

Breathing New Life into City Youth Through Forgiveness

*Part 2 of a 2-Part Series
on Project Pneuma*

By Ursula V. Battle

After being shot in the chest at point blank range, Damien Cooper found himself struggling to move past the trauma. Hurt and angry, Cooper said he contemplated suicide - plans that were thwarted by an unexpected visit from close friends on December 31, 1996. His friends took him to a New Year's Eve church service, which changed his life. According to Cooper, during the service, he forgave the man who shot him.

"From that moment, I went back to college and I got a degree in Theology," recalled Cooper, noting that seminary school provided an opportunity for him to participate in a program working with incarcerated men. "We would meet with these men every week. For years, I worked with a couple of young men who were always there."

Cooper continued, "During one of these meetings, one of the young men started talking about how he was going to be a boxer when he got out of prison. I asked him, 'Have you done anything that you're not proud of? Is there anything you would like to tell someone you are sorry for?' I asked those starter questions, and I listened to this young man literally tell me how he and his boys followed someone and shot him. Some of the things he was saying coincided with my life a little bit too much."

According to Cooper, as details about the shooting continued to emerge, the similarities mounted.



Project Pneuma participant Hasan Harrison and Baltimore City Police Officer Diamond Sykes. A 501(c)(3) organization, Project Pneuma reaches fourth through eighth-graders, teaching them about the power of forgiveness, discipline, and self-control. Through the organization, founder Damien Cooper uses his own personal story about being shot in Baltimore and forgiveness to reach fourth through eighth grade students, and help put them on the right track. Since its inception, Project Pneuma has partnered with 23 schools and the Baltimore City Police Department to build bonds of trust, respect, and cultural competencies. Courtesy Photo

Continued on page 8

Alysia Lee selected as first president of Baltimore Child & Youth Fund Inc.

Baltimore— The Transition Board of Directors of the Baltimore Children & Youth Fund (BCYF) selected Alysia Lee as the fund's first President. Lee will be tasked with the vital job of managing the daily functions of the nearly \$12,000,000 annual fund, originally approved by Baltimore City voters in 2016.

"I am honored to serve my city in this new role as the President of the Baltimore Children & Youth Fund. My previous work in the education, nonprofit, and youth development sectors prepared me to lead the Fund in its next steps," said Alysia Lee.

"Alysia is passionate about connecting youth and communities that are often overlooked to opportunities and resources," said BCYF Board Chair, Dion Cartwright. "With experience in the nonprofit, education and government sectors, and years of experience leading grassroots community-centered programming, Alysia brings a great deal of passion to her work, both personally and professionally. This includes



Alysia Lee was selected as the first president of the Baltimore Children & Youth Fund. A talented force of nature, Lee is no stranger to program leadership and positive youth development with a keen focus on equity and anti-racist approaches to philanthropy and non-profit leadership.

Courtesy Photo/Baltimore Children & Youth Fund, Inc.

working closely with philanthropists, policymakers, youth, and adult leaders

to elevate the field of youth development. She is deeply committed to serving and supporting our youth and those most impacted by systemic inequities and failed systems. The BCYF Board of Directors is truly inspired by her, and we are excited to have her leading BCYF through this important next chapter and beyond."

A Baltimore native, Lee joins BCYF from the Maryland State Department of Education where she served as an education program supervisor for Fine Arts Education. In that role, Lee supported Maryland's arts learning community by advancing arts-rich, lifelong learning in and through the arts for all Marylanders. She managed grants for the entire state and offered numerous technical assistance programs and

workshops to organizations who needed them, to the extent that she has visited nearly 50 percent of all Maryland Public Schools. Her innovative work in addressing racial bias in the arts and arts education is currently being replicated by other states.

A talented force of nature, Lee is no stranger to program leadership and positive youth development with a keen focus on equity and anti-racist approaches to philanthropy and non-profit leadership. Her long list of accomplishments in this field include providing local school systems with over one thousand hours of technical assistance in anti-racism, culturally relevant pedagogy, and decolonization practices to support public school students throughout Maryland. Further accolades include leadership in the Anti-Racist Educators in the Arts Learning Lab, the first statewide professional academy for arts educators to elevate their pedagogical approach within a racial equity framework, and Supporting LGBTQ+ Students and Families through technical assistance for adult allies.

Her appointment comes at a time of great opportunity as the fund has now established itself as a permanent entity.

In the weeks to come Lee will meet with residents from all around Baltimore, and work with the permanent Board of Directors to retain talent for key Vice President positions.

"Thanks to the visionary work of the transition board and consultant teams, BCYF has a firm foundation to advance community-centric philanthropy that is rooted in racial equity. I am thrilled to join an organization that aligns with my core values and supports the vitality of Baltimore's young people," said Lee.

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Mikaela Shiffrin
U.S. Olympic Gold Medalist



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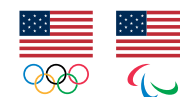
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Guest Editorials/Letters

School choice options are changing in Baltimore and across the country

By Andrew Campanella

National School Choice Week January 23 - January 29, 2022

If you're reading this, chances are you're a parent, or have friends or neighbors who are. Baby Boomer, Gen X, or Millennial—the K-12 school scene has changed so much since we were kids. Understanding these changes can help moms and dads guide their children to greater learning, success, and happiness. So, here are the three biggest changes affecting education in Baltimore and across the U.S. today, and what these changes mean for your family.

