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Jubilee

RECIPES FROM TWO CENTURIES OF
AFRICAN AMERICAN COOKING



Toni Tipton-Martin

Toni Tipton-Martin is a culinary journalist and the author of the James Beard award-winning books, *The Jemima Code* and *Jubilee: Recipes From Two Centuries of African American Cooking*. *Jubilee* can be purchased at PRH.com (<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/558144/jubilee-by-toni-tipton-martin/9781524761738/>) Cover Photo: Jerelle Guy

Toni Tipton-Martin, Stephen Satterfield Talk Netflix 'High On The Hog'

Nadine Matthews

The new four-part series featured on Netflix, "High On The Hog: How African-American Cuisine Transformed America," begins its food journey in Africa itself.

As much travelogue as it is a food show, "High on the Hog" chronicles the role of African-Americans in America's culinary history, and attempts to broaden perceptions about the depth of those contributions.

Noted food journalist Stephen Satterfield travels from West Africa, to America's Deep South, West, and the Northeast. He does so alongside James Beard Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Jessica B. Harris, the author of twelve books about African-American cuisine, one of which is the inspiration for the Netflix series.

On each stop, Harris and Satterfield break bread with culinary notables such as Kirkus Prize winner Michael Twitty and Toni Tipton-Martin. She is the author of *The Jemima Code: Two Centuries of African American Cookbooks* and *Jubilee: Recipes From Two Centuries of African American Cooking*. Tipton-Martin is also a Baltimore resident.

States Tipton-Martin, High On The Hog has had a profound impact for similar reasons that my books have achieved the acclaim they have. It has brought content to the mainstream that has previously only been in the academic realm."

Continued on page 8

A ‘Diamon’ in the Rough:

Raising Reparations and Celebrating Juneteenth in 2021

By Alanah Nichole Davis

The United States Senate unanimously passed a bill on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, establishing June 19 as Juneteenth National Independence Day, a U.S. holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States.

Community caretaker, mother and curator Diamon Fisher was way ahead of the curve here in Baltimore. Last year, she took matters into her own hands when celebrations for Juneteenth or Freedom Day were cancelled across the country during the height of the coronavirus pandemic with fear and anxiety high around community gatherings. However, Diamon was one of the first organizers to bring her audience of creative supporters outside masked and socially distanced for her first annual Juneteenth Celebration.

“I feel like this celebration is a direct connection to our ancestry and we don’t get a chance to honor our ancestors often enough,” Diamon said.

With last year’s civil unrest surrounding the police-related deaths of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and others, Diamon said, “...the need for an event centered in informative skill shares, resources and support surrounding race amongst Black folks was well needed.”

In 2020, Fisher’s Juneteenth celebration included black led terrarium building workshops, fishing rod building, waist bead stringing and the list goes on!

Fisher says that the first year was very informative for her, her peers and the extended community has definitely driven her to make a go of it again this year. It’s not easy to find pleasure in being reminded of an imperfect past here in America rooted in slavery.

However Diamon, much like many of the Black people who came before us since the late 1800s, finds jubilation, community and even just plain acknowledgment— all necessary ingredients to throwing the perfect fête in the name of freedom.

This year there will be the same initial



(Left) Last year, community caretaker, mother and curator, Diamon Fisher was one of the first organizers to bring her audience of creative supporters outside, masked and socially distanced for her first annual Juneteenth Celebration. In 2020, Fisher’s Juneteenth celebration included black led terrarium building workshops, fishing rod building, waist bead stringing and more. (Right) Participants in the 2020 Juneteenth Celebrations.



Left Photo by Amira Green and Right Photo by Jacqueline W.

workshops plus some new ones, including: herbalism, plant repotting and a new marketplace featuring Black businesses, food trucks and live musical performances by Baltimore based musicians like Abdu Ali, Al Rogers Jr. and Da Lor Band + Keiyaa a singer and songwriter all the way from Chicago.

When asked what the celebration is rooted in Fisher responded, “Emancipation and the continued practice of resilience and resistance for Black people.”

A lot of the energy that Diamon embodies when organizing this event for Juneteenth is fueled by what she calls the reparations that she collected by crowdfunding and sourcing using her social media platforms. Between this year and last year she has raised a near whopping 10K to produce the commemorative festival style, Juneteenth series.

“Community is sacred, community is the main thing you need in life to gain inspiration and to lean on— we should never hesitate even outside of celebrating Juneteenth. Community is

home, community is where Black folk can feel celebrated,” the Baltimore born and bred curator who is rooted in her community said.

This annual and now federal holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States, has been celebrated by African-Americans since the late 1800s and Diamon hopes to continue a legacy alongside dozens of other organizers in Baltimore who have also planned their own Juneteenth celebrations over the weekend of June 19, 2021.

Aisha Pew and Cierra Little over at Dovecote Cafe in Reservoir Hill;

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photographer Devin Allen and Musician King Midas City of Gods Clothing Shop in Hollins Market; the newly opened Black owned restaurant Blk Swan in Harbor East are just a few of the people who have organized Juneteenth celebrations for this weekend alongside Diamon’s event at the historic Eubie Blake Jazz and Cultural Center located at 847 N. Howard Street in Mt. Vernon in Baltimore City.

