

# The Prince George's Post



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## National Harbor Celebrates Cherry Blossoms, March 20 to April 11

Property has some of the earliest blossoms in D.C. region that create spectacular waterfront display as backdrop for multiple activities

By PRESS OFFICER  
National Harbor

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. (Feb. 25, 2021)—National Harbor has become known for its spring display of hundreds of cherry trees lining the waterfront. The trees bloom each year in March and are some of the earliest blooms in the D.C. region.

To celebrate the spectacular display, National Harbor is hosting a Cherry Blossom Celebration beginning March 20 through April 11. The water taxi, opening just in time, is a

great way to view the blossoms from the water.

"We are delighted to have become a cherry blossom viewing destination," said Jackie Saunders AVP Marketing at National Harbor. "Because our trees bloom early, we can provide visitors with a longer opportunity to view cherry blossoms in the Washington, D.C. region."

National Harbor's more than 200 trees are Okame cherry trees—recognizable by their masses of striking pink flowers. They are more tolerant to cold than most other

types of cherry trees and are early bloomers with flowers lasting up to three weeks. They also grow about two feet a year and are very desirable for areas that want quick, hardy, spectacular color. In a region that is known for its cherry blossom displays and celebrations, the trees at National Harbor have quickly become a large draw.

While National Harbor is again an official participant of the National Cherry Blossom Festival, the property has ex-



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY NATIONAL HARBOR

See BLOSSOMS Page A3 Performers at National Harbor Cherry Blossom Festival

## Six Flags America Prepares to Open Safely for Longest Season In Park History

Six Flags America Partners with Capital Area Food Bank to Feed Families in the DMV

By JOSEPH PUDLICK  
Six Flags America

BOWIE, Md. (March 2, 2021)—Six Flags America, D.C.'s Thrill Capital, will open for its 22nd season this Saturday, March 6—the earliest opening and longest season in park history. The 2021 season will offer more opportunities than ever for families to get out and make memories together in a safe, outdoor environment. Guests can take on 10 thrilling coasters, two world-class family sections, and later this season, the region's largest waterpark, Hurricane Harbor. Six Flags America will be open every weekend through Memorial Day, and will operate daily for Spring Break, March 31 to April 5.

"The thrills are calling and Six Flags America is ready to safely welcome families and friends of all ages," said Park President Richard Pretlow. "In honor of our longest season, guests can get out and enjoy spring earlier than ever, plus give back to our community with numerous opportunities to donate meals to families throughout the DMV."

Six Flags America invites guests to Get Out & Give Back as it partners with the Capital Area Food Bank to kick off the new season by collecting non-perishable food items and donations for families in DC, Maryland and Virginia. Guests who bring at least six items will receive discounted admission to Six Flags America during week-

ends in March. When guests purchase a Get Out & Give Back online ticket, \$1 will be donated to the food bank and can help provide two meals for each ticket sold. Guests may also donate by rounding up their transactions throughout the park and additional limited-time offers will also benefit the food bank. For a full list of ways to participate, recommended donation items, and to make reservations, please visit the event page at [www.SixFlags.com/America](http://www.SixFlags.com/America).

Health & Safety Protocols — Six Flags worked in partnership with its epidemiologist consultants to create a safe experience that meets or exceeds federal, state, and local guidelines. Park attendance will be carefully monitored and all Members, Season Pass Holders, and guests with single-day tickets will be required to make a reservation to visit Six Flags America. In addition:

All team members and all guests 2 years and up are required to wear masks covering the nose and mouth while in the park;

Props, rides, restraints, handrails, and dining and restroom facilities are cleaned and sanitized regularly; and

Multiple alcohol-based hand sanitizer stations are located throughout the park for guest and team member usage.

For more information on Six Flags' comprehensive safety guidelines, visit [www.SixFlags.com/America](http://www.SixFlags.com/America).

## Maryland Humanities Welcomes Authors Kimberly Jones and Gilly Segal for Conversation on Race and Equity

By SARAH WEISSMAN  
Maryland Humanities

BALTIMORE (Feb. 18, 2021)—Maryland Humanities hosts authors Kimberly Jones and Gilly Segal on March 16 from 7 p.m.–8:30 p.m. for "Why It Matters: Reckoning with Race. Equity. Allyship." The authors will discuss their best-selling book, "I'm Not Dying With You Tonight", inspired by the death of Baltimorean Freddie Gray. Jones and Segal will touch on

the recent resurgence of our country's reckoning with racial inequity, a video of Jones that went viral after the death of George Floyd, and reaching beyond platitudes to work together on issues of common concern. The conversation will be moderated by Christine Platt, author and Managing Director of the Antiracist Research & Policy Center at American University. A Q&A session will follow the

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## MedStar Health Launches Lung Cancer Screening Program At MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center

By CHERYL M. RICHARDSON  
MedStar Health

CLINTON, Md. (Feb. 25, 2021)—MedStar Georgetown Cancer Institute at MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center has recently launched a new lung cancer screening program. The program aims to reduce lung cancer deaths by screening high-risk patients before they exhibit any symptoms. The 2011 National Lung Screening Trial (NLST) concluded that early detection of lung cancer by low-dose CT scans can cut the lung cancer death rate by 20 percent. The hope is that people with lung cancer can have their disease caught while it's still at an early stage, when there are more treatment options available and cure rates are better.

"Lung cancer is the most common cause of cancer mortality in both men and women, and most long-term lung cancer survivors are individuals who were diagnosed when the cancer was at an early stage," said Stephen "Eric" Rubenstein, MD, medical director of MedStar Georgetown Cancer Institute at MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center. "Our new lung cancer screening program will help identify people while their cancer is at an earlier stage, increasing the possibility that their cancer will be treatable."

Physicians will refer patients to the program who fit the high-risk profile for lung cancer: people between the ages of 55 and 80 who are current smokers or have quit within the

last 15 years. In addition to fulfilling those criteria, patients must have had a 30 pack-year smoking history—equivalent to a pack a day for 30 years, or two packs a day for 15 years.

"One out of 100 people who fit these criteria and get screened will have lung cancer, and one in 300 will avoid dying from lung cancer," said Sheil Shah, DO, diagnostic radiologist who will be leading the screening program at MedStar Georgetown Cancer Institute at MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center. "Identifying it in the early stages, where it could potentially have a cure, is the program's goal."

Screenings will take place at MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center using sophisticated low-dose CT technology that uses much less radiation than a traditional CT scan does. A diagnostic radiologist will review the scan and provide a report of findings, along with recommendations for follow-up care or future screening. If the radiologist identifies a suspicious area on the scan, the patient may be referred to MedStar Georgetown Cancer Institute at MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center for additional scans or biopsies. The cancer center, opened in late 2019, combines unmatched medical expertise, leading-edge therapies, and robust clinical research, all under one roof.

