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African-American Family Festival at The Walters



Father and son, Ray and Daniel Fleming enjoyed the activities at The Walters Art Museum on Saturday, March 21, 2015 during the African-American Family Festival. Ray Fleming said "I brought my son to be a part of celebrating our culture and to create some art."

(See photos on page 12) Photo Credit: Phinisse Demps

Baltimore native serves aboard USS New Orleans

By Lt. J. G. Christopher Hanson
Navy Office of Community Outreach
Public Affairs

San Diego— A 2012 Randallstown High School graduate and Baltimore native is serving aboard USS New Orleans, one of the Navy's newest and most advanced amphibious ships, designed to deliver Marines and their equipment to and from war zones.

Seaman Anthony Jacobs is a logistics specialist aboard the San Diego-based San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock ship. The ship is longer than two football fields at 684 feet, 105 feet wide and weighs more than 24,000 tons. Four diesel engines can push the ship through the water at more than 24 mph.

USS New Orleans is the fourth Navy ship to be named for the city of New Orleans, and is the second vessel in the San Antonio-class of high-tech amphibious assault ships.

As a 21-year-old with numerous responsibilities, Jacobs says he is learning about himself as a leader, sailor and a person. He added that it is an exciting time to be in the Navy, and serving aboard a ship has truly made him a better person. "The Navy helps me to think bigger picture on all things. I used to be one-track minded, but now I look at everything from all angles," said Jacobs.

He also said he is proud of the work he is doing as part of the New Orleans' 427-member crew, protecting and defending America on the world's oceans. "The Navy helps keep our waters safe. From our ship's standpoint, we are able to put our Marines' boots on ground wherever they are needed to defend our



Seaman Anthony Jacobs is a logistics specialist aboard the San Diego-based San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock ship, the USS New Orleans.

Courtesy Photo/Navy Office of Community Outreach

country," Jacobs explained.

Sailors' jobs are highly varied aboard USS New Orleans. Approximately 46 officers and 381 enlisted men and women make up the ship's company, which keeps all parts of the ship running smoothly— this includes everything from washing dishes and preparing meals to handling weaponry and maintaining the engines. Another 700 or so form the deployable Marine Corps battalion and New Orleans is capable of transporting the battalion and landing them in hostile territory via helicopters,

vertical takeoff and landing aircraft and air-cushioned landing craft.

"New Orleans is truly a fine warship and it is our duty to bring her to life," said Capt. Doug Verissimo, the ship's

commanding officer. "Our Sailors have been working very hard bringing her from a post-deployment repair period to our upcoming tactical integration with our Marine teammates. I feel an unparalleled sense of pride working alongside our nation's finest."

Collectively, the San Antonio-class ships will functionally replace more than 41 ships providing the Navy and Marine Corps with modern sea-based platforms. Amphibious transport dock ships are warships that embark, transport, and land elements of a landing force for a variety of expeditionary warfare missions. These ships support amphibious assault, special operations or expeditionary warfare missions and can serve as secondary aviation platforms for amphibious ready groups. Because of their inherent capabilities, these ships have been and will continue to be called upon to also support humanitarian and other contingency missions on short notice.

As a member of one of the U.S. Navy's high-tech amphibious assault ships, Jacobs and other New Orleans sailors are proud to part of a warfighting team that readily defends America at all times.

"I love seeing other countries. I have been to places I never thought I would before. I love experiencing other cultures and how they live," said Jacobs.

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Childhood Anxiety Information Session

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What is childhood anxiety and where should you go for help in providing care and treatment? Dr. Sarah Williams, a postdoctoral fellow at Johns Hopkins Hospital and a specialist in anxiety disorders, will share useful information for parents.

NAMI Metropolitan Baltimore's community information sessions are free and open to the public. For more information, call 410-435-2600 or email: info@namibaltimore.org.



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Guest Editorials/Commentary

'Empire' Shows that Black Dollars Matter

By Ron Busby, Sr., NNPA Columnist

According to a Nielsen consumer report, African Americans are voracious consumers of media, watching 37 percent more television than any other slice of American demography. While that's not new news, it is disturbing that we don't completely understand the connection between our TV consumption and the huge profits generated by our connection to television.

To be fair, some TV programming can actually be beneficial. The recent coverage of the 50th anniversary of "Bloody Sunday" opened the eyes of generations of Americans who were unaware of the brutality of racial oppression in America.

Much of television, however, is simply escapist entertainment for us, but a tremendous cash cow for programmers and advertisers. Take for example "Empire" on Fox. The network is known for its history of racist banter and has exploited black America while simultaneously benefiting from black consumers. Statistics show that "Empire" is Fox's highest grossing show in three years, which translates into a huge pay-off for Fox.

How big? How about the \$45.2 billion Comcast/Time Warner merger? How about the \$48.5 billion AT&T acquisition of DirecTV or the estimated \$1.3 trillion dollars spent annually by black consumers? Not to mention the \$20 billion lawsuit filed by the National Association of African American Owned Media and Entertainment Studios Networks, against Comcast, Time Warner and other civil rights organizations as party to a plan to ensure that profits from black viewership continue pouring into the same pockets?

We've watched with interest and commented on this situation earlier, but the situation has not improved. We will reserve judgment on the soundness of Entertainment Studios Network's CEO Byron Allen's pending legal action, but there are a few things of which we are absolutely certain:

*No telecom giant has a plan for meaningful participation/inclusion of black business in their day-to-day procurement activity.

*No programming giant has a plan to include, develop or support the development of positive black portrayals to any meaningful degree.

*No cable/pay TV provider makes programming targeting black consumers available at their basic service level, which requires their best customers to pay extra to view their favorite shows.

*No advertiser using the TV/PayTV medium includes black business in any significant way in the development, production, delivery/distribution of their products to this loyal consumer base.

Telecom companies and consumer product companies are gearing up for an assault on your wallets like nothing you've ever seen, and if you're riveted by the latest episode or game-of-the-week, you may not even notice that your pocket is being picked. Decisions about your money are being made right now. These decisions are being made by people who don't know you, and whose only interest is how long you're in front of your television before you go to buy the products they are selling.

We understand it's about business—big business. We also understand that it's black consumers' money that makes the business so big but if black businesses don't flourish as a result of all this activity designed to move dollars out of black pockets, we'll be back to "Good Times" in the projects instead of building Empires.

This is all the more reason to invest money in the black community. If you can devote time to watching your favorite television show, then you can also devote time to buying from your local black businesses. Make #Blackdollarsmatters not just a hashtag, but a way of life.

Ron Busby, Sr. is president of the U.S. Black Chambers, Inc.



Community Affairs

Free and Fast Help For Tax Time

By Lourdes Montes-Greenan

It has been said that nothing is certain but death and taxes. While both are inevitable, residents who earned less than \$53,000 in 2014 can fear taxes a little less this time of year, thanks to the IRS' Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, which offers free tax filing services.

With the average fee for tax preparation hitting \$261, tax planning costs can be considerable, depending on how much assistance you need, according to the National Society of Accountants.

However, for qualified earners, there are several no-cost ways to file your tax returns and take control of your finances. Here are a few tips to help access your tax refund quickly and make the most of it.

