

## Barbara Reynolds to Speak at 'Tea in the Garden' fundraiser



*The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Committee will host Tea in the Garden at the Coretta Scott King Memorial Garden Sunday, May 7, from 3 to 6 p.m., to raise funds during the high tea to help pay off the \$25,000 debt incurred in building the first Civil Rights Foot Soldiers Memorial, which is located at Whitmore Park in Annapolis. (See article on page 19) Courtesy Photo*

# Not all wounds are visible!

By Donna Jacobs

Too often, mental health and substance abuse issues take a toll on the health of our community, causing pain and anguish and changing a family forever. For many years, these issues were among the least discussed but most prevalent, medical problems that affecting our family members, neighbors and friends. Unfortunately because of the real and perceived stigma these issues carry, they are widely considered or adequately addressed.

Approximately 1 in 6 Baltimore City residents report that their mental health was “not good” for eight or more days over the past month, according to the most recent data available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Doctors, nurses and other health care providers often find that people living with chronic disease also have a mental health and/or substance abuse issue, which can make their underlying medical conditions more difficult to treat. Thanks to concerted efforts statewide and across the country, mental health and substance abuse are now being discussed on more public platforms. To contribute to the ongoing conversation on mental and behavioral health issues, the University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS) and the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) have partnered to host “Not All Wounds are Visible: A Community Conversation



**Donna Edwards**  
Senior Vice President  
Government Regulatory Affairs  
and Community Health, UMMS  
Courtesy Photo

About Mental Health and Substance Abuse.”

Taking place on Tuesday, June 27, 2017 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the UMB Campus Center on 621 West Lombard Street in downtown Baltimore (across from the University of Maryland Medical Center), the event seeks to bring mental health and substance abuse issues to light, provide members of the com-

munity an opportunity to ask questions and share information about the challenges these issues present, and offer tools to address them.

All members of the public, including: parents, caregivers, family members and friends of individuals living with mental health or substance abuse issues, teachers, faith leaders, public safety officials are invited to attend to learn more about what mental health is and what it’s not, the importance of mental wellness, and principles of recovery that people can use to handle daily stress and anxiety.

There will be engaging discussions on topics including: Addiction and Substance Abuse; Mental Wellness and Recovery; Trauma and Violence; Mood Disorders; Maternal and Child Mental Health; Suicide Prevention; Depression and Anxiety; Domestic Violence; and Elderly Mental Health.

Highlighting the event is keynote speaker Kay R. Jamison, Ph.D., a psychologist, educator, best-selling author, and leading authority on bipolar disorder. Dr. Jamison, who herself has lived

with bipolar disorder since early adulthood, will address the myths and stigma surrounding mental health. Dr. Jamison personally struggled with severe mania, depression, and suicidal tendencies for decades, so she provides a unique insight into the clinical and non-clinical challenges of people with serious mood disorders.

The conference will also include an expert-panel discussion, breakout sessions, and a resource fair with a variety of vendors who work in the fields of mental and behavioral health. As a community partner, we believe it is important to elevate and broaden the dialogue on mental health and substance abuse with a focus on improving the overall health of our community.

For more information about the event or to register for free, please visit [www.umms.org/communityhealth](http://www.umms.org/communityhealth).

*Donna Jacobs is the Senior Vice President, Government, Regulatory Affairs and Community Health at the University of Maryland Medical System.*

**NOT ALL WOUNDS ARE VISIBLE** | A Community Conversation  
About Mental Health and Substance Abuse

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# Guest Editorials/Commentary

## Bridging education gap a top priority for black American parents

By Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.  
President and CEO, NNPA

All parents want the best for their children. We all acknowledge that attaining a high-quality K-12 education is probably the single most important factor that will determine the future life success of a student in the public school systems throughout the United States.

Yet, the reality for millions of black American parents in the U.S. is that there is a lingering educational achievement gap between black students and white students. This is why I believe that raising awareness about the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) among all parents, especially black parents, is vital.

This should be a national priority for all who stand for equality in effective high-quality public education for all students. Now that states have begun the tedious process to refine and submit their ESSA state plans to the U.S. Department of Education, black parents should increase their input into these plans in each state.

Recent national studies have pointed to what some researchers have concluded as “low expectations” about the academic achievement levels of black students being a major contributing factor to their underachievement in the classroom. Unfortunately, sometimes these predictions based on external research about black America can become self-fulfilling prophecies and mere justifications for the current educational disparities and inequities between black students and white students.

Black parents do not have low expectations about their children’s academic potential to achieve excellence and scholarship. Most black parents encourage and expect their children to do well in school. Black parents do have, however, low expectations about the priorities that state boards of education, as well as county and city boards of education, have presented thus far in response to the inclusive accountability mandates of ESSA.

Inclusion presupposes involvement. Parental involvement is a key factor that determines the effectiveness of our public school system. The National Newspaper Publishers Association is, therefore, pleased to join and to support all efforts that will increase black American parental involvement concerning ESSA and its implementation at both the state and federal levels.

Yes, black student K-12 educational achievement gaps that now exist in too many school districts in the U.S. can be bridged going forward, if there is a substantial and measurable increase in the consistent involvement of black parents at all levels of decision-making and public policy implementation of ESSA. Please pass this message to others that you may know who are likewise concerned about these issues.

The future of our families and communities is at stake. Our collective awareness and involvement can help to make a positive difference in improving K-12 education in America. I have faith that black American parents will once again rise to this challenge.

Learn more about how you can get involved with the Every Student Succeeds Act in your state at [NNPA.org/essa](http://NNPA.org/essa).

*Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is the President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and can be reached at [dr.bchavis@nnpa.org](mailto:dr.bchavis@nnpa.org). You can follow Dr. Chavis on Twitter @drbenchavis.*



## Community Affairs

### **Baltimore Teacher Network, WBAL to host Community Town Hall Meeting about Baltimore City Public Schools deficit**

Baltimore— The Baltimore Teacher Network (BTN), a Baltimore based charter school operator and WBAL will sponsor a Community Town Hall Meeting focused on the recent deficit of Baltimore City Public Schools and discuss ways to fund public education moving forward.

WBAL’s anchor Tim Tooten will moderate what promises to be an interesting discussion between panelists and school teachers from around the district on May 24, 2017 at the Baltimore Design School located at 1500 Barclay Street in Baltimore from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Panelists will include State Legislators; members of the Baltimore City Council; Baltimore Teacher Union representative; members of Baltimore City Public Schools Board; Dr. Santelises; and several other key stakeholders.

The overall purpose of the Town Hall meeting is to better understand how

BCPS arrived at a \$130 million deficit and explore how we will fund public schools in the future. A look at the expected recommendations of the recent Kirwan commission report suggest that the state look at the redistribution of state aid to schools as one possible solution to the funding gap. However in a January 9, 2017 letter to the Governor and State Legislators, Mr. Kirwan stated that, “this letter makes no recommendations for actions.”

Other suggestions from leaders in and out of the public arena suggest the need to increase City and State revenue by imposing new taxes especially dedicated to schools.

Both parents and teachers are very concerned about the future of education in this city while facing the potential of several hundreds BCPS staff layoffs despite recent

The commitments to address the district’s deficit by the city and the state fall short by a \$130 million. Therefore, the funding gap is still not closed. Many questions are still left unanswered but participants in this Town Hall are looking for answers.

