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## Republic Day Celebrations

Guyana Consul General Hon. Barbara Atherly, front third from left enjoying the Mashramani-style finale. See story on page 48. Photo by Tangerine Clarke

## Clarke: Trump's policies 'dangerous'

By Nelson A. King

As United States President Donald Trump has expanded the nation's immigration rules requiring expanded deportation of undocumented Caribbean and other immigrants, Brooklyn Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke has described the administration's policies as "dangerous."

In a blistering attack on Trump's first 32 days in office, Clarke, who represents the 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn, said Trump's administration has been defined by "dysfunction and ineptitude, coupled with philosophies of hatred and division."

"This is an intolerable combination; indeed, it is dangerous," Clarke told a standing-room-only town hall meeting Wednesday night at the Jewish Union Temple, near Grand Army Plaza, in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn. "His executive orders have been issued without a plan for implementation, a 'make it up as we go along' mentality that has resulted in anxiety, panic and chaos at our airports, and in our very communities among our neighbors."

"The duplicitous nature of Donald Trump and his aides puts us all at risk, especially when his aides describe their

version of the truth as 'alternative facts,'" she added.

Clarke said the Trump administration has "already undermined the confidence of millions of people across our nation and within the immigrant community, threatening millions of American families with forced separation, while simultaneously beginning the process of eliminating programs that are critical to our health, our safety and our well-being."

In a revised executive order, captioned "Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements," Trump

Continued on Page 6

# JAMAICA HUNTING FOR OIL

## CARICOM countries hope 'black gold' will ease their economic problems

By Bert Wilkinson

Could Jamaica be the next Caribbean trade bloc member state to find commercial quantities of oil and gas?

Clearly encouraged by Guyana's humungous oil and gas find of 2015, the island is on a frantic search to find and produce its own supplies and lessen dependence on foreign oil imports, including those from Venezuela under the decade-old plus Petro Caribe scheme.

London-based Tullow Oil was just about getting ready to throw in the towel and pack it in recently when local fishermen pointed them to oil seeps and slicks off the south coast. The company had found no significant traces of oil and gas despite investing millions on seismic work and after spending months at sea exploring its offshore concession.

At first exploration teams from Tullow dismissed the idea that those slicks could be anything but live oil, but those should by right, be more associated with waste from cruise and other vessels on the ocean.

But the fishermen insisted

that the company should have a look and once its experts did, they quickly determined that the slicks were not waste oil from ships but had apparently been seeping to the surface from the seabed far below.

"At the time, fishermen whom we engage with closely when we are doing our offshore activities said that there were some reports of slicks of oil in the area. Usually, such tips show evidence of refined or ship pollutants. But not that time. In this case, the sample seemed like natural crude oil," company spokesman Jerome Kelly told the local Gleaner Newspaper.

The encouragement from the oil slick pointed to the company by fishermen, has now prompted Tullow to conduct additional surveys on nearly 500 square miles of additional sea space this month using 2D technology. It is no longer preparing to leave until another time.

"The survey will start in March, and the median length would see it last five to 10 days.

Continued on Page 6

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Richard S. David.

# Guyanese-born seeks to make history

By Tangerine Clarke

Richard S. David, a former vice president of the NYC Economic Development Corporation, is poised to become the first Guyanese-born in the City Council, when constituents of District 28, Queens, go to the polls in the September primary, and general election in November of this year.

Raised by a single mother, David and two brothers, who, were born in the small village of Mahaciony, on the East Coast of Demerara, in Guyana, is a highly ambitious young man, is adamant that local government has neglected his district for many years, and is ready to delivery real results and change.

David said he was inspired by President Barack Obama's call to action in 2008, and became a mentor to boys and girls of color in Southeast Queens.

Small in stature, but big and bold in vision, David will no doubt have a powerful voice in City Hall for residents of District, 28, that he said, have been locked out of all decision making.

"We do not have a respected voice fighting to bring more resources into the community," said David, adding, that citizens' quality of life for citizens, has decreased.

"We need a fresh start with a council member like me, who can make government work for all of us," said David, a Hunter College graduate, who organized students on campus, where he was president of the WISE Club.

His journey started at age 13, when he got his first job. He worked at the South Queens, Boys & Girls Club, which today is one of the leading social justice organizations in Council District 28, and New York City.

# Caribbean American politician wins top position in DNC

By Nelson A. King

A Caribbean American legislator in New York has won a top position in the United States .

Bronx Assemblyman Michael Blake, the son of Jamaican immigrants, won one of the vice chairs positions in the Democratic National Committee (DNC) at an insiders' meeting in Atlanta, Ga, over the weekend. Queens Congresswoman Grace Meng won the other vice chair position.

With the election of new Chairman Tom Perez, the number of New Yorkers in the DNC leadership comes to three.

Out of 814 votes cast with a 211-vote threshold for election for two female at-large vice chair positions, Meng received 216.5 votes, while Maria Elena Durazo, a prominent Californian labor leader, received 228.5 votes, according to the New York Observer.

It said that Blake, a 34-year-old veteran of former US President Barack Obama's presidential campaign and White House, received the most votes — 171 — for the remaining position, open to a male or female out of 411.5 ballots received.

But a second round was held because all contenders fell short of the 206-vote threshold, the Observer said. It said Blake won 237 votes in the next go-round after several candidates withdrew.

Both Blake and Meng called in their platforms for rebuilding the Democratic Party's infrastructure to support new candidates for local office, the Observer said.

It said the race for the chairmanship was divisive, as progressives — led by Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders —



Bronx Assemblyman Michael Blake.

favored Minnesota Congressman Keith Ellison over Perez.

In his victory speech, Blake called for party unity.

"We have to leave here united," he said. "We cannot walk out of here as Obama Democrats or Hillary Democrats or Bernie Democrats, we are a united Democratic Party, and that is who we are."

In a show of unity, Perez asked the 400-plus DNC members to elect Ellison his deputy chairman. They complied, and Ellison accepted the post, the Observer said.

The Bronx-based Garifuna Political Action Committee (Garifuna PAC), a

nonpartisan organization that provides opportunities for Garifuna and Communities of Color to participate in the American political process, congratulated Blake on his election. Garifuna PAC had endorsed Blake for DNC vice chair.

The Garifuna are an ethnic group of mixed ancestry — descendants of Carib, Arawak and African people living along the Caribbean coast in Belize, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Honduras. They originated from St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

In its Dec. 23 endorsement, Garifuna PAC said "Garifuna's issues are New York's issues, and we stand ready to work as full partners with all segments of the Bronx's society to address our current ordeals and fulfill the promise of a bright future.

"Assemblyman Blake has worked directly with our community to help bridge the divide between our community and the local government administration," it said.

Since his election to the New York Assembly, Garifuna PAC said Blake has "proven to be a friend and supporter of the Bronx Garifuna community, sponsoring an event to celebrate the contributions of the Garifuna-American community to the city and state of New York, cosponsoring a bill to include the History of the Garifuna People in New York State Education Law, and moderating an event that brought together young men of color, police officers, and community leaders discuss healing community relations."

A seafaring people, the Garifuna arrived in the United States as merchant marines during World War II.

# 2014 J'Ouvert celebration shooter jailed

By Nelson A. King

A 28-year-old Brooklyn man has been sentenced to 24 years in prison after pleading guilty last month to first-degree manslaughter for fatally shooting a Grenadian man during the Caribbean J'Ouvert celebration that was held in the wee hours before the 2014 West Indian Day Carnival Parade on Labor Day, the first Monday in September.

"This defendant has now been held accountable for a senseless shooting that took the life of a 55-year-old man who was a beloved father and grandfather," said Acting Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez on Friday.

"What should have been a joyous cultural celebration was marred by this tragic shooting," he added. "Such violence, whether during J'Ouvert or anywhere else in Brooklyn, will not go unpunished."

The acting district attorney identified the defendant as Derek Goodings, 28, of Crown Heights, Brooklyn.

Goodings was also sentenced on Friday to five years' post release supervision by Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Vincent Del Giudice.

The defendant pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter last month shortly after jury selection had commenced.

Gonzalez said that, according to the Goodings' allocution, on Sept. 1, 2014, at about 3:30 am, in the vicinity of Empire Boulevard in Brooklyn, Goodings fired his weapon into a crowd of revelers and onlookers.

Gonzalez said Goodings fired five times, striking Michael Sampson, 55, in the chest, killing him and injuring another man.

He also fired at an unmarked police van in which a uniformed police officer

was sitting, striking it, Gonzalez said.

He said Goodings fled the scene, and while he was being chased by police, turned his gun on an officer, who discharged his service weapon.

Shortly after the shooting, Sampson's girlfriend of seven years told authorities that all her boyfriend wanted to do was enjoy the West Indian Parade, and that he was donning a special yellow and green shirt — the colors of his native Grenada — when he was shot and killed, according to the Brooklyn Reporter.

Over the years, police say the West Indian American celebration has been marred by violence.

On Sept. 14 last year, a reputed member of the Folk Nation gang pleaded not guilty to murdering the Jamaican-born legal aide to New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, who was felled by a stray bullet during a wild shootout.

### Caribbean

The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) has blocked Cabral Douglas, son of former Dominica Prime Minister Rosie Douglas from suing the government over the cancellation of a concert and the eventual deportation of Jamaica reggae artiste Tommy Lee Sparta and his entourage, in February 2014.

Douglas, a lawyer, was contracted with Jamaican artiste management firm Heavy D Promotions Ltd for Tommy Lee to perform at a privately-owned entertainment venture to mark the opening of Portsmouth Carnival.

However, Lee's team on their arrival at the Douglas / Charles airport were denied entry and detained in what Douglas described as "inhumane conditions."

This led to the cancellation of the show which was financed by Douglas, who demanded US\$3 million for the government.

The CCJ ruled in its judgement that Douglas failed to prove a breach of treaty rights under the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas which were intended to benefit him directly.

The judges also held that it was not possible to access the court's original jurisdiction merely because another person's rights under the Treaty may have been breached.

### Bahamas

Bahamas police are investigating four people who were killed and others wounded in a recent bloody week-end.

Two weeks ago a man was shot and killed while standing outside of his home by two armed gunmen.

And the police said two separate shooting incidents have claimed the life of one man and two others hospitalized.

Investigators said in the first incident, a group of people were attending a party, when occupants of a car pulled up and fired several shots into the crowd before speeding off.

Two men were shot and taken to



## Haitian prison probe

Haiti's President Jovenel Moise, right, shakes hands with Haiti's newly nominated Prime Minister Dr. Jack Guy Lafontant in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Friday Feb. 24, 2017. Lafontant is a gastroenterologist and head of the Rotary Club in the commercial district of Petionville. See story on page 16.

Associated Press / Dieu Nalio Chery

hospital where they remain in a serious condition.

In the second incident, an unidentified man was shot while standing near his car in a drive-by shooting. He was taken to hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Two police officers have been hospitalized after they were shot by a suspect, who has since been detained.

### Barbados

Former Barbados Prime Minister Owen Arthur is expressing concern that the island's Central Bank could soon be running out of foreign reserves.

He said the Caribbean island is heading for a serious financial crisis.

Arthur, an economist who served as prime minister from 1994 to 2008, said the reserves at the bank have fallen from Bds \$1.5 billion to Bds \$600 mil-

lion and that the Frenudiel administration has three months to get its act together to avert a total collapse of the economy.

Arthur told the Barbados Nation newspaper that the next three months will perhaps become the most decisive in the modern Barbados experience and could determine what happens for the next generation.

He said the bad policy of printing money to cover government's deficit over the past few years is partly responsible for the country's economic situation.

### Dominica

Dominica Opposition Leader Lennox Linton has dismissed claims that his UWP party was behind the recent

violent disturbance following an anti-government protest, which resulted in the vandalism of nine business and 32 arrests.

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit claimed that there was an attempt by opposition parties to overthrow the government.

In a national address, Skerrit alleged that it was the "militant, irresponsible behavior of the leadership of the main opposition IWP and the Dominica Freedom party (DFP) that triggered the action."

He said the police have been tipped off about the plan by opposition forces.

However, Linton lashed back, categorically denying there was a plan to overthrow the government.

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# Search for oil in Jamaica continues apace

# Illegal immigrants

Continued from page 1

on Tuesday said that US federal immigration law both imposes the responsibility and provides the means for the federal government, in cooperation with the states, to secure the nation's borders.

He said the purpose of the order is to "direct executive departments and agencies to deploy all lawful means to secure the nation's southern border with Mexico, to prevent further illegal immigration into the United States, and to repatriate illegal aliens [immigrants] swiftly, consistently and humanely."

The US president said the order includes returning Caribbean and other immigrants to their respective countries pending formal proceedings.

The order also directs the US Secretary of Homeland Security to hire an additional 5,000 border agents and to "empower state and local law enforcement to support federal enforcement of immigration law, to the maximum extent permitted by law, and to ensure that prosecution guidelines place a high priority on crimes."

Under this executive order, with extremely limited exceptions, Trump said the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) "will not exempt classes or categories of removal" immigrants from potential enforcement.

"All of those in violation of the immigration laws may be subject to enforcement proceedings, up to and including removal from the United States," the order states.

It says that US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agencies will release illegal immigrants from custody only under limited circumstances, such as when removing them from the country, when an immigrant obtains an order granting relief by statute, when it is determined that an immigrant is a US citizen, legal permanent resident, refugee, or asylee.

Trump said CBP will immediately begin the process of hiring 5,000 additional Border Patrol agents, as well as 500 Air & Marine agents and officers, to find, arrest and deport illegal Caribbean and other immigrants, whether or not they commit serious crimes.

Continued from page 1

The live oil was of a tiny amount, so it doesn't say how much is underground, nor does it say where that oil has come from, and that is why we are doing the survey," Kelly said.

Tullow which also has a large concession just off ExxonMobil's area in Guyana, entered the Jamaican exploration space back in 2014 and quickly mobilized to get going. It has nearly a dozen large blocks and one in relatively shallow water.

Locals are confident oil and gas are offshore. After all Jamaica is not too far from the oil and gas-rich Gulf of Mexico which has particularly helped the US and Mexico to make billions from both on and offshore oil wells. Nearby Cuba has also been exploring in earnest. The Bahamas and Belize have also been trying to up the tempo in this regard.

Jamaican officials say that this round of exploration efforts is the first since the early 80s when nearly a dozen wells were drilled from around 1956 to 1983. One showed promising signs of hydrocarbons.

Current producers in the region

include Trinidad with more than 100 years of both exploration and actual production, Suriname which astonishingly found onshore oil while drilling for water in the west near Guyana in the 70s and Barbados which has onshore wells producing a few hundred barrels daily.

The initial Liza 1 group of wells Exxon has drilled offshore Guyana, for example, has titillated the palates of governments in the bloc of 15 nations as many are worried about the fragile tourism industry, the loss of income from duty free trade in the region, the collapse of the banana industry and threats to offshore banking. Oil and gas may be the sector to rescue struggling CARICOM nations. The Liza wells are said to be valued at around \$70B.

If Jamaica is getting ready to press the throttle on exploration, so too are Barbados and Grenada, neighboring Trinidad. In recent years, Bajan officials have handed concessions to BHP and Repsol, while Grenada has been engaging MX Oil PLC of Britain amidst opposition complaints about alleged secrecy in dealings with the firm.

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# Barbados Central Bank governor fired



Barbados Finance Minister, Chris Sinckler.

Photo by George Alleyne



Fired Central bank Governor, Delisle Worrell

Photo by George Alleyne

fire Worrell.

Sinckler exercised that right to fire Worrell this morning.

Barbadians first got hint that all was not well between the former Central Bank governor Worrell and the administration of Prime Minister Freundel Stuart after the chief financial regulator published in early January, what he titled an 'economic letter', in which he made the surprise announcement that the government needs to halt its practice of taking new issuances of money from the Central Bank to pay its bills.