Find local agencies that offer free services. For computer-friendly filers, the IRS website provides free filing tools. But if you're looking for a more hands-on approach, the VITA program offers local IRS-certified volunteers to assist qualified individuals and families with tax

planning, including finding deductions and credits to maximize tax refunds. PNC Bank, for example, has teamed up with the IRS to offer 160 locations in 13 states and Washington, D.C.

Better than check refunds. Consider loading your tax refund onto a prepaid card. A prepaid card offers fast, convenient access to refunds, and the prepaid limit helps families and individuals better manage their finances. Another advantage of using a prepaid card instead of waiting for a refund check is convenience. Money loaded onto the card can be used like a typical debit card purchase. Look for one with low-or no-fees, with a large ATM network for affordable withdrawals.

Take advantage of savings tools. Whether you want to open a retirement account, put aside funds for an emergency, or save for college, many financial institutions can offer online tools, such as calculators, to better manage and grow your money. If you don't know where to start, ask your local bank or credit union.

Lourdes Montes-Greenan works in community development banking for PNC Bank. For a list of VITA sites, visit <http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Find-a-Location-for-Free-Tax-Prep>.

Caught between Barack and a hard place

By James Clingman
NNPA Columnist

The experiment that featured a black man in the White house is on the downside now. Folks in the Obama administration are busy looking for their next job and jumping ship faster than rats. However, you can't blame them; that's the way it is in politics. You ride your horse as long as you can and then you find a new horse. That's just what folks in presidential administrations do. The question is: What horse will black folks ride now?

With Barack, came new line-dances at the clubs, new phrases, and new "hope" that would finally move black people to the front of the line for a "change." We were large and in charge, big-ballers and shot-callers, cool and stylish, but we soon found that we were not really running anything. Having bet the farm on our horse, we now look on in agony as he comes down the home stretch. We want to move the finish line a bit farther down the track because we don't yet

have the victory, and it looks like we're not going to get it. All we can hope for now is just a little more euphoria before November 2016.

Black folks are now between Barack and hard place. We don't know if we are pitching or catching. As that Richard Pryor movie asked, "Which way is up?" We invested nearly 100 percent of our political capital in our current president, thinking we would get a decent Return

ignore us, and don't like us anyway. We will rationalize our allegiance to the same party that takes us for granted and some of us will opt out of the system altogether because we are so frustrated and angry at how the previous two terms went down.

It's very uncomfortable being between Barack and a hard place. To whom will we turn? Will Hillary help us? Will one of the Republican candidates help us?

at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, black folks still have to be vigilant about our political and economic position in this country. Maybe, as we struggle to remove ourselves from between Barack and a hard place, perhaps a small percentage of us will organize around economic and political empowerment.

The Barack experiment was cool. He sings like Al Green, dances like the step-dancers in Chicago, shoots three-pointers on the basketball court, plays golf with Alonzo Mourning, and even gets his preach on when speaking to black audiences. In other words, Barack could make us feel real good, so much so that we kicked back, relaxed and waited for him to fix our problems, to speak on our behalf and to give us the same deference he gives to other groups. Now, we find ourselves between Barack and a hard place—no turning room, very little breathing room and much uncertainty about our future in the political arena.

There will be a new sheriff in town in January 2017, and our guy will stand there with him or her to give congrats and well wishes right before he rides off into the sunset, back to Chicago, Hawaii, or wherever, to enjoy the fruit of his labor, and I do mean fruit. He and his family will be well taken care of, but most of our families will be in the same or worse condition, having been stuck between Barack and a hard place for eight years.

Jim Clingman, founder of the Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber of Commerce, is the nation's most prolific writer on economic empowerment for black people. He can be reached through his website: blackonomics.com.

“Being between Barack and a hard place will make many of us revert to our political ways by staying on the Democrat’s wagon, because the Republicans ignore us, and don’t like us anyway. We will rationalize our allegiance to the same party that takes us for granted and some of us will opt out of the system altogether because we are so frustrated and angry at how the previous two terms went down.”

on Investment (ROI). Unless there is a drastic up tick in the next few months, our investment will be lost forever, because we know this experiment will not be done again for a long time.

Between Barack and a hard place means that black people, collectively, are now without a comfortable place to turn, without someone we can look to for hope and change, and without what we considered to be a foothold in politics. Being between Barack and a hard place is causing anxiety, doubt and even fear among some of our people.

Being between Barack and a hard place will make many of us revert to our political ways by staying on the Democrat's wagon, because the Republicans

Maybe Dr. Ben (Carson) will win and come to our rescue. What are black folks to do in 2016 as we now find ourselves wedged between Barack and a hard place with no wiggle room? Maybe we could "apologize" to Hillary for abandoning her in 2008. Maybe we could do a public mea culpa to the Republicans. After all, we need someone to turn to now, right?

Well, here are a few thoughts. Maybe we can now turn to ourselves. Maybe now we will fully understand the error of our ways and make appropriate change. Maybe we will finally work together as a solid bloc to leverage our precious votes against the 2016 candidates. Maybe we will understand that no matter who resides

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Black, Latino Graduation Rates Improve

By Stacy M. Brown

Two reports released within moments of each other have served to highlight how African-Americans and Latinos have overcome many obstacles in order to strive toward success.

However, the fine print of each of these reports— one by the National Urban League and the other from the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics— provides a reality check that the American Dream remains deferred for individuals of color.

"There is that America that is too black and too brown which seems to be stuck on the other side of this great American divide," said Marc Morial, president and CEO of the National Urban League in New York, which issued its "State of Black of America 2015" report on March 19, 2015.

"I must use the word crisis," Morial said during a news conference announcing the new report in Washington, D.C., where he also noted that seven metro areas in the country had a 20 percent rate of black unemployment.

The Urban League's report noted that more of the nation's blacks and Latinos have health coverage and fewer are victims of crime compared to recent years. However, the overall wealth and employment still revealed stark disparities compared to whites.

The report creates an "equality index" that used certain measurements to compare the well being of black and Latinos to whites in the areas of economics, health, education, the justice system and civic engagement.

With 100 being total equity, the overall black index stood at 72.2— up from 71.5 a year ago. Net worth stood out entirely, with African-Americans claiming a net worth of \$6,000 and Latinos



African-Americans and Latinos are graduating at a higher rate than they did a year ago, according to the Department of Education.
Photo Courtesy of BET

\$7,000. White Americans reported a net worth of more than \$110,000.

"As this recovery develops, too many people are being left behind," Morial said.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of Education trumpeted its report which revealed that graduation rates for black and Latino students increased by nearly four percentage points from 2011 to 2013, outpacing the growth for all students in the nation. The March 19 report also revealed that the gap between white students and black and Latino students receiving high school diplomas has narrowed.

Still, with the nation's overall graduation rate reaching an all-time high of 81 percent in the 2012-2013 school year, white students still graduate at a much higher rate than most other subgroups, at 86.6 percent.

The gap between Latino and white students closed by 1.6 percentage points in two years, from 13 percentage points to 11.4 percentage points and between black and white students, the gap narrowed by 1.1 percentage points, from 17 percentage points in 2010-11 to 15.9 percentage points in 2012-13.

Figures from the federal government show that Texas had the nation's highest high school graduation rate for black and Latino students in 2013. Approximately 84.1 percent of black students in Texas graduated on time in 2013. The rate for Latinos was 85.1 percent.

