



# The Annapolis Times

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## Howard divinity student helps children of incarcerated parents go to college



*Yasmine Arrington's nonprofit has raised over \$80K for college scholarships*

*By Andrea Blackstone*

**Y**asmine Arrington primarily grew up in Washington, D.C. with a father in prison. She never let her experience prevent her from pursuing her dreams and making social change.

The 22-year-old social entrepreneur who is studying to complete her master's degree at Howard Divinity School founded ScholarCHIPS, a nonprofit that awards college scholarships to children in Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Virginia who have incarcerated parents. Arrington started ScholarCHIPS in 2010, during her junior year at Benjamin Banneker Academic High School in Washington, D.C. To date, over \$80,000 in college scholarships has been awarded to 23 students.

Arrington's vision to support an often overlooked demographic has garnered recognition over the years. On November 12, 2015, Arrington was selected as a J.M.K. Innovation Prize winner and was awarded up to \$175,000. The J.M. Kaplan Fund is a New York City-based family foundation supporting transformative cultural, social and environmental causes. The J.M.K. Innovative Prize seeks early-stage innovations in related fields.

Additionally, in late October, Arrington was one of five young people between the ages of eight and 22 who received the Peace First Prize from Peace First, the national nonprofit organization that invests in young people by helping them to become leaders and the next generation of peacemakers. She will receive a two-year \$25,000 fellowship to further her peacemaking work, training, networking opportunities and coaching from a dedicated member of Peace First staff.

*Over \$80,000 in college scholarships have been awarded to 23 scholars with incarcerated parents by Yasmine Arrington's nonprofit organization ScholarCHIPS. The 22-year-old social entrepreneur is currently pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at Howard University. She was one of five young people between the ages of 10 and 22 who received the Peace First Prize in New York City on October 20, 2015. Arrington was also selected as a J.M.K. Innovation Prize winner this month with an award totaling up to \$175,000. (See article on page 13) Courtesy Photo*

*Continued on page 13*

# Maryland Woman Named L'Oréal Paris Woman of Worth

By Stacy M. Brown

As a mother, Schinnell Leake says she knows the importance of children having confidence and a sense of self-worth.

So, when the College Park resident learned that more than 2,000 children live in homeless shelters around the region, she decided to form a nonprofit five years ago named, "Extra-Ordinary Birthdays."

"I set out to be a part of just bringing joy to children who are faced with homelessness," Leake said. "In our first year, we probably had about 75 to 80 children that we were doing birthday parties for and each year we partnered with another shelter and it was something that grew tremendously."

Since her organization's inception five years ago, Leake says she has arranged more than 400 birthday parties for homeless children in Maryland and in Washington, D.C.

The mission of Extra-Ordinary Birthdays is to transform the lives of homeless children by creating personalized birthdays that make them feel valued and to inspire moments of delight in their lives, according to Leake.

Now, Leake's efforts are being recognized by the popular beauty care company, L'Oréal Paris, who this month announced its ten 2015 Women of Worth honorees. As one of the people honored for making a difference in her community, Leake will be awarded \$10,000 for "Extra-Ordinary Birthdays."

She has the opportunity to receive an additional



*Schinnell Leake created the non-profit "Extra Ordinary Birthdays" to help transform the lives of homeless children by creating personalized birthdays to let them know they are valued.*

Courtesy Photo

\$25,000 to advance her cause if selected as the national honoree through an online public vote, which ended on Friday, November 20, 2015.

"An award like L'Oréal Paris is a jumpstart for us,"

Leake said. "We want to be able to have faith and I run this nonprofit out of my home and everything is grassroots and we have an amazing community who helps. When you have L'Oréal Paris, who is about community, recognizing what you do, it says you're worth it."

The beauty company, which employs a host of celebrity spokespeople, provided special shout-outs to the winners using their stars. For Leake, it was singer and actress Jennifer Lopez.

"I was pleased that Jennifer Lopez chose me for her women crush Wednesday," Leake said.

In a statement, L'Oréal Paris president Karen Fondu said women of all ages, races and financial backgrounds like Leake, are changing their communities and positively impacting the lives of others.

"These women do not seek recognition or celebrity, but choose to help others because they see a way that they can make a difference and have the passion to pursue it with all their might," Fondu said.

Hosting birthday parties for her daughter and realizing the joy she gets out of it, helped convinced Leake to offer her services to homeless children.

"I say, as a parent, I understand and know what self worth looks like. I get to see it with the children and I also get to see it with their parents when we do the birthday parties," Leake said, noting that everything is personalized, including the birthday cake, decorations and gifts. "They get to choose their own cake and their brand new gifts that reflect what the child would want."

To learn more about "Extra-Ordinary Birthdays," visit. [www.extraordinarybirthdays.org](http://www.extraordinarybirthdays.org).

Send your community calendar events  
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Chief of the Office of Faith Based and Community Partnerships  
for the Prevention and Health Promotion Administration  
and Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

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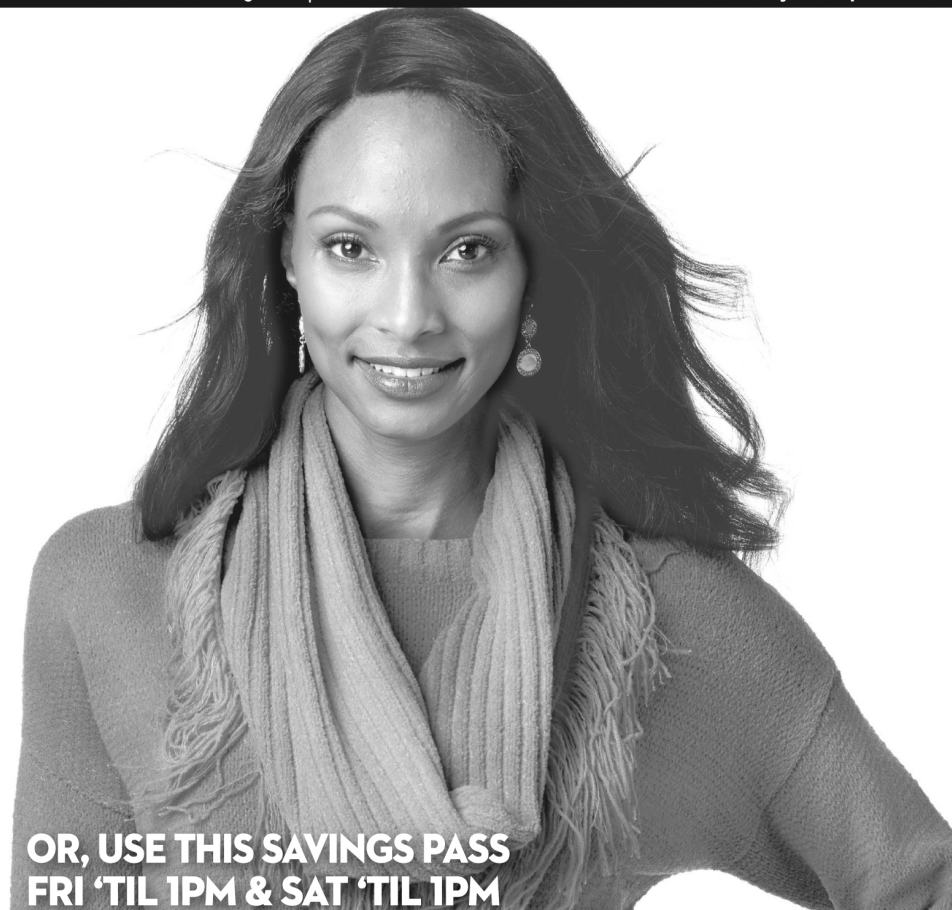
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## The Un-Islamic State of Terror

By Foday Justice Darboe

In the wake of the coordinated terrorist attacks in Paris and the double suicide bombing in Beirut on November 12, 2015, many Muslims took to Twitter to loudly and unequivocally condemn the terrorists attacks with the hashtags— #NotInMy-Name, #MuslimsAreNotTerrorist, but is this enough to counter Islamic extremism? When will “moderate Muslims” stand up and speak against the terror and mayhem committed in the name of Islam? Thanks to Al-Qaeda, ISIS, Al-Shabab, Boko Haram, etc. Islam is facing a major branding problem. Islamic extremism is damaging and endangering the place of Islam and Muslims in the world. As Daniel Pipes argues, if militant Islam is the problem; moderate Islam is the solution. “Moderate Muslims” all over the world, particularly those living in secure environments, must speak out more to condemn and further isolate the medieval extremist elements.

