

Baltimore Area Spelman Students Travel to Morocco



Dozens of Spelman women jet off annually to study abroad. Cross-cultural travel provides students an immersive experience that helps them discover a new culture, gain confidence and learn to see the world with fresh eyes. The mission of the Spelman programs is for students to gain intercultural leadership skills and a deep understanding of another culture through interactions with its people. These Spelman students enjoy an afternoon in Rabat, Morocco (Left to right) Jessica Phillips; Malika Watler; Maya Denise Lawrence; Erin Owens; Nandi Howard; Alaya Martin; Raven Love; Ashia Ryan from Baltimore; and Nyla Nation. (See article on page 10) Courtesy Photo

Baltimore Times Columnist Wins Playwright of the Year Award

By Stacy M. Brown

“My Big Phat Ghetto FABULE\$\$ Wedding,” Ursula Battle’s exciting play about what happens when a reversal of fortune causes a couple’s expensive dream wedding to turn into a beer buck budget nightmare, is among the journalist and writer’s many works that have helped her to earn the 2016 Newsome Award for Playwright of the Year.

The award is named after Baltimore-native and businessman Fred Newsome, who is also the executive producer of the Newsome Gospel Music Awards and serves on the board of governors of the Grammy, Stellar Gospel Music and Agape Theater and Film Awards.

Battle, who is also a Baltimore Times columnist, was honored on Sunday, August 7, 2016, at the Chesapeake Arts Center in Brooklyn Park, Maryland.

“I was humbled, surprised and I was thankful to God for the opportunity to be recognized for doing something that I love to do,” Battle said of the honor.

“It gives me another opportunity to give God glory because I believe my talent, my gift, is writing. I believe when I write I’m utilizing the gift God gave me and I don’t ever do it for the spotlight or for recognition,” she said. “This is what I believe that I’m called to do, and to be recognized for that is special. It also goes to show you that people do recognize and appreciate your work. When you work hard and put your best effort forward, you will be recognized and appreciated and this is a shining example of that.”

A Magna Cum Laude graduate of Coppin State University, where she earned her bachelor’s degree in English and a minor in journalism, Battle also earned her master’s degree from the University of Baltimore where she majored in publications design.

Also a graduate of the Broadcasting Institute of Maryland and Walbrook High School in Baltimore, Battle is the founder and CEO of Battle Stage Plays.

She says the goals of her plays are to uplift, inspire, educate and encourage through sidesplitting comedy, riveting drama, soul-stirring singing, and powerful ministry.



Baltimore Times Columnist, Ursula Battle is the recipient of the 2016 Newsome Playwright of the Year Award. She was honored on Sunday, August 7, 2016 in a ceremony at the Chesapeake Arts Center in Brooklyn Park, Maryland. Courtesy Photo

“My favorite scripture says to walk by faith, not by sight and I thank God for the opportunity to be used as a vehicle,” Battle said. “I’m just one part of a big production of people. It’s really not just about me, it takes the writer, director, performers, stage crews, the audience and all of us come together for this.”

“DisChord in The Choir;” “The Crown of Glory & The Agony of Deceit;” “Widows in The Hood;” “Jacob, Rachel & Leah;” “Noah’s Ark;” “Never Give Up;” “Abraham & Sarah;” “The Christmas Gift;” and “Mary and Martha” are among Battle’s many stage play productions.

Her productions have appeared at several greater Baltimore venues, including Coppin State University, Morgan State University, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and the Downtown Cultural Arts Center.

Battle’s romantic comedy stage play production, “FOR BETTER or WORSE” was chosen to be performed at ArtScape 2008.

In 2004, her hit production, “The Teachers’ Lounge,” was chosen for a time-modified presentation for the National Association for Professional Teaching Standards’ Convention held that year at the Grand Hyatt in Washington, D.C.

In 2013, an updated version of “The Teachers’ Lounge” was performed at the Downtown Cultural Art Center in Baltimore.

Her first play, “The Teacher’s Lounge,” was conceived after attending a performance of Shelly Garrett’s “Beauty Shop,” Battle said.

“Me, my mother and some others went to see ‘Beauty Shop’ and my mother

said to me that I should write a play about teachers,” Battle said, adding that it wasn’t long before she wrote “The Teachers’ Lounge,” one of her most memorable plays.

In September, Battle’s “My Big Phat Ghetto FABULE\$\$ Wedding” returns by popular demand to Johns Hopkins’ Turner Auditorium. The production drew sell-out audiences when it debuted in December 2015.

“People asked us to bring it back so we’re bringing it back and we are also working on bringing back ‘DisChord in The Choir,’” Battle said.

“The plays give us an opportunity to highlight the talent we have in Baltimore. We have a lot of traveling plays that come to town but I believe we’re putting plays up that are comparable if not better than those bigger plays.

“We’re able to offer our plays at affordable prices and it gives an opportunity for individuals to shine through their performances and we have so many wonderful singers and dancers and crew members,” she said.

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Guest Editorials/Commentary

We have to end the war on women in cyberspace

By *Bill Fletcher, Jr.*
NNPA News Wire Columnist

I don't know whether you have been following this, but there is a very disturbing trend that has been underway. Women in cyberspace are under attack. These attacks are very much focused on programmers and video game designers. These attacks are nothing short of vicious.

