



## Heritage Sunday

The Rev. Dr. Marc L. Jean delivers a message at the United Methodist Church in Brooklyn. **See story on page 8.**

Photo by Nelson A. King

## Hearing on Mitchell-Lama housing

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Council Member Jumaane D. Williams, chair of the City Council Committee on Housing and Buildings, and Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams on Tuesday co-hosted the first City

Council oversight hearing in seven years on Mitchell-Lama housing.

The Mitchell-Lama housing is a statewide program created in 1955 that supported the construction of 105,000 units of affordable housing —

of which 18,000 are located in Brooklyn — for middle-income residents.

Unlike public housing in which a government agency operates developments and is dependent on gov-

Continued on Page 5

# LABOUR WINS ELECTION

## CARICOM'S third one-seat government now in place

By Bert Wilkinson

General elections in Jamaica in the past week have given the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) its unprecedented third government with a razor thin one-seat majority fueling fears that the islanders will soon be asked to go to the polls again.

The opposition Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) which had been in the political wilderness for the most of the past 20 years except for a brief four-year stint in government up to 2011, wrested government from Portia Simpson-Miller's People's National Party (PNP) by 32-31 seats but analysts say that the political dust, which the polls have ripped up have pushed the country into unfa-

miliar waters.

Jamaica now joins Guyana and St. Vincent as the three members of the 15-nation group of nations, which are being run with governments barely hanging on by a one-seat parliamentary majority but even though some pundits think this will not present major problems, both parties are preparing for the very strong possibility of fresh elections in a matter of months.

Caribbean-born, U.S.-based academics David Hinds and Wazir Mohamed both think that political tribalism in the region is as strong as ever and there may not be that much ideological and functional dif-

Continued on Page 6

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Members of the Brooklyn-based Garifuna Indigenous People of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Inc.

Garifuna Indigenous People of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

## SVG Garifuna group hosts inaugural National Heroes Day

By Nelson A. King

With inordinate national pride and identity, the Brooklyn-based Garifuna Indigenous People of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Incorporated (GIPSVG, Inc.) is hoping to tap into nostalgic celebrations by hosting, for the very first time, a grand National Heroes Day spectacle in Brooklyn.

GIPSVG, Inc. president Marsena Ballantyne told Caribbean Life, in an exclusive interview, that the inaugural event, on Sat., March 12, at the Friends of Crown Heights Educational Center in Brooklyn, promises to be very exciting.

Ballantyne said the extravaganza, held in commemoration of National Heroes Day, “will take on the form of a cultural variety show and dance.”

“I’m very excited because this is the first time National Heroes Day is being commemorated in New York and, as descendants of Joseph Chatoyer [Carib Paramount Chief and St. Vincent and the Grenadines’ national hero], we are the ones hosting it,” she said.

“The event will place particular emphasis on celebrating Chatoyer’s legacy and the heritage handed down to us by him and our ancestors,” added Ballantyne, whose group is also celebrating its first anniversary.

“We hope to make this event an annual one in an effort to preserve the remnants of our Garifuna culture, promote a sense of pride among Vincentians, and the realization that our Garifuna heritage is a rich one — and it belongs to all of us,” she continued.

“We also hope that we will do justice

Continued on Page 12

# Guyana’s Consulate celebrates 46th Republic Anniversary



Poet, Carol Archer, Guliana Jacobs, Linda Felix Johnson of SistaSoul Productions Company, Deputy Consul General Jacquelyn Hamer, accepting Juicing Cassave from painter Carl F. Anderson, Staff Aquafé Monroe and poet James Richmond.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

A small group of expatriates celebrated in a big way the 46th Republic Anniversary and Mashramani on Feb. 19 at the Guyana Consulate of New York with spirited drumming, eloquent poetry, memories through the years, and a fine arts exhibition which showcased the pride and talents of the Guyanese people. The event also commemorated the country’s 50th Jubilee.

Creative Arts Showcase — hosted by Consul General Brentnold Evans and Deputy Consul General Jacquelyn Hamer, in collaboration with Linda Felix Johnson’s SistaSoul Productions Company and the Women of Mission International — is the first such presentation held at the diplomatic office since the Coalition came into government.

Paintings by Carl F. Anderson, Gold Medalist winner of 4th Edition of the

and Lincoln Perry, multi award-winner, world-famous painter adorned the walls of the consulate.

Emcee Gary Tim kicked the culture show into high gear with the introduction of Noël Moses who did a brilliant presentation of Martin Carter’s poems. Poet James Richmond in turn, captivating the audience with his “Golden Jubilee—One People One Nation One Destiny,” a 50th Independence Anniversary tribute, while Carol Archer’s verses of history and culture were rendered with verve.

Punctuated by nostalgia and cultural honor, Menes de Griot, the son of late great Art Broomes — a master drummer in his own right — conducted the first ever libation in tribute to late Guyanese presidents and current President David Granger. He then joined a drum ensemble with Empress Mariam Guil-

der, to dance Kwe Kwe to the rhyme of “Guyana Nice.”

Memories filled the air and were felt in the soulful voices of the Hooper sisters who sang “Passing Memories” and “Where are your Friends Now” — popular hits from back in the day when their father Eddie Hooper’s catchy lyrics packed dance halls, and flooded airways.

Reggae artiste Kapa Shanti in turn added a bit of Caribbean flavor to the mix, paving the way for Jamaican comedian and stage performer Diane Dixon who channeled Louise Bennett, and garnered a belly full of laughs.

The evening’s production also included a walk down memory lane with historian Jimmy Hamilton who engrossed the audience with a vivid synopsis that chronicled the town of McKenzie, and

Continued on Page 12

## 5th Annual Shirley Chisholm conference

By Nelson A. King

The Caribbean Research Center (CRC) at Brooklyn’s Medgar Evers College will on Saturday, March 19 host the 5th Annual Shirley Chisholm Women’s Empowerment Conference.

The all-day event sponsored by the Black Women for Fairness, Equity & Justice, Healthfirst and Always Amazing Alpha Alpha Phi Chapter will be held under the theme, “Our Story is Our Strength.” The conference takes place in the college’s Dining Hall at 1638 Bedford Ave.

The CRC said the conference will focus on issues that are escalating in the various communities in New York

City, like gun violence, gentrification, gender and race injustice, and police brutality.

Several area elected officials including Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo, Assemblywomen Rodney Bichotte and Diane Richardson, and Senator Roxanne Persaud have been invited to participate in the event that honors the legendary Shirley Chisholm.

Chisholm, who born in Brooklyn in 1924 to Barbadian and Guyanese parents, was renowned for becoming the first Black congresswoman (1968), representing the 11th Congressional District in Brooklyn for seven, two-year terms.

In 1972, the out-spoken Chisholm

ran for the Democratic nomination for the presidency, becoming the first major-party African-American candidate to do so.

The CRC noted that, throughout her political career, Chisholm fought for education opportunities and social justice. In 1983, Chisholm left Congress to teach. She died in Florida in 2005.

Tickets for the conference can be purchased on Eventbrite, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/womens-empowerment-conference-tickets-20981208359>.

For more information, contact Shakima Scott at (718) 270-4850; or email at CaribbeanResearchCenter@gmail.com, or sscott@mec.cuny.edu.



## Caribbean

CARICOM member states will be moving to tackle the Zika virus that is affecting the region.

This was revealed by CARICOM Chairman Belize Prime Minister Dean Barrow who said the course of action includes continuous public education, implementation of measures at ports of entry, health facilities, schools, private enterprises such as hotels and tourism facilities, factories and other businesses.



Barrow also said that governments were being asked to reduce import tax on essential public health supplies such as insecticide-treated bed nets and insect repellent for the duration of the epidemic in the region which they estimated would be approximately two years.

He also said that the second week of May will be designated as "Caribbean Mosquito Awareness Week."

The announcements were made at a press at the recent conclusion of the 27th intersessional meeting of the conference of heads government of CARICOM in Placencia, Belize.



## Boosting tourism in St. Kitts

Tourists enjoying a scenic railway tour in St. Kitts and Nevis.

St. Kitts Tourism Authority

## Antigua

The Antigua and Barbuda government says it can defeat an opposition court challenge to 800 passports issued under its citizenship program (CIP) since taking office in June 2014.

The leader of the opposition United Progressive Party (UPP) Harold Lovell told Parliament recently that the passports were illegal, since the government failed to appoint a board of directors to oversee the operations of the CIP.

He said in the absence of the properly constituted authority to oversee the transactions that have taken place over the past year are null and void.



He also accused the government of failing to comply with a rule under Antigua and Barbuda law that requires the government to give semi-annual reports on the CIP.

But Attorney General Steadroy "Cutie" Benjamin in an interview with Observer Radio dismissed the opposition challenge that the government was in breach of the law.

"We are satisfied that in fact, even though the Board has not yet been established, the activities of the unit are consistent with the law," he said.

Benjamin has acknowledged that the Board was not established but argued that it was merely to recommend to the minister and Cabinet and its recommendations could be rejected.

He contended that, since the CIP was established in 2013, the CIP was the

body that supervised the processing of applications.

## Bahamas

A group of 18 Cuban health professionals arrived in The Bahamas recently to resume medical cooperation after the conclusion there of "Operation Miracle" about a decade ago.

The Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the physicians will offer their services in different Bahamian public hospitals, mainly in the capital Nassau and in Freeport, Grand Bahama.

Upon arrival at the Nassau's Lynden Pindling International Airport, the Cuban medical staff was welcomed by the Cuban Ambassador to the Bahamas, Ismara Vargas, as well as by other members of the Cuban diplomatic mission and executives of the Public Hospitals Authority (PHA).



The Director of the PHA, Herbert H Brown, expressed his satisfaction at having Cuban physicians working in The Bahamas and the high expectations for the work they will carry out.

On Dec. 21, 2015, in Nassau, Cuba, The Bahamas signed a health cooperation agreement, which has now materialized with the arrival of the first 15 physicians, a figure expected to increase by next month.

## Guyana

The Guyana government has allocat-

ed GUY\$280 million (US\$1.4 million) to promote tourism development and preserve cultural identity and economic prosperity.

This is based on the 2016 National Budget recently presented by Finance Minister Winston Jordan. That amount includes 211 indigenous grants which will fund eco-tourism projects and build village economies for the upcoming 50th Independence celebrations.

Minister of Telecommunications and Tourism Catherine Hughes said more than 15,000 visitors are coming in the month of May for the celebration.

A Bed and Breakfast program is to be implemented, but will be inspected to determine whether homes meet the requirements before they are approved for public usage.



People with extra accommodation in their homes have been encouraged to open them up to visitors as several hotels are already booked to capacity for the period.

Jordan said in his Budget presentation that the Government will develop an operational plan to realize the intent of the recently revised National Tourism Policy. This, he said, will lay a foundation for tourism development and ensure collaboration between Government and all stakeholders.

## Jamaica

A 50-year-old medical doctor is the

first victim to die from the H1N1 virus, also called swine flu.

Media reports say that Suzanna Roye died at the University Hospital of the University of the West Indies, after being transferred from a hospital in the central parish of Manchester.

The reports also said that another female doctor is in the intensive care unit at the same health institution. Reports are that she is responding to treatment.



The Ministry of Health has confirmed that nine cases of the deadly H1N1 virus are currently being treated at the University Hospital of the West Indies in Kingston.

Acting Chief Medical Officer Dr. Winston De La Haye said the cases are not from any particular geographic area, and that the referrals were from other parishes.

Meanwhile, the main opposition Jamaica Labor Party has called on Health Minister Horace Daley to provide Jamaicans with an update on the H1N1 virus.

## St. Lucia

Prime Minister Dr. Kenny Anthony said St. Lucia's new Citizenship by Investment Program will provide impetus for the recovering economy, in order to reduce the effects of a decline in foreign direct investment.

