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Fund Run Will Benefit Baltimore Crime Victims



The 13th annual Crime Victims' Fund Run/Walk will take place on Saturday, October 1, 2016 at 9 a.m. at the Inner Harbor. Participants will gather at the Rash Field Kaufman Pavilion near the Science Center beginning at 7:30 a.m. The Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office has been an advocate for victims, prosecuting and holding assailants accountable, and officials have also been raising money to reimburse victims of crime to help cover expenses for replacing broken and stolen property; crime scene clean up; and medical treatment. (Above) Baltimore City State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby.

(Story on page 8)

Courtesy Photo/Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office

Lifelong Sickle Cell Patient Gets Relief from Laughter

By Stacy M. Brown

Laughter is often said to be the best medicine. For Benjamin Clark, a 25-year-old local resident with sickle cell disease, comedian Tony Roberts has been the prescription that he has needed.

"Benjamin's favorite comedian is Tony Roberts and in July, I surprised him and took him to the Improv in Washington, D.C., to see Tony Roberts and the great thing is that after the show he was able to talk with him," said Deborah Clark, Benjamin's mother and caregiver.

It wasn't the first time that Benjamin met the comedian, who has proven to be one of several sources of encouragement to the man who aspires to dance with Ellen DeGeneres.

Clark has been hospitalized 156 times and has undergone 84 blood transfusions because of his lifelong fight with sickle cell disease.

"Tony Roberts and his wife have kept in touch, they gave us their personal information," his mother said. "I even sent a picture after one of his hospital stays and Tony called Benjamin. They've been great."

Sickle cell disease (SCD) affects approximately 100,000 Americans and occurs in about one of every 365 African-American births, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. SCD occurs in about one of every 16,300 Hispanic-American births and about one in 13 African-American babies are born with the sickle cell trait.

Benjamin was born with the disease and has been battling the illness ever since.

"I love my mom dearly because she's always there for me and she's been so strong throughout," Clark said. "She's funny as well, so that helps."

Among the many procedures Clark has undergone lately are exchange transfusions, medical procedures in which a patient's blood is removed and replaced with plasma or donor blood. This is done via a catheter, according to the medical website healthline.com.

The procedure is used to save the life of an adult or child with life threatening blood abnormalities. An exchange transfusion reverses or counteracts the symptoms of jaundice or other blood diseases such as sickle cell anemia.

During Clark's procedure, eight units of sickle shaped blood cells were removed from his body and replaced with eight units of fresh blood, his mother said.

"My son is a real fighter," said Deborah Clark, who has four other children and works as a receptionist and technician. Clark has even kept busy writing a book about her son.

The Clarks have maintained their confidence that Benjamin will not only conquer his illness but will thrive.

They say they've been helped by individuals such as Roberts, Solid Rock Baptist Church Pastor Mary Saunders; Bishop Orlando Nesby; Patricia Cook, their family and Deborah's godbrother Jeff.

"I called Jeff one day during a blizzard when Benjamin was sick because we didn't have a way to get to the emergency room and Jeff drove out in the bad weather to take us," Clark said. "We've



Benjamin Clark (left) and his mother Deborah Clark. Benjamin, age 25 has been hospitalized 156 times and has undergone 84 blood transfusions because of his lifelong fight with sickle cell disease. Courtesy Photos

been blessed with the support we've gotten."

Benjamin watches Roberts' comedy routine regularly on YouTube, as well as "Dancing with the Stars," and "So You Think You Can Dance." An accomplished dancer himself, he hopes to one day get the attention of comedian and talk show host Ellen DeGeneres, a fellow dance aficionado.

"I'd love to dance with her on her show," Clark said. "That would be the ultimate."

For now, he just watches Ellen and Roberts, laughing and doing whatever he can to overcome the chronic pain that the disease brings.

"Watching Ellen and listening to Tony Roberts really helps," he said. "They take me to a good place. It's like my advice to others in this situation with chronic pain: try to do something you really like to take your mind off it. For me, it's [Roberts and DeGeneres] and now that I've discovered that I can dance, that helps me a lot."

**Send your community calendar events
to: kreevie@btimes.com**

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Guest Editorials/Commentary

NNPA Launches Historic Black Voter Turnout Project for 2016 Election By Benjamin Chavis, President/CEO of the NNPA

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) proudly asserts that, "We are the authentic voice of black America." We must use that voice as an urgent clarion call for a massive, historic and unprecedented black American voter turnout on November 8, 2016 across the nation.

The NNPA is launching "Project Black Voter Turnout 2016: 20 Million Black Voters to the Polls." We're calling on our entire NNPA membership, comprised of more than 211 black-owned media companies operating in the United States, to issue front-page news coverage and motivational editorials and to present banner ads on their publication websites, to promote effective Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV) campaigns in the black community.

It is an undisputed fact that a record number of black Americans (16,133,000) voted in 2008 and helped Barack H. Obama to become the first Black President of the United States. Then, in 2012, Black Americans broke their 2008 record for voter turnout, casting 17,813,000 votes. In 2012, for the first time in American history, black voter turnout (66.2 percent) at the national level exceeded White voter turnout (64.1 percent).

The United States of America is once again at a pivotal and crucial political crossroads. The outcome of the November 8 national elections will determine the future of the nation and of the world. This is a propitious moment, not only for 47 million black Americans, but this is also the time for all Americans to decide whether or not American democracy will finally fully embrace the goals of freedom, justice, equality and empowerment for all people.

Don't let anybody attempt to suggest that your vote doesn't count. Every vote counts. For some strange reason, there are several national pundits that are once again predicting a low voter turnout by black America. These external pollsters and political observers really don't know black America. This is one of the reasons why the NNPA and other black-owned media companies are so strategically important. The NNPA not only knows the facts about black America, the NNPA also reports and defends the interests of black America without apology or compromise of principle and integrity.

For nearly 190 years, the Black Press in America has been and continues to be the "trusted voice" of black America. No political party should take the black vote for granted. Our votes have mattered and our votes will continue to matter. We will make the critical difference in the outcome of the upcoming national elections.

We have both a sacred obligation and a historic responsibility to ensure that we will have the largest black American voter turnout in history. Why? Because the overall quality of life of our families and communities is at stake. Our energy, actions and spirits must remain high and we have to fully engage the electoral process locally, regionally and nationally.

The NNPA's "Project Black Voter Turnout 2016: 20 Million Black Voters to the Polls" will work in coalition with other national organizations: The National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, NAACP, Rainbow Push, National Action Network, National Urban League, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Black Lives Matter, National Baptist Convention, Progressive National Baptist Convention, AME, AME Zion, COGIC, UCC, and the National Council of Churches.

"Project Black Voter Turnout 2016" will engage the Black community and all voters in print, online and through social media. Please join our efforts by following us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @BlackPressUSA, @NNPA_BlackPress and @NAACP and using the hashtags #BlackPressMatters and #BlackVotesMatter.

Our time is now. Let's all work together. Let's get out the vote!

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is the President/CEO of the NNPA. He can be reached at dr.bchavis@nnpa.org

STUMP the CANDIDATES...



Community Affairs

Baltimore County Public Library offers free access to Rosetta Stone language program

Baltimore County, Md.— Are you interested in learning to speak French but don't have the budget for lessons? Would you like to learn Mandarin, but don't have the time to dedicate to a class schedule? Great news! Baltimore County Public Library (BCPL) now offers free access to a language program that can be completed in the comfort of your own home on your own time schedule.

Thanks to the Sailor program, which is funded by the state, ALL Maryland libraries now offer free access to Rosetta Stone and its collection of 30 language courses. Rosetta Stone, one of the biggest brands in language learning, uses an immersion-based method that features words, images and the voices of native speakers.

BCPL users can access the program via

the bcpl.info's Research Database & Tools page using their BCPL card number and pin code. As the program is accessed through an individual's library card, users can sign out and save their progress.

