

TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

With Mary McHale, will return soon!

Brandywine-Aquasco

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY

Clinton United Methodist Church in Clinton, Maryland celebrated International Sunday “New Beginnings: Awakening to God’s Presence” on Sunday, September 22, 2024. Rev. Melania Trice, Pastor. Rev. Stella S. Tay, Retired Clergy Baltimore Washington Conference the United Methodist Church delivered the Sermon “Courage to Embrace God’s ‘New Thing’”.

Rev. Stella Tay is a native of the Republic of Panama. She grew up in a Christian home, and from an early age she was active in the church and was nurtured in the faith. At the age of 12 she committed her life to Christ and was baptized. As a youth growing up in Panama and throughout her adult life, she served in various capacities within the church. She migrated to the United States after completing her high school education and resided in New York. Her first marriage ended in divorce. In 1981 she earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a major in Sociology (cum laude) from Brooklyn College.

In 1982, she married the late Rev. Manuel R. Tay, Sr., an Elder in the Baltimore-Washington Conference, and relocated in Baltimore, Maryland, where she was the appointed Pastor of Caroline Street UMC. She answered the call to ministry in 1989 and began her seminary education. In 1995, she earned her Master of Religious Education Degree from Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC, and was consecrated as a Diaconal Minister in the United Methodist Church on June 11, 1995. She was ordained as a Deacon in Full Connection in 1998.

For 48 years she held secular jobs as an Administrative Assistant, which included 10 years with St. John’s Episcopal Hospital, Brooklyn, New York, seven years with Bon Secours Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland, and in 2011 she retired from Milliman, Inc., an actuarial firm in Vienna, Virginia, after 22 years of service. For her these were more than just jobs, they were ministries.

Currently, Rev. Tay served alongside her husband in the Baltimore Washington Conference, at the local, district, and conference levels, first as laity, and later as appointed clergy. Her service included Leadership Day Instructor, Conference Christian Education Trainer, as well as serving on the Ethnic Local Church and Conference Committees, District Council on Ministries, and Board of Ordained Ministry. In addition to Caroline Street UMC, churches served included Homestead UMC, Baltimore, MD, Congress Heights UMC, Washington, DC, Lewin UMC, St. Marks UMC in Baltimore, MD, Christ Church, Aquasco, MD, Oakland Union Cooperative Parish, West River/Lothian, and Union UMC, Lothian, MD. She served as the Pastor of Union UMC, Lothian MD, until her retirement at the 2014 Annual Conference Session. She also serves as a mentor to candidates for ordained ministry.

Rev. Tay’s passion is helping others to get to know God, and to grow in their faith so that they are emboldened in their witness

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

for Christ. Rev. Tay is the mother of three, and the stepmother of six adult children. From this blended family, she has fourteen grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. “There is only one life, it will soon be passed. Only what is done for Christ will last.”

JOHNSON FAMILY REUNION (PART TWO)

Recognition and achievements. The Family of Lucille and James Contee. Airman William “Andre” Washington joined the U.S. Air Force in February 2024. Jamiyah Aniya Jones graduated from KIPP DC College Preparatory June 2024. Attending Bowie State University, Major: Nursing. Jace Qasim Butler is 3 years old. He loves monster trucks, race cars and helping in the kitchen. He started Pre-K 3 this year and this is his very first family reunion. He is the son of Jonathan Butler and Quianna Ford. Also, he is the first grandchild to the proud grandparents of John and Geneva Butler.

The Family of Richard A. Johnson. Congratulations on all of your accomplishments. Dr. Lynnell Johnson, Teaching Assistant Professor, North Carolina A&T State University Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Howard Matthews, III, Inventory Technician, M-NCPPC. Almazi Matthews Senior, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Major: Agriculture. Steven Matthews, Jr., Junior North Carolina A&T State University, Major: Journalism/Mass Communications. Bernita Johnson, Social Services Specialist, Fairfax County Department of Family Services. Richard Johnson, Sophomore, Chowan University, Major: Cybersecurity. Charles Johnson, Junior, Bishop McNamara High School. Michael Johnson, Freshman, Bishop McNamara High School.

The Family of Richard A. Johnson. Congratulations on all of your accomplishments. Cynthia Parker retired with 37 years of dedicated federal government service in January 2017. She is enjoying being an awesome supportive, encouraging mother and grandmother to her two daughters and all of her grandkids. Carson Pinkney graduated from the University of North Carolina Charlotte in 2019. He is currently working as a Contractor for Sigmatch supporting the United States Army.

