

CARICOM nationals voting in Barbados

By George Alleyne

After the state denied many Commonwealth citizens the right to vote in Barbados, lawyers challenged that refusal in court and won, but the government appealed that High Court decision only to concede this week that it was in error.

The actions of the Electoral and Boundaries Commission (EBC), the agency within the portfolio of Prime Minister Freundel Stuart, have many legal luminaries scratching their heads wondering how could a government authority have got it so wrong when the law is so clear on the matter.

The relevant part of the Representation of the People Act of Barbados states that a person can be registered to vote on that island if he or she is a citizen of Barbados; is a Commonwealth citizen, other than a citizen of Barbados; has resided in Barbados for at least three years immediately before the election is called; is 18 years or older; has resided in that electoral constituency for at least three months before the election is called.

Yet many such non-Barbadian Commonwealth citizens who meet the criteria were disenfranchised at least since the last elections because the EBC had adopted a strict position that only citizens of Barbados or residents with immigrant status are allowed to register to vote.

"We know for sure that this policy has been applied in relation to Commonwealth citizens as far back as 2013," said Faye Finisterre, one of the team of lawyers who had

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BRITISH PM OFFERS APOLOGY

West Indians in UK facing deportation ok for now says officials

By Bert Wilkinson

The issue blew up spectacularly in the face of the British government at precisely the right time—just when leaders of the 53-member grouping of Commonwealth nations were assembling in London for this week's biennial summit of former British colonies around the globe.

For weeks, many in the Caribbean or West Indian immigrant community, had been complaining about threats by the immigration department to deport them back to the region because various changes in British law over the years had virtually made them non citizens and eligible for deportation.

This is so because thousands of Caribbean nationals had positively responded to calls by colonial era British governments to come and settle in the United Kingdom to help rebuild the country after World War Two.

Eager to leave behind a life of poverty and want in the West Indies, the first batches of West Indians arrived on the "Empire Windrush" cruise ship 1948

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Phagwah Parade in Queens

Cultural custom: Women wearing red and white traditional garb and jewelry on the route of the Phagwah parade in Queens. See story on Page 43.

Community News Group / Mike Shain



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Brooklyn group honors five at third annual gala



Borough President Eric Adams unveils a ceremonial wreath in the Rotunda of Brooklyn Borough Hall dedicated to 15-year-old Brooklyn-born student Peter Wang, who was tragically killed on Valentine's Day at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fl. Adams was joined by Wei Tang Liu (left) and Xiu Yan Li (right), the parents of fallen New York.

Brooklyn BP's Office/ Eugene Resnick

Adams honors 'heroes'

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams on Wednesday presented a posthumous "Hero of the Month" award and ceremonial wreath to 15-year-old Brooklyn-born student Peter Wang, who was tragically killed while bravely holding the door open in his classroom at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fl, so that his classmates could escape a mass shooter.

On Feb. 14, a 19-year-old assailant opened fire using an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle resulting in the death of 14 students and three staff members.

Wang was a freshman at the school and had moved from Brooklyn to Parkland a year-and-a-half ago with his Chinese immigrant parents so that he could join the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) program at the school.

Joined by the parents of fallen New York City Police Department (NYPD) Detective Wenjian Liu, Wei Tang Liu and Xiu Yan Li, Adams praised Wang, his "Hero of the Month" for February, for his courageous action amid the senseless gun violence that ultimately claimed his life.

"Peter was a Brooklynite, an American, and a true hero," Adams said. "It is my honor to salute him for his selflessness and bravery, which undoubtedly saved many lives."

At the same ceremony, held in the Rotunda of Brooklyn Borough Hall, Adams also presented "Heroes of the Month" honors for the months of January, March and April.

By Nelson A. King

The three-year-old Friends of Sion Hill, a Brooklyn-based Vincentian group, last Saturday night honored four individuals and an organization for their outstanding service to the community.

The group also presented its president, Oxley Lowman, with a surprise award at the packed, gala ceremony at the Friends of Crown Heights Educational Center in Brooklyn.

Veteran Vincentian mas producer Wesley Millington received the Community Service Award; former St. Vincent and the Grenadines national football (soccer) star Raymond "Bally" Ballantyne received the Diaspora Award; Wilfred Miller was the recipient of the Pillar of the Community Award; the Get Nice Crew was bestowed the Trailblazer Award; and the "consummate culture man" David Augustine "Darkie" Williams, who trekked from St. Vincent and the Grenadines, received the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Millington, like the other honorees, expressed gratitude for the honor, using the occasion to appeal to the community to support his 25-year-old mas band, Mas Productions Unlimited.

"I'll like to appeal for Mas Production," said Millington in his acceptance speech. "We need the support.

"Going forward, we cannot do it without your support," he added. "We'll like to support young members."

Millington spent his early years growing up in Sion Hill, a huge village overlooking the Vincentian capital, Kingstown.

Being the son of one of St. Vincent and the Grenadines' premier mas band



Candace Gordon Llewellyn receives award for Get Nice Crew from Friends of Sion Hill president Oxley Lowman. Photo by Nelson A. King

leaders, Millington said he began participating as a child masquerader at age six.

Millington's involvement in Brooklyn's carnival began in 1972, when, at the suggestion of the late Vincentian mas man Roy Ralph, a group of Brooklyn-based Vincentians, including the late Sam Debique and EJ "Paddy" Correa, started "Caribbean Festive Associates."

For the past 25 years, Millington said he has spearheaded Mas Productions Unlimited, which he founded.

Ballantyne hails from a sporting family in which he and his siblings have represented St. Vincent and the Grenadines

in various sporting events, such as soccer, table tennis, netball and athletics.

He said his love of soccer was initiated by veteran mas producer Ricardo "Puzzle" Grant, with his soccer journey beginning in 1971.

Before migrating to Brooklyn in 1986, Ballantyne represented the nation in soccer at the junior and senior levels.

In Brooklyn, he played for the Vincentian-owned Hairoun Sports Club in the Central Brooklyn Soccer League.

Ballantyne also represented St. Vincent and the Grenadines in table tennis, along with two of his brothers, Bob and Orde.

NAN's 2018 confab focuses on Trump, civil rights

By Vinette K. Pryce

Fifty years after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. politicians and celebrities are expected to revisit his dream of racial harmony, peace and tolerance during the annual convention of the National Action Network, a Civil Rights organization mobilized in tribute to his lifelong message of tolerance. The four-day convention begins on April 18 at the Sheraton Times Square Hotel in Manhattan.

A long list of dignitaries including Senators Kamala Harris, Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, Cory Booker, Tim Scott, Congressional representatives Sheila Jackson Lee, Nancy Pelosi, Al Green and New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy are among the guests expected to honor the legacy of the of the Nobel laureate and human rights advocate who was assassinated on April. 4, 1968 in Memphis,

Tennessee.

The bi-partisan group of confirmed guests will likely extol the wonders of the southern Baptist minister who led protest rallies to dramatize the plight of a race disfranchised by a nation they helped to build.

Reverence and platitudes will prevail marking the significant milestone anniversary of the death of the revered leader. However, amidst receptions, luncheons and a special "Keeper of the Dream" dinner heralding MLK, throughout he four days, daily panel discussions will focus on the current state of the nation under the leadership of Donald Trump.

The very first serious topic slated for discussion asks: "What is the state of the union under Trump?"

Moderated by Rev. Al Sharpton, the president and founder of NAN, the first day panel will include: Jennifer Jones Aus-

tin, CEO of FPWA and author, Mayor Ras Baraka, of Newark, N.J.

Lee Saunders, president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Nicolle Wallace, host of MSNBC's "Deadline: White House" and Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT)

Through a one hour and a half hour dialogue a similar inquest will focus on "The state of American justice in the age of Trump?"

Immediately following the first commentary and discussion mixed by media, union representatives, author, and the Jersey mayor, NAN attorney Michael A. Hardy, will engage panelists Benjamin Crump, principal, Ben Crump Law, Donna Lieberman, executive director of New York Civil Liberties Union for a lively discussion.

Antigua

Antigua and Barbuda Police Commissioner, Wendel Robinson was suspended over an alleged sex scandal involving three of his junior officers.

The order came from the Police Service Commission (PSC) following complaints from three junior cops about sexual harassment.

Robinson is now under investigation regarding the allegations of several of his junior colleagues who complained to the PSC last month about being sexually harassed and had rejected his advances.



Deputy Commissioner of Police Atlee Rodney has been appointed to act as commissioner of police. He will head the investigation.

Police Welfare Association chairwoman, Inspector Claudia Morgan, had complained to the PSC about the top cop's conduct.

It is reported that Attorney General Steadroy "Cutie" Benjamin had written to Robinson, requesting that he respond to the allegations made by the officers that he asked at least one of the officers for sex and offered to pay.

Others also alleged that he made inappropriate comments about their anatomy, in addition to telling them they needed to accept his request or they will not get a promotion in the Police Force.

Bahamas

The Bahamas government plans to crack down on unlicensed commercial flights throughout The Bahamas.

Minister of Tourism and Aviation, Dionisio D'Aguilar in making the announcement said that the government will implement a license control system.



He said regulations would be put in place for the fixed-based operators, the terminals through which they pass, General Aviation, to check their paperwork before they go onto the ramp and when they come off the ramp.

The minister said in this way "we can verify they have a license that allows them to transport passengers commercially and to ensure that their aircraft has been properly inspected and licensed."

D'Aguilar said a threshold will be placed on pilots making a limited number of flights or carrying a limited number of people every month, in order to maintain their private license status.

He said the new regulation will begin in New Providence and work its way to the Family Islands.



Caribbean leaders meet England's PM

Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May, centre left, hosts a meeting with leaders and representatives of Caribbean countries, inside 10 Downing Street in central London, Tuesday April 17, 2017, on the sidelines of the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting (CHOGM). May met with Caribbean leaders and envoys Tuesday, and told them "we are genuinely sorry for any anxiety that has been caused" personally apologizing for the treatment of long-term U.K. residents from the Caribbean who have been asked to prove their right to stay in the country.

Daniel Leal-Olivas / pool via Associated Press

In February this year, Director General of the Bahamas Civil Aviation Authority (BCCA) Captain Charles Beneby said the authority began reviewing relevant legislation and regulations to bring about stricter oversight of the sector to prevent hacking.

He also said the authority will introduce closed-circuit television cameras (CCTV) in strategic locations at the Lynden Pindling International Airport to assist authorities in this effort.

Barbados

Oil exploration is expected to begin in Barbados within the next year.

This was stated by Energy Minister Senator Darcy Boyce, who said Barbados has successfully negotiated exploration licenses for two blocks offshore with BHP Billiton and had awarded another block to Repsol.



He said that BHP Billiton is now in the final stages of the Energy Information Administration (EIA) process and once completed, exploration is expected to begin in 2019.

The minister noted that Barbados had a substantial offshore petroleum acreage comprising more than 70,000 square kilometers.

He said it was the intention of the Energy Division to continue to market the island's offshore acreage internationally, with the hope of generat-

ing more investment and exploration opportunities.

Jamaica

The Jamaica government is moving to implement some of the recommendations in a report by the Mental Health and Homeless Task Force.

Minister of Health, Dr. Christopher Tufton said the recommendations would be implemented during the fiscal year.

Tufton received the report in 2016 which examined the current status of mental illness in the society, existing methods and techniques of treatment and proposes new approaches to tackling the ailment.

One of the most significant elements of the document to be implemented this fiscal year is a public education campaign geared at the destination of persons afflicted by mental health.

Tufton said another recommendation of the report involves training of approximately 62 psychiatric nursing aides, in order to "beef up and support the mental health teams already on the streets and in the communities."



St. Lucia

Prime Minister Allen Chastanet is predicting continued economic growth for St. Lucia this year after claiming that the island had recorded growth of

2.5 per cent in 2017.

He made the prediction while delivering the EC\$1.4 billion budget recently in Parliament.

Chastanet said St. Lucia has seen renewed investor, business and consumer confidence in the local economy.

He told legislators that several foreign direct investment projects in the pipeline are at an advanced stage and are expected to come on stream in 2018.

The prime minister said that growth over the last year was driven largely by a strong recovery in the tourism sector and also reflected increased activity in construction,



Trinidad

Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister, Dr. Keith Rowley has sent the Cambridge Analytica scandal to be debated in Parliament.

He said a Parliament Committee, which will also probe the matter will be summoning foreign and local witnesses to speak about the company's work in Trinidad and Tobago.

Cambridge Analytica (CA) is currently under investigation in the UK for using massive amounts of data from 50 million Facebook users to for-



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Opposing views on Brexit impact on Caribbean



Professor Andrew Rose.

Photo by George Alleyne

By George Alleyne

Both economics scholar, Andrew Rose, and British High Commissioner, Janet Douglas, agree that Brexit, the UK's severing of economic and immigration ties with the European Union, would affect Caribbean trade, but differ on solutions.

Professor Rose, the featured distinguished visiting fellow to the Central Bank of Barbados' 5th Caribbean Economic Forum has said that Caribbean territories should seek to diversify their tourism and other business relations away from the UK and pursue the Latin American Market because current Brexit negotiations spell economic uncertainty for region.