Continued on Page 22



# Adams appeals for low-cost financing

Continued from cover  
ernment funding, the Mitchell-Lama program is designed to encourage private developers to invest in housing developments that are subject to government regulations.

In recent years, Adams said the program has been threatened by property owners converting units to market-rate and subsequently imposing dramatic rent increases.

For example, between 2003 and 2009, he said the number of Mitchell-Lama complexes decreased from 135 to 97 because of privatization and buy-outs.

More than 300 Brooklynites attended the hearing, held in the community room of Brooklyn Borough Hall, to testify on their experiences with the program and concerns with maintaining the affordability of their housing.

"Mitchell-Lama was one of the most effective affordable housing programs ever implemented in New York City," said Member Williams, who represents the 45th Council District in Brooklyn.

"Now, the Mitchell-Lama program is in a state of crisis and is rapidly disappearing," he added. "It's unacceptable that our seniors and working families appear to receive little information while they try to find affordable homes and

current tenants seem to get minimal help when they face harassment and displacement in Mitchell-Lama apartments.

Adams said he has made preserving the Mitchell-Lama program a signature component of his affordable housing agenda.

Through his Brooklyn Mitchell-Lama Task Force, which comprises community leaders living in developments across the borough, he said he has worked to persuade the State Legislature and the City Council to protect at-risk units from privatization.

In his testimony to the City Council, he outlined a series of recommendations to support the at-risk housing stock, including regular oversight hearings to hold the New York City Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) accountable, comprehensive management training and education from HPD for development board members, as well as increased low-cost financing from both New York City Housing Development Corporation (HDC) for capital improvements to developments.

Additionally, Adams urged the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR) to establish its own low-cost financing program for Mitchell-Lama housing.

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# Jamaica moves into uncharted waters



Jamaica New Prime Minister Andrew Holness.

Associated Press / Collin Reid, File

Continued from cover  
ferences between the dominant political players in most of the countries.

“This tells us that the electorates are evenly divided. We are a 50-50 electorate. Political tribalism is now as sharp as ever. In many regards it is worse than before. It means that the major parties are able to mobilize their bases equally. But they are not able to convince so-called independents or the alienated voters to vote for them,” said Hinds, an associate professor of Caribbean and African Diaspora Studies, School of Social Transformation at Arizona State University.

Mohamed, also an associate professor at Indiana East University argues that the ideological fault lines, which had separated and made parties distinct from each other in the past, have disappeared “as all appear to be following the neo liberal agenda and are bowing to the dictates of the IMF and the World Bank. This represents the turmoil that exists in economies. There is no longer

a clear divide among the parties.”

Hinds pointed to statistics to prove his argument, noting that “in the six elections held in the last year, the popular vote were as follows: St. Vincent and the Grenadines 52.28 percent – 47.72 percent; Belize 50.52 percent – 49.48 percent; Guyana 50.30 percent – 49.70 percent; St. Kitts-Nevis 50.8 percent – 49.2 percent (in favor of the Opposition); Trinidad and Tobago 51.68 percent – 48.32 percent; Jamaica 50.13 percent – 49.87 percent.”

But even as Andrew Holness was preparing to begin work as the newest Jamaican prime minister, his former mentor and head of government Bruce Golding says that uncertain times are ahead but the JLP might just be able to hold off the PNP for a while yet.

“When I found myself in 2007 with a majority of four seats, I certainly thought that was a nightmare in and of itself but while it is going to be challenging to administer a government with a one-seat majority, it is not a constitutional crisis

and there is no reason why a government cannot function with a one-seat majority,” he told reporters this week.

A day before the final results were made known, the very same Golding correctly summed up the island current political situation as being “in uncharted waters.”

“We have never had this kind of situation, so in a sense, it is

uncharted waters, but it is not unchartable waters. It is going to be challenging for the prime minister and the government, but there is precedence for it in the Caribbean,” he told reporters.

Back in 2003, Keith Mitchell, currently the prime minister of Grenada and one of the most senior leaders in CARICOM, lasted out his five-year

term with one seat.

“We had a situation in Trinidad in 2001 when they ended up with an 18 – 18 split. The president at that time had to decide which of the two he was going to choose. He chose the one that was there before, and that government continued for about 10 months before they called an election,” he pointed out.

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# Femimoreans celebrate Heritage Sunday

By Nelson A. King

One of the oldest United Methodist churches in Brooklyn on Sunday culminated Black History Month celebrations with a grand tribute, dubbed "Heritage Sunday."

The sanctuary of the century-plus-old Fenimore Street United Methodist Church, at the corner of Fenimore Street and Rodgers Avenue, was adored with Afrocentric colors and fabric during the three-hour-odd Worship Service, while congregants and the church's choirs, mostly dressed in complementary outfits, sang lustily correlative hymns and Old Negro Spirituals.

Worshippers also heard an introductory message and occasional commentaries by the church's pastor, the Rev. Dr. Maxine Nixon, an African American.

Guest speaker, the Rev. Dr. Marc L. Jean, the Haitian-born pastor of the Pentecostal Haitian Tabernacle of Brooklyn, brought along his choir, as they participated in the celebration that also featured a Black History tribute by retired U.S. postal worker and member of Fenimore

Street United Methodist Church Violet Young, as well as a liturgical dance to "Sarafina" by the youth, choreographed by Barbadian Marriett Mayers.

Young urged parishioners to sign a petition so her great grandmother could be placed, like African American activists, such as the slain Malcolm X, on a Black History commemorative stamp. She said she required 5,000 signatures.

The church's Chancel Choir rendered a consonant version of the African American anthem "Lift Every Voice," to rave reviews, and the more up tempore United Voices of Praise uncharacteristically offered solemnly "I will sing Praises unto you."

Belizean-born saxophonist Earl Henderson played the "Old Rugged Cross," as the congregation chimed in.

The celebration committee subsequently presented awards to several community activists and stalwart church members, in the Fellowship Hall, in an extended ceremony that included dinner.

"God has set us free," Rev. Nixon preached from the pul-



The youth dances to "Sarafina."

Photo by Nelson A. King

pit. "God has woken us up. Free at last!"

"We were all brought here on ships," she added. "Nobody is better than anybody."

Using a translator, identified only as Rueben, Rev. Jean traced the struggles and significant contributions of Blacks from pre-Biblical to contemporary times, preaching: "They

put us down, but they don't know who we are."

"Whether you're from Haiti or Egypt, everybody came to this land by boat," he preached under the theme, "The Power of God's Revelation in Praying."

"You are a great icon," he added. "You are the icon that creates history. This land is

a Black land; our Indians are Black.

"Ninety percent of the things in this world [were] created by Black," Rev. Jean continued. "The first nation created in the Caribbean was Black [referring to Haiti]. You should be proud of your skin color. You have to be proud today that you're special."

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# Jamaica brings warm vibes to New Yorkers

By Nelson A. King

On Thursday, the Jamaica Tourist Board engaged commuters at the 33rd Street Port Authority Trans-Hudson (PATH) station in Manhattan, 7 am until 12 noon, offering New York and New Jersey residents a brief escape to the warm island of Jamaica.

Jamaica Tourist Board's Business Development Managers, Marcia Sinclair and Kenton Senior were on-site to interact with PATH commuters, providing travel information and facilitating consumers as they enter to win an all-inclusive Jamaican getaway to Moon Palace Jamaica Grande.

The event also featured live reggae music, with giveaways of Jamaica "Home of All Right"



Jamaica Tourist Board's Business Development Managers, Marcia Sinclair (second left) and Kenton Senior (right), were on-site to interact with PATH commuters, providing travel information and facilitating consumers as they enter to win an all-inclusive Jamaican getaway to Moon Palace Jamaica Grande.

Jamaica Tourist Board

branded lip balm and sunscreen, and a chance to take a picture at the "Home of All Right" photo booth.

From Feb. 25 to March 7, those who participate in taking

a selfie with any of the Jamaica ads on the PATH, tagging #HomeofAllRight, @VisitJamaicaNow and @PalaceResorts on Twitter, will also be entered to win a trip to Jamaica.

# Vincentians face higher food prices

By Azad Ali

Vincentians will have to dig deeper into their pockets to buy several foodstuff items including package rice, chicken, lentil, butter, pigeon peas, yeast and baking powder following new taxes announced by Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves in his 2016 budget recently.

Other increases are a two percent levy on mobile telephone calls and on international calls, salt, property tax on commercial buildings, driver's licenses, and gun licenses.

The telephone tax, which will generate EC\$2.7 million will be paid directly to the Zero Hunger Trust Fund, in accordance with a specific statute law, Gonsalves, who is also finance minister told Parliament when he presented the EC\$912 million budget.

He said the Trust Fund will support the multifaceted efforts needed to eliminate hunger in St. Vincent and the

Grenadines and establish a model approach that can be replicated across the Caribbean

The prime minister said the list of VAT exemption in St. Vincent and the Grenadines is much wider than in other developing, small island states.

Gonsalves also announced increases in excise tax on beverages including beer, malts, stouts, wines of fresh grapes, brandy, whiskey and vodka.

He said these measures will take effect from May 1, 2016. He told Parliament that the revenue yield from the increase taxation is expected to be EC\$8 million annually.

It is not known whether the parliamentary opposition members will debate the budget, as they again stayed away from last Monday's sitting in continued protest of the results of the Dec. 9, general election, which they claim was stolen.

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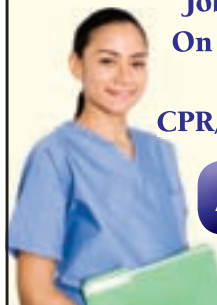
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# UNDP at 50 seeks broad coalition targeting sustainable development

By Helen Clark

*Helen Clark is administrator, UN Development Programme (UNDP)*

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 22, 2016 (IPS) - Fifty years ago, one in every three people around the world was living in poverty. It was against that backdrop that the United Nations Development Programme, (UNDP), was founded in 1966.

Ever since, UNDP has been a leader in working for a more fair and prosperous world for all. We have worked with governments, civil society, the private sector, and philanthropy to empower people and build resilient nations.

As UNDP begins its second half century, the numbers of people in poverty have decreased to around one in eight. UNDP is proud to have worked with many partners committed to poverty eradication.

Indeed, for 50 years UNDP has been at the forefront of work to eradicate poverty, hunger and disease, create jobs and livelihoods, empower women, support recovery from disasters and other crises, protect the environment, and more.

Most of the work happens because of our dedicated staff and the thousands of organizations we partner with around the world who do the daily work of development. I am

proud to lead an organization that has transformed so many lives for the better, offering them opportunity, hope, and dignity.

But there remains much work to do. The world is not yet rid of poverty and hunger and a number of ecosystems are under great stress.

The good news is that our world has more wealth, more knowledge, and more technologies at its disposal than ever before to do something about these challenges.

Leadership is needed on finding the funding required. Money isn't everything, but it certainly helps, including through Official Development Assistance.

Broad coalitions for sustainable development are needed. Governments acting alone can't achieve the goals envisaged in the new global agenda, Agenda 2030; their leadership is vital, but insufficient. Civil society, the private sector, philanthropy, researchers – all hands are need for the task.

And leadership is needed more than ever from the multilateral system — including from UNDP. Our job is to support countries to eradicate poverty, and to do that in a way which also reduces inequality and exclusion, and avoids wrecking the ecosystems on which life depends.

# It's not just Flint where kids are in danger

By Ronald White and Molly Rauch

Brown, foul-smelling water spewing out of faucets. Children poisoned by lead and other toxic metals. Families with aching joints, brittle bones, and shocking hair loss. These troubling images and more have been flowing out of Flint, Michigan since late last year as the scope and impact of the city's austerity-driven water contamination crisis has become increasingly clear.

