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Muhammad Ali remembered as 'The Greatest' and 'True American Hero'



January 17, 1942 - June 3, 2016

Malcolm X photographs Muhammad Ali after his victory over Sonny Liston in 1964. (Bob Gomel/Creative Commons)

MTA promotes safety during National Safety Month

Baltimore— To kick off June as National Safety Month, the Maryland Department of Transportation's Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) is taking the opportunity to remind customers of some general safety tips while riding Local Bus, Light Rail, Metro Subway, MARC Train, Commuter Bus and Mobility/Paratransit:

- Wait at the designated area. You only can board buses and trains at designated MTA stops or stations.

- Walk. Do not run for the bus or train. Allow enough time to get to the appropriate stop or train station before the scheduled arrival time. Once the bus or train has pulled away, MTA operators are not allowed to stop for passengers. If you miss the bus or train, wait for the next one.

- Once on board, move to the center and take a seat where possible. Remember, allow people to get off before you board.

- Watch your step getting on or off the bus or train. Place your feet solidly on each step.

- Do not play on the bus or train. Disor-

derly conduct can lead to injuries or you being asked to leave the bus.

- Please do not smoke, eat or drink while traveling on MTA Local Bus, Light Rail or Metro Subway. It is prohibited.

- Keep cell phones and electronic devices secure.

- Stay alert. Be aware of your surroundings and the people around you. In an emergency, remain calm and follow the instructions from the operator/conductor or MTA Police. Listen to announcements and know locations of the emergency releases and exits.

- “If You See Something, Say Something.” Report any suspicious behavior, unsafe conditions or unattended packages to the operator or MTA Police or transit personnel.

“At the MTA, we are committed to providing our passengers with safe, efficient and reliable transit with world-class customer service,” said MTA Administrator/CEO Paul Comfort. “As one of the largest public transit systems in the country, we safely transport hundreds of



thousands of passengers where they want to go every day. Safety is our first commitment and this month is an opportunity to highlight that focus”

As proof of this commitment, the MTA recently received top national honors for safety, security and customer service from the American Public Transportation Association.

When riding Local Bus, passengers are urged to:

- Stand at a safe distance from the curb.

- Hold on when standing.

- Do not stand in front of the yellow line.

- Keep aisles clear.

- Alert the bus operator that you are retrieving your bike and on the rails:

- Do not trespass on Light Rail, Metro Subway or MARC Train tracks.

- Always stand behind the yellow safety strip while waiting for the train.

- When standing, always hold onto the railing while the train is in motion.

- Do not climb, sit, stand, walk or ride between rail or train cars.

- When riding station elevators, watch clothing, bags and personal items to ensure they don't get caught in closing doors.

- Keep clothing and shoes away from the sides of moving escalators to keep loose items from getting caught.

- Since train time is anytime, do not attempt to retrieve an item if you drop it in the track way.

For more safety tips while riding the various modes of public transportation, visit <https://mta.maryland.gov/content/brochures-publications>.



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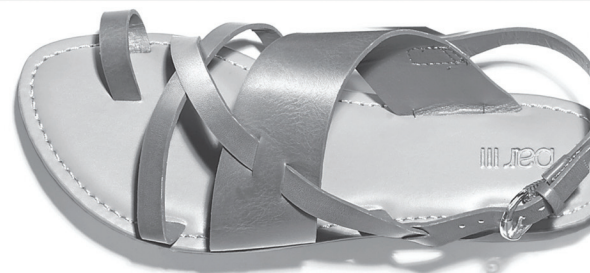
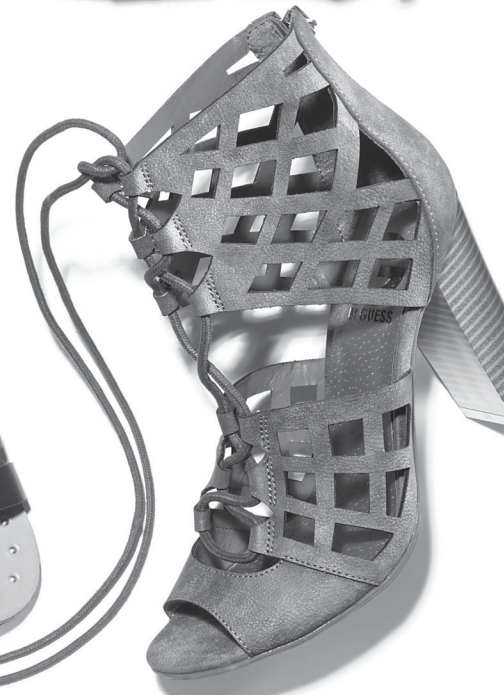
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What it takes to be an effective citizen

By Lee H. Hamilton

It's so easy in a presidential election year to forget that our system is not about a single person. This year especially, when the dynamics of the presidential contest have dominated news coverage so thoroughly that even the Senate and House races have largely disappeared from view, the crucial role that citizens play—apart from serving as voters in the presidential drama—isn't even an afterthought.

Yet, effective citizenship is the base on which our representative democracy rests. I believe it's made up of several elements.

First, a confident belief that change is possible—that the country can indeed make progress over time thanks to the efforts both of ordinary people and of political leaders. In his recent speech at Howard University, President Obama noted that by almost every measure, the country has moved forward over the last three decades. The poverty rate is down, as are the rates for crime and for teenage pregnancy. More Americans are getting college degrees, more women are working and earning more money, and many cities are far healthier than they were in the 1980s.

Yes, we've got miles to go on many fronts, but on the whole, I'll take where we stand today over where we stood in the 1980s.

The people who helped make this happen understood two things: that progress was possible and that it required their efforts. This might seem too obvious even to say, but those who were most effective had an impact because they had the skills to make a difference.

I'm talking here about the fundamental ability we should all have as citizens to solve problems in a representative democracy that is filled with people who have different beliefs, perspectives and experiences. This means knowing how to work together with all kinds of people, being able to find common ground, building consensus, and communicating ideas effectively.

I use the word "skills," but in the end, good citizenship is as much about temperament as it is about ability. Mutual respect, tolerance, empathy, civility, humility, honesty and resolve—these are the simple virtues that our nation depends on in its citizens.

So is a willingness to step up to challenges. The people who make a difference in our system are the ones who not only identify a problem, but then plunge into fixing it.

I frequently hear from people who are exasperated by the obstacles they have to overcome in order to make a difference: fellow citizens who are ignorant of the system, politicians who are too obtuse or self-interested to see the light, incompetence in the bureaucracy, officials protecting turf—but here is the thing: those obstacles will always be there. You just have to keep plugging away at overcoming them, whether by casting an informed ballot, sitting down with—or protesting against—political leaders, or finding the myriad ways you can improve the quality of life for your neighbors and fellow Americans.