"The test was easy. I had no discomfort," said Temple Hills resident Orville Fogle, 65, who was the lung cancer screening program's

first participant. "I've had a couple of scans in the past, but MedStar Southern Maryland was the first hospital that actually gave me a clear diagnosis about what was going on with my lung, which was scar tissue." Mr. Fogle is now in the process of quitting smoking and is pursuing follow-up care for the scar tissue in his lung.

Nationally, approximately 60 percent of low-dose CT scans uncover lung nodules and incidental findings that require additional care. Patients who are found to have other, non-cancerous disease in their lungs or nearby organs will benefit from the coordinated, multidisciplinary expertise — from pulmonology to cardiothoracic surgery — available throughout MedStar Health. The program will also incorporate smoking cessation counseling and follow-up communication with the patient's primary care provider.

MedStar Georgetown Cancer Institute at MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center, which is fully accredited by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer, offers 25,000 square feet of treatment space with a state-of-the-art infusion center, women's imaging suite, and robust radiation therapy capabilities that include Zap-X®, the first radiosurgery system of its kind on the East Coast, and Halcyon™, a new kind of radiotherapy offering faster, more accurate treatment.

For more information about our program, please call 301-877-5588.

## Marijuana Legalization Proposed in Maryland Legislature

By CATHERINE SCOTT  
Capital News Service Annapolis Bureau

A bill essentially legalizing recreational use of cannabis in Maryland would be an important step toward addressing social equity and racial injustices, advocates said.

"This is the year we are talking about equity," Del. Jazz Lewis, D-Prince George's, sponsor of the bill, said at a Wednesday [Feb. 24] House Judiciary Committee hearing Capital News Service viewed. "And now is the time that we pass this bill."

HB32 would legalize, tax, and regulate marijuana, referred to as cannabis in the bill, for adults 21 and older and also allow for expungement and release for individuals previously arrested or incarcerated.

Lewis argued at the hearing that the bill would take the production of cannabis off of the streets to ensure safer products, while simultaneously creating jobs, helping small businesses, and bringing in potentially hundreds

of millions of dollars in annual tax revenue.

General fund and special fund revenues in Maryland would be expected to increase significantly in future fiscal years due to taxes, licensing fees, and civil penalty fines, according to a fiscal analysis. Exact dollar amounts, and the market for recreational cannabis, are unpredictable, according to the analysis.

Legalizing cannabis would increase the state's expenditures significantly in the first year to establish regulatory and tax frameworks, as well as the cost of implementing the bill's social equity provisions.

The Alcohol and Tobacco Commission alone would have to increase their spending by at least \$1.9 million in fiscal year 2022, which includes the costs of hiring more staff, consulting services, and overall operating expenses.

If passed, people 21 and over would be able to, "possess, consume, grow, use, process, manufacture, purchase, or transport up to the personal use amount of cannabis."

The "personal use amount" is defined in the bill as up to two ounces of cannabis, 15 grams of concentrated cannabis, cannabis products containing up to 1,500 milligrams of THC, or up to six cannabis plants.

Having more than the personal use amount could result in a civil offense for individuals with a maximum penalty of 16 hours of community service or a \$250 fine.

Underage individuals could face a \$100 fine or 6 hours of community service if caught with cannabis for a first offense.

The bill originated from an informal summer work group composed of legislators from the Black caucus who worked to create legislation to address racial injustices, according to Lewis.

Lewis also testified that there are three components that address social equity within his bill, including criminal justice reform, reinvestment in disadvantaged communities, and

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**Marietta House Museum and the Prince George's County Historical Society Present: Black Craftsmen in Early 19th Century Annapolis**  
Annapolis's great Georgian mansions, extant furnishings and artworks, and even the Maryland State Capitol building remain as products of bound laborers' skill and expertise. **Community**, Page A3

**ChildWatch: Black History Month: Writing the Next Chapter**  
We now understand the wisdom behind teaching not just Black children but all children Black history, just as we make sure all of our American stories are being told ... **Commentary**, Page A4



# TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

## In & Around Morningside-Skyline by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

### Memorial planned for beloved teacher who died of Covid-19

One year ago, when we were still getting used to this new virus, Connie Madden died.

When her children, Autumn and Ian, were students at St. Philip the Apostle School in Camp Springs, Connie was an enthusiastic volunteer. She started out as a library aide and later became a full-time teacher's aide in the primary grades.

She was short in stature but big in smiles, laughs, and guidance for her students. She stayed on well after her children graduated, and was a fixture at the school until her sudden death.

Now that her one-year anniversary is approaching in April, the school family, the school alumni and the parish have plans to place a memorial marker at the Shrine of Saint Philip in front of the school.

The school family would appreciate any contribution offered for this memorial of a cherished teacher. Any donation, no matter how big or small, is welcome. It can be dropped off at the school during school days or mailed to St. Philip the Apostle School, 5416 Henderson Way, Camp Springs, MD 20746.

For information, call 301-423-4740 during school days or email [stpmad.org](mailto:stpmad.org).

### Surratt Courier going online

Mary Surratt was hanged for being a conspirator in the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. (I believe she was innocent!) The Civil War home of Mary Surratt is on Brandywine Road in Clinton and has been a favorite visitors' site for years.

The Society has published The Surratt Courier for their members for 45 years. However, these are different times. The Surratt Society has sent out the following notice:

"We are happy to announce that we are going to continue to make our bi-monthly Couriers for free on our website throughout 2021! Our January/February 2021 Courier is currently live on the site! As the months go on, you might see some format changes on how the Courier is presented, and we would love your feedback! Feel free to leave questions or comments in the comment box at the bottom of our Surratt Courier page. Either way, please visit [surrattmuseum.org](http://surrattmuseum.org)... to start reading!"

Attention, Civil War enthusiasts: you will enjoy reading The Surratt Courier.

### Neighbors & other good people

Francis B. Francois, 87, judge on the Orphan's Court, County Commissioner and Prince George's County Councilman died Feb. 17 in Chicago. He was named Washingtonian of the Year in 1973. He became Executive Director of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials until retirement in 1999. A funeral Mass will be held later in Bowie.

Steny Hoyer was mentioned in a recent Neighbors' item. Daughter Therese reminded me that when Crossland needed a commencement speaker for her class, she was asked to see if she could find someone. She talked to her dad, John McHale, and he recommended Steny, a Suitland High grad and newly-elected U.S. Representative. She called him; he accepted and was the graduation speaker.

