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# THE BALTIMORE TIMES

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## Curator Mary Elliott shares insight into new black history museum



*The National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) will be a place where all Americans can learn about the richness and diversity of the African American experience, what it means to their lives and how it helped us shape this nation. A place that transcends the boundaries of race and culture that divide us, and becomes a lens into a story that unites us all. (Source: NMAAHC). There are 85,000 square feet of exhibition space, nearly 3000 objects, 12 exhibitions, 13 different interactives with 17 stations, and 183 videos housed on five floors. The dedication of the museum will take place Saturday, Sept. 24, 2016 at 10 a.m. on the museum's grounds on the National Mall For more information about the dedication ceremony, visit <https://nmaahc.sp.edu> (See article on page 12)*

Photo: Freddie Allen/AMG/NNPA

# Marian House Hosts 8th Annual 5K Run/Walk

Baltimore— Runners and walkers of all ages are invited to lace up their sneakers for the 8th Annual Marian House Race to Embrace Independence 5K Run/Walk and One-Mile Family Fun Run on Saturday, September 24, 2016.

The 5K Race to Embrace Independence raises critical funds for Marian House, an independent non-profit located in the Better Waverly neighborhood of Baltimore City that works to provide housing and comprehensive support services to women recovering from homelessness, addiction, mental illness, incarceration and/or trauma. Marian House strives to support women moving from dependence to independence.

This year's event takes on special significance due to the cuts made on May 2, 2016 by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD eliminated \$4 million in transitional housing and support services grants to 19 agencies throughout Baltimore. Marian House was directly impacted by the funding cuts.

"Our 2016 5K Run/Walk is a nod to all of the supportive housing programs, and the people, who will be negatively affected by the cuts," said Marian House Executive Director, Katie Allston— a 2016, "Most Admired CEOs" on the Daily Record's honoree list of talented business CEOs and nonprofit executive directors throughout Maryland. "We're asking all of our supporters to join us and stand in solidarity for some our soci-



**Funds raised from the 8th Annual 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, September 24, 2016, will help reduce the impact of HUD funding cuts of \$4 million in transitional housing and support services grants to 19 agencies throughout Baltimore including Marian House. For more information or to register, visit: [www.marianhouse.org/5k](http://www.marianhouse.org/5k); email: [events@marianhouse.org](mailto:events@marianhouse.org) or call: 410-467-4246. (Above) Participants in a previous 5K Run/Walk.**

Courtesy Photo

ety's most vulnerable citizens."

In addition to the 5K-race and One-Mile Fun Run, participants and their supporters will be able to enjoy the Race Village that will feature food, raffles and activities for the entire family. The first 500 adults to register receive a Marian House 5K tech shirt. Children will also

receive a t-shirt. Interested participants are encouraged to pre-register at [marianhouse.org/5k](http://marianhouse.org/5k). Individuals unable to participate in the event, but still interested in supporting Marian House can make a

donation online: [www.marianhouse.org](http://www.marianhouse.org).

For more information or to register, visit: [www.marianhouse.org/5k](http://www.marianhouse.org/5k); email: [events@marianhouse.org](mailto:events@marianhouse.org) or call: 410-467-4246.

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# Guest Editorials/Letters

## Accountability: An Abandoned American Value

By Rivera Sun

If our cars fatally malfunctioned as often as police officers shoot citizens, there would be a massive recall, pulling vehicles off the road, overhauling the engineering design, firing culpable employees and paying out settlements to consumers for injuries and deaths of family members.

The problem of a complete lack of accountability within the police system parallels the demise of accountability throughout our nation. Once upon a time, we believed in accountability but times have changed and wanton, reckless irresponsibility has become permissible for police officers, corporations, politicians and the wealthy.

If you are a wealthy politician or businessman, the law rarely applies to you. If you are a Wall Street banker, you receive bailouts instead of criminal charges. If you own an oil company, you receive mild wrist slaps for causing catastrophic environmental disasters. If you're in the military, you operate with unscrutinized impunity and negotiated immunity. If you're a white rapist, you cool your heels for a while before diving back into the pool. If you're a white killer who opens fire on African Americans in a House of God, you get a hamburger on the way to jail.

If you are poor or non-white, you are slapped with life sentences, death sentences, extrajudicial murders, public lynching, debt peonage, debilitating poverty, foreclosures, homelessness, poisoned water, strangulations, forced sterilization, home raids by SWAT teams—and the list goes on.

In this upside-down world, the poor, the young, the homeless, the old and minority groups bear the deadly cross of accountability for the wanton irresponsibility of the United States corporations, politicians, wealthy and privileged. It is they who are incarcerated, poisoned, executed, and chained to debt. It is they who lose their homes, jobs, bank accounts, safety, health, social networks, societal respect and are stripped of titles, positions, dignity, rights and awards. The poor and downtrodden are held accountable for the wrongs of the society—they pay the price for U.S. violence, greed, corruption, pollution, destruction, hate, discrimination and arrogance. Whistleblowers who demand accountability for atrocities and the egregious violations of our rights are imprisoned and exiled while those that perpetrated the crimes remain in power.

