

The Annapolis Times

Vol. 25 No. 16 February 10 - 16, 2017

A Baltimore Times/Times of Baltimore Publication

True Love Lasts Through the Years



Augustus "Gus" Clay and Ruby Clay have been married for 63 years, raised four children and still cherish each other as if they are newlyweds. What's the secret? The couple gives this sage advice: 'Young people who are getting married should respect their marriage vows.. When you gather your family and friends together and you make those commitments they should be made in sincerity. You should read the vows before the wedding and if you don't think you can adhere to them, then don't take those vows.' (See article on page 12) Courtesy Photos

Icing Smiles bringing sweetness to sick children in Baltimore

By Stacy M. Brown

The nonprofit organization Icing Smiles provides custom celebration cakes to families impacted by the critical illness of a child, with the goal of providing a temporary escape from worry by creating positive memories during a difficult time.

The organization will host its annual Maryland Buttercream Ball at the Baltimore Museum of Art on Saturday, February 18, 2017.

With over 11,000 cakes delivered to date, Icing Smiles relies on a generous team of about 8,500 volunteer bakers and cake artists around the country to fulfill its mission.

“Icing Smiles goal is to make a cake specifically designed with a unique theme for the child or their sibling as a temporary break from the worrying,” said Tracy Quisinberry, who founded the nonprofit seven years ago.

“The cakes have been successful in making positive memories for these children and have helped out many kids all over the United States,” Quisinberry said. “Considering that in our first year, we did about 45 cakes, now we’re averaging 2,700 cakes per year, the reception has been pretty good.”

Icing Smiles brings together Quisinberry’s long-held passion for service to families affected by childhood illness with her newly discovered ability to turn cake batter and icing into smiles and joy.

The nonprofit delivers cakes to the doorsteps of families of sick children, free of charge.

“My work on behalf of critically ill children and their families began as a college student at Penn State. For fun, I signed up for Penn State’s dance marathon benefiting the Children’s Cancer Center at Hershey Medical Center. Little did I know that the children who came to encourage us would capture my heart with their courage and positive attitude,” Quisinberry said, noting that, after college, she continued to serve those same children, as a volunteer wish grantor for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Working as an international tax director, Quisinberry’s life and mission

changed when she gave birth to a premature baby who was admitted to a neonatal intensive care unit and remained there after Quisinberry was discharged. Three years later, she also had a son born prematurely.

“I experienced the enormous challenge of maintaining a normal life for my healthy daughter while caring for my sick son. For us, normal was deciding which ball was the least devastating to drop,” Quisinberry said. “While we had no significant concerns, but just enough to see what a medical situation can do to a family, it kind of turned our world upside down so we could imagine what other families go through so we decided to do this.”

The nonprofit, which relies on voluntary donations has helped put smiles on the faces of many who are critically or chronically ill and their families.

For the Maryland Nielsen-Massey, Buttercream Ball at the Baltimore Museum of Art, Rouge Fine Catering will provide food, a silent auction will take place, and the nonprofit welcomes Maryland’s own Tavares Evans and Amy Eagan, the owners of Cakes 2-A-T. Quisinberry said Evans and Eagan’s passion for cake has established them as a premier custom cake company specializing in personalized cakes that fit their customers, from local clients to international celebrities.

Jamie Foxx, Kevin Hart, Snoop Dogg, Alicia Keys, Patti Labelle, Baltimore Ravens players like Ray Lewis, Joe Flacco, Terrell Suggs and Brandon Williams, and music mogul Russell Simmons, boxer Floyd Mayweather and others have had cakes created by Cakes 2 A-T.

The Baltimore Ravens Cheerleaders are scheduled to attend the Maryland Buttercream Ball.

“Obviously, we want to continue to expand our services. We want to serve any eligible child no matter where they’re located,” said Quisinberry, noting that eligible children include those critically ill or who have regular hospital needs. “What we find is that we have a unique situation where we have a significant supply of volunteer bakers on our



Bakers Amy Egan and Tavares Evans of Cakes 2-A-T with Ray Lewis. They will be a part of the 2017 Nielsen-Massey Buttercream Ball festivities at the Baltimore Museum of Art on Saturday, February 18, 2017. Courtesy Photo

list. We’re clearly not utilizing all of our volunteers and we will look at other ways they can be utilized.”

For more information or to make a donation, visit www.icing smiles.org and

for tickets and information about the Maryland Buttercream Ball, visit <https://icing smiles.networkforgood.com/events/1261-2017-nielsen-massey-buttercream-ball-baltimore>.



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The Annapolis Times

(USPS 5840) is published every Friday by **The Baltimore Times/Times of Baltimore**, 2513 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218. Subscriptions by mail \$60 per year. Standard bulk postage paid at Baltimore, MD 21233. Postmaster send address changes to:

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Guest Editorials/Commentary

West Baltimore Community Ready for Revival

By Janet Allen

For generations, residents in West Baltimore, particularly those from the communities nestled between Midtown and North Avenue, have waited for the same opportunities given to other areas of the city. Opportunities defined by three Rs—renew, redevelop and revitalize.

Over the past several decades, we've witnessed these words in action across the city. They backed the massive makeovers for the Inner Harbor, Harbor Point and Harbor East. They breathed new life into Federal Hill, Fell's Point and Canton—and the seven-and-a-half mile waterfront promenade connecting them. They were said to redesign Brewers' Hill and Locust Point. Likewise, to redefine Charles Center and Remington. And anyone who's tuned into the news knows we don't go a day without hearing them used to promote Port Covington.

And throughout it all, we of West Baltimore have watched this renewal, redevelopment and revitalization do great things for our city and our fellow communities. We are excited for the improvements our neighbors are now experiencing with more accessible businesses and jobs, better schools and safer streets, cleaner parks and healthier lifestyle options. Any longtime Baltimore native couldn't help but walk into these areas and feel the newfound sense of vibrancy and beauty—the kind that rejuvenates the spirit and soul leading to happier homes and more meaningful lives. For that, I applaud the State of Maryland and the City of Baltimore for seeing these projects through start to finish.

I have faith that the state and the city will now do the same for our community with the State Center complex. I have had faith for the past 10 years since this project was first promised to us under Governor Ehrlich's administration. And I will continue to have faith in our leaders no matter how long it takes for them to come around for a community that needs it most.

I have faith because the redevelopment of State Center is the right project for our state. It would take a near-crumbling facility that's barely been touched since the 1960s, where thousands of the state's employees currently work day in and day out in the most deplorable of conditions, and turn it into a modern office space that meets the standards they most certainly deserve.

I have faith because State Center is the right project for our city. The development plan is shovel-ready and would create nearly 10,000 construction-related jobs for unemployed workers in a mere 60 days. Once complete, in addition to the state government offices, the sprawling complex's retail space would draw new businesses—and already shops, restaurants and a grocery store have expressed their intent on moving in, training and hiring, and truly enhancing all that Baltimore has to offer its residents and visitors—leading to 10,000 permanent new jobs.

