



# Maryland Commission on African American History & Culture Annual Report 2010



## **Mission Statement**

*The Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture works to interpret, document, preserve, and promote Maryland's African American heritage; to provide technical assistance to institutions and groups with similar objectives; and to educate Maryland's citizens and visitors about the significance of the African American experience in Maryland and the nation.*



MCAAHC

## **COVER PHOTO**

Benjamin Banneker obelisk, located in Oella, Maryland. Plaque reads, "Burined in an unmarked grave near here lies the remains of Benjamin Banneker, distinguished son of Maryland, who was born, lived and died in this area. Erected in Memoriam by the Maryland Bicentennial Commission and the State Commission on Afro American History and Culture 1977." (credit: Theodore Mack)

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**STATE OF MARYLAND**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**



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TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

**A MESSAGE FROM GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY**

Dear Fellow Marylanders,

I proudly join the members of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) in presenting this 2010 annual report. The Commission serves as the statewide clearinghouse for preserving and documenting African American history in Maryland. It specializes in research assistance and collection of historical materials – art objects, memorabilia, manuscripts, photographs and other articles of significance to African American history and culture.

During the 2010 General Assembly session, the legislators passed S.B. 319/H.B. 915 that established the African American Heritage Preservation Program to identify and preserve buildings, communities and sites of historical and cultural relevance to Maryland's African American history. The program will be administered jointly by the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) and the MCAAHC. Combined with its legislative oversight of the Banneker-Douglass Museum, this program affiliation will allow the Commission to help communities share Maryland's powerful African American legacy in a more comprehensive manner.

To speak of Maryland's African American history is to tell the story of the struggle for human rights that helped transform the United States into a land of freedom and opportunity. As we continue to progress in our "One Maryland" I am confident the MCAAHC will help foster better understanding and communication of the African American experience in Maryland for all to appreciate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Martin O'Malley".

Martin O'Malley  
Governor





## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Dear Friends,

The Governor's Office of Community Initiatives is pleased to join the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture in presenting its 2010 annual report. In 2008, Governor Martin O'Malley signed H.B. 782 into law with unanimous support by the Maryland General Assembly and the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC). This action codified the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives and placed the MCAAHC within the Governor's Office, a testimony to the O'Malley-Brown administration's commitment to the preservation of African American history and culture.

The Governor's Office of Community Initiatives (GOCI) coordinates community and volunteer activities statewide and advises the Governor on policies to enhance and improve community programs. GOCI also coordinates outreach to ethnic and cultural communities across Maryland.

Governor O'Malley demonstrated great confidence in the Commission following the 2010 General Assembly session, by signing S.B. 319/H.B. 915 into law, establishing the African American Heritage Preservation Program. The program objective is to identify and preserve buildings, communities and sites of historical and cultural relevance to Maryland's African American history. It will be administered jointly by the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) and the MCAAHC.

Dr. Joni Jones is the Director of the MCAAHC and the Banneker Douglass Museum. Under her leadership, the MCAAHC has worked closely with MHT in awarding the preservation grants. She also assists the Commission and the Museum in fulfilling their respective missions.

This report is reflective of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture's commitment and dedication to the preservation of African American history throughout the State of Maryland. It has been an honor to work with the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture.

Israel C. "Izzy" Patoka  
Executive Director  
Governor's Office of Community Initiatives



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) and the Banneker-Douglass Museum, is pleased to extend to you an invitation to explore our 2010 Annual Report. The year was especially exciting and challenging. It began with the introduction and passage of Senate Bill 319/House Bill 915. This bill established the African American Heritage Preservation Program (AAHP) to identify and preserve buildings, communities and sites of historical and cultural importance to the African American experience in Maryland. The grant program will be administered in partnership with Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) and MCAAHC. Governor Martin O'Malley signed the bill into law May 4, 2010.

This revolutionary five-year grant program will help restore a multicultural landscape, while capturing the uniqueness of Maryland's rich and diverse history. The grant program will stimulate increased dialogue among individuals, groups and organizations. In addition to enhancing MCAAHC's mission and preserving African American history in Maryland, it aims to better educate Marylanders and visitors about our rich history. MCAAHC, under the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, working in partnership with the MHT provides an ideal environment for meeting the needs of individuals, groups and organizations. Our joint mission is to reveal previously undocumented and under-recognized aspects of African American life and culture in Maryland.

Pivotal to African American history preservation in Maryland, is the mission and work of the Banneker-Douglass Museum staff. Through exhibitions, programs and community involvement, their continual offerings have been stellar. Those achievements are the direct result of the consistently forward leadership of the museum's director, Dr. Joni Jones. Her ability to focus on a structured path to success and her willingness to partner with a variety of organizations and institutions in the community has expanded exposure of the museum's exhibitions and programs and increased visitors.

Staff presentations in the areas of public education and programming are outstanding and replete with acclaim from schools, visitors and community organizations. Attendance in epic proportions at the museum has been a major achievement of this ongoing community programming focus. Facility management is expertly orchestrated utilizing relationships built with government and business entities to produce a quality museum environment and logistical support required for daily operations.

In this report you will find a snap shot of the activities and events in which the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture and its partners have been involved during 2010. I cordially invite you to attend our meetings that will be held throughout the State during 2011, and to visit the Banneker-Douglass Museum to share the rich history you have helped us preserve.

