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Let's celebrate the next generation of Caribbean Americans

Caribbean Americans are a vital national resource, creating employment, commercial, and cultural opportunities, while empowering communities with a force as compelling as the oceanic heritage of our ancestors.

Caribbean Life and DiasporaDashboard.com are mindful of these contributions, and proud to dedicate a special edition highlighting the unique accomplishments of some of these gifted people.

They are a new generation, with ideas and talents to match.

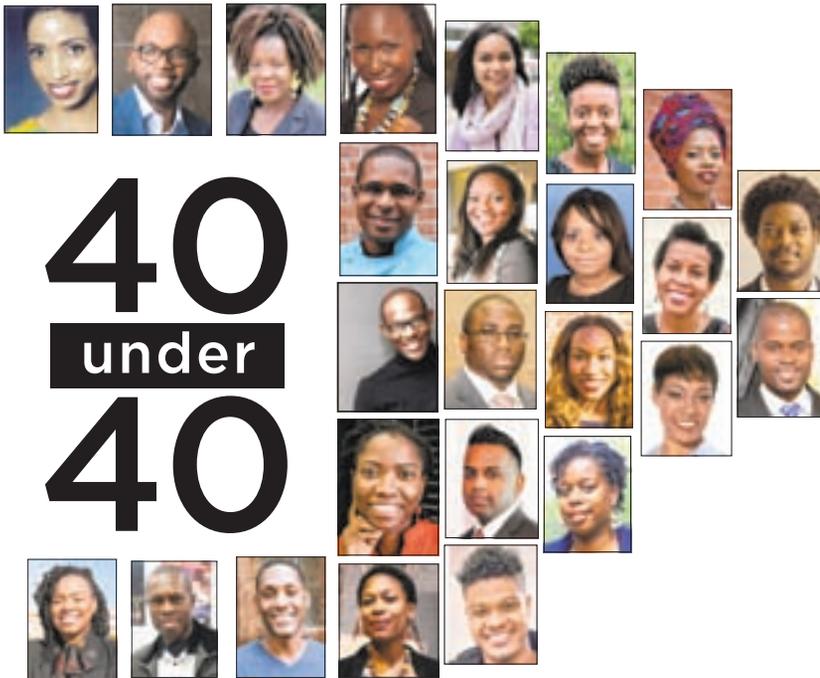
Our "40 Under 40" publication showcases 40 of Caribbean America's best and brightest, including a gifted jewelry designer who's collection appears at Macy's, a social worker who holds the hands of families making the transition

from homeless shelters to their own homes, twin brothers who have become titans of the insurance business, and an award-winning NY1 reporter, just to name a few.

Some of them have conquered extraordinary obstacles on their personal and professional journeys. Others have paved the way for future generations to succeed with confidence.

Yet all of them have demonstrated a commitment to hard work, attention to duty, and love of community that has inspired, educated, healed, and uplifted innumerable people.

They are making today and tomorrow better than yesterday for all of us. We thank them for that, and hope that you, our faithful readers, will enjoy reading their stories as much as we did bringing them to you.



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Garth Fagan

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Stand Up and Be Counted!

A great deal is being made these days, and rightfully so, about the strategic importance of the diaspora and its potential role in the development of countries of origin. No less so for the Caribbean diaspora—or perhaps, even more critically important for struggling small island nations, like those in the region.

But how do we address generational and demographic shifts within the diaspora? How do we engage post-first generation youth and make them a part of the program? Why should American-born children of Caribbean parents identify with their parents' homelands? Are cultural roots enough to keep them connected?

How do we convey that their value to the region is not merely measured in terms of their remittance potential? How do we access their skill sets and their knowledge without having to place them on the ground in the Caribbean, an unlikely possibility for most of these young professionals—many of whom are American-born?

These are some of the key questions that will need to be addressed if the Caribbean diaspora movement is to be sustainable. The Global Diaspora Initiative launched by the U.S. State Department in 2010 has been effective in putting “diaspora engagement” on the map and has brought together thought leaders and community representatives from across every immigrant grouping. The experiences of successful diaspora movements, such as the Israeli-, Chinese-, Indian-, and Irish-Americans, could be very instructive to Caribbean policy makers and diaspora groups.

The young professionals being honored at this year’s Caribbean Life 40 Under 40 Awards are examples of the



Dr. Geneive Brown Metzger
Business Analyst
Senior Advisor, Caribbean Life

quality and breadth of expertise within the diaspora. We find that they are in a cross-section of industry; they are technology entrepreneurs; they are artists; they are bankers; they are scientists; they are social workers; and more.

They proudly acknowledge their Caribbean roots and we see in them an evolved paradigm of what it could mean to give back to the homeland as they connect through technology. They are, indeed, key connectors between Caribbean and the world. They must be an essential component of Caribbean diaspora movement as they are the key to its sustainability; as well as a reservoir for fresh ideas and innovation.

Tonight they stand and are being counted.

DiasporaDashboard.com is thrilled to salute them and we offer them our heartfelt congratulations.

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Caribbean Life

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*past participant of
The Workshop At Macy's*

ON BEING SELECTED FOR
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macy's

NATASHA ANDREWS

Key advisor to many musical artistes



BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Trinidad and Tobago

EDUCATION:
TCI College, studied Digital Media Arts

OCCUPATION:
Senior book production editor at John Wiley and Sons Inc.

PERSON I ADMIRE:
Admires "quite a few people, so it's hard to pick one. However I will mention Jean Alexander, director of the Caribbean American Center of NY. I do not know too many people who work as hard as she does. She is always willing to help others and makes every effort to keep the Caribbean culture alive."

including several parang albums.

Trinidadian-born Natasha Andrews moved to New York in 1995, where she pursued a modeling career and a degree in digital media arts.

In 1998, she turned her attention to the Caribbean music industry. Under her management, the 12-member soca band, Cloud IX, then one of the youngest and most popular groups in New York, toured the United States and Trinidad and Tobago.

Soca artiste Postman independently released Andrews' first album, which sold more than 5,000 copies.

In 2005, Andrews started Mastamind Productions, a music production and consulting company, with award-winning producer/composer Shawn Mastamind Noel.

In 2008, she became ill with ovarian cancer, but she never slowed down.

Andrews used her knowledge of the Caribbean music industry to counsel Caribbean artiste residing in U.S. pro bono to help jump start their careers.

Under her management, Mastamind Productions has released more than 30 albums,

SHORNE BENJAMIN

Serves a taste of the Caribbean



BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
St. Lucia

EDUCATION:
French Culinary Institute, New York

OCCUPATION:
Certified Chef

FAVORITE QUOTE:
New Age Caribbean Cuisine: "... a Caribbean inspired fusion of world flavors and conceptual cooking."

From his grandmother's kitchen in his native St. Lucia to some of New York City's most celebrated restaurants, chef and culinary ambassador Shorne Benjamin has had plenty of experience with the traditional, and not-so-traditional, techniques and bright flavors of island cuisine.

Since early childhood, he's enjoyed cooking for many people with diverse tastes and culinary preferences.

He experimented with rich, exotic flavors and eventually developed his signature flair - an art form and culinary sensation he's called "New Age Caribbean." It can simply be defined as a Caribbean-inspired fusion of world flavors and conceptual cooking.

With a strong entrepreneurial spirit, passion and dreams of owning

his own restaurant, Benjamin settled in New York and pursued a finance degree before following his passion for culinary arts.

In 2009, he graduated as a certified chef from the prestigious French Culinary Institute, New York.

His culinary highlights include: Co-founder of ShorCulinaire Inc., Private Chef and Catering Services.

Benjamin worked alongside renowned Master Chef Jean George,

owner of the popular ABC Restaurant (NYC), and Chef James Jermyn at the award-winning restaurant, Maloney & Porcelli.

Benjamin also worked with Executive Chef James Patterson at the well-known Lower East Side (NYC) contemporary Italian restaurant, called Falai.

TAMIKA BENT

A lawyer with a passion for public service



BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Jamaica

EDUCATION:
Cornell Law School in Ithaca, with Juris Doctorate, and Université Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne with Master en Droit;

OCCUPATION:
Senior associate at the elite New York-based law firm Milbank, Tweed, Hadley and McCloy, LLP. keep me balanced to pursue my passion in public service in spite of a very busy schedule."

sional goals, "which was not an easy feat because I graduated from law school in 2007, on the cusp of the global financial crisis."

Tamika Bent migrated from Jamaica to the U.S., the proverbial land of opportunity, and planted her roots in the Bronx. She has been a resident of New York since then.

After graduating at the top of her class from Harry S. Truman High School in the Bronx, she attended the State University of New York at Albany, graduating magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa with

"THE MENTAL AND PHYSICAL BENEFITS OF A SPORT, KEEP ME BALANCED TO PURSUE MY PASSION IN PUBLIC SERVICE IN SPITE OF A VERY BUSY SCHEDULE."

a Bachelor's of Arts in English.

Bent graduated from Cornell Law School in

Ithaca, with her Juris Doctorate; and Université Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne, graduating with a Master en Droit.

She said the U.S. Juris Doctorate/French Master en Droit is a four-year dual degree program that has given her "a dynamic approach to the practice of law and the education necessary to be a licensed lawyer in both the U.S. and France."

Feeling confident that she had reached the right milestones academically, Bent set out to achieve her profes-

MATEO BIJOUX

Passionate jewelry and fashion designer



BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Jamaica

EDUCATION:
Southern New Hampshire University, Bachelors of Science in Hospitality Management

OCCUPATION:
Designer

PERSON I ADMIRE:
His mother: "She is the glue that holds everything together."

Mateo Bijoux, the son of a seamstress, grew up in the tropical paradise of Montego Bay, Jamaica.

At the age of 16, Bijoux moved to the United States to study, where he then discovered his true passion for the art of jewelry and fashion design. In 2009, the Mateo New York brand was born.

He develops creations that are inspired by his adopted city, New York, and artists such as Grace Jones, as well as memories of his childhood and his mother, who is his eternal muse.

Tough but precious,

the jewels are naturally and characteristically

nonchalant.

Bijoux produces beautiful jewelry that is

BIJOUX PRODUCES BEAUTIFUL JEWELRY THAT IS RAW BY NATURE BUT FINE BY THEIR INCEPTION.

raw by nature but fine by their inception.

He admires his mother, Carmel Harris, the most:

"She is a complete source of support. She is the glue that holds everything together. My mother is the epitome of strength, beauty and resilience."

RUSCHELL BOONE

Dedicated journalist with an eye for details

Ruschell Boone is the Queens Reporter for NY1 News and an award winning journalist. She joined the news channel in 2002. She also works as a fill-in anchor and talk show host.

BOONE HAS COVERED MANY MAJOR NEWS STORIES, INCLUDING THE SEAN BELL POLICE SHOOTING, AND HURRICANE SANDY.



BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Jamaica

EDUCATION:
Baruch College,
BA in Business
Management

OCCUPATION:
New York1, Queens
Reporter

She went on to CNN, where she worked as an associate producer and assignment editor.

Ruschell is a native of Kingston, Jamaica. She emigrated to New York City as a child and attended Richard R. Green Junior High and Harry S. Truman High School in the Bronx.

She earned a Bachelor's of Business Administration in Accounting from Baruch College in Manhattan.

Boone has covered many major news stories, including the Sean Bell police shooting, Hurricane Sandy and the overwhelming number of homeless people living in the subway system.

Her work was recently recognized by her peers. She received the 2014 award for Best Spot

News Reporting from the New York Association of Black Journalists. In addition, she won the New York Press Club's 2013 award for Best Feature Reporting.

Prior to her arrival at NY1, Boone worked as a news associate for CNBC Business News, where she produced news updates and wrote for several shows.

GILBERT BRAMWELL

Dedicated to uplifting his culture

Gilbert Bramwell is a Jamaican small business owner. He is currently studying for his B.S in small business and entrepreneurship at Devry University of New York.

Rapid Rinse Laundry Cleaning Services was started in October 2013. Bramwell started it with a fellow colleague after he was asked about business ideas that have changed how we live.

Rapid rinse is a business that provides laundry cleaning and dry-cleaning services for its members, with plans to offer more features in the near future.

Bramwell chose the laundry industry because he felt it could work with his background in retail wireless customer service.

While the majority of Bramwell's career



BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Jamaica

EDUCATION:
Owner/founder, Rapid Rinse Services, LLC

OCCUPATION:
Entrepreneur

PERSON I

ADMIRE: "The people I admire are my parents, Dawn and Gilbert Bramwell Sr. My parents have owned their own insurance agency for more than 20 years, and managed to raise four kids. So my intentions are to continue the tradition they have set forth with their work ethic and dedication to uplifting our culture through success."

has been spent working for T-Mobile, U.S.A., he also worked for Blockbuster Video and parents' insurance agency, Peoples Insurance Center.

Before becoming an owner, he worked in wireless retail for 10 years, with eight years in retail management.

After two years as a sales associate, Bramwell was promoted to assistant store manager and then store

manager seven months later.



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on being an honoree for
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REESHMAH BRIGHTLEY

Shares her passion for youth



BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Jamaica

EDUCATION:
Hobart & Williams
Smith Colleges, BA,
Spanish and Hispanic
Studies

OCCUPATION:
Entrepreneur, consul-
tant and educator

PERSON I ADMIRE:
“I admire my mother
because of the
challenges she’s
overcome – never
allowing it to con-
sume her,” Brightly
says. “She always
figures out a way to
work through them
or have them work
in her favor some-
how.”

FAVORITE QUOTE:
“Loving life and dar-
ing to live it” – Dr.
Maya Angelou

Reeshmah Brightley is an entrepreneur, consultant and educator. She recently joined the team at Zeno-Radio as the Caribbean regional content administrator. In her role, she is responsible for the English-speaking Caribbean region and the Caribbean Diaspora in the United States and the United Kingdom. This position allows her to connect radio broadcasters in the Caribbean and the U.S. who focus on the Caribbean market.

parents and their infants/toddlers and plans family oriented events. She is also the co-creator of the First 2000 Days NY™ Campaign and writer for her parent blog Sabree-HarlemParents.com.

As an educator, Brightley is the vice president of operations of Sabree Education Services, a subsidiary of her event planning company, Sabree Special Events LLC.

In this position, she trains childcare providers, servicing families with infants and toddlers; she co-facilitates classes for

DONALD BROWN

Keeps the stock exchange abuzz



BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Jamaica

EDUCATION:
Hofstra University,
Bachelors in
Computer Science

OCCUPATION:
New York Stock
Exchange, Sr. quality
assurance analyst
and director of the
quality assurance
team

PERSON I ADMIRE:
My parents who are
very familiar with
hard work and sac-
rifice; they preached
the importance of
family.

Donald Brown currently holds the title of managing director of System Operations at the New York Stock Exchange, a 222-year-old stock trading institution. The New York Stock Exchange also known as the “Big Board” is one of the largest stock exchanges in the world by market capitalization of its listed companies.

Brown’s team is responsible for the operation and system availability of the electronic trading system used daily to handle 3000 plus instruments that trade at the New York Stock Exchange.

At the exchange, Brown has held positions of senior quality assurance analyst and director of the quality assurance team, where he was responsible for ensuring quality software systems were built and validated

to provide the function intended.

Brown was born in St. Catherine, Jamaica, where he lived for the first 13 years of his life. He migrated to the U.S. in 1990, where he attended Sheepshead Bay High School and later went on to complete his Bachelors in Computer Science at Hofstra University.

In 2013, Brown was nominated by the New York Stock Exchange to receive the “Black Achievers in Industry” award, handed out by the Har-

lem YMCA for his accomplishments.

Brown has been married to his wife for 15 years and has three beautiful children, two daughters and a son.

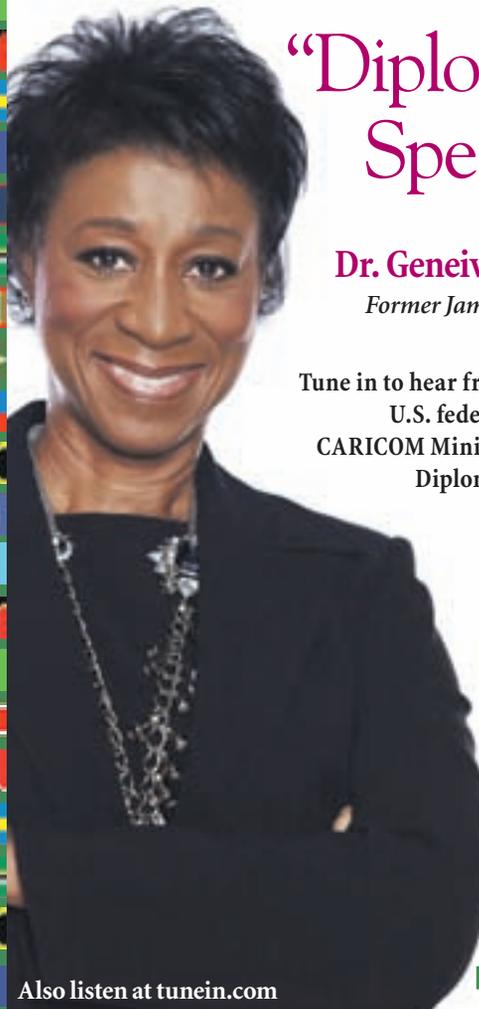
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on her selection by Caribbean Life
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Former Jamaican Consul General

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CYNTHIA CARRION

Youth development advocate

For over a decade Cynthia Carrion's career has focused on advancing human rights and community empowerment on the local, national and international levels. Since 2000, Carrion has been involved in community and youth development as an administrator, educator, advocate, filmmaker and organizer.

She has worked closely with youth and community based organizations in New York, San Jose (Costa Rica), Freetown (Sierra Leone) and has been a leading organizer for the volunteer group Border of Lights, an art and service project along the Haitian and Dominican border.

Carrion is the deputy director at the Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights (NMCIR), committed to



expanding access to legal immigration services, participating in policy making and community organizing.

Prior to joining the team at NMCIR, Carrion worked with international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to support youth development and leadership as the national youth programs coordinator for Amnesty International USA and the youth producing change

BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:

Her mother is from the Dominican Republic and her father is Puerto Rican. She was born in Far Rockaway, Queens, NY.

EDUCATION:

City College, City University of New York (CUNY), M.A. in international relations; Hunter College, CUNY, B.A. in Media Studies and Latin America and Caribbean Studies

OCCUPATION:

Deputy Director for Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights

PERSON I ADMIRE:

Jesuit Father Mario Serrano.

coordinator for Human Rights Watch.

KEISHA L. CLARKE GRAY

Loves performing and teaching dance

Keisha Laren Clarke Gray is proud to be one of the blessed 40 Under 40 honored this year. She was born and raised in Brooklyn to two lovely Jamaican parents, Lance and Jennifer Clarke.

Clarke Gray graduated from California Institute of the Arts with a BFA in Dance.

Her other training is from Gotta Dance Inc., Jamaica School of Dance, La Guardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts, Alvin Ailey American Dance Center and London Contemporary Dance School. She is a performing artist, choreographer and dance instructor.

Having been a member of the inaugural cast of "The Lion King" in Los Angeles, California, Clarke Gray later



became "Swing- Dance Captain," covering multiple roles, as well as teaching them to others in the show with "The Lion King" on Broadway and The National Tour.

Clarke Gray toured worldwide with Garth Fagan Dance and Lula Washington Dance Theatre.

She is a former Hal Jackson Talented Teen and later became the choreographer/ director of the Hal Jackson Talented Teens International Competition.

BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:

Jamaica

EDUCATION:

California Institute of the Arts, with a BFA in Dance

OCCUPATION:

Performing artist, choreographer and dance instructor

PERSON I ADMIRE:

Late paternal grandmother Luna Christina Burford Clarke. "She was a loving and respected god-fearing wife; mother; matron of Bellevue Psychiatric Hospital in Kingston, Jamaica; a volunteer with Girls Town as well as the Senior Girls Sunday School teacher.

FAVORITE QUOTE:

Proverbs 3:5-6 & Isaiah 60:1



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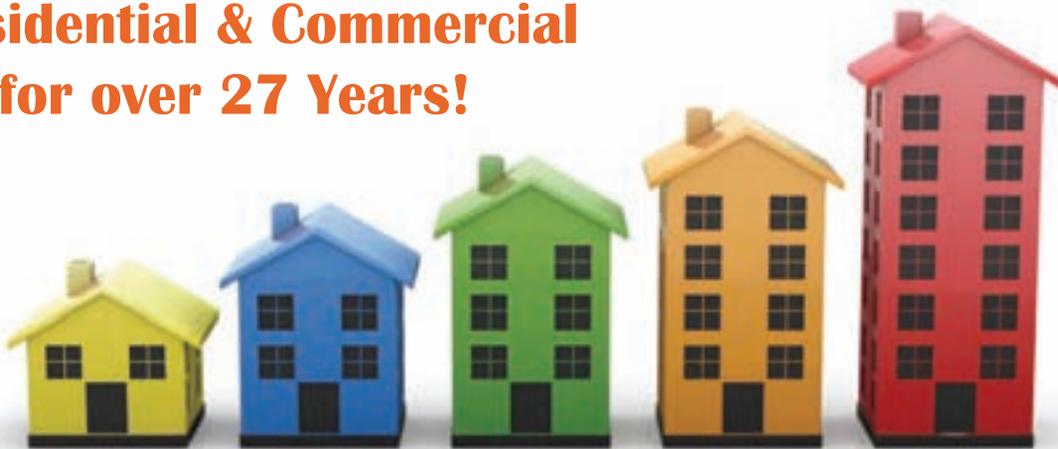
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SAMANTHA CLYNE

Extends a helping hand when needed



BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Grenada

EDUCATION:
John Jay College of
Criminal Justice

OCCUPATION:
Social Worker,
CAMBA

PERSON I ADMIRE:
My mother Diane
Clyne.