But Douglas, who is the envoy to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, was Friday reported by the Nation Newspaper suggesting a UK intention to carry on business as usual when she said Britain was working with Caribbean governments for transition

arrangements for trade after Brexit.

Britain, the largest source market for tourists to the Caribbean tourism industry which is the leading economic sector in most regional states, has been in talks on immigration, finance and trade with the European Union as it prepares to separate from that western European grouping of countries following a UK vote to split from the EU, a process commonly referred to as Brexit.

The deadline for the end of talks is 2019, and Douglas said that at the same time UK discussion with Caribbean governments and organisations was "incredibly important, because we don't want to get to the end of March 2019 and everything stops. We have to be in a position to be able to carry on working with partner countries on all aspects, particularly on trade."

"We need to have in place some arrangements that mean

that everybody can carry on the day after we leave, in the same way as they were behaving on the day before."

Towards this objective, Douglas said that British specialists have been delegated to speak with CARICOM leaders on the way forward.

But during his recent presentation Rose expressed doubt that the 2019 deadline for an end of talks will be met and said that negotiations could go on for more than a decade.

Whenever this is over, he said countries such as Barbados and other Caribbean states with economic ties to Britain will suffer.

"Certainly, Barbados is very seriously affected because the UK sends lots of tourists down here and they're involved in lots of other businesses directly. That's not going to be good news for the countries in the Caribbean that do lots of business with the UK," he added.

Against a backdrop of Barbados receiving 222, 322 tour-

ists from the UK out of a total 666,441 holiday overnighters in its record-setting year for arrivals in 2017, Rose said it is Britain and focus on southern markets.

"I would say diversification away from the UK is a good idea, and Latin America seems to be the most obvious choice for the countries of the Carib-

bean," he said.

Ironically, despite his forecast of hard times ahead for Barbados and the rest of the Caribbean owing to the Brexit fallout, Professor Rose thinks that grinding and prolonged talks between Britain and the EU could still yield positive results for the region, as the impact on the region will be felt when negotiations are over.

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Caribbean immigrants



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May attends a Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting Youth Forum in London, Monday, April 16, 2018.

Simon Dawson / Pool Photo via Associated Press

Continued from Page 1

and were welcomed with open arms as they had brought skills like nursing and mechanics among others to British society.

By virtue of being citizens in British Empire nations, many were told that they were automatically British citizens and did not need to regularize their status as they had been invited by governments to come to London and settle there.

In recent weeks, however, British media, the committee of Caribbean high commissioners in London, rights groups and relatives of thousands who had been lined up for deportation, started a crusade against what they called the inhumane and heartless treatment being meted out to West Indians, complaining that many had lost jobs, been denied health care treatment. Some were said to have been detained by authorities.

At a sitting in parliament on Monday, several opposition legislators raised the issue stridently on the floor, forcing apologies from several high officials including Prime Minister Theresa May.

May said that she had taken "this issue very seriously. The home secretary apologized in the House of Commons yesterday for any anxiety caused. And I

want to apologize to you today. Because we are genuinely sorry for any anxiety that has been caused. Those who arrived from the Caribbean before 1973 and lived here permanently without significant periods of time away in the last 30 years have the right to remain in the UK, as do the vast majority of long-term residents who arrived later," she said to some heckling from opposition lawmakers. "I don't want anybody to be in any doubt about their right to remain here in the United Kingdom. We would also like to reassure you that there will be no removals or detention as part of any assistance to help these citizens get their proper documentation in place."

Caribbean nationals to vote

Continued from Page 1

challenged the state in its denial of Commonwealth citizens their right to vote.

She said that the effect of the EBC policy "has been to obstruct persons who were entitled to register to vote from being able to register to vote."

But amidst the hearing of the appeal against the original High Court decision, the EBC withdrew its challenge Monday, effectively clearing the way for, and restoring the right of, Commonwealth citizens resident in Barbados to vote.

"This is a very meaningful concession on behalf of the chief electoral officer admitting that the policy is unlawful and therefore there is no obstacle stopping one from registering to vote once you have reached the qualifications under the act," Finisterre said.

It is probable that the EBC gave up its bone-headed stance Monday because Prime Minister Stuart is attending the Commonwealth heads of Government meeting from April 16 to 20 in London, and the issue held the potential to embarrass the Barbados delegation.

This EBC cave-in to what appears logically correct should see a new set of mostly Caribbean voters from other islands coming forward to mark their ballots to decide who should be in the Barbados leadership team for the next five years, in elections yet to be called

but that is constitutionally due by the first week of June.

Going by Barbados' last population census, conducted in 2010, this means the ballot box is now open to thousands of Commonwealth citizens living on the island with the majority being 14,806 nationals of other CARICOM states.

Barbados' censuses are conducted every 10 years, so consideration must be given to likely changes in the numbers eight years after the last count as some emigrants might have left while others came in, and there would be deaths.

Guyanese led the list in the census, numbering 6,277. Persons from St. Vincent and the Grenadines are a distant second with 2,964 nationals, and British citizens account 2,389. The English are closely followed by St. Lucia with 2,073 nationals.

These numbers are extracted out of total resident population of 277,821, of which just about 200,000 are voters.

Wilfred Abrahams, another of the team of lawyers who took on the state said, "the way is now open for all persons who are qualified under the act. All of the Commonwealth citizens who have been residing in Barbados for a period of three years or more, who are not disqualified under the act, can now apply and have their applications processed. They are effectively now in the same position as any Barbadian registering to vote in the upcoming elections."

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Political implications over Paul Ryan's retirement decision

By Wellington C. Ramos, (Adjunct Professor History / Political Science)

There must be some compelling reasons why Paul Ryan has decided not to seek re-election and retire from politics. The Speaker of the House of Representatives is third in line to become president of the United States under the United States Constitution.

- 1-President: Donald Trump
- 2-Vice-President: Mike Pence
- 3-Speaker: Paul Ryan

All indications are that Donald Trump will be impeached in March of 2019 by the United States House of Representatives for crimes committed, if the Democrats gain control of the House. Mike Pence will also be implicated in some of the wrongdoings down the road because he has to know something as Trump's running mate during the presidential election.

If the President is impeached by the House of Representatives, then there has to be a vote in the United States Senate to remove him from office and for that 60 votes will be needed. If removed then Mike Spence automatically assumes the office but if he is indicted then he will not be able to become the President. This happened before when Richard Nixon was President and resigned from office. His Vice-President was Spiro Agnew who

should have become President but resigned in 1973 after he was indicted. Gerald Ford who was the Speaker of the House at the time became President.

The Democrats do not have enough votes in the Senate to remove Donald Trump from office. It will require 60 or more votes to remove him. The way it looks so far, they will not get it after the elections in November of this year. Too many Democrats are running for re-election and Republicans always stick with each other even when they know that their colleagues are wrong. If they get some Republicans to join them, they will have the votes. That is possible because some of them do not like Trump because of his attitude and behavior.

Then, the Democratic Speaker of the House will take over the Presidency until 2020. Currently, Nancy Pelosi is the Democratic Leader in the House of Representatives but some Democrats want to replace her with a more dynamic and young leader. Who that person will be we will not know until after the elections of November 2018. I think that they will replace her based on all the indications I have seen so far. The Democrats will have to select a person, who is not only qualified to be Speaker of the House of Representatives but also qualified to be President of the United States.

Few Indians joined Black Power in 1970

By Dr Kumar Mahabir

Saturday April 21st marks the 48th anniversary of the declaration of the State of Emergency to quell the Black Power Revolution in Trinidad in 1970. The uprising was led by Makandal Daaga and his chey-la [disciple], Kafra Kambon, of the National Joint Action Committee (NJAC).

This year also marks the 18th anniversary since Kambon and his gang of followers rowdily stormed out of a conference on the rebellion during my presentation at University of the West Indies (UWI).

On that Holy Thursday, I was simply trying to expose the popular, (politically correct) propagated myth that many Indians actively participated in the Black Power Revolution.

Seven years after Kambon and his gang noisily interrupted my presentation, Professor Bridget Brereton of the Department of History at UWI came out to support my position.

In an article entitled "Contesting the past: Narratives of Trinidad & Tobago," Brereton wrote: "Most Indo-Trinidadians opposed the movement and rejected the label 'black,' which, most felt, subsumed their ethnic identity under a blanket term always primarily associated with people of African descent" (page 19).

At the Black Power conference in UWI in 2010, I began my presentation by saying: "I speak with the knowledge that there is an attempt by NJAC, and a few Indian militants, to sanitize what, according to historian Kelvin Singh was really 'a bid by Afro-Trinidadians

Many Indians did not actively participate in the Black Power Movement because of the violence that was involved.

to dominate the multi-ethnic society in a totalitarian way" (page 5).

In his book *East Indians and Black Power in the Caribbean* (1986), Professor Mahin Gosine stated that the participation level of Indians was very low. He wrote that Black Power meant a call to African people to return to their cultural roots, to reject White domination, and to seize political power through revolutionary struggle. The ideology, at its core, preached a return to the traditional African past.

Many Indians did not actively participate in the Black Power Movement because of the violence that was involved. Violence exploded on a large scale on the night of March 5, 1970. Each night, the number of targets hit by Molotov cocktails increased.

Indians feared that the violence would be turned against them, their families, their homes and their small business establishments. An Indian-owned factory was burnt in San Juan and four children died in the fire.

Although NJAC led a procession of 20,000 demonstrators to San Juan, and later to Caroni as an apology, and to signal Afro-Indian unity, the damage was already done to the psyche

of Indians.

In his journal article entitled "East Indians and Black Power in Trinidad," foreign-based researcher, David Nicholls (1971), agreed that the "majority of Indians looked with a certain degree of detachment and with some suspicion upon what was going on. They saw it as a confrontation between black demonstrators, black policemen, and a black Government" (page 443).


At the forefront of the movement were a few Indians. These were men like Winston Leonard who could not have claimed for himself to be either a spokesman or a leader of the Indian community. There was also Chan Maraj of the unknown Arouca-based National Freedom Association, whose fame to claim was that he was related to veteran politician Stephen Maharaj.

These men were aliens to the Indian community. Indeed the Indian community saw them as confused men without a cultural identity. They were token Indian symbols used by advocates of the Black Power Movement for strategic, symbolic and political purposes.

Like Raja Ramlogan, these Indian men did not talk about India, Indian history and Indian heritage with the same passion as their African counterparts talked about their ancestral past.

Indeed, while the Black Power leader, Daaga, and his chey-la, Kambon, were sporting dashiki with pride, Ramlogan was sporting dashiki too, instead of the culturally-acceptable Indian kurta shirt.

Continued on Page 12



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Havana docu showcases 'One Love' synergy

Last week, an 80-minute documentary titled "Two Beats One Soul" premiered in New York to a select crowd of insiders who witnessed first-hand, the making of an album on the island of Cuba.

Featuring footage captured by the lens of filmmaker / director Billie Woodruff, the too-short visual feast compliments the audio treat already released in tribute to one of the world's most admired Caribbean locations.

Showcasing the aqua, blue Caribbean Sea, time-honored, well-preserved vintage cars, monuments throughout the island-capital, the personal visa offers a visual keep-sake of the "One Love" experience a diverse assembly of musicians shared while beating a deadline to record an entire album there in two weeks.

Talents from Puerto Rico, the Cape Verde Islands, Jamaica, the USA and Cuba toiled non-stop, around the clock in Havana to complete the project envisioned by Ray and Vivian Chew.

According to the executive producers acclaimed for helming separate and joint initiatives



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

in order to execute an idea they collaborated to engage less than a year ago, they partnered with Mark and Kathy Grier to travel to the formerly forbidden island to US tourists and American business interests.

The couple's aim was to fulfill a challenging mission most corporations, record companies and millionaires might not have encouraged or embarked.

Alleged to be the brainchild of Vivian who first visited the Spanish island in 1999 returning on and off five times until 2016 — she proposed that her husband Ray record an album on the revolutionary location renowned for defying America's dictates.

Together the music-loving, Black couple whose combined experiences gleaned from working in the record industry and music production had daringly launched RVMK Records, a label devoted to providing soulful

music — since then in association with their Chew Entertainment team successfully produced concerts at Carnegie Hall and other auspicious venues.

Like Lucy and Ricky Ricardo — without comedy routines — the pair is accustomed to pooling their talents.

Together they successfully executed and coordinated the official presidential inaugural ball in 2009 serenading Barack Obama, the first Black president and his wife Michelle to dance as the entire world watched. Ray pulled it off with ease pairing with Beyonce to provide an enticing musical medley.

As unprecedented as that historic challenge is recalled, time was of the essence for the Cuban mission. Often consumed with demanding projects such as the Miss Universe Pageant, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, and the full-time duty of directing music for the "Danc-



American executive producers Ray Chew, Vivian Chew, Cape Verdean deejay and vocalist Anane Vega, Jamaican dancehall artist Red Foxx, Cuban singer Xiomara Laugart, (rear) Cuban pianist and composer Axel Tosca and r&b composer, vocalist Josh Milan.

Photo by Vinette K. Pryce

ing With The Stars" TV reality show, Ray's calendar was already full in 2017.

Similarly, Vivian's hectic schedule traveling through time zones orchestrating global presentations, touring with artists to

Europe and Dubai and coordinating premium private affairs with pop artists, a two-week period from June 24 to July 7 provided the only opening to fully execute the ambitious undertaking.