This election season, we are chided to vote and "hold our policy makers" accountable, as if this were the only means of doing so. Where is our judicial system, our oversight committees, or the straightforward enforcement of existing laws? In 240 years, the United States has failed to generate and enforce a practical and effective system of political and corporate accountability. Where are our citizen, oversight committees with the power to subpoena and charge police departments? Where is our version of Spain's Partido X and its accompanying standards of political accountability? Where are our lawyers and judges will to prosecute and sentence reckless bankers as was done in Iceland after the financial crash?

Accountability for one's actions is a value that functional societies require at every level from our children to our corporations to our Commanders-in-Chief. Without such a standard, the moral compass of our nation spins out of control, wildly sending us into dangerous and uncharted waters of increasingly rogue and criminal behaviors. When will the American public finally see accountability from all its power holders? The answer is: only when we demand it!

*Author/Activist Rivera Sun, syndicated by PeaceVoice is the author of The Dandelion Insurrection and other books, and the Programs Coordinator for Campaign Nonviolence.*



## Letters to the Editor

**Editor:**

**Re: Dangerous Donald Trump**

Dangerous Donald Trump (DDT) might be a threat to our viability. He could try to assume dictatorial powers and abolish the Constitution, Congress, and the Supreme Court. Some of his supporters are far right extremists. His candidacy is reminiscent of the Fascists in Germany, Italy, and Japan during the 1930s and 1940s.

DDT has unwittingly proposed to pull our troops out of South Korea and Japan if they do not pay for our aid. This will open up the Far East to Chinese and North Korean expansion. He might try to abandon NATO, thereby enabling Russian expansion in Europe. Trump doesn't have a problem with countries acquiring nuclear weapons. He even

encouraged Russia to spy on Clinton. DDT's blunders could lead to miscalculations by totalitarian regimes and increase the possibility of war. Amazingly, he says he knows more about ISIS than our generals.

DDT appears to be unstable, shallow and disorganized, and he does not have the requisite knowledge or understanding of U.S. and world affairs, nor the intellectual capacity, to be President and Commander-In-Chief.

Vote for the socially liberal and fiscally conservative Libertarian ticket of Johnson/Weld.

**Donald Moskowitz**

Former AG2 and LT, U.S. Navy.  
Londonderry, NH

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## *This is why we have to invest in effective teachers*

*By Julianne Malveaux (NNPA  
Newsire Columnist)*

While millions of children (and teachers) welcomed the call to go back to school in August and early September, all is not well in classrooms and school districts around the country.

Even though every school district may not be facing challenges, many urban school districts—where the majority of African American and Hispanic students are enrolled—face challenges that may either disrupt education in the classroom or affect the terms and conditions of work for teachers.

Meanwhile, some school districts are experiencing teacher shortages and an unhealthy reliance on substitute teachers. Teachers are leaving the profession more rapidly than before and teachers of color, especially men of color, are woefully underrepresented in the ranks of K-12 teachers. Indeed, African American men represent just two percent of all teachers. Eighty-three percent of all teachers are white, despite the fact that inner-city classrooms, particularly, are

overwhelmingly black and brown.

In Chicago, teachers have returned to school without a contract for the second year in a row, and the Chicago Teacher's Union will take a strike vote, proposing a strike in October. Meanwhile, the CEO says that unless the CTU agrees to concessions, there will be classroom cuts.

The Chicago Public School district has already "tightened its belt" by laying off more than 500 teachers and 500 school-

1994." Those who teach must have a passion for their profession, and for students, but passion can often be dampened by low pay. Some young people who would be great teachers choose alternative, better paying, careers. And veteran teachers, who may have experienced pay freezes, because of fiscal austerity, may choose to make mid-life career changes, because more attractive financial opportunities beckon.

cent of what other college graduates earn.

Meanwhile, public education and public school teachers are often under attack. Charter schools are seen as preferred alternatives; while most research shows that charter schools vary in quality. The good ones are great, but the bad ones rival the worst public schools. And school bureaucracies often snuff the creativity out of the best teachers by burdening them with preparation for stifling standardized tests that do little to engage students intellectually.

There are some who believe that "anybody can teach," which is why the Teach for America model is so troubling. Teach for America takes bright undergraduates, and after six weeks or so of training, throws them into inner-city classrooms, implicitly undermining the preparation that many take to get a degree in education. This notion that "anybody can teach" leads to the disdain that some have for classroom teachers, and the resulting low pay that they earn.

There are a myriad of challenges in K-12 education, a major challenge is that teachers are not too often paid sufficiently. Teachers deserve more public support than they get now. They need better pay and more autonomy. And they need to be unshackled from the frequency of the standardized tests that they must too-regularly administer. We need a pro-teacher movement.

