

## Local entrepreneur prepares for triathlon in France



*Gyl Johnson is the course director of The Language House, Inc., a TEFL teacher training organization that provides training to become an English teacher abroad. In 2011, Johnson decided to embrace the lifestyle of the triathlete and regularly compete in races, mostly in France. The triathlete swims 2.2 miles, then bikes 118 miles and then runs 26.2 miles. Her next awesome quest is the most powerful, the IronMan, which takes place in Nice, France at the end of this month. (See article on page 18) Courtesy Photo*

# George Haley, Brother of Roots Author, Friend of MLK, dies at 89

By Stacy M. Brown

He was known as the giant who never quit. George Haley, a Silver Spring, Maryland resident and brother of famed author Alex Haley, died earlier this month. He was 89.

"He had quite a full life," his son, Kansas Democratic Senator David Haley said. "Going through some of his papers and going over some of the accolades, it's a remarkable story that George Haley put into just shy of 90 years."

George Haley counted as one of Martin Luther King Jr.'s closest friends as the two attended Morehouse College in Atlanta together.

Haley was first elected to the Senate in 1964 as a Republican representing Kansas City, Kansas. He stood with King at an appearance at Kansas State University in January 1968, just three months before the civil rights icon was assassinated.

Haley returned to Kansas State University in 2011 to hear a rediscovered recording of King's remarks from that January

appearance, the Kansas City Star reported. His name was among those found written on a paper in King's clothes after King was killed by a gunman in Memphis, Tennessee on April 4, 1968.

After graduating Morehouse in 1949, Haley went on to earn a law degree from the University of Arkansas in 1952. He was one of just two African Americans at that school, enduring racism and other biases.

Haley later joined the law firm of Stevens Jackson in Kansas City, which provided assistance on the desegregation case, *Brown v. Board of Education*.

After an unsuccessful bid for Congress in 1966, he joined a Washington, D.C. firm and eventually formed his own practice.

In 1976, Haley's brother, Alex Haley, published "Roots: The Saga of an American Family," a book based on their family's history. It focused on the story of Kunta Kinte, a Haley ancestor kidnapped by white slave traders from his homeland in Gambia in 1767.

The book later was adopted for screen



*George Haley*  
Courtesy Photo

tine, an at-large Prince George's County school board member wrote in a blog. "Alex outlined just how difficult young George had it. [He wrote] the first day of school, he went quickly to his basement room, put his sandwich on the table, and started upstairs for class," Valentine recalled.

"He found himself moving through wave upon wave of white faces that all mirrored the same emotions, shock, disbelief, and then choking, inarticulate rage. The lecture room was buzzing with conversation, but as he stepped through the door there was silence. He looked for his seat. It was on the side between the other students and the instructor.

"When the lecture began, he tried desperately to concentrate on what the professor was saying, but the hate in that room seeped into his conscience and obliterated thought."

George Haley would go on to overcome living in the law school basement, having a bag of urine thrown at him, death threats, and even being ostracized by other African-Americans to graduate at the top of his class and become member of the prestigious Law Review, Valentine noted.

Haley served under six presidents, including as chairman of the Postal Rate Commission under President George H.W. Bush and as U.S. ambassador to Gambia from 1998 to 2001 under President Bill Clinton.

Haley, who once met George Washington Carver and singer Marian Anderson, is survived by his wife, Doris Haley; his son, David Haley; and his daughter, Anne Haley-Brown.

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and, in 1977, premiered as a weeklong special on ABC, becoming one of the most watched mini-series in television history.

Alex Haley said the journey to write the book began in Annapolis, Maryland, where his ancestors had arrived from Africa in shackles.

"Before Alex Haley became a household name, his younger brother George was already making history. Already a veteran of the Army Air Forces, in 'George Haley: The Man Who Wouldn't Quit,' Alex chronicled the story of how his brother made history," Curtis Valen-

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# Guest Editorials/Letters

## Blacks Need Major League Baseball

By Bill Fletcher, Jr., NNPA Columnist

**A** Chris Rock video has made the rounds in which he offers a critique of Major League baseball and its relationship to black America. The monologue is funny, sad and very profound. He attempts to explain the distance that has emerged between black America and a sport that it actually helped to build.

I have watched the Chris Rock video several times, usually showing it to someone who has yet to view it. Each time, I find myself thinking about his final comments, i.e., that black people do not need baseball, but baseball needs black people. I think that I would humbly rephrase that statement. It is without question that, over the long term, Major League Baseball needs black America as its current fan-base ages out and as younger people grow intolerant of the pace and culture of the game. On the other hand, I actually do think that black America needs baseball, though it does not necessarily need Major League Baseball, at least major league baseball as we currently know it.

What has struck me in reading and hearing about the period of the Negro Leagues, or the period of the desegregation of baseball (roughly 1947-1975), is that baseball, and its progeny, e.g., softball; stickball, were community sports. It was not just that teams represented communities, but that the sport itself seemed to knit communities together.

In basketball, even street basketball, there is little space for mixed talent, especially when one is playing full court. The game truly is for the best and while some members of the community who are not the best—people such as me—could occasionally play, it was in baseball, softball and stickball that you always sensed that chance for excitement and greatness, even for those who were not the most talented.

Perhaps, it is that baseball truly is a team sport. Yes, you can be an outstanding hitter or pitcher, but there is no question that you cannot win the game by yourself or even you and one other person. Baseball, softball and stickball really taught me about collective action in a manner unlike any other experience during my childhood, a theme that would become central to who I became as an adult.

In this sense, I strongly believe that black America needs baseball. I don't mean that we need the Major Leagues, as such, nor do I mean that baseball will be the route out of poverty for the bulk of black America. Rather, the baseball that we need is the culture that surrounds the actual sport. We need the sense of being a team, including the reality of unevenness. We also need to regain the sense that the game does not end with a single play, nor necessarily when the gong sounds. Sometimes the end is drawn out, necessitating that the team is prepared for a protracted struggle in which victory is never guaranteed.

*Bill Fletcher, Jr. is the host of The Global African on Telesur-English. He is a racial justice, labor and global justice activist and writer. Follow him on Twitter, Facebook and at [www.billfletcherjr.com](http://www.billfletcherjr.com).*



## Letters to the Editor

**Editor,**

**Re: Don't Forget a Pre-Trip Vehicle Check Before Hitting the Road**

If you are hitting the road this summer, you will have lots of company. With millions of Americans taking road trips, the last thing you need is car trouble. A simple pre-trip driveway vehicle inspection helps ensure a safe and stress-free journey.

\*Check all fluids, including engine oil, power steering and brake and transmission, as well as windshield washer solvent and antifreeze/coolant.

\*Check the hoses and belts that can become cracked, brittle, frayed, loose or show signs of excessive wear. These are critical to the proper functioning of the electrical system, air conditioning, power steering and the cooling system.

