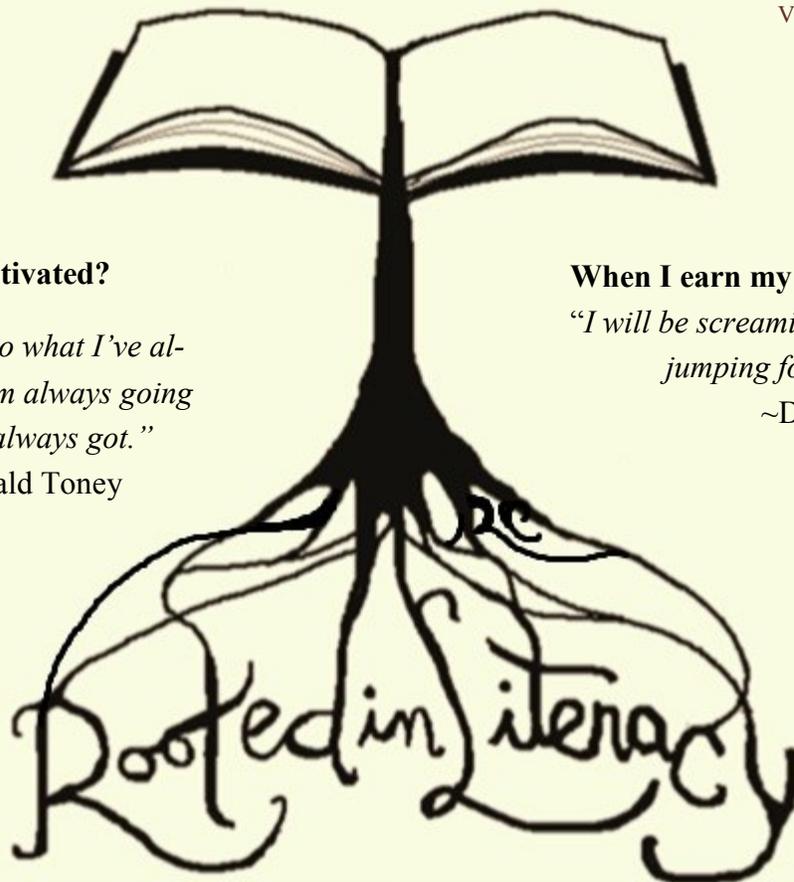


BALTIMORE READS GAZETTE

Rooting Yourself in Literacy

WINTER
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Why stay motivated?

"If I always do what I've always done, I'm always going to get what I always got."

~Reginald Toney

When I earn my GED ...

"I will be screaming and jumping for joy."

~Doris Guy

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Why Baltimore Reads?

"...because they have good teachers that are dedicated to teaching us. And they push us to thrive forward no matter the obstacles that stand in our way. Never give up. Keep fighting to succeed."

~Gregory Robinson

Baltimore Reads, Loyola: Partners in Education

History

Loyola University Maryland, a Jesuit University in North Baltimore, and Baltimore Reads, a non-profit that has been aiding adults seeking literacy skills in the Baltimore area for 25 years, have created an outstanding partnership. Four years ago, Andrea Leary, Ph.D., Affiliate Assistant Professor of Writing at Loyola, called Baltimore Reads looking for a new community partner for her service-learning courses. When Leary first called Baltimore Reads, they told her that “the dream project would be the *Dare to Believe* book,” which Loyola has published once since, having printed around 500 copies. The project includes biographies of Baltimore Reads students who are coming into their potential and gaining literacy skills. Leary and her classes look forward to putting together a second edition of *Dare* this spring.



Meeting of Missions

Both Baltimore Reads and Loyola University Maryland place a necessary emphasis on the development of the whole person. Loyola’s mission statement charges that the university will help students, “Lead, learn, and serve in a diverse and changing world” (Loyola). Its tradition, the website remarks, is “deeply rooted” in its Jesuit heritage (Loyola). Similarly, Baltimore Reads’ *Gazette* tagline is “Rooting Yourself in Literacy.”

Both Loyola and Baltimore Reads understand the process of literacy as the service of curating the intellect of the entire person, beyond grammar mechanics and mathematical fluency. Cynthia Campbell, Ed.D., Literary Services Director at Baltimore Reads, has been with the organization since 2012. Dr. Campbell, who praises the relationship Loyola and Baltimore Reads have forged, says, “for our students, seeing their words and stories in print shows them the power of literacy.” Students at both institutions have come to understand the importance of caring for the whole person.



Baltimore Reads Volunteers

Jabari Glasgow, a student of Baltimore Reads, has found his time at Baltimore Reads very rewarding. He says, “I don’t want to stop when I get my GED; I want to go farther, like college.” Carol is a senior at Loyola University Maryland, and a member of Dr. Leary’s service-learning course working with Baltimore Reads this fall. “I always heard care of the whole person repeated year after year, but I didn’t fully understand it until my senior year when I was able to draw from all my previous knowledge,” Carol says looking back at her experience at Loyola.

Cynthia Campbell, who came to Loyola in September to orient Dr. Leary’s students with Baltimore literacy issues, says, “Having our students and the Loyola students get to know each other and collaborate on the *Baltimore Reads Gazette* has been a confidence builder for all the students.”

By Cory Hodson

Story of An Untold Hero: Jabari Glasgow

Christopher Reeve's definition of a hero is also my definition: "I think a hero is an ordinary individual who finds strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles." Jabari Glasgow, a 33-year-old Baltimore resident, fits this description.

Glasgow was born and raised in Baltimore City with his sister and mother. Growing up, Glasgow's life was never a smooth ride. Early on, Glasgow lost his father; but he always had a mother who loved him. Glasgow stated, "Seeing my parents together pushed me to be a better father." His mother taught him to "treat others how you want to be treated," one of Glasgow's favorite quotes and lessons.

The value of an education is a lesson that Glasgow had to learn on his own. In his sophomore year of high school, he made the decision to pause his education. When he left his high school, he saw an opportunity to become a commercial truck driver and moved to Philadelphia. Glasgow was able to provide for himself for approximately 11 years. However, he began to realize a higher education was required in many jobs he desired. Glasgow stated, "I felt the need of education on my back."

