

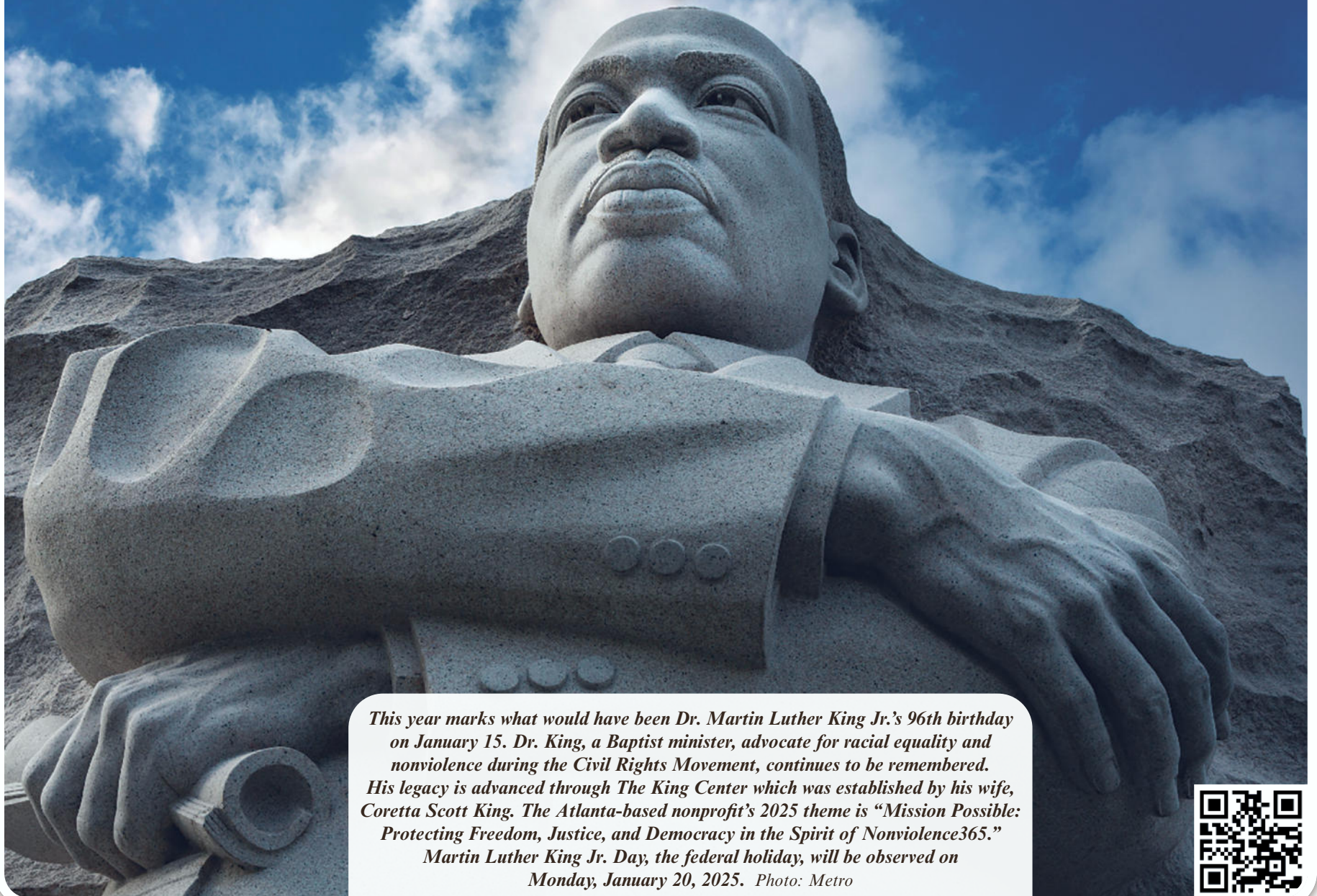
The Annapolis Times

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‘Mission Possible: Protecting Freedom, Justice, and Democracy in the Spirit of Nonviolence365’



This year marks what would have been Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 96th birthday on January 15. Dr. King, a Baptist minister, advocate for racial equality and nonviolence during the Civil Rights Movement, continues to be remembered. His legacy is advanced through The King Center which was established by his wife, Coretta Scott King. The Atlanta-based nonprofit's 2025 theme is "Mission Possible: Protecting Freedom, Justice, and Democracy in the Spirit of Nonviolence365." Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the federal holiday, will be observed on Monday, January 20, 2025. Photo: Metro



