



## Plan for hurricane refugees

Public Advocate Leticia James announces a plan to support residents in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands interested in seeking refuge in the city on Oct. 12. See story on Page 3.

Community News Group / Alexandra Simon

## Haiti requests 18-month TPS extension

By Nelson A. King

Haiti's government has written to the Trump administration in the United States to formally ask for an 18-month extension of the temporary protected status (TPS) to prevent thousands of Haitians living in the United States from deportation, according to reports.

The request, delivered to the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS), was written by Haiti's Ambassador to the United States, Paul Altidor, on behalf of Haitian President Jovenel Moïse, reported the Miami Herald.

The paper said the request

includes an invitation to acting DHS Secretary Elaine Duke to visit Haiti before the decision next month on whether to TPS for nearly 60,000 undocumented Haitians.

TPS for the Haitians is set to expire Jan. 22. A decision on extension is expected in November, possibly along with a decision on TPS for some Central Americans, who are also up for renewal, the Herald said.

"A visit to Haiti would offer you insight on the challenges that we continue to face," writes Altidor, stating that Haiti has faced several dev-

astating blows — including flooding from Hurricanes Irma and Maria — since the initial designation in 2010 after Haiti's massive earthquake.

"The detrimental impacts of the recent hurricanes have complicated our ability to recover from the 2010 earthquake," adds Altidor. "Cholera and Hurricane Matthew have exacerbated the situation on the ground, resulting in major disruptions of living conditions in the short term."

In May, DHS extended Haiti's TPS designation for just

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# MURDER ON THE RISE

## Jamaican security forces take full control of trouble spots

By Bert Wilkinson

There have been more murders in Jamaica so far this year than for all of 2016, prompting the administration of Prime Minister Andrew Holness to undertake a slew of tough new measures including the imposition of 12-hour curfews in some crime-ridden and gang-dominated neighborhoods in Kingston, the island's capital this week.

Cabinet, worried that the situation is spiraling out of control in areas such as Denham Town in West Kingston have ordered police and the military to impose what locals call a zone of special operations (ZOSO), meaning that the security forces can and have taken full control of movement and security in and out of the area.

A total 1,207 people were killed in all of Jamaica in 2016 but the number of murders has spiraled so badly this year to 1,270 that authorities have determined that the time to act is now before nearly a dozen marauding gangs take complete control of the low income and depressed communities. And compared to up to mid October

last year, official figures show that 'only' 997 were killed.

"The selected zone was deemed to have met the first order criteria for being considered and declared a zone," Holness said in an announcement. "Those first order criteria would be ongoing gang warfare, rampant criminality, escalating violence and murder, and a threat to rule of law."

Police Chief George Quallo says intelligence has determined that there are at least a dozen gangs operating in the community with names like Upsetter Gang, Scare Dem, Rich and Famous and Scream Corner.

"Since 2015, there has been gang conflict between Tivoli Gardens / Young Generation Gang and the Denham Town Coalition as a result of the coalition's refusal to conform to the Coke family's regime, which has resulted in several murders, shootings and robberies. The ongoing gang feud has resulted in increased violence in the area which directly affects the free movement of residents and also has a negative impact of

Continued on Page 22

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# Construction safety bill now law



Chef Wenford Patrick Simpson is the executive chef at B.B. Kings Blues Club and Grill. He is in the stage of starting a culinary school in his native Jamaica.

## Caribbean Life to honor 31

By Alexandra Simon

Thirty-one Caribbean-American individuals will be honored for their outstanding community work during the annual Caribbean Life Impact Awards on Nov. 16 at the Paradise Catering Hall, 51 Ave. U in Brooklyn.

"This year's honorees as well as those of past are so humbled when I reach out to them. It is so beautiful to witness that regardless of their position in their community they are so down to earth. They are a wonderful group of individuals, and I am honored to know them," said Jennifer Stern, administrative assistant and event coordinator at Caribbean Life newspaper.

The honorees hail from all over the Caribbean, predominantly from Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, and Barbados. Many of them are making impactful progress at various cultural institutions, and have professions in community organizing, fashion, theater, hospitality, music, education, finance, social work, and hospitality.

They are Chanel Adams, Andel Husbands, Johnathan Agarrat, Melinda Alexis Hayes, Shinese Brathwaite, Narine Amarimba Charles, Dat Sookram, Carole Delinois, Soraya Denis, Lalita Etwaroo, Daniela Fifi, Sharon Gordon, Rose Graham, Ingrid Griffith, Dr. Christopher Hackett, Dr. Grace Hackett, Justice Ingrid Joseph, Aminta Kilawan-Narine, Shani Kulture, Wayne S. McKenzie, Linda McPherson, Danny and Shelly Mohabir, Ashley Murray, Wenford Patrick Simpson, Bahaa-ti Pitt, Ravi Ramkeesoon, Guilaine Regis, Winette Saunders, Cyril Scorchner, Angela P. Sealy, Leticia Theodore-Greene, and Margarette Tropnas.

Recipients of the Impact Award will be wined and dined and celebrated for their achievements.

By Nelson A. King

Mayor Bill de Blasio on Monday signed into law Intro 1447-C, a landmark construction safety bill introduced and advocated for by Council Member Jumaane D. Williams (D-Brooklyn), deputy leader and chair of the City Council's Housing and Buildings Committee.

The measure will institute mandatory construction worker safety training standards, including setting the minimum amount of safety training hours for New York City construction workers.

Many of those workers joined workers' rights advocates in celebrating the signing on Monday afternoon, according to Williams, representative for the 45th Council District in Brooklyn.

The bill, co-sponsored by Council Member Carlos Menchaca, passed through City Council in a unanimous vote on Sept. 27.

Now law, it mandates that workers have a cumulative total of 40-55 hours of training, phased in over time.

The first 10 hours must be completed by March 2018, 30 hours by Dec. 1 of that year, and 40-55 within five months of that date.

Extensions can be granted to the second and third milestone, if necessary.

Williams said a task force has been created to help facilitate the training and determine its content, in conjunction with the city's Department of Buildings.

While signing Intro 1447-C, in the rotunda of City Hall, de Blasio spoke of the need to protect all workers, regardless of affiliation, as they build the city, a sentiment echoed by Gary LaBarbera, president of the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York.

Manhattan Borough President Gale



Mayor Bill de Blasio celebrates the signing of Intro 1447-C alongside Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, left, NYC Council Member Carlos Menchaca, and NYC Council Member Jumaane D. Williams (shaking hands).

Kevin Fagan

Brewer and Menchaca also spoke of the urgent need to improve worker safety in light of the recent deaths of workers on construction sites.

Williams said he led the hall in a moment of silence to honor the workers who had passed before he addressed the gathering.

"In a city constantly under construction, worker safety is of paramount importance," Williams said. "For too long, though, an eroded culture of safe-

ty in the industry has led to unsafe conditions, injury and death, with developers insulated from responsibility for these tragedies.

"Requiring a uniform baseline amount of safety training is a long overdue and critically important measure toward having a tangible impact on worker's well-being and beginning to correct the culture of the industry, restoring the safety of those who build this city as the top priority.

## Public advocate announces plan to welcome hurricane victims

By Alexandra Simon

Opening arms for the displaced.

New York City Public Advocate Leticia James announced a plan to welcome displaced residents from Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands on Oct. 12, in a show of support for affected victims seeking new housing in the aftermath of the devastating hurricanes Irma and Maria. The plan is aimed at facilitating the recovery and rebuilding process for thousands of families on both islands, who are expected to connect with communities and their relatives who already call this city home, she said.

"As a city with a significant number of Puerto Ricans and West Indians, we must anticipate an influx and arrival of these displaced Americans and ensure that we are adequately prepared to address their pressing needs," said

James. "Throughout our history, New York City has always stood as a beacon of hope and a place of refuge for those fleeing hardship and disaster."

So far, thousands have already entered the states seeking to flee the crisis occurring in Puerto Rico, and depending on aid efforts, more and more residents will be turning to the states as refuge, she added.

"It is my understanding that as of today, that 20,000 individuals from Puerto Rico have arrived in Florida, so make no mistake this is a full-scale humanitarian crisis and I believe it is the worst in recent memory," said James.

With New York home to the country's largest Puerto Rican population outside of the territory, James said part of the initiative will be to assist the displaced here in the city with housing, medical, and educational opportunities, which

will be supported by the city's existing budget. For some New Yorkers, the initiative is a relief in regards to their concern about relatives.

"I'm hoping that people could live mainly and that's the bottom line," said Carlos Martinez, a leader with Make the Road New York, with close family in Puerto Rico.

Martinez, who has a siblings, children, and grandchildren still in Puerto Rico, praised James for launching the plan and said his family may come to the city should relief efforts do not go as planned. But he was concerned about his stepfather who he said may not be able to see a doctor for a while.

"He's going through issues with his health and his medicine is lacking at the hospital, and he will not be able to see a doctor till next year if his condition deteriorates," he said.

## Caribbean

A United Nations official say it will cost US\$1 billion to repair hurricane-hit Caribbean countries hardest hit by recent hurricanes, including Dominica, Barbuda, Turks and Caicos, the British Virgin Islands and Anguilla.

UN resident coordinator for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean States, Stephen O'Malley said "it's going to be a large rebuilding effort that will take time."

He said the United Nations, World Bank and the Antigua government have conducted a post-disaster needs assessment for Barbuda, whose 1,800 residents were evacuated to Antigua before Hurricane Irma damaged 95 percent of its structures on Sept. 14.

O'Malley said the effects of climate change are evident in the Caribbean, where the sea is heating up.



## Promoting Caribbean tourism

The Royal Caribbean Adventure of the Seas, arrives at Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Royal Caribbean has announced that its ship Adventure of the Seas will resume port calls to St. Thomas on Nov. 10, and that the ship hopes to be in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and St. Martin by the end of November. It's one of a number of initiatives from the travel industry to remind consumers that the region is recovering from the impact of recent hurricanes. See story on Page 22.

Joe Cavaretta / South Florida Sun-Sentinel via Associated Press, File

## Antigua

Antigua and Barbuda has joined with St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Lucia in a series of fact-finding meetings with the region's major cruise lines.

Tourism Minister Asot Michael, along with ministers of tourism for St. Kitts and St. Lucia, met with a delegation of cruise tourism officials of several Miami-based cruise lines, including Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, Carnival Corporation, and Norwegian Cruise Line.

Prime Minister of St. Lucia, Allen Chastanet, also used the opportunity to join in the meeting via teleconference to lend his support to the first of its kind collaborative initiative.

The meeting's objective was to share information about the post-hurricane health of the ports and destination and to seek and update from each cruise line on short and medium term alterations to their cruise itineraries.

The tourism officials also used the opportunity to update each cruise line on the latest port and cruise facility



development and the unavailability of new services such as fuel bunkering.

## Barbados

The Barbados government has lifted the ban on poultry and poultry products coming from the United Kingdom.

A statement from the Ministry of Agriculture said commercial importers and the general public are now free to import live birds, hatching eggs, and fresh, frozen and chilled poultry meat and products, including table eggs, from that territory.

The decision follows the UK's declaration of being freed from the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza resulting in the lifting of a ban which was placed on



these products last December.

As a result, the ministry said importers may now apply to the Ministry of Agriculture's Veterinary Services Department for permits to import poultry and poultry products from the UK.

However, persons are reminded that a ban remains on the importation of poultry and poultry products from other countries in the European Union.

## Dominica

Dominica Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit has announced that his government will waive taxes and duties on the importation of all food and construction material for six months as the island begins the process of rebuilding, following the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria recently.

In a national broadcast, updating citizens on the progress made since the hurricane, Skerrit said his administration was not into the economic recovery phase of the rehabilitation exercise, even though rescue efforts were still continuing.

He said the government will try wherever possible to maintain the previous year's level of government procurement, employment, wages and routine operations.

The prime minister said the insurance of property in Dominica exceeds 100 percent of the country's gross product (GDP), noting that not all insured



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# How To Avoid Risky Back Surgery With A Breakthrough Non Surgical Treatment And Get Out Of Pain Fast

Here's how the newest breakthrough non-surgical back pain and sciatica treatment may end your pain and solve your herniated, bulging or degenerated disc pain problems...

