


The Annapolis Times

Vol. 25 No. 17 February 17 - 23, 2017

A Baltimore Times/Times of Baltimore Publication

‘The Ground On Which We Stand: An Exploration of Black Excellence’



The Baltimore Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. in partnership with Baltimore Center Stage presented “The Ground On Which We Stand: An Exploration of Black Excellence,” on Sunday, February 12, 2017. Center Stage Associate Artistic Director and Jack and Jill mother Hana S. Sharif conceived and produced the show with the help of her dedicated professional staff. About 100 Baltimore Chapter youth (ages 3–18) performed the works of poet Langston Hughes; author and civil rights activist W.E.B. Du Bois; photographer James Van Der Zee; author Zora Neale Hurston; singer Billie Holiday; novelist and poet James Baldwin; choreographer Debbie Allen; ballet dancer Misty Copeland; inventor Elijah McCoy; astronaut Michael Anderson; politician Shirley Chisholm; boxer Joe Louis; and many others. Tickets sales benefitted the Jack & Jill Foundation of America, Inc. and Franklin Square Elementary Middle School in Baltimore City.)See article on page 14)

Photo: Tori Soudan

Baltimore & Me

By Tiffany Christina

"I have often said that Baltimore will be fine. There are so many great things that are happening in our city. We are in one of the top five states for millennials moving in. Businesses are moving in fast. [We have] great leadership. The question is never whether, to me, Baltimore will do well. The question is whether all of Baltimore will rise together."~Congressman Elijah Cummings (D-MD).

Welcome to Baltimore & Me, a new community column for the 'round away citizens of Baltimore.

My name is Tiffany Christina. West Baltimore Edmondson Village. Up Top. Cooks Lane, is where I'm from. 'Round the way we call the community where we were raised "stomping grounds."

But to be clear: this whole city raised me— from the quaint classrooms at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School, to the long halls of West Baltimore Middle, up to the Castle on the Hill at 33rd and The Alameda (City Forever, '02) and on down the road to Morgan State University on a college scholarship from Congressman Elijah Cummings (D-MD).

The 17th District Senatorial Scholarship allowed me to pursue higher education in English and training in journalism at Morgan—scot-free— for

four years. These days it takes, on average, five years to complete a traditional undergraduate degree, and that's how long it took me.

I can only imagine the struggles my mother would have faced to get me across that stage if it that scholarship wasn't available. Pause: I would like to publicly express my gratitude for Congressman Cummings and other civic leaders like him who envision a better Baltimore and have committed their life's work to creating opportunities for "B kids" [Baltimore kids] from 'round the way like me.

Even though I have yet to met you personally, Congressman Cummings, I have been in your presence in more ways than one— from the pews at the New Psalmist Baptist Church to press conferences outside Coppin State University. I humbly thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that you do.

In the words of one of my favorite hip-hop artists, AZ, "some people see things and say, 'why'/I see things and say, 'why not.'" In this space I will share stories of Baltimoreans who share the same sentiment regarding the endless possibilities for growth, health, peace and prosperity in this city.

People like Aisha and her partner Cole, who have created a cozy space in the historic Reservoir Hill that draws



Tiffany Christina, a proud West Baltimore resident and writer of "Baltimore & Me," a new column that will appear regularly in The Baltimore Times and online at www.baltimoretimes-online.com
Photo Credit: Kajuan Scott

dreamers, moving and shakers from across the city, and around the world, for coffee and conversation.

It is my intention for Baltimore & Me to be a place where the true colors of our

city radiate in print and the stories from 'round the way shine.

Until next time— Live more. Love more. Be more. Peace.



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IN THEATERS FEBRUARY 24

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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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Racial bias puts patients at risk

By Brookshild Laurent, D.O.

Do blacks have less sensitive nerve endings than whites? It's an outrageously racist question. Yet in a recent survey, 14 percent of white second-year medical students answered yes. In that same survey, about 40 percent of white first- and second-year medical students expressed the belief that black patients have thicker skin than their white counterparts.

These findings point to an awful reality: Racial biases and misconceptions remain rampant in our health care system—and medical schools aren't doing enough to address the issue. The prejudice in our health care system is hazardous. Addressing this hazard needs to start with medical educators.

Implicit bias—the unconscious negative evaluation of a particular group—can affect medical judgment. Consider a 2008 Journal of the American Medical Association study, which found that black and Latino patients admitted to an emergency room with bone fractures or kidney stones are less likely to receive the recommended levels of painkillers relative to the average white patient.

Research from Harvard Medical School professor Joseph Betancourt shows that blacks are less likely than whites to receive kidney transplants. And compared to the general male population, African American men with prostate cancer are less likely to receive chemotherapy and radiation.

America's health care system provides a far different standard of care to minority patients, oftentimes for no discernible reason other than skin color. This form of prejudice isn't just unfair; it's potentially life-threatening.

Since many of these attitudes are established long before physicians begin their careers, medical schools have a significant role to play in addressing the problem. The first step is to help students recognize their biases early. Several medical schools are already making progress.

First-year medical students at University of California, San Francisco, for instance, participate in a workshop that begins with an implicit bias test to gauge attitudes about various identity groups.

Students at my own institution, New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine, engage in a variety of simulated interactions with patients of different races, socio-economic backgrounds, and sexual orientations. Based on these scenarios, students investigate how their unconscious biases affect their behavior.

Simulations and classwork can only do so much to change attitudes, of course. Medical schools need to provide students with frequent opportunities to engage with patients of different backgrounds.

NYIT's medical students, for instance, participate in a free, monthly clinic in Central Islip, a low-income town on Long Island with a large minority population.

Medical educators must also eliminate teaching materials that reinforce implicit biases. Such materials are remarkably common. In fact, a report published earlier this year in Academic Medicine found that, in many medical school lectures, race is routinely discussed as a straightforward medical risk factor for certain conditions, not as a complex social concept.

Such a biological view of race not only bolsters destructive prejudices; it obscures the many ways in which social forces and biases can dramatically affect the health of minority patients.

What's most important is that medical schools aggressively pursue new strategies for combatting implicit bias, and share their lessons with the larger healthcare community. Without a substantial effort to produce culturally competent, impartial medical practitioners, the lives of minority Americans will remain at risk.

Brookshild Laurent, D.O., is vice chair of the Department of Clinical Specialties at New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine.



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Letters to the Editor

Editor:

When we consider the sacrifices of the men and women who served our country in the armed forces, mere words cannot express our gratitude as a nation. How do we thank veterans for the service that might have compromised their health?

Valentine's Day is a great time to say thank you to America's Veteran patients. During this year's annual VA National Salute to Veteran Patients Week, celebrated February 12-16, the VA Maryland Health Care System joined VA facilities across the Nation to honor the men and women who have worn the cloth of the Nation with a multitude of events.

The week included many visits by community groups to thank our veterans for their sacrifices and to let them know that their deeds are not forgotten.

Today, more than 1,000 community members, ranging in age from teens to 80s, volunteer throughout the VA Maryland Health Care System performing a variety of tasks to support the needs of Veteran patients. Tasks include reading to Veterans on long-term care units; driving patients to and from their VA clinic appointments; and doing behind-the-scenes type tasks that don't require direct patient interaction, but are vital to

keeping things running smoothly. In short, volunteers are integral to our mission of patient and family centered care.

To our VA Maryland Health Care System volunteers—thank you for giving your time and talent to support the needs of our veteran patients. We hope that Maryland citizens continue to support and care for our veterans through their visits, volunteerism and donor contributions. Every citizen can make a positive difference in the life of a veteran patient.

Many returning veterans come to the VA with special needs and challenges that require the hearts and hands of a new generation of VA volunteers. For Veterans, their healing process is enhanced knowing that others appreciate their sacrifice and service.

To learn more about the many volunteer and donor opportunities available throughout the VA Maryland Health Care System, visit our Volunteer & Donate website at: <http://www.maryland.va.gov/giving/volunteer.asp>.

