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Obama Rallies America in Farewell Speech



President Barack Obama delivered his farewell address as the leader of the free world in Chicago, Illinois on Tuesday, January 10, 2017. For nearly an hour, the nation's 44th Commander-In-Chief reminded everyone that history will not only show him to be the first — and perhaps only — black president, but time will reveal just how well a job he did after inheriting a nation at war, reeling in debt and cowering in fear every time Homeland Security raised the threat level. (Above) President Obama during the 2011 State of the Union Address.

Photo Credit: Pete Souza/WH/Wikimedia Commons

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Obama Rallies America in Farewell Speech

By Stacy M. Brown

“Yes, we did!” Those were the words that Barack Hussein Obama ended his farewell speech to America on Tuesday, January 10, 2017, eight years after he captured the presidency, campaigning on the slogan, “Yes, we can!”

For nearly an hour, the nation’s 44th commander in chief reminded everyone that history will not only show him to be the first—and perhaps only—black president, but time will reveal just how well a job Obama did after inheriting a nation at war, reeling in debt and cowering in fear every time Homeland Security raised the threat level.

Just the passing of the baton to Donald Trump has revealed a large swath of Americans who already understand that they’ll miss Obama.

“It’s easy to lose sight of that in the blizzard of our minute-to-minute Washington news cycles. But America is a story told not minute to minute, but generation to generation,” Obama told the more than 4,200 spectators who crammed into Chicago’s McCormick Place Lakeside Center to see him deliver his farewell address, while tens of millions more watched on television.

“We’ve made America a better, stronger place for the generations that will follow. We’ve run our leg in a long relay of progress, knowing that our work will always be unfinished,” the president said.

Obama noted that he fulfilled his goal of making quality, affordable health care not a privilege, but a right. After nearly 100 years of talk, and decades of trying by presidents of both parties, that’s exactly what he did, according to administration officials. Obama said the hardscrabble streets of cities like Chicago is where change happens.

“After eight years as your President, I still believe that. And it’s not just my belief. It’s the beating heart of our American idea—our bold experiment in self-government,” he said. “It’s the conviction that we are all created equal, endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights, among them life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It’s the insistence that these rights, while self-evident, have never been self-executing; that We, the People, through the instrument of our democracy, can form a more perfect union.”

The president highlighted some historic achievements during his two-term tenure, noting that America is safer. He mentioned the dismantling of al Qaeda’s leadership, including the operation that killed Osama bin Laden.

Also, Obama spoke of pushing through historic and sweeping rights and protections for LGBT Americans, and making the country’s immigration system fairer and safer while also tackling poverty and investing in communities. Expanding voting rights, increasing transparency in government and reversing electoral gerrymandering that has contributed to increased polarization in Congress, were also among the issues the president tackled in his farewell.

In speaking of his successor, Obama vowed a peaceful transition. However, he also told Americans not to simply go along with Trump.

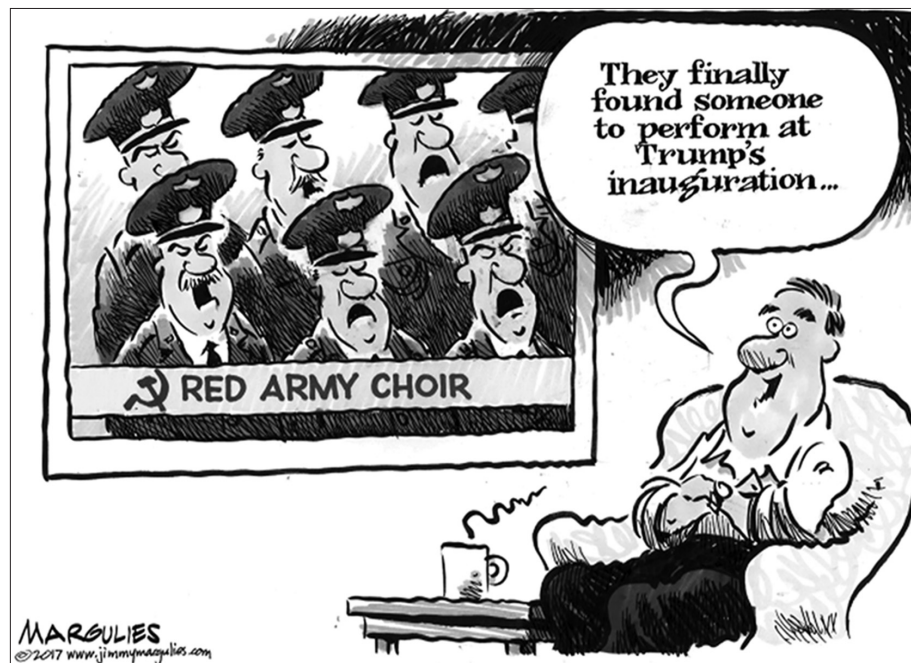
“Democracy does not require uniformity. Our founders quarreled and comprised, and expected us to do the same,” he said. “But they knew that democracy does require a basic sense of solidarity; the idea that for all our outward differences, we are all in this together; that we rise or fall as one.”

The president received some of the loudest cheers of the night when he spoke about the racial tensions in the country.

“After my election, there was talk of a post-racial America,” he said. “Such a vision, however well-intended, was never realistic. For race remains a potent and often divisive force in our society.”

While progress has been made, Obama said, “We’re not where we need to be.” “All of us have more work to do,” he said. “After all, if every economic issue is framed as a struggle between a hardworking white middle class and undeserving minorities, then workers of all shades will be left fighting for scraps while the wealthy withdraw further into their private enclaves.”

For a transcript of the entire speech, visit <https://www.whitehouse.gov/farewell>.



