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# PGAAMCC Newsfocus

Mission: To celebrate and inspire the Community through the cultivation, preservation, and presentation of the cultural and artistic contributions of African Americans in Prince George's County, Maryland.

## Celebrating the pioneering spirit of 4 townships

Visit the newest exhibition at Gallery 110 located at 3901 Rhode Island Avenue in Brentwood, Maryland. The exhibition will be open through June 2, 2012. The exhibition hours are Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.



Saturday, January 14, 2012 marked the opening of the newest exhibition at Gallery 110. *A Space of Their Own: A Celebration of Prince George's Historic Black Townships*, celebrates the incorporation of North Brentwood, Eagle Harbor, Fairmount Heights, and Glenarden during a time when African Americans were struggling to vote, get a fair education, and have gainful employment. People in these towns had the foresight to organize and incorporate. In 1924, North Brentwood was the first to become incorporated. They also had a school, two churches, and with the incorporation, they would have the opportunity to govern themselves using their tax dollars. Eagle Harbor was incorporated in 1929. This resort community was

organized for blacks as a vacation destination when it was prohibited for blacks to visit other local beaches. Fairmount Heights was incorporated in 1935 and provided affordable housing alternatives through mail order homes. In 1939, Glenarden was the last African American township to incorporate. Glenarden became home to many WB& A railway workers. Visit Gallery 110 and experience the exhibition that displays what home life, school, and recreation might have been in these 4 towns. Also visit our website for public and educational programs for this exhibit at [www.pgaamcc.org](http://www.pgaamcc.org).

## Join Our Book Club

Join with us as we begin our first book club, which meets, April 19, 2012. Let's discover what it was like to live during the early 1900's as an African American woman living in an all-black town in the Deep South. Our first book selection is Zora Neale Hurston's, "Their Eyes Were Watching God." Sign up for the book club at [www.pgaamcc.org](http://www.pgaamcc.org) or call Programs at 301.209.0592.



## In Memory

**Walter L. Dozier, Ph.D. ~1950-2011**

The Board & Staff will always remember the dedication and professionalism of our friend and colleague. We dedicate this Winter Issue in his memory.

# A Space of Their Own Public Programs

As a part of the Public Programs for the current exhibition, *A Space of Their Own*, PGAAMCC is co-hosting programs in each of the 4 townships. More information on the upcoming program March 25, 2012 in Fairmount Heights can be found at [www.pgaamcc.org](http://www.pgaamcc.org).

## Veterans Day in North Brentwood

PGAAMCC honored our Veterans in the town of North Brentwood. The celebration was special because each guest was able to write out a postcard to troops overseas. The speaker was Prince George's County resident, Elder Bernard Blackmon. Elder Blackmon is a former U.S. Marine Corporal. The Mayor of North Brentwood, Petrella Robinson served as the Mistress of Ceremony.

## Kwanzaa in Glenarden

PGAAMCC joined the town of Glenarden to celebrate Kwanzaa. The Kwanzaa celebration featured Diallo Sumbry and the Adinkra Group. Attendees learned the meaning of Kwanzaa and how to celebrate Kwanzaa. The Mayor of Glenarden, Gail Carter, kept the program moving as Mistress of Ceremony. Everyone joined in on the fun with dancing and the lighting of the Kinara.

## Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration in Eagle Harbor

The MLK Celebration at the Eagle Harbor Community Center was a day to remember. Prince Georgians of all ages from across the county commuted to Eagle Harbor via Prince George's "The Bus" to learn and celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Key note speakers included Mayor James R. Crudup, Honorable Alexander Williams, Lillian K. Beverly, and Dr. Jacqueline Brown. Speakers such as Honorable Williams spoke passionately about keeping Dr. King's dream alive by always working in the name of peace, love, and justice.

"True peace is not merely in the absence of tension: it is in the presence of justice" (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. April 16<sup>th</sup> 1963, Birmingham, AL)



## Networking, Food, Wine, & Memberships

*Unwind Wednesday* is a social and networking event designed to garner support from the professional community throughout Prince George's County and to bring exposure to the exhibitions and educational programs of PGAAMCC.

*Unwind Wednesday* occurs the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month from April through December. Our first event was hosted at Gallery 110 and our Curator and Assistant Curator gave tours of the exhibition and answered questions.

Throughout 2011 *Unwind Wednesday* moved throughout the county and gained momentum. The final

*Unwind Wednesday* in December was held at the gorgeous Atrium at Treetops in Hyattsville. It was a great success. Eleven professionals became members of the museum.



Karla & Hoke Glover

Jan Kelly-Adevor, Ken & Lanie Alston



Dennis Smith, Dr. Jacqueline Brown, Steve Monroe





Michelle Pascaran, Yolonda Evans, *Shante Omotosho*, owner, Runway Studios Salon, and Muslimah Muhammad Taylor, stylist, Runway Studios Salon

## Donor Spotlight!

**Dewayne Ellis, Financial Advisor at Edward Jones** in Bowie, Maryland sponsored the November *Unwind Wednesday* event held at National Harbor's The Tasting Room. Mr. Ellis explains why he chose to be a sponsor.