Adam M. Robinson, Jr., M.D.

Director
VA Maryland Health Care System
Baltimore, MD

From Freedom's Journal to the NNPA, The Black Press is still relevant

*By Harry Colbert, Jr.
(Insight News/NNPA Member)*

No one is better equipped to tell your story better than you and logic stands to reason that no one is better equipped and more passionate about telling our story than us. The stories of blacks in America are equally as triumphant as they are tragic and many, if not most, of these stories would be lost to time, if not for the Black Press.

In an age where black people are both progressing exponentially and under attack daily, the need for the Black Press has never been more apparent. And in a day where all media is under assault from the highest level, we must exalt the nations more than 200 Black newspapers, as they continue to serve as the defenders and the vanguard progress, enterprise and liberty.

Since the days of "Freedom's Journal"—the first black newspaper, published in 1827 during the height of slavery to today—the Black Press has been a voice reason, compassion and defiance.

Margot Lee Shetterly, author of "Hidden Figures," said if not for the archives of the Black Press such as the "Norfolk Journal and Guide" and the "Pittsburgh Courier" the inspiring story of the black women geniuses at NASA would not have been possible to tell. If not for the "Florida Sun" in Orlando, the story of the great training in science and technology happening at Bethune-Cookman

jamin F. Chavis, Jr., president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), who provided a comprehensive and accurate remembrance of the revered freedom fighter.

Weeks after the inauguration of a president that most in mass media are still trying to wrestle with and dissect, trying to figure out how all the major polls got it wrong, it was the Black Press that ran

trade association of the more than 200 African American-owned community newspapers from around the United States. Since its founding 75 years ago, NNPA has "consistently been the voice of the Black community and an incubator for news that makes history and impacts our country." Each week 20 million Americans from all backgrounds seeking news from the black perspective turn to NNPA newspapers, including "Insight News."

As journalists, our mission is to shine a light in the darkest of corners. That mission was reaffirmed at the NNPA's 2017 Mid-Winter Conference with a level of commitment and intensity never before seen. "Freedom's Journal" ran the first leg of the relay. The NNPA and the Black Press have gladly accepted the baton and we are more than capable of running the race. In running that race, what we ask of you, the reader, in this age of digital media and the sharing at the click of a button; that you seek out and share the valuable information of the Black Press with your networks as we must preserve and protect the Black Press.

Harry Colbert, Jr. is the managing editor of Insight News in Minneapolis. An award-winning journalist, Colbert served as a journalism instructor to the National Association of Black Journalists and the Greater St. Louis Association of Black Journalists. He is a past president of the University of Missouri chapter of the NAACP.

"Representing more than 200 black publications, the NNPA, is a trade association of the more than 200 African American-owned community newspapers from around the United States. Since its founding 75 years ago, NNPA has "consistently been the voice of the black community and an incubator for news that makes history and impacts our country."

University, one of the nation's historically black universities, would go untold and unnoticed.

In Baton Rouge, it may have been a citizen's lens that captured the senseless killing of Alton Sterling at the hands of police, but it is "The Drum" that keeps Sterling's memory alive and is shining the white-hot spotlight on those responsible for his homicide. When factions of the so-called "alt-right"—a movement of racism and intolerance—try to co-opt and corrupt the words (while ignoring the actions) of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., it was the Rev. Dr. Ben-

jamin F. Chavis, Jr., president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), who provided a comprehensive and accurate remembrance of the revered freedom fighter.

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Life in Baltimore:

The Sutton Scholars High School Enrichment Program

By Brenda Bowe Johnson

Clover Hill, on the grounds of The Episcopal Diocesan Center was the setting for a reception to learn about The Sutton Scholars High School Enrichment Program.

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland has partnered with Morgan State University to teach high school students the importance of life skills. It is a unique collaboration where the values and goals of a religious organization and an institution of higher learning intersect.

The purpose of the reception was to share the vision for the Sutton Scholars program in Baltimore City with a select group of guests who have the capacity and affinity to make impactful philanthropic investments into the program which aims to give students a head start with navigating their way through high school and beyond by teaching life skills.

The idea for Sutton Scholars was seeded in 2008, with a committee who researched, submitted studies, suggested supplemental programs and finally established a partnership, according to the Rev. Angela Shepherd. The program began in the summer of 2016 on the Morgan State campus.

Bishop Eugene Taylor Sutton greeted guests and shared his excitement about the program, which bears his name. He hopes that introductions made at the event will encourage people to become more involved with the program; to cultivate potential donors; and to encourage adults to become mentors and volunteers.

Sutton's longtime passion has been to provide Baltimore students with the necessary tools to succeed. For the past several years, a group of Episcopalians who share a passion for urban education met regularly to define what it takes for a high school student to achieve his or her highest potential, accomplish their goals, and succeed in life. They concluded the key



(Left to right) Sutton Scholars LauriAna Dyson (Mergenthaler); Hailey Sutton (Baltimore City College); Zinba Byrd (Baltimore City College); Kendal Knox (Baltimore Polytechnic Institute); Bishop Sutton; and Khadijah Bah (Western) at a reception for the Sutton Scholars Enrichment Program on February 7, 2017.

Courtesy Photo

factor is learning life skills--which are mostly developed outside school walls.

Having significant contact with adults who mentor youth, both formally and informally, teaching them how to function in the wider world beyond their family and school are some of the ways that youth may acquire these skills. These skills include conflict resolution, critical thinking, effective study habits, appropriate dress and communication for the workplace, and being comfortable in various cultural settings.

"When I was a youngster growing up in Washington, D.C., there were some adults who took the time and interest to help me learn things they don't teach in school. It made a profound effect on me and prepared me for where I am today. That's what this program is about," said Bishop Sutton.

Dr. Patricia Welch, dean of Education and Urban Studies at Morgan State Uni-

versity discussed the importance of the program, which teaches children to be confident, competent individuals by providing them with the skills to succeed in school and become contributing citizens.

Kea Smith, program coordinator, explained that 30 additional students will participate during the summer 2017, and additional components of the program, includes: debate, public speaking and digital media research. Each year, 30 scholars will be added to the program.

Program Director Neva Brown, explained that the program runs for four-weeks, Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and nutritious meals are provided daily. A pre-and post assessment of skills and attitudes are provided, and trained teachers and mentors follows the scholars from 9th through 12th grade. Parent/caregiver involvement is required.

"This program has taught me that I can be successful, and can achieve throughout my life," said 10th grader, Kendal Knox.

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John Harbaugh not afraid to add assistants with head coach potential

By Turron Davenport

Baltimore Ravens head coach John Harbaugh's assistant coaches have constantly been chosen for promotions by other teams. This is a testament to Harbaugh, who is quietly one of the best coaches in the NFL. He knows how to surround himself with good coaches.

Leslie Frazier only spent a year in Baltimore as a defensive backs coach before he got a promotion elsewhere. Frazier recently joined the Buffalo Bills staff as the defensive coordinator for new head coach Sean McDermott.

Chris Hewitt, a Ravens' assistant since 2012, will coach the secondary in 2017 after Frazier's departure.

A number of Harbaugh's offensive coordinators have gone on to find success elsewhere. Jim Caldwell is currently the head coach of the Detroit Lions.

Despite the loss of future Hall of Fame wide receiver Calvin Johnson, Caldwell led the Lions to a playoff appearance last season.



Baltimore Ravens head coach John Harbaugh mulls a game time decision during the 2016 season.

Courtesy Photo/NFL.com

Gary Kubiak spent one season with Harbaugh in Baltimore. He guided a

Ravens offense, which gained the most yards in franchise history in 2014.

Kubiak returned to the Denver Broncos, a team that he once played for. He also served as an assistant coach for the Broncos when they won two Super Bowls in 1997 and 1998.

As the head coach of the Broncos, Kubiak led them to a Super Bowl win over the Carolina Panthers in 2015.

Harbaugh is not afraid to surround himself with assistant coaches who are head coach material.

