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# THE BALTIMORE TIMES

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## Navy Lt. Cmdr. Jennifer Goodridge of Baltimore participates in humanitarian efforts



*Acajutla, El Salvador— Lt. Cmdr. Jennifer Goodridge, a native of Baltimore, Maryland, and family nurse practitioner assigned to Naval Branch Health Clinic New England, Conn., examines a patient at a medical site established at the Centro Escolar Lisandro Larin Zepeda in support of Continuing Promise 2015. Continuing Promise is a U.S. Southern Command-sponsored and U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet-conducted deployment to conduct civil-military operations including humanitarian-civil assistance, subject matter expert exchanges, medical, dental, veterinary and engineering support and disaster response to partner nations and to show U.S. support and commitment to Central and South America and the Caribbean. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Derek Paumen*

## Life In Motion:

### A Conversation with Ballerina Misty Copeland

**Baltimore**— The Reginald F. Lewis Museum welcomes renowned ballerina Misty Copeland, the first African-American principal dancer in the history of the prestigious American Ballet Theatre on Saturday, August 1, 2015 at 1 p.m.

Copeland will give an author talk and book signing of her memoir, as well as her first children's book.

The memoir, *Life in Motion: An Unlikely Ballerina*, explores Copeland's inspiring journey, illuminating her meteoric rise from a challenging childhood to become a world-class ballerina and the new face for Under Armour.

Additionally, she will present her first children's book *Firebird*. The book tells the story of a young girl who is questioning her own ability to reach the heights that Copeland has reached. She encourages this young girl's faith in herself and shows her exactly how, through hard work and dedication, she too can dance the part of the *Firebird*. A book signing will follow.

The Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture is located at 830 East Pratt Street in Baltimore City.

General admission is \$8. Admission for senior citizens (age 65+); youth ages seven to 17); and students (with ID) is \$6. Admission for members, children under the age of six, and Maryland Public School teachers is free. Tickets available at [www.lewis-museum.org](http://www.lewis-museum.org) or call 443-263-1875 or in person at the door.



*Misty Copeland*  
Courtesy Photo

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### AACC Math Professor Selected for National STEM Award

Annapolis—Alycia A. Marshall, Ph.D., chair of Anne Arundel Community College's mathematics department, was chosen for a top national honor in the science, technology, mathematics and engineering (STEM) field. *INSIGHT into Diversity* magazine named her one of 100 Inspiring Women in STEM in recognition of her leadership in mentoring, teaching and encouraging students to major in a STEM subject.

Lenore Pearlstein, publisher of the magazine, says the award is a tribute to 100 women whose work and achievements not only encourage others in their individual STEM fields, but also inspire a new generation of young women to consider careers in science, technology, engineering and math.

Using her own experience working alongside the Meyerhoff Scholars at University of Maryland Baltimore County, Marshall pursued a grant from the National Science Foundation to start an Engineering Scholars Program to provide scholarships, mentoring and support services to underrepresented students at AACC. She is now the principal investigator for that program.

At the end of the fourth year of the five-year grant, 63 students have received scholarships and 34 already have graduated and/or successfully transferred to four-year engineering programs at University of Maryland College Park, UMBC, Frostburg State University, the U.S. Naval Academy, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and the Florida Institute of Technology. Her doctoral research included the qualitative study of mathematically successful African American students at the community college level, which she used in helping to support AACC's successful Math First and Accelerated Learning programs that help students move more quickly from developmental to credit math classes.

Marshall has a doctorate of philosophy in mathematics education from the University of Maryland College Park, a Master of Arts degree in teaching from Bowie State University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics from the UMBC. She is also the chief executive officer of Educational Excellence LLC, a tutoring company, which provides tutoring and enrichment services to students of all ages in all subject areas in the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan area.



*Alycia A. Marshall, Ph.D.*  
Courtesy Photo

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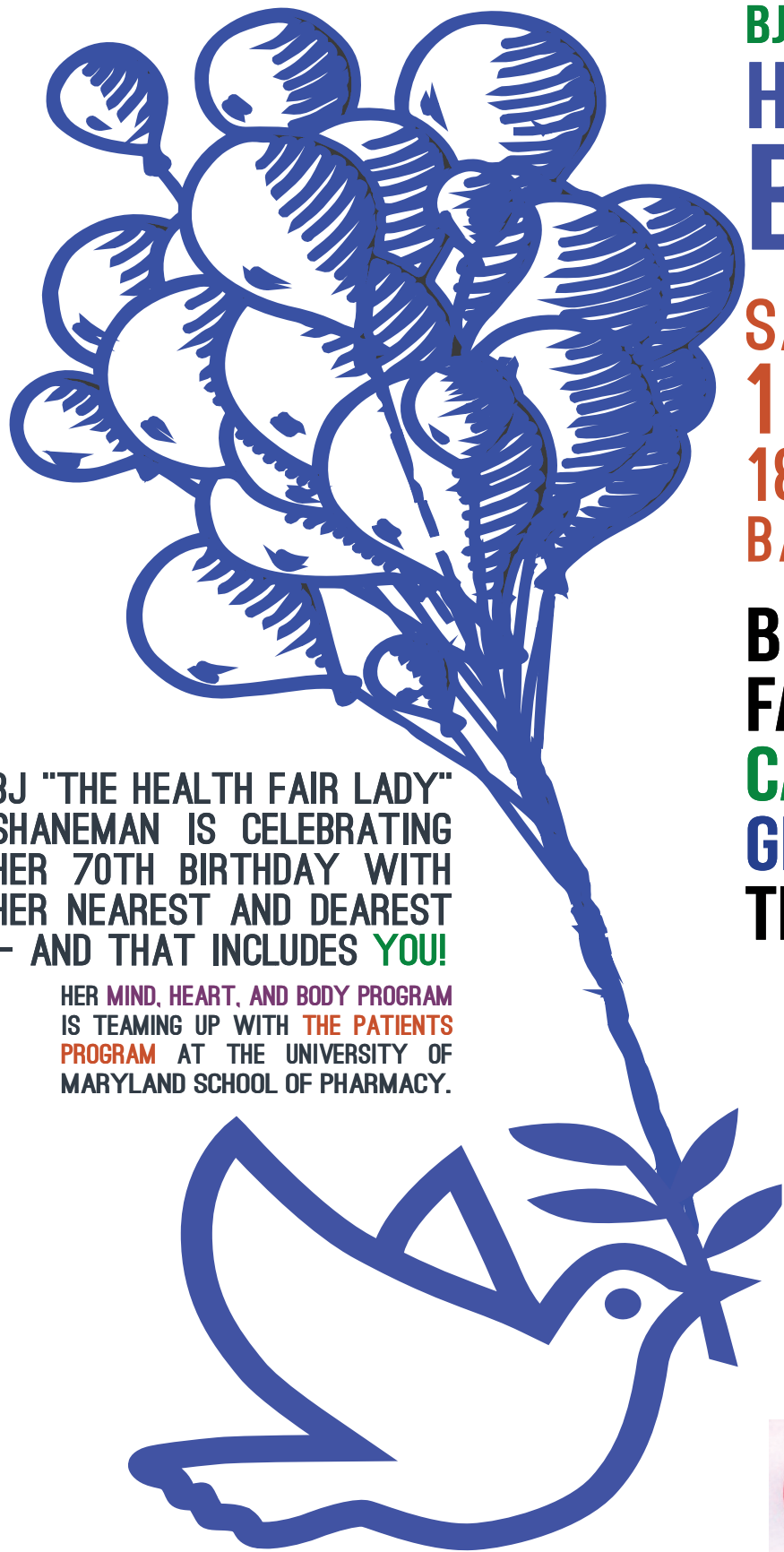
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PATIENTS

# Guest Editorials/Commentary

## Insurers' Dirty Tricks Undermining Central Promise of Obamacare

By Robert Goldberg

Thanks to President Obama's landmark healthcare law, insurance companies are no longer allowed to turn away patients with pre-existing health problems. This "guaranteed issue" mandate enables millions of sick Americans to buy affordable insurance and access vital medications.