CRAB FEAST

There will be a CRAB FEAST October 13, 2024, from 2–5 p.m. at St. Philip’s Church Hall, 13800 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Hosted By: Peter A. Gross, Sr. Scholarship Committee.

All You Can Eat: Crabs, hamburgers, hot dogs, corn on the cob, baked beans, potato chips. Donation is \$60.00 per person. “Proceeds go to future scholarships. Call 240-882-3369, 804-301-9530, 302-690-4260 for tickets. No Tickets Sold at Door.” Peter A. Gross, Sr. Scholarship/Memorial Fund Inc. 16950 Horsehead Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613-8302 (301) 888-1475.

National Agape Gift Bag & Sock Ministry Opening Day for New Program Benefitting Citizens Needing Services in the Suitland and Surrounding Communities

By PRESS OFFICER
21st Century Church of Christ

SUITLAND, Md. (Oct. 3, 2024)—On September 26, 2024, from 12–3 p.m., the National Agape Gift Bag & Sock Ministry, in partnership with the Suitland Civic Association, hosted a new program offering much-needed services for homeless men, women, children and Veterans, and empowerment options for individuals needing assistance to improve their quality of life.

The opening day at the Suitland Water Tower at 4211 Suitland Road was very successful. Approximately 15 men and women stopped in to hear details of the services offered. Many of them stayed until the event was over at 3 p.m. Services will be offered once a month until adequate funding can be obtained to provide some of the basic supplies requested by community members. The National Agape Gift Bag & Sock Ministry provides knit hats, gloves, hand warmers, foil blankets, ponchos, drawstring bags to carry their valuables, white socks, lotions, body wipes, toothbrushes and paste, hand sanitizers, deodorants, bottles of water and treats to name just a few. Now that the weather is changing, keeping warm and healthy will be much more challenging. Donations of sweaters and coats are very much appreciated.

Pastor John McCain of the 21st Century Church of Christ, Founder of the National Agape Gift Bags Sock Ministry, and Janice Euell, Vice President of the National Agape Gift Bag & Sock Ministry are seeking partners to help provide much-needed supplies, especially white socks, which are in high-demand in shelters or those who find themselves in a homeless situation or those requiring quality of life services that are readily available to them who reside in either Suitland, District Heights, Forestville and other areas where services are in need for the elderly or the handicapped to give them the necessities that most take for granted.

Our distribution schedule for our program is from 12 to 3 p.m. **October 24, November 21, and December 19** at the Suitland Water Tower.

Pastor John said, “I had a vision that he saw males under a bridge in tents whose feet were exposed to the elements without socks.” In consultation with Ms. Euell, they decided that if they need socks, they will also need other items to help them take care of their basic needs to stay healthy and safe—toiletries, hair grooming, deodorant, shampoo, moisturized towels, toothbrushes and toothpaste, to name a few. “Hats, gloves, scarves, foil blankets, and ponchos are provided seasonally to help keep them warm, and hand sanitizer, masks to protect against the spread of disease.”

Pastor John also has this to say, “The Lord has blessed us with being able to donate all of these items to those in need. I never imagined that in such a short time my vision would come to light. We must continue to carry on the work of Jesus who commands us to help those in need. With the help of the community, we can, and we should do our best to affect the change we want to see happen in the lives of our homeless brethren.”

For more information or to donate supplies, volunteer or make a tax-deductible donation, please use one of these websites to inquire or to donate: Please visit: www.21ccoc.org or www.agapeministry.info or email or call Janice Euell at janice_euell@21ccoc.org, 301-523-2677.

Litter from A1

litter grabbers, and a maximum of 6 bags of mulch. **Registration for ‘Growing Green with Pride’ closes Friday, October 11, 2024.** Growing Green with Pride student participants will receive community service credits. Verification forms for community service can be obtained at the schools. Register at <http://MyPGC.us/GrowingGreen> to join this Countywide event.

“We are Prince George’s Proud to be hosting the County’s bi-annual litter cleanup again this year, and we look forward to welcoming new and familiar faces,” said DPW&T Director Michael Johnson. “Together we can make a significant impact on Prince George’s County communities. Every piece of litter we pick up and every tree planted beautifies our communities and contributes to a healthier community for us all.”

For additional information, please contact the DPW&T Office of Highway Maintenance at (301) 499-8641 or e-mail Tonya Hairston at GrowingGreenwithPride@co.pg.md.us.

