

PUBLICATION OF THE GREATER MONDAWMIN COORDINATING COUNCIL

TouchPoint Baltimore Opens in Greater Mondawmin



TouchPoint Partners

TouchPoint Baltimore Opens in Greater Mondawmin

TouchPoint is a collaboration between Baltimore Gas & Electric and Whiting-Turner Contracting Co. and nonprofits - Thread, Center for Urban Families, Baltimore Corps and Invested Impact. This is an opportunity for them to pool their resources and services for children and families, such as tutoring, mentoring, leadership development and entrepreneurial support. The Greater Mondawmin Coordinating Council is a community partner. Visit www.touchpointbaltimore.org for additional information.

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Greetings from the President

There are so many great happenings in the Greater Mondawmin community – check out our cover story – TouchPoint Baltimore is making a positive difference. The Greater Mondawmin Coordinating Council is a community partner and we look forward to collaborating with such powerful thought leaders.



The Porch Project on Gwynns Falls Parkway is scheduled for this spring. Be on the lookout for our efforts to rejuvenate this important gateway to our community. Grateful for our partnership with the Neighborhood Housing Services of Baltimore.

The Howard Peters Rawlings Conservatory and Botanical Gardens is a peaceful place to learn and relax – right here in Greater Mondawmin. You can go around the world in two hours enjoying plants from around the world. Visit with your family and friends.

Two \$20M affordable housing projects will be developed from Enterprise Homes – Reisterstown Road and Liberty Heights Avenue and Windsor Avenue and Payson Street – construction forthcoming. What a wonderful addition to the community landscape.

GMCC is participating in a rebranding/marketing effort to tell the positive story of our community – which will lead to more investments and developments.

GMCC is working diligently to lift up the communities and neighbors we serve. We look forward to working with the newly elected officials to make our community stronger – we will address issues that concern you.

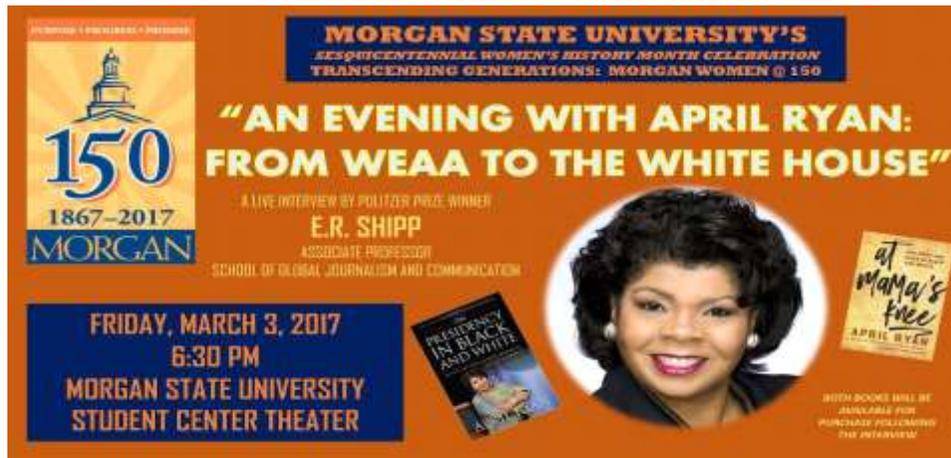
I look forward to serving you.

Sincerely,

Jackie

Jacqueline I. Caldwell

GMCC BOOK AND BALTIMOREAN OF THE MONTH

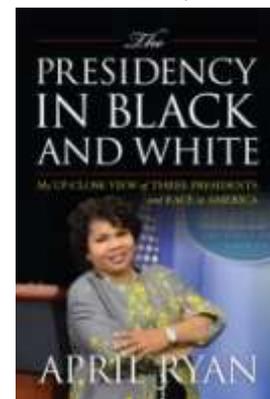


April Ryan is an African-American journalist serving as White House correspondent and Washington bureau chief for American Urban Radio Networks. She is the author of *The Presidency in Black and White: My Up-Close View of Three Presidents and Race in America*. Her work has appeared in *Politico* and she is a frequent guest of *C-Span*, *CNN*, *MSNBC's AM Joy*, *Chris Matthew's Hardball* and *Real Time with Bill Maher*.

