

Dr. Judylynn Mitchell and host committee receive Governor's Citation

Maryland Multicultural Coalition *The Maryland State Chapter of NAME* May 2016

President's Message

On April 23rd, the Maryland Chapter of NAME held their annual conference in Wicomico County. JudyLynne Mitchell and her host committee, did an exceptional job of planning every detail. From beginning to end, the committee shared their hospitality and provided an opportunity for nearly 350 participants to share ideas, meet new friends and hear two wonderful keynote speaker; Chris Haley, actor, speaker and nephew of Alex Haley, of *Roots* fame. A personal highlight for me was the presentation of the MMC Executive Board's Legacy Award to the late Ava Maria Whittemore. Present were her niece and her husband to receive the award for the family.

As we find the closing of another academic year, I would like to thank the educators that inspire and teach the students in the State of Maryland. For each day they have the opportunity to make a difference in the life of a child. I want to thank those who volunteered in any organization that supports social justice, equity, inclusion, cultural diversity and multicultural education. I would also like to thank my executive board members as well. Many of which have been on the board for over two decades

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MMC honors Maria Whittemore with Legacy Award



Maria's niece and husband

Ava Maria Whittemore Honored With MMC/NAME Legacy Award **By Bonnie Brownell**

In 2011 the Maryland Multicultural Coalition developed a new award to honor individuals who either live or work in the state of Maryland for outstanding service and longevity of commitment to social justice and multicultural education. The recipient of the award receives a wooden sculpture of the Sankofa Bird, a symbol of the quest for knowledge based on critical examination and intelligent investigation in the West African Akan culture. It symbolizes an understanding of one's destiny and collective identity of the larger cultural group.

MMC/NAME bestowed the honor of this award on a very special Maryland educator who passed away last fall much to the sorrow of the multicultural education community. Her life was dedicated to equity and social justice in her community and beyond.

In 1957, three years after Brown vs. Board of Education, an 8 year old girl was among the first to integrate the all-white Walkersville Elementary School, ending racial segregation of public schools in Frederick County, Maryland.

That little girl, Ava Maria Whittemore, is the recipient of the Maryland Multicultural Coalition's Sankofa Award. Maria was a native of Frederick County and worked for 44 years in the Frederick County Public Schools as a classroom teacher and assistant principal on both the elementary and secondary levels. For the last 13 years, she was the Minority Achievement Coordinator for FCPS.

She was an active member of a wide variety of committees in the school system and co-chaired the committee addressing the disproportionate representation of African American students in special education. She also taught a course designed to increase teacher efficacy with African American students. She represented Frederick County Public Schools on the Education That Is Multicultural and Achievement Network at the Maryland State Department of Education and co-chaired the group.

Her work extended beyond the school system to the community. She was a founding member and on the board of directors of the Eliminating



Wicomico County Edgeucators
perform at conference



Websites worth Bookmarking:

www.nameorg.org

www.mdmc.edublogs.org

www.teachingtolerance.org

www.mdwomensheritagecenter.publishpath.com

Executive Board of MMC

Debbie Misiag- Howard County-
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Retired- Vice President

Pat Levrony- Carroll County-
Secretary

Cathy Price- Treasurer

Rita Robinson- Parliamentarian

Tracey Durant-Baltimore County

Jermaine Ellerbe- Baltimore City,
Laurie Namey-Harford, Tom Owen-
Harford retired and Linda Shevitz-
MSDE retired ,Members-at-Large

Achievement Gaps advocacy group and was the official liaison of the organization to the FCPS. She was the past chair of the Frederick County Office for Children and Families, Local Management Board; a member of the Frederick County Mental Health Association Diversity Committee; a member of the Board of Directors for the YMCA; and served as the vice president and education committee chair of the Frederick branch of the NAACP.

In 2005 she received the Van Guard Award from the Maryland State Department of Education, which recognizes extraordinary vision and leadership to advance the success of minority students, and in 2007 she was recipient of the Maryland State Education Association's Minority Recognition in Education Award. A longtime member of MMC/NAME Maria co-authored an article that appeared in the NAME professional journal in 2004 and has presented numerous workshops at the local, state and national levels.

The award was presented in April at the MMC/NAME conference in Salisbury, Maryland, and was accepted by Maria's niece, Shirlisa Carroll. Maria's dedication and years of tireless effort to the cause of equity in education and social justice have made a difference in the lives of many children. She will long be remembered and is dearly missed.