For more information and further details about how you may participate in this year’s Juneteenth Celebrations, visit Diamon’s Instagram at: [Instagram.com/leche.lady](https://www.instagram.com/leche.lady).

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Bob Marshall on Opening Doors for Black Businesses

Today, an estimated forty-one percent of Black-owned businesses have been affected by COVID-19 and as many as thirty-five percent of African American business owners have been unable to access credit to keep their doors open. Basically, this means Black-owned small businesses are closing their doors at twice the rate of the industry average, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research. And that is not acceptable.

As the National Small Business Development Leader at Wells Fargo, my team and I are focused on solving the unique problems that Black business owners face, so we can help shift the landscape to better equity and prosperity.

While there are many factors involved, Black businesses are often smaller in terms of number of employees, payroll and startup capital, and they may not have established banking relationships. This makes them much more susceptible to economic downturns and challenges. What we at Wells Fargo strive to provide is greater access to credit and innovations so these businesses can stay resilient and be prepared to stage a comeback in this pandemic.

One example of this is Wells Fargo's Open for Business Fund, a roughly \$420 million small business recovery effort. This includes grants to Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) and organizations that provide technical training and longer-term resiliency programs to entrepreneurs. These organizations play a vital role in helping



business owners, especially diverse and women business owners, to access capital and resources to support their continued recovery.

The first phase of the Open for Business Fund allocated \$250 million to Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) to extend capital to small businesses, and the CDFIs can typically leverage this philanthropic capital at a rate of 3 to 1. That's a big impact.

In fact, eighty-four percent of funding is projected to reach racially and ethnically diverse small business owners. We estimate that the Open for Business Fund is already protecting more than 75,000 jobs and we hope to make an even more substantial impact with the funds remaining.

In addition, just prior to the beginning of the pandemic in March, Wells Fargo announced pledge to invest up to \$50 million in Black-owned Banks. Just this past February, it was also announced that this would include equity investments in six African-American minority deposit institutions (MDIs).

Supporting diverse-owned businesses is more important than ever and it is critical that we and other lenders continue to identify more ways to sustainably create access to capital for the start-up, operation, and growth of these small businesses, especially in our underserved communities.

I'm proud to work with my colleagues at Wells Fargo as we help to close the gap in access to credit for Black-owned businesses. If you or someone you know needs tools and guidance to keep their small business door open, we're here to help.

Learn more at: smallbusinessresources.wf.com



Meet Bob Marshall

Bob Marshall is the National Business Development Executive with Wells Fargo Bank for the Small Business Development Group. He was recognized as one of the Washington Business Journal's Minority Business Leaders, the featured speaker on the inaugural Executive Speakers Series of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, and was also highlighted in the Third Edition of "Who's Who in Black Charlotte" for his work, dedication, and commitment to the African American community.

Guest Editorials/Commentary

How to combat higher prices for food and other necessities

By Dr. Ken Morgan

Imagine a conversation with a family member or a friend. "Food prices have gone up since the pandemic hit," says a Baltimore Black woman. "Damn!" A Black man chimes in with his lament, "Hey baby, prices are sky high all over the world, and I don't have a job."

People with no incomes, low incomes, halfway decent incomes or fixed incomes, take a beating with increased food prices plus other life necessities. Food prices soared last year around the world, according to the United Nations (UN).

The UN figures show that the world food price inflation crept up from 4.6 percent to 6.3 percent. We see that coffee, milk, sugar and pork in the Futures stock market increased by 32 percent since 2019. These figures represent the highest statistic in a decade, according to the UN and it's even worse for semi-colonial countries, such as those in much of Africa.

Why? These big-time corporate transnational agriculturalists, and corporate food supermarkets, and big corporate box stores want to make the highest profit. They don't care whether our stomachs growl or whether the wolf is knocking at our door. And you already know that the mom-and-pop store follows the leader when they must buy from the marketer, middleman, or producer.

Food insecurity, you holler out loud. The USDA says about 35 million people in the U.S. suffered from food insecurity. Another word for this phenomenon is hunger. Children suffer the most. All of these things existed before the Coronavirus pandemic but COVID-19 further emboldened labor exploitation, and the list continues. Food insecurity is only a part of the problem.

The prices for these necessities remain high everywhere, partly because the food processor passes the increased cost on to the consumer, all in the name of the "Benjamins." Food production and processing remain available, but people cannot afford them. Profits continue as primary ways, way ahead of human needs. And you know, when the economy catches a cold, Black people acquire pneumonia. So, what happens when the economy catches pneumonia?

They tell us that we don't want to work because we receive these paltry stimulus checks. Hey! Folks can hardly make it as it is. According to the latest U.S. Department of Labor report, 15,435,982 workers and their families are still trying to get by on some unemployment "benefit."

Still, the decrease in labor force participation does not count workers that exited during the COVID-19 pandemic.

More than likely, labor force participation understates the number of workers actually out of work. Lest we forget, Black worker inequities continue to exist.

