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## Meet the woman who encouraged Jada Pinkett Smith, others to embrace life as a ‘Bald Boss’

By Andrea Blackstone

Actor, rapper and film producer, Will Smith apologized for slapping comedian Chris Rock after Rock cracked a joke about Jada Pinkett Smith, who is Smith’s wife. Rock made a reference about Pinkett Smith’s nearly bald hairstyle, during the 94th Academy Awards. It drew the world’s attention toward the issue of people who live with alopecia. Pinkett Smith— who hails from Baltimore— is one of them. On the actress’s Instagram account, she once revealed that her battle with alopecia led to shaving her head.

“I thought I’d just share it so y’all are not asking any questions,” Pinkett Smith said, in between chuckles in 2021. “But you know, momma is going to put some rhinestones in there. I’m just going to make me a little crown. That’s what momma’s gonna do.”

Through Pinkett Smith’s bravery to admit her alopecia struggle, and Smith’s public misstep, a chance to dig deeper about what alopecia is surfaced. Jamie Elmore—who is an alopecia confidence coach— was officially diagnosed with alopecia in 2004. Elmore is also a hairstylist of 30 years, a salon owner, Editor-in-Chief of Bald Life Magazine, founder of the Bald Boss Community, and the Alopecia Support Group. The Seattle, Washington-based leader has been doing the day-to-day work to support women, men, and even children all over the world who walk the alopecia journey.

In an interview with The Baltimore Times newspaper, Elmore reminded that alopecia areata is an autoimmune disease that can randomly show up in anyone’s life.

*Continued on page 9*



*Jamie Elmore is the founder of the Bald Boss Community, Editor-in-Chief of Bald Life Magazine, an alopecia confidence coach, nonprofit leader, motivational speaker, hairstylist and salon owner based in Seattle, Washington. She was featured on Jada Pinkett Smith’s Red Table Talk. Elmore gives a voice to men, women, and children who deal with traumatic effects of alopecia. Elmore was diagnosed with the disease in 2004. Bald Bosses will participate in Annapolis, Maryland’s Juneteenth Parade on June 18, 2022. Photo: Deeanna Rivaldo*

# Biden Signs Emmett Till Antilynching Act, Lynching Becomes a Federal Hate Crime

By Andrea Blackstone

President Joe Biden signed the Emmett Till Antilynching Act on Tuesday, March 29, 2022, making lynching a federal hate crime in the United States, over 100 years after other attempts were made to pass anti-lynching legislation. According to Merriam-Webster's definition, lynching means "to put to death (as by hanging) by mob action without legal sanction."

The Emmett Till Antilynching Act is named after an African-American teenager named Emmett Till. While visiting family in Money, Mississippi, someone claimed that the 14-year-old whistled at a white woman named Carolyn Bryant at a store in 1955. Emmett was later kidnapped, brutally attacked, then thrown into the Tallahatchie River. Two white men, who were accused of Emmett's murder, were not charged with the murder. No other individuals were indicted or prosecuted for the crime. The Department of Justice (DOJ) initially reopened the case in 2004 to explore other subjects who may have been involved in the murder.

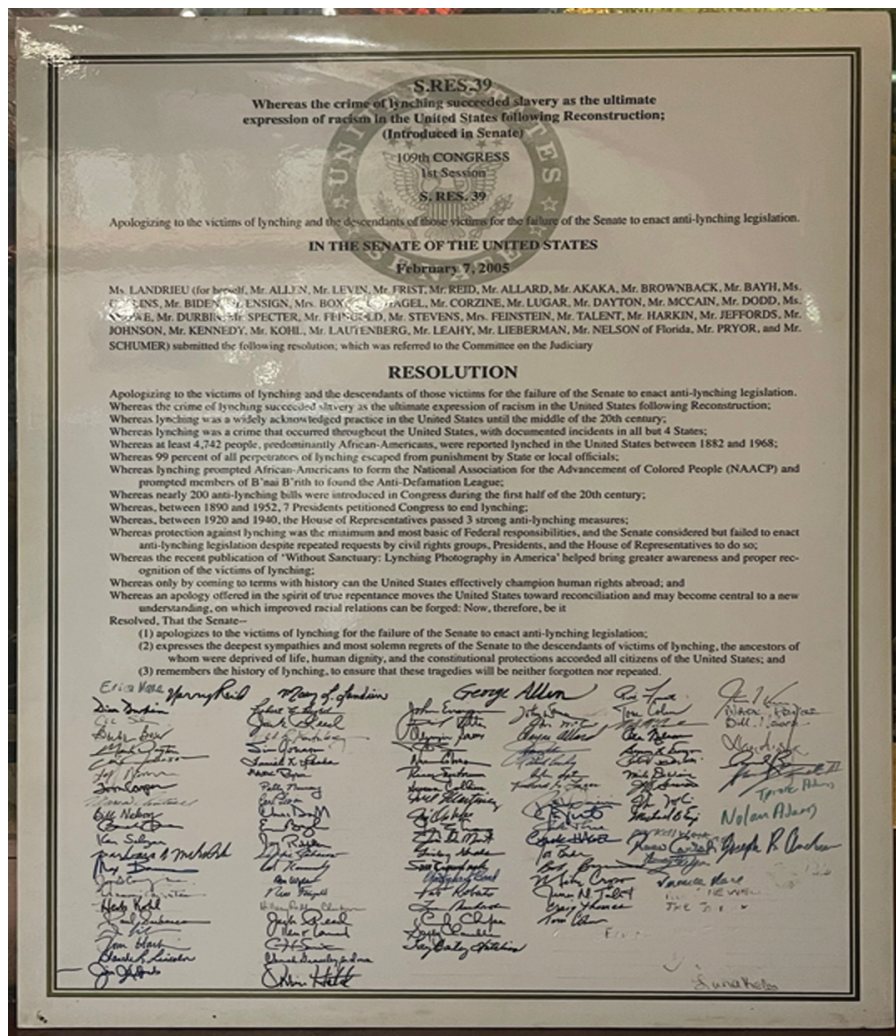
Although the first investigation was closed, another one was opened. The impetus of the revived issue was due to a 2017 book quote which appeared in Timothy B. Tyson's book, "The Blood of Emmett Till." Contents included in it sparked a question about the veracity of Bryant's story, according to the Associated Press.

