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French President Francois Hollande, right, speaks with United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon as they attend "The Climate Challenge and African solutions" event during the COP21, the United Nations Climate Change Conference, in Le Bourget, north of Paris, Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2015. Associated Press / Philippe Wojazer, Pool

# CARICOM PAYS THE PRICE

## First woman elected to head the Commonwealth

By Bert Wilkinson

In the past week, the Caribbean Community group of nations learned a cruel lesson about disunity in its ranks when leaders of the Commonwealth grouping of more than 50 former British colonies met in Europe to elect a new head of the sometimes moribund club of nations.

For all intents and purposes, it was the Caribbean's turn to provide an executive leader or chief executive for the London-based Commonwealth Secretariat but there were troubling signs from the beginning.

Well ahead of last week's vote on Malta, an island off Italy, Antigua had proposed the candidacy of Guyana-born Sir Ronald

Sanders but support for him was so lukewarm that he initially withdrew his name from consideration.

Sanders, a respected radio broadcaster before he left his native Guyana more than 30 years ago, has lived in Antigua for decades and has even served as its ambassador to London on two separate occasions. In recent years, he has become a prolific writer on a range of regional issues and is well known in the region.

But while the region dithered about whether to support a single candidate, Trinidad added to the confusion by nominating respected academic, Professor Bho Tewarie but he disap-

Continued on Page 6

## Climate resilience in the Caribbean

By Nelson A. King

The United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and 13 agencies of the UN system have launched a new initiative to build climate resilience in the world's most vulnerable

countries, including those in the Caribbean.

On the opening day, Monday, of the United Nations climate change conference (COP21) in Paris, many announcements were made by governments

and leaders of the public and private sectors, all aiming to generate climate solutions and build a sustainable future.

"Three out of four humanitarian disasters are now cli-

Continued on Page 6

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Brooklyn District Attorney Ken Thompson. Associated Press / Bebetto Matthews

## Brooklyn DA will buy back illegal guns

By Vinette K. Pryce

Brooklyn District Attorney Ken Thompson is offering \$200 deals to anyone who owns a gun and wants to be rid of it. The lawmaker is also offering an assurance that if that weapon is an illegal firearm he will not ask any questions.

How's that for a deal?

DA Thompson said that about 90 percent of the guns recovered in crimes in Brooklyn were traced back to the South.

The first Black DA to actually execute a Brooklyn Buy-Back Gun program will turn up incentives to lessening the proliferation of guns in New York City by providing a sanctuary with amnesty to help rid the city of illegal weapons.

The Lenox Road Baptist Church is the sanctuary on Dec. 5 for an all-day no questions asked buy-back gun program.

Sellers need not show identification.

No questions will be asked means just that.

This is the first time since he first took office last year and became the first-elected Black to win the coveted crime-fighting position that the safety measure has been implemented.

He adopted the initiative which his predecessor DA Joe Hynes tested and with colleagues in every borough proved to be a virtual harpoon for retrieving illegal firearms.

"Each gun taken off the street is a gun that no longer has the potential to be used to kill," Ray Kelly, former NYPD Commissioner said.

The program, which was started in 2008, offers a maximum \$200 reward for handguns or assault weapons, and \$20 for most other guns.

During the initial trials, Manhattan DA Robert Morgenthau hauled caches in Harlem and other high pri-

Continued on Page 32

# Adams honors over 40 Brooklyn detectives

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams on Thursday recognized more than 40 detectives from police precincts across the borough at an awards ceremony in the courtroom of Brooklyn Borough Hall.

Joined by their families, honored detectives were cited for outstanding work they have performed as part of their duties, including past and present cases that in total have resulted in thousands of arrests.

Adams — joined by members of New York Police Department (NYPD) leadership and Con Edison, which joined him in co-sponsoring the ceremony — highlighted the vital role that detectives play in ensuring Brooklyn's public safety.

"Detective work is more than 'Law and Order'-like glamour; it is a difficult pursuit of criminals that closes cases and brings closure for communities impacted by crime," Adams said. "As a veteran of New York's Finest, I salute all of Brooklyn's detectives and express gratitude, on behalf of all Brooklynites, for the sacrifices they and their families make every day to make our borough a safer place to raise healthy children and families."

Assistant Chief Patrick Conry, commander of Detective Borough Command Brooklyn, said he was "extremely grateful to Borough President Adams for recognizing these dedicated detectives who went beyond their call of duty to investigate serious crimes in the borough of Brooklyn and continue to keep it safe."



Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams recognized more than 40 detectives from police precincts across the borough at an awards ceremony in the courtroom of Brooklyn Borough Hall. Brooklyn BP's Office / Stefan Ringel

"Con Edison is relied upon for powering the city, detectives are relied upon for providing justice for the city, and our commonality is providing security for Brooklynites and New Yorkers," said William Washington, general manager for electric operations at Con Edison.

Brooklyn South detective honorees were: Brian Ramos of the 60th Precinct in Coney Island; Sherwin Ifill of the 61st Precinct in Sheepshead Bay; Michael O'Halloran of the 62nd Precinct in Bensonhurst; Louis Pepe and Daniel Young of the 63rd Precinct in Flatlands; Anthony Carreira and James Dawson of the 66th Precinct in Bor-

ough Park; Carl McLaughlin of the 67th Precinct in East Flatbush; James Hemmer of the 68th Precinct in Bay Ridge; Sandra Richard of the 69th Precinct in Canarsie; and Brian Lukowsky of the 70th Precinct in Kensington.

Others were: Frank Miceli of the 71st Precinct in Crown Heights; John Burchette of the 72nd Precinct in Greenwood Heights; Daniel Bonilla and Edwin Cesario of the 76th Precinct in Carroll Gardens; Michael Furia of the 78th Precinct in Prospect Heights; and Michael Gaynor, James Normile and Lorraine Winters of the Brooklyn South

Continued on Page 32

## US hails Barbados on independence anniversary

By Nelson A. King

The United States has extended congratulations to the citizens of Barbados as they observe their 49th anniversary of independence on Monday.

On behalf of President Barack Obama and the people of the United States, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said that, as Barbadians "proudly play your anthem, 'In Plenty and In Time of Need,' know that we celebrate alongside you.

"The United States deeply values its friendship with Barbados based on our strong ties of commerce, security cooperation, people-to-people contacts and culture," he said in a statement.

"We are pleased to work with you both bilaterally and through regional arrangements to promote prosperity, protect the safety of our populations, diversify energy infrastructure, and increase educational



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry. Associated Press / Jacquelyn Martin, Pool

and professional exchanges," he added.

"I am confident that, in years to come, relations between our governments and our peoples will continue to thrive," Kerry continued. "Congratulations once

again on this special day."

The Barbados Independence Act 1966 was an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom that granted independence to Barbados, effective Nov. 30, 1966.

Barbados thus became the fourth English-speaking country in the West Indies to achieve full independence from the United Kingdom, behind Jamaica; Trinidad and Tobago; and the then British Guiana, renamed Guyana.

On Monday, the independence celebrations mark the beginning of nation-wide celebrations for the country's 50th anniversary.

Under the theme, "Our Pride, the Broken Trident," a commemorative broken trident will tour the island's 11 parishes in a year-long journey that begins Tuesday and ends on Nov. 29, 2016, according to

Continued on Page 32

### Antigua

The Antigua and Barbuda government plans to phase out the current passport and to implement legislation to tighten border security amidst several deadly attacks in several countries recently.

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Trade Charles "Max" Fernandez said these changes are to come in the near future.

He said the new passport will have a chip in it which makes it more difficult to forge and at the same time it will have a lot more security features.

The minister said Cabinet is in the processing of finalizing between two companies that have bids on it and once the process is complete 'we will be looking at the middle of next year when we will start to see changes.'

He said although phasing out of the current document will be costly it is a necessity, adding that it is too early in the process to determine whether the new passport will cost more than the current document, which costs \$60.

Fernandez said with regards to the new legislation to protect the border, work has already started towards stepping up in the area of Advance Passenger Information System (APIS).

Additionally, he said, it is anticipated that the e-visa system, which was to be implemented at the start of November, will be ready for use very shortly.

### Bahamas

The Bahamas government is providing trailer homes as temporary shelter for some of the Bahamians who were displaced after Hurricane Joaquin ripped through the Central and Southeast Bahamas in October.

And it is also offering tax exemptions on goods for recovery and rebuilding. The first batch of temporary housing has been assigned to Crooked Island and Acklins Island, which were severely affected by the Category 4 hurricane.

The trailers are re-outfitted with living quarters, bathrooms, kitchen, television and air-condition units.

Assistant Secretary of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Chrystal Grinton said the residents would be housed in the trailer homes until their own homes could be repaired or replaced during the reconstruction phase.

The finance minister has also waived Landing Fees, Departure Tax for non-commercial flights bringing in relief goods and Customs Processing fees on imports in those islands affected by the hurricane.



## Dominica proposes health system

Bolivia's President Evo Morales, left, speaks with Dominica's Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerit, right, as Grenada's Prime Minister Keith Mitchell stands behind as they gather for a group photo at the start of an emergency ALBA meeting at Miraflores presidential palace in Caracas, Venezuela, Tuesday, March 17, 2015.

Associated Press / Ariana Cubillos, File

The list of approved duty-free goods includes building materials, plumbing fixtures and material, household furnishings and appliances.

### Barbados

The Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) has approved a US\$25 loan, which will be used to rehabilitate sections of two major highways to lower transport costs and improve road safety.

The IDB loan will finance rehabilitation and improvement of approximately 31 kilometers of key segments of Barbados' primary road network, including drainage, construction of sidewalks, rehabilitation of associated bridges and culverts and safety features.

It will also contribute to the strengthening of transport sector governance through capacity building within Barbados' Ministry of Transport and Works (MTW) in transport planning and asset management, maintenance financing, technical standards for quality control and assurance gender parity and road safety.

The project will also provide funds for institutional strengthening to improve transport sector planning, road maintenance financing, civil works project implementation and supervision.



### Dominica

Dominica Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerit has called for the establishment of a health scheme among Eastern Caribbean states to ease the financial burden of Chronic Non Communicable Diseases (CNCDS).

Skerit told his regional counterparts at a meeting in Roseau that diseases such as diabetes and hypertension were a major threat to regional economies and it was time for countries to pool their resources.

"For a population of 600,000 people it is an ideal constituency for that kind of consideration because too many citizens are finding it difficult to finance health care," he said, adding "that many people do not have insurance or the funds to finance their health care."

"I am hoping that we can advance the discussions with regard to a regional health insurance program," Skerit added.

The two-day 62nd Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Authority Meeting ended recently.

### Guyana

The Guyana government has announced that the long-delayed local government elections will be held on March 18 next year.

The last local government election was held in 1994 when the now opposi-

tion People's Progressive Party (PPP) won the polls.

Communities Minister Ronald Bulkan said that the democratic renewal of local government organs is long overdue.

"Elections are important because they are a democratic constitutional right. They are essential because the entire local government system in currently rotten and must be rehabilitated and made fully functional," he said, adding that "local government is about handing decision-making power to the people to enable them to efficiently and effectively manage their communities".

Bulkan said local governments are mandated by law to provide many essential services, such as improving the living conditions, creating jobs in the various local areas, maintaining roads, bridges, garbage collection, cleaning drains, promoting a healthy environment and encouraging citizen involvement in their communities.

### Grenada

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved US\$2.7 million after the completion of the review which enables the disbursement of the fund, bringing resources made available to Grenada under the arrangement to the

Continued on Page 22



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# Commonwealth election

Continued from cover

peared only after the administration of Prime Minister Kamla Persad Bissessar lost general elections in September and incoming officials indicated that he was a no go for the new government.

While Antigua pleaded for support for Sir Ronald who eventually threw his hat back in the ring, tiny Dominica showed its hand by nominating and lobbying strongly for a daughter of its soil, Baroness Patricia Scotland, the eventual winner.

The problem is that Scotland, 60, while actually being born on the island, had left with her parents at age two, grew up in England and eventually became a member of parliament, even its attorney general.

For countries which supported Sanders's candidacy, she was not Caribbean enough and regarded more as British peerage, having served in a labor government cabinet and not maintaining strong enough links to the region. That was how they saw her.

But the administration of Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit held fast and campaigned widely for the Baroness while support from Sanders' own native region wavered.

So when the vote was taken in Malta last week, Sanders never stood a chance, especially so because many of the coun-



Newly elected Secretary-general of the Commonwealth, Baroness Patricia Scotland poses for a photo during an interview with The Associate Press in St. Julians, Saturday, Nov. 28, 2015.

Associated Press / Alessandra Tarantino

tries in Europe and Africa were well aware that he had not even had the support of the majority of his own region. He lost heavily in the first round of voting, forcing Antigua to withdraw his name and ironically switch loyalties to the Baroness whose Caribbean credentials they had questioned over the months.

Sanders was also coming up against a mood in Malta that there was absolutely nothing wrong with electing the first woman to head the Commonwealth. Leaders did just that.

# Tackling climate change

Continued from cover

mate-related," Ban told delegates attending a high-level meeting on climate resilience at the Paris-Le Bourget site, COP21's main venue.

"Economic losses have increased by more than half over the past decade. Ecosystems, and food and water supplies are under increasing pressure. The hardest hit are the poor and vulnerable — including small farmers, fishing communities and indigenous peoples," warned the UN chief.

According to the UN, the new initiative — called "Anticipate, Absorb, Reshape" — will strengthen the ability of countries to anticipate hazards, absorb shocks, and reshape development to reduce climate risks.

It is expected to help address the needs of the nearly 634 million people, or a tenth of the global population who live in at-risk coastal areas just a few meters above existing sea levels, as well as those living in areas at risk of droughts and floods.

The UN said the world is now experiencing a strong El Niño event, which could place as many as 4.7 million people at risk from drought in the Pacific alone.

Over the next five years, the UN said the initiative is set to mobilize financing and knowledge; create and operationalize partnerships at scale, help coordinate activities to help reach tangible

results, catalyze research, and develop new tools.

Other developments at the opening of COP21 included a pledge by 11 donor countries of close to US\$250 million dollars in new money for adaptation support to the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), a climate fund hosted by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

"I have seen for myself how people from across the developing world are leading the way to climate solutions," said Mary Robinson, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Climate Change.

"But the scale and international nature of climate change requires an unprecedented level of international solidarity and support. So today's announcement should be seen in that context: they are not just about dollars and cents and accounting. They are about supporting millions of people across the world," she added.

Meanwhile, a new Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform Communiqué was presented to Christiana Figueres, the Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), by the New Zealand Prime Minister John Key.

