

## Hamilton, Bichotte hail 'Raise the Age'

By Nelson A. King

At least two Brooklyn legislators have hailed the historic "Raise the Age" legislation that had been before the New York State Legislature for over a decade.

"I voted to #RaisetheAge," said Sen. Jesse Hamilton, who represents the 20th Senatorial District in Brooklyn. "I cast my vote for Lywan Reed; he shared his story with me in December about constantly preparing himself for the looming threat of a fight with adult prisoners at Rikers Island and Greene Correctional Facility."

At the end of his sentence, Hamilton said Reed received "no more than a bus ticket and a few bucks.

"Our system released him into a state of hopelessness," Hamilton said. "Today we gave him hope. Next goal: Coordinate with the City to take our kids out of Rikers Island."

The Brooklyn senator said that the Raise the Age legislation brings to an end a practice of "traumatizing children and calling that justice.

"We bring to an end a time when our state permits unscientific, uninformed and unjust treatment of our youth," he said. "We end a chapter of cruelty, and we begin a chapter of compassion and common sense in our justice system.

"Cruelty because of the agony inflicted on youth, their families and New York communities," he added. "A system that yields a 36 times higher likelihood of suicide

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# UNREST IN THE REGION



In this Tuesday, March 28, 2017 file picture, masked members of the collective "500 Brothers" take part in a march supporting a general strike in Cayenne, French Guiana. French government calls on protesters in French Guiana to lift the roadblocks after a 1 billion euro government plan to help the South American territory has been presented during Cabinet meeting.

Associated Press / Pierre-Olivier Jay, File

## Suriname, French Guiana nationals protest living conditions

By Bert Wilkinson

Street protests and labor union unrest have in recent weeks seriously hit two South American countries with very close relations to the Caribbean Community with both having much to do with declining living conditions, crime and feelings that governments are not listening.

In Suriname, the second to last country to join the group of nations back in 1995, a hike in fuel prices was all it took to bring more than 10,000 teachers, merchants, government and other workers to the streets as they called for a reversal of the increase, the resignation of President Desi Bouterse and moves by cabinet to improve the quality of life.

For many of the thousands who left their posts to register disgust with the situation in Suriname, a country of about 500,000 people neighboring Guyana, 'enough was enough' after three years at least of

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Borough President Eric L. Adams addressing an audience during a cultural presentation at Borough Hall, Brooklyn. Photo by Nelson A. King

## April is Brooklyn Financial Education Empowerment Month

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams has proclaimed April as Financial Education Empowerment Month in Brooklyn, highlighting his fourth annual month-long program of activities to coincide with National Financial Literacy Month.

Partnering with organizations in the financial services, grassroots and small business communities, Adams said his administration has organized and supported hundreds of free educational opportunities across the borough since 2014, “which have taught more than 1,200 residents the necessary skills to make wise everyday financial decisions.”

Two years ago, out of concern for the level of debt Brooklynites carry, compared to the rest of the nation, Adams announced an aggressive goal for reducing Brooklyn’s credit card delinquency by four percent in four years.

He said that data from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York shows that, between the second quarter of 2015 and the fourth quarter of 2016, Brooklyn’s delinquency rate dropped by 1.6 percent, while the national rate rose by 0.5 percent.

“Striving to get ahead in life is much more difficult when you feel helpless under a sea of suffocating credit card bills, mortgage payments, or student loans,” Adams said. “The numbers don’t lie — Brooklynites benefit when we arm ourselves with the tools to get ahead in our personal finances. This means balancing the over-proliferation of dollars committed to consumer marketing with resources that empower families with the skills to make smart budgeting decisions, avoid financial scams and monitor their expenses.

“I’m proud that this initiative is giving residents with the knowledge to get on the right track,” he added, stating that he will offer “Dollars and \$en\$e” seminars on three consecutive Wednesdays at 6 pm in the Community Room of Brooklyn Borough Hall — all focused on reducing consumer debt in Brooklyn.

# New York mayor honors Una Clarke, democratic group

By Nelson A. King

Mayor Bill deBlasio on Sunday bestowed special honor on his former City Council colleague, Dr. Una S.T. Clarke, and her Brooklyn-based Progressive Democrats Political Association (PDPA) at a gala ceremony commemorating the 25th anniversary of the group that was founded by Clarke.

“You did something powerful that will help everyone,” said the mayor, after reading part of a New York City Proclamation declaring Sunday, April 22 “PDPA Day,” at the group’s Silver Jubilee celebrations at Tropical Paradise Ballroom on Utica Avenue in Brooklyn.

Prior to bestowing the honor, deBlasio described PDPA’s 25th anniversary as “extraordinary,” stating that the organization has the ability to reach many.

“There was a time when many doubted PDPA,” he said. “I had the honor to serve as Yvette’s [Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, Dr. Clarke’s daughter] campaign chair. So, I wanted to be here to celebrate, because everyone in this room has made a profound difference.

“And I must tell you, I wouldn’t be Mayor of New York City if it wasn’t for PDPA,” he added. “I want to congratulate PDPA.

“Obamacare — look today Obamacare is still the law of the land,” the mayor continued. “And our congresswoman [Yvette D. Clarke] was there. It’s an organization that’s not just celebrating the leaders but [has] made a difference.”

State Assemblywoman Diana Richardson, representative for the 43rd Assembly District in Brooklyn, also dispatched a State citation to PDPA, read by PDPA Vincentian-born president Veronica Phillips.

PDPA, in turn, honored 14 commu-



Mayor Bill de Blasio reads part of a proclamation to Dr. Una S.T. Clarke as she looks on. Photo by Nelson A. King

nity figures during the four-plus-hour-long gala celebration. They comprised: Special Honoree Veronica Airey-Wilson, former Deputy Mayor of Hartford, CT; Norma Amsterdam RN; Carmen Charles; Monica Foster; Leonie Francis-Bryan; Barbara Griffith; Hulbert James; Ernie Jones; Janet Larghi; Sylvia Lavalas; Ray and Geneva Trotman; Dolly Williams; and Winston Wellington.

“We have come to celebrate our Silver Jubilee, our 25th year, as a strong political movement within Central Brooklyn,” Dr. Clarke said. “We honor those early pioneering members who

had faith in the future of our central Brooklyn community. They were the bold ones who endorsed me for my first New York City Council campaign, thus laying a solid foundation upon which we have built a movement.

“Their names have been here from the beginning,” added the Jamaican-born Clarke, the first Caribbean-born woman to be ever elected to New York City Council. “They were few but committed.”

Clarke said her first campaign movement was hosted by Ms. Foster in her business place on Atlantic Avenue.

## Williams appoints a new legislative director

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Council Member Jumaane D. Williams, deputy leader of the City Council, has appointed Michael J. Twomey as his new legislative director.

Williams, who represents the 45th Council District in Brooklyn, said on Wednesday that Twomey will be taking on the role formerly held by Nicholas E. Smith, who has transitioned to a position in the De Blasio Administration.

“Michael is a welcomed addition to our team,” Williams said. “He began as a legislative intern in my office nearly five years ago, and has since grown tremendously both professionally and personally.

“Michael brings a wealth of information and experience to this role, and I

look forward to working with him,” he added.

Working in Williams’ office, as an intern, from 2012 - 2013, Twomey assisted with policy research, budget logistics and the participatory budgeting process, Williams said.

He said Twomey is also a proud graduate of New York Law School, where he earned his Juris Doctorate, with a specialization in legislation and government.

Following his internship, Williams said Twomey worked as a legal fellow for the Center for New York City Law, where he authored articles for CityLandNYC.org and CityLaw.org on zoning changes, special permit requests and Uniform Land Use Review Proce-

dures.

Most recently, Twomey served as an attorney in the Litigation and Program Counsel Unit for the New York City Human Resources Administration, Williams said.

He said Twomey is an active member of the political community, “having dedicated his time to the Brooklyn Young Democrats and the Brooklyn chapter of NAACP [National Association for the Advancement of Colored People].”

In his role as legislative director, Williams said Twomey will manage his legislative portfolio and coordinate with the Committee on Housing and Buildings on tackling affordable housing issues in the city.

### Bahamas

Police are hunting for a gunman who shot to death a female police officer last week at a club in Freeport, Grand Bahama.

Reports are that shortly after 9 pm, police responded to gunshots at the club. On their arrival they found the police officer lying on the ground with multiple gunshot wounds.

She was rushed to the hospital where she was pronounced dead on arrival. The name of the officer has not yet been released.



### Barbados

Barbados Prime Minister Freundel Stuart has denied that the island has no option but to go to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for assistance in dealing with the ailing economy.

He was responding to former Prime Minister Owen Arthur that the country going to the Washington-based financial institution was inevitable and warned that Barbados could not tackle its Bds \$3.3 billion debt crisis on its own.

It was during the debate of the 2017 / 2018 Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure in Parliament recently that Stuart rejected a suggestion from Arthur that he would have to seek assistance from the IMF to bail out the declining economy.

Arthur, who served as prime minister from 1994-2006 said, "we are not going to get over the debt unless there is some institutional arrangement that gives credibility to the creditors of Barbados that the government of Barbados is not acting unilaterally on the matter."

But, Stuart reiterated that his government would not go to the IMF- at least not now.

Arthur recently assisted Grenada with its IMF-approved home grown fiscal adjustment program.



### Guyana

The Guyana government has set up a three-member commission of enquiry



## Costly funerals in Haiti

In this March 29, 2017 photo, musicians play during a funeral in downtown of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Along the capital's bustling Rue de l'Enterrement, established morticians and unlicensed freelancers engage in a daily bidding war for new customers while teams of entrepreneurs, including videographers and brass bands who lead street processions, stand ready to rack up funeral bills with families who are frequently ill-equipped to pay for any of it. There are even mourners-for-hire for those who want the social prestige of a big sendoff. See story on page 23.

Associated Press / Dieu Nalio Chery

to probe the discovery of an unnamed private vessel within its territorial waters.

The commission is led by retired brigadiers Bruce Lovell and includes retired assistant commissioner of police Winston Cosbet and Ministry of the Presidency staff Christine Bailey.

The vessel which was tracked by Guyana's drug enforcement authorities was intercepted in the vicinity of Shell Beach and brought into the Waini River and searched last month.

The authorities said no narcotics or other illegal substances were found on the vessel in which a six-member crew, including, five foreigners were on board.

The vessel was later released by the



Customs Narcotics Unit but its release is now under investigation amid allegations the vessel had transferred narcotics to another vessel which was subsequently seized by United States authorities and found to be carrying over four tons of cocaine valued at about US\$71.7 million.

The commission will investigate and report on a number of things by April 21 to President David Granger, including the circumstances under which the Customs Narcotic Unit received information and the circumstances under which the vessel was released.

### Jamaica

Dr. Peter Phillips is now the new opposition leader of the Jamaica's People's National Party (PNP), replacing Portia Simpson-Miller.

He was sworn in by Governor Sir

Patrick Allen.

Members of the parliamentary opposition, former leader of opposition Simpson-Miller, Phillips wife, attorney at-law Sandra Minott-Phillips, and other family members attended the ceremony.

The governor general noted that the opposition leader, in leading by example, has an opportunity to demonstrate that the national interest includes not only responsible reasons and defensible criticisms in the course of debate, but statesmanlike conduct and tone in handling the nation's business in Parliament.

He said Phillips was a serious student of the political history of Jamaica "and for that reason, can be expected to ben-

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# Sparks between Barbados government and trade union

By George Alleyne

Verbal sparring between trades unions and Barbados government appears headed to the next level with a pay dispute between teachers and the Ministry of Education becoming the most recent spark that threatens to ignite into an inferno.