A second investigation led to another dead end. The cold case was closed, per confirmed information provided by The Department of Justice in a 2021 press release.

In the midst of dizzying starts and stops tied to Emmett's unfortunate story, justice was never served for the loss of his life. Mamie Till-Mobley—who was Emmett's mother—pushed relentlessly for justice. She opted to hold an open casket for her son's funeral to let others see his badly disfigured face and swollen body, in 1955. Photos of the teenager in his coffin were published in Jet magazine. The Civil Rights Movement was set ablaze because of it.

Pieces of historical injustice resurfaced when President Biden provided remarks in the White House Rose Garden, during the Signing of H.R. 55, the Emmett Till Antilynching Act.

"Over the years, several federal hate



**In 2005, a document apologizing for the failure to enact anti-lynching legislation was presented to Dr. Joanne Martin, co-founder of The National Great Blacks in Wax Museum in Baltimore, and staff at a Senate office building located in Washington, D.C. On March 29, 2022, President Joe Biden finally signed the Emmett Till Antilynching Act to make lynching a federal hate crime in the United States. Image Courtesy of the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum**

crime laws were enacted, including one I signed last year to combat COVID-19 hate crimes. But no federal law — no federal law expressly prohibited lynching. None. Until today," Biden said.

The president of the United States also stated that a historian named Bryan Stevenson's research revealed that "between 1877 and 1950, more than 4,400 Black people were murdered by lynching."

Dr. Joanne Martin, co-founder of The National Great Blacks in Wax Museum in Baltimore, is a local icon whose insight helps to understand the significance of the legislation's passage, after lawmaker's long standing refusal to take formal action. To date, approximately 145

life-size, historical and contemporary, wax figures representing personalities of African ancestry are also on display at The National Great Blacks in Wax Museum in Baltimore.

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"You still have people who even fought against getting passage of this kind of legislation [The Emmett Till Antilynching Act]. People who don't understand the connection between an Emmett Till and Ahmaud Arbery and so forth, and the ways in which we're still battling the modern day lynching of our people. But it does pay honor to those people who fought for us to get past this moment, when we're still decrying and crying for our youth, and our men, and our people not to be lynched in America."

Martin mentioned that the NAACP (The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) fought against segregation and mainly lynching. Historical figures such as Ida B. Wells worked from the trenches to bring justice and equity and civil rights. Martin reminded that Wells was one of the founders of the NAACP.

Ironically, Martin holds another piece to a historical puzzle. The Baltimore-based museum she leads is in possession of a Senate-issued apology which was written in 2005. The document acknowledges lack of legislation for making lynching a crime. Politician Hillary Clinton and Biden, who was a senator at that time, were among individuals who signed it, according to Martin. She also explained that the document was presented to The National Great Blacks in Wax Museum by former U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu from Louisiana. Martin explained that Landrieu asked if the museum wanted the item displayed there.

"It's a long time coming," Martin said, referring to lynching finally becoming a hate crime.

Please visit [www.greatblacksinwax.org](http://www.greatblacksinwax.org) to learn more about The National Great Blacks In Wax Museum's tours, exhibitions, and events.

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# Guest Editorials/Commentary

## We're Not Letting Anybody Steal Our Joy

By Ben Jealous

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - A congressional meeting room might be the last place people would expect to find joy. But joy was in the air on the opening day of the confirmation hearing for Supreme Court nominee Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson. Joy was in my heart and in the hearts of so many friends and colleagues who were in the room that day.

