

Caribbean Life

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Brooklyn/Staten Island Edition

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**Stars shine
at Icahn**

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CARIBBEAN HERITAGE MONTH



People who made a difference

A Queen's native of Caribbean heritage, Aliza, age 14, has surpassed expectations in her zeal for public service. See page 21

CRACKS IN THE HOUSE

T&T gov't coalition breakup looms

By Bert Wilkinson

The clearest signs yet of cracks and fissures in Trinidad & Tobago's 25-month-old governing coalition appeared at the weekend when the labor-led Movement For Social Justice (MSJ) announced that it was leaving because of dissatisfaction with the way the country was being run and how workers were being marginalized by authorities, among other complaints.

David Abdulah said the MSJ is not only leaving the five-party coalition that ousted Patrick Manning's People's National Movement (PNM) two years ago but he

would also be giving up his seat as a government senator in the upper house.

He timed his widely expected announcement to coincide with Labor Day celebrations in Caricom's largest and most robust economy to announce his departure and to attract criticisms from Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar about alleged recklessness and unreasonableness in the months when the Movement was part of her cabinet and government.

"We have not taken this decision lightly or easily. We recognize that we have a respon-

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The latest Caribbean news and information at www.caribbeanlifeneews.com

Caribbean

Canada recently announced that it will be providing Can\$3.4 million in new funding projects to combat transnational organized crime and terrorism in the Caribbean.

The announcement was made by Canadian Minister of State and Foreign Affairs Diane Ablonczy in a statement issued by the Canadian High Commission in Port of Spain, Trinidad.

Stating these initiatives aim to support law enforcement training and criminal justice reform in the Caribbean, Ablonczy said "these projects are an example of Canada's commitment to the fight against international crime.

"Combating crime happens not only on the front lines through training and equipment, but also through the proper legislation and judicial reform that are needed to successfully prosecute criminals," she said.

Antigua

Fire has destroyed two office blocks, an aircraft hangar and an aircraft which swept through LIAT's section of the VC Bird International Airport last week.

Reports are that residents in the area heard several loud explosions shortly before 10.30 p.m. and saw smoke coming from the facility, at the airport's eastern edge on Sunday night (June 10).

Airport officials say the destroyed plane was over 21 years old – the oldest of three Dash-8

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News from back home updated daily at

www.caribbeanlifeneews.com



Healthcare providers at Caribbean Wellness Day.

Caribbean Wellness Day at Flatbush church

By Nelson A. King

APC Community Services, a Brooklyn community action group recently conducted its Sixth Annual Caribbean Wellness Day at the Church of the Nativity on Ocean Avenue in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn.

Held under the theme, "It's Your Health, Take Charge NOW," the event, co-sponsored by Brooklyn Sen. Eric Adams, with major hospitals and other health care community-based health organizations providing health screenings for vision, blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose and peak flow, among other health issues, attracted a large number of area residents.

Attendees were also educated and/or tested on body mass index, cancer, HIV/AIDS and coronary health, and Dr. Michael Abbot, of Methodist Hospital, spoke on Diabetes and Hypertension in the African American/Caribbean Community.

Dr. Abbott told Caribbean Life that it was important that Caribbean nationals be conscious of their eating habits, and explained that a significant amount of carbohydrates (mainly root vegetables) can ultimately impact on their health, resulting in obesity, hypertension and diabetes, among other things.

"This event is a great way to reach the Caribbean community



Healthcare providers at Caribbean Wellness Day.

and have a frank discussion on the importance of taking care of their health," said Dr. Janice Emanuel-Bunn, the Guyanese-born president of APC Community Services and coordinator of the event. "The event was a tremendous success."

She said the goal of the Wellness Day is to draw more awareness of the "epidemic of chronic diseases among Caribbean residents."

Dr. Emanuel-Dunn thanked the Brooklyn-based Northeastern Conference Medical Missionary Team; the Manhattan-headquartered Glaucoma Caucus Foundation and Village Care Center; Church Avenue Merchant Business Association (CAMBA) in Brooklyn; American Cancer

Society; the Washington-based Coronary Health Improvement (CHIP) program; and APC Community Services' board members for providing services during the Wellness Day.

She also expressed gratitude to the volunteer nurses and to the Rev. Sheldon Hamblin, priest-in-charge of the Church of the Nativity, for use of the facility.

APC also conducts a medical mission to Guyana every year. Last year, 26 doctors, nurses and other healthcare personnel provided medical services to over 1,000 individuals in several regions in Guyana. The group's next mission to Guyana is slated from Aug. 5-16, 2012.

'Rediscover home' mission

By Tangerine Clarke

Guyana has the best fusion of six different cultures and some of the most outstanding eco-tourism products available, acting Minister of Tourism, Triffan Ali, stated in a recent exclusive interview with Caribbean Life at the Guyana booth at Grand Central Station during Caribbean Heritage Week.



Triffan Ali.

The minister was on tourism blitz to promote his "Rediscover Home" campaign, and to lure nationals back home. He portrayed Guyana as a country that has undergone a mass transformation and was now ready to welcome one and all to its shores.

"We want to changed the minds of Guyanese who have misguided perceptions that Guyana is the same as it was 30 years ago, said Ali.

The republic has been ranked by various international tourist guides as a top destination for adventure, Ali said, placing nature tourism, yachting and Amazon adventure at the top of the list, when he unveiled "Rediscover Home" recently in Guyana and in Trinidad and Tobago, where more than 125 yachters attended the tourism initiative.

"We don't offer the traditional white, sandy beaches and blue waters, Ali said. Instead, he continued, "our country has a comprehensive sustainable product that portrays beauty, nature and adventure, all fused with the best culture and cuisine.

