

Leah's Book Club 2016 honors women in the community



The sixth annual Irene Bennett Reid Memorial Tea sponsored by Leah's Book Club honored eleven women who have made contributions to their communities. Leah's Book Club was organized in February, 1998 by Leah Goldsborough Hastie for like-minded readers to get together to discuss books—particularly those by African American authors. Members of the book club meet regularly and avails themselves of many opportunities in the literary world, such as attending lectures sponsored by the Enoch Pratt Library and inviting authors to attend meetings. Above: Claudette Swain, co-chair sponsored Geri Floyd. (See article on page 12) Courtesy Photo

Annapolis Film Festival 'Sails' into Weekend

By Stacy M. Brown

On the tiny island of Carriacou in the Eastern Caribbean, Alwyn Enoe is one of the last wooden boat builders practicing a trade that has been passed down the generations from the original Scottish settlers who arrived more than two centuries ago.

Approaching age 70 and with no more orders coming in, Enoe decides to build one last sailing sloop with the hope that his sons will continue the trade.

Enoe's story unfolds in the film "Vanishing Sail," which will be screened at 10 a.m. on Sunday, April 3, 2016, at the Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts Auditorium on Chase Street as part of the fourth Annapolis Film Festival.

"Vanishing Sail" is one of 70 films that organizers plan to screen over four days from Thursday, March 31 to Sunday, April 3 at the festival, which will also include workshops, post-film discussions and other activities.

"It's a whole experience and the memories don't go away," said festival co-founder Patti White, who noted that the festival's vision is to establish Maryland's capital as a center for filmmakers to showcase different global perspectives and independent thought to a variety of audiences through their work.

Some of the selected films include performances from Hollywood A-listers and legends.

"The Waiting," which will be featured on Saturday, April 2, stars legendary "Godfather" actor James Caan as the elderly victim of a supernatural plot by two teenage neighbors to convince him he is being haunted.

Meanwhile, Oscar winning "Deer Hunter" actor Christopher Walken and "Friday Night Lights" actress Amber Heard star in "One More Time," which, after its opening night screening, is scheduled again for Sunday.

Directed by Robert Edwards, "One More Time," finds Walken portraying a faded crooner stewing in his Hamptons mansion over the professional acclaim that eluded him and the trail of romantic wreckage in his wake. The stew is stirred when daughter Jude (Heard)



The award-winning documentary "Vanishing Sail" will be screened on Sunday, April 3, 2016, at Maryland Hall as part of the Annapolis Film Festival. The story follows Alwyn Enoe (pictured) on his quest to build one last wooden sloop and a culminating race.

Photo Credit: Alexis Andrews

arrives with her own problems, including a rivalry with her overachieving sister, a ruinous love life, and a fraught relationship with her famous father.

Festival organizers and others, though, are high on "Vanishing Sail," which follows Enoe's progress and despair over three years from hauling his trees out of the forest to a final traditional launching ceremony on the bayside.

"I met Alwyn Enoe a few years ago on Carriacou Island in the Caribbean. Approaching 70, he is one of the last wooden boat builders," said Alexis Andrews, the film's director.

"He and his sons spent 30 months building one last racing sloop and I was lucky enough to be able to document it on film. In the old days these wooden ships were an important part of the Caribbean culture known as sail-trading or more accurately as the smuggling of contraband," Andrews said.

Juliet Burch, the Annapolis Sailing Festival Director of Programming, said filmmakers and renowned sailing aficionados Andrews and Gary Jobson have come together to capture the attention of the local sailing community with their respec-

tive films, "Vanishing Sail" and "The Magic & Mystery of Sable Island."

"Our tradition of sailing films on Sunday at the Annapolis Film Festival has always been a hit, but this year is especially strong and we expect a great turnout," Burch said. "We just learned that His Excellency, Dr. Angus Friday, Ambassador for Grenada to the USA will be with us for 'Vanishing Sail.' We could not be more thrilled."

"Vanishing Sail" already has won several awards including the Caribbean Spirit Award for Best Overall Feature Film at the Caribbean Tales Film Festival and the People's Choice Award for Best Feature Documentary at the Trinidad & Tobago Film Festival.

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"Vanishing Sail" is part of a transmedia project representing 15 years of research that includes a two-volume photography book, an archive of interviews with some of the top names in West Indies sailing, the building of five, 42-foot, transitional sailing vessels in Carriacou and an annual regatta on the island of St. Barthelemy that's sponsored by UNESCO.

"This is the Maryland premiere," Andrews said. "This story culminates in an exciting wooden sailboat race with Enoe's boat winning a major prize."

To view the trailer for "Vanishing Sail" visit: www.VanishingSail.com. For tickets or more information about the festival, visit: www.annapolisfilm-festival.com.

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Guest Editorials/Letters

The Republicans: Cowardice in High Places

By Mel Gurtov

Jeb Bush endorses Ted Cruz. So do Marco Rubio and Mitt Romney. Chris Christie endorses—in fact, practically fawns all over—Donald Trump. Ben Carson suddenly thinks Trump would make a great president, in agreement with Vladimir Putin of all people. Paul Ryan bemoans the sorry state of his party's campaign but refuses to name names and implies he'll endorse whoever wins the nomination. The national chairman of the Republican Party likewise indicates unhappiness with the candidates but says he'll endorse whoever wins. John Kasich appeals to reason but nobody is listening. Who will he endorse when he finally drops out?

These guys are cowards, pure and simple. They have no principles, no scruples, only a skewed sense of party loyalty, which communist party apparatchiks would surely appreciate. Rather than refuse to endorse either of the two frontrunners, they abide by a bizarre tradition of accepting their fate, holding their noses, and supporting candidates they have called—and who have called them—every name in the book. Sure, they say, Trump and Cruz are “con artists,” bigots, bullies—but at least they are our terrible people and, oh yes, they're loyal conservatives.

Now I'm not so naïve as to believe that the endorsers really mean what they say in support of their suddenly wonderful candidate. Nor do I believe the fence sitters like Paul Ryan when they say (as Ryan did say) that we need to “raise our gaze and aim for a brighter horizon.” All of them are self-serving, jockeying for position, probably with an eye on winning or keeping a job in the next Republican administration. They are desperately trying to show that even though they have some problem with Trump and Cruz—hey, nobody's perfect—they have an even bigger problem with Hillary Clinton. So they content themselves with supporting the “lesser evil,” or opting (like Ryan) for neutrality.

Let's not leave this sorry lot without also noting that Trump and Cruz are cowards too, though they mask their insecurities with bravado. They will never acknowledge their race and gender-based hatreds, their moral deficits, their constant lying, or the real impact of their policies (or what passes for policies) on everything from military strategy to social programs and the environment.

History will record that when the Republican Party disintegrated, undone by two demagogues who represented depraved values and dangerous ideas, no one in the party dared to directly challenge and repudiate them. Instead, party leaders pretended that the demagogues' views might somehow be toned down by wiser advisers or by the realities of power. Now that's naïveté!