High school graduation rates in Baltimore City have reportedly been steadily climbing since 2007, reaching a rate of about 70 percent three years ago. City officials said the rate compares favorably

with other large cities and it enables local students more collegiate opportunities.

While Morial and Urban League officials say much more work lies ahead and the battle remains uphill, education officials say they like the way the graduation rates are trending.

"The hard work of America's educators, families, communities and students is paying off. This is a vital step toward readiness for success in college and careers for every student in this country," said U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan. "While these gains are promising, we know that we have a long way to go in improving educational opportunities for every student no matter their ZIP code for the sake of our young people and our nation's economic strength."

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Ravens Offensive Lineman John Urschel plays 'For the Love of the Game'

By Turren Davenport

John Urschel was selected by the Ravens in the fifth round (175th overall) at the 2014 NFL Draft. Urschel isn't the typical football player. He is also known as a mathematician thanks to his bachelor's and master's degrees in Mathematics. He has published a number of articles in major mathematical journals. Urschel recently took the time to write an entrée for the "Player's Tribune," an online outlet for professional athletes to write about the game that they play.

Urschel's article was inspired by the sudden retirement of former San Francisco 49ers linebacker Chris Borland who played for the University of Wisconsin before entering the NFL. Urschel played for Penn State, which is in the Big Ten.

Borland and Urschel had their share of match ups while in college. They also played against each other last season when the 49ers and Ravens met in a pre-season game followed by a week of training camp together in Owings Mills.

Urschel's article talked about his love for football and how he plays the game solely for that reason. "I'm not playing for the money. I'm not playing for some social status associated with being an elite athlete. I play because I love the game. I love hitting people. There's a rush you get when you go out on the field, lay everything on the line and physically dominate the player across from you. I've fallen in love with football and the physical contact associated with it."

Urschel says that he is addicted to the feeling that he gets when he hits someone. It's a feeling that he says can't be



Ravens offensive lineman John Urschel gets focused before a game during the 2014 NFL season." Courtesy Photo/www.baltimoreravens.com

found anywhere else. The addiction to contact that Urschel says he has is fed by training in kick boxing and wrestling during the off-season. Going without contact is something that makes Urschel says makes him "unpleasant to be around."

A career in football will surely yield much more money than any other career that Urschel could embark upon. Despite that, Urschel says that his mother tells him that he has played enough football and that "it is ok to call it quits." Borland cited possible future brain damage. If that is the case, there is a lot at stake for Urschel.

There is a long list of accomplishments that Urschel achieved while at

Penn State. He was recognized as a first-team Academic All-Big Ten in 2010,

2011, 2012 and 2013. Urschel earned his degree in math in three years and graduated with a master's degree in math in one year. At the moment, he is working on a second master's in math education. He also taught trigonometry and analytic geometry during the 2013 spring semester and taught integral vector calculus during the 2013 fall semester on the University Park campus.

The need to take part in physical contact is right in line with the Ravens. Baltimore couldn't have been a better landing place for Urschel because of the physical style of play that the Ravens focus on. He got the opportunity to start in three games last year as he filled in at guard. Urschel will look to see more action during the upcoming season in the Ravens offensive scheme under new offensive coordinator Marc Trestman.

There is definitely a career in mathematics waiting for Urschel after football. That will have to wait because for the moment, he is taking part in his first love, which is football.

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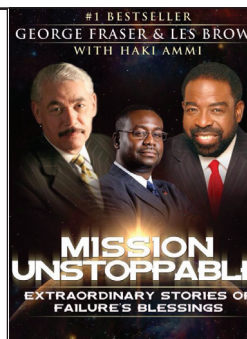
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Roland Park Place welcomes Keiffer Jackson Mitchell, Jr. to Board of Directors

Baltimore— Roland Park Place (RPP), Baltimore City's only not-for-profit continuing care retirement community (CCRC), announced the appointment of former state delegate Keiffer Jackson Mitchell, Jr. to its dynamic Board of Directors. Mitchell brings to RPP a lifetime of public service experience, as well as a robust background in finance, government, education and community relations.

Mitchell was recently appointed as a Special Adviser by newly elected Maryland Governor Larry Hogan. He represented Baltimore City's 44th Legislative District from 2011 to January 2015. The Baltimore native also served three former terms as a Baltimore City Council member with a stint at Wachovia Bank as an officer of small business banking specializing in nonprofit clients. In addition, he is an experienced educator having taught political science at Towson University, history at The Boys' Latin School of Maryland, and lecturing at Johns Hopkins University. Mitchell currently assists the Upper and Middle School Admissions office at St. Paul's School in recruitment and outreach.

"We are pleased to welcome Keiffer Mitchell as the newest board member to Roland Park Place as we pursue and navigate healthy growth for the community," said Roland Park Place Board of Directors Chair, Dr. Christopher Kearney. "Mr. Mitchell and Roland Park Place share a love for, and long-standing connection to, Baltimore City that will serve as a wonderful foundation to begin work together."

Mitchell began his first three-year board term in February. Among his community activities, Mitchell also serves on the boards of the Echo Hill Outdoor School, the Family Tree, Habitat for Humanity, and his alma mater, Boys' Latin School.

Roland Park Place (RPP) is the only full-service, accredited not-for-profit continuing care retirement community (known as a CCRC or life-care community) in Baltimore City offering independent living, residential care (assisted living) and comprehensive/skilled nursing care to Baltimore's greater senior community. Roland Park Place's profound commitment to its residents and their families promotes independence at the highest functional level throughout the continuum of residency.

For more information about RPP, visit www.rolandparkplace.org or find us on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/RolandParkPlace.



Keiffer Jackson Mitchell, Jr.
Courtesy Photo

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Local transplant recipient meets with legislators for funding

By Stacy M. Brown

Transplanted blood cells from umbilical cords proved to be the key in helping to save the life of Baltimore area resident and leukemia patient Linda Kosinski. The married mother of three, who first received her heartbreaking diagnosis in 2007, was helped by the generosity and extensive donor registry of the nonprofit "Be The Match" National Marrow Donor Program.

"After going through several rounds of chemotherapy, the doctors determined that I needed a transplant. I have two sisters, but neither were a match," Kosinski said. "At that point the doctors turned to 'Be The Match.'"

Kosinski counts among the 70 percent of those seeking a bone marrow transplant who are unable to find a match in their own family. As a result, her doctors scoured the bone marrow registry, but still weren't able to secure a match.

"One of the doctors suggested we look through a cord blood transplant which I had never heard of before," she said.

In addition to a bone marrow registry, Be The Match also maintains a registry of cord blood donors, blood that's preserved from the umbilical cord when a mother gives birth to a child.

"People just didn't know about it and I certainly didn't, but I was running out of options," Kosinski said. The difference

is that cord blood donors don't have to match as precise as bone marrow and other donors, so Kosinski was able to receive a double cord transplant and she's lived almost problem-free since.

"If you're diagnosed with an illness that requires a bone marrow transplant, physicians can go onto our registry to see if there's a match," said Chad Ramsey, director of legislative relations at Be The Match. "The procedure is usually covered under the patient's health insurance or Medicare and we've been doing this 27 or 28 years when it was first discovered that bone marrow transplants can be effective to treat leukemia and other blood cancers."