April is a Pulitzer Prize Winner, native Baltimorean and an alumnus of Morgan State University. April will be engaging in a live interview session with Associate Professor E.R. Shipp of the School of Global Journalism and Communication at Morgan State University's Student Center Theater, Friday March 3, 2017 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Ryan, a 30-year journalism veteran, has been the White House Correspondent for American Urban Radio Networks (AURN) since January of 1997, covering three Presidents. Ryan is also the author of the best-selling book, *The Presidency In Black and White: My Up Close View of Three Presidents and Race in America*.

The Presidency in Black and White was named by NBC NEWS as one of 14 books to read during Black History Month 2015. As a White House Correspondent and Washington Bureau Chief, Ryan has been afforded the opportunity to write *The Presidency in Black and White* through her daily responsibilities at the White House, including hosting the daily feature, The White House Report, which is broadcast to AURN's nearly 300 radio affiliates. On behalf of the American Urban Radio Networks, and through her "Fabric of America" news blog, she delivers her readership and listeners (millions of African Americans and close to 300 radio affiliates) a "unique urban and minority perspective in news." Her position as a White House Correspondent has afforded her unique insight into the racial sensitivities, issues, and political struggles of our nation's last three presidents. It is time for Baltimore to appreciate the gifts, skills and talents that emerge from home.



The New Auchentoroly Terrace Association, Inc. (ATA) Barbara Anderson-Dandy, President



ATA attendees at the 40th District's 11th Annual Night in Annapolis, Monday, February 6, 2017

Special thanks to Senator Barbara A. Robinson, Delegate Antonio Hayes, Delegate Frank Conaway, Jr., Delegate Nick Mosby and their Legislative teams for a successful 40th District Annual Night in Annapolis.



CONGRATULATIONS!

The New Auchentoroly Terrace Association, Inc. was honored with an Official Citation from the Maryland General Assembly, “in recognition of having the highest number of attendees for the 40th District Leadership Forum.” President Barbara Anderson-Dandy received the citation on behalf of ATA, thanking “her team” for all they do to make ATA The New ATA, Inc. the vibrant neighborhood and Association they are.

Please join us at our next meeting and bring a neighbor, Thursday, March 9th at 7 P.M. to Auchentoroly Terrace Association’s first 2017 meeting at Parks and People Historic Located Stone House located at 2100 Liberty Heights Avenue and Saturday, March 18th to ATA’s first 2017 community clean-up. Volunteers are needed. Community Service workers/dumpsters will available.

Robert W. Coleman Courier Notes
Summary of meeting February 7, 2017.
Next Meeting, Tuesday, March 7, 2016 @ 6:00 P.M.

Special guests for the February meeting were:
Terrence Brown-Department of Public Works and
Rasheed Aziz- City Wide Youth Development

Mr. Brown provided information on how to use the new portal to monitor water usage, which is updated hourly. DPW will hold monthly meetings at various Enoch Pratt Library locations on how to use the portal. These meetings are being held from 10:00 A.M.—1:00 P.M. Check with the Enoch Pratt branch in your area for the date.

Mr. Rasheed Aziz: - City Wide Youth Development.

- Mr. Aziz-City Wide Youth Development, is restoring the building in the 2100 block of West North Avenue, former (Penn Candy and Tobacco). This project is privately funded. Under Armour is one of the companies who is funding the project.
- Mr. Aziz is anticipating the groundbreaking around April 26 through April 28. The building is scheduled to open in August, 2017.
- Mr. Aziz will be providing opportunities for 70 youth between the ages of 18-22 to learn industrial sewing, which will include stipends and will also work in conjunction with BCCC
- **Mr. Aziz's main production of his business has been the production of Frozen Dessert Sorbet, which will be expanded in the new location.. The Frozen Sorbet will be an opportunity for entrepreneurship whereas, youth can earn between \$700 to \$900 per week. Mr. Aziz's building will also house stores for shopping.**

All interested please call: 443-979-1774

The 40th District 11th Annual Night in Annapolis



Submitted by,
A.Hutchinson,
President



Friday Night

FIRE

MARCH MADNESS

March 17, 2017 at 6:30PM

2812 Reisterstown Rd, Baltimore, MD 21215

Want more info? Call 410.669.1800 or e-mail mensministry@mtlebanonbaptist.org



Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church



[periscope.com/MLBC_Baltimore](https://www.periscope.com/MLBC_Baltimore)



@MLBC_Baltimore



[ustream.com/MLBC1](https://www.ustream.com/MLBC1)



\$7 bags of fresh fruits and veggies!