The communiqué calls on the international community to increase efforts to phase out perverse subsidies to fossil fuels by promoting policy transparency, ambitious reform and targeted support for the poorest.



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This combo shows, from left, Guyanese Abdul Kadir, countryman Abdel Nur and Trinidadian Kareem Ibrahim upon their arrival to the Magistrates' Court in downtown Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, in this Aug. 6, 2007 file photos. Associated Press / Andres Leighton

# Trinidad & Tobago takes action against JFK bomb plotter

By Azad Ali

The Trinidad and Tobago government is moving to deem a Trinidadian convicted in the United States a terrorist and obtain an order to freeze his assets and any transaction done on his behalf.

The Office of the Attorney General is taking the unprecedented action against convicted JFK bomb plotter Kareem Ibrahim, which is being perused

under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

The action has been filed by attorneys representing the Office of the Attorney General in the High Court last week.

The application comes on the heels of numerous reports of Trinidadians involvement with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and calls for action to be taken against foreign terrorist fighters in the wake of the recent ISIS attack in Paris.

Ibrahim, 68, was convicted on May 26, 2011 of conspiracy to launch a terrorist attack at the JFK International Airport in Queens, New York, 2007. He was sentenced to life imprisonment.

He and Guyanese nationals — Russell Defreitas and Abdul Kadir — were accused of plotting to explode fuels tanks and the fuel pipeline under the airport.

# Caribbean hotels unite for Dominica, raises US\$51,000

By Nelson A. King

The Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) and the Dominica Hotel and Tourism Association (DHTA) recently spearheaded "Caribbean Hotels Unite for Dominica," a joint fundraising initiative and online auction, raising US\$51,000 in an effort to bring financial aid to the people of Dominica.

In August, Tropical Storm Erika unleashed 12 inches of rain on the island causing extensive flooding, loss of life and more than US\$200 million in damage.

"Caribbean Hotels Unite for Dominica," conceived by CHTA acting president and president-elect Karolin Troubetzkoy, featured 57 Caribbean vacation packages on charitybuzz.com, an online charity auction platform with a global reach of 125,000-plus registered bidders in 109

countries.

CHTA said the just-completed auction raised more than US\$51,000, which was deposited into a designated DHTA account.

The funds will be distributed in Dominica under guidelines created by a joint CHTA/DHTA committee, CHTA said.

"It was both humbling and heart-warming to see how quickly and enthusiastically Caribbean hoteliers responded to this assistance campaign further reiterating we are, in fact, one Caribbean, and can rely on each other in times of need," said Troubetzkoy.

CHTA is a federation of 32 national hotel associations, with more than 600 member hotels and more than 300 allied members.

CHTA said it is the largest representative of the private sector in the Caribbean hotel and tourism industry.

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# Paid family leave is a win-win for New York

By Peter Strugatz

A bill that would provide paid family leave insurance has been gaining momentum in Albany. It's about time.

The United States is the only developed nation that doesn't provide any paid time off for workers with a new baby or a seriously ill family member. While the federal Family and Medical Act (FMLA), signed into law 21 years ago, has been successful, it guarantees only unpaid leave and applies only to businesses with over 50 employees. President Obama announced a new executive order on paid sick days in September, but that only applies to federal contractors. Companies like Netflix, Adobe, and Microsoft have made headlines for their paid leave policies, but that's only a step in the right direction.

My company Strugatz Ventures helps mission-driven entrepreneurs and investors seeking to scale their businesses and achieve maximum impact and revenue potential. With a history of impact investing and social entrepreneurship, we know that attracting and retaining the best employees is easier when they know that their family's basic needs will be supported by their employer.

That's why the New York State Assembly passed a paid family leave bill which would provide up to 12 weeks of paid leave at the time of the birth or adoption of a child, or to care for a seriously ill family member. It has the support of

businesses big and small, such as Eileen Fisher, UncommonGoods, and many others that are members of the American Sustainable Business Council. And it will be nothing but good news for the economy. Despite its failure in this legislative session, it must be brought up again in the next session.

The family leave benefit would be funded through small employee payroll deductions of 45 cents a week, which can be easily administered through the existing Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) program that is used for off-the-job disabilities or pregnancy. The insurance benefits would replace two-thirds of a worker's own average weekly wage up to a cap.

The current cap on TDI benefits has been frozen for 26 years at a woefully inadequate \$170 a week, not enough for any family to live on. This legislation would gradually raise the cap over four years to 50 percent of the statewide average weekly wage — about \$600 a week. The estimated small added cost for raising existing disability benefits would continue to be shared between employers and employees.

As business leaders and small business owners, we support this legislation. By letting an employee take care of a new child or ill family member without risking their wages or job, it lets employees remain focused and productive instead of constantly worrying about their families. Most times,

Continued on Page 12

# Addressing climate change through sustainable development

By Jomo Kwame Sundaram

ROME, Nov. 29, 2015 (IPS) - Climate change impacts are already upon us. Sea levels are rising, glaciers and ice are melting. People in poor countries are struggling to cope and adapt. Even developed countries are facing adverse consequences, taxing their own adaptive capacities to increased flooding, drought and fires. We cannot afford to wait.

Climate change is severely compromising development prospects. Failure to act effectively could significantly reduce the size of the world economy by mid-century despite continuing population growth.

Addressing climate change will be costly, but not as costly as inaction. We have waited too long to take serious action, and the delay — e.g. the slow pace at which carbon-based energy is being replaced by renewable energy — has been costly in terms of adverse impacts.

## Climate Change and Development

To address climate change, the international community needs to make simultaneous progress on inclusive sustainable development and climate change. This is the only ethically defensible and politically feasible approach. In the near term, for low carbon development and for developing countries to meet their people's basic energy needs, renewable energy generation will need to be

**Developing countries do not see sufficient evidence that developed countries are willing to bear a fair share of responsibility for adaptation despite their far greater contemporary and historical contribution to the climate change problem.**

subsidized.

Effectively addressing climate change and development will require a big investment push, particularly for renewable energy, with a strong public sector role, supported by international financial and technology transfers. Public investments need to be "front-loaded" to shape developing countries' long-term energy infrastructure and development.

As the most vulnerable are already suffering the impacts of climate change, there is an urgent need for developed country governments to greatly increase, fast-track and front-load financial and technology support for adaptation measures.

## Responsibilities

Developing countries do not see sufficient evidence that developed countries are willing to bear a fair share of responsibility for adap-

tation and even mitigation despite their far greater contemporary and historical contribution to the climate change problem.

Developing countries have long resisted taking on quantified emission targets, insisting on the Kyoto Protocol distinction between Annex 1 (developed) and other countries. Nevertheless, powerful developed countries have successfully pressurized developing countries to do so before the forthcoming Paris Conference of Parties (CoP).

Nevertheless, from a climate justice perspective, most developing countries have made significant enough voluntary commitments to mitigate climate change. However, commitments by developed countries have fallen far short, and which are simply not enough to keep the average global temperature rise below two degrees Celsius. Yet, developing country actions have not been matched by efforts from Annex 1 countries to provide promised financial and technological support.

Some developing countries, such as China, have not only implemented domestic policies to slow their emissions growth in the coming years, but have invested heavily in renewable energy and other low-carbon energy sources. These initiatives have accelerated the decline in renewable energy costs in recent years, but instead of being encouraged, some developed countries have erected non-tariff barriers

Continued on Page 12



Founded 1990 • Published by Community News Group  
Corporate Headquarters: One MetroTech Center North, Suite 1001, Brooklyn, NY 11201



CEO: Les Goodstein  
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# Why was this officer on the job?

The most baffling thing about the rash of controversial fatalities, where persons of color have met their deaths at the hands of white cops, is that the cycle endures. We've said before and again insist, that once these headline-making bouts of deadly rogue-cop action, spread far and wide across the country, conveyed a sense of a disquieting trend having set in, enhanced personnel monitoring in the nation's law enforcement entities ought to have become the required no-brainer preventive move. Yet here we are, our consciousness freshly assaulted (never mind the latest attention grabber being already a year on the books before the gory details became known), horrified again that extreme abuse of police authority directed toward persons of color evidently still isn't the rarity that, at worst, it should be.

There simply is no way to arrive at a rational conclusion excusing the action of the Chicago cop who ended the life of 17-year-old Laquan McDonald a year ago. It's appropriate that the officer has been charged with

first-degree murder, albeit a year after he chose to mete out "justice" of his own fashioning. But hardly does this speak to why a guy capable of discharging 16 rounds into a teenager posing no apparent threat was cleared as okay to make the often snap judgments required of a peacekeeper out on the streets.

Chicago authorities have tried to make the case that there was nothing questionable about the timing of the murder indictment, coming mere days after a judge had ordered release of the damning video that had earlier been withheld from public view. Needless to say, few are likely convinced that coincidence alone accounted for that confluence of events. And to the strange plot in Chicago must be added that the city made a money offer and settlement with the family of the deceased youngster even before litigation could get into the fray.

Always, though, it will be the maniacal reaction of one cop among those involved in the Chicago drama that perhaps gives the incident notoriety as

## Viewpoint

By Les Slater

having produced classic unfit-for-the-role behavior we have all witnessed. Chicago thus joins other celebrated examples of police reaction totally out of control that, thanks to today's ever-present video evidence, has made manipulation of the facts more challenging for all sides. The relatively muted comment of a Chicago police union representative probably spoke volumes. Speaking after bail was posted for the offending cop, the PBA representative said he thought the officer had acted appropriately but that if a judge and jury found otherwise, "he would have to pay the consequences."

It is difficult to imagine there being no prior manifestations of a cop's predisposition to behavior such as shooting a non-threatening teen 16 times. That highly explosive reaction suggests a rage factor

that seems not exactly the ideal fit for anyone engaged in maintaining civic order. Even if in the Chicago incident the cop's over-the-top response was a shock to partners and superiors alike, if indeed there were no earlier intimations of it, there can be no assuming that in all other instances of excessive force or other disgusting conduct toward persons of color, such tendencies have been all along concealed by the guy on the hot seat. The more likely reality, for sure, is that officers disposed to rogue behavior are known to partners or superiors or both.

We cannot stress enough that police departments across the country are staffed for the most part by individuals who discharge their law enforcement responsibilities in a manner that honors themselves and the communities they serve. What's also beyond question is that the police ranks will invariably include misfits — persons who by temperament, or because of emotional hiccups of some kind, or whatever else don't belong where they

are. And with respect particularly to white cops' interaction with minorities of color, we need not be coy about what this demands of the folks on the law-and-order side. That some of these guardians of the peace have a hard time meeting the high race relations bar should be no surprise.

Maybe it requires a federal government impetus to get the nation's police agencies signed on to comprehensive evaluation of the rank and file officers who daily face being tested on the front lines. The frequency with which African Americans have come out on the tragically losing end of encounters with white officers makes clear that more needs be done by way of sensitivity training and, even pre-dating that, aptitude for the role in the first place. Either there's general agreement on re-visiting what's now the norm. Or we await, unavoidably, the next iteration of the Eric Garner story on Staten Island, or Walter Scott in South Carolina, or Laquan McDonald in Chicago.



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## OP-EDS

# Paid family leave needed

Continued from page 10

work can be temporarily reassigned to others when an employee goes on leave. But if needed, hours can be expanded, or temporary employees hired to fill in, because the employer does not have to pay the wages of the person on leave.

By enacting paid family leave, New York would be riding a wave of national momentum for better work-family policies. Over the past decade, paid family leave policies have been implemented in California, New Jersey, and Rhode Island. Like New York's proposal, those paid leave benefits were merely added to the states' existing TDI programs, meaning businesses use a mechanism they already know and comply with.

The result has been spectacular, for workers and businesses alike. In California, 87 percent of employers said their state's paid family leave program

had not resulted in any cost increases. In New Jersey, interviews with employers showed that the feared negative impacts on business haven't materialized. Instead, employees return to their jobs less stressed, more loyal and more productive. Moreover, providing paid family leave through a statewide insurance program gives smaller businesses a level playing field, by helping them to afford the kinds of employee benefits that large corporations already can.

Our state's families and businesses would benefit from a paid family leave policy that would bring New York's workplaces into the 21st century. The governor and the Senate must work to pass this win-win legislation in the next legislative session.

*Peter Strugatz is president of Strugatz Ventures, based in East Hampton, N.Y.*

# Building sustainable development

Continued from page 10

to their exports, thus effectively slowing down the switch to renewable energy.

### Public Finance Key

However, rather than rely on market forces and the profit motive to address a clear market failure, adequate public finance for a major 'front-loaded' public investment push to induce private investment – rather than carbon markets and private finance – can rise to the climate challenge.

Renewable energy is not affordable to most in poor countries, so there is little incentive for investment by the private sector. Hence, international transfers are needed for some public investment in key infrastructure and to provide incentives for private investment.

Feed-in tariffs offering guaranteed prices to renewable power generators have worked well in Europe and elsewhere. In developed countries, consumers effectively pay for this subsidy, but in developing countries, that is less feasible.

Thus, international financial transfers for feed-in tariff programs could quickly induce renewable energy investments in developing countries. Cost reduction will come with increased scale, while greater ability to pay will come with increased incomes. In time, the subsidies become unnecessary.

### Key Priorities

Key elements of a feasible action plan would thus include:

• International technology cooperation, knowledge-sharing and adequate finance for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

• A global program of support for renewable energy in developing countries, including support for feed-in tariffs, to enable poor developing countries to 'leapfrog' the fossil-fuel energy stage of economic development.

• A global program of support to reduce emissions and sequestration capacity due to deforestation and forest degradation, notably through sustainable forestry and by rewarding forest-dependent communities for sustainable forest management.

An adequately funded program of support for rapid action for urgent adaptation measures in vulnerable developing countries.

There is broad consensus on all these areas, and progress on such a global program of cooperation is eminently feasible. Experience has shown and will continue to show what works best and what actual costs are, proving that stronger actions are possible and affordable. Cooperative action between developed and developing countries will, in turn, rebuild trust on the road to Paris and beyond.

*Jomo Kwame Sundaram is the Coordinator for Economic and Social Development at the Food and Agriculture Organization and received the 2007 Wassily Leontief Prize for Advancing the Frontiers of Economic Thought.*

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# Celebrating 'Take the A Train' and its composer



**Left:** Musicians entertaining straphangers on the A train. **Right:** Riders are intrigued by the 30s era ads on the Nostalgia Train. Photos by Tequila Minsky

By Tequila Minsky

The A train is the longest subway route in the world at more than 32 miles and went into service in 1932. It runs from Inwood in Upper Manhattan at W. 207th St. through lower Manhattan into downtown and central Brooklyn ending in the Rockaways or Howard Beach.