Seeking to underline several long-simmering grouses, the Barbados Secondary Teachers Union called out its members to a 'March for Respect' last week, and amid suggestions from the Ministry of Education that the protesting teachers will not be paid for time off the job, Education Minister, Ronald Jones blankly said over the weekend, "If you don't work I can't see how you can be paid."

But emboldened by reelection to her post for another one-year term Monday night, BSTU president Mary Redman said, "We intend to write and tell the Ministry of Education not to touch a cent of our money."



Barbados' Education Minister, Ronald Jones.  
Photo by George Alleyne

Minister Jones' argument was that according Barbados' industrial relations regulations, striking workers will not be paid if the employer is not at fault for their action. But Redman said that the gathering was nothing more than 'a mobile meeting' and not a strike, to bring their issues to the public, so teachers must

be paid.

Foremost among the grievances of teachers is their unhappiness that for years they have been marking the Caribbean Examinations Council's School-Based Assessments for students, for which they want extra pay as they see it as added work.

Government has stoutly refused, and the union has ordered its members to stop correcting and submitting the SBAs.


Redman defiantly told teachers Tuesday, "regardless of the threats that you have been seeing and hearing, all members have to stick by our agreement, no correction, no forward submission."

While the SBA payment issue could drag on for a while longer, matters of disagreement between government and this union may come to a head at the end of the month, depending on whether teachers get their salaries with money missing, purportedly deducted




Barbados Secondary Teachers Union President, Mary Redman.  
Photo by George Alleyne

because of last week's protest. Though she stopped short of threatening a strike if her members' pay is shortened at the end of April, explaining that such industrial action is a last resort, Redman said, "we are tired of the talk."




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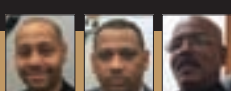


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# US, SVG sign new Open Skies deal

**By Nelson A. King**

The United States Department of State says the Trump administration has welcomed the signing of the new Open Skies Agreement between the United States and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The agreement, which was signed on Friday, April 7 entered into force immediately, said the State Department, stat-

ing that this agreement replaces “a more restrictive air transport agreement.”

“The new Open Skies agreement strengthens the partnership between the two countries, and deepens commercial and economic ties between the United States and St. Vincent and the Grenadines,” the statement said.

“It will provide oppor-

tunities for airlines, travelers, businesses, airports and localities by allowing increased market access for passenger and cargo to fly between our two countries and beyond,” it added.

In doing so, the State Department said the new agreement will facilitate future travel and commerce between the United States and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

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# Green Power: Wave of the future

By Françoise d'Estais, Angus McCrone & Ulf Moslener

*Françoise d'Estais is Head of the Finance Unit, Energy and Climate Branch, Economy Division, UN Environment, Angus McCrone is Chief Editor, Bloomberg New Energy Finance & Ulf Moslener is Research Director, Frankfurt School - UNEP Collaborating Centre*

PARIS/FRANKFURT/LONDON, April 6, 2017 (IPS) - The price of renewable energy — especially solar power — continues to tumble, and the result is more green power generating capacity for fewer dollars.

That's the bottom line message from the latest figures on world investment in clean technologies.

In 2016, record levels of new renewable energy generating capacity were added worldwide even as investments fell 23 per cent from the year before.

The data are contained in the 11th annual Global Trends in Renewable Energy Investment, a product of UN Environment, the Frankfurt School-UNEP Collaborating Centre, and Bloomberg New Energy Finance.

Wind, solar, biomass and waste-to-energy, geothermal, small hydro and marine sources added 138.5 gigawatts to global power capacity in 2016, up almost 9 per cent from the 127.5 gigawatts added the year before. The added generating capacity roughly equals that of the world's 16 largest existing power producing facilities combined.

The proportion of electricity coming from renewables (excluding large hydro) is now

11.3 per cent, a significant jump from 10.3 per cent in 2015. Thanks to green tech, humanity's emissions of carbon dioxide were an estimated 1.7 gigatonnes less than they might have been had the same power been produced from fossil fuels.

And these impressive additions to the world's generating capacity were made at a fraction of previous costs. Total investments of \$241.6 billion (excluding large hydro), were down 23 per cent from 2015 and represented the lowest total dollar investment since 2013.

As noted, this was partly the result of falling costs: the average dollar expenditure required to add a megawatt from solar photovoltaics and wind turbines dropped by over 10 per cent.

The data also show public and private sector investors — who have invested a cumulative \$2.5 trillion in renewables since 2004 — favor renewables over fossil fuels by a large margin. Investment in renewables capacity was roughly double the figure for fossil fuels; the corresponding new capacity from renewables excluding large hydro was equivalent to 55 per cent of all new power, the highest to date.

Solar and wind remain by far the most attractive renewable energy investment options.

New investment in solar totalled \$113.7 billion, down 34 per cent from the record high in 2015. Solar capacity additions, however, rose to an all-time high of 75 gigawatts.

Wind made up \$112.5 billion of investment globally, down 9 per cent; wind capacity additions fell to 54 gigawatts from



Sustainable energy.

World Bank / Dana Smillie.

the previous year's high of 63 gigawatts.

The smaller sectors had mixed fortunes in terms of new investment. Biofuels fell 37 per cent to \$2.2 billion, the lowest for at least 13 years; biomass and waste held steady at \$6.8 billion and small hydro at \$3.5 billion. Geothermal rallied 17 per cent to \$2.7 billion. Marine edged down 7 per cent to \$194 million.

In addition to reduced technology costs, the fall in investment also reflected a slowdown in China, Japan and some emerging markets, for a variety of reasons.

Renewable energy investment in developing countries fell 30 per cent to \$117 billion, while that in developed economies dropped 14 per cent to \$125 billion. China saw investment drop 32 per cent to \$78.3 billion, breaking an 11-year rising trend.

Mexico, Chile, Uruguay, South Africa and Morocco all saw falls of 60 per cent or more, due to slower than expected growth in electricity demand, and delays to auctions and financings. Jordan was one of the few new markets to buck the trend, investment there ris-

ing 148 per cent to \$1.2 billion.

The US saw commitments slip 10 per cent to \$46.4 billion, as developers took their time to build out projects to benefit from the five-year extension of the tax credit system. Japan slumped 56 per cent to \$14.4 billion.

Investment in renewables did not drop across the board, however. Europe enjoyed a 3 per cent increase to \$59.8 billion, led by the UK (\$24 billion) and Germany (\$13.2 billion). Offshore wind (\$25.9 billion) dominated Europe's investment, up 53 per cent thanks to mega-arrays such as the 1.2 gigawatt Hornsea project in the North Sea, estimated to cost \$5.7 billion. China also invested \$4.1 billion in offshore wind, its highest figure to date.

And in India, the Ramanathapuram solar complex, billed as the world's largest ever solar photovoltaic project (648 megawatts), was constructed.

"The question always used to be 'will renewables ever be grid competitive?'" says Michael Liebreich, Chairman of the Advisory Board at BNEF. "Well, after the dramatic cost reductions of the past few years, unsubsidised wind and solar can provide

the lowest cost new electrical power in an increasing number of countries, even in the developing world — sometimes by a factor of two."

"It's a whole new world: even though investment is down, annual installations are still up; instead of having to subsidise renewables, now authorities may have to subsidise natural gas plants to help them provide grid reliability."

Recent figures from the International Energy Agency cited the switch to renewables as a main reason for greenhouse gas emissions staying flat in 2016, for the third year running, even though output in the global economy rose by 3.1 per cent.

We need this trend to continue and accelerate. And this latest renewable energy investment trends report offers reason to hope that it will.

In the words of Erik Solheim, Executive Director of UN Environment: "Ever-cheaper clean tech provides a real opportunity for investors to get more for less."

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# Apology, reparations to Rastafarians

In an unprecedented show of remorse and humility, the government of Jamaica took responsibility for a single incident that blamed the island's total Rastafarian population for the death of eight individuals in a farming community 10 miles east of the second city of Montego Bay 54 years ago.

Stigmatized and persecuted since 1963, "the Rastafarian community has harbored feelings of bitterness and resentment over the years."

Prime Minister Andrew Holness — with endorsement from Peter Phillips, Opposition People's National Party leader — acknowledged the wrongful actions his government perpetrated in 1963 following the deaths of several persons in a farming community known as Coral Gardens.

"Fellow Jamaicans, the Coral Gardens Incident was a grave injustice. The government acknowledges that the machinery of the Jamaican state evolved out of an era when it was considered appropriate to utilize the heavy hand of the state against citizens.

"I committed to making an



## Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

apology for what has come to be commonly referred to as the Coral Gardens incident; one which occurred at a time in our history when our society was more reflective of the colonial era."

"Today, without equivocation, we apologize for what occurred in Coral Gardens.

We express our regret and sorrow for this chapter in our national life that was characterized by brutality, injustice and repression, which was wrong and should never be repeated."

"Today, I am honoring the commitment to tender an apology," Holness said in Parliament recently.

Fifty-four years after the April 1963 atrocity that left eight persons dead, the leader formally apologized for unjustified treatment by his party's leaders who endorsed the beatings, imprisonment and humiliation endured by Rastafarians

many of whom were forcibly trimmed of their trademarked dreadlocks in retribution of the incident.

Maligned by association, Rastafarians endured persecution throughout the island resulting with longstanding distrust and bitterness towards the nation's leaders.

Reportedly, 54 years ago, seven Rastafarians were killed by police and dozens more injured after bearded men set a gas station on fire and killed its owner during a land dispute.

In the aftermath of the attack, "the Rastas and a policeman were killed, and another policeman chopped several times and hospitalized for months."

Allegedly, "the incident sparked a nationwide persecution against Rastas" endorsed by the governing JLP.

Holness said that the decision to make a formal apology



Jamaica's Prime Minister Andrew Holness (right) meets with a representative of the Rastafarian movement.

was due to a report presented by the public defender, and should be regarded as an "important first step in our national effort to reflect on, in a very focused way, an unfortunate chapter in our nation's history."

In addition to the apology, the PM announced a number of tangible steps his government is committed to pursuing in order to repair the age-old tarnished image of a segment

of the society.

One of them includes a trust fund "of no less than \$10 million to be established for the benefit of survivors."

He added that "six lots at the property at Pinnacle in St. Catherine will be declared by the Jamaica National Heritage Trust as a protected heritage site and will be developed as a Rastafari heritage and cultural center."

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# 'Raise the Age'

Continued from page 1

is cruel. A system that puts children at high risk for rape and brutalization by adults is cruel. A system that leaves no room for redemption and accepts recidivism is cruel.

"Today, we make way for more compassion and common sense in our justice system," Hamilton continued. "Compassion because of truths about our common humanity and our common human frailty — and the fact that young people, all people really, make mistakes. We know young people, with their whole lives ahead of them, can be put on a path to being productive New Yorkers. That is common sense."

Assemblywoman Rodneyse Bichotte, who represents the 42nd Assembly District in Brooklyn, said it was "a historic day for families and children across the state of New York," with the passage of the measure, which raised the age of criminal responsibility from 16 and 17 years of age to 18 years of age.

"The concessions that were made were difficult and heartbreaking when it came to negotiating the reforms to change the penal law language to protect our children," said Bichotte, the first Haitian American from New York City to be elected to the State Assembly. "As legislators, especially when we have a broken government, it becomes



Assembly Member Rodneyse Bichotte.  
Photo by Tequila Minsky

challenging to pass a real progressive agenda.

"In the case of the Raise the Age legislation, although it's not perfect, it is the right step forward in preventing 28,000 16- and 17- year-olds on an annual basis from being charged and prosecuted criminally like adult," she added.

Bichotte, however, noted that final negotiations around the Raise the Age legislation were not perfect.