In spite of the fact that this practice, which economists call printing of money, had for years been criticised by Opposition politicians, business associations, and even the International Monetary Fund, Worrell had continued to do the government's bidding and provide the unsupported currency.

Some commentators believe that his refusal to continue along that path was the root

cause for his dismissal, though government's stated reason is that the Board of Directors of the Central Bank had indicated

that they are no longer willing to work with Worrell because of his reported high-handed manner of operating.

By George Alleyne

Barbados Finance Minister Chris Sinckler today fired the Governor of the Central Bank, Delisle Worrell, following a legal battle, that extended over some two weeks, over whether the politician has the authority to dismiss the top public servant.

Worrell's dismissal this morning marks the culmination of suspense that gripped the nation since the Monday morning of Feb. 13, when news broke that the governor was on the Sunday night forced to take the unusual step of having a High Court judge bar Sinckler from firing him.

Sinckler had given the governor the ultimatum to either resign that Monday, or be fired.

Worrell's injunction against Sinckler lasted until the following Thursday when it was removed because the same judge ruled that the finance minister was indeed empowered to dismiss the regulator of

financial transactions of Barbados.

Lawyers for the Central Bank Governor got the injunction immediately re-instated by appealing the judge's ruling, but on hearing the matter yesterday, the Appeals Court re-affirmed Sinckler's right to

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# Stemming illicit financial outflows

**By Jomo Kwame Sundaram**  
*Jomo Kwame Sundaram, a former economics professor and United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, received the Wassily Leontief Prize for Advancing the Frontiers of Economic Thought in 2007.*

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Feb. 28 2017 (IPS) - International capital flows are now more than 60 times the value of trade flows. The Bank of International Settlements (BIS) is now of the view that large international financial transactions do not facilitate trade, and that excessive financial 'elasticity' has been a major cause of recent financial crises.

## Illicit financial outflows

Illicit financial flows involve financial movements from one country to another, especially when funds are illegally earned, transferred, and/or utilized. Some examples include:

- A cartel using trade-based money laundering techniques to mix legal money, say from the sale of used cars, with illegal money, e.g., from drug sales;
- An importer using trade mis-invoicing to evade customs duties, VAT, or income taxes;
- A corrupt public official or family members using an anonymous shell company to transfer dirty money to bank accounts elsewhere;
- An illegal trafficker carrying cash across the border and depositing it in a foreign bank; or
- A terrorist financier wiring money to an operative abroad.

Global Financial Integrity (GFI) estimates that in 2013, US\$1.1 trillion left developing countries in illicit financial outflows. Its methodology is considered to be quite conservative, as it does not pick up movements of bulk cash, mispricing of services, or most money laundering.

Beyond the direct economic impact of such massive haemorrhage, illicit financial flows hurt government revenues and society at large. They also facilitate transnational organized crime, foster corruption, undermine governance and decrease tax revenues.

## Where does the money flow to?

Most illicit financial outflows from developing countries ultimately end up in banks in countries like the US and the UK, as well as in tax havens like Switzerland, the Cayman Islands or Singapore. GFI estimates that about 45 per cent of illicit flows end up in offshore financial centres and 55 per cent in developed countries. University of California, Berkeley Professor Gabriel Zucman has estimated that 6 to 8 per cent of global wealth is offshore, mostly not reported to tax authorities.

According to GFI, Malaysia lost US\$418.542 billion during 2004-2013, losing US\$48.25 billion in 2013 alone. The illicit capital outflows stem from tax evasion, crime, corruption and other illicit activities. Malaysia is fifth among the top five countries for illicit capital flight, after

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# Broken Windows vs. Sanctuary City

## By Black Alliance for Just Immigration

On Saturday, Feb. 11, 2017, Coalition to End Broken Windows, ICE FREE NYC, The Black Alliance for Just Immigration, DRUM, ANSWER Coalition and several other grassroots organizations held a rally in Washington Square Park to challenge the city's notion of a Sanctuary City while still employing Broken Windows policing tactics. Certain elements in the city fear letting go of this strategy for the fear that the city might slide back into the "Bad Old Days" of the 70's, 80's and early 90's; when federal funding began to dry up along with the city's manufacturing base.

Enter the 1990's and Broken Windows policing; Bratton's brainchild and Giuliani's cudgel. Giuliani's 1993 mayoral campaign was not meant to address the social issues plaguing the city for the previous 20 years, but to beat into submission those most affected by the same social conditions. Thus, "Broken Windows" was the most formidable weapon. The premise was, by targeting low-level offenders, serious offenders would be caught in the net as well. Locally, Broken Windows and Giuliani's "stern leadership" was given sole credit for "cleaning" the city up.

The truth is, the crack era tapered off by the mid - 90's and a robust economy helped cities to shore up their resources, especially in New York, the nation's financial capital. Today, 23 years later with the lowest crime rate in over 50 years and rabid gentrification, Broken Windows policing has continued to be the cudgel meant to pacify black

## Fare beating is the number one cause for arrests in the city, but this cost is only a portion of a Broken Windows strategy

and brown communities and fare beating is the number one arrest in the city.

If we are no longer in the "bad old days", what is the purpose of this overzealous policing tactic? Is it still necessary to criminalize someone because they can't keep up with rising fares? Was it ever necessary? And on the other hand, how many times does a driver have to run an E-pass toll before they are arrested, if ever? Why is the penalty for jumping a turnstile much worse than running a toll? By asking the right questions you get closer to the truth. Along with relieving traffic congestion and making the outer-boroughs more accessible; one of the main purposes of the subway system was to make the working poor in New York City more mobile, both upwardly and outwardly.

Now that very system that was built for their benefit has been used against them, and grows ever more inaccessible with each fare hike. It's no coincidence that running a toll is not criminalized and not as heavily fined when compared to turnstile jumpers. People of color in the New York Metro area are more likely to be taking public transportation versus driving, therefore criminalizing turnstile jumping inherently affects people of color and the working poor disproportionately. Moreover, not only are fare beat-

ers in the city targeted, but specifically fare beaters in black and brown neighborhoods. I have witnessed fare beating in predominantly white areas go unanswered virtually every time it has happened in my presence. However, not only are police more focused on fare beating in Black and Latino neighborhoods, but they have even gone as far as to target those asking for a swipe from exiting riders.

The result is that 92 per cent of those arrested for fare beating are black and brown, costing the city some \$50 million to arrest 30,000 people a year. Furthermore, people arrested for fare beating are also at risk of deportation, one of many examples of how Broken Windows policy is not conducive with the notion of a Sanctuary City.

Fare beating is the number one cause for arrests in the city, but this cost is only a portion of a Broken Windows strategy. A PROP study revealed that when adding court costs associated with low-level arrests, Broken Windows policing costs the city \$400 million a year; that's over \$1 million a day to keep an already falling crime rate down. On top of this, the mayor recently proposed a budget that allocates \$275 million for a new firing range for the NYPD, more than twice the 2016 budget for the Summer Youth Employment Program.

What brings crime down? Giving teenagers from underserved communities job opportunities or making sure the NYPD has more accurate aim? My wish is for the reader to understand, that over-policing; especially in a city where crime has

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# Youth ambassadors to unite in Russia

A delegation of youth ambassadors from Jamaica are readying to travel to Russia where the 19th Festival of Youth and Students will unite more than 20,000 young people from all over the world for active participation in addressing a global sustainable development agenda.

Tijani Christian who is chairperson of the Caribbean Regional Youth Council (CRYC) and Youth Ambassador of Jamaica to the Commonwealth and a Member of the CARICOM Single Market & Economy (CSME) will lead the group.

Two months ago, during the 6th United Nations Economic and Social Council Youth Forum, Christian -- along with Grigory Petushkov, his Russian counterpart -- signed a memorandum of understanding on youth cooperation and development.

"The MOU seeks to strengthen the role of young people in social inclusion, cultural diversity and multilateral cooperation in capacity building and partnership for educational and employment opportunities to



## Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

facilitate the offering of capacity building, cultural exchanges, scholarships, internship and job opportunities in building higher levels of cooperation between the Caribbean and Russia."

Both sides agreed that the signing "implies tighter integration in preparation of the festival, recruiting participants in the countries and promotion of the festival movement."

Guided by the desire to develop closer cooperation in the field of preparation of the XIX World Festival of Youth and Students, Christian also vowed to facilitate the establishment of a National Preparatory Committees in the Caribbean to form national delegations for participation in the festival. In addition the agreement insured that the delegation would promote the festival at various events in the Caribbean by distributing information about its

aim to being among the biggest non-governmental, international organizations, educational institutions.

The partnership agreement signed on Jan. 30 sealed an agreement to ensure greater participation of Caribbean youths as well as secure input for development of an agenda for discussion during the festival.

"Feel the future! Be leader!" formed a summation of the purpose and agreement on cooperation between the two councils.

In the presence of members representing CRYC, National Youth Council of Russia (NYCR) and the Association of Non-Governmental Organisations the two youth leaders inked an agreement of partnership for the festival slated to be held in Sochi from Oct. 14-22.

Approximately 700 delegates, including more than 35 ministers of youth policy, deputy



Jamaican Tijani Christian and Russian counterpart shake on MOU agreement at the United Nations. Facebook

ministers and heads of agencies of the UN member state participated in the forum.

Annually held since 2012, forum participants comprise membership from the Caribbean's Anguilla, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Guyana, Montserrat, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, St. Kitts & Nevis, Puerto Rico, Cuba and Jamaica.

Several UN agencies including UNESCO endorsed Russia's initiative to host the international festival.

It will unite the commu-

nity of young leaders in various fields - representatives of NGOs, youth, achievers in science, art, sports, pedagogy, IT, politics and some of the best representatives of the student community as well as youths who are interested in Russian culture.

Reportedly, Russian President Vladimir Putin commented on the youth gathering saying: "Aspiration to the future and desire to work on a new level in a new capacity" should underline the purpose of the

Continued on Page 18

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# New research projects on Zika in the Caribbean

By Nelson A. King

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) says 17 new research proposals on Zika will be conducted in Latin America and the Caribbean to identify solutions to address the virus that causes congenital brain abnormalities when pregnant women are infected, and triggers Guillain-Barré syndrome in some infected people.

PAHO said on Thursday that the research projects, ranging from the identification of transmission risk factors to evaluating diagnostic tools and examining the use of prenatal counseling and contraceptives, are part of its joint initiative with two World Health Organization (WHO) programs: the Special Program for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) and the Special Program for Research, Development and Training in Research in Human Reproduction (HRP).

"These research projects are crucial for improving our understanding of the dynamics of the Zika epidemic and potential public health solutions," said Dr. Francisco Becerra, Assistant Director of PAHO, WHO regional office for the Americas.

PAHO said research will be carried out by leading academic institutions

and nongovernmental organizations in Brazil (7 investigations), Colombia (4), Honduras (1), Jamaica (1), Mexico (1), Peru (2) and Venezuela (1).

Each research project is due to receive up to US \$20,000 from the WHO small grants program, PAHO said.

"This is the kind of collaboration that is critical to finding solutions that transcend areas of expertise," said TDR director John Reeder. "We are pleased to be contributing to the WHO Zika Strategic Response Framework," he added.

HRP director Ian Askew agreed: "The Zika outbreak has challenged conventional approaches to addressing health emergencies.

"Supporting research that addresses the interactions between transmission, behavior and outcomes, and that can provide quick and timely information to policy makers, is absolutely essential," Askew said.

PAHO said the initiative is part of the research capacity strengthening programs of HRP and TDR, and has received additional funds from the WHO Zika Strategic Response Plan.

In total, the initiative received 78 proposals from 19 countries, PAHO said.

# Tax havens need to be shut

Continued from page 10

China, Russia, Mexico and India, but tops the list, by far, on a per capita basis.

GFI's December 2015 report found that developing and emerging economies had lost US\$7.8 trillion in illicit financial flows over the preceding ten-year period, with illicit outflows increasing by an average of 6.5 per cent yearly. Over the decade, an average of 83.4 per cent of illicit financial outflows were due to fraudulent trade mis-invoicing, involving intentional misreporting by transnational companies of the value, quantity or composition of goods on customs declaration forms and invoices, usually for tax evasion.

## Stemming the haemorrhage

Many tax avoidance schemes are not illegal. But just because it is not illegal

does not mean it is not a form of abuse, fraud or corruption. To tackle the corruption at the heart of the global financial system, tax havens need to be shut down, not reformed. 'On-shoring' such funds, without prohibiting legitimate investments abroad, will ensure that future investment income will be subject to tax as in the US and Canada.

If not compromised by influential interests benefiting from such flows, responsible governments should seek to enact policies to:

- Detect and deter cross-border tax evasion;
- Improve transparency of transnational corporations;
- Curtail trade mis-invoicing;
- Strengthen anti-money laundering laws and enforcement; and
- Eliminate anonymous shell companies.

# Broken system

Continued from page 10

been falling year after consecutive year; is essentially repression. Furthermore, how can a sanctuary city expect to protect the undocumented when it's policing strategies target those same communities and arrest them and fingerprint them for the same low-level offenses many of them are being deport-

ed for? Bear in mind, this is taking place in a climate where just having an arrest on your record is likely to have ICE knocking at your door regardless if you have a conviction or not. The city may be safe, but we cannot police our way out of social issues. An over-policed city is not conducive to a Sanctuary City and Broken Windows cannot fix a broken system.

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# CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 4

## Guyana

A High Court Judge in Guyana has sentenced two men to death for their involvement in the 2008 massacre when gunmen attacked the small Bartica mining town near the Essequibo River, killing 12 people, including three police officers.

Mark Royden Williams was found guilty on seven charges of murder and five counts of manslaughter, while Dennis Williams was also found guilty of seven counts of murder by a 12-member jury recently.

A third accused, Roger Anthony Simon was freed of all 12 counts of murder and seven counts of manslaughter.

According to the charges, the three accused were among a number of gunmen, who on Sunday, Feb. 17, 2008, attacked the small mining town in Bartica, killing 12 residents in the bloody rampage.

After the murders, the gang is reported to have stolen arms, cash, ammunition and a vehicle from the police station.

The men then used the stolen vehicle to drive through the streets of Bartica shooting at civilians. They then fled Bartica by boat.

## Suriname

Suriname's state-owned oil company Staatsolie, recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Trinidad and Tobago-owned Petrotrin to establish a formal framework for mutual cooperation between both companies on commercial and technical fronts.

In a media release Petrotrin stated that the MoU which was signed by

both companies, focused on both the "upstream and downstream arms of the crude oil value chain"

"Upstream, Staatsolie has several near offshore blocks ranging from exploration through appraisal and development, for which opportunities for partnering with Petrotrin," the release said.

The Company is also interested in applying enhanced oil recovery strategies in onshore blocks to improve oil recovery and this represents another area where Petrotrin will share its expertise," Petrotrin said.

Staatsolie, like Petrotrin is involved in exploration and production and refining and marketing is also involved in retail product sales, commercial power generation and gold mining.

In 2016, Staatsolie commissioned a new refinery with a capacity of 15,000 barrels a day.

## Trinidad

Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley and his Caribbean counterparts have agreed on a draft roadmap for the region's single information and communications and technology (ICT) space.

A release issued by the Office of Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley said the decision was made on the final day of the recent two-day CARICOM Heads of Government Intersessional Summit in Guyana.

The single ICT space was identified by CARICOM leaders as critical to accelerating the implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).

— compiled by Azad Ali

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# Haiti gov't creates commission to probe prison conditions

By David McFadden

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Haiti announced a new government commission on Friday to probe the country's prisons and other overcrowded lockups and make recommendations to improve desperate conditions for inmates.