Current Ravens offensive coordinator Marty Mornhinweg is a former head coach, having served in the role for the Lions in 2001 and 2002.

The Ravens recently brought in Greg Roman to be an offensive assistant and tight ends coach. Roman served as an offensive coordinator for the San Francisco 49ers and Buffalo Bills prior to joining the Ravens.

While in San Francisco, he was considered to be a candidate for multiple head coaching jobs that opened up. Har-

baugh is excited about bringing Roman into the fold.

"We're pleased that he has decided to join the Ravens," Harbaugh said in a team released statement. "I've known Greg for a long time, and he's a hard worker and very creative. Our football team just got better."

Mornhinweg is equally excited despite the fact that Roman's past experience could make him expendable if the offense isn't successful.

"Getting a veteran coach like Greg Roman to join our staff is a coup for the Ravens," Mornhinweg said when the team announced that Roman was hired. "He is a very sound coach and a good team player who will help us build our offense."

Offensively, there will be many cooks in the Ravens kitchen in the 2017 season. The task at hand will be to see if they can deliver an offense able to withstand the loss of veteran Steve Smith Sr. and find a way to be more effective running the ball.

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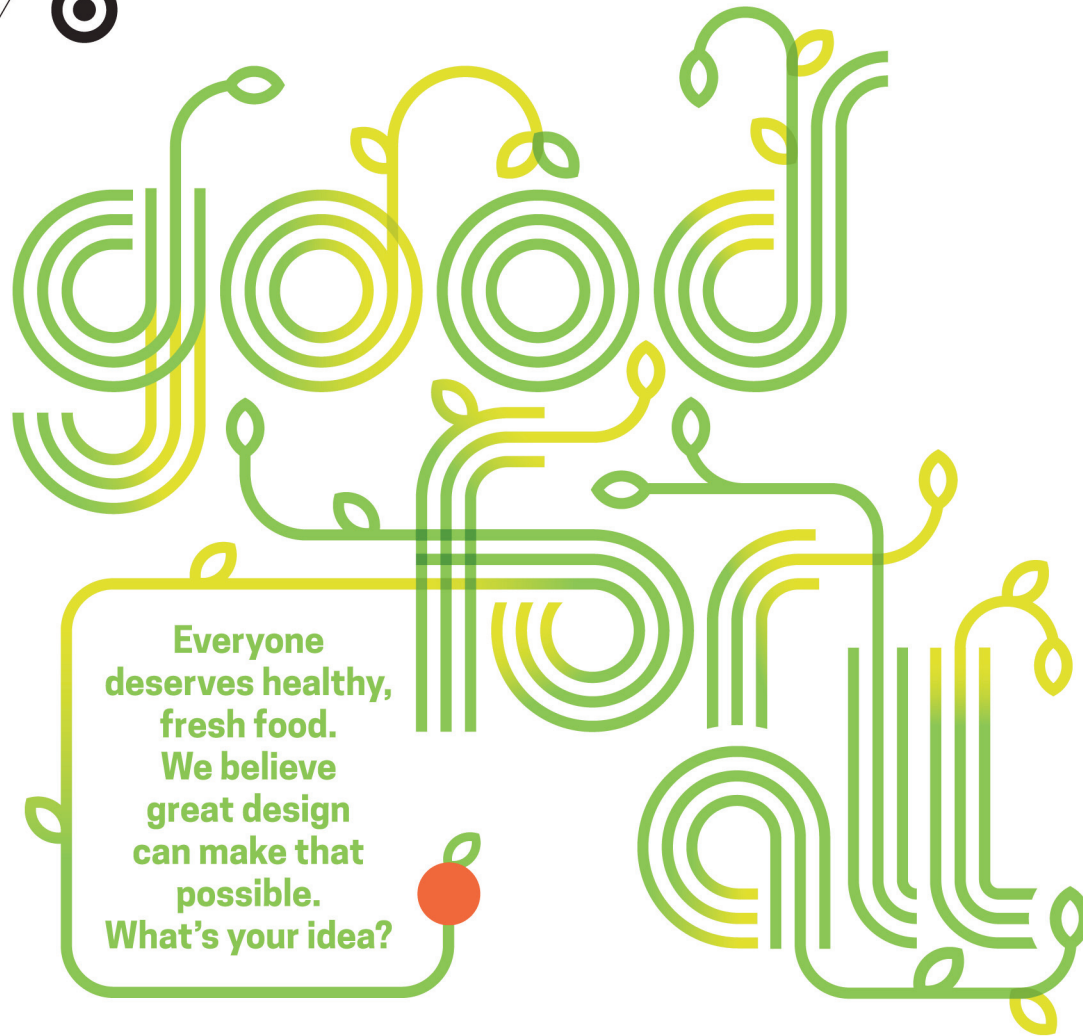
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Maryland 529 Program helps families save for college

By Stacy M. Brown

A Maryland 529 market research study revealed that 24 percent of respondents say they were not saving for their children's college expenses.

The 2013 study, also revealed that 71 percent of those respondents cited the reason they aren't saving for future college expenses is because they simply can't afford to do so.

To help Maryland families in need, the Save4College State Contribution Program offers eligible enrollees in a Maryland College Investment Plan a state contribution of \$250.

Individuals making less than \$112,500 or couples making less than \$175,000 may qualify to receive the state contribution.

In some cases, new enrollees can receive the state contribution with a minimum contribution of \$25.

"Any individual who opens the Maryland College Investment Plan and starts saving for college is going to benefit the most, especially if the individual has low to moderate income," said Lauren Shipley, executive director of Maryland 529, an independent nonprofit state agency that provides flexible and affordable 529 plans to help Maryland families save for future college expenses and reduce dependence on student loans later.

"According to the Corporation for Enterprise Development 2014 Fact File, children with \$500 or less saved for college are three times more likely to enroll and four times more likely to graduate, compared to their peers without college savings," Shipley said.

"Through this program, the state will be contributing \$250 to the eligible applicant's account, so it's a great opportunity for families to get a jump start on col-

lege savings for their children."

The Maryland Legislature enacted new laws that took effect July 1, 2016, making it easier for families to save for college.

By taking advantage of the Maryland 529 plan, an individual can contribute to this qualified plan that is established for a beneficiary and deduct a certain amount of the contribution on your Maryland income tax return.

Because of the new laws, individuals can deduct up to \$2,500 per beneficiary per donor.

Married couples with one child can open one account and each can contribute \$2,500 to the same account and maximize their Maryland deduction at \$5,000 per beneficiary, according to a published report.

If contributing \$5,000 or more per beneficiary in any given year, the surplus can be carried over and used over the next 10 years to soak up the maximum annual deduction amount.

For anyone with numerous accounts for the same beneficiary, they can now be combined moving forward. This change makes it easier for parents to manage their child's college savings plan while giving them peace of mind, according to officials.

New rules also allow the state to make a matching contribution of \$250 per beneficiary to the Maryland College Investment Plan for accounts established after December 31, 2016.

The law is designed to help lower to middle income families.

"The Save4College State Contribution Program is rapidly gaining popularity and applications are being submitted daily," Shipley said. "The application period runs through June 1, 2017, so we expect to see a significant increase in the number of applications as we get closer



Lauren Shipley
Executive Director, Maryland 529
Courtesy Photo

more information about the program before applying."