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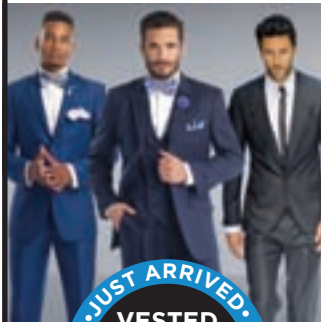


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# CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 4

efit from that knowledge as well from his own years of experience as he takes up this new role."

Phillips paid tribute to former opposition leader, Simpson-Miller, for her support during the transition process.

The new opposition leader is a graduate of Jamaica College and earned a Bachelor of Science in Economics and a Master of Science in Government from the University of the West Indies (UWI).

## St. Vincent

Two men are charged with involuntary manslaughter following the 2015 fatal accident which claimed the lives of seven students after the bus in which they were traveling plunged into the sea in the North Windward community.

Chief Magistrate Rechanne Browne upheld a non-case submission made recently by the attorneys representing the driver Davanan Nanton and 67-year-old conductor, Pastor Ehud Myers.

The two were each charged with seven counts of involuntary manslaughter in connection with the deaths of the seven students at Rock Gutter on Jan. 12, 2015.

The students died when the minibus in which they were passengers traveling to school careened down a steep section of the road and plunged into the seas.

## St. Lucia

St. Lucia will record economic growth of 0.5 percent this year driven mostly by continued strong performance in construction and agriculture.

This is the prediction of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which noted that higher import prices, including oil, will cause inflation to rise temporarily and, together with weak tourist expenditures, will contribute to widen

external imbalances.

The IMF said while the upcoming budget should bring some clarity about fiscal policies, in the absence of corrective measures, rising interest payments will add to expenditure pressures, leading public debt to an unsustainable path.

The Washington-based financial institution said that as commodity prices gradually rise from recent lows, the current account deficit will widen, reflecting low competitiveness.

Last year St. Lucia recorded gross domestic product (GDP) of 0.8 percent down from 1.8 percent in 2015.

## Trinidad

Trinidadian Shane Dominic Crawford is among those declared by the United States as an alleged ISIS fighter last week.

The Department of State has posted that Crawford and other foreigners identified as El Shafee Elsheik, Anjem Choudray, Sami Bouras and Mark John Taylor were currently believed to be foreign terrorists fighters in Syria carrying out terrorist activity on behalf of ISIS, including acting as an English language propagandist for the group.

Crawford, also known as Asadullah, Abu Sa'dat-Trinidad, is listed as others as "Specially Designated Global Terrorists" under Section 1(b) of the United States executive Order 13224.

Crawford's mother in an interview with a Trinidad newspaper a few months ago said she had not heard from her son for a long time and was not sure if he was still alive in Syria.

Crawford, who has a record of alleged crimes in Trinidad, left for Syria not long after being detained in the 2011 state of emergency but was later released. He was among 15 others involved in an alleged plot to assassinate former Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar.

— compiled by Azad Ali

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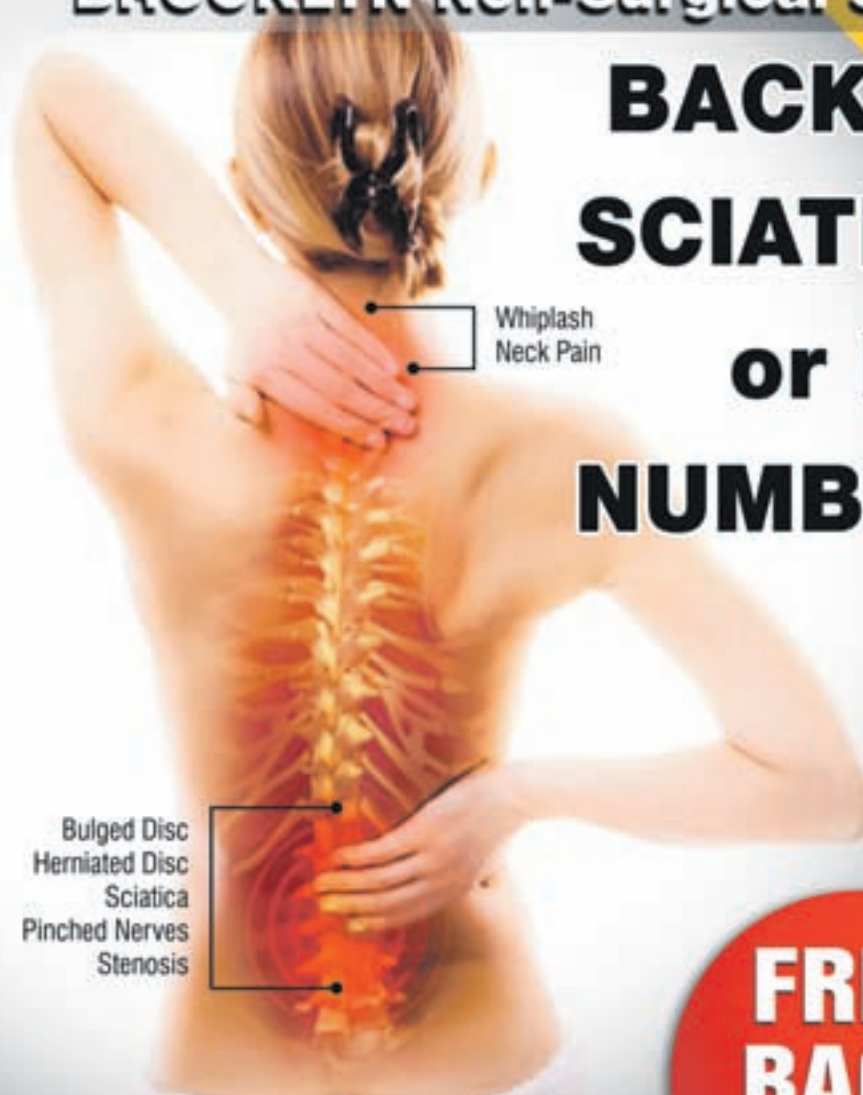
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Mothers and babies wait for health screening at a United States funded health clinic in Uganda.  
Inter Press Service / Lyndal Rowlands

## ‘Devastating consequences’ for women, girls as U.S. defunds UN agency

**By Tharanga Yakupitiyage**

UNITED NATIONS, April 5, 2017 (IPS) - The U.S. has withdrawn all of its funding to the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), an agency that works on family planning and reproductive health in over 150 countries.

The decision is based on what the UNFPA says is an erroneous claim that it “supports, or participates in the management of, a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilisation (in China).”

The claim was made by the U.S. State Department in a letter on Monday announcing the cuts, but has been described repeatedly as baseless, by those who know the UNFPA’s work.

According to the UNFPA, it does not promote abortions and instead “accords the highest priority to voluntary family planning to prevent unintended pregnancies to eliminate recourse to abortion.”

In a statement released in response to the funding cuts, the UNFPA said that “we have always valued the United States as a trusted partner and leader in helping to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person’s potential is fulfilled.”

The U.S. is one of the largest contributors to UNFPA having provided over \$75 million in 2015 alone, the third highest contribution from a government after the United Kingdom and Sweden. The U.S. is also the second largest funder of UNFPA’s humanitarian operations. Like other UN agencies, UNFPA is funded by governments voluntarily.

International Women’s Health Coali-

tion’s Director of Advocacy and Policy Shannon Kowalski told IPS that the cuts will have “devastating consequences” for girls and women around the world.

“UNFPA has played a critical role in getting services to the most marginalised women...now their lives and health are at stake because of this,” Kowalski told IPS.

She noted that the UN agency’s front-line work in crisis situations will be most affected, including the provision of sexual and reproductive health services to women who have been targeted by the Islamic State (IS) or other groups in the Middle Eastern region.

According to the UN Foundation, the elimination of U.S. support threatens UNFPA’s ability to reach an estimated 48,000 women with safe childbirth in Syria and 55 women’s centers providing support for over 15,000 women and girl survivors of gender-based violence in Iraq, including one dedicated to more than 700 Yazidi sexual violence survivors.

Around the world, the UNFPA says that US funding in 2016 helped it to save the lives of 2,340 women from dying during pregnancy and childbirth, prevent 947,000 unintended pregnancies, ensure 1,251 fistula surgeries and prevent 295,000 unsafe abortions.

Executive Director of UN Foundation’s Universal Access Project Seema Jalan told IPS that the U.S. government is also the primary funder of the only maternity ward for Syrian women in the Zaatarri refugee camp in Jordan.

“Pregnant Syrian women will have absolutely nowhere to go to deliver their babies,” she stated.



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# Haitian entrepreneur wants to refuel a greener state



A new step: Propane tank being installed under a taxi for use. This conversion from gas dependency will reduce pollution caused by gas-running vehicles. (right) Jean Conille, founder of Autogaz Haiti.

Jean Conille

**By Alexandra Simon**

He is trying to attain financial gain with the use of propane.

Autogaz Haiti, a Haiti-based company, which converts gas operated transport vehicles to use propane is playing a major role in what can be a greener future for the country. The company's founder and businessman Jean Conille, is a 2017 recipient of the The International Economic Award for Environmental Protection Efforts, which was awarded to him earlier this year. Since creating the company in 2015 he said he is proud of his recognition, and that the award represents something greater than him.

"The award is not just for me — it's for Haiti and I believe we can make a difference," he said. "The environment has no citizenship and if Haiti has an environmental problem, the world has an environmental problem — it's a chain reaction affecting everyone."

The mission of Autogaz is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Haiti by providing a safer fuel alternative for transport taxis, also known as tap-tap. With propane kits, tap-tap drivers can convert their gas-running vehicles to propane, and save money through contracts similar to cell phone bills, said Conille. Currently a gallon of propane would cost a

driver half of what they can pay for a gallon of gas.

Gas is also known to emit harmful exhaust, and an environmentally-friendly substitute is implementing propane. The conversion from diesel and gas fuelled cars would reduce pollution in Haiti, he said.

There are an estimated 150,000 tap-tap taxis in Haiti and many of these trucks are becoming the source of the environmental problem.

"The biggest environmental challenge right now is deforestation, greenhouse gas, and the pollution from tap-taps," said Conille. "A lot of tap-taps are in very bad condition because they are not serviced properly and

the fumes from the vehicles can make the air intolerable."

Conille said that with Haiti having only two percent of forestation left in the country, urgent measures to save the environment's green pastures are needed, and Autogaz wants to assist this effort by converting taxis to use propane.

"It's as bad as it can get and we're doing everything to encourage forestation," he said.

Enlisting experts to obtain a license for Autogaz, a study concluded that if all taxi's converted to propane it would not only save drivers \$300 more, but also improve the environment in Haiti by 20 percent.

There are four Autogaz sta-

tions in Haiti mostly located in Port-au-Prince where most tap-taps operate. Two more stations are expected to open in other cities in the country including Gonaive, said Conille.

Due to the popularity of Autogaz, Conille said that other countries in the Caribbean and Africa have approached him about propane kits, but right now he wants to prioritize Haiti, where he is still finding challenges against fuel monopolies in the country.

"We have a lot of demand but before we go international, we want to go national first," he said. "But right now we have a Ferrari but not driving it more than 40 miles per hour."

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# Grieving Haitians go into lifetime of debt to fund funerals

By David McFadden

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) – Aspasie Tanis lives hand-to-mouth on the edge of eviction in the best of times, scraping out a living selling packets of spaghetti and cookies outside her low-slung concrete shack in Haiti's capital. Now the death of her father by stroke threatens to send her into a lifetime of debt.

The distraught single mother is frantically seeking loans from friends and pastors to pay for the cheapest funeral on offer. Hospital morgue officials say her father's body will be dumped in a pauper's grave unless her struggling family forks over a relative fortune of just over \$1,000.

"I'll never be at peace if he isn't buried properly," Tanis said quietly after transferring her father's corpse to a cut-rate private morgue.