You may be thinking "What IS going to happen to me if I can't find a solution to my back pain or leg pain?" The answer to your question starts out hopeful. I'll just go to my doctor and he will take care of me. He will know what to do. But then something very odd happens to you. You discover your primary care physician is not really well equipped to handle that job. He or she is very busy treating infections, diabetes, heart conditions and the like, which they are very well equipped to handle. This is very apparent with your resulting drug prescription for Soma muscle relaxers and Norco, Neurontin or any other of the various prescribed pain medications. You then take the drugs soon to feel strangely like you're not altogether "there" or you immediately are sick, feel nausea and vomit the drugs as fast as you swallowed them. When you get sick of that (pardon the pun! I couldn't resist), you go back to your doctor looking for another more appealing treatment. This time it's physical therapy. The thing you already can't do!! You already can't bend over, twist, lift things, and now they want you to do more of it with a bunch of other back pain sufferers! Gimme a break. Now, you've really had it. You try the chiropractor and either you feel better for a little while only to have the pain return, or worse nothing happens at all. Or even worse than that, after your treatment you have **MORE** pain (not because chiropractic does not work..your condition is just too deteriorated or severe). Then you try acupuncture because you read in a magazine it could help pain. You then realize sticking a bunch of needles in you will not magically remove the bulging disc that is smashing your nerve and causing you pain. You try massage as you read on the internet massage may help alleviate back pain...only to be disappointed. You're now beginning to feel desperate. Back to your primary care doctor to tell him about your adventures



hoping he will have a different answer this time. He does. "We can inject pain drugs through a big needle into your spine." You cringe in fear and reluctantly agree at this point. "NOW I will be fixed." Or at least that's what you've been led to believe. You have either no pain relief, some pain relief, a whole lot of pain relief or it makes you have more pain. The second pain shot (oh, yes there will be a second and a third) is usually less effective or not at all and requires another one. You come to the realization that pain shots will not fix the disc bulge or herniation still smashing your delicate nerves causing you pain. Finally, your doctor recommends you see a "Specialist" (Back Surgeon) and he can do risky surgery. If you've read the latest article in the Journal Of American Medical Association\*, you will see surgery patients and non surgery patients turned out the same ! Why even do the surgery ? Risk of paralysis, death, infections, more pain. No thanks. So. Back to the question. What are YOU going to do if you are stuck between serious back pain or leg pain or surgery? **Great News! A new extremely effective non surgical new back pain treatment is now available**

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**Lincoln Leung Brooklyn, NY**

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**Fabienne Alexander - Retired Brooklyn, NY**

*I saw several different doctors, medical doctors, chiropractors and other various treatments with no results. I had a couple bad discs. I immediately started feeling much, much better and the back pain decreased. At the end of my treatments my pain is almost non-existent."*

**Burt McIvain Brooklyn, NY**

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# Storms give Barbados cruise bonus

By George Alleyne

As hurricane-battered Caribbean islands move to rapidly-reopen sea ports for cruise ships, Barbados is shaping up for a windfall with some of these pleasure vessels redirecting routes while the damaged islands mend.

Heralding the beginning of this diversion some 3,000 passengers were set to arrive in Port Bridgetown on Thursday aboard 'Adventure Of The Seas' a ship in the fleet of the Royal Caribbean cruise lines, which is ending a three-week pause in cruise activity owing to regional storm damage.

This is one of six cruise lines that storm damage to other island destinations forced to either include Barbados in their visiting itinerary, or step up the number of visits to this port that has so far escaped the effects of Tropical Storm Harvey, Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria.

The full force of all these storms passed north of this destination.

Resulting from this lucky break given by nature, Bar-

bados officials have indicated that there will be 34 more cruise ship calls on the Bridgetown Port in 2017, adding to the 424 originally projected for this year based on the similar number received in 2016.

This has a potential significant impact on the Barbados economy as cruise visits are a vital component of the overall tourism industry on which the island depends heavily.

Speaking at the Caribbean Shipping Association's annual conference in Barbados this week Tourism Minister Richard Sealy emphasized the importance of cruises to the island, pointing to Florida Caribbean Cruise Association figures that show cruise passengers and crew spending, port fees and purchasing of supplies boosted the Barbados economy to the tune of an estimated US\$57.3 million between May 2014 to April 2015.

But the fact of this cruise visitor bonus is not to say that the Barbados tourism sector did not feel some negative impact from the passage of

the destructive storms.

Officials have been complaining of suffering from a mix-up in identities that has seen a number of United States airline travel operators and vacation bookers the world over confuse Barbados as a destination with Hurricane Maria-ravaged Barbuda.

Barbados Tourism and Marketing Inc. (BTMI) CEO, William Billy Griffith, reportedly said that his department has been forced to take corrective action on the misperception because some of these travel agents and tour operators had reduced bookings to Barbados under the false impression that the island was devastated.

He was quoted saying, "we did two things, what we did is maintain our presence on social media, some advertising to some extent, and we continued promoting Barbados... So simply by extension of the fact that we have promoted events we were saying that we are in business."

BTMI United States Director, Petra Roach, blamed general lack of knowledge of the



BTMI Chief Officer William Griffith.

Photo by George Alleyne

Caribbean geographical layout for the impact on its tourism.

"We are totally empathetic with the victims of these

storms and are very proud to be part of the Caribbean region ... but travel agents should recognize that we are not in the hurricane belt.

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# Yellow Taxi industry remains a pathway to success for immigrants

By Amar Kehal

New York City's yellow taxi industry has, for generations, played a crucial role in providing good jobs for immigrants in communities across the five boroughs. I should know — I love my job as a taxi driver because it gives me a path to the middle class.

There is no doubt that our industry has been changing and growing even more in recent years, with new technology and ideas at the forefront. That is why I am still proud to be part of a yellow taxi industry that is constantly evolving to meet new challenges while staying true to what really matters — supporting the immigrant drivers who make it all possible.

The reality is that, despite what you might hear from big corporations like Uber, driving a taxi provides many great opportunities today as it did for many others who have settled in this country from all parts of the world for a better life.

Today's yellow taxi drivers have more options than ever before — including easy-to-use e-hail apps like Arro, Curb and Via, which allow us to pick up more passengers throughout all corners of the city. Popular new programs are also allowing taxi drivers to get into "ridesharing," which enables us to pick up multiple passengers at once. Simply put, we can do anything that Uber and Lyft can do — and because we are part of a truly iconic New York City industry, and because

the vast majority of us are full time professional drivers, we can do it better, and we can do it safer.

Just as importantly, the taxi industry looks out for us in ways that multi-billion-dollar corporations like Uber and Lyft don't. When I am driving my yellow taxi, I feel strongly supported by others in the industry who care about me and my success. I'm proud to know that I am part of an industry — a family — when I drive my taxi.

Let's be real — there is a new story all the time about how companies like Uber are failing their drivers by underpaying them or not supporting them when it really matters. That is not the kind of industry I want to be part of — and it is why I still feel so strongly about being part of a yellow taxi family.

That is part of why our industry is still home to so many immigrants from across the world. Around 90 percent of yellow taxi drivers are immigrants, representing more than 160 countries of origin. It is incredible to be part of such a diverse industry that actually recognizes the power of immigrant workers and voices.

For me and for many others driving a yellow taxi is a ticket out of poverty. After arriving in America, I worked several dead end jobs below minimum wage, like so many other immigrants, but I stayed focused because I want to provide a better future for my family. As a taxi driver, I am making that vision a reality.

# US withdrawal from UNESCO: Abandonment of principles

By Anuradha Mittal

*Anuradha Mittal\* is the executive director of the Oakland Institute, a leading US policy think tank.*

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, Oct. 18, 2017 (IPS) — A woman shopkeeper is standing on a plastic chair to avoid knee high swirling rainwater mixed with sewage. "I work with a women's cooperative selling products made by Palestinian women in my shop. The sewage water has gone into the electric wires, so I have no electricity. Everything in the shop is destroyed. The metal door [that was] installed to protect the settlers prevents the water from flowing out into the main drain. . . . This means we suffer every time it rains. They [the settlers] want us to move from here. This is why they make our life hard," she cries.

This is the Old City of Hebron — the largest city in the West Bank and the only city in the Occupied Palestinian Territory apart from Jerusalem, with illegal settlements inside the city. As the sewage water in the market rises, Palestinian shopkeepers and residents point out the holes in the gate to allow for water to go through. However, cement blocks and sand placed by the settlers have closed the water drainage.

I am reminded of my time in Hebron, with last week's announcement of US withdrawal from UNESCO, the Paris-based cultural, scientific, and educational organization of the United Nations, accusing it of "anti-Israel bias." Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu soon followed, tweeting, "I welcome @realDonaldTrump's decision ... I have instructed the Foreign Ministry to prepare Israel's withdrawal from Unesco in parallel with the United States."

**The former lively bustle of Shuhada Street, Hebron's once main commercial strip and home to the wholesale, gold, and vegetable markets, has drowned behind the green shutters of the boarded up shops, abandoned homes, and empty sidewalks.**

Under Obama administration, United States took similar action in 2012 after Palestine was accepted as a member state of UNESCO. A law from the 1990s apparently prohibits U.S. funding for any U.N. agency that recognizes Palestine as a state.

The recent U.S. pull out has to do with UNESCO's designation of Hebron's Old City as Palestinian World Heritage site in danger in July 2017. Condemning the decision, Prime Minister Netanyahu announced an annual \$1 million cut in membership fees to the United Nations, diverting those funds to a Jewish People's Heritage Museum in the Kiryat Arba settlement in Hebron.

Israel's UNESCO ambassador, Carmel Shama-Hacohen, response was to disdainfully take out his mobile phone and share

with the UN members, "It's my plumber in my apartment in Paris. There is a huge problem in my toilet and it is much more important than the decision you just adopted."

The UNESCO's decision was a verdict against the occupation. Following the 1994 riots that erupted in Hebron after an American Jewish settler killed 29 Palestinians in a massacre at the Ibrahimi Mosque, Palestinians in the Old City have been living a collective punishment — life in a cage.

Today over 100 physical obstacles, including 18 permanently-staffed checkpoints, 14 partial checkpoints, and various permanent blockades, cut the Old City off from the rest of Hebron. The former lively bustle of Shuhada Street, Hebron's once main commercial strip and home to the wholesale, gold, and vegetable markets, has drowned behind the green shutters of the boarded up shops, abandoned homes, and empty sidewalks.

In 2015, a third of Palestinian homes in the restricted area (1,105 housing units) were abandoned and an estimated 1,600 businesses closed. Several streets, designated for the exclusive use of settlers, restrict Palestinian traffic and, in some streets, even Palestinian pedestrians are banned.

With innumerable security check points, watchtowers, barricades, soldiers with automatic weapons, revolving gates, deserted streets, and welded shut homes and shops, the Old City of Hebron is a city under siege.



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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** are welcome from all readers. They should be addressed care of this newspaper to the Editor, Caribbean-Life Publications, 1 MetroTech Center North, Brooklyn, New York 11201, or sent via e-mail to caribbeanlife@cnglocal.com All letters, including those submitted via e-mail, MUST be signed and the individual's verifiable address and telephone number included. Note that the address and telephone number will NOT be published and the name will be published or withheld on request. No unsigned letters can be accepted for publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions.

# UWI launches Reparations Research Center

A center for reparation research became a reality at the University of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica last week when the island's prime minister and numerous government officials launched the Center for Reparations Research, a CARICOM mandated facility.

Endorsed and approved by heads of government of Caribbean member states during the 24th meeting July 2013, they developed a 10-point action plan to seek recompense from European colonizers that shipped Africans against their will to the Caribbean islands in order to exploit them by working them without pay on the sugar plantations from which they built prosperous economies and even empires.

Notwithstanding is the context of a slave trade that had irreparable consequences on the entire African population while proving to be an economic boon to the slave owners and their benefactors.

It is with those issues at the forefront of the united



## Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

initiative that a 10-point plan for reparatory justice was approved to decide — Full Formal Apology, Repatriation, Indigenous Peoples Development Program, Cultural Institutions, Public Health Crisis, Illiteracy Eradication, African Knowledge Program, Psychological Rehabilitation, Technology Transfer and Debt Cancellation.

“The owners of today’s international banks and telecoms networks are the ideological heirs of the “old pirates” who continue to “rob I,” UWI Professor Dr. Carolyn Cooper said referencing lyrics from Bob Marley’s “Redemption Song.”

Cooper, a specialist on culture and development added that “trafficking of Africans was financed by capitalists who put profit far above any concern about the humanity of the ‘goods’ they were

transporting.”

“That’s a lesson we simply cannot afford to forget.”

Last month marked the 65th anniversary of the signing of a \$13.8-billion reparation agreement by West Germany to provide compensation and reimbursement to the Jewish people.

Victims of the Nazi inflicted holocaust, they were compensated for losses and suffering the German racists meted out to them.

“Unfortunately, we are not Jews and the former colonists not Germans who, incidentally, were not colonizers of Caribbean countries,” an editorial in the Jamaica Observer noted questioning the viability of the CRR.

The publication’s position was one of skepticism for the CRR but proposed “moreover, as the Caribbean islands are so tourism-dependent, those



UWI Professor Dr. Carolyn Cooper.