When Samantha Clyne's parents got divorced during her sophomore year at in high school, her biggest worry was how her twin sister — who was just entering intermediate school — was going to adjust to the dramatic change in their lives.

The sisters had always been close, but the change intensified their relationship.

"The divorce brought us together," she said. "I became like a mommy sister."

They got through it together, and from that moment on, the Grenada-born Clyne decided she would dedicate a portion of her life helping families in need.

Clyne's education set the course: at Clara Barton High, she was accepted into the MACY's Med-

ical Honors Program, and the Arthur Ashe program that connected her to SUNY Downstate Hospital in East Flatbush, starting her on her way.

She then studied forensic psychology at John Jay College, and after volunteering as a social worker dealing with sex offenders, she moved to jobs helping formerly homeless people transition from shelters to residences, first at the Doe Fund and now at CAMBA Gardens.

It is there that she's made the most differ-

ence, helping residents with mental illness find their way.

Families such as the Elizabeth Melendez's — a mom of three whose divorce and a bout with depression and agoraphobia ended with a stay in a homeless shelter.

Things began to turn around when she met Clyne.

"I had to hold her hand and help her find her way," Clyne said.

GEOFF K. COOPER

A conduit for good news & positive energy



BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Trinidad

EDUCATION:
Monroe College, with
degrees in business
management, ac-
counting and finance

OCCUPATION:
Publisher

PERSON I ADMIRE:

"Every accomplishment can be credited to the hard work, dedication and sacrifice of my parents, Eusebio and Christine Cooper."

Trinidadian-born Geoff K. Cooper is a change agent on a mission to move millions to a higher level of living.

As an entrepreneur, speaker, and youth advocate, for the past 10 years, Cooper has been serving with businesses, organizations and individuals to live their best life and help others do the same.

He is the editor-in-chief and publisher of GCaribbean Magazine, founder and convener of the Calabash Consortium, Inc. and is a former United Nations Youth Spokesperson for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). GCaribbean's U.S. base is in New York and Caribbean base is Trinidad and Tobago.

Holder's spiritually-rich tradition and hum-

ble beginnings in a village in the Caribbean has imbued him with a passion to see people live their best life, and he works tirelessly to ensure that he is a conduit for good news, positive energy and empowering resources.

In 2010, Holder had a revelation about the Calabash, one of the world's first cultivated plants.

In every culture globally, the Calabash was used as either a vessel or a raw resource. Holder saw this as a powerful metaphor for human beings, and has worked

to usher in the "Calabash Model" — a paradigm for manifesting service, where everyone recognizes that he/she is a vessel filled with resources and can use the resources to empower his/herselves and others.

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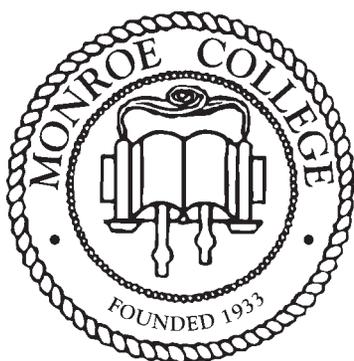


Monroe College congratulates

Karian Wright

on receiving the Caribbean Life Newspapers
and Diaspora Dashboard.com
40 under 40 award.

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NADEGE FLEURIMOND

Whets your appetite with every taste



BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Haiti

EDUCATION:
Columbia University, with a degree in political science

OCCUPATION:
Business Owner

mond is the recipient of the 2011 Feet in Two Worlds Food Writers Fellowship, which has garnered many awards.

“Taste of Life”: Fleurimond carries this theme even further. Using short anecdotes, she depicts the events of her life through a food-inspired lens.

The book is a humorous journey into Fleurimond’s life, as she navigates her way through the world of food and the experiences with her family, friends and acquaintances.

University. Fleurimond has been quoted in the New York Times, appeared on the national television show “Chopped” on the Food Network, and has been a food columnist for the Haitian Times Newspaper since 2008.

She is also the recipient of the New York Media Alliance’s Ethnic Press Fellowship for 2010 covering the education beat.

Additionally, Fleuri-

Nadege Fleurimond is the owner of Fleurimond Catering Inc. Utilizing her Haitian culinary background, Fleurimond pulls in world flavors from Asian, Latin American and European cuisines.

She has catered for Ann-Hauser Busch, Paul Weiss, NYC Hall, BET, The Colbert Report, Dr. Mehmet Oz’s Health-corps and Vivica Fox, among others.

USING SHORT ANECDOTES, SHE DEPICTS THE EVENTS OF HER LIFE THROUGH A FOOD-INSPIRED LENS.

With varying interests in business, government and social issues, Fleurimond graduated with a degree in Political Science from Columbia

TRICIA OCONA FRANCIS

Your dedicated real estate expert



BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Born in the U.S, her mother is Jamaican and father is Venezuelan; she grew up in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago

EDUCATION:
New York University

OCCUPATION:
Real Estate Professional

PERSON I ADMIRE:
Valerie Jarret. She is President Obama’s senior advisor. “She is a successful real estate professional and has a deep love for her community.”

Trisha Ocona Francis has an intense dedication and commitment to her community, which has her often looked at as the trusted and respected go-to person for when many are in need of real estate and housing questions and honest direction.

She was recognized as a 2012 Extraordinary Woman of Brooklyn, 2013 Brooklyn’s Woman of Distinction by CNG Local, 2014 Rising Star of Brooklyn, and 2014 Star of Brooklyn for her contribution of real estate in Brooklyn.

Ocona Francis is the chief executive officer of real estate OCONA, LLC, a NYC brokerage.

She is also a licensed real estate broker in New Jersey at Prominent Properties Sotheby’s International Realty.

Ocona Francis is an

appointed board member by the Governor of the NYS Department of State’s Real Estate Board, where she and her fellow board members share regulatory duties with The Division of Licensing Services and has the power to set the rules and regulations of New York State Real Estate, and help create and enforce the NYS real estate laws.

She is a former board director for the Eastern Bergen County Board of Realtors and is the only NYS certified employer/union assisted housing expert.

AJ GHANESS & VJ GHANESS

Twin titans of the insurance biz



BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Guyana.

EDUCATION:
Road scholars; AJ attended Queens Community College.

OCCUPATION:
Senior executive brokers.

PERSON I ADMIRE:
“Our father Harry because of his relentless pursuit for success.”

The first written insurance policy appeared in 1750 BC on a Babylonian obelisk monument carved with the code of King Hammurabi, assuring debtors they didn’t have to repay their loans if catastrophe struck.

Today’s average Joe is a birdbrain about claims, risks, premiums, and other industry jargon that can overturn dreams into nightmares on a dime.

Lucky for them then that insurance twins VJ and AJ Ghaness are around to save the day.

“Everything is touched by insurance,” says VJ.

“It’s one of the four cornerstones of the economy,” adds AJ.

The baby-faced, 34-year-old siblings from Guyana are local pit bulls in an industry dominated by the

big dogs. Both are senior executive brokers at H and N Insurance Agency and Financial Group, a million-dollar company their father Harry started in their home basement in mid-1990s with a simple philosophy.

“He used to tell us, “The greatest treasure in the world is underneath your nose, it’s your mouth and if you use it effectively, you can get

anything you want,” say the twins with matched destinies.

Both have around 18 years of industry experience, starting at a wholesale insurance firm where they worked their way up from clerks to underwriters, and familiarized themselves with heavy-duty aspects of the trade, including insuring cargo and 90-story commercial buildings. Both are studying for

their Charter Property and Casualty Underwriter designation—the industry’s highest attainment. Both are also problem solvers for clients unaware of the fine print peppering their policies.

A financially strapped Harlem nonprofit with 16 low-income housing complex was forking over nearly a million dollars to 16 different insurers, until the Ghanesses resuscitated it by consolidating their insurance costs into one manageable policy.

A homeowner found herself \$425,000 in debt after a fire burned down her home, but she recouped the full amount after the twins found her an adjuster who successfully fought her claim in court.

“She got paid in full and her house was re-

stored,” says AJ.

Family and community are key to their success, claim the twins. Last summer their mother Nadi cre-

“EVERYTHING IS TOUCHED BY INSURANCE, IT’S ONE OF THE FOUR CORNERSTONES OF THE ECONOMY.”

ated a benefit drive for terminally ill children in Guyana and personally delivered the toys to pediatric patients in hospitals. And when their ancestral village was ravaged by a flood, Harry and Nadi chartered a boat and brought essential supplies to the victims’ doorsteps. The brothers have followed suit, mentoring youngsters through the Indo-Caribbean Alliance outreach group they helped to form, and speak-

ing motivationally at churches, schools, and community events.

Insurance has been their ticket to life and enhanced it exponentially, adds the pair.

“The industry has allowed us to experience real world scenarios and grow into the men we have become,” they say proudly.



Tribute to our veterans

A member of the New York Regiment Colored Troops Reenactors representing Black servicemen of New York's 26th Regiment during the Civil War marching in the Veterans Day Parade on Tuesday Nov.11, 2014. Photo by Tequila Minsky

Dominica PM sets new election date

By Nelson A. King

Dominica Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit has set Dec. 8 as the new date for general elections.

"With full confidence in the capacity of voters to decide objectively and choose wisely, I have today, in accordance with the provisions of section 54 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Dominica, advised his excellency, the president, to dissolve the Parliament of Dominica, with immediate effect, and to issue a writ for the holding of general elections," said Skerrit in a nationwide radio and television address last

Wednesday.

He said Nomination Day will be Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2014.

A poll by the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Research Services (CADRES) has predicted that Skerrit's Dominica Labor Party (DLP) will win another term in office.

CADRES Director Peter Wickham, the most significant political observation the survey generates is the projected political swing of -two percent away from the DLP or four percent towards the main opposition United Workers Party (UWP).

"The variation between the two projections is a result of the fact that the CADRES projection tool relies on the electoral history of both political parties and on this occasion the Dominica Freedom Party's (DFP's) historic support remains unallocated," he said.

"Notwithstanding, the direction of the swing is consistent in both instances and consistent with what would be a normal trend in the case of a fourth-term government in the Caribbean," Wickham added.

He said that 43 percent of

Continued on Page 1

GUYANA CRISIS UNFOLDS

Prez Donald Ramotar prorogues parliament

By Bert Wilkinson

In what his critics call a shameless attempt to avoid his government falling, President Donald Ramotar suspended sittings of Guyana's parliament this week just as the opposition parties in the national assembly were preparing to pass a no confidence vote in his administration that would have forced him to call general elections in three months at the latest.

From all appearances, the move did not come as a surprise to A Partnership For National Unity (APNU) and the Alliance For Change (AFC), which had in August handed in a terse one-line petition to the assembly clerk, saying the opposition had lost all confidence in the government.

Once this was done, systems and processes which result from such a serious political and constitutional move began to fall into place. As usual, the 65-member house took its annual recess in the second week of August and was scheduled to resume on Oct. 10.

A full month passed of nothingness before Ramotar picked enough political pluck to call the first sitting on the assembly on

Monday but hours before legislators took to their seats, Ramotar announced that he had decided to prorogue or suspend sessions of the assembly, effecting giving himself powers to run the Caribbean trade bloc nation without parliamentary oversight for up to six months.

The move has triggered widespread condemnation from domestic and international observers not the least being the normally politically dormant Catholic Church and the Washington D.C.-based Organization of American States (OAS).

Neither denied that Ramotar had used a valid clause in the constitution to chase home legislators and to prevent the 33 opposition MP's from approving the no confidence motion but both clearly called for a return to parliamentary democracy in the shortest possible period.

A point to note is that all 33 of the 65 opposition members had turned out, many decked out in crisp business suits to cast their votes. Colleagues across the aisle stayed away as the first session in three months had been cancelled.

Continued on Page 1

Antigua

Antigua-based Caribbean airline LIAT is expected to retrench staff as a result of the airline's decision to cut its fleet from the current 11 aircraft to nine next year.

LIAT Chief Executive Officer (CEO) David Evans held talks with the airline unions over the carrier's new business plan.

"Like any responsible business we have to examine our cost base and if we fly fewer aircraft in 2015 than in 2014, we also need to reduce our costs to reflect this," Evans said.

"We have also been mandated by our board of directors to ensure that our costs reflect the level of activity that we carry out. It is too early to say what impact there may be on jobs as a result of this, and the company will consult with its staff and their representatives over its plans before making any announcement," he said.



There is speculation that as many as 140 employees could be made redundant by the move.

Bahamas

The Bahamas government confirmed that 76 people have been arrested recently after they failed to meet the new requirements for staying legally in the country.

Minister of Immigration Fred Mitchell also denied reports that children were detained and placed in the Carmichael Road Detention center during the exercise.

He told reporters at a news conference that the administrative measures announced by the department on work permits, certificates of identity and residency permits had gone into effect recently, "there was a routine interdiction exercise."

He said that from the time, there have been interdiction every day, every week and the recent exercise "was no different from what the Department ordinarily does and should not be used to inflame passions."



Mitchell said the situation should not be politicized.

"This is simply about enforcing the laws of the Commonwealth in a calm and quiet manner. The job has to get done to protect our borders. Neither fear, nor incitement should come out of this," he said.

Last month, Mitchell said non-nationals living in The Bahamas from Nov. 1, 2014 have to show evidence that they have permission to live or work in the country.

In September, the government warned persons without the documents would be "arrested, charged and deported."



Storm hits Haiti

Residents dry their belongings on the roofs of their shack homes surrounded by floodwater in Cap-Haitien, Haiti, Friday, Nov. 7, 2014. Thousands of families in Haiti and the neighboring Dominican Republic have been affected by floods from a storm system that drenched the countries for several days. At least five people were killed and one was missing. See story page 14.

AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery

Barbados

The Barbados government is reviewing draft legislation to regulate the use of e-cigarettes.

Health Minister John Boyce made this announcement during a two-day workshop on tobacco taxation for Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries, which was held in Bridgetown.

Boyce told delegates to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/World Health Organization (WHO) sub-regional training workshop that the decision to amend the legislation was taken in response to a recent WHO report on the use of e-cigarette.

He said that the report highlighted evidence suggesting that exhaled e-cigarette aerosols increased the background air level of some toxicants, nicotine and particles.



As a consequence, the WHO has advised that legal steps should be taken to end e-cigarette use indoors, in public and workplaces.

Boyce said tobacco consumption in Barbados had decreased from 32 percent in 1998 to 8.2 percent in 2007, and preliminary results from the most recent survey completed in 2013 showed an even further decline.

In 2010, the sale of tobacco products to minors was banned and regulations to prevent tobacco smoking in public places were implemented.

Bermuda

The British Royal Navy frigate, HMS Argyll, has seized cocaine with an estimated street value of US\$15 million one day after leaving Bermuda, where it had been assisting with clean-up following the passage of Hurricane Gonzalo.

Officials said after spending four days in Bermuda, the frigate was returning to a drug-fighting duty in the Caribbean when it encountered a suspect yacht in the North Atlantic about 150 miles south of the island.

The yacht was intercepted and a search was conducted, which resulted in the seizure of several bales of cocaine weighing more than 200 kilograms of (441 lbs).

Governor George Fergusson said that while it was too early to be sure of the destination of the drugs, there was a fair chance that some of it was intended for Bermuda.



Dominica

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) has offered to assist Dominica should the deadly Ebola virus surfaces on the island.

This was disclosed by Minister of Health Julius Timothy, who attended the recently concluded Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Health Ministers' recently held in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

"We have also got commitment from PAHO that should Ebola ever surface in Dominica, they will immediately take over and bring all the resources to Dominica within 72 hours," he said.

Timothy said screening units for the disease are in place at the airport.

"In Dominica, we have in place screening units at the Melville Hall Airport, we are finalizing the screening area at the Princess Margaret Hospital and we are also identifying an isolation area," the health minister said.



He said the OECS Secretariat has agreed to update all opposition parties in members states of the Ebola status.

Guyana

The Guyana government said it is taking umbrage to the recent figures released by the World Health Organization (WHO) giving the country the dubious ranking of having the highest suicide rate per capita in the world.

Head of the Presidential Secretariat Dr. Roger Luncheon said that the way in which the number of suicide cases calculated by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the WHO did not accurately reflect what is recorded by the Guyana Police Force and the Min-



Continued on Page 24



Brooklyn District Attorney Kenneth Thompson.

AP Photo/Seth Wenig, File

Brooklyn DA applauds weed policy

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn District Attorney Kenneth Thompson has applauded the new marijuana policy unveiled on Monday by Mayor Bill DeBlasio and New York Police Department (NYPD) Commissioner William J. Bratton.

"I applaud the Mayor's decision to no longer arrest first-time offenders or individuals found in possession of small amounts of marijuana city-wide, similar to the approach that I have taken in Brooklyn," Thompson said.

"I also agree with Police Commissioner Bratton that we must put in place certain safeguards to ensure that this new policy is not carried out in a discriminatory manner," he added.

But Thompson said he was "concerned about the due process rights of those who are given marijuana summonses, which for Brooklyn, will be addressed at a location in Manhattan that is already overburdened."

The mayor, who took office promising to reform the NYPD and repair strained relations with black and Latino communities, said, while he was not advocating the decriminalization of marijuana, the impact of enforcement on the people arrested and on the NYPD forced him to rethink how the police deal with low-level marijuana arrests.

"When an individual is arrested, even for the smallest possession of marijuana, it hurts their chances to get a good job; it hurts their chances to get housing; it hurts their chances to qualify for a student loan," the mayor said.

"It can literally follow them for the rest of their lives and saddle young people with challenges that, for many, are very difficult to overcome," he added.

Williams salutes vets

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Councilman Jumaane D. Williams has joined elected officials in saluting the nation's veterans, saying that "we are in debt to their bravery and service, more than lip service."

"As we celebrate Veteran's Day, let us remember the men and women in uniform who made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our country," said Williams, the son of Grenadian immigrants, who represents the 45th Council District in Brooklyn.

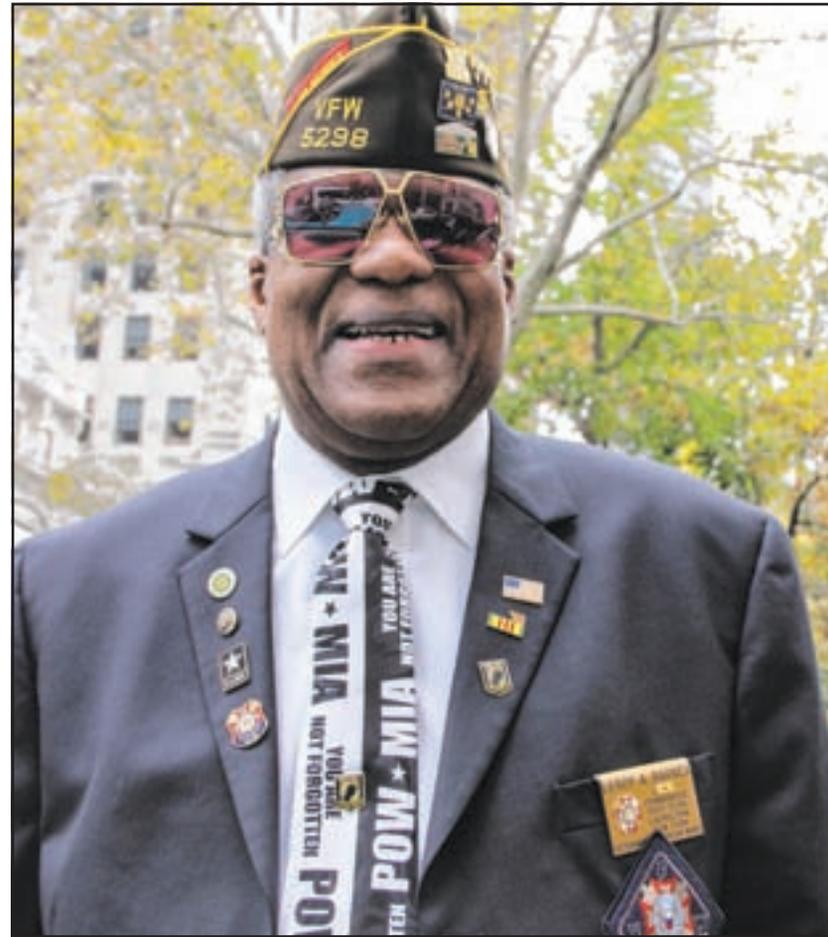
"Let us also take this day to thank millions of men and women across the nation, including those veterans living in the 45th council district, for their service to our country," added Williams, deputy leader and chair of the Council's Housing and Buildings Committee, who last week reached out to the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation Brooklyn Borough Commissioner Kevin Jeffrey to request a replacement to the tattered American flags located at Amersfort Park before Veteran's Day.

The Department responded quickly and replaced the flags on Nov. 1, Williams said.

"Our thanks have nothing to do with the politics related to the decision of war; it has everything to do with the sacrifice made," he said. "No matter when, where, or how long a veteran served, the fact is that they were asked to put your lives on the line and did."

"Veterans are made promises that too often go unfulfilled. It is our duty to remember the commitments our country has made to our veterans and their families, whether it be providing housing, assisting with employment, or more," Williams added.

He called on government, service organizations and individuals to honor the sacrifices that veterans and their



This Caribbean vet stands proud before the parade begins.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

families have made "by ensuring that they have access to all of the necessary support services available.