Unfortunately, insurers have discovered a sneaky way to undermine this requirement. They're structuring plans to heap huge costs and bureaucratic burdens onto high-risk patients, leaving insured patients without real access to medical care.

Federal officials must halt such discriminatory practices. Fortunately, David McKinley (WV-01) and Lois Capps (D-CA) recently introduced the Patients' Access to Treatments Act (PATA) to do just that. Lawmakers should pass it immediately.

Insurers strap sick patients with big bills by putting expensive medications into the highest "tier." Insurers typically divide their drug benefits into different tiers, with the lowest providing the most financial support and the highest providing the least. The higher the tier, the higher the patient's out-of-pocket expenses.

For example, in the state-level insurance exchanges established by Obamacare, more than half of the popular "Silver" plans place all multiple sclerosis drugs in the top tier. Patients suffering from this devastating condition are getting hit with huge costs. Many are forced to forego needed treatments.

PATA ensures that patients can afford these life-saving medications. The bill prohibits insurers from grouping specialty drugs in higher cost sharing tiers than the ones used for regular medicines.

Many health insurers also have a "fail first" policy. Patients must first take drugs that are less effective and often less safe—and only when these fail can they receive needed medicines. In other words, insurers force people to get sicker before offering them lifesaving treatments.

A new Harvard study suggests insurers are deliberately offering thin coverage for high-cost therapies to dissuade chronically ill patients from signing up in the first place. When people who need costly drugs see treatments' price tags, they look elsewhere for coverage—which is what insurers want.

Insurers justify such discrimination by claiming it helps contain healthcare costs, keeping premiums affordable. After all, those with serious illnesses disproportionately rely on expensive, specialty medicines. They're the one percent of patients—often referred to as "super spenders"—that account for more than a fifth of the nation's annual health expenditures.

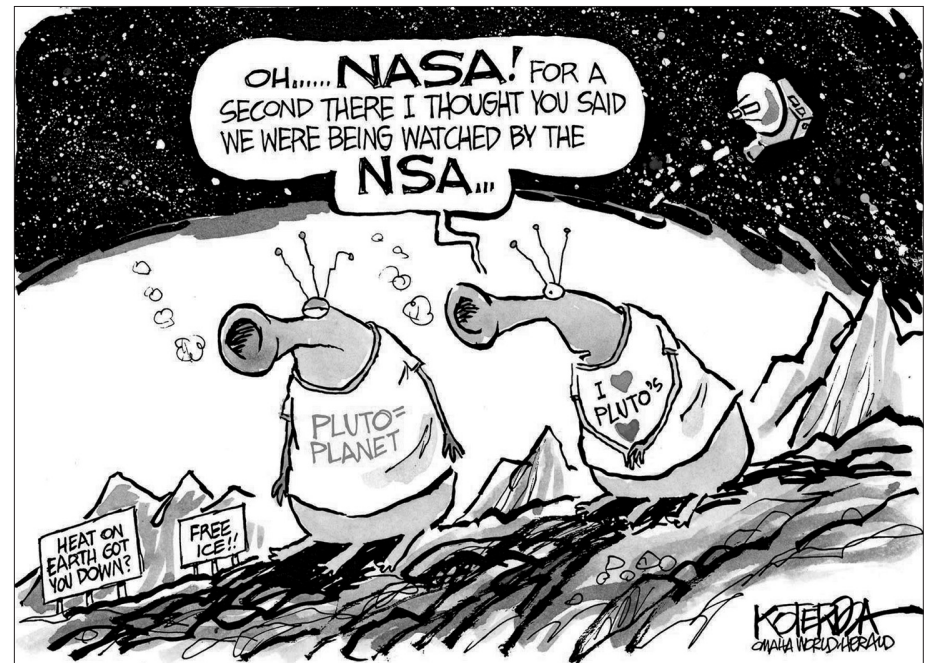
However, this argument is misleading. Expanding access to prescription drugs actually helps bring down long-term healthcare costs—and denying sick patients needed medications drives costs up.

Cancer drugs, for instance, help keep patients healthy and out of the hospital. As a proportion of total cancer treatment costs, drug spending nearly tripled from 2001 to 2011. Over that same time, the share of total costs spent on hospital stays dropped by 25 percent. Spending more on better medications has improved cancer patient health and saved money.

Restricting drug access to trim healthcare expenses usually backfires. The average patient will skip prescribed medications if her monthly out-of-pocket costs exceed \$200. Such "non-adherence" typically causes a patient's condition to worsen to the point where she requires much more expensive medical interventions.

One of Obamacare's central promises was that sick patients would no longer suffer from discrimination. Insurers are breaking that promise by strapping vulnerable patients with huge costs and forcing them to fail on less effective treatments. Lawmakers must stop these abuses—and the Patients' Access to Treatments Act is a good place to start.

*Robert Goldberg is vice president of the Center for Medicine in the Public Interest.*



## Community Affairs

### Port Discovery Children's Museum and NASA Goddard invite children, families to learn about light and optics in Sunday Experiment

Baltimore— On Sunday, August 2, 2015, Port Discovery Children's Museum will host its second of four NASA Sunday Experiments, a series of hands-on, inquiry based activities focused on specific NASA missions from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m.

The upcoming Sunday Experiment will feature activities to help visitors learn about lights and optics. At NASA, researchers look far, far away to learn about the structure of our universe to understand how stars form and if they have planets that could support life. They also study Earth to see how it is changing. Much of what is known about these things comes from light traveling from these objects to NASA's optical instruments.

Hands-on activities will teach children how instruments built at NASA's God-



dard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland use optics to unlock the secrets carried in this light.

These instruments help NASA answer the important questions about an object: "what does it look like?" (with imagers, that operate using reflection and refraction), "what is it made of?" (with spectrometers, which spread light into a rainbow using dispersion & diffraction), and "what can we learn about the structure?" (with polarimeters, measuring the light's polarization).

NASA Sunday Experiments are free with museum admission. Additional Sunday Experiment dates are scheduled for Sunday, August 23, 2015 and Sunday, October 11, 2015.

