
The Annapolis Times

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A Baltimore Times/Times of Baltimore Publication

Tenacity, determination keys to P-B Health entrepreneur's success



Jackie Bailey is the founder of P-B Health Home Care Agency, Inc., in Baltimore. P-B Health provides in-home health care services including: skilled nursing, physical, occupational and speech therapies, medical social work and dietary to homebound patients. P-B Health also has a private-duty division for clients who require assistance with personal care. After starting with a staff of just four individuals, P-B Health now has more than 150 employees and was recently ranked sixth in the top 50 largest minority-owned businesses in the Baltimore Metropolitan area, according to the Baltimore Business Journal. (Story on page 10)

Courtesy Photo

Black Theatre Symposium at University of Maryland

By Stacy M. Brown

Like megastars Sidney Poitier, the late Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, a host of African-American film stars have also mastered the black theater.

As the black theater struggles with some even labeling it an endangered species, the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center in College Park, Maryland will cap Black History Month on Saturday, February 28, 2015 with an introductory symposium beginning at 9 a.m.

The event, titled "The Black Theatre Symposium," explores the expansion of an inclusive presence and influence in the field of theater.

Produced by the University of Maryland's School of Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies, the symposium encourages participants to ask questions about the influence and future of black theater including: "How do we facilitate inclusion and diversity in the technical and administrative aspects of the field? And, how can black performers expand their artistry and marketability?"

"Theater professionals, scholars and students will convene to discuss and take action around these questions as we explore the expansion of an inclusive presence and influence in the field of theater," said Sarah K. Snyder, a theater spokesperson. "Sessions will include panel discussions, workshops and a



The Black Theatre play, "The Me Nobody Knows," is a part of a special Black History Month symposium at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland in College Park on Saturday, February 28, 2015.

Photo by Stan Barouh

special performance of Seret Scott's one-woman play, 'Artistic Housing.'"

Scott's play counts as a compilation of memorable moments, events and images that recall a life in professional theater in a time far different than today. The stories are told from Scott's artistic perspective as a black woman and veteran theater direc-

tor, writer and actress who has worked in regional, off-Broadway and Broadway theater for nearly 50 years.

"The School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies and the African Continuum Theatre Company joins forces at the University of Maryland with support of the College of Arts and Humanities to present the second annual Black Theatre Symposium," said Leigh Wilson Smiley, the director of the School of Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies. "This day offers a chance to delve deeply into the historical, present, and future significance and development of the unique cultural heritage of the black theater in this region and this nation."

In a published interview in 2014, Sade Lythcott, the CEO of the National Black Theatre (NBT), called black theater companies "an endangered species" and expressed concern that unless drastic measures are taken, companies like NBT may not be in existence 45 years from now.

That followed news of Minnesota's famed Penumbra, one of the most critically acclaimed black theater companies in the country, announcing it was closing its doors and later, the Kuntu Repertory Theatre in Pittsburgh also closed.

The symposium at the University of Maryland will be geared toward awareness and the strengthening of the black theater, officials said.

"Last year we examined how black theater fits into the framework of our nation's history and culture. We challenged assumptions about the boundaries of race and engaged in a spirited dialogue about the past, present and future of black theater," said Scot Reese, a professor in the School of Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies. "This year, we are examining which institutions are successfully cultivating black theater practitioners. We will explore ways to facilitate inclusion and diversity in the technical and administrative aspects of the field and how black performers expand their artistry and marketability."

Theater professionals, scholars and students also will convene to discuss and take action around the presented questions, the professor said.

"We will explore the expansion of an inclusive presence and influence in the field of theater," Reese said.

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Guest Editorials/Letters

We need justice in our communities

By Richard Trumka

Sgt. Lisa Henson is a prison guard in Baltimore. It's a job she has had for 20 years. She is a straightforward and blunt woman. "I have a simple mantra about the work I do: I am fair, firm and impartial," she said.

Like Sgt. Henson, I believe in the rule of law. I believe that people who make serious mistakes should pay appropriate penalties. Like her, I also think all of us are entitled to fair treatment from our criminal justice system. I believe, too, in the power of redemption and the need for us to support people who have done their time and want to rejoin society.

Sgt. Henson and I recently talked about the challenges in America's criminal justice system, one of which is the need to improve wages in the communities where inmates are coming from.

The research I've seen supports what Henson says: "People want a way up and a way out. People will provide for their family members if they can. If they can't, our communities fall apart. That's how we get young people growing up in broken homes or raising themselves and getting into trouble. It's a cycle that we need to break."

Frankly, it seems America has approached criminal justice backwards. Under the guise of public safety, we have spent too much time and far too much money forcing millions of people of color into a permanent criminal class. We have selectively locked people up, sealed people out and shut entire communities down. The irony is doing so has made our country less safe.

People of color are suspected more, arrested more, charged more, convicted more and imprisoned longer, and those ugly facts have helped America earn the terrible title of most-imprisoned nation among developed countries. We sentence people to prison at between five and 10 times the rate of any other advanced nation. The more you look at the numbers, the worse it gets.

Today, one-third of black men in America will serve time in state or federal prison at some point in their lifetime. That is twice the rate from the 1970s and over five times higher than white men, even though studies show black men and white men commit crimes at roughly the same rates.

Let me make this point emphatically: this is not a result of higher crime rates. This is because of lengthy mandatory minimums for drug offenses and "three-strikes" laws that put people away for life and get this: Mass incarceration has not even reduced crime.

Yet it has been hell on families, especially children. Almost seven times as many kids had dads in prison in 2000 as in 1980. As you can imagine, a prison-at-all-costs mentality runs up quite a price tag. Can you believe \$80 billion a year? It's true, and the number is four times higher when you count police, judicial and legal services.

However thanks to courageous activists in California, our nation is beginning to wake up to the reality of this terrible miscarriage of justice. Last fall, California voters passed Proposition 47. The measure reduces most nonviolent crimes—including petty theft and minor drug possession—from felonies to misdemeanors. The sentences of nearly 10,000 prisoners could be reduced. The savings to California are projected to reach at least \$150 million, and will go into a Create Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Fund. This new law offers a true opportunity for a better life for Californians, and a model for progress for America.

I'm proud to join Sgt. Henson in a call to replace mass incarceration with mass employment and fair wages. This is a call for justice, for families and for public safety. I hope you'll join us, too.

Richard Trumka is the president of the AFL-CIO, the nation's largest organization of labor unions. He grew up in the coal country of southwest Pennsylvania.