President's message con't
serving our state chapter. Our treasurer of over 20 years, Tom Owen, has stepped down and was elected as member at large. The board honored Tom at our April meeting. Tom has been the President of MMC, the editor of our newsletter and treasurer. Thank you Tom, for your continued dedication.

I hope that each of you will have a wonderful summer and enjoy catching up with family, friends, a good book or binge on your favorite TV shows.

Debbie Misiag
President MMC 2015-2017



TV Worth Watching

By Debbie Misiag

The spring television line up has included many shows. PBS had a two part series on the life of Jackie Robinson. This film by Ken Burns, Sarah Burns and David McMahon, included video footage, photographs and a wonderful history of Robinson's life as a pioneer athlete and a civil rights activist. Interviews with his wife and many others were a highlight of this show. Catch it again, as PBS often replays their specials or perhaps you DVR it and have it saved. Go to www.pbs.org/jackierobinson to find out biographical information and images. If you are a member of PBS, as I am, they had a two page spread on the show and information on Jackie.

Another show on PBS is one that I especially like since I am working on genealogy of both sides of my family, *Finding Your Roots* with Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Each episode includes two to three celebrities from the arts, music, sports and authors and traces their families back sometimes four to six hundred years. Each episode includes a search for the family history, highlights struggles and uncovers the family secrets and successes. The show often has a theme for example all celebrities had struggle in their family or all had ancestors that served in the military. Gates ends the show with a DNA search and presents each person with a family tree. I find myself in tears along with some of the celebrities as they uncover information they never knew and relatives they never heard about, but have made meaning of their own life's by uncovering the past. It is very well done and certainly an hour well spent. The show just finished their third season, however you can get a glimpse on the website. So check your listings for future or repeated episodes. The website includes a classroom section for resources for teachers.

Visit <http://www.pbs.org/weta/finding-your-roots/> For more information.

On Memorial Day weekend, the remake of Alex Haley's *Roots* premieres. Airing on the HISTORY Channel, "Roots" begins on Memorial Day 2016, airing over four consecutive nights at 9 p.m. beginning Monday, May 30. The four-night, eight-hour event series developed by HISTORY, is a historical portrait of American slavery recounting the journey of one family and their will to survive and ultimately carry on their legacy despite hardship. With an all star cast including Laurence Fishburne, Anika Noni Rose,



**NAME: The
Multicultural Lens
of Equity for ALL**
26th Annual
International
NAME Conference
Cleveland, Ohio
November 9 - 13,
2016

The NAME 2016
Call for Proposals is
closed.
Conference
Registration will
open soon!

Go to
www.nameorg.org
For additional
information
including hotel
arrangements,
registration,
conference
program in the
near future.

(Continued)

Matthew Goode, Malachi Kirby and others, this is a mini-series not to be missed. Tune in and compare it to the 1977 version of the story. Nearly 40 years ago, the original series drove millions to the television and started a rebirth of search for the past. It launched interest in genealogy across this country.

The last show I want to highlight is a show on a network, that many may not have hear of before WGN. The show is *Underground*. The show is currently running on Wednesday nights and showcases slavery in the south, pre-Civil War. The perspective's of the southern white plantation owners, their house slaves, field slaves, the slave catchers and the conductors on the Underground Railroad set the story in motion. The show contains well-developed characters that you can feel compassionate about as you follow them as they "run" from the chains that bind them to the plantation they escape from. Some scenes are not suitable for young audiences, so this show is on at 10:00 P.M. Learn some history and get involved in the show. The website for this show <http://wgnamerica.com/series/Underground> Includes activities, a quiz, and information about the show.

MMC/NAME 2016 Election Results

The MMC/NAME membership elected four members to serve on the Board of Directors for the 2016-2018 term. They are: Bonnie Brownell, Vice President; Cathy Price, Treasurer; and three at-large members: Tracey Durant, Tom Owen and Linda Shevitz. Congratulations to all and many thanks for taking on the responsibility of keeping MMC/NAME an exemplary chapter of NAME.

Summer Travels and Exploration

If you travels this summer take you on a journey in the Delmarva area, consider following the drinking gourd. Explore Maryland's underground railroad and related historical sites on the Eastern Shore. Visit

http://pathways.thinkport.org/flash_home.cfm On this site you can map out the routes in Maryland, hear stories of the journeys, and find classroom resources. If your journey takes you to Virginia and Colonial Williamsburg, check out the Century of African American Quilts at the Art Museum or perhaps do one of the tours that highlight the life of African American slaves and tradesmen, and indentured servants during the colonial era.

