

# THE BALTIMORE TIMES

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## Lifelong Baltimorean Leads Rebuilding Together Baltimore



*Since 1989, Rebuilding Together Baltimore (RTB), has mobilized more than 20,000 volunteers to repair hundreds of homes in the city and county, serving low-income seniors, families and individuals with disabilities who live in the area. The nonprofit's goal remains to make homes warmer, safer and drier. A Community Resource Fair held September 9, 2017 at The Church of the Redeemed of Our Lord on York Road was the official kick-off to "Building a Healthy Neighborhood," a multi-day home repair and community revitalization extravaganza. (Above): Candace Handy, Program Manager for Rebuilding Together Baltimore says, "With other partners from the community, we are working to improve the lives of the residents of Baltimore starting at home. Since 1989, we have worked in over 1,400 homes in 35 neighborhoods." (See articles on pages 10-11) Courtesy Photo*



# Practicing gratitude can change your life

By Shayma Sulaiman, *The Nucleus, Positively Caviar, Inc.*

With everything going on in the world, it's easy to get distracted and become fully immersed in the negative aspects that are taking place. As we think about what is happening in the present world, we could rack our minds with all the injustices, natural disasters and tragedies that are happening. Doing so can put us in a pessimistic downward spiral.

Try moving all of that energy into all the good that is happening in your life. Gratitude is one of the most important keys to unlocking a bountiful life. Being grateful for what you have and the people who surround and support you will open the door to a life of success. Gratitude is a powerful tool that can have revolutionary effects on your life.

Even though you know the word "gratitude," what does it really mean? It's a term that recognizes the awareness of being thankful. It is becoming aware of and grateful for the good things that happen in your life. It is you taking the time to express appreciation and return the kindness. It is also you acknowledging the benefits without communicating it to another individual. It's something that can be felt within at times.

Being grateful is more than saying thank you. When you express gratitude, it can lead to a stronger sense of well being, and it may make you more resistant to stress.

It's different from other emotions because it is a learned concept. The great thing about it is, it can be taught and it's

never too late to master how to express gratefulness. When you focus on being appreciative for what you have and the people who positively impact your life you'll start to concentrate on those aspects solely. You will start to focus so much on the good that is happening in your life that you won't think about what is lacking. It can change your mindset and outlook for the better. Expressing gratitude will, in turn, make you feel good. It will make you realize what matters in life.

Life is not about materialistic items. Life is about surrounding yourself with good people, helping others, going on adventures, growing and accomplishing your wildest ideas.

There are infinite amounts of ways to express gratitude outwardly. Listed below are five different ways in which you can express gratitude:

**1. Use words to impact others positively.** It's so easy to give compliments or verbally acknowledge someone when they are doing a good job. This positive reinforcement not only recognizes the good that is going on but it also makes the other person feel good about them self. Be detailed in your appreciation and thoughtful.

**2. Journal your blessings.** With everything going on in life, it's entirely understandable to forget the things you appreciated that day. Take some time at the end of each day to write down what you cherished. You can refer to your journal whenever you are feeling down to remember how blessed you are. It's also an awesome way to see how you



*"The Nucleus" of Positively Caviar, Inc. (Left to right) Jean Claude Louis-Charles III, Shayma Sulaiman, Nikki Abraham and Chazz Scott*

Courtesy Photo/Positively Caviar

have progressed over the years.

**3. Smiling is Contagious.** Have you ever passed a stranger on the street walking in the opposite direction and they were enthusiastically smiling at you? I'm sure it instantaneously made you feel good, and in turn made you grin. The transfer of energy can be contagious. Make sure you are putting out positivity and light.

**4. Make it a point to volunteer.** We're all fortunate in some way. Find something you are passionate about and volunteer your time. Doing so will not only help others, it will also make you feel good.

**5. Don't complain.** When something terrible happens, it's natural to want to complain about it. But every time you complain, you reinforce a negative state of mind without offering a plausible solution to the problem. Instead, next time you feel aggravated, take a few

deep breaths and try focusing on something positive.

These are just a few ways to show gratitude. The list is ever-growing and may vary depending on the person. The most important thing is to teach others and to work on growing your appreciation for what life has to offer.

*The non-profit Positively Caviar, Inc. focuses on intensifying the message of positivity and optimism in our digitally centric lives in the Mid-Atlantic region. Once a month our Nucleus Team offers a column focused on mental and physical health tips, scientific studies, nutrition facts and stories that are positive in nature to support a purposeful and positive lifestyle. To learn more about Positively Caviar, the nucleus team or how to join our positive movement, visit: [www.staybasedandpositive.com](http://www.staybasedandpositive.com).*

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# Guest Editorials/Commentary

## Harvey, Irma and 911, We Can Replace the Stuff

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Hurricanes Harvey and Irma have been bad news to all in their path. Sadly, lives have been lost, houses demolished and personal items blown or washed away. Such horrific acts of nature remind us that we are all fragile and vulnerable. The right wind and rain can wash everything away including us— and people we love.

We love our stuff. We store it. We hoard it. We want to pass it on to our children and grandchildren. There are storage facilities being built almost everywhere in America because we love our stuff so much. Harvey and Irma remind us again that our greatest assets are our lives and the people we love. If we have our health, safety and valued people in our lives then everything is either secondary or worthless in perspective to life and people.

None of us wants to see our houses floating down a river or covered up by trees to never be lived in again. We don't want to lose our photographs and everything we have worked so hard to buy and we cherish. Such loss is excruciating. However, it's stuff and stuff is never forever.