Mel Gurtov, syndicated by PeaceVoice, is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Portland State University and blogs at *In the Human Interest*.

When sending letters to the editor, your correct name, address and telephone number must be included with your submission. Your letter will not be published without the required information.

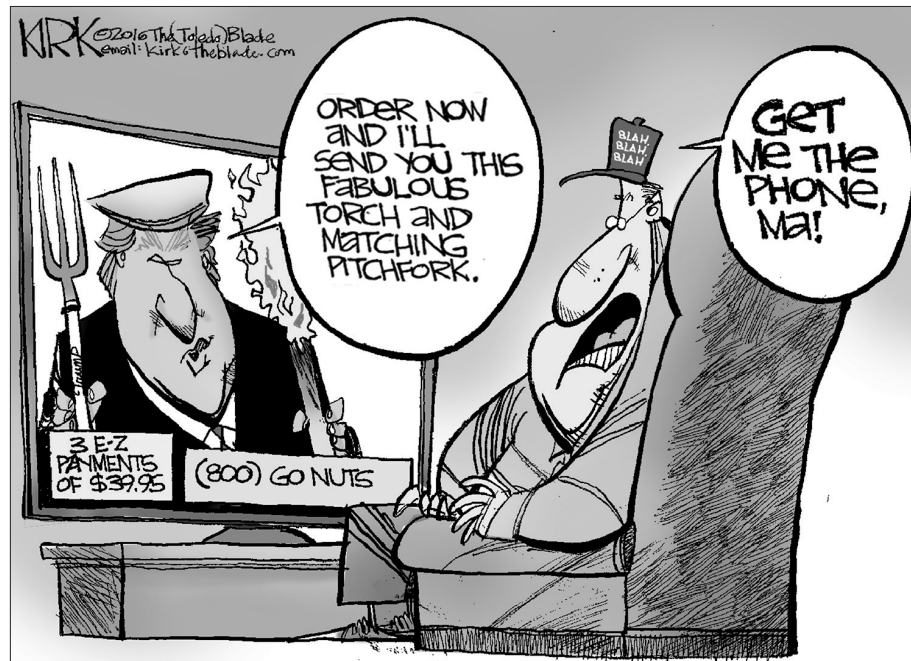
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Letters to the Editor

Editor:

Re: *A Scary Future?*

Be aware, America! If the current front runners in the Republican Primaries win the 2016 Presidential Election, then we could end up with a government resembling the one portrayed in the movie “Idiocracy,” (a 2006 comedy starring Luke Wilson and Maya Rudolph).

The movie is available “On Demand,” should you want to preview a possible future for this nation. Better yet, vote for common sense and maturity. Vote for Kasich.

Darrell L. Sy

Fairview Heights, IL

Editor:

Re: *The Trump Wrecking Ball*

Trump could win the Republican nomination but lose to Clinton in the general election. He might severely damage the Republican Party, and adversely impact Republicans in Congressional and state races. His un-American campaign of political violence and hooliganism is reminiscent of 20th century Nazi and Communist dictators.

In the Republican primaries Trump is

averaging 35 percent of the vote. If Trump was up against one other candidate, polls show he might get another 10 percent of the vote. History reveals primary candidates receiving less than 50 percent of the vote will lose the election for President.

The U.S. electorate comprises 26 percent Republicans, 30 percent Democrats, and 44 percent Independents. Polls show Trump garnering 70 percent of the Republican vote or 18 percent (30 percent voting other); 5 percent of the Democratic vote, or 1.5 percent; and 40 percent of the Independent vote, or 18 percent, giving him 37.5 percent of the total vote. Clinton will receive few Republican votes; 95 percent of the Democratic vote, or 28.5 percent; and 60 percent of the Independent vote, or 26 percent. This gives Clinton 54.5 percent of the total vote, Trump 37.5 percent, and the remaining 8 percent are write-ins or blank ballots.

It is a Trump Wrecking Ball. The integrity of the Republican Party and the dignity of the Presidency is at stake.

Donald Moskowitz

Londonderry, NH

Why are blacks blindly supporting Hillary?

By **Rinaldo Del Gallo, III**

Consider this an open letter to the African American community south of the Mason-Dixie line. This is particularly addressed to those in Maryland who might be considering voting for Clinton in the April 5, 2016 Democratic primary. I ask, "Why in the heck are you voting for Hillary?"

Clinton is winning many southern primaries on the backs of black voters, who can't seem to get enough of Hillary. "Maybe she is just a more familiar name," is the explanation I often get from my own African American friends, as they scratch their heads. If you go to Hillary Clinton's website, her platform reads, "End the era of mass incarceration, reform mandatory minimum sentences, and end private prisons." That's what she says today, as she courts your black vote.

Here is what she actually did. Hillary Clinton, along with her husband, were part of "the New Democrats," so-called "moderate Democrats" that were the

brainchild of the Democratic Leadership Council who thought Democrats were getting too progressive. Two of their central platforms to attract middle class white Americans were welfare reform and a "crackdown on crime."

It is a matter of historical record that in 1994 Hillary Clinton favored mass incarceration. Hillary Clinton appeared on C-Span in support of "The Violent

make that situation right. We can either educate or electrocute. We can create meaningful jobs, rebuilding our society, or we can build more jails."

Unlike Hillary, Bernie was always against mass incarceration.

I can understand why you, a black voter might feel that mass incarceration was too big a bargaining chip to give away for an assault weapons ban, provi-

Williams paid \$500 to attend a Hillary Clinton fundraiser and was thrown out for asking her to apologize for mass incarceration. In Clinton's defense, Williams did not give Clinton enough of an opportunity to respond. But Clinton could have then addressed the question, maybe after Ashley Williams was just escorted out of the room.

There are definitely bright black scholars who know better than to vote for Hillary. One is Michelle Alexander, author of "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness." She writes, "I can't believe Hillary would be coasting into the primaries with her current margin of black support if most people knew how much damage the Clintons have done—the millions of families [that were] destroyed the last time they were in the White House thanks to their boastful embrace of the mass incarceration machine and their total capitulation to the right-wing narrative on race, crime, welfare and taxes."

Photos are now appearing on Facebook of an August 13, 1963, arrest of a young University of Chicago student by the name of Bernie Sanders, who was arrested for protesting de facto school segregation in Chicago. For heaven's sake my black brothers, get to know your candidates. Vote for the balding old guy with the arrest record.

Rinaldo Del Gallo, III is a Massachusetts attorney and columnist whose work has appeared in newspapers across the country. A political activist, he has been involved in a wide array of areas, such as father's rights, animal rights, the environment, economic development, and issue affecting the minority community. You can reach him on Facebook.

"It is a matter of historical record that in 1994 Hillary Clinton favored mass incarceration. Hillary Clinton appeared on C-Span in support of 'The Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act' of 1994. This act, which was one of Bill Clinton's centerpiece legislation, spent \$9.7 billion on new prisons."

Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act" of 1994. This act, which was one of Bill Clinton's centerpiece legislation, spent \$9.7 billion on new prisons.

