

Author Recounts Recy Taylor's Assault and Black History



Recy Taylor (above), at the age of 24, while walking home from a church service with two friends late one night was accosted at gun point and thrown into the back of a car and gang-raped by six white men in 1944. Taylor lived in Abbeville, Alabama, was married and had a two-year-old daughter at the time. Although Taylor identified the men and they confessed, none were ever prosecuted. Historian and author Danielle L. McGuire has written an explosive story about Recy Taylor in her book "At the Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Rape, and Resistance – a New History of the Civil Rights Movement from Rosa Parks to the Rise of Black Power." While Taylor's tragic plight is detailed extensively in the book, McGuire delves deep into the history of violence against black women in America. Recy Taylor died three days before her birthday on December 28, 2017. (See article on page 11) Courtesy Photo

Free healthy heart screenings during National Heart Month

Baltimore— In observance of the National Heart Month in February, physical therapists from Burs and Garrett Physical Therapy Associates located at 2530 N Charles Street in Baltimore City, will offer free healthy heart screenings and will provide education on the importance of physical activity to decrease the chances of heart disease.

Handouts to help integrate exercise in our busy life will be issued. In-clinic screenings will be held on Friday, February 9, from 12 noon to 2 p.m.; Monday, February 19, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Monday, February 26, from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m..

Businesses interested in having physical therapists come to their location, can call the clinic to arrange on site screenings.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women. In the United States, someone has a heart attack every 40 seconds. Each minute, more than one person in the United States dies from a heart disease-related event. High blood pressure, obesity, physical inactivity are key risk factors for heart disease. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has urged providers to participate in prevention programs in the effort to control heart disease.

According to Vernise L. Burs PT, CSCI

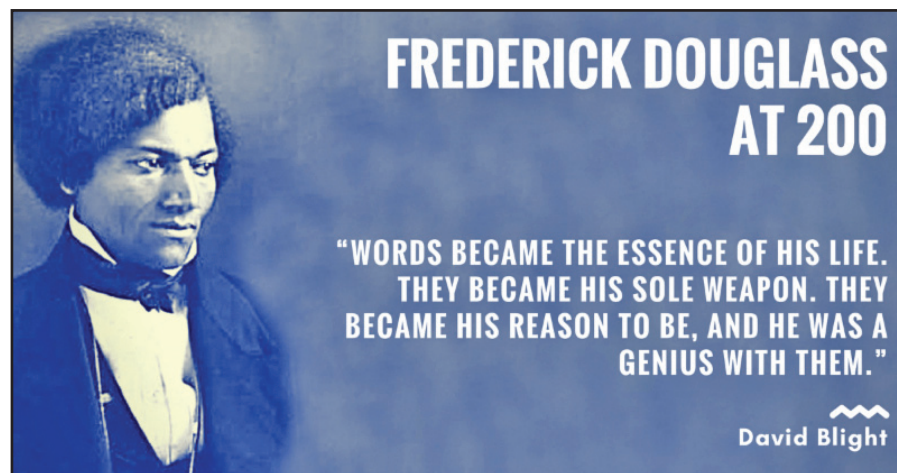


(owner) and Francesca Raponi PT (associate) of Burs & Garrett Physical Therapy, "Inactivity, waist measurements greater than 30 inches for women and 40 inches for men and poor dietary consumption elevates an individual's risk for stroke, heart attack and diabetes. Physical therapists address these risk factors through movement, exercise, education and an individualized approach encouraging clients to become an 'active participant in their own recovery.'"

The free Healthy Heart Screening will consist of Blood pressure, BMI and SpO2 which measures the level of oxygen in your blood. Additionally information regarding Heart Healthy Food choices and Physical Activity Levels will be discussed.

Burs & Garrett Physical Therapy provides traditional physical therapy, orthopedic physical therapy, pelvic floor/incontinence services and general rehabilitation services for all conditions. Our evidence based treatment procedures/techniques delivers quality outcomes.

Maryland Historical Society commemorates 200th Birthday of Frederick Douglass



Baltimore—The Maryland Historical Society will host noted scholar and professor of history at Yale University, David Blight, Ph.D., as he brings his expertise to discuss importance of Frederick Douglass's life and thought as part of our recognition of Black History month on February 7, 2018 at 6: 30 p.m.

Director of the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance and Abolition, Blight is one of the most respected scholars of the Civil War and Reconstruction, race relations, Douglass, Du Bois, and problems in public history and American historical memory. In light of Douglass's 200th birthday, and leading to the release of Blight's upcoming full biography, Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom, this lecture is especially pertinent to today's discussions.

"Next month marks the 200th birthday of Frederick Douglass, undeniably one of the most important men in American history. A man that risked all to bring freedom to an entire race and begin the process of equalizing our nation," Maryland Historical Society President and CEO, Mark Letzer shared.

The event is made free of charge to the public through the A. Helen Diggs Memorial Lecture Fund. Reservations are requested to ensure seating. For reservations, visit: www.mdhs.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=294.

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The Annapolis Times

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

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Guest Editorials/Commentary

CBC Chairman offers stinging rebuttal to President's State of the Union Address

By Freddie Allen, Editor-In-Chief, NNPA Newswire

Representative Cedric Richmond, the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) railed against President Donald Trump's boasts about the economy, especially his claims about the black community, in a blistering response to the president's State of the Union (SOTU) address.

CBC members also wore Kente cloth-inspired prints to the State of the Union address in solidarity with Americans, Haitians and the African nations smeared by President Trump's racist rhetoric.

Richmond said that every action taken by President Trump, since his election, has been destructive for poor, working-class, and middle-class communities throughout the country, as well as communities of color. He noted that nothing that the president said during his speech wiped that slate clean.

The CBC chairman also leveled the charge made by lawmakers and economists alike that Trump is just riding the economic wave that began during President Barack Obama's tenure.

"He boasts about a booming economy, but it is not something he can take credit for," said Richmond. "Much like the money he inherited from his father to start his business, President Trump inherited a growing economy from President Obama."

Richmond continued: "The low black unemployment rate he boasted about has been falling for eight years, and has only changed by one percent since he took office. In addition, while the black unemployment rate is at an historic low, it is still double the rate of white unemployment and doesn't take into account the fact that African Americans are disproportionately underemployed and underpaid."

Janelle Jones, an analyst working on a variety of labor market topics within EPI's Program on Race, Ethnicity, and the Economy (PREE) told Vox that, "The recovery of employment was happening long before Trump got into office."

Richmond also said that even though the president's infrastructure proposal sounded good, he doubted that the proposals would live up to their promise.

"We know that it will be more of the same: toll roads, reduced federal cost-share, and giveaways to his wealthy friends in the construction industry," said Richmond. "It is important to note that he said nothing about contracting with minority firms."