"If we all work together, our city will provide the full salute our veterans deserve," said the councilman, whose district covers Flatbush, East Flatbush,

Flatlands, and parts of Midwood and Canarsie.

Williams, who is also co-chair of the Council's Task Force to Combat Gun Violence, is a co-founding member of the Progressive Caucus, and a member of the Black, Latino & Asian Caucus.

Dominica celebrates 36 years of independence

By Nelson A. King

Dominica on Monday celebrated its 36 years of political independence from Great Britain with a gala ceremony at the Washington, D.C.-headquartered Organization of American States (OAS).

The OAS said the event was hosted by the Permanent Representative of the country, Amb. Hubert Charles.

This year's celebration was focused on the theme, "Our nation, our responsibility," promoted by the government of Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit as a call to deepen the contribution that each citizen can make to the country's development.

During the event, OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza highlighted the broad historical and cultural legacy that characterizes the Caribbean country and the leadership it has shown



Dominica's Amb. Hubert Charles addresses the reception to celebrate the Independence of Dominica with OAS Secretary General Josffl Miguel Insulza in attendance.

Photo courtesy of the OAS

in the context of its participation in the OAS through Amb. Charles, as well as the role the country plays within the

Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

Charles alluded to the political, economic and cultural developments that have taken place in the country in recent decades, underscoring the cooperation forged with countries in the Western Hemisphere, Europe and Asia.

He noted the importance that Dominica assigns to the OAS as a multilateral institution, stating that the principles that guide the priorities of his country are aligned with the organization's work and mission.

Charles also took the opportunity to express appreciation for the work of Insulza and Assistant Secretary General Albert Ramdin for their 10 years in office, adding that, under their leadership, the OAS "has been able to forge the kind of viability that the countries of the region need."

Ramotar suspends parliament



President Donald Ramotar.
AP Photo/Felipe Dana, File

Continued from cover

Of the commentary on the situation so far, the Jamaica Observer has been most strident and forthright in its criticisms.

It said that Ramotar “clearly intends to maintain himself in power and delay elections as long as possible. Meanwhile, he has done his country considerable reputational damage. To deliberately create a situation in which the executive is exercising power without a functioning parliament is a subversion of democracy. It is tantamount to the conversion of an elected president into a de facto dictatorship.”

It also called his reason for suspending sessions to preserve the life of parliament rather than completely dissolving it “a transparent farce” and a sad day for Guyana.

The move has however, placed the opposition on the back foot, practically inviting them to do whatever

they please.

From what is known so far by way of a strong and protracted opposition to the presidential move, the APNU has scheduled a mass rally for Friday night where it will be forced to detail its official reaction to the move or face the specter of appearing to be weak and meek.

One thing is clear, however, is that the PPP has had a history of political hardheadedness that often leads to civil and other forms of unrest.

The British sent troops to dislodge the administration in colonial 1953 as it toyed with communism, install an interim government and fresh elections four years later.

In the early 1960s, the CIA and other western agencies fermented riots, street protests, labor strikes and other acts to weaken an unyielding administration later changing the electoral system to pry the PPP from office.

This is what the two parties are facing in the wake of the suspension, a government that is prepared to hang in at all costs.

The prorogation has almost wiped away the furor from Attorney General Anil Nandlall who was caught on an audio tape detailing knowledge of plans by pro government gunmen to invade and shoot up staffers at the daily Kaieteur News Newspaper for its sustained coverage of corruption and other forms of malfeasance.

It is stuff like this, also widespread corruption, the closeness of authorities to the narco trade, Ramotar’s refusal to recognize and sign opposition bills and motions passed in parliament, government’s refusal to bring mega projects to the assembly for scrutiny and a host of other ills that have sparked the latest crisis.



Dominica Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit. AP Photo/Everett Kennedy Brown

Elections

Continued from cover

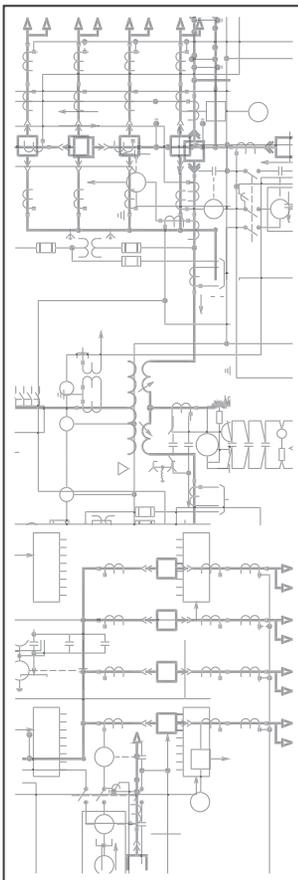
respondents indicated a preference for the DLP, while 30 percent promised to support the UWP. Thirteen percent of respondents were unsure which party they would support in the next election, while 14 percent refused to tell CADRES interviewers their preferred candidate or party.

Wickham said although the DFP is not fielding any candidates, 0.4 percent of respondents identified themselves as DFP supporters.

But the UWP has strongly rejected Wickham’s poll, according to Dominica’s CBN4News.

The CADRES poll used a sample of 1,000 potential voters, with a margin of error of + or – five percent.

Go to www.Caribbeanlifeneews.com for the latest in Caribbean news.



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Chikungunya outbreak spreads

Former Antiguan PM knighted

By Nelson A. King

The Atlanta, GA-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has warned that the chikungunya outbreak in Caribbean and Central and South American countries continues to spread with no sign of slowing down.

CDC experts are, therefore, warning that the painful mosquito-borne disease will likely continue to infect travelers to the region during the rest of this year and beyond.

The outbreak, which began last December, has caused an estimated 795,000 chikungunya fever cases in 37 countries and territories in the Western Hemisphere as of the end of October, said CDC in its latest update.

It said more than 1,600 travelers returning to the United States with chikungunya fever have been reported, as of Nov. 4, 2014.

Before this outbreak, CDC said an average of 28 travelers with chikungunya fever returned to the United States each year.

CDC estimates that about 9 million people travel between the United States and Caribbean each year.

"During fall and winter, people in the United States might not be thinking about mosquitoes as a risk for diseases. So those who will be visiting the Caribbean or Central or South America should be aware of the risk of chikun-



Haiti's Health Minister Florence Duperval Guillaume reads the information on a box in a warehouse housing a donation of kits to treat chikungunya, in the Cite Soleil slum, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2014. AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery

gunya in these areas this fall and winter and remember their insect repellent and other tips for staying safe," it said in a statement.

Dr. Roger S. Nasci, chief of CDC's Arboviral Diseases Branch, said the beginning of fall means that mosquito problems in the continental United States will be decreasing.

"However, travelers to areas where the chikungunya outbreak continues

are at risk of becoming infected," he cautioned. "It is important that travelers understand these risks and take appropriate actions to prevent being bitten by mosquitoes."

The CDC said preventing mosquito bites is the best way to avoid chikungunya and other mosquito-borne illnesses, adding that the mosquitoes that spread chikungunya bite mostly during the daytime.

CDC recommends using insect repellent and wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants during the day and staying in air-conditioned or well-screened rooms at night.

It said that those using sunscreen should apply insect repellent after sunscreen.

Some travelers may be more likely to get chikungunya, depending on where they travel and the length of their trip, CDC said.

It said travelers more likely to have severe disease if they are infected (high-risk groups) include people older than 65 and those with arthritis or serious underlying medical conditions, such as high blood pressure, heart disease, or diabetes.

CDC advises travelers in high-risk groups to discuss their travel plans with their health care provider before leaving.

By Azad Ali

Former Antigua & Barbuda Prime Minister Lester Bird, was among four nationals who were knighted during the recent Ceremonial Parade to mark the 33rd anniversary of Independence recently.

Bird was named Knight of the Most Exalted Order of National Hero (KNH) for his contribution to national development as an outstanding sportsman, lawyer and parliamentarian for 38 years – Antigua and Barbuda's highest honor.

The two-term prime minister, who joined the ranks of his father, Sir Vere Cornwall Bird Sr. and cricket legend, Sir Vivian Richards, the only other living national hero said he was "proud and humbled" with the recent accolade.

Veteran surgeon Dr. Cuthwin Leonard Lake was named Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of the Nation for contributions to national development in the field of medicine.

Proprietor of Harney Motors Ltd, Ewart Harney, was also recognized for his contribution to entrepreneurship and community service.

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New York City is taking aggressive steps to ensure the health and safety of all New Yorkers.

If you believe that you have been a victim of discrimination because you are African, were in Africa, or because others believe you have Ebola, call 311 to contact the NYC Commission on Human Rights.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, visit nyc.gov/ebola

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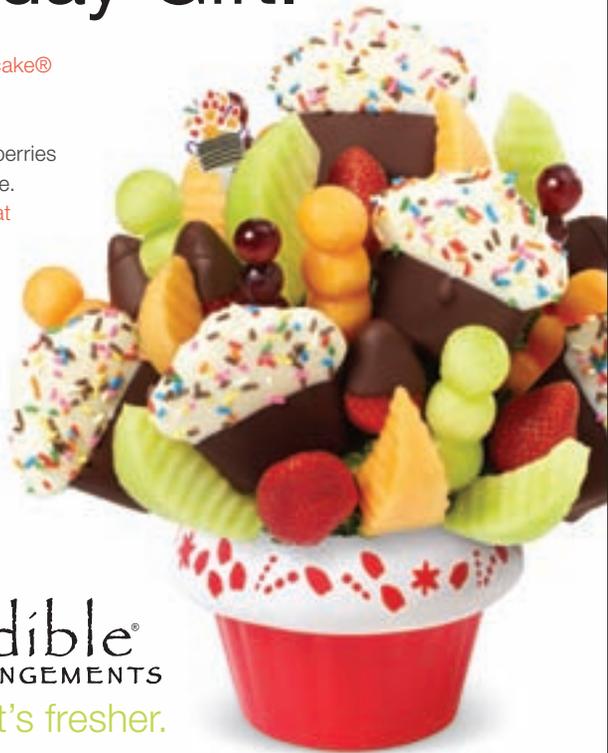
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Dominican Republic quits OAS's human rights court

By Panky Corcino and Danica Coto

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — The Dominican Republic withdrew as a member of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on Tuesday, leading rights activists to raise concerns about the welfare of migrants in the Caribbean country.

The announcement came just weeks after the human rights court found the Dominican Republic discriminates against Dominicans of Haitian descent, angering the government, which called the findings “unacceptable” and “biased.”

Last year, a Dominican court ruled that people born in the Dominican Republic to migrants living there illegally were not automatically entitled to citizenship, basically rendering thousands of people stateless. The government has since pledged to resolve their status but has only offered residency and work permits under a new program.

The Costa Rica-based Inter-American Court had given the Dominican government six months to invalidate the Dominican court's ruling.

In a 59-page ruling issued Tuesday night, the Constitutional Court said

the country had to withdraw from the rights court because the Senate never issued a resolution to ratify the February 1999 agreement with the rights court as required by the Dominican constitution. Ten judges voted in favor of the ruling, while three judges voted against it.

The court said its ruling was in response to a complaint submitted by a group of nationalists in the mid-2000s arguing the agreement with the rights court was unconstitutional.

Wade McMullen, a legal officer for the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights in Washington, accused the majority of the judges on the court of playing politics at the expense of the rights of all Dominicans.

“The Constitutional Court's decision is absolutely shameful and shows a complete disregard for the rule of law,” he said. “The very same Constitutional Court has repeatedly recognized the binding nature of the Inter-American Court for years, while the case it has conveniently used to invalidate the Inter-American Court's jurisdiction has been sitting on the shelf collecting dust for almost a decade.”

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The darkest day for democracy in Guyana

To The Editor:

A Partnership for National Unity (APNU) is enraged at President Donald Ramotar's promulgation of a proclamation to prorogue parliament on Monday Nov., 10, 2014. This is the darkest day for democracy in Guyana.

This 'Proclamation' has effectively paralysed the parliamentary process and smothered the voices of the people's legitimate representatives in the National Assembly. It is an affront to the Guyanese people who three years ago, in Novem-

- prevent the holding of local government elections;
- prevent debate on financial excesses and impropriety;
- protect the reputations of his ministers from parliamentary sanction;
- permit the PPP's campaign for general and regional elections to proceed;
- permit the continued expenditure of state funds without parliamentary scrutiny.

The president's 'Proclamation' to prorogue parliament is a challenge to the entire nation. He has no grounds for his crude smothering of parliamentary independence.

APNU will not accept this denial of democracy and will not be intimidated by the PPP/C's dictatorial behaviour.

APNU is resolved to resist the president's 'Proclamation'. APNU calls on all the good people of Guyana everywhere to join in a civil movement for the restoration of parliamentary democracy by peacefully resisting the PPP/C's resort to dictatorship and to call for the revocation of this 'Proclamation'.

*Leader of The Opposition
Hon. Brigadier
David A. Granger, MP
A Partnership for
National Unity Office of the
Leader of the Opposition
61 Hadfield and Cross
Streets
Georgetown, Guyana
Monday, Nov. 10, 2014*

APNU will not accept this denial of democracy and will not be intimidated by the PPP/C's dictatorial behaviour.

ber 2011, voted for A Partnership for National Unity (APNU) and the Alliance for Change (AFC) to have the majority of seats in the National Assembly.

President Ramotar has now single-handedly engineered a constitutional crisis. The main purposes of the 'Proclamation' are to allow the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) to avoid parliamentary scrutiny while it attempts to:

- prevent debate on the Opposition 'no-confidence' motion;

Separate fact from fiction on Charter Schools

By Kara Kerwin

Too few of our modern-day state leaders appreciate the absolute role they must play in bringing about substantive change in America's schools. Even with more than half of states electing reform-minded governors who have either proven to be champions of reforms during their tenure or have run on platforms that don't shy away from being vocal about putting parents and students first, it's imperative all leaders come to appreciate good governance and reach across the aisle for the sake of children. After all, it's how some of the boldest reforms were born, such as charter schools in Minnesota in 1991.

Charter schools educate over 2.5 million students nationwide today, yet despite the fact that 42 states and the District of Columbia have charter school laws, the reality is that charter schools are expanding in low numbers still in many states as demand for educational options increases, as the average charter school waitlist has grown to nearly 300 students.

State leaders are the key to improving education and creating an environment that will allow charter schools to meet the growing demand for excellent educational options. It's imperative that newly elected leaders understand what education reforms like charter schools are, and what they aren't, as myths and misinformation continue to plague media coverage and permeate public psyche.

One of the most common misconceptions is that

Nearly 20 percent of all charter school closures occur because a school failed to meet acceptable student performance levels.

charter schools are privately funded institutions. A 2013 survey from the Center for Education Reform (CER) found that only 20 percent of Americans correctly identified charter schools as public schools. Charter schools are in fact independent public schools that are held accountable for student results. And, they do this with 36 percent less funding compared to their traditional public school counterparts.

Another common falsehood is charter schools "cream" students, when the reality is a majority of charter school students are non-white, or minority students. According to CER's 2013 Survey of America's Charter Schools, only 45 percent of charter students are white, while 52.5 percent of public school students are white. Additionally, 61 percent of charter schools serve a student population where over 60 percent qualify for Free & Reduced Lunch.

Perhaps the biggest myth charter schools face today is that they aren't accountable. This couldn't be further from the truth.

Unlike all other public schools, charters must be proactive in their efforts to stay open. Calls for more charter regulation and over-

sight in the name of "transparency," even from fellow colleagues in the education reform community, are misguided, as charter schools actually have MORE oversight and evaluation than traditional public schools because of their contracts with authorizers.

Overregulating charter schools would convert charters from autonomous, grassroots laboratories of innovation to the very schooling entities from which they seek to break away. The hallmark of charter schools is autonomy and performance-based accountability. It's crucial that even those who support charter schools remember this, and don't fall prey to letting a few bad apples result in loving charter schools to death via unnecessary regulations.

Nearly 20 percent of all charter school closures occur because a school failed to meet acceptable student performance levels according to CER's State of Charter Schools: What We Know – And What We Do Not – About Performance and Accountability. In Michigan, for example, 22 percent of charter schools ever opened have been closed, far out-pacing the national charter school closure rate of 15 percent.

Finally, the importance of a strong charter school law cannot be understated in creating a vibrant charter school sector. Strong laws generally consist of multiple and independent charter approval bodies known as authorizers, no caps on the number of charter schools

Continued on Page 12

Caribbean Life

Founded 1990 • Published by Community News Group
Corporate Headquarters: One MetroTech Center North, Suite 1001, Brooklyn, NY 11201

CEO: Les Goodstein
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A presidential smart-card named Lynch

Ever since the announcement was made that Loretta Lynch was President Obama's nominee to succeed Eric Holder as attorney general, there's been media speculation about the president having reached beyond his inner circle to make that choice, a far cry from his selection of the departing Holder. The president hardly would admit it but, frankly, he didn't have many other cards to play – cards other than an African American candidate with standout credentials for the job, that is. That it turned out to be a prosecutor with an impeccable record in these parts who, with her presumed confirmation, will become the first woman of her race to serve as the country's top law enforcement figure, is indicative of a more perfect alignment of the stars than the president could have hoped.

But for this replacement move, Holder's departure would have left the president without a single African American on his front-line administration team (some might argue that the presence of Susan Rice,

the national security adviser, refutes this assertion but there's no disputing the hierarchical distinction with a department-head cabinet post).

We have always been of the view that President Obama has appeared to bend over too far backwards to soften a "black president" characterization, most dramatically epitomized in Holder's being the solitary person-of-color representation in the cabinet. Absolutely no way would it not have been possible to come up with at least one other person of color fit for cabinet duty. Never mind the bloodthirsty predators who have been at the president's throat since the start of his tenure, this was a bit of half-stepping we hoped, to no avail, Obama would address once he crossed the Rubicon to a second term in 2012.

Although she is no Obama crony per se, Lynch's enviable standing in the justice establishment probably made the president's selection of her something of a no-brainer. Given an atmosphere in Washington that is now even more

Viewpoint

By Les Slater

charged than usual with rancorous political division, Lynch's reputation for not allowing partisan political considerations to influence professional discharge of her responsibilities surely would have factored in the president's reckoning. The New York Times, reporting on her nomination, listed some of the public officials prosecuted by Lynch in the role of U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York, as evidence of her personal code to play no favorites politically. The list including, said The Times, "Rep. Michael G. Grimm, a Republican, and State Senator John L. Sampson, former State Senator Pedro Espada Jr. and Assemblyman Thomas F. Boyland Jr., all Democrats."

Bottom line is that even if the president, based on his modus operandi to this point, would prefer that key appointees be

persons with whom he has had a personal history, it's clear that his pick of Loretta Lynch is tantamount to having struck gold. In one stroke he heads off what necessarily would have been considerable discontent in the African American community if Holder's replacement did not, both as symbol and in substance, seem a worthy substitute, while at the same time throwing up a nominee not likely to have a battle royal attend her Senate confirmation process. There was solid reason to expect the latter. On the two occasions when she has been named to the New York U.S. attorney's post – in the late '90 as a Clinton appointee and when appointed by Obama in 2010 -- Lynch was confirmed in the Senate by acclamation.

In light of all that, one might be persuaded to think the president's nomination of Lynch in early November with an expectation of confirmation being secured before the end of the year was altogether reasonable. Only that such a scenario doesn't cater for the bluster typically found within

the GOP ranks. And, as if on cue, has come rumbling about having Lynch's confirmation hearings delayed until January, when the new Congress convenes with Republicans holding a Senate majority.

What do we have here? Some of the earlier referenced predators all psyched about another opportunity to stick a finger in this president's eye? The president's nominee for attorney general has not only been twice before vetted by the Senate, but so convincingly approved as to have the voting routine set aside. What circus trappings do some Republicans think necessary to bring to the task of swiftly clearing Loretta Lynch to start in on her job? While he remains Senate majority leader, Harry Reid should be firm about having none of it and stop this tomfoolery in its tracks.

Eric Holder's are huge shoes to fill. She may or may not opt for appreciably changing the script as her predecessor thought to write it, but any which way, Lynch has clearly proven herself up to the challenge.

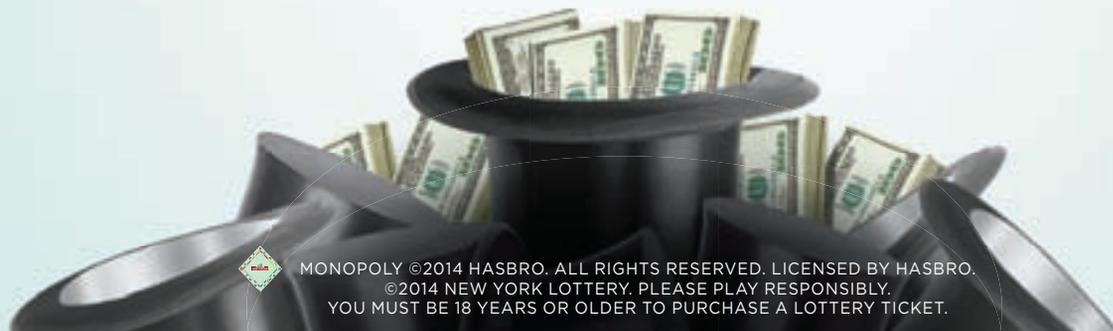
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OP-EDS

Charter schools

Continued from page 10

allowed, operational and fiscal autonomy, and equitable funding. In states with multiple and independent authorizers, stronger, more objective oversight is used to ensure that successful charter schools remain open and those that fail to perform are closed. States with multiple authorizers were home to nearly 80 percent of the nation's 5,400 charter schools in 2010-11.