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OP-EDS

Few Indians joined Black Power in 1970

Continued from Page 10

A few Indian university students were involved. They went beforehand along the Caroni route explaining the purpose of the proposed march. But they were not taken seriously by villagers since they were considered young university students who just had "more book sense that common sense."

On March 12, 1970, Indian children came out on the streets out of curiosity to see the dramatic procession, complete with colour, props, chants and speeches.

Indian adults on the Caroni route

came out not so much in support of the Movement, but more out of the characteristic Indian hospitality to give food and water to any passing stranger in need.

There was also the strong feeling of fear: Give these rebels what they want and let them go quickly." If Indians did give a hand of support to the protesters, it was really in support against Prime Minister Dr Eric Williams and his ruling PNM (People's National Movement) who were considered to be the enemies of Indians.

The writer is an anthropologist who has published 11 books.

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MADE FOR NEW YORK.

Barbados media bashed



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

By George Alleyne

A daily newspaper found itself on the receiving end of a government minister's acid tongue for reporting that former members of parliament are being paid a total of half-a-million dollars monthly though the island has no parliament.

Barbados currently exists in a governmental vacuum because of the absence of a functioning parliament, which had ended its five-year term on March 06, and with Prime Minister Freundel Stuart yet to call a date for elections, there is uncertainty on when people of the island be able to elect representatives to oversee their affairs.

But an oddity in the constitution enables the 30 former members of parliament to continue receiving their full pay until the holding of elections, which must be conducted within 90 days of that March 06 automatic dissolution of parliament.

Ministers in the 16-member government cabinet also continue to enjoy full salaries, and these include five

unelected persons who were appointed as senators.

The Nation newspaper had reported that the ex-MPs and cabinet members are receiving a total of \$468,448.92 (Bar\$1 = 50 cents US) of taxpayers' money, and it was explained that this constitutional proviso was there because cabinet as the executive still had to make decisions for the country, and the ex-MPs were on standby in event of a national emergency.

But an infuriated Minister of Education, Ronald Jones described the newspaper's report as "a wicked, deliberate, spiteful level of behaviour".

He asked over the weekend, "what is that about? Why are we descending into the bowels of nastiness in this country, for what purpose?"

Jones, who is known for extreme statements, went on to accuse the newspaper of seeking to create in the hearts of the citizenry the impression that MPs are enjoying the good life.

He said the newspaper's

decision to publish the bills paid by taxpayers makes it appear that "there is this miasmatic capture of the mind."

The Nation newspaper report exposed that Jones' share of that monthly bill is \$16,683.85.

The minister's attack on this major Barbados media outlet came at a time when that organisation is going through a staff layoff exercise, which it stated is in an effort to right-size the company in the face of other competing information outlets brought on by technology.

This means that some journalists are among those set to be retrenched.

But Jones appeared so incensed at the publication that he blurted, "they should have had the whole closet cleaned out."

Though the minister then hastened to add, "I'm sorry to say this because there are some excellent journalists in Barbados, all around" the intent of the attack on the country's fourth estate was not lost.

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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from Page 4

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Christopher Wylie, a former CA employee, recently testified before the UK House of Commons committee that CA worked for the Trinidad and Tobago government in 2013.

He said he worked for a former National Security Minister and CA's monitoring internet browsing in Trinidad and Tobago which Wylie admitted



was illegal.

Wylie pinpointed Trinidad and Tobago as the site of a data and communication mining test project, alleging it formed the basis for CA's subsequent activities in the US and UK.

Attorney General Faris-al-Rawi recently announced an audit of all state entities to probe any CA link and if any monies were paid to the company.

Opposition Leader Kamla Persad-Bissessar has denied allegations that her former PP government had hired CA for the 2015 general election to access citizen's information, private, and personnel information.

— Compiled by Azad Ali

Geneive Brown Metzger receives Clare Boothe Luce Award

In recognition of her many contributions of economic development and diplomacy, Geneive Brown Metzger, LLD Hon received the 2018 Clare Boothe Luce Award for International Service from The J. Luce Foundation at the foundation's annual gala on March 1, at the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in New York City.

Dr. Brown Metzger served as Jamaica's consul general in New York between 2008 and 2012. She is currently an investment and trade analyst focusing on the Caribbean. Her company, Gladvic Productions LLC, produces Caribbean-related content, including about investment opportunities in the Caribbean.

"I have a tremendous amount of admiration for Dr. Brown Metzger's accomplishments," said James Luce, CEO and founder of the J. Luce Foundation. "She was at the top of our list when the board and I discussed candidates for the Award."

In addition to her consulting practice, Dr. Brown Metzger also serves as president and executive director of the American Caribbean Maritime Foundation. The organization is dedicated to alleviating poverty and transforming lives of Caribbean students through maritime education and community development. The main beneficiary of ACMF support is the Caribbean Mari-



Geneive Brown Metzger, LLD

time University (CMU). Based in Jamaica, the CMU is the Caribbean's regional maritime training organization. The J. Luce Foundation has established The Clare Boothe Luce scholarship at the CMU.

The award is named for Clare Boothe Luce, who was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives and the first female U.S. ambassador. She was a charismatic and forceful public speaker — a Renaissance woman — whose life embraced international service.

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MADE FOR NEW YORK.

Garifuna celebrate their heritage at City Hall

By Tequila Minsky

In the spirit of the evening, echoing Garifuna colors, New York City Council Member Vanessa L. Gibson wore a dress in bold geometric designs of black, yellow, and white at the City Hall event 'Celebrate Garifuna Heritage.' "We should celebrate the culture of the Garifuna every day," she beamed.

"Welcome to your house," bid Gibson whose 16th Council district in the Bronx represents many of the attendees at the joyous homage to the Garifuna held in Council Chambers, on April 12.

Gibson emphasized how New York City is home to the largest Garifuna concentration outside of Central America (an estimated 100,000). She said, "We celebrate the conclusion of the 10th annual Garifuna-American Heritage Month, tonight."

Master of ceremonies, community advocate Jose Avila reminded the audience of some history: The Garifuna were forcibly removed from St. Vincent and the Grenadines on March 11, 1797, and April 12 is the date in 1797 when the Garifuna

landed in Roatan, Honduras.

"There are two significant dates of the intersection of the Garifuna in the U.S.," Avila said. In 1823, William Henry Brown, the first known black playwright in the U.S. wrote The Drama of King Shotaway, based on the life of Garifuna Chief Joseph Chatoyer who led a revolt on St. Vincent against the British colonists in 1795.

The other, a tragic reminder, is March 20, 1990, when 87 — mostly Garifuna perished in the Happy Land social club fire in the Bronx. The news coverage spotlighted this community previously unknown to the wider NYC population.

Noting that "this is the fifth time in 10 years we've celebrated in 'the people's house (City Hall)," Avila respectfully acknowledged VIPs in attendance including the consul generals of Honduras and Belize.

Then, Sulma Arzu-Brown, an Afro-Latina Garifuna writer and entrepreneur challenged those present during her keynote address, "The Garifuna are the bearers of amazing consequence. This is the second time we came to an

unknown land while maintaining our culture. We must be strong and stay together."

"I didn't end up here on my own," she revealed, pointing out mentors in the audience. "I want to give others opportunities. What part are you going to play in helping others with resilience and success?" she asked.

Three members of the community who have made outstanding contributions received proclamations.

Philadelphia transplant, civic leader James Cordice played a leading role in the provision of 5,000 meals for Caribbean athletes in the Penn Relays. He is also founder of Danca Garifuna in SVG and is on the Garifuna Coalition USA board.

Bronx resident Honduran-American Janel Martinenz is a Afro-Latinidad Community advocate, multi-media journalist, founder of the blog "Ain't I Latina?" and co-founder of 2020Shift, an education startup. She speaks on issues of diversity, media, technology and entrepreneurship.

Bronx native Andy Romel



The Garifuna event wrapped up with a performance by the Chief Joseph Chatoyer Dance Company, costumed in the traditional colors of yellow, black and white.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

Ordonez began his musical career at age nine playing bongos in Sante Fe, Honduras, joining his father's band at 13. He released his first album Mi Tradicion in 2015 and since has

been traveling the world playing Garifuna music.

The evening wrapped up with energetic dance performances by the Chief Joseph Chatoyer Dance Company.

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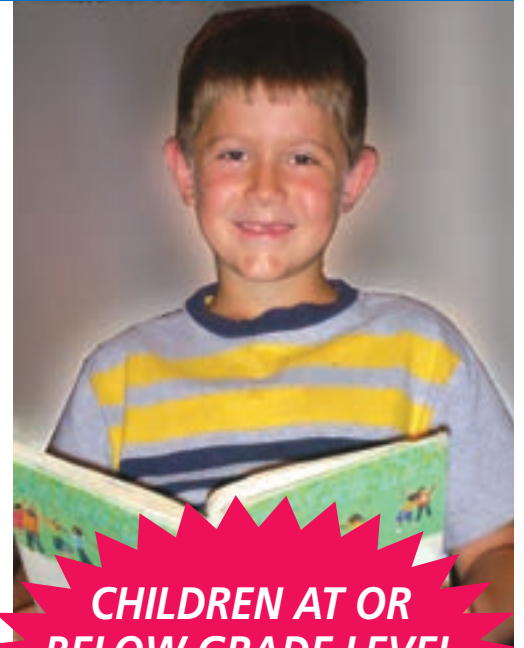
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Feeling good and having fun: Health-insurance provider Metro Plus is staging a free Teen Health Fair for local adolescents, such as this girl who attended last year's event, at Woodhull Hospital in Bedford-Stuyvesant on April 21. Metro Plus

Preserving youth

Local health-insurance firm and Bed-Stuy hospital stage medical fair for teens

By Anthony Rotunno

It's the feel-good event of the season — for teens!

Leaders at a Bedford-Stuyvesant hospital and a local health-insurance provider are inviting teenagers to an information-packed fair on April 21 where they can receive medical tips and advice geared towards their young-adult years.

Woodhull Hospital and Metro Plus's "Teen Health Fair" will educate adolescents aged 12–21 on how to handle their own health-care issues so they do not have to rely on mom and dad when it comes to medical matters, according to a spokeswoman for the insurer.

"When you're a child, your parents take care of you," said Metro Plus rep Rekha Chacko. "A lot of teens don't really understand what their insurance can do for them, and we want them to know that if they want to learn, or if they have a health concern — we are there for them."

The free day-long event at the Broadway medical center will feature games, arts and crafts, and health and dental screenings for teenage members of Metro Plus, according to Chacko, who said attendees younger than 18-years-old who want to receive certain medical screenings should attend with a parent who can sign-off on the exams.

And any adolescents not already enrolled in a Metro Plus health plan can still attend and sign up for coverage from the insurer with representatives who will be on site at the health fair, Chacko said.

"If somebody without a plan wants to come, he or she is more than welcome," she said.

RSVP for the Metro Plus Teen Health Fair at Woodhull Hospital (760 Broadway between Flushing Avenue and Marcus Garvey Boulevard in Bedford-Stuyvesant) by calling (212) 908-3739 or e-mailing Rekha Chacko at chackore@metroplus.org. April 21 10 am–4 pm. Free.

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Slice and spice

Pizza spot adds Caribbean flavors to its pies

By Alexandra Simon

Two cultures meet on a dish.

A pizza spot in Prospect Lefferts Garden combines the flavors of the Caribbean with Neapolitan style pizza. ZuriLee Pizza Bar, opened by two Guyanese-American brothers in 2015, a few doors down from their traditional Caribbean restaurant MangoSeed, offered them a chance to expand while staying true to their background, said one of the co-owners.

“We are Caribbean and we know Caribbean food, and that’s always the first choice or go-to food because it’s your background, but then my brother and I were thinking, ‘What else do we like besides Caribbean food?’” said Paul Burrowes.

He and his brother Jermaine, avid pizza lovers who grew up in Flatbush, figured they could combine two completely different cuisines — both popular city-wide — and fuse them together, he added.

“We eat pizza three times a week — pizza is our thing and we grew up on New York style pizza,” he said. “But the older we got, we started to venture to other styles of pizza. And our approach was ‘Let me take my culture and throw it on top of these pies and make it different.’”

The brothers tested multi-



Just some jerk: Lala McCarden, the manager of ZuriLee Pizza Bar, holds a jerk chicken pizza, one of the spot’s most popular dishes.

Photo by Jason Speakman

ple combinations of flavors and styles before they settled on a menu that includes wood-fired pizzas topped with oxtail, jerk chicken pizza, and salt fish — three foods common in the Caribbean community.

Burrowes worried that the flavors could prove as divisive as the debate over putting pineapple on pizza, but he also figured that the niche flavors would find a following among Brooklyn’s large population of first and second generation Caribbean-Americans — and

also among curious eaters looking for the next thing.

“In New York style pizza they put everything on it, chicken and this and that — and that’s natural,” said Burrowes. “But when you want to venture out to the real pizza lovers and those who venture to wood-fired, pizza, and now you’re throwing chicken, and saltfish, and oxtail on it, it’s scary because people are so drawn to tradition and you don’t want to piss them off.”