"We are thrilled that Sailor is providing Rosetta Stone for BCPL customers," said Collections Development Coordinator Jamie Watson. "It provides a nice complement, and another approach, to language learning than our current Mango Languages service and our classic print materials."

The Baltimore County Public Library has served the citizens of Baltimore County since 1948. With 19 branches throughout Baltimore County, BCPL empowers and engages individuals for a more inclusive and connected Baltimore County community, and provides opportunities to explore, learn, create and connect. In addition to loaning books, library cardholders may borrow DVDs, music, ebooks and gain access to our research databases. Branches provide computer and Internet access, job search assistance and offer a multitude of daily learning programs for adults and children. For more information about branches and services, visit: bcpl.info.

We Must Close the Payday Loan Debt Trap Once and For All!

*By Julianne Malveaux (NNPA
Newswire Columnist)*

Between the unemployment rate report that was released in early September, and the Census report on income and poverty that was released on September 13, President Obama and his team got great news about the economic status of the average worker.

Incomes are up a whopping 5.2 percent between 2014 and 2015; it's the first time incomes have increased since 2007. The poverty rate dropped 1.2 percentage points, to 13.5 percent, which translates into 3.5 million fewer people living in poverty. While the poverty rate is still higher than it was in 2007, this sharp decrease in the poverty rate is significant. Between the unemployment rate report, which shows an unemployment rate at 4.9 percent, and the income and poverty report, which shows a 2.4 million increase in the number of workers, the Obama economic team can rightly assert that economic recovery has trickled down.

Still, poverty rates are way too high—almost one in four (24.1 percent) African

American households lives in poverty. The number of African American children in poverty, though falling, remains too high (31.6 percent). And the number of people living in “extreme poverty” (with incomes at less than half the poverty line) is alarming—more than ten percent of African Americans (and 6 percent of the total population) live in extreme poverty.

The persistence of poverty, even in the

face of good news, provides opportunities for those whose riches come from the exploitation of poor people. Those who provide payday loans are among the worst, because they set up a debt trap that it is almost impossible for poor people to escape from. Indeed, these predators treat the poor as profit centers and enrich themselves from other people's misery.”

for 7 to 14 days. The loan may be secured by a paycheck, a pre-dated check, or an automobile title. If the loan is not paid back on time, a borrower may negotiate an “extension,” which requires more fees. Repeated payday loans result in \$3.5 billion in fees each year. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) is considering regulations to protect consumers from exploitation and usury from short-term

can avoid the debt trap, the longer term solution to the debt trap is better pay for people who could access traditional credit options, or avoid debt altogether, if they earned reasonable pay. The working families agenda that some in Congress have embraced (which includes an increase in the minimum wage, among other provisions to assist those on the bottom) is a step in the right direction. The fight for \$15, which would provide families at the bottom with incomes of about \$31,000 a year, would also alleviate poverty and make it easier for people to make ends meet.

It is important that those of us who care about economic justice make our voices heard before October 7, 2016. To stop the payday loan debt trap and encourage the CFPB to issue regulations that will protect those who are so easily exploited, comment online at FaithforFairLending.org, or send your comment to The Center for Responsible Lending, Faith and Credit Roundtable, 302 W. Main Street, Durham, NC 27701.

Tackling the payday lending issue, however, is only a small step toward economic justice. Those who want economic justice must also be committed to electing those who will implement a working families agenda. The economic good news that was released early this month does not mean that we are out of the woods around poverty issues.

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 booking, wholesale inquiries or for more information, visit: www.juliannemalveaux.com.

face of good news, provides opportunities for those whose riches come from the exploitation of poor people. Those who provide payday loans are among the worst, because they set up a debt trap that it is almost impossible for poor people to escape from. Indeed, these predators treat the poor as profit centers and enrich themselves from other people's misery. Even as we celebrate the economic progress of the past year, we must ensure that usurious payday lenders are curtailed by regulators who can restrict their ability to extract interest rates in excess of 300 percent from the very poor.

This is how it works—payday lenders provide “emergency” loans for those people who have more month than money, and who simply can't make ends meet. The loans are small and the terms are usually something like \$15 per \$100

loans and auto title loans. A coalition of faith leaders has asked people, who have been affected by payday loans to comment on their website, FaithforFairLending.org, hoping that the CFPB will be influenced by the experiences that many have had with payday lending.

Reverend Sekinah Hamlin, who leads faith initiatives for the Center for Responsible Lending, says that faith leaders have mobilized, because they expect that the payday lending industry will fight any regulations to curtail their activity. The CFPB will be accepting comments about payday lending until October 7, 2016, and the Center for Responsible Lending (ResponsibleLending.org) hopes that people will share letters and comments encouraging CFPB to curtail payday.

While it is important to curtail payday lending so that low-income borrowers

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Federal Grant Helps Morgan State Coalition Tackle Substance Abuse

By Stacy M. Brown

The Morgan State School of Community Health & Policy has received a five-year grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to implement a “Get SMART West Baltimore Drug Free Community Coalition,” Community Health and Policy Associate Professor Lorece Edwards said this week.

The federal grant, which amounts to \$125,000 each year for five years with the opportunity for an additional five-year continuation, should assist the coalition’s goal of preventing drug and substance abuse for young people, according to Edwards.

“The goal of the coalition is to prevent and reduce alcohol, marijuana, and other drug use and abuse among youth ages 18 and under and over time, reduce substance abuse among adults by addressing the factors in the community that increase the risk of substance abuse including the social determinants of health,” she said.

The project, “Get SMART,” which stands for Students Mobilized and Re-tooled to Transform, launched in December of 2013 with the aim of preventing HIV, sexually transmitted infections, and substance use among 18 to 24-year-old emerging adults on the Morgan State University campus and within a one-mile radius of the historically black institution.

The launch was attended by university officials and faculty; students and community members.

It began with the slogan, “Are you smart enough?”

Later, Edwards secured a \$900,000 federal grant to increase HIV/AIDS awareness and prevent substance abuse in the community with the help of students at



Morgan State University Community Health and Policy Associate Professor Lorece Edwards

Courtesy Photo

Morgan State.

The new five-year grant should continue to assist that mission.

“The ‘Get SMART’ team is excited to provide re-purposed education, resources, and support to the youth and families who reside in West Baltimore,” Edwards said.

“This grant will help establish and strengthen collaborations among communities, public and non-profit agencies, as well as federal, state, and local governments to support the efforts of community coalitions working together to prevent and reduce substance among youth, the future of our tomorrows.”

The plans going forward involve the implementation of a “Strategic Prevention Framework” as outlined by

SAMHSA to address community level change, Edwards said.

Some of the selected strategies for community level change will include providing support, enhancing skills and reducing significant barriers for policy change. Edwards noted that the school and coalition value the concept that community lies in the heart of public health.

“The School of Community Health & Policy is in a unique position to impact community level change that focuses on improving the health and well-being of communities, especially in reducing substance abuse among youth,” she said.

Substance abuse has a major impact on individuals, families, and communities and the effects of substance abuse are

cumulative, significantly contributing to costly social, physical, mental, and public health problems, Edwards further noted.

“This is a crucial time for Baltimore to increase the awareness of substance use within the community, especially among youth,” she said.

“We are in an early genesis of recovery stemming from community trauma, a plethora of drug overdose, and an array of mental health concerns. Alcohol and substance use are often used as a coping mechanism to solve and, or escape problems.

“The ‘Get SMART West Baltimore Drug Free Community Coalition’ aims to provide West Baltimore with the resources for community level change.”

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Fund Run Will Benefit Baltimore Crime Victims

By Stacy M. Brown

Whether it's domestic violence, robbery, assaults, child abuse or any other crimes, victims suffer a great deal of physical and emotional harm.

For several years now, the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office has not only been an advocate for victims, prosecuting and holding assailants accountable but officials have also been raising money to reimburse those harmed by crime to enable them to cover expenses, including replacing broken and stolen property; crime scene clean up; and medical treatment.

