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Genius at The Keyboards

Bridging the worlds of American jazz, popular song, and the music of his native Jamaica, has been Monte Alexander's mission throughout his stellar career. He comes to Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College this weekend. See Page 39. Photo courtesy BCBC

Air pollution a Caribbean health risk

By Nelson A. King

The World Health Organization (WHO) has attributed tens of thousands of deaths annually in the Americas, including the Caribbean, to air pollution.

New WHO estimates released in Geneva on Tuesday, Mar. 25, claim that nearly 131,000 deaths in low- and middle-income countries in the region were caused by

"the combined effects of household and ambient air pollution."

It also said nearly 96,000 deaths were linked to these causes in the region's high-income countries.

"The new estimates are not only based on more knowledge about the diseases caused by air pollution but also upon better assessment of human exposure

to air pollutants through the use of improved measurements and technology," the WHO said.

"This has enabled scientists to make a more detailed analysis of health risks from a wider demographic spread that now includes rural, as well as urban, areas," it added.

The WHO said, overall, in

Continued on Page 5

BUSTED FOR BAD CONDUCT

Fired for improper contact with female flight attendant

By Bert Wilkinson

Having barely completed its fourth year in office, the multi-party People's Partnership administration in Trinidad & Tobago has had a record 12 ministers who have either been fired or pushed out of the cabinet for reasons ranging from corruption to public misconduct, to poor job performance.

Tuesday night, Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar fired Glenn Ramadarsingh, her minister for People and Social Development, in the wake of a scandal involving rowdy-behavior by the minister, revolving around allegations from a Caribbean Airlines flight attendant that he had inappropriately touched her breast, then threatened to have her fired while being intoxicated, highly uncooperative and disruptive on a flight between Trinidad and

and sister-isle Tobago earlier this month.

Ramadarsingh reportedly had apologized for his behavior on the domestic flight and begged for forgiveness from the crew member; but becoming aware of a wave of criticism over the minister's behavior; and with calls for "his head" from opposition leaders and even Indian rights organizations, Persad-Bissessar said she felt compelled to act.

"There must be no compromise on integrity, no allowance for arrogance, no room for violation of mutual respect; there will be no sacrifice of our values on the altar of political expediency," she said, adding: "Regardless of whether the decisions I take hurt me politically or not, I have the strength and courage and independence of mind to measure

Continued on Page 4

CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Updated daily at www.caribbeanlifeneews.com

THE NEWS FROM BACK HOME

Caribbean

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) will focus over the next two years on unveiling the Single Information Communication Technology (ICT) Space as the digital layer of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).

Chairman of the Conference of Heads Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, prime minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines said a roadmap to this end would be developed and presented to the Heads of Government Meeting in July.

The community's efforts to boost development through the use of ICT would be undertaken in tandem with the reform process for the years 2014-2019, Dr. Gonsalves said at the conclusion of the recent 25th Inter-Sessional Meeting.



He said the roadmap would include elements such as spectrum management, bringing technology to the people and transforming them to digital citizens, diaspora re-engagement, cyber-security and public-private partnerships.

The Single ICT Space will encompass the management of regional information, human resources, legislation and infrastructure in the sector to elicit maximum benefit for the region's populace.

Bahamas

As uncertainty persists around the introductory rate of Value Added Tax (VAT), Prime Minister Perry Christie has assured that his administration will not tax Bahamians "more than they can bear."



Christie announced recently that the government will not introduce VAT at 15 percent and is instead looking at a lower rate,

It is still unclear what the new



Coping with landslide

Workmen clear a road blocked by a landslide in Trinidad. Compensation for loss and damage from climate change has become a major demand of developing countries. See story on page 16.

IPS/Desmond Brown

VAT rate will be.

Christie said the government will make more announcements on taxes following its receipt of several private sector reports. The government initially said VAT would be introduced on July 4 this year.

Tourism stakeholders and the Coalition for Responsible Taxation have commissioned studies on various tax models and how they can impact the country.

The Coalition previously said it is possible for it to complete its study and present an alternative to VAT that can be implemented before July 1, 2014.

Haiti

A U.S. program that seeks to

save Haiti's forests by shifting people away from charcoal stoves has largely failed to reach its goal, according to an audit by the US Agency for International Development.

The liquefied petroleum gas stoves aimed at commercial and institutional users cost about \$100. The World Bank says nearly 90 per cent of Haiti's 10 million people live on less than \$2 a day.

The audit reported a lack of financing available to help people cover the costs.

It said only 337 of a hoped-for 4,500 street food vendors, orphan-



ages and schools shifted from charcoal to liquid petroleum gas, and a minority of those targeted for the smaller stoves made the switch.

Development professionals have often tried to wean people in poor countries away from charcoal because creation of the fuel can devastate forests. Charcoal production is widely blamed for leaving Haiti with only two percent of its original forest cover.

The \$8.2 million project was launched in 2012 by Chemonics International Inc. a for-profit company based in Washington, DC, that works throughout the developing world. It is among the many U.S. groups that received contracts to help build Haiti rebuild following

the 2012 deadly earthquake.

Jamaica

Lawyers for dancehall artiste Vybz Kartel (Adidja Palmer) are going to appeal his murder conviction by a Jamaica High Court recently.

Kartel, along with fellow entertainer Shawn Campbell, also called Shawn Storm; Kahira Jones, Shane Williams and Andre St. John had been charged with the murder of 27-year-old Clive "Lizard" Williams, a dancer on Aug. 16, 2011.

Shane Williams was found not guilty. The men had been in custody since September 2011, all pleaded not guilty to the charge.



The jury deliberated for more than two hours before reaching a guilty verdict (10-1). The men will be sentenced next week.

Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) Paula Llewellyn said the 55-day trial provided a shot in the arm for Jamaica's judicial system.

During the trial, the prosecution argued that on Aug. 16, Williams was taken to Kartel's home in Havendale, St. Andrew where he was stabbed and beaten to death over two missing guns. His body was never found.

St. Lucia

Guyanese cargo vessel Lady Zai remained quarantined in St. Lucia as investigation continues into the death of a crew member and the hospitalization of others, following the outbreak of a "communicable disease" on board.



As a result, none of the remaining eight crew members have been allowed to disembark while the cargo has not been offloaded.

Continued on Page 22

REMOVING IMMIGRATION NIGHTMARES

There are solutions to problems immigrants frequently experience.

Among the problems and solutions are the following:

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6. CRIMINAL RECORDS: WAIVERS AND PARDONS
7. REMOVING 2-YEAR CONDITIONAL GREENCARD
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Shirley Chisholm Scholarships

By Nelson A. King

After being instrumental in naming Nov. 30 as Shirley Chisholm Day, Brooklyn Assemblyman Nick Perry now wants a scholarship in all City University of New York (CUNY) colleges to be named in honor of the late Brooklyn congresswoman.

"I want to challenge our women today to help me achieve a dream I have. I think Shirley Chisholm's work is so important, and I don't think we've done enough to establish her as an icon in New York," Perry, representative for the 58th Assembly District in Brooklyn, told a VIP Reception and Honor Ceremony for five Black women justices at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn.

"I think we should be forceful to raise enough money to effectuate a perpetual scholarship in Shirley Chisholm's name," added Perry at the ceremony, organized by the Brooklyn-based Black Women for Fairness, Equity & Justice, spearheaded by former New York City Councilwoman Dr. Una Clarke, in collaboration with the Carib-

bean Research Center at Medgar Evers College.

"My dream is to have a Shirley Chisholm scholarship in all the CUNY colleges" continued the assemblyman, noting that the annual tuition at CUNY colleges is, on average, \$6,000. "We should be able to raise enough money at no cost to the student.

The ceremony was the culmination of the day-long 3rd Annual Shirley Chisholm Women's Empowerment Conference, organized by Clarke's group.

Brooklyn Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke honored the five outstanding black women judges in concluding the all-day event.

Clarke's mother, Dr. Clarke, presented the Congressional citations on to Justices L. Priscilla Hall, Sylvia Hinds-Radix, Sylvia G. Ash, Cheryl E. Chambers and Sharen D. Hudson.

Chisholm (Nov. 30, 1924 – Jan. 1, 2005), whose mother was Barbadian, father Guyanese and husband Jamaican, was an educator, author and politician.



Assemblyman Nick Perry addressing honor ceremony at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn.

Photo by Nelson A. King



At City Hall, members of the New York area Garifuna-American community hold the proclamation declaring March 11-April 12 Garifuna-American Heritage Month.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

Garifuna Americans proclaim heritage at City Hall

By Tequila Minsky

Earlier this month at City Hall, March 11-April 12 was proclaimed Garifuna-American Heritage Month. Members of the Garifuna Coalition and others in the community were on hand for the honors. Heritage Month acknowledges the great contributions of Garifuna-Americans to the fabric of New York City and New York State.

Among the month of significant dates and scheduled

events, Garifuna-American Heritage will be celebrated April 3 at Bronx County Courthouse and April 11 at Brooklyn Borough Hall, both starting at 5:30 p.m.

Also, a Garifuna (full) Day Conference & Festival will take place on April 12 at 344 Brook Ave. in Bronx. This is the Garifuna Community's sixth year celebrating Garifuna-American Heritage Month in New York.

Heritage Month pays tribute to the common culture

and bonds of friendship that unite the United States and the Garifuna's countries of origin—Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

New York City is home to the largest Garifuna Community outside of Central America, part of a migration since the 1930s. The community was virtually obscure, but the Happy Land Social Club fire on March 25, 1990, when almost half of the 87 victims were Garifuna, brought more

visibility. A granite memorial dedicated in 1995, east of the 1959 Southern Blvd. site of the fire, commemorates those who died. Behind the impressive marker is a placard that lists the names of those that perished in the club.

Garifuna-American Heritage Month 2014 also observes the 217th anniversary of the forcible transfer of the Garifuna people from St. Vincent to Central America and their arrival on April 12, 1797.

Citizenship Application Day in Queens

By Robert McCreanor

rmccreanor@catholicmigration.org

Catholic Migration Services (CMS) will conduct a "mega workshop" on Saturday, April 5, 2014 at Immaculate Conception Parish in Astoria to assist hundreds of eligible individuals and families complete naturalization applications, a critical step toward becoming United States citizens. This event is a major component of the recently announced Cambia Tu Vida ("Change Your Life") campaign through which CMS aims to promote naturalization and raise aware-

ness of the benefits of citizenship. To schedule an appointment and to be screened for eligibility, green-card holders are encouraged to call the Cambia Tu Vida hotline at 855-622-6242.

The event is also part of the New Americans Campaign (NAC), an unprecedented nonpartisan national network of more than 80 organizations who have come together to encourage and assist eligible legal permanent residents (LPRs) in becoming U.S. citizens. Catholic Migration Services is bringing the NAC's message to New York City

through a series of English and Spanish language public service announcements to air on local television stations, print and social media and grassroots publicity efforts.

There are over 8 million legal permanent residents in the United States who are eligible to become U.S. citizens. It is estimated that that more than half a million people in the New York City area are eligible to naturalize.

Through its efforts in March and April, CMS aims to assist over one thousand eligible individuals to com-

plete and submit applications for naturalization. This assistance will be provided in a series of "mega workshops" staffed by CMS attorneys, counselors and pro bono volunteers. Adopting an innovative model of service provision developed by the NAC, CMS hopes to aid immigrants in overcoming the barriers and confusion often experienced by those who seek to apply for naturalization.

For more information, please contact CMS at 347-472-3500 (Queens), 718-236-3000 (Brooklyn) or www.catholicmigration.org.

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Government minister falls on his sword

Continued from cover

every tough decision on the basis of what is right and just," the prime minister said in a statement.

General elections are due by May next year and it is widely believed that the part-

nership could return to the opposition benches, given several high-profile scandals that also involve corruption but involving persons deemed as untouchables.

The latest firing has pushed local media organi-

zations and politicians to continue ticking-off the number of ministers kicked out for non-performance, corruption or political felonies. Of the 12, eleven were cleanly fired while Minister Jack Warner quit before he was pushed.

Ramadarsingh is just the most recent politician to proverbially fall on his sword, in the coalition that came to power owing to major political and other lapses by previous Prime Minister Patrick Manning and his shock move to call fresh elections midway in a five-year term. The 2010 elections was the second time Manning had done so and was handily defeated.

The list of those cast by the wayside of the sometimes-shaky PP government includes former National Security Minister and FIFA world football executive Austin Jack Warner -- who was forced to quit in the midst of a major domestic and international corruption scandal; Herbert Volney -- who had served at the Justice Ministry but asked to walk for allegedly misleading the cabinet on key

legislation freeing defendants whose trials were incomplete after 10 years; and Colin Partap -- a junior at the Security Ministry who had publicly refused to take a breathalyzer test after being stopped by cops late one night in the city.

Planning and Gender Affairs Minister Mary King was among the first to be dismissed in the wake of a conflict-of-interest scandal linked to the award of a contract to family members.

"I can't recall so many ministers being fired for various reasons anywhere in the Caribbean over such a short period," said Guyanese political scientist and newspaper critic Fred Kissoon who, like dozens of others in his native Guyana has campaigned, albeit without success, for several cabinet ministers widely known to be super-rich since joining government to be similarly treated.

Kissoon, said success administrative in neighboring Guyana have kept on and even promoted some Cabinet and high-ranking officials who transgressed, adding that such behavior is



Prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago Kamla Persad-Bissessar. AP Photo/Rob Griffith

not even tolerated in "cruel, authoritative or dictatorial regimes like North Korea, Egypt and Cuba. "Only in Guyana that happens," he added.

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Poor women, children pay a price

Continued from cover

2012, about 7 million people died – one in eight of total global deaths – as a result of air pollution exposure.

This finding more than doubles previous estimates and confirms that air pollution is now the world's largest single environmental health risk.

As a result, the WHO said reducing air pollution could save millions of lives.

In particular, the new data reveal a stronger link between both indoor and outdoor air pollution exposure and cardiovascular diseases, such as strokes and ischaemic heart disease, as well as between air pollution and cancer.

This is in addition to air pollution's role in the development of respiratory diseases, including acute respiratory infections and chron-

ic obstructive pulmonary diseases, the WHO said.

"Cleaning up the air we breathe prevents non-communicable diseases, as well as reduces disease risks

and wood cook stoves," she added.

The WHO said included in the assessment is a breakdown of deaths attributed to specific diseases, underscor-

in children.

In indoor air pollution-caused deaths, the WHO said 34 percent died from stroke; 26 percent from ischaemic heart disease; 22 from COPD; 12 percent from acute lower respiratory infections in children; and 6 percent from lung cancer.

"The risks from air pollution are now far greater than previously thought or understood, particularly for heart disease and strokes," said Dr. Maria Neira, Director of WHO's Department for Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health.

"Few risks have a greater impact on global health today than air pollution," she added. "The evidence signals the need for concerted action to clean up the air we all breathe."

"Poor women and children pay a heavy price from indoor air pollution since they spend more time at home breathing in smoke and soot from leaky coal and wood cook stoves."

among women and vulnerable groups, including children and the elderly," said Dr. Flavia Bustreo, WHO Assistant Director-General Family, Women and Children's Health.

"Poor women and children pay a heavy price from indoor air pollution since they spend more time at home breathing in smoke and soot from leaky coal

ing that the vast majority of air pollution deaths are due to cardiovascular diseases.

It said in outdoor air pollution-caused deaths, 40 percent died from ischaemic heart disease; 40 percent from stroke; 11 percent from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD); 6 percent from lung cancer; and 3 percent from acute lower respiratory infections

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Widespread Cholera in Haiti

By Peter James Spielmann

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Haiti's cholera outbreak is still the worst in the world, the top U.N. envoy there said Monday.

