

IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY

SPEAK UP!

AUGUST 2002

Serving the need for a black publication, this newsletter features several sections to share information and ideas:

WORD ON THE STREET, section passes along information as to what is going on in the Jonathan Street neighborhood and other communities that can benefit or affect us all.

POWER TO THE PEOPLE, section includes employment opportunities, agency assistance, articles about training, self-help programs and any other information that can possibly empower and increase the reader's potential.

BACK TO BLACK History & Culture, section on local, regional and national African American heritage.

Youth news, the opportunity for younger readers to contribute their view point.

SPEAK UP! The opinion and editorial section, if you have something to say, SPEAK UP!

Subscription is free and remarks are welcomed. Contact: Brothers United Who Dare to Care, Inc. 131 West North Avenue, Martin Luther King Center 2nd Floor, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740, phone 301-393-9290, or visit our website: www.buwdtc.org; email address: andyesmith@aol.com or page *Andy Smith*, at 301-745-2000.

WORD ON THE STREET

Jamaican Food & Music Festival Saturday August 24th at Wheaton Park in Hagerstown, Maryland.

Come be a part of the celebration while helping the youth of our community. Jamaican food, local produce, Reggae Music, Prizes and Vendors. 50/50 Raffle ticket price \$1.00. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Memorial Recreation Center. Contact for more information contact Alesia Parson at 301-824-7584 or Ruth Monroe 301-790-0203.

For Our Kid's Sake. A bus trip to King's Dominion in Richmond, Virginia is scheduled for August 10, 2002. For Our Kid's Sake is seeking community support that has helped send hundreds of children, teenagers and chaperons on similar trips in the past. The price per person includes a ticket to the Park and round trip bus fare. Anyone who would like to sponsor a child or a family or just contribute, contact: *Mrs. Clara Broadus* or *Ms. Dottie Bell* at 301 739-2557. Deposits can also be made to the Hagerstown Trust account name: For Our Kid's Sake.

Millions For Reparation Mass Rally in Washington D.C. on August 17, 2002

The Durban 400, led by the December 12th Movement and the National Black United Front (NBUF) is calling on Black people in America to participate in the rally demanding reparations from the United States Government for the enslavement of black people used to build this country. Why so late: A broken promise of forty acres and a mule and there is no statutes of limitation on murder (millions of blacks died in the slave transportation and oppression). We encourage everyone to participate in the Millions For Reparations Mass Rally on August 17, 2002 in Washington, D.C.

Leaders of the Black Community please attend this meeting.

Tuesday August 6th 7pm at Hagerstown City Hall, Del. Jo Anne Benson will be speaking to the Mayor and City Council on issues concerning the black community. Leaders from the following organizations should attend this meeting: Asbury United Methodist Church, Calvary Church Of God In Christ, Calvary Temple Apostolic Church, Ebenezer AME Church, King's Apostle Holy Church, Second Christian Church, Zion Baptist, Bethel Gardens Corporation, Brothers United Who Dare To Care, Memorial Recreation Center, Elks Lodge 278 & Masons, Progressive Men's Club, Sportsman Club 73, Black Manna Café, C&M Convenience Store, Citywide Communications, Just Us Barber Shop, Kuumba Enterprise, Llew Browne, RJR Liquors, Sisters With Style, Steve Swayne Insurance, Thelma's Grocery Store and Wing It Café.

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Let's work together and get these grants to help our neighborhood.

Brothers United Who Dare To Care would like to meet with members of the Jonathan Street community to apply for grants from the Cigarette Restitution Fund through the Washington County Health Department. Deadline to apply for the recently announced \$50,000 funding is August 9, 2000. The program is to help Tobacco use prevention and cessation. Parties interested in using the Cigarette Restitution Fund in our neighborhood call BUWDTC at 301-393-9290.

Neighborhood Improvement Conference planned for the Fall.

Based on the results of the survey being conducted by Brothers United Who Dare To Care, a conference in the Fall to address the results is being considered. The purpose of the survey is two-point: 1. To find out what you believe can improve your neighborhood. 2. To find out what you want to do to help improve your neighborhood. The survey specifically wants to identify who and what organizations want to do the work to improve their neighborhood and the results of the survey will be available to anyone. Please take the time to provide answers to the survey questions. For more information call the Brothers United Who Dare To Care office at 301-393-9290.

SPEAK UP!

Is the government helping the Black Community?

Remarks by speakers at the NAACP Family Picnic held in Wheaton Park, has brought focus and debate concerning the needs of the black community in the Jonathan Street neighborhood. The event had a crowd of over 400 people and was a joyful celebration. A celebration that should remain in the Jonathan Street neighborhood, much like the Each One Teach One campaign that started in the Jonathan Street community. Has anyone asked the black community if the government is helping them? This is only one story from a black organization. Over a year ago Brothers United Who Dare To Care went to the local government for \$25,000 in funds to get video camera equipment to start a Black History Documentary series and a Youth News Network. The local government agency chairman told us he did not feel it would benefit the community. Yet, the City of Hagerstown carried out a similar project, an African American Survey, this year for \$30,000, with only written and audio reports. A City Councilman, before he was elected, vowed to help change the name of Jonathan Street to "instill pride and change the perception of

this part of town for generations to come." I recommended the name change Africa Avenue. The Councilman has not helped me. Is that name too black? Why do other organizations outside of the Jonathan Street area get the funding help they need? I believe those organizations owe their success in getting funding and providing good reports about their activities, to the fact that they can afford the qualified staff to handle that responsibility. One local government director told Brothers United Who Dare To Care at a public meeting that it gave one organization under white leadership funding instead of a black lead organization, because the white organization wrote a better grant. The Director admits the black run organization produces a good service to the community, yet would not fund them. The same local government official said, on record, that his agency gave out over \$4 million last year to organizations helping their communities. The director never responded when asked how much of that four million went into the black community. Brothers United Who Dare To Care went before the Washington County