\*Check the tires, including tire pressure and tread. Uneven wear indicates a need for wheel alignment. Tires should

also be checked for bulges and bald spots.

\*Check the wipers and lighting so that you can see and be seen. Check that all interior and exterior lighting is working properly and inspect and replace worn wiper blades so you can see clearly when driving during precipitation. Keep the reservoir filled with solvent.

If you find your vehicle needs service, repairs can be performed before your drive begins. The non-profit Car Care Council offers many free tools on its website to help you drive smart, save money and be car care aware, including the popular 80-page Car Care Guide and a custom service schedule and email reminder service.

**Rich White**  
Executive Director  
Car Care Council  
Bethesda, MD

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## *Black boys do more than run!*

By George E. Curry  
NNPA Columnist

I recently attended my grandson Austin Ragland's graduation from pre-school in Buford, Georgia. Yes, you read correctly—pre-school. It's never too soon to begin celebrating academic achievement, as his graduation from pre-school attests. So, PaPa was excited about going to Austin's graduation ceremony and seeing him don a cap and gown for the first time to receive his "diploma."

In addition to wanting to support every significant event in Austin's life, PaPa realizes, to borrow a phrase from Jesse Jackson, that he has more yesterdays than tomorrows. I don't know how many such celebrations I'll be around for so the sooner we begin celebrating, the better.

At five years old, Austin is extremely smart. He read more books than anyone else in his age group and thanks to his parents, learning is fun to him. He recently wants to practice his sight words, even on weekends, without being asked and loves reading to Grammy.

I was expecting to hear some reference to Austin's quickly developing intellect at his graduation, but was I ever disappointed. Miffed is a more accurate description. Naw, I was pissed.

When it was Austin's turn to receive his diploma, he had been instructed to run to the front of the room, which he did.

"Austin Ragland—as you can see, he's our best boy runner," the presiding teacher said. "He's really fast. Give me a hug."

I said beneath my breath, "He does more than run," and the more I thought

is an excellent student. His parents and grandparents want him to know that what he does academically is far more important than what he does on the basketball court or soccer field. In my grandson's case, he will definitely get that reinforcement from his family.

However, I fear some of his friends might not receive the message and that's why it's so important that educators be aware of the messages they consciously and unconsciously transmit to young black boys in particular.

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***“Fortunately, Austin is a good athlete— he plays basketball and soccer— and he is an excellent student. His parents and grandparents want him to know that what he does academically is far more important than what he does on the basketball court or soccer field. In my grandson’s case, he will definitely get that reinforcement from his family.”***

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about it, the angrier I became.

Let's be clear: Austin's pre-school has done a wonderful job providing him with a firm educational foundation. I believe his teachers are good-hearted, caring individuals who have Austin's best interests at heart. Still, I find it troubling that of all the things they could have said about Austin, they chose to focus on his speed.

To be fair, they did the same things to some of Austin's white classmates— one boy was praised for his athletic skills. So, I don't view it as conscious racism. But I don't know Austin's white classmates, I know him and I know how critical it is to highlight brain over brawn.

Fortunately, Austin is a good athlete— he plays basketball and soccer— and he

As education consultant and prolific author Jawanza Kunjufu observes, "Visit a kindergarten class and observe black boys in action. They're eager; they sit in the front; they're on task. They love learning."

However by the time they are in the 9th grade, they have absorbed a different message, one where academics are not valued as much as they should be.

Kunjufu explained, "Boys don't drop out in the 12th grade. They physically drop out in the ninth grade, but they emotionally and academically drop out in the fourth grade."

A contributing factor, according to Kunjufu, is the composition of the teaching force.

"Can you imagine African Americans

may be the only group expecting someone else to educate their children?" he wrote. "White female teachers constitute 83 percent of the U.S. elementary teaching force. African American students are 17 percent of public school students nationwide, but represent only six percent of the teachers.

"Unfortunately, African American males constitute only one percent of the teaching population. There are schools without one African American male academic teacher. They are employed as custodians, security guards, and P.E. teachers. Often schools will hire an African American male to be assistant principal which translates into being in charge of all male behavioral problems."

Make no mistake about it, black girls, who are suspended or expelled from school at higher rates than white girls, also deserve special attention and should not be ignored in the rush to create new programs and opportunities for black boys and men. Still, visit any college campus and you'll notice the severe under representation of black males.

After the graduation ceremony, one of the administrators told Grammy that Austin will be attending a challenging kindergarten in the fall and volunteered, "He'll probably be placed in the gifted class."

To me, sharing that with the audience would have been much better than merely proclaiming that he was the fastest student in the class. He was also one of the smartest and that should not have been overlooked.

*George E. Curry, former editor-in-chief of Emerge magazine, is editor-in-chief of the National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service (NNPA) and BlackPressUSA.com. Curry can be reached through his website: [www.georgecurry.com](http://www.georgecurry.com).*

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# Meet NAREB President Donnell Spivey: Looking to Increase Black Home Ownership

By Ursula V. Battle

June is National Home Ownership Month. The goal of the month-long initiative is to develop programs and incentives to help every American citizen realize the dream of homeownership. Donnell Spivey is the president of NAREB (The National Association of Real Estate Brokers). Spivey was elected to a two-year term in 2013, and has been a Real Estate agent for nearly 30 years.

“Homeownership is so important to our community because it makes us feel more inclusive,” said Spivey. “I believe that if we are more included in our community, we value our community more. The importance of homeownership needs to be the focus of any city - especially amongst the African American community.”

He added, “Many of the homebuyers I service are first-generation buyers who did not have the luxury of a father, great grandfather, or other relative to talk to them about the importance, nor the value of homeownership. This is why NAREB started the State of Housing in Black America (SHIBA). We believe that the lack of education has kept a lot of the African American people out of homeownership.”

NAREB was formed in 1947 by chartered African American real estate professionals out of a need to secure the right to equal housing opportunities, regardless of race, creed, or color. For more than 60 years, NAREB has participated in meaningful legal challenges and has supported legislative initiatives that ensure the availability of fair and affordable housing for all Americans. NAREB has local chapters across the country, who embrace the ideals and mission of “promoting democracy in housing.”

According to Spivey, SHIBA efforts include sponsoring homeownership events across the country.

“These events focus on educating the real estate professional and the consumers,” said Spivey. Since 2014, we have put on 12 events in various places across the country including Detroit, Miami, Chicago, Prince Georges, Maryland, San Francisco, Boston and



*Donnell Spivey, president, National Association of Real Estate Brokers.*

Courtesy Photo

Philadelphia. Five more are scheduled between now and August.”

He added, “Our first SHIBA event was held at New Shiloh Baptist Church in Baltimore. I attend New Shiloh. Close to 200 people attended. This event was comprised of workshops with topics that included credit scores, retirement, homeownership, stocks, and wealth building. The response from these events have been tremendous, and we will continue to present them.”

