

## The Unique Art of Larry 'Poncho' Brown, a Baltimore Legend



Larry "Poncho" Brown, a world leader in contemporary African American art, is a native of Baltimore, MD. He started his first business at the age of 17 as a sign-writer and he has been a full time artist ever since. In pursuing his philanthropic goals, he founded "The African American Youth Art Exhibition" which recently celebrated its 10th Anniversary. He also co-founded Artistic Legacy, a not for profit organization that sponsors art workshops for youth. Admirers often site rhythm, movement, and unity, as favorite elements in his work. He primarily works in acrylic, although he uses a variety of mediums and styles to express his interests in Afro-centric themes, Ancient Egyptology and dance. Poncho's unique style combines past and present art stylizations to create a sense of realism, mysticism, and beauty, which gives his art universal appeal. His contemporary paintings are a reflection of his personal values and pay homage to ongoing themes of family, community and spirituality. Brown has been selected as a speaker for PNC Bank's artist legal and financial workshop, "Mind Your Business," scheduled for 9:30 a.m.- 3:30p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 4 at the Motor House in Baltimore. Above: *Every Round Goes Higher* by Larry "Poncho" Brown. (See articles on page 12, 13) Courtesy Photos/Poncho Brown

# A bright light in the Black Press dims: Bernal Smith dies at 45

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

The National Newspaper Publishers Association has lost one of our own this week.

Bernal E. Smith II, president and publisher of the Tri-State Defender and a well-known civic leader in Memphis, Tennessee, died Sunday, October 22, 2017. He was 45.

The newspaper, among the longest running African-American newspapers in the country and among the 211 black-owned publications in the United States noted on its website that Smith was with his family when he was found on Sunday.

“The New Tri-State Defender and its management board is devastated. We learned that Mr. Smith had passed,” associate publisher Karanja Ajanaku said in a statement along with Calvin Anderson, the president of Best Media Properties, the Defender’s parent company.

Smith’s death, caught many of his colleagues off-guard, all of whom expressed shock and sympathy for his family.

“I am personally saddened by the death of our comrade and publisher Bernal Smith,” said Dorothy Leavell, the publisher of the Crusader newspapers in Chicago and the national chairman of the NNPA. “He was just elected vice chairman in June and we were looking forward to working closely with him to find solutions to our beloved Black Press.”

Smith was a serious and dedicated member of the fourth estate, Leavell added. “We shall miss him so much,” she said.

The entire NNPA family of African-American publishers across the nation deeply mourn the passing of Smith, added Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, the president and CEO of the NNPA.

“As publisher of the New Tri-State Defender in Memphis, Smith represented the journalistic genius of a freedom-fighting publisher who was dedicated to the empowerment of Black America,” Chavis said. “Long live the spirit of Bernal Smith!”

Joy Bramble, publisher of the Baltimore



**Bernal E. Smith II, president and publisher of the Tri-State Defender, a member of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and a well-known civic leader in Memphis, Tennessee, died Sunday, October 22, 2017. He was 45 years-old.**  
Courtesy Photo/NNPA

Times, says she was simply shocked by the news of Smith’s death. “I was just working with him on some things, I just can’t believe it,” Bramble said.

Rosetta Perry, the publisher of the Tennessee Tribune, called Smith a true friend and a bright light.

“He was a person that when I met him, we just clicked and I was comfortable with him, like I had known him my whole life, and I didn’t have to pretend to be anyone or anything,” Perry said. “That voice that we loved to hear at our meetings and training sessions is now still. Bernal’s place at the Board of Directors meeting will now be vacant but he will live forever in our hearts.”

Because of Smith’s vision and talents, Karen Carter Richards says she asked him to run for 2nd vice chair of the NNPA this year.

Richards, publisher of the Houston Forward Times, said she wasn’t surprised when he won election to the post because of his infectious personality and great abilities.

“I am devastated, Bernal was my friend

and he was a visionary who was smart, energetic, kind and definitely the future of NNPA,” Richards said. “His innovative ideas made us click. At the request of Bernal, I flew to Memphis last year to attend his Best in Black Awards show. He wanted me to recreate the show in Houston and we were going to partner and bring his great awards show to the city of Houston.”

Broadcast executive and Wave newspaper Publisher Pluria Marshall said Smith was one of NNPA’s up and coming publishers.

“He was about business. He added value when he spoke on issues relating

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to NNPA and his recent election to the executive team was a clear sign of his rising star,” Marshall said. “He will be sorely missed.”

Hiram Jackson of Real Times Media, who sold Smith the New Tri-State Defender, called Smith’s passing a sad day for the future of the Black Press.

“Bernal Smith represented the future of our industry and he was one of the most innovative publishers I knew and I recognized his gifts immediately,” Jackson said. “I will miss his friendship and his contagious enthusiasm about black people.”

A graduate of Rhodes College who also earned a master’s of business administration from Union University, Smith fronted a local group that purchased the Tri-State Defender from Real Times Media in 2013.

Smith mentored inner-city youth and once served as president of the 100 Black Men of Memphis.

“Bernal Smith has been an integral force in the city of Memphis as the publisher of the Tri-State Defender where he made issues of economic parity, social justice and the support and encouragement of the black community his primary concerns,” Denise Rolark Barnes and D. Kevin McNeir, the publisher and the editor of the Washington Informer, said in a joint statement. “Even more, as one of the younger publishers of the NNPA, his enthusiasm and dedication were essential to our overall growth and continued existence.

“His death leaves a void that will be difficult, if not impossible to fill. But his spirit will live on as will our memories of him—a proud, talented black man who loved his people and his community and who diligently gave his all each and every day on behalf of the Black Press.”

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## Trump's Benghazi

By Mel Gurtov

Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) says he didn't know. Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) and minority leader Chuck Schumer say they didn't know either. Nor did several other U.S. senators say they knew that the US has nearly 1,000 troops stationed in Niger, where four Green Berets were recently killed while on a counterterrorism mission. Other U.S. congress members said they did know, but so what? None apparently raised an eyebrow at the growing United States military presence in Africa—a presence that includes combat and has not been authorized, much less debated, by congress.

Actually, all congress members should have known, not necessarily because the Pentagon says it informed everyone, which may or may not be the truth, but because news of the widespread U.S. military deployment in Africa has been around for some time. I wrote about it in June, relying on the reporting of others on the U.S. "arm and assist" program that finds U.S. soldiers based in 24 African countries and perhaps double that number of "outposts" and other facilities. Niger is just one place—Somalia, Cameroon, and Mali are others—where U.S. forces are arming, training, and accompanying local soldiers on dangerous missions.

The U.S. military has not, of course, publicized these missions, knowing full well that they would get unwanted attention. But they are there, and the U.S. Africa Command has become a crucial component of the "war on terror." As Nick Tulse wrote last April, the U.S. now operates "a constellation of bases integral to expanding U.S. military operations on the African continent and in the Middle East."

I suspect that many members of congress chose not to take note of these operations for political reasons: to avoid being seen as questioning the pursuit of terrorists everywhere, regardless of cost.

Permit me to quote from the conclusion of my June 2017 commentary, which is suddenly quite germane to the dispute between the wife of Sgt. La David Johnson, one of the four U.S. soldiers killed, and President Trump:

If I were the parent of a service man or woman, I would be enraged that my son or daughter is being sent into missions impossible led, on paper only, by a commander-in-chief who is in fact AWOL. And if I were a citizen of Africa or the Middle East, I would be appalled by the Americans, and their governments, preference for guns over humanitarian assistance. Imagine what \$24 billion in arms sales [to Middle East and African countries] since 2010 could have bought in public health and educational training, small business support, environmental protection, and other elements of human security.

