

# THE BALTIMORE TIMES

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*Love is in the Air*



Cute Couple— Roger and Patricia Johnson Harris, founder/CEO of African-American Author Expo and radio talk show host will be celebrating Valentine's Day as newly-weds. (See Rambling Rose event calendar on page 14)

# ***Weddings just got less expensive with launch of website***

By Stacy M. Brown

There is little doubt most would agree that getting married can be very expensive. However, for those seeking wedded bliss, there is good news.

Lauren Hines, a former Baltimore resident, has expanded GetWedForLess.com, an internet-based business that makes it cheaper to tie the knot.

"As a former bargain-hunting bride, I knew how difficult it was to find quality wedding vendors within a certain price range," said Hines, the founder and president of GetWedForLess.com, which launched in Atlanta in 2013 and now has expanded into several other markets, including Dallas, Los Angeles, Chicago and Baltimore. "Like more and more couples today, my then fiancé, who is now my hubby and the love of my life, and I were fronting the majority of the bill ourselves and we couldn't afford to have the \$25,000 plus metro area wedding."

Hines says when she came up with the idea of starting GetWedForLess.com, she thought "how cool" it would be to have a resource that not only saves brides money but also saves them some time and headache by giving them all the pertinent info they would need to find their vendors.

"The only things left for our brides to do is visit their favorite venues, try on the dresses, and taste the cakes. All of the fun stuff," she said.

The website serves as host for affordable vendors for brides and grooms to research and it includes wedding planners and other related necessities.

Hines said individuals in all markets require a trusted resource to find credible and affordable vendors to plan what could often be a stressful and expensive life-changing event. She said the team of market researchers at her website work to produce such resources and they can help save up to 60 percent on wedding costs.

Through a monthly subscription of less than \$2.50 per month, visitors are



*Former Baltimore resident Lauren Hines has expanded GetWedForLess.com, an internet-based business that makes it cheaper to tie the knot. The website serves as host for affordable vendors for brides and grooms to research and it includes wedding planners and other related necessities.*

Courtesy Photo

able to search, view prices and contact over 1,000 local and online vendors within 16 markets.

Hines, whose family emigrated from Jamaica decades ago, says she understands that a poor economy, a Great Recession or even a Great Depression

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won't stop brides and grooms from spending for their wedding.

"I think it goes back to the desire to see a dream fulfilled. Most brides have been dreaming about their wedding day from youth, so dropping dollars on what is to be one of the most important days—if not the most important day—of their life is a cost worth spending," she said. "No one wants to look back on their wedding day pictures and see horrible photography, images of ghastly bridal dresses and less-than-desirable wedding cake and food, and memories of a day gone wrong."

Hines continued, "That's why people are willing to spend for value. We just found a way to help bring that value at a price tag most couples can afford."

A recent analyst performed by the website, CostOfWedding.com, revealed that couples that live in or travel to Baltimore spend between \$22,855 and \$38,091 on average for their wedding, although some do pay \$10,000 or less.

Also, a recent new study performed at Emory University in Georgia found that couples who spend less on their wedding tend to have longer-lasting marriages than those who splurge.

"Since our launch in 2013, we have had over 31,000 guests on GetWedForLess.com. I believe vendors enjoy being on a different kind of wedding website that recognizes them for more than having just a company name," Hines said. "All vendors on our site are loved by their customers, are regarded as affordable within their city and category and are some of the most responsive, hard-working professionals you will find in the industry."

To subscribe or browse the website, visit: [www.GetWedForLess.com](http://www.GetWedForLess.com).

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# Guest Editorials/Commentary

## Boots on the ground

By Glenn Mollette

The war against Isis may require boots on the ground. These boots should not be the soldiers of the United States of America. I have been as incensed as many other American over the barbaric beheadings of our own Americans and the burning of a recent Jordanian prisoner. Isis is truly the scum of the earth. They are worse than scum. My Christian upbringing will not allow me to use words to express my feelings about Isis. They are evil and need to be eliminated from the planet. Our world cannot tolerate this cancer that is filled with such vicious hate for the rest of the planet.

America should help, but not with boots on the ground. Isis would love nothing more than for America to send 20,000 troops over to fight with

them but that's not the answer. We have had boots on the ground for too many years in Afghanistan and Iraq. Americans are sick and tired of the Middle East. For years the Middle East has manipulated us with their vast amounts of oil. America has worried too much about the flow of oil from this part of the world because of our dependence on oil. We have plenty of energy and we must stop all senseless Middle East wars just to protect oil interests.

The boots on the ground against Isis should be the people in the region where Isis is at work. America can help with air strikes that already are costing us millions of dollars. America has the best intelligence in the world so let's use our intelligence forces, drones, air strikes and strategically coordinate with Jordan, Turkey, Israel, Iraq and Afghanistan to eliminate Isis.

Unfortunately this will be a malignancy that will come back. This is all the more reason why the people in the Middle East must be the ones do the groundwork.

Why get into a ground war that will cost us two trillion dollars and sacrifice 4000 more of our men and women? This would become a war that would be another ten years or maybe an assault that might go on forever. The armies and soldiers of the Middle East can fight this war. We can help them with arms, intelligence, air strikes and money but keep our troops off the ground.

Kobani is a good example. After 112 days of fighting and many U.S. and Arab air strikes the Kurdish fighters took back the city of Kobani. The city is in ruins. However, the Kurds with U.S. and Arab air support eventually ran Isis out of this strategic spot. With weapons, ammunition, air support and our intelligence helping these Kurdish fighters, Jordan and other Arab allies we can eventually beat back and destroy much of Isis for the time being.

In the meantime we must secure our own nation. As terror plots are hatched in our own country it will be up to us to defend America. When those times come, America will have boots on the ground—all of our boots.

*Dr. Glenn Mollette is a syndicated American columnist and author. For more information or to contact him, visit: [www.glennmollette.com](http://www.glennmollette.com)*



## Community Affairs

### Initiative launched to increase access to fresh, healthy foods in Maryland's 'Food Deserts'

Crownsville, Md.— Maryland is joining the growing movement to expand access to fresh fruits and vegetables in under-served communities known as "food deserts."

Food deserts are communities that do not have easy access to affordable healthy foods, typically because those communities do not have a local supermarket or grocery store. They can be in urban, suburban or rural communities.

Maryland's Fresh Food Financing Initiative provides flexible financing for the start-up, rehabilitation or expansion of businesses and nonprofits in designated food desert or sustainable communities with an emphasis on using Maryland farmers. The goal is to invest in lending partners that will in turn support the development of food-related enterprises within designated Food

Deserts and Sustainable Communities.

Applications are now available for local governments seeking to designate a neighborhood as a food desert, as well as for community development financial institutions seeking to become intermediaries that will originate and administer loans.

The General Assembly established financial assistance for food deserts by a bipartisan vote last year. The federal government estimates that more than 70 Census tracts in Maryland qualify as food deserts.

The federal government defines a food desert as a low-income Census tract where at least 500 people or a third of the population has low access to a supermarket or large grocery store. In an urban area, this means living at least a mile from such a store; in a rural area, at least 10 miles.

Although some critics argue that increasing access to healthier foods is not a panacea, the initiative fits DHCD's neighborhood revitalization strategy by helping small businesses better serve their communities.

For more information, visit: [www.dhcd.maryland.gov/Website/Programs/FreshFood/](http://www.dhcd.maryland.gov/Website/Programs/FreshFood/).

# Page Opposite/Commentaries

## The Legacy of Carter G. Woodson

By Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.  
NNPA Columnist

The best way to celebrate Black History Month is to make more black history. Black History Month is now celebrated around the world. We are grateful for the visionary leadership of noted historian and scholar Carter G. Woodson for being the founder of what was known as Negro History Week in 1926 that 44 years later evolved into Black History Month.

It is also important to note that this year marks the centennial celebration of Woodson's founding of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). The mission of ASALH is to "promote, research, preserve, interpret and disseminate information about Black life, history and culture to the global community." Established in 1915, the association has no peer in the preservation of our rich history.

ASALH continues to extend the legacy Carter G. Woodson "speaking a fundamental truth to the world—that Africans

and peoples of African descent are makers of history and co-workers in what W. E. B. Du Bois called, The Kingdom of Culture." Yes, it is clearly of the greatest necessity for all of us to support and spread knowledge about the accomplishments of Woodson, which included his landmark, *The Miseducation of the Negro*. Written in 1933, the book is as

and evolution in the cradle of the heart of Africa.