About 14,000 individuals are diagnosed annually with a disease that requires a bone marrow transplant and



Transplant recipient Linda Kosinski and her children Ryan, Andrew and Gregory. Kosinski recently visited legislators in the nation's capital to ask that federal funds also go toward helping patients navigate the complexities of the health care system when preparing for transplant, as well as supporting research to discover and apply the best therapies and improve patient outcomes.

Courtesy Photo

Be The Match has a need to get individuals to their registry and to get a larger pool of donors, Ramsey added.

He said the organization works with blood banks around the country and

patients and others can search those and, if there's a match, they can use it. Ramsey

said they are hoping for more cord blood donors to help close gaps in donations.

Kosinski has been doing her part in helping to raise awareness and to promote an increase in the federal appropriation that would allow the National Marrow Donor Program and "Be The Match" to recruit more donors and further expand the diversity of the registry.

She recently visited legislators in the nation's capital to ask that federal funds also go toward helping patients navigate the complexities of the health care system when preparing for transplant, as

well as supporting research to discover and apply the best therapies, and improve patient outcomes.

"I think it went well," she said. "I met with legislators who seemed to really listen and understand what was needed."

Linda explained that she had acute lymphocytic leukemia, a type of cancer in which a particular type of white blood

cells prevents the body from making enough red blood cells and platelets.

"The increase in funding would help support efforts to improve patient access to the transplants that save lives," she said.

"Be The Match" officials say the organization would also support efforts to include the recruitment of more minority mothers to donate their baby's cord

blood, giving more patients a second chance at life.

"I do see the tide turning," Kosinski said. "There are more donors getting added every year and it costs money to get on registry and get tested. If we can get more money into the program it would really be fantastic."

"Kosinski counts among the 70 percent of those seeking a bone marrow transplant who are unable to find a match in their own family."

Hopkins researchers offer new hope to sickle cell patients

By Andrea Blackstone

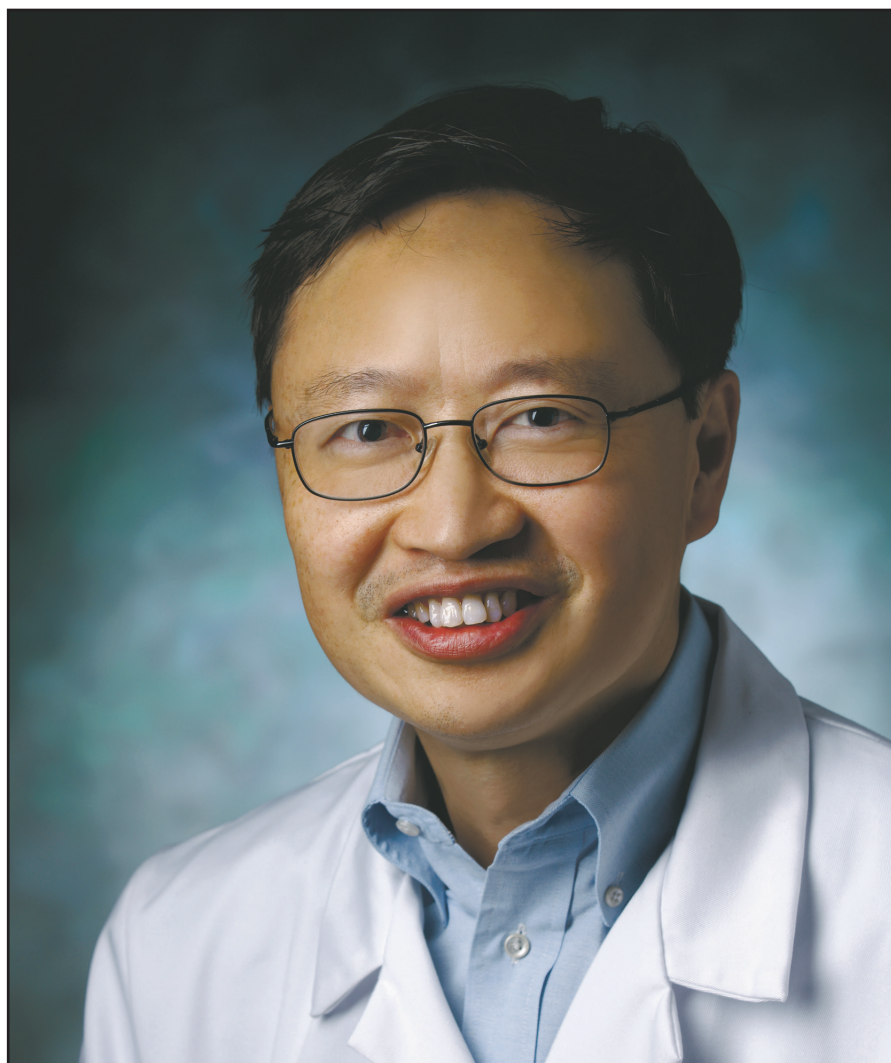
Johns Hopkins researchers were able to successfully correct the genetic error in stem cells of patients with sickle cell disease and grow mature red blood cells in a lab.

“The genetic editing approach can generate the red blood cells for the transfusion dependent patient. These are their own cells,” Linzhao Cheng, Ph.D., the Edythe Harris Lucas and Clara Lucas Lynn Professor of Hematology at Hopkins said. “It’s definitely a very important step and milestone for us to reach this objective.”

The only current cure for patients with sickle cell disease is a bone marrow transplant, which enables people with the condition to make healthy blood cells. It is difficult to locate bone marrow donor matches and transplants are not always the answer.

“Not everybody is a good candidate for bone marrow transplantation. We do need additional ways to treat sickle cell patients,” Cheng said. “The research is more for the future therapeutic research, so we hope to provide complimentary approaches, particularly for patients who are not qualified for the current either existing standard or the current available experimental therapies.”

Cheng estimated that 15 percent of sickle cell anemia patients need blood transfusions. In a March 10, 2015 press release issued by Johns Hopkins Medicine, Cheng explained that when patients receive blood transfusions over time, their bodies often begin to mount an immune response against foreign blood. While considering the medical needs of sickle cell patients, Cheng and a team of eight other researchers had an idea to grow blood cells in the lab that were matched to each patient’s own genetic material, although the sickle cell



Dr. Linzhao Cheng and a team of researchers at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine were able to correct a genetic error in stem cells of patients with sickle cell disease, then grow mature red blood cells in a lab. The researchers hope this will lead to an effective treatment option for patients who have sickle cell disease and who need frequent blood transfusions. Researchers also believe that the blood cells of healthy people who live in tropical environments could be edited to resist malaria. They intend to study the possibility.

Courtesy Photo

mutation needed correction. Researchers opted to start with patients’ blood cells and reprogram them into so-called induced pluripotent stem cells. They can grow indefinitely in the laboratory and

also make any other cell in the body. The next step entailed use of CRISPR—a relatively new genetic editing technique that snips out the sickle cell gene variant and replaces it with the healthy

gene version. The final step of coaxing the stem cells to grow into mature blood cells was successful. According to researchers, the edited stem cells generated blood cells just as efficiently as stem cells that had not been subjected to CRISPR.

Researchers can routinely correct the mutation of sickle cell patients, but Cheng explained that they still must overcome key hurdles.