As a moderate/progressive Muslim, I want to note that ISIS does not speak for me nor do I share any iota of their twisted beliefs. ISIS poses a direct challenge to the principle and vision of Islam and a threat to humanity. To say ISIS is un-Islamic is an understatement. In essence, ISIS is an international band of thugs using religion and terror to rape, kill, and extort money. Arguably, ISIS and their sympathizers are willfully and pridefully ignorant. Of course, cognitive dissonance is difficult to overcome. The sad part is that ISIS followers truly believe they have the right interpretation of Islam. Thus, they have created some delusional reality where they ignore tolerance, acceptance, inclusion and coexistence— the core principles of the religion.

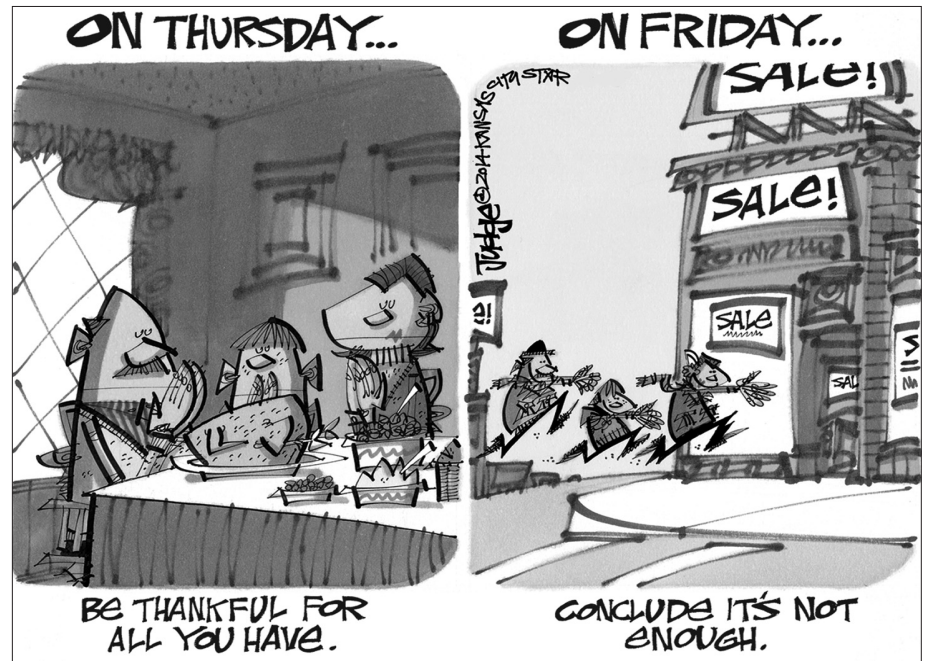
As Fareed Zakaria once alluded that both those inside and outside the Muslim world must recognize that the fight against violent Islamic extremism is not a clash between Muslims and the West or a clash between civilizations. “Moderate Muslim” leaders— by far the vast majority— must condemn jihadist ideology and issue Fatwas against extremism. Islamic extremism has to be defeated ideologically and its narrative reformed. As in World War II or the Cold War, the ideological opponents had to be defeated, followed by transformation of the societies in which the ideology took hold. There are more than 1.6 billion Muslims worldwide and the vast majority are peace loving and it is within these “moderate Muslims” that the problem lies. The term “moderate” has lost its standing in the Islamic world and “moderate Muslim” voices are often drowned out by the extremists. We must lead the way in promoting counter narratives to extremist ideologies.

Complete military success in Iraq, Syria and other ISIS controlled territories will not destroy the terrorist threat. Reciprocal violence will not stop terrorism over the long term; there are always more recruits to fill the ranks and only a few terrorists are needed to inflict destruction. Other counterterrorism methods such as targeted killings, infiltration, arrest, military repression or marginalization may not work; may be insufficient on their own to end a campaign; or may even worsen the problem overall. The West should focus on winning the hearts and minds of moderate Muslims to counter Islamic extremism.

Though the creation of an Islamic state is an important factor among ISIS’s grievances, there are other grievances that proved fertile recruiting ground for ISIS. The threat of Islamic extremism will disappear only if the region manages to reduce chronic poverty, unemployment, end rampant government corruption, promote democratic principles, and end political disenfranchisement.

To any extremist or ISIS sympathizer reading this, call me an infidel. I will proudly take that name. I’m not committing blasphemy; I’m challenging your twisted ideology.

*Foday Justice Darboe is a Ph.D. candidate in Conflict Analysis and Transformation.*



## Community Affairs

### Red Cross urges winter blood and platelet donations

Baltimore— This holiday season, the American Red Cross urges individuals to give something that means something— a blood or platelet donation. This simple, potentially lifesaving act can give patients in need another holiday season with loved ones.

“During the winter months and especially around the holidays, blood donations tend to decline,” said Steve Mavica, Communications Manager for the Red Cross Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Blood Services Region. “Long holiday weekends, like Thanksgiving, pose an extra challenge when many donors are traveling to be with family and friends. The Red Cross encourages people to make an appointment to donate blood or platelets and give a meaningful gift to a patient this holiday season— the gift of life.”

Blood donors with all types, especially O negative, B negative and A negative, are urged to give. Platelet donors and

those with type AB blood are also continually needed.

To make an appointment, download the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Donors can use RapidPass to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, from a computer or laptop. Visit: [redcrossblood.org/RapidPass](http://redcrossblood.org/RapidPass) to get started.

A blood donor card or driver’s license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental consent in some states), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

This time of year, there are also fewer blood drives on the calendar. With fewer opportunities for donors to give, the Red Cross typically experiences a seasonal decline in blood donations.

For more information about hosting a blood drive or donating blood is available at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).

## *Don't believe the holiday hype*

*By Julianne Malveaux  
NNPA News Wire Columnist*

The build-up began right after Halloween, when the newspapers got thicker; the advertising inserts longer, and e-mails touting shopping bargains coming more frequently. Buy! Buy! Buy! The exhortations are almost hypnotic. Buy, buy more, and buy even more. Sellers have become far more aggressive in trying to separate consumers from their dollars because they depend on fourth quarter sales to make a profit.

The term "Black Friday" does not refer to black people, but to the Friday after Thanksgiving when retailers can forecast whether they will end the year "in the black." Consumer confidence is higher than it has been in the past several years, and unemployment is lower. Spending is up. Have consumers shed the cautionary approach they had to holiday spending last year?

Whether you plan to spend or not, don't fall for the holiday hype. The big box stores will advertise unbelievable

bargains, a 58" wide screen TV for \$129, for example. What they won't tell you is that they have five of them. Exactly five. They are hoping that you will get to the store early, stand in line and when you learn there are no more cheap TV bargains, you'll buy something else. Meanwhile, you and the other fools— yes, fools— who stood in line all day or night will perform for the cameras that record you stampeding through the store, trampling each other,

offering health care, and fires employees when they protest. They are the easiest to call out, but they aren't the only retailer that touts great prices but offers workers low pay and benefits.

If there is shopping that should be done (and don't get me wrong, I like to shop as much as the next person does) why not spend your dollars with black-owned businesses, and also on Small Business Saturday—the Saturday after thanksgiving. Why not gift your friends, espe-

more patronage. Unfortunately, African Americans spend less than ten percent of our income with black businesses. While there are "reasons," there are also reasons we should go out of our way to support black business. Supporting black business generates jobs in our communities, which means providing opportunities for some of the young people who desperately need employment.

According to a Gallup consumer survey, Americans plan to spend \$830 on gifts this year, 15 percent more than we spent in 2014, and more than any year since 2007. My snarly tone about holiday hype isn't likely to change hearts, minds or spending habits. Without snarling, my suggestion is to think before you spend, and to let your spending reflect your values. If you appreciate small businesses— shop with them. If you care about black entrepreneurship— look for black businesses. If you can't find a bricks and mortar store— shop online.

