



Some of Monday's 20,000 marchers in Bridgetown, Barbados.

Photo by George Alleyne

## Barbados gov't may yield to marchers

By George Alleyne

The government of Barbados appears to be softening its stance and opening the door for early talks with unions and the private sector following a protest march by those groups demanding a tax reduction or repeal.

After a series of go-slows and sick-outs because the Prime Minister Freundel Stuart administration refused to agree to further

talks about their demands on changes to a jacked up import tax, the island's four most powerful trade unions teamed up with the private sector to bring out some 20,000 workers and bosses for a morning protest march Monday.

The main demand of marchers centered on the National Social Responsibility Levy that government on July 01 moved up from being a two percent tax to

a 10 percent charge on all imports.

Barbados imports more than 70 percent of its goods and inputs for services and in fear that this 400 percentage points increase in taxation on almost all items brought into the island would spike inflation and make the cost of living unbearable, the unions had a week and a half ago delivered to the prime minister a letter requesting

Continued on Page 6

# MORE CONVICTS ESCAPE

## Guyana struggles to secure prisoners after prison break

By Bert Wilkinson

Just when authorities thought that they were beginning to get the situation under some measure of control, the nation of Guyana woke up on Monday only to be told that a grand total of 13 more prisoners had escaped from the clutches of the state bringing the total of inmates on the lam to 17 for the month of July alone.

The latest jailbreak from the Lusignan Prison on the country's lower eastern coast, came less than three weeks after inmates at the main Georgetown Prisons rioted, burning down all but one building in the sprawling compound, shooting a warden to death and facilitating the escape of more than half a dozen of their number at the colonial era jail, built to house no more than 500, but housing nearly 1,100 at the time. Several other guards were also shot and nurse machete wounds.

Authorities quickly shuttled nearly 1,000 agitated inmates to the low security Lusignan Prison as a makeshift measure in the height of the fire and the confusion that followed the July, 9 breakout.

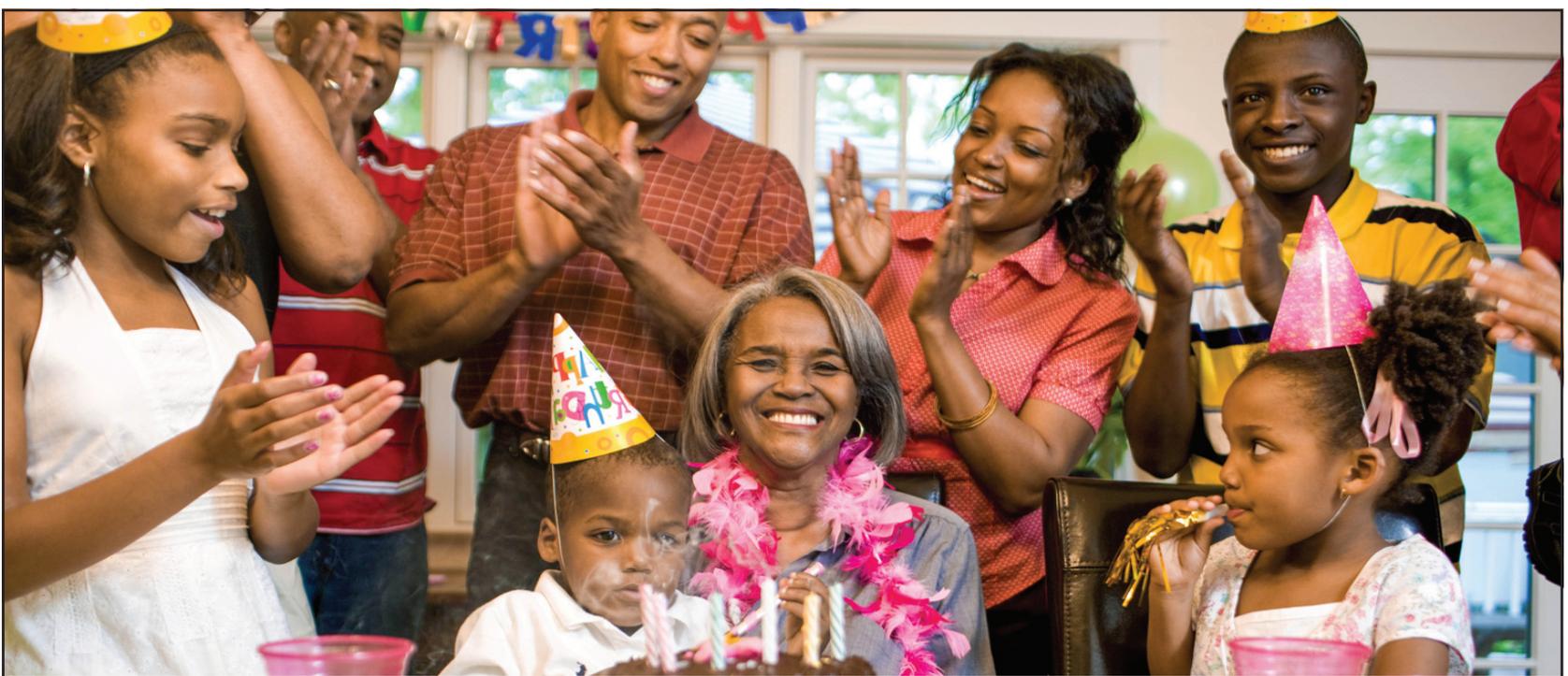
But neither the staff at Lusignan, about nine miles east of the city, nor its facilities were up to par to house about 1,000 unruly inmates in addition to a few hundred resident convicts with misdemeanor convictions and short periods remaining on their sentences.

And despite the best efforts of the works ministry to improve physical, sanitary and other conditions at Lusignan, the presence of heavily armed soldiers, police and prison officers, as well as CCTV cameras and floodlights, did little to prevent the escape of the 13 this week.

Security Minister Khemraj Ramjattan said that the escapees simply tunneled their way through a perimeter fence and quit the compound in a swampy area behind the coastal village during very heavy rain. Seven had been recaptured up to mid-week. Most were in jail for murder and armed robberies.

This week's frightening breakout and the negative attendant effects it has had on night-life came just about 17 months after prisoners had again rioted at the main city facility, setting fires to beds and cells protest-

Continued on Page 6



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Hand washing is a key step in preventing cholera and other diarrheal diseases after Hurricane Mathew in Haiti.

## Call for more support to combat cholera in Haiti

By Nelson A. King

Noting the challenges that continue to hamper sustained progress in combating cholera in Haiti, the United Nations has called for more international support to combat the disease in the French-speaking Caribbean country.

The United Nations General Assembly underscored the need to strengthen national health, sanitation and water systems in Haiti in promoting the well-being of the population, as well as contributing to the country's sustainable development efforts.

In a resolution adopted on Thursday, July 13, the General Assembly recognized the efforts made by the United Nations in alleviating the cholera epidemic in Haiti, in particular through the new UN approach to the disease and the decrease in the number of suspected cases as a result of intensified response efforts under the approach.

In addition, the UN said the Assembly underscored that maintaining the intensified cholera response and control remained "critical," inviting United Nations Member States, donors, financial institutions and the private sector to provide voluntary funding and support for the new UN approach.

The 193-member General Assembly also called for greater international and regional cooperation and technical assistance, including through bilateral, North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, the United Nations said.

Additionally, the Assembly welcomed the intention of the Secretary-General to invite UN Member States to voluntarily direct their share of the "unencumbered balance" and other income for the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti, known by its French acronym, MINUSTAH, to support the new approach.

# Eugene seeks support for mother of TPS beneficiary who committed suicide

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Council Member Dr. Mathieu Eugene says he is seeking support for the mother of a Haitian Temporary Protected Status (TPS) beneficiary who took his own life on June 11.

Eugene, who represents the 40th Council District in Brooklyn, said the unidentified mother, a disabled woman who is raising three children, "recently lost her son to suicide triggered in part by financial hardship that is expected to worsen with the end of TPS.

"Her son, who could not afford to attend his high school graduation and could not pay for TPS, pursued a number of employment opportunities to assist his family," said Eugene, the first Haitian to be elected to New York City Council. "In the end, however, the emotional toll of being a financial burden to his parents was too much for him to handle.

"Now, with her oldest daughter facing the same uncertain future as her son, the grieving mother is struggling to provide for her family in what has become an increasingly perilous living situation," added Eugene, whose district comprises a large concentration of Haitian immigrants."

Earlier this month, Eugene said the mother attended one of his TPS clinics in Brooklyn, "where she received assistance with her renewal of TPS, including a registration fee waiver due to the family's recent hardship."

In addition, Eugene said he contacted local medical professionals to provide the family with grief counseling, and is now working in setting up resources in the community to "help the mother and her family gain financial stability.

"Her ordeal has brought to light the stark reality that many families face given the uncertainty of TPS," he said. "A mother, who has worked hard to raise her family in the United States, must now deal with the horrific loss of her son.

"He was a source of strength in their lives – a brother and a son who had a promising future, and now he's gone, all because of financial distress," he said, calling on the community to "come together in support of the family, as they seek gestures of goodwill and compassion."

A number of immigration activists and lawyers, particularly those in Miami have said that the fight to extend TPS for 58,000 undocumented Haitians living in the United States is not over.



Council Member Dr. Mathieu Eugene represents a district with one of the largest Haitian populations in the city. Photo by Tequila Minsky

Dozens of Haitians last month poured into the Little Haiti Cultural Complex in Miami hoping to find answers to their fate from a panel of immigration lawyers, according to the Miami Herald.

The town hall-style discussion, one of several that will be offered in coming months, was organized by Fanm Ayisyen Nan Miyami/Haitian Women of Miami and other immigration rights group.

Many Haitians are increasingly fearful of possible deportation and what that could do to their families, especially after the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) advised Haitian TPS recipients to get their affairs in order, the Herald said.

After months of advocacy, letters and protests, US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary John Kelly announced in June that the immigration benefit, provided by the Obama administration to Haiti in the days after its devastating Jan. 12, 2010, earthquake, would be extended an additional six months.

Instead of expiring on July 22, TPS

for Haiti will now expire on Jan. 22 next year.

But Kelly warned that the extension should allow Haitian TPS recipients living in the US "time to attain travel documents and make other necessary arrangements for their ultimate departure from the United States, and should also provide the Haitian government with the time it needs to prepare for the future repatriation of all current TPS recipients."

However, he said that the US Congress could ultimately resolve the matter by changing the legislation.

Kelly had made a brief stop in Miami after a trip to Haiti in early June, where he spent more than an hour discussing TPS and other Trump administration concerns with new Haitian President Jovenel Moïse and senior officials with the government and the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), the Herald said.

It said the US Homeland Security Secretary urged Moïse to start thinking about how to bring Haiti's TPS recipients back to their homeland by issuing travel documents or identification.

## Antigua

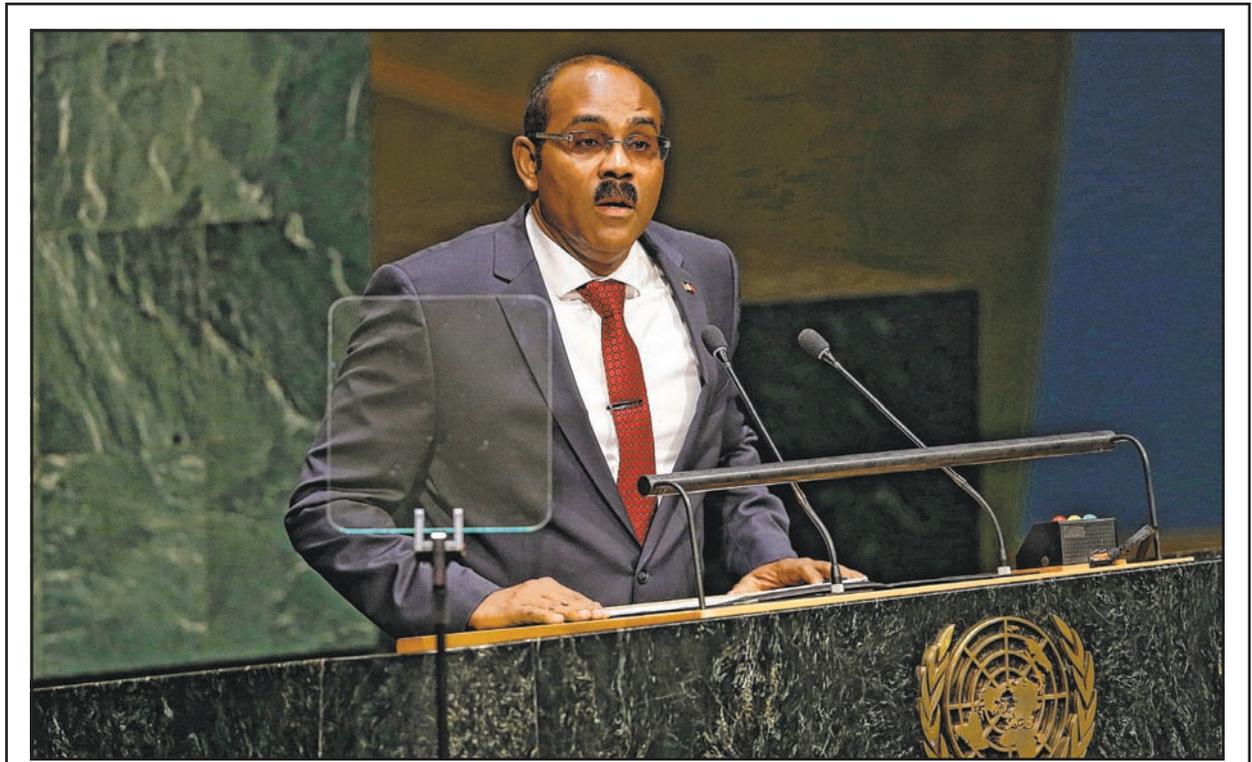
The Antigua and Barbuda government said it would release the names of persons issued diplomatic passports in recent years, regardless of whether or not their passports had since expired or revoked.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne said a new list of current holders on the list will be issued soon following a review by Cabinet of which individuals remain qualified for diplomatic passports under the new policy in this respect announced earlier this year.

This is in response to questionable names who have been issued diplomatic passports, and are reportedly wanted by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in connection with money laundering.



One name on the diplomatic list is said to be a Chinese-born United States citizen who was charged by United States Federal prosecutors last year with paying a \$500,000 bribe to buy diplomatic positions with the government of Antigua and Barbuda four years ago.



Prime Minister Gaston Alphonso Browne of Antigua and Barbuda addresses the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly at U.N. headquarters, Thursday, Sept. 25, 2014.

Associated Press / Jason DeCrow, File

## Bahamas

A former Bahamas minister has appeared in court charged with extortion and bribery.

Kendred Dorsett, minister of the environment under the former Perry Christie administration is charged with extorting \$120,000 from Johnathan Ash, who had a government contract at the New Providence Landfill. He is also charged with accepting bribes in the same amount.

Dorsett was charged with four counts of extortion, four counts of bribery and one count of misconduct in public office. It is alleged that the offences were committed between March 1 and May 9, 2017.



He pleaded not guilty to all charges and his case was adjourned to Aug. 31, 2017 by Magistrate Samuel McKinney. It is alleged that between March 1, 2017 and May 9, 2017, while acting as a public officer.

Dorsett, 46, served in the Christie cabinet from 2012 to 2017, is accused of willfully misconducting himself without reasonable excuse of justification.

## Barbados

The United States Embassy recently hosted a workshop on tourism security in Bridgetown, Barbados as part of ongoing efforts to promote citizen security and support of the country's economic requisite.

The workshop was organized by the embassy's Regional Security Office and Overseas Security Advisory Council, in

partnership with the Barbados Hotel and Tourism Association and the American Chamber of Commerce for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean.



The workshop focused on recognizing and preventing the most common types of crimes targeting the tourism industry, including credit card fraud, ATM skimming, document and travel fraud, human trafficking and counterfeit currency.

Among those who attended the workshop were tourism industry officials, who heard presentations from security experts with the Diplomatic Security Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Secret Service.

## Dominica

Dominica Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit is moving to sue a member of the Elections Commission for a statement he made that was said to be defamatory.

Attorneys represent Skerrit has written to Hilary Shillingford demanding a "prompt retraction and an apology in terms to be agreed by him and his attorneys."



The attorneys are also demanding payment of compensation and costs and if the radio station fails to meet those demands, a lawsuit will be filed.

Senior Counsel Anthony Astaphan, who is leading the team of attorneys said during a radio program Q95 on June 21, 2017 Shillingford made statements that implied the prime minister abused his office.

Skerrit, who is also finance minister claimed that Shillingford made allegations that he unlawfully in breach of his duties, diverted and used monies and in particular monies intended for use at the Princess Margaret Hospital, for the illegal and unlawful purpose of paying for the transportation of supporters in the Diaspora to travel to Dominica.

His attorneys are claiming that the allegations are false, dishonest and lies manufactured by Shillingford.

## Jamaica

Jamaica National Security Minister Robert Montague says intelligence is showing there is a reduction in guns and ammunition coming into the island.



He said this is due to the two ships and surveillance plane acquired by the government.

The minister said the government is equipping the security forces so criminal elements will have no cover from the law.

Earlier this year, the government acquired and deployed the two vessels and aircraft for protection of Jamaica's border from illicit activities.

Montague was at the time addressing a handing over ceremony of 30 vehicles for the Jamaica Constabulary Force recently.

He said the vehicles will increase mobility of the police who will be able to go into communities and provide security for citizens.

## St. Lucia

The opposition St. Lucia Labor Party (SLP) is arguing that an acting prime minister or Cabinet has no power or authority to accept the resignation of a minister and that the resignation of Senator Jimmy Henry that was accepted by acting prime minister Ezekiel Joseph, is null and void.



Senator Henry recently announced his immediate resignation from the Senate and as minister of the ministry of agriculture, fisheries, physical training, natural resources and co-operative which he handed to the acting prime minister while Prime Minister Allen Chastanet is currently out of the country.

He is due to return to office on July 31.

The SLP said in a statement that the people of St. Lucia require a full and unambiguous explanation on what transpired with the former minister, noting that there has been neither a

Continued on Page 16

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# Guyana prisoners on the run



Minister of National Security Khemraj Ramjattan casts his ballot during presidential and parliamentary elections in Georgetown, Guyana, Monday Nov. 28, 2011. Associated Press

Continued from Page 1

ing a series of ills including overcrowding, poor diets, long delays in trials and alleged ill treatment by some officers.

A total of 17 inmates were burned to death then in the worst round of rioting and fatalities in living memory at a Guyanese prison but still some of the main ills like overcrowding and long trial delays persisted into 2017 and have again triggered and riots and a breakout of dangerous men.

But even more vexatious to many of the inmates in 2016 was the fact that authorities had the audacity to raid their cells to confiscate contraband items including mobile phones that many inmates were contemptuously using to go live on Facebook and other social media sites.

Last year's jailbreak and the problems which have spilled over into a frustrating July 2017, have forced authorities to take a series of knee jerk measures including approaching parliament for about \$3M to build new facilities for long termers at the Mazaruni river town facility in western Guyana.