"I specifically want to appeal to our brothers and sisters outside of Guyana to visit their homeland," he urged. "We are negotiating reduced airfares as part of the campaign that will come under an all-inclusive package deal.

Ali listed festivals like Phagwah, Mashramni, Easter, Diwali, August Jam Zone international showcase, and heritage sights as some of the attractions to enjoy while in Guyana.

Bird watching which has become Guyana's recent tourist draw will give visitors a "bird's eye view" at one of the most beautiful sanctuaries with some 360 species of birds, found anywhere in the region.



Rev. Al Sharpton and other prominent activists lead End "Stop & Frisk" march. Photos by Donna Lamb

Silent march for Stop 'n Frisk protestors

By Donna Lamb

Sometimes silence really does speak louder than words. That was certainly the case as thousands of people of all ages, colors, and backgrounds from over 300 organizations marched down Fifth Ave. in expressive silence from 110th St. to Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Upper East Side townhouse Sunday to protest the New York Police Department's stop and frisk policy that overwhelmingly targets Black, Latino and other young men of color.

In contrast to the highly vocal past demonstrations regarding this issue, organizers chose silence as an eloquent way to highlight both the tragedy and the serious threat that stop and frisk and other forms of racial profiling present

to this society. The silent march was first used in 1917 by the NAACP to help build national opposition to lynching.

What brought protesters out in droves for this march was the fact that during Bloomberg's administration, over four million people – 86 percent of them Black or Latino – have been stopped and frisked. In 2011 alone, NYPD officers conducted a mind boggling 685,724 street stops – a more than 600 percent increase since Bloomberg took office 10 years ago when there were 97,000 stops. In just the first three months of this year, more than 200,000 people have been stopped.

Even as these stop and frisks continue at higher

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Marchers take to the street in silence to protest NYPD stop and frisk policy.

Obama policy to spare many youths from deportation

By Alicia A. Caldwell and Jim Kuhnhenn

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama eased enforcement of immigration laws Friday, offering a chance for hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants to stay in the country and work. Immediately embraced by Hispanics, the extraordinary step touched off an election-year confrontation with congressional Republicans.

"Let's be clear, this is not amnesty, this is not immunity, this is not a path to citizenship, this is not a permanent fix," Obama said from the White House Rose Garden. "This is the right thing to do."

The policy change will affect as many as 800,000 immigrants who have lived in fear of deportation. It bypasses Congress and partially achieves the goals of the "DREAM Act," congressional legislation that would establish a path toward citizenship for young people who came to the United States illegally but who attend college or join the military.



President Barack Obama responds as he is interrupted while announcing that his administration will stop deporting and begin granting work permits to younger illegal immigrants who came to the U.S. as children and have since led law-abiding lives, Friday, June 15, 2012, during a statement in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington.

AP Photo/Susan Walsh

Under the administration plan, illegal immigrants will be immune from deportation if they were brought to the United States before they turned 16 and are younger than 30, have been in the country for at least five continuous years, have no criminal history, graduat-

ed from a U.S. high school or earned a GED or served in the military. They also can apply for a work permit that will be good for two years with no limits on how many times it can be renewed.

Obama said the change would become effective immediately to "lift the

shadow of deportation from these young people."

The step, to be carried out by the Department of Homeland Security, comes one week before Obama plans to address the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials' annual conference in Orlando, Fla. Republican presidential challenger Mitt Romney is to speak to the group on Thursday.

"Many of these young people have already contributed to our country in significant ways," Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano wrote in a memorandum describing the administration's action. "Prosecutorial discretion, which is used in so many other areas, is especially justified here."

The policy closely tracks a proposal being drafted by Republican Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, a potential vice presidential running mate for Romney, as an alternative to the DREAM Act, formally the Development, Relief and Education of Alien Minors Act.

Bajan beauty wins the Miss NY beauty pageant

By Nelson A. King

A Barbadian sports enthusiast in Brooklyn has won the Miss New York Continental Beauty Pageant. She emerged the winner at the recent at George Wingate High School in Brooklyn from a field of 11 contestants.

Jacintha Sargeant, 19, a dance teacher and fitness buff, representing her native country, narrowly edged out Miss St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Tisha Douglas, to take the coveted crown in the three-year-old pageant.

"I was excited, relieved, happy," Sargeant told *Caribbean Life* in an exclusive interview after the show. "I was everything."

Sargeant, who hails from Christ Church in Barbados and migrated to Crown Heights, Brooklyn,

just a year ago, said her interest in fashion designing and participation in most sports – netball, volleyball, soccer and cricket – prepared her for the contest.

"I do all sports," said Sargeant, whose fitness routine during the talent segment of the pageant left the boisterous audience in awe.

Her portrayal of the evening gown, which she said she bought at Siesta, a store on Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, also stunned the audience.

In addition, Sargeant was flawless in the interview segment, identifying former West Indies cricket great Sir Garfield Sobers as her role model.

"I gave the speech about Garry Sobers because he's a sports person, and that's



Jacintha Sargeant.

me," she said.

"He was close to me. He was even closer to me than my mother," she added. "He always tells me not to give up."

Sargeant, who had planned to study nursing at Hunter College, said she has had a change of heart and will pursue fashion instead, stating that she

would like to design her own outfits.

First runner-up Douglas, also 19, who came very close to snatching the crown, said it was her first time competing in a beauty pageant.

"It was a close call for me and her (Sargeant) to go head to head," said the Medgar Evers freshman, who hopes to become a registered nurse. "It was a good experience. It helped me to speak better."

"Although we were in the competition, we helped each other well," added Douglas, a trained dancer, whose evening wear was designed by her late compatriot and family friend, Ingrid Mayers. "We were always looking out for each other."

Mayers went to the Great Beyond in December.

