



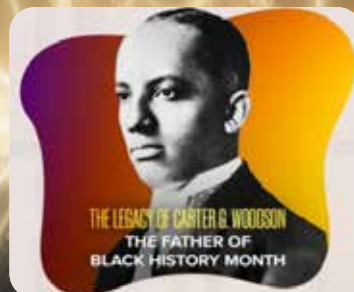
13TH ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY & BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION

2026 BLACK HISTORY MONTH:
A CENTURY OF BLACK HISTORY
COMMEMORATIONS

ST. MARY'S COUNTY BLACK HISTORY COALITION
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Sunday, February 22, 2026

SMCBHC PRESENTS THE 2026 - 2027 RECIPIENTS OF THE:
DINAH K. SOMERVILLE SCHOLARSHIP



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH SOCIAL HALL ~ 28297 OLD VILLAGE RD, MECHANICSVILLE, MD 20659

The Dinah K. Somerville Scholarship Fund

Dinah Katherine Miles Somerville was born on August 7, 1953, the fourth of nine children of Mary Artina Dotson Miles and the late Joseph Edward Miles. Dinah grew up in St. Mary's County, Mechanicsville, Maryland. She received her education from the St. Mary's County Public School System and graduated from Chopticon High School, Class of 1971. She married Charles Webster Somerville and from that union two children, Charles Webster, Jr. and Damion Edward Somerville were born. Dinah also was blessed with four grandchildren; Lexus, Charles III, Krystalee, and Landon. Dinah spent her life serving family, building the community, and as federal government public servant, for over 30 years. Despite not seeking a college degree of her own, it did not discourage her from wanting the dream for her children, and other community students. It was her passion to celebrate faithfully Black History and to establish a scholarship for family and other community youth seeking to further their educational goals. The family is honored and proud to have established a posthumous scholarship fund and the continued yearly black history celebrations honoring the legacy of Dinah K. Somerville.



1953 - 2008

St. Mary's County Black History Coalition (SMCBHC) and the Dinah K. Somerville Scholarship Fund (DKSSF) was established on July 31, 2011, by family and friends with a shared interest. SMCBHC-DKSSF is a nonprofit organization with 501(c)(3) status, Employer Identification Number 37-1645880. SMCBHC-DKSSF's goal is to help deserving individuals within our community achieve their career goals, an objective which has the added benefit of bettering the St. Mary's County community-at-large. In short, our goal is to ensure that no deserving scholar in our community will be deprived of higher education because of a shortage of funds. SMCBHC-DKSSF is committed to fundraising to provide scholarships to assist with higher education tuition cost and celebrating black history every last Sunday in February. SMCBHC-DKSSF inspires, encourages, and supports St. Mary's County students to and through college and vocational school by providing information, advising, and scholarships. SMCBHC-DKSSF takes pride in serving our youth, our community, and our great Nation by giving back to our youth, building community, and believing a mind is a terrible thing to waste as we support education. SMCBHC-DKSSF is committed to providing educational support and bringing awareness, value, and pride to families within St. Mary's County.

"When someone holds a special place in your heart, makes a big impact on your life or changes the community for good, it's fitting to honor their contributions."

- Author Unknown

Order of Events

Welcome/Greeting.....Mr. Dante Chesley
Presentation of the Colors.....AFJROTC Chopticon High School
Pledge of Allegiance.....Mr. Sean Scriber
National Anthem.....Mr. Sean Scriber
The Lord's Prayer in Swahili.....Mr. Sean Scriber
Blessing of the Food.....Rev. Paul Nguyen, Pastor
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

Banquet

Music: DJ Hollywood

Commissioners of St. Mary's County Proclamation.....Mr. Michael Alderson, Jr.
Commissioner, Third District
Musical Selection.....Mr. Sean Scriber
"Lord, Why Did You Make Me Black".....Mrs. Darlene Houze and Mr. Michael-Elliott Hill
Introduction of Keynote Speaker – Delegate Edith Patterson.....Mr. Dante Chesley
Wheels of a Dream.....Mr. Sean Scriber
Performance.....Mrs. Darlene Houze and Mr. Michael-Elliott Hill
We Shall Overcome.....Mr. Sean Scriber
SMCBHC Story.....Ms. Gena Singleton