Come pick up a \$20 value of fresh, assorted produce every Tuesday for just \$7!

Where: **Frederick Douglass High School**

When: **Every Tuesday, All Year 'Round!**

Time: **3:00 PM - 6:00 PM**



See you there!



A partnership between Hungry Harvest, Frederick Douglass High School, and the surrounding community



Pennsylvania Ave Branch Library — Turning Dreams into Possibilities

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|----------|---|---|---|--|--|---|
| M | Mother Goose Baby Steps(0-3) nursery rhymes, movement & music and Pre-School Leaps (3-5) stories, songs, & fun are designed to encourage literacy among pre-schoolers | | 1 Mother Goose Baby Steps - 11 a | 2 Mother Goose Baby Steps - 11 a Wii Gaming - 4 p | 3 Free Books Ages 0-5 Bmoregetabook.org. Books mailed to your home | 4 Mother Goose Baby Steps - 11 a Wii Gaming - 4 p |
| A | 5 6 The Help (PG-13) - 5 p **Join the Book Discussion on 3/29 | 7 Pre-School Leaps- 11 a | 8 Teen 3-D Printing Escape - 5 p | 9 Find your Story - 11 a Mother Goose Baby Steps - 11 a Wii Gaming - 4 p | 10 Fun | 11 oppt. only 443.451.280 Expungement WS w/Lawyers in the Library - 12 p |
| R | 12 Daylight Savings 13 The Jungle Book, 2016 (PG)- 5 p | 14 Pre-School Leaps- 11 a Tangram Designs - 3:30 p | 15 - \$\$\$\$ - READ DOWN FINES by Earning Pratt Bucks Children/teens | 16 Mother Goose Baby Steps - 11 a Wii Gaming - 4 p | 17 Happy St. Patrick's Day | 18 Open Mic- 2:30 p |
| C | 19 20 Spectre (PG-13) - 5 p | 21 Pre-School Leaps- 11 a | 22 Friends of PA Ave Branch Library - 6 p | 23 Mother Goose Baby Steps - 11 a Wii Gaming - 4 p | 24 CYC Interns Needed. Earn Community Svc Learning Credit hours | 25 No Bake Spring Treats -1 p |
| H | 26 27 My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2, (PG-13) 5 p | 28 Pre-School Leaps- 11 a | 29 Book Discussion Read and Discuss - The Help, 6 p | 30 Mother Goose Baby Steps - 11 a Wii Gaming - 4 p | 31 Hours Mon/Wed 12 p to 8 p Tues/Thurs 10 a to 5:30 p Friday 12 p to 5 p | |

Designed by: FM Enterprise

March Events

Lawyers in the Library. PA Ave Branch Library, every Tues., 1 pm. No appt needed. 1 on 1 consultation.

Free Tax Prep @ Central Library. Appts only. 410.234.8008, Tues - Thurs. bmorefreetaxes.org. Sponsored by: Balto Cash Campaign

The Playbook: 52 Rules to Aim, shoot & score in the game of life by: Kwame Alexander. Friends School, 5200 N. Charles St. The books aims to inspire youth.

They Can't Kill Us All: Ferguson, Baltimore, & A New Era... By: Wesley Lowery. 6:30 pm. Central Library, African American Dept

Find Your Story. PA Ave. Library. 11 am. Explore genealogy online databases and resources with Lisa Crawley of The Reginald Lewis Museum

Youth Symposium . 12:30 p - 3:30 p FREE. Collington Sq School. 1409 N. Collington St. Register at www.eventbrite.com

Dancer's Body: Dancing & Eating your way to a stronger, leaner, & more Graceful You. MICA, The Brown Ctr, 1300 Mt. Royal Ave. \$30.00 includes copy of the book.

Promoting Your Own Book. 1:30 p Northwood Library. Learn what to expect from publicist, how to get media coverage, and more. Please bring a print copy of your book with you.

Vacant Buildings: 101. 10 am, Location TBA. If you worry about vacant Bldgs. & insurance increase, decrease in the value of your home, public safety risks contact: 410.366.0222

Friends Enoch Pratt Library



An email account is required to use the computers at Enoch Pratt. All participants must register for free classes by calling the help desk at (443) 984-4944 or registering on-line at www.prattlibrary.org

Pennsylvania Avenue Branch -

Computer Lab

Google Drive Series

Date: Monday, March 6, and March 13

Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Create basic documents in Google: Drawing – Create and edit images, charts, diagrams, WordArt, and spreadsheets in Google.