And I have faith, most importantly, because State Center is the right project for our community. It is not only because State Center's redeveloped campus will offer 2,000 new mixed income housing units for our families in need, nor the fact the developer has committed \$1 million in direct contributions to support the needs of our neighborhoods, although both of these benefits would make a world of difference. But the magnitude of opportunities State Center would bring us would do onto our community what we've witnessed in those surrounding us—inspire us to lead more meaningful lives for ourselves, our families, our city, state and country. Most importantly, the redeveloped State Center project will help us leave a stronger and more stable community for the next generation. Our community's time has come!

Janet Allen is head of the Heritage Crossing Neighborhood, a member of the State Center Neighborhood Alliance



Community Affairs

BGE rededicates first gas streetlamp in country

Baltimore— Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) rededicated the first gas streetlamp in the country at a ceremony held at the corner of North Holliday and East Baltimore Streets in downtown Baltimore on Tuesday, February 7, 2017.

The gas streetlamp was first lit on February 7, 1817 by BGE's predecessor, the Gas Light Company of Baltimore.

"In 1816, artist Rembrandt Peale had a need to light his art museum so visitors could view his paintings and he later had a vision to light the streets of Baltimore," said Alexander Núñez, senior vice president of regulatory and external affairs for BGE. "As the founder of BGE's predecessor—the first gas light company in the country, his legacy of innovating for customers still drives our employees today. We are focused on delivering energy reliably and safely and on creating new tools that enhance our customers' lives and businesses."

Peale first lit up a room in his museum on Holliday Street using a ring of burning gas on June 11, 1816. Eight days



later, the mayor signed an ordinance allowing the Gas Light Company of Baltimore to begin lighting the streets. That became a reality on February 7, 1817, when the first gas street lamp was lit at a ceremony on Holliday Street.

"It is fitting that we remember the innovation of the past and rededicate this historic lamp at a time when the city of Baltimore and BGE are seeking opportunities to work collaboratively in the best interest of our residents and businesses, including making streetlight improvements," said Jim Smith, chief of strategic alliances for the office of the mayor. "It is with great pride and enthusiasm that the city of Baltimore congratulates BGE on this important milestone."

Neonatal Mortality: The Quiet Crisis of the African-American Community

*By Patricia Maryland, Dr.PH
NNPA Newswire Guest Columnist*

In my years working in healthcare, I have been blessed to see patients celebrate happy moments, but I have also witnessed times of profound grief. The loss of a baby is one such example that deals a devastating blow to our families, healthcare providers, communities and nation as a whole.

Most newborns grow and thrive, but in the United States, almost six out of every 1,000 babies die during their first year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Many of these deaths occur in the neonatal phase of development — the critical period from birth to 28 days of life in which babies are more vulnerable to disease, infection and other complications.

No mother, family or community in our country should have to endure the pain of losing a child. It's all the more shocking to learn that African-American mothers lose a child before their first

month of life at more than twice the rate of white women — the highest rate of any racial group, according to the CDC. In some states, the equity gaps are even wider.

These figures should sound the alarm for all Americans, especially African-Americans, policy makers, healthcare providers and community leaders. This cannot be our quiet crisis any longer. There are real lives at stake.

It will take all of us, working together, to ensure African-American babies born in America have every opportunity to thrive. Here are five steps we can take to get there:

Access— Increasing access to quality, timely and affordable healthcare is critical to our mission. African-American mothers who lost an infant were 2.3 times more likely than White mothers to not begin prenatal care until the third trimester, or not receive prenatal care at all, according to the Department of Health and Human Services.

Culturally Competent Care— The factors that influence neonatal health are myriad and complex, but we must continue our efforts to build a culture of health in the Black community — one that competently serves the unique needs of mothers on their pregnancy journey and ensures they are at her healthiest even before they conceive. This work requires healthcare providers enhance our outreach to communities of color to forge bridges of understanding among

medical professionals and the patients they serve — relationships we know lead to better health outcomes across the board.

Early Intervention— Caring for healthy Black babies begins before conception and continues throughout a mother's prenatal and post-partum experience. Early care interventions are critical if we are to address and prevent neonatal and infant mortality, because they allow us to address conditions that could lead to poor birth outcomes.

Hypertension— a disease that disproportionately affects African-Americans and can cause serious birth complications — is one such disease that can be managed through a mother's ongoing relationship with her healthcare provider.

Self-Empowerment— Importantly, African-American mothers must take full ownership of their healthcare experience. That means taking advantages of every opportunity to access proactive preconception, prenatal and post-partum care, and feeling empowered to ask questions. Understanding what's normal, when to be concerned and when to call a doctor is the No. 1 thing African-American women can do to ensure their babies are born and stay healthy.

Healthy Communities— More cities and neighborhoods are waking up to the notion that where you live has a significant impact on your health. Addressing environmental and social factors of health — such as nutrition, stress, sub-

stance abuse and domestic safety — will do more than improve the lives of mothers and babies. Its impacts will be felt throughout the community. Healthy Neighborhoods Detroit, an Ascension Michigan program, provides a powerful example of a community building its capacity to address holistic health needs. By integrating healthcare, education, grocery access and affordable housing in some of the city's most blighted areas, the effort is creating nerve centers where all residents can access the services they need.

The health of our youngest citizens is the yardstick by which we measure the prosperity of our country and communities. Fortunately, we have made great gains in reducing high rates of neonatal mortality. But there is still more work to do to address equity gaps for African-Americans. It will take a comprehensive, coordinated effort to eliminate this quiet crisis. By working together, we have reasons to hope for a future in which African-American babies survive, thrive and lead our communities into the future.

Patricia A. Maryland, Dr.PH, is the President of Healthcare Operations and Chief Operating Officer for Ascension Health, the healthcare delivery subsidiary of Ascension, the nation's largest non-profit and largest Catholic health system.

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Joy Bramble

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Mailing Address

The Baltimore Times

2513 N. Charles Street

Baltimore, MD 21218

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

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Want to comment on the editorials or any other story?

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Dovecote Cafe: A Neighborhood Nesting Place

By Tiffany Ginyard

Walking into the Dovecote Cafe is like stepping into the future of Baltimore. Once across the threshold of this quaint nesting space, a playlist of classic hip-hop, R&B, and soul music lifts people off their feet, serenades them to the counter, where they are greeted by delightful Diamond, one of the cafe hostesses.

Dovecote Cafe is a connection point for Baltimore's creatives, academics, grassroots organizers, civic leaders and neighboring citizens of all ages to connect over coffee and conversation.

Strangers become friends. Friends become colleagues or vice versa and by the end of the day, in many cases or by the end of a single conversation, something great has transpired.

"I feel like we have a great team," said Aisha Pew, Dovecote's co-owner and general manager. "I feel like we have some great programs. And I think what we are trying to do is clearly understood and being received with such love--wow, talk about supply in demand."

"Community first, cafe second," is the cozy cafe's mantra. Since the doors opened a year ago, Dovecote has been a hub for community resources and site for outreach initiatives. Every Thursday is food day; people come by to pick up free, fresh produce. Each month a local culinary artist takes over the kitchen, providing patrons with dinner and recipe cards of the night's menu item to promote healthy eating.