But pollution, contamination, and toxic chemicals that harm children's health aren't confined to Flint. America's children are being exposed to a host of toxic chemical hazards. From deteriorating lead paint still widespread in many communities, to toxic toys sold at dollar stores, to dangerous chemical facilities near homes and schools, we're putting our kids in danger.

All children, but especially those under age five, are susceptible to toxic chemicals because their bodies and brains are still growing and developing. However, there is a striking inequality in the likelihood that children of color and those living in poverty will be exposed to dangerous substances. That disparity is especially clear when we look at facilities that use, store, or produce toxic chemicals.

A recent report from the Center for Effective Government[foreffectivegov.org] found that nearly one in 10 schoolkids — 4.9 million — attend school within a mile of a hazardous chemical facility. Almost two-thirds of the kids who live in homes near these facilities are children of color. Children of color liv-

**Our children deserve to be protected from chemicals that damage their brains, disrupt their ability to learn, wreak havoc on their developing reproductive systems, cause cancer, or spark deadly disasters next door to their homes and schools.**

ing in poverty are especially hard hit, with poor black and Latino children more than twice as likely to live in these "fenceline communities" as white children who are not poor.

Living near a dangerous chemical facility increases the chances of being exposed to toxic air or water pollution. These facilities operate in just about every state in the nation, though they are more densely concentrated in the Midwest, the South, the Mid-Atlantic, and California.

Living in a fenceline community also significantly increases the risk of exposure should a large-scale chemical disaster occur. Again, that danger is greater in communities of color. Facilities located in these communities have almost twice the rate of incidents like chemical leaks, fires, and explosions as those in communities largely populated by whites.

Tackling this environmental injustice and protecting our children from dangerous chemicals require significant effort,

but there are solutions at hand. First, national standards should require that manufacturers and chemical facilities switch to the safest alternative substances available, when feasible. This has already happened at water treatment plants and bleach manufacturing facilities across the country, but many more plants continue to pose a serious risk to children and nearby communities by using deadly chlorine gas and other toxic substances.

Other steps local, state, or federal agencies can take include adopting new zoning laws or revising existing ones to block construction of new or expanded chemical facilities near homes and schools and to prevent new homes and schools from being built in fenceline zones; requiring chemical facilities to continuously monitor and report their fenceline-area emissions to agencies and the public; and improving enforcement of existing environmental and workplace health and safety regulations to safeguard all communities from toxic pollution and chemical disasters.

Our children deserve to be protected from chemicals that damage their brains, disrupt their ability to learn, wreak havoc on their developing reproductive systems, cause cancer, or spark deadly disasters next door to their homes and schools. We owe it to them to require common-sense solutions to reduce or eliminate these dangers.

*White is the director of regulatory policy at the Center for Effective Government. Rauch is the public health policy director at Moms Clean Air Force.*

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# Christie's mean-spirited parting shot

I remember MSNBC's Rachel Maddow concluding another of her typically well-crafted intros with: "And that's why this man will never be president of the United States." None other than New Jersey Governor Chris Christie was "this man" to whom Maddow referred. She was devoting much of her show that evening to the bombshell developments a Christie news conference had revealed that day, concerning Bridgegate, as the spitefully rigged traffic tie-up on the George Washington Bridge came to be called. The final hammer is yet to fall on that act of devil-may-care political mischief, with Christie having done a Pontius Pilate "clean hands" routine ever since stuff began hitting the fan a while back.

But even pre-dating the Bridgegate fallout, which Maddow and others saw as Christie's bridge too far in his presidential quest, we had insisted in this space that the governor had already written himself out of presidential history, just being Christie. Those very videos of Christie doing his one-man show in town halls across New Jersey, which his marketing machine jubilantly touted as previewing a White House natural, had actually exposed, we noted, a boorish ruffian whose visions of an obstacle-free path to presidential glory would be short-circuited. To us it was clear that rudely spewing "Shut up and sit down" or "That's none of your business" at garden variety constituents was a deal breaker beyond fixing.

So here was Christie last week, having been earlier administered a reality-check potion by GOP primary voters, sidling up to the buffoon who would lead the clawing contenders with a "This is my guy" back slap. This, after having earlier dismissed Trump as belonging in a Barnum & Bailey environment, hardly in a presidential politics discussion.

Politicians, especially slick ones among whom Christie likely includes himself, give the impression sometimes that wishing away reality and taking the public along on the fantasy ride, is eminently doable. I mean, who constitutes the audience Christie thinks he's playing to when he pulls a stunt like this? Is it just for the benefit of the yahoos who have constantly shown Trump being supported by one-third of GOP voters? What his post-Trump endorsement polling numbers show in New Jersey should be interesting. He had already slipped sharply, approval-wise, from the "golden boy" days of his first gubernatorial term to a none too happy electorate, starting relatively early in his current term. The Bridgegate mess of course not helping, and neither did his leading the state into a rough place economically, notably with multiple downgrades of New Jersey's bond rating.

This late-hour realization by Christie that Trump is America's best presidential hope is such a shameless, unrefined attempt at political guile, it doesn't

## Viewpoint

By Les Slater

**Is it that Christie, became so infatuated with the idea of his elevation to the national stage, that he considers this latest pandering a small price to pay for keeping those national-office dreams alive?**

become even someone as steeped as Christie evidently is in rough-and-tumble political infighting. Let's face it, there's quite a gulf between appearing to do the right non-partisan thing by joining President Obama in touring storm-devastated areas of New Jersey and doing an about-face embrace of a guy the GOP high command sees as the party's biggest embarrassment as a presidential contender in a long time.

Is it that Christie, during his salad days as a front-running GOP prospect for higher office, became so infatuated with the idea of his inevitable elevation to the national stage, that he considers this latest pandering a small price to pay for keeping those national-office dreams alive? Is it a case of being caught up and being too much a believer in his own hype? It's not that he didn't reportedly get one warning sign that should have given him pause. The scuttlebutt was that Christie was on Mitt Romney's running mate short list in 2012, but failed the Romney camp's vetting.

Or it could simply be a mean-spirited Christie giving the finger to both New Jersey and the nation for so ignominiously letting the air out of his balloon. For New Jersey, it was the residents bringing the governor painfully back to earth from approval ratings that registered in the high 70s right after he won re-election in 2012. Those numbers have plummeted to the 30 percent range in recent surveys. His presidential aspirations never gained serious traction, precipitating his exit from the nomination hunt after an unimpressive finish in New Hampshire's primary. There's been shown to be enough bully in the man for him to have responded angrily to the "dis" he suffered on both levels. At the same time, the reaction from one apparently displeased Christie funder to his Trump endorsement, that it was pure political opportunism, can't be discounted as being on the mark. Either which way, in the realm of political uprightness, the Christie stock has taken a tumble.

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# Rihanna's whine is not a crime

By Alley Olivier

Dancing is an art in the Caribbean. Men and women form crews, following the instruction of Merital Family or Elephant Man to showcase their dancing shoes, athleticism, and creativity.

Whining is no different. As much as Dancehall is a part of Caribbean culture, whining is as well. While many might find the up-close-and-personal, gyrating movements to carry a sexual connotation, for those in the Caribbean it is simply two people dancing.

Often times, spouses might whine together or dance with other people — feeling no element of possible infidelity due to their husband or wife “giving a little jouk” to someone else.

So the initial criticism of Bajan artist Rihanna's recently released video for her charting single “Work” featuring Drake is bizarre in the eyes of many Caribbean people. The bashment at the Canadian Jerk House is reminiscent for many Caribbean Americans missing the island parties, ready for Carnival, or feeling nostalgic of just a few years ago on American soil where they would bring that setting right to their backyard.

Unlike popular American culture, dancing and sex are not so tightly linked. The lyrics could be raunchy and suggestive but as the director of the video, Director X, aptly puts it:

“In West Indian culture, a dance is a dance. You can have that dance. There could be a girl jumping on top of you and you're whining up on one another. In the wrong state, you would get arrested and charged for lewd conduct or something. But you can end that dance and her boyfriend can be beside her, and you're like, “Hi,” or you just walk away. Dancing and sex are tied together in America — if you're dancing with somebody that means you're sleeping with somebody. But that doesn't mean that in our culture it's the same. In West Indian culture, you're dancing with someone because you're dancing with someone.”

Rihanna is known to mesh her pop artistry with equal doses of her Caribbean heritage, often-times blending Dancehall and Reggae in pop hits like “Rude Boy” (2009). The pop songstress has whined in the past, and does not hide her joy of jumping up, whining as part of the band at Carnival or on stage — she attempts, if anything, to showcase Caribbean culture and has achieved doing so once again with her video for “Work.”

You cannot pick and choose when to love Rihanna's genre blending — to love Rihanna is to love Caribbean culture; a culture that is firmly set in morality, religion, and discipline while finding reasons to celebrate.

## Heroes

Continued from page 3

in replicating our National Heroes Day Festival, which takes place every year in Fancy [the northern most village on mainland St. Vincent that is considered an integral part of the “Garifuna Country”]” Ballantyne said.

She said the event runs from 6 pm to 12:00 midnight, with a mini cultural exhibition for the first two hours.

Afterwards, Ballantyne said there will be cultural performances by, among others, GIPSVG Inc, Timna Lockhart, Afari Haywood, Chief Joseph Chatoyer Dance

Company, the United Vincy Cultural Group of Brooklyn, Lively, Prim Adonna and Skarpyon.

Local delicacies — such as cassava bread (“chokee bam bam”), farine and dukuna — will also be on sale.

In addition, handicraft items — such as placemats, coasters and baskets — will be on display and on sale, and artists will conduct paintings, Ballantyne said.

She said proceeds raised at the event “will benefit the indigenous communities north of the Rabacca River [on mainland St. Vincent].”

For more information, contact Ballantyne at (347) 553-9545 or email at gipsvg@gmail.com.

## Anniversary

Continued from page 3

the birth of Independence in 1966.

Hamilton's talk of Demba, and the bauxite company that played a part in the town's development, was brilliant. He also captured the history of Guyana through the years as it prepares to celebrate its Golden Jubilee.

Carmen Barley, Ph.D., a literary giant

for 40 years, an alumni professor of Howard University and author, read excerpts from her books “Black Water Children” and “Black Water Women.”

Deputy Consul General Jacquelyn Hamer in closing said it was a pleasure hosting the nationals at the diplomatic office, and added she looks forward to hosting future programs with other organizations.

“Our aim is to engage the diaspora and showcase our cultural talent.

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First Lady of New York, Chirlane McCray (second from left) with Rev. Dr. Alfred Cockfield, Sister Audrey Linette Cockfield and Minister Alfred Cockfield II.

## Call for churches to host mental health workshops

**By Tangerine Clarke**

Chirlane McCray, last Sunday, unveiled a comprehensive guide to mental health titled "Thrive NYC – A Mental Health Roadmap for All" to help New Yorkers find a better way of living through 54 programs that include term treatment, mental health in schools, early detection and community partnerships.

The almost \$1B program will redesign the city's mental health system over a four years.

Mayor Bill de Blasio's wife delivered a very candid presentation during a Black History Month celebration at God's Battalion Of Prayer Church on Linden Boulevard in Brooklyn, and called on Dr. Rev. Alfred Cockfield and Sister Audrey Linette Cockfield to sign up at [www.thrivenyc.cityofnewyork.us](http://www.thrivenyc.cityofnewyork.us), to host a workshop.

"As a nation, we must do more to help the vast amount of people with mental illness, many who, are not violent, but are victims themselves," said McCray who added that mental illness is still stigmatized.

The author and poet who traces her roots to Barbados and St. Lucia, spoke about living with her parents in Massachusetts who suffered from depression, and the agony and uncertainty she and her husband faced when daughter "Chiara was diagnosed with depression and addiction, and suffered in silence. But despite the terrible pain Chiara endured, she achieved good grades, and will graduate this June."