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Cracks in the house

T&T gov't coalition breakup looms

Continued from cover

sibility to the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago as we were an integral part of the partnership that campaigned in 2010 and asked you to vote for the Partnership to be your government. We do not regret that decision. It was the right thing to do at that time. As it is the right thing for us to now withdraw from the Partnership," he said.

The MSJ had for months been complaining about the refusal of the Administration to properly raise wages to reflect cost-of-living increases and the apparent unwillingness of authorities to tackle corruption and a host of other ills. He had also suggested that while the faces in government had changed "nepotism, discrimination, patronage and corruption are still the order of the day in too many enterprises."

For her part, the prime minister dismissed the MSJ's exit as a move that would strengthen rather than weaken the Indo-led coalition, saying that some of its demands were "impossible, unreasonable and reckless. It seems David's entrance into government never allowed him the advantage of a national perspective. He remained trapped in isolationist thinking. You cannot negotiate governance

like a labor union leader representing the interest of only one group. In government your responsibility is larger than that," Persad-Bissessar argued, daring to suggest that her government is the most transparent in recent memory in Trinidad.

The announcement drew quick reactions from analysts. The *Trinidad Express* quoted scientist Dr. Winford James as expressing no real surprise about the latest developments, noting that "labor has been acting up for a while".

Former Prime Minister Basdeo Panday who founded the United National Congress (UNC), the dominant party in the coalition said it appears that the MSJ was becoming less comfortable with the way the country was being run and is returning to its labor roots.

"I think what is bothering the MSJ, as indeed the same thing is bothering the Congress of the People (COP, is that they are being perceived as being part of the corruption, waste and mismanagement of the Partnership as a government. I think they are trying to extricate themselves from that because it will affect their future political ambitions," Panday said.



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Towns catches ire for backing Barron

By Vinette K. Pryce

A firestorm is brewing in Brooklyn.

It started when Cong. Edolphus Towns announced his retirement after serving 15 terms in Congress. That smoldering news heightened when he released a statement saying he would throw full backing for his replacement to former rival City Councilman Charles Barron.

"Ed Towns has either gone mad or this is a terrible joke," Assemblyman Dov Hikind said.

"I've always considered Ed Towns a friend and now he'd stabbed us in the back," Assemblyman Hikind added.

In a statement posted at his web portal the Brooklyn legislator added: "Barron's statement that he'd like to slap the nearest white person is just one example of the kind of person that Towns is inviting into Congress."

Hikind listed a slew of other alleged Barron missteps he said should disqualify a potential Congressman.

"Barron wrote an editorial praising Muammar Gaddafi; he refuses to salute the American flag, the list of his radical antics goes on and on."

"This is the type of person Ed Towns wants as a lawmaker?"

It's either a bad dream or its insanity."

Hikind's ire was amplified when

former Mayor Ed Koch, Congressman Jerrold Nadler, and Councilman David Greenfield joined him outside the Museum of Jewish Heritage for a press conference to denounce the endorsement.

Embers blazed in Manhattan as each speaker branded Barron "an enemy of the state of Israel."

"It is outrageous that retiring Congressman Ed Towns has endorsed the infamous Charles Barron. Barron's resume of race baiting and contemptible anti-White statements should disqualify him as someone worthy of public office."

Barron was called "hateful," "vicious," a "scary monster," "anti-Semite" and "bigot."

"That's why we're here. We're saying Barron is no good. I can tell you," former Mayor Ed Koch said.

"I knew him."

"We stood with Ed Towns. He asked us to stand with him against Charles Barron. He told us how dangerous Charles Barron was and all the words that we used today, this is what Ed Towns said to us," Hikind said.

"If over the last two years, Charles Barron has repented, I missed it. Where was I?"

Cong. Towns, 77 will continue to serve the 10th CD until the end of the year when a rezoned 8th CD will con-

vert the political, Brooklyn base.

"I want to leave the district that I had for 30 years in good hands. I did not want to leave a wishy-washy person to take care of the community," Cong. Towns said. "We need somebody to stand up and say — no more."

"Charles Barron, no doubt about it, has the ability to do that," Towns said.

Barron who has represented the 40th council district since 2001 explained his relationship with the congressman saying "we have been political rivals but never enemies."

He challenged Towns in a failed attempt to Congress in 2006.

Barron said he would continue fighting for many of the issues Towns has historically pursued — affordable housing, senior citizen, scholarships and against budget cuts in education.

Barron expressed gratitude to the outgoing legislator and added that Towns' endorsement represented a commitment and concern for the community he has served for three decades.

"What better person can we have than someone who has been around for 30 years?"

"He can help me navigate the waters of Washington."

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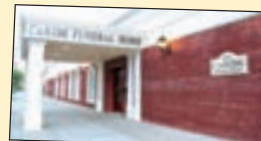
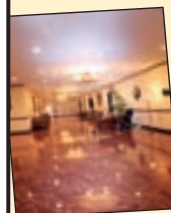
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Caribbean Roundup

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Continued from page 2

still in LIAT's fleet – and was undergoing a routine maintenance check.

LIAT said it was working with investigators in Antigua and Barbuda as well as the Eastern Caribbean Aviation Authority to determine the cause of the fire.

Barbados

Former Barbadian Prime Minister Owen Arthur says that Barbadians have sent a clear message that they are fed up with the Freundel Administration.

Breaking his silence on the recent CADRES poll, the Opposition Leader said the result accurately reflected the sentiments expressed across the island.

"The people of Barbados generally wish to see an election called. They are greatly concerned and unhappy with the drift and decline taking place in the country, and I believe they are very deeply disgusted with the shambles that is

now taking place in government and in the ability of the government to properly manage not only the economy, but the general affairs of the country," Arthur told the Sunday Sun newspaper recently.

He also spoke about the poor showing of Prime Minister Stuart Freundel as the country's leader and said it would pose a major headache for the Democratic Labor Party (DLP) in the upcoming general election.