Hillary was touting the prison spending and unforgiving sentencing provisions as excellent legislation.

In fairness, Bernie Sanders did vote for the 1994 omnibus crime bill. He states in a February 25th press release that he did so because there was an assault weapons ban, which he supported, earning him the wrath of the NRA. There were also additional provisions for the Violence Against Women Act, as well as provisions for community policing. But this is what Sanders said while in Congress addressing the bill:

"Mr. Speaker, all the jails in the world, and we already imprison more people per capita than any other country, and all of the executions in the world, will not

sions for the Violence Against Women's Act, as well as funding for prevention programs. But Hillary Clinton was openly gung-ho for massive spending on additional prisons and more unforgiving prison sentences. Watch the YouTube "Hillary Clinton v. Bernie Sanders on the 1994 Crime Bill" if you don't believe me.

Jeff Weaver, Sanders' campaign manager, made the statement, "Hillary Clinton, on the other hand, resorted to dog whistle politics and dehumanizing language." In 1996, when Bill Clinton was on the campaign trail, Hillary Clinton referred to young gang members as "not just gangs of kids anymore, they are often the kinds of kids called super-predators, no conscious, no empathy. We can talk about why they ended up that way, but first we need to bring them to heel."

Recently, African American Ashley

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Alzheimer's Memory Ball Raises Funds with Dance Competition

By Stacy M. Brown

For Rose Davis Backus-Hamm, three invitations to dance at the Alzheimer's Association Greater Maryland Chapter's annual Memory Ball was enough for her to finally strut her stuff.

The Baltimore native, who has worked as an educator for 35 years and also an actress, is among those chosen to participate in the 10th anniversary of "Dancing Stars" on Saturday, April 16, 2016 at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel located at 700 Aliceanna Street in Baltimore City.

The 7 p.m. event will feature local "dancing stars" in a competition where their skills on the floor are just as important as the funds raised for the Alzheimer's Association, according to event organizers in a news release. The announcement of the winner caps off a night of cocktails, dinner and music and the top dancer is decided based on votes that are tied to donations.

The event is the association's signature fundraiser gala and it helps to raise money to fight the disease.

"Three years ago Ernestine Jolivet asked me to dance at the Memory Ball. She and her husband, Russell had danced at a Memory Ball and my brother-in-law Jerry Hamm and his wife Heather danced in the 2014 Memory Ball and they also asked me to dance," Backus-Hamm said. "Ernestine asked me again last December, so between the three of them I had to say 'yes' for 2016," adding that she also wanted to dance in memory of her mother-in-law, Rose Hamm, who died from complications due to Alzheimer's.

To cast a vote for Backus-Hamm or to make a donation, visit <http://act.alz.org/goto/RoseHamm>.

Among those also competing is Janine Norris, the director of nursing for the Blakehurst Retirement Facility in Tow-



Rose Davis Backus-Hamm
To vote for Rose visit
<http://act.alz.org/goto/RoseHamm>
Courtesy Photo

son. A nurse for 24 years, Norris says there is a misconception that those diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease have a death sentence.

"They are afraid of being labeled, and slow to seek help. Many times help is not received until judgment and behaviors are affected requiring hospitalization," Norris said through an event spokesperson. "Negative connotations continue the spiral of the stigma and reduce potential for engagement in treatment. At Blakehurst, they foster hope, encouraging resident empowerment, respect for resident centered care, and inclusivity of family."

Norris will be dancing the rumba in hope of erasing the label associated with Alzheimer's disease, because labels diminish the capacity to see the person beyond the illness, she said.

To cast a vote for Norris, visit <http://act.alz.org/goto/JanineNorris>.

Renaye Briscoe, a retired Social Security Administration employee, was a caregiver for her husband of 30 years before he died due to a debilitating dis-



Janine Norris
To vote for Janine, visit
<http://act.alz.org/goto/JanineNorris>
Courtesy Photo

ease. She also took care of her mother, who died from complications with Alzheimer's.

Briscoe, who said her mom remains a guiding post, plans to dance the jitterbug at the event. A group exercise instructor who excels in Zumba dance exercise, event officials say Briscoe loves spending time with her family, friends and dearest friends.

To cast a votes for Briscoe, visit <http://act.alz.org/goto/RenayeBriscoe>.

Other participants include Barb Clapp, CEO of Clapp Communications; Richard and Susan Sunderland DeFelice; Faith Fiocco of W by Worth; Madeline Grose; Diane Stahl; Brent Weiss and Teresa Yannone.

"Over the last ten years, the Baltimore community has come together to raise nearly \$4 million for the Alzheimer's Association through Memory Ball," said Kisha James, associate director of special events at the Alzheimer's Association. "We are honored to have such dedication from the planning committee, our current and past Dancing Stars and



Renaye Briscoe
To vote for Renaye, visit
<http://act.alz.org/goto/RenayeBriscoe>
Courtesy Photo

all of those who attend the event to support the people we serve in Maryland affected by the disease."

Proceeds from the Memory Ball funds supportive services of the Alzheimer's Association and critical research for a world without Alzheimer's disease. More than five million Americans are living with the disease, with 99,000 in Maryland, and every 67 seconds that number increases by one. Alzheimer's is the only cause of death among the top 10 in America that cannot be prevented, cured or slowed.

Backus-Hamm said African-Americans should particularly be concerned.

"It is important as African-Americans that we understand Alzheimer's affects us disproportionately [more] than any other ethnic group due to vascular disease and diabetes," she said.

To purchase tickets for the event, vote for the Dancing Stars or for information on sponsorship opportunities, visit: www.alz.org/maryland or call 800-272-3900.

**"Suffering is always hard to quantify— especially when the pain is caused by as cruel a disease as Alzheimer's. Most illnesses attack the body; Alzheimer's destroys the mind— and in the process, annihilates the very self."
—Jeffrey Kluger**

Connecting Communities Through Music

Baltimore— On Saturday, April 9, 2016, Peabody Conservatory students will perform with gospel choirs of Ark Church and New Shiloh Baptist Church in the culmination of a semester-long course at Peabody, “The African-American Gospel Tradition in Baltimore” taught by musicology faculty member Andrew Talle.

In its second year, the course is designed to explore the phenomenally successful pedagogical techniques gospel musicians have developed to train young talent. Fourteen Peabody students have learned about the gospel tradition through written texts, guest lectures, and visits to the churches.

“Peabody is not very far from these churches geographically, but there’s still a cultural divide,” says Dr. Talle, who created the course. “These two realms of classical and gospel music have traditionally been quite separate, and, by bringing them together, I hope my students will be able experience this music, and, in a

sense, we’re able to step into each other’s lives and see where the commonalities are.”

Both churches are a 10-minute drive from Peabody’s Mount Vernon campus: the Ark Church is in East Baltimore’s Oliver neighborhood; and New Shiloh Baptist Church is in the Mondawmin neighborhood. Ark Church Minister of Music Marcus D. Smith, “When it all comes together, it’s actually beautiful music to the point that it’s rhythmic, soulful, uplifting, and very encouraging so that it touches the soul and touches the heart.”