Richmond said that the CBC can now answer the question that Trump posed to the black community in 2016, "with 100 percent certainty."

Richmond continued: "African Americans have a lot to lose under the Trump Administration and we have lost a lot already, especially when it comes to his justice, voting rights, education, housing, and healthcare policies. President Trump is still who we thought he was and we won't be fooled by this speech."

When sending letters to the editor, your correct name, address and telephone number must be included with your submission. Your letter will not be published without the required information.

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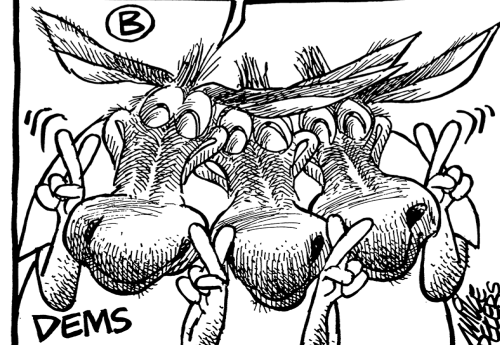
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...THAT MCCONNELL WILL KEEP HIS PROMISE!!

(B)



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Community Affairs

Writing Contest for Maryland Middle School Students

Annapolis— All Maryland middle school students are invited to enter a statewide writing contest focusing on the themes of peace and social justice.

Sponsored by Anne Arundel Peace Action, the Maryland Peace Action Education Fund, the Benjamin Peace Foundation and Annapolis Friends Meeting, the contest is open to all 7th and 8th grade students enrolled in public or private schools in Maryland and to home school students corresponding to the same grade levels.

This is the 22nd consecutive year the contest has been conducted.

Four cash prizes will be awarded: \$350 for first place; \$250 for second place; \$150 for third place; and \$100 for fourth place. The winners will be honored at a special ceremony, although attendance is not required to receive an award.

To enter, students must submit an entry of up to 1,200 words on this topic:

"A student group at your school wants to organize a showing of the controversial 1915 movie, *The Birth of a Nation*,

which is considered to be a masterpiece of filming but is racist in content with a sympathetic portrayal of the Ku Klux Klan. The student group claims that they are exercising their First Amendment rights of free speech in seeking to stage the movie. But other students have objected, and the school principal is reluctant to allow the program. You are asked to serve on a committee to work out a solution. What would you advise and why?"

Entries must be accompanied by a separate cover sheet including the student's name, address and phone number or e-mail address; school's name, address and phone number; and the name of the teacher sponsor if applicable.

Entries and accompanying materials must be postmarked no later than April 30, 2018 and mailed to Fred B. Benjamin Peace Writing Contest, 310 Riverview Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403-3328.

Anne Arundel Peace Action and the Maryland Peace Action Education Fund are affiliated with Peace Action, the country's largest grassroots peace and disarmament organization with approximately 100,000 members nationwide.

For more information, call 410-263-7409 or e-mail mjkeller@att.net.

#ThankYouBlackWomen and the power of the black vote

By Congresswoman Robin Kelly (D-Ill.)

In the Age of Trump, logging onto Twitter can elicit everything from hysterical laughter to deep concern and fear. From time to time, I've even had the urge to teach the Trump Administration basic math. However, the Wednesday after Democratic candidate Doug Jones won the special election in Alabama for Attorney General Jeff Sessions' vacant U.S. Senate seat, I woke up excited about the election results in Alabama.

The first thing that I did that morning was log onto Twitter. When I looked at the trending hashtags, I saw one that I'd never seen before. One that surprised me: #ThankYouBlackWomen.

I must've rubbed my eyes twice just to confirm what I was seeing but there it was: #ThankYouBlackWomen.

In the Alabama special election, African Americans represented slightly less than 30 percent of voters and cast 96 percent of their ballots for Senator-elect Doug Jones. Quite simply, African American voters, especially women, had a dramatic impact on the race, shifting

the power dynamics of the Senate.

While the disturbing and shocking allegations against Roy Moore certainly helped increase turnout and steered some voters to Jones, people, especially African Americans, voted because they understand that Trump and Congressional Republicans are taking our country to unimaginable lows.

Republicans have controlled the White House and both chambers of Congress

refused to pass legislation to stabilize and decrease health insurance costs, to reauthorize health insurance for nine million kids, to prevent gun violence which kills 10 times more African American kids than White kids or to protect our hard won right to vote.

While voters were rejecting Moore, they were also rejecting more; they were rejecting the Republicans' dangerous and destructive agenda that's forgotten

As we prepare for the upcoming 2018 election, all of these issues will be on the ballot again: access to healthcare, tax increases on people who work for their paychecks, preventing gun violence, investing in our children's education, increasing the minimum wage and protecting our voting rights.

As Americans, we have a voice in these decisions, a voice that was paid for in the blood, sweat and tears of Americans who came before us. Our voice belongs to us, because we fought for it and we continue fighting for it.

We need to honor their sacrifice by showing up at every election. We need to honor James Chaney—a civil rights worker who was killed by members of the KKK in 1964 for registering African Americans to vote— by proudly earning that “I Voted” sticker. It's up to us to keep the voice of our community strong and we do that by showing up and casting our ballots, like so many did in Alabama and across the country.

Our foremothers and forefathers sacrificed life and limb for our right to vote.

Simply too much is at stake for us to sit on the sidelines. The issues that affect our lives and our children's lives are debated every day at City Hall, in state General Assemblies and in Congress. We were given a voice in who makes these decisions for us; let's keep using it.

Congresswoman Robin Kelly represents Illinois' 2nd Congressional District and serves as a co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Black Women and Girls. You can follow Congresswoman Kelly @RepRobinKelly.

“Those Americans rejected Republican plans to take away their healthcare and stack the deck in favor of corporations over families. They rejected ending environmental regulations that protect kids from asthma. They rejected a party, which believes its okay to suppress and outright disenfranchise voters just because of their race.”

since President Trump was elected. In that time, the president has sought to normalize White supremacy and Congress has continued to strip away the protections afforded to millions of Americans under the Affordable Care Act.

The GOP has passed spending bills that actively take resources away from communities of color. They even found the time to give a massive tax giveaway to a handful of super rich families and major corporations.

Yet, over that same year, they've

who we are as a nation and put millions of American families at risk.

Those Americans rejected Republican plans to take away their healthcare and stack the deck in favor of corporations over families. They rejected ending environmental regulations that protect kids from asthma. They rejected a party, which believes its okay to suppress and outright disenfranchise voters just because of their race.

When the Alabama voters checked that box, they made their voices—and no one else's—heard and it shook the nation.

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Healthier Soul Food Cookbook takes fresh approach for "Go Red" Heart Health Month

Black PR Wire— The Healthier Traditions Cookbook: Soul Food, a healthy twist on traditional Southern dishes, features 17 classic recipes and is available for complimentary download.