Additionally, Glasgow decided to leave Philadelphia after he found out he was going to be a father — he did not want to leave the mother with full responsibility. He came back to Baltimore to help raise his beautiful baby girl, and later a baby boy. "[At first] it was the opposite of what I wanted, I was young and scared, but she was definitely a blessing." The motivation for a better life pressed profoundly on him, and eventually pushed him to search for another chance to complete his education. Glasgow challenges many stereotypes and proves that he is the complete opposite of what people might expect of him.

By Brittany Davey



Candice Jenkins

"You make it happen for yourself."

"Practice makes perfect," a student said as I entered a Baltimore Reads classroom. That was echoed in Candice's idea, which she offered the instructor and her fellow classmates: every night, Candice writes in her journal. Consequently, she can track her improvements. As she was telling the class about her writing, I could hear in her voice the sound of determination, resiliency, and most of all enthusiasm.

Candice told me she is at Baltimore Reads to become a better role model for her brother and sister; and to make her "mother happy from Heaven." Though Candice's siblings are ten years younger than she, they are a source of inspiration. Candice's brother is in college and her sister is recently employed. Candice is proud of her siblings and sees their accomplishments as motivation for herself.

Perhaps Candice's attitude comes from being so close to achieving her goals. Candice was in her second quarter of her senior year when she left high school, although she now regrets this decision. Candice has been working to become part of the medical field since then. Earlier this year, she attended a program to become certified in medical billing and coding. Candice was one class shy of participating in her externship when the school was closed. At that point, Candice was already enrolled at Baltimore Reads and she decided to continue in her GED classes. Candice loves Baltimore Reads. She said "The instructors are more personal...I learn better because I know [they] care." In the long run, Candice sees Baltimore Reads as a "great gateway to open up doors for yourself."

Candice's great accomplishment, so far, has been acknowledging "the things that I need to get better at...[once you] start acknowledging the problem, then things will start falling into place." Candice said "you make it happen for yourself," and she is working hard to make her dreams, her reality.

By Briana Ciccario

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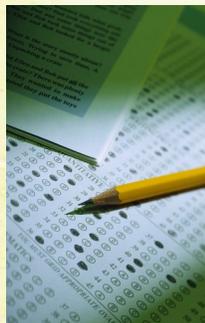


Being Challenged to Change: Misconceptions about Illiteracy

Different stereotypes and assumptions are associated with labels and communicated through them. Gordon Allport, a psychologist in the United States, in "The Language of Prejudice," wrote that "the label magnifies one attribute out of all proportion to its true significance, and masks other important attributes of the individual..." (325-326). Labels only describe one facet of each individual, but stereotypes can affect people's perspectives immensely. However, there is always a chance this can be changed. In Reverend Peter Hans-Kolvenbach's address in 2000, he said, "When the heart is touched by directed experience, the mind may be challenged to change" ("Commitment"). This is likely to happen when someone visits Baltimore Reads. Time spent with any of the Baltimore Reads students easily shatters the stereotypes and myths associated with illiteracy and people experiencing illiteracy.

Misconceptions and Stereotypes about people experiencing illiteracy:

1. **People are lazy and do not want to go back to school: False.** Since 2002, "the number candidates who tested and the number of candidates who completed the GED test" increases each year (GED). The average age of a test taker is 26 years old and people over the age of 50 years old account for 3.7% of the people who took the test in 2012 (GED). People of all ages are constantly going back to school to finish their education, to brush up on their skills, and attain their GED.



2. **People who are illiterate are not intelligent: False.** Navigating the world without being able to read proficiently heightens the senses and a person's ability to associate symbols with meaning. People become creative thinkers and innovators and bring all of their past experiences with them.



3. **Literacy does not affect the United States: False.** There are 30 million adults in the United States who cannot read at more than a third grade education level ("Growing").
4. **Literacy does not affect the US economy: False.** Illiteracy makes it very hard for individuals to find jobs. In fact, "14.5% of US adults with low literacy skills are unemployed." Individuals with low levels of literacy can contribute to the work force if they are provided with and gain the necessary tools to succeed, adding \$225 billion to the US economy instead of costing the US this much every year ("Growing").

5. **Literacy is only about basic reading and writing skills: False.** Literacy encompasses more than this. Critical reading and comprehension skills are two important components of critical literacy. In addition to this type of literacy, there is also functional literacy, cultural literacy, academic literacy, math literacy, technology literacy, and financial literacy. Now that the GED is computerized, the need for technological skills is even more prominent and necessary as well.



By Briana Ciccarino

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Paulo Friere

Paulo Friere was born to a middle-class family in Recife, Brazil, where he spent the dawn of his childhood in perfect harmony with his family and community. Change came suddenly when, in 1930, the Great Depression swept the country, causing his family to move to the slums of Jaboatao dos Guararapes. Here he experienced an entirely different kind of life; one that would inspire him to pursue education and relentlessly campaign for its application among the poor (Gadotti).

Paulo grew to know poverty and hunger all too well, and this is what bloomed his passion for teaching and philanthropy. Having experienced scarcity firsthand, Freire developed a new type of hunger that had nothing to do with his stomach: "I didn't understand anything because of my hunger. I wasn't dumb. It wasn't lack of interest. My social condition didn't allow me to have an education. Experience showed me once again the relationship between social class and knowledge" (qtd. in Gadotti). He found himself in the same situation as thousands of poverty-stricken people; hungry, reaching for something but not sure what that something is. It wasn't that he didn't want to learn, he just didn't know where to start.

By Chase Hutchison

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“Once you learn to read, you will forever be free.”

When I walked into class on Friday and saw Dr. Cynthia Campbell's PowerPoint with the quote by Christopher Morley stating, "When you sell a man a book you don't sell him just twelve ounces of paper and ink and glue—you sell him a whole new life," I knew I was about to hear about something truly inspirational. Dr. Campbell's PowerPoint and conversation with our class helped to reiterate the mission of Baltimore Reads, something that was exposed to me while reading the excerpt of *Dare to Believe*. The extraordinary mission of Baltimore Reads is to increase literacy skills among adults and children who are disadvantaged based upon social, financial and economic conditions. The organization does not just teach literacy skills; they provide students with an opportunity for personal growth, self-sufficiency and employment readiness while giving them an environment in which they feel secure.

