #1 in Classical Crossover, #7 in Heatseekers, and #9 in Current R&B/Hip-Hop. *Take The Stairs* was praised by **Loudwire**, **The Root**, and **Billboard**, who said the album "celebrates Black Violin's genre-less approach to music, from the futuristic anthem 'One Step' to the elaborate 'Serenade.'" In the last year, Black Violin has performed at the Oscars Governors Ball, on **The Today Show**, and on **Access Daily**. Earlier this week the duo released their video for "Impossible Is Possible."

For 17 years, Black Violin has been merging string arrangements with modern beats and vocals. Members Kev



For 17 years Black Violin, the classical-meets-hip-hop duo of Kev Marcus and Wil Baptiste, has been merging string arrangements with modern beats and vocals. The duo announced Give Thanks, their debut holiday album will be released November 20, 2020.

Photo Credit: Albert Manduca

and Wil first met in orchestra class at Dillard High School in Fort Lauderdale,

becoming classically trained on the violin and viola through their high school and college careers. Post-college, they reconvened to produce beats for South Florida rappers, and began building an audience in local clubs. They later went on to win *Showtime at the Apollo* in 2005, and eventually sold out headline performances at venues across the country, including a sold out two-night headline run at The Kennedy Center in 2018. Their unique brand of merging the genre they were listening to (hip hop) with the world they were studying (classical) was celebrated with collaborations with Alicia Keys, Wu Tang Clan, 2 Chainz and others. NPR took note and declared "their music will keep classical music alive for the next generation."

Pre-pandemic, Black Violin was playing over 200 shows a year (many of these are performances for young low-income students in urban communities -

in the last year alone, the group played for over 100,000 students) with the goal of challenging stereotypes and preconceived notions of what a "classical musician" looks and sounds like.

"The stereotypes are always there, embedded so deep in our culture," says Wil. "Just by nature of our existence we challenge those ideas. It's a unique thing that brings people together who aren't usually in the same room, and in the current climate, it's good to bring people together."

Last year, the group launched the Black Violin Foundation Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering youth by providing access to quality music programs in their community. BVF believes that music and access to music programs should not be determined by race, gender, or socio-economic status. More information at: <http://www.blackviolinfoundation.org>.

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Grow with Google, Thurgood Marshall College Fund to train 20,000 students at HBCUs in digital skills over coming school year

Bowie State University is one of the first participating HBCUs in the program

Bowie, Md.— Google announced the Grow with Google HBCU Career Readiness Program, a new initiative to help Black students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) prepare to enter the workforce through digital skills training.

Through a \$1 million investment in the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCf), Grow with Google will provide digital skills workshops in the career centers of 20 HBCUs, reaching 20,000 students over the next school year. The program will be available to all HBCUs by fall 2021. Bowie State University in Prince George's County, Maryland is one of the first four schools in the program, along with Virginia State University, Winston-Salem State University, Southern University and A&M College.

"Today, nearly two-thirds of all jobs in the U.S. require medium or advanced digital skills, but 50 percent of Black jobseekers lack digital skills," said Bonita Stewart, Vice President for Global Partnerships at Google and Howard University alumna. "To address this skills gap and help Black students obtain the digital skills they need to succeed in the workforce, we're proud to partner with the Thurgood Marshall College Fund to launch the Grow with Google HBCU Career Readiness Program."

"Investing in our students today is critically important to ensuring the workforce of tomorrow is strong," said House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer. "I join in thanking Google and the Thurgood Marshall College Fund for bringing the new Grow with Google Career Readiness program to Bowie State University, and for helping provide HBCU students with the digital skills they need to succeed in the workforce."

TMCf—the nation's largest organization exclusively representing the Black College Community—has a track record of successfully connecting



Through a \$1 million investment in the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCf), Grow with Google will provide digital skills workshops in the career centers of 20 HBCUs, reaching 20,000 students. The program will be available to all HBCUs by fall 2021.
Photo Credit: ClipArt.com

HBCU students with scholarships, training and jobs as they navigate college and careers. Its long history of on-the-ground work will ensure the Grow with Google HBCU Career Readiness Program is tailored to meet student needs.

"I am thrilled that our University was chosen to participate in this program. The Grow with Google HBCU Career Readiness Program will provide our students with career readiness skills they will need to be successful in their respective careers," said Rosetta Price, Assistant Director of the Career Development Center at Bowie State University. "This program will help our students learn new skills and up skill as needed making them internship and job ready. Our Career Development Center team looks forward to working with TMCf and Google to implement the Grow with Google HBCU Career Readiness Program on our campus!"

The Grow with Google HBCU Career

Readiness Program will provide HBCU career centers with funding and a semester-long in-person and online digital skills program, which will become available to students in November. The program will combine existing Grow with Google workshops with custom jobseeker content for Black students, including design thinking, project management, and professional brand building. TMCf, which is contributing to the program's design, will work with HBCU career centers to onboard the program.

"We are excited to join in partnership with Google to help students at our member-schools gain the digital skills necessary in order to be successful," said Harry L. Williams, President & CEO of TMCf. "We are confident that the Grow with Google HBCU Career Readiness program will help to move the needle and provide endless opportunities for our HBCU students."

This \$1 million Grow with Google

investment is part of a \$15 million commitment to upskill Black workers. Announced by Google CEO Sundar Pichai in June, the investment aims to help Black jobseekers learn new skills in partnership with national workforce development organizations.

Grow with Google is Google's initiative to create economic opportunities for all by providing free tools and training. Since 2017, the program has trained more than five million Americans on digital skills. The Grow with Google HBCU Career Readiness Program builds on the company's ongoing investments in HBCU students. Since 2013, the Google In Residence program has placed Google software engineers at HBCUs and Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) as faculty. The company also hosts Tech Exchange, a virtual student exchange program that teaches HBCU and HSU students applied computer science courses.

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