Why were we feeling joyful?

We were joyful because this brilliant judge is about to become the first Black woman ever to serve on this country's highest court. We were joyful because we could feel the love and pride from Judge Jackson's parents, brother, husband, and daughters. As a father, I was joyful because my Black daughter can look to a new role model. She has a new reason to believe that her dreams, talents, and hard work can take her wherever she wants to go.

We all knew that the week ahead would be a difficult one for Judge Jackson. There would be grueling 12-hour days. There would be disgraceful lies. There would be examples of barely concealed racism.

All of that happened. And none of it broke Judge Jackson's spirit or calm professionalism.

In the face of smears and false accusations, she gracefully explained the truth about her record and her commitment to applying the law fairly. She showed Americans a strength grounded in faith. She demonstrated a self-confidence built over years of perseverance and accomplishment. She spoke about her love for our country and for the Constitution.

We live at a time when the Court is dominated by judges who do not share a commitment to justice for all. We live at a time when white nationalism and bigotry are openly promoted by powerful politicians and pundits. Judge Jackson's nomination gave us a reason for renewed hope that our country can and will continue to make progress toward the ideal of equal justice under law and equal opportunity for all Americans. It was also a reminder that millions of Americans played a part in making this moment possible.

Millions of us voted to replace former President Donald Trump with President Joe Biden, who made a commitment to putting a Black woman on the Supreme Court. Millions of us contributed to the effort to elect Sens. Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff in runoff elections in Georgia. Those elections kept Republicans from controlling the U.S. Senate. They kept Sen. Mitch McConnell from being able to abuse his power to prevent President Biden's nominees from even getting a vote, as he did so often with President Obama's judicial nominees.

All of us who donated time and money, knocked on doors, made phone calls or sent texts to potential voters, and who cast our ballots—we all helped bring about that joyful morning on Capitol Hill. And we can all look forward to celebrating when she is sworn in as Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson.

*Ben Jealous serves as president of People For the American Way and Professor of the Practice in the Africana Studies Department at the University of Pennsylvania where he teaches leadership. 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.*



## Community Affairs

### CDC Recommends Additional Boosters for Certain Individuals

Data continue to show the importance of vaccination and booster doses to protect individuals both from infection and severe outcomes of COVID-19. For adults and adolescents eligible for a first booster dose, these shots are safe and provide substantial benefit. During the recent Omicron surge, those who were boosted were 21-times less likely to die from COVID-19 compared to those who were unvaccinated, and 7-times less likely to be hospitalized. CDC continues to recommend that all eligible adults, adolescents, and children 5 and older be up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines, which includes getting an initial booster when eligible.

Following FDA's regulatory action today, CDC is updating its recommendations to allow certain immunocompromised individuals and people over the

age of 50 who received an initial mRNA booster dose at least 4 months ago to be eligible for another mRNA booster to increase their protection against severe disease from COVID-19. Separately and in addition, based on newly published data, adults who received a primary vaccine and booster dose of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine at least 4 months ago may now receive a second booster dose using an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.

These updated recommendations acknowledge the increased risk of severe disease in certain populations including those who are elderly or over the age of 50 with multiple underlying conditions, along with the currently available data on vaccine and booster effectiveness.

**Source: CDC Media**

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## Sen. Manchin says he'll vote for Judge Jackson, virtually assuring the historic confirmation

*Sen. Manchin declared his intention to vote in the affirmative after the country witnessed perhaps the most unprofessional confirmation hearings in history*

*By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent  
@StacyBrownMedia*

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson will win confirmation as the next U.S. Supreme Court Justice, a strong hope turned virtually factual with the commitment from Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin on Friday, March 25.

Sen. Manchin of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona have remained wildcards in the Democratic

Party, routinely voting against their caucus and President Joe Biden's agenda. But on Friday, Sen. Manchin declared his intention to vote in the affirmative after the country witnessed perhaps the most unprofessional confirmation hearings in history.

"I met with Judge Jackson and evaluated her qualifications to be a Supreme Court Justice," Sen. Manchin announced in a statement.

"After meeting with her, considering her record, and closely monitoring her testimony and questioning before the Senate Judiciary Committee this week, I have determined I intend to vote for her nomination to serve on the Supreme Court."

Following public testimony on Thursday, the historic confirmation hearings

concluded.

The Senate Judiciary Committee plans to meet on Monday, March 28. The committee has tentatively scheduled a vote on the nomination on April 4.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-New York) said he expects a full vote by April 11.

Democrats hope that some Republicans join them in voting to confirm Judge Jackson. Sen. Lindsay Graham (R-S.C.), one of the main actors in these hearings, voted in 2021 to confirm Judge Jackson to the powerful D.C. appellate court.

Sen. Graham has said he'll vote against confirmation this time.