President Jovenel Moise, who was sworn in earlier this month as Haiti's leader for the next five years, announced the creation of the nine-member commission on Friday. The panel will have a month to finish its review and submit a report.

"Under my presidency, the Haitian nation will by no means ignore what seems to be a flagrant violation, even a contempt for the right to life that every individual should have, regardless of where he lives," Moise said in a late Friday statement.

The presidential announcement came a few days after The Associated Press published an exclusive report on an upsurge of inmate deaths, including 21 last month at the country's biggest prison, due in large part to malnutrition-related illnesses and other preventable diseases.

An AP team saw a corpse and emaciated men with sunken cheeks and protruding ribs at the infirmary at Haiti's severely overcrowded National Penitentiary, which houses some 40 percent of the country's inmates in squalid conditions.

Prisoners were crammed shoulder-to-shoulder in cellblocks so overcrowded they are forced to sleep in makeshift hammocks suspended from the ceiling or squeeze four to a bunk. New arrivals jostle for space on filthy floors where inmates on lockdown 22 hours a day must defecate into plastic bags in the absence of latrines.

Conditions are also appalling at other Haitian lockups, including severely overcrowded and unsanitary pens at several police stations.

Most of those incarcerated in Haiti have not been convicted of a crime but are held in prolonged pretrial detention, often for years, waiting for a chance to see a judge.

Haiti's penal system is by far the globe's most congested, with a staggering 454 percent occupancy level, according to the most recent ranking by the University of London's Institute for Criminal Policy Research.

Prison authorities told the AP that they try their best to meet inmates' needs, but repeatedly receive insufficient funds from the state to buy food and cooking fuel, leading to deadly cases of malnutrition-related ailments such as beriberi and anemia.

U.N. Special Representative Sandra Honore said this week that 42 detainee deaths so far this year are linked to "the worsening of cruel, inhuman and degrading" conditions.

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# Harlem runner to be honored at benefit

By Alexandra Simon

The 4th annual Harlem Haberdashery Masquerade Benefit Ball is honoring Harlem native Alison Desir with their Trailblazer of the Year Award on March 4. Desir made international headlines for her stand-out run to raise money for Planned Parenthood, in protest of President Trump's election win.

Her successful campaign to run from Harlem to Washington D.C. led to her raising more than her \$44,000 goal and organizers of the annual benefit say they knew immediately they would be celebrating Desir and her influential mission.

"Our goal is to highlight the community and the people doing good things, and we probably knew right from beginning it was destined for her," said Sharene Wood, founder of Harlem Haberdashery. "Initially it blew more than she anticipated and timing and climax of events really helped

her initiative.

And when Desir learned she was going to be a recipient of the Trailblazer of the Year Award, Wood said she was surprised because she still showed her enthusiasm over the popularity of her campaign.

"She was very excited — I don't think she knew of the impact of Harlem Run," said Wood. "I really don't think she knew what impact it would create and I don't think she realized that."

Desir, along with three other honoree, will be awarded at the ceremony, and she said she was more than thrilled to learn of her upcoming honor.

"It was completely unexpected and I feel so grateful to be honored in this way," said Desir. "Harlem Haberdashery has been like a second family to me and we have similar shared interests in the community and love for Harlem — for them to recognize me — I can't wait to see the honor."

Her run to D.C. inspired

dozens of solidarity runs across the country, even in South Korea and United Kingdom. She still expresses amazement at the support she gained for her campaign, along with the growth and interest of Harlem Run, the collective fitness organization she founded in 2011.

"It was extremely rewarding and unexpected — I felt a whole mixture of emotions and it showed me the power of ideas," said Desir. "It let me know when you get the feeling to get creative with activism — whatever you do, big or small, can have a deeper impact."



Harlem native and avid runner, Alison Désir, gained a spotlight for her politically-charged run from Harlem to the nation's capital to raise money for Planned Parenthood. She will be honored with the Trailblazer of the Year award at the Harlem Haberdashery masquerade in March.

Da Ping Luo

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## World Festival of Youth

Continued from page 11

Sochi gathering.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov added that holding such events at the proper level "will contribute to the consolidation of an atmosphere of trust and understanding in the international arena, in promoting an objective image of our country, strengthening its position as a great cultural nation."

The XIX World Festival of Youth and Students in Sochi will be the largest event in the field of international youth cooperation and will bring together more than 20,000 young people from 150 countries.

According to Russian organizers, the festival will provide "a platform for dialogue, global form of communication: through discussions, cultural programs, sports, through free communication to find ways to confront the challenges that younger generation is facing today."

Head of the Federal Agency for Youth Affairs Sergey Pospelov drew attention to the importance of including not only Russian youth and student organizations but also youth leaders from other countries, in the process of preparing and working on the event.

"The World Federation of Democratic Youth was immediately created after the Second World War with the support of

UN agencies. The organization, based on the idea to unite the youth of the world and to struggle against fascism, dictatorship, pursues its policy in the framework of the activities of the youth policy of the United Nations. The festival is really important and significant event for young people around the world."

The Caribbean council described the festival "as a strategic youth governance and advocacy movement with one voice working towards regional representation, integration and co-operation as a platform for youth development."

Twenty-four-year-old Christian was among 60 young people from across the Commonwealth recognized last year as exceptional leaders in their community. He received a prestigious Queen's Young Leaders Award from Queen Elizabeth II.

Prior to that in 2013 he won the Prime Minister's National Youth Award for Excellence. Christian championed the coveted prize in the leadership category. Acknowledgement on the web portal for the Jamaica Information Service notes that he is currently working on an initiative called Plant Jamaica, a non-governmental organization (NGO), which aims to promote sustainable livelihoods through community farms.

His NGO was formed to encourage people to grow healthy produce for their families.

*Catch You On The Inside!*

# Museum Hue celebrates second anniversary

By Alexandra Simon

A cultural organization diversifying the museum and arts preservation industry is celebrating its anniversary at BLDG 92 on Feb. 24. Museum Hue is turning two and the founders of the arts collective are hosting a fiesta alongside Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn's Black Artstory Month series. For their first anniversary they focused on promoting the mission and culture, this year they are creating a safe space for their supporters in light of social issues and highlighting black pride, said one of the founders.

"With all the things happening in country for our second anniversary we decided to really have an opportunity to offer people a space of healing in community," said Stephanie Cunningham, co-founder and creative director of Museum Hue.

"And we're not just founded by two black women, but founded in the month of February which is also Black His-

tory Month and so it's giving opportunity for us to celebrate blackness right now."

Guests can participate in workshops, hands-on art and murals creation, discussions, and meditation at the gathering. In collaboration with this year's fifth annual Black Artstory Month, which theme this year is "Healing and African methods and traditions," Cunningham said she was excited for members of the community to take part in it.

"We partnered with them to highlight the theme of rituals of healing of the Diaspora and so we're really excited about this partnership," said Cunningham.

In response to the lack of diversity seen in museums, founders Cunningham and Monica O. Montgomery created Museum Hue to increase and promote the visibility of people of color in art and culture spaces. In just two years, their outreach has grown rapidly and globally recognized, according

to Cunningham.

"Mostly what's exciting for me is that we've been able to create a community of our own, whether it be online and real time in-person community as well — and not just locally but nationally and throughout the world," she said.

"What we're realizing is that our influence is spreading wide and despite conversations and conversations — most importantly I'm excited we're celebrating ourselves."

Cunningham said the event will be all-inclusive, but focused on prioritizing the need to celebrate people of color.

"The focus is always on our community — we always want to send that message home," she said. "Everyone can come but know that this space and the discussion are centered around our communities."



Founders Monica Montgomery, left, and Stephanie Cunningham, started Museum Hue to highlight the work of people of color and diversify the museum industry.

Brian-Christopher Cunningham

# Mayor hosts Black History Month reception

By Tangerine Clarke

New York Mayor, Bill de Blasio told an audience at the American Museum of Natural History on Feb. 23, that Malcolm X redefined "our understanding of our history" and despite his short life, his great ideals are alive and well today.

The late civil rights activist, whose analysis, de Blasio said inspired him, left great examples for others to follow.

"We gather to celebrate black history, to celebrate all of black history — the folks who are the household names, the folks who changed the world but

their names were never known, folks from long ago, folks making history now."

"We're here to cherish all of it because black history is American history, but it has not been treated that way, said Mayor de Blasio, who was joined by wife, Chirlane McCray dur-

ing a reception in the Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullnan Hall of the Universe, celebrating Black History Month.

The politician called the Women's March in Washington, inspiring and extraordinary, stating that the simplest and clearest sign that said "Thank you, black women" was impactful.

He called it historic, adding that the momentum was created by an audacious group of young women of color who said they needed to march.

"Never underestimate the power of a motivated woman of color, and particularly, a motivated black woman, said Mayor de Blasio.

He said history will note, that first black president made significant strides when he created fairness and equality, and a better life for people, through the Affordable Care Act."

"You now get to make the history. You now have to pick up the mantle. It's your generation's turn to do something that will truly change the world, said Mayor de Blasio,

who also thanked President of the American Museum of Natural History, Ellen Futter, for graciously hosting the Black History Month reception.

The politician then presented certificates to three young African Americans for their outstanding contribution to the community.

They are: Beverly Bond, for her bold commitment to using mentorship and the power of the arts to generate social change and empower young women of color, as the founder of Black Girls Rock, Kimberly Drew for "inspiring a passion for black, contemporary Art, and Sydnie Mosley, for using her talents as a dancer, choreographer, educator, and writer to inspire youth.

Former Mayor David Dinkins, Deputy Mayor Richard Buery, District Attorney of the Bronx Darcel Clark — the first African American woman — to become a district attorney in New York State, Guyanese-born, Richard David, candidate for NY City Council, and other elected officials attended the reception.



Mayor Bill DeBlasio (left) with Honoree Kimberly Drew and First Lady Chirlane McCray, at right.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

# New York City Public Library renamed after legend

By Dawn Plummer

The Civil Rights Movement in the United States is chronicled in the annals of America history and many long-standing Black leaders have significantly contributed to this legacy, among the many stalwarts who made the movement possible is the legendary social justice defender, activist and entertainer, Harry Belafonte. His work for decades however, has not gone unnoticed and even today Harry Belafonte is still being recognized for this work and the meaningful contributions he helped make towards social changes that are beneficial for all.

During the recent State of the City address at the Apollo Theatre in Harlem, New York City's Mayor, Bill de Blasio announced that the 115th Street Branch Library in Harlem would be renamed "The Harry Belafonte – 115th Street Branch Library."

In the announcement, Mayor de Blasio stated that

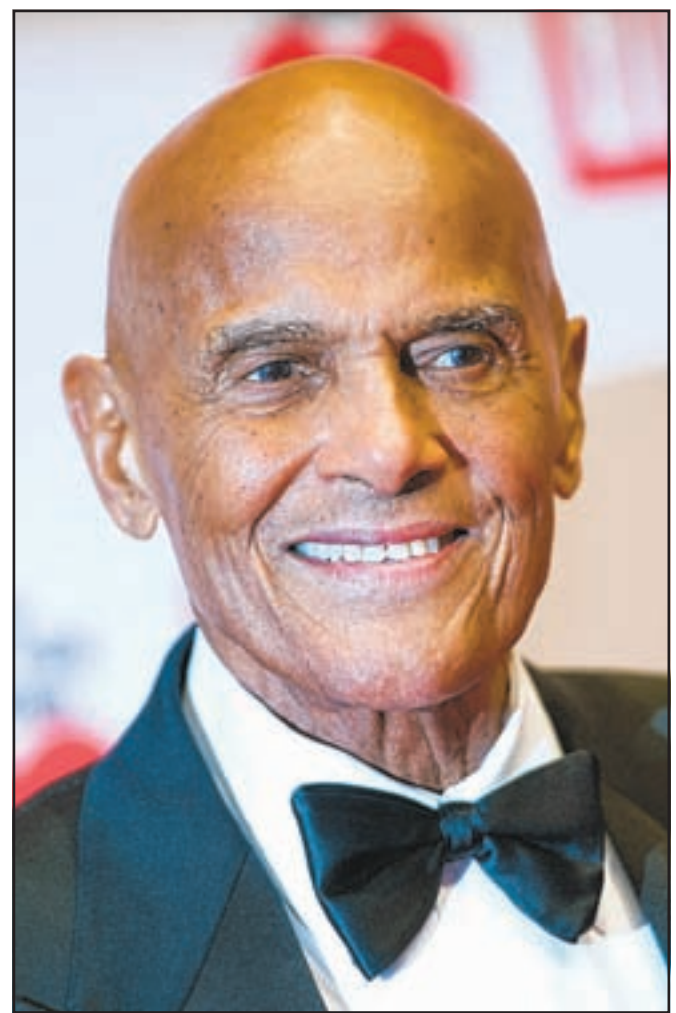
the honor was a conjoined effort, collaborated with the Executive Committee of the New York City Public Library. The mayor said that the decision was based on the long history of Belafonte's work in the community and the significant role he played in social justice, culture and activism in New York City "it was my honor and privilege to work with the New York City Public Library to honor, Mr. Belafonte and celebrate the life and accomplishment of this invaluable New Yorker."

New York City Public Library President Tony Max said it was an honor for the New York Public Library to be a part of the recognition of Belafonte's work. Max said, "it is perfect name sake." Belafonte, he said has deep roots in Harlem and the values he stood for over the years made New York City Public Library supportive in honoring the legend. Max noted too, that the recognition of the Civil Right activist is a reflection of

the, "values and passion that Mr. Belafonte stood for over his long and distinguished career."

Belafonte paid homage to Harlem, "I was born here. Harlem holds a very special place in my heart and I am so honored that I will now have a place in Harlem. A library is a place for people to come."

Harlem resident, Bridgette Desport expressed gratitude for such a worthy recognition for Harry Belafonte. "I was happy to learn about it," she said. "He is the perfect match and one of the main reasons I am so excited is that he is still alive to witness this honor and commemoration. His work is invaluable," Ms. Desport stated. Commenting on the trajectory of Belafonte's excellent work, Desport said, "it is incredible and if the young people could see him in person at the 115th Street Branch Library it would be an inspiration to them." Harry Belafonte was born to Jamaican parentage. He turned 90 on March 1.



In this Dec. 6, 2014 photo, Harry Belafonte arrives at the charity gala Ein Herz fuer Kinder (A heart for children) in Berlin. Associated Press / Steffi Loos, File

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## Crime poses threat to CARICOM

By Azad Ali

Crime, security and economic development were high on the agenda of the recent two-day 24th CARICOM intersessional summit in Georgetown, Guyana recently.

CARICOM Secretary General Irwin La Rocque said crime continued to pose a threat to the 15-member regional grouping and is no longer just a national issue.

He said it's a regional issue and it demands a regional solution," he said, adding that trans-border crime is something one needs to address, given the need to reduce the level of criminality within the Caribbean.

The regional leaders had entered the summit with the future of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) that allows for the free movement of goods, skills, labor and services across the region still under review.

Guyana President



Guyana's President David Granger.

Associated Press / Joedson Alves

David Granger acknowledged that the discussions "for which we received a review, the matter of free movement of skilled persons was ventilated. We agreed on priority areas to be addressed, including the completion of the protocol on procedures of travel and we agreed in priority areas to be addressed including the

challenges of payment for goods and services traded within the region."

Granger said that the "unacceptable levels of crime" in CARICOM was another critical agenda item at the meeting with the leaders resolving "to do more to curb the scourge, including placing greater focus on the social determinations of crime, especially among the youth."