2025 MLK Award Honorees

37th Annual MLK Jr. Awards Banquet Honors 12 Local Civil and Human Rights Activists

Annapolis, Md. — The 37th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Awards Banquet will be held Wednesday, Jan. 15, 5-10 p.m. at the Casino Live Hotel Ballroom, 7002 Arundel Mills Circle, Hanover, Md. This inspiring evening is the largest celebration of Dr. King's birthday in Anne Arundel County. Dignitaries attending will include U.S. Representative-elect Sarah Elfreth; Senator Chris Van Hollen; County Executive Steuart Pittman; and Annapolis Mayor Gavin Buckley. The keynote speaker will be *New York Times* best-selling author and radio host Clay Cane.

The evening will honor 12 local men and women, including Maryland's first Black senator—Angela Alsobrooks, for her groundbreaking service in Maryland; Carroll Hynson, Jr., the first African American to lead departments at BWI Airport; and Comptroller Brooke Lierman, the state's first female chief fiscal officer. The banquet will feature a special performance by well-known musical artist Scotti Preston. Tickets are \$100 per person. Tickets are available for purchase at <https://mlkjrmd.org/>. Doors open at 5 p.m. and the program begins at 6 p.m. For more information, contact Arlene Jackson at 301-538-6353.

The banquet will also kick off fundraising for a monument honoring the legacy of the Honorable Parren J. Mitchell (1922-2007), the first African American elected to Congress from Maryland. He fought for affirmative action legislation as House Chair of the Small Business Committee resulting in the passage

of legislation that set aside 10% of federal contracts for minority businesses. He served seven consecutive terms through 1987.

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Awards Program in Anne Arundel County was founded in 1988 by then Alderman Carl Snowden. Designed to pay homage to the memory of Dr. King, the program honors those whose deeds, words, and actions have helped keep Dr. King's legacy alive. The program is a reflection on the best Anne Arundel County has to offer.

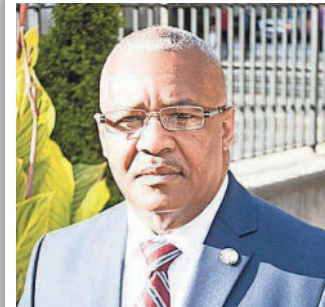
The winners of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. awards are newly elected Senator Angela Alsobrooks, winner of the Morris H. Blum Humanitarian Award; America Legion Cook-Pinkney Post 141 led by Commander Curtis D. Jones, winner of the Coretta Scott King Award; Anne Arundel Schools Superintendent Dr. Mark Bedell, winner of the We Share the Dream Award; Annapolis Deputy Police Chief Stanley Brandford, winner of the Peacemaker Award; Naval Academy Major A. Ebony Brimhall, U.S. Marine Corps, winner of the Drum Major Award; Carol Brooks, winner of the Drum Major Award; Shirley Hicks, winner of the Wiley Bates Legacy Award; Carroll Hynson, Jr., winner of the Alan Legum Civil Rights Award; Rick Hutzell, winner of the Dream Keeper Award; Brooke Lierman, winner of the Courageous Leadership Award; Naval Academy Midshipman Sofi Stalker winner of a Drum Major Award; and Anne Arundel NAACP President Steven Waddy, winner of a Drum Major Award.



Angela Alsobrooks



Dr. Mark Bedell



Stanley Brandford



*Major A. Ebony Brimhall
U.S. Marine Corps*



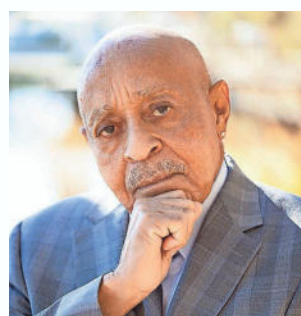
Carol Brooks



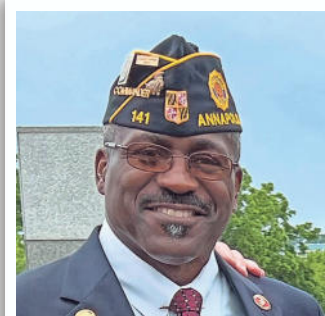
Shirley Hicks



*Rick Hutzell of the
Baltimore Banner
Photo: Kirk McKoy*



Carroll Hynson



Curtis Jones



Brooke Lierman



MID Sofi Stalker



Steven Waddy

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'Mission Possible: Protecting Freedom, Justice, and Democracy in the Spirit of Nonviolence 365'

By Ursula V. Battle

The theme for the 2025 Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday observance is: "Mission Possible: Protecting Freedom, Justice, and Democracy in the Spirit of Nonviolence 365." The King Center said the theme defines the 2025 King holiday observance events and programming while serving as a compass for all the work the organization does this upcoming calendar year and beyond.

