

Caribbean Life



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Nov. 10–Nov. 16, 2017

CNG



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Caribbean Life

2017 IMPACT AWARDS GALA

Honoring
CARIBBEAN AMERICANS OF DISTINCTION

Chanel Adams
Jonathan Agarrat
Melinda Alexis-Hayes
Shinese Brathwaite
Amarimba Charles
Carole Delinois
Soraya Denis
Lalita Etwaroo
Daniela Fifi
Sharon Gordon
Rose Graham

Ingrid Griffith
Dr. Christopher Hackett
Dr. Grace Hackett
Andel Husbands
Justice Ingrid Joseph
Shani Kulture
Wayne S. McKenzie
Linda McPherson
Danny & Shelly Mohabir
Ashley Murray

Wenford Patrick Simpson
Hon. Bahaati Pitt
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A portion of proceeds will be donated to Caribbean hurricane relief.

We celebrate those who make an impact

Caribbean Americans are hard-working people who came to the United States in search of more and better opportunities, and for decades they have impacted important fields and industries, and thanks to their presence and experiences, they have positioned themselves as major players who have positively influence our city everyday.

Caribbean Life and Community News Group are thrilled to celebrate Caribbean-American heritage, and as proud champions of the community, we are delighted to once again award shine a spotlight on those who have make New York City — and the world — a better place.

The people we are honoring at our 2017 Impact Awards represent almost every island in the Caribbean and are more than deserving of our recognition.

Here's a look at some of their inspirational stories:

- The first black female president of the Student Bar Association at the State University of New York at Buffalo, School of Law, who came to the states from Guyana and has worked in the Bronx court systems for decades.

- A young boy who grew up poverty in Kingston, Jamaica and now is top chef at the two major restaurants in Manhattan and Washington D.C., and is finalizing plans to open a culinary school in his hometown.

- A Calypso artist from St. Vincent and the Grenadines who bravely fought in the Vietnam War not long after immigrating to the states, serving of two years in the U.S. Army.

- Two young men from Trinidad and Tobago who built a nightlife, entertainment and social media app for residents of the twin republic.

We look forward to recognizing these and our other Caribbean-American honorees, and formally praise their accomplishments at the annual Caribbean Life Impact Awards Gala on Nov. 16 at Paradise Caterers in Brooklyn.

We are grateful to our readers for your hand in helping our nomination process, for without you many of these distinguished individuals and their hard work would go unnoticed.

We hope you enjoy reading about their stories and pathways to success as much as we did writing them.

— CNG and Caribbean Life

Gala MC: Nelson A. King

Award-winning Caribbean Life journalist Nelson A. King, Ph.D, has made an impact locally, nationally, and internationally during a prolific academic odyssey spanning more than 35 years.

Dr. King was a U.S. correspondent for the Caribbean's only news agency — the Barbados-headquartered Caribbean Media Corporation — for more than a decade, and held the same position for The Vincentian newspaper in his native St. Vincent and the Grenadines. His vast portfolio of work features tenure with assorted media outfits, including Daily News' Carib Beat magazine, the Queens Chronicle newspaper, WNJR Radio, and the British Broadcasting Corporation.

Our emcee is an accomplished professional with seven degrees — including a doctorate, three masters, and two law degrees! — but there's even more to his story:

- Dr. King was a staff sergeant in the New York National Guard, and holds a number of military and civilian awards, including the U.S. Army Commendation Medal, and the "Iron Man" Award for being the "strongest man" in his battalion while attending aircraft technician school at Fort Gordon in Georgia.

- He is an adjunct professor at Medgar



Evers College.

- He has more than 23 years of public health experience, working in a number of supervisory, managerial, and administrative positions at the city's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, SUNY Downstate Medical Center, and University Hospital of Brooklyn.

Dr. King served is an associate member of the Central Brooklyn Lions Club, in addition to being past vice president of the Brooklyn-based Vincentian Christian Charity Organization.

He is also the recipient of numerous community service awards, including citations from the state Assembly and the New York City Council.



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Leticia Theodore-Greene

Associate Executive Director, Public and Community Affairs
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*Our best wishes also to all honorees for
their achievements and service*



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An honor well-deserved. Love from your family, friends, former and present co-workers. All the best in your present and future endeavors.



Congratulations to **Cyril "Scorcher" Thomas**

and the other 2017 Impact Awards honorees.

Much love from Arthur Thomas and rest of the family.

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Caribbean Life

IMPACT AWARDS



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Congratulations

to the 2017 Caribbean Life
Impact Award Honorees

**We salute your tremendous
contributions to New York**



Chanel Adams

Chanel Adams, of Guyanese parentage, is the founder of the non-profit, The SlimHeart Campaign. Launched in 2012, the networking and charitable outlet was created to help non-profit organizations raise awareness and strengthen relationships, while emphasizing the importance of youth giving back to their communities.

The SlimHeart Campaign's signature event, "The Soul to Sole Shoe Drive," is an annual shoe drive that collects new and gently-worn dress shoes for young teens that are in need for prom. Once the shoes are collected, Adams and her team distribute them to various organizations hosting prom drives in the New York State area, including Junior League of Brooklyn, Princess Chambers Inc., and Sen. Kevin Parker's Prom Dress Giveaway. This year Adams said she and her team collected more than 900 pairs of dress shoes.

In addition to her philanthropy, Adams is a fashion enthusiast and communications maven.

In 2013, she received her Masters of Arts Degree in Public Relations from the New York Institute of Technology and started The GlamMaverick PR. Chanel said her public relations boutique helps Brooklyn start-ups tell their unique stories and elevate brands appeal through social media, creative media strategies, and event planning and media production.



Adams is also the creator of "The Glam-Maverick," a lifestyle blog that focuses on what she likes to call "the uncommon glamour."

Among her numerous endeavors in assisting nonprofits, Chanel also has more than 10 years of work experience in civil service after working for the New York City Employees' Retirement System and the New York City Sheriff's Office.

If that isn't enough, Adams adds that her expertise is now being put to use while working in the WCBS-TV Newsroom, assisting the senior vice president of news, managing the operation of an entire newsroom and creating content for the station's social media outlets.

A native of Brooklyn, Adams says she always seeks to give back to her community, while creating her own path through life.

Jonathan Agarrat & Anel Husbands

Trinidadian Jonathan Agarrat and his compatriot, Anel Husbands, both 21, co-founded of WhereDPump (WDP), an events app focused on providing technology services to the nightlife industry in Trinidad and Tobago. To date, WDP has acquired more than 4000 users.

According to Husbands, it is not enough to just drop a feature in a user's lap and hope they use it. They must be able to enjoy using it and it must bring joy and excitement to them, every single time.

In his time in Trinidad and Tobago, he attended Fatima College, which is where he was first able to explore his interest in computer science via his programming classes. There, he created various websites such as "TriniReviewer" and "QuestforAnswers," both aimed at providing valuable information to Trinidad & Tobago citizens. The top post on TriniReviewer was able to hit over 200,000 views.

Husbands is enrolled at the University of South Florida in Tampa, where he majors in computer science. In his time here, he is able to explore his passion for both programming and design.

During the carnival season, Agarrat said he decided to use WDP to



provide tracking for various carnival bands, partnering with Yuma, Passion and Fantasy.

With recent surges in crime, Agarrat said he has made it his mission to help keep fellow citizens safe by adding two new features to WDP: Safety checking and panic alerts. He said these features have allowed users to update their friends and family about their whereabouts or to send an alert in case of an emergency.

Before migrating from Trinidad and Tobago, Agarrat also attended Fatima College, where he served as the webmaster for the school's website. While at Fatima, he said he also built a website to help his fellow students learn programming for CSEC.

He later created a website, Soca4u, for Caribbean nationals living abroad and returning home for the carnival season. Jonathan says this was his first website to gain 10,000-plus visits, with almost 80 percent from the United States.

Shinese Brathwaite

Shinese Brathwaite, of Guyanese roots, is the creator and owner of BK Girls Night Out (BKGNO), LLC, a lifestyle and event planning brand. Currently residing in Bushwick, Brooklyn, Brathwaite is the mother of a first-generation Brooklyn girl, who is mixed with several cultures, similar to her birth place of Brooklyn.

While completing her Master's Degree in Organizational Management, Brathwaite said she felt there was a need to use her degree in a way that told the story of her borough, brought women together and celebrated all things Brooklyn.

She said her years in fashion, retail, sales and marketing made her sufficiently knowledgeable to launch her business BK Girls Night Out in 2014. Since then, she has been able to work with more than 100 female businesses from Brooklyn, outer boroughs, the DMV area, and Delaware. The line-up consists of women seeking an environment to promote their brand geared towards all things in women's fashion and beauty.

Brathwaite said she is passionate about parities, with a purpose, always seeking a way to educate or inform women about diseases or causes which affect them. Her annual Think Pink Event celebrates survivors or those working toward decreasing / eradicating breast cancer. She said BKGNO has drawn out crowds of more



than 500 women annually.

Her work has been featured in local blogs, such as OurBKSocial and Leading with Lee magazine. Recently, she received an Appreciation Award from the Tallom Foundation in Brownsville after she raised money towards the organization's scholarship fund for graduating girls.

Brathwaite said she was passionate about working with the youth to ensure they were aware of the various options. As a single mother and teen mom from a Caribbean culture, she said she wanted to ensure young women know that, even though marriage first may be the best, if they end up differently, it does not mean they are failures.

"My mom has been my biggest inspiration," she said. "She has shown me a strength beyond measures. Even when faced with a life-changing diagnosis, she still continued to work, have fun and help others."

Amarimba L. Charles

Trinidadian Amarimba L. Charles is the founder and executive director of T.A.L.L.O.M. (This Awesome Little Light Of Mine) Foundation Incorporated, a non-profit organization that focuses on inspiring, educating and empowering youth.

In October 2015, Charles decided to pursue her passion by establishing a platform where young women can access the tools they needed to enhance their lives and create a better reality for themselves. She is a certified youth coach in addition to being a social entrepreneur. She holds a degree in Business Fundamentals from the University of Phoenix.

Charles said she uses her life experiences, practical, and realistic strategies to empower young women to become confident, self-sufficient, and socially conscious. She believes that educated and empowered girls grow up to be educated and empowered women, who positively impact their families and communities.

She is a recipient of the Power Woman in Business, an award of Recognition in Achievement in Entrepreneurship and Women's Empowerment, and a citation from the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President.

She says she has been willing to go above and beyond to provide an environment where children can find support and motivation to enrich themselves, and to pursue their goals. Her leader-



ship skills are exceptional and her commitment to help each and every child is undeniable.

Charles says she was thankful that God strengthened her and placed the desire to serve in her heart.

"I have been inspired by numerous women along the way in both my personal and professional paths who are making a mark on the world at large and also in the life of young people," she said, identifying "powerhouse Oprah, the eloquent Michelle Obama, and my three beautiful and intelligent daughters."

"These women have made an impact on my life that gives me the fortitude to continue to be a game changer," she adds. "I am passionate about empowering girls and young women to become confident, self-sufficient and socially conscious. My hope is that the young ladies that I cross paths with will become educated and empowered women who will positively impact their families and communities."

Carole Delinois

Carole Delinois came to New York from Port-au-Prince, Haiti in 1974. She said she and her sister, as little girls, were compelled to leave the French and Haitian Creole-speaking Caribbean country, because they were fearful of being forcefully removed from their home, where they lived with their parents. At the time, she said, the military had taken over the country and was “causing mayhem.”

On arrival in New York, Delinois said she and her sister were taken in by an undisclosed “loving, rich woman.” She said they cooked, cleaned, and did odd jobs. Later, Delinois worked at the Joint Diseases Hospital and with the New York City’s Health and Hospital Corporation.

But she said her love for hair propelled her to enter into the hair-styling business and she started to work at the Bellerose Unisex Salon in 1990 and bought the business eight years later.

Delinois said she had vowed to help all in need. She said even though she lives in Central Islip, New York, she goes to work at her salon in Bellerose on her days off to “give free haircuts to the elderly and handicapped.”

She said she helps young women to “get off the streets by letting them use” her shop to “dress / wash for job



interviews.”

Delinois said she has a very good relationship with the Bellerose Community, including the churches.

“They have a lot of respect for me and my fellow merchants,” she said. “I hope to be around for another 27 years.”

Delinois said she was inspired by her mom to work hard and to help others.

“That is why I hire and train many kids in high school; some of them have their own salon,” she said. “My motto is: If someone’s hair looks good, and they feel good, my day is perfect.”

Delinois says she is “so thankful” and “honored” to receive the Caribbean Life Impact Award.

She disclosed that she had requested copies of the paper, so she can give copies to residents in the neighborhood.

Soraya Denis

Haitian Soraya Denis is the founder of Dlo Pou Viv (Haitian Creole for “Water to live”), a non-profit organization that advocates and provides sustainable clean water solutions in Haiti. It seeks to end water disparity and instability for women and children most affected by cholera and other water-borne diseases.

Denis also serves as the co-founder of Women Who Inspire Women (WWIW), a collective of professional women that promotes sisterhood and peer mentoring in Brooklyn. For the past three years WWIW has held a Women’s History Month event that honors everyday hometown heroes and gives attendees a chance to share and hear their stories.

She also holds free summer workshops for at-risk youth in Brooklyn through WWIW “Envision 2 Empower” vision-board classes that highlight the power of visual goal setting and intentionality.

Denis’ community work was recognized in 2016 by The White House State of Women, when she was nominated as a Change-Maker for addressing challenges that face marginalized women and girls. These commitments also earned her a spot in the 2017 Class for Star Networks “40 Brooklyn Starts Under 40”, an award that honors those who exemplify leadership skills not only in their chosen fields but in their communities as well.



She was also named 2017 Women of The Year by The Fierce Woman Organization for her work in supporting women’s empowerment and solidarity.

Denis is a graduate of St. John’s University, where she earned a Masters in Criminal Justice Leadership, and John Jay College of Criminal Justice, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Legal Studies.

The Haitian native is a senior program coordinator for the NYC Department of Correction, Youthful Offender Programming Division, that is tasked with leading and spearheading youthful offender reforms and re-entry pathways for incarcerated youth.

“My mother, godmother and grandmother are my pillars,” she said. “They all laid the foundation for me to walk in this world as a woman and be proud of my roots.”

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MBBA President Paula Edgar and the Board of the Association are Proud to Congratulate MBBA Board Member

Wayne S. McKenzie, Esq.

**Recipient of the
2017 Caribbean Life Impact Award**



Lalita Etwaroo

Lalita Etwaroo came to the United States from Guyana when she was 11 years old. Now 26, she has accomplished a lot. She graduated from Bayside High School in Flushing, Queens in 2009; and John Jay College, City University of New York with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminology and Political Science in 2013, and a Master's in Public Administration, with concentrations in Human Resources and Operations Management in 2016.

Etwaroo's goal is to one day retire on a boat somewhere in the Caribbean. But, for now, she said she will stick with the goals that she can actually reach. The first thing, she said, she wanted, and have accomplished, was to get her mother out of corporate America and into her own business. And so, the edible arrangements franchise was born. Etwaroo said she helped to "navigate this entire process" for her parents, opening the doors to customers in March 2015.

Etwaroo said her second goal was to get involved in local political work, stating that constituents need to be equally represented at the local level.

"I think I can make a difference," she said, adding that she first became exposed to this idea when she interned in the New York State Assembly during a legislative session, declaring that "it was the best six months of my life."

Thus, she became a member of the



Queens Village Republican Club, where she met several influential people, including Joseph Concannon.

When Concannon announced that he was running for City Council in District 23, Etwaroo said she immediately became part of his management team, serving as personal assistant, party planner, chef, basically the go-to person.

Etwaroo said she is applying for fellowships to complete her doctorate in international criminal justice.

"With this degree, and my knowledge and experience gained over the years, and years to come, I think that someday I will make a great assembly member," she said.

"Achieving this award brings me such joy," she said. "Now I know that someone is in fact always watching. No achievement comes without hard work, perseverance and dedication. These are qualities that only shine bright when there is support from family, dear friends and the community. After all, they are my biggest supporters."

Daniela Fifi

Native of Trinidad and Tobago, Daniela Fifi's interest in art, art history and in museums was sparked by her aunt, the late Dr. Claire Broadbridge. A former director of the National Art Gallery and Museum of Trinidad and Tobago, Daniela said it was Dr. Broadbridge who first inculcated in her young and impressionable niece an appreciation for the importance of cultural preservation as a means of understanding human development.

Daniela said her early love of cultural artefacts and museums led to a lifelong determination to use art history and education to positively impact the academic experiences of youth throughout the Diaspora, and to preserve the rich culture of the Caribbean through improvement and maintenance of the region's historical institutions and art galleries.

Educated at the Holy Name Convent School in Port-of-Spain, the Trinidad and Tobago capital, Daniela proceeded to attain a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from The Pratt Institute-New York, and a Master of Arts in Art Gallery and Museum Studies from the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom. She is a doctoral candidate in Art and Art Education at Teachers College, Columbia University.

Daniela has been rewarded with



numerous fellowships and awards, including the Whitney Museum's Education Research Fellowship, the Education and Public Programs Fellowship at the Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery and the Columbia University Teachers College International Student Merit Scholarship.

In 2015, she received one of the highest accolades of her scholastic career, when she was chosen from nearly 40 qualified candidates to receive the distinguished Samuel H. Kress Interpretive Fellowship Award, tenable at the Miriam and Ira D Wallach Art Gallery at Columbia University. During her tenure she played an integral role in the relocation of the gallery from Columbia's 116th university campus to the Lenfest Center for the Arts on Broadway and West 125th St.

Sharon Gordon

The multi-talented, Jamaican-born, Sharon Gordon is co-founder and chair of the Coalition to Preserve Reggae Music, Inc. She is an accomplished journalist, publicist, promoter, film producer, event coordinator, facilitator, ethnomusicologist, ethnic marketing and cultural consultant, mistress of ceremonies and actress. Essentially, Gordon can be described as a self-made renaissance woman.

Over the years, her distinctive voice has been heard on several radio programs throughout the Tri-State, starting with Gil Bailey, the "God Father" of Caribbean radio on WNWK, where she would later provide the "Food For Thought" segment on Caribbean Blend with DJ Roy.