The only subway line with its own song – Take the A Train – was celebrated this past weekend with the song's writer Billy Strayhorn at the centennial of the composer's birth.

Seven years after its 1932 opening, Duke Ellington gave jazz composer and musician Billy Strayhorn directions how to get to a new job in the Sugar Hill section of Harlem. This was Strayhorn's inspiration for writing "Take the A Train," the song that became the Duke Ellington band's signature tune and a soundtrack of sort for millions of straphangers.

On Sunday, a Nostalgia

Train, subway cars of 1930s from the NY Transit Museum's vintage fleet, waited for passengers at the W. 145th St. Station.

On the Harlem subway platform, jazz artists Donald Malloy Quartet and the Evan Sherman Entourage, part of MTA's Music Under New York program, entertained Strayhorn family members, straphangers

including Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer.

At 5 pm, musicians and celebrants boarded the train with the wicker seats, ceiling fans, and ads from the 30s. Inside the cars, the jazz rhythms and melodies on horns kept blowing along the train route to the delight of all the passengers. Musicians and officials debarked at Columbus Circle


and the A train continued on its run.

The jazz artists kept playing up the escalator and onto Broadway, then marching New Orleans style on the sidewalk, horns a-blowing, kept the music going to Jazz at Lincoln Center.

Sunday's train-ride kicked off the holiday season's run of Nostalgia Trains, presented

through New York City Transit and the Transit Museum. The Transit Museum with its vintage trains is at Boerum Place and Schermerhorn in Brooklyn is the largest museum in the United States devoted to public history. The New York Transit Museum Gallery Annex and Store at Grand Central Terminal has a holiday train show.

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Above: Members of United Vincie Cultural Group of Brooklyn (UVCGB) perform choral speech, "The Gift." Right: UVCGB member Gwendolyn Holder distributes gifts to, from left, Taey DeFreitas, Thalita Burger and Damien Joseph.



Evangelist Shirley Browne rendered "Hear What Christmas Means to Me;" and Bequia native O'Brien Simmons, treasurer of the Brooklyn-based umbrella Vincentian group, Council of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Organizations, U.S.A., Inc. (COSAGO), received rave reviews with "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas," "Silent Night" and "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus."

Other performers, including singers and poets, comprised nationals from Jamaica, St. Lucia, Grenada, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago.

# Christmas feeling Vincy style

**By Nelson A. King**  
 The Brooklyn-based United Vincie Cultural Group of Brooklyn (UVCGB) last Saturday night brought much nostalgia about Christmas to nationals with the staging of the group's second annual serenading concert.

The concert, which attracted a large number of Vincentians, as well as Caribbean nationals, was held in the Fellowship Hall of Miracle Temple Ministries,

an evangelical church in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn, where many of UVCGB members worship.

Many nationals, as well as UVCGB members, participated largely in carol singing and speeches, as they reminisced about Christmas at home.

Dressed mainly in red – the popular color symbolizing the Christmas season – UVCGB members sang, among others, "Mary's Boy Child" and "Christ-

mas, Christmas," and rendered the choral speech "The Gift."

"Since in August, I hear Christmas Carols playing / Expensive gifts buying / Please take my advice / Don't hang yo' hat where yo' hand can't reach," they said in part.

"Look around and see all that's happening in sweet SVG (St. Vincent and the Grenadines)," they added. "So this December / Let it be a season to remember."

UVCGB member Ralphie Cunningham recalled "singing out" in his hometown Chateaubelair and giving most of the speeches back in the 1970s.

"Good night to the Mistress and Master of this lovely cottage," he recalled saying, before singing "Joy to the World," with the audience joining in.

Zita Adams, a public school teacher in Brooklyn, struck up "O, Holy Night," and Emily Mentos-James played, on harmonica (mouth organ), "Joy to the World," "Once in Royal David City," and "While Shepherd."

UVCGB members distributed gifts to several children — and adults. Patrons feasted on local delicacies, such as calaloo soup, salt fish and bakes, dukuna and potato budding.

"It's always fun when we come together," Caren Charles-DeFreitas, a public school teacher in Brooklyn, told Caribbean Life afterwards.

"You get a sense of Christmas," added Charles-DeFreitas, who served as mistress of ceremony. "It makes you yearn to be home."

"It was very good," said Don Sutherland, UVCGB musical arranger and cultural icon. "Our group is really promoting what Christmas is all about — with the family."

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# Coconut Baby, a tale of two countries

By Alley Olivier

It takes a little change to reach a new height that may have remained unattainable when stagnant.

Opting to move “back home” despite being warned that there may be nothing to do there, New York-born Allison Burnham moved to her parent’s island Barbados two years ago.

According to Burnham, “Ever since I was a kid the running joke was when my parents would have people ask me where I’m from and I’d be like, ‘I’m from Barbados’ and they would say, ‘you’ve never seen Barbados what are you talking about?’”

Upon relocating, her love for her cultural heritage can be seen in her cooking.

“I finally decided to make the leap and I’m very glad that I did because it totally opened up my world in the sense of my cooking and in my baking. I’m able to experiment and try new things that I would never have been privy too had I not moved to the Caribbean,” she explained.

Burnham, who holds degrees in art advertising, business communication, and culinary arts, maintained various side-hustle catering business while working full time for New York City transit.

While running her cake side business, Infused Cakes by Allison, Burnham decided to expand her menu options — prompting her to rebrand into



**Far Left:** Allison Burnham took her talents back home to Barbados and has since expanded her cooking palette to include vegan dishes. **Above:** Allison Burnham Allison Burnham creates both sweet and savory treats, pictured is a lemon and blueberry crumb loaf.

Allison Burnham

her business’ current name Coconut Baby. This rebranding process all occurred whilst she made the decision to try her hands at Caribbean living.

“Infused Cakes by Allison transformed in Coconut Baby because I had to start making other things and then I wanted to incorporate my Caribbean heritage to it. Then I decided I was moving to Barbados so everything happened at the same time,” she said.

Coconut Baby offers sweet

bites such as a mango-christophine upside down cake, flavored coconut chips, various juices, savory options, and even vegan recipes such as her banana bread.

“I’ve always wanted to do vegan cooking but I never felt the need to,” she explained. “It’s not until I moved to the Caribbean that I was like I need to create something completely different and stop trying to make it taste like something else.”

Visiting New York two to three times out of the year — often trying to avoid the wintry months — Burnham is ready to expand her slice of Barbados to include a New York imprint.

“My plan is to branch out here and open up something here as well,” she said.

Whether that is through exploring the world of exporting her flavored coconut chips or setting up some type of storefront, Burnham is ready to explore the idea of having

something a little permanent in her second home.

You can sample Burnham’s taste of Barbados at the Stuyvesant Independent Arts Bazaar, featuring artisans of various genres and workshops, every weekend until Dec. 20.

Stuyvesant Independent Arts Bazaar (375 Stuyvesant Ave. between Decatur and Bainbridge streets in Bedstuy, [www.coconutbabybarbados.com](http://www.coconutbabybarbados.com)) Nov. 28 – Dec. 20, 12 midnight. Free.

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### Business Resources:

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[www.nysl.nysed.gov/reference/business-ref.htm](http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/reference/business-ref.htm)  
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### Small Business Resources - The Business Council of New York

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- Is your relative deported and need to return to the U.S? You may be entitled to relief.

## Getting married to a U.S. Citizen or Green Card Holder and being abused or abandoned by your spouse

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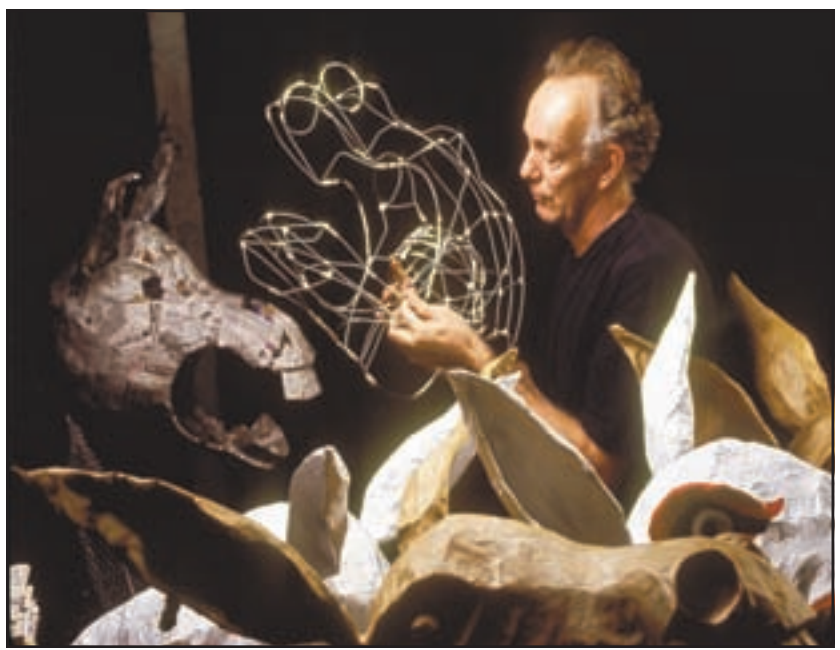
- **Parents of U.S. Citizen wanting to work and maintain their Children**
- **Illegal entry into the U.S.**
- **Work permit and green card for children and young persons**
- **Criminal records: Waivers and Pardons**
- **Removing 2 - Year Conditional Green Card**
- **Asylum Problems and Deportation Orders**
- **Approvals and Visa Bulletin Problems**
- **Notice to Appear (NTA) in Immigration Court Proceedings**
- **Do you need a work permit, identification card and foreign travel permit?**
- **Citizenship and Citizenship Delays or Denials**
- **We Process Alien Workers, Student, Entrepreneurs and Business Immigration**
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Peter Minshall at work on papier mache headpieces for "Donkey Derby."

# 'Mas Man' film continues awards streak

A 15th award garnered in October for "Mas Man," a film about the work of artist / designer Peter Minshall, produced and directed by Dalton Narine, has lent added credence to what has been seen as unusual impact this film has made on the international circuit.

Long Beach International Film Festival (<http://longbeach.indie.com>) bestowed the latest honor on "Mas Man" with the prize for Best Feature Documentary in Long Beach, a city in Los Angeles County, California.

Dr. Daniel Walker, scholar, filmmaker and founding director of the illustrious festival, spoke about the film's appeal and the jury's decision: "As a person who wrote a book about the political dimensions of festivals in Cuba and New Orleans, I know I had a high bar to impress, and the film did all that and more."

Narine says of "Mas Man," that it is, "above all, a fine arts film, though juries at 50 or so festivals around the world, had promoted it in every category imaginable."

Still, with the film's latest success, coupled with the tourism prize it received at Document Arts Fest in Bucharest, Romania (as well as its screening in Cannes) both in the past year, the 15 prizes across the board amassed by "Mas Man" attest to the film's potency on several levels. Those prizes include Best Film, Best Director, Best Cinematography and special awards.

Narine says he pushed the film in the Los Angeles area because Don Mischer, a Hollywood producer featured in the

film, was a key figure in tapping Minshall, the masman himself, for the Barcelona Olympic Games' opening ceremonies in 1992.

Minshall reprised his role as an artistic director of the Emmy award-winning opening ceremonies at the 1996 Atlanta Games, and Salt Lake City



Dalton Narine, producer / director, "Mas Man," wins Long Beach International Film Festival Best Documentary prize, the film's 15th award.

Photo by Eduardo Siu

Winter Games in 2002, for which he received an Emmy.

That "Mas Man" made an auspicious debut speaks to its staying power.

A full-house screening in New York City's Greenwich Village, proved that Narine and his crew could transform a pastiche of scenes that won the People's Choice Award for Best Feature Documentary at the 2009 Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival to the top tier of the New York Film Festival

in 2010.

"In Trinidad, we had a week to put it together," Narine recalls, "just so the public would get an inkling regarding what the noise was about. It was a ways from being a film. Not even a work in progress. Call it ideas."

Narine credits not only Callaloo Company's Peter Minshall and Todd Gulick, but also filmmakers Benedict Joseph and Danielle Dieffenthaler, editor Eduardo Siu, Penelope Beckles, Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival founder/director Dr. Bruce Paddington, as well as Trinidad and Tobago Film Company and GISL for their contribution, particularly as the film underwent a period of gestation.

Back then, to accommodate festivals, it required Narine to transfer "Mas Man" to HD hard drive and Blu-ray.

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# CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 4

equivalent of about US\$11 million.

The executive board of the IMF recently completed the third review of Grenada's economic performance under a program supported by a three-year arrangement under the Extended Credit Facility (ECF).



Grenada's economic performance under the authorities' home-grown program is on track and has remained strong. All performance criteria for end-June 2015 were met and all structural benchmarks for the third review were implemented.

## Jamaica

The Governor of the Bank of Jamaica Brian Wynter said that the local currency is no longer overvalued and that the bank has enough United States currency in reserves to ensure the Jamaica dollar does not move in unpredictable ways.

He said the Jamaican dollar is no any longer overvalued and therefore it is less susceptible to unpredictable seepage. Wynter added that additional insurance, the Bank of Jamaica has carefully built up a very considerable surplus in the Net International Reserves.



The governor of the bank was at the time speaking at the quarterly Monetary

Policy Briefing recently, said that money would be available and will be available for spending in the economy as the government prepares to repay J\$62 billion of debt to local investors next year.

He said the Central Bank would have preferred if most of the \$62 billion payout to maturing National Domestic Exchange bondholders next February flow into productive activity and the stock market. Wynter said while he is anticipating some of the money would find its way into investments, he also anticipates not all of it would and the Central Bank also expects that stakeholders in both and private sector are going to seek to take advantage of the opportunity to issue debt and equity to finance projects or acquisition.

## St. Kitts

The government of St. Kitts-Nevis has made history when it became the first country in the Eastern Caribbean States (OECs) to launch the Criminal Justice Strategic Board (CJSB).

Prime Minister Timothy Harris who is also minister of National Security has appointed Attorney General Vincent Byron as chairman of the 15-member CJSB. AG Byron said the launch is a very important aspect of the Criminal Justice System (CJS).