First, school choice opportunities have broadened over the last generation. That means parents have more options for where to send their children to school. For example: traditional public schools have adopted more flexible enrollment policies. Charter school laws have passed in 45 states, including Maryland. More families are aware they can choose public magnet programs, where kids receive education with a special focus, like STEM or the arts. Today, Maryland families under a certain income level may qualify for a state-run scholarship program. Plus, a growing number of Maryland families are choosing homeschooling.

A second game-changer since when we were kids is that there's now more community support for making school choices. There are also more resources for parents to help them find schools and learning environments that meet their children's needs. I've worked in K-12 education for more than 15 years; over that time, I've seen dozens of parent-focused organizations spring up to shine a spotlight on learning options in local communities. From helping parents find scholarships to private schools, to helping them figure out the process of transferring to public school outside of their zone, to offering bilingual application assistance, grassroots organizations are cutting the stress out of school searching.

You can visit schoolchoiceweek.com/maryland to find community organizations in Maryland. Keep in mind that parents cite word-of-mouth as a key factor in what school they choose. This means you have the power to help others in Baltimore by sharing your own school experiences.

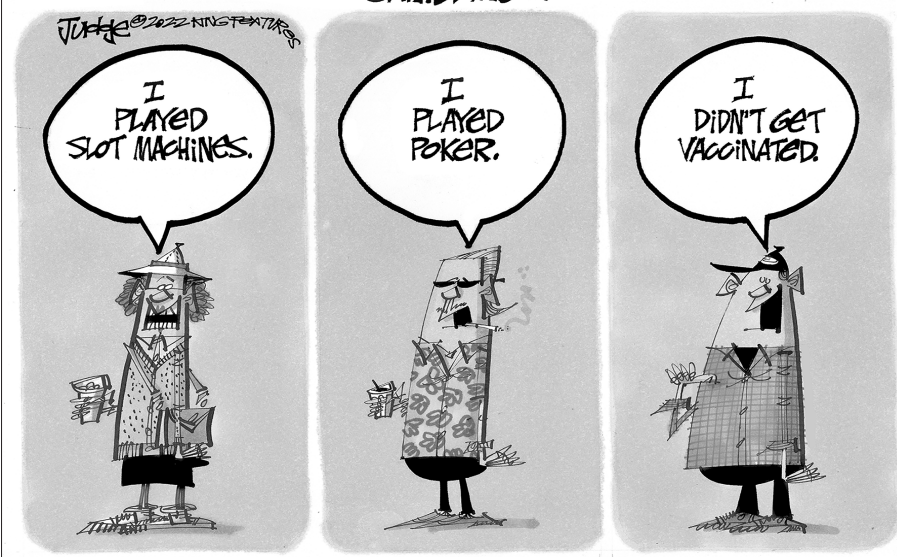
Third, a plethora of *online* learning environments have developed since our school days. These online schooling options are more comprehensive and focused than the emergency remote learning that many families experienced during the pandemic. In Maryland, there are paid full-time online learning options. Besides official online schooling, resources like schoolhouse.world offer free support to supplement in-person learning.

All of these changes to K-12 education are reasons for hope. With more options, Baltimore parents have more opportunities to find a free or inexpensive education personalized to their unique children.

If you are considering a new or different environment for your daughter or son for the next school year, though, the time to start evaluating your options is now. Don't wait! Begin the school search process during National School Choice Week (January 23-29, 2022), when 371 schools and homeschool groups in Maryland will be working together to raise awareness of opportunity in K-12 education. You won't regret it, and your children will thank you.

Andrew Campanella is president of National School Choice Week and the author of The School Choice Roadmap: 7 Steps to Finding the Right School for Your Child.

NEWS ITEM: IN 2021 AMERICANS SET A NEW RECORD FOR GAMBLING...



Letters to the Editor

Editor:

While private funding for cultivated meat is surging, public investment is tepid. This needs to change. For those who aren't familiar with the concept, cultivated meat is grown from animal cells, without slaughter. It's better for the environment, public health and animal welfare.

Recently, the Israeli cellular-agriculture firm Future Meat raised \$347 million in a Series B funding round, with the help of ADM Ventures and Tyson Foods. The company claims it can make cultivated chicken breast for \$7.70 a pound, a significant reduction from \$18 a pound six months ago.

Unfortunately, private funding means

privately-owned research. Such secrecy holds back development of the field as a whole. We need public funding for open-access research to help bring cultivated meat to market as quickly as possible, at a competitive price with slaughtered meat.

More legislators should follow the lead of U.S. Representatives Ro Khanna; Susan Wild; Julia Brownley; Deborah K. Ross; Nanette Diaz Barragán; Veronica Escobar; Haley M. Stevens; and Nydia M. Velázquez, who called for increased federal funding for alternative-protein development.

Jon Hochschartner
Granby, CT

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2022 Will Be a Great Year for Blacks and People of Color in America

By Roger Caldwell
NNPA Newswire Contributor

With the election of President Biden and Vice President Harris, they have quickly delivered for the American people, while helping our country recover from a pandemic, and an economic crisis. It is very easy for the Republicans to talk about what the Biden team has done wrong, but with the passing of the American Rescue Plan, and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, their first year in office has been extremely successful.