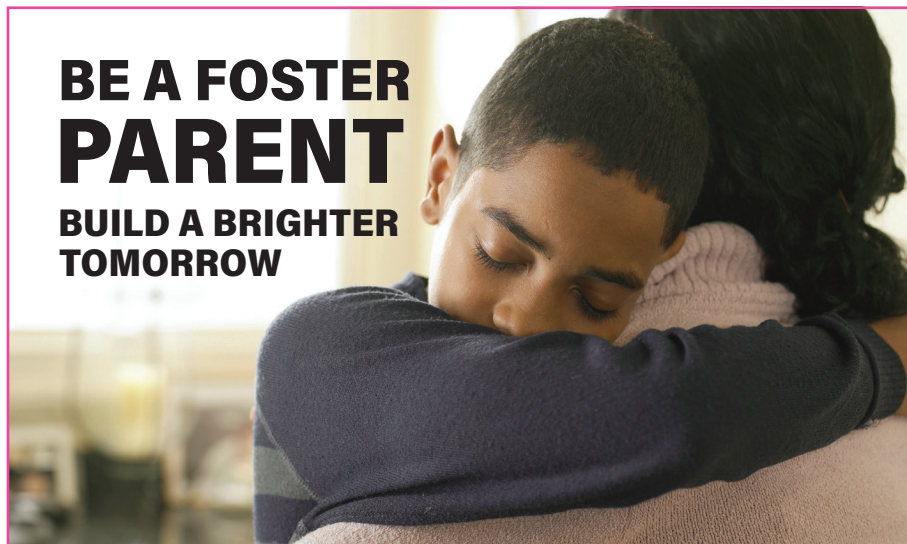
It's important residents apply for the State Contribution Program, the account minimum will be waived and applicants won't be required to make any contributions at the time of account opening, Shipley said.

"Saving for college now instead of taking out a student loan can cut the out-of-pocket cost of college in half," she said. "So, it's important for families to start saving now to reduce the need of student loan debt. Every little bit of money saved for your child's college education will help reduce the amount you will need to borrow in the future."

For program details, income qualifications and to apply online, visit: www.maryland520.com/mdmatch250. Also call 1-888-4MD-GRAD and select option 1 to speak with a Maryland College Investment Plan/T.Rowe Price representative. Callers should be sure to indicate they are interested in applying for the Save4College State Contribution Program.

to the June 1 deadline. We do encourage residents who are interested in applying for the program, to apply sooner than later in case they have questions or want

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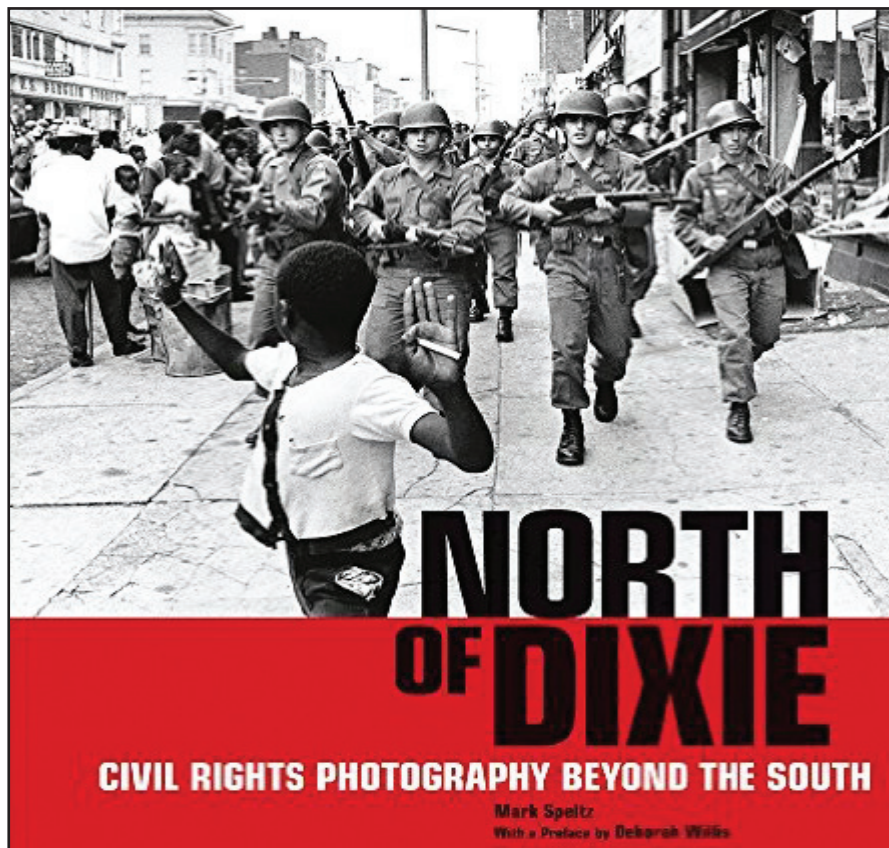
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New book documents Civil Rights Movement in photographs north of Mason-Dixon line



Washington, D.C.— Iconic images of the civil rights movement were largely photographed in the South. In a new volume of extraordinary photographs, historian Mark Speltz focuses on compelling civil rights images from north of the Mason-Dixon line, in places such as Philadelphia, Cleveland and Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Speltz will discuss and sign his book, “North of Dixie: Civil Rights Photography Beyond the South” (J. Paul Getty Museum, 2016) on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at noon in the Mary Pickford Theater on the third floor of the Library of Congress’ 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 Library’s Center for the Book, the Daniel A.P. Murray Association and the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress. It is free and open to the public; no tickets are required.

Many Americans are familiar with civil rights photographs from states such as Al-

abama, Mississippi and Louisiana. But images from the North, where civil rights activists also campaigned, are not well-known. Speltz focuses on images of everyday activists who campaigned against segregation, police brutality and job discrimination in many northern cities.

With images by such photojournalists, artists and activists as Bob Adelman, Charles Brittin, Diana Davies, Leonard Freed, Gordon Parks and Art Shay, “North of Dixie” offers a supplemental view of the American civil rights movement. Many of the photos Speltz includes are in the collections of the Library of Congress.

Mark Speltz is an author and historian who writes about civil rights photography, vernacular architecture and Wisconsin culture and history. He is a senior historian at American Girl in Madison, Wisconsin.

The Library of Congress is the world’s largest library, offering access to the creative record of the United States—and extensive materials from around the world—both on-site and online. For more information, visit: loc.gov.

New Film Honors First Black Player in NBA History

By Stacy M. Brown

Three years after Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball, a 21-year-old from Alexandria, Va., became the first African-American to play in the National Basketball Association (NBA).

Earl Lloyd, born in Jim Crow Era Virginia in 1928 to a father who worked in the coal industry and a stay-at-home mother, was drafted in the ninth round of the 1950 NBA Draft by the Washington Capitals.

Known as "The Big Cat," Lloyd made his NBA debut on October 31, 1950 and scored six points. He would go on to play nine seasons in the NBA with Washington, Syracuse and Detroit, where he averaged more than eight points and six rebounds. Lloyd died in 2015 at the age of 86.

Several current NBA star players, including Carmelo Anthony of the New York Knicks and Tony Parker of the San Antonio Spurs are paying homage to Lloyd in *The First to Do it: The Life & Times of Earl Lloyd*, a new documentary about the hardwood pioneer.

"It is important to make this type of film because it's imperative to know the history of our pioneers, those who pushed the needle forward for us," said Coodie Simmons, one of the film's directors. "If we don't tell their stories, who else will care enough to tell them? It's our responsibility as storytellers."

Throughout the coming spring, private screenings are scheduled in Detroit, where Lloyd played and later coached; West Virginia, where Lloyd attended college; Alexandria, Virginia, where he was born; and Washington, D.C. and New York. It's anticipated the film will receive wide release in theatres in April or May.

The *First to Do It* will be screened at NBA All-Star



Earl Lloyd became the first Black player in NBA history in 1950
Courtesy Photo

Weekend on Feb. 16 in New Orleans and is anticipated to be released in April or May in theaters everywhere.

Directed by Simmons and Chike Ozah, and produced by Arka Sengupta, the film boasts an executive producer list that includes Anthony Parker, former Dallas Maverick; Michael Finley, and Kawhi Leonard of the San Antonio Spurs.

On October 31, 1950, Lloyd stepped onto the court with the Washington Capitols and became the first African American to play in the NBA. He went on to become the first African American to win a NBA championship with the Syracuse Nationals, and the first African American,

full-time head coach in the NBA for the Detroit Pistons. Lloyd was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2003.