Sandra Honore briefed the U.N. Security Council about the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Haiti, crime rates, public health, and the cholera outbreak.

She told reporters "progress is being made" on the cholera epidemic. Of the 680,820 cases reported since 2010, only 6 percent arose last year — some 58,000 infections.

Honore said "the overall incidence of the disease has been reduced by half, and the fatality rate is below 1 percent, which is the alert threshold defined by the World Health Organization globally."

But she told the Security Council Haiti "still has the highest number of cholera cases in the world." Health officials in Haiti say the epidemic has killed



A woman holds her sick child while he receives treatment for cholera at a Doctors Without Borders; MSF; cholera clinic in Port-au-Prince; Haiti. AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa; File

more than 8,000 people.

Scientific studies have shown that cholera was likely introduced in Haiti by U.N. peacekeepers from Nepal, where the disease is endemic.

The United Nations has claimed diplomatic immunity

from class-action lawsuits being filed by lawyers representing Haitian survivors and relatives of the dead who say the U.N. peacekeepers contaminated Haiti's principal river with cholera-infected human waste beginning in October 2010.

Barbados to end mandatory death

By David McFadden

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — The Caribbean island of Barbados plans to abolish its mandatory death penalty for murder convictions — a penalty that the government has bypassed for three decades.

No killer has been executed in Barbados since 1984 despite the law, but Attorney General Adriel Brathwaite told reporters Tuesday that the automatic penalty should be formally dropped. He said the government is preparing legislation to remove the clause that prevents judges from taking into account the circumstances in which a slaying was committed or other mitigating factors.

Brathwaite expects there will be considerable public opposition to the change because many people in Barbados "feel that once you commit murder you should forfeit your lives."

"I know it will be a battle but ... I believe that it is a better path for the country," he said, adding that the government will engage islanders in a public dialogue on

the issue.

Human rights groups such as Amnesty International have long criticized the Caribbean island's mandatory death penalty as too harsh and in breach of international law. There is a similar mandatory death penalty law for convicted murderers in Trinidad & Tobago, which has not executed anyone since 1999.

Even though capital punishment is on the books in a number of English-speaking Caribbean islands and polls indicate strong support for the death penalty, executions are rare in the region. The last one was in St. Kitts & Nevis in 2008, when Charles Laplace was hanged for murdering his wife. That was the region's first outside Cuba since an execution in the Bahamas in 2000.

Politicians of former British colonies have long complained that the London-based Privy Council, the highest appeals court for many Caribbean countries, has stymied their attempts to execute murderers.

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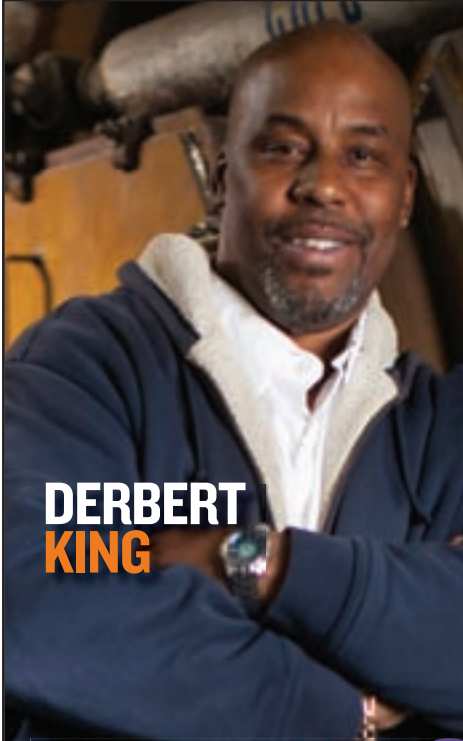
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Clarke rips court decision to disenfranchise voters

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke has blasted the decision of the U.S. District Court in Wichita, Kansas requiring the federal government to assist Kansas and Arizona in erecting obstacles to voting that would result in voter suppression and the prevention of many women and men of color from voting.

The court's decision orders the Election Assistance Commission to print instructions on voter registration forms that require eligible voters to prove their citizenship when registering to vote in their state, but not federal, elections.

To participate in federal elections, voters are required only to sign a statement affirming their citizenship.

"These restrictions on voting are nothing more than old tricks in a new disguise, and exist for the same rea-



Brooklyn Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke.

AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite

son as poll taxes and 'literacy' tests that were used to prevent people of color and young and elderly women and men from exercising their rights under the Constitution," said Congresswoman

Clarke, who has worked in New York State to secure the right to vote for people in Brooklyn, who lack representation in the state legislature because of delays in scheduling special elections.

IMF reaches 'staff-level' agreement with Grenada

By Nelson A. King

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) says its staff and Grenadian authorities have reached a "staff-level" agreement on a program that can be supported by a three-year Extended Credit Facility (ECF) arrangement in the amount of about US\$21.9 million or 120 percent of Grenada's quota.

The Washington-based financial institution said on March 14 that the agreement is subject to approval of the IMF's executive board and is "contingent upon the timely completion of prior actions to be taken by the Grenadian authorities and obtaining the necessary financing assurances."

"The government of Grenada has designed an ambitious program to correct the country's fiscal imbalances and lift sustainable growth," said Aliona Cebotari, the

IMF's mission chief for Grenada.

"The main objectives of the program are to restore fiscal and debt sustainability, boost long-term growth through structural reforms, and safeguard the resilience of the financial sector," she added.

"The cornerstone of the program is a strong fiscal adjustment focused on curbing current spending and widening the revenue base, while maintaining space for infrastructure spending and social safety nets," Cebotari continued.

She said the fiscal adjustment will be complemented by a comprehensive debt restructuring, "which will aim to secure meaningful debt reduction, address financing shortfalls, and put Grenada's public debt firmly on a downward path towards the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) regional

target of 60 percent of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) by 2020."

Cebotari said support from official and private creditors for the debt restructuring will be critical for Grenada's return to fiscal sustainability, adding that "ambitious public financial management reforms will support the durability of the adjustment.

"Another key element of the program is to bolster competitiveness and thus raise sustainable growth and reduce poverty," she said.

"Reforms will focus on removing constraints to growth through the liberalization in the renewable energy and other strategic sectors, improving the investment environment, and putting in place the legal infrastructure for public private partnerships," Cebotari added.

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Nature can help us understand our creator

By Dr. Gary L. Welton

News stories from around the country focus on blizzards, ice storms, tornadoes, droughts, and other natural disasters. It seems that we live at the mercy of Mother Nature. We do not control our lives; Mother Nature instead controls us.

G. K. Chesterton, however, wrote in "Orthodoxy" that, "The main point of Christianity was this: that Nature is not our mother: Nature is our sister." He argued that because we share the same father, we are siblings. Nature has no authority over us. "Nature is a sister, and even a younger sister: a little, dancing sister, to be laughed at as well as loved."

Siblings help us understand the world; they even help us understand our parents. Indeed, nature can help us understand our creator. James Fennimore Cooper, in "The Pathfinder," repeated this theme. He writes, "The woods are the true temple after all, for there the thoughts are free to mount higher even than the clouds." Furthering his point, Cooper says, "I agree with you in saying if you want a truly religious man, go to sea, or go into the woods." Once again he echoes, "You cannot—no one can live among such scenes without feeling how much they ought to trust in God!"

Chesterton did not downplay nature when he suggested that she is our sister. Indeed, in most cases, our sibling relationships

outlast all others. In the normal course of events, our parents die a generation before we do. For most of us, we never meet our spouse until we are teens or young adults. Our children typically come even later. Our relationships with our siblings outlast all others.

In healthy sibling relationships, we honor and respect each other. Likewise, we need to respect all of nature. Failure to do so will result in serious consequences. For example, failure to recognize the realities of our biology will seriously handicap us. In "The Drifters," James Michener wrote, "I have seen too many friends die of leukemia or blood poisoning not to respect my blood, whose delicate balances had better not be disturbed. It has always perplexed me that our young people, who have been so judicious in opposing the pollution of rivers, should be so indifferent to the contamination of their own bloodstreams."

Granted, in typical childhood sibling relationships, we experience many rivalries, which challenge us to grow and mature. Not only do we unkindly complain about our dearly beloved siblings, we also inappropriately complain about nature. As John Donne, in "Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions" writes, "It is a half atheism to murmur against Nature, who is God's immediate commissioner."

Few of us are ever tempt-

Continued on Page 12

Men fall behind while women make notable gains

By Joseph Chamie

UNITED NATIONS, March 20, 2014 (IPS) -- International Women's Day and the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) are overlooking a critical trend: while girls and women are making notable gains, boys and men are falling behind.

On most major measures, such as education, employment, income and health, women are moving forward and men are simply not keeping up.

Certainly noteworthy gender differences exist across regions and countries, especially when comparing developed and developing nations. Women's progress towards equality continues to encounter resistance, especially among socially conservative sectors of society. Generally speaking, however, the standing of women and girls has been improved considerably worldwide and in some cases has even exceeded men and boys.

Women have more opportunities than ever before. In the past,

On most major measures, such as education, employment, income and health, women are moving forward and men are simply not keeping up.

wife, homemaker and mother were the sequence of traditional roles ascribed to women. Today, increasing numbers of women can pursue education, employment and careers as well as participate in business, politics, sports and culture in much the same way as men.

In the vital area of higher education, women have achieved an educational advantage over men. After centuries of male dominance, worldwide women now outnumber men in both university attendance and graduation.

In most countries with data women's university enrollment

and graduation rates exceed those of men. In some countries, such as Brazil, Canada, Poland, Sweden and the United States, about 60 percent of the university students are women, with the achievement gap accumulating over time. For instance, during the last 10 years two million more women than men graduated from college in the United States.

Also in developing countries as diverse as Argentina, Iran, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia, women constitute the majority of university students. Among the world's two largest populations, China and India, women are moving toward parity with men at universities, 48 and 42 percent, respectively.

At the secondary level, girls outperform boys with better grades, teacher assessments, college entrance exams and lower school dropout rates than boys. Consequently, some colleges have affirmative action

Continued on Page 12

A triumph of good over evil

By Colin A. Moore*

It was a glorious sight to behold! Smiling brown faces painted in a kaleidoscope of colors--red, orange, purple, saffron, yellow and green. Hindu dharmacharyas arrayed in colorful kurtas and dhotis. The appetizing aroma of palowrie, mohan-bug and roti, wafting in the spring breeze. Multi-colored floats transporting entertainers and local elected officials through the streets of Richmond Hill. The pulsating rhythm of tassa drums resonating along the commercial strip in Atlantic Avenue. Hundreds of spectators lining the parade route from the starting point at Liberty Avenue and 133rd Street to the destina-

tion in Smokey Park on Atlantic Avenue.

However, the Pagwah Parade is more than a visual spectacle of fun frivolity and entertainment. It is a theological narrative of the triumph of good over evil -- the triumph of the virtuous Prahlada over his evil aunt Holika -- the triumph of Lord Vishnu over the demon-king Hiranyakashipu. It is an apocryphal tale of the courtship between two Hindu deities -- Lord Krishna, the ninth avatar of Vishnu, and the beautiful Radha. Pagwah, like other Hindu festivals, such as Diwali, marks the astrological movement of the seasons -- in this case, the transition from winter to spring.

In India, Pagwah is universally known as the festival of Holi. The word Holi originates from Holika, the sister of the demon king, Hiranyakashipu. Holika was informed by her brother that if she wore a magical shawl, she could not be destroyed by fire. One day, she tricked her nephew, Prahlada to sit on her lap in a giant bonfire. It was her intention to have him consumed by the fire. However, Lord Vishnu, the protector of Prahlada, was determined to protect his devotee from destruction. Vishnu blew a gust of wind in the direction of Holika. The windstorm ripped the shawl off the shoulders of Holika,

Continued on Page 14

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Presidential approval is again campaign Topic-A

So, we know it's been crystal clear for a while now that although Barack Obama made history in 2008 as the first person of color elected president, a significant percentage of the population became and has remained highly perturbed over this particular American landmark. They've shown it in any number of ways, the mass of them dutifully heeding the constant war chants of designated spear carriers, intended to paint President Obama as the electorate's ultimate faux pas and nightmare. So we get that. But is it simply that, jungle-like, the rules governing slaughter by these carnivores assembled on the political landscape are that there are indeed no rules? The continuing urge in their ranks to reach into seemingly forbidden territory in the course of "take down" maneuvers confirms a "nothing is sacred" m.o. As in, recently identifying scoring possibilities in the tragedy of the doomed Malaysian jet, no less.

When some of the usual right-flank suspects zeroed in on the ill-fated flight as providing another Obama bashing opportunity, it dialed up the Senator Joe McCarthy scare tactics period of the 1950s. Specifically, the clash, during a

Senate hearing, between McCarthy and counsel for the U.S. Army Joseph Welch, who famously excoriated the Wisconsin senator and his communist witch hunt paranoia: "Have you no sense of decency at long last?"

By this time, one ought be well convinced that among the familiar corps of rabidly reactionary voices that despise this president, a sense of decency is altogether factored out. No decency and, as always, looking to bust the absurdity charts yet again. For this group, because the missing plane was American-made and there were three Americans reportedly on board, was justification for the American president to be "more aggressive" in response to news of the disaster. Which is to say, a superior Uncle Sam showing aside the pipsqueak Malaysians and taking charge! Sprayed across the blogosphere and on TV screens welcoming of it, was this serving of imperialist tripe.

A basher who, if not rightfully belonging with the morally decrepit bunch advocating the Malaysian madness, "paradox" is probably the most charitable label he may have earned, is John McCain. The senator's chameleon-ish core

Viewpoint

By Les Slater

tracks from the classiness of correcting someone who, during the '08 presidential campaign, sought to disparage Obama, to sounding off in demeaning fashion about the president on any given issue. As a former p.o.w, McCain sees security/defense matters as his métier. And he evidently believes the hawkish take he maintains on such issues is the right stuff, never mind its being out of step with solid majority sentiment in America. No surprise that he has harshly criticized the president for not getting this country militarily involved in the Russian dustup with Ukraine. In his characterization of Obama as weak and no match for Russia's Vladimir Putin, at least McCain has a track record that includes a central presence in issues like immigration and campaign finance reform, to lend credence to claims of his opposing Obama being policy driven, as distinct from the visceral dislike routinely emanating from

hard-right types.

The steady stream of anti-Obama chatter – whether outright propagandist smears or couched as legit differences in policy direction – is right now all geared for deadly aim on this year's mid-term elections. Republicans apparently believe that, like the mid-terms four years ago, they have firepower to do serious damage to any Democratic hopes of gaining ground in House membership and of even retaining their Senate majority. And as it was in 2010, the GOP rally cry is again health care reform tied to the president. The Affordable Care Act's (ACA) bumpy rollout made for a political and public relations albatross for Obama and Democrats that put them on the defensive and hoping that time and positive results in the program would improve their standing. Reports have indicated measurable progress being made in the program since the online sign-up process got overhauled – something the GOP spin will of course completely ignore. For Democrats, the timing couldn't be worse for a bad ACA launch, coming as it did after Republicans were back on their heels in the wake of recklessness on that side of the aisle that

precipitated last year's government shutdown. A sure-fire momentum breaker that turn of events was for Democrats.