Local writers, independent organic food producers, and visual artists are supported with shelf space and organizations like the Black Pearl Project, a charitable organization dedicated to strengthening the bonds of sisterhood among inner city youth, and the Black Books Baltimore book club have hosted events there.

A team of self-proclaimed dream makers are responsible for the dream child located in the 2500 block of Madison Avenue in historic Reservoir Hill.

"The way that we all converged to Dovecote Cafe is that we shared our feelings, our wants, our dreams with



Self-proclaimed dream makers and owners of Dovecote Cafe (left to right) Cole, Gilda and Aisha. Located in the 2500 block of Madison Avenue in historic Reservoir Hill, Dovecote Cafe is a connection point for Baltimore's creatives, academics, grassroots organizers, civic leaders and neighboring citizens of all ages to connect over coffee and conversation.

Photo by Cassandra Vincent

each other," Dovecote's management team stated on the company's website. "By sharing, freely and openly [with] the people that we trusted and loved, we began to give ourselves permission to believe beyond the present; to believe in the possibilities of our desires; to believe that we were deserving of our dreams. It allowed the Universe to hear us, and begin charting a path."

Meet Cole, another co-owner of the cafe, and Pew's life partner. Her dream for Dovecote, mirrored her desire to combine a trilogy of passions: food, real estate and community development.

"What I love about all three is the sense of home and place that each evoke," said Cole, the daddy's girl, whose young imagination would run wild at the site of vacant homes and abandoned buildings.

For Cole, community development "is about taking a metaphorical band and wrapping it around current neighbors and drawing everyone close. It's all

about conversations and laughter. It's about parks, bike lanes, bus stops, street light, block parties, an open living room— cooperative engagement," according to her debut blog post on the cafe's website, entitled: "Dinner with Dad."

Meet Gilda, Pew's mother. She is one of the cafe cuisiniers and co-owner. After raising her only child, Gilda thought life was over after retirement, until she realized that two decades of social work had taken her time energy away from the things she loved.

"With my path, mind and schedule clear, off the culinary school I went," said Bain-Pew. "Six a.m. classes; kids young enough to be my grandchildren; homework but I kept going. I fancied creating an environment where my customers were as happy as the friends and family members who have eaten around my dining room table."

Meet Uncle "The Pie Man" Butch, the cafe's other cuisiniere, culture keeper

and Bain-Pew's brother. He is the team member who keeps a smile on all the ladies' faces when he stops by with kind words, catchy compliments and a teddy bear demeanor. Uncle Butch is responsible for the Pew Family's infamous peach upside down cake making the menu.

"I can't believe this place has only been open for a year. It just went from zero to 100 in just six months," said Uncle Butch.

According to Uncle Butch, Pew has more intelligence and talent than corporate America knew what to do with. Tired of feeling trapped by the luxuries of a successful six-figure salary, Pew cut ties with her paycheck in pursuit of personal freedom.

Under Pew's leadership, the cafe's business is growing like wildfire. She carries a beautifully subtle spirit that envelops the place in love. Her team feels it, and so do the customers.



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NPA197690-0002
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Ravens must address multiple areas in NFL Draft

By Turron Davenport

In 2017, the Baltimore Ravens will be expected to end the team's two-year playoff drought. While the Ravens came close in 2016, returning to the playoffs will be a tall task in the upcoming season.

The Ravens will have to figure out how to overcome the loss of Steve Smith Sr., their emotional leader on offense. Smith retired and has now moved on to the broadcasting world, having signed on with NFL Network.

Mike Wallace was a key free agent signing and rewarded them by posting 72 receptions for 1,017 yards and four touchdowns. Baltimore will need a repeat performance from Wallace in 2017.

Kamar Aiken took a step back after approaching the 1,000-yard mark in 2015. Aiken will be a free agent and is likely to move on after a frustrating season under new offensive coordinator Marty Mornhinweg.

Breshad Perriman is continuing to adjust to the NFL but showed promise in his first season after suffering a knee injury as a rookie.

That being said, the Ravens need to draft a wide receiver that can become a consistent pass catcher for Joe Flacco.

Names such as East Carolina's Zay Jones, Western Kentucky's Taywan Taylor, and Eastern Washington's Cooper Kupp come to mind as options.

Ozzie Newsome discussed some of the areas that he feels need to be addressed during the end of the year review press conference in January.

"We need to add some depth in the secondary," Newsome explained. "We need



Ravens General Manager Ozzie Newsome and Head Coach John Harbaugh walk the field before practice during the 2016 season. Photo is courtesy of nfl.com.

to improve on the offensive line. We need to find a complementary receiver. I think those are the areas that we feel like we should attack this offseason—whether it's through free agency, the drafts, trades—whatever way we have to do it, but to get better in the secondary, find a complementary receiver and get bigger and stronger on the offensive line."

The secondary was bolstered by the Ravens biggest free agent signing in Eric Weddle. The team also found success with third round pick Tavon Young, who eventually took over as a starter on the opposite side of Jimmy Smith.

Smith was the Ravens best corner until he was injured in a game against the Giants.— therein lies the problem.

Although he is the top cornerback on the team, the injury bug has visited Smith over the last three seasons.

The Ravens would be wise to take a

hard look at corners such as West Virginia's Rasul Douglas, UCLA's Paul Moreau, and Washington's Kevin King in the 2017 draft class.

Pass rusher is an area of need because there is not telling how much longer Terrell Suggs and Elvis Dumervil will be able to go. The Ravens tried to address pass rusher in the last two drafts by selecting Za'Darius Smith in 2015 as well as Matt Judon and Kamalei Correa in 2016.

While Newsome mentioned the offensive line as an area of need, Alex Lewis and Ronnie Stanley both assumed starting roles as rookies last season. If Rick Wagner leaves via free agency, there may be an opening at right tackle.

In summary, the Ravens primary needs are at wide receiver, cornerback and edge rusher. The 2017 NFL Draft is deep at each of those positions. If the Ravens draft correctly, the team could address their areas of need and possibly get a player that can push for a starting job to replace retired inside linebacker Zach Orr.

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Teachers receive free dental lesson plans, toothbrushes for Children's Dental Health Month

Atlanta—As part of its ongoing commitment to expanding dental health education in underserved communities nationwide, Kool Smiles is again supplying teachers with free dental health lesson plans and toothbrushes to use in preschool and Pre-K-5 classrooms during Children's Dental Health Month this February.

The dental health lesson plans have become a popular educational resource from the children's dental provider, with more than 6,000 lesson plans downloaded and 154,000 toothbrushes distributed to classrooms throughout the country since Kool Smiles launched the program in March 2013.

"Teachers are some of our most important allies in the fight against childhood tooth decay, so we are thrilled to see so many educators utilizing these free resources in their classrooms," said Dr. Dale Mayfield, Chief Dental Officer for Kool Smiles. "Dental health education—including teaching children about the importance of brushing, flossing and healthy eating—can play a powerful role in reducing oral health disparities and shaping positive dental habits early in life."

Kool Smiles' dental health lesson plans include age-appropriate activities to generate learning and discussion about the importance of good dental health in preschool, grades K-2, and grades 3-5 classrooms. Interested teachers can



download the lesson plans and order free toothbrushes for their classrooms directly from the Kool Smiles website at <https://www.mykoolsmiles.com/dental-lessonplans>.