You may already have picked up on the final quality that makes for effective citizenship, and it's a tough one. For the most part, we're not going to solve our challenges in a single generation. So we have to educate our children and those who come after us in the same skill sets I've been talking about.

That's because all of us—you, me, and our fellow citizens—are responsible for the future of our neighborhoods and our nation. Unless we all shoulder the obligation to learn the skills we need to shepherd it into the future, and then teach those skills to others, our country and our system will struggle.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar, IU School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice, IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.



Community Affairs

BOOST Scholarship Program accepting applications for Fall 2016

Scholarship provides financial aid to attend non public schools

Baltimore— The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) announced applications are now on line for a new scholarship program designed to help income eligible students attend nonpublic schools.

The Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (BOOST) Program, which was supported and signed into law by Governor Larry Hogan this past legislative session, will provide a limited number of scholarships for students who are eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program.

"Every child deserves access to a world-class education," said Governor Hogan. "Our administration is proud to support a program that is a much-needed step in the right direction to provide

expanded opportunities for students across the state."

The application deadline is Monday, July 11, 2016. A list of potential participating schools is available at: marylandpublicschools.org/boost/docs/boostpotentialschool.pdf

The BOOST program is available for students either already attending or hoping to attend one of the participating schools. Students must be enrolled in—or have applied to a potential participating school—before completing the BOOST application. Nearly \$5 million in scholarship funds are available for kindergarten through twelfth grade.

All applications will be reviewed by MSDE to ensure completion. MSDE will then compile a list of applicants that ranks eligible students by family income expressed as a percent of the most recent federal poverty levels. Finally, MSDE will forward the list to a BOOST Advisory Board that will determine how the scholarship funds are allocated among eligible applicants.

For more information about the BOOST program, visit: marylandpublicschools.org/boost/index.html.

The reason Snoop Lion should write, direct and produce black movies

By Raynard Jackson
NNPA News Wire Columnist

Last week, rapper Snoop Dogg put up an epic video rant on his Instagram. In the verbiage that only Snoop can conjugate, he said in no uncertain terms that people should not watch the 21st century remake of the epic TV miniseries *Roots* that aired on The History Channel last week.

I must say that I thoroughly agree with Snoop Dogg's position one hundred percent, though I can do without the raw language.

Roots: The Saga of an American Family was a book written by famed author Alex Haley in 1976. In the book, Haley traced his ancestral roots back to The Gambia in West Africa. He was able to trace his family lineage all the way back Kunta Kinte.

Kinte was captured as a teenager in The Gambia and ultimately sold into slavery and brought to the U.S. The book was turned into a blockbuster TV miniseries back in 1977.

The remaking is what led Snoop to do his now viral video on Instagram. His

position was that he didn't want to see any more movies about slavery.

"Where are all the movies about black success?" Snoop asked.

I totally agree with Snoop. I refused to watch the remake of *Roots*. I was watching my N.B.A. basketball playoffs.

Following Snoop's rant, TV personality Roland Martin addressed the subject on his news program on TV ONE. The one point that I do agree with Roland is that more blacks need to step up and be willing to help finance the production of

the process from beginning to end.

The movie "*Amistad*" (1997) was written by David Franzoni, directed by Steven Spielberg and produced by Debby Allen (Black), Steven Spielberg and Colin Wilson. John Williams composed the musical score.

The movie, "*12 Years a Slave*" (2013) was based on the life of former slave Solomon Northup and it was directed by Steve McQueen (black) and produced by Brad Pitt, Dede Gardner, Jeremy Kleiner, Bill Pohlard, Steve McQueen (black),

rected the movie and "*Schindler's List*" was distributed by Universal Pictures.

"*The Pianist*" (2002) was based on the book by Wladyslaw Szpilman and directed by Roman Polanski, who also earned production credits. Robert Benmussa and Alain Sarde were also producers on the movie and it was distributed by Focus Features.

Do you notice anything that stands out to you here? There are no blacks in any position of control or authority in any of these movies. The Jewish community tells their history through their own eyes and from their own perspective.

Remember, the Chinese sculptor of the statue of Dr. Martin Luther King on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., Lei Yixin, was "forced" to redo the statute because some felt that the original rendering made King seem too "confrontational."

Confrontational to whom? To this day, I have refused to visit King's statue on the Mall.

Yixin was chosen at the expense of very capable American sculptors, both black and white. The U.S. government also allowed Yixin to bring Chinese workers into the country to assemble the sculpture. They were literally paid slave wages, but I digress.

The U.S. government spent over \$120 million on the King sculptor and the money went to China and Chinese workers.

The Jewish community would never allow something like this to happen to anything dealing with their own community.

So, to Roland Martin and his supporters, let's stop being a slave to slavery.

Raynard Jackson is founder and chairman of Black Americans for a Better Future (BAFBF), a federally registered 527 Super PAC established to get more blacks involved in the Republican Party. To learn more, visit: www.bafbf.org.

***"Do you notice anything that stands out to you here?
There are no blacks in any position of control
or authority in any of these movies.
The Jewish community tells their history through
their own eyes and from their own perspective."***

some of these movies about successful blacks. That's a legitimate challenge that Snoop should address.

Martin launched into this tirade about Jews "never" getting tired of movies about the Holocaust. He is way off base with his analysis.

Martin and those who agree with him are missing a few, very germane points. I mean can any one name a black person who has financed, executive produced, produced, directed, or distributed a major movie or TV program about the Holocaust? You can't, because it hasn't happened.

However, most movies about slavery have non-blacks in major positions of control or power; even though there may be a black producer or director attached to the project.

I am not aware of one movie about slavery where blacks have had total control of

Arnon Milchan, and Anthony Katagas. John Ridley (black) wrote the screenplay and Fox Searchlight Pictures distributed the movie.

The 2016 version of "*Roots*" was written by Lawrence Konner, Mark Rosenthal, Alison McDonald (black), and Charles Murray (black). The four-part miniseries was directed by Bruce Beresford, Phillip Noyce, Thomas Carter (black), and Mario Van Peebles (black).

Now, let's look at a few of the top Holocaust movies.

"*The Diary of Anne Frank*" (1959) was based on the writings of Anne Frank and directed by George Stevens and written by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett and distributed by Twentieth Century Fox.

"*Schindler's List*" (1993) was written by Steven Zaillian and produced by Steven Spielberg, Gerald R. Molen, and Branko Lustig. Steven Spielberg also di-

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Young NNPA Black Scholars:

Discovering the Unexpected on the Journey to Empowerment

By Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.
President, National Newspaper
Publishers Association

The legendary scholar, writer and visionary James Baldwin once personally confided in me that he had come to know that the “power of the pen” for black people in America and throughout world was “truly transformative and irreversibly impactful on the consciousness of all those who cry out for freedom, equality and justice.” Baldwin’s prophetic words from the 1970’s are still true today.

