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BROOKLYN/STATEN ISLAND EDITION

August 26-Sept. 1, 2016

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GUIDE TO Carnival

INCLUDES

- *History of the West Indian American Day Carnival Parade*
- *Things to do*
- *Complete Rules and Guidelines*
- *And More!*

Photo by Paul Martinka



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Carnival's joy is deep with tradition

By **Shavana Abruzzo**

Get on bad and jump up, Bredren!

Crown Heights will burst into pomp and pageantry like a ripe Julie mango on Labor Day, as the age-old tradition of Carnival struts into Brooklyn with a steel band contest, a Fat Sunday extravaganza, a kiddie cavalcade, a new reggae festival, and the 49th Annual West Indian American Day Carnival Parade — a crown jewel encrusted with 83 costume bands, 12 steel bands, 50 tricked-out floats, and countless gloriously garbed revelers shimmying along Eastern Parkway to cheers from a sea of spectators spilling into the street.

This year's theme is "One Caribbean. One People. One Voice," and tourists from around the world will bask in air thick with the enticing aromas of codfish fritters, butterfly shrimp kebabs, and coconut bread, as they join in the extraordinary, multi-million-strong celebration of life, energy, vibrancy, and spirit — all of it pouring vital dollars into our economic coffers and strengthening our cultural kinships.

Cheeky dawn parties known

as J'ouvert — or daybreak in French — will kick off the festival, as costumed merrymakers dressed as political figures and celebrities pepper each another with powdered paint to whistles and music. The New York Caribbean Carnival Reggae Festival will also return after a 20-year hiatus to enliven the grounds of the Brooklyn Museum on Sept. 1.

Celebration of life

The pomp and pageantry is a vibrant nod to the warm-hearted folk whose ancestry lies 1,350 miles away in the azure-blue tropics strung with 28 islands and humming with the lilt of 23 different languages — a region where having a good time is as important as life itself.

Caribbean Carnivals are world-famous monuments to merriment, bursting with color, food, music, and spirit, and representing national ties to slavery, religious conversion, and freedom. The Trinidad and Tobago Carnival — arguably the most famous of all — became a cultural icon after the abolition of slavery in 1838, part-copying and part-jibing the pre-Lent celebrations of their oppressors, including the



Colorful display: A dancer swaggering down the Eastern Parkway. Photo by Paul Martinka

British who banned drums in Trinidad, causing the industrious Trinidadians to use everyday objects as percussion instruments.

The steel bands most associated with Carnival didn't develop until the 1930s and 1940s when musicians experimented with damaged oil drums and discovered they could produce sweet notes.

Brooklyn frolic

The West Indian Day festival does justice to its Caribbean masters, as one of the America's largest parades prominently featured in the "I Love New York" commercials.

"The Carnival is a very important part of the joy and vibrancy of New York," says Jean Alexander, the commercial whiz behind the million-dollar celebration of Caribbean pride, who has spent decades putting the sensational spectacle on the map, as board secretary and director of public relations and marketing at the West Indian American Day Carnival Association.

It has humble, but handsome, roots.

Brooklyn's frolic, which has inspired imitators in Miami and Boston, dates back to Harlem in the Roaring '20s, when Caribbean immigrants from islands with a Carnival tra-

dition began celebrating the pre-Lenten season with lavish parties at the Savoy, Renaissance and Audubon Ballrooms. Community-conscious Trinidadian-American Jesse Wardell understood indoor spaces confined the fun, and secured a parade permit for a street festival on Labor Day along Seventh Avenue.

The permit was revoked in the mid-1960s due to a disturbance, but Carlos Lezama, a dental laboratory worker born in Venezuela and raised in Trinidad, moved the party to Brooklyn after new arrivals Trinidad and Tobago, Haiti, Jamaica, Barbados, and Grenada began settling in the central part of the borough.

Lezama's parade committee became the West Indian American Day Carnival Association, and the festival hit the big time in the mid-1990s when it was aired live on television.

"I think our day has come, perhaps," Lezama told reporters clamoring to relay the spectacle's uproarious impact.

The 2001 parade, the last Lezama organized before his death the next year, drew around two million spectators, 10,000 marchers, 42 bands, and 30 floats, including an imposing cavalcade of marchers gussied up as marine critters, outer space characters,

and flora and fauna.

Sensuous pleasures

Carnival's traditions go back to Ancient Greece and the naughty feast of Saturnalia, a time of licentious merrymaking and wild revelry that was the predecessor to Christmas. The Romans postponed the fun to the week before Lent — around the spring equinox — and christened the party Carnival or Carnaval from the Latin words *carnis* ("flesh" or "meat") and *levare* ("to leave off") to honor the post-festival stretch of solemn penance and sacrifice that renounced red meat and sex.

Carnival flourished alongside the spread of Christianity in Europe and the Americas, and the conquistadors and colonials who transported its tradition were inspired by the Native Americans who had island roots and celebrated their harvest with food, music, and bejeweled dancers tattooed with spiritual bodywork.

The African contribution to Carnival is perhaps the most enduring, and the people brought to the West Indies' second largest island of Hispaniola in the early 1500s and their descendants added the most brilliant sights, sounds and colors to the Carnivals of

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West Indian Children's parade marchers on Franklin Street, part of a weekend of carnival festivities in Brooklyn Labor Day weekend. Photo by William Farrington

Carnival's Joy

Continued from page 3

the Americas. The Africans brought with them their village cultural rites of lively, boisterous parades, eye-popping masks, and vivid costumes made of feathers and other natural objects thought to impart spiritual strength.

The shindigs included plenty of singing and dancing to signify luck and ward off evil spirit, accounting for the death symbolism in many of today's Carnivals.

Timeless tributes to life

The extraordinary pageantry of the West Indian American Day Carnival Parade is due to the intense labors of thousands of dedicated Caribbean-Americans who want to preserve their time-honored traditions for future generations. Masquerade camps or "mas" toil all year long to produce living masterpieces to human skill, craftsmanship, and enterprise — including the memorable salute to Mother Nature, complete with colossal leaves crawling with mosquitoes, beehive-laden trees, and giant orchids resting on logs — to such themes as A Tribute to Bob Marley, Caribbeans Unite, and In the Garden of Good and Evil.

This year's Carnival promises no less of a sensory feast.

"It's going to bigger and better than ever!" says Alexander. "As peaceful and enjoyable a celebration as one could ever wish to have."

Visit wiadcarnival.org for festival events and updates.



Masqueraders of the Haitian band Feet of Rhythm parade in Brooklyn.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

A vibrant advertisement for a rooftop event. The background shows a modern rooftop terrace with lounge furniture and a view of a city skyline. The text is bold and colorful, with 'SOCCA ON THE ROOFTOP' in large, stylized letters. Below it, it says 'CARNIVAL FEVER TAKES OVER MANHATTAN' and 'LABOR DAY FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 2ND 2016'. At the bottom, it provides ticket information and the location: '@760 ROOFTOP | 760 W 8TH AVE (CNR OF 47TH ST NYC)'.

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By West Indian American Day Carnival Association

The 49th Annual West Indian American Day Carnival Association (WIADCA) New York Caribbean Carnival 2016 celebrates One Caribbean, One People, One Voice and the contributions of Caribbean heritage to the world, with a five-day Caribbean-American cultural extravaganza, Sept. 1-5! Included in the festivities are five multi-cultural concerts that boast tasty Caribbean cuisine from local chefs, festive costumes, and Caribbean rhythms with artists Roy Cape All Stars, Blaxx, Ricardo Drue (Antigua), Lyrikal, Skinny Fabulous (St. Vincent), KES the Band, King David Rudder and 12 steel orchestras: Pan Sonatas, CASYM, Pantonic, Steel Xplosion, ADLIB, D'Radoes, Crossfire Steel Orchestra, Harmony Steel Orchestra, Pan Evolution, Pan Fantasy, Philadelphia Pan Stars and Despers USA.

Guest DJ's include Vibesman Redman, Barrie Hype, Norie (Power 105.1FM), Sounds 4 Life, Young Sounds, Supa Sound, Star Boy, Kakez, Foreign Bass and DJ Spice), all culminating in WIADCA's New York Caribbean Carnival Parade on Monday, September 5 on the famed Eastern Parkway "cultural row" from 11 am

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David Rudder serenading the Dimanche Gras audience behind the Brooklynn Museum in 2013.

Photo by William Farrington

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One people

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to 6 pm.

WIADCA sponsors include: Con Edison, Guinness, Brooklyn Museum, New York State Cultural Affairs, WBLS 107.5FM, Healthfirst, TWU, Caribbean Life, UFT, Daily News, MCU, MetroPlus, Caribbean Airlines, McDonald's, Royal Wine Corp-Bartenura/VodaVodka/Jeunesse, Hot 97FM, One Caribbean TV, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, NYC Parks & Recreation, and NY City Council.

All events held at the Brooklyn Museum grounds unless otherwise noted — rain or shine:

Thursday, Sept. 1:

Reggae Unda Di Stars — doors open at 6 pm; showtime is 7 pm to 1 am.

Featuring Dajah, Derrick Barnett & Statement Band and soulful balladeers Chris Martin and Romain Virgo along with the Messenger Luciano and roots and culture legends Third World, singing hits such as “It’s Me Again Jah,” “Lord Give Me Strength,” “One Way Ticket,” “96 Degrees in the Shade,” “Try Jah Love,” “Now That We Have Found Love” and many more! Hosted by Pat McKay from



Young Devyn performing at her first concert at St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church auditorium in Brooklyn on Saturday, Nov. 21, 2015.

Photo by Louise Wateridge

Sirius XM, Davhed Levy from WBLS with music by DJ Norie of Power 105.1 FM.

Tickets are \$60 (more at the door).

Friday, Sept. 2:

Summer Jam: Stay In School Concert and College Fair – 11 am to 3 pm.

Hosted by Young Devyn, this

concert features young emerging talent through music, dance, spoken word and more while highlighting the values of our Caribbean-American community and encouraging our youth to pursue and continue their educational goals. Highlights include live DJ’s Armani, Young Sounds, Big Boy Allen,

Supa Sound, Star Boy, Kakez, H2O, Andre, King Mix, and Exclusive along with performances by Missy Dee, Kay Jones, Tami G, Batingua Arts Co., Abundance Dance Academy, MECPS Contemporary Dance Co., PS 156 Waverly Sound Steel/Drumline, Blood Line Dance Theater, Ifetayo Cultur-

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Tribute to the Incas

Taeisha Kennedy portrays "Galaxy Cocktail." See story on page 53.

Photo by Nelson A. King

Williams pays homage to freedom fighters

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Council Member Jumaane D. Williams has paid tribute on the day set aside by the United Nations to remember slavery and its abolition, saying that the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and the enslavement of Africans represented "one of the longest and most sustained assaults on the life, integrity and dignity of human beings in our history."

"For more than three and a half centuries, men, women and children were forcibly transported in bondage from their African motherland to the Americas [which includes the Caribbean]," said Wil-

liams, deputy leader of the City Council, on Tuesday on the International Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition, which is commemorated every Aug. 23.

"This forever changed the face and character of the modern world," added the son of Grenadian immigrants, who represents the largely Caribbean 45th Council District in Brooklyn. "The slave trade was brutal and horrific, and the enslavement of Africans was cruel, exploitative and dehumanizing."

"Today is about paying tribute to all those who fought for freedom," Williams con-

tinued. "It is also a day to reflect and use as encouragement in for the fight against all forms of servitude, racism, prejudice, racial discrimination and social injustice that are a legacy of slavery."

He said the Day should also serve as "a reminder that many of the problems in communities made up of descendants of slaves are not mere coincidences but consequences born out of this horrible time in history."

"I say this not as an excuse from personal responsibility, but to interweave it with a shared starting point, from

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US TAX CHEATS NOTICE

Caribbean countries move to comply with IRS financial reporting

By Bert Wilkinson

Caribbean American citizens and permanent residents who hold large sums of cash in overseas bank accounts or have investments in trust and related companies as well as hold disposable assets will soon have to report these to the IRS or face stiff penalties in new laws being enforced from the end of September.

CARICOM member countries which have not yet signed up inter governmental bilateral agreements with the United States are rushing to do so, well aware that their could be blacklisted by Washington as unwilling compliers with the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA).

As August came to a close, authorities in Trinidad, the largest economy in the community of 15 mostly island nations, made quick steps to do so, formally signing the relevant tenants of FACTA and opening the way for an automatic exchange of finan-

cial information on Americans with cash and assets stashed overseas.

Back in March of 2010, Congress passed the controversial bill to catch alleged tax cheats, including those who use offshore accounts in the Caribbean and beyond to hide assets from the IRS.

The act requires Caribbean commercial banks to submit details about assets and cash of American citizens and permanent residents. The U.S. is also required to furnish information on Caribbean residents who stash cash and have assets in mainland America and its territories such as Puerto Rico.

Several member states including Barbados and St. Kitts have already signed bilateral agreements with the U.S., anxious to avoid being blacklisted by the international community, western industrialized countries in particular, as law enforce

Continued on Page 1



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Festival marks Crown Heights riot

By Alexandra Simon

Hundreds of people turned out for a controversial festival commemorating the Crown Heights riot on Aug. 21, despite some slamming as a distasteful way to mark such a dark period in the neighborhood's history.

Organizers say they understand why the family of Yankel Rosenbaum — the Australian Jewish man killed during of the 1991 turmoil — described a fete promising “fun for all ages” as “an insult” to his memory, but the large turnout from both black and Jewish residents shows it really did bring the communities together. <https://nypost.com/2016/08/16/crown-heights-plans-insensitive-carnival-to-mark-1991-riots/>

“I definitely understand — he felt it was inappropriate,” said organizer Rabbi Eli Cohen director of Jewish group the Crown Heights Community Council. “We did it because we feel it’s important and to focus on what we can achieve when we work together — because look at what can happen.”

The One Crown Heights festival marked 25 years since a motorcade carrying a prominent Jewish leader ran over seven-year-old black boy Gavin Cato, igniting racial tensions in the predominantly black and Hasidic Jewish community. Hours later, rioters fatally stabbed Rosenbaum, and three days of chaos followed.

Local leaders including Borough President Adams, Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo (D-Crown Heights), and Councilwoman Mathieu Eugene (D-Crown Heights) started the day at the Jewish Children’s Museum with a ceremony remembering both Cato and Rosenbaum, followed by a march down Kingston Avenue to Brower Park for the festivities, which included rides, games, and performances from Caribbean steel pan bands.

Yankel Rosenbaum’s brother Norman — who was in town for the anniversary — and some local Orthodox leaders denounced the event in the press, though Gavin Cato’s father Carmel attended. Both men, who have been friends for 15 years, nevertheless broke rye bread at a Midwood deli before mourning in their own ways. <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/brooklyn/men-kin-deaths-sparked-crown-heights-riots-break-bread-article-1.2755252>

Festival attendees say their families enjoyed the fair, and defended the neighborhood get-together as a way of showing how far the community has come since its ugliest days.



St. Vincent and the Grenadines Consul General Selmon Walters (second from left) receives a plaque from members of the Vincy USA Organizing Committee. Photo by Nelson A. King

Almost last hurrah for SVG official

By Nelson A. King

The Organizing Committee of the Brooklyn-based Vincy Day USA last Saturday gave New York Consul General Selmon Walters his penultimate last hurrah with a send-off plaque.

The departing consul general is expected to preside over an inaugural St. Vincent and the Grenadines-Martha’s Vineyard Cultural Showcase this Saturday, Aug. 27, in Massachusetts.

Rosalind Goodluck, the treasurer of the Organizing Committee of Vincy Day USA, presented the award to Walters, who has chaired the Committee since its start, before hundreds of nationals at the annual unity picnic at Heckscher State Park in Long Island, New York.

“As many of you may know, the consul general has been recalled after five years,” Goodluck told the crowd assembled in front of the huge stage on the eastern end of the camp ground. “Vincy Day USA Committee prepared a small plaque to say good bye to the Counsel General.

“We’re going to miss you,” Goodluck told Walters. “You made the Consular office what it is here.”

In responding, Walters, a former minister in the administration of Prime Minister Dr. Ralph E. Gonsalves, said tersely: “Sometimes, you get things you don’t expect. This is a surprise.”

But despite the praises showered on the consul general by Goodluck, Walters — who will be replaced by Howie Prince, the head of the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO), by month’s end — has been under heavy fire in recent years.

Observers, and critics alike, claimed that Walters woefully mismanaged the office that provides consular and other services to nationals in New York, which is considered to comprise the



Bomani electrifies the party crowd at the Vincy Day USA.

Photo by Nelson A. King

largest concentration of Vincentians in the Diaspora.

Walters’ pending departure comes about 2 ½ years after a major scandal erupted at the New York Consulate General involving Walters’ deputy, Edson Augustus, a former Seventh-day Adventist Church pastor, who was recalled on Feb. 5, 2014, because of what the government said were “activities outside the scope of his employment and inimical to interests of the Consulate General and the government and people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.”

In recent months, Walters’ situation was exacerbated with increased criticism, in several quarters, of his stewardship.

The government, however, did not cite allegations levelled against Walters nor did it particularly single him out in its diplomatic shake-up, but it was clear, many pundits said, that the administration had to take action once and for all.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Sir Louis Straker told Caribbean Life last week, in an exclusive interview, that Walters was among three diplomats who are being recalled.

The others are ambassadors to Cuba and Venezuela Dexter Rose and Andreas Wickham, respectively.

But, despite his fate, Walters, unequivocally, has left his indentation on Vincy Day USA.

He made it his primary mission of making the annual Vincy Day USA extravaganza a success. The notion was first broached to him five years ago by popular, Brooklyn-based Vincentian entertainment promoter, Ulric “Soca” Jones, Jr., who last Saturday co-emceed, as in previous years, the cultural package, with prominent Vincentian radio personality Don Bobb.

“I am confident that this great event may outlive all of us,” said Walters in the foreword in the Vincy Day USA booklet, distributed to nationals on Saturday as they entered the park. “Committee members may come and go, but the event must remain.

“Long live Vincy Day USA!” he added. “Long live all our Vincy folks in the Diaspora and at home. May our prosperity be guaranteed by our love for each other and by our faith in the God of the universe!”

On Saturday, the committee also honored another entertainment promoter, Atiba Williams; Nolan Bulze, manager of the Brooklyn-based Solid band; retired Registered Nurse Celia Bramble, former president of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Nurses Association of New York; Monica Laborde, president of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Massachusetts; and Dave Auguste, ground manager of Heckscher State Park.

Antigua

A 35-year-old French national was fined EC\$4,000 after he pleaded guilty to causing a bomb scare on a LIAT flight at the VC Bird International Airport, Antigua recently.

Francois Renaud Boisneuf, 35, who was returning to the French Caribbean Island of Guadeloupe from Barbados where he had attended the Crop Over Festival, used the word “bomb” and “terrorist” when he was repeatedly asked by the flight attendant for his boarding pass.

The flight attendant reported the matter to the captain and the police were called in resulting in the aircraft being checked out.



The plane with 69 passengers on board then departed for Guadeloupe after a long period.

When Boisneuf appeared in court before Magistrate Conliffe Clarke, he pleaded guilty to the offence and was fined EC\$4,000 or six months in prison.

Bahamas

A call has been made for the Bahamas government to open a Sex Offenders Registry and Marco Alert system for missing children.

It has come from a non-profit group — Solidarity 242- some five years after the murder of an 11-year-old boy, Marco Archer — a tragedy that called for the Sex Offenders Registry.

In October 2013, Kofhe Goodman was sentenced to death for abducting, kidnaping and murdering Archer.



Co-founder of Solidarity 242, Kishlane Knowles said there are no Sex Offenders Registry, and no Marco Alert.

He said; “Our children are being left vulnerable and we as Bahamians have to push back and demand that the government does its part in protecting our children.”

In 2013, Freeport said the loss of five young boys, all of whom went missing and were murdered.