These two pieces of legislation will rebuild the economy and put money in the pockets of hard-working American families. Many businesses received stipends from the government, and many Americans were able to keep their businesses in the black and afloat. The American Rescue Plan was passed in March 2021, and it provided stimulus aid for families, state, local areas, and Tribal nations.

Many have forgotten the \$1,400 stimulus check every family got for each family member and the expanded tax credit for each child. President Biden and the Democrats delivered big for America, but it appears as though everyone has forgotten, especially the Republicans.

successfully: because the economic track record is the strongest in 50 years.

When leadership reflects people of color, America is in a better place for opportunity and progressive ideas for Black people. Whether you're looking forward to them, or dreading them, the midterm elections will take place in

dollars in 2022. Black professional sports figures, which are making millions of dollars already, will start investing their money with other Black sports and entertainment millionaires and build major corporations, which will operate nationally and internationally.

As Blacks in America build major corporations, they will start to invest their money in Africa— The motherland. 2022 will be an exceptional year for Blacks and Africans on many different levels, and the opportunities will expand and grow exponentially.

Buying Black in 2022 will become a grassroots campaign for Blacks in America, and the fight for social, racial, and economic equity will bring Black organization and communities together. Young Black college students will take leadership roles in political campaigns and will create change.

2022 will be a transformational year for Blacks and people of color, and we will create a new order with the national protection of voting rights, and labor reforms. Vice President Harris as the first woman and the first woman of color in that office, will create new political power, and empower workers to take collective action in the workplace.

Finally, the Black Family will come together, because we are only as great as the Black family is together. So now pick up the phone, resolve family issues, and remember to love!

“When Americans look at the president’s cabinet there is a diversity of people of color, which is an accurate representation of the country. This is the first reason that in 2022 Blacks and people of color will operate and grow successfully: because the economic track record is the strongest in 50 years.”

The economy under President Biden is doing extremely well, and the Democrats must blow their horn loud and clear.

“Today, America is the only leading economy in the world where household incomes and the economy as a whole are stronger than they were before the pandemic, even accounting for price increases,” said President Biden.

When Americans look at the president’s cabinet there is a diversity of people of color, which is an accurate representation of the country. This is the first reason that in 2022 Blacks and people of color will operate and grow

November 2022. There will be more Blacks and people of color running for office than ever before in the history of America, and there will be more millions in circulation, than ever before.

In Florida, Val Deming’s campaign will raise over \$60 million dollars and other races of color will raise between 10 and 50 million dollars. The opportunity for Black public relations companies, campaign jobs, the Black Media, will be tremendous, with an opportunity to make millions of dollars.

In entertainment Black companies will be given more opportunities to grow their companies and make millions of

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Baltimore Nonprofit Receives Huge Donation from King C. Gillette

By Stacy M. Brown

Sharp Dressed Man, a Baltimore nonprofit dedicated to empowering men to improve their lives through a professional presentation, has received a \$50,000 donation from King C. Gillette, the iconic company's collection of beard grooming and shaving products.

The company has also provided 500 products to the nonprofit, including a range of beard grooming kits for men, beard and face wash, beard oil, and beard balm.

"Sharp Dressed Man believes that every man should look and feel good when they leave our doors. Many a time, clients have worn their suits home from the shop because of how it makes them feel," said Christopher Schafer, founder of Sharp Dressed Man. "To say we were happy to receive this donation is a gross understatement. We were shocked, overjoyed, elated, ecstatic, but most of all grateful to King C. Gillette for selecting our nonprofit for such a generous gift."

Sharp Dressed Man began in 2011 when a client brought Christopher Schafer Clothiers two garbage bags of custom suits that no longer fit.

As someone who received a second chance to better his life, Schafer said he wanted to create something that would empower others to improve their lives. In the last 11 years, Sharp Dressed Man has helped prepare over 10,000 men for workforce readiness.

Gillette officials said they chose to partner with Sharp Dressed Man because they aligned with Gillette's vision.

Both organizations believe that providing necessary supplies to men in need would significantly boost their confidence and composure, giving them



Baltimore nonprofit, Sharp Dressed Man received a \$50,000 donation from King C. Gillette, the iconic company's collection of beard grooming and shaving products. Founded in 2011, Sharp Dressed Man is dedicated to empowering men to improve their lives through a professional presentation.

Photo Credit: Elisa J. Wells/Sharp Dressed Man



the power to present their best selves to future employers and continue the journey toward success.

"With the generous monetary and product donation, Sharp Dressed Man will be able to help many individuals looking to come back from homelessness improve their lives by equipping them for job interviews and other occasions with well-fitting suits and grooming products," Schafer said. "We are so grateful to have the ongoing support of such a generous company. The funds will help us grow tremendously, and I know the guys are going to love the high-quality shaving products from King C Gillette."

The donation will also help Sharp

Dressed Man maintain its program for the next year and allow the nonprofit to continue developing a mobile program that Schafer said responds to some of the restrictions imposed on community partners because of the pandemic.

"This innovation will give our organization the ability to transport garments, host onsite fittings and giveaways in Baltimore City and surrounding counties," Schafer said.

