



President Barack Obama delivers his State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015, in Washington.

Associated Press / Mandel Ngan, Pool

Obama urges Congress to lift embargo on Cuba

By Nelson A. King

Stating that he believes in a “smarter kind of American leadership,” United States President Barack Obama on Tuesday night called on Congress to lift the half-century-old trade and economic embargo against Cuba.

“In Cuba, we are ending a policy that was long past its expiration date,” said Obama in his “State of the Union” address. “When what you’re doing doesn’t work for 50 years, it’s time to try something new.”

“Our shift in Cuba policy has the potential to end a legacy of mistrust in our hemisphere; removes a phony excuse

for restrictions in Cuba; stands up for democratic values; and extends the hand of friendship to the Cuban people,” he added.

“And this year, Congress should begin the work of ending the embargo,” continued the U.S. president, alluding to His Holiness, Pope Francis, who has said that diplomacy is the work of “small steps.”

“These small steps have added up to new hope for the future in Cuba,” said Obama, stating that after years in prison, “we’re overjoyed that Alan Gross is back where he belongs. Welcome home, Alan.”

Continued on Page 4

GUYANA GETS SET TO VOTE

General elections set for early May

By Bert Wilkinson

Guyanese will vote for a new government on Monday, May 11, exactly six months after the administration of President Donald Ramotar suspended sittings of parliament to avoid being fired by an opposition no-confidence vote that government appeared very likely to lose.

Ramotar took to the airwaves on Tuesday afternoon to tell the nation after an all-day cabinet meeting that the time had come for the country to go to the polls almost two full years before fresh elections are constitutionally due.

His announcement of a date appears to have had much to do with mounting pressure from western nations including the U.S., the European Union and the British for him to either reconvene parliament and deal with whatever fate awaited him or allow the estimated 460,000 eligible voters to cast their ballots.

In the end, he chose May 11 as the date after the elections commission had rejected May 4 which would have coincided with celebrations marking Indian Arrival Day and likely give the party an unfair advantage. The governing People’s Progressive Party (PPP) is supported mostly by Guyanese of Indian origin.

Just last week, Ramotar’s cabi-

net and the British had exchanged tough words in public regarding the absence of a functioning parliament.

There has not been a single session of the 65-seat house since last July, weeks before it broke for the annual two-month recess.

And when it was due to be reconvened in early October, Ramotar waited until early November to call the first sitting then called it off altogether when all 33 opposition legislators made it plain that they would vote as a bloc to kick the government out.

The result is that the country is being run virtually by decree from the presidential complex and there was no one to exercise parliamentary oversight over national spending, a development western nations said they viewed with political askance.

“I hereby announce that general and regional elections shall be held on Monday, 11th May, 2015. I am advised that the elections commission would be in a state of readiness for these polls on that date,” he said.

The release of the date has not come as any major surprise to those who follow political developments in a country that is home to the 15-nation Caribbean trade bloc as

Continued on Page 4

Antigua

Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne says the government's spending will be EC \$450 million dollars above revenues this year. He says this is the largest funding in the history of the country,

Browne says the problem was inherited from the former UPP-administration.

The prime minister said his Antigua and Barbuda Labor Party (ABLP)-government intends to reduce wasteful spending, though he admitted that the former administration in its last term did cut a lot of waste.

Browne said the government will have to borrow from the regional securities market and receive grants to fill the \$450 million dollar gap.

"And the other grants that we are pursuing we should get a \$13.5 million dollar grant from the government of Mexico that is part of our housing program and other smaller grants. Plus we intend to increase the Citizen Investment Program (CIP) considerably," he added.



Nevis renewable energy drive

In 2010, the 13-kilometre-long island of Nevis launched the first-ever wind farm to be commissioned in the OECS with a promise to provide jobs for islanders, a reliable supply of wind energy, cheaper electricity and a reduction in surcharge and the use of imported oils. See page 6.

Inter Press Service / Desmond Brown

Bahamas

The Bahamas government says China has agreed in principle to allow the CARICOM member to be a country where debts involving the international parties can be settled.

An official statement was issued following recent talks between Prime Minister Perry Christie and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing.

It quoted the Chinese leader as announcing an agreement that would allow the trading of Residential Mortgage-Backed Security instruments to take place in The Bahamas.

The instrument is a type of mortgage-backed debt obligation whose cash flows come from residential debt, such as mortgages, home-equity loans and subprime mortgages.



Barbados

Four Caribbean nationals are among 60 young people from across the Commonwealth who are being recognized as exceptional leaders in their communities.

A statement from the British High Commission in Barbados said that the 60 young people will be the first to ever receive the Queen's Leaders Award.



The Caribbean nationals are Donnya Piggot from Barbados, Kelly George from Dominica, Javon Liburd from St. Kitts and Nevis and Kenville Horne

from St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The statement said the award, which will be presented in London by Queen Elizabeth in June, "celebrates the achievements of young people who are taking the lead to transform the lives of others and make a lasting difference in their communities."

The award is part of the Queen's Young Leaders Program. The winners are between the ages of 18 and 29.

Grenada

The Grenada government says it has secured nearly EC\$6 million in investments under the Citizenship by Investment Program (CIP) last year.

This was revealed by Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell who said that at least nine people had received Grenadian citizenship under the program.

He confirmed that the CIP program was the only project that brought in less projected revenue to government as anticipated in the 2014 estimate of revenue and expenditure.

Grenada's 2013 Citizenship by Investment legislation provides for persons to apply to the Citizenship Investment Committee through a local agent for citizenship. The committee is then tasked with conducting a lengthy background on applicants but at the same time secure confidentiality.



Prime Minister Mitchell said that it was an error on the part of the former government to initially include a section in the Citizen by Investment legislation which provides for the names, addresses and nationalities of persons who applied for Grenada citizenship to be made public.

Six of the nine persons were citizens from Italy, one from Pakistan and two from China.

Haiti

Protestors burned tires and threw rocks and glass bottles at riot police during another recent anti-government demonstration in Haiti's capital amid bitter political stalemate over long-delayed elections.

The demonstration of mostly young men reached a peak of about 1,500 in downtown Port-au-Prince as protest-ers called for the departure of President Michel Martelly, who took office in May 2011 and is due to leave next year.

Police fired tear gas and sprayed water from an armored vehicle, scattering the crowd at a plaza close to where the National Palace stood before it collapsed on Haiti's 2010 earthquake.

There has been no letup in protests since last month's resignation of Martelly Prime Minister, Laurent Lamothe and other concessions aimed at resolving

the stalemate holding up legislative elections.

A presidential commission had called for Lamothe's resignation, among other steps, to resolve the gridlock that has sparked protests.

Martelly was supposed to call elections in 2011 for a majority of Senate seats, the entire Chamber of Deputies and local offices. But opposition lawmakers have used the ballots while accusing the president if abusing his authority to appoint supporters to the electoral council.

Jamaica

Murders in Jamaica in 2014 were at their lowest in 11 years, through sustained and intensified crime fighting strategies, said Commissioner of Police, Dr. Carl Williams.

He noted that the year 2014 ended with a major reduction in all categories of crimes in Jamaica.

"The murder rate at the end of last year was 36 per 100, 000 of the population, compared to 44 in 2013 and 62 in 2009," the commission said.

He further disclosed that 1,005 murders were recorded in 2014, compared to 1,200 in the previous year, representing a 16 percent reduction. This figure, he said, also represents a reduction of 41 percent when compared to 2009, the

Continued on Page 14



King reigns in Kings County



SVG Ex-Teachers Association member Dr. Ann Sutherland (right) presents plaque to Dr. Renrick Benn. Photo by Nelson A. King

Vincentian ex-teachers honor dentist

By Nelson A. King

As part of the annual celebration commemorating the birthday of slain civil rights leader the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Brooklyn-based St. Vincent and the Grenadines Ex-Teachers' Association last Sunday honored popular dentist Renrick Benn.

Dr. Benn was the lone honoree at the gala, sell-out event at Grand Prospect Hall in Brooklyn.

"It's a good feeling," Dr. Benn told Caribbean Life briefly immediately after the honor was conferred. "I'm glad they chose me, but I also recognize that there are a lot of deserving people."

Jackson Farrell, the group's president and a veteran public school teacher in Brooklyn, said the accolade bestowed on Dr. Benn was "well deserved."

"His support of the SVG (St. Vincent and the Grenadines) Teachers' Association and other organizations has been constant over the years," Farrell said.

"He richly deserves the recognition, as he is held in high esteem by SVG Ex-Teachers," he added about Dr. Benn.

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Ex-Teachers Association also recognized honorary member Elizabeth Hewitt and supporter Joyce Miller, presenting them with a bouquet of flowers.

Dr. Benn, who practices dentistry in Brooklyn and resides in Valley Stream, L.I., reached Form 4 at the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Grammar School before migrating to New York in 1965.

Benn was raised in his early years by his grandparents. Following the premature death of his grandmother,

Continued on Page 20

By Vinette K. Pryce

A full day's program dedicated to the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. invited guests to "Come Share the Dream" at Brooklyn Academy of Music where film, music, dance and a plethora of speakers paid tribute to his legacy on the holiday named in his honor.

New York State's senior Senator Charles Schumer explained that Dr. King's Day distinguishes itself from President's Day, Independence Day, Veteran's Day and others due to the significance of the Civil Rights leader and peace advocate.

"There is only one day named for one man," the senator said.

"Now it is a solemn day but one day we will celebrate the day with fireworks."

Designated a national holiday in 1983 after a massive campaign united celebrities, politicians and average Americans to mobilize for a January 15 birthday holiday, the day has since rallied cultural, commemoration gatherings and for the 29th year, the BAM annual.

King became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace prize at age 35.

He championed many causes to empower Black Americans before he was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee in 1968..

But "the FBI said he was the most dangerous man in America," Dr. Cornel West, the keynote speaker reminded the crowd.

Often injecting facts ignored by documentarians, the intellectual proved a provocative and poignant speaker who combined music references to provide a complete soundtrack to the genius of Dr. King.

"Don't isolate my brother, he's part and parcel of a chorus like Duke Ellington, John Coltrane, Ella Fitzgerald, Nina Simone, The Dramatics, The Delfonics,



FIERCE THINKING: The provocative philosopher and academic Cornel West spoke about King's courage and strength, and about how hard it is to tell the truth when it goes against the establishment. Photo by Paul Martinka

The Main Ingredients, The Jones Girls, Emotions and others."

"He was a funkateer like Bootsy Collins and George Clinton. He comes from a tradition of a blues people."

And although West likened the activist to accomplished and prominent entertainers, he also emphasized that Dr. King "was part of a tradition of great people."

"He learned from WEB Dubois,

Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Marcus Garvey...he was a man of integrity."

"The last thing he wanted was to be one of those figures on Mount Rushmore...for self congratulation."

The author of 19 books said despite Dr. King's exemplary contribution to his people and country, 72 percent of Americans disapproved of him in the last year of his life.

New day dawns for Assemblywoman Bichotte

By Nelson A. King

Amid the treacherous weather, over a thousand constituents witnessed the community swearing-in ceremony at Brooklyn College on Sunday of newly-elected Assemblywoman Rodneyse Bichotte. Bichotte, the first Haitian American to be elected to the State Legislature, was sworn in as the representative for the 42nd Assembly District in Brooklyn by Mayor Bill deBlasio, replacing the retired Rhoda Jacobs.

"Today, I am fortunate to stand before you as your legislator, as your Assemblymember," a radiant Bichotte told the enthusiastic crowd that also included leading New York political figures, such as Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke (D-NY) and Councilman Jumaane Williams (D-Brooklyn).

Bichotte said it was a great opportunity to "serve a much-needed New York State, and advocate for stronger economies and social reform that will lend itself to the American Dream."

"I stand here as the Assembly Member because of all the sweat and hard work that went into believing in me, believing in hope - every sweat that represented the struggles on income inequality, unaffordable housing, struggling school system, jobs, etc.," she said.

"Together, we took a critical look at our district and identified real problems that require solutions," she added, identify among them affordable housing "for people of all means and income" and "improved schools and education access for all our children".

"We need a state that fully embraces immigrants and renews the age-old

New York promise to lift up all of our immigrant brothers and sisters, especially those most in need who are often made a target for cheap political wins," Bichotte continued. "We need more jobs and support for our current local businesses and entrepreneurs who want to start-up their own businesses.

"And we need to see a renewed partnership between our community and our police, where wounds are healed and our neighbors and patrolmen work alongside one another to support each other," she said.

As America this week celebrates the life and struggles of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Bichotte noted that King "shed blood, sweat and tears over these issues.

"He took to shining a spotlight across

Continued on Page 20

Date set for Guyana elections



Donald Ramotar, presidential candidate of the ruling People's Progressive Party casts his ballot during presidential and parliamentary elections in Georgetown, Guyana, Monday Nov. 28, 2011. Associated Press

Continued from cover

much to do with the dictats of the timetable of the elections commission as well as hints from the business community for a date outside the late February annual carnival season and Easter when thousands leave the European and North American spring with decent tax return checks to return home for a few weeks and spend big.

Meanwhile, both the PPP and the main opposition A Partnership For National Unity (APNU) have been

Thousands of Indo Guyanese head to North America each year, reducing its voting ranks. The two others have similar ideas and this could make for an interesting battle ahead.

secretly conducting polls to determine strength on the ground.

APNU insiders say the party's last two such exercises had showed it to be ahead of the PPP which lost much ground at

the late 2011 polls when it had failed to go beyond 50 percent of the vote as thousands of its supporters, disgruntled with runaway corruption and other issues stayed home rather than voting.

Coalition talks on some kind of umbrella political arrangement between the APNU and the Alliance For Change as well as other interested groups are scheduled to begin as early as this week even as a bruising nearly five-month campaign lies ahead.

The PPP is setting much political store on the 10 percent Amerindian vote as thousands of Indo Guyanese head to North America each year, reducing its voting ranks. The two others have similar ideas and this could make for an interesting battle ahead.

Obama: Lift the embargo

Continued from cover

Gross, the American subcontractor freed from a Cuban prison in December as part of the new détente with Havana, was seated in the first lady's box overlooking the U.S. House of Representatives' chamber. Gross repeatedly mouthed "thank you" when Obama recognized him.

The U.S. president said America leads best when it "combines military power with strong diplomacy; when we leverage our power with coalition building; when we don't let our fears blind us to the opportunities that this new century presents.

"That's exactly what we're doing right now—and around the globe, it is making a difference," he said.

In his deal with President Raúl Castro of Cuba to restore full diplomatic relations with the Spanish-speaking Caribbean country for the first time in more than half a century, Obama has said it will not only be easier for Americans to travel to Cuba, but it will also be easier to send money there.

According to the U.S. Department of State, American telecommunications providers, financial institutions and agricultural companies will be given more opportunities to do business in Cuba.

Additionally, visitors will be allowed to spend more, use credit cards and even bring home up to US\$100 in

Cuban cigars.

As part of the deal, the State Department said on Tuesday that Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Roberta S. Jacobson will travel to Havana on Wednesday, on a four-day trip, "to take advantage of previously planned Migration Talks to launch a discussion with the Cuban Government on re-establishing diplomatic relations.