Additionally, about 100 have been

moved back to the lone brick building still standing in Georgetown, while dozens of others have been pushed off to Mazaruni.

Magistrates were also hurriedly sent to Lusignan to reduce bail levels to reduce the numbers while others with mere weeks and months to serve for misdemeanors were allowed to leave.

"I am very embarrassed as to what happened. Very embarrassed. It is terrible what transpired but we have to continue with this fight," said Security Minister Ramjattan, resisting calls from the opposition and critics for his resignation.

# Barbadians protest

Continued from Page 1

letter requesting urgent talks on the Levy's reduction or repeal.

Aug. 18 was a date set earlier this year for routine meetings of unions, the private sector and government in a tripartite arrangement known as the Social Partnership that discusses matters and polices of national interest, but labor representatives stated that the matter of the jacked up tax was too urgent to wait for talks mid next month.

A non-response from Stuart resulted in mild industrial action last week that was stepped up to Monday's mass protest.

On Tuesday government however showed its first sign of buckling under pressure of the numbers of those who marched representing a sixth of the island's total estimated workforce when Tourism Minister Richard Sealy said, "we will probably have to call those meetings before that [Aug. 18] and we can work our way through this difficult period to see that in the end Barbados and Barbadians ultimately benefit."

The tourism minister's statement was made in Parliament where the Opposition Barbados Labour Party had brought a motion asking that government resolves to meet the

unions and the private sector representatives to stave off a further worsening of the industrial climate.

That parliamentary motion was brought against a backdrop of union leaders telling the marching multitude that they will await government's reaction to the show of force before deciding on the next step in the push for workers' relief from the increased tax.

"We were talking to the prime minister from the 23rd of June, we wrote the prime minister on the 6th of July, we wrote again on the 11th of July and today we are still calling for meaningful dialogue," Barbados Workers Union General Secretary Toni Moore said after the march.

President of the National Union of Public Workers Akanni McDowall followed up by saying, "Government has to be willing to meet with the partners. The unions have a responsibility to make sure that we address the concerns of the workers of this country."

"If the workers of this country are uncomfortable, we have to make sure that we make them comfortable and we are willing to do whatever to make them comfortable."

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# Several kids participate in computer hack event

By Alexandra Simon

Learning one tech at a time. More than 36 students learned how to put their computer science skills to the test at a day-long Hack-a-Thon at Medgar Evers College on July 12. The youngins got to practice building, creating, and do the coding of their own websites, and by the end of the event some left with newfound knowledge and a web page, said one student.

"It was fun to learn some new stuff and then get the chance to make my own website," said Kaidyan Harris, a 14-year-old student, who designed his own site after basketball player Russell Westbrook.

The event brought together students between the ages of 11-18 from various schools for a chance to get to practice some web-building from the experts.

They were urged to draw inspiration from their personalities and hobbies, and most of the kids incorporating them into their sites, said teacher of the event.

"I encouraged the students to make their websites reflections of their unique selves and their interests," Carey Tan,



Software developers and computer engineers assisted the kids in program building. Medgar Evers College

executive director of CodeEd. "Many of them included fashion, music, basketball, video games, and anime."

Other teens already equipped with some understanding of computer programming were just pleased to participate in the event.

"I like to code because it makes me happy," said Amanuel Williams, 13-year-old student.

The Hack-a-Thon was organized by the college as part of



Medgar Evers College President Rudy Crew talks to students about the importance of technological skills. Medgar Evers College

their Pipeline Program, a comprehensive strategy promoting educational opportunities and important career-building skills. And the day was a chance to provide children in underserved communities with

access to it.

Tan adds that her organization holds these workshops to stimulate young interest in computer technology and allow them to use their imaginations.

"We go into schools and after-school programs to provide free and fun computer science experiences," said Carey Tan, the executive director of CodeEd. "It's a real exercise in creativity and self-expression."

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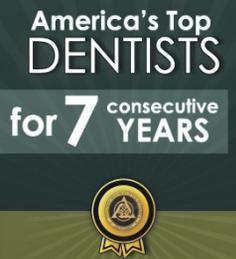
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# Mandela Day 2017 inspires volunteerism

By Vinette K. Pryce

"It is time for the next generations to continue our struggle against social injustice and for the rights of humanity. It is in your hands."

— Nelson Mandela

Anyone who made "someone else's day by simply saying 'thank you' on July 18 subscribed to a message Nelson Mandela amplified when he was voted the very, first Black president of South Africa.

The simple gesture of appreciation is among a long list of acts of kindness endorsed by the United Nations in 2009 to mark the July 18, 1918 birth date of the former freedom fighter who dedicate his life's work to changing the world for the better.

"It can be as easy as taking a security guard a cup of coffee or helping your kids draw a thank you card for their teacher

or librarian random acts of kindness never go unnoticed."

Other suggestions for honoring the hero included yielding to another car in traffic, offer a seat to someone when travelling on public transport, encouraging a colleague at work, helping the homeless, volunteering at a pet shelter, and above all participants were advised to "be kind in any way you can."

Heeded by millions of millennials, Generation Xers, Baby-boomers and witnesses to apartheid they executed the message by uniting to volunteer and perform gestures which may seem small but hopefully had rippling effects.

From Cape Town, Johannesburg, Pretoria, Soweto and Durban in South Africa to Mumbai, India, London, England, Ireland, Pakistan, Scotland, Switzerland, Dubai and here in New York City, the theme resonated to "Take



The late South African President Nelson Mandela.

Associated Press / Pool-Theana Calitz-Bilt, Pool

Action; Inspire Change; Make Every Day a Mandela Day."

Individuals and groups participated in animal rescue, donated clothing and goods to goodwill organizations, acknowledged the service of military personnel, firefighters and police, donated books to libraries, volunteered service to the aged and even acknowledged the historic date during concerts etc.

Stephen "Cat" Coore, lead singer of reggae, super-group Third World gave a 'shout-out' during his concert.

Mandela Day is more than a celebration of "Mandela's life and legacy, it is a global movement to take his life's work into a new era and change our world for the better. The overarching objective of Mandela Day is to inspire individuals to take action to help change the world for the better, and in doing so build a global movement for good. Ultimately it seeks to empower communities everywhere."

The international day of philanthropy was inspired by Mandela's speech on June 27, 2008 -- (during his 90th birthday celebration) in Hyde Park, London.

In his address, he called on the leaders of all nations to help change the world for the better.

"It's in your hands now," he

urged.

It is a day to honor the legacy of Mandela and his values, through volunteering and community service. The day is a global call to action that celebrates the idea that each individual has the power to transform the world, the ability to make an impact.

He was an anti-apartheid revolutionary, politician and philanthropist who was imprisoned for 27 years and was able to win the approval of a majority of his people during a democratic election process where he was declared the president.

He served from 1994 to 1999.

During his administration, his government focused on dismantling the legacy of apartheid through tackling institutionalized racism, poverty and inequality and fostering racial reconciliation.

Mandela died in 2013.

## OP-EDS

# Oppose the anti-immigrant legislation and rhetoric

By Albert Baldeo

"The greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated." Mahatma Gandhi

"Everywhere immigrants have enriched and strengthened the fabric of American life." John F. Kennedy

Proposed legislation, like the No Sanctuary for Criminals Act and Kate's Law, will force sanctuary cities like New York City to forego sanctuary jurisdiction protections and further criminalize repeated denials of entry into the U.S., making it harder for people coming here

on employment visas, for family and medical needs, or seeking asylum to be treated fairly. These laws will not make us safer, improve our broken immigration system, or improve relationships between immigrant communities and law enforcement officials. In fact, they are most un-American.

Consequently, these bills must not be allowed to pass, and we must stand against policies that unfairly demonize our immigrant communities and instead focus on continuing the American tradition of family unification, welcoming those

who come to our country to improve their lives and contribute to our communities.

The No Sanctuary law, if passed, will ultimately force sanctuary jurisdictions to abide by immigration policies of the federal government in withholding federal funding and enforcing other restrictions, and was passed by the House recently. It awaits Senate approval. We must not allow this bill to pass, as it poses a threat to the whole of New York City and scares immigrant communities and prevents them from helping law enforcement do its job. Our local law enforcement must not be turned into a deportation force, for it will usher in a dangerous "police state."

It will also create a counterproductive environment fueled by hate. People would not be sure if police officers are acting on behalf of city law enforcement or Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and incidents have occurred where

ICE has gone after known criminals, sweeping up law abiding residents as well, wrongly putting them in deportation proceedings.

These bills devastate the necessary trust we have developed between law enforcement and the communities they serve and derive information from in order to keep the nation safe. Fighting crime consists of information gathering and we need people working in cooperation with our police department in vital partnership. If residents feel that if they cooperate and bring evidence to police, that they can be subject to deportation, then they are not going to cooperate or assist public safety.

The No Sanctuary for Criminals Act would also require compliance with all forms of immigration enforcement, restrict funding in sanctuary jurisdictions, expand ICE detainer authority, expand mandatory detention, and overrule a Ninth

Circuit holding by authorizing indefinite detention of such persons while they are in removal proceedings.

The effect of these laws will be devastating and unjust. Recently, Queens's resident Carlos Humberto Cardona faced deportation after living in the United States for approximately three decades. He was a cleanup worker at the World Trade Center following the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. Such inhumane treatment turns immigration policy on its head, and results in the disgraceful reality that patriotism and sacrifices will not matter anymore.

Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand must take the lead on this issue, and against similar proliferating bills, which will only further codify the dangerous and hateful rhetoric we've seen being advanced lately in our land of the free and the home of the brave. Democracy is not a spectator sport!

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# Crown Heights: A hot topic

Crown Heights seems to be the latest catch-phrase for attention.

On Aug. 25, a movie of that name will open and is bound to attract interest from patrons curious about the title.

Spoiler alert, the film has absolutely nothing to do with Crown Heights.

As a matter of fact, this Insider already saw the film and Crown Heights, the movie is based on a case which took place in Flatbush.

An aside though is the selected memories and topics Americans tend to focus.

It is almost inconceivable to comprehend why Americans were recently riveted to television to see whether or not O.J. Simpson would be paroled after serving nine years for a crime he was convicted to remain imprisoned for 33 years.

That the entire nation is/was as curious to witness the outcome prompted commercial television networks to pre-empt comments from the president of the United States in order to appease viewers by broadcasting a live proceeding seems a national obsession that may



## Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

haunt the former football player and actor who emerged a celebrity spokesperson for a car rental outlet and for decades held Hollywood swagger.

The fact that Simpson's fall from grace occurred in the last century makes this on-going obsession a speculative query that eluded Rodney King when Simi Valley's California police force beat him to plead "Can we just get along?"

LAPD officers went Scott-free for ruthlessly assaulting King who neither resisted nor armed himself with a weapon.

All but forgotten, King's nationally exposed case does not seem as infectious.

Neither are the countless cases reportedly committed by police officers who shoot at will and are frequently acquitted of criminal offenses.

At a recent forum billed "the New Crown Height? A neighborhood and Its Future" the

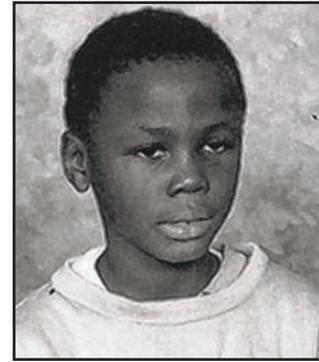
overriding consensus was that 'new' residents to the Brooklyn neighborhood are clueless about the tumult which occurred in 1991.

Although, like the Simpson case the explosive community revolt made national news and scarred a Brooklyn neighborhood, an explanation was that millennials were not yet born when the unrest became a signature item the summer of 1991.

Ironically, pollsters recently claimed that millennials were as much rigidly focused on the Simpson case as every other demographic.

During the platform at the Brooklyn Historical Society where Voices of Crown Heights continued their oral history series, the prevailing reason for ignorance remained with age.

Crown Heights resident Joy Ann Reid of MSNBC-TV moderated a discussion with Lisa



Gavin Cato and his sister Angela Cato.

Mathis, Brooklyn-born, 40-plus years resident of Crown Heights, Sharon Wedderburn, chairman, community board eight, Mordecai Lighthouse, Chabad.org, Michael de Zayas, businessman and co-founder of Crown Heights 2020, Amy Ellenboga, SOS\_Brooklyn.

A six-part talk-fest began after the weekend, anchor gave an overview of the tragic events that followed after Lubavitcher Josef Lifsch ran a red light to follow a car carrying Rabbi Menachim Schneerson who was returning from a cemetery visit to his wife's grave.

Lifsch's car struck and killed seven-year-old Gavin Cato and seriously injured his seven-year-old cousin Angela Cato.

Witnesses to the incident helped the Guyanese natives to dislodge their children pinned under the wheels of the station-wagon Lifsch drove. And while the heat of the August 1991 summer precipitated, Caribbean nationals and Black Americans became further outraged when an ambulance arrived on the scene to secure Lifsch's health but completely ignored the Catos and their suffering offspring.

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# Jamaica's Diaspora confer in Kingston

By Dawn Plummer

Jamaica is on the verge of celebrating its 55th year of political independence, and to help culminate this milestone for the nation the Jamaica Diaspora are holding its Biennial Conference in Jamaica. The Diaspora group merged at this time also to use the opportunity to show and provide continued collaboration to Jamaica for its growth and development.

The five-day Diaspora conference activities are taking place at the Jamaica Conference Center, in Downtown Kingston, with scores of Jamaicans locally as well as Diaspora members participating. Under the theme "Partnering for Growth" the organizers have embarked on discussing serious matters relating to crime, education and health that are affecting the development of the country.

At the opening session on Sunday, July 23, Prime Minister Andrew Holness called on the Jamaican Diaspora to continue their support to the government's growth trust. "We

need the participation of our citizens whether at home or abroad. It is therefore imperative that we build strong symbolic relations among all Jamaicans across the globe," Holness said to the group.

The prime minister stated that the continued participation is the process of economic and social development. "This is vital as the government seeks to chart and sustain the path of growth in Jamaica," Holness added. He applauded the members of the Diaspora for their work and support given to the government of Jamaica.

Diaspora members are hoping that the conference will highlight the work that has been done by its members, and in addition to that, what areas the Diaspora can also continue to participate in. Advisory Board Member for the Diaspora, for the Mid Western and Western States in the United States, Dr. Rupert Francis, earmarked the 7th Biennial Conference as a meaningful way to help partner with Jamaica for growth. Dr. Francis, a participant at the event explained that all plans



Prime Minister of Jamaica Andrew Holness.

Associated Press / Collin Reid

from the Diaspora's conference agenda were linked to several development plans from the government sectors.

Jamaica's Governor General, Sir Patrick Allen who attended

the conference recognized and awarded some Diaspora members living in Canada, Britain and New York City who have gone the extra journey with their time and commitment to

help Jamaica. The six awards were handed out to these Jamaicans who have made contributions in education, business, community affairs and culture.

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# Farming beyond drought



Caribbean farmers have been battling extreme droughts in recent years. A FAO official says drought ranks as the single most common cause of severe food shortages in developing countries, making it a key issue for Caribbean food security. *Inter Press Service / Desmond Brown*

**By Desmond Brown**

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, July 20, 2017 (IPS) - The Caribbean accounts for seven of the world's top 36 water-stressed countries and Barbados is in the top 10. The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) defines countries like Barbados, Antigua and Barbuda, and St. Kitts and Nevis as water-scarce with less than 1000 m3 fresh-water resources per capita.

With droughts becoming more seasonal in nature in the Caribbean, experts say agriculture is the most likely sector to be impacted, with serious economic and social consequences.

Expensive, desalinated water resources are also becoming more important in the Caribbean, accounting for as much as 70 percent in Antigua and Barbuda.

This is particularly important since the majority of Caribbean agriculture is rain fed. With irrigation use becoming more widespread in the Caribbean, countries' fresh-water supply will become increasingly important.

In light of the dilemma faced

by the region, the Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC) is spearheading a climate smart agriculture project in which 90 farmers from three Caribbean countries, including Barbados, will participate over the next 18 months.

Executive director of the CPDC Gordon Bispham said the aim of the project, in which farmers from Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines are also involved, is to support sustainable livelihoods and reinforce that farming is serious business.

"Farming is not a hobby. It is a business where we can apply specific technology and methodologies, not only to be sustainable, but to be profitable. That is going to be very central to our programme," Bispham said at the project's launch last week.

"If we are going to be successful, it means that we are going to have to build partnerships and networks so that we can share the information that we learn from the project. We must not only upscale agriculture in the three countries identified, but bring more

countries of the region into the fold," he said.

According to the FAO, drought can affect the agriculture sector in several ways, by reducing crop yields and productivity, and causing premature death of livestock and poultry. Even a dry spell of 7-10 days can result in a reduction of yields, influencing the livelihoods of farmers.

Farmers, particularly small farmers, are vulnerable to drought as their livelihoods are threatened by low rainfall where crops are rain fed and by low water levels and increased production costs due to increased irrigation, the FAO said.

It notes that livestock grazing areas change in nutritional value, as more low quality, drought tolerant species dominate during extensive droughts, causing the vulnerability of livestock to increase. The potential for livestock diseases also increases.

"Drought ranks as the single most common cause of severe food shortages in developing countries, so this is a key issue for Caribbean food security,"

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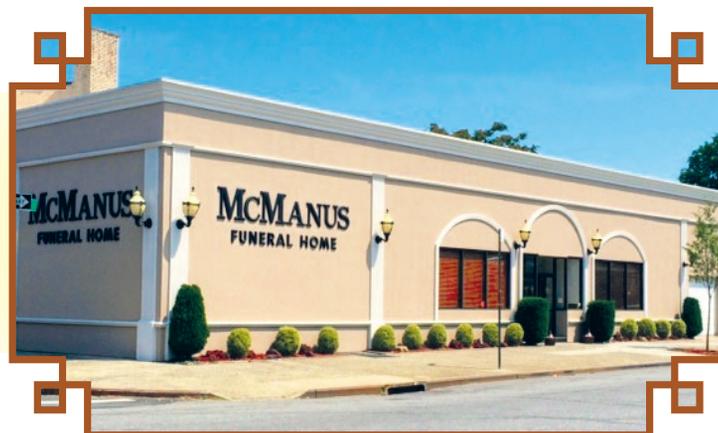
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## CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from Page 4

proper response to or denial that Henry was briefly detained and questioned at the George F. L. Charles Airport while en route to a neighboring Caribbean island.

The SLP said it is highly and unprecedented that the prime minister, already armed with the requisite information, chose not to address the nation on this serious matter before he proceeded on vacation leave.

### Trinidad

Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley and Opposition Leader Kamla Persad-Bissessar met last week for a closed-door three-hour meeting to discuss the crisis in the judiciary and other issues plaguing the government.

One of the major points was how to rectify the imbroglio following the appointment of former Chief Magistrate

Marcia Ayers-Caesar to the High Court, which left some 53 cases in limbo.

Dr. Rowley had proposed a legislative solution following consultations between the attorney general and “elements in the judiciary, namely the DPP and the chief justice,” involving amendments to the Summary Courts Act and the Preliminary Enquiries Act, which did not find favor with the opposition leader.