Gordon soon began hosting her own program, Ecstasy Ride, with DJ Prentice of Soul Tone Disco as her co-host, on a recommendation from Byron "Father Barney" Dudley. This was during the time she worked as the publicist for Stone Love Movement, which was just making its inroads into the New York market. She would soon be hosting Saturdays with Sharon, a drive-time program on WWRL, where she carried her links with Crucial Robbie and later Angie Greaves on the BBC.

Her weekly reports on the "happenings" made Gordon a household name through-



out Luton, England, where Crucial Robbie was based.

For more than a decade, Gordon said she was a regular on the Midnight Ravers Collective, heard on WBAI, where she was known as the "Meanie Raver" for her no-nonsense, yet extremely insightful, satirical commentary.

Today, Gordon can be heard hosting Reggae Calling on Saturdays, via CPRLIVE, the internet broadcast platform of Coalition to Preserve Reggae (CPR), where she holds court with viewers from all around the globe.

She was part of the original team at Caribbean Life with then editor Simone Gil. Gordon was a columnist for Caribbean Life and Entertainment Editor for Caribbean Times newspaper. She would go on to write her weekly column "Views on the News" for The Jamaican Weekly Gleaner for many years.

Rose Graham

Jamaican-born Rose Graham, a Brooklyn-based educator and community, began her educational career as a para-professional with the then Board of Education in 1992.

Between 1995 and 2003, Rose served as teacher of the Gifted and Talented, literacy specialist, literacy staff developer, literacy design coach and assistant principal of both early childhood and elementary education. She serves as assistant principal at Public School 399 in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn.

In addition, she was a site supervisor for the "Partners in Reading" program, a joint initiative of the New York City Department of Education, the Mayor's Office and New York City Housing Authority. Most recently, she was the site director for the NYC Summer in the City STEM program.

Graham attended Brooklyn College, CUNY, where she is the proud recipient of a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education, a Master of Science in Early Childhood Education, a Master of Arts in Reading, and an Advanced Certificate in Administration and Supervision.

Throughout her career, Graham, says she has, among other things, provided instructional support; coordinated literacy-based workshops; modeled instructional practices and



piloted professional growth activities for staff; supervised Summer School; wrote and successfully implemented Comprehensive Educational Plans, as well as a redesign plan that has closed the achievement gap; and increased students' performance on NYS exams.

Last year, she was honored by Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams as the "June 2016 Hero of the Month." She was also honored by Adams' predecessor, Marty Markowitz; the National Organization of Black Business and Professional Women; and received Congressional Recognition from the US House of Representatives.

"It has been an amazing journey, but I did not make this journey alone," she said. "Many people have inspired and supported me along the way."



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

Caribbean candidates victorious in general elections

By Nelson A. King

Despite the treacherous weather Tuesday, many voters rushed to the polls to cast ballots for two incumbent Caribbean candidates, who secured sound victories in New York City general elections.

The rainy, cold and blustery weather did not prevent voters from overwhelmingly returning Council Members Jumaane Williams, the son of Grenadian immigrants, and

Haitian-born Dr. Mathieu Eugene, to another four-year term in districts in Brooklyn that are predominantly Caribbean.

With 100 percent of the 121 precincts reporting, Williams, who represents the 45th Council District and ran on the Democratic and Working Families parties line, defeated Anthony Beckford, of the True Freedom Party, by a landslide.

Williams — who currently

serves as deputy leader of the New York City Council, chair of the Council's Committee on Housing and Buildings, and co-chair of the Council's Task Force to Combat Gun Violence — trounced Beckford in attaining 20,347 votes, or 97 percent. Beckford only received 613 votes, or 3 percent.

Williams, who is also among eight candidates vying to become speaker of

Continued on Page 8

CARICOM SURVEYS CITIZENS

Consultation on marijuana heads to Suriname

By Bert Wilkinson

The recent approval of a bill by Belize's parliament allowing for up to 10 grams of marijuana without criminal penalty could influence Caribbean trade bloc governments into changing attitudes and draconian laws governing it, a top regional official said this week.

Douglas Slater who is an assistant secretary general at the Guyana-based group headquarters said Wednesday that the recent move by Belize and Jamaica in 2015 could well influence the work of a regional commission now canvassing feedback from citizens in all 15 nations in the grouping.

The commission, comprising medical and legal experts, social workers and law enforcement officers among others headed to Suriname for its round of consultations after wrapping up two days of similar work in neighboring Guyana this week. It has already been to several countries in the Eastern Caribbean and plans to visit every member nation of the grouping in the coming months.

The commission was established back in 2015 by Car-

ibbean governments amid mounting complaints from sections of society about a growing number of youths being unnecessarily sent to jail for possession of small amounts of marijuana mostly for personal use.

Government had admitted that they were under severe pressure from rights and other groups to change direction. Pressure also came from the fact that several American states had taken modern day action to decriminalize small amounts of the weed and to allow medical products to be traded in stores.

Slater said governments have sent out the commission to gather feedback and present it to authorities "but some governments like Belize and Jamaica have already moved to take unilateral action. This could possibly positively influence the way this whole issue develops moving forward."

The commission is also taking feedback on arguments about medical and religious use of marijuana apart from usage for recreational purposes. Its report is to be completed

Continued on Page 8

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Clarke urges Trump to 'stand up for diversity'

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke on Saturday, Nov. 4 urged President Donald J. Trump to be "a true New Yorker and stand up for diversity."

In addressing an annual fundraising brunch and concert in her honor, at St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church on Hawthorne Street in Brooklyn, Clarke, who represents the 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn, said that Trump should adopt this stance "rather than fight to create an America that is hostile to the very foundation of what makes America great."

Last week, Trump has called on Congress to abolish the Diversity Immigrant Visa (DV) Program, through which the suspect in the New York terror attack entered the country.

He called the program, informally known as the Green Card lottery, a disaster for the country.

"This program grants visas not on a basis of merit, but simply because applicants are randomly selected in an annual lottery and the people put in that lottery are not that country's finest," he said, adding that "the program presents significant vulnerabilities to our national security."

Uzbek native Sayfullo Saipov is accused of driving a rented truck down a crowded New York City bike path, killing eight people and injuring more than a dozen others.

Investigators said Saipov told them he was inspired to conduct the attack by Islamic State videos, according to Voice of America (VOA). He faces federal terror-related charges.

Saipov is the fifth DV program beneficiary to be connected with a terrorist attack in the US since the program was started in 1990, VOA said.

It said the program grants 50,000 green cards a year to countries with low immigration rates to the United States, mainly from Africa and Eastern Europe.

But Clarke said the Trump administration has "politicized this tragedy and turned it into yet another way of going after immigrants of color by attacking the diversity visa lottery program."

She added, however, that "terrorism won't break the spirit of New Yorkers or force us to compromise on our values."



Retired Judge Emille Cox receives proclamation from Philadelphia Councilwoman Jannie L. Blackwell (to his left), flanked by SVGOP officials and other dignitaries. Photo by Nelson A. King

Vincentian group honors two

By Nelson A. King

As Vincentians in the United States continue to celebrate their 38th anniversary of political independence from Great Britain, the Philadelphia-based St. Vincent and the Grenadines Organization of Pennsylvania, Inc. (SVGOP) Saturday night honored a Vincentian and Jamaican at a gala Independence Anniversary Ball at Penns Landing Caterers on the Philadelphia waterfront.

SVGOP bestowed the honors on recently retired judge, Emille Cox, a South New Jersey-based native of Union Island in the St. Vincent Grenadines, and Jamaican radio personality Lloyd Cummings, a signature voice of the Caribbean community on Philadelphia radio.

Both, as well as guest speaker Ferrand "Randy D" Dopwell, a popular Vincintian radio personality, also received proclamations from the Council of the City of Philadelphia, presented by Councilwoman Jannie L. Blackwell.

"A biblical quote states, a prophet is not without honor save in his own country, meaning it is rare to be recognized among your own," said Judge Cox in his acceptance speech, at the grand ceremony that was graced by the presence of US Consul General Howie Prince, who is based at the Consulate General in New York. "So, when I stop to think about this night, this recognition will be so much sweeter, that much more special, knowing it is from my own."

"When I reflect on my academic and professional journey from my humble beginnings in SVG (St. Vincent and the Grenadines) to the privilege of serving as a New Jersey Judge of Compensation, I have come to realize how blessed I am, and I must give God thanks for having cleared my pathway every step of the

way," he added.

Judge Cox received his elementary education at the Ashton Government School in Union Island and earned a government scholarship to attend the then St. Vincent Boys Grammar School, where he completed his secondary school education.

After graduation, Cox was first employed as an English, French and Spanish teacher at the Boys Grammar School before moving on to the then Windward Islands Broadcasting Service (WIBS) as St. Vincent and the Grenadines' announcer and programmer for the country's news, sports and special events.

After almost four years at the radio station, Cox resigned and migrated to the United States to further his education. He entered Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus, where he attained a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in economics. He was a graduate of the school's general honors program.

On completing his degree, Cox accepted the position of methods analyst with Prudential Property and Casualty Insurance Company. Within three years, he was promoted to the position of Associate Manager.

Driven by a desire for advancement, Cox decided to pursue a law degree. He resigned and entered Rutgers Law School, Camden.

While attending law school, Cox worked part-time as a legal intern at the Superior Court of New Jersey, Appellate Division.

Following graduation, he was counsel to the office of the Ombudsman for the Institutionalized Elderly, an office tasked with addressing issues pertinent to the residents of nursing and boarding homes in New Jersey.

During his years with the New Jersey judiciary, Judge Cox said he was a presenter at numerous appellate practice seminars, workshops and clinics; served on the Appellate Division Self-Evaluation Committee, the Supreme Court Committee on Professional and Outside Activity of Judiciary Personnel, and the Judiciary Equal Employment Opportunity Advisory Committee.

In 2003, then New Jersey Governor McGreevy nominated Judge Cox to the Workers' Compensation Bench, where he served as a Judge of Compensation, then Supervising Judge of Compensation and an Administrative Supervisory Judge of Compensation, responsible for the supervision of multiple vicinages.

Judge Cox retired in January after over 37 years of state service, with 14 ½ on the Workers' Compensation Bench. He is on recall, assigned to the Mercer County Vicinage.

He is married to the former Elvia Wilson. They are the parents of two adult children, Byron and Rena, and have one granddaughter Zuri.

Cummings, who hails from St. Thomas in Jamaica, has become a "son of the Caribbean of whom we can be justly proud," said SVGOP President Yvonne O'Garro.

For almost four decades, Cummings has been "the signature voice of our Caribbean community on Philadelphia radio," O'Garro said.

His resume includes shows on WIIAI-ANI (1993-2001); "Caribbean Connections," WDAS-AM (1980-1989); and "Best of Both Worlds," WDAS-FM (1977-1950).

On WRTI-FM (1990-2000), Cummings' "Caribbean Rhythms" was broadcast on the 12-station network, "earning the most money on fundraising drives," Cummings said.

Caribbean

The Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) has expressed confidence that the Caribbean Travel Marketplace will take place in Puerto Rico in January next year despite the recent hurricane.

The region's largest tourism marketing event will be held between January 30 and February 1 as officials are working feverishly to prepare hotels and meeting facilities impacted by the hurricane.

Director General and CEO of the CHTA Frank Comito said most of the region's tourism industry is open for business and "we anticipate by the end of the year most of the hotels in Puerto Rico will be welcoming guests, as will a growing number of hotels from the other impacted destinations."

Marketplace is produced by CHTA in collaboration with the Puerto Rico Conventions Center District Authority, the Puerto Rico Tourism Company, and the Puerto Rico Hotel and Tourism Association.

CHTA President Karolin Troubetzkoy said Caribbean hoteliers, destination representatives and industry stakeholders who rely on doing business with the region will have a unique opportunity to learn about the region's diverse offerings, new products, improvement and upgrades and niche market opportunities.

CHTA said Marketplace 2018 will also see a wider range of suppliers eager to promote their new contributions to this fast-growing sector.

Antigua

A magistrate in Antigua has ordered the deportation of a Jamaican national, who has been described as one of that country's 10 most wanted criminals.

Jermaine Gordon, 33, who is wanted on murder and other criminal charges in Jamaica, recently appeared before Chief Magistrate Joanne Walsh in the St. John's court, after he was captured by police on the island.

Police said Gordon had entered the country illegally by boat and had been residing in Antigua for some years.

Gordon is facing at least two murder charges in Jamaica.

Dominica

A total of 12 schools have been reopened so far in Dominica, which was ravaged by a Category 5 hurricane recently.

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit said he expects "a greater number will be reopened" in the coming weeks.



Vincentians raise flag in Philly

Vincentians gather after historic raising of Vincy flag at Philadelphia City Hall. See story on Page 26.

James Cordice

Plans to reopen the schools have been delayed because of continuous rain.

Skerrit told a news conference in Roseau, his government had received a number of tents, which would be erected on the compounds of the schools which existed prior to the devastation of Hurricane Maria in September.

He said with schools reopening, Cabinet would discuss the construction of temporary housing for people to be taken out of shelters so that their children can go to school.

The prime minister said his government expects to sign a contract for construction of Bailey bridges at locations across the country to reconnect communities.

Skerrit also said the government was looking at a recommendation from the chief of police to change the curfew hours from 6 pm to 6 am to 10 pm to 5 am. He said an announcement would be made soon.

Grenada

The Grenada government says that natural gas has been discovered within the island's territorial waters, but is waiting on the results of tests to determine whether the gas is of a quality the island could benefit from financially.

Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell said the findings are being tested for

quality, noting that not all natural gas found is of the quality required for refining.

Earlier this year, the government disclosed that it had issued a license to the Russian-based Global Petroleum Group to conduct the necessary exploration activities to locate oil and natural gas within the island's territorial waters.

In June, Parliament approved the Hydro Carbon Exploration Incentive Bill 2017 outlining a package of incentives for oil and gas exploration to any company.

Guyana

Public servants in Guyana are to get a salary increase for this year.

This was announced by Minister of State Joseph Harmon, who said the new offer to public servants will see those earning GUY\$90,000 and less being given an eight percent increase on their salaries, while those earning GUY\$100,000 and GUY\$299,000 will receive an increase of six percent.

He also said there will be a hike in the minimum wage, from GUY\$55,000 to GUY\$66,000 per month.

Additionally, workers earning between GUY\$300,000 and GUY\$499,000 will get an increase of four percent.

The announcement came after a meeting between the union representatives and officials from the Public Service Department.

The retroactive increases from January 2017 would cost the government GUY\$3.5 billion for the estimated 14,000 public servants.

He noted that those earning over GUY\$1 million a month would not be receiving an increase.

St. Lucia

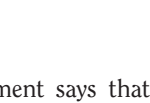
St. Lucia's tourist arrivals are among the fastest growth in the region among Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) member countries.

According to figures released by the CTO, Bermuda leads the member countries as at August with 11.9 percent increase in stay-over arrivals over 2016, followed by St. Lucia by 9.2 per cent. The island also recorded the third highest percentage increase for August at 11.4 percent, behind Belize at 19.1 percent and Grenada at 16.9 percent.

August marked the third consecutive month of double-digit growth for St Lucia and fourth for the year, a feat surpassed only by Bermuda with five double digit increases so for the year.

The United States continues to be the market leader with total stay-over visi-

Continued on Page 16



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Row over Barbados television control

By George Alleyne

A long-simmering issue of political control of Barbados' only licensed television station, Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, has now bubbled to the top with revelations that the ruling party owes the most to the financially troubled entity.

CBC is currently floundering with over \$100 million (BDS\$1 = 50 cents US) in debt and information was leaked over the weekend that the major entity not paying overdue bills to the cash-strapped TV station is the governing Democratic Labour Party which also stands accused of monopolizing broadcast of the airwaves to the exclusion of the Opposition.

The Sunday Sun newspaper published information revealing that the DLP owes \$106,609 of the \$1.6 million some 254 clients have in outstanding fees to the state company that is so out of money it reportedly has been paying staff late, and recently cried broke when told to give workers wage increases.

The leaked information came one week after the Opposition

Barbados Labour Party publicly complained that it could not get coverage on CBC even if that political entity offered to pay for airtime.

A BLP case in point was CBC's refusal to carry a delayed paid broadcast of that party's annual conference of Oct. 27 to 29, despite the TV station airing an early September address to the ruling DLP annual conference by party president Freundel Stuart, who is also prime minister of Barbados.

"Apparently CBC a Barbadian station, financed by the tax payers of Barbados, which should be operating for all Barbadians seems to have a recurrent problem with the requests of this country's main Opposition party the Barbados Labour Party," the BLP General Secretary Dr. Jerome Walcott complained.

The ruling DLP General Secretary, George Pilgrim, never responded to accusations of partisan use of the state-owned media house, but blasted unnamed persons for leaking information that his party owes the most money to CBC.

While not denying the debt

which amounts to 10 percent of money owed to the loss-making TV station, Pilgrim who sits on the company's board told the online newspaper Barbados TODAY, "the staff told me that they were concerned because they don't know how a fellow staff member could betray the organization like this when they know full well that we go to the banks for loans. The next minute CBC is going to be treated as an institution that is not financially stable. This is not about the party, it is about the staff. It adds to the vulnerability of all the staff and it is not at all fair to them."

Issues concerning CBC's coverage have transcended administrations of both political parties with claims and counter-claims that whoever is in government uses the TV station as a tool.

Observers have wondered at the fact that for a developing country solid in practices of democracy, successive Barbados governments have never seen it fit to open TV broadcast licences to private enterprise.

The first mood swing in this regard came from the Opposi-



BLP General Secretary Jerome Walcott. Photo by George Alleyne

sition BLP when it declared in its manifesto for the 2013 general elections, "we will urgently and immediately issue additional television licences to

ensure that our citizens are given choice with respect to their access to news, information and entertainment on free to air television."

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Feeling the pulse for marijuana use



Farmer nicknamed Breezy shows his illegal patch of budding marijuana plants during a tour of his land in Jamaica's central mountain town of Nine Mile. Associated Press / David McFadden

Continued from Page 1

next year and presented to governments at one of their twice yearly summits in the near future.

He said authorities are concerned that the lives of many youths have been destroyed after being convicted for possession of small amounts contending that “a criminal record can mean the end of their social development and lives. The recommendations of this commission could well result in changes and adjustment to legislation in the community.”

The commission is swinging through the region just as its campaigners are digesting the fact that citizens can now walk around with up to 10 grams “without any criminal penalty in a member state. The bill was signed into law in the past week. It was first introduced in the house in August. Abuse will lead to monetary fines instead of criminal prosecutions and convictions.