Established in 1968 by Mrs. Coretta Scott King, The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change ("The King Center") has been a global destination, resource center and community institution for over a quarter century.

"Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. believed that nonviolence has the power to transform society by addressing injustice at its root," said Maryland Senator Cory V. McCray. "The theme, 'Mission Possible: Protecting Freedom, Justice, and Democracy in the Spirit of Nonviolence 365,' resonates deeply with our work in Maryland."

The Baltimore native represents District 45.

"Through the legislative process, we've worked to remove arbitrary barriers to opportunity and justice - restoring voting rights to over 40,000 Marylanders on parole and probation, raising the minimum wage to \$15 to advance economic equity, and securing critical investments in public transportation through the Transportation Safety and Investment Act to connect children to schools, seniors to prescriptions, and working families to jobs," said Senator McCray. "Every step forward honors Dr. King's

legacy by ensuring freedom, justice, and democracy are not just ideals but realities for all Marylanders."

A 501(c)3, The King Center says nearly a million people each year make a pilgrimage to the National Historic Site to learn, be inspired and pay their respects to Dr. King's legacy.

The Rev. Willie Ray, founder of the Save Another Youth, Inc. and Stop the Violence & Virus Coalition said he entered the ministry in 1968, inspired by Dr. King's legacy. "I support the theme," said Rev. Ray. "It should definitely be looked at. I think that since we have had a homicide decrease in Baltimore, there should be an effort to attain the goal of going without having a homicide for 365 days. I do believe it's possible. If you just believe, work at it, and have faith, anything is possible."

Rev. Ray founded "Hands Across Baltimore" to combat youth violence. The effort gained national attention along with his Stop The Violence rallies. Rev. Ray says his community efforts are being recognized with an honor he will receive on January 20, 2025 at New Shiloh Baptist Church.

"My work aligns with Dr. King's principles of non-violence and youth advocacy," said Rev. Ray.

Dr. Joanne Martin, Co-founder of the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum (NGBIW) with her late



Dr. Joanne Martin, Co-founder of the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum. Courtesy photo

husband, Dr. Elmer Martin talked about The King Center's 2023 theme.

"We have to believe in and fight for this theme," said Dr. Martin. "We can't have a nation in which we don't fight for Dr. King's mission and values. He was a man of kindness, a man of wisdom, and a man who wanted and understood what was needed for a democracy to function. He understood that democracy has to function for all people. For Dr. King, there was no place in this nation for racism or hatred."

Located at 1601-1603 E. North Avenue, NGBIW is committed solely to the study and preservation of African American history, and its presentation of life-size, life-like wax figures highlight historical and contemporary personalities of African ancestry.

"Dr. King was a man of non-violence who sought to shine a light on what happens when we are violent," said Dr. Martin. "He was a man whose



Maryland Senator Cory V. McCray. Courtesy photo

eyes were wide open to the reality of this nation and this world. He contributed so much, and we all need to embrace what he stood for and his deeply-rooted values of non-violence. The world would be in a much better place."

Martin Luther King Day is being observed on Monday, January 20 this year. Among the events taking place in observance of the federal holiday is the 43rd annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration. Johns Hopkins will host the event on January 17, 2025 which will feature keynote Dr. David Thomas, President of Morehouse College.

For more information about this event, visit <https://hub.jhu.edu/events/2025/01/17/mlk-commemoration-event-david-thomas/>. For more information at The King Center, visit <https://thekingcenter.org/>.

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How to Protect Yourself from Check Fraud During Tax Season

How to Protect Yourself from Check Fraud During Tax Season

This month, millions of Americans will send their annual income tax payments to the IRS, a fact not lost on fraudsters and thieves hoping to get a hold of your check and reuse it for their own financial benefit.