There was one other quote on Dr. Campbell's PowerPoint that I thought summed up the work and mission of Baltimore Reads, but more importantly captured the sentiment of the students who have been through the organization: "Once you learn to read, you will forever be free." This quote by Frederick Douglass is why we need to strive towards giving every child and every adult a chance to read and write, because it won't just change lives—it will transform them—and it all can start with just one book.

By Lauren Meyer

Illiteracy in the United States

Illiteracy rates are an issue across the nation. Commonly known studies show that 1 in 4 children in America will grow up without learning how to read. It's the simple things like learning to read or learning basic math skills that children across America are growing up without. Imagine growing up without the ability to read this article, or even just the headline. Thousands across the nation are learning to cope with everyday activities without basic literacy skills.

According to the *Huffington Post*, studies have shown that 32 million people in the United States do not have the ability to read. How is this issue being overlooked? The U.S. is seen as a large competitor in the global market, yet 32 million of the people residing within the country can't complete a simple task of reading a short novel, or composing a one-page document.

These residents lack the skills to read or write. This affects the individual in their daily routine in a number of ways "like not being able to read a bus schedule, understand an electric bill, read a note from a teacher, read to their children or help them with their homework, or not being able to do paperwork at a job" (Campbell). On a broader scale, they could also have the potential to change the environment. For example, tasks like recycling become difficult for those who struggle with literacy skills because they cannot read the recycling schedule.

The first step to making any type of change is recognizing that there is an issue at hand and that something must be done. Changes must be made. When the community comes together and forms a united front, it has the ability to change the world one small step at a time. These small steps lead to the creation of organizations like Baltimore Reads, which, in turn, continues to change the lives of local residents aiming to better themselves and their community as well.

By Victoria Muhs

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Strong passions help accomplish dreams: Meet Michelle Mayo



Michelle is 44 years old, but does not look a day over 30. She wears a bright smile almost as well as her stylish clothes and coiffed hair. She was born in Newark, NJ, but grew up in Baltimore, MD. She never received her high school diploma because she was always getting in trouble, transferring schools, and falling behind. Michelle said, “my behavior stopped me from receiving my diploma.”

Michelle’s inspiration to come to Baltimore Reads (BR) was to get her GED. However, the road to BR has not been easy. The most challenging aspects of her educational journey have been the math and self-discipline. Getting to class on time is an ongoing struggle. Michelle says she needs to keep motivated. She says, “I’m famous for starting something and not finishing.” Michelle said she is afraid of failure but is trying her best.

When Michelle started the program she was surprised at how well she fit in the classroom with her peers, “I blended right in!” For Michelle, the most positive aspect of Baltimore Reads has been “meeting great people, being with people like me. That feeling of adequacy. People just like me my age.”

Michelle proudly states she would recommend BR to friends because they have a high success rate. She said, “I really believe you can be successful at Baltimore Reads in getting your GED because of the teachers.” Michelle believes BR has significantly improved her life, saying, “It gave me a feeling of self-worth. I am only moving forward.”

“Being homeless to owning my own house with money in the bank...God is good!” Within one year Michelle hopes to be enrolled in community college and opening her own business, either a hair salon or soul food restaurant. She says, “I love hair, that’s my passion. Heels, makeup, fashion anything that is glamorous or has fabulousity.” I have no doubt that Michelle will be doing exactly what she told me. How do I know Michelle will accomplish every goal she sets? Because God is good—Michelle told me—and from what I’ve heard, God has been good to her.

By Sara Archibald

Hands-on Literacy Must-see Museums



Not all learning comes from books. There are affordable museums in Baltimore that can inspire a love of learning and history. In this modern world, it is important to know your roots. Explore some of the best hands-on pieces of history in Charm City!

EVERGREEN MUSEUM

Location: 4545 North Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21210
Cost: \$5

The Evergreen Museum is a 48-room mansion created in the mid-nineteenth century. There are over 50,000 artifacts to discover and appreciate from famous artists, including Edgar Degas, Amedei Modigliani, and Ignacio Zuloaga. These pieces are hauntingly beautiful. Imagine how cool it would be if your face was preserved for centuries after your death.

VISIONARY ART MUSEUM

Location: 800 Key Highway, Baltimore, MD 21230
Cost: \$15.95, Children under 6 free admission

The Visionary Art museum expresses that literacy is about seeing and interpreting the world. Exhibits range from Ancient Greek history, with a rising and falling statue of Icarus with golden wings, to an awareness of feminist movements in the bizarre shape of bra ball. Holocaust images are stitched in quilts, ship models are made out of toothpicks, and dresses are designed by people with schizophrenia. The works show people are more than the circumstances of their birth. They express a wordless literacy and connectivity.

NATIONAL ELECTRONIC MUSEUM

Location: 1745 West Nursery Road, Linthicum, MD 21090
Cost: Adults \$3, Kids \$1

If you wonder how the world works, the National Electronic Museum is for you. Come discover how radar works, and changes the way wars are fought. See the image of yourself through ultraviolet and infrared. Better understand how you use energy to survive. Science has never been so fun or interactive.

*“You can overcome any odds. Sky’s the limit.
Thriving for greatness.” - Michelle Mayo*

BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART

Location: 10 Art Museum Drive, Baltimore, MD 21218-3898
Cost: Free

This museum is home to 90,000 different pieces of art, including masterpieces by Pablo Picasso, Paul Cézanne, Vincent van Gogh, and Henri Matisse. Not sure who these people are, or why you should care? That's fine. Real appreciation for art comes from finding an image that calls or resonates with you.