C. Peter Ferguson

countries might be more easily persuaded to deepen disaster prevention and mitigation assistance to their present and former colonies as a way of reparation to Caribbean people living in these hurricane-ravaged territories to which we were brought by them.”

The center will serve as the official outlet to study how best to resolve the issue long debated by CARICOM nationals of how to engage a global reparatory justice movement “to respond to the terrible crimes against humanity that enslaved Africans endured.” *Catch You on The Inside!*

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# Virgin Islands lodge to resume reservations

By Alexandra Simon

A small return to normalcy. Nearly three weeks since Hurricanes Irma and Maria ravaged the U.S. Virgin Islands and other parts of the Caribbean, many tourist destinations on the territory's three islands are indefinitely closed until next year. But The Buccaneer Hotel on St. Croix is set to reopen for business as early as next week and will start taking guests, said the jurisdiction's commissioner of tourism, Beverly Nicholson-Doty.

The hotel, which faced little damage from the natural disasters, has since been housing relief workers there to assist response efforts. But will resume taking reservations for vacationing guests planning to arrive on and after Nov. 1. And with the recommencing of commercial flights to St. Croix and St. Thomas, officials are working towards increasing service, added the commissioner.

"We are working closely with our airline partners to ensure there are commercial flights to meet the needs of our residents, businesses, visitors and the numerous professionals who

are supporting the hurricane recovery," said Nicholson-Doty. "We will continue to advocate for expanded service as more of our hotel properties reopen and demand begins to grow in the marketplace."

As other buildings on the territory continue to assess their damages and estimated rebuilding costs, a sense of regularity has returned as some schools are back in session, with some 2,000 students returning to their studies already, according to Governor Kenneth Mapp at a press conference.

With tourism as one of the vital industries for the multi-island territory, multiple requests have been received by government, and Royal Caribbean cruises are expected to also resume their routes to the islands once repairs are made, added Mapp.

"Hopefully in the next number of days, we will be making a formal announcement about the return of cruise traffic to the territory," he said. "The turnstiles cannot be opened without adequate infrastructure in place — to ensure that visitors can have a good and safe time and a very positive experience."



A view of the U.S. Virgin Islands historic Buccaneer Hotel on St. Croix from Mermaid Beach. The Buccaneer / Steve Simonsen

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## CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 4

properties are totally destroyed. Skerrit said the government will enforce and if necessary update building codes to ensure all new construction complies with these codes.

### Guyana

Guyana's Public Security Minister Khemraj Ramjattan says the present trend of murders and domestic violence is a result of several factors, including depression, early parenting and the manner in which persons were nurtured.

He said it is also due to relationships that have gone sour and the lack of anger management control.

Ramjattan said his ministry is working towards crafting anger management programs for communities and schools countrywide.

He noted that often persons would make changes to reports of domestic violence, or recant statements, thus causing hesitation for the police to intervene.

Ramjattan said it "is a terrible thing and our society is bleeding too much, too often and with an intensity these days."

He was commenting on the recent killing of a 39-year-old man of the West Coast region.

### Jamaica

Bank of Jamaica (BoJ) Governor Brian Wynter said the central bank is reaping positive results from the Bank of Jamaica Foreign Exchange Intervention and Trading Tool (B-FXITT).

In his presentation to the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee (PAAC) of Parliament last week, Wynter said that the 1.0 percent depreciation of the dollar up to early October compares with 7.6 percent for the similar period last year.

Wynter said B-FXITT is a rules-based competitive multiple price mechanism used by the BoJ to buy from and sell to authorized foreign exchange dealers and cambios.

He said that this arrangement does not directly affect transactions by members of the public with their authorized dealers or cambios, which continues as before.

Arguing that the exchange rate is fairly valued, the BOJ governor said that the Jamaican dollar appreciated

on 66 separate days over the first half of this fiscal year, while depreciating on 60 separate days in the first half of this year.

Wynter said for the similar period in 2016-2017, the dollar appreciated on just 25 days during the year, while depreciating 104 separate days over the period.

He claimed that the macroeconomic stability in the economy is a contributory factor to the stability in the exchange rate.

Wynter said the BoJ has seen an increase in the volumes of foreign exchange being traded since the introduction of B-FXITT and other forms of reform.

### Trinidad

Finance Minister Colm Imbert said it costs TT\$130 million a day to run Trinidad and Tobago, which works out to be \$4 billion a month to run the country.

Imbert, who was speaking to supporters at the famous Piggot's corner, Port of Spain about the 2017/2018 budget, said when the People's Partnership (PP) came into office in 2010 there was about TT\$6 billion in cash on the government's bank account in the Central Bank.

He said the Kamla Persad-Bissessar administration managed, between 2010 and 2012, to spend out that money and to take account from \$6 billion, in May 2010 down to zero in 2012 and then down to minus \$9 billion in September 2015.

The PP administration, he said used up the whole overdraft, they burnt up \$15 billion in cash.

Imbert said three weeks before the national budget was presented he received a letter from Central Bank Governor Dr. Alvin Hilaire saying the country's overdraft was at 99.7 percent of the limit, which meant there was only a couple million dollars available for the current account.

He said this was enough to run the country for about five minutes.

Imbert last week delivered the \$50 billion national budget with revenue estimated at \$45.74 billion.

He said the government has been able to bring expenditure from \$63 billion to \$50 billion.

- Compiled by Azad Ali

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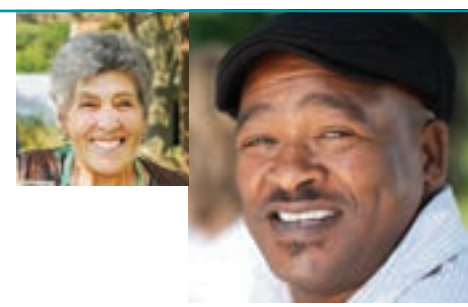
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<sup>1</sup>These are 2017 amounts and may change for 2018. <sup>2</sup>You must continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium. <sup>3</sup>Fidelis Care partners with TruHearing for discounted purchases of hearing devices. <sup>4</sup>My Advocate Program, offered through a company called Altegra, connects members to money-saving programs, discounts, and services that may be available. Premiums, copays, coinsurance, and deductibles may vary based on the level of Extra Help you receive. Please contact the plan for further details. This is not a complete listing of plans available in your service area. For a complete listing, contact the plan. The benefit information provided is a brief summary, not a complete description of benefits. For more information, contact the plan. Limitations, copayments, and restrictions may apply. Benefits, formulary, pharmacy network, premium and/or copayments/coinsurance may change on January 1 of each year. This information is available for free in other languages. Please contact our Member Services number at 1-800-860-8707 (TTY: 1-800-558-1125). Fidelis Care is a Coordinated Care plan with a Medicare contract and a contract with the New York State Department of Health Medicaid program. Enrollment in Fidelis Care depends on contract renewal.

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# Vincentian group honors three at annual gala



Ainsley Primus (center) receives award, flanked by, from left: New York Consul General Howie Prince, UN Ambassador I. Rhonda King, VINCI Vice President Wayne Raguette and Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke. Photo by Nelson A. King

By Nelson A. King

A popular Vincentian group in Brooklyn on Sunday, Oct. 8 honored three outstanding community personalities at its 34th Anniversary Luncheon at El Caribe Country Club in the Mill Basin, Brooklyn.

Vincintian American Independent National Charities, Inc. (VINCI) bestowed the honor on podiatrist and ex-Brooklyn legislator Dr. Kendall Stewart, cultural figure Ainsley Primus and athletics director Damani Thomas.

The gala affair also marked the group's celebration of St. Vincent and the Grenadines' 38th year of political independence.

"Our honorees today — Damani Thomas, Dr. Kendall Stewart and Ainsley Primus reflect the spirit of our organization," said VINCI's vice president, Wayne Raguette, a political consultant in Brooklyn, deputizing for the ill president, Augustus McMillan. "They have and continue to provide guidance and assistance to many in our community in

their respective field — without fanfare and without looking for rewards.

"Our bestowing of honor on them is just a small token to demonstrate our appreciation and to offer encouragement," added Raguette at the gala event that was attended by Brooklyn Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke (D-9th Congressional District), St. Vincent and the Grenadines United Nations Ambassador I. Rhonda King, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines New York Consul General Howie Prince.

"We pray God's blessing and guidance on them and hope they continue doing what they, do knowing that service to our fellow man is the greatest gift of all," Raguette continued.

Clarke congratulated the "distinguished honorees, three outstanding Vincentian citizens who are deserving of recognition," adding that "the broader community of the people of Vincentian descent in New York have, undoubtedly, made enormous contributions this country and

this community, in areas including academics, civil service, athletics, business, politics and law.

"I look forward to continuing to collaborate with the Vincentian American Independent National Charities, Inc., and supporting their invaluable work of promoting and celebrating the many achievements of the Vincentian community," Clarke said.

"On behalf of the people of the Ninth Congressional District of New York, I thank the Vincentian American National Charities, Inc., for their superb efforts within my district," she continued. "I wish the Charities, as well as this year's honorees, many successes in the future."

King applauded "the objectives of this initiative" and acknowledged "the work of this year's awardees."

"As we gather each year to celebrate the independence of our beloved homeland, it is fitting that space is created each year, whereby due recognition is paid to the outstanding contributions of Vincentians in the Diaspora,"

she said.

Prince "highly" commended the honorees, stating that each merit "loud praise for their extemporaneous contribution in their respective fields of endeavor."

"Dr. Kendal Stewart (medicine and politics), Mr. Ainsley Primus (culture and entertainment) and Mr. Damani Thomas (sports and sports administration), a grateful people say thank you for standing so tall among us," said Prince before asking patrons to raise their glasses in a toast to the honorees.

In his acceptance remarks, Dr.

Stewart, the Union Island, St. Vincent Grenadines-born former representative for the 45th Council District in Brooklyn, said that "a person who has the skills to lead but does not exercise that skill is no better than someone who is incapable."

He added that a true leader is one who "understands how to be truly humble," asking patrons to, among other things, govern themselves accordingly, exercise self-control, be independent thinkers, "creatively handle disappointments," understand the art of conciliation, be good mobilizers and be reliable.

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# New subway campaign raises poverty awareness

By Alexandra Simon

Raising awareness a station at a time.

A new subway campaign is shedding light on Brooklyn's poverty with posters across borough subway platforms. The Brooklyn Community Services project titled "Many Voices, Many Stories," is aimed at enlightening passersby about the high poverty rate in an effort to create unity, said the campaign creator Sonya Shields.

"As black people in Brooklyn we understand that many residents struggle in our community to make ends meet. This campaign is to bring our entire community together across socioeconomic status," she said.

The poster displays an overlay photo of some housing and five people,

of which are two Caribbean-American interior designers — Malene Barnett of Malene B and Anishka Clarke of Ishka Designs. And participating in the campaign is an honor because they are able personally impact their community.

"I'm really happy I was selected to be a part of this and to use my influence in my community and in Brooklyn," said Barnett, who lives in Bedford-Stuyvesant. "There are things that need to be addressed and I want to bring awareness, especially in my community because it's going to benefit more than just myself — its goal is to inspire others to take actions."

With 23 percent of Brooklyn living under the poverty line, and

a majority of the city's poor being people of color, Barnett says that is what makes consciousness about the issue all the more pressing and how she wants people to be moved by it.

"I want you to be in shock because when you hear percentages it's not something you would think," she said. "But once you know, you can take action and find ways you can support people living in these situations."

The posters can be found at stations all month in Bedford Stuyvesant, Boerum Hill, Brooklyn Heights, Bushwick, Carroll Gardens, Clinton Hill, Dumbo, Flatbush-Ditmas Park, Fort Greene, Gowanus, Greenpoint, West Midwood, and Williamsburg.



Designer Malene Barnett checking out her poster which she helped to design. Brooklyn Community Services

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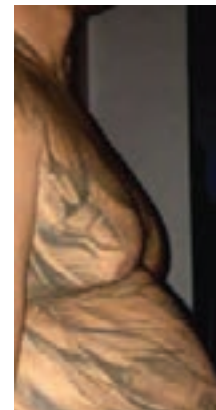
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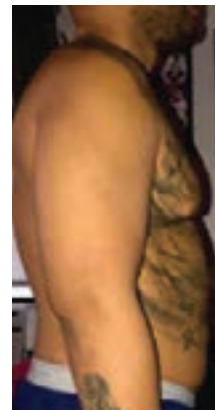
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# Jamaican gov't to improve security in troubled areas

Continued from Page 1

economic and social activities within the communities and surrounding areas," the police chief told reporters.

Denham Town is the second to come under full control of security agencies following in the wake of Mount Salem in St. James where gangs were also threatening to take control and seriously disturb the peace and daily life activities.

Police say they have seized an astonishing 700 illegal weapons so far this year and expect to close the year with about 1,000 off the streets and in police hands.

