

Baltimore Washington  
Medical Center  
congratulates **President  
and CEO Karen E.  
Olscamp** on receiving  
the **Fannie Lou  
Hamer Award.**



[mybwmc.org](http://mybwmc.org)  
301 Hospital Drive  
Glen Burnie, MD 21061  
410-787-4000

*15th Annual*  
**Fannie Lou Hamer**  
*Reception*



Sunday, October 3rd, 2010  
4p.m. - 6p.m.

*Sponsored by: St. John's College and the  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee*

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# Welcome

Good afternoon! On behalf of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee and the Fannie Lou Hamer Reception subcommittee, we thank St. John's College and the Office of the Maryland Attorney General for joining us to celebrate the birthday and contributions of the legendary feminist and civil rights heroine Fannie Lou Hamer.

Marylanders have been celebrating the birthday and the legacy of this Mississippian for more than a decade. This year, marks the 15th anniversary of this observance. Why do we pause to celebrate her birth? Mrs. Hamer, who was born in 1917, was born into a society in which neither women nor African Americans were permitted to exercise their right to vote in an American democracy. Mrs. Hamer was determined to change this.

Through a fierce determination her advocacy contributed to the passage of the historic 1965 Voting Rights Act passed by the United States Congress. This federal law is credited with electing to public offices thousands of Africans Americans, Latinos and women to positions never held by women and or people of color. Indeed, if it had not been for a Mrs. Hamer it is unlikely that there would have been a President Barack Obama.

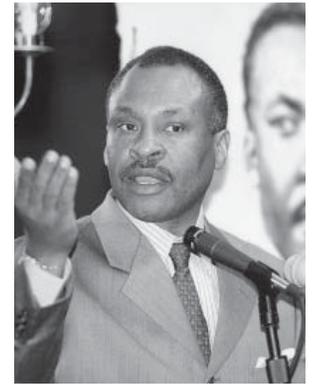
Many of our citizens have no idea who Mrs. Hamer was. Unlike her contemporaries Malcolm X, Coretta Scott King, Rosa Parks or Senator Robert F. Kennedy, her name is not a household name. Yet, she represents the thousands of nameless men and women who were nondescript and yet made it possible for the voting rights that so many enjoy today. These men and women were back bone of the movement. They were the foot soldiers, who often, did not even get a footnote in our history books. Ordinary men and women who made an extraordinary contributions to America.

Years ago, we decided to hold an annual Fannie Lou Hamer Reception in her memory and to honor women of various racial backgrounds, who, like Mrs. Hamer, are making a difference in the lives of their fellow citizens every day.

This afternoon, we are pleased to bestow unto St. John's College's Rosemary Harty, Northern Arundel Alumnae Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.'s Cynthia Caldwell, MICA Professor Emeritus Dr. Joan Gaither, Sojourner-Douglass College's Shary M. Martin, Baltimore-Washington Medical Center's Karen Olscamp and Edith "Deede" Rivers the prestigious 2010 Fannie Lou Hamer Award.

Mrs. Hamer once observed that when "we women make up our minds to change the world, it will change", and that is precisely what these women have been doing changing the world. As educators, activists, mothers, and sisters, they through their professional achievements have shown girls that all things are achievable. Mrs. Hamer's favorite song, "This Little Light of Mine, I am going to let it shine". The accomplishments of these women are shining examples that the work of Mrs. Hamer lives on.

There is little doubt that the spirit of Fannie Lou Hamer exists in each of our 2010 recipients. It is with great pride, admiration, commendation and appreciation that we welcome them, their families and friends to this joyous celebration. /



On the cover: *Sown: From Despair to Hope*

From the collection of the National Civil Rights Museum Memphis, Tenn.

Painting by Ephraim Urevbu

Design and printing courtesy of St. John's College, Annapolis, MD

Design by Eileen Harberts

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*I* am very pleased that St. John's College is once again hosting this year's Fannie Lou Hamer Award ceremony. By paying tribute to the six women we honor today, we help keep Mrs. Hamer's memory alive, and we inspire others to take up her cause. In their professional lives and in their service to the community, these individuals—educators, mothers and grandmothers, community volunteers—have made a difference to others. Hosting this ceremony on our campus is appropriate for a college that purports to do more than prepare young adults to make a living; instead, at St. John's, we seek to help our students learn what makes a life worth living.