*Ted Mack*

Theodore "Ted" Mack  
Chair  
Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### *African American Heritage Preservation Program*

On May 4, 2010, Governor O'Malley signed into law Senate Bill 319/House Bill 915 creating the African American Heritage Preservation Program. This exciting new grant program provides support for the acquisition, construction, and capital improvement of buildings, sites, or communities of historical and cultural importance to the African American experience in Maryland.

The program is administered as a joint partnership of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) and the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT).

General information about the program is available at [http://mht.maryland.gov/grants\\_africanamerican.html](http://mht.maryland.gov/grants_africanamerican.html).

Other significant events that occurred in 2010 include:

- After serving as Acting Chairman of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, Ted Mack was elected Commission Chairman and Cheryl J. LaRoche, Ph.D. was elected Vice-Chair. Both were re-elected to their respective positions at the Commission's annual meeting
- The MCAAHC conducted two African American Heritage Preservation Program grants workshops:  
Saturday, June 5th in Annapolis (Anne Arundel County)  
Saturday, June 12th in Largo (Prince George's County)
- Twenty-three percent reduction in energy costs at the Banneker-Douglass Museum
- Furthered the documentation of MD's African American heritage by leading a team of local partners in the production of the documentary, *Music to Our Ears: The Sounds of Carr's and Sparrow's Beaches*—winner of the 2010 Four Rivers Heritage Area's Heritage Partnership Award
- Banneker-Douglass Museum launched a major exhibition, *Shaping History through Service: The Walter S. Mills Story*
- Established the Family Activity Gallery, whose first exhibition is a collaboration between the Banneker-Douglass Museum and Growing Girls and Gardens, a program of the Middle Grades Partnership with Roland Park Country School and Garrison Middle School in Baltimore
- BDM Education & Public Programs Manager Genevieve Kaplan won the 2010 Four Rivers Heritage Area's Heritage Professional of the Year Award

## COMMISSIONERS

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### **Theodore “Ted” Mack, Chair** (Anne Arundel County)

2007-2011

- Former Chief, U.S. Army’s Counter Terrorism Team
- Charter Member, Military Intelligence Hall of Fame
- Co-founder Northern Arundel Preservation Society
- Associated Black Charities Board of Directors
- 33rd Degree Mason



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### **Kelsey R. Bush** (St. Mary’s County)

2009-2013

- Youth Coordinator, St. Mary’s County Department of Recreation & Parks
- President, Board of Directors for Alternatives for Youth and Families, Inc.
- President, Board of Directors for Kiwanis Club of St. Mary’s County
- Tri-County Youth and Families Board of Directors

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### **Charles M. Christian** (Howard County)

2009-2013

- Founder of the Black Saga Competition
- Professor of Social and Population Geography, Coppin State University
- Former member, Governor’s Commission on the Commemoration and Legacy of Slavery in Maryland
- Former member, University of Maryland’s Commission on Minority Issues

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### **Veronica E. Coates** (Charles County)

2008-2012

- Owner, Shaklee Nutritional and Environmental Services
- Co-Founder, African American Heritage Society of Charles County
- Former Chair, Charles County Community College Board of Directors
- Former Vice Chair, Physicians Memorial Hospital Board of Directors

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### **Cheryl J. LaRoche** (Montgomery County)

2007-2011

- Archeologist and Adjunct Professor of American Studies, UMCP
- Consultant with former clients
- United States National Forest Service
- Shawnee National Forest Service
- Joseph Holston Underground Railroad Art Project



## COMMISSIONERS *(continued)*

### **Michael G. Miller** (Anne Arundel County)

2009-2013

- Principal of The Arundel Group, a private investor in commercial real estate in Maryland
  - Financial consultant at a Washington, DC area public utility organization
  - Former Business Manager of Miami-based Florida Memorial College
  - Former Chief Financial Officer of Africare, in Washington, DC.
  - In 1990s, lived in Johannesburg, South Africa in order to work closely with government of Nelson Mandela
  - Former Director of Project Finance and Senior Director of Real Estate, PepsiCo's Taco Bell subsidiary
- 

### **Anita Neal Powell** (Montgomery County)

2006-2010

- Founder & President, Lincoln Park Historical Foundation, Inc.
  - Commissioner, Rockville Historic District Commission
  - Board Member, Preservation Maryland
  - Maryland 100 Women
- 

### **Evan Richardson** (Baltimore City)

2008-2012

- Assistant to the Dean, Morgan State University, School of Architecture and Planning
- Former Neighborhood Liaison, Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods, Baltimore City
- Former Program Coordinator, Neighborhood Design Center



MCAAHC Meeting, The State House of 1676, Historic St. Mary's City, September 20

## COMMISSION WORKPLAN

### SHORT TERM GOALS

- Meet with statewide African American leadership to determine community preservation needs
- Institute the Walter Hill Fellowship Program in Archives
- Partner with state and non-profit agencies to facilitate regular engagement of youth and senior citizens in intergenerational dialogues and activities to preserve the oral traditions of the African American community
- Collect Maryland oral histories surrounding the historic Carr's and Sparrow's beaches
- Increase use and access to MCAAHC-BDM collection by relocating it to Annapolis
- Create the position of Curator of Collections to manage the collection
- Create the position of Curator of Exhibitions to innovate the State-wide traveling exhibitions program

