

Juneteenth 2021

HISTORIC HOSANNA SCHOOL MUSEUM



Celebrating the Black Family: **Representation, Identity, Diversity**



JUNE 19, 2021

SOUVENIR BOOKLET

Featuring Our Program, Presenters, Sponsors, and Vendors
with a

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Celebrating the Black Family: **Representation, Identity, Diversity**

June 19, 2021
6-8 pm



Sponsored in part by
Harford County Government

Hosanna School Museum
2424 Castleton Road
Darlington, MD 21034

www.hosannaschoolmuseum.org

(410) 457-4161

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GREETINGS

FROM HOSANNA'S
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DR. IRIS LEIGH BARNES

Did you hear? Juneteenth is now a national holiday! We did it—you did it! Let's just take a moment to thank the ancestors. Together with Hosanna School Museum, we have been celebrating Juneteenth for the past five years. Some people thought it should only be celebrated in Texas, where it all began, and they have been celebrating for more than 150 years. We recognized its national significance and wanted to join in on the festivities. Some celebrate with a parade, a Miss Juneteenth pageant, or music festival, but our celebration is unique. It's a day full of food, fun, and edu-tainment—music, dance, lectures, Buffalo Soldiers, horse rides, craft vendors, costumed interpreters, food trucks and more.

So again, we thank you for joining us and helping to make this occasion possible. While this year's event is virtual because of the COVID-19 pandemic, which precluded us from celebrating in our usual big way, this two-hour event is packed with a taste of Juneteenth including a libation ceremony. We have a griot (storyteller), costumed interpreter, performer, and a keynote speaker, the award-winning author Velma Maia Thomas. I started collecting her books more than 20 years ago. They bring African American history to life like no other, in fact they are like a museum in a book with pop-up displays and objects to pull out and hold to examine.

I want to thank all our sponsors, patrons, and vendors for standing with us. Your support is vital to our success. We appreciate all of you spending this evening with us. I know you will enjoy it. And next year, God willing, we'll see you again in the field!

Be Blessed and Happy Juneteenth!

Iris Leigh Barnes, Ph.D.



A MESSAGE

FROM JUNETEENTH
COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR
DR. SHANA E. ROCHESTER

We have weathered a number of challenges in the past year; however, the Hosanna School Museum has worked diligently to continue our tradition of honoring the legacy of Juneteenth. I am elated to welcome you to this year's Juneteenth celebration, which celebrates the Black family and brings local and national talent to the virtual stage. Our program includes several presentations, such as a vendor fair featuring Black-owned businesses, orations from the 2021 Langston Hughes Youth Oratorical Contest Winners, and book giveaways.

Thank you to all of the vendors, sponsors, patrons, and Juneteenth committee members who helped make this year's virtual Juneteenth celebration possible. We hope to see you next year!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shana E. Rochester". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a stylized "S" and "R".

Shana E. Rochester, Ph.D.

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THE HISTORY

OF HOSANNA SCHOOL

The property upon which Hosanna School stands was first owned by a free African American man named Cupid Paca. In 1822 Paca bought fifty acres of land running from Berkley into Darlington. When he died, his holdings were divided among his surviving children. In the mid-1800s, Cupid Paca's son, Joseph, sold 1/4 acre of his share of inherited land to be used as "a schoolhouse lot."

Miss Edmonia Highgate held the first class in the adjacent Hosanna AME Church in March of 1865 but did not stay long before moving to Louisiana. Miss Mary Watson replaced her several months later and was instrumental in working with the church and community leadership to get funding from benevolent organizations and support from the Freedmen's Bureau (FB) to build and develop the school between 1867 and 1868. The building of Freedmen's Bureau schools was mandated by law through the War Department across all of the former slave-holding states for the purpose of educating the recently freed African Americans. The FB provided lumber for Hosanna—a two-story frame building that was used as a schoolhouse, a community meeting place, and a church. In 1879 the operation of the school was assumed by the Harford County School Commissioners. In 1907 the school building was condemned for use as a school. Still, Hosanna remained active as a schoolhouse for local African American children until 1945.