S. Prestley Blake, 106, co-founder of Friendly's ice cream chain, died Feb. 11 in Stuart, Fla. I have fond memories of the Friendly Ice-Cream Shop in the Forestville Plaza Shopping Center.

### Morningside VFD website is news-less

There has been no update on the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department's website since December. I guess they're just too busy.

However, they continue to provide the very best in fire and emergency care, and we are proud to have them right here in our neighborhood. As for the fleet, they have Ambulance 27A and Ambulance 27B, Rescue Engine 27, Rescue Squad 27 and Engine Company 27.

### Changing landscape

The Baltimore Sun has announced that the newspaper and its affiliated publications are due to be purchased by a nonprofit developed by businessman and philanthropist Stewart Bainum, a move that would put the Sun back in local hands.

I'm still waiting for an announcement about the site of the new FBI headquarters. I want to remind the planners that the Land-over site offers easy transportation ties to Interstate 495 and a Metro stop. Also Land-over's 86 acres wouldn't require razing buildings or relocating people.

Union Station is getting ready for an overhaul. It would add concourses and tracks, broaden retail, add a two-level bus facility with up to 40 bus slips and direct

pickup and drop-off areas in front of a new train hall and at two other entrances.

I love trains and, until recent years, have taken them often. Two of my favorite trips: to Florida on the Auto Train, and another, a month long, across the country to Chicago, Los Angeles, San Antonio and Cincinnati with 16-year-old grandson Zak.

### Mary's Covid report

Today (Feb. 25) I had my second Pfizer shot. At this time, five hours later, I'm feeling fine. I'll see how things go tomorrow. I had the shot at the Southern Regional Technology & Recreational Complex in Oxon Hill, in the huge gymnasium filled with white tents. It was well organized and only took me an hour or so.

Maryland has had 378,490 cases with 862 added the last day. As for virus deaths, 7,789 (!) Marylanders have died, 27 of them in the last day.

D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser had ceremonies to remember the 1,001 Washingtonians who've died. And then she announced the sobering news that her own sister, Mercia Bowser, had died Feb. 24 of complications from the virus. Mercia, the oldest of the six Bowser siblings, would have turned 65 next month.

### Happy Chinese Year of the Ox 2021

Were you born in 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, or 2009? If so, you are an Ox. In the 12-year Chinese Zodiac, people born in the year of the Ox are strong, reliable, fair, and conscientious. They are calm, patient and methodical and inspire confidence.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Roy Derrick, March 6; Jon McKlveen, Shirley Dodgson & my grandson Richard Shearer, March 9; Angelo Meoli, John F. Latimer, Karl Kaufman Jr., Alberta M. Smith & my son-in-law John Mudd, March 10; Karen Cordero, Blake James Shipman & Father Scott Hahn, March 11; Harold Wilson, Rebecca Turner, Marcy Richardson, Anita (Beall) Cook & me, March 12; Pamela Woodall, Kathy Elborne, Cordelia Bland, Shirley Carruth & Gregory Ritter, March 13.

Happy 175th birthday to the Smithsonian. What would we do without it?

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

### COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

"Please join us in Congratulating long time District 9 residence the Cross family for being inducted into the Maryland's Agriculture Hall of Fame. The Cross family are leaders and pioneers in the farming and agricultural industry in Prince George's County and the state of Maryland. As proud owners of R & D Cross in Brandywine, the Cross family has farmed in Maryland for over 100 years. The Cross family is the 53rd inductee in the Governor's Agriculture Hall of Fame. We congratulate the Cross family on receiving this great honor". <https://news.maryland.gov/mda/press-release2020>.

### ALUMNI PROUD

Bowie State University Alumni Proud: Tim Adams is the first African American to be elected Mayor in the 138-year history of the city of Bowie, located in Maryland. [www.cityofbowie.org](http://www.cityofbowie.org).

Bowie State University Alumni Proud: Dr. Aaron Bolts' 12 Physical Medicine/Rehab. New York, NY Resident Physician at Mount Sinai Hospital and Frontline Physician treating COVID-19 patients in New York City. [webmaster@bowiestate.edu](mailto:webmaster@bowiestate.edu).

Bulldog History makers on the frontline creating opportunities and opening doors. Bowie State University Alumnus Troy Weaver becomes NBA's eight Black General Manager for the Detroit Pistons. [webmaster@bowiestate.edu](mailto:webmaster@bowiestate.edu).

### OFFICE OF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

Office of Alumni Engagement "Live at 5" Facebook Chat, Wednesday February 17, 2021 was with Tariq Toure" (11). Author, Lecturer, Performer and NAACP Image Award Nominee. The author of "Black Seeds," the winner of the Best Poetry Book of Baltimore by City Paper Magazine was a Virtual Alumni House discussing his experiences at B.S.U., and why this NAACP Image Award nominee feels writing is so essential in authentic storytelling. Office of Alumni Engagement.

### STILL RISING

Bulldog Legacy started way before we were born and continues today with our current leader Mr. Darren M. Swain, BSUNAA president. James G. Brown, first Alumni Association President (1939-1942) and State Teachers College Faculty Member. Annette Wedderburne Bulldog Nation.

### # PGCPs PROUD: IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Oxon Hill HS and Thomas Johnson Middle School earn Stem Seal of Excellence. Oxon Hill High School and Thomas Johnson Middle School have been recognized by the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association as Stem Schools of Excellence for providing robust and integrative Stem experiences for students. Engage PGCPs, A Newsletter for PGCPs Families.

Chesapeake Math & IT(CMIT) Academy North High School Senior Logan Marshall Jackson has been named a candidate in the

2021 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. Candidates are selected on the basis of superior academic and artistic achievements, leadership qualities, strong character and involvement in community and social activities. Engage PGCPs, A Newsletter for PGCPs Families.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Tampa Bay Buccaneers cornerback Ryan Smith, a Dr. Henry A. Wise Jr. High School graduate, on winning the 2021 NFL Super Bowl. Smith was drafted by the Buccaneers 108th overall in the 2016 NFL draft. Engage PGCPs, A Newsletter for PGCPs Families.

### OFFERING A FRIENDLY VOICE

AARPs Friendly Voice Program was set up to break through the wall of loneliness made more formidable by social distancing. Those seeking a call reach out to AARP's program through this link: [aarp.org/friendlyvoice](http://aarp.org/friendlyvoice). Information from my AARP Magazine.

### AMAZON

KiAnna DeVille: Amazon has launched another Distribution Center (DMD8) in Waldorf, Maryland. "Darrell Lewis commissioned us to create a custom cake and 500 cupcakes, and we said yes. Instead of creating an amazon box again we went a different route, the Amazon Delivery Van. Whew!! If challenges make you stronger than I must be "Ford tough".