**PGAAMCC:** How did you learn about *Unwind Wednesday*?

**Ellis:** I learned about *Unwind Wednesday* by searching the Museum's website.

**PGAAMCC:** Why did you want to sponsor an *Unwind Wednesday* event with the Museum?

**Ellis:** I wanted to sponsor an *Unwind Wednesday* event because I believe in the mission of the Museum and wanted to be a part of helping to support it. I also wanted an opportunity to speak with African American professionals about Financial Planning and Literacy.

**PGAAMCC:** Do you feel the sponsorship was worth your time, effort, and contribution?

**Ellis:** I feel the sponsorship was worth my time, effort, and contribution and have received new relationships/clients from it.

**PGAAMCC:** Would you sponsor another event in the future?

**Ellis:** I am looking forward to sponsoring a future event with the museum.

## Donor Spotlight!

**Shante Omotosho, Stylist and Owner of Runway Studios Salon** in Hyattsville, Maryland sponsored the October *Unwind Wednesday* event held at Franklins Restaurant in Hyattsville. Ms. Omotosho explains why she chose to be a sponsor.

**PGAAMCC:** How did you learn about *Unwind Wednesday*?

**Omotosho:** I learned about *Unwind Wednesday* from the event organizer Yolonda Evans. She was talking about the event and I asked her could I sponsor one.

**PGAAMCC:** Why did you want to sponsor an *Unwind Wednesday* event with the Museum?

**Omotosho:** I thought it was a great opportunity for the Hyattsville community. I like what the museum is doing and how it is reaching out to the African American community. I have three kids in school in the Hyattsville area and I want to support the Museum and help this area know about the culture of African Americans.

**PGAAMCC:** Do you feel the sponsorship was worth your time, effort, and contribution?

**Omotosho:** Actually yes, I met a lot of new people and the salon received new clients from the event and it was great being able to meet other business owners in the area and form partnerships.

**PGAAMCC:** Would you sponsor another event in the future?

**Omotosho:** Yes, because I feel like PGAAMCC is doing a lot of things for our people and I would like to be a part of anything trying to better our community.



**Dewayne Ellis**, Financial Advisor at Edward Jones, Simone Ellis, Dr. Jacqueline Brown, Executive Director of PGAAMCC, Lorraine Philyaw, Member

Become a member today! Log on to <http://www.pgaamcc.org/contribute/membership/> and find out how you can join Prince George's African American Museum or call us 301.809.0440 we look forward to your call!

# Culture Keepers learn about building communities despite hardships

Every Thursday students at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts at Suitland High School are engaged in visual arts, performing arts, and docent training through PGAAMCC's Culture Keepers program. Workshops are led by trained museum and art educators providing students experience about African American history, art, and culture.

In connecting the students to the current exhibition, "A Space of Their Own: A Celebration of Prince George's Historic Black Townships," the Culture Keepers are learning that despite challenges such as discrimination, war, and the Great Depression, early African American residents within these four towns banded together to build communities of their own. The Culture Keepers are learning the history of how neighbors shared food, bartered services, and worked together to build a strong community with schools, churches, businesses, and homes. The Culture Keepers are currently working on a mural in the lobby area of the Center for Visual and Performing Arts. The mural is titled "Building Successful Communities".

Join the Culture Keepers as they display what they are learning at the Mall at Prince George's on February 18<sup>th</sup> from 12 noon until 4:00 p.m. They will be making a community quilt that will include the four townships and the 27 other municipalities throughout Prince George's County.

## Around the County with Museum Education

Chanel Compton, Education Coordinator, keeps a full schedule with museum education. Recently, she conducted an interactive history activity with students at G. James Gholson Middle School. Students learned about Prince George's African American heroes in education such as G. James Gholson, Bonnie F. Johns, Fredrick Douglas, and Harriet Tubman. Students completed a large painting of the figures along with mini collages.



## The Brains behind the Exhibition



Curator, Jon West-Bey & Historian, Gina Vaughn  
Below- Asst. Curator, La'Tasha Banks



Most exhibitions are planned years in advance. The curatorial team at PGAAMCC worked diligently from August through January to research, check facts, collect items, and construct the current exhibition, "A Space of Their Own, A Celebration of Prince George's Historic Black Townships." Jon West-Bey, Curator, led the team in researching. The text panels found on the wall and near each display include the many hours of research conducted by Jon. He collaborated with Historian, Gina Vaughn to assist him with the historical facts.

The design of the exhibition can only be implemented and created once the research is completed. The brilliance behind the design comes from our very detail focused, Assistant Curator, La'Tasha Banks. La'Tasha uses the research to establish the design. She gives her undivided attention to every detail and uses every inch of space that Gallery 110 has to offer.

The finished product is waiting for you! Come see it!

3901 Rhode Island Avenue  
Brentwood, MD 20722  
301.209.0592

Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

## TRAINING OUR FUTURE:

By celebrating our culture



The Early Keepers program is designed to celebrate African American culture through movement, music, storytelling, and art. This engaging workshop is held every first Saturday for children age 3 to 5. It is the perfect opportunity for parents to spend quality time with their children in a fun and educational environment. Visit our website at [www.pgaamcc.org](http://www.pgaamcc.org) to sign up or call Museum Education at 301.209.0592