The Jamaican Gleaner Newspaper quoted Assistant Police Chief Steve McGregor as saying that government is determined to improve safety levels in affected communities in the coming months and prevent gangs from taking over.

"The first intention is to create safe communities in the divisions, because the idea is that we can't change all at the same time." Security forces will ensure children go to school safely and a mentorship program will be set up with official assistance to supplement what officers call are areas with poor parenting skills he said.

"It's the curfew not a big-stick approach where the police will be driving around and taking kids off the street. We will select monitors from within the communities, and these monitors will be the first-responders to these deviant kids," he said.

And as expected, the two major parties are blaming each other for the state of crime in the country.

Opposition legislator told the Observer Newspaper that government is clearly unable to bring



Jamaica's Prime Minister Andrew Holness.  
Yhomo Hutchinson

down the crime rate and should so admit to Jamaicans in a clear manner.

"More people are dying today than when the People's National Party (PNP) was in office and nothing has been put forward by the PM and his security minister or his government since then until now. This is more than 18 months after taking office."

Both the army and police are being extremely circumspect this time around about the use of force and other rough methods, preferring to try to win friends and influence people rather than engaging in gun battles and other forms of clashes with residents in the affected communities.

This is so because the memories of the globally reported gun battles between the forces and nearby Tivoli Gardens that killed more than 70 people including soldiers and police back in 2010. This had occurred during a US-backed operation to flush out and arrest now convicted area strongman Chris "Dudus" Coke back in 2010. He eventually surrendered and was extradited to the United States where he is serving time for international drug trafficking and other crimes.

# Haiti awaits US decision on TPS

Continued from Page 1

six months, arguing that conditions in the French-speaking Caribbean country had improved since the earthquake left 300,000 dead and 1.5 million homeless, according to the Herald.

Then-DHS Secretary John Kelly, who is now President Donald Trump's chief of staff, said DHS would re-evaluate the designation ahead of the January expiration date but said he had warned Moïse to prepare to bring his people back from the US, according to the Herald.

It said fears over the program's end and a subsequent return to Haiti have caused panic for some in the Haitian community.

Earlier this summer, thousands of Haitian TPS recipients and others with temporary work authorizations fled illegally to Canada across the New York state border, overwhelming Canadian authorities, the Herald said.

Concerned about the illegal migration, the paper said Altidor ramped up the

government's outreach, holding discussions with DHS, the US Department of State, the White House, and Republican and Democratic members of the US Congress about the need for TPS extension.

During the confirmation hearing for Trump's nominee for US Ambassador to Haiti, Michele J. Sison, US Senator Marco Rubio, Republican of Florida, last week asked Sison about the implications for the Haitian government if TPS is not extended, according to the Herald.

Sison didn't really answer, the Herald said, focusing her response more on the process of TPS designation and the US helping to build resilience with its Haiti programs.

"I think it would be difficult for them to absorb it," Rubio said. "But if that's the decision, the administration makes — which I hope they do not — if they did, my view is that the embassy will have a lot of work on its hands and the government of Haiti will require a lot of assistance."

# Travel industry ramps up effort to promote Caribbean tourism

By Beth J. Harpaz

The travel industry is ramping up efforts to remind consumers that many Caribbean islands were unaffected by hurricanes and that their economies depend on tourism.

Tourism agencies and travel companies are promoting deals, events and fundraising efforts while reinforcing the basic message that most islands were unscathed by the storms and are eager for visitors.

The Travel Leaders travel agency, for example, has launched a "consumer-awareness campaign to promote Caribbean destinations that are open for business for fall and winter travel," with agents becoming "ambassadors" for the region by providing travelers with information on conditions and packages.

"This hurricane season has been devastating for a number of Caribbean islands, but the negative economic impact on the region will be compounded if visitors avoid travel to unaffected destinations," Travel Leaders Group CEO Ninan Chacko said in a statement. Travel Leaders Group is also

raising money for hurricane victims and impacted communities through its Family Bonds Foundation.

A new website, CaribbeanIsOpen.com, is part of a million-dollar initiative funded by the Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association.

"This initiative is also a vital tool to assisting the Caribbean by stimulating the economy," the group's president, Michele Paige, said in a statement. "Many Caribbean destinations fortunately missed any impact from the hurricanes, and most affected destinations worked around the clock to reopen for tourism."

The website notes that even destinations that saw some damage from the hurricanes are starting to host cruise visits, such as Key West, Florida, and St. Kitts.

Royal Caribbean announced that its ship Adventure of the Seas will resume port calls to St. Thomas on Nov. 10, and that the ship hopes to be in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and St. Martin by the end of November.

AAA Travel is also launching a "Caribbean is Open for Business" campaign,

**This hurricane season has been devastating for a number of Caribbean islands, but the negative economic impact on the region will be compounded if visitors avoid travel to unaffected destinations.**

calling the region a top AAA-recommended destination for fall and winter getaways, listing Antigua, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Bonaire, Curacao, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Martinique, St. Lucia, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Vincent & The Grenadines, the Cayman Islands, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks & Caicos and St. Vincent & The Grenadines.

In Dominica, the Secret Bay Resort set up a fundraising page to benefit staff after many of its regular visitors from past years asked how they could help.

Turks and Caicos is advertising its

annual Caribbean Food & Wine Festival in Providenciales, Nov. 2-5, noting that the not-for-profit festival will raise funds for Turks & Caicos educational institutions damaged by Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Skylark.com, a luxury vacation site, sent out a plea for donations to the official website for the recovery of the U.S. Virgin Islands. Skylark added that "much of the Caribbean was completely unaffected," with a link to the website's "ideas on where to go."

Even islands that suffered no storm damage are on a mission to make themselves visible. One public relations agency sent out a press release noting that the Bahamas were "fortunate to have come out of the 2017 hurricane season without impact to the country's primary tourism product," adding for good measure that there have been no documented cases of Zika virus there since November 2016.

Antigua is promoting its Dec. 5-9 Yacht Charter Show along with island resorts like Curtain Bluff, Verandah and St. James's, which recently underwent renovations.

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# New Caribbean Airlines CEO



New Caribbean Airlines CEO Garvin Medera. Caribbean Airlines

By Nelson A. King

The Board of Directors of the Trinidad and Tobago-owned Caribbean Airlines has appointed Garvin Medera as the new chief executive officer, effective Oct. 10, 2017.

The airline said Medera is formerly the chief executive officer of Digicel Play, a position he held from December 2015 until his departure earlier this month.

“With a strong combination of leadership, governance, technical and communication skills he effectively led that organization, which has revolutionized home entertainment in Trinidad and Tobago,” Caribbean Airlines said.

Prior to the role of chief executive officer, Digicel Play, the airlines said Medera served in several key leadership positions at Digicel, including chief operating officer, general manager Tobago and chief technical officer, managing the company’s full operational portfolio.

Medera has an MBA from the University of Oxford, LL.B from the University of London and an M.Sc. and B.Sc. in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of the West Indies.

“He is looking forward to leading the

transformation that Caribbean Airlines must embrace if the company is to meet the challenges of the fiercely competitive airline industry,” Caribbean Airlines said.

“The board of directors also expresses its sincere gratitude to the former chief executive officer (Ag.) Capt. Jagmohan Singh and the executive management team who ensured that Caribbean Airlines continued to deliver an enhanced travel experience to its valued customers, while the search for a chief executive officer was taking place,” it added.

“The board and employees look forward to the innovation and collective capabilities that would be developed under the leadership of the new CEO,” the airlines continued.



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It was breezy on the Olgivy & Mather penthouse as Joseph Nuzzi, president of NOVA, long-time volunteer Jocelyn Lamour, Solanges Toussaint, board member and logistics coordinator in Haiti, and Vice President Jan Mansley stand in front of Haitian cut-metal for sale during the cocktail fundraiser.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

# NOVA Hope for Haiti marks 15 years of service

**By Tequila Minsky**

A clear sense of mission and overwhelming commitment describes a small, dedicated local organization with a miniscule budget that can point to actual achievements, works accomplished — unlike other organizations with multi-million dollar budgets. NOVA Hope for Haiti is one such organization.

Marking its 15th year with a primary focus providing access to medical care, NOVA has even expanded its response to other urgent needs, helping rebuild and repair 16 Hurricane Mathew destroyed houses and replenishing destroyed crops by providing rice and beans to replant and 15,000 plantain tree bulbs.

Last week, supporters, board members, and medical mission participants braved a cool, breezy evening on Olgivy & Mather's site-donated penthouse to raise money for the work of this model non-profit.

(A summer flea market and winter casino night are the only other two fundraisers, along with individual donors, contributing to the mere \$140,000 yearly budget.)

NOVA's work began in 2002 by sending medical missions to Cavailon, a rural town located in the South department of Haiti.

Having started as a Catholic parish-twinning project with Church of the

Presentation in Upper Saddle River, NJ, more autonomy was needed for the work; it soon spun off. A permanent medical facility became the goal of NOVA, formally created in 2005.

Meanwhile, twice-yearly medical missions continued. Twenty-five volunteers — doctors for adults and pediatricians, nurses, translators, and non-medical support — bringing all the medications and equipment, set up clinic in a Cavailon church, treating 600-800 Haitians per visit. All volunteers pay their own way.

In 2005, a donor's generosity helped NOVA buy some land in Cavailon that had a building on it. It took a long eight years of fundraising to renovate it into a clinic. Additionally, top floor residences were built to house the continuing medical missions. (They are also rented out to other visiting groups in the area — the income going into the operating expenses.)

In 2004, Haitian-born Jocelyn Lamour found NOVA in its organizational infancy. "They were very welcoming," she said, and doing work on the ground. For Lamour, here was an organization she can put her heart into and subsequently use her professional skills. Since then, she has been on almost all — 18 or 19 — medical missions and is getting ready for the next one-week mission leaving Oct. 22.



Haitian percussionist Okai beats the drum on the penthouse during the fundraiser.

Photo by Tequila Minsky



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# Jamaican philanthropist to receive Global Spotlight Award

By Nelson A. King

Jamaican Irwine Clare, Sr. OD., philanthropist, immigration advocate and Diaspora powerhouse will be honored Wednesday with the Global Spotlight Award by the American Chamber of Commerce of Jamaica (AMCHAM) at the group's annual Business and Civic Leadership Award at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel.

"I am extremely humbled and appreciative as recipient of the Global Spotlight Award from AMCHAM in this (its) 30th anniversary year and while we celebrate Jamaica 55," said Queens resident Clare. "I am grateful to be included in this auspicious list of titans and thank all who have accorded me the privilege of their support and goodwill throughout the years.

Andrea Daley of Caribbean Media Marketing, Inc. (CMM), said Clare, who was conferred with Order of Distinction (OD) in 2012, by the government of Jamaica, for his "invaluable contribution to Jamaicans in the Diaspora," is "no stranger to

accolades and has been honored many times over for his sterling contribution in so many areas locally and abroad.

"His body of work is impressive and speaks to why he is known as Mr. Diaspora," Daley said. "He has been a man of the people from his early years in Jamaica, having honed his skills as student council leader at his high school, York Castle, as well as through various leadership initiatives led by the government. He had a tremendous example in his mother, who was a leader and advocate in the community of Bamboo, St. Ann, where he grew up.

Daley said Clare is "the man behind Team Jamaica Bickle," the organization that hosts Caribbean athletes at the annual Penn Relays at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA.

"Some 23 years ago, he saw the need to offer assistance to these athletes by providing amenities designed to make their stay while they are away from home, representing school and country more comfortable," she said. "After his trademark outreach to commu-

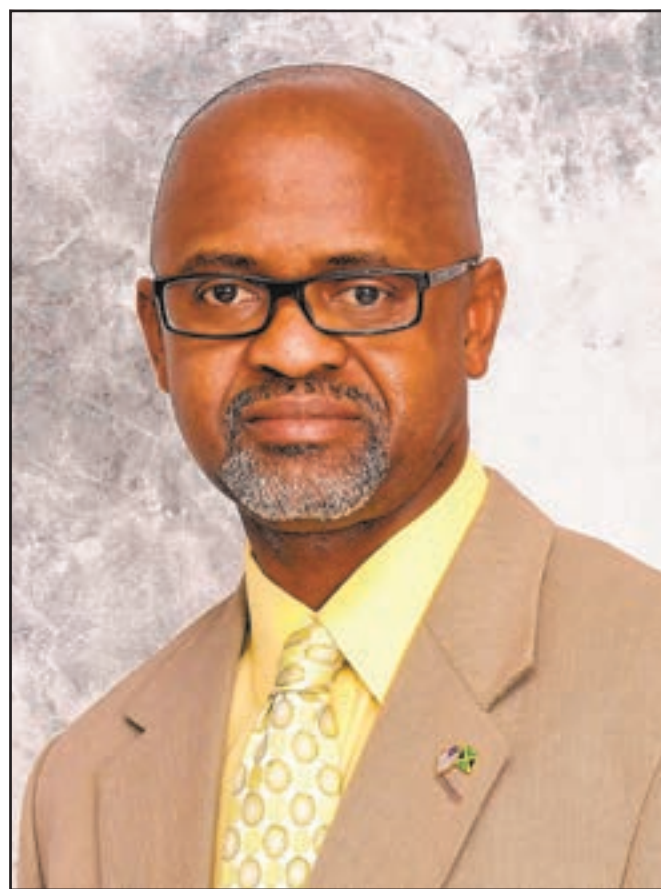
nity stakeholders and members, Team Jamaica Bickle was born and enjoys widespread support of the community.