With over 1 million students on charter school waiting lists nationwide, demand for charter schools is clear. In fact, 73 percent of Americans sup-

port the concept of charter schools. After over 23 years of seeing these autonomous public schools in action as viable educational alternatives for children, it's imperative newly elected leaders separate fact from fiction when it comes to charter schools, and educate their colleagues in state legislatures to ensure that myths and misinformation does not get in the way of uplifting educational opportunities for America's children.

Kara Kerwin is president of The Center for Education Reform.

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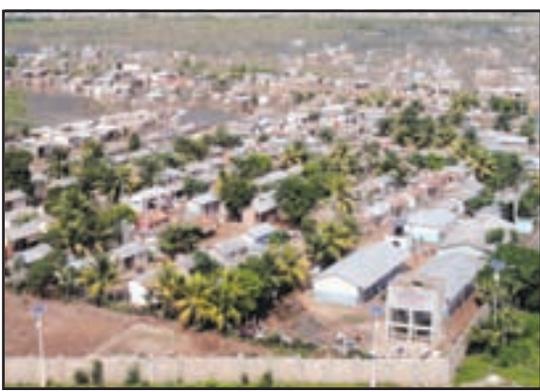


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Severe flooding hits Haiti, DR



CAP-HAITIEN, Haiti (AP) — Thousands of families in Haiti and the neighboring Dominican Republic have been displaced by floods from a storm system that drenched the countries for several days, officials said Thursday.

Haiti's Department of Civil Protection said at least 6,000 homes were flooded in Cap-Haitien and several nearby communi-

ties and at least 66 homes were completely destroyed. At least five people were killed and one was missing.

President Michel Martelly and Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe both toured the area Thursday as officials distributed food and other supplies to flood victims as waters began receding with drier weather.

People in affected neighborhoods walked through knee-high water to retrieve what they could from their flooded homes. Officials said at least 4,000 people were in temporary shelters set up at local schools.

The storm also caused widespread damage to farms, but agricultural officials were still evaluating the extent of the damage and a damage estimate

was not yet available, the civil protection agency said in a statement.

In the Dominican Republic, more than 2,000 people were displaced by floods and mudslides, the country's Emergency Operations Center said.

Overall, the storm is blamed for at least 12 deaths in the two countries and nearby Puerto Rico.

Some buildings stand in floodwater after heavy rain in Cap-Haitien, Haiti, Thursday, Nov. 6, 2014. Haiti's Department of Civil Protection said at least 6,000 homes were flooded in Cap-Haitien and several nearby communities.

AP Photo/Luxama Pierre Richard

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Trinidad to step up deportations of migrants

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad (AP) — The government of Trinidad & Tobago says it plans to crack down on the estimated 110,000 migrants living in the twin-island nation illegally — even knocking on doors to track them down.

The migrants have until early January to get their documents in order before authorities launch a large deportation campaign next year that would include door-to-door visits, National Security Minister Gary Griffith said in remarks published Thursday by the *Newsday* newspaper.

Griffith said the steps are meant to help reduce crime.

He did not provide further details and did not return a message for comment.

Griffith said the government will unveil a plan in upcoming weeks to regularize the status of migrants.

"I am not turning a blind eye to the fact that over 10 percent of the adult population in this country are persons here illegally," he was quoted as saying. "That is unacceptable."

He also said that not all migrants living on the twin island illegally would be deported, and that the government would help those whose employers vouch for them.

Trinidad & Tobago has long attracted migrants because it is one of the most prosperous Carib-

Trinidad & Tobago has long attracted migrants because it is one of the most prosperous Caribbean countries thanks to natural gas and oil reserves that make it a major fuel supplier.

bean countries thanks to natural gas and oil reserves that make it a major fuel supplier.

Griffith has previously said that the largest share of migrants, nearly 26,000, come from the nearby South American country of Guyana, followed by nearly 20,000 from Jamaica.

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Jamaican indicted in fraudulent lottery scheme

By Nelson A. King

The United States Department of Justice (DOJ) says a grand jury in U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia has returned an indictment charging a Jamaican citizen who was residing in Virginia in connection with the operation of a fraudulent lottery scheme.

The DOJ said Carlos O'Brian Ricketts, 31, was arrested on Nov. 4 on a criminal complaint based on his participation in the lottery scheme.

The indictment announced over the weekend supersedes the charge in the criminal complaint against Ricketts.

The DOJ said Ricketts is charged with conspiracy to commit mail fraud and wire fraud, four counts of mail fraud, three counts of wire fraud, conspiracy to commit money laundering and 18 counts of money laundering.

If convicted, Ricketts faces a statutory maximum sentence of 20 years in prison for each count, the DOJ said.

As alleged in the indictment, a co-conspirator induced elderly victims in the United States to send thousands of dollars to Ricketts to cover fees for purported lottery winnings that in fact victims had not won.

The DOJ said the indictment is part

of the government's crackdown on fraudulent lottery schemes based in Jamaica that target elderly victims in the United States.

"Co-conspirators in the United States are often key players in lottery schemes operating from foreign countries," said Acting Assistant U.S. Attorney General Joyce R. Branda for the Justice Department's Civil Division. "The Department of Justice will continue to prosecute those who facilitate these pernicious schemes."

From May 2010, Ricketts' co-conspirator is alleged to have contacted elderly victims in the United States, claimed to represent a known U.S. sweepstakes company and falsely informed the victims that they had won thousands or millions of dollars in a lottery.

The co-conspirator allegedly told the victims to make payments of several thousand dollars in order to collect their purported prize winnings and instructed the victims to send and wire this money to Ricketts in Virginia, the DOJ said.

The indictment charges that Ricketts received this money, kept a portion of the money for himself and sent the remainder to individuals in Jamaica.



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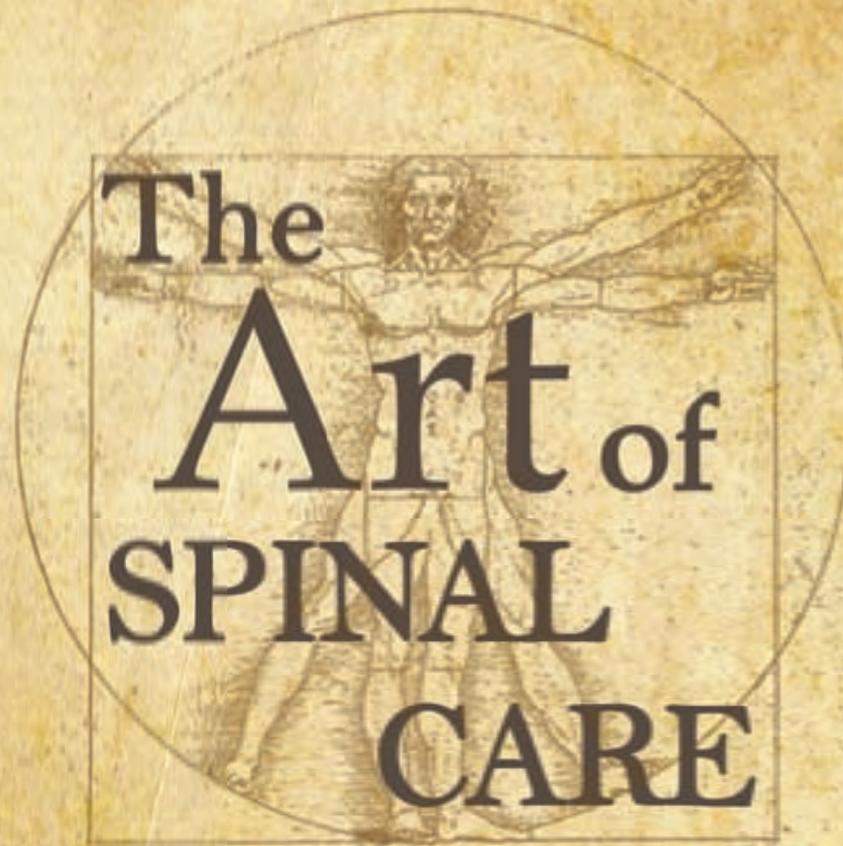
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LASCO MoneyGram invests in education

Many young Jamaicans have ambitions of achieving their dreams and realizing their full potential. Whether becoming young entrepreneurs or entering more traditional fields of medicine, law or engineering, youth have a goal to 'become something in life.' The reality is that the fulfilment of these dreams is often times hampered or cut short by harsh financial challenges.

For students such as Akeem Thompson of Greater Portmore High School in St. Catherine, Jamaica, achieving their academic goal is within reach with assistance from LASCO Financial Services, through its remittance services arm LASCO MoneyGram.

Thompson is one of 11 students from six high schools in Jamaica who received a part of nearly \$100,000 to assist with examination fees for CXC Caribbean Secondary Examination Certificate subjects. Through their agent network, LASCO MoneyGram enabled students from Kingston Technical High, Holy Childhood High, Greater Portmore High, Christiana High, Black River High and Central High Schools to pay for three subjects each.

Thompson echoed the sentiments of students and parents who were appreciative of LASCO MoneyGram's assistance.

"LASCO has made it possible for me to pay for my exams. I thought it would not be possi-



From left, Holy Childhood High School Guidance Counsellor, Angelica Dalrymple-McCallum, LASCO MoneyGram Marketing Officer Matthew Blake, Alicia Bailey with her mother, Sashona Bryan with her mother, Parkington Paediatrics' Nadine Hinds and Holy Childhood Senior Guidance Counsellor, Heather Jackson are all smiles during the presentation.

Photo by Dexter Smith

ble due to the death of my mom last year; but now I am happy because in spite of the struggles I am going through I can now say someone cares. Thank you LASCO MoneyGram – you made me feel special," he said.

The future of a nation depends heavily on its ability to provide a strong foundation for youth development and education is a significant part of that foundation. Education is quite costly and often poses a financial challenge for many parents with low income to provide tuition fees, examina-

tions, books and educational material. Craig Morris, guidance counsellor at Black River High has direct experience with these circumstances and applauded LASCO MoneyGram for their timely and heartfelt contribution to his students. "Sometimes we have students with great potential but lacking the financial resources to move forward. LASCO's assistance is greatly appreciated," he said.

Morris noted that, an estimated 40 percent of students at the institution face dire challenges to finance examination

fees, with many failing to sit the number of examinations for which they were recommended. He says the school has been resourceful in carrying out several fundraising events but the need is still great.

He reiterated that any assistance makes a difference for the students who sit between five and 10 CXC CSEC subjects at a time. "Our students come from varying backgrounds and some face a serious challenge as it relates to finances but if they can find the money to pay for three subjects and LASCO

MoneyGram gives them three more, then that's double the number of subjects and they are far better off than where they started," he said.

Jacinth Hall Tracey, managing director, LASCO Financial Services emphasized the company's commitment to education and the development of youth, especially at this crucial stage.

"Education is very important to the development of our youth who are the future of this nation. Unfortunately, financial constraints sometimes make this opportunity a scarce commodity. We are happy that we could empower young people to further their academic progress. They have our support and best wishes as they each sit the pivotal CXC exams."

Students were selected based on financial need, good academic performance and participation in extra-curricular activities. In most cases, recipients were not readily able to meet the October 2014 payment deadline for the May/June 2015 CXC exams, hence, LASCO MoneyGram's hearty contributions were very timely to address the need.

LASCO Financial Services is in the business of facilitating care for Jamaican families through fast, convenient and affordable remittance services. This is another way the company demonstrates commitment to the well-being of families.

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www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/files/resourceguide_3135.pdf

Business Resources: Internet Bibliographies: New York State Library

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Selected business-related web sites compiled by staff at the New York State Library for use in response to reference questions.

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Small Business Resources - The Business Council of New York

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Lifestyle tips to reduce chronic inflammation

HEALTH

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While you can find these compounds in certain foods, scientists have discovered a novel way to deliver almost seven times as much of these three extracts to your bloodstream through supplementation.

HEALTHY HABITS

Even light physical activity has proven benefits to reducing inflammation, according to a study conducted by the



Certain herbs and spices contain such as ginger and curcumin have anti-inflammatory properties which can help ease your pain.

(c) BlueSkyImage - Shutterstock

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Incorporate exercise into your routine, even if that just means a daily walk. And inflammation is one more reason to quit a cigarette habit or avoid second-hand exposure, as it can be a response to smoking, according to Harvard Medical School's Family Health Guide.

Certain foods can promote inflammation. Shy away from too many highly processed foods such as white breads and pasta, and foods high in saturated fat, sugar and trans fat. You don't need to sacrifice flavor, however, by loading

up on herbs and spices. They are not only a low-calorie way to flavor your food; certain varieties even have anti-inflammatory properties.

More information about reducing your risk for chronic inflammation can be found at www.lef.org/curcumin or call the toll-free number, 1-855-820-9479.

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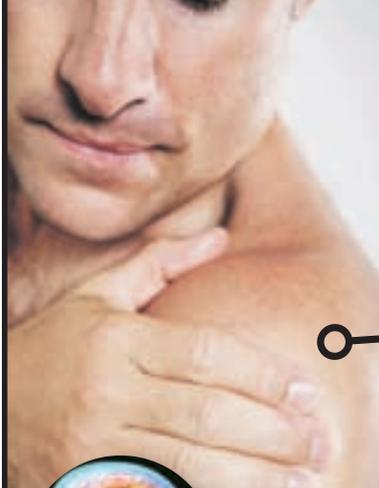
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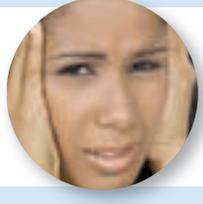
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BOOK REVIEW

A stroll down Harlem streets

"Harlem Nocturne: Women Artists & Progressive Politics During World War II"
By Farah Jasmine Griffin
c.2013, Basic Civitas
\$26.99 / \$30.00 Canada
242 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
When the music starts, your feet do, too.
Oh, how you love to dance and if singing is involved, that's even better. You sing in church, in the choir. If someone mentions it, you dance for the family. It's a pleasure in front of friends. Heck, you've been known to break out in song and do a little shuffle on the street.

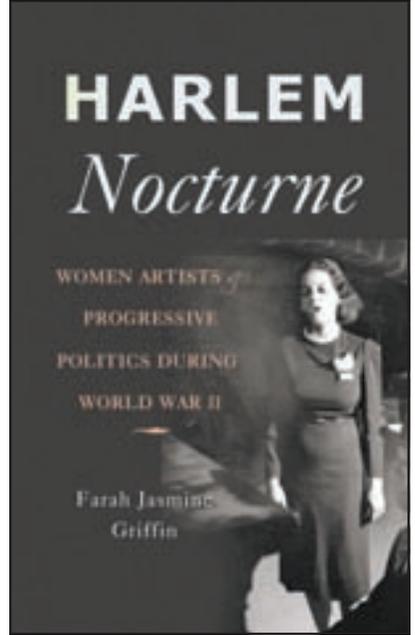
But what will you do with your talent? In the new book, "Harlem Nocturne" by Farah Jasmine Griffin, you'll see how three women used theirs to change society.

In the years surrounding World War II, Harlem was a "vibrant" neighborhood, "brimming with creativity" and the sounds of Lena Horne, Lady Day, Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughn, Miles Davis, and Dinah Washington. It was a great time and place, if you were an artist or musician but it was "no utopia" because of Jim Crow laws, segregation, and social inequality.

Born in the Caribbean, dancer Pearl Primus immigrated to New York as a child, and though she never experienced the kind of racism that was common in the South in the 1940s, she was aware of it. Believing that dance was "a means of contributing to the ongoing struggle," Primus used her talents including the astounding ability to jump some five feet into the air as a weapon for social justice.

Ann Lane Petry was born into a well-established and highly-educated Connecticut family in 1908. Her father was a pharmacist, her mother was a chiropodist, and they wanted Ann to follow in the family footsteps, but she had other ideas: as a "bookish, chubby child," she had always wanted to be a writer. Harlem, for Petry, was a great place to find inspiration for stories that might affect a change in racial inequality, particularly for Black women.

Mary Lou Williams started singing and playing piano at age three and was



Cover of "Harlem Nocturne: Women Artists & Progressive Politics During World War II."

"confidently aware of her genius." As a member of the progressive Café Society, she "saw black music as the deepest expression of black history," and used it to support her ideals including an attempt at creating an all-female interracial band, something almost unheard-of in the 1940s.

Though it's filled with plenty of important history both of the national and of the entertainment kind - "Harlem Nocturne" isn't a book for everybody.

Author Farah Jasmine Griffin takes readers for a stroll down the streets of Harlem, inside smoky jazz joints, and past the kind of educational opportunities that were available for the three women about whom she writes. I found that highly interesting, and I loved the history behind the stories, but I also thought this book was occasionally rather dry and repetitious. I wanted liveliness from these women's lives, and that often seemed to be lacking.

I think there's something in here for music fans. There's something in this book for political historians, too, but I wouldn't say this is a book you'd read for fun. Still, if you want to learn more about women and the roots of social justice, "Harlem Nocturne" will make you dance.

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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 2

istry of Health.

The WHO said Guyana has by far the highest suicide rate among countries in the Caribbean. It has also been listed in the top 10 most suicidal countries.

So far this year, more than 30 people have committed suicide, while several others are recovering from failed attempts. Earlier this year, the government said a multi-sectoral approach was needed to deal with the number of suicides in the country.

Dr. Luncheon acknowledged that the Ministry of Health's reports are utilized by the WHO and PAHO, which employ "statistical devices" to ascertain their figures. He said the Guyana Police Force's Criminal Investigation Department have records which are overstated by the Ministry of Health and even more so by the international community's organizations.

Jamaica

The Financial Investigations Division (IFD) in Jamaica has reported that a Trinidadian courier was fined J\$250,000 or serve three months in jail for failure to declare US\$45,000 at the Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston recently.



Kevin Dyer, 29, pleaded guilty to the offence after he was charged by officers of

the IFD for failure to declare cash exceeding US\$10,000 in keeping with Section 101 of the Proceeds of Crime Act.

According to the IFD, on Oct. 28, officers of the Transnational Crime and Narcotics Division intercepted Dyer as he was about to check in to a Caribbean Airline flight destined for Trinidad.

A preliminary interview was conducted, during which he indicated to the police that he had only US\$2,000 on his person, the IFD said.

However, a black suitcase, which he had in his possession, was searched and the US\$45,000 found inside.

Dyer reportedly told the officers that he had won the money at a sound system clash that took place in Junction St. Elizabeth on Oct. 25. He was then arrested and charged.

St. Vincent

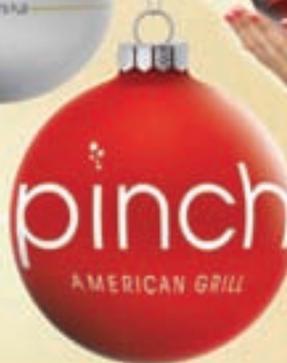
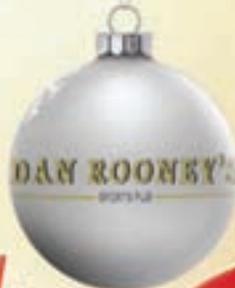
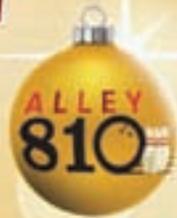
A 48-year-old man, who was freed of a double murder charge last November, was found dead at his home in Kingstown, police said. They say Paul Spence, who had been charged with the murder of a woman and her daughter almost a decade ago, had several injuries about his body.



Some residents of the Central Leeward town have suggested Spence's death was an act of reprisal over the double murder.

— compiled by Azad Ali

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Sharpton's first lady to receive honorary degree

By Vinette K. Pryce

Despite the fact, Kathy Jordan Sharpton has been accomplished pursuing her own career, throughout her 27-year marriage to Al Sharpton, she has remained in the shadows of her own light.

However, on Nov. 22, Brooklyn's Ebenezer Baptist Church will shine a spotlight on the former, potential first-lady by presenting her with an honorary doctorate degree.

Mother of two daughters — Dominique and Ashley — she is a retired sergeant and a 15-year veteran of the New York State National Guard.

Jordan-Sharpton was a soldier attached to an Army unit that helped New York through many adversities. While serving at the Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn military installation she received a phone call alerting her that her husband had been stabbed in Bensonhurst.

Still wearing military clothing — known then as camouflage fatigues (Battle Distributed Uniform)-- she rushed to Coney Island Hospital where she was told the circumstances that caused her activist spouse



Kathy Sharpton (left) with NAN member Vena W. Baker at turquoise birthday celebration at Canaan Baptist Church.

Photo by Ronnie Wright

to be assaulted by an alleged deranged individual.

Life-threatening at the time, the activist survived and later pleaded with a judge to deny

punishment for the assailant. Throughout a decade, Sharpton advocated for those he referred to as "the voiceless." He often attracted media attention serv-

ing as a mouth-piece to amplify issues related to police brutality, racism and injustice.

Organizing protest marches, rallies and demonstrations, Sharpton also campaigned and ran for two national, political positions, senate and president.

As his calls for "No Justice, No Peace" amplified, it seemed the wife slowly shadowed the personality many perceived to be controversial and slanted to a liberal perspective.

Jordan-Sharpton was an early achiever growing up in Niagara Falls.

She said her first major brush with the limelight was when she was crowned the first Black homecoming queen there.

Since graduating in 1974 from Niagara Falls High School she is further distinguished there maintaining the title as the only monarch of her race to win the coveted honor. Her reign lasted with prominence through majoring in English Theater at Niagara University. But the call to bright lights forced her to abandon studies in order to audition to sing background music for rhythm and

blues legend James Brown.