Presentation of the 2026 Dinah K. Somerville Scholarship Fund Awards

Mr. Garnell Miles, CEO
Ms. Raquel Stone, President

Closing Remarks.....Ms. Raquel Stone
Lift Every Voice and Sing.....Mr. Sean Scriber



St. Mary's County Black History Coalition

Dinah K. Somerville Scholarship Fund

P.O. Box 829, Mechanicsville, MD 20659

Email: smcbhc@gmail.com

Website: www.smcbhc.wixsite.com/smcbhc



As Chief Executive Officer of the St. Mary's County Black History Coalition (SMCBHC) and the Dinah K. Somerville Scholarship Fund, it is my distinct honor and privilege to welcome you to the 13th Annual Dinah K. Somerville Scholarship Awards Ceremony and Black History Month Celebration.

Thanks to the success of our community fundraisers, the generosity of our donors, and the tireless dedication of our members over the past year, we are proud to award six outstanding students from St. Mary's County public and private schools and universities with \$1,000 scholarships. Your continued support makes these opportunities possible.

The 2026 National Black History Month theme, announced by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, is "A Century of Black History Commemorations." This theme marks the 100th anniversary of Negro History Week, founded in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson. It honors a century of intentional efforts to document, preserve, and celebrate Black life, history, and culture.

This year's theme challenges us to reflect on how these commemorations have shaped identity, fostered pride, and advanced equality. From early emancipation celebrations and recognition of the Haitian Revolution to modern observances such as Juneteenth, Black history remains a beacon of resilience, achievement, and hope. As scholar Arthur A. Schomburg declared, "The American Negro must remake his past to make his future." That message remains urgent today, particularly as we confront efforts that seek to censor, marginalize, or diminish the telling of Black history.

As we also approach the 250th anniversary of the independence of the United States, we must commit to telling not only an inclusive history but an accurate one. These commemorations are more than tradition; they are acts of affirmation and truth. They remind us that Black history is not simply a chapter within the American narrative; it is foundational to it, with enduring relevance in the lives of Black people everywhere.

We are honored to have Mr. Dante R. Chesley serve as Master of Ceremonies. As the nephew and godson of our namesake, Dinah K. Somerville, he carries forward her legacy with distinction. He is currently a Senior Client Service Associate with Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce Private Wealth and brings over ten years of industry experience.

We are equally thrilled to welcome Delegate Edith J. Patterson as our keynote speaker. Her extensive knowledge and steadfast commitment to the community will undoubtedly inspire and energize us all.

You will also be blessed by Mr. Sean Scriber's eloquent musical selections. Mrs. Darlene Houze and Mr. Michael-Elliott Hill will present a powerful Expression of Spoken Word, showcasing their gifts as writers,

directors, and producers. DJ Hollywood, Dinah's nephew, will provide jazz and musical selections throughout the program. The ceremony will conclude with the presentation of the 2026-2027 Dinah K. Somerville Scholarship Awards to our deserving honorees.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to advancing our namesake's legacy by strengthening our community through scholarships for our future leaders. SMCBHC's mission is to provide financial assistance to deserving individuals to help defray the costs of higher education. By investing in our young leaders, we invest in the continued growth and vitality of our entire community. Bringing neighbors and friends together in forums such as this ensures that we remain collectively committed to the education and empowerment of the next generation.

Over the past thirteen years, SMCBHC has awarded forty scholarships totaling more than \$38,000. Our long-term goal is to award four deserving students \$5,000 each and to provide continued support throughout their college and/or trade school journey. Our immediate objectives include expanding scholarship funding, increasing membership, establishing a mentoring program, and strengthening partnerships with other St. Mary's County organizations to broaden our outreach. I am immensely proud of how far we have come and excited about the path ahead.

On behalf of SMCBHC, thank you for attending the 13th Annual Dinah K. Somerville Scholarship Awards Ceremony and Black History Month Celebration. Please take time to congratulate this year's recipients. They represent exceptional talent, resilience, and determination. Beyond their academic accomplishments, they exemplify leadership, integrity, and a deep commitment to making a positive impact in their communities. Their stories inspired us and reaffirmed the purpose behind this program.

Congratulations to the 2026 recipients of the Dinah K. Somerville Scholarship Fund Award.

