

IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY

SPEAK UP!

SEPTEMBER 2012

Speak Up Community News promotes the Culture, Health and Self-sufficiency of the community. Subscription is free. Articles and remarks are welcomed. Contact: Brothers Who Care, 131 W. North Avenue, Martin Luther King Community Center, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740. Phone (301) 393-9290. Download a full-color copy of this news publication at: www.brotherswhocare.org

WORD ON THE STREET

Hispanic Heritage – Preserve It, Respect It and Share It. By Brother Andy

As a black man with mixed race and cultural backgrounds, I have sort of a distant connection with my heritage. Looking into my heritage is like standing on the shore watching a ship on the sea pass by. I know it's a ship and that it is on the water however I do not know exactly where it came from or where the ship is going. Most Blacks and some Native Americans in the United States were systematically stripped of their native language or cultural roots and do not have the privilege of speaking in their languages or specifying their tribal origins. Various groups of Hispanics/Latinos hold a common bond to their heritage and they refused to let go of their Language! About ten to twenty years ago there was an attitude in America that everyone should learn and speak only English, while ironically schools and colleges then and even now teach foreign language classes. Nevertheless, Spanish speaking people in the U.S. continued to speak their language. And that was a good thing, because the attempts to take and re-orient Spanish speaking children to only speak English created cultural and generational gaps as well as hardships. The grand parents of these children that were stripped of their language could no longer communicate and this caused a loss in passing along heritage and history as well as cultural identity.

In the late 70's California suffered greatly from the effect that language barriers between young Hispanic and their elders through the growth of street gangs. The elders literally could not talk any sense into the young people who established their own subculture of comrades, and not in a positive way. Los Angeles is still dealing with Latino street gangs.

Now as times have changed, young Spanish speaking children are considered Dual Language Learners (DLL) and a process is in place by the education systems to not only get them ready for school, program are helping to maintain or at least respect that these young people should be allowed to have and use their own language as they learn English.

As an early childhood educator, I am finding that these foreign language speaking families, mostly Hispanic/Latino have great pride and desire to have their children learn English, yet they want their children to know how to speak their cultural and native language. In homes of the Dual Language Learners, some of the parents speak little or no English, while the children often can speak, know or understand both. In other homes, the parents fluently speak both languages and prefer to speak to their children in Spanish while they are at home and prefer that their children speak English when outside of the home so that the child will learn to speak both languages. And this is a great approach to preserving a part of one's heritage. Other ways to help preserve the language and Hispanic Heritage of these families as well as build an appreciation and respect for the culture is to take part in Hispanic cultural activities and events.

Here in Hagerstown Maryland the Hispanic Association of Hagerstown, of which I am a board member, is hosting its 6th Annual Hagerstown Hispanic Festival (see inside page for more details). The festival event was started a few years ago to create scholarships for Hispanic students who attend or wish to attend the Hagerstown Community College. The event is a lively experience that not only includes Hispanic Dancing, Music and Food there are numerous family activities and community services on hand to help make for a wonderful day! Come and be a part of a FREE event that can help you preserve, respect and share in the Hispanic Heritage.

Click on the links below to get a look at some of last year's Hagerstown Hispanic Festival fun:

<http://brotherswhocare.org/images/Festival2011Presentations.wmv>

<http://brotherswhocare.org/images/Festival2011Dance.wmv>

!!!September is Hispanic Heritage Month!!!

Click here and learn more: <http://hispanicheritagemonth.gov/>

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

REMINDER: Better Health for Hispanics/Latinos*

We would like to invite you to participate in a community discussion on better health for Hispanics/Latinos. This conversation will be held Friday, September 21, 2012 at 6pm (at a location to be announced) in Hagerstown Maryland 21740. Talking points for this session will include:

What is being done to ensure healthy lifestyles for Hispanics/Latinos?

What can Hispanics/Latinos do to improve their health?

What is health equity?

Does immigration issues affect getting medical treatment and health services?

Who offers Immigration and Refugee Resettlement Services that include Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and representation before the Department of Homeland Security?

What is your local health department doing to improve public health?

The following week there will be a collective gathering of participants from the Better Health for Blacks and the Better Health for Hispanics Latinos. The collective session in this conversation series will have to do with identifying a plan of action to eliminate the health problems affecting minority populations in Washington County, Maryland. The collective session will be held on Friday, September 28, 2012. The time and place for that discussion to be announced.

