

Barrio de Langley Park

A NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY ACTION LANGLEY PARK
ISSUE NUMBER 254, OCTOBER 2012

MEMORIES OF LANGLEY PARK

The Theater: Yes, there was a Langley Theater—in Langley Park. The Langley Theatre opened its doors in March 1952. It was a single screen theatre with 971 seats.

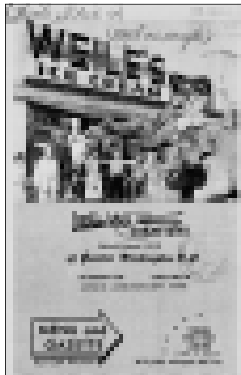
It also featured a “crying room” for patrons who brought young children to the movies who were disturbing other patrons. The Langley was one of the few theatres that utilized the then-advanced ‘Sensurround’ sound system. The Langley was owned by the Kogal/Burka group (K/B Theatres). The theatre was a showcase theatre for the chain, featuring many first



run exclusive engagements. The most prominent of the exclusive films were “The Godfather” in 1972 and “Star Trek” in 1979. In the mid-late 1980’s, the theatre was converted into a twin which housed two 375 seat theatres. The theater closed in the early 1990’s when K/B Theatres

went out of business. Notice that the tower is still in the Langley Park Shopping Center.

The ice cream parlor: Yes, there was one in Langley Park, and it was famous—and a hangout starting in 1938 not only for residents of the area but also students at the university. The address was 1325 University Lane; yes, it was a “lane” in those days before the widening and renaming. The items on the very long and creative menu included the all-you-can-eat The Glutton (\$3).



Sorry for the poor reproduction quality.

ACTION LANGLEY PARK MEETS

On the evening of September 20th, ALP met at the Langley Park Community Center to share and to plan. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

The first focus was the Transitional Neighborhood Initiative, and the view prevailed that the program is worthwhile for two reasons: some improvements are to take place (e.g., street trash, apartment infestations, streetlights), and the effort suggests that the demolition called for in the Sector Plan is not imminent.

Regarding education, the possibility of a phased-in Langley Park High School in La Union was discussed. Pros and cons were mentioned. The situation of parent liaisons was noted: some are back at work, but many are not; and there are no parent liaisons working in high schools—where the dropout rates are high. ALP supports the return of more liaisons. The lack of quality tutoring and mentoring was noted; somehow, a quality program must be launched. Can the Neighborhood Initiative help?

There was a brief discussion of the opportunity for undocumented young people to apply to remain legally in the USA for two years. CASA, it was reported, has had long lines of young people waiting to complete the paperwork. The concern was articulated that when on record, a change in federal policy could be dangerous—that is, officials will know who they are and where they are.

Adventist Health’s plan to relocate the main facility has met a road block—perhaps due to the fear of competition from several small hospitals. ALP agreed to support the relocation.

Health Check 2012 takes place on November 11th. There is a need to promote the event so that all of the health professionals are kept busy. And more volunteer health professionals would be most welcome.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

THE ELECTION: NOVEMBER 6

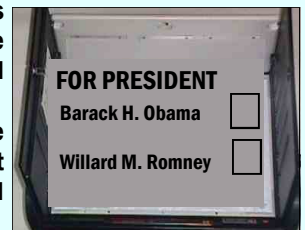
Yes, the election is just a few weeks away, and there are important votes to cast. At the local level, District 47 representatives to the state, including Senator Victor Ramirez and Delegates Doyle Niemann, Jolene Ivey, and Michael Summers, are standing for reelection.

U.S. Senator Ben Cardin and Congressman Chris Van Hollen are running for reelection, and of course so is President Obama. (This may be the last opportunity for Langley Park residents to vote for Van Hollen; with the change of district lines, the incumbent in 2014 will probably be Donna Edwards in her changed Congressional district.)

There are several key “questions” on the ballot: #4=Can undocumented residents of Maryland pay in-state fees to go to college if they meet a series of requirements? #5=Should the established Congressional district boundaries stand, or should they be revised? #6=Should marriage be limited to heterosexual couples? And #7=Should Maryland add a sixth gambling facility, and should table gambling games be allowed?

Are you registered to vote? If you’re a citizen, it is your democratic responsibility to study the positions of the candidates and then to cast your vote for those who best represent you. Register by October 16, 2012, for the General Election. If using online registration (OLVR), you have until 9:00pm to submit your application. Go to <https://voterservices.elections.state.md.us/OnlineVoterRegistration>.