Schafer relayed one of several inspiring stories that reveal the value of the nonprofit.

"A few years ago, a gentleman named Maurice came to us to get suited, and [we] met him at the front desk. He couldn't get past the tattoo on Maurice's

face," Schafer said.

"He felt horrible for passing judgment, but it made him uneasy when Maurice wouldn't make eye contact with him. Wouldn't you know, when [we] called for the next client, we called Maurice's name. It took a while to click, but we found him garments just his style, making him look great and winning his trust. Maurice started opening up.

"We recently learned that Maurice remains quite the dresser, has a good job, and covers the tattoo until he can remove it. His mentor said that the honest conversation that the two of them had that day made an impression and that he's not been the same since."

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Jaye Ladymore of the CW's 4400

By Donnie Manuel

The year 2021, much like its predecessor 2020, gave us little reason to pause for positive reflection. Unless of course you are the type of person who enjoys spending quality time alone getting to “know oneself”—no judgment here. American novelist Patricia Highsmith once said, “My imagination functions much better when I don’t have to speak to people.” Roman poet Lucretius was quoted as saying “one man’s trash is another man’s treasure. I guess what I’m trying to say is that I am glad 2021 is over. There—I said it!

There was however one bright spot for me in an otherwise unmemorable year. That shining moment came in the form of a reboot of an old television series simply entitled “4400” (pronounced “forty-four hundred”). The original series in 2004 was called *The 4400*.

The new “4400,” developed by Ariana Jackson is about a group of people who disappear without a trace over the last 100 years and then suddenly reappear, with no memory of how or what happened to them, and they have not gotten a day older. What also separates this series from the first one is the fact that the cast of this one is predominantly Black.

One of the main characters on the show is a housewife from 1958 named Claudette. Before being snatched up, she was an organizer in the Civil Rights Movement and, upon her return in 2021, now is endowed with superpowers.

Jaye Ladymore, the actress who plays Claudette is simply amazing. The Georgia native captures the essence of Claudette with her own acting style that is reminiscent of a Southern Belle with a Northern swag. Whenever her character graces the television screen, you immediately perk up and pay attention because you know she is going to do or say something pivotal to the plot of the



Actress Jaye Ladymore plays the role of Claudette, one of the main characters in the CW Network's “4400.” Ladymore caught the acting bug in the fifth grade when she played a lion in a play called “Daniel and The Lion’s Den” and she cannot imagine herself doing anything else.

Photo Credit: Adrian S. Burrows Sr./The CW -- (C) 2021 The CW Network, LLC

series, and she does not disappoint.

Ladymore says that playing a character like Claudette is easy because she is familiar with that type of individual because of her upbringing in Northern Georgia, and also because her background in theater, she has had to play characters from the forties, fifties and late sixties.

“Claudette was in there already it was just a matter of bringing her out!” Ladymore said.

She says she caught the acting bug in the fifth grade when she played a lion in a play called “Daniel and The Lion’s Den” and she cannot imagine herself doing anything else.



Developed by Ariana Jackson, “4400” is about a group of people who disappear without a trace over the last 100 years and then suddenly reappear with no memory of how or what happened to them, and they have not aged. (Pictured) Jaye Ladymore as Claudette in a scene from “4400.”

Photo Credit: Lori Allen/The CW -- (C) 2021 The CW Network, LLC.

Except for a few summer classes, she really didn’t start studying acting until college. She says that getting the role of Claudette came quite suddenly and was virtually unexpected. She was at home during the latter half of quarantine when received a request to audition from her agent. She sent in a taped audition, which she prepared in her parent’s basement. She got a virtual callback with some of the producers and other folks who had already been cast. Within about two weeks she had the part.

The role of Claudette is a virtual cornucopia of the social issues affecting many people today and it’s a sense of responsibility that Ladymore takes very seriously.

“She may be a fictional character, but she’s based on a lot of women throughout history, and so I certainly always go into it knowing that— that

there is that element, and I want to make sure that I do that element justice. There is a responsibility that I represent her story well [that] I represent the kind of person she is and the kind of history that she comes from. Because people don’t know about this history— because it is American history and I strongly believe that you can’t really know where you’re going unless you know where you’re coming from,” said Ladymore. “If we don’t know what happened then, how can we expect to make it any better in the future? So, I believe that it’s important for Claudette to exist in this story just because she represents a lot of real women that have fought for the same things in American history.”

Well this modern day scribe humbly says, “Mission accomplished!” But you can find out for yourselves. Watch Ms. Jaye Ladymore as the meritorious “Claudette” on Monday evenings on the CW Network.

“When you get into a tight place and everything goes against you, till it seems as though you could not hang on a minute longer, never give up then, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn.” —Harriet Beecher Stowe

PROJECT PNEUMA

Breathing New Life into City Youth Through Forgiveness

Continued from page 1

“I realized this was the man who shot me,” said Cooper. “I tore open my shirt and showed him the wound on my chest.”

Cooper described the man – who didn’t recognize him, as being “shocked” about the revelation. However Cooper said that because he forgave his shooter years prior at the New Year’s Eve church service, he didn’t harbor any ill will towards his assailant. It’s that type of forgiveness Cooper is trying to instill in other Black males through his holistic mentoring program Project Pneuma.