Drawing – Create and edit images, charts, diagrams and Word Art

Excel spreadsheets - Create a new spreadsheet and edit from your PC or smartphone.

Forms - Create custom forms for surveys, questionnaires, diagrams, and charts.

Slides - Create a presentation and edit in Power-Point.

Microsoft Excel 2010

Dates: Wednesday, March 15 and Monday, March 20

Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Learn to move around within the spreadsheet; select cells; add worksheets, rows and columns; resize and format cells; sort, insert headers and footers.

Email Beyond the Basics

Date: Monday, March 27

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Using Google, create an email account; learn to compose, send and retrieve messages; send attachments; create and delete folders; and move messages to folders.

Walbrook Pratt Center for Technology Training - Computer Lab

Introduction to Microsoft Office & Computer Basics
Class prerequisite recommendations: None if attending classes in the series.

Date: Wednesdays, March 1, 8 22, and 29

Time: 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

or

Date: Thursdays, March 2, 9 23, and 30

Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

In this six-week series, four topics will be discussed: ABC's of the PC (Personal Computer) & Skill Builders' Workshop; Introduction to Computers/Windows; Introduction to Microsoft Word - Parts 1 & 2; and Introduction to the Internet. Upon completion of all classes in the series, participants will receive a certificate. Registration information call: (443) 984 4944.

Email Beyond the Basics

Date: Wednesday, March 15

Time: 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Using Google, create an email account; learn to compose, send and retrieve messages; send attachments; create and delete folders; and move messages to a folder.

Class prerequisite recommendations: ABC's of the PC and Skill Builders' and Introduction to the Internet.

Career Building Clinic (Resume and Job Search)

Date: Wednesday, March 15

Time: 3:00pm to 5:00pm

Create basic resumes and cover letters using online resources.

Access current job postings and search popular employment web sites.

A flash drive or an email account is required to save your resume.

Class prerequisite recommendations: ABC's of the PC and Skill Builders' Workshops, and Introduction to Computers/Windows

The Emerge Initiative



Developing Career Pathways for Baltimore Area Residents

In Baltimore, as in many major cities across the country, a high school diploma isn't what it used to be. While graduation rates are rising, those students are functioning at increasingly lower and lower levels. According to a 2007 N.E.A. study:

- 75% of adults with lower levels of literacy earn lower salaries than their more literate peers.
- Almost 18% of adults with below-basic literacy levels earn less than \$300 a week—about \$15,600 per year.
- Adults who have proficient levels of literacy are roughly five times as likely as adults with below basic levels of literacy to earn \$1950 or more a week—about \$101,400 a year.
- Almost 40% of employers found high school graduates to be deficient in reading comprehension skills and 72% of employers rated high school graduates as deficient in writing skills.



The EMERGE Initiative

The proposed EMERGE program has been designed to provide a unique opportunity to an underserved population of adults in order to start a career. These are adult students who have:

- A high school diploma and an average 7th grade level in reading and math
- A desire for career training
- A high level of motivation to succeed
- Availability and commitment to successfully complete an intensive and rigorous class



Before starting in an EMERGE class, students will complete a one-week Job Readiness class from Goodwill, which will include an evaluation of each student's job readiness level. Computer classes of various levels are available to those students in need of additional training outside of the classroom.

If students pass the Test of Adult Education (T.A.B.E.), they are moved into an Emerge program. If they do not pass, they are enrolled in a 12 week remedial math and reading class. Each EMERGE program lasts twelve weeks with classes five days a week for five hours a day.

Goodwill's training and apprentice programs in the EMERGE program include:

- Web/Graphic Design
- Cyber Security
- C.N.A.
- Coding and Programming
- Insulators' or Carpenters' Apprenticeships



ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES IN BALTIMORE CITY!

DO YOU NEED A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA?