But no one has complained

so far, said Burrowes — and some of the pies he was most hesitant about sell the most quickly.

“We haven’t heard any complaints about our jerk chicken pies — it’s like the best selling pie and ironically the one I was most scared of,” he said. “I was scared of putting jerk chicken on a pie, but now everyone wants that jerk chicken pizza, and the oxtail one.”

The Burrowes brothers named the restaurant after both of their daughters names — Zuri and



Got fish?: ZuriLee’s Pizza Bar is the only place where you can find bake and saltfish on a pizza. The fish is commonly eaten in the Caribbean.

Photo by Jason Speakman

Lee, and they named two pizzas after the girls’ favorite toppings — the Zuri, a pepperoni-laden pie, and the Lee pizza — a cheese-heavy pie of cheddar, harvati, and gouda. And another menu option features cabbage, tallegio, mozzarella, and provolone cheese — an interestingly pungent but delectable pie aptly named “Funky Flatbush,” said Burrowes.

“It’s really funky, but it tastes hella good,” he added.

ZuriLee Pizza Bar [755 Flatbush Ave. between Lenox Road and Clarkson Avenue in Prospect Lefferts-Garden, (718) 513-6084, www.zurileepizza.com]. Open Mon–Thu, 4–11 pm; Fri, 4 pm–midnight, Sat, 11 am–midnight, Sun, 11 am–10 pm.

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Business Resources: Internet Bibliographies: New York State Library

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Selected business-related web sites compiled by staff at the New York State Library for use in response to reference questions.

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There's help for navigating difficult steps of bankruptcy



Rachel Kaylie is a bankruptcy and personal injury attorney.

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

Bankruptcy can offer a fresh start.

That's the way attorney Rachel Kaylie sees it.

"Bankruptcy laws were enacted to protect everyone because no one is immune from life's unexpected and unfortunate circumstances," she says.

Kaylie is a bankruptcy and personal injury attorney who believes in treating all of her clients with respect and dignity.

"I know that many who see me are going through a difficult time," she says. Some have already tried to navigate the endless red tape that brings them to her in the first place, and the last thing they want to hear is that someone will take a

message. It's why Kaylie offers personal service, picking up the telephone herself so that clients reach her directly.

Bankruptcy has little to do with the economy. Instead, people experience economic hardship for a variety of reasons. It can be because they or their loved ones have medical issues. It can also be because they have been laid off from work, or are getting a divorce. Whatever the situation may be, Kaylie handles each client's bankruptcy filing with compassion, discussing whether a Chapter 7 liquidation or a Chapter 13 repayment plan is best. She brings 23 years of experience and advice to the table.

Likewise, Kaylie handles all aspects of personal injury matters,

resolving hundreds of cases that total millions of dollars. She deals with motor vehicle accidents; accidents that are the results of falls; construction and labor accidents; wrongful death matters; and liability issues that occur on premises. Although the majority of these cases are settled before they go to court, clients can take comfort in knowing that Kaylie is an experienced trial attorney. She takes into consideration that personal injury clients suffer from pain, but they must also deal with many other problems that arise because they can't work — their income may be compromised; their mobility may be limited; and they can become socially isolated because they do not have the ac-

tive lifestyles they once enjoyed. The loss of independence is a big burden to handle. The Law Offices of Rachel Kaylie P.C. is here to help navigate every difficult step.

Kaylie obtained her J.D. law degree in 1994 from the New England School of Law in Boston, and is admitted to practice law in the state and federal courts of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Washington D.C. She earned her bachelor's degree in 1990 from Brandeis University, with a major in political science and a minor in Spanish. She is a member of the Long Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Brandeis University Alumni Association, an organization that promotes network-

ing opportunities among its members.

Kaylie serves as a mentor to law school students and younger attorneys.

Her background includes working at a private practice in Manhattan, and also as a law guardian for children in Brooklyn's Family Court. She opened this new Sheepshead Bay practice in October.

"Clients can rest assured that they have the full expertise of this office," Kaylie says.

The Law Offices of Rachel Kaylie P.C. [1702 Avenue Z, at E. 17th Street in Sheepshead Bay, (718) 615-9000, www.Kaylielaw.com]. Open Mondays through Fridays, 9 am-6 pm. Open evenings and weekends by appointment.

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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Touring the islands, on two feet

By Alexandra Simon

They took a big bite out of this little district!

A group of culturally curious explorers hit the streets of Little Caribbean in parts of Prospect-Lefferts Gardens and Flatbush for a taste of what some local businesses are serving up in the area.

The attractions featured in the April 7 “Little Caribbean Food and Culture Crawl” thrilled participants so much that its organizer extended the excursion well beyond the event’s planned two-hour time

limit, she said.

“It turned out to be a four hours,” said Shelley Worrell, the head of cultural group Caribbeing, who led the tour.

Worrell and roughly 25 attendees began their journey at Kings Theatre before visiting 10 businesses located within the cultural district, which includes Flatbush Avenue between Empire Boulevard and Nostrand Avenue, Church Avenue between Flatbush and New York avenues, and Nostrand Avenue between Flatbush Avenue and Empire



Cultural experience: Jen, of Jen’s Roti Shop, and her son explain the story of her business to the group. Photo by Zoe Freilich



Guyanese cooking: Gina, whose family opened Island Express, show how food is prepared to a tour group during the Little Caribbean culture crawl in Flatbush on April 7.

Photo by Zoe Freilich

Boulevard.

Some shopkeepers — who included several restaurateurs as well as the owner of a Caribbean record store and the leader of a mas camp — served the guests food and drinks, Worrell said, while others shared how they started their businesses and their immigrant stories.

Worrell — who spearheaded the initiative to name the area as Little Caribbean — led two similar tours last winter after the enclave’s September designation, and said she plans to host them monthly going forward, setting the next event for May 12.

Past crawls drew locals as well as tourists from such faraway destinations as Long Island, upstate New York, and New Jersey, she said, with some participants returning for a second time after their first

trek left them wanting more.

“There were a lot of people on this particular tour who came back with friends and family,” Worrell said.

The walking tours even appeal to longtime Caribbeans, according to the organizer, who said the most recent excursion introduced a Jamaican woman to the cuisine of another island in the region.

“She didn’t know what ‘doubles’ were and it was a very interesting interaction,” Worrell said, referring to the Trinidadian street food made with flat bread and curried chickpeas.

Join the next Little Caribbean Food and Culture Crawl kicking off at Kings Theatre [1027 Flatbush Ave. between Tilden Avenue and Duryea Place in Flatbush, www.littlecaribbean.nyc] on May 12 at 2 pm. \$25.



Tour stop: In one of the first stops of the tour, the group met Alexander, a native of Trinidad, who served up a homemade traditional corn soup from his island.

Photo by Zoe Freilich

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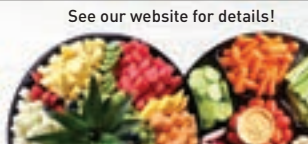
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BUSINESS, BROOKLYN STYLE

Bay Ridge Center presents Senior Tech at Brooklyn Borough Hall

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

If grandma has always wanted to be able to see the grandchildren's photos on Facebook, or figure out how to make a Facetime phone call, now's her chance, as the Bay Ridge Center hosts its second annual Senior Tech Day on May 2 at Brooklyn Borough Hall. Topics expected to be covered include basic computer use, online banking, and utilizing social media.

"Brooklyn is the borough with the largest number of senior residents — 411,740, or 29 percent of the population, according to the most recent census record," says Todd W. Fliedner, deputy executive director of The Bay Ridge Center. These numbers are expected to increase by 50 percent within the next 10 years, as the baby boomer generation grows older, he says. "Seniors are in need of solutions to help them age successfully in place,



and combat social isolations."

The free event — in partnership with Borough President Adams — aims to show seniors how technology can assist with everyday tasks.

Certainly getting them online and on social media is one way of keeping them connected with the outside world. Besides digital access, participating vendors will be on hand to offer legal and financial advice,

information on caregiving services, and mobility and transportation concerns. There will be discussions on the benefits of health and exercise, entertainment, and shopping opportunities.

Last year's event was attended by more than 300 adults over age 60, and more than 20 vendors and non-profit organizations that offered seniors interactive activities. This exposure to cutting-edge prod-

ucts and services is aimed at increasing the autonomy and quality of life for older adults. Attendees explored the latest technological advances and applications, learning new skills through one-on-one tutorials on topics such as how to set up e-mail accounts, and how to operate Virtual Reality headsets.

The idea for the event was conceived by Fliedner and Marianne Nicolosi as a way to revolutionize the traditional health fair. Just this past March, the Bay Ridge Center hosted the 23rd annual march for Meals on Wheels, the program that enhances the lives of seniors by bringing them a hot meal each day. As many of the elderly are housebound, "Sometimes, that helper is the only person the resident sees all day," says Fliedner.

The Bay Ridge Center has provided services like these to adults 60 years and

older in southwest Brooklyn since 1967. These programs promote well-being, support independence, and encourage their involvement in community life. Aided by enthusiastic volunteers, it works with community organizations, local businesses, schools, and social service organizations to enrich the lives of seniors.

With more than 1,000 active members, the Bay Ridge Center is the largest and most active program serving seniors in southwest Brooklyn.

Bay Ridge Center Senior Tech Day at Brooklyn Borough Hall (209 Joralemon St. at Court Street Downtown) on May 2 from 10 am to 4 pm. Free.

Bay Ridge Center [6935 Fourth Ave. between Ovington and Bay Ridge avenues in Bay Ridge, (718) 748-0650 X115, www.BayRidgeCenter.org]. Open Mondays through Fridays, 8 am-4 pm.

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Puerto Rico blackout

By Alexandra Simon

A massive blackout hit hurricane-ravaged island of Puerto Rico on April 18. The outage affected all of the island's 3.3 million residents, just days after a previous blackout cut power to about 870,000 people. In statement, Bronx borough president Ruben Diaz Jr., who is of Puerto Rican descent, said this latest power outage only displays a lack of progress in the island's recovery, and immediate action is needed.

"Today's island-wide blackout on Puerto Rico shows that not nearly enough is being done to support and rebuild the island," he said. "With hurricane season approaching, we need to work expeditiously to ensure the people of Puerto Rico are able to have a safe-haven from potentially devastating weather."

But for Puerto Ricans, they find themselves in the dark yet again. Power went out when Hurricane Maria caused widespread destruction on the island seven months ago. And regular blackouts have occurred since.

In a tweet, the island's electricity provider, Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority, said that full power restoration could take up to 24 to 36 hours to be fully functioning again.

Diaz says the government has not prioritized the island and its residents since the hurricane, citing lack of action and the people are dealing with the failure to act.

"The citizens of a first-world nation



In the dark: In December, 75-year-old Puerto Rican resident Joaquin Rivera Calderon uses a flashlight at his home in a rural town.

Associated Press / Carlos Giusti

should not be forced to endure such fragile infrastructure. This is especially galling given FEMA's current policy of denying extensions for housing in the United States for victims of Hurricane Maria, under the false premise that utilities in Puerto Rico have been restored," he said. "This blackout makes it crystal clear that the federal government has abandoned the 3.5 million American citizens who call Puerto Rico their home."

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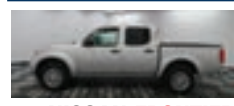
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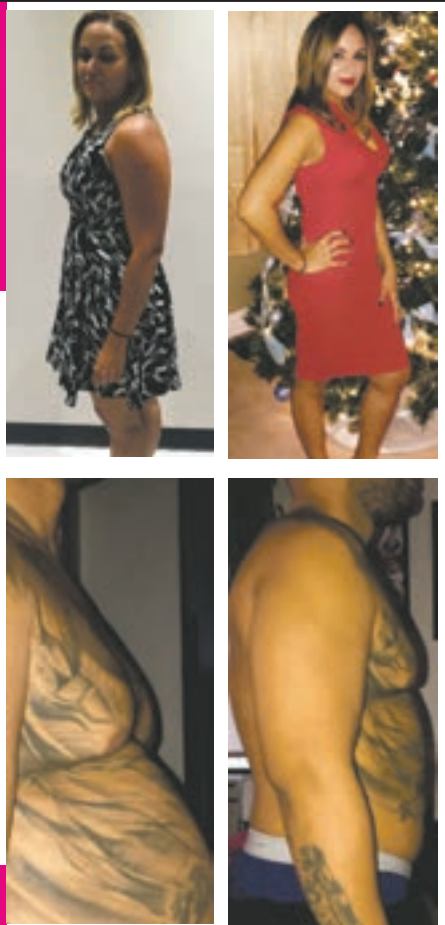


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Resources for immigrants



Immigration attorney Roland Ottley, Esq.

Attorney laments situation for DACA recipients

By Nelson A. King

A Vincentian-born immigration attorney in Brooklyn is lamenting the “terrific” situation for 800,000 undocumented, young Caribbean and other immigrants in the United States, who are dependent on the deferred action for early childhood arrivals, or DACA.

“While both the Republicans and the Democrats say that these individuals should receive some kind of immigration relief, the circumstances are just so complicated that it prevents these two parties from reaching any kind of deal that would result in the passage of a law,” said Roland Ottley in an exclusive Caribbean Life interview. “That would give these young undocumented individuals the relief that they so desperately need.”

