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Breast Cancer Survivor Unselfishly Supports Others Through Breast Cancer Survivorship Organization

October 1 marks the beginning of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. (L-r): Angela Evans and Janet Hall stand in front of Baltimore City Hall in 2024. Hall, founder of the Janet Hall Foundation and a 42-year breast cancer survivor, received a certificate from Mayor Brandon Scott in recognition of her advocacy efforts to illuminate the City Hall dome pink in honor of survivors and breast health awareness.

(See article on page 9)

Delmar Photography/Delmar Gillus



STEMcx After Dark to Celebrate Baltimore Students and Expand Opportunities in STEM



Courtesy photos



Baltimore, MD – Baltimore nonprofit STEMcx will host its first-ever fundraising gala, STEMcx After Dark, on Friday, November 7, 2025, from 7:00 to 11:00 PM at The Garage at R. House (301 W 29th St, Baltimore, MD 21211).

The evening will showcase the creativity and innovation at the heart of STEMcx's work. Nationally known comedian Chuck Nice, cohost of Neil deGrasse Tyson's StarTalk, will headline the program, joined by live entertainment and immersive experiences. Guests will also be able to explore five interactive STEM Zones, each designed to make science playful while raising funds. Activities will include adopting a microbe, experimenting with an AI-powered photo booth, creating oyster-inspired jewelry, and even naming a star. These mini-fundraisers combine fun with purpose, reflecting STEMcx's unique approach to connecting the community with science, technology, engineering, and math.

"All proceeds directly support STEMcx programming for Baltimore-area youth," said Sandra Adams, Chair of STEMcx. "We are excited to bring

our community together to celebrate our students and sustain the work that changes their trajectories. When partners show up in person, it tells young people that Baltimore believes in their talent and their future."

The gala will also include a virtual silent auction honoring acclaimed architect Philip Freelon, who designed many of the nation's most celebrated cultural spaces. The Museum Legacy Collection, featuring framed images of his iconic works, will be available for online bidding, allowing supporters worldwide to participate. All auction proceeds will be directed toward sustaining and expanding STEMcx's programs.

STEMcx is guided by a powerful vision: a world where more underrepresented minority students become STEM professionals. Its mission is to inspire students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics by offering academic support, hands-on learning, and opportunities to connect with STEM professionals of color. A division of the Transforming Lives Community

Development Corporation, founded by New Psalmist Baptist Church, STEMcx blends faith, education, and empowerment to open pathways for young people who have historically been excluded from STEM opportunities.

Through tutoring programs, the STEMcx Academy, summer camps in robotics, science, and veterinary studies, and summer internships for high school students, STEMcx provides both inspiration and practical experience. These initiatives ensure that Baltimore youth are not only excited about STEM but also equipped with the skills, mentors, and real-world exposure needed to succeed in college and future careers.

STEMcx After Dark is more than just a gala. It is a celebration of Baltimore's young talent and an opportunity to invest directly in the city's future workforce. By attending, donating, or bidding in the auction, supporters will help STEMcx sustain and expand its impact, building a

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STEMcx AFTER DARK

featuring the comedy of **CHUCK NICE**

\$150 per person
Age: 18+

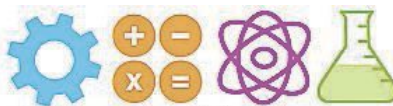
Silent auctions, STEM-themed bites & Open Bar

November 7, 2025
7:00 PM-11:00 PM

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BALTIMORE, MD 21211

STEMcx
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Tickets and tables are now available for purchase at <https://stemcx.networkforgood.com/events/89598-stemcx-after-dark>

Learn more about STEMcx and its mission at www.stemcx.org.



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to qualify for participation in the cohort.**



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Housing Market Struggles: What Home Buyers, Sellers and Renters Should Know

By Andrea Blackstone

According to Maryland.gov, “in the Moore-Miller Administration’s first year, it evaluated the state’s economy and learned that housing affordability was driving Marylanders out of the state.” (<https://dhcd.maryland.gov/TurningTheKey/Pages/default.aspx>) Although talk of solutions have been on the horizon since 2024, a 2025 University of Maryland study found that “sluggish new housing construction in Maryland is driving up prices and contributing to residents’ inability to achieve the American dream of homeownership.” (<https://today.umd.edu/umd-researchers-find-homeownership-increasingly-out-of-reach-for-marylanders#:~:text=Sluggish%20new%20housing%20construction%20in%20Maryland%20is%20driving,according%20to%20a%20new%20University%20of%20Maryland%20study.>)

The report’s findings stated that the construction rate has not increased since the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, restrictive zoning laws have contributed to the slowdown in development. The Dynasty Group of Vybe Realty, created by Tiffany Domneys, Mark Sykes, and Marcus James, comprises highly experienced realtors. They answered timely questions about the housing market, and how buyers, sellers and renters can navigate through this climate.

Major Housing Market Struggles

The current housing market is under pressure on all fronts.

“Low inventory is a major issue. Many homeowners don’t want to sell because they’d lose their low mortgage rates, which keeps listings scarce. Buyers are

struggling with affordability as higher interest rates make monthly payments harder to manage,” said James.

On the new construction side, builders are facing rising material costs and supply chain issues, which is making new homes more expensive.

