

## Major Leaguers Score Big with James Mosher Baseball League



*On Saturday, June 13, 2015, the Major League Baseball Players Association hosted a fun-filled day of baseball, fine food and entertainment for more than 300 youth players and families enrolled in the James Mosher Baseball youth league. The event took place at the James Mosher Baseball Fields located at 1100 Wheeler Avenue in Baltimore. Hall of Famer and Orioles legend, Frank Robinson (above), Baltimore Orioles All-Star Adam Jones; outfielder Delmon Young; former Orioles outfielder, 17-year veteran, Eric Davis; and current Orioles coach and former Major Leaguer Wayne Kirby participated in the event. Kenneth Abrams, owner of Abrams Insurance, was a key organizer of the event. (See article on page 13)*

**Photo: John Moore**

# New Life Church breaks ground in East Baltimore

Baltimore— Tuesday, June 23, 2015 will go down in East Baltimore's architectural and religious history as the day the new and larger New Life Evangelical Baptist Church broke ground at the corner of East North and Milton Avenues.

The church, which will rise among rows of abandoned, boarded up houses in one of the inner city's most economically depressed and heroin plagued neighborhoods, was hailed by church founder and pastor, Reverend Milton Emanuel Williams, Jr., as another "next step" in New Life's mission to save both lives and souls by bringing hope and healing to those struggling in the "evil grip" of heroin.

When completed, the church building will accommodate over 500 New Life faithful, while also freeing up more space in their one-of-a-kind faith based Turning Point Methadone Treatment Clinic for patients seeking recovery from addiction. The Clinic currently treats 2,000 addicts a day.

Reverend Williams told the gathering of parishioners and religious and government dignitaries at the groundbreaking ceremony that he sees this move forward as an example of what can and should be done by his fellow ministers in the heroin war now raging in Maryland.

Reverend Williams pointed out that most churches in Baltimore and the state continue to exclude drug addicts



*(Left to right) Maryland State Senator Nathaniel McFadden; Jennifer Gray, Interfaith Coordinator, Governor Hogan's Office; Reverend Milton Emanuel Williams Jr., Pastor of New Life Evangelical Baptist Church and president and founder of Turning Point Clinic; Bishop Robert Thompson; and Reverend Richard Dickens at the groundbreaking ceremony of New Life Evangelical Baptist Church on Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at the corner of East North and Milton Avenues. Courtesy Photo/New Life Evangelical Baptist Church*



## The 6th Annual "B-Sharp Summer Music Enrichment Academy"

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and remain reluctant to welcome them into their congregations, while very few even offer spiritual counseling to those suffering from addiction.

"Envision with me, if you will, a day when all churches of every faith located in drug ravaged neighborhoods become Jacobs Ladders of helpful heavenly light leading the way to recovery," Reverend Williams said. "And, God knows, our government leaders and law enforcement need our help more than ever as the heroin wave continues to crash over all of Maryland and all America. They correctly see that the real victims of drug abuse are the Community, the family, and the overburdened tax payer."

He added that while some in the on-going heroin battle still fear that an effective approach to lasting recovery may never be found, the church's treatment clinic has found one way out of addiction that actually works: Methadone treatment combined with spiritual counseling is truly a Godsend.

"Therefore," he added, "Religious leaders throughout this state and nation should not be surprised to learn, as we have, that the first step toward recovery from drug addiction is often through a church door."

*Send your community calendar events  
to: [kreevie@btimes.com](mailto:kreevie@btimes.com)*

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## War, Murder and The American Way

By Robert C. Koehler

He sat with them for an hour in prayer. Then he pulled his gun out and started shooting. And today our national numbness is wrapped in a Confederate flag. The young man who killed nine members of Charleston's Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church the night of Wednesday, June 17, 2015, was an old-school racist.

"I have to do it," Dyllan Storm Roof is said to have explained. "You rape our women and you're taking over our country. And you have to go."

Roof's roommate told ABC News the next day that he was "big into segregation and other stuff" and "he wanted to start a civil war." And this is America, where we have the freedom to manifest our lethal fantasies.

However, this is bigger than racism and the pathetic monster of white supremacy. Racism is a name for one of the currents of righteous hatred that coils through our collective unconscious, and over the decades and centuries it has motivated terrible crimes against humanity. But the "civil war" that Roof participated in is, I think, much larger and much more meaningless and not all the participants are loners.

"In a pattern that has become achingly familiar to him and the nation," the New York Times reported, "Mr. Obama on Thursday strode down to the White House briefing room to issue a statement of mourning and grief as he called on the country to unify in the face of tragedy."

Indeed, it's the 14th time, according to The Guardian that he has done this since he has been in office. It's the 14th time he has said words like: "I am confident that the outpouring of unity and strength and fellowship and love across Charleston today from all races, from all faiths, from all places of worship indicates the degree to which those old vestiges of hatred can be overcome."

America, America, land of the mass murderer. Mass murders have increased 14-fold in the United States since the 1960s, sociologist Peter Turchin wrote two and a half years ago, after the Sandy Hook killings. In his essay, called "Canaries in a Coal Mine," Turchin made a disturbing comparison: Mass murderers kill the same way soldiers do, without personal hatred for their victims but to right some large social wrong. He called it the "principle of social substitutability"—substituting a particular group of people for a general wrong.

Dylann Roof had a toxic "cause"—to reclaim the Old South, to reclaim the country, from an unwelcome human subgroup but the solidarity in which he acted wasn't so much with his fellow racists as with the strategists and planners of war. Any war. Every war.

Every murderer believes the violence he is wielding is "good violence." Think, Timothy McVeigh, whose fertilizer bomb killed 168 people at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City in 1995. He called his victims "collateral damage," co-opting the official language of the Gulf War in which he served. Mass murderers mimic and find their inspiration in the official wars we wage as a nation. Take away the massive public relations machinery that surrounds these wars and the deaths they cause are just as cruel, just as wrong. The abstract "enemy" dead, in every case, turn out to be human beings, who deserved to live.

Every war and every mass murder spreads fear and hatred—and inspiration—in their aftermath. The next day, USA Today reported, the vigils at two South Carolina Churches in Charleston and Greenville were disrupted by bomb threats and had to be evacuated. So did Charleston's county building.

"At some point," Obama said, "We as a country will have to reckon with the fact that this type of mass violence does not happen in other advanced countries. It doesn't happen in other places with this kind of frequency—and it is in our power to do something about it."

*Robert Koehler, syndicated by PeaceVoice, is an award-winning Chicago journalist and editor.*



## Community Affairs

### Deadline Nears for 9th Annual Gaines Literary Award

Baton Rouge, La.— The deadline for submissions to the 2015 Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence is August 15, 2015.

Sponsored by Baton Rouge Area Foundation donors, the Gaines Award honors outstanding fiction—novels or short-story collections—from rising African-American authors published in 2015. Galleys for 2015 publications are also accepted.

The award recognizes Louisiana native Ernest Gaines' extraordinary contribution to the literary world. Information on criteria and entrance forms for the award, which includes a \$10,000 cash prize, is available at [www.ernestjgainesaward.org](http://www.ernestjgainesaward.org).

Submissions are to be judged by a national literary panel and the winner will be announced in November. The award ceremony will take place on January 21, 2016, at the Manship Theatre in downtown Baton Rouge.

A Louisiana native, Gaines' critically

acclaimed novel "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman" was adapted into a 1974 made-for-TV movie that received nine Emmy awards. His 1993 book "A Lesson Before Dying" won the National Book Critics Circle Award for fiction. He is Writer-in-Residence Emeritus at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette.

The 2014 Gaines Award winner was Mitchell S. Jackson for "The Residue Years," which was also named an Honor Book by the Black Caucus of the American Library Association.

Previous Gaines Award winners include "The Cutting Season" by Attica Locke, "We Are Taking Only What We Need" by Stephanie Powell Watts, who also won a prestigious Whiting Writers' Award, and "How to Read the Air" by Dinaw Mengestu, who was selected as a 2012 McArthur Fellow subsequent to winning the Gaines award.