We take note with pride that currently there are a growing number of young, gifted and talented journalists who are emerging on the campuses of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and in the offices of our nation’s black owned newspapers and media companies. Baldwin’s audacity and legacy to write and speak truth to power are finding a new resonance among today’s young journalists.

Thanks to the game-changing efforts and support of General Motors Chevrolet Malibu, the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) together with the Howard University School of Communications have launched “Discover The Unexpected” NNPA Journalism Fellows Program.

Over the next several months in Detroit, Chicago, Atlanta, and in Washington, D.C., eight NNPA Journalism Fellows from the Howard University School of Communications will be working with NNPA member publishers to sharpen their pens and to file stories that capture and amplify the challenges, struggles, triumphs and realities of black America in 2016.

This will be a program that will benefit the students, the university, the Black Press, and the African American community. We will have the opportunity to help shape the scholarly preparation of a new emerging generation of freedom-fighting print journalists and social media innovators.

We should not play down the importance of academic preparation matched with the practicum of putting into practice the craft and skill of journalism from an African American perspective. James Baldwin was an activist author, but he also was a scholar. Alex Haley was an activist



Brandi Montgomery



Brelaun Douglas



Briahanna Brown



McKenzie Marshall



Victoria Jones



Rushawn Walters

author, but he also was a scholar. Maya Angelou was activist poet and author, but she was also a scholar.

Remember the names of these NNPA rising scholar fellows: At The Atlanta Voice newspaper are Brandi Montgomery and Brelaun Douglas; at the Chicago Defender are Briahanna Brown and McKenzie Marshall; at The Washington Informer are Victoria Jones and Rushawn Walters; and at the Michigan Chronicle are Tatyana Hopkins and Sidnee King.

MC Lyte is a global icon in hip-hop and popular culture. MC Lyte is an activist writer and pulsating orator, but she is also a scholar. MC Lyte not only endorsed the launch of the “Discover The Unexpected” with her motivating presence at Howard University with the NNPA and Chevrolet, she also is a tremendous living role model of what it means to use audacious talent, genius and commitment to promote positive social transformation and empower-



Tatyana Hopkins



Sidnee King

ment. We also note that MC Lyte founded and Chairs the Hip Hop Sisters Foundation that has donated thousands of dollars to scholarships for deserving students across the nation.

Learn more about Discover The

Unexpected (DTU) at <http://www.nnpa.org/dtu/> and use the hashtag #DiscoverTheUnexpected on Twitter @BlackPressUSA and @NNPA_BlackPress.

THE JOURNEY BEGINS

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This summer, a select group of Howard University students are bringing you something special – good news! They will share untold and uplifting stories from the African American community as part of the first-ever **DISCOVER THE UNEXPECTED** program presented by Chevrolet Malibu in partnership with the National Newspaper Publishers Association. Teams will cover stories in Detroit, Washington D.C., Chicago and Atlanta. Plus, they'll get to navigate the city in an all-new 2016 Malibu. Join them on this exciting journey of discovery and inspiration.

#discovertheunexpected

DISCOVER MORE OF THEIR STORY AT NNPA.ORG/DTU

Ravens RB Buck Allen ready to improve in second season

Baltimore Ravens running back Buck Allen saw plenty of play time after Justin Forsett suffered a broken arm against the St. Louis Rams last season. His versatility showed as he was used as a receiver out of the backfield as well as running Ravens zone scheme.

Allen only posted 514 rushing yards and averaged 3.8 yards per carry in 2015. With a few broken tackles, that number could easily have been greater.

“I actually looked back at that [on film] two weeks ago, and a couple games, I could have broken it, but a little shoe-string tackle brought me down,” Allen said. “This year, that’s not going to happen. Me personally, that’s something I [have] worked on. [Running back’s] coach Thomas [Hammock] pointed it out to me. It’s something I worked on, and I’m ready for it.”

Allen said he has trained differently this year. Instead of getting ready for the NFL Combine, he trained for football specific duties in Tampa, Florida. Going into his second season in the NFL, Allen is more comfortable and confident as a player.

“[My] confidence is at a higher level—it’s high,” Allen said. “After going through your first year, seeing how fast the game is, seeing how a different team plays, you’re going to come back next year with confidence and more comfortable with the playbook. I feel like I’m in a great place right now.”

The extensive play time Allen received last season will only help him. He now knows what it’s like to bang in the trenches and run the football with physicality in the NFL. Learning how to always be ready and stay prepared to



Ravens running back Buck Allen tries to elude Seattle Seahawks defender Cliff Avril (56) during a run at M&T Bank Stadium in 2015.

Courtesy Photo/NFL.com

play was a lesson that he learned last season.

“I got my number called early—got out there to get in the mix and experienced some things. I learned that you’ve always got to be prepared, no matter what the situation is,” Allen said. “You never know when your number is going to get called—third-string, second-string—no matter what. It’s always an injury away. So, being prepared is the best way to be.”

As he prepares to enter his second season, Allen’s goal is to be explosive. The 3.8 yards per run average is something that he will need to improve if he wants

to continue to be a regular in the Ravens rotation.

The Ravens have added a number of running backs to the stable this season. Trent Richardson was signed as a free agent. Kenneth Dixon was also drafted in the fourth round. Competition will be fierce.

For Allen, his versatility should help him carve out extensive playing time. Allen is a former high school wide receiver who converted to running back at USC. Allen could have been a Division I wide receiver according to his high school coach, Jacquez Green. Green is a former NFL wide receiver himself.

The patience and vision that Allen picked up as he ran in the zone scheme at USC will need to continue to transfer to his time in Baltimore. The Ravens plan to run the ball more and spent their first round pick on Ronnie Stanley, a left tackle from Notre Dame.

Allen will get opportunities to carry the ball in 2016, but he will need to fully maximize each carry if he wants to improve upon his rookie season.

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Together we'll go far



Andre Mack and Mouton Noir: The Wine World's Black Sheep

By Eric Easter
Urban News Service

In a third-floor loft a few blocks from Madison Square Garden, the wine merchants at Banville & Jones are deciding which wines New Yorkers will drink. Andre Mack has been selling his Mouton Noir wine through these distributors for 10 years, but today they make him wait.

From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day, Banville & Jones' staffers swirl, sip and spit around a conference table as global winemakers pitch new vintages and hope that these experts will push their wares just a little harder.

First this morning is an Italian maker, with a new portfolio of Barolo and Chianti. Then, a French maker who runs way overtime. Next up is Mack. He sets out his bottles and begins to spin the tales of his own collection of "garage wines."