Delegation asking to help black lead organizations identify funding resources, scholarships, and internships and work-study funding for Jonathan Street area youth. The Delegation told us that a member of their panel overlooks a listing for scholarships. The member of that panel has not forwarded any information to our office in response. I sought a local state official's help on other issues in the Jonathan Street neighborhood and received no help. Brothers United Who Dare To Care issued a press release last year, pleading for intervention from outside of our local power structure (City of Hagerstown / Washington County) to insure that the citizens in the Jonathan Street neighborhood get a fair chance to succeed, mainly in establishing an African American influence in the power and leadership structure in the Hagerstown – Washington County area. I believe that day has come. Instead of asking the local government if it has helped the black community. Ask the black community. Then write and tell us. Is the government helping the black community?

Andy Smith, Editor

Youth News

Coaches Cathy Parson and Kenny Keyes Presents "Summer Offensive Basketball Camp".

For Ages 10-17 at the Hagerstown Community College on August 3-4, 2002. Saturday 9am to 3pm and Sunday Noon to 5pm. This Camp is a fundraiser to support the Men's Basketball program at the Hagerstown Community College. The camp is offered at the affordable price of \$50. The camp does not provide lunch. Thank you in advance for your support. For more information, Contact Coach Keyes at HCC 301-790-2800.

BACK TO BLACK History & Culture

"It's 2002 what are you going to do?" *Andy Smith, BUWDTC.*

Additions to the Don Brown BLACK HISTORY Library.

BOOKS:

"The Path Between The Seas" by David McCullough; "W.E. Dubois" by David Levering Lewis, "Families and Freedom Skin Deep" by Barbara Summers, "The Bondswoman's Narrative" by Hannah Crafts, "The Wild Blue" by Stephen E. Ambrose, "Reader's Digest Great Biographies" by Joyce Heth, "Shots In The Dark" by Gail Buckland, "Up From Slavery" by Booker T. Washington, "Memphis, Nam, Sweden" by Terry Whitmore, "Morgan, American Financier" by Jean Strouse

MAGAZINES:

"Ebony" September 2001, October 2001, November 2001, March 2002, April 2002, June 2002, July 2002

"Heart & Soul" June 2001, July 2001, September 2001, October 2001, December 2001, January 2002, March 2002, May 2002, June 2002, July 2002.

"Oprah Magazine" September 2001, February 2002, March 2002, April 2002, May 2002

VIDEOS:

"Roots" six tape series by Alex Haley

"Mutiny" starring Michael Jai White, Duane Martin, David Ramsey, Matthew Glave and David Barry Gray

"Jericho" (1937) starring Paul Robeson

This Month's Contest Questions for a \$10 Cash Prize:

Q: Who was the first black officer to graduate from West Point?

Q: Who was the first black jockey to win the Kentucky Derby in 1875?

Q: What black cowboy, a notorious cattle thief and confidence man, came with a Texas trail crew to Dodge City where he lived to his death in 1929? For \$10 let us know. Call or mail your answers to Brothers United Who Dare To Care 131 W. North Avenue Martin Luther King Center 2nd floor, Hagerstown Maryland 21740 phone 301-393-9290.

Last Month's Contest Question:

Q: What was Mr. "Step" Washington's real name and what was his nickname given for the expression he used when playing checkers.

A: by Paula Burnett, Carolyn Norse and Monique Broudas. Mr. Step's name was Charles Washington and his nickname in checkers was "Bam", the sound he made when he'd make a jump while playing checkers.

AJAMU & MWAMBA: Myths and Facts

The "African Hellacaust" is a memorial to our black ancestors who endured the most horrifying circumstance in the history of man. Royal people savagely reduced to animals, packed in the bowels of ships surrounded by their own vomit, waste and blood for months at a time during the Middle Passage. No one knows the exact number, but there have been estimates that more than 100 million African men, women and children died in slave ships on their way to the Americas. Furthermore, there were hundreds of thousands blacks ruthlessly murdered once in the American slavery system. Has the Middle Passage ended or just changed form to the crack cocaine plague, the gang violence, a failed welfare system, substance abuse, media brain washing, and secret medical experiments? Do not let history repeat itself. Never forget!

Calendar Of Events

August 6	Black Leaders meet with the Hagerstown City Council Meeting at City Hall 7pm
August 9	Grant Deadline for \$50,000 Cigarette Restitution Fund with the Washington County Health Department 9am
August 26	Brothers United Who Dare To Care meet at MLK 6:30pm