Yet, the attacks have expanded. Just recently Leslie Jones, a co-star in the reboot of the film "Ghostbusters," came under such a vicious online assault that she took a breather from Twitter while Twitter management decided to purge some of her worst attackers. What Leslie Jones experienced, i.e., vicious online assaults, is something that an increasing number of women who work in cyberspace and technology careers have been living through for years. Subterranean assaults carried out in the dark of night making life miserable for their targets have become a current feature of our times. This has expanded so much so that it has even become part of popular culture, such as a plotline of one of the "Law & Order" franchises.

What is motivating these attacks? These attacks are acts of misogyny, pure and simple and are being carried out—quite blatantly—by men who believe there are certain fields that should be the exclusive territory of men. As a result, they want to carry out what can only be described as the "gender cleansing" of different fields, with technology being one of them. Yet, as is the case with Leslie Jones, these cyber assaults are not limited to women who work in technology.

In the late 1990s, I noticed something which I coined "The Wizard of Oz Phenomenon." In essence this took the form of people developing one personality when they were behind a keyboard and another in real life. I encountered people who were rude, arrogant and intolerant over the Internet, yet when you would meet them in person, they would be nothing short of a cuddly teddy bear.

I believe "The Wizard of Oz Phenomenon" has expanded and has become the means by which some very mean-spirited, arrogant men have decided to conduct a war against women. Hiding behind the "curtain" of the Internet, they harass women to the point that some have decided to abandon their field of interest entirely, simply because they have concluded that the harassment is not worth it.

So, here is my proposal. There are some good hackers out there. I think that there is a need to develop a battalion of such hackers who are interested in bringing a halt to this online misogyny. Their assignment, should they choose to accept it, would be to search out, identify and publicize the existence of these harassers and, as they say, return the favor. Any volunteers?

Bill Fletcher, Jr. is a talk show host, writer and activist. You can follow him on Twitter, Facebook and at www.billfletcherjr.com.



Bill Fletcher, Jr.
NNPA News Wire Columnist
Courtesy Photo



Community Affairs

Marylanders Encouraged to Shop During Tax-Free Week

State sales tax waived for qualifying clothing and footwear under \$100 between August 14-20, 2016

Annapolis— From August 14 to 20, 2016, the state's six percent sales tax will not be collected for any single, qualifying article of clothing or footwear priced \$100 or less, regardless of how many items are purchased at the same time.

"A break on the cost of clothing and shoes can make a real difference and help stretch family budgets. Local retailers also benefit with increased foot traffic," said Comptroller Peter Franchot.

The tax-free week is held annually during the second week in August, as a result of legislation passed by the Maryland General Assembly in 2007. Businesses selling items that are not eligible for inclusion in the tax-free week can



still participate in Shop Maryland. Under "Sellers Privilege," other unqualified merchandise can be sold tax-free, but the retailer is responsible for paying the sales tax owed to the state.

For more information on qualifying items, visit: www.marylandtaxes.com.

Reverend Barber's Speech at the DNC Was Everything

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA News Wire Columnist

The North Carolina NAACP President, Reverend William Barber, tore it up and then threw down in a powerful speech at the Democratic National Convention on July 28, 2016. He called on those assembled to be a "moral defibrillator of our time," to shock our nation with the power of love and morality.

Reverend Barber did not use the word "endorse," but urged delegates to "embrace" Clinton, and his rousing rhetoric was challenging and inspirational.

Reverend Barber is a committed and tenacious activist. He founded the "Forward Together Moral Movement," and has organized "Moral Mondays" in North Carolina. For the past three years, Moral Monday activists have gathered in Raleigh, North Carolina, and used protest and civil disobedience to shine light on the many ways North Carolina has attempted to erode voting rights, and move the state backwards on economic justice issues.

"When I hear Hillary's voice and positions," Barber said, "I hear and I know she is working to embrace our deepest moral values, and we should embrace her," he said. "She nor any person can do it alone. The watchword of this democracy is 'we.'"

What are we, the people going to do in the aftermath of the political conventions? Some have said they will stay

home, but watching the difference between the gathering of Democrats and that of Republicans should remind us that staying home should not be an option. Stay home, and leave our choice of leadership to others? Stay home and co-sign the hateful comments Mr. Trump made during his convention? Reverend Barber has called the democratic watchword "we," and Hillary Clinton talked about Democratic inclusiveness, which contrasts with that we observed with Republicans. What are "we" going to do?

ity, respect and reaching out to the Bernie folks. Not only could I hear the glass ceiling shattering, but also I hoped that the world could see this woman as Commander-in-Chief.

Reverend Barber reminds us, though, that we are all part of the "we the people." He reminds us that we are only committed to democracy when we are actively involved in it. It's not just about

fight for voting rights, when he speaks up with regularity on the need for political and economic transformation. We exhibit our commitment to democracy when we hold our leaders accountable, when we pressure them to do the right thing, when we remind them of their campaign promises.

Those Bernie Sanders supporters who choose to remain engaged in the political process have the responsibility to continue to push their progressive agenda at the national, state, and local levels. Indeed, they honor their movement and their struggle by continuing to feel a burning desire for social and economic justice. If Sanders' supporters decide to pick up their marbles and go home, because their candidate did not win, it suggests that they are committed to personality, not democracy.