EDGAR ALLAN POE HOUSE AND MUSEUM

Location: 203 North Amity Street, Baltimore, MD 21210
Cost: Suggestion \$5 donation

If you think literature has nothing to do with your life, look at your local sports teams. The Baltimore football team was named for Poe's famous poem "The Raven." The Edgar Allan Poe House and museum gives a public view of the secret life of Poe. It shares the beauty of poetry and literature on a personal level. Come and walk on the same ground as the man who made the short story what it is today.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

Location: 201 West Monument Street, Baltimore, MD 21201
Cost: Adults \$9, Seniors \$7, Students and Children \$6.

Have you seen War of 1812 license plates on cars, and want to know what it's all about? This museum can solve the mystery. It has the oldest manuscript in existence of Frances Scott Key's "The Star-Spangled Banner." If American history interests you, this is the place to be. Exhibits range from the Civil War, to mining in America, to women's movement issues, to immigration history.

NATIONAL CRYPTOLOGICAL MUSEUM

Location: 8290 Colony Seven Road, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701
Cost: Free

Have a James Bond fetish? This your chance to geek out. "Cryptological" is a fancy word for spy. Here you can learn more about national defense, and how our government gathers information to keep its citizens safe. This museum celebrates diversity, by having exhibitions dedicated to women spies and African American spy contributions. There are many high-tech activities that keep spy history interactive and fascinating.

For more information visit:
<http://www.museums.jhu.edu/evergreen.php>
<http://www.avam.org/>
<http://www.nationalelectronicmuseum.org/>
<http://www.artbma.org/>
<http://www.poeinbaltimore.org/poe-house/>
<http://www.mdhs.org/>
http://www.nsa.gov/about/cryptologic_heritage/museum/

By Madelyn Fagan

Anthony McFarlane: The Man Behind the Teacher

Students spend time with their teacher every week in an academic setting, but do they know who he is outside of the classroom?

1. Anthony McFarlane has been a teacher at Baltimore Reads since September 2010.
2. He grew up in Trinidad and Tobago, an island country right off the shore of South America.
3. When asked about his migration, he responded, "The migration was easy for me. I had been visiting the United States often before I moved here. I was already used to the culture."
4. In his island home, Mr. McFarlane taught physical education. He enjoys sports like soccer, track and field, cricket, and table tennis.
5. Mr. McFarlane was once a coach for the Trinidad and Tobago national table tennis team.
6. With the table tennis team, he had gotten the opportunity to travel the world. He particularly enjoyed China, Hong Kong, and Germany.
7. His favorite memory with the team was when he lead the Trinidad and Tobago team to victory over their long time rival, Jamaica.
8. He also spends his spare time teaching young children how to play the steel drums with St. Veronicas Youth Steel Orchestra, a non-profit organization. He hopes to refocus the children's attention through music.
9. Mr. McFarlane has learned from Baltimore Reads that "people learn in different fashions, so you have to adjust." He explains that you can use this in everyday life and how you relate to others. He uses this knowledge along with his teaching skills.
10. He plans to one day retire and go back to Trinidad and Tobago; however, for now he is content with his life in Baltimore teaching his students at Baltimore Reads.

By Victoria Muhs

"Be the best you can be in whatever field you like. Life is more than it looks like. Make decisions on your own."

Anthony McFarlane



Field of Hopes

No wonder everyone describes baseball as America's favorite pastime. The second someone walks into the stadium there is a sudden rush of excitement and anxiety. The mad dash of crazed fans screaming everywhere, the smell of greasy hot dogs, and you cannot forget about that special aroma from the peanuts. "On a warm summer evening there are a few places on the east coast as relaxing and enjoyable as Oriole Park at Camden Yards" (Speake 1).

Of course all of this was assumed until I actually went to my first major league baseball game at Oriole Park at Camden Yards. Camden Yards is not just a typical baseball field but also a place with memories and hopes dear to many. Oriole Park has not been around for as long as some other stadiums but has definitely made its mark on Baltimore: "Camden Yards' construction began on June 28, 1989. It became an official stadium of the Baltimore Orioles on April 6, 1992, during their inaugural season. Even when the stadium first opened, it was already a family-oriented place. Babe Ruth's father owned Ruth's Café, which was originally placed in center field" ("Camden Yards History"). Therefore, the heart of the stadium already started with a family feeling. During the inaugural season, all of the 48,190 seats were green and ready to be seated with fans from all around America.

Fans everywhere appreciate this ballpark and they make it their home. This is Birdland and every O's fan is extremely proud of their home at Camden Yards. Furthermore, when I went to Camden Yards, I experienced the same feelings as the dedicated Orioles fans. The rush of overwhelming excitement from all of the fans really hits you unexpectedly. The enormous crowd of assorted bright orange shirts keeps your eyes peeled. Then you realize how serious these fans are about their O's. As soon as my ticket was handed to me and scanned, I could not wait for my first major league game to start. The screaming, anxious fans shook the stands. The positivity and chanting continued throughout the whole game non-stop.

If you are looking for an experience of a lifetime, I suggest you visit Camden Yards. When you are at Camden Yards, you are home.

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Role Model for Redemption: Jamar Hunter



Baltimore Reads helped Jamar Hunter turn his life around. Once arrested and now earning both a paycheck and a GED, Jamar epitomizes redemption. Without a present father-figure in his youth, he didn't have strong role models to show him how to be a good man. Now he's the kind of positive role model for young men that he didn't have growing up.

Since his father was not around much, Jamar developed anger and trust problems which affected him in school. He was kicked out of school so he took to the streets.

"The streets were really addictive. It was home," he told me. The friends Jamar made on the streets became like family to him. Some of the guys became his father-figures and helped him overcome his anger issues. They'd tell him, "Don't let it stop you." He realized anger was holding him back.

The streets had a negative influence on his life, too. After some jail time, Jamar secured probation which included attending Baltimore Reads to get his GED.

When Jamar was still in jail, one of his brothers told Jamar he wanted to quit school so he could join Jamar in the street life. It really hit Jamar that without their dad around, since he was the oldest, his brothers looked to him for how to be a man.

He encouraged his brother and other young men who looked up to him to stay in school and get their education. Since attending Baltimore Reads, when kids ask to borrow five dollars, he makes them figure out how to break a \$20 bill before letting them have it, an approach to math that he learned from his Baltimore Reads teachers.