"The Crime Victims Fund Run/Walk, [which is] sponsored by the Office of the State's Attorney is a necessary initiative in our efforts to provide immediate assistance and support to victims of crime in Baltimore City," said Caron Brace, the chief of staff for State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby, who will help emcee this year's event. "The fund is available to victims of domestic violence, robbery, assaults, child abuse, and sexual assault as well as families affected by homicide who meet the criteria."

This year, the 13th annual Crime Victims Fund Run/Walk is scheduled for Saturday, October 1 at 9 a.m. at the Inner Harbor. Participants will gather at the Rash Field Kaufman Pavilion near the Science Center beginning at 7:30 a.m. Registration is \$25 prior to race day and \$30 on the day of the event.

T-shirts will be provided to the first 400 participants who register and cash prizes and trophies will be awarded to the winners.

Officials hope to raise \$20,000, which they expect will benefit as many as 90 crime victims and their families each year.

"In order to maintain the Victim Emergency Fund, we need the continued support of everyone to ensure the emergency resources available to victims of crimes committed in Baltimore City are not depleted and continue to be available to those in need of them," Brace said. "In previous years, we have averaged 300 to 400 participants; how



ever, it has been three years since we hosted the Crime Victims Fund Run/Walk. Therefore, we are hoping we will have as many participants support the event as in previous years."

Mosby's office noted examples of how the fund has helped, including a recent incident where a victim's vehicle was stolen and eventually recovered by police. The thief drove through a tunnel on numerous occasions without paying the toll and, eventually, the victim received the bill for non-payment of toll fees. While a portion of the fees was waived the balance was paid from the fund.

In another example cited by the office, an elderly woman was walking to a convenience store to purchase a money order to pay her rent. A group of youths robbed her, taking the money she had planned to use for her rent payment. The victim's rent was paid through the fund.

When asked about a specific experience that underscores the importance of the Fund Run/Walk, Brace noted a resident named Loretta Bailey whose son was murdered in 1991 and whose family has participated in the Crime Victims

Fund Run each year.

"The Fund Run/Walk is the opportunity to show support for other homicide families and crime victims," Bailey said. "It feels good knowing that I am making a difference in the lives of others. I also enjoy fellowshiping with the other participants and I always have a wonderful time at the post-race party."

While organizers hope that participants enjoy a good time, the goal of the event is to raise money to help provide emergency assistance for crime victims who have no means to recover their losses, according to Brace.

"Crime does not discriminate; anyone can fall prey to criminal activity. The Office of the State's Attorney is one of few state's attorney's offices in Maryland that has an emergency fund," she said. "We need everyone to support this effort to maintain this much-needed resource."

For more information about the fund or to register for the event, call 410-396-1897 or visit: www.victimfundrunbaltimore.com or www.charcityrun.com.

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Baltimore HistoryMakers give back to city schools

Chicago— The past year has been tumultuous for our nation and the world at large. Deleterious to our society and our youth is the lack of civility, role models and examples of success. In response, The HistoryMakers, the nation's largest African American video oral history archive has expanded its annual day of service, "Back to School With The HistoryMakers," into a year-long program that kicks off this fall with classroom and assembly visits by African American leaders, and will continue throughout the year with student and teacher training, donation of its unique online digital archive to public and charter schools, and contests and awards that celebrate the work of our youth.

"If we do not take seriously the need to motivate and channel our youth even in times of tremendous acrimony and discontent, we will end up with a society that none of us wants to have. Our goal at The HistoryMakers is to be part of the solution, not the problem. We are committed to the notion that our nation's



Frederick Oliver
Courtesy Photo



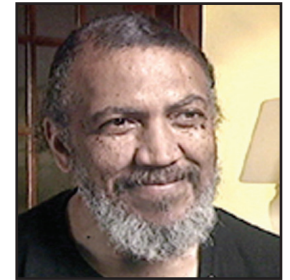
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youth, both minority and non-minority, will benefit from the stories of real world African American high achievers who have overcome obstacles in their path to success," said HistoryMakers' Founder and Executive Director, Julieanna Richardson.

An example of such a story is that of physicist Frederick Oliver, who was born in Baltimore and attended a segregated elementary school in Sparrows Point, Maryland.

"When I started [school] in the first grade, I was sort of behind everyone

else. A lot of the kids could read in the first grade and I always remember that," Oliver reminisced.

Oliver discovered his love and aptitude for physics in high school and went on to become a top consultant to national defense firms such as the Naval Research Laboratory and Argonne National Laboratory.

Students in Baltimore will hear similar accounts of inspiration and perseverance on Thursday, September 29, 2016, when Oliver joins four others in Baltimore City schools. Hundreds of other

African American HistoryMakers will kick off the 7th Annual Back to School With The HistoryMakers program nationwide on September 29 and September 30, 2016.

This year, the program is expanded to include student and teacher training on the use of The HistoryMakers Digital Archive, Black History Month Speak Out Assemblies and The HistoryMakers Digital Archive Contest.

For more information about The HistoryMakers, visit The HistoryMakers website at www.thehistorymakers.com.

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Baltimore County Public School Welcomes New Principal

By Ruth Young Tyler

Georgiana Aye focuses on creating 21st century leaders

For many students living in Baltimore County, new school supplies, uniforms and shoes are the norm, however this year Woodlawn High School students will have one more new thing—a principal.

Georgiana Aye (pronounced “A”) is the new principal at Woodlawn High School in Baltimore County. On Monday, August 22, 2016, while standing at the entrance of the building, she welcomed 420 freshmen to their first day of high school.

“We’re going to work together to create 21st century leaders who are engaged in rigorous coursework and believe we have a civic duty to make our Woodlawn community a great place to live and go to school,” Aye said.

Aye believes that all students can succeed and will stop at nothing to provide equitable opportunities for student success. In spite of the negative comments the school’s reputation has endured over the years, Principal Aye and the administration are poised to make favorable changes by increasing graduation rates, college readiness and student attendance.

The new administration includes: ninth grade academy Assistant Principal James Gordon; tenth grade Assistant Principal Phil Popielski; eleventh grade Assistant Principal Jamel Jernigan and twelfth grade Assistant Principal Kelly Barr. Their goal is to prepare students to embrace a culture of excellence while focusing on the school’s motto, “Enter to Learn, Leave to Achieve.”

According to Aye, the teachers and the administration are commissioned to prepare students to leave Woodlawn High School ready for college or a career in a desired profession.

During back-to-school night, nearly 50 parents and guardians attended the “Meet and Greet” on August 18, 2016. Aye introduced new staff and highlighted the implementation of a new we-



Georgiana Aye is the new principal at Woodlawn High School beginning the 2016-2017 school year. Courtesy Photo

binar for parents to increase communication and share class assignments, projects and school activities.

Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) President Ricardo Ramsey invited parents to join the organization and to become active members as well. It was emphasized that a successful partnership consisted of constant communication between the school and home. Parents were encouraged to continue to be supportive and remain optimistic for a successful school year.

“She [Principal Aye] seems like she’s grounded and will make some positive changes in the school,” said Dee White who has a son attending the school. “The things I’ve heard today, I pray will override the negative things that have happened in the past.”

Devita Porter, the parent of a 10th grader, is optimistic about the implementation of the new ideas and addressing safety issues that had once plagued the school in the past.

“I’m excited for the future generation,” Porter said. I’m not trying to give up hope now.”

Aye is a former advertising executive and television commercial producer. She decided to change careers and fulfill her desire to empower students. She believes that her advertising background has helped in selling ideas and creative concepts to high school students in Baltimore.

“The goal is to get the students to ‘buy-in’ to the reality that academic excellence is possible,” she said.

“There is always a right time to ‘think outside the box’ when it comes to making education exciting for students and adults,” said Aye. “Investing in a growth mindset with all stakeholders will have high impact results for the students, the school, and the community.”