Looking toward this year's critical mid-terms, the Democratic leadership has been talking about the need to markedly increase base turnout come November. Democrats could certainly see results not in their favor if they can't come up with a strategy for reversing the trend of the other side being more fired up in off-year voting. Republican plans to accentuate the ACA negative notwithstanding, one would think there's a lot available to Obama and Democratic combatants with which to do battle.

The overarching reality is that pocketbook issues being pushed by Democrats, like a minimum wage increase and pay equity for women, have the kind of broad-based appeal that shouldn't be wasted. Ditto, immigration reform for targeted sectors. If the loss of both houses of Congress and the president's lame duck status arriving much earlier than they would like, don't provide motivation to ensure a ramped-up ground game Election Day, it's hard to imagine what else would.

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OP-EDS

Making the right choices

Continued from page 10
 ed to worship our siblings, although we sometimes put our parents on pedestals. Worship of nature is a failure to recognize the distinction between the creator and the creation. In "The Rock," Kanan Makiya writes, "God abhors the manifold forms of nature worship. He wants us to search for His One transcendent essence."

Although the analogy of nature as our sister works better than the analogy of nature as our mother, there is a sense in which the analogy falls short. In the creation mandate, we are instructed to have dominion over nature. My parents never gave me any dominion over my sister. Although there are a few times I tried to establish such dominion, she never allowed it. Our charge to have dominion over nature is not consistent with the sister analogy.

Instead, there is a sense

in which nature is our responsibility, just as it is my responsibility to care for my children and just as it is my responsibility to invest and minister in the children of the next generation. When nature sends tornadoes our way, we cannot control them. Nevertheless, we have made huge strides in the last 20 years in providing more advanced warning, and hence saving many lives. We have developed the technology of building safer shelters, also saving many lives.

I work diligently to train my children, and to invest in the youth around me, but I cannot control their choices either. I can seek to instill wisdom, but I cannot determine their choices.

I am responsible to have dominion over creation. That does not mean that I control nature. It does not mean that I get to make all the choices. It does mean

that my choices need to be wise, taking into account all information that is available. Likewise, I do not get to make the decisions for my youth, yet my training, advice, and love need to surround them as they grow and mature.

Nature is not our mother; we must not worship her. Instead, nature is part of God's creation, and our responsibility. We must seek to establish dominion over all spheres of nature. That dominion is part of our worship of our Creator.

—*Dr. Gary L. Welton is assistant dean for institutional assessment, professor of psychology at Grove City College, and a contributor to The Center for Vision & Values. He is a recipient of a major research grant from the Templeton Foundation to investigate positive youth development.*

Achieving full gender equality

Continued from page 10

policies for boys in order to achieve a gender balance.

Achieving educational gender equality requires special attention and increased efforts aimed at improving the education of boys and men as well as girls and women.

Even with an educational advantage, women continue to lag behind men in employment, income and occupational level. Such disparities may be a vestige of the past given that they decrease with increasing education.

With the passage of time women's educational advantage may translate into less gender income inequality as many studies find that a college degree pays off in higher wages over a lifetime.

Moreover, in many developed countries the numbers of traditional jobs for men in construction and manufacturing are shrinking. In the U.S., for exam-

ple, 78 percent of the jobs lost since 2007 were held by men, leaving one out of every five working age men out of work.

Encouraging signs of women's career progress are evident in many countries. For example, in less than a generation the percent of women attending medical schools has steadily risen in many countries including the Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States, reaching parity with men.

Women have also made modest gains in the political sphere as well, with increasing numbers elected and appointed to legislative, judicial, executive bodies and offices. In some countries, such as Belgium, Cuba, Netherlands, Senegal, South Africa and Sweden, women account for 40 percent or more of the national legislatures.

Nevertheless, in order to facilitate gender equality in employment, occupation and income, it will be

necessary to eliminate the "glass ceiling" as well as the "glass floor". While the glass ceiling is an invisible barrier limiting women's advancement to the highest levels in the workplace and corporate boardrooms, the glass floor is an invisible barrier limiting men's entry into more traditional female occupations, such as nurses, secretaries and primary school teachers.

Although some progress has been made, occupations continue to be largely segregated by sex. While men dominate such fields as engineering, manufacturing, computer sciences, women are concentrated in less remunerative fields such as education, humanities, health and welfare. The challenge for policy makers, educators and parents is how to overcome these differences without limiting personal choice.

Joseph Chamie is a former director of the United Nations Population Division.

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Pagwah Parade has experienced many ups and downs

OP-EDS

Continued from page 10

and wrapped it around the body of her nephew Prahlada. Holika was consumed by the fire, and Prahlada emerged unscathed.

The Hindu narrative of Prahlada and Holika is reminiscent of the Christian story of the spiritual struggle between Jesus and Satan. The holi festival arrives a few weeks before the christian festival of Easter, when Jesus Christ, like Prahlada, emerged unscathed from the tomb, and triumphed over the forces of death and destruction.

There is a narrative to explain the tradition of smearing the bodies of Hindus with various pigments. In the Hindu scriptures, the Bhagavad-Gita, Lord Krishna is portrayed as a deity with "a beautiful blue-black complexion." However, Sri Krishna was apprehensive about the prospect of dating the fair skin deity. He explained the dilemma to his mother, Yasoda. With typical motherly wisdom, she urged her son to smear

the body of Radha with different colors, so that no one will notice the disparity between their complexions. Krishna took his mother's advice to heart and smeared the body of Radha and her gopis.

To the devotees of Hinduism, there is a secular explanation for the origin of the festival of Pagwah. It represents the transition of the Hindu lunar calendar from winter to Spring, Pagwah is celebrated during the last full moon of the Hindu calendar, during the month of Phalgun before the approach of the Vernal Equinox. It is celebrated in late February or early March. To the inhabitants of the Indian sub-continent, spring is a season that represents rebirth or renaissance. It is the season when the trees, the vegetation and the eco-system are restored to life and vitality after the death and decadence of winter. It is a time when the

flowers bloom, the bird sing, and the eco systems resonate with new sounds, smells and rhythms.

The festival of Holi is known as "Pagwah" in the Indian diaspora – in places such as, Surinam, Guyana, Mauritius and Fiji. This is because many of the Indians living in the diaspora are the descendants of Indian indentured laborers who came from the province of Bihar on the subcontinent. The word, "Phaguwa," is the equivalent of Holi in the Bhojpuri dialect in Bihar. Phaguwa is a national holiday in Guyana, and people of all races and religions participate in the celebration, which is held at the Hindu mandir in Prashad Nagar.

The Pagwah parade has been celebrated for twenty-six years in the town of Richmond Hill. It has experienced many vicissitudes of trials and tribulations. After the 9/11 explosion at

the World Trade Center, there was an attempt by the Police, some elected officials, and community board members in Richmond Hill to either ban the parade or seriously restrict it. Law enforcement officials confused the turbans worn by the Sikhs in Richmond Hill to the turban worn by the Arabs terrorists of 9/11, and felt also that the powder that was sprinkled on celebrants at the Pagwah Parade could be a camouflage for the toxic chemical known as Anthrax. However, because of the vigilance of the Pandit's council in Richmond Hill and the intervention of some elected officials, it was decided to keep the parade in Richmond Hill.

The Pagwah Parade provides an opportunity for the expanding, commercially dynamic Indo-Guyanese community in Richmond Hill to flex its economic muscles, and display to the

world its cultural heritage. Pagwah is not only a celebration of Hindu culture, it is a celebration of Caribbean culture. It provides an opportunity for Guyanese, Trinidadians, Surinamese, Jamaicans and Grenadians, Christian, Muslims and Hindus, to come together in a spirit of brotherhood and participate in a festival of fun, frolic and frivolity. It is an opportunity for them to throw abir and powder on each other, and "play Pagwah."

The Pagwah festival also provides an opportunity for Hindu devotees to demonstrate that Hinduism is not a narrow, ethnocentric cult focused on the worship of idols, but a global theology that deals with universal moral concepts of good and evil. It demonstrates that Hinduism is a secular theology that subscribes to the principle, that fun, frolic and frivolity is an intrinsic part of the human experience. It demonstrates that Hinduism is a religion with a sense of humor. That it

deals with the concepts of the "sublime" and the "absurd" in interpersonal relationships. Finally, the Pagwah festival is a vehicle for human interaction, bringing together people of all religions, ethnicities and nationalities.

It is my hope that the Pagwah Parade in Richmond Hill will grow from strength to strength and expand geographically from Richmond Hill into the adjoining communities of South Ozone Park, South Jamaica, Rochdale and Hollis. It is possible that this parade can one day grow like the West Indian Labor Day Parade, and proclaim a welcoming message of brotherhood, joy and hope to people of all religious faiths, ethnicities and nationalities.

Colin A. Moore was formerly executive director of the National History and Culture Council in Guyana.

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M E T R O P L U S . O R G



For the first time in several years, Antigua's main water source, Potworks Reservoir, has run out of water as drought continues. IPS/Desmond Brown

Putting climate polluters in the dock

By Desmond Brown

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, March 24, 2014 (IPS) - Can Caribbean governments take legal action against other countries that they believe are warming the planet with devastating consequences?

A former regional diplomat argues the answer is yes. Ronald Sanders, who is also a senior research fellow at London University, says such legal action would require all Small Island Developing States (SIDS) acting together.

He believes the Hague-based International Court of Justice (ICJ) would be

amenable to hearing their arguments, although the court's requirement that all parties to a dispute agree to its jurisdiction would be a major stumbling block.

"It is most unlikely that the countries that are warming the planet, which incidentally now include India and China, not just the United States, Canada and the European Union... [that] they would agree to jurisdiction," Sanders told IPS.

"The alternative, if countries wanted to press the issue of compensation for the destruction caused by climate change, is that

they would have to go to the United Nations General Assembly."

Sanders said that the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries could "as a group put forward a resolution stating the case that they do believe, and there is evidence to support it, that climate change and global warming is having a material effect... on the integrity of their countries.

"We're seeing coastal areas vanishing and we know that if sea level rise continues large parts of existing islands will disappear and some of them may even be submerged, so the evidence is there."

Sanders pointed to the damaging effects of flooding and landslides in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, and Dominica as 2013 came to an end.

The prime minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, described the flooding and landslides as "unprecedented" and gave a preliminary estimate of damage in his country alone to be in excess of 60

Continued on Page 26

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Klutch Formal Boutique has Caribbean roots

By Tangerine Clarke

Just after being named Small Business Owner of the Year by the 22nd Assembly District during Black History Month, “Elements of Earth” jewelry designer, Earth Rowe, cut the ribbon to officially unveil her second clothing store Klutch Formal Boutique located at 126 Central Ave. in Valley Stream.

Rowe, a fashion designer of Trinidad and Tobago heritage, received loud applause as she opened the doors of Klutch to reveal embellished, sophisticated outfits and accessories, relevant to today’s stylish woman.

The sublime Saturday, March 22nd afternoon event was befitting of the lavish celebration that began with a Spring-preview fashion show of Safari-inspired creations. The chic, floor-length gowns, mini dresses and a sleeveless tiger-print blouse, certainly made a fashion statement.

Patrice DaCosta, proprietress of Stoosh Images Inc. gave guests a comprehensive overview of the garments as models sashayed in eye-popping evening-wear, prom dresses, sweet 16 outfits, mother to the bride and playful pieces, accessorized with hats and pocketbooks that are avail-



Earth Rowe, second from left, joins models wearing creations from Klutch Formal Boutique. Photo by Tangerine Clarke

able in the new location.

DaCosta noted that a piece of garment should be worn with confidence. “Great fit is absolutely critical,” noted the image maven, who coached shoppers on ways to be fashionably inspired, wearing clothes and accessories for any occasion.

Pastor David Lawe of

More Grace Redemptive Center of Brooklyn, who said he was very proud of Earth’s accomplishment, prayed for Rowe, who opened her first store two doors from Klutch, four years ago.

The entrepreneur was also presented with a NY State citation from Assemblywoman Michelle C. Solages, the highest elect-



ed official in the New York State Legislature of Haitian descent.

“It is an honor to have Klutch in our backyard. Earth makes me feel like

a queen when I shop at her boutique. She provides customers with clothes and jewelry so that they could go out into the world with confidence,” said Solages who added, “Valley Stream is a diverse community that welcomes entrepreneurs.”

Earth Rowe, who aims to enhance a woman’s beauty, making her look and feel better after she leaves the boutique, handpicks garments that are emblazoned with sequins, studs, glitz and glamour.

“When customers come to the store they should expect to view one-of-a-kind garments that are unique in design,” stated Rowe. She is excited about showing off creations by Caribbean designers such as Jamaican Heather Lane whose pieces are in the store during the summer season.

Rowe, a mother and wife, who dressed the part of a fashion forward business-woman wearing a snazzy silver-gray lace pantsuit, still finds the time to meet with designers by appointment, to maintain a diverse collection in her store.

The specialized shop caters to women from Size Zero to 18W. Prices range from \$49 for a blouse, and from \$199 to \$1,000.00 for gowns.

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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/helpresource/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.bcny.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
If you operate a business in New York City, you are especially fortunate. The city has pulled together a wealth of resources for small business owners.

Small Business Resource Guide - New York - HUD

www.hud.gov/offices/osdbu/resource/guide/local/newyork.cfm
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(StatePoint) If you eat a healthy diet, you may think you're in the clear when it comes to supplying your body with vital nutrients. But some experts say that even the most well-rounded meal plans fall short.

"To get the amount of nutrients you need to thrive, you can't rely on food alone. You really have to turn to dietary supplements," says Michael A. Smith M.D., host of "Healthy Talk" on RadioMD.com and senior health scientist with Life Extension in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

If you've ever walked through the supplement section of a natural foods store or done a quick search online, you know it can be easy to become overwhelmed by the choices. Making matters more confusing, everyone has different nutritional needs.

"With the exception of a few foundational nutrients, there's no such thing as a one-size-fits-all supplement regimen," says Smith, whose new book and educational

HEALTH

tool, "The Supplement Pyramid," seeks to help readers design a nutritional regimen that meets their unique needs. "Like food, it's helpful to think of your supplement needs in a tiered pyramid structure: the foundational supplements we all need, personalized supplements based on your needs and optimal supplements for living healthier, longer."

Smith is offering guidelines for getting started:

- Bootleg products on the market can do more harm than good. Invest in high-quality nutritional supplements. Stick with a company that has an established track record of using only pure, potent raw materials.

- There are essential foundational supplements that should build the base of most people's plans, no matter what their unique needs are, Smith says. These

include an ideally dosed multivitamin/mineral, omega-3 fatty acids, coenzyme Q10 (as ubiquinol) and probiotics. Check with your doctor before starting a supplement regimen.

- Everybody has their own personal medical history and health needs. With do-it-yourself detective work, you can arm yourself with the facts you need to personalize your supplement plan for disease prevention.

Beyond taking a personal and family medical inventory, certain laboratory tests can help you discover out what's going on inside your body. Additionally, "The Supplement Pyramid" contains a series of medical quizzes based on clinical risk assessments in different areas including heart health, cognitive function and immune strength.

- After providing your body with core, foundational nutrients for survival and custom-tailored supplements to help prevent disease, consider optimizing your supple-



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mental regimen with "anti-aging supplements" such as antioxidants, proteins and amino acids. These supplements form the top of your pyramid, and if you need to cut back on expenses, should be the first to go.

Getting started is simple. And the sooner you do, the faster you

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For free tools to build your personal supplement regimen and for more information about Smith's new book, visit www.MySupplementPyramid.com or call 1-855-870-0687.