Acclaimed to be the 'God-father of Soul,' Brown's international appeal and prominence in the Black community beckoned the singer to join his national tour. It was while touring that she met and married Sharpton who was listed as Brown's tour manager.

Soon after he founded the National Action Network, (NAN) Jordan-Sharpton formed the Women's Auxiliary and established an annual Women of Excellence Awards. Now in its 18th year, the awards annually salute some of the community's unsung female achievers.

Simultaneous with that demanding task of identifying and honoring women, Jordan-Sharpton also regularly performed at the world famous, Harlem-based Cotton Club and coordinate decision-makers who judge the McDonald's Gospelfest. She remains a NAN activist and is also a member of the congregation of Canaan Baptist Church. There she actively hosts fundraisers by annually inviting friends and contributors to her birthday celebrations.

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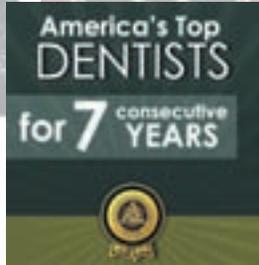
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Brooklyn baptists conduct missions in Belize



Pastors Leonard Lee, Xiana Lopez and Barry Lee with food purchased to give out to the households and families of Camalote village in Belize.

By Kevin Bollers

Ten pastors and ministers of the New Beginnings International Ministries (NBIM) embarked on a week-long Christian mission from Brooklyn, New York to the village of Camalote, Belize on Tuesday Oct. 28, 2014.

The group provided bags of food that was sufficient to feed more than 50 homes in the village of Camalote for over a month, conducted evangelism and spiritual leadership workshops which were done in Camalote Baptist Church and went into Camalote Primary School where they evangelized and engaged the young students in arts and crafts. NBIM hosted a barbecue at the Blue Thumbs Missions compound where the entire village was welcomed. Inspirational messages were preached by the ministers to bring hope and encouragement

to people who at times have very little to hope for.

The purpose of the mission was to present Jesus Christ in a way that was relevant in the lives of people in the village. It was also about meeting the people where they were, but not leaving them that way. For the NBIM team, relevance is determined by the need you are able to meet and the problem that you are able to solve.

This type of trip was a first for many of the participants in the group. It was quite a learning experience and lives were definitely touched on the part of the ministers as well as those being ministered to. "Ministering at the school stood out the most for me, it's not like teaching in Sunday school," said Pastor Xiana Lopez. "It was bigger than that and it was also very humbling."

Many NBIM members

expressed the view that they received more than they gave and that they were changed more than the people they went to serve. When it was time to leave, there were more than a few sad faces and tears on both sides.

Belize Mission 2014 was a narrative of self-transformation, personal growth and Christian service that became a pilgrimage. It was more than a cross-cultural experience, it was trip with a specific mission to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. "What led me to go to Belize was the Lord. The Lord

told me that he wanted me to do this missions trip to Belize in order to reach lost souls there," said Pastor Lenny Lee. "He told me that there was a need that needed to be met and I am honored to be called and chosen for such an assignment."

It became less about handing out church tracts or even providing food for the people in Camalote village and more about how they could connect with what God was doing in other parts of the world through real connection with people. "We are thankful for

everything and we had a marvelous time with you guys. Please keep us in your prayers," said Keneshia Sutherland, a resident of Camalote village. "Come back soon and next time please stay a little longer!"

The experience reconfirmed to NBIM that the objective of any mission, quite simply, is the glory of God. It is not so much about building a house or learning what it is like to be a "real missionary" for a week. It is more about joining the Lord in the work that he is doing in the world.



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years are calculated by multiplying the number of packs smoked by the number of years smoked. So, for example, someone who smoked two packs a day for 15 years has a 30 pack year smoking history.

Also, because half of new lung cancer diagnoses are in former smokers, the recommendation includes former smokers who quit within the past 15 years. Some medical experts recommend dropping the minimum age to 50 and the pack years to 20, if there is a second risk factor, such as a family history of lung cancer or high radon exposure.

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Pressures can outweigh benefits in sports



The benefits for children playing sports are plentiful. Teamwork, setting and accomplishing goals, developing small motor skills and the physical activity are just a few, and they can take a child far toward becoming a well-developed person - even if they don't pursue sports professionally as an adult.

However, playing sports can increase a child's potential for suffering from anxiety, stress or feeling burned out, says Dr. Mirjam Quinn, assistant professor in Illinois School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University, Chicago. And these negatives could affect a child so profoundly that other aspects of the child's identity are not developed. The pressure to perform is costing children and their families the benefits of playing sports at a young age.

"There is too much pressure on parents and children alike to be the best, to be special, to be 'truly gifted,'" says Alan Nathan, an associate professor

in the Clinical Psychology program at the American School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University, Washington, D.C. "Parents are often made to feel that if they don't make their child shine over and above the rest, the alternative is a life of failure."

While some parents see the purpose of sports is to help their children remain healthy and develop positive life skills, others can feel that sports are

a vehicle for college scholarships and careers as professional athletes. That means that sports for children are becoming more competitive and the family is becoming more invested in the game. "With more and more youth sports being played within 'club teams,' families who can afford the costs for the club's coaching, travel to tournaments, and private coaching are often seen as better sport

parents," says Quinn. "With the individual sports like golf, tennis, figure skating and gymnastics, it is even more of a status symbol to have a child who has achieved some level of success."

Kids are careful observers, and the actions a parent takes can send an unintended message, especially when it comes to the child's performance in the sport.

"When kids see their parents one-up each other over their children's sports performance, they get the message loud and clear - 'You are more worthwhile when you do well,'" says Nathan. "Providing external rewards (including praise) and focusing on performance rather than the process of learning saps children of all enjoyment of the activity. Their motivation shifts from intrinsic rewards (like feelings of competence, pride and enjoyment) to external rewards (like performance evaluation and praise). Many kids become dependent on the external rewards and their self-

esteem crumbles when they do not win."

The difference between a kid who benefits from organized sports and one who is crushed under the pressure depends on whether or not that child has parents and coaches who foster a healthy attitude toward sports. While keeping your children front of mind during their sports activities can be a challenge for some parents, it is a necessity.

"The most important issue is that the child enjoys his or her participation in the sport and feels his or her parents are supportive," said Nathan.

"If you are a parent and you find yourself becoming emotionally wrapped up in your child's performance in sports, academics or advanced basketweaving, it is probably time to take a step back and remind yourself that it's your kid who is out there, not you," cautions Quinn. "At the end of the day, your child is a worthwhile person, regardless of whether she does well or fails outright."

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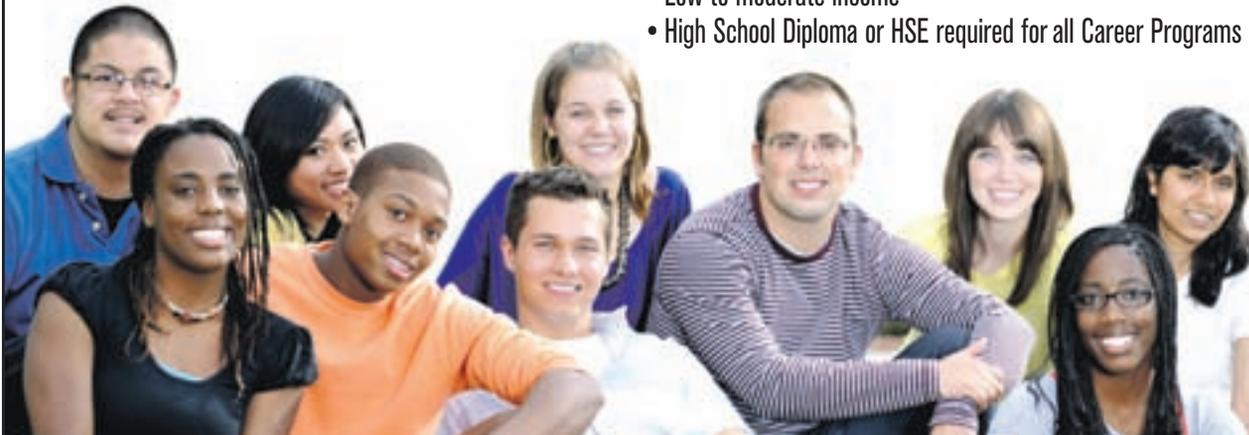
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Photo by Murphy/Hershman | PHOTO © FIFTY-SIX HOPE ROAD MUSIC, LTD.

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Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

Michael Manley 90 to kick-off Legacy Series

Two days after his actual 90th birthday anniversary, admirers, supporters and comrades of Michael Manley will recall the legacy left by Jamaica's fourth prime minister during the first forum to launch a legacy series.

Featuring influential spokespersons from the community, distinguished panelists Dr. Basil Wilson, Professor Anthony Bogues, and Delano Franklin will kick-off the forum slated for 6:00 p.m. at St. James Church, 2500 Jerome Ave. in the Bronx.

A topical discussion will focus on a myriad of issues and will likely highlight the politics and agenda proposed by the former government leader who is perhaps associated with a legacy that endorsed democratic socialism from 1972 to 1980 and again from 1989 to 1992.

Regarded "as one of the best prime ministers since independence" in 1962, the Jamaican was also revered being the second son of the island's only Premier Norman Washington Manley and Jamaican artist Edna Manley.

Popularly acclaimed as a charismatic figure who revolutionized attire in government by ditching the traditional shirt and tie outfit when making public appearances, and instead opting to sport what seemed a more comfortable and suited safari jacket with slacks.

Manley is also recalled for helming the People's National Party a few months before his father's death in 1969.

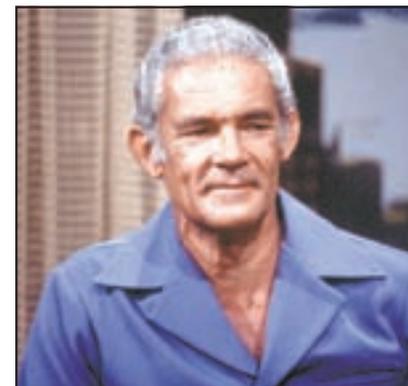
Born Dec. 10, 1924, he died at age 72 on March 6, 1997.

A proponent of issues far removed from the British, institutionalized tradition, Manley is credited with establishing a minimum wage for all workers. He initiated a policy that ensured equal pay for women. During his administration he was able to secure those rights for everyone including domestic workers. His governance also enabled the lowering of the voting age to 18 years.

In 1974, Manley proposed free education from primary school to university.

According to Wikipedia: "The PNP government in 1974 also formed the Jamaica Movement for the Advancement of Literacy (JAMAL), which administered adult education programs with the goal of involving 100,000 adults a year."

Land reform expanded under his administration. Reportedly, an estimated 14 percent of idle land was redistributed through this program. Allegedly, much of the land he reclaimed had been



Former Prime Minister of Jamaica Michael Manley. AP Photo, File

"abandoned during the post-war urban migration and/or purchased by large bauxite companies."

The progressive period of his tenure also introduced maternity leave. Some will attest that under Manley's administration, the stigma of illegitimacy was outlawed.

Other domestic changes included the establishment of The National Housing Trust. For many it provided "the means for most employed people to own their own homes."

In addition, it also "greatly stimulated housing construction, with more than 40,000 houses built between 1974 and 1980."

Perhaps most controversial in the international arena, his diplomatic alliances proved disquieting to the U.S. government. Although history dictates that Manley believed in respecting the different systems of government of other countries and not interfering in their internal affairs, close friendships with African leaders and particularly one he cultivated with a neighbor seemed disconcerting to leaders of the most powerful nation on earth.

Among the friendly foreign leaders, Tanzania's Julius Nyerere, Pierre Trudeau of Canada and to the ire of the United States, Fidel Castro of Cuba found favor with Manley's policies. Located just 90 miles away from Jamaica, it seemed ludicrous to Manley to weaken diplomatic relations by ignoring his neighbor nation. Instead he strengthened relationships between Cuba and Jamaica.

Panelists will elaborate on the many policies executed throughout Manley's tenure and may even spotlight some of the faux pas his detractors cite as blemishes to his distinguished legacy.

Catch You On The Inside!

ENTERTAINMENT

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The Garvin Gray group shot with Pinnacle Award.

Photo courtesy of Coalition to Preserve Reggae

Reggae salute

By Vernie Riley

Coalition to Preserve Reggae (CPR) in association with UJAA, JAHJAH Foundation and DARC Foundation commemorated the Coronation of Emperor Haile Selassie I and Empress Mennen of Ethiopia with their co-presentation of the 10th Annual Reggae Culture Salute on Saturday, Nov. 1, 2014. Many reggae lovers graced Nazareth Regional High School's Performance Center in Brooklyn to see and hear the fabulous artists.

The auditorium was packed with reggae enthusiasts and media to see the Queen of Reggae Marcia Griffiths and she did not disappoint. Ms. Griffiths, who received the CPR Pinnacle Award

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'Last Ship' Musical

By Vinette K. Pryce

Just in time to make the holiday bucket list of things to do "The Last Ship" sails onto Broadway with spirited songs composed by pop idol Sting. Making his Broadway debut, the 63-year-old former lead Police singer and songwriter can now add composer to his discography.

In a play inspired by the working class, sea-side, Wallsend community in England where he was born and raised, Sting adds symphony to debut on Broadway with a musical spotlight on a labor force that would rather work than quit.

Set in the northeast of England, the story unfolds when a developer buys a shipyard that for generations provide work and unite a close-knit group of

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Miss World Guyana 2014 Rafieya Husain.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

Miss World Guyana 2014 off to London

By Tangerine Clarke

Wearing a colorful gown designed with trumpet sleeves and a V-neckline, Miss World Guyana 2014 Rafieya Husain was greeted with flash bulbs and applause when she arrived abroad the Golden Sunshine Yacht in Sheephead Bay last Saturday.

The 22-year-old beauty who received a royal send-off by well-wishers and the Miss World Guyana Committee during a four-hour reception cruise is passionate about her beauty with a purpose platform that

addresses domestic violence and teen dating violence.

The articulate contestant, who is the first in the history of the franchise to spearhead an outreach initiative – Rafieya's International Vision & Hope Center, will also commission a shelter at Land of Plenty, Region Two (Pomeroon/Supernam) for victims of domestic violence.

The business administration major has taken her messages to students in Guyana while working with professionals to find the root cause of

violence among youth.

During the boat cruise Husain shared bracelets emblazoned with a replica of her crown and the words, "Love, Hope, Believe." A booklet of "Stop Dating Violence — Speak Out Shatter The Silence," and the "Be Safe" Red Cross program to prevent sexual and physical abuse against children five to nine years old, with puppetry, song and games, cements the queen's zeal to end this scourge.

The svelte young lady who loves

Continued on Page 36

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1 **Shake It Off**
Taylor Swift
- 2 **All About That Bass**
Meghan Trainor
- 3 **Habits (Stay High)**
Tove Lo
- 4 **Don't Tell 'Em**
Jeremih Featuring YG
- 5 **Animals**
Maroon 5
- 6 **Bang Bang**
Jessie J, Ariana Grande ...
- 7 **Black Widow**
Iggy Azalea Feat. Rita Ora
- 8 **Don't**
Ed Sheeran
- 9 **Stay With Me**
Sam Smith
- 10 **Rather Be**
Clean Bandit Feat...

TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **1989**
Taylor Swift
- 2 **Montevallo**
Sam Hunt
- 3 **NOW 52**
Various Artists
- 4 **Rise**
Trip Lee
- 5 **Black Veil Brides**
Black Veil Brides
- 6 **In The Lonely Hour**
Sam Smith
- 7 **Anything Goes**
Florida Georgia Line
- 8 **.5: The Gray Chapter**
J\$lipknot
- 9 **Love Ran Red**
Chris Tomlin
- 10 **Hozier**
Hozier

Presented by
verizonwireless

Paigeant

Continued from page 35

entertaining guests with her favorite recipe, scalloped potatoes and lamb, is more confident than ever about bringing home the crown, after the intense training she said she underwent during a recent trip to the Philippines.

"At first, I wasn't sure about competing among the 100 plus contestants, but since my experience in the Philippines, I feel confident that I have a great chance of winning," added the humanitarian whose training included poise, speech, make-up application and runway readiness.

"For me it was self-growth. I have learned so much and I am truly excited about being an ambassador for my country," added Husain who leaves for Great Britain on Nov. 18, for pageant festivities before the coronation on Dec. 14, at ExCel London.

Franchise holder Natasha Blu Martindale praised the queen for her dedication to her 'beauty with a cause' platform and for representing Guyana with dignity. International fashion designer Roger Gary, a committee member, announced he will design the



Committee Members of the Miss World Guyana Committee, couturier Roger Gary, franchisee Natasha Blu, Martaindale Rafieya Husain and fashion designer Michelle Cole.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

queen's "dances of the world" costume and swimwear creation to depict Guyana's pristine 'Shell Beach' on the Atlantic Coast.

World-renown designer and committee member Michelle Cole will fabricate the queen's

wardrobe and her evening gown to vie for the crown.

The celebration was punctuated by exciting music presented by DJ Flexx and Sybil's Restaurant provided the delicious cuisine while benefactors raised much needed funds for

the queen.

Follow Miss World Guyana Rafieya Husain on Facebook, Twitter Feed #missworldguyana2014 #0X4DA, or go to <http://www.missworld.com/Contestants/Guyana> to vote.

Good luck! Rafieya.

Reggae

Continued from page 35

(who also performed a couple of duets with her) along with Althea Hamilton and Simone G providing backup vocals.

The evening began with a libation followed by remembrances with a dance tribute to the late Faybiene Miranda performed by the Ifetayo Youth Ensemble, while CPR poet laureate Ras Osagyefo remembered the late great Peter Tosh with poetry. The reggae salute by CPR members opened with flutist Ichelle performing "Red Gold and Green" and "Revelation Song" to an enthused crowd. Following, "Simone G" wowed with her rendition of Maxwell's "This is Woman's Work" and Freddie McKay's classic, "Picture on the Wall." Turban X warmed them further with his "Kings and Queens" and "Jah Love." Da Real Storm, heated things up with her vocal prowess, strong lyrics and commanding presence especially when she performed "Real Jamaican Rock" which had everyone rocking,

she gave way to former wailers lead singer, Gary Pine who was as impressive with his own material as he was with Bob Marley covers.

The debonair Don Minott provided a solid performance with songs including "I'm working" and "Speak for the Poor" to pave the way for special guest Everton Blender who soared in a dynamic 45-minute set including his hit "Ghetto People Song." Preceding Marcia Griffiths was Tasha T who sung three tracks from her new album "Real Talk" so much so that Ms. Griffiths, who spoke of feeling grateful for being able to be an inspiration to other female artists in such a male dominated industry asked her to sing along with her during her set, in a poignant moment for aspiring female artists.

The praise of CPR just goes on and on. The event promoted as a family event had many children present, an unusual sight at a reggae concert. The promoters indeed provided a family centered mood and the food was scrumptious and plentiful.

Sting's musical

Continued from page 35

There ships were built to supplement the economy. Construction was viewed with pride and celebrated in pubs and watering holes. The musical recently opened at the Neil Simon Theater to rave applause and joins the season's most acclaimed new shows to open along the Great White Way.

The lively storyline celebrates the men and women that toil by devoting their lives to work. It focuses on Gideon Fletcher, (Michael Esper) a young-man determined to change his destined path through the workplace his father Joe (Jamie Jackson) and grandfather wore out work boots building sea cruisers.

Adventurous, enterprising and perhaps rebellious, coming of age as a teenaged Gideon (Collin Kelly-Sordelet) ultimately fulfills his dream to venture out from the shipyard community in order to seek a dream he harbored as a

boy. In his quest to seek independence he leaves the girl he loves with a promise to return when he found security. After a decade and a half passes, Gideon returns to find the shipyard in a state of uncertainty. His arrival also coincides with the engagement of the girl he left behind, the one he told he would reclaim after traveling.

Threats to tear down the shipyard dominate conversations. The new owners plan to gentrify the community and their decision does not sit well with lifelong construction workers. It is the 70s and the defiant thing to is to rally to find a solution to the pressing issue.

The workers meet at a pub and there they strategize to override development of a high-rise community. Buoyed by the leadership of a priest named Father O'Brien (Fred Applegate), the defiant men galvanize to build the last ship. Needless to say, the collared preacher is not restrained by the cloth.

Altruistic astronauts seek alternate for Earth

“Interstellar”
Good (2 stars)
Rated PG-13
for intense
action and brief
profanity
Running time:
169 minutes
Distributor:
Paramount Pictures



The space crew from the film “Interstellar.”

By Kam Williams

Christopher Nolan is one of my favorite directors, and four of his pictures have made my annual Top Ten List, including “Memento,” “The Dark Knight,” “Batman Begins” and “Insomnia.” However, I had a hard time understanding exactly what was going on in “Inception,” an inscrutable mindbender that I found to be a little too hip for the room.

The same could be said about “Interstellar,” an over-plotted, post-apocalyptic sci-fi with a few too many layers for its own good, in this critic’s

humble opinion. Clocking in at a patience-testing 169 minutes, the movie had me harking back to seven-time Oscar-winner Gravity, a similarly-themed outer space adventure which managed to resolve its loose ends in about half the time.

At the point of departure, we find the Earth devastated by drought and dust storms that have brought it to the brink of famine. With the planet almost

uninhabitable, NASA decides that the last hope for humanity rests in finding another capable of supporting life.