Housing Prices and Apartment Rentals

Sykes stated that homes that are priced right and move-in ready are still moving quickly. However, buyers have more leverage with homes that have been sitting for weeks.

“Housing prices in Baltimore are still trending upward, but some sellers are pricing on the higher end, which often increases the number of days a property sits on the market. When homes linger too long, they risk going stale, leading to significant price reductions and giving buyers more negotiating power. The main factor keeping values steady is tight inventory,” Domneys further explained.

She mentioned that higher interest rates have made buyers more cautious. While bidding wars are not currently as common, they still happen when inventory is especially limited. Homes continue to move, largely influenced by neighborhood desirability and renovation trends.

“On the rental side, prices remain on the rise as many would-be buyers hold off until mortgage rates ease. At the same time, private landlords have become more cautious, tightening rental criteria,” said Domneys.

Sykes added that although many buyers are sitting on the sidelines hoping mortgage rates will drop below 6%, the reality is, timing the market perfectly is tough. Waiting too long can mean missing out on building equity.



(L to r): The Dynasty Group of Vybe Realty, a powerhouse real estate team created by the trio of highly experienced realtors. James brings experience in real estate and construction. Photo: Austin Hill, YRN Photography

Tips for first-time buyers who are looking for an affordable home

James suggested that first-time buyers explore local and state grant programs, down payment assistance, and consider working with community development lenders who offer flexible options.

“Getting pre-approved early, being realistic about neighborhoods, and considering homes that need cosmetic updating can help stretch the budget,” he also suggested.

Find the Right Realtor for You

Domneys stated that two of the most important qualities a seller should look for in a realtor are communication and knowledge of the current market. Without strong communication, sellers can quickly feel lost or misinformed.

“Just as critical is knowledge. An agent should understand market conditions and trends, and have a clear, effective pricing strategy backed by proven results. Selling a home is a major step, and the right pricing is the key to success. Without it, sellers can lose trust in both the agent and the process itself,” she added.

Sellers Should Spruce Up These Two Areas

Domneys explained that kitchens and bathrooms are the two most important areas a seller should consider sprucing up before listing a home for sale. The kitchen is often the heart of the home. First impressions matter to homebuyers. Even minor updates like fresh paint, updated fixtures, or new cabinet hardware can dramatically change how buyers view the space without requiring a major investment.

“Bathrooms also make a big impact when clean and refreshed,” she added.

Beyond updates, decluttering and depersonalizing the home is key. While it can be hard for sellers to rearrange personal spaces, the goal is to help potential buyers imagine themselves in the home and see it as their own.

Visit <https://thedynastygrp.com> and <https://justvybe.com> to learn more about The Dynasty Group of Vybe Realty.

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CBC Week Closes with Blunt Warnings to Black America

Black Caucus Awards Dinner: Former VP Kamala Harris, Gov. Wes Moore Give Pointed Remarks

By Lauren Burke

At the annual Congressional Black Caucus Foundation awards dinner that marks the end of the half-century-old legislative conference commonly known as “CBC Week,” the notable speakers of the evening were blunt in their remarks.

Beyond the awards, sequins, and campaign featured at the annual CBC Gala, the blunt talk of what lies ahead for Blacks in America and the state of democracy was close at hand. Former Vice President Kamala Harris was one of three awardees. “They played the long game working for decades to take over statehouses, gerrymander districts and stack the Supreme Court,” said Vice President Harris, speaking from the large podium to over 2,000 people. She offered advice and expressed surprise at how many have capitulated to Donald Trump’s demands. She also provided remarks on leadership.

“Please let’s get over the savior complex, which suggests only one individual can save us. Come on. As Democrats, we have so many stars and many of them are in this room right now. You are the leaders who are up for the fight,” Harris added. The audience cheered loudly for her appearance on stage. The crowd also reacted favorably to Texas U.S. Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett. Both women have been direct and consistent in their criticism of Trump.

“At a time such as this, it demands one thing for sure: we must fight fire with fire,” Harris added. It hasn’t been forgotten that, during her 107-day presidential campaign in 2024, Harris accurately predicted the future of America under a second Trump Administration. Her book, entitled “107



House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries Photo courtesy of nnpa.org

Days,” was recently released.

“I’m not interested in talking about how powerful the president is or how powerful the president thinks he is. I’m interested in talking about how powerful we are,” said Maryland Gov. Wes Moore.

There were many questions and much discussion during CBC Week about “what the strategy is” against Trump’s attacks on democracy moving forward. “The CBC was built in moments like this,” Gov. Moore added. “If you ever want to learn anything about anybody, watch them when it was hard. Watch them when it was tough. Watch them

when it wasn’t simple. Watch them when there are no easy decisions left,” Gov. Moore went on.

House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries also spoke as the government stands on the brink of a shutdown and more mass firings of federal employees. The evening featured awards to Vice President Harris, former Congressional Black Caucus Executive Director Angela Rye, and Win with Black Women founder Jotaka Eaddy.

Two Baltimore Churches Partner with Author Michelle Petties to Host Healing Workshop Series for Black Women

Baltimore, MD – St. Matthews New Life United Methodist Church (416 E. 23rd Street) and Govans-Boundary United Methodist Church (5210 York Road), in partnership with the Better Baltimore Alliance, will host “Reflections of Love: Black Women, Body Image, and the Mirror of Intimacy”—a transformative 10-month workshop series led by author, storyteller, and food story coach Michelle Petties.