### LONG TERM GOALS

- Meet with a representative of each county and Baltimore City to identify African American historical preservation objectives and incorporate objectives into Commission plans
- Identify cross-cultural commission partnership opportunities
- Identify opportunities to create multicultural exhibits with other commissions
- Create and maintain a statewide list of preservationist and historic sites with an accompanying map
- Re-establish the Consortium of African and African American Museums of Maryland as a resource and information-sharing project

Commissioner Charles  
M. Christian, Ph.D.,  
founder of Black Saga,  
Dr. Joni Jones, and  
Chairman Ted Mack



## PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

January 27	Banneker-Douglass Museum	Anne Arundel County
March 31	Town of Fairmount Heights	Prince George's County
May 3	American Legion Post #77	Talbot County
September 20	The State House of 1676	St. Mary's County
October 15	Banneker-Douglass Museum	Anne Arundel County *Special Closed Meeting*
November 15	Glenview Mansion at Rockville Civic Center Park City of Rockville	Montgomery County Annual Meeting
December 13 Annual Joint Commissions and Community Partners Assembly	M&T Bank Stadium	Baltimore City



MCAAHC Meeting,  
St. Mary's City,  
September 20  
Keynote Speaker the  
Honorable Robert  
M. Bell, *Chief Justice  
Court of Appeals*

## COMMISSIONERS IN ACTION

### *A List of Events and Programs with Commission Participation*

November 10	African American Resources: Cultural Heritage Society	Frederick County
October 31	Opening Reception: Shaping History Through Service: The Walter Mills Story	Annapolis
October 27	Harriet Tubman Byway Project, Working Group	Southern MD
October 21	Presentation: MHT recommendations for African American Heritage Preservation Programs	MD Historical Trust, Anne Arundel County
October 19	Preserve MD Advisory Committee	MD Historical Trust, Anne Arundel County
October 2	East New Market Heritage Day	Faith Community United Methodist Church, Dorchester County
September 29	Annual Commemoration of Kunta Kinte	Kunta Kinte/Alex Haley Memorial, Annapolis
September 29	Public Open House - Showcase 2013 - Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Initiative	Dorchester County
September 28	Public Open House - Showcase 2013 - Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Initiative	Caroline County
September 25	Celebration - Queenstown Rosenwald School Added to National Register of Historic Places	Anne Arundel County
August 28	One Nation One Dream Rally: Celebrating the 47th Anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs & Freedom	Anne Arundel Community College
August 17	Meeting with Liberian Delegation, Mr. Fairnoh T. Gbilah, Liaison Officer	Banneker-Douglass Museum, Annapolis
August 17	Dedication Ceremony Honoring Philip L. Brown & Rachel Hall Brown	Annapolis Elementary School
August 17	Swearing in Ceremony, The Honorable Michele D. Hotten	Annapolis
June 27	2nd Annual Carr's Beach Music Festival	Wiley H. Bates Heritage Park, Annapolis
June 25	"Juleps in June"	Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum, Calvert County
June 13	Unveiling of the African American Heritage Window, "From Slavery to Freedom & Beyond"	John Wesley United Methodist Church, Baltimore City
June 12	African American Heritage Grant Program Workshop	Prince George's County
June 5	African American Heritage Grant Program Workshop	Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center, Annapolis

May 20-21	Preservation MD's Annual Preservation and Revitalization Conference	Easton, Talbot County
April 25	NAACP-Montgomery County Branch-Freedom Fund Dinner	Montgomery County
April 24	2010 Maryland History Day	University of MD, Baltimore County
April 1	Black Saga Competition - Reception	Banneker-Douglass Museum, Annapolis
March 31	Public Commission Meeting	Town of Fairmount Heights
March 27	Ladies Hats and Tea	Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center, Annapolis
March 24	Community Conversations	Anne Arundel County Public Schools
March 19	Opening Reception - <i>Freedom: Contemporary African American Quilt Art</i>	Gallery 110 at the Gateway Arts Center, Prince George's County
March 10	Louis Fields - Harriet Tubman Day 2010	Annapolis, General Assembly
March 6	Lecture - <i>Race Woman, Race Man</i>	Banneker-Douglass Museum, Annapolis
March 4	Hearing for African American Heritage Grant Program	Annapolis
March 2	Jewish Community Legislative Reception	Annapolis
February 26	Music for the Ages Community Concert	Annapolis High School
January 23	Empowering Males to Build Opportunities for Developing Independence (EMBODI)	Randallstown Community Center, Baltimore County
January 22	St. John's Exhibit Preview	St. John's College
January 18	"Living the Dream Celebration"	Reid Temple AME Church, Montgomery County
January 18	MLK Day Breakfast	Anne Arundel Community College
January 18	MLK Day Parade	Baltimore City
January 18	MLK Celebration at the Strathmore Music Center	Montgomery County

Chairman Mack provided remarks at the Plaque Dedication in Honor of Dred & Harriet Scott at City Hall, Frederick, MD





## **MCAAHC Sponsors Two Special Prizes at MD Humanities Council's History Day**

At the 2010 Maryland History Day state competition a number of special prizes were awarded. Recipients of the special prizes received a cash award and a plaque. In some cases, award winners were invited to showcase their projects at special events and in museum and community settings. The Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture sponsored two prizes in African American History.



Courtesy- MD Humanities Council



African American Heritage Preservation Grant Workshops,  
June 5 & June 12

Dr. Jones with other descendants of Oscar & Sarah Gaither, the land providers for the Queenstown Rosenwald School, pictured at the National Register of Historic Places Dedication Program.