Republicans Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, and Susan Collins of Maine, also voted to

confirm Judge Jackson in 2021.

No Democrat has publicly opposed Judge Jackson's nomination, and Republicans have sought out Sens. Manchin and Sinema because of their track record of voting against the Democratic agenda.

It's expected Sen. Sinema will follow Sen. Manchin and vote to confirm Judge Jackson.

If the confirmation vote splits along party lines, Vice President Kamala Harris will cast the tiebreaker, assuring Judge Jackson's ascension as the first Black woman Supreme Court Justice.

"There is nothing in Judge Jackson's record suggesting that the committee should have difficulty reporting her nomination out," Schumer demanded.

## President Biden, you, and other U.S. presidents waited too long

*By Dr. Ken Morgan*

First, how come it took 157 years for a U.S. Supreme Court Black Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to be nominated as the first Black woman?

Give me a break! Shame on both

Democrats and Republicans. Why did it take so long?

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's confirmation hearings have ended, and a final confirmation vote still lies ahead. Jackson should be the first Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court.

Republican senators on the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee such as Tom Cotton, John Cornyn, Lindsey Graham, Josh Hawley, and Marsha Blackburn lambasted the nominee with questions and insinuations.

They echoed in a chorus that Jackson was "soft on crime." They underlined that she gave a single child abuse case a light sentence and was too lenient. The soft-on-crime allegation went against Thurgood Marshall too.

Because of these pressures, mass black incarceration remains at federal, state, and local levels. Governor Hogan wants to lock them up and throw away the key. Many Republicans and Democrats share this belief. The national and local media play similar games with announcements about the uptick in crimes, especially Black street crimes.

Republican Judiciary Committee members charged her with encouraging CRT, Critical Race Theory—oh, what a threat to tell the truth. The CRT Critical Race Theory label became pinned on her for sitting on a board that initiated CRT. CRT

starts with the teaching of racism in the U.S.A. "They don't come up in my work as a judge," she said, relating to CRT specifically in deference to the term.

The Republican Judiciary Committee members again attacked her. Remember when former President Bush and former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld held four detainees—all Muslims—at Guantanamo Bay without charges? They suffered from torture and were treated inhumanely? Jackson ruled that their acts constituted war crimes.

The Washington Post recently compared Judge Brown Jackson's path to the U.S. Supreme Court to other presently serving justices. They found that she attended a public high school as four others did; she attended Harvard Law School and Yale Law School (the two top-notch law schools in the country) as six others. Six of the nine justices have clerked for a Supreme Court Justice.

*Breakthrough U.S.*, a group that fosters dialogue and actions, said, "When Brown Jackson is confirmed, she will be the first on this Supreme Court membership as a federal public defender and the first since Justice Thurgood Marshall with significant experience as a criminal defense attorney on behalf of underserved defendants."

Again, according to the Washington Post, Jackson will be the only justice on the new court with experience in the U.S.

Sentencing Commission. The independent Congressional agency was supposed to reduce disparity and promote transparency and proportionality in sentencing.

Kagan remains the only one without sitting judge experiences. Jackson provides more than Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. and Justices Clarence Thomas and Amy Coney Barrett. Each one served less than three years before being nominated.

What did your mother or father, or grandparent tell you? "You have to be twice as good as whites to get a job. Just think what it takes for the everyday Joe or Joanna.

Mr. President, remember Anita Hill when Clarence Thomas was a nominee in 1991. Then, as Senator Joe Biden, you sat as the Senate Judiciary Committee chair and gave short thrift to Anita Hill when she accused nominee Thomas of sexual harassment.

You said before the election on the "View" tv program about your successful presidential bid—"I did everything in my power to do what I thought was within the rules...." "I don't think I treated her badly," according to the New York Times.

You played politics with Thomas' nomination, showing your sexism, and now you're trying to make up for the error of your ways.

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# Mondawmin's vacant Target store property to become 'TouchPoint Empowerment Center'

By *Demetrius Dillard*

One of Baltimore's leading corporate figures has unveiled plans for a vacant property that is estimated to bring transformative change to Mondawmin Mall and its surrounding communities.

The Greater Mondawmin Coordinating Council (GMCC) announced Whiting-Turner CEO Tim Regan has purchased the former Target store that was connected to the mall with the purpose of "creating an active community hub that will revitalize the historic West Baltimore neighborhood and Mondawmin Mall."

Hundreds gathered at the site of the old Target—the future home of "TouchPoint Empowerment Center"—on March 29, 2022 to celebrate Regan's acquisition of the 127,000 square foot building and surrounding property.

Regan, also the co-founder of Mondawmin's TouchPoint Baltimore, was joined by numerous elected officials, corporate and civic leaders, and community members for the ceremony esteemed to possibly spark a "renaissance" of the Mondawmin area.