Spivey talked about the importance of homeownership.

“Homeownership is something we need to focus on - especially in the African-American community,” said Spivey. “It is our number one way of building wealth. African American people need to build generational wealth. We use the equity in our homes for many things. These things include sending our kids to college, starting a business, and to pass wealth on to our children.”

Spivey is the broker/owner of Exit Spivey Professional Realty in Ellicott City. He also talked about how America’s foreclosure crisis hurt the black community.

“Many former homeowners lost their homes during the foreclosure crisis,” said Spivey. “Our community was

preyed on to get them to refinance into exotic loans. Many people, refinanced, pulled their equity out, and got an ARM (Adjustable Rate Mortgage.) When the market and rate changed, they could not afford the payments or could not refinance their homes because the value had gone down.”

He continued, “Many former homeowners have become reluctant to purchase a home today. Many who lost their homes have gone into the rental market. The rental housing market has skyrocketed. The high rent people are paying now is also preventing them for saving money to make another housing purchase.”

Through SHIBA, efforts are underway to help restore black homeownership.

“One out of five African-Americans lost their home during the foreclosure crisis,” said Spivey. “As a result, the black community lost about 55 percent of their wealth. In 2013, we presented these statistics to the Congressional

Black Caucus. This is why we started SHIBA.”

Spivey said other efforts include changing the Credit and FICO Score Models, and to stop FHA (Federal Housing Administration) loans from charging mortgage insurance for the life of the loan. Typically, an FHA loan is one of the easiest types of mortgage loans to qualify for because it requires a low down payment.

“With the FHA, the mortgage insurance would continue until you pay the entire loan off,” said Spivey. “Paying mortgage insurance for the life of the loan hinders buyers from building wealth because they are paying money for insurance that does not benefit them.”

He added, “After presenting statistics to the Congressional Black Caucus, we said we were going to stop talking about it and come up with solutions – and that solution was education. The ultimate outcome is to increase homeownership rate in the African-American community.”



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# Fullback Kiero Small pleased to play for his hometown Ravens

By *Turron Davenport*

The Baltimore Ravens have started organized team activities (OTA) recently and one of the participants is a local product from former Baltimore high school, Cardinal Gibbons.

Fullback Kiero Small will participate in the Ravens OTAs and training camp this summer. He earned second team All-State honors from the Maryland Coaches Association as a senior. Small is excited to play for his hometown team after being selected by the Seattle Seahawks in the seventh round of the 2014 NFL draft.

Small was released by the Seahawks in August of last year and spent a portion of last season on the Cleveland Browns practice squad along with their active roster. Small made his first NFL start as a Brown when the team faced the Oakland Raiders last year.

That was the start of a three game stretch for Small including a game against the Cincinnati Bengals in which he paved the way for a 170 yard, three touchdown rushing effort by the Brown's running backs including 94 yards from fellow Baltimore product Terrence West.

The powerful, fullback was signed by the Ravens on November 13, 2014— two days after being waived by the Browns. Small was not on the Ravens active roster last season but he said that he is honored to carry on the Ravens tradition of great fullbacks such as Sam Gash, Lorenzo Neal and Vontae Leach. The physical play from the Ravens is something that made Small enjoy watching the Ravens when he was growing up.

"Being from Baltimore, of course the Ravens were my favorite team growing up. They use a fullback and I liked physical football." Small said. "My dad always said, you can throw the ball and play a lot of cheap football but in this league you have to run the ball to win."



*University of Arkansas running back Kiero Small carries the ball during a game from his senior season.*  
Courtesy Photo/arkansasfight.com

Small grew up in Northeast Baltimore, which he says helped talking and getting stuff done on the field come naturally. Like most of the Baltimore area youth, Small was drawn to Ray Lewis.

"Ray Lewis was one of my favorite players." Small said. "As a little kid, watching the passion that he played with and the way that he led, he represented for the whole franchise. He has a street named after him in Baltimore, the city loved Ray Lewis."

The leadership and attachment to the community that Ray Lewis exhibited rubbed off on Small. He has already taken part in a few of the Ravens community events including Lardarius Webb's charity softball game last month.

The road to the NFL was not an easy one for Small. He initially went to Valley Forge Military Academy but only lasted one semester. Small came back home and

Hartnell Junior College in California.

Small once again found success on the football field when he was named a junior college All-American at fullback. He also played linebacker at Hartnell. He was able to parlay his junior college All-American status into a chance to play for the University of Arkansas. Small was known for his punishing blocks and running style. His violent collisions resulted in more than a few broken facemasks for would be tacklers.

One opponent that stood out the most to Small in college was current teammate C.J. Mosley, who played for the University of Alabama, also in the Southeastern Conference. The two had their share of battles and Small cited Mosley as the most complete linebacker that he went against when he was at Arkansas.

Small may not stand out as much right now because the practices aren't in pads and collisions are not encouraged. Rest assured, once practice goes live; Small will draw his share of on field victories thanks to his fire hydrant like 5-foot-8, 244 pound build.

spent a year working for his father. He feared that his football career was over but was able to get a second chance at



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New York Times best selling author  
Kimberla Lawson Roby comes to Enoch Pratt Library



New York Times bestselling author Kimberla Lawson Roby will be at the Central Branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library located at 400 Cathedral Street in Baltimore on Tuesday, June 9, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

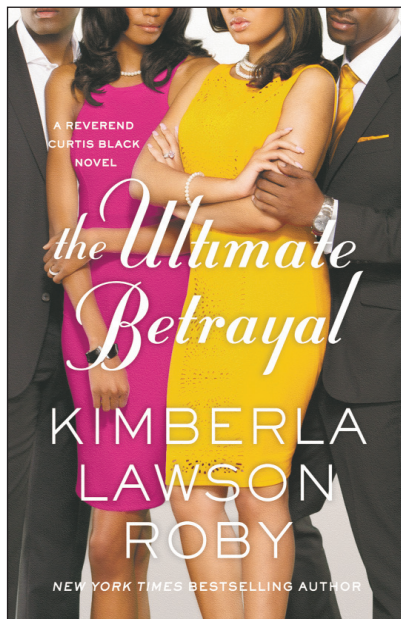
Photo by Paul Crave

Baltimore— New York Times best-selling author Kimberla Lawson Roby returns with the twelfth installment in the Reverend Curtis Black series, “The Ultimate Betrayal,” on Tuesday, June 9, 2015.

Alicia Black, daughter of Reverend Curtis Black, has spent the past four years putting her life back together and rekindling a romance with her first husband, Phillip, whom she had been unfaithful to in the past. When he asks her to marry him again, she couldn't be happier. But Levi Cunningham, the drug dealer Alicia cheated with, has just been released from prison. He has turned his life around and will do anything to win her back. She doesn't want to hurt Phillip again, but she can't get Levi out of her mind.