For the young men who look up to Jamar, he said, "I ain't gonna let them down." Jamar knew that if he gave up on his goals, they might give up hope for their futures, too.

Since attending Baltimore Reads, Jamar secured his first official job. "Everybody looks at me differently now. They say, 'Wow! You got a job and you're goin' to school!'" His friends and family are so proud of him, but what's even better is that he is proud of himself. After he gets his GED, Jamar is considering culinary school or even college. When asked what was stopping him from going to college, he said, "Well, me, I guess. I'm my biggest obstacle."

By Rachel Christian

By Samantha Peterson

"I ain't gonna let them down." -Jamar Hunter

An Evening with an ESOL Class: A Portrait of Motivation

On week nights, Joe Jameson teaches literacy education to a handful of adults in the East Enoch Public Library; however, the class he teaches is anything but conventional. Mr. Jameson's class consists of students from Ecuador, El Salvador, and Greece, all learning fundamental English literacy skills as well as developing linguistic abilities. Upon meeting the ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) class, I realized that Mr. Jameson's students face more extreme hurdles than many other Baltimore Reads students. A language barrier that would take more than one class to breach separated us all, and we all were forced to adapt in order to understand each other. A standard interview was impossible, and we then took different approaches to communicating with and learning about each other. Throughout the course of the class I realized that a dialogue is often unnecessary in recognizing the character and strength of an individual; their silent actions ring louder than their words ever could.

The true demonstration of who we are lies in what we do and how we act, not necessarily what we say. I was fortunate enough to glimpse into a small window of these students' personalities, and was amazed by their humble strength and determination.

By Annemarie Malady

"Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome."

~Booker T. Washington

I gained a bit of insight into the determination that these students bring to each class—at least that I can see from my two experiences visiting a Baltimore Reads classroom. I saw one student constantly erasing and rewriting the alphabet until the letters were constructed perfectly, thoroughly thinking through the answers of the workbook pages before writing the final answer down to assure accuracy. This sort of determination leads to success. But not only success for the individual student; I observed students helping each other succeed. Their positivity and determination inspired me to have an open mind also and to be patient whenever the language barrier seemed to be a hindrance to my communication. Baltimore Reads opened up an opportunity, not only for the students, but for the volunteers like me to immerse themselves into an unfamiliar situation with the hopes of being challenged and then overcoming that challenge. *By Angela Healy*

"Today we will be going over the ABC's." Joe put a video from Youtube up on the board. It went through the entire alphabet and gave the sound each letter makes. Once the video was finished, each individual was given a white board and was told to write out the alphabet. Later, we began completing a worksheet. The questions included reading a word and interpreting what it was such as last name, middle name, first name, telephone number, zip code, and area code. When you think about it, those aren't easy things, especially if you don't speak English. . . .

My experience at Baltimore Reads is one I will never forget. The students reminded me of myself, and the struggles I faced when I was forced to learn these similar tasks. I can recall how hard it was for me, even with English as my native language. I now know how hard it is for someone whose native language is not English.

By Carter Lahey

Gladys Poole

"You have to experience in order to know for yourself."

Gladys Poole is at Baltimore Reads studying to get her GED.

Although she loves her job as medical records clerk, she wants to "move on." She seeks to have new experiences in life, specifically in the position of a medical billing and coding specialist. Medical billing and coding is an important job that involves sending insurance companies messages from doctors for the purpose of billing customers (Maurer).

The lack of a high school diploma or a GED hasn't stopped Gladys from obtaining success. She has been a medical records clerk for ten years at a hospital in Baltimore. Due to her strict work ethic and "love of people" she was guaranteed a new position once she obtains her diploma. Her kids, who have graduated from high school, are excited. They know she will earn her GED.

All of the things that people may view as hardships or obstacles that have happened in Gladys' life have shaped her to be a strong, determined, and an optimistic woman. Seven years ago while she was waiting for the bus near her apartment complex, Gladys was robbed at gunpoint. "I didn't really recognize the actual situation until after it happened," she said. However, she was not alone. God was protecting her. Today, she's not afraid of what life has in store for her and accepts every new experience with faith and no fear. Gladys knows that God is always watching over her and states that reading daily Bible passages is the thing "that keeps me going."

Gladys dreams of owning a big house in the country— somewhere more peaceful and quiet than the city. She imagines this house to have many rooms where her grandchildren can stay with her for holidays and family get-togethers. A GED and a better paying job can help make this dream a reality. I've learned from Gladys that it's never too late to finish your education and follow your dreams.

By Lian McGarity



Baltimore Plays!

Unscramble the following letters to reveal the hidden words. The answers can be found on the back page.

1) A L I B O E M T R

2) B S O O K

3) R I T Y L E C A

4) C O P M I S N I O T C E N

5) R N G I E A D

6) S R I E O L O

7) S N E V A R

8) I N T N D N E D E P E

9) E N T S U D T

10) T E R I V I N E W

Maurer, Sarah. "Becoming a Medical Coding Specialist." *InnerBody*. HowToMedia, n.d. Web. 4 Oct. 2013 <<http://www.innerbody.com/careers-in-health/becoming-medical-coding-specialist.html>>.

The People of the Light Rail

Baltimore City's Light Rail runs from Hunt Valley to Cromwell Station/Glen Burnie 365 days a year. Of these 365 days a year on the Light Rail most newcomers would say they are filled with danger, crime, and violence. One day my two closest friends and I decided we would ride the Light Rail from one end to the other. I chose to bring pictures because with each person we had said we were going to talk to, I wanted to get from them a life lesson, a favorite quote, something to remember them by....After about an hour or so, we agreed to head home, to the Falls Road stop. We got on the wrong train and made our way to Penn Station instead of to Falls Road. This is where we met Ms. Amtrak.

She came in shuffling her feet with the look of exhaustion on her face. She sat down and, to her surprise, I said "hello," and asked her how she was doing. From that point on during that 30 minute wait and our ten minute ride home, we exchanged stories. My friends and I learned about her sassy side, her son, and her job with Amtrak. She learned about our intended majors and our soon-to-be colleges.

