

The Annapolis Times

Vol. 39 No. 22

March 21 - 27, 2025

A Baltimore Times/Times of Baltimore Publication



Sisters in Baltimore City, Successful Entrepreneurs, Prove What is Possible at a Young Age

*Simrin Speaks, 18, left, with her sister Seneha Speaks, 25, hail from a family of entrepreneurs and community-minded Baltimoreans. The ambitious pair continues the traditions of their progressive parents, Damon and Sonia Speaks. Read how Simrin and Seneha operate their multiple businesses that link to wellness, celebrate their Indian heritage, and embrace their passion to contribute to the well-being of others during Women's History Month. (See article on page 6)
Photo: Sonia Speaks*



Remembering a Baltimore Icon

Anthony McCarthy Passes Away At Age 57 'He Was The Quintessential Broadcaster'

By Ursula V. Battle

This writer can recall working at the Baltimore AFRO-American Newspaper during the mid-1990s when an energetic, enthusiastic, young writer fresh from Virginia came through the doors of the Editorial Department. His name was Anthony McCarthy, and he was introduced to the staff as one of the publication's newest reporters.

The gifted journalist would go on to make an indelible mark in print journalism, politics, radio, and other arenas, working for the likes of the late Congressman Elijah Cummings and former Baltimore Mayors Sheila Dixon, Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, and Catherine Pugh.

A man of many talents whose infectious laughter and warm personality made everyone feel like they were his best friend, McCarthy lost a lengthy battle with kidney disease on Sunday, March 16, 2025, at the age of 57. Throughout the city and beyond, McCarthy was remembered as a man who helped to shape Baltimore's political landscape while also using his quick wit, humor, and natural communication abilities to help countless people tell their stories through radio, print, and other media.

In addition to working at The AFRO-American Newspaper as a staff writer, he also served as its Editor-in-Chief from 2001 until 2003. McCarthy's publishing experience also included serving as Associate Publisher of The Baltimore Times.

"Anthony was very talented," said Baltimore Times founder Joy Bramble. "He was well-liked and was always able to secure good interviews,

which helped contribute to the paper's success. He was full of innovative ideas and great at writing editorials. He made an indelible mark and will be missed. His passing will leave a huge void."

Baltimore Times Editor Dena Wane echoed Bramble's sentiments. "Anthony was a gifted writer and speaker who brought his many talents to our publication," said Wane. "I had the pleasure of working with him personally during his tenure at the paper. He was an innovative, out-of-the-box thinker who was not only creative but had such a charismatic, welcoming personality. I believe that's why he achieved a great deal of success in so many circles. He was a people person."

McCarthy's impressive career included serving as Communications Director for the late Congressman Elijah Cummings, and as spokesperson for Mayors Dixon, Rawlings-Blake, and Pugh. A political strategist, he also worked with the likes of Congressman Kweisi Mfume, and former Baltimore Mayor and Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley. McCarthy also served as former mayoral candidate Thiruvendran "Thiru" Vignarajah's Communications Director during his campaign.

A popular fixture on the airwaves who didn't shy away from discussing tough issues, McCarthy hosted "The Anthony McCarthy Show" on WEAA 88.9 FM. His radio career also included taking to the airwaves to discuss current events on "The Weekly News Roundup With Anthony McCarthy" on WYPR 88.1.

"Anthony McCarthy was more than a friend. He was a mentor, a

supporter, and a true champion for Baltimore," said Senator Cory V. McCray. "He was one of the first people to give me the opportunity to be on the radio by inviting me to join his talk show. That experience helped me understand the power of my voice to serve my city, support workers, and uplift young scholars."

McCray, who represents Baltimore's 45th District added, "Anthony believed in me — not just once, but every time I stepped forward to serve, backing me in every office I've ever run for. That's one of the most powerful things you can do for young people — to believe in them. His unwavering belief, his brilliance as a communicator, and his deep love for this city leave a legacy that will be felt for generations. Baltimore is better because of him, and his presence will be profoundly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and everyone whose life he touched."

An ordained minister, McCarthy was born in Virginia but made Maryland his permanent home after his arrival in the 1990s. It didn't take long after his arrival to make his presence felt, regularly standing in front of the news cameras to address the press on behalf of the politicians for whom he worked or quietly worked behind the scenes writing speeches, press releases and other materials. McCarthy attended Eastern Mennonite University and Howard University.

"He was the quintessential broadcaster," said Kim Chase, who worked at WEAA 88.9 FM for 11 years. "Anthony and I met in the late 1990s through the Association of Black Media Workers. He had the gift of encouragement, which I believe



Anthony McCarthy, who is credited with helping to shape Baltimore's political landscape, passed away at the age of 57 on Sunday, March 16, 2025. Courtesy photo

comes from God. Anthony was always kind and gracious in conversation."

Chase, who now works for WBJC Radio, reflected on "The Anthony McCarthy Show," which was recognized in 2015 as Baltimore Magazine's Best Talk Show.

"Anthony possessed exceptional broadcasting skills," said Chase. "He knew just the right questions to ask and how to engage guests effectively, even when dealing with difficult callers. What many people didn't know was that he also had great culinary skills. He could really cook, and I would call him 'The Chef.' He had so many talents and truly made an impact on the lives of those he touched."

xfinity



Is your full house running at full speed?

Power a houseful of devices with fast, reliable internet.



Enjoy a reliable connection
when everyone's online



Get seamless WiFi coverage
from the attic to the basement
and everywhere in between



With three WiFi radios built in,
connect up to 300 devices—
more than anyone else



1-800-xfinity



xfinity.com



Visit a store today

Restrictions apply. Not available in all areas. Actual speeds vary and not guaranteed. NPA400901-0039

Malware Part 1: What It Is and What You Should Know

By Karen Clay

Clay Technology and Multimedia, L.L.C.

When I was a child, the primary technology for learning at home was the television. Child-friendly educational programs such as “Captain Kangaroo,” “Romper Room,” and “Sesame Street” made up a good part of the early morning and afternoon line-up. Our parents didn’t have to worry about viruses, trojans or malware infiltrating our TVs. Today, most family members have access to Internet-connected devices. Unfortunately, such access also includes the opportunity for children to unknowingly install programs that include malware. Parents have to be especially vigilant to avoid the potential for their children’s devices to become vectors for cyber threats.