The free gospel concert, featuring the Divine Voices of Praise from Ark Church, led by Mr. Smith, and the Sanctuary Choir from New Shiloh Baptist Church, led by Worship Music Consultant W. Patrick Alston Sr. – will begin at 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 9, 2016 in Peabody’s Miriam A. Friedberg Concert Hall.

For more information or to see a video about the course, visit: www.peabody.jhu.edu.



Peabody Conservatory students and two Baltimore gospel choirs will present a joint concert on Saturday, April 9, 2016 at 5 p.m. in Peabody’s Miriam A. Friedberg Concert Hall. Courtesy Photo/Peabody

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Baltimore Ravens handled Tray Walker's passing with true class

By Turron Davenport

Tragedy struck the Baltimore Ravens recently. For the first time, an active player passed away. Tray Walker was only 23 years old and had a lot to live for. Unfortunately, that was all taken away from him on March 18, 2016.

The Ravens sent some of their high-ranking officials to Miami to support Walker's family while he was in the intensive care unit. John Harbaugh sent a letter to the players informing them of Walker's accident. He reminded them that they are a family and that one of their brothers needed their prayers.

The Ravens organization is truly a family. That is the mentality from the owner of the team to the people who take care of the garden at the facility, so it was no surprise the way the team has come together in this time of tragedy.

Steve Bisciotti chartered a plane for members of the Ravens organization to go to Miami to attend Walker's funeral and Harbaugh delivered the eulogy for Walker at the funeral. He spoke about Walker's smile and how he showed the intensity needed to exist in the NFL. Bisciotti vowed to help Walker's family make it through the terrible tragedy.

"We have two sons not too much older than Tray, and we can't imagine how much his family is suffering. This is so sad," Bisciotti said. "The right words are hard to find at a time like this. As much as we can comfort Tray's mom and the



Ravens head coach John Harbaugh comforts members of Tray Walker's family after delivering the eulogy at Walker's funeral. Courtesy Photo/NFL.com.

rest of the family, we will."

Harbaugh also remembered how Walker told him that he wanted to take care of this mother. That was one of the things that stood out to the head coach when he first talked to Walker, the desire to take care of family.

Ravens assistant director of public relations, Patrick Gleason highlighted Harbaugh's comments in a post on Balti-

moreRavens.com: "A year ago, we had a pre-draft meeting, and we brought Tray in to find out what he was all about

before we drafted him. He sat in my office, right across the table, looking me in the eye. The first thing I noticed was that smile— that big Tray Walker smile," Harbaugh recalled, drawing bursts of joy and applause from churchgoers. "I said, 'Tray, what's the most important thing, what's your No. 1 motivation?' And he said, 'I want to take care of my mom. I love her and I appreciate everything she has done for me.'"

Walker's casket was adorned with the Ravens team logo and he had a Ravens helmet at his casket as family and friends paid their last respects. The Ravens will surely put together a nice video tribute that will be played prior to their first home preseason game. The defensive backs have already discussed each of them wearing Walker's number 25 at one point during a game in the upcoming season.

Harbaugh concluded his eulogy in typical Harbaugh fashion. The head coach is never afraid to tell his guys that he loves them.

"Tray Walker, we love you and we are going to miss you." Harbaugh said.

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Maryland chefs invited to submit recipes for "Buy Local" cookout



Finalists will prepare dishes featuring local products at Government House to celebrate "Buy Local Challenge Week"

Annapolis— Governor Larry Hogan invites chefs using local Maryland ingredients to submit original recipes for the Governor's Buy Local Cookout, which will be held at Government House in Annapolis on July 21, 2016. Recipes must be submitted by May 11, 2016, and include products from at least one Maryland farmer, waterman, or other producer. Chefs are encouraged to submit simple but creative recipes that showcase ways the average Maryland family can prepare

delicious, nutritious meals with locally produced food at home.

The cookout promotes the statewide Buy Local Challenge Week (July 23-31, 2016), during which all Marylanders are encouraged to eat at least one local product each day of the week.

"The Buy Local Cookout and Buy Local Challenge are now a fantastic annual celebration of Maryland agriculture and Maryland cuisine," said Governor Hogan. "We strongly support the tradition of encouraging Marylanders to buy local products from Maryland farmers as we highlight the benefits of preserving our family farms, protecting the environment and supporting our local economies."

Recipes will be chosen in each of the following categories: appetizer, main dish, side dish or salad, and dessert.

Selected teams will be invited to provide, prepare and share their dish at the Governor's cookout. Chefs should note that recipes may be published in the Maryland Department of Agriculture's 2016 Maryland Buy Local Cookout Recipes cookbook.

Complete rules of entry and additional information are posted on line at mda.maryland.gov/documents/2016.recipe.guidelines.pdf. Recipes should be submitted online at: <https://mdamarketing.wufoo.com/forms/zf0x1xklvml1p/>. Chefs who have questions, should contact Karen Fedor at Karen.fedor@maryland.gov or 410-841-5773.

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Women Leading Baltimore Building Success at City Hall

By Stacy M. Brown

A motivated group of junior and senior high school girls gathered at City Hall to celebrate Women's History Month and to greet Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, who has spearheaded a mentoring program where the students shadow successful female leaders and professionals to help prepare them for the future.

The March 22, 2016, "Women Leading Baltimore" event was designed to build engagement and support between women in the city and to encourage area professional women to become mentors and role models to young girls, according to Amanda Rodrigues Smith, a Baltimore native and University of North Carolina Chapel Hill School of Journalism and Media graduate.

Rodrigues Smith serves as deputy press secretary to Rawlings-Blake. She learned about the program through a colleague and participating in it has been "deeply personal," she said.

"Not only am I passionate about developing our city's next generation of leaders, but I am also the youngest of three daughters, and have a niece who like the young ladies selected, is a high school student," Rodrigues Smith said. "Growing up in Baltimore, I was always surrounded by positive circles of sisterhood which reinforced my self-confidence and determination.

"Female role models in corporate media was far and few, so in contrast, prior to joining the mayor's office, my career was shaped in predominantly male-work environments, which although fruitful did not spare me from having to break through glass ceilings at a young age," she said.

Monica Mitchell, a vice president and community development officer at Wells Fargo and a mentor in the program, said she participated in the inaugural event last year and was thrilled to do so again in 2016.

"The girls that attend are just remarkable. They are so passionate, so smart and excited to be there," Mitchell said. "I found myself just as excited as they were. You see a lot of like-minded individuals and this event brings these girls

together with successful business mentorships and it showcases opportunities that exists for the young women of Baltimore."

Tamera Stanley, a senior at Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School, called her experience in the program unforgettable.

"This program being directed only to women showing that women can be just as successful as men is what makes it even greater. I not only feel that this program was amazing but the thought of being around successful women helped me to push myself one step further into continuing my education and hopefully to become successful in my career," Stanley said. "Words can't even begin to describe the experience I had being able to spend the day with the Mayor of Baltimore City as my mentor.

