

# *The Annapolis Times*

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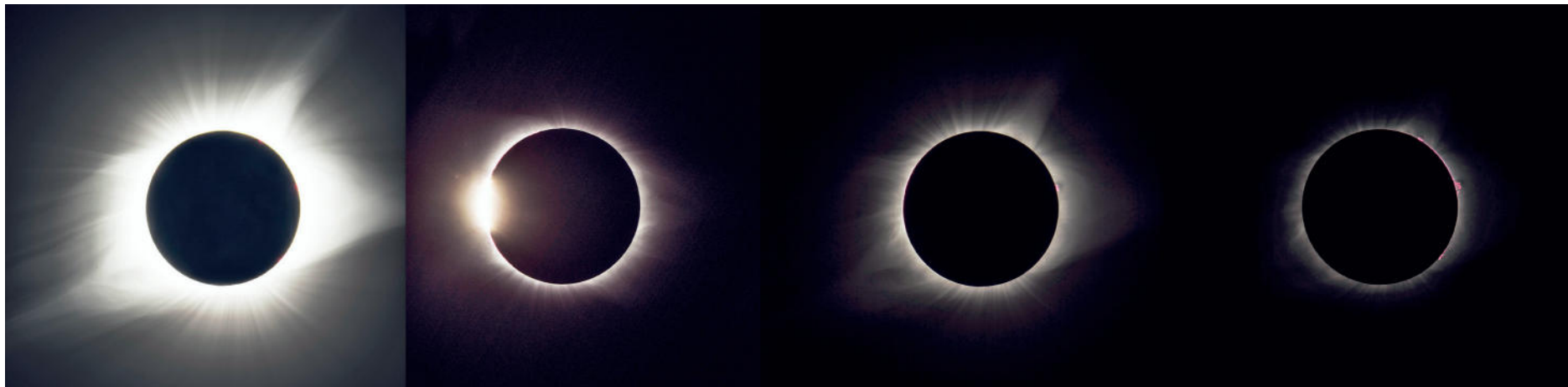
## Meet Nicole Nixon: An Independent Big Data Technology Company CEO



*Nicole (left) Nixon, founder and CEO of Listing Central, LLC, launched the first woman-owned nationwide and independent Big Data Technology Company, specializing in Telecom Data Management. Nixon was a “Woman to Watch – Technology” honoree. Julie Rothhouse, CEO, SynaVoice and Board Chair, Women Impacting Public Policy Education Institute presented the award at The WICT Network 2023 Leadership Conference, held September 18-19, 2023 in New York.*

*(See story on page 7.) Photo credit: WICT*

## Protect Your Eyes: Use Caution



*Phases of totality of the Aug. 21, 2017, total solar eclipse observed from Salem, Oregon by the Williams College Expedition.  
Photo credit: Jay Pasachoff, Ron Dantowitz, Christian Lockwood, and the Williams College Eclipse Expedition/NSF/National Geographic*

## Watch the Great American Total Solar Eclipse Safely On April 8

By **Andrea Blackstone**

Get ready for April 8, 2024. That is when a total solar eclipse will cross North America, passing over Mexico, the United States, and Canada.

What is an eclipse?

“When the Earth, Moon, and Sun line up in space, we can see an eclipse. NASA studies eclipses from the ground, in our atmosphere, and in space, influencing solar, planetary, and Earth science,” according to NASA.

Maryland will be in the path of a partial solar eclipse. During a total eclipse, the moon totally obscures the sun. Baltimore is not one of these areas.

“In Baltimore, we could start to see a partial eclipse around 2:05 p.m., with the mid-eclipse around 3:21 p.m. at 89.7% magnitude (the amount of the sun that will be covered). It’s set to conclude in Baltimore around 4:33 p.m.,” WBAL reported.

NASA also reported, “During the April eclipse, the path over North America will range between 108 and 122 miles wide – meaning at any given moment, this eclipse covers more ground. The 2024 eclipse path will

also pass over more cities and densely populated areas than the 2017 path did. This will make it easier for more people to see totality.”

Cleveland will be the nearest drivable location to Baltimore to see a total eclipse, per WBAL. NASA reported that approximately 31.6 million people live in the path of totality this year.

Avoid retina damage and permanent blinding by protecting your eyes. Sky gazers should never look directly at the sun to watch a solar eclipse. The opportunity to watch the moon block out the sun should not be viewed bare-eyed, through sunglasses, including UV-blocking sunglasses, binoculars, photo cameras, telescopes or any optical device using eclipse glasses or handheld filters, according to the National Eye Institute.

“The sun will burn through them and damage your eyes. There are special filters that can be attached to the front of optical equipment if you choose to watch the eclipse that way.”

The only safe way to watch a solar eclipse without a filter is by turning your back to the sun and watching a projection.