It was by complete accident that we ended up in her presence, but we were happy it happened. We told her what our plan was with the pictures and how we had yet to get any written on. She picked her favorite one, a picture of the water at the beach and wrote:

"My Three Beautiful Angels,
We are each of us, angels."

With only one love, one life and we can only fly by embracing each other. Learn faith & respect, keep "God" first!

Ms. Amtrak

Peace and Blessings!"

She handed us the photo just as we were readying to get off. We thanked her, walked to our car, and sat in the parking lot for a few minutes. The Light Rail, like any other aspect of the city, has its reputations and warning labels. It is up to you to decide whether to let things pass you by because of what might happen or to embrace the unknown, open your mind, and meet your own Ms. Amtrak.

Amtrak.

By Ashley Antonsen

Passion for One's Self

Determination:

"a firm or fixed intention to achieve a desired end"



This word describes Doris Guy, a woman from Trinidad and Tobago.

Doris Guy was on a mission for success. Whether her motivational factors were the people in America who made fun of her speech, her grandchildren, or just her own conscience, Doris Guy knew she was earning her G.E.D. from Baltimore Reads. She recalled a story to me when she was in a grocery store and people would roll their eyes and ignore her when she was trying to converse with them. They said things like "learn how to talk!" or "what language you are speaking?" This infuriated her because she was doing her best to communicate with others. These situations motivated her to study even harder at Baltimore Reads.

Doris Guy's study schedule is very intense. Whether it is going to Baltimore Reads three times a week or going to the library every weekend, she continues to be focused on passing the test. She told me that she is waiting until July 16th before she takes it. Although she may be ready to take it now, she wants July 16th to be a special day. This date in the summer is her grandson's birthday. She wants him to be proud that she got her diploma on the same day of his birth. Equally as important, she wants her G.E.D. so she can feel satisfied from the long and enduring process of education. Doris said that on July 16, "I will be screaming and jumping for joy!" "I am going to put the certificate of graduation on my chest and never take it off!" Even though she may be exaggerating, Doris means that she will be forever proud to be an educated woman in the United States. She will find her place in America and is looking at culinary professions as a first option. Even if she doesn't find herself in a kitchen, I am happy that Doris may be able to be content with her life after working so hard for so many years.

By Alex Kasinskas

"Determination About Our Definitions: All Forms of a Word (noun, Verb, Etc.) Are Now Displayed on One Page." Merriam-Webster. Merriam-Webster, n.d. Web. 12 Apr. 2013.

Congratulations, Doris!
Congratulations Dominic Darden!
Both earned their GED this year!



Professional Literacy

Computers Literacy

A popular goal for Baltimore Reads students is to get a job. Getting a GED builds your résumé, but once you get past that step, what else can you do to secure a job? That is a question I find myself asking as I near my college graduation and entering the workforce.

The hiring process requires a kind of literacy beyond reading and math skills like the knowledge of professional expectations. The following things are crucial to know for anybody who wants a job: computer knowledge, polished résumés, individualized cover letters, and interview preparation.



Most job applications are online these days, including positions that require no computer skills at work. The GED test can now only be taken online, so computer literacy is an even more crucial part of career advancement. It's not only expected by employers—it is assumed. Job applications always ask for email addresses, which is often how the company contacts applicants; however, not everyone has an email account. Not everyone owns a computer either, even if they have sufficient computer literacy. Computers are expensive! Many people also use library computers to job search, but navigating job sites and filling out online applications can be frustrating.

Résumé and Cover Letter Literacy

Besides the online forms, most job applications ask for a résumé and cover letter. These pieces are the most important part of your application. They can help you stand out from the rest of the applications.

Here are a few tips:

- **Don't just rely on a template.** Make your résumé and cover letter stand out by tweaking the standard Microsoft Word format. Keep it simple and easy to read, but personalize it with page layout and design. It should be subtle; don't use an overly unique font like this but shoot for something that looks more like this.
- **Use bullet points.** Hiring managers will be skimming your résumé, and bullet points make skimming easier.
- **Summarize.** Include the most relevant and recent information in your résumé. Typically, you should not go back much past the last 15 years of work or volunteer experience. Volunteer experience can enhance your résumé, but make sure you only include service that lasted at least 4 months long on a weekly basis (one-time volunteering should not typically be on a résumé).
- **Personalize each cover letter.** For each job you apply to, tailor the content of your cover letter to show how you would match the organization's specific needs. Tailoring your résumé can also be beneficial. Put a lot of thought into these parts of your application. They are the heart of your application's content. Their quality makes the difference between a rejection and an interview.

Here are a few tips:

- **Set up a Gmail account** specifically for your job search. Your username should look professional, typically with your name clearly shown (ex: *rachelchristian@gmail.com* NOT *rachey-babel2@gmail.com*) Setting up an account is as simple as going to gmail.com and clicking the red "Create a New Account" button. Use your new account in all your online job applications and check your account daily for replies from jobs.
- **Beware of spam.** Your email account might get swamped with messages from job sites saying something like "Rachel, we found 425 jobs in Baltimore just for you!" Don't pay much attention to those—they are kind of like advertisements. If it sounds too good to be true, it is likely not true. Be careful with what information you share and where. Many job applications will ask for your social security number, but if the site looks unprofessional, be careful. No job applications should be asking for your credit card number!
- **Be patient and persistent.** Job applications will take a long time to fill out and you will not hear back from most of the jobs you apply to. Do not give up! Keep in mind that the quantity of applications you submit is not necessarily more important than their quality. Take the time to compose applications with high content quality.
- **Ask for advice.** You may know someone who has more computer skills than you. Let them help you find a job. If you live near Govans, consider going to the GEDCO CARES Career Connection on 5502 York Rd; they offer free job search assistance every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. You can also sign up for a free computer class through CARES. Their number is 410-532-7117.

By Rachel Christian

"It's okay not to know." -Herbert Brown

Miss Independent: Introducing Brittany

Brittany is a 21-year-old, self-motivated woman. Growing up, she transferred to and from many schools. She worked hard to earn good grades, prioritizing grades over a social life. Upon moving back to Baltimore, the education system dropped the ball—her credits could not be transferred over. Excited about the world, Brittany decided not to waste her time reviewing concepts she had already learned.