— compiled by Azad Ali

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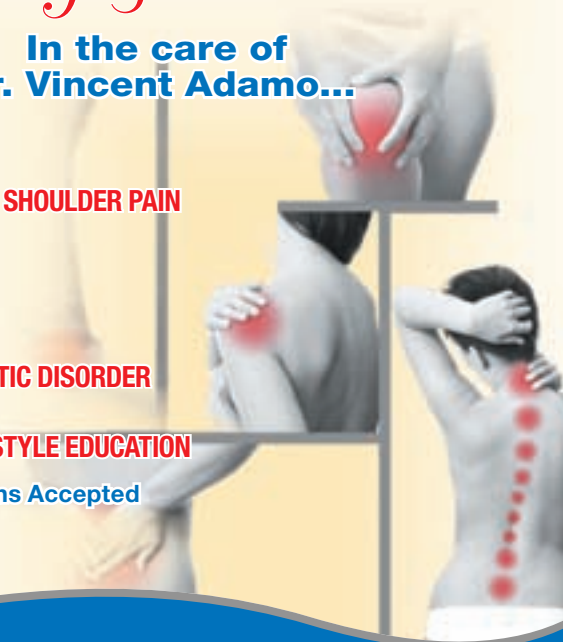
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# Pandama serves wine & retreat to the world



From left, Glen Savory, Pandama vintner, Tracey Green-Douglas; Mark Murray, Vintner Warren Douglas and Seon Lawrence, toast with Pandama's popular Jamoon wine.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

By Tangerine Clarke

Warren and Tracey Douglas are the only vintners in Guyana who have served up their naturally blended fruit wines to travelers from around the world for more than four years.

Pandama Retreat and Winery, located in the vast tropical belt of the East Bank of Demerara among the beautiful Pandama palms, sandy habitat, and black water creek, showcases the beauty of the region.

Warren, a re-migrant and former United States Navy specialist said visitors enjoyed Pandama winery the moment the retreat opened with two picnic tables. And since then, Pandama has developed to include campgrounds, and bird watching. In addition, the United States Peace Corps that has been a regular visitor to the retreat will set up a boys' camp in the new year to give students the opportunity to enjoy the natural environment that is home to campfire and storytelling under the stars.

"We have been involved in community work, while providing discount services to the Rotatory and Lion's clubs," said Warren, whose new creek-side bar and Lounge at the new Jamoon Landing down by the black water's edge, has become a hit with visitors who relax and unwind during their stay at the retreat.

Pandama, that began as a week-end getaway, has progressed to a daily operation and has seen visitors from Russia, Australia, Great Britain, Belgian, and as far away as China and Japan.

The hotspot on the Linden Soesdyke Highway, has been wooing worldwide travelers through its Pandama Facebook page and website [www.pandamaretreat.com](http://www.pandamaretreat.com) which is updated for bookings.

Tour packages include, Bird Watching, Cooking with Tracey, Wine Tasting, Art and Wine Tours, and more. Warren and Tracy Douglas are a talented couple whose vision to set up

the first Guyana winery became a reality in 2010.

The delicious organic wines served, are Jamoon, Mango, Aunty Desmond, Five-finger, Pineapple, Noni, Cherry, Malacca Pear, Duka, Carambola and Sorrel.

Pandama Wines also offers Pulse, a libido enhancement tonic wine, made from barks native to Guyana and the Amazon Basin.

"It is a real treat and has gotten rave reviews from women and gentlemen alike," according to Warren.

"We have come a long way in five short years," said Warren, who brought his American-born wife Tracy Green Douglas to Guyana. The talented Tracy in turn, carved her own niche, to become one of the most creative and sought after batik designers. Her oil paints on clothes, on sneakers, and post cards represent the colorful beauty of Guyana and the Caribbean. <http://www.redbubble.com>

Tracy has also become a master chef, creating thin crust whole-wheat pizza - topped with local vegetables of eddo leaf, papaya, aubergine (eggplant), pineapple and roasted garlic, and served on Sundays. In addition, she designs soap of Avocado and papaya, and lightly scented with turmeric powder.

Famous website TripAdvisor.com has lit up with rave reviews about Pandama Retreat and Winery experience.

Mark of Miami writes, "I visited Pandama for the day with my guide Leon. We walked the

nature trails and saw incredible birds and three species on monkeys. The wildlife is concentrated and you get amazing looks. We chilled out by the beautiful pond and swam in the nutrient rich "black water." I felt so relaxed and at one with the stunning fauna. I then had the pleasure of chatting with the owners Tracy and Warren about their wine making, Tracy's art and their journey to set up Pandama. They emit such a welcoming and calming energy. I hope to be back again one day soon."

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President David Granger and his wife Sandra.

# Guyana's first lady focuses on youth, elderly, and women

By **Tangerine Clarke**

First Lady of Guyana, Mrs. Sandra Granger, said she would like to convey sincere thanks to Ismay Griffith, and the network of Guyanese women in New York for the financial support that enabled her to conduct elderly training workshops and other initiatives after returning to Guyana in September from her first visit as first lady.

"I would like to thank the women of New York for their kind contribution, I hope to conduct other workshops to engage women of Guyana," said Mrs. Granger.

The office of First Lady just concluded 'Care for the Elderly' training workshop in partnership with the Ministry of Social Protection, educated caregivers on the needs of seniors, while helping them to understand their responsibilities in providing excellent care to the seniors.

As part of her many other initiatives, scores of students now attend the Buxton Youth Development Project remedial pilot program in the historic East Coast Village. Granger launched the program last September to focus on slow learners, as well as high achievers.

The first lady told Caribbean Life during an exclusive interview in her Georgetown office recently, that 170 pupils from Grades 1 to 6, as well as second year nursery school pupils would benefit from the program, requested by parents.

She thanked Friendship Primary School Headmistress Mrs. Day for donating the space in a joint effort with the Buxton / Friendship and Company Road primary schools to continue academic performance, and improvement in learning.

Information and Communication

Technology, Sexual and Reproductive Health, as well as preparation for the workforce, dress code, and discipline, are some of the classes being taught.

"Young people seem were very happy with the program. I made a spot visit in October and went through the back door and noticed that the entire classroom of students was very attentive," said Mrs. Granger, adding, that was very heart-warming.

The community effort of clergy, youth groups, residents and educators ensures the students attendance the program, by providing transportation to classes. A meal is also served before each instruction.

Granger hopes that residents in the village — that historically produced scholars — play a vital role to ensure their children grasp the opportunity to learn during the three-day weekly, two-hour after-school program.

Contingent on the success of this pilot program, Granger said other communities would be included for similar sustained education.

Granger, who quipped that she has 'several pots on the fire,' added that data shows once women advance in life, so does the entire family, and as such, she hosted a workshop on self-reliance and success in business for women in Good Hope / Luisgnan, on the East Coast of Demerara.

At the end of the workshop the women outlined their long-term business goals, in addition to creating a project to tackle the problem of solid waste that is a sticking point in their communities.

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## BOOK REVIEW

# Naughty secrets waiting to be told

“Naughtier than Nice”  
by Eric Jerome Dickey  
c.2015, Dutton  
\$25.95 / \$33.95 Canada  
357 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You have to tell somebody. There’s a secret inside you, one you’ve been keeping far too long and you’re about to burst. You need to talk about it. You need some advice, some perspective. As in the new novel “Naughtier than Nice” by Eric Jerome Dickey, if you don’t talk about this issue soon, it could be the death of you.

Last Christmas Eve had been a memorable one for Frankie McBroom, for the wrong reasons: that was the day she spent thinking about how to cancel her wedding to Franklin Carruthers. He’d been her soul mate, her one-and-only... until she discovered that he was a married man.

As the eldest McBroom sister, Frankie felt as though she needed to set an example and she fought hard to forget Franklin. She wished her relationship with him had been like what youngest sister Tommie had with her Blue. Or like what middle sister Livvy had with Tony. But no, Frankie had something else altogether.

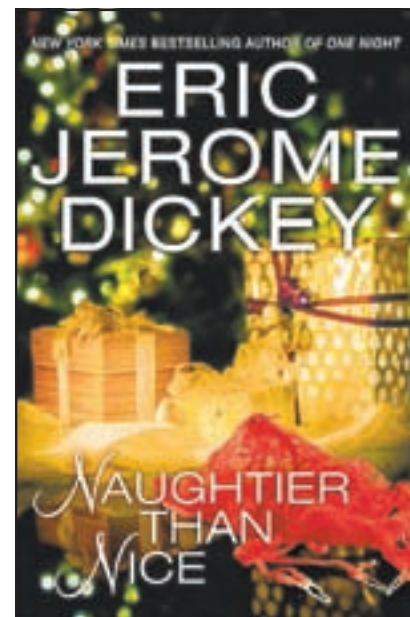
Tommie McBroom felt bad that she was cheating on her fiancé.

Down deep, she loved Blue but he’d betrayed her: he knew how much she wanted a family and yet he’d had surgery to prevent it, which proved that he didn’t care about her. Beale Streets, on the other hand, listened to her. Yes, Beale was a few years younger than Tommie, but that didn’t matter when they were making love.

The delicate chain surrounding Livvy McBroom-Barrera’s ankle spoke to Livvy of different times, of days when she and Tony were estranged and she first slept with a woman. The charm on the chain reminded her of things she learned, and lovers who disappeared from her life so suddenly. She thought of them often — especially when she and Tony brought another woman to their bed.

It was hard to believe that a year had gone by since Frankie caught Franklin in a lie. So much had happened since last Christmas, so much that wasn’t discussed. Tommie’s life was taking a turn. Livvy’s life seemed to be going backwards.

And Frankie? She was dealing with



“Naughtier Than Nice” by Eric Jerome Dickey.

a blown-up phone, an acid-ruined car, bricks through her windows, belongings rearranged in her home.

Frankie was dealing with a stalker...

So you like a little spice with your Christmas nog? Or maybe some extra pepper in your peppermints? Then “Naughtier than Nice” will make you very jolly.

In this somewhat-sequel, author Eric Jerome Dickey made a list of everything you want in a holiday drama — cheating, scandalous pasts, sex, murder, and light humor — and it’s obviously checked twice to add even more of the above. Although this book can be read as a standalone, readers then get to revisit some of Dickey’s best characters from other novels. His usual themes are mashed-up, and there’s a very nice gotcha or three scattered throughout this book.

That, and the fast-moving action, made me ho-ho-ho for this not-so-holiday holiday book and Dickey fans old and new will love it. Just beware: start “Naughtier than Nice” and you’ll just have to tell somebody.



Eric Jerome Dickey, author of “Naughtier Than Nice.”

Photo by Joseph Jones

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# College fair empowering and changing lives

By Laura Andrews

Malia Obama, one of the first daughters, joins students throughout the world attempting to select with precision, which college they will attend. President Barack Obama and his family expressed that college has been a daily discussion. This important process played out in Queens, NY for future college students and their parents.

At the Greater Allen A.M.E. Cathedral of New York in Jamaica, Queens, as home-going services were in the planning stages for a native of Georgetown, Guyana, and a five-year member of the NYPD, 33-year-old Officer Randolph Holder fatally shot in the head in East Harlem allegedly by prime suspect Tyrone Howard — in the lower level of the church — the Greater Allen A.M.E. Cathedral of New York Annual College and Career Fair convened.

At the college fair, in the renowned religious institution where the Hon. Rev. Floyd H. Flake serves as pastor and the words “Empowering people...Building communities...Changing Lives” are visible throughout the building, there was a noticeable presence of black colleges. Morgan State University, a historically black college (HBC) showcased its upcoming open house and Explore Morgan Day (on Nov. 6). With an online fall application submitted by Nov. 3, to this institution, located in Baltimore,



A father (center) is optimistic that college will be among other opportunities for his sons.

Maryland, on-the-spot admissions is available.

Another HBC, Lincoln University, a place where several great black leaders in politics and the arts graduated, the Office of Lincoln University Office of Admissions and Recruitment in Missouri provided telephone number 1-800-521-5052 for prospective students to call with frequently asked questions such as: How can I learn more about applying to Lincoln? How can I apply to Lincoln? How can I join Lincoln’s mailing list? How can I schedule a visit to

Lincoln? How can I finance my education at Lincoln?

The financial aid component of the college fair was hailed as a stand out by a Jamaica resident attending with her son and seeking information to reduce her educational support of other family members registered at different colleges. Vivian McMillian, president of the Commission on Social Action (COA), one of the event’s sponsors, indicated that approximately 20 colleges were in attendance and the FDNY was present at the educational and career recruitment where Regina Seabrooks was chairperson. “College is important and our youth need this form of education to succeed,” stated McMillian. “They need to know there are jobs for them and they need to know how to apply themselves for the future,” the active community leader added.

Diane M. Warmesley, a 35-year director of admissions advises students applying to colleges in their senior year of high school each month to begin accomplishing a series of college-related tasks, which are:

Visitation to colleges

Completion of freshmen application

Completion of scholarship application

Securing letters of recommendation

Taking standardized tests

Submitting financial aid application

Interviewing

Interpreting financial aid response letters

Attending freshman programming

Making a final college selection

Attending per-freshman programming

Meeting deadlines, throughout.

The U.S. Department of Education is looking at a reconfiguration of high schools.

“To emphasize ways in which we can rethink how we provide a high school education to America’s students, we plan to highlight strong collaborations that have committed to engage in comprehensive high school redesign work through new or existing models,” stated the federal agency. In the fall summit, this federal institution hopes to announce commitments to produce more next generation high schools in communities, “with a particular focus on those that will benefit low-income and under-represented students, along with commitments to action to ensure more students graduate with college-level coursework or college credit, as well as with career-related experiences or competencies.”



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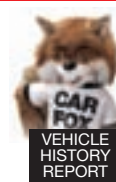


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## Guns

Continued from page 3

ority communities where gun violence was predominant.

At a Harlem church where the highest amount of firearms were collected, the former Manhattan DA said the 1,108 illegal rifles, pistols and BB-guns collected would be recycled into clothes hangers.

He also explained at that time that some of the money used to purchase the weapons were recouped from drug dealers.

"I can't think of a better way to recycle drug money than to use it to buy guns," he said.

Although the program limits the amount of cash any one seller can obtain, reports of sellers using willing assistants to accompany them have been alleged.

"One 'entrepreneur' had nine guns to turn in, but there was a limit of \$600 that could be given to any one person. He got the help of two friends, and the three of them each collected the maximum," a pastor said.

Uptown in the Bronx, Cash4Guns proved a necessary companion to imitate and one that effectively exchanged money for firearms.

Gun buy-back programs were also implemented in Queens and Staten

Island.

Soon afterwards Suffolk County and New Jersey followed the pattern of legally sanctioned buying and selling of weapons.