Fannie Lou Hamer offers an enduring example of how one individual can bring about dramatic change through courage and perseverance. In 1962, Mrs. Hamer lost her livelihood as a sharecropper in Mississippi after she volunteered to work with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), registering black citizens to vote. Joining the committee as a field secretary, she continued her work, tutoring others so that they could pass a literacy test that was in place solely to turn away black voters. In 1963, at age 46, she cast her vote for the first time in an election. She suffered a severe beating while jailed for her civil rights activities, but she did not retreat from her cause; instead, she devoted herself to it with even more passion and energy.

As the founding member and vice president of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, Mrs. Hamer fought to get a delegation seated at the 1964 Democratic National Convention. Although she failed in this effort, the powerful testimony she gave about the violence and discrimination faced by black voters—a speech that was televised nationally—brought attention to injustice in American society. The tireless work of Mrs. Hamer, and many others, helped build broad support for the Voting Rights Act, which President Johnson signed in 1965.

Our nation has indeed come a long way, but we must remember: the freedom and equal opportunity we cherish would not exist if men and women like Mrs. Hamer did not risk their own lives to fight for it, for all citizens.

Sincerely,

Christopher B. Nelson, President  
St. John's College

## *Fannie Lou Hamer*



Fannie Lou Hamer, known as the lady who was sick and tired of being sick and tired, was born October 6, 1917, in Montgomery County, Mississippi. She was the granddaughter of slaves. Her family were sharecroppers- a position not that different from slavery. She was the youngest of the children.

In 1962, when Hamer was 44 years old, Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) volunteers came to town and held a voter registration meeting. She was surprised to learn that African-Americans actually had a constitutional right to vote. When the SNCC members asked for volunteers to go to the courthouse to register to vote, Hamer was the first to raise her hand. This was a dangerous decision. She later reflected, "The only thing they could do to me was to kill me, and it seemed like they'd been trying to do that a little bit at a time ever since I could remember."

When Hamer and others went to the courthouse, they were jailed and beaten by police. Hamer's courageous act got her thrown off the plantation where she was a sharecropper. She also began to receive constant death threats and was even shot at. Still, Hamer would not be discouraged. She became a SNCC Field Secretary and traveled around the country speaking and registering people to vote.

Hamer cofounded the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP). In 1964, the MFDP challenged the all-white Mississippi delegation to the Democratic National Convention. Hamer spoke in front of the Credentials Committee in a televised proceeding that reached millions of viewers. She told the committee how African-Americans in many states across the country were prevented from voting through illegal tests, taxes and intimidations. As a result of her speech, two delegates of the MFDP were given speaking rights at the convention and the other members were seated as honorable guests.

Hamer was an inspirational figure to many involved in the struggle for civil rights. She died on March 14, 1977, at the age of 59.

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*“Nobody’s free until  
Everybody’s free”*  
-Fannie Lou Hamer

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**Master of Ceremonies** The Honorable Carl O. Snowden,

**Invocation**  
**Welcome**

**Greetings**

**Recognition of Dignitaries**

**Musical Selection**

**YWCA Presentations**

### **The 2010 Fannie Lou Hamer Honorees**

*Presented to Presented by*

**Rosemary Harty** The Honorable Carl Snowden

**Cynthia Caldwell** Sylvia Tilghman *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee*

**Edith “Deede” Rivers** Robert Eades *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee*

**Karen Olscamp** The Honorable Christine Davenport

**Dr. Joan Gaither** Betty Mack *North Arundel Culture Preservation Society*

**Sharyn Martin** Dr. Charlestine Fairley *Director, Sojourner Douglass College*

**Acknowledgement of** Honorable Carl O. Snowden

**Committee Members**

**“This Little Light of Mine”** Krystine Booker *Central State University, Performing Arts*

**Benediction** Rev. Mamie Williams  
*John Wesley United Methodist Church, Glen Burnie, MD*

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# *The Fannie Lou Hamer Awards Committee*

Honorable Carl Snowden, *General Chair*  
Frederick Howard, *Treasurer*  
Sylvia Tilghman, *Secretary*  
Dick Haire, *General Counsel*  
Christine Davenport, *Chair*  
Jacqueline Boone Allsup  
Shirley Alexander  
Jeff Blum  
Larry Blum, M.D.  
Lewis Bracy  
Jan Chapman  
Gloria Jean Criss  
Lucille Davis  
Robert Eades  
Allen Hance, Ph.D.  
David J. Harris  
Rosemary Harty  
Carroll P. Hick, Jr.  
Midgett S. Parker, Jr.  
Wanda Soares Nottingham  
Arlene Rankin  
Sugar Stallings  
Minister Tywana Tyler  
Ann Marie Wood

## Message from the Chair:

First, all the honor and all the glory belongs to God. I thank Him for His mercy and His divine guidance.