“Probably, we need a couple of years for how to translate [this] in the clinical setting,” Cheng said.

Cheng mentioned that the process would have to be made more efficient and scale up, meaning that a large scale production of red blood cells would need to be made during translational research.

“The second [hurdle] of course is that it has to go through clinical trials for safety and efficacy through the FDA,” Cheng said.

A grant that lasted from June 2011 to June 2014 enabled researchers to make advances in the area of sickle cell research. Cheng stated that they are grateful to the Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission, which provided approximately \$600,000 for lab research and an additional \$150,000 to Johns Hopkins for supporting costs. Cheng applied for another grant with the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund for the second stage of research that would focus on the translational stage.

“It is particularly critical to have this kind of funding,” Cheng said. “Hopefully the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund will help provide funds for us to continue this translational research.”

About 10 years ago, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene estimated that up to approximately 100,000 individuals living in the U.S. are affected by sickle cell disease. It was estimated that about 3,000 people living in Maryland have the disease.

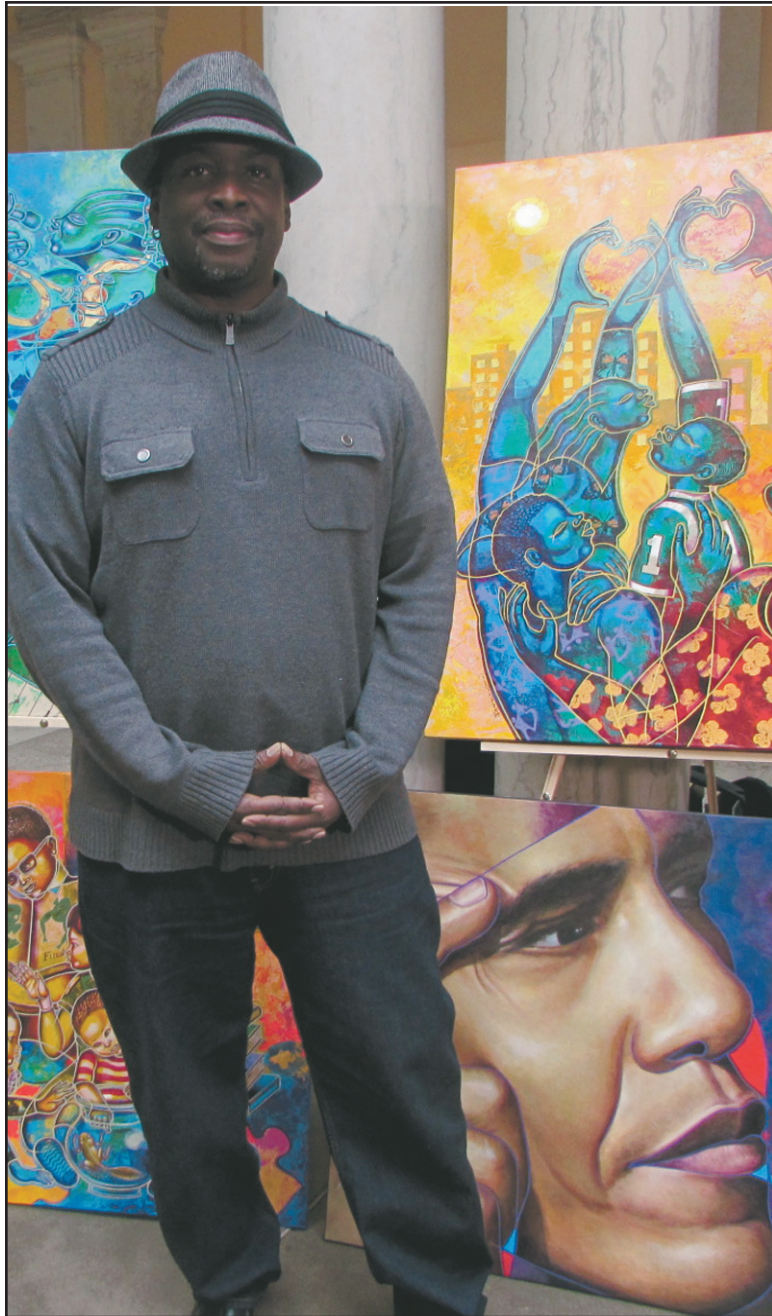
“As medical research continues and technology enables new breakthroughs, there will be a day when malaria and most all major deadly diseases are eradicated on Earth.”

—Peter Diamandis



African-American Family Festival at The Walters

On Saturday, March 21, 2015, over 1,300 people from all walks of life came to celebrate African American culture through art, history and music at The African American Family Festival held at The Walters Art Museum in Baltimore. Some of the activities included performances by: Wombwork Productions Next Generation Art Ensemble, "Standing on the Shoulders of our Ancestors"; Dr. Anthony Brown, Select Songs; Urban Foli, Drummers and Dancers; and Sandra Y. Johnson, "A Celebration of Baltimore." Special guest, Larry "Poncho" Brown exhibited some of his artwork at the event. Visit our website for more photos and videos of the event: www.baltimoretime-online.com



Larry "Poncho" Brown, artist

Photo Credit: Phinesse Demps



America's first African-American female combat pilot, an inspiration in business and life

By Andrea Blackstone

Before Women's History Month draws to a close, it is a prime opportunity to highlight women who have broken barriers in the military, such as America's first African-American female combat pilot, Vernice "FlyGirl" Armour. The Chicago-born speaker, author and entrepreneur served in the military for 14 years. She currently resides in Northern Virginia and founded VAI Consulting and Training, LLC.

"I didn't even know that I had become the first [African-American female combat pilot] until Oprah's people did the research and found out that I had been the first in combat. I became the Marine Corps' first black female pilot, period, whether combat or anything, but then America's first black female combat pilot was after the fact," the trailblazer said. "I wasn't going for titles. I was just living the amazing, juicy, epic life that I wanted to live, and it resulted in breaking some of the barriers."

While in the Army ROTC program during college, Armour was also enlisted in the Army Reserve. While there, she spotted an African-American woman wearing a flight suit. The sighting left a memorable impression on her.

"I actually made a comment to my battle buddy that black people don't fly. Three minutes later, when we walked inside of a tent, I saw the black woman in the flight suit. I was like, whoa, that is amazing! Why didn't I think of that? As a 20-year-old, it was mind-blowing. She planted a very strong seed," Armour said.

Several years later, Armour pursued her childhood dream of becoming a police officer. In three years, Armour went from beat cop to combat pilot in the Marines.

"Shortly after finishing flight school, less than 60 days later, September 11 happened. Life as we know it changed and training wasn't training anymore," Armour said.

While breaking barriers, Armour said she did not experience overt racism and



Vernice "FlyGirl" Armour is America's first African-American female combat pilot. She is a motivational speaker, entrepreneur and author of "Zero to Breakthrough: The 7-Step, Battle-Tested Method for Accomplishing Goals That Matter."

Courtesy Photo

sexism, because people are smarter than to openly make their feelings known. Armour developed a strategy to deal with obstacles and unwelcoming people she may have encountered, when tough times arose.

"The moment I put my focus on why 'Joe' didn't say hello, lives were at stake and that's deep. For people who are going to be reading my words, I really

want them to put this into perspective for themselves. What is the bigger why?