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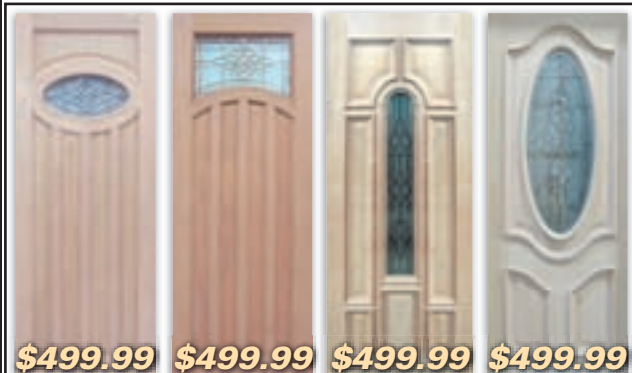
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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 2

Senior Medical Officer Dr. Sharon Belmar George confirmed the crew member died recently as a result of respiratory failure associated with bronchial pneumonia before the ship arrived in St. Lucia's waters.

"The ministry is working with the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), in determining the cause of the respiratory ailments," she said.

Trinidad

Young Pakistan freedom fighter Mala Yousafzai, who was shot in her head a year ago by a Taliban gunman for defying orders and going to school in her homeland, will visit Trinidad and Tobago after accepting an invitation from Tertiary Education and Skills Minister Fazal Karim.

She would be a motivational speaker to children at a function to be held by the government.

Mala became a global name as the Pakistani teenager stood up for education of girls on Oct. 9, 2012. She almost paid the ultimate price when she was hit in the head at point blank range while riding the bus home from school. She was not expected to survive.

Her miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote village in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York and Buckingham Palace.

Jamaica

Jamaica will soon begin the construction of the first licensed casino on the island.

Celebration Jamaica Development Limited, one of the companies which applied for the first set of casino licenses, is looking at starting construction as early June once government gives approval.

Founder of the company, Robert Trotta, said the project will be completed in three years once approval is granted. He said the casino hotel with 2,000 rooms will be constructed in Rose Hall, in the western parish of St. James.

Meanwhile, Celebration Jamaica Hotel and Resort is seeking to secure exclusive casino license for St. James for its Las Vegas-style entertainment complex.

The company hopes to get a temporary casino license during the construction phase to train prospective employees.

Trotta said the complex will consist of 1,000 rooms, full service casinos, an entertainment complex, restaurants and bars. When completed 4,000 full-time workers will be employed and 16,000 jobs created.

In 2010, the casino bill was signed into law paving the way for legalizing casinos in the tourist capital of Montego Bay and the northern parish Trelawney, in the hope of encouraging Las Vegas-styled casino hotel resorts.

Compiled by Azad Ali



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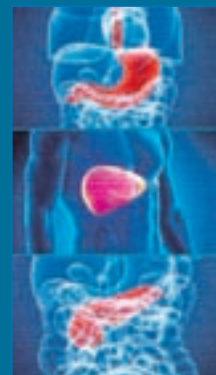
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Prostate cancer — Don't let it change your life

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

About 230,000 new cases of prostate cancer will be diagnosed in 2014.

The odds of surviving this type of cancer are favorable — as long as it is discovered in time. A simple blood test is all it takes.

Dr. Vitaly Raykhman of The New York Urologic Institute says men over the age of 50 need to be pro-active. They should be screened for the disease annually, and The New York Urologic Institute, a modern facility with state-of-the-art equipment, can provide this comprehensive testing and diagnosis.

Prostate cancer happens to be one of the most common cancers in men over age 50.

Yet, one of the reasons the fatality rate is declining is because of the Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) blood test. It provides doctors with a five-year lead time to battle cancer. That's a good head start.

Make an appointment to be tested, especially if there is a history of prostate cancer in the family. Men of Caribbean ancestry are also prone to the disease.

Don't panic if initial testing indicates that blood levels of PSA are elevated. This doesn't necessarily mean cancer is present. Other factors, such as a urinary tract infection, can cause levels to rise. Further blood testing, urine testing, and an ultrasound can help define what is going on, and Dr. Raykhman will determine if a biopsy is necessary.

If so, The New York Urologic Institute performs biopsies under local or general anesthesia, right at the office. An experienced anesthesiologist and pathologist are at hand to offer patients a high level of care. It is re-assuring, too, that Dr. Raykhman takes the extra pre-caution of administering intravenous antibiotics

before the procedure. This minimizes the risk of infection.

If the biopsy is positive, there are two options — radical prostate treatment, which involves surgery, or radiation treatment.

"Most patients get radiation," says the doctor. "Surgery is appropriate in some situations, but carries risk of impotence, incontinence, post-opt pain, blood loss, and missed days of work." These risks must be weighed.

Radiation is often advantageous because intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) is well-tolerated.

"There is no nausea, no vomiting, and no hair loss," says Dr. Raykhman. This means patients can come in for treatment before or after work, and can keep up with daily activities. "When delivered safely and effectively, there is zero risk of incontinence, after the procedure," he says.



New York Urologic Institute is in a modern facility with state-of-the-art equipment that allows for testing to be done at one convenient location.

Photo by Steve Solomonson

A radiation oncologist is also at the New York Urologic Institute to assure that every patient receives top-notch care.

If you don't speak the language, that's no excuse. The staff speaks English, Spanish, Hindi, Urdu, Russian, Bengali, Polish, Albanian,

Mandarin, and Cantonese.

Ladies, if your man doesn't like to go to the doctor, bring him there. Prostate cancer can impact your life, too.

New York Urologic Institute, 2632 E. 14th Street between Avenue Z and Shore Parkway in Sheep-

head Bay, (718) 878-3523, www.nyui.org. Open Mondays through Fridays, 9 am-6 pm; Saturdays and Sundays, 9 am-3 pm.

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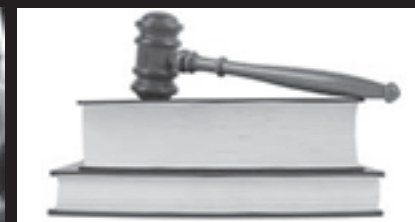
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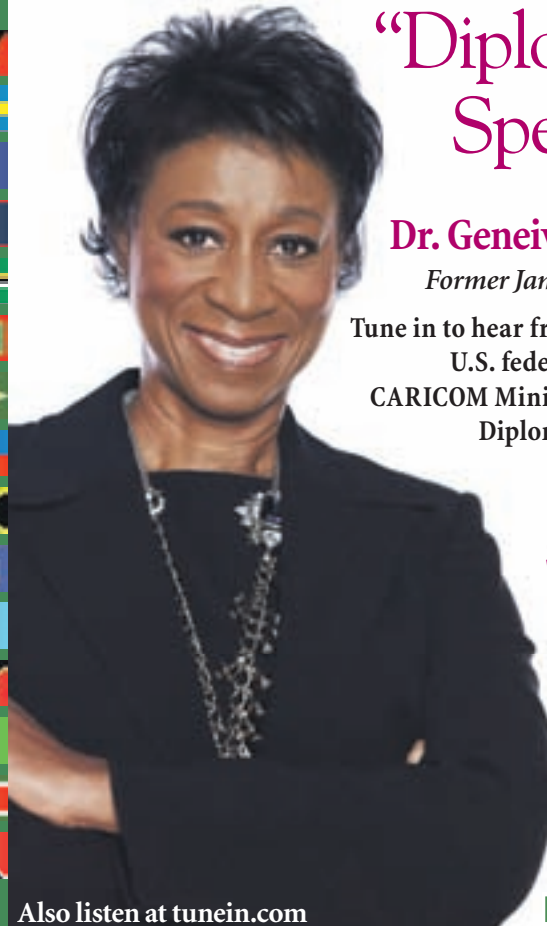
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CTU brings tech entrepreneurship seminar to Grenada



Gregory Bowen, left, minister for Communications, Works, Physical Development, Public Utilities, ICT and Community Development; Junior Mc Intyre, Caribbean Regional Communications Infrastructure Program Project Coordinator, Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU); and Jacinta Joseph, permanent secretary in the ministry.

Photo by Gerard Best

By Gerard Best

GRAND ANSE, Grenada - A regional workshop recently held in Grenada encouraged local entrepreneurs to leverage cutting-edge technology to develop world-class products and services which address challenges

facing Caribbean society.

The workshop, held at the Grenada Grand Beach Resort, Grand Anse on March 24 and 25, was part of a broader World Bank-funded initiative called CARCIP, the Caribbean Regional Communications

Infrastructure Program, coordinated by the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU).

"The underlying philosophy of the CTU's ongoing regional workshop series is that the very same conditions that present severe challenges for Grenada and other Caribbean islands, are also creating unique opportunities for the region," said Junior Mc Intyre, CARCIP Project Coordinator for the CTU, delivering welcome remarks at the opening ceremony.

The job of Caribbean innovators, Mc Intyre said, is to look past the challenges and discern the opportunities. Lead facilitator for the CTU CARCIP workshop, Bevil Wooding, underscored that reality.

"The survival of the region's economies depends on our ability leverage modern technology to produce, compete and excel in the global environment," said Wooding, who is an Internet Strategist with U.S.-based

non-profit, Packet Clearing House.

Gregory Bowen, minister for Communications, Works, Physical Development, Public Utilities, ICT and Community Development, described the workshop as an opportunity to deepen the government's ongoing thrust to develop the country's ICT sector, in order to improve quality of life and create jobs in the

local economy.

"Ultimately, the investment being made by the government of Grenada is not just in the upgrade of the physical equipment but in the improvement of the quality of the lives of our citizens. Our goal is to ensure that all of our people in Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique benefit from the development of ICT infrastructure," Bowen

said.

In March, a historic ICT Bridge connecting Grenada's sister isles Carriacou and Petite Martinique to the global Internet, was formally launched at the Resource Centre in Hillsborough.

Jacinta Joseph, permanent secretary in the ministry, echoed Bowen's emphasis on the dynamic link between infrastruc-

Continued on Page 36

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Climate polluters

Continued from Page 16

million dollars. "People who live in the Caribbean know from their own experience that climate change is real," Sanders said.

"They know it from days and nights that are hotter than in the past, from more frequent and more intense hurricanes or freak years like the last one when there were none, from long periods of dry weather followed by unseasonal heavy rainfall and flooding, and from the recognisable erosion of coastal areas and reefs."

At the U.N. climate talks in Warsaw last November, developing countries fought hard for the creation of a third pillar of a new climate treaty to be finalised in 2015. After two weeks and 36 straight hours of negotiations, they finally won the International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (IMLD), to go with the mitigation (emissions reduction) and adaptation pillars.

The details of that mechanism will be hammered out at climate talks in Bonn this June, and finally in Paris the following year. As chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), Nauru will be present at a meeting in New Delhi next week of the BASIC group (Brazil, South Africa, India and China) to try and build a common platform for the international talks.

"It isn't just the Caribbean, of course," Sanders said. "A number of other countries in the world – the Pacific countries – are facing an even more pressing danger than we are at the moment. There are countries in Africa that are facing this problem, and countries in Asia," he told IPS.

"Now if they all join together, there is a moral case to be raised at the United Nations and maybe that is the place at which we would more effectively press it if we acted together. It would require great leadership, great courage and

great unity," he added.

Pointing to the OECD countries, Sir Ronald said they act together, consult with each other and come up with a programme which they then say is what the international standard must be and the developing countries must accept it.

"Why do the developing countries not understand that we could reverse that process? We can stand up together and say look, this is what we are demanding and the developed countries would then have to listen to what the developing countries are saying," Sir Ronald said.

Following their recent 25th inter-sessional meeting in St. Vincent, Jamaican Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller praised the increased focus that CARICOM leaders have placed on the issue of climate change, especially in light of the freak storm last year that devastated St. Lucia, Dominica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

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Insomnia a common problem for cancer patients

The side effects of cancer treatment can be very difficult to handle. For example, cancer-related fatigue can be vastly different from the fatigue a non-patient may feel from time to time, proving far more taxing than a more routine bout of fatigue that can often be combatted with a nap or efforts to get a better night's sleep.

While side effects like fatigue and nausea and vomiting are challenging, many cancer patients know such side effects exist. But those same people may not know about the prevalence of insomnia among cancer patients, many of whom report higher rates of insomnia than the general population.

According to the American Cancer Society, numerous studies have shown that the majority of cancer patients suffer from insomnia, with prevalence rates as high as 63 percent. One such study published

in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology* analyzed data collected on 823 patients undergoing chemotherapy for a range of cancer types. The results were eye-opening, as researchers found that 43 percent of patients experienced insomnia syndrome while another 36 percent experienced symptoms of insomnia. In essence, nearly 80 percent of the study's participants were either suffering from insomnia or experiencing significant symptoms of the syndrome characterized by habitual sleeplessness.

Researchers' opinions regarding what's behind the link between cancer and insomnia suggest it may not be just a side effect of cancer treatment, but also a byproduct of the anxiety a cancer patient may feel upon diagnosis. Researchers behind the study also noted that insomnia among cancer patients is likely under-diagnosed, and that

patients should take it upon themselves to begin a dialogue with their physicians regarding any issues they are having falling asleep at night. Doctors may be able to suggest some helpful tactics to conquer insomnia, or they may even prescribe insomnia medication.

Cancer patients battling insomnia also can take it upon themselves to institute certain habits that may improve their sleep. The following are a few helpful habits for cancer patients looking to conquer their insomnia.

- Maintain a sleep schedule. Waking up at the same time each morning and going to be at the same time each night can make it easier for your body to fall asleep. Sticking to a sleep schedule essentially programs your body, which will grow accustomed to a routine sleep schedule and increase the likelihood that you will fall asleep



sooner rather than later.

- Reduce caffeine consumption. Caffeinated beverages can interfere with a good night's sleep and make it harder for the body to enter a deep sleep. Though it may seem as though caffeine is a quick but short-lived energy fix, the effects of caffeine can last for as long as 24

hours. Overdoing it with caffeine, even if that fifth cup of coffee is long before you put head to pillow, can have a significant and negative impact on your sleep.

- Quit smoking. As if having cancer wasn't already a strong enough reason to quit smoking, cancer

Continued on Page 30

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"We can inject pain drugs through a big needle into your spine." You cringe in fear and reluctantly agree at this point. "NOW I will be fixed." Or at least that's what you've been led to believe. You have either no pain relief, some pain relief, a whole lot of pain relief or it makes you have more pain. The second pain shot (oh, yes there will be a second and a third) is usually less effective or not at all and requires another one. You come to the realization that pain shots will not fix the disc bulge or herniation still smashing your delicate nerves causing you pain. Finally, your doctor recommends you see a "Specialist" (Back Surgeon) and he can do risky surgery. If you've read the latest article in the Journal Of American Medical Association*, you will see surgery patients and non surgery patients turned out the same! Why even do the surgery? Risk of paralysis, death, infections, more pain. No thanks. So. Back to the question. What are YOU going to do if you are stuck between serious back pain or leg pain or surgery? **Great News! A new extremely effective non surgical new back pain treatment is now available in Brooklyn.** If you are suffering from back pain or leg pain,

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**Fabienne Alexander - Retired
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FOCUS ON

Health

Cancer recurrence a difficult message to receive

A cancer diagnosis is never welcome news, especially when it comes unexpectedly. Cancer patients may undergo treatment for weeks or months, all the while hoping that treatment will ultimately prove effective. But cancer can return even when it is successfully treated, and the prospect of that return understandably induces concern.