Sincerely,

Garnell T. Miles

Chief Executive Officer

St. Mary's County Black History Coalition

The Dinah K. Somerville Scholarship Fund



ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY®

301 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, NW | SUITE 1508 | WASHINGTON, DC 20001
202.238.5910 | ASALH.ORG

2026 BLACK HISTORY THEME EXECUTIVE SUMMARY A CENTURY OF BLACK HISTORY COMMEMORATIONS

2026 marks a century of national commemorations of Black history. Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, George Cleveland Hall, William D. Hartgrove, Jesse E. Moorland, Alexander L. Jackson, and James E. Stamps institutionalized the teaching, study, dissemination, and commemoration of Black history when they founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) on September 9, 1915.

In 1925, when Dr. Carter G. Woodson planned the inaugural week-long observance of Black history, he could have hardly anticipated the imprint he would leave on the world. From Negro History Week to Black History Month, ASALH has carried forth the tradition and the observances have become part of the wolf and warp of American culture and increasingly the global community. For its 100th theme, the Founders of Black History Month urges us to explore the impact and meaning of Black history and life commemorations in transforming the status of Black peoples in the modern world.

As part of the global African Diaspora, people of African descent in the United States have viewed their role in history as critical to their own development and that of the world. Along with writing Black histories, antebellum Black scholars north of slavery started observing the milestones in the struggle of people of African descent to gain their freedom and equality. Revealing their connection to the diaspora, they commemorated the Haitian Revolution, the end of the slave trade, and the end of slavery in Jamaica. They observed American emancipation as Watch Night, Jubilee Day, and Juneteenth celebrations. Eventually they feted the lives of individuals figures who fought against slavery, most notably Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The scholar Arthur A. Schomburg captured the motivation of Black to dig up their own history and present it to the world: "The American Negro must remake his past in order to make his future."

When Carter G. Woodson, as director of the Association, established Negro History Week he did so as part of that tradition. Yet, by concentrating the attention of the American public on the scientific findings of historians, he sought to turn the commemorations more forthrightly into a far-reaching, organized, and sustained effort to transform how Black folks viewed themselves and how the world viewed them. Year after year, he built Negro History Week into an African American and American cultural institution. He set the themes and provided materials to illustrate the contributions people of African descent had made to the movement of history and modern culture. As his contemporary, W. E. B. Du Bois put it, "He literally made this country...recognize and celebrate each year a week in which it studied the effect which the American Negro has had upon the life, thought and action in the United States. I know of no other man who in a lifetime has unaided built up such a national celebration."

Since the passing of the founder, ASALH has not only continued his work, but also made Negro History Week and Black History Month an even more deeply rooted American institution. On February 10, 1976,

ASALH MISSION

To promote, research, preserve, interpret and disseminate information about Black life, history and culture to the global community.



ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY®

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President Gerald R. Ford became the first president to issue a message recognizing Black History Month during the United States Bicentennial. Then in 1986, Congress passed Public Law 99-244 designating February as Black History Month. These efforts have made February the month where Black history finds its way not simply into the schools of the American nation, but also in the cultural heritage sites (i.e. museums, archives, libraries, parks, etc.), public squares, workplaces, houses of worship, and homes across the land and across the oceans. These institutions, and others across the country, offer sites to discover and learn more about African American history through programming, camps, book displays, and exhibitions.

To understand the modern world, especially nations where Black peoples form a significant population, one must grapple with the impact that the public observances have had on the past and the present. During this year, which we are also commemorating the 250th Anniversary of United States Independence, it is important to not only tell an inclusive history, but an accurate one. Thus, the need to examine the role of Black History Month could not be greater than today when forces weary of democracy seek to use legislative means and book bans and challenges excise Black history from America's schools and public culture. Black history's value is not its contribution to mainstream historical narratives, but its resonance in the lives of Black people.

ASALH MISSION

To promote, research, preserve, interpret and disseminate information about Black life, history and culture to the global community.

The State of Maryland



Governor of the State of Maryland, to

ST. MARY'S COUNTY
BLACK HISTORY COALITION AWARDS , Greetings:
13TH ANNUAL

Be it Known: Because of your demonstration of high integrity and ability, meriting our great trust and respect, we are most pleased to award you the

Governor's Citation

in appreciation of your outstanding services to the citizens of this State



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,
this 22nd day of February
Five Thousand and twenty-six

[Signature]
Governor

[Signature]
Lt. Governor

[Signature]
Secretary of State



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS it is with profound admiration and deep reverence that we gather today for the St. Mary's County Black History Coalition's Annual Awards Ceremony and Black History Month Celebration; and

WHEREAS the St. Mary's County Black History Coalition is a nonprofit organization established in 2011 by community members with a shared interest in advancing education, preserving heritage, and enhancing community growth; and

WHEREAS the St. Mary's County Black History Coalition exemplifies the values of education, community, and empowerment by annually awarding four \$1,000 scholarships from the Dinah K. Somerville Scholarship Fund to local youth pursuing higher education at colleges, universities, or trade schools, thereby embodying the vision and passion of Dinah K. Somerville, a steadfast advocate for educating our youth and celebrating black history in St. Mary's County.