What is Malware?

The term malware is short for malicious software. It refers to any program or piece of code designed to damage, disrupt, or gain unauthorized access to devices and networks. Cybercriminals create malware for various purposes, including stealing personal data, spying on users, and holding files for ransom by locking them.

As parents, it is important to be aware of the various types of malware, and their different methods of attack. Malware can be categorized in the following ways:

- 1. Viruses:** Attach themselves to legitimate files and spread when executed, much like a biological virus.
- 2. Worms:** Self-replicating malware that spreads without human interaction, moving from one device to another.
- 3. Trojans:** Disguised as legitimate programs but carry hidden malicious functions.
- 4. Ransomware:** Encrypts a user’s files and demands payment to restore access.

5. Spyware: Secretly monitors a user’s activities, collecting sensitive information.

6. Botnets: Infect devices and turn them into “zombie” machines, which hackers use to carry out cyberattacks.

Each type of malware poses a unique threat to individuals and families, particularly as more devices become interconnected within the home.

How Malware Infiltrates Household Devices

Cybercriminals use various tactics to spread malware. Children and even adults can unknowingly download malware through a number of methods:

- 1. Phishing Emails and Messages:** Phishing scams use fake emails or messages that appear to come from trusted sources. These messages often contain malicious links or attachments designed to install malware. *Example: A child receives an email claiming to offer a free in-game currency reward for their favorite online game. Clicking the link installs spyware instead.*
- 2. Fake Apps and Software Downloads:** Some malware is disguised as free software, gaming mods, or cracked versions of paid apps. These are often found outside official app stores. *Example: A child downloads a “free” game from an unofficial website, not realizing it contains a trojan that steals passwords.*

3. Malicious Links in Social-Media and Texts: Scammers spread malware through fake social media promotions, chat messages, and even YouTube video descriptions. *Example: A teen clicks on a social media link offering free premium music streaming but unknowingly installs adware that floods their device with pop-ups.*

4. Compromised Smart Home Devices: Many smart home gadgets, like baby monitors and security cameras, have weak security settings, making them vulnerable to hacking. *Example: A*



Keeping children safer during tech use is important.

Graphic Design by Karen Clay

hacker accesses a family’s smart camera due to an unchanged default password, allowing them to spy on household activity.

5. Public Wi-Fi and Network Attacks: Unsecured public Wi-Fi networks can expose devices to malware and hacking attempts. *Example: A child connects their tablet to free public Wi-Fi at a mall, allowing a hacker to inject malware that steals their stored passwords.*

The Impact of Malware on Your Family

Unlike the days of passive television watching, today’s connected environment exposes your family to real cybersecurity risks. Malware can have serious consequences for your household, including:

1. Financial Theft and Identity Fraud: Some malware is designed to steal banking details, credit card numbers, and personal information, leading to financial loss and identity theft. *Example: A keylogging malware records a parent’s online banking login, leading to unauthorized transactions.*



Karen Clay, Clay Technology and Multimedia

Courtesy, Karen Clay

2. Privacy Invasion and Cyberstalking: Spyware can track users’ locations, record conversations, and steal sensitive data. *Example: A fake parental control app secretly monitors a child’s device and sends data to cybercriminals.*

3. Ransomware Lockouts: If a ransomware infection occurs, valuable files, such as family photos and documents, may become inaccessible unless a ransom is paid. *Example: A student loses access to their final project when ransomware locks their laptop, demanding payment for decryption.*

4. Exposure to Inappropriate Content: Some malware will flood devices with inappropriate content, ads, or phishing attempts that could lead children to harmful content. *Example: A child using a compromised device sees persistent gambling and adult content ads due to adware infection.*

I know all of this information may appear scary and the thought of protecting your child(ren) may seem daunting, but there are steps you can take to reduce the probability of having to deal with malware. Stay tuned for my next article!

Paris Brown
Publisher

Joy Bramble
Publisher Emeritus

Dena Wane
Editor

Andrea Blackstone
Associate Editor

Eunice Moseley
Entertainment Columnist

Ida C. Neal
Administrative Assistant

Sharon Bunch
Advertising

Ursula V. Battle
Reporter

Stacy Brown
Reporter

Demetrius Dillard
Reporter

Chris Murray
Reporter

Rosa "Rambling Rose" Pryor
Columnist

Karen Clay
Technology Columnist

Tyler Stallings
Junior Reporter

The Baltimore Times (USPS 5840) is a publication of The Baltimore Times/Times of Baltimore, Inc. The Baltimore Times is published every Friday. News and advertising deadline is one week prior to publication. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the written consent of the publisher. Subscriptions by mail \$60 per year. Standard bulk postage paid at Baltimore, MD 21233. POSTMASTER send address changes to: The Baltimore Times, 2530 N. Charles Street, Suite 201, Baltimore, MD 21218

Notice

Any unsolicited manuscripts, editorial cartoons, etc., sent to The Baltimore Times becomes the property of The Baltimore Times and its Editorial Department, which reserves the right to accept or reject any or all such unsolicited material.

Mailing Address

The Baltimore Times
2530 N. Charles Street, Suite 201
Baltimore, MD 21218
Phone: 410-366-3900
<https://baltimoretimes-online.com/>



Black Press Day March 13, 2025 at Howard University

Mobilizing for 2026: Chavis Urges Black Press to Act



Dr. Benjamin Chavis speaking at the 2024 NNPA National Leadership Awards Reception Photo courtesy of nnpa.org

By Stacy M. Brown
BlackPressUSA.com
Senior National Correspondent
[@StacyBrownMedia](https://twitter.com/StacyBrownMedia)

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) marked the 198th anniversary of the Black Press, and the culmination of Black Press Week with a powerful State of the Black Press address by NNPA President/CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., who spoke on the vital role of Black-owned media amid the growing threats of far-right extremism and American fascism. Held at Howard University, the event celebrated the resilience of Black journalism while also honoring the late Walter "Ball" Smith, publisher of New

York's Beacon and the Philadelphia Observer, who was posthumously enshrined in the Black Press Hall of Fame. Smith, who died in 2017 at 83, was remembered by his family and the Black publishing community for his tireless advocacy and contributions to Black media.