Here are ten tips to help protect yourself from check fraud:

1. When writing out your check, use permanent ink vs. a pencil to prevent fraudsters from being able to change your information.
2. When adding the payee's name on the check, fill out the whole line on the check, or draw a line to the end, so no one can add an additional name.
3. Fill out the dollar amount in numbers and be sure to use the right punctuation that matches the written amount. For example, One hundred dollars, \$100.00.
4. Sign your checks the same way every time.
5. Avoid writing just the word "cash" on a check if you don't know the name of the business or person you are trying to pay, as this can make it easier for someone to deposit your check if it is lost or stolen. Remember, checks may take a longer time to process, so consider using other traceable payment methods, such as Zelle or electronic payments.
6. Monitor your account online to ensure your check is cashed and no information was altered – for example, is the payee and amount what you originally wrote? If not, contact your bank immediately.
7. Make sure you order your checks from a trusted and reliable source, such as through your bank.
8. When mailing a check, use only monitored and safe drop-off places, or consider sending from your local post office.
9. Always store your checkbook in a safe place and don't leave it out in public.
10. To help protect your account and monitor your transactions, sign up for alerts through your bank's mobile app or website. By checking your accounts frequently, you can monitor transactions, see images of a deposited check to

confirm accuracy and find copies of your statements. If you spot a suspicious transaction, be sure to contact your bank for help immediately.

For more information about fraud and scam prevention tips, visit www.chase.com/security-tips.