"Our niece, Makayla Eugene assisted us on this event and was privy to a tour of the Amazon Warehouse. To see the behind-the-scenes logistics on how Amazon works was quite an experience. Prime member for life! Thankful for another opportunity to work with such a dynamic organization and to have my family as a solid support system". #Kiannaskreations#Amazon#DMD8

### CORRIDOR LENTEN SERVICES

210 Corridor Lenten Services are hosted by Grace United Methodist Church at 7:00 p.m. on March 10, 2021 Pastor Keith White, Smith Chapel UMC, March 17, 2021 Pastor Cindy Banks, Indian Head/Shiloh/Chicamuxen, March 24, 2021 Pastor Darryl Mason, Metropolitan UMC.

Every Wednesday there will be a 1:00 p.m. service hosted by Pastor Kermit Moore, Providence-Fort Washington. This will be a one-hour service for those persons who are unable to attend. Zoom Meeting ID: 935 1775 1951, Meeting Passcode: 001511, Dial in Number 1-301-715-8592.

### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday to William Farmer, Myrtle Jones, Gloria Lanier, Charles Lewis, Gregory Pinkney, Vanessa Pinkney, and Wayne Toombs who are Nottingham United Methodist Church members celebrating birthdays in March.

## Around the County

### IUP Students Named to Fall 2020 Dean's List

INDIANA, Pa. (Feb. 24, 2021)—The following [Prince George's County] students have been named to the fall 2020 dean's list at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Students achieve dean's list status when they are full-time (12 or more credits) with a grade point average of 3.25 or higher. The full list of fall 2020 dean's list students is available at [www.iup.edu](http://www.iup.edu).

Dean's List students, their hometowns, majors and degrees they are seeking are:

Bowie: **Grace E. Reavis**, B.S. in Human Resource Management Fort Washington; **Maya AlyssaMarie Allmond**, B.S. in Biology/Pre-medical; **Jada Maerie Tucker**, B.S. in Fashion Merchandising

Hyattsville: **Oyindamola E. Adebayo**, B.S. in Biology/Pre-medical —Michelle Fryling, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

### Local Students Win Inaugural Harvard University Debate en Espanol Tournament

**Alexa Figoura** and **Dennis Martinez**, graduating seniors at Northwestern High School, are the national champions of the Harvard University Debate En Espanol Tournament, defeating students from around the nation to claim the title.

The 2nd seeded team headed into elimination rounds along with teams from the Boston Debate League's Spanish Debate Program and students from Christopher Columbus High School (Miami), they won consecutive rounds on 2-1 decisions from panels of expert judges (and native spanish speakers). The partners won the tournament advocating for the abolition of ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) as part of this year's resolution:

*The United States Federal Government should enact substantial criminal justice reform in the United States in one or more of the following: forensic science, policing, sentencing.*

The Harvard University National Forensics Tournament is one of the largest and most prestigious speech and debate competitions in the world, attracting teams from around the world. Now in its 47th year, the tournament awards bids to the Tournament of Champions, and features several thousand competitors across various competitive formats. This year, most debate tournaments are virtual as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Debate has thrived online, where students can connect with one another without the expense of travel to continue the powerful conversations they would normally have in person.

Alexa and Dennis began debating their sophomore year of high school with the Washington Urban Debate League (WUDL), and won the JV Division at Districts that year (2019). They have participated in the WUDL Travel Team for the last two years, participating in regional and national tournaments across the country. Both have won a number of awards during their debate careers. Dennis was a finalist at the Georgetown University Summer Debate Seminar Tournament this past year, while Alexa was voted Student Choice: Debater of the Year (2020) by her peers in the WUDL as a junior. Dennis, a Posse Scholar, has accepted a full scholarship to attend Lewis and Clark College to study political science, while Alexa, seeking to study journalism, is waiting to hear back from a number of schools including Northwestern University and American University here in D.C.

Alexa and Dennis are participants in the Washington Urban Debate League (WUDL), a local D.C. area non-profit that supports debate programs in area public schools, especially at Title 1 schools. Despite the pandemic, the WUDL has grown (the only Urban Debate League in the nation to do so), serving more than 400 students through its after-school programs, and thousands more through curricular partnerships with D.C. Public Schools. The WUDL Travel Team supports gifted debaters participation in regional and national tournaments across the country. During the pandemic, these tournaments have continued virtually.

—Sierra Wood, Washington Urban Debate League

### Nation's Premier Collegiate Honor Society Inducts Darron Mack Into Membership

**Darron Mack** of Upper Marlboro, MD has accepted an invitation of lifetime membership in The National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS), the nation's leading certified honor society for high-achieving first- and second-year college students with a minimum of a 3.0 GPA.

NSCS is an honors organization that invites less than ten percent of all eligible students nationwide to join the ranks of its diverse membership each year. A leading interdisciplinary academic honor society, NSCS is made up of scholars from two-year, four-year and online institutions.

"NSCS is more than just a symbol of academic achievement; it is a distinction of honor," said Scott Mobley, NSCS Executive Director. "Our scholars are some of the best of the best who have shown an unwavering commitment to academic excellence early in their collegiate journey. These dynamic individuals embody the NSCS pillars of scholarship, leadership, and service, and many go on to become active contributors within their respective fields."

Founded in 1994 by veteran student affairs professional Stephen Loflin, NSCS continues to remain true to its promise of recognizing, elevating, and connecting high-achievers. With a portfolio of exclusive benefits that include access to over a million dollars in scholarships, chapter funds and awards annually, professional development resources, exclusive tailored content, and leadership and service experiences, NSCS is poised to support member growth and development throughout their academic and collegiate journey.

Notable NSCS distinguished honorary members include former president Jimmy Carter, U.S. Ambassador Dr. Robin Renee Sanders, the late Senator John McCain, and former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala.

"We welcome Darron Mack to our community of like-minded, high-achieving nationwide scholars," Mobley said.

The National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS) is an honors organization that recognizes and elevates high-achieving first-and-second year college students. With its three pillars of scholarship, leadership, and service, NSCS is proud to provide career and graduate school connections, leadership and service opportunities and gives out more than \$750,000 in scholarships (often with multiple recipients per award), awards and chapter funds annually. Learn more at [nscs.org](http://nscs.org).



# COMMUNITY

## Hospice of the Chesapeake Invites Adults to its Tuscan Twilight Tasting Virtual Fundraiser

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN  
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (Feb. 17, 2021)—Find a Zoom backdrop of the central Italian countryside and then prepare to join Hospice of the Chesapeake for a virtual wine tasting (but with real wine!) The Tuscan Twilight Tasting is an online event that will take place beginning at 5 p.m. April 22. But first you will pick up your wine and a delightful charcuterie selection before logging in for a guided tasting by Vecchie Terre di Montefili of Italy, a performance by the Annapolis Opera, and a preview of auction items for the An Evening Under the Tuscan Sky gala.