*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](http://www.amazon.com). For wholesale inquiries or for more info visit: [www.juliannemalveaux.com](http://www.juliannemalveaux.com)*

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***"The teaching profession needs to offer pay at a level to attract the best and the brightest to our nation's classrooms.***

***Otherwise, as a recent study shows, few students aspire to be teachers, only five percent of college-bound students were interested in pursuing a career in education in 2014."***

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based workers. These workers may not be out of jobs, as they can apply for other open jobs in the Chicago Public School district, but a massive July layoff is not the best way to approach August with a positive attitude. Chicago is not the only school district with challenges. Dozens of school districts have financial challenges, which is partly, because cities and states have implemented austerity budgets that are allocating insufficient funds to schools.

One of the major challenges for school districts and for teachers is the way that teacher pay lags behind pay in other professions. According to the Economic Policy Institute, "public school teachers' weekly wages were 17 percent lower than those of comparable workers—compared to just 1.8 percent lower in

Why can't we pay teachers fairly? If the teaching profession is considered as important as any other—and some might argue that it is more important than many—why does teacher pay lag so much behind other professions?

As Lawrence Mishel and Sylvia Allegretto note in their EPI study, "An effective teacher is the most important school-based determinant of education outcomes."

The teaching profession needs to offer pay at a level to attract the best and the brightest to our nation's classrooms. Otherwise, as a recent study shows, few students aspire to be teachers, only five percent of college-bound students were interested in pursuing a career in education in 2014. Is there any wonder?

Nationally, teachers earn just 77 per-

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**Mailing Address**

**The Baltimore Times**

**2513 N. Charles Street**

**Baltimore, MD 21218**

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

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# Students and parents explore science at 5th Annual Stem Extravaganza

By Deborah Bailey

Morgan State University's Talmage Hill Field House was filled with scientific adventure and discovery for 200 Baltimore City children and their families at the 5th Annual Baltimore Stem Extravaganza on Saturday, September 10, 2016.

More than 20 nationally recognized scientific and engineering organizations from the Maryland Science Center to the Army Research Laboratory came fortified with kid's games and simulation activities to engage the city's young scientists, mathematicians and engineers.

"Morgan State University is taking a deeper step with the K-12 population throughout the city of Baltimore through the sponsorship of the Baltimore MUREP Aerospace Academy's Saturday program and activities like today's STEM Extravaganza," said Don Terry Veal, Chief of Staff for Morgan State. "We're welcoming the community here to a first-class educational environment and it doesn't get any better than that."

MUREP (The Minority University Research Education Program) is a nation-wide, initiative of the Office NASA's Office of Education enhancing the capabilities of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other minority serving institutions to assist under-represented students in pursuit of STEM careers.

Darlene Walker and Priscilla Mobley from NASA's Goddard Flight Center came from Cleveland, Ohio to greet students and parents and demonstrate that people of color belong in STEM careers.

"Programs such as this are targeted toward under-served and under-represented students," said Priscilla Mobley who serves as Activity Manager of the MUREP Aerospace Academy. "If the workforce is going to look like the world today, we have to do our job in reaching students at a young age."

"We do hands-on practical learning applications. One of NASA's strategic assets is sharing NASA content with the community," said Darlene Walker, Glenn Research Center Office of Education for NASA.

Morgan State University has sponsored the STEM Day Extravaganza since 2012, according to Jonathan Wilson, Director of the Baltimore MUREP Aerospace Academy and Associate Professor of Biology.

"Each year we have a fun-filled day or hands-on and minds-on STEM activities for K-12 students and family members across the state of Maryland," Wilson said.

Jarreau Brown, who accompanied his eight-year-old daughter Jai, says STEM is the "way of the future."

"This program teaches her a lot about avenues of building a career at an early age. If someone had brought me to programs like this, I'd be better off. That's why I [brought] her here [today]." Brown said.

Exhibitors engaged students and their families in a wide variety of activities from flight simulation with the US Air Force AETC, to examination of biomes



*Emmanuela Owobe, Steven Opoku and their children speaking with Army Research Laboratory personnel.*



*Reginald Baskerville and his son Raji Sacauzi, age 12, talk with American Society for Microbiology researcher.*

with the American Society for Microbiology.

"The more kids we have who are excited about science, the better chance we have of getting them going in a career that will matter to them and the world," said Don Luckett, NIH Communications Director for Scientific Review.

Luckett and his team from the NIH Center for Scientific Research developed a game that was originally tested by children at the USA Science and Engineering Festival.

"We're here excited to beta test it out on the kids here to see how well we did," said Luckett.

Students like Jai and Ariel Eley (14) from City Neighbors Hamilton School in Baltimore said the experience was a helpful tool in acquainting them with the learning what it takes to earn a scientist's lab coat.

"Our children's game, walks kids through the whole process of being a scientist which is really unique," said Luckett.



*Jai Brown Beta tests NIH Children's game at STEM Extravaganza. Photos: Deborah Bailey*



*Ariel Eley (14) registers for STEM Extravaganza with volunteer Kiesha Greene*

The game will be officially released next year but is available now at the NIH Rocket Kid's page: <http://public.csr.nih.gov/aboutcsr/NewsAndPublications/Outreach/Pages/rocketapp.aspx> Apple I-Tunes store:.

The Baltimore MUREP Aerospace Academy is a hands-on/inquiry based program for K-12 students and their families to "increase participation and retention of historically under-represented K-12 youth in STEM" according to Academy officials.