Our system is far from perfect, but it's the system we have. We can change it if we are committed to democracy or we can accept imperfections, if we eschew activism.

Thank you, Hillary Clinton for reminding us of your service. Thank you, Reverend Barber for reminding us that Secretary Clinton won't be able to achieve much, unless we work with her. If you can listen to William Barber and fail to get fired up, you have truly embraced apathy. Barber is a role model, because of his fierce commitment to democracy.

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy" is available at: www.Amazon.com. For more information, visit: www.juliannemalveaux.com.

"Our system is far from perfect, but it's the system we have. We can change it if we are committed to democracy or we can accept imperfections, if we eschew activism."

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President Barack Obama set Secretary Clinton up nicely with his Wednesday evening speech, singing her praises and passing the baton. She caught the baton handily, offering a speech that exceeded my every expectation. The speech was full of grit and grace, humor and humil-

a convention, or a vote. It is about an imperative to transform a system that is flawed. Reverend Barber talked about the "Fight for Fifteen," the Black Lives Matter movement and the missing morality in our nation now. Even as he urged us to embrace Hillary, he also urged us to embrace justice.

President Obama reminds us that democracy can be frustrating and messy. Reverend Barber reminded us that it can also be moral and loving, if we make the collective decision to rally around key principles and to engage in the process of compromise. We also have to remember that democracy is practiced with more frequency than every four years.

Voting is not the most we can do. It is the least we can do. Real democracy exists when people like Reverend William Barber gather people weekly to

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Joy Bramble

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Photographers

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Mailing Address

The Baltimore Times

2513 N. Charles Street

Baltimore, MD 21218

Phone: 410-366-3900- Fax 410-243-1627

www.baltimoretimes-online.com

Want to comment on the editorials or any other story?

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Black Owned Newspapers Matter!

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

Two thousand and seventeen will mark the 190 anniversary of the Black Press in America. Since the first publication of Freedom's Journal on March 16, 1827 in New York City, black owned newspapers have been at the forefront of being the consciousness-raising voice of black America. Today in 2016, black owned newspapers still matter.

Black Lives Matter. Black Votes Matter. Black Press Matters. In order to continue to overcome racial inequality and injustice, we have to emphasize the importance of nurturing and mentoring the rise of a new generation of freedom-fighting journalists, publishers and African American owners of newspapers and media companies.

There is a huge qualitative difference between media that is black owned as compared to non-black owned media that is targeted to black consumers. Numerous national studies have documented that black owned newspapers remain the "trusted and respected" source of news, empowering success stories, and cultural aspirations for more than 45 million black Americans.

The inaugural Discover the Unexpected (DTU) NNPA Journalism Fellowship Program this summer at the Howard University School of Communications supported by Chevrolet has done remarkably well in identifying and encouraging the next generation of gifted, talented and committed young journalism scholars. The National Newspaper Publishers Association is pleased with the positive and transformative results of the DTU fellowships.

The NNPA fellows scored front-page news features in selected NNPA member newspapers across the nation. In addition to attending both the Republican National Convention in Cleveland and the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, the NNPA fellows completed assignments that covered a wide range of news interests including news on Muhammad Ali's legacy, black arts and culture, contemporary urban black



Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.
President/CEO
National Newspaper Publishers Association
Courtesy Photo

family life, 2016 Olympics in Rio, mass incarceration, new data on police and struggle to preserve Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

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prosecutorial misconduct and abuse on African Americans and others, the quest to cure Sickle Cell Anemia, and the

During the past months, Brandi Montgomery and Brelaun Douglas were at The Atlanta Voice; Briahna Brown and

Mckenzie Marshall at the Chicago Defender; Victoria Jones and Rushawn Walters at The Washington Informer; and Tatyana Hopkins and Sidnee King were at the Michigan Chronicle.

Black owned newspapers are businesses and employers that continue to serve the economic development interests of black communities. As the economy in the United States continues to rebound from economic stagnation and recession under the leadership of the first African American President, it should also be a national priority to ensure the advancement of the economic wellbeing of black families, businesses, and communities.

President Barack H. Obama, in the face of historic political opposition in Washington, D.C. since his first day in office, has achieved leadership success in restoring and revitalizing the U.S. economy. In particular the automotive industry has set new records this year in automobile sells. Thus, we note with appreciation those companies in the automotive sector that have been supportive of the NNPA during these difficult and challenging times.

General Motors brands continue advertise with the NNPA and as a consequence contributes to the sustainability of the Black Press in America. In particular, Chevrolet has been outstanding in its support of Discover the Unexpected scholarships as part of the current NNPA fellows program. Chevrolet also increased its advertising with many NNPA newspapers this year. It is our hope that this successful pilot program will be continued and even expanded in the next academic year from fall 2016 to spring 2017.

Long live black owned newspapers and the struggle for freedom, justice and equality. Yes, black owned newspapers surely do matter.

Learn more about the Discover the Unexpected (DTU) program at <http://www.nnpa.org/dtu/> and use the hashtag #DiscoverTheUnexpected on Twitter. Follow us on Twitter @BlackPressUSA and @NNPA_BlackPress and like our Facebook page at NNPA Black Press.