What can be done to affect prices for us? What are the things we need to do in the short and intermediate run? Workers need to join together to fight for jobs, higher wages and automatic cost-of-living adjustments on our wages and retirement pay.

We need to insist on a shorter workweek with no cut in pay; develop unemployment unions and coalitions to demand union-wage jobs; demand increases in social security; and demand free healthcare for all without any strings.

Former Coppin State University Professor, Dr. Ken Morgan is a human rights activist. He can be reached at: btimes@btimes.com

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Community Affairs

Pulitzer Board Issues Special Citation to teen who recorded George Floyd's murder

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire

Add Pulitzer Prize to the list of awards and recognition bestowed upon Darnella Frazier, the teen who bravely videotaped the murder of George Floyd in 2020.

The Pulitzer Prize board issued a special citation to Darnella, who is now 18.

"For courageously recording the murder of George Floyd, a video that spurred protests against police brutality around the world, highlighting the crucial role of citizens in journalists' quest for truth and justice," the Pulitzer Board wrote.

For her efforts, Darnella is also receiving the National Newspaper Publishers Association's (NNPA) highest journalism award and a monetary scholarship at the NNPA's annual convention, which begins on Wednesday, June 23, 2021.

NNPA is the trade association of the hundreds of African American-owned newspapers and media companies that comprise the Black Press of America.

NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., applauded Darnella and called her a "freedom fighter," who ensured justice was finally done in the case of a police officer killing an unarmed African American.

"We salute this brave young woman, who had the courage to keep on filming even as the officers tried to intimidate her," Dr. Chavis said.

Floyd family Attorney Benjamin Crump told the Black Press that there would be no civil settlement or a trial and conviction of former officer Derek Chauvin had it not been for Darnella's actions.

"It was Darnella Frazier who stepped up," Crump asserted. "We wouldn't have any of that without Darnella Frazier taking that video."

Officials in Minneapolis reached a record \$27 million civil settlement with Floyd's family, and Chauvin faces as much as 40 years in prison when he's sentenced on June 25.

The video was the most damning piece of evidence during Chauvin's trial, and Darnella took the witness stand and offered powerful testimony to back up the recording.

"Even though this was a traumatic life-changing experience for me, I'm proud of myself," Frazier wrote in an Instagram post on the one-year anniversary of Floyd's murder. "If it weren't for my video, the world wouldn't have known the truth."

"My video didn't save George Floyd," she added, "but it put his murderer away and off the streets."

Black Churches have moral authority to defend the Black vote

By *Ben Jealous*

During the civil rights movement's struggle against discrimination and voter suppression in Jim Crow America, the Black Church was a source of refuge and resolve. Today, a new wave of voter suppression laws is targeting Black voters, and new generations of Black clergy are bringing their moral authority to a campaign to defend the Black vote.

We need these prophetic voices. The new Jim Crow doesn't look exactly like the old Jim Crow, but it is grounded in the same assault on the dignity, humanity, and citizenship rights of Black Americans. We need our communities' truth-tellers to speak out because the new Jim Crow is grounded in layers of lies.

The Big Lie told by former President Donald Trump and his supporters is that he won the 2020 election; but had his victory stolen by corrupt election officials and Black and brown people casting fraudulent votes.

The existence of widespread voter

fraud is itself a lie. It has been debunked over and over again. But Republicans in dozens of states are using that lie to justify new restrictive voting rules. They claim to be protecting "election integrity" but they are really trying to make it harder for some Black and brown people to cast a ballot and have it counted.

Right-wing lawmakers feel free to

Republican lawmakers' strategy for holding onto power is not to reach out to Black voters, but to shut them out. But we won't be shut out. We will push Congress to pass the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, two laws that are needed to overturn the new Jim Crow laws and prevent future restrictions on voting.

20 years ago. When Georgia Republicans tried to shut down Souls to the Polls by banning early voting on Sundays, Rev. McDonald called them out as "the Klan in three-piece suits."

Rev. McDonald's righteous truth telling shamed Georgia Republicans into dropping that part of their voter suppression plan. But the rest of it became law— including the infamous ban on groups providing water to people forced to wait in long voting lines. Voting rights activists have gone to court to challenge the Georgia law and others like it. Organizers will do everything possible to help Black voters overcome any new obstacles that have been put between them and the ballot box.

And the Black church will once again give voice to the aspirations of our people, drawing on a long tradition of prophetic witness against injustice combined with strategic organizing on behalf of freedom and equality.

"We endured slavery, Jim Crow and lynching by being creative and strategic," Rev. McDonald told CNN. "We're going to use their own tools and throw them back at them. We have to beat them at their own game."

Preach!

Ben Jealous serves as president of People For the American Way and People For the American Way Foundation. Jealous has decades of experience as a leader, coalition builder, Campaigner for social justice, and seasoned nonprofit executive. In 2008, he was chosen as the youngest-ever president and CEO of the NAACP. He is a graduate of Columbia University and Oxford, where he was a Rhodes scholar, and he has taught at Princeton and the University of Pennsylvania.