The "Bottoms Up" white blend (75 percent riesling, eight percent viognier and the rest pinot blanc) has opening notes of diesel and kerosene with floral tones.

"It's light, easy, not too angular," Mack says. Then comes the Oregogne pinot noir ("My workhorse"). Mack details the source of the barrels and the location of the vineyard used for his 2013, and how he has the grapes picked early to yield less sugar.

Mack ends with "Horseshoes and Hand Grenades," a syrah/cab/merlot blend that "Shows my creativity as a winemaker," he says.

Mack's stories compose his narrative. He gets lots of press for being one of the few blacks in the industry. But that's not just marketing. He is a craftsman.

How important are Mack's stories to selling his wine?

"Hugely important," says Vincenzo Guglietta, Banville & Jones' sales manager. "Andre tells a compelling story. Let's face it, there are a whole lot of wines out there. Without a story, it's just juice."

For the rest of the day and the next several weeks, Mack tells his story again and again— at a food-industry incubator that afternoon, at that evening's launch



Andre Mack's wine Mouton Noir (French for "Black Sheep") has grown from shipping 36 cases in the first year to more than 33,000 cases in 2016 in just under 12 years. (Above) Andre Mack with his wine portfolio.

Courtesy Photo/Urban News Service

of eBay Wine—a new website that Mack is curating—a TV show taping at his house that weekend, then tastings in Boston, dinners in Milwaukee, more distributors in Kentucky, and then a few days in Texas.

It's a grueling schedule, but as Mack sees it, more fuel for the wine's story.

"At some point, Robert Mondavi was walking from store to store carrying bottles in a bag, too." Mack has no paid assistants, no sales staff. The wines are about a singular taste, a singular vision. So much so that Mack also designs the stark, black-and-white labels that vie for attention in a market where many drinkers judge wines by their covers.

"I wasn't able to convey what I wanted to other designers," Mack said. "So I taught myself."

"For now, it's just me," Mack said. "I'm the best person to tell my story and the story of the wine. So far, it's working."

And it's a good story. Wine steward at The Palm in San Antonio; winner of the "Best Young Sommelier" competition and the first African-American to do so. Recruited by chef Thomas Keller to head the wine program at Manhattan's four-star Per Se, where wines can climb to \$24,000 a bottle. Then a calling to strike out on his

own, a risky move from a safe gig, self-training, self-doubt, mistakes.

In just under 12 years, Mouton Noir

(French for "Black Sheep") has grown from 36 cases shipped in its first year to more than 33,000 cases in 2016. That puts Mouton Noir at the very high end of the small-winery business, a category in which most wineries sell fewer than 2,000 cases per year.

Mack also sells a lifestyle, a concept of fun and approachability backed by disarming quality.

"I'm trying to create something that is not just a wine company, but an experience. Something you can remember after the wine is finished."

A husband and father of three boys, Mack says what he's really doing—the hard work, the tough schedule, the constant hustle—is building a family business.

"My children taste my wine. I want them to know what I do and where it comes from. They travel with me to the vineyards, touch the grapes, walk the farms. That's what it's all about. "This is what I want to be remembered for. This is my legacy."

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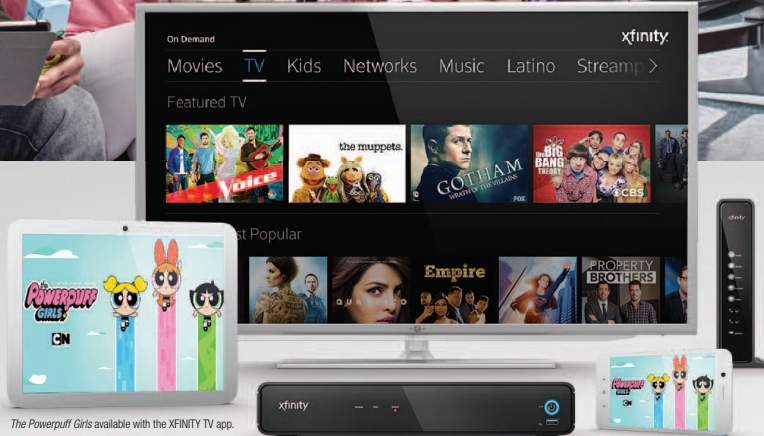
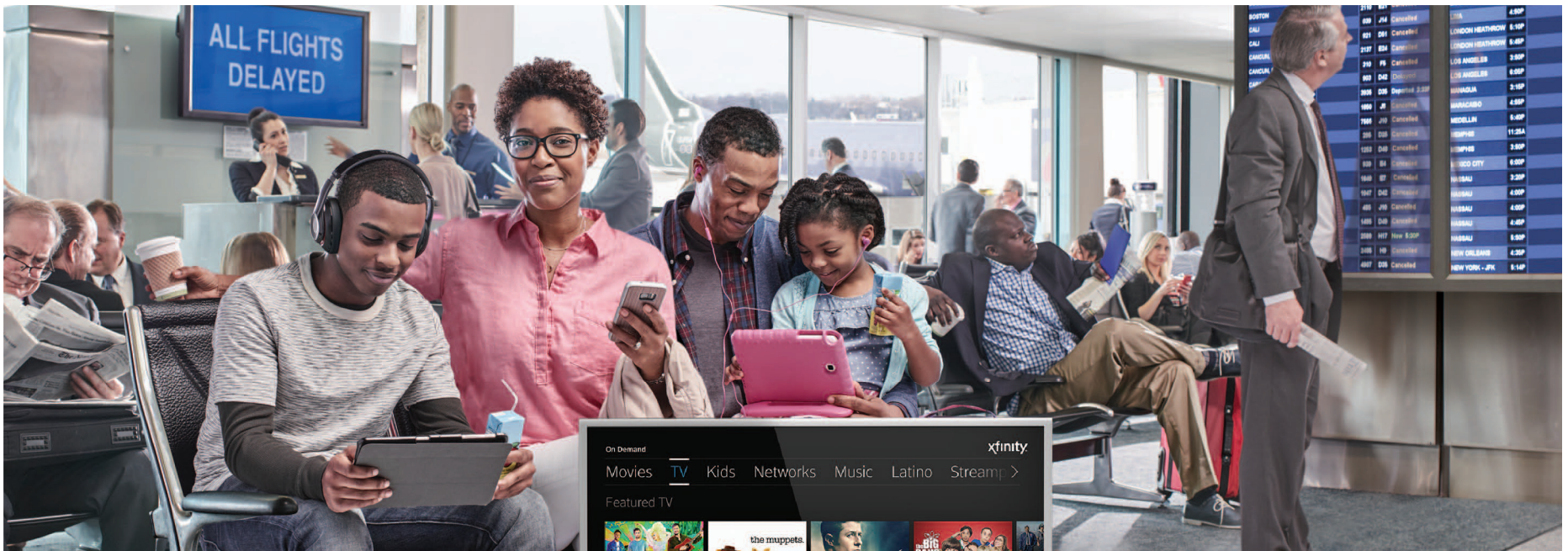
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Assoc. for the Study of African American Life and History, The Julian Branch

By Brenda Bowe Johnson

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) was established September 9, 1915 by historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson with a mission to create and disseminate knowledge about black life, history and culture. Members of the organization produce books and materials about black history including the Journal of African American History, of which Woodson was the first author. However, the Association believes it is not enough to just study about African American life and history. It's also necessary to act decisively to ensure equality and justice.