Her anxiety is shared by many in Haiti, where two out of three people live on less than \$2 per day and burying the dead is a predatory busi-

ness. While funerals are costly in any number of countries, Haitian undertakers get away with charging rates that exceed what most citizens earn in a year.

Along the capital's bustling Rue de l'Enterrement, established morticians and unlicensed freelancers engage in a daily bidding war for new customers while telling bereaved families that anything less than their set packages can be seen as a lack of respect for the dead.

Teams of entrepreneurs, including videographers and brass bands who lead street processions, stand ready to rack up funeral bills with families who are frequently ill-equipped to pay for any of it. There are even mourners-for-hire for those who want the social prestige of a big sendoff.

"I can provide people to cry, roll on the ground, whatever you want," chuckled Joseph Jacques Simeon, director of the General Hospital's morgue department. He acknowledged

to an Associated Press reporter that he gets a cut from the funeral packages families agree to when they arrive, shaken, at his office.

A 2012 report by the Brazil-based Igarape Institute indicated that funeral costs in Haiti average about \$5,000 per household and interest rates up to 150 percent were charged by moneylenders and morticians.

"In some cases we see poor families paying significantly more for mortician services than middle-class families because they are less informed about options and don't believe they have the room to negotiate the costs," said researcher Athena Kolbe, a co-author of the report.

The bereaved Tanis, who used what little savings she had to try and keep her father alive, appeared highly vulnerable to influence.

When Simeon insisted that the cheapest package was about \$1,000, Tanis and her unemployed brother passively



In this March 30, 2017 photo, Jean Pierre Mercelien upholsters the inside of a coffin at a shop in downtown Port-au-Prince, Haiti. "It's a good living because there will never stop being new customers," he said matter-of-factly in a yard with men building wooden caskets and decorating them with cushions and aluminum handles.

Associated Press / Dieu Nalio Chery

accepted add-on services like a funeral video and didn't press to find out how much another morgue would charge them while they sought cash for a funeral package.

While many Haitians pool resources and seek funeral expenses from relatives living overseas, there's no shortage of grief-stricken families who sell possessions or take out high-interest-rate loans, in part due to deep traditions for open-casket funerals and social pressures to bury loved ones with a splash.

"This is particularly true for

poorer people and for people in rural areas where social pressure is stronger," said Carine Roenen, director of Fonkoze Foundation, a non-profit working with Haiti's biggest micro-finance institution.

Pitchmen often start hustling as soon as word gets out there's been a death in a family. Fly-by-night hearse drivers, prying neighbors and even hospital physicians will bring bereaved families to undertakers, competing to claim a finder's fee of 10 percent that mortuaries dole out to intermediaries.

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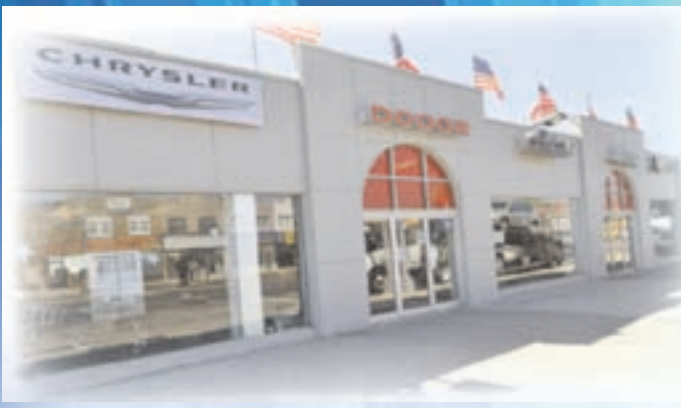
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**Exclusive interview with Dr. Golio, Director of Craniofacial Surgery**

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Dr. Dominick I. Golio says, "A growing number of people flock annually to be examined due to these symptoms. There are many different causes for these problems. Age, Arthritis, the use of certain drugs to lower blood pressure, meds to treat allergies, Parkinson's & nerves may increase the chances of dry eyes exposing them to recurring infections & other serious conditions."

Not everyone can reduce or stop using meds or drops of artificial tears and antibiotics are not enough for many. Dr. Golio explains, "A test that all patients with these symptoms should take in front a mirror, lower the lower eyelid with the index finger and hold it in this position for five seconds. It is important not to blink for this test. Typically, the lid returns to its normal position in a second. We often see patients with such sagging eyelids that after taking this test their eyelids do not return to their position within 7 to 10 seconds."

A simple procedure that does not require hospitalization, removes a small amount of skin from the edge of the eyelid restoring the position thereof. "It's like

pulling the rope of a hammock that has withered with time," says Dr. Golio.

If this situation is not corrected, eyes that are exposed outdoors for longer periods of time may have increased symptoms and incidences of infections. Flabby eyelids occasionally veer inward and the lashes touching the eye causing even more irritation.

This procedure that corrects a sagging lower lid is done under local anesthesia by removing excess skin, aligning the eyelid to the outer eye while removing excess fat by pulling the eyelid down. There is no pain or patches needed, you return home the same day and the stitches fall out on their own within one or two weeks.

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# Young Vincy group makes a huge difference

By Nelson A. King

Formed just over three years ago, the Brooklyn-based Vincentian group Friends of Sion Hill, Inc. (FOSH) is already making a huge difference in the lives of many in the community in New York and at home in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

"The executives and members continue to make strides toward achieving our organization's motto, 'Rebuilding our Community One Life at a Time,'" said Oxley Lowmans, the group's president, in addressing the Second Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony, on Sat., April 1, at the Friends of Crown Heights Educational Center in Brooklyn.

"And it is with this in mind that we decided to make this year's theme 'One People, One Goal, Working Together for a Greater Good,'" he added. "FOSH members believe that true progress can only be achieved by working together with other groups or individuals."

Lowmans said this past year "saw the organization participating in events at home and



Oxley Lowmans addresses the crowd at the second annual dinner and awards ceremony of Friends of Sion Hill, Inc. Photo by Nelson A. King

in the Diaspora," stating that, for the first time last year, the group participated in the Avon Breast Cancer Walk in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, raising and donating \$1,200 toward the cause. FOSH hopes to make this an annual feature, he said.

When areas of on mainland St. Vincent were affected by heavy rains last year, Lowmans said FOSH members "readily participated in the relief effort."

He said FOSH, named after a popular village overlooking capital Kingstown, also provides support to many Vincentian organizations in the United States. The group supported the Brooklyn-based Vincy Cares' annual fundraising gala, and Standard Shippers and Friends' Annual Toy Drive and summer Kids Party.

FOSH also contributes financially to the Vincy Day Committee that organizes the annual Vincy Day Picnic at Heckscher State Park in Long Island, Lowmans said.

Additionally, in October 2014, FOSH provided the Sion Hill Euphonium Steel Orchestra with a quantity of T-shirts to help with its Independence celebration and community outreach program, and sponsored trophies for the 2014 local Sion Hill Netball tournament.

Another of the beneficiaries of FOSH's commitment was the Cathedral of the Assumption, which received US\$200 in July 2015 to aid in the replacement of the church's bell.

In August that same year, Lowmans said FOSH, which



Members of Friends of Sion Hill, Inc. at the second annual dinner and awards ceremony. Photo by Nelson A. King

is registered with the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, supplied the Lazarus Foundation Vacation program for children in Sion Hill and surrounding communities with a quantity of school supplies and toiletries.

The organization also contributed trophies to the Sion Hill Football [Soccer] League in 2015, aided the funeral fund for Jacqueline Huggins and partnered with the Sion Hill Euphonium Steel Orchestra in distributing food packages to 75 community members.

Lowmans said FOSH has already had two major accomplishments this year: It's now

"a fully registered" New York State 501©3 organization.

"This status would enable us to be more proactive in our community and provide more support to those in need," said Lowmans, adding that another major accomplishment was the formation of the FOSH SVG [St. Vincent and the Grenadines] sister organization.

"We will work with this organization to identify those areas in need of most urgent assistance," he added. "We are excited about this collaboration and are looking forward to working along with them for the betterment of our community."

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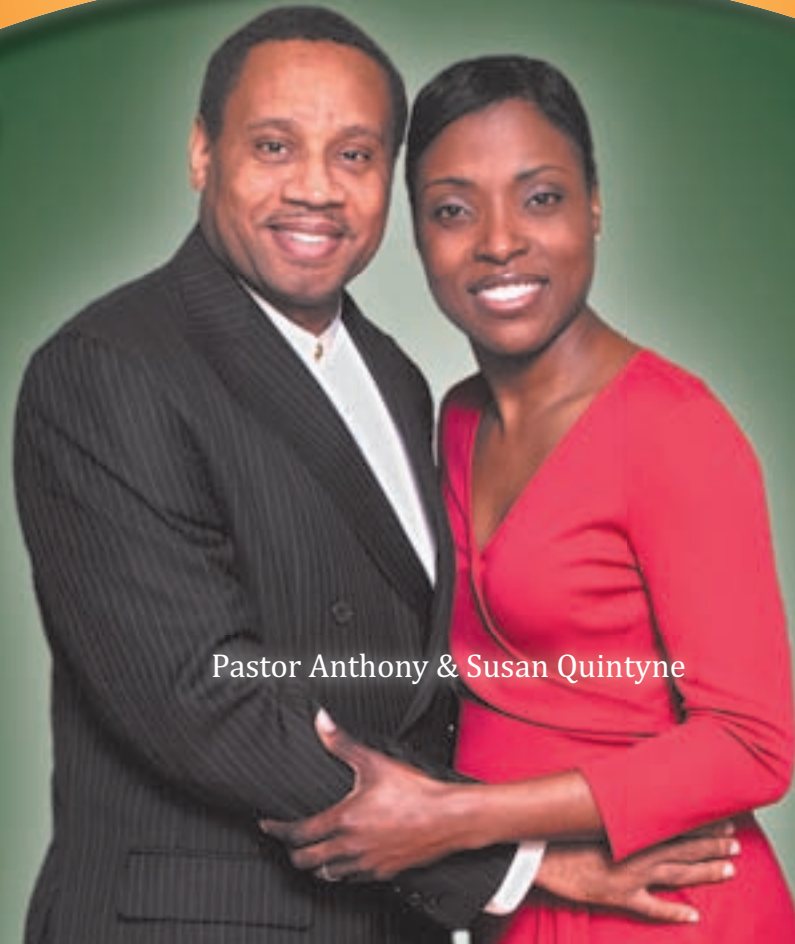
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# Barbados launches new music streaming service



Founder and CEO of Selecta Charts Paul Husbands makes the official announcement of Selecta Charts at his alma mater Queen's College in Barbados. Selecta Charts

history of our island, as this will be the first time a music streaming service of this magnitude has been attempted in Barbados. So artists will be involved in making Barbadian history when we launch on Saturday, April 8."

By Alexandra Simon

A new music streaming service Selecta Charts will be Barbados' first to stream music for free. The platform, which is the brainchild of founder and creator Paul Husbands, was an idea that came to fruition after attending a Canadian cultural festival, which explored the popularity of soca music access in the country, he said. Husbands said after the national Crop Over festival, soca music dies down.

"During the group discussion, the representatives were shocked to hear that in Barbados we only focus on soca during Crop Over in the summer, instead of year round," he said. "They noted this as an area to be remedied and spoke about how Canada pushes their artists on the radio and at local events all year round. This really resonated with me, as I had shared those same thoughts for quite some time."

He said that Barbadians have been waiting for a service such



Barbadian soca and dancehall artist Lil Rick is one of the many artists who supports Selecta Charts. Lil Rick

as Selecta Charts to support their artists.

"Music listeners, particularly in Barbados, are mostly looking forward to seeing growth in our local music industry with the launch," he said. "There is so much talent in Barbados and artists deserve an outlet with a big audience and Selecta Charts was designed to be just

that."