Main newspaper Amandala reported that some legislators remain uncomfortable with the fact that the Central American nation does not have adequate rehabilitation facilities for youths who may abuse the drug and become

addicted.

“I think it would be naïve for us to feel that smoking weed is not prevalent in our society,” said Senator Osmany Salas, as he lobbied for rehabilitation services.

We feel that legalizing even in a small amount is a step in the wrong direction,” argued Pastor Lance Lewis who is president of the Evangelical Association of Belize.

In relation to Jamaica, the University of the West Indies is already collaborating with authorities to development and market medical products to treat glaucoma and other diseases, while citizens could have up to two ounces in their possession legally.

Incumbents hold their ground

Continued from Page 1

New York City Council in the Special Elections in January, had won the Democratic Primary in a landslide in September with 100 percent of the 121 precincts reporting. At that time, he received 8,588 votes, or 90 percent, to his then lone challenger, Lou Cespedes, who garnered 904 votes, or 10 percent.

On Tuesday, Democrat Eugene — the first Haitian to hold elective office in New York City and who represents the 40th Council District, juxtaposed to Williams’ 45th Council District — beat Brian Christopher Cunningham, the son of Jamaican immigrants in garnering 13, 840 votes, or 60 percent.

With 100 percent of the 104 precincts reporting, Cunningham, running on the Reform Party line, mustered 8, 370 votes, or 36 percent. Another Eugene Challenger, Brian Kelly, who contested the seat on the Conservative Party ticket, received 767 votes, or 3 percent.

Cunningham had also challenged Eugene in the Democratic Primary in September, receiving, at the time, 3,991 votes, or 30 percent. In that four-way race, Pia Raymond had received 2,956 votes, or 22 percent, and Jennifer Berkley, 822 votes, or 6 percent.

“I just want to say ‘thank you’ to

the voters; ‘thank you very much,’” Williams told Caribbean Life after Tuesday night’s victory. “It shows they’re [voters] happy in giving me a mandate to do what I’m doing. Now, I can focus on the Speaker’s race.”

Eugene again attributed his success to God and his dedicated to community service.

“Thank God for giving me the opportunity to be elected one more time, to continue do what I love doing – serving the people,” he told Caribbean life after the results were announced. “I like to thank all the voters and supporters for putting their trust and confidence me.

“I pledge to work harder, to continue to do what I can to address the issues and improve the quality of life for all, including those who did not vote for me,” Eugene added.

He said, even though he has accomplished a lot in his district, his priorities are to “address the challenges facing the youth; to ensure quality education with smaller class size; to improve access to healthcare for all people; to expand employment opportunities; to improve public safety services and police / community relations; to improve affordable housing opportunities and support immigrant rights; as well as to provide strong advocacy for neighborhood preservation and homeowners.’

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Widespread natural disasters threaten development goals

By **Amina J. Mohammed**
Amina J. Mohammed is deputy secretary-general of the United Nations

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 2, 2017 (IPS) — This year in the Caribbean and on the American mainland, hurricanes have left millions of people in need of assistance.

The secretary general recently travelled to Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica to show solidarity and see for himself the damage. In Puerto Rico, 3.4 million people have been scrambling for basic necessities, including food and water. Barbuda was rendered uninhabitable and Dominica was hit hard for the second year in a row.

Across the globe, floods in Bangladesh, India and Nepal have affected some 40 million people.

Twenty countries have also declared drought emergencies in the past 18 months, with major displacement taking place across the Horn of Africa.

In light of such impacts, and the growing influence of climate change which is increasingly exacerbating them, one conclusion is clear: sustainable development and the achievement of the SDGs will remain elusive or significantly delayed so long as hazards are left unchecked.

It is difficult to maintain social and economic progress if

development gains are so regularly and profoundly wiped out. Clearly, more must be done.

We need to build a new generation of infrastructure that is risk-informed, and that in turn underpins resilient economies, communities and livelihoods. We must also rebuild differently, and better.

This is not a new suggestion. For years, the international community has called for the need to invest in disaster risk reduction.

As outlined in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, we need to shift from managing disasters to preventing disasters by better managing existing risks.

This means tackling risk drivers such as poverty, rapid urbanization, weak governance, the decline of ecosystems, desertification and climate change. These are all driving up disaster risk around the world.

It also means investing appropriately in structural and non-structural measures to prevent and prepare for worst case scenarios. In this area, we have seen some success.

Thanks to the efforts of Member States, supported by the UN and other development partners, there has been a decline in mortality in relation to most natural hazards in recent years, particularly storms and floods.

Continued on Page 25

Four reasons for countries to enhance climate commitments by 2020

By **Taryn Fransen and Eliza Northrop**

WASHINGTON DC, Nov 7 2017 (IPS) — The Paris Agreement was widely hailed for drawing all nations together to tackle climate change, based on bottom-up contributions that will be reviewed and strengthened over time. These contributions are aimed at achieving the ambitious but necessary long-term goals of limiting global temperature increase and building resilience to climate impacts.

This process is known as the ambition mechanism, and the first test of whether and how it will work is fast approaching. In 2018, Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change will come together to take stock of progress and identify where they can go further, faster to put the goals of the Paris Agreement within reach.

Following this process, known as the Talanoa Dialogue, Parties will have the opportunity to communicate new or updated climate commitments, known as Nationally Determined Contributions or NDCs, by 2020.

So why should countries communicate new or updated NDCs by 2020?

1) Current NDCs Need to Be Strengthened to Achieve the Goals of the Paris Agreement

At the 2015 climate summit in Paris, countries agreed to limit warming to well below 2 degrees C (3.6 degrees F) above pre-

The next years could offer new areas of cost-effective climate action.

industrial levels, and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5 degrees C (2.7 degrees F).

The current NDCs, by contrast, would lead to warming in the range of 2.7 to 3.7 degrees C; there remains a significant gap between emissions expected in 2030 and emissions compatible with the Paris goals. The longer countries wait to bring their commitments into line with the Paris goals, the more difficult it will be and the steeper the rate at which emissions will need to decline.

Because fossil-fueled power plants and inefficient buildings have long life spans, achieving an ever-steeper reduction rate can become expensive and technically difficult. The sooner NDCs reflect the necessary ambition to achieve the Paris goals, the sooner they can signal to redirect investments away from high-emitting technologies.

2) Parties Can Seize Economic and Social Benefits of Updating their NDCs

The current NDCs were developed by Parties ahead of Paris, quickly and with no certainty of the final outcome. With the Paris Agreement now in force and with implementation guidelines to be finalized at the end

of 2018, Parties can factor in recent innovations and declining costs of renewable energy to take advantage of opportunities in key sectors to send accurate signals to investors.

Many countries have long-term plans and strategies related to climate, development, and economic objectives. Taking the opportunity now to align NDCs with these long-term goals and strategies will avoid locking in high emissions that will exacerbate climate vulnerabilities.

For example, analysis has revealed the high potential for synergies between achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the NDCs.

The next years could offer new areas of cost-effective climate action. Lastly, many countries have already made substantial progress and some appear to be on track to exceed the targets in their current NDCs.

3) It Provides an Opportunity to Engage Stakeholders and Create Support for Climate Action

Enhancing NDCs provides an opportunity to rally support for climate action, strengthen public participation and ensure that relevant stakeholders help to create a strategic vision.

The opportunity to review and update the NDCs by 2020 enables Parties to learn from their initial experience and identify ways to engage a broader range of stakeholders to access new

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are welcome from all readers. They should be addressed care of this newspaper to the Editor, Caribbean-Life Publications, 1 MetroTech Center North, Brooklyn, New York 11201, or sent via e-mail to caribbeanlife@cnglocal.com All letters, including those submitted via e-mail, MUST be signed and the individual's verifiable address and telephone number included. Note that the address and telephone number will NOT be published and the name will be published or withheld on request. No unsigned letters can be accepted for publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Thank you for your service

It is ironic that Veterans Day is wedged between Election Day and Thanksgiving Day.

More than a coincidence, recent alleged statements from America's top political figure to a grieving widow whose husband was killed on Oct. 4 in an ambush in a West African country comes just before those three eventful dates.

Not only were the allegations inappropriate and offensive given the fact the 45th representative neither served in any military branch of the United States military but that he was not elected by a majority of the American populace.

To imply that everyone who volunteers service "knows what they signed up for" is neither comforting nor consoling to any grieving spouse.

But that was what he said and most offensive is the fact, the bereaved widow is pregnant, compounded with that at a Miami airport she was told she could not see the body of her spouse that was allegedly inside a flag-draped, decorated casket.

A more politically correct statement might have been



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

"Thank You For Your Service."

It is a phrase routinely banded about by conscientious citizens who come in contact with uniformed service members.

The simple acknowledgment of gratitude seems the least any citizen can ever offer strangers who unselfishly serve their country.

There is a film of that title, now in theaters that addresses the issue of returning veterans who privately suffer from post traumatic stress disorder related to actual brain injury or even from witnessing a traumatic incident while on active duty.

Based on a true incident, the timely film released late last month, skims the surface of the tremendous sacrifice families endure when a member dons a uniform, carries the flag and gravely suffers effects from the ultimate sacrifice.

Myeshia Johnson is now

struggling to understand how she will go on following the death of her 25-year-old husband Sgt. La David Johnson.

That she is now a widow, head of a household and mother to two more children is also now subjected to scrutiny for being the topic of a national disgrace during her period of bereavement.

The fact her husband was deployed to Niger, Africa, killed and left un-retrieved for two days compounds the sadness. The soldier was initially missing in the wake of the attack, becoming separated from a 12-member team when they were ambushed by 50 ISIS fighters.

Nigerian troops found Johnson's body about a mile from the scene of the ambush two days after the tragedy.

"I want to know why it took them 48 hours to find my husband," Johnson said during an



People wave U.S. flags during the Veterans Day parade, Friday, Nov. 11, 2016, in New York. Associated Press / Julio Cortez, File

interview, adding that she was told very little about her husband's death.

"Why couldn't I see my husband?"

"Every time I asked to see my husband, they wouldn't let me."

Republican Sen. John

McCain, chairman of the Committee on Armed Services said he did not know of any US troops being deployed to Niger.

How could that be?

Florida, Congresswoman Frederica Wilson, a Democrat and friend of the Johnson fam-

Continued on Page 22



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St. Vincent denounces 'money laundering' label

By Nelson A. King

The relevant authorities in St. Vincent and the Grenadines have strongly denounced the description of the country as being "notorious for money laundering" and a "prime money laundering destination."

The description appeared in the international media on Oct. 29 in articles on the current Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) investigation into Paul Manafort, the former campaign manager of US President, Donald J. Trump, and the alleged Trump/Manafort links with Russia.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is alleged to be one of the countries whose offshore structures were utilized to move funds allegedly controlled by Manafort.

In a joint statement, the National Anti-Money Laundering Committee (NAMLC), the Financial Services Authority (FSA) and the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) said such descriptions linking St. Vincent and the Grenadines with money laundering were "uninformed, outdated, erroneous and inaccurate."

The authorities further underscored that "there is no basis for such descriptions, particularly as this country is not on any international sanction list as a money laundering haven, nor on any other international sanction list."

"The authorities emphatically refute that St. Vincent and the Grenadines is a 'money laundering' jurisdiction, and on the contrary, wish to point out that this country has for several years been effectively addressing money laundering and financial crimes, as well as responsibly participating in international initiatives aimed at combating money laundering, the financing of terrorism, tax offences and financial crime," the statement said.

It said St. Vincent and the Grenadines is an active member of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force, the Caribbean arm of the international anti money laundering standard setter, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Global Forum, the international tax transparency standard setter.

The entities said St. Vin-



Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Ralph Gonsalves.

Associated Press / Frank Franklin II

cent and the Grenadines has been assessed as being "Largely Compliant" in relation to its legal and administrative tax transparency framework, adding that "this denotes a responsible and transparent tax jurisdiction."

"This country is also 'US FATCA' compliant, i.e. compliant with the US initiative to ensure tax reporting by its US citizens holding assets outside of the US," they said. "St. Vincent and the Grenadines continues to be extremely cooperative on the global front, in

the investigation and prosecution of money laundering, tax offences and criminal matters."

Commencing in 2001 and 2002, the authorities said "this jurisdiction made significant legislative and administrative changes to implement a sound AML/CFT compliance regime, to the extent that its FIU has for several years, been well recognized by the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force and major countries, as one of a leading FIUs in the Caribbean region."

"The country's regulatory laws are up to date, modern and effective as is its regulatory administrative framework which has been put in place to supervise the various regulated sectors, through the FSA," they said.

The authorities said St. Vincent and the Grenadines has to date implemented appropriate laws and regulations that require banks and other financial institutions to maintain robust, effective anti-money laundering and other compliance programs.

They said the country has also made "considerable

progress" in ensuring a properly regulated and supervised offshore and financial industry.

"The work of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in relation to financial regulation has been positively recognized by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its last Article IV Consultation Press Release and Staff Report (2016), where St. Vincent and the Grenadines was described as leading the region with respect to non-bank supervision and its work acknowledged in relation to the offshore banking sector, which was subject to frequent banking inspections," the statement said.

"The relevant authorities consider the aforementioned descriptions in the international media to be particularly damaging to the reputation of St. Vincent and the Grenadines," it added. "It appears that reliance may have been placed on historical information about this country's 'blacklisted' status in the year 2000, as well as merely by reason of the operation of an offshore industry, which is popularly perceived as having negative connotations."

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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from Page 4

tor arrivals of 12,922 in August.

The United Kingdom showed a marked increase of 36 percent, a significant increase, after a difficult year for the UK market in 2016.

Trinidad

Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley has announced that Cabinet has approved TT\$35 million to assist people affected by recent floods in several parts of Trinidad.

He said he directed the Minister of Finance to allocate the fund for the thousands of people who have lost household items when flood waters rose to chest night in some parts of East, Central and South Trinidad.

The prime minister said steps will be taken to ensure that this assistance

reaches the most in need.

The country experienced four days of rainfall, which caused many villagers to be marooned in their homes for days.

Dr. Rowley made the announcement on his return to Trinidad from a climate change conference in Mexico.



He revealed that the Mexican government is willing to help T&T deal with natural disasters and this could include strengthening the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM).

Rowley said Mexico has provided US\$5 million each to Dominica and Antigua and Barbuda to assist their respective countries from Hurricanes Maria and Irma.

— Compiled by Azad Ali

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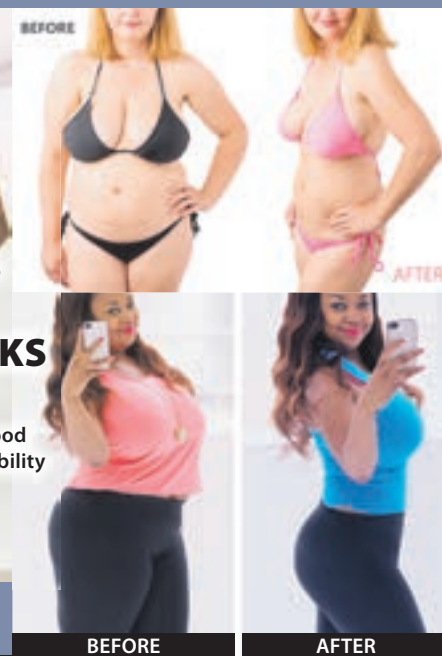
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Brooklyn benefits from citizenship initiative

By Tangerine Clarke

A wide-cross section of Brooklyn residents came out in high numbers to take full advantage of services offered at the free annual CUNY Citizenship Now! Initiative, hosted by Sen. Kevin Parker on Saturday, Nov. 4 at the Flatbush YMCA.

The collaborative effort of State Assembly Member Rodneyse Bichotte and New York City Council Member Jumaane D. Williams, afforded immigrants, free high quality, and confidential one-on-one consultations with attorneys and paralegals to assess their immigration and naturalization needs, according to Sen. Parker, whip of the Senate Democratic Conference and Member of the Senate Democratic Conference Policy Group.

The politician, who is a member of the Senate Select Committee on Technology & Innovation, noted that the citizenship application process is daunting and cumbersome, as well as costly, adding, "When you couple that with the associated costs, naturalization seems unattainable and leaves many applicants feeling hope-

less."

The member of the Senate Democratic Minority and Women-Owned Business Task Force (MWBE), said, this is the reason it is important for him to bring CUNY Citizenship Now! to help the residents of central Brooklyn with their immigration issues.

"Today in the age of Trump, it is even more important that we ensure that our vibrant immigrant communities across our great state receive the support they need to not only flourish, but also maintain their existence for future generations," noted the Brooklyn lawmaker who represents Brooklyn's diverse 27th District comprising Flatbush, East Flatbush, Midwood, Ditmas Park, Kensington, Windsor Terrace, and Park Slope.

Ebony Mason, events manager of CUNY Citizenship Now! lauded the politicians for their many years of successful collaboration with the program to help raise awareness about the services affording individuals residing in New York City.



Sen. Kevin Parker (second left) and State Assembly Member Rodneyse Bichotte (fourth left) with staff and volunteers of the CUNY Citizenship Now! initiative. Sen. Kevin Parker's office



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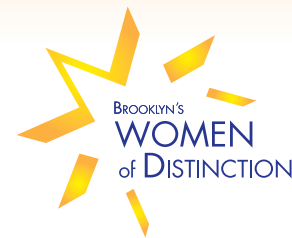
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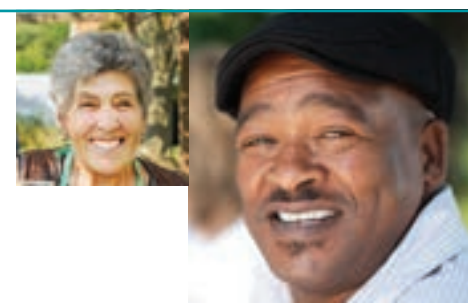
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Veterans tribute

Continued from Page 11

ily, accompanied Johnson's widow in a limousine to receive the soldier's body from Dover Air Force Base and became another headline to the tragic story due to a phone call while on the way.

On speaker phone, she said she heard the condolence message from President Donald Trump.

Wilson claimed that the president told the widow her husband "knew what he signed up for."

The politician was outraged and the White House has not refuted that Trump spoke those words.

Perhaps all police officers, firefighters, and all frontline responders are all aware of what they sign up for when they decide to serve.

But compassion goes a long way and expressing gratitude could better console a painful soul.

That there is a day to acknowledge the men and women who delve into danger — regardless of the consequences — is one to be honored and give pause.