The series will run monthly from October 2025 to July 2026, with two different workshops offered each selected Saturday: 11:00 AM–12:30 PM and 2:30–4:00 PM.

Workshop Schedule & Topics

- **October 18, 2025** *Origins: The Body as Inherited Story* (11 AM) *Unspoken Rules: What We Learned About Love and Size* (2:30 PM)
- **November 15, 2025** *Mirror Talk: Learning to Love What You See* (11 AM) *The Body as Home: Returning to Ourselves* (2:30 PM)
- **December 20, 2025** *Sisterhood as Mirror: Witnessing and Being Seen* (11 AM) *Sexpectations: Body Confidence in the Bedroom* (2:30 PM)
- **January 24, 2026** *Shrinking for Love: Diet Culture and Relationship Goals* (11 AM) *Color, Curves, and Contrast: Who Gets to Feel Beautiful?* (2:30 PM)
- **February 7, 2026** *The “Good” Body vs. The “Bad” Body: Breaking the Binary* (11 AM) *Becoming the Beloved: Closing Circle & Celebration* (2:30 PM)

- **March 14, 2026** *Object of Desire or Objectified?: Race, Fetish, and Fantasy* (11 AM) *Sacred or Shameful?: Sex, Faith, and the Female Form* (2:30 PM)

- **April 4, 2026** *Reclaiming the Erotic: Lessons from Audre Lorde* (11 AM) *Dating While Healing: Triggers, Trauma, and Trust* (2:30 PM)

- **May 9, 2026** *Intimacy Beyond the Physical: Emotional Availability and Attachment* (11 AM) *Self-Worth ≠ Relationship Status* (2:30 PM)

- **June 6, 2026** *Sex After Shame: Rewriting the Scripts* (11 AM) *Love at Every Size: Finding Joy in Movement and Expression* (2:30 PM)

- **July 11, 2026** *Sisterhood as Mirror: Witnessing and Being Seen* (11 AM) *Becoming the Beloved: Closing Circle & Celebration* (2:30 PM)

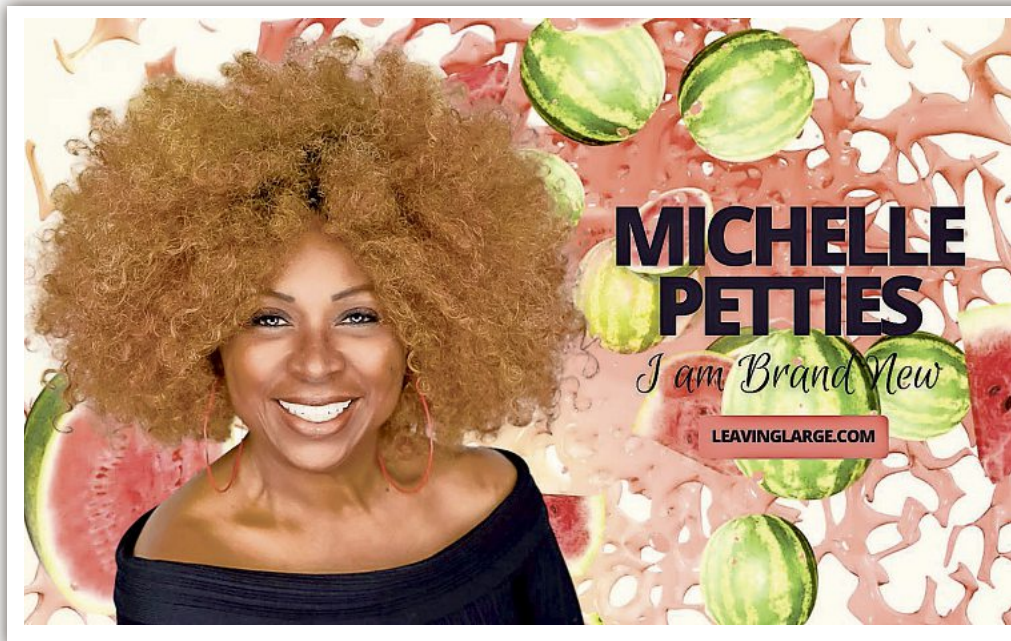
• **Why These Workshops Matter**
For generations, Black women have carried the weight of trauma, culture, tradition, and unspoken pain. Body image, intimacy, and emotional eating are often intertwined with histories of resilience and struggle, shaping how women see themselves and how they are seen by others. Michelle Petties—author of *Leaving Large: The Stories of a Food Addict* and a nationally recognized speaker—brings more than four decades of lived experience, cultural insight, and expertise in healing through reading, writing, and

storytelling. Her work has helped countless women uncover their “food truths,” confront shame, and reclaim their joy.

“These workshops give us the space to break cycles of silence, shame, and self-criticism,” Petties says. “Through storytelling, scripture, and sisterhood, we create healing pathways where women can see their bodies as whole, beloved, and worthy.”

Community Voices Pastor Andre Briscoe Jr., Executive Director of the Better Baltimore Alliance, which is hosting the workshops at both churches, said:

“These conversations are long overdue in our communities and in our churches. By hosting Reflections of Love, we are affirming that Black women deserve safe spaces to heal, to tell their truths, and to be reminded that they are fearfully and wonderfully made.”