Haitian protest

A demonstrator holds up an anti-U.N. poster during a protest outside a UN base in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. See story on page 16

Inter Press Service / Ansel Herz

In June 2015, Minister of Social Services Melanie Griffin revealed in her 2015 / 2016 budget contribution that there had been an increase in the reported cases of sexual abuse and incest incidents involving children.

The Solidarity 242 group is urging Bahamians to join an online protest to pressure the government to set up a Sex Offenders Registry.

Barbados

Barbados has recorded a 1.3 percent economic growth for the first six months of this year, compared to no growth a year ago, according to figures released by the Central Bank of Barbados (CBB).

CBB Governor Dr. DeLisle Worrell said this was a slight deceleration from the first quarter, mainly on account of unexpected delays in major tourism

investment projects.

In terms of the outlook, Dr. Worrell said the reduced growth projection was “mainly because most major investment projects are behind schedule.”

He noted that the main impact of the recent fall in the value of sterling may well be on the sales of villas and second homes to United Kingdom residents, adding the growth rate could be higher if investments in tourism and alternative energy can be speeded up.



Dominica

The Dominica government has received a EC\$25 million loan from the Agricultural Industrial and Development Bank (AIDB) to help develop the agriculture and tourism sectors.

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit speaking at the recent signing ceremony said that at least 17 properties will benefit from the EC\$15 million set aside for the tourism sector.

He said construction jobs would be created but some of the properties are also expanding and enhancing their ability to compete and become competitive much better than they are doing now.

The prime minister also said he is hoping that the facility will lead to more sustainable jobs in the economy, adding, “the terms and conditions of this loan are exceptional.”

The EC\$15 million dollars from the proceeds of the Citizenship by Investment Program (CIP) will be made available for on-lending to the hotel sector to



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territorial act designed to get information on people who have offshore accounts and other assets. We are ready when they are.”

The agreement has stiff penalties and other sanctions contained in the 2010 legislation including the imposition of a 30 percent withholding levy on assets of persons failing to report their assets to authorities.

The bill is interested in folks who have in excess of \$50,000 held overseas. Banks are required to search their data bases to detect people with foreign passports, green cards and identities who have money and assets overseas and inform the IRS of this as Americans are required to file yearly tax returns regardless of where they live.

Wikipedia for example, says the bill was enacted for the purpose of detecting the non-U.S. financial accounts of U.S. domestic taxpayers rather than to identify non-resident U.S. citizens and enforce collections. There might be thousands of resident U.S. citizens with non-U.S. assets, such as astute investors, dual citizens, or legal immigrants. FATCA was enacted with the purpose of having non-U.S. financial institutions identify approximately 8.7 million U.S. citizens believed to reside outside of the United States and those persons believed to be U.S. persons for tax purposes. FATCA will also be used to help identify non-U.S. person family members and business partners who share accounts with U.S. persons.

Day of Remembrance

Continued from page 1

which to help provide solutions,” said the outspoken legislator, calling on all New Yorkers and Americans in joining forces to “support and spread the principles of freedom, equality and equity.”

Williams said that the need is “even more prevalent with such divisive messages being not only spewed but also received on a national political stage as acceptable political discourse in a way we have not seen in decades.

“It is imperative that we recommit to the hard work it takes to live together in our multicultural societies and continue to fight against contemporary forms of slavery, of which millions are still the victims of,” he added.

Irina Bokova, head of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), said that the courage of the men and women, who, in August 1791, revolted against slavery in Haiti, “has created obligations for us” on the day set aside for remembrance of that rebellion.

In her tribute, the UNESCO director general noted that “all of humanity is part of this story,” adding that efforts to teach the history of the slave trade will help build a better world.

“The uprising was a turning point in human history, greatly impacting the establishment of universal human rights, for which we are all indebted,”



U.N. Secretary General candidate Irina Bokova.

Associated Press / Richard Drew

said Bokova in her message commemorating the night in 1791, “when people who had been torn from Africa and sold into slavery revolted against the slave system to obtain freedom and independence for Haiti, gained in 1804.”

She said that UNESCO marked the Day of Remembrance to pay tribute to “all those who fought for freedom, and, in their name, to continue teaching about their story and the values therein.

“The history of the slave trade and slavery created a storm of rage, cruelty and bitterness that has not yet abated,” said the director-general, “but the courage of these men and women has created obligations for us.”



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Newly appointed Guyana Consul General, Barbara Atherly hands over passport to Mohammed Baksh at fifth outreach initiative in South Ozone Park, Queens, as Deputy Consul General, Jacquelyn Hamer (extreme right), owner of USA Realty Uriel Seenarine behind (CG), and staff look on.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

Guyana consul general observes outreach

By Tangerine Clarke

Newly appointed Guyana Consul General to New York, Barbara Atherly handed over passports, marriage licenses and other legal documents to expatriates in South Ozone Park, Queens on Saturday, Aug. 13, during the consulate's fifth Outreach Initiative.

Atherly, a former Education Specialist at the United Nations International Children's Education Fund, joined Deputy Consul General Jacquelyn Hamer, and staff of the consulate in the office space of Guyanese businessman Uriel Seenarine, where five hours of consul services to Guyanese.

Deputy Consul General Jacquelyn Hamer welcomed the new consul general, and said the consul's office is planning a program and town hall meeting for Atherly to meet with the Diaspora in both Queens and Brooklyn.

"The outreach was an excellent success," said Hamer, where scores of persons met with the diplomats and staff in the one on one setting to make sure all official papers received the necessary stamp of approval, during the community activity that began at 10am.

"We were heartened by the excellent turn-out at the fifth outreach," noted Hamer, whose idea it was to visit the boroughs outside the diplomat office in Manhattan.

The program, which began in Queens and Brooklyn, before citizens in Schenectady, upstate New York benefited from the services, will continue on Saturday Aug. 27, at 10 am, in New Jersey.

While at the outreach, expats also picked up 50th Independence Anniversary magazines provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and information regarding the upcoming entrepreneurial conference in Guyana.

A US\$1000 participation award will go to a businessperson who qualifies to attend the investment forum. The dead-

line for submission is Sept. 30.

Hamer hopes business owners will take full advantage of this opportunity that would benefit their establishment. All information could be viewed on the consulate's website — www.guyanaconsulatenewyork.org.

The consulate that recently unveiled its new website to rave reviews from the community, will begin a second phase that would help to expedite passports from the current six-week wait time. This feature, when approved by the Guyana government will allow applicants to apply online.

Hamer said, the Guyana government complemented the progress at the consulate.

"I hope the good feedback we are getting from the public about the work we are doing in the consulate serves as a model for other diplomatic offices to emulate in the future," she said.

"We are extremely thankful to Mr. Seenarine for offering his space. I have no doubt we will continue to enjoy this excellent relationship for future endeavors.

Seenarine, founder and CEO of US Realty, thecaribbeanradio.com and Carib Media Corp. (caribmediacorp.com), graciously reached out to the Guyana Consulate to host the outreach, because he felt this was a great way to connect with the large Guyanese community in Ozone Park.

He suggested that the program be held every six months, and will once again open his door to accommodate the consul staff, and citizens who also live in neighboring Richmond Hill.

"I would encourage the collaboration because I am well-known in the community and I am all about educating the Guyanese community, and keeping them informed about the progress I see taking place in Guyana," said Seenarine.

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Twenty-five years after Crown Heights Riots

By Paula L. Sanders

Twenty-five years ago, I watched as the streets of Crown Heights erupted in unrest — cars flipped, businesses burned, rocks thrown, and voices raised in anger following the tragic deaths of seven-year-old Gavin Cato, hit and killed by a car, and the stabbing death of college student Yankel Rosenbaum.

I watched and I listened to concerned mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, students and neighbors from both the West Indian and Hasidic community who worried that not enough was being done to protect their safety or address the racial and social disparities in their communities.

Over those tough three days — and the weeks that followed — my colleagues at the NYC Commission on Human Rights and I took to the streets to speak with community members about their concerns, calm their fears, and offer any assistance we could to help heal their pain.

We also met with community groups, like the Jewish Community Council and Crown Heights Youth Collective, to chart a path forward and create programs that promote respect for the neighborhood's cultural and religious differences.

Twenty-five years later, as those wounds continue to heal, the NYC Commission on Human Rights is still a part of those communities, working in Crown Heights and across Brooklyn to ensure that people feel safe, respected, and empowered to live and work

free from discrimination.

The NYC Commission on Human Rights exists to protect every New Yorker from discrimination. We are a city agency that enforces the nation's strongest city anti-discrimination law, the NYC Human Rights Law, which protects people from discrimination in the workplace, housing, and in public spaces.

We work with immigrant and faith-based communities, landlords, bodegas, law enforcement agencies, and business associations to ensure that everyone in New York City knows their rights and obligations under the law and are protected from unfair treatment no matter who they are, what they look like, where they come from or what they believe.

Our doors are always open. If you or someone you know has experienced discrimination, call 311 and ask for the Commission on Human Rights. The Commission is staffed with committed public servants who collectively speak at least 26 different languages representing the diversity of New York City. They are ready to hear your story and help you understand your rights. Or stop by our Brooklyn Community Service Center located at 25 Chapel Street, Suite 1001, to speak to a staff member.

Or come meet us this Sunday, Aug. 21, at the One Crown Heights event. Commission staff will join elected officials, faith leaders, advocates, and community members at events

Continued on Page 12

The Jamaican gov't has forgotten the diaspora!

By Dawn Plummer

The compelling evidence of pride displayed during the observation of Jamaica's 54th independence in the Tri-State area was the paradigm of a people strongly rooted in their culture and history. Culminating the 54th independence also was the overwhelming and strong performance of the Jamaicans at the 31st Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

However, in the midst of this celebration was the noticeably absence of a Jamaican consul general for New York and the Eastern states, with further investigation we learnt also that there was no fixed appointment for a Jamaican ambassador in Washington DC, since April 2016, as well. The absence was not unusual but what triggers the anxiety is the lengthy absence. The general election was held on Feb. 25, 2016 in Jamaica. The trajectory is not uncommon for any new government to replace its top diplomats in its new administration. What should not be accepted though is the government's unpreparedness in dealing with this matter. The government did not groom any representatives to fill the vacant positions. It is almost six months since the former Jamaican council general to New York resigned and so too did the Jamaican ambassador in Washington DC. These changes are not mandatory, but for obvious and obnoxious reasons party loyalists would have it no other way.

The Consul General's office in New York has a

The Jamaican community needs to be informed on the official events relating to Jamaica that is taking place in a foreign country.

wide community to serve; its role is to be the government for its people in a foreign country. However, a consul general should be prepared or be on standby for replacing vacant positions when there is a new government. An announcement was made a few months ago for the evacuation of some Jamaican diplomats from their positions among them was the Jamaican Council General for New York and the Jamaican ambassador in Washington DC. Someone in the Foreign Affairs Ministry could have spearheaded a planning committee to replace the consul general. There is a community of over two million Jamaicans on hand waiting to be represented and served unequivocally. How do you feel when you telephone the Jamaican Consulate's office and no one wants to speak to you, obtaining our passports is not the only reason why some of us Jamaicans call the office of the consul general. We call for numerous reasons, to verify issues that are of serious concerns to us in Jamaica. Even more disappointing is after 15 to 20 years of attending the Jamaican independence church services in New York City you come to know what kind of crowd to expect. Not

so this time there was a low turn out of fellow Jamaicans. You wondered why and asked what work was done to reach the thousands of Jamaicans in New York City? You ask where was the outreach personnel and you realized that the position is also currently vacant. The Jamaican community needs to be informed on the official events relating to Jamaica that is taking place in a foreign country. Please give us the choice of choosing whether or not we should participate in these events. Did this lapse in the community affairs outreach caused a lack in effective communication? A consul general should be in place for many reasons. Life is also unpredictable and a few years ago when hundreds of Jamaicans were misplaced or affected by hurricane sandy, in Brooklyn and Queens, New York, the then consul general visited sites, as several of the homes affected belonged to Jamaicans. The Jamaican Consul's General office could not do much, as Hurricane Sandy hit Jamaica as well. The then government of Jamaica was asking us to help the victims in Jamaica, but a consul general on site could let the government know what was happening with some Jamaicans in the United States as well. This is just an example of the important and effective work of the consulate office. We are also in another hurricane season, as Jamaicans we need someone to always stand shoulder to shoulder with other leaders, representing our people and our

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Corruption accusations fly in Barbados

By George Alleyne

Opposition Member Parliament, Edmund Hinkson, has warned that Barbados' future access to favorable loans from international organisations is at risk if officials do not crack down on corruption.

"One of the main problems in Barbados now is corruption. We are clouding our eyes over it... Many people in the international community have tremendous concerns about this country of ours. They know about the level of corruption and 'take' that they have in Barbados, and they're keeping a very close watch on it."

Hinkson, a lawyer, issued the warning at a political meeting, a full week after former Chief Justice, Sir David Simmons, appeared to open the flood gates of public statements when he made no bones about it by declaring that there is corruption in the island's top-most quarters.

"I think that there is a lot of evidence, but it seems to be more than a perception of corruption at all kinds of level in this society," Sir David had said, and added, "The bribers

are usually the people in the private sector... they would have bribed the politician who is then held up to ridicule and exposed, and a lot of them get away".

For years sleaze in high office was rumoured, and following Sir David's remarks, Chairman of the Barbados Private Sector Association, Charles Herbert, suggested that there was a culture within the public sector that encouraged bribery.

"It is difficult to do everything," he said. "it takes three days to get a liquor licence. It takes a month to get an amalgamation through [the department of Corporate Services]."

"Everything we do is difficult to do."

Herbert, the chairman of Barbados conglomerate, Goddard Enterprises, conceded that some companies appear to be getting their business done quickly, but added, "We don't know if it is because they push harder than us, because they know somebody that we don't know."

"In a lot of cases you can't get anything done in Barbados unless money pass," Hinkson

said Sunday.

He complained that since 2012 both chambers of Parliament had passed the Prevention of Corruption Act, "But they [government] would not carry it to the governor general for him to sign, assenting to it. So it does not stand as the law of Barbados. Why?"

He followed up by asking what, "Cabinet ministers, politicians, the people who would be subject to the Prevention of Corruption Act, what do they fear?"

The MP warned, "there will come a time when Barbados, if it doesn't [enact] that legislation, will not be able to borrow development funds from UN agencies, from the World Bank because of this issue.

"Those institutions will not lend countries, or they will lend only at very high interest rates, if you do not have systems, legislative and administrative, in place to curb, or curtail corruption," Hinkson said.

Contending that the Democratic Labour Party Government has broken its anti-corruption campaign promises, he said the party came into office



Barbados MP, Edmund Hinkson, talking about corruption. Photo by George Alleyne

in 2008, "on the basis that they were going to stamp out corruption, that they were going to be transparent, that they were going to have post-Cabinet meetings every Thursday to tell the people what went on in Cabinet."

He continued, "The Democratic Labour Party promised that they would bring in integrity legislation forthwith... eight and a half years gone, no sign of integrity legislation whatsoever, excuses after excuses from both the prime minister and the attorney general as to why none would come in."

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Grenadians to vote on constitutional changes

By Azad Ali

Grenadians will go to the polls for the Oct. 27 referendum on changes in the Constitution to replace the London-based Privy Council with the Trinidad-based Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ).

Parliament has recently passed legislation that allows the island to replace the Privy Council with the CCJ as its final court of appeal.

Grenadians will also be asked to institute term of limits for the prime minister; ensure that there is always an opposition leader; enable Parlia-

ment to provide fixed election dates for general elections; institute an Elections and Boundaries Commission; and require that allegiance to be sworn, no longer to the Queen, but to Grenada.

Supervisor of Election Alex Phillip said there are more than 69,000 people who are eligible to vote.

He said, "we have already designed the ballot paper and will be a simple question of asking them if they approved the Bill to amend the Constitution, the choices will be yes or no."

Crown Heights residents bond

Continued from page 12

throughout the day that bring together every community in Crown Heights and celebrate the steps communities have taken to understand and appreciate the rich diversity of the neighborhood. Commission staff will be on hand to talk about the Commission and resources available to the community.

Everyone in New York City deserves

the same respect and opportunity as everyone else, regardless of where they came from or who they are. We are a much stronger city when we celebrate those differences instead of letting them divide us.

Paula L. Sanders is associate human rights specialist in the Brooklyn Office of the NYC Commission on Human Rights.

Jamaican diaspora in the dark!

Continued from page 12

government. The former advisor for the Jamaican Diaspora, Patrick Beckford, expressed his opinion on the issue, "...it is the first time in thirty four years that I can recall us having to wait this long for an ambassador or a consul general in New York. The government should have prepared someone to step into this community which is a population of over two million. Some names should have been submitted by now," Beckford reasoned.

In the midst of this can we asked the question why the government made such an early announcement for the removal of the ambassador in Washington and the consul general in New York. I am certain there are suitable individuals in the Foreign Affairs Ministry to take these positions. As questioned on so many occasions, did the election victory take Mr. Andrew Holness by surprise? "Couldn't the government asked the diplomats to stay in office until they find suitable replacements," Mr. Patrick Beckford asked.

Former Provost of John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Professor Basil Wilson, said the absence of leadership could have stemmed from many reasons. "The processing of the ambassadorship has to go through the U.S. State Depart-

ment. They have to accept the process and the credentials of the individual and that could slow the process down, these appointments are important," Dr. Wilson noted. Professor Wilson also reminded us that the government is currently negotiating with the International Monetary Funds (IMF) and that could also be a central reason the government did not direct its attention elsewhere. "You could have missteps, when you move quickly sometimes," the former Provost acknowledged.

Should we wrestle with the thought that the government is focusing on economic development and has put the Jamaican Diaspora (foreign affairs) on the side line. In trying to come to a better understanding of why these two positions are not yet filled I reached out to the New York Consulate office this proved futile, as the acting consul general did not return any of my calls. Several other Jamaicans that I have spoken to in New York City and New Jersey saw this as total neglect of a people, "the Foreign Affairs Ministry should have made a replacement, and this shows lack of respect for the Jamaican Diaspora," President of the Jamaica Progressive League, Mrs. Sadie Campbell remarked. The population in the Diaspora is over two million we need representation.

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Our Perspective Eliminate Tip Credit for Car Wash Workers

By Stuart Appelbaum, President,
Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union,
RWDSU, UFCW

Car wash workers in New York City – or “carwasheros,” as they call themselves – have made great strides since their campaign to unionize began in 2012. Hundreds of carwasheros at 10 car washes have won the dignity and respect that comes with union membership.

Union contracts have given carwasheros – for the first time – paid time off, the ability to return to their home countries for visits and have their jobs protected, and guaranteed wage and benefit improvements.

But throughout New York State, the so-called “tip credit” threatens to continue to undermine progress that workers are making in the car wash industry.

The tip credit is a part of New York State minimum wage law that allows industry operators to pay car wash workers a different, lower minimum wage. In theory, workers’ tips are supposed to make up the difference, and possibly more. And, if workers’ tips don’t raise the level of pay to at least the minimum wage, car wash employers are supposed to make up the difference in additional hourly wages.

In actual practice, it’s a flawed system that enables wage theft and contributes to systemic underpayment of car wash workers – exactly what the car wash unionizing campaign and carwasheros have been fighting against. Investigations have shown that employers don’t always make up the extra pay for workers when tips are short, and carwasheros don’t always receive the tips customers presume they are getting. We shouldn’t be giving unscrupulous employers additional incentives to underpay their workers.

Earlier this summer, workers at one Queens car wash won a \$130,000 settlement against an owner who was paying below minimum wage, withholding overtime pay, and committing other wage and hour violations. And that’s just the latest settlement of many, including one that saw a New York carwash operator pay almost \$4 million in 2014. Wage theft is still rampant in the industry, and the tip credit helps create an environment where it happens.