As an 18-year veteran of the US Army Reserve, the many men and women whom I served with in the 340th Public Affairs Detachment nostalgically recall our many annual tours to Panama, Honduras, and virtually more than a dozen states throughout the USA with pride.

Danger and peril were probably imminent through all those tours of duty but these days, even walking in a crosswalk or worshipping in a church can be fatal.

From Basic Training in Aniston, Alabama where mini military exercises of war games introduced bivouacs, night marches, obstacle courses, rifle range practices, first aid courses and other military preparedness exercises, simple map reading seemed a fearful challenge to overcome in order to graduate.

However, throughout those training missions, the thought of enlisting in order to die was never foremost in my thought.

At the time of enlistment there were individuals who volunteered service for various reasons — the benefits seemed alluring, family tradition, job opportunity, securing Democracy etc to most it seemed it was mostly about service.

Each re-enlistment presented an out but for the cadre of soldiers in my unit, our role seemed important to completing the entire picture. And after the first three years, each opportunity to remain a unit seemed inevitable despite no offer of incentives of bonus or enticements at the time.

Catch You On The Inside!



Carlene Davis performs a "gospel ska" with the Rev. Dr. Cecil Riley, the Jamaican-born pastor of Freedom Hall Church of God on Albany Avenue in Brooklyn

Photo by Nelson A. King

Gospel artiste wows audience

By Nelson A. King

Former Jamaican reggae super star-turned-gospel artiste Carlene Davis broke the house down Saturday, as she headlined the annual fundraising Gospel Concert and Prayer Breakfast for Brooklyn Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke.

Davis — who has "been all over the world," according to her manager and husband Tommy Cowan — mesmerized diverse supporters, patrons and congregants with a wide variety of gospel hits, evoking standing ovations and shouts of "Amen" and "Hallelujah."

Cowan — who served as liturgist and master of ceremonies at the event, at St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church on Hawthorne Street in Brooklyn — said Davis had wowed audiences and listeners globally, with such hits as "Going Down to Paradise," "Like Old Friends Do," "Welcome Home, Mr. Mandela," and "Stealing Love on the Side."

"That was the old lady," he said of Davis, recipient of Jamaica's Order of Distinction (OD). "The new lady's new album is 'Dripping Blood,'"

Now referred to as "Minister Carlene Davis," Davis kept patrons in awe with, among others, "One Hand Full of Soul," "By the Rivers of Babylon," "I Shall Not Be Moved," "Jesus is the King of Kings," "Dripping Blood" and "We're Praising God all the Time," to the tune of "Stealing Love."

"God is doing a new thing," said



Dr. Rudolph Crew, Medgar Evers College president, addresses the gospel concert.

Photo by Nelson A. King

Davis before raising the tempo, "but the world of the Lord said, 'we're the salt of the earth.'"

"That's why we're here to support this lady [Congresswoman Clarke]," she added.

"Your wife is a bombshell!" Bishop Dr. Sylveta Hamilton Gonzales, Bishop of the QKingdom Ministries, Inc. in Brooklyn, told Cowan before introducing the guest speaker, Archbishop Dr. Allan Jones, of the Church of the Holy Redeemer in Brooklyn.

Speaking on the theme, "There is a gulf between us," Archbishop Jones called for the elimination of "the gulf among us."

"These are days of torment and prejudice, but stand firm," he urged. "Let us say there's another way. We shall build bridges across the earth because God is an awesome God. We need not sell our dignity for a morsel of bread."

After noting that Clarke was sent to Congress to help eliminate "the gulf," Jones implored the congregation to repeat, "no gulf!"

Among other members of the clergy, elected officials and other dignitaries at the event was Medgar Evers College President Dr. Rudolph Crew and Assembly Member Latrice Walker.

"I don't know about you, but many of us travel by faith," said Dr. Crew, former New York City Public Schools Chancellor. "What we have in our community is a person who's created help. So, I lend my voice of hope."

He disclosed that Clarke and her mother, former New York City Council Member Dr. Una S.T. Clarke, a City University of New York (CUNY) trustee, have provided the "bulwark of support" to Medgar Evers College.

Walker, a lawyer, who had worked as Clarke's legislative aide before seeking public office, said Clarke "exemplifies grace under fire."

"She's a virtuous woman," Walker said. "We need to bless her."

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Protecting development goals

Continued from Page 10

In places where strong building codes are observed there has been a decline in mortality from earthquakes. Most countries make efforts to educate and inform children about disaster risk.

One major life-saving measure to emerge from the devastating 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami was the region's Tsunami Warning System. This now provides alerts through three regional watch centres in India, Indonesia and Australia, and a network of 26 national tsunami information centres.

It is an efficient system, which disseminated early warnings within eight minutes of the Banda Aceh earthquake in 2012. There are also now tsunami early warning systems in place for the Caribbean and the North East Atlantic, Mediterranean and connecting seas to match the system that has long been available in the Pacific.

As we celebrate this progress, it is also important to remember that warnings are not always enough. The Sendai Framework reminds us that a key element in reducing the number of people affected must be education and information.

We must ensure that people are well-informed and well prepared to

take the necessary action.

For that reason, I welcome the work of the UN undertaken with support from Japan, to boost tsunami awareness throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

By working with local officials across 18-countries, in particular with school children, the programme is helping to increase knowledge of risks, to prepare evacuation plans, and to hold tsunami drills.

Together, this is leading to concrete and practical results that will undoubtedly help save lives. As we look ahead, it is important that we build on the work undertaken by governments, the UN and partners to boost awareness of tsunami and other risks.

Increased access to information and the ability to anticipate and absorb risk must become the norm, not the exception. The UN system is committed to deliver on this task.

Let us reflect on the lessons that have brought us here today and the impacts that have been so deeply felt by some of the world's most vulnerable people. Let us recognize progress, and commit ourselves to investing the resources needed to protect people and development gains.

Enhancing climate commitments

Continued from Page 10

information and enhance ownership of the NDC, within and outside government. Enhancing engagement with businesses and other non-state actors, as well as subnational governments, could also reveal additional mitigation potential or innovations that help drive enhanced ambition.

4) This Can Send Powerful Signals to Decision-Makers

NDCs send powerful signals to inform decision-making by a wide range of actors, not only to the international community, but also domestically. Ensuring the targets, actions and measures in an NDC reflect the latest thinking, sectoral opportunities and potential of a country is important to spur policy development, innovation in research and development, and ensure public and private investment is channeled appropriately and in line with national objectives.

Updating NDCs by 2020 will also kick-start the virtuous cycle of ambition at the heart of the Paris Agree-

ment, inducing greater ambition from other Parties thereby leveling the playing field in a globalized economy.

To help countries identify promising avenues to bring their NDCs into line with the Paris Agreement by 2020, we have developed a menu of options for NDC enhancement.

The options cover ways to enhance mitigation ambition and strengthen NDC content on adaptation and implementation and to improve the clarity and transparency with which NDCs are communicated. These options are not mutually exclusive. In many cases, it will be feasible and desirable for a country to strengthen mitigation ambition as well as other facets of their NDC by pursuing multiple options at once.

The year 2020 will serve as a critical test of the ability of the Paris Agreement to deliver enhanced ambition over time until our collective goals are reached. Countries can do their part by exploring and enacting meaningful options to enhance their NDCs as soon as possible.

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Tourism conference in Puerto Rico to go on as scheduled

By Alexandra Simon

The Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association is going ahead with their annual conference set to take in Puerto Rico next year. The Caribbean Travel Marketplace, a yearly meetup for hospitality groups and hoteliers to discuss the future of tourism in the Caribbean, is set for Jan. 30–Feb. 1, 2018. The event was at risk for cancellation after Hurricanes Irma and

Maria caused widespread destruction on the island, but organizers are hopeful the territory will be ready to host this year's gathering citing improving recovery, said the head director of the association.

"We had plans to go to Puerto Rico before the hurricane, but we went there to assess very carefully with our public and private sectors and our host committee there to

see if the destination was ready from the point of view we wanted," said Frank Comito.

Much of the island was badly hit, but San Juan's Convention Center, where the event will be held, is fully functioning and ready to host the 1200 guest expected to attend the meeting, according to Comito.

"That facility has remained unimpacted by the storm, and in fact it



The annual Caribbean Travel Marketplace is going forth with plans for their conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Caribbean Hotels and Tourism Association

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was temporarily a command center and shelter for residents before phasing out," he said. "But by the end of the year, we know things will go back to normal and it will go back to being used as a venue."

He says that the organization is happy to move on with the largest tour-

ism marketing events for Caribbean, to showcase the island and its neighbors are prepared to rebuild.

"We are thrilled at that actually — we think this is a great opportunity not only for Puerto Rico and the world to show that the Caribbean is incredibly resilient," he added.

And as area hotels expecting to see an increase in reservations were also unaffected by the storm, and even though power is scattered throughout many parts of the island, he said as recovery improves, the island will be ready by the time the conference comes around.

Historic Vincy flag raising at Philadelphia City Hall

By Nelson A. King

Vincitians on a whole, but those in Pennsylvania in particular, are expressing elation over the historic hoisting of the national flag at Philadelphia City Hall on Friday, Oct. 27.

"It was a magnificent feeling watching St. Vincent and the Grenadines flag glistening in the wind on the northeast corner of one of the oldest municipal buildings in the USA, Philadelphia City Hall, and it will fly there for one week. Wonderful!" exclaimed James Cordice, the former president of the Philadelphia-based St. Vincent and the Grenadines Organization of Pennsylvania (SVGOP), who was instrumental in getting the national flag to fly on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia in 2010.

"But this sight reminds me of 10/27/2010, when our flag was first installed

on Ben Franklin Parkway," added Cordice in a Caribbean Life interview. "Rohan Pierre, Ronaldo Pierre and myself were there, first on scene. And this warm feeling of pride lingers in my heart. Thank you, Lord! Thank you, Philadelphia for giving SVG this prominent gift."

Yvonne O'Garro, the incumbent SVGOP president, said "it was a spectacular sight and a momentous occasion" on the hoisting of the Vincentian flag at Philadelphia City Hall.

"Mayor Jim Kenny was unable to attend but declared Oct. 27 a celebration of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Independence Week in Philadelphia," said O'Garro in a statement.

"A small group of Vincitians decked out in their national colors, stood with their eyes fixed to the sky, as they watched with pride as the flag of St. Vin-

cent and the Grenadines being hoisted.

"Ms. Claudine Mitchell sang the National Anthem with Vincy pride and Sister John gave the invocation. It was truly a feeling of elation," she added.

"Ms. Miriam Enrique, Director of Office of Immigrant Affairs, said she was touched by the group's reaction as they watched their flag being hoisted."

Sheila Hess, representing Mayor Kenny, presented a proclamation to O'Garro.

Stanley Straughter, former chairman of African and Caribbean Business Council of Greater Philadelphia, said "Ms. Yvonne O'Garro has put St. Vincent and the Grenadines on the map."

"It was, indeed, a historical day for all Vincitians living in Philadelphia and the surroundings," O'Garro said.



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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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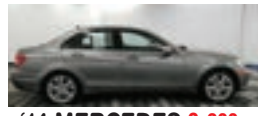
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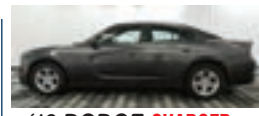
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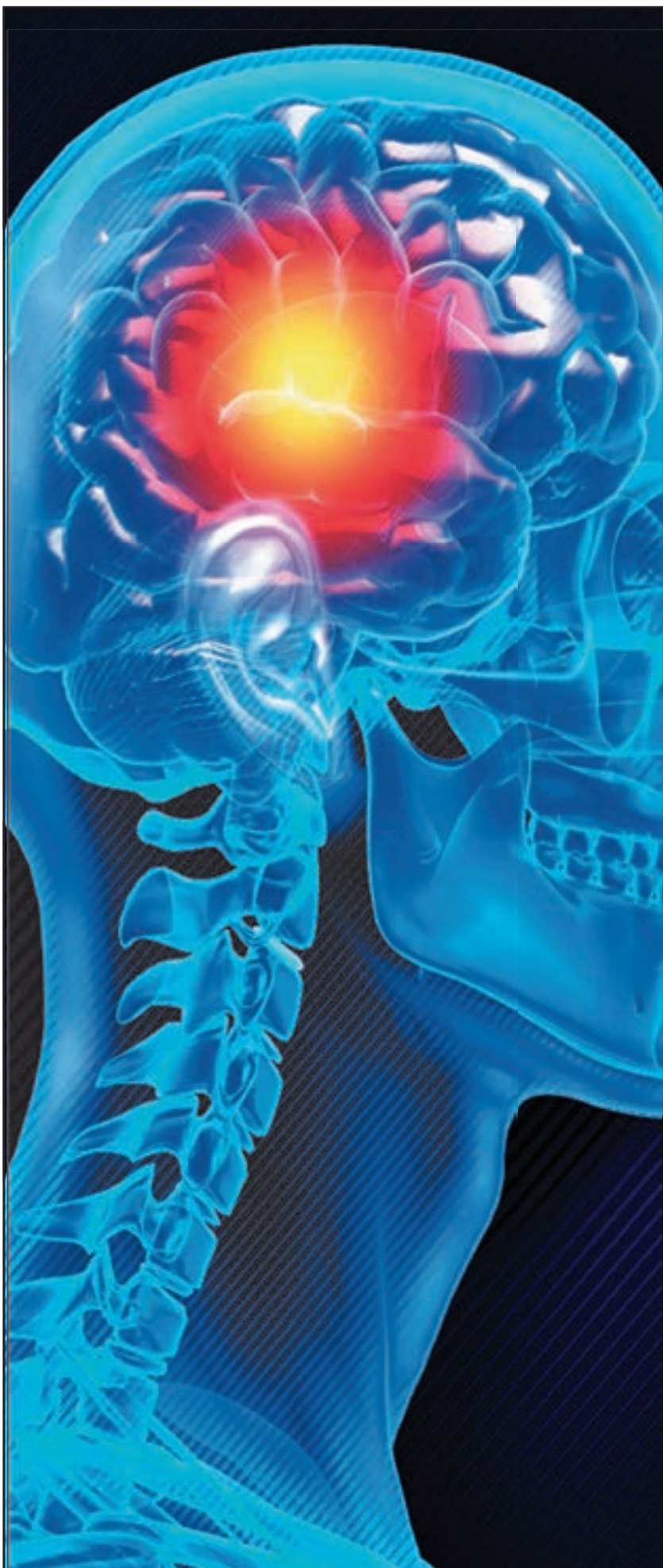
Treatment for Alzheimer's disease evolves



FALL/WINTER
2017



Treatment for Alzheimer's disease evolves



Alzheimer's disease is one of the most prevalent types of dementia in the world, affecting an estimated 35.6 million people all over the globe, and that number is expected to double in 20 years.

The Alzheimer's Foundation of America estimates that as many as 5.1 million Americans may be living with Alzheimer's disease. Australian company Actinogen Medical says Alzheimer's is Australia's second biggest killer. According to a 2012 study commissioned by the Alzheimer's Society of Canada, 747,000 Canadians were living with cognitive impairment, which included, but was not limited to, dementia.

People with Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia may experience a decline in mental function severe enough to reduce their ability to perform everyday activities. Some of the cognitive functions that may be impaired include memory, communication and language, ability to pay attention, reasoning and judgment, emotional control, and social behavior.

There is no cure for Alzheimer's disease, nor is there an effective long-term way to prevent potential mental decline. However, that has not stopped scores of researchers and medical teams that continue to study the efficacy of different drugs and therapies. The following are some of the more promising options in the works.

Leukine

A safety trial on the drug Leukine already is underway at the Colorado University Anschutz Medical Campus.

"We found so far that Leukine is safe in people with Alzheimer's disease," said Dr. Huntington Potter, the director of Alzheimer's research at the university. "That means it doesn't have

the side effects that so many other Alzheimer's drugs have had, which are swelling in the brain and bleeding into the brain."

Leukine has been successful in removing the plaque or amyloid along the outside of nerve cells in the brain of mice. Researchers do not know the exact mechanism for removal, but the drug is working and working quickly. Leukine also may be helping the brain repair itself. The Alzheimer's Association has donated \$1 million toward financing the costs of the next phase of this trial.

Insulin

Neurologists at Rush University Medical Center are testing a type of insulin that is inhaled through a nasal spray to see if it improves cognition and memory function in people with mild cognitive impairment.

"There is growing evidence that insulin carries out multiple functions in the brain and that poor regulation of insulin may contribute to the development of Alzheimer's disease," said Dr. Neelum Aggarwal, a neurologist at Rush and the lead investigator of the study.

The 18-month clinical trial will study the nasal spray versus a placebo in 275 adults between the ages of 55 and 85.

Xanamem

Australian researchers at Actinogen Medical have begun trials of a new drug called Xanamem. More than 170 patients with mild dementia in Australia, the United States and the United Kingdom will take part in the placebo-controlled 12-week trial. The medicine blocks the stress hormone cortisol in order to improve mental function for those with dementias. In 2015, an Edinburgh University study of mice showed reducing cortisol in the brain improved their memory and decreased the number of Alzheimer's-associated amyloid plaques in the brain.

Researchers continue to work as they seek a successful, long-term option for treating or preventing Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

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Diabetic vision changes

Diabetes affects 23.6 million people in the United States and close to three million people in Canada. While diabetes can be accompanied by many different symptoms, some people are surprised to learn that diabetes can affect the eyes and vision.

Changes in vision are sometimes the earliest warning signs of the presence of diabetes or prediabetes. Diabetic eye disease is its own stand-alone condition, and the National Eye Institute points out that diabetic eye disease comprises a group of eye conditions that affect people with diabetes. These may include retinopathy, macular edema, cataracts and glaucoma. All forms of eye disease can potentially cause severe vision loss or blindness.

Those with diabetes also can experience xanthelasma, or yellowish collections of cholesterol around the eye area. What's more, diabetes can put individuals at risk of devel-

oping conjunctival bacterial infections (pink eye), as well as corneal erosions, corneal defects and subsequent dry eyes.

According to the American Diabetes Association, people with diabetes are at a 40 percent greater risk of suffering from glaucoma than people without diabetes. The longer someone has had diabetes, the more common glaucoma is. Diabetics also are 60 percent more likely to develop cataracts. Vision checkups and care are an important part of living with diabetes.