## Celebrating 50 years of Medicare

By Senator Barbara A. Mikulski

One of my guiding principles has always been that honor thy father and mother is not only a good commandment to live by, it's good policy to govern by. Fifty years ago on Thursday, July 30, 1965, President Lyndon Johnson signed into law legislation to create Medicare, ensuring all of America's seniors—middle class or of modest means—have access to health care when they need it.

I've seen first-hand what a difference Medicare makes in the lives of seniors. In the 1960s, I was a young social worker in Baltimore working for a program called Responding to the Elderly's Abilities & Sicknes Otherwise Neglected or "Operation Reason."

Our goal was to help Maryland seniors get the health care and social services they needed. We worked in teams led by social workers and nurses. Our job was to help sick, elderly people sign up for this new Medicare program.

We were focused on helping seniors who had no health insurance and who

had neglected their chronic conditions because of an inability to travel, lack of knowledge about services available to them, fear of asserting their right to such services, or other barriers.

Baltimore's seniors were struggling. In those days, when you retired, it was the end of your health insurance, which meant that nearly half of seniors were uninsured. They could not afford doctor's visits. Instead, they went to clinics and stood in long lines. They were often shuttled back and forth from one clinic

options, organize transportation, and help fill out complicated forms.

In those days, we didn't have computers or cell phones. We had to physically meet people where they were and help them confront the very real challenges they faced every single day.

And it worked. After four months of operation, we had more than 100 clients with a variety of chronic diseases. Nearly all of them were living on very modest incomes. And we helped them get the care they so desperately needed.

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***Before Medicare, millions of seniors were just one heart attack away from bankruptcy— one cancer diagnosis away from destitution.***

***That's what life was like for America's seniors before Medicare.***

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to another. Before Medicare, millions of seniors were just one heart attack away from bankruptcy— one cancer diagnosis away from destitution. That's what life was like for America's seniors before Medicare.

When Medicare came along, I knew it could help them. Many were skeptical—they wondered if Medicare was big government or big opportunity. My job was to show them that this program was not about big government, but about government with a big heart. Every single day, I would go out to talk with seniors. I would go in to the community, to churches and to senior citizen centers.

I would talk with them about their

These people were the reason Congress passed Medicare in the first place. And thank God we did. Today, 55 million Americans—nearly EVERY senior—has access to the guarantee of Medicare. That includes one million seniors in Maryland—and what has it meant?

·More Americans have health insurance. Before Medicare, 48 percent of seniors had no insurance. Today, only two percent are uninsured.

·Out of pocket costs have decreased. Before Medicare, seniors paid 56 percent of health care expenses out of pocket. Today, seniors pay only 13 percent out of pocket.

·Life expectancy is five years longer.  
·Deaths from heart disease have dropped by a third for people older than 65.

·Our elderly's poverty rate has declined dramatically from 29 percent in 1966 to 10 percent today.

·Seniors have more affordable drugs. Since 2010 when the Affordable Care Act passed, more than eight million seniors have saved more than \$11 billion on prescription drugs.

Because I've seen first-hand the difference Medicare makes, I've given it my best shot to maintain a Medicare that's affordable and accessible, reliable and undeniable. Over the years, I have fought hard to protect, reform and refresh Medicare.

Most recently, I fought for Medicare as part of the Affordable Care Act, where we closed the prescription drug "donut hole," extended Medicare's solvency another decade and paved the way for free preventive screenings, saving money and saving lives along the way.

Over the years, I've fought repeated efforts to end Medicare as we know it by privatizing it and turning its guaranteed benefit into nothing more than a voucher and a political promise.

It's been a great honor and privilege to devote so much of my time in elected office to honoring America's mothers and fathers. As we commemorate Medicare's first 50th anniversary, let's come together for another 50 years of health care for seniors.

*U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski is the senior Senator for Maryland and the Senior Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee.*

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# Summer Tips!

By Denise Hooks-Anderson, M.D.  
Special to the NNPA from the  
St. Louis American

Nothing says summer like flip-flops, bathing suits, ice-cream cones and concerts in the park. After Spring Break, kids along with teachers and administrators start the countdown to summer vacation. In contrast, parents are stressed out trying to figure out what they will do with those kids for 10-11 weeks and they are secretly wishing school was in session year round.

However, the merriment of the long-awaited warm weather cannot lessen the importance of summer safety. Having a less rigid schedule should not be synonymous with emergency room and urgent care visits. Injuries and illnesses are not uncommon during this time of year and can definitely transform what was planned as a tranquil experience to a disaster. So, to launch summer into the right direction, here are some simple tips to follow.

**Tip #1: Everyone needs sunscreen—** No matter your complexion or ethnicity, your skin can be damaged by those intense rays from the sun especially between the hours of 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Ideally, skin should be protected with a hat, clothing and sunscreen with an SPF of 30. Furthermore, per the American Academy of Dermatologists, the sunscreen should be broad-spectrum and waterproof. Repeated episodes of sun damage will increase the likelihood of developing skin cancer in the future.

**Tip #2: Respect the water—** About one in five drowning victims is younger than age 14. Per the CDC, 80 percent of the people who die from drowning are male. Children between the ages of one and four are more likely to die in a home



Denise Hooks-Anderson, M.D.  
Courtesy Photo

pool. The fatal drowning rates of African American children between the ages of five and 14 are almost three times that of whites.

It is imperative that children be supervised around bodies of water and follow general safety guidelines such as not running on the slippery surfaces next to the pool, obeying the directions of the lifeguards and wearing life vests when appropriate. One of the main factors involved in drowning injuries is lack of swimming ability. Participation in formal swimming lessons can decrease the risk of drowning in children ages one and four.

**Tip #3: Listen to your body—** After surviving a brutal winter, it is understandable that when summer arrives being outdoors as much as possible is a major priority. But, excessive heat can cause a variety of heat-related illnesses such as heat rashes, heat exhaustion, heat cramps and heat strokes. The body normally controls internal temperatures by sweating however during excessive

heat, this mechanism is insufficient and body temperatures can reach dangerously high levels. Seniors, children, and people who are ill or overweight are most at risk. Feeling clammy, dizzy, or nauseated are all symptoms of being overheated and should alert you to seek shade, rehydrate with cool water-not ice water, and elevate feet.

Heat strokes occur when temperatures reach 104 or higher either by excessive exercise or inappropriately treated heat exhaustion. Internal temperatures that reach such levels can cause multiple organ damage and is an extremely dangerous condition. On average, over 600 people die each year in the United States from heat related illness, which is more than tornadoes, hurricanes, floods and lightning combined.

**Tip #4: Obey the rules—** Although highway deaths have declined about 25 percent since 2004, the National Highway Safety Administration reported 32,719 deaths in 2013 from crashes. On the other hand injuries caused by dis-

tracted drivers, increased by one percent. During that same time, about a third of the people between the ages of 21-34 involved in a fatal crash had blood alcohol levels above the legal limit. Furthermore, a large percentage of the pediatric fatalities were unrestrained occupants. Speed limits are recommended for your safety. Wet roads, curves, and construction are all hazards that not only endanger you but the surrounding drivers as well. Reducing your speed during those road conditions will enable you to more effectively handle your vehicle. In addition, medications, fatigue, and illicit substances like marijuana can delay your reaction time and contribute to driver errors.