There will be lots of special events, speeches, mailings, and radio and television advertisements over the remaining weeks. Think before agreeing or disagreeing! On Sunday, September 22, Senator Ramirez and the three District 47 delegates organized a picnic at a park in Bladensburg. Of course, candidates were there, and there were hot dogs, zumba dancing, and more—and the rain held off.



IMMIGRATION AND POLITICS

1. THE DREAM ACT

- ▶ Obama: *The Dream Act: "I will sign it right away."*
- ▶ Romney: *Will you veto the Dream Act? "The answer is yes"*

President Obama urged Congress to pass the Dream Act, which would give young undocumented immigrants who were brought to the country as minors, a path to citizenship if they attend college or serve in the military. In June Obama called on Republicans in Congress -- who blocked the bill in the Senate in 2010 -- to "send me the DREAM Act, put it on my desk, and I will sign it right away" because "it's the right thing to do, period."

Obama: "My biggest failure is that we haven't gotten comprehensive immigration reform done ... but it's not for lacking of trying or desire. ... I haven't gotten everything done that I want to get done. That's why I'm running for a second term. We've still got more work to do."

"I met young people all across the country, wonderful kids who sometimes were valedictorians, were participating in the community, had aspirations to go to college, some were serving in our military. ... There's no way you would think it was fair or just for us to have them suffering under a cloud of deportation."

Romney, on the other hand, vowed to veto the Dream Act when asked about it during a campaign event. While he opposes a path to citizenship for young immigrants who attend college, Romney said that for "those who serve in our military and fulfill those requirements I respect and acknowledge that path."

Romney is staunchly opposed to states' versions of the Dream Act, which provide in-state tuition to undocumented immigrants. "That doesn't make sense to me," Romney said of Texas' Dream Act during a GOP primary debate in Orlando. "That kind of magnet draws people into this country to get that education, to get the \$100,000 break. It makes no sense." Re making sense....

2. ENGLISH BECOMING OFFICIAL

- ▶ Obama: *"Because there are Spanish-speaking U.S. citizens who may not speak English well... I don't want them to not be able to get those services."*
- ▶ Romney: *"English should be the official language of the United States"*

In 2007 then-Senator Obama voted against making English the official language. During a Democratic primary debate in 2007, Obama explained his stance: "Because there are Spanish-speaking U.S. citizens who may not speak English well, and if they're seeking help, for example, on some vital health care question, or a senior citizen who emigrated here a long time ago and they're trying to get their Social Security check, I don't want them to not be able to get those services." (From an NPR debate.)

If English was made the official language, no government documents could be printed in any other language. Currently, many federal and state documents such as driver's license applications are printed in both Spanish and English.

Mitt Romney supports making English the official language. "People need to learn English to be successful to get great jobs," Romney said at a GOP primary debate hosted by NBC. "We don't want to have people to be limited in their ability to achieve the American Dream because they don't speak English."

The full report is available at: <http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/OTUS/immigration-obama-romney-agree-virtually/story?id=17273505#>

MALE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES

The Schott Foundation has looked into graduation rates, and not surprising but certainly disappointing are the results. Nationally only 52% of Black males and 58% of Latino males graduate from high school in four years, while 78% of Euro, non-Latino males graduate in four years. The percentages for Maryland are a little bit better, but still a matter of urgent concern: 57%, 62%, and 81%. Take a look at some hyper-grim statistics; for DC, the figures are 38%, 46%, and 88%. While the male Black/Euro gap in Maryland is 24%, in DC it is 50%!!!



For the 2009-2010 cohort group, three counties in Maryland ranked in the top ten for Black male four-year graduations: Montgomery County, Baltimore County, and Prince George's County. Good for us!!

Data source: <http://www.blackboysreport.org/urgency-of-now.pdf>

So whom should we blame for the failure of almost half the male Blacks and the Latinos to graduate in four years? Testosterone? Well, not in any direct way. The teachers? But as Eugene Robinson wrote in the *Washington Post* (18 September 2012), "Teachers are heroes, not villains, and it's time to stop demonizing them." How about membership in families that are working class or poor, and too often with one parent? How about living in a neighborhood with few role models of academic accomplishment?

Robinson again: "According to figures compiled by the College Board, students from families making more than \$200,000 score more than 300 points higher on the SAT, on average, than students from families making less than \$20,000 a year. There is, in fact, a clear relationship all the way along the scale: Each increment in higher family income translates into points on the test. Sean Reardon of Stanford University's Center for Education Policy Analysis concluded in a recent study that the achievement gap between high-income and low-income students is actually widening. ... Ignoring the reasons for the education gap in this country is no way to close it."

