



Council Member Jumaane Williams stands with students from Brooklyn College Academy at the National School Walkout. Kevin Fagan

Pols show solidarity with school walkout

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Assembly Member Rodneyse Bichotte and Councilman Jumaane Williams on Wednesday demonstrated solidarity with the National School Walkout against gun violence.

"Today, I joined with my Assembly colleagues in solidarity with the National School Walkout," said Rodneyse, who represents the 42nd Assembly District in Brooklyn. "For 17 minutes, we solemnly remembered and honored the 17 stu-

dents and educators who tragically lost their lives during the heartbreaking school shooting in Parkland, Fl., as well as the families, friends and loved ones mourning these unconscionable losses.

"Silence holds a power and gravity that words often fail to convey," said the first Haitian American from New York City to be elected to the State Assembly. "Yet, while we are making it clear that we stand behind the students, educa-

tors, families and allies taking a stand, we must also take meaningful action. The victims deserve more than a few minutes of remembrance; they deserve change."

Bichotte said the Assembly has passed "critical common-sense gun measures" in banning bump stocks (A.9958), keeping guns out of the hands of domestic abusers and dangerous individuals with "clear red flags" (A.5025, A.8976-B)

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MITCHELL SWEEPS POLLS

Browne, Staurt next on Caribbean elections altar

By Bert Wilkinson

Perhaps for the first time in living memory, a governing party shepherded by the same leader, has on two consecutive occasions won all 15 seats in general elections and again has a mandate to run the country without an elected opposition.

The New National Party (NNP) of Prime Minister Keith Mitchell of Grenada walked away with all the constituency seats on the island of just over 100,000 people in elections held on Tuesday of this week.

But this is not the first or second time that Mitchell, one of the most senior leaders in the 15-nation Caribbean Community, has achieved this feat.

Back in 1999, Mitchell had also decimated the political opposition, carting away with all the parliamentary constituency districts, much to the chagrin of the opposition National Democratic Party (NDC).

The NDC was led by former finance minister and attorney Nazim Burke who was narrowly beaten by the NNP can-

didate for a city seat.

Mitchell had again repeated the 15-0 scorecard in 2013 as he took advantage of a fractured opposition and early general elections triggered by a near break up of the NDC.

He says his party represents the type of stability that Grenada needs after the tumultuous 1980s when American troops had invaded the island in the wake of the collapse of the then socialist administration and the brutal assassinations of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and five other cabinet ministers.

Mitchell, a mathematician and statistician by training, plans to hold a celebratory mass rally in St. George's, the capital, this week but he also said that the time has come for the opposition to accept his long outstanding invitation to join the administration.

At the start of the week and just before campaigning had closed, Mitchell dropped the type of news on Grenadians that they had long wanted to hear. He told a rally that the spice and nutmeg isle, like

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Diplomatic spat in Barbados



Council Member Jumaane Williams, center, and immigrant rights activist Ravi Ragbir, right, speak with reporters after court appearance.. Kevin Fagan

Williams pleads not guilty to obstruction charges

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Council Member Jumaane D. Williams on Tuesday pleaded not guilty to charges of obstructing an emergency medical vehicle stemming from the Jan. 11 protest of the detention and imminent deportation of Trinidadian immigrant rights activist Ravi Ragbir.

Williams, the son of Grenadian immigrants, who represents the 45th Council District in Brooklyn, appeared before a judge on Tuesday, with 16 other protesters who were arrested with him for their roles in the protest.

Williams's City Council colleague Ydanis Rodriguez, who was also arrested during the protest, had appeared in court appearance late February and pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct, a violation rather than a crime.

The other protesters accepted an ACD (Adjournment in Contemplation of Dismissal) in the courtroom on Tuesday, while informing the court of their intention to continue to protest actions they find unjust, Williams told Caribbean Life.

He said he pleaded not guilty, stating that his actions were "in opposition to the immoral deportation of Ravi Ragbir."

The arrest and detention of Ragbir was later ruled unconstitutional by US District Judge Kathleen Forrest, who compared the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) actions to "regimes we revile as unjust; regimes where those who have long lived in a country may be taken without notice and sent away."

By George Alleyne

A diplomatic war of words may be developing between the government of Barbados and government of Canada through their representatives, the Minister of Education, Ronald Jones, and the north American country's High Commissioner, Marie Legault.

The Canadian envoy to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean has in past months been commenting on issues that can be seen to touch on Barbadian affairs ranging from homosexuality, country management, and gender matters.

Apparently fed up of with what he saw as interference in the island's internal affairs an angry Jones snapped without calling a name, over the weekend, "get out! You can't come and because you eat muskrats (a North American native rodent) you can come and tell us to eat rats."

Jones display of anger comes under the shadow of Barbados general elections set to be called anytime between now and June 4, with a woman, Mia Mottley, leading the main opposition party that appears a likely winner.

Against a backdrop of this scenario a known government campaigner and political commentator, had in January questioned whether Barbados is ready for a female leader.

And, Legault might have trod on sensitive ground when, consistent with her known support for females achieving status equal to men, she jumped into the fray last week by saying, "I was taken aback when in January I saw political analyst Maureen Holder asking if Barbados was ready for a female prime minister and advocating for a national debate on it. I think every country is ready for a male or female prime minister. Gen-



Barbados Minister of Education Ronald Jones.

Photo by George Alleyne

der does not have an impact."

Further stressing her point she broadened the discussion to the wider Caribbean, "in terms of women's participation in politics, Grenada has led the way with 33 percent women in parliament and Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago at 31 percent. On the opposite side of the spectrum, cur-

rently Belize only counts with 9.4 percent women in parliament, and St. Kitts, Antigua and Barbuda and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, between 11 and 13 percent".

Given Barbados' politically sensitive climate at this time, Jones interpreted Legault's statement as an endorsement for opposition leader, Mottley.

"Pack your Georgie bundles and go," Jones said Sunday without calling the diplomat by name, but added a suggestion of external interference in the island's affairs, "there is a wicked and deliberate attempt by one or two forces in Barbados who have the honor representing their country on sovereign soil in Barbados."

"To think that you can come into my country and because you want to cuddle and cunoodle ... you say to the people of Barbados to vote for that person. How dare you? You should be asked to leave, or your government should tell you to come home because 'you have interfered in the domestic political affairs of Barbados,'" Jones said.

The Barbados government minister warned a group of supporters to whom he was speaking at the time, "let me tell wunna [you] something . . . you can allow these things that are happening now to continue to happen with our eyes open, but we will wake up tomorrow morning and find that our country is not our own."



Canadian High Commissioner, Marie Legault.

Photo by George Alleyne

CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

THE NEWS FROM BACK HOME

Antigua

Austria has expressed an interest in cooperating with Antigua and Barbuda to forge closer relations in areas of tourism and diplomatic relations.

This was conveyed to Prime Minister Gaston Browne during a visit to Antigua by Marianne Feldman, Austrian ambassador to the Eastern Caribbean.

Browne, in his response reaffirmed Antigua and Barbuda's full commitment to cooperating with the Austrian government.



He made a request to the Austrian ambassador to consider opening an embassy in Antigua.

Bahamas

The Central Bank of the Bahamas (CBOB) reported that the tourism industry expanded during the first month of 2018, following a 2.1 percent decline in 2017.

According to the CBOB Monthly Economic and Financial Development report, data from Nassau Airport Development Company (NAD) showed passenger traffic increased by eight percent in January, in comparison to a 0.1 percent increase in the same period last year.

Data in the MEFD from the Ministry of Tourism showed that the 2017 numbers took a hit due to a reduction in room capacity on Grand Bahama- the country's second largest market.

According to the data visitors to the Grand Bahama decreased by 26.6 percent, following a 13.2 percent falloff in the previous year, as the decline in air and sea arrivals were extended to 43.8 percent and 23.5 percent, from 21.3 percent and 11.6 percent, respectively.



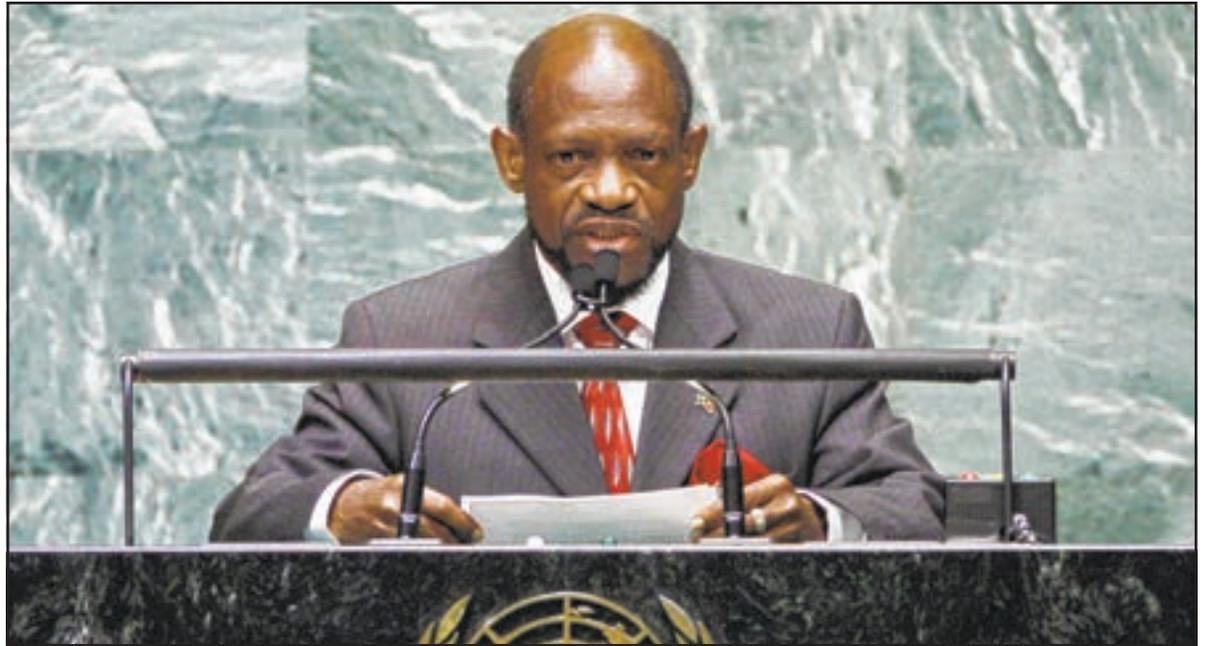
According to the MEFD, in 2017, total visitor arrivals to The Bahamas fell by 2.1 percent. They also fell by 2.5 percent in the previous year.

It also states that visitors to the capital "slowed significantly" to 1.2 percent from 9.8 percent in the prior year, given that the country's airlift in 2017 declined by 3.6 percent, versus a 0.8 expansion in 2016.

Barbados

Barbados' Minister of Tourism and International Transport, Richard Sealy, has announced a partnership with Copa Airlines that will see the island receiving a twice-weekly service direct from Panama.

The flights coming out of the Tocumen International Airport in Panama City will start on July 17, on an Embraer 190, which offers 84 economy seats and 10 business class.



Douglas fights parliamentary removal

Former St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Denzil Douglas is challenging in the High Court a decision by the government to remove him from Parliament on the grounds that he is a citizen of the Commonwealth of Dominica.

Associated Press / Richard Drew

Copa Airlines is the flag carrier of Panama and one of the leading Latin American providers of passengers and cargo services to countries in North, Central, South America and the Caribbean.

Sealy said the government has been embarking actively on diversifying "our source markets and the Latin American region of course has received attention. This partnership with Copa allows us not only to get business from Colombia and Brazil but also the rest of Latin America and we look forwards to seeing the Latin America market grow tremendously."



Guyana

The Guyana Goldfields Inc. (GGI) says it is moving ahead with plans for a US\$120 million first underground mining project that could come on stream by 2022.

GCI chief executive officer, Scott Caldwell told reporters that an underground study is being done and the report will be published soon.

He said the risk analysis was done and now it is just a matter when the project will start and it maybe sooner than 2022.

Caldwell, who said the company has paid US\$26.5 million in royalties since it began operations in 2015 added "we want to become the



premier underground gold miner in Guyana and South America."

St. Kitts

Opposition leader Dr. Denzil Douglas is challenging in the High Court a decision by the government to remove him from Parliament on the grounds that he is a citizen of the Commonwealth of Dominica.

Douglas has asked the court not only to dismiss the charges that have been brought by the attorney general but also cost for wasting the court's time.

The St. Kitts-Nevis government is seeking a declaration from the high court that, since the election to the National Assembly on Feb. 16, 2015, Douglas was disqualified from being elected as a member of the National Assembly and was accordingly required to vacate his seat in the National Assembly by reason of him becoming a person who, by virtue of his own act, is in accordance with the law of Dominica, under an acknowledgment of allegiance, obedience or adherence to a foreign power or state, namely Dominica.

Additionally, the government is also seeking a declaration that Douglas has vacated his seat in the National Assembly, an injunction restraining him from taking his seat in the National Assembly and from performing his functions



as a member as well as costs.

Prime Minister Dr. Anthony Harris has described the matter as one of grave constitutional, political and parliamentary significance to the Commonwealth.

Douglas has been a legislator since 1989 and served as prime minister for nearly 20 years.

Suriname

Suriname Finance Minister, Gillmore Hoefdraad has slammed Moody's Investors Service for the downgrade of the country's creditworthiness.

Hoefdraad criticized the rating agency for deviating from the procedures followed so far when using ratings.

Moody's has downgraded the long-term issuer and senior unsecured rating for the government of Suriname to B2 from B1. The outlook was changed to "negative" from "rating under review," which concluded the review for downgrade that commenced on Nov. 22, 2017, the agency announced recently.

Moody's in its assessment said that Suriname's B2 rating balances the deterioration in fiscal metrics against an improvement in the external accounts and favorable investment prospects driven



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Barbados number 1 in world for visitor satisfaction



Tourists enjoy paddling in the sea in Barbados.

By Nelson A. King

The Barbados Tourism Marketing, Inc (BTMI) says the country's tourism is once again in winner's row, beating out destinations such as second-place Seychelles and third-place Bermuda to land the number one spot on the 2017 Destination Satisfaction Index (DSI).