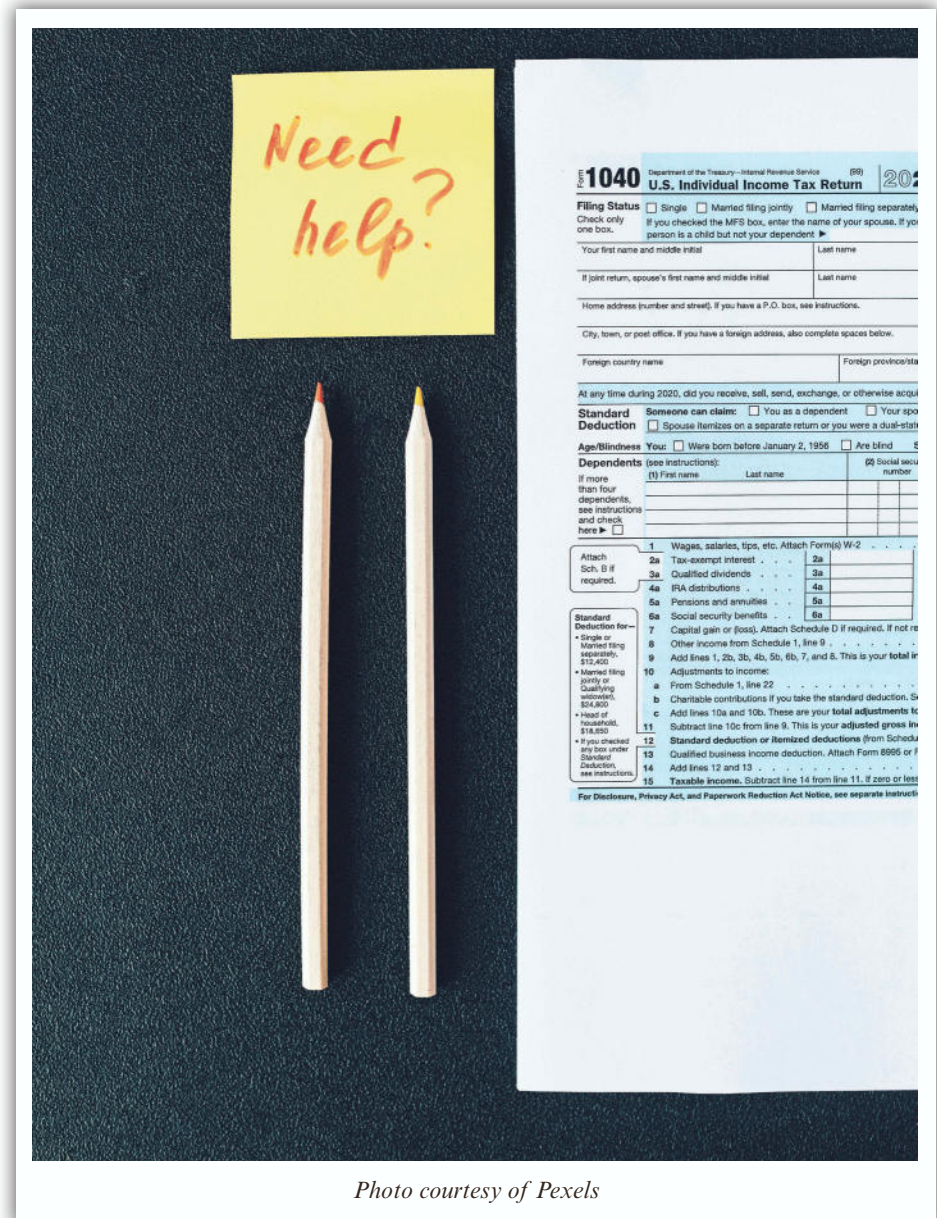


Photo courtesy of Pexels

MLK Day 2025: Reflections of Dr. King's Dream

Compiled by Andrea Blackstone

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a minister and spokesperson for nonviolent activism throughout the Civil Rights Movement advocated to end racial segregation. The pioneer of nonviolence is often remembered on Martin Luther King Jr. Day or MLK Day, the third Monday of January, while tribute is paid to his contributions and volunteer service is highlighted.

The Atlanta, Georgia-based King Center announced their 2025 strategic theme— “Mission Possible: Protecting Freedom, Justice, and Democracy in the Spirit of Nonviolence365.” It defines the 2025 King Holiday Observance events and programming and serves as a compass for The King Center’s upcoming calendar year work and beyond.

Four individuals who hail from diverse U.S. locations shared their perspectives about Dr. King, his legacy, their personal work and this year’s comprehensive theme.



Tiffany Gill

Photo: Bruce Smallwood

Name/ Title: *Tiffany Gill, Founder of Black Girls Unscripted*

Location: Baltimore

Reflections about Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and this year’s theme:

It’s no secret that Black women have a long history of creating our own spaces where we can freely show up as our whole and authentic selves. As an intergenerational organization centering the history, narratives, and contributions of Black women, Black Girls Unscripted continues this tradition by holding space for us to openly discuss the truth about our lives and honor those truths with action as we continue the fight for education, racial justice, health equity, and empowerment.

On January 20, 2025, as we join others around the globe in celebration of the exemplary life and teachings of Dr. King — and at a time when Black books continue to be banned, efforts to rewrite history abound, and our freedom and democracy are under threat — Black Girls Unscripted remains committed to working together in unity and through non-violent resistance in the face of challenge. Dr. King’s work is proof that nonviolence counters injustice and that our voices are powerful and essential tools for achieving equality. We are grateful for the blueprint Dr. King left behind, and for the legacy of his work through The King Center, as we continue our mission to transform our communities, and by extension, greater society.



Makenzee Adams

Photo: Jaiden Brown

Name: *Makenzee Adams*

11th Grade (16 years old)

Location: Annapolis, Maryland

Leadership activities you have been known for: Local musician, throwing community events/parties that benefit the youth and those in need.

Q: Why is nonviolence in today’s society important?

A: Nonviolence is especially important because of how many people do choose violence. In certain cases, violence doesn’t solve the problem but pushes it further. On a smaller scale, nonviolence is just a way to be a little kinder to people.

Q: How do you feel about Dr. King’s work?

A: Dr. King is one of the most famous civil rights activists and for good reason. His work as an advocate for equality, and as a public speaker in general, is so inspiring as someone who, at times, can feel like their voice doesn’t matter.

Q: How do you live or help in your community while protecting freedom, justice, and democracy in the Spirit of Nonviolence365?

A: I, personally, try my best to inform and unify people in my community. In the past, I did an interview series where I talked to local politicians from various parties about the upcoming elections with the goal of educating my community on their candidates.



Nicole Nixon
Photo: Joy Rahat

Name: *Nicole Nixon*
Location: Northern Virginia

Reflections about Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.:

As an Eastern Shore native and the CEO of Listing Central LLC (LC), a data technology company, I am deeply committed to the principles of nonviolence and justice. Inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., I believe that his mission for civil rights is a torch we must carry forward daily. His words – “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that” – resonates deeply with our mission, my mission as a leader.

For me, nonviolence isn’t just a philosophy—it’s a call to action. Our company is dedicated to empowering underserved communities through access to technology education, innovation, and artificial intelligence—resources that are often out of reach. We prioritize protecting the most vulnerable, including seniors, domestic violence survivors, and children, ensuring their safety and privacy in a rapidly evolving digital world.

Supporting The King Center’s Nonviolence365 initiative is an extension of our commitment to justice, freedom, and equity for all. Dr. King began this work, but it’s up to us to see it through. At LC, we are proud to embody his vision by using technology and innovation as tools to build a more just and equitable society.