Congress should get its act together and challenge not only the Niger mission, but the legality and strategy of the many other missions in and beyond Africa that put young lives at stake. Let Republicans like Graham in particular investigate the Africa missions with the same zeal they displayed over Benghazi. What The New York Times calls "America's Forever Wars" must end.

*Mel Gurtov, syndicated by PeaceVoice, is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Portland State University.*

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## Community Affairs

### Maryland National Guard directed to U.S. Virgin Islands

Annapolis— Governor Larry Hogan has directed 100 soldiers from the Maryland National Guard to deploy to the U.S. Virgin Islands to assist with ongoing recovery efforts from Hurricane Irma, at the request of Governor Kenneth Mapp.

Soldiers from the 200th Military Police Company from Catonsville will be deployed for potentially 30 days to assist with local law enforcement and guarding critical infrastructure as the island works to rebuild from the widespread devastation caused by the hurricane in early September.

"The recovery efforts in the Caribbean will be lengthy due to the level of destruction caused by the recent hurricanes, and Maryland is proud to help our neighbors and friends in their time of need," said Governor Hogan. "We are incredibly grateful to the dedicated men and women of the Maryland National Guard for their selfless service— they truly represent the very best of our great state."

Last week, Governor Hogan authorized members of the Maryland National Guard's 729th Quartermaster Composite Supply Company to assist in the water purification efforts in Puerto Rico. Fresh water has been in critically short supply in Puerto Rico since Hurricane Maria made landfall on September 20, 2017.

The National Guard members are assigned with converting hazardous water into water that is safe for drinking, cooking, and hygiene by using two tactical systems capable of purifying 1,200 gallons of water per hour.

Maryland is providing this support in accordance with the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). EMAC is a national mutual aid and partnership agreement that allows state-to-state assistance during governor- or federally-declared state of emergencies.

Governor Hogan established Maryland Call to Action: Relief & Recovery, a website with information about what Maryland is doing and how Maryland citizens can assist with hurricane relief and recovery efforts.

For more information, visit: [governor.maryland.gov](http://governor.maryland.gov).

## We need a values revolution in America!

*By Reverend Dr. William J. Barber, II  
President, Repairers of the Breach*

On Friday, October 13, 2017, Donald Trump went before the annual Values Voter Summit hosted by the Family Research Council and declared America "a country that never forgets that we are made, all of us, by the very same God in heaven." In the name of Jesus, Trump vowed to "stop cold the attacks on Judeo-Christian values," but the Values Voter Summit no more represents Jesus than did the church authorities that backed slavery.

Ironically, Trump invoked the name of Jesus in virtually the same breath that he announced his executive order to stop the federal government's cost sharing reduction payments, which subsidize healthcare for lower-income families under the Affordable Care Act. Throughout the Scriptures, virtually every story of Jesus admonishes us to see to the needs of the poor and vulnerable among us, but Trump vowed at the Values Voter Summit to defend those who use religion to discriminate.

The Christian nationalists Trump has emboldened do not follow the Jesus I know and preach. Their values are not Christ, but cash; not grace, but greed. As the Princeton historian Kevin Kruse has chronicled in his book, "One Nation Under God," they are the heirs of preachers, who were purchased by the robber barons of the early 20th century to resist the New Deal and the Social Gospel. During the Civil Rights Move-

ment, they spoke against Rabbi Abraham Heschel and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

ment, they spoke against Rabbi Abraham Heschel and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. These Christian nationalists contradict Jesus, who said that, "as you have done it unto the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me." They serve only the interests of the wealthiest Americans and take every opportunity to deny any provision of care or encouragement to the poor.

They have elected far-right extremists in the country's legislatures, who have become paid puppets of a white supremacist corporate oligarchy. Elected with the support of wealthy despots, these men (and a few women) pass voter suppression laws that make them accountable to the voters. These peddlers of piety deliver huge tax cuts for the super-rich, permit corporations to spew poison into the environment, and fund a military budget so enormous and sacrosanct, that American citizens are no

longer even welcome to know what that budget is. All of this in the name of the Prince of Peace. Their poisonous mix of racism and religion hurts all of us, but the irony is that it hurts more poor, White people in raw numbers. The agenda they are pushing in Washington and in state houses will hurt Southern, so-called "red" states, the worst, but at the Values Voters Summit, lead organizer Tony Perkins put on duck

hunting waders and pretended to "wade into the swamp" as a man of the people. The Southern Poverty Law Center calls Perkin's Family Research Council "a hate group." Perkins denies that Islam is a religion and regularly rails against gays and warns that LGBT citizens plan to round up the Christians in "boxcars." His vice president, William "Jerry" Boykin, Jr., claims that Islam is "pure evil" and should not be protected under the First Amendment. Boykin has threatened to physically attack anyone not using the bathroom that he thinks they should use.

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***"They did not have a values conference in that D.C. ballroom; it was a vicious conference where they clapped and applauded a president, who would undermine healthcare for the poorest and most needy people in our country and then attempt to claim that somehow he has rescued Judeo-Christian values."***

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Trump has brought about a devolution of values, not a revolution of values. They did not have a values conference in that D.C. ballroom; it was a vicious conference where they clapped and applauded a president, who would undermine healthcare for the poorest and most needy people in our country and then attempt to claim that somehow he has rescued Judeo-Christian values.

Nothing could be further from the truth, and nothing could be more of a sign that this president and those who go along with him suffer from a values and moral bankruptcy. Now, more than ever, we see the truth of what Dr. King said: we need a "moral revolution of values." I have been crossing this country for the past eight weeks with Rev Dr. Liz Theoharis, meeting in churches and synagogues and community colleges with thousands of people, who know we need a values revolution in America. We are building a Poor People's Campaign and Moral Revival to not only reclaim our time, but also to reclaim our values, which been hijacked by extremists.

Corporate sponsorship has bloated the public image of extremism, but there are far more people of faith and conscience, who want to revive the heart and soul of our democracy. We are inviting that moral majority to speak out and stand up for a #ValuesRevolution.

*Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II, is the President of Repairers of the Breach, co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, and author of The Third Reconstruction. Follow Rev. Dr. Barber on Twitter on Twitter @RevDrBarber. Follow Repairers of the Breach on Twitter @BRepairers.*

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# Three methods to protect yourself from identity fraud after Equifax data breach

By G. Thomas Watson, CFA  
and Brian McKinney, Associate  
Financial Planner  
Williams Asset Management

In a world that is becoming more and more digital by the day, protecting our sensitive information is more important than ever. The recent breach of Equifax's massive database has everyone questioning the best course of action to protect yourself from becoming a victim of identity fraud.

More than 143 million Americans had their sensitive information compromised, which included social security numbers, dates of birth, driver's license numbers, and credit card information for approximately 209,000 consumers. One of the main fears is that the stolen information will eventually be used to commit application fraud; the act of opening a new account with someone else's identity. Since most of the stolen information is static and won't change for the rest of a consumer's life, the risk of fraud will be constant unless action is taken to prevent it, or a new identification system is implemented. Below are three methods to protect yourself from identity fraud.

**#1 Credit Freeze**— A credit freeze may be the most effective action to protect yourself from identity fraud. This allows you to limit who can see your credit report information. The main goal would be to prevent anyone from opening any new accounts or lines of credit. Your existing creditors and some government agencies would still have access to your report, but according to the Federal Trade Commission, it does not prevent you from getting your free annual credit report.