The hour-long event featured remarks from GMCC President Adeline Hutchinson; Regan, TouchPoint co-founder; Exelon Chief Operating Officer Calvin Butler; Baltimore City Council President Nick Mosby; Center for Urban Families president and founder Joe Jones; and Mondawmin Mall general manager Romaine Smallwood-Faison.

"This is truly a happy and uplifting day for the community and also for our city," said Hutchinson, also a lifelong Mondawmin area resident

"Our area of West Baltimore has a rich history of African-American homeownership, business ownership and neighbors taking care of neighbors.

That's not to say that we haven't had our challenges in recent years... but not for one second have we ever lost faith or belief that Mondawmin would make a full return to historic beginnings. We know today is a major step in that direction."

Though Regan personally acquired the 8.3-acre site, which has been vacant since 2018, for \$1 million, he will make this undertaking a community-driven



*Whiting-Turner CEO and TouchPoint Baltimore co-founder Tim Regan speaks to the crowd gathered at the vacant old Target store in Mondawmin Mall. The business leader acquired the property and unveiled plans for "TouchPoint Empowerment Center" on March 29, 2022. Photos: Nevins & Associates*



*Rendering of future TouchPoint Empowerment Center*

initiative. Furthermore, the business leader has projected a multi-million-dollar follow-on investment in the property according to the specific uses for the building as associated renovations are made.

The new TouchPoint Empowerment Center will be an extension of the already-existing TouchPoint Baltimore, a community-based collaboration center located on Mondawmin Mall's first level near Shoppers.

"Decisions on the use and reconfiguration of the property will be based on community input" and plans for the vacant site "will be developed in consultation with local community leaders," says a TouchPoint press release. "The reimagined site will help unlock the vast untapped talent in the neighborhoods of West Baltimore and

advance growth within the city."

The numerous political figures and professionals in attendance lauded the philanthropic efforts of Regan, including State Senator Antonio Hayes, Mayor's Office of Minority and Women Owned Businesses director Paul Taylor and Frederick Douglass High School Assistant Principal Jermaine Skinner. Several Whiting-Turner employees also showed up to support Regan.

"When you think about the opportunities that we're providing within the community and what Tim personally has committed to taking an idea and leveraging it—that is what impact is all about," said Butler, adding that he hopes people will feel they have opportunity and resources as a result of this redevelopment.

"Tim's commitment here today showed that lives will be impacted for generations to come, and to be a part of that—springing out of our idea back in 2016—that's real, and that's what it's about. It's about making a difference in people's lives, and for him to put his own individual money into this is significant."

Potential opportunities for the new community hub could include retail spaces for local entrepreneurs, a larger TouchPoint facility with expanded tutoring and mentoring capacity, a modest-sized Whiting-Turner office, expanded workforce development programming in conjunction with the Center for Urban Families, a catering/events space and a teaching kitchen, Regan said.

Soon, Regan will meet with community members and partners to delve into the specific plans of TouchPoint Empowerment Center, he added.

"Our familiarity with the neighborhood is quite deep so when we saw the property become available, I wasn't able to talk about it with anybody until I thought that it could become a real deal and I just thought that we could do so much with a building this big, especially if we kind of set our own rules of making it a nice mix of retail amenities based in the community and community-support entities," said Regan, who has been seriously considering the project since 2019.

"This is definitely a priority to be able to kind of kickstart a revitalization investment in West Baltimore."

For the nearly 70 years that Mondawmin Mall has existed, it's been a community staple in West Baltimore, Smallwood-Faison highlighted. The addition of the TouchPoint community hub will only add to the mall's visibility, she said.

"From a retail perspective, I think it's great to add this addition, but it's more because of the community aspect of it," Smallwood-Faison said.

"Mondawmin Mall is a community staple, we've been here for like 66 years. So this only expands the footprint."



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## *Ezinma's Strings By Heart*

# In-Tune with Bringing Diversity to the Classical Music World

By Ursula V. Battle

Meredith Ezinma Ramsay known affectionately as “Classical Bae” recalled her natural gravitation towards the violin as a four-year-old preschooler.

“I went to a Montessori school in Nebraska, and they had a small violin program,” she recalled.

“I asked my parents about a violin. I told them I wanted to play, and they rented a violin for me. A violin is one of the hardest instruments to play, but I naturally took to it. I worked really hard at it and I just kept going. Had it not been for that program, I don’t know if I would be where I am today.”

Today, Ramsay, who goes by the name Ezinma, is an acclaimed violinist. Her seamless fusion of hip-hop and classical music has made her a viral sensation, and she has worked with Beyoncé, Kendrick Lamar, SZA, Joshua Bell, and other famous performers. She also helped score the blockbuster movie “Black Panther” and also wrote the score for the 2018 documentary “The Times of Bill Cunningham.”

Ezinma recently launched her non-profit foundation Strings By Heart to help create the next generation of musicians of color, and to bring more diversity, access and inclusion to the classical music world through music education. The foundation’s mission is to connect children from underserved communities to classical music in order to help them develop the disciplinary, collaborative, and leadership skills needed to pursue and fulfill their dreams.