Jamaica

Authorities in Jamaica have charged a woman with helping a man rape her 15-year-old daughter.

Police said in a statement that the mother is accused of holding down her daughter while a man raped her. Officers say the man knew her daughter.

Police say the alleged rape occurred in late May in the capital Kingston. Investigators declined to identify the woman and

man also charged in the case in order to protect the girl's identity.

Jamaica

The head of the divestment team involved in the sale of Air Jamaica to the Trinidad-based Caribbean Airlines Ltd (CAL), Dennis Lalor, has rejected claims that the airline's multimillion-dollar debt is to blame for CAL's current financial problems.

"The government of Jamaica assumed all liabilities of Air Jamaica, providing CAL a clean slate as it relates to Air Jamaica's operations," he told the Jamaica Observer newspaper.

He said this was done to ensure that CAL would have no disadvantages when it got to Air Jamaica brand.

"In addition, the government of Jamaica provided CAL with cash of over US\$17 million, which represented tickets prepaid for by customers not yet

flown," Lalor said.

Last month, Trinidad Transport Minister Devant Maharaj said local taxpayers "have been paying for the luxury of Jamaicans flying at a fuel subsidy".

Finance Minister Winston Dookeran told Parliament recently that CAL had recorded losses in excess of US\$8.3 million last year and owed several creditors including the United States Inland Revenue Service and the Norman Manley International Airport in Jamaica millions of dollars.

St. Kitts

There has been a 200 percent increase in yacht arrivals and an 100 percent increase in passengers aboard yachts for the first three months of this year compared to the same period in 2100.

The St. Christopher Air and Sea Ports Authority (SCASPA) Statistics Department reported 267 yachts dropped anchor in

the first three months of this year, compared to 83 in the same period in 2022, an increase of 222 percent.

In the first three months of this year, 510 passengers were aboard the 267 yachts, registering a 40 percent increase compared 363 for the same period in 2011. SCASP recorded 108 passenger arrivals on board yachts in 2010.

Minister of Tourism and International Transport Senator Richard "Ricky" Skerritt said recently that the yachting landscape in St Kitts and Nevis will change dramatically over the next few years.

St. Vincent

This year, the commemoration of Indian Arrival Day in St. Vincent was significantly different.

There were many activities leading to June 1, the officially recognized Indian Day Arrival.

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Indian Heritage

Foundation organized a re-enactment of the landing of Indians at Indian Bay, followed by a procession to Heritage Square, where there was a display of Indian cuisine, among other activities. For the first time, an International Indian Diaspora Conference was held from June 1-3.

Since 1975, Indian Diaspora conferences have been held mainly in Trinidad and Tobago and other larger territories.

It was organized by the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Chapter of the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin International in collaboration with the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Indian Heritage Foundation, with the support from the Ministry of Tourism and Culture. Participants came from several countries such as India, Sri Lanka, UK, USA, Canada and the Caribbean.

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Huge turnout for Stop 'n Frisk

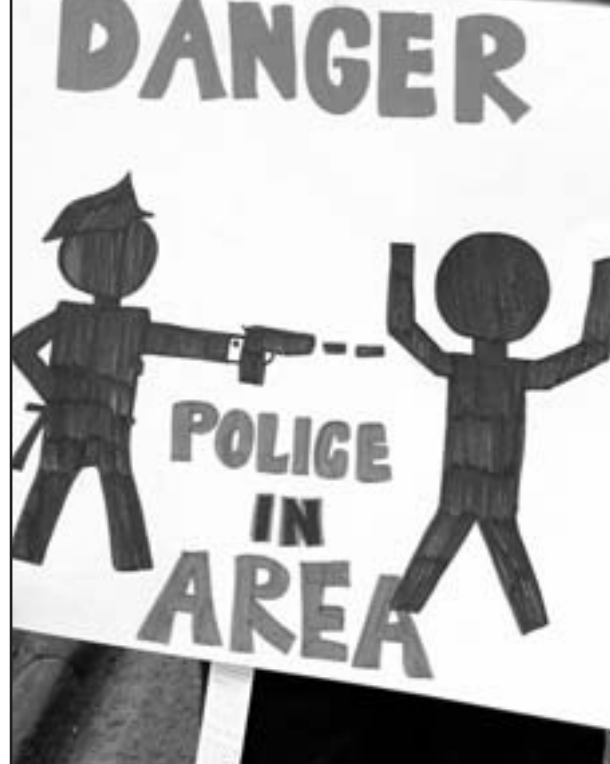
Continued from Page 3

levels than at any time in the city's history, in 94 percent of the stops, no arrests were made, and only a tiny percentage of the stops resulted in a ticket. Yet, Bloomberg and Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly persist in defending this policy, claiming that it keeps crime down and guns off the streets. Meanwhile, no gun was retrieved in 99.9 percent of the 2011 stops, leading critics to believe that all this action has actually accomplished is the violation of the civil rights of Black and Latino young men and the escalation of mistrust of police officers by these communities they are supposed to protect.

One of the many young men attending the march who had abundant first hand experience with this policing policy was 18-year-old Theo Wharton, who marched with the after school leadership program El Punte, (The Bridge).

Carrying a poster that read "My Skin Color Is Not a Crime," Wharton said that since the age of 12 or 13, he's been stopped and frisked so many times he's lost track. "I'm a tall African American male who lives in an area where there are lots of African Americans and Latinos, so the cops always assume we're up to no good – that we've got something on us or are doing something bad," he said. "When they check me they make it seem like I'm a criminal, but I'm not," he continued indignantly. "I'm just a normal human being. I like to play basketball and dance and do things like that. I'm nowhere near being a criminal. You know the saying, 'Don't judge a book by its cover.' Why do they always have to assume that I'm doing something wrong and make me feel bad about life just because of the way I look?"

