

INTRODUCTION

“AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY, HISTORY & ENTERTAINMENT IN MARYLAND” (Remembering all the Yesterday’s;1940-1980)

Twenty-five years ago, I did some research and found out there were no documentations in any one book on the black entertainment, entertainers, businesses or the community at large. No recorded information photos or information in which how African-American lived ; where they lived; or how they became legends and just everyday people who should be legends from our own community in Maryland in one book. Until I wrote my first book, “*African American Entertainment in Baltimore*” in 2003, there was no written history of our famous Pennsylvania Avenue in one book. Now I realize there isn’t any significant written history of the community, people, place, organization, streets, parks, restaurants, musicians, restaurants, clubs, pool rooms, beaches, homes and neighborhoods in the small corridors of Baltimore, Maryland where African Americans work, played, grew-up, partied, or had their businesses in the era of 1940’s thru 1980’s either.

As a professional promoter, journalist, entertainment columnist/journalist and the founder of a scholarship foundation for young children, I felt the story had to be told before all of our history completely dies. I’ve always believe to give some of the flowers to the people who lived their lives with such pride while they still can smell them. I believe that the children, grandchildren and yes, the great grand children should have positive remembrances of our life without shame.

This book “*African American Community, History & Entertainment in Maryland*” (*Remembering All the Yesterday’s; 1940-1980*) is the part II and extension of my first book, “*African American Entertainment In Baltimore*”. There were so much more to tell about the Afro-American Communities, not just in Baltimore city of one street, (Pennsylvania Avenue), but in the many different corridors of Maryland such as Cherry Hill, Popular Grove, Sandtown, Mount Winans, Fairfield, Annapolis,

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Eastern Shore, East, West and South Baltimore areas, so I felt it was important to do more research to do this book.

I got most of my photos and images from friends, associates, people who reads my columns “Rambling Rose” and just people in the community who have lived, worked, worshiped, partied or hung out during the era of 1940’s thru 1980’s. Many, I took myself.

I learned from interviewing so many people in Baltimore, Maryland and receiving letters and calls from people all over the country in reference to my last book, saying that they were very happy to know there will be some additional documentation of the history of ordinary people. They were hungry for more history.

Also, this book is a part two history about them, their fathers, mother, children, grandparents, great-grandparents, their aunts and uncles, friends and buddies; these are people they can relate or connect to from their hometown. It doesn’t matter what their lifestyle is now or before. Of cause many have passed away, or maybe they left to live in another town, state or country; but, because so many people still live in Maryland and want to remember and not forget the good old days. Thru these pictures, I will tell their stories.

Baltimore and its surrounding corridors definitely open the doors for the Black folks and the communities to band together and support each other in their businesses, neighborhoods, entertainment, social, schools and raising their children.

In this book I have again gathered breathtaking collage of frozen moments that capture the essence of Baltimore’s entertainment scene at its liveliest. I have pieced together a history that demonstrates the passion, the pain, the pleasure, and the perseverance of people who love, create, and dominate our music, entertainment, and businesses all over the world. My collection of original snapshots was lovingly donated by people who share my vision and passion. They are a testimony of the old community and people who wish to share freely and with love to the world and the community”. It speaks also of “The Overcome” and the progress achieved by determination.

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Designed as a photographic diary that illuminates Baltimore's African-American arts, work, business, entertainment, family history, *“African-American Community, History & Entertainment in Maryland”*

(Remembering All the Yesterdays; 1940-1980) celebrates a time in our past that enforced expectations of excellence and captured the highest quality of people. This composition sings a harmony, a melody in time when African-American men and women loved and respected the code of ethics. It was a time when men, women and children dressed to the nines and stepped out in full fashion; when there was a time when there was always something to do; a time when Black families lived in the same neighborhoods and helped each other; a time when “Baltimore’s Figures” (the hustlers, gamblers, number writers, the boosters) were respected because they used their way of life to support their families without hurting others; a time when Baltimore’s adhering to the code of ethics developed by the Pennsylvania Avenue Strip, Cherry Hill, Sandtown and other corridors of Maryland. It was a time when there was always somewhere to go and have fun; a time when the music was so grand and the lyrics of a song cause you to fall in love and start a family; a time when going to a party was in a basement with blue lights, food, dancing and conversation; a time when one could enjoy fifteen minutes of fame; a life of pride; a time when African-Americans headlined the marquees right in their own neighborhoods and reveled in the love and support of their community. Most of all it was a time when we all believed it took a village to raise a child. Flip the pages and enjoy the memories and embrace the history of a friend, relative, an acquaintance or of people in general whose past, present, and future come to life. Enjoy the pleasure of a Baltimore that knew how to swing before we could drink out of any water fountain. Turn the pages, smile and laugh; shed a tear for the moments; embrace the history that will never be forgotten.

I present this book to you with love, passion, memories and most of all for those who cared about the positive nature of people of color who has passed on, moved to other parts of the world and to the children of the children in all the communities, not just the African-American communities.