In 2016, Kool Smiles provided lesson plans to more than 2,000 educators across the United States and sent toothbrushes to 53,048 students in 2,075 classrooms. In 2017, Kool Smiles hopes to increase the number of classrooms and teachers using the materials.

According to a 2000 report from the U.S. Surgeon General, tooth decay is the leading chronic disease among children, five times more prevalent than asthma. Dental care is one of the nation's greatest unmet children's health needs, especially in low-income, minority and rural communities. If left untreated, tooth decay can lead to pain, infection, and difficulty with eating, chewing, speaking, and learning.

Founded in 2002, Kool Smiles has more than 120 dental practices across 15 states and the District of Columbia, all working to make dental care more accessible to communities in need.

Kool Smiles' dental health lesson plan program is made possible with support from the Benevis Foundation.

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Nano Exhibit from Port Discovery Children's Museum's now at Essex Library

Baltimore— Port Discovery and the Baltimore County Public Library, Essex Branch, are excited to announce the opening of the Nano mini-exhibit, now on display at the Essex Branch of the Baltimore County Library through the end of April.

Nano features hands-on activities that invite visitors to examine the world of nanoscale science, engineering and technology for family audiences. Through the exhibit, visitors can work together to build a giant model of a carbon nanotube, try a series of interactive challenges, and learn about the effects of static electricity and gravity.

“We are thrilled to bring Port Discovery’s Nano exhibit to Essex so that more families can explore the world of very small,” said Nora Thompson, Director of Education at Port Discovery. “Children who explore this exhibit can build giant models of nanotubes, test magnetic nanoparticles, and learn about everyday nano products.”

“The Nano exhibit helps children learn about Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) concepts in a fun, playful way— and about a science that they may one day use to develop new technologies like better, safer cancer treatment and cheaper, more efficient solar power. As part of our Museum on the Move program, this exhibit also plays an important role in helping Port Discovery reach children and families who otherwise may not have seen the exhibit or visited Port Discovery,” according to Thompson.

Nano was produced by the Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network (NISE Network) and opened at Port Discovery in 2011. The Essex Branch is the Nano exhibits third travel location and was made possible through the longstanding relationship between Port Discovery and the Baltimore County Commission of Arts and Sciences.

For more information, about the exhibit, visit: Visit www.whatisnano.org.



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BCCC Celebrates 70th Anniversary

By Deborah Bailey

Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) celebrated its 70th anniversary this past week with gala festivities at the Liberty Heights campus. The room full of students, faculty, staff alumni and community supporters who gathered to commemorate the college agreed that in the face of a constantly changing city, BCCC has remained constant in serving Baltimore and its communities.

Akilia Radford, a current BCCC student and mistress of ceremonies echoed the sentiments of many students in the room who expressed gratitude for BCCC's presence in their lives at a time when they were searching for a place to actualize their futures.

"BCCC came into my life by divine intervention," said Radford, who mentioned that BCCC gave her a firm foundation and has prepared her well for her next steps in academicy, and in life.

Edward Ennels, mathematics professor and president of the faculty senate urged BCCC supporters to remember the past,



Representing Baltimore City Mayor Catherine E. Pugh, Afra White of the Baltimore Mayor's Office (middle) presents BCCC President Dr. Gordon F. May (left) and Board of Trustees Chair Reverend Dr. S. Todd Yeary (right) the Proclamation, which declared that Friday, February 3, 2017 was "Baltimore City Community College Day" in the city.
Courtesy Photo/BCCC

but to also look expectantly toward the future where he imagines the campus

taking a major leadership role in revitalizing the city.

"I see BCCC as a premier urban institution," Ennels said. "Let's not just celebrate the past but envision a glorious future."

Several public officials were present to citations to college officials for BCCC's service to Baltimore, including Kevin Craft, administrative director of the Governor's Commission on African Affairs and The Governor's Commission of Middle Eastern American Affairs; representatives from U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen's Office and representatives from the Office of the Mayor of Baltimore City.

"Baltimore City Community College

has consistently stood out as an important institution for many Baltimore residents seeking higher education. BCCC has had many names, but has always included the word 'community,'" Craft said. "While community means different things to different people, at BCCC it means a place where anyone can come to work toward their future goals."

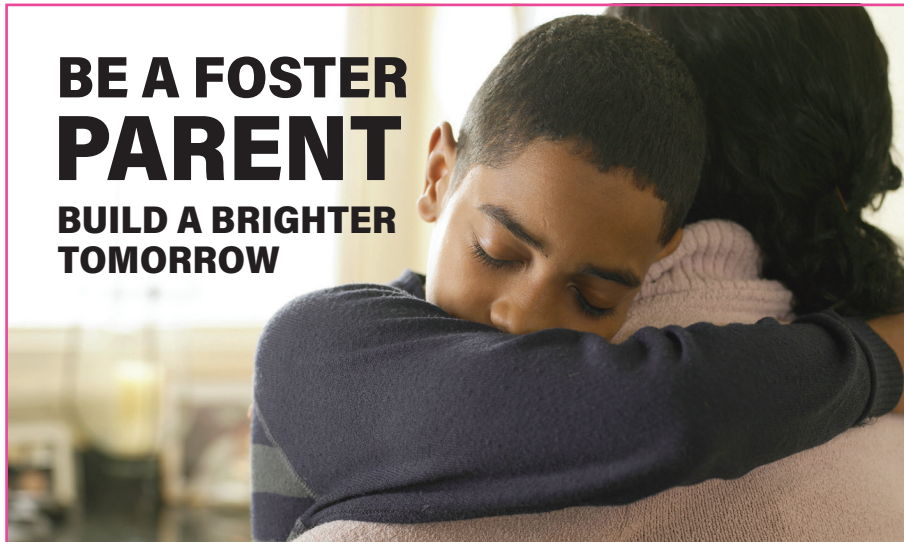
As the college prepares to serve another generation, Craft's reflections about the meaning of community at BCCC seems to ring true.

After surviving a turbulent period in the early years of the current decade when state funding was temporarily withheld by the Maryland General Assembly while the institution's programs were scrutinized. Several of the institution's trustees were also replaced by then Governor Martin O' Mally. The new board subsequently removed former President Carolane Williams.

Current President Gordon F. May. May has brought stability to the institution since his arrival in September 2014. He has strengthened the academic offerings of the college and created a haven of support for West Baltimore at the Liberty Heights campus in the aftermath of the unrest in Spring 2015. Most recently, BCCC has partnered with Baltimore City Public Schools to explore options to support the transfer of Renaissance Academy to BCCC's main campus.

"Students, faculty, staff alumni and our incredible community partners have all pulled together to support BCCC," said May. "We are here for Baltimore and the state of Maryland, and look forward to being a leader in creating a bright future for our city and state."

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True Love Lasts Through the Years

Gus and Ruby Clay Celebrate 63 Years as True Valentines

By Stacy M. Brown

He was a college student peddling the Atlanta World newspaper when he fell in love with Ruby, the sister of one of his neighborhood friends.