What do they really want? Are they letting other people's situations or things distract them from their goals? What I started saying after that is acknowledge the obstacles, don't give them power," Armour said. "I didn't get everything the first time. I failed the flight test the first time. I studied for a month solid and

took it again then I passed it. It took me three applications to get into the Marine Corps. It took me over a year to get into the police academy. Unfortunately, I had my number of failures in college courses as well, so everything didn't just happen easily. What it is I feel is it's the grit and tenacity that my parents instilled in me about not giving up. If it's worth having, it's worth working for."

Through her business, Armour provides coaching and training to elite senior executive women who work in corporate America. She helps them to get promoted into senior leadership positions. Companies and organizations also hire Armour as a keynote speaker for leadership conferences or in-house leadership meetings. But Armour's empowering messages are not exclusively for executives. She remarked that she discovered that everyone wants to create a breakthrough. A lot of people just do not know how. After listening to many inquiries about her method of accomplishing goals, Armour wrote the book, "Zero to Breakthrough: The 7-Step, Battle-Tested Method for Accomplishing Goals That Matter."

"The book is for the leader in you. If you don't create a plan for yourself, somebody is going to create a plan for you and you might not like it. My book is really for the individual on how they propel themselves forward. We're not going through this life by ourselves, but we have to be able to figure out what we really want. So many people will say, I just want to be successful, or I want to be happy, but what does that look like?" Armour said. "It's getting specific and identifying what do you really want, then taking the appropriate actions that will get you there."

For more information about Armour, visit <http://www.VerniceArmour.com> or email FlyGirl@VerniceArmour.com.

Indie Soul Movie Review: 'Drake's Homecoming: The Lost Footage'



Drake

Photo: Courtesy of Young Money Records

On Thursday March 18, 2015 for one night only, the Baltimore area was treated to a screening of "Drake's Homecoming: The Lost Footage," a film documenting platinum recording artist Drake's sold out concert in Toronto, Canada. The film features lost footage of Drake's last big hometown performance before he became a global star.

What's even more fascinating is finding out Lil Wayne and J-Prince didn't think that Drake was talented. What makes Drake different is that regardless of some of the language he chooses to use, he really is a throwback hip-hop artist who sings and raps along the same lines as Grandmaster Flash and The Furious Five, Force Md's, Funky Four +

One, UTFO, and Whistle.

The film brings out his how his buzz in Canada made it possible for him to team up with J-Prince of Rap-a-Lot Records and Birdman with Cash Money Records. The film explains Drake's origins, his music, and fans. Even old school music heads will enjoy learning more about Drake who is on track to be one of the best to have ever done it. Look for "Drake's Homecoming: The Lost Footage" on DVD soon.

Indie Soul welcomes your questions and comments. To contact Phinisse Demps, call 410-366-3900 ext. 3016 or 410-501-0193 or email: pdemps@btimes.com. Follow him on Twitter: @pdemps_btimes

Indie Soul: Cherie Cofield's 5th Annual Let's Get Serious Health, Wellness, Fitness Expo



Cherie Cofield

It's time to get ready for the 5th Annual Let's Get Serious Health, Wellness, and Fitness Expo on Saturday, April 4, 2015 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Cherie Cofield is founder and CEO of this incredible event, which was started after the death of her father who died of a heart attack at 59. Cofield, who has been featured before on the pages of the Baltimore Times for her work as an author and entrepreneur, is very serious when it comes to health and fitness and dedicates her life to speaking out. "We have to take our health seriously especially in the black community. We can't think that we can fix this ourselves. We need to make sure we visit the doctors, eat right and exercise" says Cofield.

This year's event has moved to the North Baltimore Plaza Hotel located at

2004 Greenspring Drive in Lutherville, Md. The event has grown so much over the last four years that Cofield had to find a location that could accommodate the large number of participants. As of this writing, 900 people have registered.

Attendees of the Let's Get Serious Health, Wellness, and Fitness Expo will be treated to live workouts and exercise demonstrations, health screenings, healthy food samples and the latest fitness equipment and products.

Bring the entire family, kids included. Bring your loved ones. Come get educated, exercise, network, and enjoy. The Baltimore Times will be there and you never know what goodies we may be giving away. For more information: 443-623-6722 or visit: www.letsgetserious2015.eventbrite.com.

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LB

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Value Pack
MVP **2⁴⁹**
LB
73% Lean Ground Beef
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MVP **99¢**
LB
Whole Chickens
Without MVP Card \$1.49 LB

16 Oz. Pkg. - 41-50 Ct.
MVP **5⁹⁹**
EA
Food Lion Shell-On Raw Shrimp
Without MVP Card \$9.49 EA

MVP **4⁹⁹**
EA
8 Lb. Bag Navel Oranges
Without MVP Card \$7.99 EA

MVP **99¢**
LB
Gala, Fuji or Braeburn Apples
Without MVP Card \$1.29 LB

MVP **2⁴**
FOR
Cantaloupes
Without MVP Card \$3.49 EA

2⁵
FOR
11-15 Oz. - Select Varieties
Kellogg's Cereal
Frosted Flakes or Special K Cereal
Without MVP Card Regular Retail

2⁴
FOR
7-10.5 Oz. - Select Varieties
Cheetos or Fritos Corn Chips
Without MVP Card \$3.49 EA

MVP **BUY 1 GET 1 FREE**
Single item at its price
9.5-15.25 Oz. - Select Varieties
Nabisco Chips Ahoy! Cookies
Without MVP Card \$3.99 EA
Limit 2 Free

5⁵
FOR
1.9-7.25 Oz. - Select Varieties
Kraft Easy Mac Cups or Mac & Cheese Dinners
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2³
FOR
10-16 Oz. - Select Varieties
Birds Eye Steamfresh or Vegetable Blends
Without MVP Card \$2.19 EA

2³
FOR
5-6 Oz. - Select Varieties
Stove Top Stuffing
Without MVP Card \$2.39 EA

2⁴
FOR
6-8 Oz. - Select Varieties
Food Lion Chunk or my essentials Shredded Cheese
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2⁴
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48 Oz.
my essentials Vegetable Oil
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99¢
EA MVP
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7⁹⁹
EA MVP
8 Large Rolls
Bounty Paper Towels
8 Mega, 16 Double Rolls
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Rest of Week: \$8.99 EA MVP

2⁵
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48 Oz. - Select Varieties
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1⁷⁹
EA MVP
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Select Varieties
Capri Sun Juice Drinks
Without MVP Card \$2.79 EA
Limit 4
Rest of Week: 2/\$4 MVP

Rambling Rose

“Do You Remember?”



Rosa Pryor Trusty

Do you remember these night spots and patrons?

Hey everyone! Mannnnnnnnn! I got some oldies for you! Girlfriend do you remember these clubs and patrons in these photos? Honey child! Check out these photos from the good old days. We must always remember our past fun and life in the nightlife scene. It will help us smile today. Some of our friends have passed away, but look at the smile on their faces in these pictures when they were still with us.