Each of Manhattan's 12 Community Boards unanimously passed a resolution calling for the reform of stop and frisk. Activists are also calling on the Department of Justice to launch a probe into this program to see whether New Yorkers' civil rights are being violated.



Young man's poster expresses belief that police presence brings danger, not safety from danger.

Photo by Donna Lamb

In May, a federal judge who is strongly critical of NYC police tactics granted class-action status to a lawsuit claiming that the City's stop and frisk policy discriminates against Blacks and Latinos. In her written ruling, Manhattan U.S. District Judge Shira Scheindlin declared there is "overwhelming evidence" that the stop and frisk program has led to thousands of unlawful stops. She noted that the vast majority of New Yorkers

who are unlawfully stopped will never file a lawsuit in response, and she stated that class-action status was created for just these types of court cases.

Since Bloomberg and Kelly continue to turn a deaf ear to the facts that scream out loud and clear to countless others, maybe it will take a class-action lawsuit to stop the police harassment and bring justice to Theo Wharton and all the other good young men like him.

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On the Road to Rio

By Vicky Markham

In just a few days, thousands of delegates, heads of state, nongovernment activists and media will descend upon Rio de Janeiro to hash out our planet's environmental future at the United Nation's Rio+20 Earth Summit. They will talk about the health of the planet's environmental resources, our air, land, water and biological diversity, and how to manage and pay for it all.

But success at this meeting won't be achieved merely by protecting our planet's flora, fauna or climate. Their success - or failure - could hinge on the engagement of a pivotal, but often neglected, group of stakeholders: the world's women.

Around the world, from Rio to Uganda, the Pacific Cook Islands to Mississippi, US women play an important role as resource managers, and they are often on the front lines of environmental crises such as drought, sea-level rise and severe storms caused by climate change. For example, in Africa climate change has depleted water tables, decreased tree cover and degraded crop yields. This acutely affects women there who are the primary farmers, water and wood fuel providers. It has a ripple effect because the same climate change forces also decrease their abilities as care-givers to provide good quality health, education and economic options for themselves, their families, and their communities.

At the same time, women are glaringly under-represented in environmental

debates, negotiations, and decision-making from the community to international levels. At past meetings on the global environment, women led only 10% of delegations, and some 40% of delegations were comprised of men only, a number which has actually risen in recent years. As a result, though disproportionately affected, their specific concerns are often overlooked, and that is a mistake.

Empowering women through education, legal rights, healthcare, and economic opportunities is not only good for women and their families, but critical for the planet. And experts tell us that one of the most inexpensive yet powerful strategies for empowering women is through reproductive healthcare and family planning - yet more than 200 million women worldwide lack access to these services.

So, along with women's empowerment, meeting the until-now "unmet need for family planning" is essential for achieving sustainable development as part of Rio+20 objectives. As Musimbi Kanyoro of the Global Fund for Women said, "Sustainable development isn't sustainable if it doesn't include empowering women to plan their families, educate themselves and their children and have a voice in government at all levels."

Still, women, who should be an integral part of sustainable-development talks, remain under-represented or absent.

Women organized around the first Rio meeting in 1992, where women's role in sustainable development was first

Continued on page 12

Minimum wage increase will improve the business climate

By Mark S. Jaffe

Our mission at the Greater New York Chamber of Commerce is to improve the business climate and quality of life in New York. And raising the minimum wage will do just that.

That's right - a minimum wage increase will improve our business climate, not hurt it. It will help local businesses grow and prosper. And it will improve the quality of life for New Yorkers.

The Greater New York Chamber serves 25,000 business and civic leaders. Our members know a minimum wage increase is overdue.

Our members tell us that \$7.25 is not a fair starting wage. Employees can't make it on \$7.25 an hour. That comes to just \$15,080 for full-time, year-round work. Why should any cashier, security guard, cook, health aide or any other worker be paid so little by their employer? They should not.

Workers need more money in their pockets to make ends meet. But the money doesn't stay there. It goes right back into businesses as workers buy groceries and other necessities for themselves and their families. Raising the wages of workers with the least income is a vital way to boost consumer spending and inject millions of dollars into the state economy, which our businesses need to keep the recovery going.

People should also realize that workers are often the face of the business. When workers aren't constantly struggling and stressed about how to pay for transportation, how to pay rent, how to keep the lights on, and so forth, they are more productive and attentive to the needs of the customer and the business. They are more committed to the business instead of constantly seeking another job somewhere else that will pay the bills.

If minimum wage increases were determined by who had the most expensive, powerful lobbyists, the minimum wage would never go up. Some businesses (including retail and fast food outlets) are accustomed to paying the lowest wages allowed by law. It is time they take into account that the federal minimum wage is not adjusted for the cost of living by region. Moreover, federal and state increases have been so irregular that the value of the minimum wage has been severely eroded by infla-

tion.

Eighteen states have already raised their minimum wages above the federal level of \$7.25. Many of them have much lower costs of living than New York. And ten states index their minimum wages to inflation so they don't keep falling behind the cost of living.

For minimum wage opponents, it's never the right time to raise the minimum wage. They will block it as long as possible, claiming businesses will be hurt by an increase whether the economy is booming or bad.

The majority of New York's small businesses pay above \$7.25 now and so do large businesses like Costco and EILEEN FISHER. They show every day how fair wages are part of a smart business strategy - boosting worker productivity, reducing turnover, improving customer service and building their business and our economy for the long haul.

Last month, the State Assembly passed a bill that would increase the minimum wage to \$8.50 per hour, while also providing for yearly adjustments to the minimum wage based on changes in the cost of living.

Let's cut through the rhetoric. If Costco and other chamber members can pay a starting wage of \$11 an hour there is no reason Walmart, Target and all employers can't pay at least \$8.50 in our state.