The DACA program was instituted by President Barack Obama but has been rescinded by President Donald J. Trump.

Several US district courts have, however, ruled Trump’s rescinding of the policy as unconstitutional. The issue is now before the Appellate Court.

Ottley noted that Trump “has been going back-and-forth and giving mixed signals about his intentions for the forward action,” regretting that “the president has never committed to providing relief to these undocumented individuals.”

“Had it not been for several lawsuits that were filed to prevent the complete recession of the deferred action program, there would have been the commencement of mass deportation as of March 5, 2018,” said

Continued on Page 38

By James Harney

Newcomers to our country, city, and borough — and even those immigrants who have lived and worked here for a few years — may not be knowledgeable about all of the rights, opportunities, services and assistance that may be available to them, or where to turn to find out about them. In such cases, the offices of local elected officials — in particular, those who represent districts with significant numbers of immigrant constituents — can be “go-to” places for such information. In Brooklyn, two officeholders — State Sen. Jesse Hamilton and Councilman Mathieu Eugene — have compiled lists of such groups and organizations.

Brooklyn State Senator Jesse Hamilton

Hamilton’s 20th Senate district includes parts of the Brownsville, Crown Heights, East Flatbush, Gowanus, Park Slope, Prospect Heights, Prospect Lefferts Gardens, South Slope, and Sunset Park neighborhoods.

“Being an immigrant can be an overwhelming experience on its own,” Hamilton says. “Language barriers and getting settled in a new environment along with having all legal matters in order is hectic and stressful. Each listed resource offers an array of different services: naturalization/citizenship, green card renewal/replacements, consular processing, legal employment matters, deportation/removal defense, other legal services and English language classes. Immigrant integration is one of the focuses of my office. It is my hope that the resources listed will make the transition of moving to and living in the United States a smoother experience for immigrants in New York.”

The state Senator and his staff recommend the following groups to immigrant constituents seeking help:



Clergy members and other supporters of the New Sanctuary Coalition pray in front of the Trump International Hotel in New York, Thursday, March 29, 2018. People gathered to show support for Aura Hernandez, an undocumented immigrant that has taken sanctuary in a church to prevent her from being deported and separated from her family. After praying at the hotel, supporters walked to the church where they washed Hernandez feet, recreating the moment when when Jesus washed his apostles’ feet.

Associated Press / Seth Wenig

Resources for Immigrants Statewide in New York

•The New York Immigration Coalition
131 W. 33rd St., Suite 610
New York, NY 10001
(212) 627-2227

•Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigration Rights
5030 Broadway, Suite 650
New York, NY 10034
(212) 781-0355

Regional offices/New York State Office

Continued on Page 40

Green Card hopes fade for young immigrants

By Nelson A. King

Many applicants in New York for Special Immigrant Juvenile status have had their applications rejected by the Trump administration, according to reports.

The special provision allows children under the age of 21 who have been abused, abandoned or neglected by one or both parents, to obtain a green card.

But, in the last several weeks, some applicants for this special status has been denied “because of an unannounced policy reversal by the Trump administration,” reported the New York Times on Wednesday, April 18.

“Under the new interpretation, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services said that applicants in New York who were over 18, but not yet 21, when they began the application

process no longer qualify,” the paper said.

It said that, for the last 10 years, such cases have routinely been approved.

But, as the Trump administration focuses on limiting all forms of immigration and tries to stop the flow of unaccompanied minors at the Mexico-United States border, “it appears to be targeting the special immigrant status,” the Times said.

“They are looking for what he calls ‘loopholes,’ and what we call protections, and trying to close them,” Wendy Young, the executive director of Kids In Need of Defense, a nonprofit organization that represents young immigrants who come to the country unaccompanied, told the Times.

“Under this administration, every-

body is presenting a fraudulent claim, rather than, ‘Why is this child here and do they need protection?’” she added.

To date, at least 81 applicants from the New York City area have been denied or were told they would soon be denied by the immigration agency, The Legal Aid Society of New York told the Times.

It said that, in total, more than 1,000 young people across the state, not all of them from Central America, could be affected.

“Although there are other states that follow a process similar to New York’s, including California, Massachusetts, Maryland and Washington, lawyers believe that New York has seen the most denials,” the Times said.

St. Lucia consulate to host immigration forum

By Alexandra Simon

The Consulate of St. Lucia is set to host its fourth annual immigration forum at the St. Lucia House in East Flatbush on April 25. The forum will provide local residents with information about immigrant rights, the types of forms they may need, and discuss the subject of deportation, which is a growing concern for many, said the Vice Consul Jeremiah Hyacinth.

“The forum will more so provide clarification on immigration-related issues and deportation, because often we have people come to our office to discuss their fears of being deported and needing more guidance,” said Hyacinth.

Guests will have the opportunity to ask immigration experts about the steps they can take to ensure their status in the U.S., and how to not fall prey to scams.

“There are a lot of people in these situations, and the forum will not only give more clarification, but guidance about how to proceed with a situation like that and to also avoid becoming a victim of fraud,” added Hyacinth.

Speakers and representatives from the CUNY’s Citizenship Now services, the Brooklyn District Attorney’s office, the Mayor’s office of Immigration Affairs, and several nonprofit organizations and advocacy groups will also be present to assist and answers questions.

Hyacinth adds that the forum, though organized by the consulate, is for the general immigrant community of East Flatbush, which comprises immigrants from all over the Caribbean.

“Our goal is to reach everyone, not just the St. Lucian community — but people in the Brooklyn area,” he said. “The East Flatbush-area has a significant number of residents who are from the Caribbean or are first-generation Caribbean, and our goal is to reach out to them and provide them with the tools that will enable them to act accordingly, and be on right path.”

Immigration Forum at St. Lucia House [438 E. 49th St. between Church and Snyder avenues in East Flatbush, (347) 927-5840]. April 25, 7–10 pm. Free.



Immigration attorney Allen E. Kaye, will be present at St. Lucia’s annual immigration forum at the St. Lucia House in East Flatbush on April 25. Consulate of St. Lucia

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DACA recipients fate uncertain

Immigrants can connect with IDNYC



Surrounded by beneficiaries of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program and their supporters, New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman speaks at a news conference in New York, Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2017. Fifteen states and the District of Columbia sued Wednesday to block President Donald Trump's plan to end a program protecting young immigrants from deportation — an act Washington state's attorney general called part of a "dark time for our country."

Associated Press / Seth Wenig

Continued from Page 36

Ottley, referring to the deadline that Trump had given Congress to fix the issue or DACA recipients would be deported.

He said many of those who would otherwise qualify for DACA are now unable to take advantage of this program, "because they did not take advantage of it when the program was still in full force and effect."

"Now, only individuals who had applied prior to the termination date, or whose deferred action status was terminated at any time, can now renew their deferred action status," the immigration attorney said.

He said Trump has been using DACA as a "negotiating tool to pressure lawmakers to pay for the wall along the Mexican border."

But Ottley said, while DACA is a high priority

for Democrats and some Republicans, "it appears as though politics is the main hinderance to the passage of a law to provide relief to these undocumented individuals."

"It appears as though some Republicans do not want to pass a bill that would grant relief to those undocumented young individuals, because it would give even more momentum to Democrat," he said.

"While many Americans are unable to determine why Congress is unable to pass a bill that would grant such relief, other Republicans may still be inclined not to grant such relief to individuals that are in the United States on an undocumented basis, regardless of their ages," he added.

Ottley warned about the ominous disruption of families if DACA recipients are ultimately deported.

By Nelson A. King

The Mayor's Office says undocumented Caribbean and other immigrants, including eight million New Yorkers, can connect with IDNYC.

"IDNYC is the new, free identification card for all New York City residents, which gives all of us the opportunity to show who we are—New Yorkers," the office said.

"As a government-issued photo identification card, IDNYC secures the peace of mind and access to city services that come from having recognized identifi-

Continued on Page 41



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Where to turn for immigration help in New York

Continued from Page 36

of New Americans

- Brooklyn (Midwood) FECS Health and Human Services
938 Kings Highway, Brooklyn, NY 11223

- Brooklyn (Williamsburg) Opportunities for Better Tomorrow
280 Wyckoff St., Brooklyn, NY, 11237

- Brooklyn (Bay Ridge) Arab American Association of NY
7111 5th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY, 11209

- Queens (Jackson Heights) Make the Road
92-10 Roosevelt Ave., Jackson Heights, NY, 11237

- Queens (Jackson Heights) Queens Community House
74-09 37th Ave., Jackson Heights, NY, 11372

- Queens (Flushing) Korean Community Services Chinese-American Planning Council and the MinKwon Center for Community Action
35-56 159th St., Flushing, NY, 11358

- Queens (Flushing) YMCA
138-46 Northern Boulevard, Flushing, NY, 11354

Immigrant Assistance Services in New York Brooklyn

- The Arab American Family Support Center
150 Court Street, 3rd floor, Brooklyn, NY, 11201
(718) 643-8000

- CAMBA Legal Services
2211 Church Ave., Brooklyn, NY
(718) 940-6311

- Catholic Migration Services
1258 65th St., Brooklyn, NY, 11219
(718) 236-3000

Queens

- Flushing Immigration Center
39-07 Prince St., Suite 2B, Flushing, NY.
(718) 640-9223

- Justice For Our Neighbors (Flushing office)
150-20 Barclay Avenue, La Promesa Mission, Flushing, NY
(718) 762-1647

Brooklyn Councilmember Mathieu Eugene

Mathieu Eugene represents the City Council's 40th District in Brooklyn, which includes portions of Crown Heights, East Flatbush, Flatbush, Kensington, Midwood, Prospect Park and Prospect Lefferts Gardens in Brooklyn. Eugene is the first Haitian-born elected official in the state of New York, and among the priorities he lists in the introductory statement



Mathieu Eugene. Photo by Tequila Minsky

on City Council website is a promise to "support immigrant rights."

The Councilmember and his staff recommend the following groups to immigrant constituents seeking assistance:

NEW YORK LEGAL ASSISTANCE GROUP IMMIGRANT PROTECTION

Dedicated to social justice, NYLAG's Immigrant Protection Unit (IPU) provides New York's low-income immigrant communities with comprehensive legal services through consultation and direct representation. IPU assists individuals in securing or continuing lawful status in the United States through adjustment of status and other complex legal remedies that may be available to them. IPU also aims to facilitate family reunification through family-based immigrant petitions, humanitarian parole and other forms of relief. As one of the largest immigrant services providers in the State of New York, IPU educates immigrant communities about the dangers of fraudulent immigration law practitioners and other barriers to attaining citizenship. Through its comprehensive approach, IPU seeks to broaden and improve access to quality legal representation and address the social welfare needs of New York's low-income immigrant community. Services include:

- Naturalization
- Adjustment of status
- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Self Petitions
- U-visas for crime victims
- Asylum
- Removal defense
- Public benefits and entitlements
- Key to the City Events
- Family Resource Day

Services and Resources for Immigrant Families

- Free immigration legal consultations by the New York Legal Assistance Group:
- Consultations for general immigra-

tion questions

- Help with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) applications and renewals

- Help with citizenship applications
- Legal screenings for recently arrived children, unaccompanied minors, and their families

- Screenings for the Deferred Action for Parents (DAPA) program

- Passports, consular IDs
- Health, financial, and adult education information

- Parent guide for College Readiness: what you can do for your child's education now!

- Information on IDNYC (NYC's NEW municipal ID program)

What we do:

- Immigrant Protection
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- Staff
- Projects
- Specialized Review Project
- Executive Action
- Community Immigration Clinics
- Comprehensive Immigration Reform
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Immigration Project
- Relief for Filipino Nationals
- Deferred Action Assistance Project
- Syrian Temporary Protected Status (TPS)
- Assistance to Yemeni Refugees
- HIAS Recovery
- Citizenship Initiative & Naturalization
- Haitian Temporary Protected Status (TPS)
- New York Association for New Americans (NYANA) Recovery
- Public Benefits for Immigrants
- Refugees & Asylum Assistance
- Special Project for Immigrants from the Former Soviet Union
- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)/U-Visa Project
- Assistance to Victims of Immigration Fraud
- Removal Defense

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BDS's Immigration Practice provides comprehensive and zealous representation to our clients, who face life-changing consequences at the intersection of the criminal justice system and the immigration system. Since 2009, we have counseled or represented over 7,500 clients. The Immigration Practice is comprised of the Padilla, Youth & Communities Team and the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project (NYIFUP) Team.

Brooklyn Defender Services (BDS) advises clients about the immigration consequences of criminal charges and helps clients apply for citizenship, green cards, visas for domestic violence or trafficking victims, deferred action, and other immigration benefits. BDS has a robust removal defense practice; we secure immigrant clients' release from immigration detention and defend them against deportation in immigration court. Since November 2013 BDS has been serving as assigned counsel under the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project, a first-in-the-nation program that provides legal representation for indigent New Yorkers in detained removal proceedings in New York City and New Jersey.