The cookbook, a collaboration of Transamerica Center for Health Studies® (TCHS) with the Association of Black Women Physicians (ABWP), helps maintain the integrity of these soul food dishes, while identifying easy steps people can take to enjoy healthier versions. Each recipe was adapted and tested by two nutritionists to ensure an increase in nutritional value and decrease in caloric value.

According to the American Heart Association, "heart disease is the No. 1 killer for all Americans, and stroke is also a leading cause of death. As frightening as those statistics are, the risks of getting those diseases are even higher for African-Americans. High blood pressure, obesity and diabetes are the most common conditions that increase the risk of heart disease and stroke."

The American Heart Association highlights more startling statistics:

- Cardiovascular diseases kill nearly 50,000 African-American women annually.
- Of African-American women ages 20 and older, 49 percent have heart diseases.
- Only one in five African-American women believes she is personally at risk.
- Only 52 percent of African-American women are aware of the signs and symptoms of a heart attack.
- Only 36 percent of African-American women know that heart disease is their greatest health risk.

Recipes in the cookbook include Red Beans and Rice, Gumbo, Pan-fried Catfish, Smothered Pork Chops, and Peach



The Healthier Traditions Cookbook: Soul Food is a joint project between Transamerica Center for Health Studies and the Association of Black Women Physicians. The cook book features a healthy twist to 17 traditional Southern recipes to promote healthier eating.
Courtesy Photo/TCHS

Cobbler, and have a breakdown of the calories, fat, cholesterol, sodium, carbohydrate, fiber and protein content of the dish. In addition, how-to videos that highlight the preparation of some of the dishes are available on TCHS's website and YouTube channel.

"Transamerica Center for Health Studies is proud to partner with the Association of Black Women Physicians to create a soul food cookbook that increases the nutritional value of these recipes while keeping the heartiness of Southern favorites," said Hector De La

Torre, executive director of TCHS. "This is the third cookbook we have prepared and, consistent with our values, these recipes help to improve health and wellness. Soul food and Southern cuisine have a history as rich as their flavors, and this cookbook includes interesting facts about soul food history, in addition to helpful nutrition facts."

With the impact of obesity, high blood pressure, and diabetes on the African-American community, the recipes are both nutritious and flavorful, and can help to empower healthier choices around the dinner table. For example, nutritionists make simple substitutions like swapping out regular flour for whole-wheat flour in cornbread, and replacing bacon while keeping the smoky flavor with paprika in collard greens.

"The Association of Black Women Physicians empowers Black Women to lead in health and wellness for ourselves and the community through premiere educational programs, resources, and partnerships like this one with Transamerica Center for Health Studies that help to spur healthier eating choices," said Sherril Rieux, M.D., from the Association of Black Women Physicians. "Our patients are always asking for ways to eat healthier, and this cookbook was a great way to highlight the health benefits of dishes that have brought happy memories to families for generations."

TCHS and ABWP remain committed to empowering consumers to achieve the best outcomes in their personal health and wellness. To download the cookbook for free and browse our previous cookbooks, American Classic and Traditional Mexican, visit: www.transamerica-center-for-health-studies.org.

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Ford announces new STEAM initiative for HBCUs

By Stacy M. Brown

Ford Motor Company continued its commitment to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) with a major announcement on Thursday, January 25, 2018 at the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) annual Mid-Winter Conference in Las Vegas.

Company officials announced the launch of the first HBCU Drive2Greatness program in which Ford has pledged to donate \$300,000 to support STEAM initiatives at HBCUs across the country.

“The Ford Drive2Greatness program was developed to create a deeper, richer, more substantive and authentically engaging HBCU program that culturally connects Ford with African-American consumers,” said Randy Jones, Ford’s director of media communications. “Binding the passion for HBCUs and cultural aspects of HBCU homecomings into one transformational branded experience, the program centered on a national contest and executed in three tactical phases.”



(From left-right) Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., president and CEO of the NNPA; Renah Carlisle, sales zone manager for Ford’s Phoenix Region; and Dorothy Leavell, chairman, NNPA during the 2018 NNPA Mid-Winter Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. Courtesy Photo/Marty Frierson/NNPA

Also, beginning in March, Ford will offer a new STEAM program available

to all NNPA members, said Renah Carlisle, a zone manager for Ford.

That the announcement came at the NNPA conference further signals the strengthening of the partnership between Ford and the Black Press, she said.

“Both Ford, and the NNPA support STEAM initiatives and it is a reminder to our students, our children, that the impossible is possible,” Carlisle said.

This year there will be more than eight million jobs available in STEAM—Sci-

ence, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics— and the government alone will need an additional 10,000 workers for internet technology, according to Carlisle.

Beginning in March, Ford will offer a new STEAM program available to all NNPA members, she said.

“Rest assured, this will not be a self-serving platform,” Carlisle said.

From now through October 27, students and alumni are encouraged to “Rep Your HBCU” by voting to help their favorite school win one of four prizes.

“Over eight weeks, we challenged every student, alumni, faculty member and supporters of HBCUs in the country to post their support for their favorite HBCU in hopes of winning one of four prizes ... including the grand prize of an Ultimate Homecoming Takeover in 2018,” Jones said, pointing out that Ford has a legacy, history and commitment of supporting not only higher education, but also students attending HBCUs by encouraging them to “Go further.”

“Which is why we also wanted to support HBCU STEAM programs through the Drive2Greatness program. Notwithstanding, the contest also provided us an opportunity to expand our dedication to supporting HBCU’s as they provide and teach African-American students interested in a STEAM focused degree, the opportunity to achieve their goals with excellence,” Jones said.

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NASA celebrates legacy of first black American astronaut

By Erick Johnson

Chicago Crusader, NNPA Member

Fifty years ago, a tragic accident ended the groundbreaking career of Major Robert H. Lawrence, Jr., a Chicago native and stellar Air Force pilot who became America's first black astronaut.

On December 8, 2017—the 50th anniversary of his death—NASA honored his often-ignored legacy and contributions to the agency.

Earlier in the year, the Chicago Crusader reported about the lack of visibility of NASA's first black American astronaut and helped to raise awareness about Lawrence's incredible journey.

In planning a story for its annual Black History Month edition, Chicago Crusader staffers discovered that little was being done to honor Lawrence, while NASA held memorials to mark the 50th anniversary of three, white astronauts who perished in a fire aboard the Apollo 1 space module, during a preflight test.

The Crusader story lauding Lawrence's achievements was published in dozens of black newspapers after the National Newspapers Publishers Association (NNPA) carried it on its newswire.