Chavis did not mince words when addressing the urgency of the times. He warned of the condescending weaponization of terms like "high and woke" to incite fear, hatred, and social regression, emphasizing that the Black Press must remain steadfast in combating misinformation and right-wing efforts to dismantle democracy. "We have to continue to plead our own cause, and that cause today includes

confronting and challenging the rampant contradictions of the far right who are trying to usher in American fascism," Chavis declared. "The Black Press of America is needed today more than ever before."

Chavis highlighted the expansive reach of the Black Press, boasting 245 print publications and 13 digital and online outlets under the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), with more poised to join. He rejected the narrative of "fake news" and "alternative truths," pledging that Black-owned media would persist in exposing lies and amplifying the voices of Black communities nationwide.

See **MOBILIZE**, page 21

Sisters in Baltimore City, Successful Entrepreneurs, Prove What is Possible at a Young Age

By Andrea Blackstone

Twenty-five-year-old Seneha Speaks and 18-year-old Simrin Speaks have been on an entrepreneurial path since their earliest memories. The Baltimoreans are the daughters of full-time entrepreneurs, Damon and Sonia Speaks. The Speaks' Baltimore City home base, known affectionately as "The House of Diamondz" <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064810083120> has rightfully earned the reputation of being a resource-filled place for many people who need support. A variety of free food and clothing are merely two examples of tangible items that are distributed at the community hub whenever available.

Seneha and Simrin are motivated to become the best versions of themselves. The Speaks sisters are diamonds in their own right.

Seneha Speaks

Volunteering and helping the community comes as second nature to Seneha, in addition to diving deep into entrepreneurship. The henna artist and 2022 Bowie State University alumna graduated with a Psychology bachelors. Her company, Se'Henna, was established in 2015. OmbySeHenna, another endeavor, was established in 2020.

"Se'Henna is my service-based business where I share my [Indian] culture with the world through henna tattoos. OmbySeHenna is a holistic healing company sharing ancient natural remedies to help heal our community," Seneha explained.

Creating henna tattoos is a natural aptitude Seneha possesses since the Speaks sisters are half Indian. Is that their Indian grandmother used henna



(L-r): Sonia Speaks, Simrin Speaks, Seneha Speaks, and Damon Speaks enjoy family time. Photo: Simrin Speaks

art as a rite of passage and way to connect with her granddaughters.

"I've always been an artist, so it was easy for me to pick up this medium," Seneha explained.

Seneha feels blessed to have two of Baltimore City's best mentors as parents.

"When I need advice about anything, they are the first ones I turn to," she added.

At the age of 15, she asked if she could practice creating henna art on her family and friends.

"Before I knew it, I was at a school charging \$10 for small designs at school events," Seneha shared.

The main ink that the henna artist uses to create her designs is a very high-quality Jagua Gel.

Even when Seneha was enrolled in college, she invested in creating a life that she wanted to live. Seneha made



Seneha Speaks holds a restock of her Irish sea moss capsules. Photo: Sonia Speaks



Nine year-old Simrin Speaks sold her first ever product, the "Positivity Jar" in 2016. Photo: Sonia Speaks



Simrin Speaks sells her most current product, fresh pressed juices to Michael Dupree at a community vending event at the YMCA. Photo: Sonia Speaks

See <SISTERS, page 19

VOL. 39 NO 22

THE BALTIMORE TIMES

March 21-27, 2025

A Baltimore Times/ Times of Baltimore Publication



2024-2025

AWARDS RECEPTION

AN ARTSPERIENCE

March 22, 2025 | 6 pm | Light Street Pavilion, Baltimore



POWERED BY:



SPONSORS





BLACK-OWNED & MANAGED SINCE 1982

The Harbor Bank of Maryland
is committed to the community
in Baltimore and beyond.
We proudly serve consumer and
business banking customers.

Move Forward With Us™



Learn more at
theharborbank.com



THE
HARBOR BANK
OF MARYLAND



Member
FDIC



**ARTSPERIENCE AWARDS RECEPTION
BALTIMORE INNER HARBOR
301 LIGHT STREET, 2ND FLOOR
7:00 PM**

Mistress of Ceremonies

*Olu Butterfly
Visionary Artepreneur & Community Sage*

Welcome

Paris M Brown, Publisher, The Baltimore Times

Special Remarks

Mayor Brandon Scott

Event Purpose & Sponsor Acknowledgments

Olu Butterfly

**An Artsperience: A Celebration of Baltimore's Black
Business, Arts & Culture**

Larry "Poncho" Brown

Sponsor Remarks

*Philip Allen, Jr., GVP/Retail Strategy & Operations Officer
Harbor Bank of Maryland
And
The Best of Black Baltimore 2024-2025
Financial Services Banks & Credit*

**Acknowledgment of the Best of Black Baltimore
2024-2025 Winners**

**Congratulatory Remarks & Acknowledgment
City of Baltimore**

*Christopher R. Lundy, Esq., Director, Mayor's Office of
Small and Minority Business Advocacy & Development*

Sponsor Remarks

*Derrick Green
Northeast Maglev*

**Congratulatory Remarks & Acknowledgment
State of Maryland**

*Y. Maria Martinez, Special Secretary, Governor's Office of
Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs*

Acknowledgment of Special Guests & Elected Officials

Closing Remarks

Group Photo of Winners, Atrium



The Superconducting Maglev Train Will Revolutionize Travel in the United States

Northeast Maglev is committed to bringing the world's fastest train, the Superconducting Maglev (SCMAGLEV) train, to Maryland. Using powerful superconducting magnets to levitate and operate, the SCMAGLEV travels at 311 mph, and would connect Washington, D.C. to Baltimore in 15 minutes, and D.C. to New York in just one hour.

The benefits of the SCMAGLEV would extend far beyond the addition of true high-speed rail to the U.S.:

- BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
- EDUCATION AND TRAINING
- HIGH-QUALITY JOBS AND CAREERS
- INVESTMENT IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES
- NO HOMES TAKEN
- DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION
- FUTURE-PROOF TRANSIT
- SAFE, FAST, AND EFFICIENT
- ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY

Connecting Communities with Opportunities

\$4 BILLION

in opportunity specifically
for **Minority and Women
Owned Businesses (MBEs)**

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Northeast Maglev is committed to a robust Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion plan, focusing on building relationships with MBEs in Maryland.