She was 16, a high school senior who, like him, loved to attend the local dance parties. It was 1948 and under the leadership of President Harry Truman; the United States had recognized Israel as a country; and Ludwig van Beethoven's famous Ninth Symphony was played on television for the first time.

Ruby's mother thought he was too old for her daughter, but she too had fallen in love with Augustus Clay, the man that would later be referred to by their children as having a "Ph.D in professing, providing and protection."

"He was always such an interesting person to me and I wanted to find out what made him tick," the soft-spoken Ruby Clay, now 85 years old, said, as the couple prepares to celebrate their 63rd Valentine's Day as husband and wife.

"He was wild and anxious and jumping around," she said, but not hesitating to add that, "I fell for him right away."

Throughout their years, the couple, individually and together, prioritized education. Gus, 87, is a graduate of Clark Atlanta University and he holds a master's degree from Atlanta University. Ruby, who taught elementary school, holds a degree from historically Black Spelman College. Each of the children has college degrees.

"I thought I was well-known in the community and I had never seen Ruby before and I saw her at the dance and asked one of my buddies who was she," Gus Clay said of his first meeting with Ruby. "The interesting thing is that her mother objected to me dating her because I was a college man and she was a high school girl." Ruby Clay added,



L-r: Gus and Ruby Clay and twin daughters Katherine and Karen Clay

Courtesy Photos

"Notice he said college man?"

It's that kind of playfulness, love, and attention that's kept them together and happy for more than six decades, never once having a fight.

"I think one thing that has kept them together for all these years is that my father is a very traditional man, especially in his day when you took care of your family, you loved your family and you protected your family," said Karen Clay, one of the couple's four children – the oldest, Augustus Clay III, is deceased.

The family except for Lisa, the youngest daughter, currently lives in Silver Spring, Maryland.

"My father had a Ph.D. in professing providing and protection and my mother is the quintessential polite woman with all of the social graces," Karen Clay said.

Karen, a twin to Kathryn, recounted a recent event that she said underscores the unceasing love and dedication of her parents.

"We were visiting and my mom asked where my father was and I pointed to her that he was sitting in a corner. She gets up, starts walking toward him, took his hand and said some term of endearment," Karen Clay recalled.

child, weather that and to see the love and to see my father just taking care of my mother is like, wow," she said.

So, what's the secret?

"Ruby is just a wonderful person and always supportive," Gus Clay said. "I can't ever think, in 63 years of marriage, of having one cross word said to each other. We've never had a downright argument and I think that's the reason we're probably still together because of the love and respect we have for each other."

Ruby Clay agreed. She also had sound, but simple, advice for others:

"A wife should be concerned about how she carries on. My husband is a wonderful man, a protective and loving man," she said.

For newlyweds or those considering marriage, the couple offered more sage advice.

"Young people who are getting married should respect their marriage vows," Gus Clay said. "When you gather your family and friends together and you make those commitments they should be made in sincerity. You should read the vows before the wedding and if you don't think you can adhere to them, then don't take those vows."



"She then sits in his lap, lays her head on his chest and he puts his arms around her and she goes to sleep. It was a happy moment but a moment that makes you want to cry with happiness to see your parents who've been together so long, raised four children, lose their eldest

Toyota teams up with Salvation Army “Walk In Your Boots” Give-Away

By Deborah Bailey

Toyota kicked off the Baltimore Auto Show this week with a donation drive distributing winter boots and hearty socks to a group of Maryland families through a special partnership with the Salvation Army of Central Maryland.

The “Toyota Walk in My Boots” community outreach project outfitted 200 families in need of warm, quality boots and socks to “protect families from the cold and rain,” according to John Ridgeway, Corporate Manager Toyota Financial Services.

“We strive to help the communities where we live. It’s one to sell a car it’s another thing when you can have the time to go into the community and help others,” Ridgeway said, acknowledging Toyota’s commitment to families who are experiencing financial stress or homelessness.

“There are many times when life can throw us a curveball,” Ridgeway said to families who are guests in the Salvation Army’s Booth House.

The Toyota Walk in My Boots campaign will launch in Detroit and Chicago, in addition to Baltimore, Ridgeway said. The Walk in My Boots campaign donated more than 600 pairs of boots and winter socks and \$45,000 to local communities in the two years of the program’s existence.

Toyota’s Baltimore region partners with the Salvation Army of Central Maryland to serve families in Baltimore City and Baltimore County.

“It’s quite a supplement to the household. For Christmas, maybe families got a brand-new pair of shoes, said Major Gene A. Hogg, area commander of the Salvation Army of Central Maryland.

“But then February comes and the snow starts and we’re walking. To be able to have a pair of boots to put on and not have to worry about the snow and the slush is so important,” Hogg said. “Knowing that we can depend and count on Toyota every year helps us communicate that message of hope to our clients.”

For Jerri Kelly, the Walk in My Boots event helps her and daughter Jaleeah juggle an extremely tight household budget.

“This is one less bill I have to pay. I’m



John Ridgeway, Corporate Manager-CSCE Toyota Financial Services .Greets Toyota Walk In My Boots Participants at Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club-Middle River.



Janeen Johnally communications Director for Salvation Army of Central Maryland (white shirt) hands boots to Tiara Johns and her family, Malik Matthews, Jr. (2) Brea Brooks (10) and LaBrea Brooks (9) at Toyota Walk In My Boots event.



Jerri Kelley and daughter Jaleeah Mack (age 3) try on boots donated by Toyota Walk In My Boots campaign at the Middle River Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club.



Jerri Kelley and daughter Jaleeah Mack (age 3) try on boots donated by Toyota Walk In My Boots campaign at the Middle River Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club.

on a limited income and I wasn’t able to afford winter boots. Without this, we wouldn’t have had them [boots] this year,” Kelly said with gratitude.

“Today is a family day. It’s always a good day for us to have an outing together,” said Denise Penn who participated in the Walk in Your Boots event with her daughter, son in law and grandchildren.

Comedienne MESHELLE, a Park Heights native nationally-recognized talent, reminded Walk in My Boots participants to be open to people from all walks

of life who have something to offer.

“Be real clear. Just because someone looks like you doesn’t mean they’re going to care about you more and just because they don’t look like you doesn’t mean that they won’t pour into you. Be more willing to open up your heart,” MESHELLE encouraged the audience.

“I think we’re all here for divine reasons,” she said.

The afternoon ended with families being served by Toyota and Salvation Army staff, as they tried on new winter

boots and enjoyed a hearty meal. For Ridgeway, events like Walk in Your Boots and the work he does to provide financing for families to purchase cars, work together to create holistic, thriving communities.

“I’ve been blessed with an extremely large band width. I’ve always loved cars and cars have been a platform to give me the ability to do other things, like today’s event. Toyota has provided an incredible opportunity for me to help others,” said Ridgeway.

Money professionals offer top five tips for taxpayers

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

It's tax time and time to pull out your manilla folder and get organized, according to Cozette M. White, CEO of My Financial Home Enterprises, a financial management firm.