"Re-establishing diplomatic relations with Cuba is a key step for the implementation of changes in the U.S.-Cuba relationship announced by President Obama on Dec. 17," the statement said.

It said the agenda will include technical and logistical arrangements, such as embassy operations, staffing and visa processing.

While in Havana, Jacobson will meet with members of independent civil society, as well as religious and independent business leaders, the State Department said.

"This new conversation with Cuba is both an historic and important process that will advance U.S. interests," it said. "It will strengthen the United States' ability to advocate for positive change on the island.

"By facilitating the Cuban people's access to greater resources and information, the policy change seeks to engender greater respect for human rights and adherence to democratic principles in Cuba," the State Department added.

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Dr. Edward Rubinchik, one of the most highly experienced ocular surgeons in New York, is now offering patients a cataract surgery option that eliminates or minimizes the need for expensive post-operative eye drops, which are often required for 3-4 weeks after the procedure.

"Drops are effective at reducing the risk of inflammation and infection," said Dr. Rubinchik, a partner at Reich Medical and Surgical Eye Care, LLC and the first physician in New York to offer the dropless therapy. "However, at least 50% of patients end up missing a scheduled dose for one reason or another."

Studies show that many patients simply forget to use the drops properly and may have other medical conditions, such as arthritis, which make it harder for them to take the drops.

The number of patients who skip eyedrop doses increases with patient age, as does the need for cataract surgery itself.

"We don't have to worry about any of this



Edward Rubinchik, MD, is the only ocular surgeon in New York offering the "dropless" cataract procedure.

with the dropless technique," said Dr. Rubinchik, who practices in Midwood and Bensonhurst.

"Our patients are much happier going 'dropless', and the medi-

cal system is saving hundreds of dollars per case. It's a win-win for everybody."

Dr. Rubinchik added that many cataract patients have longstanding vision problems such as

myopia or astigmatism and may be eligible for a multifocal lens implant during the same procedure, resulting in much better vision than the patient has experienced in years.

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Island states throw off the heavy yoke of fossil fuels

By Desmond Brown

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts, Jan 13 2015 (IPS) - The Caribbean nation of St. Kitts and Nevis, on a quest to become the world's first sustainable island state, has taken a giant leap in its programme to cut energy costs.

Last week, the government broke ground to construct the country's second solar farm, and Prime Minister Dr. Denzil Douglas told IPS his administration is "committed to free the country from the fossil fuel reliance" which has burdened so many nations for so very long.

Douglas said the aim is "to harness the power of the sun - a power which nature has given to us in such great abundance in this very beautiful country, St. Kitts and Nevis.

"The energy generated will be infused into the national grid, and this will reduce SKELEC's need for imported fossil fuels," he said, referring to the state electricity provider.

"This farm will reduce the amount of carbon dioxide that St. Kitts and Nevis pumps into the atmosphere. It will move forward our country's determination to transform St. Kitts and Nevis into a green and sustainable nation. It will reduce the cost of energy and it will reduce the cost of electricity for our consumers," Douglas added.

Electricity costs more than 42.3 cents per KWh in St. Kitts and Nevis.

Construction of the second solar plant is being funded by the St. Kitts Electricity Corporation (SKELEC) and the Republic of China (Taiwan). SKELEC is assuming 45 percent of the cost and the Republic of China (Taiwan) 55 percent of the costs.

The first solar farm, commissioned in September 2013, generates electricity for the Robert L. Bradshaw International Airport.

Meanwhile, as environmental sustainability gains traction

in the Caribbean, the executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Achim Steiner, said the region is on the right track to better integrate environmental considerations into public policies.

"I think in some respects it is in the Caribbean that we are already seeing some very bold leadership," Steiner told IPS.

"The minute countries start looking at the implications of environmental change on their future and the future of their economies, you begin to realise that if you don't integrate environmental sustainability, you are essentially going to face, very often, higher risks and higher costs and perhaps the loss of assets." He said such assets could include land, forests, coral reefs or fisheries.

Caribbean coral reefs have experienced drastic losses in the past several decades and this has been cited by numerous studies as the primary cause of ongoing declines of



Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Achim Steiner.

Caribbean fish populations. Fish use the structure of corals for shelter and they also contribute to coastal protection.

It has been estimated that fisheries associated with coral reefs in the Caribbean region are responsible for generating net annual revenues valued at or above 310 million dollars.

Continued degradation of the region's few remaining coral reefs would diminish these net

annual revenues by an estimated 95-140 million dollars annually from 2015. The subsequent decrease in dive tourism could also profoundly affect annual net tourism revenues.

Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne said his government will not be left behind in pursuit of a policy of reducing the carbon footprint by incorporating more renewable energy into the mix.

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Haiti leader gets new Cabinet

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) – A new Haitian Cabinet and other government leaders were sworn in Monday as President Michel Martelly runs the troubled Caribbean country without a parliament.

The 20 ministers and more than a dozen secretaries of state were named roughly a week after parliament dissolved amid a bitter stalemate between Martelly and a group of opposition lawmakers. They were installed Monday in a ceremony at the site of the former national palace, which toppled in the cataclysmic 2010 earthquake that destroyed much of Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas.

Martelly kept half of his former Cabinet ministers in their posts in what he touted as a “consensus government” reached after negotiations with a number of Haiti’s opposition parties. Changes were made in several key ministries, including justice and planning.

“This government we install today is the fruit of dialogue between the sons and daughters of the country,” Martelly said.

Haiti’s president began ruling by decree last week while trying to steer the impoverished country toward long-delayed legislative and municipal elections.

Prime Minister Evans Paul, who was



Haiti’s President Michel Martelly, left, speaks with Sandra Honore, head of the U.N. mission in Haiti, center, and new Communications Minister Rotchild Francois Jr., right, during the swearing-in Martelly’s new Cabinet at the National Palace in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Monday, Jan. 19, 2015. Associated Press / Dieu Nalio Chery

in the moderate opposition to Martelly before joining his government, was sworn in last week. He will run day-to-day government affairs.

The hardline opposition to Martelly has promised a wave of intensified street protests to try and pressure him from office. Martelly took power in 2011 and is due to leave next year.

Caribbean pols remember Martin Luther King

By Nelson A. King

The Caribbean community and elected officials on Monday joined the nation in celebrating the birthday of slain civil rights leader the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Today we remember the dream and the promise of our great country for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all,” said newly-elected Haitian American Assemblywoman Rodneye Bichotte.

“We continue to pray and fight for social and economic justice,” added the representative for the 42nd Assembly District in Brooklyn. That district encompasses Ditmas Park, Flatbush, East Flatbush and Midwood.

Noting that Dr. King once said “our goal is to create a beloved community, and this will require a qualitative change in our souls, as well as a quantitative change in our lives,” Brooklyn Councilman Jumaane Williams said that New York City addresses “difficult social issues affecting communities of more color, those words spoken half a century ago couldn’t be more applicable

to our lives today.

“Dr. King’s agitation and resistance against systemic injustice helped point America in the direction of peace, healing and unity,” said the son of Grenadian immigrants, who represents the 45th Council District in Brooklyn.

To celebrate King’s life and legacy, Williams, the Council’s Deputy Leader, urged community members to “see the powerful film ‘Selma,’ which reminds us that we must all strive to advance his work on civil rights for those in our own communities and beyond.

“Let us not use this day to sanitize Dr. King’s message, but, instead, use it to remember that we cannot be afraid to stand up and stand out for what’s right,” Williams said. “Only then will we reach the mountaintop that he envisioned for all of us.”

In celebrating Rev. King’s holiday, the Brooklyn-based Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) referred to quotes from some of King’s famous speeches:

“Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase.”

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Keystone Pipeline: Foreign profits, American risk

By Katherine McFate

Media coverage of the Keystone XL pipeline is coalescing around a single narrative. It goes like this: environmentalists oppose the pipeline because of climate change concerns, and U.S. construction companies support the pipeline because it creates jobs. Environmentalists warn that tar sands crude oil has three times the global warming potential of conventional crude. Oil industry interests shrug and say Canadian companies will continue to extract tar sands, with or without the pipeline. Pipeline opponents then counter: fewer than 50 permanent jobs will be needed to staff the pipeline, a few thousand temporary construction jobs to build it. But this rendering of the debate misses the larger picture.

Americans have been told for the past several years by the petroleum industry and members of Congress that Keystone is "key to America's energy independence" and will help ensure America has the energy it needs in the future. This is hogwash.

TransCanada wants to build a pipeline through the farmland and ranches of the United States in order to send its oil to refineries in the Gulf Coast for the export market. This crude is not meant to supply the U.S. market. We have a glut of oil and gas in the U.S. because

of largely unregulated fracking going on in 31 states. Between our growing natural gas supply and OPEC's effort to quash the U.S. energy boom, gas prices are so low that American producers may slow their drilling. The Keystone pipeline will not reduce the cost of gasoline or home heating oil for American consumers.

What a TransCanada pipeline will do is put a major underground water supply at risk. Keystone XL would be built directly above the Ogallala Aquifer, located beneath most of Nebraska and extending to seven other states. The Ogallala is a shallow aquifer, meaning a pipeline spill could easily pollute this drinking water source for two million Americans.

The pipeline would cross thousands of acres of farmland in the Great Plains; a spill could make this land unusable for years. In 2013, an oil pipeline spilled 840,000 gallons of crude near Tioga, North Dakota, and crews are still working to clean it up. Keystone I, which runs from Canada through Illinois, had 14 reported leaks during its first year of operation.

TransCanada has been criticized for failing to comply with Canadian safety regulations, and the company does not intend to use the latest safety technology to detect spills along the Keystone XL route.

Continued on Page 12

Cuba and the United States – A new era?

By Ricardo Alarcon

HAVANA, Jan 16 2015 (IPS) - On Dec. 17, by freeing the five Cuban anti-terrorists who spent over 16 years in U.S. prisons, President Barack Obama repaired a longstanding injustice while changing the course of history.

Admitting that the U.S. government's anti-Cuba policy had failed, reestablishing diplomatic ties, lifting all of the restrictions within his reach, proposing the complete elimination of the embargo and launching a new era in relations with Cuba, all in one single speech, went beyond anyone's predictions and took everyone by surprise, even the most seasoned analysts.

The hostile policy first adopted by President Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953-1961), before the current president was even born, was followed with only slight variations by Republican and Democratic administrations, and codified by the Helms-Burton Act signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 1996.

In the first few years the policy was practiced with a high degree of success. In 1959, when the Cuban revolution triumphed, the United States was at the height of its power, exercising indisputable hegemony over a large part of the world, especially the Western Hemisphere, which enabled it to get Cuba kicked out of the Organisation of American States (OAS) and to achieve the near total isolation of this Caribbean island nation, which was left with only the support and aid of the Soviet Union and its partners in the Coun-

The collapse of real socialism gave rise to hopes among many people that the end of the Cuban revolution was also at hand.

cil for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA), which grouped the countries of the Warsaw Pact.

The collapse of real socialism gave rise to hopes among many people that the end of the Cuban revolution was also at hand.

They imagined the advent of a long period of unipolar dominance. Drunk on the victory, they failed to appreciate the deeper meaning of what had happened: the end of the Cold War opened up new possibilities for social struggles and faced capitalism with challenges that were increasingly difficult to tackle.

The fall of the Berlin Wall blinded them from seeing that a social uprising known as the "Caracazo", which shook Venezuela at the same time, in February 1989, was a sign of the start of a new age in Latin America.

Cuba managed to survive the disappearance of its long-time allies, and its ability to do so was a key factor in the profound transformation of the region. For years it had been clear that the U.S. policy aimed at isolating Cuba had been a failure, and had ended up isolating the United States, as acknowledged by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry.

A new relationship with Cuba was indispensable for

Washington, which needed to rebuild its ties with a region that is no longer its backyard. Achieving that is fundamental now because, despite its power, the United States cannot exercise the comfortable leadership of times that will not return.

But there is still a long way to go before that new relationship can be established. First of all, it is necessary to completely eliminate the economic, trade and financial embargo, as demanded with renewed vigor by major segments of the U.S. business community.

But normalising relations would suppose, above all, learning to live with differences and abandoning old dreams of domination. It would mean respecting the sovereign equality of states, a fundamental principle of the United Nations Charter, which, as history has shown, does not always please the powerful.

With regard to the release of the five Cuban prisoners, all U.S. presidents, without exception, have broadly used the authority granted to them by article 2, section 2, clause 1 of the U.S. constitution. For over two centuries, presidents have had the unlimited power to grant reprieves and pardons for offences against the United States.

In the case of "the Cuban Five," there were ample reasons for executive clemency. In 2005, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals overturned the trial as "a perfect storm of prejudice and hostility" and ordered a new trial.

In 2009 the same court

Continued on Page 12

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Lopsided wealth sharing could get dicey

As we very well knew it would be, here we go again with the chest-beating and muscle-flexing in Washington. Deliberate leaks about tax reform proposals President Obama would include in his State of the Union address brought from Republicans the response even a casual observer of current-day Washington could telegraph in his sleep: no way, no how, Mr. President! All because the president dares to float again the concept that a modest tax hike for those folks who are worth more money than they know how to spend and others who are comfortably well off and well removed from the jitters routinely afflicting many on the lower rungs is a reasonable tax-policy adjustment. That, plus a small increase in fees levied on the largest financial institutions. And if the revenue thereby derived goes toward funding some relief for middle class taxpayers, why is this such a bone of contention?

Sadly, that kind of talk from the White House is a cue for GOP wisecrackers to come up with their best put-down lines...

more so now, when posturing from a strengthened position of full Congressional control. The president's proposal was "dead on arrival," said one. It was "a non-starter," said another. In spite of a ton of reports indicating that the good times we keep hearing about, in a now rebounded economy from the gloom of 2008-09, have been rolling for top income earners, not regular Joes -- that the income disparity gap is widening -- Republicans keep hanging on to a worn-out monotone that a tax increase of any kind, even for the wealthy, is uncompromisingly off the table.

One measure of how much race has factored in the negative perception of this president is that when an Obama administration proposal is made, aimed at benefitting primarily middle and/or working class folk, a solid majority of people identifying themselves as Republican voters tend to be uniformly opposed, reflecting a visceral dislike of Obama that can only be ascribed to the man's ethnicity. Do the math. A solid majority of Republicans

Viewpoint

By Les Slater

doesn't comprise only high rollers from the vaunted one percent, where is to be found that obscene bulk of the nation's wealth. Common or garden Republican strugglers oppose an Obama initiative, even if it benefits them, because of where it's coming from.

That Obama hate factor has Republicans clicking their heels in jubilation over what is in fact a false reading of a snapshot of where the country currently is politically. Republican control of the legislative and executive branches of government, but particularly the Presidency and the Senate, defies the logic of where Republicans stand vis a vis the wealth distribution reality in the country. One TV correspondent, reporting on the tax changes Obama planned to introduce for Congressional consideration, noted that the president was well aware that

his proposal had virtually no chance of being supported in a Congress controlled by the GOP, but his objective was simply to hang the "party of the wealthy" tag on Republicans every which way. How right he is about that!