The risk of recurrence is different for each person and typically depends on a host of factors. The type of cancer, how much time has passed since treatment, the type of treatment received, and how well a person has been taking care of himself since treatment ended can all influence a person's risk of recurrence. Eating right, exercising and seeing the oncologist for follow-up visits are key to good health. But the American Cancer Society notes that nothing can be done to guarantee your cancer won't recur.

Cancer recurrence is defined as the return of cancer after treatment. The same type of cancer may return in the same area of the body, such as breast cancer returning in the same breast. In some instances, the cancer may return elsewhere in the body. But it is still referred to as a breast cancer recurrence, even if the next incidence is elsewhere. The



length of time between the first bout of cancer and the next can vary. When cancer gets worse, this is called a progression. Sometimes it can be difficult to discern whether a recurrence is truly a recurrence or a progression. When only a short amount of time has lapsed since the initial diagnosis, then chances are the cancer is a progression.

After cancer goes into remission, a doctor usually sets up a schedule of follow-up appointments to check for cancer recurrence. A local recurrence, or one in the same spot as before, may be easy to treat. Many advancements have been made regarding the treatment of cancer. However, for many cancers, a

recurrence at a distant site can mean the chance for successful treatment is not very likely.

Learning of a recurrence can be devastating, especially after working so hard and suffering through so much to push cancer into remission. Focusing on the future and not growing discouraged about beginning the battle anew are keys to fighting cancer again. But this time you will know what to expect and can plan accordingly.

Receiving news of a cancer recurrence can elicit anger, fear and fatigue. But a recurrence of cancer can be treated successfully, and maintaining a positive outlook can make it easier to fight cancer once again.

Insomnia

Continued from Page 28

patients also should know that the nicotine found in cigarettes and other tobacco products is a stimulant that can negatively affect your ability to get a good night's sleep.

- Skip the nightcaps. Many cancer patients steer clear of alcohol, but those who feel a nightcap helps them fall asleep may be doing more harm than good. Con-

suming alcohol right before bed may help you fall asleep quickly, but you can expect that sleep to be interrupted once the effects of the alcohol wear off. This disruption to your sleep cycle makes it harder to get the kind of deep, rejuvenating sleep cancer patients need.

- Eat an early dinner. Going to bed before your body has fully digested your dinner can be harmful in a variety of ways. Food that isn't digested before the body goes to sleep is likely to be stored as fat, causing weight

gain that can add to the feelings of fatigue many cancer patients experience. In addition, quality of sleep is negatively affected if your body is still digesting dinner when you lay down to go to sleep. If you start eating early dinners and find yourself hungry around bedtime, eat a small snack an hour or two before bedtime. Hunger can hinder your ability to get a good night's sleep, so a small snack to quell that hunger should be easy to digest and your sleep should not be affected.

An expanded 'Trade Brooklyn' show returns

Cardinal Trade Group, Inc. (CTG), the producer of the New York region's top business events, will bring an all-new and larger Trade Brooklyn (Brooklyn's Business Trade Show) to the heart of Brooklyn at the New York Marriott at Brooklyn Bridge, 333 Adams Street.

The annual spring business trade show will be held on Wednesday, April 2, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The show has been expanded to meet the explosive business rebirth occurring across the boroughs. Trade Brooklyn will kickoff with a 1010 WINS 5 Borough Business Breakfast from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

The larger and more robust exhibition featuring over 150 exhibitors is expected to draw more than 2,500 key decision makers and business leaders. Several new topics have been added to this year's 15 topnotch business seminars,

which will be led by local and national business experts who will offer tips and strategies for business growth, productivity and efficiency. Among the additional seminar topics are Brooklyn Business Summit, Social Media Bootcamp, Speed Networking, and a continuing education credit program for attorneys and accountants.

"Trade Brooklyn will attract a record number of attendees. It's our goal to connect like-minded businesspeople and broaden their prospects for success in the marketplace. Moving the show to the New York Marriot means more space for more exhibitors with new, energizing activities and programs as well as a better networking environment. These efforts will create opportunities and boost business in Brooklyn as well as across the region," said Jonathan Levin, founder of Trade Brooklyn.

Exhibitors include local businesses and national corporations from many sectors including franchises, banking, financial services, insurance, law, accounting, marketing, social media, web design, office products and services, telecommunications, wireless services, non-profits, government, business advocacy groups and local and national media companies.

Admission is free with advance registration and is \$20 at the door. The Kickoff Business Networking Breakfast runs from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Early registration is required.

To register, visit www.TradeBKLYN.com. For information about exhibitor booths and sponsorships, call (347) 464-077 or email info@CardinalTradeGroup.com. To see photos from the last Trade Brooklyn, visit <http://flic.kr/s/aHsjCvkNtz>.



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Photo by Elizabeth Graham

Elvin Rodriguez, Brownsville

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Jamaica gets help with cyber security strategy

By Nelson A. King

The Organization of American States (OAS) says it is assisting Jamaica in the development of a national cyber security strategy.

The Washington-based hemispheric body said its Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) on March 19 concluded a three-day visit to Kingston, the Jamaican capital, as part of the technical assistance provided to that government for the development of the strategy.

The OAS said the initiative will be coordinated by CICTE's Cyber Security Program in collaboration with Jamaica's Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining.

The Jamaica visit was led by OAS security specialists, with participation from members of the Commonwealth, the OAS said.

It said expert advice was

given on various approaches that can be adopted in the development and implementation of the national strategy.

The OAS said participants were "guided through working group sessions to formulate the main tenants of the strategy."

It said the three-day activity forms part of a larger offer of assistance aimed at helping Jamaica to develop its national cyber security strategy, and "will continue with appropriate follow-up support to facilitate the expedient development and adoption of the strategy."

"The OAS is very pleased to be able to provide support to the government of Jamaica for the development and implementation of a Cyber Security Strategy, a critical area in the current global context, not only for the direct safety of persons but also for the economic, tech-

nological and social development of our nations," said OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza.

"The OAS has already supported in this task Colombia, Panama, and Trinidad and Tobago, and we hope to continue providing this support to the other member states that require it," he added.

Jamaica's Minister of State in the Ministry of Science Technology Energy and Mining, Julian Robinson, said the government of Jamaica "recognizes information and communications technology as being one of the most important enablers for the achievement of its vision of economic and social development.

"In our promotion of same, we remain mindful of the need to create a trusted environment whereby our people can feel confident in conducting their online and related activities," he said.



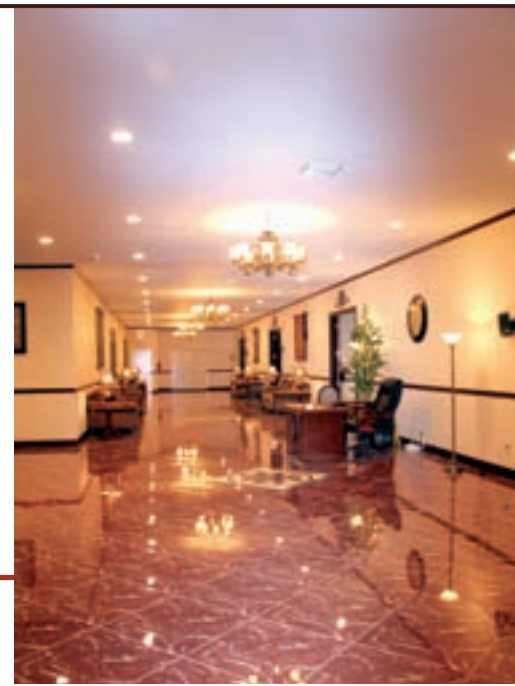
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Technology seminar

Continued from Page 25
development to human development.

“Through CARCIP, we are aiming to advance the development of an ICT-enabled services industry in the Caribbean region by increasing access to regional broadband networks,” Joseph said.

Grenada is not alone in recognising the significance of ICT to national and regional development. At the 25th intersessional meeting of the conference of heads of government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on March 10-11, Caribbean governments reaffirmed that Information and Communications Technology (ICT) plays a crucial role in advancing all regional development initiatives. CARICOM plans to focus over the next two years on developing a Single ICT Space as the digital layer of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).

“The creation of a Single ICT Space within our com-

munity should be pursued vigorously in our efforts to bring technology to the people,” said CARICOM Secretary General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque.

Addressing the inter-sessional meeting, Grenadian Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell, who holds responsibility for ICT in CARICOM, issued a call for the region to work together to develop appropriate regional ICT development strategies and programmes.

The work of implementing ICT development policy objectives falls largely on CTU, which plays a significant role in coordinating the region’s response to technology-related challenges through various public education activities, targeting ministers with responsibility for telecommunications, Internet Service Providers, regulators and policy-makers in the ICT sector, as well as end-users and consumers of technology.

Through extensive regional public education

activities, such as its Caribbean ICT Roadshow, Caribbean Internet Governance Forum, and Strategic Ministerial Seminar series, the CTU has established a track record of creating awareness across various sectors of Caribbean society of the importance of ICT and Internet Governance to the region.

Against that backdrop, the World Bank approached the CTU to regionally coordinate CARCIP, working closely with the governments of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia and Grenada, and alongside regional organisations such as the Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL) and the Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network (CKLN).

Launched in June 2013, CARCIP aims to improve the efficiency of regional telecommunications infrastructure development in the Eastern Caribbean and ultimately, throughout the wider Caribbean.

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PHOTO: JESSICA CHUN

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Honorees Salvador Santana and Carlos Santana seen at Peace Over Violence 42nd Annual Humanitarian Awards; on Friday, Oct., 25; 2013 in Beverly Hills; Calif.

Photo by Eric Charbonneau/Invision for POV/AP Images; File

Santana to star in 'Who Shot The Sheriff' movie

Bob Marley's hit title song "I Shot The Sheriff?" might have been the inspiration for a film venture that will star the son of one of the music industry's most successful musicians.

Reports are that Vincen-tian John A. Andrew plans to use the title from his 2012 novel "Who Shot The Sheriff" -- to adapt a big-screen version that probably will be alluring to movie-goers and perhaps fans of the reggae legend. Drummer, Salvador Santana has already been cast to star in the film. If the name seems familiar it is because he is son of musician Carlos Santana.

The film is set in the gritty enclaves of the capital city of Kingston. The plot surrounds a character named Wesley Haynes, a reformed drug dealer accused of shooting Sheriff John Brown and his deputy Ron Charles.

Ballistic reports show that the bullets which killed the men are identical to the lethal three fired from guns that killed the sheriff and his deputy.

"My manager asked me if



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

"I'd be interested in participating in the film," Santa explained. "I was immediately overwhelmed with excitement and it didn't take long for me to say yes."

Santana said he is looking forward to visiting Jamaica for the first time.

"I love the music," he added.

"I forever appreciate the positive impact it has had for so many people all around the world."

Russian Airlines suspends service to Jamaica

Jamaica's tourism industry has been affected by the recent political developments between Russia and the Ukraine. Recently, the nation's ministry of tourism announced that Transaero Airlines, the airline that provided services between the two countries will suspend

travel beginning March 28.

The airline, which began direct travel from Moscow to Montego Bay two years ago provided winter service that allegedly boosted tourism from that region of the world. Reportedly, due to the successful trade, the seasonal service was expanded to continue throughout the entire year.

This development has been attributed to "dramatic currency fluctuations in Russia, their impact on airline operations and recent political developments."

As a direct result of the development, the tourism ministry said the Jamaica Tourist Board's (JTB) regional director in Europe, will be dispatched to Moscow "to keep in touch with the market and to protect the gains we have made there."

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ENTERTAINMENT

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Africa Now!

By William Farrington

Africa Now! festival returns April 2 - April 5 with a spellbinding lineup of contemporary artists from West Africa. Fatoumata Diawara from Mali, Les Freres Guisse from Senegal and the Sierra Leone All Stars perform in the event's centerpiece concert at the Apollo Theater on April 5.

Fatoumata opened a recent show standing nearly motionless singing softly and accompanying herself on guitar, as if to remind us how fragile and beautiful a culture can be. She then moved on to more upbeat funky tunes, integrating wassalou vocals and didali rhythms, backed by guitar, bass, drums and percussion. By evenings end she was gliding across the stage her braided hair flying and the audience was on their feet waving and clapping.

The Sierra Leone All Stars met in a refugee camp in 1997, they turn the pain and wisdom gained from their



Fatoumata Diawara performing at Pace University Michael Schimmel Center for the Arts.

Photo by William Farrington

life's experience into joyous songs sung that unfold over reggae and afropop rhythms. Their music and story have captured hearts worldwide.

'Libation' is their latest on Cumbancha records. Described as "Our musical libation - offering - to celebrate the blessings that our music brought to us, to pay respects to the spirits of the musical brothers we have

Continued on Page 42

Brooklyn to induct Jazz musicians

The Brooklyn Historical Society, 128 Pierrepont St. in Brooklyn Heights will host the Brooklyn Jazz Hall of Fame ceremony on Tuesday, April 1. This year musicians Herbie Mann and Bill Lee will be inducted. Live music and refreshments are part of the festivities.

Central Brooklyn Jazz Consortium created the Brooklyn Jazz Hall of Fame to recognize unheralded and renowned jazz musicians who call Brooklyn home. This event is free and open to the public.

Brooklyn born jazz flautist Herbie Mann best known for his works fusing jazz with world music; his Billboard number one hit song, "Hijack." Long time Fort Greene-Brooklyn resident, bassist, composer, Bill Lee performed with Duke Ellington and a host of others. Mr. Lee is best known for his musical scores for son, film producer, Spike Lee.

As part of this Brooklyn Jazz Hall of Fame evening, Jitu K. Weusi, co-creator of

Continued on Page 42



Jamaican jazz pianist, Monty Alexander & Harlem Kingston Express perform on the Stravinski Hall stage at the 43rd Montreux Jazz Festival, in Montreux, Switzerland, Friday, July 10, 2009.

AP Photo/Keystone/Jean-Christophe Bott

Harlem-Kingston Express comes to BCBC

By Chudi Chukwudi

Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College is thrilled to welcome Jamaican jazz virtuoso Monty Alexander to the Walt Whitman Theatre, performing his Grammy-nominated show Harlem-Kingston Express, on Saturday, March 29, 2014 at 8:00 p.m.

Evoking not only the combina-

tion of two cities but also the high-powered excitement the band brings to the stage, the Harlem-Kingston Express is essentially two groups in one: a jazz group and a reggae group, with Monty Alexander straddling the two on piano as the common thread that holds them together. The end results work so well together that it would be point-

less to determine what's jazz and what's reggae.

Recorded in 2010 at Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola at Jazz at Lincoln Center (augmented by a few selections from past performances overseas), *Harlem Kingston Express: Live!* was singled out by both the recording industry and fans. All About Jazz

Continued on Page 42

Rebecca's Story: Guyana's culture of violence

By Tangerine Clarke

A trip to Guyana on assignment as a private investigator led New Yorker Margaret Clemons to the country's culture of violence, and the youth she would later inspire to tell their tale through photography in "Rebecca's Story," a short film which premiered to rave reviews at the recent CAFA Film Nights, Guyanese edition in Brooklyn.

Clemons, who started Witness Project International — a foundation to engage youth communities in arts-based programs, spoke passionately about using this medium to address vio-

lence because of the way art appeals to people.

"We are affected by what we see, and awareness makes us want to do, and change things," Clemons said.

The gripping narrative about violence at the hands of Rebecca's grandmother, and how the youth escapes the brutality by dreaming of the jungle -- raises a serious issue about the epidemic that continues to threaten the lives Guyanese youth.

Rebecca's new life comes through a literacy program from a neighbor who was a 'witness' to violence in the yard of the family's home.