However, Kamla Persad-Bissessar said the discussions were “fruitful” but there was no agreement on the pressing issues facing the judiciary.

“It is very clear from our discussions that the government is in need of advice and help in many areas put forward by the prime minister,” she told reporters after the meeting.

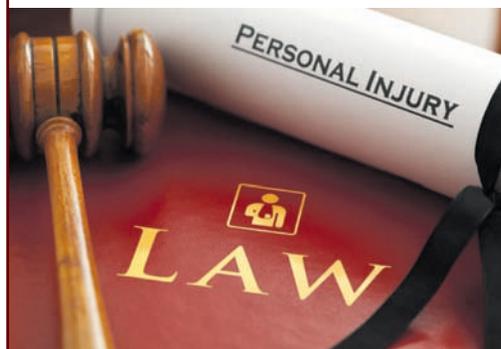
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*"Jesus is the light of the world. Those that follow him will not walk in darkness" John 8:12*

### Authority of Powers in the Universe Organizational Chart

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↓  
Believer (Powers and Protection given by Jesus to use his name and do exploits)  
↓  
Satan (Has powers of the Kingdoms of the earth and of the air subject to God)

Satan's Demons, Principalities and Powers, etc.  
↓  
(Has delegated powers from Satan)  
↓  
Non Believers (Carnal Minded + Not subject to the law of God)  
↓  
Animals, Fish, Birds of the air, Insects, etc.

BUSINESS, BROOKLYN STYLE - ADVERTISEMENT

# Medicaid planning with the help of a trust: Advice for planning ahead for Medicaid approval

BY ISAAC YEDID, ESQ. AND  
RAYMOND ZEITOUNE, ESQ.

With careful Medicaid planning, you may be able to preserve some or all of your estate assets for your children or other heirs while meeting the Medicaid asset limit.

The problem with directly transferring assets to another person's name is that you immediately give away these assets "today" as opposed to when you die. A safer approach is to put them in an irrevocable trust. A trust is a legal entity under which one person — the trustee — holds legal title to property for the benefit of others — the beneficiaries. The actual assets are usually not transferred to the name of the beneficiaries until after your death. The trustee must follow the rules provided in the trust instrument.

Whether trust assets are counted against Medicaid's resource limits depends on the terms of the trust and who created it.

A revocable trust is one that may be changed or rescinded by the person who created it. Medicaid considers the principal of such trusts (that is, the funds that make up the trust) to be assets that are countable in determining Medicaid eligibility. Thus, revocable trusts are of no use in Medicaid planning.

An "irrevocable" trust is one that cannot be changed after it has been created. In most cases, this type of trust is drafted so that the income is payable to you (the



person establishing the trust, called the "grantor" for life, and the principal cannot be applied to benefit you or your spouse. At your death, the principal is paid to your heirs. This way, the funds in the trust are protected and you can use the income for your living expenses. For Medicaid purposes, the principal in such trusts is not counted as a resource, provided the trustee cannot pay it to you or your spouse for either of your benefits. However, if you do move to a nursing home, the trust income will have to go to the nursing home.

You may also choose to place property in a trust from which even payments of income to you or your spouse cannot be

made. Instead, the trust may be set up for the benefit of your children, or others. These beneficiaries may, at their discretion, return the favor by using the property for your benefit if necessary. However, there is no legal requirement that they do so.

One advantage of these trusts is that if they contain property that has increased in value, such as real estate or stock, you (the grantor) can retain a "special testamentary power of appointment" so that the beneficiaries receive the property with a step-up in basis at your death.

This will also prevent the need to file a gift tax return upon the funding of the trust, as well as hopefully help your beneficiaries from the need to pay a capital gains tax if the property is sold right after your death.

Remember, funding an irrevocable trust can cause you to be ineligible for Medicaid for the following five years (also known as "the five-year look back rule").

Avoiding the five-year look back rule is possible. You can have a Medicaid trust without the imposition of a penalty period if the transfer is made to: (i) a qualifying relative; (ii) your child who is either under 21 years of age, blind or permanently disabled; (iii) your sibling, if he or she has an equity interest in the house and was living there for at least one year before you went into a nursing home; or (iv) your

adult child, if that child has lived in the home at least two years before you went into a nursing home and that child was taking care of you.

Speaking with an experienced trusts and estates/elder attorney will be useful to you because the attorney will advise you on the options available to you which will allow you to use Medicaid to cover the cost of medical care without depleting your assets. In addition, planning in advance is a good option because the penalty period will likely expire before you may need to be admitted to a nursing home.

Forming a Medicaid trust allows you to protect your family's assets from being used to pay for your medical and nursing home care by justifying the need to receive Medicaid in the future to cover those expenses.

May we all merit living long, healthy and happy lives — amen.

The attorneys in the Trusts & Estates Practice Group at Yedid & Zeitoune, PLLC have a combined 20 years of legal experience and are ready to assist you with all your Medicaid & Estate Planning needs.

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# New exhibition recognizes Caribbean queer community

By Alexandra Simon

The Queens Museum is honoring the history of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community in the borough at a new exhibit this month. “The Lavender Line: Coming Out in Queens” is a multi-media display chronicling the history of the queer community from the 90s to present day. One of those images in the exhibit is of members of the Caribbean Equality Project (CEP), a Queens-based queer advocacy organization that will be celebrating their inclusion in the presentation with a tour of the display as part of their monthly meet-ups, said the founder and organizer of the group.

“Queer talk is our way of providing a guided tour and during this event we are going to discuss four features in the museum,” said Mohamed Amin. “‘The Lavender Line’ documents the history of activism and movement of organizations in Queens with audio, video, and photographs.”

He said that the group is especially proud of their placement in the project, especially as the sole queer Caribbean organization, highlighting not

only him, but the team that helped get him to that position. And it was only right to celebrate them too, he added.

“The Caribbean Equality Project is the only Caribbean-focused agency featured in this exhibition and when I was selected to be part as an activist — I wanted to also share members of my team,” he said. “Throughout the exhibit there are sections that have individual activists or elected officials, but once you get to us, it’s a group photo.”

This fact is one of pride for the CEP, he added.

“We are incredibly proud but also humbled — this hasn’t been a very easy movement and it has been very struggling to some degree, but our monthly support group is the first of its kind directly targeted to support the Caribbean LGBT community,” said Amin.

He noted that the growth of the group and the space they provide for the borough’s LGBT community has come a long way, and is continuing to expand.

“When we started a year ago we only had five members who came regularly, but now



Members of the Caribbean Equality Project (from left): Mohamed Q. Amin, Sundari — The Indian Goddess, Andy K. Bishun, Krishna Ramsarran, Theo Brown, and Steven Rose.

Ryan Tiscareno

we have 20-23 active members who come every month, and the program itself is growing,” said Amin.

At this event, members of the queer community along and the public will tour the exhibit with CEP, to be followed by a discussion. The change of envi-

ronment for the meet-up was a great opportunity to try that, and give people a chance to learn a few things about how far the movement for gay rights have come, and what how the queer Caribbean community operates their cultural and sexual identities, said Amin.

“We also wanted to take our members out of the normal setting and we wanted our July session of ‘Unchained’ to go outdoors, and have a conversation with members on what it means to be LGBT and Caribbean, and what it means to our struggles,” he said.

## BUSINESS, BROOKLYN STYLE - ADVERTISEMENT

# Erectile Dysfunction — more than a quality of life problem!

BY JACK RYAN

The benefits of seeking professional treatment for erectile dysfunction may seem obvious to both the patient and his partner. But what many men don’t realize is that a thorough evaluation of this condition can uncover serious threats to their health.

Dr. Vitaly Raykhman, Director of the Accord Physicians Prostate Center in Sheepshead Bay along with Dr. Llewellyn Hyacinthe and Dr. Yuly Chalik, says that millions of men in the United States suffer from erectile dysfunction. Typically, he said, the man can’t perform at all or is not satisfied with his sexual performance. The dysfunction can surface at any age, but it is more common in men 50 years old or older.

The problem can be psychological or the impotence may be caused by physiological abnormalities. In such cases, he said, the dys-

function may be related to diabetes or an indication of even more serious conditions. A series of clinical tests done at the Urologic Institute can help doctors determine the reason of impotence.

“It is important that men who are experiencing this problem be promptly and properly evaluated by a urologist.”

Erectile dysfunction, he stressed, can be an early indicator of “metabolic syndrome,” a name given to a group of factors that raise the risk for heart disease and other health threats, including heart attack and stroke.

“The fact that they are bringing this problem into their consciousness can give a physician several years of lead time in heading off these far more serious medical problems,” said Dr. Raykhman. “Could a visit to a urologist indirectly save a patient’s life?

Absolutely.”

A skilled urologist can slow the progress of the dysfunction and with the proper treatment most patients can regain a more satisfying sexual experience.

Although surgery is sometimes necessary, “it’s the last resort.” Changes in lifestyle can often reverse the effects of erectile dysfunction. These include exercise, improvements in diet, and a reduction in smoking and alcohol intake. Erectile dysfunction can often be treated with medications such as Cialis, Viagra, Levitra or hormone therapy.

Dr. Raykhman stressed that because an erection is a vascular event, erectile dysfunction needs to be taken seriously.

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# D'Midas readies with 'Glitz & Glamour'

By Nelson A. King

In its annual quest, D'Midas International New York mas band hopes to place in the top three for medium-sized bands in the West Indian American Day Carnival Parade.

Band members say this year will be no exception, as the band hits Brooklyn's Eastern Parkway with "Glitz and Glamour."

"We hope to perform the best of our ability," said Cheryl Johnson, the band's Trinidadian-born treasurer in a Caribbean Life interview. "Over the years, we've performed successfully and continue to do so."

"Masquerades can expect a good time and let the stress off their shoulders," she added. "Preparations are going well, and we've added a youth team to our group and we're hoping it makes a big impact this year."

Johnson said "Glitz and Glamour" comprises 13 sections, with at least 175 masqueraders.

The band's leader, president and co-founder, Glenn A. Fahie Turnbull, said D'Midas International New York "always put our best foot forward, so we always have high expectations and hope to place in the top three in our category."

Turnbull, who has been participating in carnival in the Big Apple for over 25 years and who is also vice president of the New York Band Leaders Association, said D'Midas International New York, over the years, has placed consistently in the top categories in the carnival, including the top position of King and Queen of the Bands.

Johnson said the band was formed over 30 years ago in Trinidad and Tobago by "the late Stephen Derek and company."

She said masqueraders will sway to the beats of DJ Young Sound, Kamazee and Dj Xlence.

Besides Turnbull and Johnson, the band comprises Horace Johnson (vice president) and Charolette Phillips (secretary). Aaniya Johnson, Cheryl Johnson's daughter, serves as president of the youth group, with Tzhasia Johnson as vice president and Alion Parris as secretary.

The mas camp is located at 1619 Nstrand Ave., between Tilden Avenue and Beverly Road, in Brooklyn.

Turnbull can be reached at (718)-809-1017 or (718) 462-6137; and Cheryl Johnson at (718) 462-6137, or on Instagram at dmidasintl\_ny.



Trinidadian Trevor Brown portrays "Aquatic." Photo by Nelson A. King



Vincentian Zachery Lincoln portrays "Pearls." Photo by Nelson A. King



Guyanese Tzhasia Johnson, portrays "Aura, Goddess of the Dawn." Photo by Nelson A. King



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MKT 17146

# Bajan distress at investment citizenship

By George Alleyne

The recent arrival in Barbados of two persons who exercised their CARICOM rights to a prolonged stay on the island, obtained through a member state's Citizenship by Investment programme has Prime Minister Freundel Stuart uneasy.

The Barbadian leader has reported that the persons, who are nationals of non-Caribbean countries took advantage of a Citizenship by Investment programme offered in a CARICOM member country to obtain passports of that territory and exercised their right to remain in Barbados for least six months without question as guaranteed under the CARICOM Freedom of Movement convention.

Stuart over the last weekend spoke of the powerless position that local immigration authority found itself in when the two opted to remain on the island after the United States Embassy in Barbados, that covers the entire Eastern Caribbean, refused their applications for visas to travel to the United States.

"The American Embassy turned down the applications for the visas, but the persons involved said 'we are not going back to where we came from, we have a right to six months stay in Barbados and we want to stay here under our six months stay under the Freedom of Movement regime,'" Stuart said.

Stuart said that the distress brought upon Barbados because of the uncertainty of motive these two CARICOM 'nationals' who are not welcomed in the United States is precisely what he has been fighting against when in the past he objected to the citizenship based on investment programmes offered by sister territories.

"I have fought them [heads of governments] at CARICOM over those programmes ... because I say to them, when you grant these people citizenship of your country and Barbados is not a part of the transaction, those people become CARICOM citizens and have, based on our Freedom of Movement arrangements, the right to come into Barbados when



Barbados Prime Minister Freundel Stuart.

Photo by George Alleyne

they like and how they like although we don't know them," he said.

"In some cases the persons who are granted citizenship do not have to even come to the country in order to get citizenship or to be able to get a passport," Stuart noted.

The Barbados prime minister's outcry Sunday was purely on security grounds because he said he was not unsympathetic to the economic needs of CARICOM nations.

"That is what is going on in the Caribbean because all the countries of the Caribbean are under pressure," he said, adding, "those programmes keep them [the CARICOM territories] going and allow them to pay their bills from day to day."

"I have sat as head of government of Barbados at many regional CARICOM meetings and heard their leaders say that if they were not selling their citizenship, if they were not selling passports their countries would be basket cases."

Stuart refrained from naming the original country of those two persons who received citizenship within CARICOM for money but hinted that, "you have to catch about six or seven different airplanes to get to where they came from."

Stuart's revelation of his country's unease with the legal presence of two suspect persons comes against the backdrop of reports out of Antigua

of a now deceased 25-year-old man who obtained Antiguan and Barbudan citizenship in February 2017 being alleged to have masterminded the largest criminal marketplace on the Internet, AlphaBay.

The Antigua Observed newspaper a week ago reported that, "Alexandre Cazes, who with his wife obtained citizenship through the Citizenship by Investment Programme (CIP), allegedly ran the dark website which the US Department of Justice (DOJ) said was used to sell deadly illegal drugs, stolen and fraudulent identification documents and access devices, counterfeit goods, malware and other computer hacking tools, firearms, and toxic chemicals throughout the world."

"US Attorney General Jeff Sessions hailed the move to shut AlphaBay as the largest darknet shut down in history, and the DOJ is now turning part of its attention to seizing Cazes' property, including Villa 302 at Nonsuch Bay Condominiums in St. Phillip's South, Antigua which he purchased under the CIP," the Observer also stated



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# Jamaica PM to be guest of honor at independence gala



Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, right, with Afghan students who won a medal at the international robotics competition. Office of Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke

By Nelson A. King

Jamaica's Ministry of Tourism says Prime Minister Andrew Holness will be the guest of honor at "a prestigious Grand Independence Gala" next month in New York, marking the country's 55th independence anniversary.

The Ministry of Tourism said on Monday, July 24 that the event takes place on Aug. 26 at the Hilton Hotel's Grand Ball Room in midtown Manhattan.

"As celebrations throughout the Jamaican Diaspora begin ramping up in observance of Jamaica's 55th year of independence, the grand finale is set to take place in New York City," said the ministry in a statement, stating that Grammy Award Winner, Estelle, and actor and singer, Leon, will join the Jamaica Independence Foundation and the Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB) under the distinguished patronage

of Jamaica's Consul General to New York Trudy Deans in hosting the event.

"This year's celebration is historic, as it is the first time two prime ministers will be attending the New York gala," the statement added. "Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, ON, MP, will be this year's guest of honor, while former Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Edward Phillip George Seaga, ON, PC, will be recognized for his contribution to Jamaica."

The Jamaica Ministry of Tourism said Jamaican-American retired Hall of Fame basketball player and current head coach of the Georgetown Hoyas, Patrick Ewing, will also be among this year's honorees and will be presented with the Son of the Soil Award.

"With the presence of two prime ministers, celebrities and distinguished guests in attendance, this New York

gala represents the culmination of our celebration in the Diaspora commemorating Jamaica's 55th year of independence," Deans said. "Jamaicans are a proud people, and this event will represent our collective euphoria surrounding this momentous occasion."

The Ministry of Tourism said patrons at the Grand Independence Gala will have an opportunity to participate in a silent auction and bid on a myriad of products, including jewelry, fashion, art and vacations.

Proceeds from the auction will benefit the Jamaica 55 Legacy Project's Woman, Inc. National Shelter Strategy, for persons impacted by domestic violence, which falls under the purview of the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport in addition to a local charity, the Garvey Elementary Basic School in the Bronx.

## Congratulations

By Nelson A. King

United States congressional representatives Grace Meng (D-Queens), Nydia Velázquez (D-Brooklyn / Manhattan / Queens) and Yvette Clarke (D-Brooklyn) on Thursday, July 20 met with and congratulated female students from Afghanistan who overcame overwhelming obstacles to win a silver medal at Tuesday's international robotics competition in Washington, D.C.

The six students, who were initially denied visas to enter the United States, are between the

ages of 14 to 16, said Clarke, the daughter of Jamaican immigrants, who represents the 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn.

They won the medal for "courageous achievement" at the FIRST Global Challenge, a competition that consists of teams of teenagers who represent more than 150 nations, Clarke said.

She said the contest, in which students showcase robots they built, also seeks to ignite a passion among youth for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).



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# TOP DRIVER DISTRACTIONS

## Using mobile phones

Leading the list of the top distractions behind the wheel are mobile phones. Phones now do more than just place calls, and drivers often cannot pull away from their phones, even when driving. According to the California Department of Motor Vehicles, studies have shown that driving performance is lowered and the level of distraction is higher for drivers who are heavily engaged in cell

phone conversations. The use of a hands-free device does not lower distraction levels. The percentage of vehicle crashes and near-crashes attributed to dialing is nearly identical to the number associated with talking or listening.

## Daydreaming

Many people will admit to daydreaming behind the wheel or looking at a person or object outside of the car for too long. Per-

haps they're checking out a house in a new neighborhood or thought they saw someone they knew on the street corner. It can be easy to veer into the direction your eyes are focused, causing an accident. In addition to trying to stay focused on the road, some drivers prefer the help of lane departure warning systems.

## Eating

Those who haven't quite mastered walking and

chewing gum at the same time may want to avoid eating while driving. The majority of foods require a person's hands to be taken off of the wheel and their eyes to be diverted from the road. Reaching in the back seat to share some French fries with the kids is also distracting.

Try to eat meals before getting in the car. For those who must snack while en route, take a moment to pull over at

a rest area and spend 10 minutes snacking there before resuming the trip.

## Reading

Glancing at an advertisement, updating a Facebook status or reading a book are all activities that should be avoided when driving. Even pouring over a traffic map or consulting the digital display of a GPS system can be distracting.