BTMI said on Saturday that, throughout the year, over 70,000 travellers were interviewed around the world, giving their feedback on 20 categories including beaches, accommodation, cuisine and shopping.

In the end, BTMI said Barbados had the highest overall World score, 8.8/10, of the 144 countries included. The destination also ranked highest in the Accommodation category, and highest in the Americas region, ahead of Bermuda and the Bahamas.

The awards were presented to the Barbados delegation, led by Donna Cadogan, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Tourism and International Transport, during a ceremony at ITB Berlin,

the world's leading travel trade show held in Germany's capital city, BTMI said.

William "Billy" Griffith, BTMI chief executive officer, said the island plans to leverage the accolade in the destination's marketing communications over the next year.

"For us, it's going to be very advantageous because, with our marketing and our public relations, we're going to be saying, 'we're best in the world,' at least for the next 12 months," he said. "And I think it helps us in our quest to move forward in terms of pressing for success for Barbados tourism."

BTMI said the DSI, developed and executed by two European research companies — Norstat and dp2research — is a metric that measures the overall valuation of a holiday destination based on the factors travellers find most attractive.

The online survey was administered in 24 source markets, with the 70,000 interviews resulted in 1.4 million responses direct from

travellers which informed the scores in each category, BTMI said.

"The feedback was that people, especially when it comes to Barbados, were extremely happy with the trip provided," said Marc Leimann, managing director of Norstat Germany. "Barbados, basically, really challenged and won against the world in total."

Stressing the value of visitor feedback, Griffith said that "the important thing is that... it was the customer's opinion, and that's really what drives the energy in terms of what we do.

"And that's why we think it's such a validation and an endorsement of what we're trying to achieve," he added.

Besides the overall World award, BTMI said Barbados also topped the Accommodation category, scoring 8.8/10 ahead of Bermuda, which placed second, and the Maldives which placed third.

"Over the last year, 2017, we would have had about 43 different establishments which

refurbished, therefore our product is being refreshed," Cadogan said. "We are making a concerted effort and working on our

accommodation, and it is bearing results as you have seen from the Accommodation award that we have received here today."

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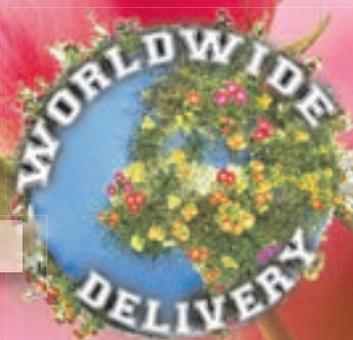
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Caribbean Elections



Grenada Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell. <http://www.grenadainvitational.com>

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Guyana, will soon find large quantities of oil and gas as seismic work done by an international consortium had unearthed large quantities of hydrocarbons in offshore waters. Grenada is just north of oil and gas-rich Trinidad and Tobago.

As the NNP and its supporters prepare to celebrate the third sweep of all the parliamentary seats in 19 years, colleagues in Antigua are also preparing to go to the polls in a week, on March 21.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne's Antigua Labor Party (ALP) is trying to win a second consecutive five-year term. Polls show that Browne is likely to defeat the United Progressive Party (UPP) of former foreign and finance minister Harold Lovell. The ALP has 14 of the 17 seats but general sentiments are that Browne is likely to do so with a reduced majority.

Voters in Barbados, meanwhile, are also waiting on the naming of a date for the third constitutionally due general election in the bloc to be held by mid year.

Prime Minister Freundel Stuart recently dissolved the island's 30-member parliament and has 90

days to call a general election. He has made it plain that he is in no hurry to do so but has also vowed not to breach the constitution in any way by not naming a date within the stipulated period.

Of the three who face the electorate this year, Staurt is the only one likely to head to opposition benches. His Democratic Labor Party (DLP) had had a comfortable 20-10 seat majority in elections in 2008 but dropped to 16-14 five years later in 2013. His administration has been beset by tough economic times including a massive drop in the island's central bank foreign reserves, which now barely has enough money for less than five months of imports.

School Walkout

Continued from Page 1

and established longer waiting periods to ensure thorough background checks (A.2406).

"It's time the state Senate acts to pass these measures and protect New Yorkers, and it's time Congress took our cue and protected all Americans," she said. "Parents shouldn't have to send their children to school worried that they won't be safe.

"We can't allow this to become the norm," she added. "We, as lawmakers, cannot be left to live in constant fear."

On Wednesday, high school students across Brooklyn walked out of school to protest gun violence.

Williams joined students at Brooklyn College Academy and Midwood High School in solidarity and support of the cause.

At Brooklyn College Academy, over 100 students lined the West Quad of Brooklyn College Campus and stood in silence for 17 minutes, representing the 17 students killed at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School.

Some held signs calling for action on gun control in general, and protections for students in school specifically, said Williams, who represents the 45th Council District in Brooklyn.

"Their silent action resonated across the campus," he said.

At Midwood High School, Williams said hundreds of students poured into the schoolyard to protest inaction in the face of gun violence and to memorialize victims.

"A sea of students knelt as the names and biographies of the students killed in Parkland were read, with the students repeating their stories one by one, in one voice," Williams said. "This powerful display highlighted the human cost of gun violence.

"It is truly inspiring to see this generation rising up in protest, taking action on this issue that affects them directly," added Williams, a candidate for New York Lt. Governor. "When they speak, our leaders must listen.

"All across the country, these students are saying with one loud, clear voice that enough is enough," he continued. "Elected officials have a moral responsibility to respond by standing up to the NRA (National Rifle Association) and others who oppose progress in the areas of gun safety, just as these bold students have.

"From the mass shootings that shake our nation to the tragic, daily gun violence that plagues our streets from Florida to Brooklyn, we must all stand together to effect change," Williams said. "I thank this new generation of leaders for pushing the conversation forward and demanding action."

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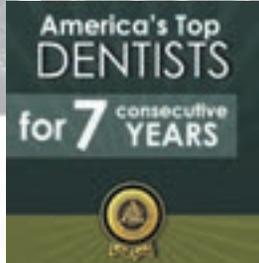
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Marooned in America

Dr. Maulana Karenga

In the midst of the widespread euphoria about the debatable real and actually imagined qualities, achievements and benefits of the fantasy movie, "The Black Panther," it is good to remember that no matter how long we stay in the theater and no matter how many times we return to cheer, clap and dance in the dark, sooner or later the lights will come on, and we will have to exit and confront the off-screen, cold-water reality of America. We must know in moments of clarity and calm consideration, that even if we wish it to be otherwise, this is only a movie, a comic book story on screen and we have every right and at least some reasons to enjoy it as we wish. But talking about it as if it is a pathway and push forward to liberation, resistance and racial pride runs recklessly into the face of reality and any concept of critical reasoning, and pretends for a movie what only a movement of hard work and long struggle can achieve.

And it is such an unbounded and unreflective embrace that leads to the "need" and tendency to deny the movie's flaws, overlook its stereotypes and explain away its misrepresentations of continental African and African American culture and African peoples themselves; its discrediting and misrepresenting revolutionary struggle and resistance; and its cultivating the idea of the oppressor as an ally and enabler for African

people.

Thus, so influenced we can overlook racist stereotypes of continental Africans in spite of their advanced technology: still carrying spears, even though sonic ones; trapped in "tribalism"; engaging in blood ritual battles to determine who will rule instead of using elections; and requiring the White CIA agent to save the Black woman and Black people from the Black man, asking the CIA agent to pilot their attack ship as if no Black person is technologically capable, assuring the agent "We're counting on you." And this in spite of the CIA's brutal and bloody history and current activities in Africa and around the world. We can also explain away the reductive translation of relations of continental Africans and African Americans, using a dehumanized would-be liberation fighter that ends up being little more than a gangster from the ghetto, indicted from the beginning by his name "Kill-monger," one who promotes and deals and participates in killing. And we explain away why a technologically superior country hides itself from Whites who obviously know it exists and whom it can easily protect itself from or defeat, does not defend the continent and its people, and spends its hours on screen fighting within itself.

The film's appeal is understandable, not simply because of its favorably and mistakenly interpreted content, but

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Wakeup call for the United Democratic Party

By Wellington C. Ramos

Since the 2006 Municipal elections the United Democratic Party have won and controlled all the municipalities in the country of Belize except for Orange Walk Town which has been under the control of the People's United Party (PUP) since. The municipalities include; Belize City a Mayor and ten Councilors, Belmopan City the capital a mayor and six city councilors, Punta Gorda Town a Mayor and seven councilors, Dangriga Town a mayor and seven councilors, San Ignacio / Santa Elena Town a mayor and seven councilors, Benque Viejo Del Carmen a Mayor and seven councilors, San Pedro Ambergris Caye Town a mayor and seven councilors, Orange Walk Town a mayor and seven councilors and Corozal Town also with a mayor and seven councilors. When this is all added it comes up to nine mayors and 67 councilors.

In the elections that were held recently, the People's United Party (PUP) won Belize City, Orange Walk Town and Corozal Town. This gives them three mayors and 25 councilors out of 67 because a PUP councilor also won in Dangriga Town. Now the UDP have six mayors and 42 councilors which is still the majority but losing Belize City is a major shock to them. Why? Because since the UDP came to power in Belize City in 2006, they have spent millions of dollars on infrastructural development in Belize City compared to the other municipalities. Yet,

The value of the Belizean vote has diminished and is diminishing over time as well.

despite all this spending, Belize City has the highest amount of gangs, crimes and murders in the entire country of Belize.

This has caused many city residents to leave the city to live elsewhere in the country and Belizeans who live abroad to build their homes away from Belize City. Tourist have also avoided the city and if they go there, they have to be very cautious of what parts of the city they go to avoid becoming victims of crime. It has gotten so bad in Belize City, that every time you listen to Belize news, two or more people have gotten killed for no good reason or reasons. Life in the city seems to have no value no more and many city residents are living in fear for their lives. Many of the accused killers have been arrested, brought to trial for their crimes, acquitted or sent to prison but the killing goes on like there is no end in sight and no regards for a person's life. The government has come up with several plans to combat these crimes and murders but nothing has changed in Belize City.

There has been a lot of emphasis on upgrading the law enforcement strategies but it has not worked and it is not working. Maybe, now is the time for the government to look into

the root causes of crime in Belize and implement some programs to change the minds of the young and poor Belizeans. People who do not have the basic means to survive as human beings, are vulnerable and become good customers to be induced to commit crimes and they will commit them. When the elections come around, they will take any amount of money to vote for a candidate but they do not really care about the candidate, his party, his politics nor his ideas. The worst thing any political party or politician can do, is to pay Belizeans to vote for them because the situation will only get worse and has gotten worse. People will only vote when they get paid a certain amount of money and will not vote if the right money is not given to them.

The value of the Belizean vote has diminished and is diminishing over time as well. The United Democratic Party in power now, need to pass Campaign Finance Laws in Belize as soon as possible to save Belize's democracy. The legislation should set a reasonable amount of money that all candidates should spend for Municipal, General and all Elections. Also, make it a Criminal Offense for any candidate running for office, to pay or bribe a citizen to vote for him or her. An Ethics Commission should also be established by the Election and Boundaries Commission, with a representative from all the registered political parties in Belize to be on the

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'Spring Affair' previews 'Summer' on Broadway

On International Women's Day, March 8, just one day after a nor'easter dumped a snow-rain-mix of slushy combination on the tri-state area, a ray of sunshine peeked from Broadway announcing the arrival of "Summer, the Donna Summer Musical" in a tribute to the avowed queen of disco.

It's fitting that today with the last days of winter "we'll give you a little Summer" the host said.

A chuckle from critics, producers, actors, music specialists and fans of the singer resonated with expectations of a preview showcase that morning that warmed the entire soundstage.

Slated for previews beginning March 28 at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre, the official opening date is spring 2018, April 23. Directed by Tony Award winner Des McAnuff (Jersey Boys, Tommy) the preview performance invited prestigious and creative investors in the auto-biographical life story of the phenomenal woman who indelibly imprinted her stamp on the music industry during the 1970s.

I was privileged to be seated next to Bruce Sudano, Summer's husband of 32 years.



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

In front of me was Ron Melrose, the musical director; behind me were lighting and costume specialists, choreographer and two seats away, Tommy Mottola, the co-producer, former SONY Music chairman, former husband of Mariah Carey and an individual associated with many creative music entities.

"She was an 18-time Grammy nominee winning five times and the first female to win a Grammy in the rock category."

As much as I had seen the diva in concerts at Roseland Ballroom, Jones Beach, the Apollo Theater and Madison Square Garden that last mention almost floored me. I was not surprised. Summer was electric. She mastered rhythm 'n blues, gospel, reggae and every genre she attempted.

I clearly recall hearing her music for the first time on radio. It was 1975 and Frankie Crocker introduced her as German —

actually she was born in Boston but moved to Munich, Germany to advance her music career and in the process became a success there.

No one on radio was hotter than Crocker. He was a personality that decided hits just by spinning a disc.

On an afternoon when he introduced new music — he played longer than any song I had ever heard on radio — a track with only six words driving the tune, I was transfixed listening to the repeated. "I Love To Love You, Baby."

It was new, infectious and very different from anything repeated on the WBLS-FM playlist.

Crocker probably played the 17-minute version and still I wanted more. So did his audience of Black, contemporary radio listeners.

Later on clubs delivered longer sets playing back-to-



Disco icon singer Donna Summer performs at the Bank of America Pavilion in Boston, as part of her tour to promote her CD Crayons.

Associated Press / Robert E. Klein, File

back seven inch vinyl versions.

Still clubbers wanted more. It seemed like ages after that I actually got a glimpse of this revolutionary individual. She was young, beautiful and glamorous.

And collaborations with Germany-based Giorgio Moroder she became an instant hit all over America particularly in clubs decorated by mirrored balls that spun from overhead as dancers sweated to each and

Continued on Page 35



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Electoral observers: Grenada elections peaceful

By Nelson A. King

The Electoral Experts Mission of the Organization of American States (OAS) to the general elections in Grenada on Wednesday published its preliminary report, in which it commends the people of Grenada on their continued commitment to democracy, as demonstrated in their “peaceful and enthusiastic participation” in Tuesday’s elections.