To participate, contact Diana Reyes through Brothers Who Care (301) 393-9290 or email: bwc@brotherswhocare.org

**This activity is sponsored by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Community Transformation Grant initiative.*

Museum of Shenandoah Valley final concert this season for live music during the "Gardens at Night"



One of the Museum's most popular events, "Gardens at Night" takes place in the Museum's six-acre Glen Burnie Gardens from 6pm to 9pm on the second Friday of each month June through September. The summer series—sponsored by Q102—includes live music, food, wine, and free activities for kids. Upcoming and final band playing on September 14, 2012 is the Robbie Limon Band (1970s hits). Refreshment choices include wine sold by the bottle/glass, pork barbecue sandwiches, desserts, and more on sale from Shaffer's. Please bring your own chair. Gates open at 6pm and the music begins at 7pm. Don't miss out on this end of the season interactive event where you can dance and sing along at a joy filled evening. The Gardens at Night are *Free* to MSV Members and children 12 & under; all others: \$5. Please do not bring outside food or beverages. To find out more about the Museum of Shenandoah Valley or to become a MSV member call: (888) 556-5799 toll free or visit their website: <http://www.shenandoahmuseum.org>. MSV is located at 901 Amherst

Street in Winchester, Virginia 22601.

HEALTH TIPS

"Speak the Word – A Christian Perspective" by R. E. Orleana's *The Healing Light series*

When was the last time you laid hands on yourself and said, "I AM HEALED IN THE NAME OF THE LORD"? This concept sounds silly to many, however those of us who are believers in THE LIGHT know otherwise. If we reference the Bible at any given time, one would find that every time God wanted something to happen He SPOKE it into existence. Let there be LIGHT, and there was light. His son Jesus was on earth to lead us all toward the LIGHT and to know that there is POWER, wonder working power. In the beginning was the WORD and the word was GOD. Might you imagine, in this fast paced world that we live in where communication has become a 24/7 phenomenon, that with all of us SPEAKING OUT in so many different languages, that the most important one, most of us don't even know exists. There are spiritual disciplines that we must practice, and understand them because we are worth it.

If we would only have enough faith to believe that we can SPEAK to our own individual "mountains", whether it's diabetes, depression, heart disease, alcoholism, smoking or recovering from the diagnosis of cancer, we would surely be blessed with what God can do in our bodies, after all He lives there.

The next time you find yourself or someone that you love complaining about this, that, or whatever is wrong with them, suggest that they elevate what is right about the situation and/or what they would like to be right about it. Claim your healing in the name of the Lord and follow it up with Words of Affirmation, then watch what the God in you will do. Until next time, keep speaking up and out the words that have and bring life and healing to your mind, body and soul.

The Hispanic Association of Hagerstown

Is Proud to Announce

HAGERSTOWN'S SIXTH ANNUAL HISPANIC FESTIVAL

Sunday, September 16, 2012

12 noon to 6:00pm

Hagerstown Fairgrounds Park
420 North Mulberry Street



Talent Shows & Contest ~ Dancing
Food ~ Kids Corner ~ Face Painting
Live Bands and DJ



SEXTO FESTIVAL HISPANO DE HAGERSTOWN

Soccer Tournament

Youth - Adult
4 v 4 5 v 5 plus G/K
(4 Teams max) (6 Teams max)
Each Age Group Over 18 Only

Domingo, 16 de Septiembre de 2012

Desde las 12 del mediodía hasta las 6:00 de la tarde

En el Parque Fairgrounds de Hagerstown

420 North Mulberry Street

WWW.HAGERSTOWNHISPANICFESTIVAL.ORG

Thank You to

The City of Hagerstown and our Founding Sponsors



Brothers Who Care



For more information please call Diana Reyes at: 240-452-2723 or email: HisppAssocHag@gmail.com



SPEAK UP PHOTO GALLERY

NEWS Crew photos by Brother Andy & John Williams



Brother Andy poses with his son Caesar in the dorm room at Loyola University (Maryland) where Caesar will be staying as he studies and prepares for a medical career. Caesar is among young minorities across the state taking an interest in Healthcare professions. The photo on the right shows the Minority Outreach & Technical Assistance team at the Black Frederick Family Reunion. To see more pictures of the event, click link to our facebook photo album. No login or facebook account is required to view the pictures: <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.494201650609012.128564.100000575439654&type=1&l=67f537af9a>



\$100 REWARD

Brothers Who Care is offering a \$100 reward for information leading to the capture of those responsible for dumping furniture and trash in and around the dumpster in the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center parking lot. Understanding that there is limited trash collection in the City of Hagerstown, however it is not acceptable to drop off your trash at the neighborhood community center. At some point we may have to use our own resources to have this garbage removed and those responsible should pay. Call us at (301) 393-9290 to get a reward and help put an end to this. If there is someone who would volunteer to remove this trash please call our office. Thank you, Brothers Who Care.

Below is an "Old School" photo of one of the crews that grew up in the Jonathan Street neighborhood. Can you name anyone in the picture? We will give you a hint, this photo is being used courtesy of Albert Harris