“Republican lawmakers’ strategy for holding onto power is not to reach out to Black voters, but to shut them out. But we won’t be shut out. We will push Congress to pass the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, two laws that are needed to overturn the new Jim Crow laws and prevent future restrictions on voting.”

impose discriminatory voting rules thanks to another lie—this one told by John Roberts, the Chief Justice of the United States. He justified the decision of a conservative majority of the Court in 2013 to abolish a key enforcement mechanism of the Voting Rights Act by saying in effect that racial discrimination in voting was a thing of the past.

States from across the old Confederacy proved him wrong, by acting to impose new restrictions on registration and voting. Some went into effect just hours after the Supreme Court gave them the green light.

That was bad enough. But the right wing's voter suppression machinery really kicked into high gear after the 2020 election. Republican lawmakers saw that Black voter turnout helped President Joe Biden win key battleground states. And they vowed not to let that happen again.

The late Rep. John Lewis told us in his farewell message last year that if we don't use our right to vote, it can be taken from us. This year we are seeing new efforts to take the vote from us because we voted.

We can't let politicians turn us around. At People For the American Way, we are investing more resources in our *Defend the Black Vote* project. We are sounding the alarm about disenfranchisement. And we are building our capacity to reach, educate, and mobilize even more Black voters than we did in 2020 through digital media, paid advertising, and an ambitious peer-to-peer texting program.

And we will continue to be inspired by the vision and leadership of Black clergy like the Rev. Timothy McDonald, who launched the African American Ministers Leadership Council and its Souls to the Polls movement more than

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Baltimore nurse earns ‘Father of the Year’ honors

By Stacy M. Brown

At a young age, Roy Munson Jr. learned that life would present obstacles.

His father, the Rev. Roy Munson of Greater Faith Christian Community in Baltimore, and his mother, Joyce, a nurse at Johns Hopkins Hospital, instilled a path to overcome any barrier.

“My dad inspired me. He instilled so many values in me at a young age. When I got older, all of the great advice he had given me kicked in,” said Munson, who was selected as Baltimore’s 2021 Father of the Year by the nonprofit Fathers Incorporated.

The father of four girls— Tyleen, Kyaira, Myia and Tytianna— and a son, Michael, Munson and his wife, Latosha, are nurses.

Fathers Incorporated cited the diligent work of Munson assisting his children with homework and school assignments while working 16-hour shifts as his wife completed nursing school.

Munson also cared for a niece who struggles with sickle cell, and he once volunteered with his mother at a local soup kitchen.

“This award really means a lot to me,” said Munson, nominated by Pastor Lacy Allen of the Agape Praise and Worship Center. “I was definitely surprised by that nomination, but it feels good to be appreciated.”

The award also comes with a \$2,500 cash prize, but Munson declined the money and asked that Fathers Incorporated use it to start a scholarship fund for young men.

“My children were so happy for me to win the award,” Munson noted. “I don’t think they were thrilled that I gave the money back,” he added, laughing.

The Father of the Year Award recognizes a father living in the city of Baltimore or its surrounding communities whose challenges and triumphs have manifested in his life experience and personal journey and beyond his profession and career achievements.

The organization said it seeks a father, who amid mayhem and chaos, changed or seriously impacted the lives of his children, family, and community for the better.

“Ideally, the recipient of the award will be a father whose actions and achievements uphold the concepts



Baltimore father of five, Roy Munson was awarded “Father of the Year” by Fathers Incorporated, an organization that instructs men about the values of brotherhood, manhood, fatherhood and being gentlemen. The nonprofit uses moral and ethical principles and a life philosophy to encourage men to do what is right, and to become viable assets and mentors in their families and communities. (Pictured) Roy Munson (second from left) with his wife Latosha Munson, and his daughters Tyleen, Kyaira, Myia and Tytianna. Courtesy Photo

of family and community,” said Ernest Woodson, who helped to launch Fathers Incorporated more than three decades ago.

“We’re all about trying to make a difference,” Woodson declared, adding that Fathers Incorporated also has a returning citizens program to help integrate individuals back into the community.

“We want to work with people who want to make a change. The Father of the Year program was built on somewhat of a spiritual platform where we go into the neighborhood where there is chaos and crime, and we try to find the father who is doing what’s good and what’s right, and we hold him up as a role model to the rest.”

He said Munson’s story is one of challenges and triumphs, compelling, and worthy of sharing.

When Munson’s first wife died, he worked two jobs to care for his children— including two from foster care— and his elderly mother.

As a nurse, Munson works with developmentally disabled children and those with difficulty breathing.

“My mother was the one who got me into nursing because she worked really hard and inspired me to want to do this,” Munson said.

While he reveled in the Father of the Year honor, Munson said he still must work to keep his children— particularly his son— on the right path.

“The main advice I would give to other fathers [is] that we have to point the way constantly,” Munson said. “I stay on my son about school, and I keep trying to motivate him because we don’t want to lose our children to the streets. We have to push them because the streets can be trouble.”

To learn more about Fathers Incorporated and the Father of the Year Award, visit: www.fathersincorporated.net.