Counties served: Kings (Brooklyn)

Detention Facilities Served: Bergen County Jail (NJ), Elizabeth Contract Detention Facility (NJ), Essex County Correctional Facility (NJ), Hudson County Correctional Facility (NJ), Orange County Correctional Facility (NY)

Services Provided:

Areas of immigration legal assistance: Adjustment of Status, Asylum applications, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Employment authorization, Family-based petitions, Habeas Corpus, Naturalization/Citizenship, Removal hearings, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, T visas, Temporary Protected Status (TPS), U visas, Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) petitions

Types of immigration legal services provided: Filings with USCIS, Representation at Asylum Interviews (Credible Fear Interviews, Reasonable Fear Interviews), Representation before the Immigration Court, Representation before the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), Federal court appeals

Other areas of legal assistance: Education, Family & Juvenile, Foreclosure, Housing, Public Benefits

Non-legal services: Administrative advocacy (CIS/ICE/CBP), Housing referrals, Legislative advocacy (state or national), Psychological or psychiatric services, Referrals to other services, Social services

Populations served: Lesbian, gay, bisexual & transgender

Languages spoken: Arabic, English, French, Haitian Creole, Mandarin Chinese, Spanish, Urdu

Access to a commercial interpreting service or language bank: Yes

Nominal fee charged? No

Other information: Detained removal defense cases are picked up through internal referrals or through BDS's role as assigned counsel under the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project and includes representation of New York City residents and residents of Long Island and some upstate New York counties. Other immigration cases are referred internally. From time to time BDS also holds community law clinics and accepts referrals from other community-based organizations.

IDNYC is the new, free ID card

Continued from page 38

publication," it added.

"IDNYC benefits every city resident, including the most vulnerable communities — the homeless, youth, the elderly, undocumented immigrants, the formerly incarcerated and others who may have difficulty obtaining other government-issued ID," the Mayor's Office continued.

It said IDNYC card-

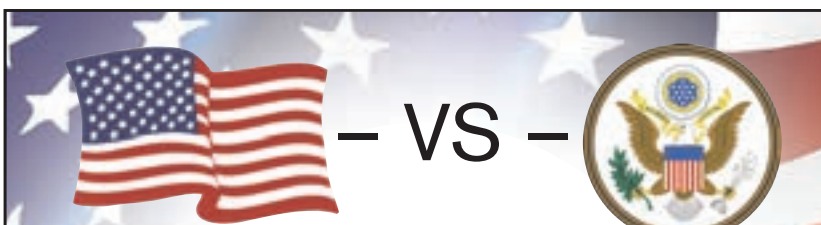
holders can access services and programs offered by the city, as well as by businesses.

IDNYC helps enhance public safety, by serving as a recognized ID for interacting with the New York Police Department (NYPD), the Office said.

It also said IDNYC also helps New Yorkers gain access to all city buildings that provide

services to the public, and is accepted as a form of identification for accessing numerous City programs and services.

Additionally, the Mayor's Office said IDNYC also provides "a dynamic series of benefits to cardholders, including a free one-year membership at many of the City's leading museums, zoos, concert halls and botanical gardens."



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Mayor reduces ICE cooperation

By Nelson A. King

With the ongoing fear of increased deportation under the Trump administration, immigrants are reminded of Mayor Bill de Blasio's signing into law Introductions 486-A and 487-A, dramatically limiting New York City's cooperation with overbroad federal immigration enforcement practices, except in instances where there are public safety concerns.

The two bills, signed into law since Nov. 14, 2014, also end the presence of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at Rikers Island and all City facilities.

"These laws balance public safety with the City's commitment to being a welcoming and safe place for immigrant families and are consistent with the pledge Mayor de Blasio made in his 'One New York Rising Together' platform to end cooperation with federal 'detainer requests' for all residents, except those who have been convicted of violent or serious felonies," said a Mayoral Office statement.

"Mass deportation has not only pulled apart thousands of New York City families, it has also undermined public safety in our communities and imposed disproportionate penalties on immigrant parents and spouses who these families depend on for emotional and financial support," de Blasio said.

"Our City is not served when New Yorkers with strong ties in the community are afraid to engage with law enforcement because they fear deportation," he added. "Today, we send another message to Washington that the time to act has come to provide relief to so many individuals who contribute to our nation's growth."

The Mayor's Office said ICE Detainers are requests for local law enforcement agencies to continue to hold an individual after his/her case has been resolved – including if the charges they face have been dropped or dismissed, or when they are released on their own recognizance or on bail while their case remains pending – to facilitate pick up and detention by federal immigration authorities.

In 2011, under the leadership of then-Council Member Mark Viverito, New York City was one of the first cities in the country to enact legislation limiting its response to ICE detainer requests, reducing local law enforcement's cooperation to 60 to 65 percent.

This was followed by a wave of over 200 jurisdictions nationwide adopting detainer discretion policies.



Naturalization candidates stand for the National Anthem on Friday, June 30, 2017, at the New York Public Library in New York. Over 190 immigrants from 59 countries became American citizens at the fourth annual Independence Day naturalization ceremony hosted by the library. Associated Press / Michael Noble Jr.

Resources for NYC immigrants

By Nelson A. King

Despite the onslaught by the Trump administration on undocumented Caribbean and other immigrants, New York City offers a wide array of resources for immigrants.

The Mayor's Office for Immigrant Affairs provides a Resource and Referral Guide with information on services available to recently arrived immigrants.

The Office says that the guide is intended for use by New York City agencies, schools, nonprofit organizations and immigrants who may benefit from receiving information and referrals to City services and non-governmental resources that serve recently arrived immigrants.

All services in this guide are available to New Yorkers regardless of immigration status, unless otherwise specified.

The Office says City agencies are prohibited from asking about immigration status, "unless it is necessary to determine eligibility for a benefit or service."

"Any individual can voluntarily decline to provide information about immigration status," the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Affairs said.

It said immigrants can get immigration and citizenship services, including: Requests for immigration or citizenship application forms; immigration application fees and fee schedules; and assistance when there are extended delays after an application has been submitted for citizenship, naturalization, a green card, work visa, asylum, and other immigration status information or benefits.

The New Americans Hotline also

offers referrals to community organizations that can help with immigration legal issues, including deportation cases, applications for citizenship, green cards, Temporary Protective Status (TPS), Haitian Family Reunification Parole (HFRP), and other immigration status information or benefits.

The Mayor's Office for Immigrant Affairs said more than three million of New York City's 8.2 million residents were born outside the United States.

The New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) contracts with community-based organizations across all five boroughs that provide a range of services and support to new New Yorkers.

DYCD said services help immigrant families identify the "complex and multiple needs" of newly-arrived immigrant families with limited English proficiency (LEP).

DYCD also said services are offered in collaboration with a network of community-based providers, to ensure immigrants gain "access to relevant services that will help them prosper and become self-sufficient."

For more information, call DYCD Youth Connect at: 1-800-246-4646.

The Immigrant Business Initiative provides business services to immigrant-owned businesses in New York City to help them start, operate and grow.

Immigrants can receive one-on-one counseling and attend business classes in: Bengali, Cantonese, Haitian Creole, Korean, Mandarin, Russian and Spanish.

Complaints about businesses that provide immigration services include: Fraudulent or deceptive practices, including 10-year visa scams, offers to buy identification cards to prevent deportation; failure to complete a written contract before providing service; failure to give you a copy of each document prepared for you; and failure to inform you of your right to cancel the contract in three business days without penalty.

Other complaints include: Failure to post a bond of \$50,000; failure to post a sign describing consumers' rights; and failure to disclose that individuals providing assistance are not lawyers.

The Mayor's Office for Immigrant Affairs said immigration service businesses cannot guarantee government action, such as the granting of residency, visas, passports, citizenship, or any other immigration status.

Immigrants can anonymously report an immigration service business that is committing fraud or using deceptive practices.

Immigration service providers must disclose that the individual providing assistance is not a lawyer and cannot accept fees for giving legal advice, drafting legal papers, or reviewing documents for legality, the Mayor's Office said.

It said individuals providing assistance cannot represent you before immigration authorities.

"You can also make a complaint about providers' failure to disclose that they are not lawyers," the Mayor's Office said.

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How to outsmart prostate cancer!

Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer in America, ranking only behind skin cancer — and it will affect one out of every nine American men during their lifetime. In fact, research has shown that more than half of all men in the United States over the age of 70 are now living with some form of prostate cancer.

Types and typical victims of prostate cancer

Most forms of the disease progress slowly and are highly treatable. However, prostate cancer is deadly, and it kills quickly. Once a patient's cancer reaches its fourth and final stage, the five-year survival rate is a dismal 29 percent.

Two groups of men are particularly susceptible to prostate cancer: those over the age of 70, and African-American men. The latter are 1.6 times more likely to develop the disease than white men, and 2.6 times more likely to experience prostate cancer than Asian-American men.

Prostate cancer: Symptoms and diagnosis

Most alarming is that many patients with the disease don't experience any symptoms. Experts like Dr. Joshua Halpern of the Accord Physicians Group recommends that all men, especially African Americans, be screened regularly for prostate cancer by a doctor once they reach age 40.

Dr. Halpern is a certified radiation

oncologist who received his oncology training at Roswell Park Cancer Institute and MD Anderson Cancer Center, the nation's leading cancer treatment center. He has treated all forms of cancer for more than 40 years, and has had hands-on experience with thousands of prostate cancer patients. He explains the processes that urologists use to diagnose and confirm the disease.

The first step in the rigorous process of diagnosing prostate cancer is to draw blood and conduct a Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) test. PSA is a protein naturally produced in men's prostate glands, and abnormally-high PSA levels may indicate the presence of prostate cancer, although they could also be signs of other prostate issues such as inflammation or enlargement.

Normal levels of the protein are usually in the 0.0-4.0 range. But once the PSA levels are greater than 4.0, Dr. Halpern says, the normal procedure is to recommend a biopsy during which a small section of prostate tissue is removed and examined for signs of cancer.

Dr. Halpern explains that if

the biopsy results are positive for prostate cancer, the next step is to consult a radiation oncologist. At Accord Physicians Group, he and his fellow physicians work in close collaboration to decide on a course of action.

Prostate cancer treatment

Dr. Halpern is one of the first oncologists to use a form of treatment called Image Guided Radiation Therapy (IGRT). It is completely non-invasive, and involves 45 10-minute sessions during which a short beam of radiation is targeted directly at the inside of the prostate.

"Published reports on IMRT/IGRT radiation, with careful administration, have shown the best results and the lowest toxicity," says Dr. Halpern. "In our experience, tumor control is very high and tolerance to our treatment is nearly universal."

Excellent results of the cancer control as well as the low side effect profile are due to the fascinating physics of this radiation therapy. The plan that's used to deliver the radiotherapy is individually and specifically designed for each

person. It takes into account the differences that all people have in relation to their size, muscle to body fat ratio, and the physical size of the prostate and the surrounding organs. It also takes into consideration any anatomic changes that may have occurred due to previous pelvic surgeries, trauma, and anatomic abnormalities such as inguinal hernias. After this detailed plan is complete, the treatment therapy begins. On a daily basis during the therapy, the equipment and the technician who delivers the radiation performs a daily minute adjustment to precisely deliver the radiotherapy despite differences such as contents of the colon and the amount of urine in the bladder at the time of treatment.

Once IGRT therapy has been completed, the patient usually exhibits dramatically lower PSA levels, indicating that the cancer is either gone or is fully in remission. In the occasional case when PSA levels remain extremely high, the oncologist will meet regularly with the patient to track progress and discuss options. All medical personnel at Accord Physicians

Group have received special training to ensure the patient's comfort during and after treatment, and to respectfully and compassionately assist him with the emotional effects of a cancer diagnosis and treatment.

Accord Physicians Group and prostate cancer

Dr. Halpern states, "Over the last 10 years we treated hundreds of prostate cancer patients at Accord Physicians." He elaborates, that "Our cure and remission rates are between 93 and 95 percent over this 10-year period, and our side effect profile is well below the national average."

Dr. Halpern urges all men — particularly African-American men over the age of 40 — to be screened regularly for prostate cancer.

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Trinidad and Guyana nationals proudly display their countries' flags and colors at the Phagwah celebrations.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

Phagwah Day

By Tangerine Clarke

Saturday, April 14, 2018 was proclaimed Phagwah Parade Day by NYC Mayor, Bill de Blasio, whose representative, Nick Gulotta, presented a proclamation to the planning committee, co-chaired by Herman Singh and Romeo Hitlall to honor the Hindu and Indo-Caribbean communities' 30th annual parade.