“Devices such as pinhole projectors

allow you to watch an indirect image, which is safe and still exciting,” according to Chantal Cousineau-Krieger, M.D., a staff ophthalmologist at NEI’s Consult Service.

NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center provides step-by-step instructions in a video to make a box pinhole projector <https://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/14391>.

If you miss this year’s solar eclipse in North America, the next total eclipse will be limited to Alaska in 2033. Then, in 2044, a total eclipse will only be visible in Greenland, Canada, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota.

The American Astronomical Society reported when seeking eclipse glasses or handheld solar viewers, it is advisable to start with the AAS list of suppliers so you can be sure your viewers are safe. Eclipse glasses should meet the ISO 12312-2 (sometimes written as ISO 12312-2:2015) international safety standard.

Drivers should also use good judgment during the special event. AAA, an auto, insurance and travel club, reported that heavier than normal traffic before and after the eclipse should be expected. While driving on the road, your vehicle’s headlights should be kept on. Use the sun visor by pulling it down to block your view of

the sun. Eclipse glasses should not be worn while driving. Do not photograph or video the eclipse while driving. It is recommended to be mindful of pedestrians who may be walking around looking at the sky.

“Exit the roadway and park in a safe area away from traffic to view the eclipse,” per tips provided by AAA.

The Maryland Science Center will host a Solar Eclipse Watch Party on April 8, 2024 from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m., located 601 Light Street at Baltimore’s Inner Harbor. Check with your local MyEyeDr. or Warby Parker vision retailer to inquire about obtaining a pair of free solar eclipse glasses while supplies last.

Visit [www.mdsci.org](http://www.mdsci.org) to find out about tickets and details. Solar eclipse glasses will be included with paid admission while supplies last.

See <https://eclipse.aas.org/eye-safety> to learn more about safely watching a solar eclipse and <https://eclipse.aas.org/eye-safety/viewers-filters> for a list of selected suppliers of solar viewers and filters that are said to be safe when used properly. Find the eclipse map via <https://airandspace.si.edu/multimedia-gallery/eclipse-map-2024-1920-1.jpg>. See <https://eclipse.aas.org/eye-safety/projection> to learn more about pinhole projection.

## Understanding the Meaning and Power Behind Naming Ourselves Overcomers

By Dr. Peter Bramble

Last week I challenged us to begin to celebrate The Overcome on the day Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated, April 4. I believe we should stop referring to MLK's death as an assassination. Rather, we should treat April 4th as the day on which MLK was sacrificed for us. And we should stop singing the song "We Shall Overcome Someday" and claim that we have already overcome through the victories of our ancestors who, in worse times, fought and won great battles, giving us the success stories we needed to authentically claim that we have indeed overcome. We must always remember that these victories were won for us by those who went before us and we are now claiming that the life, ministry, death and elevation of MLK is the event we will use, going forward, to mark and crown The Overcome, for which many marched, sang, bled and suffered over centuries of systemic oppression. See, victories **MUST** be both named and dated! The name and date capture the moment and create the dividing line between the before/after of the event. In this way, we can clearly define what went before with all its gore and what comes after the big victories, with all its promise! The victory is The Overcome. Its date is April 4th.

Today, I want to impress on our minds the power that is resident in the concept, Overcome. Notice I did not call it just a word. There is so much power resident in the concept, Overcome, that I decided to simply Google some of the synonyms of the word, Overcome.

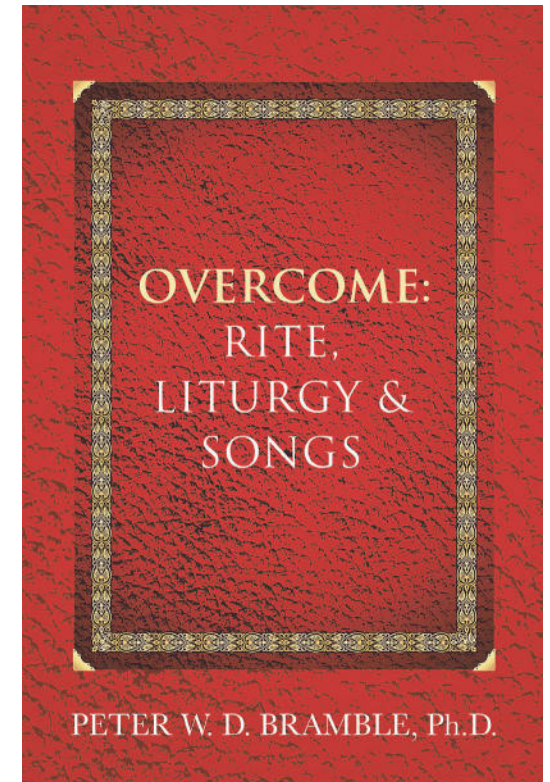
Synonyms of OVERCOME:  
Conquer, master, surmount, get, beat, dispatch, succeed, best, worst, lick, overmatch, "get around," stop, take, subdue, overbear, overwhelm, upend, overbear, overwhelm, upend, surpass, bury, trim, finish, "do down," exceed, crush, prevail-over, "get the better of," triumph over, vanquish, win (against), "knock for a loop," score, excel, sweep, upset, slaughter, annihilate, transcend, "blow out," break, excel, sweep, upset, slaughter, annihilate, transcend, flourish, "blow away," top, nose out, flatten, trounce, better, subjugate, whip, overthrow, overpower, bomb, cap, skin, "snow under," rout, clobber, outdo, smoke, cream, unseat, outshine, knock over, outdistance, pip, drub, trash, outstrip, wallop, shellac, eclipse, wax, edge-out, outfight, knock off, overtop, "ace-out," defeat!