Today, when I hear people say that black Americans have a challenge with science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) academic courses and disciplines, I ask: Why? We are the originators of math and science. One of the reasons Black History Month is so im-

**"We are a proud people. We are an African people. We are the black family, community, nation and global community. We are a people of the centuries-long struggle for freedom, justice and equality. Our history did not begin or end with the tragedy and holocaust of transatlantic slavery. The history of African people begins with God's creation of humanity."**

timely today as it was 82 years ago.

We must not allow anyone or anything to diminish or to dismiss the uninterrupted relevance and importance of black American history, culture and intellectual genius. The "fundamental truth" about the glorious and triumphant history of peoples of African descent needs to be retold and appreciated by all people throughout the world.

We are a proud people. We are an African people. We are the black family, community, nation and global community. We are a people of the centuries-long struggle for freedom, justice and equality. Our history did not begin or end with the tragedy and holocaust of transatlantic slavery. The history of African people begins with God's creation of humanity. We are the original people. Human civilization had its birth

portant is because it forces us to remind ourselves that high achievement and excellent academic performance are a vital components of our historical evolution. Being skilled in science and math is not tantamount to "acting white," whatever that is. Rather, it's thinking black in the finest of traditions.

In a real sense Black History Month is Black Achievement Month. We must do a better job in defining and controlling the narrative about black Americas in the past, currently and the future. The so-called "mainstream" media is still full of negative stereotypes and debilitating caricatures when it comes to reporting news, sports or about the cultural arts of people of African descent.

Here are my five recommendations for properly celebrating this 2015 Black History Month:

•#Black Lives Matter: We endorse the national social media campaign to assert the value of all black American lives and to confront and stop racially motivated police brutality.

•Let's strengthen black-owned businesses this month not only by buying Black, but by encouraging the mentorship and development of a new generation of young entrepreneurs.

•Financially support the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), whether to an individual college, or through the National Association For Equality Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO), the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) or the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund. Make a contribution to support HBCUs this month.

•Subscribe to a black owned newspaper this month for yourself and for a relative. #OurVoice75 Support the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) 75th Anniversary throughout this year.

•Let's prepare to reassert our demand for the protection of the voting rights of all people and in particular for black Americans as we approach in the next few weeks the 50th Anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery March.

Let's make more history together. Our future will be determined by what we do today. Let's make this Black History Month a time of both reflection and action to advance the interests of black America and all African people everywhere.

*Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is the President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association. To contact him, email: dr.bchavis@nnpa.org.*

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# Creator of HBCU web series hails from Annapolis

By Andrea Blackstone

Christian Smooth is a 24-year-old Annapolis resident who has thrown his hat into the independent filmmaking ring. When he is able to coordinate schedules of volunteer actors, Smooth shoots episodes of his original web series called "The Student Body," based on life at a fictional Historically Black College (HBCU) in Baltimore, called Nagrom State University.

The Morgan State University alumnus graduated in 2013 with a degree screenwriting and animation.

Creation of "The Student Body" was sparked by Smooth's observant nature during his college years.

"When I was a student at Morgan, I would see the same people every day, at the same place, at the same time. It sounds odd, but I would think about the day-to-day life of my fellow students. The anthology concept for the show was a natural fit. It allowed me to break free and tell stories about whoever and whatever I wanted," Smooth said.

"Researching life and observing students, faculty and employees at Morgan inspired me to create the series about HBCUs."

Actors who appear in the web series consist of Smooth's friends and extras who are referred by local casting directors and modeling agencies. Smooth shoots the web series with a Cannon DSLR camera. Chris Allen, Smooth's director of photography, shot the first two episodes. The creator currently completes everything on a shoestring budget. Web series scenes have been shot at Morgan State University, the Stanton Community Center, Wiley H. Bates High School and Bowie Town Center.

"I choose my locations based on what



Annapolis resident Christian Smooth, age 24, is the creator of the web series "The Student Body," which is based on life at a fictional Historically Black College in Baltimore, called Nagrom State University.

Courtesy Photo

I have access to, or where I think I can get some interesting shots," Smooth said.

The messages that the filmmaker inserts in episodes appeals to both young and old but he avoids preaching. He wants viewers to interpret messages for themselves. Word of mouth advertising drives traffic to Smooth's YouTube channel.

Web television is an emerging medium that allows a new generation of filmmakers to gain exposure of their work.

"Social media really gets people to watch and share my shows," Smooth said.

Smooth used his web series as his senior project in 2012-2013. His college team fell apart when he was in dire need of participation to get it off the ground.

"When my team dropped out I had two problems. The first being we were set to premiere the first episode March 14, 2013. My professor didn't think I could make the deadline [because] I had a little

less than a month to put it together," Smooth said.

The filmmaker said that the experience was the best thing that could have happened to him. Smooth earned an A in his Senior Studio II class, regained complete control of "The Student Body" and gained more confidence in his abilities.

Today, he collaborates with other creative Marylanders while continuing to polish his skills. Smooth is searching for film festivals where he can submit a documentary or his web series. He also captures events, daily life and pop culture in Annapolis.

"I put on my director's hat and never looked back. I realized I can become a filmmaker and not just a writer. It's a lesson that I'm happy I learned, because it prepared me for what may lay ahead in my career," Smooth said.

An online publication, HBCU Digest, named Smooth's web series one of the top five produced by students, faculty and alumni in 2013. BuzzFeed, a website featuring breaking buzz and social content, ultimately stumbled upon Smooth's work. A user in their community named "The Student Body" as one of 10 must-watch black web series in 2014.

"'The Student Body' is a passion project and it's a project that I hope will land me a job in the film making industry. I would like to work as a showrunner for TV," Smooth said.

Smooth is also an author and the founder/ president of Smooth House Productions. The company offers video production services for artists and business owners. To watch episodes of "The Student Body" visit <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheSmoothHouse>.

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# What are the Ravens plans for free agent safety Will Hill?

By Turron Davenport

As the Baltimore Ravens enter the off-season, the team has a few decisions to make regarding free agents. One of which will be the type of contract that should be offered to restricted free agent safety Will Hill.

Hill is a player signed during training camp. He came in, learned the defense and was a productive player in the secondary after serving a six game suspension. Most players who have achieved the level of success that Hill has with the Ravens would easily be able to secure a long-term deal.

Hill is only 24 years old, which is still young by NFL standards. However, it's not his age that may make teams less likely to commit to him long term. Hill has served three NFL mandated suspensions but seems to have gotten on track after spending a season with the Ravens. Different things can motivate a player to get their life in order. Hill recently had a baby. Becoming a parent will make most people grow up and make better choices. He mentioned how his mindset is different now.

"I sit in the house with my family. I used to be a nightclub guy, especially coming out of college," Hill said. "I got caught up in a lifestyle before, but I'm accountable now and do things differently. I've just been watching a lot of movies. I'm a homebody. I took a long look in the mirror and decided to change a lot of things."

The Ravens have a veteran locker room that can support a guy like Will Hill. While with the New York Giants, Hill was able to lean on veteran safety Antrel Rolle. Hill himself has become a mentor for the Ravens younger safeties, especially Matt Elam and Terrence Brooks. Elam had a tough stretch in which he saw decreased playing time. It was Hill



*Will Hill of the Baltimore Ravens returns an interception for a touchdown in the third quarter of the game against the New Orleans Saints at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome in New Orleans on November 24, 2014.*

*Courtesy Photo/www.ravens.com*

who helped him to get through the disappointment. He motivated Elam to keep working hard and plugging away because another shot was coming. That's what leaders do. They rally the troops whether it is on a one by one basis or the whole group.

Ravens head coach John Harbaugh has said that they intend to bring Hill back but they are challenging him.

"We're challenging him for the next three or four months," Harbaugh said. "Are you going to come back a better player than you were when you left here in January, and is that slate going to be clean? We fully expect it to be."

Harbaugh recognizes that Will Hill has a lot of talent and that he learned a pretty tough defense in a short amount of time.