The Baton Rouge Area Foundation has worked for 51 years to improve the quality of life across south Louisiana. It connects fund donors with nonprofits and has granted more than \$350 million to a variety of nonprofit recipients.

For more information, visit [www.ernestjgainesaward.org](http://www.ernestjgainesaward.org).

*The change we need is within our grasp:*

## A business school dean's perspective

By Ronald C. Williams Ph.D.  
Interim Dean, Coppin State  
University College of Business

I am privileged to have a unique vantage point from my eighth floor office window on the campus of Coppin State University, a panoramic view of the Baltimore skyline from Mondawmin Mall to the Francis Scott Key Bridge and beyond. While beautiful, the view provides little indication of what is happening behind the veil of the city.

Those who are aware of the daily lives of many citizens of Charm City know that the events referred to as “the uprising” were somewhat predictable. The socioeconomic disparities in our city have created conditions that fostered a letting of emotions, and an unfortunate degree of opportunistic criminality, fueled by decades of marginalization and growing pockets of intense deprivation.

While many correctly suggest the events were a direct response to the tragic death of Freddy Grey, we must also admit that the young man's untimely death was merely an accelerant for an already smoldering flame of frustration.

How did we arrive here after so many centuries of struggle for advancement? What will it take to change the conditions that fuel this kind of explosive frustration in the community? The answers to these questions are more complex than any one person can answer. However, I'm offering the perspective of a business school dean in a Historically Black Institution located in the heart of West Baltimore, who is a faith leader with a heart for the holistic well being of the people.

I will first offer several observations and then close with a few concluding thoughts:

My first observation is that the problems do indeed have a racial element, but are more comprehensively economic. I grew up in southern West Virginia, a coalmining country. The coalmines provided jobs to many African Americans and a pathway to a middle class standard of living, the same way the steel mills did in Baltimore. Now, southern West Virginia is gripped by poverty that is similar, if not worse, than what we witness in Baltimore. The differentiators are that it's rural and it's predominantly white.

The second observation is that the social justice emphasis of the hundred years following slavery never transitioned or sufficiently included an economic justice component. There was a de facto black economy during segregation that all but disappeared as a result of integration. While integration was necessary and progressive, the lack of a focus on economic parity left African Americans with an inability to build substantial ownership and control over organizations that now allowed them in.

The third observation has to do with the weakening of institutions that provided pathways for masses of African Americans during the great migration from the

south that occurred from approximately 1890 until 1970. There was a network of educational, religious, and economic institutions that provided a support system for advancement. While they were limited in resources and had to operate within an unjust system of segregation, they were able to function in a concerted, integrated manner for the advancement of their constituents.

Observations are of little value without actionable ideas. I do not suggest that they are exhaustive or even wholly accurate—I do believe they hold a degree of merit.

**Institutional Wholeness:** It is condescending when people ask the question “Why hasn't the emergence of African American leadership solved all the problems in their jurisdictions?” There is a need to develop systems of accountability and continuous improvement in all institutions. Whether governmental, religious, academic or otherwise, the need is no less present in institutions led by African Americans. There are models such as The Baldrige Management System Model that would serve well.

**Collaboration:** There has been a growing disconnect among institutions over the past 60 years that serve largely African American constituents. Strategic reconnections must be established between educational, religious, financial, community, and commercial institutions that serve these populations. The psychology of oppression as led some to aspire to their own fiefdoms, leaving behind the masses and failing to establish systems that will help other ascend. When the restrictions of segregation were removed, many moved on without consideration of the others who had desire to follow.

**Private funding:** We must more effectively articulate the value of investing in our causes. Those who have resources

understand the concept of “return on investment,” even if they lean toward conservative, more exclusionary social philosophies. As a business school dean, I encounter countless business people who simply want employees with the knowledge and skills to do the required tasks. They will invest in our systems of human development if we can demonstrate outcomes.

**Governmental Support:** Political influence and power is a direct result of education and community-level organizational efficiency. Votes are valued and there is nothing more powerful than informed, organized voters. Faith-based organizations, community organizations, local chambers, and other community-level organizations must begin to work together to build influence. We have to prioritize, synthesize, and strategically appropriate to maximize our influence on the governmental system.

**Constituent Inclusion:** Eugen Robinson's book “Disintegration,” is a masterpiece that captures the new demographic realities. The arrival of Hispanic, African and Caribbean immigrants, and the dramatic increase in the biracial and multiracial populations have irrevocably changed what it means to be black in America. In addition, we must bridge the divide between all who people struggle to achieve socioeconomic parity, including those in the white community. Coalition building is essential in the new economy.

To read Dr. Williams's recommendation for building an economic engine in West Baltimore, read his complete White Paper, “Strategic Ingepreneurship: Facilitating Urban Economic Growth and Socioeconomic Advancement” at <http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs109/1101571680047/archive/1120918390509.html>.

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# Baltimore residents get 'Second Chance'

By Stacy M. Brown

It was 12 years ago when Mark Foster started Second Chance Inc. with about four individuals. Today, the founder, president and CEO of the nonprofit couldn't be more proud as about 150 individuals now work to take apart buildings that would otherwise be demolished and dumped in a landfill.

Second Chance Inc. specializes in salvaging windows, appliances and above all, the lives of individuals who have faced barriers from incarceration to not having enough of an education to land employment with family-sustaining wages.

"Really, it's a second chance for people as well as a second chance for materials," Foster said. "To be able to work those two together is to do great things for a community."

Second Chance offers reclaimed materials to the public at a discount, helping fund job training and workforce development programs.

Salvaged items available for sale range from rolls of chain link fence to marble fireplace mantels. The community-driven model turns profits, attracts investors and solves social problems, according to officials.

Clarence White, one of the men hired and trained to do this delicate work, learned how to safely and skillfully remove lumber and stone and to take kitchens and bathrooms.

White told Voice of America News that working with Second Chance has been a life-changing experience.

"Beforehand I was selling drugs, doing all the wrong things," he said. "I went to prison, I came home and was looking for a job and a lot of jobs weren't hiring me. Second Chance provided that opportunity. They believed in me and I went from not feeling confident, feeling like I can't get a job, I cannot do this, I cannot do that, feeling limited, to feeling limitless."

In addition to job training, the com-



*(Left) Mark Foster, President/CEO, Second Chance Inc. (Right) Second Chance workers. Second Chance specializes in salvaging windows, appliances and above all, the lives of individuals who have faced barriers from incarceration to not having enough of an education to land employment with family-sustaining wages. The company also provides life skills training workshops for the employees.*

Courtesy Photo/Second Chance Inc.

pany also provides life skills workshops.

White has opened a bank account and moved into his own place. But more importantly he said, "I'm able to provide for my daughter and give her a better life."

Foster's organization hasn't gone unnoticed. Maryland Democratic U.S. Senator Ben Cardin recently joined the leaders, partners and staff of Second Chance, Inc. to discuss how unique ventures in social enterprise like those underway at the nonprofit organization housed inside a sprawling former factory could help answer some of the myriad challenges faced in today's inner cities.

In a roundtable conversation earlier this month that centered on the organization's efforts to hire and train people from adverse backgrounds in the fields of deconstruction, architectural salvage, retail, operations and customer service, Cardin heard first-hand accounts from four employees with criminal back-

grounds who had turned around their lives following the opportunities afforded them by Second Chance.

"It never ceases to amaze me what people can do when they are given even the smallest glimmer of hope, and I saw that transformative power on display at Second Chance," he said. "If you want to see people from some incredibly challenging backgrounds turning their lives around, visit them in South Baltimore. Second Chance isn't only equipping people with the skills needed for 'green-collar' jobs; it's helping communities renew themselves."

Foster said the recognition from the senator is appreciated.

"Our focus from [the] beginning as to who the organization would ultimately serve was the hardest impacted members of the community, those most difficult to employ," he said. "There's unemployment, there's structural challenges for people living in certain neighborhoods

to access work and know how to access work."