Whatever you do with this short column, make sure you preserve those synonyms of the working concept used so effectively during the Civil Rights Movement. Those synonyms capture the hopes, desires and intentions of our forebears as they fought for our freedom. They persisted despite water hoses, dogs, beatings, arrests, lynchings and more. And now, we need to honor their legacy by boldly claiming that they did overcome, as captured in the synonyms above, and they did it so successfully that in less than a generation we were able to field a two-term President and a current Vice President. How impressive is that? One can ask.

Now, the main reason I am personally so passionate about establishing the Overcome (as understood through the enumerated



synonyms) is very simple. I have been harboring these thoughts for years. When I was rector of St Katherine of Alexandria Episcopal Church in Baltimore, with very sophisticated and accomplished members among the congregation, Congressman Parren J. Mitchell included, I had great difficulty watching these very successful people singing in dirge-like fashion the song "We Shall Overcome Someday." Perhaps it was because I am from the Caribbean. But I often wondered "what the hell these guys needed to overcome?" They were all so successful. Then I looked in the records and discovered that Thurgood Marshall, Parren Mitchell and Clarence Mitchell Sr. were baptized or confirmed in that little parish at the corner of Presstman and Division Streets in the late 1920s. Wow! I was looking up to these people, thinking that they had arrived, but every so often they were singing that they would arrive "someday." I knew that "someday" could never arrive if one continued to sing a song like that. I knew that not even tomorrow ever arrived, because what was called tomorrow, on its arrival immediately became "today" with its own tomorrow. This is when my training in language analysis from my time at Yale University Divinity School came into play. My analysis led me to conclude



that the Overcome we all sought must be declared by us and celebrated by us. I concluded that the moving, lineal understanding of overcome, as a verb, must be changed into the character resident noun, "The Overcome" and that that concept should be used to collect, hold and pass on all the victories of Black people.

Now that I am getting really old, knowing I will die soon, I know that I do not want to die having my children and grandchildren singing that they will win "someday!" That demeans me and my work, personally. But more so, it demeans Martin Luther King, Jr, Thurgood Marshall and the stalwarts of liberation who accomplished so much for us. Therefore, we must boldly claim our having Overcome through their work and we must celebrate it continuously. And I am begging you to date it on the day MLK was sacrificed. And we name ourselves OVERCOMERS. And Overcomers by nature and character must live Overcoming lives.



Jayne Hopson  
Courtesy Photo

By Jayne Hopson

Heart disease is a leading cause of death for African Americans, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Dr. Kenneth Walsh, leading a team of researchers at the University of Virginia School of Medicine (UVA), has made a significant discovery that revealed a genetic reason why heart failure is more prevalent among men than women.

African American men were 30 percent more likely to die from heart disease than non-Hispanic white men. UVA's breakthrough research may reverse this grim statistic and save the lives of men suffering from heart disease triggered by genetics.

First, consider the impact heart disease has on the lives of Black men and their families. Untreated and undiagnosed heart disease often leads to more serious complications and higher mortality rates compared to other demographic groups, according to the American Heart Association (AHA).

This disparity can be attributed to a variety of factors including but not limited to socioeconomic factors, access to healthcare, the prevalence of certain risk factors, and differences in treatment by the healthcare system. For example, Black men are often

## Breakthrough in the Fight Against Heart Failure in Men

diagnosed with heart disease at a later stage when it is more difficult to treat.

Here's a closer look at the impacts and other underlying causes:

- **Increased Risk of Complications:**

Untreated heart disease can lead to a range of complications, including heart attack, stroke, heart failure and kidney damage. Black men, in particular, may experience these complications at a younger age compared to men from other racial or ethnic groups.

- **Risk Factors Prevalence:** Certain risk factors for heart disease, such as hypertension (high blood pressure), diabetes, obesity, and chronic stress, are more prevalent in the Black community. Socioeconomic factors, including access to nutritious food and safe environments for physical activity, play a significant role in the prevalence

of these risk factors.