Letters to the Editor

Editor:

Re: Support Our Kurdish Allies

The United States has to start directly supplying significant military equipment to the Kurds so they can effectively combat ISIS.

The Kurdish Peshmerga troops are excellent fighters and our allies in the Middle East, and we need to strengthen them so they can defeat ISIS and take back territory in Iraq and Syria.

The White House Junior Varsity (JV) is currently sending our military equipment to the Iraqi government for further distribution to the Kurds, but

the Iraqi government is concerned with the Kurd's desire to further their establishment of an autonomous country.

Therefore, only a small portion of our equipment gets to the Kurds.

Our long-term success in the area lies with the Kurdish ground forces. Obama and his JV White House staff have to stop pandering to the Iraqi government and start doing what is best for the United States.

Donald A. Moskowitz
Londonderry, NH

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Letters to the Editor

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The perils of poisonous politics

By **Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.**
NNPA Columnist

By doubling down on his vile slur on President Obama's love for his country, ex-New York City Mayor Rudi Giuliani created the media frenzy that he craved. He also set up an easy test of decency for Republican presidential contenders: Who has the sense to disavow Giuliani's poison? Jeb Bush, Rand Paul and Marco Rubio passed the admittedly low bar; Governors Scott Walker and Bobby Jindal failed ignominiously: Governor Rick Perry pretzeled his way through it.

If Republicans wonder why 95 percent of African Americans and 70 percent of Latinos will likely end up voting for Democrats in 2016, they should look in the mirror. Virtually every African American will see this attack on President Obama as racist, something that would not be occur were Obama white.

Silence in the face of the attack will be seen as proof that the Republican race-based politics of division remains in force. In his decision to weaken the Voting Rights Act in *Shelby v. Holder*,

Justice Roberts wrote, "This country has changed." Giuliani's insult ratifies the wisdom of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg's ringing dissent, that while progress has been made, the Congress surely was right in deciding we still have far to go.

Giuliani's rant echoes the new hysteria that Republicans are trying to stoke: that Obama is "withdrawing" from the world, and thereby weakening America. A parade of horrors—Russia in Ukraine, ISIS in Syria and Iraq, negotiations over nukes

at home. Yet, the president's comments sparked hysterical comments from across the right-wing noise machine as if common sense were somehow heresy.

This clamor is feeding a mindless war fever. Do we want to have an armed confrontation with Russia over Ukraine? Not really, the macho hawks basically want to fight to the last Ukrainian. Do we want to put troops back into Iraq? Not really, although as President Obama has escalated the U.S. response to ISIS, the armchair hawks have moved to more

this mess. The catastrophic invasion of Iraq is the worst foreign policy debacle since Vietnam. The decision not simply to go after Bin Laden and al Qaeda, but to wage a counterinsurgency war in Afghanistan and "rebuild" that nation has led to the longest war in our history that shows no sign of ending.

The "humanitarian intervention" in Libya has left chaos and violence in its wake. The U.S. invasion of Iraq turned the country over to Shiite rule, ironically empowering Iran. ISIS comes out of the Sunni reaction to that reality. Meanwhile we've only begun to pay the \$3 trillion tab for Bush's Iraq War, even as our own roads, rail, sewage and water systems grow ever more dangerous for lack of investment.

Those who mindlessly call the president weak, impugn his patriotism, and accuse him of withdrawing from the world ought to be called to account.

Well, enough with the rhetoric, the posturing and the poison. What is the policy that they want? Let us hear them explain how they will drive a confrontation with Russia in Ukraine, while fighting in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen and elsewhere.

The only way Americans will accept this nonsense is if they are scared out of their wits. Sadly, that seems to be the intent of the fear mongers, who need to be challenged before they frighten us into yet another costly debacle.

Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. is founder and president of the Chicago-based Rainbow PUSH Coalition. You can keep up with his work at www.rainbowpush.org.

“Recently, Obama made the simple and common sense observation that we are not at war with Islam, but with terrorist extremists who want to hijack the religion for their own ends. His statement was similar to that repeated frequently by George W. Bush when he was president.”

with Iran, terrorist violence in Paris— is summoned up and blamed on the president.

Recently, Obama made the simple and common sense observation that we are not at war with Islam, but with terrorist extremists who want to hijack the religion for their own ends. His statement was similar to that repeated frequently by George W. Bush when he was president. Any future president from either party will make similar statements— both to reflect reality and to keep the fear-mongers from fanning hatred here

muscular positions, now even mumbling about “boots on the ground.” We are fighting wars in Afghanistan, providing troops and arms and bombs against ISIS, running drone attacks in nearly a dozen countries, dispatching special forces to 120 countries. And somehow this is scorned as withdrawal from the world.

Missing in the hysteria and the vile attacks on patriotism is a sensible policy debate— and a sensible reckoning of how we got to where we are. The reality is that excessive belief in military force has done more than anything to cause

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Maryland Food Bank, Partners Kick Off 2015 Spring Forward Food Drive

Marylanders are asked to donate food at Safeways, Post Offices and other locations across the state throughout first week of March

Baltimore— The Maryland Food Bank and its partners, AARP; the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland; Safeway, WBAL-TV 11; and the U.S. Postal Service, have once again teamed up to host the Spring Forward Food Drive Presented by Harvest for the Hungry from Saturday, February 28 through Sunday, March 8, 2015.

Throughout the week, Marylanders are encouraged to donate \$10 pre-packaged bags of food at Safeway stores across the state and drop-off nonperishable food items at their local post offices. Canned goods will also be collected at Central Maryland Buick/GMC dealerships, while individuals in Hagerstown, Salisbury and Southern Maryland are invited to help 'Stuff a Bus' on Monday, March 2, 2015 at various locations. For a complete list of drop-off locations, visit: www.mdfoodbank.org/springforward.

Additionally, donations will be collected through the Maryland Food Bank's virtual food drive, which can be accessed via www.mdfoodbank.org/springforward.



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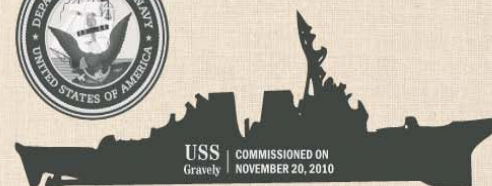
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Jeremy Butler plans big come back from injured reserve

By Turron Davenport

A lot of emphasis has been placed on the amount of wide receivers the Baltimore Ravens interviewed at the 2015 NFL Scouting Combine. Some draft experts are saying that the Ravens will select a receiver with their first pick in the 2015 NFL Draft. One thing to consider is that the Ravens have a solid group of young play makers already on the roster.