In some states, freezing your credit is free but the credit bureaus generally charge up to \$10. In Maryland, the law currently prohibits credit reporting agencies from charging more than \$5 per freeze, and anyone who is a victim of identity theft can freeze their credit at no cost. In order to completely freeze your credit, all three credit bureaus must be contacted and you will need to provide your name, address, date of birth, Social Security number. The Credit Bureaus are Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion.



*More than 143 million Americans had their sensitive information compromised, which included social security numbers, dates of birth, driver's license numbers, and credit card information for approximately 209,000 consumers because of Equifax's massive database breach, recently.*

*Courtesy Photo*

The downside of implementing a credit freeze is that you won't be able to open any new lines of credit until it is lifted, which generally comes with a cost. You will also need to remember your PIN or password that each company provides when you set the initial freeze. But for consumers who want the greatest protection or have no immediate plans to open new lines of credit this may be the best course of action.

**#2 Fraud Alerts**— When you place a fraud alert on your credit report, creditors must take reasonable steps to verify your identity before issuing a new line of credit. Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), consumers can contact one of the three credit bureaus to place a Fraud Alert on their credit report, free of charge. Whichever credit bureau you contact to set up the alert is then required to inform the other two agencies to place an alert on your file. The alert will be in effect for at least 90 days and can be renewed after 60 days.

Additionally, if you have already been a victim of identity theft and have created an Identity Theft Report, you can request an extended fraud alert.

Extended fraud alerts stay on your report for seven years and your name will be removed from pre-screened credit offers for five years, unless you ask them to put it back on the list.

**#3 Monitoring Services**— Using a third-party monitoring service or even a monitoring service provided by one of the credit bureaus may help you spot, and potentially prevent, identity fraud. Monitoring features vary greatly and costs can range from free to hundreds of dollars per year. Businesses such as LifeLock and IdentityGuard will monitor your credit activity 24/7 to ensure there is no unusual activity. As an added bonus, they also monitor the "dark web," which is where sensitive information such as Social Security numbers are actively sold. If they do detect any suspicious action, they will notify you of the fraud, and typically work with you to resolve the issue. As you would do with any purchase, determine which features are most important to you and choose the one that satisfies the most at the best price.

Whether you decide you use one of the methods mentioned above or not, it is always a good idea to keep your person-

ally identifiable information (PII) secure. Here are a few more quick tips to help protect yourself from being a victim of fraud: Review your free credit reports on an annual basis; file your taxes as early as possible to avoid potential tax-fraud; review your healthcare Explanation of Benefits (EOB); and shred documents with sensitive information.

If you believe someone is using your personal information, act quickly. The Federal Trade Commission suggests taking the following steps to help you limit the damage: call the companies where you know fraud occurred; place a fraud alert on your credit reports and get copies of your report; report identity theft to the FTC; and file a report with your local police department.

More information is available at: IdentityTheft.gov.

*Williams Asset Management is located at 8850 Columbia 100 Parkway, Suite 204, Columbia, MD 21045. For more information about Williams Asset Management, visit: [www.WilliamsAssetManagement.com](http://www.WilliamsAssetManagement.com) or call 410-740-0220.*

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A discussion led by the Reverend Bernette Lee Jones, OGOT Senior Minister, follows the presentation.



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## **NAACP Board elects new president & CEO**

Baltimore— The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), America's largest and original legacy civil rights organization, has unanimously elected Derrick Johnson president & CEO. Johnson, 49, has served as interim president and CEO since July of this year.

A Detroit native now residing in Jackson, Mississippi, Johnson, who was also elected vice-chairman of the Board of Directors in February of this year, is a longtime member, leader and a respected veteran activist who



*Derrick Johnson  
President & CEO, NAACP  
Courtesy Photo*

will be tasked with guiding the NAACP through a period of tremendous challenge and opportunity at a key point in its 108-year history. The NAACP has undergone transitions in leadership this year as it re-envisioned itself to take on a tumultuous and contentious social and political climate. He will have a three-year term.

"In his time serving as our interim president and CEO, Derrick has proven himself as the strong, decisive leader we need to guide us through both our internal transition, as well as a crucial moment in our nation's history. With new threats to communities of color emerging daily and attacks on our democracy, the NAACP must be more steadfast than ever before, and Derrick has the vision, mobility and courage to help us meet that demand," said Leon Russell, Board Chairman of the NAACP. "As both a longtime member of the NAACP, and a veteran activist in his own right— having worked on the ground to advocate for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, along with championing countless other issues— Derrick also intimately understands the strengths of the Association, our challenges and the many obstacles facing black Americans of all generations today. I look forward to continuing to work with him in this new role."

Johnson has an extensive history and career legacy of dedicated civil rights activism. He formerly served as state president of the Mississippi State Conference of the NAACP, where he successfully spearheaded campaigns for voting rights, worker's rights and equitable education, and he additionally is the founder and executive director of One Voice, Inc., a Jackson-based non-profit organization conceived in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to enhance the quality of life for African Americans through civic engagement training and initiatives.

Additionally, as a past regional organizer with Southern Echo, Inc., another local non-profit organization, Mr. Johnson provided legal, technical and training support to communities spanning the south. He was appointed to the Mississippi Access to Justice Commission by the chief justice of the Mississippi Supreme Court, owing to his years of committed service to the people of the state.

# Ravens defense needs to stop the run in the coming weeks

By Turron Davenport

At the start of the 2017 season, many media outlets felt that the Ravens defense would be one of the best in the NFL. However, that has not been the case seven weeks into the season.

Baltimore's defense prides itself on stopping the run. Last week, Minnesota Vikings running back Latavius Murray ripped off 118 yards rushing in the 24-17 win over the Ravens.

Defensive coordinator Dean Pees was asked about the big plays they gave up in the rushing game on Sunday.

"One time we are in a zone with just a four-man front. Two guys kind of got out of their gap and did not play it, and the ball broke," Pees said. "Then on the second one—on the touchdown—we actually ran a blitz. What it was—that is why I say I think we are pressing sometimes.

"One of the guys tried to kind of go a little farther than what he has to go on the blitz in the gap, and he went a little farther than he needed to, and all of a sudden they hit that gap. Those are one of those, where, sometimes, if they run it the other way it doesn't show up. But they ran it right where we made a mistake. And we made a mistake."

Outside linebacker Terrell Suggs bristled when the media mentioned living up to the hype. He thinks Baltimore can still get things back in order on defense.

"Hype, huh? Shots fired. But no, we had Brandon [Williams] out a couple of times; we lost Brent Urban," Suggs said. "But we still can be historic. We still can be magical. So, [forget] hype. We know



Chicago Bears quarterback Mitchell Trubisky eludes Ravens outside linebacker Terrell Suggs during the game in week 6 in the NFL on Sunday, October 15, 2016 at M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore. Courtesy Photo/NFL.com

who we are, and we know what we're about. Now, we've just got to tighten the screws a little bit. We just have to stop the leakage. We're not hitting the panic button just yet. We're going to be alright."

Suggs isn't entirely wrong. Even though the Bears scored 27 points in week six, the defense only gave up 13 points. Chicago's defense scored two touchdowns.

In week five, the Raiders only scored 17 points against Baltimore. The main problem is the run defense. Safeties Eric Weddle and Tony Jefferson feel they need to play better but Pees thinks it's more of a team effort.

