

IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY

SPEAK UP!

OCTOBER 2006

This neighborhood newsletter is a Black publication. Subscription is free. Articles and remarks are welcomed. Contact: Brothers United Who Dare to Care, Inc. 131 W. North Avenue, Martin Luther King Community Center 2nd Floor, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740. Phone 301-393-9290. Website: www.blackmenwhocare.org where you can download a full-color copy of this newsletter.

WORD ON THE STREET



Community Friend passes away. By Andy Smith

About 60 years ago Noah E. Horst was given a medical exam for voluntary service in the military. The results of his exam revealed a "bad" heart valve. Horst was told not to get married or have children because he was not expected to live long, thus ending his chance of any military service. For Horst who was in his early twenties at the time, the message came too late, he was already married and his wife was pregnant with their first child. Horst went on to outlive that prediction and six children later was enlisted into the service of God. Growing up on a farm Horst talents included building fences and carpentry. Though he proved to be even better welding a Bible. Horst had spent some time as a fencing contractor for Sears & Roebucks and went into the fence building business himself and started Horst Fencing. In the early 70's he left the fencing business to follow a spiritual

calling to open a ministry center in the Jonathan Street community in the old Sealtest Ice Cream store that was on Pennsylvania Avenue in Hagerstown. He called the center "Noah's Ark". The couple opened the center to the community and drew a number of children that kept regular attendance and fellowship at the Ark.

The Horst family led more by example of Christian living than carrying out religious services at the center. I was among the young people that visited Noah's Ark. I recall being invited to family style meals and using the center for band practice. At that time I had no spiritual pursuits, yet I was always drawn to the warm hospitality shared by the Horst family. I confess, in my youth I was probably more of a pain to the couple than a blessing.

Noah told me years later that he and his wife had a vision of me carrying a bible and serving God. Thirty years ago, I would have told Noah and Martha Horst that they were crazy. Now, I guess I am the one who is crazy trying to please God by serving the needs of others from a community center in the same Jonathan Street neighborhood the couple had served. Noah not only helped the community with hospitality and Christian Fellowship, his ability as a carpenter provided very affordable repair services to people in and around the Jonathan Street neighborhood. Horst often allowed me to assist him doing various repair jobs when I was attending college, the work helped with my college expenses. On one important occasion in my life, I turned to the couple to surrender my life to Christ. Noah and Martha sat and prayed in silence and witnessed my conversion on the cool fall morning of September 5, 1982. I had since kept in contact with the couple I came to call Mom and Dad Horst, being true Godparents to a radical like myself.

Noah and Martha did not limit their Christian missionary work to the Hagerstown area. They did missionary work out West, the Carolinas, I believe even a short trek in Haiti and concluded their ministry efforts in Florida.

September of this year, the Horst couple began serious health challenges. Mom Horst had a stroke and Dad Horst again received the report of heart problems. My talk with the couple about their medical situation was somewhat a spiritual blessing, we believe that our relationship will go on past this lifetime. Noah was okay with his situation and Martha was brave. Loving them both, I cannot deny the sadness of Noah's parting on October 11th in Naples, Florida. Those who knew Noah Horst knew of his loving heart. So I say amidst the sorrow, again the doctor was wrong. Noah had a good heart that was strong enough to break mine. The Horst family deserves resonating thanks for the sacrifice they made to show God's love to others. (A memorial service for Noah E. Horst 83, will be held Saturday October 21st at 2 p.m. at Mount Zion Mennonite Church near Boonsboro. The Reverend Lewis M. Coss will officiate. Noah and Martha Horst are pictured above in a visit to the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center in Hagerstown, Maryland.)

POWER TO THE PEOPLE!

Harvest Fest Health Fair

Health Fair is to be held Wednesday October 25, 2006 at 2:00pm to 6:00pm in the Martin Luther King Community Center (old North Street School building). Exhibits offering useful information on many health topics!

Breast and Cervical Cancer

Prostate and Colon Cancer

Tobacco Cessation

Skin Cancer

Accident Prevention

Diabetes Education

Maryland's Children Health Insurance Plan

End of Life Care

Activities for Life-Walking and Fitness Program

Minority Outreach and Technical Assistance

Johns Hopkins-Priority Partners

Bring the whole family. Everything is FREE! There will be activities for children, food, entertainment, door prizes and other giveaways! Health Screening: Blood Pressure and Body Mass Index Screenings . Call 240-420-1796 For more information.