## *Time for black fraternities and sororities to step up*

**By James Clingman**  
*NNPA Newswire Columnist*

Remember the scene from “New Jack City” when Nino Brown (Wesley Snipes) told Scotty (Ice-T), “This ain’t personal; this is business?”

And at the end of the movie, Scotty said to Nino, “This is personal,” as he proceeded to give him a beatdown. Well, this article is both personal and business. It’s a call to the Alphas, Omegas, Kappas, Sigmas, Deltas, AKAs, Zetas, Thetas, Iotas, known as the “Divine Nine,” and the fraternity I was apart of back in the 1960’s at North Carolina College at Durham (now North Carolina Central University), “Groove Phi Groove.”

The latent collective power within these organizations is mind-boggling. Their members are conscientious, which is demonstrated by their friendship and loyalty to one another. They rally around their members during crises; they support one another when they get married and have children; they work together, locally and nationally, on community

projects across this country. They even formed a national collective organization, The National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc.; the group’s stated purpose and mission is “Unanimity of thought and action as far as possible in the conduct of Greek letter collegiate fraternities and sororities, and to consider problems of mutual interest to its member organizations.”

I especially like the part about “mutual interests.” I know it’s a hard question to

The coffee is grown by family co-ops founded by Jackie Robinson’s son, David, twenty years ago. April 15, 2017 was the 70th anniversary of Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier in major league baseball; we can break the economic barrier by collectively propelling his son’s company to unimagined heights by purchasing his coffee. In case you didn’t know, Jackie Robinson went to work for a coffee company when he left baseball.

we could repeat it hundreds of times with other black companies, thus, creating larger firms that have so much business they would have to hire more employees. In the words of the soul singing group, Atlantic Star, “Am I dreaming?” Maybe I am, but it’s a great dream and I pray it will come true.

From what I observe among our social organizations, members of sororities and fraternities are the most conscientious; therefore, I am calling on the presidents of the Divine Nine to spread the word to their members to take this simple action step toward economic empowerment.

In addition, I want all HBCU student associations, Greek Letter organizations, and individual students to insist that their cafeterias serve Sweet Unity Farms Coffee. Now that’s really a no-brainer, isn’t it?

As I said, this is both personal and business, and I truly believe that our black sororities and fraternities can make it happen. With a little bit of money from a lot of people, we can accomplish a very personal and business milestone, one that our youth can look upon as an example of blacks utilizing our latent power rather allowing it to sit on the shelf and eventually expire.

Order your coffee at [www.iamone-ofthemillion.com](http://www.iamone-ofthemillion.com) (Click on the products tab.) No excuses, y’all. If you don’t drink coffee, give it as a gift to someone who does. C’mon, let’s do this.

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

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### ***“Black fraternities and sororities have the economic clout to power the next Black Renaissance.”***

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answer, based on our individualistic and proprietary approach to solving many of our problems, but what are the mutual interests among not only sororities and fraternities, but all black organizations? Is there one thing that all of us can and should do together without compromising our various missions and such? I believe there are several things we can do together, but reality tells me that all black people will never do any one thing together. So in light of that reality, we must come up with something that is simple yet powerful and will demonstrate our collective resolve, not just to the world, but to ourselves and our children. Keep in mind I said, “Simple.”

On the business side of things, this is a call—a challenge—to each member of the abovementioned black, proud, historic and venerable organizations to purchase at least one bag of Sweet Unity Farms Tanzanian Gourmet Coffee.

On the personal side, black folks are taking an Ice T beatdown like Wesley Snipes received, only ours is an economic beatdown, much of which we are doing to ourselves by not supporting one another more than we do presently. What could be more personal than family? Again, one simple solution is for our black sororities and fraternities, comprising millions of members around the world, to take this challenge personally and buy at least one bag of David Robinson’s coffee, a fitting tribute to his father’s legacy. By doing so, the world would witness a black-owned company, operating in Africa and the U.S., become a billion dollar firm virtually overnight, all because a group of conscientious black folks individually spent a very small amount of money on a black owned product. A veritable, black economic renaissance.

After accomplishing that simple goal,

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**The Baltimore Times**

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**Baltimore, MD 21218**

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

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# Aspiring museum curator selected for special KIPP program

By Stacy M. Brown

Bianca Hand, a graduate of KIPP Baltimore Schools, has been selected as one of 14 fellows to participate in KIPP's national Alumni Leadership Accelerator, a program that aims to equip former graduates from the nonprofit education institution for top leadership roles in their chosen fields.

The KIPP Alumni Leadership Accelerator counts as a nine-month, early-career fellowship for college graduates who completed middle or high school at a KIPP school.

The 14 fellows in the cohort attended KIPP schools in Baltimore, North Carolina, New York, Houston, Memphis, and New Jersey. All are people of color from under-resourced communities who were chosen for their drive and leadership potential, officials said.

"When I got an email to let me know I was accepted into the program, I was really excited," said Hand, a Baltimore native and a graduate of the College of Wooster, where she pursued a career in fine arts curation and museum administration. "It's hard to explain what this means for my future. I didn't know how much this would do for my career because others in the program are business professionals and I'm into museum curation."

Hand quickly discovered, however, that the program not only served to boost her career, but she says she was able to discern how it could be a springboard to personal success.

"It's been eye-opening to me on how I can develop as a professional within a professional environment," Hand said. "It showed me how I can tackle problems head-on and be more creative. There are solid lessons that I keep," she said.



*KIPP Baltimore Schools graduate Bianca Hand is one of 14 fellows selected to participate in KIPP's national Alumni Leadership Accelerator program, which aims to equip former graduates from the nonprofit education institution for top leadership roles in their chosen fields.*  
Courtesy Photo

The program's goal is to address the leadership opportunity gap that KIPP alumni face when they enter the workforce, particularly those in careers where individuals—like those in the program—are underrepresented in leadership.

Each fellow receives 12 to 15 hours of personalized, one-on-one executive leadership coaching, as well as ongoing networking and mentorship opportunities and peer support.

In a field with relatively few women of color in leadership positions, Hand

hopes to help institutions increase the cultural diversity of their staffs.

Hand's resume touts work in arts administration and development at several Baltimore cultural institutions, including the Walters Art Museum and the Handel Choir of Baltimore. Through KIPP's program, she has had the opportunity to connect with one of the few African-American women to serve as a chief curator and director for a major art museum.

"Bianca is a remarkable young leader,

and we are so excited that she has this opportunity to build her career network and skills," Marsha Reeves, executive director of KIPP Baltimore, said in a statement. "The Alumni Leadership Accelerator is making sure that more young people like Bianca have the tools and connections they need to make a real difference in our community."

Currently pursuing a doctorate at Johns Hopkins University, Hand says her goals include helping to create and implement strategic plans for institutions to develop and maintain culturally diverse staff members through programming, internships and fellowships.

Her interest in museums extends from the Walters Art Museum where two years ago she discovered, among other things curators focused on showing, that there are more than just Europeans in Europe.

"When I think of history, or art history of that time, people of color didn't exist but people who were controlling the narrative were those who had a lot of societal connections," Hand said, adding that she discovered the beautiful works of Africans.

Her work, along with another alum that attended KIPP's program has impressed officials at the nonprofit network of college-preparatory, public charter schools that educates elementary, middle and high school students.