Dr. Edmund H. Moore
Photo: J. Renee Creations

Name: *Dr. Edmund H. Moore*

Location: Dayton, Ohio

Community-related and volunteerism activities:

Co-chair of a 501-3-C NPO, Parity Inc. (parityinc.info) whose mission is to serve and advocate for social, civic and economic equity within the African American community; chair Dayton Region New Market Tax Credit Committee; Omega Baptist Church adult Sunday school teacher; board member of the Phoenix Next Board; member of The Dayton Foundation finance committee; mentor of young people and adults.

My understanding of this year’s theme: Dr. King’s ministry and purpose was ultimately about loving his fellow man just as he loved himself. That came from his loving God with all his mind, soul and strength. He could not profess to love a God that he could not see if he could not love his fellow brother or sister that he could see. This is the anchor to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s ministry. He also had to believe that his love for his brother was possible and that manifested into him pursuing a spirit of nonviolence, that he adopted from Ghandi, to strive for justice and freedom that undergirds our democracy. Our

idea of a great democracy is only sustained through the creation of a “beloved community” where love drives out violence and injustice in the world. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

Q: How do you feel about Dr. King’s work?

A: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. pursued an idealistic agenda that was undergird by the African American church, other religious organizations, many civic, fraternal, and social organizations. It was rooted in nonviolence and love. His hope was that his fellow brothers and sisters would alter their hearts based on his movement’s nonviolent actions that demonstrated love. For his work to succeed, the hearts of many must be altered to love their fellow brothers and sisters worldwide. His work is not finished, but it must be picked up by others to pursue the fulfillment of his mission. I can only do my part by collaborating with the community to build up our fellow citizens in the areas of education, health, economic development, public policy and community development. These impacts and improvements are only achievable by community collaborations. Let the journey of love continue.

My Mama's Vegan II: Vegan Pop-Up Comes to Historic Lexington Market

By Andrea Blackstone

Foodies do not have to sacrifice good-tasting food to eat healthy.

Kermit Fowlkes; Tia Hamilton; and Vegan Chef Debonette Wyatt are fulfilling their mission to bring flavorful, plant-based solutions to Baltimore's Lexington Market. The business owners and partners of My Mama's Vegan II specialize in creating vegan versions of homestyle comfort food favorites.

"My Mama's Vegan II is our first location of an existing brand," Wyatt, founder of My Mama's Vegan explained.

The vegan chef explained how she accidentally found her calling while offering meal prep services five years ago, when her business evolved into a full-service enterprise. However, after the pandemic started, the entrepreneur's original customer base began to disappear.

"We sold fish, chicken and all those things, but had a healthier option. I had a very small vegan menu," Wyatt recalled. "Nobody wanted my previous menu. So, the shift with customers wanting vegan food grew very, very fast."

Wyatt moved into a shared kitchen space. Then, Mama's Vegan evolved into a downsized sandwich café located in Urban Reads Bookstore owned by Hamilton. Hamilton stated that she is the only Black female bookstore owner with a storefront in Baltimore City. Both Hamilton and Wyatt were known as an industrious pair who loved hosting community events. The duo agreed to merge Mama's Vegan with Urban Reads in November of 2022.

"They [customers] were already coming in the store, and they already loved My Mama's Vegan. When we merged together, it was dynamic. They loved the idea," said Hamilton.



A sausage, egg, and cheese croissant on My Mama's Vegan II's menu.

Photos: Tia Hamilton

She further explained that a different vegan restaurant was supposed to open in Lexington Market but did not.

Hamilton added, "I hopped right on the opportunity to get us started in the process of getting in there. Then, I called Deb and I said, 'That's where we're going.'"

Hamilton knew Fowlkes because they had already done business together. Fowlkes, also owner of Focus Movers Relocation Service, embraced the evolving My Mama's Vegan II opportunity. A partnership was formed between the three current owners—Fowlkes, Hamilton, and Wyatt.

My Mama's Vegan II will eventually resume as a full-service café in the future. Although it is not yet known when the permanent space will be ready, My Mama's Vegan II is open to the public. It is located in Stall 29 upstairs in Lexington Market, 112 N. Eutaw Street in Baltimore, Maryland.

Menu highlights include mouthwatering options inspired by popular cuisines with a special focus on indulgent breakfast dishes such as a vegan sausage, egg, and cheese croissant, and a French toast triple stacker breakfast sandwich. The menu also showcases innovative plant-based recipes featuring oyster mushrooms and cauliflower. Food from Mama's Vegan II can also be ordered through



Da Triple Turkey BLT features seasoned, turkey deli meat and vegan bacon served on three slices of Texas toast with mayo, lettuce, onion, and tomato. My Mama's Vegan II menu offers 100 percent plant-based dishes.