BALTIMORE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
and
YOUTH EDUCATIONAL SERVICES (YES)
will offer
GED® Preparation Classes

| | DAY | DATE | TIME | LOCATION |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---|---|
| Testing & Registration | Thursday & Tuesday | March 9 & March 14, 2017 | 5:30 p.m. (Please allow 3 hours for testing) | Youth Educational Services (YES) Edgecomb Circle Elem. School 2835 Virginia Avenue, 21215 |
| Orientation | Wednesday | March 22 | 5:30 p.m. | Youth Educational Services (YES) Edgecomb Circle Elem. School 2835 Virginia Avenue, 21215 |
| GED® Prep Class Begins | Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday | March 22—May 4 | 5:30—8:30 p.m. | Youth Educational Services (YES) Edgecomb Circle Elem. School 2835 Virginia Avenue, 21215 |

BUILD YOUR SKILLS WITH BCCC!

You must be at least 17 years of age to enroll

Call 410-888-3200 for additional information



Courses are grant funded by the MD Dept. of Labor, Licensing & Regulations





DO YOU NEED WORK DONE ON YOUR HOUSE?



A NEW ROOF?

FINISHED BASEMENT?

A NEW FURNACE?

NEW WINDOWS AND PORCH?

HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS CAN HELP YOU!

Healthy Neighborhoods Offers:

Refinance/Rehab Loan:

- 4% interest
- No PMI Require
- Borrow up to 110% of pos-rehab value
- Free consultation with an architect
- Limited to Target Blocks

Home Improvement Loan:

- Borrow between \$5,000-\$20,000
- 4% interest
- 10 year term-no penalty for paying off
- Eligible for any home HN Area
- Not limited to target blocks
- Free consultation with an architect

Vacant Homes Qualify TOO!

- We offer Purchase/Rehab loans if there is a home you are interested in that needs a little fixing up!
- Vacancies, Foreclosures & Short-Sales all qualify!
- House does not need to be on a target block to qualify!



Check with Your Neighborhood President to see if you're on a Target Block!!!!

CALL TODAY WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY!!!

Healthy Neighborhoods Coordinator:
Jessica Brockington
410.523.4500
jbrockington@greatermondawmin.org



Extra Incentive!

*\$10,000 Matching Forgivable Grant

*All recipients of A HN Loan may be eligible to receive up to a \$10,000 matching grant to help with renovations, as long as they meet income guidelines!



For an Adobe Acrobat version of this press release, [click here](#).

African-American Heritage Preservation Program Grant Workshops Scheduled

*Grant program funds African-American historic
and cultural capital projects*

BALTIMORE, MD (February 28, 2017) - The Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) and the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) are pleased to announce workshops regarding grants available through the African American Heritage Preservation Program (AAHPP) for Fiscal Year 2018. Several workshops are being offered across the state:

Anne Arundel County

Thursday, March 9, 11:30a - 1:30p
Galesville Community Center
916 West Benning Road
Galesville, MD 20765

Calvert County

Wednesday, March 29, 11:30a - 1:30p
Melvin's Place (formerly known as
Duke's)
1155 Hallowing Point Road
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Baltimore City

Monday, March 20, 11:30a - 1:30p
Union Baptist Church
1219 Druid Hill Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21217

Dorchester County

Thursday, April 6, 11:30a - 1:30p
Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad
Visitor Center
4608 Golden Hill Road
Church Creek, MD 21622

Workshop attendees should register online at [MHT's African American Heritage Preservation Program webpage](#).

The goal of the AAHPP is to identify and preserve buildings, communities and sites of historical and cultural importance to the African American experience in Maryland. This competitive program, offered once per year, is supported through an annual appropriation from the Maryland General Assembly, and is administered as a joint partnership of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture and the Maryland Historical Trust. Grant awards range from a minimum of \$10,000 to a maximum of \$100,000. Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations and local jurisdictions. Business entities and individuals may also apply for program grants when seeking funds for a preservation or development project that serves a high public purpose. Eligible projects include acquisition, construction, capital improvement, and certain predevelopment costs for African American heritage properties. In the six years since its inception, the AAHPP has awarded eighty-two grants totaling \$6 million in funding to projects statewide.