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Toni Tipton-Martin, Stephen Satterfield Talk Netflix 'High On The Hog'

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One of the most intriguing stops in the series is in Texas, where Satterfield sheds light on the enormous contribution that Black cowboys made to America's behemoth beef industry, moving cattle to stockyards for shipment to northern factories. It also discusses Black American Texan cuisine, including what has come to be thought of as traditional Juneteenth dishes.

Satterfield tells Baltimore Times, "The red-colored drink, sorrel, tea cakes, and smoked meats are seen as traditional Juneteenth foods." There is the popularly held notion that red foods, like red velvet cake are symbolic of Juneteenth, which commemorates June 19, 1867, when the last of America's enslaved were informed they had been emancipated.

Tipton-Martin, who appears in the Texas episode, suggests that the symbolism of red velvet cake as a Juneteenth staple must have come about over time. "Red dye would not have been available at the time of early Juneteenth celebrations so we want to be careful about that," she said. She agrees that contemporary Juneteenth celebrations though, do tend to include, "BBQ, red-colored drinks, and watermelon."

Speaking to Baltimore Times, Tipton-Martin reiterated the overall goal of her work. "I have functioned as a journalist, looking interdisciplinarily across all kinds of platforms for evidence of African American expertise in order to be able to set us all free from the stereotype about Black cooking as just survival cooking."

The two-time James Beard award winner believes shattering that stereotype as well as the notion that Black cooks' talent came purely from instinct rather than intelligence, also "frees the broader community from limited representations of us on the page, in film, and in other ways."

She states that once she "became free from the encumbrance of the mammy stereotype," she used those ancestors as role models, and hopes the newer generation of Black chefs and restaurateurs do so as well.



Baltimore resident and award-winning food historian Toni Tipton-Martin (center) with Chefs David and Tonya Thomas at book signing event at Ida B's Table in Baltimore, Maryland. Courtesy Photo: Toni Tipton-Martin

Tipton-Martin also noted Maryland's "rich food tradition," pointing out it is "Obviously centered on crab and oysters." She also touches on Maryland Black cuisine history in Jubilee. "It discusses the Black women who displayed deviled crab beautifully, and sold it in order to reach economic independence."

One of the most famous figures in the history of American cuisine, James Hemings (brother of Sally Hemings) is also discussed at length in *High On The Hog*, who died likely by suicide in Baltimore around 1801. "The story of women, particularly women who served

in professional capacities tends to be the part of the story that is neglected. Records for the men have been better maintained and that's why we know more about James Hemings," states Tipton-Martin.

"It's not disputable," she stresses, that Hemings, who was brought to France by Thomas Jefferson to learn French cooking, "contributed to elements of French cooking being evident here. One of the main points of my cookbook and recipes from plantation cooks is our understanding that those people all had classic technique embedded in the foods they prepared."

According to Satterfield, Tipton-Martin gets credit for broadening the narrative surrounding African-American cuisine and the people, particularly the women, who created it. "Toni has done such a good job of practicing what she is preaching thanks to an incredibly meticulous collection of Black recipes."

Of *High On The Hog*, Satterfield states, "We're hoping people see the show as not purely as a hardship story as is so often projected but a celebration looking at the next generation of food scholars, that we're here and have 'arrived' in a sense."

Howard County is on the 'Ball'

Executive Launches Digital Equity Initiative

By Ursula V. Battle

Howard County recently launched "Transform Howard," a digital equity initiative to expand digital inclusion and increase community access to broadband. Transform Howard's programs include a new mobile-friendly website with features making it accessible to people of all ages and abilities. The new site also prioritized making important content easier to find for residents, businesses, and visitors.

Howard County also has the distinction of being the first county in Maryland to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to more than 50 percent of its residents and is currently the only jurisdiction in the state to have more than 70 percent of residents 12 and over fully vaccinated.

Howard County is on the ball – Dr. Calvin Ball.

In the past year, County Executive Ball has led a thorough response to COVID-19, including distributing vital funds to residents and businesses, standing up COVID-19 testing facilities, and implementing vaccine distribution plans.

"We are not only breaking down barriers, but showing that there is equity, and addressing some of the hesitancy that we're seeing," said Dr. Ball referencing Howard County's successful vaccination rate. "I am just so pleased that we've been able to not only address some of the barriers, but in working with pastors and faith communities and apartment complexes, making it so that some of the hesitancy gets ameliorated.

"When people see their pastor, or someone else who they trust, get vaccinated and making sure that they have protection against the virus, it helps. We want people to get the vaccine and we want to save lives."

Dr. Ball is the first African American to serve as Howard County Executive. As county executive, he established the mission to efficiently, effectively, and respectfully serve the residents, businesses, and visitors of Howard County, Maryland. His vision is to innovatively expand opportunity and foster the best



Howard County Executive, Dr. Calvin Ball
Courtesy Photo

quality of life for all who live, work, or visit Howard County.