DoorDash and Grubhub food delivery.

Fowlkes stated that Lexington Market and the surrounding areas qualify as a food desert which is defined as an area that lacks access to affordable, fresh, and healthy food choices.

"We want to produce something different, and want to produce something unique, and... we want to guide them [people] in the right direction."

Fowlkes noted that eating vegan food was not always an option for him because he lived in impoverished conditions where different food choices did not exist. He feels that providing people with an opportunity to try new food options can introduce their taste buds to something new while increasing their food knowledge.

Wyatt stated that some people believe that vegan food will not be appetizing. My Mama's Vegan II partners pride themselves in introducing customers to unfamiliar, palatable food options.

"A lot of times people think of everything that they have to give up, but you can still have foods that you enjoy. They're just going to be made from plants," she reminded.



Kermit Fowlkes, Vegan Chef Debonette Wyatt, and Tia Hamilton held a soft opening of My Mama's Vegan II on November 21, 2024. The vegan pop-up is located on Stall 29, upstairs, in Baltimore's Lexington Market.

She mentioned that menu items of previous customers who enjoyed Mama Vegan's offerings were not all vegans. Some of them wanted to try leading a healthier lifestyle that steers away from attracting health conditions such as diabetes and hypertension. Turning to vegan options can be a health-conscious step in the right direction.

"We look forward to introducing people to foods that are healthier," said Wyatt. Wyatt also reminded that running a business is hard on entrepreneurs who do not want to work themselves into the ground, but it is refreshing when reliable people can work together.

The Mama's Vegan II team hopes to inspire other entrepreneurs to collaborate.

"Give collaboration a chance. Baltimore has so much to offer!" Chef Wyatt suggested. Learn more about My Mama's Vegan II by visiting www.mymamasvegan2.com and <https://www.facebook.com/mymamaavegan>.

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Rambling Rose



The Baltimore Times—Still Bringing You Entertainment News!

By Rosa Pryor

Hello, my dear friends:
Happy New Year to all of you! I hope and pray that this year will be better than the last. I will continue to do my best to help you achieve that goal.

To start off, I want to talk about one of the best newspapers in Maryland, and I am proud to have been a part of it for almost 39 years.

Joy Bramble, my wonderful boss, founded The Baltimore Times 39 years ago on her dining room table on Madison Avenue in 1986. It began as a monthly publication, and after a few months she invited me to join the team and create a column to inform readers about what was happening in nightclubs, bars, restaurants, and live entertainment—an area in which I was significantly involved. I was so excited to say “yes,” and the rest is history!

As I look back on this journey, I can honestly say I have been as “happy as a tick on a dog’s back.” I am thrilled to continue my role as the Entertainment Columnist for such a fantastic newspaper.

Many of our readers enjoy The Baltimore Times, which reflects our motto: “positive stories about positive people.” We also host events and activities through our Times Community Services, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization established in 1998. This organization supports charitable giving of time, funds, and advocacy for health and educational initiatives. We partner with organizations and corporations on innovative projects that help create better-informed, healthy, and self-sufficient citizens.



Joy Bramble, owner of The Baltimore Times and The Annapolis Times newspapers. (Dr. Peter Bramble in the background)

Our community-building efforts include health expos, educational forums, workshops, and seminars aimed at communities most affected by disparities in healthcare, business, finance, and services for seniors.

While social media platforms like Facebook have impacted print newspapers, The Baltimore Times is also active on social media. You can like The Baltimore Times’ Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/TheBaltimoreTimes/>) and find links to read my column. You may also advertise your social events, organizations, and businesses. So, folks, come on, get on board!

If you’re not receiving The Baltimore Times in your neighborhood, please call us at 410-366-3900 ext 2 and leave a message for Ida Neal to get a subscription delivered to your mailbox weekly. And remember, if you’re hosting an event, call me at 410-833-9474 to advertise in my “Rambling Rose” column, and I’ll offer you a great rate. Join us in reading The Baltimore Times each week and you’ll come to love our “positive stories about positive



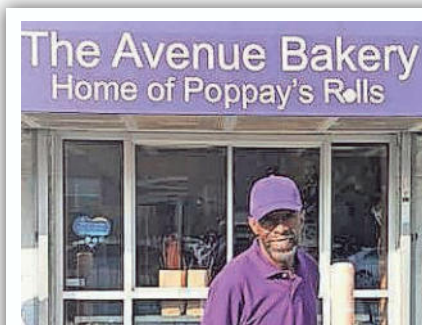
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard B. Goode: Bernard is the owner and founder of BGOODE Youth World Inc. and plans to open in 2025. He is seeking funding and support to get this project off the ground. He has been a Youth Minister for 25 years and is currently a Youth Pastor at his Lifesource International Church. For more information, call 443-928-9435.

people.” Share it with family, friends, and neighbors. Support us and let’s make it to 40 years together!