A 501(c)(3) organization, Project Pneuma reaches fourth through eighth-graders, teaching them about the power of forgiveness, discipline, and self-control. Through the organization, Cooper uses his riveting story to reach fourth through eighth grade students, and help put them on the right track.

“Pneuma means to breathe new life and I believe that God breathed new life into me,” said Cooper. “We want to give young men the tools they need to become productive, loving, and caring men.”

The West Baltimore Renaissance Foundation recently awarded Project Pneuma with a \$150,000 grant. The grant will allow for Project Pneuma to sponsor 42 boys from three Baltimore City Public Schools. Other Project Pneuma partners include Under Armour and Sylvan Learning.

“I never ever thought in a million years that the small project that I started or \$10,000 would grow to where we’re now working with over 1,000 boys,” said Cooper, noting the program started in 2014 from a \$10,000 BME Public Voices Fellowship.

Since its inception, Project Pneuma has partnered with 23 schools and the Baltimore City Police Department to build bonds of trust, respect, and cultural competencies. Each year, the young men of Project Pneuma work on a community-centered project.

“We want our boys to forgive themselves and each other,” he said. “Balti-



Project Pneuma founder Damien Cooper hugs program participant Hasan Harrison.

more is a great city. But it’s a city where 300 folks are being murdered a year. Boys are losing their brothers, uncles, and fathers. It’s injuries upon a generation, and hardening our young people. We have to tell our young people that it’s okay to fail, and that it’s okay to have emotions, and that it’s okay to cry, and that it’s okay to accept love. The goal is to build out a new narrative of new life to replace every fatality.”

Cooper currently serves as the Vice Chair on the Core Team of the Community Policing Committee that is directly responsible for rewriting the Baltimore Police Department’s Training Curriculum, Community Policing Plan, and the federally-mandated Consent Decree focusing on police and youth engagement.

He holds degrees from Coppin State University (BS, Business Management & Marketing) and the United Baptist College & Seminary (Th.M., Theology) and is a 2018 graduate of *The Leadership*, which is a program of the Greater Baltimore Committee.



Hasan Harrison and Damien Cooper sharing a fun moment.

Courtesy Photos

Reflecting on the course of his life, Cooper said he and the man who shot him still stay in contact. He said the man came from a troubled background that included his father being killed in prison and a mother involved in prostitution, ultimately steering him to the streets for a sense of belonging. Cooper said today, the man is gainfully employed, involved in ministry, and married with children.

“The man who could have taken me away from here was the key to me working with young men in schools,” said Cooper. “Only God can have done that.”

For more information about Project Pneuma visit www.projectpneuma.org.

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'The Prom' Comes To The Hippodrome

Broadway Show Features Silver Spring, Md. Native

By Ursula V. Battle

A big prom is taking place in Baltimore, and you're invited to attend. "The Prom" a new musical comedy about big Broadway stars, a small town, and a love that unites them all is playing at The Hippodrome January 18, 2022 through January 23, 2022, and features Silver Spring, Maryland native, Brittani Nicole Williams.

"The Prom is a musical comedy that follows four Broadway stars who are trying to make a difference in the world and also conveniently fix their reputations," said Williams, who portrays 'Shelby' in the production. "Being in the production was my first job after everything was shut down due to the pandemic. It's been quite a journey. I really like this show and was excited to get back."

"The Prom" features direction and choreography by Tony Award® winner Casey Nicholaw ("Mean Girls, The Book of Mormon"), a book by Tony Award winner Bob Martin ("The Drowsy Chaperone"), and Tony Award nominee Chad Beguelin ("Aladdin"), music by Tony Award nominee Matthew



Silver Spring, Maryland native Brittani Nicole Williams plays 'Shelby' in the production of *The Prom* at the Hippodrome through January 23, 2022.

Sklar ("Elf") and lyrics by Tony Award nominee Chad Beguelin.

Williams, who is 24-years-old said she



The National touring company of *The Prom*.
Courtesy Photos

Medicare has changed.

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has always enjoyed performing and was pushed to pursue an acting career by a high school teacher. She was most recently on the first national tour of "Summer: The Donna Summer Musical," before the shutdown of Broadway tour productions, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. She previously finished the first national tour of "A Bronx Tale" as the female swing. She received training at The Ailey School in New York City and AMDA NY. She has also performed in "Mamma Mia!" at Arkansas Repertory Theatre, and "Annie Get Your Gun" at Westchester Broadway Theatre.

Williams said this is her first performance at The Hippodrome, located at 12 N. Eutaw Street in Baltimore.

"I am very excited about performing at The Hippodrome," said Williams.

"People coming to see this show can expect a lot of laughter. It's a comedy and is extremely funny. It is also very emotional."

"The Prom" is a part of The Hippodrome Broadway Series, which is pre-

sented in partnership with The Hippodrome Foundation. The Hippodrome Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)3, non-profit organization established in Baltimore, Maryland in 1976. Formerly known as the Baltimore Center for the Performing Arts (BCPA), the foundation was created to present live theater at the Morris A. Mechanic Theater. Over the years, HFI has evolved into its present incarnation as the largest presenter of Broadway in Maryland working in partnership with Broadway Across America to bring in shows.

Williams shared this advice for aspiring performers.