On behalf of the Fannie Lou Hamer Awards Committee, it is my pleasure and an honor to extend a sincere and heartfelt welcome to each of you.

We assemble today to celebrate the birthday and the contributions of a woman who stood up and spoke out against injustice, and who fought for a civil right we take for granted today: the right to vote.

In 1964 at the Democratic National Convention, Mrs. Hamer spoke up in front of the Credentials Committee. and as a result of her speech, two delegates were given speaking rights at the convention. The other members were seated as honorable guests. She became known as the lady who was "sick and tired of being sick and tired." It is fitting that we pause to honor her by honoring women in our community who have worked tireless hours to keep her spirit of determination alive.

We are pleased to honor Cynthia Caldwell, Retired Supervisor, Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Dr. Joan Gaither, artist and professor, Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA); Rosemary Harty, Director of Communications, St. John's College; Karen Olscamp, CEO and President of the Baltimore-Washington Medical Center; Sharyn Martin, a volunteer and instructor at Sojourner-Douglass College, and Edith "Deede" Rivers, a volunteer at the Stanton Center, St. Anne's Church and many other community organizations. This prestigious award recognizes their outstanding service to our community and to the citizens of this county.

We also would like to thank our dynamic and distinguished guest speaker, Mrs. Diane Bell-McKoy, CEO and President of the Associated Black Charities, for being with us this evening. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Fannie Lou Hamer Sub-committee members for your support in making this program successful. We would like to especially thank our General Chair, Mr. Carl Snowden, for his vision and pioneer spirit for the past 16 years.

This program could not have been successful without each of you, and we thank you.

Christine Scott Davenport  
Committee Chair





October 3, 2010

Dear Friends:

I would like to extend my warmest welcome to everyone attending this year's Fannie Lou Hamer Reception for Women of Excellence.

I join all of you in congratulating honorees Cynthia Caldwell, Dr. Joan Gaither, Rosemary Harty, Sharyn Martin, Karen Olscamp, and Edith Kenworthy

Rivers for their impressive achievements. These women have made incredible contributions to our community and their spirit and determination are reminders of the distinguished legacy of Fannie Lou Hamer.

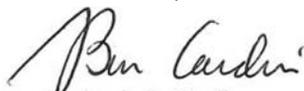
Born into poverty in rural Mississippi, Fannie Lou Hamer faced discrimination and prejudice in an oppressive society. When volunteers from the Student Nonviolent Coordination Committee (SNCC) came to her Ruleville, Mississippi community in 1962, she was the first one to volunteer to go to the county court house and register to vote. She recognized the power of political participation could have in the fight against the severe poverty she witnessed around her.

Fannie Lou joined the SNCC and traveled across the country, helping to register other disenfranchised African Americans. She was arrested, thrown in jail, and beaten for her efforts. Undeterred, she continued her mission, becoming a tireless fighter for civil rights. To this day, her impassioned speech to the Credentials Committee during the 1964 Democratic National Convention is one of the most powerful appeals for justice and equality in our country that I have ever heard.

Fannie Lou Hamer devoted her life to ending poverty and to ensuring all Americans exercised their inalienable right to vote, without fear of harassment or intimidation. On this occasion, we remember Fannie Lou Hamer and honor her profound legacy by recognizing these six women who have contributed so much to our community and to the State of Maryland through their activism.

Best wishes for a joyful celebration.

Sincerely,

  
Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



October 3, 2010

Dear President Nelson and Chairman Snowden:

I extend personal and heartfelt greetings to you, St. John's College and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee on the celebration of the 15m Annual Fannie Lou Hamer Reception for Women of Excellence.