Over the years, Aye has served in several educational capacities in the Baltimore City Public School System including as an English teacher, instructional coach, professional development coordinator and an administrator. She is experienced in a myriad of programs including CTE (career and technical education) and AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination). Aye is experienced on how to increase AP (advance placement) opportunities as well.

As an alumna of West Virginia University, she obtained advanced graduate degrees from Marshall University and John Hopkins University. Currently, she is in a doctoral program at University of Chicago, Concordia with a concentration in curriculum and instruction. Having completed research about the high school prior to becoming the principal, Aye commented that students and teachers are excelling in many areas. The administration’s mission is to dispel the myth and enhance the school’s image. She noted there will be opportunities for members of the community to visit the school and learn more about the students’ achievements.

For more information about Woodlawn High School, visit: www.woodlawnhs.bcps.org.

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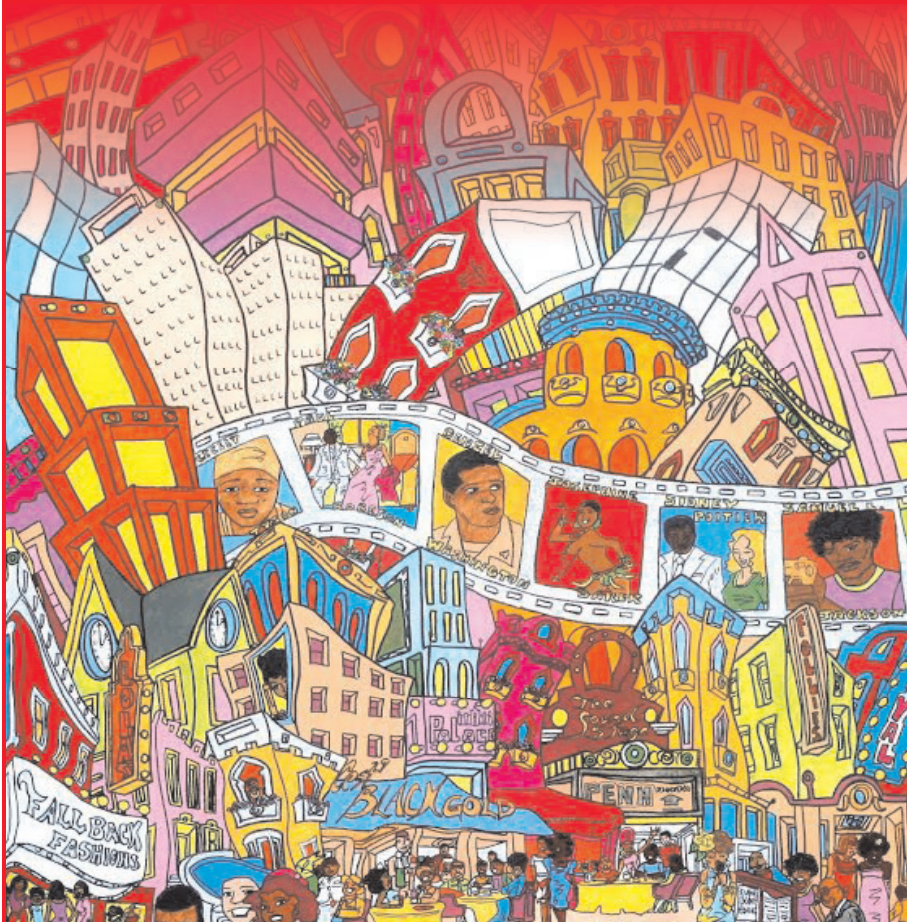
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Wes Moore hosts new program on WYPR

*“Future City” to focus on cutting
edge solutions for Baltimore*

Baltimore— WYPR 88.1 FM, Baltimore’s NPR news station, announced the launch of a new local program, “Future City,” which will be hosted by best-selling author and Baltimore native Wes Moore.

Future City will examine best practices in other American cities and bring those concepts back to Baltimore while asking, “How do we make that happen in Baltimore?”

“At a time like now, when Baltimore is working to resolve chronic problems, and is making progress on many, Future City will gather urban leaders from around the country to share what’s working in other cities,” said Tony Brandon, president and general manager of WYPR. “We’ll also have Wes Moore’s input as a progressive and thoughtful Baltimore leader.”

Future City airs each month on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. and again at 9 p.m. It will also be available online at wypr.org. Each episode is 60 minutes in length and will feature input from experts in each city being examined, as well as experts in Baltimore. The first show aired on Wednesday, September 21, 2016.



Wes Moore
Courtesy Photo

Moore is an American author, social entrepreneur, producer, political analyst, and decorated U.S. Army officer. He is the author of *The Other Wes Moore* and *The Work*, both of which are New York Times bestsellers.

The program is made possible by Genine and Josh Fidler, and supported by the Baltimore Community Foundation, whose vision is that Baltimore boast a growing economy where all have the opportunity to thrive.

WYPR is a National Public Radio station serving Baltimore, the state of Maryland, and beyond. As a listener-supported radio station, all contributions to the station are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. For more information, visit www.wypr.org.

11th Annual Free Fall Baltimore

Baltimore— Everything is FREE! The 11th annual Free Fall Baltimore presented by BGE takes place Saturday, October 1 through Monday, October 31, 2016. Free Fall Baltimore is a city-wide celebration that offers hundreds of free arts & cultural events at participating venues throughout Baltimore City. Held in conjunction with National Arts and Humanities Month, area attractions and organizations showcase the importance of the arts with free concerts, dance and theater performances, festivals, lectures, workshops, art exhibitions, tours and special events. Baltimore residents and visitors can find a full schedule of events and activities from nearly 70 participants during “Free Fall Baltimore,” at: www.freefallbaltimore.org.



New Museum Tells America's 'Unvarnished' Truth

By Tiffany Mason

Just steps away from the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial on the National Mall another dream has been realized. The doors to a museum devoted exclusively to the preservation and commemoration of African American life, history and culture will finally open.