Naomi Jones, Phyllis Queen Matthews, and Betty Henry



Former Students at Queenstown Rosenwald School



## MCAAHC & BANNEKER-DOUGLASS MUSEUM A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Banneker-Douglass Museum (BDM), named for Benjamin Banneker (first African American man of Science) and Frederick Douglass (abolitionist, orator, and first African American statesman), is dedicated to preserving Maryland's African American heritage. The BDM serves as the state's official repository of African American history and culture. We offer tours of our permanent and changing exhibits, workshops, lectures, programs, and annual celebrations throughout the year.

The BDM is administered by the Maryland Commission on African American history and Culture. Community and museum partnerships have become a solid foundation for the Commission and Banneker-Douglass Museum. Working with local community organizations has allowed the Museum to preserve cultural history through quilting, oral histories and photo galleries. These partnership projects have become "model" programs across the state as other institutions inquire about the successful collaborations.

One noteworthy partnership was the dramatic reading of the one-act play, *The Lion and the Fox: Walter Mills v. The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County*. Written by T.G. Cooper, and directed by Anne Arundel County English professor, Dr. Vivian Gist Spencer, the play is based on the court case in which the African American principal of an elementary school at Camp Parole, MD fought for equal pay for black teachers. Participants included: The Honorable Clayton Greene, Jr., The Honorable Chuck W. Ferrar, Dr. Kevin Maxwell, Mr. Tony J. Spencer, Mr. Vincent O. Leggett, Duncan Hood, and Lynn Waller. The program was videotaped by Anthony Carroll for Anne Arundel County Public Schools and is available in the Sylvia Gaither Garrison Library for educational use.

The Commission will continue to focus on the identification and preservation of African American historical sites and communities. An additional goal is to facilitate new partnerships, which will allow the Commission to expand its examination of contemporary topics in preparation for their roles in history. As we move forward, the MCAAHC will carry out its preservation duties while exploring and documenting contributions by contemporary African Americans to share with Marylanders and visitors to Maryland.

Certainly, the Commission could not achieve its level of success without the staff of the Banneker-Douglass Museum. Thank you to staffers for creating exceptional exhibitions and programs, for expanding Museum collections, and for increasing statewide partnerships. And thank you members of the Banneker-Douglass Museum Foundation and Friends of Banneker-Douglass Museum for continuing to answer our call for assistance, be it laptop computers, conducting tours, staffing our front desk or conducting annual fundraisers, you all help to make the museum run more efficiently and merrily.

On behalf of the members of the Commission and the Museum staff, allow me to express a final word of gratitude to our partners, support organizations, members of the community and visitors for your continued allegiance to the Banneker-Douglass Museum.

With warm regards,

*Joni*

Joni L. Jones, Ph.D.

Director, Maryland Commission on African American History & Culture  
& Director, Banneker-Douglass Museum



## BANNEKER-DOUGLASS MUSEUM STAFF

**Dr. Joni Jones**

*Director*

**Jeffrey Greene**

*Chief of Operations*

**Horace Byrd**

*Security*

**Adrian Foy**

*Volunteer Maryland Coordinator*

*(r. September)*

**Amelia Harris**

*Exhibits Specialist*

**Genevieve Kaplan**

*Education & Public Programs Manager*

**Wendi Perry**

*Curator (r. April)*

**LaKia Trotter**

*Visitor Services Trainee (r. June)*

**Lynn Waller**

*Archivist*



Exhibitions Specialist, Amelia Harris  
and Chief of Operations Jeffrey Greene

## MUSEUM HISTORY

The Banneker-Douglass Museum, named for Benjamin Banneker and Frederick Douglass, is dedicated to preserving Maryland's African American heritage, and serves as the state's official repository of African American material culture. The museum is administered by the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture.

The museum was dedicated on February 24, 1984. The original museum was housed within the former old Mount Moriah African Methodist Episcopal Church in the heart of historic Annapolis. The Victorian-Gothic structure was included in the Annapolis Historic District in 1971 and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. The addition is a four-story addition (one underground story) which uses the nineteenth-century brick of the church's north façade as its interior lobby wall.

The museum annually sponsors and hosts a variety of preservation, arts, and cultural lectures, workshops, performances, and other programs. Museum collections include artifacts and photographs relevant to black life in Maryland, African and African American art, historical documents, and rare books. Guided exhibition tours are arranged for school classes and other groups upon request. Exhibits may also be arranged for loan or travel. Books, manuscripts, oral histories, sound recordings, and archival materials are available for use in the Sylvia Gaither Garrison Library by appointment.

## HOURS AND FEES

### Regular Hours

Tuesday – Saturday 10-4

### Summer Hours

(Memorial Day-Labor Day)

Wednesday, Friday-Saturday 10-4

Thursday 10-7

Sunday 1-5



## HOW TO REACH US

The Banneker-Douglass Museum is located in the old Mount Moriah A.M.E. Church at 84 Franklin Street in Annapolis (off Church Circle in the Annapolis historic district). Parking is accessible by trolley from the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium parking lot. In addition, there are nearby commercial parking garages and limited on-street parking.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Main (410) 216-6180

Fax (410) 974-2553

[www.bdmuseum.com](http://www.bdmuseum.com)



## IN MEMORIAM: BDM FOUNDATION MEMBER, IRENE S. MILLS

The Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture and the BDM staff offer its continued thanks to the family and friends of Irene S. Mills. Mrs. Mills was a long-time member of the Banneker-Douglass Museum Foundation and Friends of Banneker-Douglass Museum.