"We're working to create pathways for our top alumni to accelerate their career trajectory," said Stephen Cockrell, KIPP's national Director of External Impact, who oversees the program. "We want our fellows to ascend to the highest levels of leadership so they can have an outsized impact on the world."

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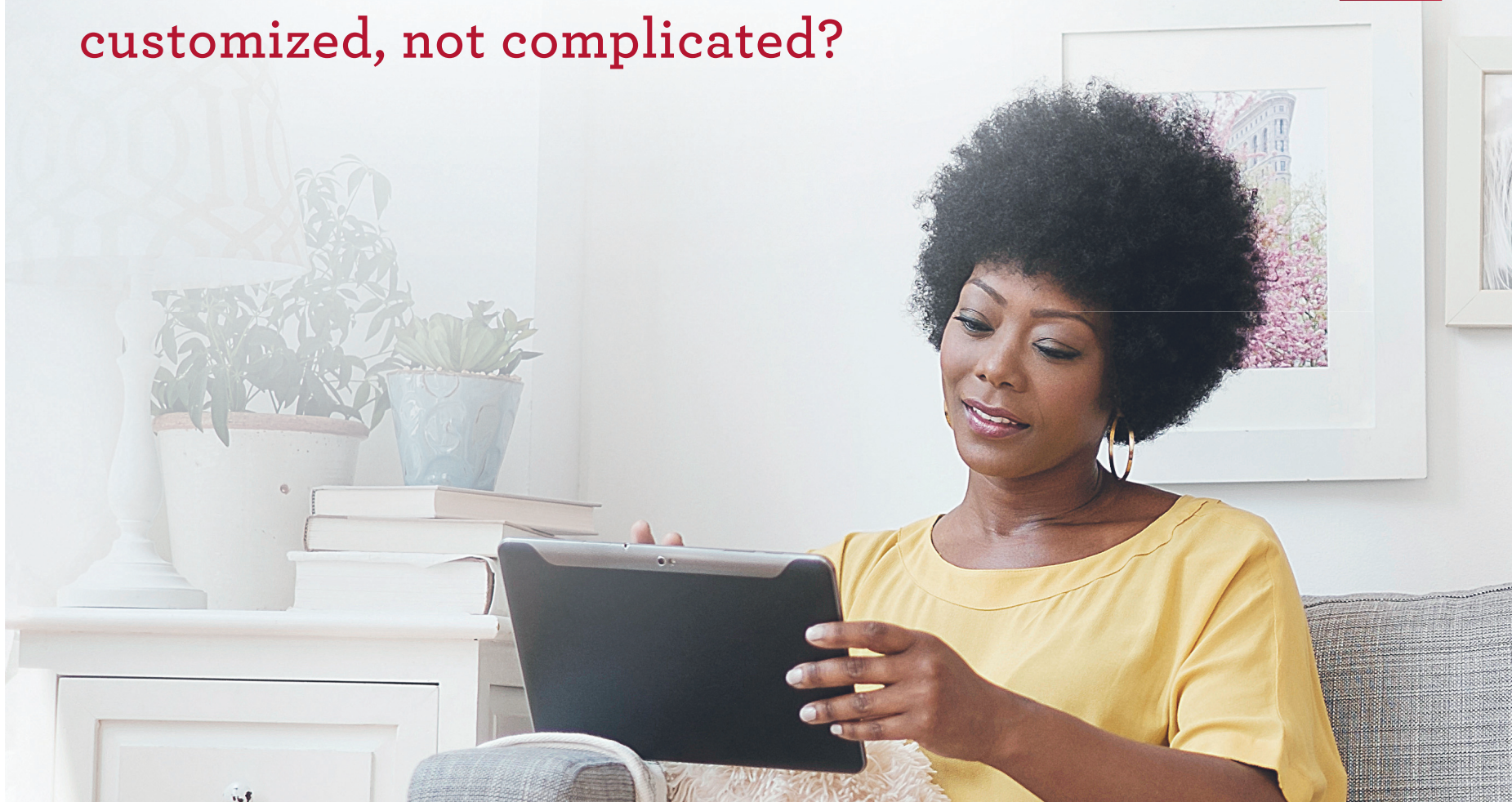
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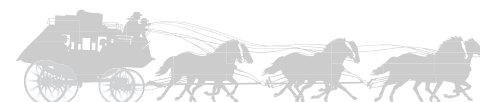
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# It's all in the family for new Ravens CB Marlon Humphrey

By Turron Davenport

Being the son of a professional football player can put a lot of pressure on a young man, especially when he plays football also. For new Baltimore Ravens cornerback Marlon Humphrey, the pressure was controlled during his early years.

Marlon's father, Bobby Humphrey was a running back for the Miami Dolphins, Denver Broncos and Buffalo Bills in the early 1990s. Marlon was not allowed to play football until the sixth grade, despite his desire to do so.

The excitement and love for the game mounted as he waited and waited to play. Once he was able to play, he knew he found something that he loved to do. He felt special when playing football—it's a sport that runs in the family.

"My whole family is pretty athletic and I have always wanted to surpass my dad—a great Alabama running back, NFL running back," Humphrey said at his opening press conference on Friday.

"My mom is a track star; my brother is a football star. Everybody in my family—it kind of seemed like a family competition. I would not really say it was pressure, it was just more family fun."

Marlon's older brother landed a full scholarship to Arkansas to play football. He wanted to be like his brother but took it a step further by following their father's footsteps to Alabama and now the NFL.

Initially, Marlon played running back just like his father. As it turned out, a position change was the right thing for him. Marlon wanted to be the one delivering the hits instead of getting them, so he switched to defense.

Following his father as a successful football player has placed its share of pressure on Marlon but he felt fully



Alabama cornerback Marlon Humphrey plays to the crowd before the 2016 National Championship game against Clemson. Humphrey was selected by the Baltimore Ravens as their first-round draft pick on April 27, 2017.

Courtesy Photo/AL.com

equipped to handle it. His father was there for him throughout the process.

"I guess when you have a dad that played in the NFL, it kind of seemed like he did not really give me that much advice throughout this process but he has kind of given me advice my whole life," Humphrey explained. "The things he seemed to tell me during this process I kind of already knew. I can remember all the way back when I was 10 years old, he was just telling me stories that he has had in the past— things he has done wrong and things that he has done right. Growing up, he kind of gave me advice my whole life, kind of for this moment. Having a dad [who] is always there and has been there, done that—I think it has definitely been a tremendous help for me."

The addition of Humphrey along and some of the free agent moves the team made should pay off this season for Baltimore. What was once an area for improvement is now an area of strength for the Ravens.

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# Entrepreneur's Toolkit



*Omar S. Mohammad*

## *Shaking the tree for leads*

As a business owner you are solving some type of problem or challenge that people have. By doing this, you are creating an opportunity to repeat that process. And out of that process comes, customers. Developing opportunities to get them (customers) to find you and you to find them is vital to your business success. Here are some keys to help you get started:

**Start at home.** When was the last time you reached out to your current customers? Have you talked with your current customers about whether they are still happy with your solution? Have their needs/challenges changed? If so, how can you help them? While helping your current customers with new challenges, asked them for referrals for the current challenges. In fact, if you have not already done so, ask for a testimonial (written, audio and video) from very, very satisfied customers. Use this on your website and repurpose on social media. Now, you are creating an opportunity for new leads.