Clemons, the executive

producer the film, said the short film dealt with three profound aspects: the perpetrator of violence, the underbelly of the violence,

anese society, Clemons whose New York charity's sole purpose is to address violence against women and children, has taken her

The gripping narrative about violence at the hands of Rebecca's grandmother, and how the youth escapes the brutality by dreaming of the jungle -- raises a serious issue about the epidemic that continues to threaten the lives Guyanese youth.

and the victim of the violence and ultimately, the witness who intervened.

Acknowledging the grimness of violence and its implications in Guy-

cause to the South American country and engaged the youth from the gritty Georgetown areas to tell their story, because according to her, the children are

'witnesses' to violence.

The Witness Project partnered with the 2011 Technology Entertainment and Design (TED) Prize Winner JR' Global Inside Out Project, to equip the youths with cameras to get the message out that say - "Stop Your violence against our mothers, sisters aunts, and neighbors. "We see you and you must do better."

Brooklyn-based Project Manager of (WPI) Alysia S. Christiani applauded Clemons for her insightful and caring work with the youth.

"Margaret fell in love with Guyana during her first visit, and she used her foundation to bring Guyanese teachers to the US so that they could in turn share their knowledge with the youth, said Christiani, a Guyanese-American.

She also noted that due to the success of the program the local Stabroek Newspaper dedicated a full-page weekly column – for one year- to encourage the students to give a first-hand account of their experiences with violence.

"This film has to be a tool for change said Christiani who encourages other filmmakers to outfit students with a toolkit so that they can start a discussion with their peers on gender

roles, literacy, and violence, for change. Such programs she added will be aired on the Ministry of Education learning channel.

Plans are also in the works to submit "Rebecca's Story" to film festivals in the Caribbean and North America to attract international attention.

Co-founders of CAFA, Romola Lucas and Justen Blaize announced Friday, March 28, as Women's History Month Edition as part of the monthly film series. The six films by women directors will be held at Nicholas Variety, located at 570 Fulton St., Brooklyn. Show time is 7:30 p.m.

The films are "Jeffrey's Calypso" by Vashti Anderson of Trinidad, "Docket 32357" by Eljon Wardally of Grenada, "HogHole" by Aiko Roudette of St. Vincent & The Grenadines, "Missed" by Michelle Serieux of Jamaica, "Auntie" by Lisa Harewood of Barbados, and "Crossing the Line of Desire" by Davina Lee of St. Lucia.

The duo said they are committed to sharing and educating audiences about the extraordinary work being done by Caribbean Filmmakers. Their aim is to bridge the gap by showing audiences the similarities Caribbean islands share culturally.

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Biopic chronicles career of Asian-American activist

“American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs”
Excellent (4 stars)
Unrated
Running time: 82 minutes
Distributor: First Pond Entertainment

By Kam Williams

Born on June 27, 1915, Grace Lee was raised in New York by modest immigrant parents from a humble Chinese background. Her mother couldn't read or write English, although her business-minded father did save up enough cash by 1924 to open up his own restaurant, Chin Lee's, on Broadway.

Meanwhile, Grace was a precocious wunderkind who entered Barnard College at just 16. And after graduating, she went on to earn a Ph.D. from Bryn Mawr in philosophy.

However, when she subsequently

attempted to pursue a professional career, prejudice reared its ugly head, as she found her horizons severely limited by the fact that she was Asian and female. She ended up moving to Chicago where she could barely make ends meet, eking out a living on \$10/ week as a librarian. As for housing, the best she could afford was a rat-infested basement apartment in the 'hood.

That experience help served to radicalize Grace who developed a lifelong empathy for the down-trodden. In the Midwest, she also met and married Jimmy Boggs an African-American activist from the South who shared her progressive political agenda.

The couple settled in Detroit where, as local civil rights leaders, they lobbied on behalf of the poor. In addition, they brought such black icons to speak there as Martin Luther King and Malcolm X. Even after Jimmy passed away, Grace has, for decades, remained resolutely committed to both The



Grace Lee Boggs and Grace Lee, filmmaker.

Photo by Quyen Tran

Movement and her adopted hometown.

All of the above is lovingly chronicled in *American Revolutionary*, a reverential biopic directed by Grace Lee (no relation). Though now nearly 99, the

incendiary centenarian remains as fiery as ever and has made precious few concessions to age.

The picture includes glowing tributes from fellow firebrands like Angela Davis and Bill Ayers. But what most makes the movie

worthwhile is merely watching Grace wax romantic about the good ole days while walking around the ruins of a devastated Motor City.

A cinematic primer on how to make a mark on the world.

Independent & Foreign Films

Boys of Abu Ghraib (R for torture, violence, sexuality and pervasive profanity) Unlikely-buddies drama about an American soldier (Luke Moran) stationed in Iraq who befriends a wrongly-accused, prison detainee (Omid Abtahi). With Sean Astin, Sara Paxton and John Heard.

Breathe In (R for profanity) Home-wrecker drama about a beautiful, British exchange student (Felicity Jones) whose arrival in the States proves problematic when she brings the head (Guy Pearce) of her host family to the brink of breaking his marriage vows. Cast includes Ben Shenkman, Amy Ryan and Kyle MacLachlan.

Cesar Chavez (PG-13 for profanity and violence) Reverential biopic pays tribute to the life of the soft-spoken, Chicano labor leader (Michael Pena) who dedicated his career to securing a living wage for migrant farm workers. Supporting cast includes John Malkovich, Rosario Dawson and America Ferrera.

Finding Vivian Maier (Unrated) Shutterbug retrospective showcasing the



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

100,000+ photos shot on the streets of Chicago by an unassuming nanny (1926-2009) who never even developed most of her negatives. Featuring Phil Donahue, Mary Ellen Mark and John Maloof.

Hide Your Smiling Faces (Unrated) Atmospheric coming-of-age tale, set in rural America, examining the effect of a friend's (Ivan Tomic) mysterious death on a couple of care-free young siblings (Ryan Jones and Nathan Varnson). With Colm O'Leary, Thomas Cruz and Christina Starbuck.

Jews of Egypt (Unrated) Middle East documentary retracing the 1956 exodus from Egypt of Jews due to escalating tensions in the region generated by the Arab-Israeli conflict. (In Arabic and French with subtitles)

Locker 13 (R for violence) Supernatural thriller revolving around the overnight

janitor (Jason Spisak) at an Old West theme park who finds himself facing a life or death decision after delving into the mysteries surrounding his locker. With Tatyana Ali, Ricky Schroder and Curtis Armstrong.

Nothing without You (Unrated) Crime thriller about a psychiatric patient (Emily Fradenburgh), accused of murder, who enlists the assistance of her court-appointed shrink (Keith McGill) to prove her innocence. Featuring Joshua Loren, Will Crawford and Kate Bringardner.

The Raid 2 (R for sexuality, profanity and pervasive graphic violence) Action-oriented sequel, set in Jakarta, finds detective Rama (Iko Uwais) now facing a gang of formidable thugs while trying to rid the police department of corruption. With Julie Estelle, Yayan Ruhian and Donny Alamsyah. (In Indonesian with subtitles)

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Celeste Santana, ACCESO TOTAL

“‘TRAINING DAY’ MEETS ‘END OF WATCH.’”
Mac Hernandez, CW33

“GREAT! PURE ACTION.”
Samantha Gutstadt, ASK MEN

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TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1 **Happy**
Pharrell Williams
- 2 **Dark Horse**
Katy Perry Featuring Juicy J ..
- 3 **Team**
Lorde
- 4 **All Of Me**
John Legend
- 5 **Pompeii**
Bastille
- 6 **Counting Stars**
OneRepublic
- 7 **Talk Dirty**
Jason Derulo Feat. 2 Chainz
- 8 **Drunk In Love**
Beyonce Featuring Jay Z
- 9 **Story Of My Life**
One Direction
- 10 **Best Day Of My Life**
American Authors

TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **Spring Break 6 ...**
Luke Bryan
- 2 **Lift Your Spirit**
Aloe Blacc
- 3 **Frozen**
Lea Michele
- 4 **Mastermind**
Rick Ross
- 5 **Stereolithic**
311
- 6 **Rise Of An Empire**
Young Money
- 7 **G I R L**
Pharrell Williams
- 8 **Pure Heroine**
Lorde
- 9 **Beyonce**
Beyonce
- 10 **Slow Me Down**
Sara Evans

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Bridging Jazz & Pop

Continued from page 39

called the album “supremely joyful music (as could be expected given the sources) and an absolute joy to the ear.” Alexander and this unique album were celebrated with a Grammy Award nomination in 2012.

The music of *Harlem-Kingston Express: Live!* was orchestrated by Alexander and his band spontaneously in live performance. “It’s like a train going through Kingston – [in] the ‘60s and ‘70s – up to Harlem,” he said in a 2011 interview with *The Jamaica Gleaner*. “I bring these two things together.”

According to Alexander, it was the desire to bring together his Jamaican and Jazz roots that inspired the project. “I feel American and I feel Jamaican, and the rhythms that come from the street and the country in America are just as meaningful to me as the vibrations that come from Jamaica,” he said in an artistic statement for the album. “It’s like my left hand and my right hand... If I want to do this music and pick from the whole palette, I’m... going to bring the two rhythm sections together.”

Joining Mr. Alexander on stage for his Brooklyn concert will be Hassan Shakur (acoustic bass),

Obed Calvaire (drums), Earl Appleton (electric keyboards), Andy Bassford (guitar), Joshua Thomas (electric bass) and Karl Wright (drums).

About Monty Alexander

In a career spanning five decades, Alexander has built a reputation exploring and bridging the worlds of American jazz, popular song, and the music of his native Jamaica, finding in each a sincere spirit of musical expression. In the process, he has performed and recorded with artists from every corner of the musical universe and entertainment world: Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Ray Brown, Dizzy Gillespie, Sonny Rollins, Clark Terry, Quincy Jones, Ernest Ranglin, Barbara Hendricks, Bill Cosby, Bobby McFerrin, Sly Dunbar, and Robbie Shakespeare, among others.

Born on D-Day (June 6, 1944) and raised in Kingston, Jamaica, Alexander took his first piano lessons at age six, although he is largely self-taught. As a teenager, he witnessed concerts by Louis Armstrong and Nat “King” Cole at Kingston’s Carib Theater. These artists had a profound effect on Alexander’s aspirations. He formed Monty and the Cyclones in the



Jamaican jazz pianist, Monty Alexander & Harlem Kingston Express perform on the Stravinski Hall stage at the 43rd Montreux Jazz Festival, in Montreux, Switzerland, Friday, July 10, 2009.

(AP Photo/Keystone/Jean-Christophe Bott)

late 1950s and also recorded on sessions with the musicians who would catapult Jamaican music to international recognition as The Skatalites (Bob Marley’s first backing band).

In a radio interview on NPR’s *All Things Considered*, Alexander talked about his youth. “When I left Jamaica for the first time in the early ‘60s, there was no such name [as reggae]. And they had just begun to label that other music ska, Jamaica ska, and I

was one of the musicians playing on those early recordings. I was about 15 years old.”

Alexander and his family moved to the United States at the end of 1961. Less than two years later, while playing in Las Vegas with Art Mooney’s orchestra, he caught the eye of New York City club owner Jilly Rizzo and his friend, Frank Sinatra. Rizzo hired the young pianist to work in his club, Jilly’s, where he accompanied Sinatra and others.



MC Bessie Edwards hosts Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams and Deputy Brooklyn Borough President Diana Reyna and Pr Director Bob Meyers.

Photo by Lem Peterkin

Bklyn Jazz

Continued from page 39

ophonist Rodney James will be recognized with the Jazz Impact; Jazz Shrine and Deacon Leroy Applin Young Lion awards respectively.

Central Brooklyn Jazz Consortium created a museum component in 2009 to archive the rich jazz tradition of this borough for future generations. Invited guests from the cultural industries, government, business and faith based institutions will honor the Brooklyn Jazz Hall of Fame class of 2014.

Entertainment will be provided by Greg Lewis “Organ Monk” featuring Reggie Woods.

ABOUT BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Founded in 1863, Brooklyn Historical Society is a nationally recognized urban history center dedicated to preserving and encouraging the study of Brooklyn’s extraordinary 400-year history. Located in Brooklyn Heights and housed in a magnificent landmark building designed by George Post that opened in 1881, today’s BHS is a cultural hub for civic dialogue, thoughtful engagement and community outreach.

Weekly Jazz Jam

Continued from page 39

lost along the way, and to pay tribute to Mama Salone”.

Cheik, Djiby and Aliou Guisse blend gentle northern Senegalese folk rhythms, gorgeous vocal harmonies and melodic guitar in their music.

While fueling discussion about just what African music is, Africa Now also illuminates a local scene, a world beat renaissance unfolding in Harlem. “Harlem is a city within a City” says Afromondo’s Alex Boicel a resident and music consultant. Nightly at venues such as The Shrine, Farafina Cafe, and Silvana, uptown ambiance and music that matches the neighborhood’s diversity of culture.

For French/Guadeloupean saxophonist Jaques Schwarz Bart, living in Harlem is a conscious choice. “Living here is symbolically meaningful. it’s the place that is the root of so much of the music that determines the course of my life.” His latest ‘Jazz Racine Haiti’ is a majestic blending of Haitian roots and jazz and features Ewol Josue, Bap-



Ashade Pierce, guitarist and vocalist will perform at Africa Now with his band on Saturday, April 5.

Photo by William Farrington

tiste Bonga, Etienne Charles and Stephanie McKay among others.

The Shrine on Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard opening in 2007 was the first to bill itself as a world music venue. It succeeds in being a popular bar restaurant and top notch music venue. Decorated in on any given night you will find music samba, a weekly jazz jam, local live acts and touring international artists. Its ever changing schedule is available at www.shrinenyc.com.



Caribbean Life

2014 CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HEALTHCARE AWARDS June 25, 2014 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

At a gala this June, Caribbean Life will present its first ever Healthcare Awards, recognizing Caribbean Americans' essential contributions as caregivers and practitioners in New York.

If you would like to nominate a Caribbean healthcare professional who has shown outstanding achievements in his or her field, fill out the form here and fax or mail it to us before **March 31, 2014**. You can also submit your nomination online at CaribbeanLifeNews.com/nominate. We will contact you before April 14, 2014 if your candidate is selected.

Nominate an Outstanding Caribbean American Healthcare Professional

Your name: (Please print clearly) _____

Name of nominee: _____

Nominee's country of origin: _____

Your relationship to nominee: _____

Nominee's occupation/profession: _____

Where does your nominee currently work? _____

How many years has your nominee been working in healthcare? _____

Previous awards or professional recognition (if any): _____

What makes your nominee outstanding? (100 words or less): _____

How can we reach you?
 Daytime phone _____ Cell phone _____ Home phone _____ Email _____

How can we reach your nominee?
 Daytime phone _____ Cell phone _____ Home phone _____ Email _____

Fax completed form to (718) 260-2579 Attn: Caribbean Life Healthcare Awards
 or Mail to: Caribbean Life
 Attn: Healthcare Awards
 One MetroTech Center North, 10th Floor
 Brooklyn, NY 11201

Online nomination submissions at
CaribbeanLifeNews.com/nominate.

SUN KULCHA

COMMUNITY EVENTS

FRI., MAR. 28

LOW-IMPACT ZUMBA: Join us for a dance-fitness class that's friendly and fun from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. It uses the Zumba formula, with modified moves and pacing for active older people and those just starting their journey to a fit and healthy lifestyle. Be sure to let your doctor know you'll be taking part in an exercise class. Each event is open to the public and is being held at 206-20 Linden Blvd. in Cambria Heights, Queens. RSVP: (646) 476-1294.