NOW, THEREFORE, We, the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, do hereby commend and honor the St. Mary's County Black History Coalition for their unwavering dedication to preserving heritage, fostering education, and nurturing the aspirations of our local youth through the Dinah K. Somerville Scholarship Fund. We are honored to celebrate the invaluable contributions of African Americans throughout history and recognize their enduring legacy in shaping culture, inspiring generations, and promoting social change.

THIS DATE:

February 22, 2026



COMMISSIONERS OF
ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND


James R. Guy, President


Michael Alderson, Jr., Commissioner


Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner


Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner


Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner

Keynote Speaker

DELEGATE EDITH JERRY PATTERSON



Delegate Edith J. Patterson was sworn into the Maryland House of Delegates January 14, 2015, and serves on the Ways and Means Committee, Chairs the subcommittee Gaming, and Member of Education Subcommittee. In the House, she is Chair of the Southern MD Delegation, former Chair Charles County Delegation, former Chair of the House's Protocol Committee, former President Women's Legislative of Maryland Caucus, former 1st Vice-President Legislative Black Caucus and Legislative Veterans Caucus.

Delegate Patterson was appointed to the Maryland Higher Education Commission by Governor Martin O'Malley and served 3 years until her Delegate election. She has an extensive background in both secondary and post-secondary education, education policy and administration. A former science teacher for the District of Columbia and Charles County public schools, a majority of her professional career has been with the College of Southern Maryland where she served as a Counselor and later as the college's Program Director for the U.S. Department of Education's Educational Talent Search Program. An experienced grants reviewer and writer, Dr. Patterson helped the college secure over \$4.1 million in grant funds to support programs to assist students who are first-generation and low-income. In addition, she was the co-director and grants writer for two grants (FIFSE and MHEC) designed to help women and minorities enter technology careers. She is a consultant/grants reviewer for both the U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and in prior years the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Education Braintrust.

Delegate Patterson's administration and leadership expertise are a cumulative result of her having spent twelve years as a member, vice-chair and chair of the Charles County Board of Education, three years as President of the Charles County Democratic Central Committee and five years on Charles County Board of Commissioners. In 2005, her appointment to the Charles County Board of Commissioners (Council) as its first minority and seventh woman was cited as being historic. She served four years as the Vice-President of the Commission.

Delegate Patterson has been a founding member and President of Charles County Public Schools Education Foundation, and Vice-President of Education Technology Think Tank, a non-profit organization committed to funding programs to help underserved communities have access to technology. For eight years she served as national organizer of "National Education Funding Support Day" and has had two congressional appointments from Congressman Steny Hoyer (D-MD) "Military Review Board" and Congressman Major R. Owens (D-NY) "National Commission for African American Education". Delegate Patterson is the recipient of numerous local, state and national citations, proclamations, and awards including Maryland State Teachers Association's "Outstanding Achievement in Community Service Award", Congressman Owens' "Women Opening the Pipeline Award", Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's "Citizen of the Year" and 2017, 2019 and 2021 Daily Recorders Top 100 Women in Maryland. She has been a member of Nu Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. for over 30 years and a Charter member of Southern Maryland Chain Chapter, The Links, Inc.

Delegate Patterson was born in Doswell, Virginia and earned a Bachelor of Science Biology/Chemistry from Virginia Union University, Master of Education Guidance/Counseling from Bowie State College and Doctorate of Education from George Washington University along with advanced graduate studies through National Science Foundation Academic Year programs. She lives in Pomfret and is the mother of sons - Ralph and Robert and grandmother to Ryann, Evann and Oliver Patterson; GE to Jerome, Jr. and Jehnae Linkins. Prior to his death, her husband, Ralph, was an educator and proud 20 years member of the U.S. Army Reserves and served in Desert Storm /Persian Gulf War.