"Through the few hours I spent with her, I learned a lot about life and making life decisions the decisions you make in life reflect you as a person. Every decision you make in life is a tough decision and you have to be willing to push yourself through those tough decisions," she said.

Rawlings-Blake said she wanted use the event to encourage more women across the city to become involved in the lives of girls as counselors, teachers and role models.

Rodrigues Smith, who was paired with Dominique Wright, a junior at Western High School, said it is anticipated that the event will continue to grow.

"Unanimously, every participant agrees that this forum is transformational. While it is designed to inspire mentees to become self-actualized, I also enjoyed the opportunity to build new relationships with the young women as well as the other mentors," she said. "As professionals we invest significant amounts of hours and energy in our work lives, so the opportunity to reflect and engage was refreshing."

Dominique emailed Rodrigues Smith after the event to share how she enjoyed her experience.

"While she was with me, I wanted to expose her to both aspects of her interest, so in addition to shadowing me, I



Monica E. Mitchell, Vice President of Community Development for Wells Fargo spends time with Kiley Williams, 11th grader at Western High School, who interest is Business and Finance. Photos: Gar Roberts



Kibibi Ajanku, Interim Program Manager, Urban Arts Leadership Program at the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance with her mentee, 11th grader, Kache' Short, who has a variety of interest which includes: Fashion, Dancing, and Nursing. They were visiting the BMA.

also coordinated visits with my colleagues at the Baltimore Health Department and Health Policy advocates in Annapolis, so that she could better understand that practical, day-to-day aspects of her college and career goals," Rodrigues Smith said. "By the end of our day, she was very enthusiastic to

share that she recognized the importance of expanding her horizons, and wanted to continue pursue her dreams of attending medical school because she could see herself using that knowledge to help the community in many ways."

Vivian Fenton dispenses financial expertise as volunteer with CASH Campaign

By Stacy M. Brown

Formed 15 years ago, the Baltimore CASH Campaign (Creating Assets, Savings and Hope) employs strategies to help working families in Charm City maximize their financial opportunities and resources.

Since 2009, Vivian Fenton has volunteered at the nonprofit where she helped to provide free tax preparation and savings opportunities for many individuals and families around the city.

“What stood out most for me as a volunteer is knowing that Baltimore CASH can help maximize an individual’s earning potential through various programs. Free tax preparation and coaching are the services I’m involved with,” said Fenton, an Assistant Vice President and Trust Administrative Officer with U.S. Trust/Bank of America.

Fenton also has been involved with Junior Achievement of Baltimore, The Arthritis Foundation, and The American Heart Association.

“Approximately two years ago, a client came in to have her taxes redone because she owed money based on the work completed by her previous tax preparer,” Fenton said. “Someone told her to take her tax returns to the Baltimore CASH Campaign. After Baltimore CASH Campaign volunteers helped with her taxes, she was so overwhelmed, ecstatic and extremely grateful because a refund was identified. That scenario confirmed my passion as a volunteer with the Baltimore CASH Campaign.”

It also serves only to further validate the importance of financial literacy, particularly for school-aged students, according to Fenton.

“I read that one of the biggest influences on financial behavior as an adult is



Vivian Fenton has been a volunteer with the Baltimore CASH Campaign since 2009. She helps to provide free tax preparation and savings opportunities for many individuals and families around the city.

Courtesy Photo

the way we saw money handled when we were young,” she said. “Money management is not always an instinctive behavior. We need to learn how to put it into practice. The earlier we can teach young people to make good financial decisions and it becomes a learned behavior, it then allows them to obtain financial independence.”

One obstacle students face is peer pressure, which Fenton says could taint their judgment and cause them to make irrational financial decisions.

“I grew up in a home where my mother taught me that needs versus wants can affect your purchasing decisions, and you don’t buy things because someone else has it,” said Fenton, a native of New York who has lived in the Baltimore area since 2003.

Fenton also has a strong Caribbean heritage as her parents were born in Montserrat in the British West Indies, where they learned the value of saving for the future.

“My mother emphasized that saving

money was extremely important,” Fenton said. “I truly want to help young people understand that.”

While it appears that African-Americans lack or are deprived of real financial literacy education, Fenton says it’s important not to look back, but to keep focused ahead.

“As an African-American woman, I have to focus on the future,” she said. “We have to ensure that our community and the next generation have access to [the] tools and resources [available at] Bank of America’s BetterMoney-Habits.com, a free online resource for anyone with tools on a wide range of personal finance topics and the Baltimore CASH Campaign,” Fenton said.

“I co-chair the 20 and 30 Something Ministry at my church. Our focus is to empower young women in all areas of their lives. This will include financial empowerment sessions,” she said.

Fenton says her parents didn’t have a college degree or any formal financial education, but they still introduced her to the importance of saving and while they didn’t know about investing, they were still able to create a nest egg. That, she says, is a valuable lesson that sometimes even the lack of education or educational opportunities can be overcome with determination.

“It was a strong sense of self-worth and a concern for the future. Looking back, I realize they exercised due diligence, sacrificed and had a vision,” Fenton said. “I saw and benefited from the reward and we have to continue to impart that information to my African-American community because there’s a quote that I believe is so true, which says ‘People perish not because of lack of faith, they perish because of a lack of knowledge.’”

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Life In Baltimore: Leah's Book Club 2016 National Women's History Month Honorees

By Brenda Bowe Johnson

The sixth annual Irene Bennett Reid Memorial Tea sponsored by Leah's Book Club honored eleven women in the community and presented guest author, F. Michael Higginbotham. Leah's Book Club was organized in 1998 by Dr. Leah Goldsborough Hasty for like-minded readers to discuss books, particularly those by African American authors.

Beginning in 2000, each December the club began hosting a holiday tea with invited friends and Irene Bennett Reid, an avid reader and charter member of Leah's Book Club who delighted the membership and audiences with her review of the books.

In 2011, members of Leah's Book Club thought it fitting to honor Irene's memory with the Irene Bennett Reid Memorial Tea during National Women's History Month. Each year the club members honor and recognize women who have made contributions to their communities and who embody the same spirit and concern for the welfare of others as Irene demonstrated throughout her career.

Irene's son, the Honorable Kurt L. Schmoke, president, University of Baltimore and former Baltimore Mayor introduced the guest author, F. Michael Higginbotham, University of Baltimore law professor and former interim dean at the University of Baltimore School of Law. Professor Higginbotham discussed his book, "Ghosts of Jim Crow: Ending Racism in Post Racial America," and signed books after the program. Previous speakers at this event have been Taylor Branch, Antero Pietila, Dr. G. Derek Musgrove, Larry Gibson and A. Dwight Pettit.