Community Affairs

Applications Now Available for BGE Scholarships

Baltimore— Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE) announced that applications for the BGE Scholars Award are now available online through April 1, 2017. The nine new scholarships are part of BGE’s legacy gifts that marked the company’s 200th anniversary last year. Central Scholarship, a Baltimore-based nonprofit, is administering the scholarship program on BGE’s behalf.

“We view this scholarship program as another way for BGE to support the development of our local workforce, by providing individuals with the means to successfully compete for opportunities,” said Valencia McClure, BGE’s vice president of Governmental, External Affairs and Corporate Relations. “We are honored to partner with Central Scholarship to help people receive an education that will lead to the future he or she envisions.”

The merit-based scholarships provide eligible students with awards of up to \$5,000 each year to support post-sec-

ondary students pursue their educational goals. BGE Scholars will demonstrate academic excellence and share BGE’s commitment to serving the communities where they live and work.

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be BGE customers or dependents of BGE customers
- Be accepted to attend or currently enrolled in an accredited undergraduate or post-secondary program, including vocational programs
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Demonstrate service and commitment to community, civic or related organizations
- Not be employed by, or related to a person employed by, BGE

Central Scholarship, founded in 1924, awards over \$1 million annually in scholarships and interest free loans for career training and undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees. Central Scholarship also offers College Cash® education sessions to help students and their families become more informed consumers of higher education and reduce their loan burden.

For more information, visit www.central-scholarship.org.

Business Owners: Take Care of Your Business!

By James Clingman
NNPA Newswire Columnist

I hear it all the time. “I patronized a black-owned business and was treated terribly.” How about this one? “I went to that black restaurant and the service was bad, the food was cold, and the staff was discourteous and very slow.” And the grand-daddy of them all: “I tried to do business with black contractors, but they didn’t show up on time, they wanted me to pick them up, because they didn’t have transportation, and they wanted me to go out and buy the materials needed for the job.”

As the “Buy Black!” hue and cry is raised by more and more of our people, we should do a collective self-assessment of our businesses and our relationship with them. Last week, I proudly wrote about one of the best and most conscious businesses in the nation: Compro Tax. Now I want to discuss those businesses that are not so good and not conscious at all when it comes to reciprocity.

I write a lot about the responsibility of

black consumers to support black owned businesses, and sometimes it’s brought to my attention that I do not spend enough time dealing with the obligation black businesses have to provide good products and services— and likewise give their support to other black owned businesses. I get that; believe me, because I know that everything black (small “b” intended) ain’t Black.

harder, do a little more, and make that extra effort to please their customers, especially their black customers. You know how quick we are to turn our backs on one another.

Some of our business owners feel it’s all right to do a brother or a sister wrong, maybe because we never expect to be dragged into court and sued. But we sure are afraid of mistreating others;

and in the final analysis, if they stop coming, we go out of business. So respect your customers above all, treat them fairly, and do what you say you are going to do.

We must work very hard to bring the ultimate economic partnership together, that of black consumers and black business owners. Once upon a time, during segregation, we had that ideal relationship but were not allowed to have access to the general marketplace. Our access is virtually unlimited now, but we must still have a firm economic foundation among our own people. Our charge as business owners is to meet our consumers a little bit beyond the middle and do what is necessary to change them into repeat customers. “The best customer is the one who returns.”

We can ill-afford the lack of support for one another that we see in today’s black economy, especially when you consider what little bit of an economy we have. So, indeed, “Buy Black,” but learn the difference between “black” and “Black,” and emphasize to them the importance of circulating some of their black dollars to another black business along the way. Let’s work together to build our relationships, our love, our respect, and our trust for one another. Through business ownership and good business management we can win.

Take care of your business and your customers, and they will take care of you!

James Clingman is the nation’s most prolific writer on economic empowerment for black people. His latest book, “Black Dollars Matter! Teach Your Dollars How to Make More Sense,” is available at: Blackonomics.com.

“In my entrepreneurship and business planning classes I always place an emphasis on good service, integrity, and simply doing what you say you are going to do for the customer. Our businesses have it hard enough without heaping more problems on themselves by not following through on agreements— not opening on time, not showing up to do the job on time, cheating and stealing from their customers, and the list goes on.”

In my entrepreneurship and business planning classes I always place an emphasis on good service, integrity, and simply doing what you say you are going to do for the customer. Our businesses have it hard enough without heaping more problems on themselves by not following through on agreements— not opening on time, not showing up to do the job on time, cheating and stealing from their customers, and the list goes on.

You would think they would make sure they are providing the very best customer service. You would think, considering our mental enslavement, that black business owners would try a little

and we make every effort to take care of our obligations to them, because we know what will happen if we don’t. Shamefully, some of us go about our business ripping off our customers with schemes and practices that pull us farther and farther apart, and we wonder why we cannot “come together.”

But what do we do? First of all, black business owners, get your act together! Stop taking short-cuts, stop cheating and lying to your customers, and read or re-read what Jawanza Kunjufu in his book, “Black Economics,” calls the African American Creed Business Commandments. He points out that our customers are our most important resource

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An Interview with Suzanne Douglas:

Actress recently performed in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* at Center Stage

By Ursula V. Battle

Two French aristocrats, “La Marquise de Merteuil” and her ex-lover, the “Vicomte de Valmont,” challenge each other to seduce unsuspecting innocents in this story of revenge, debauchery and hidden motives. Set just before the French Revolution, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (Dangerous Liaisons) is a glimpse into the lives of beautiful people poised to denigrate and control everyone around them, including each other. However, when one of them actually falls in love, the real betrayals unfold.