In addition to our sincere gratitude for her participation on the boards of both organizations, we also must thank Mrs. Mills for the key role she played in the creation of the exhibition, *Shaping History through Service: The Walter Mills Story*. BDM staffers relied heavily upon the documents she retained and the research she conducted about the career of her husband, Walter Mills.



Mrs. Irene S. Mills with Dr. Jones at the October BDM Foundation meeting

Mrs. Mills taught in Kent County for 18 years at Garnett Elementary School (ES) before coming to the “Western Shore.” Here, she taught at Ralph J. Bunch ES in Edgewater and Adams Park Elementary School in Annapolis. She was later promoted to principal of Ralph J. Bunch ES and Germantown ES in Annapolis. After 46 years of service to the youth of Maryland, Mrs. Mills retired in 1978.

Like her activist-minded husband, Mrs. Mills is a member of several organizations, including United Methodist Women, American Association of University Women, Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and was member and past president of the Salvation Army Board of Directors. She was also a member of both the Banneker-Douglass Museum Foundation and the Friends of Banneker-Douglass Museum.

Sadly, Mrs. Mills passed away October 25--just days before the exhibition’s opening reception. A memorial was included in the exhibition.

## OPERATIONS

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Upgraded to HVAC system and roof-top Fans
- Awarded DGS Energy Program participation
- Replaced lighting throughout building
- Installed motion sensors in exhibition areas
- 30% decrease in energy bill
- Installed new BDM building signs
- Painting & repairs to Verda Welcome Hall, Herbert Frisby Hall, & Temporary Gallery
- Chosen as a host site for the 2011 Preservation MD Conference



Jeffrey Greene  
Chief of Operations



Chief of Operations  
Jeffrey Greene  
received a thank you  
card from his Service  
Learning student  
Morganne Jones  
Meade High School

## EXHIBITS

Black Watermen of the Chesapeake Bay quilt	March 19 - May 1	Lobby
The Seneca Village Collaboration	January 16 - July 18	Temporary Gallery
Portraits of Courage	January 15 - October 9	Herbert Frisby Hall
Selections from the BDM Fine Arts Collection	January 15 - October 9	Verda Welcome Hall
Family Activity Gallery	August 7 - May 2011	Temporary Gallery
Shaping History Through Service: The Walter Mills Story	October 31 - April 2011	Verda Welcome Hall
The Class of 1954	October 31 - April 2, 2011	Herbert Frisby Hall

### The Seneca Village Collaboration

January 16 – July 18

The focal point of this exhibit was a commemorative sculpture by Maryland-based artists Leslie King-Hammond and José J. Mapily called *Celestial Praise House for Seneca Village*. The piece documents a nineteenth century settlement founded by African Americans and later displaced by New York City's Central Park, the first urban landscaped park in the United States. This artwork was designed as part of the exhibition *Legacies: Contemporary Artists Reflect on Slavery* at the New York Historical Society in 2006. This exhibition marks the Maryland debut of *Celestial Praise House for Seneca Village*.

In addition to the *Celestial Praise House for Seneca Village* piece, several never before seen artifacts from the collections of the Sylvia Gaither Garrison Library and the Banneker-Douglass Museum were displayed to highlight the lives of African Americans in Maryland during Seneca Village's existence. Such objects included manumission papers from Anne Arundel County, Allegany County, and Howard County; free-born African American verification papers; and first edition copies of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass*, and *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*.

Artists José Mapily and Dr. Leslie King-Hammond discuss their sculpture, *Celestial Praise House for Seneca Village*—the centerpiece of the exhibit.



## Portraits of Courage

January 15 – October 9

The men and women depicted in the Portraits of Courage exhibition represent African American achievement throughout Maryland's history in the fields of science, law, publishing, politics, and civil rights. Each portrait commemorates and celebrates the accomplishments of these individuals as well as highlights their lasting contributions to the State of Maryland and to the United States.

The portraits included in this exhibition come from the Banneker-Douglass Museum's permanent collection, each tied in a special way to the museum's history. In 1976, the Banneker-Douglass Museum Foundation commissioned artist Hughie Lee-Smith to create portraits of Benjamin Banneker, Frederick Douglass, and Harriet Tubman to mark the first year of the Foundation's existence. The 1984 opening of the museum included the unveiling of the Harriet Tubman, John H. Murphy, and Lillie Carroll Jackson portraits also painted by Lee-Smith. The portrait of Herbert Frisby by Oliver Patrick Scott is part of a large collection of materials documenting Frisby's arctic exploration, some of which may be seen in the museum's permanent exhibition. Nathaniel Gibbs' portrait of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is part of the museum's holding of materials documenting the Civil Rights Movement.

## Selections from the Banneker-Douglass Museum Fine Art Collection

January 16 – October 9

Highlights from the Banneker-Douglass Museum's Fine Art Collection were displayed in this exhibition which featured artwork by Maryland artists. Many of the works included in this exhibition have not been on display in over a decade.