Master of Ceremony

Dante R. Chesley



Dante R. Chesley is the nephew and godson of the namesake of today's celebration, Dinah K. Somerville, whose legacy we honor today. A 2006 graduate of Bishop McNamara Catholic High School, Dante is known throughout his family as someone always willing to pitch in and help—no matter the task or effort required. His boisterous laugh and warm personality naturally draw others into what many affectionately call his “Dante world.”

A dedicated supporter of this annual celebration, Dante is a familiar and welcoming presence at the Dinah K. Somerville Scholarship Awards Ceremony. Each year, he generously contributes his time and talents to assist organizers and ensure that guests—especially our elders—feel valued, comfortable, and appreciated.

Professionally, Dante serves as a Senior Client Service Associate at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) Private Wealth and brings more than ten years of industry experience. In his role, he provides operational and administrative support to relationship managers, serves as the primary point of contact for client matters, and ensures exceptional customer service.

Before joining CIBC, Dante worked as a Client Service Associate at Morgan Stanley, supporting three financial advisors and assisting numerous clients with their financial needs. He also previously served as a Client Service Investigator at Convera, where he collaborated with representatives from other financial institutions to resolve complex issues and ensure fair, high-quality outcomes for clients.

Dante resides in La Plata, Maryland, with his wife, Jerri, and their two children, Donovan and Olivia.

Performers



Sean Scriber is a native of Hollywood, Maryland, and an avid performer whose talents have been showcased on stages across the state. Whether acting, singing, or performing, Sean brings passion and dedication to every appearance. He is both honored and thrilled to be invited to participate in such a joyous and meaningful event.



Mrs. Darlene Houze is a Christian writer, director, and producer whose passion for the creative arts has shaped both her ministry and professional journey. Originally from Louisiana, she has combined her artistic gifts with her career as an IT and Human Resources consultant, collaborating with individuals within her spiritual community and professional network. Through these experiences, she has cultivated a deeper appreciation for God's purposeful plan for her life.

Mrs. Houze is married to Clarence Houze, and together they are the proud parents of two sons, Taylor Christian and Jordan Alexander. She is an active member of Ebenezer AME Church in Fort Washington, Maryland, where she leads the Ebenezer Drama Ministry and serves as Liaison to the Minister of the Comfort and Congregational Care Ministry.



Mr. Michael-Elliott Hill is a native Washingtonian who studied theater at the Wilshire Theater of Performing Arts and the Inner-City Cultural Center in Los Angeles, California, with Glynn Turman, renowned for his role in *Cooley High*. A former "Soul Train" dancer, Mr. Hill has appeared in numerous television and film productions, including *DC Cab* alongside Mr. T and *Protocol* with Goldie Hawn.

He has also graced local stages at the Studio Theatre, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Lincoln Theatre, and the Library of Congress.

Mr. Hill is married to the former Carolyn Cunningham and is the proud father of two daughters and five grandchildren. He believes that understanding one's history is essential to shaping one's future, and he hopes this Black History presentation will inspire others to take pride in their heritage and remain motivated to make a meaningful impact in the world.

2026-2027 Dinah K. Somerville Scholarship Fund Awardee



Zaniyah Bush

School: Chopticon High School
Major: Music Education
Name of Institution: University of Maryland



Marie Cable

School: NC State University
Major: Nuclear Engineering
Name of Institution: NC State University



Jaxsyn Conway

School: PG Community College
Major: Business Administration
Name of Institution: PG Community College



Dajah Hinmon

School: Great Mills High School
Major: Biology
Name of Institution: Towson University



Lauren McNair

School: Howard University
Major: Biology/Chemistry/Health Education
Name of Institution: Howard University



Kendall Wathen

School: Leonardtown High School
Major: Finance
Name of Institution: Salisbury University

2025-2026 Dinah K. Somerville Scholarship Fund Awardee



Marie Cable

School: Chopticon High School
Major: Nuclear Engineering
Name of Institution: NC State



Ryan Fellner

School: Chopticon High School
Major: Biology and Communication
Sciences & Disorders
Name of Institution: University of Rhode Island



Lilian McDowell

School: Leonardtown High School
Major: Hearing and Speech Sciences
Name of Institution: University of Maryland



Lauren McNair

School: Howard University
Major: Biology/Chemistry
Name of Institution: Howard University