Therefore, the bottom line about summer is that it should be a time of fellowship, friendship and fun! Let's make summer 2015 one of the best vacation times ever!

*Denise Hooks-Anderson, M.D. is an Assistant Professor at SLUCare Family Medicine.*

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# Entertainment Mogul Starts “Backpacks for Baltimore” Initiative

By Stacy M. Brown

Since his rise as an executive at Def Jam Records and Warner Music, Kevin Liles has continued to use his fame and fortune to provide opportunity and hope for those less fortunate.

The Baltimore native and Morgan State alum is again reaching deep into his pockets while asking others to do the same in an effort to provide backpacks for local students.

“Preparing for school is a financial, physical and mental exercise for every family around the world,” said Liles, who’s also known for his “Make it Happen” Foundation which he says provides opportunities and access for young people to become products of their experiences and not merely products of their environment.

Through internship partners and mentor programs, the foundation provides life-changing opportunities for underserved youth.

“In Baltimore, we hope to celebrate and give kids every opportunity to achieve academic success,” Liles said.

Statistics have revealed that almost 24 percent of Baltimore’s population is living below the poverty line. Thirty-five percent of children are below the poverty line and 61 percent are living in households that have incomes that are less than two times the poverty level.

“Our children are the future of this city, and a proper education is the key to better opportunities for our kids, which is the key to a Better Baltimore,” Liles said.

He noted that each year, families of the less fortunate and Baltimore’s underprivileged youth are unable to afford some of the basic necessities for their child’s academic success.

So, Liles has introduced one solution

through his other foundation, “Kevin Liles for a Better Baltimore,” which three years ago hosted the first citywide back to school festival.

This year’s fourth annual event is sponsored by the Kaiser Family Foundation and Verizon and the purpose remains bringing children and family together to celebrate the new school year throughout Baltimore.

The free event will be held from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, August 29, 2015, at Security Square Mall and children attending will have a chance to secure a backpack, free haircut, immunizations, food and a host of other activities.

Last year, Liles distributed over 6,000 backpacks at the event to students in Baltimore and this year he said the goal is to increase that, which is why he

started a GoFundMe campaign to encourage others to make donations. He says a new backpack to start the year can amount to a badge of honor for underprivileged students, one that boosts their confidence and prepares them for the academic year ahead.

“It’s important to KLBB and the City of Baltimore that our children get each year off to a strong start. These new backpacks will bolster their attitude and ultimately create a solid foundation for their academic and social performance,” Liles said.

The foundation’s goal through its 30-day “Backpacks for Baltimore” campaign is to provide students from Pre-Kindergarten to twelfth grade with 7,500 new backpacks for the 2015-16 school year.

“The purpose of this event is to get our entire community—kids, families, teachers and others—prepared and excited about another school year. It takes a village to raise a child and KLBB is proud to be a contributor by hosting this annual event,” Liles said. “Not only are we thrilled about exceeding last year’s goal of distributing 6,000 backpacks, we’re just as excited about the opportunity to distribute a plethora of community resources which will contribute to the overall success of our students and our goal of developing healthier families in Baltimore.”

To make a donation toward the purchase of the backpacks, visit <http://www.gofundme.com/Backpacks4Bmore>.



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# The Clock is ticking for Ravens Linebacker Arthur Brown

By Turron Davenport

The Baltimore Ravens selected Arthur Brown in the second round of the 2013 NFL Draft. The team traded three picks to move up to get him. Brown was supposed to be a player that would help the Ravens patch up an inside linebacker unit that lost its leader, Ray Lewis to retirement. The Ravens also lost a key member of the 2012 Super Bowl team in Dannell Ellerbe, which created the perfect opportunity for Brown to step up immediately. Unfortunately, the results have not come.

The Ravens made a less heralded move that offseason when Daryl Smith was signed at a more reasonable cost than Ellerbe. Smith was set to be a veteran leader who would play well and be a mentor to Brown.

Brown didn't start a single game during his rookie year and only registered 15 tackles. Meanwhile, Smith started all 16 games and played extremely well.

Brown's second season went even worse for him. He didn't play a single snap on defense after being beaten out by 2014 first round selection C.J. Mosley in training camp. Brown comes into training camp this year very much in need of an outstanding performance. He has been put on notice by Ravens general manager Ozzie Newsome.

"Arthur Brown is another young man who, at this point of his career, needs to find a way to get to the field," said Newsome.

With Mosley and Smith firmly entrenched as starters, the next logical area for Brown to contribute would have been special teams. He lost out in that compe-



Ravens linebacker Arthur Brown plays defense during a preseason game in 2014 season. Courtesy Photo/www.baltimore Ravens.com

tion to Zach Orr and Albert McClellan which cost him a spot on the active roster for a number of weeks during the 2014 season.

Offseason activities went well for Brown. He was able to get some reps with the first team defense since Mosley was sidelined as he recovers from a wrist injury. Brown seemed to have bulked up a bit but still moved well. He caught the attention of defensive coordinator Dean Pees.

"I think Arthur Brown has taken a big step forward. I think he's feeling a little more comfortable with the defense. He has always been fast; he has always been

a tough guy. His problem has always

been, maybe, a little bit of thinking what was going on and sometimes that would make him slow to react." Pees said.

Sometimes it takes a while for a player to catch on and really get a grasp of the scheme that he's expected to play in. Being unsure about alignment and assignment can slow down any player, even the ones that are naturally fast and Pees recognizes that may just be Brown's problem.

"If he knows, he's plenty fast. He's a very fast linebacker." Pees continued; "I think these OTAs and this mini-camp, he has taken a big step forward, as far as understanding the defense and what he has to do."

The Ravens are losing patience in Brown and would like more than just special teams play as a return on their investment. Brown is surely a player to watch during training camp. Mosley came in and was an instant success. That raises the expectation for Brown. The roster is stacked with great players so it will be interesting to see whether or not he can remain with the team.