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Jamaica's Director of Tourism Paul Pennicook. Jamaica Tourism Board

## JTB honored for outstanding public relations

By Nelson A. King

The Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB) says it has started 2017 on a very high note, winning two coveted public relations awards for its marketing of the Jamaica House 2016 at the 31st Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The Hospitality Sales & Marketing Association International (HSMIAI) honored the JTB with two Adrian Awards: A Silver in the Special Events category and Bronze in the Consumer Campaign category.

"We are honored to be recognized by the Hospitality Sales & Marketing Association International with these awards. They are a testament of the hard work and commitment of the team at the Jamaica Tourist Board to create campaigns and programs that resonate in our markets and amplify our brand across the world," said Paul Pennicook, Jamaica's director of tourism.

With the Olympics taking place in South America for the first time, Pennicook said the JTB used this grand stage to engage Brazilian and international consumers.

Over a 10-day period, he said Jamaica House was utilized to promote Destination Jamaica through a strategic communication campaign encompassing a mix of traditional media relations, social media and consumer activations.

Pennicook said this gave potential visitors and fans of Jamaica a taste of the island's culture through its music and food, and a chance to celebrate with Jamaicans.

Additionally, the JTB executed watch events in the US and Canada, as well as facilitated media from across UK and Europe, Pennicook said.

As a result, he said Jamaica House was visited by over 20,000 patrons, over 100 travel agents and tour operators and amassed over 4 billion global media impressions, including the BBC, and CNN and NBC in the US.

# Barbadian-born female jurist makes history in Ninth Judicial District

By Lorraine Muir

Justice Janet C. Malone, a native of the Caribbean island of Barbados becomes the first Black female justice of the New York State Supreme Court, Ninth Judicial District. The New York State Supreme Court Ninth Judicial District comprises of: Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester Counties.

The induction ceremony was held last month at the Joseph F. Gagliardi Ceremonial Courtroom, Westchester County and presided by the Hon. Alan D. Scheinkman, J.S.C., Administrative Judge of the Ninth Judicial District.

Justice Malone chronicled her journey from the eastern Caribbean island of Barbados, as an immigrant, hoping for better life. Her mother was the first to embark on this incredible journey, migrating to the United States, worked three jobs, one of which supported a family of a lawyer, who in turn assisted the migration of the family from Barbados. It was Dec. 12, 1971 Judge Malone landed in New York.

Defying the odds and advice of school counselors to get a vocation, Judge Malone dreamed big and set her sights on higher education. She attended Utica College of Syracuse, earning a Bachelors of Science in 1986, and Juris Doctor from the City University of New York, Queens College. Judge Malone remarked: "Can no one define you or set the narrative for you." With instilled "perseverance, and God in your vessel you can weather any storm."

Before landing the esteemed job as Justice of the Supreme Court, Judge Malone's legal career included: Assistant to the District Attorney, Manhattan office; private practicing attorney with Bozeman & Trott, LLP; Family Court Judge, Westchester County; an Acting Supreme Court Justice in the Ninth



The Hon. Delores Scott Brathwaite, administers the Oath of Office to Justice Janet C. Malone while her family and friends look on.

Judicial District.

The Hon. Edwina Richardson Mendelson, acting justice of the NYS Supreme Court, Criminal Term, New York County, who met Judge Malone while studying together at SUNY Law School, described Judge Malone as: bold, compassionate, kind, bossy, quite serious with an infectious laugh, commands respect, and one who knows there is no perfection but strives for it.

These qualities, personal faith, commitment, belief in education, and support of an indelible family, propelled her to this moment in time. Justice Janet C. Malone beamed with pride, yet "humbled and honored" to have been truly

blessed with this remarkable journey and achievement. "Mom, this day is for you! Hope I made you proud."

The Hon. Andrea Stewart Cousins, New York State Democratic Conference Leader; the Hon. Robert P. Astorino, Westchester County Executive; and the Hon. Anthony A. Scarpino, Westchester County District Attorney were among public officials extending remarks at the induction. The Hon. Delores Scott Brathwaite, Town Justice, Town Court of Greenburg officiated the Oath of Office, while husband George A. Malone robed the new justice of the New York Supreme Court, Ninth Judicial District, the Hon. Janet C. Malone.

## Eric Holder's outfit front runner to work for CARICOM

By Bert Wilkinson

A corporate law firm linked to former US Attorney General Eric Holder is tipped to be hired by Caribbean Community governments to lobby American commercial banks and lawmakers in a simmering row between banks in the region and counterparts in the United States.

Antiguan Prime Minister Gaston Browne said at the weekend that a firm "connected to Mr. Eric Holder" is being considered to persuade mega American financial institutions like Bank of America to resume processing checks, wire transfers and other transactions from banks in the Caribbean after most were either cut off or warned about disconnection of ties last year.

The banks cited high risks in processing transactions from the region and have

indicated that they are under increased scrutiny from federal agencies so they have severed ties with the region.

Browne called the termination of banking services by US institutions "an existential threat that could cripple the region."

He said leaders who wrapped up a two-day meeting in Guyana at the weekend have approved a budget of \$240,000 to pay the firm to work for the region in an ongoing dispute over alleged high risk banking transactions from domestically-owned banks in the Caribbean. The process is called de-risking.

Holder who met leaders on several occasions while he was attorney general up to 2015, returned to his previous law firm of Covington & Burling after leaving the Justice Department. The firm is

known to serve Wall Street clients.

Browne said that the region has noted the fact that banks have stopped cutting off ties with the Caribbean apparently after being "issued certain guidelines for correspondent banks to deal with the issue of correspondent banking and to avert the type of willy nilly de-risking that we have seen in the past."

He said the Caribbean Association of Indigenous Banks and other stakeholders will be asked to contribute to payment of the lobbying firm.

Meanwhile, the final communique of the summit devoted considerable space to the banking issue, saying leaders urged affected banks to ensure that they are fully compliant with rules pertaining to anti money laundering and anti terrorism rules to avoid problems.



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# African American soldiers on the 'Ghost Front'

"The Lost Eleven"  
by Denise George and Robert Child  
c.2017, NAL Caliber  
\$28.00 / \$37.00 Canada  
416 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You are on a need-to-know basis.

You're told only what's relevant, and nothing more. Rumors, innuendo, extra little details, none of that's important; only what you need is what you get. But read "The Lost Eleven" by Denise George and Robert Child, and you may wonder what else you're missing.

Hitler reportedly did not want the 1936 Olympics in his Berlin.

Not a sporting man, he didn't see the point, until he was told that the games might be a good chance to showcase his Aryan athletes. He acquiesced, and openly seethed when African American star Jesse Owens snatched medals away from Hitler's all-German track team.

"Almost five thousand miles away," Owens' achievements made a strong impression on young George Davis, who puffed with a patriotic pride that lingered and that carried him to the recruitment office when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor. Against his father's wish-

es, Davis joined the Army.

But serving Uncle Sam didn't protect a man from Jim Crow.

At the beginning of the War, say George and Child, fewer than four thousand African-Americans were enlisted in the military. Most landed in racially-segregated, noncombat units, tasked with "menial labor" well behind the front lines, which rankled them. Many were eager to see action, and were denied it but Davis and his fellow soldiers at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma, got what they wished for: their 333rd Field Artillery Battalion was ultimately trained to operate the new 155mm Howitzers.

They were going overseas.

From Normandy in late June, 1944, to France and Brittany, the 333rd and 969th Battalions did what they were sent to do; by September 1944, they were on their way to Schönberg, Belgium, to a "Ghost Front," so-called because it was "quiet." Once there, men of both Battalions heard German rockets and believed that the sounds were recordings meant to fool them into believing German troops were nearby.

But in the early morning hours of Dec. 16, the gun-noise was authentic.

The 333rd, unprepared and ill-equipped, was under attack...

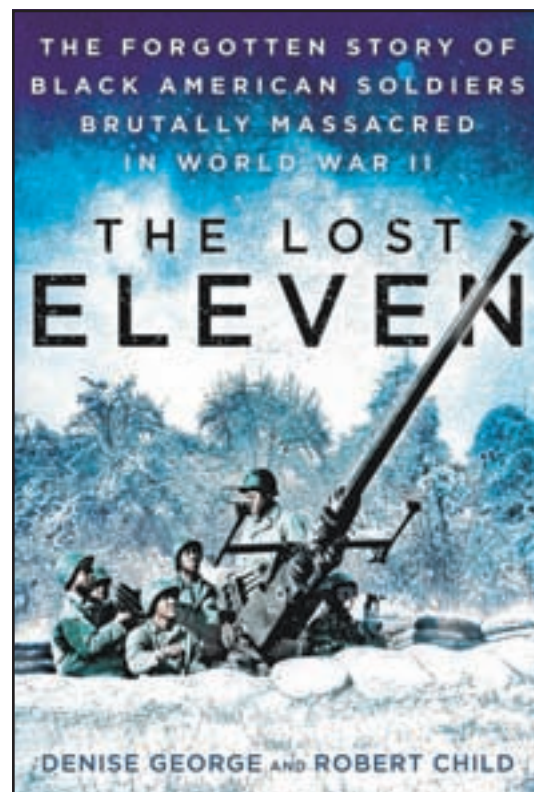
Some three years ago, and nearly 70 years after their bloody capture, a House of Representatives Resolution finally gave the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion the "official" recognition it deserved (Belgium had lauded them in 2007). Even so, their story is rarely mentioned in World War II history.

It's not much better told here.

I had such high hopes for it: "The Lost Eleven" could have become a classic, a story that war buffs and historians might happily reference. Instead, it's marred by pages and pages of fictionalized conversations, imagined emotions, and recreated actions that make this book more novel than not. One could say that it moves the story along, but not very well; the conversations are borderline-insulting to a reader's intelligence, and the imagined emotions felt

like so much pandering.

Add that to the unnecessarily gory ending told (which felt out-of-place in the tone of the rest of the book), and I say "pass" on "The Lost Eleven." If you want to learn about these brave African American soldiers, there are better ways to know.



Book cover of "The Lost Eleven" by Denise George and Robert Child.

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# 'Carnival Welcome'

For Trinidad and Tobago Carnival 2017, Caribbean Airlines operated over 250 international and regional flights, bringing approximately 30,000 passengers into Port of Spain.

As part of its annual Carnival Customer Appreciation, Caribbean Airlines kicked off its "Welcome to the Warmth of the Islands" event on Feb. 17. All passengers travelling on Caribbean Airlines flights into Port of Spain, from New York, Toronto, Grenada, Barbados and Georgetown were treated to an extra special welcome on arrival at the Piarco International Airport terminal.

Caribbean Airlines Senior Marketing Manager, Alicia Cabrera, who was on hand to welcome visitors stated "Caribbean Airlines' focus is on an enhanced travel experience for our valued customers and the 'Carnival welcome' is one of the key events on our Customer Appreciation calendar." Mrs Cabrera continued, "We recognise that carnival is an event which draws thousands of visitors to Trinidad and Tobago, and we want to ensure that they are greeted with warmth and hospitality on arrival to the home of Carnival."

Arriving passengers were welcomed by Caribbean Airlines' Invaders Steel Orchestra, host Patrick 'Hypeman' Alexis along with a live DJ, and old time carnival characters including the Dame Lorraine and Moko Jumbie. The treats



A fun welcome from Caribbean Airlines.

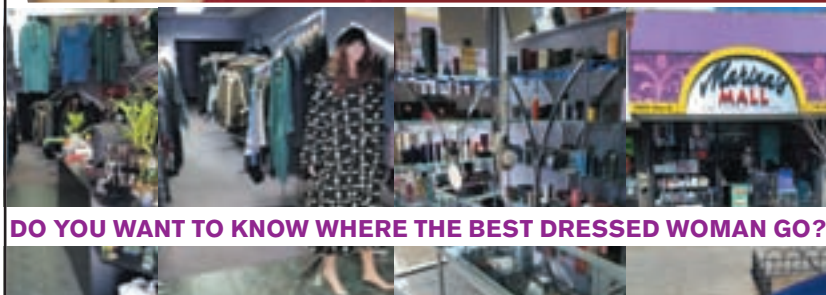
continued with complimentary doubles and the traditional "Red" soft drink, as well as Carnival Care packages, which included 'Carnival Safety Tips' provided by the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service. Lucky passengers also won airline tickets and passes to Carnival parties and events. The Tourism Development Company of Trinidad and Tobago (TDC) was on hand to promote its new Tourism app – "Go Trinbago."

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# Hundreds mourn Vincentian Carlos 'Paul' Adams

By Nelson A. King

Hundreds of Vincentian, Caribbean and American nationals last Sunday evening paid their last respects to Vincentian Carlos "Paul" Adams at a funeral service at his home church in Rahway, NJ.

Adams died on Feb. 17 after a prolonged battle with heart disease in which he underwent several surgeries, his wife, Merlina, told Caribbean Life. Adams was 57.

Mourners at the Agape Family Worship Center described Adams, as loving, caring and compassionate, among other superlatives.

"Carlos, you invested so much in our lives," said Adams' sister-in-law, Dalleane McNichols, in her tribute. "I often thought of you walking me down the aisle, but I know you will be there in spirit."

Members of the Agape Media Group, of which Adams was a member, joined in the glowing tributes during the two-hour-long service that was punctuated with lofty singing by the church's choir and congregation, backed up by the church's nine-member orchestra.

"Carlos was a great friend," said Media Group member Tanya, who, like another member, Sonia, did not give her last name. "Carlos always loved the Lord."

Sonia, who joined the Media Ministry 23 years ago, said Adams will be "solely missed."

Another young member of the church, whose name was also not given, said he and Adams had "stories."

"Those heart-to-heart conversations between me and you, I'll never forget," he said, looking at the flower-bedecked casket in front of the altar. "You were like a father to me. Your summer barbecues, I will miss your hamburgers [laughter]."

"You did a lot for me," he added, reading from a smart phone. "I'm sorry I didn't get to see you [before Adams expiry in the nearby hospital]. I wish I did."

"I'm hoping you're fishing in Heaven," continued the white mourner, alluding to Adams' love of fishing. "Catch a big fish for me [his voice quivering, his eyes reddening, and tears flowing down his cheeks]."

Adams' brother, Peter Adams, one year Adams' junior, who trekked from St. Vincent and the Grenadines for the funeral and interment, said his brother "loved life."

"The reality [of Adams' death] didn't hit me until I see him [his body in the casket] here tonight," said the recently-retired Station Sergeant in the Royal St. Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force, disclosing that Carlos was the third member of the Adams family to go to the Great Beyond in the last 10 years.



Adams' widow, Merlina, and son, Emeka (l), with mourners at final viewing.

Photo by Nelson A. King



Carlos 'Paul' Adams.

Their mother, Clementine Adams, died in the Bronx about seven years ago; and the youngest brother, Martin, predeceased Carlos in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The church's senior pastor, the Rev. Dr. Lawrence Powell, said Adams was "a great man, a wonderful father," asking mourners to give Adams a standing ovation. They, un-hesitantly, reciprocated.

After reading the obituary, Noreena Bayard, another sister-in-law, said Adams had "fought a strong and courageous battle, never losing faith."

Dr. Robert Barchi, president of Rutgers University, Piscataway, where Adams worked as a Student Loan Specialist, before he died, said in a state-

ment, read during the acknowledgments, that the faculty, staff and students at the university were "deeply saddened" by Adams' death.

"And we want you to know, you're in our prayers," said Dr. Barchi, who holds Ph. D and MD degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, referring to Merlina and the Adams' son, Emeka, 24, who sat next to his mother throughout the service.

Adams was born on July 4, 1959 to Innis and Clementine Adams, of Kingstown Park, Kingstown, the Vincentian capital. His parents predeceased him.

He attended the St. Mary's Primary and the St. Martin's Secondary schools in Kingstown, the Vincentian capital; and, after graduating from St. Martin's Secondary School, he went on to university in Trinidad and Tobago, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in business and accounting. The obituary did not indicate the name of the university.