To that end, the agency is mounting a mission, code-named Lazarus in order to search for a place with a compatible environment. The reluctant hero is Coop (Matthew McConaughey), a man understandably torn about being coaxed out of retirement to

captain the Spaceship Endurance.

On the one hand, the veteran test pilot is eager, since he never got a chance to experience a real spaceflight during his career. On the other hand, as a widowed dad, he hates the very idea of leaving behind and possibly orphaning his already motherless kids.

Sure, 15-year-old Tom (Timothee Chalamet) might be able to man-up, but daughter Murph (Mackenzie Foy) is only 10 and proves particularly clingy when he informs her of his imminent travel plans. Her angry reaction is perfectly reasonable, given the blight on Earth and the odds of ever seeing her papa again.

But with his father-in-law’s (John Lithgow) blessing, Coop nevertheless opts to depart, which affords him an opportunity to belatedly pursue his lifelong dream. Joining him in that endeavor is a crew comprised of brainy scientist Brand (Anne Hathaway), astrophysicist Romilly (David Gyasi) and

intergalactic cartographer Doyle (Wes Bentley), as well as a couple of very sophisticated robots (Bill Irwin and Josh Stewart).

After blastoff, they head for a distant wormhole near Saturn rumored to provide a portal to a parallel universe. At this juncture, the picture turns terribly talky, relying on pseudoscientific claptrap to explain every farfetched development from black holes to unusual gravitational pulls to time slowing down. Eventually, Endurance rendezvous with a NASA space station stranded on a remote planet where they rouse the sole survivor from a cryogenic sleep only to discover it’s Matt Damon. How cool is that?

I’m not too proud to admit I couldn’t follow the convoluted storyline anymore from about this point forward. At least the panoramic visuals remained absolutely breathtaking. Think, a remake of Gravity with a bunch of polysyllabic brainiacs borrowed from The Big Bang Theory.

Independent & Foreign Films

Drug Lord: The Legend of Shorty (Unrated) Ten Most Wanted documentary recounting the international manhunt for the ruthless, Mexican cartel kingpin known as El Chapo.

The Homesman (R for violence, sexuality, nudity and disturbing behavior) Tommy Lee Jones wrote, directed and stars in this adaptation of the Glendon Swarthout novel of the same name, set in the Wild West, about a convicted claim jumper who teams up with a spinster (Hilary Swank) to escort a trio of insane women (Grace Gummer, Miranda Otto and Sonja Richter) from Nebraska to a mental home in Iowa. With Meryl Streep, Hailee Steinfeld, John Lithgow, James Spader, Tim Blake Nelson and William Fichtner.

Levitated Mass (Unrated) “How did they do that?” documentary detailing the installation of a dangling 340-ton granite boulder wedged over a walkway in the L.A. County Museum by Michael Heizer as a work of art.

A Merry Friggin’ Christmas (PG-13 for profanity and violence) Dark comedy about an estranged father (Robin Williams) and son (Joel McHale) who grudgingly share an eight-hour road trip to retrieve forgotten Christmas presents. Support cast includes Candice Bergen, Wendi McClendon-Covey, Clark Duke, Oliver Platt and Lauren Graham.

Miss Meadows (Unrated) Katie Holmes



Kam’s Kapsules

By Kam Williams

stars as the title character in this crime drama as a syrupy sweet schoolmarm who moonlights afterhours as a gun-toting vigilante. Featuring James Badge Dale, Callan Mulvey, Stephen Bishop and Tyler Corbet.

Occupy the Farm (Unrated) Eco-friendly documentary about a California Bay Area community’s effort to preserve parcels of public land for urban agriculture.

Red Army (PG for mild epithets and mature themes) Cold War documentary highlighting the exploits of the Soviet Army’s hockey team, the most successful sports dynasty in history.

Rosewater (Unrated) The Daily Show’s Jon Stewart makes his directorial debut with this adaptation of journalist Maziar Bahari’s (Gael Garcia Bernal) memoir about being imprisoned and tortured in Iran for months for merely reporting the truth about the country’s rigged presidential election. With Claire Foy, Golshifteh Farahani and Shohreh Aghdashloo.

Saving Christmas (PG for mature themes) Faith-based film chronicling the efforts of a frustrated family man (Kirk Cameron) determined to put Jesus back at the center of his family’s holiday celebration. Co-starring Bridgette Cameron, Darren Doane, Raphi Henly and Ben Kientz.

JIM **CARREY** JEFF **DANIELS**

DUMB AND DUMBER TO

UNIVERSAL PICTURES AND RED GRANITE PICTURES PRESENT AN ASSOCIATION WITH NEW LINE CINEMA A COMING TO AN ENTERTAINMENT/CHARLES D. WESSLER PRODUCTION A NEZA AZIZ AND JOEY McFARLAND PRODUCTION A FARMILY BROTHERS MOVIE JIM CARREY JEFF DANIELS "DUMB AND DUMBER TO" "AN EXAMPLE OF THE SUN" WRITTEN BY BENNETT YELLAN & PETER FARMILY & BOBBY FARMILY PRODUCED BY SEAN ANDERS STEVE STAVLER MARC FISCHER DAVID KOPPEL DAVIDY PRADYNO CHRISTINA MERRITT DIRECTED BY CHARLES D. WESSLER STARRING JIM CARREY BOBBY FARMILY PETER FARMILY NEZA AZIZ JOEY McFARLAND WRITTEN BY SEAN ANDERS & JOHN MORRIS AND PETER FARMILY & BOBBY FARMILY & BENNETT YELLAN & MARC GERARDINE A UNIVERSAL RELEASES UNIVERSAL PICTURES PRESENTS

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FRI., NOV. 14

PERFORMANCE: HCX presents Daniel Bernard Roumain and Dj Jephthe Guillaume. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., followed by a conversation and performance with Daniel Bernard Roumain. From 9:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight. DJ Jephthe Guillaume - Tet Kale Records/Spiritual Life Music. \$35 in advance / \$40 at door Purchase tickets here! <http://bit.ly/1xuqorX>. Hors d'Oeuvres & Cash Bar The Carlton Hotel 88 Madison Ave, New York NY, 10016.

SAT., NOV. 15

BOOK FAIR: The Brooklyn Museum will host the eighth annual Children's Book Fair from 12 noon to 4:00 p.m. This year's fair features more than 30 Brooklyn authors and illustrators and includes storybooks, picture books, graphic novels, and books for young adults. There will also be hands-on art activities and fun photo opportunities for all ages. Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11238.

STORYTELLING: Author, storyteller and native New Yorker Michele Carlo will present a brand-new solo show, "THERE GOES THE NEIGHBORHOOD!" as part of the 2014 SOLOCOM festival at the People's Improv Theater (P.I.T.) at 4:30 p.m. A multi-layered mix of characters, storytelling and True Urban Tale (plus a touch of game show), THERE GOES THE NEIGHBORHOOD! is "Leftover" New Yorker Michele Carlo's search to find the tipping point for the gentrification (and subsequent castration) of her beloved Brooklyn neighborhood...and subsequent discovery she was its enemy all along. Tickets are just \$5 and can be purchased here: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/solocom-2014-michele-carlo-jw-crump-tickets-14066911511>.

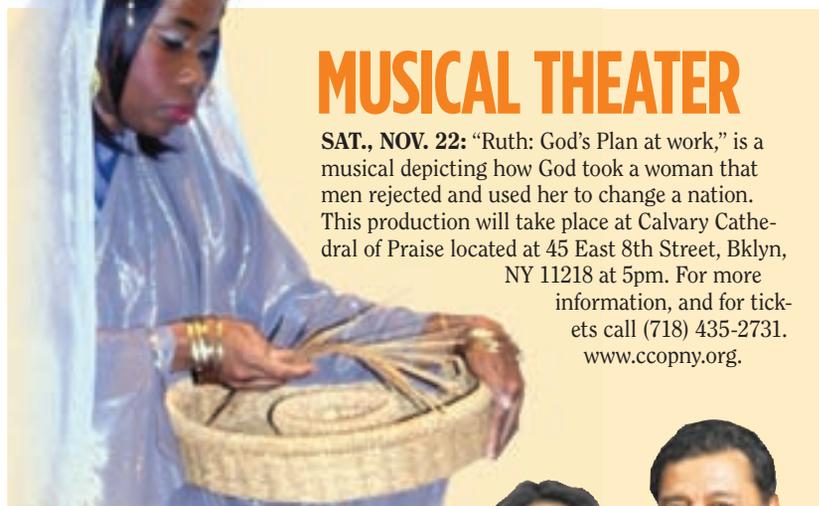
SUN., NOV. 16

MEETING: Mr. Derrick James (Grenada's Ambassador for Humanitarian and Diaspora Affairs) invites you to an open discussion on the diaspora initiative the government of Grenada wishes to establish from 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP (212) 599-0301 Ext. 256 or (212) 599-4731 Holy Cross School, 2520 Church Ave, Brooklyn (Cafeteria).

TUES., NOV. 18

EDUCATION: Find out what you need to know to make the best choice for your child from 6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. Learn about district choice, application, specialized exam and preparing for change. For all the latest news and events in the district, visit www.cec13.org. MS265, 101 Park Ave., Brooklyn NY 11205.

STORYTELLING: Michele Carlo will host the return of her long-running "IT CAME FROM NEW YORK" storytelling series as part of the launch month of new perform-



MUSICAL THEATER

SAT., NOV. 22: "Ruth: God's Plan at work," is a musical depicting how God took a woman that men rejected and used her to change a nation. This production will take place at Calvary Cathedral of Praise located at 45 East 8th Street, Bklyn, NY 11218 at 5pm. For more information, and for tickets call (718) 435-2731. www.ccopyny.org.



BOOK FAIR

SAT., NOV. 15: The multi-talented Alex DeSuze returns to the Indian Road Café to host the "No Name Uptown Cabaret Second Monday" monthly singers showcase. No cover, no minimum and for additional information, call (212) 942-7451.



FALL WORKOUT

SUN., NOV. 16: Join EmblemHealth Neighborhood Care for a cardio workout that can enhance your overall health and improve circulation and endurance from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. RSVP: 1-866-539-0999 206-20 Linden Blvd., Cambria Heights, NY 11411.

ance space Q.E.D. in Astoria at 7:30p.m. "IT CAME FROM NEW YORK," NYC's first (and so far only) all native New Yorker storytelling series has been running in fits and starts since 2005. The show will feature MOTH favorite Daisy Rosario, photographer/author Jenny Rubin, comedian Liam McEaney, and token non-New Yorker Kambri Crews, among others. Admission is FREE. Reservations can be made here: <http://qedastoria.com/products/it-came-from-new-york>. Q.E.D. is located at 27-16 23rd Avenue, Astoria, NY. N or Q train to Ditmars Blvd.; Q69 bus.

FINANCE SERIES: Learn how to manage your finances, maintain good credit, set goals, develop good habits, and make the most of your budget in this free five-week course from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Neighborhood Housing Services of East Flatbush, 2806 Church Ave. (between Nosstrand & Rogers avenues.). To register, call (718) 469-4679. NHS is a not-for-profit housing organization. www.nhsnyc.org. 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

MEDICARE 101: Learn the ins and outs of Medicare from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. How does Medicare work? What is a donut hole? What is a copay? Why is it neces-

sary? How do I choose a doctor and what assistance is available to help with costs? Space is limited, so call to reserve a seat today. A sales person will be present with information and application forms. To register for this seminar and for accommodation of persons with special needs at sales meetings, call (800) 447-9169, seven days a week, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. For those with hearing and speech impairments, call 711, seven days a week, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. HIP Health Plan of New York (HIP) is an HMO plan with a Medicare contract. Group Health Incorporated (GHI) is a PPO plan and a standalone PDP with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in HIP and GHI depends on contract renewal. HIP and GHI are EmblemHealth companies. 206-20 Linden Blvd., Cambria Heights, NY 11411.

THURS., NOV. 20

FOOD DRIVE: District leader Olanike Alabi, Clinton Hill AARP Chapter 2197, The 57th A.D. Democratic Organization, District Council 37, and United Federation of Teachers invite you to donate non-perishable and canned goods which will

be collected from 6:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. Donations will benefit the food pantry sponsored by the Walt Whitman Resident Association in Fort Greene. For more information, call (718) 398-0750. Refreshments will be served. Teen Challenge Center, 444 Clinton Ave. (between Gates & Greene avenues.)

FRI., NOV. 21

COMEDY: "No Name... & A Bag O' Chips" comedy / variety show producer, Eric Vetter will present performers Mick Diflo (The Huffington Post), Chris Griggs (New York Underground Comedy Festival), Grant Cooper (Morrison Motel), Megan Sass (NY Funny Songs Festival), sketch comedy collective Kokomo (Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre) at 7:00 p.m. The "No Name" house band The Summer Replacements - including Carl (BabyFreak) Fortunato and Fernando (Dr. Sandman) Morales Gonzalez - will perform a full set of old school R&B and rock standards at 8:30 p.m. No cover, no minimum. Otto's is located at 538 E 14th St (Cross Street: Between avenues A and B) For more information, call (212) 228-2240 or go to: www.ottosshrunkenhead.com. Performers subject to change. For more "No Name," information, contact (347) 885-3466 / NoNameNYC@hotmail.com.

SAT, NOV. 22

PERFORMANCE: "Ruth: God's Plan at work," is a musical depicting how God took a woman that men rejected and used her to change a nation. This production will take place at Calvary Cathedral of Praise located at 45 East 8th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11218 at 5:00 p.m. For more information and for tickets, call (718) 435-2731. www.ccopyny.org.

SUN., NOV. 23

PERFORMANCE: The Queens Faith Temple of Seventh-day Adventists Church will be hosting a drama production entitled, "The Basket of Flowers" on Sunday, Nov. 23 at 3:00 p.m. at the York College: Milton G. Bassin Performing Arts Center. The drama production is based off an 18th century tale written by Christoph von Schmid, which centers on a young woman who grows up with her father and learns about humility, purity and forgiveness. Their lives change for the worst when a prized possession belonging to a landowner's wife goes missing and the young woman is blamed unjustly for the crime." Tickets are \$20 per person and doors will open at 2:00 p.m. For more information and/or to order tickets, call (516)967-5003 or (917)519-1430.

If you have an event that you would like to post in Sun Kulcha, please email your submission to Caribbean-life@cnglocal.com. All submissions are subject to a review by the editor.
Compiled by Natalie Y. Henry

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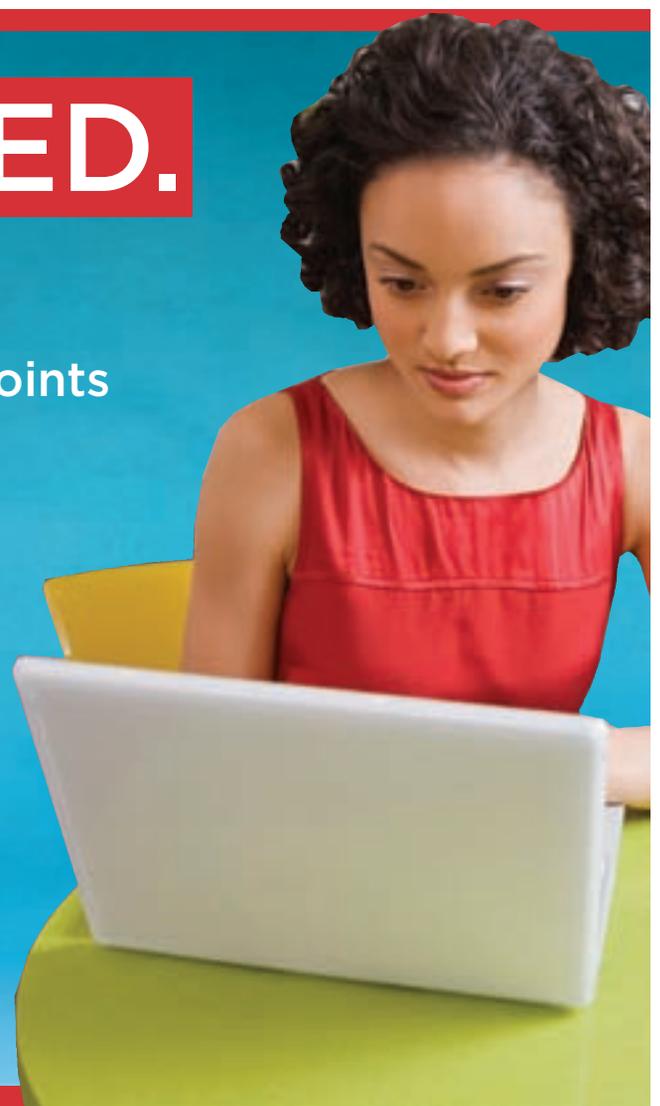
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New York Jets' Jaiquawn Jarrett.
Photo courtesy of New York Jets

Jarrett plays best game

By Robert Elkin

Jaiquawn Jarrett recently turned in his finest game of the year in a New York Jets uniform. Listed as a safety, the third-year Jet did what he was supposed to do to help his teammates break a long losing streak during this season, this one against Pittsburgh.

Now Jarrett is putting his Steeler game behind him and concentrating on the game against host Buffalo on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 23.

Jarrett is no stranger to the fans and

Continued on Page 44

Cricket bailout

By Azad Ali

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves is rallying support to help the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) settle a US\$42 million bill with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

The Vincentian leader made the disclosure after WICB president Dave Cameroon appealed for assistance from Caricom countries to satisfy the claim.

BCCI suspended bilateral tours to the Caribbean and initiated the multimillion-dollar claim for damages after the one-day team quit the tour of India last month over a contracts row with their union, the West Indies Players' Association (WIPA).

"I have been talking to several persons at home and abroad to respond to the plea by the president of the cricket board to see

Continued on Page 44



DC United's David Estrada, left, and New York Bulls' Bradley Wright-Phillips (99) battle for a head ball during the second half of the second match of their MLS soccer Eastern Conference semifinal playoff series, Saturday, Nov. 8, 2014, in Washington.
AP Photo/Luis M. Alvarez

Readies for battle with New England

By Patrick Horne

The 2014 MLS Conference finalists have been determined and in the Eastern Conference, the New York Red Bulls will make its third appearance in the Conference final and first time since 2008, when it battles the New England Revolution in a home-

and-away series starting with the first leg at Red Bull Arena on Sunday, Nov. 23 at 1:30 p.m. In the Western Conference, the Los Angeles Galaxy will host the Seattle Sounders in the first leg, also on Nov. 23, while both return fixtures are scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 29. The Sounders

are the 2014 Supporters' Shield winner because of its MLS best regular season record.

New York arrived at the Conference finals by way of a 3-2 aggregate in goals over Conference winner DC United. The Red Bulls seized the

Continued on Page 44

Continued from page 43

players in the New York met area as he competed on the football team at Fort Hamilton High School in Brooklyn and led them to two Public Schools Athletic League city-wide championships. Like many other student athletes, he played both ways as a student.

His father came from Kingston, Jamaica, where he played soccer, before moving north to Brooklyn. The griddier just can't remember when his father moved to New York.

Meanwhile, Jarrett's mother became a runner while she attended James Madison High School while she resided in Brooklyn.

Last Sunday afternoon, an ideal one for the sport of football, Jarrett intercepted two passes thrown by Pittsburgh for 10 yards, including one for nine yards, and was involved in seven tackles while playing safety on defense.

"Everything came together (against the Steelers)," Jarrett said after the game.

"The ball fell in our favor. And now we broke our long (eight game) losing streak, and take it one game at a time."

Now Jarrett wants to keep improving on his good play and at the same time keep winning or moving up for the remainder of the season.

The Jets have six games remaining on their schedule, including two home ones.

Last week marked his best defensive game of the year and he must keep it up.

In addition, he made his first start of the season for the local National Football League franchise.

"As a unit and as a team (I) came together," the 6'0" safety from Temple University said. "We stayed focused in doing our job. And with the help of the front seven we did our job."

He and his teammates must keep up their good work on the gridiron if they want to succeed. However, playoffs are out of the question right now.

The Jets have to keep up winning, execute, and get the job done, according to Jarrett.

"I want to get this thing rolling," Jarrett added. "I take it one game at a time."



DC United's Eddie Johnson (7) grabs New York Bulls' Jamison Olave, right, during the second half of the second match of their MLS soccer Eastern Conference semifinal playoff series, Saturday, Nov. 8, 2014, in Washington. The Red Bulls lost the game 2-1, but advanced 3-2 on aggregate after winning the first leg 2-0 last Sunday.

AP Photo/Luis M. Alvarez

Red Bulls in Conference finals

Continued from page 43

upper hand in the series when it pulled off a 2-0 win in the first leg at home back on Sunday, Nov. 2. Heading home to DC, United needed to win by three goals but just couldn't get up to the task.

Red Bulls captain, Thierry Henry, has been the difference throughout the playoffs. His play has inspired the team and is reflected in his four assists in the last three play-off games. His last and crucial effort came in DC last Sat. Nov. 8; his assist created Peguy Luyindula goal to tie the score at 1-1. DC went on to win the contest, 2-1, but it was the combination of Henry and Luyindula that created the goals which decided the series. Luyindula has two goals and two assists in the three games and Bradley Wright-Phillips has scored three goals and an assist. Wright-Phillips notched

a league-leading 27 goals in the regular season and has 30 goals on the year, three short of the record by Roy Lassiter of the 1996 Tampa Bay Rowdies. Nick DeLeon, son of former Trinidad and Tobago great, Leroy DeLeon, scored DC United's first goal and Sean Franklyn got the second.