When once asked about his greatest achievement in basketball, he replied, "Getting there."

The film recounts Lloyd's journey, from growing up in deeply segregated Alexandria to witnessing the first black President of the United States.

The film also tells the story of how the modern game was formed--from the dominance of the Harlem Globetrotters to the introduction of the 24-second clock.

The new documentary also examines the legacy of desegregation in America and the ongoing role basketball has played in America's inner cities.

"The story of Earl Lloyd needed to be told in a way that would reach today's young generation of basketball fans," said Sherrie Deans, executive director of the NBPA Foundation, which producers say provided a substantial grant for the making of the film. "He is one of the founding fathers of what the NBA has become today, paving the way and setting an example for athletes both on and off court. His legacy isn't just a part of black history, it is a part of American history, and we are proud to be involved in this film."

It is important to learn from Lloyd who represented a model citizen and lived a life worth dissecting, Ozah said.

"His journey alone tells us about our progress or lack thereof in America, which is relevant now more than ever. Earl's story should never be forgotten simply because of his contributions, not just as a basketball player but as a human being whose life touched so many others," he said. "Earl Lloyd planted a seed that grew into the type of tree that a lot of people can continue to eat from."

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'Colorblind: The Katrina Monologues' now running at Arena Players

By Tiffany C. Ginyard

A natural disaster is no respecter of persons. Hurricane Katrina, the deadliest storm this country has ever seen, was no different; she did not discriminate.

Stories of survivors will be told on the stage at The Arena Players this month in a production entitled, "Colorblind: The Katrina Monologues." A cast of nine will give voice to victims of Hurricane Katrina and reenact vignettes of actual experiences around her devastation.

The drama queen of hurricanes uprooted thousands of families— leaving them displaced and homeless. Her wrath claimed the lives of more than 1,800 people. Black people. White people. Poor people. Rich people. Young people. Old people. Hurricane Katrina was colorblind.

Alabama, Mississippi and Florida were caught in the path of the storm's ferocious winds.

However, news cameras zoomed in on the people in New Orleans, Louisiana. The city's Ninth Ward, a historically underserved community of black folk, bore the brunt of Queen Katrina's devastation. There, she left behind rising waters, broken levees, a flood, and thousands of survivors. Some were stranded on rooftops of dilapidated homes, while others waded the muddy waters of the Big Easy seeking refuge for their families at the Superdome.

George Oliver-Buntin, one of Baltimore's native sons, portrays the character of an elderly man who refuses to leave his home in a monologue titled, "Hold Out." He represents the seasoned citizens who have endured countless valleys and mountains in their lifetime just for being poor, black, and a citizen of the Ninth Ward.

"He's one of those people who has seen it all before," said Oliver-Buntin. "While the circumstances may be different, these are the things that have been going on for years. It's not that they don't care, but they become so desensitized to it because they're so acclimated to mistreatment and being treated as if they don't really matter."

Mari Travis, also a Baltimore native, directs the production. The arts educator



(Left) Baltimore native and director of "Colorblind: The Katrina Monologues," Mari Travis. (Right) "Colorblind: The Katrina Monologues," by Playwright Tom Flannery, runs at the Arena Players from February 17 to 26, 2017 (Fridays and Saturdays) at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 4 p.m. For more information or tickets, visit: <http://arenaplayersinc.com/season/>.

Courtesy Photos/Arena Players

and choreographer hails from Morgan State University's (MSU) prestigious theater program, where she danced with the MSU Modern Dance Ensemble and is currently choreographing the "The Wiz." "I remember Hurricane Katrina like it was yesterday. It was unbelievable that a natural disaster of its magnitude was happening so close to home. Furthermore, the manner in which the government mishandled the before and aftermath was completely inhumane."

A college student at the time, seeing the horror of it on TV compelled Travis to rise to action and plan a road trip to New Orleans to distribute, the best and most economical thing she could think of at that time, water. She sought support from friends and got discouraged due to the lack of support. Directing "Colorblind" is her chance to finally make her contribution.

"It's never too late," said Travis, who spent time as a guest resident at George-

town University, Morgan State University, Bryn Mawr School for Girls and Duke Ellington School for the Arts. "The audience can expect two hours of heart-wrenching, true-to-life monologues from a skillful and, overall, out-of-this-world cast of actors."

Each monologue deals with a theme tied to the Hurricane Katrina experience, heavily touching on the role that politics played in the devastation that followed the storm. Also, interwoven in this production, are moments of choreographed movement and flashback portrayals of the survival tactics the public only heard about or saw vaguely on TV.

Theater-goers will find the performance powerful and sobering. There is a lot of truth being told through these characters and their experiences with, and interpretation of, what they went through as a result of hurricane Katrina.

"The colorblind aspect really speaks to how we could have banded together and

collectively, engaged in a healing process that would've benefited everybody," Oliver-Buntin said. "But, because we, as a nation, were so focused on color, it was a serious discrepancy between how we responded to each other and how we took care of each other in the time of need.

"When it was young African Americans, [scrambling to find resources to maintain survival] it was called 'looting.' When it was young white folks who lived in those areas that were damaged and affected; it was reported as commandeering necessary supplies," Oliver-Buntin continued.

It's difficult for anyone who wasn't there to presume where he or she would be, or exactly what they would have or could have done to protect themselves and others from Mother Nature's wrath. Actors, mostly residents and natives of Maryland, portray these characters with care and a powerful emotional quality, said Travis.

'The Ground On Which We Stand: An Exploration of Black Excellence'

Baltimore— The Baltimore Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. in partnership with Baltimore Center Stage presented "The Ground On Which We Stand: An Exploration of Black Excellence," on Sunday, February 12, 2017. The one-time performance to a sold-out crowd featured music, dance, art, film and projection technology highlighting breakthrough moments in history.

The program was created and performed in collaboration with children of Jack and Jill, an organization dedicated to nurturing future African American leaders. For this performance, 100 Baltimore Chapter youth (ages 3–18) were challenged to match the excellence of the best of the artistic canon. Luminaries whose work was celebrated included: poet Langston Hughes; author and civil rights activist W.E.B. Du Bois; photographer James Van Der Zee; author Zora Neale Hurston; singer Billie Holiday; novelist and poet James Baldwin; choreographer Debbie Allen; ballet dancer Misty Copeland; inventor Elijah McCoy; astronaut Michael Anderson; politician Shirley Chisholm; boxer Joe Louis; and many others.

Center Stage Associate Artistic Director and Jack and Jill mother Hana S. Sharif conceived and produced the show with the help of her dedicated professional staff. She noted "The Ground On Which We Stand" celebrates iconic African-American voices who have re-defined history.

"It's so important for the next generation to see themselves as part of this continuum of excellence. We've encouraged the young people participating in the program to challenge themselves creatively—the performance will truly showcase their many skills and talents," Sharif said.

The performance also included a pre-show gallery display in the theater lobby highlighting paintings, sculptures and photographs by the children, curated by two Jack and Jill teens.

Tickets sales benefitted the Jack & Jill Foundation of America, Inc. and Franklin Square El-

ementary Middle School in Baltimore City.

Jack and Jill of America, Inc., is a membership organization of mothers with children ages 2–19, dedicated to nurturing future African American leaders by strengthening children through leadership development, volunteer service, philanthropic giving and civic duty. Jack and Jill boasts more than 230 chapters nationwide, representing more than 40,000 family members. Each chapter plans annual programming activities guided under a national theme. Through service projects, Jack and Jill of America creates a medium of contact for children to stimulate their growth and development.

The Baltimore Chapter recently celebrated 70 years of service to Baltimore City and the surrounding areas. The 61 members and 100+ children regularly engage in activities geared towards programmatic thrusts including: cultural, education, health, civic and social/recreation. Multifaceted initiatives such as STE[A]M (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math) and Healthy Living (centered on lifestyle improvements and health development) all help our kids and others to know that they have The Power to Make a Difference!