**Resources to explore.** Get out of the office. This will allow you to see the landscape of opportunities for leads.

Consider these channels:

- Join a chamber or professional association. These organizations have meetings with members and sometimes allow guests to attend. Joining can allow you to meet other entrepreneurs with services that my complement yours.

- Join a referral group. Now depending on which group, this can be somewhat time consuming, but have big

payoffs if you are receiving warm leads on a weekly basis. Keep in mind that you have a two phase approach here—give and ask.

- Meetup.com. From their website, Meetup brings people together in thousands of cities to do more of what they



want to do in life. It is organized around one simple idea: when we get together and do the things that matter to us, we're at our best. Have a plan of action on which meet up to join and how much time you will spend. Reminder, your return on investment is to seek out opportunities for new customers.

- Exhibit your products and services. This is a great way to find leads, strategic partnerships, advisory board members and a way to get your company promoted.

**Next step.** Now that you have the information what action will you take. If you are ready to take action, create a relationship map. You can use either pen & paper or a digital device. In the middle of a sheet of paper, draw a circle with your business name. Draw lines from the circle. Label the lines: my network, organizations, centers of influence, media, complementary partners and online. Now find leads for each category.

*Omar S. Muhammad is an EN-TREPRENEUR and is the director & intrapreneur for the Entrepreneurial Development & Assistance Center at Morgan State University. You can reach him at [omarsmuhammad@gmail.com](mailto:omarsmuhammad@gmail.com).*

# Entrepreneur's Tech Tools



*William Mapp*

## Getting Work Done

When it comes down to it, the key to making real money is being able to get more work done, than effort and capital you expend. This is called gaining productivity. This month's column is all about helping you do that.

Being productive is a discipline. Software products and tools are no substitute for having solid and repeatable processes to fulfill orders for your customers, provide services for clients, or fulfill your mission. The products recommended in today's column aren't a replacement for being organized and deliberate about how you do business.

## Communications

There are many communications channels in today's fast paced world. Everyone has email that can often grow stale, many younger workers prefer text messaging over phone calls, and then there are the myriad of messaging apps like WhatsApp and others.

If you're looking for a business class communications tool for your organization, I recommend Slack.

The biggest benefit Slack has over other messaging tools is the easy and convenient way it maintains a history of your conversation. You can quickly scan or search through time for conversations, images, and links you may have shared with individuals or members of your team. Slack gives you a place for creating multiple channels for your team with the flexibility of chatting in-

dividually. Furthermore, Slack can host plugins that work with Trello and other tools giving you the ability automate communicating status across your teams.

## Measuring Progress

After communicating effectively, you have to track what you've done, right? We use two tools for tracking our progress at Studio. For task-based projects where we need collaboration on work products, we use Basecamp.

Basecamp is an easy to use application that works well for people who like lists. In Basecamp, you can create milestone deliverables that require multiple tasks to complete. You can set delivery dates for each task and use group think to comment on the deliverable with your teammates. Basecamp also provides the capability of inviting your customer into product development and allows you to share progress with them, or exclude them from specific conversations.

Trello is a simple task and progress-measuring tool which uses cards to outline steps needed to complete a task. If your business deliverables follow a repetitive order of steps, you can create new cards for your teammates to complete, and as they complete the task in each card, they simply move the card from left to right. They'll continue moving cards until the tasks are completed all of the way to the right.

Every business is different, but they all have similarities. We need to communicate amongst our teammates and accomplish work as rapidly and smoothly as possible. Slack, Basecamp, and Trello are some of the tools you can use to effectively communicate status, identify problems, and measure your productivity at a glance.

If there are productivity tools you can't live without, please share them with me and we might talk about how you get the job down in this column.

*William Mapp is the CEO of Studio Codeworks, Inc. and author of the Small Business Owner's Guide to Technology. You can send questions directly to him at [will@studiocodeworks.com](mailto:will@studiocodeworks.com), and follow him at [Twitter.com/WilliamMapp3](https://twitter.com/WilliamMapp3).*

# Entrepreneur Spotlight: Andre L. Vaughn

## Companies: DMV Warriors, Wakaya Perfection

By Omar S. Mohammad

### What's your entrepreneurial story? Why did you start your business?

As a second grade school teacher, I looked at the teachers who had been teaching for 30 and 40 years and they were very negative and they complained a lot. Then the school closed despite efforts from parents to keep it open. I then knew education was changing and it stopped being about the kids. Then one Sunday morning, I sat in church and heard a sermon that would change my life forever. The sermon was titled "If you want to walk on water you have to get out of the boat." I knew the message was for me because the pastor said, "you talking about you are a school teacher." It hit me like a ton of bricks. For me to truly make an impact on children and my community, I realized that I could not do it on a teacher's salary. So, I started several businesses, Wakaya Perfection and the DMV Warriors.



**Andre L. Vaughn**

### Your product/service helps people/organizations do what?

Wakaya Perfection and the Bula Fit product offers people a way to engage in

a Ketogenic diet safely to maximize fat loss. Our products promote a healthy lifestyle, which includes the benefits of both turmeric and ginger which are known to have benefits to your overall health.

The DMV Warriors are a semi pro basketball team within the American Basketball Association (ABA) and we are truly engaged in the community. During the 2015-2016 year, the DMV Warriors were named expansion team of the year. The DMV Warriors finished this season undefeated and are headed to the Elite 8 championship tournament.

Some of our community events include coat drives and providing toys for the holidays for local kids.

### What should we know about starting a business in your industry?

To start a business in this industry, you must be passionate about helping people. My goal is always to help others achieve their dreams and goals. In this industry, you also have to be coachable. With the success that I have had, with any major decision, I lean on my mentors who are proven in this industry, because there is always room to grow and learn.

### How do you stay focused on you, business, and other areas of your life?

I focus on my "why". You have to

**Website and emails**  
[www.dmvwarriors.net](http://www.dmvwarriors.net)  
[www.vpgrp.com](http://www.vpgrp.com)  
email: [info@dmvwarriors.com](mailto:info@dmvwarriors.com)

**Social Media links**  
Instagram @dmvwarriors  
facebook dmvwarriors  
Facebook Andre Vaughn

**Address, Phone Number**  
211 Pauline Drive #114 York  
Pa 17402 (717) 515-2114

have a big enough reason why you are in this industry. If your why isn't big enough you will get distracted by the "noes".

**What is your favorite business tool?**  
My marriage.

**What is your favorite business book?**

The 10X Rule: The Only Difference Between Success and Failure by Grant Cardone

**What is your favorite quote?**  
"Winning is a lifestyle."



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# A Mother's Story of Loss and Life - Part II

By Ursula V. Battle

*This is Part II of a Three-Part Series about A Mother's Cry. Founded by Millie Brown, A Mother's Cry is a foundation that supports mothers who have lost their children to violence.*

As of Monday, May 1, 2017, Baltimore had recorded its 108th homicide, including four people being murdered in an 18-hour span. However, behind the numbers and the statistics, which have garnered national news coverage, are the people. The young men and women—mostly young African-American males—who are being killed, and the grieving families left behind. The mothers who gave birth to them and now find themselves burying them.

Denise Green, whose son Joseph was killed in 2009, is one of them.

“My son was a chef at Phillips Restaurant,” said Green, holding a picture of her son. He was shot. At the time of the shooting, he was with a friend. The friend had a hit out on him, but my son didn't know. The shooting happened on November 3, 2009. He died on November 4, 2009, and we buried him on November 13, 2009.”