Oh! Before I forget, I want to let you know that one of my groups, Greg Hatza ORGANization with Peter Fraize; Robert Shahid, also on WEA Radio every Saturday morning; Brian Kooken; and Greg Hatza on organ, will be at the Keystone Korner Baltimore Restaurant & Bar, located 1350 Lancaster Street on Thursday, January 23. Call 410-946-6726 for more information and tell them “Rambling Rose” told you.

City View nightclub and restaurant is located at 6700 Security Blvd. and has live entertainment every Friday from 6-10 p.m. Travis Higgins & Soul Music will be featured on January 10 and January 17. The show will be produced by Tee-Shirt Brian and hosted by DJ Jazz. Free admission, free entertainment and free parking. By the way, their food is so good!

So, my dear friends, I have to go



James Hamlin, owner of the Avenue Bakery located 2229 Pennsylvania Avenue in Baltimore has been selected to receive an Eagle Award at Coppin State University’s 17th Annual Celebration of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Wednesday, January 15, at 9 a.m. in the University’s Talon Dining Center. For more information, call 410-951-3528.



Paul Carr presents “Real Jazz Wednesdays @ Takoma Station” featuring Ryan Hanseler Quartet on Wednesday, January 15, from 6-9 p.m. at Takoma Station Tavern, 6914 4th Street NW in Washington, DC.

now. I am out of space, but remember, if you need me anytime, just call me at 410-833-9474 or you can email me at rosapryor@aol.com.

REMEMBER, UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I’M MUSICALLY YOURS.

The Ravens are AFC North Champions! Team To Host Division Rival Steelers in Wild-Card Round Jan. 11th

By Ursula V. Battle

The Baltimore Ravens are the 2024 AFC North Champions, defeating the Cleveland Browns on Saturday, January 4, 2025 at M&T Bank Stadium in a romp. With the win, the 12-5 Ravens will take on their division rivals the Pittsburgh Steelers (10-7) in the Wild-Card round on Saturday, January 11 at M&T Bank Stadium.

The No. 3 seed Ravens will enter the game on a four-game winning streak, while the No. 6 seed Steelers have lost their last four games. In order to win the division, the Ravens first had to handle the Browns. They did so in convincing fashion, toppling the Browns by a score of 35-10 in front of a crowd of 70,756 who braved frigid temperatures and high winds to witness the victory.

Carol Williams was among those in attendance.

“It was extremely exciting to see our Baltimore Ravens win,” said Williams. “Even in that cold weather, it was still one of the most exciting experiences I have ever had...shout out to the entire Ravens team.”

She added, “Everything was great. Especially witnessing the Michael Pierce interception.”

Williams was referencing the 355-pound nose tackle Pierce recording his first career interception against the Browns.

“That was epic,” said Williams.

The Ravens fan noted it was her first time seeing a game at the stadium. Festivities included fireworks shot off from the stadium’s upper bowl ring, an introduction of the team’s NFL league-high nine 2024 Pro Bowlers, and a halftime performance by multi-platinum, legendary Hip Hop artist Rob Base.



Ravens fan Carol Williams taking in some of the day’s pre-game festivities. Photos: Ursula V. Battle

“Being in that atmosphere during the game was exhilarating and exciting,” she said. “There are many additional extras you get being at the stadium such as the fireworks.”

When asked about the Ravens’ chances against Pittsburgh, Williams said, “They won’t have any problems against Pittsburgh this weekend. I believe the Ravens learned from their mistakes last year. I think they are going all the way to the Super Bowl.”

The Steelers once sat atop the AFC North, but behind the stellar play of quarterback Lamar Jackson, running back Derrick Henry, and other playmakers, the Ravens bypassed the Steelers to once again take command of the division and win it with their victory over the Browns.

Gametime is at 8 p.m. and will air on Prime Video. A variety of events will take place leading up to the game. For more information about festivities or to purchase tickets visit, <https://www.baltimoreravens.com/>.



70,756 fans braved frigid temperatures to witness the Baltimore Ravens win the AFC North with a win over the Cleveland Browns.



Fans filing into M&T Bank Stadium

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