New England will pose more problems for New York than did DC United. United's winning momentum had slowed a bit toward the end of the season, but the Revolution is in good form coming off a 7-3 aggregate series win over the Columbus Crew. The Revs were given a big boost by the late-season addition of U. S. men's national team midfielder Jermaine Jones, who has given the team the strong, physical presence that was lacking in the Revs line-up since the lost of former MLS all-star Charlie Joseph. Also, the scoring

form of midfielder Lee Nguyen - who connected for 18 goals this season, 20 overall, and resulted in a call up to the national team for upcoming friendlies - makes the Revs a very potent threat.

History is not on New York's side in the play-offs against the Revolution. The teams played in three play-off series, with New England winning all three. More telling, though, is the recent regular season matchups, which reflect a different history as the Red Bulls defeated the Revs twice this year.

In the Western Conference finals, the Galaxy is in good form as it defeated Real Salt Lake, 5-0, behind Landon Donovan's hat trick. After a goalless draw in the first leg in Utah, the Galaxy came home and pounced on RSL from the opening whistle. Robbie Keane and Marcelo Sarvas also scored for Los Angeles.

Cricketers reach agreement

Continued from page 43

who we can help them with the US\$42 million claim that the India cricketing authorities have made against our team," Gonsalves said.

"I will help in whatever way I can because of the importance of cricket to our civilization - our Caribbean civilization," he said. It appears that a meeting in Trinidad recently, brokered by Prime Minister Gonsalves and his Grenadian counterpart Dr. Keith Mitchell, with WIPA, has

reached a solution.

The meeting agreed to set up a three-man task force to look at the BCCI lawsuit.

"I fully expect that the team for South Africa will be selected without any discrimination, without any victimization against the India 16, both for the Tests and ODIs, which will come in January," Gonsalves said.

West Indies are to play a tough three-Test series against South Africa starting next month.



Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves.
AP Photo/Roberto Candia, File

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FILE - In this Sunday, May 26, 2013 file photo, India's cricket chief Narainswamy Srinivasan reads a statement during a press conference in Kolkata, India. Srinivasan agreed to step aside Sunday, June 2, 2013 but not resign while the ongoing spot-fixing scandal in the Indian Premier League is investigated. The calls for Srinivasan's resignation had been growing after his son-in-law and Chennai Super Kings official Gurunath Meiyappan was arrested by police in the spot-fixing investigation. AP Photo/Bikas Das, File

ICC: West Indies tour withdrawal 'unacceptable'

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The International Cricket Council called West Indies' withdrawal from its tour of India "damaging and unacceptable" on Sunday and indicated that such behavior in future would jeopardize players' participation in lucrative tournaments like the Indian Premier League.

An internal pay dispute between West Indies players and administrators boiled over last month when the squad withdrew after the fourth limited-overs international, leaving unplayed an ODI, a Twenty20 international and three test matches against India.

"The ICC and all member boards noted that players abandoning tours have the potential to cause irrevocable damage to the sport in the jurisdiction of the relevant member board concerned, as well as enormous financial damage, which might adversely affect the financial viability of the sport itself," the ICC said in a statement after meeting on Sunday.

"With that in mind, and in a show of solidarity, all member boards collectively expressed the view that they consider such player action to be extremely disruptive, damaging and unacceptable."

The statement warned that "players who behave in a similar manner in the

future will not only risk breaching the disciplinary rules of the relevant member board and being sanctioned accordingly, but may also put in jeopardy their ability to conclude future contractual arrangements with domestic franchises or clubs in other jurisdictions."

The Board of Control for Cricket in India, which is the most powerful stakeholder in international cricket with vast revenues from sponsorship and TV deals, has suspended bilateral ties with the West Indies and also claimed \$42 million as compensation for lost revenue.

The West Indies, which is among cricket boards dependent on funds generated from bilateral cricket with teams like India, has set up a taskforce to review the premature end to the India tour.

ICC chairman Narainswami Srinivasan was quoted as saying in the ICC statement that the withdrawal was a "sad chapter" for the game.

"It damaged cricket's integrity and reputation, as well as affecting confidence within the cricket community, especially that of the fans. The ICC board was determined to address this situation and ensure such incidents never happen again," Srinivasan said.

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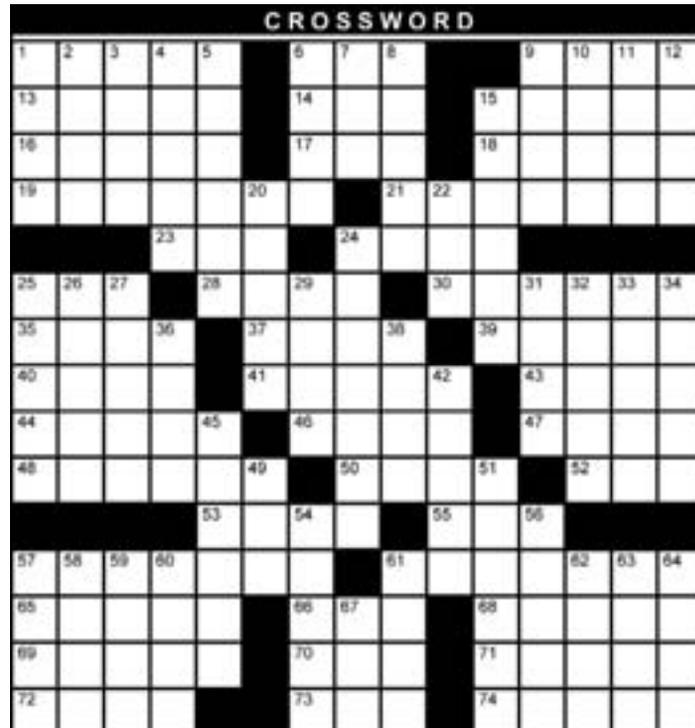
1. Bullying, e.g.
6. Brown of "Back to the Future"
9. Choir member
13. Brick worker
14. Bruin legend Bobby ____
15. Show contempt
16. At right angle to a ship
17. Actress ____ Michele of "Glee"
18. These lips sink ships
19. *Reason to celebrate Thanksgiving
21. *Pilgrim helper
23. "C'____ la vie!"
24. Chopped fish bait
25. "Casablanca" pianist
28. Maui dance
30. Horrify
35. All over again
37. Oily freshwater fish, native to Asia and Europe
39. Red Sea peninsula
40. Beehive State
41. Aussie "bear"
43. *Baste the turkey or set the table, e.g.
44. *Cornucopia's shape
46. Ill-gotten gains
47. Yemeni port
48. Frame or trap
50. *Marshmallows are

- placed ____ the sweet potatoes
52. European Nuclear Society
 53. Very curious
 55. To nail, as in criminal
 57. *Distinctly orange fruit
 61. Product-selling scheme
 65. Sleeping noise
 66. "____ to Joy"
 68. Rome's Colosseum
 69. Step
 70. Galley tool
 71. Vertebrae cushions
 72. Secret association of Chinese
 73. Flammable toxic derivative of toluene
 74. Electronic money

DOWN

1. Wet nurse
2. "Ali ____ and the 40 Thieves"
3. ____-friendly
4. Dry white Italian wine
5. Catch in a net
6. Airhead
7. Bonanza find
8. "____ into Me" by Dave Matthews Band
9. Dwarf buffalo
10. *____ Lett's famous Thanksgiving football blunder

11. Reason to cram
12. Three-layer cookie
15. Sinks into a couch, e.g.
20. Between rock and a hard place?
22. In so far as, conjunction
24. Popular rye bread addition
25. *Cranberry ____
26. Playwright Chekhov
27. Had in mind
29. Cambodia's neighbor
31. Falafel bread
32. Battery terminal
33. Burdened
34. *NFL hosts
36. Helicopter sound
38. Surveyor's map
42. Extreme suffering
45. Mouth sore
49. Hawaiian dish
51. *Macy's tradition
54. Arrogant person
56. Relating to barium
57. "Hey ... over here!"
58. "Do ____ others as..."
59. Express complaint
60. Synonym to #54 Down
61. Chipper
62. Phoenix neighbor
63. Cyan and magenta in printer, e.g.
64. 100-meter race
67. "Da Vinci Code" by ____ Brown



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ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20
It's time for you take action, Aries. Your energy level is perfect for getting things done at home and at work. The faster you go, the more you can accomplish.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
You could be prone to panic this week, Taurus. Settle down as best as you can and take a few deep breaths. Lean on friends if you need a little extra support.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
It's been difficult keeping in touch with a friend who lives far away. Make an effort to reconnect and plan some time to get together and enjoy each other's company.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, the value of your portfolio may increase considerably this week. Keep your eyes on your accounts and the market. Fortune awaits.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, communication needs to be open between you and someone you love to avoid conflict. Set aside some time when the two of you can talk this week.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
Many things are looking up for you, Virgo. This week could be the catalyst for positive change. Keep an open mind as you forge ahead in all you do.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
You may get some excellent career news this week, Libra. It is just the type of information that you have been seeking and could provide the boost you need to make some changes.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Relationships with family and friends are thriving this week, Scorpio. You may have found your niche and all things fall into play. Enjoy this renewed sense of camaraderie.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, obstacles are cleared this week and you have an entirely new perspective on your love life. Put that information to use with a romantic date or by engaging in a couples' activity.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, money matters should be going well for you, so much so that you can make one of those big-ticket purchases without much hesitation. Enjoy the results.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
Relationships of all kinds are strengthened this week, Aquarius. Whether you hang out with friends or go on a date night, you will enjoy the experience immensely.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
Your imagination is soaring this week, Pisces. Keep your feet a little closer to the ground so you do not get carried away.

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LEGAL

NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS
U.S. BANK, N.A. AS SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE TO BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. AS SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO LASALLE BANK N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR MERRILL LYNCH FIRST FRANKLIN MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST, MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-1, Plaintiff, Against Index No. 14712/2008 OSVALDO ACOSTA; et al., Defendants. Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered 10/02/2013, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on 12/4/2014 at 2:30 pm premises known as 74-76 South 2nd Street, Brooklyn, NY 11211, and described as follows: ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, Block 2416 and Lot 8. The approximate amount of the Judgment lien is \$973,828.71 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #

LEGAL

14712/2008. Lyle F. Silversmith, Esq., Referee. DOONAN, GRAVES & LONGORIA, LLC MA, 100 CUMMINGS CENTER, SUITE 225D, BEVERLY, MA 01915 Dated: 10/15/2014 File Number: 3312.05 PB

LEGAL

UNDER THE REGISTRATION OF TITLE LAW OFFICE OF TITLES PO BOX 494 KINGSTON October 27, 2014 Whereas I have been satisfied by Statutory Declaration that the duplicate Certificate of Title for ALL THAT parcel of land part of TWICKENHAM PARK in the parish of SAINT CATHERINE being the lot numbered ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY THREE on the plan part of Twickenham Park aforesaid deposited in the Office of Title on the 11th day of January, 1968 of the shape and dimensions and butting as appears by the said plan and being the land registered at Volume 1208 Folio 50 of the Register Book of Titles in the names of MERLE MILLS and LUTHER MILLS - HAS BEEN LOST:- I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that I intend at or after the expiration of fourteen days after the last appearance of this advertisement to DISPENSE with the production of the duplicate Certificate of Title and to endorse on the original a Miscellaneous No. 1876238 to note the fact of death of the above-named MERLE MILLS and thereafter cancel the said Certificate of Title and to register a new Certificate in duplicate in place thereof. S. Porteous Acting Senior Deputy Registrar of Titles

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REV. RICHARD GRIFFITHS

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BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Jamaica

EDUCATION:
Alliance Theological Seminary, Masters of Arts in New Testament Biblical Literature

OCCUPATION:
Bronx Bethany Church of the Nazarene, young adult pastor

PERSON I ADMIRE:
Griffiths admires most his parents Kempton and Maureen Griffiths "for their countless sacrifices, devout commitment to the Lord, and their love for people and community revitalization."

to forge healthy relationships and guide students towards higher education.

Griffiths continued his studies and received a Masters of Arts in New Testament Biblical Literature from Alliance Theological Seminary.

He is an ordained elder in the Church of the Nazarene and has served in various denominational capacities.

Griffiths is currently Bronx Bethany Church of the Nazarene's young adult pastor and the

executive director of the Bronx Bethany Community Corporation.

OMAR HAWTHORNE

Loves giving to the community



BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Jamaica

EDUCATION:
XXX XXX

OCCUPATION:
Golden Krust Franchise Department, Real Estate and Marketing director

PERSON I ADMIRE:
His father Lowell Hawthorne

Omar Hawthorne joined the Golden Krust Franchise Department in 2007. Since that time, he has served the Real Estate and Marketing departments and now holds the position of director of Franchise Development & Community Affairs.

As the director, Hawthorne communicates with potential franchisees, administers franchise contracts and disclosure procedures, and maintains legal compliance with all federal and state specific franchise sales regulations.

He also serves as the interaction point for prospects inquiring about franchise opportunities, and interprets demographic information and mapping that will allow for easy iden-

tification and evaluation of appropriate territories for the development.

Hawthorne's love for business and the expertise developed while working with his father and mentor, Lowell Hawthorne, led him to pursue training as a certified franchise executive.

His training and sharp communication skills have made him a most valuable assistant to the Marketing Department

in the areas of community involvement and philanthropic programs.

Hawthorne has been called on many occasions to represent the chief executive officer at several corporate and social events.

He served on the company's "Think Tank," an advisory group to the president, which comprises enterprising and bright young people.

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CHASEN HOLLANCID

Promoting Caribbean events in the Tri-state

Originally from St. Lucia, Chasen Hollancid's commitment to success stems from his desire to help others.

He worked at Hudson Valley Bank in Westchester County for close to nine years where he developed his financial and investment skills.

Hollancid studied undergraduate and graduate commercial finance at Mercy College, where he also pursued a master's degree in leadership.

He utilized his knowledge to help others through socio-economic articles and a financial website he started.

After a one-year stint as co-chair of the Westchester chapter of United-Way, Hollancid started The New St. Lucian group. The mission of the group was to unite young St. Lucians in the Diaspora.



BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
St. Lucia

EDUCATION:
Mercy College,
Master in leadership

OCCUPATION:
The Upscale Group,
director

In 2004, the group went on to produce the St. Lucia Expo in Brooklyn. The annual event was well attended by St. Lucian and New York politicians, and also received a New York City proclamation from then Councilwoman Yvette D. Clarke.

In 2005- 2006, Hollancid served as an informal advisor to St. Lucia's former Prime Minister, the late Sir John Compton.

Their friendship led to the creation of the Brooklyn-based St. Lucia Honor

Society. In 2006, the St. Lucia Honor Society honored Sir John Compton as its first and only recipient.

Later that year, Hollancid started his slow transition from banking to hospitality.

He joined Upscale Crowd Marketing Group, which later became The Upscale Group.

Under his leadership, the group has produced quality entertainment for young Caribbean professionals in the Tri-state area.

KEVIN HOWELL

Business development consultant

Howell possesses strong international business, financial management, business strategy development and analytical expertise. He has combined these skills with his passion to help businesses grow to form Anchor Strategy Group. Anchor's mandate is to help private businesses and governments to develop and navigate the nuances of changing and competitive global market places.

Over the last five years, Howell has worked with several business owners and government clients in strategy development, project management and training.

Prior to Anchor Strategy Group, Kevin worked with two of the "Big Four" accounting firms in various capacities. He was a senior auditor at Price-WaterhouseCoopers and



BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Jamaica

EDUCATION:
University of Rochester,
MBA

OCCUPATION:
Anchor Strategy
Group, managing
director

a manager in the Mergers Acquisition Group at Ernst & Young.

His role at Ernst and Young afforded him the opportunity to work with Fortune 500 companies, and expanded his knowledge of the health care, information technology, manufacturing and consumer products industries.

Before starting Anchor, Howell worked at Broadridge Financial Solutions, a \$2.0 billion publicly-traded firm, where he

worked as a senior director of business development developing various types of financial models and analyses to support the assessment of acquisition and alliance opportunities.

Howell holds a bachelor's degree from the University of the West Indies in Jamaica in accounting and economics. He completed the United Kingdom-based Certified Public Accountants examination.

JEREMIAH HYACINTH

Champions the cause of needy students

Jeremiah Hyacinth is a Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) alumnus from St. Lucia.

After finishing his associate degree in 2001, Hyacinth transferred to Columbia University for his bachelor's degree in political science with a focus on international relations.

The BMCC Student Government president was also a reporter and editor for the student newspaper, "Voice of the Voiceless."

He took his experience of working at the publication to start the "World Scholar," a quarterly magazine that focuses on international student life in the United States and England.

For the past three years, Hyacinth has managed a community-based organization called Project Education. Launched in May



BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
St. Lucia

EDUCATION:
Baruch of Manhattan
Community College;
attended Columbia
University

OCCUPATION:
St. Lucia Consulate in
New York, diplomat

2010, Project Education gives overseas-based St. Lucians and friends of St. Lucia an opportunity to help needy students and their families in the homeland.

Through the generosity of numerous donors, Project Education has empowered more than 1700 students by providing them with donated school supplies that their families would have otherwise had difficulty affording.

Under his direction,

Project Education also successfully implemented a toy drive in September 2012 to benefit St. Lucia's Helen Folk Dancers and Helen Television System's annual Christmas party for underprivileged children.

With the kind support of St. Lucians and friends of St. Lucia, Project Education collected nearly 500 toys that were shipped to St. Lucia for distribution.

ANIKA KEENS DOUGLAS HYLTON

Answers the call to teach

Anika Hylton carries her entire name for formal and resume occasions because she said here publications are linked to her maiden name.

Anika Hylton, nee Keens-Douglas, is a public policy analyst and policy writer trained in the Caribbean and the United States, who has worked with governments, institutions such as the United Nations and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) as a Caribbean consultant, and companies and non-profits alike for more than 15 years.

Heavily influenced by the integrity and ambition of her entrepreneur parents and their role as community-shapers and pioneers, she has also taught at all educational levels from the age of 17



BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Grenada

EDUCATION:
M.P.A in Policy
Analysis and Evaluation (magna cum laude) from the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia, 2005

– the start of her professional life.

With a mother who was educator, diplomat, and social worker, she feels that if she can teach, she must do so.

Keens-Douglas Hylton is currently part of the Social Sciences Department and African, Caribbean and Black Studies Department at CUNY, teaching primarily at York and Brooklyn College.

OCCUPATION:
Lecturer

PERSON I ADMIRE:
"I have yet to meet any other woman, wife, mother, pioneer, published writer and poet, teacher and principal, diplomat, chef, head nurse and mental health counselor, for starters, like Gloria Keens-Douglas Dalton, now deceased.

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ALEXIS JAMES

Special educator and dance enthusiast

Alexis James was born on Sept. 17, 1989 in Mount Vernon, New York. He is the first generation born in America as both of his parents were born in Jamaica.

He graduated from Ramapo High School in Spring Valley, NY and attended Temple University, where he received his bachelor's in Speech Pathology.

During James's undergraduate studies, he assisted in the creation of a tutoring program for Bright Hope Baptist Church in West Philadelphia, where we served students between the ages of 6-16 years in various subjects.

James was also the vice president of a Hip-hop dance team, traveling to other colleges for events and competitions. He received the first prize for "Philly's Best Dance



Crew."

He furthered his education at Pace University, where he received his Master's in Special Education through the NYC Teaching Fellows.

James is now a special education teacher at the Bronx High School of Visual Arts, teaching students with autism, ranging from ages 14-21, in a self-contained classroom.

BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY: Jamaica

EDUCATION: Temple University and Pace University, bachelor's in speech pathology and master's in special education, respectively

OCCUPATION: Bronx High School of Visual Arts, special education teacher

He said his passion for education shares an equal value with his passion for dance.

Last year, James started a dance program specifically designed for students with special needs at the Bronx High School of Visual Arts. The group performed at various events in the Bronx area.

KATLEEN JEANTY

Dedicated to helping low-skilled Haitians

Katleen Jeanty is the founder and chief executive officer of Madan BelFwi Fruit Mixes (BelFwi), Haiti's first all-natural fruit, juice and smoothie bar. The bar is renowned for selling tasty, refreshingly-cold and yummy concoctions, made with fresh local fruits.

Jeanty started BelFwi to take advantage of Haiti's abundant natural fruit supply that go to waste every year due to poor cultivation, transportation and packaging.

As a result, she creates employment opportunities for many of the country's unemployed.

In July 2013, Jeanty's hard work with BelFwi was recognized when she was selected as one of 10 finalists of Technoserve's Mon Entreprise, Mon Avenir (MEMA) Busi-



ness Plan Competition. She won US\$10,000 for BelFwi.

A year later, Jeanty also won first place in Haiti Renewal Alliance's Investor Pitch Competition, winning US\$3,000 for BelFwi. She was recently approved for a US\$75,000 matching grant from the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Leveraging Effective Application of

BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY: Haiti

EDUCATION: Babson College, Business Administration

OCCUPATION: Entrepreneur

PERSON I ADMIRE: "I have several people I admire a lot, but the two that I admire the most are my mom and Sir Richard Brandon. They are both such fierce fighters when it comes to what obtaining/accomplishing they want and have both accomplished a lot," she says.

Direct Investment for Haiti (LEAD) Program. She said this will better enable her to expand the company.

DR. NATASHA LIGHTFOOT

A historian who stays close to her roots

Natasha Lightfoot was born on June 21, 1978 to Jocelyn and the late William Lightfoot, both born in Antigua and Barbuda.

While growing up in the Bronx, Lightfoot's family always maintained strong connections to Antigua and Barbuda, through political discussions, as well as regular travel to the island.