"The organization, a beacon of volunteerism and community, has grown to be the anchor at these relays to over 600 athletes not just from Jamaica but [from] Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Guyana, among others, as well as US-based athletes at these relays," she added. "Athletes receive three warm meals daily, ground transportation, assistance with hotel bookings, medical and chiropractic care."

Over the 23 years, Daley said the organization has raised over \$US2.5 million dollars for the program, adding, however, that the value to athletes, coaches and schools extend far beyond that.

Today, Daley said Team Jamaica Bickle receives calls from numerous sporting bodies, enroute to the US, for assistance with their traveling needs and has assisted many.

"Through his vision Team Jamaica Bickle has grown beyond



Irwine Clare, Sr.

Caribbean Media Marketing, Inc.

just providing services at the Penn Relays but has expanded its reach into other areas to ensure the safety and well-being of athletes," she said. "The 'Defibrillator to Schools' program was initiated after the death of two students athletes in competition to provide a first line of emergency medical response for athletes."

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# Jamaica's Octoberfest adds Tosh Festival & Awards to Reggae calendar

By Vinette K. Pryce

Each year, Germans — particularly those in Munich — anticipate this month with the kind of fervor that exudes Oktoberfest, the world's biggest fair.

For the first time this year and perhaps every other in the future, Jamaicans will also look forward to October as a festive time to honor tradition, culture and a Rastafarian preacher named Peter McIntosh.

At least from Oct. 19 to Oct. 22, a celebration of the life of a singer / musician internationally acclaimed — as Peter Tosh — will honor his 73rd birthday anniversary with concert performances, tributes, multimedia presentations, a gala family reunion and the very first Peter Tosh Awards ceremony.

According to organizers, the latest of all tribute awards recognize “individuals who have contributed in a major way to furthering the goals of Peter's activism during his life and career.”

During the ceremony, three presentations will bestow honors on deserving recipients whose contributions have advanced the ideals and lifelong commitment Tosh dedicated to achieve equal rights, legalize cannabis and recognize achievement in the arts.

Named for three of his album titles, The Peter Tosh Equal Rights Award will honor an individual whose efforts advance the cause of equal rights for all. The Peter Tosh Steppin' Razor Award will recognize influential contributors to the arts and entertainment. And the Legalize It Award will distinguish the recipients “as leaders in advancing Peter's efforts to legalize cannabis and encourage cannabis research throughout the world.”

The weekend's festivity coincides with Tosh's Oct. 19 birthday and launches a belated tribute to the legendary singer, musician and activist who died on Sept. 11, 1987.

“The Peter Tosh Music Festival brings together new and old fans from around the world to celebrate and learn about this amazing legacy,” Niambe McIntosh, the singer's daughter said.

On a bill featuring a reunion of musicians that backed Tosh on tours throughout the globe as Word, Sound and Power, some of the best names in reggae represent Freddie McGregor, Luciano, Marcia Griffith, Andrew Tosh, Nadine Sutherland, Garnet Silk Jr., and Zak Starkey, the son of Beatles drummer Ringo Starr.

All committed to bolstering the legacy of the musician who indelibly imprinted his unique contribution to the music industry, they are the highlight of the second annual Peter Tosh Festival, first initiated last year at the Peter Tosh Museum in Kingston.

The institution was established to recognize Tosh's singular contributions



Jamaican musician Peter Tosh, a founding member of the Wailers, is interviewed in the office of the record company he is forming in Los Angeles, Ca., Feb. 1979.

Associated Press

to the development of reggae music worldwide and his achievements as an activist.

“There's no other individual like Peter Tosh,” his daughter added.

Administrator of an estate named for her father, McIntosh has collaborated with Kingsley Cooper, co-founder of the landmark repository named for one of the trinity that yielded a global phenomena known as Bob Marley & Wailers.

Marley, Tosh and Bunny Wailer Livingston were the original Kingston trio to blaze an unprecedented music trail that penetrated international borders and in the process claimed the first Third World Superstar, the king of reggae while delivering instant messages about freedom, liberation, and equal rights and justice.

Tosh emerged the explosive spokesperson, activist and forerunner in the movement to legalize cannabis.

A devout advocate of the Rastafarian edict, he went solo in 1974 and two years later released his first solo album, “Legalize It.” Tosh worked tirelessly to promote the legalization of marijuana, equal rights, and to expand Jamaica's cultural and musical influence.

Known as the Mystic Man, the Steppin' Razor, the Bush Doctor and a myriad of other distinguishing monikers, “he was no stranger to oppression in his homeland and knew the fight for

legalization and equal rights.”

He was arrested numerous times for publicly smoking the banned weed but his music served as a catalyst for a generation to fight for what they believed in and never give up.

Tosh had his own unique messages, he advocated that the oppressed “Get Up, Stand Up!” and remain stalwart in seeking change of archaic colonial rules.

“His struggles for equal rights and justice and the legalization of marijuana, have had an impact around the globe,” Kingsley Cooper, co-founder of the Peter Tosh Museum said.

“I am grateful that I have had the opportunity to play a role in spearheading these developments and I am humbled to be a part of it all.”

“As we celebrate Peter's birthday once again, this time with the Peter Tosh Music Festival hosted by the Peter Tosh Museum, it's undoubtedly a good time to reflect on the wonderful gift that Peter's life, career and legacy has been to the world,” Cooper added.

Other confirmed artists include Tosh's granddaughter Jahzarah Tosh, Ikaya, Dre Tosh and Live Wyya.

Jamaica's Octoberfest will provide a forum for praise, honor, and begin a tradition that annually will celebrate the home-grown reggae music the rest of the world has embraced throughout each month of the year.

## Kings County hospital raises awareness for depression

By Alexandra Simon

In honor of Depression Awareness Month, Kings County hospital held a free screening to check for symptoms of the mental health illness earlier this month. The initiative was aimed at raising knowledge about depression for their community and teach people how to identify signs of depression. But while it affects various people, it tends to remain a taboo subject in the Caribbean community, leading people to suffer in silence, said a psychiatrist at the medical center.

“Depression and suicide in a lot of ways affect the overall population because it is a major disorder that has an impact in all communities,” said Dr. Monica Broderick. “It is not unique to the Caribbean community, but how it plays itself out, in the feelings and stigma — it is a big issue.”

Hospital officials say two main signs of depression are changes in mood and physical changes, such as not enjoying things one used to partake in, drastic change in sleeping patterns, and eating habits. And those reason can be extrapolated by other health factors.

“Depression and health go hand in hand,” said Broderick. “If it doesn't get addressed it has major impact on physical health. The outcome of heart disease, diabetes, or substance abuse, can fare much worse if someone is also depressed.”

Another glaring aspect of depression within in the Caribbean community can stem from barrel children — a phenomenon of children left by parents who migrated to the states. When a family is separated for a considerable time and reconnected again, some resentment of abandonment is often carried into adulthood and that is something often discovered in the community, said Broderick.

“Some experienced trauma on the island and when they eventually reunite or meet with relatives, they may still be holding onto trauma or abuse that they experienced or they might be concerned about their immigration status, and that is definitely what we're seeing,” she said.

In addition, economic factors such as work, wages, and expenses can become stressors that can trigger depression in someone caring for multiple relatives overseas, according to Broderick.

A high number of people are not seeking to remedy their feelings due to hesitance and misconceptions. But Kings County hospital officials are working towards creating a welcoming space for fearful patients to provide help.

# TOP DRIVER DISTRACTIONS

## Using mobile phones

Leading the list of the top distractions behind the wheel are mobile phones. Phones now do more than just place calls, and drivers often cannot pull away from their phones, even when driving. According to the California Department of Motor Vehicles, studies have shown that driving performance is lowered and the level of distraction is higher for drivers who are heavily engaged in cell

phone conversations. The use of a hands-free device does not lower distraction levels. The percentage of vehicle crashes and near-crashes attributed to dialing is nearly identical to the number associated with talking or listening.

## Daydreaming

Many people will admit to daydreaming behind the wheel or looking at a person or object outside of the car for too long. Per-

haps they're checking out a house in a new neighborhood or thought they saw someone they knew on the street corner. It can be easy to veer into the direction your eyes are focused, causing an accident. In addition to trying to stay focused on the road, some drivers prefer the help of lane departure warning systems.

## Eating

Those who haven't quite mastered walking and

chewing gum at the same time may want to avoid eating while driving. The majority of foods require a person's hands to be taken off of the wheel and their eyes to be diverted from the road. Reaching in the back seat to share some French fries with the kids is also distracting.

Try to eat meals before getting in the car. For those who must snack while en route, take a moment to pull over at

a rest area and spend 10 minutes snacking there before resuming the trip.

## Reading

Glancing at an advertisement, updating a Facebook status or reading a book are all activities that should be avoided when driving. Even pouring over a traffic map or consulting the digital display of a GPS system can be distracting.

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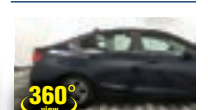
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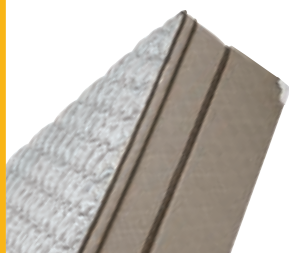


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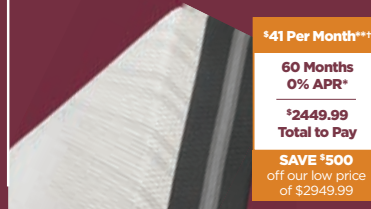


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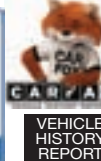
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# Cancer survivor embarks on sharing, giving initiatives

By Tangerine Clarke

When 50-year-old Trinidad and Tobago native Allison Alexis was diagnosed with Breast Cancer after a routine mammogram in March 2001, she immediately underwent lumpectomy surgery and started chemotherapy — 33 segments of radiation treatment.

This is a fitting example of how early detection and treatment work. Today, six years after being diagnosed with the disease, Alexis proudly says, she is cancer-free, and a breast cancer survivor.

Thanks to the urgency in which she sought treatment after diagnoses, the process saved her life, and has helped her to spared the word, and inspire others, to be vigilant about testing, and early treatment.

Now, a strong advocate against cancer, this brave woman, continues to educate both men and women, through outreach programs, and an cancer annual walk.

Last Sept. 16, Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Deputy Borough President Melva Miller, and Anthony Lemma, representative from Assemblyman David Weprin's office, joined Alexis at her 4th Annual Queens Cancer Walk in Astoria.

Before marching to bring about awareness, Alexis pinned a lavender ribbon on the chest of Hon. Melinda Katz to say thanks. The symbolic "lavender color" highlights all forms of cancer.

Alexis, who came from the town of Maraval, in Trinidad & Tobago, is the founder of the Annual Queens Cancer Walk in Smokey Park, from where she donates 100 percent of the funds raised to the non-profit organization — Sharing and Caring.

She is passionate about giving back to this particular organization that provided her with the necessary coping mechanisms when she was diagnosed with breast cancer

in 2001.

"I want to give back to Sharing and Caring, and its founder, Anna Krill who provided counseling throughout my treatment process."

Anna Krill also participated in the march, to share information with the community, and to provide citizens with the resources necessary to combat all types of cancer, said Alexis, who is steadfast in her commitment to help others understand that early detection, and urgency in seeking help is paramount.

Advocates and resource professionals, Linda Bulone, a cancer research nurse at Queens Hospital, Michael Andrews who signed up marchers to become bone marrow donors, and the Caribbean Equality Project who provided resource information from the Lesbian Women for Mammogram and Screening, all played a significant role, and made the march a success.

Alexis, plans to start a sup-



Trinidad & Tobago-born Allison Alexis, a breast cancer survivor, addressing an audience at her 4th Annual Queens Cancer walk last Sept. 16.

Allison Alexis

port group in Richmond Hill, Queens, where she and other survivors will come together on a regular basis to inspire each other.