And he said people were already buzzing about it, highly anticipating it.

"Users are really looking forward to discovering new artists and new local music, with many local artists making their mainstream debut on Selecta Charts," said Husbands.

Fans also will not be the only ones to enjoy the platform.

"There will be many benefits for artists on Selecta Charts. The top-streamed artists will receive royalties by our local Music Royalty Agency, COSCAP — who we are working with — once the artists are signed up with them," he said. "Artists will have access to statistics for all of their music, a Weekly Top 10 Charts, news updates, the option to upload their own music and new features that will be added overtime. Users will also be able to find and follow their favourite artists on social media through our Artist Page. Selecta Charts will be a pioneering moment in the



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40 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Each Sunday, your family has a routine they follow.

Everyone gets up early to the smells of a good breakfast that Mama makes; she serves all your favorites before you go to church to raise your voice and praise God. Church is also where people can go to pray. Some people get saved there. And in the new book “Early Sunday Morning” by Denene Millner, illustrated by Vanessa Brantley-Newton, some people get a dose of confidence.

Sunday is the day your family sets aside for the Lord, which makes it pretty special because everybody puts on their best clothes, shines their shoes, and goes to church together. It’s your favorite day of the week, especially when something like a solo in youth choir makes it even better.

Singing is fun, and it’s easy to practice when nobody’s around. It’s also fun when it’s done with someone else but singing

alone in front of a microphone, in front of the whole church? That’s scary, even though everybody tells you it’ll be okay. You’ll be looking extra-fine, you’ll have your hair in a beautiful crown, they all have good advice but still, you’re awfully nervous. Mama says “the angels will shout in Heaven” when you sing. Daddy says to “pick a spot in the church and sing to it like you do in the mirror.” Their words make you feel a tiny bit more confident.

Once you’re at church, just getting through Sunday School is hard. Not looking at the microphone is hard. Not watching the clock is hard, too. And then, it’s time to put on the choir robe you’ve brought from home and walk to the front of the church with your friends. It’s time to open your mouth and sing... but you’re still nervous.

Mama thinks angels will shout. Daddy reminded you to pick a spot and don’t worry. You remember all that, so you take their advice and a deep breath...

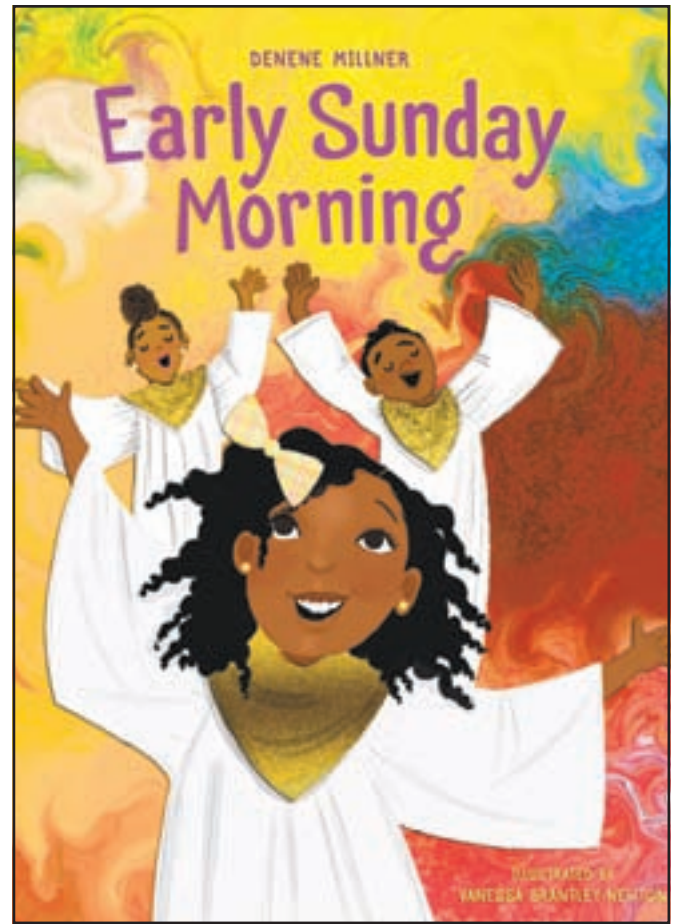
Dry mouth. A little shaky in the knees. That funny feeling just below the ribcage.

Yep, that’s a case of the nerves alright, but “Early Sunday Morning” shows your child that things have a way of turning out fine.

And that can take time, as this story indicates. The main character, unnamed but based on author Denene Millner’s own childhood, is ready-not-ready to tackle what’s obviously a big honor; through the expressive artistry of Vanessa Brantley-Newton, young readers can see the character dealing with Mean Kids and wrestling with her fears, and that reticence is easy to identify with no matter what your age.

But wait — that’s not all. Millner also tells a tale of a tight-knit community, a close family, and their collective faith. Of course this book is about a little girl’s solo in choir, but you can’t discount the adults, who quietly support the story.

Children who love read-alouds will enjoy this book, while kids ages eight-to-10 may enjoy reading it themselves. It’s definitely a charmer; in fact, once you’ve read “Early Sunday Morning” once, you’ll be singing its praises, too.



Book cover of “Early Sunday Morning” by Denene Millner.

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## Higher education institutions pledge dedication to student success

The future of higher education is often the subject of debate; what constitutes a valuable education for students continues to shift as student demographics change. Recently, government regulators and other external stakeholders have been questioning the value of for-profit higher education, specifically, citing for-profit colleges and universities that have not upheld their commitment to students.

For-profit education organizations like DeVry Education Group contend that their institutions are uniquely positioned to serve the new majority of students - those who juggle full-time jobs, families and other obligations in order to pursue their educational goals, typically years after they complete high school. This new normal is now the largest group of college attendees, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

Some schools are working to demonstrate this unique value, and their commitment to students, by providing information to students making the decision to attend college.

This includes setting and communicating new standards to help students achieve their educational and career goals, and formalizing their institution's commitment to students through public proclamations designed to hold them accountable to student and stakeholder interests.

Chamberlain College of Nursing has made standards for student support part of the very fabric of its academic offering. Through an educational philosophy called Chamberlain Care, the organization has created a culture that fosters collaboration, cooperation and respect among all through a care-based set of beliefs, values and behaviors.

"We believe that if we provide our students with the care and support they need to be successful, they will go on to provide that same level of care as nurses," says Susan Groenwald, national president of Chamberlain. "That's why we built the Chamberlain Care model. It naturally extends outwards from each student to their patients and to the communities they

serve."

Recently, DeVry Education Group and its institutions, including Chamberlain College of Nursing, announced a set of Student Commitments formed in partnership with students and stakeholders to guide education and service to students. The commitments go above and beyond standard higher education policies and practices to provide a new level of public accountability in hopes of inspiring institutions throughout the industry. They also encourage dialogue about value in education that will ultimately benefit all students, regardless of the institution they attend, and the employers who seek to hire them.

The public proclamation outlines the following commitments, which Chamberlain hopes will serve as a model for other educators to consider for strengthening the industry's commitment to students:

1. Informed student choice. Help students make informed decisions by providing information about program performance and costs, and

an orientation around student support services, online learning platforms and academic policies.

2. Responsible recruitment and enrollment. Provide financial and academic advising to prospective students and benchmark and disclose recruiting expenditures against national standards.

3. Responsible participation in the federal loan process. Lower institutional limits on federal funding and provide students with a variety of ways to manage tuition costs.

4. Financial literacy and academic transparency. Increase student visibility into program progression, loan balance and financial position throughout their academic journey.

5. Improving student satisfaction. Conduct student surveys to track progress and actively respond to results and feedback.

6. Successful student outcomes and accountability. Identify and proactively engage with students who may be at risk for program com-

pletion, and account for student satisfaction and quality outcomes in performance management for executive leadership.

"Our role as educators is to lay the foundation for the future generation of leaders. Part of that is providing students with as many resources as possible to successfully complete their studies," Groenwald says. "By committing to put our students first, we are ensuring that they get the most out of their education and can pay it forward in the workplace."

When leaders in higher education voluntarily invest in transparent practices to strengthen the student experience, all stakeholders benefit. For the new majority of students who face challenges at work and at home, their academic success depends on a school's commitment to them - not just their commitment to the school.

Institutions like Chamberlain that put these students first are redefining the college experience and reinforcing the value of higher education today.

# Tips for decoding financial aid award letters

Whether you're a high school senior or an adult looking to change careers, a college degree can be the key to a bright future. As acceptance letters arrive in the mail, another important document is not far behind: financial aid letters.

"College is a major investment, and many people require financial assistance to pay for it," says Harlan Cohen, New York Times best-selling author and creator of the Naked Financial Minute. "It's vital to understand financial aid so you can make informed choices and avoid surprises in the future."

The average cost of tuition and fees for the 2016-2017 school year is \$33,480 at private colleges, \$9,650 for state residents at public colleges, and \$24,930 for out-of-state residents attending public universities, according to the College Board.

In order to find out what aid you qualify for, you should start by filing your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). After your information is processed, and you've applied to

the colleges of your choice, you'll receive financial aid award letters in the mail with the results from each school where you were accepted.

Not all financial aid letters are the same, so deciphering and comparing them can be confusing. To help get you started, the experts at College Ave Student Loans share tips and tricks for how to easily understand your financial aid letter.

Look carefully at symbols and terms: College award letters may use different wording and abbreviations. For instance, rather than spelling out the word "loan" you could see "L" or "LN". You might also see "net price" and "net cost." Look carefully at how each school calculates these amounts. Some schools will subtract loan amounts from these figures. Just remember that loans need to be paid back, usually with interest; loans can help you spread the cost of college over time, but they don't eliminate the expense.

Know the difference be-



tween gift aid and loans: Gift aid is money that is awarded to qualifying students that isn't expected to be paid back. Gift aid includes things like scholarships, grants, and housing or tuition waivers. Not all applicants will qualify for gift aid, but most will be eligible for federal loans. As a general rule, you should expect that you'll need to pay loans back, usually with interest.

Be aware of the impact of outside scholarships: If a student is awarded a private scholarship, the financial aid letter may list

its effect on the amount of money offered by the school or in federal aid because the student's financial need has already been partially covered. This could impact gift aid, loan amounts, or both.

Keep an eye out for work-study offers: If you indicated an interest during the FAFSA application, your financial aid letter may list approval for a work-study job that provides money toward your studies and fits with your class schedule. The money you earn is typically

applied directly to your school expenses.

Understand your expected family contribution (EFC): Depending on your personal circumstances, there may be a line item for expected family contribution. This is the amount of money your family is expected to contribute toward your college education based on their tax and savings information. This will impact your overall award package.

Think about additional costs: Your financial aid letter may not include all of the costs associated with going to school. Think beyond tuition and make sure you have an idea of what you'll be spending on housing, food, transportation, books, supplies, additional fees, and other living expenses.

If you find the amount of financial aid provided isn't enough (including the amount offered in federal loans), families may want to research and explore private student loans as an option to cover the additional expenses.

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This summer, the NYU School of Professional Studies (NYUSPS), a leader in professionally focused education, will offer an affordable option of study that will provide individuals who have earned a high school degree with the opportunity to acquire industry focused skills that will prepare them for jobs in fields with growing levels of employment. New Diplomas, offered through NYUSPS Professional Pathways, are designed as immersive programs of study that can be completed in as little as one semester. During Summer 2017, seven Diplomas will be offered. They include:

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**Project Management**, which gives students a hands-on understanding of the essential terminology and the application of the basic tools, techniques, and practices required to become an effective and contributing member of a project team.

The **Diploma in Bookkeeping**, a blended program, which imparts the knowledge and skill sets to perform functions within the bookkeep-

ing cycle, manually and with QuickBooks and Xero, and grounds students in accounting ethics and best practices.