The Cuomo Administration has done a good job prosecuting wage theft, and helping win justice for workers across New York. But we need to do more. We call upon the Governor and the state legislature to eliminate the car wash tip credit, and bring the base pay for all car wash workers in New York up to the minimum wage.

It’s an important move that will show New York’s commitment to fighting for worker rights, and protect worker pay.

www.rwdsu.org



United: Various artists dancing together at the “Fists Up, Guns Down” benefit event at the Five Myles Gallery in Crown Heights on Aug. 19.

Cinaya Correa

Sean Bell’s fiancée speaks on gun violence in Brooklyn

By Alexandra Simon

Local artists expressed feelings about police violence at the “Fists Up, Guns Down” benefit show, at the Five Myles Gallery on Aug. 19.

About a 100 guests came to see young artists of color, tell stories about police brutality through dance, poetry, music, and visual art — expressing their pain and rage about the extra-judicial killings of black people. Nicole Paultre Bell, the fiancée of Sean Bell — an unarmed husband — to be killed by police on his wedding day in 2006 — attended the event to share her experience 10 years later and praised the artists.

“Everyone in this room is a soldier. The one thing I have to say that pushes me forward is being in a room with a group of folks like you,” said Paultre Bell. “To know that there are soldiers out there who didn’t have to be affected by the movement, but that they felt the movement just because of who they are.”

Artists creatively spoke, sang, rapped, and danced their displeasure of police brutality, sharing the varying experiences that come as a result. Planners of the event invited Paultre Bell to the

event to allow guests to hear her story, said organizers.

“I feel like people heard about the story, but they didn’t hear it from her personal point of view,” said Alia Pierre, artist and co-organizer of the event.

“Hearing it firsthand and seeing how strong she is really made them passionate about getting justice,” said Pierre.

Pierre said the message she wanted to convey with the event was achieved, and hopes that guests who attended left with the drive to pursue social justice.

“A lot of people said that they left there feeling like they needed to do something,” said Pierre.

“We just wanted to give all proceeds to the Sean Bell family so that they can continue to have Sean Bell day, and any other day they plan to do to get justice.”

Concluding the event, artists and guests marched along Franklin Avenue, arriving at Eastern Parkway, before ending in front of the Brooklyn Museum, holding signs reading ‘Black Lives Matter’ and ‘Fists up, guns down.’

All proceeds of the event went to Sean Bell’s family.



Her story: Nicole Paultre Bell speaks to guests about her life since the shooting death of her fiancé Sean Bell.

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*Past Results Do Not Guarantee Future Outcomes

UN admits it needs to do more after causing Haiti cholera epidemic

By Phoebe Braithwaite

NEW YORK, Aug 18, 2016 (IPS) - Update: On Thursday, Aug. 18 the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit upheld the immunity of the UN from legal proceedings in the case of Georges et al v. United Nations et. al (the Haiti Cholera case) in accordance with the UN Charter and other international treaties.

Six years since UN peacekeepers brought cholera to Haiti, the United Nations has finally accepted a greater degree of responsibility for its role in causing the outbreak, which has claimed tens of thousands of lives, and affected hundreds of thousands more.

"The UN has become convinced that it needs to do much more regarding its own involvement in the initial outbreak and the suffering of those affected by cholera," Deputy Spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General, Farhan Haq said in a statement shared with IPS.

The UN is working "towards a significantly new set of UN

actions," details of which will be released in the coming two months, said Haq.

"This is a groundbreaking first step towards justice," said Beatrice Lindstrom Esq., lawyer for victims of cholera in Haiti and staff attorney at the Institute for Justice and Democracy Haiti (IJDH) in response to the change in the UN's position.

However, she tempered her statement by saying that "the real test is in what comes next."

"The UN must follow this announcement with action, including issuing a public apology, establishing a plan to provide compensation to the victims who have lost so much, and ensuring that cholera is eliminated in Haiti through robust investment in water and sanitation infrastructure. We will keep fighting until it does."

"Promises will not stop cholera's killing or compensate for the damage to poor families in Haiti," she said.

As well as representing victims, IJDH, in partnership with

the Bureau des Avocats Internationaux (BAI) in Haiti, has spearheaded a global campaign calling on the UN for a just response, criticizing Ban Ki-moon for a lack of decisive leadership on this issue which, it says, undermines the ethics of peacekeeping.

After years of denial and claims of immunity from the UN, the admission comes in the wake of new evidence, arising from an audit undertaken by the UN's internal watchdog, the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS). It shows that the Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) has, as recently as 2015, been pouring inadequately-treated sewage into canals, among other negligent practices.

Experts believe cholera was introduced to Haiti in 2010 by peacekeepers from Nepal, when infected sewage leaked into the Arbonite River. The stabilization mission was part of efforts to help after the devastating earthquake in Haiti in 2010, which killed 220,000 people.



Young boys look for fish in a basin of polluted water in Delmas, a neighborhood of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Friday, Aug. 19, 2016. Associated Press / Dieu Nalio Chery

Latest studies suggest 30,000 people have died from cholera in Haiti alone, and that over 2 million have survived the disease, far exceeding more often-quoted statistics of 9202 deaths and 754,735 people affected.

There have been numerous calls, within the United States, the United Nations, and in the international community, for the UN to take responsibility for its alleged negligence in allowing Peacekeepers from Nepal carrying Cholera to bring it to Haiti where the disease was not previously endemic.

The issue has come up in the race to select the next sec-

retary-general of the United Nations. Certain candidates for the position of Secretary General had already made statements in favour of issuing apologies to victims, reflecting a growing tide of opinion that the United Nations could not continue to leave this issue unaddressed.

"I believe the integrity of the United Nations... has actually been tarnished," said Costa Rican candidate Christiana Figueres at the televised Al Jazeera debate on July 12. "I hope that I will have the chance to apologise to Haiti," she later told IPS.

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Haiti's Feet of Rhythm Puppet and Doll theme masqueraders



Natalia Ponce displays the Dominican flag while portraying "Waitukubuli."

Photo by Nelson A. King

Tribute to Carib Indians

By Nelson A. King

The Dominica mas band, Larry's Place, is paying tribute to the native Carib Indians with "Waitukubuli" this Labor Day.

According to band leader Larry Balthazar, "Waitukubuli" is the Carib word for "tall is her body."

Dominica is the only island in the Eastern Caribbean with a large Carib reservation.

Other islands, such as St. Vincent and the Grenadines, have Carib or indigenous settlements, but they are not considered "reservation" per se.

Most of the descendants of the Garifuna, or Black Caribs, in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, reside along the north eastern coast of the mainland — above the Rabacca Dry River.

"Waitukubuli" is also one of the sections in Larry's Place.

We visited the mas camp last week, at 282 E, 40th St., between Snyder and Church avenues in East Flatbush, Brooklyn, and took photos of potential masqueraders ready to strut their stuff, while representing the largest of the Windward Islands — Dominica — on the Parkway.

Here is just a sample. Balthazar can be reached at (917) 865-6393.



Jelani Herry portrays "Plush Green Flora." Photo by Nelson A. King



Cultural creative sisters, dancer Nadia Dieudonné and designer Cynthia Karaha teamed together in 2001 for Feet of Rhythm's participation in the West Indian Junior Carnival Parade.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

By Tequila Minsky

Nadia Dieudonné and Cynthia Karaha are cultural sisters, a complementary duo heart and soul of the dance troupe Feet of Rhythm (F.O.R.) kids who will represent the Haitian community in the annual West Indian Day Junior Carnival Parade. And, the troupe is the only all-Haitian children's group participating in it. Dieudonné is the artistic director, choreographer and dance teacher and Karaha is the troupe's co-director, manager and visual director.

Feet of Rhythm was founded in 1995, but it was 2001 when the children began to participate in children's carnival parade. The two founders persevere in recruiting dancers, providing dance lessons for their choreography and design the unusual parade costumes for the F.O.R. kids who dance the entire route.

This year's "Zopope" (puppets / dolls) theme is a creative departure from past years' traditional themes. "Our costumes are meant to look like dolls, and the movements for our performance mimic dolls, almost puppet-like," says Karaha.

There are four thematic sections: Tipope (little dolls), Kongo (wind-up dolls), Rara puppets (for ages 13-17) and Majonjon for boys.

"Forty children have signed up, but there is still time and room for plenty more," says Dieudonné who has been dancing and teaching dance for years. After her 2000 choreography collaboration with the Trinidadian mas camp Cage Productions, she decided to team up with Karaha for a Haitian children's presence in the Junior Carnival.



Kongo (wind-up doll) costume for children ages 8-12.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

control costs, volunteers help the directors to add embellishments such as the headpieces. "And my mom Jeanne Dieudonné helps a lot with sewing and other production needs," says Dieudonné.

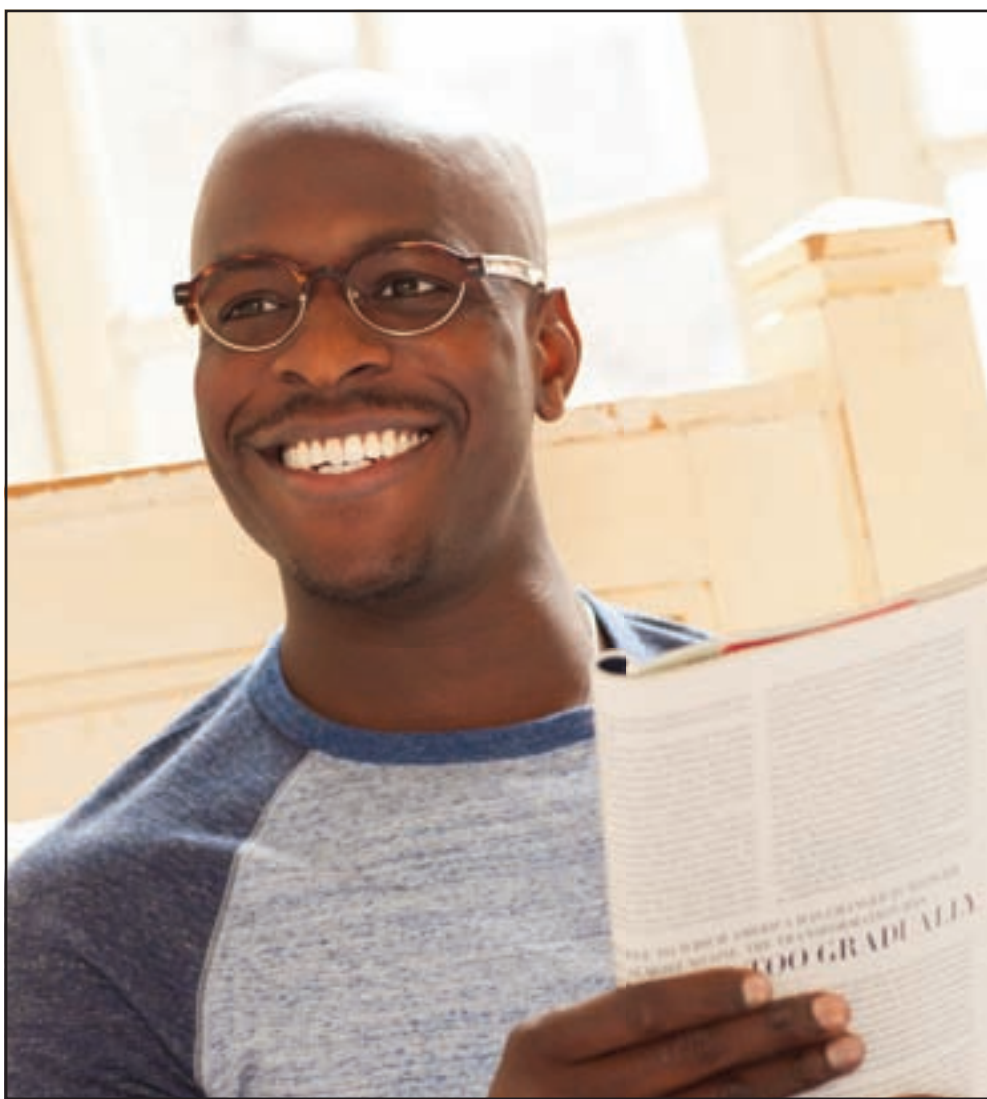
"Our costumes are \$125-\$150, more reasonable than a number of other groups. It would be great if we had financial support so that we could include more children who financially can't participate." Dieudonné adds, "We even have a Feet of Rhythm Go Fund Me link." Karaha muses, "I love what I'm doing and my dream is to have more than 100 kids."

Children take up to 10 classes, this year at Fit4Dance on Utica, to learn the steps, and equally as important, to get to know each other. "By parade time, they feel confident, know their routines and have made friends," the dance teacher observes.

As for the greatest joy? "It's the smiles on the children when they're in their make-up and costumes," beams Dieudonné. "They're filled with such pride, strutting down the street, so happy to be participating in something just for them."

Karaha adds, "On that day they're announcing to the world their cultural heritage and they're celebrating being Haitian. At the end of the parade, they've been transformed by pride."

There is still time to register children 2-16 years old with the Haitian theme: "ZOPOPE" (puppets/dolls). For workshop and costume purchase, call Nadia 646-283-8775 and for volunteer sponsorship, in-kind or individual donations call Cynthia 917-972-9197.




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Continued from page 4

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The interest rate for such loans stands at three percent with a grace period of one year.

The government also said that the EC\$10 million loan facility being made available to farmers primarily to address their need for working capital, will also allow them access to capital for investment in facilities.

Guyana

The Guyana government said it would repay the National Insurance Scheme (NIS) an estimated Guy\$6.6 billion it lost as a result of the collapse of the Trinidad-based Colonial Life Insurance Company (CLICO) in 2009.

Finance Minister Winston Jordan told a news conference that Cabinet had agreed to the pay-out through non-negotiable government debenture certificates over a 20-year-period at a fix interest rate of 1.5 percent on the principal sum of Guy\$4.8 billion.



He said the possibility of NIS recouping the money that was owed by CLICO was highly unlikely.

Jordan said NIS and its beneficiaries were suffering as a consequence and reminded the public of a 2009 Parliamentary resolution which had urged the government to do what it must to get back the money.

Payments are expected to begin in January 2017 and by the year 2027, calculations will show that the NIS will receive a total of Guy\$5.651 billion.

Jamaica

The Jamaica government says more than 250,000 workers will benefit from the first phase in the income tax threshold.

Finance Minister Audley Shaw is encouraging Jamaicans to spend the money responsibly.

He told the House of Representatives that the estimated 251,800 pay as you earn (PAYE) workers have benefited from the increase in the personal income tax threshold from \$592,800 to Ja\$1,000,272, which took effect on July 1, this year.



The government said the second phase takes effect on April 1, 2017 and will see the personal income tax threshold moving to JA\$1,500,096.

Shaw said this phase of the tax reform plan is a signal to the Jamaican people that the Andrew Holness government, which came into power last February promising tax cuts, wants to put more money into their pockets while expect-

ing, in return, higher levels of personal productivity at their workplace.

St. Vincent

Veteran diplomat, Ambassador Ellsworth John has been appointed St. Vincent and the Grenadines Ambassador to Cuba.

The announcement was made by Foreign Affairs Minister Sir Louis Straker, who said John, the island's second ambassador to the United States will replace Dexter Rose, who served in Havana for the past 11 years.



John previously served as the Ambassador to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), is also a former ambassador to the Organization of American States (OAS) and head of the Regional Integration and Diaspora Unit.

John will take up his new assignment with immediate effect.

Other appointments announced were that of Howie Prince replacing Selman Waters, the consul general in New York, while Chief Education Officer, Lou-Ann Gilchrist will become the island's new ambassador to the United States.

St. Lucia

The St. Lucia National Trust (SLNT) has expressed concern over the decision of the authorities to include the Mankote Mangrove within the boundaries of the multi-million dollar "Pearl of the Caribbean" project with the High Kong-based Desert Star Holdings (DSH).



Recently the Allan Chastanet administration in a statement indicated to have been alerted "to many comments, queries and concerns expressed views that have been circulating in the media since the July 29 announcement of the proposed US\$2.6 billion integrated project."

In its statement, the SLNT said it had taken note of the agreement for the major development labeled as "The Pearl of the Caribbean," in Vieux Fort, south of the capital Castries.

It said it has received several enquiries from diverse interests, including "from our members, on its views on the project, given both its scope and location, which encompass one of the most diverse and archaeologically and resource-rich areas of St. Lucia."

The SLNT is promising to engage the public and private sector "to gain further insights into its scope and potential economic, social and environmental impacts." The government said that it welcomes any questions and scrutiny over the project.

-Compiled by Azad Ali

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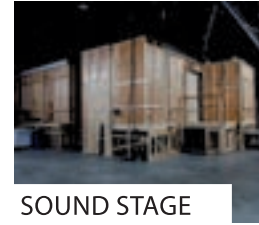
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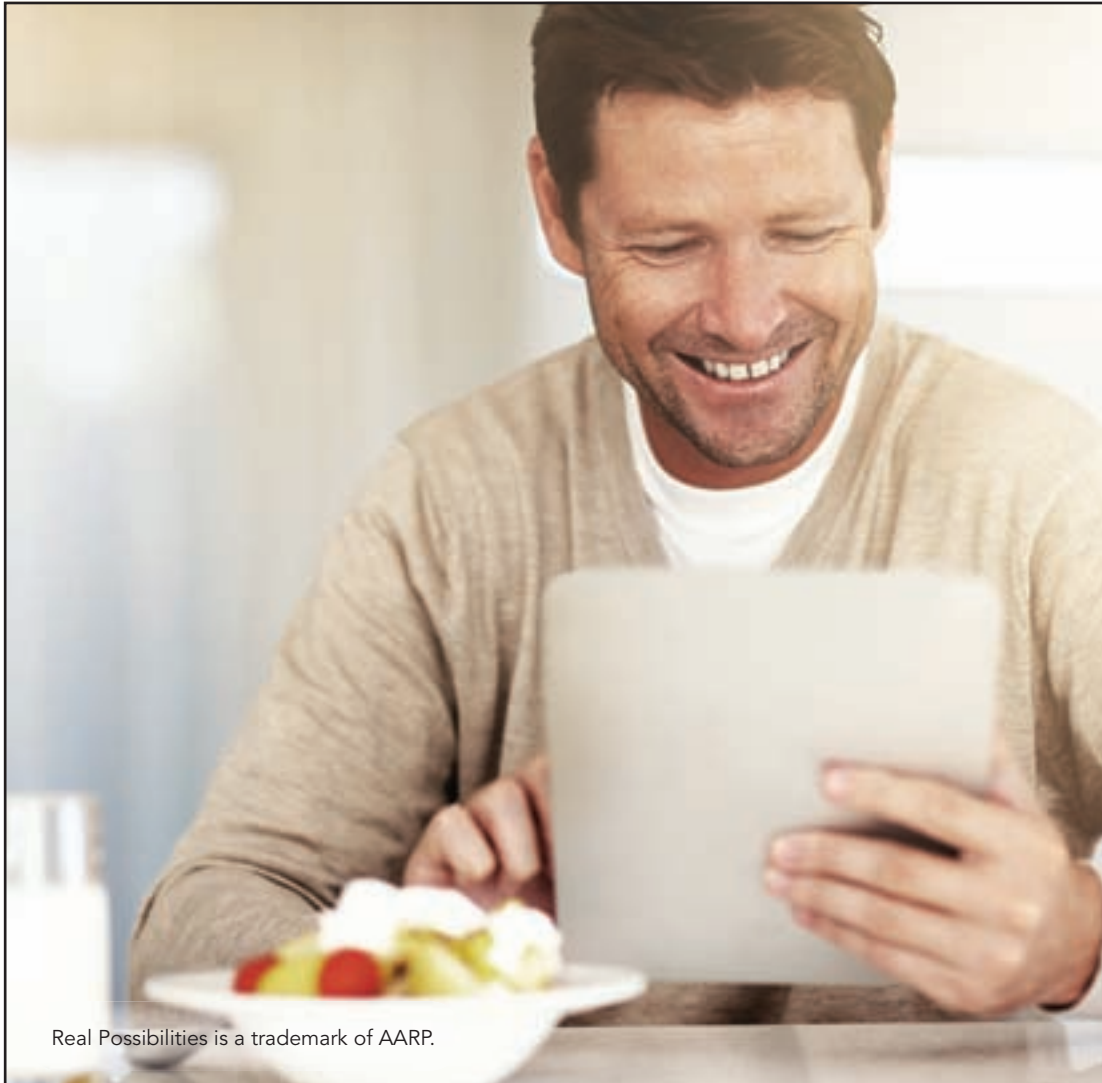
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Family Fun Day at Canarsie Park



Senator Roxanne Persaud (right) takes time out to observe a game of draughts in Canarsie Park, Brooklyn. Photo by Tangerine Clarke

By Tangerine Clarke

Last Thursday, Aug. 18, was a day of fun and games in Canarsie Park, Brooklyn, for summer campers who took full advantage of the hot temperature, entertainment by Tropical Fete stilt dancers, costume making, a Fire Department NY Firehouse demonstration and NYPD ID fingerprinting.