"It is personal, but I feel as though it's the one thing that no one ever talks about," said McCray, a strong advocate for high quality and accessible mental health services, and who is using her

influence as chair of the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City to advance awareness of mental illness.

She came ready with a battery of information to bolster her plan to combat mental illness in the city, and spoke passionately about making it a top priority by hiring 100 mental health consultants to work in schools across the city.

After months of research on the topic and attending conferences with mental health professionals from Canada and Sweden, the First Lady of New York will tackle post partum depression that affects one in every 10 women. Over two years, the program will screen and treat women in New York as part of the wider spectrum to educate residents.

The Wellesley College graduate, who works with public and private sectors to support the mayor's agenda and who committed herself to a mental health roadmap to close gaps and disparities in mental healthcare, said that the faith community will play a leading role with the first aid class.

According to the website, Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is a groundbreaking public education program that teaches the skill-set needed to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges or crises.

During the afternoon celebration that included a musical tribute by Professor Darryl Jordan and a showcase of the civil rights movie "Selma," First Lady McCray was honored for her outstanding work and presented with a plaque from Rev. Alfred Cockfield, First Lady Audrey Linette Cockfield and Alfred Cockfield II.



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# Drought hammers Haiti's countryside, many go hungry

By David McFadden

ORIANI, Haiti (AP) — Only shriveled carrots and potatoes grow in Carole Joseph's small vegetable plot. The family's chickens are long gone. She sold her only tools to buy food, then the wooden bed she shared with her children. The family now sleeps on the floor of their shack.

All that's left to sell are the pots she uses to cook over a fire pit, when there's something to eat.

The 28-year-old mother of four is among roughly 1.5 million Haitians who can't get nearly enough nutrition because of a years-long drought that has spoiled harvests in her small mountain village and across large sections of the countryside.

"We get a little bit to eat and drink each day, but it's never enough to get our strength back. I don't know what to do anymore," she said, her voice hoarse as she cradled her toddler twins, their hair brittle and tak-

ing on a yellowish tinge, a sign of malnutrition.

For the last three years, a punishing drought has driven Haitians who were already barely getting by on marginal farmland even deeper into misery. Last year's crop yields were the worst in 35 years in a country where more than two-thirds of people eke out a living from agriculture, many using archaic hand tools.

Many Haitians routinely go to bed hungry, and are heartbreakingly accustomed to privation and natural disasters. But the cumulative impact of this drought is so severe that Haiti is facing "unprecedented food insecurity," according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Over the last year, it's worsened significantly with a strong El Nino weather phenomenon that's been disrupting weather patterns across the globe, leaving many places in Latin America and the Caribbean stricken by drought. Cuba suffered its

worst drought in over a century in 2015 and water rationing was ordered in Puerto Rico and elsewhere.

But few places are more vulnerable than Haiti, where 3.6 million of its 10.4 million people can't afford the minimum daily calories, according to the U.N. World Food Program. Of those, 1.5 million are in urgent need of assistance, meaning they're getting significantly less nutrition than what they need and are so underfed they become weak. That category of "severely food insecure" people has doubled in Haiti over the last six months, the agency said.

"This drought is a very dangerous situation. The pressures on people keep increasing," said Haitian economist Kesner Pharel, noting that buying food makes up more than half of an average Haitian family's budget.

Pharel said local agricultural production has contracted so severely over the last two years that 70 percent of the crops consumed in Haiti are now import-



In this Feb. 15, 2016 photo, Carole Joseph holds her toddler twins, Angelo, left, and Angela, after visiting a local health center to examine her children for signs of malnutrition, in Oriani, Haiti. Associated Press / Dieu Nalio Chery

ed, up from roughly 50 percent in the past. With the local currency losing value, the cost of imports is rising, making everything pricier.

Officials say more rural families are being forced to join the decades-long exodus to cities. And diminishing calories means more children are vulnerable to infections like measles and any number of other diseases.

Wendy Bigham, country director of the U.N. World Food Program, said a growing number of farming families have been eating seed stock, seeking loans and selling items such as livestock and tools to get cash for

food.

But "coping mechanisms such as reducing food consumption, selling assets and borrowing money are more and more difficult to sustain as the drought continues year after year," she said.

In the wind-swept mountain town of Oriani in southeast Haiti, Joseph knows this all too well. About a year ago, her husband left to seek work in the neighboring Dominican Republic and he hasn't returned since. She was forced to sell off her chickens and then her other meager possessions to buy food.

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# Bessie Coleman: From cotton picker to first Black female pilot

By Vinette K. Pryce

Difficult as it seems for Blacks to achieve equity in the film industry, corporate boardrooms and major media organizations, the prospect of women ever vaulting to the heights men regularly aspire has always been elusive.

Given pervasive racial and gender discrimination, the most daunting of all is to be both Black and female. Almost always, at first glance, qualified, ambitious individuals with both traits when seeking entry to any profession have often been disadvantaged.

But in the late 1800s, for a young girl named Bessie Coleman, the sky was the limit. And despite the fact she was born in the south, the tenth of 13 children and a child of sharecroppers, she dreamed of flying.

In retrospect, her dream must have seemed too lofty to her parents Susan and George Coleman who lived in Atlanta, Texas.

There in 1892 when she was born, Blacks could not vote, ride in railway cars with white people, drink from the same water fountains and were tortured, burned and even lynched without judicial attention.

In Jim Crow territory, the best most Blacks could do was to leave the south.

Not surprisingly, Coleman's first job was working alongside her family in the cotton fields.

She was just a child.

More fortunate than most she was able to also go to school. Inside a one-room wooden shack, located four miles away from where she lived she made the most of the privilege which allowed her to learn more than the artistry of picking cotton.

Often there wasn't paper to write on or pencils to write with. However, the fact she learned how to read and write seemed more than abundance.

Bessie completed all eight grades of her one-room school.

She saved her money and then in 1910 took her savings and enrolled in the Colored Agricultural and Normal University in Langston, Oklahoma.

The money seemed a pittance because Coleman was only able to complete one semester before she ran out of money.

In 1915, at the age of 23, Coleman went to Chicago to stay with her brother.

One would think that the northern city would be the place to realize Coleman's childhood dreams.

In fact, very few American women of any race had pilot's licenses in the early 1900s. Those who did were predominantly white and wealthy.

According to Nationalaviation.org "the Windy City offered little more to an African American woman than did Texas. When Coleman decided she wanted to learn to fly, the double stigma of her race and gender" impeded her



The Bessie Coleman postage stamp.

aspirations.

Every flying school that Coleman approached refused to admit her because she was both Black and a woman.

She desperately wanted a chance to "amount to something."

She worked as manager of a chili parlor and also became a beautician working as a manicurist in the barber-shops of Chicago's south side where she met Robert Abbott, the publisher of the city's only Black newspaper, the Chicago Defender.

Abbott was a millionaire.

He encouraged her to follow her dream.

Her burning passion was encouraged by her brother who challenged her to follow the lead of French women who had already championed aviation.

With soldiers returning from World War I with tales of flying exploits Coleman became more determined to fly.

Both her brothers had served in France during World War II. Her brother John one day said "I know something that French women do that you'll never do - Fly!"

That was the last straw; the ambitious and determined woman decided then that she would become the first licensed Black pilot.

She decided that Paris would be her training ground and she would learn to fly in France.

Coleman registered to take French classes at a Berlitz school in the Chicago loop.

She withdrew the savings she had accumulated and on the advice of Abbott and with his financial support and another from a Black entrepreneur, she left the mid-western city to New York and then to Paris on Nov.

20, 1920.

It took Coleman seven months to learn how to fly.

The only non-white student in her class, she was taught in a 27-foot biplane that was known to fail frequently, sometimes in the air.

During her training Coleman witnessed a fellow student die in a plane crash, which she described as a "terrible shock" to her nerves.

But the accident did not deter her. She persevered and in June 1921, the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale awarded her an international pilot's license.

When Coleman returned to the U.S. in September 1921, scores of reporters turned out to meet her. The "Air Service News" wrote that Coleman had become "a full-fledged aviatrix, the first of her race."

She was invited as a guest of honor to attend the all-Black musical "Shuffle Along."

The entire theater audience, including the several hundred whites in the orchestra seats, rose to give the first Black female pilot a standing ovation.

Throughout the next five years Coleman performed at countless air shows. The first took place on Sept. 3, 1922, in Garden City, Long Island.

The Chicago Defender publicized the event saying the "wonderful little woman" Bessie Coleman would do "heart thrilling stunts."

According to a reporter from Kansas, as many as 3,000 people, including local dignitaries, attended the event.

Throughout the following years, Coleman used her position of prominence to encourage other Black Americans to fly.

She also made a point of refusing to perform at locations that wouldn't admit Blacks.

She was the first civilian licensed African-American pilot in the world.

She toured the country barnstorming, parachute jumping, and giving lectures to raise money for an African-American flying school.

Coleman took her tragic last flight on April 30, 1926, in Jacksonville, Florida.

Together with a young Texan mechanic called William Wills, Coleman was preparing for an air show that was to have taken place the following day. At 3,500 feet with Wills at the controls, an unsecured wrench somehow got caught in the control gears and the plane unexpectedly plummeted toward earth. Coleman, who wasn't wearing a seat-belt, fell to her death.

Thousands of mourners paid their last respects to the first Black woman aviator, filing past her coffin in Chicago South's Side. Her funeral was attended by several prominent African Americans and it was presided over by Ida B. Wells, an outspoken advocate of equal rights.



Guyanese Egbert Hall celebrates his 102nd birthday with his grand daughter Roberta Vigilance.

Roberta Vigilance

## Egbert Hall celebrates his 102nd birthday

Egbert Hall was born in Plaisance East Coast Demerara Guyana, South America on Feb. 26, 1914. He attended Plaisance Wesleyan Primary School. On leaving school, he joined the sugar plantation working as an engineer apprentice where he developed to be a first class engineer.

He later joined the transport and harbour department after the closure of the estate in Guyana then immigrated to England in 1959 and in 1962 worked with the British Railways.

Hall returned to his native Guyana in 1975 to join his wife. They later immigrated to the United States to live with their daughter and grand children in the United States in 1984. They lived with them for some time and later went on their own. His wife died in September 1988.

He is a proud resident of Bushwick, Brooklyn living at Duncan Genns Senior Citizen Apartment. He has been a member of St. Thomas Episcopal Church for many years and would always offer his input when any issues arise. Hall spends his day enjoying the company of his friends and family. He enjoys dancing, playing games, and attending Bible study and maintains his wittiness and sense of humor.

Hall remembers the days of Winston Churchill of London and President Burnham of Guyana to President Reagan and other American presidents. He enjoys speaking about politics, but most of all he likes to speak about Christianity.

He is a father, grandfather, great grandfather, uncle, cousin, friend, activist, and a great confidant.



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Another difference between a 401(k) and an IRA is that men and women can withdraw money from their IRAs before they reach retirement age to pay medi-

cal expenses without incurring the penalties that apply when 401(k) account holders prematurely withdraw money from these accounts. One similarity between 401(k) accounts and traditional IRAs concerns taxation. Account holders of both types of accounts do not pay taxes on their contributions to those accounts until they begin to withdraw money in retirement (prematurely withdrawing money from a 401(k) will incur taxes and fees). But men and women who open a Roth IRA pay their taxes up front, mean-

ing they won't be paying taxes down the road when they withdraw money in retirement.

Each type of IRA comes with its own set of rules and restrictions, including contribution limits and eligibility requirements based on earned income.

In addition, men and women with a traditional IRA must begin to withdraw their money by the time they reach age 70.5, while those with a Roth IRA can leave their money in their accounts as long as they please.