Led by OAS Assistant Secretary General Nestor Mendez, the Mission comprised six experts from five OAS member-states who visited 150 polling stations in the 14 constituencies on mainland Grenada on election day.

The Mission also observed the Special Police Vote on Friday, March 9, the OAS said.

In its preliminary report, the Mission congratulates the government on its new term in office and notes that this is the second consecutive election, and the third overall, that the opposition has not won a seat in the House.

The Mission explains that the November 2016 Referendum on Constitutional

Reform included a proposal intended to address precisely these circumstances, by guaranteeing the appointment of a Leader of the Opposition, but the proposal was supported by only 29 percent of the persons who participated in the Referendum, according to the OAS.

It said the Mission highlights in its report the need to strengthen certain aspects of the registration process and suggests that authorities consider the introduction of political party and campaign finance regulations “in order to promote transparency and accountability in electoral processes in Grenada.”

The OAS said the Mission was “pleased to note that, due to the number of female candidates nominated by the winning party, preliminary results suggest that women will now comprise almost 50 percent of the House of Representatives.

“However, in order to achieve true parity in women’s political participation in Grenada, it recommends that authorities and other stake-



Nestor Mendez, OAS assistant secretary general.

OAS / Maria Patricia Leiva

holders consider introducing temporary legal measures, such as a gender quota,” the OAS said.

Following a thorough analysis, it said a detailed report on the Mission’s observations and recommendations will be

presented to the OAS Permanent Council in Washington, D.C. It will also be shared with stakeholders in Grenada.

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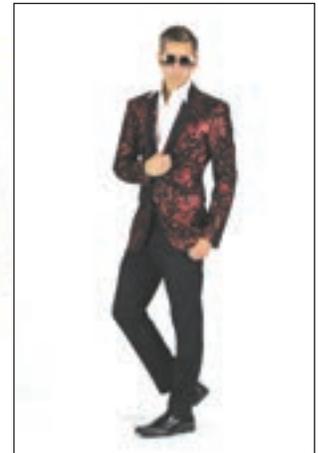


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Message of dominance

film made a must-see all over the world, with funds being collected and offered to send thousands of Black children to see it? And when have we seen almost every major media source doing approving and praising articles and commentaries on a Black subject coming attraction?

Surely, after all the before-now talk about the predatory and profit-seeking character and conduct of a racist and capitalist society, we can't possibly not know that this marvel of marketing of make-believe and this apparent established order consensus of approval and praise of the film means that it is clearly profitable for them and problematic for us. Clearly, capitalism is in it for the money, but also for the message, a message which maintains dominance, cultivates loyalty to the system in spite of its White supremacist and capitalist character, and lowers the oppressed's conception of what they deserve, what they think possible and what they should accept.

Indeed, it is a central Kawaida contention that one of the greatest powers of any society, class or race is the capacity to define reality and make others accept it even when it's to their disadvantage. It is the Hon. Marcus Garvey who teaches us that the propaganda of the oppressor is one of the key "organized methods used to control the world", that "propaganda has done more to defeat the good intentions of races and nations than even open warfare". It is, he says, a regularly used organized method employed "to convert others against their will", against their best views and values.

Continued from Page 10

also because of the favorable context in which it was produced and positioned. It comes at a time, as the audiences and onliners explain, when the attacks on African people, Black people, on the continent and in the diaspora, have taken a wild and openly racist turn. And the film becomes an alternative narrative for many to the rampant racist reductive translation and claims of who we are.

Moreover, many said it took them away from the more serious side of Black life, gave them a chance to relax and enjoy themselves watching a predominantly Black cast portray Black people highly advanced, in control of their lives and triumphant. And it was positioned in February, Black History Month, in which we traditionally celebrate and sing ourselves, reference and revisit our roots, identify and raise up heroes and heroines, extract lessons and models, and wonder out loud or silently "how we got over", knowing deep down the struggle must and does continue.

But let's face it, it was the marketing that created much of the marvel of the film. What film with Blacks as the subject has been so massively and skillfully advertised? Was "Selma" or "Malcolm X" or any other Black subject

Campaign finance law needed

Continued from Page 10

board. This commission will have the power to monitor the enforcement of our election laws and practices. If the laws are being violated by anyone, charges must be brought against the candidate or candidates and if they won the election it should be voided and another election must be held after the court proceedings.

I left Belize in 1978 but have stayed in tune with Belize politics since my departure. I have spoken to many Belizeans who live here in the United States and in Belize about the state of politics in our country. If money has now come to be the main reason why a candidate can win a seat for office in Belize, then we will not get the best people to represent us and become our leaders. We will only corrupt our political system further.

There are many qualities that a person needs to become a leader and money is only one of them. With this type of system in place, these are the results that we will get in Belize politics; rich people ruling the country and securing their personal and family interest, rich people ruling the poor people and paying them for their votes, rich people leading the intelligent poor people and using them as puppets to serve their interest, unintelligent rich people becoming our representatives.

Campaign finance laws could be a controversial issue like it is here in the United States. However, in a small country like Belize it should work. Because it is needed so that the political parties do not have to go and look for rich people to finance their campaigns and then become obligated to them. The Michael Ashcroft experience with our then Prime Minister Said Musa and the People's United Party (PUP), seems to have not taught us a lesson yet. If it did not teach us anything then, it will not teach us anything again. We are still haunted by that relationship and it is costing our people and nation millions of dollars.

If we love our people and country the way we say we do, then let us get up and do something to show our people and country how much we really do love them. Remember, that if we do not act our country and future will end up in the hands of the wealthy over our poor vulnerable Belizean citizens. Some of these things are taking place in our country now as we speak and it is time for it to end. Our country of Belize cannot continue to endure this pain and suffering no more. All Belizeans who care and love our people and country, should join me so that together we can call on our government representatives to act now before it is too late to save our beloved country Belize.



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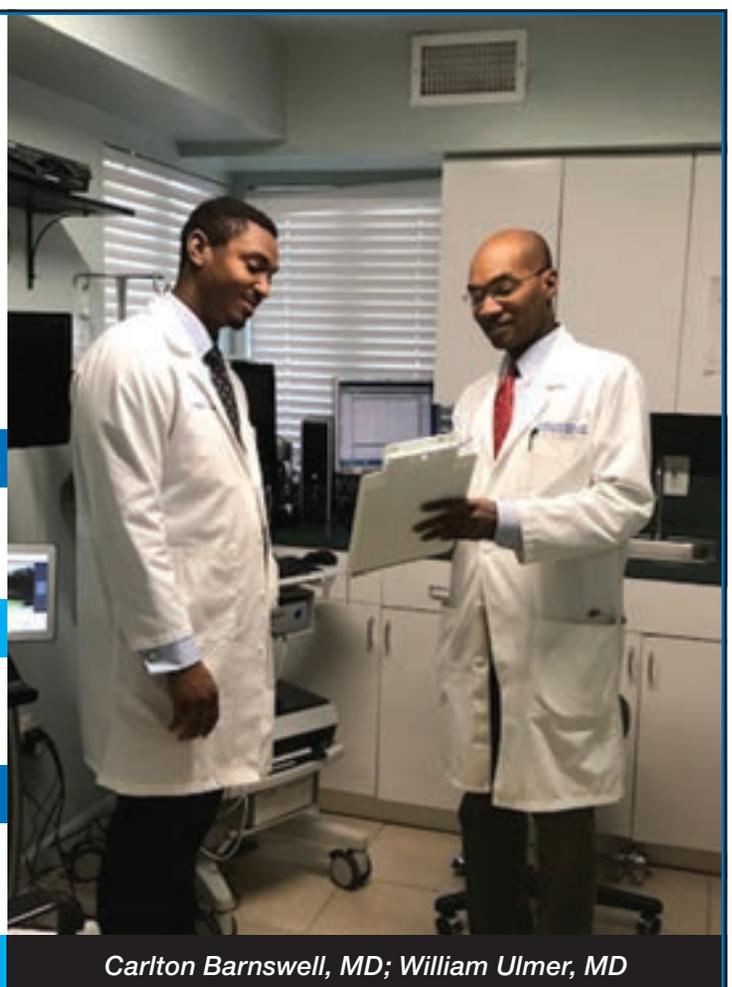
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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from Page 4

by the mining sector. The agency said Suriname faces challenges in the form of institutional constraints, which may limit the government's ability to carry out a comprehensive reform agenda.

Trinidad

Controversy is brewing over Trinidad and Tobago President Anthony Carmo granting the country's Chief Justice Ivor Archie six-month sabbatical from performing his designated duties.

Archie will instead be focusing on the publication of a research paper titled, "How have labor laws in the Caribbean developed differently from other jurisdiction given out unique legislation and constitutional framework."

The chief justice is going to the Federal Judicial Center (FJC) in Washington DC, where he will take up the fellowship.

He told the president that the FJC

has approved his application to be its Visiting Foreign Judicial Fellow for a period of six months in 2018 from March to August 2018.

In his application for leave the Chief Justice told President Carmona, "I wish to step back a bit from the onerous demands of my position and to rest, reflect and undertake a program of study that will have important implications for the jurisprudence of Trinidad and Tobago, as well as other Caribbean states."

Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley has written to President Carmona seeking clarification on the legal authority for the granting of sabbatical leave to Chief Justice Archie.

Archie's leave comes at a time when his conduct in office is being questioned by the Law Association.

- Compiled by Azad Ali



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Caribbean, Latin America have second highest teen pregnancy rates

By Alexandra Simon

A new report conducted by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), researchers found that the Caribbean, along with Latin America has the second highest adolescent pregnancy rates in the world. In the report titled "Accelerating Progress Toward the Reduction of Adolescent Pregnancy in Latin America and the Caribbean," it details that within the Caribbean — the Dominican Republic and Guyana are the two countries in the region with the highest numbers. But the cause of pregnancy in young girls and teens is a very complex issue, often happening to those who suffer from a lack of access to multiple resources, said a regional director.

"It's a combination of factors, but if I have to pick one it's marginaliza-

tion — it is the leading reason because consistently we find that even in all the countries that have low rates, it is those from poorer income groups, the lower educated, and girls in rural areas that have the biggest burdens," said Dr. Sonja Caffé.

Within these high numbers, there are minority groups in these countries more susceptible to pregnancy due to isolation from larger society.

"In the countries with racial and ethnic issues, the minority groups there — often the indigenous groups for instance, deal with a lot of discrimination and have high teen pregnancy rates," added Caffé. "The indigenous in Guyana have very high rates."

Detailed in the report are the causes and effects of this marginalization,

and the organization hopes to institute effective change amongst the mindsets of legislators to govern policies that can begin to rectify this widespread rise. Together with other humanitarian groups like United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA), Caffé says PAHO is working to increase changes in the laws.

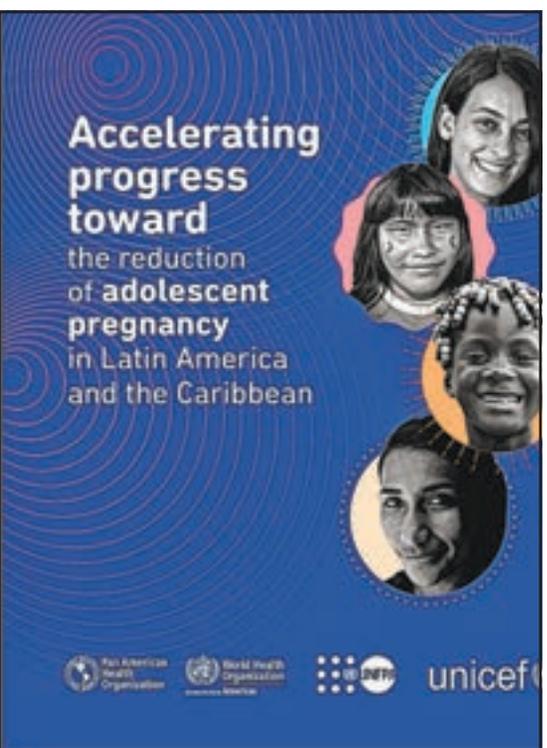
"We have decided to use this report as a starting point to increase awareness, and we are working hand in hand with UNICEF, UNPFA, to generate more activism and compare it with macro-development in region, we don't want this to be one campaign but a consistent one," said Caffé.

A glaring find in the report is the birthrate for girls between the ages

of 10-14 years old. Caribbean girls within that age range are gradually having the highest pregnancy rates, and often when girls younger than 16 years old become pregnant, the most common reason is rape or coerced sex, said Caffé.

"We are the only region where we're seeing an increasing trend of pregnancy in 10-14 year olds, and we know that the vast majority of these pregnancies come from sexual violence, because the age of consent in most of these countries is 16," she said.

In most cases, the young girls know their attacker — who is usually a relative, family friend, or a neighbor. The report also summarizes how laws further marginalize these teens by preventing termination of these pregnancies or providing them with adequate care,



The report by the Pan Health Organization (PAHO) titled "Accelerating progress toward the reduction of adolescent pregnancy in Latin America and the Caribbean," details the rise of adolescent pregnancies in the Caribbean and Latin America.

according to Caffé. In addition to being a victim of sexual assault, because the body's of adolescent girls is still undergoing development, the teens face an even greater risk of maternal mortality — which is higher the younger the mother.

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Dr. Nakita Haynes performs a spoken-word poem at the event.

Photo by Caleb Caldwell

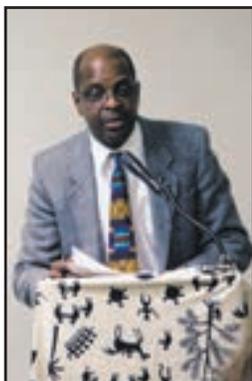
Barbados consulate honors Diasporans

By Alexandra Simon

The Barbados Consulate celebrated five of their own at a Black History Month event at the Barbadian Consulate General in New York in Manhattan on Feb. 27. “Barbadians Salute Black History Month,” was an event to honor individuals representing the young talent the island nation has produced, compared to the more established usually recognized, said the consulate’s community affairs representative.

“Normally for black history, we’ve always honored people who are no longer living or people who are older — but this year I really wanted to showcase the young people,” said Linda Watson-Lorde.