In 1948, Hosanna Community House, Incorporated (HCH) was established with corporate/fiduciary oversight of the Hosanna School by African American men in the community so that they could continue to have a community meeting place. In 1954, Hurricane Hazel sheared off the top floor of the building. The corporation, with its limited funds, preserved what was left of the building by placing a roof on the remaining structure.

Restoration of the building took place in stages over a 20-year period (1983-2005). In 1983 the corporation received funding from the State of Maryland to stabilize the building. Actual restoration of the remaining floor of the building began in 1993. A grand opening and dedication of the partially restored Hosanna School took place on September 10, 1994. Restroom facilities and a handicapped access ramp were also added. In September of 2005, the restoration of the second floor was achieved. It now stands as the original two-story structure.

In 2015, the Maryland Historical Trust honored HCH with one of its highest awards, "Excellence in Exhibitions and Programming," for developing our monumental "Faces of Freedom" initiative. In 2019, the Harford County Historic Preservation Commission recognized HCH with its highest award, "The Preservationist Honor Award," for our ongoing efforts to preserve several sites of memory that commemorate the history of Harford County through the lens of the African American experience.

Between 2016 and 2017, HCH purchased the McComas Institute (another Freedmen's Bureau school built in 1867), adjacent historic church building and cemetery—Mt. Zion United Methodist Church—which was built in 1865. Its leadership along with George March McComas were instrumental in getting funds from local and regional benevolent organizations and support from the Freedmen's Bureau to build McComas School. Hosanna School (1988) and McComas Institute (1980) were added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Hosanna Community House, Inc.'s main goal is to preserve and share these landmarks and the histories and culture associated with them, as unique in the history of Harford County and of the United States of America. They preserve the Country School and early American education history along with the Reconstruction Era and early 20th-century history and culture of America.

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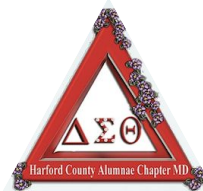
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KEYNOTE:

VELMA MAIA THOMAS
AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR

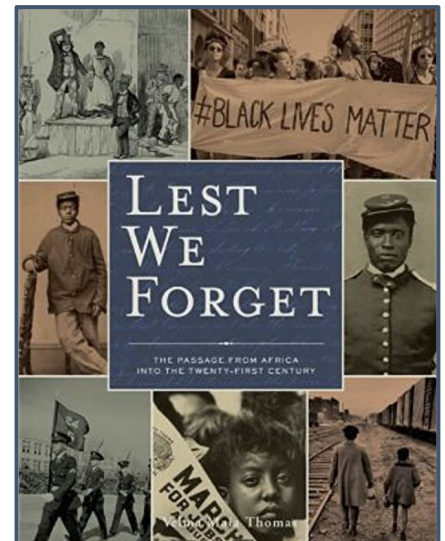
Velma Maia Thomas (Fann) is a public historian, sought after speaker, and the creator of the nationally acclaimed Black Holocaust Exhibit at the Shrine of the Black Madonna Cultural Center and Bookstore in Atlanta, Georgia where she served as manager from 1987-2000. She also is the author of several books including the award-winning, *Lest We Forget: The Passage from Africa to Slavery and Emancipation* (1997, Random House Publishers, Inc.).

Velma holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Howard University and a master's degree in international affairs from Emory University. She has served as an adjunct professor at Georgia State University, a research assistant at the Georgia Division of Archives and History and has lectured at colleges, universities, and museums nationwide, among them: the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, DuSable Museum, and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. Noted for her ability to make history come alive, Velma has served as a consultant for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, the Tuskegee Human and Civil Rights Multicultural Center, and as a distinguished faculty member of the Penn Center Gullah Studies Institute on St. Helena Island, South Carolina.

A writer, historian, and genealogist, Velma has been interviewed by a number of news organizations on African American history. Among the media seeking her expertise: *CNN News*, *The New York Times*, The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), National Public Radio, the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, Good Day Atlanta, and Georgia Public Television and Public Broadcasting Service (PBS).