Strong partnerships with community groups, unions, workforce development organizations, and schools will create new paths for local residents to develop skills and establish careers.

Contracting Opportunities

Construction	Engineering	Station & Facilities	Maintenance
Logistics Construction & Assembly Planning & Supervision	Software Electrical & Mechanical Fire, Life, Safety	Operations Cleaning Security	Inspection Infrastructure Testing



Scan to learn more and become a supporter of the project!

THE BALTIMORE TIMES

We Want To Say...

THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS EVENT POSSIBLE! ...



2024-2025

Thanks to our power partners and sponsors for making this event possible and for your commitment to ensuring that Black owned and operated businesses are empowered to succeed, invest, and thrive in our communities.

EVENT POWERED BY:



SPONSORS:



SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

James Collins, Market Me Design Studio | Marketing and Executive Producer
Olu Butterfly, Urban Earth Synapsis | Art Programming | Associate Producer
Paris Samone, Paris Samone Studios | Event Decorations



2024-25 WINNERS

	THE BLACK GENIUS ART SHOW BEST ART GALLERY		CRUST BY MACK BEST BAKERY
	JANELLE MCRAE BEST AUTHOR		MOVIN AND SHAKIN MOBILE BARTENDING SERVICES BEST BARTENDING
	FEARLESS DANCE EMPIRE BEST DANCE ENSEMBLE		TEAVOLVE CAFE BEST BREAKFAST
	CHARDEE SCOTT BEST GRAPHIC DESIGN		SUNNYSIDE CAFE LLC BEST BRUNCH SPOT
	THE NATIONAL GREAT BLACKS IN WAX MUSEUM BEST MUSEUM		XQUISITE CATERING LLC BEST CATERING
	JAZZY STUDIOS BEST PHOTOGRAPHER		AUNT KELLY'S COOKIES BEST COOKIES
	ARENA PLAYERS INC BEST THEATER COMPANY		ISLAND QUIZINE BEST CULTURAL CUISINE
	THE BLACK GENIUS ART SHOW BEST VISUAL ARTIST		WHIMSY CAKES Y WDE BEST DESSERT
	A LITTLE FAITH ACCOUNTING & TAX SERVICES LLC BEST ACCOUNTING FIRM		SHAREEF'S HOUSE OF WRAPS BEST FOOD TRUCK
	THE HARBOR BANK OF MARYLAND BEST FINANCIAL SERVICES BANKS & CREDIT		CAPITAL LOUNGE INC. BEST FRIED FISH
	92Q BEST BLACK RADIO STATION		CAJOU - A PLANT-BASED CREAMERY & CAFE BEST ICE CREAM
	GLOBAL FLAIR EVENTS BEST EVENT PLANNER		OUR TIME KITCHEN BEST LUNCH SPOT
	THE REGINALD LEWIS MUSEUM BEST EVENT SPACE		SUNDAY MORNING ROAST BEST ROASTERY
	THE GARAGE BEST EVENT SPACE		THE URBAN OYSTER BEST SEAFOOD RESTAURANT
	JAZZY SUMMER NIGHTS BEST LIVE PERFORMANCE EVENT		MOVA NATURE BEST SPECIALTY NON-ALCOHOLIC DRINKS
	LOS HERMANOS TEQUILA BEST ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE/SPECIALTY COCKTAIL		CUPLES TEA HOUSE BEST TEA BARISTA
	THE EMPANADA LADY BEST ALL-AROUND RESTAURANT		DESIGNER WASH AUTO DETAILING BEST FULL SERVICE CAR WASH



2024-25 WINNERS

	THE LAND OF KUSH BEST VEGAN RESTAURANT		DIASPORA SALON BEST HAIR SALON
	MOTHER MARY LANGE CATHOLIC SCHOOL BEST CHILDCARE/PRESCHOOL		DEANA STEWART BEST HAIR STYLIST
	FLEURS D'AVE BEST DANCE ENSEMBLE		BOMBSHELL BLING & BEAUTY BOUTIQUE BEST LASH TECH/LASH SALON
	WYLIE FUNERAL HOME BEST FUNERAL HOME		DEANA STEWART BEST MAKE-UP ARTIST
	CELEBRATE STILL INC. BEST NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION		LUMINOUS NAILS AND SPA BEST NAIL SALON
	THE BLVCK GYPSY MOBILE GROOMING & HOLISTIC CARE BEST PET SERVICES		NKVSKIN BEST SKIN CARE PRODUCTS
	ZEN AND THE CITY BEST DAY SPA		FIRE AND SMOKE CIGAR PARLOR BEST CIGAR SHOP
	SHELTON FAMILY DENTAL BEST DENTAL PRACTICE		FLOURISH BALTIMORE BEST JEWELRY STORE
	MICHELE BLU YOGA BEST FITNESS CLASS		SKRUED BEST MENS CLOTHING STORE
	SERENE MOBILE MASSAGES BY ANGEL BEST MASSAGE		EVERYONE'S PLACE BEST PLACE TO BUY A UNIQUE GIFT
	THE DEDE. SHOP BEST CANDLES AND AROMATHERAPY		BLKASS FLEA MARKET BEST POP-UP MARKET
	LUHVAC AND PROPERTIES LLC BEST AIR CONDITIONING/HVAC SERVICE		CITY OF GODS BEST URBAN RETAIL
	CAREY HARDWARE BEST HARDWARE STORE		THE DOLL HOUSE BOUTIQUE BEST WOMENS BOUTIQUE SHOP
	SEWER SLAYER BEST PLUMBER		YELE STITCHES BEST WOMENS FASHION DESIGNER
	SHE NAILED IT BEST REMODELER/CONTRACTOR		BALTIMORE BODY SHOP & SERVICE BEST AUTO BODY REPAIR
	TAYLOR MADE CUSTOM CONTRACTING INC BEST REMODELER/CONTRACTOR		EXCLUSIVE MOTORCARS BEST AUTO DEALERSHIP
	REFLECTION ETERNAL BEST BARBERSHOP		DARE-IT AUTO CENTER BEST AUTO SERVICE CENTER

HEBRON

EVENT PRODUCTION • & Co. • PROJECT MANAGEMENT



CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION | INFO@HEBRONCONSULTING.COM

WWW.HEBRONCONSULTING.COM

FULL SERVICE. FULL STOP

At Hebron & Co., we understand that the smallest details make the BIGGEST difference.