The **Diploma in Construction Administration**, a blended program that provides the skills to secure an entry-level position within the commercial or residential building sectors of the real estate industry. Students learn about the construction process and document administration, and gain

an introduction to construction methods and materials, building systems, drawings, estimating, and scheduling.

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The **Diploma in Web Design and Development** teaches students the essential webpage development skills through hands-on practice us-

ing HTML5 and CSS.

All Diplomas will provide industry specific career modules presented online in a self-paced format, which help students to better understand the job market. Upon completion of a diploma, students also will have access to an online portal featuring job postings and a resource library. Annual networking events will provide opportunities to meet with peers and employers in the field. Each program of study provides students with a tangible take-away project that can be added to their résumé and presented to prospective employers.

For more information about NYUSPS Diploma Programs, visit [sps.nyu.edu/diplomas07](http://sps.nyu.edu/diplomas07) or call 212-998-7200. Application deadline is May 8, 2017.



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9:00 AM – 10:30 AM	MATHEMATICS
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	READING
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	BREAK
12:00 PM – 1:15 PM	WRITING & VOCAB

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# How to keep your student athlete fueled



High school can be intense, but being a student athlete can intensify expectations.

As the start of spring sports approaches, the stakes are even higher for your student to maintain the success they had first semester. There are practices, matches and conference finals that have to fit in with exams and semester-long projects. Being a standout in the classroom and on the field requires expert-level planning and execution.

That's where parents play a huge role in helping their teen athletes keep it all in balance. Here are four easy tips to help you ensure that your teen is ready for a great season, on and off the field.

**Food:** Allison Maurer - a sports dietitian and Gatorade consultant who has worked with high school and collegiate athletes - says, "The important thing to remember is that food is fuel. It gives athletes the energy they need to perform and also helps them recover. When planning your athletes' meals, look for whole food sources that provide high-quality fats, lean proteins and complex carbohydrates. Talk to your athlete about his or her fuel strategy before, during and after practices and games, and offer support by providing healthy, energy rich snacks."

**Hydration:** When exercising hard, the body cools itself through sweat. If body mass is reduced by about 2 percent, which would be 3 pounds of water weight loss in a 150-pound athlete, it can negatively affect performance, according to the National Athletic Trainers' Association's (NATA) Position Statement on Fluid Replacement for Athletes.

"Athletes lose more than water in sweat, so it's important that they take their hydration seriously since it can impact performance," Maurer says. "There are a number of products to meet an athlete's hydration and fueling preferences. For those looking for an organic fueling

option, I recommend G Organic, Gatorade's latest product. It's made with only seven ingredients and provides the same hydration benefits that athletes expect from Gatorade."

**Rest:** Although teens may seem to bounce back easily from a night with too little rest, the truth is that good sleep helps both learning and athletic performance. Sleep helps athletes recover, especially after they've pushed their limits in an intense workout. Being rested can also improve reaction time, as well as speed and accuracy. In addition, teens with earlier bedtimes had better grades than those who stayed up later and slept less, according to a study of 3,000 subjects cited by the National Sleep Foundation.

Talk about these benefits with your athlete, and encourage them to go to bed and rise at the same time each day. Also, the glowing light of electronic devices can also interfere with sleep. So, help your teen come up with a strategy to power down an hour or so before bedtime in order to prepare their minds for a night of restorative sleep.

**Planning:** Schedules have a way of colliding, and this especially happens when a huge test and a game are scheduled for the same day. Each week, sit down with your student athlete and walk through that week's schedule. Look at practices, games, homework assignments and tests, and create a calendar. That way, if a midterm and a game take place on the same day, he or she can plan accordingly. This will help avoid a late-night, stress-filled cram session that will steal from their performance in the classroom and on the field.

Life as a student athlete means keeping everything in balance. By focusing on the body - from nutrition to time management - athletes can focus on giving their best performance this upcoming season.

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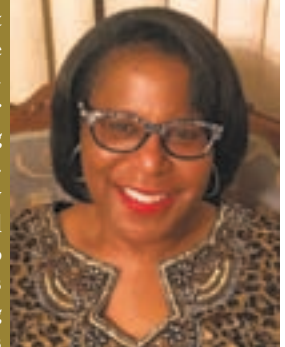


**Merle Warren**

It was a great honor to have received such a prestigious and distinguished award. It was a realization of a huge life dream to be recognized by my peers for my ongoing contribution in the field of healthcare. This award has given me a chance of a lifetime to be more proactive in the field. For me, it's "The Noble Prize for Health".

# Congratulations to Honorees of Caribbean American Healthcare Award

I am truly humbled to be a past recipient of the Caribbean Life Healthcare Award. As a healthcare practitioner I continuously focus on providing high quality patient care. To be recognized for my resilience, dedication and overall commitment to reducing healthcare disparities has been a heartwarming experience. Congratulations to the 2017 awardees.



**Sybilla Daniel Douglas**

## Caribbean Life

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- Bernice McIntosh RN
- Dr. Harrison Mitchell
- Dr. John Mitchell
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*Partial List*

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# ENTERTAINMENT

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Sing it: Fitgi Saint Louis, left, plays Sabrina Barnes, and other actors Dominique Allen Lawson, center, and Sofia Klimovsky, right, rehearsing for "Welcome to America: A Caribbean Musical." Victor Diaz

## Caribbean musical

By Alexandra Simon

The Caribbean American immigrant experience comes forth in a new musical highlighting some common themes of the Diaspora. "Welcome to America: A Caribbean Musical," is a musical about one undocumented immigrant attempting to find her dreams and learning some life lessons along the way.

As the first ever musical production for Braata Productions, the musical's creator, Karl O'Brian Williams said it was a matter of time before they decided to go  
Continued on Page 38

## Salute to Cissy Houston

In the tradition of excellence always associated with Vy Higginsen, The Mama Foundation for the Arts launches The Harlem Gospel Concert Series starring Vy Higginsen's Gospel Choir from Harlem at The Dempsey Theater, 127 West 127th St. starting April 15 and continuing the first three Saturdays in May (6, 13 & 20).

Each week, Higginsen brings to the stage the soulful sounds all things gospel in a high-energy, roof-raising and floor-shaking concert experience. The first show will honor gospel legend and vanguard, Dr. Cissy Houston, for her outstanding contribution to the genre of gospel music.

Dr. Cissy Houston started singing at five, touring the country with her family gospel group, "The Drinkard  
Continued on Page 38



Models on the runway at the J-Love Fashion School of Etiquette's Youth Fashion Jam.

Teddy Wilson

## J-Love School of Fashion, Etiquette hosts youth fashion show

By Tangerine Clarke

Young fashion designer, Tyyan Rae Williams continues to make waves on the runway since unveiling her line of playful Pinky Sez children's collection at Brooklyn Fashion Week at a very young age.

Now 16 years old, Williams, a confident, talented teen, and four-time winner of Pageant Queen creations, said she is focused on her dreams, and will not let anything get in the way of her making it big in the world of fashion.

"I am really excited to see what the future holds for me. I love what I do," said Williams whose Pinky Sez (Positive Inspire Kreative Youth) models revved up the runway on Saturday, April 8, at the J-Love Fashion School of Etiquette's Youth Jam, at the Emmanuel Baptist Church Hall, in Brooklyn.

The Spring Collection of vibrant, colorful dresses, skirts and tops created to inspire "Teens and Tweens," showed off the designer's creative sensibility and innate knowledge of

what the trendy kids are wearing to social events.

Williams, who unleashed eight pretty designs, in an interview said, "I inspire youths by telling them that the more you push yourself, the better you become at whatever you are passionate about," added the rising star, whose Pinky Sez collection teamed up with fashion designer Jayvon Andrew Roberts' Audacia Collection for the exciting afternoon's presentation.

Continued on Page 38

## TOP OF THE CHARTS

### TOP 10 SINGLES

- 1 **Shape Of You**  
Ed Sheeran
- 2 **That's What I Like**  
Bruno Mars
- 3 **I Don't Wanna Live Forever**  
Zayn / Taylor Swift
- 4 **I Feel It Coming**  
The Weekend Feat. Daft Punk
- 5 **Love On The Brain**  
Rihanna
- 6 **Scars To Your Beautiful**  
Alessia Cara
- 7 **Paris**  
The Chainsmokers
- 8 **Mercy**  
Shawn Mendes
- 9 **Water Under The Bridge**  
Adele
- 10 **Chained To The Rhythm**  
Katy Perry Feat. Skip Marley

### TOP 10 ALBUMS

- 1 **More Life**  
Drake
- 2 **Treasure**  
Travis
- 3 **Beauty And The Beast (2017)**  
Soundtrack
- 4 **Divide**  
Ed Sheeran
- 5 **Wildhorse**  
Raelynn
- 6 **Moana**  
Soundtrack
- 7 **Rather You Than Me**  
Rick Ross
- 8 **24K Magic**  
Bruno Mars
- 9 **Sing**  
Soundtrack
- 10 **Trolls**  
Soundtrack

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# YOUTH JAM

Continued from page 37

Jacqueline Love, founder of J-Love Fashion School of Coochynna for CCNFFM Magazine collection that featured Danny and Lexie — special needs students who Love said, were amazing on the runway.

Love, who will unveil a

2017 Pre Back to School Fashion Week in August in tribute to special needs children, thanked the great team effort of Tyyan and Andrew for their dynamic presentation at the afternoon's fashion event.

"They were excellent together, they clicked well," she added, while stating that



A pretty model dressed to impress.

Teddy Wilson



J-love with a little model in spring attire.

Teddy Wilson

the next fashion show will be held in Councilmember Robert E. Cornegy Jr. District 26, and will showcase the positive image and confidence of the youngsters.

"The performance of the team of children and young

adults today was excellent," said Ms. Love, who will also present a Hair Madness Hair Show later in the year to engage the youth.

Follow J-Love Fashion School of Etiquette's and Pinky Sez on Facebook.

## Musical

Continued from page 37

forth with one. And the idea for the musical's theme was inspired by the anti-immigrant drive, which is still a highly discussed subject since the presidential election.

"We have been wanting to do a musical for some time now and what really triggered this and the theme was after the election," said Williams. "I was thinking 'What should the musical be about?' and I thought 'Why not do something about our people, and specifically people from the Caribbean?'"

In his musical, we learn of Sabrina Barnes, a young Jamaican woman who overstayed her visa in the states and decided to embark on her dreams in theater. But she was eventually sidelined by life itself, said the show's writer and creator.

"Sabrina is a girl with big dreams to perform on Broadway but she is a little naive," said Karl O'Brian Williams. "She realizes it's not the honeymoon she thinks and encounters this idea of what it means to be an adult in New York City and her expectations thwarted."

The hour and a half musical consists of a cast of 13, and features some original and reworked songs.



Karl O'Brian Williams wrote the musical, "Welcome to America: A Caribbean Musical" to show the immigrant experience from the Caribbean perspective.

Charles Edwards

He said that many Caribbean immigrants can identify with Sabrina and the type of issues she gets confronted with. But he also felt that non-immigrants will enjoy what the story had to offer and that the show was also meant to act as a guide to understanding the issues immigrants face.

"The people like to know what part of the fabric of society we are and we must ensure them of our voices that we are visible," said Williams. "If you are from the Caribbean, or attached to anyone from the Caribbean, you should come to hear and learn about a set of people living in this society for decades. We are the fabric, and there are generations of us going back, but somehow we're still a mystery."

## Tribute to Gospel singer

Continued from page 37

Singers." However, her extensive career has led her to perform in the all female quartet, "The Sweet Inspirations" and with the world's most esteemed vocalists.