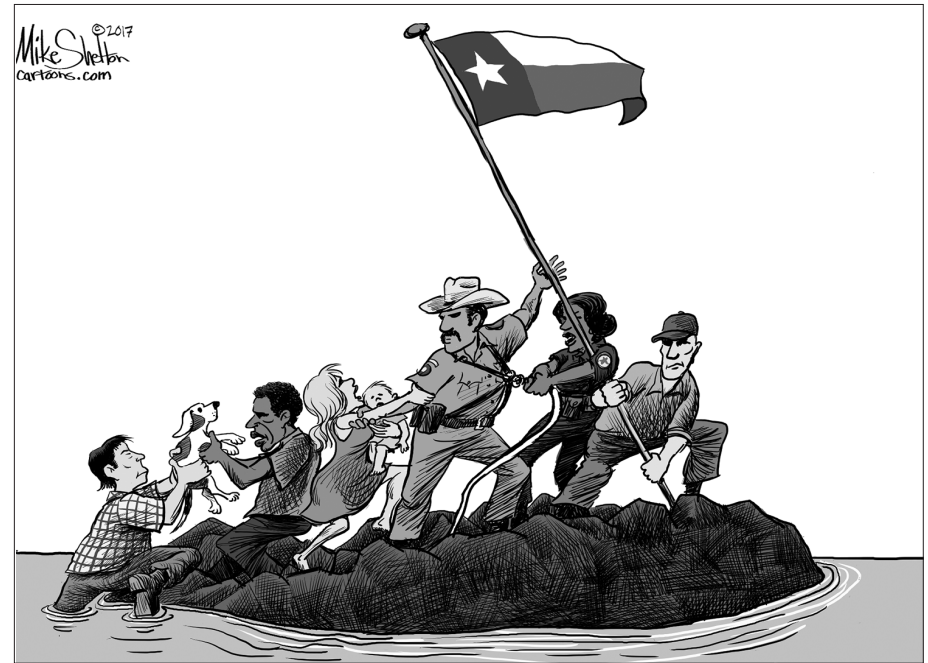
I recognize there is much about this planet that seems to last forever. There is a huge rock formation above my old home place that we always called Buzzard Rock. It was a fun place to climb and play as a kid. I can't see or tell where that rock has changed one bit over the last sixty years. It looks the same to me. I suspect a hundred years from now it will look much the same and another generation of people will have walked or played on that rock and passed on, while Buzzard Rock will remain for many others to come by for fun and play.

September 11 is once again here. Those of us who lived through that day will never forget the crumbling of the twin towers in New York. A new incredible building called the One World Trade Center has been built and is phenomenal. The tragedy of that day, is that so many innocent lives, were snuffed out by evil people. Those hardworking good American people are no longer with us and nothing can replace them. We remember them and their value to us all.

People are suffering in America today, from the people of Texas to all over Florida, Georgia and to all who remember September 11, 2001. However, it doesn't have to be a hurricane or act of terrorism to shake our very lives. Often, it's the everyday occurrences of life that sometimes go unnoticed by the masses of people round us. Often, it's the death of an aging parent or the sudden loss of a young adult that shakes our lives. A person overdosing and dying from drugs breaks our hearts or it's the man or woman we read or hear about who can no longer cope with the difficulties of life.

Take time today to value who and what really counts. Cherish those around you and help those you can. We can replace the stuff— it's the people that we can't!

*Glenn Mollette is a syndicated columnist and author of 12 books. His column appears in all 50 states. You may contact him at GMollette@aol.com. Learn more at: [www.glennmollette.com](http://www.glennmollette.com).*



## Community Affairs

### NNPA Celebrates the Living Legacy of Dick Gregory

By Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.  
President and CEO of the NNPA

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) pauses to express our heartfelt condolences to the family of Dick Gregory, and to express forthrightly on the public record our profound and enduring love, respect, and salute to the living legacy of Dick Gregory.

At no time in our 400-year travail and struggle for freedom, justice and equality have we been more blessed, as people, to have in our midst a freedom-fighting leader and visionary like our brother and comrade, Dick Gregory.

Brother Gregory's avant-garde leadership in civil rights, entertainment, journalism and entrepreneurial development will always be remembered and cherished by generations to come. African Americans, in fact all people of African descent, as well as all people who have felt the cold, damp hands and wretchedness of racism and oppression will be forever inspired by the example of courage embodied by the commitment and activism of Gregory.

During the past six decades, Dick Gregory, would periodically write columns, essays and editorials for the Black-owned newspapers of NNPA members across the nation. His pen and his voice were always on the side of the oppressed who dared to speak up and stand up for freedom. Today, in Dick's memory, we all are obligated to do no less. Every breath that we take, we should gain more and more strength to speak truth to power and to stand against all injustice.

Dick Gregory made us smile, while simultaneously stimulating the irrepressible desire to fight for freedom without compromising the values of integrity, honesty and self-determination. In my own personal life-commitment to the freedom movement, Dick would always remind me not to permit the contradictions of society to break our spirit of unity and purpose.

Therefore, on behalf of Dorothy R. Leavell, the chairman of the NNPA, and all the 211-member publishers of the NNPA, we acknowledge that we will miss Dick Gregory, but we will not forget him. We will not forget his tenacity. We will not relent in using the audacity and clarity of his devoted life to the uplift of all humanity. Long live the spirit of Dick Gregory!