Between 60 and 65 percent of individuals are returning citizens, Foster said.

"They're getting some skills in a program that lasts 12 to 18 months and in that period of time they're able to get a lot of skills and learn to conduct themselves in terms of job applications in the future," he said. "For us, we're helping people to get on the ramp to employment and helping them to remain employed."

Once employed, workers usually land wages well above the minimum at companies such as BG&E and the Amazon warehouse.

"The one thing we think is that people are motivated by hope that there could be a better future," Foster said. "The people are really the thing that should drive us the most, giving those people opportunities that they otherwise wouldn't have."

***"We all fantasize about a relationship we'd like to do over or something we'd like to change about our past. I think there are a lot more opportunities for second chances in our lives than we think." —Jean Smart***



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# Are Terrell Suggs days in the NFL coming to a close?

By Turron Davenport

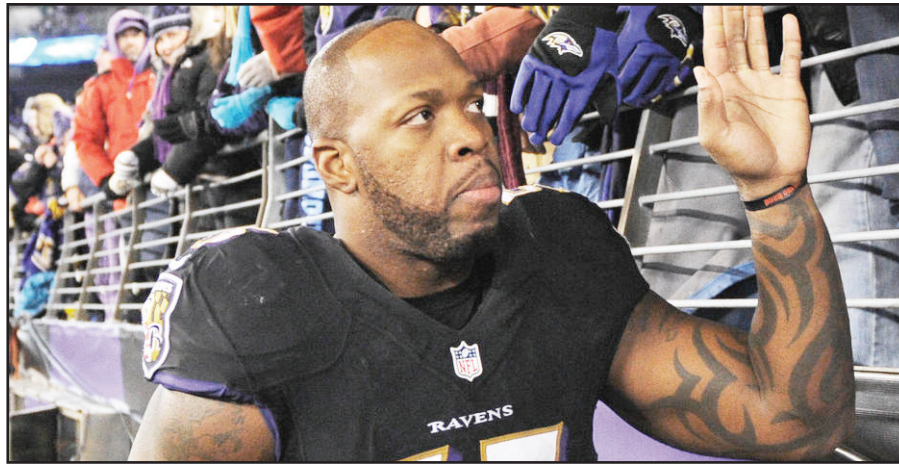
Baltimore Ravens outside linebacker Terrell Suggs recently spoke about being the last man standing and the fact that he is on the “back nine” when it comes to his NFL career. Following Ed Reed’s retirement and more significantly, the trade that sent Haloti Ngata to the Detroit Lions, has left Suggs as the last defensive stalwart from the Ravens top notch defense that helped the team win the Super Bowl in 2012.

Suggs usually makes it a point to remind people how young he is whenever he is asked about his age. That wasn’t the case at mini-camp this year. The 13-year veteran sang a different tune this year. He said that he wanted to pace himself and make sure that he had something left for the end of the season.

“It’s year 13 for me. I can’t really be stressing. I used to always say, ‘I need to be ready by minicamp,’ and it used to weigh on me, bother me. I didn’t want to let it bother me this year. I owe it to myself to sit, pace myself.” Suggs said. “Therefore, come the tail end of the season – Week 9, Week 10 - I still have something left in the tank. I’m just trying to pace myself and really not try to do too much right now.”

Last season got off to a different start. Suggs came to mini-camp noticeably lighter in weight and had high energy levels. He showcased the change by running all over the field and from drill to drill. This year, he still hustled on the field but he admittedly was not quite in game shape. Suggs described himself as not being at his “fighting weight” but more so at his “walking around” weight.

This off-season required a different approach for him. He didn’t want to stress and wanted to let his body heal from the physical abuse, which is something that



*Ravens outside linebacker Terrell Suggs waves to the crowd as he leaves the field after a game in the 2014 NFL season.*

Courtesy Photo/www.baltimoreravens.com

he said he owed to himself. Despite that, Suggs was definitely functional on the field at mini-camp and said that he will be fine by July.

Entering his 13th year is something that Suggs feels requires a change in the thought process. He said that when a player gets into the teens, playing becomes a year-by-year process. His focus is on this year, which is a year that he is really looking forward to because of what this team can do. After the season, he will reevaluate where he is and make a decision based on that.

At 32, Suggs still feels like a young man but he cautioned that playing like a Raven is different from other teams.

“I am only 32, but you know, we play a different kind of football here. We have a different kind of training camp, so my 32 may not be the next guy’s 32. I am a young 32 but 13 years in the NFL is still 13 years in the NFL even though I’m still a young 32.” Suggs said.

The departure of Ngata is another thing that has changed Suggs’ mindset. He says that it was weird coming back and not

having Ngata there with him in Owings Mills.

“It’s year 13, so it’s weird. It’s a whole new look, whole new team. I’m just trying to enjoy it. It’s a whole new feel. It’s definitely weird having everybody kind of just move on.” Suggs said. “It definitely was kind of weird coming back and him

not being here. He’ll always be a Raven in spirit but I’m just trying to cope with it for right now.”

The 2014 season saw Suggs accomplish many things. He teamed with Elvis Dumervil to form the NFL’s most productive sack duo. The two combined for 29 sacks. Suggs had 12 sacks, which was the second highest total in his career. He also became the 31st player in NFL history to garner 100 or more sacks.

That is a huge accomplishment in the eyes of Dumervil. “Over 100 sacks, to me, that’s a Hall of Fame—type of career. You’ve got to respect what he’s done—Defensive Player of the Year, Super Bowl Champion. He’s been doing it for almost 12 years. He’s a student of the game.”

The days of seeing #55 causing mass disruption on opposing offenses may be coming to an end. Suggs spoke like someone in the twilight of their career recently.

The 2015 season could be a special one for the Ravens because of many reasons but if it is the last season that the Ravens have Suggs, it will really be the end of an amazing era.

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# How thermostats save homeowners money and energy

Homeowners who have not yet upgraded to a programmable thermostat could be doing themselves a significant disservice. Not only are programmable thermostats key to saving energy, they also save money.

The Alliance for Environmental Sustainability note that for every degree they adjust their thermostats, homeowners save between one and three percent on their heating and cooling bills. Setting the thermostat slightly warmer in the summer and a notch or two cooler in the winter can save a considerable amount of energy and money. The United States Department of Energy says homeowners who make slight seasonal adjustments to their thermostats can save as much as 10 percent a year on heating and cooling costs.

However, such adjustments are only truly effective when homeowners commit to them on a daily basis. The best way to stay on top of temperature settings is to purchase a programmable thermostat, which allow homeowners to predetermine when heat or air conditioning will turn on and off. Many programmable thermostats can store multiple daily settings, allowing homeowners to further customize their heating and cooling schedules based on the time of day as well as the day of the week.

According to Energy.gov, a common misconception associated with thermostats is that a furnace or an air



conditioning system works harder than normal to get the space back to a comfortable temperature after the thermostat has been set back, and that this hard work means the overall savings are negligible. However, when a home's interior temperature is similar to the temperature outside, the home will lose energy to the

surrounding environment more slowly. The lower the interior temperature, the slower the heat loss in cold weather, and a higher interior temperature will slow the flow of heat into your house in hot weather.

Programmable thermostats are available in a variety of models. Some are easier to program than others. Certain thermostats can be linked to a home's wireless system so that adjustments to the thermostat can even be made when you are not at home. Consult with an HVAC expert to see if a particular thermostat works best with your system. Some homes may benefit from a dual or multi-zoned system, which allows homeowners to adjust the temperature independently from other floors or wings of a home.

The location of the thermostat also is important. The thermostat should be placed where it can get the most accurate reading of the house. It should be on an interior wall away from direct sunlight, doorways, drafts, and windows. It should not be directly facing an air vent. Avoid placing furniture above or below the thermostat, as such furnishings can impede proper air flow.

If you feel like your HVAC system is cycling on and off even after programming, you may need to call a technician, who can determine if there are any obstructions to the thermostat or if the unit is the appropriate size for your home.