Second year receiver Jeremy Butler is a player who was on injured reserve last year. Butler plans to have a big comeback from his season spent on injured reserve. He has yet to take snaps in a regular season game. Butler was a guy that the Ravens really liked in training camp. They liked to line him up in the slot.

Butler says that he learned a lot from sitting out this past year. He learned how to be a pro and how to train like one. This includes taking care of his body. Butler is learning how to cook healthy meals for himself which excites him.

Having a positive mindset when faced with adversity is a strong trait. Butler uses that mindset. "In a weird way, it added to my career. It taught me how to watch film, take coaching and things like that. My mindset is that I didn't play last year, so attack this year. Most guys are trying to take time off and recoup from the season but I am looking to



Baltimore Ravens wide receiver Jeremy Butler attempts to score a touchdown against a defensive back from the San Francisco 49ers during a preseason game at M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore.
Courtesy Photo/ravens.com

come right back and get a good start."

Steve Smith Sr. and wide receivers coach Bobby Engram have helped Butler both on and off the field.

"Coach helped me out on the field and made me I feel part of the mix each and every week. He kept me focused and tested me to make sure that I was locked into the game plan."

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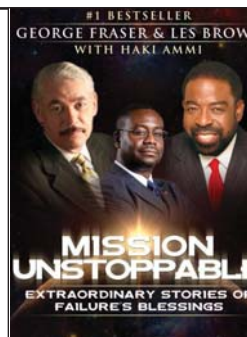
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Women's History Month Literary Festival

Three women writers discuss the intersection of place, time, and culture in literature and in the lives of women.



The conversation will be moderated by Linda A. Duggins, Hachette Book Group.

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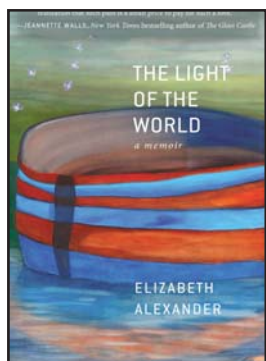
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Elizabeth Alexander - *The Light of the World*

Following the death of her husband, artist and chef Ficre Ghebreyesus, poet Elizabeth Alexander found herself at an existential crossroads. Her new memoir, *The Light of the World*, describes a very personal and yet universal quest for meaning, understanding, and acceptance. Elizabeth Alexander composed and read "Praise Song for the Day" at President Barack Obama's 2009 inauguration. The author of six books of poetry, she is the inaugural Frederick Iseman Professor of Poetry at Yale University and was recently elected a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets.



Elizabeth Alexander

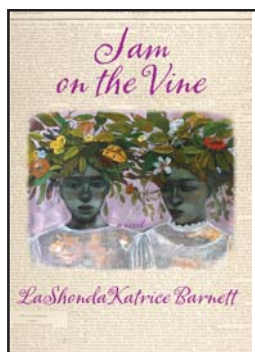


LaShonda Katrice Barnett - *JAM! On the Vine*

LaShonda Katrice Barnett is the author of a story collection and editor of *I Got Thunder: Black Women Songwriters On Their Craft and Off the Record: Conversations with African American & Brazilian Women Musicians*. She has taught literature and history at Columbia University, Sarah Lawrence College, Hunter College, and Brown University. Her debut novel, *JAM! On the Vine*, tells the story of Ivoe Williams who founds the first female-run African American newspaper in Kansas City in the early 20th century. She risks her freedom and her life to report on the atrocities of segregation in the American prison system.



LaShonda Katrice Barnett

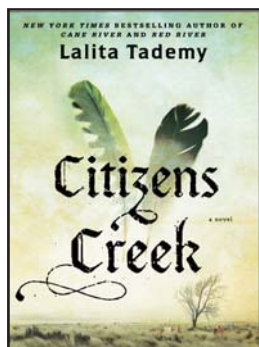


Lalita Tademy - *Citizens Creek*

Lalita Tademy is the author of the bestselling novels, *Cane River and Red River*. Set against the backdrop of Alabama in 1822, her new novel, *Citizens Creek*, follows the lives of "Cow Tom," a young slave boy who is sold to work on a plantation for a Creek Indian Chief, and his beloved granddaughter, Rose, whom he nicknamed Little Warrior. Through Cow Tom and Rose, Tademy shows the strength and determination of not allowing negative circumstances or influences to stand in the way of success.



Lalita Tademy



Reception and book signing immediately following in the 2nd floor corridor. The Ivy Bookshop will have copies of the authors' books for sale.

Media Sponsor: The Baltimore Times.



Tenacity, determination keys to P-B Health entrepreneur's success

By Stacy M. Brown

Success wasn't simply handed to Jackie Bailey. Like most women entrepreneurs who also happen to be African-American, Bailey had to endure a few doors being shut in her face, overcome higher hurdles than most and display the kind of tenacity that it ultimately takes to run a business that is now helping to change lives.

"No matter how much planning you do, no matter how diligent, something always comes up," said Bailey, the founder of P-B Health Home Care Agency, Inc., in Baltimore.

"I am a nurse and I have always wanted to be a nurse growing up in Mississippi as the fifth child in a family of 12," Bailey said. "When we grew up and I was six or seven years old, we had a health nurse who would come to the home to make sure everyone was doing well. The nurse was black and I was impressed with all the attention she gave us."

What Bailey said she learned from the home health nurse helped to set the course she would follow for the rest of her life.

"She said if I wanted to be a nurse, be a professional nurse and be your own boss," Bailey said.

After Bailey earned her nursing degree in Mississippi, she moved to Baltimore in 1974. She worked briefly at the University of Maryland Hospital's Intensive Care Unit. She later worked for the Veteran's Administration Hospital before deciding to pursue opening her own business after noticing a need for the services her company would provide.

Bailey says that she and her husband, Matthew Bailey, a retired IBM systems engineer who is also licensed to practice law in Washington, D.C., had to jump through many hurdles to start P-B Health.

Finally, in 1989, the couple opened their business, which provides home-bound patients in-home health care services including skilled nursing, physical, occupational and speech therapies, medical social work, and dietary.

"It was something that we noticed that so many individuals needed. It was also something that so many of them didn't



Jackie Bailey (left) was a recipient of The Baltimore Times 25th Anniversary Positive People Award in 2011. Other award recipients that year include: Victoria Wynn (Total Health Care); Martena Wylie-Clinton (Wylie Global Travel); John J. Oliver (Afro American Newspapers); Joy Bramble, publisher of The Baltimore Times; Stanley W. Tucker (Meridian Management Group); and Joseph Whittaker (Morgan State University).
Photo by Gar Roberts

know they were entitled to," Bailey said. "You'd be surprised how many of them needed this service but didn't think they could afford it. That's what happens in certain communities, you're left in the dark if you don't know. People may not always tell you that you can have this service. We want them to know that it's here, we're here and it's available."