Adams' first place of employment was at Y'delima, Ltd., in Kingstown, as an accountant for eight years.

He migrated to New York in 1986, working as a payroll supervisor at the nonprofit Catholic Charities, then at the Jewish Board, followed by Morgan Library.

Adams met his "best friend" Merlina in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in 1977. They later reconnected in the United States and were married in 1993.



Celebrating women: Haitian-American artists, Anie Alerte, left, and Riva Nyri Precil form the duo Anie and Riva. The singers will be kicking off BAM's women's month celebration on March 3.

Francesca Andre / Gustavo Torres

## Haitian singers at BAM

By Alexandra Simon

Two Haitian-American singers are opening BAM Cafe's Women's Month Celebration with a traditional Haitian music performance on March 3. Anie Alerte and Riva Nyri Precil, together form the pair Anie and Riva, will be honoring women with classic sounds from their homeland.

During the one-hour show, the duo whose musical styles range from soul, jazz, to traditional Haitian music, are set to sing an array of popular Haitian songs. Their act includes a few tunes that are well-known, and they also hope to gain newer listeners being introduced to the rhythms for the first time, said Precil.

"We are performing many traditional classics that the crowd will most likely recognize," she said. "For those who are new to this style, it will definitely be an interesting upbeat surprise which will hopefully intrigue them and leave them wanting more."

And there will be dancing as well, which Precil hopes encourages guests to vibe along.

"I like to keep my performance fun and entertaining so I dance a lot during my sets since the music is so lively and the rhythms are hypnotic," she said. "The idea is to get everyone on their feet."

Alerte said one particular song they will sing, "La Woman," highlights universal pride in womanhood and the strength of women in Haiti in the face of adversity.

"It's a song by Haitian singer Yole Deroose, that tells the story of Haitian men and women in Bateys in Dominican Republic — it's a story of a resilient woman who has to raise her children in the absence of her father," said Alerte.



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# Trump congratulates St. Lucia on independence anniversary

By Nelson A. King

The Donald Trump administration in the United States has congratulated St. Lucia on its 38th anniversary of political independence from Great Britain.

“On behalf of President Trump and the people of the United States, I congratulate the people of St. Lucia on 38 years of independence,” said US Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson in a statement on Wednesday, St. Lucia’s Independence Day.

“We value St. Lucia as our long-time partner and friend,” he added. “Our bilateral relationship stands strong, as we work together to spur economic development and keep our nations secure.

“May peace and joy be plentiful in the years ahead for all St. Lucians,” Tillerson continued.

St. Lucians on Wednesday celebrated the anniversary with the traditional military parade and youth rally.

St. Lucians also flocked to the Daren Sammy Grounds in the north of the island for several activities marking the occasion, under the theme “I am St. Lucian”.

In his Independence message, Prime Minister Allen Chastanet urged nationals to put aside their differences in the interest of nationhood.

Chastanet, who led his United Workers Party (UWP) to victory in the general elections last June, lauded the electorate for changing a government “through a remarkably peaceful electoral process”.

Chastanet said that, as a result, a stable government with a clear mandate to strengthen the economy, create a peaceful environment and elevate the standard of living in this country, had emerged “with a highest margin of victory by any government in recent years.

“We are well on our way to strengthening our democracy,” he said. “This achievement has given us the opportunity to take up the challenge of steering this country in the right direction.

“To do so, we must be willing to modernize the policies, practices and systems of governance that will allow the visions and aspirations of our people to be fulfilled,” he added. “We reaffirm our commitment to do so with clear vision, persistency, integrity and transparency.”



Women of the night: Nurses were celebrated with a ceremony at the annual Black Nurses Day celebration at Queens Hospital in Jamaica on Feb. 24. Community News Group / Alexandra Simon

## Black Nurses honored

By Alexandra Simon

Several of the city’s black and Caribbean nurses got honored at the 29th National Black Nurses Day Celebration at Queens Hospital in Jamaica on Feb. 24.

The annual event organized by the New York Black Nurses Association recognizes the trailblazing women in health care changing the scope of the nursing field. Guests packed the auditorium in the hospital to support the nurses receive their honors, and even some of the honorees were just as happy to also support their fellow nurses.

“It was so awesome — it’s always so inspiring to see other people in my profession and seeing what they do to excel,” said Norma Foster-Wharton, an honoree and nursing manager at New York Presbyterian hospital.

“It’s really a testament to the impact of what we’re doing in the community — whether it’s education, nursing administration, or behind scenes in the physician office — doing what we do creates roads for others and it’s beautiful.”

Foster-Wharton came to United States from Grenada as a teen and was inspired to enter nursing by a relative. Now more than two decades into her profession she manages a staff responsible for 40 patient beds, and expresses pride in her career as well as the staff

that continues to inspire her, she said.

“I’m proud of being able to help people when they’re vulnerable and sick and being able to affect change that is sustained,” said Foster. “And just being able to see my staff grow — it’s been a good outcome and my staff is a big factor in my work.”

Other honorees were registered nurses Pamela Roberts-Griffin, Darlene Barker-Ifill, Yvonne Bristow, Joyce Fowler, Dr. Jane Lederer, and the community award was presented to Executive Vice President of Queens Hospital Center, Antonio Martin.

Organizers of the event say for 29 years of spotlighting the black nurses in the community gives individual recognition to their talents, and serves as a positive influence for up-and-coming nurses.

“The fact that we just developed and evolved and worked together to get it done shows it’s not just us — it’s a community of nurses of color because one group paved the way for the other and we have to respect each other’s history and contributions,” said Marcia Skeete, a registered nurse and chairwoman of the New York Black Nurses Association. “We serve and look out for people who look



Mistress of ceremony (left) with honoree Darlene Barker-Ifill holding her award and bouquet at the Black Nurses Day celebration. Gregory Mahabee

like ourselves along with other people.”

Appreciating black nurses for their work is their aim, and Skeete says it is something they always look forward to doing because of women like mistress of ceremony and honoree, Darlene Barker-Ifill, who recently broke a barrier.

“Darlene Barker-Ifill just became nurse executive for Bronx Psychiatric which is a big honor for black women,” she said. “It’s an important situation to inspire our aspiring nurses so they can see it’s possible.”

# Eldercare

## TODAY



Rolling walkers can keep individuals mobile despite cognitive or physical disabilities.

## KEEPING SENIORS MOVING

**D**isabilities affect people from all walks of life. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that around 55 million Americans have a disability of some kind. Of these people, 33 million have a disability that makes it difficult for them to carry out some daily activities.

People with disabilities may need assistive devices to reclaim some measure of their independence. For example, millions of people rely on wheelchairs or walking aids to get around. These are called assistive technology and rehabilitative devices, which include tools, equipment, or products that can help people with disabilities

get around more easily. These devices may be as small as magnifying glasses for reading to as large as wheelchairs.

The National Institutes of Health state that 2.2 million people in the U.S. depend on wheelchairs for day-to-day tasks and mobility. More than six million use canes, walkers, or crutches to assist with mobility. The following are some of the common types of mobility devices available for purchase:

### Canes

Canes are handheld devices that provide a little extra stability or support to weakened limbs. Canes are easily transported and can assist those

who need only a little help.

### Standard walkers

Also known as medical walkers, standard walkers offer substantial support and must be lifted to move. That requires upper body strength, which can be difficult for some to maintain on long trips.

### Rolling walkers

Rolling walkers are similar to standard walkers. But rolling walkers have wheels, either on the front only or on both sets of legs. They are somewhat less stable than standard walkers. Rolling walkers with wheel-locking devices may offer stability when needed. Some rolling

walkers are called “rollators.”

### Wheelchairs

Standard wheelchairs must be powered by the person in the chair or by someone pushing it from behind. This can be difficult for people with minimal upper body strength. Mechanical wheelchairs are powered with a lever or button. Some people may opt for motorized scooters over bulkier wheelchairs when possible.

Assistive devices can be highly effective, but only when they are used properly and safely. Assistive devices should be measured for each user. Many walkers are height-adjustable. The width of a device also is important. A

walker or another device that is too wide can affect mobility or require modifications to be made around the home. Weight is another consideration. The device should be lightweight so it can be maneuvered, but also weigh enough to provide enough stability to keep users upright.

Users should proceed slowly and favor their stronger sides when relying on canes or walkers. Devices should not be used to climb atop other items like step stools. Children should not be allowed to play with or ride on assistive devices. If there are safety belts or locks on any assistive technology, they should be put in place before use to prevent further injury.

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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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# A look at anemia and aging

**A**ging is accompanied by a number of physical changes. Some of these changes, such as vision impairment or loss of hearing, are anticipated, while others may arrive unexpectedly.

One condition many adults unexpectedly encounter is anemia. It is common in older adults and its prevalence increases with age, but it is not a condition that is widely considered part of the aging process. Anemia is often a symptom of a hidden problem that needs to be addressed promptly.

Anemia is one of the most common blood disorders, affecting more than three million Americans, says the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. The American Society of Hematology notes that anemia is characterized by insufficient levels of red blood cells in the blood. Anemia also occurs when red blood cells, which are responsible for carrying oxygen to the various organs and tissues throughout the body, are not functioning properly.

Very often the signs of anemia are overlooked or go unnoticed until a blood test determines low hemoglobin or hematocrit concentrations. Some people discover they have anemia as they attempt to donate blood, at which time their red blood cell count is found to be inadequate. When the body lacks oxygen, any

number of the following symptoms may be experienced:

- weakness
- dizziness
- extreme fatigue
- shortness of breath
- fast or irregular heartbeat
- pale or yellow skin
- cold hands or feet

Frequently, existing disorders or conditions, such as congestive heart failure, are made worse by anemia. But unless doctors specifically consider anemia as a possible cause of symptoms, its presence can go undiagnosed.

The American Academy of Family Physicians says the most common causes of anemia among older men and women include chronic diseases and iron deficiency. Vitamin B12 deficiency, folate deficiency, gastrointestinal bleeding, and myelodysplastic syndrome are other causes of anemia.

The main way to treat anemia is to discover its source and reverse the outcomes. For instance, a gastrointestinal bleed may need to be repaired. If iron deficiency is the source of the anemia, iron supplements may be prescribed. Many methods to correct anemia involve trial and error and experimentation, especially when the source of the anemia is unknown.



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You may not realize this fact but every time you look down to text or check your phone (most commonly at 60 degree angle), this is essentially the equivalent of **adding 60 lbs. or over four bowling balls** worth of stress to the back of your neck. Statistics currently state that the average adult spends approximately 3.6 hours daily (that's 1300 hours per year) on their mobile devices. That number grows to **over 5000 hours** yearly if you're a high school student.

Present studies state that 80% of the US population will experience posture related pain in their life. This may lead to flattening of the upper spine, joint damage, ligament laxity, and even potentially cause your lungs to take in up to 30% less oxygen as a result of compression from the poor posture.

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Both licensed and certified home care agencies help patients stay in their homes, but they differ in the degree of help they provide and in how they are paid.

# Certified vs. licensed care

## Differences in the two home aide types

BY JOANNA R. LEEFER

Families considering home care for a frail loved one are faced with several decisions. One important factor to understand is the type of agency you need. Will you need assistance through a certified home care agency or through a licensed home care agency? Both offer different types and degrees of care. They both must be registered with the state and must comply with state and federal regulations. The differences are in the details:

### Certified home health agency

A certified home health agency provides nursing services and other skilled care to patients on a temporary basis. This care can include physical, occupational, and speech therapy, social services, and medical equipment. It can provide some custodial home care as well, but only intermittently. Certified agencies primarily provide care after a hospital stay. A nurse might come by the home daily to change bandages, give injections, and check on vitals. She will continue the visits until the patient is well enough to get by on his own. There are times when a certified agency will provide nursing care to a patient over extended periods of time. This might be for homebound patients who need continual observation for chronic conditions like diabetes or cardiac monitoring.

Certified agencies can provide some home attendant services for personal care. Home health aides can be assigned to visit a home and help a patient with bathing, dressing, eat-

ing, and some housekeeping, but this care is only for short periods of time. The aides are not expected to stay all day. In fact, aides that are assigned through a certified agency can work no more than 35 hours a week.

Before a patient can be offered these services, a licensed medical doctor must authorize the need. The physician fills out an assessment form that describes the patient's medical conditions and the type of care required. The assessment must be submitted to a certified home care agency within 30 days.

A certified agency is regulated by the New York State Department of Health and is paid through Medicare and Medicaid. All home attendants must complete government-certified training programs. Upon completion of the course work, the applicants are screened for any legal infractions and immigrant status. To insure that a certified agency complies with federal and state regulations, professional survey teams make annual unannounced assessments of all agencies, write up any infractions and publish the results.

### Licensed home care service agency

A licensed home care service agency is a private company that offers custodial care. A licensed agency is regulated by the state and provides hourly personal care services through home health attendants with oversight by a nurse. A nurse and social worker first develop a care plan for the client, and then assign a home health aide to assist the client with daily activities

*Continued on page 40*



# Feeling chilly?

## How seniors can address frequently feeling cold

As people age, many report feeling chilly even when the temperature outside is warm. Studies have shown that older people are more likely to have slightly colder body temperatures than their younger counterparts. Feeling cold can be the result of the natural aging process, or it may be symptomatic of a medical condition. Understanding the reasons behind chilliness can help people take proper action.

Aging adults can feel cold for various reasons. As people age, their metabolisms slow down, leading to decreased energy. During times of low energy output, one can feel cold. The American Geriatric Society Foundation for Health suggests that individuals with slower metabolisms may not produce enough heat

from their own bodies to stay warm.

Circulation issues also may be a concern. As people age, the walls of their blood vessels may lose their elasticity, negatively affecting circulation as a result. Vasoreceptors also may no longer be as quick to direct blood vessels in order to constrict to keep body temperature up.

Inadequate fat storage may also be a contributor. Older people generally have less subcutaneous fat stores and muscle mass, both of which can insulate their bodies from cold weather. As a result, they may have trouble regulating body temperature. Exercise and healthy eating may help remedy this situation.

Certain medical conditions or medications may be to blame, too. SUNY Upstate



It's not uncommon for older adults to feel colder.

Medical University offers that some drugs, like beta blockers, can decrease heart rate, which can reduce circulation to the extremities. High cholesterol levels can impair blood flow. Hypothyroidism, or an underperforming thyroid, also can affect a person's ability to regulate body temperature. It's imperative that people speak with their doctors to rule out any medical conditions or

medication issues that may be contributing to their feelings of being cold.

The following are some additional steps aging men and women can take to stay warm:

- Make sure you are at a healthy weight for your gender and age.
- Get the cardiovascular system pumping by exercising more.
- Layer clothing until you

feel comfortable so that you are not adjusting the thermostat as frequently.

• Wear a vest to keep your chest warm to prevent heat being drawn from the extremities. Often the body will sacrifice heat in the hands and feet to keep its core warm.


• Invest in wool socks and blankets, as wool will help wick away moisture from the body.

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# NUTRITION AND YOUR EYES



**Millie R. Fell, MD, FACS**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology NYU

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## A look at anemia and aging

Aging is accompanied by a number of physical changes. Some of these changes, such as vision impairment or loss of hearing, are anticipated, while others may arrive unexpectedly.

One condition many adults unexpectedly encounter is anemia. It is common in older adults and its prevalence increases with age, but it is not a condition that is widely considered part of the aging process. Anemia is often a symptom of a hidden problem that needs to be addressed promptly.

Anemia is one of the most common blood disorders, affecting more than three million Americans, says the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. The American Society of Hematology notes that anemia is characterized by insufficient levels of red blood cells in the blood. Anemia also occurs when red blood cells, which are responsible for carrying oxygen to the various organs and tissues throughout the body, are not functioning properly.