"Transform Howard is an exciting initiative," said Dr. Ball. "One of the key points of Transform Howard is our digital equity. I think we have seen throughout the pandemic, that yes, there were issues and problems that came about. But frankly, more than that, issues and problems were revealed. You know, when it comes to co-morbidities, people had diabetes and heart disease before the pandemic, but it made them more vulnerable.

"Digital equity was something we saw creating even more of a chasm when it came to education. Particularly when it came to people needing things online

and having online services. So, in September 2020, we established a partnership with the Bright Minds Foundation." Through the partnership with the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) and the Bright Minds Foundation, devices and mobile hotspots were provided to students. As students returned to in-person learning, the County worked with the school system to increase broadband capacity in school buildings to support a hybrid learning model. Howard County was able to provide a seamless learning experience for students, whether they were in-person or remote learners.

"We're very excited about establishing broadband and digital inclusion," said

Dr. Ball. "It's going to ensure that residents in underserved areas have access to the digital world. Transform Howard is not only a name, but it's a mission.

"We've expanded Wi-Fi to twelve locations around the region including fire stations, parks and even Long Reach Village Center, one of the largest village centers in the country," said Dr. Ball. "We will continue to increase the number of sites."

Howard County has also expanded the partnership to provide all Internet services for the school system, including upgrading their broadband infrastructure. Howard County has also begun a study to determine areas of digital needs across the county. The study will result in a detailed plan to increase digital equity over the next three to five years.

County Executive Ball holds a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Religion from Towson State University, Master of Arts in Legal and Ethical Studies from the University of Baltimore, where he was nominated for the Spirit of Excellence Award, and Doctor of Education from Morgan State University. County Executive Ball is also a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated. He is a lifetime member of the NAACP, and in 2012, founded the Diversity Caucus of MACo, the first statewide caucus for county elected officials of color.

Noting he is a former employee of The Baltimore Times, Dr. Ball said: "I became Howard County Executive because I want to help people. I want to bring people together to make our community a better place for all. I want people to have a voice and feel empowered and emboldened to live their best life."

Howard County's new website can be accessed at www.howardcountymd.gov.

Reverend Debra Hickman talks STAR and ‘Why Women Cry’

By Stacy M. Brown

Nowhere can a more appropriate description of the Reverend Debra Hickman be found than on the social media site, LinkedIn.

Motivational speaker and author, Fran Allen called Reverend Hickman a woman of extraordinary substance and unmatched commitment to helping people, creating hope, broadening horizons, and changing lives.

“[Reverend Hickman] is the heart and soul of ‘Sisters Together And Reaching, Inc. (STAR),’ and her drive, energy, and dedication inspires people she will never know every single day,” Allen wrote. “We are better and able to serve our constituency because of her work and willingness to work with us.”

Each year, Reverend Hickman’s STAR hosts the “Why Women Cry” series, which includes world-class speakers, critical content, artistic expressions, movement, and optimism to women in and around Baltimore.

Because of the pandemic, the series is virtual this year, which Reverend Hickman says means that a broader audience of women could receive the incentives, resources, tools, products, and opportunities that support personal growth, mindfulness, health, and health business.

“Our bonding together will help others build lifelong positive relationships,” Reverend Hickman assured.

The virtual series runs every Wednesday at 10 a.m. through July 28, 2021.

“The entire conference experience is intentionally crafted to raise awareness on the increasing impact of HIV/AIDS transmission on Women and Girls and their intimate partners with various holistic health, economic, educational and behavioral health disparities in our African American and minority communities,” said Reverend Hickman.

Since its inception in November 2004, the conference has grown from 700 registrants to more than 2,200 women annually, making it the largest free women’s HIV conference on the East Coast.



*Reverend Debra Hickman
President/CEO
Sisters Together and Reaching, Inc.
Courtesy Photo*

“STAR has been around for 30 years and came into existence by having a deep desire to work with women with HIV and full-blown AIDS who had no place to go in the community to get the services they needed,” Reverend Hickman remarked. “When we founded the organization, it was to make certain that we could offer a haven where we could provide case management and make sure that women had good primary health care.

“We also wanted to make sure that we could help make preparations if the women passed away, that their children and their households could be taken care of.”

Located in the heart of Charm City, STAR has been a service provider of comprehensive care coordination and support services to thousands of individuals and families—creating healthy generational behaviors withstanding time.

Randi Woods, a registered nurse who serves as the nonprofit’s senior director of community care coordination, noted that STAR services include, but aren’t limited to, preventative testing, health promotion prevention education, patient advocacy, and comprehensive, holistic care management.

“Through time, STAR has developed multiple collaborative partnerships with traditional and non-traditional partners to continue working effectively with high-risk communities addressing traditional and non-traditional aspects of living with HIV/AIDS and other chronic diseases,” Woods said.

“Along with our partners, our future legacy of community engagement, prevention education, and community impact will serve as a pillar for every person serviced through our programs,” she said in an October 2020 Baltimore Times interview.

Born and raised in Baltimore, Reverend Hickman’s parents migrated from the South searching for work and more opportunities for their children. As the eldest of two children, she learned early on to handle business affairs as her parents had limited education.