The program is free for all Maryland K-12 students. The Baltimore MUREP Aerospace Academy also offers in-service and pre-service professional development in STEM disciplines for all K-12 public and private school instructors.

More information is available at <https://www.facebook.com>



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# Ravens Terrell Suggs, Steve Smith Sr. continue to work their way back

The Baltimore Ravens season opener was a game in which the team got to see two of their most important players return from injury. Both Steve Smith Sr. and Terrell Suggs ruptured their Achilles causing them to miss a significant portion of the 2015 season.

The two veteran players each decided to give it another whirl and return for at least one more season. Head coach John Harbaugh has grown close to both players and leaned on them to be leaders in the locker room.

Suggs was with the Ravens before Harbaugh got to Baltimore. Harbaugh gave Suggs the game ball after the season opening 13-7 win over the Buffalo Bills. It was fitting because Suggs had one of the team's two sacks and led the defense as they held the Bills to only 160 total yards on offense.

Suggs was excited to receive the game ball and had a short message to his team before breaking them down in the locker room after the game.

"We played Raven football today," Suggs said. "No matter what happened, we stayed in the fight and continued to play Raven football. We need 15 more like that."

Harbaugh was delighted to see his two leaders back in the mix for the Ravens.

"I thought they both played well," Harbaugh said on Monday. "Neither one of them have played much. Steve didn't play at all in the preseason. Probably, both of those guys feel that way about the way they played.

"I only expect them to get better, but

they played well. They both played well. They were both key factors in the game. [They were] probably not up to their standards for themselves because it is a pretty lofty standard for those two guys. That makes me feel good that they feel like they can play even better, but I thought they played well."

Although Smith only had five receptions for 19 yards, he was happy to be back on the field and get a win. "There was a lot of emotion," Smith said. "We got the win, so I am good. The wins and losses, you evaluate them the same way. It's one in the win column for us. We will go in and get correction."

Suggs was equally pleased with the win. He commended defensive coordinator Dean Pees for the game he installed to stop the Bills high-scoring defense.

"They came to play, we did too," Suggs said after the game. "We executed and won. There are things to work on, and we have to make a big jump from the first week to the second week. Dean Pees called a hell of a game. We did it collectively. It was a collective effort. It's still coming. This is my first live action in a year. I will continue to chop wood. You can always get better. It's the first game, but I feel good about it." The Cleveland Browns are next on the schedule for the Ravens. Both Suggs and Smith will continue to work their way back to form as the season goes on. Expect to see Smith more involved in the offense when Baltimore takes the field in Cleveland on Sunday.



Ravens outside linebacker Terrell Suggs celebrates after making a play during the 2015 NFL season. Photo: Courtesy of nfl.com

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# Organizations partner with Price Rite to feed 800 Woodlawn Families

By Ursula V. Battle

Price Rite, Feed the Children and The Salvation Army gave a whole new definition to “Food Drive” on Tuesday, August 23, 2016. On that day, each organization helped to distribute a 25-pound box of food, a 10-pound box of personal care items, a box of assorted AVON products, books and other items to more than 800 families residing in the Woodlawn area. The items were distributed “Drive-Thru” style, with recipients pulling up in their vehicles, and volunteers placing the donated items in their cars.

The Food Drive took place on Tuesday, August 23, 2016, at Price Rite located at 6606 Woodlawn Drive in Woodlawn. Price Rite, Feed the Children, and Purdue partnered to sponsor the event, with support from The Salvation Army.

Jim Dorey, Executive Vice President of Price Rite; Josh Bartholomew, Director of Operations for Price Rite; Nick Dispenziere, Director of Sales and Merchandising for Price Rite; and J.C. Watts, Jr., President & CEO of Feed the Children were among the attendees.

“This event was great,” said Eric Mueck, Resource Development Director for the Salvation Army of Central Maryland. “We had about 40 volunteers from Price Rite, Feed the Children, and the Salvation Army who distributed the items. People were very grateful for the items they received.”

According to Janeen Johnally, Communications Director for the Salvation Army of Central Maryland, each family was pre-identified based on need by The Salvation Army.

“This event took place in the back of the Price Rite building,” said Johnally. “Each family pulled up in the rear of the building and picked up their products. People felt comfortable being in their cars and picking up the products. They didn’t feel exposed.”

Johnally added, “People were also very happy about the amount of things they received. Usually with events like this, people think about receiving food and water. But we were able to give them food, water, personal items, books, and a whole lot more. They were very appreciative.”

Price Rite operates 62 stores in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Maryland and Virginia. According to Price Rite, their stores offer customers an expanded produce department and quality food products at savings up to 50 percent less than traditional supermarkets.

“It was a good event,” said Joseph Justin, Store Manager for the Price Rite located in Woodlawn. “People came early and picked up their items, and were very pleased about what they received. They were really surprised to receive the books.”

He added, “It was great to be a part of this event. It allows us to give back to the community and let them know that we care. It’s very rewarding.”

According to Price Rite, fighting hunger in the local community is at the heart of their charitable giving. The supermarket chain noted that it contributes approximately \$500,000 annually to local food banks and food pantries to benefit local families in need within the communities it serves.