Very often the signs of anemia are overlooked or go unnoticed until a blood test determines low hemoglobin or hematocrit concentrations. Some people discover they have anemia as they attempt to donate blood, at which time their red blood cell count is found to be inadequate. When the body lacks

oxygen, any number of the following symptoms may be experienced:

- weakness
- dizziness
- extreme fatigue
- shortness of breath
- fast or irregular heartbeat
- pale or yellow skin
- cold hands or feet

Frequently, existing disorders or conditions, such as congestive heart failure, are made worse by anemia. But unless doctors specifically consider anemia as a possible cause of symptoms, its presence can go undiagnosed.

The American Academy of Family Physicians says the most common causes of anemia among older men and women include chronic diseases and iron deficiency. Vitamin B12 deficiency, folate deficiency, gastrointestinal bleeding, and myelodysplastic syndrome are other causes of anemia.

The main way to treat anemia is to discover its source and reverse the outcomes. For instance, a gastrointestinal bleed may need to be repaired. If iron deficiency is the source of the anemia, iron supplements may be prescribed. Many methods to correct anemia involve trial and error and experimentation, especially when the source of the anemia is unknown.

# Natural Solutions To Treating

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# Arthritis

Nearly 50 million Americans (one in six people) suffer from some form of Arthritis. Osteoarthritis and Rheumatoid Arthritis are the best known of over 100 chronic diseases of the joints, bones and muscles.

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Discover what the former president of the Arthritis Foundation says is the true cause of Arthritis (and it is not simply a matter of aging).

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## AGENCIES

*Continued from page 38*

like bathing and dressing. The aides can also perform light house-keeping, shopping, meal preparation, and laundry. They cannot provide any skilled care, handle medications, or provide medical treatment. Only a nurse can perform medical tasks. The home health aides require the same accreditation training as aides in a certified agency and go through the same background checks. Licensed home care service agencies are paid with private funds, either directly from the family or through long-term-care insurance. In theory, this means a patient can receive as much home care as he desires, as long as he can afford the services. Licensed home care service agencies in New York City often charge as much as \$25 per hour.

Like certified agencies, licensed agencies are regulated by the state. The process can often take up to two to three years. Before being licensed, the firm must comply with employment regulations, offer workers' compensation, and carry general and professional liability insurance. It must keep confidential written records on all its patients and document any accidents and in-

idents.

One important requirement of a licensed agency is to develop a written emergency preparedness plan for every client. The plan describes a course of action that will keep the patient safe in case of a natural or man-made disaster. The plan could recommend a client to have a backup power source that supplies electricity for medical equipment in case of a utility outage. It must also indicate a hospital where a client can be taken if an aide is unable to reach her.

In short, both licensed and certified home care agencies help patients stay in their homes. The biggest difference is in the degree of help they provide and in how they are paid. Certified agencies provide a higher level of medical care than a licensed agency. Its service is usually temporary and intermittent and is paid through Medicare and Medicaid. A licensed home care service agency offers long-term custodial care and is paid privately. Both are important in helping care for frail aging family members, but it is important to understand how each operates in order to get the requisite care.

*Joanna R. Leefer is a senior care advisor, advocate, and founder of ElderCareGiving. For more, visit [www.joannaleefer.com](http://www.joannaleefer.com).*

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# ENTERTAINMENT

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ENTERTAINMENT



A new genre: Popular dancehall artist Mr. Vegas is celebrating his 20-year music career veering off into gospel music with his new album, "Soul Therapy." MV Music

## Mr. Vegas introduces new gospel music

By Alexandra Simon

He got religion, and it shows in his music.

Legendary Jamaican artist "Mr. Vegas," widely known internationally for singing catchy reggae and dancehall songs often laced with raunchy lyrics, is literally cleaning up his act.

After a prolific, 20-year career highlighted by such party hits as "Heads

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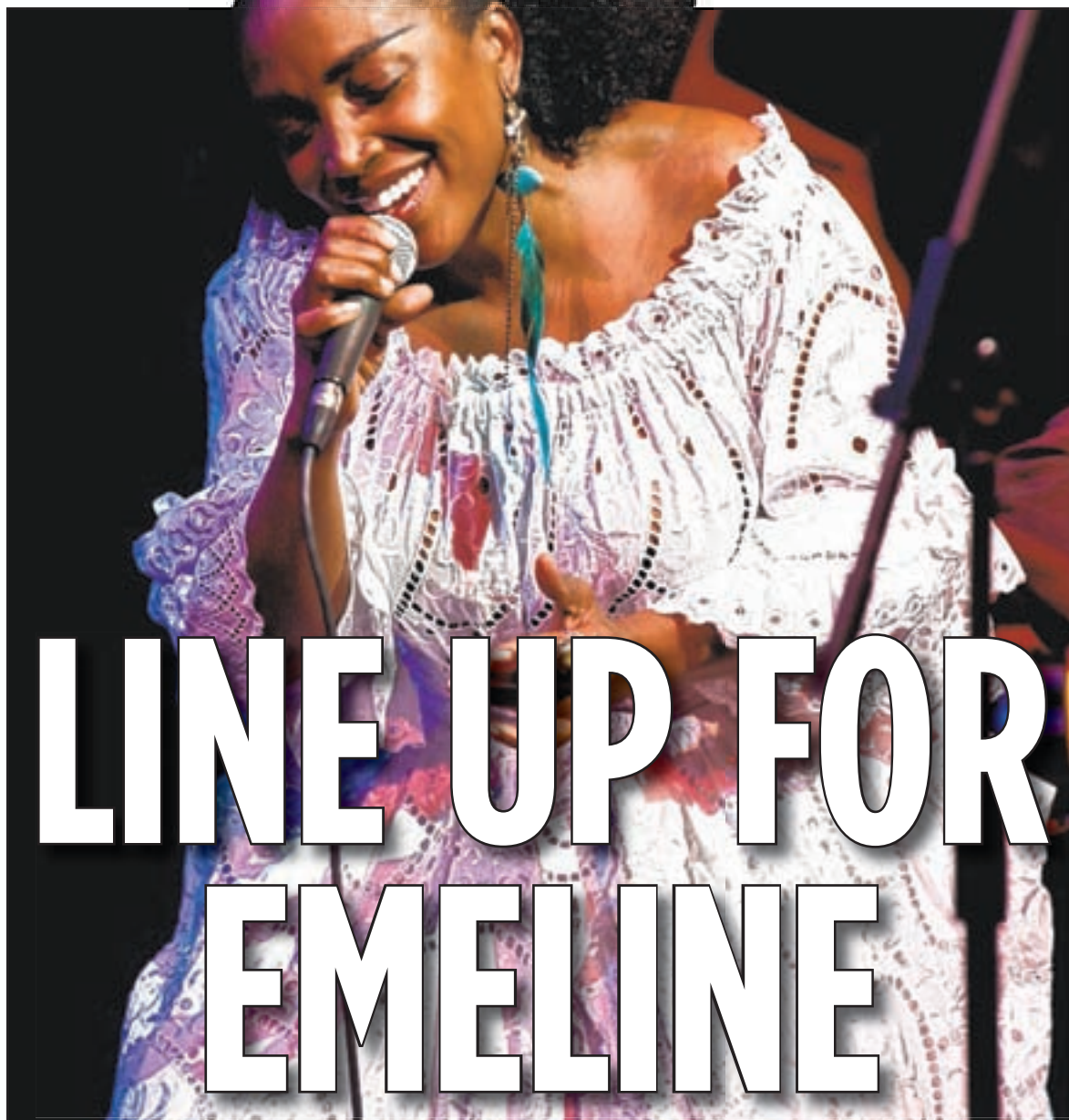
## Rocking to Forever

By Deandra Shuler

Harlemite Rob Base put together a hip hop group in 5th grade called Sureshot Seven. "A bunch of us put together a little hip hop group. It was fun back then. We had a couple of DJs and MCs. In time we all branched out and did our own thing. At the end of the day it wound up being just me and DJ E-Z Rock. So that is how we kept it," claimed Rob.

The DJ Interview was Bases' first single on StarMaker Records. StarMaker was a record company that promoted local rap shows around the area and in the Tri-state area. They did old school with the crash crews, boogie boys and groups like that. "Originally we traveled with them carrying their equipment. When we started rapping, they signed us and we did a compilation

Continued on Page 42



# LINE UP FOR EMELINE

Lady in white: Haitian singer Emeline Michel will take the stage at Brooklyn Center on March 4.

Francesca Andre

## Haitian songstress plays Brooklyn Center

By Alexandra Simon

She sings the songs that make the whole island sing!

Legendary Haitian songstress and activist Emeline Michel will perform songs from throughout her 30-year career at the Brooklyn Center for Performing Arts on March 4. The prolific singer, known for addressing social issues in songs performed in French and Haitian Creole, wants the show to reflect her career spreading Haiti's music around the world, she said.

"The whole show is about portray-

ing Haitian culture, but broader, and with the wider experience of playing all over the world," said Michel. "My music is a mix of traditional music from Haiti and songs that I've been doing for over 30 years."

During the two-hour concert, Michel will play some of her hit songs, including "A.K.I.K.O" and "Domi Kole," alongside a full band of piano, bass, guitar, and conga drums, and two Haitian dancers.

She will also debut some new music.

"There will be a mixture of these

songs and new compositions as well," she said. "I want to make sure I cover all the flavors and bring the element of newness — of what's current right now."

Michel says that she looks forward to longtime fans singing along with her classic tunes.

"I've been really thrilled lately to see how much people know the words by heart, the moment they hear the sound and first note of the song," said Michel. "It's a blessing to share that moment because the words are

Continued on Page 42

## TOP OF THE CHARTS

### TOP 10 SINGLES

- 1 **Shape Of You**  
Ed Sheeran
- 2 **I Don't Wanna Live Forever**  
Zayn / Taylor Swift
- 3 **Scars To Your Beautiful**  
Alessia Cara
- 4 **Don't Wanna Know**  
Maroon 5 Feat. Kendrick Lamar
- 5 **Love On The Brain**  
Rihanna
- 6 **Bad Things**  
Machine Gun Kelly x Camila Cabello
- 7 **I Feel It Coming**  
The Weekend Feat. Daft Punk
- 8 **Fake Love**  
Drake
- 9 **Closer**  
The Chainsmokers Feat. Halsey
- 10 **Side To Side**  
Ariana Grande Feat. Nicki Minaj

### TOP 10 ALBUMS

- 1 **Fifty Shades Darker**  
Soundtrack
- 2 **I Make The Static (EP)**  
Joy Villa
- 3 **Lemonade**  
Beyonce
- 4 **24K Magic**  
Bruno Mars
- 5 **Trolls**  
Soundtrack
- 6 **La La Land**  
Soundtrack
- 7 **25**  
Adele
- 8 **Brett Young**  
Brett Young
- 9 **Joanne**  
Lady Gaga
- 10 **DROGAS Light**  
Lupe Fiasco

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# LINE UP FOR EMELINE

Continued from page 41

powerful — I'm always excited about that."

Michel, who is also a Red Cross ambassador, says being an artist very much like being an activist, and that it is almost impossible to separate social issues from her music.

"One is always intertwined with the other," she said. "Very early in my career a few of my first songs were about rebuilding our country, planting a tree, and respect for women."

Those issues are still important to her, and her next project, as yet untitled, will be a collaboration with two other Haitian female artists, designed to address women's empowerment in the face of greed and corruption.

"One thing we noticed — in the name of money there's so much corruption going on

and the lyrics I'm writing about is really empowering all females to respect themselves," said Michel. "The context is to respect your self and don't compromise your integrity. That's one thing I'm very passionate about at this moment."

Emeline Michel at Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College [2900 Ave. H at Campus Road in Midwood, (718) 951-4500, www.brooklyncenter.org]. March 4 at 8 pm. \$35.

She will also speak at the "Voices of Haiti: Artist as Activists" panel at Woody Tanger Auditorium at the Brooklyn College Library at the same address, March 2 at 6:30 pm. Free.



Voice of a nation: Haitian singer Emeline Michel will perform new and classic songs at her concert at Brooklyn Center on March 4.

Gregory Reed

## Mr. Vegas

Continued from page 41

High" and "Hot Gal Today," the 42-year-old musician, born Clifford Smith in Jamaica, recently converted to Christianity. He released "Soul Therapy," his first gospel album, on MV Records on Feb. 24.

"It's all gospel and gospel means truth," he said. "I wanted to celebrate giving yourself to Christ and all of (the) obstacles I managed (to go) through to create my platform."

Mr. Vegas insisted he is not an evangelist, and is not trying to convince any of his fans to follow his lead and become converts themselves.

"We are trying to teach in a soulful way and connect people to their soulful spirit," he said. "When they are listening to the songs they will feel closer to God and I deliberately did it that way to reach out to people."

The entertainer said he was motivated to become a Christian by the recent spate of violent terror attacks around the globe — including the November, 2015 bloodbath in Paris in which 130 people were killed and hundreds wounded in a series of simultaneous assaults.

"People are so unsure of what the next moment is going to be, so we're just trying to put some positive vibrations into the world because God forbid something happens, you want to make sure your soul is right



Vegas joins former popular dancehall artist Lady Saw, who also converted to Christianity and now makes gospel music. MV Music

with God," he said.

Mr. Vegas calls "Soul Therapy," — his 11th studio album — "clean positive music that can uplift." He plans to take it on tour toward the end of this year, and said he is not worried about how his newest product will be received.

"My loyal fans know what Mr. Vegas brings to the table, so it's not like fans are being short-changed," he said. "They're getting more."

## Rocking to Forever

Continued from page 41

album with a couple of other rappers and that resulted in DJ Interview," said Base.

Base talked about the difference in rap when he started and the rap of today. "Back in our day, it was basically about getting the party started, having people dance, rap and have a good time. That is pretty much what we were trying to do in our era. Today is a lot different. However, it's a different day and a different time from when I started," remarked Base.

"DJ E-Z Rock and Rob Base did a few singles before recording their big hit "It Takes Two." "When It Takes Two came out it took us to another level. We started doing parties for different genres: freestyle, the club scene. We came from Lincoln Projects in Harlem, trying to survive in the hood. After It Takes Two we were in a different place. We traveled to London. My first time traveling internationally. It was weird going to a different country but great sailing. It was an amazing experience. It "Takes Two" went gold and then platinum. Just to have a gold record was crazy and then it went platinum. Not too many rappers had platinum records so we felt truly blessed." The song also peaked at #3 on the Hot Dance Music Club Play chart.

The follow-up hit single was "Joy and Pain," which sampled a song of the same name by Maze featuring Frankie Bever-

ly. The Duo encountered some legal problems with DJ E-Z Rock having problems with management. "People think we broke up due to discourse between us but it wasn't that. It was because DJ E-Z Rock had contract issues with management and at that juncture, it was time for me to go solo. It was hard because DJ E-Z Rock and I had been together since we were kids. But DJ E-Z Rock was still involved with my solo album Turn It Out (Go Base). While DJ E-Z Rock remained active as a DJ, he died of a diabetic seizure in 2014.

Rob Base will be appearing with Cynthia, TKA/K7, Judy Torres, Noel, Coro, Sa-Fire, Corina, Lydia Lee Love, Soave, et al, at Forever Freestyle 11, at Lehman Center for the Performing Arts in the Bronx on Saturday, March 4 at 8 pm. Interested parties can purchase their tickets at the Lehman Center Box office by calling 718 960-8833 or by going on line at Lehmancenter.org.

Cynthia dropped by to talk. Semi-retired but performing every weekend, Cynthia started her career in 1987 by auditioning for MicMac Records winning a five-year contract at age 18. Her records "Change on Me," "Dream boy / Dream girl" a duet with Johnny O, and "Endless Love" were big hits. She eventually moved to Tommy Boy Records. She studied nursing but ended up going into banking where she has currently been a branch manager for 15 years.