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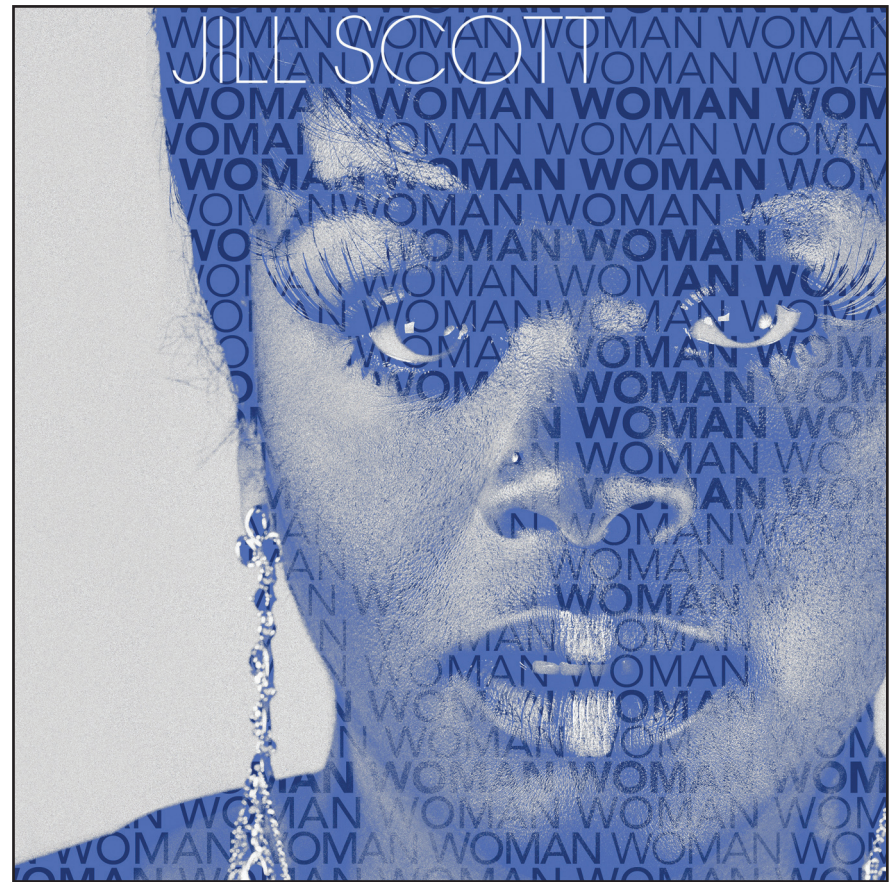
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**Grammy Award-Winner Jill Scott  
releases highly anticipated fifth album**



New York— The wait is finally over for Jill Scott’s fans! The Grammy® award-winning, singer and songwriter has just released her fifth studio album, which is now available for purchase in stores and on iTunes. The highly anticipated CD entitled “Woman” with 16 eclectic and soulful tracks, is the follow up to the 2011 critically acclaimed “The Light of Sun.”

Rolling Stone proclaims that Jill “has never sounded as authoritative as she does on her fifth album” and US Weekly hails it as “spirit-enriching” music. Jill describes the sound of this album as “classic Philly soul meets Country rhythm served with captivating storytelling.” The thought provoking titled album coming on the heels of her latest singles, “Fool’s Gold,” which debuted on May 11 and is currently #3 on Billboard R&B charts and the critically acclaimed, “You Don’t Know.”

In addition to the new album, Jill has embarked on a summer tour with sold out shows throughout the country performing new music from WOMAN, along with her classic hits throughout the 25 city tour. The songstress is thrilling audiences—proving that R&B is not dead and further solidifying her place as one of the most powerful and prominent voices of our time and a torchbearer for R&B music.

The three-time GRAMMY® award-winning singer-songwriter, New York Times best-selling poet, and critically acclaimed actress are only a few titles held by Jill Scott. Before having the #1 album in the country with The Light Of The Sun, the triple threat began her career collaborating with musical icons The Roots, Will Smith, and Common in the late 90s. Never limited to music, Jill Scott is a true multimedia brand across books, clothing, TV and film, including credits such as Baggage Claim, Steel Magnolias, The No.1 Ladies Detective Agency, and Tyler Perry’s Why Did I Get Married? and Lifetime’s Sins of the Mother. In 2002, Scott also founded Blues Babe, a registered 501(c)3 foundation that has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to support minority students pursuing college degrees.

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# African Diaspora Film Festival Returns with Film about Obama's Mother

By Stacy M. Brown

While last year's African Diaspora Film Festival presented a decidedly strong Afro-Latino flavor, the 2015 installment of the event kicks off with an unprecedented movie about President Barack Obama's mother, Stanley Ann Dunham.

An anthropologist with a Ph. D. and a lifelong traveler, Dunham's story is captured in the 83-minute film directed by Vivian Norris.

Titled "Obama Mama," the film covers the works of Dunham, who died in 1995, including her studies at the East-West Center and the University of Hawaii at Manoa in Honolulu.

Dunham addressed poverty in rural villages by creating micro-credit programs while working as a consultant for the United States Agency for International Development.

She also worked in Indonesia and other areas.

"It's the film that has me the most excited," said Reinaldo Barroso-Spech, an educator in foreign languages and black literature who founded the festival with his wife, Diarah N'Daw-Spech, a financial consultant and university budget manager. "We have so much to look forward to this year and the film about Obama's mother should be of great interest."

The festival kicks off on Friday, August 21, 2015, at the Goethe Institut in Washington, D.C. and will include the drama, "Christmas Wedding Baby," which stars Lisa Arrindell Anderson, Elleise Aponte and Bernie Ask and explores the distance between the perception of happiness and actual joy. Written and directed by Kiara Jones, the film is unique in that it contains no villains but men and women who fail terribly at communicating their emotions.

"We wish to expose the audience to the diversity of people of color," Barroso-Spech said.

Now, in its 22nd year in New York and ninth year in Washington, the concept of the festival reflects the creative writings and teachings of Barroso-Spech.

The films that are featured allow audi-



*A young Barack Obama with his mother, Stanley Ann Dunham. Courtesy Photos/ADIFF*



*Barack Obama's late mother, Stanley Ann Dunham, is featured in a film at the African Diaspora International Film Festival.*

ences to explore the diverse experiences of people of African descent all over the world, he said.

"The revealing nature of art is very important to us," Barroso-Spech said.

Also included in this year's festival are "Fevers/Fievers," a story of 13-year-old Benjamin who is a soldier at war with life, adults and himself; "Reshipment," which demonstrates that despite discrimination suffered by the Haitians, the Creole language, voodoo and other musical and dance traditions remain in the cultural landscape of Cuba; and "Bilatena," the story of Abi, a dynamic and resourceful 12-year-old boy who lives with his poor and dying mother and his 26-year-old graduate but unemployed brother.

The festival will also feature "Black (Noir) NWA," which chronicles the lives of four individuals living in a neighborhood plagued by poverty and violence, aspiring to freedom and happiness; "Andangama," set in the 17th century on the Western coast of Africa, the film focuses on a rebellious youth who refuses to marry his parents' choice of a bride and, instead, flees his village only to return to find his father and girlfriend slain, his village destroyed and



*Lisa Arrindell Anderson, Kimberley Drummond, Frances Turner and Elleise Aponte star in "Christmas Wedding Baby"*

his mother captured by a tribe of Amazon warriors.

The festival will also include other works by such filmmakers as Joyce Guy, Rafael Deugenio, Dom Pedro, and Silvia Voser.

The event's organizers said they are looking forward to one of the best events they've ever produced.

"The festival has been a labor of love for us," N'Daw-Spech said. "For me, personally, it has also been an education.

Being exposed to all of these films and stories from many countries for over 20 years has really expanded my world view and given me a chance to better appreciate how much people really face similar challenges and strive for the same things, specifically stability, love, and security."