Strings By Heart offers music education, individual and group lessons, an instrument, a modest clothing budget for performances, and more. Shar Music is the exclusive supplier of instruments to Strings By Heart. The 501(c)(3) recently kicked-off with a tour of public elementary and middle schools in Harlem, New York, providing students with an opportunity to try out instruments and apply for the program.

The tour also included a performance by Ezinma, and also encouraged students to engage in listening activities and to de-



*Acclaimed violinist and viral sensation Ezinma is the founder of Strings By Heart.*

Courtesy Photo

velop rapport with other students. Strings By Heart notes that according to Strad Magazine, a UK-based monthly classical music magazine about string instruments, Black and Latino musicians are historically underrepresented in classical orchestras, making up less than four percent of orchestra members.

“I started this nonprofit because I think so much of creating musicians is just having access to instruments and other resources,” said Ezinma. “I might not be a violinist had it not been for that program at my preschool in Nebraska. So

much of it is just exposure. If you never have that chance, then it’s never going to happen.”

The classical recording artist, violinist, educator, philanthropist, and private instructor has participated in orchestras, string quartets and music festivals. She has also been featured in the New York Times, People, Essence, Elle, Strings Magazine, and by BBC News.

“I remember the isolation I felt as the only Black person in the orchestra, at times discouraged by my teachers from pursuing my dreams,” said the Lincoln,

Nebraska, native, and NYC’s New School Mannes School of Music graduate. “Yet the statistics are clear that music education plays a vital role in helping children and young adults get on the path to achieve their goals, improve self-esteem and more. Children from every background and community deserve the chance to experience the joy of classical music and feel that they belong in that world. And what better genre than hip-hop to segue young minds into classical music’s vast potential?”

The 31-year-old explained how she merged classical and Hip-Hop music.

“I was practicing some Bach and started sampling some things,” she said. “At the time, I was living in Harlem and going to school. Classical music and Hip Hop felt so refreshing and rich. For the first time in my life, I felt I had created this expression of who I am as an artist. This experimentation led me to embrace my musical complexity.”

Ezinma resides in Los Angeles, and is currently pursuing a master’s degree in Film Scoring.

“I believe I’m here for a very specific purpose,” she said. “I want my light to shine brightest in any way I can. I’m very grateful and so appreciative for all that has happened in my life. I see myself forever a student and forever here to learn. The greatest thing for me is the first time a kid hears themselves making a sound on an instrument. There’s this sort of wonder. Some are terrified, others are shocked, and many kids want to play even more. It’s interesting to see the natural response.”

She added, “It just goes to show how important education is in developing children, and it’s a shame that when budgets get tough, the first thing to go is music. But it shouldn’t be, because music improves test scores, the chances of college admission and all sorts of things. So I really want to be a part of making music as accessible as for as many children as possible.”

For more information about Strings by Heart, visit <https://ezinma.com/stringsby-heart>.



# Meet the woman who encouraged Jada Pinkett Smith, others to embrace life as a ‘Bald Boss’

*Continued from page 1*

“It’s where your immune system attacks your hair follicle and causes your hair to fall out,” Elmore said. Hair follicles consist of structures in skin that form hair. While hair can be lost from any part of the body, alopecia areata typically affects the head and face, although hair loss is not always limited to affecting these body parts. Hair loss can last life-long. However, it may simply consist of one episode. Hair loss may be substantial, or it may fall out in smaller patches which are round, according to the National Institutes of Health.

Elmore’s mission to raise awareness about alopecia, and embracing baldness because of it, was even mentioned when she appeared as a guest on Pinkett Smith’s Red Table Talk show, along with some members of her Bald Boss Community in 2021. Pinkett Smith asked Elmore about the definition of a Bald Boss.

“A Bald Boss is someone who owns their baldness. Just like a boss owns their business, a Bald Boss owns their baldness,” Elmore said.

Elmore’s journey to face the “traumatic and life changing” disease confidently was a process. She first wore wigs, head wraps, and weaves before taking the plunge to get rid of the remaining strands that hung from her scalp.

“I was done with the wigs and all of that in 2009,” Elmore said. “I took off my wig and have not worn one since.”

Her experience morphed into a mission to empower others who are bald for a host of reasons. Bald Life Magazine is a platform which features stories of courageous bald people.



*Jamie Elmore is the founder of the Bald Boss Community, Editor-in-Chief of Bald Life Magazine, an alopecia confidence coach, nonprofit leader, motivational speaker, hairstylist and salon owner based in Seattle, Washington.*

Photo: Deeanna Rivaldo

Massachusetts Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley is another public figure who connected with Elmore and shares the “living with alopecia experience.”