A native of Detroit currently living in Atlanta, Velma is the recipient of several awards, among them the American Library Association (ALA) Alex Award for Young Adult Readers, the ALA Black Caucus Award for Contribution to Excellence and Professionalism in Publishing, and the 2004 Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board Award for Excellence in Research using the Holdings of an Archives.

Contact: www.velmamaithomas.com



PERFORMERS

JANICE CURTIS GREENE | GRIOT



Janice the Griot is an accomplished storyteller who has been telling African, African American and Multicultural stories for over 25 years. Janice Curtis Greene has delighted adult and student audiences around the US and as far away as, Brazil, Canada, Zambia, South Africa and Egypt. Janice mesmerizes her audiences with folktales, original stories and Bible Stories set to syncopated Rap rhythms. Janice has performed as narrator with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and is also known for her portrayals of historical African American females such as Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Phillis Wheatley and Mother Mary Lange foundress of the Oblate Sister of Providence.

Contact: janicethegriot.com

VICTORIA STANLEY | SONGSTRESS



Victoria Stanley is vocalist and educator on the rise from Havre de Grace, Maryland. This year, Victoria completed her Bachelor of Music in Music Education, Magna Cum Laude, from Westminster Choir College of Rider University located in Princeton, New Jersey. While in school, she continued to reach the community as a board member of the Black Hispanic Alliance. She also immersed herself in her environment by performing with several local choirs including Westminster Outreach Choir, Westminster Jubilee Singers, and the Grammy Nominated Williamson Voices. She plays the piano for St. James AME Church, Green Street.

Contact: victoriaastanley17@gmail.com

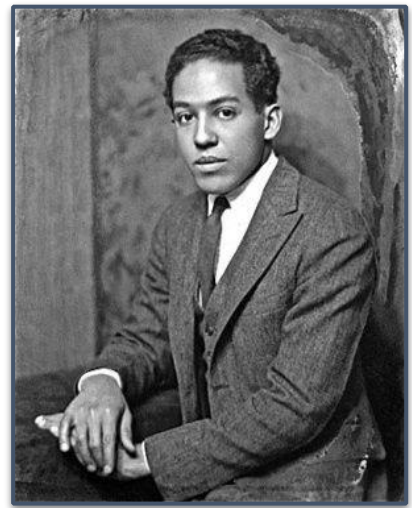
BRITTANY MARTIN | INTERPRETER



Brittany Martin is a woman of creativity. Her love of the arts and history has blossomed since she was 4 years old. She was given the opportunity to combine the two specialties in February 2012 with her portrayal of Lear Green. She was featured on WBAL-TV on their coverage of the “Faces of Freedom” exhibit. Her most notable portrayal is Edmonia Highgate, the first Black teacher at Hosanna School. Recently, she portrayed Ms. Mabel Hart, an honorable teacher who taught at the Havre de Grace Colored School. Brittany is an alumnus of Harford Community College, receiving her Associate’s degree in Psychology. After she attended Towson University and obtained her Bachelor’s in Psychology. She is currently in the Masters in Applied Psychology program at University of Baltimore.

Contact: brittanymartin54@gmail.com

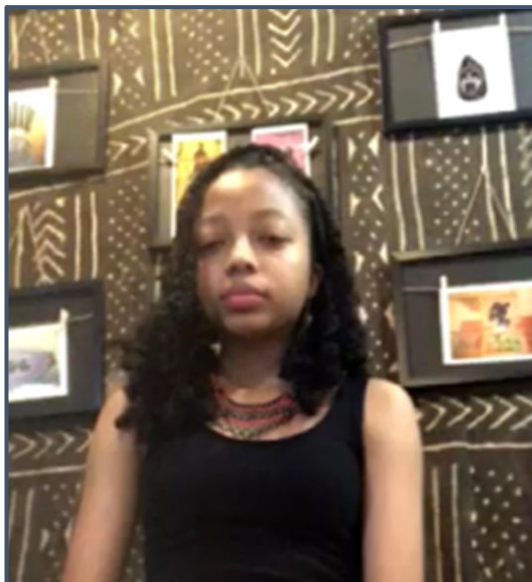
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YOUTH ORATORICAL CONTEST WINNERS**