For the full festival lineup, tickets and more information, visit <http://nyadiff.org/dc-adiff-2015/>

# PBS Documentary Marks 50th anniversary of Voting Rights Act of 1965

*Excerpts from secret White House recordings show historic partnership between President Johnson and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Washington, D.C.— For many, President Lyndon B. Johnson is chiefly remembered for escalating the United States military involvement in Vietnam. However, his legacy is much more than his role in the Vietnam War. In fact, Johnson engineered the passing of two of the most important laws Congress ever approved: the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of President Johnson's signing of the Voting Rights Act on August 6, 1965, "JFK & LBJ: A Time for Greatness" airing nationally, Tuesday, August 4, 2015 from 9-10 p.m. on PBS examines how Johnson meticulously worked behind the scenes to outwit the Southern segregationists who were determined to maintain the racial divide. He cajoled, flattered, wheeled and dealed, using all the tricks he had learned as a long-serving Senator, to ultimately transform America.

Narrated by Morgan Freeman, JFK & LBJ is from the team that produced JFK: OnePM Central Standard Time, which aired on PBS in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the assassination of President Kennedy. The dramatic events are told through rare archival footage and reenactments with actor Mark Murphey as Johnson and Dené Hill as Geraldine Whittington, who Johnson hired, the first African American secretary to the President.

Featured in the documentary are Whittington's school friend Alma Cropper and cousin Gladys Holt Peevy who reflect on the significance of Whittington's hire to the African American community.

Excerpts from secret White House tapes show that just a few hours after Kennedy's death

when Johnson assumed the presidency, he called Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The exchange, like others in the film, seamlessly position Murphey with the actual recorded voice of the historical figure.



*Geraldine Whittington, the first African American secretary to a United States President, meets Civil Rights leaders, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (right) in the White House, 1964.* Photo Credit: LBJ Presidential Library

Two days after Kennedy's burial, Johnson delivered a speech that made known to America how he would ensure Kennedy's legacy.

"No memorial oration or eulogy could more eloquently honor President Kennedy's memory than the earliest possible passage of the Civil Rights bill for which he fought so long."

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 is considered one of the crowning legislative achievements of the civil rights movement, but the Voting Rights Act that followed the next year changed the country forever.

JFK & LBJ details how the Selma to Montgomery marches coupled with Johnson's historic, nationally televised "We Shall Overcome" speech before a joint session of Congress on March 15, 1965, led to the passage of the Voting Rights bill protecting the rights of minorities.

"That was the first time hearing an American president using the theme song of the Civil Rights movement," said U.S. Representative John Lewis for Georgia's 5th congressional district, who is featured in the documentary. "I looked at Dr. King. Tears came down his face.

He cried. And we all cried a little. And he said: 'We will make it from Selma to Montgomery. And the Voting Rights Act will be passed.' And he was right."

How did a man like Johnson - raised, as the film demonstrates, with the racial prejudices of his time - become a champion of equality?

The documentary chronicles Johnson's extraordinary moral journey through interviews with those closest to him and those involved in these historical events, including Senior Presidential Aide Joseph Califano, Civil Rights adviser Harris Wofford, and principal speechwriter Richard Goodwin (the man who penned Johnson's famous 'We shall overcome' speech).

Among his other accomplishments, Johnson sent a signal to America to end Jim Crow segregation by walking into The Forty Acres Club, a totally white club, with Whittington on his arm; appointed Thurgood Marshall to the Supreme Court, the Court's first African-American justice; instituted the programs of the Great Society (i.e., public broadcasting, Medicare, Medicaid, environmental protection, aid to education, the abolition of poverty) and more.



*President John Fitzgerald Kennedy and Vice President Lyndon Baines Johnson.*

JFK & LBJ: A Time for Greatness is a Colonial Pictures Production. Producer and director for Colonial Pictures is Alastair Layzell. Executive in charge for WNET is Stephen Segaller. Executive producer for THIRTEEN is Steve Burns. Coordinating producer for THIRTEEN is Stephanie Carter.

# Rambling Rose

*Rosa Pryor Scholarship Fund  
Announces its Last Year!*



*Rosa Pryor Trusty*

Hello my dear friends, this will be a heavy duty week as far as fun, activities, live entertainment, cookouts and festivals. I first want to tell you all about the "Ruth Kirk Family Fun Festival," which is celebrating their 20th year. Even though our dear friend, Ruth Kirk has passed on, her legacy in the community has remained thanks to Cleve Brister. Vendors with food, jewelry, clothing, arts and crafts will be available, as well as health, education and community information. For two days Saturday and Sunday, August 8 and 9 from noon until 8 p.m. there will be fun for the whole family. Live entertainment includes; local group Simple Black, Bobby Rucks Band, and The Spindells. Rosa Pryor's dynamic Motown group, Signature Live, will set your soul on fire. I also will be doing a book signing. Come on out and enjoy.

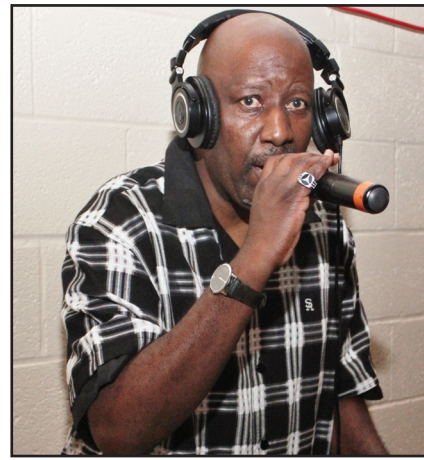
The other thing I want to discuss with you is that The Rosa Pryor Music Scholarship Fund, INC. (non-profit 501(c) 3 organization is celebrating 24 years and the last year of the organization. Yes, that is right! I am closing down the organization by the first of the year. I thank you all who have supported me through the years and believe in my mission of giving underprivileged children a chance to explore their musical talent. Children that would normally go unnoticed. To date, I have honored over 110 musicians and have given 104 children scholarships. So my dear friends and readers from all walks of life, for one last time, I am calling for the support of all my friends, fans, musicians, club owners and organizations who I have helped in some way. You can buy tickets, send a donation and/or, purchase ads in our souvenir journal for the final Rosa Pryor Music Scholarship Black & Gold Scholarships and Awards Ball, which will be Sunday, October 25th from 4-8 p.m. at the Forum

Caterers. It will be a formal black tie, red carpet event. Please contact me by email; rosapryor@aol.com or call me at 410-833-9474 and let me know how you will help us and to get information. Also, we have spots available for at least 10 more children who are gifted or talented in playing an instrument or singing to audition by August 8th. Please go to my web site [www.rosapryormusic.com](http://www.rosapryormusic.com) to get an application.

Okay folks, check out the photos to see what is coming up, I am out of space and time. Remember if you need me, call me or send an email to the phone number and email address above. UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.