Collaborators: Breast Cancer Awareness — Cumberland Valley, Food Resources, Hospice of Washington County, Johns Hopkins – Priority Partners, John R. Marsh Cancer Center — Make a Difference Breast Cancer Screening Program, Linda Brooks — Walking/Fitness Program, Minority Outreach and Technical Assistance (MOTA), Walnut Street Community Health Center, Washington County Health Department, and Washington County Hospital.



Grant Writing Workshop by MOTA of Washington County

The Washington County office of Minority Outreach & Technical Assistance (MOTA) will be holding a grant-writing workshop on Monday October 23rd at 6pm in the Martin Luther King Community Center in Hagerstown, Maryland.

The workshop will be geared to assist minority and minority led organizations that can apply for funding from the Washington County Health Department's Cigarette Restitution Fund Program. Recently the local health department announced over a \$150,000 to fund community effort to reduce tobacco use and related illnesses. The grant proposals for the funding are due on October 30, 2006. The workshop will include grant reading, proposals, action plans, budget justification and reporting. African Americans (blacks), Asian, Native American and Hispanic/Latinos are encouraged to apply. Seating is limited. Call (301) 393-9290 to enroll for this workshop funded by the Maryland Department of Health & Mental Hygiene.

Blacks In Business



Eugene Taylor Sr. was awarded "Employee of the Year" by the State of Maryland Department of Juvenile Services. He fulfilled a career ambition of working with at risk youth when he went to work in 2003 for the State's Western Maryland Children's Center. Taylor's experience with children included a long career with the Victor Cullen Center. The Victor Cullen Center was once a tuberculosis treatment center before it became one of the state's juvenile treatment centers. Juveniles from the ages of 14 to 20 were cared for under 24-hour supervision at the Victor Cullen Center that had an average of 225 juveniles and its maximum capacity was 337.

The Western Maryland Children's Center houses a smaller number of young people ages 13 to 18 that are involved in educational experiences that included hearing from local speakers giving Black Heritage presentations.

Taylor enjoys his free time with his family and wife Priscilla, who supports his efforts. He has played in local Flag Football leagues for over twenty years. Taylor was also an avid boxer in his youth boxing in the Golden Gloves tournaments. He's met Sugar Ray Leonard and spared with Marvis Frazier the son of former Heavyweight champion Joe Frazier.

Eugene Taylor Sr. is the son of Mr. Stanford Taylor who is a black history contributor to the Back to Black History & Culture section of this newsletter.

No Smoking Youth Club schedule. The club meets at the MLK Community Center on the first & third Saturday of the month 12pm; Field Trip on the second Saturday of the month 10am; Family Fellowship on the fourth Saturday of the month 1pm. You must be a club member and attend club meetings to go on field trips.

BACK TO BLACK History & Culture

(The following article was submitted by one of our readers and has been edited to fit our newsletter format. The story can be read in its entirety at the website link: <http://afrigeneas.com/forum-fpoc/index.cgi?noframes;read=3858>)

“Oh! What a Day – the 100th Anniversary of the Niagara Movement” by L. G. Basey

On August 17, 2006 I attended the Centennial Commemoration of the Niagara Movement at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park in West Virginia on Storer College Campus. Oh what a day it was to stand on the site where our ancestors meet for the first Civil Rights Meeting on the soil of the good old USA in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. The Niagara Movement had not been allowed to meet in the USA, so in 1905, they held their first meeting in Ontario, Canada, on the Canadian side of Niagara Falls, and that's how the Niagara Movement got its name. The group was determined to have the next meeting in United States of America. J. R. Clifford was the secretary of West Virginia's group and he was a founding member the Niagara Movement. On the day of the anniversary ceremony, my brother Leon Basey of Baltimore, Maryland met me at the opening of the Niagara Movement Centennial Commemoration. Leon had taken about 130 photos of the opening celebration, the re-enactment and the Clifford family. Later he matted and framed a really nice photo of J. R. Clifford, W. E. B. Dubois and J. R.'s 16-year-old daughter, Mary F. Clifford that he donated it to the Clifford family. The Clifford's had their family reunion coincide with the Niagara Movement Centennial Commemoration Celebration that weekend. It was an honor and privilege that I was there for the commemoration. I praise the LORD that I had lived to see and be a part of the Niagara Movement Centennial Commemoration Celebration. This celebration is something special to me personally and something that my grandchildren can be proud of.