As Alexis celebrate six years cancer free, this Cancer Awareness Month, she is happy to step-in when necessary to help anyone who is in need of help.

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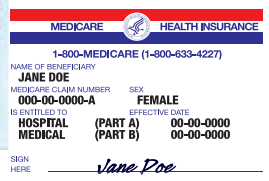


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Subway Doodle is aiding Puerto Rico's hurricane relief with artwork showcasing solidarity between New York and the island. Subway

## Art for Puerto Rico relief

By Alexandra Simon

An art of kindness.

A Brooklyn artist is using his talent to raise awareness and funds for Puerto Rico's post-hurricane relief efforts. Commonly known by his social media handle "Subway Doodle," Ben Rubin, the artist behind the popular Instagram page, will be donating all funds for his campaign's artwork titled "Helping Hands."

The design shows one of his signature blue animations, sporting a cape and Puerto Rican flag, flying over the city with One World Trade in the backdrop. The artist said he was inspired to show solidarity with the territory after feeling an overall disregard from political leaders, and wanted to use his influence to bring attention to it.

"I was mortified by the lack of support Puerto Rico was receiving from our government. I decided to use my art and my social media platform to contribute what I could to the recovery efforts," said Rubin.

His creative partner said they wanted to use their expressive avenue to encourage others to also get on board with what is happening on the island, and provide them with an artistic way to help.

"We saw how horrible the conditions were down there, and decided to put something together because any amount of support helps," said Theresa Nasi. "'Prints for Puerto Rico' is meant to demonstrate that New Yorkers are doing what they can, and care about what is happening down there."

And with Rubin's popularity as an artist, he has a great shot at helping bring charity.

"He has quite a following on Instagram and can get the word across because people pay attention to his work," said Nasi. "It's small but we're doing what we can and hope to raise \$1,000."

# Annual Diwali festival lights up Richmond Hill

By Tangerine Clarke

Prominent author, columnist and educator, Dr. Dhanpaul Narine, was the grand marshal of the annual Diwali motorcade along Liberty Avenue in Richmond Hill, Queens, against the backdrop of colorful costumes, multicolored lights and music during the "Hindu Festival of Lights," on Saturday, Oct. 14.

Dr. Narine, president of the Shri Trimurti Bhavan Hindu Temple, who has served the community for more than 40 years, said Diwali represents the triumph of good over evil, and dispelling of the darkness with light, and added that it was an honor to represent the community as grand marshal.

"Diwali dispels the darkness in our lives. The little round diyas that are lit on the streets, welcomed Rama from exile when he came back to triumph over his kingdom," said Dr. Narine, dressed in Indian regalia.

"I feel exuberant, it is triumphant for our community to show at this time, and in the history of our country Guyana and the world, that we need peace more than anything else, so we brought together people from all over the world today so that we can walk in peace, and celebrate light," added Dr. Narine.

Hundreds of residents lined Liberty Avenue to enjoy the spectacular motorcade of cars, vans and floats decorated with flowers, and fairy lights that lit up the skyline over the neighborhood. Many of the floats carried bejeweled men, women and children, who showcased the beauty of the festival.

Organizer, Lakshmee Singh, who herself looked stunning in a green Indian Sari with gold accents and matching jewels, welcomed participants to the annual parade that began with the smashing of a coconut.

Miss World Guyana 2017 Vena Mookram, decked out in a purple-



Grand Marshall and President of the Shri Trimurti Bhavan Hindu Temple, Dr. Dhanpaul Narine with members of his temple. Photo by Tangerine Clarke

jeweled sari, was among many who embraced the colorful parade, celebrated with the spirited beating of Tassa drums, and recorded Indian music.

Some of the participants included the Shri Trimurti Bhavan Divya Jyoti Association, Sri Dura Mandir, the Indo Caribbean Federation N.A. and NYPD Desi Society, representing the South-Asian American Police Officers, among others.

Winner of the best-decorated float won a cash prize of \$2001.00.

The honored tradition, that sees lit diyas stewed in the yards of homes, and observed with sweet treats, began with an all-day explosion of music, chants, burning of incense, food, and a Pooja and Hawan religious service at

the Arya Spiritual Center Grounds in Richmond Hill.

After the parade, the festival later culminated with a cultural extravaganza at the Arya Spiritual Center Grounds, with performances by Shelly Ramnanan Cultural Dance School, Natraj Centre for the Performing Arts, Sanasani Cultural Organization, the Krishna Mandir Youth Group, and David Ali Dance Group, and others.

Diwali is a national holiday in countries with large Hindu populations, such as Guyana, India, Nepal, and Trinidad and Tobago. The nationals brought Diwali with them when they immigrated to Guyana, Trinidad, and other Caribbean islands in the 19th century.



A beautifully lit motor along the parade route in Richmond Hill, Queens and (right) a caravan decorated with colorful flowers carry a bejeweled goddess. Photos by Tangerine Clarke

# Barbados' crime laws face human rights test



Senator Wilfred Abrahams.

Photo by George Alleyne

By George Alleyne

Suppressing and removing an upsurge in crime may prove a very challenging prospect for Barbados as the authority's announced moves may put it on collision course with the constitution and human rights of citizens.

The government wants to lock up accused gang members without bail then jail them for more than two decades once found guilty, but the Opposition has said the proposals make no sense.

Responding to an upsurge in gun-related crimes, much of which is attributed to gang disputes, Attorney General Adriel Brathwaite last week spoke of coming anti-gun and anti-gang legislation aimed at giving judges more power.

"I propose that anybody, male or female, who is found guilty of being a gang member should receive no less than 20 years in prison. Leaders of gangs will receive a maximum of 25 years in prison," the attorney general

said.

Addressing a complaint across the island of seeing accused persons back on the streets because they got bailed almost immediately after their first appearance in court, Brathwaite said, "I hear too often of alleged gang leaders living among us, seemingly without fear of prosecution. I also propose to widen the police's powers to stop and search under the Police Act, and an amendment to the Bail Act to prevent bail being granted for a period of 18 months where the offences charged include the use of a firearm."

Following years of denial, authorities are now saying that gangs have mushroomed across the island, with the Commissioner of Police, Tyrone Griffith, two months ago identifying the housing community of Black Rock as an area that alone accounts for 16 of these illegal violent groups.

"These persons corrupt many of our young men and women," Brathwaite said in explain-

ing how older persons recruit youngsters into gangs and, "send them into the society to commit very serious crimes. They are not heroes. They belong behind bars and that is why we want to give specific legislation to deal with them."

With a 16 to 14 parliamentary seat majority government is expected to succeed in passing this proposed law and amendments to others, which Brathwaite said is no knee-jerk reaction.

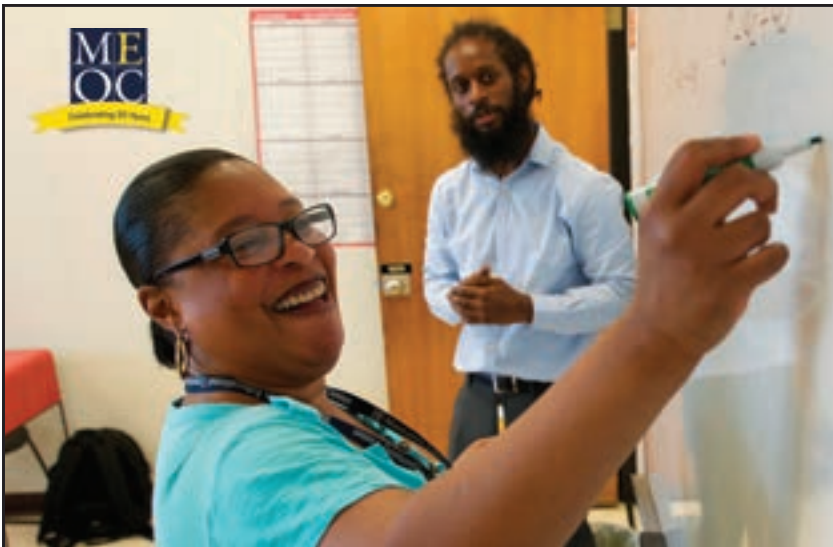
But an Opposition Barbados Labour Party Senator and attorney, Wilfred Abrahams, over the weekend dismissed Brathwaite's intended course of action as constitutionally unworkable.

Contending that that the lock-up without bail and jail proposal, "flies in the face of everything that makes sense," Abrahams asked, "why would the attorney general, who should know this, come and tout that as an example of what we're doing to combat crime?"

Attacking government's stated intention to arrest and detain suspected gang members for up to 18 months without bail, Abrahams said, "bail is a right. You, the accused person, have a right to bail unless certain criteria are fulfilled. So from the time you start by taking it away from a judicial officer . . . it is

unconstitutional."

Abrahams said that such legislation cannot stand up in court and would be struck down as a violation of a constitutional right of an accused person to be regarded as innocent until proven guilty, and therefore entitled to bail while awaiting the court's decision.



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# Guyana evacuates citizens from hurricane-ravished islands



Guyanese nationals, including children, touched-down at the Eugene F. Correira International Airport at Ogle, Guyana. *Guyana Demerara Waves*

By Tangerine Clarke

Over the last week, the Guyana government has welcomed with open arms, more than 55 expatriates, including children, who were evacuated from hurricane-ravished St. Maarten in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Tortola in the British Virgin Islands, and as recent as Oct. 12 and 13, from Dominica and Antigua and Barbuda.

Trans Guyana Airways touched down at the Eugene F. Correira International Airport at Ogle on the East Coast Demerara on several occasions with many more flights scheduled to return more citizens home within the coming weeks.

The Department of Public Information, (DPI) has reported that Minister of State Joseph Harmon along with Minister of Citizenship, Winston Felix and Director General of the Civil Defense Commission (CDC), Colonel Chabilall Ramsarup met nationals at the airport in a collaborative effort between the government, the private sector, and the Civil Defense

Commission, as well as local businesses, which are committed to repatriating their brothers and sisters.

According to the DPI, Minister Harmon noted that anywhere Guyanese are, and anything that befalls them, once it is in the power of the state to do something for them, the state would step up to assist.

Several more flights will airlift other displaced citizens who have expressed their need to return home from other hurricane damaged Caribbean islands, where they once called home.

Harmon said the initial number of Guyanese was 43, but that number has risen to 116 citizens, who indicated their desire to be reunited with family in various parts of Guyana.

Harmon thanked the Correira Company and JAGS Aviation for its willingness to evacuate Guyanese, and dispatch other flights to those regions to bring home citizens including Anita Woodroffe, a cosmetologist

who was forced to leave the island, because her business was not functional due to lack of water and electricity.

And since schools are still shuttered on the island, Woodroffe was eager to quickly enroll her daughter in school in Guyana.

Yashpaul Sewnarine's vacation came to a crushing end after hurricanes Irma and Maria hit the island and left him stranded. He described the experience as harrowing.

Others such as Anita Khandhai, who lived in St. Maarten for seven years, is back in Guyana with her two children after living through the first such hurricane she experienced. She too, will enroll her children in school.

The government is committed to returning the body of Derek Ragnauth, 55, a businessman who had been residing in the BVI for the past nine years and who was killed after refusing to vacate his business on the island of Tortola.

His son was one of the pas-

sengers who arrived in Guyana ahead of his father's body to make funeral arrangements.

Staff from the department

of citizenship were on hand to issue documents that citizens misplaced during the devastating hurricanes.

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# 'Colorism' at work and at play

"Same Family, Different Colors"

by Lori L. Tharps  
c.2017, Beacon Press  
\$18.00 / \$24.00 Canada  
216 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You debated awhile before you checked the box.

The choices were few: Black, white, Latino, Asian, pick one, tick the box, but that's not the end of the story. Within that little square lies a lot more about who you are and who you feel you are, and in "Same Family, Different Colors" by Lori L. Tharps, you'll see that perceptions – yours and that of others – matter plenty.

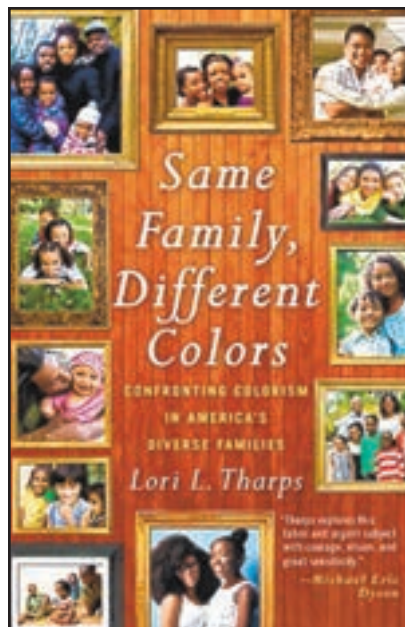
Lori Tharps' youngest daughter is very light-skinned.