I know some of the clubs and vendors are not as they used to be or no longer exist, but MAN-OH-MAN!— we did have some fun when they were still around. Remember the Sphinx Club, Phil’s Lounge, Club Casino, Club Astoria, Lucky Number, Pat’s Lounge, Big Wooten Lounge, Bird Cage, Sportsman Lounge, and the Elgin Lounge just to name a few? There are only a few of us left to enjoy this kind of fun, and a very, very few places to go. Many of us are now weak and tired and not in good health to continue what we did to have fun in the clubs, such as drink plenty of cocktails, dance to live entertainment, and tell lies cross the bar. Yeah man! They were the good ole days. I just don’t want you to forget. I realize that some of us are up in age and when we take two steps up, we take three steps back, trying not to trip over our walking canes, but we still hang in there trying our best to support the club owners and musicians who are still there for us. Life is so short folks— enjoy it! Keep a positive mind and attitude because tomorrow is not promised.

Ursula V. Battle’s play, “DisChord in the Choir” PLAY”

Ursula Battle, a great friend and colleague is also a gifted playwright, writer, reporter and photographer. I have watched her grow since her first play into a very talented, strong playwright. I am so proud of her. Battle’s newly rewritten version of the gospel stage play musical production called, “DisChord in The Choir” produced by Unified Voices of Johns Hopkins under the directorship of Dr. Gregory William Branch features dynamic singers, a riveting story line and powerful ministerial messages. The play will also feature some locals, including the gospel trio Serenity; WEAA personality Ernestine Jones and comedian Ms’ Maybelle along with many of other professional singers, actresses and comedians.

The play deals with and covers many issues in life. It is a fun, entertaining, educational drama. It will be presented Friday March 27, 7 p.m. and Saturday 2 & 7 p.m. through Sunday, March 29, 5 p.m. at the Turner Auditorium in the Johns Hopkins Hospital Ross Research Building, 720 Rutland Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland. For ticket information, call 443-531-4787. I wish you much success my dear friend.

Well my dear friends, it is about that time to “Break a Leg!” I am out of time and space, but remember if you need me, call me at 410-833-9474 or email me at rosapryor@aol.com. UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I’M MUSICALLY YOURS.



Caton Castle Starmaids, back in the day.



The Baltimore Alumni of Alpha Phi Omega Fraternity event



Line Dancing at the Tequila Sunset Lounge with Libby - Libby at the turntable

Do You Remember?



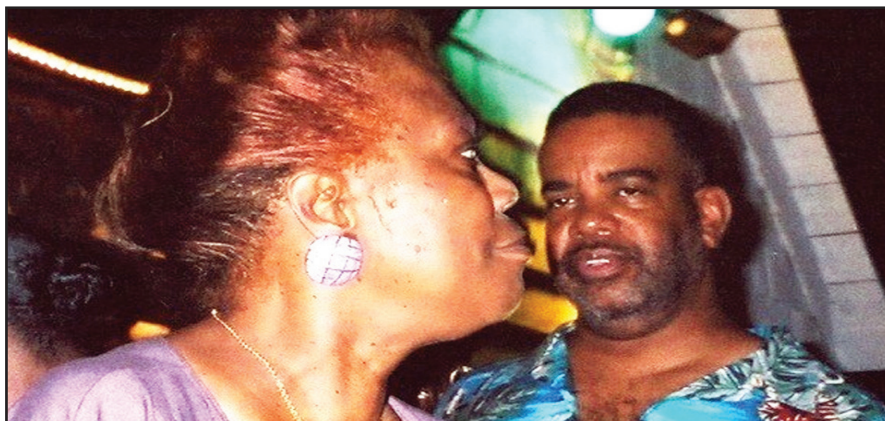
Dave Brice, DJ Coffee, Walter "Sam" Williams in front of Pat's Lounge back in the day.



Left Bank Jazz Society Members on stage at the end of their jazz event.



Members of Millie Battle Night Club Posse.



Millie Battle and Tom Saunders dancing at Maceo's Lounge



Liddy Jones & Friends at R&B show at the Forest Park Senior Center.

New single created for Oprah Winfrey becomes OWN Network Anthem

“You Will” features powerhouse vocals by Jennifer Hudson and Jennifer Nettles in first ever duet

Los Angeles— OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network announced that legendary songwriter Diane Warren has written a new original song titled “You Will” for Oprah Winfrey and it will serve as the anthem for the network. The uplifting new single features a powerhouse performance by award-winning recording artists Jennifer Hudson and Jennifer Nettles in their first duet together.

“You Will” was released by RCA Records and is now available for purchase.

The “You Will” campaign premiered on OWN Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at 9 p.m. during the season finale of the hit series “The Haves and the Have Nots” and is also available to live stream on Oprah.com. The music video features exclusive behind-the-scenes footage from the song’s recording session.

“I was so touched when Diane Warren came to me and said she wrote a song with OWN in mind,” said Oprah Winfrey. “And then to have Jennifer Hudson and Jennifer Nettles bring the song to life with their stunning collaboration... what a gift.”

“You Will” is such a powerful song that I am so very proud to be a part of,” said Jennifer Hudson. “It is always incredible to work with the incomparable Diane Warren, who is consistently creating music that so many people can relate to. I was honored to come together with Jennifer Nettles and create something special for OWN, which stands for so many wonderful things.”

“I have known Oprah for years and love to see this wonderful woman at the OWN network making it so successful,” said Diane Warren. “The sentiment of my song, ‘You Will,’ which is Oprah and her network’s new theme song, is that you should never give up on your dreams, own every breath, own every minute, go live a life that’s got no limits. You can do anything. It’s as simple as never think you won’t, and you will. Jennifer Hudson and Jennifer Nettles perform the song beautifully. I am very proud of this song and the message it sends.”

“I am hugely inspired by the message of ‘You Will,’” said Jennifer Nettles. “Like the OWN network, this song encourages us all to boldly dream. Yet again Diane Warren was able to capture, and orchestrate, this beautiful theme of believing in oneself, and to offer us a song as its anthem. I was honored to be invited to sing with such a powerful talent as Jennifer Hudson. I am thrilled to be able to give voice to this wonderful song with such a gifted duet partner as Jennifer, and to celebrate OWN through music.”

“You Will” was arranged by Grammy Award-winning producers The Underdogs and Peter Stengaard and produced by The Underdogs.

Acclaimed songwriter Diane Warren has written songs for artists across all musical genres including Beyoncé, Celine Dion, Christina Aguilera, Lady Gaga, Elton John, Barbra Streisand, Whitney Houston, Kelly Clarkson, Cher, Mary J. Blige, Aretha



(Left to right) Jennifer Hudson, Diane Warren and Jennifer Nettles at the “You Will” recording session. Courtesy Photo/OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network

Franklin and more. Her songs have been featured in more than 100 films, and she has won and been nominated for numerous awards, including Grammy Award (“Because You Loved Me”) and Golden Globe (“You Haven’t Seen the Last of

Me”) wins and is a seven-time Academy Award nominee. In 2001, she was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

For more information, visit www.oprah.com/own and www.press.discovery.com/us/own.

Baltimore Times

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IN THEATERS APRIL 3

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IN THEATERS AND IMAX®

STARTS FRIDAY, APRIL 3 CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES

Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival fundraiser receives strong community support

By Andrea Blackstone

Approximately 75 guests attended the Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival fundraiser called African Threads on Saturday, February 28, 2015 at ADEK Productions—located at 1801 West Street in Annapolis. Proceeds will support forthcoming efforts to hold a 2015 Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival in Annapolis.