"You have to work extremely hard on your craft," advised Williams. "You also have to remain positive."

For more information about The Prom or to purchase tickets visit <https://baltimore.broadway.com/shows/the-prom/>

'You don't have to be rich to give'

Philanthropist James "Winky" Camphor Passes Away at Age 94

By Ursula V. Battle

Recalling James Camphor's words, "You don't have to be rich to give," Mike Brown, Parking Control Aide for Coppin State University shared one of many of his many unforgettable memories of the man affectionately known as "Winky."

"I remember the time I watched Winky write checks out to assist ten students," said Brown. "No questions asked. Those students would not have graduated without his help. I watched him donate a lot of money to Coppin. He's also helped me along the way. His legacy speaks for itself."

Brown who noted Camphor's unyielding support of his catering business added, "I had known Mr. Camphor for about 15 years. He gave me advice and was like a father to me. He was a God-loving man. What a wonderful person."

The philanthropist passed away on January 7, 2022 at the Summit Park Health and Rehabilitation Center in Catonsville, Maryland. He was 94.

A public viewing for Mr. Camphor will be held on Friday, February 4, 2022 from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m. at Wayland Baptist Church, 3200 Garrison Blvd, in Baltimore. Another public viewing for Mr. Camphor will be held at the Coppin State University Arena from 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 5, 2022 followed by services. An Omega Service - Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity will take place at 11:30 a.m. with services following at 12 p.m. Coppin State University is located at 2500 W. North Avenue.

A 1948 graduate of Frederick Douglass High School, Mr. Camphor began his studies at the former Coppin Teachers College, where he was a standout basketball player. He earned his bachelor's degree from Coppin in 1951 and a master's degree from the school in 1957. Camphor's wife Florine "Peaches" Camphor is also a graduate of Coppin. The couple are fondly known as "Winky and Peaches."

"One of the things we can learn from the Camphors is not only how to be good students, but how to be great alumni once we complete our education at Coppin," said Dr. Mary Owens-Southall, Dean of



James "Winky" Camphor standing on the campus of his beloved Alma Mater, Coppin State University. The beloved philanthropist passed away on January 7, 2022.

Photo Courtesy of Coppin State University

Graduate Studies at Coppin State University. "Peaches and Winky modeled that to the hilt. Supporting the place that made the greatest change in you was one of their greatest lessons."

Noting that she was "a proud Coppin graduate and proud faculty member," she added, "I remember walking through the Grace Hill Jacobs building and seeing Mr. Camphor teaching his orientation class. The students would be riveted. He taught them not only how to become a master student, but a master person in life. He modeled for them what a successful, well-rounded person was like. His commitment to the institution was second to none. It was clear in everything he did that he loved Coppin State University."

Many people said the Camphors bled the school's colors blue and gold because of their unwavering support and generosity to the school, which included a \$200,00 donation for student scholarships. Mr. Camphor was also a past president of the Coppin State University Alumni Association. A dedicated, Life Member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, he held numerous positions in the organization including president of the Zeta Sigma Chapter.

"Mr. Camphor and I both attended Wayland Baptist Church," said attorney N. Scott Phillips, who is a member of Phi



James "Winky" Camphor and his wife, Florine "Peaches" Camphor.

Photo Courtesy of Joyce Newsome

Beta Sigma Fraternity. "We became extremely close after I lost my father. He was like a big brother from a fraternity perspective, but also a confidante and a father figure. In the fraternity, he was extremely well-respected and appreciated. He was a jokester who had a giving spirit. He was the type of guy that the young guys gravitated to. He had so much wisdom. While he was 94-years-old, he was still very young in spirit. Up until his death he maintained his quick wit and sense of humor."

Kevin Carr, who is a graduate and employee of Coppin State University, is also a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.

"Mr. Camphor and Coppin's Dr. Guilbert Daley were responsible for me be-

coming a Sigma," said Carr. "Mr. Camphor gave so much to Coppin and loved the institution."

He added, "We have to keep Mrs. Camphor lifted up in our thoughts and prayers because we know it is devastating to have lost Winky. But he's gone on to greater things and higher heights."

During his 43-year teaching career, Mr. Camphor served as a principal, and as both a classroom and demonstration teacher. An avid boxing fan, he enjoyed attending local and national boxing matches. He also enjoyed traveling, and along with Mrs. Camphor, sponsored trips to the Hampton Jazz Festival. Joyce Newsome was among those who regularly attended the legendary excursions.

"I would go every year with them," said Newsome. "I loved it. I also went with Winky and Peaches when they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. We always had such a wonderful time."

She added, "Winky truly lived by the code, 'you don't have to be rich to give.' He had a heart of gold."

Camphor was Past Chair of the Sickle Cell Anemia board of directors and a Past Member of the AFRAM Board. At the time of his passing, he was planning a 95th birthday party.

"Mr. Camphor always had the same demeanor, which was a generous spirit," said Tara K. Turner, Assistant Vice President for Institutional Advancement for Coppin State University. "From the day I met him, until his last day, he was always willing to help. He was always there. He was looking forward to celebrating his 95th birthday, and I'm told that he said, 'I'm planning this party whether I'm going to be there or not.'"