Thanks to Senator Roxanne J. Persaud of the 19th Senatorial District, hundreds of youths enjoyed games of chess and Jenga on large tables in the park, as well as music and backpack giveaways during a Family Fun Day in partnership with the Parks Department, Metro Plus, Brookdale Hospital, and Millennium.

Persaud said she had just as much fun as the children who came from summer camps across the borough, bringing along their parents.

After a game of draughts with the youths, the politician was back on the campaign trail fighting to keep her seat, and to advocate for programs for youth, the elderly and the community.

Senator Persaud, who calls herself

a hardworking politician, won the seat vacated by Senator John Sampson during a mid-term election in November last year, and is campaigning for a full-term to represent residents of Brownsville, East New York, Canaries Starette city, Bergen Beach, Georgetown, Marine Park, Sheepshead Bay and Canarsie.

Guyanese-born Persaud whose bill to give financial literacy services to the elderly, signed into law by Governor Andrew Cuomo last month, will press the governor to convert abandon buildings into community centers to expand after school programs.

Her aggressive agenda also seeks funding to provide healthy living for the elderly as she moves to make communities safe in the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) program in many parts of her 19th Senatorial district.

Acknowledging continued problems between tenants and landlord, Senator Persaud will strive for equal legislation for both sides.

A former Assemblywoman, and long-standing politician who served as president of the 69th Precinct Community Council in Canarsie, member of Com-

munity Board 18, and commissioner on the New York City Districting Commission, Senator Persaud said she is committed to improving all communities and plans to fight for Sandy Flood victims who are still displaced.

The candidate who is expected to have an uphill battle with a female opponent with whom she worked for 20 years is not worried, because at the end of the election process, she said, only one person could be senator, and she hopes the other candidate would be

committed to working together for the betterment of the community.

"Let us come together and not be enemies," she said.

The politician encouraged everyone to come out and vote on Sept. 13 and reminded the Caribbean community that it was important to get involved, especially for their children.

"If you are not concerned for yourself, get involved and help to build your community so that your children could benefit," added senator Persaud.

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Scared stiff

Youth get deadly lessons about guns



The youth's champion: Khari Edwards, Brookdale Hospitals external affairs head, created "It Starts Here," to show youth the consequences of gun violence by giving them tours of the hospital's morgue.

Community News Group / Alexandra Simon

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By Alexandra Simon

He takes a stand against gun violence – by opening death's door.

Brookdale Hospital launched a scare tactic program to teach Brooklyn's at-risk youth some deadly lessons about guns. The brainchild of the program titled "It Starts Here," is Khari Edwards, head of the hospital's external affairs. After Edwards' son almost had a run-in with some armed robbers, he was inspired by Temple University's program called "Cradle to the Grave," which shows students the effects of gun violence. Inspired by that and wanting to take it a notch further, he decided to create a similar program with a much grimmer reality.

"We really put them on the other side of the glass behind a real body," said Edwards. "The value of life has been lost, so we're trying regain that value of life a little."

Edwards recalls starting the program after witnessing a large amount of cash being found on a victim of gun violence, saying the experience opened his eyes to the life young men are choosing.

"Young men, especially in our communities are not looking at tomorrow — they're looking at right now," said Edwards. "We want to show what gang violence does to the body and how hard it is to save a life."

"It Starts Here," relies on shock value to get across its point. Organizers get students from various schools

across Brooklyn to an auditorium and show them actual videos of gun violence victims recording themselves, and suddenly getting shot. Edwards believes showing young kids victims getting shot doing things they could easily find themselves doing to the victims.

"We use shock value of bullets flying," said Edwards. "Once you get the reality of it, and we tell them 'we don't want you here at all.' This is permanent — we don't want you on this side of the glass."

Brookdale's morgue receives about 225 gun victims a year — higher than any other hospital in Brooklyn according to Edwards. Many victims are teens and young adults, which Edwards believes is more effective than prison visits, because a dead body makes a bigger statement.

"You cannot get a conversation from a dead body," said Edwards. "And that's part of where I think the moral aptitude of these kids come out. You can't mimic that feeling — you scare yourself into that feeling."

Edwards hopes to get the attention of other hospitals and local community groups to show teens the consequences of gun violence.

"As long as I'm here I believe it's going to go on," said Edwards. "I don't have any ownership, over it. I would like to see similar programs adopted by other hospitals."

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BACK TO SCHOOL



ALLEVIATING JITTERS ON FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

The first day of school can create butterflies in the stomachs of parents and children alike. However, following a few tips can alleviate feelings of nervousness.

August and September are prime months for the return to school. Whether this is a child's first time entering the classroom, or he has done the back-to-school thing multiple times, it's not uncommon for feelings of anxiety to arise.

There are expectations and unknowns with each and every school year for both students and their parents. Pivotal years — such as kindergar-

ten, sixth grade for middle-schoolers, freshman year of high school, or the start of college — can create added levels of jitters because these years mark entry to a new school or new routine. But keeping a few pointers in mind can alleviate some of the fears:

Keep a routine

It is important for parents and students to get back into the school swing of things a few weeks prior to the first day of school. Start setting alarm clocks for the hour at which kids will have to wake up, and get them in the habit of rising

from bed and starting the day.

Try to schedule something to do each day that will be the inspiration for getting moving, such as school supply shopping. Take the carpool route to school, or find out where the school bus stop may be. These practice sessions will enable your family to decide how much time is needed to get ready in the morning and make changes accordingly.

Mention school frequently

Begin talking about school and what is necessary to prepare. Be sure to talk about

the more enjoyable aspects of school, such as seeing friends, participating in extracurricular activities, and even the change of scenery school provides.

Mention the things your child may expect. Hearing about school frequently can reduce feelings of anxiety.

Visit the school

If this is your child's first time entering the school, you can take advantage of orientation days for new students, or schedule an individual visit to the school.

A tour and a meeting with

the principal will also assuage some fears of the unknown. This can also calm any apprehension you may have, because you, too, will know the layout of the school, its policies, and who will be watching over your child.

Don't be nervous

Children often look to their parents for guidelines on how to behave. If you're overly nervous or sad about the first day of school, you could make your kid nervous, too. Put on a brave face and keep any anxiety hidden until kids have left for school.



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BACK TO SCHOOL



As a new school year draws nearer, parents can employ several strategies to help their kids readjust to the rigors of the classroom.

Tips to make the transition back to classroom easier

The dawn of a new school year is an exciting time. Kids may not want to say goodbye to days spent lounging by the pool, but such disappointment is often tempered by the prospect of returning to school with friends.

For parents, getting kids ready for a new school year is about more than updating their wardrobe or organizing carpools with fellow parents. Reacclimating kids to the routine of school after a relaxing summer is a significant undertaking, and the following are a handful of ways for parents to get a head start as the school year draws closer:

Establish a routine over the last few weeks of summer

Summer vacations typically lack the structure of the school year, and that lack of structure can help kids unwind and make the most of the freedom that summer vacation provides. But as summer starts to wind down, parents can begin to reintroduce some structure into their kids' lives to make the transition back to school go more smoothly.

Plan morning activities so kids can readjust to waking up early each day. In addition, serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner at the same time you typically serve it during the school year so kids' bodies can begin to readjust as well.

Take kids along when shopping for school supplies

If you plan to buy your child a new computer or other supplies for the upcoming school year, take him or her along on your shopping trips. Kids who get to choose their supplies might be more excited about returning to school than those youngsters who are

given what they need without offering their input.

Monitor or assign summer reading

Many students are given summer reading lists to keep their minds sharp over the summer and prepare them for upcoming coursework. Parents should monitor kids' progress on such reading lists and even discuss the books with their kids when possible. Read the books along with them if you think it will help engage them.

If kids were not assigned summer reading lists at the end of the school year, assign your own books, rewarding kids when they finish a new book. Kids who read throughout the summer may be more likely to start the school year off on the right foot than those who don't crack a book all summer.

Encourage kids to sign up for extracurricular activities

Many school-aged athletes get a head start on the new school year by trying out for sports teams. Such try-outs often commence a week or two before a school year is scheduled to begin, and this can help kids ease their way back into the school year.

But even non-athletes can begin pursuing extracurricular activities before the first school bell of the year rings. Theater programs may begin auditions or encourage interested youngsters to attend orientation meetings before the dawn of the school year, and such sessions can be a great and pressure-free way for kids to ready themselves for a new school year.

The arrival of a new school year can be both exciting and daunting. But parents can help their youngsters readjust to school in various ways after a relaxing summer.

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BACK TO SCHOOL



Returning to school means keeping an eye open for head lice.

Back to class means elevated risk of lice

Millions of children will soon be heading back to the classroom. The return of school may elicit smiles from parents who have spent the entire summer trying to keep kids busy and out of trouble, but when kids start bringing home notices of head lice outbreaks, those wide grins may fade.

Head lice can strike just about anyone anywhere, but it seems to proliferate in close quarters, like those of a typical classroom. Children who keep backpacks and belongings beside other students' items may unwittingly pick up lice and bring them home, where they can infect the child and other members of the family.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says lice are parasitic insects that can be found on people's heads and bodies. Lice feed on human blood. There are three types of lice that live on humans: head louse, body louse, and pubic "crab" louse. Only the body louse is known to spread disease.

Lice are wingless parasites that can only crawl to their host for feeding. They cannot jump or fly like fleas. By and large, lice are relatively harmless creatures, though they can be a nuisance. Lice bites are known to cause irritation and inflammation on the scalp. Persistent scratching may lead to infection. Lice do not signal that a person has bad hygiene, and a child who contracts lice should not be embarrassed. Lice are a common problem among students.

Lice are small and grayish-white in appearance, and they are usually no larger than a sesame seed. They can move fast, so usually lice infestation is identified by spotting the lice eggs,

which are called nits. These look like tiny, yellow or tan dots before they hatch. Lice lay nits on the hair shaft close to the scalp. This is the ideal temperature for keeping the eggs warm until they hatch. Many lice nymphs will feed on blood every day to grow into adult lice. However, a louse can survive up to two days off of the scalp. That means a person can "catch" lice from a hat or a piece of clothing if a louse climbed into the material.

Treating head lice means ridding the head of all nits and adult lice. A special comb is used to capture the tiny eggs. This can be a painstaking process, particularly for children with long hair. Topical insecticides in lotion and shampoo are used to kill the lice. However, these products may not penetrate the nits, so the topical solution may need to be applied several days later to kill any emerging lice.

The best way to combat lice is to emphasize prevention. Children should not share combs, brushes, scarves, hats, or other clothing. They also should avoid close physical contact with someone who has lice.

Should a child get lice, he or she should stay home from school and the nurse should be notified. Wash all objects that the child has used and launder all clothes, towels, linens, and other items in hot water to kill any lice. Vacuum the home frequently to remove lice or fallen hairs with attached nits from upholstered furniture and rugs.

Back to school season reintroduces kids and their parents to lice. Parents and their kids can take certain preventive measures to greatly reduce youngsters' risks of coming down with lice.



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At the end of the day when the school

bell rings, 11.3 million kids are headed home to be unsupervised from 3 to 6 p.m, according to the Afterschool Alliance, a nonprofit public awareness advocacy organization. With a new school year about to begin, the YMCA encourages parents/caregivers to make sure that children are involved in safe, educational experiences after school hours.

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Be Prepared to be Prepared



The school, located at 2520 Church Ave, in Flatbush, Brooklyn serves the parishes of Holy Cross, Holy Innocents and St. Matthew, which includes the faith communities of St. Gregory the Great and Our Lady of Charity.

The academy helps its students develop self-reliance and appreciate their self-worth as children of God. Students learn to choose values and develop interpersonal relationships consistent with their knowledge of Christian life. Staff provides the nurturing environment and a solid academic foundation for all students

The school offers a host of after-school programs and activities and receives much support in all endeavors from an active and vibrant parent association. Opportunities for need-based scholarships and reduced tuition exist.

For more information please visit our website at www.stgregorybrooklyn.org or call us at (718) 774-3330.

Saint Gregory the Great Academy evolved from St. Gregory the Great Elementary School, established 1912 in Crown Heights Brooklyn. For over a century it has adhered to its mission of fostering spiritual, intellectual, emotional and social growth and guiding the moral development of all its students. Its alumni can be found at the highest levels of national, state and local government and among professionals in the academic, scientific, medical, legal, religious and creative arenas.

Midwood Catholic Academy

These days, it seems even the youngest children are using high-tech gadgets.

For students of the Midwood Catholic Academy, it's part of the curriculum.

Third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade students at the school use Chrome books in the classroom. Nursery, pre-kindergarten, and kindergarten students use iPads. Every classroom has a Smart Board. These are the tools needed for education in the 21st century, and Midwood Catholic Academy is making sure all of its students are ready for the challenge.

Computer classes are part of that curriculum. The goal is to increase student knowledge and experience with digital media so students can work and communicate in a collaborative and support environment. As required, the New York State Common Core curriculum is incorporated into all classes at the school.

The Academy also believes there's a lot more to learn than technology and core subjects. Children are taught moral values, so they love, accept, and respect others. This is a Roman Catholic school, and religious instruction is evident throughout the day. Prayers are said every morning over the public address system, and students attend

mass at nearby St. Thomas Aquinas Church every Wednesday morning.

"In a world where negative values seem to be reinforced, Midwood Catholic Academy clearly teaches its students the meaning of honesty, respect, and caring," says Principal Elena Heimbach.

Preparing children to be good Catholics is a large part of the school's identity. "These morals and values will take them through adulthood," she says.

At the same time, "Promoting an atmosphere of true learning is one of Midwood Catholic Academy's deepest concerns."

Music is taught to everyone, and children in grades first through eighth are encouraged to join the school band. They get to show off their abilities at two performances each year. Interestingly, sign language is also taught, providing students with insight into this communication skill.

Physical education is an integral part of the elementary school curriculum, contributing to each child's physical, mental, and spiritual well-being, says Heimbach.

Midwood Catholic Academy [1501 Hendrickson St. between Avenue P and Flatlands in Midwood, (718) 377-1800, www.MidwoodCatholicAcademy.org.

St. Gregory The Great Catholic Academy

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- Music and Arts Education
- After School Programs
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Preparing Students to be Prepared for the Future

St. Gregory Catholic Academy, a Pre-K through Eighth grade community of faith and learning, partners with parents and collaborates with the constituent faith communities: Saint Matthew, Saint Gregory the Great, Our Lady of Charity, Holy Cross and Holy Innocents to address the needs of the whole child - academically, spiritually, morally, emotionally, physically and socially - within a safe nurturing environment entrusted to caring faculty and staff that embraces the Catholic faith its traditions, values and rituals.



2520 Church Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11226
718-774-3330 **www.stgregorybrooklyn.org**



Midwood Catholic Academy

A School You Can Believe In!

Grades: Nursery (3) to 8th Grade

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Common Core Curriculum | Daily After School Program until 6:00 PM |
| Title I Program / Guidance Counselor | Bus Transportation Grades K to 6 |
| Aquinas Honor Program | Free Breakfast Daily 7:30 AM |
| Physical Education | Department of ED Lunch Service |
| Technology | Air Conditioned Computer & Science Labs |
| Music | Air Conditioned Classrooms Grades 6 to 8 |
| Band Grades 1-8 | Smart Boards in EVERY Classroom |
| American Sign Language Grades 2-8 | Chromebook for all students in Grades 3, 4, & 5 |
| Weekly After School Clubs | iPads in Nursery to Kindergarten Classrooms |

Registration now ongoing for Grades Nursery to 7
 Call **718-377-1800** for Registration Details

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FAITH IN CLASS

Keeping Catholic schools excellent

“Education cannot be neutral. It is either positive or negative, either it enriches or it impoverishes; it either enables a person to grow or it lessens, even corrupts him. The mission of Catholic schools and Catholic education is to develop a sense of truth, if what is good and beautiful. And this occurs through a rich path made up of many ingredients. That is why there are some many subjects — because development is the results of different elements that act together and stimulate intelligence, knowledge, the emotions, the body and so on.”

— *Pope Francis, May 10, 2014.*

During the visit of Pope Francis to Our Lady Queen of Angels in East Harlem, Pope Francis said: “School then ends up being one big family. A family, where together with our mothers and fathers, our grandparents, our teachers and friends, we learn to help one another, to share our good qualities, to give the best of ourselves, to work as a team, for that is very important, and to pursue our dreams.”

Here within the Brooklyn Diocese, we are blessed to have Catholic parish schools and academies that exemplify these characteristics by providing students with a quality Catholic education. Essential to this are the following: sustaining the mission of Catholic education; the essence of providing students with the necessary skills to be successful in the future (academic excellence); dedicated administrations, faculty, and staff; and recognizing that Catholic education is an essential part of the Church’s mission.

The mission of Catholic education and our faith is paramount. Our parish schools/academies are places of evangelization, of complete formation and of service to others. Faith and morals go hand-in-hand and our Catholic parish schools/academies work to ensure that everyone who enters is treated with respect and that the values and virtues of the Gospel message are part of the fabric of the school.

When you talk to pastors, parish priests, school principals, academy directors and teachers, you always hear about the religious experiences students have throughout the year. The presence of our pastors and parish priests in the schools/academies help to further develop the important relationship between parish and school/academy, which is a vital aspect of the community.

Catholic parish schools and acad-



emies are charged with infusing their curriculum with Catholic identity while striving for academic excellence. It is not Catholic identity or academic excellence — it is “both and” — they are equally important. Academic excellence and a strong Catholic identity are crucial to the success of our parish schools/academies and more importantly to the success of our students in a world that is continually changing. Key to this success is that our students are being provided with a well-rounded academic program that allows them to develop their critical thinking skills and apply what they have learned to real-life situations.

The curriculum involves the core academic subjects of math, English language arts, social studies, science, physical education, as well as music, the arts, and languages other than English. Central to the curriculum is the use of 21st-century technology within the classroom setting and allowing students to develop skills that will prepare them for college and careers in the 21st century. A major part of helping our students succeed is the linkage that exists between parents, their parishes, and the hard work and dedication of the teachers and ad-

ministrators in our schools and academies. Catholic education is truly holistic — education that addresses the needs of body, mind, and soul.

Educational growth is not limited to our students. Each year, principals and teachers in our Catholic parish schools/academies participate in numerous professional development opportunities, sponsored not only by the Diocese of Brooklyn but also by other city, state, and national agencies. We must recognize the efforts put forth by the teachers to provide students with quality Catholic education. Principals work tirelessly with their teachers to maintain and enhance the quality of Catholic education offered to the students. Each year, new programs are added, and new learning opportunities are offered. Principals and teachers also work with parents, the primary educators, to prepare students for the challenges of the future.

Through their many sacrifices, our parents are essential to the success of Catholic education within the Diocese of Brooklyn. As partners in Catholic education, parents are encouraged to participate in the life of the parish school/academy. Involvement in the Home School Association and the

Home Academy Association is just one way to participate. Parents are also partners in the education of their children. Through parental support of their children and guiding their children to be successful, the future of our city, state, nation, and Catholic church will be guaranteed.