Event Details

- Locations: St. Matthews New Life UMC (416 E. 23rd Street) and Govans-Boundary UMC (5210 York Road), Baltimore
 - Dates: Monthly Saturdays, October 2025–July 2026
 - Times: 11:00 AM–1:00 PM and 2:30–4:00 PM
 - Registration: Not required, but seating is limited. Attendees are encouraged to arrive early.
- For more information, contact:
Michelle Petties Food Story Coach, Author of *Leaving Large – The Stories of a Food Addict* Michelle@michellepetties.com

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UnPoliticized Blackness: A Brunch Blending Celebration and Social Impact

By **Harold Booker Jr.**

Baltimore will host a gathering with both national reach and deep local impact on Sunday, October 19, 2025, with the theme “I Love My HBCU?” presents “UnPoliticized Blackness: A Brunch” at the Frederick Douglass–Isaac Myers Maritime Park.

The event is designed to raise funds for the PowerMyFuture Fund, which clears final tuition balances that often prevent HBCU seniors from graduating. For many students, a balance of just a few hundred dollars can delay a degree, job opportunities, and future stability. The brunch aims to break down those barriers while also celebrating national leaders whose work embodies excellence and has a profound impact on the community.

Among the honorees is Dr. Makola M. Abdullah, President of Virginia State University, who will receive the 2025 HBCU Pillar Award. Since his appointment in 2016, Dr. Abdullah has guided VSU through a period of unprecedented growth. Under his leadership, the university has reached its highest retention and four-year graduation rates in history, more than tripled its financial reserves, and launched significant campus improvements, including the \$120 million Alfred W. Harris Academic Commons—the largest single building project in VSU’s history. His Preeminence with Purpose strategic plan emphasizes student access, academic excellence, and holistic development, making him a model of forward-thinking leadership at HBCUs.

Raymone T. Jackson, President of the T. Rowe Price Foundation and Head of Community Affairs at T. Rowe Price, will be honored with the 2025 Corporate Social Responsibility Award. Jackson

leads the firm’s community investment, foundation activities, and diversity, equity, and inclusion strategy, while also overseeing corporate communications. Before joining T. Rowe Price, he served as National Diversity Officer at Morgan Stanley, guiding initiatives across 600 offices and 20,000 employees. He also previously held leadership roles at Northwestern Mutual. His career reflects a commitment to building inclusive cultures at scale while channeling resources into the communities where they matter most.

DC Central Kitchen, a Washington, D.C.–based nonprofit that has become a national model for tackling hunger and poverty, will be recognized with the 2025 Community Impact Award. Known for “fighting hunger differently,” the organization goes beyond emergency food distribution to invest in long-term solutions: culinary job training, healthy school meals, community meals, and neighborhood partnerships through its Healthy Corners program. Its catering and café enterprises generate revenue while providing workforce opportunities, embodying the idea that food access and job creation are inseparable parts of community resilience.

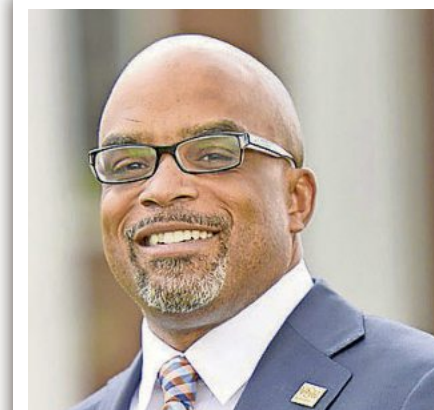
Each honoree was nominated by HBCU students and alumni and confirmed by the I Love My HBCU? Council of Advisors, underscoring the organization’s commitment to centering student voices.

“This event is about celebrating Black leadership that refuses to be confined to labels—and about making sure no HBCU student is denied the chance to graduate because of a balance they can’t pay,” said Tosin Richard, founder of I Love My HBCU. “We’re creating a movement of impact that goes beyond an acronym.”



**Raymone Jackson, President
of T Rowe Price Foundation.**

Courtesy photo



**Dr. Makola M. Abdullah,
President of Virginia State
University.** *Courtesy photo*



DC Central Kitchen - Workforce Development graduation.

Photo courtesy of DC Central Kitchen

Beyond recognition, the brunch reflects a vision for what Black leadership, community support, and student empowerment can look like in practice. Funds raised will directly support graduating HBCU seniors as they step confidently into their futures—debt-free.

The brunch will take place on Sunday, October 19, 2025, at 12 p.m. at the Frederick Douglass–Isaac Myers Maritime Park, located at 1417 Thames Street in Baltimore. Tickets

and donation opportunities are available at Eventbrite: (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/unpoliticized-blackness-a-brunch-tickets-1533823540499>).

I Love My HBCU? is known for convenings like the GenerationNext Thought Leaders Summit and continues its mission through student debt relief, civic engagement, and leadership development. For Baltimore, this brunch is more than a fundraiser—it’s a call to action.

Follow @ILoveMyHBCU for updates.