At a time like this you need friends around, but Alicia's longtime confidante, Melanie, is having problems with her own husband and her weight obsession. When fresh betrayal leads to unexpected consequences, Alicia's relationship with Phillip may not be the only thing that needs saving. Can Alicia and Melanie protect each other and the men they love?

Roby is the 2013 NAACP Image



Award Winner for Outstanding Literary Work— Fiction. Roby has published 21 novels and has sold more than 2.6 million copies of her books, which deal with very real issues, including: corruption within the church, infidelity, mental illness, care-giving of a parent, sexual harassment and overweight issues, to name a few.

For more information, call 410-396-5494 or visit: [www.KimRoby.com](http://www.KimRoby.com).

# GETTING YOUR FINANCES UNDER PAR

Fun, innovative for women to learn the value of golf in creating more business relationships, cultivate existing client retention, networking and increasing your bottom line. The event is to prepare and empower women on creating, preserving wealth on and off the Golf Course.

Forest Park Golf Course

**June 11, 2015**

from 8:00am to 12:00

Continental Breakfast Included and Golf clinic

Hosted by Financial Strategist, Author and Speaker Kimberly L. Manning & Tim Sanders Golf Pro

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or at [kendallphillips@kimberlylanning.com](mailto:kendallphillips@kimberlylanning.com)

# Got Drugs?

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[www.baltimorecountymd.gov/health](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/health)



The prescription drug "take back" program is sponsored by the Baltimore County Department of Health in collaboration with the Baltimore County Police Department



## Cancer 101

By Joyce Hamba, RN, OCN

I always thought that one day, when I had time, I would write an orientation of sorts for anyone who should find themselves on the receiving end of a cancer diagnosis. Given the current statistics, such a diagnosis is in the forecast for most of us. It is merely a matter of time. When that time comes, I hope that this list of five things to remember will make the cancer journey—for indeed it is a journey—a little more tolerable.

**1. Be grateful:** If you are reading this, you most likely live in the United States. Stop here, close your eyes and say a prayer of gratitude to whomever you may consider your God. It doesn't matter how bad the cancer is, or how dire the prognosis, you live in a country that not only has cutting edge medicine, but also the option to seek an infinite number of opinions. When you are done circling the opinions, your original doctor will take you back and treat you well. That, my friend is an absolute privilege and is so often over-looked.

**2. Take notes, get a binder:** From day one, you are going to attend the college of cancer. There will be information, mountains of it. And after a while, you will swear no one ever told you any of it. When you cannot turn your mind off to sleep at night, write down all your concerns, questions you have and then try and sleep. Be your greatest advocate and ask all your questions. There are truly no stupid questions. This is your life and if it keeps you up at night, your provider wants to hear about it. Avoid, if you can, reading up on your condition and prognosis on the Internet. Practice some self-preserving narrow-mindedness. Trust that the best source of information about the specifics of your cancer and prognosis is your doctor. Most oncologists will be as honest as you want them to be. Ask the question and they will answer you.

**3. Get familiar with members of your medical team and use of each of them wisely:** In most cancer treatment centers there is usually a team approach to your care. Find out what each person

on your team does and call on them for their area of expertise. An entire army of people is working together to make sure you receive quality care. Insisting on only speak to your doctor results in long periods of time waiting for an answer that someone more available, say a nurse practitioner, nurse or your social worker, could have helped with.

**4. Be compliant:** I wish I could write this in capital letters and not sound angry. You are going to have sick days either because of the cancer itself or its treatment. You will very likely experience nausea and vomiting. You will get prescriptions of various drugs to combat these symptoms and very clear instructions on how to take them. If in your life before cancer you had trouble taking medicines, give it your best shot and take your pills. Cancer dictates that you have a paradigm shift, a huge one. A lot of research and time has gone into creating this unique combination of medications for you. Trust this and your ordeal will be more tolerable. Sometimes treatment doses have to be lowered or held altogether because of illness. Let none of it be because you did not do your part.

**5. Be kind to yourself:** We are not talking about pampering yourself or going to the spa, although this definitely counts. You have cancer. Allow it to all be about you. Find a way to re-arrange your life in such a way that you can get your treatments and rest. Build your own village, then extend your village. Let people know that you are facing possibly the biggest challenge of your life and ask if they can help you and then provide specific ways they can help-pick up your kids, run an errand, take you to treatment. People are often yearning to be kind. Give them the opportunity. You will be surprised.

*Joyce Hamba is an oncology nurse in Baltimore. She is a passionate patient advocate with interests in equality of access to comprehensive cancer care regardless of race and socio-economic standing. You can email her at joy-hamba@yahoo.com.*

# Free summer youth entrepreneurship program coming to Baltimore

By Andrea Blackstone

A new program is being offered to rising junior and senior Baltimore City students who are interested in entrepreneurship between August 3 and August 8, 2015.

Johnny Graham, 27; and Justin Peters, 29; have partnered with the University of Baltimore Black Law Students Association (UBBLSA) to host the free Youth Entrepreneurship Startup (Y.E.S.).

The summer program is a part of the broader non-profit called the OUR D.R.E.A.M (Develop Resources to Empower All Minds) Foundation, which was started by Graham and Peters in 2015 to promote economic empowerment in underserved communities.

Peters, who grew up in Prince George's County, Maryland, holds an undergraduate degree in public and community Health. He recently graduated from Fordham University School of Law. Graham was born and raised in Baltimore. He earned an undergraduate degree in finance and an MBA. Graham is currently a Ph.D. student at Temple University in Pennsylvania.

"We actually own a consulting firm, Graham & Peters. We work with a lot of up-and-coming entrepreneurs, nonprofits and businesses on business strategy. One thing we have always been passionate about is giving back to the community. One thing we thought would be great would be to do something outside of just meeting with the clients that we work with in our consulting firm and do something to utilize those same skills and resources to give back to the youth. And being that I'm from Baltimore, I thought that would be a great place to start," Graham said.

Graham explained that various components will be covered during Y.E.S. programming. Other entrepreneurs in Baltimore and neighboring areas will also assist with Y.E.S.

"There will be lectures given by my-



*Johnny Graham (left) and Justin Peters (right), co-founders of the Maryland-based strategy consulting firm, Graham & Peters have partnered with the University of Baltimore Black Law Students Association (UBBLSA) to host the free Youth Entrepreneurship Startup (Y.E.S.) program for rising junior and senior Baltimore City students who are interested in entrepreneurship this summer.*  
Courtesy Photo

self and other people within the business field on various concepts related to business. We will cover everything from marketing strategy and branding, how to come up with a business idea and refine that idea, financing opportunities such as venture capitalists and angel investors.