Our students are our future. As we begin this new academic year, let us not forget them as they too will work hard to be successful. Let us pray for their success this year and remember each day that they are our future and they need our support and guidance.

Catholic schools are an important part of not only the Diocese of Brooklyn but also of the entire church within the United States. We have many challenges but need to work together to make our Catholic parish schools and academies vital, viable, excellent, and enduring. We have much to offer in our Catholic parish schools/academies, and it is through the dedication, hard work, and untiring efforts of parish priests, principals, the directors of the academies, teachers, staff, parishioners, parents, and students that we continue to keep Catholic education at the forefront of all that we do.

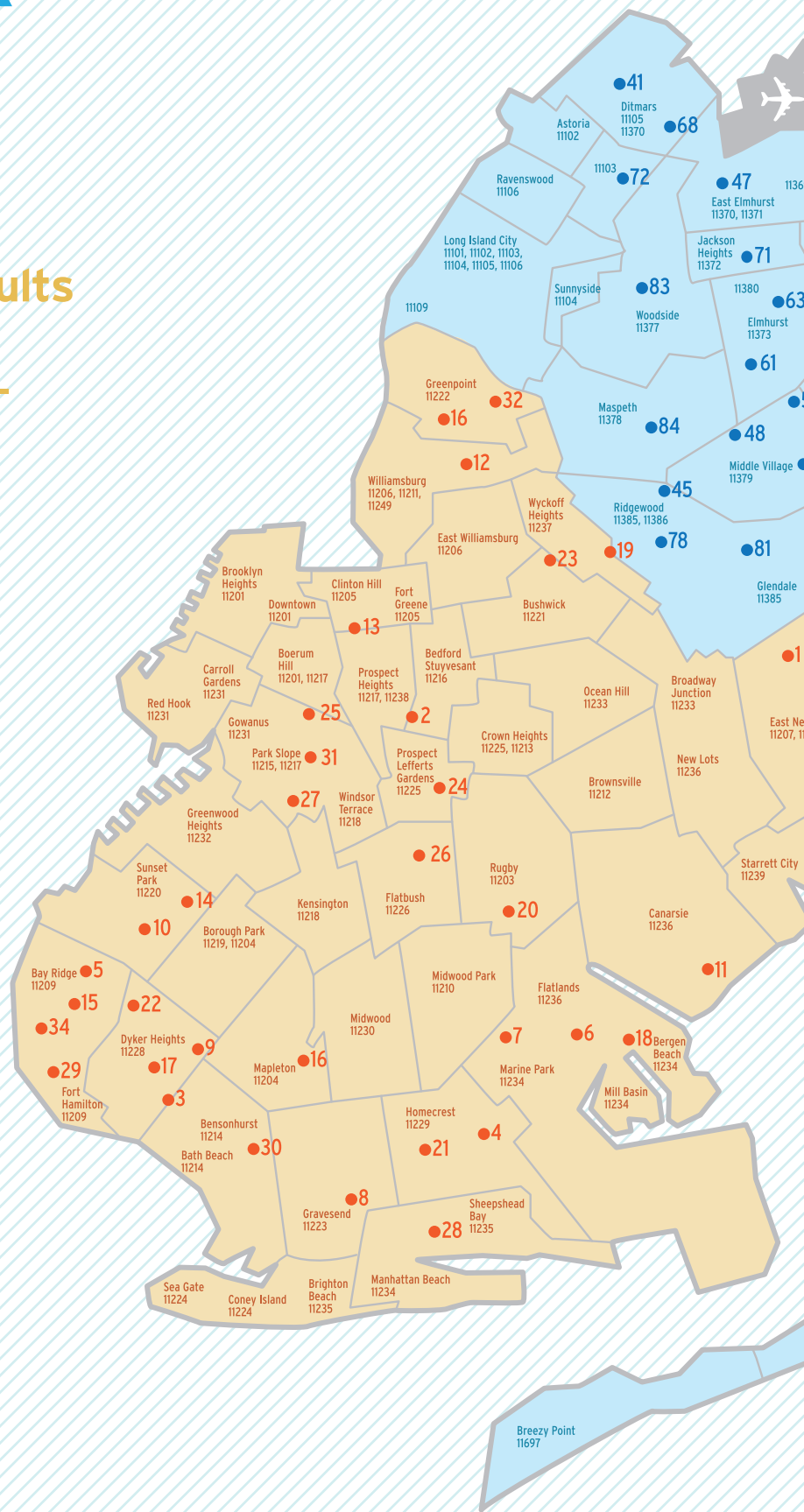
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Open Registration for Pre K3 - 8th Grade

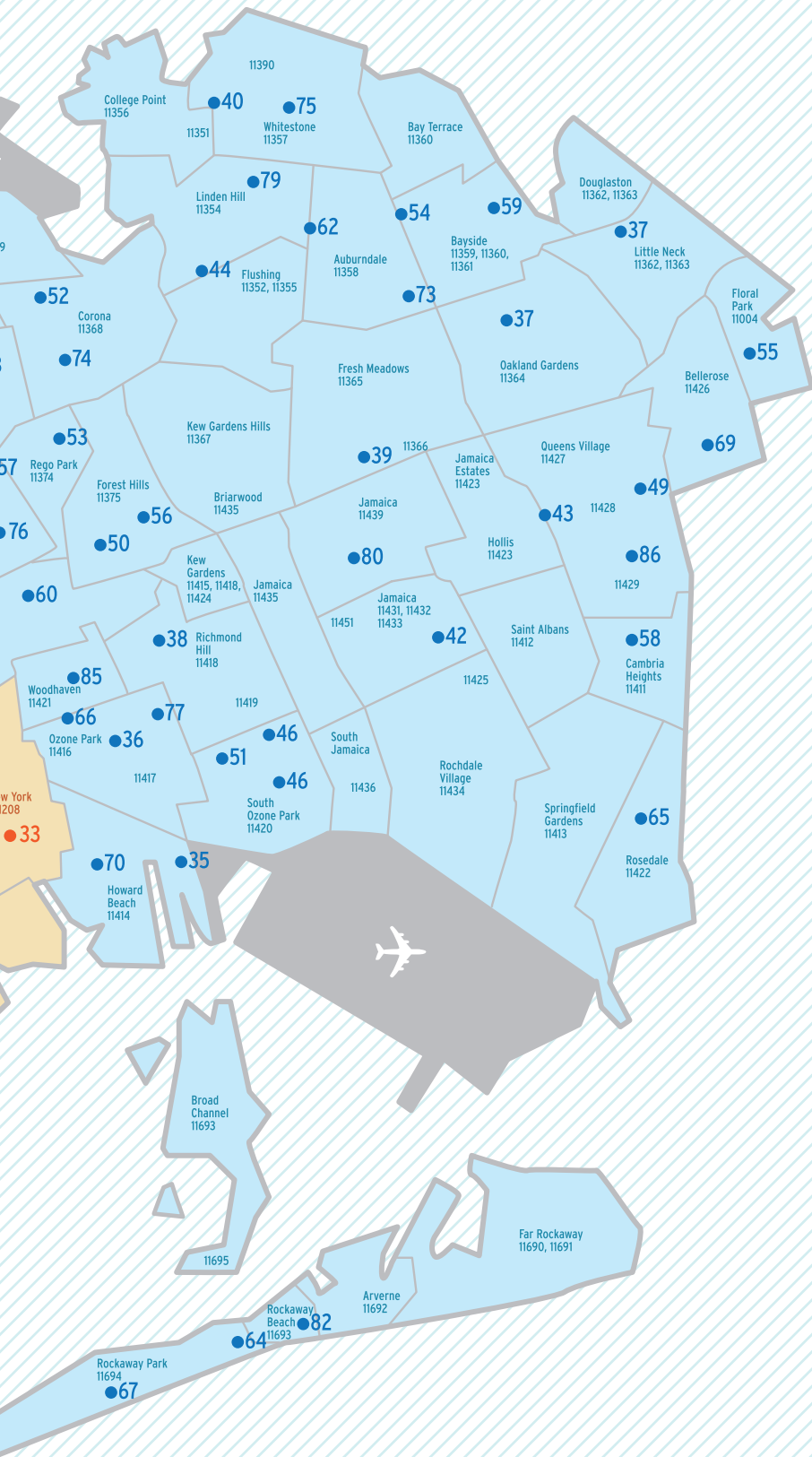
BROOKLYN

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07. Midwood Catholic Academy
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09. Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Academy
10. Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Academy of Brooklyn
11. Our Lady of Trust Catholic Academy
12. Queen of the Rosary Catholic Academy
13. Queen of All Saints Catholic Academy
14. St. Agatha School
15. St. Anselm Catholic Academy
16. St. Athanasius Catholic Academy
17. St. Bernadette Catholic Academy
18. St. Bernard Catholic Academy
19. St. Brigid Catholic Academy
20. St. Catherine of Genoa - St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Academy
21. St. Edmund School
22. St. Ephrem School
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24. St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy
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29. St. Patrick Catholic Academy
30. St. Peter Catholic Academy
31. St. Saviour Catholic Academy
32. St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Academy
33. Salve Regina Catholic Academy
34. Visitation Catholic Academy



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QUEENS



35. Ave Maria Catholic Academy
36. Divine Mercy Catholic Academy
37. Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy (2 campuses)
38. Holy Child Jesus Catholic Academy
39. Holy Family Catholic Academy
40. Holy Trinity Catholic Academy
41. Immaculate Conception School, Astoria
42. Immaculate Conception Catholic Academy, Jamaica
43. Incarnation Catholic Academy
44. Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Academy
45. Notre Dame Catholic Academy of Ridgewood
46. Our Lady's Catholic Academy (2 campuses)
47. Our Lady of Fatima School
48. Our Lady of Hope Catholic Academy
49. Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Academy
50. Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Academy
51. Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Academy
52. Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Academy
53. Our Lady of the Angelus Catholic Academy
54. Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Academy
55. Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Academy
56. Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Catholic Academy
57. Resurrection-Ascension Catholic Academy
58. Sacred Heart Catholic Academy (Cambria Heights)
59. Sacred Heart Catholic Academy of Bayside
60. Sacred Heart Catholic Academy (East Glendale)
61. St. Adalbert Catholic Academy
62. St. Andrew Avellino Catholic Academy
63. St. Bartholomew Catholic Academy
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65. St. Clare Catholic Academy
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84. St. Stanislaus Kostka School
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Sacred Heart Catholic Academy

Graduates earn prestigious scholarships

The 8th grade class of Sacred Heart Catholic Academy received scholarships from the most prestigious high schools in New York including the Mary Louis Academy, Christ the King HS, St. John's Prep, Cathedral Prep, Holy Cross, Bishop Loughlin Memorial HS, Cristo Rey NY HS, and St. Francis Prep HS.

"We're very grateful to have a school of this caliber in Southeast Queens," said Marie Faustin whose daughter was accepted at St Francis Prep, "Sacred Heart Academy and the Catholic high schools have a graduation rate of 99 percent compared to 41 percent of the public schools."

The school has a reputation for its religious education, solid academic curriculum, strong discipline, and a safe family environment. "In addition to a challenging course load, our students learn integrity, the love



of service, sharing, and mutual respect," said Mrs Smith, principal of the academy.

Sacred Heart Catholic Academy is a unique Catholic elementary schools in Southeast Queens which accepts students from Pre-K3 to 8th grade. The school is open from 7am to 6:30pm. Grants are available for qualified families. For information please call (718) 527-0123.



Saint Peter Catholic Academy
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Xaverian High School

David Peña '16 Wins Prestigious Smart Start Scholarship

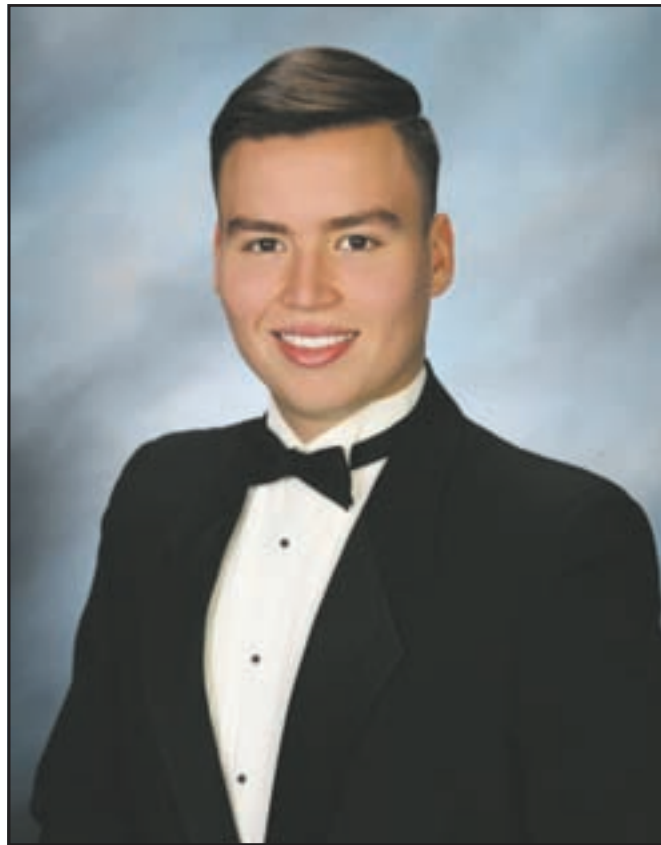
David Peña, a member of Xaverian's class of 2016, was named a recipient of the prestigious Smart Start Scholarship, awarded by JP-Morgan Chase to the top academic students in New York City.

The award carries with it a full tuition scholarship, a stipend for books and supplies, and a paid internship at JPMorgan Chase.

Planning to major in International Business/International Relations, David was been accepted and awarded scholarships to Georgetown University, Colgate University, Fordham University, Claremont McKenna College, and Franklin & Marshall College. He will begin at New York University this month.

During his time at Xaverian, David was a member of the soccer team, Clipper Society, Mock Trial, and Music at Xaverian.

He was deeply involved



in Campus Ministry service initiatives and retreats, as well as the Dramatics Society and the school's Belgium Exchange Program.

Reflecting on the impact that Xaverian had on his life, David said, "I have the deepest gratitude to the teachers who educated me and taught me to become a better man. They motivated and inspired me to reach for the dreams that are now my reality. Xaverian has also played a huge role in the development of my faith, as I was always encouraged to trust in God's plan for me. I truly believe that God will work through me by developing my gifts so I can do my part to better the world."

Located in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, Xaverian is a private, co-educational, Catholic, college preparatory school for grades 6-12.

Established in 1957, it is one of thirteen schools na-



tionwide sponsored by the Xaverian Brothers.

One of New York City's leading schools for over 55 years, we educate nearly 1,200 students each year. Xaverian has graduated a network of over 15,000 successful and responsible Catholic alumni, educated in the longstanding tradition of the Xaverian Brothers.

True to that tradition, we give our students the opportunity to grow in their faith, intellect, leadership skills, musical passions, athletic talents, and much more.



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A Catholic, co-educational, college preparatory school in the tradition of the Xaverian Brothers since 1957, Xaverian offers:

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- College counseling and Internship Program

- College credit opportunities available through numerous AP, St. John's University, and Syracuse University courses
- College placements at prestigious schools such as Brown University, Columbia University, Cornell University, Georgetown University, Macaulay Honors at CUNY, New York University, Princeton University, University of Notre Dame, University of Pennsylvania, US Military Academy at West Point, and US Naval Academy, with the class of 2016 earning \$36,880,924 in scholarships!
- Unique extracurricular offerings, including the renowned MAX (Music at Xaverian) Program, as well as a competitive athletic program for boys and girls



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**For more information, please contact Xaverian's Office of Admissions at (718) 836-7100 x127 or admissions@xaverian.org
7100 Shore Road, Brooklyn, NY 11209 | www.xaverian.org/admissions | TACHS #011**



HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL

Welcome to the 2016-17 School Year!

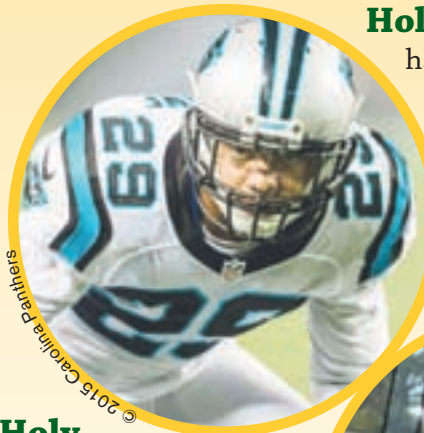
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For over 60 years,

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has been committed to educating the minds and hearts of young men. It has been quite the journey for us to grow and learn with our students and we are proud to continue

moving forward in a fun, engaging, and positive direction!



© 2015 Carolina Panthers

Holy Cross High School

has enhanced core teaching and learning programs, technology, and added even more extracurricular clubs and organizations to our already robust activity list. Additionally, we boast our two successful parent groups, the **Fathers' Club** and **Women's Guild**, which facilitate parental involvement, school donations, and an array of popular events throughout the school year.



Holy Cross

is home of student champion, **Nicholas Simone**, who won this year's **Chemical Education Committee's 21st Annual Research Poster Session Award for New York**, as well as home to a great deal of college and professional athletes, top business executives, and researchers.

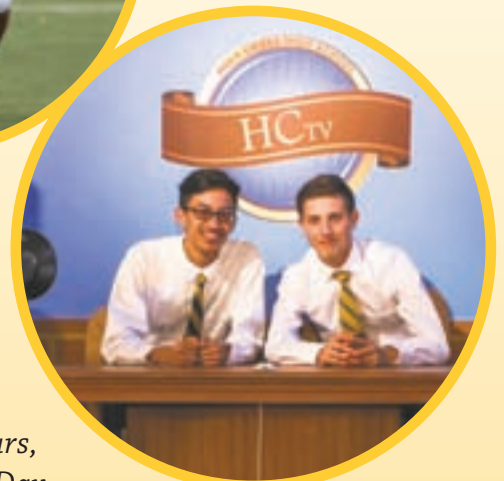
During this Year of Mercy, we plan to do more than ever for our community and hope you and your family will **join our winning team!**

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To have your son become a **Knight for a Day** visit our website, choose the Admissions tab, and click the left-sided option entitled *Tours, Visits, and Knight for a Day.*



To view all of the wonderful **Holy Cross Happenings**, visit us on the web at: **www.HolyCrossHS.org**.

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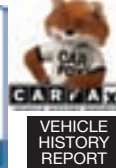
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Have a party to remember at Sirico's

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

When you've got 90 years of experience, you know how to throw awesome parties.

Their grandparents may have started Sirico's Catering, but two cousins, Hercules and Jim Sirico, are the ones that keep these parties going every night.

Weddings

A bit overwhelmed with all to be done? Your life just got easier because everything you need is coordinated by Sirico's in-house wedding planner who directs the process.

Ceremony: Want to get married here? Say the word, and the planner will say, "I do."

Food: They get it. It's got to be good. With customized menus for every taste and budget, it will be. Guests enjoy drinks and food in a separate room for the cocktail hour, then make their way to another for dinner and dancing. Of course, there's a lovely bridal suite for the bridal party.

Music: The house DJ is young, hip, gets the party started, and keeps it moving all night long.

Pictures: Photos and videos will be treasured for a lifetime, so Sirico's works with proven photographers and videographers who make sure special moments are captured. The beautiful gardens and active fireplace in the lobby make perfect backdrops.

Decorations: Lighting sets the mood and atmosphere, so color-coordinate your event with an LED lighting package. It can match your wedding colors. Or, reach for the stars with specialized effects that include an image of a bright blue

sky. Sirico's has it all covered with chair draperies and sashes, too.

Sweet 16s

Busy moms can relax because Sirico's party planner has your back.