“His daughter was eight when he passed. He was 28-years-old and was also going to barber school. Relatives can die, but there is no hurt like you own flesh and blood dying. When it comes to someone taking your possession, it's hard. It was unbearable for me,” she added.

Denise Green turned to A Mother's Cry to help her cope with the loss of her son. Founded by Millie Brown, A Mother's Cry supports mothers who have lost their children to violence. Green talked about Brown, whom she and the other mothers in the group affectionately call “Miss Millie.”

“We are good friends,” said Green who also volunteers with the group. “It's really nice to have someone to talk to, and who cares. I have others I can talk to, but I like talking to Miss Millie. If I need something, she helps me. It's not always about financial stuff. I can call her anytime to talk, even on holidays.



*Denise Green holds a picture of her son Joseph who was killed in 2009.*

Photos: Ursula V. Battle



*Denise Green shows the tattoo on her arm in her son's memory.*

had to forgive him, because if I didn't forgive him, God would not forgive me.”

Green said she often speaks to groups. “I try to stay busy, and I have done a lot,” she said. “I often speak to other people through The Living Legacy Foundation. The other mothers that are a part of A Mother's Cry, along with Miss Millie, and me, also go to the jails to talk to the prisoners. We tell them our stories.”

Brown founded A Mother's Cry in 2007. “I have never lost a child,” said Brown who founded A Mother's Cry after personally witnessing the aftermath of the violence while working as an Operating Room Associate at Johns Hopkins Hospital. “But you don't have to lose a child to care about somebody who lost a child.”

Brown, who has since retired added, “I saw the aftermath every day, and all of this shooting and killing has to stop. It's so sad.”

Green reflected on the violence in the city that currently has Baltimore averaging a homicide a day.

“I believe a lot of this has to do with parenting skills,” she said. “A lot of these parents don't have parenting skills, and if they don't have parenting skills, they can't parent these children. We have two groups of children— one raised with morals, manners and goals. The other group of children are raised with no morals, manners or goals, and they go out here and steal, rob, kill, go to jail and come back home.”

She added, “If you don't put anything in them, you can't get anything out of them.”

The death of Green's son has given others life.

“We donated his organs,” said Green. “He saved seven lives.”

For more information about A Mother's Cry, call: 443-303-6289 or send an email to [brownmillie98@gmail.com](mailto:brownmillie98@gmail.com).

“What Miss Millie does for me and the other mothers is such a help. She takes us to get our nails done, to lunch, and out for other activities, and it really helps. It eases my mind. People grieve in different ways. I did not grieve when my mother passed. But when my son died, I started grieving for my mother years later. I am still going to counseling.”

Green said being a part of A Mother's Cry has helped her better cope with her loss.

“It's good to know I am not alone in this situation,” said Green. “I also counsel some of the new mothers coming in who have lost their children. I also went to court back and forth for three years regarding the person who took my son's life. It really took a lot out of me. But A Mother's Cry helped me through that process, and I didn't have to go to court by myself. It was hard, but I realized I

# The McKean Miracle:

## New park opens in Easterwood Neighborhood

By Deborah Bailey

Spring has come to the Easterwood neighborhood in West Baltimore and brought with it a bright new park for the community.

The Easterwood/Sandtown Community Park and playground officially opened on April 15, 2017, bringing a host of Maryland's political VIP's to Sandtown, including Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford, Mayor Catherine E. Pugh and an array of state and local public officials came to support the leadership of the Matthew Henson Community Development Corporation (MHDC) and The Parks and People Foundation. The community celebrated the transformation of abandoned lots and buildings into the "McKean Miracle" an outdoor recreation space for the neighborhood.

"I was here in August with Doc (Marvin Cheatham, president, MHDC). It was just an empty, derelict lot and a couple of abandoned buildings, and now we're back here just a little over six months later and it has been transformed into a beautiful park," said Lt. Governor Lloyd Rutherford. "We took care of it—the State took care of it."

The demolition of the lot in the 1400 block of McKean Avenue was completed in fall 2016 through Maryland's Project C.O.R.E. Initiative (Creating Opportunities for Renewal and Enterprise), a multi-year partnership between the State of Maryland and the City of Baltimore supporting blight removal and redevelopment in Baltimore. The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development then provided \$53,000 through its Community Legacy Project to help with revitalization of the property.

Baltimore Parks and People Foundation was chosen to facilitate the transformation of the space into the new Easterwood/Sandtown Park.

"The people of Easterwood wanted a new park and the department is proud to partner with Baltimore City, Parks & People and the Matthew Henson Community Development Corporation to celebrate the ribbon cutting for this



*(Top, left to right) Deputy Secretary, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, Tony Reed; Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford; Marvin "Doc" Cheatham, president, Matthew Henson Community Development Corporation; Parks & People Foundation Architect Sean Preston; and Leon F. Pinkett III, Baltimore City Councilman 7th District at the ribbon cutting ceremony for Easterwood Park on Saturday, April 15, 2017. (Above left) Matthew Henson Elementary School cheering squad participate in opening day festivities. (Above right) Dynasty Marching Unit-Descendants of the Challengers kicked off Easterwood Park opening celebrations.*

**Photos by Deborah Bailey**

wonderful project," said Tony Reed, Deputy Secretary, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development.

But the highest praise for West Baltimore's newest neighborhood park came from neighborhood residents who spent the afternoon of April 15 enjoying their newest green space.

"I think it's very creative, I think it's very positive in the community. I hope they continue to build more parks around here for the children and all of us to come out and not have to always sit in the

house, 'cause there's a lot of violence around here. There were vacant lots around here, but now this is very refreshing," Cierra Newsome, who brought her two children Nylae and Noyelle Bowen, age 4 to inspect the new park.

"It was love. That's how we did it. I raised my children in this community and to see this—we're blessed to see this park come into being and be able to do it," said Margaret Powell, secretary, Matthew Henson Neighborhood Organization.

The park covers the space of half a city

block and features green space, three large planting boxes, chess tables, a stage platform, and picnic and play areas.

"We are ecstatic to have worked with the Matthew Henson community on creating this community asset and look forward to seeing the space buzzing with family barbecues, chess tournaments and kids playing and having fun," said Lisa Schroeder, Parks and People's Foundation president and chief executive officer.

"It's our park now, it's our responsibility, said Marvin, "Doc" Cheatham, president of the Matthew Henson, CDC.

# Foundation seeks to find missing African-Americans

By Stacy M. Brown

Janelle Carwell has been missing since April 17, 2017. The 16-year-old African-American was last seen with her stepfather, Leon Tripp, at 1:30 a.m. in the 3100 block of Tate Road in Augusta, Georgia. Information suggests Janelle could now be in the Atlanta area.

Robert Branch, 28, has been missing since October 2, 2014. It was at about 3 p.m. while walking to North Avenue in Baltimore, that Branch was last seen or heard from.

Details of these two cases—and many others like them—can be viewed on the website: [www.blackandmissinginc.com](http://www.blackandmissinginc.com), the domain of the Black and Missing Foundation, which focuses on the crisis of missing African-Americans.

The foundation's founders say blacks make up just 13 percent of the U.S. population, but account for 37 percent of the missing in the FBI's database under the age of 18 and 26 percent above the age of 18.