Anne Arundel County is the only jurisdiction in the State of Maryland that celebrates Mrs. Hamer's birthday. This occasion acknowledges the renowned feminist and civil rights heroine who is largely credited with getting the 1965 Voting Rights Act passed which led to thousands of African Americans being elected to public office. The State of Maryland elected its first African American Congressman, the late Parren J. Mitchell, just 39 years ago.

I would also like to extend my sincere congratulations to the recipients of this year's Fannie Lou Hamer Award, Cynthia Caldwell, Dr. Joan Gaither, Rosemary Harty, Sharyn Martin, Karen Olscamp, and Edith Kenworthy Rivers. Your dedication to women's rights advocacy has certainly not gone unnoticed.

St. John's College and its staff are to be commended for partnering with the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee to educate students and the community about the role that Mrs. Hamer played in securing voting rights for American citizens.

Best wishes on the celebration of this auspicious occasion.

Sincerely,



C.A. Dutch Ruppensberger  
Member of Congress



October 3, 2010

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the 15th Annual Fannie Lou Hamer Reception, honoring outstanding women in our community! Each of your honorees epitomizes the legacy she has left behind and we can only hope to build on Ms. Hamer's legacy for the betterment of our neighbors and our State. Greater access to opportunity is the first step in that endeavor and we are committed to ensuring that business stays and grows in Maryland.

As we come together during this challenging time in our nation's history, we must have the faith and fortitude to know that we are working for a better future for our children and grandchildren. Maryland has fared far better than many other states in the country during this economic downturn because we did not sacrifice our investments in the future: a strong public school system and a vibrant university system to produce educated workers for this 21st century economy.

Congratulations to the six outstanding honorees and to each of you for your work to continue the progress of our great State.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Busch  
Speaker



October 3, 2010

Dear Friends:

It is my distinct privilege to extend sincere congratulations from the entire Anne Arundel County to this year's recipients of the prestigious Fannie Lou Hamer Awards: Cynthia Caldwell, Dr. Joan Gaither, Rosemary Harty, Sharyn Martin, Karen Olscamp, and Edith Kenworthy Rivers. In their own way, all six of these exceptional women have demonstrated a commitment to her vision and ideals.

Like those of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the contributions made by Fannie Lou Hamer helped change our society forever. She had the courage to fight against discrimination and work tirelessly to insure that all people could live with dignity and have the right to vote. While we never can be equal to Fannie Lou Hamer or the victories she achieved, let us always remember her example.

The honorees here tonight have all continued the spirit and legacy of Fannie Lou Hamer through their work and dedication to the community. I am pleased to join you in paying tribute to these deserving women and wish them continued success.

With best wishes, I remain.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Love  
Chair  
Anne Arundel County Delegation



October 3, 2010

Dear Fannie Lou Hamer Supporter:

It is with great pride and pleasure that I extend greetings to you on behalf of the Anne Arundel County Council. Throughout the many years of the Fannie Lou Hamer Awards Celebration, community leaders, business leaders, political leaders and many residents of Anne Arundel County have gathered to celebrate the life of Fannie Lou Hamer

and the accomplishments of the award recipients on this day.

Ms. Hamer became involved in the civil rights movement when she volunteered to attempt to register to vote in the turbulent times in 1962. She endured great resistance, however remained committed to her core belief in the rights of all individuals to vote. Her commitment to creating a more democratic country is what we celebrate here today.

It is with tremendous honor that I extend my appreciation to the recipients of today's awards as they have demonstrated a commitment to building a stronger and better community for all people. Pausing to recognize the determination, perseverance and utter tenacity of these awardees to face and tackle obstacles to strengthen our community is truly appropriate.

I am hopeful that we all will take away valuable lessons from these individuals and work together to build a stronger county, state and nation. Always striving to protect our communities and pave the way for the next generation of leaders, I remain,

Respectfully yours,

Daryl D. Jones



October 3, 2010

Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to send all the members of the MLK Awards Committee and St. John's College my heartfelt congratulations in celebration of the 15th Annual Fannie Lou Hamer Reception.

This year's honorees, Cynthia Caldwell, Dr. Joan Gaither, Rosemary Harty, Sharyn Martin, Karen Olscamp and Edith Kenworthy Rivers exemplify Mrs. Hamer's spirit, determination, and commitment to racial equality. As we celebrate the achievements of tonight's honorees, let us be inspired to continue Ms. Hamer's legacy and ask ourselves what contributions we can make to our neighborhoods, to our State, and to our Country.