Your daughter's party starts in the Entourage Room where the guest of honor can wait with friends before the introductions begin.

Tropical Bar: Say aloha to the place where teens enjoy drinks that include virgin pina colodas, strawberry daiquiris, and frozen sensations.

Food: A buffet loaded with fun food, customize designed to taste. Among the offerings: taco stations, a mashed potato bar, and sliders. For dessert, there's an ice cream sundae bar, candy tables, and Sirico's famous chocolate fountain.

Decorations: Select from in-house designs and decorations, tailored to teens. Balloon center pieces are always a hit.

Other parties

Every special occasion calls for unique needs, and Sirico's accommodates them all. Whether it's an anniversary, retirement, Communion, Confirmation, corporate event, or other special occasion, Sirico's is the place to be.

There are party rooms that can accommodate up to 100, 200, and 300 people. Valet parking and a parking lot make it convenient for all guests.

Let's get this party started.

Sirico's Caterer's [8023 13th Ave. between 80th and 81st streets in Dyker Heights, (718) 331-2900, www.siricos.net]. Open Tuesdays through Sundays, from 1:30 to 9:30 pm.

A worthy call to action in 'Writings on the Wall'

"Writings on the Wall: Searching for a New Equality Beyond Black and White" by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Raymond Obstfeld

c.2016, Liberty Street Books
\$27.95 / \$33.95 Canada
256 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The fix won't be quick.

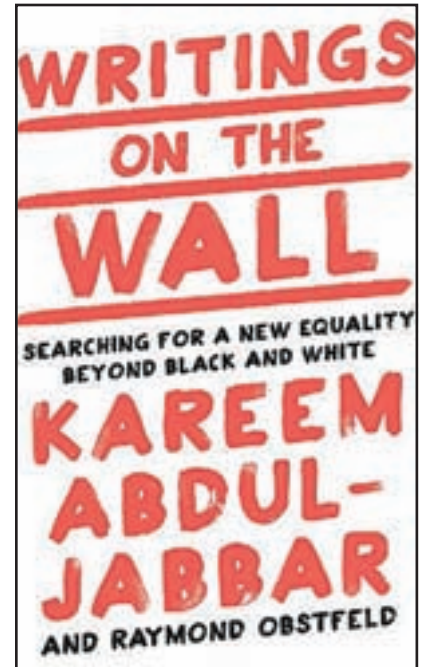
It never is. There's no magic wand to change the things that've been on your mind lately: social issues, inequality, poverty, politics, apathy, violence. Those ills didn't arrive quick and they won't leave quick but, says Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, they can be repaired. In his new book "Writings on the Wall" (with Raymond Obstfeld), he explains...

When people ask Abdul-Jabbar what he might've become, had he not played NBA basketball, his answer often surprises them: he would've been a history teacher. History fascinates him — especially in the way it reflects racism, religious intolerance, and gender issues. In history, as in current events, the truth is sometimes bent.

Take, for instance, politics, which is on everyone's mind. We rail and complain about issues and promises broken and we like to think it's all out of our hands. The truth is that we are the problem: we grow complacent about things we don't want, acting "like children when it comes to politics" and hoping the government will "take care of us," rather than taking steps to fix the system ourselves.

White people may deny that racism exists, says Abdul-Jabbar, while Black people know that it does. Racism didn't stop with the election of the nation's first Black president. It doesn't end with melting-pot cultural appropriation. It actually comes in two forms, he says, and education is the first step in dealing with it, not eliminating it, because racism is always going to be around.

On religion, we should never lose sight of the fact that this "country was founded by religious outcasts running for their lives from persecution for their beliefs." When it comes to equality for women, we must embrace the true meaning of "feminist" and adhere to what we tell pollsters when it comes to gender. We need to look at the media and how to maximize its potential, and we must take better care of our



Book cover of "Writings on the Wall: Searching for a New Equality Beyond Black and White" by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Raymond Obstfeld.

seniors.

"We cannot afford to just wring out hands and depend on the kindness of strangers," Abdul-Jabbar says. "We have to bring about change on our own."

Remember when your grade school teacher told you to put on your thinking cap? You'll need it again as you're reading "Writings on the Wall."

Authors Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Raymond Obstfeld don't just examine issues that are on the minds of every American. They turn them over and blow them apart, looking for solutions that can be accomplished and chiding us gently for not already working. That makes for a thought-demanding, intellectually heavy book but it's also a worthy call to action; you may also be delighted to see that Abdul-Jabbar doesn't miss a chance to add a touch of the personal here, which includes quietly unexpected humor.

Readers with the right mindset will find this book to be informative and entertaining but be prepared to take your time to get the most from it. There aren't a lot of pages inside "Writings on the Wall," but what's here is deep and wide and nowhere near quick.

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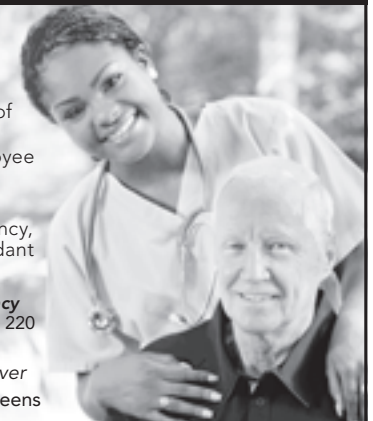
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Men who learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of prostate cancer can improve their chances of surviving a potential diagnosis.

Signs and symptoms of prostate cancer

Prostate cancer is a deadly disease that forms in the tissues of the prostate, a gland in the male reproductive system that is found below the bladder and in front of the rectum. According to the Canadian Cancer Society, prostate cancer is the most common cancer among Canadian men (excluding nonmelanoma skin cancers), while the National Cancer Institute estimates that nearly 30,000 American men will lose their lives to prostate cancer in 2014, and roughly 15 percent of American men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer at some point in their life.

Despite its status as a potentially deadly disease, prostate cancer can be beaten. In fact, the NCI notes that the five-year survival rate for men diagnosed with prostate cancer between 2004 and 2010 was 98.9 percent, proving that a prostate cancer diagnosis is not a death sentence. Like many types of cancer, prostate cancer is most effectively treated when discovered in its early stages.

For example, the five-year survival rate for patients diagnosed with localized prostate cancer, which describes cancer that is found only in the part of the body where it started, between 2004 and 2010 was 100 percent.

Men are often their own best friends when it comes to fighting prostate cancer. Men over 50 should speak to their physicians about routine prostate cancer screenings, which include the prostate-specific antigen test or the digital rectal examination. Such screenings can help detect prostate cancer early and dramatically improve a man's prognosis. In addition to screenings, men can learn the signs and symptoms of prostate cancer to further improve their chances of surviving a diagnosis.

Early signs of prostate cancer

Prostate cancer does not always show signs or symptoms in its early stages, and that's because it tends to be slow-growing. A sign of prostate

cancer refers to something that a physician or healthcare professional can observe and recognize, while a symptom is something that only the person experiencing it can feel. It's important men recognize that certain symptoms associated with prostate cancer may be caused by other conditions and that the presence of these symptoms does not mean a man has prostate cancer. However, it's equally important that men who notice symptoms associated with prostate cancer bring them to the attention of their physicians immediately.

Changes in bladder habits are among the most common symptoms of prostate cancer, and these symptoms tend to be early indicators of the disease. These changes may include a frequent need to urinate, especially at night; an intense need to urinate; difficulty in starting or stopping the flow of urine; inability to urinate; weak and/or interrupted urine stream; and burning or pain during urination.

Blood in urine or semen
Continued on page 45

The prostate test controversy



Some people still believe that prostate specific antigen tests are a good choice in prostate cancer detection. Others say they can lead to false positives and unnecessary surgery.

Inaccurate results and less than fool-proof detection has led many health professionals to eschew prostate specific antigen tests as an indicator of prostate cancer. A draft recommendation from the U.S. government said tests should no longer be part of routine screening for men.

Why? According to the U.S. Preventative Services Task Force, evidence indicates there is little, if any, reduction of prostate cancer-related deaths from the tests. Further research has indicated that tests actually may turn a man's life upside down by unnecessary stress and surgery for false-positive readings. But there are proponents of the test that say it is still vital in early detection of prostate cancer and enables men to get treatment earlier.

A prostate-specific antigen test measures a protein in the blood, which has a tendency to spike when prostate cancer is present. People who support the test say that it is one of the best practices for male health screenings and that fatalities have dropped 40 percent due to prostate cancer since these tests were introduced 20 years ago.

Opponents say the tests often deliver flawed results. This has frequently led to over treatment, stress and anxiety. Furthermore, the test may indicate cancer, or

it could be detecting something much more benign, like an infection or recent sexual intercourse. Also, a positive test reading can require a biopsy that takes place through the rectum, which can lead to a number of uncomfortable side effects.

One of the biggest arguments against tests is that they don't really lower a man's risk. Prostate cancer is a slow-growing cancer for many men, which may not actually impair a man's health in his natural lifetime, especially since prostate cancer is largely a disease of men in their 60s and older.

The American Cancer Society has not taken sides on the matter. The Canadian Cancer Society has said that the test cannot diagnose cancer. If your tests are high, more tests are usually needed to determine if you have prostate cancer. They also say some types of prostate cancer grow slowly, may never cause problems, and don't need to be treated. Finding this type of cancer may lead to unnecessary treatment that can have side effects.

Whether to undergo a test or not is largely the decision for a man and his doctor. Some believe it to be invaluable in the fight against cancer, while others are no longer so sure about a test's efficacy.

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African-American men are 60 percent more likely to develop prostate cancer than Caucasian men.

Risk factors for prostate cancer

In the United States, one in six men can expect to be diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Those elevated incidence rates could be a byproduct of an aging population, as age is a significant risk factor for prostate cancer. According to the Prostate Cancer Foundation, one in 10,000 men under age 40 will be diagnosed with prostate cancer. That figure skyrockets to one in 38 for men between the ages of 40 to 59, and one in 15 for men in their 60s.

Though age is perhaps the most significant risk factor, it's not the only thing that increases a man's risk for prostate cancer. In fact, there are a host of factors in addition to age that increase a man's risk for prostate cancer, which the Canadian Cancer Society says will claim the lives of more than 4,000 Canadian men this year.

One such risk factor is where a man lives. Men who live in rural China, for instance, have a relatively low risk of developing prostate cancer during their lifetime. That risk is only two percent if a man stays in rural China his entire life. But that risk increases significantly if a Chinese man moves to the West, where a man in the United States has a 17 percent chance of developing prostate cancer.

And not only does which country a man lives in play a role, but also the location of his home within that country's borders can elevate the risk. Men

who live in cities north of 40 degrees latitude (north of Philadelphia, Pa.; Columbus, Ohio; and Provo, Utah) have the highest risk of dying from prostate cancer, and researchers feel this is because men who live in such cities get less sunlight during the winter months and therefore less vitamin D.

Race is another risk factor for prostate cancer. Asian men have the lowest risk of developing prostate cancer, while African-American men are 60 percent more likely to develop the disease than Caucasian men. The PCF notes that African-American men are also 2.5 times more likely to die from the disease, which highlights the importance that African-American men must place on screenings.

Family history also plays a role in a man's risk for developing prostate cancer. Men whose fathers or brothers have had prostate cancer are twice as likely to develop the disease. Their risk increases even more if their fathers or brothers were diagnosed with the cancer before reaching the age of 55 or if they had three or more family members who were diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Many men are aware of the importance of prostate cancer screenings. However, few might know that certain factors significantly increase their risk for being diagnosed with this potentially deadly disease. More information about prostate cancer is available at www.pcf.org.

Support groups can provide strength to fight

Cancer is a prolific disease that continues to affect millions of people around the world each year. The World Health Organization says that each year 12.7 million people are diagnosed with cancer and 7.6 million people die from the disease. Despite the prevalence of cancer, many cancer patients experience feelings of isolation when diagnosed with the disease.

A cancer diagnosis can lead to anxiety and depression, which can impact cancer patients' ability to fight their disease. Ongoing research into a cure and new treatment options can give individuals hope, but finding a support group can provide the extra boost cancer patients need to make it through a difficult time in their lives.

There are many differ-

ent paths to take to find a cancer support group. One of the first places to find information is with your own doctor.

He or she may have a list of nearby support groups that can help you make it through your treatment. You also may be put in touch with other patients who are going through the same struggles.

Another avenue is through a cancer organization. For example, the American Cancer Society has programs and services to help people find the emotional support they need, and that help is usually free. The National Cancer Information Center has 24-hour support. According to the center, trained cancer information specialists are available via phone, email or live chat to provide accurate, up-to-date

information to patients, family members, and caregivers.

These specialists also can help connect callers with valuable services and resources in their communities.

Check with a church or community center to see which programs are available in your community. Many community support groups meet in hospitals, churches, schools and other centers. These can be another great resource for information and support.

Another resource is online support groups. Thanks to social media, it's now possible to connect with people from all around the world in a matter of seconds. Use the search function of Facebook to search for a group that suits your needs.



Support from family, friends and doctors may not be enough when dealing with cancer. Individuals may find the additional emotional support they need by connecting with support groups in their communities.

Support groups can help cancer patients connect with people in similar situations and find the resources and emotional support they need.

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Dr. Alan P. Goldman: Treating And Relieving Arthritis Pain

There are a lot of people suffering with joint pain and arthritis, says **Dr. Alan P. Goldman**, a specialist in rheumatology (130 Brighton Beach Avenue, 718-946-7557), and they often believe that there is little that can be done to alleviate their pain.

They are wrong. There are many options available, Dr. Goldman says; the key is finding a physician who is knowledgeable in those treatment modalities.

As a rheumatologist, Dr. Goldman specializes in the treatment of arthritis; one of only a handful practicing in Brooklyn.

Rheumatoid arthritis is an inflammatory illness that causes joints to swell. Symptoms include morning stiffness and swelling, often in the hands, elbows, or wrists, he says. Perhaps because there are so few rheumatologists in the borough, when people experience these symptoms, they often "see a surgeon first," says Dr. Goldman. But this often doesn't make much sense, he explains.

"When you have stomach pains, you don't go to a surgeon before seeing a gastroenterologist," he explains. "When you have chest pains, you don't see a surgeon before seeing a cardiologist."

A surgeon is the expert to see when surgery is needed, he notes, and of course Dr. Goldman refers patients to surgeons when necessary. Still, Dr. Goldman believes that the majority of people who suffer with arthritis can be treated without surgery. Even those who suffer

enormously may find relief with Remicade IV infusion treatments, he says. "It has worked wonders."

Patients receive these treatments once every few months, and people who previously couldn't move well find that the "benefits are tremendous," he says. Those whose symptoms are less severe may find relief with pills or injections. This method has been used successfully for many years, says Dr. Goldman. And, "It still works."

When patients see Dr. Goldman they are assured of receiving expert evaluations. Dr. Goldman's office offers x-rays, and a number of in-office treatment procedures. Should patients need physical therapy, arrangements can be made for this, as well.

Dr. Goldman also recommends that people age 60 or older come in to be checked for osteoporosis. People who are thin or who smoke are especially at risk, he notes.

Dr. Goldman is a Harvard graduate who has studied at Bellevue Hospital-New York University Medical Center and Gouverneur Hospital in Manhattan. He is on staff at the New York Methodist Hospital, and he is a Fellow of the American College of Rheumatology, as well as a member of the American College of Physicians, Nassau County Medical Society, the New York State Medical Society, American Medical Association, and the New York Academy of Sciences.

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Crown Heights uprising trivialized to festival



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce



Jean Griffith-Sandiford, mother of Michael who was killed in Howard Beach in 1987 share a moment with Rabbi Eli Cohen at "One Crown Heights" Festival commemorating the 25th anniversary of travesty that left two residents dead.

Photo by Vinette K. Pryce

It's been 25 years since the Caribbean combined Jewish Brooklyn community of Crown Heights erupted with rage after two Guyanese seven-year-olds were struck and fatally injured by Lubavitcher Yosef Lifsch whose station-wagon veered onto the sidewalk hitting the youths.

The tragic accident caused the death of the young Gavin Cato.

Compounded with that little Angela Cato his cousin who he was playing with on Aug. 19, 1991 was left pinned under a car for longer than any seven-year-old should ever have to endure.

With no assistance from the Jewish community and alleged unwillingness from a Hassidic ambulance corps nearby, Carmel Cato, Gavin's father and family members and a mostly Caribbean and African-American assembly of Crown Heights residents struggled to lift the car from her fragile body.

Yankel Rosenbaum an Australian rabbinical student paid the ultimate price. Afterwards, he suffered the wrath of angry protesters and was stabbed and killed in what was described as "revenge killing."

It was during the mayoral rule of David N. Dinkins, the first Black to hold the position. And as far as Sonny Carson, a community activist was concerned the trailblazer regularly exhibited partiality to the Jewish community.

On Aug. 19, 1991 after the tragic car accident Carson and a group of youths took matters into their own hands. They converged outside the police precinct, marched throughout the neighborhood and for three days protested against the alleged favoritism.

Mayor Dinkins seemed cautious throughout but his NYPD Commissioner Lee P. Brown responded with force. What seemed like an entire regiment secured a perimeter of the community. Street soldiers did not seem intimidated by the blue wall of arsenal. Their numbers swelled and nights became a threatening shadow

with intensified protests and even stone-throwing.

Initially, the group marched back and forth from the intersection of the traffic infringement at president St. to the 71st Precinct.

Prosecutor Rudolf Giuliani led members of the NYPD to protest against Dinkins' apprehension by staging a demonstration at City Hall and as history shows, later that year, he handily won his bid to lead the city.

That recurring, three-day procession did not sit well with Jewish leaders and a confrontation ensued.

Although a mass showing of media houses reported on the disruption, it seemed as if the Black press was targeted for confrontation.

Reporting for the New York Amsterdam News, the largest Black outlet, yours truly and Christopher Griffith, a native of

Trinidad & Tobago, a photographer were also arrested.

How some members of the NYPD behaved is still a blemish on their reputation.

I was in the midst of reporting on the St. John's Rape Trial, a case that involved white, male, college students who allegedly drugged a native Jamaican coed after taking her

to a frat house where she was allegedly sexually assaulted.

Rev. Herbert Daughtry, pastor of the House of the Lord Pentecostal Church made an appearance at the Queens courtroom on Aug. 20 and after that day's proceedings I asked if he would mind taking me to the President St. scenario.

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Alicia Hanley portrays "Island Prime."
Photo by Nelson A. King

Homage to the Incas

By Nelson A. King

In its children and adult bands this year, the Brooklyn-based Cocoa Diamond Productions is celebrating "a toast to life" and paying homage to the Amerindian group, the Incas.

"Because we were primarily a children's band – our kids band was created first – this year's portrayal is 'The Incas – Children of the Sun,'" said Trinidadian band leader Patti Ann Williams, in a Caribbean Life interview. "It has been

Continued on Page 54

Jerk fest in Williamsburg

By Alexandra Simon

Wanderlusters rejoice — a 12-day festival has come to Williamsburg to bring the Caribbean to Brooklyn for weeks of music, food, and island vibes.

The "Caribbean Jerk and Reggae Festival" will give Brooklynite's a local island-like vacation for the would-be travelers who could not make a Caribbean getaway this summer, said the festival's organizer.

"For August we wanted to give people an excuse for a staycation this summer — so if they can't get down to the Car-

Continued on Page 54



The queen of the bay: Jasyra Franklin is the Belizean Queen of the Bay New York for 2016-2017. She waves to the crowd at the Brooklyn Masonic Temple in Fort Greene.
Photo by Jon Farina

QUEEN OF THE BAY

Belizean pageant celebrates independence

By Alexandra Simon

It is a pageant based in history. A dozen people entered the Brooklyn Masonic Temple in Fort Greene on August 20 for the 48th Queen of the Bay New York pageant. The pageant, which honors Belizean beauties coinciding with the country's battle to independence from Spain — crowned a winner for 2016-2017 title.