Our premier event management, project management, and fundraising services maximize donor potential. This will allow you to host notable events that truly reflect your organization. We hope that we can connect with you soon!

SERVICES

EVENT STRATEGY
& PRODUCTION

FUNDRAISING

PROJECT
MANAGEMENT



Ready to buy, sell, or invest?
Let's make it happen!

We do more than just buy and sell homes—we empower you to build wealth through real estate!

- ✓ **Wealth Building** – Your home is more than a place to live—it's an asset!
- ✓ **Financial Coaching** – Master credit, budgeting & smart homeownership
- ✓ **Investment Strategy** – Make real estate work for your future
- ✓ **First-Time Buyer Support** – Navigate grants, loans & programs with ease
- ✓ **Holistic Guidance** – Align real estate with long-term financial success

Ready to own, invest, and grow? Let's build your legacy!

📞 443-991-5942

✉️ keys@kingdomrealestateadvisors.com

🌐 www.kingdomrealestateadvisors.com

Lyndsaë' Peele, MBA, PMEC™

Realtor and Founder

@thekingdomwealthconnector



Let's build wealth the
right way!



Stop DIY struggles—start building wealth! KVC helps entrepreneurs of color boost cash flow, build business credit, save smart, and grow net worth.

- ✓ **Monthly & Quarterly 1:1 Coaching Plans**
- ✓ **Real Estate Acquisition Consultation**
- ✓ **Business Loan Application Assistance**
- ✓ **Group Mastermind Sessions**
- ✓ **Project-Based Consultation**
- ✓ **Technical Assistance for CDFI's**

SCAN ME TO
LEARN MORE!



Ready for real results?

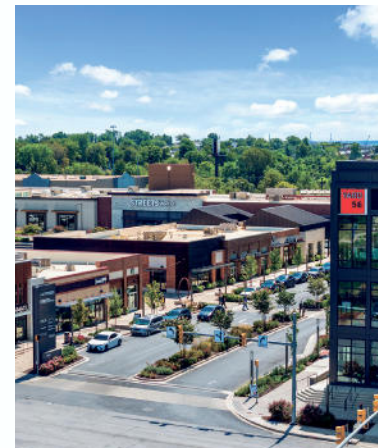
📞 410-870-5590

✉️ info@kingdomvisionconsult.com

🌐 www.kingdomvisionconsult.com



WE PROUDLY SALUTE THE OUTSTANDING BUSINESSES AND CREATIVE TALENTS OF BALTIMORE



mcbrealestate.com

Industrial | Mixed-Use | Multi-Family | Office | Retail | Science + Health



It takes a steady approach to have a meaningful impact .

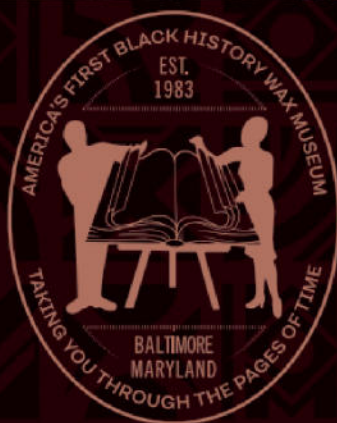
At PNC, we're proud to live and work among the people and organizations that dedicate themselves to making our communities brilliant.



Brilliantly Boring is a service mark of The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.
©2025 The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. All rights reserved. PNC Bank, National Association. Member FDIC.

1601-03 East North Ave, Baltimore, MD 21213

Ph. 410-563-3404 | greatblacksinwax.org



THE NATIONAL
GREAT BLACKS IN WAX
MUSEUM INC.

GENERAL ADMISSION

\$18 (child/senior discounts)

GUIDED TOURS

Small and large group tours available.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY

10AM-5PM

SUNDAY

12PM-5PM



THE NATIONAL
GREAT BLACKS IN WAX
MUSEUM INC.



Lendistry is a proud sponsor of Best of Black Baltimore



Lendistry Customer: Jaree Cottman
Afya Counseling & Wellness Services, Baltimore, MD

We're committed to serving **Maryland** small businesses with fast, flexible financing options, starting at **\$25,000**.



Learn more today!
lendistry.com/baltimore

©2025 B.S.D. Capital, Inc. dba Lendistry. All rights reserved. Loans are made pursuant to state law and may not be available in all states. SBA loans originated by Lendistry SBLC, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of B.S.D. Capital, Inc. dba Lendistry. Lendistry SBLC, LLC is approved to offer SBA loan products under SBA's 7(a) Lender Program. NMLS# 1571851. Lendistry SBLC, LLC California Finance Lender, License #60DBO-49327.

Sisters

Continued from page 6

sacrifices such as tending to her appointments in Baltimore and then hopping back on the train to get back to campus to finish an essay.

“I’ve always seen the bigger picture,” she explained, adding that anyone can become anything they would like to be.

Simrin Speaks

Simrin Speaks, a Dulaney High School senior, mentioned that her family runs a free pantry at two locations to provide food for people who need it, in addition to organizing community givebacks.

“These efforts have been really important to me because they show the impact we can make when we come together to help others,” she remarked.

Additionally, Simrin began to explore entrepreneurship beginning at eight years old.

“My first business was creating inspirational products, including the Positivity Jar where kids could pick a quote whenever they felt down,” said Simrin.

The entrepreneur’s current endeavor, Soleil by Sim, is a wellness business offering natural products crafted from high-quality, organic ingredients. The products support good health, overall well-being and self-care.

Simrin stated that she specializes in cold-pressed juices, herbal teas, and sea moss blends. Bath teas, vapor rubs, and natural oral care products are also offered.

“I personally make everything,” Simrin explained.

She added, “My goal is to help people take care of their bodies in a simple, natural way.”