ASTHMA ZUMBA STYLE: This is a dance-fitness class that's lively and fun from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. It uses the Zumba formula, with modified moves and pacing for active older people and those with well-managed asthma. These simple movements are designed to strengthen upper body muscles and support lung functions. Be sure to let your doctor know you'll be taking part in an exercise class. Each event is open to the public and is being held at 206-20 Linden Boulevard in Cambria Heights, Queens. RSVP: (646) 476-1294.

SAT., MAR. 29

WINTER WORKOUT: Come to the Winter Workout at EmblemHealth Neighborhood Care! It doesn't take a genius to realize the consequences of inactivity and loads of unhealthy foods, so why not use your family as support in becoming a more fit and active unit! The workshop will include: Information on the importance of staying healthy as a family through health and nutrition and a family exercise class. We will have give-aways and light refreshments. Each event is open to the public and is being held at 206-20 Linden Blvd. in Cambria Heights, Queens. RSVP: (646) 476-1294.

MON., MAR. 31

LOW-IMPACT ZUMBA: Join us for a dance-fitness class that's friendly and fun 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. It uses the Zumba formula with modified moves and pacing for active older people and those just starting their journey to a fit and healthy lifestyle. Be sure to let your doctor know you'll be taking part in an exercise class. Each event is open to the public and is being held at 206-20 Linden Blvd. in Cambria Heights, Queens. RSVP: (646) 476-1294.

SITTING EXERCISE: Join us for a DVD workout that can improve your stability and balance and help you stay mobile 12:00 - 1:00 pm. It's designed to develop strength and enhance your ability to perform the activities of everyday life, making it perfect for seniors. This class can increase stamina, develop strength in upper and lower body, improve balance, use of hand weights is optional. Please let your doctor know you'll be taking part in an exercise class. Each event is open to the public and is being held at 206-20 Linden Blvd. in Cambria Heights, Queens. RSVP: (646) 476-1294.

ZUMBA FOR ASTHMATICS

MAR. 28: This is a dance-fitness class that's lively and fun from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. It uses the Zumba formula, with modified moves and pacing for active older people and those with well-managed asthma. Be sure to let your doctor know you'll be taking part in an exercise class. This event is free and open to the public and is being held at 206-20 Linden Blvd. in Cambria Heights, Queens. RSVP: (646) 476-1294.



SELF DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY CENTER: Are you looking to improve your life? Take a class at Community Learning Center: How to Write a Book or Script, Create a Resume, How to Create Wealth, Get/Keep a Spouse, Start a Business. Classes for everyone. Community Learning Center, 147-12 Archer Ave., Queens. For more information/RSVP, call (718) 291-1094.

SITTING EXERCISE

MAR. 31: Join us for a DVD workout that can improve your stability and balance and help you stay mobile from 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m. This event is free and open to the public and is being held at 206-20 Linden Blvd. in Cambria Heights, Queens. RSVP: (646) 476-1294.



SAT., APR. 5

BLUES PERFORMANCE: New York-based blues favorites Renee & The Derelicts perform classic and original blues, rock and soul tunes at popular featuring the vocals of the multitalented actress/playwright Renee Flemings, the band - Sal Carolei (blues harp), Paul Bauman (guitar) Jent LaPalm (bass) and Bernard Devlin (drums) at LURA Restaurant. Showtime at 9:00 p.m. No cover, great Mediterranean food and drink available. LURA Restaurant NYC on the upper West side (949 Columbus Ave).

Located between 106th & 107th Streets, LURA can be reached by taking the # 1, "B" or "C" subway to 103rd Street. For more information, call (212) 866-7500.

LEGAL SEMINAR: Join Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Delta Beta Zeta Chapter or our annual Violette Anderson Observance Dar legal seminar from 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. The topics include: wills, trusts & estates, family law, stop & frisk, consumer fraud identity theft and help for caregivers. Light refreshments will be served. Emblem Health Neighborhood Care Facility is located at 206-20 Linden Blvd., Cambria Heights, NY 11411.

ONGOING

FRI., JAN. 31 – SAT., MAR. 29, 2014

MIGRATION NARRATIVES: Pelham Art Center is pleased to announce a group exhibition of kinetic sculpture, installation, drawing, painting and video narratives by seven contemporary artists. There will be all age hands-on workshops from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Admission is free. This multi-media exhibition relates stories of individual transitions from one state of being to another. Independent Curator Lisa A. Banner is an art historian and visiting associate professor at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY.

THURS., MAR. 27-SAT., MAR. 29

PERFORMING ARTS: Amid a new hour-long dance piece by Suzanne Beahrs Dance is a vigorous representation of how a personal trial can take audiences on convoluted journeys through pain, love, fear, loss, joy, and resilience. The work of five women expresses how we understand and shape our own stories and is a celebration of the exquisite power in our broken, impermanent selves. Showtime 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 general / \$15 Danspace members and are available at danspaceproject.

org Danspace Project, located inside St. Mark's Church, 131 East 10th St., NYC 10003.

FRI., MAR. 21 - SUN., MAR. 30

PERFORMING ARTS: Pantomime is a fast-paced comedy, which gives audiences a non-stop romp through cliché, humour, drama, societal roles and most interestingly, self image, embraces several issues of racial and cultural equality, of colonial history and powerfully explores and deconstructs Caribbean identity as fabricated by the European colonizer. All performances are during the last two weekends in March. Please call (718) 783-8345 / info@caribbeantheatre.org for exact showtimes. General admission is \$25. Student/ senior \$15 for Sunday performances only. Actors Fund Arts Center, 160 Schermerhorn St., (between Hoyt & Smith streets), Brooklyn, NY 11201.

SAT., MAR. 29 - SUN., MAR. 30

PERFORMING ARTS: INTERMEZZO Dance Company, a new ballet company founded by American Ballet Theatre soloist Craig Salstein, will perform at Vassar College 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 30 at 2:00 p.m. at Kenyon Hall Frances Daly Fergusson Dance Theater. Tickets are free and can be reserved by emailing Dancetix@vassar.edu or calling Vassar College Dance (845) 437-5541. For more information visit <http://info.vassar.edu/calendar/2014/03/30/26020-73306.html>.

FLOOD RELIEF: Donations are being accepted at the Friends of Crown Heights Center located at 671 Prospect Place, Brooklyn. Donations will also be accepted by Mirtha Colon, a Garifuna from Honduras, who operates Honduras Against Aids out of Casa Yurumein in the Bronx. Casa Yurumein is located at 874 Prospect Ave. in the South Bronx, corner of Westchester Avenue. Checks and money orders are welcomed and should be made out to "SVG Community Inc." Anyone in the Long Island area who wishes to make a donation but cannot drive to Brooklyn, please call (347) 488-4395 to arrange a drop off or to arrange for Colon to pick up the donation. Items needed include medical supplies, non-perishable food, clothes, shoes, candles. Monetary donations can be made in the form of checks or money orders addressed to "SVG Community Inc."

PASSPORT APPLICATION CENTER: Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) launched a second Passport Application Center at the Kings Highway Library providing a convenient facility for Brooklyn residents and new immigrants to apply for passports. Hours are temporarily set for 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. from Monday through Friday and Sunday by appointment. The Center is currently closed on Saturdays until further notice. The library is located at 2115 Ocean Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11229. To make an appointment, call (718) 230-2292 or (718) 375-3037 ext. 128.

If you have an event you would like to post in Sun Kulcha, please email your submission to Caribbeanlife@cnglocal.com. All submissions are subject to a review by the editor.

Compiled by Natalie Y. Henry

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SPORTS

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Large turnout at Queens 1/2 marathon

By Robert Elkin

Dwight Grant recently entered into his first half marathon in Flushing Meadow Corona Park and even though he did not win it, he was satisfied with his performance.

In a field of 3500 entries mostly from the metropolitan tri-state area, Grant covered the course of the 2014 Michelob Ultra New York 13.1 miles in a net time of one hour 53 minutes 40 seconds (1:53.40) which earned him 481 place, for men and women combined.

Making his debut in this event on a cool morning for the running sport, the resident of Scarsdale in Westchester County, New York, turned in an 8:40. 20 pace for this distance.

Originally from Jamaica, West Indies, Grant hopes to return in 2015 for his second such 13.1-mile Queens event.

In the meantime, Grant wants to do 10 half marathons during this calendar year. Last Saturday marked his third half mara-

Continued on Page 48

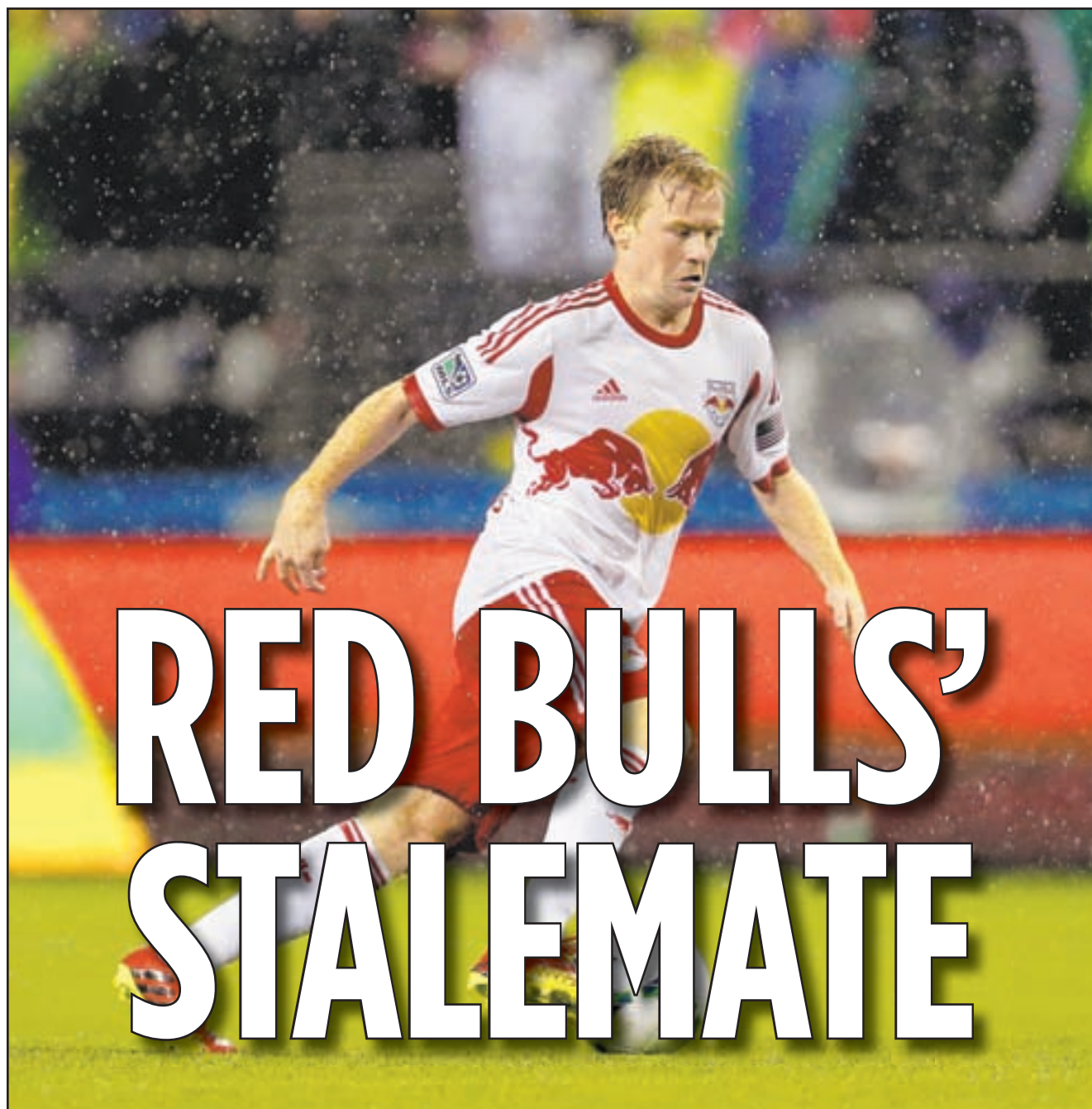
Foundation for retired cricketers

By Azad Ali

The West Indies Retired Players Foundation was recently launched with the commitment to providing opportunities for former players to be involved in development programs and assisting with welfare where applicable for former players who represented the Caribbean team at the international level.

The Foundation was the brainchild of West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) President Whycliffe "Dave" Cameron and was jointly formed by the WICB and the West

Continued on Page 48



New York Red Bulls' Dax McCarty dribbles the ball against the Seattle Sounders in the second half of an MLS soccer match in Seattle. AP Photo/Ted S. Warren; File

Still looking for a breakthrough

By Patrick Horne

The New York Red Bulls are still in search of their first win of the MLS season after three weeks and as many games, with a loss and two draws. At the Chicago Fire last Sunday, March 23, the Red Bulls (0-1-2, 2 pts.) came close to

getting that first victory on several occasions. The first attempt was Lloyd Sam's header in the first five minutes of play that crashed into the side of the net followed by near misses from forwards Tim Cahill and Thierry Henry and midfielder Eric Alexander.

Amid New York's early misses, Chicago fire's Jeff Larentowicz found the net to put the home team ahead from a header off a Harrison Shipp corner kick around the 6th minute. New York got its equalizer in the 21st minute in nearly the same

Continued on Page 48



Toronto FC's Jermain Defoe, right, kicks a goal ahead of the defense of Seattle Sounders' Djimi Traore, left, and DeAndre Yedlin, center, in the first half of an MLS soccer match on Saturday, March 15, 2014, in Seattle.

AP Photo/Ted S. Warren

Toronto reaps early MLS success

Continued from page 47

fashion when midfielder Dax McCarty pounced on a loose ball, kept alive by Cahill's aggressive play in the Fire goal area, and side-footed it into the net to tie the score at 1-1.

Crucial saves by goalkeepers Sean Johnson of the Fire and Luis Robles of the Red Bulls, along with the continued misses, meant that two goals was all the teams could muster; the close calls continued even to the last minute of play when Henry's corner kick was heading for the goal before it was swatted to safety.

The Red Bulls' first win could come Sunday in their second home game of the season at Red Bull Arena, versus Chivas USA. Coach Mike Petke should be encouraged to start with Cahill and Henry on the front line, the positive factor that helped to create the early chances in Chicago last week. With Cahill and Henry, the team's most dependable scorers, play-

ing as close to the opponent's goal as possible for as long as possible, the Red Bulls' chances of scoring are increased tremendously. In addition to the increased cracks at goal, the pair attracts the attention of opposing defenders and encourage fouls close to the opponent's goal, which lead to free kicks and penalties; having the pair playing very forward also helps to create opportunities for the midfielders playing just behind the pair.

Defensively, a backline anchored by Ibrahim Sekagya and Jamison Olave seems the best pairing at this position. Sekagya in particular is a very good distributor of the ball and displayed this with very precise long passes to midfielders and forwards; this makes the Red Bulls a more effective counterattacking team. Sunday's game kicks off at 4:00 p.m.