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# The firebrand's fight for social justice

"The Firebrand and the First Lady" by Patricia Bell-Scott  
c.2016, Alfred A. Knopf  
\$30.00 / \$39.00 Canada  
480 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You know your own mind. After thinking things through, you have your opinions and while you're willing to listen to what others say, you're also willing to defend what you believe in. And, as in the new book "The Firebrand and the First Lady" by Patricia Bell-Scott, your friends don't necessarily have to agree with you.

Eleanor Roosevelt's Camp Tera, nestled near New York's Hudson River, was initially meant to be a temporary, leg-up place for Depression-era women who were destitute

and totally without resources. Though she was young, educated, and married, Pauli Murray was there because of ill health.

Recovery-time aside, Murray's tenure at Camp Tera was beneficial: a friend had told her that Roosevelt answered all correspondence, and Murray took that to heart. In 1938, a few years after she was kicked out of Camp Tera for "disrespecting the first lady," she wrote a protest letter to Roosevelt, requesting intercession in FDR's stance on anti-lynching laws. Activism was Murray's passion and the answer she got wasn't what she'd wanted but it did, as promised, come from Roosevelt.

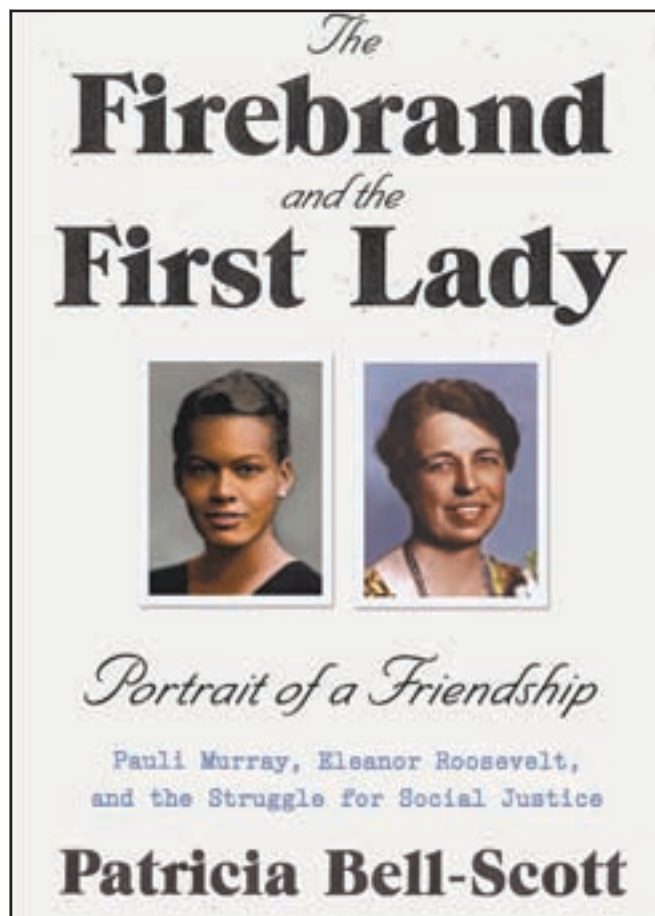
Murray was born in 1910, the feisty granddaughter of a mulatto slave whose stories of injustice she grew up hearing. Murray lost her mother when she was just three; a few years later,

her father was institutionalized, then murdered; and her brother was lobotomized. She, herself, had health problems and was often severely underweight; during one of her hospitalizations, she finally admitted that she was attracted to women, which was then considered to be a mental health issue.

It took awhile for Murray to tell Roosevelt all that. Before she did, and because of that first protest note, the two corresponded for years in letters that offered guidance, outrage, and rebuttal. The women didn't always agree, but they always seemed to attempt to understand one another's take on issues. Murray supported Roosevelt in her widowhood. Roosevelt encouraged Murray in her activism.

It was a support that Murray imagined she felt long after Mrs. Roosevelt's death.

I would not, under the



Book cover of the "Firebrand & the First Lady" by Patricia Bell-Scott

broadest of terms, call "The Firebrand and the First Lady" a pleasure read. That's not to say that this book isn't a pleasure — it's just not something you'd pick up to relax with.



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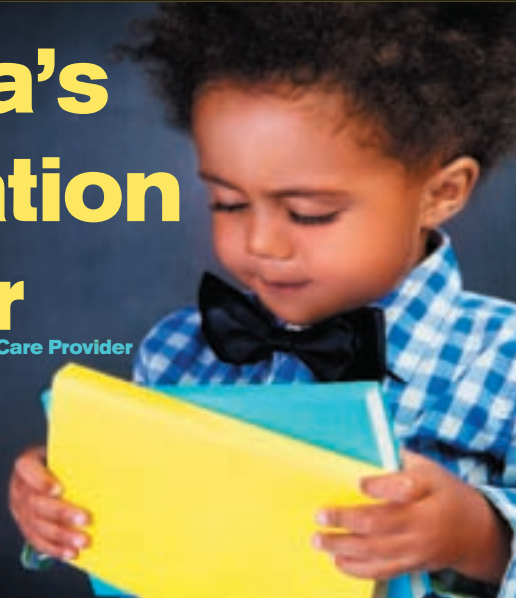
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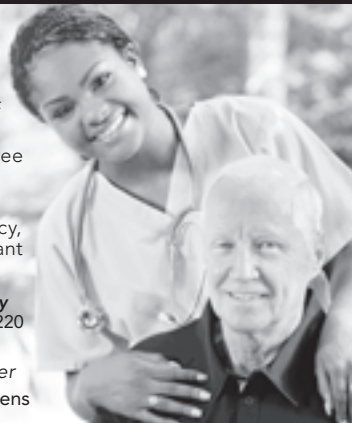
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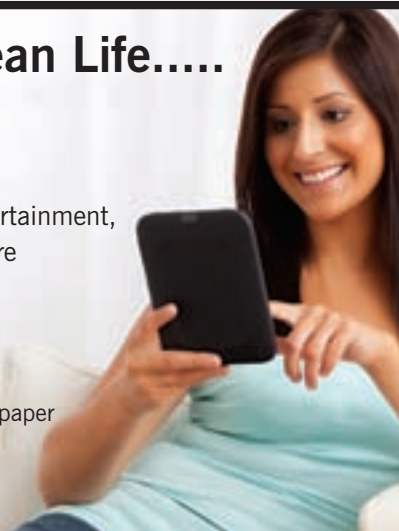
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# CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 4

The program grants citizenship on the basis of various terms of investment.

The prime minister said it was a difficult decision to make, but given the persistent decline in foreign direct investment caused by the world financial crisis, the mounting challenges to raise money for development and the increasing use of citizenship programs by other countries as an incentive tool a decision was taken to offer a similar program.

Dr. Anthony said the government spent the last four years stabilizing and restoring the economic foundation the citizenship by investment program will provide the impetus to "our recovering economy to take off in the coming months."

He said several resorts will soon be constructed in St. Lucia and these resorts will create much needed jobs in the construction sector, add more jobs in the hospitality sector, revive the real estate sector and restore a high level of growth to the economy.

Dr. Anthony added that the government designed a transparent, robust and structured citizenship by investment program to ensure that issues of credibility and integrity are well-protected.

The program began accepting applications in January. A qualifying investment must satisfy the minimum investment level in the St Lucia National Economic Fund, an approved real estate project, and approved enterprise project or the purchase of government bonds.

There are similar programs offered in St. Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda and Grenada.

### St. Kitts

St. Kitts is trying to woo tourists from Canada and the United Kingdom, as part of the overall strategy to attract high-end visitors.

Tourism Minister, Lindsay Grant said articles about St. Kitts will be featured in two Canadian publications: "West of the City Magazine" and "Taste." According to its official website, West of the City reaches 35,000 of the most affluent homes and has a select distribution based on proven research which targets "discriminating, well-traveled and passionate" individuals.

"The partnership will result in a feature article... on the emergence of

St. Kitts as a luxury destination in the September issue and a follow up five-page advertorial in December 2016," Grant said.

The island's growing number of golf courses is also being used to appeal to rich individuals.

The tourism minister said that emphasis for this initiative is being placed in Ontario, Canada, where he said there are 2.3 million golfers that spend \$11 million overseas annually.

A 2015 partnership with the Gold Association of Ontario resulted in the staging of the St. Kitts 2-ball Shootout at the Royal St. Kitts Gold Club last December.

### Trinidad

Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley said there are parents who are breeding "monsters" and sending them to the teachers in schools.

He was at the time speaking on the "failing" education system, in the wake of the threat of a gun attack at a government secondary school in Central Trinidad recently.

News of that "threat" that day led to an emergency meeting and the cancellation of classes.

The prime minister said he was "convinced" that changes to the education system many of which would be deemed contentious, were necessary, if the country were to treat with some of its familiar problems.

He said the molding of the child was a shared responsibility and asked what were the rights and responsibilities of the teacher, to shape character and not merely teach what was coming in an exam.

Rowley said since independence, T&T had consistently spent the largest chunk of the budgetary allocation on education.

He said while education changed the lives of every family, the country was not getting the commensurate return for that expenditure.

This, he said, would fix the foundation geared towards fixing the problems in education.

Two days after he spoke of "monsters" in the school, two teenage male students were gunned down on a lonely, bushy area in St. Augustine about nine miles from the City of Port of Spain.

Police are working on a theory that a drug deal was behind the double murder.

— compiled by Azad Ali



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## TODAY



# NUTRITION & AGING GO HAND-IN-HAND

**N**utrition is important for people of all ages, but it's especially important for men and women over the age of 50, who can dramatically improve their quality of life by eating a well-balanced diet filled with vitamins and nutrients. Though that may seem like common sense, research has shown that men and women in this age group, who are often referred to as baby boomers, are not necessarily as healthy as they may seem.

While the baby boomer generation, which is generally regarded as those people born between 1946 and 1964, boasts longer life expectancies than any generation that came before them, some of that can likely be chalked up to advancements in medical care, including a booming pharmaceutical industry that seemingly has an antidote to every ailment. But a 2013 study from researchers at the West Virginia University School of Medicine found that baby boomers are less healthy than the generation that immediately preceded them, tending to be more likely to have higher levels of hypertension, diabetes and high cholesterol. While that news might be sobering, it's never too late for men and women over 50 to start eating healthier diets, which can reduce their risk of a wide range of ailments, including heart disease, stroke and osteoporosis.

The following are a few ways men and women over 50 can alter their diets so their bodies are getting what they need to live long and healthy lives well into their golden years. As is always the case, men and women should discuss any potential changes to their diets with their physicians to ensure the changes will be both effective and healthy.

**Balance your diet.** Kids hear of the benefits of a balanced diet seemingly from the moment they enter a classroom for the first time, but many adults fail to heed that basic advice as they get further and further away from kindergarten. When changing your diet, be sure to include plenty of protein and carbohydrates. Protein maintains and rebuilds muscles, which is especially important for aging men and women who might find themselves unable to keep up with the physical demands of everyday life as well as they used to. Including ample low-fat protein, which can be found in fish, eggs and low-fat dairy among other foods, will aid in muscle recovery, benefiting aging athletes as well as those men and women over 50 who recently started exercising as a means to regaining their physical fitness. A diet lacking in sufficient protein can contribute to muscle deterioration, arthritis and even organ failure, so it's important for men and women to prioritize including protein in their diets.

Carbohydrates are also an important part of a balanced diet, as they are a great source of energy that can help men and women stay active well past the age of 50. Carbohydrates found in fruits, grains and vegetables are the

*Continued on page 26*





ADVERTORIAL

# BRIGHTON EYE

## NUTRITION AND YOUR EYES



**Millie R. Fell, MD, FACS**

Clinical Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology NYU

In the last twenty years eye health research has linked diet and nutrition with a decreased incidence of AMD. AMD is a leading cause of blindness in the US and around the world. Now, there is hope and help for this condition. Knowing the symptoms and risks of this disease can help patients to get timely help and prevent vision loss. It is also the only condition that research has proven that taking vitamins and antioxidants can prevent progression of the disease. Adding certain nutrients to your diet helps decrease the progression of macular degeneration. Lutein and Zeaxanthin are important nutrients found in green leafy vegetables. Other important nutrients to eye health are Vitamin C, E, zinc and omega-3 fatty acids.