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## *It will take more than ESSA to save black children!*

*By Lynette Monroe*  
*NNPA ESSA Program Assistant*

*It's time for black parents to stand up for the future of their children!*

Last week, late nights, family road trips, and endless leisure came to an abrupt halt as children across the country headed back to school. This year, however, there is something else that requires adjustment besides early mornings and evening homework assignments. This year, a revised national education law goes into effect: the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). ESSA is the reauthorization of the 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) signed into law by Barack Obama in 2015.

ESEA included landmark legislation such as the Adult Education Act (1966), which provided funding for supplemental education centers and mandated educational programming even during "out-of-session" periods for isolated and rural areas; the Women's Educational Equity Act, which protected women and

girls from discrimination in education; ESEA also included protections for those who suffer from discrimination based on race, ethnicity, or disability. ESEA has been updated every five years since it was signed into law.

The original intention of ESEA was to provide equal access to quality education, emphasize high standards and accountability, authorize funds for pro-

In 2003, a study by Harvard's Civil Rights Project found that schools were more segregated in 2000 than in 1970 when busing for desegregation began. So we see, that laws alone will not fix decades of restricted access and rationed opportunity. We also can conclude that without a watchful eye we are bound to repeat history.

During an interview at the University

of California Berkley on October 11, 1963, Malcolm X said that if the government, "really passed meaningful laws, it would not be necessary to pass any more laws. There are already enough laws on the law books to protect an American citizen. You only need additional laws when you are dealing with someone, who is not regarded as an American citizen."

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***"The goal of the 2015 reauthorization of ESEA is equity, but so was that the goal in 1965. A major component of both the 1965 ESEA and ESSA as the 2015 reauthorization is parental involvement.***

***We must be the change we want to see.***

***Laws are an opportunity to hold our leaders accountable. We must hold ourselves accountable for the academic success of our children."***

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essional development, design effective instructional materials, provide supplemental education programs, and promote parental involvement.

Previous reauthorizations include the now infamous No Child Left Behind (NCLB), signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2001. ESSA replaces NCLB.

Education has been hailed the "new civil rights issue." However, as we know, all too well, a law alone will not save us. The unanimous decision in Brown v. the Board of Education occurred in 1954; it was not until 1988 that school integration reached an all-time high with 45 percent of black students attending majority-white schools.

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# BGE promotes STEM Education at Mergenthaler High School

By Stacy M. Brown

Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) employees paid a visit to Mergenthaler High School on Hillen Road in the city to push careers in science, technology, engineering and math—or STEM.

“BGE is committed to educating young people about careers in the energy industry,” Denise Galambos, vice president of human resources for BGE said in a statement issued by the company about its September 8 visit to the school commonly known as Mervo.

Students studying engineering, construction, computer-assisted design, and automotive technology were the focus of the event, which counts as part of BGE’s series of welcome back to school activities occurring throughout September.

The company refers to the activities as “STEMtember,” where they engage students with an emphasis on encouraging them in STEM fields.

“Careers in STEM offer exciting, innovative and challenging opportunities for students to pursue,” Galambos said. “We want to ensure that students in our central Maryland service area are prepared for and are aware of the possible future job opportunities that may await them within BGE.”

Several published reports recently noted that college graduates who focused on STEM fields would likely make the highest annual starting salaries.

A 2016 report from the National Association of Colleges and Employers noted that half the employers surveyed said they planned to hire graduates with bachelor’s degrees in STEM fields, making them the most sought-after candidates entering the job market.



*BGE employees visited Mergenthaler High School where they discussed careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) on Friday, September 8, 2017, as part of STEMtember, BGE’s series of “Welcome Back to School” activities throughout the month of September. BGE is committed to educating young people about careers in the energy industry—specifically, careers in STEM. BGE wants to ensure that students in the central Maryland service area are prepared for and aware of the possible future job opportunities that may await them within BGE. (Above) Students with swag bags they received from BGE with ear buds and a flash drive.*

Courtesy Photo/BGE

Engineers were expected to make an average of \$64,891 right out of school—a three-percent increase over their projected earnings in 2015. Computer science majors, who were expected to take home \$61,321, ranked a close second. Math and science majors trailed slightly with an average starting salary of \$55,087.

Further, according to the report, engineers and computer scientists who graduated with master’s degrees in 2016 could have expected to earn the most money compared to their peers, with average starting salaries of \$73,871 and \$72,080, respectively.

“BGE’s engagement with students at

Mergenthaler is just one of many efforts to provide mentoring and networking opportunities and other support for students throughout central Maryland,” Galambos said. “Among the many education-related programs that BGE supports are the BGE Scholars Program, which provides scholarships for qualifying college students, BGE’s Smart Energy Interns Program, which provides summer job opportunities for qualifying students, and BGE’s Bright Ideas Program, which will launch [this month] and provide grants to teachers within BGE’s service area,” she said.

Other BGE or BGE-supported education programs include the Captain Mer-

captan Natural Gas Safety Contest where winners receive up to \$10,000; the Wires Down Video Challenge; the Kennedy Krieger therapeutic playground, which includes a \$250,000 BGE grant; the National Association of Women in Construction, where students receive hands-on exposure to gas and electric construction work at BGE’s training center; and an ongoing gas and electric safety curriculum.

BGE’s sister utilities within the Exelon family also are highlighting STEM efforts as students across their respective service areas begin the new school year.

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## Pharaoh comes to Theatre Project:

# Story of Hatshepsut told through stage play

By Ursula V. Battle

In what he describes as an ancient version of “Empire,” referring to the popular FOX television drama series, Playwright Timothy Lawrence Hogan is seeking to tell the story of Hatshepsut through his stage play Pharaoh. The stage play runs September 22 - 24, 2017 at Theatre Project located at 45 W. Preston Street in Baltimore City.