There have been a few voices on the GOP side emitting slight murmurs about the need for the party to be more representative of the electorate. Those barely audible voices are drowned out by the big noise made by the forces who pushed the levers for the party's hard-right turn years ago, wherein the idea of middle ground, which was a viable component in the GOP of yesteryear, was essentially deemed null and void. Today's GOP has no compunction about its barefaced shilling for big business and the well-to-do. And, given the quirky election results of 2014, advocates for maintaining that seemingly out-of-touch stance must think they've got it right.

Hewing to that path, though, could well turn out to be risky business if the pushback that has already begun becomes a

serious mass movement, about an economy reportedly on the upswing that looks to be favoring just high-end folks. It stands to reason that any party which chooses to remain wedded to a policy of bringing no change to continued lopsided wealth distribution should expect paying a price for that. Even if from last year's midterm elections GOP chieftains got only a "steady as she goes" message.

For now, one would expect the president to sell to the people as best he knows how, these tax changes meant to positively impact the broad middle of the American electorate — reduced tax rate, a better deal on the child care credit, community college tuition assistance and all the rest. And the Republicans, predictably, will balk. Hands off the sacred cow that is big business and the well-to-do! For a large swath of the broad middle, this president may not be the ideal pitchman. But here's a situation where the numbers for the affected are simply too staggering. From where we sit, "steady as she goes" looks untenable.

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OP-EDS

Keystone Pipeline

Continued from page 10

With the pipeline travelling through miles of grassland, leaks could go undetected and unaddressed until water and soil are irreparably damaged. In Texas, where pipeline construction has already begun, landowners have reported issues to the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration and been told that there are not enough inspectors to investigate their claims.

An additional concern is the impact on the Gulf. The pipeline would carry Canadian crude to refineries on the U.S. Gulf Coast, to communities like Port Arthur, Texas where residents are already burdened with disproportionately high levels of pollution. These communities would bear the brunt of increased emissions from refining dirty tar sands crude and the Gulf Coast – still not recovered from the 2010 BP oil spill – would take on the risk of further spills from increased export traffic.

The Keystone decision is being reviewed by the State Department

because it is a critical issue for the nation. This project asks American farmers, ranchers, and residents in the path of the pipeline and those in port communities along the Gulf Coast to put crucial parts of our nation's water supply, grasslands, and habitats at risk so that Canadian oil producers – and some U.S. oil refineries – can benefit. This is a bad deal.

We can find alternative energy sources, but American water supplies are precious and under pressure. Just ask agriculturalists and consumers in the West. Instead of responding to the narrow interests of a few oil companies, we need our elected officials to steward the natural resources that have allowed our country to prosper and feed the world.

McFate is the president and CEO of the Center for Effective Government in Washington, D.C.

Please note: This op-ed previously appeared in The Hill.

Dawning of a new era

Continued from page 10

threw out the sentences against three of the Cuban Five because they had neither sought nor passed on any military secrets, nor had they endangered U.S. national security.

Both verdicts were unanimous. With respect to another major charge, "conspiracy to commit murder," against Gerardo Hernández Nordelo, his accusers admitted that it was impossible to prove such an allegation, and even attempted to drop the charge in May 2001 in a move without precedent, made no less by public prosecutors under then-President George W. Bush (2001-2009).

Hernández had been waiting for five years for a response to one of his many petitions to the Miami court for release, a review of his case, an order for the government to produce the "proof" used to convict him, or for the government to reveal the magnitude and scope of official funding for the colossal media campaign that fed the "perfect storm."

The court never responded. Nor did the mainstream media say anything about the judicial system's unusual paralysis. It was obvious that it was a

politically motivated case that could only be resolved by a political decision, which only the president could take.

Obama demonstrated wisdom and determination when, instead of simply using his authority to release the prisoners, he bravely confronted the underlying problem. The saga of the "Cuban Five" was the consequence of an aggressive strategy, and the wisest thing was to put an end to both at the same time.

No one can deny the importance of what was announced on Dec. 17. It would be a mistake, however, to ignore that there is still a ways to go, and that it will be necessary to follow that possibly long and tortuous path with resolution and insight.

Ricardo Alarcón is a former Cuban foreign minister and president of parliament.

Edited by Pablo Piacentini/Translated by Stephanie Wildes

The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of, and should not be attributed to, IPS – Inter Press Service.

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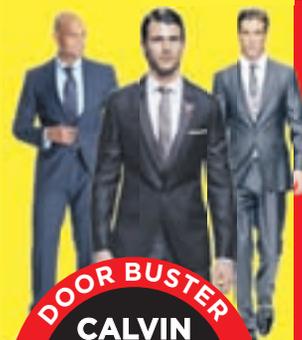
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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 2

year in which the highest number of murders was committed in the island.

Williams commended the Jamaica Constabulary Force for the hard work and commitment that contributed to the reduction.

He noted that the murder figure was still too high, and expressed condolences to all who lost their loved ones to violence in 2014.

St. Lucia

The National Insurance Corporation (NIC) in St. Lucia says it has increased the pensionable age to 65 as of Jan. 1, 2015, in a move aimed at averting financial difficulties within the next decade and a half.

NIC Marketing and Communication Manager Augustin Louis said: "In 2002, we had a review which revealed to us at the time that our pension payments and the qualifying conditions were too generous. If we continued along this path, the program would have faced difficulty by 2030."

He said the decision came from a review of the system and there had been a significant decrease in the number of working persons contributing to the pension scheme.

Louis said other contributing fac-

tors include a decreased birth rate, leading to a smaller workforce and an increased life expectancy due to advances in the medical field.

He encouraged St. Lucians to use NIC pensions as a complement to other fiscal measures and not a sole source of income after retirement.

Trinidad

Surinamese national Edmund Quincy Muntslag, who is wanted by the U.S. government for allegedly conspiring to smuggle 10 kilos of cocaine in the USA was ordered to be extradited by Chief Magistrate Marcia Ayers-Caesar in the Port of Spain Magistrate's court, Trinidad recently to that country.

He was taken by U.S. marshals and flown to New Jersey, New York last week to be handed over to U.S. Drug Agency officers.

Muntslag was accused alongside Dino Bouterse, son of Suriname President Desi Bouterse, with conspiring to traffick the drugs into the United States for distribution between December 2011 and 2013 and August 2013.

Last August, Bouterse pleaded guilty to the joint trafficking indictment and terrorism charges in a U.S. court after being extradited to that country from Panama in 2013.

-compiled by Azad Ali



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By Nelson A. King

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"I am deeply honored to have been selected by my colleagues to become a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, which holds broad authority to build prosperity for every American in the 21st Century," said Clarke, who represents the 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn.

The Energy and Commerce Committee is responsible for consumer protection, food safety, energy development, public health, communications, the environment, and interstate and international commerce.

Clarke said it has a "critical role in the development of our economy and in determining whether all families will share in our prosperity.

"I am committed to supporting the work of the community I represent in Brooklyn, which has become renowned as a center of innovation and includes some of the best hospitals and most dedicated health care workers, as well as



Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke.

businesses and trade associations that buy and sell products from around the world," she said.

"As a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I will have an opportunity to expand on my efforts to build an economy that works for all Americans, here in Brooklyn and across the United States," she added.

"I want to thank both my colleagues and my constituents in Brooklyn for their faith in my commitment to create a better future for the generations that will follow us," continued Clarke, who is a member of the House Committee on Small Business, Ethics, and Homeland Security, where she is the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies.

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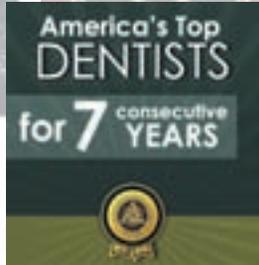
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Kingsbrook Jewish Medical opens new mental health unit in Brooklyn

HEALTH



From left, Dr. Stephen Mark Goldfinger, Dr. Linda Brady, Councilman Mathieu Eugene, Dr. Ellen Tabor, Jane Lederer, and Robert Dubicki at the opening of the Adult Inpatient Behavioral Health Unit.

Whether caring for younger or older adults, Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center's Department of Psychiatry is committed to providing the highest quality of patient and family-centered care. Providing care in a safe and therapeutic environment, the program's diverse staff further advances treatment by being at all times sensitive to the ethnic, cultural, social, and language needs of the surrounding community.

"Mental disorders are among the most common causes of disability in our country, with almost 20 percent of our population, around 61.5 million Americans, suffering mental illness in any given year, and approximately four percent of our adult population, or 13 million American adults, being chronically disabled by mental illness," states Dr. Ellen Tabor, Chair of Psychiatry at Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center. "Additionally, good mental health plays a major role in people's ability to maintain their

physical health, which is another reason why this program is so critical to members of our community, who are often burdened by both mental and physical illnesses at the same time."

Mental illnesses such as anxiety and depression can play an adverse role in one's ability to participate in health-promoting behaviors. In turn, problems with physical health, such as chronic diseases, can have a serious impact on mental health and decrease a person's ability to participate in treatment and recovery.

The program's 25-bed Adult Inpatient Behavioral Health Unit, opened in 2014, provides invaluable services for the community, including individual and group therapy, case management and care coordination, recreational therapy, medication management, and refer-

als to appropriate substance abuse aftercare services. The unit accepts both voluntary and involuntary admissions.

Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center, celebrating its 89th year, is a 784-bed teaching medical center. Centers of

Excellence Include: Kingsbrook Rehabilitation Institute offering physical & rehabilitative medicine, pharmacy, radiology, the Wound Healing & Hyperbaric Center, orthopedic surgery, a women's wellness center featuring gynecological surgery

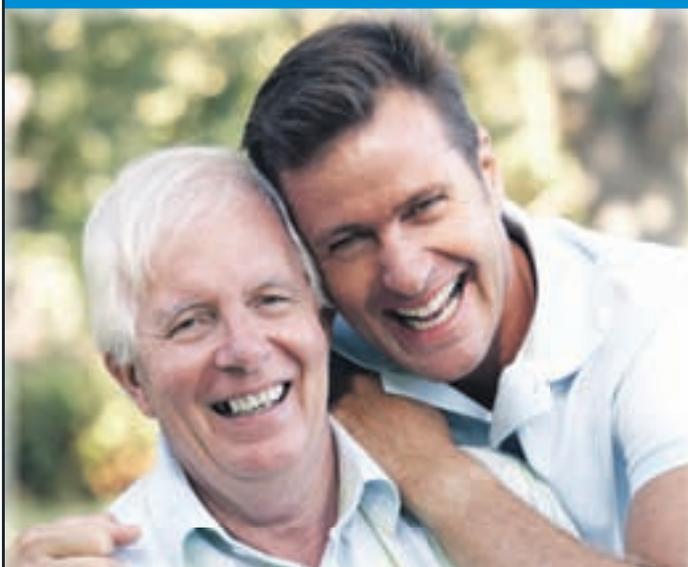
and state-of-the-art digital mammography. Other specialty areas include: emergency services, ambulatory surgery and a certified Non-Invasive Vascular Laboratory, as well as a 466-bed Adult and Pediatric long term care facility.

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Bichotte

Continued from page 3

America to try and represent all parts of the country in his work," she said.

"Much like Dr. King, Shirley Chisholm, and President Obama who all are 'Dreamers' for all, I want to make sure the four corners of my district are represented, [and have] a voice in their state government – that everyone can bring problems to my office and know they will be given real attention and real help," Bichotte said.

She also referred the late, former New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, noting that he was the son of immigrants who "left behind a legacy of eloquence and liberal excellence that carried on Dr. King's great legacy. "He understood how to lead a great state with little to nothing," Bichotte said.

She also announced her advisory council "to tackle those critical issues and more."

Led by Bill Howard, Bichotte said the council comprises "a group of our friends and neighbors, community and civic leaders, experts in their fields and public servants all, who have pledged their time and efforts, networks and energies, to advise my office and support our efforts across the district.

"Each member of this group has accomplished so much and each is willing to devote their time to our district's needs," she said.

"The Advisory Council will help me make sure that no voice goes unheard, no issue gets forgotten, and our work is done together, with the best interests of the community always in mind," the newly-elected assemblywoman added. "Together, we will reach higher for our district and beyond."

Benn

Continued from page 3

he moved to New York to live with his mother.

His last year of high school was completed at the Eastern District High School in Brooklyn.

In 1974, Benn graduated from Hunter College, City University of New York (CUNY) with a bachelor of science degree in Health Sciences.

From 1974-82, he conducted research

– first at Columbia Presbyterian Institute of Health, in muscular dystrophy; then, at Brooklyn Veteran's Hospital, in endocrinology.

During that time, he completed a master's program in Medical Microbiology at Long Island University.

Benn then attended the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Dentistry from 1982-86.

He completed a year-long residency in General Dentistry in 1987, while he continued to intensify his interest in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, the medically-inclined specialty of dentistry.

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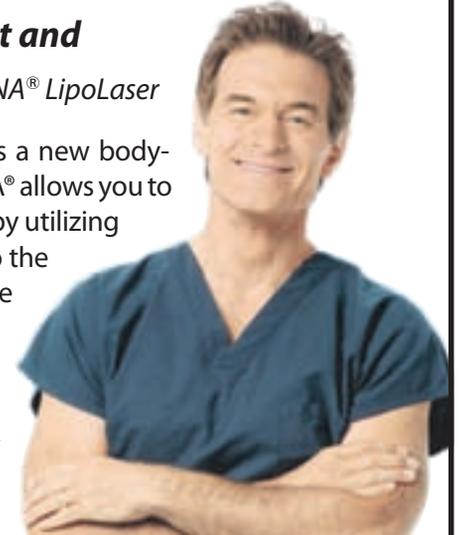
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That is why doctors from all over the country are racing to acquire and get trained to operate the DRX9000™...an FDA approved device that is saving thousands of Americans suffering from chronic back pain from going under the knife.

Dr. Melinda Keller, who treats serious back pain without surgery explains how the DRX9000™ works...

“Over 10 years ago, NASA began to notice an unexpected result of space travel - Astronauts that left with back pain would come back without it. After investigated this now phenomenon here's what they found: During the anti-gravity state of the mission there were decompressive forces on the intervertebral discs and back pain was relieved. How? When you travel through space, the effects of gravity are removed and you are in a weightless state. All the pressure is taken off your spine and discs. Even better - and this is the key - a negative pressure is created. This negative pressure actually sucks the herniated material back into the disc and allows it to

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The main conditions the DRX9000™ has documented success with are back pain, sciatica, herniated and/or bulging discs (single or multiple), degenerative disc disease, facet syndromes and a relapse or failure following back surgery.

Anyone wishing to learn more about this new FDA approved solution to back pain or to set up an appointment for a free consultation call Dr. Keller's office at **718-234-6207** or visit Brooklyn Spine Center, 5911 16th Ave., Brooklyn, New York 11204. **Brooklynspinecenter.com.**



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Education



Sacred Heart Catholic Academy

Graduates earn prestigious scholarships

The 8th grade class of Sacred Heart Catholic Academy received scholarships from the most prestigious high schools in New York including the Mary Louis Academy, Christ the King HS, St. John's Prep, Cathedral Prep, Holy Cross, Bishop Loughlin Memorial HS, Cristo Rey NY HS, and St. Francis Prep HS.