## Family Activity Gallery

August 7, 2010 – May 2011

This exhibition was a collaboration between the Banneker-Douglass Museum and Growing Girls and Gardens, a program of the Middle Grades Partnership with Roland Park Country School and Garrison Middle School in Baltimore. The exhibit invited families and youth groups to learn about the many people, places, and events shaping Maryland's African American history and culture through hands on activities, games, crafts, and a scavenger hunt.

Each of the activities included in the exhibition were researched and designed by high school senior girls participating in the program. They complement the permanent exhibition, *Deep Roots, Rising Waters*.



## Shaping History through Service: The Walter Mills Story

October 31, 2010 – April 2011

In 1939, Walter Mills, an educator at Parole Elementary School in Annapolis, MD, fought for African American teachers in Anne Arundel County to receive the same pay rate as white teachers. The court case was successfully argued by attorney and Maryland native Thurgood Marshall and brought an end to unequal pay for teachers in Anne Arundel County, and eventually the entire State of Maryland. This exhibition explored Walter Mills' pursuit of education, the fight for the rights of others, and his career as an educator at Parole Elementary School through the monumental lawsuit that changed the way teachers were paid to his lifelong commitment to service and the Annapolis community. This exhibition includes rarely seen photos, objects, and documents in the process of telling the life story of Walter Mills.

### Parole Elementary School: Class of 1954

#### A Companion Exhibition

October 31, 2010 – April 2, 2011

Walter Mills' legal battle was one of many victories Thurgood Marshall and the NAACP took their fight for access to equal education for all students. This fight continued for several years, eventually leading to the landmark 1954 Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board of Education* which overturned the policy of separate but equal education. This famous court case changed the face of education literally and figuratively through the integration of schools throughout the country.

The pictures exhibited on this floor of the exhibition show the faces of Parole Elementary School in 1954, the year of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. Identification sheets were located in the exhibit to allow community input.



Members of the community  
enjoy *Class of 1954*

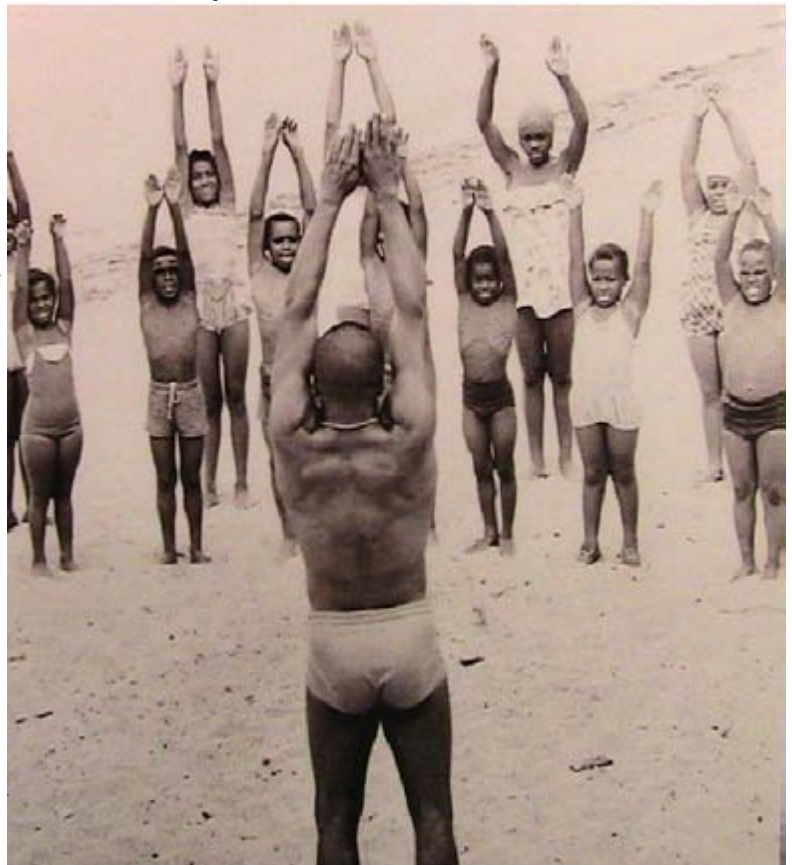


## EDUCATION and PUBLIC PROGRAMS

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### *Music to Our Ears: The Sounds of Carr's and Sparrow's Beaches*

- Collaborative program with Anne Arundel County Public Schools, Annapolis High School, and the Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation
- Students actively participated in the history documentation process by conducting oral history interviews to create a nine minute documentary
- Project being used as exemplary of museum/school partnerships for future collaborations with Anne Arundel County Public Schools
- Winner of 2010 Best Heritage Partnership Award from Four Rivers Heritage Area.



Children at Carr's Beach, Thomas Baden Collection  
Banneker-Douglass Museum

*I actually took African American history to learn something new because in every other American history class, you learn about Martin Luther King, Emmett Till, etc. but I actually learned something new in taking on this project. In doing so I feel like I am a part of history. Getting to interview people who actually attended Carr's Beach, people who have big names in Annapolis. I also feel that in taking on this project with the staff in trying to preserve Carr's Beach as a wonderful thing, it also gets kids involved because we don't have anything like that. We don't have venues like this, we have to pay to see the people we like. It was really interesting, mind blowing.*

- Annapolis High School Student

## Growing Girls and Gardens Program

- A collaborative effort between the BDM Education Department and the Middle Grades Partnership with Roland Park Country School and Garrison Middle School
- Worked with six rising seniors from multiple Baltimore high schools to develop family-friendly activities for the permanent exhibition gallery