New York's minimum wage would be nearly \$11 now if it had kept up with the cost of living since 1970, when the state minimum peaked in value. It's time for minimum wage opponents to stop pretending businesses can't afford to pay a starting wage of \$8.50, which is still lower than the value of the minimum wage that businesses paid four decades ago.

It's also time for the NYS Senate to listen to the large majority of New Yorkers and get a law passed that will help New York's poorest workers and our state economy.

This is an issue that is not going away! Let's hope that both Senate Majority Leader Skelos and Governor Cuomo can do more talking about how we can pass a minimum wage increase this year!

Mark S. Jaffe is president and CEO of the Greater New York Chamber of Commerce. www.NY-chamber.com.

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

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Dire need for a massive pushback

Les Slater

There are some folks facing a monumental responsibility in this game-changing year that the control freaks on the right and some of this country's super rich would like to make of 2012.

Sinister forces, ignominiously including the nation's highest court, have colluded to make possible perhaps the most barefaced power grab by the already powerful within living memory. In the face of which one cannot but wonder whether those who purportedly advocate for the masses have taken the measure of the humongous mobilization effort this lethal right-side assault will clearly demand.

It's not difficult to appreciate that maybe because this all-out, mega bucks-fueled push for executive and legislative control is so extreme, lots of people are not yet hip to what the end game is, of those machinations now being busily designed and fine-tuned by plotters. Mark Shields, the PBS analyst, hardly one to spew unfounded nuggets from the political battleground, noted recently that 32 billionaires had so far contributed to Mitt Romney's campaign. Each time a number is thrown up or speculated upon, as to what's being poured into the Republican presidential and Congressional campaigns by super-PACs, the level of abomination just rises exponentially. All of which makes it highly unlikely that they will match, on the people's side of the gulf, the kind of money trough the Republican/Tea Party/super rich alliance has already assembled and to which they will be adding liberally before Election Day arrives. It's obvious that only in the effective use of people power does there lie hope to thwart the shameless takeover of American government and politics by those entirely beholden to the warlords of big business.

Sensitizing the many to the conniving ways of the few and their dreadful impact down the road, if allowed to proceed unimpeded, is a major tactical maneuver that should com-

Viewpoint

mand the full attention of assorted stakeholders but, one fears, is doing so not nearly enough at this stage. If ever there was a

time for full-throated assertiveness by the vaunted 99 percent, it is now. Maybe there's some serious talking among leaders of groups one would expect to be on the frontlines of a pushback movement and fruits of such discussion will soon materialize – groups like Common Cause, the Democratic Party, Rev. Sharpton's National Action Network, National Organization for Women, AARP, the Occupy movement, labor unions... Not to mention, when school resumes in the fall, the college and high school communities.

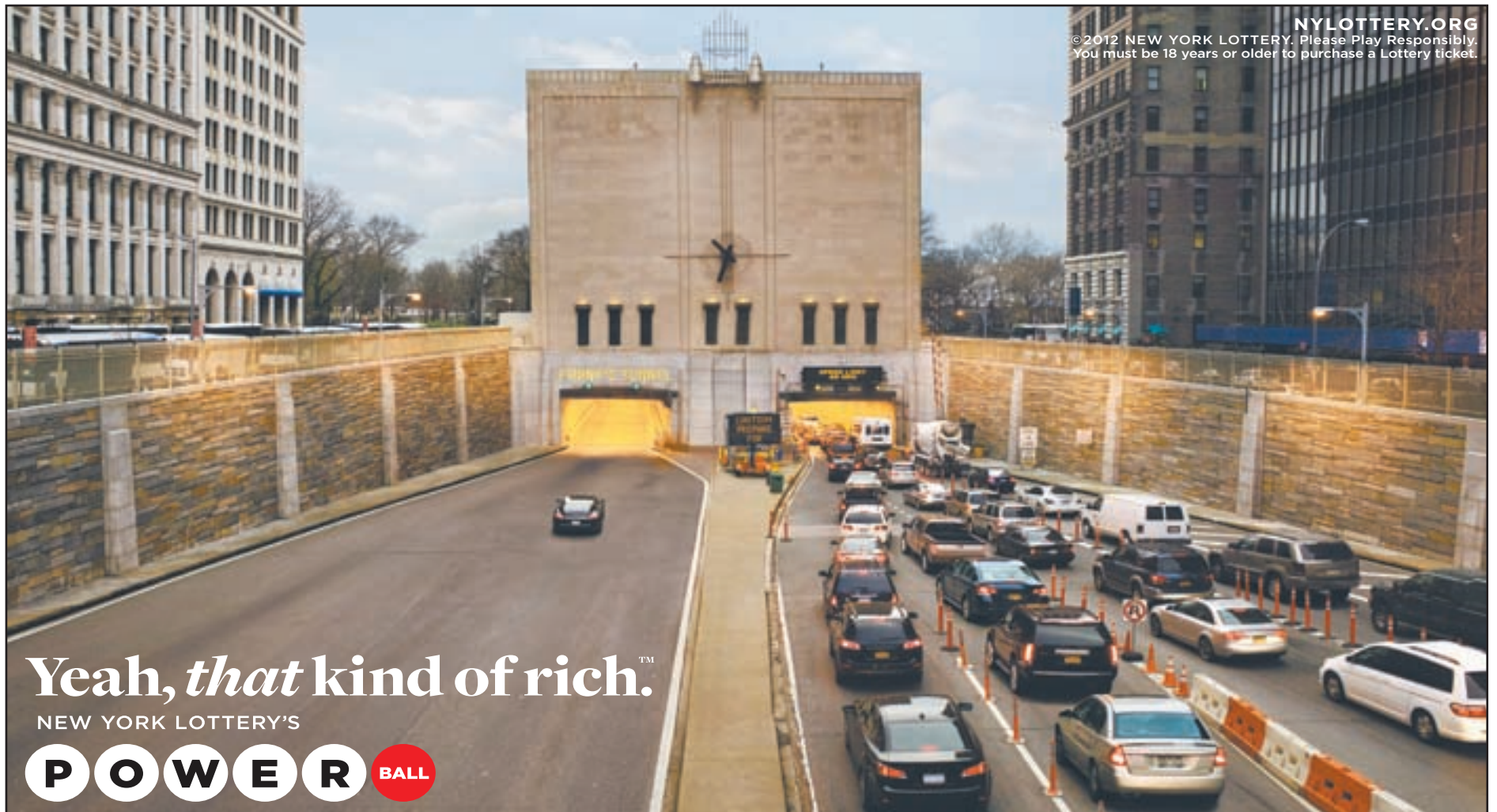
Indeed these last could be quite pivotal in turning the tables on those who believe fat wallets to be the key to their undisputed dominion over the political landscape. We watched in stunned disbelief last year at the role social media played in the Arab Spring. Wouldn't it be something if young people, who largely were the catalyst for those uprisings clamoring for democracy, could be a core element in the fight to preserve a democracy under serious threat here.