Born in 1935 to the late Gwendolyn Duncan and Robert H. Lawrence, Sr., the future Air Force pilot was a man ahead of his time. Long before magnet and STEM programs were part of the high school curriculum, Lawrence excelled in math and science.

At 16, he graduated with honors from Englewood High School and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Bradley University. He married the late Barbara Cress from the prominent Chicago Cress family and entered the Air Force at age 21 before earning a doctorate in physical chemistry from Ohio State University, becoming the first astronaut at NASA to earn a doctorate degree.

As a United States Air Force pilot, Lawrence accumulated over 2,500 flight hours. In June 1967, Lawrence graduated from the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School (Class '66B) at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. In that same month, he was selected by the USAF as an astronaut for their Manned Orbital Laboratory (MOL) program, thus becoming



Robert Henry Lawrence, Jr. was the first African American astronaut. On the 50th anniversary of his death—December 8, 2017—NASA honored Lawrence's often-ignored legacy and contributions to the agency in a ceremony for 300 guests at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida.

Photo Credit: USAF/Wikimedia

the first black astronaut.

Lawrence died while training another pilot, Maj. John Royer, to perform the "flare" maneuver—an operation that Lawrence had already mastered—in the F-104 Starfighter.

According to NBC News, "Lawrence's memory languished in obscurity" partly due to the fact that, the Pentagon only recognized someone as an "astronaut" if they actually flew to an altitude above 50 miles.

However, Rep. Bobby Rush (D-Va.) mounted a campaign that forced NASA to put Lawrence's name on the Space Mirror Memorial in 1997—thirty years after Lawrence's death.

"On December 8, 1997, on the thirtieth anniversary of his death, Lawrence had his name unveiled on the Florida memorial," NBC News reported.

The ceremony recognizing Lawrence, in December—although spirited, at times—was a somber one for the 300 guests that included decorated NASA astronauts, dignitaries, relatives, and friends, who had flown and driven miles across the country to honor Lawrence at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida.

Lawrence's older sister, Dr. Barbara Lawrence, attended and spoke; another

prominent Chicago resident who was present was E. Dawn Griffin, the oldest daughter of Ernest Griffin, founder of Griffin Funeral Home in Bronzeville. The Griffin Funeral Home, which closed in 2012, handled the funeral arrangements for Lawrence.

Members from Lawrence's college fraternity, Omega Psi Phi, also attended to honor one of their own. On the sprawling grounds of the NASA facility, they participated in a two-and-a-half-hour ceremony that began at the Center for Space Education and culminated with an emotional wreath-laying ceremony at the base of the national Space Mirror Memorial, a massive black granite structure where Lawrence's name is among those of 20 astronauts who either died in flight or in training.

The ceremony brought out some of NASA's astronauts and biggest officials. Charles Bolden, America's first black NASA chief administrator, and Stephanie Wilson, the second black female astronaut, attended the service. Another black astronaut, Winston Scott, played the trumpet in a band that performed various jazz songs, including, "Fly Me to the Moon." Reportedly, jazz was one of Lawrence's favorite musical genres.

Dr. Herman B. White Jr., a physicist and lecturer at Bradley University in Peoria, Ill., Lawrence's alma mater, gave a presentation where a memorial scholarship and a conference room bear Lawrence's name. Recently, Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio renamed a dormitory in Lawrence's honor.

Bolden, who piloted the space shuttles Columbia and Discovery, praised Lawrence for his spirit.

"He took that first step," Bolden said. "If he had lived, he would have been flying on that space shuttle also."

Col. Robert Cabana, who flew on four shuttle missions, agreed.

"Major Robert H. Lawrence truly was a hero," said Cabana. "He set the stage for what was to come."

Dr. Barbara Lawrence shared her experiences with her brother as they grew up on the South Side of Chicago. She said, when Robert was young, he was a very disciplined student and dedicated to learning.

"I'm truly proud to have been his sister," she shared. "He wasn't interested in being the first black astronaut. He was only interested in being given the opportunity to do what he wanted to do. I'm sorry he wasn't here a little longer, but I think his job was one that was well done."

SECU MD Foundation introduces Tynes Scholarship at Morgan State

Linthicum, Md.— To recognize the many contributions made by Donald Tynes, Sr., longtime member of its Board of Directors, SECU, Maryland's largest credit union, is introducing the Donald Tynes, Sr. Scholarship Program, which will be offered through the SECU MD Foundation.

The SECU MD Foundation will award five scholarships in Tynes' honor to students enrolled in Morgan State University's Graves School of Business. Each scholarship will be \$2,000.

Eligible Morgan State University sophomores, juniors and seniors are encouraged to apply for the Donald Tynes, Sr. Scholarship Program. Applications will be accepted starting on February 1, 2018, and will be open through the end of April. Applicants can apply through the SECU MD Foundation website at www.secmdfoundation.org.

"SECU has been fortunate to have Mr. Tynes, a Morgan State University alumnus, serve on our Board of Directors," said SECU President and CEO Rod Staatz. "With the launch of the SECU

MD Foundation, a charitable organization founded by SECU, we are happy to be able to support his ongoing commitment to Morgan State University students to help them achieve their dreams."

The SECU MD Foundation's mission is to contribute to and support the continuous learning and educational needs in the communities served by SECU. The Tynes Scholarship will be one of three scholarship programs offered through the Foundation this year. The others include the University System of Maryland Scholarship (USM) Program, through which scholarships are awarded to SECU members planning to attend a USM institution, and the annual State Employee Scholarship Program, which provides scholarships to Maryland State employees and their college-bound family members.

"With the SECU MD Foundation, SECU remains fully committed to helping our communities become stronger and financially healthier through education," said Staatz.



In recognition of the many contributions made by Donald Tynes, Sr., longtime member of its Board of Directors, SECU, Maryland's largest credit union has introduced the Donald Tynes, Sr. Scholarship Program.

Courtesy Photo/SECU MD Foundation

Tynes led the SECU Board of Directors in formulating and governing corporate policies and practices, and establishing administrative procedures for compliance with federal laws and the State of Maryland's Office of Financial Regulations.

A native Baltimorean, Tynes formerly served as Chairman of the Credit Union Foundation for the State of Maryland and the District of Columbia. The Foundation's programs address financial literacy, small credit union support, leadership development, scholarship awards, professional development and education.

A graduate of Baltimore's Dunbar High School, Tynes earned a BA degree from Morgan State University and an Executive MBA from Loyola College of Maryland.

During a 33-year career in Maryland State Government, he served as Deputy Secretary of the State Department of Personnel; Assistant to the Chief Deputy Comptroller for the State's Comptroller's Office; and Human Resources Director for the University of Maryland System. He also served as Director of Personnel for Anne Arundel County Government.

"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today." —Malcolm X

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'Back in the Day'

Rosa Pryor Remembers Pennsylvania Avenue

By Stacy M. Brown

Rosa Pryor remembers fondly the heyday of Black Baltimore.