Aubrey Williamson

School: Great Mills High School
Major: Business Management
Name of Institution: College of Southern Maryland

DKSSF Awardees

2024-2025

*Kyle Ganley
Harris Smith
Naterrah P. Tyson
Alexandra Williams*

2022-2023

*Sydney Collins
Lauren McNair
Romeo Norris
Adalynn Williamson*

2021- 2022

*Alice Kelly
Helena Lehr
Olivia Mesmer
Jordan Riggs*

2020- 2021

*Jordan Scott
Nathan Williams
Madelyn Spalding*

2019- 2020

*Ayesha-Jynelle Rennie
Jamarie Bush
Tayla Mann*

2018- 2019

*Tanasia Miles
Chloe Roberson*

2017- 2018

*Sydney Guy
Gia Beaton*

2016- 2017

*Jordan Countiss
Mykaela Lewis*

2015- 2016

*Sache' Bond
Andrew Fisher*

2014-2015

Christopher Miles

2013- 2014

*Denisha Brinkley
Katherine Thompson*

Lift Every Voice and Sing

The Negro National Anthem

Composed in 1900 by

James Weldon Johnson

Lift Every Voice and sing till earth and heaven ring

Ring with the harmonies of liberty

Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies

Let it resound loud as the rolling sea

Sing a song, full of the faith that the dark past has taught us

Sing a song, full of the hope that the present has brought us

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun

Let us march on till victory is won

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod

felt in the days when hope unborn had died

yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet

come to the place for which our fathers sighed?

We have come, over a way that which tears has

been watered

We have come, treading out path through the blood

of the slaughtered

Out of the gloomy past, till now we stand at last,

Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast

GOD of our weary years, GOD of our silent tears

Thou Who has brought us thus far on the way

Thou Who hast by Thy might, led us into the light

Keep us for-e-ver in the path we pray

Lest our feet, stray from the places our

GOD where me met thee

Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world

we forget Thee

Shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand

TRUE TO OUR GOD, TRUE TO OUR NATIVE LAND



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CONGRATULATIONS

To the

THE ST. MARY'S COUNTY
BLACK HISTORY COALITION

In Celebration of the
13th ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY

&

BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION

First Missionary Baptist Church

46370 Pegg Lane

Lexington Park, Maryland 20653

Rev. R. W. McClanahan, Pastor

Congratulations to the recipients of the

2026 - 2027

Dinah K. Somerville Scholarship

BLACK
Honor
Inspiration
Strength
Truth
Overcoming
Respect
Yours and mine



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*We are committed
to providing
excellent service
to your beloved.*



Terrence L.
Johnson
FUNERAL SERVICE, PA

FUNERAL & MEMORIAL
SERVICES



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Johnson Funeral Services, PA
Email: johnsonfuneralservice@gmail.com

Address: 27 Industrial Park Drive Waldorf,
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Phone: (301) 592-0000

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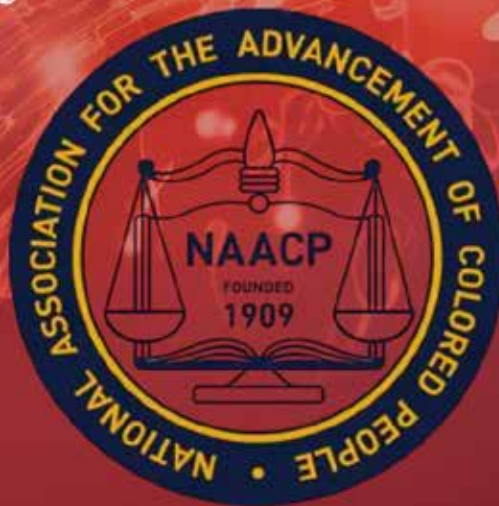
St. Mary's County

NAACP

R&B/Jazz Freedom Fund

Brunch

Saturday, October 10, 2026



*“Learning, Honoring, Celebrating
Black History ~ 365 Days of the Year!”*

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La Plata: 301-934-4670

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BUYING OR SELLING A HOME?

LET'S WORK TOGETHER!

This Black History Month, let's focus on building legacy and generational wealth through homeownership. Whether you're thinking about buying your first home, moving up, downsizing, or preparing to sell, the right guidance can make the journey smoother and less stressful. I'm passionate about serving our community with care, patience, and real market knowledge so you can make confident decisions for your family's future. Homeownership is more than a move — it's a milestone, and I'm here to help you every step of the way.