Since leaving high school, Brittany has supported herself. She refuses to be a burden on her mother. Brittany is at Baltimore Reads so she can earn a GED and make a better future for her family. Brittany has a three year old son and her eyes light up whenever she talks about him. He is her inspiration in life. He was born prematurely at 2 pounds and 0 ounces. Moved by the nurses who helped her with her son's premature birth, Brittany dreams to become a nurse who works in radiology. Getting her GED with Baltimore Reads is her first step.

Family is Brittany's highest priority. She recommended Baltimore Reads to her brother; they now take classes together. Brittany's brother ignited her love of reading. She values his taste in books. The books Brittany likes to read are based in reality. Her favorite books are *Dutch* by Terri Woods and *Salé*. Brittany wants to pass on to her son a love of reading and learning. At three, he already sees the fun in reading. He likes reading stories to her, rather than letting her read to him.

Brittany intends to see her son graduate high school. She will not let closed doors prevent him from pursuing his dreams. If he wants to quit school, she will share her experiences. She will tell him while the education system can be frustrating, it makes life a lot easier to stick it out. Brittany realizes that she cannot change her past choices, but she can make her future something new entirely. One day she will be the radiologist who gives hope to the mothers of premature babies.

By Madelyn Fagan

*"I don't need to rely on anyone; I depend on myself."
—Brittany*

BREAKING THE MOLD

HERBERT BROWN

What first caught my eye about Herbert Brown was his relaxed and calm manner, and youthful appearance. He was extremely open and willing to share his experiences. Herbert is a motivated man. At sixty-two, he has come to Baltimore Reads to fulfill his goal of getting his GED.

Herbert was born in Brooklyn, New York. He describes his teen years as being "crazy." Herbert stopped going to school as a freshman. He took to the streets and got into a lot of trouble. By the time he was thirty, he had to leave New York because he would have been hurt by someone or in jail. That is when he decided to move to Baltimore.

He now works incredibly hard at Baltimore Reads. Looking back, he explains that his educational experience was dramatically changed when his mother got him glasses in seventh grade. With the ability to see, Herbert was able to move up to regular classes and earned the highest achiever in seventh grade award. Throughout the time we talked he told me, "I don't want to quit on myself." He didn't quit on himself in seventh grade and he continues to try his hardest today at Baltimore Reads.

Today, Herbert is a custodial manager at a local school. He mentors children. Years later students are extremely grateful for his advice. Herbert's self-determination is overwhelming. It takes an extremely motivated person to go back to school. He lets nothing hinder his education, not even moments of poor health. Throughout our conversation he said, "I want to get my GED even if it takes ten years." His GED is a priority and he will do anything to achieve it.

By Paige Callahan



Baltimore Writes!

Inspiring Success Stories in Charm City

Writers come from all corners of the planet to express their ideas, hopes, and dreams to the public. In fact, many successful authors have come from Baltimore. If they can find inspiration from their surroundings and lives in Charm City, so can you!

Edgar Allan Poe

Perhaps the best known author who spent a large part of his life in Baltimore is Edgar Allan Poe. Poe is most famous for his short stories, which deal with dark and suspenseful subjects, such as murder and mystery. Poe greatly advanced the field of fiction during his life, and is described as the “father of the modern American short story” and the inventor of the detective story (“MPT: Knowing Poe”). In his early 20’s Poe moved into a house on 203 Amity Street in Baltimore (“Poe Places”).

Poe’s final resting place is at the Westminster Halls and Burial Grounds in Maryland. His final days were believed to be spent at the local bars in Fells Point (“Poe Places”). Poe’s grave and childhood house are open for public visitation. For more information about visiting these location, check out www.Poeinbaltimore.org/poe-places/.

H.L. Mencken

H.L. Mencken was an influential prose writer and essayist of the late 19th-early 20th century. He wrote on a wide variety of subjects including criticism of American cultural practices that he found to be outdated and morally objectionable. Mencken turned his various essays into a six volume work called *Prejudices*. Mencken later wrote *The American Language*, which documented the various forms of what constituted “American” language. Similar to another writer on our list, Mencken also spent some time as a journalist for the *Baltimore Sun* (“H.L.”).

Tom Clancy

Perhaps Baltimore inspires the production of thrillers and mysteries. This is the case with our next writer, Baltimore native Tom Clancy. Clancy is known as the “master of the modern day thriller” (Duke). His novels *The Hunt for Red October*, *Patriot Games*, and *Sum of All Fears* were not only successes in the literary world, but were hits when adapted into film as well.

Clancy was a Loyola Blakefield and Loyola College alumni. After his success, Clancy became a part-owner of the Baltimore Orioles. He lived in Baltimore at the Ritz Carlton off of the Key Highway until his death in 2013 at the age of 66. He wrote 28 novels and his last, to be published posthumously, will debut in December (Bubala).

Laura Lippman

Laura Lippman, a contemporary writer of detective fiction, was raised in Baltimore. Lippman’s books have made her a *New York Times* bestselling author. Lippman truly pulls from her surroundings, setting most of her novels in Baltimore. In an interview with *NPR*, Lippman discussed her love for Baltimore. She states, “A place doesn’t have to be perfect to be beloved... Anyone can love a perfect place. Loving Baltimore takes some resilience” (qtd. in Adams). Before dedicating all of her time to her novels, Lippman was a journalist at the *Baltimore Sun*. A fun fact about Ms. Lippman is that she is married to fellow crime-writer and creator of the hit HBO program *The Wire*, David Simon.

There are no direct paths into literary genius. There are simply people with stories to tell. It is up to you as a writer to find the meaning of your story and how to best share it with the world. Allow Baltimore to inspire you like it has inspired Edgar Allan Poe or Tom Clancy. They found success living in Charm City, and so can you.