Men were clad in pinstriped zoot-suits and ladies wore evening gowns with sleek gloves as they hit the town, mostly to enjoy the 100 or so nightclubs and bars that lined Pennsylvania Avenue and the corridors that surrounded it.

"Everyone was dressed to the nines," said Pryor, who writes "Rambling Rose," a regular entertainment feature for the Baltimore Times.

Back in the day, Pryor was just as prolific. She performed at clubs, booked gigs for artists and clubs and parlayed her knowledge of entertainment into a career that she still thrives in today.

"Back in the day was the 1950s, 1960s and really through the early 1990s," Pryor said.

"What people need to understand too, is that when we went out back in the day, they didn't just play jazz, it was R&B and it was doo woop," she said.

Mostly, it was along Pennsylvania Avenue in smoke-filled clubs and hotspots like the legendary Royal Theater, The Regent Theater, the Sphinx, and Club Casino, Pryor said.

There were entertainers from the city and those who came from around the country like Sammy Davis Jr.; Slappy White; Pearl Bailey; Billie Holiday; Ella Fitzgerald; the Ink Spots; Sonny Til & the Orioles; Cab Calloway; and Lionel Hampton.

"We had fun, we knew how to have fun," Pryor said. "And, when you think about it today where there are only a couple of places to go and where they conspire against one another and talk bad about one another; back in the day there were more than 100 spots in one area and everyone got along.

"You could go from place to place and, even as a single lady, you could walk down the street and nobody would bother you, everybody looked out for you," she said.

Pryor has authored two books that highlight African-American entertain-



Rosa Pryor has authored two books that highlight African-American entertainment in Baltimore in the early-to-late 20th century.

File Photo

ment in Baltimore in the early-to-late 20th century.

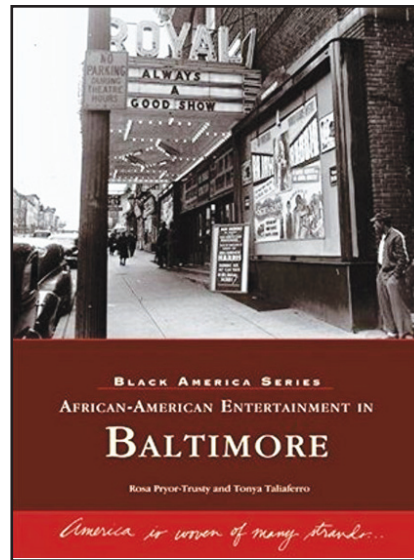
One of her books, "African-American Community," History & Entertainment in Maryland (Remembering the Yesterdays)," paints a picture of the bars, clubs, restaurants, bowling alleys and other establishments between the 1940s and 1980s. The other, "African-American Entertainment in Baltimore," captures the brilliance of the city's musical heritage from 1930 to 1980.

Pryor said the educational and entertainment volume invites readers to take a visual trip down memory lane to the days when Pennsylvania Avenue, the heart of the city's African-American community, vibrated with life.

"It celebrates a time in our past that enforced expectations of excellence and captured the highest quality of people," Pryor said.

Both books are set in a time when African-American men and women loved and respected the code of ethics – a time when men, women and children dressed "to the nines and stepped out in full fashion," she said.

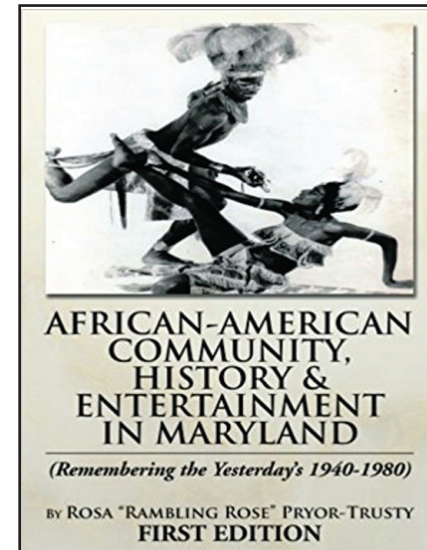
Everyone kept busy – a good busy –



and Black families lived harmoniously in the same neighborhoods and helped each other, Pryor said.

"It was a time when there was always somewhere to go and have fun; a time when the music was so grand and the lyrics of a song would cause you to fall in love and start a family," she said.


"It was a time when going to a party was in a basement with blue lights, food, dancing and conversation; a time when



one could enjoy fifteen minutes of fame; a life of pride; a time when African-Americans headlined the marquees right in their own neighborhoods and reveled in the love and support of their community.

"Most of all it was a time when we all believed it took a village to raise a child," Pryor said.

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Author Recounts Recy Taylor's Assault and Black History

By Stacy M. Brown

Years before Oprah Winfrey's stirring speech at the 2018 Golden Globe Awards where the talk show queen spoke about Recy Taylor, historian and author Danielle L. McGuire had already uncovered the explosive story of the 24-year-old African-American sharecropper who was raped by six white men in 1944 as she walked home from a late night church service.

McGuire researched her book for more than seven years and learned that, after the incident, the NAACP office in Montgomery, Alabama sent Rosa Parks to investigate the case.

While Taylor's tragic plight is detailed extensively in the book, "At the Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Rape, and Resistance – a New History of the Civil Rights Movement from Rosa Parks to the Rise of Black Power," McGuire delves deep into the history of violence against black women in America.

"I started with a woman named Betty Jean Owens of Tallahassee, Florida, who was raped by four white men," McGuire said.

"Her friends went to the police and normally white southern police officers wouldn't believe a group of black women but [eventually] Betty Jean Owens' testimony in a Jim Crow courtroom helped to secure life sentences for the crime. It was the first time that I found that white men were convicted for the rape of a black woman."

McGuire's book notes that the protests of black women against rape fueled



Author, Danielle L. McGuire
Courtesy Photo

major civil rights campaigns across the South, including the 1955 Montgomery bus boycott, the 1964 Mississippi Freedom Summer and the 1965 Selma campaign.

"I knew that rape was common during slavery and I wanted to know if the practices that were so common during slavery continued after emancipation, so I was researched sexual violence against black women by white men," McGuire said. "In one of the archives, I found a pamphlet from the Civil Rights Congress, which was kind of a leftist northern civil rights organization. The pamphlet was a listing of crimes that had been committed against African-Americans. It said something like 'the



Recy Taylor
Courtesy Photo

Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor petitioned Gov. Chauncey Sparks for justice in her case."

McGuire discerned that if governors had archives, there had to be some pertinent details in them.