I had ridden the PanTran bus from Martinsburg to Harpers Ferry and on it I met a black woman Ms. Viola Johnson, an elementary school teacher of Berkeley County. I had an interesting conversation with Ms. Johnson, she told me she had substituted for a teacher at a school in Hedgesville, West Virginia. On the first day substituting, a white teacher came into Ms. Johnson's classroom and addressed the students and did not acknowledge Ms. Johnson or even speak to her before leaving the room. The same thing happened the following day. The third day, she came into the classroom to address the students Ms. Viola told her, "Let's go out in the hall, I have something to say to you." Ms. Johnson told her, "You don't come in my class and address my students without my permission." The teacher asked Ms. Johnson, "Who recommended you?" Ms. Johnson said, "The principal did, thank you very much." The teacher apologized, but Miss Johnson said to herself about the apology, "she's lying, she's lying, she's lying." It's a shame that today we still face racism and prejudice from the political, economical, educational and religious systems. Ms. Johnson asked me have I ever heard of a book called "The Pact." The book is about three young men, in high school, that made a pact to become doctors. I told her yes, that I saw them on Tony Brown's Show a few years ago. She said "I was their teacher" and she showed me on page 12 of the book, that they give credit to Ms. Johnson for keeping them on track.

That day was a wonderful day for the opening of the Niagara Movement Centennial Commemoration on the campus of Storer College in Harpers Ferry. It was sponsored by the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park in conjunction with the Jefferson County branch of the NAACP and the Harpers Ferry Historical Association. Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks opened the program with a prayer. Superintendent Don Campbell welcomed everyone. Mayor of Harpers Ferry James Addy and the President of West Virginia NAACP James Tobert gave greetings. The Deputy Secretary of the Interior, Lynn Scarlett, gave remarks. The President of Jefferson County, West Virginia NAACP, George Rutherford introduced the guest speaker, U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd. Senator Byrd said, "The Niagara Movement changed the course of history." He also said "The individuals of the Niagara Movement resolved that they would demand their rights and freedoms as American citizens. Despite seemingly overwhelming odds, these stalwart individuals made a commitment to press on. And that commitment and determination are a testament to what a few individuals motivated by passion and faith can achieve. Mountains can be moved. Prejudice can be overcome and the course of history can be changed." Byrd has had a rocky relationship with the civil rights community stemming from his one time membership in the Ku Klux Klan and later as a harsh critic of civil rights leaders of the 1960s. Byrd replying to the audience, "I said it before and I say it now. I was wrong...you have heard the story of the prodigal son. Yes I am a prodigal son. Thank God for bringing the prodigal son home." I truly believe Senator Byrd was sincere. Who am I to judge anyone? The only One who can judge is our LORD Savior Jesus Christ, the Anointed One, who I believe anointed the presentation. Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Superintendent Don Campbell, Dr. Hooks & Senator Byrd unveiled the Niagara Movement highway marker.

It was a delight to finally see and witness the re-enactment of 1898 Civil Rights Courtroom Drama of J. R. Clifford & Carrie Williams Case at Curtis Freewill Baptist Church. It was standing room only, I was really pleased and impressed with the re-enactment, and it's really nice to see that we all can come together as one. It was very educational for all.

After the re-enactment, I met J. R. Clifford's great-great-granddaughter Jennifer Neal. Ms. Neal is a teacher who lives in South Windsor, Conn., and she said she is surprised American history books don't include Clifford's landmark case. "It would be nice if West Virginia history was known outside of West Virginia," she said, adding her thanks to all the people in the state's legal system that tried to spread the word about her great-great-grandfather.

I met Connie P. Rice and gave her a copy of a computer drawing I made of J. R. Clifford's home in Martinsburg on 523 W. Martin Street. For some mystery there are no photos of J.R.'s home. Ms. Rice signed my copy of the book she wrote "Our Monongalia: A History of African Americans in Monongalia County, West Virginia." She's writing a book about J. R. Clifford's life and it should be finished by next spring.

The PanTran bus did not show up to return me to Martinsburg after I waited on the Storer College Campus until 11:00pm. I made it back to Martinsburg thanks to Harpers Ferry Park Policeman Dave Tucker.

SPEAK UP PHOTO GALLERY:

Photos from the 2006 National Night Out Against Crime. Over two hundred people including Hagerstown City leaders attended.



Below: Department of Health & Mental Hygiene Secretary S. Anthony McCann and Dr. Carlessia Hussein respond to remarks made during the Asian Minority Roundtable in Baltimore, Maryland the meeting is part of an effort to reduce minority health disparities.



The No Smoking Youth Club field trip to the National Museum of Natural History in Washington D.C. included seeing prehistoric fossils, a visit to a section on African history, a peek at the Hope Diamond and an awesome IMAX Safari trip through Africa. The club's outings are sponsored by MOTA Office in Washington County through funding from the Maryland Department of Health & Mental Hygiene.