Previously proven tried and true in Williamsburg, Bushwick and Sunset Park, the all-day transaction program held inside designated churches accounts for netting 9 mm handguns, AK-47, Uzi, fully-loaded Tec-9 semi-automatic, Ruger - Mini 14 semi assault rifle, and in Staten Island an assault rifle with 30-round clip and grenade launchers.

According to DA Thompson's office "the goal of the gun buyback program in this borough is to remove illegal, functioning guns from the streets of Brooklyn by offering a \$200 cash reward for each eligible weapon surrendered."

Guns must be operable.

One of the requirements for sale is that guns should be placed in a plastic or paper bag or a box before presenting for sale. If transporting the gun by car, the gun must be transported in the trunk of the car.

Restricted from sales are guns owned by current or past law enforcement officers.

Brooklyn gun buy-back begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m. at 1356 Nosstrand Ave.

For more information, call 718-250-3888 or visit [www.brooklynda.org/gun-buyback/](http://www.brooklynda.org/gun-buyback/)

## Awards

Continued from page 3

Homicide Squad.

Brooklyn North detective honorees were: Erick Parks and John Ulmer of the 73rd Precinct in Brownsville; Patty Angst and Renzo Silva of the 75th Precinct in East New York; Adam McLawhorn of the 77th Precinct in Crown Heights; Michael Egan and Willie Johnson of the 79th Precinct in Bedford-Stuyvesant; Donald Lamanque and Mike Jimenez of the 81st Precinct in Bedford-Stuyvesant; Louis Doria and Edward Paszel of the 83rd Precinct in Bushwick; James Hunter of the 84th

Precinct in Downtown Brooklyn; and Andre Parker and Joseph Whiteman of the 88th Precinct in Clinton Hill.

Others were: Christopher Scarry and Kenneth Wieber of the 90th Precinct in Williamsburg; Anthony Gonzalez and Jessica Lopez of the 94th Precinct in Greenpoint; and Tommy Handley and Mark Mathis of the Brooklyn North Homicide Squad.

Additionally, Adams presented awards to Deputy Inspector John Lewis of Brooklyn South Detective Operations, Captain Jason Savino of Brooklyn North Detective Operations, Lieutenant James Doherty of the 90th Precinct in Williamsburg, and Police Officer Alejandro Manzano of the 76th Precinct in Carroll Gardens.

## Independence

Continued from page 3

the New York Daily News.

It said the celebratory broken trident was designed by Donna Redman and donated by the Williams Industries firm.

A broken trident — representing the island's transition from colonial rule to independence — is the centerpiece of the Barbados national flag, the Daily News

said.

In New York, "A Church Service of Thanksgiving," marking the 49th independence anniversary, took place Sunday afternoon at First Baptist Church of Crown Heights in Brooklyn.

The Rev. Garvey Ince, associate pastor of St. James AME Church in Newark, N.J., and Consul General Donna Hunte-Clarke of the Barbados Consulate in New York were among the special guests at the event, the Daily News said.

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

# Better option for back pain at Spine and Disc Center

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

Back and neck pain make the simplest tasks nearly impossible.

You may be unable to walk, bend, work, or drive as turning your head to see the car behind you — a function we barely even think about under normal conditions — is not possible. This kind of debilitating pain impacts the quality of life.

It may be that you've tried to get help. You may have already seen doctors for traditional medical and chiropractic care, without results. Perhaps it appears the only possibility is surgery.

But this is not your only option.

Dr. Di Giuseppe of the Spine and Disc Center of Brooklyn has been treating patients with these conditions for more than 32 years, reinstating their quality of life through nonsurgical treatment. No spinal injections or drugs are involved. Instead, he utilizes decompression therapy, a lead-



Dr. Di Giuseppe has been helping patients with debilitating back and neck pain for more than 32 years.

Photo by Georgine Benvenuto

ing non-surgical, alternative treatment for serious neck and low back pain.

"This gentle treatment method has been shown to greatly reduce or eliminate back and neck pain," says Dr. Di Giuseppe. "It has helped

people who are at the end of their rope."

Decompression therapy effectively treats disabling low back, neck, and radiating leg and arm pain by reducing the pressure on spinal nerves, discs and joints.

"It renders quick, effective, and amazing pain relief that enables most patients to return to a more active lifestyle," says the doctor. "There is a 90 percent success rate — and those are pretty good odds."

Research to develop this procedure was conducted by prominent physicians, engineers, and technicians at major teaching hospitals, says Dr. Di Giuseppe, who is trained in these methods. The certification course was designed by the leading expert in spinal decompression, Dr. Jay Kennedy, D.C., who taught doctors worldwide and treated thousands of patients using a variety of decompression systems. To gain certification involves more than 40 hours of instruction, including hands-on training sessions, followed by certification examinations.

"We are pleased that we can serve our patients and others in the community with advanced spinal decompression therapy," says

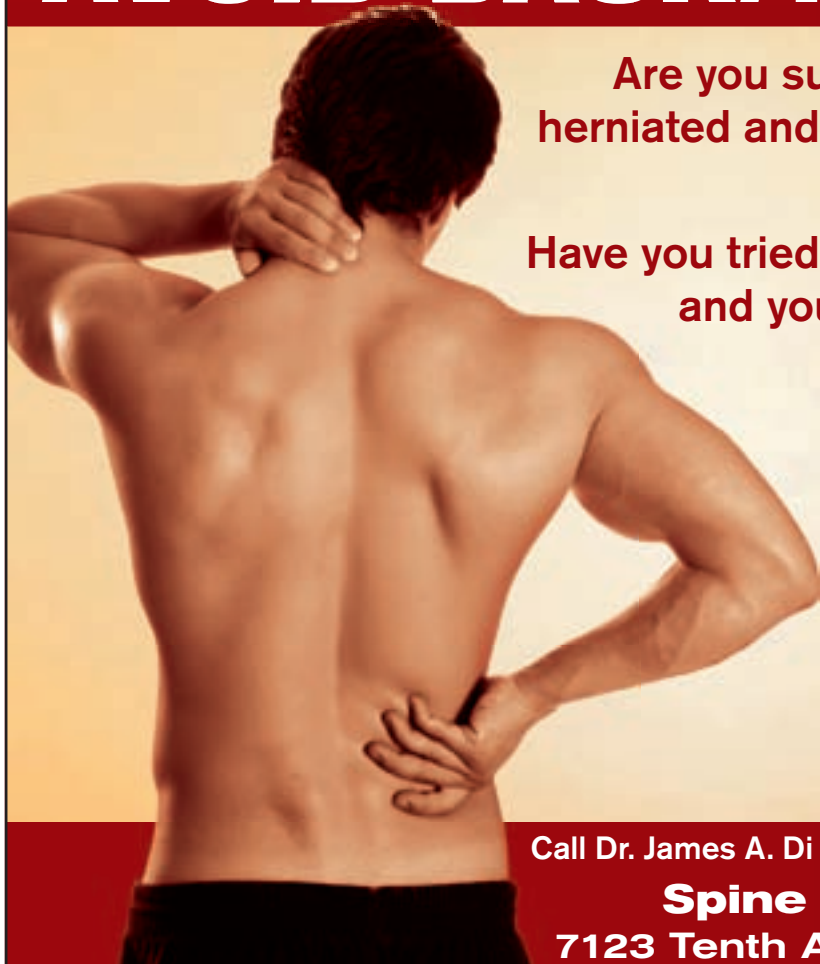
Dr. Di Giuseppe. Patients should be aware that it's all approved by leading chiropractic colleges.

Decompression therapy begins with a series of sessions that typically run three or four times per week. It's all done while the patient is fully clothed, either face down, or face up, on the table. During each of these sessions, electrical muscle stimulation, ultrasound, or therapeutic laser may be applied to help relax muscles and promote further healing of injured tissues, says the doctor. In addition, patients may be asked to complete specific exercises designed to help strengthen muscles.

People with spinal stenosis, bulging, herniated, and degenerative discs, pinched nerves, and sciatica have found relief through this method.

*Spine and Disc Center of Brooklyn [7123 10th Ave. at 72nd Street in Dyker Heights, (718) 833-3327, www.SpineandDiscCenter.com].*

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Amerijet International Inc. has built its foundation as an all-cargo air carrier linking New York to its more than 625 global destinations on three basic business practices: reliability, innovative customized solutions and collaborative relationships with every customer. "We're committed to building long-term relationships with each and every one of our customers," said Richard Hernandez, Amerijet JFK Regional Sales Manager. "As your



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# GIFT IDEAS

## for the special seniors in your life

**W**ith lifetimes of experiences and seemingly everything they could ever want or need in life already at their disposal, seniors can be difficult to shop for come the holiday season. Many even insist that their family members save their money and not buy them anything for the holidays.

But if the thought of Grandma or Grandpa not having something to open come the holidays is simply unacceptable, consider the following gift ideas:

### **Activity assistance devices**

The realities of getting older often mean the body slows down and activities may not be as easy as they used to be. Many active seniors are not ready to live sedentary lives, nor should they be forced to do so. Plenty of products exist that can make life easier and more comfortable for older adults.

Television-amplifying headphones are one product that can be a great fit for seniors, particularly those having difficulty hearing their televisions. The headphones amplify the sound of the programming without disturbing others in the room, and many such headphones even allow users to mute their televisions. This feature is perfect for someone who likes to watch TV while a spouse is sleeping or reading in the same room.

Other devices that can make life easier for seniors include magnifying products or bookholders. In addition, gel seat cushions can take pressure off of the spine in the car or at home.

### **Food**

Food is always a handy gift because it doesn't take up much room and can be enjoyed at a recipient's leisure. Perhaps there is something the senior in your life used to enjoy as a child but now finds hard to come by. A search of the Internet may uncover that special treat.

You may be able to ship a specialty soft drink or favorite cookie that is not available in a nearby store. Otherwise, ask a store manager if a particular item that's not in stock in the store can be a special order.

*Continued on page 36*

# Managing the costs of assisted living

As individuals age, various circumstances have to be reassessed. A current living situation may not be meeting the needs of a senior who may be having difficulty caring properly for himself. Families often consider senior residences to provide welcoming and safe environments for their loved ones during the golden years of their lives. These facilities may range from independent living homes with minimal care offered to nursing homes that provide more intensive care when needed. Somewhere in the middle lies assisted living homes, which blend the independence of personal residences with other amenities, such as the housekeeping, medication reminders, or meal services.

Assisted living can be a viable option when a person can no longer live alone, but such facilities come with a price. According to a Market Survey of Long-Term Care Costs conducted by MetLife, the national average for assisted living base rates



Consider the different options available to help pay for assisted living services.

was \$3,550 per month in 2012. In the 2015 Cost of Care Survey conducted by Genworth Financial, the assisted living, national-median monthly rate was now \$3,600 — and it's only expected to grow. Affording these homes and apartments can be challenging for those with fixed incomes, but there are some strategies that can help.

The payment method that

serves you best will depend on your unique circumstances, but there are options available:

**Long-term care insurance:** Long-term care insurance is specialized insurance that is paid into and may cover the cost of assisted living facilities and other medical care, depending on the policy. The American Association for Long-Term Care Insurance

says that only roughly three percent of Americans have this type of insurance, but it is something to consider during working years.

**Personal savings:** Some people have the means to pay for assisted living with their own savings and retirement nest eggs. However, it's easy for savings to become depleted when facing a \$40,000-

plus per year bill.

**Life insurance:** A financial advisor may advocate to pay for assisted living with a life insurance policy. Some companies enable you to cash out for "accelerated" or "living" benefits, which usually is a buy-back of the policy for 50 to 75 percent of the face value. Other third parties may purchase the policy for a settlement of a lump sum, again roughly 50 to 75 percent of the policy's face value, according to Caring.com, an online source for support and information about the needs of aging people.

**Location:** Costs of assisted living facilities vary depending on location. It's possible to get a lower monthly rate simply by choosing a facility in a different state.

**Negotiation:** Speak with a manager at the facility and see if there is any price flexibility or move-in incentives. You also may be able to get a lower rate by negotiating certain a-la-carte costs against all-inclusive pricing.

## Stay healthy when cold season arrives

The cold weather brings with it a season of smiles, the first snowfalls and, unfortunately, cold and flu outbreaks. While everyone else is suffering, there are ways you can make it through the season unscathed.

It is estimated that a billion people across North America will succumb to the cold virus this year, says Medline. Considering there is no cure for cold and flu viruses, prevention remains a person's best option at fending off cold and flu, especially for seniors. There are different precautions to take that can help protect you against getting sick or at least reduce the frequency and severity with which cold and flu strikes.

Although there is no magic pill to take that will prevent you from catching a cold or the flu, there are ways to improve your odds.

**Wash your hands the right way.** Washing your hands frequently remains the single-best way to keep viruses and bacteria that can make you sick from infiltrating the body. Washing your hands for at least 20 seconds can effectively remove any dirt, grime

and invisible invaders.

**Skip antibacterial products.** Because colds and the flu are the result of viruses, which are different in behavior and structure from bacteria, they will not be killed off with the use of antibacterial products. What you may succeed in doing is killing off any beneficial bacteria on your hands as well as creating resistant bacteria that form with overuse of antibiotics and antibacterial products.

**Get the flu shot.** There is no vaccination to prevent the common cold, but there are immunizations that can help reduce your risk of getting the flu or help minimize its severity. Doctors' offices, clinics, and even pharmacies all offer annual flu shots.

**Use sanitizer on items around the house.** Surfaces that are frequently touched should be wiped down with a disinfectant product. A bleach-and-water solution is an effective sanitizer. Surfaces to sanitize include phones, doorknobs, light switches, remote controls, computer keyboards, faucets, toys, and countertops.

## HOUSING

*Continued from page 36*

individual basis.

Maria R. is lucky. Her building was constructed prior to 1990, so technically, she could be responsible for any home modifications. However, she decided to discuss her situation with her landlord. He was totally sympathetic to her situation and agreed to make changes at his own expense. Now with a new wheelchair ramp in the lobby, Maria manages the three steps that previously restricted her movements. She is once again a productive member of her community. She is able to go grocery shopping with the help of a basket that she had attached to her

motorized wheelchair and has become an active member of the community. It is not surprising that she is dedicating part of her new found freedom to helping other disabled individuals learn how to live independently.

*Joanna R. Leefer is a senior care advisor/advocate and founder of ElderCareGiving, a service that helps families make difficult care decision for aging loved ones when family care is no longer enough. She works to determine their best care option — home care, assisted living, or nursing home care — helps them make the transition, and monitors their care. She also teaches advocacy skills to caregivers who want to insure their loved ones get the best care. For more information or questions visit her website, [www.joannaleefer.com](http://www.joannaleefer.com).*

## GIFTS

*Continued from page 35*

### Photos

What grandparent does not enjoy looking at his or her family members? Computer-savvy men and women can use photo software to design personalized photo books, calendars, mugs, and other photo-related gifts. Just about anything can be emblazoned with a photo, including tote bags and pillows.