- **Access to Healthcare:**

Socioeconomic disparities can lead to reduced access to healthcare, which means that heart disease may go undiagnosed and untreated for longer. Additionally, there is often a mistrust of the healthcare system among Black individuals due to historical injustices, which can further delay diagnosis and treatment.

- **Differences in Treatment:** Studies have shown that there are disparities in the treatment that Black men receive for heart disease. They are less likely to be offered certain diagnostic tests or advanced treatments compared to their white counterparts.

- **Psychosocial Factors:** Chronic stress, including that caused by experiences of racism and

discrimination, can have a direct impact on heart health. This stress can contribute to the development and progression of heart disease in Black men.

- **Genetic Factors:** There may also be genetic predispositions that contribute to the higher prevalence and severity of heart disease in Black men, although this is an area of ongoing research.

The final factor brings our attention to UVA's recent discovery of why men suffer more heart failure. The science behind this breakthrough medical research is quite complicated but if you imagine your body is a big, busy city it may be easier to understand that your heart has to be healthy to pump blood everywhere it needs to go.

Like other essential organs that are required to be operational 24 hours a day, a heart can get damaged and scarred, making it hard for the heart to do its job. This scarring can lead to heart failure, a serious health problem that in 2019 claimed the lives of 659,041 people according to the CDC.

The UVA scientists discovered that something happening to men's Y chromosome — a tiny piece inside of our cells that helps make us who we are — could lead to this heart problem. Men have an X and a Y chromosome, while women have two Xs. As men get older, some of them lose parts of their Y chromosome, and this can cause problems, including heart failure.

Dr. Walsh discovered that when men lose parts of their Y chromosome, it can make their heart cells get scarred. But here's the mark of genius discoveries: Dr. Walsh and his team didn't stop there. They kept studying this problem and found a way to stop the scarring from happening in mice. This gives hope that Dr. Walsh's team might be able to do something similar for men in the future!



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## Empowering Black Youth

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# Associated Black Charities Brings Teen Financial Literacy Summit to Baltimore's Youth April 13, 2024

**Tuesday, March 26, 2024- Baltimore, MD** - Associated Black Charities is bringing a FREE Teen Financial Literacy Summit to Baltimore for youth ages 12-16 on Saturday, April 13, 2024, from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the Doubletree by Hilton, located 1726 Reisterstown Road, Pikesville, Maryland 21208.

This free day-long teen training program serves to both empower and equip Black youth with essential financial knowledge and skills, discussing entrepreneurship, budgeting, employment, investing and more. This immersive experience will be youth-focused and interactive, promising engaging workshops, and valuable resources with free breakfast and lunch provided. Baltimore City Council President Nick Mosby will deliver a keynote address and provide encouragement to the youth as they begin their financial journey.

The Financial Literacy Summit, sponsored by SECU, will offer all teens in attendance a new account with a free \$25 deposit. Teens can also receive an additional \$25 referral deposit should their guardian or accompanying adult in attendance choose to open a new account.

"By involving Black Youth in economic opportunities and financial literacy, we not only enrich their futures but transform the landscape of prosperity for generations to come," states Chrissy M. Thornton, President and CEO of Associated Black Charities, "Empower them with financial literacy and watch them rewrite the narrative of generational



*Nick Mosby,  
President of Baltimore City Council  
Photo Credit: Xavier Plater*

wealth."

The initiative partners with author Kerwyn Phillip, and utilizes his, "Malik's First Job" curriculum, offering in-depth exploration into critical topics such as job search and interviewing skills, entrepreneurship, budgeting, assets, liabilities, debt management, philanthropy, investing, and navigating financial institutions.

The youth summit will not only educate the youth in attendance but will include a separate track for

the adults or guardians who will accompany the teens. Providing financial literacy and more to help the adults not only support their youth in this endeavor, but to enhance their own financial knowledge and growth. This multigenerational approach presents an opportunity to reshape attitudes toward money and cultivate financial freedom for the future.

This summit includes free parking and is accessible by MTA bus 89. Advance registration is required, and an accompanying adult is required. Participants may register at <https://bit.ly/abcteensummit>. Visit <https://www.associatedblackcharities.org> for more information about Associated Black Charities.

### About Associated Black Charities

Founded in 1985, Associated Black Charities is a racial equity organization that works as an educator, advocate, supporter, and convener to address and eliminate the barriers created by structural racism and to advance long-term solutions that create new opportunities for Black people to thrive. ABC acknowledges structural racism's effect on the racial wealth gap, workplace discrimination, health inequity, disparities in housing policies and practices, educational inequality, discriminating and dehumanizing laws and policies, and more. Using an equity framework as a convener and thought leader to end race-based barriers that impede Black people from having an opportunity to succeed is at the heart of all of ABC's programmatic initiatives.

## Annual Annapolis Film Festival Returns to Annapolis, Baltimorean's Premiere Included in the Lineup

By Andrea Blackstone

The 12th Annual Annapolis Film Festival remains a showcase of cinema that allows audiences and storytellers to connect.