Hogan describes Pharaoh as a play that examines the complex journeys of empowered, self-determined women who dare to seek positions of power, and thrive in doing so in a man’s world. It brings to the forefront the various trials, tribulations, and obstacles women face, as well as societal attitudes towards them. Its themes of religion, sexual politics, race, and gender-identity, are as relevant today in our times, as they were 3,000 years ago, according to Hogan.

“The story of Hatshepsut has never been adapted for the stage or the screen,” said Hogan. “She ruled the world and was one of the most successful female pharaohs. She encountered opposition throughout her life, including a power struggle with the males of that time. She even wore male garb.

The power struggle of black men and women is still going on today. However, Hatshepsut rose to power despite the conflicts and obstacles she faced. Her story shows what black women are capable of achieving, and their modern relevance. She was more powerful than Cleopatra.”

According to History.com, Hatshepsut was only the third woman to become pharaoh in 3,000 years of ancient Egyptian history, and the first to attain the full power of the position. History.com also notes that Cleopatra, who also exercised such power, would rule some 14 centuries later. In their biographical write-up History.com further points out that Hatshepsut extended Egyptian trade and oversaw ambitious building projects, most notably the Temple of Deir el-Bahri, located in western Thebes, where she would be buried. Depicted (at her own orders) as a male in many



*The play “Pharaoh” runs at Theater Project September 22-24, 2017.*

*Actress Michal Roxie Johnson portrays Hatshepsut in the production by Playwright Timothy Lawrence.*

*Courtesy Photo*

contemporary images and sculptures, Hatshepsut remained largely unknown to scholars until the 19th century, and probably died around 1458 B.C.

“Men tried to wipe her out from history, and her story almost became lost before it was rediscovered in the 1800s,” said Hogan. “I first wrote this as a screenplay, which took about a year to write. I then decided to adapt it into a screenplay, which took about six months to write. Her mummy, which had been missing for 3,000 years, was discovered six months after I wrote the play.”

Hogan, a native of Washington, D.C. is also a director, visual artist, singer, songwriter, classical symphonic composer and a surrealist painter. His other plays include Warriors of Spain and Nefertiti and the Rebel King. According to Hogan, his diverse poetic style and range is a reflection of literary influences spanning multiple eras. A graduate of the Ellington School of the Arts, Hogan says he is an

avid reader, and loves classical literature and ancient history.

“My hope is that people will come see this play and be inspired by the story,” said Hogan who plans to launch a GoFundMe page to raise funds to support future showings of the production. “I also hope people understand the importance of showing each other respect, and that it transfers over to modern relationships.”

Michal Roxie Johnson portrays Hatshepsut and several other characters in the production.

“Tim and I have done this play before, but I wanted to do it again because not enough people have seen it,” said Johnson, who is also the production’s director. “I love Hatshepsut and how powerful she was. She took the position of not saying, ‘I can’t do this because I am a woman.’ I also like the fact that she had one of the most peaceful reigns as a pharaoh. I feel that if a woman is in charge, we wouldn’t have so much war.”

The Baltimore native has a company called AMillionMees Productions, LLC and has been in several other plays, which include Witness for the Prosecution, Jitney, and East Texas Hot Links.

“Hatshepsut didn’t allow anyone or anything to put her in a box,” said Johnson. “Hatshepsut shows other women and girls that they don’t have to let anyone confine them to a box either. Hatshepsut is the type of character that people get torn between because you like her and then you don’t like her.”

But it’s easy to understand why she did what she did. She had to forge her own path. It is so motivating and I want people to feel that same motivation. Dreaming big is not a crime, and going for what you want. Ambition is divine, and kudos to Tim for writing this piece.”

Tickets are \$22 in advance and \$25 at the door. For more information call 443-424-8260 or visit: [www.thefemaleking.com](http://www.thefemaleking.com)

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# ZERO Prostate Challenge scheduled at Towson University's Unitas Stadium

By Stacy M. Brown

On Sunday, September 24, 2017, Towson University's Johnny Unitas Stadium will serve as the venue for Chesapeake Urology's annual ZERO Prostate Cancer Challenge event.

The challenge features a 10K run; 5K run and walk; a one-mile walk; a Kids' Superhero Dash for Dad; an organized Zumba workout, and a virtual Snooze for Dudes program.

Several Baltimore sports legends, including: Earl "The Pearl" Monroe, Lenny Moore, and Charlie Pittman also plan to be on hand.

"You should already have your calendar marked for Sunday, September 24, 2017, 7:30 a.m. at the beautiful Johnny Unitas Stadium on the Towson University campus, and if you have not registered then I need you to register and donate to this important cause," said Dr. Sanford J. Siegel, president and CEO of Chesapeake Urology in Owings Mills. "We must support men's health initiatives, just as women do theirs."

With more than \$3.5 million raised over the past decade, donations have funded free prostate cancer screenings and a scholarship for a prostate cancer researcher through the Urology Care Foundation of the American Urological Association.

"We have saved many lives through our screening, and our 2016 researcher was noted as the top researcher in the field," Dr. Siegel said.

The event includes a family-friendly post-race celebration and participants will receive T-shirts, free food and the opportunity to connect with others who are affected by prostate cancer.