DEFOE SCORES AGAIN

Toronto FC (2-0) is off to its best MLS start in its

eight-year history with two wins in as many games, thanks to England international Jermain Defoe, who scored three goals in the two games. Last Saturday's second victory was against winless DC United (0-2) in Toronto's home opener at BMO Field. The England international was in the right position when Brazilian striker Gilberto's shot rebounded to him after DC United goalkeeper Bill Hamid made the save but parried the ball into Defoe's path; the former Tottenham player made sure that the ball settled in the back of the net at the 60th minute for the only score of the game. Defoe had scored both goals in the team's 2-1 win in its season opener a week ago in Seattle.

The Toronto experiment seems to be working; the team spent millions of dollars to bring in Defoe, U.S. international Michael Bradley, Brazilian goal keeper Julio Cesar and striker Gilberto and to re-purchase the rights to Canadian

international Dwayne De Rosario. The new stars were teamed with captain Steven Caldwell and up-and-coming Canadian star 21-year-old Osorio to form a much improved team this season.

Amidst the early success, Toronto FC coach Ryan Nelsen cautions: "I think we still have a long way to go as a team," he said. "We'll play better than that probably and lose games."

MLS

In other MLS games last weekend, Vicente Sanchez (73rd minute) and Deshorn Brown (75th) scored to give the Colorado Rapids (1-0-1, 3 pts.) a 2-0 win over the Portland Timbers (0-1-2, 2 pts.) for its first win of the season and the first for new coach Pablo Mastroeni. Fabian Castillo (71st), Je-Vaughn Watson (78th) and Michel (86th) scored to lead FC Dallas (2-0-1, 7 pts.) to a 3-1 defeat of Chivas USA (1-1-1, 3 pts.). Erick Torres (81st) scored to lone goal for Chivas. FC Dallas remains undefeated.

Queens marathon

Continued from page 47
thon for the year. His next half marathon will be one in Newburgh, New York.

After it seemed that he felt good for the first nine miles of the race, he cramped up.

"My goal coming into the race was to go under two hours," he said. "That's what I wanted to do. I liked everything about the race. It was a mixture of (all types of) people. Everybody was pulling for everybody and having fun. The race was well organized and it wasn't on a tough course."

Grant attended Gyskill High School in his native land of Jamaica, West Indies, where he did not do any competitive running except with only some friends. I (also) played some soccer with my high school team. I grew up playing soccer for some six years and then quit and played some cricket. I love cricket, but haven't played it for some years."

Now Grant has been training for a couple of years on the track at SUNY (State University of New York) at Purchase College. He trains through out the winter. When he isn't at Purchase, he would train at Rockefeller Hills.

"Jamaica is a nice atmosphere with nice people to live with," he

went on. "Come check out Jamaica. One would love it there. When a person goes to or visits Jamaica, he or she would love it there."

Meanwhile, Roger Rau of Stony Brook, Long Island, went out fast in what he termed a great race, never looked back and coasted to a 1:17.16 victory in the race, one place ahead of Jeffrey Meyers of Northfield, Ohio, who was timed in 1:19.50. The initial female to cross the finish line within the park was Christine Kenney, whose 1:25.30 earned her 14th place.

"It was a great race and we had good volunteers," the 32-year-old Rau said. "But it was windy and cold in my first time here. I got another marathon in five weeks."

The director of the event once again was Jake LaSala.

Prior to this race at the same site also across the street from where the New York Mets contest their home games, Citi Field, Juan Horiuchi captured the 5K or 2.5 mile event in a time of 20:06 in a field of about 200 entries.

In this race, Chris Smith of Jamaica, New York was satisfied with his performance. His father hails from Jamaica, West Indies, where his sport was soccer.

WICB

Continued from page 47

Indies Players Association (WIPA). The Foundation will operate as an autonomous body.

Part of the program of the West Indies Retired Players Foundation is to provide better health care and living conditions for past players.

The intention is also to facilitate mentorship for young, aspiring players as well as appearance in the Caribbean, among the diaspora in the United States and in the wider global cricket community.

The gala event, which was held in Barbados was

also used to celebrate the illustrious career of Sir Garfield Sobers – the greatest all-rounder of all time. The 77-year-old made his Test debut about 60 years ago against England at Sabina Park, Jamaica.

Several other West Indian greats including Sir Vivian Richards, Sir Richard Richardson, Seymour Nurse, Charlie Griffith, Joel Garner and Jeffrey Dujon also attended the event.

West Indies cricket joined the ranks of international teams in 1928 – when the first Test match was played – and since then 297 cricketers have played Tests; 167 caps in One-Day Internationals and 61 caps in Twenty20 Internationals.



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West Indies players must improve quickly!

West Indies cricket is in dire need of a boost. Players must adopt a more serious approach to the game. . Apart from the efforts the West Indies Cricket Board and the selectors are making to improve their performance, players must be cognizant of their responsibility to perform at their best. Some players are very talented, yet fail to perform with the consistency required to give West Indies team e needed victories during the big tournaments.

Players such as Dwayne Smith, Dwayne Bravo and Marlon Samuels should be contributing more to the West Indies' effort to retain the Twenty20 International Cricket crown. Smith has been in the West Indies squad long enough to know what his role should be as an opening batsman. There should be no excuses for his lackluster performance.

Dwayne bravo and Lendl Simmons have vital roles to play



Eyes on Cricket

By George H. Whyte

Middle-order batsmen Dwayne Bravo and Lendl Simmons are the main architects for solidifying West Indies' efforts in the event of an early batting-order collapse. They are two of the more-experienced players on the international cricket stage with a wealth of knowledge and in good condition. All players need to step up their game in order to boost the efforts of the West Indies team.

Sunil Narine and Samuel Badree have been recognized internationally; now more bowlers are needed to step forward and perform in an outstanding manner as well. The injury to fast bowler Kemar Roach is hurting the team, thus putting more pressure on the spinners. Until and after Roach recovers, West Indies should have

in place a well-equipped bowling entourage in place..

Why is Chris Gayle not bowling?

Former West Indies Test captain and opening batsman Chris Gayle is a spinner with the ability to take wickets and sometimes keeps batsmen from making many runs.

Dwayne Bravo and Darren Sammy have not given the ball to Gayle in the One-Day Internationals nor Tests. When the regular bowlers need a deserve rest, it is normal to go to a player who can throw his arm around.

Australia, under the captaincy of Michael Clarke, used opening batsman David Warner for a few overs against South Africa. Using bowlers for short spells show that they can be very effective in Test



West Indies' batsman Dwayne Bravo plays a shot during their ICC Twenty20 Cricket World Cup warm up match against Sri Lanka in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Wednesday, March 19, 2014.

AP Photo/Aijaz Rahi

cricket. Mitchell Johnson was very successful in South Africa, bowling at an average of 140 mph in that series.

West Indies Test Captain Darren Sammy lacks the expertise and the skills to lead the Test squad. West

Indies selectors ought to pick a new Test captain and start all over again. Denesh Ramdin should be appointed as the West Indies new Test captain. Many West Indies cricketers seem to have a lack of understanding of how to

approach One-Day International cricket, which is different from the Twenty20 game. The approach to the ODI format has to be different. West Indies are no longer doing well in the ODI arena for this simple reason.

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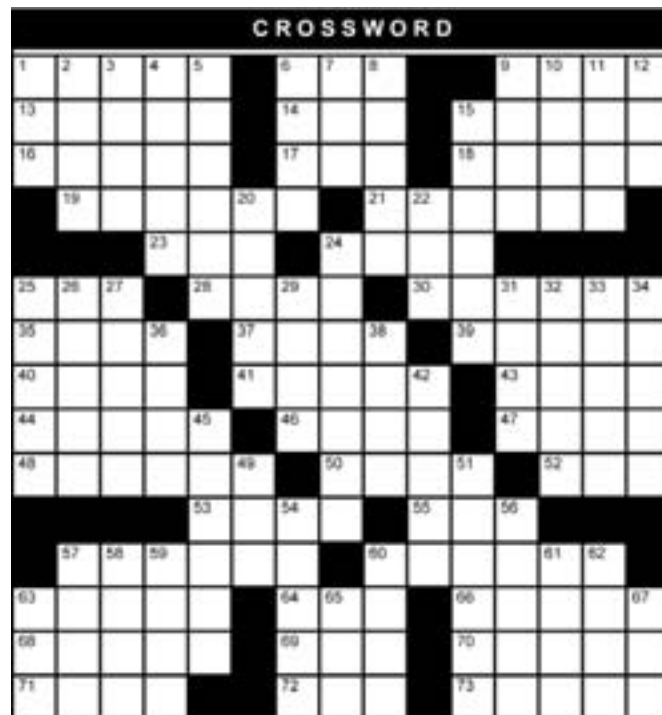
1. Wanderer
6. Equinox mo.
9. *Healing sign or picket line crosser
13. Rossini's offering
14. Big-headedness
15. Wilderness Road trailblazer
16. Show opposition
17. "High" drink
18. What Pinocchio was doing?
19. *To alter or coins
21. *Shape where A=a≤ or town gathering place
23. Romanian money
24. Small ornamental case
25. Make lacework
28. Applies makeup, e.g.
30. In R.E.M. stage
35. *Regrets or streets in Paris
37. Giant kettles
39. What helicopter parents do
40. Eurasian mountain range
41. Anemic-looking
43. Delhi dress
44. _____ congestion
46. Arid
47. Children's author _____ Blyton
48. "Not my brother's _____"
50. Small mountain lake
52. *Seat of a bishop or to regu-

- arly date
53. London subway
55. Variable, abbr.
57. Follows teeter
60. *Far away or couch potato's controller
63. Star bursts
64. *To take drugs or to employ for a purpose
66. Nail salon board
68. *Where happy person walks or Jimmy Fallon works
69. Definite article
70. Rental agreement
71. *Good or water source
72. Long fish
73. Yesteryears

DOWN

1. Affirmative action
2. Oil group
3. "Breaking Bad" product
4. "He's _____ nowhere man" (The Beatles)
5. Repaired by stitching
6. Dole
7. Sensitive subject?
8. _____ beef
9. Miso bean
10. Coconut fiber
11. "Green Gables" girl
12. "Don't make me ____!"

15. Resembling ocean's color
20. Jelly fruit
22. In so far as
24. Another spelling for aesthete
25. *Elephant's appendage or luggage
26. Saints' lights
27. Badger and bug
29. *Fish or Chaliapin's voice
31. Fail to win
32. Famous restaurateur Bob
33. Bone-chilling
34. *Deadly sin or pack of lions
36. Lover's blow?
38. Evening in Italy
42. *Audacity or bundle of axons
45. *Infamous scarlet symbol or word from home
49. Part of Parisian address
51. That is to say
54. Beastly person
56. Young Montague
57. Voice quality
58. Like West Wing's office
59. *One side of a coin or a spy
60. *Spool of film or lively dance
61. *Product of laceration or a rip
62. Gaelic
63. Right away
65. Mother, sister or daughter
67. Word for a nod



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Aries, despite a full workload, you are already looking ahead to some much-needed rest and relaxation. Focus on what's on your plate at the moment.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, your personal life follows you to work this week. You can often compartmentalize things, but you are finding it difficult to do that this week.

GEMINI: May 22/ Jun 21
Gemini, information that may alter your future plans is brought to your attention this week. It is not necessarily bad news, but you will need to alter your plans a little.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, financial responsibilities must be a priority this week. Now is the time to make important financial decisions that you have been putting off for several weeks.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
Your feelings are transparent this week, Leo. You can't hide much from others, especially your romantic feelings. The person you admire will soon learn of your feelings.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, a lot of drama is going on behind the scenes this week. How much you get involved is entirely up to you. Just be prepared for the consequences.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, you might have to set your personal needs aside this week in order to help a friend out of a difficult situation. You are ready to provide any assistance you can.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Responsibility comes naturally to you, Scorpio. However, sometimes you just have to let loose and show off how you are feeling. Others will have a new appreciation for you.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
You are on the brink of a breakthrough, Sagittarius. You just don't know when it is coming. Be patient and you will be pleasantly surprised with events that unfold.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
A serious issue arises this week, Capricorn. You may have avoided addressing this issue in the past, but there is no putting it off now. Approach the issue with an open mind.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
When an associate presents a problem, you are the perfect one to present a solution, Aquarius. Make the most of this opportunity and others will appreciate your efforts.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
Responsibilities at work may be a bit overwhelming, Pisces. You are held to a higher standard than others, and now is the time to show why.

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Employment Pgs 54-56



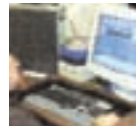
- Sales Help Wanted
- Medical Help Wanted
- General Help Wanted
- And More

Business Opps Pg 56



- Financing / Loans
- Business For Sale
- Misc. Business Opps
- And More

Instruction Pgs 55-58



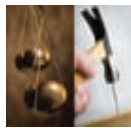
- **Career Training**
- Education Services
- Tutoring
- And More

Merchandise Pg 56



- Garage / Yard Sales
- Merchandise Wanted
- Merchandise For Sale
- And More

Here's My Card Pgs 59-61



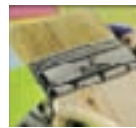
- Professional, Commercial And Residential Services
- Attorneys
- Home Improvement
- Moving & Storage

Real Estate Pgs 61-62



- Rentals
- Properties For Sale
- Open Houses
- Commercial RE
- And More

Services Pg 62



- Beauty Care
- Handymen
- Home Improvement
- And More

Automotive Pg 62



- Autos For Sale
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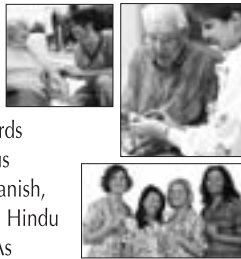
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NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS JPMorgan Chase Bank, NA, Plaintiff, against Mohanlal Singh a/k/a Mohanlal Singh; et al., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated December 18, 2013 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201 on May 1, 2014 at 2:30PM, premises known as 93 Williams

► **LEGAL**

Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11207 All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of NY, Block 3683 Lot 3. Approximate amount of judgment \$498,605.98 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 27628/2009. Jaime Lathrop, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak,

► **LEGAL**

LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard, Rochester, NY 14624 (877) 759-1835 Dated: March 24, 2014 1087533 3/28, 4/4, 4/11, 04/18/2014

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT: KINGS COUNTY: HSBC BANK USA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE HOLDERS OF DEUTSCHE ALT-A SECURITIES MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST, SERIES 2007-AR3 MORTGAGE

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PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, Pltf. vs. YADIEL BEN-LEVI, et al, Defts. Index #13702/2008. Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale dated Dec. 18, 2013, I will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams St., Brooklyn, NY on Apr. 24, 2014 at 2:30 p.m. prem. k/a 13 Patchen Ave., Brooklyn, NY a/k/a Block 1613, Lot 3. Approx. amt. of judgment is \$689,387.23 plus costs and interest. Sold

► **LEGAL**

subject to terms and conditions of filed judgment and terms of sale. BLAISE F. PARASCANDOLA, Referee. FRENKEL, LAMBERT, WEISS, WEISMAN & GORDON, Attys. For Pltf., 53 Gibson St., Bay Shore, NY. File No. 28001 - #83830

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS, LLC, Plaintiff against DOUGLAS WILSON, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment

► **LEGAL**

of Foreclosure and Sale entered on September 16, 2013. I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Courthouse, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. on the 10th day of April, 2014 at 2:30 p.m. Said premises known as 795 East 39th Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11210. Tax account number: SBL #: 4986-69. Approximate amount of lien \$ 622,448.23 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provi-

► **LEGAL**

sions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 2316-08. Blaise Parascandola, Esq., Referee. McCabe Weisberg & Conway Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 145 Huguenot Street - Suite 210 New Rochelle, New York 10801 (914) 636-8900



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