P-B Health also has a private-duty division, which supports clients who require assistance with personal care.

"Getting into this business was very difficult. We were supported by many community leaders and church ministries and we were self-financed for the

first five years," Bailey said. She said after the corporation qualified to be a home health agency in 1994, they received a small business operating loan from a bank that was then called Taneytown Bank.

"After starting with a staff of just four individuals, P-B Health now has more than 150 employees and was recently ranked sixth in the top 50 largest minority-owned businesses in the Baltimore Metropolitan area, according to the Baltimore Business Journal."

After starting with a staff of just four individuals, P-B Health now has more than 150 employees and was recently ranked sixth in the top 50 largest minority-owned businesses in the Baltimore Metropolitan area, according to the Bal-

timore Business Journal.

Twenty years after incorporation, Bailey says that she hopes that her son and daughter-in-law, who is a physician, will one-day take over the business.

Bailey wants to grow the business beyond Baltimore but realizes that with expansion, comes competition.

"The inner city is the new frontier. At one time there were not too many organizations interested in serving the inner

city," she said. "Now you have everyone realizing the inner city is a great place to be and our vision continues to be to serve those who are elderly, who are disabled, infirmed, post-surgical and others who need us."



Saturday, February 22, 2014
Special Program at 12:00 PM

2015 BLACK HISTORY MONTH OPEN HOUSE

FREE ADMISSION, FOOD, FUN & DOOR PRIZES!

Saturday, February 28, 2015, 10 AM to 5 PM
Special Program at NOON

Reginald F. Lewis Museum
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Life in Baltimore

Highlighting Organizations with a History of 40 or More Years

By Brenda Bowe Johnson

Among the many organizations in Baltimore with an extensive history, the Guardsmen, Women Behind the Community, Inc (WO-BE-CO), and the DuBois Circle stand out as real treasures.

The Guardsmen - 1933

In 1933, several young men most of whom were graduates of Howard University, Lincoln University, and Morgan State (College) University began the Guardsmen in Brooklyn, New York. In 1934 a second chapter was established in Baltimore by the Brooklyn members who were friends of the new inductees. The Guardsmen's objective was to form an organization of black men to foster social programs that would include their wives and significant others. Their program was designed for socializing, networking and community service.

Later chapters were established in Philadelphia, Washington, D.C. and Richmond. This association of men has grown from Massachusetts to Florida and west to Los Angeles, California. Currently, there are eighteen chapters. Each chapter hosts three extravagant weekends a year to gather across the country or outside the continental United States. The Guardsmen also sponsor local events.

Women Behind the Community, Inc. – 1968

Women Behind the Community, Incorporated was founded in 1968 as an adjunct to Baltimore's chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). It was originally known as Women Behind CORE founded by Cardrienne and James Griffin. About a year after the group's inception, CORE slowed its activities locally and nationally and the club's services were no longer needed.

Recognizing that there were many unmet needs among African Americans in the Baltimore Metropolitan area, the members felt this viable organization should continue. It changed its name to Women Behind the Community (WO-BE-CO) and was incorporated in 1969. The mission of Women Behind the Com-



The Guardsmen Photo: Glenwood Jackson

munity Inc. is to promote the well-being of Baltimore residents through constructive programs and projects. The objectives are to provide services to the community such as political, cultural and educational programs; to provide financial assistance toward civic projects; and provide and lend personal services to families and schools.

Through the years, WO-BE-CO has exemplified dedicated service to many deserving communities. They have assisted students by providing monetary gifts and clothing for school; volunteered in hospital and gift shops; sponsored numerous voter registration forums; volunteered for political campaigns; sent care packages to Liberia, West Africa and Tutmillier, Mississippi; and donated time and supplies to the Women's Housing Coalition. During the 2012 election year, WO-BE-CO sponsored two public forums; Voter Suppression and Voter Education as well as voter registration campaigns. Last year, WO-BE-CO partnered with the American Institute for Urban Psychological Studies, Inc. to host a conference, "Spotlight On Depression" held at the Baltimore Convention Center, which was open to the public.

WO-BE-CO has donated over 2,000 new books to elementary schools and read to students during special observances at least twice yearly. In addition, the club has a mentoring program for

fourth grade girls at Edgewood Elementary School. The organization supports many community projects such as Mrs. Santa, Orchkids, the Lyric Opera Camp and the Maryland Food Bank.

Currently, WO-BE-CO proudly operates the Dressing Room, a clothing resource for women entering or re-entering the workforce. The services are available at no charge and by referral to women who have completed job-training programs and are seeking employment. While members of WO-BE-CO volunteer time and service to the Dressing Room, they do acknowledge that they are only able to provide this community service because of donations from generous supporters.

The DuBois Circle — 1906

At the turn of the century, a firm insistent voice was beginning to be heard. Dr. William E. Burghart DuBois called upon Negroes to strive for rights that included voting, civic equality and the education of youth. In 1905, Dr. DuBois called for a conference to meet in Niagara Falls on the Canadian side, because no hotels were open to Negroes on the American side. A group of 29 Negro professionals; ministers, editors and teachers from various parts of the country, met and formed an organization known as the Niagara Movement.

It was in the same climate that the DuBois Circle came into being. A mass

meeting was arranged at the Lyric Theatre in Baltimore. A number of young women were invited by Dr. Garnett Waller of Trinity Baptist Church to serve on a special committee that evolved as an auxiliary to the Baltimore Niagara Movement Branch.

On January 5, 1906, Miss Caroline Cook, Mrs. Minnie L. Gaines, Mrs. Margaret Hawkins, Miss Eva Jennifer and Mrs. Garnett Waller met in response to Pastor Waller's request. This group of ladies sought to continue their relationship. They welcomed experiences that permitted them to meet together and keep abreast of the times. The Circle affiliated itself with the Federation of Colored Women's Clubs and the Maryland League of Women's Clubs.

Speakers of the highest quality have addressed the Circle throughout its history. Response to critical social needs within the community have been addressed by the Circle's donations to My Sister's Place, Christopher's Place, and The Nathan Carter School of Music at New Shiloh Baptist Church, The Enoch Pratt Library, the Afro-American Newspaper, and Florence Crittenton Services. In a rapidly changing technological and industrialized culture, the DuBois Circle, the oldest Black women's organization in Baltimore, continues in its 109th year to have an active concern for politics, immigration, and education.