Pressley was the first person of color who was elected to represent Massachusetts in the House of Representatives. She was featured on the

cover of Bald Life Magazine and interviewed by Elmore in 2021.

“I would dread waking up in the morning because when I would remove my bonnet, with my bonnet would come ... clumps of hair. And it got to the point where I was so self-conscious because someone could just literally bump me and a braid would fall... to the ground,” Pressley said. “And so I was carrying this and all the anxiety of trying to conceal it while existing in public life doing interviews, you know, being photographed, just being in the world. And on the eve of the impeachment vote of our then occupant of the Oval Office, Donald Trump, at about 11 o’clock at night, it just all came out,” Pressley said.

The politician spoke about feeling liberated when she finally felt the water on her scalp without being concerned about wearing a shower cap. Pressley also shared how she felt about being featured by Bald Life Magazine.

“Whenever you can educate people, I think that helps to foster greater understanding and empathy and sensitivities,” Pressley said.

Elmore told The Baltimore Times that finding a support group or counselor can benefit people who live with alopecia. Please visit

<https://baldlifemagazine.com/> to learn more about Elmore’s alopecia advocacy work and Bald Boss Community. You may locate Elmore’s not for profit organization via <https://www alopeciasupportgroup.org/>. Bald Bosses will be walking in Annapolis’ Juneteenth Parade on June 18, 2022.

*"A baldacious woman isn't necessarily eccentric, but she certainly is exceptional." —  
rj, Co-founder, Alopecia World*

# MICA hosts inaugural 'Art of Racing' ceremony

By Demetrius Dillard

Horse racing has become a cultural staple in Baltimore, and for the first time ever, local college students and community members engaged in "The Art of Racing" competition that reflects the uniqueness of thoroughbred racing and the city's esteemed Preakness Stakes.

The Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), Maryland Jockey Club, 1/ST and Park Heights Renaissance partnered to announce the winner of the inaugural statewide art competition at a ceremony in MICA's Brown Center on March 25.

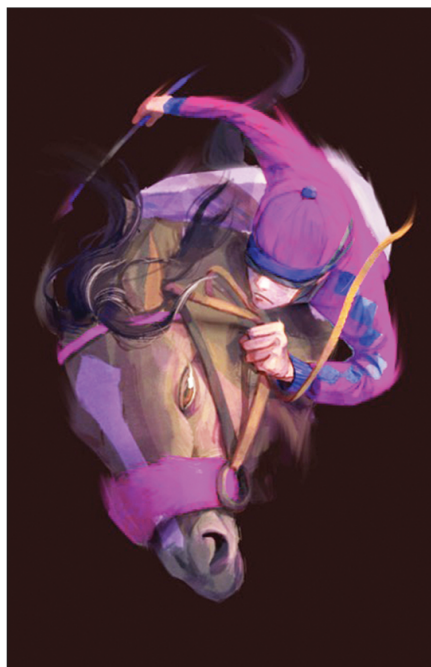
Mayor Brandon Scott, a Park Heights native and avid supporter of Baltimore's rich horse racing tradition, participated in the announcement and was joined by MICA faculty and staff, 1/ST executives and Park Heights Renaissance representatives for the special announcement. A number of Art of Racing contestants attended, too.

The Art of Racing was launched January 10 by 1/ST and the Maryland Jockey Club in conjunction with MICA through a call for entries to all artists in Maryland. The deadline to submit artwork was March 2, which is the same date voting began and ran through March 20.

"The Art of Racing focused on bringing the element of design to the Preakness while celebrating Maryland's vibrant arts and culture scene by highlighting the talents of local artists," said David Wilson, chief marketing officer of 1/ST. "All of the incredible pieces submitted reflect the rich heritage, diversity and optimism that connects the Preakness with the community."

The public was encouraged to visit a Preakness [webpage](#) to cast their votes and from there the top 10 vote getters were judged by a panel of five: MICA's Leslie King-Hammond and Lowery Sims, Baltimore City Council members Yitzy Schleifer and Sharon Middleton, and Park Heights Executive Director Yolanda Jiggetts.

Of the 147 submissions, Theresia Zhang was announced winner of the



*This digital painting entitled "Speed" was produced by Zhang for the Art of Racing competition. The artwork captures the thrill and excitement of horse racing - an integral part of Baltimore culture.*

competition to culminate The Art of Racing. Zhang's captivating art piece entitled "Speed" is a digital painting portraying a jockey on a horse and captures the thrill and excitement of thoroughbred racing.

"Preakness is such an important part of the spirit of Maryland, and I am thrilled that my piece was selected to represent what the event means to the community," said Zhang, a junior illustration major at MICA. "By participating in this event, I get to know more about this city culturally."

Participating in Art of Racing was a valuable learning experience, added Zhang, a native of Beijing. She took interest in horse racing after watching Japanese anime series "Uma Musume: Pretty Derby" and said she has watched Preakness in the past and plans to watch it this year. After all, she'll get in Pimlico for free as a reward for winning the Art of Racing.