"I went to Alabama and I ordered Gov. Chauncey Sparks' papers—he had four boxes of material on Recy Taylor. It was absolutely astounding. It was like an archival gold mine in the sense that you never find those kind of detailed documents on women. You also never find investigations in that era, where it's sort of proved that the state was trying to cover up and protect assailants in a crime," she said. She also realized the significance of the history she had uncovered.

"Locally, if you laid out the petitions and post cards by cities, what you saw was a map of the Civil Rights Movement," McGuire said.

Additionally, McGuire discovered petitions from black women's organizations, organized labor unions, black workers and individuals including Rosa Parks.

"It was the building blocks, the network, the highways and the roads of the freedom movement," McGuire said of those findings.

AT THE DARK END OF THE STREET



Black Women, Rape, and Resistance—a New History of the Civil Rights Movement from Rosa Parks to the Rise of Black Power

Danielle L. McGuire

"At the Dark End of the Street is an important step to finally facing the terrible legacies of race and gender in this country." —The Washington Post

"At the Dark End of the Street ..." centers black women's experiences and leadership in the civil rights movement, like Betty Jean Owens' historic testimony in 1959 and Joan Little's bold resistance to sexual assault while incarcerated in North Carolina in the 1970s.

However, since Winfrey's Golden Globes speech about Taylor, who died on December 28, 2017 at the age of 97, more attention has been given to the assault case that never went to trial as two all-white, all-male grand juries refused to indict the men.

"Some on the grand jury were neighbors of the assailants," McGuire said. "When I first started doing research into her case, there was absolutely nothing written. It's incredible, that her story has been carried by so many people. I only wish that Oprah could have met her because I think she would have been as inspired by her as I am. Clearly it sparked something in her to make her talk about (Taylor) at the Golden Globes."

"At The Dark End of the Street," is available for purchase at <https://www.amazon.com/At-Dark-End-Street-Resistance/dp/0307389243> and at other book sellers.



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Internationally acclaimed trumpeter to chair Peabody Jazz Department

The Artistic Director of the Pittsburgh Jazz Orchestra and Carnegie Hall's NYO Jazz to Bolster The Conservatory's Breakthrough Curriculum in Music Leadership

Baltimore— Sean Jones, an internationally acclaimed trumpeter, band-leader, composer and educator, has been appointed the Richard and Elizabeth Case Chair in Jazz Studies at the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University. Jones will officially assume his duties as chair with the beginning of the 2018-19 academic year and will make several introductory visits to Peabody during the Spring 2018 semester to hear auditions, conduct master classes, and work with student jazz ensembles. His appointment is the result of a months-long search, which produced an outstanding field of diverse and competitive candidates from throughout the world.

Jones comes to Peabody from the Berklee College of Music, where he has served as chair of the Brass Department since 2014. He is artistic director of the Pittsburgh Jazz Orchestra, Artist-in-Residence at San Francisco Performances, and a member of the SFJAZZ Collective. In addition, Jones serves as a member of the Jazz Education Network's Board of Directors and was recently appointed as artistic director of Carnegie Hall's NYO Jazz, which makes its Carnegie Hall debut and inaugural European tour in the summer of 2018.

"Jazz is a deep and important aspect of the Baltimore story, and an essential contemporary American art form," said Fred Bronstein, dean of the Peabody Institute. "Peabody's strong commitment to jazz and its critical points of intersection with many different aspects of musical creation and performance, along with our focus on citizen artistry, make this an ideal time and place to mark a new chapter for jazz at Peabody and in Baltimore. Sean Jones— an inspiring artist, engaging leader, and dedicated teacher— is the perfect choice to lead this effort for our jazz students and all our Conservatory musicians, as well as in the broader community. We are



Internationally acclaimed trumpeter, bandleader, composer and educator, Sean Jones has been appointed the Richard and Elizabeth Case Chair in Jazz Studies at the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University. He will officially assume his duties as chair the beginning of the 2018-19 academic year. For more information about Sean Jones, visit: www.sean-jones.com.

Courtesy Photo

thrilled to welcome him to Peabody and eagerly anticipate his leadership."

Jones joins a diverse roster of artist-faculty colleagues charged with implementation of the Conservatory's new Breakthrough Curriculum in Music Leadership, a model at the forefront of arts training in the United States. The Breakthrough Curriculum is designed to help students develop skills in performance, career development, and citizen artistry to meet the demands of today's ever-changing musical landscape. This includes a reimagined instrumental ensembles program in which students move through a rotation of varied ensemble experiences to ensure musical flexibility and training across a range of

performing contexts, musical styles, and ensemble configurations.

"Peabody is at a crucial point in its history as a beacon of music education and curator of American Music," noted Jones about his appointment. "It has the unique opportunity to support the codification and curation of America's indigenous art form not just in word, but in deed! Although I will miss my wonderful colleagues at the Berklee College of Music, I am thrilled to be afforded the opportunity to help lead this storied institution into the future of American music education."

A highly respected and in-demand musician, Jones has performed and/or recorded with major figures including:

Joe Lovano, Chico O'Farrill, Illinois Jacquet, Jimmy Heath, Frank Foster, Nancy Wilson, Dianne Reeves, and Gerald Wilson, and with Marcus Miller, Herbie Hancock, and Wayne Shorter in the 2011 Tribute to Miles Tour.

He holds a master's degree from Rutgers University and was lead trumpeter with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, where he worked closely with Wynton Marsalis, until 2010. He has recently released his eighth recording, *Live from Jazz at the Bistro*, on Mack Avenue Records. In addition to Berklee, Jones has taught at Duquesne University and at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, while regularly offering master classes and clinics around the world.

Five tips to stress-free homeownership from the experts

By Christopher G. Cox
 Publisher/Managing Editor,
 realsavvy.com

For most people, the decision to purchase a home is the single biggest financial commitment they will make in a lifetime of decision-making. The decision to buy a home, especially a first home, involves so many competing factors, that it can cause high levels of stress and anxiety.

As stress inducing as a home purchase can be, there are things that a prospective homeowner can do to minimize potential headaches.

Ruth Hudspeth, branch manager for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation says the number one thing homebuyers need to do is be prepared.

Know your finances first.

"A homeowner should be able to enjoy their new home without being overburdened by the financial commitment. Like any other big decision, however, that takes some planning," Hudspeth said. "You have to take the time to un-



derstand your credit score, your capacity to qualify for a mortgage loan and what your budget will be."

Hudspeth, who has degrees in economics and business administration, recommended that individuals moving from a rental property into a home set aside the difference between the mortgage payment and the rent payment and put that money into a separate account.

"If, for example," she noted, "your mortgage payment is going to be \$1,000 a month and your rent has been \$500, pay yourself the \$500 difference for a while and see how well you handle it." A lender might be able to tell you the

amount of the mortgage loan you can qualify for, but he can't tell you how much paying that mortgage will affect your lifestyle.