Routine eye examinations can head off potential vision problems and have been known to alert doctors to the presence of diabetes before patients know they have it. During a comprehensive dilated eye exam, eye doctors will examine all areas of the eye to check for illness. Pressure on the eye will be tested, as glaucoma can cause elevated pressure. The doctor also will check for



any clouding of the eye lens.

When an eye is dilated, doctors can examine the retina at the rear of the eye. Points that will be checked include:

- changes to blood vessels, including any leaking blood vessels or fatty deposits
- swelling of the macula
- damage to nerve tissue
- health of the retina, and whether there are any tears or detachments

While many of the vision loss problems associated with diabetes are irreversible, early detection and treatment can reduce the risk of

blindness by 95 percent, advises the NEI. Controlling diabetes slows the onset and worsening of visual symptoms. People with diabetes may need to see their eye doctors more frequently and have a greater number of dilated exams to ensure eyes are still in good health.

To keep diabetes in check, follow a doctor-recommended diet, monitor your blood-sugar levels and get plenty of exercise. Eye doctors and primary care providers can work together to ensure that all symptoms of diabetes — whether visual or otherwise — are treated effectively

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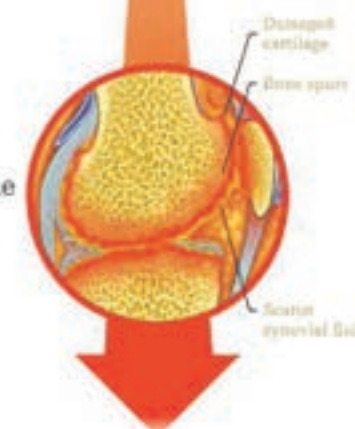
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Sugar can be hiding in plain sight

The healthcare community is increasingly pointing to sugar as one of the biggest contributors to the obesity epidemic that has affected North America. More so than fats, sugar may contribute to a number of conditions that affect overall health. The scary part is that sugar may be lurking in foods that people would not think of as “sugary.”

The average American eats between 150 and 170 pounds of refined sugars per year, according to the United States Department of Agriculture. Approximately 50 percent of U.S. adults drink one sugary beverage per day, and nearly 63 percent of children between the ages 2 and 19 consume at least one sugar-sweetened beverage per day according to a study from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Data from Statistics Canada states that Canadians consume roughly 110 grams of sugar each day.

Sugar occurs naturally in various foods, but added sugar, sometimes referred to as “refined sugar,” is turning up in many places, increasing the average person’s sugar intake as a result. The World Health Organization’s official nutrition advisors state that only 5 percent of one’s daily calorie intake should consist of sugars.

This equates to approximately 30 grams per day. Children should have less — no more than 19 to 24 grams per day, depending on their ages. However, each day people are consuming more and more.

For those who think avoiding a slice of cake or skipping soft drinks is enough, consider these somewhat hidden sources of sugar, according to the health experts at Prevention.

- **Barbecue sauce:** Grilling time means foods laden with flavorful barbecue sauce. Many barbecue sauces contain up to 13 grams of sugar per two tablespoons.
- **Fruit-flavored yogurt:** Eating yogurt can be a healthy part of a diet, but not when it is full of sugar. One container of fruit yogurt may contain up to 19 grams of sugar.
- **Granola bars:** These convenient snacks can pack a sugary punch. One bar can boast 12 grams of sugar.
- **Salad dressing:** Dousing healthy salads with dressing may increase caloric intake and sugar consumption. French, Russian and Thousand Island dressings, for example, often have high amounts of sugar per serving size — some as many as 9 to 10 grams per serving.



- **Frozen foods:** In addition to high levels of sodium (used as a preservative), frozen entrees may have as many as 30 to 40 grams of added sugar per serving.
- **Energy drinks:** The pick-me-up energy drinks provide is largely fueled by sugar and caffeine. Some of these drinks can have a whopping 83 grams of sugar.

Reading product labels is the easiest way to see how much sugar is lurking in foods. While not all sugar is bad, and naturally occurring sugar-based carbohydrates can help supply ready energy to active muscles, most sugar is made of empty calories that can pack on the pounds. According to Dr. Pamela Peeke, author of “The Hunger Fix,” refined sugar also can cause cells to age more quickly and lead to excessive inflammation, which increases one’s risk for many diseases. Reducing sugar intake is an important component of a healthy lifestyle.

BUSINESS, BROOKLYN STYLE

Conquering Dementia in the Golden Years

Memory and concentration loss is a pervasive problem in modern society. Increased levels of stress and anxiety, accompanied by declining physical activity, have direct negative impact on our memory.

In Memory Clinic in Brighton Beach, the patients can check their memory as well as receive a comprehensive plan to prevent cognitive decline.

Dr. Valentin Bragin, the founder of the Stress Relief and Memory Training Center (currently Memory Clinic at Brighton Beach), has developed an innovative treatment for people suffering from dementia, based on combined treatment that includes physical activities, sensory stimulation, medications and vitamins.

The areas of expertise include assessment of cognitive functions and brain reserves and a multifaceted



program (medication and non pharmacological interventions) for treatment of dementia, which includes, but is not limited to memory training, gentle hands and sounds exercises and other sensory motor activities, aimed to increase cerebral blood flow and vitalize brain cells. He feels strongly that

restoration of brain blood flow is absolutely necessary at any stage of dementia to overcome chronic blood starvation in the brain. This helps medications and nutrients to reach all places in the brain and normalize brain functions.

Dr. Bragin has regularly published results of his work

and presented them at multiple national and international conferences since 2000s. People, who undergo this combined treatment, are able to hold cognitive decline, decrease caregiver burden and improve quality of life for 6 years (Bragin et al., 2014). Dr. Bragin has authored three books, “How to Activate Your Brain” (2005 in Russian, 2007 in English) and “Conquering Depression in the Golden Years” (2009).

His brain activation program is based on his previous experimental research, related to acute blood flow failure in different organs in the body, including the brain, and on basic science data related to the chronic shortage of the blood in the brain in people with dementia.

In his book “How to activate your brain” (2007), Dr. Bragin states that he can “always zero in on the functions and

movements that have not yet been touched by disease and... use them to counteract the process of disintegration and activate the brain.”

Valentin Bragin, M.D., Ph.D., an integrative psychiatrist with over 50 years of clinical and research experience, is the founder and medical director of the Memory Clinic in Brooklyn, New York. Dr. Bragin graduated and earned his Ph.D. from one of the oldest and most prestigious medical schools in the former Soviet Union, the Russian Military Medical Academy in Saint Petersburg, Russia. In the United States, Dr. Bragin did research, related to dementia, followed by the completion of residency in psychiatry at St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Hospital.

The Memory Clinic in Brighton Beach [3101 Ocean Parkway, Ste 1A, Brooklyn, NY 11235]. Please call to make an appointment: (718) 946-2481.

Identify and control bed bugs

Critters inside a home are a cause for concern, but some of these uninvited guests inspire more ire than others. Bed bugs are among the least popular critters people can encounter.

Bed bugs can quickly change from being a minor nuisance to a major infestation. Therefore, understanding bed bugs, how they spread and when and how to treat a bed bug infestation is knowledge all people should have so they can nip bed bug problems in the bud before they become more serious.

The Environmental Protection Agency says many bugs that resemble bed bugs. Identifying bed bugs correctly is a critical first step to treating an infestation. Here are some of the more notable attributes of bed bugs:

- Bed bugs are generally long and brown with a flat oval-shaped body around the size of an apple seed. Bed bugs that have recently fed will be balloon-like and reddish-brown in color.

- Young bed bugs (nymphs) are smaller, and their color is a translucent white-yellow.

- Bed bug eggs are pearl-white in color and the size of a pinhead.

- Bed bugs have six legs and two antennae and they cannot fly. They cannot jump long distances, instead moving by crawling and climbing. They can climb heights and drop down from above onto beds to find a meal.

Orkin of Canada says that, since bed bugs are nocturnal



and small, detecting them can be challenging. Usually blood stains on sheets or black spots of dried bed bug excrement indicate an infestation even before bugs are seen.

Bed bugs tend to be discovered in the seams of chairs and couches, between cushions, and in the folds of curtains. Bed bugs may hide in drawer joints or in electrical receptacles. They even can hide in cracks along the top or bottom of a wall.

Bed bugs can survive and remain active at temperatures as low as 46 F, advises the EPA. Heat is what kills them most readily, and a room or area must be hotter than 113 F consistently to do so.

Avoiding bed bugs requires diligence. Reducing clutter, inspecting secondhand furniture for bed bugs and vacuuming frequently can help. Check luggage racks and hotel rooms for bed bugs prior to remaining in the room. Cold and hot treatments may kill some of the bed bugs, but an infestation usually will require treatment by a professional exterminator.

Bed bugs need to be identified and promptly address before a minor problem becomes something much bigger. For more information about controlling bed bugs, visit www.epa.gov/bedbugs.



ASK THE DERMATOLOGIST

HEALTH NEWS FROM DR. DAVID BIRO

Dear Dr. Biro, How do I know if my moles are normal or skin cancers?

There are two categories of skin cancers that I am focused on. Melanoma skin cancer is uncommon but very serious. Growths that are pigmented (brown or black), that have irregular shapes, colors and are asymmetric usually warrant close evaluation. This may take the form of a special instrument called a dermatoscope and occasionally a biopsy to determine whether it is cancerous or not.

The other category of cancer is non-melanoma, far more common and almost never deadly. These lesions tend to be flesh colored or red growths that enlarge, do not heal and occasionally bleed. If you have such a growth you should make an appointment with a dermatologist for an evaluation.

I recommend that all of my patients have a yearly skin check with myself or my colleagues.

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If you have a question for Dr. Biro please submit it through the contact button on his website. You may see it answered in the next edition of "ask the dermatologist"

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Understanding protein shakes

Protein powder shakes once were consumed almost exclusively by professional body builders or gym rats looking to increase their muscle mass. But long gone are the days of finding protein shake supplies in specialty fitness stores. Nowadays protein shakes are mainstream and big business for the fitness and diet industry.

Although protein shakes are not a magic solution for six-pack abs or overnight weight loss, they can — when used correctly — make a healthy addition to a fitness and nutrition regimen. With that said, they may not be right for everyone. But it's important for individuals to weigh the pros and cons of protein products and work with their physicians to find the right regimen for their age, gender, body type, and desired goals.

Protein shakes have a lot of positive attributes. Convenient and portable, protein shakes are formulated with readily available, highly digestible protein to fuel the body post-

workout. Protein is essential for building muscle and overall body strength and is an important building block of bones, muscles, cartilage, skin, and blood. It also helps make hormones, enzymes and other body chemicals. Protein shakes deliver whey or casein protein in a convenient way. And because protein shakes tend to be concentrated, many people can consume the recommended level of protein for their activity type without having to eat many calorie-laden meals.

Shakes also can be filling and help people feel satiated longer. Some people substitute protein shakes for meals once per day, eliminating a potentially calorie-laden meal in favor of a low-calorie shake.

While protein shakes can be beneficial, the International Society of Sports Nutrition recommends that those who exercise should try to reach their protein requirements via whole foods. Protein shakes are not complete meals; therefore, they may

create nutritional deficits if they are routinely used as meal substitutes. The Mayo Clinic offers that protein shakes often fall short of supplying significant amounts of carbohydrates, vitamins, minerals and healthy fats. They're also generally missing naturally occurring fiber, antioxidants and phytochemicals. Protein shakes may be flavored with artificial ingredients or sweeteners which can be fine when consumed occasionally, but may not be recommended as a long-term meal replacement.

Too much protein may not be a good thing, either. The U.S. Department of Health recommends that adults should not consume more than twice the recommended daily intake of protein, which is 55.5 g for men and 45 g for women. Protein shakes often have 20 to 40 g of protein per serving. So it's easy to see how consumers of protein shakes may consume more than their recommended amount of protein. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention, consistently exceeding daily protein requirements can lead to weight gain, high blood cholesterol, an elevated risk for heart disease, and kidney complications. Also, The Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine states that consuming too much protein can raise a person's risk of developing cancer, osteoporosis and kidney stones.

Protein shakes are convenient forms of a nutrient that active bodies need. When used in moderation and as part of an overall healthy eating plan, they should be safe. But it's important to discuss any dietary and exercise concerns with a doctor before making drastic lifestyle changes.



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Matter of health: Talking to children about alcohol

Many people consume alcohol when attending summer parties, holiday gatherings or weddings. Children in attendance may see adults drinking and having a good time and wonder why alcohol is off-limits to them.

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism says that parents can have a major impact on their children's drinking habits by influencing children's values and decisions about drinking. Alcohol can affect both the body and the mind, and parents who want their kids to approach alcohol responsibly when they are of legal drinking age can teach their youngsters about the ways alcohol can influence their health.

The NIAA states that alcohol is used by more young people than tobacco or illicit drugs. A person who begins drinking as a young teen is four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than someone who waits until adulthood to try a drink.

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Alcohol and its effects

Many kids and their parents are not overly concerned about alcohol, which does not carry the same stigma as illegal drugs. When consumed in small amounts, alcohol may not seem very dangerous, but even small quantities can affect the body.

Alcohol is a depressant, which slows down the body and makes a person feel relaxed. With more alcohol, movements become clumsy and uncoordinated. It also interferes with decision-making abilities and could lead to risky behavior. As alcohol slows reaction time, driving under the influence can be deadly.

The liver is responsible for filtering alcohol out of the blood. With greater quantities of alcohol, it can take longer for the liver to do its job. Over time, alcohol consumption can damage the liver.

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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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ENTERTAINMENT

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Soprano singer Marilyn Kim Oliver sang at her Classical and Contemporary Musical Gems concert in Fort Greene on Nov. 4.

Trini soprano brings joy

By Alexandra Simon

She sang her songs of joy.

A Brooklyn-based soprano performed sacred and classic songs at her concert at the South Oxford Space on Nov. 4. Singer Marilyn Kim Oliver headlined her intimate show, “Classical and Contemporary Musical Gems,” and guests were thrilled by her singing.

“Just the creative talent on stage was amazing — it was my first time

Continued on Page 50

Multi-genre benefit show for U.S.V.I.

By Alexandra Simon

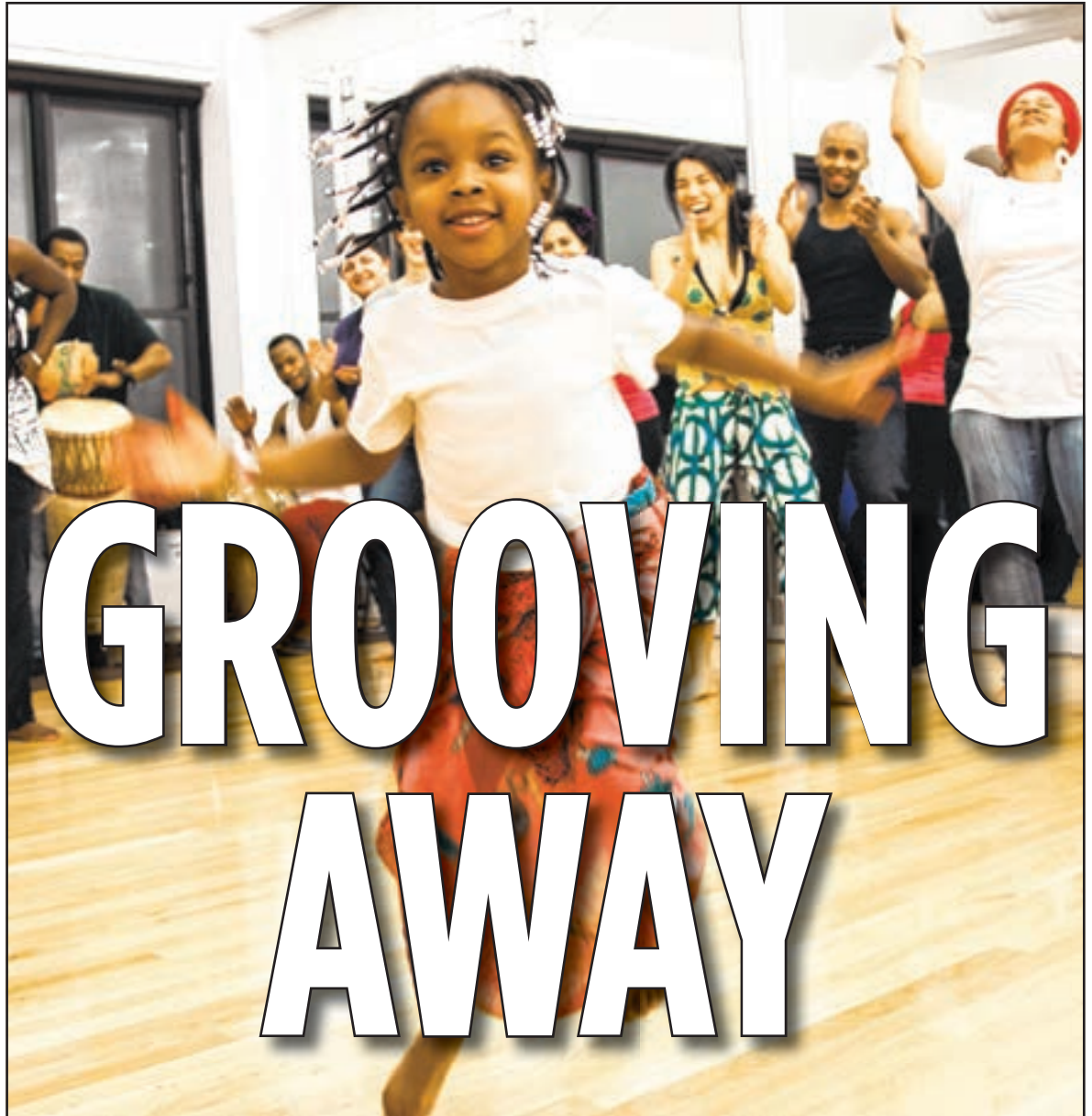
A concert for the U.S. Virgin Islands is going to feature award-winning singers and Caribbean artists at Lehman College on Nov. 12. “A Benefit Concert For The Caribbean” is hoping to raise awareness for the hurricane-hit tri-island territory because it is being ignored, said the concert organizer.

“After the hurricanes happened, all I saw in the media was nothing about the Virgin Islands. It was mostly about Puerto Rico, but we got hit hard — we got hit with two category five hurricanes,” said Linnette Harrigan.