"We're very grateful to have a school of this caliber in Southeast Queens," said Marie Faustin whose daughter was accepted at St. Francis Prep, "Sacred Heart Academy and the Catholic high schools have a graduation rate of 99 percent compared to 41 percent of the public schools."

The school has a reputation for its religious education, solid academic curriculum, strong discipline, and a safe family environment. "In addition to a challenging course load, our students learn integrity, the love



of service, sharing, and mutual respect," said Mrs. Smith, principal of the academy.

Sacred Heart Catholic Academy is a unique Catholic elementary schools in Southeast Queens which accepts students from Pre-K3 to 8th grade. The school is open from 7am to 6:30pm. Grants are available for qualified families. For information please call (718) 527-0123.

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Academy



St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Academy is determined by a firm belief that every child can learn and fulfill his/her potential.

Rooted in our belief that Christ is our center, we instill in the students that God loves us, accepts us always, and forgives completely.

As Christian educators we commit ourselves to live in the spirit of the Gospel and create an environment where students are inspired to grow spiritually, morally, intellectually, personally, and socially.

The school community of St.

Thomas the Apostle Catholic Academy encourages equality and a belief in the dignity of every person.

All our efforts as Christian educators are based on the conviction that Christ is "the way, the truth, and the life." (John 14:6)

School tours are available by appointment. Children are welcome to accompany parents on the tour. Tours typically take place on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons.

Please contact the school at (718) 847-3904 to schedule a visit.

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CLASSROOM VISITS & TOURS:
Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2015, 9am-10:30am
Thursday, Jan. 29, 2015, 9am-10:30am

Please call the office for personal tours!

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Academy

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Divine Mercy Catholic Academy

Children are educated in a caring, family atmosphere which is committed to excellence in education. The school prepares children of all ethnic and religious backgrounds with Christian moral values, knowledge, skills and appreciative attitudes that will empower them in life. As a community of Faith, students actively participate in monthly Mass and daily prayer for those in need. Students are aware of the needs of others and provide service through participation in drives for the victims of various natural disasters and charitable programs that benefit such programs as the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and St. Jude's Children's Research Program.

Divine Mercy offers a Nursery (3 year old) and Pre-K (4 year old) program, as well as Kindergarten through 8th grade in a safe (CCTV), structured environment. The Nursery program uses Sadlier's, Alligator Club reading program while the Pre-K begins the Superkids program from Rowland Reading Foundation. Eligible 7th and 8th grade students are offered Honors Math which prepares them for the Algebra I regents at the end of 8th grade. Span-

ish is part of the curriculum for grades 5 to 8. Students from Nursery through 8th grade use smart board technology. The school offers early drop-off from 7:15 am and an after-school program until 6 pm. Bus transportation and the free/reduced lunch program are available for eligible students. Title I Math, Reading, and counseling are offered for qualified students. A percentage of students passing state tests is above the state and city percentages.

Programs such as student council, choir, twirling, yearbook, newspaper and band are available. The student council plans activities for Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Catholic Schools Week, etc. which are both fun for young and old and often of service to others. Parents have the opportunity to help the school and meet other parents as such events as: car washes, carnivals, Christmas wreath sales and the annual Student Fashion Show.

Registration begins Feb. 2, weekday mornings from 9 to 11 am. There will be an Open House, Sunday, Jan. 25 from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm and Wednesday, Jan. 28 from 9:30 am to 10:30 am. You can also call for an appointment.



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Grade 6-8 Open House Held at 31-20 37th Street

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Thursday, February 5th at 1:00 am
Saturday, February 28th at 9:00 am
Wednesday, March 4th at 9:00 am
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EDUCATION GUIDE

Making math fun outside school

Parents understand the important role that math plays in children's education and the impact it has on their lives and their own. Despite this, they don't always recognize the opportunities we have each day to encourage our children's interest in and knowledge of math.

Research has shown that children develop a better understanding of math when mathematical principles are presented to them as part of real-world scenarios. Kasey Bratcher, a former mathematics teacher who develops K-12 math teacher workshops for Carnegie Learning, a publisher of research-based mathematics software and textbooks for middle and high school students, provides the following tips to keep math relevant in your child's life outside the classroom.

1. Ask questions...and answer questions with questions.

When a child asks a question, it is an opportunity to expand his or



her learning beyond just a simple response. If your child asks how many minutes it will take to drive to the grocery store, it is perfectly okay to respond with your own question, such as "How many minutes do you think it will take to drive to the store?"

This can lead to a broader discussion about the number of minutes in one hour, one half-hour or one quarter-hour. You can also discuss the

Continued on Page 30

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LIU Brooklyn is the University of Entrepreneurs—a leader in experiential education in the most entrepreneurial borough in New York City. According to the New York State Comptroller's Office, the number of Brooklyn businesses has grown by 21 percent since 2003, much faster than any other borough. Located in downtown Brooklyn, LIU Brooklyn's School of Business, Public Administration and Information Sciences is preparing students of all majors to become the next generation of the borough's influential business leaders.

Angel Investors, burn rate, nondisclosure, venture capital, equity, value proposition, forecasting models. Students

studying LIU Brooklyn's Entrepreneurship minor will learn these key phrases of the entrepreneur's vocabulary. At the heart of the minor is the belief that entrepreneurial thinkers create value in the world by using innovation under conditions of uncertainty to solve problems.

"The best way to understand the entrepreneurial process is to employ a hands-on, experiential approach," said Dr. Kimberly R. Cline, president of LIU. "LIU Brooklyn Entrepreneurship students interact with Brooklyn's tech-driven business community inside and outside of the academic environment to create business plans that are defensible to investors and actionable in the real world before graduation."

LIU Brooklyn Entrepreneurship Differentiators—

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- Business competitions, with mentoring by faculty entrepreneurs
- Immersion in Brooklyn's Tech Triangle

Fashion Merchandising in New York City's Fashion Hub

The borough of Brooklyn has become a world brand and a pioneer of trendsetting. LIU Brooklyn's focus on Fashion Merchandising allows students to explore their passion for fashion in Brooklyn's melting pot of style, influence, and culture. LIU Brooklyn's Fashion

Merchandising program was designed with input from local industry leaders to prepare LIU Brooklyn students for all elements of Fashion's tech-driven future, including retail strategy, design, data analytics, marketing, and online purchasing.

Fashion Merchandising students are also encouraged to take full advantage of Brooklyn's fashion-forward community by applying in-class experiences to internships in the Fashion industry. The next Ralph Lauren, the next editor-in-chief of Vogue, or the next YouTube fashion expert may very well be found—or find themselves—at LIU Brooklyn.

For more information, visit www.liu.edu/brooklyn



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LIU Brooklyn's Fashion Merchandising program allows students to explore their passion for fashion in Brooklyn's melting pot of style, influence, and culture. Prepared for all elements of Fashion's tech-driven future, including retail strategy, design, data analytics, marketing, and online purchasing, students learn from top fashion executives on the doorstep of Manhattan. There is no other university quite like us—you'll be on the road to a successful career long before you graduate.

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Ascend Learning expands to give more Brooklyn families schools they deserve

This fall the Ascend charter school will offer more opportunities for families to enroll in its rigorous, college-preparatory program. The network is launching Brooklyn Ascend High School in Brownsville and Bushwick Ascend Middle School. The Central Brooklyn Ascend charter school is relocating to East Flatbush to increase its capacity to serve more students from the community.

The Brooklyn Ascend High School will open in the beautifully renovated Pitkin Theater building. The school offers a welcoming learning environment that includes science labs, reproductions of museum-quality artworks, and a new, full-size gym. The curriculum features a rigorous, Regents-aligned, college-preparatory liberal arts curriculum with Advanced Placement courses and the option in the upper grades



to specialize in humanities or STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math). Other key features include a focus on character, strong family partnerships, and a college and alumni program. Central Brooklyn Ascend in East Flatbush and the Bushwick Ascend Middle

School will incorporate the innovative Ascend Common Core Curriculum designed to build the critical-thinking, writing, analytical, and character skills necessary to succeed in college and beyond.

“Ascend’s rich, well-rounded course of study from kindergarten through grade 12 develops children’s full academic, social, artistic, and ethical potentials. In addition to English and mathematics, all students are instructed in science, social studies, art, dance, and music. An in-school art gallery, visiting writer’s series, annual student performances of Shakespeare, and other unique elements create an immersive intellectual culture that inspires students to imagine their role on the world stage.”

– Steven Wilson,
Chief Executive Officer,
Ascend Learning

Parent support of the Ascend program is very strong. Ninety-six percent of Ascend parents are satisfied with the education their children has received according to the most recent NYC Department of Education parent survey. “For someone to take your children and mold and encourage them means a lot, especially for families in this community. Our children will have the opportunity to be the best they can be with this foundation,” said an Ascend parent.

Place your child on the path to college. To apply to an Ascend charter school, or to attend an information session, visit ascendlearning.org/enroll. Ascend public charter schools are tuition free and open to all on a space-available basis. The deadline to submit an application for the lottery is April 1, 2015.

Give your children the school they deserve and the future they choose.
Place your child on the path to college at an Ascend public charter school.



Our innovative K–12 school design features:

- Rigorous Ascend Common Core Curriculum
- Music, art, dance, and physical education
- Joyful learning environment
- Opportunities to develop the skills, character, and confidence to succeed in college and beyond

See our schools!

Attend an information session.

- We are now accepting applications for grades K–9
- Our new high school opens this fall



Six beautiful privately-leased facilities in Brownsville, Bushwick, Canarsie, and East Flatbush

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LGCS stresses positive interactions between students and cooperative small-group learning

Lefferts Gardens Charter School utilizes an environmental science program to develop academically motivated and civic-minded students to succeed in competitive high schools and colleges.

To complete our mission, we have developed a learning community where:

- We believe each child has the potential to develop the social, emotional, and academic skills to excel in the classroom.

- Our students complete hands-on science activities while visiting partners like the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, Prospect Park, and Construction Kids on a weekly basis.

- Positive Behavior Supports are implemented to ensure the healthy growth of each child.

- Students learn specific targets aligned to the Common Core Learning Stan-



dards so that we ensure college readiness.

- Families are welcomed partners in their children's education.

...

Our results have been extraordinary. Over the past year, our children earned:

- A number one growth ranking in New York State on the English Language Arts New York State Assessment.

- An "Excellent" rating by the New York City Department of Education for Progress and Closing the Achievement Gap.

- Growth numbers that fall into the top 3% of all schools for mathematics in New York State.

...

Join us for the upcoming 2015-2016 school year to ensure that your children are part of the growing excellence of Lefferts Gardens Charter School.



NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS!!!

Lefferts Gardens Charter School (LGCS) is now accepting applications for the upcoming school year 2014-2015. LGCS is a free public charter school serving grades K-5. We are located at 601 Parkside Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11226. We are co-located with PS 92 and our main office is room 315.

Our Mission is to utilize an environmental science program to develop academically motivated and civic-minded students to succeed in competitive high school and college programs. **Environmental Science** lies at the core of LGCS's academic program. The natural world – and its opportunities for inquiry – provides the centerpiece for the LGCS curriculum.

To apply: go to <http://leffertsgardens.org/> click on the **Admissions tab and choose:** 2015-2016 New Student Application.

Application deadline April 1, 2015.

Applications received after the deadline will be added to the waitlist

Open House

Daytime Sessions @ 9am	Evening Sessions @ 6pm
January 22, 2015	January 30, 2015
February 5, 2015	February 26, 2015
March 12, 2015	March 19, 2015

LEFFERTS GARDENS CHARTER SCHOOL
 601 PARKSIDE AVENUE
 BROOKLYN, NY 11226
 718-284-1480 ext. 101
www.leffertsgardens.org

Math

Continued from Page 26

length of time required to travel from home to other places, like school or Grandma's house. In all mathematical conversations, do not be too quick to give your child the answer. Allow him or her the time needed to process the information given and formulate the answer on his or her own.

2. Look for mathematics all around you.

Relating math to everyday life situations has a direct effect on how well children learn and utilize mathematical principles. Carnegie Learning, collaborating with researchers at Southern Methodist University, found that tailoring word problems to student interests results in as much as a 40 percent improvement in performance, particularly for more difficult problems. "Children are more enthusiastic about learning when the topic presented is specific to their personal interests," said Bratcher. "For example, questions related to gaming, sports, food or friends will generate more attention from students than asking them to calculate the square footage of a room."

Keep kids connected all year long

Options available for free or low cost access to Internet

There's good news for parents looking for a positive way to keep their kids entertained when there is no school. There is an affordable way to keep kids connected to the Internet.

From snow days to holiday breaks, kids will be off from school often over the next few months. And with the inclement weather, this means they are inside, itching for something to do. Instead of watching TV or fighting with siblings, using the Internet can be a more interactive, productive choice for kids of all ages.

Unfortunately, about 30 percent of Americans, many of whom live below the poverty line, don't have Internet access in their homes. To help, Comcast is offering a low-cost broadband adoption program called Internet Essentials.

Internet Essentials offers families with at least one child eligible for the National School Lunch Program Internet for \$9.95 a month; the option to buy a laptop or desktop computer for less than \$150; and access to digital literacy training online, in person or in print.

With a service such as this, kids can connect to fun online educational



activities for free while they are off from school, and they can keep up with their assignments and stay connected to teachers and classmates. This way, they are not only keeping busy, but they are learning.

Here are a few cool sites:

- **Khan Academy (khanacademy.org):** Get a personalized experience in math, biology, economics, computer science, art history and more.

- **PBS Kids (pbskids.org):** Find learning games associated with your favorite PBS Kids characters such as Clifford, Curious George and The Cat in the Hat.

- **FunBrain (funbrain.com):** Access a ton of activities; read books and comics; and play Mad Libs, math baseball and tic-tac-toe.

Plus, the whole family can use the Internet at home this winter to stay in touch with loved ones, search for new healthy recipes to start the year off right, fill out tax returns and apply for financial aid.

So far, more than 350,000 families, or about 1.4 million Americans, have been connected to the power of the Internet through Internet Essentials. There is also a new amnesty program for families that would qualify for the program but have a past due balance. If they meet all other eligibility criteria, Comcast will offer amnesty for a bill that is more than one year old in order for that family to be eligible.

To learn more or apply, visit www.InternetEssentials.com or call 1-855-846-8376. For Spanish, visit www.InternetBasico.com or call 1-855-765-6995.