*Moms and Dads from
Jack and Jill
of America, Inc.
Baltimore Chapter*



Center Stage staff



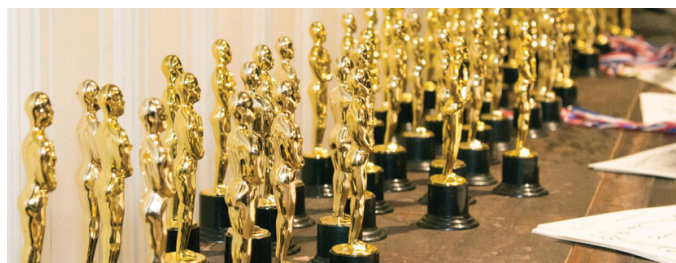
(L-r): Center Stage Associate Artistic Director and Jack and Jill mother, Hana S. Sharif; Baltimore City Council President Bernard "Jack" Young; and Angela M. Walker, president, Jack and Jill of America, Inc., Baltimore Chapter.

All Photos: Tori Soudan





BALTIMORE
CENTER
STAGE



JACK AND JILL
OF AMERICA, INCORPORATED

BALTIMORE CHAPTER

Mayor, Community Leaders Celebrate Grand Opening of Mulberry at Park Apartments

Baltimore— Officials from Enterprise Homes were joined by community leaders including Baltimore Mayor Catherine E. Pugh, and Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Secretary Kenneth C. Holt to celebrate the grand opening of Mulberry at Park Apartments in downtown Baltimore on Wednesday, February 15, 2017. The \$22.3 million community provides 68 high-quality, green homes in downtown Baltimore's Bromo Tower Arts & Entertainment District.

"Downtown continues to be the fastest growing neighborhood in the City," said Mayor Catherine E. Pugh, "and Mulberry at Park adds much-needed affordable housing to the mix, making the dream of living in the heart of the City a reality for a broader percentage of Baltimore's hardworking residents."

Mulberry at Park includes 34 one-bedroom, 27 two-bedroom and seven three-bedroom apartments with average rents at approximately \$750.

Designed by Marks, Thomas Architects and built by Harkins Builders, Inc., the development complements the historic architecture in the surrounding neighborhood, which has been the focus of substantial investment, including residential, retail, office, hotel, institutional and cultural development activities.

The development meets LEED Silver standards, which bring improved health, economic and environmental benefits of sustainable construction practices to the families who call Mulberry at Park Apartments home. The building includes water-conserving plumbing fixtures; advanced insulation and air sealing; green roofing; low VOC finishes; and Energy Star windows, HVAC systems, lighting and appliances.

"Affordable rental housing development supports



Mayor Catherine Pugh, City Council President Jack Young and other city officials, community leaders and property managers/developers celebrated the grand opening of the new apartment community Mulberry at Park in Baltimore City on Wednesday, February 15, 2017.

Courtesy Photo

positive economic growth, creates jobs, and helps revitalize communities throughout Maryland," said Secretary Holt. "The department's rental housing production has significantly increased during Governor Hogan's administration. We are proud to be partners in great communities like Mulberry at Park Apartments, which will provide much-needed housing for families and individuals with special needs in downtown Baltimore City."

The living areas are open and spacious, and each

apartment includes attractive and convenient features, including a washer and dryer, microwave, modern finishes and ample closet space. Community amenities include a cyber café, club room, study room, fitness center and an outdoor terrace area.

"Mulberry at Park benefits both its residents and its neighborhood by offering affordable downtown apartments in Mount Vernon, and convenient access to employment and cultural centers" said Chickie Grayson, president and CEO of Enterprise Homes.

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

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MSDE awarded \$750,000 grant from Kellogg Foundation

Baltimore— The Maryland State Department of Education's Division of Early Childhood Development (DECD) has been awarded a two-year, \$750,000 grant to implement a statewide early childhood family engagement framework by providing support to local organizations that improve young children's school readiness.

The new award from the Kellogg Foundation will allow Maryland's Early Childhood Family Engagement Coalition and the DECD to expand on their family engagement work, based on the goals and strategies embedded in Maryland's Early Childhood Family Engagement Framework. The Coalition and the DECD will disseminate resources and actuate the State's Communication and Technology Plan developed under an initial Kellogg grant awarded in 2015.

The Communication and Technology Plan allows Maryland to address the needs of parents with young children by utilizing easily accessible modes of communication, including text and social media. In addition, DECD will be partnering with the Council of Chief State School Officers to establish a consortium of states on family engagement to support other states in their efforts.

"By connecting to the families of our youngest learners, we stand a much better chance of sparking an interest in learning from the very start," said Dr. Karen Salmon, State Superintendent of Schools. "The generous grant from Kellogg gives support to our goal of making sure all our children enter kindergarten ready to learn."

The grant is designed to help service providers better recognize and meet family needs, keep parents informed and engaged in children's learning, and reduce the sense of social isolation for parents.

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF), founded in 1930 is guided by the belief that all children should have an equal opportunity to thrive, and works with communities to create conditions for vulnerable children so they can realize their full potential.

New dating app puts premium on non-negotiables

By Edward Henderson
San Diego Voice and Viewpoint
NNPA Member

First dates can be nerve-racking, but every once and a while, you get swept off your feet by the potential of someone you've met. The butterflies in your stomach are dropping deposits and applying for permanent residence, fantasies of travel, deep conversation and future plans are dancing in your mind.

While all of this is great, San Diego-based entrepreneur and life coach Angela Harris implores us to remember our "non-negotiables," before we jump off the cliff into an ocean of what we think is love.

To do this, Harris has created a new dating app called "Non Negotiable." The app asks users a series of important questions about the things that he or she refuse to compromise on when it comes to love and relationships and matches you up with others who share the same views.

"My whole desire has been speaking life into women and always doing it from a relationship standpoint and holding women to own their truth," said Harris. "It's all about you owning what you say is important to you and not settling for anything less than people who will respect and honor what your truth is."

The app, which is available now on



Android and will be launching a version for the iOS next week, opens with a questionnaire so that users can identify what's important to them in various categories related to dating and relationships. Along with the dating component, the app also attempts to educate people on the nuances of who they really are and to provide advice on how to become the best versions of themselves, before bringing someone else into their lives.

Another interesting twist to the app, that makes it different from others, is that users will not be able to upload a photo on their profiles. Harris made this decision in order to eliminate some of

the superficial mistakes that can be made while looking for a partner.

"People can easily get caught up in looks and not listen to what's being said," explained Harris. "With this app, users can know on the first day as to what the thoughts and views on certain things are instead of having trivial conversations without getting to the heart of who you really are."

Harris is entering into a \$2 billion industry with over 1,500 sites. The success of the industry has given her confidence that "Non Negotiable" will carve a niche even though she's never been on a dating app herself.

"I have never used a dating app," said Harris. "My goal of doing this is, because of the success stories I've heard from people doing it. It's a huge business [for] people who are meeting and connecting that way. I may even become more engaged with it as the app grows and speak from a different standpoint."

Harris has trademarked the phrase "Non-negotiable" and is the only person who can benefit financially from its use as a name of a business. She also plans on doing focus groups and driving traffic to the app via social media for feedback.

To learn more about Harris' app, visit: nonnegotiable.org.


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Baltimore Native Provides Healthcare for U.S. Navy Sailors

By Kayla Good
Navy Office of Community Outreach

San Diego— A 2009 Patterson High School graduate and Baltimore native is serving in the U.S. Navy at Surface Warfare Medicine Institute (SWMI).

Petty Officer 2nd Class De'Andre Martin serves as a hospital corpsman at the San Diego based training center. According to Navy officials, the institute's purpose is providing medical education, operational training and certification for medical, dental and fleet personnel ashore and afloat.

"I work as an administrative specialist for the Navy Drug and Alcohol Counselor School," said Martin. "I enjoy working for the school because I get to see the forefront of Navy medicine."