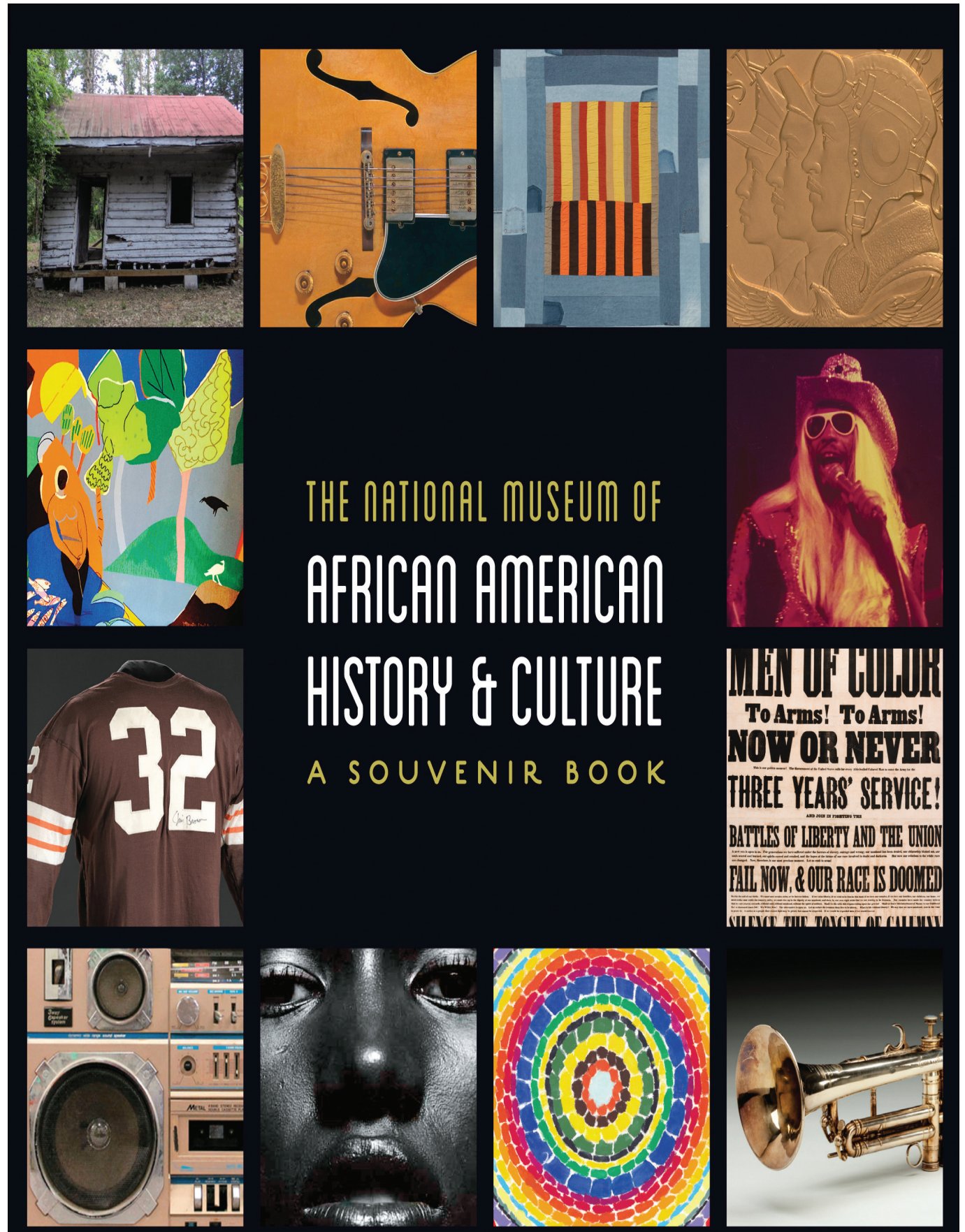
After 13 years of research and curation, on September 24, the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture will unveil an expansive, awe-inspiring, gut-wrenching, hope-filling, tear-jerking and breathtakingly beautiful account of the African-American experience in this country.

"There's so much to take in and so many emotions to sift through at one time," said Janell Martinez, editor-at-large of AintILatina.com, who previewed the museum with the media last week for her Afro-Latina audience. "I was a bit overwhelmed in the beginning. At first I was a bit upset and then as I moved upward throughout the museum, I began feeling at peace and filled with hope."

It seems that's the effect museum curators were going for when laying out the exhibitions for display. The story of slavery and freedom begins on the museum's bottom floor— underground— where the telling of the story of the development of transatlantic slave trade unfolds in a display of original artifacts, media presentations and personal stories of slaves and slave-owners that chronicle how the slave trade began through to the Civil War.

"It's not a sad story, it's an empowering story," Mary Elliott, co-curator of the "From Slavery to Freedom" exhibition, told the Baltimore Times. "And it's not about shameful finger-pointing, like 'hey, look what they did.' It's more about, 'hey let's talk about this.' There's a lot of ground to cover here."

Throughout the entire museum are juxtapositions of profit and power against the human cost. People will witness how slavery was first commercialized and then racialized in order to continue to profit without being haunted by the cruelty of slavery.



“We wanted to emphasize the human experience and the humanity of people who lived through enslavement,” Dr. Nancy Burcaw, Elliott’s co-curator of the exhibition said. “Being in this space underground, in terms of this history having been hidden in the past, it is completely foundational and, just the radicalism of it. There’s so much black radicalism in this exhibition alone. We wanted people to feel as well as learn in their heads.”

Among the many priceless pieces from the “Slavery and Freedom” history gallery is the display of the Bible belonging to Nat Turner, leader of the bloodiest slave revolt in American history. The Bible was donated to the museum by the Person family, descendants of a Virginia family killed during the rebellion. According to Elliott, when they found out about the museum’s collection

history and artifacts that capture the major aspects of the ongoing struggle by the nation in general and African-Americans in particular to define and make real the meaning of freedom. The last history gallery, “A Changing America: 1968 and Beyond” illustrates the social, economic, political, and cultural impact of African-Americans on life in the United States. Subjects include the Black Arts Movement, hip-hop, the Black Panthers, the rise of the black middle class and, more recently, the #BlackLivesMatter movement.

The Reverend Jesse Jackson was among the few invited to preview the museum. The Baltimore Times caught up with him canvassing the “Making A Way Out Of No Way” gallery that conveys the ways in which African-Americans created possibilities in a world that denied them opportunities.

“I was a bit overwhelmed in the beginning. At first I was a bit upset and then as I moved upward throughout the museum, I began feeling at peace and filled with hope.”

efforts, they felt it was the best place for the public to consider the history it represents, according to Elliott.

“That’s very powerful because that family is white and their ancestors were actually killed during that rebellion. But for someone to say it is important for us to bring to [the Bible] to public to wrestle with this history and to help us move forward is very powerful in and of itself,” said Elliott.

From there, the only way is up. A journey upward, two concourses reveal a slow but steady progression toward relief for African Americans. First is “Defending Freedom, Defining Freedom: Era of Segregation 1876-1968.” This exhibition takes visitors from the end of Reconstruction through the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. It is rich with

“In a period of real reactionary backlash, progress was made,” said Jackson of his reaction to the exhibitions. “But the irony is that the beneficiaries of that progress are fierce in their resistance to it. We have made great progress and yet there’s such fear around it. Some people make a living out of selling fear. The bottom line is that we were formed by hope.”

According to Jackson, the opening of this museum’s doors will challenge the work and thought of American history scholars.

“American history scholars must come back here to get their degree recertified,” he said. “Any American history Ph.D. that did not have this [information] in their history book did not have an authentic Ph.D. in American history. This is America’s history.”

TIMED ENTRY PASSES

The historic significance and high visibility of the museum are attracting an unprecedented number of local, national, and international visitors. Due to the high level of interest, the museum is implementing a Timed Pass system to serve as many visitors as possible while maintaining a secure, safe and smooth flow of people into the museum. Timed Passes for the general public and nonprofit organizations are free of charge. Timed Passes are available in advance of your visit and a limited number can be obtained on the same day of your visit. Each Timed Pass has a unique entry code and can only be used once. For more information, please visit <https://nmaahc.si.edu/visit/passes>