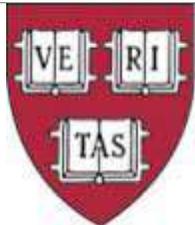
Program guidelines and grant applications may be obtained from [MHT's website](#). Completed grant applications must be submitted online by 11:59 PM on July 15, 2017. For assistance in the development of project scope and purpose, contact Maya David, MCAAHC Interim Director, at [\(410\) 216-8190](tel:410-216-8190) or





Join Goodwill and help put Baltimore Back to Work

Goodwill has immediate openings throughout the area in our Retail stores and Ecommerce department. Join **our fast-paced environment with tremendous opportunity** for growth. Open retail positions include Store Managers, Assistant Store Managers, Sales Associates, Donation Attendants and Processors. Our newest division, Ecommerce, has openings for Processors, Listers and Shippers. In addition to an exciting **atmosphere with a fast-growing non-profit, at Goodwill the revenue from the sale of donated goods supports job training and placement programs for individuals with barriers to employment.** Join us at the Mt Lebanon



HARVARD
UNIVERSITY

Eligibility for aid

Our generous financial aid program—bolstered by the **Harvard Financial Aid Initiative, which seeks to increase low- and middle-income students' awareness of Harvard's affordability**—aims to make Harvard accessible to any student who is admitted.

- 20% of our parents have total incomes less than \$65,000 and are not expected to contribute.
- Families with incomes between \$65,000 and \$150,000 will contribute from **0-10% of their income, and those with incomes above \$150,000 will be asked to pay proportionately more than 10%, based on their individual circumstances.**
- Families at all income levels who have significant assets will continue to pay more than those in less fortunate circumstances.
- Home equity and retirement assets are not considered in our assessment of financial need.

Visit

<https://college.harvard.edu/financial-aid/how-aid-works/harvard-financial-aid-initiative>.

SENIORS' MINISTRY
OF
MT. LEBANON BAPTIST CHURCH
PRESENTS

RONALD HAZELL, JR.
GOSPEL JAZZ CONCERT

Saturday, April 8, 2017

3:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church

2812—14 Reisterstown Road

Baltimore, MD 21215

FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE SEE:

Lillian E. Wright 410-825-4656

Deloris Mack 410-521-6864

Tickets: \$25.00, includes lite fare



Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church

FRANKLIN LANCE, D. MIN. - SENIOR PASTOR



Lieutenant Violet Whyte, the first African-American woman appointed to the Baltimore City Police Department in 1937



Humanim Community Job Fair

Learn about job opportunities in your area and jumpstart your career today!

ABOUT

The Humanim Community Job Fair is an excellent opportunity to learn about career opportunities in your area and meet with reputable, local companies that are hiring, including:

- Mercy Medical Center
- Allied Universal
- Symphony Placements
- CVS
- Delaware North
- Towson University
- Genesis Healthcare
- Kennedy-Krieger
- John Hopkins University
- Chick Fil-A

SPECIFICS

Bring multiple copies of your updated resume and come prepared to share information with employers about your work history. Professional attire required.

This event is open to the public.
Sponsored by Humanim.

The Details

WHEN Saturday, March 18th
9am-2pm
WHERE The American Brewery
1701 N. Gay Street
Baltimore, MD 21213

Questions?

Contact us!

EMAIL career-training@humanim.org

About Humanim

Humanim's workforce development division has been providing career training, job placement, and job support services for over 40 years. Our services are designed to equip both individuals and families with the skills necessary to achieve greater financial independence and long term success, through support services that include case management, job coaching, and financial education. Humanim's workforce development programs have an excellent reputation in the community, and are nationally recognized and accredited.

HUMANIM
HUMAN PURPOSE. HUMAN IMPACT.

The Mission of Christian Liberty Church is founded upon....

Loving without judgment
 Serving others sacrificially
 Equipping people continuously
 Empowering the community purposefully

WITNESS TO OUR LORD
 28 "JUST AS THE SON OF MAN DID NOT COME TO BE SERVED, BUT TO SERVE, AND TO GIVE HIS LIFE AS A RANSOM FOR MANY."

www.christianlibertychurch.org

Christian Liberty Church

JOIN US SUNDAYS AT 10 AM

IN THE AUDITORIUM OF
 FREDERICK DOUGLASS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
410 523-LOVE (5683)

Come learn about a man that heals the sick, frees the captives, loves us all unconditionally and who died and was resurrected for you and me. Please join us at Liberty Christian Church.
 All Are Welcome!

Precious Purple
SUNDAY

Protecting Our Most Precious Gifts
 Show your support for Baltimore's babies

Wear purple on Sunday, March 26, 2017

Post your purple photos to social media using the hashtag **#PreciousPurpleSunday**
 For more ways you can get involved go to bit.ly/preciouspuresunday

To find out more about the event,
 contact Pastor Malden Dickens (443)416-1071
 To request materials, contact April Smith (410)659-6285

Baltimore for Healthy Babies
BaltimoreforHealthyBabies.org



Dr. Levi Watkins Jr. in 2008. Revolutionary heart surgeon at Johns Hopkins University, School of Medicine he was also a civil rights activist. Credit Joe Howell/Johns Hopkins

The day before he died, Dr. Watkins had been welcoming students to a training program at [Johns Hopkins University Hospital](#) when he became ill, the school said. the cause of death was complications of a heart attack and a [stroke](#). How ironic.