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Services include Ear Problem, Throat Problem, Nose Disorders

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\$22,888
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2005	Chevy TrailBlazer, 81k	J1066	\$5,995	2004	Toyota Highlander, 101k	6771	\$7,995	2007	Toyota 4Runner, 86k	9610	\$12,995
2005	Ford Expedition, 122k	8789	\$5,995	2007	Acura MDX, 104k	10125	\$8,995	2006	Cadillac Escalade, 100k	10464	\$12,995
2006	BMW X3, 128k	A75616	\$6,995	2006	Honda Ridgeline, 135k	4629	\$9,595	2007	Toyota FJ Cruiser, 70k	62323	\$16,995
2006	Toyota Rav 4, 114k	2554	\$7,500	2006	BMW X5, 85k	Y39624	\$9,995	2008	GMC Yukon, 62k	65921	\$17,995
				2007	Jeep Gr Cherokee, 98k	J1091	\$10,995				



\$17,995
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Auto, 6 cyl, A/C, p/s, p/b, 42k miles, Stk#10534



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2003	Honda Accord, 91k	72885	\$3,995	2012	Honda Civic, 31k	5650	\$9,995	2009	Honda Pilot, 36k	1032	\$13,995
2011	Honda Civic LX, 47k	7569	\$8,995	2011	Toyota Rav4, 48k	1066	\$9,995	2011	Honda CRV, 24k	4923	\$13,995
2010	Toyota Camry, 34k	1013	\$8,995	2011	Nissan Altima, 10k	1026	\$9,995	2013	Nissan Altima, 20k	1226	\$13,995
2013	Kia Soul, 10k	10515	\$8,995	2012	Nissan Altima, 32k	1079	\$9,995	2011	Honda Pilot, 23k	5210	\$14,995
				2012	Chevy Traverse, 50k	1260	\$12,888	2012	Nissan Murano, 12k	5822	\$16,995

>>>>MANAGER SPECIALS<<<<

YEAR	MAKE/MODEL/MILES	STOCK /VIN	PRICE	YEAR	MAKE/MODEL/MILES	STOCK /VIN	PRICE
2011	Honda Accord, 31k	2651	\$9,995	2013	Chevy Malibu, 3k	1382	\$13,995
2014	Nissan Versa, 9k	3309	\$9,995	2011	Honda Odyssey, 35k	4830	\$13,995
2012	Ford Escape, 72k	7278	\$10,995	2008	BMW 528xi, 34k	1008	\$13,995
2011	Nissan Rogue, 32k	4761	\$10,995	2009	Infiniti G37x, 52k	1255	\$14,888
2012	Honda Accord, 32k	1223	\$10,995	2012	Dodge Charger, 8k	1030	\$15,995
2013	Dodge Caravan, 43k	3793	\$12,995	2012	Nissan Maxima, 20k	3788	\$16,400
2011	Ford Edge, 51k	1241	\$12,995				

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The New York Office of **Statewide Homeowner Advocates** is providing assistance with the following **capital improvements and finance** programs for **Kitchen & Bathroom Renovations, Energy Efficient Siding, Windows and Doors, Roof Replacement, Masonry & Gut Rehabs!** Call **1-800-673-4228** now to learn about our **energy-saving programs** for homeowners in New York State:

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Remodel your home to be more **energy efficient and save money!**

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- ✓ FREE visit includes detailed proposal with recommended **energy-efficient upgrades**
- ✓ Rebates & 100% financing[^] available for any audit-related repairs



Call 1-800-673-4228 NOW!

[^]If qualified.

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BRIC

Your 2015 Resolution: Create Your Own Story

WE OFFER:

- Classes in television & video production, digital photography, graphic design, and more
- Free media classes at various Brooklyn Public Library locations in Park Slope, East New York, Coney Island, and Midwood
- Free access to production facilities & equipment
- Free TV channel time on Brooklyn Free Speech

BRICartsmedia.org/cm



New Class Offerings from BRIC Media Education in 2015

BRIC is the leader in media education for Brooklyn, offering free and low-cost classes ranging from television production, video editing, to new media. From YouTube videos to major studio productions the technological landscape is ever-changing. Based on feedback from the community and current trends in filmmaking techniques BRIC Media Education has expanded its course offerings to include Intro to DSLR Filmmaking, Fundamentals of Screenwriting, and Advanced Photoshop Techniques.

Skye MacLeod (Associate Director, Adult Education) says, "We have had a lot of interest in our Digital Photography classes, and one of the most common questions is 'When will BRIC offer a class on DSLR Filmmaking?' This crash course is an introduction to the techniques and strategies of using your DSLR to shoot video. Another big interest of our community is focused on narrative storytelling—thus

we thought it would be great to delve into screenwriting as a way to create content for our channels."

INTRO TO DSLR FILMMAKING

Learn the fundamentals of DSLR filmmaking from equipment setups, tips for getting great audio, lighting considerations, as well as common challenges and pitfalls of shooting video with DSLRs.

Next class: Feb 24-26 | Tue & Thu | 2-5PM | \$20

FUNDAMENTALS OF SCREENWRITING

This course will guide you through the creative process of brainstorming, writing, and publishing your next exciting screenplay. Learn writing topics such as the 3-act story structure, character development, and building tension in your story. Also included are common formatting

techniques and writing your screenplay in Celtx (a free screenwriting software).

Next class: Mar 20 | Fri | 6:30-9:30PM | \$10

ADVANCED PHOTOSHOP TECHNIQUES

Expand your Photoshop skill set and improve your photo editing efficiency in this 6-hour class. Learn advanced topics such as applying adjustment layers, color management and manipulating uncompressed images in Camera RAW, applying effects such as Dodge and Burn, creating an HDR image, and becoming an expert with layers.

Next class: Mar 11-13 | Wed & Fri | 6:30-9:30PM | \$20

Register for classes at BRICartsmedia.org/bme



BRIC COMMUNITY MEDIA CENTER

647 Fulton Street
Brooklyn, NY 11217

BRIC HOUSE HOURS

Tuesday–Saturday 8AM–10PM
Sunday–Monday 8AM–6PM

MEDIA CENTER HOURS

Monday–Friday 8AM–10PM
Saturday & Sunday 10AM–4PM

ABOUT BRIC

BRIC House is a cultural town square for Brooklyn and a creative lab for media makers and artists, featuring state-of-the-art media production facilities, flexible performance space, work space for the borough's performing and visual artists, a major contemporary art exhibition space, and an inviting public gathering place, all uniquely equipped to transmit live programming to over 500,000 Brooklyn households and online.

DIRECTIONS

Located in the heart of the Downtown Brooklyn Cultural District, BRIC House is easily reachable by subway or train.

G to Fulton; **C** to Lafayette;

2 **3** **4** to Nevins St.;

B **Q** **R** to Dekalb

Steps from Atlantic Terminal and the LIRR

Call 718.683.5645 for more info
or visit BRICartsmedia.org/cm

Did you know BRIC members get a discount on our media education classes?

Become a member today and be the first to get insider access to BRIC House and all the BRIC has to offer. See benefits and other details at: BRICartsmedia.org/bric-membership

BRIC Media Education

BECOME A BROOKLYN MEDIA MAKER WITH FREE AND LOW-COST CLASSES



PHOTO: JESSICA HILLS

Four Easy Steps to Getting Your Own TV Show



1. Attend a free Orientation and learn all about our media offerings.



2. Successfully complete at least one of our certification courses and become a Certified Community Producer to gain free access to equipment, studios, and facilities.



3. Contact our Programming Department at 718.683.5643 to schedule airdates.



4. Turn on your TV and watch your show on Brooklyn Public Network or stream online!

Did you know? BRIC offers free and low-cost media classes at various Brooklyn Public Library locations.

Here's a sample of upcoming free media classes at Brooklyn Public Library

INTRO TO DIGITAL STORYTELLING FOR PC

Turn your photographs into a narrative video short.
Feb 4 | Wed | 3-5pm | New Lots Library

SHORT-FORM VIDEO TECHNIQUES FOR PC

Get tips and techniques to build compelling short-form videos with your mobile device.
Feb 3 | Tue | 11AM-1PM | Central Library

INTRO TO SOCIAL MEDIA

Learn the basics of some of the world's most popular social networks.
Feb 4 | Wed | 5:45-7:45PM | Kings Highway Library (ESL)

DIGITAL CAMERA BASICS

Build beautiful images using features on your digital camera.
Feb 4 | Wed | 3-5PM | Kings Highway Library (ESL)

DIGITAL PHOTO ENHANCEMENT

Gain hands-on experience with Gimp, a free photo editing software program.
Feb 11 | Wed | 3-5PM | New Lots Library

ORAL HISTORY & DIGITAL ARCHIVING

Learn best practices to archive physical and digital photos as well as audio recording.
Jan 27 | Tue | 3:45-5:45PM | Coney Island Library

CAPTURING YOUR POETRY

Record and exhibit your poetry using Zoom recorders and Audacity.
Jan 28 | Wed | 5:45-7:45PM | New Lots Library

DIY STOP-MOTION ANIMATION

Discover fun ways to create animation pieces using tablet devices.
Jan 27 | Tue | 3:45-5:45PM | Coney Island Library

Central Library | 10 Grand Army Plaza | Brooklyn, NY 11238
Kings Highway Library | 2115 Ocean Ave | Brooklyn, NY 11229
New Lots Library | 665 New Lots Ave | Brooklyn, NY 11207
Coney Island Library | 1901 Mermaid Ave | Brooklyn, NY 11224

Visit BRICartsmedia.org/bpl for a detailed list of classes and branches.

FREE ORIENTATION

Become familiar with community access television, learn more about our course offerings, free services, policies, and procedures. No reservations necessary!

Jan 27 | Tue | 11AM-1PM | Central Library
Feb 3 | Tue | 6:30-8:30PM | BRIC House
Feb 11 | Wed | 1-3PM | Kings Highway Library

TELEVISION STUDIO PRODUCTION | \$98

Certification Course

This course teaches you the basics of shooting a production inside a television studio using a professional-grade video camera and equipment.

Feb 10-20 | Tue-Fri | 10:30AM-1:30PM | BRIC House

VIDEO PRODUCTION IN THE FIELD | \$50

Certification Course

This course will give you the skills to produce your videos from anywhere. You'll gain hands-on experience using a professional-grade digital video camera and equipment.

Feb 3-17 | Tue | 1-5PM | Coney Island Library

VIDEO EDITING WITH PREMIERE | \$60

Certification Course

This course covers the basics of non-linear video editing using Adobe Premiere Pro CS 6.

Feb 7-21 | Sat | 10:30AM-4:30PM | BRIC House

AUDIO PRODUCTION IN THE FIELD | \$20

Learn the best practices for capturing clean audio in the field with various types of equipment such as microphones, field mixers, and digital audio recorders.

Jan 31 | Sat | 10:30AM-4:30PM | New Lots Library

INTRO TO DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY | \$20

Learn how to use your camera's features and simple tricks to create beautiful digital images.

Feb 6 | Fri | 10:30AM-4:30PM | BRIC House

MOTION GRAPHICS WITH AFTER EFFECTS | \$50

Learn how to create dynamic motion graphics and video effects.

Feb 2-11 | Mon & Wed | 10:30AM-1:30PM | BRIC House

WEB VIDEO PRODUCTION | \$30

Digital Storytelling: Learn how to build, assemble, and distribute your own digital story.

Jan 26-29 | Mon-Thu | 6:30-9:30pm | BRIC House

In addition to certification classes, we offer many classes that can support your production process and get your voice heard.

Please Note: Becoming a Certified Community Producer is not a requirement to air a program on our channels.
Visit BRICartsmedia.org/bfs for more info.

For more classes please visit BRICartsmedia.org/bme

Brooklyn Independent Media

Brooklyn Independent Media is the first 24/7-television channel created by, for, and about Brooklyn. The channel features programming produced and curated by BRIC, emphasizing local news, civic affairs, and arts and culture. Take a look some highlights from the program line-up for 2015:



PHOTO: JESSICA CHUN

BK Live | Premieres live Mon-Thu @ noon

BROOKLYN BEYOND SOUND BITES

BK Live is the flagship daily show focused on Brooklyn news and culture. The show features neighborhood correspondents as a revolving cast of hosts, contributors, and on-air talent, providing a street-level view of Brooklyn from multiple perspectives.



PHOTO: PATRICK METVIER

Tomorrow Will Be Televised | Premieres live Mondays @ 3pm

BROOKLYN'S TAKE ON TELEVISION

Fast-talking host, Simon Applebaum, commentates on the media landscape in Brooklyn and beyond and chats online with listeners of his Blogtalk radio station.



PHOTO: JESSICA CHUN

B-Side | Premieres live Thursdays @ 8pm

BROOKLYN'S NEWEST AND BOLDEST RESOURCE FOR MUSIC

Tune-in or head down to BRIC House and be a part of the live, in-studio music series and get up close and personal with some of the borough's most inspiring emerging musicians.



PHOTO: BROOKLYN INDEPENDENT MEDIA

Straight Up | Premieres select Tuesdays @ 7pm

REPORTERS TAKE A SHOT AT THE HOT TOPICS EFFECTING BROOKLYN

A no-holds-barred roundtable of in-the-know local reporters discussing politics, scandals, and news, in a completely unscripted and "off-the-record" style at their favorite Brooklyn bar.



PHOTO: DEREK GOODWIN PHOTOGRAPHY

Our Hen House | Premieres select Mondays @ 7pm

CHANGING THE WORLD FOR ANIMALS

This energetic, talk show-style program, led by two charming and chatty co-hosts, Jasmine Singer and Marianna Sullivan, covers a range of topics on the vegan lifestyle.



Brooklyn Public Network includes community-produced Brooklyn Free Speech TV, BRIC-produced and Brooklyn-focused Brooklyn Independent Media, and the Brooklyn Bulletin Board, a 24/7 community calendar for Brooklyn not-for-profit organizations.

Brooklyn Free Speech TV

Cablevision 67-69
Time Warner 34, 79, 56
Verizon FiOS 42-44
RCN 82-84

Brooklyn Independent Media

Cablevision 70
Time Warner 756
Verizon FiOS 46

Brooklyn Bulletin Board

Time Warner 1997
Verizon FiOS 45
RCN 85

ENTERTAINMENT

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The Royal Family of Reggae "Morgan Heritage."

'Morgan Heritage' in Jamaica

The Royal Family of Reggae "Morgan Heritage" will kick off 2015 by closing down the show at the acclaimed Jamaica Jazz & Blues Festival at the Trelawny Stadium, Jamaica on Jan. 31.