Cases involving African-Americans also receive less media coverage than whites, with missing men of color receiving far less attention.

Derrica Wilson and her sister-in-law, Natalie Wilson, are working to bring them home.

“Not all missing persons' cases are treated the same. Missing persons from a lower socioeconomic status aren't given the kind of public attention needed that is critical their recovery,” Derrica Wilson said. “Media coverage and public interest are vital as they help keep the victim's face out there, increasing the odds that someone will come forward with needed information. And coverage also dials up the pressure on law enforcement to spend time and resources on the case.”

The race of a victim should not impact coverage and shamefully, it's often assumed by many that missing persons of color are involved in drugs or criminal activity.

“It's important that the public know that these missing individuals are loved and missed by their loved ones. They aren't nameless,” Wilson said.

Since it was founded in 2008, the foundation has helped locate more than 120 missing individuals. While many were not alive, it still provided some answers



*Derrica Wilson (left) and Natalie Wilson (right) founded the Black and Missing Foundation in 2008. To date the foundation has helped to locate more than 120 individuals and while many were not alive, it still provided some answers to grieving and devastated families.*

Courtesy Photo

to grieving and devastated families.

The foundation has created public awareness campaigns, spreading the word with pictures and profiles of the missing using print, television, the Internet and other media to help locate individuals.

“It has always been a concern to hear about the lack of news coverage regarding missing persons of color,” said Wilson.

The mission began after Tamika Huston disappeared from her home in Spartanburg, South Carolina, Wilson's hometown.

While Huston's family pleaded for coverage, a year later high school senior Natalee Holloway disappeared in Aruba and her story filled the TV airwaves and newspapers everywhere. A white teen's disappearance appeared more important than a black teen.

“That's when Black and Missing Foundation Inc. was born,” Wilson said.

“When we hear the term missing persons, most people conjure up images of Chandra Levy, Caylee Anthony or Natalee Holloway. As a result, the public is misled in believing that victims of abductions and kidnappings are blond, blue-eyed and female,” she said.

“Let me be clear, in no way are we trying to dishonor these individuals or their families. But, what about missing persons of color who do not receive the same around the clock local and national media coverage, like Phoenix Coldon missing since December 18, 2011, from Spanish

Lake, Missouri or Relisha Rudd who went missing from a Washington, D.C. homeless shelter in March 2014.”

Recently, numerous black women in the District of Columbia who were reported missing and most have been classified as

runaways by authorities have classified most as runaways.

However, FBI statistics have revealed that close to 40 percent of all persons missing in the United States are of color. Missing minority children equaled 65 percent of the total non-family abductions.

“Our mission is simple,” she said. “To bring awareness to missing persons of color, provide critical resources and tools to missing person's families and friends, and to educate communities of color on personal safety through training and outreach.”

While mental illness counts as one reason some go missing, black communities continue to be unaware of the magnitude of issues like sex trafficking, according to Wilson.

“Our children are being lured at an alarming rate. Many believe it's happening abroad and not in our backyards. Our goal is to bring all of our missing home, or to at least provide answers and, or closure to their families,” she said.

For more information about the Black and Missing Foundation, visit [www.blackandmissinginc.com](http://www.blackandmissinginc.com).

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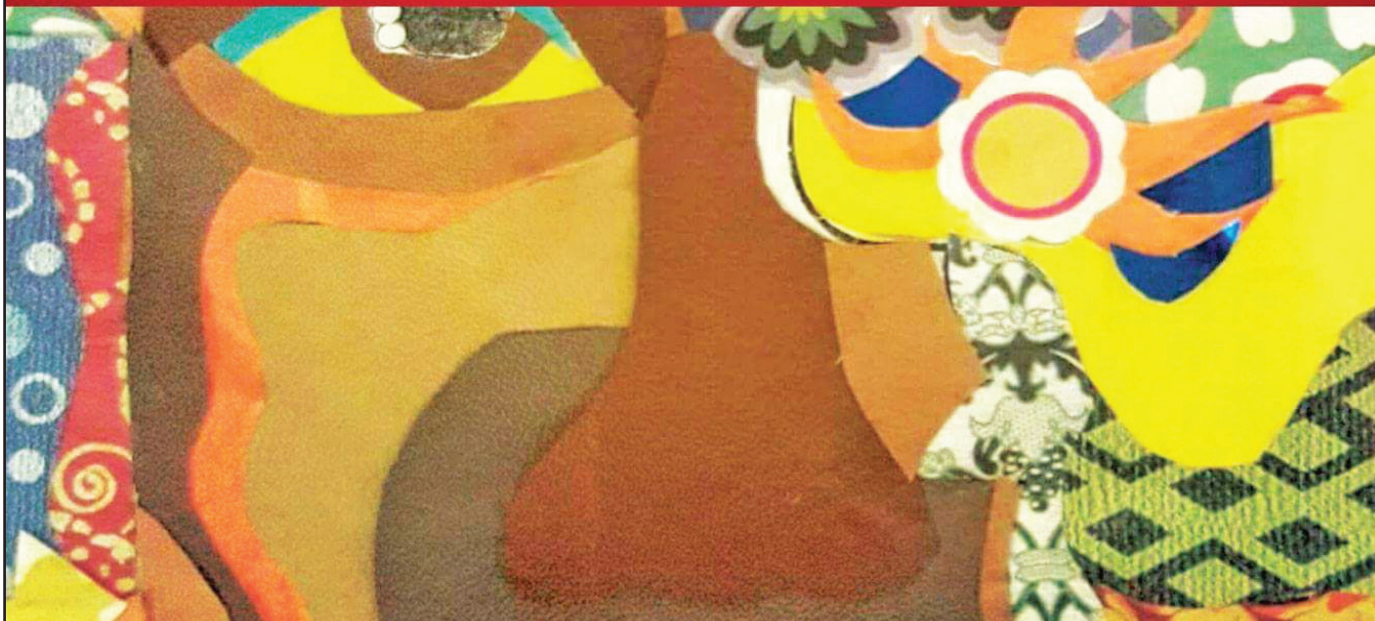


## CALL AND RESPONSE:

ART CONVERSATIONS - SALLAH JENKINS AND ALMA ROBERTS

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In the tradition of the musical liturgy of call and response, these two artists converse through their art and deeply rooted connections to their heritage and their passion for social justice.



## Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism now accepting nominations for outstanding Maryland volunteers

*The Governor's Service Awards recognize those working to change Maryland for the better*

Annapolis—  
The Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism is now accepting nominations for the 2017 Governor's Service Awards.

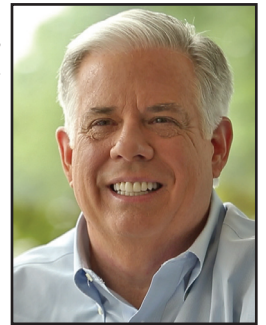
In its 34th year, the Governor's Service Awards honor individuals and groups for exemplary service and contributions to Maryland's communities.

New categories this year are Emerging Leader, focused on volunteers 18 to 30 years old, and Member of the Board.

Recipients of the awards demonstrate sustained volunteer commitment to meeting Maryland's most pressing human and/or environmental needs; engage in meaningful volunteer service that makes a measurable difference in the community; represent extraordinary acts of generosity and kindness; and through volunteerism, have an impact on the greater community.