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[#discovertheunexpected](#)

DISCOVER MORE OF THEIR STORY AT NNPA.ORG/DTU

Terrence West wants the Ravens to be his last stop in NFL

By *Turron Davenport*

Terrence West attended Northwestern High School in Baltimore and has always been a Baltimore Ravens fan. Now that he is a member of the Ravens, he wants to stay with the team for the rest of his career.

"Yes, growing up in Baltimore, I always was a Ravens fan," West said. "Coming out of the draft, the Ravens were going to draft me, but the Cleveland Browns traded up and picked me."

At one point, it looked as if the Ravens were going to make his dream come true in the third round of the 2014 NFL Draft. The Ravens selected safety Terrence Brooks with the 79th overall selection and planned to come back to get West later in the third round.

The Cleveland Browns foiled their plan by selecting West with the 94th overall pick, only six picks before the Ravens were set to take him. As fate would have it, West ended up in Baltimore.

The Baltimore native has extreme pride in his city as shown by his hat, which says "BWI" on it. "I'm from Baltimore. When you think of BWI, you think of an airport," West said with a smile. "I think it was a good concept. Just 'Balling With Intentions' speaks for itself."

There were grumblings about West having a poor attitude and work ethic. That is the said reason for both the Browns and Tennessee Titans decisions to cut ties with him in consecutive years.

Landing with the Ravens is a blessing for West because of the way head coach John Harbaugh demands the best from his players. Harbaugh said he is pleased



Ravens running back Terrence West fights off Cleveland Browns line backer Nate Orchard during a game in the 2015 season. Courtesy Photo/NFL.com

with the way West has come back for training camp this year.

"I think it's been really good," Harbaugh said. "He's done a really good job. He's in great shape; he flashes talent, he's very determined, is all business. I really appreciate it. He's done well."

West is an entertaining person to follow on social media. Like many other athletes, he makes sure fans see the work that he is putting in during the offseason. That hasn't gone unnoticed by his running backs coach Thomas Hammock.

"He has had a great off season, OTAs and training camp," Hammock said. "Obviously, he posts a lot of videos on Instagram, so I can see his off season workouts. He has done a great job of studying the playbook, and he is in great shape. He is really competing hard."

West has fought weight issues in the past, but reported to training camp sporting a more streamlined body. The results have shown on the field as he is noticeably quicker and is making sharper cuts. The third-year running back shared the

secret to his body transformation.

"I've actually been focused throughout my career," West said. "I just put more time in, as far as food and what I put in my body. I just come out here and take one day at a time, one play at a time."

In addition to refining his body, West has found another reason to want to succeed— his twin daughters.

"They're great motivation. That puts another chip on my shoulder. I don't want my kids to depend on anybody; I want them to depend on me, so I'm just trying to put the work in now."

The road appears to have leveled out for West as he is now in contention to be a starting running back on his hometown team, which is an organization that provides the stability that he needs. He wouldn't have it any other way.

"Throughout my career— high school, college— I've always had obstacles, I have had to overcome," West said. "This year, I have limited opportunities. I was in Cleveland [then] I went to Tennessee, now I'm with the Baltimore Ravens. I want to make this my last stop."

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Life in Baltimore: Baltimore Area Spelman Students Travel to Morocco

By Brenda Bowe Johnson

Many colleges and universities offer students the opportunity to travel abroad for study and enrichment. Spelman College is among the colleges that encourage a global perspective. Spelman, a four-year liberal arts women's college is part of the Atlanta University Center academic consortium in Atlanta, Georgia. Spelman is one of the HBCU's that attracts students from the Baltimore area.

Ciana Robinson, a junior mathematics major exclaims, "I fell in love with the students and the school while visiting during the admitted students weekend called Spel-bound. I believed that I could get a true balanced education at Spelman." Ciana is the daughter of Cecil and Donna Robinson.

Another junior, Jaela Clark, a fourth generation Spelmanite, felt the Spel-bound experience offered a real glimpse at college life which made her feel that she wanted to be at Spelman.

Dozens of Spelman women jet off annually to study abroad programs.

Spelman College does not currently have any of its own semester or year programs overseas, instead the college uses several major U.S based study abroad programs to fill the needs of Spelman students. Cross-cultural travel provides students an immersive experience that helps them discover a new culture, gain confidence and learn to see the world with fresh eyes. The mission of the Spelman programs is for students to gain intercultural leadership skills and a deep understanding of another culture through interactions with its people.

During the spring semester senior Ashia Ryan, Jaela Clark and Ciana Robinson arrived in Morocco ready to explore the culture and uniqueness of the country. They were in Rabat, which is the capital of Morocco.

The students received an hour of Arabic daily the first week, which proved very useful during their excursions and city adventures. There were language exchanges discussions daily and observational experiences.



Spelman junior Ciana Robinson



Spelman junior Jaela Clark



Spelman Senior, Ashia Ryan

Ashia Ryan, a political science major, daughter of Shreen and Russell Ryan states "I am grateful for my experience abroad in Rabat, Morocco because it not only opened my mind but it opened my heart and spirit to the endless things there are to learn and see in the world."

"My trip to Morocco was so wonderful. The view and scenery were almost as wonderful as its people. From the many blue taxis to the haunts (corner stores) to walking through the Medina, the memories are endless," said Jaela Clark, daughter of Larisha and Derrick Clark.

These young college women agreed that they had to step out of their comfort zones to live in a different culture. They realized just how privileged they are as Americans and black women. The trip forced them to recognize stereotypes about North Africa and to help shatter preconceived ideas about Americans.