The three-day event which begins on Jan. 29 is deemed as the premier music festival in the Caribbean. Jamaica Jazz and Blues Festival 2015 boasts an impressive lineup of super-

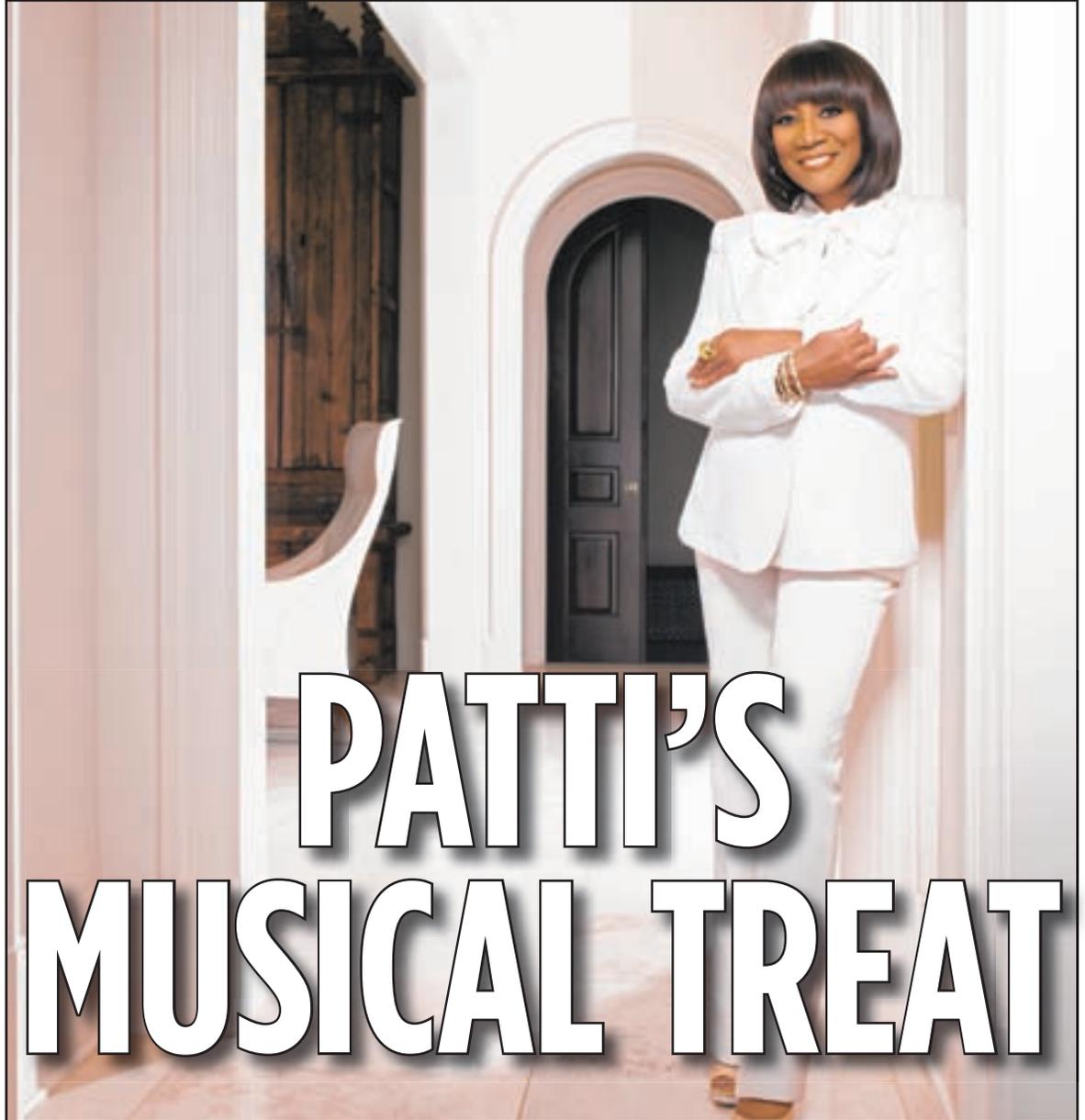
Continued on Page 42

Lunar New Year Celebration

Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College continues its 60th Anniversary Season, once again partnering with Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company for its second annual Lunar New Year Celebration, on Sunday, Jan. 25, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$12.50 for children (ages 12 and under) and can be purchased at BrooklynCenter.org or by calling the box office at 718-951-4500 (Tue-Sat, 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.).

Recipient of China's prestigious Golden Lotus Award, choreographer Nai-Ni Chen and her company will once again take Brooklyn Center's audiences on a visually delightful, culturally

Continued on Page 42



Grammy winning Artist Patti LaBelle.

Photo by Derek Blanks

A Love Need & Want You Concert

For one night only, it will be a Valentine's weekend to remember as The Lady Of Soul & Grammy winning Artist Patti LaBelle makes her long overdue return to Brooklyn alongside fellow R&B Grammy Award Winner Billy Ocean "A Love Need & Want You Concert" Sunday, Feb. 15, 2015 at the Brooklyn Academy Of Music (BAM).

Back by popular demand to the Tri-State area, the multitalented Patti LaBelle makes her grand return to the landmark Brooklyn Academy of Music where she had two sold out

performances on Valentine's Weekend 2010. Beautiful does not even begin to describe the incomparable force known as Patti LaBelle. As time evolved, the soulful songbird's name became synonymous with grace, style, elegance and class. Belting out classic rhythm and blues renditions, pop standards and spiritual sonnets has created the unique platform of versatility that Ms. Patti is revered for.

Treat your sweetheart, family or friend to a wonderful Valentine's gift

with the "Lady of Soul." Come out and jump, dance and sing along to hits such as "If You Only Knew," "Somebody Loves You Baby (You Know Who It Is)," "Lady Marmalade" and "On My Own." This sultry soul diva knows a thing or two about romance.

Billy Ocean was the most popular British R&B singer-songwriter of the early to mid-1980s. After scoring his first four UK Top 20 successes, several years passed before he accumu-

Continued on Page 42



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

UWI fundraiser to laud legacy winners

There are those who consider the annual American Foundation for The University of the West Indies (AFUWI) gala the most-anticipated black-tie event of the year.

Hosted by the charitable organization whose mission is to raise funds here to enhance higher education at the University of the West Indies (UWI), proceeds from the gala each year are earmarked to providing scholarships.

Last year 40 scholarships were awarded to deserving students for the academic year.

AFUWI's total membership community comprise 16 member countries of the English speaking Caribbean — Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago and Turks and Caicos Islands.

Perhaps it is the Annual Legacy Awards Gala that is most alluring to guests. Conferred on notable individuals or entities which represent high levels of achievement within their respective fields of industry and enterprise, it is probably the glitz and glamour akin to the Academy Awards that entices generous individuals dedicated to improving the quality of higher education in the Caribbean. With patrons the likes of actor Harry Belafonte, a dinner chair such as former NYC mayor David N. Dinkins and opera singer Jessye Norman insiders to the event, the 18th annual might well be the best-ever.

Slated to be held Jan. 28 at the Pierre Hotel, 61st St. (between 5th & Madison) in addition to pitching for cash for college, this year's dinner will honor George Gresham, president of New York City's largest labor union, 1199SEIU.

He will receive the 2015 AFUWI Special Award.

Allegedly, the union stalwart rose through the ranks to the helm of one of the most powerful trade unions. A strong advocate for the rights of health care workers and their families, Gresham is the fifth president in the union's 75-year history.

Reportedly, after assuming the top post in 2007, two years later he directed the successful collective bargaining with the League of Voluntary Hospitals

and Homes on behalf of 135,000 New York metropolitan area members at 87 institutions.

In addition to expanding job security for its members, including part-time workers, it also secured a comprehensive health package with improved pension benefits along with a 10 percent compounded wage increase through 2015.

Gresham also serves as a vice president of the Executive Board of Service Employees Internal Union (SEIU) with 2.1 million working members in locals throughout the nation. He also co-chairs the 1199SEIU National Benefit Fund, the largest self-insured union healthcare plan in the nation.

Its Training and Upgrading Fund has employer contributions and grant funding of over \$150 million per year, the 1199/Employer Child Care Fund, which covers over 50,000 children of members, and the 1199SEIU Pension Fund, which has nearly \$7 billion in assets.

Although Gresham will get the top honor, among the other honorees are Debra A. Sandler, chief health and wellbeing officer for Mars, Incorporated, Adam Stewart, CEO of Sandals Resorts International and George Willie, managing partner of Bert Smith & Co.

Willie will receive the Caribbean Luminary Award.

Paxton Baker, executive vice president and general manager of CENTRIC (formerly BETJ) will be presented with the Vice Chancellor's Achievement Award.

A few previous award winners include: Colin Powell, Shirley Chisholm, Kareem Abdul Jabbar, Marcus Mosiah Garvey, Sir Arthur Lewis, Malcolm X, Maya Angelou, Ralph Gonsalves, Denzil Douglas, Louise Bennett-Coverley, Dame Nita Barrow, John Issa, CLR James, Stokely Carmichael, Eric H. Holder, Michael Lee Chin, Lenox Lewis, Cicely Tyson, Paula Madison, Rex Nettleford, Jimmy Cliff, Ruby Dee, Charles B. Rangel, Roger Toussaint and Gilberto Gil.

Tickets for the fundraising gala can be obtained by calling 212-759-9345.

For information about making a contribution to the foundation, please visit the website <http://www.afuwi.org>.
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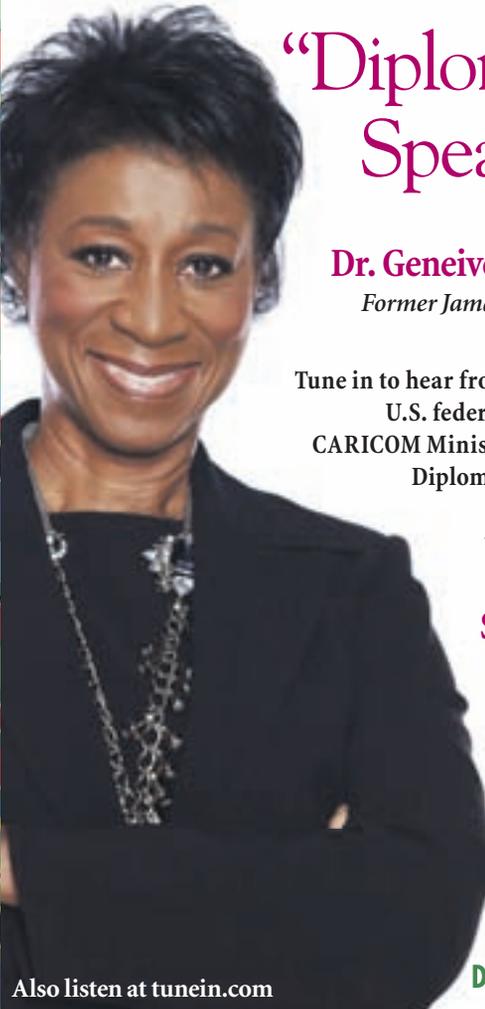
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Hart, Gad co-star in buddies comedy

"The Wedding Ringer"
Very Good (3 stars)
Rated R for crude humor, pervasive profanity, coarse sexuality and brief graphic nudity
Running time: 101 minutes
Distributor: Screen Gems

By Kam Williams

Doug Harris (Josh Gad) and Gretchen Palmer (Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting) are putting the finishing touches on their impending wedding. Trouble is the socially-challenged groom has yet to find a best man and they're set to exchange vows in just 10 days.

He's been rejected by every acquaintance he's approached, receiving rude responses ranging from "I thought you died" to "I didn't even invite you to my wedding." So, Doug decides to hide his awkward predicament



A scene from "The Wedding Ringer."

from his fiancée, since he's too embarrassed to admit that he doesn't have any friends.

Instead, he hires a professional best man, Jimmy Callahan (Kevin Hart), along with seven strangers to serve as his groomsmen. Can these guys get to know Doug well enough in a week to convince Gretchen and mem-

bers of the wedding party that they're long-lost friends?

That is the preposterous point of departure of "The Wedding Ringer," an unlikely-buddies comedy marking the directorial debut of Yale University graduate Jeremy Garelick. Provided you are not offended by and are willing to suspend disbelief about

the farfetched setup, you'll actually be richly rewarded by the hilarious, bad boy hijinks about to ensue.

Most of the laughs emanate from the attempt by that motley assortment of unsavory characters to impersonate refined, white-collar types ranging from a podiatrist, to a principal, to a

lawyer, to a professor. The sham of a best man adopts the alias "Bic Mitchum" and passes himself off as a priest.

And although he proves convincing at faking bromance, he warns Doug not to develop feelings because, "You're not buying a new friend. You're hiring a best man." But despite this strictly business understanding, cold-hearted Jimmy gradually warms to the goofy groom and the two somehow bond anyway.

That unexpected development is what ultimately redeems "The Wedding Ringer's" otherwise pretty repugnant premise. After all, how much hope could there really be for a marriage, if a groom would opt to stage such an elaborate scheme rather than simply explain the situation to his bride-to-be?

Check your brain at the box office, and motor-mouthed Kevin Hart, surrounded by a talented cast of seasoned comedians, will keep you in stitches for the duration of a decidedly-lowbrow, politically-incorrect misadventure.

Independent & Foreign Films

Against the Sun (PG for mature themes and mild epithets) World War II survival saga recounting a trio of airmen's (Tom Felton, Jake Abel and Garret Dillahunt) real-life ordeal in a lifeboat after ditching their plane over the Pacific Ocean. Featuring Nadia Parra.

Big Muddy (R for violence, profanity, sexuality and some nudity) Nadia Litz and Justin Kelly co-star as mother and son operating on the wrong side of the law in this remarkable neo noir reminiscent of Red Rock West from debut director Jefferson Moneo. Cast includes David La Haye, Stephen McHattie and James Le Gros.

Black Sea (R for violence, graphic images and pervasive profanity) Buried treasure adventure starring Jude Law as a submarine captain who goes rogue to search for a sunken ship supposedly loaded with gold. With Scoot McNairy, Ben Mendelsohn and Jodie Whittaker.

Cake (R for profanity, substance abuse and brief sexuality) Poignant character portrait starring Jennifer Aniston as a woman who befriends the just-widowed husband (Sam Worthington) of a suicidal member of her chronic pain support group (Anna Kendrick). Ensemble cast includes Adriana Barraza, William H. Macy, Felicity Huffman, Lucy Punch, Mamie Gummer and Chris Messina. (In Eng-



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

lish and Spanish with subtitles)

The Duke of Burgundy (Unrated) Romance drama revolving around a lesbian couple's (Sidse Babett Knudsen and Chiara D'Anna) sadomasochistic relationship. With Eugenia Caruso, Fatma Mohamed and Monica Swinn.

The Humbling (R for profanity, sexuality and brief violence) Oscar-winner Barry Levinson (for Rain Man) directed this adaptation of the Philip Roth best-seller of the same name about an aging actor (Al Pacino) whose life is turned upside-down when he embarks on an ill-advised affair with a considerably-younger lesbian (Greta Gerwig). Support cast includes Dianne Wiest, Charles Grodin, Mandy Patinkin and Kyra Sedgwick.

Manny (PG-13 for violence and bloody images) Pugilism biopic, narrated by Liam Neeson, about Filipino boxing sensation Manny Pacquiao. Featuring commentary by Mark Wahlberg, Jeremy Piven and Jimmy Kimmel.

Miss Hill: Making Dance Matter (Unrated) Reverential biopic about Martha Hill (1900-1995), the visionary founding director of Juilliard's Dance Division.