The program was chaired by Dr. Brenda Conley and Claudette Swain. The 2016 National Women's History Month honorees are Regina Bernard, the Honorable Pamela J. Brown, Dr. Thelma Daley, Janese Kerr Daniels, Ph.D., Geraldine Floyd, Gloria Jones, Patelle Harris, Cynthia A. Jordan, Barbara Lee, Erika Maynor and Peggy A.W. Moore. Each honoree was highlighted in a power point presentation and escorted to the podium by their sponsor to receive a certificate and gift.

The ladies of Leah's Book Club are committed to highlighting women in the community and providing an audience for authors to discuss their books at the annual Irene Bennett Reid Memorial Tea. Members are Lorna Brice, Lorraine Brown, Dr. Brenda Conley, Merita Donaldson, Ernestine Dunston, Juanita Edgerton, Leah Hasty, Dr. Brenda Bowe Johnson, Bennie Keene, Dorothy Marshall, Marilyn Mc Donald, Evelyn Moore, Cassandra Ross, Alice Shelton, Dr. Louise Smith, Margaret Smith, Claudette Swain and Beaulah Wallace.



Thelma Daley and Dorothy Marshall



Alice Shelton and Peggy A. W. Moore



Barbara Lee and Brenda Bowe Johnson



Brenda Conley and Janese Kerr Daniels



Claudette Swain and Gloria Jones



Brenda Bowe Johnson and Regina Bernard



Louise Smith and Erika Maynor



Marilyn McDonald and Cynthia Jordan



Pamela Brown and Leah Hasty



Patelle Harris and Brenda Conley

Baltimore County Student's Education Enhanced by Cultural Immersion

By Ruth Young Tyler

The educational process varies and it has evolved over the years from chalkboards to smartboards and smartphones.

There are layers to the educational process and cultural immersion is at the top of the list. For Jasmine Parrish, a Baltimore County teenager, international travel has enhanced her perspective about education, countries, cultures and cuisines.

Parrish participated in the People to People International (PTPI) Program, which allowed her the opportunity to travel overseas.

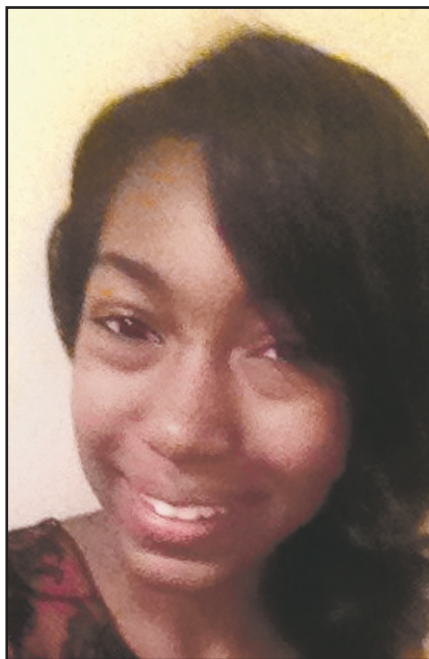
The program creates cross-cultural connections through the process of educational immersion. The program is designed for citizens around the world. Youth and adults are engaged in a myriad of cultural experiences, cuisines and historical landmarks. They also have the opportunity to serve in diverse communities by volunteering and developing leadership skills.

During a 20-day cultural exploration, she traveled to France, Italy and Greece. She visited historic landmarks including the Athens Coliseum and the Leaning Tower of Pisa. The cultural exploration gained her several stamps in her passport and an affinity for international travel.

"I highly recommend for people to travel abroad to get a greater appreciation of the world," Parrish said.

Her first stop on the excursion was Greece. She learned how to prepare a traditional meal. Parrish visited the lost city of Pompeii, an ancient town located near Naples, Italy.

During her excursion, Parrish lived with an Italian family for three days to experience the culture, living conditions and the language. She recalled that the children in the family were familiar with American culture, music and language.



Baltimore County resident Jasmine Parrish traveled abroad to enhance her educational and cultural experience. Courtesy Photo

The children speak English and are able to translate for their parents.

"Knowing some Spanish words helped me to comprehend and join in on the conversation when they spoke Italian," said Parrish who has a working knowledge of Spanish and American Sign Language. "We already use our hands when we talk. Let's make it mean something."

A visit to the Eiffel Tower in France was one of the many highlights of the tour. Parrish and several others went to the top of the structure, which stands at 984 feet tall.

"We were so high up in the air that the people on the ground looked like ants," she said.

According to the United States Department of Commerce, more than 68 million Americans traveled abroad in 2014. The Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs reported 15,556,216 (includes 1,647,413 passport cards) were obtained in 2015.

To learn more about how to apply for a passport and travel abroad for an educational exploration or leisure, visit: www.travel.gov.

"Honor Your Mom"

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The Annapolis Times

Mother's Day Edition 2016

will publish on

Friday, May 6, 2016



The Baltimore Times and The Annapolis Times will publish a keepsake Mother's Day edition on Friday, May 6, 2016. Honor your mother or special lady by submitting a high quality photo (may include children). Submit first and last name of everyone in the photo, identify from left to right and a daytime contact number. Photos must be submitted by April 8, 2016 with payment of \$25. We accept checks, money orders, and credit cards.

Bring photo and payment from 11 am -4 pm

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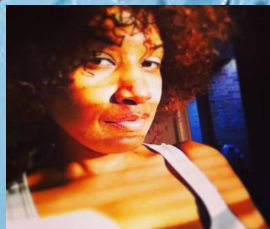
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Baltimore Continentals participate in African American Read-ins

Baltimore— This year, members of the Baltimore Chapter of Continental Societies, Inc. celebrated Black History Month by participating in over thirty African American Read-Ins in area Baltimore city and county schools, universities, churches, homes and as part of one of the organization's national initiative.

From family rooms to libraries, to classrooms, to a school bus and a university campus, the celebrations came in all shapes and sizes this year. As the chapter celebrates 60 plus years serving children and youth in the Baltimore metropolitan community, Charter Member Margaret Turner continues to express her excitement because the chapter was able to reach over 10,800 children, youth and other participants during the month of February 2016.

During the month of February, Continentals participated in Read-ins at several schools in Baltimore City and County: Margaret Brent Elementary/Middle; City Springs Elementary/Middle; Catonsville Middle; The Empowerment Academy; Grove Park Elementary Middle; Guilford Elementary/Middle; Harlem Park Elementary/Middle; James McHenry Elementary/Middle; Matthew A. Henson Elementary; Monarch Academy; Bluford Drew Jemison STEM Academy West; Powhatan Elementary; and William Paca Elementary. In addition, this year Baltimore Continentals planned individual African American Read-Ins to reach more people in venues which included: Coppin State University; Douglas Memorial Church; Great Blacks in Wax Museum; John Wesley United Methodist Church Saturday Academy; St. Vincent DePaul Head Start; and in several homes.

One of the most exciting Read-Ins was held on February 23, 2016 at The Empowerment Academy as Continental Book Buddies from the Education Committee celebrated Black History Month with guest Griot Stanley "Bunjo" Butler, director at the Walbrook Enoch Pratt Library and a member of the Griot Circle of Maryland and the National Black Storytellers.