# 'Moonlight' wins Best Picture at Oscars

By Kam Williams

The Academy Awards ended on a sour note when Faye Dunaway announced that favorite *La La Land* had won the Oscar for Best Picture. Trouble is, she and co-presenter Warren Beatty had been handed the wrong envelope.

So, while *La La*'s producers were taking turns delivering heartfelt acceptance speeches, they were abruptly interrupted so that the audience could be informed that *Moonlight* was the real winner. Immediately, that film's cast and crew descended upon the stage while the suddenly-deflated *La La* entourage quietly exited via the wings.

Emcee Jimmy Kimmel confronted Warren Beatty with "What did you do?" But the epic flub wasn't Warren or Faye's fault, since the card inside the envelope was actually for Best Lead Actress and read "Emma Stone - *La La Land*."

Besides Best Picture, "*Moonlight*" landed awards for Best Supporting Actor (Mahershala Ali) and Adapted Screenplay. *La La* can take some

consolation in the fact that it nabbed the most honors overall, 6, including Best Director (Damien Chazell), Score and Song ("*City of Stars*").

Otherwise, Hollywood's biggest night represented a remarkable reversal of its recent lily-white preferences, picking the predominantly-black cast *Moonlight* as Best Picture, along with African-Americans Viola Davis (Best Supporting Actress), Mahershala Ali (*Moonlight*), Barry Jenkins (Best Adapted Screenplay) and Ezra Edelman (director of *O.J.: Made in America*).

Edelman, the son of legendary children's rights attorney, Marian Wright Edelman, dedicated his victory to Ron Goldman and Nicole Brown Simpson as well as to victims of police brutality. His wasn't the only politicized acceptance speech, with many recipients hurling thinly-veiled barbs at Donald Trump.

The most virulent attack on the President came from Iranian Ashgar Farhadi, writer and director of Best Foreign Film-winner,



Janelle Monae, from left, Taraji P. Henson, and Octavia Spencer pose with Katherine Johnson, seated, backstage at the Oscars on Sunday, Feb. 26, 2017, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

Matt Sayles / Invision / Associated Press

The Salesman. He boycotted the festivities, but had a spokesman read a statement excoriating Trump for issuing an executive order temporarily banning travelers from his country and a half-dozen other Muslim countries.

Jimmy Kimmel took a lot of indirect potshots at the president, too, like when he asked Meryl Streep whether her gown was from Ivanka's fashion line. When the *O.J. Simpson* doc won, he quipped, "*O.J.*, you can get an extra slice of baloney on your sand-

wich tonight." Kimmel was very smooth delivering his funny but never mean-spirited jokes, so don't be surprised if he's asked to host again next year, especially given that the Oscars air on ABC, the same network as his late night show.

## Independent & Foreign Films

**Burlesque: The Heart of the Glitter Tribe** (Unrated) Revealing documentary showcasing the resurgence in popularity of striptease in Portland, Oregon. With Babs Jamboree, Angeliq Devill and Zora von Pavonine.

**Contemporary Color** (PG-13 for brief profanity) Concert flick staged by David Byrne during the summer of 2015 at Brooklyn's Barclays Center and featuring performances by 10 color guard teams from across the U.S. and Canada. With Nelly Furtado, Ad-Rock and Ira Glass.

**The Freedom to Marry** (Unrated) Gay rights documentary chronicling the hard fought advances achieved over the past 40 years by the Same Sex Movement. Featuring commentary by Evan Wolfson, Marc Solomon and April DeBoer.

**The Institute** (R for gory violence, disturbing images and graphic nudity) Suspense thriller, set in 19th C. Baltimore, revolving around the ordeal experienced by a grief-stricken orphan (Allie Gallarini) after she checks herself into



### Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

a mental institution conducting pseudo-scientific, mind control experiments. Big name cast includes James Franco, Topher Grace, Josh Duhamel, Pamela Anderson, Eric Roberts and Tim Blake Nelson.

**Kiki** (Unrated) Anti-bullying documentary highlighting the efforts of minority members of the LGBTQ community to find a safe space to congregate in New York City.

**The Last Word** (R for profanity) Unlikely-buddies comedy about the friendship forged between an elderly control freak (Shiley Maclaine) and a truth-seeking reporter (Amanda Seyfried) assigned to write her obituary. Supporting cast includes Anne Heche, Phillip Baker Hall and AnnJewel Lee Dixon.

**Lavender** (Unrated) Psychological thriller about a photographer (Abbie Cornish) suffering from amnesia who finds evi-

dence in her portfolio suggesting she might have murdered relatives she never knew she had. With Justin Long, Dermot Mulroney and Lola Flanery.

**My Scientology Movie** (Unrated) Faux documentary employing actors to recreate revealing incidents reported by disenchanted members of the Church of Scientology. Co-starring Andrew Perez, Stacia Roybal and Conner Stark as Tom Cruise.

**Nakom** (Unrated) Character-driven drama about a promising medical student (Jacob Ayanaba) forced to return home to his village in Ghana to provide for his family in the wake of his father's death. With Grace Ayanga, Justina Kulidu and Shetu Musah.

**Table 19** (PG-13 for profanity, sexuality, mature themes, drug use and brief nudity) Ensemble comedy about a maid of honor (Anna Kend-

rick) who finds herself relieved of her duties and relegated to a remote table full of reluctantly-invited losers at the wedding reception after being dumped by the bride's (Rya Meyers) brother (Wyatt Russell) With Lisa Kudrow, Craig Robinson and June Squibb.

**Wolves** (Unrated) Dysfunctional family drama about a high school basketball star (Taylor John Smith) whose recruitment by Cornell is jeopardized by his gambling-addicted and compulsive liar of a father (Michael Shannon). Cast includes Carla Gugino, Chris Bauer and Zazie Beetz.

### BIG BUDGET FILMS

**Before I Fall** (PG-13 for mature themes, bullying, sexuality, violent images, profanity and underage drinking) Adaptation of Lauren Oliver's young adult novel of the same name about a recently-deceased teen (Zoey Deutch) who is afforded an opportunity to relive her last day on Earth over and over until she untangles the circumstances surrounding her death in a tragic car acci-

dent. Cast includes Liv Hewson, Logan Miller and Jennifer Beals.

**Logan** (R for graphic violence, pervasive profanity and brief nudity) Hugh Jackman's last go-round as the Marvel Comics superhero finds a weary Wolverine withdrawn from the world and caring for an ailing Professor X (Patrick Stewart) until he is recruited by a mysterious stranger (Elizabeth Rodriguez) to come to the assistance of a young mutant (Dafne Keen) on the run from dark forces. With Richard E. Grant, Boyd Holbrook, Eriq La Salle and Stephen Merchant.

**The Shack** (PG-13 for violence and mature themes) Faith-based drama adapted from William P. Young's best seller of the same name about a grief-stricken family man (Sam Worthington) mourning the loss of a young daughter (Amelie Eve) who receives an invitation from God (Aviv Alush) to meet at the site of the murder, deep in the Oregon wilderness. Featuring Octavia Spencer, Radha Mitchell and Tim McGraw.

# Mighty Chalkdust makes history

By Azad Ali

Veteran calypsonian the Mighty Chalkdust (Hollis Liverpool) created history when he beat 17 finalists to win the 2017 Calypso Monarch title for the ninth time at the Dimanche Gras show on Carnival Sunday night—breaking Sparrow's (Slinger Francisco) record of eight National Calypso Monarch titles.

Sparrow achieved his eight victory in 1992, with “Both of Dem” and “Survival.”

Chalkdust equaled the record in 2009 with “My Heart and I,” after which some calypso fans asked him to retire from competition out of respect for Sparrow.

This year marked, Chalkdust 50th year in the calypso arena, having started singing as a professional in 1967.

He won his first National Monarch title in 1976 with “No Smut For Me” and “Ah Put on Meh Guns Again.” He retained the title the following year.

Chalkdust was awarded T&T's Humming Bird Medal (Silver) at the Independence Awards in 1976 for his contribution to calypso.

He is recognized as a historian and researcher.

Commenting on his victory Chalkdust said the victory was doubly significant as it coincided with his 50th year in the artform.

This year the finalists in the Calypso Monarch competition were only allowed to sing one song, unlike in the past when they had to sing two songs

Chalkdust dethroned Devon Seales, the 2016 Calypso Monarch, who placed sixth. Second place went to Karen Asche, who performed “Caught in a Whirlwind” and in third position was Heather McIntosh who sang “Games.”

Chalkdust took the title with “Learn From Arithmetic” — a well-crafted composition of the Child Marriage Act that the government passed in Parliament recently.

The hook line of the song is “75 can't go into 14.”

This year the competitors were only



(Left) Reigning International Soca Monarch, Aaron “Voice” St. Louis regained his title on Fantastic Friday at the Hasley Crawford Stadium in Port of Spain. (right) Mighty Chalkdust, (Dr Hollis Liverpool) wins the 2017 Calypso Monarch title. Sunshine News

allowed to sing one composition unlike in the past they were required to perform two songs.

Winston “Gypsy” Peters took the Extempo title from eight other competitors at the National Association for the Performance Arts (NAPA) last Thursday night.

The former culture minister under Kamla Persad-Bissessar administration has now won the title on 10 occasions.

In the other major competitions reigning International Soca Monarch, Aaron “Voice” St. Louis regained his title on Fantastic Friday at the Hasley Crawford Stadium in Port of Spain.

“Voice” was followed by Orlando Octave in second place; Devon Matthews in third spot and Iwer George fourth.

In the Panorama competition on Saturday night Massy All Stars took the National Steelband finals at the Queen's Park Savannah playing “We Jammin Still” in a fiery performance.

Placing second was Desperadoes and third BP Renegades. It was the band's 10th title.



Winston ‘Gypsy’ Peters.



Ted Eustace winner of the King of the Band title in Trinidad and Tobago's Carnival. Sunshine News



Krystal Thomas winner of the Queen of the Band title. Sunshine News

# SPORTS

FOR MORE SPORTS, GO TO CARIBBEANLIFE.COM



West Indies' batsman Marlon Samuels. Associated Press / Andres Leighton

## ICC clears Samuels

By Azad Ali

West Indies all-rounder Marlon Samuels has been cleared by the International Cricket Council (ICC), to resume bowling in international cricket.

The ICC said in a statement that Samuels had undergone remedial work on his off-spin action following a reassessment last January at the National Cricket Center in Loughborough, England.

He has now found to have a legal action.

The tests showed that Samuel's elbow extension for all his off-spin deliveries "was within the 15-degree level of

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## US advances in qualifying for Under-20 World Cup

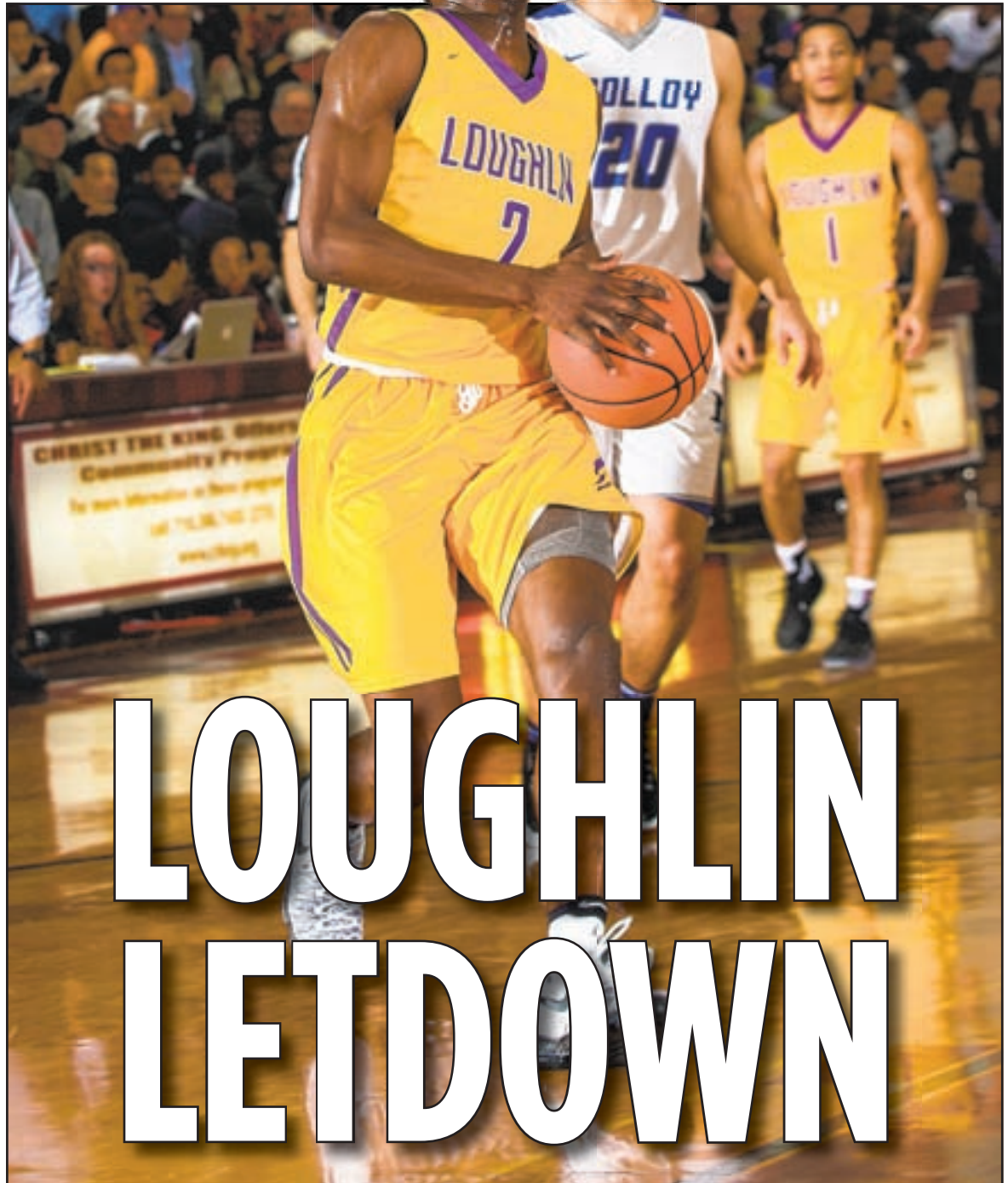
By The Associated Press

The United States advanced to the second round of qualifying for the Under-20 World Cup as Sebastian Saucedo scored twice Friday in a 4-1 win over St. Kitts and Nevis at Tibas, Costa Rica.

Brooks Lennon and Jonathan Lewis also scored for the U.S., which plays Mexico on Monday and El Salvador on March 3 in the second round. The top two teams in each second-round group of the North and Central American and Caribbean region qualify for the Under-20 World Cup, to be played in South Korea from May 20 to June 11.

Lennon, loaned this month from Liverpool to Real Salt Lake, put the Americans ahead in the 16th minute with his fourth goal of the tourna-

Continued on Page 46



# LOUGHLIN LETDOWN

Battle worn: Keith Williams and Bishop Loughlin couldn't bring the momentum from its two-overtime semi victory into the Brooklyn-Queens final on Feb. 24, falling to Archbishop Molloy. Photo by Robert Cole

## Lions stumble in Brooklyn-Queens final

By Laura Amato

It just wasn't their night.

The Bishop Loughlin boys basketball team couldn't maintain the momentum from its two-overtime victory two nights before, falling 80-67 to top-seeded Archbishop Molloy in the Brooklyn-Queens Catho-

lic High School Athletic Association final on Feb. 24.