Whatever you do, don't go galloping down the aisles of a big box store and get featured on the news chasing that elusive bargain. Holidays, our holy days, ought to be our season to be grateful, not our season to spend mindlessly. Just a word from the Grinch!

*Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist based in Washington, D.C. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy" will be released in 2015 and is available for preorder at [www.juliannemalveaux.com](http://www.juliannemalveaux.com).*

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***"Why not, instead, consider the meaning  
of holidays, holy days?"***

***Why not use these last few weeks of the year  
to do some of the good we neglected  
to do earlier in the year?"***

***Why not show love, regard, respect through words  
and deeds, and not through stuff? Why feed the great  
consumer machine that exploits consumers."***

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in search of "deals."

Why not, instead, consider the meaning of holidays, holy days? Why not use these last few weeks of the year to do some of the good we neglected to do earlier in the year? Why not show love, regard, respect through words and deeds, and not through stuff? Why feed the great consumer machine that exploits consumers. Wal-Mart, the largest of the mass retailers pays its workers little to nothing, adjusts their hours to avoid

cially children and young adults with great books. As you contemplate holiday giving, consider Maggie Anderson's *Our Black Year: One Family's Quest to Buy Black in America's Racially Divided Economy*.

Anderson's book is both sobering and empowering. Sobering— it was a chore to buy black, because black folks don't own things like gas stations. Empowering— it was important to see how black business could be strengthened with

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# Over one million African Americans to be at risk by 2030

Washington, D.C.— You can't feel it. You can't see it— until it's too late. Diabetic retinopathy, the most common form of diabetic eye disease, is the leading cause of blindness in adults age 20–74. It occurs when diabetes damages blood vessels in the retina.

Diabetic retinopathy affects 7.7 million Americans, and that number is projected to increase to more than 11 million people by 2030. Many African Americans are included in these statistics. According to the National Eye Institute (NEI), more than 800,000 African Americans have diabetic retinopathy, and this number is projected to increase to approximately 1.2 million people by 2030.

“Only about half of all people with diabetes get an annual comprehensive dilated eye exam, which is essential for detecting diabetic eye disease early, when it is most treatable,” said Dr. Paul Sieving, director of NEI.

With no early symptoms, diabetic eye disease— a group of conditions including cataract, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy— can affect anyone with type 1 or type 2 diabetes. African Americans are at higher risk for losing vision or going blind from diabetes. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 13 percent of African Americans have diagnosed diabetes.

The longer a person has diabetes, the greater the risk for diabetic eye disease. Once vision is lost, it often cannot be restored.

Keeping diabetes in control is key to slowing the progression of vision complications like diabetic retinopathy. There are important steps people with diabetes can take to keep their health on TRACK:

- Take your medications as prescribed by your doctor.

- Reach and maintain a healthy weight.
- Add physical activity to your daily routine.
- Control your ABC's—A1C, blood pressure, and cholesterol levels.
- Kick the smoking habit.

Additionally, people with diabetes should have annual comprehensive dilated eye exams to help protect their sight. Early detection, timely treatment, and appropriate follow-up care can reduce a person's risk for severe vision loss from diabetic eye disease by 95 percent.

“More than ever, it's important for people with diabetes to have a compre-

hensive dilated eye exam at least once a year. New treatments are being developed all the time, and we are learning that different treatments may work best for different patients. What hasn't changed is that early treatment is always better,” said Dr. Suber Huang, chair of the Diabetic Eye Disease Subcommittee for NEI's National Eye Health Education Program (NEHEP) and member of the NEI-funded Diabetic Retinopathy Clinical Research Network (DRCR.net). “There has never been a more hopeful time in the treatment of diabetic retinopathy.”

Remember, if you have diabetes, make

annual comprehensive dilated eye exams part of your self-management routine. Living with diabetes can be challenging, but you don't have to lose your vision or go blind because of it. To help friends and loved ones reduce their risk, share this article.





For more information on diabetic eye disease, tips on finding an eye care professional, or information on financial assistance, visit <http://www.nei.nih.gov/diabetes> or call NEI at 301-496-5248.

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# Ravens sticking together despite most disappointing season in franchise history

By Turrón Davenport

Many analysts and prognosticators picked the Baltimore Ravens to advance to the Super Bowl. Many people (myself included) said the Ravens had one of the top five most talented rosters in the NFL. However, things have not gone the way anyone expected this season.

With a losing record, the Ravens have a very slim chance of making it to the post season. The season has been a disaster. The Ravens have stumbled to a 0-3 start for the first time in franchise history.

This season was supposed to be one in which the Ravens celebrate their 20th season by adding another winning season to the team's history. The Ravens inducted Ed Reed into the Ring of Honor recently. It was a nice touch, honoring #20 to commemorate the franchise's 20th season.

Rookie wide receiver and first round pick Breshad Perriman was recently placed on injured reserve before he saw a single snap with full gear on. Perriman joined Terrell Suggs and Steve Smith Sr. on injured reserve. All in all, the Ravens have lost a total of 12 players due to injury for the entire season.

To make matters worse, Joe Flacco and Justin Forsett were both lost for the season during the Ravens game against the St. Louis Rams on Sunday, November 22, 2015. The Ravens continue to employ the next man up mentality, even with the loss of Flacco, a player who has not missed a game in his career. All in all, the Ravens have lost a total of 14 players for the entire season.

The players on the team expressed confidence in Buck Allen and Matt Schaub, the players who will be called to step in for Forsett and Flacco.

"It was devastating. They are two great leaders on offense. I'm definitely going to pray for them, but at the same time, we've got capable guys behind them. Matt Schaub is a veteran in this league," Ravens defensive tackle Brandon Williams said. "He's got a cannon for [an] arm and still has a lot of life left, and he's going to execute the best he can. We support him 100 percent and you've seen what Buck Allen can do all season."

John Harbaugh mentioned the fact that



**Baltimore Ravens head coach John Harbaugh addresses the media during a press conference at the Under Armour Training Facility in Owings Mills, Maryland recently. Harbaugh believes that taking care of one another and sticking together as a team is of utmost importance. Photo by Turrón Davenport**

Flacco put the team ahead of himself and did what he could to finish the series despite what is said to be multiple ligament tears in his knee.

"He finished the whole series with two completely torn ligaments and stayed on the field with the clock running, because he knew if he comes off, now we have clock issues," Harbaugh said. "I told the team he's an absolute iron man, warrior-type of a player out there, and now it's his turn. We have to step up and rally up for him, just like he has done so many times for so many guys."

Usually a lot of finger pointing and bickering occurs whenever such high expectations are followed by the level of disappointment that 2015 has brought. It's easy to point fingers, but that's not what this team is about.

The team is closely knit, just like a family. When Steve Smith Sr. went down with an Achilles injury, almost every player stopped by his locker to offer their support. The players say they will play the coming games hard just because they know how much he loves the game and is unable to play the rest of this season. That's a testament to how close this team is!

Elvis Dumervil was called for a

penalty that put the Jacksonville Jaguars in position to kick the game winning

field goal. He was down on himself because he felt that he cost the team the game. His teammates came out publicly and said the game should not have come down to the penalty and there were numerous plays that could have determined the outcome.

That's how a team that sticks together responds after losing a game the way the Ravens lost to the Jaguars.

When John Harbaugh was first named head coach of the Ravens, he said that taking care of one another and sticking together was of utmost importance. That philosophy held true when the Ravens won the Super Bowl for Ray Lewis in his final season and it surely holds true in the worst season the team has had under Harbaugh.

The Ravens are sticking together and there are zero arguments or disagreements on the sidelines. They still go out and fight to win every game. It's the sign of a true family and that is a testament to the type of leader the Ravens have in John Harbaugh.