GGG at Work: Dora Mitchell, Jasmine Write, Brianna Hines, Darlena Green, Blair Brooks, Janise Sanders



Adrian Foy (second from left) with members of the BDM Foundation and Friends of BDM at the 2nd Anniversary Celebration of the Sylvia Gaither Garrison Library

## Volunteer Maryland Coordinator, *Adrian Foy*

- Prepared recruitment materials
- Conducted first volunteer training class
- Developed new partnerships in Anne Arundel County



## MAJOR PROJECTS

### Black Watermen of the Chesapeake Quilt Initiative

- Began with 2009 community quilting sessions & dedication ceremony
  - BDM, Bates Legacy Center, Meredith's Seafood & Carry Out, Captain Salem Avery Museum, Annapolis Maritime Museum
- Project featured in multiple Maryland print, television, radio, and online publications
  - *Baltimore Sun*, *The Capital*, *Annapolis Times*, *Voices of the Chesapeake* radio program, *Spin Sheet*, Capital News Service
- Phase 2 planning for state-wide collection and exhibition program now in process



BDM Education & Public Programs Manager, Genevieve Kaplan and Fiber Artist & Educator, Dr. Joan Gaither posing with awards for the initiative in front of *Black Watermen of the Chesapeake* quilt

## OTHER PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS: A Sampling

### EVENTS

- 2010 Ladies Hats and Tea
- Maryland's First Lady, Katie O'Malley, served as the keynote speaker

### CONCERT PARTNERSHIPS

- Mavis Staples Concert at Ram's Head
- Morgan State University Choir at Four Winds Performing Arts Center



Participants of Ladies Hats and Tea

### VIP TOURS

- Delegate from Liberian Sister States Program
- Maryland Legislator and Governor's Office requested tours

### PROGRAMS

#### *My Mother's Journey Film Screening and Discussion*

Sylvia Gaither Garrison Library 3rd Anniversary Celebration  
Saturday, November 6, 2010

The 3rd anniversary of the Sylvia Gaither Garrison Library featured the screening of *My Mother's Journey*, an award-winning documentary by filmmaker, Sam Hampton. The film focuses on the civil rights activities of Elizabeth Hampton.



Sam Hampton autographs a flyer for an audience member.

## The Lion and the Fox

Theatrical Performance  
Saturday, November 20

A one-act play based on the court case, *Walter Mills v. Board of Education of Anne Arundel County et al*, in which the African American principal of an elementary school at Camp Parole, MD, fought for equal pay for black and white teachers. Local actors, dignitaries, and educators came together to tell the story of what could have happened on November 22, 1939 – the morning the final decision was handed down.



Lynn Waller, Duncan Hood Jr., The Honorable Clayton Greene Jr., Dr. Kevin Maxwell (Superintendent of Schools, Anne Arundel County), Anthony Spencer, the Honorable Chuck Ferrar, and Vincent Leggett.

## EDUCATION & PUBLIC PROGRAMS

	2010 Number of Programs	2010 Number of Attendees	2009 Number of Programs	2009 Number of Attendees	2008 Number of Programs	2008 Number of Attendees	2007 Number of Programs	2007 Number of Attendees	2006 Number of Programs
School	20	908	21	954	20	982	10	692	5
Group	16	473	24	506	13	203	22	403	5
Public Programs	18	1452	33	1950	25	662	30	1115	2
Presentations & Outreach	5	1572	8	402	4	812	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	59	4378	86	3812	62	2659	62	2210	12

\*2010 Program Numbers through 31 October 2010

- 15% increase in program attendance between 2009 and 2010
- 54% of the Museum's 2010 Visitation Brought in by Education & Public Program





Education and Public Programs Manager, Genevieve Kaplan (center) and BDM Archivist Lynn Waller (right) Represent the Banneker-Douglass Museum at Baltimore County's African American Cultural Festival

## SYLVIA GAITHER GARRISON LIBRARY

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Processed nearly 7 linear feet (17 boxes) of the Banneker-Douglass Museum Archives
- Catalogued over 500 items in PastPerfect
- Reference Interactions: 91

### Oral History Projects (OHP)

#### ***Chief Joseph Johnson OHP***

Lt. Bob Emery  
Detective Shelly White  
Kirby McKinney

#### ***Walter Mills OHP***

Valerie Mills Cooper, daughter of Walter Mills  
Betty Coleman, student of Walter Mills  
Jean Queen Haughton, Assistant Principal under Mills  
Irene Richardson, music teacher under Mills  
Anthony Spencer, served with Mills at St. Phillip's Episcopal Church  
Dr. Leon Washington, student of Mills



BDM Archivist Lynn Waller interviews Lt. Bob Emery for the upcoming exhibit, *Life and Times of Chief Joseph Johnson*

## New Faces: SGGL--Archival Assistant *Lela Johnson Sewell-Williams*

Lela J. Sewell –Williams is a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She graduated from South Carolina State University with a Bachelors of Arts in American History and a minor in Black Studies. Lela furthered her studies at Duquesne University earning a Masters of Arts in History with a concentration in Archives, Museums and Historical Editing.



Driven by the goal of preserving the African Diasporic experience, Lela has worked at South Carolina State University Historical Collection (serving as the University's first Archivist), Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture (Manuscripts Librarian), Moorland Spingarn Research Center at Howard University (Assistant Curator). She currently serves as the Dance Archivist/Adjunct Professor within the Dance Major Program at Howard University.