White's work is dedicated to developing solutions that fuel business growth and transform products into accelerating profits for organizations and entrepreneurs. She says it's important for African Americans to be fully informed about the "do's and don'ts" and what deductions and credits might be available.

Tip 1: Decide early on who will be preparing your returns.

"That's important," says White, author, financial analyst and tax strategist. "Tax preparers are the least trained, but the cheapest to hire," she said, noting that enrolled agents are typically more competent than tax preparers but much less so than a certified public accountant. White also recommends scheduling an appointment early, "especially if you have a child applying for financial aid and, if you have not updated your payroll department with your new address, do so today to avoid delays."

Tip 2: Beware of scams. One of the most recent tax scams involved a caller telling a taxpayer that he or she is entitled to a large refund, but first must hand over a certain amount of money first, according to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

"Taxpayers across the nation face a deluge of these aggressive phone scams," IRS Commissioner John Koskinen said in a statement. "Don't be fooled by callers pretending to be from the IRS in an attempt to steal your money. We continue to say, 'if you are surprised to be hearing from us, then you're not hear-



ing from us."

Tip #3: Make wise business purchases, maintain healthy savings accounts and keep an eye on tax withholdings and exceptions throughout the tax year.

"Employees that changed jobs or started a new job should review their tax withholdings and exemptions claimed on their new hire paperwork," said Randy Hughes, founder of Counting Pennies, a tax and accounting firm that specializes in tax preparation, bookkeeping and debt management. "Claiming too few exemptions could result in giving the government more money than necessary, which could result in a cash flow problem for you during the year."

Tip # 4: Stay informed of updates regarding tax laws and codes. Some to consider are:

- The veteran tax expert urges contributions to 2016 Roth accounts and, if donations have been made to charities in any amount above \$250, be sure and have the proof to support the write-off.
- According to the Internal Revenue

Service (IRS), charitable contributions are deductible in the year made and donations charged to a credit card before the end of 2016 count for the 2016 tax year, even if the bill isn't paid until 2017. Checks to a charity count for 2016 if they are mailed by the last day of the year.

- Taxpayers who are over age 70 ½ are

generally required to receive payments from their individual retirement accounts and workplace retirement plans by the end of 2016, though a special rule allows those who reached 70 ½ in 2016 to wait until April 1, 2017 to receive them.

Tip # 5: Limit tax liabilities for individuals and businesses.

•Lisa Greene-Lewis, a certified public accountant and Turbo Tax expert, says defer bonuses. "If your hard work paid off this year and you are expecting a year-end bonus, this extra money in your pocket may bump you up to another tax bracket and increase your tax liability," she said.

•Businesses: Employers, have your payroll processing company process a one-time annual salary amount to satisfy any S-Corp reasonable compensation requirement, says Folasade Ayegbusi, a certified public accountant (CPA) and owner of Suncrest Financial Services in Maryland. Purchasing depreciable assets like a car, furniture, iPad, computer and other items needed for a business would help offset any tax burden.

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The ARC honors two city residents

By Stacy M. Brown

Aubrenda Ervin played a significant role in the Arc Baltimore's transition from traditional day programming to a more community and employment focused organization.

Meanwhile, Zeldia Guster has gained a reputation for setting up food and drinks for meetings, taking crews out for Meals on Wheels deliveries, and spending time asking companies to give The Arc work crews a chance.

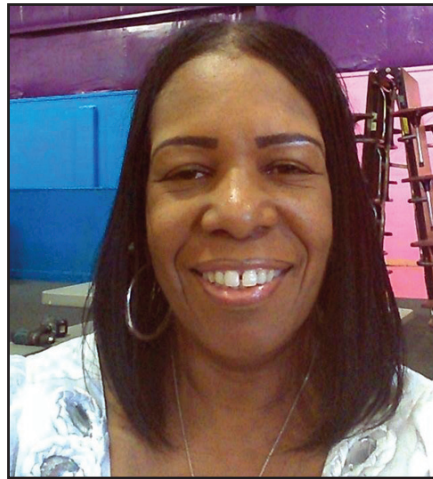
Both Baltimore residents were honored by The Arc recently.

Ervin received "The Arc's Excellence in Direct Support" Award while Guster earned "The Arc's Employee of the Year" for Direct Program Award.

"The best part of my job is knowing that I can make a difference," Ervin said in a statement issued through a spokesperson.

Ervin, who has four children and has worked at The Arc since 1993, said an individual she is currently working with one-on-one is proving to be her most meaningful experience.

The individual described to Ervin the



Aubrenda Ervin
Courtesy Photo

many challenges that prevented her from being successful. Now, a custodial worker for the MTA, the individual has been able to thrive, an Arc spokesperson said.

"Well, I'm a mother," Ervin said when asked why she believes she was able to succeed in helping. "I can treat her like a daughter, a peer and a friend, and as a result, she's developed trust and it's just



Zeldia Guster
Courtesy Photo

been the right combination."

Dedicated to providing advocacy and high quality, life-changing supports since 1949 in Baltimore City and Baltimore County, The Arc Baltimore supports more than 6,000 adults and children with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

The Arc has approximately 800 full and part time employees and provides

services at eight major facilities and more than 100 owned and leased residential sites located in the Baltimore metropolitan area.

As one of the nation's largest and most respected organizations of its kind, officials at the nonprofit describe The Arc Baltimore as an indispensable resource, providing employment training and support, day and residential services, family support and education, treatment foster care, respite care, public policy advocacy, and information and referrals.

Affectionately known as Peaches, Guster has worked for 19 years with The Arc. She describes the best part of her job as being able to help make a difference in the lives of others. The soon-to-be newlywed who also has three grownup children says she joined the church of one individual that she supports through The Arc and their families have become close.

She says she is also excited about helping to find job opportunities for individuals in The Arc's day program.

"They just need a chance," Guster said. "They can do so much."

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Rambling Rose

*Happy Valentine's Day,
Black History Month*



Rosa Pryor Trusty

Hello, hello, hello to all my Valentine's Day sweethearts. I just love this time of the year because not only can the ladies get hearts and flowers for their special day with their love ones, but I get to sell a whole lot of my books and do a lot of book signings all over Maryland. I will be at Lexington Market on Friday; Reginald Lewis Museum on Saturday; Forest Park Senior Center on Sunday; the Meyerhoff on Valentine's Day and Mondawmin Mall on Feb. 18. We are having a ball. This is so exciting; I don't know where to start.

Now I want you to keep up with me because I will be jumping all over the place between Black History and Valentine's Day events taking place over the next couple of weeks.

Arch Social Club on Pennsylvania and North Avenues in Baltimore is hosting a "Valentine's Day Jazz" show featuring the "New World Outreach Jazz Orchestra on Sunday, Feb. 12 at 5 p.m. Open kitchen and cash bar. For more information, call 410-669-9856.

Forest Park Senior Center, located at 4801 Liberty Heights Ave., will host a "Valentine's Day Luncheon" on Tues., Feb. 14 from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. with oldies but goodies music. For tickets or more information, call 410-466-2124.