Ciana said it best in acknowledging that that the "Moroccan people were hospitable and altruistic."

Overall, the students were extremely grateful for the experience and will continue to include world travel in future plans.

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Free Outdoor Concert Series Drew Hundreds Each Friday

By Ursula V. Battle

This summer, Liberty Live 2016 drew hundreds to Kings Point Square located at 9900 Liberty Road in Randallstown, Maryland. The free, family-friendly outdoor concert series was presented by the Liberty Road Business Association (LRBA), and featured live entertainment, vendors, free parking and more. The series, which took place on Friday nights, began June 26, 2016, and concluded August 12, 2016.

Kelly R. Carter is the executive director for LRBA. According to Carter, the event drew approximately 700 people each week. Most brought along their chairs and listened to the melodious sounds of various groups fill the warm summer air. LRBA seeks to promote, grow, and sustain a diverse and thriving business community that will enrich the quality of life and enhance prosperity in the Liberty Road Corridor and supporting communities.

“Prior to the concert series we were doing ‘Movie Night’ with communities in the Randallstown area, but by doing select communities, we weren’t involved with the greater community,” said Carter. “I knew other communities were doing events like this, so I said ‘let’s try doing this in Randallstown’. This is our third year, and it’s been a huge success. It’s a great way to network and showcase our local artists.”

She added, “The event took place rain or shine. We had good weather, but when it rained people sat in the rain for this event. It warmed my heart.”

Carter noted that 34 vendors participated in the series.

“Vendors started contacting us in April for vendor space,” said Carter. “They pay a one-time fee for the entire series. Many people call, but I try not to have more than one vendor selling the same thing. For example, I have a cake person, a rib person, and a crab cake person. I try to give each vendor a fair hand at making a profit.”

She added, “Our vendors are really amazing. This event provides great exposure for them.”



Baltimore County Fourth District Councilman Julian E. Jones, Jr. with a supporter during Liberty Live 2016.

Photos: Ursula V, Battle



Columnist “Rambling Rose” Pryor and Kelly R. Carter, executive director of the Liberty Road Business Association (LRBA).



Debra Chaplin and Maria Shears of DreamLife Worship Center located on Deer Park Road in Randallstown.



Liberty Live 2016 drew an estimated 700 people each week.

Vendors sold a variety of items, which included food, drinks, and health and beauty products.

Debra Chaplin and Maria Shears of DreamLife Worship Center located on Deer Park Road in Randallstown, MD were giving out information and free bottles of water.

“This event is great,” said Chaplin. “It provides a wonderful opportunity to pass out information about DreamLife, and to let people know we are right here in the community.”

Baltimore County Fourth District Councilman Julian E. Jones, Jr. regularly attended the series.

“I love the event,” said Councilman Jones. “It’s always good to have the community to come out. It allows people to have an enjoyable time, and to get to know their neighbors. It’s getting bigger and bigger each year. People want to come together and have a good time.”

LRBA has been in existence for over 30 years in the Northwest Baltimore County sector. The organization advocates for the businesses along the Corridor, and seeks to help maintain a healthy business climate, a well-trained and educated workforce, quality schools, and safe neighborhoods. LRBA is comprised of more than 50 businesses and organi-

zations that operate and have a vested interest in the economic vitality of the Liberty Road Corridor and North West Baltimore County Sector.

The organization is also the presenter of the Randallstown Farmers Market on Wednesdays at the Liberty Court Shopping Center in Randallstown featuring locally grown produce, crafts, and more until October 26, 2016.

For more information about LRBA, or to find out how to apply for vending opportunities, call 410-655-7766, or visit: www.lrba.biz.

Education Secretary calls on leaders to 'raise voices'

By Stacy M. Brown

The four-day National Urban League Conference at the Baltimore Convention Center had the theme, "Save Our Cities," and organizers said a chief way to accomplish that goal is through education.

To that end, U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King Jr. headlined a Town Hall on Education on Thursday, August 4, 2016— Day 2 of the conference.

King urged those in attendance to be advocates for changes in education that would provide equal opportunities for all students. It is important that community and other leaders raise their voice to make sure that students have access to quality schools and resources, the only way the new No Child Left Behind Act would work, he said.

"We have to be vigilant to make sure it is not replaced with doing nothing at all," King said. "We have to make sure that it is replaced by meaningful interventions when schools are struggling."

Since becoming secretary, King's supporters say he has brought a commitment to advancing excellence and equity for all students, supporting educators and elevating the teaching profession, and improving college affordability and completion rates.

Prior to being appointed to the position of secretary, King served as principal senior advisor to the Department of Education where he not only carried out the duties of the deputy secretary, but he oversaw all preschool-through-twelfth grade education policies, programs and strategic initiatives, as well as the operations of the department.

His work focused on increasing equity, improving educational outcomes for all students, and closing achievement gaps through implementation of key adminis-



U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King Jr. headlined a Town Hall about Education on Thursday, August 4, 2016, the second day of the National Urban League Conference in Baltimore. (Above) Secretary King is pictured reading and talking to school children.

Courtesy Photo

tration priorities in areas including early learning, elementary and secondary education, special education, English language acquisition and innovation, he said.