Breast Cancer Survivor Unselfishly Supports Others Through Breast Cancer Survivorship Organization

By Andrea Blackstone

Although breast cancer occurs when cells in the breast divide and grow without their normal control, tumors in the breast tend to grow slowly, according to The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

“By the time a lump is large enough to feel, it may have been growing for as long as 10 years. Some tumors are aggressive and grow much faster,” the foundation reported. (<https://www.komen.org/breast-cancer/facts-statistics/what-is-breast-cancer>)

Janet Hall, founder of the Janet Hall Foundation, is a champion for breast health and breast cancer survivors. Women like Hall fight breast cancer on the community level, one person at a time, armed with breast cancer facts and information that could save lives. Hall founded a breast cancer survivorship organization in 2015 to uplift women who are underserved with information, resources and events to help to ease the stress of being diagnosed with breast cancer.

“The reason why I started it was because I had a family member come to me and ask me if I would talk to another lady who was just diagnosed with breast cancer. That particular month, I was introduced to three ladies, and that’s when I decided that I needed to do something,” said Hall.

Hall explained that baskets are provided by women who must go to the hospital because of a mastectomy or lumpectomy procedure. She ensures that the recipient of the basket has supplies or items such as a food gift card upon returning home. The Foundation gives back to survivors with massages, resources and education about early detection of breast cancer.

“And then I have a pop-up shop at my home where I have wigs, prostheses, pillows, accessories and I also go to the doctor with some of the young ladies if they need a ride. I try to network with other support groups, because sometimes the ladies in one group can help another lady who’s going through breast cancer,” Hall added.

Hall’s organization serves women in Baltimore and surrounding counties such as Anne Arundel, Howard and Prince George’s. Additionally, Hall serves in Atlantic City in New Jersey.

Hall not only serves other women who could benefit from support while navigating through a breast cancer journey, but she also had a personal experience that led to her diagnosis.

“I didn’t find a lump. I had a rash on my breast. A lot of people don’t know that it’s not always a lump. So, with breast health, continue to examine your breast and see if there’s anything that’s abnormal, not usual, that requires you to contact your physician,” she stated.

The nonprofit leader was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1983 when she was 33 years old. Hall was able to take care of her diagnosis early. This year marks her forty-second year being a breast cancer survivor.

“I was proactive, but you have to remember, I was actually diagnosed a year after Susan G. Komen,” she explained.

The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation was founded by Nancy Goodman Brinker in 1982 in honor of Goodman Brinker’s sister, Susan who died in 1980 at 36 years old. Nancy was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1984.

Continued on page 11



Janet Hall lights candles during a candle lighting ceremony in remembrance of individuals who lost their breast cancer fight and their families.

Photos: Delmar Photography/Delmar Gillus



(L-r): Tina Lyght, Melinda Mack, Tonia Davis and Janet Hall at Catonsville Clubhouse Banquet & Conference Center. Hall sponsored a health and wellness event.

Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder

By U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services provided this guide on autism spectrum disorder as part of a series of briefs that offer basic information about common disabilities and tips for educators as they support children with disabilities.

Overview

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a developmental disorder that leads to distinctive social, communication, and behavioral strengths and challenges. A diagnosis of ASD now includes what used to be a few separate autism diagnoses: autistic disorder, pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS), and Asperger syndrome. ASD is a spectrum disorder, which means that each person with autism has a unique set of strengths and challenges.

According to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5), a guide created by the American Psychiatric Association for diagnosing psychological disorders, people with ASD show:

- Difficulty communicating and interacting with other people
- Highly specific interests and repetitive behaviors
- Symptoms that affect the person's ability to function in school, at home, and in other areas of life

Symptoms for ASD generally appear by age 2 or 3, and it can be diagnosed as early as 18 months. While research shows that early intervention can lead to positive outcomes later in life, many children are diagnosed at a much later age. The first step to supporting a child showing signs of ASD is identification. Some early signs of ASD can include little to no babbling or noise-making,

delayed language development, little to no response to name, or avoiding interactions like eye contact, back-and-forth exchanges, and gesturing.

Support Strategies

Educators can implement a variety of strategies to support a positive experience for children with ASD in their learning environment.

- If the child already has an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individualized Education Program (IEP), coordinate with the intervention team.
- Provide structured routines, transitions, and environments.
 - Display a daily schedule with pictures of routines and activities.
 - Use visual cue cards during transitions and routines to help the child predict next steps.

- Let the child know ahead of time that a transition is coming.
- Gradually increase the time the child is expected to remain on task during learning activities.
- Create, read, and discuss personalized “social stories” or “teaching stories” with the child to help them prepare for or cope with various situations.
- Create verbal and nonverbal communication opportunities.
 - Create and use picture cards to cue transitions and routines.
 - Create a communication book — with pictures of items or activities the child enjoys or may need to communicate about — that the child can use to communicate with others.
 - Offer wait time for the child to verbalize ideas or requests.

- Read familiar, repetitive books and provide opportunities for the child to fill in the blanks.
- Limit the time spent with desired items and activities so that the child is motivated to request them again.
- Support positive social interactions.
 - Use first-ten boards and cue cards to support the child while engaging in turn-taking activities.
 - Model, prompt, and reinforce appropriate responses to common greetings and interactions.
 - Create and repeatedly read social stories with the child. Include pictures along with descriptions of activities, others' feelings, and directives about how the child can respond in the situation.



Photo: Liliia Bila

Continued from page 9

Back when Hall was diagnosed, the resources that she needed to navigate through her journey were unknown to her.

"I had to go find things for myself. It was even hard to get a prosthetic," said Hall. "I started doing my research and looking for things that I needed. That's when I started my foundation."