Nominations must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Friday, June 2, 2017. A panel of community leaders, volunteers, and Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism staff will review the nominations, which will be scored and ranked based on the eligibility criteria listed in the nomination form. Each recipient will be notified of selection near the end of summer and invited to an awards ceremony in the fall.

To submit a nomination or to learn more about Outstanding Maryland Volunteers Awards, visit: <http://gosv.maryland.gov/governors-service-awards>.



**Larry Hogan**  
*Maryland Governor*  
Courtesy Photo

# Rambling Rose

**Look Out Baltimore!  
Back in the Rose Mobile again**



*Rosa Pryor Trusty*

Hey ya'll! I am doing great and ready to hit the road in my Rose Mobile. We've got a whole lot of live entertainment all over Baltimore. The weather is great and I'm ready to put on my sunglasses, sandals and straw hat. Now, fix yourself a cocktail, lay back, take your calendar out and take notes, or you can just follow me. Whatever you do, enjoy the ride.

This week we will ride over to the Patapsco Arena on Sunday, May 7 from 5 to 9 p.m. to see our comedian girl Ms. Maybelle get roasted thanks to my godson, Brian Hall of D.O.T Promotions & Entertainment. I know this will be a fun event for the adults. Also performing at this comedy roast is my "Grandma G", also known as Howard G; Larry Lancaster; Rickey Shackelford; Lonnie Davis; Travis Winkey; Timmy Hall; Dee Shaw Wesley; Ms. Bee: Big Shorty; Larry Young, radio talk show host of WOLB 1010 AM; and so much more. For ticket information, call 410-929-1360. I will see you there.

Oh! Tonight, Friday, May 5 starting at 8 p.m. we are going to be at the Bethesda Blues & Jazz Supper Club to catch a Motown Show located 7719 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, Md. Here, you can dance, eat and have fun, and catch a live Motown show that will blow your mind. For ticket information, call 240-330-4500. I have my ticket.

Now, we are driving over to catch our girl Cheryl Goodman's event Ageless Grace, a concert presented by Dance Baltimore at the Creative Alliance at the Patterson, 3134 Eastern Avenue on Sunday, May 7 for two shows, 4 and 7 p.m. Cheryl Goodman is not only the director of Dance Baltimore, but also the star dancer. For more information, call 410-370-8994. I am so excited to see this one.



**Kim Waters, internationally known saxophonist recording artist from Baltimore is performing at the Harford County Equestrian Center, 608 N. Tollgate Road in Bel Air, Maryland on Friday, May 12, 6 p.m. For ticket information visit: [www.universe.com/jss2017](http://www.universe.com/jss2017).**

Okay, follow me: We are heading to the Avenue Bakery on Pennsylvania Avenue and Baker Street where my dear friend James "Jim" Hamlin is the owner. Beginning May 6, he'll be dishing up a taste of live jazz with a Courtyard Music Series, from 4 to 8 p.m. This is a fundraising campaign to rebuild the Royal Theatre. Food and drinks on sale. Stop by and say hello.

Thanks for joining me, my dear friends. I had a BALL! I hope you did too. Until we meet again remember, if you need me, call me at 410-8339474 or email me at [rosapryor@aol.com](mailto:rosapryor@aol.com). UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.



**Members of the Big Sisters Club of Baltimore is hosting a "Pre-Mother's Day Celebration" featuring William "Smooth" Wardlaw and his band on Saturday, May 6 from 1-5 p.m. at the Forum Caterers, 4210 Primrose Avenue. Ticket includes buffet lunch, cash bar and a big show.**



**William "Smooth" Wardlaw, who sounds sing and looks like Luther Vandross, will pay tribute to the late Luther with his silky smooth voice for the Big Sisters Club Mother's Day Celebration at the Forum Caterers on Saturday, May 6, 1-5 p.m.**



**Lee Session & his staff of "Mr. Do Hair Design" will host his Black-Tie Formal party of the year named: "22nd Annual Client Appreciation Party" on Sunday, May 7, 4-9 p.m. at the Forum Caterers, 4210 Primrose Avenue.**





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**May is Motorcycle  
Safety Month:  
Everyone is  
encouraged to  
share road**

Hagerstown, Md.— The Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration (MDOT MVA) partnered with ABATE of Washington County to kick off a campaign focused on reducing motorcycle crashes in the region. Motorcycle fatalities statewide in 2016 increased to 73, up from 72 in 2015. To raise awareness about motorcycle fatalities, Governor Larry Hogan has again proclaimed May as Motorcycle Safety Month.

Each year in Maryland, an average of 70 motorcyclists are killed in traffic crashes and an additional 1,400 riders are injured. Half of the crashes involve a single rider crashes and are a result of speeding and/or impaired driving.

“It’s imperative that drivers and riders Share the Road,” said MVA Deputy Administrator Phillip Dacey. “These riders are our family and friends, and we need to look out for each other.”

“Motorcycle fatalities are easily preventable. I’m tired of seeing my friends die unnecessarily,” said Gary “Pappy” Boward of the Washington County Chapter of ABATE of Maryland. “Drivers must park the phone before they drive and look twice when making turns or changing lanes. These are simple ways to avoid tragic and unnecessary deaths.”

Awareness signs will be placed throughout Western Maryland to remind motorists to share the road with motorcyclists. In addition, MDOT will use television and web advertisements as well as social media to deliver this vital safety message.



Here are a few reminders for riders and drivers that will help save lives.

**Riders:**

- Make sure you have the proper training— to operate a motorcycle in Maryland, you must have a license.
- Be aware all times, and obey the rules of the road.
- Remember to gear up before you get on the road— wearing the proper gear can prevent serious injuries in a crash.

For more information, visit the MDOT MVA website here:  
<http://www.mva.maryland.gov/safety/motorcycle/protective-gear.htm>

- Don’t speed, and avoid aggressive driving behaviors.

- Always ride sober. If you drink, find a sober ride home— drinking and riding don’t mix; 40 percent of all motorcycle fatalities were alcohol related.

**Drivers:**

- Always look twice for motorcyclists— use your mirrors and look over your shoulder to ensure safety turns and merges.

- Avoid distracted driving— before you drive, park the phone.

- Watch your speed, and avoid aggressive driving.

- Provide riders with plenty of space— allow enough room for riders to maneuver and you to adjust.

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# Barbara Reynolds to Speak at 'Tea in the Garden' fundraiser

ANNAPOLIS—The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Committee will host Tea in the Garden at the Coretta Scott King Memorial Garden Sunday, May 7, 3 to 6 p.m., to raise funds during the high tea to help pay off the \$25,000 debt incurred in building the first Civil Rights Foot Soldiers Memorial, which is located at Whitmore Park in Annapolis.

The Rev. Dr. Barbara Reynolds will join the fundraiser as a special guest to speak about her new book, *My Life, My Love, My Legacy*, a memoir about Mrs. King. Reynolds was a longtime editorial board member at USA Today and also served as the Washington correspondent for the Chicago Tribune. The widow of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Coretta Scott King, carved her own niche in the movement for social justice.

The Coretta Scott King Memorial Garden is located at the Stepneys Educational Center, 137 Stepney's Lane in Edgewater, Md. Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased at the door. For additional information and advance purchase contact Arlene Jackson at 301-538-6353. The event is sponsored by the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Committee of Anne Arundel County.