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# Serenity Expedition offers travel, education to Baltimore children

By Stacy M. Brown

By the time she began formulating plans for her nonprofit three years ago, Patti Smith had already decided to visit underdeveloped regions in Costa Rica where she observed many of the local children and their families who lacked important resources.

The former news director and talk show host was inspired to help families by encouraging travel and tourism in those regions by writing about what she termed were the magnificent settings of those areas and getting the word out to others.

Today, after traveling to locations like Sweden, Denmark, Paris and Italy and having her “eyes opened to the arts and history of those places,” Smith’s nonprofit, Serenity Expeditions, is seeking to help Baltimore children learn the uniqueness and appreciate the importance of culture and heritage.

“I started this in my mind about three years ago. I thought we could make a difference for the children here and do trips first to places like Washington and New York,” Smith said. “I want the children to understand the importance of heritage and the importance of recognizing similarities and differences, because those are the things that will help them get along with other individuals and it will also provide them a sense of accomplishment.”

Smith says her program will begin by taking up to 10 children on trips to broaden their horizons and help to provide them a sense of accomplishment and understanding.

The mission of Serenity Expeditions is to promote world citizenship, intercultural exchange, and diplomacy through travel partnerships, according to Smith.

When given a better understanding and respect for the varied differences and similarities, the world can grow together harmoniously, Smith said.

The vision for Serenity Expeditions is to involve at-risk students while inspiring them to have the ambition to learn, the perseverance to achieve any goal in life; as they communicate their experiences of travel with their peers and the world.



**Patti Smith, founder of Serenity Expeditions at the Coliseum in Rome, Italy.**

The organization will host a “Taste of Serenity” fundraiser on Sunday, June 28, 2015 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Groveton Green Clubhouse in Owings Mills that will include foods from various countries, a raffle and silent auction.

Proceeds will benefit Serenity Expeditions mission to promote cultural har-



mony throughout the world by promoting history, environmental awareness, culture, tourism, youth relations, and recreation of UNESCO heritage site locations throughout the world.

“Bringing a better understanding and mutual respect of these areas, creates world harmony while allowing at risk students the opportunity to see the world and build a portfolio that will allow them to grow in their education and professional endeavors,” Smith said.

Additionally, Smith’s plans include a global classroom and she will produce a show on location at various UNESCO World Heritage Sites that will highlight the need to preserve historically signifi-

cant sites and showcase activities and events in six UNESCO World Heritage regions, Curacao, Belize, Panama, Ecuador, Costa Rica and St. Kitts and Nevis.

Serenity Expeditions will provide an entertaining and educational variety of show topics including, recreation, culinary experiences, music and arts, eco tourism, health and wellness, and charity work, Smith said.

The topics recognize the prominence of each UNESCO Heritage site and how to preserve it, and bring tourism to those regions

“As I started to talk to more people and I got to see how many more were interested in the program, it continued to motivate me to do this,” Smith said. “Then, you see what happened with the Freddie Gray situation and seeing all those kids without much hope and I knew that programs like mine could be effective.”

For more information about Serenity Expeditions, visit: [www.Serenityexpeditions.org](http://www.Serenityexpeditions.org)



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# Reginald F. Lewis Museum Celebrates 10th Anniversary

By Stacy M. Brown

You know you're doing something right when jazz star Maysa helps to kick off your 10th anniversary celebration!

"We've got a really great year of delights in store," said Dr. Skipp Sanders, executive director of the Reginald F. Lewis Museum, where the remainder of 2015 will be focused on the arts and cultural landmark's decade-long existence.

"We're working ourselves to the ground on anniversary plans and loving it," Sanders said.

It began on Thursday, June 18, 2015 with a concert by Maysa, the award-winning and Baltimore-born jazz artist whose "Blue Velvet Soul" album earned seven Grammy nominations. Followed by a performance by the Dance Theatre of Harlem on Saturday, June 20, 2015, the dance company's only full-length appearance in the Mid-Atlantic region this year.

Located on E. Pratt Street, the museum features exhibitions that detail the history of black Americans. This year, the museum will also celebrate its anniversary by introducing, "Lewis Now," a new creative space for community artists.

"We've been working on a strategic plan and we got so excited by this that we decided to do it now instead of later," Sanders said of the new space that's opening in July with "Devin Allen: Awakenings in a New Light," the first solo show of the Baltimore photographer which exhibits images of the protests that took place in the aftermath of the death of Freddie Gray.

The PNC Bank-sponsored event will



*Dr. Skipp Sanders, executive director, Reginald F. Lewis Museum  
Courtesy Photo/bizjournals.com*

feature Allen's photos that graced the cover of Time Magazine in May, making him just the third amateur photographer to accomplish that feat. Sanders says Allen's images show both the struggle and humanity of protest, including from the side of law enforcement.

"It was powerful," Sanders said. "You see an African-American police officer with a tear running down his face, a young child wearing a police man's hat. You're getting the whole picture of what was happening."

Sanders says the museum has had its share of ups and downs and the economic downturn a few years ago suppressed a lot of potential growth for all museums.

"All arts institutions were really hurting, but we're blessed to have survived," he said. "We are a state institution so we do receive state support but what we're doing is showing that when we rebound, we have a real renaissance. It's important that everyone understand how crucial such an arts institution is in making the community vibrant and alive and intellectual."

Museum officials are also working in collaboration with Morgan State University on a future performance and they're also developing a curriculum with the state Department of Education for fourth through twelfth graders.

"We're trying to meet common core standards. We really want to honor the

teachers and educators and to make the museum a resource," Sanders said.

As the museum enters a new decade, officials say they are looking forward to the culmination of the anniversary celebration with a black tie event in November that will feature new ideas, culture, art and music.

The museum's official 10th anniversary gala is scheduled for 8:30 p.m. on November 14, 2015 and the honorary co-chairs will be State's Attorney Marilyn J. Mosby and her husband, Councilman Nick J. Mosby, Eddie C. Brown and C. Sylvia Brown.

Tickets will go on sale next month for the gala and will be available at the museum or its website.

"A large part of our problem always had been becoming visible. We're a museum not a mausoleum and as visitors begin to move through our exhibits in our permanent galleries and see all of the things about the great legacy of African American history that none of us saw in depth, they see all of the information that we need to relearn," Sanders said noting that African Americans served varied roles even during slavery and not all were slaves.

The museum prides itself on educating the public and the anniversary allows for reflection.

"We know that at 10 years old, you need to take a look at yourself and see how you need to refresh and update," Sanders said. "We will be getting a review of ourselves this year and see what we need to do to refresh and update."

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# Larry White Sr. nominated for Best Community Leader

By Andrea Blackstone

Larry White Sr., the CEO and founder of VIPeVENTS Concierge LLC was nominated as Best Community Leader for Steve Harvey's Neighborhood Awards. This year, White was among over 50 entrepreneurs and nonprofits giving back to the community throughout the country competing for \$30,000 to be used for community outreach and programs. Although the Glen Burnie resident did not advance to the second round of the contest on May 27, 2015, White is still a winner in the eyes of many.

Through his work running an event planning and event marketing company equipped with transportation vehicles, he crosses paths with individuals like Dr. Natalie Forest, Ph.D. the CEO of Natalie Forest International. The owner of the Baltimore-based business nominated White for Best Community Leader.

"I decided to nominate Larry White, because after having gotten to know him last June, I have seen his heart and soul truly beat for the community. Even the networking events, which appear to be business, are all about business then giving back to the community. Everything that he does has some kind of community aspect or goal to it. Therefore, because he doesn't think about himself in this, he is just a prime example to me of somebody who brings the community together," Forest said.

White spearheads many community endeavors, such as The Black History Program, which has been running for four years. It is offered to students who attend Meade Senior High School, Frank Hebron-Harman Elementary School and Freetown Elementary School. Participants are recommended by guidance counselors. Workshops and seminars are organized by White. He finds volunteers to assist in his signature program, which teaches students financial literacy, health and wellness and African American history.