Lightfoot attended Cardinal Spellman High School in the Bronx where she was an honor student, excelling in academics and participating in many extracurricular activities, including the National Honor Society, the Flag Corps and the Gospel Choir.

For her bachelor's degree, Lightfoot attended Yale University. As a student she was particularly drawn to U.S. and



African-American History courses.

She was also a dancer who performed and choreographed in African, jazz and hip-hop dance for the troupe Rhythmic Blue.

Lightfoot graduated with distinction in the history major and was elected to Phi Alpha Theta, a national History Honor society in 1999. Afterward, she

BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY: Antigua and Barbuda

EDUCATION: New York University, Ph.D;

OCCUPATION: Assistant Professor in Columbia Univer

PERSON I ADMIRE: "I admire my parents most of all for always encouraging me to succeed and to never forget my Antiguan roots."

spent a year working at Goldman Sachs.

On the advice of her undergraduate mentor who recognized her strengths as a researcher and writer, she decided to leave Goldman to pursue her doctorate in history in the fall of 2000 at New York University.

GLENROY MARCH

Freelance stylist and fashion designer

House of D'Marsh had its genesis in Spring 2003 when designer Glenroy March launched his Spring collection during Caribbean Fashion Week in Jamaica's capital city, Kingston.

This start gave rise to the pursuit of a passion by a talented Jamaican who would later go on to stun audiences not just locally but internationally.

With an eye for detail and perfection, the New York-based March, honed his design skills at the prestigious American Academy of Dramatic Arts, obtaining practical experience while working in the costume department.

March received his early training from top Caribbean fashion house Uzuri International, where he excelled



as an intern assistant designer. At age 21, March represented Jamaica at the internationally renowned fashion competition, "Total Look Award" in Toronto, Canada.

With a constant pulse on trends and new innovation combination, House of D'Marsh, seeks to marry sophistication with fashion-forward sensibility. "D'Marsh embodies a lifestyle. It represents everything I

BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY: Jamaica

EDUCATION: American Academy of Dramatic Arts

OCCUPATION: House of D'Marsh, designer

PERSON I ADMIRE: March lists fashion designers Valentino, Coco Chanel and Alexander McQueen among the designers who inspire him. He loves fabrics and is also inspired by colors of which red, black and white are favorites.

stand for; it is a representation of who I am," notes March.

The 2008 McDonald's Designer of the Year is passionate about fashion.

PAOLA MATHÉ

Uniting young Haitians everywhere

Paola Mathé was born and raised in Petion-Ville, Haiti, where she completed her elementary and middle school studies.

She attended high school in Newark, NJ, and finished among the top three students in her class, and president of various clubs and organizations.

Mathé went on to study economics and French Literature at Drew University, where she obtained a dual bachelor's degree.

Her career background is in hospitality management, where she has helped open and operate trendy hotels and restaurants in New York City.

Earlier this year, Mathé decided to tap on her creative side and open Fanm Djanm, a headwrap line and online



shop to celebrate strong women everywhere.

Ansanm Nou Se Ayiti, another project very dear to Mathé's heart, is a social movement she started over a year ago with the hope of uniting young Haitians everywhere to communicate, create and collaborate.

She is also the creator of Finding Paola, a lifestyle blog that tells

BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Haiti

EDUCATION:
Drew University, BA in Economics and French Literature

OCCUPATION:
Lifestyle blogger

PERSON I ADMIRE:
She absolutely admires her fiancé, her partner of 10 years, who helped her gain confidence in areas she didn't think she could.

FAVORITE QUOTE:
"We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty."

part of her story – a girl from a small town in Haiti, living her dreams in New York City.

MEDJINE PHILIS-VOLCY

Shares her love with children

Medjine Philis-Volcy was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti on Aug. 1, 1977, and raised and grew up there.

After high school, Philis-Volcy pursued a bachelor's degree in accounting at University Quisqueya in Haiti.

After migrating to the United States, she worked as an administrative assistant at Solution Management Group.

In 2005, she pursued a business management certificate at Baruch College, City University of New York; she is currently enrolled at Kingsborough Community College in the Continuing Education Program, where she is studying accounting.

Philis-Volcy has been working as a professional tax accountant for several years.



BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Haiti

EDUCATION:
University Quisqueya in Haiti, bachelor's degree in accounting

OCCUPATION:
Tax Accountant

PERSON I ADMIRE:
"Joel Osteen and Oprah Winfrey are two most wonderful people God put on my path that I adore and admire a lot," Philis-Volcy says. "From listening to them, I gain insight, wisdom, knowledge and experience. They impacted my life, they inspire me to build up, they challenge me to go higher by what they say and what they do."

"I believe in working hard," she says. "I love to work, love my clients, cherish them a lot. They are the reason I look forward to going to work every day. They give me joy. I love what I do."

Philis-Volcy said her "beautiful, four-year-old little boy" is "the most precious gift I have ever had."

"I'm so grateful that my Father Lord was able to bless me with such a gift," she said. "For that reason, my dream is to live to give."

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NICKAY PIPER

A social media marketing guru



BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Jamaica

EDUCATION:
Purchase College,
Bachelor's Degree in
New Media Commu-
nications

OCCUPATION:
Market Grub Media
LLC, president

Speaker, instructor and president of New York City-based digital marketing agency, Market Grub Media LLC, Nickay Piper has wowed companies small and large with her already paramount accomplishments and impressive know-how within the social media marketing arenas.

Currently serving Fortune 500 and middle market companies in the New York metropolitan area, Piper has developed multiple interactive and social media corporate campaigns resulting in records sales and revenues, and developed a tracking method that instills continued improvement through the real time adjustment of marketing programs to insure targeted financial results.

Piper is currently in the process of leading the

firm in the direction of mobile application and software development. She has already developed a proprietary/patented technology to monitor and assess website customer acquisition and revenue generating performance, and return on investment productivity.

She has a deep passion for education and small business development. She is currently an adjunct professor at SUNY Westchester Community College, where she has

authored one of the college's first "Social Media Marketing for Businesses" certification courses.

As board member of the college's Gateway to Entrepreneurship Organization, Piper has helped steer the small business agenda, helping to attract program funding and promote learning initiatives like this year's Grow 2.0 Conference at which Shark Tank's Barbara Corcoran was the keynote speaker.

PAUL PRYCE

An award winning Trinidadian actor



BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Trinidad and Tobago

EDUCATION:
Yale, School of
Drama, MFA,

OCCUPATION:
Actor

PERSON I ADMIRE:
Geoffrey Holder.
He was the definition of a Caribbean Renaissance man. An artist whose talent knew no borders nor boundaries – all the while remaining incredibly true to who he was as an individual.

FAVORITE QUOTE:
"Be not afraid of greatness."

It was in "Twelfth Night" that Shakespeare once wrote "Be not afraid of greatness. Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and others have greatness thrust upon them."

He might well have been writing about Trinidadian-born Paul Pryce, a Caribbean actor who is steadily gaining a reputation as one of the finest interpreters of Shakespeare's language and characters currently working today.

An MFA acting graduate of the renowned Yale School of Drama, Pryce's commanding presence, chiseled features and resonant voice seem tailor-made for the Bard's most famous and complex men.

And yet, while he did appear in Trinidadian productions of shows such as "Carnival Messiah," "Mantalk" and "Jesus Christ Superstar,"

he really came to public attention as a model, representing Trinidad and Tobago and winning the title of Oprah Winfrey's "Sexiest Caribbean Man" in a spectacular televised modeling competition held at the Bahamas' Atlantis Resort to kick off The Oprah Winfrey Show's 1999 season.

Pryce's prized trip to New York led to acting classes at the HB Studios and appearances in such diverse Off Broadway productions as "Pecong" at the National Black Theat-

er of Harlem, and featuring Tony Award winner Lillias White, Harry The Hunk On His Way Out at the Cherry Lane Theater.

MEKALIA REID, ESP

Provides legal services to those in need



BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Jamaica

EDUCATION:
Rutgers School of
Law, Newark

OCCUPATION:
Lawyer with Partners
for Woman and
Justice

Mekalia Reid was born in Clarendon, Jamaica and migrated to the United States at an early age. She was raised primarily in Newark, New Jersey and attended an elite private boarding high school in Massachusetts.

Reid double majored in journalism and mass media and communication, and minored in philosophy at Rutgers College in New Brunswick.

REID ENJOYS TRAVELING AND HAS VISITED MORE THAN 18 COUNTRIES IN THE AMERICAS, CARIBBEAN, EUROPE AND AFRICA, AND BRIEFLY LIVED IN SOUTH AFRICA.

After a brief career in one of the best corporate media relations departments in the country,

Reid attended law school at Rutgers School of Law, Newark.

As an attorney, she worked at a top New Jersey law firm as a litigator and also in one of the finest structured finance law firms in New York City.

She currently works for a financial industry regulator, helping to restore confidence in the securities market and furthering the company's goal of protecting investors.

Reid enjoys traveling

and has visited more than 18 countries in the Americas, Caribbean, Europe and Africa, and briefly lived in South Africa.

The provision of pro bono services to those in need has remained an integral part of her legal practice.

She currently works with Partners for Woman and Justice, a New Jersey non-profit that provides free legal services to abused women who are seeking permanent restraining orders against their abusers.

NELLONE EZE REID

Actively fundraises for non-profit groups



BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Guyana

EDUCATION:
New Jersey Institute
of Technology (NJIT),
Ph.D in Chemical
Engineering

OCCUPATION:
Chemical Engineer

PERSON I ADMIRE:
Prof. Robert Barat,

Born in Georgetown, Guyana to Neville and Orla Reid on Feb. 28, 1986, Nellone Eze Reid migrated with his family to Brooklyn in December of 1988.

He graduated from Brooklyn Technical High School in 2004, where his major was Environmental Science. While still in high school, Reid's interest in the sciences was peaked even further as an intern at the New York Presbyterian Hospital, assisting in cancer and diabetes research.

Reid received his Bachelors of Science degree in Chemical Engineering at Hampton University in 2008 and was a member of professional organizations, such as the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the National Society of Black Engineers.

Currently, outside of life as a student, he actively volunteers throughout the Newark, New Jersey area as a brother of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., as well as in New York City by hosting fundraisers for local non-profit organizations throughout the year.

Reid will be receiving his Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) next May.

Working closely with

his advisor, Professor Robert Barat, Reid's research focused on the consequences of manipulating chemical properties of catalysts as they relates to sulfur oxidations.

His work has been published in the Chemical Engineering Communications.

Reid says it is "an honor to be among the small percentage of black men to have achieved their Ph.Ds."

SHOLA K.ROBERTS

A dancer giving back to her community

Shola K. Roberts is a professional dancer, fitness instructor and model based in Brooklyn, New York.

Roberts, a proud Grenadian American, has had the opportunity to work with many renowned dance companies and choreographers. Her credits include performances with “Kowteff West African Dance Company,” David Dorfman, Francine Elizabeth Ott and Otis D. Herring, for whom she serves as an assistant choreographer.

She has also worked with the “Purelements,” an evolution in dance as a professional company member, teaching technique styles such as Dunham, African and Jazz, just to name a few.

Nigerian recording artist Floxxy B has featured Roberts’ choreography. She even composed the



award-winning dance presentation for the Ramajay Mas band in the 2014 West Indian American Day Parade in Brooklyn.

Roberts is certified by the Aerobics and Fitness Association of America as a group fitness instructor and by Madd Dogg Athletics Inc. as spin instructor. As a model, she has been featured on the Today Show, Good Day New York, Good Morning America, The View and several fitness print ads throughout the nation.

She often takes her tal-

BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
USA (Grenadian American)

EDUCATION:
Howard University, BFA

OCCUPATION:
Professional dancer/
dance educator/
group fitness instructor

PERSON I ADMIRE:
“I admire my mother.

ents to the community by teaching throughout the New York City School system.

Roberts has also had the opportunity to serve as a guest teacher in Chicago at the Artistically Speaking Body Language Summer Dance Intensive, and as a teacher for the Purelements Summer Dance Intensive.

REGINE M. ROUMAIN

Advocate for the Haitian-American community

Régine M. Roumain, has worked in nonprofit and philanthropic organizations for 15 years, most recently as a program officer for the New York Women’s Foundation, where she managed grant-making in two of the foundation’s largest portfolios: community organizing & advocacy and economic security.

Previously, she has worked as a management consultant for nonprofit organizations and as the coordinator of a community based organization engaged in civic education, youth development and advocacy for the Haitian-American community.

Over the past five years, Roumain has spearheaded the artistic vision of Haiti Cultural Exchange, becoming a leading figure in



the presentation of arts and cultural programs focused on Haiti and the Diaspora. She is the co-founder and executive director of Haiti Cultural Exchange (HCX). Established in 2009, HCX has developed programs designed to present Haitian culture to a broad audience, while supporting emerging and established artists, promoting cross-cultural exchanges and encouraging dialogue around contemporary social issues.

Her efforts have been

BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
USA of Haitian descent

EDUCATION:
St. John’s University,
Bachelor of Science
in Communication
Arts

OCCUPATION:
Haiti Cultural
Exchange, founder
and executive director

recognized by a Union Square Award for the Arts and the Haitian Roundtable.

Roumain was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., where she currently resides with her family, and was raised between Port-au-Prince, Haiti and New York City. She is fluent in French and Haitian Creole, and during her free time, she enjoys cooking and traveling.

DR. KERRI-ANN M. SMITH

Born to teach and influence people

Our young people deserve a future and I consider it the mandate of my ancestors to be part of the struggle to ensure that they have one. This statement by Assata Shakur is the foundation of Dr. Kerri-Ann M. Smith’s commitment to serving the youth of the African and Caribbean Diaspora.

Born in Savanna-la-Mar, Jamaica, Smith showed high academic prowess at a young age.

Having skipped both first and sixth grades, she is no stranger to being the youngest member of many groups to which she belongs.

Needless to say, she never let her age deter her from leadership or from high academic achievement.

Prior to immigrating to the United States in 1993, Smith attended Manning’s School, where she learned that “Vita



sine litteris mors est” or “Life without learning is death.” Thus, it is no surprise that this academician is the youngest member in the Department of Academic Literacy at Queensborough Community College.

Dr. Smith began her career as a part of the fifth cohort of New York City Teaching Fellows.

She was named a New York Times Teacher Who Makes a Difference and was the recipient of an award for excellence in

BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Jamaica

EDUCATION:
Binghamton University (English & Africana Studies) Bachelor of Arts (2002);
Brooklyn College (English Education), Master of Arts (2005)

Binghamton University, Doctor of Education (2012)

OCCUPATION:
Assistant professor
Binghamton University

PERSON I ADMIRE:
Brother Lt. Kaion R.B. Smith (USAF) for his valor and his ability to motivate others.

teaching at Binghamton University.

CURTIS STEPHEN

An award-winning journalist

Curtis Stephen is an award-winning journalist whose work has appeared in The Daily Beast, Newsday, Newsweek, Am New York and City Limits.

In his work, Stephen has interviewed or profiled a broad range of personalities including actress-activist Ruby Dee, former New York City Mayor Ed Koch, actor-activist Danny Glover, celebrated architect David Adjaye and author Chimamanda Adichie.

Stephen has also served as a stringer with Newsweek magazine and a media fellow with the Open Society Institute where he wrote a series of feature articles on wrongful convictions.

Stephen regularly covers the criminal justice system. Among his reports, Stephen



chronicled the case of Colin Warner, a Trinidadian who was wrongfully incarcerated for 21 years in New York for murder in a cover story for City Limits magazine entitled “The Wrong Man.”

Mentored by the likes of Ed Bradley (the late CBS News “60 Minutes” correspondent) and Peter Jennings (the late ABC News anchor), Stephen aspired to a career in journalism beginning at the age of 12.

BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Born in Brooklyn of
Trinidad and Tobago
heritage

EDUCATION:
Long Island
University, Brooklyn
Campus

OCCUPATION:
Associate Professor
of Journalism

PERSON I ADMIRE:
His mother: “I admire my mother for her courage in the face of many obstacles,” he says. “When she arrived to the United States with few resources, she made many sacrifices, and showed great resilience while fighting for a better life for me and my brothers.”

KIMETA STRAKER

Takes care of at risk students



BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Barbados

EDUCATION:
Canisius College, Buffalo, NY and University of Connecticut, master's degrees

OCCUPATION:
University of Connecticut, assistant director of advising

FAVORITE QUOTE:
"If you fail to prepare, prepare to fail" – mother; "The plans may have changed, but the goals remain the same." – father

interests and goals, along with academic skills that would lead them to academic success.

In addition to this class, she also teaches first-year students in the First Year Program and Learning Communities, and serves as a facilitator and trainer for several areas on campus.

Straker currently serves on several advisory boards and committees at the University of Connecticut and has been awarded several awards throughout her tenure at

the university.

She has also presented at several of her professional organizations' conferences, including NACADA, NASPA, and ACPA.

Kimeta Straker is the current assistant director of advising in the Academic Center for Exploratory Students at the University of Connecticut, Storrs Campus, where she has been employed for the past 15 years.

Straker started as an academic advisor and has worked closely with undergraduates in helping them to decide on majors and/or careers.

Her area of specialty is helping students who are considered at risk - dismissed from the university or on academic probation - either to be re-admitted to or graduate from the university.

Recognizing a need for this population, Straker created and teaches a course that allows students on academic probation to learn about their individual strengths,

MONIQUE WATERMAN

Takes her civic duties seriously



BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Born in Brooklyn to Barbadian mother and Jamaican father

EDUCATION:
Ph.D in Leadership in Higher Education

OCCUPATION:
East Flatbush Village, Inc., founder and director

PERSON I ADMIRE:
"I admire my grandparents, Ethan and Doriel Chandler who migrated here from Barbados in 1965 with seven children and later had their eight child once settled in Brooklyn, NY," she says. "They were able to work and obtain a two-family house to raise their children in East Flatbush

Waterman is the founder and director of the East Flatbush Village, Inc. She has resided in East Flatbush, Brooklyn for 32 years.

She is married to Eric Waterman, and they have four magnificent children – three girls and one boy: Eynique, 13, Erique, 11, Eynee, 8, and Erynn, 6. Waterman's mother is from Barbados, and her father is from Jamaica.

Waterman obtained her Master of Business Administration General Management in 2004 and continued on to pursue her Ph.D in Leadership in Higher Education while working as a professor at Berkeley College and Taylor Business Institute.

She began her civic engagement by creating a scholarship fund for

her family in 2003.

From 2004 to 2005, Waterman served as Block Association president for East 29th Block Association, which comprises four blocks from Glenwood Road to Newkirk Avenue in Brooklyn.

During that same time, she organized the East 46th Street Block Association and also coordinated multiple community block clean-ups since 2004.

GERMANE K. WILLIAMS

Walks in his father's footsteps



BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Jamaica

EDUCATION:
Syracuse University, MA in Television, Radio and Film; Drew University in New Jersey, BA in Sociology

OCCUPATION:
SAG-AFTRA actor, voiceover artist and on air personality.

PERSON I ADMIRE:
"As I get older my admiration and love for my mother continues to evolve and grow because I appreciate all that she does and all that she is. She is the true epitome of a strong Jamaican woman.

NYC's Park Avenue.

After graduating high school, Williams attended Drew University in New Jersey and graduated with a BA in Sociology. In college, he was a radio DJ, like his father.

During his few years in Corporate America and working for great companies like Conde Nast Publications, J Records and My9 Network, Williams said he sneaked off to acting, voiceover and modeling auditions.

He was also a guest co-host and entertainment and sports news

reporter for his father's weekly radio show at 93.5 WVIP-FM.

Germane Williams was born in New York City; both of his parents are from Jamaica. His mother is from the parish of St. Catherine, and his father is from Mandeville.

Williams' father, Ken Williams, came to the United States with the hopes of becoming an actor. He even emceed some of Bob Marley's live shows when he visited the Tri-State area, including at The Apollo Theater, which also featured The Commodores. Williams' father has been a successful entrepreneur as the owner of nightclub Carib New York and now the chief executive officer of Jamaica's Hot 102 FM.

Williams' mother, Dr. Jean Chin, is a graduate of Columbia Medical School and is the first woman of color to open her own OB/GYN private practice on

REV. KARIAN WRIGHT

Dedicated to increasing diversity in academia



BIO FILE

HOME COUNTRY:
Jamaica

EDUCATION:
Monroe College, master's and bachelor's degrees in business administration

OCCUPATION:
Program manager, Stony Brook University

PERSON I ADMIRE:
The person she most admires is her dad, who is her hero. Although he stands over 6 feet tall, he is "one of the kindest, most affectionate individuals" she has ever known. He has always been her biggest supporter and has always encouraged her to do her best and be her best at all times.

The Rev. Karian Wright, who was born in Jamaica, is a minister in the Church of God and currently a program manager in the Center for Inclusive Education (CIE) within the Graduate School at Stony Brook University.

The CIE is dedicated to increasing awareness of issues related to diversity at the university level, collaborating with faculty and staff to enhance the diversity of their respective departments, and at the national level, engaging in scholarly research activities and program assessment, with the ultimate goal of contributing to a greater body of knowledge related to issues of inclusion and diversity.

In her current role, Rev. Wright manages the National Science

Foundation (NSF) funded Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate - Transformation (AGEP-T) Program, called Frontiers of Research and Academic Models of Excellence (FRAME), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded Institutional Research and Academic Career Development Awards (IRACDA) Program, called New York Consortium for the Advancement of Postdoctoral Scholars (NY-CAPS).



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75 mos.
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\$452 per mo.
75 mos.
BUY IT FOR
\$33,992



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75 mos.
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75 mos.
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