"I don't know if the last game took it all out of us, but that one felt like the championship game," Loughlin coach Edwin Gonzalez said after the loss. "They didn't come to play today and I told them that. The energy was

low."

Loughlin stumbled from the start as senior guard Keith Williams was whistled for a foul on the very first shot attempt of the night, sending Molloy's Moses Brown to the line.

That foreshadowed how the rest

Continued on Page 46

Continued from page 45

tolerance permitted under the ICC regulations for the review of bowlers reported with suspected illegal bowling action.”

Samuels was hit with a none-year ban in December 2015 after he was found guilty of an illegal bowling action while bowling during the Galle Test against Sri Lanka, two months prior.

It was the second time Samuels had been reported in 24 months.

However, in clearing Samuels, the ICC said umpires were free to report Samuels once they believed he was employing an action which differed from the one in the player's reassessment.

Samuels, 36, who is more known for his top order batting, has taken 41 wickets in 71 Tests, 85 in 187 One-Day Internationals and 51 in Twenty20s.

## Carter appeals ICC ruling

By Azad Ali

Jamaican sprinter Nesta Carter has appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) against his disqualification in his country's 4 x 100 meters relay team, including Usain Bolt, who was stripped of their Beijing 2008 Olympic gold medals.

He was disqualified from the race last month after he failed a drugs test for a banned energy-boosting substance methylhexanamine, following re-analysis of frozen samples.

The team, which included Carter, Michael Frater, Asafa Powell and Bolt, have since turned in all their medals to the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Bolt no longer holds a “treble-treble” of 100m, 200m, and 4 x 100m relay victories from the Beijing, London 2012 and Rio 2016 Olympics.

Carter, who ran the first leg in Beijing, how vowed to appeal the decision to CAS and had until recently to do so.



Not quite on point: Bishop Loughlin point guard Markquis Nowell did his best to jumpstart the Lions, but it wasn't quite enough as the squad fell in the Brooklyn-Queens final on Feb. 24. Photo by Robert Cole

## LOUGHLIN LETDOWN

Continued from page 45

of the night would go; Williams — the hero of the Lions' Feb. 22 semifinal victory — picked up his second foul with 1:32 left in the first half and failed to find any kind of rhythm on offense.

“I'd just say today was a bad day for us,” said Williams, who notched just three points in the first half. “We started off slow and (the second foul) just kind of stopped the whole game.”

Williams wasn't the only Lion who struggled, and the team couldn't grab any momentum as Molloy continued to switch up defensive looks throughout the game. The Stanners alternated between man-to-man and zone defenses, and even ran a half court trap

that forced Loughlin into several turnovers that triggered Molloy's transition offense.

“We change defenses a lot when we play against them,” said Stanners coach Mike McCleary. “We don't usually do that, but we need to when we play them because they're very strong offensively. If we get them thinking and changing their offense it slows them down and we got some breakouts because of that.”

Loughlin tried to claw back in the second half, making it a six-point game with just under seven minutes left in the third quarter, but couldn't quite stage another rally.

Molloy point guard Cole Anthony controlled the game from the opening tip, racking up 32 points and setting the tone on both sides of the ball. Brown chipped in 16 points of his own, his sev-

en-foot frame making it difficult for the Lions to work their way into the lane.

“It was kind of tough to guard (Brown),” Williams said. “Our tallest player is 6-foot-9. And he's just a tremendous player; it's tough to stop him.”

Williams finished the game with 18 points, while Markquis Nowell added 17, but it wasn't quite enough for the Lions. There is, however, a bright spot — Loughlin's semifinal victory secured a first-round bye in the intersectional playoffs and the Lions are certain they'll be ready for their March 5 quarterfinal matchup.

“We've got to turn this into a positive,” Gonzalez said. “We've got to get back to the drawing board. We've got some time off, which will let them recoup their bodies and get back at it.”

## US advances in qualifying for U-20 World Cup

Continued from page 45

ment, poking in Jeremy Ebobisse's cross from 7 yards. Lewis, who is with New York City FC, doubled the lead four minutes later after Lennon's corner kick to the top of the penalty area was volleyed toward goal by Eryk

Williamson. Justen Glad missed an attempted shot from near the penalty spot, and the ball rolled to an unmarked Lewis.

Salt Lake's Saucedo added goals in the 35th and 41st minute on a 25-yard shot and a 27-yard free kick.

Romario Martin beat U.S. goalkeeper

er JT Marcinkowski in the 77th after a poor American backpass. Jonathan Klinsmann, the son of former U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann, started the first two games for the U.S.

The U.S. (2-1) and Group B winner Panama (3-0), which beat the Americans 1-0 last weekend, both advanced.

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# Loughlin star hits clutch shots in semi victory

By Laura Amato

It was loud. It was dramatic. It was exactly the kind of moment Keith Williams dreams about.

The Bishop Loughlin senior guard sank three free throws after he was fouled just before the final buzzer in regulation, lifting the Lions to a 98-90 double overtime victory over Christ the King in the Brooklyn-Queens Catholic High School Athletic Association semifinal on Feb. 22.

There was plenty of drama even after Williams's moment at the line, but the Cincinnati commit's clutch shots were the highlight of the postseason tilt, a quintessential senior moment that could define the star's entire season.

"The first two were good, but then [before] the last one the gym just kept getting louder and louder," said Williams, who finished with a game-high 36 points. "And I was just, like, 'You cannot miss, Keith.' It touched the rim first and when

it dropped, it was just a big weight off my back."

Loughlin struggled down the stretch in regulation, failing to connect on a shot for nearly four minutes before Williams drained a jumper with 19.5 seconds left. Christ the King took a three-point lead with 6.8 seconds left, but Jose Alvarado missed the back-end of the one-and-one, keeping the Lions in the game.

Loughlin nearly turned the ball over on its final possession, but the Lions were able to inbound and Williams drew the foul — Alvarado's fifth — just before the buzzer. The senior knew he could hit the shots — he even told his coach.

"He just came to me and told me, when we were down three, and said, 'Coach, I got you,'" said Loughlin coach Edwin Gonzalez. "I looked at him and said we've been down this road before. I said 'do not let me down.' And sure enough, he delivered."

Christ the King played with-

out Alvarado in overtime, but the Royals refused to back down and the squad answered each of Loughlin's shots with one of its own.

Williams thought he wrapped up the win again — going 2-for-2 from the line with 9.1 seconds left — but Christ the King responded with a two-handed dunk by Kofi Cockburn, who found an open space in the lane and forced a second overtime.

"They're players, that's why they're on this team," Gonzalez said. "They're on this team because [Royals coach Joe Arbitello] knows what he's doing."

Williams continued his strong play in the second overtime, and Markquis Nowell gave Loughlin an 85-79 lead with 2:39 on the clock. The Royals, however, battled back to make it a two-point game just over a minute later when Philips Joseph drained his third trey of the night.

Still, Loughlin refused to ever doubt. The Lions were



Dominant down low: Keith Williams was a force from just about everywhere on the court, jumpstarting Bishop Loughlin as the Lions earned a berth to the Brooklyn-Queens championship on Feb. 22.

Photo by William Thomas

determined to walk off the court with a win. There was no other option.

"We were confident the whole game," said Nowell who racked up 20 points and 17 assists. "We always play hard no matter what time is on the clock or what's the score."

Justin Champagnie answered Joseph's three-pointer with one of his own and drained the ensuing free throw and Loughlin, collectively, breathed just a bit easier. Nowell wrapped

up the win at the line, going a perfect 8-for-8 in the final 48 seconds.

"He didn't have a good shooting night tonight, but he ran the team," Gonzalez said. "That's all I can ask for."

The victory sends Loughlin to the Brooklyn-Queens championship game on Feb. 24, taking on top-seeded Archbishop Molloy. The season is far from over, but the Lions are feeling pretty good after this one, certain they handle just about any situation.

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# Felony charge dropped

By Nelson A. King

Prosecutors in Brooklyn have dropped a felony assault charge against a Caribbean American legislator accused of beating her pre-teen son with a broomstick.

New York State Assemblywoman Diana Richardson, the daughter of an Aruban mother and a St. Martin father, who represents the 43rd Assembly District in Brooklyn, was arrested on Nov. 5 when her 12-year-old son walked into the nearby 71st Police Precinct to complain about his mother, who allegedly left his arm bruised after the beating.

Richardson was initially charged with felony and misdemeanor assault charges, but after “careful consideration” and speaking to the child’s father, prosecutors dismissed the top offense, according to the New York Daily News. The son’s name was withheld because of his age.

But despite having the felony assault charge dismissed, Richardson still faces up to a year in jail for the remaining misdemeanor charges, the Daily News said.

“This is still a stressful situation for her, but she’s moving forward,” Richardson’s attorney, Joyce David, told reporters outside of Brooklyn Supreme Court.

Richardson also has a modified order of protection through family court and is allowed to see her son during unsupervised visits at the child’s father’s home, the Daily News said.

The son told cops that his mother hit him on his left arm as discipline over his grades, the paper said.

The boy was taken to a local hospital for an abrasion to his arm, according to the criminal complaint.

Richardson, who counts her son as her “greatest accomplishment” on her state assembly member biography page, was charged with second-degree assault, endangering the welfare of a child, criminal possession of a weapon and menacing.

The assault charge was a felony, while the others are misdemeanors, said Arlene Muniz, a spokeswoman for the New York Police Department (NYPD).

Richardson, who was elected in May 2015 on the Working Families ticket, represents the Brooklyn neighborhoods of Crown Heights, Prospect Lefferts Gardens, Wingate and East Flatbush.

The legislator is said to be a devoted single mother whose only child often accompanies her to political events.



Guyanese in ethnic dress dance at the Guyana Consulate in New York.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

## Diversity, culture, mark Guyana’s 47 Republic Day

By Tangerine Clarke

The Guyana Consulate in New York City was a scene of comradeship, and jollification, on Friday, Feb. 24, when compatriots joined hands to mark their homeland’s 47th Republic Anniversary, and Mashramani celebration.

Embracing the mandate of “unity” put forward by newly appointed Consul General, Hon. Barbara Atherly, the six races of people, hugged, shook hands, and celebrated shoulder to shoulder during an extraordinary evening of singing of folk songs, and dancing to the rhythm of the African, and Tassa drums.

Blessings on the Republic, rendered by Bishop John Cummings of Restoration Temple, Leila Singh Gossai, Hindu of Bhuvaneshwar Mandir, and Mercedes Pierre – Indigenous of the peoples of Guyana, began the event, after which, CG Atherly, in her message, implored expatriates to join hands and celebrate.

“Let us celebrate in unity so that we carry out our motto of “One People, One Nation, One Destiny - Happy Mashramani, she said.

Planned, by the newly formed Friends of the Guyana Consulate initiative – Republic Day Committee – under the patronage of Consul General, Barbara Atherly, Master Drummer, Menes de Griot, African drummer, Akoya Rudder and the Award-winning Tassa drummers, Terry Naraine, Robin Naraine, and Satyen Naraine, set the tone for the evening’s stellar presentation.

This segment truly evoked the spirit of diversity as audience members flounced to the stirring fusion, and infectious rhythms.

Emceed by committee member Jonathon Locke, the commemoration of tributes to Guyana continued, with talented sisters Chardell Park and Chadeary Park, of Guyanese parentage who sang Oh Beautiful Guyana, with deep feelings for their heritage, and “Yet still I’ll Rise” a heartfelt tribute to Guyana.

Kishore Seu Narine in turn, garnered loud applause for his impassioned interpretation of beloved poem, “old Higue”, a Guyanese classic written by late folklorist, Wordsworth MacAndrew, about Guyanese mythos.

Set against the backdrop of Guyana’s symbolic, Golden Arrowhead, flag, folksinger, Wrickford Dalgetty, engaged the turnout, singing, memorable folk-songs, Auntie Bess, Missy Loss, Manin’ Neighba, Uncle Joe and Bamboo Fiah, delighting nationals, who danced along with the popular singer/guitarist.

In addition to David Correia’s impressive history of the Amerindian people, nationals enjoyed a sequence of steps and movement showcased by talented Indian dancers, Neisha Khan, Navedita Bissessar, and Chandini and Maneisha Boodhoo, in Dances of India, choreographed by Babla & Kanchan Chandini.

Impressions Dance Theater’s Makayla Henry and Jade Scott’s Rhythms of Africa, choreographer by Verna Walcott, revved up the crowd. The dancers later returned with a Masquerade Fusion, a dance rooted in Guyana’s multi-cultural heritage.

Latisha Dease followed up with delivered a powerful spoken-word poem titled “Negro Woman” by Langston

Hughes, during the historic and electrifying presentation and evening of tributes.

The show climaxed with a Mashramani style revel of a colorful costume dancer and ethnic-dress models of the six races of Guyana, took center stage.

Guyanese-born Sen. Roxanne Persaud congratulated Guyana on its Republic Anniversary and encouraged nationals to continue to support their culture in a unified way. Richard S. David, who hopes to become the first Guyanese in the NY City Council, also expressed his gratitude to fellow Guyanese.

Sampling of Guyana’s diverse cuisine of Roti and Curry, White Pudding, Garlic Pork, Lowmein, pepper pot, cassava pone, sorrel and mauby drink, was the final treat after an outstanding Guyanese celebration.

Deputy Consul General Jacquelyn Hamer summed it up well when she thanked Guyanese for their unwavering support of their culture and contribution in the Diaspora.

The Republic Day Committee thanked Tony Singh and Bakewell Restaurant for their donation, and Kamiyah Parchment and Gerry Elcock for rendering the national anthems of the United States and Guyana, respectively.

A special thank you went to Ambassador Rudolph M. Ten-pow for his full participation in the festivities.

Committee members are: Consul General Barbara Atherly, Deputy Consul General Jacqueline Hamer, Ave Maria Brewster, Tangerine Clarke, Khyume Khan, Penelope Lambert and Paula Walcott Quintin.

**ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20**  
A positive reaction to a stressful situation can only work in your favor, Aries. When others buckle under the pressure, you are able to deliver. Higher-ups will recognize this.

**TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21**  
Taurus, even if you believe that your life is floating out of control, you have the ability to rein things in whenever you desire. Ask for help if you need it.

**GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21**  
Gemini, although you may want to incorporate others' plans into your weekly goals, this might be the time to focus solely on your own needs. Once you are set, you can assist others.

**CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22**  
Cancer, there is no room in your life right now for lazy thinking. All of your focus must be directed at the tasks at hand because someone is relying entirely on you.

**LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23**  
No one can force you to share your deepest emotions if you're not ready to do so, Leo. Wait until the time is right to bare any secrets. You may have romantic surprises.

**VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22**  
Virgo, resist the temptation to give into impulses, analyzing and giving careful thought to your ideas instead. You have an entire week to work things out.

**LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23**  
Don't allow a power struggle to disturb the harmony at home or at the office, Libra. Unless you can be level-headed and see all sides of the situation, keep mum.

**SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22**  
Scorpio, continue to be diligent in your pursuit of knowledge. The more you learn, the more fulfilled you will be. Consider going back to school to satisfy your thirst for knowledge.

**SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21**  
Sagittarius, speaking about fantasies as if they are real can be enjoyable, but do not start believing the tales are true. You may need a good dose of reality this week.

**CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20**  
Relationship issues with a friend, spouse or even family member come to the forefront this week, Capricorn. Try to remain cool and level-headed throughout.

**AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18**  
Aquarius, you will be recognized for your efforts behind the scenes even if you are not in the spotlight. It's enough to get credit, especially if it can propel your career further.

**PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20**  
Pisces, useful ideas come your way after a chat with colleagues or friends. Pool this inspiration together for a plan.

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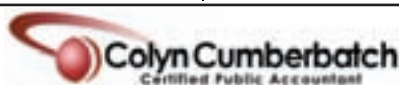
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