Simrin’s interest in wellness was sparked when Sonia became sick. Western medicine was not working for her, according to her daughter. She observed how effective holistic

healing could be because her grandmother was a believer in holistic healing. After turning to natural remedies, progress was observable in Sonia’s health.

“Seeing those results made me want to learn more about natural health, and that’s what led me to focus on wellness in my business,” Simrin explained.

Simrin’s products are available for pickup in West Baltimore at the House of Diamondz, or they can be shipped or delivered to her customers. The ambitious student has been able to balance her business and school because she has an early release from school because she has already earned the required credits.

“That gives me extra time to focus on my business without it affecting my academics. Plus, I’ve always been disciplined with my time, and my grades are excellent, so I make sure to stay on top of everything while still growing my business,” said Simrin.

She is excited about attending Morgan State University next year and discovering how she can grow personally and professionally.

She added, “Growing up in Baltimore, I’ve seen the challenges, but I’ve also seen the incredible potential we have. It’s important to remember that success isn’t just about what you have; it’s about your mindset and willingness to keep pushing forward. Don’t let anyone tell you that you can’t achieve something! Your dreams are within reach if you keep going— don’t give up.”

Connect with Seneha Speaks @se.henna on all platforms, @ombysehenna on all platforms and visit <https://ombysehenna.myshopify.com/>. Find Simrin Speaks @soleilbysim on all platforms, including <https://www.instagram.com/soleilbysim>.

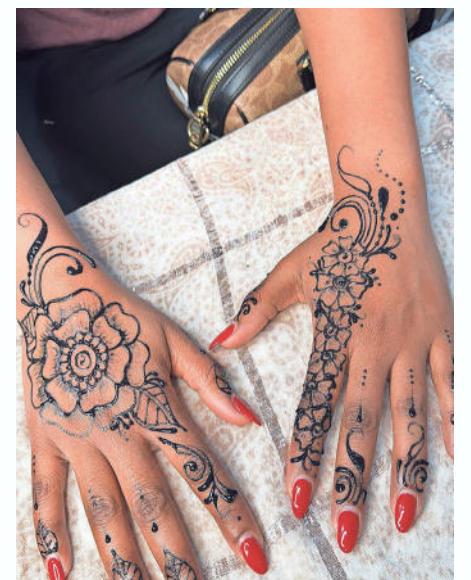


Damon Speaks and a young Simrin Speaks load bread into Damon’s truck to take back to The House of Diamondz to distribute in the community. Photo: Sonia Speaks



Simrin Speaks’ bestselling juice, Watermelon Bliss, sold through her juicing business, Soleil by Sim.

Photo: Simrin Speaks



Hand henna designs by Se’Henna.

Photo: Coreon Collins

Save the Date: Saturday, March, 29, 2025

Art with a Heart, Inc. Presents Its 25th Anniversary Celebration

By Andrea Blackstone

Founded in 2000, Baltimore-based Art with a Heart, Inc. has provided equitable access to visual art experiences while enhancing the lives of people of nearly all ages through visual art. Randi Pupkin, the executive director, started the nonprofit organization while she was still practicing law.

“She started teaching four classes a week in two group homes, an Alzheimer’s facility, The House of Ruth Maryland and a senior center,” said Megan Gatto, Deputy Director of Art with a Heart. “Now, Art with a Heart provides as many as 16,000 classes a year.”

Most of Art with a Heart’s work is done in Baltimore City, although work also occurs in the surrounding counties.

“We have 20 employees; 18 are full-time. We work with as many as 4,000 volunteers a year, so that includes volunteers who come in individually, three times a week, like it’s their job,” said Gatto.

Volunteers mostly help in the office with material preparation and work on large scale community art projects.

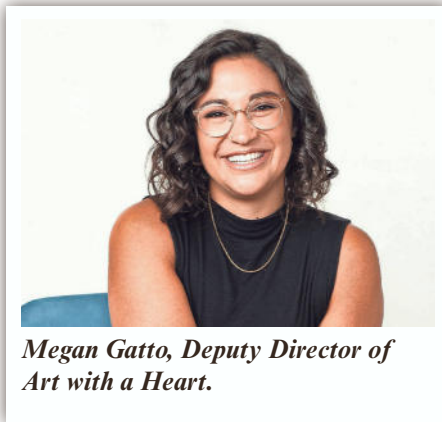
“Typically, if we are asking someone to be in a classroom and facilitate, we are going to compensate them for their time,” Gatto said.

Gatto explained that Art with a Heart also works with large service groups, college interns, and between 100 and 150 contracted teachers and assistants who help facilitate classes.

Art with a Heart’s outreach is wide and diverse. Art classes are held for students ages two to 102 in everything from early childhood learning centers and after school programs to senior centers, community centers, treatment facilities, homeless shelters, veterans and Alzheimer’s facilities.

“We are also in 17 Baltimore City Schools as a supplemental art teacher,” Gatto added.

Classes are free for participants. Art



Megan Gatto, Deputy Director of Art with a Heart.

with a Heart’s partners pay a subsidized rate to contribute to the cost of running customized classes that could include painting, drawing, making ceramics, sculpture, or mosaics.

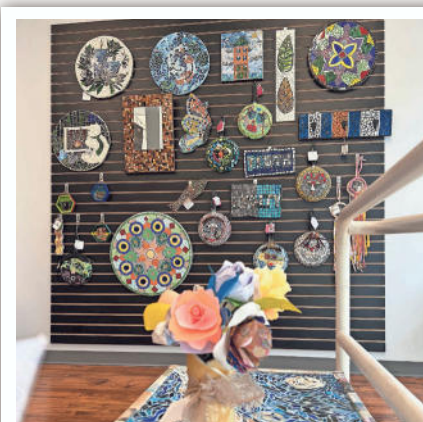
Candace Allmond, Senior Director of Workforce Development and Community Engagement, oversees the nonprofit’s HeARTwares and HeARTworks branches.

“The HeARTworks Program is the workforce development program that works with youth ages 14 to 24. We are the satellite site that’s on 36th street in Hampden. So, we have HeARTwares downstairs, which is the store where the art products that our students create are being sold,” Allmond explained.

She loves having the opportunity to mentor and instill the premise in young people that they can do anything. They are taught useful skills that they can carry with them throughout their development.