I am honored to share this special and important day with you. It is a privilege to join the family and friends of the honorees to celebrate and recognize their commitment to public service. Congratulations once again to all of tonight's honorees and I wish you continued success.

Sincerely,

Douglas F. Gansler  
Attorney General of Maryland





## *Dr. Joan Gaither*

Dr. Joan M.E. Gaither is a native Baltimorean with a history of helping to integrate local schools and businesses during the Civil Rights Movement. Dr. Gaither received a B.S. degree from Morgan State University and her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Her dissertation was voted the university's "Outstanding Dissertation for 1998." She models and facilitates inter generational participation in art education, public schools, and community arts partnerships.

Dr. Gaither is an active member in national, state, and local professional arts organizations, as well as in her familial, social, and spiritual communities. She joined MICA (Maryland Institute College of Art) in 1996 and felt immediately at home within the art department, which models and mentors a holistic, child-centered approach to art education. She is grateful to her junior high school teacher, George Barrick, who piqued her curiosity for using art-making processes and materials for problem solving and for encouraging her doodling and drawing of characters and settings to tell personal stories.

To Dr. Gaither, quilts are more than decoration: they tell the human story, make emotional connections to issues, and keep the connections to our heritage real, fresh, and very much alive. In 2000, she hand-stitched her first and fairly large narrative quilt, *My Story: A Family Quilt*. This embellished, layered, and color-coded 10' x12' text and image statement of her culture, with brilliant Maryland State flag colors, photo transfers of family members, threads of gold, and multiple levels of attachments offered clues to the careers and identity of aging and young faces in such a way as to project power and seemed to come alive under the exhibition lights. This piece became the catalyst for the more than ten quilts she would hand-stitch during her first sabbatical leave from MICA in 2003. As more quilts began to take shape, deeply buried memories became "un-layered" in fiber and mixed media to address issues of celebration, identity, protection, racism, and survival. Most recently, her *My American Series Quilts* document pivotal events in her life within the context of her communities. Somewhere along the journey, she became a community artist and advocate for social justice.

In this, her 44th year in education, her varied experiences and education have not only shaped her own belief system, but also ground her teaching practice. She believes a teacher encourages students to develop a method of internalizing and learning through a process that is applicable to school and life-long learning. As a teacher helps students to see through a plethora of commercial images in order to verbalize goals, understand processes, meet responsibilities, and be accountable for their actions, educators help students to find their personal voice for "making special" while creating meaningful experiences and developing a world view.

## *Cynthia Caldwell*



Cynthia Hamlette Caldwell was raised in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, where she attended elementary and secondary schools. She attended Wiley H. Bates Junior/Senior High School and often speaks of the fact that outside of her home, this nurturing environment helped form her strong belief that she stands on the shoulders of her ancestors and she must, likewise, reach back and uplift the younger generations. Mrs. Caldwell received a B.S. degree in Elementary Education and an M.S. degree in Clinical Reading from Morgan State University. She also received certification in Administration and Supervision from Loyola University.

After 33 years of service, Mrs. Caldwell retired from Anne Arundel County Public Schools, where she began as a classroom teacher and retired as a supervisor of a region consisting of 26 elementary, middle, and senior high schools. Her role as area supervisor afforded her the opportunity to coach principals and mentor teachers in making a commitment to quality school leadership. She is proud when she thinks of the many administrators who began and fulfilled successful leadership in education as a result of her encouragement, mentorship and guidance.

Mrs. Caldwell's life mission is to continue working with principals and teachers to deepen their knowledge of instructional leadership with an emphasis on improving the school environment and student achievement. She continues to work as a consultant at various jobs related to her profession and passion of supporting school staff in providing the most effective climate and instructional program possible for all students. With the promotion of high student achievement as her goal, she continues working with various school systems and serving on the adjunct faculties at Bowie State University and McDaniel College.

Mrs. Caldwell helped to charter a chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in north county. She is pleased to be one of the sorors who initiated the Betty Shabazz Academy, a mentoring group for young teenage girls. She continues to nurture and encourage the girls who participate in this academy, as well as young ladies who participate in Delta projects at Marley Middle and North County High Schools. Also, the sorority sponsors an annual Mother and Son Luncheon, and Mrs. Caldwell helped to launch this event. Recently, she helped to organize an Anne Arundel County chapter of the Continental Societies, Inc. and serves as the group's education chairperson. This public service organization is dedicated to serving disadvantaged and underprivileged children. She is a member of the First Christian Community Church, where she served as the church's representative for the Faith Advisory Support Team. Mrs. Caldwell also serves as one of the six commissioners on the Anne Arundel County Ethics Commission.