Ticket price of \$175 includes three bottles of Italian wine and a charcuterie board for two from Main & Market. Guests will have the option to pick up their wine and charcuterie box from Main & Market in Annapolis, or one of our three office locations, 90 Ritchie Highway in Pasadena, 9500 Medical Center Drive, Suite 201 in Largo, or 2505 Davis Road in Waldorf.

The nonprofit is grateful for its sponsors, including Omni Business Solutions and Waldorf Toyota. Proceeds from the event will support the organization's hospice, supportive and bereavement care programs and services provided to patients and families in Anne Arundel, Charles and Prince George's counties.

To order your Tuscan Twilight Tasting tickets and kit, visit [www.hospicechesapeake.org/wine-tasting](http://www.hospicechesapeake.org/wine-tasting). For details, and sponsorship, contact Meg Lawton at 443-837-1531 or [mlawton@hospicechesapeake.org](mailto:mlawton@hospicechesapeake.org).

*Caring for life throughout the journey with illness and loss is the mission of Hospice of the Chesapeake. For details, visit [www.hospicechesapeake.org](http://www.hospicechesapeake.org).*

### Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

## Should I Claim Social Security Now or Wait Until I'm 70?

By RUSSELL GLOOR,  
AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor  
Association of Mature American Citizens

**Dear Rusty:** I'm currently 67 years old and still working full time. I took a big financial hit in 2008, which is why I'm still working, and I expect to continue working until I'm 70. My question is: should I take Social Security now, bank it until I'm 70, and then pay it out to myself upon retirement? Or would it be better to hold off until I'm 70 to claim. Longevity of about 85 seems to run in my family. *Signed: Working Senior*

**Dear Working Senior:** I'm afraid there's no simple answer to your question, but I'll give you some points to ponder.

If you don't need the money right now, and you expect to enjoy at least average longevity (about 85 for a man your current age), then waiting until you're 70 will give you the maximum monthly benefit and the most in cumulative lifetime Social Security benefits if you meet average longevity. And if you live beyond the average, your cumulative lifetime benefits will be correspondingly more. Since you've already delayed past your full retirement age (66) you are already earning delayed retirement credits (DRCs) at the rate of 8% for each full year you delay (the maximum Social Security benefit is reached at age 70).

Can you do better than an 8% annual increase by claiming now and saving or investing the money? That would be the main point to evaluate, and only you know your investment options. But you should also consider that—if you should die before your wife and she has reached her full retirement age—your wife will get 100% of the benefit you are receiving at your death. If you claim earlier (e.g., now), your wife will get that earlier smaller amount as your widow. Compare that to what she'll get by you waiting until age 70 to claim, when your benefit will be about 24% more than it is now. Again, something for you to consider.

If you claim at age 70 you will have collected about the same amount of money at age 82 as if you had claimed now. That is your "breakeven" point, which is where your expected longevity comes into play. If you think you will beat the average and you do, you'll collect much more in total lifetime Social Security benefits by waiting until you are 70 to claim. Of course, no one knows how long they will live, but if your family history suggests a long life and you're in good health now, delaying is usually a prudent choice. That is, however, a decision only you can make.

*The 2.3 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] [www.amac.us](http://www.amac.us) is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. AMAC Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the membership in our nation's capital and in local Congressional Districts throughout the country. And the AMAC Foundation ([www.AmacFoundation.org](http://www.AmacFoundation.org)) is the Association's non-profit organization, dedicated to supporting and educating America's Seniors. Together, we act and speak on the Association members' behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at [www.amac.us/join-amac](http://www.amac.us/join-amac).*

*This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website ([amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org).*

## Marietta House Museum and the Prince George's County Historical Society Present: Black Craftsmen in Early 19th Century Annapolis

By STACEY HAWKINS  
Marietta House Museum

Please join us on **Thursday, March 11, 6:30–7:30 p.m.**, for our virtual presentation of "Black Craftsmen in Early 19th Century Annapolis" with American decorative arts scholar, Bethany McGlynn.

In early Annapolis, Maryland, enslaved artisans labored in craft workshops, construction sites, public buildings, and domestic interiors. These artisans—along with free Black laborers and indentured and convict servants—comprised the majority of the labor force in Annapolis and elsewhere in the British Atlantic World. Annapolis's great Georgian mansions, extant furnishings and artworks, and even the Maryland State Capitol building remain as products of bound laborers' skill and expertise. Despite working for and with the city's most famous free white artisans, most notably Charles Willson Peale, William Buckland, John Shaw, and William Faris, enslaved artisans are often left out of studies of craft in early Annapolis. In this lecture, Bethany J. McGlynn will retrace the lives and work of enslaved craftspeople through the use of primary sources like newspaper advertisements, tax records, account books, and extant objects and buildings.

Register through Parks Direct: [www.parksdirect.com](http://www.parksdirect.com) or our direct link: <https://tinyurl.com/1dn6cikm>



PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMMOND HARWOOD HOUSE, ANNAPOLIS  
**Cotton C. Milbourne, "View of Annapolis, Maryland", 1794, watercolor on paper.**

\$5/person, ages 13 and older. You must register to receive the link for this event and must have access to Microsoft Teams. Questions about registration? Please email [stacey.hawkins@pgparks.com](mailto:stacey.hawkins@pgparks.com) or call 301-262-0532.

Marietta is located at 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD 20769 and is a property of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

## Bowie State's Hutton and Williams Announced as Church Mutual "Protecting the Greater Good" Honorees

By GREGORY C. GOINGS  
Bowie State Sports Information

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (Feb. 23, 2021)—After making some incredible contributions both on and off the basketball court, the duo of Talanya Hutton and Khalil Williams both earned and incredible honor, Tuesday afternoon. The two student-athletes were named honorees for the Church Mutual "Protecting the Greater Good" general scholarship contribution. Church Mutual Insurance Company announced the presentation of the second annual "Church Mutual Protecting the Greater Good Award" general scholarship contribution, Tuesday afternoon. A \$1,000 contribution is awarded in the name of one male and one female student-athlete participating in the CIAA tournament for each of the 12 CIAA member institutions.

The scholarships are based on the student-athletes' demonstrated positive impact on their school, students, or community. The scholarships, disbursed to the general scholarship fund in the names of the selected student-athletes, can be awarded at the discretion of the institution



IMAGE COURTESY BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

to any deserving CIAA member student.