Butler was very engaging and involved with interactive stories for the



Griot Stanley "Bunjo" Butler

120 students in grades pre-k through second that required listening. There was excitement and cheers as the students responded to Bunjo's stories and antics as he acted out the stories.

The Continentals partnered with Sistas Thrilled About Reading Book Club of Baltimore to provide gifts for the students. They presented each class with a book entitled "No Mirrors in My Nana's House" written by an African American author, along with African American Read-In drawstring backpacks and bookmarks.

For over 25 years hundreds of communities across the country and around the world have organized events in the month of February to make the celebration of African American literacy a traditional part of Black History Month. Over a million readers of all ethnic groups from 49 states, the West Indies, and African countries have participated. The goal is to make the celebration of African American literacy a traditional part of Black History Month activities. This celebration, conceived by the Black Caucus of National Council of Teachers of English and NCTE in 1989, involves tens of thousands of participants every year. Now in its 26th year nationwide, the African American Read-In continues to focus on literacy and Black literary culture. The Read-In includes readings of Black literature by local and national actors, civic personalities, poets, orators, griots, librarians, community members and community leaders.



Students participate in Black History Month African American Read-ins.



The Continentals partnered with Sistas Thrilled About Reading Book Club of Baltimore to provide gifts for students who participated in African American Read-ins during Black History Month. Courtesy Photos

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Advocacy Group Calls for Federal Regulation of Black Hair Products

By Ursula V. Battle

Products marketed to black women are largely untested, unlabeled and unregulated with toxins and carcinogens that lead to hormone disorders, reproductive health challenges and contribute to obesity rates and aggressive cancers. Hair care professionals, with prolonged exposure to beauty products, face reproductive health issues including increased risk of infertility and miscarriage compared to other professions.

These were among the disturbing findings listed in a report entitled, “Natural evolutions: one hair story,” recently released by Black Women for Wellness (BWW). The report outlines the health risks faced by black women and girls due to a lack of federal oversight and regulation of hair care and beauty product manufacturers.

BWW promotes the health of black women and girls in California through education and advocacy, working closely with legislators and members of the Los Angeles community.

“In 2009, we found out that the beauty industry was not regulated and that chemicals in products could negatively impact the health of black women,” said Teni Adewumi, Environmental Justice Program Coordinator for Black Women for Wellness. “From there, we began to do more research into health impacts of toxic chemicals and wanted to really look at how that was impacting the health of Black women and girls. Since salon workers not only use these products on themselves and on clients, we figured that they would be an overexposed group that needed to be looked at.”

According to Adewumi, over 100 participants took part in their research, which consisted of focus groups, surveys, and in-depth interviews.

“Methodology in choosing participants included attendees at hair shows, community members that came to our different events, and those we met during our regular outreach,” she said. “We canvassed the area and spoke with as many salon workers and owners as we could.”

BWW says it seeks to equip black women and girls with tools to make



A participant at a Black Women for Wellness (BWW) event holds a copy of “Natural evolutions: one hair story” report. BWW promotes the health of black women and girls in California through education and advocacy, working closely with legislators and members of the Los Angeles community. Courtesy Photos

decisions about their own lives and bodies, and to advocate for improved reproductive health care access.

“We are seeing beauty professionals

burdened with long-term, severe health impacts from exposure to toxic chemicals at work,” said Adewumi. “Professionals should be equipped with the

information and education they need to make informed decisions about hair care products. If not, how can they protect themselves and their clients?”

The report noted that as a result of the sustained use of and exposure to toxic chemicals found in many hair care and beauty products over their lifetimes, both consumers and professionals face potentially devastating health consequences. The report noted that during a focus group of black hair care professionals, a participant said, “After 20 years in the beauty industry, my friends have no fingerprints. They literally cannot go to the DMV, put their hands down and have a scan.”

According to Adewumi, such damages originate “from the use of corrosive products that damages the hands.”

Adewumi is a PhD student in Industrial Hygiene at the UCLA Jonathan and Karin Fielding School of Public Health. She completed her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Health Sciences at California State University, San Bernardino and her Masters of Science in Environmental Health Sciences at UCLA.

Nourbese Flint, program manager, Black Women for Wellness, also participated in a recent teleconference with Adewumi to discuss the report.

“The hair care and beauty products marketed to women are grossly unregulated—lacking proper testing or labeling,” said Flint. “Failing to prohibit the use of toxins in these products—or at least requiring that these toxins be disclosed to consumers via product labels—is dangerous and detrimental to women’s health.”

Flint has a Masters of Arts in Women’s Health from Suffolk University, where she specialized in health disparities as it relates to media influence. She is also a graduate of San Jose State University, where she majored in Broadcast Journalism and African American Studies.

The report is calling for federal regulation of Black hair care product manufacturers.

“We are trying to make families safe in an unregulated market,” said Flint.

For more information about BWW or the report, visit: bwwla.org

Fairy Tale Festival 2016

FREE events throughout the “Pratt Kingdom” during the month of April including magicians, puppet shows, storytellers and Fairy Tale Balls!

Baltimore— “Once upon a time...” The Enoch Pratt Free Library transforms itself into the magical and enchanted “Pratt Kingdom” to celebrate the 14th annual Fairy Tale Festival. Throughout the month of April, events and programs are scheduled at all Pratt locations to celebrate the magnificence of fairy tales.

The festival kicks-off with a Fairy Tale Extravaganza weekend at the Central Library:

Fairy Tale Extravaganza
Saturday, April 2, 10am to 3pm
Sunday April 3, 1pm to 3pm



Central Library Main Hall and Meyerhoff Children’s Garden
400 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Leave the evil stepsisters at home and enjoy a weekend of celebration of fairy tales and faraway lands. All throughout the Central Library’s Main Hall, children will be able to be a prince or princess for a day. Free programs in-

clude live music by Milkshake, family crafts, magicians, Cinderella’s glass slipper and the Fairy Tale Ball.

“For fourteen years, Baltimore’s families have come to the Enoch Pratt Free Library’s Fairy Tale Festival,” said Ellen Riordan, Chief of Planning, Programs and Partnerships and acting Children’s Services Coordinator. “Fairy Tale Festival celebrates the elements of the tradi-

tional stories we all love: There is magic, imagining the improbable and exploring worlds ... real and imaginary. Families can spend the day together in one of our city’s greatest places. Time together is often the most magical element of all.”

“The Fairy Tale Festival is part of our commitment to bring families together and highlights the importance of reading, imagination and learning,” said Carla D. Hayden, Chief Executive Officer of the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

The Enoch Pratt Free Library’s Fairy Tale Festival is sponsored by Transamerica.

For a complete schedule of Fairy Tale Festival programs grab a copy of the Fairy Tale Gazette at all Pratt locations or visit www.prattlibrary.org.