This intriguing story recently played on Baltimore’s Center Stage. Suzanne Douglas, whose many credits include the WB television show *The Parent Hood*, the Lifetime biographical movie *Whitney*, and the films *How Stella Got Her Groove Back*, *The Inkwell*, *Jason’s Lyric* and *School of Rock* portrayed “La Marquise de Merteuil.” The play was written by Christopher Hampton and directed by Hana S. Sharif. The production is based on the novel *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, written by Choderlos de Laclos, and wrapped up a one-month run at Center Stage on December 23, 2016.

“I think it’s an important play to be seen by everyone, particularly women in light of what recently happened with our election,” said Douglas referring to President-Elect Donald Trump’s victory over Democratic challenger Hillary Clinton in the presidential election. “We have a nation where 55 percent of its population are women. The play *Dangerous Liaisons* is based on a book from the 1700s. The writer of this novel Choderlos de Laclos, was a very forward-thinking man and was imprisoned for his belief regarding empowerment for women.”

Douglas continued, “My character La Marquise de Merteuil loves being a woman, but wants to have the same equality, equal pay, and live her life



*Suzanne Douglas portrayed “La Marquise de Merteuil,” in the recent production of *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* at Center Stage in Baltimore. Douglas’ other theater credits include performances on Broadway in “*The Tap Dance Kid*,” “*It’s a Grand Night for Singing*” and “*The Threepenny Opera*.”* Courtesy Photo

without tarnish as the men of that time. She is a woman trapped in a society controlled by men, but part of the one percent who controls everything. However, her lover’s reputation is tarnished. Everyone accepts that, but she realizes

she cannot afford the same thing to happen to her, or she would be ruined.”

Douglas again pointed to the President-Elect Trump’s victory over Clinton.

“In 2017, we are still dealing with women’s issues,” she said. “In our re-

cent election, so much emphasis was placed on Hillary Clinton’s emails, but Donald Trump did not rent to black people, admitted to not paying taxes, and did other deplorable things, and still became our President. We are still dealing with the same issues that Choderlos de Laclos wrote about in his novel. There is a double standard, which says that it is okay for a man to be reckless but if women does the same thing, she is labeled. This issue is covered in the play. I am so pleased that this play deals with current issues without slapping you in the face.”

She added, “We laugh at the foibles of these people, and go through the gamut of emotions that one does. However, it’s a very important play to be doing, and even though it is based on a book that was written in the 1700s, it’s relevant because of its theme. As an actress, it’s important to deal with these issues at this time and in this present day. The leadership of this country really needs to think very hard about the female constituents that they represent. People really seem to enjoy this production very much. The reaction from the audition has been quite lovely.”

Douglas’ other theater credits include performances on Broadway in *The Tap Dance Kid*, *It’s a Grand Night for Singing* and *The Threepenny Opera*.

A native of Chicago, Illinois, Douglas is married to Dr. Roy Jonathan Cobb. The couple have one daughter. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at Illinois State University and a Master in Music degree at the Manhattan School of Music. Through her advocacy in the arts, she hopes to engage and empower individuals and communities.

The actress is a lifetime member of Girl Scouts of America, The National Council of Negro Women, Sigma Alpha Lambda, Jack and Jill of America, Inc. She is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

The word theatre comes from the Greeks. It means the seeing place. It is the place people come to see the truth about life and the social situation. — Stella Adler



Be King.

A new generation now holds the torch ignited by his dream. Comcast NBCUniversal celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day by saluting him and all of those who work together to love and serve one another and the world.



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Ravens owner Steve Bisciotti points out how team's season fell apart

By Turron Davenport

The Baltimore Ravens finished yet another season without making it to the playoffs. Playing in the postseason seemed to be a foregone conclusion when the Ravens were one of the only undefeated teams earlier in the year. So, what happened?

Team owner Steve Bisciotti described how things broke down at a press conference on Tuesday, January 10, 2017.

"I thought our offense started playing better, and then our defense collapsed in the last four weeks—from the No. 1-rated defense," Bisciotti said. "Then we started giving up 28 and 30 points. The minute you start counting your strengths then they can show up as weaknesses. It's such a moving target that it is frustration—I can't say it's anger."

Bisciotti is correct in pointing to the demise of the defense. The defense gave up 30 points in a close loss to the New England Patriots in week 14. The following week, in the last home game of the season, the Ravens gave up 26 points to a struggling Eagles offense. Fortunately for Baltimore, C.J. Mosely was able to break up a Carson Wentz pass to stop Philadelphia from converting the winning two-point conversion.

Perhaps the biggest let down was when the arch-rival Pittsburgh Steelers put up 31 points in what amounted to the AFC North divisional championship game. That was one of the most frustrating aspects of the season for Bisciotti.

"It's frustrating when you are waiting for something else to improve to get you over the hump and even if it does, something that you had been counting on disappoints you," Bisciotti explained. "I



Baltimore Ravens owner Steve Bisciotti speaking at a press conference on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 about the team's disappointing 2016 season.

Courtesy Photo/NFL.com

don't think anybody would have expected Pittsburgh to put up 21 points on us in the fourth quarter after that defense held them to 10 for three quarters. To lose a lead like that, and then have us go right back down the field, and Joe [Flacco] show that kind of mettle that he has shown over and over and over again in big games and in tight games down the stretch coming back to win. We did what we had to do, offensively, and then the defense gave it up. All of a sudden, we're looking to scrutinize that defense as much as we have to the offense."

The Ravens gave up 27 points in the season finale on the road against the

Bengals. Instead of winning the divisional title, Baltimore lost two straight games leaving the team with an 8 and 8 record.

The Ravens 2016 record is the third time the team has not finished above .500 under the leadership of head coach John Harbaugh. Baltimore finished with an 8 and 8 record in 2013. Harbaugh had his worst season as the coach of the Ravens in 2015, finishing with a disappointing 5 and 11 record. Baltimore failed to make an appearance in the playoffs for only the third time with Harbaugh at the helm.