A movie poster for the film "Krampus". The poster features a large, glowing snow globe in the center, held by a hand. Inside the snow globe is a small, cozy house. The background is dark and atmospheric, with other snow globes visible. The title "KRAMPUS" is written in large, icy, jagged letters at the bottom. Above the title, the text "You Better Watch Out." is written. At the bottom, there is a list of cast and crew members, including Michael Dougherty, Adam Scott, Toni Collette, David Koechner, Allison Tolman, Conchata Ferrell, Emjay Anthony, Stefania LaVie Owen, Krista Stadler, Daniel M. Stillman, Thomas Tull, Jon Jashni, Alex Garcia, Michael Dougherty, Todd Casey, and Zach Shields. The poster also includes the PG-13 rating and the text "STARTS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4" and "CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES".



## THE FUTURE OF BALTIMORE

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**Andre M. Davis**  
Senior Judge,  
U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth District

**Robert Cook**  
CFUF Program Graduate

**Thomas Harvey**  
Co-Founder and Executive Director  
ArchCity Defenders (Ferguson, MO)

**Betty Covington**  
Baltimore City  
Public Schools Police Force

**Dayvon Love**  
Director of Research and Public Policy  
Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle

**Michael Pinard (Moderator)**  
Co-Director of Clinical Law,  
Francis King Carey School of Law,  
University of Maryland

### special audio montage by:

**Mary Rose Madden**  
Senior News Producer,  
WYPR 88.1 FM

**Date:** December 1, 2015  
**Time:** 6-9pm  
**Location:**  
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## McDaniel College announces new \$100K Educator's Legacy Scholarships for students of K-12 employees

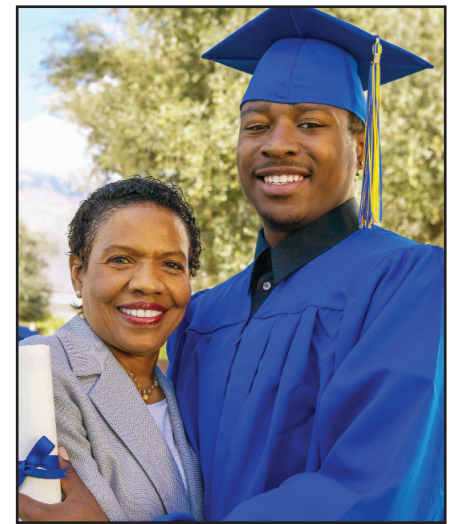
*High school seniors whose parent or guardian works full time in K-12 education can apply for this new guaranteed scholarship for Fall 2016 admission to McDaniel*

Westminster, Md. – McDaniel College announces a new \$100,000 Educator's Legacy Scholarship for students applying to McDaniel for Fall 2016 admission.

High school seniors whose parent or guardian works full time in K-12 education can apply for this guaranteed scholarship to attend McDaniel College. Any service in a K-12 school qualifies, including teachers, counselors, nurses, support staff or administrators, as long as the parent or guardian has at least four years of current and consecutive employment.

Students must have at least a 2.5 grade point average (GPA) to receive the scholarship and must complete and file an online K-12 employment verification form. Their parents also must submit a letter on school letterhead from the school administrator verifying the parent's employment record. The \$25,000 annual scholarship is renewable each year to students who maintain satisfactory academic progress.

According to McDaniel President Roger N. Casey, "McDaniel has successfully trained teachers and adminis-



trators for over 100 years and the college has a tradition of producing top educators. Three of McDaniel's graduates in the past five years were Maryland Teachers of the Year, including the 2011 National Teacher of the Year Michelle Shearer."

"We are proud of this legacy and want to celebrate our commitment to educators by rewarding elementary and secondary school employees for their work in preparing the class of 2020," he added. "That is why we decided to announce this new scholarship during American Education Week. Four years of service in any school or school district by a parent equals \$25,000 per year for their child."

Visit <http://www.mcdaniel.edu/undergraduate/admissions/apply/educators-legacy-scholarship> for additional information about the Educator's Legacy Scholarship or to learn more about applying to McDaniel College.

For more information about McDaniel College, visit [www.mcdaniel.edu](http://www.mcdaniel.edu).

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# WORLD AIDS DAY

**Tuesday**  
**DECEMBER 1**  
**2015**

**4:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

**Location:**  
**Delta Community Center**

2501 Springhill Avenue  
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Light Fare Refreshments  
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FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:  
Jacqueline Richardson, Chair: 443-604-1344



Monica R. Watkins, President



**Take action in  
the fight against  
HIV/AIDS**

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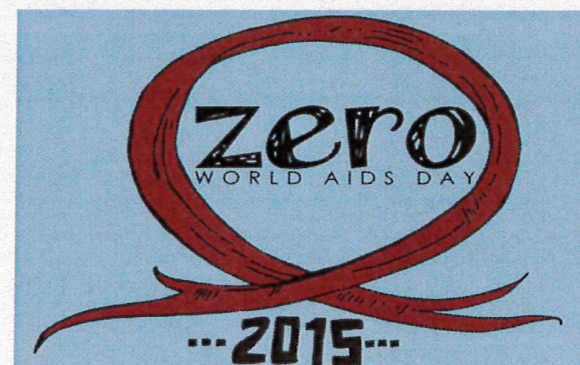
**Dr. Leana Wen**  
*Commissioner  
Baltimore City Health Department*

MODERATOR:

**Dr. Debra Hickman**  
*Sisters Together and Reaching*

PARTNER:

**Willie Flowers**  
*Park Heights Health Alliance*



# Baltimore prepares for World AIDS Day

By Stacy M. Brown

## Baltimore City awarded \$20 million CDC grant

Approximately 13,000 Baltimore City residents are living with HIV and the vast majority or 82 percent are African-Americans.

Each year, 500 hundred new cases in the city are discovered and, although the diagnosis isn't the death sentence that it once was, it's still problematic, according to health officials.

Ahead of World AIDS Day, which takes place each year on December 1, the Baltimore City Health Department is planning a host of educational and outreach activities, so much so that its spokesman said officials remain huddled trying to finalize those plans.

"We are already doing a series of outreach and education efforts," said Sean Naron, the public information officer for the city's health department. "We have gotten better with awareness and we're seeing decreased transmission rates across the board and increased acceptance."

Naron says the November 17th announcement by actor Charlie Sheen that he has contracted the HIV virus, which causes AIDS could serve to help raise awareness.

"I watched his announcement and fighting the stigma is a part of this, and when celebrities, going back to Magic Johnson, reveal they have it, people are more willing to be aware of the potential and understand that it's an issue," Naron said.

To assist the health department's ongoing efforts, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has awarded the city a \$20 million grant to help reduce HIV infection among men who have sex with men and transgender populations, with a specific emphasis on minorities. The grant is part of \$185 million in funding distributed by the CDC to respond to the severe burden of HIV among gay men,



**Dr. Leana Wen**  
**Baltimore City Health Commissioner**  
Courtesy Photo

transgender men and women.

While new HIV infections are declining across the city, they are increasing among gay men and transgender persons in Baltimore, according to the health department.

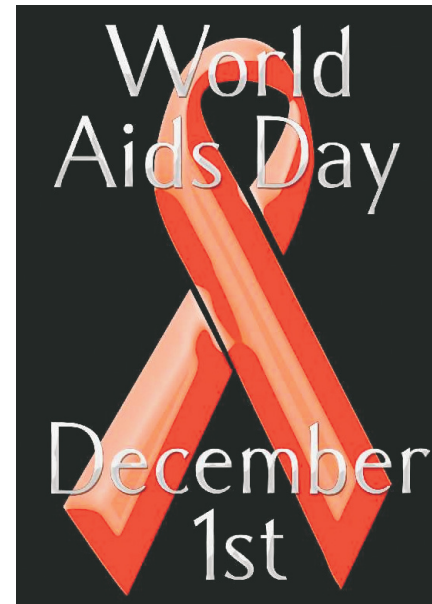
African-Americans are particularly at-risk as 82 percent of those living with HIV in Baltimore are black.

"This is not just a health issue, but one of social justice," Baltimore City Health Commissioner Dr. Leana Wen said in a news release. "Thanks to this generous funding, we will be able to help African-American men who have sex with men and transgender individuals who are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS, both here in Baltimore and across the country."

Through the grant, the department of health in collaboration with some community partners proposes to implement and evaluate a PrEP program in order to reduce the acquisition of HIV.