WO-BE-CO Celebrates 20th Anniversary

By Charlene Mayo

Women Behind the Community, Inc. (WO-BE-CO) is a civic and community organization made up of women who assist Baltimoreans with cultural activities, voter registration, and education. For the past 20 years WOBECO has been donating African American books to grade schools throughout Baltimore city. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the group donating books.

With city schools experiencing a severe fiscal crisis and a fluctuating deficit throughout the years, there are times when public schools don't always have the money to pay teachers or get resources that will benefit the students.

Unfortunately, over half of the schools in inner cities don't have age-appropriate books, if any at all, for their students.

"With most of the members of WO-BE-CO being educators, this is something that means a lot to this group of women. A large portion of the inner city schools cannot afford books so they really appreciate them," according to WO-BE-CO member Barbra Lee.

Not only does WO-BE-CO donate books, they also mentor fourth grade girls. They help them with reading and school assignments. WO-BE-CO builds relationships with the girls and provides extra activities for students.

They have worked with Yorkwood Elementary; Inner Harbor East Academy; Grove Park Elementary; Gwynn Falls Elementary; Franklin Square Elementary; Bethel Christian School; Walbrook Senior High; Edgewood Circle Elementary; Cross Country Elementary; Furman Templeton Elementary; Robert Coleman Elementary; and most recently, Edgewood Elementary.

The ladies of WOBECO celebrated their 20th anniversary with the fourth and fifth grade girls of Edgewood Elementary, as well as author and storyteller Janice Curtis Greene. The students were so excited to enter into the library to see their mentors. With technology booming at a rapid pace, reading hard-copy books seems to be going extinct, but the young girls love reading.



WO-BE-CO MEMBERS: Regina Barnard; Dara Augustus; Esperance Sutton; Elizabeth Poole; Shirley Swafford; Shirley Montgomery; Vera Dorsey; Amy Taylor; Kai Cunningham; Joan Case; Carole Green; Gwen Howard; Essie Sutton; Annette White; Rhonda Nelson-Boglin; Helen Dale; and Marian Scarborough. Courtesy Photo



WO-BE-CO has donated over 2,000 new books to elementary schools. Photo: Charlene Mayo

When the library doors opened, the young girls ran into the room ready for the festivities. Small voices filled the room asking, "where's Ms. Greene?" and "when is story-time?" They could barely wait! It was amazing to see how enticed the students were to read and hear stories.

While the children munched on their snacks, author Janice Curtis Greene came out and dramatically captured the girl's attention with her exciting voice and interesting African instruments. The students' eyes were glued to her—it was amazing!

After story-time, the students took the opportunity to ask questions. So many girls had questions for the author that they had to cut it short because they couldn't get to everybody. At the end, the young ladies thanked Janice Curtis Greene for her time and they all received autographed books from the author.

Rambling Rose

*Black History Month
ends with a bang!*



Rosa Pryor Trusty

Hello, Hello, Hello, my dear friends. "BABY, BABY IT COLD OUTSIDE!" Girl-friend, I am not complaining, because when I look at other cities on the East Coast on the news, we are truly blessed. But it is cold as you-know-what outside!

Black History Month events are still going on every weekend, no matter the weather. I think it's wonderful that you have supported these events in these harsh cold, windy, snowy and icy conditions. That is real dedication and strong support and I am sure the organizations hosting these events appreciate you. All the events I have written about and attended were very successful.

So wrap up warm and let's party! The Grown & Sexy Affair "Sabian's" is hosting an affair on Saturday, February 28 at 3934 Frederick Avenue from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m. The dress code is sexy and grown, with buffet, BYOB and DJ Mike will provide the music.

Lexington Market is ending their Black History Month with a bang! It is Artisan's Weekend, with vendors set up in the Arcade, selling and displaying hand-made jewelry, clothing, crafting, paintings, dolls, live entertainment and much more. It is an ideal lunchtime spot to enjoy fresh food, shopping and socializing and it is free.

Baltimore's Dunbar Alumni Jazz Band headed by Trombonist/educator, Charles Funn, will perform some Billy Strayhorn compositions, called "A Journey Down Memory Lane" at the Jazz @ Wesley Uptown, 5312 Connecticut Avenue NW in Washington, DC. Saturday, February 28, 6:30 p.m. Free admission, but donations are accepted. For more information, call 202-262-7571.

Before I forget, I want to let you know that I will be going on vacation from March 12 thru March 29, so if you have anything going on between March 1 thru April 15, 2015, I suggest that you email it to me now at rosapryor@aol.com. Or mail it to me : 214

Conewood Road, Reisterstown, Maryland 21136. Please remember that if you want me to do a book signing at your event, please indicate that.

My "Boo-Boo" and I with my son, Keith and his wife Lisa will be going on a cruise to Panama, Aruba and St. Maarten leaving out of Tampa, Florida. We will be catching a train to Florida, because I do not fly. This will be the first time I have ever been on a train in my life. I am very excited about that. The Carnival Pride Cruise Ship will return to Baltimore. So while you will be shoveling snow, I will be in my bathing suit soaking up the sun on the beach. I LOVE IT!

Check this out! Get paid to sing Karaoke with Last Chance Entertainment when they present the only over 40 Karaoke Contest & Show on Sunday, March 1, starting at 4 p.m. at the

Forest Park Senior Center, 4801 Liberty Heights Avenue. It is cabaret style with BYOB and BYOF, with free set ups. They will have full course dinners available on sale for those who wish not to bring their own food. They will also have raffle, door prizes and vendors, so bring some extra cash and credit cards, live entertainment and a lot of fun. I also will be there with my new book for a book signing. For ticket information, call Smokey at 410-532-2274.

Well, my dear friends, I have to finish packing and I am out of space. Remember if



Elementary children are performing at Lexington Market Black History Month every day starting at 12 noon.



The Baltimore Alumni Association Alpha Phi Omega Fraternity, Inc. out-did themselves at their recent Cocktail Sip at the Forum Caterers with a sell-out on a record coldest and windiest day in years.



Rosa Pryor, CEO of the Rosa Pryor Music Scholarship Fund and Tessa Hill Aston, President of Baltimore City NAACP hanging out recently at the Lexington Market for Black History Month.



Last Chance Entertainers Singers will perform on Sunday, March 1 from 4-9 p.m. at Forest Park Senior Center, 4801 Liberty Heights Avenue

you need me, call me at 410-833-9474 or email me at:

rosapryor@aol.com. UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.