Hall incorporates health and wellness and positive affirmations into her events. When Hall is not hosting events, she continues to suggest that women should not feel fearful of getting their mammograms.

"I know some ladies feel as though it hurts, but it can save your life," said Hall.

Hall encourages women to find out their family medical history and ask medical providers about genetic testing for breast cancer, if it is warranted due to a family history of breast cancer.

"If there's somebody in your family that you know [had breast cancer], we need to talk about it," Hall reminded.

Join the Janet Hall Foundation for The Pink Dandy Soiree on Sunday, October 26, 2025, at McCormick & Schmick's Seafood & Steaks located at 711 Eastern Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 from 3-6 p.m. The community discussion for patients, survivors, families and caregivers will illuminate the mental toll of breast cancer. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-pink-dandy-soiree-tickets-1542177005939> for ticket information and <https://janethallfoundation.org> to learn more about the Janet Hall Foundation.



The Pink Dandy Soiree

OCTOBER 26, 2025

3PM - 6PM

DONATION \$65

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<https://janethallfoundation.org>



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Knock Knock Who's There? It's Me God!

One God One Thought Center for Better Living's 2025 Adventure in Faith Opens Doors to Profound Renewal

By Dena Wane

The One God One Thought Center for Better Living (OGOT) is preparing to launch its highly anticipated Adventure in Faith (AIF), an empowering spiritual journey running from October 5 through December 6, 2025. This year's theme, "Knock Knock Who's There? It's Me God!" offers a bold invitation to encounter the Divine in new and life-altering ways.

Far from a simple seasonal program, AIF is designed as a life-changing experience—nine weeks of worship, study, and fellowship aimed at igniting profound spiritual renewal. Through services, small groups, and transformational teaching, participants are invited to hear and answer what OGOT calls the "Sacred Knock"—the inner calling toward a deeper, more authentic relationship with God.

Reverend Bernette Lee Jones: Opening the Door to Spirit

Guiding the series is Reverend Bernette Lee Jones, Senior Minister of OGOT, whose leadership continues to anchor the Center's mission of practical spirituality. For Rev. Jones, this year's theme is both personal and communal.

"Too often we treat God's call as if it's a distant echo," Rev. Jones said. "But the truth is, God is knocking at the very door of our hearts. This Adventure in Faith is about listening for that knock and having the courage to open."

Under her guidance, Adventure in Faith has become not just an annual highlight but a tradition of transformation for the Baltimore faith community.



Author Michael Taylor, will present a powerful, transformational AIF workshop on October 11, 2025 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at OGOT located 3506 Coronado Rd, Balto., Md. 21244.

Michael Taylor: A Transformational Voice

Adding momentum to this year's program is Coach Michael Taylor, author of the book "Knock Knock Who's There? It's Me God!" Taylor will present a powerful, transformational workshop on October 11, 2025, equipping participants to hear and answer the Sacred Knock in their own lives.

Taylor, a nationally recognized author and coach, has built his career on helping people embrace authenticity, joy, and resilience. His message dovetails with OGOT's theme, urging participants to respond when Spirit calls.

"Adventure in Faith is about real people opening real doors," Taylor explained. "The Sacred Knock is God's way of saying: 'I am here, ready to lead you deeper into your purpose.'"



Reverend Bernette Lee Jones, Sr. Minister, One God One Thought Center for Better Living. (OGOT).

This workshop is designed to help you recognize that knock and step into the fullness of who you are meant to be."

A Tradition of Renewal and Breakthrough

For more than two decades, OGOT's Adventure in Faith has served as a spiritual laboratory—an environment where principles are not just preached but practiced. Past themes have guided participants through courage, resilience, and faith in action, often producing testimonies of breakthrough.

Members describe seasons of Adventure in Faith as times of restored relationships, renewed careers, and spiritual clarity. The 2025 program builds on this legacy, adding an even sharper focus on transformation.

"This year's journey is not about passive listening," Rev. Jones noted. "It is about responding. When God knocks, we don't sit still—we open the door."

An Empowering Spiritual Journey

The 2025 Adventure in Faith is structured as a nine-week immersion, with opportunities for both individual and communal growth. Weekly Sunday services will set the tone, while small groups will allow deeper discussion of scripture and the theme. Taylor's transformational workshop promises to be a cornerstone event, equipping participants to integrate spiritual insight into everyday life.

The aim, OGOT leaders say, is nothing short of a life-altering experience—one that moves beyond inspiration into tangible renewal.

Invitation to the Community

Though rooted in OGOT's tradition, Adventure in Faith is open to all. Members, neighbors, and first-time seekers are invited to join. Whether attending a single service, participating in a study group, or experiencing Taylor's workshop, participants can expect to be challenged, encouraged, and transformed.

"God is not hiding," Rev. Jones emphasized. "He is right here, knocking. The invitation is simple but profound: Will you answer?"

Looking Ahead

As OGOT prepares for the 2025 Adventure in Faith, anticipation is already high. The presence of Rev. Jones and Michael Taylor ensures a dynamic season, but the heart of the program remains unchanged: the courage to listen, the willingness to open, and the faith to walk through the door God places before us.

From October 5 to December 6, OGOT invites the community to step into this empowering spiritual journey. The knock has already come. The answer is waiting.