Could it be that we must educate not only the child but if necessary the family? Can we hire hundreds of parent liaisons to work with families, get them involved in their children's schools, and if necessary offer some free classes on basic English and math and parenting? We'd better figure this out!

BUCK LODGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

The 2012 achievement report is out, and BLP looked at the advanced + proficient scores for African-Americans and Latino/as at Buck Lodge. For every test at every grade level, the Latino/as do not do as well as the African-Americans. Comparing Latino/as at the school and county level, those at Buck Lodge were higher in 7th grade mathematics and tied in 8th grade mathematics—the rest lower. Looking at the Buck Lodge figures by cohort group (6th then 7th and 8th grades), African-Americans declined dramatically from grade to grade (what's going on?), whereas the only significant Latino/a drop was at the 9th grade in mathematics. This was at the county level too. There problems here! What can be done?

Percent A+P	6-Math	6-Read	7-Math	7-Read	8-Math	8-Read
Black	81	81	72	76	52	66
Latino/a	67	63	63	68	49	62
PGC-Latino/a	77	77	59	69	49	64

NEWS AND NOTES

PG NEEDS \$2,400,000 FOR HUD (thanks to JJ)

Criminal Jack Johnson's county administration is still harping Prince George's County. HUD officials want to get back \$2.4 million that was inappropriately distributed by the JJ team—to ineligible organizations and with improper oversight. Does the jail let JJ see this news item? And if so, is he laughing—while we're crying?



From the *Washington Post* (21 September 2012): "The HUD inquiry is the latest fallout from a federal corruption probe in Prince George's County. Johnson is serving seven years in prison for his role in a wide-ranging conspiracy that included bribe payments of at least \$1 million. In many instances, he used the county's housing department to advance his schemes, federal prosecutors said."

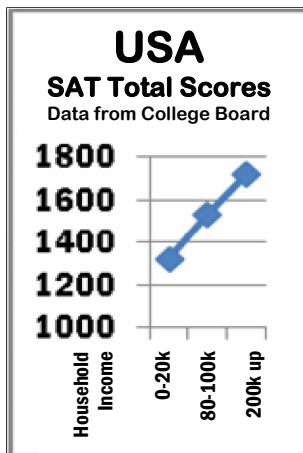
PG COUNTY ETHICS OFFICE

The County Council has given preliminary support to County Executive Rushern Baker's plans to strengthen the ethics office by adding personnel and strengthening its powers. That's good. But there are ethics functions in the office of the county executive and also in the offices of the county council. Might the three-way responsibility help to identify corruption and other bad behavior, or would it complicate efforts? Whatever, let's hope the ethics norms are strongly supported throughout the government, and that deviations are identified and dealt with quickly. Let's keep the smell of JJ far away.

EDUCATION: SAT SCORES DISAPPOINT

The 2012 results of the SAT tests have been released. Two results are clear: First, the greater the household income, the higher the SAT score. The correlation is dramatic (see graphic). A family with money probably has a good education, and also the money to buy a good education—tutors and more.

Second, on all scores, Maryland students did less well than the country as a whole—just by a few points, but less well in Reading, Writing, and Math. In PG County, The total score was 1274, a reflection of county household income and an increase in the number of test-takers. So we educators in the state have more work to do.



EDUCATION, IMMIGRATION, YOUTH

Our title is the approximate title of a special issue of the *Harvard Educational Review*, Fall 2011. Below is a small portion of the introduction. The full issue is well-worth reading.

"Understanding issues of immigration is critical to understanding the future of education in the United States. Yet recent legislation and political events surrounding U.S. immigration often portray immigrants and their children as a national economic crisis and a burgeoning threat to national security. Though these issues have traveled through historical epochs in the United States, questions as to who and how many should be authorized to stay and work, and on what criteria these de-

isions should be made, have pervaded today's policy climate, particularly following the economic recession. The broader anti-immigration climate has further politicized the field of education, as seen in recent efforts to ban the teaching of ethnic or Latino studies in Arizona and elsewhere. Although the constitutionality of many of these laws and policies has been questioned, state legislatures are passing them within the usual legislative procedures and with the support of the majority of their electorates."