Congratulations

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

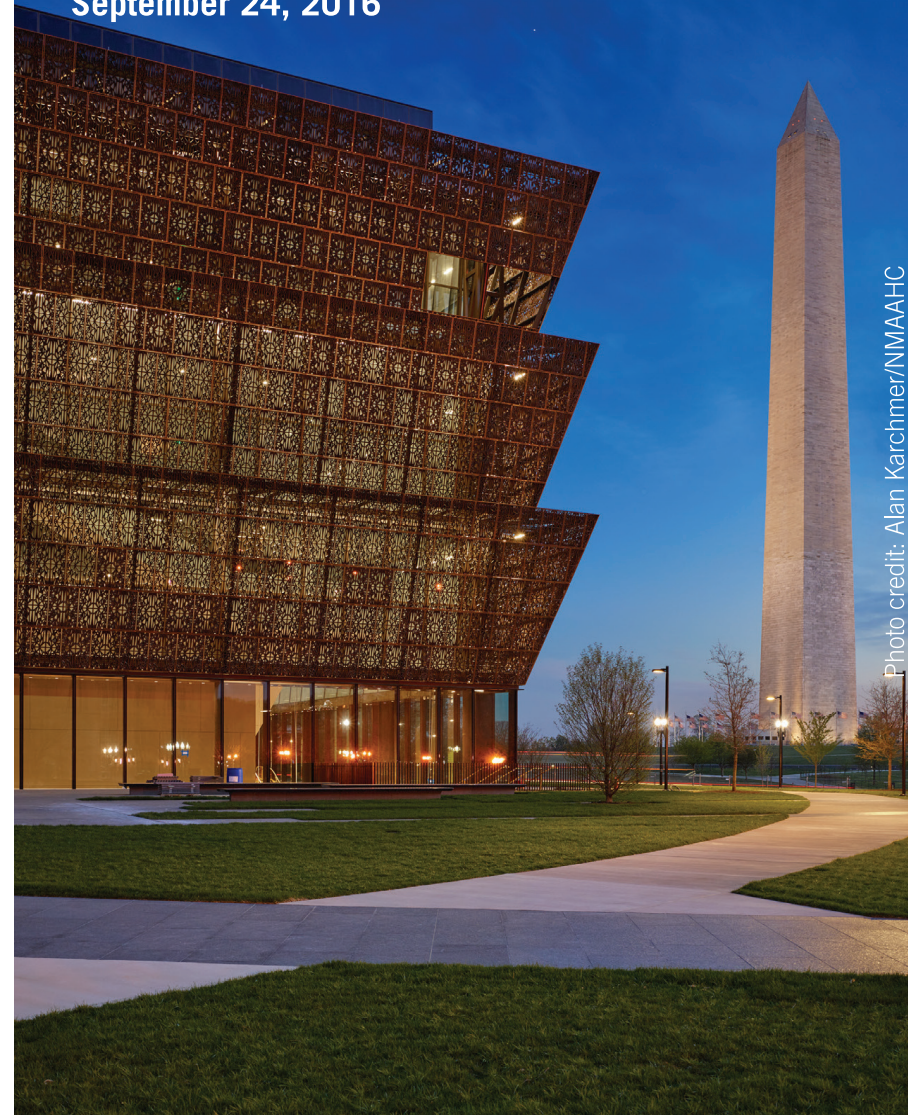


Photo credit: Alan Karchmer/NMAAHC

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Family of Civil Rights Pioneer Seeking Support for Posthumous Presidential Pardon

100,000 signatures of support must be received by September 28, 2016 via the White House "We the People" platform to trigger response to the petition by the Obama Administration

Washington, D.C.— The family of Marcus Garvey is seeking support from the public for their petition to secure a posthumous presidential pardon of the civil rights pioneer. At least 100,000 signatures of support are needed by September 28, 2016 via the White House's "We the People" platform to trigger the Obama administration's response to a request for the pardon of Garvey, who was indicted for mail fraud by a U.S. court in 1923.

Recognized as a forefather of the Civil Rights Movement by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and numerous scholars, Garvey advocated for the development of economic opportunity as a source of black empowerment, launched the Black Star Line fleet, and founded the Universal Negro Improvement Association & African Communities League (UNIA-ACL), which at its height had six million members in 40 countries.

"He was the first man on a mass scale and level to give millions of Negroes a sense of dignity and destiny. And make the Negro feel that he was somebody," said Dr. King.

The subject of a politically motivated investigation by the FBI, Garvey was indicted for mail fraud in 1923 and sentenced to five years in federal prison. While President Calvin Coolidge commuted the sentence in November 1927, Garvey was deported back to his home country of Jamaica, effectively ending his movement for racial justice, social progress and economic independence for African Americans and reducing its effectiveness for African descendants worldwide.

For 30 years, Garvey's descendants, led by his son Julius W. Garvey, M.D., along with members of Congress, civil society organizations, cities and states and international groups, have sought to finally and entirely clear Garvey's name and restore his legacy.

A presidential pardon petition urging



reconsideration of Garvey's unjust arrest, trial and incarceration was filed with the Justice Department on June 24, 2016 and was announced at the National Press Club on August 17, which would have been Garvey's 129th birthday.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Garvey said, "I had to grow up with the fact that my father was a convicted criminal, con-

victed in the United States of America which is the biggest and the strongest country in the world. It was very difficult for me as a young man to reconcile what I knew about my father, personally, and what I knew about my father from my mother, to reconcile that with a criminal conviction when it was clear he

gave his whole life and sacrificed his family for African people worldwide."

Howard University African Diaspora History professor Quito Swan and St. Louis University School of Law professor Justin Hansford were among the speakers who joined Garvey at the National Press Club.

"Garvey's genius was his ability to build the world's most expansive black mass movement, the likes of which have not been seen since. It's now a time to right the wrongs," said Swan.

Hansford, who represents the Garvey family along with Harvard Law School Professor Charles Ogletree and the law firm Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, concurs, "The reality is there's never been a better time to do so. I believe we're at a turning point in our racial justice history."

Supporters of the pardon request are invited to add their signature before September 28, 2016 at <https://wh.gov/iLvaQ> and share using #justice4garvey. Learn more at www.justice4garvey.org.

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NAACP Baltimore Branch

8 West 26th Street
Baltimore, MD 21218

Notice to Members of September, October Meetings and November Branch Election

Please note the following General Membership meetings of the NAACP Baltimore City Branch, for the purpose of election of officers and at-large members of the executive Committee.

1. On September 27, 2016 at Forest Park Senior Center, 4801 Liberty Heights Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21207 at 6 p.m. there will be an election of the Nominating Committee. All members whose memberships are current as of 30 days prior to the meeting date may be elected to the Nominating Committee.
2. On October 25, 2016 at Forest Park Senior Center, 4801 Liberty Heights Avenue Baltimore, MD 21207 at 6 p.m. there will be a report of the Nominating Committee, receipt of Nominations by Petition, and election of the Election Supervisory Committee. All members whose memberships are current as of April 1st may be nominated for office or as an at-large of the Executive Committee. In order to sign a nominating petition, or be elected to the Election Supervisory Committee, a member must be current as of 30 days prior to the October meeting.
3. On November 22, 2016, the election of officers and at-large members of the Executive Committee will take place at Forest Park Senior Center, 4801 Liberty Height Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21207. Polls will open from 12 noon to 7 p.m. In order to vote in a branch election, one must be a member in good standing of the branch 30 days prior to the election. A form of identification is required.

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From Left: Toni Braxton, Lonnie Bunch, Lauren Seroyer, Larry Tripplett, Donovan Smith, Charles Tillman, Wendy Raquel Robinson

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 | **365BLACK AWARDS**
GREATER TOGETHER

Maria Harris Tildon appointed to BGE Board of Directors



Maria Harris Tildon
Courtesy Photo

Baltimore— BGE has announced that Maria Harris Tildon has joined the company's board of directors. Tildon is the senior vice president for public policy and community affairs for CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield ("CareFirst"), the largest healthcare insurer in the Mid-Atlantic.

Tildon's responsibilities at CareFirst include all matters related to public policy, government relations, external and internal communications, strategic medical communications and community outreach and corporate giving. She joined the company in 2006, after holding senior positions at The Century Council and with the Clinton administration.

"Maria has an extensive and impressive background in areas that are critical to an energy utility," said BGE Chief Executive Officer Calvin G. Butler Jr. "Her expertise in public policy and understanding of our customer base will be an asset as we move smart energy forward with innovative programs to meet customer needs."

Tildon, a Baltimore native and current resident, also serves on the boards of Healthcare for the Homeless, the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center and the Chesapeake Employers Insurance Company. She is also a member of the Baltimore City College Board of Trustees and the District of Columbia Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee.

The Love of Reading: There is much more than literacy at stake for young learners

Washington, D.C.— Getting your kids ready for school goes beyond outfitting them with pencils, pens and new clothes," said author and publisher David Bruce Smith. "The most important 'gift' you can give your child is a love for reading."

Smith says that reading is elemental to the education process but, he adds, there is much more than literacy at stake for young learners. "To paraphrase a character in a movie I once saw, the key to all knowledge comes in words."

Smith, who co-founded the Grateful American Book Prize for authors who write and publish historically accurate works of fiction/nonfiction— especially for kids— points out that a well-read child becomes a productive citizen. Reading also promotes curiosity, which is a cornerstone of success in later life.