Price Rite also highlighted that it is heading into the second year of its partnership with Feed the Children, and will host eight to ten events with the charity organization during 2016, and will donate more than 40,000 pounds of food and other essentials per event as part of the program.

Feed the Children was established in 1979, and seeks to end child hunger. It is one of the largest U.S.-based charities and serves those in need in the U.S. and in 10 countries around the world. It provides food, education, essentials and disaster relief. The Salvation Army is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church, whose mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.



*These Price Rite employees were among the 40 volunteers who helped to distribute items during the Food Drive on Tuesday, August 23, 2016 at Price Rite located at 6606 Woodlawn Drive in Woodlawn, Maryland.*  
Courtesy Photo

RENÉE ZELLWEGER COLIN FIRTH PATRICK DEMPSEY

## BRIDGET JONES'S BABY

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# Curator, researcher Mary Elliott shares insight into new black history museum

By Stacy M. Brown (NNPA Newswire Contributor)

The new Smithsonian National Museum of African-American History and Culture contains an exhibit that features slave cabins, one that curator and museum specialist Mary Elliott called powerful.

Almost as powerful, however, is Elliott's recounting of the vital input and assistance by one local citizen who inspired many seniors and others to participate in the new museum.

"To get all the stories together about the slave cabins, we brought in the help of a genealogist and we used our local research here and reached out to the community," Elliott said. "And, when we were dismantling the cabin, the community came out and it was black, white, young, older men and woman who were there. But, there was one young woman, whose name was Eileen, and she was very important."

Elliott said that Eileen was just over 50 and she really helped museum staffers connect with the elders in the community.

"It's a hard history and sometimes people don't want to talk about it, but she helped us to get the stories out," said Elliott. "She was a real dynamic person."

After taking the cabins to Virginia for conservation work and hosting a listening session that included Eileen and Eileen's grandmother, Elliott learned that Eileen died.

"She was younger than the elders that she helped get the stories from. Eileen had so much energy and spirit and was so passionate about the fact that the story was being told and correctly," Elliott said. "She may not be here on the 24th when this museum opens and that's heartbreaking, but I smile because her spirit will definitely be here."

It's been a long, arduous and incredible road to get to the September 24 grand opening and Elliott has helped to research, conceptualize and design the "Slavery and Freedom" inaugural exhibition.



*Mary Elliott, curator and museum specialist for the Smithsonian National Museum of African-American History and Culture, pauses next to a slave cabin exhibit during a recent media tour. Photo Credit: Freddie Allen/AMG/NNPA*

She also contributed to the exhibition script, consulted with expert scholars, and identified and secured collection donations including the antebellum slave cabin that will be featured in the museum, according to the museum's website.

A graduate of Howard University and Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law, Elliott helped produce local history exhibits in the Washington, D.C. area and produced

several public history programs.

Now, as the opening of the historic museum rapidly approaches, Elliott told the NNPA Newswire what she's most excited about and how she's handling all of the excitement surrounding the historic grand opening.

"I really appreciate the collective effort to get the story out and let people know what they are going to see before they get here. People ask me, 'Are you excited?' And, truthfully, I get reflec-

tive," said Elliott, who has served as a contractor and consultant to various organizations including the National Visionary Leadership Project, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, the Reginald Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and the Humanities Council of Washington, D.C.

*Continued on page 13*

# *Congratulations*

on the opening of the Smithsonian's  
**National Museum of African  
American History & Culture**  
September 24, 2016



Photo credit: Alan Karchmer/NMAAHC

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"I think about family, relatives, ancestors, those I knew personally and those before them," Elliott said. "I think about my church family and my community and I get so full, because I cannot wait for people to see the museum not just as a building, but to hear people say about our history that, 'I never looked at it that way, wow,' and to have them think a little differently about their approach to American history and understanding the African-American experience."

Elliott has more than 20 years of experience in researching and presenting African-American history and culture. Her personal research focuses on African-Americans from antebellum slavery through the Jim Crow Era, with a specific concentration on migration and community development.

With a lifelong interest in Black history, Elliott's extensive research revealed that her own family is connected to Booker T. Washington, one of the foremost African-American leaders of the late 19th and early 20th centuries who founded the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute that became Tuskegee University.

"I was really passionate about the research I was doing on my family and then I realized that this was even bigger," said Elliott. "I started to see this amazing picture of African-American legacy and I found all of these primary resources and that really illuminated it for me and I thought it was as if someone took our history, tore it up into little pieces, and blew it into the wind."

Elliott continued: "You had to go and track it down and put these pieces back together and see what the picture really was."

When first invited to apply to work for the new museum, Elliott initially scoffed at the idea.

"I was so deep into doing my own research and, in my background," she said, noting that her paths could have taken her elsewhere as she holds a law degree and she's already passed the Maryland Bar.

"[The museum] just didn't cross my mind. So, when a friend of mine asked me to apply, I was like, 'No,' but then she convinced me after about a week," Elliott said.