They will learn personal branding to brand yourself as a leader and entrepreneur. At the culmination of the program there is a business pitch competition, which will allow participants to present their business ideas in a 15-minute business pitch to experienced entrepreneurs and business leaders for awards and prizes. They will be working on those

ideas throughout the program, as well getting that firsthand experience," Graham said.

While attending Temple, Graham had an opportunity to teach in a similar entrepreneurship style program for inner city high school students last summer. He presented branding and marketing lectures, which are his areas of expertise.

"I could tell the influence of being a little closer in age to them, and looking like them, and teaching them, I could tell that it had an effect. The first thing I thought instantly after finishing teaching for that program was that we have to do this in Baltimore. This needs to be in the

city I grew up in," Graham said. "I would hope that this program can serve as a portal to acquire some knowledge for youth in Baltimore that are interested in entrepreneurship. I would hope this also would encourage students not just to be entrepreneurs, but to be leaders in the business field and leaders in life."

The priority deadline for students to apply is June 12, 2015. Applicants will be considered based on space available basis after that date.

For more information about the program and the requirements in order to participate or to apply, visit: [www.theyesprogram.org/apply/](http://www.theyesprogram.org/apply/).

***"Entrepreneurship is like a computer game in which you have to master every level before achieving success. Startups repeatedly stumble and have to go back to the drawing board. The best way to skip some levels and to increase the odds of survival is to learn from others who have already played the game." —Vivek Wadhwa***

# Maryland organization spearheads search for missing minorities

By Andrea Blackstone

Jackie Winborne's daughter, Shaquita Bell has been missing since 1996 when she was last seen with her ex-boyfriend, Michael Dickerson. On May 30, 2015 she stood in front of over 500 runners and walkers assembled at the National Harbor to share her heart-wrenching story at the Black and Missing Foundation, Inc.'s (BAMFI) third annual Hope Without Boundaries 5K Walk/Run.

The run was held to raise funds for families of the missing and honor missing loved ones. Since 2008, BAMFI has remained committed to bringing awareness to missing persons of color, providing vital resources and tools to missing person's families, and educating the minority community on personal safety.

Windborne, who said she recently found out about BAMFI's event, choked back tears as she put a face on the issue of missing people.

"Finally, the year before last, Dickerson gave a plea bargain admitting to the murder. A part of the plea bargain was that he would tell us exactly where she was. We never got that information. Shaquita is still missing as far as we are concerned," Winborne said.

Natalie Wilson, co-founder of BAMFI and chief operations officer said the word is spreading about the organization. People want to help find our missing. Media partners have also increased.

"We have national and local media partners who are willing to help us find our missing. Since our inception, we have found 130 people, so that's a milestone for us," Wilson said. "We cannot wait for the four o'clock or 5 o'clock news cycle. We need people to follow us (and) get these alerts out instantaneously. Time is of the essence. When someone goes missing, the longer it takes, you're losing valuable clues, so we need the community to get involved."

BAMFI offers free guidance and support when families in crisis need help developing a strategy to find their missing loved one.

"I always say if my girls went missing, I really would want Derrica (Wilson) and Natalie on the job to make sure that they are brought home, too," Allison Seymour, anchor/reporter for Fox 5 News said.

Running the Prince George's County-

based non-profit is a labor of love for Natalie and her sister-in-law, Derrica, the co-founder, president and CEO of BAMFI.

"Missing persons is not a black issue. It's not a white issue. It's an American issue. Everybody that is dealing with this tragedy of not knowing where their loved one is, their heart bleeds the same way. For our community to take a stand for making missing persons a priority, and actually seeing it come to fruition out here, is an amazing feeling," Derrica said.

Vino Vixens, a wine club with members in Baltimore and Prince George's County meets once a month. Eight members decided to participate in the 5K. They reportedly raised over \$1,600 for BAMFI. Stacey Ross, founder of Vino Vixens, said people they approached were more than happy to donate.

"We wanted to do a 5K walk as a group event," Ross said. "I feel like the money will be appropriated the way it's supposed to be. Plus, we all have kids. You never know if it will affect us or another family member."

Cheers erupted when actor/choreographer Darrin Henson approached a stage before the race began. He said that a friend told him about BAMFI. In response, the actor took time to support the worthy cause.

"I didn't know about the organization. Now I do, and it's my mission and my position to let as many people around America know about it," Henson said.

Another celebrity supported BAMFI's third annual Hope Without Boundaries 5K Walk/Run. Oscar-nominated actress Elise Neal said that she loves coming to similar events, because she gets to see her people in the best light while doing something positive. She reminded attendees that finding missing individuals is a nationwide issue.

"There's trafficking everywhere. Any one of you could lose a brother, a sister, a child at any second. Who is the organization to go to help us find us, and what are we going to do if this organization falls off, because we are not here to help? So I appreciate everybody being here. I appreciate the efforts of what this organization does. Help us find us is really beautiful," Neal said.

For more information or to find out how you may help, visit: [www.bamfi.org](http://www.bamfi.org).



Walkers kick off Black and Missing Foundation, Inc.'s (BAMFI's) third annual Hope Without Boundaries 5K Walk/Run that was held to raise funds for families of the missing and honor missing loved ones. Photo Credit: Andrea Blackstone



The Vino Vixens reportedly raised over \$1,691 to support the Black and Missing Foundation, Inc.'s (BAMFI's) efforts to find missing persons of color and offer support to families.



Derrica Wilson (left) and Natalie Wilson are the founders of Black and Missing Foundation, Inc. (BAMFI). The sisters-in-law raise awareness for missing persons of color throughout the United States.



John Thomas, 9-year-old Keon Ellerbe, and Kelton Ellerbe offer support of Black and Missing Foundation, Inc.'s (BAMFI's) message and purpose, after the Hope Without Boundaries 5K Walk/Run.

# Rambling Rose

**Just For You: Gospel, Blues,  
Jazz and R&B Concerts**



*Rosa Pryor Trusty*

Hello my dear friends, my lands of mercy, this is going to be a musical month for sure. So get ready and ride with me.

Let me tell you right now, put your seat belts on! We have some gospel, blues, R&B, a little bit of jazz and some more fun stuff. I am so excited—we are going to be all over the place enjoying good music.

First of all as you see my girl, Miss Dee of my group “Signature Live” from out of Washington, D.C. area will perform Motown sounds and oldies with her band at James Hamlin’s Avenue Bakery on Pennsylvania and Baker on Saturday, June 6, from 4-8 p.m. in the courtyard. Wine and food will be on sale. No need to call, just stop by and I will also be doing a book signing.

Moving right along, Caton Castle Lounge on Caton and Hilton is hosting a dynamite jazz show featuring The Tim Green Quintet with Mark Meadows on piano, Romeir Mendez on bass, Sean Jones on trumpet, Carroll Dashiell on drums and Tim Green on sax on Saturday, June 6 from 6-10 p.m. for ticket information, call 410-566-7086.

Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of the summer, by checking out Lexington Market every Saturday afternoon from 12 noon until 2 p.m. with free live entertainment. On Saturday, June 6 they will showcase John Lamkin with his Smooth Jazz Quintet; on Saturday, June 13 Swamp Dog with his band performing some good ole’ blues and on Saturday, June 20 they will feature Rise Band & Show with some Motown & Soul. I will see you there.

Now, tell me for all my karaoke singers, have you ever gone into a club and been paid to do karaoke? Of course not! Well, Last Chance Entertainment will present an over-40 karaoke contest that pays you to sing along to your fa-

vorite songs. It is set up as cabaret style, with live entertainment and DJ on Sunday, June 7 from 4-9 p.m. at the Forest Park Senior Center, 4801 Liberty Heights Avenue. BYOB and BYOF with full course dinners available on sale. Free set-ups, cash prizes and I will be there doing a book signing. I will see you there. For ticket information, call 410-532-2274.

The Mount Hill Missionary Baptist Church will host the “Best of the Best in Gospel” & the 7 Keys on June 13, 2 p.m. at the Bridgeton Senior High School, 111 Northwest Avenue in Bridgeton, New Jersey featuring: Highway PC’s; The Five Blind Boys of Jackson, Mississippi; Gospel Keynotes; Jay Caldwell & the Gospel Ambassadors; The Exciting Stephens Singers; Renewed of the Carolinas; James Nesmith & the Original Gospel Helpers; Deacon Leslie Pittman & Harmonica Gospel and much more. For ticket information, call 609-680-7175.

Here we have a fashion show folks! E. Bannister Couture will relaunch his new fashion line and create a scholarship opportunity for students, on Saturday, June 14, 2015 from 3-7 p.m., at the Lord Baltimore Hotel, 20 W. Baltimore Street. The event will feature selected garments from several local designers, Baltimore’s distinctive QG Department Store, and a great presentation of the hottest and upcoming designs from E. Bannister Couture’s clothing line. For ticket information, call Catonya Lester at 443-296-2075.

Many of you who know me know that I love me some blues and oldies. So check this out! The Tinner Hill Blues Festival will be held at the State Theatre, 220 N. Washington Street, Falls Church, VA 22046 from June 12-14 featuring: Daryl Davis; Kenny “Blues Boss” Wayne; Deanna Bogart; Selwyn Birchwood; Arlen Roth; Lexie Roth; Jimmy Thackery; Shirleta Settles; Vintage #18; Blue

Steel Blues and Garly Harvey, just to name a few. Look my friends, it doesn’t matter if you have never heard of some of these artists, they are down home blues musicians and they are good. Take my word for it, I have been going every year.

I know I ran out of space a long time ago, but there is just so much going on. Alright, I got to go. 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.



**The Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation hosted, produced and managed by Edwin B. and Nikki Graves Henderson presents the three-day Tinner Hill Blues Festival Friday, June 12-14 celebrating their 22nd Anniversary in Falls Church, Va. For more information, visit: [www.tinnerhill.org](http://www.tinnerhill.org) or email: [nikkigraves77yahoo.com](mailto:nikkigraves77yahoo.com).**

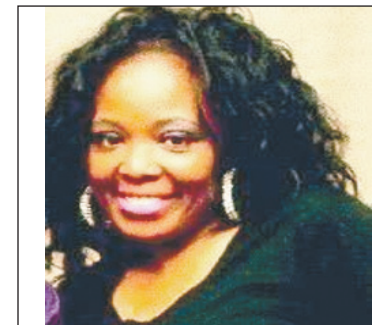


**Stellar Award Winner Jason Nelson along with Grammy-nominated Songwriter Brittney Wright and Grammy-nominated Anita Wilson will perform on Sunday, June 14, 2015 at the Church of the Redeemed of the Lord located 4321 Old York Road in Baltimore. Doors open at 5 p.m. and show-time is 6 p.m. For more information, call 410-302-6474.**

**Last Chance Entertainers will perform at the Forest Park Senior Center on Sunday, June 7, 2015 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Get paid to sing Karaoke. For ticket information, call 410-532-2274.**



**Shirley Duncan, “Queen of Hand Dancing” presents a “Pre-Father Day Weekend All White Affair” on Saturday, June 6, 2015 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Ivy Family Center located at 3515 Dolfield Avenue in Baltimore. BYOB! For more information, call 410-523-0575.**



**Dee Brent, renowned vocalist and lead singer of Signature Live from the Washington, D.C. area will perform with her band in the Avenue Bakery Courtyard located 2229 Pennsylvania Avenue at the corner of Baker in Baltimore on Saturday, June 6, 2015 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.**



# FOOD LION

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June 3 - June 9, 2015

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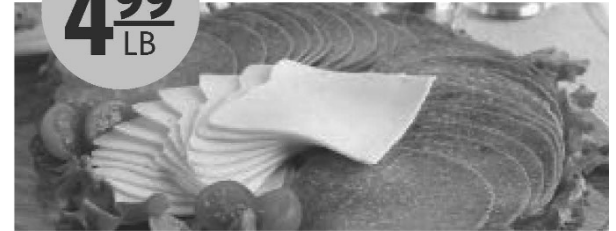
MVP  
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Without MVP Card \$6.49 LB



MVP  
**4.99**  
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**Fiorucci Pepperoni or Salami**  
Without MVP Card \$5.99 LB



MVP  
**2.99**  
EA

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**Vidalia Onions**  
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**1.99**  
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**Strawberries**  
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MVP  
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FOR

5 Lb. Bag  
**White Potatoes**  
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**1.99**  
EA MVP

48 Oz. - Select Varieties  
**Food Lion Ice Cream**  
Without MVP Card \$2.39 EA



**2 \$5**  
FOR MVP Extended SAVINGS

6-12.87 Oz. - Select Varieties  
**Stouffer's Signature Classics**  
Without MVP Card \$2.99 EA



**2 \$10**  
FOR MVP Extended SAVINGS

8 Pack - 20 Oz. Bottles - Select Varieties  
**Gatorade**  
Without MVP Card \$6.99 EA



**99¢**  
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4.4-12.2 Oz. - Select Varieties  
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**1.49**  
EA MVP Extended SAVINGS

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**BUY 1 GET 1 FREE**  
Single item at 1/2 price

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Without MVP Card \$3.29 EA  
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EA MVP

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**Green Giant Canned Vegetables**  
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Friday • Saturday • Sunday  
Starts Friday @ 8 am

**8.99**  
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92-100 Oz. - Select Varieties  
**Tide Liquid Laundry Detergent**  
Without MVP Card \$12.59 EA  
**Limit 4**  
Rest of Week: \$9.99 EA MVP

**7.99**  
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11.6-16.6 Lb.  
**Kingsford or Match Light Charcoal**  
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**2 \$3**  
FOR MVP