While filmmakers amplify their voices, more than 85 curated documentary and independent features and short films will be shown in Annapolis, Maryland venues from April 4 – 7, 2024 including Asbury United Methodist Church; the Boys and Girls Club of Annapolis; Graduate Annapolis; Maryland Hall; RamsHead OnStage and St. John's College Francis Scotty Key Auditorium.

Patti White, an award-winning documentary filmmaker/ television producer and Lee Anderson, a television producer and filmmaker for three decades co-founded the film festival. This year's "Out of the Box" theme fuses thought-provoking and boundary-pushing films that offer more than entertainment.

A Black Experience Showcase, Jewish Experience Showcase, LatinXperience Showcase, The Environmental Showcase and The Sailing Showcase will be amongst diverse offerings. Industry panels and special events, in addition to exclusive parties, discussions and networking events will be included in the lineup.

Baltimoreans, CaSandra Vaughn [Dr. Casay] and Jay Claxton will present a pilot series called "When The Walls Come Tumbling Down." The work in progress will be shown at The Annapolis Film Festival Sunday, April 7, 2024 from 5- 6 p.m. at the Boys and Girls Club Theater, located at 121 South Villa Avenue in Annapolis, Maryland.

The main character, Meezy Jackson is described as a successful businessman of a fortune 500 company who struggles after the death of a childhood friend.

"He quickly sees his past coming back to haunt him," Vaughn said, referring to the series.

The plot incorporates lies, deceit, murder, a secret and guilt. The pilot, filmed in Baltimore and written and produced by Vaughn, was executive produced by Claxton. Vaughn also stated that she once studied television production at Coppin State University in Baltimore. She graduated in 1997. "When The Walls Come Tumbling Down" is her first solo project.

"This project was self-funded by Franchise Entertainment Group which is owned by myself and fiancé Jay Claxton," said Vaughn. "In the last thirty years in the industry, I have worked on several series and television shows for companies such as NBC, HBO, BET, VH1 and OWN Network, but this project is casted, created, written and directed by me. As an African American woman being able to do it all and having that responsibility was massive.

She explained that Claxton and their partner Wayne Johnson of Lafayette Films LLC, provided "constant encouragement."

Johnson served as an assistant writer, according to Vaughn.

Jay Claxton, the film's director, said that it was exciting watching this project come together.

He added, "There were moments that I watched in amazement as Dr. Casay's mind developed the story lines. It is truly a series to watch."

The goal for the project is for it to



*(L-R): Wayne Johnson, Jay Claxton, CaSandra Vaughn, and extras in Baltimore while filming "When The Walls Come Tumbling Down." Vaughn and Claxton direct a scene and look through a monitor. The pilot series will premiere at the annual Annapolis Film Festival on Sunday, April 7, 2024 from 5- 6 p.m. Franchise Entertainment Group staff*

be picked up on a major platform and developed into a series.

Vaughn noted that she worked in the media field for 30 years and has been blessed to work on some amazing projects. However, "When The Walls Come Tumbling Down" holds a special significance to her.

"For me this project is special because it is a grief project. What does that mean? A year ago, I lost my dad, Rev. Dr. A.C.D. Vaughn, a staple in the community nationwide. This project which is dedicated to his memory helped me through my grieving process, she said.

As the time draws near for Vaughn to reveal "When The Walls Come Tumbling Down" to the world, she is more than excited about participating in this year's Annapolis Film Festival.

"I am grateful and thankful to Lee

and Patti of the Annapolis Film Festival for believing in this project. I am beyond excited to be able to present my short in the state capital of which I was born and raised," Vaughn said.

Visit <https://www.annapolisfilmfestival.com/schedule>, then navigate under 'Local Focus' for Sunday, April 7, 2024 and [https://aff2024.eventive.org/schedule/65f07110ce0df100852bb-fef?fbclid=IwAR2aewVrHeD-fY3x3EwfkWac5ApKj6420WPs-2Gjbt2FQMjObrY4M\\_RKPkDnk\\_aem\\_AcC6Buew3StVQ57bQ Nq5zdvk5kZLeRQjyZiP0js7-IRcUyiDRzLy432ncTJKFTwNmFE](https://aff2024.eventive.org/schedule/65f07110ce0df100852bb-fef?fbclid=IwAR2aewVrHeD-fY3x3EwfkWac5ApKj6420WPs-2Gjbt2FQMjObrY4M_RKPkDnk_aem_AcC6Buew3StVQ57bQ Nq5zdvk5kZLeRQjyZiP0js7-IRcUyiDRzLy432ncTJKFTwNmFE) to find about purchasing film tickets for "When The Walls Come Tumbling Down," or other remaining films. Visit [www.annapolisfilmfestival.org](http://www.annapolisfilmfestival.org) to learn more about the Annapolis Film Festival.