Anxiously awaiting the Sept. 24 opening, Elliott said the deep roots of African-American history will offer visitors the kind of truths that should lead many to think deeply and it also will possess the kind of true stories that need to be a part of the American history narrative, including those about the African continent and how diverse it is.

"So, we open with people, from the beginning, that this is a story of humanity and we see how this history flows," Elliott said. "I tell everyone the harsh story of slavery, but the very important understanding of resistance and resilience and survival."

"There is a wall dedicated to the domestic slave trade and the Middle Passage, but when you see the extent of the information and the way it will be presented, it will blow people away," she said.

The museum doesn't ignore the struggle many African-Americans have today, particularly the recent rash of police shootings and violence with individuals of color.

"We don't hold back on violence during the period of slavery," Elliott said. "People will see how this ebbs and flows and that this violence [today] is nothing new and to understand it in a historical concept to wrestle with how to end it...and to also understand that African-Americans are Americans who have contributed to the development of this nation."

Elliott said that there is also a part of the exhibit where visitors can read about African-Americans who struggle with the concept of whether to stay in this nation or to leave.

"There is one camp that said, 'We need to leave, because this is no longer safe for us,' Elliot shared. "But, there is another camp that said, 'We need to stay, because we built this nation and it belongs to us.'"

The National Museum of African-American History and Culture officially opens on September 24, 2016 and nearly 30,000 opening weekend tickets were issued, reportedly, within one hour of becoming available.

# Application for New Sickle Drug Submitted to FDA

By Stacy M. Brown

Emmaus Life Sciences, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company engaged in the discovery, development and commercialization of innovative treatments and therapies for rare and orphan diseases says it has submitted a New Drug Application to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requesting domestic marketing approval for its orally administered pharmaceutical grade L-glutamine treatment for sickle cell disease.

Officials say the application represents the first potential treatment for pediatric patients with sickle cell disease, and the first potential new treatment in nearly 20 years for adult patients.

Emmaus is requesting Priority Review of the application.

“We would like to thank the NIH, FDA and Ajinomoto Corporation for the funding of our early work,” Dr. Yutaka Niihara, chairman and CEO of Emmaus, said in a statement. “We are also thankful to our clinicians, employees, and partners for their efforts and to our investors for funding the work.”

Locally, the news also was met with enthusiasm.

Dr. Lanetta Bronté, president of the Foundation for Sickle Cell Research in Baltimore, says she was thrilled with news of the application, which comes as the nation observes National Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month.

“We are hopeful that the FDA will give the application priority review so that patients can very soon take advantage of this new therapy,” Bronté said. “Patients between the ages of 15 and 25 have a seven-fold risk in mortality and this risk needs to be gotten ahead of quickly.”

Sickle Cell Disease is an inherited blood disorder characterized by the production of an altered form of hemoglobin, which polymerizes and becomes fibrous, causing red blood cells to become rigid and change form so that they appear sickle shaped, instead of soft and rounded.



***Biopharmaceutical Company, Emmaus Life Sciences, Inc. has submitted a New Drug Application to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration requesting domestic marketing approval for its orally administered pharmaceutical grade L-glutamine treatment for sickle cell disease. This information comes as very good news as September marks National Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month in the United States.***

**Courtesy Photo**

Patients with Sickle Cell Disease suffer from debilitating episodes of sickle cell crisis, which occur when the rigid, adhesive and inflexible red blood cells occlude blood vessels.

Sickle cell crisis causes excruciating pain as a result of insufficient oxygen being delivered to tissue, referred to as tissue ischemia, and inflammation.

These events may lead to organ damage, stroke, pulmonary complications, skin ulceration, infection and a variety of other adverse outcomes, according to medical experts.

Sickle Cell Disease is an orphan disease in the United States affecting approximately 100,000 patients in the U.S and millions worldwide with significant unmet medical needs.

“We are pleased to submit our NDA during National Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month, and following the formation of the Sickle Cell Disease Coalition spearheaded by the American Society of Hematology,” Niihara added. “We hope our NDA submission will result in a change of the status quo of Sickle Cell Disease treatment.”

Data from the company’s Phase 3 sickle cell disease trial demonstrated a reduction in the frequency of sickle cell crises and hospitalizations, as well as a reduction in cumulative days hospitalized, and a lower incidence of the life-threatening acute chest syndrome, Emmaus officials reported.

The clinical trial enrolled 230 adult and pediatric patients as young as five years

old, across 31 experienced sickle cell disease treatment centers in the United States. No major adverse events were attributable to the treatment.

Emmaus’ sickle cell disease therapy has Orphan Drug designation in the U.S. and Europe and Fast Track designation from the FDA. Emmaus officials say they also plan to submit a marketing authorization application to the European Medicines Agency.

“The Foundation for Sickle Cell Disease Research urges all pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies in the sickle cell space to work with patient focused organizations to increase awareness of new therapies available to patients,” Bronté said.

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## BCCC offering ITT Tech students affordable, accessible options

Baltimore— In response to the recent ITT Tech closure, the Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) announced it will offer critical information to more than 600 of Maryland's displaced ITT Tech students. The goal is to offer options as well as concrete solutions on how to continue pursuing their higher education goals.