Bisciotti made a significant investment in the free agent market by signing safety Eric Weddle to a four-year, \$26 million contract. Speedy wide receiver Mike Wallace was also signed to a two-year, \$11 million deal.

Big splashes in the free agent market are not the norm for the Ravens. Those moves during the off-season showed that the franchise has a sense of urgency to return to prominence.

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Black History Calendar, Resource Guide offers Timeless Knowledge



Chicago— You'll never know where you're going, unless you first know where you've been. So, make 2017 your year of self-pride and timeless knowledge with The Educational Network's "Our History Today! An African-American Journey" black history calendar and resource guide. In addition to featuring hundreds of key facts highlighting the contributions and accomplishments of notable history-makers, this collector's edition features full-page profiles of 13 prominent African-American trailblazers in politics, education, sports, business, media and film/television; as well as a farewell pictorial tribute to President Barack Obama.

The calendar, which serves as a national fundraising vehicle for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), showcases 12 such institutions and lists nearly \$1 million in available scholarships. Since its inception in 2006, the calendar has raised more than \$400,000 for HBCUs.

"Across the nation, there's been a decline in high school graduation rates, especially among African-American

males, which may correlate to the lack of positive, accomplished role models and knowledge of Black History," said Tracey Alston, founder of The Educational Network. "Understanding that our youth will never know where they're going until they first know where they've been, our 2017 black history calendar celebrates the amazing contributions— past and present— that our people have made to numerous industries beyond sports and music, the nation and the world."

In conjunction with the calendar, The Educational Network has also developed an online lesson plan system for teaching Black History and Multicultural Studies to students, grades K-12. The Common Core-aligned program is currently being used by teachers in several school districts across the nation.

The "Our History, Today! An African-American Journey" calendar is available for purchase at select Walgreens stores nationwide and www.BlackHistoryHBCU.com. For more information, contact The Educational Network at 312-470-0270.

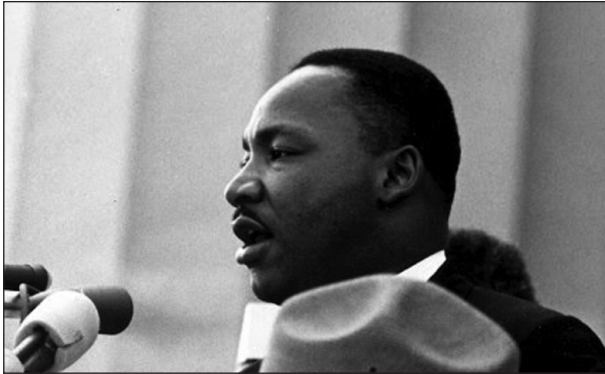
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebrations

MLK Day 2017 Celebrations at Reginald Lewis Museum

Reginald F. Lewis Museum
830 E Pratt Street, Baltimore City

Monday, January 16, 2017 — Noon to 4 p.m.

Baltimore— The MLK Day Celebration 2017 at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum offers families and adults alike the chance to experience and reflect on Dr. King's



legacy. Community conversations, crafts, films, and live performances tie into the theme "Keep Moving Forward."

"Our theme references the quote by Dr. King, 'If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk...but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward.' It's a powerful call to action that we hope reminds audiences of Dr. King's unwavering commitment. We hope visitors leave inspired to carry on his vision," said Dr. Roni Jolley, Director of Education.

MLK Day Celebration 2017 Programs

Participate in "End Kin Killin' Kin: Exploring Community Solutions," an open community conversation about gang and gun violence, as Baltimore faces a record number of homicides. Participants include former gang members, and religious and nonprofit leaders. The conversation takes place inside the poignant Kin Killin' Kin exhibit, on its closing day. The show's images of black youth in klan garb is intended to promote conversation about ending gun violence.

Enjoy live performances by Connections School for the Arts and the North Dorchester High School Choir. Connex-

ions will combine dance, music, and theater in a tribute performance to Dr. King. The choir's repertoire promises a stirring mix of works by Moses Hogan, "Up the Mountain," "The Color Purple," and more.

Actor Keith Snipes and Full Circle Dance Company will perform a piece entitled "A Stone of Hope" about the MLK Memorial. Mr. Snipes narrates in the voice of Dr. King, while Full Circle Dance Company expresses through movement some of the themes of Dr. King's life and messages.

Catch the film series Black America Since MLK: And Still I Rise, which asks profound questions about the state of black America— and our nation as a whole. Dr. Iyelli Ichile leads an audience conversation around topics from hip-hop, to Obama's presidency, with the film providing the context.

Young visitors can create crafts that incorporate the teachings of Dr. King.

Admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for students, senior, and children ages 7-17. Children ages 0-6, Maryland public school teachers, and museum members are free.

Union Baptist Church Celebrates MLK Day

Union Baptist Church, located 1219 Druid Hill Avenue in Baltimore will celebrate MLK Day in ecumenical way by modeling MLK's vision of "The Beloved Community" on Sunday, January 15, 2017 at 11 a.m.

Featured: the Ecumenical Chorus of

the voices of the African American Baptist; The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and Jewish Communities

Special guest preacher Chaplin (Lt. Col.) Julian C Gaither, Deputy Chief of Plans and Programs, Office of the Chief Chaplains, The Pentagon

Celebrate the 17th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade

Baltimore— Mayor Catherine E. Pugh and the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts celebrate the 17th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade. The parade commemorates the life of civil rights leader and icon Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, January 16, 2017 at noon. More than 70 groups participate in the parade including high school and community bands, honor/color guards, equestrian units, fraternities & sororities, lively dance squads and civic organizations.