"It is really designed to assist Title I schools to have community service (and) also education on African-American history, because a lot of our youth today just don't know what our history is. I think that's significant when they go out to college, because if you know where you came from, you have an idea of how to be competitive."

Every November, one week prior to Thanksgiving, the entrepreneur partners with Chick-Fil-A in Pasadena to distribute approximately 5,000 hot box lunches to families through churches located in Maryland. White also organizes an annual Christmas holiday toy drive that has been held for three years. He has worked with Big Brothers Big Sisters in Baltimore to distribute items for children, in addition to Sarah's House, located in Fort Meade, Maryland. Sarah's House is a shelter battered women, which offers transitional housing for homeless families. Even outside of holiday periods,



*Larry White Sr. spoke to fifth graders about entrepreneurship on career day at Georgetown East Elementary School in Annapolis, Md. Students were also given a ride in a limousine, compliments of VIPeVENTS Concierge LLC, along with the teacher and principal in 2014.* Courtesy Photos

White works with the shelter to offer assistance such as donating prepared meals.

Every August before school begins, White leads a backpack drive to provide backpacks to youth who receive free and reduced lunch at four to five schools in Anne Arundel County, including Georgetown East in Annapolis. He also donates them to students located in Prince George's County, Baltimore City and Baltimore County.

"My wife and my five children, we all team up to lead by example," White said, noting his family's commitment to community service.

In 2014, White was awarded the Dream Keepers Award at the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Awards Dinner held in Anne Arundel County, primarily because of his successful Black History Program. White is reportedly the first person to receive the honor without being a senator or congressman.

The Navy veteran who served for 12 years coordinated events when he served in the military. He believes that volunteering to help the community is "everybody's job."

White explained that he felt humbled and proud to represent Maryland and his hometown of Gary, Ind. as a nominee for the Steve Harvey Neighborhood Awards. Giving back has been in his blood since he was a young person.

"I do none of it for me. I do it all for the adults and the children," White said.



*Larry White Sr. and supporters collected and distributed over 1,000 backpacks for youth in 2014 during White's Fourth Annual Backpack Drive held at Frank Hebron-Harman Elementary School in Anne Arundel County.*

# Major Leaguers Score Big with James Mosher Baseball League

By Ursula V. Battle

The Major League Baseball Players Association (MLBPA) recently hit a 'Grand Slam' with the James Mosher Baseball youth league. On Saturday, June 13, 2015, MLBPA hosted a fun-filled day of baseball, fine food and entertainment for more than 300 youth players and families enrolled in the James Mosher Baseball youth league. The event took place at the James Mosher Baseball Fields located at 1100 Wheeler Avenue in Baltimore.

During the event, MLBPA presented a donation of new baseball equipment to James Mosher Baseball representatives. MLBPA is the union that represents all active and former Major Leaguers. Big Leaguers served as honorary coaches during games, distributed autograph cards, and participated in a question and answer session with the youth players.

Baltimore Orioles All-Star Adam Jones and outfielder Delmon Young participated in the event along with Hall of Famer and Orioles legend, Frank Robinson. Former Orioles outfielder and 17-year veteran, Eric Davis, and current Orioles coach and former Major Leaguer Wayne Kirby also participated in the event.

Former players also hosted a mini-coaching clinic for James Mosher Baseball coaches. Founded in 1960, James Mosher Baseball is believed to be the oldest continuously operating African-American youth baseball league in the country.

Former big league outfielder Jeffrey Hammonds was among the participants. Highlighting the Freddie Gray police brutality case, he noted the importance of the event.

"We have come to an area that has been highlighted for the wrong reasons," said Hammonds, who was recently hired by the Major League Baseball Players Association as Special Assistant for Player Program Development. "We went there to work with the community - that is the story. The volunteers over there have been doing this for 53 years. That speaks volumes to their commitment to the community and the youth of that community. It makes sense we have an alliance and recognize those efforts."

The 42-year-old Hammonds is a former All-Star. In 2000, he hit .272 with 110 homers and 423 RBIs from 1993-05 with



*Mike Singletary, James Mosher Baseball League board of directors; Kenneth Abrams, event organizer; John Carrington, James Mosher Baseball League board of directors; and William Neal, James Mosher Baseball League president.*



*MLBPA Senior Adviser to the Executive Director, Omar Minaya; Orioles legend and Major League Baseball Hall of Famer Frank Robinson; Baltimore City Mayor Stephanie Rawlings Blake; former Orioles outfielder Eric Davis; MLBPA Special Assistant of Player Programming and former Orioles All Star Jeffrey Hammonds; MLBPA Executive Director Tony Clark; Baltimore City Council President Jack Young; Baltimore City Councilman Pete Welch and James Mosher youth league players.*



*Orioles outfielder Delmon Young; MLBPA Senior Adviser to the Executive Director Omar Minaya; Orioles Coach and former Major Leaguer Wayne Kirby; MLBPA Executive Director Tony Clark; Orioles All-Star Adam Jones; MLBPA Special Assistant of Player Programming and former Orioles All Star Jeffrey Hammonds; and former Orioles outfielder and 17-year veteran Eric Davis.*



*MLBPA Special Assistant of Player Programming and former Orioles All Star Jeffrey Hammonds with James Mosher Baseball youth league players.*  
Photos: John Moore

Baltimore, Cincinnati, Colorado, Milwaukee, San Francisco and Washington.

"We have a duty as professional baseball players, and as gentlemen who have lived their dream," said Hammonds. "Children in this community have been affected by the unrest. Having this event for the James Mosher Baseball League only made sense. We may not be political figures, but we can create a positive impact with our presence. By coming to Baltimore, we are showing that we are paying attention to what is happening, and that we care."

Hammonds also highlighted the efforts of Kenneth Abrams. The owner of Abrams Insurance, Abrams was a key organizer for the event.

"We had a short runway of time to do this," said Hammonds. "We only had about a month. It was a lot of due diligence and many people worked hard. One of them was Kenneth Abrams. A lot of the credit for this event goes to him."

He added, "Everyone's mind and passion is in the same place. We wanted to recognize the legacy of the James Mosher Baseball League, and leave a smile on the kids' faces."

Abrams is familiar face in the sports arena. He formerly worked for The Baltimore Ravens and works quietly behind the scenes on many sporting and special events.

"These players know and understand that their playing can be used to make a positive impact in the community," said Abrams. "We went in to bring some sunshine to that area. These players wanted to see, hear and want to be a part of the solution."

## Troy Griffin named vice president of Customer Service Strategy and Operations for Comcast Cable's Beltway Region

Griffin's new role supports the company's continued commitment to improving the customer experience

Baltimore— Comcast Cable announced that Troy Griffin has been appointed Vice President of Customer Service Strategy and Operations for the company's Beltway Region, which includes Maryland, Virginia, Washington, D.C. and parts of Delaware and West Virginia.

A familiar face, Griffin returns to the region after leading customer service operations in Comcast's Western New England Region for the past three years.

"It is with great pleasure that I welcome Troy back to the region. His passion for both the employee and customer experience are undeniable," said Thomas Coughlin, Senior Vice President of Comcast's Beltway Region. "His dedication and leadership will help us in continuing to create a culture focused on providing superb service."

In this role, Griffin will work closely with his team to implement the company's recently announced multi-year strategy to transform the customer experience and to create a culture focused on exceeding customers' expectations, at all levels of the company.

The plan centers on looking at every decision through a customer lens and making measurable changes and improvements across the company. The core elements of the strategic plan include major investments in technology and training to give employees the tools



Troy Griffin  
Courtesy Photo

they need to deliver excellent service; simplify billing and create better policies to provide greater consistency and transparency to customers; the renovation of stores; continued hiring of front-line employees to serve our customers; and the development of new technologies that will enable customers to interact with us how and when they want.

"I am very excited to work with this team again, and I look forward to delivering an enhanced level of service to the customers in our Beltway Region," Griffin said.