That fact begins her story because it was recently pointed out by another child in an innocent game – much to that child's father's embarrassment. He needn't have been abashed, though: Tharps is African American, her husband's family is from Spain, and their children's skin tone varies. No big deal.

The outside world seems concerned about things like that, however. Tharps (and other parents whose kids don't "match") are often asked about racial and cultural identities of their children, and that can be tiring. The bottom line is that there are over "one hundred different genes that influence skin pigmentation" and history is rife with tales of mixed-race relationships (coerced and otherwise), all of which explain variations in skin tone and hair between siblings.

Modern parents generally work to make sure that doesn't matter within the family, but Tharps interviewed many Black and Latino adults who grew up with what Alice Walker called "colorism," defined as "prejudicial or preferential treatment of same-race people based solely on their color." It affects how children are parented and how they're taught in schools; for many adults who grew up with colorism, it can be devastating.

The good news on the horizon is that "this generation of millennials" doesn't seem to like "rules" about skin tones. Says Tharps, they enjoy a "level of choice" when claiming an identity – still, there are "limits to the 'choose your own identity' game



Book cover of "Same Family, Different Colors" by Lori L. Tharps

and not everyone gets to play."

Cocoa, "paper-bag," latte, coffee-colored, they're all brown – except when they're not. Parents say it doesn't matter – except when it does. In "Same Family, Different Colors," the issue is simple – except when it isn't.

Author Lori L. Tharps does an admirable job dissecting issues of prejudice within Asian, Latino, and Black communities, but take this as a warning: there's a lot of throat-clearing here and it takes awhile to get to the meat of this book. Once there, you'll be rewarded by stories of pain, careful parenting, history and science, and of everyday people who seem determined to change prejudicial perceptions but it may already be common-sense to you, especially if you've lived it. Still, though there's a sunshine-and-flowers ending here, the overall tone of the book offers a good bit of hope.

Readers who sigh over incessant racial questions about themselves or their children may find much food for thought here. Anyone else wanting to know what to do (or not to do) in issues of race, color, and appearance will see that "Same Family, Different Colors," now out in paperback, will check a lot of boxes.

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- Recognizing elder care abuse

#### 11:30 am

Navigating home care options

#### 12:30 pm

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- Benefits and pitfalls of probate

#### 1:30 pm

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#### 2:30 pm

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Actress Persia White, left, in "Cargo."  
Cargo

## Trinidad & Tobago Film Awards

By Alexandra Simon

A recognition for a crisis in the Caribbean.

The Trinidadian and Tobago Film Festival came to a close last week and the Amnesty International Human Rights Prize went to "Cargo," a Bahamian film about the Haitian migration crisis. Its filmmaker Kareem Mortimer was thrilled

Continued on Page 54

## Miss World Guyana 2017 in China for pageant final

By Tangerine Clarke

Beauty is only skin deep and this holds true for 19-year Vena Mookram, Miss World Guyana 2017. However, she is not only beautiful but she is passionate about a cause dear to her heart. She is on a crusade to save as many people as possible from becoming victims of diabetes, a disease that has taken the life of one grandmother and is now affecting another.

During a recent exclusive interview with Caribbean Life at Zen Lounge in Queens, the 5' 7" tall beauty queen spoke passionately about using Diabetes Prevention as her 'Beauty with a Purpose' platform, when she competes at the Miss World 2017 Pageant on Nov. 18 in China.

Continued on Page 54



Patricia Chin founded VP with her husband Victor in Kingston, Jamaica.

VP Records

## VP Records co-founder receives Pinnacle Award

By Alexandra Simon

She's a reggae music trailblazer.

The purveyor of the Queens-based record store and independent music label VP Records Patricia Chin, has been a forerunner in helping drive reggae and dancehall music into the international scene. Her contributions were recently celebrated at the Chinese American Museum in Los Angeles earlier this month, and by Medgar Evers College, where she received their Pinnacle Award. The 80-year-old music enthusiast shared

her gratitude for the recognitions.

"I feel very blessed and honored that people are seeing some of the things I've achieved and what I've done for the last 60 years — I really feel good about it," said Chin.

She said she loved what the college was doing in regards to the Caribbean community and was thrilled to be a part of that.

"I didn't know too much about the college but now I see what programs it offers and how the college really reaches out to minorities to help

them and I was very inspired. The college is very much supportive of the Caribbean culture and that's why I accepted my award."

Chin co-founded the label with her late husband Victor Chin as a small record shop in Kingston, Jamaica. Together they created a store for Jamaican artists to record and put out disks.

"The neighborhood we were in had many people who just wanted to sing or had frustrations that they

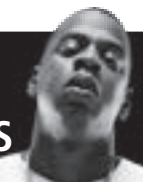
Continued on Page 54

## TOP OF THE CHARTS

### TOP 10 SINGLES

- 
- 1 **Feel It Still**  
Portugal. The Man
  - 2 **Attention**  
Charlie Puth
  - 3 **There's Nothing Holdin' Me Back**  
Shawn Mendes
  - 4 **Slow Hands**  
Niall Horan
  - 5 **Look What You Made Me Do**  
Taylor Swift
  - 6 **Strip That Down**  
Liam Payne Feat. Quavo
  - 7 **Unforgettable**  
French Montana Feat. Swae Lee
  - 8 **1-800-273-8255**  
Logic Feat. Alessia Cara...
  - 9 **Shape Of You**  
Ed Sheeran
  - 10 **What About Us**  
P!nk

### TOP 10 ALBUMS

- 
- 1 **Perception**  
NF
  - 2 **Greatest Hits**  
Tom Petty And The Heartbreakers
  - 3 **Heaven Upside Down**  
Marilyn Manson
  - 4 **Kane Brown**  
Kane Brown
  - 5 **Phantom Anthem**  
August Burns Red
  - 6 **Evolve**  
Imagine Dragons
  - 7 **Blade Runner 2049**  
Soundtrack
  - 8 **Lil Pump**  
Lil Pump
  - 9 **As You Were**  
Liam Gallagher
  - 10 **The Answer**  
Jeremy Camp

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# CHIN UP

Continued from Page 53

wanted to sing about, and we were happy to create an avenue for them to get it out there," said Chin. "It was always full with many artists but we started very small in an eight by 10 room."

But despite the humble beginnings, VP Records would grow into a big distributor of Jamaican music records. And many big artists such as Beenie Man, Augustus Pablo, and Shaggy recorded some of their first records at their studios.

When the Chins brought their record store to the states, they set up shop in Queens hoping to spread their brand. They encountered some struggles here and there, but maintained their level of branding to eventually become a mainstay.

And she is a certified expert in

the genres. Even if someone cannot recall a specific song title or artist, Chin can recognize what it is just by hearing a simple rhythm.

"Even if you don't know a name, just hum it and I can tell you. I can do this for every singer," she said.

She recalls her love for music when she fell in love with her husband and continues to cherish the art form.

"I love Dennis Brown, Roots Reggae, Sizzla, Augustus Pablo. I have a wide selection of Pablo. Music is the most powerful tool that really speaks and brings people together. It just makes you feel so good — you can feel depressed but you dance, you can forget about your problems, unwind, and dance out your frustrations."

VP Records has locations in Miami, Florida as well and continues to distribute records all around the world.



VP Records co-founder, Patricia "Miss Pat" Chin did not know she would be running one of the largest Jamaican record distributors in the world. VP Records

## Bahamamian film wins award

Continued from Page 53

at the honor and said his project speaks to a larger story to tell.

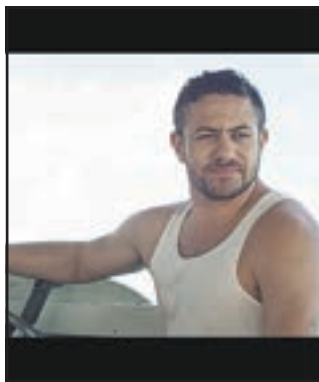
"It feels incredible and not even for me, but for the film — because it's important for films to raise awareness about things that are important for us and our community," he said.

Although he was not one of the deciding judges for his award, he has an idea as to why his film stood out among others and the type of message it brought to the light.

"I think all over the world there's a sort of a migration crisis happening and a type of language we use for migrants and sources, and this is happening all over the Caribbean, Africa, Europe — and it's a global topic," said Mortimer.

The film 'Cargo' is based in The Bahamas and highlights the issues surrounding Haitian migration to the island and the United States. In the film, two characters battle between doing what they believe in, and doing what they think is right. And the issues it explores expands beyond the Caribbean, added Mortimer.

"I think the specificity of 'Cargo' being a Bahamian film



Filmmaker Kareem Mortimer's film "Cargo" was awarded with the Amnesty International Human Rights Prize at the Trinidad and Tobago film festival. In the film, one of the main characters commits to smuggling Haitian migrants for a living. Cargo

and its universal appeal maybe why the judges chose it," he said.

He recalled being a child and seeing the bodies of Haitian migrants brought by waves to beaches in The Bahamas all over local news, and that imagery stuck with him even into adulthood and eventually inspiring this film.

"The crisis has been happening for a long time. I grew up in The Bahamas and I remember the first time I saw a dead body and it was a news footage of bodies ashore," said Mortimer. "A lot of those bodies had to be buried in mass graves and there was no one there to claim them, and it was a shocking experience for me at nine years old."

## Miss World Guyana 2017 in China for pageant final

Continued from Page 53

The fitness enthusiast said beauty with a purpose measures how much you give back to your community, as such, she has conducted outreach programs in Essequibo and Berbice, and recorded public service announcements to promote healthy lifestyle and exercise, and to remind citizens of the dangers of diabetes.

"I encourage those affected, to take their insulin, and I tell others to get tested, stay on a healthy diet and get into a regimen of physical activity. This will go a long way," said the pageant contestant.

"I take this personally, that is the reason my focus is on intervention."

"I always thought pageantry was only about glitz and glamour but when I won the crown I realized how much hard work it takes to uphold the standards of Miss World Guyana," said the graduate of Guyana's top schools, Bishop's High, and Queens College.

"It has been a wonderful opportunity so far. I am only 19 years old and to have learned so much in such a short time is phenomenal," added Mookram,



Miss World Guyana 2017 Vena Mookram, strikes a pose for a photo opportunity.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

who completed the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE), and plans to attend the University of Guyana to study business to follow in the footsteps of her parents who are entrepreneurs.

# Queen Victoria, Muslim manservant's friendship

"Victoria & Abdul"  
 Very Good (2.5 stars)  
 Rated PG-13 for profanity and mature themes  
 In English, Hindi and Urdu with subtitles  
 Running time: 111 minutes  
 Production Studio: BBC Films / Working Title Films / Perfect World Pictures  
 Distributor: Focus Features



Queen Victoria's (Judi Dench) and Abdul Karim (Ali Fazal) in the movie "Victoria & Abdul."

www.rottentomatoes.com

By Kam Williams

In 1887, 24-year-old Abdul Karim (Ali Fazal) moved from India to England where he found work as a waiter at Queen Victoria's (Judi Dench) Golden Jubilee. Soon after starting at Windsor Castle, he caught the eye of the lonely monarch.

In fact, she was so taken with her Muslim manservant that she made him her constant companion and promoted him to "munshi," Urdu for teacher. Not surprisingly, this development didn't sit well with the

royal court, especially her son, Bertie (Eddie Izzard). The heir apparent was not only suspicious of the exotic interloper's intentions but concerned

about the optics of his widowed mum always having a strapping young Muslim at her side.

However, Victoria brushed aside any objections as racial

prejudice, and kept Abdul as her trusted confidant until she passed away in 1901. Based on Shrabani Basu's best seller of the same, "Victoria & Abdul" chroni-

cles the unlikely friendship forged between her majesty and a doting, devoted subject. Directed by two-time, Oscar-nominee Stephen Frears (for *The Queen* and *The Grifters*), this "mostly true tale" revisits the relationship as a dramedy whose comedic elements work far better than its dramatic ones.

Dame Judi Dench, who won an Academy award for playing Queen Elizabeth, is again at her best, here, as an imperious, if vulnerable, Queen Mum. She basically plays an empathetic visionary adrift in a sea of intolerance swarming with British bigots too blinded by hate to begin to appreciate a mild-mannered foreigner with strange customs.

The picture's transparent message about brotherhood is delivered in too heavy-handed a fashion to take seriously. Nevertheless, the movie's lighter moments generate just enough laughs to make the movie worth the investment.

A syrupy sweet reminiscence of an enduring, platonic fellowship forged across generational, color, class, cultural and religious lines.