The grand marshal of this year's parade is singer/songwriter and Baltimore native Brave Williams, most widely known for being cast as a lead singer on the MTV reality show, P. Diddy's Making The Band. She also co-founded an all-girl group named Rich Girl, which produced a series of Billboard hits. Most recently, Brave appeared on TV



One's R&B Divas: LA series.

For more information on the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade, call 410-752-8632 or visit www.promotionandarts.org.

36th Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast

Annapolis— The 36th Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Breakfast will be held on Monday, January 16, 2017 in the David S. Jenkins Gymnasium on Anne Arundel Community College's Arnold campus, 101 College Parkway at 8 a.m.

Nationally known speaker, author, social entrepreneur, producer and decorated United States Army officer, Wes Moore, will deliver the keynote address at this year's breakfast with the theme "Making the Dream a Reality."

As in prior years, attendees are asked to bring canned goods to be donated to the Anne Arundel County Food and Resources Bank. The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast Committee organizes the annual event.



Wes Moore

Tickets for the breakfast are \$35 and are still available. For tickets for the breakfast, contact Eugene Peterson at 301-538-0887 or Erica Matthews at 443-761-9734.

"Everybody can be great ... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love." —Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr

Maryland Historical Society, Enoch Pratt Free Library host tour, lecture

Free tour of Paul Henderson: Maryland's Civil Rights Era in Photographs exhibition

Special MLK Commemorative lecture by Dr. Julianne Malveaux

Baltimore— The Maryland Historical Society proudly re-launches its Paul Henderson Civil Rights-era photography exhibition featuring never-before-seen scenes of Baltimore life c. 1940-1960.

On Saturday, January 14, 2017, free tours of the Paul Henderson: Maryland's Civil Rights Era in Photographs exhibition will be offered in advance of a special MLK Commemorative lecture hosted by the Enoch Pratt Free Library and the Maryland Historical Society. The lecture, which begins at 2 p.m. features Dr. Julianne Malveaux, founder and president of Economic Education and author of the new book, "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy."

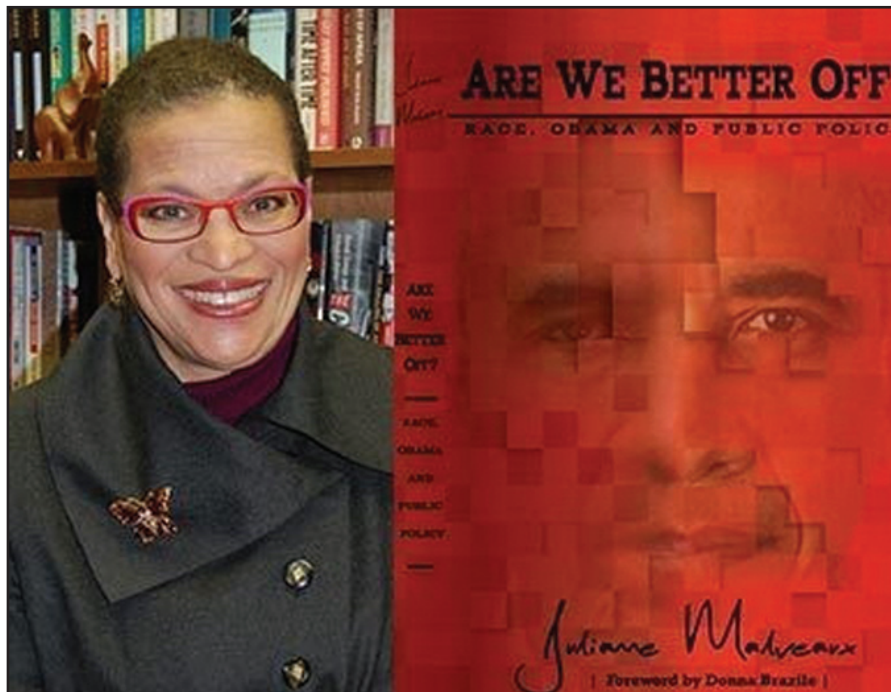
Beginning at 10:30 a.m. Curator of Films & Photographs, Joe Tropea, and Historical Investigations Specialist, David Armenti, will lead guided tours of the exhibit Paul Henderson: Maryland's Civil Rights Era in Photographs, c.1940-1960. The tours will cover topics such as Henderson's life and work as a photo-journalist, MdHS's work on the 7,000-piece collection, and the many stories his photos convey. Each tour will begin on the half hour: 10:30 a.m.; 11:30 a.m.; and 12:30 p.m. Each session will last approximately 45 minutes. Tours will meet in the Symington Library.

Then at 2 p.m. The Enoch Pratt Free Library hosts its annual King Commemorative Lecture featuring Dr. Julianne Malveaux, founder and president of Economic Education. This lecture will begin at 2 p.m. in France Hall.

Museum admission is free all day.

About Paul Henderson and Maryland's Civil Rights Movement

Maryland's Civil Rights movement began in the early to mid-1930s. The lynching of George Armwood on Maryland's Eastern Shore in 1933 sparked re-vamping of the Baltimore Branch NAACP and intense activism on the part of black and white residents of Baltimore.



Dr. Julianne Malveaux

Courtesy Photo: The Maryland Historical Society

Paul Henderson (1899-1988), born in Springfield, Tennessee moved to Baltimore in 1929. In 1930, Henderson married grade school teacher Elizabeth Johnson and the couple took an apartment on McCulloh Street, within walking distance of Pennsylvania Avenue, the black community of Baltimore's shopping and entertainment district. Along with the NAACP, politics, church life, sports, education, and the Afro-American newspaper, Pennsylvania Avenue is one of the many subjects featured in his photographs.