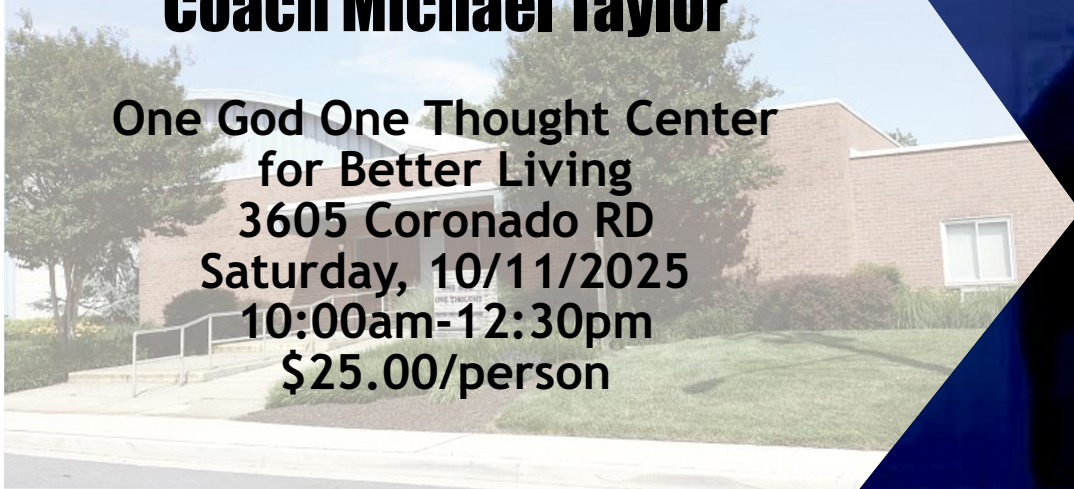
For more information, please visit ogot.org



JOIN US

An Adventure In Faith Workshop with **Coach Michael Taylor**

One God One Thought Center
for Better Living
3605 Coronado RD
Saturday, 10/11/2025
10:00am-12:30pm
\$25.00/person



“Awakening To The Sacred Knock”

“Have you ever felt the gentle “knock” of Spirit within, inviting you to go deeper? This powerful and interactive **workshop** is designed to help you awaken to your own Sacred Knock and connect with the Divine Intelligence that created the Universe.”

Together, we’ll explore:

“How do you see God? Who are you? Learning to hear God’s voice through intuition and divine ideas. Finding your Purpose --unlocking your unique gifts and talents to live a life of meaning and joy.”



Register on our website at www.ogot.org or scan QR code ---->

SCAN ME



By Rosa Pryor

Hello! Hello! My dear friends, there is a whole lot of duck-plucking stuff I have to tell you about this week! So, I want you to get into a comfortable spot, sit, and take notes.

First, I want to tell you about the “Rhythms & Writing Jubilee,” which will be held at 1947 Pennsylvania Avenue in Baltimore. It is Thursday, October 9 from 5- 7:30 p.m. “Honey Child! You have got to come out and check this out! Hell! It’s not going to cost you a dime. There will be lots of live music with “The Baltimore Pop-Up Jazz Jam Band,” and yours truly, Rosa “Rambling Rose” Pryor-Trusty will be doing a book signing for my new book, entitled: **“Maryland & Baltimore Black History Stories; Who, What, When & Where” 1950’s to 1980’s.** I will also have my other two books with me for you to purchase and have autographed. For more information, call 410-728-1199 or email: director@jubileeartsbaltimore.org. I will be looking forward to seeing you and autographing my book to you.

Okay, folks! Please feel free to join me and the Edmondson High School classes of 1962 and 1963 for our 80th Birthday Celebration. It is the celebration of our classmates, who have turned 80 or are already 81 this year. As our President of our Class Reunion, Virginia Blount would say, “What a wonderful blessing for us to live for eight decades.” You are welcome to join us, just pay for your food at the Bluestone Seafood restaurant in Timonium, Maryland on Friday, October 3, from noon to 3 p.m. located at 11 W. Aylesbury Road. For several years, our classmates and friends have been meeting every first Friday of the month from noon to 3 p.m. at Jilly’s Bar & Grill,

Rhythms and Writing Jubilee Arts at Harris-Marcus Center



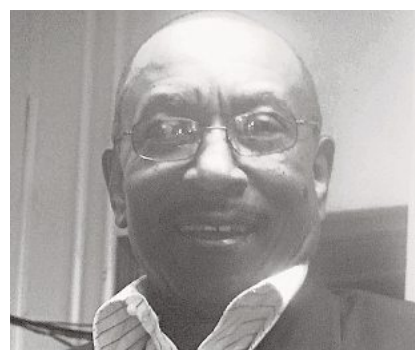
Happy Birthday to Mrs. Janora of one of Baltimore’s favorite singing group, “J’Kar.” She will be celebrating with you at City View’s Old School Fridays on October 10 from 6-10 p.m. at 6700 Security Blvd. in Gwynn Oak, Maryland. It is free to the public, with entertainment and plentiful parking. Just take a gift. “Rambling Rose” said so!

located at 1010 Reisterstown Road in Pikesville.