Learn as much as you can about the process of buying a home.

"Buying a home is a big decision," said Hudspeth. "It doesn't make sense to wait until you are too close to making that decision to educate yourself."

Dr. Kimya N. Dennis, a criminologist, who does work in demographic and cultural variance in mental health, agreed that careful preparation is the key to reducing the stress associated with getting into the housing market.

"I encourage people to take time to communicate with everyone involved in the process of purchasing a home," Dr. Dennis said. "There needs to be open and honest discussion that weighs all the pros and cons."

Take a hard look at your quality of life.

Dennis added that long- and short-term economic goals, location and commuting time, quality of the construction and access to public transportation should also be discussed.

Dr. Dennis emphasized the importance of carefully reviewing and understanding all the documents required to purchase a home. As part of that process, she suggested that taking advantage of low- and no-cost programs designed to educate homebuyers, such as those offered by the local affiliates of the National Urban League, as well as other community organizations.

Ask plenty of questions.

"If you want to keep your anxiety level low, you can't be afraid to ask questions," said Dr. Dennis. "As basic as it sounds, sometimes you just have to take a few minutes to pause and breathe."

Remember to breathe.

She explained that a common reaction to anxiety is holding one's breath, especially just before making a big decision. "You might be surprised to find out how much it helps to just stop and take a few deep breaths when decisions threaten to become overwhelming," Dr. Dennis concluded.

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**FEBRUARY
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Songful Annapolis native gains GRAMMY consideration, set to perform after signing with record label

By Andrea Blackstone

Music has publicly been Craig T. Dobson's passion since his first church singing debut at the age of six years old. Dobson recalls belting out soulful notes, while moving to and from classes in the halls of Annapolis Jr. High School. Administrators and guidance counselors who heard Dobson singing in front of their offices stopped to notice whose soulful voice captured their attention. Positive feedback from administrators and peers inspired Dobson to get involved in the school's chorus and talent shows.

"My parents tell me, and I kind of remember, ... that I was singing songs on the radio at age two," Dobson said upon reflection. "I started singing in church at a very early age. But I think when I was in the seventh grade, that's when I realized that I had something, because I noticed that people started paying attention."

Dobson is now a husband and father who works as a special educator. He serves as the Worship Leader and Lead Director at Asbury Town Neck United Methodist Church in Severna Park, Maryland. Dobson honors his gospel roots and remains a fan of musical artists such as Luther Vandross. When Dobson listened to "A House is Not a Home," at the age of 18, he concluded that he wanted to pursue music as more than a hobby. Shortly thereafter, Dobson became a member of the Annapolis-based R&B based group, "Seductive Music Unique Vocals" (S.M.U.V.).

Despite Dobson's raw singing talent, and performance abilities, he faced disappointing losses of record deals. And during the summer of 2016, Dobson coped with a health ordeal that required five hospital stays. Dobson later emerged with improved health, faith-filled, and armed with new goals to solidify his name and his legacy, by completing his own CD.

Dobson's wishes are coming true, plus much more. In 2016, the Glen Burnie resident began working with an independent record label which is based in Atlanta, Georgia called 9Nineteen Music. Keith J. Collins, Jr. — also an Annapolis native — is CEO of the record label. Dobson recorded the EP (extended play record) entitled "Craig T. Dobson" in Atlanta and shot his first music video there. By October of 2017, Dobson found out the EP garnered 11 GRAMMY considerations in the first round of the GRAMMY Award process when 9Nineteen Music submitted the music.

"Over 150 music executives and producers, listen to over 22,000 submissions, and then they select a certain number for consideration. So, once you get considered, and if they vote for you, then you move to the second round. Then if you pass the second round, you're nominated (for a GRAMMY)," Dobson said, explaining the



Courtesy Photo

process. "So we made the first round, and all five songs on my project were selected. So there were three categories. All five of the songs were considered for Best R & B Performance, and then of course all five were considered for Best R & B Album, so we had 11 (GRAMMY) considerations for this year."

Dobson and his record label competed with major music artists. Dobson's music is frequently streamed across the world. He described the experience as "huge," especially since all five of his songs were considered, out of over 22,000 submissions.

Dobson regards the experience as a sign to do more, musically. He travels to Atlanta to finish his first feature CD. Collins and his partner, Bob Antione — a multi-platinum music producer — heard Dobson's voice and believed in him.

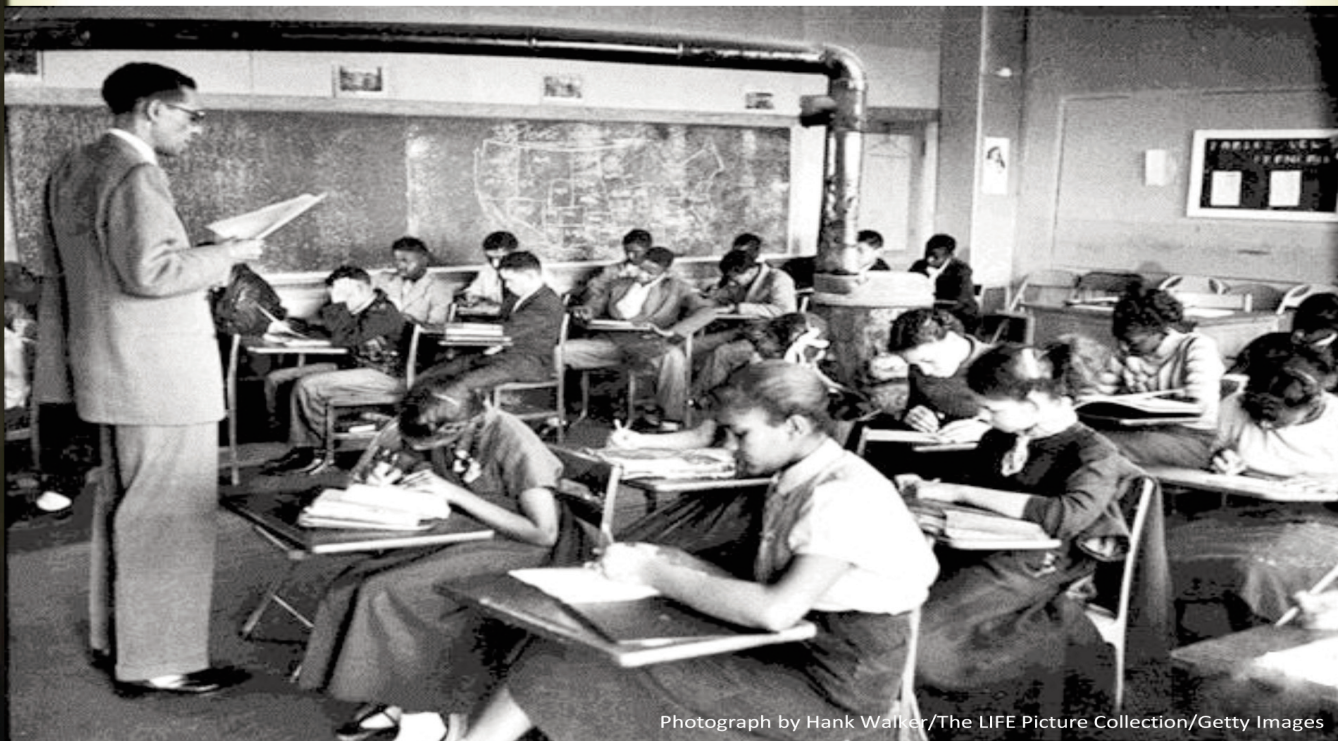
Collins added that he recalled seeing Dobson sing at weddings and in church. He looked Dobson up on

Facebook, after writing a song. After a conversation commenced, the native Annapolitans ended up working together.