# Meet Nicole Nixon: An Independent Big Data Technology Company CEO



*Nicole Nixon, founder and CEO of Listing Central, LLC*

*Photo Credit: Joy Rahat*

Nicole Nixon was raised by a single father and graduated from Easton High School on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Despite starting life in Easton, Nicole evolved into a wife, mother of five children and entrepreneur who bravely navigated unfamiliar waters.

“I met my husband, Parrish Nixon, right out of high school. Parrish, a U.S. Navy veteran, went into active duty right out of high school. Parrish and I have been together for 31 years,

and this year, married for 24 years. When I knew I wanted to start my own company, Parrish was the first person to encourage me.”

“I am the founder and CEO of Listing Central, LLC where I launched the first woman-owned nationwide and independent big data technology company, specializing in telecom data management,” said Nicole. “When I launched Listing Central, LLC in 2010, I didn’t know at that time that I was the “first” woman to launch a data

technology company that supported the telecom industry. As we started to gain contracts and learn more about our market, it became evident, very quickly, that I was the only woman in this space.”

She added, “As the CEO of a nationwide and independent Big Data technology company, I’m able to develop my own rules on how data should be accessed, secured, and managed for our communities. We also impact so many areas within

technology like SaaS [Software as a Service], cybersecurity and database management to name a few.”

Nicole further explained that Listing Central’s primary focus is to create better privacy and protection options for consumers, children and domestic violence victims over the internet and many other communication platforms.

“Our focus for businesses is to ensure they have valid and secure consumer-approved data to reach the community.”

Nicole’s debut in her field began when she was 23 years old. After needing to secure a good job as a mother of two, she applied to Verizon and was immediately hired by the company as a customer service representative.

“Within a year, I volunteered for a data technology project that enabled consumers to choose how they wanted their personal information shared with the public. It was during this project that I was named ‘Subject Matter Expert of Consumer Data.’”

While working on the project, Nicole studied extremely hard. No one knew at the time that she suffered from dyslexia. Reading became extremely difficult.

She said, “I had to constantly read things multiple times for it to make sense, but that didn’t stop me from learning. I never gave up. Then one day, it stuck. I was able to remember what I had read! It started to make sense, so I kept reading and I kept learning. I then became a SME (Subject Matter Expert).”

Nicole was later hired to establish guidelines for voice customers of

See **NICOLE NIXON**, page 8



*Nicole Nixon, founder and CEO of Listing Central, LLC*  
*Photo Credit: Joy Rahat*

## Nicole Nixon

Continued from page 7

Charter Cable (formerly known as Time Warner Cable), so their customers would also have a choice about the access of their personal information to the public.

She added, “It was in this role that I successfully developed consumer data automation guidelines that covered the entire United States.”

Nicole realized with the launch of the Internet, consumers no longer had a choice on how their personal information was shared with the public. In 2010, she decided to launch Listing Central, LLC to create options that would better protect consumer’s personal information over the internet and every communication platform.

Today, Nicole feels extremely proud that she became the first woman to

be the CEO of a nationwide and independent data technology company specializing in the telecom industry. She was recognized by the Women in Cable Telecommunications Network, a national 10,000-member organization as a “Woman to Watch in Technology” on September 18, 2023.

Cathy Hughes, founder and chairperson of Urban One (formerly Radio One), has been Nicole’s encourager, teacher, confidant and a true supporter. She remarked that she met Hughes over 15 years ago.

Despite being unable to connect with many Black women because there were very few in her field and facing other challenges such as operating in a male-dominated field, Nicole found a silver lining as a barrier breaker.

“I asked myself, ‘Am I built for this?’ I’m happy to say, ‘I am!’”

Visit <https://www.listingcentralllc.com> to learn more about Listing Central, LLC.

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### Ursula V. Battle's 'The Homegoing Service for a Man Named Jesus' Production Is AWESOME!

By Rosa Pryor-Trusty

Hello everyone,  
I am so excited about this week's column, mainly because I have not done a review on any shows I have attended in many, many years, but this week I am going to do one. I just can't help myself! Last Friday, I was invited to a production named: "The Homegoing Service for a Man Named Jesus."

The playwright is a journalist and my co-worker from The Baltimore Times and the stage director is Dr. Gregory Branch. Girlfriend, let me tell you, I have gone to hundreds of plays and shows since I started with The Baltimore Times thirty-eight years ago, and not many have held my interest as much as this one. First of all, all the characters were portrayed in fine style. I just wish I had the space to talk about and highlight each actor, but I don't, so I will mention the one who grabbed my attention from the beginning to the end—Tanya Brown-Iyesi, who portrayed the hilarious "Usher Martha of Bethany."