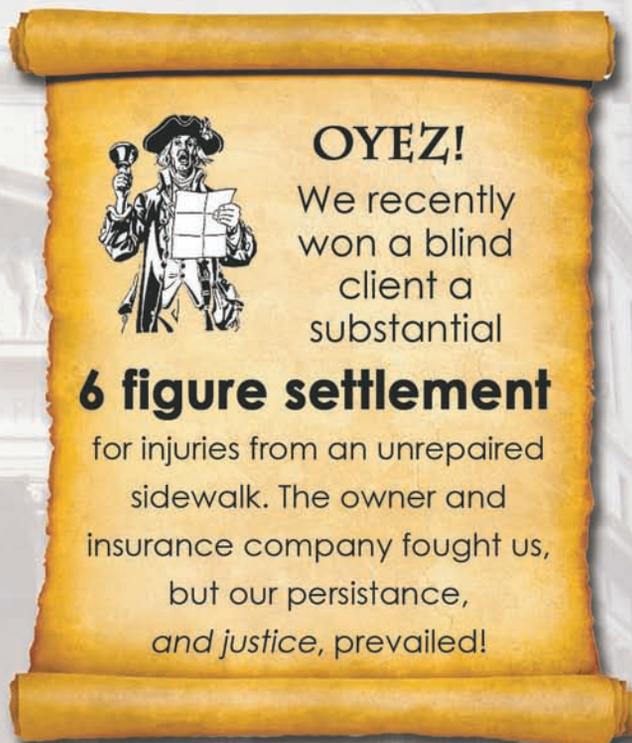
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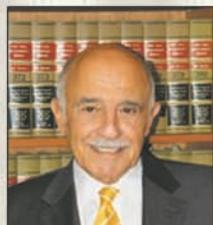
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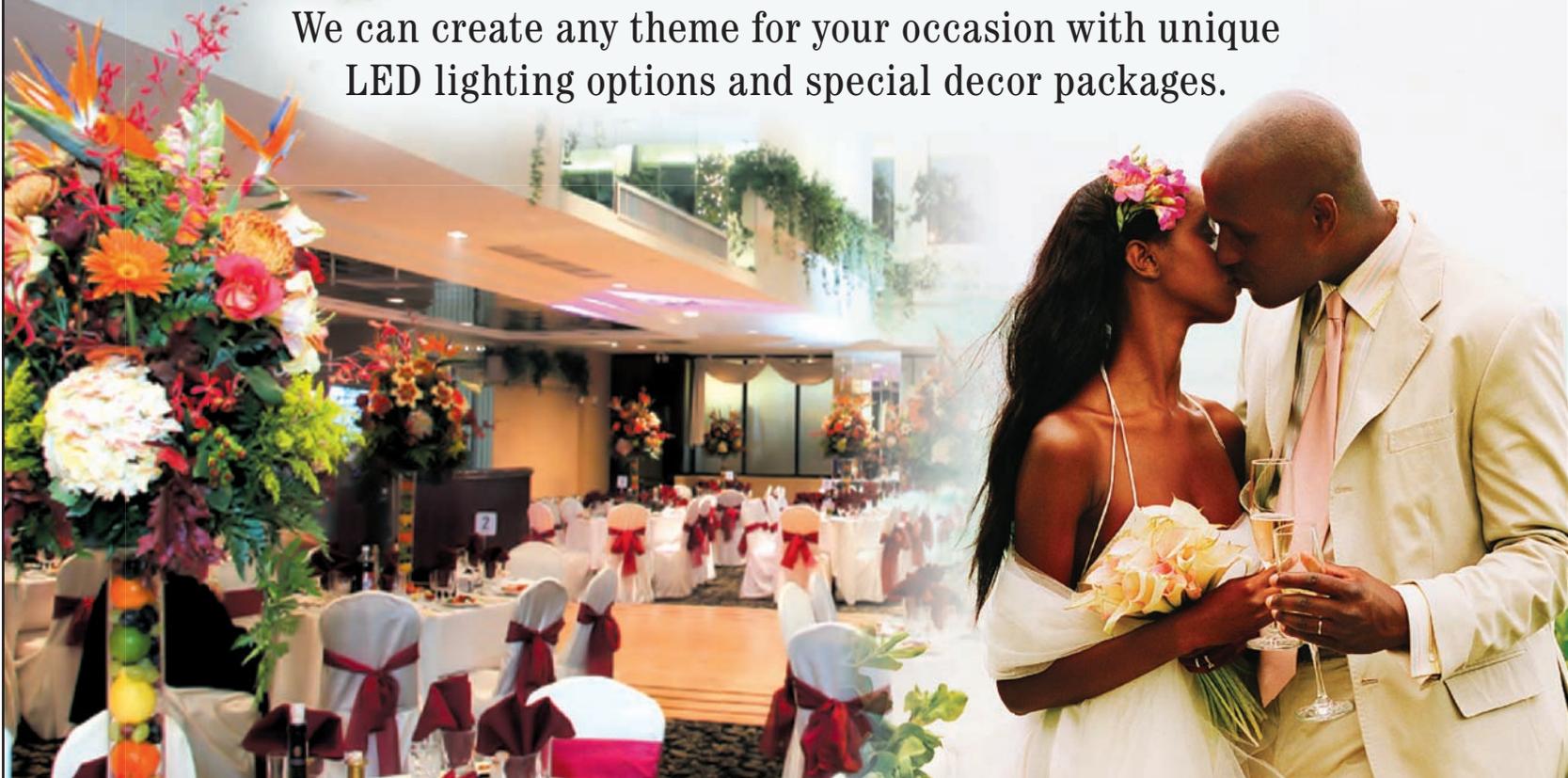


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# UG vice chancellor welcomes delegates to Diaspora meet

By Tangerine Clarke

Vice Chancellor of the University of Guyana, Professor Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, used the words of a Guyanese folk song which translates: “if you didn’t come you wouldn’t know”— to encourage Guyanese at home and abroad, to rediscover their homeland, and make use of the opportunities available to them, during his welcome on Sunday, July 23, to unveil the historic Diaspora Engagement Conference at the Ramada Georgetown Princess.

Griffith told the audience of academics, politicians, professionals, civic society, as well as non-Guyanese, that they should get to know the wisdom and worth of each other, and maximize the opportunity to “come and know,” pointing out that many Guyanese at home do not know much about their country.

Under the theme, “Dreaming Diaspora Engagement, Doing Diaspora Engagement,” the vice chancellor encouraged attendees to engross themselves in the country’s tourism mecca, by visiting tourist sites.

Minister of Public Telecommunication, Cathy Hughes,



Minister of Public Communication Catherine Hughes and UG Vice Chancellor Professor Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, center, with delegates at the Ramada Georgetown Princess.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

in turn thanked members of the Diaspora for their commitment to Guyana’s development, stating that the UG Diaspora Engagement conference gives them an opportunity to help to transcend and transform Guyana, calling on the Diaspora to use the easy connectivity to give back to their commu-

nities.

She promised to navigate the challenges of Guyana and called on visitors to be patient with the government as it repositions itself to engage Guyanese who would like to return to serve their homeland.

Chinese Ambassador to Guyana Cui Jianchun, CEO of

Roraima Airways Gerry Gouvier, and consultant from Canada Jillian Williams, Director of Roraima Institute, Paul Tennessee, and others, shared their insights and hopes for a successful Diaspora engagement.

More than 200 delegates attended the conference, while

many others delivered keynote addresses and presented papers from various professions.

Spoken word poet, Keon Heywood, celebrated Guyana’s beauty with a poem, while London-based award-winning flautist and composer, Keith Waithe and the Macusi Players delighted the gathering.



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# Vincentians fundraise for Brooklyn church

By Nelson A. King

Vincentian members of St. Alban's Episcopal (Anglican) Church continue to rally in raising much-needed funds for the predominantly Caribbean church in Canarsie, Brooklyn.

Earlier this month, several Caribbean nationals, as well as Brooklynites as a whole, patronized the Vincentian congregants at their seventh annual Summer Barbeque in the church's yard. The church is located at 9408 Farragut Rd.

"The menu has been consistent over the years," said Annette Stowe, treasurer of the Vincentian group, in a Caribbean Life interview. "For only \$10, guests are entitled to a choice of chicken, pork/ribs, or fish, and four sides: rice and peas, macaroni and cheese, potato salad and green salad.

"Additionally, guests can also purchase hamburgers and hotdogs for the kids, and souse, roast corn, sweet potato pudding and cassava pone, cake, peanut sugar cakes, tamarind balls and 'toolum,'" added Stowe about the mouth-watering delicacies.

Each year, Stowe said the group averages about 700-800 patrons, "who attend or just come by to pick up meals, connect with friends or even just have a drink and lime." "We also serve approximately 550-600 meals annually."

She said drinks are available at an additional cost from the "well-stocked" bar, which carries a variety of soft and local drinks, as well as alcoholic beverages, including Hennessy, St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) strong rum, wines, Baileys, vodka, whisky and beers.

Additionally, Stowe said the music is "always pulsating, and with the exception of 2015, has always been provided by Vincentian DJ Geoff Francis, who is sure to include a selection of carnival hits for the given year."

A gift basket of Caribbean products is



Twenty-three children stood and took the Oath of Allegiance during a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services citizenship ceremony at the Minnesota Children's Museum, Friday, July 21, 2017 in St. Paul, Minn.

(Elizabeth Flores/Star Tribune via AP)

raffled annually, Stowe said, stating that this has become "an extremely popular and exciting occurrence, because of the basket includes a bottle of SVG Strong rum along with pepper sauce, spices, jerk seasoning, ackee, among other things," with a ticket costing only \$1.00.

She said the contribution of the Vincentian members of the congregation varies: Some make monetary contribution, some assist with preparing food, some offer their service at the event, while others just simply attend and support the event.

Stowe said, besides she, the major organizing members of the event are Esther DaSilva, president; and Elitha John and Viona "Bells" Homer.

"These ladies decide on the date, produce the tickets, decide on the quantity of food and drinks required, do the shopping, solicit contributions from family and friends, rally members including family and friends to assist with selling of tickets, preparation of food and for working at the actual event," she said.

The church's "Rally of Nations" brings together nationals of each country to "convene and organize individual fund-

raising activities to assist with the major projects undertaken by the church since it is not the policy to ask the congregation to make individual financial contributions or to increase their tithes," Stowe said.

"This year, the group was quite fortunate when a few members responded to Father Bonner's [the church's Belize-born pastor] appeal for assistance, and so special thanks go to Pam Roberts and Jean Layne from Guyana and to Mr. Spring, a new member of our St. Alban's congregation, from St. Vincent and the Grenadines," she added.



Crooner Theo Homer (left) prepares hot dogs and roasts corn.

Photo by Nelson A. King

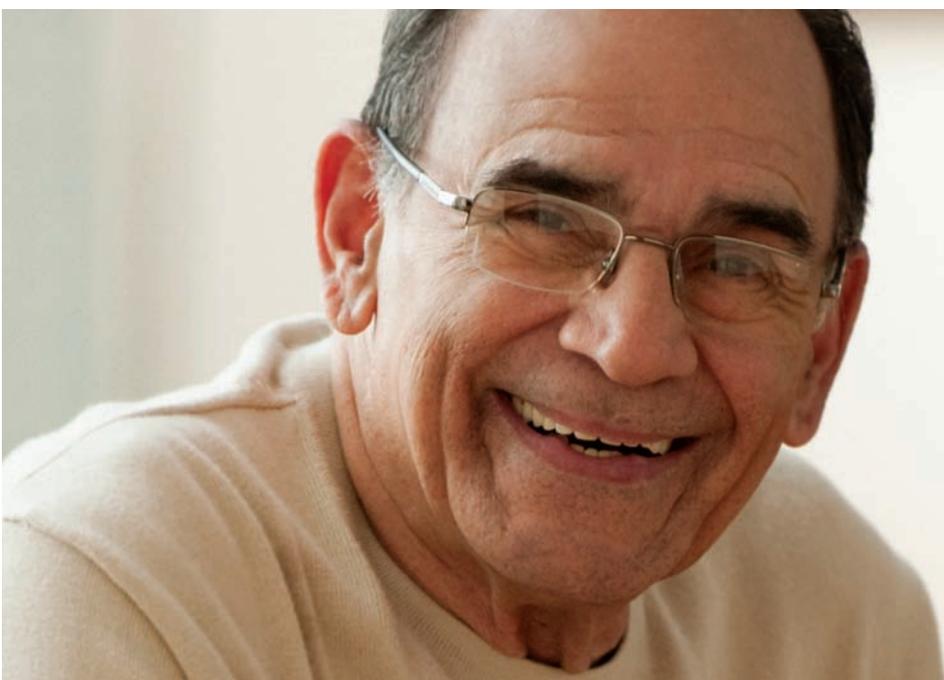


Crispin and Ancilla Friday patronize Summer Barbeque.

Photo by Nelson A. King

# IMMIGRATION GUIDE

- CITIZENSHIP AND NATURALIZATION
- GREEN CARD AND VISA ADVICE
- IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE
- INFORMATION ON DEPORTATION, ASYLUM AND TRAVEL BANS
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# Things you should know about US immigration law

By Allan Wernick

President Trump's anti-immigrant rhetoric is causing fear and confusion in New York's immigrant community. The situation is bad, but not as bad as many people think. Here are some things you need to know about United States immigration and citizenship law and policy.

## Naturalization and Citizenship

The best protection against changes in our immigration laws is to become a United States citizen. You qualify after five years of permanent residence. You can qualify after only three years permanent residence if you have been a permanent resident for those three years while married to, and living with, a spouse who is a citizen. You can give up your citizenship through a process

called "renunciation," but it is almost impossible for the government to take it away. Usually, to "denaturalize" you, the U.S. government needs to prove that you lied about an important fact on your way to getting citizenship.

One area of concern for many in the naturalization process is the requirement that you must speak, read and write basic English. The law provides several exemptions from that requirement. You are exempt if you have been a permanent resident for 20 years and you are at least age 50 or you have been a permanent resident for 15 years, and you are at least age 55. You are also exempt if a physical or mental disability prevents you from passing the English language test. If a disability keeps you from learning, you may be exempt from the Civic Knowledge (U.S. government

and history) test as well.

One last point on naturalization: If you have an "inability to pay" the filing fee, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services will waive it. For most applicants, the filing fee for naturalization is \$725 (\$640 for applicants age 75 and older), the agency will waive the entire fee if you are receiving a "means-tested public benefit" (commonly known as "welfare") including Medicaid and food stamps; if your household income is at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, or if you are in short-term financial distress, for instance because you recently became unemployed. If your household income is between 150% and 200% of the federal poverty guidelines, you pay a reduced filing fee of \$405 (\$320 for applicants age 75 and older). To get a full fee



waiver, file USCIS Form I-912, Request for Fee Waiver with Form N-400. To get a partial fee waiver, file USCIS Form I-942, Request for Reduced Fee.

## Getting a Green Card

The law provides many ways

to get a permanent resident visa — also known as a green card — but you must qualify in one of several immigrant visa categories. There is no "line" that you can get on if you do not qualify under one of those categories. The good

Continued on Page 34





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# Green card for victims of domestic violence

By Gertrude Onuoha Esq.

The office of domestic violence in the United States Justice Department define domestic violence as a “pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure, or wound someone.” [http://www.justice.gov/ovw/domestic-violence]. Domestic violence is a common phenomenon in the United States.

Men, women and children can be victims of

domestic violence regardless of race, ethnicity, immigration status, income, or other factors. Domestic violence victims face high rates of depression, sleep disturbances, anxiety, flashbacks, and other emotional distress. In the United States, undocumented aliens who are victims of domestic violence experience a more compounded level of stress. Due to their illegal status, victims of domestic violence are unable to come forward and report their abusers to the police. Quite often the abusers may threaten that they will be deported if they report to the police. Many victims suffer in silence and live in fear.

There is good news for undocumented aliens who are victims of domestic violence. The Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (VAWA) is a United

States federal law that enables victims of domestic violence who are the child, parent, or current/former spouse of a United States citizen or a permanent resident (green card holder) and are abused by the citizen or permanent resident become eligible to apply for a green card themselves without needing the abuser to file for immigration benefits on their behalf. The law allows the victim to apply without the abuser's knowledge. USCIS will not notify the abuser about the filing. Victims must establish that they:

- Have or had a qualifying relationship with the abuser spouse, or, are the parent or child of the abuser,
- Live or lived with the abuser,
- Have good moral character, and
- Have been victims of abuse.

# Things you should know about US immigration law

Continued from Page 33

application, you can end up being deported. If you are already in deportation proceedings and you have the 10 years' residence and a relative who qualifies, then you should apply for Cancellation of Removal. If you are not already in proceedings, and you turn yourself into Immigration and Customs Enforcement just to get an opportunity to apply, you face a big risk of being deported.

## Haitian Temporary Protected Status

Temporary Protected Status is a U.S. Department of Homeland Security program that grants short-term work permits and reprieves from deportation to immigrants from nations ravaged by natural disasters, epidemics

or war. Haitians were granted Temporary Protected Status by President Obama after the devastating hit the Caribbean nation on Jan. 12, 2010, killing hundreds of thousands. It was renewed after Haiti was deluged by Hurricane Matthew in 2016 and a subsequent cholera outbreak that took the lives of thousands more.

Temporary Protected Status for nationals of Haiti is due to expire Jan. 22, 2018. An extension of Temporary Protected Status for Haitians in the U.S. makes sense, but no one knows for sure what the future of TPS will be. So it's best that individuals who are covered under the program look for other ways to get legal status, including a “real” marriage to

a United States citizen. If Homeland Services ends Temporary Protection Status for Haitians, I doubt that President Trump will make deporting Haitians a priority. Those who face deportation may have defenses, including Cancellation of Removal for those here 10 years who have a U.S. citizen or permanent resident child, parent or spouse.

## The Muslim Ban

The United States federal courts have stayed most of President Trump's entry ban for nationals of Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen. In fact, most people coming to the U.S. from those countries are exempt from the ban. That includes permanent residents, international students and temporary workers.



# COMPLEX IMMIGRATION

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2. Have been ordered deported or filed asylum in the past and was denied and now married to US Citizen or Green Card holder or have a relative over 21 years?
3. Are you a skilled, humanitarian or professional or business immigrant (Construction, medicals, religious, non-for-profit etc) that need work permit and or green card?
4. Are you having marital crisis, separation or divorce with your US Citizen or Green Card Spouse?
5. Do you have criminal record affecting your green card or citizenship or immigration status or did you lost your green card to crime and want it back?
6. Are you having Difficulty Removing condition on your 2 - Year Green Card?

7. Are you a parent of U.S. Citizen that needs immigration relief?
8. Do you have an approved brother or sister or parent's petition and need to get your green card in the US?
9. Are you dependent child or young person living with single parent or guardian?
10. Navigating Immigration Court Proceedings
11. Are you facing Citizenship Delays or Denials including inability to learn, speak, read or write English?
12. Change and Extension of Status
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14. Victims of Crimes Reliefs
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# Immigrant services available in New York



Twenty-three children stood and took the Oath of Allegiance during a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services citizenship ceremony at the Minnesota Children's Museum, Friday, July 21, 2017 in St. Paul, Minn.