"I see big things happening in the future, definitely. We're actually in the process of constructing the next album for him (Dobson)," Collins said, mentioning that Annapolis has a lot of musical talent. "I definitely take pride that I'm from Annapolis, raised in Annapolis. I've talked to a lot of people in Annapolis... and the music scene in Annapolis right now looks real good."

Dobson's first performance of the year will kick off on February 9, 2018 at 7 p.m. at Peerless Rens Club, located at 406 Chester Ave. in Annapolis. Dobson will perform during the Pre-Valentine's Day Evening of Romance. Visit www.craigtdobson.com or Eventbrite, then search Craig T. Dobson, to purchase tickets.

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Celebrate Black History Month in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County

Annapolis— Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County (VAAAC) invites visitors and area residents to rediscover Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, Maryland's rich African-American heritage during Black History Month. Below is a sampling of the many events and activities individuals are invited to experience in February.

Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Celebration – A host of events and activities will be taking place in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County throughout 2018 as part of a statewide Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Celebration. The official kick-off for the Bicentennial Celebration is slated for February, Douglass's birthday month. For a complete listing of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Celebration festivities, visit: www.visitannapolis.org/discover/articles/frederick-douglass-bicentennial-celebration.

African American Experience in Annapolis Tour— For the first time ever, Colonial Tours of Annapolis is offering an “African American Experience in Annapolis” walking tour twice daily – at 10:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. – throughout February. In addition to sharing what life was like for all classes of African Americans in Annapolis, Anne Arundel County and Maryland from the colony's founding in 1632 until the present day, Annapolis native William Ridgley will step out of Colonial character on occasion to share his own personal experiences and observations as an African American growing up in Annapolis. Tradesmen, scientists, mathematicians were among the African Americans who arrived in the Maryland Colony in the 1600s. Others came as indentured servants or



slaves. In his tour, Ridgley will discuss how each of the groups experienced Annapolis and Anne Arundel County in a different way. The tour also shares Annapolis links to Frederick Douglass. Exterior stops along the two-hour tour include: Banneker-Douglass Museum, Maynard Burgess House, William Butler House, Historic Annapolis Museum, Kunta Kinte Memorial and story wall, sites along Fleet and East Streets, Chase-Lloyd House, Hammond-Harwood House and the Thurgood Marshall Memorial. Tours depart from the 26 West Street Visitors Center in downtown Annapolis. Reservations are encouraged and can be made online at <http://www.colonialtoursannapolis.com/>. Individuals can also sign up for the tour on site at the 26 West Street Visitors Center. The cost is \$17 for adults; \$12 for students ages 10-17; 9 and under, free.

African American Heritage Tour— Annapolis Tours by Watermark is offering a two-hour walking tour of Annapolis's historic district on Saturday, February 17th at 1:00 p.m. in honor of the Frederick Douglass Bicentennial

Celebration and Black History Month. The tour will also be offered on July 7th and August 4th, to continue the Bicentennial Celebration. Presented in partnership with the Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Foundation, the tour covers some of the most significant events in African-American history. The tour begins at the City Dock information booth at 1 Dock Street and concludes at the Banneker-Douglass Museum. <http://annapolis-tours.com/>. Tickets are \$20 for adults; \$10 for children 3-11; two and under, free.

African-American Experience Tour— The Hammond-Harwood House at 19 Maryland Avenue in downtown Annapolis will be offering a tour covering nearly 250 years of the African-American experience at the historic mansion. Thanks to research by PhD candidate Christopher Mielke, the stories of the men and women, both enslaved and free, who built, maintained and lived in the house will be shared during a Saturday, February 10th tour from 2:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Among other things, tour participants will learn about the lives of three enslaved women

— Mary, Matilda, and Juliet — who worked at the house in the early to mid-19th century. <http://hammondharwoodhouse.org/february/>. The cost is \$5 per person; free for members.

Freedom Bound: Runaways of the Chesapeake— The Historic Annapolis Museum at 99 Main Street in downtown Annapolis features a “Freedom Bound: Runaways of the Chesapeake” exhibit that focuses on the stories of nine real men and women whose lives testify to the universal desire for personal liberty. It uses videos, audio, historic artifacts, runaway advertisements from 1728 to 1864 and hands-on activities to convey the defeats and triumphs these men and women experienced in their struggle for freedom. Operated by Historic Annapolis, the museum is open Monday-Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is free.

For a more complete listing of February events, visit VAAAC's 2018 Major Events Calendar or the VAAAC, visit: www.visitannapolis.org/discover/articles/frederick-douglass-bicentennial-celebration.

Reginald Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture Needs Volunteers

The museum is dedicated to serving the community by providing multifaceted support through meaningful interactions with history and material culture of Maryland African Americans. Volunteers are needed to assist at the Information Desk, as Docents, for special events and more. There are ongoing opportunities on Saturdays and Sundays for assistance with greeting guests and patrons at the main entrance and to work with kid's activities during public hours. The minimum age for volunteers is 14. Volunteering is open to adults, seniors, college and high school students. Service learning credit hours can be earned by high school students. We are accepting applications for the following volunteer positions: Special Event Volunteer, Administrative Assistant, Curatorial Assistant and Visitor Services. Contact Joy Hall at 443-263-1800 or email: hall@lewismuseum.org or visit the website: www.lewismuseum.org.

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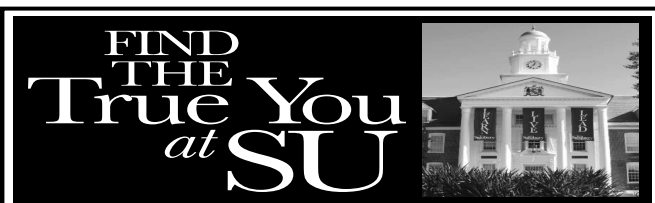
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