Source: <http://www.hepg.org/her/abstract/828#.UFyx87PGoaU.email>

GAMBLING

Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett, and Howard County Executive Ken Ulman came together a few days ago to express their support for Question 7, the referendum to expand gambling in Maryland. The further expansion of gambling in the state, which may bring gambling to PG County, will be decided by the voters in November.

The two self-interested sides of the casino battle looking for pro or con votes on Proposition 6 in the November election have now reportedly spent more than \$20,000,000 on various forms of promotion and advertising. Casinos sure must make a lot of money!

WHITE FOLKS ARE DYING EARLIER!

Non-Latino/a not-well-educated Euro-Americans have a declining life expectancy! For Latinos and Latinas, life expectancy is soaring: 83 for females and 78 for males, well above the figures in 1990—that's the highest our if figures in the USA. Even for Latino/as without high school diplomas, life expectancy is increasing. Black life expectancy is also increasing, although very slightly for females. But for Euro men and women without a high school degree, life expectancy is declining—significantly. There is no clear answer to this decline, although smoking, being overweight, and poor access to health care (e.g., because there's no health insurance) are among the possibilities proposed.

Why the dramatic increases for Latino/as? Among the guesstimates are these two: the family support structure is comparatively stronger, and some people with illnesses that lead to early death return to their heritage country where they die.

CRIME: ON THE DECLINE

The decline in criminal acts in the USA is remarkable, and there aren't many explanations available. Comparing the 2007-2008 period with 2010-2011, every category of crime included in the Uniform Crime Report has declined every twelve months. That is, the decline is seen in murder, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, property crime, and arson. Prince George's County residents have also seen a drop in crime. For instance, the violent crime decline from 2010 to 2011 was 12.2%. And comparing January-August 2011 with the same period in 2012, violent crimes are down 4.7% and robberies down 12.1%.

PG Police Chief Mark Magaw (pictured) comments: "Everything begins and ends with the relationship with the community. We can double the size of our police department, but the real key is the relationship with the community. If that becomes better, the ability of the police department grows exponentially—and without it, we aren't very good at all."



Our police officers do more than shoot or arrest the

bad guys. The story of their involvement in the life of an elderly woman is a big positive and worth reading in the *Washington Post* (21 September 2012) at http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/crime/centenarian-befriended-by-prince-georges-officers-laid-to-rest/2012/09/21/ed4f7fe8-03f5-11e2-8102-eb9c66e190_story.html.

CRIME: CALIFORNIA'S 'TRUST ACT'

Governor Jerry Brown has until today (September 30) to veto or sign the TRUST Act that passed the legislature in late August. The bill seeks to lessen the impact of the federal administration's immigration enforcement program called Secure Communities, which compels local police to conduct mandatory immigration checks of everyone booked into local jails. While the TRUST Act wouldn't completely eliminate cooperation between local police and federal immigration enforcement personnel, it would limit immigrant detainees to those suspects of (or with previous convictions for) a serious or violent felony.



Prince George's County cooperates with S-Comm, and some of those interviewed in Langley Park who know about the program say that it impairs police-resident relations: they are afraid to call the police, even with the danger of brutal domestic violence. But the Feds have ordered: do it!

Prince George's County cooperates with S-Comm, and some of those interviewed in Langley Park who know about the program say that it impairs police-resident relations: they are afraid to call the police, even with the danger of brutal domestic violence. But the Feds have ordered: do it!

LANGLEY PARK RESIDENTS: NOT RICH!

Hot off the Census presses: The per capita income of Langley Park's residents are not rich! The apartment complexes are located in two Census tracks; their per capita income in 2010 are reported as 8056.01=\$14,560 and 8056.02=\$14,861. The actual figures are undoubtedly less because of the failure to count well over 1,000 residents, many of them without documents. In the single houses which are mostly in the northern portion of the neighborhood, Census track 8057, the per capita income was \$20,288. By way of comparison, the per capita income in the USA was \$40,200; and in Maryland, it was \$48,378. That is, the per capita income in the apartments is more than one-third less than the figure for the state. Lots of help is needed for education, jobs, and more.

If the family income is low, school children qualify for free or reduced-price meals at school. About 60% of the students in PG County qualify. In addition, 67 of the 205 schools offer free breakfasts. There have been days when schools were closed but children showed up for what they hoped would be a meal. Thank goodness for the meal program, and by the way cutting the federal budget would probably mean a reduction in these free or reduced-price meals—plus a reduction in food stamps. Let's hope such essentials are not cut in the next budget.