But after all else in this unsettling pass in the American journey has been stripped bare, we return unavoidably to what primarily is facilitating this developing 2012 horror show. The Supreme Court registered an approval rating of 44 percent in a recent New York Times/CBS News poll, and no one should be chastised for wondering why that number wasn't lower. Domination of the court's rulings by its conservative ideologue majority (Anthony Kennedy is touted as the swing vote but his "swing" seems decidedly conservative) has made rulings of this court fairly predictable. The same

poll found that three quarters of the public thought the justices' votes were governed by their political orientation. It was "swing" man Kennedy who wrote in the Citizens United decision that allowed unlimited and unidentified money into the electoral process, that the justices were of the view that the unholy mess now being made of the system, would not result. Truth be told, we have a Supreme Court whose conduct, for the most part, has been anything but supreme, the Citizens United decision as unpleasant a reminder of this as anything.

The die has been cast, though. And until there is summoned in the legislative and/or judicial branch the collective tenacity to erase the blotch on the country, courtesy the Roberts court, the responsibility for containing this insidiousness falls to vox populi. To think of it, there should be no contest as far as what message resonates with the 99 percent (never mind those factually in this number who allow disdain for anything or anyone that smacks of progressive or middle-ground solutions to problems to make them, in effect, sacrificial lambs for hounds on the other side). The country, for instance has been in the grip of a stubborn recession since 2008. Experts seem to have generally agreed that the absence of strong regulations in the financial sector was what precipitated the economic collapse. Not even nightmare scenarios on that order would temper the Republican/Tea Party/super rich alliance's rally cry that regulations of any kind are bad business. Go figure.

Perhaps providentially, Republicans first brandished "class warfare" as criticism of the opposition. It has come to be a perfect fit, as applied to their master design for America: war on the bulk of the people disguised as leading their crusade. Even without the back-up of deep pockets, the 99 percent should blow this treachery to bits. Effective mobilization would best the bullies with greenbacks any time. Check the Arab Spring.



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How Should the Winners Govern?

Lee Hamilton

When I first went to Washington in the 1960s as a novice congressman, the Democratic Party was clearly in control. It held the White House and enjoyed big majorities in both houses of Congress.

So big, in fact, that a sizable group of Democratic politicians argued that when it came to crafting legislation, the most important value was to attain large majorities and push through an ideologically pure agenda without even consulting the minority. Compromising in order to get Republican votes would mean surrendering core principles.

This might sound familiar to you. Although today, of course, the positions are reversed: it's the Republicans in Congress and on the stump who argue that sticking to core principles ought to be their highest priority.

Political campaigns are not just

about who will govern, but also about the candidates' vision and how they plan to achieve it. This is not the first time in our history that two very different approaches to wielding power were on offer.

The first has characterized most of our nation's history: a willingness to engage in robust debate over competing ideas, work across ideological divides, negotiate differences, seek consensus, and above all find a way to strike a deal and move forward. Its emphasis is on problem-solving and finding workable solutions to the great problems that confront our nation.

Its motivating philosophy is that politicians' ultimate responsibility is to make the country work — not merely to satisfy their own, partisan beliefs. It is what has made possible most of the great pieces of legislation that have shaped this nation — everything from rural

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On the Road to Rio

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acknowledged. That conference marked the first time that world leaders and governments considered the essential role of women in resolving global sustainability challenges, and it included gender-sensitive language. Its final outcome document said, "Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development." At that initial meeting, there was a women's movement that crafted a gender perspective into sustainable development, spearheaded by Bella Abzug, D-N.Y., Nobel Prize-winner Wangari Maathai, Indian environmental feminist Vandana Shiva and the Brazilian social entrepreneur, Thais Corral and many others. These women created a communal meeting space where on each day of the conference, interventions and strategies were shared and analyzed and a collective wom-

en's voice was formed.

Today, another powerful movement of women is mobilizing to bring that role to fruition. They are working to get more gender-specific language included in the Rio+20 agenda, and forming new collaborations of global women to advocate on the issues post-Rio. In an unprecedented move, achieving universal access to voluntary family planning is being linked with achieving environmental sustainability more broadly. [Imagine!] In the context of Rio+20 women and girls are being given fresh opportunities to speak out, in their own voices, about what is needed to maintain a healthy balance between the environment and people like themselves.

Rio+20 opens brand new prospects for us to increase women's empowerment, generate support for family planning through an environmental lens, and integrate gender into the sustainable-develop-

ment debate.