Another idea is to collect old photos

and compile a memory book. Scan the images so they are preserved digitally and then print out the images in a book that includes the family history.

### Time

Seniors who truly do not want or need anything probably will likely jump at the opportunity to spend time with loved ones. Treat a friend or family member to a meal out or simply spend a few hours chatting at his or her home. Sometimes the company of a new face and good conversation is the ideal gift.

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# Precautions seniors can take when solicited for donations



Charities often target certain groups of people when soliciting donations. Those groups may include past donors and people who have recently attended charitable fund-raisers. Such an approach can be very effective. It should come as no surprise that criminals posing as legitimate organizations tend to target specific groups of people as well.

Anyone can be fooled by a fraudulent charity, but such criminals tend to target seniors more than others. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, seniors often make attractive targets to con artists because seniors are most likely to have substantial savings, own their homes, and have excellent credit. In addition, the FBI notes that elderly victims of fraud and other crimes are less likely to report those crimes out of fear that their families may feel they are no longer able to take care of themselves or manage their own

finances.

These factors make seniors especially attractive and vulnerable to con artists, particularly those who prey on well-intentioned men and women by posing as fake charities. But there are steps seniors can take to protect themselves from fraud.

## Be skeptical of solicitors

Many con artists will indicate that persons have given to the charity in the past, hoping that prospective victims simply won't remember if that claim is valid or not. If a solicitor or appeal letter claims that you donated in the past, don't simply take it at face value, especially if you don't recall making such a donation. Get specific information about alleged past donations, checking that information against your own bank records and receipts. Many donors claim donations as deductions on their tax returns, which

also can be used to verify or debunk solicitors' claims. Though not all solicitors claiming a past history of donations are dishonest, this is one way that criminals attempt to create a rapport with potential victims, so such claims should be verified before making any donations.

## Don't feel obligated to reciprocate a gift with a donation

Many charities send gifts, be it mailing labels or holiday cards, to prospective donors as a token of appreciation for past donations and as a way of encouraging future donations. Con artists are fully aware of this tactic and may try to imitate it in an attempt to defraud potential victims. No matter if the people behind those mailing labels or holiday ornaments are legitimate charities or con artists, you should not feel compelled to reciprocate a free gift with a financial donation.

Criminals who run fraudulent charity scams target specific groups of people, most notably the elderly.

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# Chisholm owns Presidential Medal of Freedom

One week before Shirley Chisholm's 91st birthday, President Barack Obama presented a posthumous award — the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award in her honor.

"There are people in our country's history who don't look left or right, they just look straight ahead. Shirley Chisholm was one of those people," President Obama said at the Nov. 24 White House ceremony.

Born Shirley Anita St. Hill on Nov. 30, 1924 she died Jan. 1, 2005 and is revered as a trailblazer, politician, educator, and author.

To Brooklyn voters and particularly residents of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Chisholm remains one of the borough's most iconic politicians having been first to represent its residents when in 1968 she became the first Black woman elected to the Congress.

She represented the 12th Congressional District for seven terms from 1969 to 1983.

In 1972, she became the first major-party Black candidate for president of the United States,



## Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

and the first woman ever to run for the Democratic presidential nomination.

"When Shirley was assigned to the House Agricultural Committee despite the fact that her district was from New York City, she said, 'apparently all they know here in Washington about Brooklyn is that a tree grew there.' But she made the most of her new role, helping to create the supplemental nutrition program that feeds new mothers and their children. Shirley Chisholm's example transcends her life, and when asked how she'd like to be remembered, she had an answer. 'I'd like them to say that Shirley Chisholm had guts.' And I'm proud to say it: Shirley Chisholm had guts."

Perhaps the congresswoman described herself best when she told NPR's Tavis Smiley, in 2003: "I was very outspoken, very articulate, and I wouldn't take any guff from anybody."

Also named for the prestigious high honor were 16 distinguished citizens.

Among them: singers Emilio and Gloria Estefan, actress / singer Barbara Streisand, playwright Stephen Sondheim, film director Stephen Spielberg, baseball coach Yogi Berra, baseball legend Willie Mays and musician James Taylor. A female NASA mathematician, a Native American and violinist Itzhak Perlman were also hailed during the ceremony.

"What a great blessing to be in a nation where individuals as diverse, from as wildly different backgrounds, can help to shape our dreams, how we live together, help define justice, and freedom and love," President Obama said.

"They represent what's best in us, and we are very, very proud to be able to celebrate them here today."

California Congresswoman



Shirley Chisholm (Rep. N.Y.) announcing her candidacy for the presidency in Brooklyn, New York on Jan. 25, 1972.

Associated Press / Jim Wells, file

Barbara Lee had plenty to say about the Bedford-Stuyvesant icon she volunteered to campaign for when the feisty and ambitious Democrat made a bid for the White House.

The Oakland, California representative said it was her mentor, Chisholm who first told her she would serve in Congress. Then a mere college student

at Mills, Chisholm made her announcement that she intended to run as the "Unbought & Unbossed" Democrat.

According to Lee, that association spawned a 33-year friendship and one that compelled her to participate in the 1972 Miami convention. She was one of Chisholm's delegates

Continued on Page 45

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## No JA Jazz in January

By Vinette K. Pryce

Jazz aficionados who annually combine a mid-winter vacation in Jamaica with family and friendly reunions to nightly variety concert may be disappointed that the 19th staging of the island's foremost jazz festival is cancelled next year.

The announcement to vacation planners was posted on social media recently saying: "We are taking a year off to re-group and focus on planning a spectacular 20th anniversary celebration in 2017."

Continued on Page 44

## Christmas gets a Cuban twist

By Alley Olivier

Traditional Christmas carol favorites receive a Latin facelift courtesy of the Cuban band, Tiempo Libre.

The three-time Grammy-nominated music group will have Santa dancing a salsa and the Little Drummer Boy showing off his rumba in their upcoming holiday concert on Dec. 18 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

According to Jorge Gomez, founder and musical director of Tiempo Libre, "We're going to play a concert with Christmas songs, Cuban style. It'll be the first time with Tiempo Libre you can dance a salsa with the Christmas melody."

Continued on Page 44



Ikaya's powerful voice filled Milk River's entire restaurant.

VP Records

## Reggae band makes first NY appearance

By Alley Olivier

'Twas a night of firsts Nov. 24. VP Records and Caribbean restaurant Milk River partnered to present yet another night of music, unveiling the new Milk River house band, VP's latest label imprint Dub Rockers, popular reggae band Raging Fyah's first New York performance, and — while not her first performance in Brooklyn — a powerful set courtesy of vocal powerhouse Ikaya.

Before the music claimed the Brooklyn restaurant, an intimate

meet-and-greet allowed for fans to chat with the artists.

With an album on the way, "Raging Fyah" — comprising six members — were excited to expand upon their upcoming Wickie Wackie two-day music festival in Jamaica and upcoming album.

According to lead vocalist Kumar Bent, "Wickie Wackie music festival has been around for the past five years. It was a one-day event at first but this year we decided to make it two days. That area is where Bob

Marley and a lot of reggae musicians did their exercise so it's just concentrated with the creative arts and based in community tourism for people to experience the real Jamiaca."

Through their musical experiences and music festival, "Raging Fyah" is inviting the masses to experience the Jamaica they know beyond the popular attractions tourists are bombarded with.

Sharing the stage with the band, Ikaya took on questions about her

Continued on Page 44



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# Spike Lee offers solution for Chicago gang violence

**“Chi-Raq”**  
**Very Good (2.5 stars)**  
**Rated R for nudity, profanity, sexuality, violence and drug use**  
**Running time:**  
**127 minutes**  
**Studio: Amazon**  
**Distributor:**  
**Distributor: Lionsgate / Roadside Attractions**

**By Kam Williams**

Just when we were ready to give up on Spike Lee, wouldn't you know he'd reassert his relevance with a decent inner-city drama decrying the gang violence in Chicago? Ironically, this timely tale is based on *Lysistrata*, an ancient play staged by Aristophanes way back in 411 BC. Set in Athens during the Peloponnesian War, that farcical adventure revolved around a headstrong female who brought an end to the hostilities by persuading the women of Greece to



Lysistrata (Teyonah Parris) in a scene from the movie “Chi-Raq.”

Rottentomatoes.com

withhold sexual favors from their mates until peace was declared.

Spike's version unfolds in present-day Chicago where we find a gun moll named Lysistrata (Teyonah Parris) growing frustrated by the escalating

body count in the Windy City war between a couple of rival street gangs. Her boyfriend, Chi-Raq (Nick Cannon), is the leader of the purple-sporting Spartans, the sworn adversaries of the orange-clad Trojans. She gets fed up when a

neighbor's (Jennifer Hudson) young daughter is caught in the crossfire during a drive-by shooting and none of the gangbangers is willing to finger the culprit for the cops. After the funeral, she enlists the assistance of sisters all

over the hood in implementing a “No peace, no p\*ssy,” policy.

Besides borrowing Aristophanes basic plotline, I must point out that *Chi-Raq's* dialogue is almost entirely in verse. When was the last time you saw a movie that rhymed? The novel screenplay was co-authored by Spike with film professor Kevin Willmott, the brains behind *Confederate States of America*, a brilliant social satire speculating about what the U.S. would be like today, if the South had prevailed in the Civil War.

Watching “*Chi-Raq*,” the pair's experiment in iambic pentameter gets tiring after about 15 minutes or so. You feel like yelling, “Okay, you made your point. Now just let the thespians act without the burden of having to sound poetic, too.”

Credit Spike for assembling an A-list cast featuring Teyonah Parris as Lysistrata and Nick Cannon in the title role.

## Independent & Foreign Films

**Amour Fou (Unrated)** Costume drama, set in Berlin in the Romantic Era, about a young poet (Christian Friedel) who enters a suicide pact with



### Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

a terminally-ill socialite (Schnoeink) after failing to convince his kissing cousin (Sandra Hueller) to do so. Supporting cast includes Stephan Crossmann, Barbara Schnitzler and Marc Bischoff. (In German with subtitles)

**Bikes vs. Cars (Unrated)** Eco-documentary advocating the adoption of bicycles over autos as the primary form of urban transportation in order to reverse the global warming trend. (In English, Spanish and Portuguese with subtitles)

**Christmas Eve (PG for peril, mature themes and mild epithets)** Holiday comedy revolving around the plight of New Yorkers simultaneously stuck in a half-dozen elevators in the wake of a car accident. Ensemble cast includes Patrick Stewart, Jon Heder, James Roday, Gary Cole and Max Casella.

**Hitchcock/Truffaut (PG-13 for suggestive material and violent images)** Reverential documentary deconstructing the genius of legendary director Alfred Hitchcock through the eyes of protege Francois Truffaut and a number of other admiring colleagues. Featuring commentary by Peter Bogdanovich, David Fincher, Martin Scorsese, Wes Anderson, Richard Linklater and Paul Schrader.

**The Lady in the Van (PG-13 for a disturbing image)** Fact-based docudrama recounting the unlikely friendship forged between a celebrated playwright (Alex Jennings) and a homeless woman (Maggie Smith) living in a car parked in his driveway. With Dominic Cooper, Jim Broadbent and James Corden.

**MI-5 (R for profanity and violence)** Espionage thriller about a spy (Kit Harington) who comes out of retirement to track down an escaped terrorist (Eyles Gabel) on the CIA's Most Wanted list as well as the British secret agent (Peter Firth) who'd been escorting him to prison. Support cast includes Tuppence Middleton, Lara Pulver and Jennifer Ehle.

**My Friend Victoria (Unrated)** Baby-daddy drama, set in Paris, about a poor, black single-mom (Guslagie Malanga) who waits seven years before finally introducing her daughter (Maylina Diagne) to the middle-class white guy (Pierre Andrau) she shared a summer romance back in high school. (In French with subtitles)

**Uncle Nick (Unrated)** Brian Posehn plays the titular character in this holiday comedy as the rude relative from hell who ruins the family's Christmas gathering. Cast includes Scott Adsit, Missi Pyle, Paget Brewster and Beau Ballinger.

You Better Watch Out.

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## TOP OF THE CHARTS

### TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1 **Hello**  
Adele
- 2 **Hotline Bling**  
Drake
- 3 **Stitches**  
Major Lazer & DJ Snake ..
- 4 **Wildest Dreams**  
Taylor Swift
- 5 **Ex's & oh's**  
Elle King
- 6 **Here**  
Alessia Cara
- 7 **Like I'm Gonna Lose You**  
Meghan Trainor...
- 8 **The Hills**  
The Weeknd
- 9 **Sorry**  
Justin Bieber
- 10 **What Do You Mean?**  
Justin Bieber

### TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **25**  
Adele
- 2 **Purpose**  
Justin Bieber
- 3 **Top 5 dead Or Alive**  
Jadakiss
- 4 **Traveller**  
Chris Stapleton
- 5 **That's Christmas to Me**  
Pentatonix
- 6 **Dark Sky Island**  
Enya
- 7 **Made in the A.M.**  
One Direction
- 8 **21**  
Adele
- 9 **Beauty Behind the...**  
The Weeknd
- 10 **19**  
Adele

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Before taking the stage to perform, Ikaya and members of Raging Fyah sat down for a Q&A with fans.

VP Records

## FYAH

Continued from page 41

music including her song “Ugly Girl” that tells the story of catching her man cheating

with an “ugly girl.”

“The song is basically about a man cheating with an ugly girl and let me clarify what I mean when I say ugly, it’s not only about the physical appearance of this person. The character of this person could be ugly too,” Ikaya explained.

Both artists performed with the backing of live instruments. With help from Milk River’s new reggae house band, New Vibrations, Ikaya got the crowd’s participation with her incredible vocal range.

The songstress performed “Ugly Girl” — cut off “Strictly

The Best Volume 50” — her cover of Steel Pulse’s “Rally Round” and more.

“Raging Fyah” closed the show and secured a new fan base in New York.

Both “Raging Fyah” and Ikaya aim to drop new albums in 2016 with VP Records.



Cuban music group, Tiempo Libre, will bring holiday cheer at an upcoming concert Dec. 18 playing a mix of jazz harmonies, contemporary sonorities and seductive Latin rhythms.