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**Ball Park Meat Franks**  
Without MVP Card \$2.99 EA  
Rest of Week: 2/\$4.00 MVP

**2 \$4**  
FOR MVP

10-12 Oz. - Select Varieties  
**Doritos Tortilla Chips**  
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**Limit 4**  
Rest of Week: 2/\$5.00 MVP

**2 \$3**  
FOR MVP

16 Oz. - Select Varieties  
**Kraft Salad Dressing**  
Without MVP Card \$2.29 EA  
Rest of Week: 2/\$4.00 MVP

**5.99**  
EA MVP

6 Big Rolls  
**Bounty Paper Towels**  
6 Mega and 12 Double Rolls  
**Charmin Ultra Soft Bath Tissue**  
Without MVP Card Regular Retail  
Rest of Week: \$6.99 EA MVP

## Indie Soul Fashion: B Walker Shoes

By Phinesse Demps

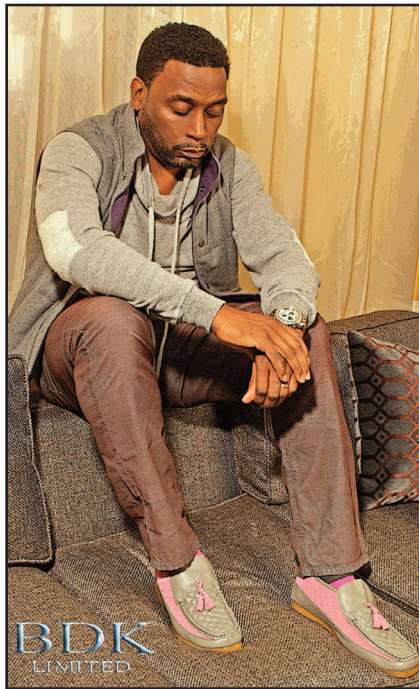
Hip-hop has been influencing popular culture and fashion since its inception 30 years ago. According to GrabStats.com, the hip-hop community spends about \$17 billion a year on fashion (clothing, shoes, and accessories). B Walker Shoes, an original shoe of choice in the 1980's for hip-hop heads is now re-launching their brand on a major level hoping to reach a new audience of fans.

B Walkers were born in London in 1950 and traveled overseas to be raised in New York City in the 1980s by the pioneers of hip-hop, gangsters, hustlers, rappers and DJ's alike.

B-Boys, popular MC's and DJ's that revered the shoe and mentioned them in songs, at concerts and in interviews over the past 20 years helped to make this iconic shoe popular among hip-hop fashion fans.

"The current state of the urban footwear is much different than it was say 15 years ago. There are less shoe [brands] of course, so there are not as many choices, now that sneakers have taken over. Unfortunately, there is nothing unique about the way people dress today. Everyone looks like they play ball or rap. The worst part about it is that the women have accepted the way young men dress and the way women are treated has a lot to do with the way men dress. When you dress fly your attitude is fly and rest will follow. If there is one thing I would change, it would be to create more access to shoes in cooler sneaker and clothing stores that the youth can relate to," said B Walker Shoes promoter, Hasan Brown.

Future plans for B Walker shoes include more updated classic styles;



**Spring Collection includes legendary hip-hop artist Big Daddy Kane, shoe style designer for B Walker Shoes. Courtesy Photos/B Walker Shoes**

sneakers; boots; and women's shoes and accessories.

"Marketing to [the] younger generation includes standard and non-traditional strategies. For instance, something that we are doing, which is a standard strategy is engaging young entertainers and capture them wearing and being styled in B Walkers. Simultaneously, we are targeting high schools that wear uniforms." Brown added.

B Walker Shoes provides the classic style, as well as an updated version with better quality than ever. The new spring line will be released June 15, 2015.

For more information about B Walker Shoes,

visit: [www.bwalkershoes.com](http://www.bwalkershoes.com).

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



## Indie Soul Movie Review: Jimi Hendrix-All Is By My Side

By Phinesse Demps

June is Black Music Month and what better way to celebrate than by watching "Jimi: All is by my Side," starring Andre Benjamin aka Andre3000 of the Hip-Hop group Outkast. It's available on Netflix and iTunes or you can buy the DVD.

Andre Benjamin was outstanding as Hendrix in the film that covers a 1966-1967; a slice of the musician's life when he was an unknown backup guitarist playing New York's Cheeta Club to his debut on London's music scene up until his Monterey Pop triumph.

It presents an intimate portrait of the sensitive young Hendrix on the verge of becoming a rock legend. The film shows a glimpse into his personal life with his dad, his problems with women, and how music performers like the Beatles, The Who, Eric Clapton, and Rolling Stones, were a part of Jimi Hendrix journey. "Jimi: All is by my Side," directed by John Ridley ("Twelve Years a Slave"), does a great job of giving you a visual of the late 60s and touches on race relations in London during that time.

Jimi Hendrix is one of the most fascinating musicians in music history and extremely talented. The black community does not know enough about him

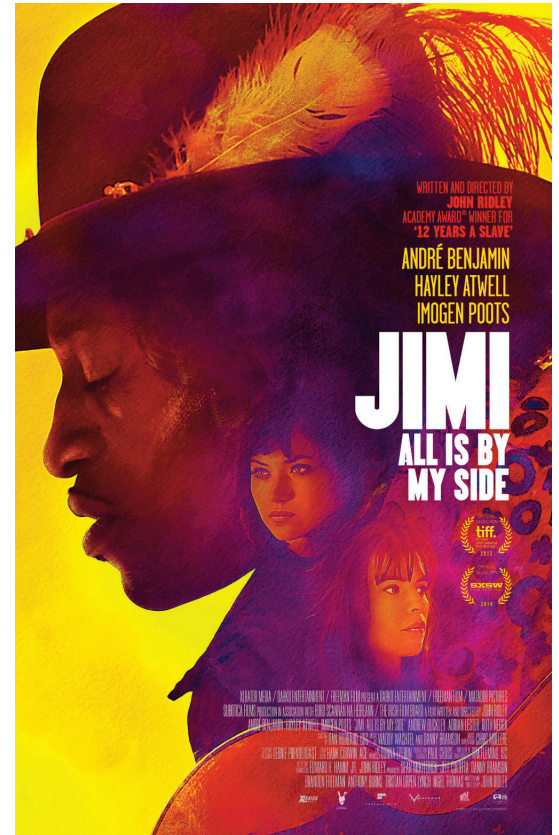


Photo Courtesy of Darko Entertainment

because he wasn't that guy who did strictly black/soul music.

Music fans will enjoy this film that's based on the events in Jimi Hendrix's life that formed the foundation of his superstardom.