The politician applauded the organizing committee and other organizations, during a cultural presentation at Phil Rizzuto Park in Queens, for continuing

Continued on Page 48

Havana nights

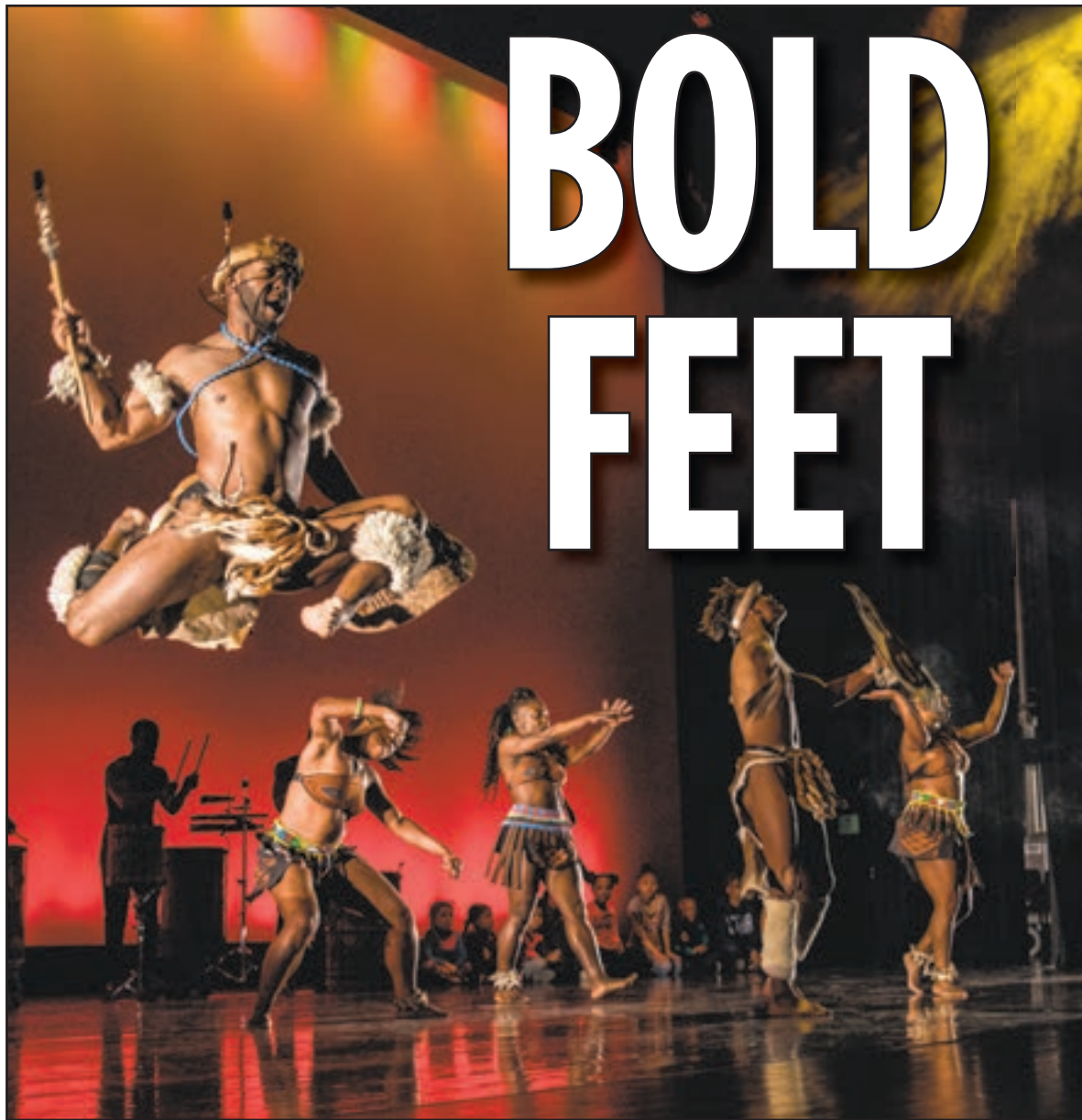
By Alexandra Simon

Cuban novelist Leonardo Padura will be talking about his books at the PEN World Voices Festival at Nuyorican Poets Cafe on April 20. The famous writer will be joined by author Mark Kurlansky, who recently wrote a book about the city of Havana in literature. The pair will discuss the city, its history, and Padura's representation of it in his novels, according to Padura.

"We will talk about the Cuban reality from the perspective of a Cuban writer and a North American writer, and how in our books we explore Cuban society, reality, and the changes to Cuba and Cuban life," said Padura.

Born and raised in Havana, Padura became famous in the English-speaking world, for his detective books known as the Havana Quartet — a four-novel series that follows Lieutenant Mario Conde. The popular novels explore

Continued on Page 48



BOLD FEET

Members of Step Afrika will be performing traditional and contemporary forms of step dance at Kumble Theater on April 28.

Sekou Luke

Step Afrika returns with fancy footwork

By Alexandra Simon

They're stepping back into Brooklyn.

One of the country's largest African-American dance troupes will return to the County of Kings next weekend, clapping and stomping across the stage of the Kumble Theater in Brooklyn's Downtown. Step Afrika will perform traditional step moves at two shows on April 28, closing out Brooklyn College's season at the theater, and its founder says the performers are looking forward

to the crowds the borough always brings out.

"We're glad to be part of the Brooklyn College tour for the third year," said C. Brian Williams. "We love coming to Brooklyn and the energy here. Our dancers especially find that when we get there, we're looking forward giving a great performance."

Stepping is a form of dance that involves using foot dances, chants, and hand-clapping performed, usually with fast-paced and upbeat music in the background. It was created in

the early 1900s, among the fraternities and sororities of historically black colleges and universities, but was little known off-campus until Spike Lee's 1988 film "School Daze" brought the culture of stepping to a broader audience.

"Spike Lee changed the game," said Williams. "After his movie, stepping was done in high schools, elementary schools, and the broader black community — and this was something that was only being done

Continued on Page 48

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1 **Meant To Be**
Bebe Rexha & Florida Georgia Line
- 2 **The Middle**
Zedd, Maren Morris & Grey
- 3 **God's Plan**
Drake
- 4 **Finesse**
Bruno Mars & Cardi B
- 5 **Perfect**
Ed Sheeran
- 6 **Never Be The Same**
Camila Cabello
- 7 **Pray For Me**
The Weeknd & Kendrick Lamar
- 8 **Whatever It Takes**
Imagine Dragons
- 9 **Lights Down Low**
MAX Featuring gnash
- 10 **New Rules**
Dua Lipa

TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **Invasion Of Privacy**
Cardi B
- 2 **America**
Thirty Seconds To Mars
- 3 **The Greatest Showman**
Soundtrack
- 4 **Revamp: Reimagining The Songs**
Various Artists
- 5 **Jesus Christ Superstar: Live...**
Soundtrack
- 6 **Erase Me**
Underoath
- 7 **Sister Cities**
The Wonder Years
- 8 **There Is More**
Hillsong Worship
- 9 **My Dear Melancholy, (EP)**
The Weeknd
- 10 **Restoration: Reimagining The...**
Various Artists

Presented by



Williams says his group always looks forward to the step fanbase in Brooklyn.

Sekou Luke

STEP AFRIKA

Continued from Page 47

by fraternities and sororities.”

At the shows on April 28, the team performing portion of “The Migration” a dance-theater piece celebrating the movement of African Americans out of the American South

during the early years of the 20th century. The dance has evolved a lot over the years, said Williams, and for this show the company took inspiration from early folkloric styles of dance.

“We’re going to be celebrating the African American response to our arrival in the

country and what we created,” said Williams. “We’re always pay homage to stepping and its intent, and we’ve taken that and expanded greatly upon it. The men have a style and women have a style, in Step Afrika we bring all these styles together and that transforms the art form because we’re not trying to represent it in one form.”

The show gives people a chance to learn more about

step dancing in traditional and contemporary form — and to join in, said Williams.

“It’s a highly interactive show, and it’s for fans and people of all ages to come and make music,” he said.

Step Afrika at Kumble Theater [1 University Plaza, at Dekalb Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 488-1624, www.brooklyncenter.org]. April 28 at 3 pm and 8 pm. \$35.

Phagwah

Continued from Page 47

to host “the outstanding celebration, while sharing it with all New Yorkers.”

The declaration reads: “Together we renew our shared commitment to protecting the wonderful diversity of our global city that is known to the world, to advance our values, inclusion and unity, and to ensure all residents have freedom to worship as they choose.”

The 80-degree temperature was idyllic for the historic event that attracted hundreds of spectators, who lined the streets to watch the colorful floats which showcased the Holi Hindu festival of colors that celebrate good over evil, and to welcome the spring season, after the first full moon on the Hindu calendar.

Nationals playful dousing each other’s traditional white attire with Abir — (colored powder) as the parade moved along Liberty Avenue, and ended at Phil Rizzuto Park, on Atlantic Avenue, where hundreds more, enjoyed the festivities while dabbing each other’s faces, and fill-



Sonia Persaud performs a traditional Indian dance on stage. Photo by Tangerine Clarke

ing the air with plumes of red, yellow, blue, green and white powder, during an hours-long cultural celebration.

Councilman Eric Ulrich of District 32, waved Trinidad and Guyana flags, joyfully expressing his excitement to be at the commemoration.

“This is a spectacular, colorful, wonderful parade. I am so pleased to be here with my friends from all over Queens to celebrate Holi, the beginning of spring, and all of the wonderful contributions West Indians have made, not only to New York City, but to the American way of life,” he stated.

Havana nights

Continued from Page 47

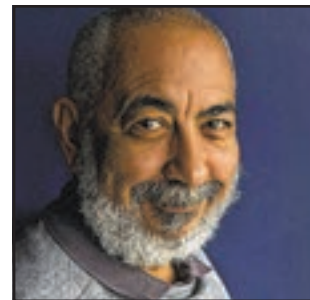
Cuba’s capital city, and major political and social transformations it saw during critical times.

The city is not only his hometown and choice of setting for his novels, it is the location where he finds a lot of inspiration as a writer.

“For me, Havana is a very important place, and its not only my place — it’s my literary place,” he said. “I think as a novelist especially, you don’t belong to a country, you belong more to a city, and all my books happen in Havana for this reason.”

Padura and Kurlansky will also examine their books “La transparencia del tiempo” and “Havana: A Subtropical Delirium,” respectively, and examine their portrayals of Havana.

He says although he does not consider his books to be a crash course lesson of the city, the picture he has painted for his hometown provides a lot of perspective. And even other natives would agree.



Cuban author and novelist Leonardo Padura will be talking about his books with author Mark Kurlansky, at Nuyorican Poets Cafe in Manhattan on April 20.

Daniel Mordzinski

“I don’t always know the absolute truth, but I try to capture Cuban society through my books the best way possible,” said Padura. “This point of view is not only mine but that of many Cuban people. I live in Havana and I always try to find a way to think of people, their ideas and frustrations, I find ways to talk the person and their the language in my books.”

Native-American woman's fight for justice

"100 Years: One Woman's Fight for Justice" Excellent (4 stars) Unrated Running time: 75 minutes Production Studios: Fire in the Belly Productions / Kavana Entertainment

By Kam Williams

"They made us many promises... more than I can remember, but they never kept but one. They promised to take our land... and they took it." That observation was made by Chief Red Cloud (1822-1909) towards the end of his life, after he'd witnessed the white man break treaty after treaty made with Native American tribes.

President Andrew Jackson was a staunch advocate of Indian removal in favor of European settlers. He famously ignored a U.S. Supreme Court decision recognizing the Cherokee

nation's right to the State of Georgia.

Jackson even had the temerity to challenge Chief Justice John Marshall to try to enforce the ruling, before ordering an Indian mass exodus West on a decimating death march known as the Trail of Tears.

A very moving tribute to an intrepid crusader who not only spoke truth to power but miraculously emerged victorious.

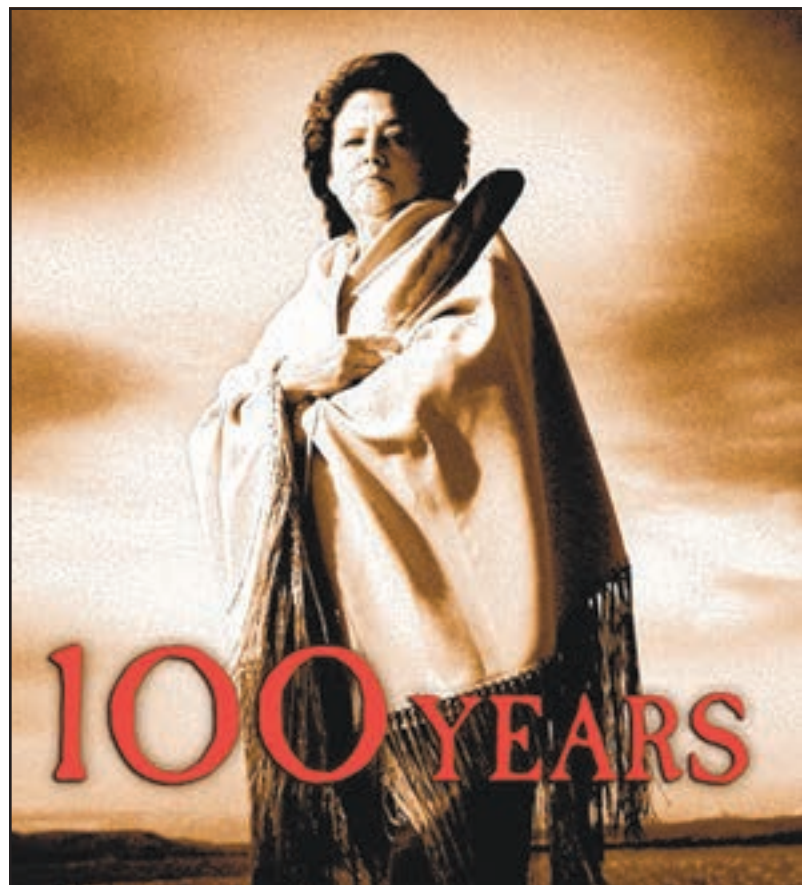
So, it goes without saying that Native Americans have had a woeful record when it comes to having America honor any treaties. That's what makes the accomplishment of Elouise Cobell (1945-2011) all the more remarkable.