Lela was brought on to work with the Banneker-Douglass Museum Archives and create a finding aid for records from the 1970's through 2001. Welcome Aboard, Lela!

BDM Archival Assistant Lela J. Sewell –Williams presents her findings at the presentation, "Unlocking the Treasures of the Banneker-Douglass Museum"

## THE SYLVETTE ONLINE STATISTICS

	Page Loads	Unique Visitors	First Time Visitors	Returning Visitors
10/09 to 11/10	427	291	214	77

The Sylvette Online, the library's newsletter--now blog, had visitors from the following countries: Spain, Canada, Egypt, Netherlands, France, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, United Kingdom, Germany, Turkey, Philippines, Nigeria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Romania, Tunisia, and the Russian Federation.



Archivist Lynn Waller Representing BDM at the National Archives and Records Administration

## MUSEUM ATTENDANCE

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
<b>2001</b>	338	985	615	741	768	792	955	713	450	704	292	912	8265
<b>2002</b>	433	1181	345	988	768	893	771	792	486	542			7199
<b>2003</b>	D	A	T	A		M	I	S	S	I	N	G	
<b>2004</b>	D	A	T	A		M	I	S	S	I	N	G	
<b>2005</b>						C	ON	ST	RU	CT	IO	N	4566
<b>2006</b>	CON	CON	DATA	MI	SS	ING	800	800	800	800	784	1391	5375
<b>2007</b>	616	618	501	1325	800	855	502	1058	750	1790	942	579	10636
<b>2008</b>	453	1174	1237	933	924	950	931	728	502	884	478	1523	10717
<b>2009</b>	402	1558	951	752	1388	655	1329	728	413	457	963	447	10043
<b>2010</b>	645	483	1025	756	655	768	999	676	1123	904			8034

## ONLINE VISITATION

### Museum Website

[www.bdmuseum.com](http://www.bdmuseum.com)

	2010 to Date	2009
Page Loads	13805	13436
Unique Visitors	10184	10074
First Time Visitors	7658	7788
Returning Visitors	2526	2286

### Museum Blog

<http://bannekerdouglassmuseum.blogspot.com>

	2010 to Date	2009
Page Loads	2165	2177
Unique Visitors	1425	1529
First Time Visitors	1215	1310
Returning Visitors	210	219

## MEDIA COVERAGE

- *The Afro American Newspaper*
- Anne Arundel County Public Schools Television
- *Baltimore Magazine*
- *Baltimore Sun*
  - Page 2 article on Black Watermen of the Chesapeake Quilt Initiative picked up and syndicated to *Tribune Co.* newspapers nationwide
- *Bay Weekly*
- *The Capital*
- Capital News Service
- City of Annapolis Television
- *City Paper* (Baltimore)
- *Easton Star Democrat*
- *Maryland Gazette*
- *Southern Maryland Online*
- Voices of the Chesapeake radio program
- WANN Radio
- *Washington Post*
- *What's Up Annapolis*
- *What's Up Eastern Shore*
- AACVB-arranged interviews with reporters from news outlets and book authors including Leslie Atkins (*Maryland Backroads and Byways*)





## PARTNERS

- American Legion Post #77, Easton
- Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Annapolis High School
- Anne Arundel Community College
- Banneker-Douglass Museum Foundation
- Bates Legacy Center
- Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation
- Coppin State University
- Captain Salem Avery Museum/Shady Side Historical Society
- Four Rivers Heritage Area
- Four Winds Performing Arts Center
- Friends of Banneker-Douglass Museum
- Garrison Middle School
- GENE-ALL-OF-US
- Glenview Mansion At Rockvill, Civic Center Park, City of Rockville
- Hammond-Harwood House
- Hampton Films
- Historic Annapolis Foundation
- Historic Lontontown and Gardens
- Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Foundation
- MD Department of Planning
- MD Department of State – Sister States Program
- Maryland History and Cultural Collaborative
- Maryland State Archives
- Middle Grades Partnership
- Morgan State University
- National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution
- NAACP- Anne Arundel County
- NAACP, Prince George's County
- Northern Arundel Cultural Preservation Society, Inc.
- Prince George's County Preservation Organization
- Ram's Head
- Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture
- Roland Park Country School
- Sojourner-Douglass College
- Southern High School (AACPS)
- State House of 1676, St. Mary's County
- Town of Fairmount Heights
- United States Naval Academy
- University of Maryland – Baltimore County
- University of Maryland – College Park
- Valerie Mills-Cooper
- Volunteer Center of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County
- Volunteer Maryland
- Wiley H. Bates Middle School Performing and Visual Arts Program



## INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Do you have a passion for history?

Do you like sharing that passion with others?

If you answered “yes” to both of these questions, the Banneker- Douglass Museum has a great opportunity for you!

The Banneker-Douglass Museum (BDM) is looking for volunteers for its Volunteer Docent Program. Docents provide interactive education through tours and public programming. We are looking for individuals, age 14 and older, who would like to get involved with community education. The BDM is in need of individuals to provide school tours and to assist with special programming and events for schools and the general public.

To learn more about volunteering at the Banneker-Douglass Museum, contact us at 410.216.6180 or at [BDMPrograms@goci.state.md.us](mailto:BDMPrograms@goci.state.md.us)