"They run the show back there. They have high aspirations, and they are very accountable guys," Pees said. "They are

two very good pros. We are struggling a bit right now. We have to go back to just letting it go and playing football. We all are pressing. We have to do a good job as coaches and we have to really stress the fundamentals."

The next few games on the schedule feature teams that like to run the ball. It will be a good opportunity for the coaching staff and players to redeem themselves from a run defense perspective. Stay tuned.

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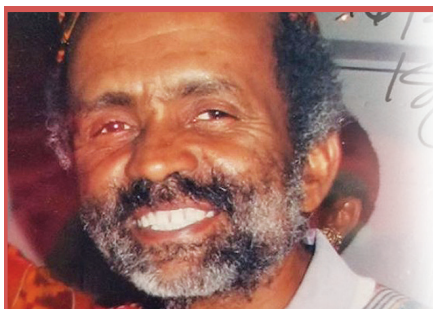
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## Library of Congress Announces Librarians- in-Residence Pilot Program

*Applications open November 1, 2017  
for recent graduates of library/informa-  
tion science master's programs*

Washington, D.C.— The Library of Congress is launching a Librarians-in-Residence pilot program to offer early career librarians the opportunity to develop their expertise and contribute to building, stewarding and sharing the institution's vast collections.

The application period is November 1 to November 30, 2017.

The Library will select up to four applicants for a six-month residency beginning in June 2018. The program is open to students who will complete their master's degrees in an American Library Association-accredited library/information science program no later than June 2018 or who completed such a degree no earlier than December 2016.

"I am so excited to invite early career librarians to bring their intellectual engagement, technological prowess and theoretical concepts of library and information science to bear on practical challenges here at the world's largest library," said Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden. "The Library of Congress will benefit from their energy and creative thinking, and they will benefit from the hands-on experience of working with the scale and variety of the national collections, side-by-side with top innovators on the Library's staff."

The program gives early career librarians the opportunity to receive on-the-job training and undertake assignments that contribute to the ongoing mission and work of the Library of Congress in at least one of the following tracks: Acquisitions and collection development; Cataloging and metadata; Collection preservation; Reference and instruction; and Systems and standards. The program will offer compensation at the GS-9 pay level.

For more information, visit: [loc.gov/librarians](http://loc.gov/librarians).

# Successful entrepreneur gives back to domestic violence survivors

By Andrea Blackstone

Domestic Violence Awareness Month is an ideal time to raise awareness about domestic violence but Owings Mills, Maryland resident, Cindy Tawiah is committed to helping women and young girls who have been touched by this issue anytime of year.

Tawiah, who originally hails from Ghana, West Africa, is the founder of the Diva By Cindy hair care line, which consists of 13 items ranging from popular Super Gro Hair Dress to a leave-in hair detangler. Tawiah's alcohol-free products can also be used by women who have suffered from alopecia; hair loss due to blood pressure medication; thyroid issues; and chemotherapy cancer treatment.

The former Registered Nurse who once worked at Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore determined that nursing was not her passion. However, she discovered that running a business, inspiring and empowering women is her calling.

Tawiah ultimately became a beauty salon owner and is the author of "Metamorphosis: Finding Your Passion, Finding Your Purpose, Finding U," in which she chronicled her own journey from passion to purpose, and overcoming abuse, while making a difference in the lives of domestic violence victims through the Diva Project.

"In 2005, we began bringing in homeless women and victims of domestic violence for days of beauty and healing where they get full service (hair, nails, make up) and motivational presentations, and [they participate in a] balloon release to let go of their pain and trauma and release hopes and dreams," Tawiah said. "We call the shelters and offer the services to their ladies. Sunshine Promise is a 501(c)(3) that is our nonprofit for the Diva Project."

A percentage of the proceeds from items sold from Tawiah's product line enables her to offer free beauty days, which has even includes dresses.

The successful entrepreneur has been selling Diva By Cindy products at a kiosk in BWI (Baltimore-Washington International Airport) since July of 2017.



**Cindy Tawiah, who originally hails from Ghana, West Africa, is the founder of the Diva By Cindy hair care line. The Owings Mills, Maryland resident is committed to helping women and young girls who have been touched by domestic violence any time of year. A percentage of the proceeds from items sold allows her to offer beauty days for domestic violence survivors through the 501(c)(3) nonprofit the Diva Project. (Above) Tawiah at the counter at her kiosk at the Baltimore Washington International (BWI) Airport. Photo by Andrea Blackstone**

"I am ecstatic about our partnership at BWI. It allows us to connect with people and touch more lives," Tawiah said, while explaining the meaning of the Diva acronym. "Diva (by Cindy) is for a woman who wants beauty excellence and elegance. It's Divine, Inspired, Virtuous, and Anointed. It's every woman's journey when she overcomes adversity."

The impact of Tawiah's work is recognizable by the metamorphosis of domestic violence survivors like Flora Carter. She met Tawiah in 2006 when she participated in the self-esteem building Diva Project. Carter was staying with her daughter, after enduring her own domestic violence experience in Prince George's County. Her goal was getting out of her situation alive and reaching out to obtain help made a positive difference in her life. Carter also mentioned that domestic violence entails tearing someone down and Tawiah is commit-

ted to building women back up.

"She (Tawiah) is encouraging because a lot of women and men don't see people who've made it through and won't get the help that they need, so she is a great encourager, but the main thing is to realize that you are a human being, said Carter. "You do need to be treated nice. You can have your nails done. You can be a diva. It makes a positive difference because you've lost faith in yourself. You've lost faith in everything, when somebody just really tries to strip you, and Cindy helped build the mind, the body as well as the soul."

Carter, who is now divorced and doing well, encourages other women to speak up about domestic violence. She says that many women who experience domestic violence don't receive any medical help from trained domestic violence advocates, within the first 24 hours of experiencing it. They often leave home

without the basic necessities, such as grooming supplies and clothing. Carter expressed gratitude for Tawiah's willingness to talk to domestic violence survivors, while letting them know that she achieved success. She reminds them that the unfortunate experience was not their fault.

"That was the main thing that really got us over— realizing that we cannot be responsible for another person's actions," Carter said. "By her (Tawiah) giving a contribution through [the sale of] her products for domestic violence, that helps somebody else have a night in the shelter, or some food, or some of the stuff that they need to survive."

To learn more about the Diva Project, Tawiah and her endeavors, visit: [www.thedivaproject.org](http://www.thedivaproject.org) and [www.divabycindy.com](http://www.divabycindy.com).

# Epsilon Omega Chapter of AKA School Supplies Efforts Continue

By Ursula V. Battle

Back-To-School is generally a time when school supplies are collected and ultimately distributed during community fairs and other events. However, the need for backpacks, notebooks, pens and other supplies continues well after the school year has started.

The Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority has continued its efforts to meet this year-round need by continuing to collect and distribute school supplies. The effort is part of the AKA One Million Backpacks Project, a component of the Educational Enrichment: Target I of the 2014-18 Launching New Dimensions of ServiceSM International Program.

The project focuses on the sorority's ability to support education with resources in the form of backpacks loaded with school supplies for students. "For 95 years, Epsilon Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. has served the Greater Baltimore Community and has lived out our mission of 'Service to All Mankind,'" said Tonja Ringgold, Epsilon Omega Chapter President.

In August, the Epsilon Omega Foundation, Inc. prepared and distributed over 800 backpacks filled with school supplies to area students and their families as part of the Back-to-School Community Fair held at the Ivy Family Support Center at 3515 Dolfield Avenue in Baltimore.

The Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, March Funeral Homes and ShopRite Stores donated over 45,000 rulers, glue sticks, folders, loose leaf paper, and other school supplies to ensure that students were "Packed, Polished, and Prepared" for the start of school.

This was the third year of the event, which also included lunch and games. Epsilon Omega Chapter and Foundation members along with volunteers distributed the supplies to students and their families. Co-chaired by Sharon Smith, Community Fair attendees also received information from various City agencies and non-profit community resources such as Enoch Pratt Free Library.



**(Top left) Tracy Blackson, Paula Thompson-Martin, and Bernice Beard setting up for this year's Back-to-School Community Fair. (Top right) Four-year-old Sarah Hoffman shows off her first library card (Above left) Student volunteers Aubree Stokes, Keyara Conley and Torri Mitchell write Thank You notes (Above right) Some of the many thoughts of appreciation that Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority have received for their school supply efforts. Courtesy Photos**

The Epsilon Omega chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Education Enrichment program is chaired by Frances Parks and co-chaired by Jean Owens. The Backpack Project is chaired by Claudette Edgerton-Swain who says the goal is to ensure that students are always "Packed, Polished, and Prepared" for school.

"We understand as parents, as well as educators how difficult it was to purchase supplies for families with multiple children," she said. "Our main concern was for our students to be equipped and to be academically prepared for a successful school year. We are still receiving calls at

the Ivy Center requesting back packs, so our work continues."

She also noted the distribution of library cards.

"We were very excited that Enoch Pratt Library attended the event as part of their early literacy program," said the retired Baltimore City Public School teacher. "Several children received their first library card. It's important to put books in the hands of children at an early age."

Epsilon Omega Chapter is the first graduate chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., in the North Atlantic Region. The effort is among the many

aimed at helping the community and beyond.

Last year, the group participated in "The Sewing Circle," which creates dresses from pillowcases in support of Little Dresses for Africa. They took their creations to the AKA's 67th Boule held in Atlanta, Georgia, July 9-16, 2016.

"We took an oath, and are mandated to provide service to all mankind," said Egerton-Swain.

For more information, or to make a donation to the AKA One Million Backpacks Project, email Egerton-Swain at: [akaeo1921@gmail.com](mailto:akaeo1921@gmail.com).

# PNC sponsors 'Mind Your Business' Seminar for Creative Artists

By Stacy M. Brown

PNC continues to immerse itself into the community as a good neighbor and responsible partner, supporting small businesses and those in the arts— particularly business owners who might lack some of the necessary resources of powerful corporate entrepreneurs.

On Saturday, November 4, 2017, PNC will team up with the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts and Maryland Citizens for the Arts to present, "Mind Your Business," a legal and financial workshop for artists at the Motor House located at 120 W. North Avenue in Baltimore from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 pm

Presented twice a year around the state, the event is a symposium designed to help those in the creative class to better navigate budgets, contracts, copyright laws, insurance and more.

"The goal is always to make sure that potential small business owners and entrepreneurs come away with the knowledge they need to start their business and to do so properly while avoiding some of the hurdles other artists have not been able to," said Franklin McNeil, vice president and community consultant for PNC Bank.

The importance of the "Mind Your Business" seminar could not be more profound for artists who may not be aware of copyright laws, according to McNeil, who gave as an example the fight between the Baltimore Ravens and an M&T Bank Stadium employee who created the team's popular logo.

Frederick Bouchat had said he wanted recognition for his idea for the logo.



*Franklin McNeil, Vice President and Community Consultant for PNC Bank.  
Courtesy Photo*

Reportedly, the South Baltimore resident first sketched a flying raven clutching a shield with a "B" and faxed it to the Maryland Stadium Authority more than 20 years ago. While Bouchat has won a court case crediting him with creating the Ravens' first logo, he has never been compensated.

"He didn't copyright it and they ended

up using it and now his logo is on NFL merchandise all over the world. He didn't protect it," McNeil said.

It's that insight officials wish to provide to artists and others at the seminar.

"We're trying to empower creative professionals to know what it is that's out there and what their next step will be, because everyone has a next step,"

said Adam Holofcener, the executive director of Maryland Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts, a nonprofit dedicated to protecting Maryland artists' legal rights through pro bono legal referrals and education.

"It's not their job to be a lawyer and it's not their job to be a banker," said Holofcener, a Baltimore native who also teaches courses on intellectual property and entertainment and sports law at the Maryland Institute College of Art and the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law.

"But, it is their job to be as creative a small business as they can and to know when they need help," he said. "When they know that, it frees them up to do what they do best, which is create and this seminar will help build relationships with other creative folks."

McNeil says he hopes that those in attendance will see the benefit from the seminar and use it to avoid hurdles that perhaps others have fell victim to.

"We want them to come away with knowledge and to make sure they understand what steps they need to take to protect themselves and their business and, as a bank, we want to make sure that they're aware of the steps that are needed for funding," McNeil said.

"Banks can have a reputation of saying 'no' to funding, but here's a way we can say 'yes' and help them be best-prepared when it comes to financing."

For more information and to register for the seminar, visit <http://mdarts.org/events/mind-your-business/>.



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# The Unique Art of Larry ‘Poncho’ Brown, a Baltimore Legend



Larry “Poncho” Brown

By Stacy M. Brown

Larry “Poncho” Brown has many accolades that he earned with the stroke of a paintbrush.

A Baltimore native, Brown once earned the distinction of being among the youngest inductees at Carver Vocational Technical High School Hall of Fame, and among the many awards he has received are a 2008 Black Music & Art Award and the 2000 Artist of the Year Award presented by the African-American Visual Art Association.

A world leader in contemporary African-American art who started his first business at 17 as a sign writer, Brown has been selected as a speaker for PNC Bank’s artist legal and financial workshop, “Mind Your Business,” scheduled for 9:30 a.m.- 3:30p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 4 at the Motor House in Baltimore.

He earned a Bachelor’s of Fine Arts degree from the Maryland Institute College of Art and his work, which includes portraits of singer Anita Baker, the late comedian and activist Dick Gregory, and comedian Bill Cosby, has been published nationally in Upscale, Ebony, Essence and Jet Magazines.

Admirers often cite rhythm, movement and unity, as favorite elements of his work, according to his biography. He primarily works in acrylic, although Brown uses a variety of mediums and styles to express his interests in Afrocentric themes, Ancient Egyptology and dance— it’s a style that combines past and present art to create a sense of realism, mysticism, and beauty, which gives his art universal appeal.

“I’m a second-generation artist of a teenaged parent who gave up his dream of doing art because when he had me he was 16 or 17-years-old,” Brown said about his late father.



Figurative Painting - *The Jazz Dimension* by Larry Poncho Brown

Courtesy Photos/Poncho Brown

“Needless to say, there was no outlet for him, so he ventured into printing (eventually becoming a successful school teacher) and, naturally, a son imitates his father and I think I had the seriousness about art that he wished he had.”

As a child, Brown says he always wished that he had a super power. “As an adult,” he said, “I realized it was art.”

He says his dad chose the nickname “Poncho” because he was a fan of the 1960s show, “Cisco Kid,” whose sidekick’s name was Poncho.

“I used Poncho to separate from him because you had two artists in the same house,” Brown said.

The 1970s television show, “Good Times,” proved a turning point for African-American artists because of the famous painting featured in the show’s opening and closing, Brown said.