Mrs. Caldwell resides in Pasadena with her husband. They have two adult children and recently became grandparents.



## Rosemary Harty

A native of the Bronx, N.Y., Rosemary Harty has worked as a journalist, a teacher, and a public relations professional for 28 years. Since 2002, she has served as the Director of Communications for St. John's College in Annapolis, known internationally for its "great books" program of study.

After earning a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Colorado, Ms. Harty worked for 10 years as a news reporter and editor in Cheyenne, Wyoming; Beaumont, Texas; and Dayton, Ohio. As a public affairs reporter, she covered city government, school boards, and the police beat. She won national reporting awards for her articles on education and illiteracy.

Ms. Harty shifted to public relations when she joined the University of Dayton staff as media relations director. She worked in similar positions for the Catholic University of America and the University of Baltimore. Having earned a master's degree in English from Wright State University, she has taught English, journalism, and public relations writing at institutions including Anne Arundel Community College and the University of Baltimore.

At St. John's, Ms. Harty is responsible for communications to alumni and other constituents of the college, for shaping the college's image locally and nationally, and for supporting e-communications, the web site, and social media at the college. She is a 2009 graduate of the college's Graduate Institute. Ms. Harty has won awards from the Associated Press, Women in Communications, and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

A strong believer in community service, Ms. Harty has volunteered as a literacy tutor and for Habitat for Humanity. She is currently a volunteer ESL tutor and a volunteer tennis coach for the Cape St. Claire Recreation Council. She has been pleased to help promote the annual MLK Dinner and the Fannie Lou Hamer awards for the past three years, as well as to work through St. John's to increase the college's support of important community events such as these.

Residents of the Broadneck peninsula, Ms. Harty and her husband, William Wilbert, a landscape architect, are the parents of four children: Penn, John, David, and Quinn, and are active members of the Woods Landing community.

## Sharyn Martin

A native of Darby, Penn., Sharyn was raised in Washington, D.C., where she attended DC public schools and graduated from McKinley Technical High School. She earned a full scholarship to attend Howard University, and after graduating, began a graduate degree as a Prospective Teachers Fellows in a program designed to prepare teachers to work in inner-city schools. After three years, she left the program to start a family.

Ms. Martin went to work at the Community Relations Service of the U.S. Department of Justice in 1972, helping communities across the country with issues of race and education. She transferred to the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in 1974. Working primarily in the area of elementary and secondary education, she helped enforce the law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, and color initially. Later she also helped enforce the laws prohibiting discrimination on the bases of sex, disability, and age.

In 1976, she and her family moved to the Atlanta area, where she continued to work for the Office for Civil Rights in what was soon to become the U.S. Department of Education. She and the family moved to Stamford, Connecticut, in 1987. She continued working for the U.S. Department of Education (New York Regional Office) until 1997, when she retired. Ms. Martin very much enjoyed the opportunity she had to improve the lives of countless students in public schools and often described her work as paid volunteer work.

Following retirement, Ms. Martin earned a Master of Science in Management from Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, and increased her participation with several nonprofit organizations as a volunteer or board member in the areas of education and women's and children's rights.

In 2005, Ms. Martin returned to the D.C. area to help her 95-year-old father. She moved to Deale, where her father was living in what had been the family's summer home. She spent a little more than two years having a great time with her father, going on trips, getting him to classes, and discussing current events (and he would readily share his opinions) before he passed following a short illness.

After reading an article about Sojourner-Douglass College, Ms. Martin was so impressed with the mission of the college that she contacted the college to help and began volunteering at the Edgewater campus. She has been an instructor as well as a volunteer and considers this work among the most gratifying she has ever done. Ms. Martin is also an active member of the Deale Area Historic Society. Additionally, as a member of the Annapolis chapter of The Links, Inc., Ms. Martin works on several community projects.

Ms. Martin has two children, Kristie Martin Vernon, of New Jersey and Dr. Garrett Martin of the District of Columbia.