In addition to his wife, Mr. Camphor is survived by two children Yolanda Camphor and Michael Camphor. In lieu of flowers, the family would like contributions to be made to the Coppin State University Development Foundation: CSUDF, 2500 W. North Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21216, Memo: Dr. James Camphor Fund. Contributions can also be made by visiting www.coppin.edu/JW-CamphorFund

Rambling Rose

**Jazz Lover and Coppin State
University Mayor has passed away**



Rosa Pryor Trusty

Hello everyone, how are you? Are you staying safe and wearing your mask? I sure hope so. This week was a very sad column for me to write because I am starting off by telling you about the passing of a dear friend supporter of the jazz community, as well as someone you may have also known for years. I called him the mayor of Coppin State University— James “Winky” Camphor has passed away. Condolences to his Queen and the Princess of Coppin State University, Florine “Peaches” Camphor and to his friends and staff at Coppin’s who love him so much.

Let me tell you a little bit about this man that his friends and family called “Winky.” First of all, he played four seasons of basketball at Coppin State from 1948-51, an original Eagle, he held the unofficial school record of 50 points in a game against Cheyney in 1950. He earned his bachelor’s degree from Coppin State in 1951 and his master’s degree from Coppin State in 1957. He had a distinguished career following his graduation from Coppin State. He earned the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education Distinguished Alumni Award; State of Maryland Faithful Citizen Award; National Association for Sickle Cell Outstanding Member Award; State Department of Mental Health and Hygiene Service Award; City of Baltimore Citizen’s Award; National Federation of the Blind Service Award; Children’s Cancer Center Volunteer Award; Heart of Love Award; Emmanuel C.C. Church Living Legends Award; and the Harlow Fullwood Award.

“Winky” met his wife “Peaches” in 1965 when they were both members of Coppin’s Alumni Association. He earned a master’s degree in education from Coppin and was given an honorary doctorate in humane letters from the University. Mrs. Camphor earned a bachelor’s degree from Coppin and a masters in education

from Loyola University Maryland. I call them the “Power Couple of Coppin State University.” You know that that is not all, I just had to stop because I was running out of ink and I don’t want to do that before I let you know the funeral arrangements. James “Winky” Camphor will be on view on February 4 at Wayland Baptist Church on Garrison Blvd. The Services will be held at Coppin State University on February 5. Howell Funeral Services on Liberty Heights has his body. GOD SPEED MY FRIEND, GOD SPEED!

Before I leave you, I want to share something with you that I think is appropriate to do at this time:

**“You Don’t Just Lose Someone Once”
You lose them over and over, sometimes
many times a day**

**When the loss, momentarily forgotten,
Creeps up, and attacks you from behind,
Fresh waves of grief as the realization
hits home, they are gone again.**

**You don’t just lose someone once,
You lose them every time you open your
eyes to a new dawn,**

**And as you awaken, so does your memory,
So does the jolting bolt of lightning that
rips into your heart,
They are gone again.**

Losing someone is a journey, not a one-off.

**There is no end to the loss,
There is only a learned skill on how to
stay afloat, when it washes over.**

**Be kind to those who are sailing this
stormy sea,**

**They have a journey ahead of them, and
a daily shock to**

**The system each time they realize, they
are gone, again**

**You don’t just lose someone once, you
lose them every day, for a lifetime.**

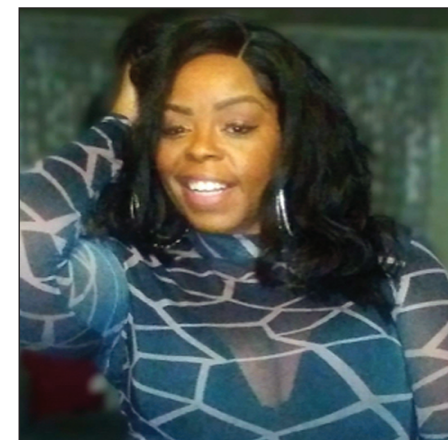
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time at 410-833-9474 or email me at ros-
apryor@aol.com. **UNTIL THE NEXT
TIME, I’M MUSICALLY YOURS.**



James “Winky” Camphor, pictured with his wife Florine “Peaches” Camphor passed away on Friday, January 7, 2022. Condolences to his wife “Peaches,” and family. He will be truly missed.



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January 21, 2022 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
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**Congratulations to Tyrone Crawley be-
coming the new president of Baltimore
Jazz Alliance as of January, 2022.
Crawley has served on the B.J.A board
since 2017, volunteering on several
committees and emceeding the group’s
last Baltimore Jazz Fest, in 2019. For
more information, call 410-469-0893.**

Selected Ravens players will end the season at Pro Bowl

By Tyler Hamilton

The 2021 season hardly ended the way the Baltimore Ravens wanted it to. The 16-13 overtime loss to their rival Pittsburgh Steelers was the final nail in the coffin. The Ravens failed to make the playoffs after three consecutive postseason appearances.

Now, select Ravens players will turn their attention to the Pro Bowl, which will be held at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas, Nevada on February 6, 2022. The Ravens have five Pro Bowlers on the 2022 roster, including four starters.

Quarterback Lamar Jackson was selected for the Pro Bowl as a reserve but isn't likely to participate as he recovers from a season-ending ankle injury that kept him out of the final three games of the season.