Eating a healthy diet helps your eyes, your brain and your general health.

It is said that "you are what you eat". Many of my patients, in an attempt to control their health, come into the office with a bag full of vitamins and nutrients. Where to begin? Do vitamins and other nutrients help stave off eye disease? Is there something to the adage, "too much of a good thing"?

What vitamins and nutrients delivered through food and supplements aid in the health of your eyes?

The only two major studies supported by the National Eye Institute (NEI) are the AREDS1 and AREDS2 studies. These studies essentially identified nutrients that are helpful in slowing down the

progression of macular degeneration, a retinal disease usually found in older individuals that destroys a person's ability to read or see small print. In order to stay healthy the retina needs carotenoids such as Lutein and Zeaxanthine. These are found in green leafy vegetables such as kale and spinach. The AREDS studies found that supplements which contain 500 mg Vitamin C, 400IU Vitamin E, and 80 mg Zinc, 1000 mg of omega3 fatty acids and 12 mg of the carotenoids reduced the progression of moderate and advanced macular degeneration by 25%. Although the results of the addition of omega 3s and carotenoids were inconclusive, many researchers believe that these are helpful in reducing advanced changes in macular degeneration.

Other supplements found helpful in maintaining good health are Vitamins A, E, B complex and omega 6 fatty acids. Ginkgo biloba has also been found effective for glaucoma. The omega3 and 6 fatty acids were found useful in treating dry eye syndrome. To date no vitamins have been found to prevent cataracts.

But, yes, do be careful. Too much of a good thing can be detrimental. Check your vitamins carefully as there may be some overlap between multivitamins.

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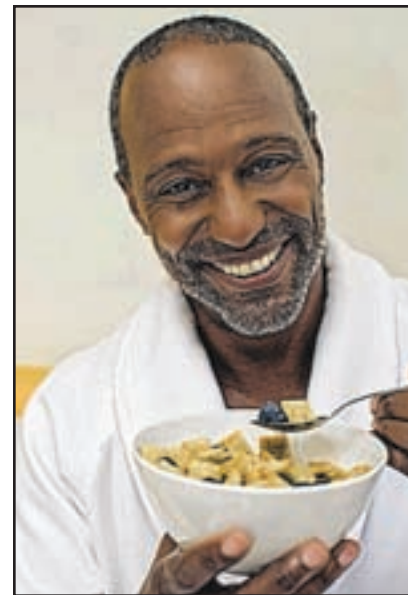
## NUTRITION

Continued from page 25

most beneficial, as these contain valuable vitamins, minerals and nutrients.

**Don't denounce dairy.** Dairy is a great source of calcium, which promotes strong bones and teeth. Men and women over the age of 50 want their bones to be as strong as possible because aging is one of the strongest risk factors for osteoporosis, a potentially debilitating medical condition in which loss of tissue causes bones to become brittle and fragile. Vitamin D is necessary to effectively absorb calcium, and vitamin D can be found in certain dairy products, including pasture-raised eggs and grass-fed cow's milk, and can be generated when men and women get enough sunlight. Other healthy sources of vitamin D include salmon, light tuna packed in oil, sardines, and sun-grown mushrooms.

**Cut back on sodium intake.** Cutting back on sodium intake can be very beneficial, especially for men and women over the age of 50, who are at greater risk of diabetes, hypertension and chronic kidney disease. But cutting back on sodium intake takes more than just throwing the salt shaker away. Processed foods, soups, canned goods, salad dressings, condiments such as mustard and ketchup,



and breakfast cereals are just a few of the many products that may contain alarming amounts of sodium. That's

important to note, as excess sodium increases blood pressure by holding excess fluid in the body. That excess fluid puts an added burden on the heart, potentially increasing a person's risk of stroke, heart failure, osteoporosis, cancer, and kidney disease. The problem with cutting back on sodium is that salt is so often relied on to make foods taste better, and many people find salt-free foods bland.

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# Party & Prom

## GUIDE | 2016

# DATE

## with destiny

### Finding the right partner for prom

Prom night is a momentous occasion for high school students. It is marked by tradition and serves as an opportunity for students to get together with friends for a final school-sponsored party before everyone embarks on life after high school. Prom may be the social event of the season, and students often take preparation quite seriously, with careful thought given to wardrobe and transportation.

But finding the right partner on prom night is also part of the prep work.

Kids will look back on prom night for years to come, and ensuring the night is memorable for all the right reasons often involves finding the right person to partner up with on prom night.

Students in established relationships won't have much trouble picking their prom date. But many high school students are not in such relationships, making their choice of a prom night partner a little more complicated.

The following are a few pointers prom-goers can consider when finding a date:

**Proms make poor first dates.** Prom night is probably not the best time to go on a first date. Not that a new romance is impossible on prom night, but prom carries with it added pressure and the night may prove more enjoyable if you go with someone who knows you and your friends. Proms also are expensive, and you would put a relative stranger into an awkward spot to spend a great deal of money for a relationship that may never flourish. Dates may also be uncom-

fortable when asked to mingle with people they don't know, so avoid turning prom night into a first date.

**Prom doesn't have to be a romantic date.** Students may feel pressured to take a potential romantic interest to the prom. But sometimes it can be much more enjoyable to take a friend. This way you can let loose and enjoy the festivities without feeling the pressure of making the night romantic.

**Know your school's rules on couples.** Some schools employ a laissez-faire attitude with regard to prom couples, allowing students to bring anyone along as their dates, while others restrict dates to current students. Confirm any restrictions regarding dates before asking anyone to prom or spending any money on tickets and other prom-related necessities.

**Begin the search early.** Don't wait until the last minute to ask someone. Prom can be a competitive time of year, and you may rest easier knowing your date is already secured. Start testing the waters early to see who might be interested in going as your date.

**Be open-minded.** Circumstance may find you and a fellow student without a date for the prom. Rather than attending alone, you may consider teaming up. The results may be better than you had expected when both of you have a nothing-to-lose attitude. Keep in mind that going with a date does not mean you have to remain glued to this person's side the entire time. If it's not working out, mingle with other friends.





# A GIRL'S

# PROM TIMELINE



Check off the boxes as you prepare for the biggest dance of the year

BY M. FORLENZA

Planning for the prom can be stressful. Between getting the best rate for a limousine, deciding which after-prom to attend and saving money to do it all, you'll need advice on how to make it all work. We've put together a simple time line with reminders and suggestions for tasks you may not even be aware of. We hope this puts you on a path to a successful prom night, minus the stress!

### 3 months before the prom

- Scour fashion magazines for dress inspiration! Tear out pages that excite you and gather them in a folder. Whether it's the style or color you love in the photograph, at least you're narrowing down options.

- Ask friends who might be interested in sharing a ride. Keep a running list of confirmations.
- Start calling limousine companies to inquire about rates and availability. Keep a list of "possibilities."
- Pay attention to your favorite celebrities for hair styles you love. Clip pictures from magazines.
- If you have an after-school job, consider picking up more hours if you can. Jobless? Get out there and submit some applications. It'll be helpful when saving money for the big night.
- Create a budget. Try to stick with it.

### 2 months before the prom

- Hit the stores with your dress in-

- spiration folder. Try on as many dresses as you can. Start to narrow down to your top-five choices. Bring friends and family for opinions if necessary.
- Gather up after-prom party options. Call companies and see what incentives they offer for bringing a group. Share information with friends and pick your favorite so you can budget accordingly!
- Collect a down payment from friends who will be sharing a ride with you. At this point you should be seriously considering at least one company you felt offered a good deal. Place a down payment on your ride of choice.
- Price out some hair stylist options if you are getting your hair done

- professionally. If not, start trialing hair styles yourself and keep notes of which product(s) worked best.
- Update your budget if necessary. Don't forget to add in the ticket to your prom. Ask around at school to find out what the cost per person will be.
- Work, work and work some more to save money! Ask family and friends if they have any opportunities for you to make some extra money — babysitting, dog walking, anything!

### 1 month before the prom

- If you haven't purchased your dream dress — do it now! Arrange for alterations if needed.

Continued on page 30



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*Continued from page 28*

- Start shopping for accessories: bag, shoes, and jewelry. Consider borrowing items from family and friends to save some money!
- Schedule all beauty appointments — hair, nails, and teeth whitening. Remember to schedule early appointments as to not get behind schedule on the big day.
- Hopefully you started paying for after-prom tickets already and are knee-deep in payments from friends. Keep the momentum going and place a deadline to encourage commitments.
- Continue paying for your transportation, finish up the payments if possible.
- Purchase prom dinner ticket at school.

**3 weeks before the prom**

- Do a trial run of the dress, shoes, purse, hair and make-up to see if the look is everything you'd hoped for.
- Check in with your date. Discuss any seating arrangements or transportation dilemmas that you need help working out.
- Finish up after-prom ticket purchases!

**2 weeks before the prom**

- Start wearing your shoes around the house to break them in.
- Exfoliate in the shower with a good body scrub and loofah. Your skin will glow just a bit more in photographs!
- Give up snacks for the next two weeks. You'll be surprised what a difference it will make. Drink lots of water instead!

**1 week before the prom**

- Try on the dress and accessories again — this is your last chance for changes!

- Call to confirm all beauty appointments.
- Do a little “at home” facial with some friends. Use products you’ve used before but relax a bit with a mask to cleanse your pores.
- Get your camera in order — does it work? Consider borrowing one if yours is not up to par.
- Place the order for your date’s boutonniere. Select a color that complements your dress.

**1 day before the prom**

- Charge camera and cellphone
- Pack your purse with necessities (gum, lipstick, ID, extra cash, cellphone and tickets to the prom and after-prom)
- Pick up your date’s boutonniere and keep refrigerated.
- Have an “in-house” spa evening. Pamper yourself a bit with a mask, relaxing music and lotion. Be sure to only use products you’ve used before to decrease the risk of any breakouts or allergic reactions.
- Go to sleep EARLY! You want to be well rested and look your best for tomorrow!

**Prom day**

- Get up early and do some light stretching exercises to get your blood pumping.
- Wear a button down shirt to get your hair done so you won’t have any issues while changing into your dress.
- Call your limousine company to confirm the arrival time and pick up location.
- Drink lots of water. All the running around will dehydrate and tire you out.
- Check in with friends to ensure they are on schedule as well.
- Relax! You’ve got everything covered. Now go dance, take pictures, laugh with friends and enjoy!



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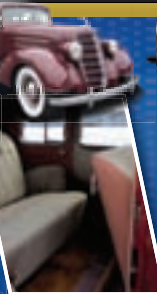
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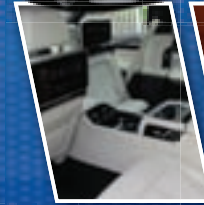
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# Jamaica goes green again after recent polls

In Jamaica colors matter.

Regardless of race, religion, class or social standing, among nationals, two from the rainbow hold sway — green and orange.

Each with distinct coloring of the political parties associate orange with the more Democratic People's National Party and green with the Jamaica Labor Party, the more conservative of the two, some claims pattern the practices of Republicans.

Both also identify with distinction to orange 'comrades' and green 'Labourites,' they often adversely oppose politics, leaders and policies.

Historically, the green party is credited with winning eight election campaigns; orange scores one more in the championship arena.

During the 17th national election campaign in the largest English-speaking Caribbean island, the lowest voter turnout in the island's history recorded victory for the JLP and endorsed the green party's proposal to elevate the island from 'Poverty to Prosperity.'