## *Karen E. Olscamp*

As President and CEO of Baltimore Washington Medical Center (BWMC), Karen Olscamp has had a significant impact on the health of residents in Anne Arundel County.

Born in Niagara Falls, New York, Ms. Olscamp received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Rochester, Rochester, N.Y., and completed her Masters of Healthcare Administration from George Washington University.

Ms. Olscamp began her career at BWMC in 1987, and first served as an administrative resident. She advanced to Vice President of Operations, and then served as Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for ten years. In August of 2008, she was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer.

Over this period of time, the hospital has seen significant growth and development. In 2009, BWMC completed a \$117 million expansion project. As part of this expansion, Ms. Olscamp oversaw the opening of a new obstetrical services unit at the hospital, which includes the establishment of a Stork's Nest program. This innovative program was developed in partnership with the Anne Arundel County Department of Health, the March of Dimes, and the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Rho Eta chapter. The emphasis of the program is to engage pregnant women in underserved and high-risk populations to prevent premature births, low birth weight babies and infant mortality.

Ms. Olscamp is committed to advancing the hospital's mission of serving the community. Last year, she supported the spending of \$6.6 million for community benefit activities that included a variety of preventative health initiatives, outreach, education and screening activities. By providing these free health services, including prostate and vascular screenings at area churches, BWMC hopes to reduce the health disparities within the community while positively impacting the health status of county residents.

BWMC has also received numerous quality awards under Ms. Olscamp's direction, most recently being recognized in 2009 by U.S. News & World Report as one of America's Best Hospitals for neurology/neurosurgery and digestive disorders.

Ms. Olscamp currently serves on the boards of the BWI Business Partnership and the Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce. She has held a variety of roles with civic, community and professional organizations, including Leadership Anne Arundel and the Maryland Hospital Association. She is a fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives. Ms. Olscamp and her husband, Richard Mullins, live in Davidsonville and enjoy sponsoring Naval Academy midshipmen.

## *Deede Rivers*



Edith ("Deede") Kenworthy Rivers was born in Lewes, Delaware, in 1938. Her childhood was spent in Delaware and South Carolina. Her professional background is in nursing. She graduated from Duke University School of Nursing and worked at Duke and the Medical College of Georgia as a staff nurse.

Mrs. Rivers and her husband, Jim, moved to Annapolis in 1972, when he came to practice obstetrics and gynecology. They have been married 49 years and are parents of two sons. Their children, John and Joshua, and their wives Kristi and Jennifer, are parents of seven children. Both families live in the Annapolis area, and the grandchildren are an important part of the Rivers' lives.

The Rivers are members of St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Annapolis, and the church is an integral part of their lives. Mrs. Rivers has served on the Vestry, as a warden, and as a Eucharistic minister. Over the years, she has served on the church's Outreach, Healing, Pastoral Care, and Emmaus ministries. She completed the four-year Education for Ministry program from the University of the South.

Active in the wider community, Mrs. Rivers has served on the board of the YWCA and on the founding board of the Light House Shelter, where she volunteered. Currently, she is part of the Clay Street Children's Collaborative, the Stanton Community Center Homework Club, and coordinator of the Summer Dream Team Camp for teens and preteens sponsored by St. Anne's and the Stanton Center.

Faith, family, and community are all at the center of Mrs. Rivers life and work: "My heart is in loving God and loving my neighbor. I have been thankful to be a part of the team of special people loving and encouraging children and teens in the Clay Street neighborhood. I care deeply about their lives."

Mrs. Rivers is also honored and humbled to have her name associated with Fannie Lou Hamer, a woman of prayer, who read her Bible and whose life was shaped by the Gospel: "She was a person of courage, perseverance, compassion and love who cared about that which is just and life-giving for all people. She, like Dr. King, was a voice for freedom for all Americans, especially those whose rights had been denied because of the color of their skin and those who are poor. I believe strongly in all that she stood for."



*Coretta Scott King Memorial Garden*

Sojourner-Douglas College  
Edgewater, MD



# CORETTA SCOTT KING MEMORIAL GARDEN

Sojourner-Douglass College, Edgewater, Maryland

Support the first memorial in Maryland honoring Coretta Scott King, a true civil rights heroine.

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The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Awards Dinner Committee, Inc. is a  
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For more information go to our website at:  
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