During his appearance in Baltimore at the National Urban League conference, King noted there are numerous inequities in access for African-American and Latino students in the country.

While money shouldn't determine whether an individual receives a good education, it does play a role, and for schools and institutions that lack funds, they must spend wisely, King said.

"Money isn't everything, we know," he

said. "But, educators must make good choices on where they put their resources," King said.

There are approximately 1.6 million students who go to schools that have a sworn law enforcement officer, but without a school counselor, King said, quoting from a survey.

Further, African-American students in pre-kindergarten are three times more likely than their white peers to be suspended from school, he said.

Again noting a survey, King said blacks are significantly more likely to attend schools where they cannot take courses

in chemistry, calculus or physics. During the past two decades, there has been a re-segregation of schools, which has left many minority and economically disadvantaged students out in the cold and has prevented them from having interaction with white and middle class students, according to King.

"We can change that reality as a result of choices we are making in terms of school and housing opportunities," King said, noting that school was a place where he always felt safe while growing up. "My teachers gave me a sense of possibility."

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Urban League Conference Draws Big Names

By Stacy M. Brown

Democratic Vice Presidential candidate Tim Kaine may have helped set the tone at the annual conference of the National Urban League, which was held last week in Baltimore.

Kaine, who proved an ample fill in for Hillary Rodham Clinton, spoke passionately about more police training, data collection and the need for community policing rather than an adversarial and zero-tolerance strategy.

“A profound distance has grown up between law enforcement and communities in too many places in America, and that distance is dangerous,” he said. “Let’s support independent data collection, investigation and, if necessary, prosecution of police involved in deaths.”

Kaine also called for the end of the era of mass incarceration.

The conference, which kicked off on Wednesday, August 3, 2016 and ran through Saturday, August 6 at the Baltimore Conference Center, also featured



Democratic Vice Presidential candidate Tim Kaine addressed the audience during the opening plenary at the National Urban League Conference in Baltimore on Wednesday, August 3, 2016. Courtesy Photo/NUL

several workshops and a panel of civil rights activists and community leaders, moderated by the Reverend Al Sharpton, who championed criminal justice reform.

“We cannot have flash-point movements to settle systemic problems,”

Sharpton said. “Black America has to change the temperature in the kitchen.”

Panelists noted that one in 10 black men in their 30s is incarcerated in the United States and one in 50 children have a parent in prison. Additionally, it was noted that there are currently approximately 6,000 youth in adult jails in the country.

“There has been an explosive increase in incarceration in the United States,” said Jenny Kim of Koch Industries, who sponsored the discussion about criminal justice reform and ending mass incarceration.

Mass incarceration has hit black communities the hardest, by far, National Urban League President and CEO Marc Morial said.

Cornell William-Brooks, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, also spoke on the topic at the conference.

Brooks said the plight of African-Americans and the criminal justice system demands immediate attention.

“Mandatory minimums and other laws are condemning our people to the bowels of the criminal justice system,” he said.

Last year, more than 900 lives were lost due to police and citizen encounters, Brooks said. This year, more than 500 people have been killed at the hands of law enforcement and the United States needs national standards regarding use

of force and police conduct, according to Brooks.

Famed Baltimore attorney Billy Murphy Jr., who represents the family of Freddie Gray, said the election of the country’s next president is pivotal for African-Americans.

It’s imperative that “anyone but a Republican” is elected, Murphy said.

Melanie Campbell, president of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, said blacks must turn out to vote in record numbers because “everything is at stake.”

Benjamin Crump, president of the National Bar Association, likened high prison rates to slavery.

“We’ve got to quit incentivizing mass-incarceration. We must use the power of the ballot to hold elected officials accountable,” Crump said.

Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake blasted Republican Presidential nominee Donald Trump and the GOP for not accepting an invitation to appear at the conference.

“If you plan to be president, you should plan to be president of the entire United States and when you have a national organization of this stature and refuse to participate at this national conference, it speaks to what your priorities are moving forward,” Rawlings-Blake said. “African-Americans in this country have a strong tradition, a strong history and an extremely powerful future.

“You cannot think you’re going to have an inclusive country, a country that is good for all of America, without including African-Americans.”

Among the many who spoke or appeared at the conference were: activist Sil Lai Abrams; Lee Baker, president of Apex Financial Services; Linda Blount, president and CEO of Black Women’s Health Imperative; Charmaine Brown, the director, Office of Diversity and Inclusion at Fannie Mae; Maryland Senator Ben Cardin; singer and songwriter Raheem DeVaughn; hip-hop legends Doug E. Fresh and M.C. Lyte; U.S. Education Secretary John B. King Jr.; TV One’s Roland Martin; and former Baltimore mayor and University of Baltimore President Kurt L. Schmoke.

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Rambling Rose

Young people doing their thing!



Rosa Pryor Trusty

Hello friends and fans, a lot is going on this week, especially involving the young folks in our community. For example, 11-year-old Anthony Michael Hobbs who began acting at age eight has already racked up many awards for his skills, especially from his supporting role project for PBS, "The American Experience; The Abolitionist," which received an Emmy Award nomination for "Outstanding Documentary or Non-Fiction Series. This young man played young Frederick Douglass at age six. The story about this young man goes on and on. The public is invited to the red carpet screening event to meet this special young man from our hometown on Sunday, August 14, 2016 at the Arbutus Volunteer Fire Department Community Hall located 5200 Southwestern Blvd. from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. The event is free!