“When Reverend Debbie started STAR, she was working a full-time job and was leading a very small team of women volunteers from churches around the city,” Woods recalled. “Since that

time, she has remained committed to advocating for justice in healthcare for the men and women of Baltimore City.”

Reverend Hickman has served on the Mayors HIV Commission and is a two-time appointee by the White House Secretary of Health to serve on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Health Resources Service Administration Advisory Council (CHAC). She also has worked as a consultant to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Radio One will stream the “Why Women Cry” series on Facebook and YouTube.

“I really want people to take away from this that they need to understand that there is no purpose that is not fueled by passion,” Rev. Hickman asserted. “You cannot have purpose and passion without knowing how to stand up amid a pandemic and move forward.”

For more information about the “Why Women Cry” series, visit <https://sisterstogetherandreaching.org/why-women-cry/>.



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**Happy Father's Day
to all the Daddies!**



Rosa Pryor Trusty

Hello everyone! "Happy Dad Day to all our Daddies! I am hoping the opening of our city and counties makes you happy. But please be careful about being around folks who have not been vaccinated and pay attention to signs displayed at indoor venues requesting that you wear a mask.

My longtime friend and entertainer, Judge "Judd" Watkins, passed away on Memorial Day— May 31, 2021. He was 85 years old. He was a great baritone vocalist and deserved much more recognition than he received. He started out in the late 1960s on Baltimore's music scene as a participant in the quartet with guitarist O'Donel Levy, drummer Chester Thompson and organist Charles Covington. In the early 70s he appeared with Webster Lewis when they recorded some live tracks in Oslo. Some of these recordings were released on the Webster Lewis Album called "Live in Norway-The Club 7 Live Tapes." In 1973, he sang and played percussion for the O'Donel Levy album entitled, "Everything I do gonna be Funky." His funeral arrangements: Viewing at Wylie's Funeral Home in Randallstown on Thursday, June 24, 2021 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Service on Friday at Wylie's from 12 noon until 1 p.m. May he rest in peace. He will be truly missed.

Charm City Jazz presents a Father's Day Concert; a tribute to the music of Earth Wind & Fire on June 20 at 5 p.m. at Magooby's Joke House & Sound Stage, 9603 Deereco Road, Timonium, Maryland. Socially distanced seating and masks required. For more information, call 443-858-9781. Or go to: www.charmcityjazz.com.

Another Father's Day event is happening at the American Legion Post 122 featuring saxophonist, Isaac Parham on

Sunday, June 20 from 3-7 p.m. The American Legion Post 122 is located 4424 Painters Mills Road in Owings Mills, Maryland. For more information, call 410-419-5466.

"Happy Juneteenth"—

There are several Juneteenth Celebrations this month, one is a "Pop-Up Event," which will be held at the Ambassador Theater located 4604 Liberty Heights Avenue on Saturday, June 19, 2021 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Enjoy traditional African drumming and music by DJ Huxtable from various musical eras to recognize and celebrate African American Music Month and the Juneteenth Holiday.

Annapolis Juneteenth Celebration with Chuck Brown Band on June 18 and June 19 at the MC3 Maryland Cultural & Conference Center, 3 Park Place, Suite 4. On June 18 there will be a reception, the Cost Band and Art Sherrod. A parade at the City Dock will be followed by a festival at Bates Athletic Complex, 935 Spa Road on June 19.

Well, my dear friends, it all sounds like a fun week. I am so excited that venues have started to open up, but in most places you still must wear your mask. I will catch up with you somewhere, just look for me.

Well, it looks like I am running out of space, but had fun doing it. 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.**



The Short Kuts Show for Juneteenth Show at the Lewis Museum. Experience stories of liberation from the storytellers; Dr. Karsonya Wise Whitehead, Tsaonsda Edwards, Dionne Joyner-Weems, Dr. Lashay Harvey and Winifred Winston. The show explores the themes of liberation, ranging from the joys of freedom to the perils people faced in the aftermath, whether they were refugees, survivors of domestic violence, discrimination, assault, or in a strange land. The show is June 19, 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m. at the Reginald Lewis Museum.



Sandra Ash, an accomplish vocalist will be performing at the BWI Hilton at 1739 W. Nursery Road on Friday, June 18 at 8 p.m. for music, drinks and dancing. For more information, call



Ladies and gentlemen they are back! Terry Battle "The Sidestreet Duo. Yes, Jeff Wilson on piano and Terry Battle on bass will be back at the "Cured 18th & 21st" located 1098 Grantchester Way, Columbia, Md. on Sunday June



Judge "Judd" Watkins, a very popular baritone singer from Baltimore passed away on Memorial Day; May 31, 2021. "Judd" as he was affectionately known started his singing in the late 1960's in the Baltimore Music scene. Funeral arrangement for him is at Wylie's in Randallstown, Maryland. The viewing is Thursday, June 24, from 5-8 p.m. and the Services is also at Wylie's from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

Ravens are excited about in person minicamp instead of virtual meetings

By Tyler Hamilton

The Baltimore Ravens are one of a handful of teams that decided to carry through with their plans to hold the mandatory minicamp. There were a number of teams that didn't take part in what had been an annual thing for NFL teams before last season.