The honorees were Taisha Carrington, the designer of the country’s 50th independence anniversary monument, Kerwin DeVonish, a cinematographer known for his work with director Spike Lee, Shernell Clarke, the founder of Phuzun Fit, reggae artist Roderick Hurley, better known as



Master of Ceremony John Blackman, speaks at the “Black History Month Salute” at the Barbados Consulate in Manhattan.

Photo by Caleb Caldwell

Hotta Flames, and writer and poet, Dr. Nakita Haynes.

Watson-Lorde said that she wanted the event to salute Barbadians in various industries, who were paving paths for their fellow countrymen and women in the Diaspora.

“We wanted to highlight people across the board — those who are up-and-coming and the people who are midway in their careers,” added Watson-Lorde. “My idea was to showcase the talent Barbados is bringing to the United States, and to show that for one negative, there are three or four more positives.”

Watson-Lorde said she was also proud that other consul generals — some from the Caribbean and many from non-Caribbean countries — came out to also support this celebration. She aims to ensure that the consulate is consistently recognizing their community yearly during Black History Month, and possibly grow bigger to become a Pan-Caribbean event.



Barbadian-American, Taisha Carrington is honored at the Barbados Consulate for a Black History Month celebration at the Barbados Consulate on Feb. 27.

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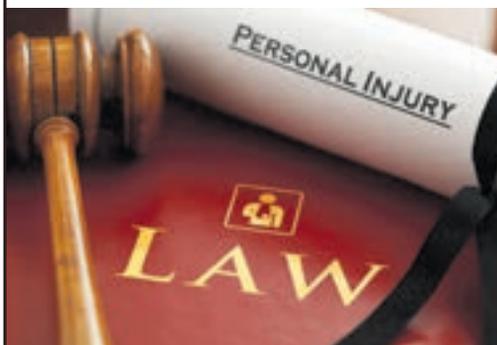
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Introducing a new Caribbean rum: Boukman Rhum

By Alexandra Simon

There's a new Caribbean rum in town.

The Haitian-made alcoholic beverage Boukman Rhum is a liquor with a mission. As one of the newest rums out of Haiti, its manufacturer is trying to bring the island nation to the forefront of the global rum market and sustain business for several industries in Haiti. Its founders — Josette Buffaret Thomas, a native of Haiti, and Adrian Keogh who is from Ireland, started it all in 2016. And one of their goals with the rum is to re-introduce a new spirit to rum aficionados everywhere, said the company's account manager.

"Our mission is to showcase Haiti as the lost world of rum," said Garcelle Menos. "There's a beauty in the drinking culture there that has been left untouched and undiscovered for years."

Boukman Rhum is made in the same traditional Haitian way of making moonshine, called "kleren tronpe" in Haiti. It is macerated in botanical barks for weeks on end, honoring the age-old traditions, while adapting to new-age style of fusing in spirit-making, according to Menos.

"If kleren tronpe had a more sophisticated and elegant cousin, Boukman Rhum would be it," she said.

One of the major differences between Boukman and the more popularly known



Founders of Boukman Rhum, Josette Buffaret Thomas, left, and Adrian Keogh.

Ralph Thomassaint Joseph

rum produced in Haiti, Barbancourt is the ageing process. The latter has been the premier rum choice in Haiti for years and soaked in European oaks, said Menos. But Boukman Rhum's creation is a different process where it is mostly infused with botanical leaves.

The creation of it starts in either one of the two distilleries in partnership with the company — one each in northern and southern Haiti. In both, dozens of workers produce the spirit made from sugar cane. Once it leaves the distillery it heads to the main factory in Port-au-Prince

where botanical maceration starts.

Menos describes the rum's smell as having a dry finish with hints of cinnamon, lemongrass, and caramel. And its taste is not far off.

"It's smooth and its finish is more complex than dry, but there are hints of citrus that

linger and there are green and floral notes," she said.

It can be drunk alone, but there are several cocktails the creators list that can be made using the rum.

Named after the exiled Haitian-Jamaican revolutionary Dutty Boukman, who led one of the first uprisings of the Haitian Revolution, the rum is lifting up the country's in a similar fashion.

"The rum is still new but we want people to think of Boukman Rhum, the same way they think of Mexico, Brazil, Peru when they think of rum," said Menos. "We don't get the chance to see what Haiti can be with spirits and we are challenging that."

She said the rum emphasizes the home-grown mission to revitalize Haitian industries and invest in what is already there.

"The reason why we emphasize the mission is because it's important for people to understand that Haiti doesn't need a handout and we need people to live with dignity and income," said Menos. "We emphasize our partners because we don't want to be the brand that just bottles Haitian rum — we are creating jobs and making sure they're not living on two or three dollars a day, and are able to live sustainable lives and be secure."

Boukman Rhum is carried in several liquor stores in New York City, mostly in Brooklyn, Bronx, and Manhattan.

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smallbiz.nypl.org

Small Business Services - Empire State Development New York

www.esd.ny.gov/smallbusiness.html

Small Business - Business First - New York State

www.nyfirst.ny.gov/ResourceCenter/SmallBizMenu.html

2013 New York, NY Small Business Resource

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

Business Resources: Internet Bibliographies: New York State Library

www.nysl.nysed.gov/reference/busref.htm

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

Start a Business in New York — Resources for New York Small Businesses

manhattan.about.com/od/careersjobs/a/nysmallbusiness.htm

Find resources and advice on starting a business in New York City. Get information on New York business licenses and incorporation, free NYC resources for starting a business.

Your Money New York - Help and Resources for Small Businesses

www.yourmoneyny.com/helppresource/smallbusiness/index.php
This section of Your Money New York is designed to help small business owners — and New Yorkers interested in starting a small business.

Small Business Resources - The Business Council of New York

www.bcnys.org/inside/smallbusiness.htm

Capital Business Blog - Read about the issues.

Visit www.nyfirst.ny.gov to learn what New York State can do for businesses.

Resources for Businesses in New York City - bfindapc.com

www.bfindapc.com/...business-resource.../resources-for-businesses-i
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Small Business Resource Guide - New York - HUD

www.hud.gov/offices/osdbu/resource/guide/local/newyork.cfm
100+ items — to assist the small business community in the State of New York.

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.

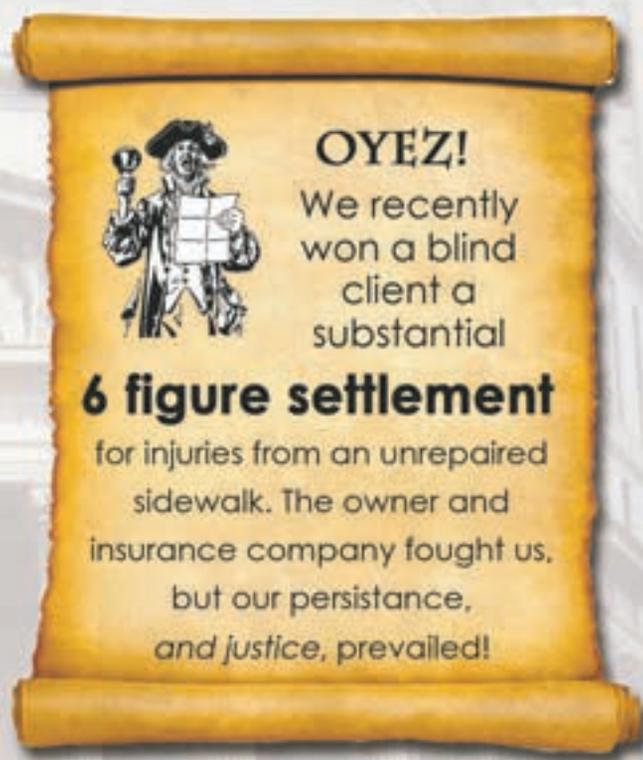
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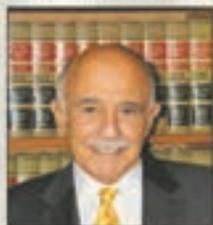
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Caribbean-American women helping city's minority business agency

By Alexandra Simon

At the city's premier agency to promote and sustain businesses owned by minorities and women, Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise (MWBE), two Caribbean-American women are working behind the scenes to ensure that those goals are met. Formed in 2015, the mayor's MWBE program was established to ensure that these businesses received the support they needed without going under the radar. One of the mayor's goals is to award \$16 billion to these start-ups by 10 years, certify 9,000 businesses by next year, and award 30 percent of them with contracts by 2021. And putting that work together to meet the mammoth task takes effort, said the agency's director of programs.

"My current role is centered on achieving the goals set by the mayor, in which I collaborate with a strong team to identify strategy guides and implement accountability and make sure 42 agencies are facilitating access to MWBE's," said Suzette Bather-Taylor.

Her day-to-day job includes many partnerships with other organizations to ensure that finances for the program are

attained. Last month a huge goal was secured from Amalgamated Bank, Bank of America, and TD Bank.

"A recent collaboration we had resulted in \$40 million to supplement funding for existing businesses," said Bather-Taylor. "At this moment we are working with these three banks in making sure these funds are possible."

Coming from a background in real estate and finance, and a family with a strong entrepreneurial background — she said that helped her form a strong understanding of the business industry. Being a force in helping other people of color and women reach goals is second nature for her.

"I was exposed at a young age and this allowed me to engage with businesses and I live vicariously through them," she said. "It feels refreshing to relive the experience from seeing my family being successful in Jamaica. Now being in this environment and as a Caribbean woman, I feel alive to be in this state and have the appreciation and opportunity to speak on their behalf."

Doing the publicity work for the agency is another Caribbean-American woman, who oversees



Suzette Bather Taylor is of Jamaican descent, and is the deputy director of programs at the Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises.



Saba Debesu, is of Barbadian and Ethiopian descent and works as the deputy director of external affairs, at the Minority and Woman-owned Business Enterprise program.

the promotion of the program. Saba Debesu, who is of Barbadian and Ethiopian descent, handles all media relations for the company and her job involves a lot of outreach on the local level.

"My job is divided into different categories, legislative affairs, thinking about policies, and advice for laws and rules in ways that improve access and opportu-

sion and strengthening that relationship, she said.

"For us, it's important that we do outreach in the community and improve what we are doing and what we aren't," said Debesu.

She also says that being able to assist other people of color and women in the business industry is something of immense pride.

"It's an honor to be in this position and have the opportunity to do what I do because this is bigger than me," she added.

Both Bather-Taylor and Debesu are also proud of the most recent bill the agency helped get passed and put into law — the Enactment of State Law Expanding Economic Opportunity for City's MWBE's — which will help increase the spending limit for minority and women-owned businesses.

And the man in charge — Jonnel Doris, the director of the agency, said teamwork and support helped get this advantageous bill passed.

"This is huge for us and one thing it does is raise the threshold without a long procurement process and that's what we are looking for, and we're doing fabulous and amazing work," said Doris.

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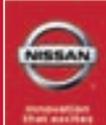
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Sen. Persaud's annual Easter Egg Hunt March 24

By Tangerine Clarke

New York State Senator, Roxanne J. Persaud is set to host District 19, 2nd Annual Easter Egg-Hunt, on Saturday, March 24 from 11 am - 1 pm, at Canarsie Park, on Seaview Avenue in Brooklyn.

Sen. Persaud said the Easter Egg Hunt, is a family fun community event, expected to excite and engage hundreds of families, who will be treated to refreshments, and lots of prizes during a two-hour festival that will be highlighted with an Easter Bunny, fun-filled activities, face painting, and all things Easter.

The politician told Caribbean Life that the Senate District 19 Easter Egg Hunt is one more way to serve the community. "I am happy with the response and support from the community because families in the 19th senatorial district deserve opportunities for physical and social activities outdoors," she said, adding, "I am proud to be able to host this egg hunt in the district for a second year."

The event that is free and open to the public, is among many others the Senator offers to her constituents.

Sen. Roxanne Persaud recently hosted an open house during the New York State Association of Black and Puerto Rican Legislators 47th Annual Legislative Conference on Feb. 17, in Albany, New York, under the theme "On This Journey, There is Still #HOPE."

The caucus provided an opportunity for individuals from all perspectives and backgrounds to gather, collaborate and share ideas.

In addition, the politician sponsored educational events, workshops and a Youth Summit during the Caucus. Her community engagement also includes an annual seniors day from across SD-19 to access resources, discuss their concerns, socialize with their peers and celebrate this important phase in their lives.

"It is not always easy to meet the needs of constituents. However, my interaction



Sen. Roxanne J. Persaud, center, with some of her constituents at a Seniors' Day event in Brooklyn.
Photo by Tangerine Clarke

with seniors, as I visit them in the senior centers in the district, in their place of worship and at my office informs me of their unique needs and concerns. It feels gratifying to hear them say that they are looking forward to next

year. I feel a sense of duty to ensure that I allocate more resources so that our active adults continue to enjoy the benefits they deserve," said Sen. Persaud.

The district encompasses Canarsie, East New York,

Brownsville, Mill Basin, Sheepshead Bay, Bergen Beach, Marine Park, Flatlands, Mill Island, Georgettown, Ocean Hill and Starrett City. There are approximately 318,019 constituents residing in the district.



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'Summer' on Broadway

Continued from Page 11 every Summer song.

"Last dance," "Spring Affair," "Heaven Knows," "Hot Stuff," "Bad Girls," "No More Tears (Enough Is Enough)" "On The Radio," "Dim All The Lights," "MacArthur Park," "I Feel Love" and "She Works Hard For The Money."

The latter, a title song from the album of the same name emerged an anthem for the women's movement. The compilation yielded a reggae-styled song called "Unconditional Love" which featured vocals by a young, Black British group known as Musical Youth.

That group became known here for their pop / reggae release "Pass The Dutchy."

According to Wikipedia, "Lyrically, the album dealt with subjects such as social injustice ("Stop, Look and Listen"), Jesus Christ ("He's a Rebel") and "People People" a song that focused on missing children.

Summer toured extensively and by 1989, Summer and her husband, considered doing a new

kind of reality-based sitcom.

Allegedly, "it would be based on their own hectic household."