Eleven-year-old Anthony Michael Hobbs wrote, produced and directed "Naga Pixie," a film for kids, which was accepted and screened at ten film festivals across the country. A red carpet special movie screening will be held in his honor for "Naga Pixie" at the Arbutus Volunteer Firehouse Community Hall located at 5200 Southwestern Blvd. on Sunday, August 14, 2016 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Hobbs is the grandson of Baltimore Times Columnist, Eunice Mosley.

My goodness gracious! We have two more children who are doing outstanding work with their musical talent. They have performed all over the Baltimore and District of Columbia leaving a name for themselves playing their saxophones. They also play other instruments including keyboards. Ephraim and Ebban Dorsey at the age of 12 and 13 years old have played with some of the top local and national musicians in many concerts and jazz jam sessions. It is a must to go see these two little ones. This brother and sister team is awesome! Thanks to their parents for taking a strong interest in their education with both of them at the top of their class with honors and they still find time to be professional musicians. Well done!

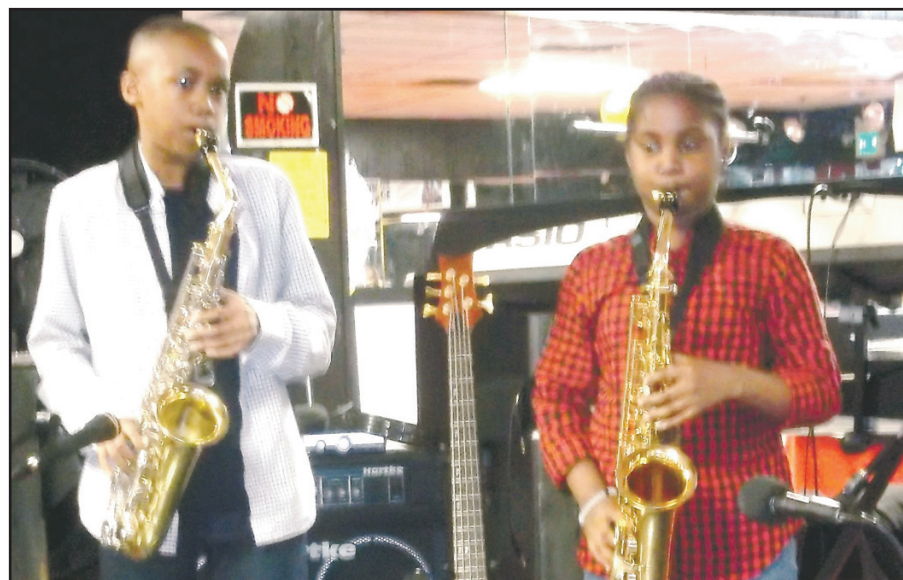
There is one more thing I want to mention before I leave you and that is to remind you about the "New Africa Festival" which will take place on Saturday, August 20, 2016 at Druid Hill Park from 12 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the Sundail Pavilion. The event is free and there will

be something for the whole family, including vendors and live entertainment! It's picnic style, so bring your folding chairs and enjoy. The event will be hosted by Reggie Wells (Oprah Winfrey's former make-up artist) and yours truly "Rambling Rose." I will be signing my books! You will be entertained by Ms. Shay, First Impression, "Baltimore Heat" and "Mann," formerly of the Softones. I will see you there.

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



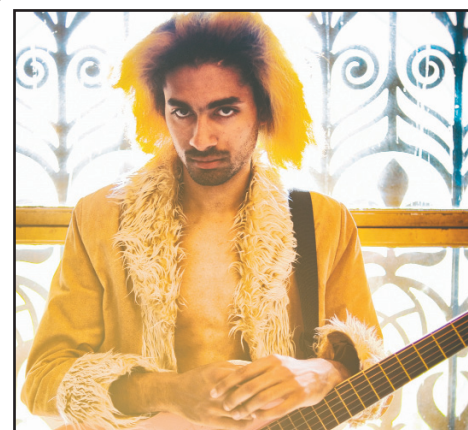
Signature Live will perform at Franklin Square Park on Saturday, August 13, 2016 at the Ruth M. Kirk Family Fun Festival along with other musicians, including: Nevita & Company and Simply Black band & singers and on Sunday, August 14 from noon until 8 p.m., live entertainment will be provided by M.C. Booze, Rebirth, Bobby Rucks Band and the Spindles.