"ZERO is proud to partner with Chesapeake Urology Associates to end prostate cancer. The funds raised from ZERO Prostate Cancer Run/Walk—Baltimore are invested around the country to provide research for new treatments, free prostate cancer testing, and educate men and families about prostate cancer," the organization said in a news release.

"Locally, over the past ten years, we have raised over \$3 million for prostate



On Sunday, September 24, 2017, Chesapeake Urology's annual ZERO Prostate Cancer Challenge kicks off at 7:30 a.m. at the Johnny Unitas Stadium at Towson University. (Above) Participants at last year's challenge at Towson University.

Courtesy Photo/Chesapeake Urology

cancer research, education, free screenings for early detection, and advocacy."

This year marks the 11th year of the event and Dr. Siegel says it continues to grow because organizers are passionate about educating everyone about prostate disease—letting them know that it's "very curable" if diagnosed early.

"Men need to face the realization that we are vulnerable if we do not take care of ourselves. We are touching people throughout the year with our free prostate cancer screenings and have raised [millions] for prostate cancer research," Dr. Siegel said. "Chesapeake Urology is making a difference every day that benefits our employees, our

patients and the community."

For those who register and donate, the funds will help organizers reach their goal of raising more than \$500,000 for this year's event, according to Dr. Siegel.

"Donate, come out and participate for someone you care about who has been touched by prostate cancer, or any cancer," Dr. Siegel said. "Or, just come out for a great time. You only have [until the event day] to make a difference in someone's life. I hope you will want to be a part of the 2017 ZERO Prostate Cancer Run," he said.

To register or to make a donation, visit: [www.zerobaltimore.org](http://www.zerobaltimore.org).

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# Lifelong Baltimorean Leads Rebuilding Together Baltimore

By Stacy M. Brown

Since 1989, Rebuilding Together Baltimore (RTB), has mobilized more than 20,000 volunteers to repair hundreds of homes in the city and county, serving low-income seniors, families and individuals with disabilities who live in the area. The nonprofit's goal remains to make homes warmer, safer and drier.

Now, RTB has been selected by the national Rebuilding Together organization as the only 2017 site for its "Building a Healthy Neighborhood Initiative," which included a free community resource fair held Sept. 9, 2017 and Project Days where 500 volunteers were tasked with renovating more than 10 homes owned by seniors, families with children and those with disabilities.

All of this took place in Govans' historic Wilson Park/Northern neighborhood and under the guidance of Candace Handy, RTB's program manager and lifelong Baltimorean.

"Rebuilding Together Baltimore has been investing in the Greater Govans region of Northeast Baltimore for five years, and this last year has been a very exciting year for us," Handy said. "We launched a Handyman program in Govans, and were chosen for Building a Healthy Neighborhood, or BaHN."

To date, the organization has assisted over 75 homeowners in Govans with critical home repairs. Being chosen for BaHN, is an amazing opportunity to build on and expand the investment RTB has made in Govans over several years, according to Handy, who started out as a part-time administrative assistant while attending Towson University.

"At 10 years old, I was introduced to a mentoring program called Sisters Circle. I was matched up with my mentor, Hunter Haines, and afforded a full scholarship to attend Roland Park Country School from sixth to twelfth grade," Handy recalled. "Receiving an amazing education at RPCS while still living in the Barclay neighborhood in inner city Baltimore, opened my eyes to the educational disparities in my city. At 16 years old, I decided to do the work [to] change my city for the better in any way I could."

RTB proved to be the change needed for many of its recipients.

"We are a Safe & Healthy Housing and Community Revitalization organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for residents in the areas we serve," Handy said. "We provide home repairs for low income homeowners at no cost to the homeowner and we focus on repairs that make the home safer and healthier, so that homeowners can retain their homes as an asset to be passed down to their families."

Although she didn't originally seek to make a career out of her work at RTB, the ambitious program manager says she still has many goals.

"I started part-time at RTB [five years ago] when I



*Candace Handy with Congressman Elijah Cummings (MD) in 2013. Handy was a speaker at the National Mentoring Summit in Washington, D.C. (Left to right) Elijah Cummings, Candace Handy, Tonya Wiley, Mentor, The National Mentoring Partnership and Selwyn Ray, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Chesapeake, presently Director of Johns Hopkins Health System Community Relations. Courtesy Photo*

was in college, and didn't really plan to stay. Over the years, I became more passionate about our mission—helping communities in Baltimore City," Handy said. "I believe safer and healthier homes can affect change in so many other areas. So, when I graduated from Towson University, I decided to submit a proposal for a promotion to Program Manager."

"My goal here is to help the organization grow and continue to serve the people of Baltimore. I am constantly thinking of ways we can improve and adjust the work we do to the needs of the communities we serve," she said, adding, "I want to build relationships and connect with people. I want to make my city a better place."

For anyone who may not know much about RTB, Handy says her goal is to make sure everyone knows the

organization is fully invested in serving the communities.

"With other partners from the community, we are working to improve the lives of the residents of Baltimore starting at home. Since 1989, we have worked in over 1,400 homes in 35 neighborhoods," she said. "We seek to preserve home ownership on a large community scale. Our beautification work in community spaces leaves a visual impact and helps engage the neighborhood. We hope to continue to expand our services to homeowners in need throughout the Baltimore area, and we encourage you to get involved to help us provide a safe and healthy home for everyone in Baltimore."

Anyone interested in learning more about the organization or to make a donation to the nonprofit, visit: [www.RTBaltimore.org](http://www.RTBaltimore.org).