PrEP is a preventive approach to HIV infection that addresses risk behaviors and involves daily administration of the antiretroviral Truvada, to prevent HIV infection if exposed.

"We are taking an organized approach



to HIV so that more people know their statuses, get into care, and stay in care," said Patrick Chaulk, the health department's assistant commissioner. "We will begin by working with those with the highest risk before broadening this effort

to help all Baltimoreans."

Further, the health department plans to use the grant money to improve engagement in HIV medical care by developing a collaborative with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and local health departments to provide a comprehensive model that brings together experienced HIV clinicians, counselors and other behavioral health and social service providers into a "Care Collective."

The Care Collective will develop best practices and comprehensive approaches to prevent HIV infection among high risk gay men of color and ensure that persons living with HIV/AIDS ensure that persons living with HIV/AIDS access and remain in care.

"I think the stigma has gone down over the past five to 10 years and over the past decade we've been able to cut HIV diagnoses in half," Naron said. "I think we'll see a great turnout on World AIDS Day across the country."

## Baltimore commemorates World AIDS Day with citywide Candlelight Vigils

In Baltimore City, one in forty two people are HIV positive and the number continues to grow. Local, state and regional organizations want to change that trend and are campaigning for a "Getting to Zero" initiative— ZERO AIDS related deaths; ZERO new HIV infections; and ZERO stigma and discrimination. This year, numerous non-profits, churches, government agencies and community groups will gather in and around Baltimore on December 1, 2015, World AIDS Day, to hold a candlelight vigil between 6:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. at various locations through the city listed below:

**Chase Brexton Health Care, 1111 N. Charles Street, Baltimore**

**Celebration of Community, 10 E. Mt. Vernon Place, Baltimore**

**Institute of Human Virology-JACQUES Initiative  
725 W. Lombard Street, Courtyard, Baltimore**

**Coppin State University-College of Health Professions  
2500 W. North Avenue, HHSB 125E, Baltimore**

**Notre dame of Maryland University  
International Pharmaceutical Student Federation  
4701 N. Charles Street, Baltimore**

**Baltimore Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc  
2501 Springhill Avenue, Baltimore**

For more information, go to Facebook.com/BmoreAwareHIV  
or call 410-327-3420, ext. 11.

*More health stories available online at:  
[www.baltimoretimes-online.com](http://www.baltimoretimes-online.com)*

# Freestate Academy Prepares Teens for GED, Successful Life



*By Stacy M. Brown*

At the U.S. Army's Aberdeen Proving Ground about 20 miles northeast of Baltimore, 107 teens are on the verge of earning their GED. The young men and women, who range in age from 16 to 18 years old, have experienced various problems at home, at school and with the law.

In many cases, they have encountered difficulties too burdensome to overcome—until now.

They have enrolled in the Freestate ChalleNGe Academy, a quasi-military residential program supported through funding from the state and the Army.

“The ‘NG’ is capitalized because the program is endorsed by the state of Maryland and is in a cooperative agreement between The Maryland National Guard and the National Guard Bureau,” said Charles Holloway, the deputy director and program coordinator at the academy.

More importantly however, the Freestate ChalleNGe Academy is a tuition-free program offering at-risk teens an opportunity to change their future by providing the skills, education and self-discipline needed to become responsible, productive citizens.

The program consists of a 22-week residential phase where students—called cadets—learn self-discipline, leadership and responsibility.

Uniforms are issued and bags are inventoried for required items as academy officials collect and review medical and academic records.

Male participants are given military-style haircuts and all participants live and work in a controlled military environment, encouraging teamwork and personal growth.

A 12-month post-residential phase follows and focuses on helping to enroll graduates in continued education, technical school programs or entry-level employment. During the post-residential phase, students are assisted by at least one trained mentor from the community for further development and the academy provides instruction based on each cadet's personal needs in order to prepare them to take the State of Maryland's General Education Development exam.

“Where success is a subjective term, we have an expected success rate of 60 percent but often we exceed that number,” Holloway said. “We measure success by placement in jobs, schooling, military and others and by passing the GED test.”

The program has the capacity to hold 197 cadets and, on December 12, 2015, Holloway says 107 students are expected to graduate and receive their GED.

“The academy prepares cadets for the military in addition to providing a foundation of discipline needed

for them to be successful citizens,” Holloway said.

Students are provided instruction in bed-making, hygiene, nutrition and anger management.

Cell phones and iPods are not permitted, and there are no televisions. Flashy sneakers are forbidden, as white low tops with white socks are the rule. Pockets are sewn shut to keep students from putting their hands in them. Headgear consists of a blue mesh ball cap and men and women are segregated.

To enroll, an individual must be a U.S. citizen and a Maryland resident between 16 and 18 and a high school dropout or are at risk of dropping out.

“They must not currently be on parole or supervised probation for other than juvenile status offenses; not awaiting sentencing; and not under indictment, charged or convicted of a crime that is considered a felony when charged as an adult,” Holloway said.

Mandatory drug screening is conducted within the first 40 days of starting Freestate ChalleNGe Academy and any applicant who tests positive for illegal drugs will be terminated.

“This is a second chance,” said Quentin Banks, Jr., director of Public Affairs for the Academy. “It's an opportunity for the kids to possibly earn their GED.”

For more information about the program, visit [www.freestatemil.maryland.gov](http://www.freestatemil.maryland.gov).

# Howard divinity student helps children of incarcerated parents go to college

“I feel very grateful and encouraged that the teams at [the] Peace First Prize and [the] J.M. Kaplan Innovation Prize believe in my potential as a leader and mission with ScholarCHIPS. These awards will allow us to grow our organization [for] outreach and positive impact to youth with incarcerated parents,” Arrington said.

The idea to start ScholarCHIPS began in Arrington’s junior year of high school. Her mother Kimberly Wright died when she was a freshman in high school and her father, Tony Arrington was incarcerated. Yasmine and her siblings were being raised by their maternal grandmother Veronica Wright. While helping her granddaughter to search for scholarships, Veronica noted the absence of scholarships for youth with parents in prison. Around the same time, Yasmine was participating in a year-long extracurricular program called LearnServe International. Students were challenged to identify community issues that they wanted to be changed. Towards the end of the program in 2010, Yasmine presented her idea of ScholarCHIPS to a panel of local business owners and entrepreneurs in Washington, D.C. She received a \$1,000 seed grant.

After Washington Post columnist, Petula Dvorak, wrote the first story about Yasmine and ScholarCHIPS, donations picked up. Yasmine even gained attention from the owner of the Washington Redskins, Dan Snyder.

“From that point, we just started doing a number of fundraising events like an auction and [other] things that helped us to raise our first funds. When I was preparing to graduate high school, I received a call from Dan Snyder. He called the school [Benjamin Baneker Academic High School] and said, ‘Yasmine, we just want to let you know congratulations, you are 2011 Redskins Scholar.’ And then on top of that, he said, ‘We’re going to provide ScholarCHIPS with a match grant. I think at that time we had raised about \$5,000. So right there we ended up with \$10,000,’” Yasmine said.

Arrington ultimately located multiple scholarships that covered her four years of undergraduate tuition at Elon University in North Carolina. In her sophomore year, she was honored as a 2012 BET Black Girls Rock M.A.D. (Making a Difference) Girl.

The social entrepreneur’s reach includes college students in Maryland. Selected ScholarCHIPS recipients who received \$250 book awards or \$2,500 tuition assistance attend Bowie State University; Community College of Baltimore Essex; University of Maryland Eastern Shore; Montgomery College and Prince George’s Community College.

Yasmine explained that producing scholars helps children of incarcerated parents to understand that their future is not defined by their parent’s status.

“They have the power to write their own story. It’s



*Yasmine Arrington (left) who was awarded the Peace First Prize on October 20, 2015 in New York will receive a two-year \$25,000 fellowship to further her work through her nonprofit ScholarCHIPS. The other Peace First Prize winners are (L-r): Grace Callwood; Brennan Lewis; Jasmine Babers; and Xiuhtezcatl Martinez.*

Courtesy Photos



*Yasmine Arrington (right) hugs Deva Jones, the Fellowship and Youth Engagement Program Director, as the founder and president of Peace First, Eric Dawson, looks on.*

what you make it. There’s no limit to the positive possibilities,” she said.