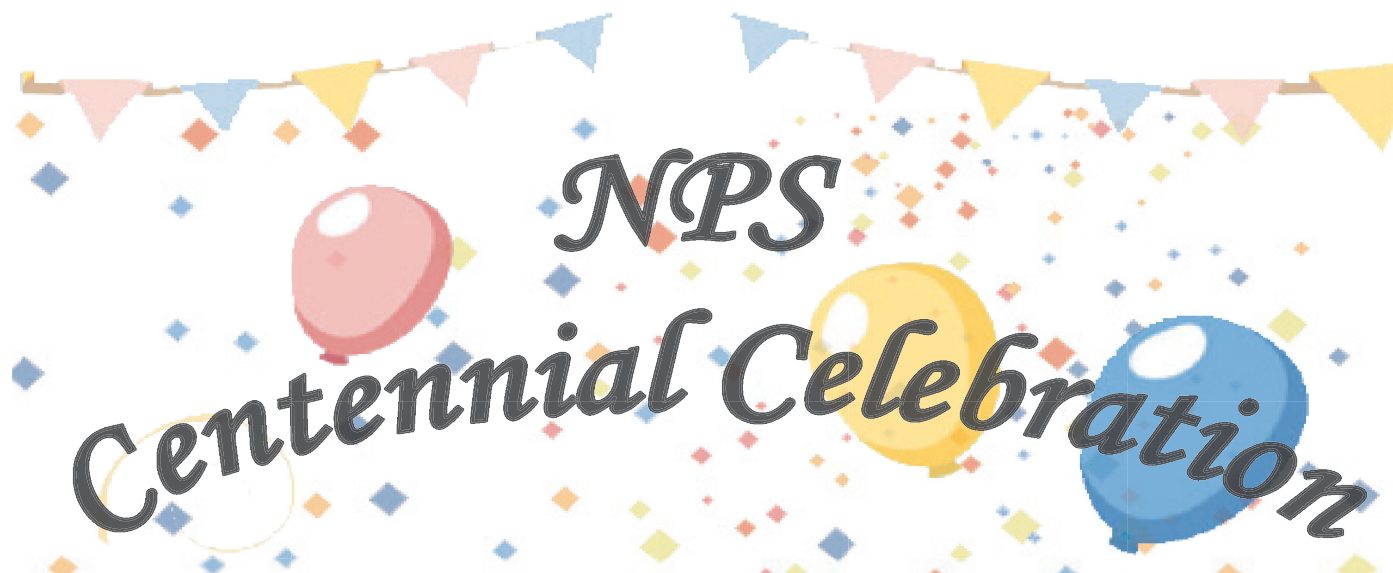


The very talented siblings Ephraim and Ebban Dorsey who are 12 and 13 years of age respectively and the winners of 2015 Rosa Pryor Music Scholarship Fund will head up their own show with one of the "baddest" groups in Baltimore, Greg Hatza, Robert Shahid and Brian Kookon as their back up band at the Caton Castle Lounge, 20 S. Caton Avenue on Saturday, August 13 from 6-10 p.m. For ticket information call 410-566-7086.

"Baggyantsrich" is an inspired singer-songwriter with a flair for glam and an ear for melody. His songs are plaintive rockers with glistening lyrics. His live show merges grace with raw energy. He has toured extensively and maintains a unique rapport with the francophone culture that informs his work. Recently released his album "Black & Blonde."

Photo: Rarah Photography





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Hospice of the Chesapeake Celebrates Third Annual Veterans Tribute Wall



(Left) Fort George G. Meade Command Sgt. Maj. Rodwell Forbes (left), talks with Carl Cecere, a Hospice of the Chesapeake volunteer and a Vietnam War veteran before the ceremony. (Right) Cathy Bobby (left), pays tribute to her father, Reginald Saunders, seated and right, who served as a sergeant in the British Royal Marines. Saunders is a Hospice of the Chesapeake patient.

Courtesy Photos/Hospice of the Chesapeake

Pasadena, Md.— One man served in World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars. One woman entered the Army Nursing Corps when all four of her brothers entered military service. Another man switched from the Navy to the Air Force to please his new wife.

Each of these Veterans is now represented on the Veterans Tribute Wall which hangs in the Chesapeake Bay Room in the administrative building of Hospice of the Chesapeake's John & Cathy Belcher Campus in Pasadena. The wall features photos of Veteran patients during their Honor Salutes, a ceremony recognizing and thanking them for their service to our country.

During the third annual Unveiling of the Veterans Tribute Wall on July 13, 2016, the pictures of 23 Honor Salute Tribute Wall Honorees were revealed. After guests dined on a buffet donated by Mission BBQ, they enjoyed a moving ceremony that included Honor

Salutes from Fort George G. Meade active duty service members, U. S. Naval Academy Midshipmen and other military personnel led by Army Sgt. 1st Class Derrick Chambers. There also were messages from retired Navy Chaplain Wayne Bumbry, President and CEO Ben Marcantonio and Fort Meade Command Sgt. Maj. Rodwell Forbes. Navy Chief Tricia Stockstill sang, "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "God Bless the USA," while retired Navy Capt. Bill Malicki served as master of ceremonies.

Most moving of all, though, were the words of love and pride that came from the family members who attended the event, as they remembered their loved ones and shared poignant stories of how their parent, sibling or spouse had served. A wonderful moment came when Reginald Saunders' daughter stood next to her father's Honor Salute photo. The former British Royal Marines Sergeant was well enough to attend the cer-

emony, too, and sat with his wife, holding her hand, while his daughter Cathy Bobby lovingly told the tale of his service and love for his bride.

Over and over again the family members shared how important the Honor Salute was to their loved ones. For some, the act seemed as if it were a last rite. More than one family said their Veteran died shortly after the salute was performed.

"We are ever so thankful to the families who shared these stories. We are ever so grateful to the Veterans who have left behind a remarkable legacy," said Diane Sancilio, Director of Volunteer Services. "With their photos, they live on as ambassadors for our We Honor Veterans program, as we share with the community the important work of Hospice of the Chesapeake professionals and volunteers. It is proof of how committed we are to making every moment count in our patients' lives."

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