The Foot Soldiers Memorial was erected in Annapolis in 2013, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington. The first of its kind in the nation, the two-and-a-half-ton granite memorial honors the 250,000 "foot soldiers" of the march—the ordinary citizens who marched in demonstration and risked the threat of personal harm to support the civil rights leaders who spoke that day. The memorial includes the names of more than 500 of those foot soldiers.

"We are so proud of the citizen's efforts to help us pay down this debt in order to honor those civil rights activists who came long before us," said Carl Snowden, chair of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Committee. "Holding the event at the Coretta Scott King Memorial Garden will be a delight, as the garden is one of the crown jewels of our community. With Mrs. King's daughter's [Dr. Bernice A. King] blessing, we opened the garden in 2011. We are so grateful to Mrs. King for her dedication to the civil rights movement, and we are also honored to celebrate the anniversary of her 90th birthday at this event."

The garden honors Mrs. King's lifetime of nonviolent civil rights work and accomplishments that brought to fruition the efforts of Sojourner Truth and Frederick Douglass more than a century ago. Anne Arundel County and Annapolis have historically been home to black residents—slave and free. Frederick Douglass' son, Charles, founded the Highland Beach community. Nearby Sparrow and Carr's Beach were performance venues that hosted famous black artists for much of the last century. The Banneker-Douglass Museum on Franklin Street honors the history and achievements of the city's African American residents throughout the years.



*Reverend Dr. Bernice A. King, pictured at the dedication of the Coretta Scott King Memorial Garden in 2011. Courtesy Photo*

"I initially got involved with the Coretta Scott King memorial because I personally knew what a fine and dedicated person she was from the days I knew her in Atlanta," said Joanna Hanes-Lahr. Hanes-Lahr, who is on the Annapolis-based MLK Committee, lived in Atlanta for years and was friends with Mrs. King—the two often went to the opera together. "I felt it was time somebody said she was special, as she was key to the nonviolence movement. Few realize how tough it was to establish the King Center for Nonviolence Social Change, to organize the lobbying efforts for civil rights, the voting rights bills, and finally, the King federal holiday. Still, she persisted," said Hanes-Lahr.

Among many other accomplishments, Mrs. King was the driving force behind the Atlanta-based Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change. As the founding president, chair, and chief operating executive officer of the Center, she dedicated herself to provide local, national, and international programs that have trained tens of thousands of people in nonviolent philosophy and methods. The recipient of more than 50 major awards and honorary doctorates from

more than 40 colleges and universities, Mrs. King authored *My Life with Martin Luther King, Jr.*, in 1969 and edited a book of her husband's writings, *The Words of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, which was published in 1983.

The Annapolis-based Martin Luther King Jr. Committee Inc., was founded in 1988. It has placed three memorials to the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. in Anne Arundel County, all of which are funded by private donations. A bronze statue of King was erected at Anne Arundel Community College in 2006 after the Committee raised more than \$250,000. In 2011, the Committee dedicated a plaque and garden tribute to Dr. King's wife, Coretta Scott King, at Sojourner Douglass College in Edgewater, Md. In 2013, the Committee erected a monument in Annapolis to the Civil Rights Foot Soldiers, who marched in the famous 1963 I Have A Dream civil rights March on Washington.

For those unable to attend but wishing to make a contribution, please send checks to the MLK Committee, PO Box 371, Annapolis, Md., 21404, attention: Fred Howard, Treasurer.

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# Bay advocates applaud full funding for Chesapeake Bay

*The Recent Omnibus Bill Secures \$73 Million for Chesapeake Bay Restoration and Protection*

Annapolis— To avoid a government shutdown, the White House has announced that the President will sign the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2017, which designates \$73 million in funding for the Chesapeake Bay Program. This comes on the heels of the release of the President's proposed budget for fiscal year 2018, which recommended a complete defunding and shutdown of the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort.

For the past eight years, the Choose Clean Water Coalition, a nonprofit organization made up of over 225 local, state, and national groups from all six states in the Chesapeake watershed and the District of Columbia, has worked with members of Congress to help secure this essential funding for the Chesapeake Bay clean up. In early April, the Coalition met with members of Congress to discuss how important the funding is for not only the Chesapeake Bay but local communities around the watershed.

"The Coalition wants to thank our members of Congress who have been champions of the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort and helped to secure

this funding for the Bay," said Chante Coleman, director of the Choose Clean Water Coalition. "With this support, our members will be able to continue to implement on the ground restoration projects that reduce pollution in our rivers and streams and protect the water that we drink."

Two thirds of the \$73 million that the Program receives goes directly to support state and local level projects in the watershed states. In 2016, Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania received more than \$10 million each, funding projects that include planting trees, creating habitat, reducing pollution from agriculture, and increasing crab and oyster populations.

"Our progress in restoring the Chesapeake Bay results from the steadfast commitment of many important partners working together toward shared goals. The federal government needs to represent the strong and stable base on which the effort is built, and our commitment must not be allowed to waver," said Senator Cardin. "Congress soundly rejected the recently proposed elimination of federal funding to the Chesapeake Bay Program and related efforts because nearly every elected official in the watershed, regardless of political party affiliation, knows and appreciates what the Bay provides us— strong local economies; flourishing wildlife populations; recreational opportunities; [and] our regional identity. But let the recent threats remind us just how diligently we must all continue working together as partners to ensure that the federal government's dedication to the Chesapeake Bay remains the bedrock of the restoration effort."

## Food Safety Tips for Kitchen Confidence

Washington, D.C.— With spring renewal upon us, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service invites home cooks to gain kitchen confidence by refreshing their perspectives on food safety.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that each year approximately 48 million Americans suffer from foodborne illnesses, leading to 128,000 hospitalizations and 3,000 deaths. Many of these illnesses can be prevented by changing behaviors in the kitchen and gaining a little kitchen confidence.

Kitchen confidence is simply the confidence in your ability to safely prepare delicious meals for your loved ones and yourself. Even armed with grandma's best recipes, the most experienced cooks can unknowingly make food safety mistakes that can make people sick. So this spring, be confident in your food safety skills by accessing the following resources: FoodSafety.gov, the Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-888MPHotline and the FoodKeeper app.

Throughout the spring you'll find blogs, roasting charts, storage guidance, and the latest news on food recalls at FoodSafety.gov. You'll also have access to a wealth of expertise to help tackle any food preparation challenge.

Among the many tools available on FoodSafety.gov is the FoodKeeper. It's available on the website, and as a mobile app for smartphones and tablets. With more than 100,000 downloads onto Android and iOS devices, the FoodKeeper is quickly establishing itself as the go-to quick reference guide



for safe food storage. Available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, the FoodKeeper helps limit food waste by providing storage information on more than 400 food items, including produce, baby food, dairy products, eggs, meat, poultry, and seafood. The FoodKeeper also offers customizable notifications that sync with smartphone calendars to remind users when it is time to use, freeze or dispose of products.

Protecting families from foodborne illness is one of the Food Safety and Inspection Services' primary goals. Our food safety specialists on our Meat and Poultry Hotline can personally answer your food safety questions on weekdays year-round. The hotline receives more than 50,000 calls annually. This toll-free telephone service, which began July 1, 1985, helps prevent foodborne illness by answering questions about the safe storage, handling and preparation of meat, poultry and egg products.

This spring, get that kitchen confidence back. Visit FoodSafety.gov.

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