The Association's mission is to promote, research, preserve, interpret and disseminate information about Black life, history and culture to the global community. There are approximately 30 branches across the country.

The Julian Branch was chartered in 1990 and is named after the socially conscious Julian family. There was Dr. Percy L. Julian, the great African American scientist; Mrs. Anna Julian, a social leader; Dr. Emerson Julian, medical doctor and politician in Baltimore; Sylvia Julian Veal, pharmacist, who did her work in viral Cardinal anoxia; and Dr. James Julian, medical doctor and extensive landowner in the Pikesville- Randallstown area of Baltimore County.

The Julian Branch is committed to spreading the spirit of ASALH to students and the entire community, fostering and supporting the fight for equality and justice. Recently, the Julian Branch sponsored a review and discussion about the book, "The Mis-Education of the Negro" written by Dr. Woodson and published in 1933. This book was revisited because the organization believes that it is just as relevant today as it was in the '30s and '40s.

The Julian Branch is very active in the area with a plethora of activities, including: excursions to local and national



Members of The Julian Branch: First Row seated (Left to right) Reva Lewie; Wyonetta Johnson; and Peggy Jackson. Second Row standing (left to right) R. Alvera Jones; Dr. Bettina M. Scott; Mary Brown; Phyllis Watkins; Sedonia Williamson; Charlotte Bullock; and LeVerne Johnson
Courtesy Photo

African American cultural and historical events; collaboration with local branches and national leadership in the presentation of museum forums and events; assisting churches, academic and cultural institutions and the community with Black History Month and other activities; participating in heritage festivals; and voter registration drives.

Like the Julian family from which the name is derived, the Julian Branch will continue to be active and innovative in promoting the mission of ASALH by encouraging the study of the rich history and culture of African Americans. An outstanding educator and historian, Mary Chavis Radcliffe is president of the Julian Branch.

The next sponsored event by the Julian Branch will take place on June 27, 2016 at the Owings Mills Library where the theme is "Hallowed Grounds: Memories of African American History," which will be presented by the well-known Baltimore County historian, Louis Diggs.

"When you control a man's thinking you do not have to worry about his actions. When you determine what a man shall think you do not have to concern yourself about what he will do. If you make a man feel that he is inferior, you do not have to compel him to accept an inferior status, for he will seek it himself. If you make a man think that he is justly an outcast, you do not have to order him to the back door. He will go without being told; and if there is no back door, his very nature will demand one."

—Carter G. Woodson, *The Mis-Education of the Negro* Carter

Muhammad Ali remembered as “The Greatest” and “True American Hero”

*Inside and outside of the ring,
the champ made a difference.*

*By Stacy M. Brown,
The Washington Informer, NNPA Member*

Muhammad Ali’s historic win against George Foreman in Kinshasa, Zaire in 1974 was perhaps the greatest of all of his ring victories. Ali dropped Foreman in the eighth round of that heavyweight bout known as “The Rumble in the Jungle.” Foreman was among the first to pay homage to the fallen champion when news of his death spread late Friday evening on June 3, 2016. He was 74.

“It’s been said it was ‘rope a dope,’ Ali beat me with,” Foreman tweeted. “No, [it was] his beauty that beat me. The most beauty I’ve known. I loved him.”

Early Saturday morning, Mike Tyson tweeted, “God came for his champion. So long great one. @MuhammadAli #TheGreatest #RIP”

After a long battle with Parkinson’s disease, the world-renowned champion died at a Phoenix, Arizona-area hospital. The iconic sports figure was fighting respiratory issues that were complicated by the Parkinson’s that he was diagnosed with in the 1980s, the Associated Press reported. Ali had been hospitalized several times in recent years.

Boxing great and former world champion Sugar Ray Leonard, said that he woke up Saturday morning with a tear streaming down his cheek. His heart ached. In a statement, Ray said that he admired, idolized and loved Muhammad Ali.

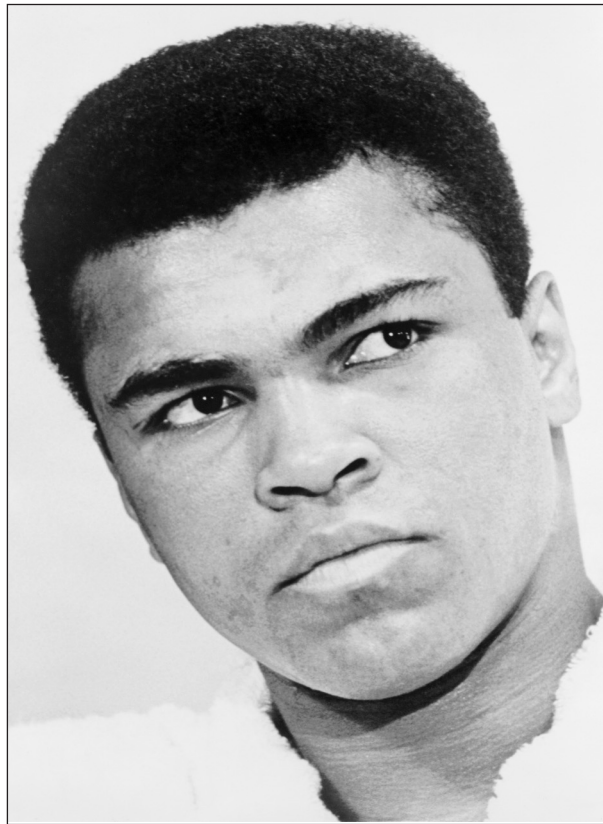
“My true feelings have not totally surfaced yet, because no one beats Muhammad Ali. So to continue his journey I will thank God for bringing this incredible man into my life! RIP Champ,” said Ray.

In a press statement, Ali’s family said his funeral would be held in his hometown of Louisville, Kentucky. In a statement, Ali’s family also thanked the public for the outpouring of support.

Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer ordered flags to be lowered to half-staff in Ali’s honor.

“The values of hard work, conviction and compassion that Muhammad Ali developed while growing up in Louisville helped him become a global icon,” Fischer said in statement released on Twitter. “As a boxer, he became ‘The Greatest,’ though his most lasting victories happened outside the ring. Muhammad leveraged his fame as a platform to promote peace, justice and humanitarian efforts around the world, while always keeping strong ties to his hometown.”