Griffin has more than 15 years of experience in the cable industry and has worked in customer service at Comcast for the past 12 years. He returns to the Beltway Region after serving nearly three years as Vice President of Customer Service Strategy and Operations for Comcast's Western New England Region. Prior to that, he worked as a Director of Customer Operations in Comcast's Beltway Region, responsible for designing and implementing training programs for customer care representatives.

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# Comcast offers new technology for visually impaired, blind customers

By Andrea Blackstone

According to the U.S. Census, an estimated 8.1 million people have a visual disability. Comcast has taken a technological leap to offer a more inclusive entertainment experience for those who are vision-impaired by addressing the usability of the company's products. On June 15, 2015, over 40 members of a technology user group visited Comcast's Innovation Lab in White Marsh.

The user group, which meets monthly at the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in Baltimore, often explores adaptive technologies through technological demonstrations.

While visiting Comcast's Innovation Lab, group members learned how to use Comcast's X1 Talking Guide, which is a voice-enabled television user interface, that was launched in 2014. Additionally, a new voice-activated remote that works with the X1 Entertainment Operating System, unveiled in May this year was demonstrated.

"It [the remote] allows those with disabilities freedom to access content. It's a much easier way to find shows that they're interested in," said Chad McCauley, director of product management at Comcast.

McCauley explained that about three years ago, Comcast hired Tom Wlodkowski as vice president of audience. Wlodkowski's team is involved in design and development of future enhancements, remotes and devices. They work in the Comcast Accessibility Lab to develop accessible products, features and showcase assistive technologies. Focus groups and usability testing is conducted with key communities of people with disabilities. This activity helps Comcast to educate their employees about accessibility, while allowing customers to learn more about how they can access services.

Wlodkowski's team also began to realize that they could help an underserved segment of the community by adding enhanced features to their existing platform, such as the voice-activated remote. The remote is equipped with a



*(Left) Patricia Furman, Regional Product Manager at Comcast (left) demonstrates the voice-controlled TV remote at Comcast's Innovation Lab in White Marsh on Monday, June 22, 2015. Furman explained features of the device, along with The X1 Talking Guide to a technology user group from the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Photo by Andrea Blackstone (Right) Comcast's voice-controlled TV remote, which was unveiled in 2015 allows individuals with disabilities to be able to access content easily.*

Courtesy Photo/Comcast

microphone button. Users hold the button down and speak to enable the system to turn to a channel. It reportedly recognizes thousands of common commands. Viewers can also do things like navigate Xfinity On Demand, search for networks, shows and movies and set DVR recordings.

"We want viewers to get to the shows and movies they love quickly, and we've built a remote control that's smart, fast and intuitive. You don't have to learn a new language or speak like a robot. Just press the blue button, say what you want to watch and it appears on screen," said Sree Kotay, Comcast Cable's chief software architect in an article on their corporate website.

Jerry Price is the coordinator of a technology user group and an Adaptive Technology Education Program coordinator at the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Price remarked that he is constantly looking for new technology to introduce to his group. He discovered Com-

cast's X1 Talking Guide video on YouTube. Price, then tweeted to Comcast to explain that the technology user group wanted to attend a product demonstration in Baltimore. The company embraced the idea of opening the doors of their lab, which is typically only used by employees to experience new technology.

After an introduction to the products in White Marsh, a live Q&A allowed members who are blind or visually impaired to navigate the X1 platform. They experienced how the X1 Talking Guide features a female voice that reads program titles, network names, time slots and DVR and On Demand settings aloud. Attendees also tried out the new Xfinity remote with voice control. It complements the talking guide. Comcast customers can reportedly navigate tens of thousands of shows and movies on the X1 Entertainment Operating System with their voice by using the remote.

Price agreed that Comcast's recent

innovation helps blind and visually impaired individuals to watch television and access digital information and entertainment better.

"I think it's incredibly helpful being able to use the DVR, which is something that the visually impaired community has never been able to do. In all of these years, they've never had a talking DVR, and the DVR has been around for a while, so there has been a long gap from using the VCR," Price said. "Also, being able to find the channels quickly, and being able to navigate to the types of shows and movies that you're looking for is really a big help."

Existing customers who have the X1 Entertainment Operating System with DVR service can order a free voice-controlled remote online, or they can pick one up in a local Comcast store.

For more information about Comcast's products for visually impaired and blind customers, visit <http://www.xfinity.com/accessibility>.

## Indie Soul Spotlight: Demetria McKinney

By Phinesse Demps

If you are like many folks who were at the African-American Festival this past weekend, who were checking the program guide to see who was performing or checking the app on their phone, courtesy of Black Enterprise, you were saying one of two things: 1) Who is Demetria McKinney? or 2) I didn't know she could sing!

Demetria McKinney was part of the cast on Tyler Perry's House of Payne. She can be seen on the Bravo Channel's Real Housewives' of Atlanta and also has a reoccurring role in Divas Maids, which appears on the Lifetime Channel. And yes! She sings!

"Acting and singing have always been a passion of mine. Just so happens that the acting took off. But I have always wanted to sing," said McKinney.

She has tested the waters with a few singles over the past few years, "Work With Me," "100 featuring Da-Brat," "Still Believe in Love" with Musiq Soulchild, and now her latest "Trade It All."

"I'm Happy that I will be releasing my full CD with E-One Entertainment and that will be released soon. Right now I'm promoting the single, "Trade It All," which I'm so excited that the fans love!"

She took to the stage on Sunday during the festival and showed the crowd not only is she beautiful but she can dance and sing. Demetria is the complete package, not because she is gor-



*Singer/Actress, Demetria McKinney performed her song: "Trade It All" at the 2015 African-American Festival on June 20 and 21, 2015 in Baltimore City." Photo: Phinesse Demps*

geous, she is more than that. She is determined, talented, and driven. Demetria McKinney is setting the bar for other young women to follow. "For those women who want to be in this business; Know who you are and what you represent before they, decide for you."

Demetria McKinney is fully focused on her goal to be the best and we appreciate her for that. You heard it here first, she's going to be big! For more on Demetria McKinney: [www.demetriamckinney.com](http://www.demetriamckinney.com)

*Indie Soul welcomes your questions and comments. To contact Phinesse Demps, call 443-885-9183 or 410-501-0193 or email: [lfpindiesoul@gmail.com](mailto:lfpindiesoul@gmail.com) Follow him on Twitter: @lfpindiesoul.*

## Indie Soul Spotlight: Kamasi Washington

By Phinesse Demps

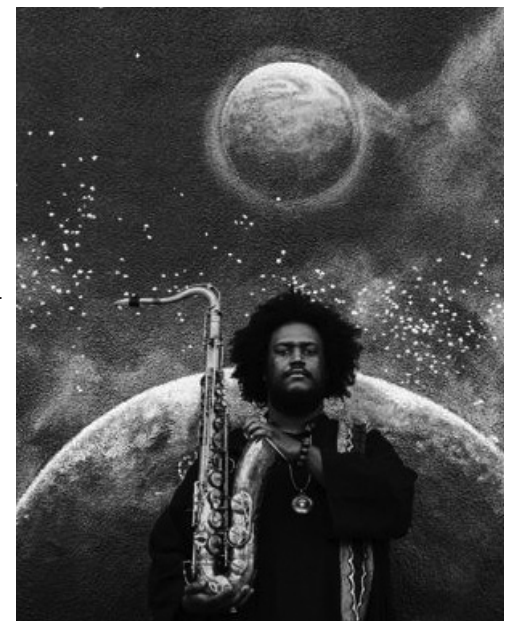
In honor of Black Music Month, this week's spotlight artist is Kamasi Washington who hails from Los Angeles, California. He is a jazz saxophonist (tenor) and is an accomplished musician who's worked with some of the best in the business.

He has been a bandleader for various projects and made guest appearances on projects with Stanley Clark, Steve Bruner and Kendall Lamar. He also played with a diverse group of musicians including: Wayne Shorter, Herbie Hancock, Horace Tapscott, Gerald Wilson, Lauryn Hill, Nas, Snoop Dogg, George Duke, Chaka Khan, Flying Lotus, Francisco Aguabella, the Pan Afrikaan Peoples Orchestra and Raphael Saadiq.