Hopes were high that the festival featuring musical performances, food, arts and crafts, African dance and storytelling will return to the City Dock and attract excited festival-goers who have missed the annual celebration. Around the site of the expected location, the statue of the late Alex Haley, author of "Roots," still reminds passersby of Kunta Kinte's arrival on the Lord Ligonier slave ship. In his groundbreaking book, Haley introduced the world to his ancestor who was sold into slavery.

Renee Spears, the current Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival chair, said that she has been working with the festival for 18 years. During the evening, she determined that the community's favorable response to the fundraiser indicates that it definitely needs to be held. A call for additional volunteers was also announced.

"The Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival is a very important event for Annapolis history-wise, because we all need to have a history, and to live it, and to breathe it, and for children to know it, and not just for us as African Americans, but for everyone," Spears said.

Area businesses and individuals donated raffle items, goodie bag stuffers, door prizes and silent auction merchandise for attendees. Organizers reported that 14 volunteers helped to plan and assist with the fundraiser.

"We've been successfully doing this festival for the last 25 years. Due to budgetary constraints, we weren't able to have it the last two years. With the help of Jan (Lee) and some of the other festival members, we decided to have a fundraiser to try and spearhead getting some funds together for the 2015 festival," David Arthur, president of the board of directors for Kunta Kinte Celebrations, Inc. said. "We definitely want to have a festival. This is the whole point of this. We want to make people aware that we are still trying to hold a festival, and that we are still here, and that we need everybody's help to continue on."

Community members like Terrell Freeman helped to facilitate the fundraiser. Freeman, an Annapolitan, welcomed attendees and opened the program with a drum call. Before introducing the first performers, he also conducted a libation ceremony to pay tribute to ancestors.

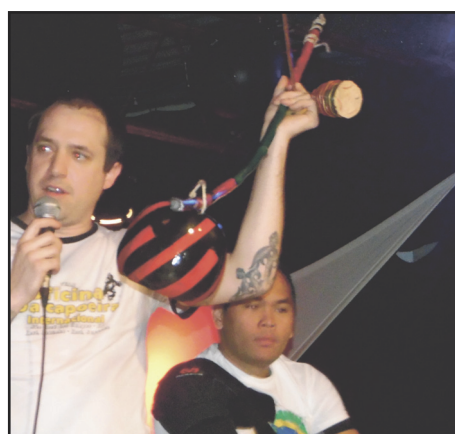
Jan Lee, 29, serves as co-chair of the Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival and handles media relations. Lee remarked that the organization is focusing on rebuilding after a two-year hiatus.



The Annapolis chapter of the Delicados, Inc. sponsored African Threads. The special event was created to help raise money for a 2015 Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival. Photos: Andrea Blackstone



Renee Spears, the Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival chair, greets attendees of African Threads, which was a fundraiser for the Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival. The event was held on Feb. 28, 2015 to jump start financial support to hold a festival in Annapolis this year.



L-r: Terrell Freeman opens the event with a drum call; Capoeira Social Project offered education about Brazilian martial arts and musical instruments used in capoeira; A singer from KARMA Showcase Band

"We plan to return to the Annapolis City Dock for the festival on September 26, 2015. I've been volunteering with Kunta Kinte Celebrations since I was a kid. I feel that the festival is so important in bringing the community together. It's always a joyous celebration," Lee said.

The Annapolis chapter of the Delicados, Inc. was instrumental in helping to present African Threads. Darlene Washington, president of the local social group, said that her group loved the fundraiser and display of superb talent.

"We were a sponsor group— an organization that sponsored this affair tonight. We want to see it (the festival) come back again. That was one of our interests in being a sponsor, to help so that this event would happen again this summer."

To learn more about the status of the Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival as developments continue, visit: www.kuntakinte.org.

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**ANNE ARUNDEL COMMUNITY
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PROJECT NO. C2015-14-P APPLICANT
TRACKING SYSTEM**

Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) is seeking proposals for a recommended solution to fulfill a need to implement an Applicant Tracking System (ATS) to support the recruitment and selection process at the College. **Proposals will be accepted until 11 a.m. EST on April 15, 2015.**

Request for Proposal (RFP) documents may be obtained from the Purchasing office by contacting Heidi Frist, Senior Purchasing Agent, by e-mail: hmfrist@aacc.edu.

Anne Arundel Community College is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action/Title IX/ADA/Title 504 Compliant Institution. Minority, small and woman-owned businesses are encouraged to submit Proposals for this project.

**ANNE ARUNDEL COMMUNITY
COLLEGE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PROJECT NO. C2015-17-P
ROOF REPLACEMENT – HUMANITIES
BUILDING**

Anne Arundel Community College is requesting proposals for the removal of the existing roof system and install a new 80 mil. TPO membrane roof for the Humanities Building located on the Arnold Campus. **Proposals will be received until 11 a.m. EST on April 16, 2015.**

Request for Proposal (RFP) documents may be obtained from the Purchasing office by contacting Heidi Frist, Senior Purchasing Agent by e-mail: hmfrist@aacc.edu.

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Homebuyers, renters to explore affordable housing options at Maryland's largest housing fair

"Come Home to Howard County" returns for ninth consecutive year on April 11, 2015

Columbia, Md.— Come Home to Howard County, the largest housing fair in the state of Maryland, will open its doors for the 9th annual Howard County Housing Fair on Saturday, April 11, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Wilde Lake High School located at 5460 Trumpeter Road in Columbia, Maryland. Admission is free to the community.

More than 50 real estate agents, apartment communities, mortgage lenders, housing specialists and county personnel will be on hand to offer buying, renting and Howard County living guidance to individuals and families in one-on-one meetings and group education sessions. Guided bus tours will showcase various new and existing home communities for rent and purchase in the county, for individuals and families.

Featured at the fair will be Howard County's popular Housing Lottery, where one lucky pre-qualified applicant will win the opportunity to purchase a newly constructed Howard County home at a significantly reduced price. Interested candidates must pre-qualify for the Housing Lottery and submit all required paperwork by Wednesday, April 8 by 5 p.m. Housing Lottery applications are available online at: www.howardcountyhousing.com or www.howardcountymd.gov or at the Howard County Housing office located at 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, 3rd floor in Columbia. Applicants must pre-



qualify to be entered into the lottery. A complete list of pre-qualification requirements, lottery rules and details about the home is included with the application.

Additionally, the Come to Howard County Housing Fair offers over 30 educational seminars taught by industry experts. Seminar topics include information sessions for first time homebuyers, workshops on improving your credit rating and securing a mortgage, and other essentials for anyone looking to find affordable housing opportunities in the county.

"Anyone who wants to make their

home in Howard County should come to the Housing Fair," said Tom Carbo, Howard County Housing Director. "The Fair has everything a person or family might need to know about living in the county, all in one location. With children's activities, prize drawings throughout the event and the Housing Lottery, there's something for everyone."

For more information about the Housing Fair and the Lottery visit: www.howardcountyhousing.com or contact the Homeownership staff at 410-313-6318 and select option 4 from the menu.

Reginald Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture

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 children'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 p.m. on the last Monday of each month. For more information, contact Erica Holmes at 443-263-1800 or email: holmes@maamc.org or visit the museum's website: www.AfricanAmericanCulture.org.

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