Talanya Hutton is senior majoring in communications with a concentration in broadcast journalism. She has been on the Athletic Directors' Honor Roll since 2018. Talanya has served in a number of community service projects including career fairs, food drives, reading to students, toiletry drive, canned food drive and assisting with local summer basketball camps and

clinics.

Khalil Williams is a sophomore majoring in finance. He has been a member of the Athletic Directors Honor Roll every semester at Bowie State. Khalil has been a member of Student-Athlete Advisory Committee since his freshman year, as well as National Honors Society, Bowie State Honors Program, and serves as treasurer of the Bowie State Disciples.

## M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County Announces Virtual Teen Art Summit

By ANGEL WALDRON  
Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

RIVERDALE, Md. (Feb. 22, 2021)—The M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County presents Art Spark: A Virtual Teen Art Summit, taking place online on Saturday, March 20, 2021–Sunday, March 21, 2021. Art Spark features master classes and teen professional development opportunities in theatre, visual arts, dance, and video.

The summit includes:

- A virtual meet & greet with Broadway star Isabelle McCalla (featured as Jasmine in Disney's Aladdin and as Alyssa Greene in The Prom)
- Special performance from local teen vocalist, Charli Dahni
- Virtual master classes with CultureShock DC and Prince George's Shakespeare in the Parks
- Artist portfolio reviews with Anna

Trier from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Elizabeth Malone, Department Arts Specialist, stated "The Arts and Cultural Heritage Division, on behalf of the Department of Parks and Recreation, is proud to bring the fourth annual Art Spark: A Virtual Teen Art Summit online this March." She continued, "Log on and get ready for a series of professional developments for teen visual and performing artists, and a celebration of teen voices in the arts. Fuel your artistic voice at this weekend of intimate, art workshops for teens ages 13 to 18."

Schedule of events includes:

- Saturday, March 20**
- Hip Hop Dance Master Class with CultureShock DC
- Video Storytelling: Master Class in Video Creation
- Virtual Broadway: Meet & Greet with Isabelle McCalla
- Virtual Watch Party: A Performance by Charli Dahni, Teen Vocalist

**Sunday, March 21**

Visual Arts Portfolio Review with Anna Trier

Audition Master Class with Prince George's Shakespeare in the Parks

Teens ages 13 to 18 can register for individual workshops at [arts.pgparks.com](http://arts.pgparks.com). Limited space is available. Advanced registration is required.

The Department of Parks and Recreation delivers an award-winning park system through progressive, innovative leadership and a commitment to the community and the environment in Prince George's County. For more on the Department of Parks and Recreation, visit [www.pg-parks.com](http://www.pg-parks.com) and stay connected on Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, and Instagram. The M-NCPPC Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities in all programs and services.

### Blossoms from A1

panded its offerings and created a two-month celebration including its popular Sakura Sunday event every Sunday from March 20 to April 11. Each Sakura Sunday will feature free cultural activities including Japanese inspired art, culinary classes (in person and virtual) and much more!

During the same timeframe, National Harbor will light up pink every night as The Capital Wheel and lights throughout the property turn pink in honor of the celebration.

Hotels and shops at National Harbor will have a variety of specials and displays. MGM National Harbor will have its amazing conservatory cherry blossom installation. In the Waterfront District,

shop windows will be creatively decorated to celebrate the cherry blossoms; Muse Paintbar will hold three special cherry blossom inspired painting classes; the Westin will feature a signature Cherry Blossom-Tini; BrookieGirl, will offer cherry blossom body care products. Seasonal classes during the celebration include origami, cherry blossom painting, sushi rolling, flower making, and more.

National Harbor will also feature one of the 25 giant cherry blossom sculptures created by local artists that will be displayed throughout Washington, D.C.

For more information on National Harbor and cherry blossom activities and offerings, go to <https://www.nationalharbor.com/cherryblossom/>. Events and activities will be added to the schedule in the coming weeks.



# COMMENTARY

## Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,  
Children's Defense Fund



### ChildWatch:

## Black History Month: Writing the Next Chapter

*"Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history."*

—Dr. Carter G. Woodson

Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the son of former slaves, a pioneering Harvard-trained historian, and the founder of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, created Negro History Week in 1926 to help give this record and inspiration to other African Americans. At the time Dr. Woodson was alarmed because so few people, white or Black, knew anything at all about Black people's achievements. He would even meet other Black college history professors who had no idea Blacks had made any significant contributions to national or world history. Dr. Woodson understood just how critical it was to claim our rightful place in the history books and teach future generations about the great thinkers and role models who came before us.

Negro History Week was originally celebrated during the second week of February to coincide with Frederick Douglass's and Abraham Lincoln's birthdays. Eventually the single week grew into Black History Month, but through the years the celebration's symbolism and importance remained the same. It has taken on new resonance in the wake of the racial reckoning of the past year. For Dr. Woodson, Black history matters was an early way of affirming that Black lives matter.

Dr. Woodson was especially concerned about the "mis-education" of Black children from their earliest ages—"The thought of the inferiority of the Negro is drilled into him in almost every class he enters and in almost every book he studies"—and the cumulative effects it could have. He wrote: "When you control a man's thinking you do not have to worry about his actions. You do not have to tell him not to stand here or go yonder. He will find his 'proper

place' and will stay in it. You do not need to send him to the back door. He will go without being told. In fact, if there is no back door, he will cut one for his special benefit. His education makes it necessary." He believed teaching children about Black history and Black accomplishments was a crucial corrective step.

We now understand the wisdom behind teaching not just Black children but all children Black history, just as we make sure all of our American stories are being told as we prepare our next generations for our multicultural nation and world. Black and Native American and Latino and Asian American and women's and non-propertied men's and LGBTQ and immigrant history are all American history. None of our children can afford miseducation and ignorance about the rainbow of others around them. And none of our children should ever believe their own history and existence are marginal, unimportant, inferior, or only worthy of the back door.

Dr. Woodson was also very clear that celebrating our rich Black history of struggle and courage was not the same as getting stuck in the past. Instead, if we are going to understand the present and protect the future we need to understand where we came from and what it took to get us here. During Black History Month and every month we can use the extraordinary leaders from our history as examples to help us with the critical task of preparing this generation of children to be the new leaders our community and nation need right now. As Dr. Woodson also taught us: "The world does not want and will never have the heroes and heroines of the past. What this age needs is an enlightened youth not to undertake the tasks like theirs but to imbibe the spirit of these great [men and women] and answer the present call of duty." I hope all young people will find someone in history or among the great elders and ancestors in their own families who inspires them to answer that call today and write the next chapter for tomorrow.