In my opinion, she was the highlight of the production. She kept me and the audience laughing from beginning to end. It is very rare for any comedian to do that for me. My adopted brother and your friend, the well-known mortician, Carlton C. Douglass, did his part and returned as Joseph of Arimathea. He led the procession down the church aisle. The choir, named "The Glorious Congregation of the Gospel of

Jesus Christ Church Choir," made up of about 56 members, as well as all of the soloists were also breathtaking, especially Jennell Ferguson, who portrayed "First Lady Margaret" and Aaron Rowel, who also played "Nicodemus." My guys, whom I have worked with for many years, "Heavenly Blessed Quartet," (Ricky, Fingers, Firehouse and JoJo) also performed. Ursula, job well done. I was truly impressed. Two thumbs up!

About the National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, DC. It is one of the world's great celebrations of spring. The 2024 Festival takes place now through April 14 and includes four weeks of events featuring diverse and creative programming promoting traditional and contemporary arts and culture, natural beauty, and community spirit. Mark your calendar, go and enjoy.

My "Boo-Boo" and I have been invited to the 2024 Alzheimer's Association Memory Ball, which is a Black-Tie event on Saturday, April 6 at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel. I believe there will be a "Dancing Stars Competition."

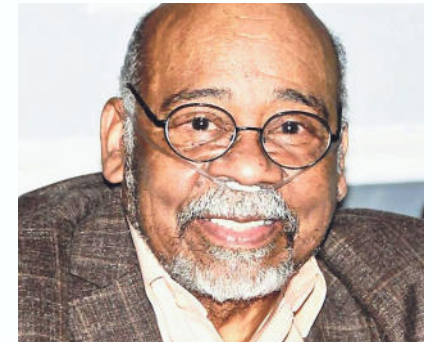
I am planning on taking off my back brace and joining them. I hope to see you there.

Well, my good friends, I have to go. Remember, if you need me, call me at 410-833-9474 or email me at [rosapryor@aol.com](mailto:rosapryor@aol.com).

**UNTIL THE NEXT TIME,  
I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.**



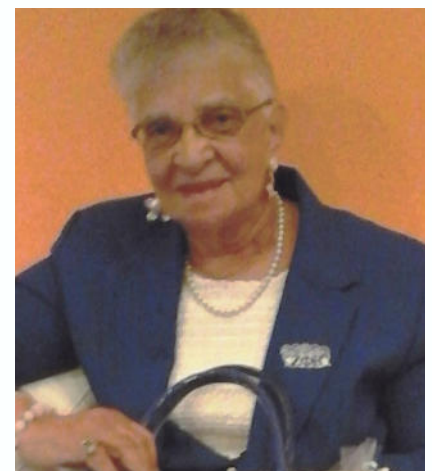
*Ursula Battle, the Playwright of "The Homegoing Service for a Man Named Jesus" and Director, Dr. Gregory Branch. Job well done!*



*Gatsby's Family Reunion and City View, located 1660 Whitehead Court in Woodlawn, Maryland is having a "Family Reunion" honoring Marcus Townes and Victor Green on Saturday, April 13, from 4-7 p.m. Special guest, DJ Mike Jones. All Free! For more information, call 410-977-0250.*



*Tanya Brown-Iyesi portrayed Martha in Ursula V. Battle's play "The Homegoing Service for a Man Named Jesus" last Friday, was the raisin in the pudding. The show will return on Sunday, April 28, 2024 at the Set the Captives Free Outreach Center (across from the AMC Cinema) 6901 Security Blvd. For more information, call 443-531-4787.*



*Florine "Peaches" Camphor is sponsoring a trip to see the Musical Stage Production "Daniel" at "Sights and Sounds" in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, April 9, 2024. For more information, call 410-521-3439.*

# Ravens Could Reunite with Matthew Judon

By Tyler Hamilton

Defense, Defense, Defense. That's the name of the game for the Baltimore Ravens. Of course, their biggest move this offseason was signing former Tennessee Titans running back Derrick Henry. However, resigning All-Pro defensive tackle Justin Madubuike was equally as important.

Madubuike's value can be enhanced if Ravens general manager, Eric DeCosta, can swing a deal to add a premier edge pass rusher whether that be through the draft or trade.

CBS Sports reporter Cody Benjamin included Matthew Judon in his list of five notable names that could be moved before the draft later this month.

Here's Benjamin's explanation:

Judon is a prolific player at a premium position, but with reason to relocate. From his perspective, New England is rebuilding under a new coach. From the team's perspective, Judon is solid but coming off an injury, going on 32 years old and entering a contract year. The return for a player of his age might not be overwhelming, but the cap relief and/or draft compensation could enable New England to pour more resources into longer-term building blocks.

Judon played in only four games in 2023 due to a torn

biceps muscle. He registered 4.0 sacks with five tackles for loss and nine QB hits in those contests.

Judon's 2022 season was much better. He played in all 17 games and had 15.5 sacks with 14 tackles for a loss and 28 quarterback hits.