About Dr. Julianne Malveaux

Julianne Malveaux is a labor economist, author and commentator on issues such as race, culture, gender and their economic impacts. Her writing has appeared in USA Today, Black Issues in Higher Education, Ms. Magazine, Essence and many other publications. Her weekly columns, syndicated through King Features, appeared in newspapers across the country from 1990 to 2003. She has hosted television and radio programs and appeared as a commentator on all the major networks.

Since receiving her Ph.D. in economics from MIT in 1980, Dr. Malveaux has

been a contributor to academic life. She has been on the faculty or visiting faculty of the New School for Social Research, San Francisco State University, the University of California (Berkeley),

Michigan State University, and Howard University, and she served as president of Bennett College for Women.

Dr. Malveaux serves on the boards of the Economic Policy Institute as well as the United Medical Center of Washington, D.C. Her latest book, Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy, will be on sale at a book signing following the program. Book sales provided by the Ivy Bookshop.

About The Maryland Historical Society

Founded in 1844, The Maryland Historical Society Museum and Library occupies an entire city block in the Mount Vernon district of Baltimore.

The society's mission is to "collect, preserve, and interpret the objects and materials that reflect Maryland's diverse cultural heritage." The Society is home to the original manuscript of the Star-Spangled Banner and publishes a quarterly titled "Maryland Historical Magazine." Visit www.mdhs.org.

For more details, contact Marketing Director Laura Rodini at lrodini@mdhs.org or by phone: 410-685-3750 ext. 322.



Street scene. Protest demonstration. Paul Robeson (left) and Dr. John E.T. Camper (right) protesting Ford's Theatre Jim Crow admission policy. 314-320 West Fayette Street, Baltimore. March 1948. Photograph by Paul Henderson. Paul Henderson Photograph Collection, MdHS, HEN-00-A2-178

Baltimore's expanded summer learning program a success

By Stacy M. Brown

For more than a decade, Building Education Leaders for Life (BELL), a national non-profit organization dedicated to closing the achievement gap in underserved communities, has partnered with City Schools to deliver this expanded summer and after-school program.

Participating scholars in grades K-5 gained two months in reading skills and one month in math skills in just five weeks of summer work, the equivalent of 20 percent and 10 percent, respectively, of a school year, per the results of computer-adaptive assessments.

According to Damon Johnson, executive director of Maryland's (BELL), the expansion reflects Baltimore City Public Schools' decision to double the size of the elementary school program, while helping middle school students stay on track for grade-level success and high school graduation.

Last summer, 1,426 K-Grade five students, and 453 sixth to eighth graders from 14 Title I schools participated in the free summer program.

Middle school scholars gained one month in reading skills and three months in math. In a survey, 96 percent of participating elementary school teachers reported an increase in scholars' self-confidence, while 96 percent of parents reported increased involvement in their child's education.

Also, 90 percent of middle-school teachers reported that BELL helped develop their professional skills, while 91 percent of parents reported an improved ability from scholars to overcome challenges.

During the summer months, many at-risk children lack quality learning experiences, often losing academic skills over the two month school break, which accumulates year after year.

Studies have shown that by the end of eighth grade, summer learning loss can account for 66 percent of the achievement gap between low and high-income students, according to a news release.

Since 2010, BELL has operated as the district's mandatory summer program for middle school students at risk of being retained at grade-level.

The Baltimore elementary school program was launched in 2015 with the support of the Norman R. Rales & Ruth Rales Foundation.

"Our Baltimore programs are demonstrating that BELL's academic and enrichment summer learning model can be highly successful even when scaled up," Johnson said. "Working closely with our partners in Baltimore City Public Schools, we hope to continue to make up for lost academic ground during the summer and improve the life trajectories of our scholars."

The summer program operated six and a half hours a day, five days a week for five weeks at 11 elementary school sites and three middle schools.

BELL programs serve scholars who would benefit the most from personalized summer learning opportunities and social and emotional skill development.

They blend small-group instruction in reading and math with hands-on enrichment courses, activities and field trips.

"Scholars are tested at the beginning and end of the program with advanced,



Students in the BELL program focus on topics such as STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), creative arts, and health and exercise. (Above) Two students showcase their science projects—models of the solar system.

computer-adaptive STAR Assessments, built for measuring scholars' growth in skills needed to succeed during the

school year," Johnson said.

For more information about the program, visit: www.experiencebell.org.



Last summer, 1,426 K-Grade five students, and 453 sixth to eighth graders from 14 Title I schools participated in the free summer program in Baltimore. Courtesy Photos/BELL

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Hello everyone. God has blessed us with another week in this new year. Hopefully for you it has started off better than 2016. This week, I want to remind you about a few popular black-owned restaurants in Baltimore serving up good food with good service.

When you are in the neighborhood, stop by the Station North Arts Café Gallery on Charles Street. If you are downtown, stop in Lexington Market and check out Connie's Chicken & Waffle, or if you are in the Randallstown area have lunch and a cocktail at Colin's Seafood & Grill on Offutt Road in the shopping center. No reservations required.

This is the Martin Luther King, Jr holiday weekend— MLK Day will be celebrated on Monday, Jan. 16, so many of you may have a three-day weekend. You can start by attending Celebration for the King Cabaret Day Party hosted by DJ Mike Jones & GW Productions on Jan. 16 at the Diamondz Hall, 9980 Liberty Road in Randallstown, Md. (in the shopping center). I must say, this is an unusually unique affair. The cabaret is a BYOB & BYOF event on a weekday in the middle of the day--with free setups. That's right folks, the party is 1- 5 p.m. I hope to see you all there. I will be there with my books doing a book signing so don't forget to bring your credit card and extra cash. Also, my dear friends bring your picnic basket with your food and favorite cocktail. Contact: 443-525-5016 or 410-227-3123.

Still celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr., there are more parties. Check out another cabaret hosted by J 4 Black Label on Jan. 15, at the Masonic Lodge, 1307 Eutaw Place (side entrance). DJ music, BYOB, BYOF, free setups. Contact: Noble Donrell Johnson 240-682-3870.