Zonta Club of Mid-Maryland will host a "Valentine's Murder Mystery Dinner & Dance," silent auction, cash bar, and door prizes on Sat., Feb. 11, from 7 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. at the Country Club at Woodmore located at 1320 Pleasant Prospect Road in Mitchellville, Md. Attire: classy chic. For tickets and more information, call 301-252-7031.

BCP Digital Printing is celebrating Black History Month hosting an "Independent & Self Published Authors Book Fair" in Center Court at Mondawmin Mall in Baltimore on Sat., Feb. 18, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. It is free and open to the public. For

more information, call 410-242-6954.

Black Memorabilia & Collectible Show for Black History Month will be held on Sat., Feb. 11 at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be vendors with black memorabilia for sale, educational exhibits, verbal appraisal of black memorabilia items and autograph sessions with Negro League Baseball players; collectibles for sale include slavery artifacts, books, autographs, stamps, paintings, prints, dolls, advertisements, kitchen collectibles, coins, magazines, toys, jewelry and civil rights, political, entertainment and sports memorabilia and so much more. For information, call Lindsey Johnson at 301-649-1915.

Well my dear friends, I hate to say it, but I am out of 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.



Dennis Edwards Temptations will be live in concert with the Mighty Delfonics, The Persuaders, Rolls Royce, the Supremes and Baltimore's own soul vocalist Bona' celebrating Valentine's Day on Tuesday, February 14, 7 p.m. at the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall 1212 Cathedral Street in Baltimore. For tickets and information, call 443-447-2207.



Ursula V. Battle, playwright and the New Life Fellowship Worship Center Drama Ministry presents and will be hosting a romantic comedy, called "For Better or Worse" on Saturday, February 11 for two shows; 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. at the Randallstown Community Center, 3505 Resource Drive, Randallstown, Maryland. For ticket information, call 443-531-4787

Ms. Maybelle, one of Baltimore's renowned comedian will host the Sean E. Merryman Promotions and the Baltimore Homeless Union Pre-Valentine's Day Dinner & Concert featuring Frank Washington (of the Spinners) on Sunday, February 12 from 4-8 p.m. at the Forest Park Senior Center, 4801 Liberty Heights Avenue. For ticket information, call 410-215-8893.



Iiyasah Shazz, Malcolm X's daughter will be at the Baltimore Black Memorabilia & Collectible Show signing her books hosted by Lindsey B. Johnson on Saturday, February 11 at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum, 830 E. Pratt Street in Baltimore. The show hours are 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. for more information, call 301-649-1915.





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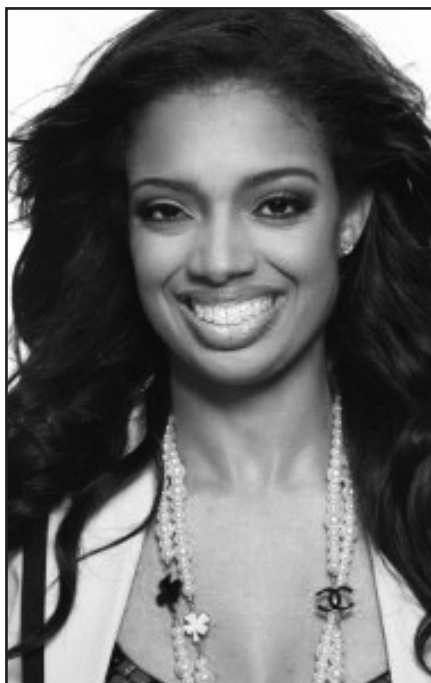
Arian Simone follows opportunity to fearless franchise

By Eunice Moseley

“Sometimes it’s not the thing— but the thing that leads to the thing,” said Arian Simone about her career choices thus far. “It was not my intention to build a brand and inspire...I have a fearless attitude.”

Fearless indeed is how one should describe this lady. Straight out of college (Florida A&M University) as a business graduate, she relocated to Los Angeles for a job opportunity. Once she arrived, the job was not what she thought it would be but instead of going back home to Detroit, the fearless college graduate decided to stay.

Life was hard and at one point she was living out of her car. Then one day, she was asked to work on a public relations



Arian Simone has launched “Fearless Discussion Podcast” airing Wednesdays on the YouTube Channel. Courtesy Photo

assignment— the BET Awards. Through connections she made there and referrals she ended up with over five projects in a two-week span.

“I do believe in walking [through] opportunity’s door,” Simone said. “But [opportunity] has to align with my goals and values.”

Those assignments afforded her the chance to open an office where she secretly lived for a while— the same building where the “Steve Harvey Morning Show” airs. This allowed her more opportunities to find work. She became a “celebrity publicist” working for clients, including Sony Pictures for projects such as— “Stomp the Yard,” “Takers,” “Limitless” and “Sparkle.”

“By default, I started building a brand,” Simone pointed out about her “Fearless” ventures. “[It’s] only in extreme hardships do you step out of the comfort of employment— I was hired and fired in 30-days. I thought it was a stable job with purpose.”

Simone started her Fearless brand by first publishing a “Fearless” book hoping to inspire and motivate and recently, she launched the “Fearless Discussion Podcast with Arian Simone” airing Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and “Arian Simone Fearless TV” airing Mondays at 10 a.m. on the Youtube channel.

“It’s a show that will inspire,” she said about her talk show. “Video is the most embraced vehicle reference to technology and social media. People like to see.”

To learn more about Arian Simone and her “Fearless” movement, visit: www.ArianSimone.com.

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

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On National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, Time to Address Stigma

By Angelo C. Louw
NNPA Newswire Guest Columnist

Those of us working in HIV prevention have always believed that the spread of the virus was largely due to stigma around sex and sexuality, and that the only time we'd see any sort of progress in the fight against the epidemic, was when society started engaging on the matter more openly. But, it wasn't until the 2009 report on the correlation between the spread of HIV and stigma in the Dominican Republic that we could claim it as a fact.

The implications of this report illustrated how social attitudes create an environment that propels the spread of HIV. Researchers found that stigma affected treatment toward people living with HIV; this has consequences for access to sexual health services and the way they are administered by health professionals, or, in some cases, denied. Researchers also found that stigma consequently affected at-risk individuals' willingness to seek HIV-related services, including testing. Stigma, therefore, helps to drive the spread of this virus.

This is evident when observing the prevalence of HIV among African-



Angelo C. Louw
Courtesy Photo

American women in the United States (U.S.). According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), of all women diagnosed with HIV in 2014, most new infections were attributed to heterosexual sex and an estimated 62 percent of women diagnosed were African-American.

CDC attributes this trend to the fact that "the greater number of people living with HIV (prevalence) in African-American and Hispanic/Latino communities and the fact that people tend to have sex with partners of the same race/ethnicity." New infections among injectable drug users, both men and women, were relatively low.

This implies that, somewhere along the line, the men these women are having heterosexual sex with are also having unprotected sex with other men; because, if prevalence among African-Americans increases the risk of HIV among Black women, and Black men who sleep with men remain most affected by the virus, then one can assume that some heterosexual men are also sleeping with other men.

While the LGBTQ community has made massive legal strides in the U.S., in recent years, religious condemnation of same-sex relationships remains widespread. Religion continues to be a cornerstone in the African American community; it played a significant role in the liberation of black people. Faith-based leaders often site the spread of HIV among the greater African-American population to support anti-gay rhetoric.