The Patriots signed Judon as an unrestricted free agent from Baltimore in March, 2021. The deal was worth \$54 million over four years. Judon delivered by finishing with 12.5 sacks, 14 tackles for a loss and 25 quarterback hits.

The Ravens selected Judon in the fifth round (146th overall) of the 2016 NFL Draft. Baltimore placed the franchise tag in 2020 and signed his tender that May.

Bringing Judon back to Baltimore would help offset the loss of free agent Jadaveon Clowney after he signed a two-year, \$20 million free agent deal with the Carolina Panthers.

The Ravens need a proven veteran pass rusher to lead their group. Madubuike finished with 13 sacks to lead Baltimore last season. With Clowney departing and Kyle Van Noy remaining as a free agent, the next best sack totals come from Odafe Oweh who has five sacks.

Pairing Judon with top-level pass-rushing coach Chuck Smith would be a big-time move for the Ravens. It will depend on what level of compensation the Patriots want in return for the former Pro Bowler.



Photo Credit: The Associated Press

## Legal Notice

## Legal Notice

CITY OF BALTIMORE  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
OFFICE OF ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION  
NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for **SANITARY CONTRACT NO. 1024-Truck Scale House Replacement at the Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M on **May 15, 2024**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates and can be watched live on CharmTV's cable channel 25/1085HD; [charmstv.baltimore.com/watch-live](http://charmstv.baltimore.com/watch-live) or listen in at (443) 984-1696 (ACCESS CODE: 0842939) from City Hall at Noon. The Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, at Contract Administration 4 South Frederick Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor (410) 396-4041 as of **April 5, 2024** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **100.00**. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact OBC at 4 S Frederick St., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture ("JV"), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **E13003 – Water and/or Sewer Treatment Plant and Pumping Stations**. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$500,000.01 to \$1,000,000.00**.

A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted via Microsoft Teams. Vendor can call 1 667-228-6519, Passcode: 3DvS9m on **April 24, 2024 at 10:00 AM.** For any Pre-Bid questions please contact Mr. Milton Moiforay at [Milton.Moiforay@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Milton.Moiforay@baltimorecity.gov) **Deadline for submission (via email) of Contractor questions is Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 4:30 PM.** A project site visit can be scheduled by emailing a request to Mr. Milton Moiforay at [Milton.Moiforav@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Milton.Moiforav@baltimorecity.gov)

To purchase a bid book, please make an electronic request at: <https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/dpw-construction-projects-notice-letting> and [\\_dpwbidopportunities@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:_dpwbidopportunities@baltimorecity.gov). For further inquiries about purchasing bid documents, please contact the assigned Contract Administrator [Torron.Coleman@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Torron.Coleman@baltimorecity.gov)

**Principal items of work for this contract include, but are not limited to:** Removal of existing scale house and the existing wood platform structure; Installation of new scale house structure, steel deck and all other newly associated piping.

The MBE goal is **11%**  
The WBE goal is **7%**

APPROVED:  
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:  
Khalil Zaied  
Acting Director  
Department of Public Works

To place  
Legal Notices, call:  
410-366-3900  
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INTERACTIVE LEARNING SESSIONS  
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MUST ATTEND WITH 1 (ONE) GUARDIAN  
BREAKFAST & LUNCH SERVED  
NO COST TO PARTICIPATE

# TEEN FINANCIAL LITERACY SUMMIT

A ONE DAY TRAINING PROGRAM FOR  
TEENS AGES 12-16 & A GUARDIAN

**SATURDAY APRIL 13, 2024**  
**8:30 AM - 3:30 PM**

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON BALTIMORE NORTH  
1726 REISTERSTOWN RD, PIKESVILLE, MD

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/ABCTEENSUMMIT](https://bit.ly/abcteensummit)

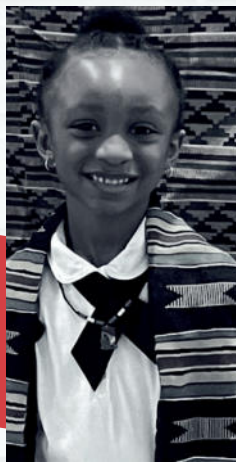
# ULMII NATIONAL TALENT COMPETITION

# UPLIFTING MINDS II

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KIM HEWITT  
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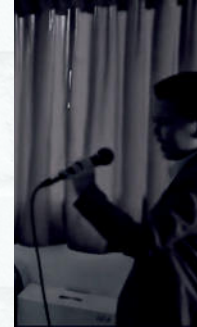
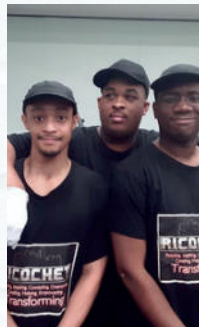
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R.I.C.O.C.H.E.T.  
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KIM HEWITT  
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SAT. APRIL 20, 2024

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1-3PM EST/  
10-12NOON PST