According to Sudano, at the time, the household comprised the couple and their children Amanda, Brooklyn and Mimi, two sets of in-laws and a maid. He explained as talks continued the "television network started changing the premise of the show, making it less funny."

"And because we were an interracial couple, they didn't want us to be married anymore."

Apparently, their marital status was "an issue... so with that mentality we just backed out of it."

Summer appeared in numerous movies and made guest appearances on many television shows.

Summer was a non-smoker who had been diagnosed with lung cancer.

Reportedly she believed her condition stemmed from inhaling toxic fumes and dust after the 9/11 terrorist attack here.

When she died, May 17, 2012, Barbra Streisand, Chaka Khan, Mary

J. Blige, Gloria Gaynor, Aretha Franklin, Quincy Jones, Janet Jackson, Liza Minnelli and a galaxy of stars lamented her untimely passing

"Michelle and I were saddened to hear about the passing of Donna Summer," President Barack Obama said, "A five-time Grammy Award winner, Donna truly was the 'Queen of Disco.' Her voice was unforgettable and the music industry has lost a legend far too soon."

Beyonce said: "Donna Summer made music that moved me both emotionally and physically to get up and dance. You could always hear the deep passion in her voice. She was so much more than the queen of disco she became known for, she was an honest and gifted singer with flawless vocal talent. I've always been a huge fan and was honored to sample one of her songs. She touched many generations and will be sadly missed. My love goes out to her family during this difficult time. Love, B."

Catch You On The Inside!

Caribbean Airlines announces direct flights to St. Vincent

By Alexandra Simon

You can now fly to Vincy directly.

The Caribbean Airlines Limited (CAL) and the St. Vincent and The Grenadines Tourism Authority announced that there will now be a non-stop direct flight service between John F. Kennedy airport (JFK) and Argyle International Airport (SVD) in St. Vincent on March 12. The service, which began its inaugural flight from JFK airport on March 14 is a major step for travel to and from the Caribbean, said a representative for the airline.

"At Caribbean Airlines we are in the service of connecting people, and the service between JFK and the Argyle International

Airport in St. Vincent, will provide more travel options between the Eastern Caribbean and North America," said Carl Stuart.

Prior to the announcement of the new service, passengers flying to St. Vincent had to stop at other airports in the Caribbean, and switch to another flight.

The weekly service will operate every Wednesday — one outgoing and one incoming flight between the two airports.

"With our weekly non-stop flights every Wednesday starting March 14 — we say hello Caribbean to our North American customers and the Diaspora, and we are looking forward to you experiencing the warmth of the islands as

soon as you step on board," added Stuart.

Stuart said that easy access to the island will only forge a stronger relationship between the Caribbean.

"Our mission is to connect the region more closely and as we realize this ambition, our valued customers can look forward to a schedule that allows the ease and convenient travel to facilitate their travel needs," he said. "This is a time and moment for celebration for all citizens of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the Caribbean region, and we look forward to boosting trade and tourism, and providing opportunity for the business community which regularly exports to the U.S."

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Judge blocks investigation of chief justice

By Azad Ali

A high court judge presiding in the Port of Spain Hall of Justice, Trinidad, has blocked an attempt by the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago (LATT) from continuing its investigation into allegations of misconduct leveled against Chief Justice Ivor Archie.

Justice Nadia Kangaloo ruled that the LATT acted unlawfully and without

authority by commencing an investigation against Chief Justice Archie.

She said the decision of LATT was illegal, unreasonable, irrational and contrary to the provisions of the Legal Profession Act and was null, void and no effect.

The LATT council had been advised to postpone its special general meeting carded for next week, in which a report on the

investigation conducted by a sub-committee of council and advice on it from Dr. Francis Alexis, QC of Grenada and Eamon Courtenay, QC, of Belize, were expected to be presented for consideration.

The judgment is a legal victory for CJ Archie, who had challenged the probe since it was announced last December.

In her judgment Justice Kangaloo ruled there was

no law which empowered the association to conduct a "shadow" investigation into allegations made against a judge.

She agreed with Archie's legal team that Section 137 of the Constitution was the only avenue for doing so.

Under Section 137, the President appoints a tribunal after misconduct allegations against a CJ are referred by the prime minister.

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Garifuna celebrates heritage

By Nelson A. King

The Garifuna Coalition USA, Inc., says it is "proud" to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Garifuna-American Heritage Month in New York, inviting all New Yorkers to join in the March 11 - April 12 celebration.

The coalition said that, each year, Garifuna-Americans in New York observe Garifuna-American Heritage Month, from March 11 to April 12.

"The day of March 11 is significant because it is the anniversary of the forcible deportation of the Garifuna people by the British from St. Vincent and the Grenadines in 1797," the coalition said.

In addition, it said March 14 is National Hero Day in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in observance of the anniversary of the death of Paramount Garifuna Chief Joseph Chatoyer on March 14, 1795.

The coalition also said that March 25 is the anniversary of the tragic fire in the Happy Land fire, an arson fire that killed 87 people trapped in an unlicensed social club named "Happy Land Social Club," at 1959 Southern Blvd. in the West Farms section of the Bronx on March 25, 1990.

Most of the victims were young Hondurans celebrating, largely drawn from members of the local Garifuna American community, the coalition said.

"It was through the Happy Land Fire that New York discovered the Garifuna people," the coalition said.

The month concludes on April 12 in commemoration of 221st anniversary of the Garifuna Settlement in Central America.

In 2008, The Garifuna Coalition USA, Inc., said it developed an initiative to raise awareness and appreciation of the Garifuna Community and its contribution to the culture and society of New York City.

The coalition said the strategy was to "plan, organize and execute a series of activities to promote the Garifuna Community in New York City."

This initiative led to Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion issuing a proclamation declaring March 11 to April 12, 2009 as "Garifuna-American Heritage Month in the Bronx," the coalition said.

In 2010, Bronx Borough President

Rubén Díaz Jr., issued the proclamation.

In addition, Assemblyman Michael Benjamin introduced a resolution in the New York State Assembly "memorializing Gov. David Patterson to declare March 11- April 12, 2010 as Garifuna-American Heritage Month in the State of New York," the coalition said.

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg also issued a proclamation.

In 2011, the coalition said Sen. Rubén Díaz, Sr. introduced a resolution in the New York State Senate "memorializing Gov. Andrew Cuomo to declare March 11 - April 12, as Garifuna-American Heritage Month in the State of New York and invited the first Garifuna delegation to be present to receive the proclamation.

"It was the first time in history that the Garifuna community was invited to the New York capitol to celebrate its heritage," the coalition said.

Beginning in 2012, Assemblymen Marcos Crespo, Michael Blake and Luis Sepulveda have introduced a resolution in the New York State Assembly.

The 8th annual ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, April 17.

On March 12, 2014 New York City Council District 16 Council member Vanessa L. Gibson presented the first New York City Council Garifuna-American Heritage Month Proclamation Ceremony at the New York City Council Chambers. The fifth annual ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, April 12, the coalition said.

It said that, on April 10, 2014, Congressman José E. Serrano "rose on the United States House of Representatives to honor Garifuna American Heritage Month (Congressional Record E572)."

On Feb. 1, 2017, New York City Council District 17 Councilmember Rafael Salamanca, Jr. was the primary sponsor of Resolution 1358-2017, along with Council District 42.

The coalition said Councilmember Inez D. Baron and Council District 31 Councilmember Donovan J. Richards, as co-sponsors, recognize April 12 annually as Garifuna Heritage Day in the City of New York, as part of the annual Garifuna-American Heritage Month celebrations.

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Gala celebration for retired Haitian-born doctor

By Nelson A. King

Despite the treacherous weather Friday evening, employees at New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) and friends and supporters showed their love and respect for a retired Haitian-born doctor at a gala celebration at Glen Terrace in Brooklyn.

Patrons showered praise on Dr. Jacques Mathieu, 67, who recently retired from DOHMH's Ft. Greene Chest Center (FGCC), downtown Brooklyn, after 25 years of uninterrupted DOHMH service.

They described him, among other superlatives, as humble, quiet, caring, helpful, kind-hearted, compassionate, dedicated and awesome.

"You have touched a lot of people," Jamaican-born Errol Robinson, director of clinical operations at DOHMH's Bureau of Tuberculosis Control (BTC), told Dr. Mathieu in his keynote address.



Dr. Jacques Mathieu cuts cake with wife, Renee.

Photo by Nelson A. King

"Dr. Mathieu was very humble, very quiet.

"Dr. Mathieu being humble shows someone as they [him / her] are," added Robinson, who has over 30 years of public health experience with DOHMH. "Thank you on behalf of TB Control. You showed that in the work you did.

"I thank you for the services you provided," Robinson continued. "More often, we don't get to tell people 'thank

you.'"

David Cappelli — FGCC administrative manager, who has been working with DOHMH for over 25 years — also complimented Dr. Mathieu for his "many years of service," stating that Dr. Mathieu was "instrumental in the fight to eliminate TB (tuberculosis) in New York, especially here in Brooklyn.

"When I think of Dr. Mathieu, these words best describe him: Kind-hearted, compassionate, dedicated, a true healer," Cappelli said. "He was always in good spirits, despite how busy the facility was, how many patients he served or how overworked he may have been.

"He would never utter an unkind word, and would always take another patient," he added. "I am afraid that his departure has created a void that may never be filled."

Cappelli also conveyed regrets that Dr. Jahendra Shah, physician-in-

charge at FGCC, could not attend the ceremony because he was celebrating his 40th wedding anniversary.

Kendra Romeo, the Guyanese-born principal administrative aide at FGCC, said Dr. Mathieu was a

"a valued member of our team.

"His dedication to staff, patients and his profession always showed," she said. "He was a very special caring doctor. He will be sorely missed by both staff and patients. I want to wish Dr. Mathieu a joyous and enjoyable retirement."

Retiree Dr. Fritz Boutin, who worked with Dr. Mathieu at FGCC, said he was "gratified" to attend the event, stating that his former colleague was very humble, that he never complained, and that he always exhibited "respect and dignity."

Carol Randall, who with Haitian-born Nurse Gracita Marcellus-Coq, organized the event,



Dr. Jacques Mathieu receives proclamation from Lisa Derrick (L), chief-of-staff for Assembly Member Rodneyse Bichotte, flanked by Dr. Mathieu's wife, Renee

Photo by Nelson A. King

noted that the blustery, cold and snowy weather "did not stop people from coming out to show their outpouring of love for Dr. Mathieu.

"I was proud and blessed to be in the midst of the celebration," she said. "Dr. Mathieu was well deserving of all the honors and accolade he

received. Those that didn't make it really missed out on a great event."

Besides tributes from colleagues, friends and supporters, poems were read by Donna Budai, BTC training coordinator, and Nelson King, who served as Master of Ceremonies.



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Antigua withdraws from Summit of the Americas

By Nelson A. King

The government of Prime Minister Gaston Browne said on Wednesday that it has withdrawn the country's participation in the second preparatory meeting for the Summit of the Americas, scheduled to be held in Lima, Peru in April.

An Antigua and Barbuda government statement, issued in Washington, D.C., said Sir Ronald Sanders, Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the Organization of American States (OAS), which is responsible for the preparation of the meeting, said Antigua and Barbuda withdrew from the meeting "on a point of fundamental principle."

Sir Ronald noted that, "at the meeting, the government of Venezuela was excluded from participation without any prior

explanation or discussion by the member-states of the OAS at any level," the statement said.

"Venezuela's exclusion from the second preparatory meeting was curious because it had been a full and constructive participant in the first meeting a few weeks ago," Sir Ronald said.

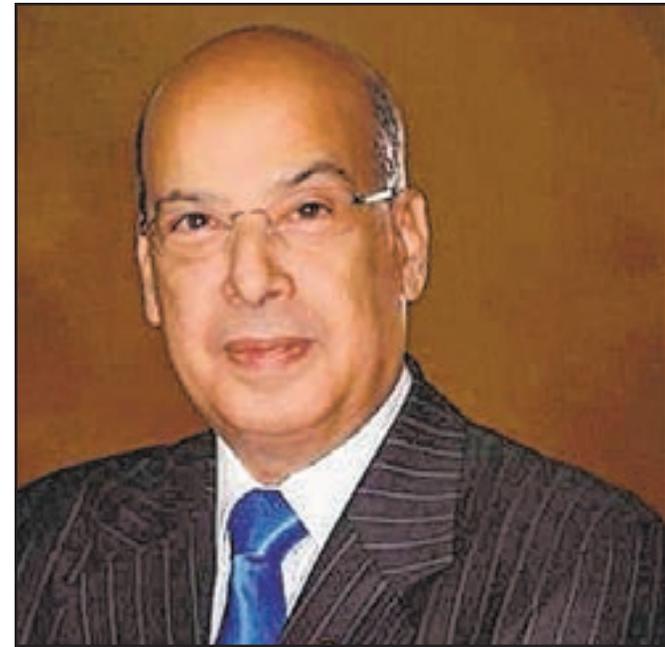
The only reason given for Venezuela's exclusion was that Peru, the host country for the summit, had decided that Venezuela should not be allowed to participate, the statement said.

"While the host country traditionally has been able to invite attendance by a high representative of a county that is not a member state, it is not acceptable to reject a sitting member-state of the organization which plans and executes

the meeting," Ambassador Sanders said.

"I want to make it clear that our stand is on behalf of all member states, not Venezuela alone," he added. "If this is allowed to occur, then any member state of the OAS could be excluded from a Summit meeting or a general assembly meeting at the sole behest of the host country."

Antigua and Barbuda's Deputy Head of Mission to the OAS, Joy-Dee Davis, also said: "Antigua and Barbuda does not know of, nor has it participated in, any official decision of the Summit of the Americas, the OAS General Assembly, the Meeting of Consultation of Foreign Affairs or of the Permanent Council to disenfranchise any active Member State from these meetings."



Sir Ronald Sanders.

Gov't of Antigua and Barbuda

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Tenants need more than Cuomo's photo-op: Williams

By Nelson A. King

While commending Gov. Andrew Cuomo for finally seeing on Monday a New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) development, Council Member Jumaane D. Williams (D-Brooklyn) said NYCHA tenants who are struggling everyday need more than a photo-op.