## Open Society Institute-Baltimore series "Talking About Race"

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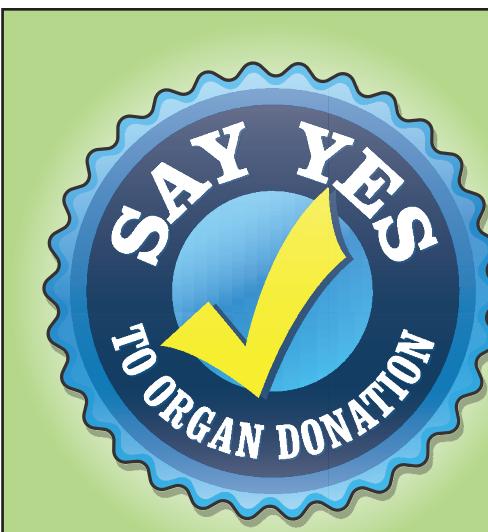
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Bryan Stevenson, executive director of Equal Justice Initiative, will discuss his book "Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption."

He is looking forward to seeing how Hill will progress in his second year with the Ravens.

This off-season is one of the most important ones in Will Hill's young career. It is clear that he has the talent to be one of the better safeties in the NFL. He showed that especially during the game against the New Orleans Saints. Hill did an excellent job of limiting all world tight end Jimmy Graham. He even had a game sealing 44-yard interception return during that game.

The Ravens will surely tender him a restricted free agent deal. That contract could end up being a long term one if Hill can show that he has truly left the troubles behind. An uneventful off-season would be exactly what Hill needs. Once again, a team will be relying on him to compliment his talent with good behavior. Hill fell short of doing so for the Giants over the past few years. The Ravens hope that taking a chance with him pays off and he will blossom into the kind of player that his talent dictates.



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## Pratt librarian honored with Coretta Scott King - Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement

Baltimore—The Enoch Pratt Free Library is proud to announce that School and Student Services Coordinator Deborah Taylor is the recipient of the Coretta Scott King – Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement.

The Coretta Scott King - Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement is named in memory of beloved children's author Virginia Hamilton. The annual award is presented in even years to an African American author, illustrator or author/illustrator for a body of his or her published books for children and/or young adults, and who has made a significant and lasting literary contribution. The recipient of the inaugural award was Walter Dean Myers in 2010.

In odd years, the award is presented to a practitioner for substantial contributions through active engagement with youth using award winning African American literature for children and/or young adults, via implementation of reading and reading related activities/programs. Dr. Henrietta M. Smith was the recipient of the first practitioner award in 2011.

Virginia Hamilton was an award-winning author of children's books. She wrote more than 35 books throughout her career, including "M. C. Higgins, the Great," for which she won the 1975



**Deborah Taylor**  
Courtesy Photo

Newbery Medal. During her lifetime, Hamilton received numerous awards including the Coretta Scott King Book Award, the Edgar Allan Poe Award, the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award, and the Hans Christian Andersen Award.

"Deb Taylor is truly deserving of this prestigious national award," said Chief Executive Officer Carla D. Hayden. "Deb is the consummate professional whose advocacy for diversity and inclusion for literature and services to young people has been extraordinary. She has never wavered in her belief that all young people need to see themselves in books and be free to explore the world."

For more information about the School and Student Services Department, visit our website at [www.prattlibrary.org](http://www.prattlibrary.org).

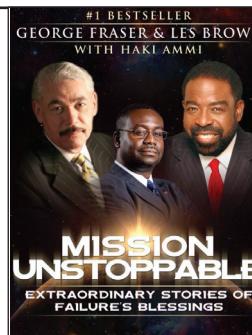
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[www.successscholarhaki.com](http://www.successscholarhaki.com) or call 410-209-9687. Cost 18.00.

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# Marylanders asked to share what starting school after Labor Day means to them

Selected videos to be posted on "Let Summer Be Summer" YouTube Channel

Annapolis—Building on the overwhelming success of his "Let Summer Be Summer" petition drive, Comptroller Peter Franchot is now asking Marylanders to submit videos describing what starting school after Labor Day would mean to them and their families.

"I would like to hear from citizens from across our great state and share those video testimonials with lawmakers," Comptroller Franchot said. "The more than 13,240 Marylanders who signed the petition have made it clear they support starting school after Labor Day to give families, students, teachers and small businesses the break they need, and deserve. It gives students time to learn life lessons beyond the classroom, teachers time to recharge their batteries and small businesses a much needed boost during tough economic times."

To submit a video, follow these guidelines:

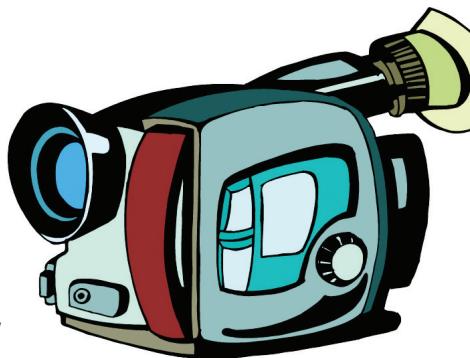
\*Email videos to [letsummerbesummer@gmail.com](mailto:letsummerbesummer@gmail.com)

\*Any videos exceeding the 25MB limit of Gmail must be posted online on YouTube or \*Vimeo and the web address (URL) provided.

\*The videos should not exceed two minutes in length.

\*Please include your name, address and email.

Each person will receive a personal



thank you from the Comptroller and those who submit an especially funny or clever video will receive a "Let Summer Be Summer" T-shirt. The best videos will be posted on the Let Summer Be Summer YouTube channel.

Last month at a press conference in Annapolis, Comptroller Franchot along with Governor Larry Hogan, Ocean City Mayor Richard W. Meehan, state Senator James N. Mathias Jr. and other elected officials announced the results of the "Let Summer Be Summer" petition drive. With overwhelming support from every corner of the state, more than 13,240 people signed the petition. Gov. Hogan also added his name to the signatures and fondly recalled spending Labor Day weekend working in Ocean City before heading back to the classroom.

Last August, the campaign kicked off on the Ocean City Boardwalk and Deep Creek Lake. The list of supporters, which continues to grow, has been presented to members of the General Assembly. The grassroots, citizen-led "Let Summer Be Summer" petition campaign came on the heels of a May 2014 governor's task force recommendation that the state's public schools delay opening until after Labor Day. The state task force met for nearly a year and voted 11 to 4 to embrace a later start date and extend summer vacation statewide.

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# St. Mary's College of Maryland president an influential Marylander

St. Mary's City, Md.— St. Mary's College of Maryland President Tuajuanda C. Jordan has been selected as an "Influential Marylander" by the Daily Record and will be honored March 26, 2015 at an event in Cockeysville, Maryland.

Fifty-one honorees were selected by the editors of The Daily Record for their significant contributions to their respective fields and for their leadership in Maryland in the following areas: civic leadership, communications, education, finance, freestyle, general business, health care, law, philanthropy, real estate and technology.

"Accomplishment, leadership and vision describe the 2015 Influential Marylanders. They work hard to spark innovation and progress, meeting a variety of challenges in Maryland and beyond," said Suzanne Fischer-Huettner, publisher of The Daily Record. "They are always striving and constantly aware of our challenges while both willing and able to meet them. They are, quite simply, inspirational and influential."

Jordan was inaugurated as St. Mary's College's seventh president in October 2014. Prior to St. Mary's College, Jordan served as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of chemistry at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon beginning 2011. From 2005 to 2011, Jordan was the director of the Science Education Alliance (SEA) of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in Chevy Chase, Maryland. As director, Jordan led a collaborative effort designed to have scientists and educators work together to enhance science literacy while preparing the next generation of scientists. She also headlined the National Genomics Research Initiative in 2008, a program that exposes first-year college students to hands-on genomics research.

Her honors include being named a Purdue University Distinguished Alumni from the School of Agriculture in 2008, and, in 2009, being named a "revolutionary mind" by Seed magazine. In 2014, Jordan was honored by the



**St. Mary's College of Maryland President Tuajuanda C. Jordan**  
**Courtesy Photo**

National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Baltimore Metropolitan Chapter, with its Torchbearer Award, recognizing her contributions in education with an emphasis on science, technology, engineering and

mathematics.