Smith's suggestions for parents who want to motivate their children as they prepare for this coming semester:

Don't censor them— Let them read what they want. Parental rebellion causes young adult defiance.

Even internationally acclaimed author Neil Gaiman writes: "You don't discourage children from reading because you feel they are reading the wrong thing. Fiction you do not like is the gateway drug to other books you may prefer them to read. And not everyone has the same taste as you.

Stoke an interest in reading— For example, if a child favors science fiction, introduce him/her to the great Isaac Asimov or Arthur C. Clark.

For kids who hate the conventional



ways of reading, there are now electronic alternatives such as audio books and Whispersync, a technology, which enable users to switch back and forth between a Kindle book and an audio narration.

Finally, take your children to the local library and, literally, show them the world in which they live.

"Libraries are about Freedom. Freedom to read, freedom of ideas, freedom of communication. They are about education (which is not a process that finishes the day we leave school or university), about entertainment, about making safe spaces, and about access to information," said Gaiman.

One last thing, says Smith. There's proof now that reading is good for the mind-and the body. A new study in the journal of Social Science & Medicine, reveals that people who read live longer than those who never engaged.

As for the 2016 Grateful American Book Prize, the judges are poring through more than 100 books that were submitted for consideration and will be ready to announce a winner on October 6, 2016 at a ceremony to be held at the Library of Congress.

Jewish Museum of Maryland Needs Volunteers

The Jewish Museum of Maryland is dedicated to the interpretation of the Jewish experience in America, with special attention to the collection, preservation, and study of the history, traditions, and culture of Jewish life in Maryland. Volunteers are needed to help as: Front Desk Receptionist, Museum Shop Attendant and Museum Docent. For more information and to volunteer, contact Ilene Cohen at 410-732-6400 or icohen@jewishmuseummd.org. Information is also available at: www.jewishmuseummd.org.



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Rambling Rose

*Baltimore Musicians Perform
in the District of Columbia*



Rosa Pryor Trusty

Hello everyone, how are you? I hope everything is well with you. I had a very busy week and some trouble too. My computer shut down because of a hacker and a scam, which took a whole week to resolve along with some extra dollars I did not have. Terrible situation! I was so upset! However, I am feeling better now that I am able to talk to you.

Okay, this week we have a few of our local musicians working in the “Big Music House.” I call it that, but you know it as the famous Blues Alley in Washington, D.C. Just recently one of my favorite groups, Phill Butts and his band played there and they were awesome! Coming up on Wednesday, September 28, 2016, another of Baltimore’s own, John Lamkin and his wife and their band will grace the prestigious stage! Please go and support our local musicians!

By the way friends, I made a boo-boo a couple of weeks ago by telling you the wrong date for MarvaD’s concert featuring William “Smooth” Wardlaw’s tribute to Luther Vandross. I apologize for that but you still have a chance to see this dynamite show this weekend— Sunday, September 25, 2016 at the Magooby’s Joke House located at 9603 Deereco Road in Timonium. I hope to see you there. For ticket information, call 410-599-9159.

The Arch Social Club located at 2426 Pennsylvania Avenue is trying very hard to bring you events and activities that the community will enjoy and to keep the corner clean and safe from the riff-raff that used to hang out there. They are booking good shows with live entertainment, playing some oldies music and they are hosting a Pure-Delicious Southern Home Cookin’ dinner with hog maws and chitterlings, fried chicken and much more on Sunday, September 25, 2016 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. It is a fundraiser for the club. Support them

folks— we must keep this historical club open. For more information, call 410-669-9856 and tell them “Rambling Rose” told you about it.

Bilal Ali Productions will host a night of smooth jazz and R&B featuring Craig Alston and his band at the Quality Inn located at 1800 Belmont Avenue in Windsor Mills, Maryland on Saturday, September 24, 2016.

There is one more thing I want to tell you about. I want you to come down to the Inner Harbor for the 21st Annual Baltimore Book Festival from September 23- 25, 2016 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day at West Shore Park and along the 400-block of Light Street and Key Highway. There will be regional and local authors (including me); cooking demonstrations; workshops; panel discussions; booksellers; children’s activities; and live music and entertainment. There will be lots of food and beverage vendors. Authors such as Terry McMillan will also be there. It is free! I will see you there.

Well my dear friends, it is about that time, it is time for the fat lady to sing. I am out of time and space. But remember, if you need me, call me at 410-833-9474 or email me at rosapryor@aol.com. Until the next time, I’m musically yours.



Roy Ayers will perform at the Blues Alley Supper Club in Washington, D.C. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from September 23-25, 2016 with two shows each night.



Eartha Lamkin will perform with her husband John Lamkin “Favorites” Organ Quintet with John on trumpet and Flugelhorn; Mike Hariston on saxophone; Todd Simon on organ; Brian Kookon on guitar; and Jesse Moody on drums at Blues Alley Supper Alley located at 1073 Wisconsin Avenue NW in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday, September 28, 2016 with shows at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.



MarvaD Events hosts the “Luther Vandross Re-Lives Tribute Concert featuring William “Smooth” Wardlaw and his band on Sunday, September 25, 2016 at 4 p.m. at Magooby’s Joke House located at 9603 Deereco Road in Timonium, Maryland. For ticket information, call: 410-599-9159 or purchase them online at: www.marvadevents.com.



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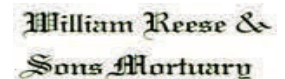


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T.D. Jakes tackles headlines on new talk show on OWN

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

The struggles of an interracial marriage, families divided by race, religion and politics, and the conversion of one Jewish woman to Islam are all upcoming segments that will be featured on Bishop T.D. Jakes' new talk show which premiered on the Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN) on Monday, September 19, 2016. The program is scheduled to air Monday through Friday at 6 p.m.

Jakes, one of the most influential pastors in America today, who has written books, music, plays and movies, said that his show could even provide discussion on topics like the Black Lives Matter Movement and controversial subjects like the National Anthem protest by Colin Kaepernick and the rape trial of comedy superstar Bill Cosby.