The governor on Monday toured NYCHA's Jackson Houses in the Bronx.

Williams, who is campaigning for Lt. Governor of the State, said what NYCHA needs is "crucial funding from the state."

Williams, who represents the 45th Council District in Brooklyn, noted that Cuomo was touring a NYCHA complex "for the first time in recent memory, after seven years in office."

"He spoke today of the 'neglect' toward the housing,

and it is certainly clear that NYCHA has been neglected," Williams said. "It is clear that the city's performance has been substandard, with many questions unanswered. It is also clear that for years, the state could have been a better partner and provided much needed support.

"NYCHA desperately needs the financial support of state government to provide relief for thousands of New Yorkers who are living in abhorrent and unsafe conditions," Williams added. "It does not need political games and one-upsmanship. In all of the jockeying for position, tenants in need are left behind.

"This is a course that must be corrected for the safety, well-being, and dignity of New Yorkers," he continued. "Here in New York City and across the state, we are facing an

affordable housing and homelessness crisis, and meaningful solutions which provide homes with satisfactory living conditions will require a level of investment that the governor has been unwilling to commit in the past."

Williams said there are "real, concrete steps that the state can take, including releasing millions in allocated funds, and expediting work on projects that have already been funded, or simply allowing the use of design build.

"New York State can and must be a real partner in improving NYCHA, but NYCHA funding directly from the state has fallen significantly under this governor," he said. "I truly hope that the next time an elected official takes a publicity tour, they also bring with them a check."



New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo delivers his 2018 executive state budget proposal during a news conference at the Clark Auditorium in Albany, N.Y., Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2018.

Associated Press / Hans Pennink, File

'Conflict and Compromise' project winners

By Nelson A. King

Two American-born siblings, of Caribbean and African American parentage, have won the "Conflict and Compromise" project in District 29's History Fair in Queens.

Third grade and kindergarten pupils Quinn Smith, 8, and Malaysia Smith 6, respectively, of The Rosedale School, or PS 38Q, were recently recognized by Principal Julia Soussis for their remarkable achievements, according to the students' mom, Yolanda Smith, whose father hails from Trinidad and Tobago and mother from the southern United States. The students' father is a Guyanese native.

Ms. Smith said that, after Soussis recognized the students, Soussis, in turn, entered the projects in the History Fair.

Ms. Smith said the recognition was given to "honor two children from each grade level with the most outstanding projects on the subject."

"The students are being (were) recognized for their efforts put forth into the projects – the content of the written portion, as well as the aesthetic appeal of the project," she told Caribbean Life.

"The school is honored to have the students and their projects



Malaysia Smith's poster entitled: Compromise and Conflict "Women in the Military." Yolanda Smith

represent them in the District History Fair," she added, expressing joy about her children's attainment.

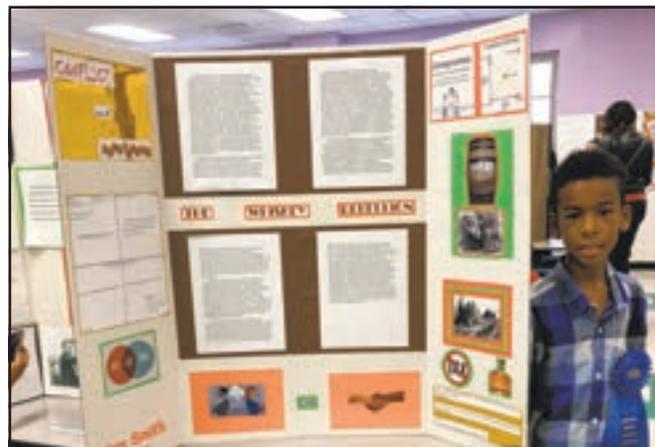
"The students were ecstatic and proud that their hard work and dedication paid off," continued Ms. Smith about her children's accomplishment.

She also credited Nicky's Little Sprouts D.C., Inc., a day care center in Laurelton, Queens, for helping to build her children's foundation and for continuing to education them.

"They, too, deserve recognition," Ms. Smith said.

In addition to being students at P.S. 38Q, she said Quinn and Malaysia have been attending Nicky's Little Sprouts D.C. for the past five years and are currently enrolled in the day care's after-school program.

"As the director of Nicky's Little Sprouts D.C., Inc., I am very proud and elated for my students, Quinn and Malaysia Smith, to be recognized for their outstanding achievements," said Guyanese



Quinn Smith posing with his poster and the ribbon on his shirt reads, "Community District Education Council 29Q History for scholar."

Shaundell Agrippa, who earned a Bachelor's degree in psychology from Brooklyn College.

"Hard work and diligence do pay off," she added, stating that, while Quinn and Malaysia are "smart," their successes began at Nicky's Little Sprouts D.C., "as toddlers, to where they are now in third grade and kindergarten."

Ms. Agrippa said "the learning process is fostered toward high academic achievement" in her

after-school program.

Ms. Smith said both children are "academically at the top of their class," stating that, last year, "Quinn's reading ability allowed him to transition into a bridge class one grade level above his current grade level.

"Malaysia is the academic superstar in her current kindergarten class," she added. "She receives an advanced level of work, as opposed to the remainder of her class."

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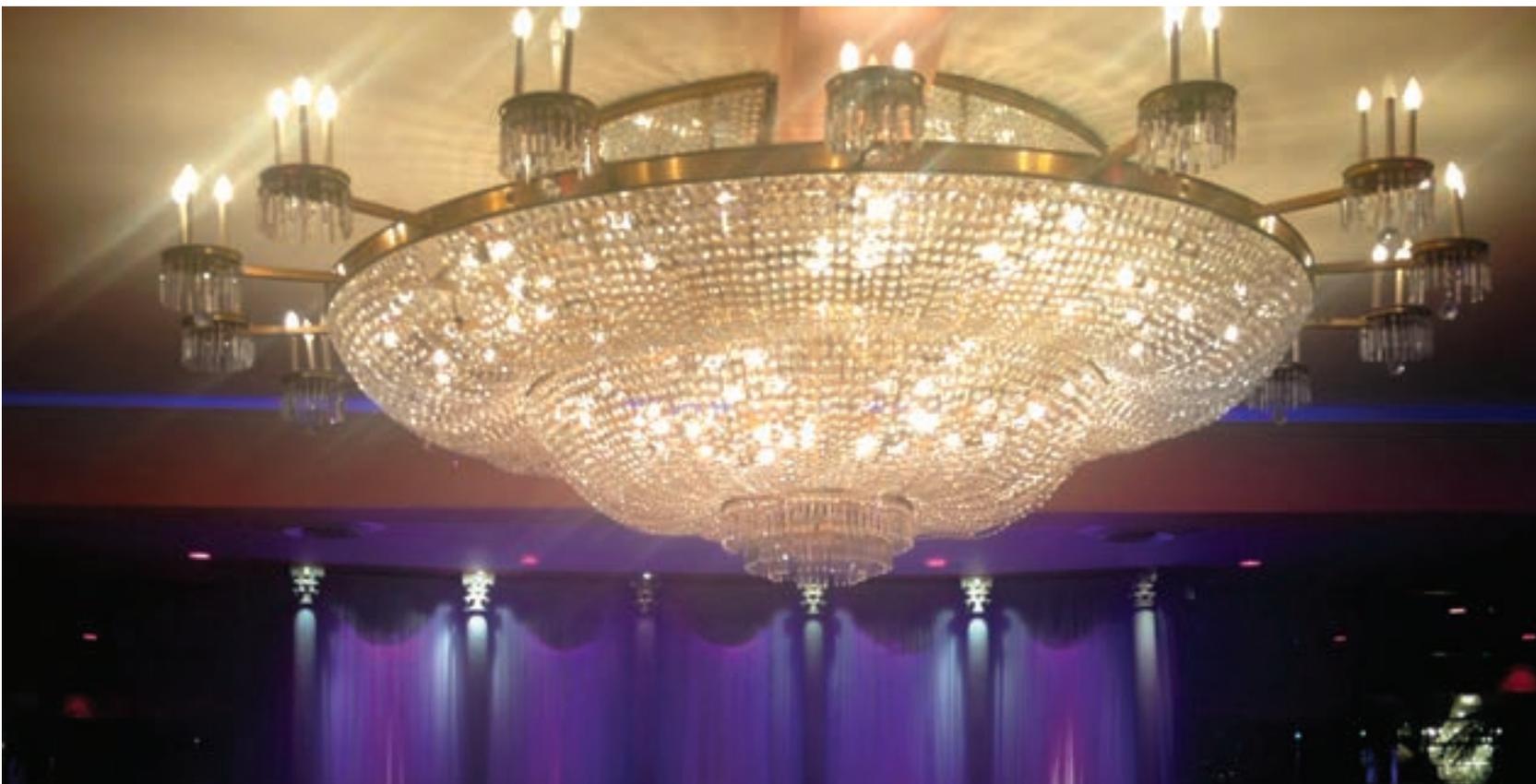
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They match the walls of marble and granite in the ballroom — which itself sports one of the largest chandeliers in all of Brooklyn — giving you just a brief inkling into what they have in store for you and your guests. Come and see the grandeur for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

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

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

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

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

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

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ENTERTAINMENT

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Garifuna kids perform during the SVG National Heroes Day celebration. Photo by Nelson A. King

Vincy heroes tribute

By Nelson A. King

Hundreds of Vincentians Saturday night joined the Brooklyn-based Garifuna Indigenous People of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Inc. (GIPSVG) in celebrating National Heroes Day with a cultural extravaganza at the Friends of Crown Heights Educational Center in Brooklyn.

The six-hour-long event featured a wide array of performances, as well as mouth-watering Vincentian cuisine,

Continued on Page 44

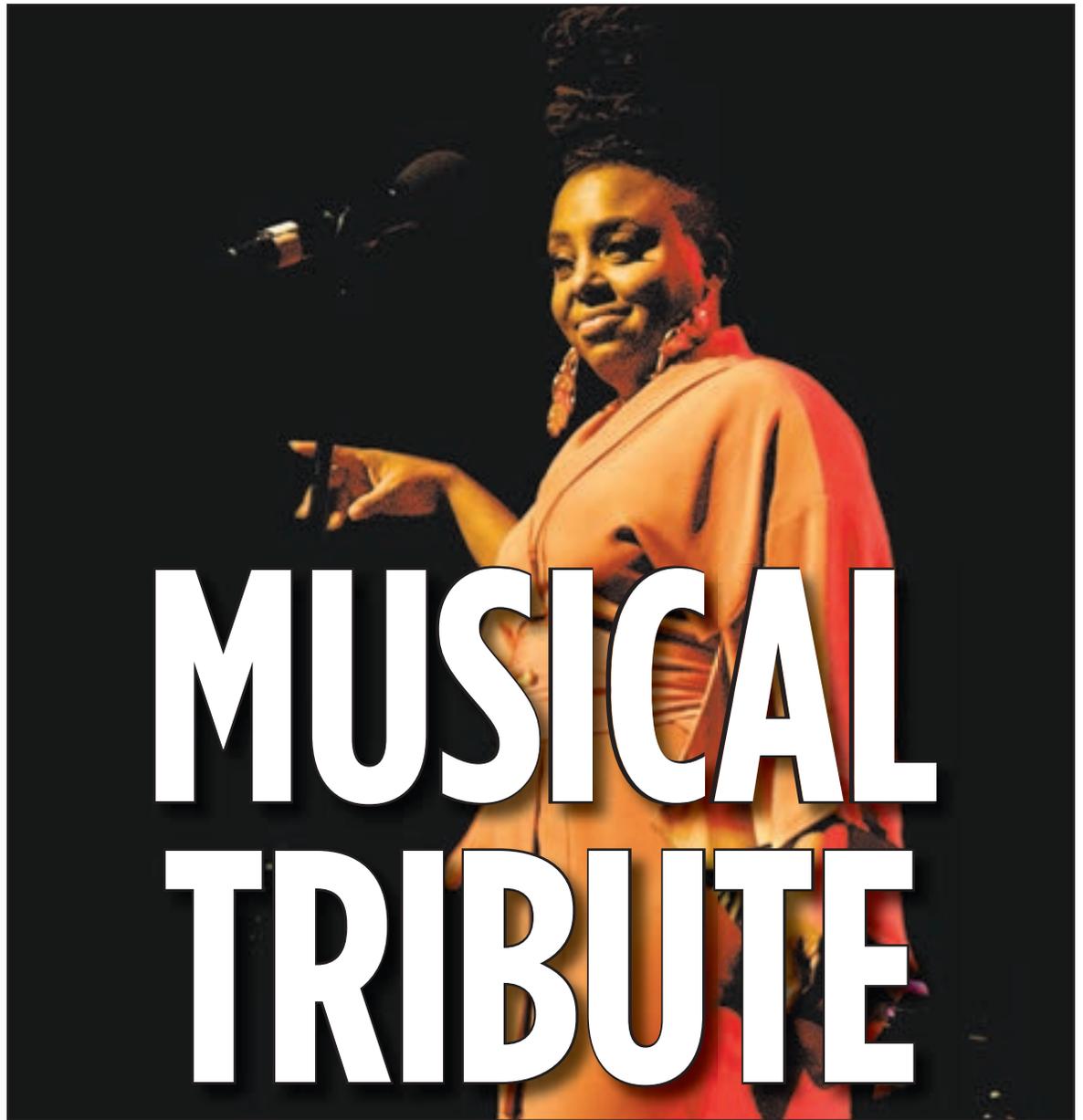
Cuban band at Lehman

The 75-member National Symphony Orchestra of Cuba will be performing at the Lehman Center for the Performing Arts on Sunday, March 18, 2018 at 4 pm.

Returning by popular demand direct from Cuba, their performances took the United States by storm in their debut 2012 tour. Musical Director Enrique Pérez-Mesa will conduct the orchestra and will feature a Latin-flavored classical program that includes Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture, Roldan's Three Little Poems, Mozart's Clarinet Concerto, De Falla's The Three-Cornered Hat and Beethoven's Symphony No. 7.

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts is on the campus of Lehman College/CUNY at 250 Bedford Park Blvd. West, Bronx, NY 10468. Tickets are \$45, \$40, and \$25, with a special \$10 ticket price for children.