By Carolanne Chanik

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Places to Read & Learn for Free in Baltimore

What is there to do in Baltimore that costs no money? Plenty—it's just a matter of knowing what's available to you! For instance, Baltimore takes part in "Free Fall." Every year the month of October is celebrated by Baltimore City with arts organizations hosting free arts activities. While October has come and gone, many venues throughout Baltimore provide services for patrons all year!

The George Peabody Library has a magnificent foyer filled with intricate railings and numerous floors of grand bookcases. The library, which cost \$400,000 to construct, opened in 1878. It is free for visitors to enjoy many different collections: archaeology, biography, history of science, geography and British and American history. The Library is a gorgeous, quiet place to sit, relax and read a wonderful book or get some studying done.

The Baltimore Reads Book Bank "In 1992, Baltimore Reads created the Book Bank where we collect, house and distribute thousands of new and gently-used children's books *for free!* Books of all kinds are donated to the Book Bank all year round by people like you . . . After being sorted, thousands of children's books are distributed free of charge throughout Baltimore City and County. The Book Bank augments school libraries and opens its doors to teachers, families, churches, Head Start programs, shelters, children's centers and other community establishments. To date, we have provided more than 1.3 million books to Baltimore-area teachers and disadvantaged families" ("About").

The Walters Art Museum is located in Baltimore's historic Mt. Vernon Cultural District. The collection of art includes world art from ancient Egypt to 20th-century Europe. General admission to the Walters Art Museum is free with the exception of special exhibitions. The calendar of events has ongoing events and exhibitions detailed for you to plan your next visit! The best part about the museum is that it can be reached from three different public transportation routes.

Baltimore is a city that has a lot to offer so take advantage of the resources and places that are available to you! Go out and explore the businesses and activities within the city that offer you more than you would expect—the George Peabody Library, The Baltimore Reads Book Bank and the Walters Art Museum. As the old saying goes, money doesn't buy happiness or in this case knowledge and culture.

By Sara Archibald

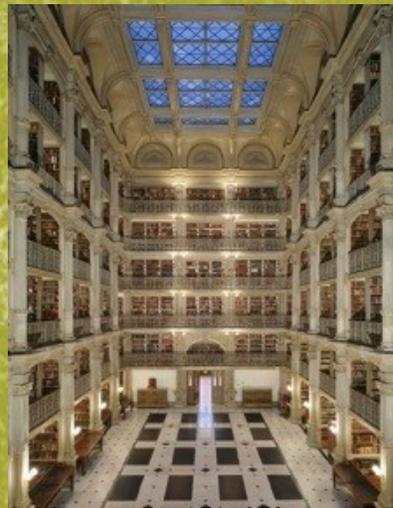
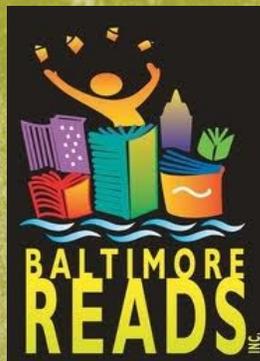


Photo cred: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walters_Art_Museum

George Peabody Library
17 East Mount Vernon Pl.
Open Tues. to Thurs.
9am-5pm
Fri. 9am-3pm

Transportation
Light Rail: Centre Street stop then walk.
Charm City Circulator: Stop #307 Washington Monument



The Baltimore Reads Book Bank

31 S. Calvert St, Baltimore
Open Wed. and Thurs.
3pm-6pm
Sat. 9am-12pm

For directions go to <http://www.baltimorereads.org/directions-and-hours.html>

The Walters Art Museum
600 North Charles St.
Open Wed.-Sun.
10am-5pm
Thurs. 10am-9pm



Photo cred: www.flickr.com/photos/

Transportation
Light Rail: Centre Street stop then walk.
Charm City Circulator: Purple route get off at stop #307.
Baltimore MTA Bus: 3, 11, 31, 61 and 64

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"The Walters Art Museum." The Walters Art Museum. N.p., n.d. Web. 31 Oct. 2013.



How well do you know the Baltimore Reads Students? Countries of Origin

Can you list all the countries pinpointed on the map above?
Try here!

Latin America:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

Asia:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Middle East:

1. _____
2. _____

Europe:

1. _____
2. _____

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Calling all Baltimore Reads student writers!

We welcome your contributions to the *Gazette*. Please let your teacher know if you would like to publish your work.



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College Goal Sunday

College Goal Sunday is a program that Baltimore Reads associates itself with. The program helps students complete their FAFSA forms, which enables them to make the next step towards completing their goals of attending college.

Students should bring the following items to College Goal Sunday:

1. Social Security Number
2. Driver's License
3. 2013 income tax return (if completed)
4. 2013 W-2 Forms and other records of money earned
5. 2013 untaxed income records - Social Security, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, welfare, or veterans benefits records
6. Your 2013 bank statements
7. 2013 business and investment mortgage information, business and farm records, stock, bond, and other investment records
8. Your alien registration card (if you are not a U.S. citizen)

College Goal Sundays take place in various locations across the Baltimore area:

Humanim

1701 N. Gay Street
Baltimore, MD 21213
January 11, 2014 (snow date January 25th)
9:00AM-12:00PM

POWER House

316 S. Caroline Street
Baltimore, MD 21231
February 1, 2014 (snow date February 15th)
9:00AM-12:00PM

St. Ambrose

3445 Park Heights Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
January 29, 2014 (snow date TBA)
12:00PM-3:00PM

For more information, visit:

<http://www.collegegoalsundaymd.org/index.htm>

BALTIMORE PLAYS ANSWERS	
1.	Baltimore
2.	Ravens
3.	books
4.	literacy
5.	independent
6.	student
7.	misconception
8.	reading
9.	interview
10.	interview

Thank you to Loyola's CCSJ for funding our project and to Central Duplicating for publishing this edition of the Gazette.

Latin America:	
1.	Peru
2.	Colombia
3.	Chile
4.	Ecuador
5.	El Salvador
6.	Honduras
7.	Nicaragua
8.	Mexico
Middle East:	
1.	Algeria
2.	Iran
Europe:	
1.	Romania
2.	Greece
Asia:	
1.	China
2.	Thailand
3.	Japan
4.	Russia