Their winning campaign



## Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

theme appealed to 47.7 percent of the population, the slimmest victory margin for any political party in Jamaica's history.

Ironically that figure also represents the percentage of delegates' vote Portia Lucretia Simpson-Miller acquired Feb. 26, 2006 defeating Dr. Peter Phillips for leadership of the party.

With 47 percent she became the first PNP president to be elected by less than half of eligible delegates.

Final count on Feb. 29 revealed that the JLP won 32 of the island's 63 parliamentary seats. The incumbent PNP lost by a whisker managing to eke out 31 seats in the House of Parliament.

That the opposition party reversed their role in the governing house by beating the PNP whose orange agenda promised to 'Step Up The Progress' was a shocker to diasporans relying on newspa-

per accounts, predictions from polls and public opinion.

The promise of higher elevation was rejected by a majority 53 percent that abstained from participation.

In contrast to the 42 seats the orange party won in 2011 when they made history electing the first female prime minister, this year's Black History Month election reflected apathy or perhaps disenchantment that might have contributed to the abysmal turnout registering one in four voters accepting the green manifesto.

Pundits have since attributed the trouncing rejection to arrogance, voter apathy, disappointment with comrades and "bad mind" campaign practices by candidates representing the orange party.

The latter focused on an elaborate house owned by green leader, Andrew Holness. Reportedly, targeted for



Jamaica's former Prime Minister and leader of the opposition People's National Party, Portia Simpson Miller and Prime Minister elect and leader of the ruling Jamaica Labour Party, Andrew Holness.

Associated Press / Ramon Espinosa (left), Collin Reid (right), files

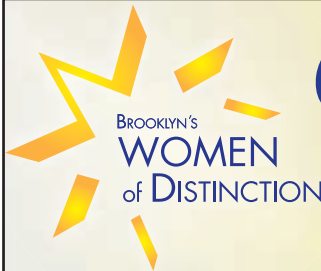
a smear strategy aimed at the 43-year-old and his acquisition of a 'mansion' backfired when the Labourite explained how and why he was able to afford the expensive and opulent abode.

Instead of rebuke and exorciation by a majority, polls revealed that Holness was not harmed by his explanation. Fact is, his approval rating peaked afterwards.

One of the most recurring criticisms of the orange team

was that the historic first female leader refused to formally address the nation. That she also eluded debating issues with her opponent, meeting with media and allegedly dismissive when responding to criticisms also helped to diminish her appeal.

The fact she was accused of failing to fulfill campaign promises she made running as the endearing Christian "Mama P" and "Sister P" did not add justification for another term as prime minister.



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Our Honorees will be celebrated in a Keepsake Publication May 20, 2016

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# ENTERTAINMENT

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Kevin Lyttle with wife and business partner Dr. Jacqueline James-Lyttle.

## Vincy soca star goes big in Europe

By Nelson A. King

In continuing his expansion in Europe, Vincentian-born international soca superstar Kevin Lyttle has partnered with the Dutch entertainment company, Perpetual Motions Entertainment.

Lyttle, whose record label, Taron Records, is a joint initiative with his wife, Dr. Jacqueline James-Lyttle, said the collaboration with Perpetual Motions Entertainment, seeks to expand the development, production and distribu-

Continued on Page 38

## Ras Slick makes power moves

If the past few months are any indicator of what lies in store, it is clear that 2016 will indisputably be a year of great success for Reggae entertainer Ras Slick, also known as Sylburn Rowe by friends and family. Much to his credit, the popular singer has many "Good Things" going on...and not just his hot new lover's rock tune of the same name. He is neatly positioning himself as both a Reggae star and respected businessman.

In addition to Ras Slick and Dutty Bus Crew being one of the hardest  
Continued on Page 38



A model displays one of the House of D'Marsh designs.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

## D'MARSH'S FRENCH STYLES

### French Inspired collection with Carib flair

By Tangerine Clarke

Manique! — Says it all for the Fall 2016 La Vie Du Noir French inspired collection by designer Glenroy Marsh. The connoisseur of fashion was on point flooding the runway with a delightful array of black outfits trimmed with just a bit of color to show off his Caribbean roots.

The show opened with a classic choreography by members of the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater, and followed through with the theme of elegance, classic and wearable to

cap-off the Thursday, Feb. 18, Fashion Week event in the showroom of world-famous CoCo-Mat brand, in New York City.

The award-winning Marsh emulated his muse — a black Parisian couple that lives on the Upper Eastside of Manhattan — taking his creations to another level with detailed pieces designed with tulle, head-wraps, gloves, and clutch purse, French accents that certainly glamorize the collection.

Models strutted the runway in

skillfully designed floor-length gowns, one embellished with oversized frills at the hip, trimmed with piping, and the other with a multi-color asymmetric finish.

The sexy ready-to-wear mini dresses were showstoppers. Marsh used his scissors to glam up the pieces cut from embellished lace, spandex and satin. Some were also trimmed with feathers at the shoulder, while others were designed with a square-neck effect, and a slit at the bottom

Continued on Page 38



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# Cultural clash - Radical Islam and Malian culture

"They Will Have to Kill Us First"  
Very Good (3 stars)  
Unrated  
In French, Songhay, English, Bambara and Tamashek with subtitles.  
Running time: 100 minutes  
Distributor: BBC Worldwide North America

By Kam Williams

In 2012, radical jihadists invaded the country of Mali from the north. Even though the population was already 98 percent Muslim, the uncompromising religious zealots declared Sharia the law of the land.

Their radical interpretation of Islam included a ban of all forms of music. So, everything from instruments to CDs to radio stations were ordered immediately destroyed. And anyone resisting



A scene from "They Will Have to Kill Us First."

Rotten Tomatoes

the directive faced the sort of torture ISIS delights in doling out on a daily basis.

Directed by Johanna Schwartz (Mysterious Science: Rebuilding

Stonehenge), "They Will Have to Kill Us First" is a documentary which chronicles some of Mali's greatest artists' defiant response to the attempted cen-

sorship. Among the local legends appearing in the picture are singers Aliou Toure, Khaira Arby and Fadimata "Disco" Wallett Oumar, guitarists Moussa

Sidi and Oumar and Gavbar Toure, and drummer Nathanael Dembele.

Shot on location in Gao, Timbuktu and Bamako, the film does a decent job of illustrating the devastating toll exacted on the country's people and infrastructure by the violent coup. We learn that although Mali has experienced civil arrest since 1963, things escalated substantially following the death of Qaddafi in Libya because of the accelerated rate of arms importation.

"Don't play... and you won't get hurt," the musicians were warned. But the folks featured here preferred death to giving up their cherished freedom of expression. So, when the kitchen got too hot, some of them high-tailed it to Liverpool where they formed the group Songhoy Blues and recorded an album while in exile.

A cautionary expose capturing the ugly fallout of an unavoidable clash of modern and medieval civilizations.

## Independent & Foreign Films

Ava's Possessions (R for profanity, sexuality and graphic images) Louisa Krause plays the title character in this horror flick as a woman who has her demons exorcised by a priest (John Ventimiglia) only to have them try to reenter her body. With Carol Kane, William Sadler and Jemima Kirke.

Camino (Unrated) Action adventure, set in the jungles of Colombia in 1985, about a war photographer (Zoe Bell) who embeds with a group of missionaries under the thumb of a charismatic guerilla leader (Nacho Vigalondo). Cast includes Francisco Barreiro, Sheila Vand and Tenoch Huerta. (In English and Spanish with subtitles)

Colliding Dreams (Unrated) Middle East documentary examining the competing interests of the Israelis and Palestinians in the decades-long struggle over the tiny territory they continue to cohabit.

Emelie (Unrated) Psychological thriller about an unsuspecting couple (Chris Beetem and Susan Pourfar) that comes to regret leaving their kids with a new babysitter (Randi Langdon) before going out to dinner to celebrate their wedding anniversary. With Joshua Rush, Carly Adams and Sarah Bolger.

The Final Project (Unrated) Found-footage horror flick about a half-dozen college students who find more than they bargained for while exploring an



### Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

abandoned mansion on a Louisiana plantation. Co-starring Arin Jones, Amber Erwin, Teal Haddock, Charles Orr, Jejuan Walker and Evan McLean.

Knight of Cups (R for sexuality, nudity and profanity) Terrence Malick directed this surrealistic character study revolving around an introspective writer's (Christian Bale) odyssey of self-exploration. Cast includes Cate Blanchett, Natalie Portman, Brian Dennehy, Antonio Banderas and Freida Pinto.

Road Games (Unrated) Cat-and-mouse thriller about two strangers (Andrew Simpson and Josephine de La Baume) who meet on the street in Calais before accepting a ride hitchhiking from a mysterious married couple (Frederic Pierrot and Barbara Crampton). With Feodor Atkine, Pierre Boulanger and Edward Hogg. (In English and French with subtitles)

They Will Have to Kill Us First (Unrated) Freedom of expression documentary chronicling the clash of civilizations between defiant, Malian musical artists determined to preserve their country's rich cultural heritage and Islamic jihadist invaders inclined to behead anyone who doesn't submit to their interpretation of Islam. (In French, Songhay, English, Bambara and Tamashek with subtitles)



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## TOP OF THE CHARTS

### TOP 10 SINGLES

- 1 **Love Yourself**  
Justin Bieber
- 2 **Stressed Out**  
twenty one pilots
- 3 **Sorry**  
Justin Bieber
- 4 **Hello**  
Adele
- 5 **Work**  
Rihanna Feat. Drake
- 6 **My House**  
Flo Rida
- 7 **Roses**  
The Chainsmokers feat. Rozes
- 8 **Stitches**  
Shawn Mendes
- 9 **Me, Myself & I**  
G-Eazy x Bebe Rexha
- 10 **Hands to Myself**  
Selena Gomez

### TOP 10 ALBUMS

- 1 **The Art of Hustle**  
Yo Gotti
- 2 **25**  
Adele
- 3 **Traveller**  
Chris Stapleton
- 4 **ANTI**  
Rihanna
- 5 **Purpose**  
Justin Bieber
- 6 **Side Pony**  
Lake Street Dive
- 7 **1989**  
Taylor Swift
- 8 **Beauty Behind the...**  
The Weeknd
- 9 **King of Memphis**  
Young Dolph
- 10 **Blurryface**  
twenty one pilots

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Jamaican-born fashion designer, Glenroy Marsh (center) with models.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

## D'Marsh's Fashion

Continued from page 35

of the skirt.

A topless mini dress with double flounce, and accented with a multi-color headscarf and jewels, made a bold French statement that Americans would find quite refreshing.

The male ensembles were designed with precision and complimented the elegance female dresses. Sleek suits, shirts and slacks, dressed up the handsome, debonair, and rocker-look, male models.

"I had to up my game with this collection because the

French know all about fashion, they understand fashion. I combined my favorite techniques and the things I love about the French to complete this collection," said March, a Jamaican-born couturier.

"You have to think about the way a woman wants to look and feel when you design. I want to them to feel comfortable when they dress, so I choose fabric that would compliment 'her'

body," said Marsh.

Some of the creations are formal attire, while others, like the spandex outfits are suited for the club scene. The pieces could be combined for all occasions.

The audience applauded Marsh, as he took a bow with a big smile on his face, pleased that he had satisfied onlookers and fashionistas alike, with his stunning collection.

## Vincy soca

Continued from page 35

tion of music projects.

The partnership also aims to broaden supporting media, marketing and tour, as well as subsidiary licensing of third-party non-music projects and endorsement opportunities, featuring all Tarakon Records artists in Europe.

By partnering with Perpetual Motions Entertainment, the Miami-based Lyttles have appointed Guillermo Tjin as managing director of Tarakon Records Europe and "exclusive representative" of Tarakon Records in Europe.