CONTACT:

✉ paula.thaxton@pearsonsmithrealty.com

☎ 202-438-8336

🌐 PearsonSmithRealty.com

43777 Central Station Dr. St 390 Ashburn, VA 20147

Paula Thaxton



REALTOR



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Congratulations

ST. MARY'S COUNTY BLACK
HISTORY COALITION



ON YOUR 13TH ANNUAL
AWARD CEREMONY &
BLACK HISTORY
CELEBRATION

CAROL CARR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH SOCIAL HALL
28297 OLD VILLAGE RD, MECHANICSVILLE, MD 20659

SPECIAL THANKS & CONGRATS TO
DINAH K. SOMERVILLE SCHOLARSHIP
2026-2027 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

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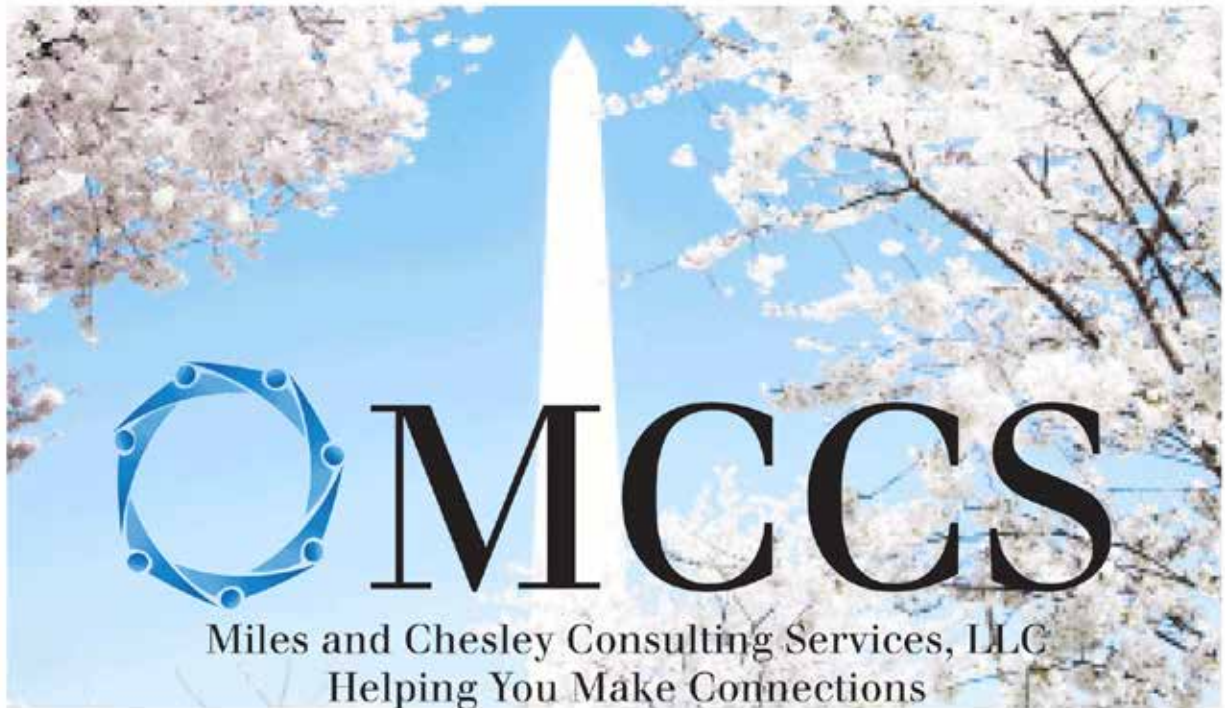
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Miles and Chesley Consulting Services is dedicated to making management easier. We are committed to providing unparalleled support in the following areas:

- Administration and temporary services
- Contract and financial management
- Web development and graphic design
- Human capital management
- Project management

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info@milesandchesley.com

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Mechanicsville, MD

Miles Trucking is proud to support the
Dinah K. Somerville Scholarship Fund!