JOHANNAH STEVENS

8TH GRADE, ROSEDALE BAPTIST SCHOOL

Johannah Stevens is an 8th grade student at Rosedale Baptist School where her favorite subjects are science and art. Her hobbies include playing the piano and singing as well as dancing, writing, and coding. Her future goal is to attend Temple University and dual major in Chemistry and Art or obtain a dual degree in Chemistry with a focus on Lab Research or Forensics.



KELISS LEVONE'-MYERS

9TH GRADE, EDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Keliss Levone'-Myers is a 9th grade student at Edgewood High School where her favorite subject is government. Her hobbies include sewing, reading, acting, and drawing. In the future she hopes to travel the world and become a fashion designer.

PROGRAM: SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

6:00 PM – 6:15 PM 15 minutes	Welcome <i>Dr. Iris L. Barnes</i> , Executive Director, Hosanna School Museum
	Virtual Vendor Fair <i>Local Vendors</i>
	Libations Ceremony <i>Janice the Griot</i> , Griot
	Special Greetings <i>Dr. Theresa Felder</i> , President, Harford Community College
6:15 PM – 6:45 PM 30 minutes	History of Juneteenth <i>Sharoll Williams-Love</i> , President, Hosanna School Museum
	Musical Performance <i>Victoria Stanley</i> , Songstress
	Story <i>Janice the Griot</i> , Griot
6:45 PM – 6:55 PM 10 minutes	Brother and Sisterhood: Benevolent Organizations <i>Tina Wilson Alleyne</i> , Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. <i>Cedric Dunham</i> , Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. <i>Kira Charise Sconion</i> , Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. <i>Emil Cromwell</i> , Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
6:55 PM – 7:05 PM 10 minutes	Costumed Interpretation of Edmonia Highgate, Hosanna's First Teacher <i>Brittany Martin</i> , Interpreter
7:05 PM – 7:15 PM 10 minutes	Presentations by Langston Hughes Oratorical Contest Winners <i>Jannah Stevens</i> , Eighth-Grade Student, Rosedale Baptist School <i>Keliss Levone' – Myers</i> , Ninth-Grade Student, Edgewood High School
7:15 PM – 7:45 PM 30 minutes	Keynote <i>Velma Maia Thomas</i> , Award-Winning Author
7:45 PM – 7:55 PM 10 minutes	Book Giveaway of <i>Lest We Forget</i> <i>Dr. Iris L. Barnes</i> , Executive Director, Hosanna School Museum
	Hosanna Fundraiser <i>Dr. Shana E. Rochester</i> , Juneteenth Co-Chair, Hosanna School Museum
	Closing Song <i>Victoria Stanley</i> , Songstress
	Closing Remarks <i>Dr. Iris L. Barnes</i> , Executive Director, Hosanna School Museum
7:55 PM – 8:00 PM 5 minutes	Virtual Vendor Fair <i>Local Vendors</i>



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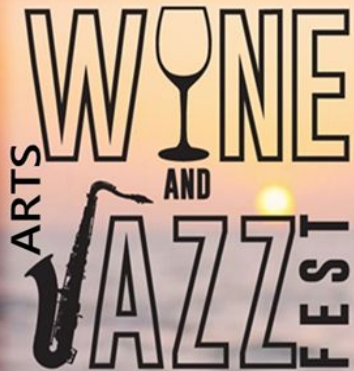
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The mission of the Sergeant Alfred B. Hilton Memorial Fund, Inc., is to preserve his memory, establish a memorial in his honor, educate the public about Harford County's only native Medal of Honor recipient and highlight the impact of the nearly 185,000 United States Colored Troops who valiantly fought during the Civil War.

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