The sailors who are part of Navy medicine are the most highly trained, educated and specialized force in history, said Navy officials. The role of Navy medicine in preserving the healthy and fighting readiness of that force has never been greater or more critical.

"The Surface Warfare Medical Institute



Baltimore native Petty Officer 2nd Class De'Andre Martin serves as a hospital corpsman at the San Diego based Surface Warfare Medicine Institute.

Courtesy Photo/Navy Office of Community Outreach

teaches 13 courses to over 800 students annually," said Cmdr. Steven Parks, Offi-

cer in Charge of the Surface Warfare Medical Institute. "The training we provide

enables our Physicians, Nurses, Medical Service Corps Officers, and Corpsman to directly support the Navy and Marine Corps combat teams. The leadership, mentorship and influence that our staff has on our students is second to none."

Parks added that he is proud that SWMI's mission will have long lasting positive impact and benefits to Navy Medicine for years to come.

Martin says he feels honored to be able to serve at a command that is continually raising the bar in healthcare.

"My chain of command is extremely open minded to me trying to pursue anything I want to pursue," said Martin.

Those who serve in Navy medicine understand that they play a key role in meeting the missions of our armed forces, according to Navy officials.

"I am part of the one percent of people who choose to serve," added Martin. "Serving is a feeling of how America is truly designed to be. You work with everyone hands on no matter what differences you have. I think that is how our society's standards should be."

MATT DAMON

THE GREAT WALL

LEGENDARY

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WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY **JORDAN PEELE**

STARTS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24 CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES

American Legion, Chamber of Commerce hosts job fair for nation's veterans, service members

Washington, D.C.— The American Legion is hosting a U.S. Chamber of Commerce Hiring Our Heroes job fair and employment forum on February 24, 2017, for veterans, servicemembers and their spouses as part of the Legion's annual Washington Conference.

More than 50 local and national employers are expected to participate with jobs available for veterans and military spouses of all ranks and levels of experience. The job fair runs from 1 to 4 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 24, at the Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Ave., NW Washington, D.C. 20009.

Interested job seekers should register online at: www.hiringourheroes.org. Veterans must provide proof of service.

The event starts with the employment forum. At 9:30 a.m. an employment workshop for job seekers will cover a variety of topics including resume building, networking and interview tips. From 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., a financial literacy workshop for job seekers will cover a variety of topics including how to manage your money, create a budget, track spending, pay down debt and save for the future.

After the workshops, volunteer career coaches will be available to all job seekers who want to develop an elevator pitch, participate in a mock interview and create a more effective resume.

At 11:30 a.m., employers and job



seekers are invited for a networking lunch with a panel discussion focusing on veterans employment and recruiting best practices.

Other groups involved in the job fair include the Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS), the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Goodwill Industries International and NBC News.

With a current membership of 2.2 million wartime veterans, The American Legion, www.legion.org, was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, veterans affairs, Americanism, and youth programs. Legionnaires work for the betterment of their communities through more than 13,000 posts across the nation.

Annual MammoJam Music Festival Returns March 4th

Baltimore— The 14th Annual MammoJam Music Festival will be held on Saturday, March 4, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at Baltimore's famed 8x10. Proceeds will support local breast cancer screening and treatment programs for low income women.

This year's show has a distinct local flavor as Baltimore blues and funk band Spirit Parade featuring MammoJam favorite Ursula Ricks will headline the show. Brooks Long and the Mad Dog No Good returns on the heels of their hit single and WTMD #2 song of 2016, "Got Soul." They will be joined by South Baltimore's Roses n Rust with 33 West making their MammoJam debut.

Festival tickets are \$45 in advance and \$55 at the door and can be purchased at the 8x10 or at www.mammojam.org. Last year's festival sold out.

"What's makes our event so much fun is the way our neighbors and the local businesses come together with our bands to celebrate those touched by breast cancer," said festival founder Bill Romani.



MammoJam is proud to be working with great organizations like the Hoffberger Breast Center at Mercy Medical Center and the Breast and Cervical Cancer Center at Harbor Hospital to provide diagnostic and treatment services for uninsured and homeless women in the Baltimore area. Since 2009, MammoJam has funded a Translator at Harbor Hospital to help arrange screenings and review test results for Spanish speaking women. In 2016 over 400 women were served through this MammoJam funded program. Advance tickets are \$45 and can be purchased through at www.mammojam.org.

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Serena Williams, Muhammad Ali to receive Jesse Owens Awards

Fellow sports stars and Olympians will celebrate the athletes' outstanding achievements at the 2017 Jesse Owens International Athlete Trophy Gala on April 27, 2017 in New York City

New York— The International Athletic Association (IAA) announced that iconic tennis star Serena Williams and legendary boxer Muhammad Ali are the recipients of the esteemed 2017 Jesse Owens Awards. The prestigious awards recognize sports legends who exemplify the ideals embodied by Olympian and humanitarian Jesse Owens: integrity, perseverance and service.

This year's historic ceremony falls on the 81st anniversary of Jesse Owens' incomparable triumph at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, where he won four gold medals and defeated Hitler's superiority ambitions. Herb Douglas Jr., bronze medalist in the 1948 London Olympics and protégé of Jesse Owens, co-founded the Award program with Owens' widow Ruth and their three daughters in 1981. They saw a need to honor Owens and created this annual, charitable celebration where the biggest sports icons of yesterday and today gather to continue his legacy.

"Jesse Owens used the global stage of the Olympics and his status as a world-class athlete to make a considerable difference in the world," said Herbert P. Douglas, Jr., Co-Founder and Chairman Emeritus of the International Athletic Association Board of Directors and oldest living African American Olympian. "We are thrilled to be recognizing Serena Williams who is one of the greatest athletes of our time and the quintessence of uncompromising sportsmanship."

Williams, regarded by many, as the best player to grace the tennis court, will



be honored with the Jesse Owens International Athlete Trophy. The award is presented annually to the world's best athlete as voted by a group of electors consisting of sports writers and experts across the world. Serena joins the ranks of past Owens trophy winners Carl Lewis, Greg Louganis, Sebastian Coe, Haile Gebrselassie, Edwin Moses, Vitali Scherbo and Eric Heiden, among others.

Muhammad Ali, considered one of the most significant global sports figures of the 20th century, will posthumously receive the Jesse Owens Global Award for Peace. The three-time heavyweight, boxing champion's achievements in the ring were arguably exceeded by the symbol of peace and justice he came to represent outside of it. Over time, he became a revered international hero. In 1984, Ali was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and he passed away in June of 2016. His family will accept the Award in his honor.

The gala, a touchstone annual event celebrating the intersection of athletic achievement and ethical sportsmanship, will take place on Thursday, April 27, 2017 at Jazz at Lincoln Center. All proceeds go to the Jesse Owens Scholarship Fund at Ohio State and the Herb Douglas Jr. Scholarship at the University of Pittsburgh.

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

Annapolis Student Finds Success in Gymnastics, Online Schooling

By Stacy M. Brown

Sophia Handel, a 12th grader at George Washington University Online High School (GWUOHS), has been passionate about gymnastics since she was nine years old. The Russian-born gymnast and her teammates are ranked No. 1 in the United States, No. 2 in Europe, and No. 4 in the world for acrobatic gymnastics.

An Annapolis resident, Sophia credits her flexible school schedule at GWUOHS for allowing her the freedom to practice three hours a day, five days a week, and travel across the world while still receiving a high-quality education.

“I found that my junior and senior year at GWUOHS have been some of my best. This semester, I got the best GPA ever,” Sophia said. “All my teachers were really proud of me and my advisor is always on top of things with a weekly check-in which I find very helpful.”

Also, she says while away competing in Europe there isn't the stress of missing classes. There are live online sessions which help teach, review, and practice for classroom tests and quizzes. The sessions are recorded and posted each week, making it easy to catch up if anything is missed.

GWUOHS is an online public charter school that enables students to attend class anywhere there is an Internet connection. Online schools like GWUOHS are becoming increasingly popular among student-athletes, entertainers, and other students who require a more flexible schedule to accommodate their lives outside of the classroom, according to school officials.