Later, though, he says the “Cosby Show” sparked the revolution of the African-American artist and Cosby himself would later be counted as a customer and a friend of his. But it was comedian and activist Dick Gregory who provided his first major break.

“Dick Gregory was the first person to give me a break. He had me to do the first ad campaign for his Bahamian diet and the first celebrity to endorse my work after I switched from sign painting to illustration,” Brown said. “He called me to do commercial work for him, and things moved quickly after.”

After traveling to New York for a meeting with potential buyers, Brown says things really began to change for the better when he noticed a major art show at the

Jacob Javits Center in New York.

“I was on my way back to Baltimore and frustrated. Then I’m on the bus passing the Javits Center and see limos with people carrying canvases,” he said.

Brown asked the bus driver to allow him to exit and he went to investigate. The following year he brought his work there and began selling it by the truckload.

“I pretended that I was working for someone else because in the art world, they don’t like self-promotion,” he said, noting that his ruse paid off.

His work has been featured in the homes of Cosby, Gregory, and Baker among others and also on television shows like “Soul Food,” “The Wire,” “A Different World,” and “In the House.”

In 1999, Brown’s art was featured in the UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History Textile Series No. 2 book, titled, “Wrapped in Pride.”

“My creations are a reflection of my personal values and pay homage to ongoing themes of unity, family, and spirituality,” Brown said.

The artist also founded “Raising the Arts” which has created dozens of images to assist nonprofit and African-American organizations with artistic documentation and fundraising opportunities.

“The African American art realm has been pressing onward because of the positive images that have become a narrative of our perseverance,” he said.

For more information about Brown’s work, visit <http://theartofponcho.com>.

# Senator Barbara Mikulski loans Presidential Medal of Freedom to Pratt Library

*Medal to be part of permanent exhibit at the Central Library opening 2019*

Baltimore—Senator Barbara A. Mikulski will loan her Presidential Medal of Freedom to the Enoch Pratt Free Library to be displayed in a new exhibit inside the renovated Central Library.

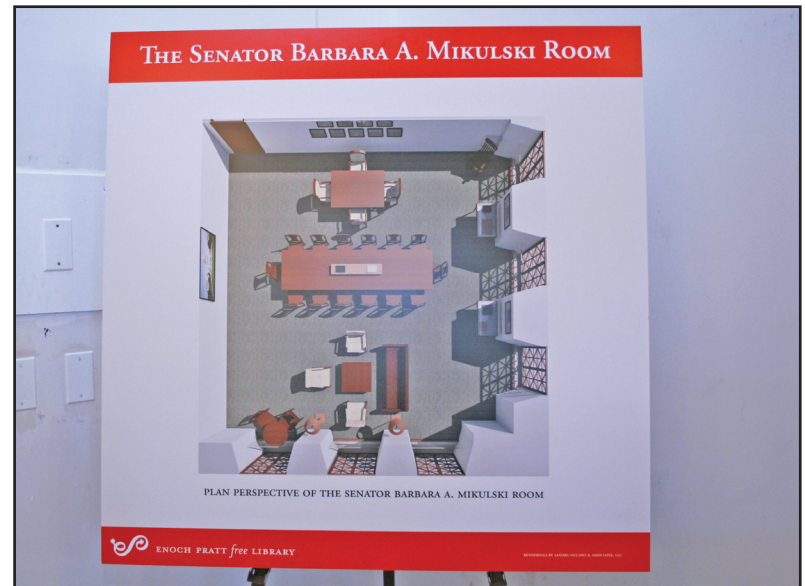
A presentation of Senator Mikulski's Medal of Freedom was held on the morning of Thursday, October 19, 2017 at the Pratt Central Library.

"The Enoch Pratt has played such an important role in my life. It helped to educate and inspire me—as it has for so many. It is open to everyone, free of charge," said Senator Mikulski. "I want to give back to an institution that has given so much to me and to our community. These historic artifacts are from key moments in my career. I hope they inspire others to learn and to serve."

The longest serving female in the history of the U.S. Congress, Senator Mikulski was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the country's highest civilian award in 2016 by President Barack Obama who called her the "Lioness of Capitol Hill."

"It is such an honor that Senator Mikulski has chosen to share such valuable pieces of history with the Pratt Library," said Library President & CEO Heidi Daniel. "This new exhibit will tell the story of a passionate leader, fierce advocate and champion of human rights who dedicated her life to serving the people Maryland. We hope it inspires a whole new generation of leaders."

The Pratt Library exhibit, set to open in 2019, will feature dozens of artifacts loaned by Senator Mikulski from her career.



*(Top left) Senator Barbara Mikulski presents the Medal of Freedom to the audience with the help of Pratt Library President & CEO Heidi Daniel (Top right) Artist rendering of The Senator Barbara A. Mikulski Room (Above left and right) Some of the items from key moments in Senator Mikulski's career that will be included in Pratt Library exhibit set to open in 2019.*

Photos by Dennis Roberts

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country in times of conflict have suffered scars of battle."**

## Iris Leigh Barnes appointed to Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture

Baltimore— Governor Larry Hogan has appointed Iris Leigh Barnes of Havre de Grace to the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture. She was sworn in as a commissioner for a four-year term on Friday, October 20, 2017.

The Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture is committed to discovering, documenting, preserving, collecting and promoting Maryland's African American heritage. The Commission also provides technical assistance to institutions and groups with similar objectives.

The goal of the commission— part of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives— is to educate residents and visitors about the significance and impact of the African American experience in Maryland.

"It is an honor and a pleasure to work with the historical and cultural institutions in Maryland to help them advance their missions to preserve the rich history of our state," Barnes said. "Much of what happened in Maryland, and particularly in Harford County, reverberated across the country and had an impact on regional and national events.

"African American history provides incredible stories that illustrate the tenacity and power of the human spirit, and that history is important for everyone to know in order to truly understand our country and its culture. That's what makes this work on the commission important, and I am so honored to be a part of it."

Barnes is the executive director of Hosanna School Museum in Darlington, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. Hosanna School Museum is a restored Freedmen's Bureau School, the first public school for African Americans in Harford County.

She is also the curator of the Lillie Carroll Jackson Civil Rights Museum in



*Iris Leigh Barnes, curator of the Lillie Carroll Jackson Civil Rights Museum in Baltimore has been appointed to the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture for a four-year term. Courtesy Photo*

Baltimore, owned by Morgan State University. The museum tells the story of many Marylanders including Thurgood Marshall, Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr., Juanita Jackson Mitchell and Margaret Carey and their work to eliminate racial inequality.

Barnes is the recipient of several national and local awards including being named an inaugural Interpretation Fellow at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture and the National Association of Interpreters; a two-time Diversity Fellow for the National Trust for Historical Preservation; and a Wing Research Fellow at the Maryland Historical Society.

In addition, she was a lead member of the Hays-Heighe House and Hosanna School Museum teams that sponsored the "Faces of Freedom: The Upper Chesapeake, Maryland, and Beyond" initiative, which was awarded a Maryland Preservation Award by the Maryland Historical Trust.