For more information or to make a donation to ScholarCHIPS, visit [www.scholarchipsfund.com](http://www.scholarchipsfund.com).

## Pay close attention to law enforcement officers working our roadways

Nationally, seven officers were killed in traffic-related incidents last year between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve

Washington, D.C.—The period between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day can be a particularly dangerous time for law enforcement, as millions of Americans take to the roads, and officers step up safety patrols. Forty-eight law enforcement officers died in traffic-related incidents in 2014.

Those 48 men and women left behind family, colleagues, neighbors, and friends who faced tragic loss instead of holiday cheer.

In August 2011, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) initiated an innovative partnership to promote law enforcement officer safety on the roadways and reduce the number of traffic-related fatalities. In addition to maintaining a safe speed and driving only when sober, drivers need to be especially mindful of officers who will be out enforcing traffic laws.

The Memorial Fund's Drive Safely campaign promotes a number of actions motorists can take to protect law enforcement officers, other drivers and themselves:

**Slow down and "Move Over."** If you see emergency vehicles stopped by the side of the road, slow down and safely move over one lane if possible. All fifty states have enacted and are enforcing "Move Over" laws. Violators can be ticketed and fined.

**Focus on driving.** Avoid talking on your cell phone, texting, eating, or hunting for items in your vehicle while driving. When traveling 55 mph or faster, a two-second distraction can be deadly.



Adjust your speed for road conditions, especially snow and ice.

**Get out of the way of emergency vehicles.** If an emergency vehicle has its lights or siren activated, slow down, move to the right, and stop if possible. Once the vehicle passes, do not follow it too closely.

**Stay off the shoulder.** Driving on the shoulder of a roadway is not only illegal—it's dangerous. Emergency vehicles use the shoulder to get to emergencies faster, where a few seconds can mean the difference between life and death.

**Watch officers' hands as they direct traffic.** And listen for whistles or other audible signals from officers on how to proceed.

"We want to make sure that our peace officers have the chance to enjoy this holiday season. The Memorial Fund's Drive Safely campaign reminds motorists to pay special attention to officers on the roads, obey Move Over laws, and follow other common-sense traffic safety measures," said Memorial Fund Chairman/CEO Craig W. Floyd.

"Our law enforcement officers will dedicate time away from their own families so the rest of us can travel safely during the holidays," he said. "Every time we get behind the wheel—and especially during the holidays—we owe these brave men and women our full attention and consideration."

For more information and safety tips, visit: [www.LawMemorial.org/DriveSafely](http://www.LawMemorial.org/DriveSafely).

## Come Join Us Saturday • December 5 • 10 AM to 1 PM **HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE** All Ages!

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# Denise Coleman performs in Disney Live! presents Three Classic Fairy Tales

By Andrea Blackstone

Denise Coleman, 27, is a believer that things come together whenever they should. Hardships have helped the Disney performer shape who she is today. Despite encountering obstacles that could have caused her to give up on her dream of being on stage, Coleman confidently pushed to attain her goals, just as her father Jeffrey Coleman advised while she was growing up.

Four years ago marked the beginning of the time when Denise had the privilege of fitting her whole life into a few suitcases to travel and work as a performer for Feld Entertainment—the producer and presenter of Disney Live! The phone call that changed Denise's life arrived after auditioning the fifth time in her hometown of Chicago.

On December 4th and 5th Disney fans can spot the ensemble dancer in scenes during Disney Live! presents Three Classic Fairy Tales. Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, Donald Duck and Goofy will make appearances, too. Denise says Disney lovers should recognize some of their favorite characters within the timeless fairytale adventures.

During the show tour, Denise will perform in over 70 U.S. cities. The Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Calif., is the same place where the Oscars have been



*Disney Live! presents Three Classic Fairy Tales comes to the Lyric Opera House in Baltimore on December 4 and 5, 2015. Denise Coleman will perform in the stage show filled with beloved Disney princesses as they tell the tales of "Belle," "Snow White" and "Cinderella" and how each of them found happily ever after. Audiences will be able to sing and dance along to classic songs from Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Cinderella and Beauty and the Beast in the live theatrical performance.*

held. Although Denise performed in Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru and Japan, the Dolby Theatre remains one of her favorite places.

"I just imagined so many people that walked up and down those halls and (they) performed on the same stage where we performed," Denise said.

Praying with thankfulness to God for her opportunity to do what she loves before each onstage performance is a part of Denise's regimen. She recalls her beginning as a five-year-old belting out songs by The Jackson 5 and the girl group, TLC during family events with her cousins. African drum and tap lessons followed by performing, acting, dance and ultimately gymnastics in high school. Denise watched gymnast Dominique Dawes tumble and dance on television during the Olympic Games in 1996. Dawes ignited Denise's desire to take gymnastic lessons. Denise's family did not have money for them at the time, so she got a job.

"In high school I took classes, so I had to have a job to take classes to pay for different costumes and dance shoes," Denise said, "That's when I kind of blossomed and grew."

After Coleman learned gymnastic floor routines and gained dance skills, she knew that performing and entertaining was her passion. In early adulthood,

she was a dance and psychology major enrolled at the University of Georgia. After two years, she quit college and moved to Orlando, Florida. After landing an internship with Walt Disney World parks, she ultimately performed in parades and shows.

Her mother, Rosalind Coleman allowed her daughter to put audition flights or money for classes on her expense tab to be repaid later, when Denise was unable to finance them at the time. Rosalind now tries to catch all of her daughter's U.S. performances whenever she can.

The energetic performer enjoys gracing stages in the different hometowns of Disney fans.

"To see them light up and dance and sing along with us, that to me is the best part of my day! I love bringing happiness to people across the United States," Denise said. "I feel like I have been lucky to have people around me that support me for my art and for me and what I do. It is hard out there for a performer, but it's what I love, so I don't see myself doing anything else."

Tickets for Disney Live! presents Three Classic Fairy Tales are available from at: [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or by calling: 1-800-745-3000.

## A Christmas Carol: Chesapeake Shakespeare's holiday classic with a Baltimore twist

Baltimore—Ebenezer Scrooge lives in Baltimore in this delightful, original adaptation of the Charles Dickens classic, "A Christmas Carol," at Chesapeake Shakespeare Company from December 4 through December 23, 2015.

When the play debuted last winter in downtown Baltimore, it broke all sales records in Chesapeake Shakespeare Company's history. True to the Dickens text, Scrooge visits his past, present and future with the help of ghosts who teach him the spirit of giving. The address of Scrooge and Marley's counting house is no coincidence: It is the 1886 landmark Mercantile Trust building at Calvert and Redwood, which since September 2014 has been Chesapeake Shakespeare's



260-seat theater for the classics.

Adapted and directed by Founding Artistic Director Ian Gallanar, this family-friendly play retains its Victorian charm. Audience members are invited to sing along with the carols, and also to

meet the actors after every performance. The theater's PNC Family Room, a playroom outfitted with costumes for dress-up fun, will be open before and during performances.

Tickets from \$25.00 for adults and chil-

dren \$19.00. For more information and tickets, call 410-244-8580 or visit:

[ChesapeakeShakespeare.com](http://ChesapeakeShakespeare.com)

A Christmas Carol, December 4 - 23, 2015

Chesapeake Shakespeare Company Theater

7 South Calvert Street in Baltimore Performances:

Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. Sunday, December 13 and December 20 at 7 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.

Christmas Week: Tuesday, December 22, and Wednesday, December 23 at 8 p.m.

# Karma: What Goes Around Comes Around

**Author J.C. Edward discusses new murder mystery book series**

**By Ursula V. Battle**

A local author has turned her grief about the unsolved death of her best friend into a popular, new murder mystery book. The book, "Karma: What Goes Around Comes Around," by J.C. Edward has captured a loyal audience who were bound by the book's riveting storyline.

The 120-page paperback book is about the events that occurred after the murder of a fictitious character named Karma. Written through the eyes of Karma's best friend Tanya, the story unfolds after Karma's death is covered up and made to look like a suicide. The chilling events leading up to the search for Karma's killer unleashes a riveting tale of murder, conspiracy, and jealousy.