It has been a major part of the success experienced by Sophia, who was adopted as an infant from an orphanage outside Moscow, Russia. Her parents are Larry Handel, president of Campus Travel Management Inc., a specialized travel consulting and data management company; and Rita Pavloff, a former speech pathologist, now stay-at-home parent who spends quite a bit of time behind the wheel shuttling Sophia to her practices each weekday afternoon.

In a previously published report about



*Sophia Handel (center) performs with her team mates Sara and Cameron in the USA Gymnastics Championships
Courtesy Photos*

Sophia, it was noted that many may have seen her image on posters advertising leotards and athletic clothing. She is the lead photographic model for GK Elite's Cirque du Soleil collection, and has modeled for Alpha Factor Competitive Gymnastics Apparel. Still, her passion is gymnastics.

“My trio just went to Karolyi Training Camp, just outside of Houston, Texas. There we trained with some of the best coaches in the U.S to prepare for an upcoming Vegas trip, which determines which groups will be selected for National Team. Our biggest goal is to make Senior World Championships 2018 in Belgium,” said Sophia, who's already been accepted to Towson University and Goucher college.

Included in the reasons Sophia and her team have earned so much success is the chemistry between them, she said.

“I would consider either Cameron, my base, or Sara, my old top, a sister. We always had great communication, we rarely fought, and we all were striving for the same goal,” Sophia said. “When

I was feeling down they always pushed me to be better. There were never secrets between us even though there was an age difference of three years. We were very lucky to find each other.”

As she looks toward another world ranking in gymnastics, Sophia said others who aspire in her field should consider schools like GWUOHS and follow their hearts.

“If I have learned anything through my acrobatic gymnastics career, it is truly to follow your heart. My coach said to me ‘I can't make you want it, you have to want it yourself.’ Those words have stuck in my head ever since,” she said. “Acrobatics is a team sport, so it is important that you all strive for the same goals. Never lose sight of what you want and never give up. If you are currently looking at GWUOHS or online schools I highly recommend giving it a try.”

“Joining K12 was one of the best decisions I ever made. It might be scary going from a public school with thousands of people to a computer screen but

there are still tons of clubs you can participate in,” Sophia continued. “Also, you are encouraged to make friends and what is even cooler is that some students live overseas. Most important perhaps, you're constantly reassured that you're on the right path by your teachers and advisors. It is something new and worth it.”





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UMD School of Nursing receives gift to provide scholarships, expand FNP program

Baltimore— A gift of \$2 million from Bill and Joanne Conway, through their Bedford Falls Foundation, to the University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMSON) will be used to provide scholarships to students in advanced degree programs.

This is the second seven-figure gift the Conways have given to UMSON. Their first commitment of \$5.24 million, announced in April 2015, was the largest in UMSON history. It is being used to fund more than 150 full scholarships for Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) students and to increase opportunities for registered nurses to obtain their BSN degrees through the School's RN-to-BSN program.

The Conways' most recent donation, the third largest philanthropic gift the School has received, will be used to fund scholarships for UMSON students demonstrating financial need who are pursuing master's, Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), and PhD degrees and the school's post-master's Certificate in Teaching in Nursing and Health Professions. Recipients of these scholarships, as with those beneficiaries of the Conways' initial gift, will be known as Conway Scholars.

In addition to funding scholarships, the \$2 million gift will also be used to assist in the expansion of UMSON's Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program at the Universities at Shady Grove (USG).



Currently offered only on the Baltimore campus, the FNP program is in high demand, but the school cannot accommodate all qualified students.

Expanding enrollment to the USG location will enable UMSON's FNP program to provide the region with additional well-qualified primary care providers. UMSON anticipates admitting the first cohort of students to the FNP program at USG this fall. Once the program is at full capacity, it will enroll an estimated 80 students annually.

"We are deeply grateful to the Conways for their unwavering commitment

to nurses and nursing education," said Dean Jane Kirschling, PhD, RN, FAAN. "Their extraordinary gift will allow second-degree students and nurses throughout Maryland to pursue master's and doctoral degrees, thereby helping us respond to the increasingly complex nature of our health care system and meet the changing needs of our diverse communities."

The Conways' gift provides an opportunity to expand the pool of master's and doctorally prepared nurses who in turn can serve as clinical instructors and full-time faculty in Maryland's nursing programs.

"Maryland has an acute need for more — and more highly trained — nurses," said UMB President Jay A. Perman,

MD. "This gift from Bill and Joanne Conway will be used to alleviate the state's nursing shortage in two ways: enlarging the pool of nurses who can provide primary care to Maryland residents and enlarging the pool of faculty and instructors who can train nursing students. I'm so grateful to the Conways — not only for their incredible generosity, but for their longstanding vision to create a robust and skilled nursing workforce that will ably improve population health in Maryland."

Consistent with national trends, Maryland's nursing programs are faced with faculty shortages due to retirements and differences between clinical compensation and faculty salaries.

Students selected as Conway Scholars will receive a scholarship that covers in-state tuition and fees. The scholars must remain in good academic standing and have expressed a commitment to serve as a clinical preceptor, teach as a clinical instructor, or secure a full-time faculty position within three years of graduation.

"Our initial gift has proven so successful in the development of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing at UMSON that we wanted to expand our scholarships to the master's-and-above level," Bill Conway said.

The Conways are trustees of the couple's Bedford Falls Foundation, which has bestowed significant nursing scholarships previously in the Mid-Atlantic region.

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The program runs from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays and 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturdays until Wednesday, April 12, 2017 in the Careers Building Room 326 at 101 College Parkway, Arnold.

"Our goal is to do 100 returns successfully, e-filed and accepted," said Reb Beatty, site coordinator, assistant professor in business administration at the college and an active CPA.

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EXPERIENCED HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR familiar with laser guided grading equipment or concrete screed machines. Good benefits, 401k and Group Health. Contact 410-256-2800 Ext. 327. EEOC

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DRIVE TRAFFIC TO YOUR BUSINESS and reach 4.1 million readers with just one phone call & one bill. See your business ad in 91 newspapers in Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia for just \$495.00 per ad placement. The value of newspapers advertising HAS NEVER BEEN STRONGER...call 1-855-721-6332 x 6 today to place your ad before 4.1 million readers. Email Wanda Smith @ wsmith@mddcpres.com or visit our website at www.mddcpres.com.

LINK UP WITH YOUR MARKET
Join the many who advertise in BSMG's classifieds.

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HOWARD COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS Kids Nearly New Sales I & II SAT., MARCH 11, 8a-1p SAT., APRIL 8, 8am-1pm Families selling their kids stuff, NB-teen spr & sum clothing, 1000s books, toy furniture and equipment FREE admission/food avail kidnearynewsale@aol.com Want to sell your kids Stuff! 12x12' space \$50

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PLACE AN AD in the Regional Small Display 2x2/2x4 Advertising Network - Reach 3.6 Million readers with just one call, one bill and one ad placement in 71 newspapers in Maryland, Delaware and DC TODAY! For just \$1450.00, Get the reach, Get the results and for Just Pennies on the Dollars Now...call 1-855-721-6332 x 6 or email wsmith@mddcpres.com

ULTIMATE BUNDLE from DIRECTV & AT&T. 2-Year Price Guarantee - Just \$89.99/month (TV/fast internet/phone) FREE Whole-Home Genie HD-DVR Upgrade. New Customers Only. Call Today 1-800-897-4169

WANT A LARGER FOOTPRINT in the marketplace consider advertising in the MDDC Display 2x2 or 2x4 Advertising Network. Reach 3.6 million readers every week by placing your ad in 71 newspapers in Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia. With just one phone call, your business and/or product will be seen by 3.6 million readers. HURRY...space is limited, CALL TODAY!! Call 1-855-721-6332 x 6 or 410-212-0616 email wsmith@mddcpres.com or visit our website at www.mddcpres.com

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