Washington just released his debut CD, "The Epic" and I can honestly say that I have not heard anything like this in a long time. For all the Coltrane and Davis fans out there, if you were worried that their sound was lost or if the younger generation would even be able to appreciate quality jazz— don't worry Washington is keeping that sound alive!

Washington has put together a delicious sound on this project from start to finish. Nearly three-hours of pure bliss— every instrument played shines on the 17 tracks.

I discovered Kamasi after I heard the track entitled, "The Rhythm Changes,"



*Kamasi Washington*

which features vocals by Patrice Quinn. Then I just had to get his music. A very polished musician, Kamasi gives you a dose of a young sound as well. "The Epic" has that funk and soul, blended with a pure jazz flow. Washington is like a deejay blending records and mixing sounds. Every track gives your ears a delightful sound. My favorites are: "Miss Understanding," "Isabelle," and "Malcolm's Theme."

Do yourself a favor and get this CD with great music from Kamasi Washington available at:

[www.brainfeedersite.com](http://www.brainfeedersite.com).

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## Indie Soul: Hennessey 250 (H250)

Hennessey hosted an exclusive gathering on board the L'Hermione tall ship docked in Baltimore's Harbor Place Mall to celebrate French-American friendship and Lafayette's historic voyage 250 years ago. The old world ship was transformed to host guests with a modern/luxury appeal that highlighted HNY's Higher Marques collection. Signature HNY VSOP Privilege cocktails were served with Paired food while a singing quartet delivered classical compositions throughout the night.

A special tasting of HNY's Anniversary blend (H250) was shared as their French Maison AMB (Cyrille) spoke to its blend characteristics.

"We wanted to do this on the replica of the ship that sailed from 1780, to pay homage and a bridging of France and the Americas coming together, with Hennessey actually being stocked on board the actually ship. So this ship has been on a journey with stops in Boston and New York. One of the original stops in 1780 was Baltimore," said Hennessey Representative Agnes Greenidge.



Replica Soldier from 1780 with the Hennessey Models.

Courtesy Photo/Hennessey

representative Agnes Greenidge.

The celebration was capped with a tasting of the Anniversary Blend H250. Hennessey drinkers were surprised by the flavor and aroma. For my desert folks, especially chocolate lovers, and after dinner cigars smokers, you would enjoy this blend.

Visit The Baltimore Times photo gallery online for photos from the event. For more about Hennessey, visit: [www.hennessey.com](http://www.hennessey.com). You must be (21+).

## Indie Soul Wedding Congratulations!

By Phinisse Demps

This is a first for Indie Soul! We are taking time out to send congratulations to people who have committed themselves through the bond of marriage.

Greg and Naijha Brown: "We got married on our astro-numerological day...per Lloyd Strayhorn, Astro-numerologist," said Naijha who married Greg Brown on May 5, 2015.

The happy couple owns the vegetarian and vegan restaurant, Land of Kush located at 840 N Eutaw Street in Baltimore.

On May 24, 2015, Mike and Chauntelle Akinnuoye became husband and wife. This is personal for me because I have watched Chauntelle grow into a smart, focused and beautiful woman. She is about family and business. Her husband Mike is a terrific guy and I wish them the



Mike and Chauntelle Akinnuoye  
Courtesy Photo/Greg Davenport



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IN THEATERS JULY 10



Greg and Naijha Brown  
Courtesy Photo

very best. Mike runs Dynamic Health Care, which has been featured in this column before. He is a young leader, which is greatly needed in our community.

# “Dope” movie earning raves as it opens nationwide

By Stacy M. Brown

Rick Famuyiwa never doubted that he had a special movie project on his hands with the new film, “Dope.”

Armed with the knowledge of how Hollywood can sometimes divert from a filmmaker’s plot, Famuyiwa made sure to protect his precious story line.

“It was important for my vision of the film to stay in tact,” he said in a statement through his publicist. “[My vision] is something I don’t think could have been accomplished in a major studio.”

The Hollywood-centric publication Variety, called the film a buoyant teen caper comedy that’s one of this year’s brighter Sundance commercial prospects.

The film contains so much playful energy and wit to Famuyiwa’s indie-est project since his 1999 movie, “The Wood” that few viewers will mind, Variety reviewers said.

A soundtrack featuring new songs by Pharrell Williams is an added plus for a film that should play well to wide audiences.

The Hollywood Reporter, another industry trade publication, was among the many to publish good reviews for the film. The publication’s review noted that the movie’s overall energy, which is reinforced by dynamic camera and cutting from Lee Haugen, and performances that are spunky enough to almost always temporarily suspend disbelief when required.

Onscreen in practically every frame, Shameik Moore in his first lead role is clearly the star of the show, shouldering that burden with enviable ease. His character, Malcolm, a high school senior and the son of a single mother portrayed by Kimberly Elise, is an energetic young man full of contradictions who is believ-



(Left) “Dope” Film Director, Rick Famuyiwa (Right) Diddy, Pharrell Williams and Forest Whitaker at the premier of the indie film “Dope” at the LA Film Festival recently.

Photo Credit: Eric Charbonneau

able as a straight-A student who can outsmart gangsters as well as someone who is intimidated by class bullies or any girl with any interest in him.

The film centers on Malcolm and his friends Jib (portrayed by Tony Revolori) and Diggy (played by Kiersey Clemons) who bond over 1990s hip-hop culture, their studies and playing music in their own punk band.

A chance encounter with a drug dealer named Dom lands Malcolm and his friends at the dealer’s nightclub birthday party. When the scene turns violent, they flee with the Ecstasy that Dom secretly hid in Malcolm’s backpack. A wild adventure ensues as the youths try to evade armed thugs who want the stash.

“Dope is an indie film with a compelling story,” Famuyiwa said. “The story line truly connects the audience with its characters.”

The film, which is currently playing at

several Baltimore theaters, is written and directed by Famuyiwa and produced and executive produced by Forest Whitaker, Pharrell Williams and Sean “P. Diddy” Combs. The cast also includes ASAP

Rocky, Tyga, Chanel Iman, Zoe Kravitz and Rick Fox.

“It’s more than just a black film,” Famuyiwa said. “It is a film for everyone.”



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## How Do You Handle Life's Detours?

# Wise Decisions Can Start With Noticing Silver Linings

News and Experts— The loss of a job; a bad break-up; a nasty accident; a new, obsessive habit; a big move to a new town; health problems experienced by you or a loved one – these are some of the many things that can turn your life upside down. These are life's detours that you don't expect.

Could there be a good way to respond to such turns in life? Is it honest to "look on the bright side?" Isn't the root feeling hurt?

"I don't think most people could ask you to deny your feelings, but you don't have to be led by the nose by feelings, which have a primary characteristic of being temporary," says Steve Gilliland ([www.stevegilliland.com](http://www.stevegilliland.com)), a member of the Speaker Hall of Fame and author of the recently released "Detour," the follow-up to his widely acclaimed "Enjoy The Ride."

"Life is change— it's axiomatic. Most of us accept this on an intellectual, abstract basis. But when it comes to experiencing change, we often resist it. Fear of change causes immense yet unnecessary suffering. Personal growth and maturity are based largely on how you respond to life's unexpected detours."

Gilliland summarizes a few basic steps to dealing with life's detours:

•**Ask yourself about opportunity.** We don't like most of life's detours because



they force us out of our comfort zone. New duties at work or a request from a spouse may not only pique our defenses but also make us wonder, "Can I do this?" Fear and anxiety may push us to focus on our weaknesses and convince us of what we cannot do. When we make a simple shift in mentality, however, we can empower the beginning of personal growth by seeing unprecedented challenges as opportunities.