## Forever Stamp honoring National Museum of African American History and Culture on sale

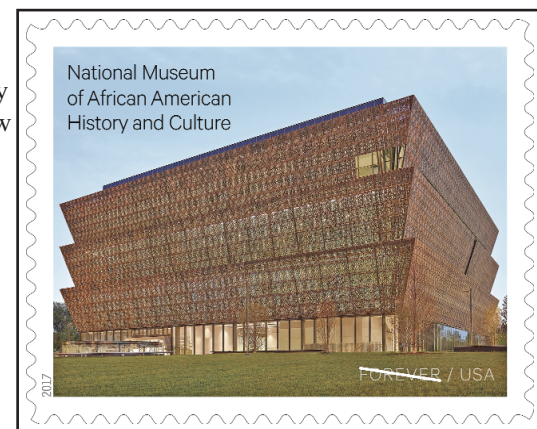
Washington, D.C.— The Celebrating African American History and Culture Forever stamp is now available for sale. The National Museum of African American History and Culture is located at 1400 Constitution Avenue, NW in Washington, D.C.

Black history is inseparable from American history, and the black experience represents a profound and unique strand of the American story. This stamp

issuance recognizes the richness of that experience by celebrating the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C.

The stamp art is based on a photograph of the museum showing a view of the northwest corner of the building. Text in the upper-left corner of the stamp reads "National Museum of African American History and Culture."

Opened on September 24, 2016, the National Museum of African American History and Culture is the 19th Smithsonian museum and the only national museum devoted exclusively to African American life, art, history and culture. The museum's collections, which include art, artifacts, photographs, films, documents, data, books, manuscripts and audio recordings, represent all regions of the United States and acknowledge the cultural links of African Americans to the black experience around the world as well. The museum provides opportunities for the public to explore and enjoy African American history while demonstrating the centrality of that history to our nation's past, present and future.



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# AACPS Continues to Expand Offerings for Students Thanks to Robot Sponsorship by BGE

Annapolis— Students who can't attend class due to illness or injury can still keep up on material, but they often lose the feel of the classroom and contact with their classmates as they do so. Anne Arundel County Public Schools' efforts to bridge that divide got another boost today with the sponsorship of a robot by BGE that will allow students to attend class virtually while they recover. The robot, operated from a home computer, uses video conferencing technology to allow a student to travel through the hallways, sit at the lunch table with friends, participate in group assignments, and ask questions to teachers in real time. BGE's sponsorship, facilitated through AACPS' 21st Century Education Foundation, brings to 13 the total number of robots available to students across the school system. Four of those have been purchased through donations like the one being made by BGE.

"At BGE, one of our primary educational focus areas is innovative technology education and this distance learning robot affords remote students the opportunity to remain connected to their classmates," said Valencia McClure, vice president of governmental and external affairs and corporate relations for BGE. "We are certainly pleased to be able to foster those connections through our partnership with Anne Arundel County Public Schools and the sponsorship of this robot."

Dr. Arlotto and BGE officials got a firsthand look at the robot during a visit to Meade High School. The robot is developed by Double Robotics, which



*(Left to right) Lynn Hrdlick-Kerner, BGE Corporate Relations, Brittany Jones, BGE External Affairs Manager and Bonnie Johansen, BGE Manager, Projects along with ninth grade student Destiny using the BGE-sponsored distance learning robot.*  
Courtesy Photo

teams with AACPS' Office of Instructional Technology to train parents, students, teachers, and administrators to use the devices.

"Our quest to Elevate All Students and Eliminate All Gaps is only possible through initiatives such as these," Superintendent George Arlotto said. "We are indebted to BGE for helping us to expand the avenues for all of our students to succeed."

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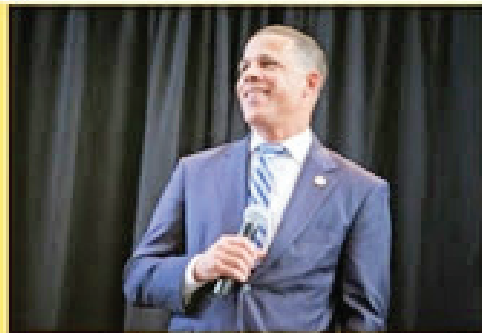
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## Hair Cuttery's Veterans Day Share-A-Haircut Program to benefit former servicemen and women across the country

Vienna, Va.— This Veterans Day, join Hair Cuttery, the largest family-owned and operated chain of hair salons in the country, in saying “thank you” to our veterans through its Share-A-Haircut program.

For every haircut purchased by Hair Cuttery patrons on Veterans Day, Saturday, November 11, a free haircut certificate will be donated back to a veteran in the same community. To distribute the free haircut certificates, Hair Cuttery partners with veteran's organizations across the U.S., including, the American Red Cross, Operation Sacred Housing and regional Veterans Affairs offices.

“With November's Share-A-Haircut program, we are saluting former military in neighborhoods throughout our great country,” said Dennis Ratner, Hair Cuttery founder and CEO. “This is our way of expressing our gratitude for their selflessness and courage, and serves as a token of our appreciation for their heroism.”

Since 1999, the Share-A-Haircut program has donated 2.2 million free haircut certificates valued at more than \$35.92 million to various causes including the homeless, survivors of domestic violence and disadvantaged children. This November, Hair Cuttery hopes to reach thousands more with its veterans-focused campaign.

Hair Cuttery has an established history of charitable giving, supporting a range of local and national causes including, St. Baldrick's Foundation, American Red Cross, American Cancer Society, Girls on the Run and The National Network to End Domestic Violence. About Hair Cuttery

Hair Cuttery is the largest family-owned and operated chain of hair salons in the country, with nearly 900 company-owned locations on the East Coast, in New England and the Midwest. For more information, visit: [www.haircuttery.com](http://www.haircuttery.com).

# Trick-or-Treat for a New Kind of Thrill



(Family Features) For most kids, Halloween is all about costumes and candy, but it can also be a chance to demonstrate how helping others brings its own set of rewards.

This October, children, families and schools across the country will join in Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF, a month-long celebration of the power and impact of kids helping kids. Throughout the month, kids, parents and teachers can add purpose to their Halloween activities by collecting donations in support of vulnerable children.

Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF encourages children to be "scary good" this Halloween and help their peers around the world. Equipped with iconic orange collection boxes, kids can raise funds that add up to lifesaving change: \$8 can buy a kit to give one family clean water to drink; \$15 can buy a box of five mosquito nets to protect kids from deadly

malaria; and \$55 can buy one box of therapeutic food treatment to save a child from severe acute malnutrition.

## Sharing the caring

In addition, a series of partners and supporters are also making it easy to help.

This year, HSNi Cares, as a national partner, will continue to raise funds and awareness to support UNICEF through all of its brands: Ballard Designs, Frontgate, Garnet Hill, Grandin Road, HSN and Improvements. Throughout September, customers will be able to make a donation to the children's humanitarian organization online or over the phone at all brands.

Key Club International will participate by raising funds for The Eliminate Project, which seeks to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus, a deadly disease that claims the lives of thousands of ba-

bies and mothers each year. Key Club International, a student-led service leadership program of Kiwanis International, is the oldest and largest service program for high school students. For more information, visit [TheEliminateProject.org](http://TheEliminateProject.org) or [KeyClub.org](http://KeyClub.org).

American Airlines will support the campaign through UNICEF's Change for Good program, which converts customers' donations of foreign and domestic currency into lifesaving services for children. From Oct. 16-31, American Airlines flight attendant volunteers will make Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF-themed announcements and collect donations from customers on select international flights.

Scholastic, the global children's publishing, education and media company, will team up with Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF to celebrate the 25th anniversary of its best-selling children's book

series "Goosebumps." Popular character Slappy and his monstrous friends will be featured on the collection boxes as well as [trickortreatforunicef.org](http://trickortreatforunicef.org).

## Make it social

Families are invited to share their Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF story on social media with the hashtag #ScaryGood. Parents and teachers who participated when they were children are also invited to share their experience with the hashtag #TBTOT4UNICEF.

Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF – the original kids helping kids campaign – has raised nearly \$177 million since 1950 to help UNICEF provide children around the world with lifesaving nutrition, water, vaccines and more. For more information, visit [trickortreatforunicef.org](http://trickortreatforunicef.org).

# From EASY ART to a SWEET TREAT

(Family Features)

Spooky, silly or symbolic, carved pumpkins are an essential ingredient to any Halloween celebration. This year, scare up some special fun for your party with a wicked watermelon carving, instead - but don't stop there.

After crafting your watermelon into an artful mummy, take advantage of the healthy, immune-system supporting qualities of the lycopene leader among fresh produce. At 92 percent water, as well as an excellent source of vitamins A and C, watermelon is a hydrating post-art snack.

Carving a creative design into a watermelon is a simple way to kick off the festivities and requires only a handful of common tools. Add a twinkling candle to make a fantastically frightful centerpiece. Or fill it with a fresh fruit salad or salsas for a more functional, practical approach.

Even if you're planning on a hollowed-out carving, keep the sweet juicy fruit and make it a healthy addition to your Halloween party menu with a recipe that puts to use all your carving leftovers.

Find more recipes, carving patterns and inspiration at [watermelon.org](http://watermelon.org).

## Choosing a Watermelon

With a thick rind covering the fruit inside, you may wonder how to choose the best watermelon at the market. Here are some tips for picking the perfect one:

\* **Look it over.** Look for a round, oval or oblong shaped watermelon that is free from bruises, cuts or dents.

\* **Lift it up.** The watermelon should be heavy for its size. On average, a 5-pound watermelon yields 15 cups of edible fruit.

\* **Turn it over.** The underside of the watermelon should have a creamy yellow spot from where it sat on the ground and ripened in the sun.



## Mummy

### Supplies and Tools:

Oval or round seedless watermelon  
Cutting board  
Kitchen knife  
Small bowl  
Dry erase marker  
Paring knife  
Melon baller, fluted or regular  
Scoop  
Assorted peelers  
Cheesecloth  
Straight pin  
Battery-operated candle or light  
Candy eyeballs or blueberries

1. Wash watermelon under cool running water and pat dry.

2. On cutting board, place watermelon on its side and use kitchen knife to cut off 1/4-inch to 1/2-inch from bottom (end opposite stem), being careful not to cut too deep into white part of rind.

3. Cut 1/2-inch to 3/4-inch from stem end to create opening large enough to fit small bowl. Using dry erase marker, draw eyes, nose and mouth, along with wavy slits around carving to let more light flow through. Use paring knife to cut out design, being sure to cut through to red fruit.

4. Use fluted or regular melon baller to

hollow out inside of watermelon. Use scoop to remove excess watermelon. 5. Peel green rind off outside of watermelon. (Tip: Different peelers work well for different parts of the watermelon, depending on how flat or round the melon is.)

Wrap thin strips of cheesecloth around mummy carving and secure with straight pin, if needed.

Put battery-operated candle or light into carving. Fit small bowl into top of carving and trim away excess rind to make bowl fit securely. Fill bowl with melon balls and attach candy or blueberries to make eyes.

## Carving Tips

\* Prior to carving, read through all of the directions.

\* Cuts are easiest when the watermelon is at room temperature. Once your handiwork is complete, chill the carving and contents before serving.

\* After drawing your design on the

rind, insert toothpicks in key places to guide your cuts.

\* A sharp knife with a pointed tip makes the easiest, cleanest cuts.

\* Remove excess flesh in large pieces, when possible, to allow for easier melon ball or cube creation.

\* Use round toothpicks or skewers to attach pieces to your design as flat toothpicks are not strong enough to bear the weight or stand up to the thickness of the rind

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# “Sparkle and Soul” Piano and String Concert in Annapolis

Annapolis—On Friday, November 3, 2017, pianist Brian Ganz will be joined by Trio Ponce, formerly the Alan Saucedo Trio, which includes Alan Saucedo on cello; Cynthia Saucedo on violin; and Marjory Serrano on violin for an evening of Chamber Music at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis (UUCA) located at 333 Dubois Road in Annapolis.

The concert is part of a continuing monthly series at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis now in its fourth year. Rachmaninoff’s soulful Trio Élégiaque and Beethoven’s sparkling Trio in E-flat major, Op.1, No. 1 will be featured, among other compositions.

Brian Ganz is considered one of the leading pianists of his generation, noted for his mastery of Chopin. He has performed locally and worldwide and is well known for annual solo performances at Strathmore Music Center.

Dr. Alan Saucedo has won several international music competitions and performed in Brazil, Japan, Mexico, Paraguay, Portugal, Spain, and the U.S., including appearances at the Smithsonian, the Kennedy Center, and the White House.

Cynthia Saucedo, a native of Mexico, is a member of the Vitali String Quartet that has performed at the White House and at venues in Mexico and in several U.S. states. She is on the faculty at Shenandoah Conservatory Arts Acad-



*Brian Ganz, pianist  
Courtesy Photo*



*Dr. Alan Saucedo of Trio Ponce  
Courtesy Photo*

emy in Winchester, Virginia.

Dr. Marjory Serrano, also on violin, has performance credentials in Venezuela and the U.S., including Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center, and also has extensive experience as a concertmaster.

Ganz and the Trio Ponce first performed together in the Middleburg Concert Series in southwest Loudoun County, Virginia. Ganz describes the experience as having “absolutely magical chemistry both personally and musically.”

For the concert, which is their second collaboration, Ganz and Trio Ponce have chosen the title “Sparkle and Soul” to feature two exceptional compositions for strings and piano.

“My favorite trio for piano, violin, and cello has always been the very first one Beethoven composed and published: the Trio Op.1, No.1 in E-flat major. I used to go to sleep at night listening to it. It is without argument the greatest opus 1 ever composed,” said Ganz. “From the very first opening arpeggios in the

piano, it sparkles with a brilliant energy and is full of beautiful and substantive ideas.”

The Rachmaninoff, by contrast, is “one of the saddest and most soulful works you will ever hear. Its beauty and emotional power can be shattering.” Ganz says the Beethoven number is the “sparkle” in our concert title; the Rachmaninoff is the “soul.”

Tickets are \$15 at the door. For more information, call 410-266-8044 or visit: [www.tinyurl.com/UUCA-concerts](http://www.tinyurl.com/UUCA-concerts).

## Stanton Community Center Needs Volunteers

The Stanton Community Center serves as a community resource that provides children and adults with recreational and cultural enrichment opportunities and health, medical, therapeutic, and counseling services. The center displays historical portraits of Annapolis' diverse community and features many offices, a multi-purpose gymnasium, commercial kitchen, fitness area, historic classroom, media center with computers, and two conference/meeting rooms. Volunteers, age 18 and up, are needed as academic tutors for elementary, middle and high school students in the After School Homework Program on Monday through Thursday, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. from September–June to help with homework, core subjects, school projects and academic skills. The program ends with a Homework Club Banquet to recognize students for their in-school academic accomplishments and for their after school Homework Club academic accomplishments. Also needed are volunteers to help with the computer lab, which is available free to city residents. For more information contact Archie Trader at 410-263-7966 or email: [atrader@annapolis.gov](mailto:atrader@annapolis.gov) or visit the website: [www.annapolis.gov](http://www.annapolis.gov) at Department-Recreation & Parks.

*Send all community calendar events  
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## Family Tree Needs Volunteers

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