The highlight this year — celebrating the various ethnic groups that make Belize, such as Mayans, Mesti-

zos and the Garifuna.

"The pageant is solely on theme — the theme this year was the diverse culture of Belize," said Barbara Bepson, pageant coordinator.

Three contestants, Jasyra Franklin, Edna Brown, and Andrea Flowers were up for the Queen of the Bay title, to be judged on their dance style, grace, and knowledge of Belize.

The pageant crowns a queen for the bay of St. George — the location of where the battle of St. George's Caye, which took place in 1738. During the

battle — which lasted from Sept. 3-10 — Belizean bay men fought against the Spanish soldiers who were trying to invade the bay, and defended it. In 1946 when Belize rejected becoming a part of Guatemala, a queen was crowned on Sept. 10 in a celebratory action. The pageant, founded two years later would continue celebrating a queen for the bay.

The pageant came to New York with the Belizean Diaspora, and has been in function since 1968. The con-

Continued on Page 54

TOP OF THE CHARTS

QUEEN OF THE BAY

Continued from page 53

testants are judged on beauty, grace, costume, and their knowledge of Belize's history, and some contestants felt the pageant excellently provided a space for her to enjoy.

"I felt that this pageant allowed me to express who I am as Belizean born in New York," said winner of Queen of the Bay New York, Jasyra Franklin. "The title is a special opportunity for me to embrace my ethnicity."

Franklin, born and raised in Manhattan to Belizean parents, will travel to Belize on Sept. 9, as part of her title to march in the full day parade the following day, Sept. 10 commemorating the Battle of St. George's Caye.

"I'm very excited - I can't wait to go to Belize and experience it myself," said Franklin. "I've heard stories about

how beautiful it is, and now I get finally get experience it myself."

In Belize, the Queen of the Bay New York will meet with other Queen of the Bay winners from Chicago and California, as well as the Queen of the Bay in Belize. A coronation will follow the parade and the winners will get crowned by the Prime Minister of Belize.

Although it was a contest for the best, Franklin says the pageant allowing her to be around her community and receiving their support was just as rewarding.

"I liked that I was able to connect and gain friendships with the other girls, and learning more about Belize," said Franklin. "But with everyone showing up to support us - we had such a supportive crowd and they gave us a



Pretty in pink: Edna Brown on stage for the evening gown competition, at the Queen of the Bay New York Pageant on Aug. 20, at the Brooklyn Masonic Temple. Photo by Jon Farina

TOP 10 SINGLES

- Cheap Thrills**
Sia Feat. Sean Paul
- This is What You Came For**
Calvin Harris feat. Rihanna
- Ride**
twenty one pilots
- Send My Love**
Adele
- Can't Stop the Feeling!**
Justin Timberlake
- One Dance**
Drake Feat. WizKid & Kyla
- Don't Let Me Down**
The Chainsmokers Feat. Daya
- Needed Me**
Rihanna
- Just Like Fire**
P!nk
- Cold Water**
Major Lazor

TOP 10 ALBUMS

- Suicide Squad: The Album**
Soundtrack
- Partynextdoor 3**
Partynextdoor
- Kinda Don't Care**
Justin Moore
- Home of the Strange**
Young The Giant
- Blurryface**
twenty one pilots
- Stranger Things**
Soundtrack
- Sremmlife 2**
Rae Sremmurd
- If I'm Honest**
Blake Shelton
- I'm Not The Devil**
Cody Jinks
- Immortalized**
Disturbed



lot of encouragement. I had first day of rehearsal until such a great time from the pageant night."

Toast to life

Continued from page 53

created to pay homage to our ancient ancestors [who] inhabited our islands long before the colonization of the Europeans."

Williams, who has been involved in mas production for more than 15 years, said that the adult band, produced for the first time this year, is called "Celebrate a Toast to Life."

She said she name was created "because we wanted to give the masqueraders a nostalgic feeling wearing costumes that depict some of their favorite cocktails that are used to celebrate life's greatest moments."

She said the adult band comprises five sections — Plumeria Passion, Aviator Cocktail, Island Prime, Galaxy Cocktail and Birthday Cake Cocktail; while the the sections in the children's band are: Illapa, Mamachocha, Inti, Mamaquilla and Viracocha.

Williams, who has been producing mas in the West Indian American Day Carnival Association's (WIADCA) parade for the past five years, said Cocoa Diamond Productions is expecting about 10-15 masqueraders in each section, with masqueraders from "the entire Caribbean," as well as from South and Central America, England and the United States.

"We are a very diverse group," she said, adding that



Kalina Bourne portrays "Galaxy Cocktail."

Photo by Nelson A. King

"optimism runs high this year, and we are hoping to place or, if not, be absolutely sure that we leave an impression on the Parkway.

"Our masqueraders can expect a full experience — one of high energy; great music; fantastic, beautiful, colorful costumes; full breakfast and lunch served; full safety (high security); and an overall memorable parade experience," Williams continued.

She said preparations are on schedule, adding that all distributions will be completed on time.

"The Diamond Crew is feverishly working to guarantee that all our masqueraders are satisfied and that their costumes fit," said Williams, stating that masqueraders will sway to the beat of the band's "sound engineers," as well as "experienced DJs and performers."

Reggae festival

Continued from page 53

ibbean we decided to bring the Caribbean to them," said reality-TV chef Michael Psilakis, and organizer of the indoor festival.

"Brooklyn is filled with a very eclectic bunch of music fans but there's just something about reggae that gets a crowd together, chilling out and having a good time."

During the festival, guests can buy popular Jamaican dishes, such as jerk chicken, and rice and peas, or a jerk chicken platter for \$37 — all made by chef Psilakis. But do not let the price stray you away, festival planners say — the servings will be satisfying according to Psilakis.

"We're restaurant people first so curating menus and price points is our business," said Psilakis. "We emphasize value driven events so we try to keep the price as low as we can but moreover we make sure the portions are plentiful so people leave full and happy."

Musical artists such as Top Shotta, Soul Junkies, Ras Majesty and the New Vibration, Challenger, and The Far East will perform on different days, and guests can gain entry to the festival by purchasing \$15 ticket, and buying food including the platter which costs \$27.



Chef of the fest: Chef Michael Psilakis will cook popular Jamaican dishes, such as jerk chicken for the festival.

The Hall MP

Organizers say the festival, which started on Aug. 4, should and has attracted general lovers of food and music, even with the Caribbean theme, according to Psilakis.

"The opening weekend was awesome. People really seemed to like the vibe," said Psilakis. "Anyone who likes music in general and tasty food should have a good time here. If you're familiar with the music itself, all the better but not necessary."

"Caribbean Jerk and Reggae Festival" at The Hall at MP [70 Driggs Ave bet. N. 10th and 11th streets in Williamsburg, www.thehallbrooklyn.com, (718) 387-4001]. Aug 25-27, Sept. 1-3. 7 pm. Admission \$15.

Faithful remake of Oscar-winning classic

"Ben-Hur"

Excellent (4 stars)

Rated PG-13 for violence and disturbing images

Running time: 124 minutes

Distributor: Paramount Pictures



A scene from the movie "Ben-Hur."

www.rottentomatoes.com

By Kam Williams

It takes a lot of chutzpah to remake the Hollywood epic that won the most Academy Awards in history. But that's just what we have in "Ben-Hur," a fairly-faithful version of the 1959 classic starring Charlton Heston.

The films are based on "Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ," a novel published in 1880 which quickly surpassed Uncle Tom's Cabin as the best-selling American novel to date. The book's author, Lew Wallace, was a Civil War General who had led Union soldiers at the battle of Shiloh.

His inspirational tale of

redemption's success was credited to the fact that its timely themes of family, freedom and patriotism helped unify a citizenry torn asunder by years of war and then Reconstruction. Its compassionate tone particularly appealed to Southerners, because of its sympathetic treatment of slave owners, encouraging resolution via reconciliation

rather than revenge.

Directed by Timur Bekmambetov (Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter), this incarnation of "Ben-Hur" stars Jack Huston as the title character, although the supposed star is easily overshadowed by the film's narrator, Morgan Freeman, who enjoys a very expanded role as Ilderim, a wealthy Nubian sheik.

The story is set in Jerusalem in the time of Christ (Rodrigo Santoro). As the film unfolds, we find Prince Judah Ben-Hur living in the lap of luxury with his mother (Ayelet Zurer), sister Tirzah (Sofia Black D'Elia) and adopted brother Messala Severus (Toby Kebbell), an orphan taken in as a child by the altruistic noble clan. Judah also has a love

interest, Esther (Nazanin Boniadi), though her lowly slave status makes their marriage unlikely.

The plot thickens when the fully-grown Messala, by then a Roman soldier, unfairly fingers the Ben-Hur family for an act of treason perpetrated by Gestas (Moises Arias), one of the thieves crucified on Calvary alongside Jesus. Next thing you know, the family is separated and sold into slavery, and Judah ends up in chains, rowing in the galley of a warship.

Eventually, he gains his freedom, and starts searching for Esther, his sister and mother. Along the way, he finds religion and is afforded an opportunity to even the score with Massala in a chariot race at the Circus Maximus. In this regard, he's lucky to have wily old Ilderim in his corner, the best darn horse whisperer / charioteer trainer this side of the Tiber.

Distracting CGI mob scenes and heavy-handed sermonizing aside, "Ben-Hur 2016" is nevertheless a very entertaining variation on the original that's well-worth the investment.

Independent & Foreign Films

Black Songbird (Unrated) Revenge thriller revolving around a rookie journalist (Jenique Bennett) recruited by the FBI to infiltrate a nightclub run by the mobsters who murdered her childhood friends. Support cast includes Felicia White, Brynn Mosley and Antwan Mclaurin.

Blood Father (R for graphic violence, pervasive profanity and brief drug use) Mel Gibson stars in the title role of this action thriller about an ex-con's attempt to protect his estranged, 16 year-old daughter (Erin Moriarty) from the drug cartel that wants her dead. With William H. Macy, Diego Luna and Michael Parks.

Floyd Norman: An Animated Life (Unrated) Reverential biopic about 80 year-old Floyd Norman, the first African-American animator hired by Walt Disney Pictures. Featuring commentary by Whoopi Goldberg, Leonard Maltin and Don Hahn.

The Hollars (PG-13 for brief profanity and mature themes) John Krasinski directed and stars in this *Prodigal Son* dramedy as a struggling, NYC artist who moves back home to the Midwest with his pregnant girlfriend (Anna Kendrick) to help care for his ailing mom (Margo Martindale). With Richard Jenkins, Sharlto Copley, Randall Park and Josh Groban.

In Order of Disappearance (R for graphic violence and pervasive profan-



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

ity) **Dark** comedy revolving around a mild-mannered milquetoast-turned-bloodthirsty vigilante (Stellan Skarsgard) who embarks on a revenge-fueled killing spree after his son is murdered by mobsters. With Bruno Ganz, Birgitte Hjort Sorensen and David Sakurai. (In Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, English, Serbian and German with subtitles)

Is That You? (Unrated) Romance drama revolving an unemployed, 60 year-old, film projectionist (Alon Aboutboul) who moves from Israel to America to search for his long-lost childhood sweetheart. featuring Rani Blair, Patrick Michael Kelly and Naruna Kaplan de Macedo.

Kate Plays Christine (Unrated) Sobering biopic chronicling Kate Lyn Sheil's preparations to portray Christine Chubbuck, the suicidal, TV news anchor who shot herself in the head on the air in 1974.

Mia Madre (R for profanity) Bittersweet dramedy, set in Rome, revolving around a film director's (Margherita Buy) attempt to care for her terminally-ill mother (Giulia Lazzarini) while

shooting a movie with a disappointing leading man (John Turturro). With writer/director Nanni Moretti, Beatrice Mancini and Stefano Abbati.

(In English, Italian and French with subtitles)

Remember the Goal (PG for mature themes and drug references) Faith-based drama revolving around the efforts of the cross-country coach (Allee Sutton Hethcoat) at an all-girls, Christian prep school to prepare the team for a big track meet while simultaneously ministering to their personal life issues. Co-starring Quinn Alexis, Sydney Marks and Jayla Palmer.

The Sea of Trees (PG-13 for mature themes, disturbing images and brief profanity) Character-driven drama about two suicidal men (Matthew McConaughey and Ken Watanabe) who have second thoughts about taking their own lives after making friends in a forest at the base of Mount Fuji. With Naomi Watts, Katie Aselton and Jordan Gavaris. (In English and Japanese with subtitles)

BIG BUDGET FILMS

Don't Breathe (R for terror, violence, profanity, sexual references and disturbing content) Suspense thriller about a gang (Jane Levy, Dylan Min-

nette and Daniel Zovatto) that gets more than they bargained after burglarizing the home of a rich blind man (Stephen Lang) they thought would be an easy target. With Emma Berco- vici, Franciska Torocsik and Christian Zaglia.

Hands of Stone (R for sexuality, nudity and pervasive profanity) Reverential biopic chronicling the life and career of welterweight boxer Roberto Duran (Edgar Ramirez). A-list ensemble cast includes Robert De Niro, Ellen Barkin, John Turturro, Ruben Blades, Jurnee Smollett-Bell and Usher Raymond.

Mechanic: Resurrection (R for profanity and pervasive violence) Jason Statham reprises title role in this high-octane sequel which finds the retired hit man blackmailed into performing a trio of dangerous hits by the kidnapper who's abducted the love of his life (Jessica Alba). With Tommy Lee Jones, Michelle Yeoh and Sam Hazeldine.

Southside with You (PG-13 for smoking, a violent image, brief profanity and a drug reference) Day-in-the-life retrospective revisiting the summer day in Chicago in 1989 when Barack (Parker Sawyers) and Michelle Obama (Tika Sumpter) went on their first date. Supporting cast includes Vanessa Bell Calloway, Donald Paul and Deborah Geffner.

GOODYEAR

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Former West Indies' cricket captain Darren Sammy.

Associated Press / Eranga Jayawardena, File

Roberts condemns Sammy's firing

By Azad Ali

Former West Indies fast bowler Andy Roberts said the firing of Darren Sammy as captain of the Twenty20 team was on the basis of comments he made criticizing the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) after his side won a second Twenty20 World Cup title in India earlier this year.

In an emotional speech after the victory in the World Cup, Sammy accused the WICB of "disrespecting the team" and was not even congratulated for winning the World Twenty20 championship

Continued on Page 58

Vincy PM demands apology for former Windies captain

By Azad Ali

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves has called on the President of the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB), Dave Cameron and the Chairman of Selectors, Courtney Browne, to apologize for the shabby treatment meted out to former West Indies Twenty20 Captain Darren Sammy.

Sammy was stripped of his captaincy and also dropped from the Twenty20 squad for two matches against India set for later this month in Florida.

In a letter to the Chairman of Selectors Courtney Browne, Gonsalves stressed that Sammy deserved a certain level of respect for his yeoman service over the years.

Part of the letter stated: "Sammy

Continued on Page 58



ALL SET FOR SEMI-FINALS

Rogelio Jones #6 (Panama) and Javid Morris (Jamaica) fight for ball possession.

Keith Dawson

Reggae Boyz, Golden Jaguars take spots

By John Melbourne

Two great New York Caribbean Cup quarter final games were played at Thomas Jefferson High School field in Brooklyn on Sunday, Aug. 21.

In the opener Team Jamaica dismissed Team Panama 3-0, while the nightcap developed into a hair raiser

before Team Guyana overcame Team Haiti 6-3.

Team Panama and Team Jamaica were meeting for the third time in the New York Caribbean Cup playoffs. In 2012, the Reggae Boyz went home 5-2 winners and in 2013, the game was blown off prematurely with Jamaica

leading 3-0.

From the opening whistle, Los Canaleros exhibited a no-nonsense mood tackling crisply while putting their own attacks together.

Suddenly in the 22nd minute, Miguel Ricketts latched onto a pass

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for a second time.

Roberts believes that Sammy's performance in the recent Caribbean Premier League (CPL) should have earned him a spot on the team to play India in two Twenty20 matches in Florida later this month.

He said: "This is Sammy's best year in the CPL and you can see, this year, he was inspired by what transpired in the World T20."

The chairman of selectors Courtney Browne said the side had been picked "purely on performances." Sammy scored 212 runs at an average of 42, during the CPL.

Roberts disagreed with the choice of the Barbadian all-rounder Carlos Brathwaite as new Twenty20 captain.

The legendary fast bowler said the best choice should have been Trinidadian all-rounder Kieron Pollard, whose captaincy of the Barbados Tridents has received widespread praise.



Marlon Benjamin (Guyana) prepares to attack Louis Robenson #7 (Haiti) for the ball.

Keith Dawson

CARIB CUP SEMI-FINALS SUNDAY

Bolt's hat-trick

By Azad Ali

Jamaica Prime Minister Andrew Holness has hailed the achievements of the country's athletes at the Rio Olympics in Brazil last week.

Holness praised Usain's Bolt historic hat-trick of Olympic 100 meters titles saying that Jamaica is fortunate to have a son who inspires so many and ensures that Jamaica continues to be the sprint capital of the world.

Bolt also captured his third consecutive Olympic 200 title.

"Bolt has etched his name as the greatest sprinter the world has ever seen," Holness said in a statement.

Rio Olympics 2016 in Brazil was Jamaica's sprint machine, superstar Usain Bolt last Olympics as he has admitted that age has caught up with him and he will stop running the 200m.

He will not run in the 2020 Olympics in Japan.

Bolt revealed that he will only run the 100m in next year's World Championships in London. Bolt, who holds the world records in both events has won the past four 200m races in the worlds, said doing the double gets "rougher" as he gets older.

The Jamaican sprinter won three gold medals at the Rio Olympics and has not lost a major 200m final since he won in Beijing in 2008.

At the Rio Olympics he won gold in the Men's 100m, Men's 200m and Men's 4x100 relay.

Elaine Thompson, who claimed two Olympic titles (Gold) in the 100 and 200 meters and two-time defending champion, Shelly Ann-Fraser, who missed out on becoming the first woman to clinch a hat-trick of titles in the 100-meter when she finished with bronze, deserved special praise, the prime minister said.

regulars are carrying knocks and did not play.

Team Jamaica will play Team Grenada in this week's semi-final at 3:15 pm.

The feature game between Team Haiti and Team Guyana was all that was expected of two very good teams which have never lifted the Caribbean Cup. The last time these teams met in the playoff arena was 2013 when Team Guyana won the third place playoff 4-2.

When the referee's whistle sounded for the kickoff, Team Haiti was one man short yet Team Guyana failed to capitalize. The Guyanese players are such a joy to watch when they are playing well that it is so unfortunate that they are not more disciplined in their approach to the tournament.

The first break came in the 27th minute when Kevin Beaton knocked a ball over the line from close in to send the Golden Jaguars on their way.

Eight minutes later as the rain started to drizzle, Les Grenadiers were in shock

when Travis Grant bundled home the ball from close in to double the Guyana lead.

As half time approached, the camel's back appeared broken when Clive Nobrega and Gregory Richardson scored goals three and four for the Golden Jaguars.

The half time break was just what the doctor ordered for Les Grenadiers as they came out like a house on fire in the second half. Just after the break, Jean Gary Rubin stepped up to take a free kick just outside the box on the left side of the field. His curling kick found the head of Kevin Morency to pull one back for Haiti.

This seemed to infuse life into the Haitians as they lifted their game and played with reckless abandon and skill. And just as suddenly Team Guyana was on their heels and seemed a bit tentative in defense. Benchy Estama brought the scores even closer when he pounced on a ball mishandled by goalkeeper Richie Richards inside the six-yard box for an easy goal. Guyana 4, Haiti 2.

are extremely dissatisfied at your unceremonious and summary dismissal of Mr. Sammy as captain and player. You simply cannot treat a former captain of the West Indies team and a successful captain of two successive World Cup Twenty20 Championships with disdain.

"Elemental respect and common decency demand that once the selectors had decided to remove Mr. Sammy as captain and as a player of the T20 team, he ought to have been accorded the courtesy of a dignified face-to-face meeting with you." the letter said.