The Ravens wrapped up mandatory minicamp this week. The team was happy to get on the field this year instead of being restricted to virtual meetings like last season due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rookie J.K. Dobbins is excited about minicamp after having his introduction to the NFL come virtually as a rookie last year.

"Yes, definitely. It's even good for the whole team, I feel like, because we all get to get more chemistry than what we had last year. Last year was my first year on the team, and I didn't get to see some of the people until I got into the building in late July," Dobbins explained. "We talked on Zoom, but there's nothing like in-person interaction. So, this definitely helps with that and just doing the plays—all that stuff. It just helps with confidence, knowing the plays. It's a big difference, and I feel it."

Being on the field does come with inherent risks since the team doesn't have a 100 percent vaccination rate.



The Ravens wrapped up mandatory minicamp this week. The team was happy to get on the field this year instead of being restricted to virtual meetings like last season due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Defensive lineman Calais (pictured) contracted COVID-19 during the outbreak last season.

Photo Credit: Baltimore Ravens.com

However, according to Ravens coach John Harbaugh, the team has a pretty high number of players vaccinated.

"It's a pretty high number. It's pretty well above 50 percent, I would say, without giving the exact number," Harbaugh said on Tuesday. "I think everybody makes that choice for themselves. That's what I told the guys last night, 'It's your individual decision.

There are things that go with being vaccinated. There are things that go with not being vaccinated.' So, everybody understands that, and guys will make those choices for themselves."

Entering last season, some of the players had concerns about COVID-19 and the season because of their own health risks. Take defensive lineman Calais Campbell for example who

suffers from asthma so he wanted to be sure to take precautionary steps to stay healthy. However, he isn't forcing the idea of getting vaccinated onto others.

"I think everybody makes that choice for themselves. That's what I told the guys last night, 'It's your individual decision. There are things that go with being vaccinated. There are things that go with not being vaccinated.' So, everybody understands that, and guys will make those choices for themselves," Campbell said.

Campbell was one of the Ravens players who contracted COVID-19 during the outbreak last season. He said he didn't have any real issues but it was tough going though it because he didn't feel like himself and it lingered for a while.

"Even when you are past the symptoms that everybody has, getting back into being a professional athlete, there's a certain level of feeling you have when you're just ready, and COVID-19 kind of made it a little harder to get to that good feeling. But I definitely feel a lot better now. I feel like I'm ready to go—go out there and dominate and have some fun—and I hope I stay that way," Campbell added.

Campbell says he has been fine for the last couple of months. He is using minicamp as an opportunity to get back into the swing of things.

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Summer grief programs for adults include yoga, literature and learning

Pasadena, Md.— Chesapeake Life Center has planned programs through the summer to help adult grieverers in the community work through their loss in ways that best meet their needs.

The center's free "Quarterly Book Group" will meet both in person at the center at 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, Maryland, and virtually, via Zoom for Healthcare. This group is for bereaved adults to share in conversations about where grief meets life in literature. This quarter's book choice is "The Hot Young Widow's Club" by Nora McInerny. It will be held from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Friday, July 19, 2021.

In-person restrictions will be updated prior to the event using the most recent Centers for Disease Control guidelines and organizational policies prior.

"Living with Loss" is a free virtual workshop that introduces participants to the universal grief process. The death of a loved one uniquely affects each person physically, emotionally, mentally, spiritually, and socially. Join us as we look at bereavement and the unique ways people will experience and express grief. It will take place via Zoom for Healthcare from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday, August 4, 2021.

"Nurturing the Grieving Heart through Yoga" returns for adult grieverers. This four-week program that will meet online



from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, Aug. 4 to 25. Facilitated by Cathy Rees, a registered nurse and certified yoga instructor with the Yoga Center of Columbia, participants remember their loved ones with more love than pain through targeted breathwork, very gentle movement and guided meditation. No yoga experience is necessary. The yoga can be practiced seated on a chair or from a mat on the floor. The cost is \$40 for the four weeks.

Registration is required and can be

completed by calling 888-501-7077 or emailing griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org.

Chesapeake Life Center, a program service of Hospice of the Chesapeake, serves hospice family members and the

community with bereavement services and activities aimed at enhancing the quality of life for those grieving the loss of a loved one.

For details and further information, visit: www.chesapeakelifecenter.org.

Liberian Immigration Program

Washington, D.C.— This information may be of interest to people regarding permanent residency via Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness (LRIF).

·Liberian nationals who have been continuously present in the United States beginning on Nov. 20, 2014, may be eligible to become lawful permanent residents if they meet the requirements.

·The filing period for certain Liberian nationals and family members to apply for adjustment of status under LRIF has been extended from one year to two years.

·Applicants must properly file for adjustment of status on or before December 20, 2021.

Earlier this year, USCIS hosted a webinar on this topic, which is currently available on our https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/outreach-engagements/Liberian_Refugee_Immigration_Fairness_and_Deferred_Enforced_Departure_for_Liberians_Webinar.pdf. An additional Q&A document has been posted that may help to answer questions.

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