Photo by Elvis Suarez

## Tiempo Libre

Continued from page 41

The museum’s live art series is exploring contemporary innovations through the lens of their exhibitions inviting artists, performers, curators and thought-leaders to collaborate with the museum for on-site performances.

This will be Tiempo Libre’s first time performing a holiday concert in their 14-year-long career. The seven childhood friends will encourage the audience to sing along to the known

words of “Santa Claus is Coming to Town,” “Feliz Navidad,” and dance the night away with help from the band’s riveting sounds.

Alongside the Christmas classics, the band will also play music from their 2009 album, “Bach In Havana,” which can be heard on more than 170 radio stations.

“It’s going to be Christmas slash Bach In Havana, it’ll be a long set,” Gomez said.

Tiempo Libre will perform tracks in English and Spanish.

Tiempo Libre at the MET Museum [1000 Fifth Ave. between 82 and 83 streets in Manhattan, (212) 535-7710, www.tiempolibremusic.com or www.metmuseum.org] Dec. 18, 7 pm; \$65 for adults, \$1 for up to three kids ages 7-16.

## JA Jazz takes a break

Continued from page 41

The social media posting prompted mixed responses from patrons who had already booked tickets to the often billed month-end series of concerts in January.

A few patrons of this year’s festival said the handwriting was on the wall due to declining audience support, the worst of which was earlier this year when Mariah Carey headlined.

One individual expressed dissent at the late announcement because she had already reserved airline tickets to the reputed music festival.

“While we are disappointed to not be back for 2016 (and we know how much you were looking forward to the show) rest assured we really tried to make 2016 a reality, however, things just did not work out. Therefore, instead of trying to push and stage a festival that would not be of our usual standard, we decided to postpone it,” the explanation read.

The organizers promised a stellar return in 2017 with celebrations of their 20th anniversary outing.

“Thank you for your support and understanding. We will see you in 2017.”

First introduced as the Air Jamaica Jazz & Blues Festival, an alluring lineup introduced Jeffrey Osborne and a myriad of talented rhythm & blues talents from the United States.

Billed to perform in the second city of Montego Bay during the October-November tourist slump of the season, the three-day festival was plagued by heavy downpour of rains during the first few outings.

A location change proved worthy when January was decided an alternative and more appropriate timeframe.

From that destination change, the festival’s appeal to Jamaicans residing abroad seemed to steadily grow with groups of Jamaicans from Florida proving to be the most consistent patrons. A name-change to Jamaica Jazz Festival may have contributed to a decline with patrons when the national carrier ceased using its logo to promote the outdoor revelry.

Hopefully, this one-year hiatus will enable the producers to renew the attraction Jamaicans at home and abroad felt compelled to attend when tourists joined the fray to jazz Jamaica.

# 'Sweet Micky for President' hits New York theaters

By Alley Olivier

Now, more than ever, pop culture and politics cross paths. Politicians are active on Twitter, paying attention to social trends, and appearing on daytime TV such as Hillary Clinton and proving how in tune they are with presentations of the latest dance moves.

The two supposed separate entities are seamlessly blending together. Examining that intersect is Haitian American Pras Michel of The Fugees in his newly released documentary, "Sweet Micky For President."

According to Michel, "The inspiration came from after seeing the earthquake historical devastation in Haiti. As a Haitian American, I didn't want to just sit back idly and do nothing. I wanted to use my platform to try and make a difference."

In this film, music and politics literally collide as Haiti's most controversial musician, Michel Martelly aka Sweet Micky, and Pras' former band mate, Wyclef Jean, mobilize to run to be the next Haitian president following the 2010 earthquake.

While politics acts as a backdrop for the film, it isn't necessarily the focus.

"This film is about the people's voices being heard, it's about hope, the resiliency of the Haitian people, and most of all about how it takes one person to start a change," Michel said.

Throughout the film Michel, who is a co-producer and the star, captures the audience as a riveting storyteller under Ben Patterson's direction.

What sets out as a documentary to capture the lives of what is going on in Haiti after the earthquake became an opportunity to examine how pop culture's influence could weigh in as the basis to elect a leader.



Pras Michel, member of The Fugees, stars and co-produced Haitian documentary, "Sweet Micky for President."

According to the "Sweet Micky For President" website, Patterson says, "What was initially meant to document the post-earthquake recovery, soon became a whirlwind introduction to the world of international politics. Ben has always wanted to make a feature film, and was immediately drawn to the story of an unlikely candidate's run for president of Haiti, how artists can change the world, and what it takes to elect a leader."

Officially in theaters screening at Cinema Village in Greenwich Village, Michel hopes the film portrays Haitians in a positive light.

"We hope to get people all over to enjoy the film but more importantly for the first time on a mainstream level, the Haitian people get to see a project that displays their culture in a positive light," Michel said.

authored numerous resolutions to honor Chisholm's legacy and was influential in petitioning a commemorative postal stamp in her honor.

The Californian relishes the fact she now sits in Congress fully cognizant that Chisholm was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

The nation's first Black congresswoman was also lauded by NYC Public Advocate Letitia James who said: "Shirley Chisholm has been a lifelong role model of mine. As the first Black woman in Congress, she shattered ceilings and paved the way for women like me to run for office," she said in a statement. *Catch You On The Inside!*

## Inside Life

Continued from page 40

and proudly declared that despite losing the party's nomination, Chisholm took 10 percent of the votes cast.

Lee was elected to Congress in 1988.

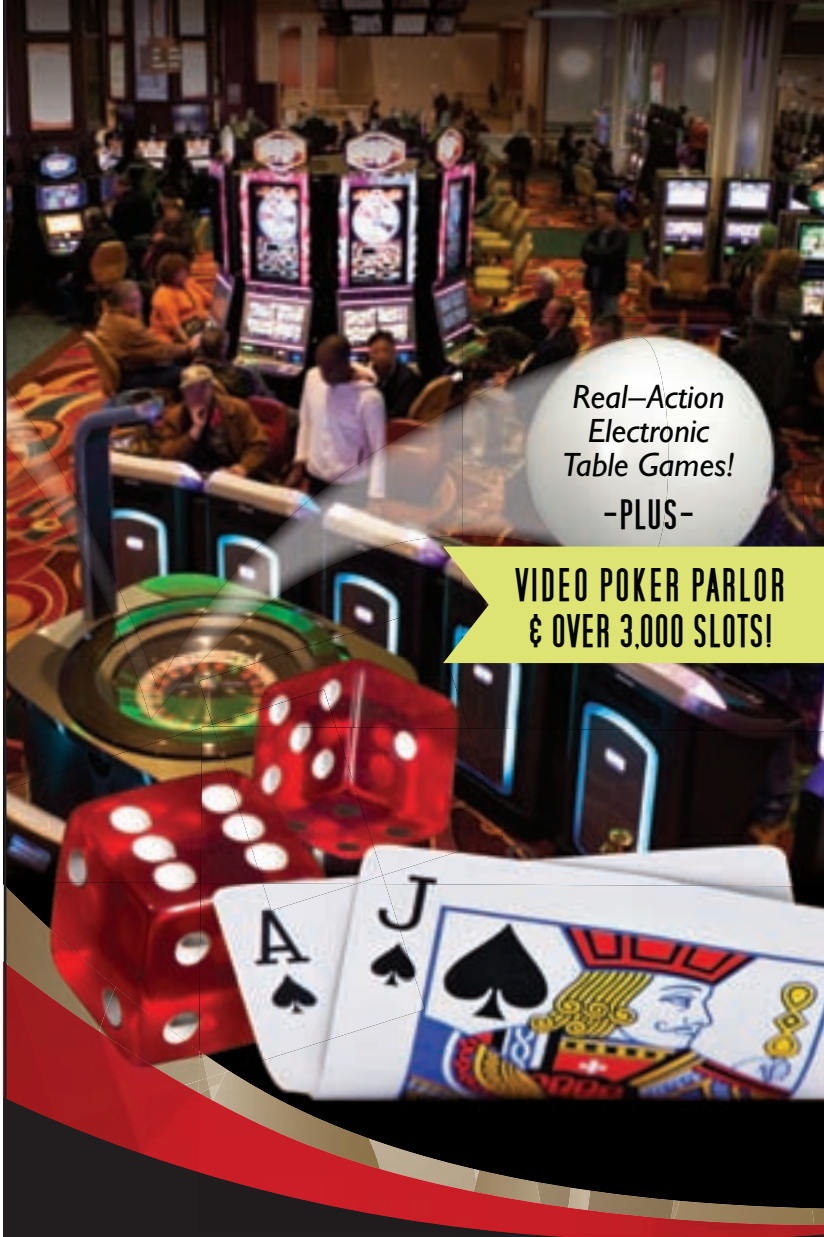
Throughout her tenure there she has propelled the name of the Brooklyn Democrat by introducing legislation honoring the Caribbean champion.

She is responsible for commissioning a portrait of the pioneer to be hung in the Capitol.

Congresswoman Lee has also

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# SPORTS

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Super Bantam Weight Champion, Alicia "Slick" Ashley, in the ring with her championship belt at Gleason's Gym. Photo by Kevin Bollers

## Female boxer reclaims world title

By Kevin Bollers

Jamaican born Alicia "Slick" Ashley is the current Super Bantam Weight Boxing Champion of the world. She has to date held five world championships and at 48 years of age, has been entered into the Guinness Book of World Records for the oldest boxing champion ever.

Continued on Page 48

## Jamaica cops top awards

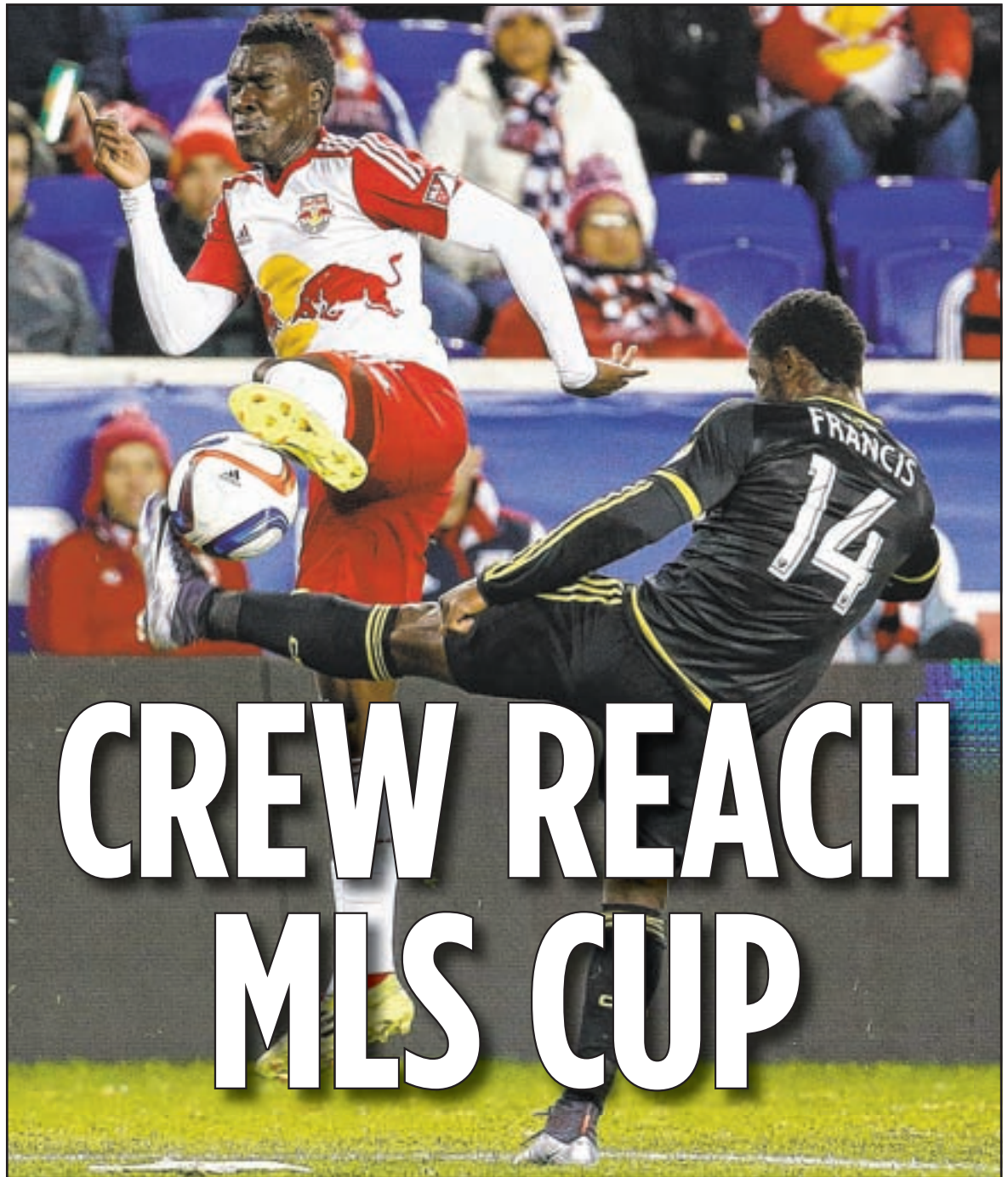
By Azad Ali

World sprint champion Usain Bolt and Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce copped the major titles as Jamaica won five of the six categories in the second Annual Caribbean Sports Awards, organized by the Caribbean Sports Journalists' Association (CASJ).

Bolt was unanimously chosen as the Sportsman of the Year, beating Paralympic athlete Akeen Stewart of Trinidad and Tobago and O'Dane Richards of Jamaica.

Bolt successfully defended his titles in the 100 meters, 200m and 4x100 at the IAAF (International Association of

Continued on Page 48



New York Red Bulls's Lloyd Sam, left, and Columbus Crew's Waylon Francis compete for the ball during the first half of the second leg of the MLS soccer Eastern Conference championship, Sunday, Nov. 29, 2015, in Harrison, N.J. Associated Press / Julio Cortez

## Records 2-1 aggregate win over Red Bulls

By Brian Trusdell

HARRISON, N.J. (AP) — The Columbus Crew earned only their second trip to the MLS Cup final in the 20-year history of Major League Soccer and their first since 2008 on Sunday night, losing 1-0 to the New York Red Bulls but advancing with a

two-leg 2-1 aggregate victory.

Anatole Abang scored 3 minutes into second-half injury time and Bradley Wright-Phillips hit the post with a header 1 1/2 minutes later for the Red Bulls, who fell one step short of the MLS championship game for the second straight year.