For a complete list of the 2015 honorees, visit [www.thedailyrecord.com/influential-marylanders/winners/](http://www.thedailyrecord.com/influential-marylanders/winners/)



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**SOMETIMES GOOD FEEDS MORE THAN THE SOUL.** Anthony Delgado founded I Care Atlanta, an organization that partners with grocers to fight hunger and break the cycle of poverty among the city's poor and homeless. Celebrate inspirational people like Anthony and let their stories of good inspire you this Black History Month. Visit [Allstate.com/giveitupforgood](http://Allstate.com/giveitupforgood).

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# HBCU athletes honored at Banneker-Douglass Museum during Black History Month

By Andrea Blackstone

The Banneker-Douglass Museum (BDM) is featuring untold stories of HBCU athletes who helped to shape African American college athletics, while also hosting a companion sports exhibit. On February 7, 2015, two exhibitions—"Untold Stories: Athletes of Maryland's Historically Black Colleges and Universities" and "Hometown Teams: How Sports Shaped America"—opened at the Banneker-Douglass Museum.

During Black History Month Maryland athletes who attended four local HBCUs will be featured. The majority of the personal items included in the exhibit belong to notable alum who attended Coppin State University; Morgan State University; Bowie State University; and University of Maryland, Eastern Shore. Items were also borrowed from individual collections of each school.

The Banneker-Douglass Museum, located at 84 Franklin Street in Annapolis, is one of five Maryland sites selected by the Maryland Humanities Council to host "Hometown Teams: How Sports Shaped America."

The exhibit "Hometown Teams: How Sports Shaped America," which was launched at BDM will travel to five host sites selected by the Maryland Humanities Council.

Shakia M. Gullette, curator of exhibitions at the Banneker-Douglass Museum explained the composition of both exhibits.

"The BDM exhibition is 'Untold Stories: Athletes of Maryland's Four Historically Black Colleges and Universities.' 'Untold Stories' celebrates the stellar achievements of athletes who helped shape African American college athletics. 'Untold Stories' infuses both locally and nationally known sports figures who matriculated through the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in Maryland. Featured athletes include Hall of Fame offensive tackle, and first African American to coach a

professional football team, Art Shell; Maryland's tennis pioneer, Ann Koger; and two-time Olympic Gold and Silver Medalist, Rochelle Stevens. Artifacts showcased in the exhibition range from a megaphone used by spirit squads in the 1950's to a commemorative medallion from the 1986 Pro Football Hall of Fame induction ceremony."

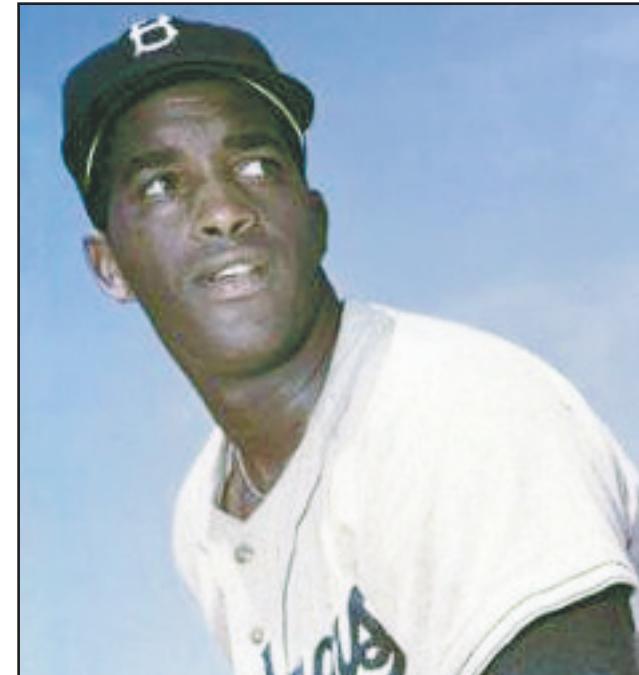
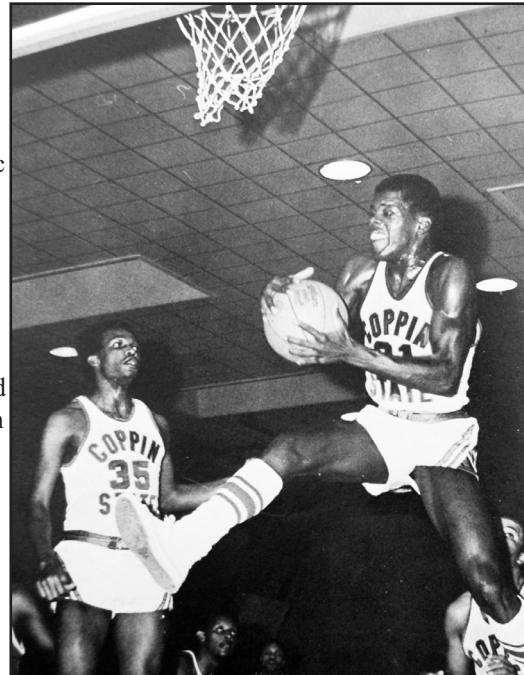
Gullette also said that over 100 people from various places within the state helped to welcome the newest exhibitions, during an opening reception. The keynote speaker of the event was Dr. Edwin T. Johnson, an adjunct professor of history at the University of Maryland University College.

"A special presentation during the opening reception included a word from Marie Banks, widow of former Denver Bronco and Super Bowl champion, Christopher Warren Banks. On hand that day were the two Super Bowl rings won by Banks in 1998 and 1999," Gullette said.

"Hometown Teams: How Sports Shaped America" will run at BDM through March 20, 2015. The companion exhibition, "Untold Stories: Athletes of Maryland's Historically Black Colleges and Universities" will run until October 17, 2015. The exhibitions are free and open to the public, Tuesday to Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, about BDM or the exhibits, visit <http://bdmuseum.maryland.gov>.

Send your community calendar events  
to: [kreevie@btimes.com](mailto:kreevie@btimes.com)



*Photographs of Colvin Carter (left) and Joe Black (right) are part of two exhibitions at the Banneker-Douglass Museum in Annapolis during Black History Month. "Hometown Teams: How Sports Shaped America" will run until March 20, 2015 and the companion exhibition, "Untold Stories: Athletes of Maryland's Historically Black Colleges and Universities" will run until October 17, 2015.*

Courtesy Photos

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# MECU Neighborhood Event Grants Available for 2015

*Neighborhoods and community-based non-profits can receive up to \$1,000*

Baltimore—Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts are excited to announce the return of MECU Neighborhood Event Grants for 2015! Each year, the program awards cash grants to Baltimore neighborhood associations and community-based non-profit organizations for the purpose of producing special events.

Thanks to the support of MECU, eligible groups can receive up to \$1,000 to produce an event for the community and residents they serve, such as art workshops, back-to-school rallies, block parties, book drives, food drives, health fairs and neighborhood clean-ups.

"MECU is proud of its sponsorship of the Neighborhood Event Grants. This will be the fourth year we have helped so many of our community organizations in Baltimore reach the people they serve," said Herman Williams Jr., Chairman of the Board. "As Baltimore's Credit Union, we have a commitment to help develop strong communities and this grant program lets us reach every corner of the City."

Applications and guidelines are available at [www.promotionandarts.org](http://www.promotionandarts.org); click on the "Grants" tab. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at 5p.m.

MECU Neighborhood Event Grants are a program of the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts and are supported by MECU, Baltimore's Credit Union.

\*Applicants must be a 501(c)(3) organization and based in Baltimore City. Proposed events must be free and open to the public. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis.

\*Required materials include a completed application, tax exemption documentation, financial statement and project budget.

\*Grant recipients must attend a workshop on Saturday, April 25, 2015 from 10 a.m. to noon.

The mandatory workshop takes place at the main office of MECU, located at 7 E. Redwood Street, 20th floor, Baltimore, MD.

For more information on the MECU Neighborhood Event Grants, call 410-752-8632 or visit [www.promotionandarts.org](http://www.promotionandarts.org).

*We love to hear from our readers!  
[Facebook.com/TheBaltimoreTimes](https://www.facebook.com/TheBaltimoreTimes)*

# Rambling Rose

## Happy Valentine's Day!

Hello everyone, I hope you have a fantastic Valentine's Day and plan on enjoying some Black History Month events this weekend. There is so much going on that I barely have space to include it in my column. This week I will set up a calendar of events, so you can decide which and how many events you want to go to in the next couple of weekends.