One Maryland One Book Author Tour Kicks Off in Central Maryland

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Humanities

BALTIMORE (Oct. 2, 2024)—Maryland Humanities is delighted to launch its 2024 One Maryland One Book Author Tour featuring Myriam J. A. Chancy at The Allan Lefcowitz Theater at The Writer’s Center (4508 Walsh Street in Bethesda) on **October 12, 2024** at 2 p.m. Chancy will present a talk about her novel *What Storm, What Thunder*, which follows a cast of characters during the 2010 earthquake that struck Haiti. A Q&A session with the audience and a book signing will follow the Author Talk. This event is free and open to the public. Tickets are required and available: <https://mdhumanities.wufoo.com/forms/m1bvdyvn0r9ui2q/>.

In Chancy’s fourth novel, the Haitian-Canadian-American author masterfully charts the inner lives of the characters affected by the disaster in scenes before, after, and during the earthquake. She artfully weaves together the lives of an NGO architect, an expat and water-bottling executive; Sara, a mother haunted by the ghosts of her children; Leopold, a small-time drug trafficker; Didier, a musician and cab driver who lives in Boston; and many more.

Chosen as the 2024 One Maryland One Book Selection, *What Storm, What Thunder* is an inspiring novel that was named a Best Book of the Year by NPR, Kirkus, Library Journal, The Boston Globe, and The Globe and Mail. The book



PHOTO CREDIT N. AFFONSO

Author Myriam J.A. Chancy

made the shortlist for the Aspen Words Literary Prize and the longlist for the OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature. Chancy’s 2010 novel, *The Loneliness of Angels*, also made the latter list. This April, Chancy released her latest novel *Village Weavers*, which confronts the intersectionality of race, class, and nationality through the lives of Haitian and Dominican families in 1950s Haiti.

When asked about her novel *What Storm, What Thunder* Chancy shared that, “The novel takes its title in part from an epigraph by Frederick Douglass. ‘Himself from the Baltimore area, writing in his essay, ‘What to the Negro is the fourth of the July?’ in 1852 [Douglass writes] ‘For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.’”

Maryland Humanities CEO Lindsey Baker says: “This year’s One Maryland One Book

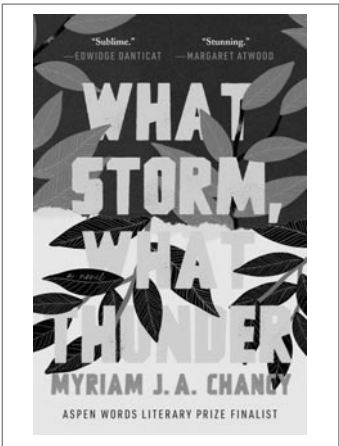


PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND HUMANITIES

Front cover of *What Storm, What Thunder*

theme feels important and timely. I’m looking forward to seeing what resonates with Marylanders about *What Storm, What Thunder* and the amazing programming I know our partners will come up with.”

Finally, all are invited to support Maryland Humanities by attending the annual VIP Author Reception on **October 12** at 6 p.m. Located in the Ellsworth Room of the Silver Spring Civic Building at Veterans Plaza (located at 1 Veterans Place), a \$75 ticket includes a signed copy of Chancy’s book, hors d’oeuvres and beverages, in addition to a meet-and-greet. “We hope you will join us for a spectacular evening featuring Myriam J. A. Chancy and individuals committed to heritage, culture, and the future of Maryland,” says Maryland Humanities Director of Advancement, Claudia Allen. Visit Eventbrite to purchase your tickets to the One Maryland One Book VIP Author Reception.

For more information on the One Maryland One Book Author Tour, visit our website at www.mdhumanities.org. For questions about our upcoming Author Reception, reach out to our Director of Advancement Claudia Allen at callen@mdhumanities.org.

One Maryland One Book is a program of Maryland Humanities presented in partnership with The National Endowment for the Humanities and Howard County Library System. It is sponsored by The Institute of Museum and Library Services via the Maryland State Library Agency, with additional support from the Haitian Studies Association at University of Maryland, College Park; Gender & Women’s Studies at University of Illinois at Chicago; University of Florida Center for Latin American Studies; Salisbury University; Brown Advisory; Jennifer Shea; Bruce and Kate Beveridge; Dr. Kimberly Moffitt; Saima Sitwat; President Ronald Nowaczyk, PhD; and Frostburg State University.

Maryland Humanities creates and supports bold experiences that explore and elevate our shared stories to connect people, enhance lives, and enrich communities. Visit www.mdhumanities.org. Maryland Humanities is generously supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities; the State of Maryland; the Citizens of Baltimore County; private foundations; corporations; small businesses; and individual donors. Connect with Maryland Humanities on Facebook, X, Threads, Instagram, YouTube.

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