"Writing the book started out as a thought," recalled Edward. "I used it as a coping mechanism to deal with my best friend's death. Writing the book was a way for me to connect with her, and have a way to feel more settled. It is as if with every stroke I write, I feel more connected to her. She was such an inspiration."

According to Edward, it took about a year-and-a-half to write the book, which is dedicated to her children.

"I love English, and writing has always been something I have always loved to do," she said. "I often talked about writing a book one day, and the death of my friend gave me a reason and opportunity to do it. The things that happened around the death of my friend inspired me to put pen to paper."

She added, "When you listen to a song and can literally feel the passion, hurt and anger in that song, chances are, a writer or singer has gone through something and is expressing it through that song. Many songs and books are born out of an event or something that has occurred in a person's life. It gives you the drive to sit down and start."

The book is available on Amazon, and is drawing positive reviews.

"Right from the beginning, the book grabbed my attention," said one review. "I could not put the book down. I had to



**Author J.C. Edward holding a copy of her new book Karma: What Goes Around Comes Around. Courtesy Photo**

read the entire book in one sitting. The author keeps you on the edge of your seat looking for answers. This is how a book should be written - leading you to want more. I am ready for Part 2. Great read!"

Another reader wrote, "Karma had me hanging by the bedside waiting for more. I could actually feel the hurt, numbness and happiness in every word. I literally could not put the book down." In another review on Amazon, a reader wrote, "I absolutely love this murder series and cannot wait for Book 2 to come out in November. Looking forward to reading more material from J.C. Edward."

With such anticipation for a sequel to 'Karma' the book quickly evolved into a murder mystery series, and will continue with the release of two more books.

"I am in the middle of writing books two and three," said Edward. "'Karma,' which is book one of the series, walks you through the passing of Karma, and the characters that might have been involved in this murder. It is told through the eyes of Tanya, and opens up the floor to see who the suspects are, and who might have killed Karma. Book one ends, but provides a sneak peek into the second book, which is told through the eyes of not only Tanya, but Karma's other half."

She continued, "Book three of the series is through the voice of the murderer and why they killed Karma and helps unfold the truth through a series of events."

Edward recently signed autographed copies of the book. Future plans include a December book signing event, and a cookbook.

Edward shared these words for aspiring authors.

"Writing a book requires a lot of research," she said. "It's hard to get a publisher if you don't have an agent, so you may have to self-publish. Every dream and every thought matters so don't ever give up on that dream."

"Karma: What Goes Around Comes Around" is available on Amazon for \$9.99. According to Edward, the book will be available soon in Barnes & Noble.

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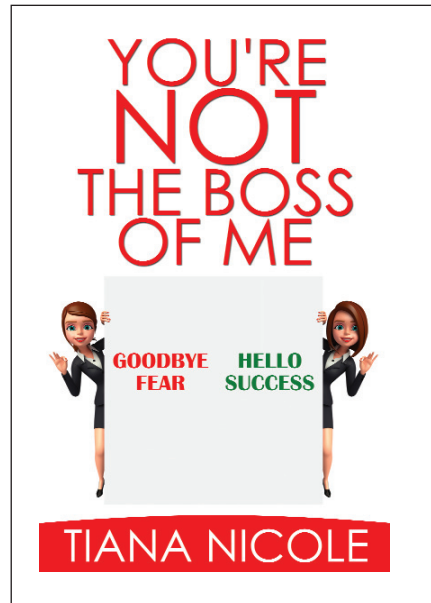


# 'You're Not the Boss of Me': Author Pens Book to Help Women Live Fearlessly

## Book kick starts nationwide female empowerment movement

Masterfully crafted by Tiana Nicole, "You're Not the Boss of Me: Goodbye Fear, Hello Success" is the latest in a long line of successful books for the author, marking a radical shift from fiction to female empowerment. Helping every woman discover her innate power and worth, Nicole's latest masterpiece is poised to resonate across the nation with an uplifting message that will help any woman identify fears, quash them and succeed in life with gusto.

Looking back on her life, Tiana Nicole is amazed at how much she has achieved considering she wasn't raised by her biological parents. Under the care of her late great grandmother from a very early age, the odds were truly stacked against her to be successful. Try telling that to her now—she has a degree in Computer System Technology; a degree in Psy-



chology; and a Master's in Business Management. Oh yes, she's also a hugely popular author!

This unlikely success comes from Tiana's ability to face her fears head-on and turn them into opportunities, a skill

she knows millions of other women struggle with every day.

"You're Not the Boss of Me: Goodbye Fear, Hello Success" is the author's



Author Tiana Nicole, "You're Not the Boss of Me: Goodbye Fear, Hello Success"

manifesto for every woman on the planet. It's a bold reminder that manifesting dreams is within the grasp of anyone.

With "You're Not the Boss of Me," Tiana Nicole reveals the value of women determining the tools needed to face fear—the unpleasant emotion all women have to find the courage to conquer.

Because fear is the opposite of desire,

Tiana Nicole reveals to women how the beast of fear can cripple their dreams. "You're Not the Boss of Me," has an important message meant to modify the way women cope with fear in order to achieve the ultimate success.

"To date my three novels have been very much along the lines of "chick lit," with gripping stories ripped right from my imagination. But as someone who believes to the core of my being that every woman has a purpose well within her grasp, I decided to pen my next book to speak directly to the hearts of women around the world," explains Tiana. "But I'll also admit that most women struggle to see their potential and require empowerment to peel back the layers of fear and defeat. That's my goal with this latest volume – to help women block fear and elevate their success to a level they could have never imagined."

"You're Not the Boss of Me: Goodbye Fear, Hello Success" is available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or [www.tiananicole.org](http://www.tiananicole.org). The ebook version can be purchased for \$3.99 and the paperback for \$12.99.

For more information about Tiana Nicole and her books, visit: [www.tiananicole.org](http://www.tiananicole.org)

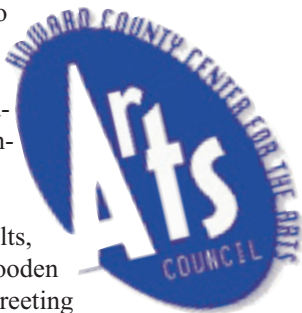
## Open House, Holiday Sale at Howard County Center for the Arts

The Howard County Arts Council hosts its annual Open House & Holiday Sale on Friday, December 4, 2015, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Local artists

will offer unique and affordable art and hand-crafted items for sale including jewelry, wearables, accessories, paintings, glass art, quilts, photography, prints, wooden vessels, fiber art, and greeting cards.

The studios of HCAC resident artists and arts organizations will also be open to the public from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided.

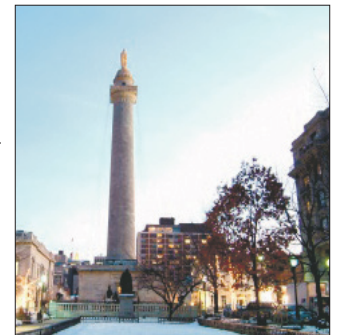
Entry to the Open House & Holiday Sale is free and open to the public. For more information, call 410-313-ARTS (2787) or email [visitorservices@hocoarts.org](mailto:visitorservices@hocoarts.org).



## Monument Lighting

The 44th annual Downtown Partnership Monument Lighting will take place Thursday, December 3, 2015 from 5-8pm. The Monument Lighting will feature local entertainers, a Chick-Fil-A Inner Harbor Kid's Corner, and a spectacular fireworks display and laser show. Kick off the season at the region's longest running holiday tradition and 10,000 of your jolly neighbors. This year's lighter will include a special family from the Ronald McDonald House.

Enjoy entertainment by the Morgan State University Choir, Harlem Globe Trotters, Lethal Ladies of Bliss step squad from Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women, Baltimore City College Choir, Kristen Toedtman Band and more!