The public can shop at HeARTwares, located at 1104 W. 36th Street in Baltimore for handmade treasures. Students receive a portion of the sales.

“We’re an organization that’s sowing seeds, watering seeds, helping the plants grow for our next workers—the next people who are going to lead. I feel like, yes we’re giving them something to do, but it’s things to do that they will carry with them the rest of their lives. Specifically, workforce development,” Allmond stated.



An interior view of HeARTwares. Photos courtesy of Art with a Heart

She added, “If I learn how to make a good resume, if I learn how to do a good interview, if I learn how to be confident, even after this, I’ll be able to take this into my next job, my next career as I grow as a young adult.”

Art with a Heart is turning 25 years old. Art lovers, community members and the public can join forces to help make the organization’s tomorrow a brighter reality.

The nonprofit will present its 25th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, March, 29, 2025 from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. at the M&T Bank Exchange at the France-Merrick Performing Arts Center, home of the Hippodrome Theatre – 401 W. Fayette Street in Baltimore, Maryland.

“There’s going to be live music, dancing, dinner, and drinks. There’s going to be a silent auction of one-of-a-kind masks that have been decorated by local Baltimore artists. And really it’s a part of a fundraising campaign for our 25th year to support three areas: our overall programs, the opening of the Avenue location, which is where our workforce development program is, HeARTwares on the Avenue, and then in honor of our executive director and founder retiring this year,” Gatto said.

Immersive art stations will also be



“The Heart of Baltimore” mosaic sculpture was created during the pandemic with over 1,000 volunteers who participated remotely and in-person by creating ceramic hearts incorporated into the mosaic. The sculpture is located at the South Entrance of the UMMC Hospital, 22 S. Green Street in Baltimore, Maryland.



Art with a Heart’s workforce development team: Kimora Hodge, Candace Allmond, Kristina Harlee, and Klause Ferrell at the 16th Annual B’more Healthy Expo.

available for attendees to enjoy while helping to raise money for a worthy cause.

“We haven’t had an event in 10 years, so we’re really pouring a lot into this celebration, and we hope that Baltimore will come and celebrate with us!” Gatto said.

The deadline to purchase tickets online at www.artwithaheart.net is Wednesday, March 26, 2025.

Mobilize

Continued from page 5

“There’s no other national news reporting organization that has the local, national, and global reach of the Black Press,” he said.

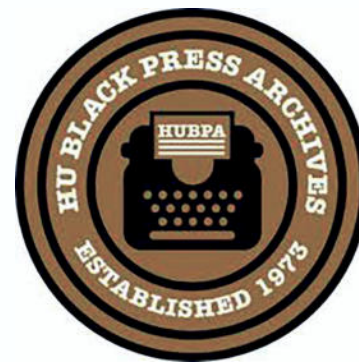
Comparing the NNPA’s reach to that of mainstream outlets, Chavis noted that while the Associated Press has bureaus in all 50 states, the Black Press operates 258 bureaus across the country. Beyond reporting, he stressed that Black media’s role extends to influence and advocacy, describing it as “a syndicate, a collaboration, and a togetherness of not only the production of news but its distribution and its impact.” Chavis called for a renewed partnership between the Black Press, Black churches, HBCUs, and Black-owned businesses to proactively plan for the future rather than merely react to oppression. He urged publishers and clergy in every city to organize mass



meetings—historic gatherings that have long served as mobilization platforms for Black communities—to discuss progress and collective action.

“We cannot afford to get overly distracted every day, reacting to the current, repressive, and backward policies and actions of those in high places,” he said, citing the White House, Congress, and the Supreme Court as institutions plagued by “spiritual wickedness in high places.”

Chavis reiterated the importance of faith, community unity, and proactive planning. He referenced the 60th anniversary of the 1965 Selma



to Montgomery march, noting how mass meetings at Black churches laid the groundwork for transformative movements. “We just can’t react to oppression. We need to be planning our liberation, planning our progress, planning our advancement as a people,” he stated.

Looking ahead to 2026, Chavis called on the Black Press to lead a national mobilization effort to secure the largest

Black voter turnout in history. With the growing threats to voting rights, HBCU funding, healthcare, and economic stability, he insisted that preparation must begin immediately.

“Are we going to allow these backward people to continue to represent us in Congress? Are we going to allow them to keep chipping away at our voting rights, our HBCU scholarships, our healthcare?” Chavis asked. “The Black Press will work diligently over the next 18 to 20 months to arouse our communities on the importance of civic education, voter registration, and engagement.”

Chavis also highlighted the immense economic power of Black Americans, who spend more than \$2 trillion annually in the U.S. economy. “We’re the richest poor folk in the world,” he said. “\$2 trillion.”

BECOME a community health care advocate!

Baltimore City Medical Society Foundation (BCMSF) is partnering with the Association of Black Cardiologists, and other local and national organizations to train motivated trusted community leaders and residents to provide peer education on changes in lifestyle and behaviors to improve overall health. We invite you to become a part of this innovative program to assist your neighbors.

If you are interested in becoming a community health advocate, email or call BCMSF - info@bcmsdocs.org or 410-625-0022

- **Conduct educational sessions with religious congregations, neighborhood and community organizations, civic organizations and school, college and university students**
- **Participate in group activities organized by BCMSF**
- **Earn the distinction of being a member of BCMSF’s community health advocate coalition**





By Rosa Pryor

Hello, my dear friends and fans. Honey Child! I believe my column has gone from entertainment to an obituary column. It is a terrible situation! Lonnie Parker, Anthony McCarthy and Joe Cooper were all close friends, and I am sure many of yours, too. Condolences to the family and friends of these Baltimore icons. They will be truly missed.

Now that we have wiped our tears away, and mourn in silence, let's talk about some happy stuff. I am talking about music. I want to share with you a few music events coming up that you should check out.

The Funn Band Unbound, Black composers in jazz music will be in concert on Friday, March 21, starting at 7:30 p.m., featuring music honoring Eubie Blake, Duke Ellington, Thad Jones, Joe Henderson and much more at the Eubie Blake Cultural Center, located 847 N. Howard Street. Check it out!