Girl Scouts of Central Maryland’s **Distinguished Women’s Award Celebration**



**Join us on April 21, 2016, 5:30pm at the Baltimore Country Club,
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You are cordially invited to spend an evening with Girl Scouts of Central Maryland as we honor five amazing women for their professional accomplishments and community contributions. Be inspired by Girl Scout mentees as they describe their unique shadow day experiences with these distinguished women. The evening includes live and silent auctions, heavy hors d’oeuvres and networking with business leaders from the Baltimore area.

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For more information contact Berit Killingstad at bkillingstad@gscm.org or 410.358.9711 ext. 225.

Baltimore native earns 'Senior Sailor of the Year' serving aboard USS Wasp

By Navy Office of Community Outreach

Millington, Tenn.— Petty Officer 1st Class Jamye Graham from Baltimore, serving with USS Wasp (LHD 1), earned Senior Sailor of the Year for 2015.

The Sailor of the Year Program recognizes superior performance of enlisted personnel emphasizing outstanding achievements, exemplary personal conduct and military bearing, and demonstrated initiative in the performance of duty. This program also motivates personnel to strive for improvement in their assigned duties and leadership.

"Holding the title as Sea Sailor of the Year means everything to me," said Graham. "It is an indescribable feeling for the recognition of my hard work and leadership at such a high level. This honor also pays tribute to all the hard work of my junior Sailors and is a direct reflection of the strong leadership from my superiors. It is an honor to know that as a senior Sailor, I set the standard as a great leader and will be looked at as a

model Sailor for all my junior Sailors."

As a ship's serviceman, Graham is responsible for managing and operating the retail and service activities aboard the ship.

"I enjoy just simply being a part of an organization that sets the tone for excellence and makes it presence known world wide," said Graham. "I appreciate the benefits and opportunities I am given as well. I get to travel, get an education, meet new people of all ethnicities, make an impact on numerous Sailors, and defend my country."

Graham, a 2002 graduate of Edmondson Westside High School, has served in the Navy for 13 years.

"Petty Officer Graham is by far my number one of 125 outstanding First Class Petty Officers on WASP," said Capt. Kurt Kastner, command officer of USS Wasp. "She is the embodiment of the word Sailor and an unmatched deck plate leader. She exudes Honor, Courage and Commitment throughout her daily routine. Her work ethic is above and beyond the standard and she willingly



Petty Officer 1st Class Jamye Graham from Baltimore, serving with USS Wasp (LHD 1), earned "Senior Sailor of the Year" for 2015.

Courtesy Photo/Navy Office of Community Outreach

accepts the most difficult jobs and produces outstanding results. If there is a problem, she is the solution! She is without question one of the best First Class Petty Officers I've worked with in my 27 year careers and I cannot think of a finer Shipmate to receive this award."

Homeported in Norfolk, Virginia, USS Wasp is the first of the Wasp-class amphibious assault ships.

The Navy has given Graham an opportunity of a lifetime.

"Serving in the Navy has helped me to develop a higher level of discipline," said Graham. "Also, completing several deployments has allowed me to experience different cultures and gain a broader outlook of challenges occurring around the world. For those reasons, I am very grateful and appreciative."

MELISSA McCARTHY

THE BOSS

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STARTS FRIDAY, APRIL 8 CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES

Joy Night!

The S.E.E.D. Church located at 400 East 31st Street in Baltimore will hosts "Joy Night" at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 8, 2016— uplifting live music. On Sunday, April 17, 2016, Reverend Harlie Walden Wilson II and the congregation of Israel Baptist Church on North Charles Street will worship with the S.E.E.D. Church at 3:30 p.m. Worship service begins at 10 a.m. Sundays and on the third Sunday of every month, the youth lead the worship service.

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Asbury Church Assistance Network Needs Volunteers

ACAN is a non-profit organization providing food/toiletries, and/or financial assistance toward court-ordered eviction notices or utility cut-off notices in Anne Arundel County. There is an immediate need for volunteer(s) to design and maintain a website for ACAN which currently doesn't have a web presence. In addition, volunteers with public relations or grant writing experience are also needed. ACAN also seeks donations of a commercial refrigerator and freezer and tables. Monetary and nonperishable canned goods donations would also be appreciated. For more information, email Janet Pack, Executive Director, at asbury.acan@gmail.com or call 443-763-1120.

AACC Military/Veteran Resource Center Now Open on Saturdays

Annapolis— The Military/Veteran Resource Center at Anne Arundel Community College has extended its hours to Saturdays, effective immediately through May 21, the end of the spring term.

The center, located in the Andrew G. Truxal Library in Room 112 on the Arnold campus, is open on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in addition to its regular Monday through Friday hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Saturday hours allow veterans and military personnel to study with and tutor each other in preparation for exams and to prepare for summer and fall classes. Students using the center also have access to computers, copying and faxing. The center is staffed by at least two veterans whenever it is open.

The college created the center a few years ago to give students who are serving or who have served in the military a relaxing atmosphere to meet, study, network and socialize with others who have served. It recently moved to the renovated Truxal Library where it is close to other student support services. The Student Veterans of America chapter meets there, too.

The center offers various other services, including peer support and mentoring; a lending program for books and graphing calculators, referrals to the on-campus mental health specialist, financial aid information and application assistance, support from the counseling office and quick access to counselors, disabled veteran compensation information and referrals to a military support advisor.

For information, visit the website at <http://www.aacc.edu/military> or call 410-777-4838.

"Free & Enslaved: A Spectrum of 19th Century African American Life" at the Reginald Lewis Museum

Baltimore— Free & Enslaved: A Spectrum of 19th Century African American Life, the annual event of the Baltimore chapter of Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society will be held on Saturday, April 2, 2016 at 1 p.m. at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum.

Featured lecturer includes Dr. Dale Green, an assistant professor specializing in historic preservation at the School of Architecture and Planning at Morgan State University who will cover "The Hill", a community in Easton, Maryland dating back to 1790 and is believed to be the oldest free black community in the US, pre-dating Treme' in New Orleans, which dates to 1812. During his lecture, Dr. Green will give updates on his latest findings. Dr. Green also spoke about The Hill as this year's guest speaker for the Governor's Black History Program.

Dr. Dale Green is an assistant professor specializing in historic preservation at the School of Architecture and Planning at Morgan State University. Dr. Heather A. Williams is the Presidential Term Professor and Professor of Africana Studies at the University of Pennsylvania.

The Reginald F. Lewis Museum is located at 830 East Pratt Street in Baltimore City.

Admission to the lecture is included with regular museum admission. For more information, call: 443-263-1816 or visit: www.lewismuseum.org.

Black Lives Matter: Conversation, Meetup & Concert: Saturday, April 9, 2016 at 3 p.m.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis
333 Dubois Road in Annapolis

Conversation "Cracking the Codes" — 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

A video on the the system of racial inequity facilitated by Father Randy Callender, St. Philip's Episcopal Church and presented by "Coming to the Table - Annapolis" and the Annapolis Faith Community for Black Lives Matter

Meet Up — 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Live jazz, book signings, CDs and organizations.

Concert — 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Annapolis community working to dismantle racism through the Arts, Music, Dance, Poetry

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