(Elizabeth Flores/Star Tribune via AP)

## Services

Programs for immigrants that assist participants with accessing government benefits; application assistance (including assistance with matters relating to citizenship and immigration status); employment; healthcare; social services; and civics classes in preparation for citizenship.

ActionNYC is for every immigrant New Yorker.

It offers free, safe immigration legal help in your community and in your language. Learn more about your immigration options today.

\*\*To make an appointment, call 1-800-354-0365 between 9 am - 6 pm, Monday - Friday or call 311 and say "ActionNYC."\*\*

The ActionNYC network is made up of trusted community organizations and attorneys who will provide the services that immigrants need in the communities that they call home and in the languages that they speak.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Find free, safe immigration legal help in your community.

I have been the victim of immigration fraud. How can I report it?

Call the New York State New Americans Hotline at 1-800-566-7636. The operators will take a report of your complaint and share it with prosecuting offices in NYC. 311 can also connect New York City residents to the New York State New Americans Hotline.

What is ActionNYC?

ActionNYC is free, safe, and secure legal immigration help for New Yorkers. The City's initiative provides free, safe immigration help across the five boroughs, where immigrant New Yorkers live and in the languages they speak.

How does ActionNYC operate?

The ActionNYC model is based on three pillars:

(1) outreach and marketing; (2) community navigation; and (3) legal services.

**Outreach:** Composed of community-based organizers, along with the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs' (MOIA's) outreach team. Outreach engages traditionally underserved immigrant communities to provide information about ActionNYC services and schedule appointments.

**Navigators:** Based in community-based organizations. These individuals screen ActionNYC clients for eligibility for immigration relief; when applicable, provide application assistance; and connect individuals to relevant social services such as IDNYC, and Medicaid.

**Legal:** Composed of immigration attorneys who review the legal work conducted by the navigators; provide legal advice to clients; represent cases; and decide next steps with all cases.

All three aspects of the program are connected through technology tools.

How do I make an ActionNYC appointment?

To make an appointment, call 1-800-354-0365 between 9AM-6PM, Monday - Friday or call 311 and say "ActionNYC." You can make your appointment for the language that you speak, and you can be served in the language that you speak.

Who are ActionNYC's community partners?

We have community partners in all five boroughs:

Below is a list of ActionNYC partners and service providers:

Academy of Medical and Public Health Services

African Communities Together

Arab American Association of New York

Association for Neighborhood and Housing

Continued on Page 36

More than three million of New York City's 8.2 million residents were born outside the United States. The New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) contracts with community-based organizations across all five boroughs that provide a range of services and support to new New Yorkers.

## Services for Immigrant

## Families

Services for Immigrant Families are designed to help immigrant parents of English Language Learners (ELL) in grades 6 through 12 understand the requirements

of the New York City school system and take an active role in their children's education. In addition, the programs identify the needs of immigrant families and make referrals for health, mental health, and support services.

Parents of English Language Learners (ELLs) often have a lower level of English proficiency than their children, making it even more difficult for them to become involved in their children's education.

In some cases, the child (often the first to learn English-language skills) may become the family's "ambassador" with the role of negotiating systems and acting as translator, a reversal of the usual parent / child relationship. The child may also contend with problems in school that increase his/her risk of truancy and dropping out, and the family as a whole may be confronting challenges, such as legal and financial issues.

These services work to address these complex circumstances and promote family engagement as a way to encourage the success of immigrant students in middle and high school.

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**General Immigrant**

# Immigrant services available in New York

Continued from Page 35

- Atlas: DIY
- BronxWorks
- CAMBA
- Caribbean Women's Health Association, Inc.
- Catholic Charities New York
- Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.
- Center for Family Life
- Center for the Integration and Advancement of New Americans
- Chinese-American Planning Council, Inc.
- City University of New York
- Council of Peoples Organization
- Damayan Migrant Workers Association, Inc.
- Fifth Avenue Committee
- Gay Men's Health Crisis
- Immigrant Justice Corps
- Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement
- LaGuardia Community College
- Legal Aid Society
- LegalHealth
- LSA Family Health

- Service
- Lutheran Social Services of New York
- Make the Road New York
- Masa
- Mekong
- Mercy Center
- MinKwon Center for Community Action
- Mixteca Organization, Inc.
- New York City College of Technology
- New York Immigration Coalition
- New York Legal Assistance Group
- Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation
- NYC Health + Hospitals
- NYU Lutheran Family Health Centers
- Queens Library
- Sanctuary for Families
- Sauti Yeti Center for African Women
- Street Vendor Project
- YWCA of Queens

## The Services:

I am concerned about sharing information about me and my family. How do I know my

information is safe?

Your information will be completely confidential and held by the organization helping you with your case. Your sensitive information will not be shared with others.

What if I can't afford legal help?

ActionNYC services are free. The de Blasio administration believes that immigrants should have access to legal justice. That is why there is no cost for you to receive immigration legal help with ActionNYC.

Can you serve immigrants who don't speak English?

Yes. ActionNYC serves immigrants in the language they are more comfortable speaking. ActionNYC's outreach, navigation, and legal service providers speak more than ten languages including: American Sign Language, Arabic, Bangla, Cantonese, English, French, Haitian-Creole, Korean, Mandarin, Nepali, Russian, Spanish, and Urdu. Moreover, all ActionNYC sites have access to instantaneous telephonic interpretation in

180 languages.

What happens to immigrants who are not eligible for a change in their immigration status?

ActionNYC provides a full, comprehensive immigration legal screening for everyone served by the program. If a client served by ActionNYC is not eligible for a change in their immigration status, they can still get good immigration legal advice. And it will be free and safe.

## Immigrants' Rights:

What are the rights of immigrants and immigrant families in New York City?

Privacy — City agencies are forbidden by Executive Order 41 to ask about immigration status unless it is necessary to determine eligibility for a benefit or service. If an individual does share his or her immigration status or other confidential information with City employees, City employees may not report this to anyone, except when it is necessary for the inves-

tigation of an illegal activity, \*\*which does not include\*\* status as an undocumented immigrant.

Language Access — City agencies that provide direct social services are required by law to arrange for translation and interpretation in your language.

City Services — All New Yorkers have the right to access most City services, regardless of immigration status, including education, emergency food and shelter, legal services, and municipal ID.

Where can newly-arrived immigrants and refugees get help?

The following Resource and Referral Guide provides information on services available to recently arrived immigrant children and their families and caretakers, including refugees. These services include education, child and family welfare, health, legal, and other services.

Source: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dycd/services/immigration.page>

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Ms. J

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**PEDIATRIC ACNE VULGARIS STUDY (AGES 9-11)**

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# Five ways to prevent deportation trauma

Continued from Page 35

beginning of your case if you are not removable for terrorist activities or for an aggravated felony (see page 12). 8 U.S.C. §1229c(a) (1). If you request it at the beginning, you do not need to show good moral character. This means that even if you have a criminal conviction, you may still be able to get voluntary departure.

5. Cancellation of Removal: Cancellation of removal allows people to remain legally in the United States even if they never had a green card or legal status before. You must meet certain requirements: you must have been physically present in the United States for 10 years; you must have good moral char-

acter during that time you must show "exceptional and extremely unusual" hardship to your United States citizen or lawful permanent resident spouse, parent or child if you were to be deported. Hardship to you does not count. 8 U.S.C. §1229b(b). Most criminal convictions bar you from this type of cancellation of removal since you cannot show good moral character. 8 U.S.C. §1101(f). These convictions include: any conviction resulting in imprisonment for 180 days or more; any drug conviction; any aggravated felony; and others.

The content of this article is intended for general information purposes only, and is

not legal advice. Those seeking specific legal advice should contact Gertrude Onuoha Esq. at 575 Lexington Ave., 4th Fl. NY NY 10022 (PHONE) 7326425605.

*Gertrude Onuoha Esq. is the founder of the law offices of Gertrude Onuoha, P.C. She has practiced law for over 17 years. She has great depth of experience and a successful track record in handling immigration. She is admitted to practice law in the state of New York and has a Master of Laws (LL.M) degree from Benjamin Cardozo School of Law in New York. She is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and the New York Bar Association.*

# Immigrants now facing criminal charges for first offenses

By Astrid Galvan, Associated Press

Migrants who are caught crossing the border illegally for the first time are now facing criminal charges in federal court in Arizona as the Trump administration steps up efforts to deter illegal immigration.

Until recently, first-time offenders were deported instead of being criminally prosecuted. That changed as of June in the Tucson Sector, which includes most of Arizona's border with Mexico and which has already seen the prosecution of 565 first-time offenders, the agency said in a news release on July 13.

The United States Attorney's Office says immigrants are charged with misdemeanors and tried in federal court under Operation Streamline, a 12-year-old initiative under which migrants are charged, enter pleas and are sentenced within a few minutes in large groups.

Critics of Operation Streamline say it burdens the courts and results in migrants choosing more dangerous routes to avoid getting caught. The Border Patrol says it decreases recidivism.

The Tucson Sector is able to go after first-time offenders because a drop in border crossers has

freed up resources, said spokesman Daniel Hernandez. The program for first-time offenders is already in place in one part of Texas and was previously in effect in Tucson, although it has been several years since it was used.

"This one is aimed specifically to deter people from coming to the country illegally in a way that prevents deaths," Hernandez said. "It creates consequences in the west desert region where we're having a lot of people distressed." The Tucson Sector has seen a rash of heat deaths and rescues during the past few weeks even as illegal border crossings are at an all-time low.

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### OPHTHALMIC SURGERY

## Simple Procedure Improves Dry Eyes & Sagging Eyelids

Exclusive interview with Dr. Golio, Director of Craniofacial Surgery

If you have recurring infections on your eyelashes, dry eyes, feeling of dirt, debris, sand, odd bodies or watery eyes, you are not alone. A simple procedure performed under local anesthesia can help.

Dr. Dominick I. Golio says, "A growing number of people flock annually to be examined due to these symptoms. There are many different causes for these problems. Age, Arthritis, the use of certain drugs to lower blood pressure, meds to treat allergies, Parkinsons & nerves may increase the chances of dry eyes exposing them to recurring infections & other serious conditions."

Not everyone can reduce or stop using meds or drops of artificial tears and antibiotics are not enough for many. Dr. Golio explains, "A test that all patients with these symptoms should take in front a mirror, lower the lower eyelid with the index finger and hold it in this position for five seconds. It is important not to blink for this test. Typically, the lid returns to its normal position in a second. We often see patients with such sagging eyelids that after taking this test their eyelids do not return to their position within 7 to 10 seconds."

A simple procedure that does not require hospitalization, removes a small amount of skin from the edge of the eyelid restoring the position thereof. "It's like

pulling the rope of a hammock that has withered with time," says Dr. Golio.

If this situation is not corrected, eyes that are exposed outdoors for longer periods of time may have increased symptoms and incidences of infections. Flabby eyelids occasionally veer inward and the lashes touching the eye causing even more irritation.

This procedure that corrects a sagging lower lid is done under local anesthesia by removing excess skin, aligning the eyelid to the outer eye while removing excess fat by pulling the eyelid down. There is no pain or patches needed, you return home the same day and the stitches fall out on their own within one or two weeks.

The same day of the surgery you can watch television, read a book, warm up your own food as well as wash your face permitting the stitches to get wet.

In short, you will be able to fend for self the same day of procedure.

Private insurances and Medicare will cover the procedure when it's done to correct the excess flab, symptoms of tearing, recurrent infections or inversion of the eyelashes. This procedure should not be confused with under-eye bags that are considered a cosmetic concern and therefore is not covered by any insurance.



*Craniofacial Surgery*

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Swimming is a great workout that can alleviate pain and reduce stress on the joints.

# Protect joints... and prevent pain

**J**oints play vital roles in the human body, forming the connections between bones and facilitating movement. Damage to the joints can be especially painful, and that damage may result from conditions such as osteoarthritis or gout.

While not all joint pain is debilitating, the discomfort of joint pain is such that it's wise for adults to take steps to protect their joints with the hope of preventing joint pain down the road. Recognizing that joint pain can negatively affect quality of life, the Arthritis Foundation offers the following joint protection tips to men and women:

**Forgo fashion with regard to footwear.** According to the Arthritis Foundation, three-inch heels stress the feet seven times more than one-inch heels, and heels put additional stress on knees, possibly increasing women's risk for osteoarthritis. Though

heels may be fashionable, the risk of developing joint pain is not worth making the fashion statement.

**Get some green in your diet.** A healthy diet pays numerous dividends, but many may not know that a healthy diet can help prevent joint pain. Green vegetables such as spinach, broccoli, kale, and parsley are high in calcium and can reduce age-related bone loss while also slowing cartilage destruction.

**Shed those extra pounds.** The Foundation notes that every extra pound a person gains puts four times the stress on his or her knees. The Foundation also notes that research has shown that losing as little as 11 pounds can reduce a person's risk of osteoarthritis of the knee by 50 percent.

**Hit the pool.** Swimming is a great full-body workout and can be especially helpful to the joints. The buoyancy

of water supports the body's weight, reducing stress on the joints and minimizing pain as a result. If possible, swimmers already experiencing pain should swim in heated pools, which can help relieve pain.

**Take breaks at work.** Many people develop joint pain thanks to their jobs. If you spend all day sitting at a desk or standing on your feet, try to find a greater balance between the two. Joints can grow stiff from sitting all day, while standing throughout your work day can stress the joints. Take a short break every 30 minutes to stand up and walk around if you spend most of your day at a desk. If you stand a lot at your job, stop to sit down for a few minutes once every half hour.

Joint pain and aging do not have to go hand in hand. More information about joint pain is available at [www.arthritis.org](http://www.arthritis.org).

# Bone marrow's fascinating role

**T**he skeletal system is a fascinating component of human anatomy. While the hard, outer structure of the system that comprises the bones and keeps the body upright and protects organs may get plenty of attention, some people are less informed about the other role bones play in health:

## Basics

Bone marrow is nestled inside of the collagen, calcium and other minerals that give bones strength and flexibility. Unlike the hardness associated with bones, marrow is actually a soft, spongy tissue. Bone marrow is active in newborn babies and children, meaning it is always producing new marrow cells. This is what helps children to grow. By the time a person reaches young adulthood, much of the marrow inside of the bones stops producing new cells. However, in adults, active marrow still can be found inside of the spine, hips, shoulder bones, ribs, breastbone, and skull.

The University of California San Francisco Benioff Children's Hospital says bone marrow manufactures bone marrow stem cells, which produce the various blood cells that help the body to thrive. Bone marrow produces red blood cells that carry oxygen to tissues in the body. Platelets help blood clot in order to stop bleeding and promote healing of injuries.

White blood cells are essential to fighting infections and are a main component of the immune system. Among white blood cells, neutrophils and macrophages fight bacterial and fungal infections by essentially "eating" germs. B-Lymphocytes make proteins that attach to the surfaces of infection-causing microbes. T-Lymphocytes engulf and destroy pathogens directly.

Blood cells do not live very long inside of the body, which is why marrow continually produces all three types of blood cells.

Bone marrow produces approximately 500 billion blood cells per day.



Inside bones lie a spongy material known as bone marrow, which produces all of the blood cells the body needs to operate effectively.

## Donation

Diseases such as myeloma, aplastic anemia, lymphoma, and leukemia occur when bone marrow is compromised and cannot work properly. People diagnosed with such conditions will be in need of a bone marrow donation as a best chance of survival.

A matching donor must be found before a bone marrow donation, known as an allogeneic transplantation, or ALLO, can be made. Because bone marrow produces unique markers on the proteins of white blood cells called human leukocyte antigens, not all bone marrow can be donated to everyone, much in the way not all people can receive every type of blood.

Therefore, the American Society of Clinical Oncology says a successful bone marrow transplant requires the donation of near-perfect, human leukocyte antigens (HLA) bone marrow. This prevents rejection of the marrow and further illness. HLA typing involves a special blood test to look for matching markers.

Siblings typically offer the highest chance of a match for donors. Parents and children are less likely to match. Many donations come from a pool of volunteer donors through programs such as the National Marrow Donor Program.

# NY Methodist's new procedure



New York-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital

Dr. Iosif Gulkarov and Dr. Marcus D'ayala performed the new ultrasound accelerated thrombolysis procedure at New York-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital.

uations,” said Dr. Michael Zenilman, chair of the Department of Surgery. “With wonderful surgical leaders such as Drs. D’ayala and Gulkarov, NYP Brooklyn Methodist Hospital is bringing new treatment options to our patients.”

# Physician nominated for top doctor list

Dr. William Lois, Kingsbrook’s Director of Surgical Services, has been nominated again as one of top doctors by Castle Connolly, America’s original, authentic, and most trusted source for identifying top doctors. Dr. Lois’s expertise impacts a wide variety of services at Kingsbrook and contributes to the medical center’s commitment to excellence and patient satisfaction.

Dr. Lois leads an impressive team in the Department of Surgical Services, which offers the highest expertise in surgical intervention, with a special focus with caring for geriatric patients. Innovative endovascular stenting, minimally-invasive vascular, abdominal, gynecological, and thoracic surgeries are offered along with treatments in the following areas:

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- Spinal neurosurgery
- Pediatric surgery
- Gynecology
- Ophthalmology
- Oral surgery

Dr. Lois also oversees the Non-Invasive Vascular Lab, certified by the state’s Department of Health. The lab is also accredited by the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission, to ensure highest quality of patient care. The department has an independent Orthopedic Residency Training Program where the surgical staff meets modern academic standards through faculty teaching appointments and shared faculty with the State University of New York Health Sciences Center at Brooklyn.

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- After 3 to 4 injections, studies have shown pain relief that may last up to six months. Although individual results vary, some people feel relief after the first injection
- Can be effecting treatment beyond the first series of injections. Data supports safe re-treatment, but the number of injections right for you is a decision you and your doctor can make together. Consult your insurance provider to learn about coverage for any additional treatments you may receive.

Osteoarthritis is a degenerative, progressive disease. Ignoring its symptoms or modifying your lifestyle will not make it better

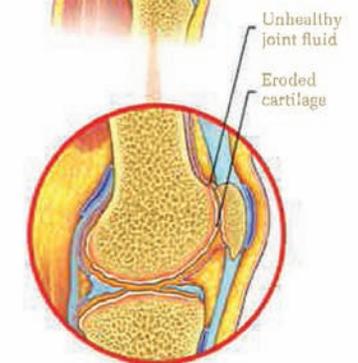
### Healthy Knee

Fluid cushions and lubricates your knees



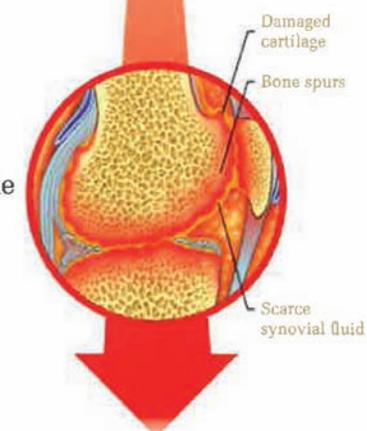
### Mild to Moderate OA

As OA progresses, healthy joint fluid begins to break down



### Severe OA

Without healthy joint fluid, your knees become sore and swollen



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Knee pain is not an indicator for how far your OA of the Knee has progressed, as pain is different for each patient

# Preventing osteoporosis



Regular exercise can help women protect their bones and reduce their risk for osteoporosis.