A selected list of luminaries she has graced the stage with is as follows: David Bowie, Robert Flack, Aretha Franklin, Chaka Khan, Bette Midler, Elvis Presley, Paul Simon, Luther Vandross and Dionne Warwick. Houston has received numerous awards, performed in film and on stages as an actor and is a best selling author but her greatest achievement is being the mother and first influence of the talented Queen of Pop, Whitney Houston.

"It's great to be a part of the grand opening of the Harlem Gospel Concert Series," states Dr. Houston. "I am grateful and humbled that they chose to honor me. Vy continues to do great things in the community and aboard. What a honor!"

Vy Higginsen's Gospel Choir from Harlem is a celebrated group of performers elevated from the Mama Foundation's Gospel

for Teens program. In 2006, Houston was an early supporter of Gospel for Teens (GFT) and applauded Higginsen's efforts to teach aspiring teenagers about the importance of gospel music as an art form. Gospel for Teens is an award winning program of The Mama Foundation for the Arts and Vy Higginsen's School of Gospel, Jazz and R&B Arts.

The choir can be seen accompanying today's most celebrated pop icons like Ariana Grande, Chance the Rapper and Madonna. Through the nurture and commitment of its leadership, it has grown to be a highly respected and influential source of education and self-development for youth.

Gospel music is the foundation for all popular music in America and The Harlem Gospel Series is kicking off the grand opening of their Spring series by honoring one of its earliest voices with a concert chock full of good singing (and even a performance by Houston).

This celebration will sure to excite gospel music lovers — young and old. Tickets are \$35-\$50 available at SmartTix.com.

# Freeman, Arkin, Caine co-star in crime caper

**"Going in Style"**  
Excellent (4 stars)  
Rated PG-13 for profanity,  
drug use and suggestive  
material  
Running time: 97 min-  
utes  
Distributor: Warner  
Brothers Pictures

By **Kam Williams**

Released in 1979, "Going in Style" revolved around a trio of retirees who break the monotony of their dreary daily lives by robbing a bank. That critically-acclaimed, comic caper co-starred a trio of entertainment icons in George Burns, Art Carney and the legendary Lee Strasberg, the father of method acting.

Ordinarily, one would think twice before mounting a remake of such a beloved classic. Not Zach Braff (Garden State). Despite the daunting challenge, the ambitious actor-turned-director decided to give it a go.

First, he turned to Oscar-nominee Theodore Melfi (for Hidden Figures' screenplay).



Academy Award-Winners Morgan Freeman, Michael Caine and Alan Arkin to play the leads in "Going in Style."z  
www.rottentomatoes.com

Melfi came up with a terrific script only loosely based on the original. He retained the main characters' names and the basic "bank heist" premise while updating the dialogue and overhauling plot to yield a

rollicking, laff-a-minute adventure.

Second, Zach retained the services of Academy Award-Winners Morgan Freeman, Michael Caine and Alan Arkin to play the leads. Although 79,

84 and 83, respectively, these reliable, accomplished thespians generate an endearing camaraderie and deliver every punchline with perfect timing.

At the point of departure, we find Joe (Caine) in the midst

of complaining to an unsympathetic loan officer (Josh Pais) about Williamsburg Savings' impending foreclosure on his home when the place is suddenly held-up by a gang of masked men. Later that day, while commiserating with former co-workers Willie (Freeman) and Al (Arkin), Joe realizes they've all fallen prey to the bank's shady practices which includes completely draining the pension fund they're all dependent on.

But instead of alerting the authorities, the victims opt to take the law into their own hands, conspiring to retrieve at gunpoint precisely the same amount "stolen" from them. Of course, the hold up proves easier planned than executed, given that this is each of these geezer's first felony.

Fortunately, the BFFs are not to be deterred, even after a disastrous dry run shoplifting at a supermarket. What's bad for them is great for the audience, as the laughs just keep coming clear through the closing credits.

You can't ask any more of a madcap comedy than this much hilarity!

## Independent & Foreign Films

Chasing Trane (Unrated) Reverential biopic exploring the musical impact of jazz great John Coltrane (1926-1967). Includes archival footage as well as reflections by Common, Dr. Cornel West, Carlos Santana, Wayne Shorter, Wynton Marsalis and President Bill Clinton.

Jeremiah Tower: The Last Magnificent (R for profanity) Prestige biopic about the celebrity chef who contributed to the creation of New American cuisine. Featuring commentary by contemporaries Anthony Bourdain, Mario Batali and Martha Stewart.

Little Boxes (Unrated) Cross-cultural drama chronicling the challenges faced by an interracial couple (Melanie Lynskey and Nelsan Ellis) with a son in the 6th grade (Armani Jackson) when they relocate from Brooklyn to a lily-white suburb in the Pacific Northwest. With Janeane Garofalo, Miranda McKeon and Oona Laurence.

The Lost City of Z (PG-13 for violence, disturbing images, nudity and brief profanity) Fact-based docudrama recounting the real-life exploits of Colonel Percy Fawcett (Charlie Hunnam), the British explorer who disappeared in the jungles of the Amazon in 1925 while searching for proof of an ancient civilization. Cast includes Robert Pattinson, Sienna Miller



### Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

and Tom Holland.

Norman (R for profanity) Richard Gere handles the title role in this suspense thriller as a wheeler-dealer whose stature in New York's Jewish community rises after he helps an ambitious politician (Lior Ashkenazi) become prime minister of Israel. With Steve Buscemi, Michael Sheen, Charlotte Gainsbourg and Hank Azaria. (In English and Hebrew with subtitles)

The Outcasts (PG-13 for crude humor, suggestive content, profanity and partying) Revenge comedy revolving around a couple of high school pariahs (Victoria Justice and Eden Sher) who recruit other ostracized classmates to overthrow the popular clique ruining their lives. Cast includes Peyton List, Avan Jogia, Katie Chang and Ted McGinley.

A Quiet Passion (PG-13 for mature themes, disturbing images and suggestive material) Cynthia Nixon plays poet Emily Dickinson in this biopic chronicling the life and times of the posthumously-appreciated recluse. Wiith Jennifer Ehle, Duncan Duff and Keith Carradine.

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# Art exhibit celebrates Jamaica's 55th anniversary

By Alexandra Simon

The Jamaican Consulate in New York celebrated some of the country's most talented at an exhibit in Manhattan on March 31. The "Literary Salon, Jewelry, and Art Exhibit" highlighted the artwork, literature, and designs from Jamaican authors, artists, and designers, as part of honoring Jamaica's 55th year of independence.

Annually, the consulate lauds an aspect of their country's history, and this year wanted to emphasize the craftier side of Jamaican people, said one of the organizers of the salon.

"Our Literary Salon, Jewelry and Art Exhibit was an occasion to boldly showcase Jamaican creatives in arts, culture and literature," said Sandrine Gordon, community relations officer at the consulate. "Every year is a tremendous opportunity to celebrate a milestone and pride in our country and our people."

At the event were various creators, which included poet



Professor and artist Winston Huggins, posing with his art at "Literary Salon, Jewelry, and Art Exhibit" at the Consulate of Jamaica on March 31. Photos by Stefano Giovannini

Staceyann Chin, artist Victor Bloise, and New York City College of Technology professor and artist Winston Huggins, who presented about seven of his original artworks at the exhibit. He said his island

nation was home to many influential pioneers, and the exhibit, giving recognition to emerging creators sets room for more.

"Jamaica is one of the largest exporters of talent, music, and culture, and only those who see the invisible can do the impossible," said Huggins. "The event really further showcases the creativity of the Jamaican culture, because visual art is one of the oldest history's in the Caribbean."

Other creators were jewelry designer Gianna Fakhourie, authors Tilsa Wright, Dr. Karlene Richardson, and Dionne Peart, and drummer Jeremiah McFarlane.

Gordon said they were particularly chosen to spotlight working artists trying to get their names out there, and their unique originality.

"Each of them caught our attention in different ways, Victor Bloise, for example, is an extraordinary talent whose art was displayed on the Brooklyn



Various artworks, literature, and designs from Jamaican creatives were showcased. The event was to celebrate Jamaica's 55th year of independence this year.

Bridge some years ago — while Dr. Winston Huggins, also talented and is an art professor who offers inexpensive art workshops through his optimal art and EZPAL portable art studio."

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# SPORTS

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West Indies' Jason Mohammed plays a shot during a second One-Day International cricket match against England at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in North Sound, Antigua, Sunday, March 5, 2017.

Associated Press / Ricardo Mazalan, File

## Windies scores record ODI win

By Azad Ali

While West Indies scored a historic record-breaking win in the opening One-Day International (ODI) of the Q Mobile Cup Series against Pakistan at the Guyana National Stadium on Friday, they faltered badly in the second match to slump to a 74-run defeat two days later.

The embattled regional team pulled off a courageous record run-chase- having never successfully chased in excess of 300 in an ODI.

They re-wrote the record books after pulling off a victory of 308 with an over to

Continued on Page 42

## Sir Viv slams cricket board

By Azad Ali

Former West Indies captain Sir Viv Richards has slammed West Indies Cricket Board administrators for their failure to ensure the best players in the region remain available for international duty.

He noted that several big name players, including Chris Gayle, Sunil Narine, Lendl Simmons, Carlos Brathwaite, Kieron Pollard, Daren Sammy and Darren Bravo are currently in India to participate in the Indian Premier League (IPL) even as a three-match One-Day International series against Pakistan

Continued on Page 42



# FINDING HER PLACE

Power in the post: Selena Philoxy, who competed in this year's Mayor's Cup, hit her stride when it mattered most, averaging 12 points per game during the playoffs. Photo by William Thomas

## South Shore star on top after dominant senior season

By Laura Amato

She was worried it wouldn't work. Selena Philoxy transferred into the South Shore program two years ago with a mind full of doubts, questions and hopes. The senior forward — who previously played at Television and Films — silenced every

single question this season, leading the Lady Vikings to the program's first-ever Federation championship and emerging as a star on both sides of the ball.

Philoxy was a defensive force and an offensive spark for South Shore and her success on the court is why

she is this year's Courier Life Player of the Year.

"Honestly I didn't even think I could get this far," Philoxy said. "I didn't know if I'd be able to fit in with everybody. But then the first year we won and I knew we could accomplish

Continued on Page 42

Continued from page 41

spare and take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

Middle order batsman Jason Mohammed struck the fastest-ever half century by a West Indian against Pakistan, but in the second game could only manage a single (1).

Mohammed was at the center of the first win, producing a magical unbeaten 91 from 58 balls to take the Man-of-the-Match title.

Batting first, Pakistan piled up an imposing venue record 308 for 5 off their 50 overs — also their highest One-Day International total against their opponents — with Mohammed Hafeez leading the way with 88. Opener Ahmed Shezad (67) and veteran Shoaib Malik (53) also chipped in with half centuries.

From 156 for two in the 33rd over, West Indies suffered two huge setbacks, losing both opener Kieran Powell (61) and Shae Hope (24) in successive overs.

Facing a daunting task of 10 runs an over to win with West Indies on 158 for four in the 34th, Mohammed single-handedly transformed the game striking 11 fours and 3 sixes that had Pakistan panicking on the field.

Together with Ashley Nurse, the momentum shifted in West Indies favor from 259 for six to 309 in the final over.

Hoping to win the series and give West Indies their first ODI win against Pakistan in 23 years, the regional team was never able to press home the advantage in the second match.

Captain Jason Holder won the toss and sent in Pakistan to bat. The Pakistanis batted cautiously and ended up scoring 282 in their allotted 50 overs with middle-order batsman Babar Azam hitting an unbeatable 125.

He was named Man-of-the-Match.

Azam had earlier struck his fifth ODI century and fourth in five matches against West Indies to help Pakistan recover from a sluggish start to rack up 282 for 5.

At their turn at the crease, West Indies were in trouble at the start with two wickets down for 44 runs. Only captain Holder was able to score 68 runs and was out in the 45 over to end the Windies innings at 208.