Tight End Mark Andrews; fullback Patrick Ricard; Kicker Justin Tucker; and return specialist Devin Duvernay also made the 2022 AFC Pro Bowl roster. They're considered to be starters at their respective positions.

The Ravens have managed to place an abundance of players on Pro Bowl rosters over the last four seasons. The total of five starters are the fewest since 2018 when they had four starters.

A good part of that is due to the lack of Ravens defensive players selected. Cornerback Marlon Humphrey and defensive tackle Calais Campbell were



Quarterback Lamar Jackson; tight end Mark Andrews; fullback Patrick Ricard; kicker Justin Tucker; and return specialist Devin Duvernay are the five Ravens players on the 2022 AFC Pro Bowl roster. (Pictured) Ravens tight end Mark Andrews.

Photo Credit: Raj Mehta/USA TODAY Sports

selected to the Pro Bowl last season. Humphrey missed five games due to a knee injury. Campbell missed three games due to a thigh injury.

Matt Judon was selected as well. However, Judon has since moved on to the New England Patriots and was named to the Pro Bowl this season.

Duvernay is a first-time Pro Bowler who has been a work in progress.

"We put a lot of work into Devin [Duvernay]; [Special teams coach]

Randy [Brown], [special teams coach] T.J. [Weist], [tight ends coach] Bobby [Engram], it was all-hands-on-deck with him. Once we realized what we had, we knew if we took care of business, and we helped him make great decisions, we could get him to where we wanted to get him to," special teams coordinator Chris Horton said. "We're very humbled. We're very excited about what he's done, but quite honestly, he's just getting started. This is his first full season as a

returner. I don't even think he's reached the maximum amount of games yet for a full season as a punt returner. We're just getting started. We're definitely very excited about where he's going, and where he's going to continue to go.

Devin is hungry. He's eager to get better, and the guys love having him out there."

Although the Ravens would definitely rather be playing in the Super Bowl, for some of players the season will conclude with the Pro Bowl instead.





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From Employee To Entrepreneur: Becoming Your Own Boss in 2022

News & Experts— Maybe you've dreamed of launching your own business for years, but couldn't summon the nerve— or the capital— to pull it off.

Perhaps 2021 proved disastrous to your career aspirations when the company you worked for downsized or shut down altogether— and out the door you went.

Either way, 2022 could be the time to ask yourself this question: Are you ready to go from employee to entrepreneur?

It's an easy question to ask, but a more difficult one to answer, says Adam Witty, himself a successful entrepreneur and the ForbesBooks co-author of *Authority Marketing: Your Blueprint to Build Thought Leadership That Grows Business, Attracts Opportunity, and Makes Competition Irrelevant*.

"Maybe for someone who lost their job this year, it's an easier call because they aren't giving up something to make the move," says Witty, who also is the founder and CEO of

Advantage|ForbesBooks (www.advantagefamily.com).

"For them, this might be the perfect opportunity to finally give in to any entrepreneurial urges. But leaving full-time employment with its relative security, regular paycheck, predictable infrastructure and perks is a different matter and requires a certain kind of courage."

After all, success is not guaranteed. About 20 percent of small businesses fail in their first year, and half succumb by year five, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

But for those considering taking the plunge, Witty has advice:

Look before you leap— Starting a



For many entrepreneurs, success can be attributed to the fact they started a business in a field they were familiar with because they worked in it or already had expertise in it.

Photo Credit: ClipArt.com

business requires a certain amount of risk, but that doesn't mean you should be foolhardy. "While I agree you have to commit to any endeavor for it to succeed, I'm also pragmatic enough to know that the risk must be balanced," Witty says. "Have a comfortable safety-net before you jump. Chances are, debt will outweigh income at the beginning. So, for those currently employed, take advantage of the income from your full-time position before you cut ties."

Consider doing what you already know— For many entrepreneurs, success can be attributed to the fact they started a business in a field they were familiar with because they worked in it or already had expertise in it. "They had

seen their industry from the inside and acquired a keen understanding of both its potential and its constraints," Witty says. "That's not true for everyone, but in the cases where it is true it definitely can make for a more solid transition, and increase the likelihood of success."

Be adaptable— Witty says one thing that separates successful businesses from ones that fail is the ability to adapt to changing circumstances. "Being

adaptable doesn't mean just introducing a new product to your realm of offerings," he says. "It requires constant attention to what's going on in the world, analyzing your competitors, and most importantly, not getting too comfortable at the top of the pyramid. The business cycle is much like a StairMaster— once you get to the top, you have to keep climbing to stay up there."

Ultimately, though, the only way to truly find out whether a person can succeed as an entrepreneur is to do it, no matter how unsettling that first step might be, Witty says.

"Making the shift from the steady life of a full-time employee to the unpredictable world of entrepreneurship takes smarts, guts and support," he says. "But you'll never know if it's right unless you embrace the risk."

Adam Witty, co-author with Rusty Shelton of Authority Marketing: Your Blueprint to Build Thought Leadership That Grows Business, Attracts Opportunity, and Makes Competition Irrelevant, is the CEO of Advantage|ForbesBooks. Witty started Advantage in 2005 in a spare bedroom of his home. The company helps busy professionals become the authority in their field through publishing and marketing. For more information, visit: www.advantagefamily.com.

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