## Auditions for Ursula V. Battle's 'Serenity House' September 16, 2017 at Nancy Cafe



Actors, Actresses, Singers, and Dancers are being sought for the powerful new stage play production, Ursula V. Battle's "Serenity House". Auditions will take place on Saturday, September 16, 2017 from Noon until 3 p.m. at Nancy Café, 131 W. North Avenue, Baltimore, Md. 21205. Auditions are by Appointment Only. Call (443) 531-4787 to schedule your audition appointment.



# Hundreds of Volunteers Turn out for Rebuilding Together Baltimore Events

By Stacy M. Brown

They came, saw and hundreds of volunteers for a Rebuilding Together Baltimore and Lowe's conquered the mission of helping to build a healthy neighborhood in the Govans community of Baltimore City.

It all began with a Community Resource Fair for the public on Saturday, September 9, 2017, and after that on Monday, September 11 and Tuesday, September 12, volunteers participated in revitalization efforts that included home renovations for low-income seniors, families with children and individuals with disabilities.

"Our beautification work in community spaces leaves a visual impact and helps engage the neighborhood," said Candace Handy, program manager for Rebuilding Together Baltimore (RTB).

"We hope to continue to expand our services to homeowners in need throughout the Baltimore area, and we encourage you to get involved to help us provide a safe and healthy home for everyone in Baltimore."

The well-attended effort, which saw the national nonprofit, Rebuilding Together, join its affiliate, RTB, to lead its seventh annual Building a Healthy Neighborhood community revitalization project, had been expected to provide as much as \$885,000 in what officials called impact value back to the community.

About 500 community and corporate partner volunteers joined together to provide critical repairs to 12 homes and to revitalize Willow Avenue Park, which is used by residents of all ages for community gatherings and recreation.

The vast majority of the residents affected are those who have lived in the area the longest.

Over the four days, volunteers participated in a variety of projects including flooring repairs and replacement; electric and plumbing repairs; roof and handrail replacements; accessibility modifications; painting; landscaping; and other major home rehabilitations. RTB officials said the effort was made possible through the support of the event's national and local partners, in-



*Kate Wallace, The Image Center talk with Chris LaVoie, Station, North Tool Library*

Photos: Dennis Roberts



*Bishop Jerome Stokes, Church of the Redeemed of the Lord.*



*L-R: Tracy Horne Wells Fargo; Monica Mitchell V.P. Government & Community Relations, Wells Fargo; and Lyndae Peele, Wells Fargo*

cluding Lowe's, Wells Fargo Housing Foundation and CBRE, a commercial real estate company.

"Rebuilding Together Baltimore is proud to have been selected to host the 2017 'Building a Healthy Neighborhood' community revitalization project in Govans," Bonnie Bessor, the executive director of RTB, said in a statement via email. "We are working closely with community leaders to ensure families who have lived in the area for generations can remain in their homes and can live in a safe environment."

"Building a Healthy Neighborhood" also included a free Community Resource Fair where information about

health, education, housing, services for older adults, and even nutrition was provided.

"There were activities for kids, too. Our goal is help individual homeowners live in safe and healthy homes, and also help to revitalize their communities," Bessor said.



*Officer Kedrick Scribner with (L-r): Bonnie Bessor, Executive Director, Rebuilding Together Baltimore; Dorothy Fuchs, Publicist, Purple Dot Public Relations; Gayle Economos. GVE Media/Public Relations.*



*State Delegate Mary Washington, 43rd District, and Baltimore City Councilman Bill Henry, 4th District.*



# MND begins commercial transportation career training in Baltimore

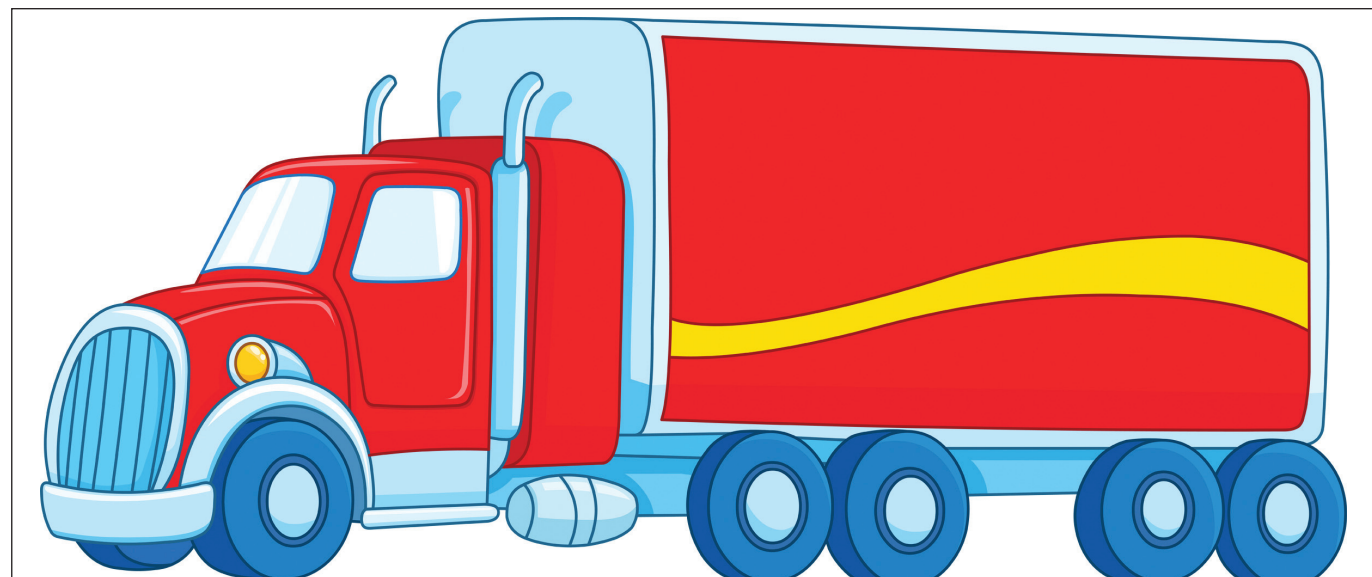
Baltimore— Maryland New Directions (MND), Baltimore's leader in job training and career counseling, is partnering with a local transportation provider to provide much-needed commercial transportation training and solid career opportunities to Baltimore residents. Trainees who complete MND's no-cost, 60-hour, three-week training program and pass a written CDL permit exam will be equipped for behind-the-wheel training provided by our partner, preparing them to earn a CDL-B driver's license and providing the foundation for a successful career.