**O**steoporosis is a disease of the bones that occurs when a person loses too much bone, produces too little bone or both. When a person has osteoporosis, his or her bones become brittle and can easily break.

While osteoporosis can affect anyone, women over the age of 50 are especially susceptible. In fact, the National Osteoporosis Foundation notes that a woman's risk of breaking a hip due to osteoporosis is equal to her risk of breast, ovarian, and uterine cancers combined.

In spite of the potentially harmful effects of osteoporosis, studies indicate that only 12 percent of people with osteoporosis have had a bone mineral density, or BMD, screening, which is the most reliable diagnostic test for osteoporosis.

A big part of that is likely because osteoporosis does not always produce any recognizable symptoms, meaning many people may have the disease without even knowing it. Many women are first diagnosed with osteoporosis or bone loss after suffering a fracture, but there are steps women can take to lower their risk of developing osteoporosis.

**Get enough calcium and vitamin D.** Women 51 and older are advised to get 1,200 milligrams of calcium daily, and foods like low- and nonfat milk, yogurt and cheese are great sources of calcium. Women can get vitamin D from sunlight; certain foods, including fatty fish such as salmon and tuna; and vitamin D supplements.

**Eat bone-healthy foods.** The National Osteoporosis

Foundation notes that recent research has found that blueberries, olive oil, soy beans, and foods rich in omega-3 fatty acids may promote bone health.

**Watch what you drink.** Caffeine can decrease calcium

absorption and contribute to bone loss, so drink beverages like coffee and caffeinated tea and soft drinks in moderation. Heavy alcohol consumption also can cause bone loss, so women should only drink alcohol in moderation.

**Update your fitness regimen.** Women can strengthen their bones by including some high-impact weight-bearing exercises, which include dancing, hiking, jogging and jumping rope, in their fitness regimens.

Go to [www.Caribbeanlifeneews.com](http://www.Caribbeanlifeneews.com) for the latest in Caribbean news, entertainment, sports, business, viewpoints and more.

# Build and maintain strong bones

**O**steoporosis, a disease that causes bones to become weakened and brittle over time, affects millions of people across the globe. The International Osteoporosis Foundation says an osteoporosis-related fracture occurs roughly once every three seconds, accounting for more than 8.9 million fractures a year.

Younger individuals typically heal from fractures more quickly than older adults, who often discover that fractures greatly impede their mobility and quality of life.

Bone health is important at any age, but it is particularly crucial as a person gets older. Without a strong framework of bones, the body collapses on itself and rates of fracture increase. Fortunately, there are several ways to keep and maintain strong bones:

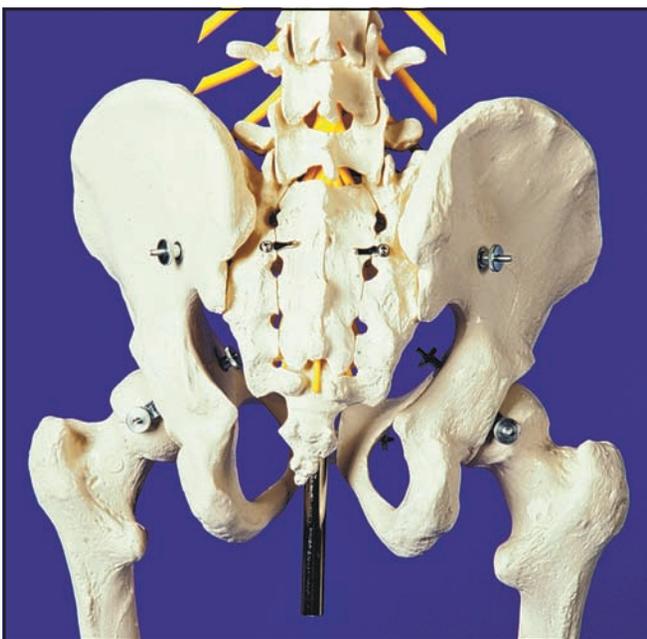
## Food

Bones are largely made up

of a protein called collagen, which is bound together by calcium and other trace minerals. Vitamin D and calcium work in concert, with vitamin D helping the body to absorb calcium so it can find its way into bones. Experts advise getting the right ratio of calcium, protein and vitamin D to safeguard against osteoporosis. The Institute of Medicine suggests that adults get between 600 and 800 international units (IUs) of vitamin D every day, and between 1,000 and 1,300 milligrams of calcium daily.

Dairy products, such as low- and nonfat milk, yogurt and cheese, are high in calcium. Dark green vegetables and almonds contain calcium in smaller amounts.

Obtaining calcium and vitamin D through natural sources is always preferable, but doctors may suggest supplementation if foods are not providing what a person needs to meet the minimum



Bone health is important at any age, but it is particularly crucial as a person gets older.

recommended levels.

## Exercise

Exercise is another

important component of building strong bones. The National Osteoporosis Foundation says 30 min-

utes of exercise each day can help.

Higher-intensity exercises should be mixed with lower-intensity workouts for the best results. Weight-bearing exercises, such as hiking, dancing and stair-climbing, can build between one and three percent of bone.

An exercise regimen also should include lifting weights or using resistance bands.

Activities that promote good posture and flexibility can help improve balance and alignment of the body. Perform stretches smoothly and slowly after exercising to maintain your range of motion.

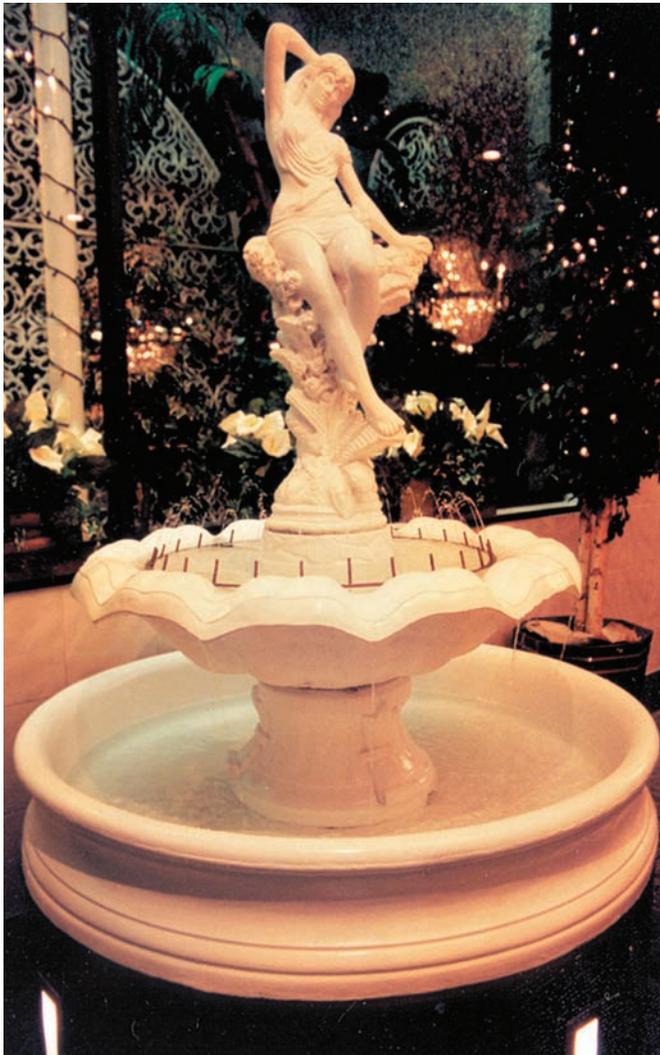
Quitting smoking also can promote strong bones. Smoking has been linked to poor skeletal health in both men and women, and the longer one smokes, the greater one's risk for fracture.

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But more than this, now is a wondrous time to discover or re-discover this exceptional catering hall. After a stunning re-modeling of their the grand ballroom, management recently spared no expense when they completely re-did the facility's grand lobby as well as the luxuriously appointed bridal suite, now done up with marble and granite accents for a look of timeless elegance.

They match the walls of marble and granite in the ballroom — which itself sports one of the largest chandeliers in all of Brooklyn — giving you just a brief inkling into what they have in store for you and your guests. Come and see the grandeur for yourself.

But this is only one reason to choose Paradise. Here, they accept only a single function at any one time. There's no splitting of the resources between two or three or even more affairs. When you book Paradise, you get the skills and expertise of every person there, on scene and behind the scenes to assure that your event runs flawlessly.

This sort of ultimate personalized attention starts the very minute you discover Paradise. At this facility, you don't deal with some salesman. You deal directly with one of the owners, Hercules, or his son, Mike. And why is this so essential?

Quite simply, they have a vested interest in making you happy, not just in making a sale. They know their business depends on word-of-mouth recommendations and on the special days yet to come in your life and the lives of your family. Thus, they will do everything in their power to be certain that the affair you have imagined is transformed into reality under the skilled hands of themselves and their staff. That's the secret of their longevity and of their success.

The lavish party room, which can be made intimate enough for parties of 100, or grand enough to host a spectacular of up to 400, is marked by a central chandelier that will take your breath away. It is the focal point for a magnificent space done up in sophisticated pinks and reds, with mirrored accents that lend a touch of infinity to the already expansive area.

The re-done, picture perfect bridal room is large, romantic and very feminine, accommodating up to 15 in easy comfort, with wall-to-wall mirrors.

Ideal photographic locales are assured in this world of environments, which also includes an intimate private garden area, a uniquely designed water fountain, as well as a host of fine, white wrought-iron work.

Can even Paradise become better? Of course it can. And they proved that when they totally renovated the large lobby area, adding a regal touch to this space, as well.

Whether it be the wedding, engagement party or any other affair, plan it at Paradise and the bottom line will put a very big smile on your face.

Our service is top flight, with the uniformed staff a longtime part of the Paradise family. These are full-time professionals who know their business; not weekend teens learning the trade.

And when it comes to the food, the chefs are world class. Whatever you can find in the cookbooks, they can serve at the table. They offer an added expertise in all manner of ethnic cooking. Add to that everything is cooked from scratch right on the premises to assure the highest in quality control.

Don't you want to celebrate those once-in-a-lifetime days in Paradise?

The catering office is open Tuesday through Sunday, 1 – 9 p.m. Note that the facilities are also available during the weekdays for all types of social meetings and functions.

For the further convenience of your guests, Paradise also can provide free valet parking.

# Team Jamaica Bickle donates more defibrillators

By Nelson A. King

Team Jamaica Bickle (TJB), the New York-based organization that provides hospitality support for Jamaican and other Caribbean athletes at the annual Penn Relays Carnival at the University of Pennsylvania, says it will present next month 10 Automated External Devices (AEDs) to eight high schools and two institutions in Jamaica.

TJB said on Thursday that the G.C. Foster College of Sport and Physical Education and The Jamaica Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (JAMEMTS) will receive the defibrillators in a presentation and training session, to be held at the G.C. Foster College of Physical Education and Sport, on Aug. 2. Training will be conducted by nurses from the Diaspora Healthcare Sector.

Schools selected to receive defibrillators are: Rusea's High, Charlie Smith High, Lennon High, Spaulding's High, Tivoli High, Eltham High, St. Mary's High and Bellefield High.

The TJB "Defibrillator to Schools Program" — which began in 2014 after the loss of St. Jago High School Student,

Cavahn McKenzie at a cross-country meet in Tobago — has received the support of the Sports Development Foundation of Jamaica, the organization said.

TJB said the Inter-Secondary School Sports Association (ISSA) the Jamaican governing body for inter-secondary school sporting events is assisting with the coordination of recipient schools.

JAMEMTS, based at the University of the West Indies, will provide on-going training and support to recipient schools, TJB said.

Since 2014, TJB said it has donated 21 AED units to Jamaican schools and trained close to 100 staff. It said the forthcoming donation will bring the total to 31.

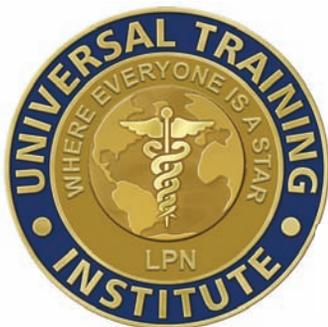
"The goal is to outfit each high school across the island with a unit," TJB said.

"We have seen where our efforts have inspired other Diaspora organizations to contribute AEDs to several schools and medical institutions," said Irwine Clare, Snr., TJB's Queens-based founder and chief executive officer.



Group of coaches being trained on proper defibrillator use at last year's presentation and training exercise.  
Team Jamaica Bickle

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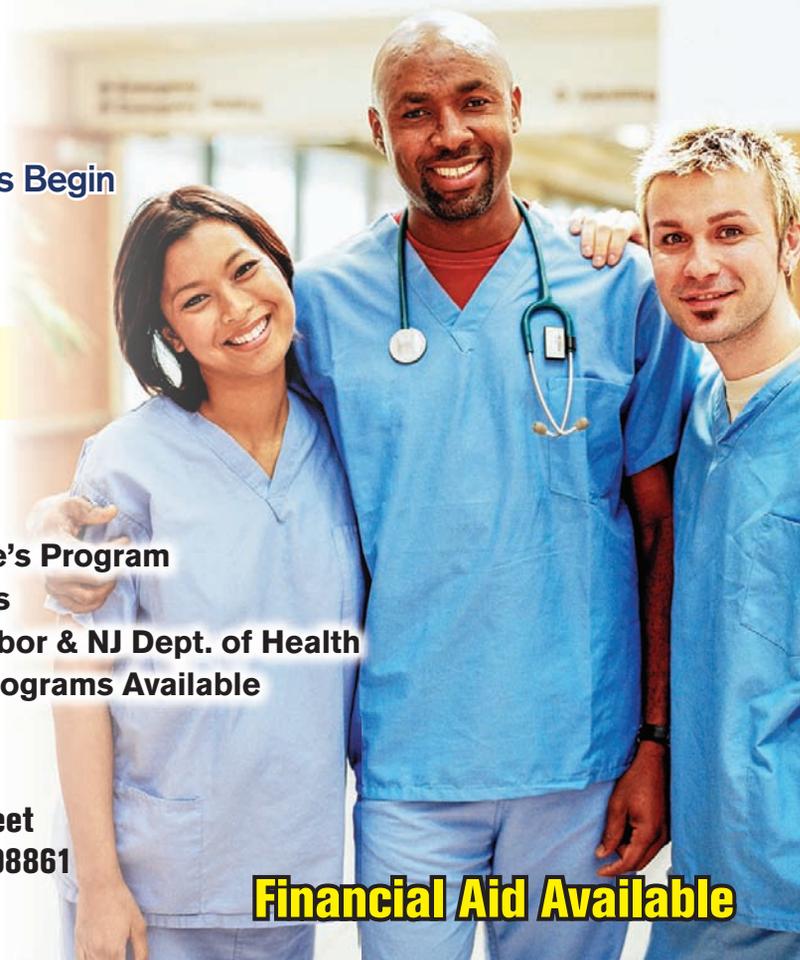
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WIADCA invites and welcomes all ethnic food vendors to provide their special cuisine from around the world for the millions of international visitors who participate every year.

**Early Registration Discounted Period:**  
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### REGISTRATION PROCESS:

- WIADCA'S Office: 325 Rogers Avenue (Bet Montgomery & Sullivan)
- Online- [www.wiadcacarnival.org](http://www.wiadcacarnival.org)

### PAYMENT OPTIONS:

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*Beginning Monday August 14th, the hours of operation will be extended to 7:00 pm every Wednesday & Friday.*

Vending Spots will be assigned on a "First Come, First Served Basis". WIADCA cannot guarantee any Spots, all spaces measure 10' x 10'.

**NO Exceptions.**

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Vendors are required to purchase general Liability Insurance from a reputable Insurance Company that is licensed to provide insurance coverage.

The policy should name the following individuals as additional insured: WIADCA, The City of New York, Office of the Mayor Street Activity.

Below are agents where insurance can be purchased for all vendors for Labor Day Monday.

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Tel No: 212-425-8150

**Tel:** 718-467-1797 • **Fax:** 718-778-1808

**Web:** [www.wiadcacarnival.org](http://www.wiadcacarnival.org) • **Email:** [wiadcainc@gmail.com](mailto:wiadcainc@gmail.com)

**Office:** 323-325 Rogers Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225



## Our Perspective

### Spectrum Strike Affects Us All

By Stuart Appelbaum, President  
Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, UFCW

**T**he strike by over 1,800 members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers against their employer, Spectrum-Time Warner Cable, isn't important only to the families of the cable technicians who are fighting back against corporate greed. Their strike is important to all of us who believe in good jobs that build better lives and stronger families and communities. Their courage should resonate with everybody who has had enough of a corporate race to the bottom where workers are disrespected and benefits and pensions continue to be attacked.

In many ways, the action echoes the 2010 strike by hundreds of RWDSU members at Mott's in Williamson, New York. In that case, as in this one, workers pushed back against a successful, profitable company, owned by an even larger company (Dr. Pepper/Snapple), that was attacking their workers and trying to destroy hard-earned benefits that members had earned for years. Local, national, and international support grew for the striking RWDSU Local 220 members, many of whom had decades of service at the apple sauce plant. Their strike came to symbolize the struggle of workers to keep quality jobs in an era when corporations value workers' contributions less and less. After a long four months, Mott's workers won their strike, negotiating a fair contract with good wage increases that protected benefits and gave them the security they had earned.

We see a similar fight at Spectrum, where cable technicians have been working without a new contract for years as the company has refused to negotiate in good faith. The company – whose CEO made almost \$100 million in 2016 – is proposing drastic health care cuts for unionized workers and their families and wants to eliminate pensions and job security. The company also refuses to amend its discipline policy which punishes workers for making multiple visits to a household, when the majority of technical problems are due to the fact that the company hasn't updated equipment in decades. Buildings aren't properly wired, equipment is old and outdated, and workers take the blame for cable speeds that often fall so short of advertised performance that New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman has filed a lawsuit accusing the company of defrauding consumers.

When a multi-billion-dollar corporation attacks middle-class workers' benefits and retirements, it threatens the health of entire communities. And when a cable company replaces trusted, skilled technicians who enter consumers' homes every day with unknown scabs from outside of the community with little experience, that's worrisome for our families.

Mott's workers fought back and won, and protected middle class jobs and communities. And they did it with support of consumers and their communities. Spectrum workers need the same support, and they need to win, to send a message that our jobs – and our lives and our families – are important. Working people cannot accept corporate attacks on our quality of life in the name of higher profits.

IBEW Local 3 needs your help. The NYC Franchise agreement for Charter/Spectrum is up before the City Council for review now. Please support good union jobs and share your concerns and complaints about Charter/Spectrum with the New York State Public Service Commission by emailing [secretary@dps.ny.gov](mailto:secretary@dps.ny.gov).



[www.rwdsu.org](http://www.rwdsu.org)

# Exhibition tells hidden story of African Caribbean PoWs

By Nelson A. King

The remarkable overlooked story of more than 2,000 African-Caribbean soldiers imprisoned in a medieval castle in the 18th century is to be told in a new exhibition by English Heritage, according to reports.