Fischer continued: “Today, Muhammad Ali’s fellow Louisvillians join the billions whose lives he touched



**Muhammad Ali photographed in 1967.
Photo: (Library of Congress/Creative Commons)**

worldwide in mourning his passing, celebrating his legacy, and committing to continue his fight to spread love and hope. Thank you, Muhammad, for all you’ve given your city, your country and the world.”

President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama also paid tribute to Ali.

“Like everyone else on the planet, Michelle and I mourn his passing,” Obama said in a statement. The president said he keeps a pair of Ali’s gloves on display in his White House study. “But, we’re grateful to God for how fortunate we are to have known him, if just for a while; for how fortunate we all are that ‘The Greatest’ chose to grace our time.”

As beautifully chronicled by journalist Maureen Callahan in a 2015 New York Post article, defying the American government, Ali traveled to Iraq, where 15 Americans were being held hostage by Saddam Hussein in the run-up to the Gulf War: “As with much in Ali’s life, his mission was misconstrued and criticized. President George H.W. Bush did not approve. ‘I basically believe these people are playing into the propaganda game that Iraq is holding here,’ said Joseph Wilson, then the

top American diplomat in Baghdad. ‘These people traveling to Iraq are making a serious mistake.’”

The New York Times also took jabs at the champ over his efforts to free the hostages.

Philip Shenon wrote in The New York Times: “Surely the strangest hostage-release campaign of recent days has been the ‘good-will tour’ of Muhammad Ali, the former heavyweight boxing champion...he has attended meeting after meeting in Baghdad despite his frequent inability to speak clearly.”

At that point, Ali was 48 years old and had been suffering from Parkinson’s disease for six years. One week into his rescue mission in Iraq, Ali ran out of his Parkinson’s medication, the New York Post reported.

According to the New York Post: “‘He could barely get out of bed,’ Vernon Nored, [who was Ali’s liaison from the U.S. Embassy], told ‘30 for 30.’ ‘He couldn’t stand up. And he couldn’t talk, because his voice wouldn’t go above a whisper.’”

Against overwhelming odds and outside pressure, Ali secured the release of all 15 American hostages.

“Muhammad Ali was not only a champion in the boxing ring, but he was a champion of human and civil rights,” said G. K. Butterfield, the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus. “During a difficult time in American history he stood on principle to end racism and bigotry. In doing so, Ali showed the world how a true champion can stand with courage, self-respect, and dignity.

Butterfield added: “Muhammad Ali made a considerable impact on the world and his spirit and his work will live on for generations to come. On behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, we send our deepest condolences to his family, and we mourn the loss of a true American hero.”

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) also released a statement mourning Ali.

“We extend to the Ali family our heartfelt condolences. Representing the Black Press in America and throughout the world, the NNPA affirms Muhammad Ali’s outstanding world-class achievement, leadership and courage in boxing, human rights and philanthropy,” said NNPA President Dr. Benjamin Chavis.

Chavis continued: “Ali personified power and genius in the ongoing cause and struggle for freedom, justice, equality and empowerment. We now rededicate to keep his audacious voice and powerful legacy alive in all that we say, print, report and distribute. Long live the spirit of Muhammad Ali.”

The Washington Informer is a member publication of the National Newspaper Publishers Association. Learn more about becoming a member at www.nnpa.org.

“Impossible is just a big word thrown around by small men who find it easier to live in the world they’ve been given than to explore the power they have to change it. Impossible is not a fact. It’s an opinion. Impossible is not a declaration. It’s a dare. Impossible is potential. Impossible is temporary. Impossible is nothing.” — Muhammed Ali

BCCC grad completes a nearly 40-year journey to an associate degree

By Linwood Outlaw III

Runae Freeman is relishing her latest achievement. On Saturday, June 4, 2016, Freeman received her associate of applied science degree in allied human services from Baltimore City Community College (BCCC). She couldn't be happier.

"This has been a journey, a very long and arduous journey," she said. "But the benefits of finishing something like this are enormous."

The conferring of an associate degree was the culmination of a nearly four-decade-long pursuit for Freeman. Her focus and commitment personifies what BCCC students are all about.

The students come from all walks of life and overcome unique challenges as they approach graduation. Whether they are juggling school and parenting, returning to a classroom environment for the first time in years, coping with physical and mental challenges, or persevering through personal tragedy, these students are defying the odds and setting positive examples in their communities.

The College awarded 515 associate degrees and certificates at its 2016 commencement ceremony on June 4, 2016 at the Patricia and Arthur Modell Performing Arts Center at The Lyric. On June 11, 2016, the school will present 51 students with their high school diplomas at its annual Adult Education Programs Commencement at the Fine Arts Theatre on the Liberty campus. Many from the Class of 2016 overcame poverty, unemployment, substance abuse, health problems, homelessness and other obstacles.

By the time she was 19, Freeman, a Chicago native, was a single mother of five—three girls and two boys. She dropped out at the age of 16 to focus on raising her kids. It was a struggle. She took whatever odd jobs she could find and even had to go on welfare before meeting her husband of over 30 years, Roger, who helped tremendously to lessen the load.



Runae Freeman received her associate of applied science degree in allied human services from Baltimore City Community College on Saturday, June 4, 2016, which was the culmination of nearly 40 year pursuit. Courtesy Photo/BCCC

Freeman, 53, and her husband did an outstanding job raising their family: All five of Runae's children finished high school and went to college.

"I continued to thrive through my children," Freeman said. "What I didn't get, I made sure they got."

But being a full-time mom left Freeman with no time to complete her education. When she and Roger moved to Baltimore from Atlanta in 2010 at the suggestion of her son, Peter Smith (who serves on the Anne Arundel County Council), with her kids all grown up, Freeman was finally free to fulfill her personal goals.

The first step for Freeman, who has been totally blind in her left eye since she was a toddler, was getting her GED. Going back to school after so many years was intimidating, but she was determined.

In May 2012, Freeman enrolled in the BCCC GED Test Preparation Program

and passed her exam later that year. Then in 2015, she earned a certificate in allied human services from BCCC. Freeman now has an associate degree in the same discipline, with a concentration in addiction counseling.

This fall, Freeman will attend the University of Baltimore to pursue a bachelor's degree in human services administration. She says she is most proud of the example she is setting for her children and 14 grandchildren.

"I don't ever want my grandchildren to go through what their grandmother went through and miss so many opportunities," she said.

Freeman says she owes a lot to her instructors at BCCC, which she calls "the perfect place to put your life back in order."