First I want to wish all my Valentine's Sweethearts and couples a very Happy Valentine's Day and ladies may the heart and flowers come from your sweetheart be very special.

### Calendar of Events:

**Friday, February 13,** STAR Fundraiser An Affair of the Heart (Sisters Together and Reaching), a faith-based community organization that provides services to the HIV/AIDS community is hosting a formal and Masquerade Extravaganza at the Vollmer Center at Cylburn Arboretum, 4915 Greenspring Avenue from 7-11 p.m. Live entertainment will be provided by Charles Arnette Jazz Ensemble, Tracey Curbeam and DJ Shay. Also, I will be there for a book signing. For more information, call Gwen at 410-967-7503.

**Sunday, February 15, 3-8 p.m.** The Baltimore Area Alumni Association Alpha Phi Omega Fraternity, Inc. will host their "Annual Cocktail Sip" at the Forum Caterers, 4210 Primrose Avenue with open bar and buffet. Book signing by Rambling Rose, vendors and music by Mie Jones. For ticket information, call Jim "Magic" Johnson at 410-744-9595.

**Saturday, February 14, 8 p.m. until 2 a.m.** Brian Hall is hosting a Valentines Extravaganza at the Patapsco Arena, 3301 Annapolis Road cabaret style; BYOF, cash bar, free setups, dancing, best red dress contest, Rambling Rose book signing and vendors. There will be lots of live entertainment including Black Ivory, The Ebony's, First Impressions, Fabulous Friends, BADD, First Class, Ms' Maybelle, hosted by Courtman and special Honoree, Travis Winkey. For ticket information, call 410-929-1360.



Rosa Pryor Trusty

**Saturday, February 14, 12 noon-4 p.m.**, the Afro-American Historical & Genealogical Society (Agnes Kane Callum Chapter) is hosting a Genealogy EXPO at the Northwood Pratt Library, 4420 Loch Raven Blvd. Yours Truly, Rambling Rose will also do a book signing with my new book. For more information, call 410-358-9875.

Friday & Saturday, February 13, 14 Lexington Market will continue to host their Black History Month featuring the Great Blacks in Wax Exhibit and the Buffalo Soldiers Exhibit will also be there along with authors book signings. Open to the public.

**Friday-Sunday, February 13- 15,** the Mid Atlantic Jazz Festival is being held in the Juke Joint at the Hilton Washington DC/Rockville Hotel & Executive Meeting Center, 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland featuring: Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark; Nadine Rae; Kenny Sparks; Charles Adkins; Ellis Marsalis; Carmen Lundy; Kenny Barron; Craig Handy, and many more. For ticket information, email: aclark@anthonyswampdogclark.com. Or www.midatlanticjazzfestival.org.

**Sunday, February 22, 4-8 p.m.**, Tiger Davis & the National Association for Black Veterans, Inc. will host their 15th Annual Memorial Buffalo Soldiers Banquet at Morgan State University Ballroom. Live entertainment, vendors, cocktails, food and Yours Truly will be there for a book signing. For more information, call 410-302-6758 and tell them Rosa Pryor told you.

Well, my dear friends, it is about that time. I am out of space and out of time. Remember, if you need me, call me at 410-833-9474 or email me at rosapryor@aol.com.

UNTIL THE NEXT, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.



## Rambling Rose's Cute Couples



Jeff and Shirley Supik, historian and owner of the historical Emmart Pierpont Safe House.

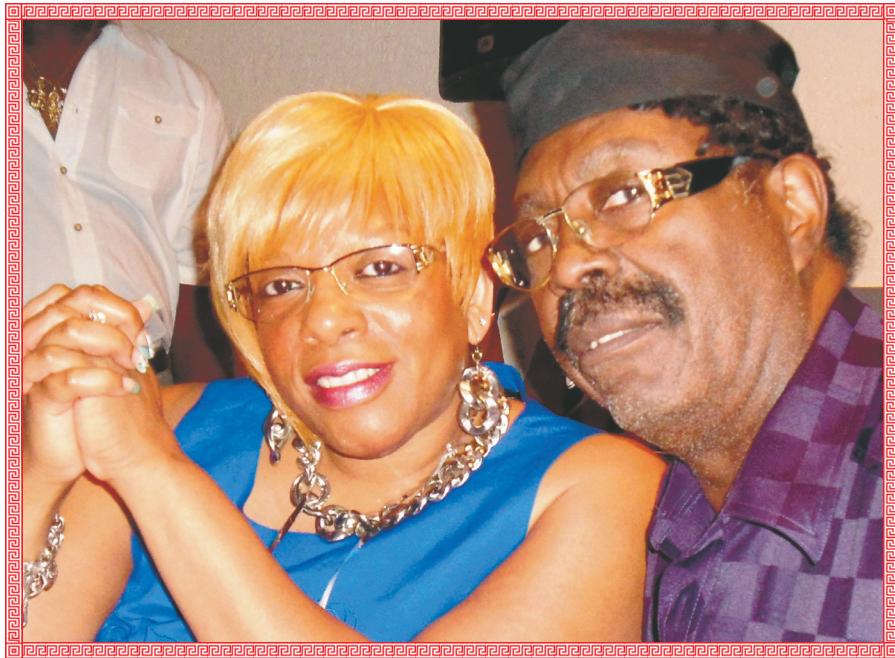


Rod "Bunky" Ferebee & Sharon Alford,  
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# *Rambling Rose's Cute Couples*



*Candes and Dante Daniels, owners of Colin's Seafood & Grill and Maceo's Lounge.*



*Carlton and Darlene Douglass, owner of Carlton Douglass Funeral Services.*



*Greg and Marlyn Hatza Renowned Musician and wife.*



*Vernard and Yvonne Wynn.*

# BGE, Exelon's African-American Resource Alliance Balto. Chapter Celebrate Black History Month

Baltimore— Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) and parent company Exelon's African-American Resource Alliance (EAARA) Baltimore Chapter are celebrating Black History Month by supporting local arts, educational and diversity events in February that honor those who have shaped the past and those who are continuing to shape the future.

This year's programs and events highlight the contributions of African Americans to the Greater Baltimore, central Maryland and Washington, D.C. regions. This year's events include:

•**Tuesday, February 17, 2015** – “Corporate America’s Responsibility in Community Engagement” with keynote speaker Roland Martin. Martin is the Host/Managing Editor of TV One’s daily morning show, News One Now, Senior Analyst, Tom Joyner Morning Show, Author, International Speaker and CEO, Nu Vision Media.

•**Monday, February 23, 2015** – Career Development Insights from Susan L. Taylor: Nurturing Your Passion Along Your Career Path – This event exclusively for BGE, Constellation and Exelon employees will feature Susan L. Taylor, founder and chief executive officer of National CARES Mentoring Movement and Editor in Chief Emerita of Essence Magazine.

In addition, BGE is a sponsor of the Baltimore Concert Opera’s presentation of “This Little Light of Mine,” in honor of Black History Month on Friday, February 27 at 7:30 p.m. and March 1, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.. “This Little Light of Mine” was originally commissioned by Cincinnati Opera and written and performed by soprano Adrienne Danrich. This poignant, multimedia “live documentary” is an inventive one woman musical tribute honoring the groundbreaking careers of two African-American opera legends who overcame many racial barriers from the Jim Crow era through the Civil Rights Movement to become international opera stars. Marian Anderson became the first African-American singer to perform at The Metropolitan



*Roland Martin*



*Marian Anderson (left) and Leontyne Price*



*Susan L. Taylor*



*Adrienne Danrich  
Soprano*



*Djordje Nesic  
Pianist*

Opera House and Leontyne Price would take that torch and carry it to The Metropolitan Opera and the most prestigious opera houses around the world.

BGE proudly celebrates diversity year-round through charitable giving and volunteer support to programs and organizations that support diversity in the communities the company serves. To learn more about BGE’s charitable and volunteer efforts, visit [bge.com/giving](http://bge.com/giving).

*Courtesy Photos*

## Community Action seeks stories from residents

The Community Action Agency (CAA) is preparing to commemorate fifty (50) years of service to low-income families in Anne Arundel County. We are seeking brief written recollections of personal experiences from individuals who have ther participated in, or worked with an agency programs such as Energy Assistance, Head Start, Youth Service Bureau, Senior Aides or Housing.