## Maryland Delegation Members Applaud New FEMA-Supported Mass Vaccination Site in Waldorf

WASHINGTON (Feb. 23, 2021)—Today, U.S. Senators Chris Van Hollen and Ben Cardin and Congressmen Steny Hoyer and Anthony Brown (all D-Md.) applauded the announcement of a new Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mass vaccination site in Waldorf, Md. The site will be located at the Regency Furniture Stadium, at 11765 St. Linus Dr., Waldorf, Md., 20602 and is expected to open for operation in early March.

"Providing Marylanders access to vac-

cines and ensuring equitable distribution is our top priority. This new federally-supported site will increase availability for residents in Charles, Prince George's, and the surrounding counties so that more Marylanders get vaccinated. As the state faces difficulty in vaccine delivery to the hardest hit communities, we will continue pushing for federal resources to help expand distribution and reduce disparities in access," the lawmakers said.

## Congressman Brown: "It's Not Credible for the Hogan Administration to Blame Low Minority Vaccination Rates Solely on Vaccine Hesitancy"

WASHINGTON (March 1, 2021)—Congressman Anthony G. Brown (MD-04) released the following statement regarding Maryland's slow and inequitable rollout of vaccines. Today, the Baltimore City Senate delegation sent a letter to Governor Hogan urging action to address racial equity issues in the state's vaccination program. A Becker's Hospital Review study of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data showed Maryland ranked 48th in the nation based on percent of distributed vaccines administered.

In an interview with 60 Minutes, Montgomery County's Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Travis Gayles, stressed that the low proportion of Black, brown and low income Marylanders cannot be solely attributed to vaccine

hesitancy, but rather persistent health care disparities and inequitable distribution. 80,000 people in Phase 1 are currently on the waitlist in Prince George's County—Maryland's largest majority-Black jurisdiction. Prince George's County receives 185 vaccine doses per 10,000 residents, while Cecil County receives 350 vaccine doses per 10,000 residents:

"Governor Hogan wants to blame people for not getting the vaccine, but under his watch Maryland has the second lowest administration rate in the country, long waitlists and a chaotic sign up process, said Congressman Anthony Brown. "The failure to clearly communicate vaccine availability and effectively distribute doses to high-risk populations, will ultimately harm communities of color and underserved pop-

ulations most. It's not credible for the Hogan Administration to blame low minority vaccination rates solely on vaccine hesitancy. This is clearly a systemic failure. The current strategy is not working. For the health of Marylanders, it's time to change course."

Since President Biden took office, the number of doses being sent to states has increased by 28 percent to 11 million doses a week. The Biden-Harris administration is now shipping doses directly to community health centers that target low-income people and people of color. The approval of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine will expand vaccine supplies further.

As part of the American Rescue Plan, the House of Representatives passed more than \$27 billion for vaccine production and distribution.

## Virtually or in Class, the Outdoors Belongs in the Curriculum

By LAURA JOHNSON COLLARD  
for the Bay Journal News Service

Now a full year into this global pandemic, Maryland's school districts and families are still grappling with how to safely educate our students.

Many students are learning virtually part-time or full-time with schools' full reopening plans in flux. There are lessons we are all learning: recovery and resilience.

Recovery and resilience in the era of COVID-19 is a community-wide effort. The shift to at-home learning brought significant challenges for families, teachers and even parents' employers.

Hours of instructional time have been lost. Not all families have access to reliable virtual learning structures, and working parents struggle to balance work and supporting their kids during at-home school days. The day when the majority of our stu-

dents will be back in our school buildings full-time is hard to know; schools, in general, are not designed to accommodate social distancing.

The mental health of students, teachers and parents has been impacted by the stress of these extraordinary but necessary efforts keep ourselves healthy physically. Behavioral experts suggest that COVID-19 disruptions will cause at least one "adverse childhood experience" per student.

The risks of transmitting COVID-19 are lower in outdoor spaces than indoor spaces. While we enjoyed longer days and time outside this summer and fall, the short days of winter are now upon us. Typically in the winter, many of us tend to retreat indoors. Should we be spending more time inside as temperatures drop or more precipitation is likely to fall?

This winter is different. Let's look for ways that time can be spent outside. Our school grounds can be used as an extension of the classroom.

Around the country and the world, school leaders are re-visioning what school will look like as we continue to address these challenges. Districts are rethinking instruction, rethinking school buildings, rethinking all of the social services that rely on reaching students through schools. Against that backdrop, my organization, the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE), and its environmental education partners are using the outdoors as a solution to the many of the challenges we face.

MAEOE, an affiliate of the North American Association for Environmental Education, is encouraging school systems to maintain recess time in the schedule and create learning opportunities outside. We are also recommending that families with children attending virtual classes and studying at home should create time outside not just for students, but for every member of the family.

We support school districts, the community and Maryland's families as we navigate the challenges of education and childcare during this time. To help citizens use the outdoors for learning, health and enjoyment, MAEOE has compiled a library of re-

sources, available under the "Resources" tab on the main page of our website (maeoe.org), to help you connect with the outdoors, in nature around the corner, just outside your door and even at your kitchen table.

Since last March we have collected resources to support teachers with virtual learning, as well as resources for parents during summer, weekends and holidays. Resources include high-tech, low-tech and no-tech ways to connect with the environment. Children and adults can explore, learn and enjoy any season anywhere.

We can all be essential partners in using the outdoors for the recovery and reopening of schools. Let's work together to make sure that students continue to thrive and learn, and that families have the support they need to rebuild our economy.

*Laura Johnson Collard is the executive director of the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education. Her views do not necessarily reflect those of the Bay Journal. This article first appeared in the January-February issue of the Bay Journal and was distributed by the Bay Journal News Service.*

## Marijuana from A1

establishing standards to allow for inclusion in the state's recreational cannabis industry.

Medical use of cannabis was legalized in the state in 2014, and in that same legislative session, possession of cannabis less than 10 grams was decriminalized and turned into a civil offense.

Despite these changes, Black people made up 96% of all marijuana-related arrests in Baltimore from 2015 until 2017, according to Lewis, and he argued that the laws, "only made marijuana legal for white consumption."

Sixty-three percent of revenue generated from the bill would go directly toward community reinvestment, including funding toward the state's four historically Black colleges and universities, grants to organizations tackling social equity challenges, as well as funding toward startups for small businesses.

"We must ensure those most hurt from cannabis prohibition, benefit most from the new legal industry," Lewis said.

Lewis' bill works with what the bill describes as "social equity applicants"—who live in an area that meets certain criteria, including living in a "disproportionately impacted area"—in order to push further for an equitable industry.

Lewis' push for inclusion in the bill includes reduced licensing fees for social equity applicants, as well as establishing an Office of Social Equity within the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission to, "promote diversity and inclusion in the industry and foster reparative justice."