The West Indies are hoping they will win the final match and take the series 2-1 later this week.



Defying doubters: South Shore senior forward Selena Philoxy overcame some middle-season doubts, leading the Lady Vikings to a city title and a Federation championship. Photo by Robert Cole

## PHILOXY READY TO TAKE HER GAME TO NEXT LEVEL

Continued from page 41

something. Then winning states, I'm just happy to have my teammates by my side and do what we could do."

Philoxy wasn't the only senior on the South Shore roster this season, but she was the unquestioned leader of the group, looked upon to jumpstart her squad throughout the year. But that wasn't always an easy task.

There were expectations and stats she needed to post and Philoxy admits it got to be a bit overwhelming at times.

"In the middle of the season, it was tough," she said. "I did think, I'm going to give up, but my teammates were by my side. That's how they've always been and they let me know we were going to win and we were going to do this."

Philoxy refocused her efforts down the stretch and embraced the challenges of being a leader. She hadn't always

been part of the South Shore hoops culture, but this season Philoxy was an integral part of what the Lady Vikings were going to do.

Once she realized that, the rest was easy.

Philoxy upped her defensive intensity late in the season, shutting down opposing scoring threats with her size and physicality on the block. She also chipped in 9.4 points and 7.8 rebounds per game during the regular season before taking it to another level in the playoffs, averaging 12 points per contest en route to another city title.

"It definitely got challenging," Philoxy said of her on-court expectations. "Knowing that people look up to me and people want me to do certain things. I just had to do it and that was one of the hardest things for me to do."

Philoxy came to South Shore for a reason — she wanted to make history.

And she did, lifting the Lady Vikings to a lopsided victory over The Mary Louis Academy in the Federation championship. Even now, weeks removed from that matchup, Philoxy can't quite wipe the smile off her face when she talks about the game.

"It's not like we won by five. We won by almost 30," she said. "We just had to get respect. Last season we lost in states by almost 20 and we just wanted to come back and show everybody what we're really about."

Her two seasons in Canarsie weren't always easy, but Philoxy wouldn't change a moment of it and, now, she's ready to take her game to the next level. She'll head to Seton Hall next season, determined to prove herself all over again.

"The focus right now is on Seton Hall," Philoxy said. "I'm just ready to meet new people and play and I can't wait."

## Sir Viv: WICB does 'lousy job'

Continued from page 41

gets under on Friday, April 7, 2017.

Over the last few years, several high-profile players in the Caribbean declined central contracts from the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB), leaving them under no obligation for national duty.

The WICB has asked the regional players to play in the Regional Super50 in order to qualify for selection for the One-Day International squad which

annoyed the players.

Sir Viv insisted that the situation has come to pass only because members of the WICB have done a "lousy job" in creating an environment where players feel treasured by the national setup.

He told ESPNcricinfo in Mumbai last week that many of the players come from humble backgrounds and some of these administrators think they are as important as the players on the field, they are not."

"We lost a series in the UAE in 2016 against Pakistan, now we have lost the Twenty20 series in the Caribbean against Pakistan — all of this after winning the last World Twenty20," he said.

Sir Viv said having failed for the Champions Trophy in June, West Indies are currently lying ninth in the One-Day International rankings and face the prospect of missing out on direct qualification for the 2019 World Cup.

In Test cricket, West Indies are in eight position in the rankings, only above Bangladesh, which is closing fast on their heels.



Sir Vivian Richards. Associated Press

# Former St. John's standout returns to squad

By Laura Amato

He considers himself a pretty positive person.

Cosmos defender Jimmy Mulligan always knew he could play professional soccer, but the standout and former St. John's star didn't quite count on the long and winding road toward his dream or his roster spot with a professional soccer team. It hasn't been easy, but Mulligan is positive it's going to be smooth sailing on the pitch this season in Brooklyn.

"It's really nice, first of all, just getting back to playing soccer is amazing," said Mulligan, who graduated from St. John's in 2013. "This team and this staff is great and just being back in this area, in New York City, is incredible for me."

Mulligan was certain he'd be drafted out of college, but his phone never rang and a tryout with Real Salt Lake didn't pan out. It left the defender searching for a new plan and a new spark of positivity — on and off the field.

He found it with the Cosmos. Mulligan was contacted by Cosmos coach Giovanni Savarese just after his tryout in Utah and

it only took a few conversations for the pair to realize it was the perfect partnership.

"Gio had been around this area and got to come to St. John's games and saw me play a bunch of times and liked me," Mulligan said. "So he brought me in on trial and I went on trial for like a month before it officially worked out. I've been with the team ever since, so that's been about four years."

Mulligan relished every moment on the field with the Cosmos — playing out his dream just a few miles away from his hometown in Medford, New York. But, as with most things in his career, it wasn't always easy and he spent last season on loan with the Swope Park Rangers.

Mulligan was anxious to return to New York this year, but the Cosmos' uncertain future left him with more questions than answers. He did his best to stay positive, but that was sometimes easier said than done.

"It was tough. I really, really wanted to play and I had an agent at the time who knew I could play," Mulligan said.

"And it was really just a waiting game and it was tough and really stressful. You just keep pushing yourself, you keep driving and you hope things are going to work out."

Mulligan's belief eventually paid off and the Cosmos were saved by Rocco Commisso who purchased the team last December and kept a familiar roster of experienced players.

The squad did its collective best to keep things as normal as possible heading into its April 1 home opener and Mulligan is confident in what his team can do throughout the season.

"We came right back in and things took off where we left off," he said. "It's a great locker room, one of the best we've had and we were ready and pumped and anxious to get the season going."

He has to stop and pinch himself every now and then, always a bit stunned to find himself living out his dream, but Mulligan wouldn't trade any of it — despite the ups and downs of the last few seasons. After all, being part of the Cosmos means he's part of soccer



Brooklyn bound: Former St. John's standout Jimmy Mulligan has found a professional home with the New York Cosmos, thankful to get back on the pitch after the squad opened up its season in Brooklyn. New York Cosmos

history.

"It's really crazy to think about all the legends that have played for this team," Mulligan said. "I was just happy to be

part of a professional team and to get to keep playing after college and be able to learn from such amazing professionals, it's been unbelievable."

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**ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20**  
Aries, maintain your composure in light of a sticky situation that you are called upon to handle in the next few days. Others will notice your calm demeanor.

**TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21**  
Taurus, emotions can be a little distracting this week as sparks fly in a new relationship. Avoid going overboard but enjoy this exciting time in your life.

**GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21**  
Gemini, you are content to take it easy and to follow a familiar routine for now rather than branching out into new things. Take a flier on new friendships and you will be glad you did.

**CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22**  
Try not to take things too personally when you start receiving feedback. Cancer. Everyone has an opinion, and most people share theirs with good intentions.

**LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23**  
The truth will ultimately set you free, Leo. Seek the truth when handling a difficult problem and this will eventually make the solution easier to find.

**VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22**  
You might want to hold off on an ambitious project for another month, Virgo. This will give you more time to develop a plan to complete the project.

**LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23**  
Libra, you may need assistance, but no one is stepping up as a candidate at this juncture. Wait a bit longer and someone is sure to step up to the challenge.

**SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22**  
Scorpio, you can daydream about being on your own personal island, but the tasks that need to get done will still be waiting for you. Face things head-on.

**SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21**  
Sagittarius, a trusted friend is willing to hear your side of the story and offer a new perspective and some advice. You need to win this person's trust back.

**CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20**  
Your presence is a gift to someone who needs you even if you get tongue-tied and don't know what to say, Capricorn. Let your company serve as support. Things will fall in place.

**AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18**  
Aquarius, you may find yourself falling back on old habits in the days ahead. Do your best to avoid these habits, remembering why you kicked them in the first place.

**PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20**  
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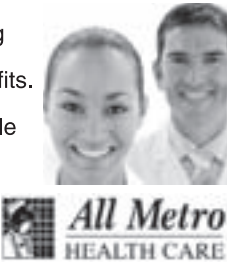
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▶ **LEGAL NOTICES**

▶ **LEGAL**

Notice is hereby given that an on-premise license, #TBA has been applied for by JK Spot LLC d/b/a Paper Rain to sell beer, wine and liquor at retail in an on premises establishment. For on premises consumption under the ABC law at 2770 Atlantic Avenue Brooklyn NY 11207.

▶ **LEGAL**

**SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK**  
COUNTY OF KINGS  
Index No.: 6027/2014  
**SUMMONS**  
AUDREY HUMES and KEITH HUMES, Plaintiffs -against -  
JOHN LAWSON and THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN LAWSON, Defendants.  
To the above named Defendants:

▶ **LEGAL**

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your Answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a Notice of Appearance, on the Plaintiff's Attorney within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within thirty [30] days

▶ **LEGAL**

after the service is complete if this Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint.  
SUBJECT PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: 231 Macon Street, Brooklyn,

▶ **LEGAL**

New York; BLOCK: 1864; LOT: 64; COUNTY: Kings.  
NOTICE OF NATURE OF THE ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT: The above captioned-action is for a judgment declaring that Plaintiffs are the legal owners of the Subject Property and to quiet title or establish Plaintiff's title against anyone and everyone.  
The foregoing summons

▶ **LEGAL**

is being served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Court, which is filed along with the other papers including the Complaint in the Kings County Clerk's Office, located at 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York. You must respond by serving a copy of the Answer on the Attorneys for the Plaintiff and filing the Answer with the Court.

▶ **LEGAL**

Dated: July 27, 2016, Brooklyn, New York  
MCKINLEY ONUA & ASSOCIATES, PLLC  
Jennean R. Rogers  
Attorneys for Plaintiffs  
26 Court Street, Suite 300  
Brooklyn, New York 11242  
Ph: (718) 522-0236

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# \$99<sup>†</sup> PER MO/24 MOS LEASE

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BRAND NEW 2017 FORD **MUSTANG**

# \$129<sup>†</sup> PER MO/24 MOS LEASE

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BRAND NEW 2017 FORD **ESCAPE SE 4x4**

# \$139<sup>†</sup> PER MO/24 MOS LEASE

6-Speed Auto, 1.5L Ecobost Engine, P/S, ABS, A/C, Sirius/XM, Equipment Group 200A & Much More! MSRP \$28,235. VIN#1FHUC16611. \$6,479 Due at Inception Inc: \$5,695 Down Payment, \$645 Bank Fee & 1st Month's Payment, \$0 Security Deposit. Tax, title & MV fees add'l. Inc: \$3,000 Ford Factory Rebate & \$1,000 Conquest Cash (if qualified). Expires 4/30/17.



BRAND NEW 2017 FORD **EDGE SE AWD**

# \$179<sup>†</sup> PER MO/24 MOS LEASE

2.0L EcoBoost Engine, 100A Package, Automatic, A/C, P/S, P/B and More! MSRP \$31,340 VIN#2FHBB14036 \$6,819 Due at inception incl: \$5,995 down payment, \$645 bank fee, & 1st month payment, \$0 security deposit. Tax, title & MV fees add'l. Inc: \$500 Ford Factory Rebate & \$500 Conquest Cash (if qualified). Expires 4/30/17.



BRAND NEW 2017 FORD **EXPLORER 4x4**

# \$189<sup>†</sup> PER MO/24 MOS LEASE

6-Speed Auto, 4 Cyl, P/S, ABS, A/C, Sirius/XM, Equipment Group 100A & Much More! MSRP \$34,950. VIN#1FHGC50261. \$7,633 Due at Inception Inc: \$6,799 Down Payment, \$645 Bank Fee & 1st Month's Payment, \$0 Security Deposit. Tax, title & MV fees add'l. Inc: \$1,250 Ford Factory Rebate & \$1,000 Conquest Cash (if qualified). Expires 4/30/17.

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