If at some time during the past 50 years, Community Action has had an impact on your life, please send us a brief remembrance (one or two paragraphs) so that we might include your narrative in our CAA Souvenir booklet.

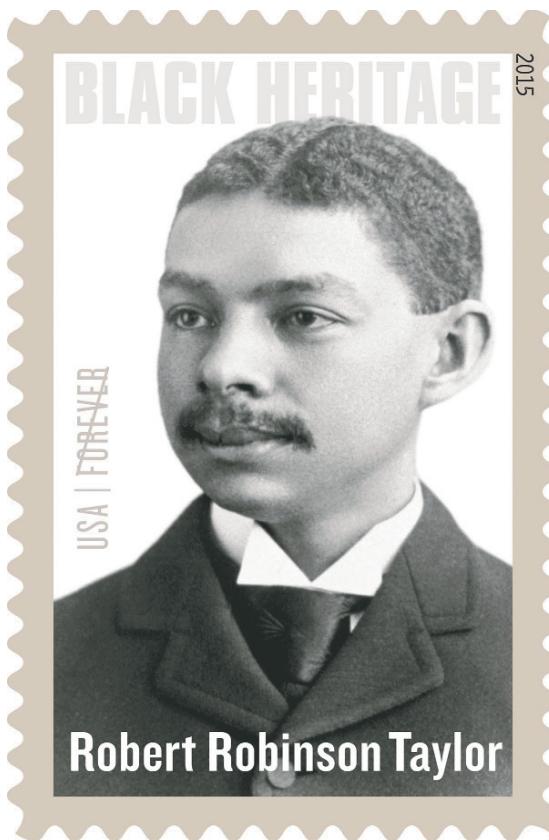
Please send your your written recollection by mail to P.O. Box 1952, Annapolis, MD 21404-1951 or e-mail Max Ochs at: [maxochs@gmail.com](mailto:maxochs@gmail.com)

# U.S. stamp honoring Tuskegee University architect released

Tuskegee, Ala.—The most prolific contributor to Tuskegee University's structural design and the namesake of its architecture and construction school will be honored with the launch of a new U.S. postage stamp. On Thursday, February 12, 2015, the United States Postal Service issued a limited edition of the Forever Stamp of Robert Robinson Taylor. The stamp is the 38th addition to the service's Black Heritage series.

Taylor is believed to have been both the first black graduate of MIT and the country's first academically trained black architect. The Taylor stamp was officially introduced during a ceremony in the atrium of the Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C. Tuskegee University president, Dr. Brian L. Johnson, delivered remarks, along with Valerie Jarrett, Taylor's great granddaughter and senior advisor to President Barack Obama; and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) president Rafael Reif. A celebration of the stamp's launch is also planned at Tuskegee University for later this month.

Recruited by Tuskegee's first president, Booker T. Washington, Taylor came to the university in 1892



and spent nearly his entire career teaching, developing the architecture and construction trade program, and designing more than 20 campus buildings until his death in 1942. He was also the architect of The Oaks, Washington's home and modern day historic site. Many of his historic campus buildings still stand and are used today.

On the same day of the Washington, D.C. stamp launch, a second presentation was made in the Smithsonian National Postal Museum to help open its "Freedom Just Around the Corner" exhibit. Jarrett initiated the ribbon cutting. Tuskegee has also loaned several pieces to the gallery exhibit, which will run until February 6, 2016.

Daya Irene Taylor (no relation), interim dean of the Robert R. Taylor School of Architecture and Construction Science marvels at the significance of Taylor's contributions to the university. She believes the stamp recognition will have a long-lasting impact.

"Acknowledging the contributions of black architects like Taylor is paramount to building the future generations of leaders in design and construction," she said.

The advertisement features a large portrait of director Ava DuVernay on the left, looking directly at the camera. To her right is a film strip that curves across the page, displaying various scenes from her Oscar-nominated film 'Selma'. The title 'Neo Griot' is prominently displayed in red text above the film strip. Below the film strip, there is descriptive text about the film and its availability on Xfinity.

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Check out more of Ava and others, plus other award-worthy movies, TV shows and more at [CelebrateBlackTV.com](http://CelebrateBlackTV.com) where black history is always on.

# Life in Baltimore

By Brenda Bowe Johnson

Many organizations in Baltimore formed forty, fifty and even sixty years ago. These organizations were established to provide social, cultural, civic and service networks at a time when black Americans had limited access to many public venues due to Jim Crow laws. Some organizations became national because black Americans in other large cities were facing the same issues of segregation. This month a few of these organizations will be highlighted. These organizations have continued their legacy of supporting and uplifting our community.

## The PIERIANS, INC. – 1958

It all began in Baltimore, when Annette Colbert Johnson conceived the idea of forming a cultural group. She shared this idea with a group of nine friends, being very clear that she was interested in organizing a cultural club, not one that focused on the social or service. There would be no card playing and no ticket selling. The members would go to the theater, the opera, the symphony and the museums.

In December, 1958, the group was formed. Annette Colbert Johnson referred to this first group as charter members, and herself as the founder. The charter members were Lydia Mussenden; Gwendolyn Tartar; Mamie Todd; Jewel Mosely; Hazel Fleming; Mercedes Douglas; Kathleen Carter; Charlotte Mebane; and Olivia Dixon.

The Pierians are devoted to the purpose of promoting and encouraging the study and enjoyment of the fine arts. George Moore, a linguist and a Baltimore City School Language Arts Department chairman, is credited with suggesting the name Pierians to the group. Pieria was a region of ancient Macedonia, one of the earliest seats of the Muses.

In the fifty-seven years since beginning, the Pierians have grown from the original Baltimore group of ten, to 12 Pierian chapters across eight states. Baltimore's group first expanded to establish a second chapter in Washington, DC in 1979 beginning the fulfillment Pier-

## Highlighting Organizations with a History of Forty or More Years



The Pierians, Inc.

ian Annette Colbert Johnson's dream--to see Pierian chapters across the United States.

Washington chapter member, Dr. Jesse Colson, convened the first National Assembly of the Pierians in 1982 and served as the first national president. This assembly took place in the Eisenhower Library at Homewood campus of Johns Hopkins University. In 1983, the Pierians became incorporated. The Pierians, Inc. in 1993, presented the official documents of the organization to the Maryland Historical Society of Baltimore, Maryland to ensure a place in the chronology of organizations in Maryland.

In 2008, the National Executive body and all chapters celebrated the 50th anniversary of the founding of The Pierians, Inc. in Baltimore. Original charter members, Dr. Jewel Mosely Gray, Lydia Mussenden, Gwendolyn Tartar, and Mamie Todd were honored on that occasion, having been Pierians for fifty years. Pierians Mussenden and Gray

continue to be active and influential members of the Baltimore Chapter.

The Baltimore Chapter has maintained a long-standing relationship with Morgan State University with the support and guidance of James E. Lewis, a former art professor and director of the Morgan Art Gallery. Lewis designed the Pierians insignia which was adapted from an African gold weight of the Ashanti tribe. It was designed for the Pierians to wear as a pin. Art shows and presentations of aspiring artists have been hosted at the James E. Lewis Museum and Art Gallery for over fifty years. Jacqueline Lewis, the wife of James Lewis, was an active Pierian until her recent retirement.

Pierians are committed to bringing together people interested in artistic endeavors; enhancing the enjoyment of the arts through the pursuit of study and other activities; and recognizing individuals in the community for artistic contributions and achievements. To that end,

the Baltimore chapter provides a bi-annual award in the name of its founder, Annette C. Johnson, to a young and aspiring artist committed to pursuing a musical, dance, visual arts or theatrical career. The chapter has contributed to the underwriting of student performances and a ballet at the Baltimore School for the Arts, and the art of quilt making as a result of hosting the Women of Gee's Bend when the Gee's Bend quilts were the featured exhibition at the Walters Art Museum.

In recent years, the chapter featured authors with "Conversation with the Artist" events featuring Larry Gibson and his book "Young Thurgood" and Artero Pietila with "Not in My Neighborhood." In collaboration with the Baltimore County Chapter, they hosted Ann Todd Jealous (daughter of Charter Member Mamie Todd) and Caroline T. Haskele who shared their book, "Combined Destinies: Whites Sharing Grief About Racism."