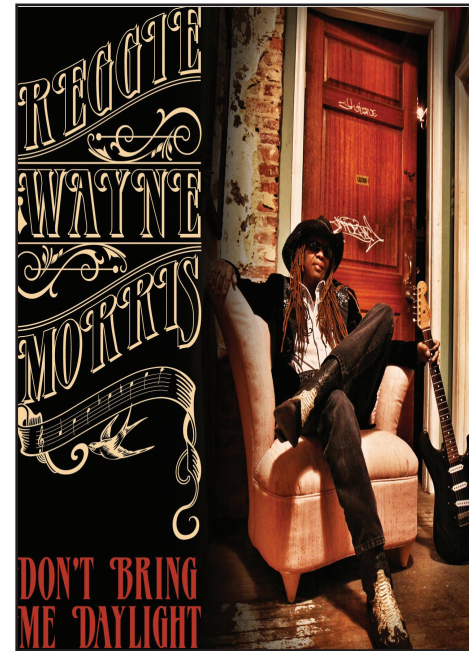
*JB Brown announces "JB Brown Radio.com, playing the best music of the 50's, 60's & the 70's since July 20, 2015. Listen to interviews of some of the "Living Legends" of Rock & Roll as well as some of Americas' greatest Radio Personalities. For more information, call 410-425-8739.*



*MJ Productions (Mike Jones) celebrates Jim "Magic" Johnson Birthday at his Black & White Cabaret on Saturday, August 1, 2015 from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Pikesville Community Center located at 40 East Sudbrook Lane in Pikesville, Maryland. The Rollex Band and DJ TC Flash & DJ Mike Jones will be featured. BYOB and free set ups. For ticket information, call 410-744-9595.*



*Cleve Brister, chairman and now producer of the Ruth Kirk Family Fun Festival, which will be held at the Franklin Square Park between Calhoun and Cary Streets and Fayette and Lexington Street on Saturday and Sunday, August 8 and 9, 2015 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. both days. The event includes many vendors and live entertainment all day long and is free and open to the public.*



*Reggie Wayne Morris, guitarist, singer and songwriter plays his Blues with infectious passion, charm and humor. His recording "Gotcha by Your Blues" produced by Grammy-nominated and Handy award winning writer, historian and educator Larry Hoffman. His current CD "Don't Bring Me Daylight" with all original songs composed by himself. For more information his dates in Baltimore, email: [Eflat2002@aol.com](mailto:Eflat2002@aol.com), or [regglewaynemorris@gmail.com](mailto:regglewaynemorris@gmail.com).*



*Curtis Anderson, Baltimore radio personality passed away Wednesday, July 22, 2015 after a long fight with cancer. He was a former on-air personality and program director of WWIN AM/FM radio. His funeral will be held at Wylie Funeral Home located at 9200 Liberty Road in Randallstown, Maryland on Tuesday, August 4, 2015 at 10 a.m. The viewing will be held Monday, August 3 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Wylie's Funeral. Deepest condolences to the family and his radio family.*

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# New Workbook Helps Teens ‘Play Up’

By Stacy M. Brown

Since the release of the wildly popular book “Playing Up,” Vaughn McKoy and his wife, Marnie McKoy thought of ways in which they could make the lessons found in the book practical in ways that could drive behavior and complement academic learning.

In the follow up titled, “The Coaches’ Playbook,” the authors have created a tool that can be used to teach character education through literacy programs for grades six to 12.

“It [also] empowers young adults with the mindset and tools necessary to overcome obstacles and build meaningful relationships,” said Vaughn McKoy, whose life is the subject of the first book. “Playing Up: One Man’s Rise from Public Housing to Public Service Through Mentorship.”

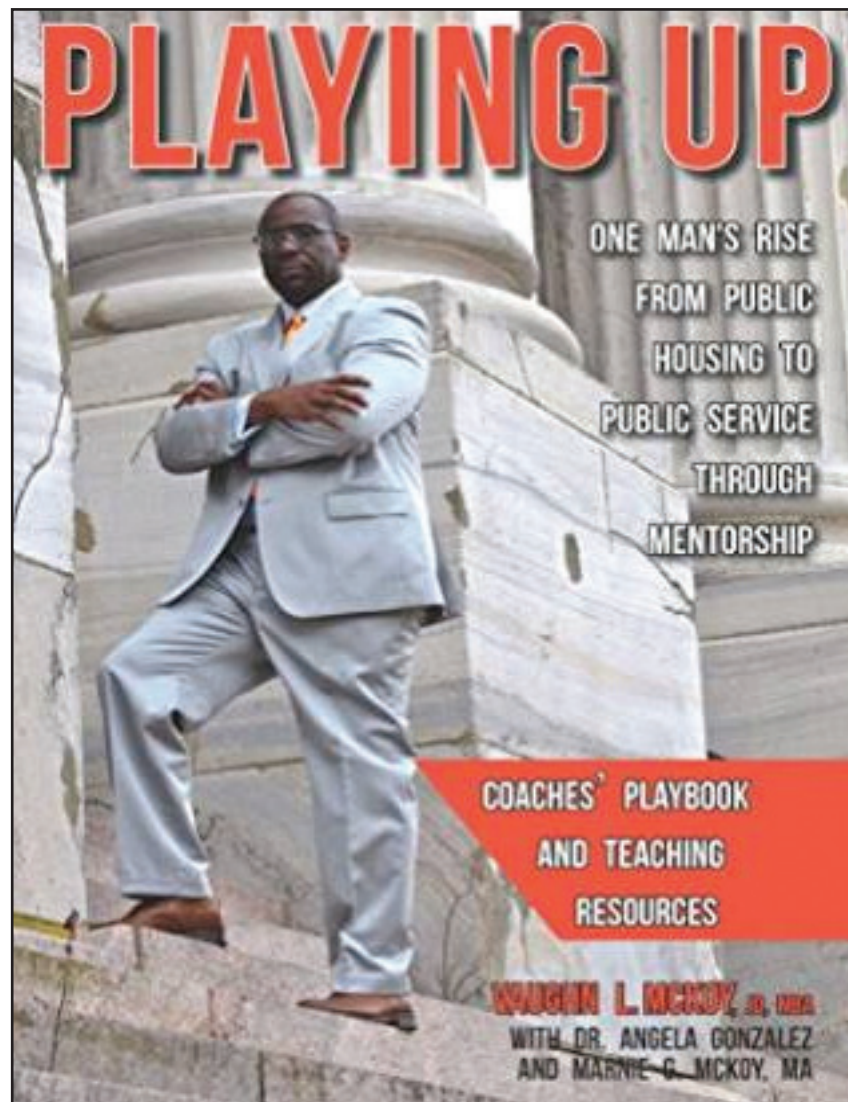
McKoy, whose professional accomplishments include becoming a litigator, assistant United States attorney and the head of the criminal division for the New Jersey Attorney General, grew up in poverty and at 17 while a junior in high school, he became a father.

He was able to escape the many pitfalls that come with being a teen dad and living in the projects after meeting business mogul Arthur M. Goldberg, who mentored him.

His autobiography notes ways in which McKoy said others can overcome such adversity including finding a mentor and how time becomes more valuable than money when it comes to a mentorship.

“Overall, ‘Playing Up’ has been well received among diverse readers as a truly inspirational story of triumph over challenges through hard work, education and mentorship,” McKoy said, noting that his wife and co-author Marnie McKoy is a Baltimore native who also attended Rutgers University in New Jersey, where McKoy graduated.