Craig Alston Syndicate will perform at Who Knowz Restaurant & Lounge, located 2101 Maryland Avenue on Sunday March 23, from 5-7 p.m. Honey Child! Craig plays some mean sax. Then, on March 28, from 6-11 p.m. Who Knowz Restaurant & Lounge will present another one of Baltimore's favorite groups, "Ten Karat Gold." I am telling you, my girl over at Who Knowz is showing off! I Love IT!

Caton Castle has never stopped presenting the best artists for many years and is still doing it every Saturday starting at 6 p.m. On Saturday March 29, Caton Castle Lounge, located 20 S. Caton Avenue

Baltimore Has Lost Many of Our Loved Icons This Month



Lonnie Parker, the owner of Parker's Barber Shop on Reisterstown Road and Belvedere Avenue for over 66 years and 65 years as an entertainment and gospel promoter, passed away on Friday, March 14.



Joe Cooper, Baltimore's renowned musician and the husband of radio personality Sandi Mallory passed away February 24, 2025, at the age of 76. Condolences to the family.



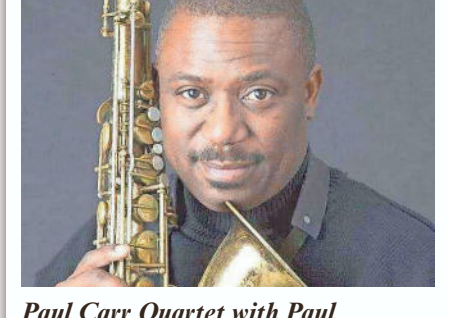
Anthony McCarthy passed away on Saturday, March 15 at the age of 57 after a long battle with kidney disease.



Bo'na will be at City View, 6700 Security Blvd., from 6-10 p.m. No cover charge and the food, drinks and atmosphere are very nice.



"Ten Karat Gold," one of the baddest singing groups in Baltimore, will perform at Who Knowz Restaurant & Lounge, 2101 Maryland Avenue, from 6-10 p.m. Free admission. The food and drinks are great. Check it out. You won't be sorry.



Paul Carr Quartet with Paul Bratcher on keyboard, Blake Meister on bass, and Lenny Robinson on drums, featuring vocalist Lavenia Nesmith, will perform a Gloria Lynn tribute at Caton Castle Lounge, located at 20 South Caton Avenue on Saturday, March 29 at 6 p.m.

is featuring Paul Carr Quartet with singer Lavenia Nesmith performing a tribute to Gloria Lynn. The musicians are Paul Carr, on sax, Paul Bratcher on piano, Blake Meister on bass, and Lenny Robinson on drums. For more information, call 410-566-7086.

Greg's Place, located at 601 S. Monroe Street has started kick'n it with Kenny B and Emcee Phil doing

Karaoke starting Friday March 21 from 8-12p.m. Check it out.

I'm sorry, I have to go now. My doorbell is ringing. It is the UPS truck delivering a case of my new books. That's right! You heard me! My new book is out! I think you will love it as much as you have enjoyed my other two. This one is much bigger. The title is: "Baltimore & Maryland Black

History Stories: Who, What, When & Where (1950-1980's)."

I am planning on setting up some book signings starting the first of April. Let me know if you know of a place where I can hold book-signings. Just email me at rosapryor@aol.com or call me at 410-833-9474. **UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.**

DeAndre Hopkins Aims To Be the Next Veteran WR to Help Ravens

By Tyler Hamilton

We've seen it time and time again. A veteran receiver hits the market and the Baltimore Ravens snaps him up. Names like Steve Smith Sr., Anquan Boldin, and Derrick Mason come to mind when this subject is broached. Ravens general manager Eric DeCosta and head coach John Harbaugh hope future Hall of Famer DeAndre Hopkins can be the next veteran to aid the franchise.

Hopkins brings a resume that includes 984 receptions, 12,965 yards, and 83 touchdowns. He had 56 receptions for 610 yards and five touchdowns last season with the Kansas City Chiefs and Tennessee Titans.

The 32-year-old wideout believes his game can still be effective despite being on the backend of his career.

"I would say how I'm able to get open. I've never been a 4.3 or 4.4 [40-yard dash] guy, but I'm able to make plays on the ball and get open, and contested catches," Hopkins said. "I feel like that's been something that I've been able to excel in. And I would say my knowledge of defenses as well. Playing 13 years in the NFL, you learn defensive coverages and how to get open, and you kind of know what the defense is doing, sometimes pre-snap."

The current receiver room is led by Zay Flowers, who's only entering his third season. Last season, Flowers was the first Ravens receiver to be named to the Pro Bowl. An injury kept him out of the playoff loss to the Buffalo Bills. But fellow young wideout Rashad Bateman filled in with a key touchdown.

Hopkins is looking forward to fitting in with the young wideout and offering them his wealth of knowledge after 12 years in the NFL. It's not just



DeAndre Hopkins
AP Photo/George Walker

the receivers that Hopkins is looking forward to working with. A big part of why he joined the Ravens was quarterback Lamar Jackson.

"I think Lamar [Jackson] being the leader of this team is part of the reason that I came here. What he stands for and how he led this team and this organization to the playoffs in multiple years, and since he's been here, just how he's led any receiver group he's had. So, I think that played a big part of me coming here," Hopkins said.

Hopkins will be reunited with former Titans teammate Derrick Henry. He signed with the Titans in 2023 to join forces with Henry. The results didn't follow but the experience was great for both of them.

The two trained together in Dallas during the offseason. Hopkins said he's inspired by Henry's ability to play a physically demanding position like running back at a high level despite his age.

About five years ago, Hopkins was at an event with Jackson and Henry.

He was still with the Arizona Cardinals at the time. Jackson of course, was the Ravens quarterback and Henry was leading the Tennessee Titans offense. The three posed for a picture and Hopkins posted it on social media with the caption, "How many touchdowns would this trio score?"

Well, we're about to find out.

"Hopefully, it will be enough to win a lot of games and win the games we need to win. I don't have a number, but hopefully more than a little bit," Hopkins said.

The Maryland Lottery encourages you to **play responsibly.**

Know your odds.

Don't play when stressed.

Set a spending limit.

Learn more about playing responsibly at [mdlottery.com](https://www.mdlottery.com).



For help, call 1-800-GAMBLER. Must be 18 years or older to play.