Columbus will host the champi-

onship game at Mapfre Stadium on Dec. 6 against the Portland Timbers, who completed a 5-3 aggregate victory earlier Sunday with a 2-2 draw at FC Dallas.

The Crew will look to win their second MLS championship. They beat New York in Carson, California,

Continued on Page 48

Continued from page 47

On Oct. 29 this year she reclaimed the WBC title after fighting Ireland's Christina McMahan (7-0) at Aviator Sports & Events Center in New York City. Some 13 months ago she lost to Jackie Nava in Mexico.

However, her initial dream was to become a dancer. "I started off as a dancer at the tender age of six. My father was a dancer, so I was following in his footsteps. I was born in Jamaica and migrated to the states when I was 11."

Ashley received a dance scholarship and studied at Martha Graham as well as Alvin Ailey. At the same time, her oldest brother was studying karate and wanted her to get into it. Ashley had no interest in Karate until she got injured when she tore her meniscus. No longer able to dance, she turned to karate for exercise. Being a natural performer, she began doing competitions and later on transitioned to kickboxing. Her first match was against a boxer. "I really didn't know what to do when she started punching me because I was so used to using my legs; I was flustered! I really started boxing just to get better at kickboxing." Ashley competed in both boxing and kickboxing for five years, until she began receiving opportunities in boxing that convinced her to go professional.

Fast forward to the numerous world titles and records, when asked whether or not competing is still fresh for her, she answered, "I'll tell you that it never gets old at all. People are saying, 'Well, now that you've won this title, are you ready to retire?' My answer is no, not at all. I actually don't feel as if I've accomplished anything as yet. It feels new each time; different belts, different accomplishments."

However, with five title reigns, what more is there for Ashley to accomplish? She explains, "Well, I've won five world titles, but who knows me aside from those who really follow boxing? I'm actually more well known in other countries like Mexico than I am in the United States. I'm televised and headlined everywhere else except the United States. I'm just now getting more well known in my homeland of Jamaica because I've been nominated as Sports Woman of the year for the past few years, but they've never seen me fight."

Ashley attributes this lack of showcasing in contrast to her male counterparts to promotional practices. "There is a tendency to not showcase females in a majority of sports; not just boxing. However, in boxing there is still the old boys club that only focus on the men in boxing. The younger grass roots promoters, however, are more willing to promote women in the sport."



New York Red Bulls goalkeeper Luis Robles, left, deflects the ball as Columbus Crew's Justin Meram attacks during the second half of the second leg of the MLS soccer Eastern Conference championship, Sunday, Nov. 29, 2015, in Harrison, N.J. Associated Press / Julio Cortez

## RED BULLS LOSE SPOT TO CREW

Continued from page 47

seven years ago.

Columbus goalkeeper Steve Clark rarely was tested by a New York team that scored a league-best 62 goals during the regular season.

Abang, who replaced defender Kemar Lawrence in the 72nd minute, headed in from a goalmouth scramble, and Wright-Phillips nearly had a second when his header skipped off the base of the right post.

New York had the majority of possession throughout but generated little from it in the first half. It was more

active in the second half, but still only generated sporadic chances.

The Crew often played with 10 men behind the ball, picking their moments to counter. Columbus had the two best chances of the first half, one coming less than two minutes after the opening kickoff.

Kei Kamara dribbled on goal before a mix-up among center backs Matt Miazga and Ronald Zubar allowed Ethan Finlay to find time and space at the top of the penalty area on a crossing diagonal run. Red Bulls goalkeeper Luis Robles raced off his line to block the low shot with his legs.

In the 38th minute, Kamara was able to turn on Miazga to volley a ball at Robles, who had to dive to his right to knock away.

The only time the Red Bulls forced Clark to make a save was when on the final play of the first half when Bradley Wright-Phillips was able to direct a header on goal.

While the Red Bulls generated more shots, few troubled Clark. Their best opportunity until the goal came in the 73rd when Sacha Kljestan had an open look and drove a shot on one bounce that Clark had to dive to punch away.

## Recognition

Continued from page 47

Athletes Federations) World Championships in Beijing, China last August.

The Jamaican sprinter clocked a world-leading time of 19.55 seconds when winning the 200 meters and he now owns 17 gold medals from senior global championships.

Other contenders for sportsman of the year were Kirani James (Athletics) of Grenada, and Michael Cedeno (Athletics) and George Bovell (Swimming) of Trinidad and Tobago.

Fraser-Pryce took the Sports Woman of the Year title from a list of 11 nominees including pole vaulter Yarisley Silva of Cuba and swimmer Alia Atkinson of Jamaica. Fraser-Pryce continued her sprint dominance to win gold medals



**Left:** Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce from Jamaica reacts after winning the women's 100m race during the IAAF Diamond League athletics meeting in the Letzigrund stadium in Zurich, Switzerland, Thursday, Sept. 3, 2015.



**Right:** Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt makes the victory sign as he answers questions during a promotional event for Puma at a department store, in Mexico City, Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2015.

als in the 100m and 4 x 100 in Beijing relay team in a championship record including anchoring Jamaica's 4x100m time of 41.07 seconds.



Jamaica's Veronica Campbell-Brown celebrates after finishing third in the women's 200m final at the World Athletics Championships at the Bird's Nest stadium in Beijing, Friday, Aug. 28, 2015. Associated Press / Ng Han Guan

# Veronica Campbell-Brown to be honored by Children of JA

By Nelson A. King

Olympian Veronica Campbell-Brown, one of Jamaica's most decorated female athletes, will be honored by the New York-based, non-profit group Children of Jamaica Outreach (COJO), Inc. at a gala awards ceremony on Saturday night at the Hilton New York, JFK Airport.

Campbell-Brown, affectionately called VCB, is a seven-time Olympic medalist and the second woman in history to win two consecutive Olympic 200m events.

She is also one of only nine athletes to win world championships at the youth, junior and senior level of an athletic event.

"VCB has consistently brought glory to Jamaica, whether at the World Championships in athletics, the IAAF (International Amateur Athletic Federation) World Indoor

**"VCB has consistently brought glory to Jamaica, and we look forward to the honor she will again bring us in Rio (de Janeiro, Brazil)."**

Championships or the Olympic Games, and we look forward to the honor she will again bring us in Rio (de Janeiro, Brazil)," said Gary Williams, COJO chairman and founder.

Williams lauded the sprinter for her work as a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador to promote gender equity and for giving back to her hometown in the Jamaican parish of Trelawny.

"She is an exemplary role model," he said, adding: "We will be pleased to present her with the COJO 2015 Humanitarian Award."

Dave Price, weekday noon and 5:30 pm weather anchor for NBC 4 New York will serve as emcee for COJO 21st Annual Charity Ball.

Price, who has won four Emmy awards and a Gracie award for his work on-air is a volunteer with the Fairfield County Inner-City Foundation, an organization that fosters educational opportunity for at-risk youth in Connecticut. He also serves on the advisory board of the Africa Foundation.

Williams said COJO's mission is to help improve the health, education and general well-being of less fortunate children.

Since its inception in 1994, he said COJO has dedicated its resources, human and financial, to help make a difference in the lives of underserved children in Jamaica, as well as in the United States of America.

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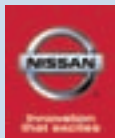
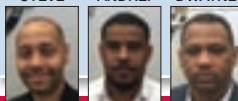
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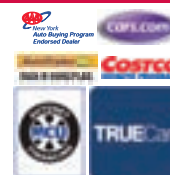
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**ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20**  
Aries, a conversation takes you to a place you did not expect. Now that it's out in the open, you may be able to breathe a sigh of relief. Don't hesitate to express yourself.

**TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21**  
Taurus, though you usually lean toward being practical, you may find yourself on an unexpected journey this week that highlights your spontaneous side.

**GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21**  
You have several different ways to express your creativity this week, Gemini; you simply have to find the outlet that works best for you right now. Experiment with different options.

**CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22**  
Cancer, although you may want to swoon in and help a friend in need, give this person the space he or she needs right now. In the long run, this approach will prove more helpful.

**LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23**  
You have a chance to push limits and boundaries this week, Leo. Take every opportunity that comes your way to try something new. You never know what you will discover.

**VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22**  
Virgo, you may not be able to escape all of your daily responsibilities right now, but you can certainly daydream some of them away. Take this chance to clear your mind.

**LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23**  
Libra, you have a knack for avoiding complex issues that pop up this week. But this will only last so long, and before long you will have to face some hard decisions.

**SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22**  
It can be frightening to reveal your deepest feelings, Scorpio. However, when a friend comes to you bearing his or her soul, you may have to dig deep and share your own experiences.


**SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21**  
Health goals become more pressing as various issues weigh on your mind, Sagittarius. Work with a doctor to develop a plan for moving forward in a healthy way.

**CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20**  
Capricorn, you may be catching glimpses of what is around the corner, but you're not ready to take the first step in that direction. This will happen soon enough.

**AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18**  
Your moods are fluctuating regularly, Aquarius. Voice your feelings and it will help you address any insecurities or other issues that are on your mind.

**PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20**  
It may seem like you're working on jobs for others, but behind it all, you're actually working on yourself, Pisces.

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# LEGAL NOTICES

## LEGAL

### SUMMONS

Index No. 511356/2014  
D/O/F: December 2, 2014

Premises Address: 85 E 28TH STREET UNIT 3, BROOKLYN, NY 11226

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF KINGS CALIBER HOME LOANS, INC., Plaintiff,

-against-

KIRK JOSEPH; NEW YORK CITY PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU; NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT ADJUDICATION BUREAU; JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A.; NEW YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD; THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE BERKSHIRE CONDOMINIUM; "JOHN DOES" AND "JANE DOES", SAID NAMES BEING FICTITIOUS, PARTIES INTENDED BEING POSSIBLE TENANTS OR OCCUPANTS OF PREMISES AND CORPORATIONS, OTHER ENTITIES OR PERSONS WHO HAVE, CLAIM, OR MAY CLAIM, A LIEN AGAINST, OR OTHER INTEREST IN, THE PREMISES, Defendant(s).

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action, and to serve a copy of your Answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a Notice of Appearance on the Plaintiff's Attorneys within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, where service is made by

## LEGAL

delivery upon you personally within the State, or within thirty (30) days after completion of service where service is made in any other manner, and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

NOTICE  
YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME

If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action.

YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.

The following notice is intended only for those defendants who are owners of the premises sought to be foreclosed or who are liable upon the debt for which the mortgage stands as security.

## LEGAL

YOU ARE HEREBY PUT ON NOTICE THAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

The amount of the Debt thru December 1, 2014 is: \$293,779.89 consisting of principal balance of \$263,031.25 plus interest of \$ 2 8 , 2 5 9 . 6 0 , escrow / impound shortages or credits of \$661.96, late charges of \$154.25; Broker's Price Opinion, inspection and miscellaneous charges of \$146.00; attorney fee \$1,000.00 and title search \$526.83. Because of interest and other charges that may vary from day to day, the amount due on the day you pay may be greater. Hence, if you pay the amount shown above, an adjustment may be necessary after we receive the check, in which event we will inform you.

The name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed: CALIBER HOME LOANS, INC.

Unless you dispute the validity of the debt, or any portion thereof, within thirty (30) days after receipt hereof, the debt will be assumed to be valid by Rosicki, Rosicki & Associates P.C. If you notify Rosicki, Rosicki & Associates P.C. in writing within thirty (30) days after your receipt hereof that the debt, or any portion thereof, is disputed, we will obtain verification of the debt or a copy of any judgment against you

## LEGAL

representing the debt and a copy of such verification or judgment will be mailed to you by Rosicki, Rosicki & Associates P.C.

Upon your written request within 30 days after receipt of this notice, Rosicki, Rosicki & Associates P.C. will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor if different from the current creditor.

Note: Your time to respond to the summons and complaint differs from your time to dispute the validity of the debt or to request the name and address of the original creditor. Although you have as few as 20 days to respond to the summons and complaint, depending on the manner of service, you still have 30 days from receipt of this summons to dispute the validity of the debt and to request the name and address of the original creditor.

TO THE DEFENDANTS, except KIRK JOSEPH: The Plaintiff makes no personal claim against you in this action.

TO THE DEFENDANTS: KIRK JOSEPH: If you have obtained an order of discharge from the Bankruptcy court, which includes this debt, and you have not reaffirmed your liability for this debt, this law suit is not alleging that you have any personal liability for this debt and does not seek a money judgment against you. Even if a discharge has been obtained, this lawsuit to foreclose the mortgage

## LEGAL

will continue and we will seek a judgment authorizing the sale of the mortgaged premises. Dated: December 1, 2014

Ijeoma Nduka, Esq.  
ROSICKI, ROSICKI & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Attorneys for Plaintiff  
Main Office 51 E Bethpage Road Plainview, NY 11803  
516-741-2585

Help For Homeowners In Foreclosure New York State Law requires that we send you this notice about the foreclosure process. Please read it carefully. Mortgage foreclosure is a complex process. Some people may approach you about "saving" your home. You should be extremely careful about any such promises. The State encourages you to become informed about your options in foreclosure. There are government agencies, legal aid entities and other non-profit organizations that you may contact for information about foreclosure while you are working with your lender during this process. To locate an entity near you, you may call the toll-free helpline maintained by the New York State Banking Department at 1 - 8 7 7 - B A N K N Y S (1-877-226-5697) or visit the Department's website at www.banking.state.ny.us . The State does not guarantee the advice of these agencies.

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# What Is Diabetes?

When you have diabetes your body does not make enough insulin (type 1), or is unable to use insulin properly (type 2). The cells of your body do not absorb enough insulin from your blood. As a result, you may have high sugar in your blood, and life threatening complications may result.

Type 2 Diabetes occurs mostly in adults over 40, especially overweight adults. About 16 million people in the United States are diabetic. The highest rate of type 2 diabetes are among native Americans, Hispanics and African Americans.

## What Are The Symptoms?

- Increased Urination
- Excessive Thirst and Drinking
- Increased Appetite
- Weight Gain or Loss
- Blurred Vision
- Skin Infections
- Vaginal Infection
- Tiredness
- Slowly Healing Sores
- Abnormal Feelings or Prickling
- Burning, Itching of the Skin

## How Is It Treated?

The goal of treatment is to control the level of sugar in your blood. You want to try to keep it in the same range as a nondiabetic person.

## This is Done By:

- Measuring Your Blood Sugar Regularly
- Meal Planning
- Exercise
- Medications

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**Harry Shapiro, MD** is a Board Certified Endocrinologist-Gland Hormone Diabetes.

He is a graduate of Albert Einstein College of Medicine and completed his endocrinology fellowship at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.