As the chapter enters its fifty-seventh year, it remains committed to the vision of its founder. The current officers of the Pierians, Inc. are: Janet Waters, president; Patricia Whitmore-Kendall, Ph.D., vice president; Linda Folson Jackson, secretary; Nikita Haysbert, corresponding secretary; Wanda Ramsey, M.D., financial secretary; Lisa Shipley, treasurer.

Members are: Carole Ball; Carol Spencer Carter; Vanessa Coles Lynn Jackson Dorman; Jewel Mosely Gray, Ed.D.; Comalita Haysbert; Robin Howard; Ellen Howard; Verna M. Jackson; Camay C. Murphy; Darlene Moss; Elizabeth Ramsey; Lydia Mussenden; Hon. C. Yvonne Holt-Stone, Esq.; Patricia Roulhac; Mary Sue Welcome, Esq.; LaVerne Nicholson-Sykes; Roni Young, Esq.; Lois Wysinger.

Alumni include Jacqueline Lewis and Olivia C. Stewart.

### The CARATS, INC. – 1959

(Baltimore -1975)

The Carats, Inc., is a national organization whose purpose is to promote social, educational and civic involvement among members. In the late 1950's, a group of New York women founded an organization to combat the indignities they were experiencing due to the Jim Crow laws in the United States. The women were denied access to public accommodations, such as hotels and restaurants. Their purpose was to establish a social network whereby they would meet women of similar ethnic origin, experience, and circumstances, thus avoiding the indignities they would otherwise be subjected to as they traveled from city to city. These connections laid the groundwork for organized activities which subsequently became a formal organization, known as the Pivots.

In May, 1959, the New York chapter officially installed a chapter in Pittsburgh into the Pivots. As the women in both groups relocated and developed other associations, new chapters evolved in various cities. By 1975, Pivots chapters had been installed in nine cities: Baltimore; Atlanta; Columbus, Ohio; Detroit; Macon, Ga. and Washington, DC.

Also in 1975, the board of directors, recommended that the organization's name be officially changed to CARATS, Inc.



**The Carats Conclave formal dance**



**Conclave Luncheon:** (First row L-r): Cynthia Webb, Charlene McCargo, Sylvia Brown, Carolyn Cole, Patricia Tunstall, Marlene Downs, C. Yvonne Holt-Stone, and Jean Adams. (Standing): Laverne Gaither, Merlene Adair, Anita Jackson, Alma Macer, Evelyn Chatmon, Frances Pennington, Carol Ford, Paula Byrd, Delores Sykes and Jean Lewis.

The Baltimore Charter members were Helen Birth, Gordine Blount, Vera Carrington, Jeanne Davis, Geraldine Desbordes, Helen Gattis, Lillian Jones, Frances Murphy, Frances Pennington, Joan Phillips, Minnie Smoot, Helen Whitaker, Ada Woodland and Janet Woolridge.

There are currently eighteen members in the Baltimore chapter. The members are Merlene Adair, Jean Adams, Sylvia Brown, vice-president; Paula Byrd; Evelyn Chatmon, recording secretary, Carolyn Cole, president; Marlene Downs; Carol Ford, corresponding secretary, Laverne Gaither; C. Yvonne Holt-Stone; Anita Jackson; Jean Lewis, technology; Alma Macer; Charlene McCargo, financial secretary, Frances Pennington; Delores Sykes; Patricia Tunstall, treasurer; Cynthia Webb; and Minnie Smoot, emeritus.



**Baltimore Carats Conclave Host Chapter, Theme Fantastic Voyage**  
(L-R): C. Yvonne Holt-Stone, Patricia Tunstall, Carolyn Cole, Charlene McCargo, Carol Ford, Sylvia Brown, Jean Adams, Frances Pennington, Delores Sykes, Cynthia Webb, Anita Jackson, Marlene Downs, Evelyn Chatmon, Laverne Gaither, Alma Macer, Jean Lewis.

Courtesy Photos

## Indie Soul Interview: Bill Duke's Dark Girls

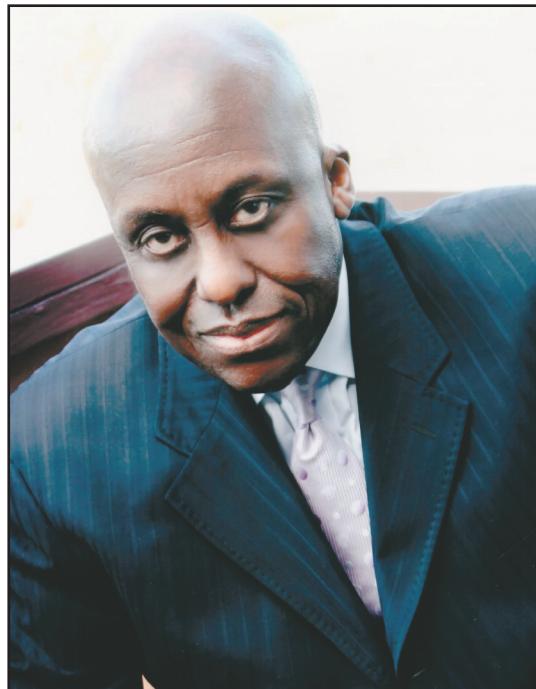
*"Black Media needs to continue the conversation when it comes to color of skin dark skin and light skin"*—Bill Duke

If you don't know who Bill Duke is then by all means Google his name. He is an iconic figure when it comes to producing, directing and acting. He uses his talents to delve into race and culture, and in his latest work "Dark Girls" he examines color. He says he's amazed that in 2015 he's amazed that skin color is still an issue in the black community.

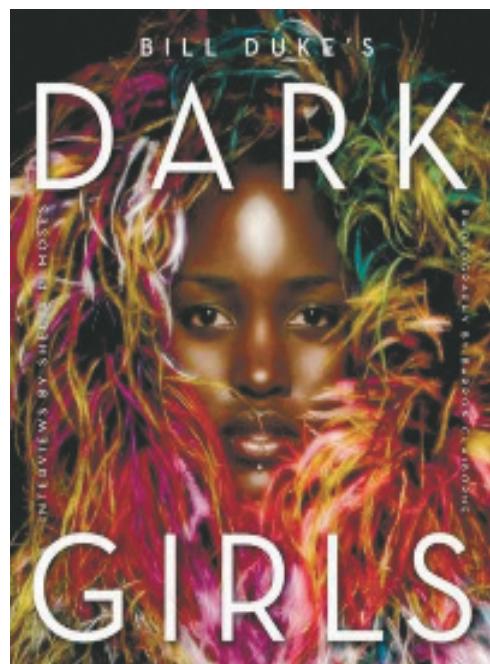
"Dark Girls" is a very powerful book that captures the beauty of dark skin. The photos just jump out at you. More than that, you get to see and hear from dark skinned women about their hardships and triumphs.

This is not just a book for reading but is a book for conversation and especially for men as well. "Mothers should share with these young men and teach them that women, dark skin women are beautiful and not let the current state of entertainment rule these men, your boys thinking and how they treat women," says Duke.

This book needs to be in every household regardless of status in life and used as a tool for teaching, educating, and healing. "We have work to do in our communities" says Duke. The book is available at Walmart, Books-A-Million and Amazon.com.



Bill Duke



## Indie Soul: The Exchange 2

By Phinesse Demps

As we reflect about the past during Black History Month it is also important to pay attention to issues that should be addressed in our community today.

On Saturday, February 7, 2015, a group of black women got together to discuss the role of "Women in Hip-Hop, the Social Significance of Hip-Hop, as well as highlighting the Baltimore Hip-Hop scene at Red Emma's Bookstore in Charles Village in North Baltimore.