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# Lilian Thomas Burwell & Friends

## The Art of a People: Finding a Way Out of No Way

*Exhibition opens at the Banneker-Douglass Museum on November 14, 2015*

Annapolis— The Banneker-Douglass Museum opened its new temporary exhibition, The Art of a People: Finding a Way Out of No Way, on Saturday, November 14, 2015.

In this exhibition, internationally acclaimed and Maryland-based artist, Lilian Thomas Burwell is featured as the principal artist and guest curator. This eighty-eight-year-old master visual artist has selected nine highly accomplished artists to contribute to the show: Adjoa Burrowes, E. Lynn Coates, Oletha DeVane, Martha Jackson-Jarvis, Letitia Lee, Betty Murchison, the husband and wife team of Carole Beane and Michael Platt, and Gail Shaw-Clemons.

Together, they consider how African Americans have, as Burwell explains, “historically not only endured but triumphed in the process of overcoming.” The exhibition includes a range of Burwell’s works, including “Orison Piece 1994-95,” where she demonstrates her concept of painting-as-sculpture and works like “Water People” and “Mother Nile,” where she reaffirms the African foundation of African American spirituality, to new works like “2nd Turaco,” where she advances both concepts. Each contributing arts presents a signature mural making manifest the African American saying of “finding a way out of no way.”

Lilian Thomas Burwell, born in 1927, was educated at the High School of Music and Art in New York and Dunbar High School in Washington, D.C. She attended Pratt Institute and DC Teachers College before obtaining her MFA at The Catholic University of America. After teaching art at differing public schools in DC, she joined the Visual Arts faculty at Duke Ellington School of the Arts. She has participated in over twenty solo, duo, and group shows in the United States and abroad, including the Smithsonian Institution’s Anacostia Community Museum, the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry, and the Museo Civico D’Arte Contemporanea, U. of Palermo in Gibellina, Italy. In 1997, Virginia’s Hampton University Museum published her book, *From Painting to Painting as Sculpture: the Journey of Lilian Thomas Burwell* in conjunction with her thirty-year retrospective exhibition there. Of her work, Burwell states, “I am taken with the sense of art being something in which one participates and with which one interacts. The work of the artist is complete in as many ways as there are those who see or hear or feel it. I see the audience therefore, as a primary element in the fulfillment of a process as infinite as the life of the spirit.”



*Artist Lilian Thomas Burwell*

Here fifteen-year curatorial span includes: founding director of the Alma Thomas Memorial Gallery in Shaw for the D.C. Department of Education, curatorial director of the Sumner Museum and Archives, designer of arts curriculum for DCPS, art teacher at Pratt Institute NYC, head of visual arts department at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts, and adjunct art teacher as recently as 2012 at Anne Arundel Community College. She has also worked as a graphic arts designer for the U.S. Department of Commerce and a freelance graphic designer for thirty years. In addition, the artist has been lecturing and writing for a span of sixty-three years, about which she comments, “and still working at what I love at 88!”

Dr. Joni Floyd, director of the Banneker-Douglass Museum declares: “We are truly honored to have such a talented and giving artist lead an exhibition here—so much so, in fact, that we have given her three galleries to express herself, to showcase the signature pieces of her selected artists, and to engage the public in workshops on the creative process. It is important that we honor an elder, who has spent more than sixty years teaching us that we are all artists, if we only open ourselves to exploring the depths of this life principle.”

The exhibition is free of charge and open to the public during regular museum hours: Tuesday – Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. from November 14, 2015 through April 30, 2016.



*Artwork by Burwell: Mother Nile*



*Artwork by Burwell: 2nd Turaco*

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## Marylanders warned to beware of charity scams this holiday season

Annapolis— As the holidays approach, Governor Larry Hogan and Secretary of State John Wobensmith are warning Maryland citizens to beware of deceptive practices. Charities in Maryland depend upon the generosity of citizens to provide programs and services to those in need across the state. While this is the time of year charities increase their efforts to collect donations, it is important to be vigilant about scams that are posing as legitimate charitable organizations.

“The holiday season inspires a spirit of generosity to help those in need, but unfortunately, scam artists are also stepping up their efforts to take advantage of that generosity,” said Secretary Wobensmith. “It is important for all Marylanders to be vigilant and know exactly to which charities they are donating.”

It is important to recognize the warning signs that may be affiliated with a scam. Ask questions and be wary of any charity that doesn't have answers.

Here are some “red flags” that should help determine if a charity is worthy of support:

\*Did the organization refuse to send you written material or financial information?

\*Did the solicitor offer to send someone to collect your contribution?

\*Did the charity send you an invoice or statement that indicates a payment due for a contribution you never pledged?

\*Does the organization's name and



logo closely resemble those of another charity with a similar purpose?

Charitable organizations that solicit donations from Maryland citizens are required to be registered with the Office of the Secretary of State if they collect \$25,000 or more in direct public support or use paid solicitors to raise funds for the organization. Additionally, smaller charities may be required to file a simple fundraising notice with the Office of the Secretary of State.

To check if a charity is registered, call toll free 1-800-825-4510. For more information about charities, visit: [www.sos.state.md.us](http://www.sos.state.md.us). Citizens can also go directly to the charities database at [www.sos.state.md.us/Charity/SearchCharity.aspx](http://www.sos.state.md.us/Charity/SearchCharity.aspx).

The Secretary of State's Office is responsible for investigating charity fraud. To report a potentially fraudulent charity, contact the Investigations Unit of the Secretary of State's Office at 410-260-3879 or 1-800-825-4510.

## Combine BGE appliance rebates with holiday sale prices

Baltimore— Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) encourages residential customers who are in the market for new appliances to consider adding energy efficiency to their holiday shopping lists. The BGE Smart Energy Savers Program offers a number of rebates for select Energy Star appliances that can be combined with holiday retail sales to maximize savings.

“If you are purchasing big household items like appliances, this is an excellent time to take advantage of the great savings and efficiencies offered by Energy Star certified appliances,” said Chris Walls, BGE Residential Energy Efficiency Programs Manager. “By combining rebates from BGE's Smart Energy Savers Program with holiday sales, customers can get a great deal this time of the year.”

The BGE Smart Energy Savers Program helps customers reduce their energy use and save on operating costs year-round with rebates on the following energy-efficient appliances:

·\$500 rebate on select ENERGY STAR certified hybrid heat pump water heaters\*

·\$100 and \$150 rebates on select Energy Star certified refrigerators

·\$75 and \$100 rebates on select Energy Star certified clothes washers

·\$50 rebates on select Energy Star certified electric clothes dryers



·\$150 and \$400 rebates on select Energy Star certified pool pumps

More information about rebates and other energy-saving programs is available at [BGESmartEnergy.com](http://BGESmartEnergy.com). The BGE Smart Energy Savers Program helps contain the cost of energy and improve reliability. The programs also help to reduce peak demand and slow the growth in energy consumption to lessen the need for more power plants. BGE offers energy-saving solutions for homeowners, renters, large and small business customers, nonprofits and institutional customers. These programs support the EmPOWER Maryland Energy Efficiency Act.

Please note that starting December 1, 2015, and continuing through January 20, 2016, the current \$500 rebate on select Energy Star certified hybrid heat pump water heaters will be increased to \$550. To receive the increased rebate, the water heater must be purchased between December 1, 2015 and January 20, 2016, and the rebate documentation submitted by February 20, 2016.

## Reginald Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture Needs Volunteers

The museum is dedicated to serving the community by providing multifaceted support through meaningful interactions with history and material culture of Maryland African Americans. Volunteers are needed to assist at the Information Desk, as Docents, for Special Events, and more. There are ongoing opportunities on Saturdays and Sundays for assistance with greeting guests and patrons at the main entrance and to work with kid's activities during public hours. The minimum age for volunteers is 14. Volunteering is open to adults, seniors, college, and high school students. Service-learning credit hours can be earned by high school students. We are accepting applications for the following volunteer positions: Special Event Volunteer, Administrative Assistant, Curatorial Assistant, and Visitor Services. Volunteer orientations are held at 7:00 pm on the last Monday of each month. Contact Erica Holmes at 443-263-1800 or [holmes@maamc.org](mailto:holmes@maamc.org); web site: [www.AfricanAmericanCulture.org](http://www.AfricanAmericanCulture.org).

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