•**Are you willing to change?** If not, then you can't see opportunity. Change is inevitable, growth is optional. If your wife asks you for a more patient attitude, for example, will you grow with an open heart or dig your heels in. She may not divorce you if you remain stubborn, but your relationship will likely flounder. Seeing a challenge as an opportunity enables self-improvement. And, when it's time to ask something of your wife,

you will have currency with which to work. The same principle applies to work. If you're asked to take on a new responsibility and respond well, you will gain leverage in your career.

•**Can you envision something better?**

In the process of internally negotiating change, a positive vision can help you tilt the scales of change as something positive. The vision can be specific. If you don't know how to use software at work that you need to use, imagine how much better your time will be spent once you learn. What will it take to get there? Practice. It may not be effortless, but you'll have mapped out a solution. The vision can be broad, too. Is it possible to be more patient in general toward life's detours? Indeed. Simply having more patience toward loved ones, for example, will improve your relationships tremendously.

*A member of the National Speaker Association's Speaker Hall of Fame, Steve Gilliland is one of the most in-demand and top-rated speakers in the world. Recognized by his peers as a master storyteller and brilliant comedian, he can be heard daily alongside Jeff Foxworthy and other celebrities on SiriusXM Radio's Laugh USA and Blue Collar Radio. For more information, visit: [www.stevegilliland.com](http://www.stevegilliland.com).*

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## GENERAL SERVICES

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**PLACE YOUR AD TODAY IN BOTH** The Baltimore Sun and The Washington Post newspapers, along with 10 other daily newspapers five days per week. For just pennies on the dollar reach 2.5 million readers through the Daily Classified Connection Network in 3 states: CALL TODAY; SPACE IS VERY LIMITED; CALL 1-855-721-6332 x 6 or 301-852-8933 email wsmith@mddcpress.com or visit our website at www.mddcpress.com

**DELIVER YOUR MESSAGE**  
Place your ad in the classifieds.

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## MISCELLANEOUS

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Clean Houses  
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All Real Estate advertised herein is subject to the federal Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to indicate any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for Real Estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis. If you believe that you may have been discriminated against in connection with the sale, rental or financing of housing, call The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

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**ANIMAL CARE FACILITY (PHOENIX, MD)**  
Needs an energetic, reliable person to clean & care for animals & do office work part-time. Computer skills & dedication to job is necessary. Call 410-527-1466

**CDL-A DRIVERS: NEW PAY & WEEKLY HOME**  
TIME/Earn up to \$0.49 CPM with Bonus Pay PLUS \$5000 Sign On Bonus. Call 866-711-2681 or SuperServiceLLC.com

**WATERFRONT HOMES****Spectacular Parcels**

**3 to 22 acres  
w/ deepwater access  
\$55,000 to \$124,000**

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left**

Located in an exclusive development on Virginia's Eastern Shore. Amenities include community pier, boat ramp, paved roads and private sandy beach. Only 1 hour to Va. Beach and south of Ocean City. Great climate, boating, fishing, clamming & very low property taxes. Absolute buy of a lifetime! Recent FDIC bank failure makes these 25 9 lots available at a fraction of original cost. For info call (757) 442-2171 or email: [oceanlandtrust@yahoo.com](mailto:oceanlandtrust@yahoo.com) Pictures and info on website - [www.waverlylots.com](http://www.waverlylots.com)

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**EARN \$500 A DAY:**  
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**WATERFRONT HOMES****BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

**DRIVE TRAFFIC TO YOUR BUSINESS**  
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**GARAGE/YARD SALES**

**ESTATE SALE** Various furn items & misc items. Sat 6/27, 8-2, 12901 Claxton Dr Laurel. All in good cond. 301-979-3845.

**HOWARD CO FAIRGRNDS**  
Kids Nearly New Fall Sale  
Saturday, Sept 19th. 8a-1p  
140 family booths selling everything for NB-teens.  
[boothInfo.KNNSale.com](http://boothInfo.KNNSale.com)

**WATERFRONT HOMES****GARAGE/YARD SALES**

**MOVING SALE**  
Sat 6/27, rain date 6/28, 8a-2pm, 2041 Deering Ave, in Morrell Park.

**SUNDAY BAZAAR AT THE**  
Howard County Fairgrds  
Sunday, Sept 20. 9am-2pm  
Handmade Crafts, Antiques  
Collectibles, Vintage Flea  
Market, and much more!  
booth info HCSbazaar.com

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**CANADA DRUG CENTER** is your choice for safe and affordable medications. Our licensed Canadian mail order pharmacy will provide you with savings of up to 90% on all your medication needs. Call today 1-800-418-8975, for \$10.00 off your first prescription and free shipping.

**GOT KNEE PAIN?**  
Back Pain? Shoulder Pain? Get a pain-relieving brace - little or NO cost to you. Medicare Patients Call Health Hotline Now!  
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**MISCELLANEOUS**

**ACORN STAIRLIFTS. THE AFFORDABLE** solution to your stairs! \*\*Limited time -\$250 Off Your Stairlift Purchase!\*\* Buy Direct & SAVE. Please call 1-800-304-4489 for FREE DVD and brochure.

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**ADVERTISE YOUR PRODUCT OR SERVICE NATIONWIDE** or by region in over 7 million households in North America's best suburbs! Place your classified ad in over 570 suburban newspapers just like this one. Call Classified Avenue at 888-486-3224

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**FREE \$50 WALMART GIFT CARD & 3 FREE** of YOUR FAVORITE MAGAZINES! To claim this free offer, Call 855-954-3224

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Act Now- \$19.99/mo.  
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**KILL BED BUGS!** Buy Harris Bed Bug Killer Complete Treatment Program/Kit. Harris Mattress Covers add Extra Protection! Available: ACE Hardware. Buy Online: homedepot.com

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**BOATS****MISCELLANEOUS**

**PLACE A BUSINESS CARD AD IN THE STATEWIDE DISPLAY 2X2 ADVERTISING NETWORK** - Reach 3.6 Million readers with just one call, one bill and one ad placement in 82 newspapers in Maryland, Delaware and DC TODAY! For just \$1450.00, Get the reach, Get the results and for Just Pennies on the Dollars Now...call 1-855-721-6332 x 6 or email [wsmith@mddcpress.com](mailto:wsmith@mddcpress.com)

**PLACE YOUR 2X4 AD IN THIS NETWORK IN 82 NEWSPAPERS IN MARYLAND, DELAWARE AND DC** for just \$2900.00. Reach 3.6 million readers every week with just one call, one bill and one ad. Call 1-855-721-6336 x 6 to place your ad or email [wsmith@mddcpress.com](mailto:wsmith@mddcpress.com). Get the reach, the results...maximize your advertising dollars TODAY!

**ARE YOU IN TROUBLE WITH THE IRS?**  
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\$69,538 Chance to own new log sided Cabin shell on 4 acres. Mountain Views close to lake. All park like Hardwoods, easy laying parcel Ready to use, new perc, utilities On site. OR 32 ACRES 50 MILE VIEWS ONLY \$149,900 READY TO USE. CALL NOW 800-888-1262

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COMPLETELY RENOVATED; 4 Bedrooms; 2.5 Baths; Open Floor Plan; Living Room with CATHEDRAL CEILING; Large Deck; Great Amenities; \$285,000; 302-545-0550

**WATERFRONT HOMES**

**SPECTACULAR 3 TO 22 ACRE LOTS** with deepwater access- Located in an exclusive development on Virginia's Eastern Shore , south of Ocean City. Amenities include community pier, boat ramp, paved roads and private sandy beach. Great climate, boating, fishing, clamming and National Seashore beaches nearby. Absolute buy of a lifetime, recent FDIC bank failure makes these 25 lots available at a fraction of their original price. Priced at only \$55,000 to \$124,000. For info call (757) 442-2171, e-mail: [oceanlandtrust@yahoo.com](mailto:oceanlandtrust@yahoo.com), pictures on website: <http://Wibiti.com/5KQN>

**WATERFRONT LOTS**


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4.6 acres, 275 ft of shoreline, sweeping water views. Access Choptank River and Bay! Dock installed and ready. ONLY \$69,900 Call 443-225-4679

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the world and I  
was there when  
it happened.”*

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