Continued on Page 44



Ledisi interpretes passion, liberation and love of both Simone's songs and her own. Photo by Tequila Minsky

Ledisi celebrates Nina Simone at The Apollo

By Tequila Minsky

What would be a more fitting tribute for the Apollo Theater to recognize Women's History Month than presenting a musical tribute to the renowned musical artist, civil rights activist and Apollo legend Nina Simone.

Drawing from Simone's talent that spanned four decades, soulful singer / songwriter — nine albums — and 12-time GRAMMY Award nominee Ledisi added her own songs in "Nina & Me, Ledisi celebrates Nina Simone," in the one evening March 9 tribute.

Simone's musical style employed a broad range of musical genres including classical, jazz, blues, folk, R&B, gospel, and pop. An icon of American music, she was a musical storyteller, a griot, who created a legacy of liberation, empowerment, passion and love.

Born in North Carolina in 1933, Simone had aspirations to be a concert pianist but racial discrimination negatively impacted those dreams. She found work playing "cocktail piano" in a nightclub, changed her name to Nina Simone to camouflage her work

from her preacher family and, singing to her own accompaniment, launched her jazz career.

She recorded 40 albums. In her live 1964 recording "Nina Simone in Concert," she openly addressed United States racial inequality with the song "Mississippi Goddam," her response to the June 12, 1963 murder of Medgar Evers. Civil rights messages continued as a standard in her repertoire, taking a toll on her career.

She lived a great deal of her life —

Continued on Page 44

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1 **Finesse**
Bruno Mars & Cardi B
- 2 **Perfect**
Ed Sheeran
- 3 **God's Plan**
Drake
- 4 **Meant To Be**
Bebe Rexha & Florida Georgia Line
- 5 **Havana**
Camila Cabello Feat. Young Thug
- 6 **Him & I**
G-Eazy & Halsey
- 7 **New Rules**
Dua Lipa
- 8 **Lights Down Low**
MAX Feat. gnash
- 9 **Let You Down**
NF
- 10 **Pray For Me**
The Weeknd & Kendrick Lamar

TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **The Greatest Showman**
Soundtrack
- 2 **Memories Don't Die**
Tory Lanez
- 3 **Black Panther: The Album**
Soundtrack
- 4 **Hope World (EP)**
J-Hope
- 5 **Planet**
Tech N9ne
- 6 **Evolve**
Imagine Dragons
- 7 **Coco**
Soundtrack
- 8 **ZOMBIES**
Soundtrack
- 9 **Hamilton: An American Musical**
Original Broadway Cast Recording
- 10 **Divide**
Ed Sheeran

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MUSICAL TRIBUTE

Continued from Page 43

with more than a share of highs and lows — abroad including Barbados, Liberia, Switzerland and Netherlands finally settling in France.

At the historic theater, the air was electric and the devotees were completely engaged with Ledisi as storyteller and singer backed by extraordinary musicians.

Ledisi sang Nina Simone originals: “Mississippi Goddam,” “See Line Woman,” and “I want a little Sugar in My Bowl.”

She sang the songs Simone made her own like “Little Girl Blue,” “My Baby Just Cares for Me,” “I Put a Spell On You,” “I Love You Porgy,” and “My Man’s Gone Now.”

And, backed by guest vocalists Crystal Monee Hall, Kimberly Nichole, We McDonald, “Baltimore,” “To Be Young Gifted and Black,” “Four Women,” and “Why” came to life.

Performing her own songs — the “Me” in “Nina & Me,” Ledisi included “Feeling Orange Again but Blue Sometimes,” “Shot Down,” “Hate Me,” and “The Answer to Why.”

Of note, in 2015, Ledisi appeared in the movie “Selma” as gospel singer Mahalia Jackson and she was a main character in the short film “The Tale of Four,” directed by Gabourey Sidibe, that was screened at The Apollo prior to the show.

The evening’s award-winning musicians included four-time Grammy nominee Patrice Rushen, on piano.

“Her [Nina Simone’s] legacy lifted me and reminded me to be proud of my skin and embrace the walk I was given. I hope she can feel how much I love her,” comments Ledisi, of the inspiration of this tribute project. “She has saved my life so many times. Her music lets me know I am not alone in my journey.”



Ledisi performing at the the Apollo Theater in the Bronx.
Photo by Tequila Minsky

Heroes

Continued from Page 43

such as pelau, breadfruit and salfish, banana and smoke herring, chokie bam bam (cassava bread) and dukuna (a sweet potato-based pudding prototype).

Performances included: Flag ceremony by the Belize Garifuna Settlement Day Mass Cultural Committee; chant by GIPSVG; GIPSVG Quadrille dancers; GIPSVG choir; poems, speeches, songs, drumming and skits by Belizean singer and song writer James Lovell and the Garifuna Kids; and Brooklyn Century Steel Orchestra.

Other performances were by: Crooner Theo Homer; calypsonian Franklin “Supadex” Richards; singer Garfield Palmer; the United Vincie Cultural Group of Brooklyn (UVCGB); GIPSVG parents and children dance (pankiba); Janelle (poem — “Ode to the King”); Garifuna Warrior; and soca artiste and entertainer Prim Adonna.

Homer wrapped patrons with “I Need Your Love and Affection”; “Don’t Go Away”; and “Woman for a Man.”

The Brooklyn Century Steel Orchestra banged out Becket’s “St. Vincent (and the Grenadines) I Love You”; “Red, Red Wine”; “African Queen” by 2 Face Idibia; “Feel So Good” by Jamaican reggae artiste Beres Hammond; “I am a Music



Calysonian Franklin “Supadex” Richards.

Photo by Nelson A. King

Man” by former perennial Grenada Calypso Monarch Ajamu; and “Wet” by Vincentian soca artiste Bomani.

New York Consul General Howie Prince noted that 225 years have passed since the Garifuna or Black Caribs — an admixture of the indigenous Kalinago and Africans — were sent into exile by British colonizers.

“We celebrate our forefathers and what they have done,” he told patrons. “But, thank God, they have lived on.”

Culture Minister Cecil “Ces” McKie, in town for the official launch of new air service from New York to St. Vincent and the Grenadines, said there were expected to be “lots of celebrations” at home on Mar. 14 on National Heroes Day, urging the crowd to travel home next year for the grand Garifuna

Latino Concert Series

Continued from Page 43

dren 12 & under and seniors, and can be purchased by calling the Lehman Center box office at 718-960-8833 (Monday through Friday, 10am–5pm and beginning at 12 noon on the day of the concert), or through online access at www.LehmanCenter.org. Lehman Center is accessible by #4 or D train to Bedford Park Blvd. and is off the Saw Mill River Parkway and the Major Deegan Expressway.

Special discounts are built into Lehman’s concert series. “Create your own Series” offers a 10 percent discount on a minimum of three shows, 15% discount on a purchase of five family shows, or a 20 percent discount for six or more shows (not available online). Plus special \$10 tickets for any seat are available for selected shows for children 12 and under. Senior discounts also apply.

The National Symphony Orchestra of Cuba, which began in 1960 as the Havana Symphony, has been instrumental in developing and introducing Cuban and Latin American music to the international classical music community. In addition, the orchestra performs a vast symphonic and chamber repertoire ranging from baroque to contemporary music. International tours have taken the orchestra to Russia, Poland,

Yugoslavia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Spain, Peru and Argentina.

Among the more than 100 guest conductors who have led the orchestra include Sir Thomas Beecham, Sergiu Celibidache, Pierre Monteaux, Charles Munch, Eugene Ormandy, Wilhelm Steinberg, Leopold Stokowski, Igor Stravinsky, Heitor Villa-Lobos and Bruno Walter. Acclaimed international soloists have included Marian Anderson, Claudio Arrau, Jorge Bolet, Jose Carreras, Jascha Heifetz, Nathan Milstein, Ruggero Ricci, Mstislav Rostropovich Arthur Rubinstein, Andres Segovia and Isaac Stern.

Enrique Pérez-Mesa internationally-renowned artistic director of the National Symphony Orchestra has led performances in prestigious concert halls all over the world. He has collaborated with well-known soloists including Alexandra Ferri, Francesco Manara, José Manuel Carreño, Frank Fernández, Roger Woodward, Konstantin Cherbakov, Alexander Braginski, Joaquín Clerch, The Romeros Quartet, Jorge Luis Prats and Víctor Rodríguez. His recordings include a Grammy Award Nomination for Salmo de Las Americas, in the category of Classical music; His DVD recording with the Cuban pianist, Frank Fernández, was nominated for the Cubadisco 2007.

Children's classic brought to the big screen

"A Wrinkle in Time"
Very Good (3 stars)
Rated PG for peril
and mature themes
Running time: 109
minutes
Production Studios:
Whitaker Entertain-
ment / Walt Disney
Pictures
Distributor: Walt Dis-
ney Studios Motion
Pictures

By Kam Williams

Madeleine L'Engle finished writing "A Wrinkle in Time" in 1960, but the escapist fantasy was rejected by over two dozen publishers before it finally captured the imagination of John Farrar, co-founder of Farrar, Straus and Giroux. In 1963, the groundbreaking, illustrated novel won the Newbery Medal for being the best children's book of the year.

Four decades later,



Oprah stars as one of the trio of astral travelers in "A Wrinkle in Time."

www.rottentomatoes.com

Disney eviscerated the magical masterpiece of its religious overtones in the process of turning it into a generic, made-for-TV kiddie movie devoid of allusions to Christianity. Even the author expressed her displeasure with the sanitized production,

Fast-forward 15 years,

remarked, "I expected it to be bad, and it is." You see, L'Engle, long-time writer-in-residence at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, had consciously laced the opus with lots of Biblical quotations.

and we now find Disney mounting a big screen version of the beloved classic many consider unfilmable. That unenviable task fell to Ava DuVernay, director of *Selma* and the Oscar-nominated documentary, *13th*.

Ava availed herself of

state-of-the-art technology to create an eye-popping spectacular designed to enthrall young and old alike. She also cast the message movie in colorblind fashion.

The original ensemble only had a single, non-white member, Alfre

Woodard. Compare that to the reboot which features an ethnic rainbow reflective of the direction in which the browning nation has been rapidly heading. Though the film has its spiritual moments, they are more universal in nature as opposed to pushing a Christian agenda.

The basic plotline sounds anything but faith-based. In 25 words or less, the story is about a brother (Deric McCabe), sister (Storm Reid) and friend (Levi Miller) who time-travel to distant universes with the help of a trio of astral travelers played by Oprah, Mindy Kaling and Reese Witherspoon.

The kids are searching for the siblings' scientist father (Chris Pine) who went missing several years earlier. Along the way, they learn some big life lessons about what really matters in life.

An overblown, intergalactic saga certain to tug on your heartstrings during unapologetically-sentimental breaks in the action.

Independent & Foreign Films

Augie (Unrated) Inspirational biopic about fitness guru Augie Nieto who has been campaigning to find a cure for ALS since being diagnosed with the disease at the age of 47.

Dear Dictator (Unrated) Unlikely-buddies comedy about a deposed, banana republic dictator (Michael Caine) who seeks asylum in suburban America where he helps a rebellious teen (Odeya Rush) overthrow the mean girls clique making her life miserable at school. With Katie Holmes, Seth Green and Jason Biggs.

Flower (R for crude sexuality, graphic nude drawings, drug use, a violent image and pervasive profanity) Coming-of-age comedy about a rebellious 17 year-old (Zoey Deutch) who joins forces with her traumatized step-brother (Joey Morgan) in shaming the high school teacher (Adam Scott) who had



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

sexually assaulted him. Support cast includes Kathryn Hahn, Tim Heidecker and Dylan Gelula.

Furlough (R for a brief sexual reference) Oil-and-water dramedy revolving around a rookie prison guard's (Tessa Thompson) ordeal escorting a hell-raising inmate (Melissa Leo) home for a weekend visit to her dying mom. With Whoopi Goldberg, Drena De Niro and La La Anthony.

Journey's End (R for profanity and graphic images) World War I saga, set during the third Battle of Aisne in northern France, chronicling some British soldiers' struggle to survive in a trench located along the frontlines. Co-starring Sam Claflin, Asa Butter-

field, Paul Bettany, Toby Jones and Tom Sturridge.

Maineland (Unrated) American Dream documentary about the enormous number of kids from China enrolling in private boarding schools all across America. (In Mandarin and English with subtitles)

Mantra: Sounds into Silence (Unrated) Spiritual documentary extolling the virtues of chanting as a path to inner peace.

Take Your Pills (Unrated) Investigative documentary exploring the popularity of performance-enhancing drugs like Adderall and Ritalin not just with hyperactive kids but with college students and Type A white-collar workers.

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West Indies Chris Gayle plays a shot during the first One Day International match between England and West Indies at Emirates Old Trafford in Manchester, England.

Associated Press / Rui Vieira, File

Gayle scores another century

By Azad Ali

Hard-hitting West Indies opener Chris Gayle has struck form for the World Cup qualification campaign in Zimbabwe when he hammered 123 runs in the opening match against United Arab Emirates last week.

Gayle lashed seven fours and 11 massive sixes in a 91-ball innings which marked his 23rd One-Day century.

West Indies chose to bat after winning the toss and posted a massive 357

Continued on Page 48

Regional cricket fiasco

By Azad Ali

West Indies all-rounder Kieron Pollard says serious discussions needs to take place to help solve the fiasco currently facing regional cricket.

Since the West Indies walked off their tour of India in 2014, over a salary dispute, there has been an ongoing battle between the players and Cricket West Indies (CWI).

The battle continued recently after Pollard, Sunil Narine, Darren Bravo and Andre Russell decided to accept contracts to play in the current Pakistan Super League.

Continued on Page 48



POWER PLAY

West Indies' Evin Lewis plays a shot off the bowling of England's Jake Ball during the One Day International cricket match between England and the West Indies at the Oval cricket ground in London, Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2017.

Associated Press / Kirsty Wigglesworth, File

Windies clinch top spot in ICC Qualifying Round

By Nelson A. King

Led by a powerful 84 by Evin Lewis, the West Indies on Monday put the Netherlands to the sword by clinching the top spot in their group Qualifying Round in the International Cricket Council (ICC) 50-Over Championship in Harare, Zim-

bwe.