"My goal is to go as far as I can go," she said. "My motto is, 'Don't let your past define your future.' No matter what you've done in your lifetime, you should be able to get up, pull it together and move on."

The Baltimore Times

"Positive Stories about Positive People!"



October 2016

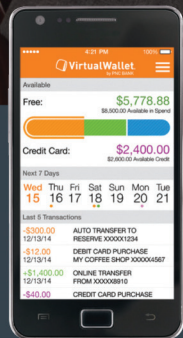
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Best-selling author Terry McMillan talks about new book at The Pratt

“The Waiting to Exhale” and *“How Stella Got Her Groove Back”* author to talk about her new novel, *“I Almost Forgot About You”* at Writers Live! Series

Baltimore— The Enoch Pratt Free Library is proud to welcome best-selling and award-winning author Terry McMillan to talk about her new novel, “I Almost Forgot About You,” on Tuesday, June 14, 2016 at 7 p.m. at Central Library Main Hall located at 400 Cathedral Street in Baltimore.

For nearly thirty years, Terry McMillan has been entertaining readers’ with novels bursting with warmth, humor and a fearless, tell-it-like-it-is honesty. Beginning with her acclaimed debut novel “Mama,” her New York Times bestselling books include “Waiting to Exhale,” “A Day Late and a Dollar Short,” “The Interruption of Everything,” “How Stella Got Her Groove Back,” “Getting to Happy,” “Disappearing Acts,” and “Who Asked You?” With millions of copies sold around the world, McMillan’s work has transcended age, race, and class to make her one of the most beloved authors in publishing today.



In “I Almost Forgot About You,” Dr. Georgia Young's wonderful life— great



Terry McMillan
Courtesy Photo

friends, family and successful career— aren't enough to keep her from feeling stuck and restless. When she decides to make some major changes in her life, quitting her job as an optometrist, and moving house, she finds herself on a wild journey that may or may not include a second chance at love.

Terry McMillan fell in love with books as a teenager while working at the local library. She studied journalism at UC Berkeley and screenwriting at Columbia before making her fiction debut with *Mama*, which won both the Doubleday New Voices in Fiction Award and the American Book Award.

For more information about the Pratt Library’s Writers LIVE Series, visit the website: www.prattlibrary.org.

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Food Safety Tips for Fruits, Vegetables, Fresh-Squeezed Juices

Silver Spring, Md.— Whether from a supermarket, farm stand or your own garden, fresh fruits and vegetables are highlights of summertime. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reminds the public that safe handling of produce and fresh-squeezed juice is especially important during the summer months, because food borne bacteria multiply faster in warm weather and fresh fruits and vegetables are often consumed raw.

To keep nutritious produce and fresh-squeezed juices safe, follow these food safety tips to prevent food poisoning (also called foodborne illness):

Buy Right— Purchase produce that is not bruised or damaged. When selecting pre-cut produce (such as a half a watermelon or bagged salad greens), choose only those items that are refrigerated or on ice. Bag fresh fruits and vegetables and keep them separate from raw meat, poultry, and seafood in your cart and shopping bags.

Wash Thoroughly— Wash all produce under plain running water before eating, cutting, or cooking, and dry with a clean cloth towel or paper towel to further reduce bacteria that may be present. Scrub firm produce, such as melons and cucumbers with a clean produce brush. For pre-packaged produce, read the label— if it says pre-washed and ready-to-eat, you can use it without further washing. And even if you plan to peel a fruit or vegetable, it's important to wash it first so dirt and bacteria aren't transferred from the outside to the inside.

Prevent Cross Contamination— Wash cutting boards, dishes, utensils,

and countertops with soap and hot water between the preparation of raw meat, poultry, and seafood and the preparation of produce that will not be cooked. If you use plastic or other non-porous cutting boards, run them through the dishwasher after use. And always wash hands before and after preparing food!

Prepare Safely— Cut away any damaged or bruised areas on fresh fruits and vegetables before preparing and/or eating. If it looks rotten, discard it!

Store Properly— Keep perishable fresh fruits and vegetables in a clean refrigerator at 40° F or below, separated from raw meat, poultry, and seafood. Always refrigerate produce that is purchased pre-cut or peeled.

Check Your Juice— Children, older adults, pregnant women, and people with weakened immune systems (such as transplant patients and individuals with HIV/AIDS, cancer, and diabetes) risk serious illnesses or even death from drinking juices that have not been pasteurized or otherwise treated to control harmful bacteria. Look for pasteurized or otherwise treated products in your grocers' refrigerated sections, frozen food cases, or in non-refrigerated containers, such as juice boxes, bottles, or cans. Untreated juices sold in refrigerated cases of grocery or health food stores, cider mills, and farmers' markets must contain a warning label indicating that the product has not been pasteurized. Warning labels are not required for juice or cider that is fresh-squeezed and sold by the glass. If you are unsure if a juice product is pasteurized— be sure to ask!



Prevent food poisoning!

Scrub firm produce with a clean produce brush.

FDA www.fda.gov/food

More information is available at:
<http://www.fda.gov/Food/Resources/ForYou/Consumers/ucm114299.htm>

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/Resources/ForYou/Consumers/ucm110526.htm>



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WHERE: The Baltimore Times
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*ALSO: various story locations throughout Baltimore

COST: Free



Top Three Home-Buying Misconceptions

By Dave Jacobin

1. How much closing costs cost. All too often, I see borrowers stunned by the amount of the closing costs to finalize the purchase of their new home. Avoid this last-minute shock all together and address closing costs well before you get to the table. When you're pulling the contract together, know your options. If up-front closing costs are a problem, you can look into mortgage loans that work them into your mortgage payment to work around the up-front costs.

2. Who is responsible for closing costs. Similar to the way many don't understand the true cost of closing, they often are unaware of who is responsible for paying them. Be sure to communicate with the seller clearly throughout the home-buying process, as sometimes they will agree to assume the closing costs on behalf of the buyer in order to close the deal. Buyers should understand that even if they don't have enough cash to cover both the down payment and closing at the time of sale, there are negotiable alternatives.

3. The value of your credit score. Your credit score is crucial in determin-



ing your eligibility for a mortgage loan. So, don't be surprised if you qualify for high interest rates if your credit score is low. If you're planning on applying for mortgage loans in the near future, focus on paying off debt to build up your credit score. The strength of these three numbers will make or break your home buying experience. Remember, it doesn't matter if your debt is \$24 or \$24,000— if your credit report shows you owe money, that is a reflection of how disciplined you are with making payments and how likely it is that you'll be able to repay the mortgage.

Dave Jacobin is president of 1st Mariner Mortgage. He joined 1st Mariner Mortgage in 2010, leading the Washington D.C. region before moving into his current role in 2014.