The Reginald F. Lewis Museum in Baltimore continues to be a wonderful place to learn and discover. With book talks, exhibits, music, and displays , this makes a perfect thing to do on those not so sunny days this summer.

Looking for a place to learn about the contributions of the women in Maryland? Make a visit to the Maryland Women's Heritage Center not far from the Inner Harbor. This small but very informative center contains exhibits of interest for all those that cherish the contributions of the women of Maryland including the sciences, civil activist, poets, authors, politicians, etc. Before you go, visit

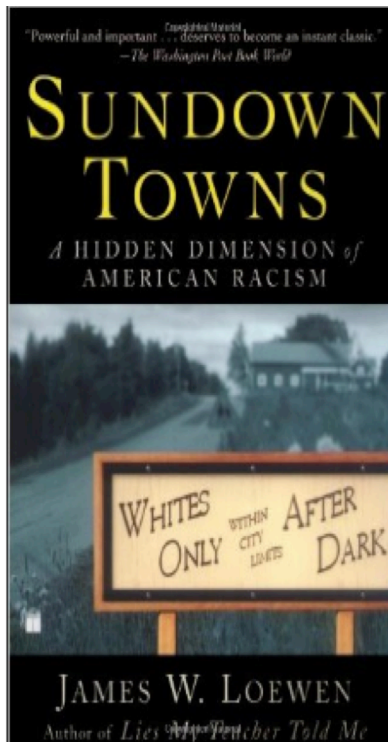
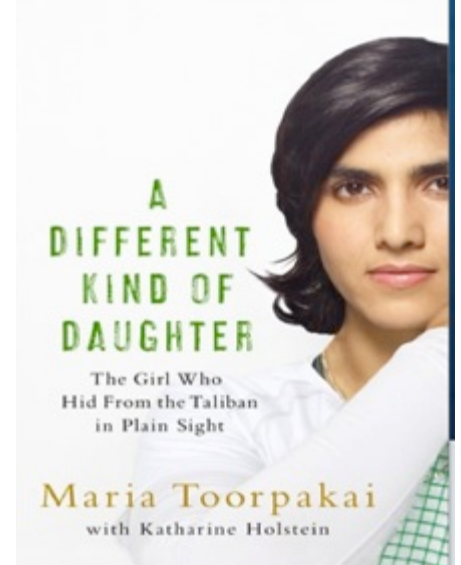
<http://mdwomensheritagecenter.publishpath.com>. Join the mailing list or bookmark the museum' site to visit again virtually or in person.



Summer Reading

By Debbie Misiag

Out the first week in May, is a new story of struggle and perseverance by Maria Toorpakai. Maria at age four decided that boys were treated better than boys. Girls were not allowed to go to school, play sports or play outside. Although at home her father treated her fairly, when she was outside the home, she was not. So at four she started dressing like a boy so she could go to school, play soccer with the boys and learn squash. She did very well in sports. But when she needed to turn in a birth certificate to join a team, everything changed. Add this to your summer reading list and find out about the girl who hid from the Taliban. Read *A Different Kind of Daughter: The Girl Who Hid From the Taliban in Plain Sight*.



The April 2016 issue of the Smithsonian contained an article called the National Treasure: Driving While Black.. This article explores how African Americans used a crowd sourced guide to navigate segregation. In the 1930s, the open road presented a variety of dangers for blacks that were traveling unfamiliar roads in not so friendly towns. The “sundown towns”, banned people of color from remaining in a town after night fall. Signs would be posted warning those who might enter, that they were not welcome after the sun went down. The article shares information in The Negro Motorist Green –Book which was a 15 page directory which listed establishments that would welcome people of color in the New York metropolitan area. It was called Green Book after the author, Victor H. Green who was a black postal carrier in Harlem. The last issue was published in 1966-67 with 99 pages and covered the US and some international cities as well. Read the article in the Smithsonian or go to www.smithsonianmag.com/history/driving-while-black-has-been-around-long-cars-have-existed-180958598/?no-ist to learn more about sundown towns. A local author, James Loewen, a best selling author published Sundown Towns in 2006. Loewen, often a presenter at the National Association for Multicultural Education, includes information in this book from around the country. Find out more about our area in this book.