FOOD LION

February 25 - March 3, 2015

GROCERIES for GOOD

Help Make a Difference

SEE IN STORE FOR DETAILS



Value Pack
Fresh Ground Chuck
Without MVP Card \$4.39 LB

3⁴⁹ MVP
LB

MVP
1⁶⁹ LB
Pork Boston Butt
Without MVP Card \$1.99 LB

MVP
2^{\$4} FOR
1 Lb. Container Strawberries
Without MVP Card \$2.99 EA

MVP
69¢ LB
Sold in 10 Lb. Bag
Chicken Leg Quarters
Without MVP Card 79¢ LB

MVP
99¢ LB
Gala Apples
Without MVP Card \$1.29 LB

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

Citrus FIESTA

6⁹⁹ EA MVP
8 Mega Rolls Scott Paper Towels
12 Regular Rolls Scott Bath Tissue
Without MVP Card Regular Retail

MVP
BUY 1 GET 1 FREE
single item at 1/2 price
8.8-13.7 Oz. - Select Varieties Nabisco Ritz Crackers
Without MVP Card \$4.59 EA
Limit 2 Free

2²⁹ EA MVP
10-14 Oz. - Select Varieties Kraft Deluxe or Velveeta Shells & Cheese Dinner
Without MVP Card \$2.79 EA

3²⁹ EA MVP
24 Pack - 16.9 Oz. Bottles Deer Park Water
Without MVP Card \$4.99 EA

5⁹⁹ LB MVP
Food Lion Fresh Deli Swiss Cheese
Without MVP Card \$6.99 LB

2^{\$1} FOR MVP
14.5-15.25 Oz. - Select Varieties my essentials Canned Vegetables
Without MVP Card 67¢ EA

1⁶⁹ EA MVP
8 Ct. - Select Varieties Kellogg's Pop-Tarts
Without MVP Card \$2.49 EA

2^{\$3} FOR MVP
18.6-19 Oz. - Select Varieties Campbell's Chunky Soup
Without MVP Card \$1.89 EA

MVP
BUY 1 GET 1 FREE
single item at 1/2 price
8.25-22 Oz. Entenmann's Donuts, Cakes or Muffins
Without MVP Card Regular Retail

FEBRUARY 25 - MARCH 17
FOOD LION FEEDS
GROCERIES for GOOD
SEE IN STORE FOR DETAILS

5⁹⁹ EA MVP
25-40 Oz. - Select Varieties Stouffer's Multi-Serve Family Size Entrées
Without MVP Card \$7.99 EA

2^{\$3} FOR MVP
16-26 Oz. - Select Varieties Ragu Pasta Sauce
Without MVP Card \$1.99 EA

MVP
BUY 1 GET 1 FREE
single item at 1/2 price
9-14 Oz. - Select Varieties Tostitos Tortilla Chips
Without MVP Card \$4.29 EA
Limit 2 Free

2^{\$5} FOR MVP
14-18 Oz. - Select Varieties Kellogg's Frosted Mini-Wheats Cereal
Without MVP Card \$3.59 EA

6⁹⁹ EA MVP
22-28.05 Oz. Bag - Select Varieties Tyson Chicken
Without MVP Card \$8.49 EA

9⁹⁹ EA MVP
92-100 Oz. - Select Varieties Tide Liquid Laundry Detergent
Without MVP Card \$12.59 EA

Seven Anne Arundel County youth collaborate to write new book



Reverend Jason Jordan-Griffin is the pastor of St. John United Methodist Church in Pumphrey, Maryland where 14 girls are mentored through the Dream Girls Youth Ministry. Seven members co-authored a new book called "Angel Voices." A book signing will be held at the church on March 7, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. to celebrate their achievement. Photo provided courtesy of Dream Girls Youth Ministry

By Andrea Blackstone

Seven girls from Pumphrey and the Glen Burnie area, who are members of the Dream Girls Youth Ministry at St. John United Methodist Church, collaborated to write a new book called "Angel Voices," which was released February 4, 2015.

Over the course of three Saturdays, Armani Jackson, Shamira Miles, Camille Sewell, Roshawanna Brinkley, Raven Gaither, Chyanne Raymond and Jada Raymond worked with local author Feleshia R. Thomas to write the 33-page book.

The collaborative effort ties into the purpose of the Dream Girls Youth Ministry. It was established under the direction of Gloria Jean Smith, Jackie Middleton, Carolyn McCutcheon, Lucille McDowell, Pam Jones and Stephany Cotton. Smith spearheaded the group that works to mentor 14 girls ranging from eight to 13 years of age. Women who mentor female students encourage them to follow their dreams. Since 2012, members have gained leadership skills: worked on building self-es-

teem: improved goal-setting abilities: and etiquette lessons. Sewing and cooking lessons have been on their agenda, along with tea parties. Some activity ideas are suggested by youth in Dream Girls Youth Ministry. However, it was Smith's idea to write "Angel Voices."

"She [Jean Smith] said it would be nice if they wrote a book. She met Feleshia Thomas and she was talking to Feleshia about it. Feleshia said that she has a little publishing company and that's how it originated," Middleton said. "All seven of the girls are on the cover. That is another exciting thing."

Thomas introduced topics in the book. Smith remarked that many of the girls who participated in the project are introverts. The activity prompted them to express themselves and evaluate their opinions and values.

"Outside of the fun of doing it, I think it gives them an identity, because it is their book. We talked to [the] principal, Kathryn Fieldhouse. She is going to put the book in the library at Brooklyn Park Elementary School. They seem to be excited," Middleton said.

Shamira, a sixth grader who attends

Brooklyn Park Middle School, is a co-author of "Angel Voices."

"The book is about interviews with seven youths between eight and 13 about subjects like bullying, rap music and what makes kids happy," Shamira said.

Camille, 10, also attends Brooklyn Park Elementary School. She agreed to participate in writing the book after Smith asked her to become involved.

"This book is designed for everyone who enjoys reading about young people and what they think about," Camille said, "It feels good [to be an author] and it was a great experience, because it allowed me to write about a lot of important things in the lives of young people."

Middleton says that she has observed that Dream Girls Youth members are transforming from little girls into young ladies. Through their book project, youth reportedly improved their ability to communicate with adults.

"I think that adults can learn from this book, because we talked about some subjects that are important in our lives, and the lives of other girls our ages. One of the topics was 'Sometimes I feel like.'

My answer was: I feel like I want my mom to take me out and do things and go places, instead of staying home and relaxing or going to my room. I would like us to do more things together," said 12-year-old Roshawanna.