CONDOS IN THE COUNTY: VALUE COLLAPSE

The decline in the value of a condo is amazing. During the January-March 2011 period, the average sale price of a condo in PG County was \$100,000; but one year later, in January-March 2012, that average price was \$70,000! A thirty per cent drop, and we are not now technically in a recession. The drop in the county was double the drop in any other jurisdiction in the metro area. (The second worst condo price drop was in Montgomery County, 13%.) The BLP editorial team knows a woman who purchased a condo about four years ago for \$220,000, and it's now on the market for \$45,000!!! In general, people

are giving up their condos and moving to rental apartments. That's what the \$45k woman did. And the flight to apartments has created such a demand that the rental prices have increased.

Not only is housing expensive; it is scarce (perhaps with the exception of abandoned condos). One housing expert states that our region may need 35,000 new housing units in the next decade or so. (*Washington Business Journal*, 18 September 2012) And a negative footnote: most of the housing is needed in Northern Virginia because most of the job growth is there. Why not in suburban Maryland???

What is to be done? Clearly, the county or state or federal government cannot by edict stabilize condo prices and limit apartment rental raises. But what about Michael Bloomberg's idea for New York City (also explored in San Francisco): create lots of micro-apartments of about 300 square feet in size, and price the rentals or purchases in a very affordable range?

THE COST OF INCARCERATING

Homeland Security spends about \$2,000,000,000 each year to detain about 400,000 people suspected of being in the country illegally or committing immigration violations. The \$2B would buy a lot of school textbooks.

A CULTURE OF HATE?

A ten-year-old boy admitted in Family Court that he robbed and assaulted a Vietnamese immigrant in her home near Philadelphia. Two others were involved in the attack, a seven-year-old and a 20-year-old. The judge called it a "hate crime." Just another evil act? Maybe it was a hate crime catalyzed by the I-hate-immigrants culture which has enveloped what may be millions of American citizens. It is sad, and it is scary. Those who feed the hate culture are undermining the American way of life.

CONGRATULATIONS!

JOLENE IVEY: Delegate Ivey (pictured), representing District 47, has been elected chairperson of the Prince George's County House delegation for the next two years. A resident of Cheverly and graduate of High Point, she has been a delegate since 2006.



CAROLYN GOODE: Ms. Goode is a health teacher at Buck Lodge Middle School. And now she is one of the country's 18 Healthy Schools Program Champions with an award from the Alliance for a Healthier Generation (a creation of the American Heart Association and the William J. Clinton Foundation). She's helping students to become healthier and also working to improve the health of school staff members. (*Gazette* 25 September 2012) Let's hope her work is reducing the plague of overweight children and adults.

HISPANIC FESTIVAL CREDIT

We've previously given credit to Joe O'Neill and Nydia Ocasio for the very successful Hispanic Festival. Now we've been informed that there's another person who deserves credit: Lynn Butler. Thanks Lynn! Well done!

GET NATURALIZED! VOTE!

According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Annual Flow Report, 694,193 individuals became naturalized citizens in 2011. However, more than 8 million Legal Permanent Residents (LPRs) are eligible to apply for naturalization. For the requirements to become a citizen, go to <http://www.uscis.gov/files/article/chapter4.pdf>. Hey, LPRs, get your citizenship. And vote!

JOBS

1. MANY PEOPLE ARE UNEMPLOYED AND POOR

Lots of politicians talk about the millions of job openings unfilled because the appropriately trained workers are not available—or because the job seekers and the job openings are spatially mismatched. But a recent study by two leading Stanford economists indicates that it's the lack of money circulating in the system. So it's not retraining or relocating but stimuli that are needed. The proposed American Jobs Act addressed the lack-of-money problem, but it was not supported by Congress. Maybe if the economic squeeze that led to teachers and police officers and others to be laid off had been stopped or reversed (so they could spend to boost the economy and cause others to be hired), unemployment could have been lower. Without the stimulus, so the argument goes, unemployment remains high.



TEENS: The current national unemployment figures are far from encouraging, especially for teenagers 16 to 19 years old (see table with August 2012 data). Asian unemployment was not broken down, but overall it is 5.9%—well below the figure for the other group's overall figure.

PG: The July 2012 unemployment rate in the county was 7.1%, down from 7.4% in July 2011. The 2012 figure tied with the rate of unemployment in the state.