JENNIFER LOPEZ

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CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES

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

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1 **Blank Space**
Taylor Swift
- 2 **I'm Not The Only One**
Sam Smith
- 3 **Love Me Harder**
Ariana Grande & The Weeknd
- 4 **Take Me To Church**
Hozier
- 5 **Jealous**
Nick Jonas
- 6 **Uptown Funk!**
Mark Ronson
- 7 **Animals**
Maroon 5
- 8 **Waves**
Mr. Probz
- 9 **Thinking Out Loud**
Ed Sheeran
- 10 **The Heart Wants What...**
Selena Gomez

TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **1989**
Taylor Swift
- 2 **SremmLife**
Rae Sremmurd
- 3 **x**
Ed Sheeran
- 4 **Guardians Of The Galaxy:**
Soundtrack
- 5 **2014 Forest Hills Drive**
J. Cole
- 6 **The Pinkprint**
Nicki Minaj
- 7 **In The Lonely Hour**
Sam Smith
- 8 **Into The Woods**
Soundtrack
- 9 **Hozier**
Hozier
- 10 **The Young OG Project**
Fabolous

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Asian dance at Brooklyn College

Continued from page 39
rich tour of the 3,000-year-old Chinese civilization. This year's celebration honors The Year of the Sheep — a year of peace, love, and woolly gentleness according to the Chinese calendar.

The repertoire for the performance will include "Double Lions Welcoming Spring," a version of the popular Lion Dance; "Gu Ze Yung Ge," a dance from the Han people in Northeast China that incorporates fans, handkerchiefs, and drums in a celebration of the harvest; the rhythmic "Hubei Coin Stick Dance," originally done by street performers in the Hubei province; and the famous "Dragon Dance," symbolizing imperial power and nature's grace. The Company will also perform an excerpt from Peach Flower Landscape, a dance drama portraying a peaceful agricultural community living in perfect harmony with the land, commissioned in 1995 by the Lincoln Center Institute.

The Chinese Music Ensemble of New York, the oldest, largest, and only full-scale Chi-



Members of the Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company during their Chinese New Year performance. Photo by Carol Rosegg

nese orchestra in the Americas, will once again perform in this year's celebration, accompanying the dancers with traditional instruments such as pear-shaped lute and hammered dulcimer. Musical inter-

cludes will include "Song of the Mountains," a solo performed by Yueqin Chen on the ruan, a plucked-string instrument similar to a lute, and "A Parting Tune," an ensemble piece inspired by the poetry of Tang

Dynasty poet Wang Wei.

The Company has partnered with the Consulate General of China to bring 10 distinguished guest artists from China to perform, hailing from SiChuan and Beijing.

Love show

Continued from page 39
lated a series of transatlantic successes, including three U.S. number ones such as "Suddenly," "Going Gets Tough" and "There Be Sad Songs."

In 1985, Ocean won the Grammy Award for Best Male R&B Vocal Performance for his worldwide hit, "Caribbean Queen" and in 1987 was nominated for the Brit Award for Best British Male.

Get ready to fall in love all over again in the presence of two great superstars. Tickets are on sale through Bam Box Office at 718.636.4100 or online at www.BAM.org. For further information, please contact Jammins at 718.282.8041. Parts of the proceeds will be donated to the AFUWI Scholarship Fund and



Billy Ocean.

Provident Clinical Society of Brooklyn.

This is a Jammins Entertainment and Radio 103.9fm production.

Jamaica Jazz Festival

Continued from page 39
stars such as multi-Grammy winner Mariah Carey, Charlie Wilson, Magic, Peter Cetera, Soja, The Pointer Sisters among other notables acts.

Although the past year has seen Morgan Heritage performing worldwide, it has been nine years since the renowned band performed at the festival. "The group is really excited to be back at the festival after so long but at the same time we're humbled by the request from Walter Elmore and the organizers of the festival to close out our night. This is also our first performance on an international stage in Jamaica since our return," stated Gramps Morgan.

Known worldwide for their riveting live performances, the siblings are looking forward to not only engage the people of their beloved island, but the thousands of music lovers who come to Jamaica for the festival. Mojo Morgan revealed, "Our set will be filled with classics and feature new material from our latest album "Here Come The Kings" and as well as songs from our upcoming

album 'Strictly Roots.' The new album will be our first album released independent of VP Records on our label CTBC Music Group. VP has been great for the group and we're grateful for our years with them. We just felt it was time to approach the release of our music differently."

While in Jamaica, Morgan Heritage will film a video for their lead single "Perform and Done" from their anticipated upcoming album. Produced by BBC One/BBC 1Xtra's Seani B, "Perform and Done" (now available on iTunes) is blazing the airwaves and steadily making it's way on charts around the world.

The group will then head to Toronto, Canada to headline the Feb. 6 show at the Sound Academy. To the delights of their fans, Morgan Heritage will be touring across the United States starting the first week in April and will end the tour on Memorial Day Weekend at "Best Of The Best" in Miami, the country's largest, multicultural, family-oriented festival before heading to Europe for the festival season.

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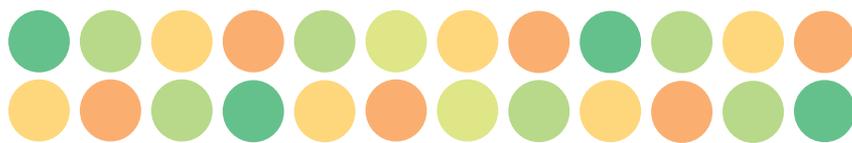


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SUN KULCHA COMMUNITY EVENTS



SAT., JAN. 24

COMEDY: Fashionably Funny Productions (FFP) presents "Fireside Chat" a night of whimsy and humorous tales featuring NYC's and Westchester County's best and brightest comics at the Chat American Grill (1 Christie Place) in Scarsdale, N.Y. at 9:30 p.m. Having successfully produced shows at venues in Manhattan, FFP producer / performer Maryssa Smith (The Wendy Williams Show, Westchester Comedy Festival) brings a talented roster of comics for this inaugural Westchester show including: headliner Leighann Lord (Fox News Strategy Room," ABC-TV's "The View"); Sydnee Washington (Broadway Comedy Club, The Stand);Tanya Cooper (Gotham Comedy Club, NOMA);Dan Opp (Commuter Comedy, Westchester Comedy Festival);Maryelle Turner (The Comic Strip Live); Regina DeCicco Comedian (Laugh's on FOX, Westchester Comedy Festival); Jayson Cross (Zanie's, Nip/Tuck) and Chrissie Mayr (The Wendy Williams Show, Comedy at Stonewall). Seating begins at 9:15 p.m. No cover (suggested donation \$5) with a two-item minimum.. The Chat American Grill, which features outstanding food and drinks can be accessed from the Bronx River Parkway and is near the Scarsdale station of the Metro North Railroad's Harlem line. For directions and

reservations (for The Fireplace Room), call (914) 722-4000 or go to: <http://chatamericangrill.com/nightlife.htm>.

YOUTH FESTIVAL: Grenada 41st Anniversary Committee of Independence in New York welcomes all to their youth festival at 3:00 p.m. P.S. 66, 845 East 96 Street, Brooklyn, NY 11236.

CALYPSO SHOW: Grenada 41st Anniversary Committee of Independence invites you to the Calypso Show at Tropical Reflections at 5:00 p.m. 4501 Glenwood Rd., Brooklyn, NY 11203.

THURS., JAN. 29

SYMPOSIUM: On Jan. 29, Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center will host a "Palliative Care Symposium" from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the auditorium. This free educational event will raise awareness of the medical specialty that focuses on enhancing quality of life for people with serious or life-threatening illnesses by addressing their emotional, physical and spiritual needs — as well as the needs of their family. Dr. Patricia A. Bomba will be the keynote speaker. She is an eminent leader and advocate for community programs that address palliative- and end-of-life care programs.

Other featured speakers include Bishop R.C. Hugh Nelson who will address the role of church in the care of patients, and Dr. Sarah M. Egan and Dr. Amy Friedman who will talk about community-based models for hospice care and organ donor network, respectively. Come and join this event. You will be able to talk with experts and receive information about the treatment options and services available at Brookdale Hospital. Contact Dr. Louis R. Belzie at 718.240.6981 for more details.

more about the home buying process. You can register here and join our facebook event for updates. Check out our flyer for more information. If you have any questions, please contact yangchen@chhay-acdc.org or you can reach us at 718-478-3848. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please email us at info@chhayacdc.org.

ON-GOING

PRESENT-SUN., MAR. 1

EXHIBITION EXTENSION: The popular exhibition, originally scheduled to close on Feb. 15, will remain on view through Sunday, March 1. "Killer Heels" explores fashion's most provocative accessory, the high-heeled shoe. The exhibition looks at the high heel's rich and varied history-- from the platform chopines of sixteenth-century Italy to the glamorous stilettos on today's runways and red carpets — and its enduring place in our popular imagination.

SERVICE: The Church of Deliverance and Life welcomes everyone for prayer and bible study. Service takes place every Sunday from 10:00 a.m - 12:00 p.m. at 5316 Church Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11203 (located on the second floor).

— compiled by Natalie Y. Henry

FRI., JAN. 30

SOLIDARITY NIGHT: Grenada 41st Anniversary Committee of Independence will be hosting "Caribbean Solidarity Night" at 7:00 p.m. Holy Cross Auditorium, 2530 Church Ave (bet. Bedford & Roger avenues)

SAT., JAN.31

PAGEANT: Grenada 41st Anniversary Committee of Independence will host an Independence Pageant at P.S. at 5:00 p.m. 845 E. 96st, Brooklyn, NY 11236,

FAIR: Thinking of buying a home? Attend the Chhaya 6th Annual Home Buyer Fair being held at P.S. 69, 77-02 37th Ave., Jackson Heights, Queens. Come meet with lenders and industry experts and learn

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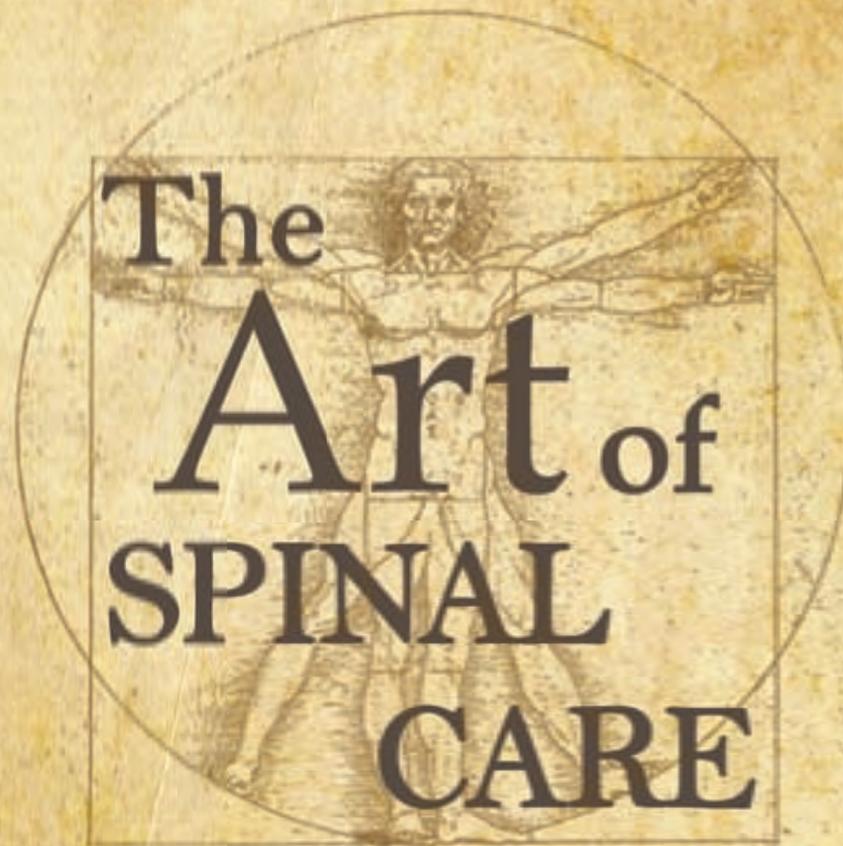
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SPORTS

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LIU honors
new members

By Robert Elkin

Off to a 6-11 start after the middle of January, the Long Island University Black Birds did not have many pluses about their team during the current season. Two losing streaks, one by as much as six games, and a brief one of three contests definitely hurt the squad. Yes, they went into the season with a young squad but the results were not as expected. Then they started to improve.

One of their bright spots was the offensive play by senior guard Gerrell Martin who put together four 20 or more point games.

Off the court, and a definite high point on their schedule, the Blackbirds conducted a half-time ceremony honoring the college's Hall of Fame induction of six new members.

A committee comprising staff members, including a past coach, and Greg Fox, along with other personnel from the college, helped in the process of choosing the inductees. They were chosen by a committee of administrators on campus and by a couple of admin-

Continued on Page 48

Fastest One-
Day 100

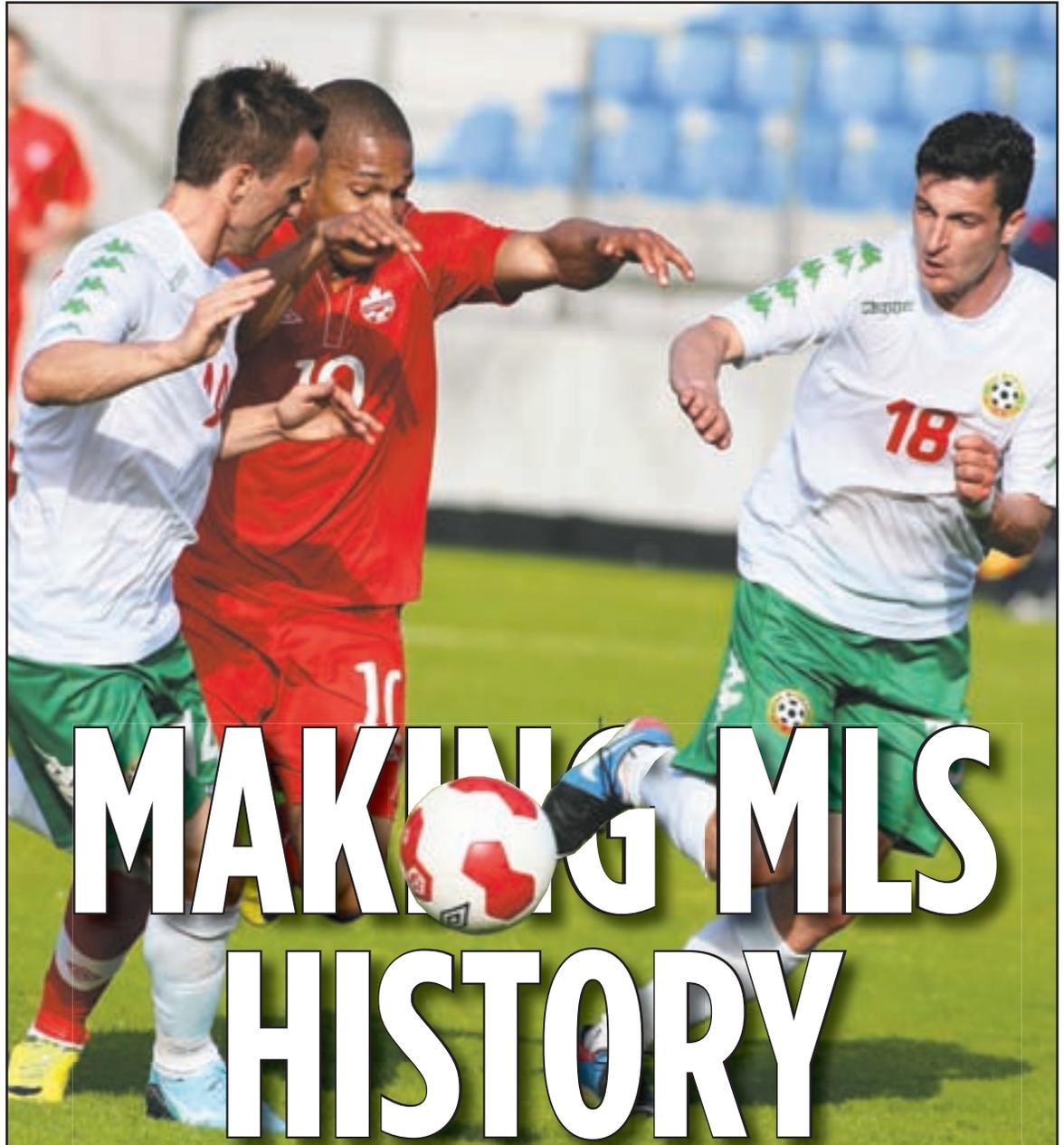
By Azad Ali

South Africa's middle-order batsman AB de Villiers plundered the West Indies bowlers, scoring the fastest ever One-Day hundred and led three other batsmen in triple figures as South Africa inflicted a severe 148-run drubbing on the regional team in the second One-Day International (ODI) on Sunday in Johannesburg.