It added: "It is not too late to make amends. You and the president of the West Indies Cricket Board ought to apologize to Mr. Sammy."



St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves.

Associated Press

Apology

Continued from page 57

has advised me that in your capacity as chairman of Selectors of the West Indies Cricket Team, you preemptorily informed him in a 30-second telephone conversation that he was being removed as the captain of the West Indies Twenty20 and that his recent performances did not merit him a place on the team for the upcoming Twenty20 matches against the touring Indian team.

"I find this shabby treatment of Mr. Sammy to be unacceptable, indeed, I am sure that all right-thinking persons

Socacize brings a Caribbean style to exercising

By Alexandra Simon

Forget the gym and get fit for carnival to soca music.

A dance workout that combines soca music and exercise, better known as socacize, gets participants physically active to a sound they know best. That is the concept for the high-and-low aerobic workout instructed to Caribbean music. With the Labor Day parade approaching, dance instructors want you to get ready for carnival and encourage more health-conscious attitudes in the Caribbean community.

“Initially when we started we kind of used to fuse Caribbean dances and a workout,” said Simone Warner, a Brooklyn-based socacize instructor. “A lot of Caribbean people don’t like to workout, so we fused them together to make people work out and prepare for carnival.”

Socacize shares a few things in common to the popular Latin music-inspired workout called Zumba. But mostly,



Teaching the steps: Socacize instructor Simone Warner, has been teaching socacize classes in Brooklyn for six years. Mortimer Visuals

there are specific differences between Zumba and socacize, according to Warner.

“It’s similar — but socacize strictly and only uses Caribbean-based music,” said Warner. “Zumba used to be Latin-based, but now they use

everything — every style of music.”

Socacize is offered in classes and keeps students fit with a one-hour workout divided into different sections. Warner says the classes are typical workout moves and popular Caribbean dance rhythms.

“There are four different dances — the bacchanal warm-up, cardio soca jam, whine and tone, and groovy stretch,” said Warner. And there is even a bootcamp session for more intense exercising. “Socacize is fun and it’s different. In each session you never know what you might get.”

By mixing the soca dance styles and common exercises, just one class offers a full body workout. The bacchanal warm-up is a slow-paced stretch session, the cardio soca jam — a soca-only workout to fast-paced songs. Then the final parts — the whine and tone, a toning focused session to which incorporates reggae and soca, and the groovy stretch



Socacizing it: Students at a socacize class in Brooklyn. The dance combines exercise with soca music, for a high-energy workout. Simone Warner

which finishes off the workout to slow Caribbean music, such as calypso.

“Everything is worked out,” said Warner. “With the whine and tone, it’s abdominal, and with the cardio jam — it’s everything. It burns calories all over body and then you stretch everything you just worked out.”

Socacize was founded in Canada in 2011 by Ayanna Lee-Rivears, a Trinidadian dancer and instructor. The dance studio and class has locations in Canada and instructors all over the world to teach socacize classes in the United States

and the Caribbean.

Warner says that socacize classes offer an environment that is so interactive and supportive, that many friendships have been formed.

“At the end of the day, my clients have turned into friends — that’s something I like about socacize,” said Warner. “I have friends who have been with me since the beginning because while we work out we build strong relationships.”

“Socacize” at Augustine’s Episcopal Church [4301 Ave. D bet. E. 43rd Street and Troy Avenue in East Flatbush, www.socacize.com, Tuesdays, 7 pm.

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ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, once you have your mind set on something, it is hard to get you to think about anything else. This dedication can be an asset at work in the days ahead.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, you are in good spirits this week and it could be due to some good news that provides you with extra energy. Tackle some tasks at hand and then have fun.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, it may be time for a change of scenery, especially if you feel like you need recharging. Plan a getaway that allows you to unwind free of distractions.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
Accept help when it is offered, Cancer. Doing so will considerably cut down on your workload and put you in a better frame of mind. Someone has a proposition that's promising.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, though you often enjoy being the center of attention, you will enjoy a much-needed break from the limelight in coming days. Use the time to reflect.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, when a job opportunity pops up, jump on it without delay. This could be the break you're looking for, so don't pass up the opportunity to get on board.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, recognize that some things are beyond your control, no matter how hard you try to influence the outcomes. Do your best and things will work out for you.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, sometimes the best way to help someone is to refrain from offering advice and let him or her work it out. This week you'll be put to the test in this line of thinking.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, do your best to address a financial issue in the weeks ahead. It may take some time, but use this week to lay the groundwork for your future financial security.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, a pleasant surprise has you wanting to share good news with anyone and everyone. However, it may be wise to keep things hush-hush for a while until you know all the details.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
There's no time like the present to perform a self-analysis in an effort to better yourself, Aquarius. Expect the support of family as you look to make positive changes.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, positive thinking and taking action can help you overcome difficult obstacles. Good news is coming your way.

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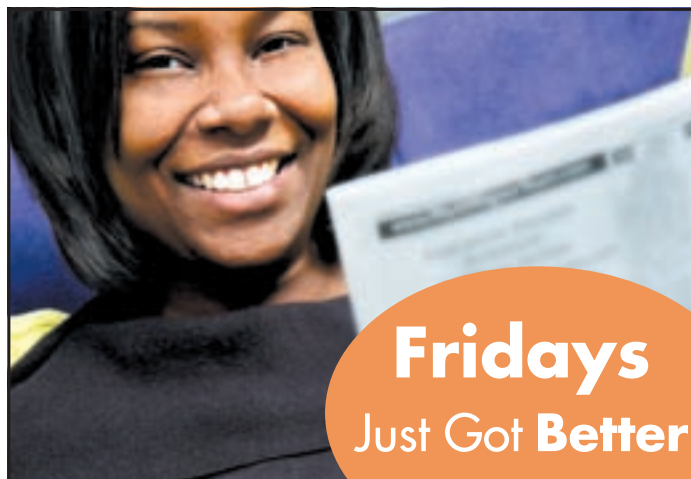
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New York, Block 4963 and Lot 23. Approximate amount of judgment is \$504,996.45 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 10185/13.
Howard Mark File, Esq., Referee

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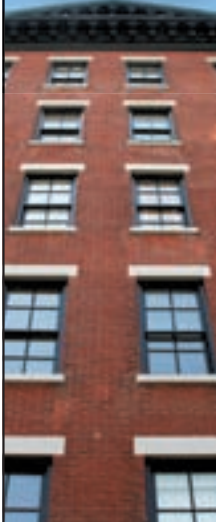
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One voice

Continued from page 8
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Luciano provides spiritual inspiration and philosophical guidance to his fans at the 14th Annual World Creole Music Festival in Dominica.
Photo by Coral King

door).

Sunday, Sept. 4:

Dimanche Gras — doors open at 6 pm; showtime is 7 pm to 1 am.

This NYCC finale features live performances by King David Rudder, Natasha Wilson, Aaron Duncan, Boodooos- ingh Tassa Drummers, Mighty

Grynner and the Sunshine Band. Highlights also include Kings and Queens of the Band, individual and Ole' Mas' costume presentation. Hosted by MC Wassy. Tickets: \$30. More at the door.

For tickets contact: WIAD- CA at (718) 467-1797; <http://www.etix.com/ticket/v/10546/>

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Follow the rules...



Colorful display: A dancer shows off her colorful costume at the West Indian American Day Parade.
Photo by Paul Martinka

By West Indian American Day Carnival Association

The Labor Day Parade will kick off on Mon. Sept. 5 along Utica Avenue and Eastern Parkway, from 8 am to 6 pm. Marchers will walk along Schenectady Avenue and Eastern Parkway to Grand Army Plaza.

Failure to comply with the rules below may result in your removal from the parade, fines or prosecution.

- Band leaders must organize their respective band, be at the parade starting point by 9 am, keep order in the band along the parade route, ensure only costumed masqueraders enter the reviewing area for judging.

- Trucks or floats must have proper registration and must pass highway inspection to enter the parade.

- No one artist or performer is permitted to ride on top of the truck cabs.

- Bands without a permit from WIADCA will not be allowed to participate in the parade.

- Only paid band reviewers and properly identified band security and personnel are allowed in costumed bands.

- Band leaders should be prepared to present their permit to the police or any authorized member of WIADCA upon request.

- Band leaders must ensure the safety of their band members by providing at least 10 marshals

per 100 masqueraders during their participation on the parade route.

- Persons accompanying floats may not stop and walk in the opposite direction of the bands.

- Band leaders must take responsibility to ensure that promotional items or otherwise should not be thrown from the truck (e.g. T-shirts, CDs etc.).

- Band leaders must restrict the participation of non-masqueraders.

- Artist trucks, advertising trucks, and T-shirt bands are excluded from registration by WIADCA.

- All bands will be visited by WIADCA officials and NYPD before final registration.

- NYPD will provide escorts to Parkway to registered bands only!

- Loud music cannot be played on streets on the way back to Mas Camps!

- Please use public transportation. All subways and buses in Brooklyn will connect to the parade area. Vehicles are discouraged, as there is no parking in the area.

- There will be a zero tolerance policy for nudity and indecent exposure. No strings, no thongs, no full body paint, no c-cup (under-pants) no wires (lower body) however, wire bras up to d-cups are permitted. Bands will be disqualified and escorted off the parade route for nudity, indecent behavior and exposure by any individual, in or out of any band. No exceptions!

- Absolutely no alcoholic beverages to be sold or carried on parade route.

- Spectators are not permitted to enter Parkway route. No crossing on Eastern Parkway until there is a gap in the procession of floats and bands. Pedestrian crossing may be allowed at Nostrand, Bedford and Franklin avenues, when the flow of the parade allows. Adults must be vigilant of small children at all times.

- All non-costumed persons in any band must move completely out of the bands before Classon Avenue. Only costumed members may be on stage for judging

- All spectators and non-costumed persons must stay behind police barricades at all times!

- WIADCA reserves the right to use the names, images, and mas designs of the competitors to advertise and promote the future parade. WIADCA reserves the right to record, film, videotape, broadcast, and to transmit via internet the proceedings and performances of the parade. Acknowledgement of images and mas designs will be made related to the band.

- WIADCA will not be responsible for any injuries caused by parade vehicles off the parkway after the parade.

- Each band will be provided a specimen of the Acceptable Insurance Certificate for all trucks and floats that will be participating Labor Day Parade

to a grand ol' time!

along Eastern Parkway.

- All vehicles taking part in the parade must be insured separately with the policy naming WIADCA as co-insured and the City of New York.

- Insurance coverage can be purchased at any insurance firm; however insurance certificates must be exact replicas of the specimen provided.

- Upon submission of insurance certificates, WIADCA reserves the right to verify coverage with their own insurance company.

- Floats and all other vehicles must have WIADCA permits, registration and (one) day insurance stickers to enter parade route. New York State Highway Police will be conducting thorough inspections of all vehicles before entry on parade route. Inquire ASAP at WIADCA's Office at 323 Rogers Ave. or call (718) 467-1797.

- Trucks and floats with corporate advertising that are not registered with WIADCA will not be allowed to enter parade route.

- Vehicles are to display only the banners which have been approved and authorized by WIADCA.

- Band leaders are allowed a maximum of two vehicles and no more than one food truck on the Parkway, and no more than 15 adults on that truck during the parade.

- Band leaders and drivers must not allow anyone to ride on the side of their trucks or floats. Band leaders will be held responsible for any injuries caused by such action.

- Please be mindful of your neighbors! Do not block traffic! Do not park in people's driveways! Do not block bands on parade route! Do not jump in others' Mas Bands.

- All operators and drivers must have valid license to present to highway inspectors.

- All vehicles must have valid inspection stickers.

- Operator and driver should have proof of valid insurance.

- Brake lights and tail-lights must be clearly visible at all times.

- Brake lights shall be



Wings aloft: A dancer shows off her plumage. Photo by Paul Martinka

in proper working order.

- The coupling device (if applicable) must be in proper working order.

- All floats and trucks must have wheel guards on rear wheels.

- Tires should be in good condition.

- Vehicle load (speakers) must be safely secured.

- No object shall extend past the front, back or sides of the vehicle.

- WIADCA and NYPD advise utilizing 18-wheeler, low-bed trailers.

- No flammable liquid may be carried or stored on floats or trailers.

- Floats must have protective coverings the length of trailer to cover wheels (front to back).

- Sound trucks-floats must install mirrors that eliminate blind spots around the vehicle.

- Only persons affiliated with the music are permitted on any float or sound truck.

- No person may board a moving sound truck, float or other parade vehicle.

- No person may distribute promotional items from floats or trailers that are either moving or stationary on route.

- No one is allowed to "throw" gifts to spectators at any time or place! Anyone doing so will be fined by NYPD.

- Children under 16 years old are not permitted on floats.

- Safety marshals must be easily identified by wearing distinctive clothing.

- All bands must have an adequate number of marshals for band size.

- Supply vehicles must maintain a safe distance between themselves and the parade float.

- Alcohol consumption

is strictly prohibited on trailers and parade route.

- All music trucks must have guards on all wheels, properly secured and have constructed railings that do not obstruct the driver's view.

- Load height: nothing higher than 13.6 feet from street level will be allowed. No exceptions.

- To facilitate turning corners, hinged covers are to be built where cab wheels join flatbed trailer.

- All truck-cabs must be properly cordoned-off for safety reasons.

- Railings built around truck-trays must be strong and secured with specifications as per NYPD and highway police.

- For safety and security reasons only persons relating to music and performances will be allowed on trucks by NYPD.

- Anyone needing help, contact NYPD personnel wearing blue jackets or white shirts.

- Competitors appearing before the judges in the King-Queen Individual Competitions must wear the costume or be carrying the costume. The costume must be at least 10 feet wide and seven feet high, and can be supported by at least two wheels.

- The person registered to take part in the competition must be the person carrying the costume. Any change of competitor must be brought to the attention of the Mas Committee chairperson and the judges prior to judging.

- Competitors will be disqualified if they are called three times to move into position and do not do so. Refusal to obey the instructions and directives of the WIADCA official will result in disqualification.

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Giselle Fritz & Associates present 'Because We Fly'

Giselle Fritz & Associates present "Because We Fly" for this year's Junior Carnival in Brooklyn. The band's title was inspired by nature's beauty.

Band leader Fritz explained that while relaxing on some rocks by a lake in the Poconos in Pennsylvania with her family they had the most unexpected and mesmer-

izing experience of their lives.

"We saw, what we thought was a dazzling, twisting, rain cloud approaching. As it got closer we saw hundreds of birds, seemingly fledglings of varying hues and sizes moving gracefully and swiftly, all in one direction," said Fritz. What a spec-

tacle! What a phenomenal experience!

She said immediately the family began putting names to the glimpse we got of the colors that adorned the sky. Names of birds poured out.

According to the leader, the youngest of the group said, "we could not look so pretty, because we walk."

"I thought of this statement and the experience and married both. Something snapped in my thoughts and the name of the band was born-'Because We Fly,'" said Fritz.

"Since my aim is a small band in the Junior Category, I thought of simple birds — the canary, the blue jay, the peacock and the flamingo that could represent four sections. I began working on the idea," said the band leader.

Cheryl Celestine, who joined the band this year, will use her love for Junior Carnival to present the enchanted peacock

section. She conducted a weekend workshop for WIADCA and is an asset to the development of the carnival.

The sections will be presented in beautiful costumes made in delicate fabrics and colors of varying hues. The simple

formation could be easily interpreted by the eyes of a child.

The band Giselle Fritz & Associates continues to be all-inclusive so parents are free to enjoy the parade. It placed first in last year's presentation. The junior male partici-

ant also placed first.

According to Fritz this year the band looks forward to a healthy, successful, safe and enjoyable Junior Carnival for all participants.

Contact: Giselle: 347 737 9326; Cheryl: 347 423 8645.



Candice Fritz and Shevonne Hannibal in a portrayal of the Canary. Giselle Fritz & Associates



The flamingo in the sky is a sight to behold. Giselle Fritz & Associates



Kamayah Saul portrays a Blue Jay in celestial motion as it soars in the sky. Giselle Fritz & Associates

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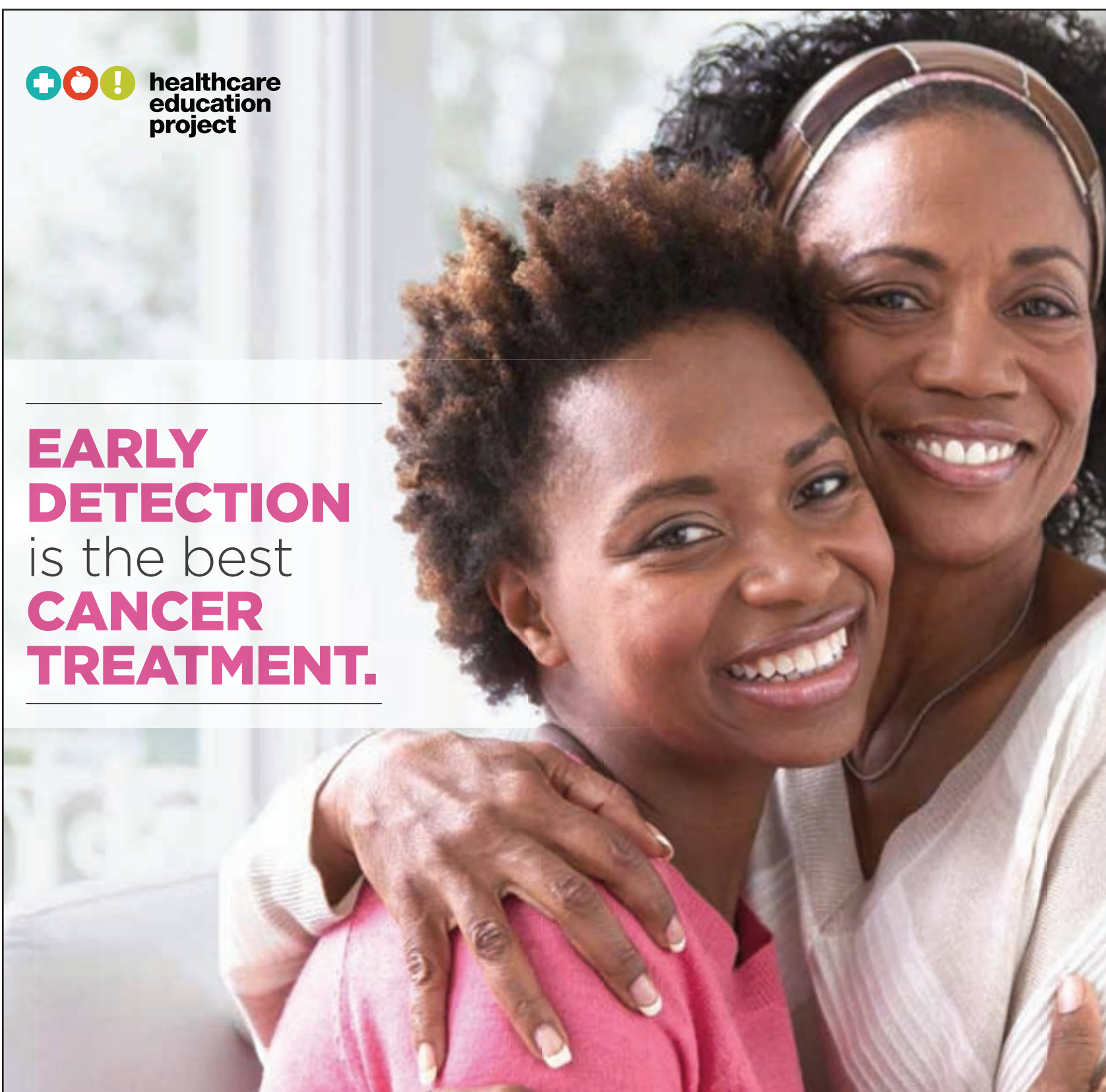
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