POVERTY: Unemployment and underemployment often lead to poverty, and there's a lot of that around the region and nation. From the *Washington Post* (21 September 2012). "The stark contrast between wealth and want here comes at a time of growing income inequality nationally. However, even though more people are poor and struggling, the region's poverty rate of 8.3% is the lowest of the country's metropolitan areas and significantly less than the national rate of about 15%." The poverty rate in Prince George's County is 9.3%; that's up from 8.2% in 2007. In our area, the highest unemployment rate is in DC, 18.7%; and the lowest is in Fauquier County, Virginia, at 3.6%. (Wow: 3.6%!!)

GLOBAL NOTE: In the 15-to-24 age bracket, the US unemployment figure (June 2012) was 14.5% Awful! But be thankful we're not in Greece (52.8%) or Spain (52.7%); and three other European countries have unemployment rates in this age bracket above 34%. Of course, there are "developing" countries worse off with rates 50% and up.

2. IMMIGRANTS CAN FILL NEEDED JOBS

Some immigrants don't have the skills needed for many jobs in the USA, and other immigrants have the skills but are not certified to use those skills in the USA. These twin problems are being explored at Brookings and elsewhere. Audrey Singer of Brookings wrote about the effort in the *National Journal* (20 September 2012), and here are a few outtakes.

"Forecasts show shrinking opportunities for lower-skilled workers over the next several years, while the majority of job openings will require workers with at least some postsecondary training. Shortages of skilled workers will be exacerbated by retiring baby boomers, as the

leading edge of the generation enters retirement.

"Immigrants and their children will become the primary source of labor over the next several decades as the U.S. population continues to age and birthrates remain at replacement level. [The fertility rate of Euro-Americans is below the replacement level.] This population must be part of the solution to rising demand for workers with higher skills and more education. So how do forward-looking regions do it?

"Regional assessments of employer needs have identified shortages in specific industries and occupations, and training programs have been designed to address these gaps. Some of the best initiatives include partnerships between nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and employers to build skills.

"Another regional asset is the pool of immigrants who were educated and gained their work experience abroad. Some of these immigrants face a number of formal and cultural obstacles to getting jobs commensurate with their skills. However, their training is often in high-demand professions in industries such as health care, engineering, and information technology, and that makes them potentially great assets to U.S. communities."

3. AUTOMATION

Another rapidly gaining challenge to employment is robotization. There is a wide range of manufacturing tasks

once done by human hands and now by robots. One expert in the field said, "With these machines, we can make any consumer device in the world." And machines don't strike. So what are the hundreds of thousands of men and women with basic manufacturing skills going to do for work? How are we going to handle what may well be long-term unemployment in the 8% to 12% range - or higher? (The figure in Spain is 25%. Will we have a turn at that? It's a crisis that obviously impacts immigrants and all of the rest of us. And a fix is almost certainly beyond the ability of the next (or continuing) president, whoever he may be.



Nobel Laureate Joseph E. Stiglitz on Inequality

"Inequality leads to lower growth and less efficiency. Lack of opportunity means that its most valuable asset — its people — is not being fully used. Many at the bottom, or even in the middle, are not living up to their potential, because the rich, needing few public services and worried that a strong government might redistribute income, use their political influence to cut taxes and curtail government spending. This leads to underinvestment in infrastructure, education and technology, impeding the engines of growth. . . . Most importantly, America's inequality is undermining its values and identity. With inequality reaching such extremes, it is not surprising that its effects are manifest in every public decision, from the conduct of monetary policy to budgetary allocations. America has become a country not 'with justice for all,' but rather with favoritism for the rich and justice for those who can afford it — so evident in the foreclosure crisis, in which the big banks believed that they were too big not only to fail, but also to be held accountable." (From *Slate.org*, 10 June 2012. His new book is *The Price of Inequality*, 2012)

UNIVERSITY LEADERS ON IMMIGRATION

Wallace D. Loh/UMCP, Freeman A. Hrabowski III/UMBC, & Others
Letter sent to the leaders of the Maryland Senate and the House

As leaders of universities educating the creators of tomorrow's scientific breakthroughs, we call on you to address a critical threat to America's preeminence as a global center of innovation and prosperity: our inability under current United States immigration policy to retain and benefit from many of the top minds educated at our universities.

From the industrial revolution to today's information age, the United States has led the world in creating the inventions and ideas that drive economic prosperity. America's universities are responsible for 36 percent of all research in the country, including 53 percent of all basic research, and they help keep America at the forefront of the 21st century economy. The Federal Government has recognized the importance of university research by providing roughly 60 percent of all academic R&D funding.