The authors of "Angel Voices" hope to inspire others to read. Their project also serves as a reminder of the importance of literacy.

"Reading is important, because if you can't read, it is hard to do anything. Sometimes reading can take you places that you have never gone, and lets you read about things that you will probably never do. For instance, fly to the moon. If you can't read, you can't function too well. And as you get older, it will be even harder," Shamira said.

A book signing will be held at St. John United Methodist Church, located at 6019 Belle Grove Road in Baltimore on March 7, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. The event will be open to the public. For more information, call Jackie Middleton at 410-370-3683 or Jean Smith at 443-433-8192.

Empowering Our City Committee strives to make improvements in Annapolis

By Andrea Blackstone

Along with a group of action-oriented individuals, Octavia Brown is on a mission to make substantial improvements in Annapolis, Maryland. Brown is the 27-year-old founder and chair of a new Annapolis-based community organization called Empowering Our City Committee (EOCC).

Along with others who have joined her, Brown aspires to help youth, adolescents, low-income and under-represented populations. The community leader earned a bachelor's degree in social work from University of Maryland, Baltimore County. She will graduate with a master's in social work from the University of Maryland, Baltimore in May. Additionally, Brown has experience working with adolescents, domestic violence clients and youth. Her passion to help others extends beyond traditional work hours.

"I have been raised to empower other individuals," she said. "I was on Facebook one day around the time of the Ferguson decision. There were a lot of people who were hurt. They expressed their outrage behind the race-relations situation. I decided to figure out what we can do to empower our own community. I decided to organize an empowerment meeting for the city on Jan. 22, 2015, so that we could all come together to talk about how we could evoke change."

After Brown posted a call to action on Facebook, she garnered positive responses from individuals who attended her first meeting. EOCC was created to formally take the next step. The organization's mission is "to promote positive change within the city of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County through community involvement and unity."

Kendall Barnard, a 27-year-old job developer, is EOCC's co-chair. Barnard possesses a diverse human services and health care background. Brown and Barnard are like sisters. The socially conscious pair have known each for most of their lives.

"I've always been about economic development. I believe that in order for everyone to be a success, it boils down to making money, generating money and



Empowering Our City Committee (EOCC) was founded by Octavia Brown earlier this year. The new community organization to empower citizens of Annapolis, Maryland. (Left to right) Mike Somerville (administrator); Veronica Grant (administrator); Kendall Barnard (co-chair); Octavia Brown (founder and chair); Kirsten Green (administrator); Jacara Davis (administrator); and Wanda Stansbury (advisor). Photo: Christian Smooth/Smooth House Productions

therefore building your community. You cannot build a community without that revolving dollar," Barnard said. "We had ideas throughout the years on different nonprofits we could do to give back to our community. This just so happens to have been the one that came into fruition."

Jacara Davis, Mike Somerville, Veronica Grant, Kirsten Yasa and Wanda Stansbury are also a part of the EOCC movement. The multi-generational group is comprised of seven native Annapolitans. Collectively, they offer valuable skills that will help support EOCC's mission.

"Each one has something passionate and powerful to bring to the team," Brown said.

Brown explained that EOCC members desire to connect with others who are willing to take action. Even if prospective volunteers can commit to helping on a short-term basis, pitching in with tasks such as event support or donating space could be useful.

EOCC will host "What's Next?" Life

After a Criminal Conviction on March 21, 2015 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Stanton Center. The first empowerment event will be designed to assist individuals who have criminal convictions in their past. Both Brown and Barnard agreed that the ex-offender population needs more resources to help them to overcome obstacles.

"We're going to have an employment seminar where individuals are able to learn job readiness skills, interviewing skills, resume building skills—all the skills that are necessary to make it to employment. We're actually blessed to have a job fair. At least three employers are already on board and looking to hire individuals who come to this event," Brown said.

Information will be provided on how to expunge a record along with other seminars, resource information and referrals given by partnering community agencies. On-site job application stations will also be available.

Barnard, who grew up on Clay Street, is already thinking about working to-

ward long-term goals. The owner of Bio Clean aspires to leverage job creation through her own business venture. Bio Clean is a new company that cleans homes through property management companies. Barnard remarked that she "will be that employer that's all about that second chance."

"We have tons of ideas that would be refreshing and rewarding to a population that doesn't have those resources otherwise. To be a part of that, I wouldn't change it for the world," Barnard said.

Visit www.empoweringourcitycommittee.org to obtain more information about EOCC. Limited seats are available for the upcoming March event. Register via <https://eventbrite.com/event/15750708794/>. You may also call 443-223-2945 for assistance. EOCC members currently utilizes their own funds to operate. To donate to the organization online, please visit <http://www.gofundme.com/empoweringourcity>. Your support will help implement change in Annapolis.

Patti Austin performs with BSO

By Phinisse Demps

On Friday February 20, 2015, while the entire East Coast was preparing for a winter storm, many people braved the brutal cold to go out to see one of the most incredible performers in the music business— Patti Austin.

Austin made a stop in Baltimore to perform with The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO). The Grammy and Oscar-winning singer joined the BSO in a performance dedicated to the brilliance of Duke Ellington and “The First Lady of Song,” Ella Fitzgerald.

For those of you who may not know Patti Austin, just think, “Baby Come To Me” and “How Do You Keep The Music Playing,” both duets with James Ingram.

Austin delivered a magnificent show! Her voice was smooth and soothing as she sang the standards of Ellington and Fitzgerald, which brought many in the audience to tears. People were just groovin’ through her entire performance. Other songs included in Austin’s performance included: “Cottontail,” “I Got It Bad,” and “It Don’t Mean a Thing.”

All the people who braved the weather, certainly got their money’s worth and more!

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



Patti Austin
Courtesy Photo



Kem performed at Royal Farms Arena in Baltimore on Sunday, February 15, 2015.
Photo by Phinisse Demps

Indie Soul: Kem

By Phinisse Demps

“I love performing in Baltimore. The people in Baltimore are going to get the BEST show out of all the shows we have.” —Kem

Indie Soul has been lucky enough to see many artists perform live over the years, but the one artist that we kept missing was Kem. On Sunday, February 15, 2015, not only did we get a chance to see Kem perform at Royal Farms Arena in Baltimore but we also had a chance to talk to him about his music, what drives him, his show, and much more.

“God is in everything I do, so when I perform I am performing to thank Him for what He has done for me and also to touch the lives of those who come to see me perform,” said Kem.

For those who don’t know, Kem, was an addict and homeless. He now readily admits the mistakes that he made and credits God for changing his life. “If it wasn’t for the grace of God, I would not be here today,” he said.