"For many of ITT Tech students, this is a difficult time filled with frustration and uncertainty about the status of their futures," said BCCC President/CEO Dr. Gordon F. May. "BCCC is prepared and uniquely positioned to offer credit for prior learning as well as a new pathway for associate degree and certificate program completion."

BCCC, through a college-wide effort, will host five open house events between Saturday, September 17 and Wednesday, September 28 on the Liberty Heights campus. During the open house events, ITT students will have an opportunity to tour the campus. They

will receive guidance from financial aid and admissions advisors, student services, and academic affairs. In addition, the institution's academic deans and faculty members will be available for Q&A during the events.

BCCC offers 29 associate degree and 16 certificate programs aligned with five career pathways linked to fast-growing fields: Behavioral and Social Sciences; Business; Pre-Health Professions; Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM); and Visual and Performing Arts.

"Simply put, we are welcoming ITT Tech students to the BCCC family," said Dr. May. "We have a long-history of offering non-traditional students affordable, accessible educational opportunities."

Over 20 student clubs and organizations help foster a vibrant, cultural and social campus environment. Student-athletes are making the grade and excelling in basketball, volleyball and cross-country, while also representing BCCC in the community.

For more information about the BCCC open house events or program options for ITT Tech students, contact the Office of Media and Community Relations at 410-209-6040.

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# Reading Partners Helping Baltimore Students Succeed

By Stacy M. Brown

Reading Partners, the nonprofit national early literacy organization that relies on the support of community volunteers to provide one-on-one tutoring to students in under-resourced elementary schools, has released its 2015-2016 impact reports which revealed that young Baltimore children are benefiting in a big way.

The program notes that in the Baltimore region 844 students at 14 Title I partner schools were matched with about 950 community volunteers who delivered in excess of 29,000 tutoring sessions over the course of the past year. Among the Reading Partners' youngest students in Baltimore, 86 percent mastered key foundational reading skills needed to read at grade level.

Based on survey responses found in the impact report, 92 percent of principals reported improved school-wide reading progress and 97 percent of teachers reported that Reading Partners is valuable to their school.

Further, the report revealed that 78 percent of K to 4 Reading Partner students met or exceeded their primary end-of-year literacy growth goal. According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, in 2015 only 21 percent of low-income students nationwide, and 36 percent of students overall, were reading proficiently by the fourth grade.

This means that nearly nine million low-income elementary school students are still learning to read when they should instead be reading to learn, officials said.

In Baltimore City, the situation is even worse, Reading Partners found. Only 9 percent of low-income fourth-graders and 11 percent of fourth-graders overall were reading proficiently.

Baltimore's struggling readers are falling well behind in literacy skill development compared to their national group of peers in the same grade, officials said. In the 2016-17 school year, Reading Partners aims to match 1,400 community volunteers with 1,150 struggling readers in the city.

By tutoring a student one-on-one for as little as an hour a week, volunteers can make an impact that can quite literally alter the course of a child's educational experience and life, said Jeffrey Zwillenberg, the executive director of Reading Partners Baltimore.

"Our ability to be successful and grow so quickly in Baltimore is due to the incredible support we've received from our community. Reading Partners has a proven, effective model that works," he said.

"Yet, if it wasn't for our 1,000 committed weekly volunteers, and dedicated AmeriCorps members and staff ensuring our program was being implemented with fidelity, we wouldn't be able to see the results we've seen," Zwillenberg said.

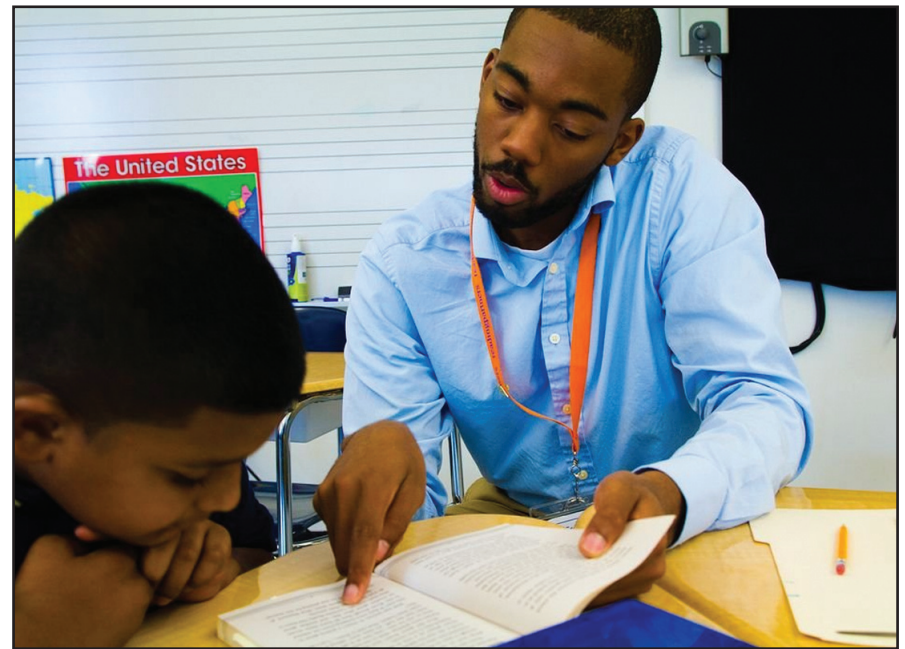
"Our ability to scale so quickly is thanks to our many community partners, like Baltimore City Public Schools, the Maryland Governor's Office of Service and Volunteerism, and the numerous foundations, corporations and individuals who have invested their dollars in our work," he said.