“‘Playing Up’ has been incorporated into a high school English course, a middle school course, academic enrichment and summer reading programs for traditional and public charter schools, as well as juvenile justice programming,” he said.



*“The Coaches’ Playbook” is a workbook aimed at grade six to 12 students, providing tools to help them overcome obstacles and build relationships.*

*Courtesy Photo/Amazon.com*

In connection with the launch of “The Coaches’ Playbook,” McKoy donated . . . McKoy is also facilitating a book study with young adults who are residents of juvenile justice programs.

Discussions with other school districts and education officials – including locally – are ongoing and they are developing an assessment tool to determine the impact of the book and curriculum on students’ academic achievement and social-emotional development, he said.

The authors notes that “The Coaches’ Playbook” is an effective resource because it is interdisciplinary, prompts critical thinking and problem solving and includes mini-writing lessons to help

students improve their writing skills while reading the book.

It can also be scaffolded to meet varying skill levels and contains diverse question types, including true/false, multiple choice and short answer, said McKoy, who is also working to complete another new book, “Rookie,” a sports-themed allegory that illustrates a successful mentoring relationship between “Rookie” and his new mentor, an effervescent business mogul known as “Doc.”

Through “Rookie” and the action steps that follow each chapter, readers/mentees develop twelve key “success plays” to build valuable rela-

tionships with mentors to enable them to triumph in both work and life, according to McKoy.

“The uniqueness of ‘Rookie’ is that it emphasizes the mentee’s responsibility and provides the mentee with the tools necessary to best leverage the relationship,” he said.

The former teen father also has advice for young individuals.

“For the teen fathers, love your kids and be present for them, regardless of a temporary inability to provide for them,” McKoy said. “For those teenagers who are not fathers, don’t strive to become one. Being a teenager in the twenty-first century is a challenge within itself,” he said.

“Playing Up” can be purchased at Amazon.com and Barnesandnoble.com. “The Coaches’ Playbook” is available in e-book format at Amazon.com. To purchase hard copies or bulk supply of “The Coaches’ Playbook” call 908-420-6056.

Baltimore Times

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### CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES

#### 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 **GS 15813R-MECU Building Envelope Improvements** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **Wednesday, September 9, 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, in Room 6 located on the first floor of the Abel Wolman Municipal Building, 200 Holliday Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 as of **Friday, July 31, 2015** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **\$100.00**.

#### **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, 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 **E13002-Over Three Story**

Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$2,000,000.01 to \$3,000,000.00**

A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted at **The Site: 401 E. Fayette Street, Baltimore, MD 21202 on Tuesday, August 18, 2015 at 10:00 A.M.**

Principal Items of work for this project are:

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Demolition          | 6. Fire Suppression  |
| 2. Concrete            | 7. Plumbing/HVAC     |
| 3. Fencing             | 8. Drywall/Painting  |
| 4. Window/Curtain Wall | 9. Electrical        |
| 5. Conveying           | 10. Site/Scaffolding |

The MBE goal is **10%**

The WBE goal is **3%**

#### **CONTRACT NO. GS 15813R**

APPROVED:

Bernice H. Taylor  
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:

Steve Sharkey  
Director, Department of General Services

## Baltimore residents will walk to help solve cruel mystery of lupus

Baltimore— The Lupus Foundation of America DC/MD/VA Chapter will host its annual Walk To End Lupus Now™ event at Rash Field in Baltimore City on Saturday, September 12, 2015.

The Walk to End Lupus Now events are held in more than 60 cities across the country, making it the largest lupus walk program in the entire country. The walk events bring together community members— people with lupus, friends, families, health care providers, celebrities and other stakeholders— to raise money for lupus research and education programs, increase awareness of the disease, and rally public support for those who feel the brutal impact of lupus.

A recent survey found that 72 percent of Americans between the ages of 18 and 34, the age group at greatest risk for the disease, have either not heard about lupus at all or know little or nothing about the disease beyond the name. Every dollar raised from the Walk to End Lupus Now event, as well as the others like it that take place across the country, supports the Lupus Foundation of America's efforts to solve the mystery of lupus— one of the world's cruellest, most unpredictable and devastating diseases— by increasing public awareness of the disease, funding critically needed



research programs and providing local support programs and services to those who suffer from its brutal impact.

"Lupus is a significant concern in the Washington Metropolitan area," said President and CEO, Katy Ahmed "Each year, more than 80,000 residents look to us for support and resources. We need more awareness of lupus and we need more resources for research to continue efforts to find a cure for this terrible disease. We hope the community will join us in our fight to end lupus."

Registration for the walk is available, online at <http://marylandlupuswalk.kintera.org/> or by calling 202-787-5390. Participants can also create a personal

fundraising page on the Walk website to raise money, recruit new team members, and get valuable fundraising tips.

Lupus is an unpredictable and misunderstood disease in which the immune system is out of balance, causing damage to any organ system in the body. The exact cause of lupus is unknown. While lupus can strike anyone at any time, 90 percent of the people living with lupus are females. Women of color are at an especially high risk. Lupus usually develops between ages 15 and 44. While lupus can be disabling and fatal, the disease can be managed in most cases through aggressive medical treatment and lifestyle changes.

## On World Hepatitis Day, Marylanders urged to get tested, treated!

Baltimore— On World Hepatitis Day, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's (DHMH) Prevention and Health Promotion Administration (PHPA) is calling for increased awareness of Hepatitis C.

"On World Hepatitis Day, July 28, 2015, the DHMH Infectious Disease Prevention and Health Services Bureau calls on Marylanders at risk for Hepatitis C to get tested," said DHMH Deputy Secretary of Public Health Howard Haft. "Too many people in this state are infected and unaware of that status."

Three and a half-million to 5.3 million people live with viral hepatitis. Of those, an estimated 2.7 million are infected with the Hepatitis C virus (HCV). Hepatitis C, the most common chronic, blood-borne viral infection in Maryland, is a blood-

borne virus that causes liver infection.

National estimates indicate that between 73,000 and 106,000 Marylanders have become infected with HCV during their lifetime. Although 15 percent to 25 percent of those infected will clear the virus from their bodies without treatment, HCV infection becomes chronic in 75 percent to 85 percent of cases. Complications of chronic HCV infection include cirrhosis, liver failure and cancer (hepatocellular carcinoma). Hepatitis C is often referred to as the "silent epidemic" because symptoms of infection may not appear for a number of years. For this reason, many people living with HCV are unaware of their status. Because of new innovations in HCV treatment, curative therapies with minimal side effects are now available.

People at greatest risk for contracting the virus include: Baby boomers born during the years 1945 through 1965; anyone born to a mother infected with Hepatitis C; anyone who received blood products with clotting factor before 1987; anyone who received a blood transfusion or organ transplant before July 1992; anyone who has been on kidney dialysis for several years; anyone with HIV; anyone who has injected drugs, even if only one time; and any health or public safety workers who have been stuck with a needle or other sharp object with blood from a person with Hepatitis C or unknown Hepatitis C status.

For more information about Hepatitis C screening and treatment, visit <http://goo.gl/ZUa7Lb>.



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