The destruction of the disaster left homes, schools, and hospitals destroyed, and Virgin Islanders and their relatives abroad are in the dark.

“Many people still don’t have power and won’t until next year, and the Virgin

Continued on Page 50



GROOVING AWAY

Cumbe Center for African and Diaspora Dance are offering to children as young as three-years-old and up.

Inna Penek

Dance center offers special rates at new location

By Alexandra Simon

This studio got its groove back!

A dance center specializing in African-influenced movement is reopening inside a Bedford-Stuyvesant cultural complex on Nov. 11, following its honchos’ two-year search for a new home after being evicted from their old Fort Greene space, which its landlord sold to a luxury high-rise developer.

And to celebrate the new digs, staff at the Cumbe Center for African and Diaspora Dance are offer-

ing discounted sessions for adults, kids, and beginners who want to boogie down, according to its executive director.

“All classes on opening day will be \$5, and when our full launch schedule kicks off the next day, we are also doing special introductory classes to reassemble our community and to encourage everyone come out and dance,” said Jimena Martinez.

The day of discounted tutorials at the center’s new home inside

local arts organization Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation’s Restoration Art complex will include lessons in fitness, Afro-Haitian movement, soca, dancehall, Chicago step, and African dance, all of which Martinez said will allow the community to learn different cultures’ take on the art form and embrace an active lifestyle.

“We have beginner classes and a lot of Diaspora-style ones,” she

Continued on Page 50

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES

- 1 **Feel It Still**
Portugal. The Man
- 2 **Thunder**
Imagine Dragons
- 3 **Attention**
Charlie Puth
- 4 **1-800-273-8255**
Logic Feat. Alessia Cara...
- 5 **Sorry Not Sorry**
Demi Lovato
- 6 **What About Us**
P!nk
- 7 **There's Nothing Holdin' Me Back**
Shawn Mendes
- 8 **What Lovers Do**
Maroon 5 Feat. SZA
- 9 **Strip That Down**
Liam Payne Feat. Quavo
- 10 **Slow Hands**
Niall Horan

TOP 10 ALBUMS

- 1 **Meaning Of Life**
Kelly Clarkson
- 2 **Heartbreak On A Full Moon**
Chris Brown
- 3 **4eva Is A Mighty Long Time**
Big K.R.I.T.
- 4 **Five**
Hollywood Undead
- 5 **Live In No Shoes Nation**
Kenny Chesney
- 6 **Without Warning**
21 Savage, Offset & Metro Boomin
- 7 **Wake Up Call**
Theory Of A Deadman
- 8 **Gone**
Red
- 9 **Trial By Fire**
YelaWolf
- 10 **Pacific Daydream**
Weezer

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verizonwireless

Grooving time

Continued from Page 49

said. "For people who've never danced for before, or people who haven't danced in 15 years, it will be the perfect day to come."

And instructors — some of whom taught at the old facility — can't wait to welcome new and former dancers, according to the executive director, who said the staff is thrilled to begin teaching in a community where so many of its pupils reside.

"A lot of our favorite teachers are back, and we're really excited to be in Bedford-Stuyvesant," Martinez said. "A lot of our students are from the neighborhood, and we've always been a Brooklyn-focused studio, so this is wonderful for us."



The center will be celebrating their new location in Bedford-Stuyvesant on Nov. 11 at Restoration Plaza's cultural center, Restoration ART. Andrew Kist

Get your groove on at the Cumbe Center for African and Diaspora Dance's community-

dance day [1368 Fulton St. between New York and Brooklyn avenues in Bedford-Stuy-

vesant, (718) 935-9700, www.cumbdance.org]. Nov. 11, 9:30 am-6 pm. \$5.



Also at the concert were accompanist Ivan Thomas, left, Marilyn Kim Oliver, center, and tenor Kerry Stubbs.

Photo by Jason Speakman

Touching hearts with song

Continued from Page 49

going to a show like this and it was really great," said Michelle Linton, who is a friend of Oliver.

Serenading dozens of guests with her voice, she said many people were overjoyed with the show.

"It was fabulous — everything went so well and everyone said we did great and they really enjoyed the music," said Oliver.

Accompanying her was tenor Kerry Stubbs and accompanist Ivan Thomas, who played guitar and the piano. Together they sang classical songs such as "Ave Maria" and "Let the Bright Seraphim,"

many from composers such as George Handel, Wolfgang Mozart, Franz Schubert, and Rodgers and Hammerstein.

Oliver, who is Christian, said she particularly chose those songs for her show in an effort to bring positive music in response to all the chaos happening globally.

"We've had hurricanes, fires, and now a shooting and all of these terrible things, and I wanted to rethink what I wanted to do and communicate for the program," said Oliver. "I felt I needed to touch the heart and spirit of people and draw them away from the upheaval and let them refocus on Christ."

Benefit show

Continued from Page 49

Islands still isn't getting the media attention — the President didn't go there and we were ignored," she added.

Harrigan, who is from the Virgin Islands and still has family there, said she wanted to use her pull as an agent in the music industry to arrange a concert, and direct some action for her hometown's recovery.

"I have connections with celebrities so I decided a benefit concert would be a good idea," said Harrigan. "I saw how underrepresented my people were and saw an opportunity where I could help some of the families that were affected."

The lineup for the concert includes headliner and Tony award singer Melba Moore, Grammy-winner Chris Jasper of the Isley Brothers, and Rhonda Ross, singer and daughter of the legendary Diana Ross. Other artists, Bashiri Johnson, Rodney Kendrick, Jahstix, and Domo Joat, will also be joining the concert, some of whom are from the Caribbean.

"We have a lot of performers and some of them are very good local artists," said Harrigan. "It's going to be a nice mixture of American and Caribbean music."

She is hoping the show raises funds to support two humanitarian organizations



Melba Moore will perform at the concert.

Associated Press / Peter Kramer

providing aid to hurricane victims — Community Foundation of Virgin Islands, and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA). Mobile donations can be made via texting CARIB to 77948 to donate \$10 and up.

And even though she holds ambivalent feelings about the stateside response for the U.S. Virgin Islands, she wants guests to attend for the entertainment and show solidarity.

"This is going to be a really good show — there's going to be food and great artists performing in a beautiful theater," said Harrigan.

"A Benefit Concert For The Caribbean" at Lovinger Theatre at Lehman College [250 Bedford Park Blvd. W. between Goulden and Jerome avenues in The Bronx, (718) 960-8495, www.concertforcaribbean.com].

Eric Liddell's missionary work memorialized

"On Wings of Eagles"
Very Good (3 stars)
Rated
In English, Mandarin and
Japanese with subtitles
Running time: 96 min-
utes
Production Studio: Good-
land Pictures / Innowave
Ltd / Bondit
Distributor: Archstone
Distribution



Joseph Fiennes stars in this epic drama based on the true story of gold medal runner Eric Liddell and his time as a POW during World War II. www.rottentomatoes.com

By Kam Williams

"Chariots of Fire" (1981) chronicled the real-life exploits of Eric Henry Liddell (1902-1945), aka "The Flying Scotsman," a world-class sprinter who won the gold medal in the 400-meter track race at the 1924 Summer Olympics in Paris. What made his feat amazing is that he had only qualified to run the 100-meter dash but refused to compete when he learned that it would be staged on a Sunday.

You see, he was a devout Christian raised by missionar-

ies who had instilled in their son the Biblical notion that the Sabbath was a holy day of rest. Consequently, he decided to enter the 400-meter contest instead, and miraculously managed to prevail against the best in an event he hadn't trained for.

"Chariots of Fire" was a critically acclaimed crowd-pleaser which landed a quartet of Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Original Screenplay. However, it took 36 years for someone to mount a sequel showing what became of the Olympic great

in the wake of his glory days.

Co-directed by Stephen Shin and Michael Parker, "On Wings of Eagles" stars BAFTA-nominee Joseph Fiennes (for Shakespeare in Love) as Eric Liddell. At the point of departure, we learn that the unassuming athlete

eschewed fame and fortune in favor of returning to China, the country of his birth, in 1925, to follow his calling to do missionary work.

He would settle down in Asia and start a family with the woman of his dreams, Florence Mackenzie (Elizabeth Arends). However, their marital bliss would be irreversibly altered by the Japanese invasion of China in 1937.

During the occupation, the Liddells were afforded a brief opportunity to leave the country. The dedicated minister decided to not abandon his flock, though he did send his pregnant wife and daughters, Patricia (Laura Justine Friis Lodahl) and Heather (Asta Friis Lodahl), to live with his in-laws in Canada. Sadly, he was subsequently interned in a concentration camp where he would suffer terribly before passing away in 1945, just months before Japan's surrender.

A bittersweet tribute to a man of great faith who always opted to follow humbly in the footsteps of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Independent & Foreign Films

Destination Unknown (Unrated) Inspirational documentary painting intimate portraits of a dozen Holocaust survivors.

Flesh and Blood

(Unrated) Mark Webber wrote, directed and stars in the autobiographical mockumentary in which the characters are played by actual members of his family.

Intent to Destroy (Unrated) Genocide denial documentary chronicling the Turkish government's ongoing refusal to apologize for its ethnic cleansing of Armenian citizens a century ago. Featuring commentary by Christian Bale, Atom Egoyan and Eric Bogosian.

Mayhem (R for sexuality, nudity, drug use, graphic violence and pervasive profanity) Claustrophobic horror flick set inside a quarantined law office where the outbreak of a contagious virus has the infected acting out their wildest fantasies. Ensemble cast includes Steven Yeun, Samara Weaving, Steven Brand, Caroline Chikezie and Kerry Fox.

No Greater Love (Unrated) Afghan War documentary examining the effect of combat on soldiers' as captured on camera by a chaplain (Justin Roberts) embedded with an infantry regiment deployed to Kunar Province.

The Price (Unrated) Wall Street



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

drama about a 24-year-old, Nigerian-American Aml Ameen) stockbroker whose insider trading jeopardizes both his career and his relationship with a wealthy white socialite (Lucy Griffiths). Supporting cast includes Bill Sage, Michael Hyatt and Hope Olaide Wilson. (In Yoruba and English with subtitles)

Thelma (Unrated) Eili Harboe plays the title character in this Scandinavian suspense thriller, set in Oslo, about a college freshman who discovers she has dangerous superpowers when she falls in love with a classmate (Kaya Wilkins). With Ellen Dorrit Petersen, Henrik Rafaelsen and Camilla Belsvik. (In Norwegian with subtitles)

Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri (R for violence, sexual references and pervasive profanity) Frances McDormand stars in this dark comedy as a grieving mom who resorts to extreme measures to pressure her town's police chief (Woody Harrelson) to find her daughter's (Kathryn Newton) killer. Supporting cast includes Sam Rockwell, Peter Dinklage and Abbie Cornish.

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Zimbabwe's Regis Chakabva plays a shot during the first Twenty20 international cricket match against Bangladesh in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Associated Press / A.M. Ahad, File

West Indies, Zimbabwe draw series

By Azad Ali

West Indies' bid for a clean sweep in the two-match Test series against Zimbabwe ended in frustration as wicketkeeper Regis Chakabva and captain Graeme Cremer remained defiant to earn the host a draw (1-1) at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo on Thursday, Nov. 2.

West Indies won the first Test.

Starting the final day confident of victory West Indies managed to take just three wickets as Zimbabwe produced a

Continued on Page 54

Soca Warriors ranks third

By Azad Ali

Trinidad and Tobago Soca Warriors shocked victory over the United States recently has propelled them to third in the Caribbean Football Union (CFU) ranking after the release of the World Rankings by the sport's governing body recently.

The Soca Warriors earned a significant jump in the World Ranking issued by FIFA, moving up 16 places to 83rd, making them the biggest movers in the Caribbean following their 2-1 win that

Continued on Page 54



Indiana Pacers' Victor Oladipo, center, drives to the basket against New York Knicks' Courtney Lee, right, during the first half of an NBA basketball game in New York, Sunday, Nov. 5, 2017.

Associated Press / Andres Kudacki

Porzingis pours in 40, Knicks come from 19 down

By Adry Torres

NEW YORK (AP) — Kristaps Porzingis was aware of Phil Jackson's concern that he wasn't ready to take over. Once Carmelo Anthony was traded, he knew he'd get the chance to prove otherwise.

Porzingis scored a career-high

40 points, carrying the New York Knicks back from a 19-point deficit for a 108-101 victory over the Indiana Pacers on Sunday night.

"The challenge is never too big for me," said Porzingis, who is the first player in the NBA since 1983-84 to post at least 40 points, five rebounds,

five blocks and make two 3-pointers.

"I always accept the challenge and that's why I knew coming into this season, if Melo was not going to be here, then I am going to have to be the guy."

After scoring 15 straight points

Continued on Page 54



West Indies

Continued from Page 53

gritty performance to end on 301 for seven in their second innings, when the match was abandoned mid-way through the final session.

Chakabva and Cremer put on a 91-run unbroken eight wicket stand to steer the host team safely through the final session to earn a draw.

Chakabva was unbeaten on 71 and Cremer chipped in with 28 to help frustrate the West Indies, in the final session.

West Indies bowlers toiled on a slow track with fast bowler Shannon Gabriel (2 for 34), Kemar Roach (2 for 37) and leg-spinner Devendra Bishoo (2 for 74) all only managed to take two wickets each.

West Indies scored 448 in their first innings to lead Zimbabwe to lead by 122 as the host made 326 in their first innings.

Shane Dowrich and Captain Jason Holder both scored centuries in their first innings.

Holder, whose last hundred came in his fourth Test two years ago, scored 100 off 198 balls and struck nine fours and two sixes.

Together they both extended their overnight stand to 212 — a new West Indies record for the eighth wicket.

This was only the eighth time in Test history that a pair had added 200 or more for the eight-wicket or lower in Test matches.

Leg spinner Bishoo was named Man-of-the-Series for his 13 wicket-haul. In the first Test he took 9 wickets for 174.

Indiana Pacers' Darren Collison, left, drives to the basket against New York Knicks' Enes Kanter during the first half of an NBA basketball game in New York, Sunday, Nov. 5, 2017.

Associated Press /Andres Kudacki

KNICKS BEAT PACERS

Continued from Page 53

that spanned the third and fourth quarters, the 22-year-old from Latvia passed to rookie Frank Ntilikina for a 3-pointer that broke a 99-all tie with 1:34 remaining.

"I had to get rid of the ball," Porzingis said. "That was the right play in that moment. Frank made that big shot."

Porzingis added eight rebounds and six blocked shots in his seventh 30-point performance in nine games this season, a good glimpse of someone that's definitely welcomed the chance to fill the void created by Anthony's exit.

Ntilikina scored 10 points and seven assists off the bench as the Knicks won for the fifth time in six games after an 0-3 start. Tim Hardaway Jr. had 16 points.

Ntilikina's 3-pointer was his second of a fourth quarter in which he played its entirety.

"I knew it was a good shot, a wide-open shot," he said. "Nobody was there to deny the shot, so I took it. And I just took it with confidence."

Thaddeus Young scored 18 points and Victor Oladipo had 17 for the Pacers, who led 84-65 with under 2 minutes remaining in the third quarter.

"They went to switching. We didn't show patience in attacking the mis-

match," Pacers coach Nate McMillan said.

Porzingis, who played after tweaking his left ankle in a 37-point performance Friday night, reeled off nine straight points that made it 84-74 in the opening seconds of the fourth. He scored 24 points over the final 13 minutes of the game.

Young then broke a five-minute stretch in which Indiana failed to make a shot, hitting consecutive 3-point baskets that put them back up 90-74 with 10:02 left in the final quarter.

But it wasn't enough to quiet down the Knicks, who went on a 25-9 run, capped by Porzingis' five straight points, including a 17-foot jumper that evened it at 99 with 2:14 left.

After Ntilikina's 3-pointer made it 102-99, Knicks center Enes Kanter picked up a bad pass by Darren Collison and fed Tim Hardaway Jr. for a layup that made it 104-99 with 1:10 to go.

Oladipo cut the deficit to 104-101 with 32 seconds left in the game, but Lance Thomas' two free throws made it 106-101 to seal the comeback win with 11.9 seconds to play.

"Porzingis, he obviously got hot and brought them back into the game to help win the game," Oladipo said. "It is a tough loss for us, especially being up. I got to do better as a leader as

well, especially down the stretch of the fourth quarter."

Myles Turner added 15 points and Collison had 15 points and 10 assists for the Pacers, who've lost two straight.

TIP-INS

Pacers: F T.J. Leaf, who sprained his left ankle during Friday night's game in Philadelphia, did not play. ... Domantas Sabonis had 16 points off the bench.

Knicks: Kanter grabbed 18 rebounds. Patrick Ewing was last Knick to have at least 40 points, five boards and five blocks, posting up 46/12/6 on March 7, 1995, against Boston. The last NBA player to put that stat line was Dwight Howard on Feb. 25, 2011, against the Thunder.

SOMBER MOMENT

A moment of silence was held prior to the national anthem at Madison Square Garden after a gunman killed 26 people and injured at least 20 at a Baptist church in Sutherland Springs, Texas.

HOME COOKING

The Knicks improved to 3-1 during their five-game homestand, which equals their longest of the season. They have two more home stretches of five games later in the second of the season, March 11-19 and March 31-April 9.

Soca Warriors



United States' Christian Pulisic (10) strikes at the goal during first half of a FIFA World Cup qualifying soccer match against Trinidad.

TFV Media via Associated Press

Continued from Page 53

denied the United States a place in the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia.

The result was sweet revenge for the Soca Warriors, after the Americans dealt them a similar blow in qualification for the 1990 FIFA World Cup in Italy.

The Soca Warriors is now behind Jamaica and Haiti, who tops the rankings table.

Gayle wins defamation case

By Azad Ali

West Indies superstar Twenty20 batsman Chris Gayle has won his defamation case against Australian Fairfax Media after a New South Wales, Australia Supreme Court jury found the publisher failed to prove reports alleging that the international cricketer exposed himself to a massage therapist in Sydney were true.

The jury of three women and one man took less than two hours to decide that Fairfax had not established a defense of truth to the reports.

The jury also found Fairfax was motivated by malice in publishing a series of reports in early 2016 alleging the West Indies player exposed himself to the masseuse in February 2016.

Gayle, 38, had told the court the allegations, made by the masseuse Leanne Russell, were “heartbreaking” and he felt compelled to come to court to clear his name.

He had called teammate Dwayne Smith as a witness who was present in the dressing room at Drummoyne Oval at the time of the alleged incident.