American academic research has benefited from the fact that the US remains a top magnet for the world's best and brightest students and graduates 16 percent of all PhDs worldwide in scientific and technical fields. In 2009, stu-

dents on temporary visas were 45 percent of all graduate students in engineering, math, computer science and physical sciences – earning 43 percent of all master's degrees and 52 percent of all PhDs. New research shows that in 2011, foreign-born inventors were credited contributors on more than 75 percent of patents issued to the top 10 patent-producing universities in the United States – irrefutable proof of the important role immigrants play in American innovation. These inventions lead to new companies and new jobs for American workers, and are an enormous boon to our economy.

But after we have trained and educated these future job creators, our antiquated immigration laws turn them away to work for our competitors in other countries. Low limits on visas leave immigrants with no way to stay or facing untenable delays for a permanent visa. Top engineers from India and China face wait times of up to 9 years to get a permanent visa, and new applicants from these countries may face considerably longer waits. And while we turn away these American-educated, trained and funded scientists and engineers, there is a growing skill gap across America's industries. One quarter of US science and engineering firms already report difficulty hiring, and the problem will only worsen: the US is projected to face a shortfall of 230,000 qualified advanced-degree workers in scientific and technical fields by 2018.

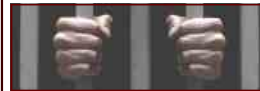
The US cannot afford to wait to fix our immigration system. Even as we send away highly skilled workers trained at American universities, competing economies are welcoming these scientists and engineers with streamlined visa applications and creating dedicated visas to ensure that the foreign students who graduate from their own universities can stay and contribute to the local economy. We ask you to work together to develop a bipartisan solution that ensures our top international graduates have a clear path to a green card, so they can stay and create new American jobs. Recent polls show that there is broad, bipartisan support for this reform, and that the American people want our leaders in Washington to act. Now is the time to do so and ensure that the US remains the world's leading home for innovators.

ARE OUR DETENTION PRACTICES EVIL?

Immigration Impact (25 September 2012) offers a devastating report about detaining immigrants. It begins: "The U.S. immigration system continues to detain more and more noncitizens in federally-operated detention facilities, in private prisons, and in state and local prisons and jails across the country. Currently, DHS detains approximately 34,000 persons every night [every night!!!], the majority of whom have no criminal history [no criminal history!!!]. Over the last several years there have been numerous reports on the miserable conditions found within these facilities." And some punishments are shocking, for instance: "A detainee was placed in segregation because he translated for a non-English speaking detainee."

The National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) and Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) have prepared a report on detention practices that should disturb all Americans. Entitled *Invisible In Isolation: The Use of Segregation and Solitary Confinement in Immigration Detention* (September 2012), a few segments are below. But read the entire report at <http://www.immigrantjustice.org/publications/report-invisible-isolation-use-segregation-and-solitary-confinement-immigration-detenti#.UGeSsVGB3nA>.

"Immigration detention is the fastest-growing incarceration system in the United States. While the system is not intended to be punitive, most immigration detention facilities are indistinguishable from jails: men and women are confined behind high walls lined with razor wire and have little freedom of movement or direct contact with family. ... The detention centers and county jails that contract with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) often relegate immigration detainees to punitive and long-term solitary confinement without meaningful avenues for appeal. ... Even as the number of undocumented immigrants entering the United States has declined, the number of people who are detained and deported has reached a record high. ICE ... now detains approximately 34,000 immigrants every night and more than 400,000 individuals each year. Since 2005, the immigration detention population has increased by nearly 85%.



"Most immigration detention centers are not dedicated facilities, meaning they hold both immigrants and criminally sentenced individuals. ICE-contracted detention facilities hold a wide range of individuals including asylum seekers; lawful permanent residents; people with mental health conditions; lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals; elderly immigrants; and survivors of human trafficking. When all of these diverse populations are housed together, facilities often segregate certain individuals or groups."

"Any restrictions or conditions placed on noncitizens – residents or others – to ensure their appearance in immigration court or their actual removal should be the least restrictive, non-punitive means necessary to further these goals." (American Bar Association, Civil Immigration Detention Standards)

POLITICAL PARTY MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Here are the two most popular television shows as rated by the strong liberal Democrats and the ultra-conservative Republicans. Can you guess which is which?

Party 1: The Daily Show with Jon Stewart and The Colbert Report.

Party 2: College football and the Antiques Roadshow.

ADJUST SCHOOL STANDARDS?