It comes after more than five years of painstaking research into the men — and 99 women and children — who were transported from St. Lucia in 1796 to Portchester Castle, which overlooks Portsmouth harbor, a large natural harbor in Hampshire, England, reported the British Guardian on Tuesday.

The paper said the prisoners of war (PoWs) were all black soldiers and their dependents, freed from slavery by the French in 1794 and fighting for France against the British.

Among the names, the Guardian said, were Louis Delgrès, General Marinier and his wife Eulalie Piemont and Charlotte Pedre and her husband Jean-Louis Marin.

Curator Abigail Coppins said that discovering individual identities had been astonishing.

“At a time when the entire black

population of Britain was roughly 10-15,000, our exhibition completely turns the tables of the views of the period,” she told the Guardian.

“These were not slaves, but free men and women, fighting and, in some cases, dying for a cause they believed in,” she added. “Research is on-going, but these names and this exhibition restores a forgotten chapter of black history in England’s story.”

The story of the prisoners of war is fascinating and little-known, said the Guardian, adding that, after the French Revolution, slavery had been brought to an end on the islands of Guadeloupe, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and many of those families joined the fight against the British.

In 1796, Fort Charlotte, a fort on St. Lucia, surrendered to the British, which meant more than 2,000 African-Caribbean soldiers and their families came into their care, the Guardian said.

It said that, as was the convention of the time, they were treated as prisoners of war to potentially be traded in exchange for British PoWs.



A member of English Heritage staff holds a letter discussing plans for PoWs in 1796. English Heritage

They were brought across the Atlantic in a convoy of ships, arriving on the Solent as winter began setting in, said the Guardian, adding that it would have been a complete culture shock.

If the contrasting weather and diet were not bad enough, the Guardian said they were also bullied by European prisoners already being detained in the castle.

Coppins said there were attempts at compassion with, for example, the prison doctor insisting on the prisoners being fed more potatoes because it was the nearest he could think of to yams, according to the Guardian.

At some point, the prisoners were moved from the castle to two brand new prison hulks, Captivity and Vigilant, moored close by.

By the end of 1797, the Guardian said most of the PoWs appear to have been dispersed, with some going on to form part of a battalion of black pioneers which saw action in France, Italy and Russia. Some even ended up fighting for the British navy.

Coppins, according to the Guardian, first came across the story by accident.

“It was a long cold winter, and I’d been repacking the archeological files from the castle and I’d had enough of Roman animal bones,” she said.

She said she turned her attention to the Napoleonic period, when the castle was used as a detention center for prisoners of war.

“What little I did find out stopped me in my tracks,” Coppins said. “I just hadn’t realized how many different nationalities were imprisoned or interned at the castle.”

Sifting through archives, Coppins has managed to put names to people who have fallen through the gaps of history, said the Guardian, adding that the most famous of the names she has discovered is Captain Louis Delgrès, who later became leader of the resistance movement in Guadeloupe, fighting the reinstatement of slavery by Napoleon.

He and his followers died in horrible circumstances in 1802, the Guardian said.

Facing defeat, it said Delgrès ignited his gunpowder stores knowing that they all would be killed, but it would also kill many French soldiers.

Coppins said discovering the identities was an important exercise.

“It is almost impossible to find images of the soldiers,” she said. But, by giving them names, you give them their place in history and their relevance.”

The exhibition at Portchester Castle opens on Thursday, the Guardian said.

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# Guyanese students place 10th at STEM Robotic contest

By Tangerine Clarke

STEMGuyana received a resounding welcome from First Lady Sandra Granger, when they arrived at Cheddi Jagan International Airport, on July 19, after successfully placing 10th at First Global Challenge — a robotics event held in Washington D.C., last week.

First Lady Sandra Granger, who was instrumental in introducing the STEM initiative to Guyana, said that she was overjoyed at the performance of the team, since robotics is fairly new to Guyana.

Mrs. Granger highlighted that the feat by the Stem team demonstrates what can be achieved by the young minds of Guyana, once opportunities are presented and all the necessary investments made, according to the Guyana Chronicle.

She added that her main focus is to ensure that every child across Guyana is involved in robotics.

The Guyanese Diaspora, also praised the high school students, lighting up social media with congratulatory messages and well wishes to the youths, who excelled against 164 other nations during their first attempt at the competition after being introduced to robotics just one year ago.

Headed by team captain, Ryan Benschop, Anthony Frank, Arianah Mahase, Christopher Nelson, Sahief Poese, Vevekanand Ramnarace, Team Manager Farnaz Baksh, and Coach Ricky

Chan, made Guyana proud. Public Relations Officer Horace Moseley gave the students a big boost and kept Guyanese apprised of their performance.

The students, who worked diligently to perfect their model, in just four months, aced their performance to place first, in the first round of competition, but dropped to 10th after they were faced with stiff competition. They never-the-less prevailed to accomplish an amazing feat.

Twenty-two-year-old Farnaz Baksh, team manager and one of the two lone females on the team, said that part of the team's success came from observing their environment.

She explained that during preparation for the competition they had experienced some difficulties, which were solved from engineering techniques used in Guyana for drainage and irrigation.

During the competition, the robot was required to battle against opponents in the competition's simulation exercise, named 'H2O Flow'.

The 10th place finish placed the students squarely on the world stage as a team to be reckoned with in 2018 when the competition is held in Mexico City.

The First Global Challenge is a robotics competition with a goal of increasing the knowledge of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM), so that students become the next

generation of scientific leaders who work together to solve some of the world's most pressing problems.

Community activist, Mark Anthony Benschop who chaperoned the students thanked US State Senator, Roxanne J. Perse, stating that the lawmaker welcomed the students at JFK airport and kept in constant contact

about their progress.

He added that Congresswoman Yvette Clarke sent a congratulatory message to the team and thanked DCM of the Guyana Embassy in Washington DC, and other officials, Bonita Montaque and members of her organization for the great celebration around NYC, for the students, and many others.



First Lady of Guyana Mrs. Sandra Granger, (sixth from left) congratulates TeamGuyana at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport after the high school students placed 10th at the First Global Challenge in Washington D.C.

Dept. of Public Information, Guyana



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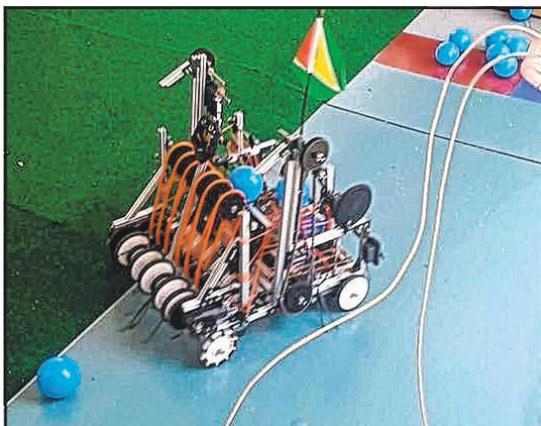
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The model robot on display during the Robotics event in Washington, DC. Mark Anthony Benschop

# An outrageous and spicy tale about a woman's sin

"Sin of a Woman" by Kimberla Lawson Roby  
c.2017, Grand Central Publishing  
\$26.00 / \$34.00 Canada  
312 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Nothing's set in stone. Few things are. Lucky for you, there's usually a chance to change your mind or have a do-over. You can often get another go at something because few things are that firmly decided. As in the new book "Sin of a Woman" by Kimberla Lawson Roby, you can sometimes have a second chance.

More and more every day, Porsha Harrington got on Pastor Raven Jones Black's last nerve.

But Raven absolutely had to put up with Porsha, which was part of the problem: Porsha, inheritor of her father's estate and mistress of Raven's then-husband-now-ex, had given Raven \$250,000 to start New



Author Kimberla Lawson Roby.

Vision Christian Center. The partnership would make them both rich; Raven would be the church leader, Porsha would be the assistant pastor, they'd both get paid from member contributions and tithes.

That is, as long as Raven could tolerate being near Porsha. Which wasn't long.

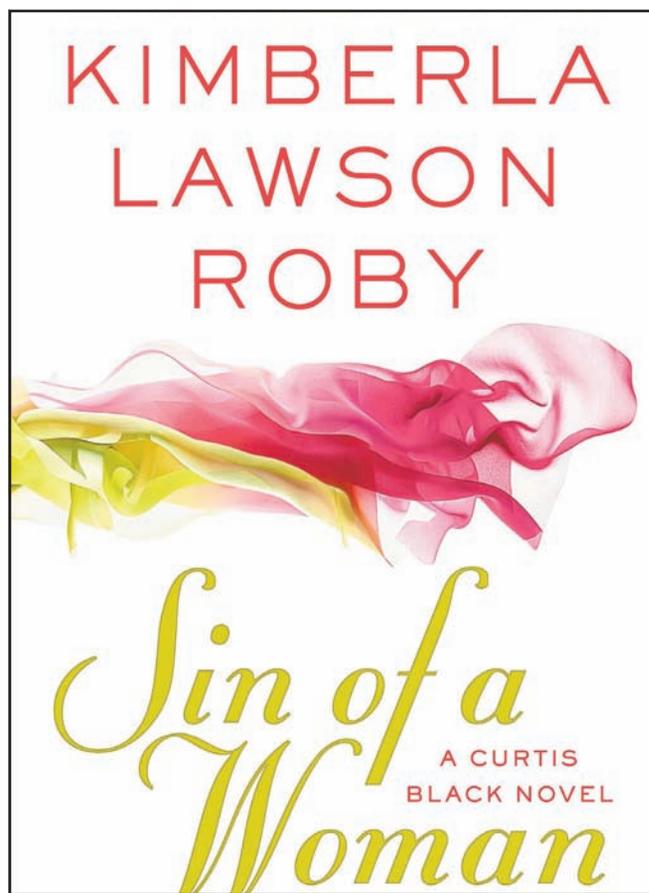
Years ago, Raven spent time

in prison for embezzlement from the church belonging to her ex-father-in-law, Rev. Curtis Black. She'd also stolen some money from a loan shark, and she'd told huge lies all the way to the bank. But that was all coming around to bite her now, and she needed another scheme to get everyone off her back. If she could start with Porsha and make money doing it, well, all's the better.

So Raven just cooked up another lie.

Something was missing from Porsha Harrington's life.

She was single, for one. More than anything, Porsha wanted to be married with a family, a desire that was so strong, it shocked her. Something else shocked her, too: she realized, in prayerful moments, that the men she'd mostly chosen were married ones, and God just couldn't be happy about that at all. Instead, He seemed to be leading her to become more active at New Vision, and that



Book cover of "Sin of a Woman" by Kimberla Lawson Roby.

made her heart glad. So did Dillon, the man she'd cheated with once, who'd now turned over a new leaf himself.

God would point Porsha into the direction she needed to be. He had plans for her. Too bad Raven did, too.



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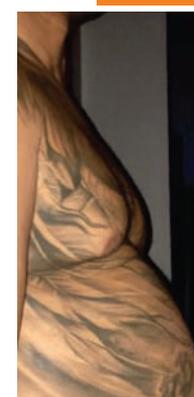
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Cover art for 2017 Soca Gold, featuring model Sira Kante.

## Soca Gold

By Alexandra Simon

The year's hottest soca tracks and artists are featured in the annual compilation of the top soca songs. The recently released "Soca Gold 2017," which hit stores and all music platforms on July 21, puts some of the current and previous year's biggest songs from carnival to others that charted internationally. With soca growing as a genre, many artists are testing out new sounds, particularly electronic dance music (EDM), which is

Continued on Page 50

## Best reggae hits compiled for Reggae Gold

By Alexandra Simon

It's the best of the genre. The "2017 Reggae Gold" was released on July 21 and is jam-packed with the best songs coming out of the music style over the course of a year. The compilation includes songs from Jah Cure, Queen Africa, Aidonia, Raging Fyah, Estelle, and Chronixx and Tarrus Riley, who both make two appearances on the track list with their own hits and as featured artists. The annual roundup is one of the few chances that music listeners get to catch up on songs of the genre from their favorite singers and even some up-and-coming ones, said the executive producer of Reggae Gold.

"Reggae Gold' has become that go-to  
Continued on Page 50



Mayor DeBlasio, left, and former Miss World Jamaica Lisa Hanna, right, who won the jerk festival cook-off on July 23.  
Photo by Nat Valentine

## Former Miss World Jamaica defeats mayor in cook-off

By Alexandra Simon

It's bigger than the jerk. Thousands attended the seventh annual Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival at Roy Wilkins Park in Queens on July 23. The cultural gathering celebrating Jamaican culture is a staple of the borough for that many guests arrived before the noon event started, said the host of the festival and cook-off judge.

"I thought I got there early but people were already frying dumplings and setting up their booths," said

Chef Wenford Patrick Simpson.

The all-day festival featured music, food from local vendors, plenty of food activities, including the popular cooking competition every year. Defending his title from last year's match was Mayor Bill DeBlasio who competed against former Miss World Jamaica Lisa Hanna. The mayor cooked up some jerk pork chops, and Hanna served a coconut style pork dish, and won the cook off, according to Simpson. She took home the prize because she was set on what she was

cooking, he added.

"I was going back and forth between Hanna and DeBlasio looking to see what they were cooking but Hanna was focusing on what she was doing — she really went to mom zone," said Simpson. "As I was watching her cook, she knew right away what she was going to cook."

The contest was judged by the chef who made his first appearance at the event and enjoyed the cultural and familial atmosphere. Simpson said he

Continued on Page 50

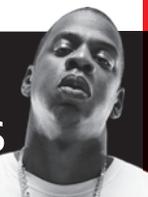
## TOP OF THE CHARTS

### TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1 **Despacito**  
Luis Fonsi, Daddy Yankee...
- 2 **That's What I Like**  
Bruno Mars
- 3 **Shape Of You**  
Ed Sheeran
- 4 **Stay**  
Zedd & Alessia Cara
- 5 **Wild Thoughts**  
DJ Khaled Ft. Rihanna...
- 6 **Believer**  
Imagine Dragons
- 7 **There's Nothing Holdin' Me Back**  
Shawn Mendes
- 8 **I'm The One**  
DJ Khaled, Justin Bieber, Qavo...
- 9 **Something Just Like This**  
The Chainsmokers & Coldplay
- 10 **Body Like A Back Road**  
Sam Hunt

### TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **4:44**  
JAY-Z
- 2 **Kaleidoscope EP**  
Coldplay
- 3 **Jungle Rules**  
French Montana
- 4 **Evolve**  
Imagine Dragons
- 5 **One More Light**  
Linkin Park
- 6 **Issa Album**  
21 Savage
- 7 **Moana**  
Soundtrack
- 8 **[Hybrid Theory]**  
Linkin Park
- 9 **Divide**  
Ed Sheeran
- 10 **The War: The 4th Album**  
EXO

Presented by



# JERK FESTIVAL

Continued from page 49

was humbled by the supportive crowd which quickly took a liking to him.

"My favorite part of the whole day, aside from me enjoying it, was it being my first time there, and being the face of the festival was an honor," he said.

Reggae artists Morgan Heritage, Barrington Levy, soca singer Alison Hinds, and many others provided the musical entertainment. There was also music performances by folk groups.

"It was the little things that have to do with Jamaica and they made it really fun because I haven't seen folk dance like that in while and the comedy — it was a beautiful day."

Simpson said that the event is important for the Diaspora community because it is one of the few chances members get to together and enjoy a day of festivities.

"It went so peaceful and it shows that we can come together and have fun and have a great time," he said. "When



Grill masters cook up the popular jerk chicken dish at the festival.

Photo by Nat Valentine

we come together and enjoy a wonderful time, it feels like big barbecue. It's very important for us to be involved in our heritage."



Chef Wenford Patrick Simpson.

Winston Rodney



Many guests came out to the day-long event to enjoy food, music, and Jamaican culture.

Photo by Nat Valentine

## Best reggae hits

Continued from Page 49

product that works when you know don't know what's trending and we also give young acts a try on in it," said Neil "Diamond" Edwards.

With the increasing changes in the music industry, creating selections such as "Reggae Gold" is one of the ways it helps artists who appear on them gain fame, he added.

"I call it a moving vehicle basically and it's a how they establish themselves," said Edwards. "People might listen and hear 10 songs from an artist they already know, but we try to put new acts and so it helps a lot of them get out there."

The 17-track album features songs from artists who have appeared on the compilation before, many of whom are Jamaican or of Caribbean background. But for the first time ever appearing on the album is Canadian artist, Tory Lanez, with his song "Luv."

Edwards said that even with growth of digital music, the beloved variety album is a collectors item and has earned itself a name



Chronixx performing at Roy Wilkins Park in Queens.

Photo by Toni Dubois

as an important musical release that all types of fans look forward to, particularly the infrequent listener.

"I would call it an accomplished brand in the reggae compilation business," he said. "A lot of people do not listen to reggae everyday, but listen to it occasionally and are not up-to-date with who's the hottest to what's playing right now," said Edwards.

## Soca

Continued from page 49

having a big influence in soca, said the project's curator.

"The EDM is a big thing right now and many artists are trying to cross with it," said Edwin Howell, executive producer of Soca Gold.

And with soca continuously growing as a genre, Howell adds in just a few more years the genre will become an even more popular internationally, and as the leading music style for listeners in the Caribbean.

"The state of this year's soca is getting better and the sound is getting more international with afrobeats and a lot of artists in general are making music not only for carnival but for the crossover market," he said. "The growth of soca has opened more doors for the young generation and many artists are now going to different countries that they weren't thinking about five to 10 years ago."

Returning artists to the yearly mix include Iwer George, Destra Garcia, Teddyson John, Bunji Garlin, Fay-ann Lyons,

and Rikki Jai. But there are also some new names on the track list this year, many of them making their debut on the annual mix, according to Howell.

A few of them are Marvay, who was voted the People's Monarch in Barbados, his fellow artist and countryman Gryner, and Trinidad and Tobago's Omardath Maharaj, who was the Chutney soca monarch. The viral Trinidadian sensation Uncle Ellis, who picked up lots of attention for his dance moves at a KFC, also makes a debut to the collection. Listeners can also purchase the album with a bonus DVD, which includes footage from carnival scenes, music videos, and even live performances from the artists.

Howell said that the platform allows veteran and up-and-coming artists a chance to reach a wider appeal.

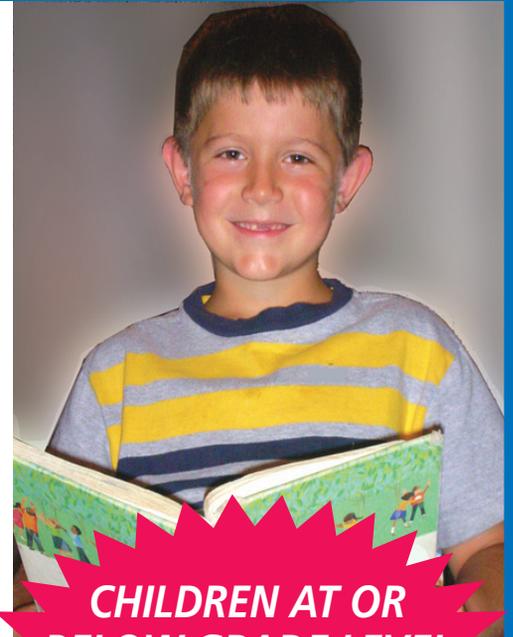
"It's a groundbreaker when you reach 'Soca Gold,' because it opens many roads and opportunities for these artists to be noticeable," he said.