"Guillermo Tjin is looking forward to this new challenge and to strengthening Tarakon Records' position in the international entertainment scene," said the Lyttles in a statement.

"Guillermo Tjin has been in the entertainment scene for numerous years, holding to his credit a broad spectrum of reliable contacts and sound rapport with managers, record labels, promo companies, agencies, promoters and clubs, etc. in Europe and all over the

world," they added.

As chief executive officer of Perpetual Motions Entertainment, the Lyttles said Tjin has achieved an "exceptional reputation in the entertainment scene worldwide," stating that he has been working with numerous "esteemed internationally-known artists."

James-Lyttle, Tarakon Records' chief executive officer, with a Ph. D in civil engineering, said the label, founded in 2007 by she and her husband, is "ready to turn the world on to every genre of Caribbean music in a very big way."

In April 2015, Tarakon Records announced the opening of an office in Paris, France; and, only a year later, the small record label is making "gigantic moves by creating a presence in all European countries," including the United Kingdom, the Lyttles said.

They said Tarakon Records "represents all Caribbean music — from the Bahamas to Jamaica to St. Vincent [and the Grenadines] to Venezuela and all the beautiful countries in between."

Kevin Lyttle said he was "thrown into the international spotlight" with his breakout smash single, "Turn Me On."

## Ras Slick's 'Good Thing'

Continued from page 35

working and most visible Reggae bands on the East Coast, delivering sought after performances four to five days each week, Ras Slick is making power moves. From opening his professional "My Time" recording studio, forging corporate partnerships and staging signature branded events to releasing stellar new music, Ras Slick is quickly proving there is not anything that he cannot do.

In February, Ras Slick celebrated the grand opening of his "My Time" professional recording studio. Boasting state of the art equipment and neatly nestled in a Silver Spring, Maryland enclave, "My Time" will enable artists of all music genre in the greater metropolitan Washington, DC area a personalized recording experience. He is proud of his new business and says, "It's a recording studio, but we also offer engineering, mixing / mastering services, CD duplication, voice, drums, keyboard and guitar lessons, among other services."



Reggae entertainer Ras Slick.

Further cementing his brand and business movements, Ras Slick is again partnering with Spirit cruises to produce the third edition of the "Reggae Rocks Potomac" boat ride on Saturday, June 4. The singer struck gold in 2015 with two sold out stagings of "Reggae Rocks Potomac," a rewarding result of his pitch to Spirit cruises to present an exciting and fun filled first ever Reggae cruise experience via their "DC after Dark" brand.

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# SPORTS

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West Indies Ravi Rampaul hammers the ball to the boundary against New Zealand on the first day of the second cricket test at the Basin Reserve, Wellington, New Zealand.

Associated Press / NZPA, Ross Setford

## Interim Windies team manager

By Azad Ali

West Indies leg-spinner Ravi Rampaul has been appointed interim West Indies team manager for the Twenty20 World Cup in India in March.

Rampaul, 31, who is currently a West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) project officer, played five Tests and 28 One-Day Internationals between 1977 and 2009.

“He brings to the job a wealth of administrative experience, having worked in the WICB Operations Department for six years, since retiring from regional cricket,” states a WICB release.

Rampaul fills the role left vacant by  
Continued on Page 41

## CPL comes to the United States

By Azad Ali

The Caribbean Premier League (CPL) will stage six matches in the United States during the upcoming season.

The landmark move will see the premier regional Twenty20 tournament unveiled in the Americas for the first time.

Matches are to be played in Florida, Miami, at the Central Broward Regional

Continued on Page 42



Honduras' Brayan Garcia (16) is challenged by Colombia's Cristián Arrieta (13) as he brings the ball up field during the second half of an international friendly soccer game in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Saturday, Feb. 27, 2016.

Associated Press / Joel Auerbac

## Honduras and Colombia tie 2-2 in exhibition

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Honduras overcame a two-goal deficit and tied Colombia 2-2 in an exhibition between under-23 national teams Saturday night.

Second-half goals from Bryan Acosta and Alberth Elis helped Honduras salvage a draw in the match at

Lockhart Stadium.

Acosta's successful penalty kick in the 81st minute evened the match. A hard foul on Elis by Colombia defender Andres Murillo inside the large area resulted in Acosta's attempt.

Honduras reduced the deficit on Elis' goal in the 57th minute. Elis

received Darwin Espinal's cross from the left wing and one-timed a shot from 10 yards.

Kevin Lopez nearly gave Honduras a go-ahead goal in second-half stoppage but his uncontested shot deep in the penalty area sailed wide

Continued on Page 42



Continued from page 41

former West Indies Captain Richie Richardson who left in January to take up a post as match referee with the International Cricket Council (ICC).

West Indies will do battle at the March 8 to April 3 Twenty20 World Cup in Group 1 with England, South Africa, Sri Lanka and a yet-to-be qualifier.

Meanwhile, the WICB has cleared three of its executives, President Dave Cameron, Vice-President Emmanuel Nathan, Director of Cricket Richard Pybus and the regional team selectors of alleged “interference” in the selection of the senior men’s squad in 2015.

In a news release recently, the WICB said simply that: “The report of the findings from the ‘alleged interference’ in the selection process for the senior men’s team is in. The report also features a seven-point recommendation going forward”.

While stating that the findings had cleared them all, the release did not disclose the contents of the report or quote parts of it.

The WICB had appointed a committee to investigate allegations about the team selection process made by West Indies head coach Philip Simmons on the eve of the team’s tour of Sri Lanka.

In an impromptu news conference, Simmons expressing his dissatisfaction with the squad chosen for the One-Day International stage of the tour has said there was “outside interference”.

He later apologized for making the statement.

## Boost for US cricket

Continued from page 41

Park Stadium in July 2016.

CPL chief executive Damien O’Donohoe described the move as a “massive boost” for cricket in the United States.

“This project has been in discussion for many months and we are grateful to the ICC (International Cricket Council) for supporting this move which enables us to step up our planning and open up opportunities for the cricket-hungry American public,” he said.

Donohoe said the CPL has already had a positive impact in the Caribbean and “we are excited about bringing top quality cricket to the USA”.

ICC head of Global Development, Tim Anderson said the decision to play CPL games in the United States was a “positive step forward for all cricket followers in the U.S.”



Honduras’ Allans Varsaj (5) defends against Columbia’s Cristián Arrieta (13) as he brings the ball up field during the first half of an international friendly soccer game in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Saturday, Feb. 27, 2016.

Associated Press / Joel Auerbach

# Colombia, US to do battle

Continued from page 41

right.

Colombia stunned Honduras with two goals off set plays during a three-minute span late in the first half.

Yerry Mina opened the scoring in the 34th minute. Mina headed William

Palacio’s corner kick inside the right post and past the outstretched hands of goalkeeper Luis Lopez.

Three minutes later, Colombia struck again on Juan Quintero’s strike. Quintero successfully blasted an indirect kick from the right wing on the edge of the penalty area.

Honduras has qualified already for the 2016 Olympics, and Colombia is still in Olympic contention.

Colombia and the United States will play a home-and-home for the final Olympic berth of the North and South American region March 25 and March 29.



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# CARICOM to scrap West Indies Cricket Board

By Azad Ali

CARICOM leaders have signaled their intention to scrap the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) and appoint an interim body to revive the game.

This was the decision taken when CARICOM heads of government met in Belize last week for the 27th Inter-Sessional Conference.

This was revealed by Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley during a media briefing at Piarco International Airport after attending the meeting.

He indicated the final ball in this "over" will be "bowled" when CARICOM leaders meet in Guyana in July this year for their regular meeting.

Dr. Rowley said that a decision was taken for the leaders to go over the head of the WICB and inform the International Cricket Council (ICC)



Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley.

and the Board of Control for Cricket in India of the position of the heads of government and "let them be put on notice of the position of the heads of government of region."

He said the heads of CAR-

ICOM have decided that the time has come for serious action in trying to save West Indies cricket.

Referring to reports from CARICOM's Sub-committee on Cricket, chaired by Grenada's Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell, the T&T prime minister declared, "The decision of the heads is that we insist the recommendations of the committee be implemented, one of those is that the WICB be dissolved and an interim body be put in place to begin restructuring of the management of West Indies cricket."

"This is a position which was resolutely opposed by the WICB, which has been cherry-picking the recommendations and seeking to impose upon us, their decision that nothing is wrong with the management of West Indies cricket," he added.

Rowley indicated his involve-

ment in this issue began last November when he shortly returned home after attending the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Malta, "we went to Grenada at the invitation and urging of Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell to attend a meeting of the CARICOM Sub-committee on Cricket."

He said the meeting involved some very eminent regional persons such as the President of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) Sir Dennis Byron "to focus on the whole question about the deterioration of West Indies cricket and the absence of proper and acceptable management."

He further indicated that the matter had reached a point where CARICOM leaders decided that in keeping with the recommendation made by St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves

last February, the deliberations in Belize "CARICOM will now discontinue any further discussions on the matter with the WICB."

Barbados Prime Minister Frenuel Stuart, speaking on the fringes of the conference, said the heads planned to approach the ICC "with a view to heightening awareness about the governance problems that have bedeviled the administration of West Indies cricket."

He assured that Caricom was not attempting to take over or run West Indies cricket.

In a communique issued last after the Belize meeting on the issue, CARICOM leaders "reaffirmed their commitment to the development of West Indies cricket and applauded the recent performance of the 2016 World Champion Under-19 team."

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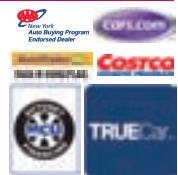
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Without your knowledge, you have made it to the top of a very influential person's list. This can only mean good things for your future, Aries. Be proud of yourself.

**TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21**  
Friends and family who seem meddlesome may have more noble motives, Taurus. Give these loved ones the benefit of the doubt and be glad they care so much.

**GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21**  
Gemini, a big project means you will be working with others in the week ahead. Put your best foot forward and be receptive of others' ideas and suggestions.

**CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22**  
Cancer, you are full of energy this week, but for whatever reason you are still holding back. Don't be afraid to unleash that energy and get to work. Others will be impressed.

**LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23**  
Mull an invitation before responding this week, Leo. You can find both pros and cons to accepting the invitation, and taking the time to consider it will ensure you make the right call.

**VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22**  
Virgo, a healthy sense of ambition will move a project along much more quickly than you or others had imagined. Once the work is done, you'll have plenty of time to relax.

**LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23**  
A person from your past may come into your life, Libra. He or she stirs up old emotions, and you may need to take a step back in a current relationship. Think things over carefully.

**SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22**  
Scorpio, your ambition is growing, but you are already beginning to feel overwhelmed. You may need to put the brakes on any new endeavors for a little while.

**SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21**  
Any business transactions you make this week can have a lasting effect on your financial status, Sagittarius. This means carefully considering every purchase.

**CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20**  
Capricorn, expenses are piling up, and soon your stress levels may be rising as a result. You can use a dose of good news, and it's coming this week.

**AQUARIUS: an 21/Feb 18**  
Someone is rubbing you the wrong way, Aquarius. Just walk away and don't let this person get under your skin. Taking the high road will serve you best in the long run.

**PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20**  
Pisces, the week ahead is full of promise. Your energy levels are soaring, and you are poised to meet new people and make things happen.

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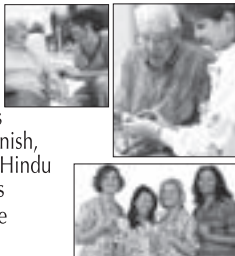
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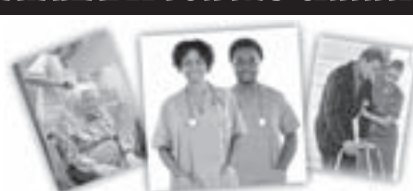
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