"Diversity Through Musical Harmony" MLK Celebration featuring the Maccabeats and Naturally 7 on Jan. 15, from 1:30-5:30 p.m. at the Gordon Center For Performing Arts, 3506 Gwynnbrook Ave., Owings Mills, Md. Don't miss these two internationally-acclaimed a cappella and local play groups as they perform a spiritual, celebratory concert in tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr. including their hit duo "Shed a Little Light." For ticket information, go to www.gordoncenter.com or call, 410-356-7469.

FYI: Dr. Donna Hollie, author, and former member of the Rosa Pryor Music Scholarship Fund, Inc.'s board of directors will be featured on Maryland Public Television (MPT) on Jan. 19, 2017 8 p.m. for the Chesapeake Collectibles Show.

FYI: Just word that the Arch Social Club at Penn-North received its non-profit status. The organization is now called the Arch Social Community Network. Contact: Kaleb Tshamba atkalebtshamba2005@comcast.net.

Well, my dear friends, I am out of space. Enjoy your weekend. Remember, if you need me, call me at 410-833-9474 or email me at rosapryor@aol.com. Please do not Facebook me, I will not get the information.

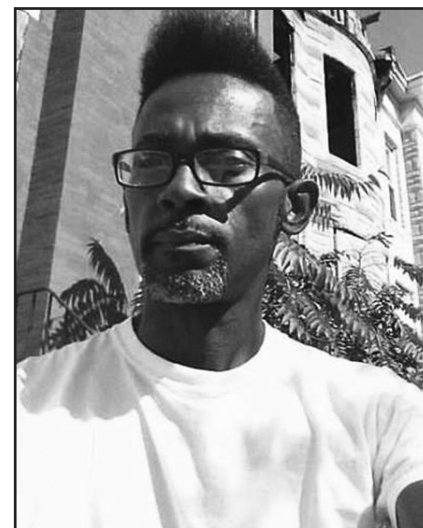
UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.

"Faith is taking the first step even when you can't see the whole staircase."

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr



Dante & Candice Daniels, owners of Colin's Seafood & Grill, 3653 Offutt Road in Randallstown, Maryland. Dante is also the Chef is known for his pleasant personality and always remembers his patrons by name. Specializes in fresh seafood, fresh vegetables with an extended menu of American foods for lunch and dinner. Open Mon-Sun. 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. closed on Thursday; Fri. & Sat. closed 10:30 p.m.



Kevin Brown, affectingly known as "Downtown Kevin Brown" is co-owner of Station North Arts Café Gallery, 1816 N. Charles Street. This is his 10th year serving breakfast and lunch surrounded with a gallery of local art. Open Mon-Fri from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. One of the coolest café in the city. Kevin is such an entertaining person who makes sure you are welcome.



Khari and Shawn Parker owners of Connie's Chicken and Waffles Restaurant in the famous Lexington Market. Known for their Belgian Waffle and fried chicken. Opened last year, naming the restaurant after their mother who works with them. Open Monday thru Saturday 7 a.m. until 4 p.m.



Stella Fullwood, wife of Everette Fullwood passed away on Sunday, January 8, 2017. The viewing will be held on Friday, January 13, 2017 at March Funeral Home from 8 30 a.m. to 7 p.m. with the family hours from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, January 14, 2017 at Charity Baptist Church located at 5601 Bowley's Lane. Family Hour 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and the service begins at 12:30 p.m.

Jazz pianist Marcus Johnson Performs at Rams Head on Stage

By Eunice Moseley

It's rare for music concert venues to feature the headliner on stage, as well as on the menu, but that's just what jazz lovers will experience when they attend the FLO of Jazz with award-winning keyboardist Marcus Johnson at Rams Head on Stage on Thursday, January 19, 2017.

Since launching a new wine brand called FLO, the NAACP Image Award winning musician, entrepreneur and author introduces his signature drink on the menus of the places where he performs.

Johnson is not new to venturing outside of his amazing skills on the keyboards. Almost immediately after starting his music career, he ventured into business by partnering with BET Network founder Bob Johnson to form his label Marimelj Entertainment Group, the production company Three Keys

Music, recording facility Studio 8121, and two publishing companies Marimelj and Three Keys. He is CEO and President of them all. Marcus Johnson is also CEO and Founder of FLO Brands, LLC and FLO Wines, LLC.

Last year Johnson released an album entitled, *Live and Direct* and, in February, he will release his first book, *For the Love*.

Johnson has released 17 albums in addition to *Live and Direct*. The Ohio native's family moved to the District of Columbia when he was 12. The next year, his father won the Maryland Pick 3 Lottery and brought him his first keyboard. He went on to study traditional Jazz with Joe Thomas and Thelonious Monk. All through high school at Montgomery Blair High, he played in the Jazz band. After graduation, he attended Howard University and went on to graduate studies at Georgetown University where he received an M.B.A. and J.D. in



NAACP Image Award winning Jazz pianist Marcus Johnson will perform at Rams Head on Stage on Thursday, January 19, 2017. Photo Credit: Marimelj

Law. While at Georgetown in 1997, he released his first independent album *Lessons in Love*, which sold 40,000 copies.

As if he doesn't do enough already, Johnson mentors young artists. When it comes to his new venture FLO, Johnson is ready to push all limits.

"I will never stop unless I stop selling wine. Everything is to compliment the other. We are in—the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia—300 stores," Johnson said.

For more information about Johnson's

upcoming performances, his wines, his book and his latest album release *Live and Direct* visit www.RamsHeadonStage.com, www.ThreeKeys.com or www.FLOBrands.com.