Smith told the jury it “did not happen” and said “that’s something you would remember” if it had happen.

Gayle’s lawyer, Bruce McClintock, SC, had urged the jury to accept his client’s “moving and true” testimony.

Fairfax, publisher of the Sydney Morning Herald, The Canberra Times and the Age had defended the articles on two

bases, including the allegations were true. The jury rejected the defense.

Gayle likened the win to a “triple century” as the jury answered “no” three times when asked whether Fairfax had established the “substantial truth” of three allegations, namely that he intentionally exposed his genitals, indecently exposed himself and indecently propositioned the woman.

The articles were published by Fairfax in January 2016 in the wake of Gayle’s famous “don’t blush baby” interview with sports reporter Mel McLaughlin, then at Network Ten.

A hearing on damages will be held at a later date. The newspaper company said it is considering an appeal.



West Indies' Cricket player Chris Gayle arrives at the King Street Courts in Sydney, Australia, Monday, Oct. 30, 2017. Brendan Esposito/AAP Image via Associated Press

West Indies Women drop four points, still ranks fifth

By Azad Ali

West Indies Women have remained fifth in the latest International Cricket Council (ICC) women’s team rankings but have

dropped four points following their dismal performance at the recent 50-over World Cup in England.

The Windies Women were on 101 points behind new table lead-

ers England who gained three points to overtake Australia at the top.

England won the World Cup when they beat India in the final

by nine wickets at Lord’s last July while Australia reached the semi-final before losing to India.

West Indies entered the World Cup as one of the favorites fol-

lowing their capture of the Twenty20 World Cup last year but failed to live up to expectations, finishing sixth only above Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

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ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20
An emotional encounter that you have with someone close to you gives you clarity and peace of mind, Aries. This is the catalyst for making personal changes that improve your life.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, it's good to want to help others. But do not let someone take advantage of your generosity. Be as accommodating as you can and then communicate your feelings.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, spend time fixing up your home this week or doing things that are geared around family. This is a great time for parents and children or even extended family to get together.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
Hoping and wishing for something without taking any action will not lead to satisfaction, Cancer. Figure out what you hope to achieve and then work toward that goal.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
Optimism abounds this week, Leo. You are ready to tackle any project big or small. Even though you may feel like you can take on the world, enlist a few helpers.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
Safeguard your personal information, Virgo, because not everyone you meet is on the up and up. Be cautious without being suspicious and things will turn out fine.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, you can make a big difference by contributing time, money or both. Don't hesitate to pitch in. Celebrate all that you have accomplished with someone you love.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, this week you can dedicate your time to something that will educate you further on an area of concentration you want to pursue. It may be a charitable cause.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
Your great imagination often causes you to be the life of any gathering, Sagittarius. This week you may have to let others' creativity take center stage.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Changes, particularly early in the week, will do you good, Capricorn. Rearrange the furniture or even try out a new hairstyle for some new perspective.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, take some time to do something with your partner, who can probably use your help right now. This can change your life emotionally and financially.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, remain tight-lipped about a positive development. You won't have to stay silent forever, but wait a little longer to share the news.



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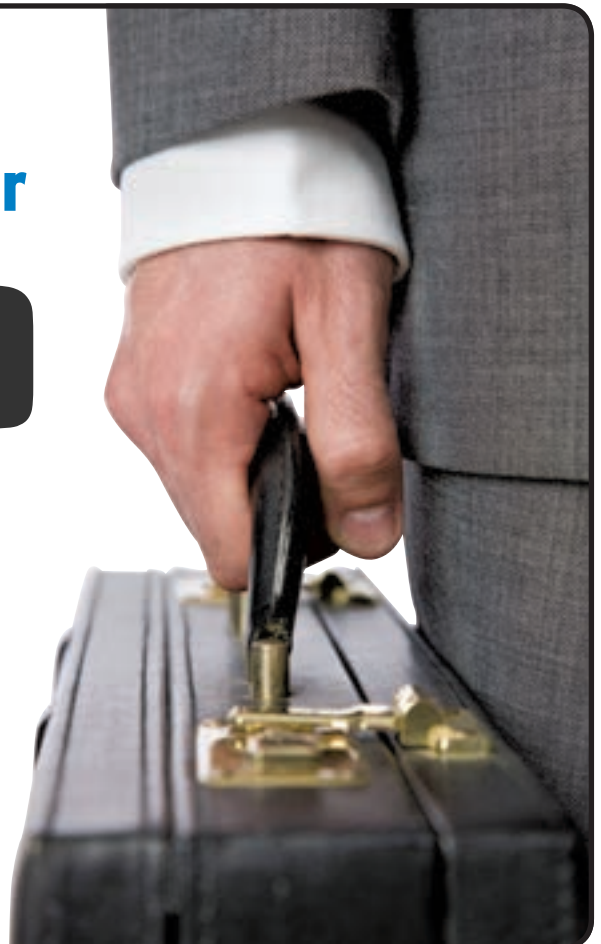


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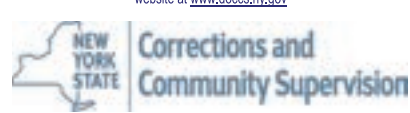
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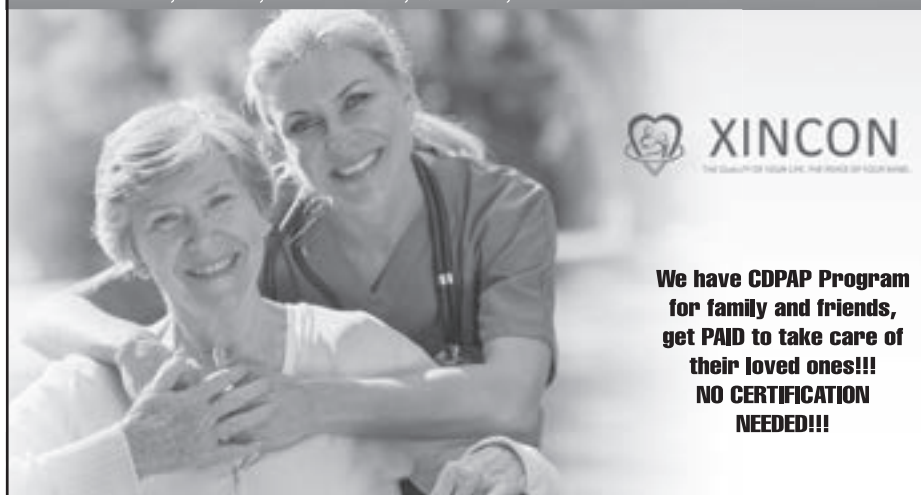
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Ingrid Griffith

Ingrid Griffith is an actor and writer whose experiences as a child in Guyana and an immigrant in America form the wellspring of her creative inspiration.

She has written for The Newark Star-Ledger, Source, Source Sports, Women's Sports & Fitness, Essence, and is a certified fitness professional. She is a member of SAG, AFTRA, AEA and Dramatists Guild of America.

Griffith has appeared in staged performances Off-Broadway in classical and contemporary roles. She created a solo play, "Demerara Gold," which premiered in July 2014 at the Midtown International Theatre Festival in New York City. It was the first time a play about Guyana, by a Guyanese author, was part of the line-up and she was nominated Best Solo Show Performer at the festival.

Since then, Griffith said she has been performing "Demerara Gold" throughout the United States and abroad. She performed "Demerara Gold" in London at the Bernie Grant Arts Centre, named after Guyanese-born Labor Member of Parliament, the late Bernie Grant.

In September 2014, "Demerara Gold" received a Godfrey Chin Award for Heritage Journalism from the Guyana Cultural Association of New York. In January 2016, "Demerara Gold" was published by No Passport Press.

Griffith also teaches Public Speak-



ing and Theater History at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City.

One highlight in her life was realizing "how much I'm learning since I've been teaching college."

Another highlight, Griffith said was "the responses I receive after performances of the story I share about my immigrant experience."

"The connection with the audience is deeply validating," she said.

Griffith said she was inspired by women who came before her — "women whose shoulders I stand on; women who dared, couldn't be reined in; women who stepped into roles that were unheard of for women and paved the way for future generations; women like Elilah Marques (stage name Madame O'Lindy), a Guyanese vaudevillian performer from the 1920s.

Dr. Christopher Hackett

Dr. Christopher F. Hackett received his early education in Barbados at Wesley Hall Boys Primary School and Harrison College. He studied at the University of the West Indies at both the Mona in Jamaica and St. Augustine, in Trinidad and Tobago campuses, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Economics and a post graduate diploma in international relations.

He also holds a Masters of Arts in International Development Studies from Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada and a doctorate in urban economics from New York University.

Dr. Hackett said he is an international development consultant, focusing on diplomatic theory and practice, including negotiations; global governance; and sustainable development, particularly climate change and renewable sources of energy.

Prior to his consultancy work, Dr. Hackett served for more than 40 years as an international civil servant at the United Nations in New York; and in the diplomatic service of Barbados, as his country's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations from the beginning of 2003 to mid-2010.

At the United Nations, his last position was that of director of the Caribbean Division of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), where



he was responsible for the overall policy formulation, direction and management of the UNDP's development assistance program in the Caribbean (both national and regional programs and projects).

As ambassador at the United Nations, Dr. Hackett said he represented Barbados' foreign policy interests at the global level. He disclosed that he was one of the principle architects of the reform agenda of the United Nations at its World Summit in 2005. He was also Barbados' principle delegate to the United Nations Economic and Social Council during Barbados' membership of the council (2007-2009).

Dr. Hackett said he was also a member of Barbados' delegation to several global conferences. He was one of the vice presidents of the UN General Assembly at its 63rd session (2009-2010).



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Dr. Grace Hackett

Dr. Grace Hackett hails from Barbados, where she started singing at an early age, at Calvary Moravian Church and St. Michael's Secondary School. Dr. Hackett said her singing and musical abilities were molded by Christopher Spencer, the late Dr. John Fletcher and the late Doris Provençal.

She said much of her early development came as a member of the Calvary Moravian Church's Junior Choir, under the direction of Arthur Maynard and the late Bertram Morris. It was in that forum that she sang her first solo. Dr. Hackett said Morris and Maynard encouraged her studies with Spencer and Dr. Fletcher, "since they stressed the importance of sight-singing and music history for singers."

Dr. Hackett says her musical skills were further enhanced at the Manhattan School of Music and Mercy College in New York City, where she gained bachelor's and master's degrees in Voice Performance, Music Education and Administration. She received her doctorate from Trident University International in California.

She has performed in the Metropolitan tri-state area, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, and Latin America in opera, oratorio, concert and recital and has toured extensively in Holland, Switzerland, Austria and Germa-



ny, under Schweitzer Tournee Opera Company, in the production of *Carmen Jones* by composer Bizet.

Dr. Hackett can be heard on CD and video in "Spirituals in Concert" and "A Carnegie Hall Christmas," with sopranos Kathleen Battle, Jessye Norman and Frederica Von Stade, under the direction of Andre Previn and James Levine.

Besides providing her with a "superb high school education and more than adequate preparation for life in the outside world," Dr. Hackett says the St. Michael School family in her native Barbados provided her with the opportunity to study and develop her gift of song.

She also credits her life's successes to her parents, the late FitzHerbert and Vivian Hackett, "who, with Christopher Spencer's bidding, made sure that I had access to voice, piano and dance classes."

Melinda Alexis-Hayes

Attorney Melinda Alexis-Hayes is the daughter of Calvin and Doris Alexis, former educators. Melinda said her parents instilled in her the importance of putting God first, getting a good education and pride in her Caribbean heritage. She is proud of her Grenadian and Jamaican roots.

Alexis-Hayes was educated in Brooklyn's well regarded public education system: P.S. 161 in Crown Heights, Philippa Schuyler Middle School for the Gifted and Talented in Bushwick, and Edward R. Murrow High School in Midwood, Brooklyn.

She said her maternal grandfather came to the United States from Port Antonio, Jamaica in hope of attending the historically Black college / University (HBCU) Tuskegee Institute, now known as Tuskegee University, founded by Booker T. Washington in Tuskegee, Alabama.

Alexis-Hayes said while he was unable to have this dream come true, she, however, followed his passion to attend an HBCU. She received her Bachelors of Arts cum laude from Spelman College in Atlanta, Ga. Her Juris Doctorate was obtained from St. John's University School of Law, where she was a scholarship recipient and president of the Civil Rights Law Association.



Her legal career started at the Kings County District Attorney's Office. From there, she went on to handle medical malpractice cases, and civil litigation for a local agency, where she was executive agency counsel before returning as special counsel for Public Engagement at the Kings County District Attorney's Office, under the late Kenneth Thompson, the first African American district attorney of Kings County.

Alexis-Hayes' unit works to inform the Brooklyn community about the work and resources of her office while addressing the needs of Brooklyn residents to bridge the gap between communities and law enforcement on such matters as immigration and hate crimes.

She said it might sound cliché, but added that there were no words that express how she felt about receiving the Caribbean Life Impact Award.

Justice Ingrid Joseph

Justice Ingrid Joseph's hard work and determination to make a difference in her community began in her homeland of Guyana and flourished when she migrated to the United States, where she completed her studies to become an attorney.

She worked her way up to judgeship in the New York Civil Court system, where she has served for more than five years. She was just appointed acting civil court judge. She said she was confident that she will be appointed to the post, because of her commitment to the law.

Justice Joseph is a humble, kind, and quiet champion, who continues to make an impact in the community.

She says she was influenced by her mother, Orma Samuels, a strong daughter of Guyana.

"She was my mentor, nurturer, spiritual guide, and disciplinarian," Justice Joseph says. "I learned, through her example, the importance of family and real friends. She taught me to set goals and accomplish them through discipline, hard work and persistence. She promoted the idea that knowledge is power by providing an environment that allowed me to grow without limitations, as to what I could do and how far I could go in life."

She said she learned from her mother to live by the golden rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."



Justice Joseph said she also learned from her mother "a sense of style and how to be a lady without compromising strength and assertiveness."

"Most of all, my mother enlivened me with faith in God and optimism," she said.

In her professional life, Justice Joseph said she was influenced by the late Justice Nicolas Clemente, with whom she worked as a court attorney.

"He was a trusted and learned jurist, who shared his wisdom, knowledge and experience with me," Justice Joseph said. "He taught me the importance of being prepared by understanding the facts of a case before oral arguments or trial. "He challenged me intellectually by placing me in situations that required me to find solutions. I credit Justice Clemente with helping me develop many of the skills that I now utilize as a judge."

Shani Kulture

Shani Kulture is the leader of a new generation of talent. Having worked his way up the ladder, Kulture reaches the masses every weekday as producer, engineer and on-air personality on "Ebro in the Morning." Kulture said he uses his platform as a forum to help educate today's youth, "to appreciate life over materialism, through his outreach campaign, "No Disrespect."

He was born in Hollis, Queens and raised in a working class household with his siblings between Queens and his native Trinidad.

Serving as a liaison between the mainstream and the underground, Kulture said he keeps his "ear to the street" by hosting and coordinating culture, fashion and club events. He continues to share and develop his craft by producing projects such as "On the Run with Shani Kulture," via GoTV Networks, and as host of HOT 97's monthly showcase, "Who's Next Live." He is also co-creator and host of HOT 97's annual Summer Jam "Lyrical Championships" since 2004.

Kulture is a leader to an uprising of a new generation in talent. He is so well-recognized as an influence within the industry that he has been documented as a "Hip-Hop Immortal" on the DVD "We Got Ya Kids." The public can catch Kulture every Wednesday at Woodland



in downtown Brooklyn, just a block from Barclays Center, where he hosts the after-work function, "Jerk Mack and Cheese," and at Mist Harlem, where he hosts a weekly brunch with performances on Saturdays and Sundays.

"I've noticed that if we are going to make a change, it has to start with our children," Kulture said. "If we don't stop the hate crimes, black on black violence, or the inner-city feuding, how can we expect anyone to take us seriously and equally respect us?"

"We need to acknowledge the way we speak and treat one another," he adds. "It's crucial to teach every race how to conduct themselves and demand respect from your peers — at any age."

Kulture who works on the Hot 97 Morning show said he wanted to help infuse more positivity and less negative behavior among Brooklyn residents.

Wayne McKenzie

Guyanese-born Wayne S. McKenzie is general counsel for the New York City Department of Probation (DOP). He is the primary advisor to the commissioner on all legal, legislative and compliance matters; and ensures that the DOP is operating within the law at all times.

McKenzie is a member of the governing cabinet and Labor-Management Committee, and manages all agency attorneys and legal staff.

Additionally, he is actively involved in key reform efforts and special projects in DOP's Adult and Juvenile Operations.

Prior to joining DOP, McKenzie was the founding director of the Prosecution & Racial Justice Program at the Vera Institute of Justice. The program, the first of its kind and national in scope, has partnered with district attorneys around the nation to pilot an internal assessment and management procedure that is helping supervisors identify evidence of possible racial or ethnic bias in their staff's aggregate decision making and respond appropriately when it is found.

Before joining the Vera Institute of Justice, McKenzie was a prosecutor in the Kings County District Attorney's Office in Brooklyn, where he held several supervisory positions and prosecuted high-profile cases in several specialized bureaus.



He is nationally viewed as an expert in prosecutorial discretion and racial justice issues, and has been a presenter and panelist at numerous legal and other professional conferences, community events, and in Congress and state commissions.

McKenzie is a vice-president-at-large on the American Bar Association Criminal Justice Section (CJS) Council, which is the governing body of the CJS.

He is a past chair of the CJS Committee on Racial and Ethnic Justice and Diversity; and is a former member of the ABA Council on Racial and Ethnic Justice and the Standing Committee on Gun Violence.

The Guyanese national also serves on the advisory boards of two CJS projects geared towards improving the fair delivery of justice in the courts and legal community, and was a key participant in the development of a

Linda McPherson

Guyanese Linda McPherson has risen from a rank-and-file activist to a union council president. She is the president of District Council 1707 of the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). She represents more than 27,000 non-profit social service employees, ranging from home care; social services; direct care; public center-based day care; educational; fundraising; and her own local, Head Start.

McPherson is employed at Community Parents, Inc. Medgar Evers Head Start, where she works as a family service coordinator. She lauds the federally-funded Head Start program for its comprehensive approach toward children of working and poor families, assisting them to become social and stable in the classroom and in society.