## Independent & Foreign Films

*Aida's Secrets* (Unrated) Inspirational documentary about the reunion in Canada of a Holocaust survivor, raised as an orphan in Israel, with his mother

and brother 70 years after they were separated at Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. (In English and Hebrew with subtitles)

*The Bachelors* (Unrated) Romantic comedy about a widower (J.K. Simmons) and son (Josh Wiggins) who both find love after moving across country for a fresh start in the wake of their wife/mother's untimely death. With Julie Delpy, Jae Head, Harold Perrineau, Odeya Rush and Kevin Dunn.

*Dealt* (Unrated) Sleight of hand biopic about card shark Richard Turner, a world-renowned magician who happens to be completely blind.

*Jane* (Unrated) Prestige biopic about primatologist Jane Goodall, featuring a treasure trove of unseen footage shot in the wild by her cameraman/husband Hugo van Lawick.

*Never Here* (R for profanity and sexuality) Suspense thriller about a shutterbug (Mireille Eros) who photographs strangers until some disturbing events indicate that someone's watching her. With Gotran Visnjic, Vincent Piazza and the late Sam Shepard.



### Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

*The Work* (Unrated) Rehabilitation documentary examining the criminal justice system from the perspectives of three Folsom prison inmates participating in a four-day, group therapy session.

#### BIG BUDGET FILMS

*Geostorm* (PG-13 for action, violence and scenes of mass destruction) Apocalyptic thriller chronicling the catastrophic climate change which ensues in the wake of a man-made effort to engineer the weather via satellites in response to global warming. Ensemble cast features Gerard Butler, Ed Harris, Abbie Cornish, Andy Garcia, Mare Winningham and Jeremy Ray Taylor.

*Only the Brave* (PG-13 for mature themes, profanity, sexual references and drug use) Bittersweet profile of the Granite Mountain Hotshots, the elite team of fire jumpers that lost 19 members in an Arizona wildfire in June of 2013. Co-starring Jennifer Connelly, Josh Brolin, Miles Teller, Jeff Bridges and Andie MacDowell.

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# SPORTS

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Pakistan's Shahid Afridi walks after losing his wicket against India during the ICC World Twenty20 2016 cricket match at Eden Gardens in Kolkata, India, Saturday, March 19, 2016.

Associated Press / Bernat Armangué, File

## Novel Twenty10 concept

By Azad Ali

West Indies stars in the Twenty20 format may be among the international cricketers set to play in a novel Twenty10 concept, which was launched in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) last week.

The UAE is set to create history in December through the Twenty10 Cricket League to be held at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium.

This tournament will be the shortest

Continued on Page 58

## Selectors name Windies squad

By Azad Ali

The West Indies selectors have named an unchanged West Indies squad to Zimbabwe for a two-Test series that begins later this month.

The 16-member squad which will be led by Captain Jason Holder recently performed encouragingly in England, losing the Test series 2-1 but pulled off their first win in the host country in 17 years in the second Test at Headingley.

Chairman of the selectors Courtney Browne said the selection panel has

Continued on Page 58



# SOCCER BATTLE

Italy's Lorenzo Insigne controls the ball during the World Cup Group G qualifying soccer match between Albania and Italy at Loro Borici stadium, in Shkoder, northern Albania, Monday, Oct. 9, 2017.

Associated Press / Hektor Pustina

## Italy to face Sweden in World Cup playoffs

By Graham Dunbar

ZURICH (AP)— Four-time champion Italy will have to beat Sweden in a European playoff to qualify for its 15th straight World Cup.

A regular at every World Cup since 1958, the Italians were drawn Tuesday to play in Sweden in the first leg of the

playoff on Nov. 10.

"A World Cup without Italy isn't a World Cup," said Italy team manager Gabriele Orriali, representing coach Gian Piero Ventura at the draw at FIFA headquarters.

Still, Orriali — who played on Italy's 1982 winning team — cautioned that

"history and tradition don't go out onto the pitch."

In other pairings, it was: Northern Ireland vs. Switzerland; Croatia vs. Greece; and Denmark vs. Ireland. The first legs will be played from Nov. 9-11, with the return games from

Continued on Page 58

# Twenty10 competition

Continued from Page 57

version in the history of cricket to be played by international players and it is getting the backing by cricket legends around the world.

The Twenty10 Cricket League was launched through a colorful function at the JW Marriot Marquis Hotel which is expected to create a new trend in world cricket.

Shaji YI Mulk, chairman of the league feels the concept which he created will go on to make history adding it is a defining moment in the history of cricket.

Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi said it is a format to introduce cricket to new people.

England captain Eoin Morgan said he is looking forward to play in Twenty10 cricket, saying the concept is exciting.

The event which was approved by the International Cricket Council (ICC) supported by Emirates Cricket Board will be held from Dec. 21-24.

## Windies squad



West Indies' bowler Jason Holder.  
Associated Press / Arnulfo Franco

Continued from Page 57

agreed to send the same Test squad that toured England to visit Zimbabwe.

"The dedication, commitment and focus in their preparation and during the series in England showed immense character for such a young team in very difficult conditions against World-class competition," he said.

Prior to the two Tests against Zimbabwe West Indies will play a three-day tour match against Zimbabwe A starting on Oct. 15.

The first Test begins on Oct. 21 and the second Test from Oct. 29 - Nov. 2 at the Queen's Sports Club in Bulawayo.



Sweden's Mikael Lustig, left, challenges for the ball with Netherlands' Ryan Babel during a World Cup Group A soccer qualifying match between the Netherlands and Sweden at the ArenA stadium in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2017.  
Associated Press / Peter Dejong

## ITALY, SWEDEN IN PLAYOFFS

Continued from Page 57

Nov. 12-14.

The four winners will enter the World Cup draw on Dec. 1 at the State Kremlin Palace in Moscow.

Sweden got the opponent which coaches of the other three unseeded teams all said they wanted to avoid.

"If it's worst or easiest or whatever, it doesn't matter today because it's Italy we're going to play," Sweden coach Janne Andersson said.

Four years ago, Sweden also got a tough draw and was eliminated by Cristiano Ronaldo's three second-leg goals for Portugal in Stockholm.

Switzerland was the highest-ranked team in the draw, and won nine straight games in qualifying until a final and

decisive loss to Portugal this month.

"I feel their qualification group was possibly one of the easier groups," Northern Ireland coach Michael O'Neill said. "It's a game I believe we can win."

Northern Ireland has not been at a World Cup since 1986, and its neighbor has missed three straight editions — including elimination in a controversial November 2009 playoff against France.

Ireland coach Martin O'Neill said he was also pleased to avoid Croatia's "star-studded side" to play a Denmark team coached by Age Hareide, a former teammate 35 years ago.

Martin O'Neill picked out Christian Eriksen, the in-form Tottenham playmaker, as a danger ahead of a first leg in Copenhagen.

"If you consider the Danish run just

recently, he has masterminded nearly all their proceedings," Martin O'Neill said.

Croatia and Greece, which both came through playoffs to qualify for the 2014 World Cup, could generate the most heated atmosphere of the four pairings.

"There is a great rivalry between both countries," said Michael Skibbe, the German coach of Greece, who said his team's style of tough defense and counter-attacks matched well with Croatia's stylish midfield.

"Maybe this is for us quite a good choice," Skibbe said. "Every player of my team knows exactly what the opponent is going to do. They will not surprise us."

The eight teams had the best records as runners-up in the nine European qualifying groups.

## Pollard to lead Bloem City Blazers

By Azad Ali

West Indies Twenty20 star Kieron Pollard will lead Bloem City Blazers in South Africa's Twenty20 Global League which bowls off in the South African country next month.

The hard-hitting Trinidadian all-rounder, a fixture in most of the major Twenty20 leagues, also captains Barbados Tridents in the Caribbean Premier League (CPL).

Former West Indies Head Coach Phil Simmons said the 30-year-old had many qualities that have made him an obvious candidate for the job.

He said Pollard is a World Cup winning

player and has won numerous Twenty20 domestic titles across the globe adding that his leadership is a vital asset to the Bloem City Blazers.

Pollard led Tridents to the 2014 CPL title, and has also led Mumbai Indians at stages during the Indian Premier League (IPL).

He has also led West Indies in two One-Day Internationals.

Pollard is one of three high-profile West Indies players in this year's competition with superstar opener Chris Gayle playing for Cape Town Knight Riders and all-rounder Dwayne Bravo signed up for Pretoria Mavericks.



West Indies cricketer Kieron Pollard bats during a practice match against Bangladesh Cricket Board XI, in Khulna, Bangladesh.  
Associated Press / A.M. Ahad, File

# Prayer breakfast to aid Vincentian athletes

By Nelson A. King

Three Brooklyn-based, Vincentian-born sisters recently collaborated with James Cordice, the architect behind St. Vincent and the Grenadines' participation in the illustrious Penn Relays in Philadelphia, and the umbrella Vincentian group in the United States in hosting what they described as a very successful fundraising Prayer Breakfast in aid of Vincentian athletes competing in the annual relay carnival.

"Many Vincentian and Caribbean natives enjoyed a beautiful day of worship, singing, meeting new and old friends, while enjoying a mouth-watering breakfast, which they haven't had in a long time, with local foods from St. Vincent and the Grenadines," Yvette Deshong, one of the three sisters, known as the "Friends of COSAGO," the umbrella group, told Caribbean Life about the event, which took place at the Friends of Crown Heights Educational Center in Brooklyn.

COSAGO is the acronym for Council of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Organizations,

U.S.A., Inc. The other sisters are Evelyn and Rosita Deshong.

The Deshong sisters, along with their compatriot Claudette Thomas-Butler, have been coordinating the Prayer Breakfast for the past five years. Thomas-Butler did not participate this year.

"The breakfast was great," Yvette Deshong said. "Everyone, who came out to support the event, said they enjoyed everything about it. It was great to see the support we got for the kids for the Penn Relays team. I'm proud to be part of it.

"Most of all, we met three past athletes from the Penn Relay games," continued Deshong about the athletes – Zenron Chance, Kilon Kirby and Rodgike Thorpe – who are current students at Kingsborough Community College in Brooklyn. "They informed us that participating in the games helped them to shine to their full potential.

"They also said that they learned how to give back to their community, because a very large community has helped them by supporting



James Cordice with former Vincentian Penn Relays athletes, now athletes at Kingsborough Community College in Brooklyn. From left: Zenron Chance, James Cordice, Kilon Kirby and Rodgike Thorpe.

Velda Ashton

the fundraising breakfast," she continued.

Deshong said patrons feasted on, among other things coconut dumpling, roast breadfruit, stewed pork, boiled and fried plantain, blackfish, rice and peas, ham, smoked herring, saltfish cake, turkey

sausage, bakes and boiled provisions. They washed them down with ginger and sorrel beers, and mauby.

In her message, Dr. Roxie Irish, a youth minister at the Miracle Temple Ministries in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn, challenged patrons

to "REST in the Lord, because we already know the outcome; ENGAGE God in your circumstances, because He is more than able; LEARN who God is, because He is excellent, competent, all-powerful; and YIELD to God's Lordship, because He requires it."

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**ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20**  
Aries, embrace that others see you as a role model. There may be someone close to you who holds you in strong regard. Pay attention to the influence you have on others.

**TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21**  
Taurus, a difficult problem will ultimately prove very rewarding when you find the solution. Embrace this challenge and give it your best shot. You will be glad you did.

**GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21**  
Gemini, use this time to connect with people on a deeper level for the next several days. Your home is a place of comfort and your personal sanctuary, and you can make it that for others, too.

**CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22**  
Cancer, slow down a little and take time to smell the roses. A breather can help you appreciate all the things you have and give time to show that appreciation.

**LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23**  
Your focus this week will be on acquisitions. You may be renovating a home or business or simply updating a wardrobe. Keep track of your spending.

**VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22**  
Virgo, change is stirring things up in a way that should be beneficial for you. See where this excitement takes you and brace yourself for whatever comes your way.

**LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23**  
Libra, make an effort to be more financially prudent in the coming weeks. Some patience and discipline now will pay big dividends down the road.

**SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22**  
Someone you know is interested in picking up new skills, and you are just the teacher for the job, Scorpio. Embrace this chance to help others.

**SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21**  
This is an excellent time to express your feelings, Sagittarius. Others will be receptive to your thoughts, and a new relationship may be on the horizon.

**CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20**  
Capricorn, you may need to develop some thick skin as you begin taking on a new project. You're fully capable, so don't listen to any potential doubters.

**AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18**  
Your motivation must come from within this week, Aquarius. Others are not around to be your cheer squad. Your inner drive is there; it just may need a boost.

**PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20**  
Pisces, keep to yourself this week if you feel unwanted conflict is coming. Enjoy some solitary time until the waters calm down.

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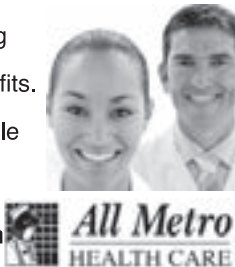
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