He even predicted a few names, which he sees making it onto next year's gold edition.



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# SPORTS

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West Indies' Kemar Roach prepares to bowl during a practice session at the Sher-E-Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Associated Press / Themba Hadebe, File

## Roach returns to Tests

By Azad Ali

Veteran fast bowler Kemar Roach and uncapped Barbadians Kyle Hope and Raymon Reifer have been named in the 15-man West Indies squad to tour England for three Tests starting next month.

Roach has been recalled to the West Indies team after a long stint on the sidelines because of injury and loss of

Continued on Page 54

## England defeats West Indies

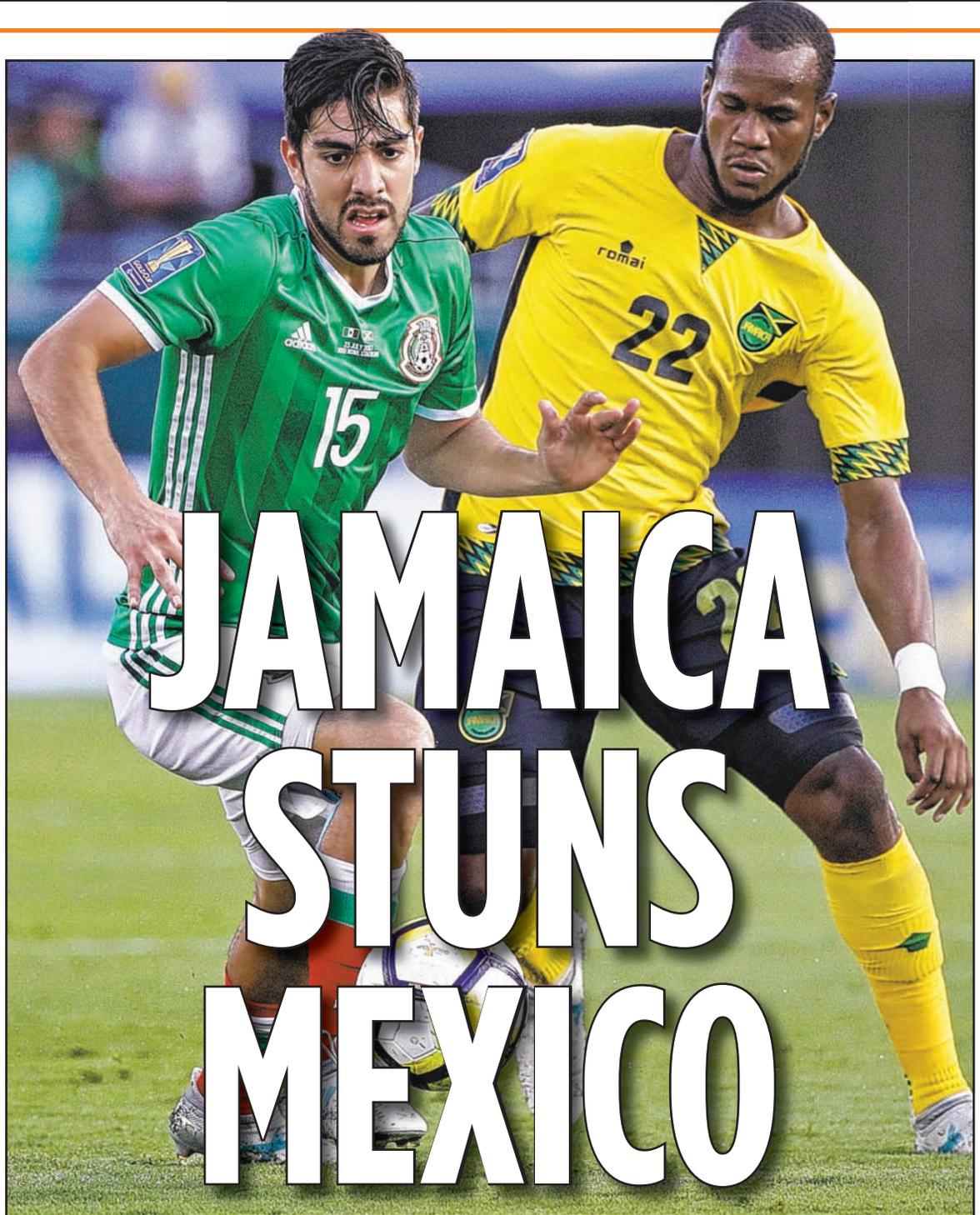
By Azad Ali

West Indies Women cricketers ended their disappointing ICC World Cup campaign when they crashed to a 92-run defeat to host England in their final match on Sunday, July 16 at Bristol.

The Caribbean side managed to restrict England to 220 for seven off 50 overs at the Gloucestershire County Ground, but their batsmen failed to challenge the English Women score and collapsed to 128 for nine — slumping to their fifth defeat in seven matches.

West Indies ended the tournament sixth on four points from their last two victories over Pakistan Women and Sri Lanka Women, with all three teams along with fifth placed New Zealand suffering elimination.

Continued on Page 54



# JAMAICA STUNS MEXICO

Mexico's Rodolfo Pizarro (15) passes the ball as he is pressured by Jamaica's Romario Williams (22) during the second half of a CONCACAF Gold Cup semifinal soccer match in Pasadena, Calif., Sunday, July 23, 2017.

Associated Press / Jae Hong

## Jamaican team will face U.S. in Gold Cup final

By Greg Beacham

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — After Kemar Lawrence ripped an exquisite shot over Mexico's five-man wall and into the top corner for one of the biggest goals in Jamaican soccer history, the defender hushed his teammates and refused to cel-

ebate.

These Reggae Boyz are staying cool, even after a goal that sent them into the CONCACAF Gold Cup final with a chance to make history.

Lawrence scored on a clutch 24-yard free kick in the 88th

minute, and Jamaica advanced to the final with a 1-0 upset victory over Mexico on Sunday night.

"I think our guys were hungry," Jamaica coach Theodore Whitmore said. "They needed it more than the Mexicans, and we did what we

Continued on Page 54

# Kemar Roach returns to Tests

Continued from Page 54  
form.

The 29-year-old, who has 37 Tests to his name, picked up 23 wickets for Barbados Pride in the last First Class Championship at 16 runs apiece has convinced the selectors for him to return to international cricket.

Roach, has taken 112 Test wickets making him the most experienced member of the Windies attack.

Hope, 28, who opens the batting, made his debut in the One-Day International series against India, while Reifer, 26, an all-rounder, is yet to play international cricket.

Both have gained favor with the selectors following impressive First Class seasons.

Hope made 649 runs for Trinidad and Tobago Red Force to be the second highest run-getter of the competition, while Reifer got 445 runs at an average of 37 and got 36 wickets at 21 runs apiece, with his left arm seam.

Chief Selector Courtney Browne said both players would be assets to the touring party based on their performances at the First Class level.

He said Roach would be expected to play a key role in the series. The squad will be led by Jason Holder.



West Indies' Kyle Hope plays a shot during the fifth ODI against India at the Sabina Park cricket ground in Kingston, Jamaica, Thursday, July 6, 2017.

Associated Press / Ricardo Mazalan

## West Indies

Continued from Page 53

Already eliminated after losing their opening four games, West Indies was playing for pride against England but let themselves down with ordinary cricket — especially over the second half of the game.



Mexico's Elias Hernandez, left, is chased by Jamaica's Kemar Lawrence during the first half of a CONCACAF Gold Cup semifinal soccer match in Pasadena, Calif., Sunday, July 23, 2017.

Associated Press / Jae Hong

# JAMAICA STUNS MEXICO 1-0

Continued from Page 53  
had to do."

Jamaica will face the United States on Wednesday night at Santa Clara, California. With a victory over the home team, the Reggae Boyz would claim their first championship in soccer's North and Central American and Caribbean region.

"The best way I could put it is the Biblical story," Whitmore said. "David slew Goliath."

The Reggae Boyz have reached the final for the second straight Gold Cup, but this stunning upset at the Rose Bowl ranks among their biggest international wins. Mexico has won seven Gold Cup titles, the U.S. five and Canada one.

"That's a cycle we want to break," Whitmore said. "That's something we sit and discuss. It's always Mexico, U.S. We want to be in that group. We want to be a team, a country that someone can talk about, and that's what we're working toward."

Jamaica goalkeeper Andre Blake kept this game scoreless with a series of impressive saves while Mexico dominated possession with a lineup missing most of El Tri's most-accomplished players.

But after Lawrence repositioned the ball in a bit of shifty gamesmanship, his late strike froze Mexico goalkeeper Jesus Corona. The ball curled over the wall and slipped just below the bar for the New York Red Bulls defender's

third international goal and first in three years.

The 24-year-old Lawrence doesn't take free kicks for his MLS club, but Whitmore knew his quality from recent practices.

"The New York Red Bulls probably have a better kicker than Kemar Lawrence," Whitmore said with a smile. "Now, Jamaica's team needs Kemar Lawrence in dead-ball situations. It's a totally different thing. Probably when the New York Red Bulls see this tonight, they might (want him) to take free kicks."

Trying to win its second consecutive Gold Cup and fourth in five tournaments, Mexico used the deeper reaches of its player pool following the World Cup qualifiers and the Confederations Cup last month. While teams were allowed to make up to six substitutions for the knockout rounds, El Tri coach Juan Carlos Osorio said he was blocked by Mexico's clubs.

Mexico hadn't trailed in the tournament before Lawrence's late goal, but El Tri also hadn't been impressive — no player scored more than one goal.

"This is a process, and it takes a lot of work to get a team that can compete in a World Cup," assistant coach Luis Pompilio Paez said. "This is not a sufficient result, but this is the middle of the process. I saw a team that gave everything. We always respect what the other team does. We just needed to get a goal, and we didn't have the

right circumstances. Embarrassment, sadness — as a team, we feel it."

Blake also starred 11 days ago when Mexico and Jamaica played to a 0-0 draw in Denver. With the Philadelphia Union keeper playing exceptionally well, Jamaica has allowed only two goals in the tournament.

The semifinal crowd was dominated by Mexico's vast Southern California fan base, yet the Rose Bowl was less than half-full with just 42,393 fans. The absence of Chicharito Hernandez and other top Mexican stars, combined with El Tri's unattractive performances in the Gold Cup to date, apparently kept many of their usual faithful at home.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino watched the semifinal from the Rose Bowl stands. So did Osorio, who served the fifth game of a six-match FIFA ban for his conduct toward officials during the Confederations Cup.

Mexico beat Jamaica in the 2015 Gold Cup final, and El Tri also defeated the Reggae Boyz 2-0 at the Rose Bowl just 13 months ago during the Copa America. Jamaica finally got one back, beating Mexico for the first time in the teams' eight Gold Cup meetings.

Blake made two brilliant saves in succession in the 12th minute, diving twice to stop close-range chances by Jesus Duenas and Erick Torres, the Houston Dynamo star and the only player on the current roster from outside Mexico's domestic leagues.

# Haiti, DR face off in bodybuilding showdown

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — The muscles glistened as bodybuilders from Haiti and the Dominican Republic flexed and strutted onstage in the first such showdown between the neighboring countries whose relations are often tense.

Sunday's event was organized by the Dominican Bodybuilding Federation and a local Haitian bodybuilding group to generate support for the sport and make it more accessible, especially in Haiti where a handful of bodybuilders struggle to become professionals in a country where many people make less than \$2 a day.

Among those competing was Spely Laventure, a 30-year-old Haitian who won five competitions in the past year but struggles to find sponsors and the nutrition he needs, especially after losing his job as a loan officer.

"As you know in Haiti, when you lose your job, it's not very easy to find another," he told The Associated Press before the com-



Dominican Republic bodybuilder Dalia Mordechay performs during a bodybuilding competition between Haiti and Dominican Republic in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Associated Press / Dieu Nalio Chery

petition. "I spent all my savings on my body. I don't regret that."

More than two dozen men and one woman competed in Sunday's Haiti Bodybuilding Classic. Laventure won it and

said he hopes it will lead to sponsors and more exposure.

"I proved (to) everyone that I'm really a champion," he said.

He gave his biceps one last squeeze for the audience as second-place finisher Jose Solano, one of two participants from the Dominican Republic, congratulated him.

Tony Pena, president of the Dominican Republic's Bodybuilding Federation, urged Haiti's government to support their local bodybuilders.

"Haitians have very good genetics to be world-class champions," he said. "They just need support."

Laventure gets to work out for free thanks to the owner of a gym in Haiti's capital. But he spends \$50 to \$100 a week on a single meal plan, considered an exorbitant amount in the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

"Most of the things that you eat to prepare for competition, they import it," he said.

Laventure could not find a



First place winner in the semi-heavy weight category, Haitian bodybuilder Spely Laventure, left, is congratulated by Dominican bodybuilder Emmanuel Hidalgo, who placed fourth in the super-heavy weight group, at the end of the bodybuilding competition between Haiti and Dominican Republic in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Associated Press / Dieu Nalio Chery

coach when he began training, so he studied YouTube videos and followed bodybuilders on Instagram to learn about the sport and imitate workouts.

He now wants to become Haiti's first professional bodybuilder and dreams about participating

in Mr. Olympia, the world's biggest bodybuilding competition.

"I know it's going to be very hard. ... In Haiti, especially, it's not easy," he said, adding that he believes he'll make it: "I was a skinny guy, but look at me right now."



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Putting your thoughts into action isn't easy this week, Aries. But you know you have to get moving on something. Dig into familiar tasks that you can do on memory.

**TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21**  
Taurus, most of your best decisions are fueled by the heart. Continue to put your full self into all that you do, and others will recognize your undeniable devotion.

**GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21**  
It is time to stop diverting attention away from the truth, Gemini. Remember that honesty is the best policy. Find the time to talk about the situation.

**CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22**  
Cancer, confidence gives you the power to open doors and initiate conversations you never would have thought possible. Trust your gut instinct and move forward.

**LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23**  
Leo, people are anxious to hear what you have to say, even if the discussion pertains to something minor. Enjoy the attention while it lasts.

**VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22**  
Virgo, a busy time is ahead and it's easy to get overwhelmed when you look at the bigger picture. Instead, focus on one detail at a time until you get through your tasks.

**LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23**  
You have something to discuss that others may find uncomfortable, Libra. Get it out in the open, and in so doing you will remove the mystique of the situation.

**SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22**  
Scorpio, you can lay the foundation for a deep, intimate friendship if you want to. Revealing your own vulnerability can inspire others to trust you.

**SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21**  
Sagittarius, if money is on your mind, speak with a financial advisor, accountant or knowledgeable friend. Setting new goals may be the answer.

**CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20**  
Do you find you are constantly reinventing yourself, Capricorn? If so, you may not be comfortable in your own skin. Learn to see what others find so appealing about you.

**AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18**  
Aquarius, right now you might benefit from some quiet contemplation that can help you zero in on new goals. Take a few days for yourself to mull over your options.

**PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20**  
Don't try to accomplish too much on your own, Pisces. Your network of friends is waiting in the wings to help you out whenever needed.

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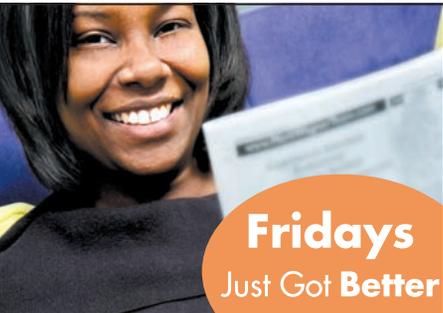
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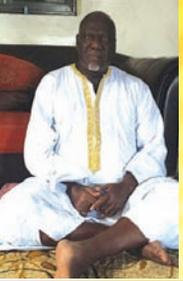
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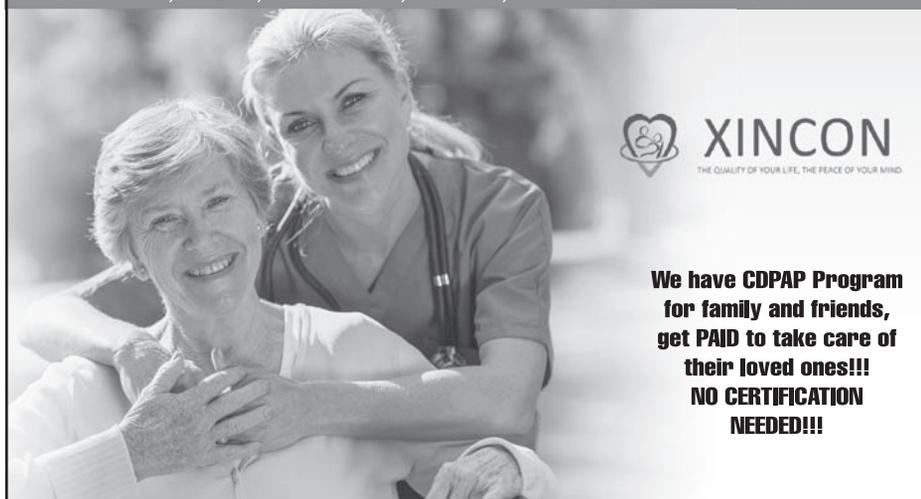


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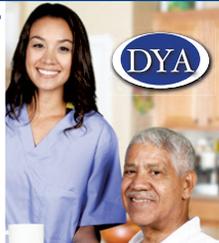
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**Notice is hereby given** that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 07/25/2017, bearing Index Number NC-000965-17/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) Janina (Last) Pedroza. My present name is (First) Janina (Last) Pedroza AKA Janina Pedroza. My present address is 16 Mill Street, Brooklyn, NY 11231. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is August 22, 1966.

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LLC, Plaintiff AGAINST Chauncey Spencer; Sandra Spencer; Xspence Properties, LLC; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated May 17, 2017 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on August 10, 2017 at 2:30PM, premises known as 530 Hegeman Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11207. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of NY, Block 4322 Lot 7. Approximate amount of judgment \$735,496.28 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of

▶ LEGAL

filed Judgment Index# 7374/09. Lee M. Huttner, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 759-1835 Dated: June 30, 2017 47171  
**NOTICE OF SALE**  
 Supreme Court County of Kings  
 HSBC Bank USA, National Association as Trustee for the Holders of Nomura Home Equity Loan, Inc., Home Equity Loan Trust, Series 2007-1, Plaintiff AGAINST Esteban Fernandez, et al, Defendant  
 Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 6/9/2014 and entered on 6/17/2014, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360

▶ LEGAL

Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on August 10, 2017 at 02:30 PM premises known as 576 Williams Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11207. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK: 3835, LOT: 41. Approximate amount of judgment is \$951,129.04 plus interests and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 45711/07.  
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