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## Indie Soul Spotlight: Quinton Randall

By Phinisse Demps

**“I just want to be heard. I really love what I am doing!”** — Quinton Randall

Black Music Month is about celebrating the music from our culture. Contrary to popular belief, black music is not just hip-hop and R&B. Black people are architects of all music, including: Jazz, Rock, Country, Gospel, and The Blues. So it is a pleasant surprise when a young black male is doing something other than hip-hop music. Quinton Randall is that young man and he is “Baltimore’s Bluesman.”

“My mentor is the one who got me into the music and playing guitar. I do love music and I like hip-hop, but am passionate about [the] blues,” said Quinton Randall.

Being from Baltimore, which seems to be dominated on the surface by hip-hop music, Randall wants people to know that there is a group of musicians who

are about the art of music.

“There is so much great music and people who play, that I wish more people would come and support the movement that is taking place here in Baltimore,” Randall said.

The movement that Randall is referring to is the sound of original down-home good music. When you see him play you can tell he is in a new world as he engulfs himself in his music and performing. As you hear him playing, you can see the crowd just eating up the way he just embraces his guitar and really gives the crowd what they are looking. He draws them in with his performance. He comes across as serious and committed to his music.

“I want people to walk away from my show and want to buy my music and tell others [about it]. It is important that I am on point. I only want to be surrounded by those who are serious about playing and those who care about music. I take



**Quinton Randall doing what he loves to do— performs!**

Photo Credit: Michele Antionette



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this seriously” Randall said.

Randall’s new CD, “The Cleanse,” is available online:

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uct/the-cleanse-physical-copy. To listen to a Quinton Randall’s music, visit [Facebook.com/The BaltimoreTimes](http://Facebook.com/TheBaltimoreTimes).

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# Life In Baltimore: Local entrepreneur prepares for triathlon in France

By Brenda Bowe Johnson

Baltimore native Gyl Johnson is the course director of The Language House, Inc., a TEFL teacher training organization that provides training to become an English teacher abroad. It also helps its clients set up a new life in a foreign country with locations in France, Morocco, Italy and Turkey.

After spending many years as an architect in Ohio, New Mexico and Colorado, Johnson realized that the architecture profession did not provide the fulfillment she craved. She enjoyed traveling and exploring different languages and cultures, which caused her to seek a career change.

After much thought, she decided to leave it all and move to Japan to teach English. That experience changed her entire perspective on life and since then she has lived and taught in countries such as Thailand, Malaysia, Spain and France.

Since age 19, Johnson has participated in athletic activities but she has always defined herself as a runner. As she moved across the United States and then lived in seven different countries, she has regularly modified her sports interests to accommodate her environment. She has done rock climbing, biking, swimming, capoeira, yoga, shoenji kemp, and sea kayaking.



Gyl Johnson, a global entrepreneur and triathlete  
Courtesy Photo



She has participated in 12 marathons.

In 2011, Johnson decided to really embrace the lifestyle of the triathlete and regularly compete in races, mostly in France. The triathlete swims 2.2 miles, then bikes 118 miles and then runs 26.2 miles. Her next awesome quest is the most powerful, the Iron-Man, which takes place in

Nice, France at the end of this month.

When asked to reflect on if she ever had fears about creating a life abroad, Johnson responded, "Everything that I have ever done that has been enriching, rewarding or that I was thankful for, at the beginning I was terrified to start."

Gyl is the daughter of the late George W. Johnson and Brenda Bowe Johnson. She graduated from the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute and received a bachelor's degree in architecture from Lehigh University and master's degree in architecture from Ohio State University.

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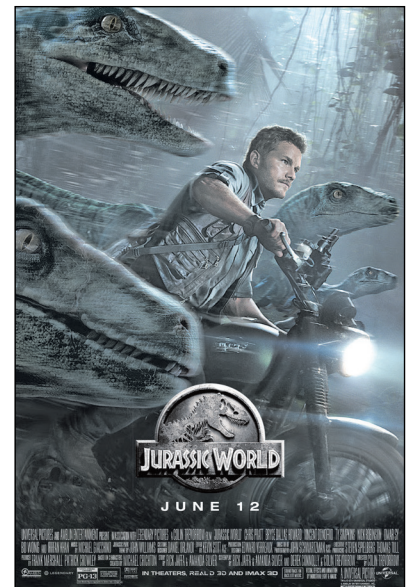
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# Five financial must-do's before the big 'I do'

By Joseph M. Jennings, Jr., CFA  
PNC Wealth Management

Wedding season is upon us and while love is in the air, it's important to make sure any wedding checklist has couples covered on more than just the big day.

Before they tie the knot, couples need to address how compatible they are on longer-term and critical lifetime issues, including money and finance. Money is often cited as one of the leading causes of stress in marriage so it pays, in more ways than one, to know the kind of financial marriage you may be getting into with your soon-to-be spouse.

**1. "MY" vs. "OUR" money:** Will we have joint or separate accounts? Will we consolidate accounts with the same banking partner?

Ideally, all assets should be viewed as "ours" not just "mine." That requires honest and open communication on the part of both parties. It is critical that P = I in discussions (Perception = Intention). The perception of the listener must be

the same as the intention of the speaker. When P = I you have conformity but when P does not equal I, you have conflict.

**2. Debt:** How much debt am I bringing to the marriage, and how will WE manage it?

Debt is the great American issue that must be dealt with and eliminated. That requires adherence to a well-organized budget.

**3. Budget:** Who's in charge of budgeting and paying the bills? Is there a CFO of the house, or is it a partnership?

Who serves as the family CFO is based upon who has the desire and the skill set to manage the family finances, including bill payments. The other partner needs to be kept abreast of financial activities but does not need to be the one managing the budget.

**4. Spending:** Are our spending priorities in line? Is there mutual or individual approval for spending?

It is vital that the couple agree upon the difference between needs, wants and



desires, especially when children are on the scene. Families are to provide needs but not necessarily wants or desires.

Understanding the five principles of meaningful money management—earning, saving, giving, budgeting and spending—form the basis of a well-managed household.

**5. The Future:** Are we prepared to plan for retirement together? (e.g. 401(k) plans, Roth IRA, etc.)

Proper planning prevents poor performance is the axiom that must guide the family financial forum. Information before hand is a reason and information afterwards is an excuse. No one likes excuses, especially in family financial relationships. The degree to which a couple plans their finances and communicates the management of that plan to one another will play a major role in the solidarity of their relationship.

Bottom line—Open and honest communication is the factor that will most determine success or failure in any relationship, but certainly is crucial when dealing in family finances.

Joseph Jennings, CFA, Senior Vice President and Investment Director, PNC Wealth Management has 18 years of wealth management experience and received his MBA in Finance from Loyola University. He is a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) charterholder and member of both the CFA Institute and the Baltimore CFA Society. He can be reached at [joseph.jennings@pnc.com](mailto:joseph.jennings@pnc.com).

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