MND designed the Commercial Transportation Career (CTC) training program to fill two significant needs: improving the accessibility for those who want to work in commercial transportation and increasing the employment and helping employers identify and retain high quality CDL-B licensed drivers. Together, these two goals also address and support the overall transportation needs of residents and businesses in Baltimore City.

Modeled on MND's successful Maritime Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics Training Program, CTC training is designed for candidates with no previous commercial driving experience.

The first class begins on September 18, 2017. Applicants to the program must be 21 or older; have a good driving record; commit to three weeks of initial training; have a high school diploma or GED; pass a drug screening; submit to a criminal background check; and be willing to take US Dept. of Transportation physical exam as required for employment.

"MND is proud to address Baltimore's workforce and transportation needs



through our Commercial Transportation Careers (CTC) model," said Maurice Good, MND Program Director.

Completing this program will provide accessible entry into this expanding job sector, helping individuals prepare for, and pass, the pre-requisites and exams necessary to earn their CDL-B licenses. They'll also gain access to stable, well-

paid employment with our commercial transportation partner or other employers throughout Baltimore.

"By monitoring community and client needs," said Barbara Reed-DiGia, MND Resources & Operations Director, "We can quickly adapt our specialized training to meet the needs of a specific industry. This enables us to prepare candidate

for a fields experiencing job growth, like we're seeing with transportation. As a result, our clients secure living wage careers, and employers have a skilled hiring pool. It's a win for everyone."

Interested individuals should contact MND at 410-230-0630 or email: [www.MdNewDirections.org](http://www.MdNewDirections.org)

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## Donors warned of charity scams in wake of Harvey and Irma

Annapolis— Appeals for charitable donations will surge as the East Coast reels from the effects of Category 4 Hurricane Irma. To add insult to injury, Hurricanes Jose and Katia are on the heels of Irma. Generous Marylanders will donate to provide relief for those impacted by these horrific disasters.

“Donors need to be vigilant and donate wisely, scam artists are out there and prey on the generosity of well-intended donors,” John C. Wobensmith, Maryland Secretary of State said.

“The devastating effects of Hurricane Irma upended the lives of tens of thousands, maybe more, who are caught in the cross hairs of this disaster. Scam artists may prey on your generosity by trying to con you into giving to fraudulent charities and scams to line their own pockets,” warns Secretary Wobensmith. “Those who suffered the ravages of Irma and similar disasters need and are grateful for your generosity. Make sure that if you choose to give, that your donations are given to reputable, well-established charities.”

The Office of the Secretary of State registers and regulates charitable organizations that solicit contributions in Maryland. Together with the assistance of the Maryland Attorney General, the Secretary of State enforces Maryland’s charitable giving laws to ensure that donations are used for their intended purpose.

The Office of the Secretary of State keeps a public registry of charitable organizations authorized to solicit in Maryland. Please check the Secretary of State website:

<http://sos.maryland.gov/Charity/Pages/SearchCharity.aspx>. for information and to search the registry to determine if a specific charity is authorized to solicit in Maryland.

To report a complaint if you think you have been a victim of a deceptive or illegal charitable solicitation, call the Charities and Legal Services Division at 410-974-5521 or 1-800-825-4510.

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# Book Preview: "In Search of..."

Baltimore native Kyle Taylor's Book: "In Search Of..." is an entertaining collection of short stories filled with characters searching for the things they desire most in life— be it vengeance, fame or a fabled treasure, they are determined to do what they must in their search for it. How far is one willing to go to attain that which they seek? For each of them, the journey is just as crucial as the destination.

"The Coldest Winter" features a character searching for an explanation as to why he is suddenly compelled to visit the grave of a loved one, something he has deliberately avoided doing for years.

In "The Savior of the City," the protagonist was forced to deal with overnight fame and fortune. But when it begins to fade, he searches for a way to reclaim it, as he has become addicted to it.

In both "The Letter to Erik" and its response, "The Letter to Charles," both authors seek understanding from the other as they have conflicting ideologies on how to address the many issues fac-

ing black men, women, and children in America.