There will be a Big Day Party & Soul Concert on Saturday, October 4 at the Bowie Center of the Arts, 15200 Annapolis Road, Bowie, Maryland at 3 p.m. The entertainment will include **Donnie Ray; Lacey; J Red; The Nephew; Star Redd; Hardway Connection; Lamar Brace; Kevin Lankford; and Jesi Terrel.** For more information, call Kim at 443-324-7025 or call 443-857-2771.

Okay, I have got one more thing to tell you about. Next Phaze Café and Lounge located at 112 E. Lexington Street is really jumping up and down, doing the “James Brown” with some out-of-sight live entertainment. Check this out! Every Thursday from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m., they feature live entertainment. This is the best of the best!

Oh! I almost forgot! On Sunday, October 5, at 4 p.m., Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church will host an out-of-sight concert, titled “Royalty On The Avenue,” featuring the Charles Funn Classic Octet, with song stylist “Larzine”



Victor Green, Baltimore’s own “Party Animal” with Tony Swinney and Mert is hosting a “The Ultimate Day Party” of the ‘70s and ‘80s Reunion Jam on Saturday October 11 from 2-7 p.m. at the Promenade Dance Studio, 2605 Lord Baltimore Drive, Windsor Mills, Maryland on Saturday, October 11 from 2-7 p.m.



Baltimore’s renowned photographer, Anderson Ward’s sister, Gwendolyn Estelle Patillo (Bland) passed away and her service will be Saturday, October 4, 10:30 a.m.-11 a.m. A family greeting and Service will follow at the City Temple of Baltimore, located at 317 Dolphin Street in Baltimore. The family asks that all attendees please wear shades of purple to honor her.



Cheryl Goodman with her group “Dance Baltimore” will be performing at the International Edgar Allan Poe Festival & Awards and yours truly, “Rambling Rose” will be doing a book signing for three of my books. The 8th Annual International Edgar Allan Poe Festival & Awards returns to Baltimore, October 3-5, marking the 180th anniversary of “The Ravens” and the 176th anniversary of Poe’s birth, to be held at Poe’s House, 203 N. Amity Street. Admission to the street festival is FREE.

performing at 4 p.m. Now, you need to arrive early. They are located at 2110 Madison Avenue; Rev. Dr. Phyllis Felton is the Pastor.

Look, ya’ll, I have to go. Enjoy your week; I hope to see you somewhere,

somehow. Remember, if you need me, call me at 410-833-9474 any time or email me at rosapryor@aol.com. **UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I’M MUSICALLY YOURS!**

Legal Notice

CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE OF ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION 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 **WATER CONTRACT NO. 1413RR-Lake Montebello and Montebello Washwater Lake Dredging** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M on **November 5, 2025**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates and can be watched live on CharmTV's cable channel 25/1085HD; charmtvbalto.com/watch-live or listen in at (443) 984-1696 (ACCESS CODE: 0842939) from City Hall at Noon. The Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, at Contract Administration 4 South Frederick Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202 on the 3rd floor (410) 396-4041 as of **October 3, 2025** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **150.00**. **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 OBC at 4 S Frederick St., 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. **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 **G90013 Dredging**. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$20,000,000.01** to **\$30,000,000.00**.

A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted virtually on Microsoft Teams on **Thursday, October 9, 2025 at 10:00 am**. Vendor can access Microsoft Teams virtual meeting as follows: Meeting ID: 225 072 988 046 6 Passcode: jh3so9Ek or Vendor can call: 1 667-401-2804 Phone Conference ID: 479217933# or 479217933#.

A site visit to Lake Montebello and Montebello Washwater Lake will be conducted on **Friday, October 10, 2025 at 10:00 am**. For any Pre-bid questions, please contact Mr. Farid Sikander at farid.sikander@baltimorecity.gov. Contractor questions shall be submitted (in writing only) by **October 24, 2025 by 4:30 pm**.

Legal Notice

To purchase a bid book, please make an electronic request at:
<https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/dpw-construction-projects-notice-letting> and dpwbidopportunities@baltimorecity.gov.

For further inquiries about purchasing bid documents, please schedule an appointment by emailing the assigned Contract Administrator Doreen.Diamond@baltimorecity.gov

Principal items of work for this contract include, but are not limited to:

Mobilization and furnishing of all labor, material, equipment, and incidentals necessary for the removal of alum sludge and filter backwash solids from Lake Montebello and the Washwater Lake and final disposal of the sludge and filter backwash solids in an approved disposal site. The solids will need to be removed from the lakes, dewatered on site to reduce the amount of water to be hauled and disposed of, and trucked to a final disposal site. After the work is completed, site restoration of all disturbed areas will be performed.

The MBE goal is **15%**
The WBE goal is **8%**

The MBE/WBE Goals of MBE-30% and WBE-15% will apply ONLY to the following Prequalification Codes: A02210-Grading, D02240-Erosion Control, D02710-Fencing & Guard Rail, D02800-Landscaping/Site Preparation, F02200-Earthwork & Site Preparation, G90027-Highway Signing & Lighting, G90027-Clearing & Grubbing, G90054-Hauling (non-hazardous materials), G90061-Tree Removal & Pruning.

APPROVED:
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:
Matthew W Garbark
Director
Department of Public Works

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While we appreciate every donation, in some cases, we find that we are unable to accept certain vehicles, watercraft, and/or recreational vehicles due to the prohibitive costs of acquisition. If you have any questions, please give us a call at (833) 630-4817.

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