She migrated to United States from Georgetown as a teenager, and has since lived in Brooklyn. She said she joined DC 1707 in 1996 and immediately became active in union activities, including new member organizing. She became a shop steward, and attended union-sponsored trainings and conferences.

After attending the AFSCME Women's Leadership Conference in June 2014, McPherson said she was very impressed that the majority of delegates were women. She said the international union



represents some 1.3 million members. She has said repeatedly that the leadership academy expanded her leadership skills, adding that her current position is evidentiary. The executive board of DC 1707 is predominantly women with only two men on the board.

She said she fights consistently to have more women involved in the union and to have them adopt leadership roles.

McPherson said she owes much to her parents, Ernestine and Alan White, who always supported her ambitions.

She said that her husband, Andrew, and her three children, Leslie, LaShaun and Andrew give her "the latitude to spend long hours" building her union, which she considers her second family. She is also the proud grandparent of Aiden and Elle.

Danny & Shelly Mohabir

Guyanese Danny and Shelly Mohabir met in college "and, at first sight, fell in love." They say that when both families found out that they were both from Guyana, "a beautiful wedding took place."

Danny and Shelly said they not only have "a great marriage, with lovely children," but they also own a bowling center, Bowl 360, together, on Rockaway Boulevard in Ozone Park, Queens.

Besides having their own children, Danny and Shelly said some of their children are adopted and foster children. They said they "usually take children from emergency situations."

In addition, the couple said they help others "find their way to foster and adopt children in need."

The Mohabirs said that they allow more than 50 different charities and organizations, including the local police and neighborhood churches, to use their bowling alley to raise funds, adding that Bowling 360 is also used for private parties and bowling leagues.

At 14, Danny said he became fascinated with bowling centers close to his residence in New York. He said he watched "all day long how people were having a good time."

He said he actually wanted to work



at a bowling center near his residence, at 14, but added that management told him he was too young. He was, however, hired by the same center, when he turned 17, as a front desk clerk.

After "doing a great job," Danny said he was promoted at 19 to general manager, "which, at the time, was unheard of for a 19-year-old to have such a title."

At 36, after graduating from college and meeting his wife, Danny said he opened his own bowling center, stating that "this is what inspired me in life."

He said he and wife are "so excited and honored for this [Caribbean Life Impact] award, because it will open the doors for other nationals of Caribbean descent to go after their dreams and goals — and not be afraid to do so."

Ashley Murray

Being born into a family teeming with singers and musicians, Tobago-born Ashley Murray has been around music her entire life. Suitably, she was introduced to music at a very young age, and exposed to a sundry of instruments, including the recorder, harmonica, piano, and guitar. Having developed her skill on these specific instruments to an intermediate level, none quite captured her attention like the steel pan.

Murray said her love for the pan kindled during high school, where she joined the school's steel orchestra and began playing the guitar pan. Later, she alternated to the triple cello, then satisfyingly settled on the bass. Soon, she became the band's captain and dealt with, then overcame the challenges attached to her new role.

Murray's love for the steel pan and music were potent enough to convince students — some who had never played the instrument — to become a part of the orchestra. Dedicatedly, she spent her entire lunch breaks in the music room, teaching each student how to play. This passion extended to her willingness to learn not only her part, but those of other sections, which made sharing notes much easier. It was an effort that was rewarding to the team as well as her character as a



team player.

She holds distinctions in the Republic Bank Pan Minors Music Literacy Level I and II program in Trinidad and Tobago. She actively works to become a better pannist by practicing consistently, studying the craft, teaching others and working closely with professional musicians, including her mentor, Ryan "The Scientist" John.

Murray holds a Bachelor of Science in Information Systems (cum laude) from City University of New York — Brooklyn College. She brings her information technology and musical skills to Tropicalfete, Inc., a Brooklyn-based not-for-profit multi-cultural arts organization. Murray teaches about 20 students weekly the steel pan music instrument and musical theory. She prepares the students for various musical showcases and recitals.

Bahaati Pitt

Guyanese-born the Hon. Bahaati E. Pitt, a Bronx resident, was appointed as an interim judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York in June 2016 and as a judge of the Criminal Court of the City of New York in December 2016. Judge Pitt is assigned to the Bronx Criminal Court.

Prior to her appointment, Judge Pitt was a principal law clerk in Bronx Supreme Court, Civil Division. She has also served as a court attorney in the Bronx Family Court, Bronx Criminal Court and Bronx Civil Court.

From 2012 to 2014, Judge Pitt said she was an adjunct professor with the Borough of Manhattan Community College, teaching Real Property and Real Estate Transactions for Paralegals; Wills, Trusts and Estates for Paralegals; Business Etiquette for Professional Administrative Development; and Time Management for Professional Administrative Development.

Judge Pitt is a former chairperson of the Black Bar Association of Bronx County, having served as president from 2003 to 2006.

She is a former chairperson of Board Development for Legal Services NYC-Bronx, and a former chairperson of the Youth Services Committee of Bronx Community Board 10, where she maintained membership for more than 15 years.



In law school, Judge Pitt was elected the first African-American female president of the Student Bar Association at the State University of New York at Buffalo, School of Law.

She said her personal and career paths have been influenced by strong Black women included her mother — who left Guyana, moved to London to become a nurse, and eventually to the United States — with two small children.

“I watched my mother often work double and triple shifts to make sure that my brother and myself were able to excel,” Judge Pitt said. “My mom taught me hard work and to be fearless.”

Another woman was the judge she interned with in law school, who encouraged her to run for president of the Student Bar Association, “which made me the first Black Woman to hold that position.

Ravi Ramkeesoon

Trinidadian Ravi Ramkeesoon is the founder and chief executive officer of FindMyFans, a startup that solves the problem of generating revenue for recording artistes and provides data for all aspects of the music industry. It utilizes AI and machine learning to geolocate digital fan bases for music industry professionals anywhere in the world.

Ramkeesoon said this activity can then be used to leverage radio play and bookings in the locations the artiste is popular. He explained that the scalable technology can be used beyond the music industry, as it can be used as a tool for brands interested in reaching new markets and governments interested in targeting their Diaspora groups.

He has been deeply involved in Diaspora financing and entrepreneurship initiatives, and has worked with various organizations in the United States and the Caribbean, including The World Bank and Rockefeller-Aspen Diaspora Program.

Ramkeesoon continues to advise early stage startups and has mentored at MIT Launch and the Branson Centre for Entrepreneurship in the Caribbean. He also founded TTMG, a music industry think-tank that focused on problems facing the global music industry.

The entrepreneur is a graduate of



the Global Entrepreneur Bootcamp at MIT, and has earned a Bachelor of Science in Management and also studied information technology at Harvard University and business at St. John's University.

He was one of 30 entrepreneurs selected as finalists in TIC Americas-Caribbean Innovation Competition out of 3,500 applicants from 40 countries to present in Mexico.

Ramkeesoon is a recipient of a Certification of Outstanding Achievement from the United Nations / Influx Trust. His team placed first runner-up in the MIT Global Entrepreneur Bootcamp in Seoul, South Korea. He was also distinguished as a Trinidad & Tobago “Champion of the Month” in December 2012.

He honed his skills as a researcher, technologist and entrepreneurship at the Rauch Foundation & Long Island Index.

Guilaine Regis

Guilaine M. Regis was born in Port Margot, a province of Cap-Haitien, Haiti in 1957. After attending primary school and high school in Cap-Haitien, she moved to the capital, Port-au-Prince, to attend an academy and receive training to become a diplomat for the French-speaking Caribbean country.

During her diplomatic studies, Regis said she was able to travel to different countries including Puerto Rico, the United States and some Caribbean countries. She attained her degree with dual majors in business administration and diplomacy. Regis said she also graduated with “the highest honor.”

In the early 1980s, Regis said she migrated to the United States “because of the drastic change and uncertainty in Haiti’s future.” She attended New York Technical College (City Tech) in Brooklyn, where she focused on the hotel and restaurant industries. While attending City Tech, Guilaine said she worked as a home attendant, taking care of the elderly.

On graduation, she said she started her career as a housekeeper in the luxury hotel industry, stating that New York City hotel industry is “arguably the most competitive in



the entire world, and the standards are second to none.”

Over her 30-year career, Regis said she worked her way “from the very bottom of the New York hotel industry to reach the pinnacle where she currently works today.” The properties she worked for included: The Helmsley Park Lane; The Michelangelo Hotel; The Millennium United Nations Plaza Hotel; the Intercontinental Barclay, overseeing its renovation and reopening; and The Crowne Plaza. She currently serves as director of housekeeping at the Grand Hyatt., located above the Grand Central Terminal train station in Manhattan.

Regis said she even took her skills to the Windsor Court Hotel in New Orleans, LA for a few years after Hurricane Katrina devastated the city.

As one of the few black executives

Winette Saunders

For the past 24 years, Guyanese-born Winette Saunders has worked in higher education and social services within New York City government and the non-profit arena.

Saunders serves as the deputy commissioner for Youthful Offender Programming at the New York City Department of Correction (NYC DOC). She joined NYC DOC in October 2007 and she co-leads the reform efforts for this target population.

She said her role in the transformation of the agency has led to the end of punitive segregation, increased programming and reentry services for incarcerated youth between the ages of 16–21.

Saunders said her achievements in this field have been highlighted by several media outlets including but not limited to the New York Times, New York Daily News, WPIX 11 and Fox 5.

Over the last nine years, Saunders said her responsibilities included assessing and strengthening the programmatic infrastructure for the inmate population, as well as manage the development, implementation and operation of the department’s discharge planning efforts.

Prior to joining NYC DOC, the deputy commissioner said she was responsible for identifying policy barriers



and making policy recommendations to the Mayor Bloomberg administration. Before that, she said served as an assistant director of hospitals on Rikers Island, where she managed a component of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene’s discharge planning program for the forensic mentally ill population.

Saunders has also held positions as a psychiatric social worker at Housing Works; and an adjunct faculty member at the City of New York’s (CUNY) John Jay College of Criminal Justice and New York City Technical College, and the College of New Rochelle.

She received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a minor in African Studies from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and a Master’s Degree in Psychology from Long Island University.

Angela P. Sealey

Born in the twin-island republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Angela P. Sealey, the current chairperson and former treasurer of the Brooklyn-based West Indian American Day Carnival Association (WIADCA), has been involved in carnival activities since the 1970s. Prior to migrating to the United States, Angela lived on Basilion Street, the same in Trinidad where the late Carlos Lezama, former president and co-founder of WIADCA, had resided.

Sealey's cultural activism extended to the United States, where she became active with a small group of carnival cultural enthusiasts who focused on developing strategies to relocate the Harlem Carnival parade to Brooklyn in the late 1960s, while working as an assistant train dispatcher at the Metropolitan Transit Authority. In moving to Brooklyn, the mecca of Caribbean-American residents in New York City, Angela became an official WIADCA member in 1967. This augmented a previously rich 20-year legacy, while forging a 50-year legacy of what is now known as the "New York Caribbean Carnival Week and Parade" — "NYC's Greatest Show on Earth!"

Sealey says this endeavor was the catalyst to expanding Caribbean-American culture. She described WIADCA as "an institution that is the largest Caribbean voice in North America," which



"presents the largest Caribbean festivals in North America, and offers many, including elected officials, the opportunity to reach over 1.5 million Caribbean-American patrons in four days."

With many fond memories of humble beginnings, Angela recollects the parade's various locations, including the Armory on Dean Street in Brooklyn, before making Eastern Parkway, considered the "Cultural Row," its permanent home in 1971.

A long-time cultural advocate, visionary and stalwart of the Caribbean-American community, Sealey said she was "proud" to see the fruits of WIADCA's "Dream to a Legacy" fulfilled this year during the institution's 50th anniversary celebrations.

She remains a full-time volunteer with WIADCA, focusing all her efforts in the development and the success of the West Indian culture.

Wenford Simpson

Jamaican-born Chef Wenford Patrick Simpson, known as Chef Patrick, says he is "the proud corporate executive chef" for B.B. King Blues Club & Grill in New York City. He is also the executive chef at Highline Ballroom, Howard Theater in Washington D.C.

"My cuisines were rated 'Best in Taste' at the Spring Taste NYC 2015 and also 'Best in Taste' at the Taste of Times Square 2016," he said. "Imagine sitting in a restaurant. It's your birthday, and you are having that special meal so rich, so unequivocally decadent, you only order it once a year.

"Your mouth is watering; you can smell the succulent flavors before you can even see the server bringing it to you," he added. "The perfection of that single meal is what I strive for every time I prepare a dish."

Chef Patrick said he is known by many for his talent in infusing a variety of tastes and culinary influences, but added that those who know him are drawn to his "genuinely amiable nature."

He said his love started humbly in his family's kitchen but quickly developed into a true passion as he began experimenting with different flavor combinations.

Chef Patrick said his magical flare in the kitchen was quickly recognized and encouraged by the adults in his life, and that he was granted two internships to learn about baking and cooking while



he was still in school.

Occasionally, Chef Patrick can be found at Bloomingdale's and Macy's, giving fans sample tastes of his creations, giving their taste buds an experience for the ages. He was rated Bloomingdale's favorite chef.

"My role model growing up: If I were to choose someone would be myself to always push myself to be better every day, each and every day with God leading the way," he said.

"I challenge myself to be better always to set example and leave good footprints for people to follow," he added. "I never had a dad around to show me how to be a man, so I had to learn it on my own; and, I can honestly say I think I did a great job."

He said he was "so humbled and grateful to be honored by the Caribbean Life newspaper."

Cyril Thomas

Calypsonian and Cultural Ambassador Cyril "Scorcher" Thomas was born and raised in Sion Hill, a popular and socially-conscious village overlooking capital city Kingstown in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Thomas said he always had a passion for sports, and played various sports with varying degrees of success in his native land. He played Division One Basketball; was a national volleyball player; and was the first person from Sion Hill to be selected to play soccer for St. Vincent and the Grenadines' National Team, as a junior player and then as a senior player.

Thomas was also a student teacher, a customs officer and a magistrate clerk before he migrated to the United States. On arrival in the United States, Thomas said he was drafted into the United States Army, serving two years — 10 months of which was in Vietnam.

After leaving the Army, Scorcher said he worked at the United States Postal Service during the day and attended Brooklyn College at nights. He graduated from Brooklyn College with a bachelor's degree in political science, a Masters of Arts in Urban Administration and an advanced degree in Educational Administration and Supervision.

Thomas taught in New York City public school system until his retirement in



2001. He then served as deputy consul general of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to New York from 2001 to 2011. Later, the government of Prime Minister Dr. Ralph E. Gonsalves named him cultural ambassador.

From an early age, Thomas said he showed a great love for music, writing many hits over the years. His first recording was in 1976 with "Wilma wok Obeah on me," followed by notable hits, such as "Party Fever," "Wake up the Party," "Phantom DJ," "Sweetness is my Weakness," "Fork up All the Beaches," "I am a Darkie," "Come St. Vincent," "Pipe Layer" and "The Legend of Soca."

Scorcher — who has performed in the United States, England, Canada, Columbia, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada and other Caribbean islands — credits Alston "Becket" Cyrus ("The ABC of Calypso") for putting him on "the right track."

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Leticia Theodore-Greene

Trinidadian Leticia Theodore-Greene is associate executive director, Public, Community Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations at NYC Health + Hospitals/Kings County. In addition to media relations, Leticia is responsible for developing and executing Kings County's community outreach program to meet the needs of the community and the goals of Kings County.

Through strategic planning and collaboration with dedicated staff across the hospital community, she develops avenues to educate the community, not only about Kings County services but also about healthcare, health maintenance and ways to prevent illness.

Working with media and through old-fashioned outreach, which has expanded to include local schools, churches and community-based organizations, Theodore-Greene said she has "effectively raised awareness" about the hospital's services, events and the work in "innovative, talented staff."

Before a very brief stint as a lobbyist, Theodore-Greene was appointed deputy commissioner for External Affairs at the New York State Division of Human Rights. In this role she promoted the division and the state earned the distinction of being the first in the country to enact



human rights law.

Theodore-Greene was responsible for managing and directing the division's statewide outreach and education plan, special projects and media activities. Her framework for a program to encourage businesses to employ the formerly incarcerated became a statewide program, "Work for Success."

Prior to joining the division, Theodore-Greene served as vice president of public affairs at the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. In this role, she was responsible for the development and execution of the organization's public, media, government relations and marketing activities.

Theodore-Greene said she has also served as the senior press officer for the New York City Council and a producer, then reporter, for WNYC – New York Public Radio, where she also contributed to National Public Radio.

Margarette Tropnas

Haitian Margarette D. Tropnas is a community activist and a licensed social worker with more than 25 years of administrative, program management and community engagement expertise. She works as a program director at the Urban Resource Institute (URI), a nonprofit organization that provides comprehensive, holistic and supportive human services programs that empower individuals and families in New York City.

Tropnas serves on numerous community boards. She is the president of the United Nations Association (UNA)-USA Brooklyn Chapter. She said the chapter was committed to educating and mobilizing local communities to build a stronger network of global citizens and leaders to create a "more prosperous, just and sustainable world."

She is vice president of Making the Impossible Possible (MIPO, Inc.), a non-profit group that provides services to youth in the US and Haiti by planting a seed at a time — "building individuals for a life time."

Tropnas is a board member of HAB-NET Chamber of Commerce, which connects entrepreneurs with needed resources to succeed. She is also a member of The Bridge Diversity Team, a project uniting and energizing people of every racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds.




Additionally, she is a field adviser for the Silberman School of Social Work and a former associate adjunct professor for New York University's School of Social Work.

Tropnas is the recipient of numerous awards, including, 2016 Brooklyn Power Women in Business by Schneps Communications / Star Network; Advocacy and Leadership Award by Society for Haitian Research; and Friends of the Bridge Awards Multicultural & Advocacy Project for her commitment and dedication to the community.

She was named "Field Instructor of the Year" by Long Island University in May 2011 and Nyack College in May 2010. She graduated from SUNY, Stony Brook, where she was awarded a Bachelor of Science in Psychology in 1983. In 1989, she earned her Master's Degree in Social Work from New York University.

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¹Annual percent yield (APY). Early withdrawal penalties apply on CD accounts. APY displayed is as of October 20, 2017. ²Any ATM part of the Allpoint ATM Network. Allpoint locations can be found on the bank's website using the Find ATM / Branch Search Feature. ³For more information visit www.ridgewoodbank.com/rewards. ⁴Data and surcharge rates may apply.

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