Eunice Moseley is a Public Relations Strategist and Business Management Consultant at Freelance Associates, as well as Promotions Director (at-large) for *The Baltimore Times*. For more information, visit: www.ThePulseofEntertainment.com.

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NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for **Water Contract No. 1355-Urgent Need Water Infrastructure Rehabilitation** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **Wednesday, February 1, 2017**. 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, January 13, 2017** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **\$100.00**.

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

All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call 410-396-6883 or contact the Committee at 4 South Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture ("JV"), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **B02551-Water Mains**

Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$4,000,000.01 to \$5,000,000.00**

A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted at the **3rd Floor Large Conference Room of the Bureau of Water & Wastewater, Abel Wolman Municipal Building on January 19, 2017 at 2:00 P.M.**

Principal Item of work for this project are:

Urgent need water main repairs and replacement as necessary, including, but not limited to, replacement/installation of various size new ductile iron pipe, valves, fittings, and appurtenances, replacement/installation of fire hydrants, small (residential) meter settings and meter vaults, renew and replacement of existing water services, sidewalk restoration, curb and gutter, and roadway paving, as required.

Legal Notice

The MBE goal is **10%**
The WBE goal is **2%**

WATER CONTRACT NO. 1355

APPROVED:

Bernice H. Taylor
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:

Rudolph S. Chow, P.E.
Director of Public Works

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY
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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF MOORE

In the Moore County Civil District Court

**Kenneth Paul Christopher and wife,
Rebecca Elizabeth Christopher v. David
Michael McFarland and Megan Deshae
Honeycutt**
Moore County File No. 16-CvD-1365

To: David Michael McFarland, Defendant

TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows:

Complaint for Temporary and Permanent Child Custody.

You are required to make defense to such pleadings not later than forty (40) days from the date of first publication of this Notice and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought. **A Status Conference on all pending issues in this cause has been set for January 31, 2017 at 9:00 AM in Moore County Civil District Court.**

This the 28th day of December, 2016.

Aaron L. Bell, Attorney for Plaintiffs
Thigpen & Jenkins, LLP
300 Pinehurst Avenue
Southern Pines, North Carolina 28387
Telephone: (910) 693-3741
Facsimile: (910) 693-3746

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2017 Student Debt and Tuition Relief Initiative, Investments in Higher Education Announced

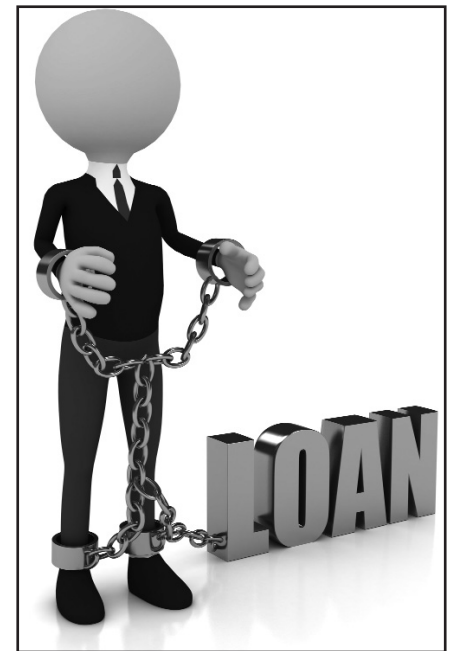
Student Loan Interest 100 percent Tax-deductible for all Marylanders making less than \$200,000

Annapolis— Governor Larry Hogan announced the administration's 2017 Student Debt and Tuition Relief Initiative, as well as targeted investments in higher education at the University of Maryland, College Park, where he was joined by Maryland Secretary of Higher Education James Fielder and Maryland Secretary of Housing and Community Development Ken Holt; as well as University of System Maryland Chancellor Dr. Robert Caret; University of Maryland, College Park President Dr. Wallace Loh and the University's Board of Regents; University of Maryland University College President Dr. Javier Miyares; St. Mary's College President Dr. Tuajuanda Jordan; Morgan State University President Dr. David Wilson; and Maryland Association of Community Colleges Executive Director Dr. Bernie Sadusky.

The governor's proposal includes legislation to make student debt interest payments tax-deductible for all Marylanders earning less than \$200,000 per year, funding to cap tuition growth at Maryland colleges and universities at a maximum of two percent, and targeted investments in priority projects at Maryland's higher education institutions.

"Having a college education is more important now than ever before, but the harsh reality many face today is that earning a college degree often goes hand-in-hand with accumulating crippling college debt," said Governor Hogan. "We believe that our new Student Debt and Tuition Relief Initiatives will provide much-needed relief from student loan debt, and will help us continue to make college in Maryland more affordable."

In 2015, the Hogan administration immediately began working to ease the



burden of student debt, which in many cases has become a burden to homeownership, by creating a mortgage initiative to help Marylanders with \$25,000 or more in student loan debt, resulting in \$90 million in mortgages closed. In 2016, the administration launched the Maryland SmartBuy initiative, a first-in-the-nation program that allows eligible buyers to purchase move-in-ready homes while eliminating their student loan debt burden. The first SmartBuy purchase was made on September 30, 2016.

"I thank Governor Hogan for his administration's continued investment in higher education, and I applaud his efforts to ensure that even more Marylanders have access to the world-class education our universities have to offer," said Chancellor Caret.

Under Governor Hogan's 2017 Student Debt and Tuition Relief Initiative and higher education investments, the vast majority of Marylanders will be able to deduct 100 percent of the interest paid on their student loan debt from their income tax return. Beginning in 2018, Marylanders making less than \$200,000 and couples making less than a combined \$250,000 per year will not pay any Maryland income tax on their student loan interest payments. This proposal is expected to save Marylanders, many of whom are currently struggling to pay off college debt, \$20 million each year.

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