Ben Jealous, former president and CEO of the NAACP and former Maryland Democratic gubernatorial candidate, testified in support and argued that this bill is important in correcting history.

"It is rare to have the opportunity to right past wrongs and create an inclusive economy," Jealous said. "Delegate Lewis' bill really stands out amongst, frankly, all the bills that have been introduced in this country in its thoroughness to hit all of those."

A former Baltimore City detective in the criminal investigations division drug enforcement section, Debbie Ramsey, looked to her experience to testify that an arrest does not end the trade of drugs,

but it actually creates a "job opening" for another seller to make money.

"We need our police to focus on the greater threats to public safety: crimes against persons and crimes against property," Ramsay said in support of the bill.

The Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission did not take a stance on the bill, but Executive Director William Tilburg told lawmakers the commission has some concerns about the bill.

Among them, Maryland would be the only state in the country to separately regulate medical and adult-use programs, an issue Tilburg testified would double the administrative costs for the state.

Those who testified against the bill cited general reasons for safety of the community as their reason for opposition.

Dr. Amelia Arria, a professor at University of Maryland's School of Public Health, testified that young adults are the most likely to use cannabis, which puts them at risk for mental health problems, drug dependence, and lower academic achievement.

Arria argued that these are outcomes, "at odds with Maryland's mission to educate and prepare our youth to succeed."

An emergency department physician from Colorado, a state that had previously legalized recreational marijuana, Dr. Karen Randall, testified against the bill based on her experience and the risks it poses to the youth.

"It isn't a matter if they're going to get it, because they're going to get it," Randall said after testifying that throughout her most recent shift she saw three youths come to the emergency room due to issues related to marijuana.

Ragina Ali, a spokeswoman for AAA Mid-Atlantic, a traffic safety organization, testified marijuana should not be legalized until the state is prepared to handle the traffic safety issues that would follow.

After legalization in Washington, fatal car crashes involving drivers who had recently used cannabis doubled, according to Ali.

AAA also saw insurance claims increase in Colorado, Nevada, and Oregon following legalization in those states, according to Ali.

On Tuesday (Feb. 23), New Jersey officially legalized cannabis for recreational use joining 14 other states plus Washington, D.C.—in-

cluding Oregon, a state that recently decriminalized limited amounts of all drugs.

Similar bills to HB32 that attempted to legalize recreational marijuana have been introduced in both the Maryland House and Senate annually since at least 2017, but all have failed.

No date has been set yet for a committee vote on HB32.

## The Prince George's Post

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### Authors from A1

conversation. The free virtual event is for teens and adults; registration is required. Register now or learn more (<https://www.mdhumanities.org/programs/maryland-center-for-the-book/why-it-matters-reckoning-with-race-equity-allyship/>).

"I'm Not Dying With You Tonight" follows two teen girls—one black, one white—who do not know each other yet must confront their own assumptions about racial equality when violence and chaos erupts in their city. The book received an NAACP Image Award nomination.

The conversation is part of Maryland Humanities' Voices and Voters Electoral Engagement Project (VVEEP). VVEEP also consists of an oral history program as well as a series of grants to Maryland organizations producing projects around civic and electoral engagement.

Voices and Votes Electoral Engagement Project is supported by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation administered through the Federation of State Humanities Councils for its new initiative entitled "Why It Matters: Civic and Electoral Participation."

Maryland Humanities' promotional partners for this event are Allegany County Library, Anne Arundel County Public Library, Baltimore County Public Library, Carroll County Public Library, Charles County Public Library, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Harford County Public Library, Prince George's County Memorial Library System, St. Mary's County Library, and Talbot County Free Library. The book is available through Maryland Humanities' official event bookseller, A Very Likely Story.

### About the Book

An NAACP Image Award Nominee, "I'm Not Dying With You Tonight" follows two teen girls—one black, one white—who have to confront their own assumptions about racial equality as they rely on each other to get through the violent race riot that has set their city on fire with civil unrest. Lena has her killer style, her awesome boyfriend, and a plan. She knows she's going to make it big. Campbell, on the other hand, is just trying to keep her head down and get through the year at her new school. When both girls attend the Friday-night football game, what neither expects is for everything to descend into sudden mass chaos. Chaos born from violence and hate. Chaos that unexpectedly throws them together. They aren't friends. They hardly understand each other's point of view. But none of that matters when the city is up in flames, and they only have each other to rely on if they're going to survive the night.

### About the Authors

Kimberly Jones is a former bookseller, and now she Hosts the Atlanta Chapter of the popular Well Read Black Girl book club, as well as the infamous, viral sensation the YA Truth or Dare author panel at the Decatur Book Festival. She has worked in film and television with trail-blazing figures such as Tyler Perry, Whitney Houston, and 8Ball & MJG. Currently, in addition to writing YA novels, she is a director of feature films and cutting-edge diverse web series. She also regularly lectures on working and succeeding in the Atlanta film market.

Gilly Segal grew up in Florida, came of age in Israel, where she served in the IDF and graduated from Hebrew University, and finally decided to call Decatur, Georgia home. By day, she's a lawyer for an advertising agency. By night, she is a caped crusader! No, just kidding (she wishes). Her real not-actually-secret identity is writer. She's been writing in one form or another since she wrote her first young adult novel—a Sunfire YA romance fanfic—typed out on an electric typewriter. Although she will confess it was titled CLAUDIA, she will neither confirm nor deny that any copies still exist. Whatever you do, don't ask her mom if it's in those boxes still stored in the closet of her childhood room.

### About the Moderator

Christine Platt is a passionate advocate for social justice and policy reform. She holds a B.A. in Africana Studies from the University of South Florida, M.A. in African and African American Studies from The Ohio State University, and J.D. from Stetson University College of Law. A believer in the power of storytelling as a tool for social change, Christine's literature centers on teaching race, equity, diversity and inclusion to people of all ages. She currently serves as the Managing Director of the Antiracist Research & Policy Center at American University.

### About Maryland Center for the Book

The Maryland Center for the Book (MCFB)—an affiliate of the national Center for the Book in the Library of Congress—develops and supports literary programs and outreach activities that engage citizens across Maryland in literature and reading. As a program of Maryland Humanities, MCFB highlights our region's literary heritage and calls attention to the importance of books, reading, literacy, and libraries. Connect with the Maryland Center for the Book on Facebook.

### About Maryland Humanities

Maryland Humanities is a statewide nonprofit organization that creates and supports educational experiences in the humanities that inspire all Marylanders to embrace lifelong learning, exchange ideas openly, and enrich their communities. Visit [www.mdhumanities.org](http://www.mdhumanities.org).