Dr. Watkins was destined to be a champion for civil rights. he was baptized as a child in Birmingham, Ala., by the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, the civil rights leader and close aide to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. As a teenager he participated in the event in the civil rights struggle led by Dr. King that was set off in 1955 when Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger.

Dr. Watkins later volunteered as a part-time driver for Dr. King, who **was his family's pastor. He broke ground as the first black student to enter and graduate from the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.**

"All my work since the integration of Vanderbilt University has been about inclusion, equity and opportunity," Dr. Watkins said in an interview with the University of Alabama at Birmingham, whose all-white medical school denied him admission in 1966.

After a surgical internship at Johns Hopkins University Hospital, he was named the hospital's first black chief resident in cardiac surgery. His research at Harvard Medical School, from 1973 to 1975, led to the use of angiotensin blockers to treat [congestive heart failure](#). He later joined the full-time faculty at Johns Hopkins and, in 1979, the medical school's admissions committee. By 1983, the number of black students there had increased to 40, from 8. He retired in 2013.

Among those he mentored were [Dr. Selwyn M. Vickers](#), the first African-American dean of the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine, and [Dr. James E. K. Hildreth](#), an Immunologist prominent in [AIDS](#) research. Dr. Hildreth, who was dean of the College of Biological Sciences at the University of California, Davis, and is the incoming president of Meharry Medical College, a historically black institution in Nashville, said that Dr. Watkins, as a lone black pioneer, **"had to be his own role model."**

"Dr. Watkins's life and work illustrate how one person, at the right time and in the right place, can profoundly change institutions and their culture," Dr. Hildreth said.

In 1993, after Dr. Watkins's father had a stroke at 81, his siblings asked him to recommend a heart surgeon. He suggested several whom he had trained. "We told Levi that we did not want a 'trainee,'" James Watkins recalled. **"We knew that Levi's exceptional skill level as a cardiac surgeon, together with his unique postoperative micro-stitching technique, could give Daddy another year of life — enough time to say goodbye properly."**

Dr. Watkins later recalled that before operating he prayed: **"O Lord, my father's heart is in my hands, but his life, truly, is in yours."**

The surgery was successful.

It is time we teach the generations that come behind us the price that was paid for them to be where they are. It is time for us and future generations to pay up.

Quick Quiz:

Name the 2016 presidential candidate that was accepted to Johns Hopkins University, School of Medicine due to Dr. Watkins? *Answer on the back.*

GMCC Neighborhood Associations

New Auchentoroly Terrace Association (NATA)
Barbara Anderson-Dandy, President, 410.669.0035

Fulton Heights Community Association
Rev. Keith Bailey, President, 443-500-2149

Liberty Square Community Organization
Selwyn Shields, President, 410.728.5446

Mondawmin Neighborhood Improvement Association (MNIA)
Sandra Almond-Cooper, President, 410.383.0096

Panway Neighborhood Improvement Association
Wanda Freeland, President, 410.383.9532

Parkway Community
Gregory Jenkins, President, 443.963.8229

Robert W. Coleman Community

Organization (RWCCO)
Adeline Hutchinson, President, 410.669.0063

Whittier-Monroe Neighborhood Association
Jacqueline Caldwell, President, 410.728.2046

CHURCHES

Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church
Dr. Franklin Lance, Pastor, 410.669.1800

Greater New Hope Baptist Church
Dr. Linwood Robinson, Pastor, 410.225.0003

New Shiloh Baptist Church
Dr. Harold A. Carter, Jr., Pastor, 410.523.5306

Newsletter submissions due by
by
March 23, 2017 for April
newsletter@greatermondawmin.org

BUSINESSES, INSTITUTIONS, AND NON-PROFITS

Baltimore City Community College
Dr. Gordon F. May, President, 410.462.8300

Bon Secours Health Systems
Samuel L. Ross, M.D.,
Chief Executive Officer 410.362.3000

Center for Urban Families
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