Under the Duckworth-Lewis method, because of rain interruption, the West Indies beat the Netherlands by 54 runs after amassing 309-6.

The Netherlands' loss put them out of contention in the Super Six

stage of the tournament.

The Netherlands, who were required to make 222 in the revised target, could only muster 167-6.

A series of run-outs undid the Netherlands, who seemed coasting to victory, thanks to a third wicket

Continued on Page 48

Gayle scores another century

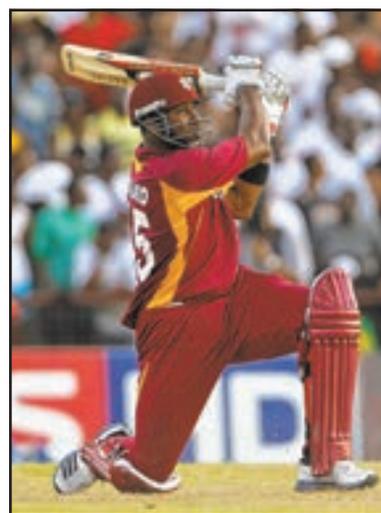
Continued from Page 47

maiden One-Day International century. He was named Man-of-the-Match.

In reply, United Arab Emirates rallied to 297 for 6 with Rameez Shahzad scoring an unbeaten 112. Captain Jason Holder picked up five wickets for 53 with his medium pace.

The West Indies won the second qualifying match against Papua New Guinea on Wednesday night at the same venue.

Cricket fiasco



West Indies' Kieron Pollard plays a shot during the second one day international cricket match against Australia in Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Associated Press / Andres Leighton

Continued from Page 47

As a result, they will not feature for West Indies in the World Cup qualifiers which take place simultaneously.

CWI president Dave Cameron said Narine, Pollard and Bravo may not play for West Indies after not accepting the offer to play for West Indies in the World Cup qualifiers.

Pollard speaking on SportsMax zone said he still wants to play for West Indies but he is not happy with how Cameron is running CWI,

He said the CWI president wants to get rid of all the players and not seek proper dialogue.

"He just wants to get rid of everybody and this is not how you run an organization," Pollard said.

"We need discussions, we need to sit around a table. You need to accept where you have gone wrong as a board, as a player, as a Caribbean entity we need to accept where we have gone wrong," he added.



West Indies' Rovman Powell plays a shot under the watch of India's wicket keeper MS Dhoni during their third ODI cricket match at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in North Sound, Antigua and Barbuda, Friday, June 30, 2017.

Associated Press / Ricardo Mazalan, File

WINDIES SHOOT TO THE TOP

Continued from Page 47

stand of 113 by Wesley Barresi (64) and Ryan ten Doeschate (67 not out). After three run-outs, the Netherlands fizzled.

Earlier, Lewis and Chris Gayle gave the West Indies a start they had been looking for in the tournament by blast-

ing 85 for the first wicket.

Gayle held out for 46, just off 31 balls, attempting to go over the top, and Lewis finally succumbed for 84 to a splendid catch at backward point.

In another exhibition of masterful stroke play, Rovman Powell — who, in the earlier match against Ireland, scored his first century on tour —

blasted 52 off 38 balls, in ensuring that the West Indies surpassed the 300-mark.

In seeking form, Marlon Samuels was left undefeated on 73 off 84 balls.

Scores: West Indies 309- 6 (Lewis 84, Samuels 73*, Powell 52); Netherlands 167- 6 (Ten Doeschate 67, Barresi 64) in the D/L method

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West Indies defeats Ireland, leads group

By Nelson A. King

Aiming to attain the top of their group in the 10th match of the World Cup Qualifying Round in Harare, Zimbabwe, the West Indies on Saturday staged a come-back to beat Ireland by 52 runs.

They are expected to play the Netherlands on Tuesday, hoping victory will put them at the top going into the Super Six.

But the Caribbean team on Saturday had to largely thank a splendid 101 by Rovman Powell and superb bowling by fast bowlers Kumar Roach (4-27) and Kesrick Williams (4-43) to clinch victory in the end.

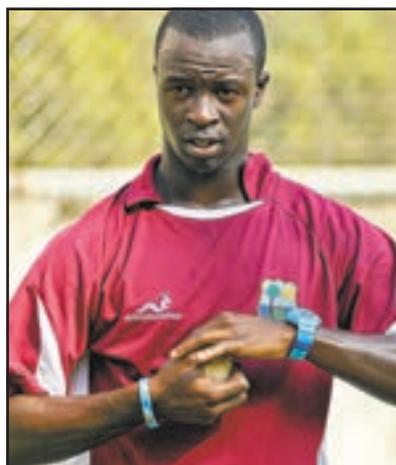
West Indies were wobbling at 5-83, when captain Jason Holder (54) and Powell came to the rescue with an 86-run seventh wicket partnership.

Powell's century was the first for a West Indian batting at no. 7 or lower.

Scores: West Indies 257- 8 (Powell 101, Holder 54, Tim Murtagh 4-41) beat Ireland 205 (Ed Joyce 63, Kevin O'Brien 38, Roach 4-27, Williams 4-43) by 52 runs.

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

Associated Press / Themba Hadebe



PM Mitchell: Rescue West Indies cricket

By Azad Ali

Grenada's Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell has called on CARICOM leaders to rescue West Indies cricket from its current crisis.

He also urged them to re-visit the recommendations of the dormant Governance Report on cricket.

Addressing the two-day inter-sessional summit in Haiti last week, the outspoken leader said West Indies cricket required an effective governance framework in order to flourish and warned unless this was done the game would continue to "wallow in the land of under-performance and mismanagement."

Dr. Mitchell told his colleagues he was heartened by the recommendations of the Prime Ministerial Committee which among other things, recognized that the public good nature of West Indies cricket requires a forging of a governance framework that respect the rules and independence mandated by the (International Cricket Council) but which also provides a proper framework for all stakeholders in the governance of West Indies cricket.

The CARICOM-commissioned Governance Review Panel, headed by UWI principal Professor Eudine Barriteau, prepared the controversial report which as its main recommendation called for the "immediate dissolution



Grenada's Prime Minister Keith Mitchell addresses the CARICOM Summit in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Monday, Feb. 26, 2018. More than a dozen leaders arrived to the island nation for the summit of Caribbean leaders. Associated Press / Dieu Nalio Chery

of the West Indies Cricket Board and the appointment of an interim board whose structure and composition will be radically different from the now proven obsolete governance frame-

work."

The recommendations were rejected by the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) (now Cricket West Indies), headed by President Dave Cameron.

Walsh now Bangladesh's interim head coach

By Azad Ali

Legendary former West Indies fast bowler, Courtney Walsh, has been appointed Bangladesh's interim head coach for the Tri-Nation series in Sri Lanka later this month.

The 55-year-old Jamaican has served as the side's bowling coach for the last two years but has been given the top role with the Bangladesh Cricket Board's inability to find a replacement for Chandika Hathurusingha who quit last year.

Walsh joined the Bangladesh team in September 2016 on a three-year contract and has since worked closely with the side's bowlers especially in developing the fast bowler stocks.

He will now oversee the squad's preparation for the Nidahas Trophy Twenty20 tournament, which involves powerhouse India and hosts Sri Lanka.

Walsh played 132 Tests, finishing as the all-time leading West Indies bowler with 519 wickets.



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ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20
A few bumps along the way do cannot derail you when you are motivated, Aries. Just keep chugging forward and you can plow through any obstacles that spring up.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Find a way to work a vacation into your schedule, Taurus. You can probably use a respite from the daily grind, and a change of scenery is just what the doctor ordered.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, if you slow down and listen to others, you may learn something new about yourself. Sometimes you have to view yourself through another's eyes.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
You may have to trust a friend to handle something you would much prefer to handle yourself, Cancer. Trust that this friend will do a good job and express your gratitude.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
Open your eyes to the bigger picture, Leo. Only focusing on the smallest details will prevent you from seeing the grand scheme of things.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, an unexpected situation momentarily takes you off guard. Take a step back and reassess the situation. Some careful reflection will help you find a solution.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, when someone calls on you for advice, offer it without reading too much into why it is needed. You are there to lend support and a different viewpoint.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Take inventory of your weaknesses, Scorpio. By recognizing your shortcomings, you can become a stronger person and both your personal and professional lives will benefit.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
You cannot always remain under the radar, Sagittarius. Sometimes your actions will be out in full view, and you need to accept any praise and criticism as it comes.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
It's time to prepare for an adventure of sorts, Capricorn. The excitement may be mounting this week as you get all of the details in order. Start packing for travel.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
Lend support to a spouse or romantic interest because he or she will need it this week, Aquarius. You can't fix all problems, but you can show your support.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
There's little time to waste this week, Pisces. Be sure you have all of your details set and ready to go. Efficiency is key.

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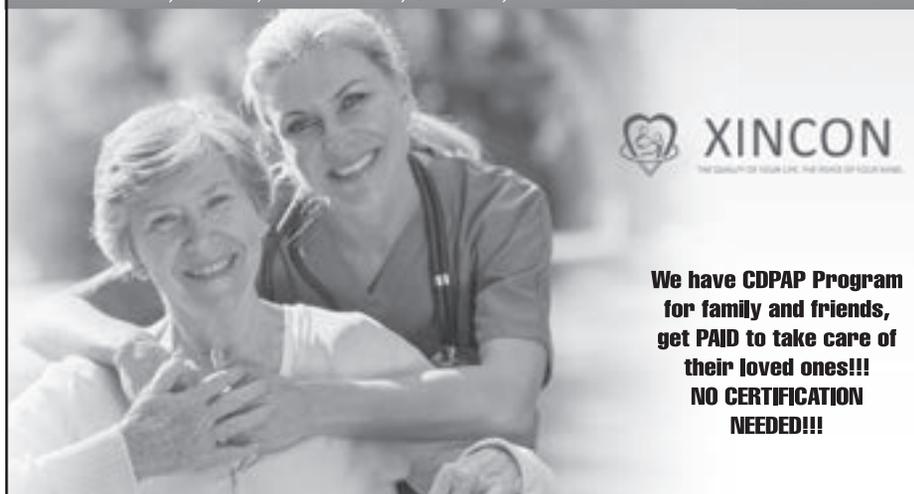
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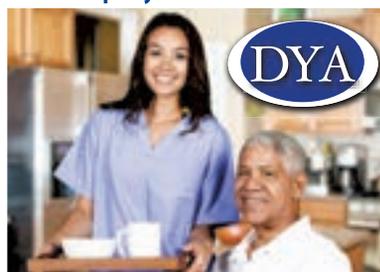


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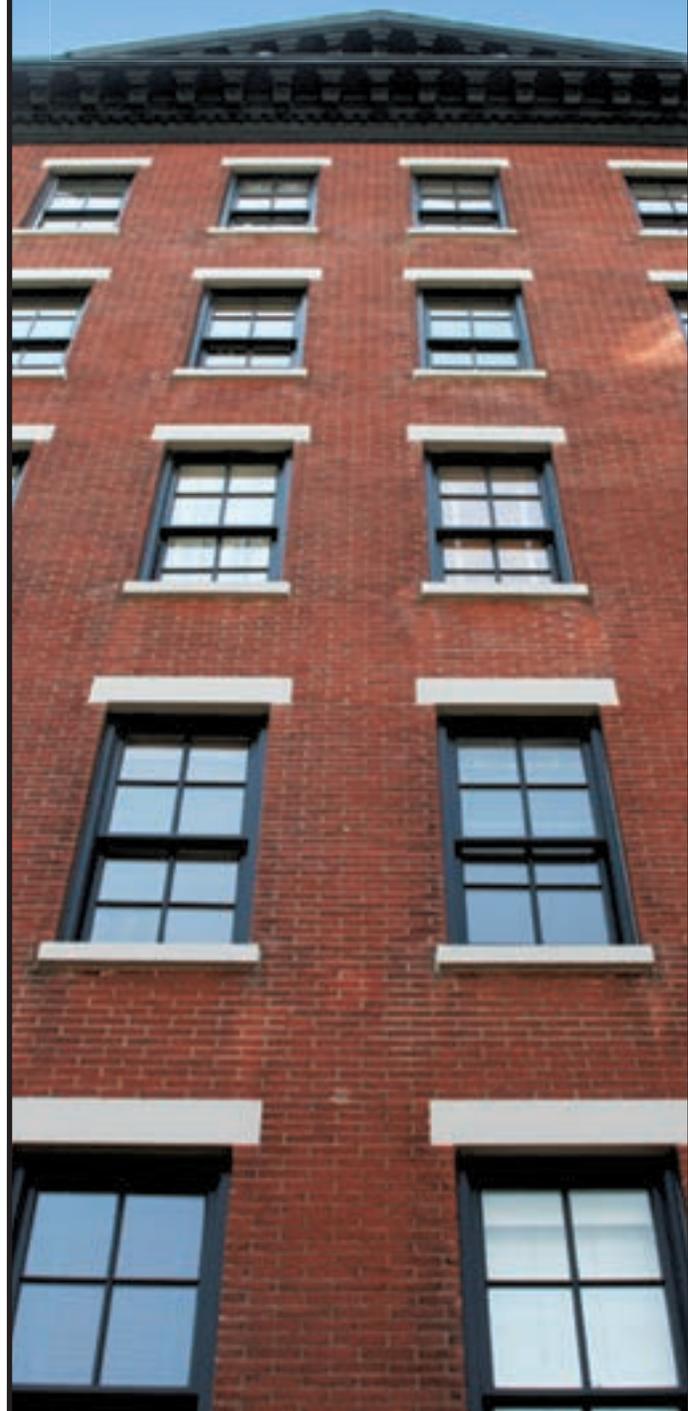
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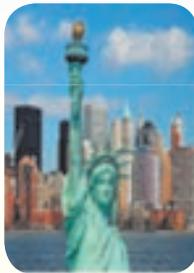
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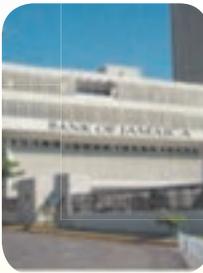
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