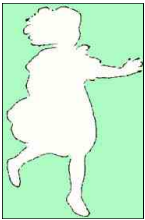
In Washington DC and many states, according to a report in the *Washington Post* (19 September 2012), “goals over the next five years tend to be lower for Black, Latino/a, and poor children than they are for Euro and Asian students. ... In Maryland, state officials aim for black students statewide to progress from



76 to 88 percent reading proficiency by 2017. White students’ reading proficiency should grow from 92% to 96% percent over the same period, according to Maryland targets.”

Eighty-eight? Ninety-six? Is that fair? Hundreds of readers added comments; here are just a few:

Commentator 1: “Kaplan and other test coaching businesses offer to increase scores X points depending on how the student does on the initial assessment. Why can't it be done this way? Why is anyone using race as a proxy?”



Commentator 2: “We in education are supposed to fix all of the problems while too many students don't have the support at home to have food on the table, let alone someone to read to them, discipline, support.”

Commentator 3: “The comparison is really between children from lower income families and those from upper income families.”

Commentator 4: “I teach the ‘best and the brightest’ students; [they] can't spell or write a coherent paragraph, and can't visualize a math problem or work without a calculator. The minority students aren't dramatically different from the others in that regard.”

And Chester Finn writing in the *New York Times* (19 September 2012): “The [public school system] is failing to create enough opportunities for hundreds of thousands of ... high-potential boys and girls. ... The system ignores them, with policies and budget priorities that concentrate on raising the floor under low-achieving students.”

WHAT & WHEN



Here we list upcoming ALP activities and other events that are called to our attention. Have an event to list? If so, send information well in advance to actionlangley-park@yahoo.com.

2012

Now until October 21—Maryland Renaissance Festival, 1821 Crownsville Rd., Annapolis. It's mostly on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. The space includes performances, craft shops, food and drink, and more. It isn't cheap: most adults pay \$17 and kids \$8. But there is a complicated fee schedule. For fees and lots of other information, check <http://www.rennfest.com/>.

October 1—PGCPS District 1 School Board Candidates' Forum, 7 p.m. at the Martin Luther King Middle School, 4545 Ammedale Rd., Beltsville. The district includes High Point HS and Buck Lodge MS.

October 3, et cetera—Crossroads Farmers' Market, this and every other Wednesday afternoon (last market day this year is October 31. Halloween?!), 2:30 to 6:30 p.m., in the parking lot at the south end of the 7676 New Hampshire Avenue building. Lots of fruits and vegetables and live music and more. Sometimes the Amerigroup bounce bus is there!!

October 6—Rally supporting the Maryland Dream Act—at the CASA headquarters, 8151 15th Avenue, noon to 5 p.m.

October 6—Noche Multicultural, 6 p.m. and onward at the Washington Ethical Society, 7750 16th St. NW. Dances, music, dinner. \$25 (\$12 for children under ten). Organizer: Comité Monseñor Romero de Washington, DC. Information: 301 806-1083.

October 7—Hops for the Hungry, a benefit event organized by the Crossroads Community Food Network, 5 to 7 p.m. Cheese, wine, and more. For details, write crossroadsmarket@gmail.com. At the least, a small donation is expected.

October 20, et cetera—Free Community Dinner & Food Distribution at St. Michael and All Angels Church, 8501 New Hampshire Ave. in upper Langley Park. From 5 to 6:30 p.m. This is a regular event on the third Saturday of the month. For information, call 301 434-4646.

October 20, November 16, December 21—Capital Area Foodbank at Langley Park Community Center, 11 a.m. One share of food per household. Bring your own bags.

October 17-20—Songs of Migration, at the Kennedy Center's Terrace Theater. “They flowed from all parts of Africa, south, toward the promise of the golden city Johannesburg and a better life.” As with many migrants, the new life for some was not golden. Tickets \$30. With Hugh Masekela. Contact 202 467-4600.

November 1—Action Langley Park Open Meeting at the Langley Park Community Center, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. One focus: Health Check 2012.

November 11: Health Check at the LP Community Center noon to 3:30 p.m. There will be a wide range of health screenings plus information and counseling. Is your heart okay? Are you infected with HIV? How's your lung strength? Your oral health? Et cetera! Everything is free. Medical professionals welcome!



2013



May 5 —Langley Park Day, a festival of music, dance, food, information, and especially health (there's a big health fair). The whole world is invited!!! Everything is free except purchases of foods or crafts.

Volunteer doctors, nurses, dancers, musicians, clowns, and guides are all welcome. To volunteer, please contact ALP at actionlangleypark@yahoo.com.