Reading Partners collaborates with local public schools and mobilizes community volunteers to provide students the reading support they need to read at grade level by the fourth grade. The nonprofit transforms a dedicated space into a Reading Center, complete with a library and teaching tools managed by a full-time AmeriCorps member or staff member.

Reading Partners collaborates with teachers and principals to identify students reading behind grade level, and provides them with personalized literacy instruction.

"Data drives our decisions, so we are constantly monitoring our student's success and trying out innovative ideas," Zwillenberg said.

"Whether it is partnering with other similarly-mission driven programs to implement tutoring during the summer months or introducing a new game to a lesson, we are constantly thinking about ways we can push our students to proficiency and foster a love of reading," he said.



This school year, Reading Partners plans to help students in 19 Baltimore City schools.

"Baltimore is a proud city filled with generous community members," Zwillenberg said. "We want to provide them

with a means to give back to the city and support Baltimore City Public Schools."

For more information, visit [www.readingpartners.org/baltimore](http://www.readingpartners.org/baltimore).

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# Tips for Tackling Storm-Related Roof Damage

(Family Features) Having your home severely damaged by a storm can turn your world upside down. The damage could simply be cosmetic, or so extensive as to render your home uninhabitable. In either case, you need to act fast, but smart, to ensure that your home will be properly repaired.

Often, foremost among your concerns will be your roof, as it is protects the rest of your home and possessions. Start your post-storm repair process with these tips from the experts at CertainTeed Roofing.

1. Keep safety first. Leave emergency repairs to the professionals. A crisis that affects your home is an emotional event, but your safety is paramount. Do not attempt any emergency repairs unless you are qualified to do so.

2. Prepare for your insurance adjuster. Take time to do your own documentation. Take plenty of photos and notes on the damage to your home. This information will become a helpful checklist to compare against the insurance company's findings. When it comes to the roof, check outside for things such as blown off shingles, damaged gutters and large branches that may have fallen onto your home. Also, if you can safely access your attic, examine the underside of your roof for damage or leaks.

3. Find the right contractor. You will want to interview at least three contractors for your roof repair. This allows you to compare prices, work styles and other factors before making your selection.

Here are some key questions to ask:

\* Are you a credentialed installer?

Most shingle manufacturers have strict guidelines for installation. These assure that you get the best performance and meet the requirements for the product and/or workmanship warranty. For example, CertainTeed Roofing issues education-based credentials such as the ShingleMaster or SELECT ShingleMaster.

\* Do you have storm experience?

Some contractors are experienced in storm restoration and trained in storm damage evaluation and repair. These are the contractors you want when dealing with an insurance claim.



\* Where is your business located? You will want a local contractor with an established business location who can provide at least four to five references. This way, if you need to follow up for any reason, they will be easy to reach.

\* Do you carry liability and worker's comp insurance? Your contractor should be fully insured with liability and workers compensation insurance. This will protect you should any workers get hurt during the repair process.

\* Are you licensed with the state or municipality? The answer to this question may be no, as not all states or municipalities have licensing requirements for roofing contractors. If licensing is required, there are websites, such as the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, where you can look up a company's status.

4. Check for special repair designations required by your insurance. In some instances, insurance companies require that certain materials be used in the repair of your home. In areas prone to hail storms, for example, you may be required to install shingles that are clas-

sified as impact resistant, which stand up better to hailstorms.

Find more tips to help guide your roof

repair, and find qualified installers in your area, at [CertainTeed.com](http://CertainTeed.com).

Source: CertainTeed

## *Oysters: What We're Doing To Restore Them*

Annapolis— With all the ups and downs oysters face— from dead zones, sediment and nutrient pollution, diseases and over harvesting— what type of future is in store for the oyster in the Chesapeake Bay?

The public is invited to hear about oysters and their future in Maryland waters at the Severn River Association's (SRA) next Educational Series meeting at Union Jack's Pub in Parole on Tuesday evening, September 20, 2016 at 7 p.m. The guest speaker will be Stephanie Westby, who serves as the National Oceanographic and Aeronautics Administration's (NOAA) coordinator for oyster restoration in the Chesapeake.

Most of NOAA's recent oyster restoration work in Maryland has focused on the Eastern Shore. With partners, NOAA has developed plans to



restore 950 acres of habitat in the Choptank River Complex of Harris Creek, the Little Choptank River, and the Tred Avon River.

Oyster lovers will be able to chat with Stephanie and learn how NOAA and partners are implementing large-scale oyster restoration projects.

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