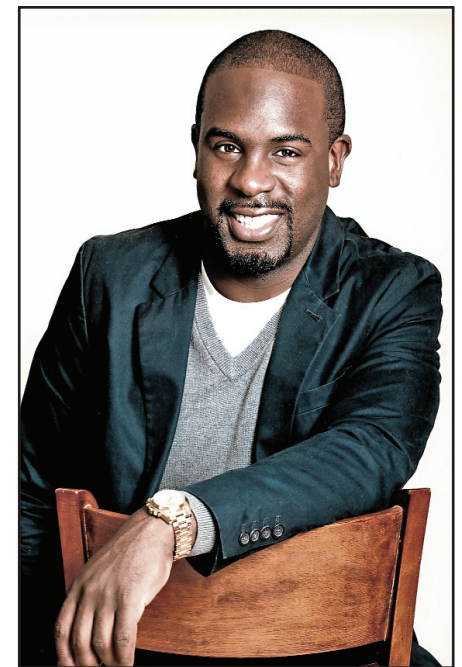
Whether it be, the location of a fabled treasure ("The Water of Life"), revenge ("The Last Kiss"), or fame ("The Savior of the City"), each protagonist is longing for something that they feel will make their lives whole, and living worthwhile.

Taylor is a 2001 graduate of Loyola Blakefield High School in Towson. He graduated from Morgan State University in Baltimore in 2005 with a B.A. in English/journalism. He has a professional background in communications and journalism and has had articles published in several newspapers including The Baltimore Sun, The Baltimore Business Journal, The Daily Record, The Afro American Newspaper, The Baltimore Times and The Catholic Review.

Taylor has also served on the speechwriting team for Carolyn W. Colvin, the former Acting Commissioner of the Social Security Administration. In Search of... is currently available as an ebook and in paperback. The ebook is



available in Apple's iBooks, Amazon's Kindle store, Barnes and Noble's Nook store, and in Google Play's, and Kobo Books' ebook stores. The paperback can be ordered on Amazon's, Barnes & Noble's, and Books-A-Million's websites.



*Kyle S. Taylor, Baltimore native and author of "In Search Of..."*

Courtesy Photos

More information about Kyle Taylor, his novel, and direct retailer links, can be found on his blog: [www.kylestaylor.blogspot.com](http://www.kylestaylor.blogspot.com).

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### CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for **FAP NO. NHPP-TTDG-3048(S)N; SHA NO. BC 450006; BALTIMORE CITY NO. TR16301; REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE NO. BC 4202 BROENING HIGHWAY OVER COLGATE CREEK AND ASSOCIATED ROADWAYS IMPROVEMENTS** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. **November 15, 2017**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon. The Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, at the Department of Public Works Service Center located on the first floor of the Abel Wolman Municipal Building, 200 N. Holliday Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 as of September 15, 2017 and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **\$400.00**.

**Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact the Committee at 4 South Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture ("JV"), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **C03300 Concrete Construction, C02300 Pile Driving, & C03420 Precast Concrete Construction**. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$20,000,000.00 to \$25,000,000.00**. **A "PRE-BIDDING INFORMATION" session will be conducted at 10:00 A.M. on October 6, 2017 at 417 E. Fayette Street, Charles L Benton Building, 7th Floor Richard K. Chen Conference Room.** Principal Items of work for this project are Removal of Existing Structure – LS; Pre stressed Concrete Beam – LS & Superstructure Concrete for Bridges - LS. The DBE goal is **15%**. APPROVED: Bernice H. Taylor, Clerk Board of Estimates

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### CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE OF ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCITON

#### NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for **Sanitary Contract No. 950-Caroline Street Stormwater Pumping Station Upgrade** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **Wednesday, October 25, 2017**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon.

The Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, in Room 6 located on the first floor of the Abel Wolman Municipal Building, 200 N. Holliday Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 as of **Friday, September 15, 2017** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **\$40.00**.

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

All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call 410-396-6883 or contact the Committee at 4 South Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture ("JV"), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **G90020-W and WW SCADA and PCS system Integrator**

Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$500,000.01 to \$1,000,000.00**

A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted at the **Abel Wolman Municipal Building, 3rd Floor Large Conference Room, 200 Holliday Street, Baltimore, MD 21202 on September 22, 2017 at 10:00 A.M.**

**Principal Item of work for this project are:**

Upgrade of pump station control and communication, replacement of pumps power cables, replacement of existing buried conduits with a duct bank, installation of two perforated plates next to existing bar screen, replacement of a bar screen with perforated plate screen, replacement of four Tideflex valves, and other miscellaneous work, as

## Legal Notice

shown on the Contract Documents.

The MBE goal is **34%**  
The WBE goal is **5%**

#### SANITARY CONTRACT NO. 950

APPROVED:  
Bernice H. Taylor  
Clerk, Board of Estimates

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

### CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate, addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for **GS 13817 – Waxter Senior Center Elevator Upgrade** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **Wednesday, October 25, 2017**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. The bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon.

The Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, in Room 6 located on the first floor of the Abel Wolman Municipal Building, 200 Holliday Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 as of **Friday, September 15, 2017** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **\$50.00**.

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

All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be pre-qualified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested contractors should call 410 396-6883 or contact the Committee at 4 South Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a Joint Venture ("JV"), then in that event, the documents that establish the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **G90012 – Installation of Elevators**.

The Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$500,000.01 to \$1,000,000.00** A "Pre-Bidding information" session will be conducted at **The Site: 861 Park Ave (1000 Cathedral St.), Baltimore MD 21201 on Tuesday, September 26, 2017 at 10:00 A.M.**

## Legal Notice

Principal Items of work for this project are:

1. Conveying Systems
2. Existing Conditions
3. Electrical

The MBE goal is **27%**  
The WBE goal is **2%**

#### CONTRACT NO. GS 13817

APPROVED:  
Bernice H. Taylor  
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:  
Steve Sharkey  
Director, Department of General Services

To place Legal Notices in  
The Baltimore Times,  
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