Ecumenical Prayer, Remembrance Service for Charleston Nine

The Honorable Kurt L. Schmoke, president of the University of Baltimore, will be the featured speaker at the Ecumenical prayer and remembrance service for the Charleston Nine on Friday, June 17, 2016 at Union Bethel is located at 8615 Church Lane in Randallstown at 7 p.m. The service marks the one-year anniversary of the massive slaying during a Bible study in Charleston, South Carolina.

For more information, contact Renee Johnson: 410-615-7206

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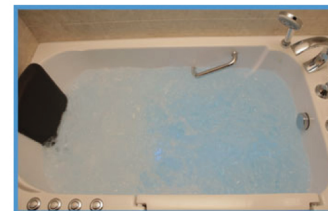


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The Truth about Hot Peppers

By Melinda Myers

Don't be afraid to add a little spicy heat to your meals this season by growing a few hot peppers in the garden or containers. It's easier than you think and many of the hot pepper myths floating around the garden are simply not true.

Don't worry about your hot peppers heating up your sweet peppers. Peppers are normally self-pollinated. If an insect happens to move the pollen from a hot to sweet pepper, it will not affect the flavor or heat of this year's harvest. If you save the seeds from a cross-pollinated pepper and plant them in next year's garden, the plants they produce may have hot or sweet fruit (or a little of both), but only time will tell.

And don't assume all green peppers are sweet or you will be in for a surprise. Jalapenos are typically harvested when green and others, like habanero, Anaheim and Poblano are hot, whether harvested when green or red. You'll also find that hot peppers can be yellow, orange, brown and of course red.

You can turn down the heat when preparing your favorite recipes, too. Contrary to popular belief, all the heat in hot peppers does not come from the seeds. While partially true, the majority of the capsaicin that gives hot peppers their heat is in the white membrane that houses the seeds. When the seeds are growing they may also be coated with extra capsaicin from the membrane. So remove the white membrane and the seeds, just to be safe, if you want to turn down the heat.

The spicy heat of hot peppers is measured in Scoville Heat Units. The ratings are based on the amount of sugar water needed to neutralize the spicy heat in the extracted capsaicin that has been diluted



Golden cayenne peppers are hot with a Scoville heat level of 30,000 to 50,000.

Courtesy Photo/Bonnie Plants

in an alcohol-based extract. A panel of five taste testers decides when the spicy heat has been neutralized and then assigns the rating. Today many compa-

nies use a chemical process (liquid chromatography) but translate their results into the popular Scoville heat units.

The Scoville heat unit ratings vary

from one type of hot pepper to another, with Poblano rating between 1000 to 2000, jalapenos 2500 to 6000, habaneros at 100,000 to 300,000 and one of the hottest, the ghost pepper, at 1,000,000 to 2,200,000 Scoville heat units. Check online or the Homegrown with Bonnie Plants mobile app (for iOS and Android) for the Scoville ratings, growing tips and a Pepper Chooser to help you pick the best varieties to grow. Ratings may also vary from individual plants within a specific type based on individual plant differences and the growing conditions.

Whatever kind you grow, be sure to label hot peppers when planting, harvesting and storing to avoid any mix-ups. The sweet banana pepper, for example, can easily be confused with hot banana. This could make for an unwelcome surprise when preparing, serving and eating.

Also, consider wearing rubber gloves and avoid touching your face and eyes when working with hot peppers, as they can burn. Wash your hands, utensils and cutting boards when finished to avoid any future issues.

And don't worry if you are having a bad day when planting your hot peppers. Contrary to some old adages, planting hot peppers when you're angry won't make the peppers hotter, but unknowingly taking a bite of a hot pepper may very well change your mood.

Melinda Myers has over 30 years of gardening experience has written over 20 gardening books. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Bonnie Plants for her expertise to write this article. For more information, visit: www.melindamyers.com.

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NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for **Water Contract No. 1305-Ashburton Filtration Plant Standby Generator** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **Wednesday, July 27, 2016**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon.

The Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, in Room 6 located on the first floor of the Abel Wolman Municipal Building, 200 N. Holliday Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 as of **Friday, June 10, 2016** 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 the Committee at 4 South Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 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 **F16000 Electrical**

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

A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted at **City of Baltimore, Ashburton Filtration Plant, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 3001 Druid Park Drive, Baltimore, MD on June 23, 2016 at 10:00 A.M.** A site visit will follow.

Principal Item of work for this project are:

- Furnishing and installation of a standby generator
- Related site work including concrete generator pad, electrical ductwork and site restoration

The MBE goal is **27%**

The WBE goal is **9%**

WATER CONTRACT NO. 1305

APPROVED:
Bernice H. Taylor
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:
Rudolph S. Chow, P.E.
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Blood donations urged in honor of World Blood Donor Day

Baltimore— The American Red Cross is partnering with Nexcare Bandages and supermodel Niki Taylor to urge eligible blood and platelet donors to give this June in honor of World Blood Donor Day on June 14, 2016.

"I am proud to team up with the Nexcare Give Program each year, with the mission of sparking a critical dialogue around the vital need for blood donation," said supermodel and Nexcare Give spokesperson, Niki Taylor. "For me, the cause is also a personal one. Following a car accident 15 years ago that left me in critical condition, the efforts

of the American Red Cross and their brave donors saved my life. In honor of World Blood Donor Day, I am sharing my story and encouraging people around the world to support blood donation, inspiring their friends and families to join the cause."

This is the eighth year that the Red Cross and Nexcare Bandages have partnered for the Nexcare Give program. To honor those who "give" around the world, Nexcare Bandages has developed a limited-edition collection of bandages with the theme "Feel the Beat, Give Blood," featuring five vibrant dance-inspired designs reflecting different styles and cultures from around the globe. The limited-edition bandages will be available to those who come out to donate blood or platelets with the Red Cross now through World Blood Donor Day on June 14.

Every two seconds, someone in the United States needs a lifesaving blood transfusion. The Red Cross must collect approximately 14,000 blood donations every day to meet the needs of patients at 2,600 hospitals and transfusion centers nationwide. Donors of all blood types are currently needed.

For more information or to make an appointment to donate blood or platelets, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).



Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland Needs Volunteers

Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland needs volunteers to provide help with a number of core programs and support systems for its home-delivered meal clients that can prevent premature institutionalization and increase quality of life. Such assistance includes delivery of meals to the homebound, grocery shopping and delivery, and delivery of freezer friendly meals to cancer patients. Support services include help with connecting clients who are isolated with outside services or organizations or providing in-house services such volunteer companions, phone pals, delivery of pet food, and other support to enable clients to stay in their homes. Training, including weekly orientations for new volunteers, is provided and schedules are flexible. To learn more, contact Terry Lehr at 410-431-5257 or Lehr@mowcm.org or visit the website at www.mealsonwheelsmd.org.

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