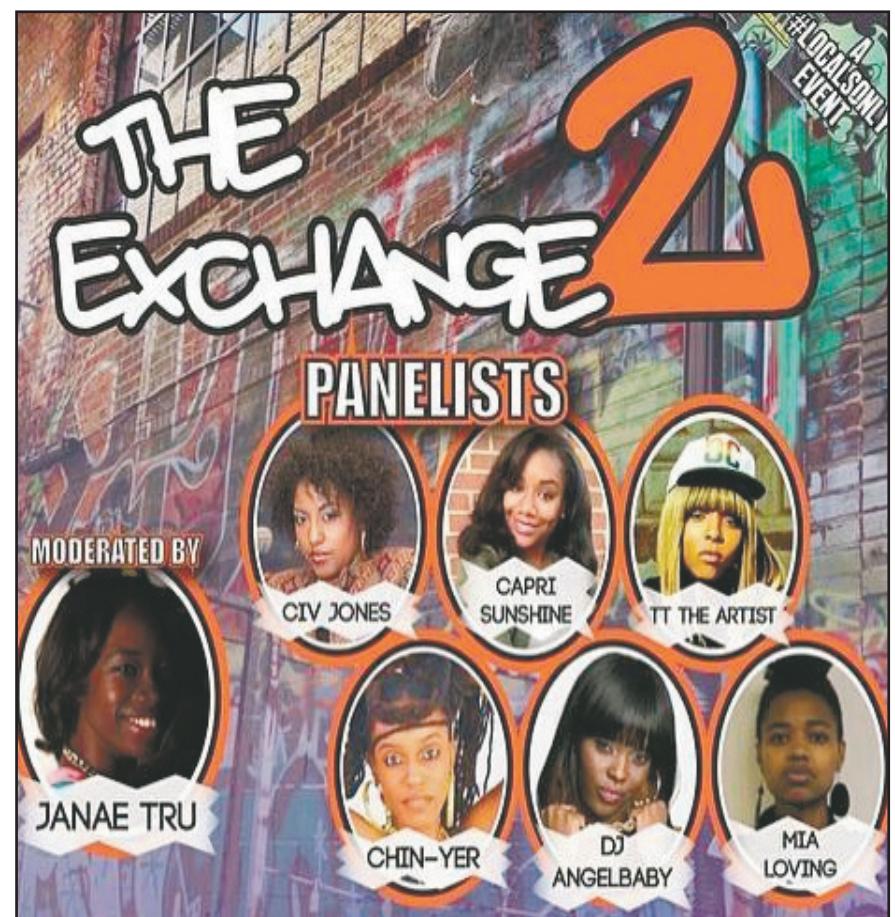
Presented by Capri Sunshine and hosted by media personality Janae Tru (BackSeat Freestyle), the panel was made up of some of the most respected and independent women involved in music and culture in Baltimore, including: Mia Jones (educator/promoter); Civ Jones (radio personality); DJ Angel Baby (radio co-host & deejay); Chin-

Yer (executive director at Baltimore Crown Awards and founder/director at The Baltimore Scene) and TT the Artist (educator/artist/performer).

The discussion was both educational and spirited. The discussion took a look at how women are viewed in hip-hop no matter their roles, as well as a comprehensive view of women and how they are perceived in the media, their struggles and accomplishments. Each person on the panel was very passionate and spoke from the heart regarding women and hip-hop. The audience was able to ask the panel questions.

The main goal of the event was to show solidarity between women in the music business and to start a conversation about they can bring to the changing industry.

j



# Innovations 4 Entrepreneurs Competition to Award Tech Entrepreneurs

Comcast Business' national program for startups and entrepreneurs returns after successful inaugural campaign

Philadelphia— Comcast Business announced that for the second consecutive year the company will seek out the nation's most innovative startup companies and entrepreneurs to compete in the Innovations 4 Entrepreneurs competition. Contest applicants must submit a 250-word essay explaining how they would use \$30,000 in technology investment to enhance their business.

Startups and entrepreneurs are encour-

startups and three entrepreneurs—who will earn an additional \$20,000 in cash, plus a trip to Philadelphia and business advice from industry experts, including Celebrity Chef Robert Irvine, Wharton entrepreneurship lecturer and DreamIt Ventures' Director Patrick Fitzgerald, Comcast Chief Development Officer Sam Schwartz, and Managing Director of Comcast Ventures Louis Toth.

Regional winners will be notified beginning the week of April 8, 2015. Public voting for the 32 regional winners will be held April 27 – May 10, 2015. The six grand prize-winners will be announced

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

aged to visit business.comcast.com/i4E to submit their application and essay and review the full program details. Entries are due by March 15, 2015. Last year's winners came from a wide range of industries; including a women's clothing designer from Delaware, a healthcare management company from Maryland, a business video producer from California, a mobile pet grooming service from Texas, a knitting materials supplier from Georgia and an animal hospital from Florida.

"Startups and entrepreneurs play a critical role in driving our nation's economy and creating new jobs, and we want to recognize and assist business leaders who are using technology to make a difference for their customers and employees," said Bill Stemer, president of Comcast Business. "The Innovations 4 Entrepreneurs program is designed to enable these small businesses to take the next step in innovation and continue to grow."

Entries will be judged and two winners will be selected in each of the 16 Comcast Business Regions: one winner for startup companies (in business less than two years) and one winner for entrepreneurs (in business for more than two years). The 32 regional winners will each earn \$10,000 in cash.

From the regional winners, six grand prize winners will be selected—three

the week of June 1, 2015 with an awards event planned for August 2015.

For more information, call 866-429-3085 or visit: <http://business.comcast.com/i4E>.

**Baltimore Times**

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## NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for **RP 14825R-Roofing and Related Work at Callowhill Pool and Cherry Hill Bath House** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **Wednesday, March 11, 2015**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon.

The Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, at the Department of Public Works in Room 6 located on the first floor of the Abel Wolman Municipal Building, 200 N. Holliday Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 as of **Friday, February 13, 2015** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **\$50.00**.

### Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.

All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call 410-396-6883 or contact the Committee at 3000 Druid Park Drive, 1st Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21215. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture ("JV"), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **F07500 Roofing**

Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$150,000.01 to \$200,000.00**.

A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted at **The Site, 2821 Oakley Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21215 on Thursday, February 26, 2015 at 10:00 A.M.**

Principal Items of work for this project are: **Shingle Roofing**

The MBE goal is **14%**  
The WBE goal is **04%**

**RP 14825R**

APPROVED:  
Bernice H. Taylor  
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:  
Rudolph S. Chow, P.E.  
Director of Public Works

# Residents urged to shop Maryland Energy Star Products

Tax-free Weekend for Select Energy Star Products, February 14-16, 2015

Annapolis— Comptroller Peter Franchot reminded Marylanders to take advantage of Shop Maryland Energy, a tax-free weekend for select Energy Star products beginning at 12:01 a.m. Saturday, February 14, and ending at 11:59 p.m. Monday, February 16, 2015.

Now in its sixth year, the annual tax-free weekend allows Marylanders to make qualifying purchases without paying the state's six percent sales tax.

"Shop Maryland Energy has been hugely successful because it's good for the economy and it's good for the environment," said Comptroller Franchot. "Marylanders save money on their purchases, reduce their future energy bills and invest in a greener future. Local stores that employ our friends and neighbors also benefit by getting a boost during these tough economic times."

Energy Star products eligible for the six percent tax break include air conditioners, washers and dryers, furnaces, heat pumps, standard-size refrigerators, compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL), light-emitting diode (LED) light bulbs, dehumidifiers and programmable thermostats. To earn an Energy Star designation, an appliance must meet strict energy efficiency requirements developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"This is a great opportunity to shop at one of our local Maryland retailers and get a tax break on big-ticket, energy efficient appliances like washers and dryers, as well as smaller items like LED light bulbs." said Patrick Donoho, President of the Maryland Retailers Association. "Shoppers see immediate savings at the register and over the life of the appliance."

The Energy Star program was established in 1992 to reduce levels of greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful pollutants caused by the inefficient use of energy. The Energy Star label assists consumers in identifying energy-efficient products that offer savings on energy bills without sacrificing performance, features or comfort. A list of Energy Star items may be found at: [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov). For more information, visit the Comptroller of Maryland's website: [www.marylandtaxes.com](http://www.marylandtaxes.com) or call 410-260-7980.



## Love Fest

The community is invited to celebrate Love Fest with The S.E.E.D. Church located at 400 East 31st Street in Baltimore, on Saturday, February 14, 2015 from 10 a.m. to noon. All are welcome for games and refreshments. Worship with us at 10 a.m. on Sundays. The second Sunday of every month, join us for early service at 8 a.m. Pastor Donnell Wright leads Prayer every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. followed by Divine Protection Worship Service at 7 p.m. Every third Saturday from noon until 2 p.m. women are invited to an ongoing program, Building Up Anointed Women for the Body of Christ. For more information, call 443-882-8544 or visit: [www.sbcow.org](http://www.sbcow.org).

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