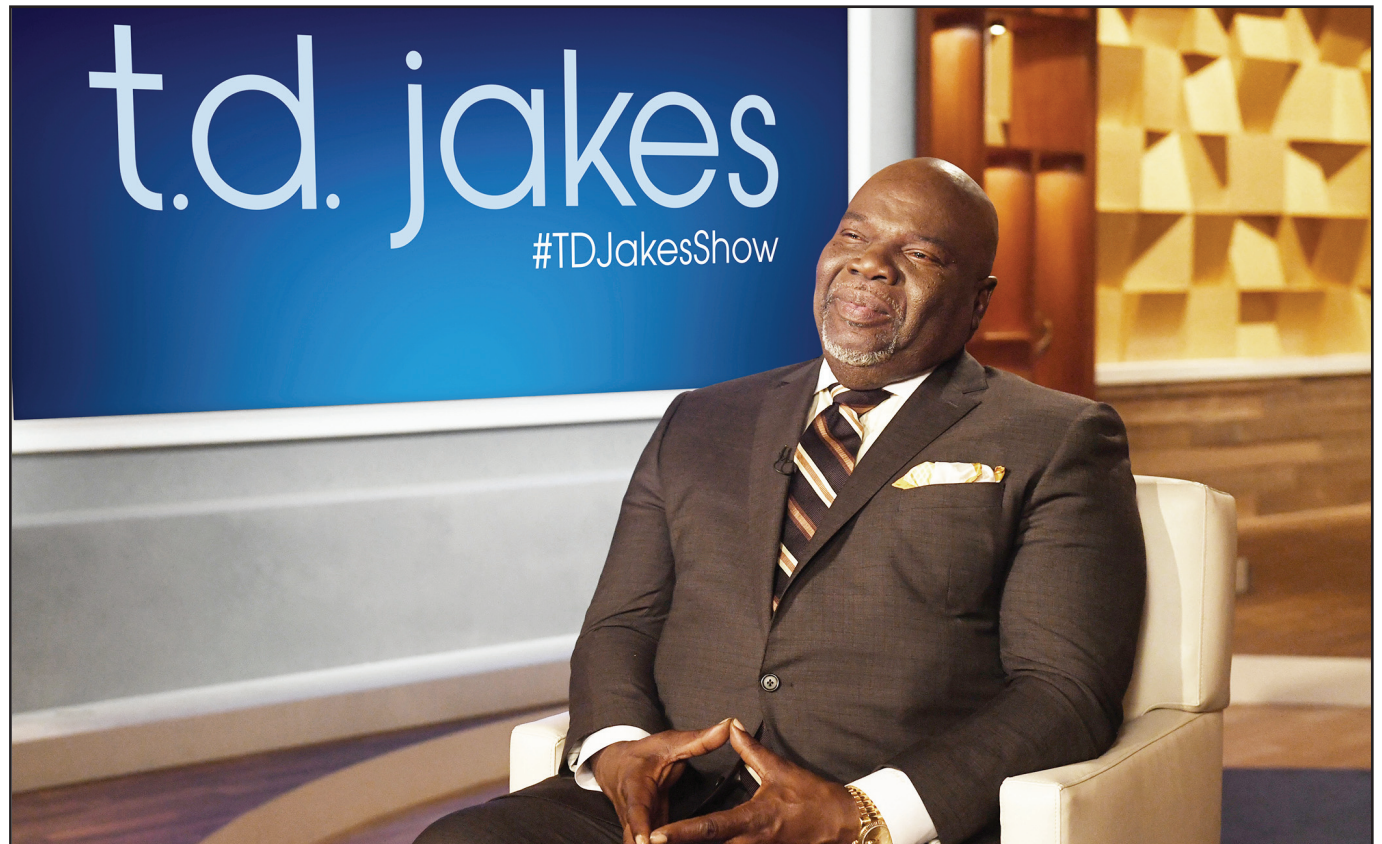
"When we can get them, we're not shying away. We will do stories that are in the headlines," said Jakes, 59, the senior pastor of the Potter's House in Dallas, Texas and the author of the New York Times' bestselling books, "Instinct," and "Destiny."

"I think there is a great need in our country right now for something that is uplifting and that builds bridges and causes people to rethink themselves," Jakes said. "Much of what we see on television doesn't accomplish that. I'm hoping to bring the kind of conversation to America that's informative and inspirational and still entertaining," he said.

Because he's well-known in the pulpit doesn't mean he'll be preaching on the talk show, Jakes said, noting that he can reserve sermons for Sundays.

"That's not all of who I am," said Jakes. "I've seen a lot of things, I've met with presidents and interacted with CEOs."

Jakes continued: "I've been to the courtroom and watched a crying mother say goodbye to her son; I've been to visit those on death row. I've been there when individuals have been disconnected from life-support; I've been to drug interventions. This September marks 40 years that I've been in the ministry, so this isn't anything that's new, only [now] I'll be in front of the cameras."



T.D. Jakes new hour-long show premiered on OWN September 19, 2016 and is scheduled to air Monday to Friday at 6 p.m.
Photo by Mitchell Haddad/TENGA

If social media buzz is any indication, the new show will be a hit.

The show's Twitter handle, @TD-JakesShow, had almost 23,000 followers before a single episode had aired. Jakes said that social media will play a big role in his new venture.

"We want people to tweet or go on Facebook to continue the conversation," he said. "You can't always solve a problem in the 45 minutes you have on the show and I don't see this just as a show, but as a network communication device to uplift people. So, after the show is over, you can still go on social media to keep the conversation going."

Whether it's Facebook, Twitter or other websites, it's important to reach those who use social media, the bishop said.

"The stats say that hardly anyone sits in front of a big screen without a little screen in front of them in their hands and I'm guilty of that too," he said.

"Being able to engage in every medium is important and I have a huge respect for the power of social media."

Produced by 44Blue Productions, EnLight Productions and T.D. Jakes Enterprises, the show will tackle various topics including human trafficking and heroism.

"The sky is the limit. We've been dealing with people whose loved ones have been murdered. We recently did a story about a new trend in the country where husbands stay at home and the women are the primary bread winners," Jakes said. "We will do stories about online dating, bulimia, interracial marriage and stories that include an African-American who is married to a Jewish woman, a Muslim woman raised in Afghanistan who converted to Christianity and her father almost committed suicide. We are all over the place dealing with what America is dealing with and offering solutions."

Jakes noted that he is thrilled to be on OWN.

"Oprah Winfrey is an icon and a business mogul who has become a national treasure. I consider her a personal friend

and I'm honored to have her support my new show," he said.

While individuals from all walks of life and just about every background might tune in, Jakes is certain that African-Americans particularly will openly receive his message.

"The Black community overall gets it. I engage millions of them on social media and they've been very supportive by and large," he said.

Jakes says that he wants people that tune in to watch the show to know that all of us have an obligation to create a platform for awareness to causes that affect our community.

"Understand this, I am the same person they've known for 40 years and I'm not changing my skin, I'm not changing the core issues that have defined me all of my life," said Jakes. "At the end of the day, if I have broadened the perspective on a situation in daily life, if I have in any way helped to utilize resources [that people] didn't know were available to them, then I have served my purpose."

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Legal Notice

CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE OF ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION

NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for **ER Contract No. 4036R-Urgent Need Stream Repair 1** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **Wednesday, November 9, 2016**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon.

The Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, in Room 6 located on the first floor of the Abel Wolman Municipal Building, 200 N. Holliday Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 as of **Friday, September 23, 2016** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **\$50.00**.

Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.

All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call 410-396-6883 or contact the Committee at 4 South Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture ("JV"), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Pre-qualification Category required for bidding on this project is **G90128-Urban Stream Restoration, D02800-Landscaping**

Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$1,000,000.01 to \$2,000,000.00**

A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted at **300 Abel Wolman Municipal Building, Large Conference Room on October 12, 2016 at 10:00 A.M.**

Principal Item of work for this project are:

Construction services for routine minor maintenance and repair of existing stream channel restoration projects at various locations, and repair of storm drain outfalls, emergency repair of storm damage, and general maintenance activities. Or, other on-call work as determined by the City. It is intended that such work, under sketches and directives of the Engineer, will be within the listed bid items herein.

The MBE goal is **9%**

The WBE goal is **10%**

ER CONTRACT NO. 4036R

APPROVED:

Bernice H. Taylor

Clerk, Board of Estimates

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BGE Hosting Recycling Drop-off Event in Bel Air

BGE residential customers can receive \$25 per air conditioning unit or dehumidifier recycled

Baltimore— Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) will hold a recycling drop-off event in Bel Air, Maryland on Saturday, September 24, 2016, where BGE customers can drop off their old working room air conditioning units and dehumidifiers for recycling between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. The event is part of Healthy Harford Day and the drop off is 212 S. Bond Street in Bel Air rain or shine, and BGE representatives will be on hand to unload the eligible appliances from customers' vehicles.

For each appliance recycled, customers will receive a \$25 reward from the BGE Smart Energy Savers Program® for up to two air conditioning units and/or dehumidifiers per residential account.

Units must be in working condition to be eligible. Customers will receive a check for \$25 in the mail approximately four to six weeks after the event. More information is available at BGESmartEnergy.com/RecycleMyAC or by calling 866-898-1901. BGE held a similar event in Howard County in June that resulted in customers recycling over 90 old room air-conditioners and dehumidifiers.

"This event will provide customers in the northern part of the service area with a quick, easy and environmentally friendly way to dispose of their old units," said Chris Walls, manager of residential energy efficient programs for BGE. "Recycling your old appliances helps prevent them from entering landfills, where they can release harmful toxins and greenhouse gases into the environment. By participating in this event, BGE customers are helping Maryland reduce energy use and waste."

More information is available at BGESmartEnergy.com/RecycleMyAC or by calling 866-898-1901.

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