Misinformation breeds stigma, creating an environment where people are afraid to engage the matter beyond the pulpit. The fact of the matter is, according to a 2005 study, sex with a partner who had a

history of incarceration was a key driver of HIV infections among newly diagnosed African-American women. Infection among inmates in prisons is more than five times greater than the rate among people who are not incarcerated, according to the CDC. Yet, HIV-prevention interventions in prisons are limited to testing and treatment.

Those of us who believe that stigma around sex and sexuality drive the spread of HIV are right; that's what the facts show. Even with facts staring us in the face, we continue to let hysterics dictate our response to the pandemic.

February 7 is National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

Angelo C Louw is the Advocacy Officer at Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute (SPII) and former HIV prevention campaigner at loveLife, South Africa's largest youth HIV intervention. He is currently a Fulbright/Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow based at the University of Maryland. He writes in his personal capacity

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National Institute of Justice grant to train principals about bullying

By Susan E. Sagarra,
Urban News Service

Mizzou Researchers To Study Bullying

With a \$4.1 million grant to research bullying, researchers at the University of Missouri-Columbia (Mizzou) may be better equipped to help principals battle the age-old scourge of schools.

The National Institute of Justice, a federal agency, awarded the grant so the Mizzou researchers can study Safe and Civil Schools, a widely used anti-bullying program. The program was created more than 15 years ago, and currently is in use in schools in Dallas and Houston, Texas, Jacksonville, Fla., and other cities. The grant will allow the program

to be implemented and analyzed in 60 middle and high schools in the Puget Sound region of Washington State over the next four years.

Keith Herman, co-director of the Missouri Prevention Center and a professor in the Mizzou department of educational, school and counseling psychology, will lead a team of five researchers.

If proven successful, the program could be recommended to the U.S. Office of Elementary and Secondary Education and individual state education departments as a standard model of anti-bullying training for principals across the country.

“Training for principals and educators varies across the country,” Herman said. “Some receive a three-hour class while others have ongoing training. There are



a lot of training programs for principals but as far as I know, they have never been evaluated beyond people’s perception of how well the programs work.”

More than 22 percent of children from ages 12-18 say they have been bullied in school within the last month, while 17 percent of high school students say they have seriously considered attempting suicide within the last year, according to a Nov. 14 University of Missouri press release.

The researchers will conduct an efficacy study of Safe and Civil School Leadership plus START, a professional development program designed to equip school principals with the actual skills for fostering positive school climate and safety.

“I want to make the information from the study widely available for others to make decisions in terms of education policy, whether it proves to be good or bad,” Herman said. “I don’t think we would ever try to legislate it and say that all public schools have to use this program. But I would love to be able to show that it works and why it does and show how to get it implemented. If it makes a positive impact on students, and we give adults and students the skills and tools to make good decisions, it’s a win-win for society.”

The grant is controversial because some scholars believe that some anti-bullying programs actually can go too far.

“Bullying was undeniably a problem

that needed to be brought out of obscurity, but the issue has arguably now gotten too much attention,” Christopher Ferguson, an associate professor of psychology at Stetson University in Florida, wrote. “Such hype can lead to other problems such as the use of bullying accusations themselves as weapons in peer conflicts and overly harsh ‘zero tolerance’ policies that over punish minor infractions and may exacerbate the isolation that can lead to bullying in the first place.”

Still, even critics acknowledge the harms that bullying can do, and credit the intentions of anti-bullying efforts. One such—the St. Louis-based Megan Meier Foundation, was founded in 2007 by Tina Meier, whose daughter took her own life after being cyberbullied by classmates. Meier and the foundation have spent the last decade trying to create positive change around the country to end bullying, cyberbullying and suicide among students.

Herman said he does not anticipate getting the program mandated via federal and state education laws. Rather, he said he hopes the program can be presented to educators as a best practices model.

“Our goal is to identify a program that improves school safety. By applying scientific methods, we can determine if this program is effective and worth implementing in schools across the country.”

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*Daniel A.P. Murray was assistant librarian at
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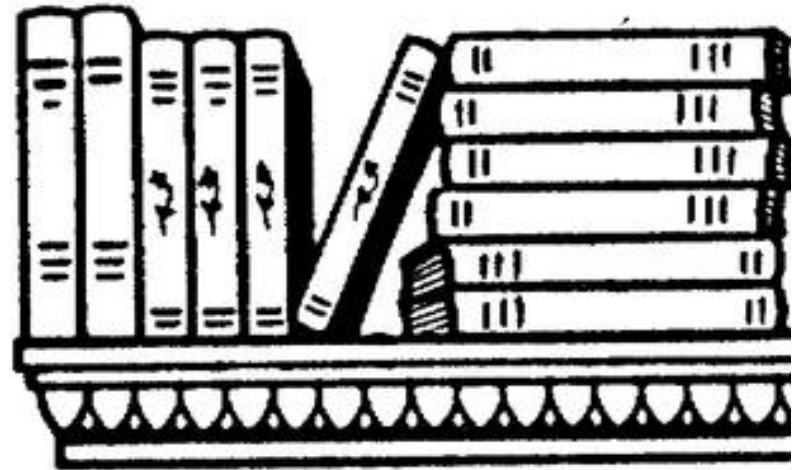
Daniel Alexander Payne Murray (1852-1925) was only the second African American to work at the Library of Congress when he joined the staff in 1871; 10 years later he became assistant librarian, a position he held for 41 years. Murray bequeathed his papers to the Library upon his death in 1925.

The story of Murray and the rise and fall of America's black upper class of that time in U.S. history is the subject of a new book by Elizabeth Dowling Taylor, "The Original Black Elite: Daniel Murray and the Story of a Forgotten Era" (Amistad, 2017).

Taylor will discuss and sign her work at the Library of Congress on Tuesday, Feb. 14, at noon in the Mary Pickford Theater on the third floor of the Library's James Madison Building, 101 Independence Ave. S.E. This Books & Beyond event, part of the Library's observance of African-American History Month, is co-sponsored by the Center for the Book and the Daniel A.P. Murray Association of the Library of Congress. It is free and open to the public; no tickets are required.

When Murray went to work for the Library, government jobs were among the most prestigious jobs available to African Americans. Murray also had a construction business, which made him wealthy, but Jim Crow laws and the proliferation of white supremacist groups during that era halted the rise of elites such as Murray.

Elizabeth Dowling Taylor has worked more than 20 years in museum education and historical research. She was director of interpretation at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello and director of education at James Madison's Montpelier. Most recently a fellow at the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, Taylor



is now an independent scholar and lecturer. She is also the author of "A Slave in the White House."

The Library's Center for the Book, established by Congress in 1977 to "stimulate public interest in books and reading," is a national force for reading and literacy promotion. A public-private partnership, it sponsors educational programs that reach readers of all ages through its affiliated state centers, collaborations with nonprofit reading promotion partners and through its Young Readers Center and its Poetry and Literature Center at the Library of Congress. For more information, visit read.gov.

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