For, while serving as treasurer of the Black-

feet tribe, she uncovered massive mismanagement of billions of dollars that should have been held in trust for Indian people. Following years of frustration, in 1996 she filed the biggest class action suit ever brought against the U.S. government, seeking billions of dollars due 300,000 members from many tribes for the lease of assorted land and mineral rights.

Exhibiting an unwavering determination, Elouise did ultimately prevail after a three-decade battle with the Department of the Interior. That selfless, indefatigable effort is at the heart of "100 Years: One Woman's Fight for Justice."

The eye-opening documentary was directed by Melinda Janko, who skillfully chronicled the landmark legal case in rather riveting fashion. Overall, a very moving tribute to an intrepid crusader who not only spoke truth to power but miraculously emerged victorious.



Poster for "100 Years: One Woman's Fight for Justice."

Independent & Foreign Films

After Auschwitz (Unrated) Holocaust documentary belatedly recounting the trauma experienced by a half-dozen survivors who had been evacuated to the U.S. and pressured to suffer in silence without ever discussing the horrors they'd witnessed in Hitler's death camps.

The Devil and Father Amorth (Unrated) The Exorcist's William Friedkin directed this chilling documentary chronicling an epic battle between good vs. evil which finds an intrepid Catholic priest performing his ninth exorcism on a deranged woman possessed by demons. (In English and Italian with subtitles)

Dolphins (G) Disney nature documentary, narrated by Owen Wilson, about a pod of porpoises' most rebellious young pup.

Godard Mon Amour (Unrated) Romantic dramedy, set in Paris in '67, recounting the love which blossomed during the shooting of La Chinoise between director Jean-Luc Godard (Louis Garrel) and a teen actress (Stacy Martin) young enough to be his daughter. With Berenice Bejo, Gregory Gadebois and Micha Lescot. (In French, English and Italian with subtitles)

Mercury 13 (Unrated) Dashed dreams documentary profiling the 13 female pilots who passed NASA's astronaut test with flying colors in 1961 only to ultimately be refused admission to the exclusive boys'



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

club.

Pass Over (Unrated) Spike Lee and Danya Taymor co-directed this filmed play about a couple of homeless black men (John Michael Hill and Julian Parker) shooting the breeze on a dangerous street corner on the South Side of Chicago. Supporting cast includes Ryan Hallahan and Blake DeLong.

BIG BUDGET FILMS

Duck Duck Goose (PG for rude humor and mild action) Animated parable about a bachelor goose (Jim Gaffigan) who matures enough to serve as a surrogate father to a couple of ducklings (Lance Lim and Zendaya) he accidentally separates from their flock. Voice cast includes Reggie Watts, Jennifer Grey and Carl Reiner.

I Feel Pretty (PG-13 for sexuality, profanity and partial nudity) Split personality comedy about an insecure Plain Jane (Amy Schumer) who suddenly becomes convinced she's the prettiest woman on the planet after falling and hitting her head. With Michelle Williams, Emily Ratajkowski, Aidy Bryant, Lauren Hutton and Naomi Campbell.

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St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves.

Associated Press / Andres Leighton

CARICOM moves ahead

By Azad Ali

CARICOM is moving ahead with plans to ensure the restructuring of the governance of West Indies cricket, despite the International Cricket Council's (ICC) request to have Cricket West Indies (CWI) president Dave Cameron at any meeting between the two bodies.

Continued on Page 52

ICC ODI rankings

By Azad Ali

West Indies players made minimal upward movement in the latest ICC One-Day International rankings, despite their recent success in recent World Cup Qualifiers in Zimbabwe.

Veteran right-hander Marlon Samuels jumped two places in the batting rankings to 49th, after scoring 231 runs from his seven ODIs in the tournament and 304 runs overall.

Samuels is the highest ranked West Indies batsman, with the Shai Hope and Evin Lewis next best at 53rd and 54th respectively.

Hope ended the qualifying tournament with 233 runs, while opener Lewis scored 231 runs.

Explosive opener Chris Gayle, who started the tournament on 72nd, dropped

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'SIMPLE JOKE'

Dwayne Bravo of Chennai Super Kings bats during the VIVO IPL cricket Twenty20 match against Kolkata Knight Riders in Chennai, India, Tuesday, April 10, 2018.

Associated Press / Parthi Bhan

Dwayne Bravo clarifies return comment

By Azad Ali

West Indies all-rounder, Dwayne Bravo says he is not seeking a return to the regional side for next year's World Cup in England.

He refuted international media reports suggesting that he is actively seeking a recall to the West Indies

team.

Bravo, who was in India preparing for this month's Indian Premier League was quoted as saying, "hopefully I would get to play in the World Cup as well" after congratulating Windies for clinching their spot at the ICC Qualifiers in Zimbabwe

recently.

But Bravo told Line & Length Network his comments had been meant as a "simple joke" and not a "comeback request."

"I was asked how I felt about the Windies making the Finals and I

Continued on Page 52

Continued from page 51

But chairman of CARICOM's cricket sub-committee, Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, said the proposed meeting with the ICC was intended to be an open discussion and he expected that CWI would have a presence.

The ICC, cricket's world governing body, recently told CARICOM it was prepared to meet with the regional body but would only do so with the presence of Cameron, adding that "Cricket West Indies (CWI) is our member."

The ICC told Dr. Gonsalves that the meeting could not take place on the sidelines of the upcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government summit in London later this month because of a scheduling conflict.

However, Gonsalves said the rescheduling of the ICC would not prevent CARICOM from continuing to lay the groundwork for the implementation of a new governance structure.

He said it is CARICOM's re-stated position that "good governance and transparency" remained paramount.

The St. Vincent and Grenadines prime minister said that CARICOM is not going to get involved in the management of West Indies cricket, it's a public good and it can't just be managed by a private entity.

CWI has resisted any overhaul of its governance ever since the 2015 CARICOM-commissioned Governance report called for the "immediate dissolution of the West Indies Cricket Board (now CWI) and the appointment of an interim board."

Cameron has since argued that CWI leadership must be "free of interference from governments."



West Indies' cricketer Dwayne Bravo.

Associated Press / Andres Leighton

BRAVO JOKES ABOUT HIS RETURN

Continued from page 51

responded by saying, I am so happy for the guys because they worked hard and deserve to be in England, hey, maybe I will come back" and laughed. But it was in no way a comeback request."

Bravo has been blanked for selection in One-Day Internationals ever since his role in the controversial abandoned tour of India, in a players pay dispute with Cricket West Indies.

He further explained that he would never say "no" to representing West

Indies but stressed his health was his major priority at the moment.

Bravo is playing for Chennai Super Kings in the IPL, which bowled off a week ago. He slammed 68 off of 30 balls as Chennai came from behind to beat Mumbai Indians with a ball to spare.

Narine blasts Kolkata Knight Riders to opening win

By Nelson A. King

In opening the batting, West Indies off-spinner Sunil Narine blasted a 17-ball 50 in helping Kolkata Knight Riders to triumph in their season opener Sunday against Royal Challengers Bangalore by four wickets in the Indian Premier League (IPL).

After they were sent in first to bat, Royal Challengers posted 176-6 in 20 overs, with Narine setting the pace, with three huge sixes in his masterful display.

Narine was called again for his suspect bowling action in the recently-concluded Pakistan Super League (PSL).

Royal Challengers Bangalore ended just two runs short of their 178 target, losing seven wickets in the process.

AB de Villiers topscored for Royal Challengers with 44.

Scores: Kolkata Knight Riders 177-6 (Narine 50, Karthik 35, Woakes 3-36); Royal Challengers Bangalore 176-7 (De Villiers 44, McCullum 43, Rana 2-11).



Kolkata Knight Riders' Sunil Narine hits a ball during VIVO IPL cricket T20 match against Royal Challengers Bangalore in Kolkata, India, Sunday, April 8, 2018.

Associated Press / Bikas Das

West Indies



West Indies batsman Marlon Samuels.

Associated Press / Andres Leighton, file

Continued from Page 51

five places after scoring his 23rd ODI century against United Arab Emirates but then struggled for runs.

Scotland captain Kyle Coetzer is the highest-ranked batsman who took part in the qualifiers at 22nd.

In the bowling West Indies captain Jason Holder gained one place to 23rd in the rankings to be the highest-placed Caribbean player.

The 26-year-old fast bowler was outstanding with 15 wickets to lead his side's bowling and remains the only Windies players in the top 50.

Vincentian sports club celebrates 40 years

By Nelson A. King

A popular Vincentian sports club that dominated Brooklyn's Caribbean Soccer in the 1980s and 1990s and was dubbed the "Kings of Brooklyn Caribbean Soccer" is celebrating its 40th anniversary.

According to Hairoun Sports Club's long-standing president, Stanley "Luxie" Morris, a St. Vincent and the Grenadines Sports Ambassador, the club, among other activities, will celebrate its milestone with a gala awards ceremony on Aug. 17 at the Friends of Crown Heights Educational Center, 668 Logan St., Brooklyn.

Morris – a former St. Vincent and the Grenadines national soccer captain and coach and erstwhile coach of Team SVG-USA (St. Vincent and the Grenadines) in Brooklyn's Caribbean Soccer Cup – said the event will be held under the auspices of St. Vincent and the Grenadines' New York Consulate General.

He said "soccer legends" of Victoria Park, in Kingstown, the Vincentian capital, will be honored, as well as "legends of 79 of Arnos Vale."

Among the honorees will be Notre Dame's "Fab 4" – Jeff Bai-

ley, Rudolph "Rudy" Boucher, Douglas Doyle and Norbert Hall. Notre Dame was one of the leading soccer teams in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the 1960s and early 1970s.

Morris said a Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to Basil "Bung" Cato, a former president of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Football Association, now federation, who managed the St. Vincent and the Grenadines 1979 soccer team, the 1992 World Cup squad, and the Under 19 Cable and Wireless teams.

Cato had coined the phrase, "Soccer, the game of the people."

Derek Dupont, the Hairoun striker, who "transformed the game of soccer in Brooklyn," will be the "Recipient of Deserving Honor," Morris said.

In addition, he said special honors will be bestowed on Gladstone George, "Notre Dame and St. Vincent and the Grenadines' erstwhile fan at Victoria Park in the 60-80's."

Morris also said former national soccer players – "Babs" Jones, Sydney Mandeville, Keith "Slick" Bonadie and Dr., Brother William Muckett – will be honored



A 1986 photo of Hairoun Soccer Team of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Hairoun Sports Club

posthumously.

Additionally, Morris about 30 current and former soccer stars players will receive Certificates of Recognition.

"It will be a night of storytelling, fellowship, laughter, food and drink, catching up, players with players, fans from far and wide, with old idols from Victoria Park," said Morris about the gala celebration

on the night before the annual, massive Vincy Unity Picnic in East Islip, Long Is.

Morris said Hairoun Sports Club will next year honor some former netballers at the Nutricia Center and the cricketers at the St. Vincent Grammar School — both in Kingstown.

"Hairoun SC (Soccer Club) was the 'voice' of Vincentians in the Diaspora during the 1980s

through the 1990s, through its dominance in the sport of soccer in Brooklyn, New York at our 'home away from home,' the Boys and Girls stadium, slotted in the middle of Central Brooklyn," Morris said.

"Hairoun SC brought joy to the thousands of Vincentians on the weekends; games were played every Saturday and Sunday," he added.

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ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20
This is an excellent week to get out and be active, Aries. Whether you hike, walk or go cycling, take some time to enjoy the great outdoors. This will benefit the mind and body.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, take charge of your health because it is the most important way to stay on top of your game. Don't forget to include emotional and spiritual health in your regimen.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
It's time to tap your creativity, Gemini. If there is some piece of artwork or a craft you like but find too expensive, there's a good chance you can create an excellent replica.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
Some fresh air and sunshine can do you a world of good, Cancer. Especially if you have been a little stagnant in your career or personal life. A new perspective can help.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
The energy in the air can do surprising things when you are feeling frustrated, Leo. A change of scenery can help you rebound fast and get back on track.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, organize a group activity with friends and family members this week. This is a good opportunity to reconnect with loved ones you may not have seen in some time.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, if you are lacking regular exercise, take this week to make a new fitness plan that works for you. Start slowly and build up as you grow accustomed to exercise.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Put your ambitions into action, Scorpio. It's one thing to give lip service to ideas, but it's another to get started toward goals. The latter may lead to a more fulfilling life.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
Don't hesitate to take on projects or make plans this week, Sagittarius. The more quickly you get involved, the better. Write down all of your plans to stay organized.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Work goes quite well for you this week, Capricorn. But you're having difficulty finding traction at home. Take a day to catch up on projects at home to quiet your mind.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, if you have been feeling creative and ambitious, consider giving a new hobby a try. An artistic project is fitting, but anything that inspires you will suffice.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
There is a good chance that you will start the week with vigor, and it will continue for the next several days, Pisces. Channel that energy.

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