Miles Trucking is a licensed and bonded carrier, hauling a variety of materials and also specializing in snow removal. For more information, please contact:

Garnell T. Miles | 301-904-6050

Charles Miles | 301-904-4731

PO Box 829, Mechanicsville, MD 20659

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2026 Travel Schedule

Chez Joey Production

Arena Stage
Washington, DC
March 14, 2026

“Joshua” Live on Stage

Sight & Sound Theatre
Lancaster, PA
March 18—19, 2026

August Wilson’s Joe Turner’s Come & Gone

New York, New York
April 15, 2026

August Wilson’s Joe Turner’s Come & Gone

New York, New York
April 22, 2026

Cruising the Bahamas

Nassau, Princess Cays, Celebration Key
June 21—June 28, 2026

Ghana, Ghana, Ghana

Accra, Ghana
July 11—July 18, 2026

Obama Presidential Center

Chicago, Illinois
August 5—10, 2026

Eastern Caribbean Cruise

St. Maarten, St. Thomas, Bahamas
August 1—8, 2026

Southeast Asia

Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand
November 5—21, 2026


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The Knights of St. John International Ladies' Auxiliary #359, Mechanicsville, MD is a dedicated organization that operates as a supportive branch of the Knights of St. John International, a Catholic fraternal service organization. The Ladies' Auxiliary plays a crucial role in fostering community service, spiritual growth, and camaraderie among its members. They engage in charitable activities, fundraising efforts, and community outreach programs that align with the values of faith, hope, and charity. Membership in the auxiliary offers women the opportunity to contribute to their communities while nurturing their own personal and spiritual development. Through their service and commitment, the Ladies' Auxiliary #359 embodies the principles of unity and charity, making a positive impact in their local areas.




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- The integrated underwater treadmill surface has a cushioned low-impact design.
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- Useful for all types of therapy such as gait training or sport specific activities.



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- A resistance jet is essential for water therapy, rehabilitation, sports performance or balance training.
- The jet has a wide range of water speeds and directional configurations to provide the proper amount of resistance for each patient's needs.
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Therapeutic Massage Hose (attached to the resistance jet):

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Delores Dee Thompson
Owner/Senior Stylist



Eric Baker, Barber



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"Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history."

Dr. Carter G. Woodson, Founder



Celebrating 100 Years of Black History

The story of Black History Month begins in Chicago during the summer of 1915. An alumnus of the University of Chicago with many friends in the city, **Carter G. Woodson** traveled from Washington, D.C. to participate in a national celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of emancipation sponsored by the state of Illinois. Thousands of African Americans travelled from across the country to see exhibits highlighting the progress their people had made since the destruction of slavery. Awarded a doctorate in Harvard three years earlier, Woodson joined the other exhibitors with a black history display. Despite being held at the Coliseum, the site of the 1912 Republican convention, an overflow crowd of six to twelve thousand waited outside for their turn to view the exhibits. Inspired by the three-week celebration, Woodson decided to form an organization to promote the scientific study of black life and history before leaving town. On September 9th, Woodson met at the Wabash YMCA with A. L. Jackson and three others and formed the **Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH)**.

Black History Month is an annually observed month-long celebration of African American life, History, and culture. Founded by **Dr. Carter G. Woodson** in **February** 1926, what was Formerly known as **Negro History Week** became a month-long celebration as a way to promote, research, preserve, interpret, and disseminate information about Black life, History, and culture to the global community.

Each year the question is asked: **Why does Black History Month occur in February?** The relevance of February goes back to 1926, when ASALH's founder Dr. Carter G. Woodson first established "Negro History Week" during the second week of February. And why that week? Because it encompasses the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass—both men being great American symbols of freedom. Woodson chose February for reasons of tradition and reform. It is commonly said that Woodson selected February to encompass the birthdays of two great Americans who played a prominent role in shaping black history, namely **Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass**, whose birthdays are the 12th and the 14th, respectively. More importantly, he chose them for reasons of tradition. Since Lincoln's assassination in 1865, the black community, along with other Republicans, had been celebrating the fallen President's birthday. And since the late 1890s, black communities across the country had been celebrating Douglass'. Well aware of the pre-existing celebrations, Woodson built Negro History Week around traditional days of commemorating the black past. He was asking the public to extend their study of black history, not to create a new tradition. In doing so, he increased his chances for success.

However, **Woodson never confined Negro History to a week.** His life's work and the mission of ASALH since its founding in 1915 represent a living testimony to the year-round and year-after-year study of African American history.

Read more on th ASALH Website: <https://asalh.org/about-us/about-black-history-month/>

*Thank You
for attending our event!*



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