Teaching Tolerance

When was the last time you visited the *Teaching Tolerance* website? Almost monthly there are new editions . From webinars, articles, lesson plans, curriculum and posters, this site is always exciting to visit. Most if not all of the materials are free. Teaching Tolerance is the same organization that sponsors the Mix-It Up week in the cafeteria. Check it out this summer while you are sitting by the pool, scrolling through on your e-reader or tablet.

www.teachingtolerance.org

WORKING TO FORM A MORE PERFECT UNION

By Linda Shevitz

The National Women's History Project (NWHP) sponsored an event in Washington, D.C., during March, Women's History Month. The national and Maryland theme for 2016 was *Working to Form a More Perfect Union: Honoring Women in Public Service and Government*. Sixteen women were honored representing fields ranging from Women as the Foundation of Democracy, Women's Military Service, Accomplishments of Puerto Rican Women, Women Leaders in Education, Women Leading in National Parks, and Expanding Women's Employment Opportunities. Of the honorees three are Maryland women, whose contributions were recognized at the special event and in the *NWHP Gazette*. A summary of their leadership is noted below, based primarily on information provided by the NWHP History Project. The Maryland honorees are Barbara Mikulski, Bernice Sandler, and Sonia Pressman Fuentes.

BARBARA MIKULSKI

Barbara Mikulski has been the longest serving woman in the U.S. Congress, from 1976 until this year, when she is retiring. She received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Obama, and championed in Congress such efforts as equal pay, a woman's right to choose, improving healthcare for and medical research on women, and subsidizing child-care for low income families.

"We're going to foment our own revolution. So I say to some out there in America, let's keep the fight going."

BERNICE (BUNNY) SANDLER

Bernice (Bunny) Sandler has been called and is known as the "Godmother of Title IX", because of her leadership as a women's rights activist. She is best known for her groundbreaking work fighting sexual harassment and discrimination on college campuses. She was a major leader in establishing Title IX , working for the law's enactment, and became a national expert on the law's implementation. As a university staff member (at the University of Maryland) she led the filing of almost 250 lawsuits against every college with federal contracts where women were underrepresented in salary and positions of equality. The Title IX Regulation law she helped develop was finally passed and signed into law in 1972. She has written three books and more than 100 articles, and given more than 2500 presentations related to sex discrimination.

"I naively thought that since sex discrimination was wrong, there must be a law against it."

SONIA PRESSMAN FUENTES

Sonia Pressman Fuentes is a lawyer, author, speaker, and a pioneering feminist leader who fought for women's equality in the workforce and helped initiate the Second Wave of the Women's Rights Movement. She was one of the co-founders of NOW (the National Organization for Women) and the group Federally Employed (FEW). She was also the first woman attorney to work in the Office of the General Counsel of the Equal Opportunity Commission (EEOC), a government agency dedicated to enforcing federal employment discrimination laws. Sonia immigrated as a child to the United States to escape the Holocaust, and has devoted her whole life into making equal rights in the workforce, as well as in other areas of society.

"When I (entered college in the



MMC receives Governor's Citation for recognition of advocacy for equity and social justice through multicultural education in honor of our dedicated service and positive contributions to our State presented by the morning keynote speaker, Chief of Staff Winston Wilkerson.

MMC News

This summer MMC will be switching over to another website with a new design. We will announce our new site in September. Until then, please visit www.mdmc.edublogs.org for information or go to www.nameorg.org for a link to our current site.

The scholarships for 2016 will be announced in June. We are still reviewing the applicants.

When you renew your membership for NAME, please indicate Maryland as your state chapter affiliation.

Congratulations to Dr. Ray Davis for winning our drawing at the conference. He won a \$50.00 gift card. The winner of our on-line survey will be announced in our next newsletter.



Governor of the State of Maryland, to

MARYLAND MULTICULTURAL COALITION CHAPTER
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION, Greetings:

Be it Known: That on behalf of the citizens of this State,

in recognition of a special tribute to commend your advocacy for equity and social justice through multicultural education... in honor of your dedicated service and positive contributions to our State; and as the people of Maryland join in expressing our great respect, admiration and sincere best wishes for the future,

we are pleased to confer upon you this

Governor's Citation



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland
this 2nd day of
June 2016

R. J. W. Wilkerson
Winston Wilkerson
Chief of Staff