There is no doubt that Kem is thankful— it comes through in his performance. He gives his all in his performance and has a very clean show. He says that he is not doing it his way but the way that God has directed him— through song.

One of the things that Kem does during his show is to get couples to show love to one another, especially the men. In one set, Kem stepped into the audience and had the men sing a verse to their mates.

“When people come to see me perform, I want them to really enjoy themselves and be moved by love,” said Kem.

His CD “Kemistry” recently received a Grammy nomination. When asked what it meant to receive the nomination, he responded, “We [performers] all want to be noticed for our work. To be nominated is a blessing and a honor.”

Kem believes that performers should be clear in their artistic vision. “Be true to yourself. Do not sell-out for the money and the other things that go with it. When you do that and keep God by your side, you will truly be blessed.” Kem said.

“Kemistry” is available on iTunes. For more information about Kem or to find out tour dates and locations, visit: www.musicbykem.com.

The War and Treaty CD “LIVE at Blue House”

By Phinisse Demps

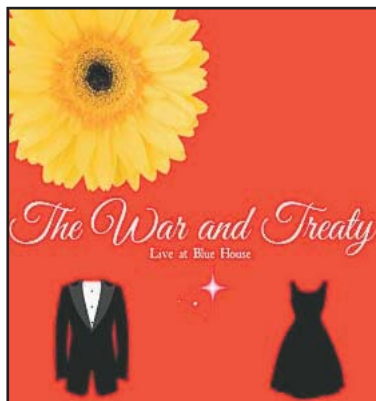
There are many faces to Soul/R&B music, one of which is folk music— passionate music that comes from the heart.

On their newly released album “Live at the Blue House,” internationally renowned singer Tonya Blount and her singer/songwriter husband Michael Trotter stripped down the lyrics and music, and really returned us to our musical roots of sound, vocals and emotions. This CD is all about love: spiritual, emotional and love for fellow man.

“Live at the Blue House” is talent in its purest form. From the minute you press play, you know you are in for a treat. Michael and Tonya are truly a magnificent and when you hear them sing you can’t help but feel the love and the energy. Each song takes you to another level.

Standout tracks include: “Made Whole,” “My Dear,” and “The Other Side of Green.” Download the song “Maryland,” which is also on the CD, a portion of the proceeds will be donated to help Veterans through Operation Second Chance.

“Live at the Blue House is available for sale at Amazon.com. For more information about these independent artists or tour dates and locations, visit: www.TheWarandTreaty.com.





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Eight tips for safely shoveling snow

Milwaukee— A study published in the Clinical Research in Cardiology looked at 500 people and found that seven percent started experiencing symptoms of heart problems while shoveling snow. The cardiologists believe there could be as many as double that number given the fact that the patients may not have connected their heart problems with snow shoveling. The Snow & Ice Management Association (SIMA), the North American trade association representing snow removal professionals has tips for shoveling snow safely.

"Shoveling snow has a number of health risks associated with it, including the most serious one—a heart attack," said Martin B. Tirado, CAE, Executive Director, SIMA. "Other more common health risks include dehydration, back injuries, pulled muscles, broken bones and frostbite. But the good news is there are ways to safely shovel snow,"

Here are SIMA's tips for safe snow shoveling:

TIP #1: Stay on top of the snow. No we aren't suggesting that you make snow angels but when there's a heavy snow, the best advice is to stay ahead of the storm. SIMA recommends that to prevent snow and ice from adhering to the sidewalk or street, clear the snow every few inches instead of waiting for the snow to stop falling before you head outdoors.

TIP #2: Wear breathable layers. Layering is typical cold winter weather advice. We suggest wearing layers of loose clothing so you can peel a layer off if you get hot. Avoid wearing heavy wools, manmade materials or other materials that don't allow perspiration to evaporate. Better choices are cotton and silk.

TIP #3: Watch your feet. No you aren't on Dancing with the Stars, but nonetheless, you need to pay attention to what's on your feet when heading outdoors to shovel snow. SIMA suggests wearing quality outdoor winter wear such as waterproof boots with good traction. Good traction is critical to ensuring that you don't slip and fall.

TIP #4: Take a few minutes to stretch. Shoveling snow is a workout so you need to stretch to warm up your muscles particularly because you are shoveling snow in the cold weather. Stretching before you start shoveling will help prevent injury and fatigue.



TIP #5: Push don't lift. Sounds like something a high school wrestling coach may say but if you push the snow to the side rather than trying to lift the snow to remove it, you exert less energy thereby placing less stress on your body.

TIP #6: Drink up! Water that is. SIMA recommends taking frequent breaks and staying hydrated. You should drink water as if you were enduring a tough workout at the gym or running five miles.

TIP #7: Don't play in traffic. Sometimes people get so focused on the task at hand they don't pay attention to their surroundings. When shoveling snow near streets, pay attention to the traffic since vehicles may not have good traction in the snow and ice.

TIP #8: Call and text. We're not suggesting that you make calls and text while shoveling snow, but it is important to have your cell phone on you so you can make a call in event of an emergency.

Following these seven tips will help ensure that you survive and thrive through winter. For more snow and ice removal tips, visit www.sima.org.

SECU offering annual scholarships to Maryland State Employees again

Linthicum, Md.— SECU, Maryland's largest financial cooperative— will once again offer scholarships to Maryland state employees and their immediate family members who will attend college, graduate school, or trade school in the fall of 2015.

"The State Employee Scholarship Program represents an essential part of SECU's continuing commitment to make both financial and scholastic education available to our members," says Peggy Young, vice president of Marketing at SECU. "Doing so enables the communities we serve throughout Maryland to become stronger and financially healthier, one member and one household at a time."

Over the past eight years, SECU has awarded nearly \$250,000 in scholarships to Maryland state employees and family members through the State Employee Scholarship Program.

This year, applicants will be required to submit an essay or video on the following questions: Explain your understanding of the difference between a credit union and a bank. What do you see as the benefits of being a member of a credit union as opposed to being a customer of a bank? How do you see a credit union making a difference in your financial future?

To be eligible for SECU's State Employee Scholarship Program, applicants must be current or retired Maryland state employees or members of the immediate families of current or retired Maryland state employees. Winners must be enrolled or accepted into a college, university, trade, or technical school. Twelfth graders who plan to attend college next fall are also eligible.

Winners of the 2015 scholarship awards will be announced on May 12. Eligibility will be verified. The deadline for applications is April 10.

For more information, application form, and submission guidelines, visit www.secumd.org/scholarships.

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

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

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