Opting to bat first, the Proteas ruthlessly pounded the West Indies bowling attack to amass 439 for two off their 40 overs, with opener Hashim Amla (153 not out), captain AB de Villiers (149) and Rilee Roussouw (128) all compiling centuries.

The total was a record for South Africa, narrowly surpassing their 438 against Australia in 2006, and was just

Continued on Page 48



Canada's Simeon Jackson, center, challenges for a ball with Cyle Larin, left, and Milan Borjan, right, of Bulgaria during a friendly soccer match between Canada and Bulgaria, in Ritzing, Austria, Friday, May 23, 2014.

AP Photo/Ronald Zak

MAKING MLS
HISTORY

Cyle Larin drafted in the No.1 spot

By Patrick Horne

History was made at the recent MLS SuperDraft at the Philadelphia Convention Center on Thursday, Jan. 15, when Cyle Larin became the first Canadian drafted in the No.1 spot, as the first pick overall.

Orlando City, in its inaugural MLS season this year, drafted the under-20 Canadian international, who was the star at the University of Connecticut in Storrs. Larin,

who is currently representing Canada in the CONCACAF Under-20 Men's Championships being played now in Montego Bay and Kingston, Jamaica, was the leading scorer at Connecticut last season with nine goals and was named the American Athletic Conference offensive player of the year. The forward has played three times for Canada's senior national team.

"We believe that we've picked the

best player in the draft," said Orlando City head coach Adrian Heath. "Cyle has incredible potential, and we're looking forward to working with him."

Altidore to Toronto

Jozy Altidore, the U.S. men's national team forward who was stuck in the substitute's bench at Sunderland FC of the English Pre-

Continued on Page 48

Continued from page 47

istrators from the athletic department and along with Senior Associate Director of Athletics Margaret Alaimo. Greg Fox served as chairman of the committee.

The inductees are Ashley O'Connor in women's soccer, Louis Brignoni for basketball, Ricardo Aguilera in soccer, Ron Solomone in baseball, Lonnie Barton men and women golf, posthumously, and Shuna Wilde in women's golf.

These players were stars in their own fields and certainly gave LIU's student body, fans, staff members and faculty, something to cheer about and look forward to.

"It feels nice to be remembered here," said point guard Brignoni.

"We are very excited about this class of inductees," said a spokesman from Long Island University. It's just a great day for all of us.

Over the past years, the Hall of Fame ceremonies were held in conjunction with a basketball game on campus either in the old building or in the new one, where the games are now conducted. But this year the committee decided to host it in the new Barclays Center, home of some of LIU's games, and the Brooklyn Nets of the National Basketball Association. Last week's ceremony came at half time of a game between LIU and Mount St. Mary's college.

Richard James, who originally comes from Jamaica, West Indies, where he started his track career, and took it to Brooklyn was present at the event.

"I got inducted last year for my work in track and field," said James. "This ceremony meant a lot to me and all athletes. This is what we work for. We work to give the University notoriety and also to show the world that LIU exists and that we are awesome in what we do," added James.

"We get the kids in. My job is to make them bigger, faster, and stronger... It's about learning their movement, getting their movements a little better, and it's a lot of biology, lot of bio-chemistry. It's not like PE (physical education). It's a specialized area where you have to be certified in... It's very interesting and a lot of fun."

For the immediate concern, the coaching staff of the basketball team and the players must get together and make the conference playoffs. Just to get there, then anything can happen.

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Jozy Altidore, center, poses for a photo with Major League Soccer team Toronto FC's general manager Tim Bezbatchenko, left, and head coach Greg Vanney following a news conference where he was introduced as the team's latest signing in Toronto on Friday, Jan. 16, 2015.

Associated Press / The Canadian Press, Chris Young

Altidore rejoins MLS club

Continued from page 47

miere League, was part of a deal that swapped him for England international Jermaine Defoe and landed him with MLS club Toronto FC.

Altidore, of Haitian descent and a native of New Jersey, followed three teammates from the U.S. national team who re-joined MLS clubs to prolong their careers. USA forward and captain, Clint Dempsey, and midfielders Maurice Adu and Michael Bradley all left European teams in an effort to maintain their positions on the national team.

"Our top priority is building a winning club with players that are committed to the TFC vision," said Toronto FC General Manager Tim Bezbatchenko. "Jozy is a special player, and checks off all of the boxes that we look

for in a player. We are excited to finalize this deal and bring him to Toronto FC."

Altidore scored a mere three goals in 52 matches at Sunderland; he was signed from Dutch club AZ Alkmaar, where he scored 51 goals in 93 games in a two-year stint. The forward scored 25 goals in 76 games for the U.S.

Red Bulls in USL

The New York Red Bulls announced recently that it would field a USL team. The USL is a Third-Division league in the overall professional soccer framework in the U.S. The Red Bulls is now one of 15 MLS clubs operating USL teams in 2015. The USL team will be an opportunity for young players to develop into the Red Bulls philosophy and reinforce the MLS team.

Shabazz back in Guyana

Former Trinidad and Tobago men's national team coach Jamaal Shabazz - who led Guyana to the CONCACAF semifinal round of qualifying for the 2014 FIFA World Cup and knocking his native country out of the tournament along the way - is back in charge of Guyana's 2018 World Cup qualification effort.

At a Press conference last Monday, Shabaaz vowed to work along with Guyana's new technical director, Claude Bolton and others to chart a solid foundation for the game in Guyana.

"I appeal to all the factions in Guyana's football that this is about players and the game has got to move on without the fighting and the animosity and the warring," said Shabazz.

South Africa smashes WI bowling

Continued from page 47

four runs short of the world record of 443 set by Sri Lanka against Holland also nine years ago.

De Villiers grabbed the opportunity to also rewrite the record books, racing to a phenomenal century off a mere 31 deliveries to eclipse the old mark set by New Zealander Corey Anderson who reached his landmark off 36 balls, also against the West Indies last year.

The South African also scored the fastest 50 off just 15 balls.

Requiring to score at nearly nine

and over, West Indies were never really in contention when chasing the massive total, especially after big-hitting talisman Chris Gayle fell cheaply for 19 with the score on 36 for one in the fifth over of the innings.

South Africa has won the first two ODIs in the five-match series.

South Africa's AB de Villiers makes a run during the third day of the second cricket Test against West Indies, in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, Sunday, Dec. 28, 2014.





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Eyes on Cricket

By George H. Whyte

Blackwood, Simmons should be in ODI squad

In order for the West Indies to show any strength in the five-match One-Day series against South Africa, the selectors must bring in Lendl Simmons and Jermaine Blackwood to create some stability in the middle order. Both Simmons and Blackwood have the talent to come in the middle and restore some stability to the batting.

Leon Johnson do not belong in the One-Day squad and as a measure of long term planning, it will be correct to play batsman Jermaine Blackwood in the One-Day Internationals for him to gain international experience. Blackwood will be a member of the Test team and giving him the exposure in the Limited Overs will prepare him for the longer version of the game.

Promoting Andre Russell in the batting order to at least number four should change his approach to the middle. Having that responsibility may modify his approach as a batsman.

Russell, Darren Sammy, Denesh Ramdin and captain Jason Holder must provide runs and bat intelligently.

Chris Gayle and Dwayne Smith have their own way about commencing proceedings but in spite of how the innings started, the batsmen coming down the order must build on partnerships.

West Indies batsmen seem to be too



West Indies' batsman Lendl Simmons prepares to play a shot during their ICC Twenty20 Cricket World Cup match against Pakistan in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Associated Press / Aijaz Rahi

much in a hurry to score and not giving sufficient consideration to the duration of the innings.

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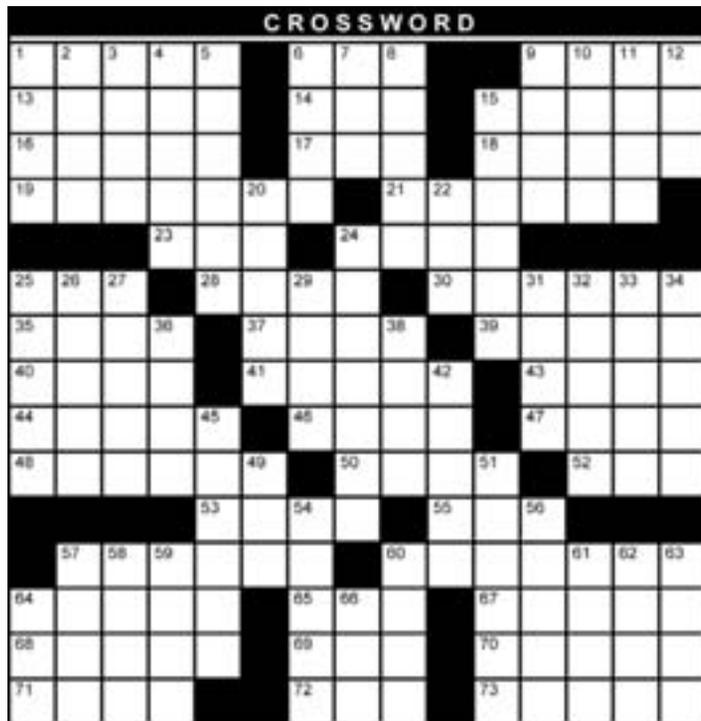
1. A bunch, as in cookies
6. *Q-____, Grammy-winning rapper from A Tribe Called Quest
9. *Yo-Yo Ma won for performing this composer's Cello Suites
13. Luau greeting
14. Australian runner
15. Podium, pl.
16. Letter's end
17. The lower this is the better
18. Unwilling
19. *_____ Center, Grammy Awards event host
21. *It's shaped like an antique record player
23. Fool
24. Not quite an adult
25. Mother, sister or daughter
28. 1/168th of a week
30. Depart
35. *1983 Grammy winner, Men at _____
37. "... the good ship and _____ was in peril," according to Gordon Lightfoot
39. _____ firma
40. "Terrible" czar
41. Attached to the collar of a horse, pl.
43. Of a dark black
44. Foul smell
46. Typically passed down by word of mouth

47. Miscellaneous, abbr.
48. Used for spreading plaster or cement
50. Carl Zeiss' product
52. Your, to Shakespeare
53. Carpenter's groove
55. Do needlework
57. Measurement of acceleration
60. **"Frozen" song
64. Weeping queen of Greek mythology
65. *Grammy winner, rapper and actor, _____-T
67. D-Day beach
68. Cupid's projectile
69. Sticky stuff
70. 16 seed over 1 seed, e.g.
71. William McKinley High School _____ club
72. '90s rock band "4 _____ Blondes"
73. Little ones

DOWN

1. **All About That _____"
2. Dismounted or climbed down
3. "Animal House" party garb
4. It starred Erik Estrada
5. Sabbath loaf
6. Steeped beverages
7. Mischief-maker
8. Rid of impurities
9. Real estate _____
10. *_____ Levine of Grammy winning band, Maroon 5
11. C in NYC
12. "A likely story!"

15. It revolves around a star
20. Geologic period
22. Hi-_____
24. Trembling effect in music
25. **"Shake It Off" singer
26. A helicopter parent might do this
27. Muse of love poetry
29. Eurasian mountain range
31. Do like bees
32. Path of #15 down
33. First-year undergrad
34. *Iggy Azalea's hit
36. *Best Rock Song at '96 Grammy Awards, "You Oughta _____"
38. *Grammy in '75 for Best Original Score, "The Way We _____"
42. Is it really that common?
45. Made a new picture
49. French lake
51. Take the first steps
54. Condescend
56. "Diary of a _____ Kid"
57. *Pharrell Williams' album
58. "Watch out!" in golf
59. Double-reed instrument
60. *Grammy winning group, Kings of _____
61. Homework to a student
62. Clarified butter
63. Feed bag contents
64. Old horse
66. Dove's sound



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ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20
There is no harm in being ambitious, Aries. But a little humility to accompany that ambition can go a long way. Accept any recognition you earn in an appropriate manner.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Your desires make it seem like anything is within reach this week, Taurus. You may have to work a little harder to achieve your goals, but hard work is its own reward.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
Postpone chores that are not essential, Gemini. This way you can make the most of your upcoming free time with friends and family. You deserve a little break now and again.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, try to avoid stretching yourself too thin in the coming weeks. Your ambition and energy are at an all-time high, but if you do not slow down, you can easily get burnt out.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
It's impossible for people to try to contain all of your energy this week, Leo. Direct your energy in a positive way and use it to reach your goals.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
Express your feelings without any inhibition, Virgo. Others will appreciate your honesty, especially if you employ some tact when sharing your opinions.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, no matter how crazy your life is right now, you still manage to come out looking no worse for wear. You have a handy way of making lemonade out of sour lemons.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Your long-term career opportunities are looking good, Scorpio. If you do what makes you happy, you will always end up on top and financial rewards will follow.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, although you see lucrative career opportunities at every bend, you are not ready to make a big change. You will know when the moment has come to make a change.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Proceed gently if you want to make any real progress, Capricorn. You're feeling more optimistic, but you still need to exercise caution. Common sense can keep you grounded.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, friends may arrive at your home with plans for fun and adventure. Any kind of celebration or social situation is what you crave right now. Go ahead and enjoy yourself.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
Don't worry about a potential conflict, Pisces. In due time you will realize this was nothing to get worked up about.

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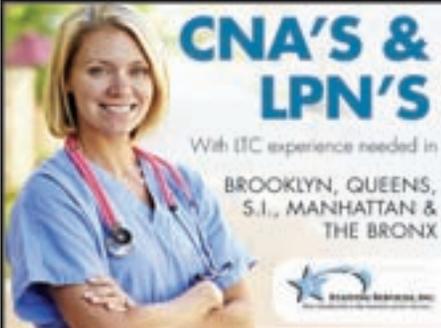
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