As the winner of the inaugural contest, Zhang receives a \$4,000 stipend and two tickets to the soon approaching



*Theresia Zhang, a junior at MICA, winner of the Art of Racing competition. Photos Courtesy of Maryland Jockey Club*

Preakness 147, which will be held at Pimlico Race Course on May 21. Out of respect and admiration for what Park Heights Renaissance does in various communities of West Baltimore, Zhang announced that she will donate a portion of her winnings to the organization.

"I'm standing on that stage because of the people supporting me," said the 22-year-old, reflecting on winning the competition. Following graduation, Zhang plans to become an independent artist and an art educator.

Audra Madison of the Maryland Jockey Club and MICA President Samuel Hoi delivered remarks at the 45-minute function in addition to several other distinguished speakers. Tiffany Holmes, the interim vice president of academic affairs and provost at MICA, also serves as an art administrator and played a significant role in coordinating the event along with Zvezdana Stojmirovic, MICA's associate dean of design and media.

"Of the 147 submissions, there was something to love about all of them. Theresia's, I think, captured the movement and the excitement of

racing," Holmes said. "My hope is that this is the first of many competitions."

According to a press release, Zhang's work will be reproduced on a curated collection of Preakness 147 merchandise including posters, journals and t-shirts available for purchase during Preakness weekend. Proceeds from merchandise sales will be used to support Park Heights Renaissance programming and activities for the people of Park Heights.

"I'm looking forward to seeing another set of submissions next year that will allow emerging artists, whether they're from MICA or from the community, to be paid for their work and to be able to see their work reproduced on posters, postcards, more affordable kinds of items that folks can purchase to celebrate the history of racing in Baltimore," Holmes continued.

"I think as an administrator at MICA, I love to see our students get these kinds of real world opportunities to let their creative gifts be seen in the world and I'm excited about the potential of this partnership moving forward."



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# Ravens introduce Sashi Brown as new team president

By Tyler Hamilton

The Baltimore Ravens have long been referred to as one of the better run organizations. Their success includes two Super Bowls and annually being recognized as one of the top contenders in the NFL.

Team President Dick Cass oversaw the Ravens over the last 18 years, but he told team owner Steve Bisciotti back in September that he was retiring.

The Ravens failed to make the playoffs last season after three consecutive appearances. Bisciotti wanted Cass to help pick the next person responsible for getting the Ravens back on track.

Cass took the responsibility on his own rather than hiring an outside firm. He instead consulted with NFL contacts.

"I spoke to someone at the NFL I knew, and I could trust, and I told him I was leaving," Cass said earlier this week. "I said I would like for him to give me a couple of names of people that could be good candidates, either in the NFL office or at other teams around the league. He made some inquiries around the league and telling people he spoke to that an NFL team was thinking about hiring a new president. So, I came up with a list of names there. I spoke to [executive vice president] Ozzie [Newsome] about it. I spoke to [executive vice president and general manager] Eric [DeCosta] about it."

There were a few prerequisites for Cass' replacement. Bisciotti wanted the next team president to come from out-



**Dick Sashi Brown**  
Courtesy of NFL.com.

side of the organization. He also wanted it to be someone who wouldn't bring an entourage.

The initial list included six names which were eventually narrowed down to Sashi Brown. The Ravens organization was familiar with Brown, namely general manager Eric DeCosta and former general manager Ozzie Newsome.

Brown served as the executive vice president of the Cleveland Browns from 2013 - 2017. He essentially served as the Browns' general manager in 2016 and 2017.

Cleveland finished with a 1-16 record in 2016 and an 0-16 record in 2017.

Brown is eager to establish a new identity with the Ravens.

"I've certainly turned the page. I think it's plenty time that we move on from that," Brown said. "Today is really about Baltimore and the Ravens. I didn't come out of or go into any opportunity looking for the next one. Every time that I go into an opportunity ... This one is no differ-

ent; I'm really focused here. That's what I like to focus on and will continue to."

Brown is the second black team president in NFL history. He mentioned how he looked at Newsome and former offensive coordinator Jim Caldwell among others as examples of how Baltimore has been a place that has given black men a chance to have significant roles and excel to the point of becoming champions.

Now that he's in a significant role with the Ravens, Brown hopes his presence can open up a door to others in the future.

"I'm hopeful to the extent [that] you certainly want to see more balance and change and opportunity for women and others - minorities - and to the extent that my example can certainly open up some doors, then great, but I hope it's not contingent upon the success of one individual," Brown added. "I think this is something that we as a league, we as an organization need to be committed to, regardless of your background or color or gender. And we will do better here. It's going to be a commitment. I know it's important to [owner] Steve [Bisciotti], it was important to Dick [Cass], [and] that's why Baltimore has been a model on this topic, and we'll certainly continue to be under my leadership."

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