Linking women, family planning and sustainable development provides us a so far under-utilized opportunity to use the Rio+20 process to move the issues forward — and actually be transformational. Let's make sure these women's views count, not only for those policymakers and governments attending Rio+20, but for all of us.

Markham is founding director of the Center for Environment and Population (CEP).

This article was produced in partnership with the American Forum/ National Women's Editorial Forum.

Vicky Markham has over 25 years' experience in the field of population/women/reproductive health and environment/sustainable development science, policy, advocacy and public outreach. She was a member of the World Wildlife Federation delegation to the UN International Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992.



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Fresh Connect farmers market opens in Harlem

By Kingsley Dougan

A statewide initiative to increase New Yorkers' access to fresh farm products entered a second year last week with the opening of the Harlem farmers market on June 12 at 125th street on the plaza in front of the Adam Clayton Powell Jr. New York State Office Building in Central Harlem.

"It's a sign of the season when farmers start bringing their goods to the market, and it is a pleasure to say that the 125th Street Farmers' Market is now open for the second year," said Gov. Andrew Cuomo. "Our state has one of the most diverse agriculture industries and this market allows farmers to bring local, fresh and affordable products to Harlem. I encourage all New Yorkers to visit and participate in these markets this summer."

The 125th Street Fresh Connect Farmers' Market "overcomes a great divide in our state between our farmers and our consumers, and is the ideal location to highlight Gov. Andrew Cuomo's FreshConnect program," New York State Agriculture Commissioner Darrel J. Aubertine said. "We are excited to support this market again and provide the citizens of Harlem with some of the finest and freshest New York State farm products."

Opened in 2011, the 125th St. FreshConnect Farmers' Market will operate every Tuesday, through Nov. 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., rain or shine. This year, the market will be expanding the number of New York farmers and local vendors selling locally grown and processed foods, as well as providing a variety of free community activities.

To assist as many families as possible and help increase their ability to access fresh food, the market will accept Food Stamp benefits as well as other nutrition incentives, such as Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) checks. Starting in July, the 125th Street FreshConnect Farmers' Market, along with select other markets throughout the State, will also offer FreshConnect Checks, a nutrition incentive to encourage

Food

Food Stamp recipients to use their benefits at the market by providing \$2 rebate checks for every \$5 in Food Stamps spent at participating markets.

nator Bill Perkins said, "Today is a great day for the residents of my district as we open up a new FreshConnects market in Harlem. I commend Governor Cuomo for his direct leadership on this program and look forward to working with his administration on the other important issues impacting all residents of New York."

Assemblyman Keith L.T. Wright, chairman of the Harlem Community Development Corporation, said, "The 125th Street FreshConnect Farmers' Market will help achieve a circle of sustainability in New York State, bringing upstate farmers and low-income urban communities together in a symbiotic relationship. During my years as Chairman of the Assembly's Social Services Committee, it was a priority of mine to help communities like Harlem improve access to fresh and affordable produce. The FreshConnect Farmers' Market will accept food stamps and offer rebate checks for those customers who utilize them to purchase produce, allowing all communities to enjoy the bounty of New York State."

The market will be managed by Tupacamaru Tiwoni of Harlem Memorial Community Development, Inc. Tiwoni has experience in developing and managing farmers' markets and is the founder of the Wholistic Family Expo, a local health and wellness program. As both a resident and a parent, she is committed to bringing healthy, wholesome food to Central Harlem.

Tupacamaru Tiwoni, Manager of the 125th Street FreshConnect Farmers' Market, said, "As a native Harlemiter,

I am excited for this market season, and for the 125th Street FreshConnect market to continue to provide residents with a growing assortment of local, farm fresh foods. This year, the market will focus on providing a holistic experience combining good nutrition with healthy lifestyle choices in a community-oriented atmosphere with a flair that is uniquely Harlem."

More farmers and vendors will be added as the growing season progresses and more produce is ready to harvest.

Free Events at the Farmers' Market Every Week

Throughout the market season, the market will host a number of free, weekly educational and entertainment activities, including many hosted by local community groups such as Harlem Seeds, Harlem Garden, Harlem Grown, SNAP Gardens, New York Road Runners, Bikram Yoga East Harlem and the Natural Living Institute.

- **Yoga on the Plaza:** Every week, market shoppers can stop by for a free yoga, weather permitting. At 10:30 a.m., shoppers can join a local instructor for Vinyasa Yoga, a fast-paced yoga session. At 5:15, join Bikram Yoga East Harlem for a variety of stretching and breathing exercises.

- **Market Walks:** Meet at the market for light stretching and an hour long walk with members of New York Road Runners. A light stroll for seniors will take place weekly starting at 10:30 a.m. An evening walk, open for any age and ability, will start at 6:00 p.m. These events are weather permitting.

- **Health and Nutrition Workshops & Cooking Demonstrations:** There will be free weekly programs on nutrition education and healthy lifestyles, as well as free samples of local food and copies of easy recipes for market shoppers.

- **Raffle Drawings:** Every week, there will be free raffles of farm fresh food and other local prizes to market shoppers who either use their Food Stamp benefits at the market or participate in the free Health and Nutrition Workshops. Drawings will take place at 12:30, 3:30 and 6:15.

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Grants for Caribbean partnered businesses

By Tequila Minsky

Are you an entrepreneur? Do you want to start or expand a business in the Caribbean? Have you been sitting on an idea for a while? Now is the time to take it to the next step and the State Department wants to give you some help.

At the CARICOM Conference last year in Jamaica, Secretary of State Hilary Clinton recognized the source of support the Caribbean Diaspora is to their country of origin, particularly through remittances.

"But there are other ways that the Diaspora community can be harnessed, because that great store of talent, energy and entrepreneurial spirit can be put to work here in the Caribbean," she said.

It is understood that investment and creating jobs and economic development is a superior route than remittances. Jose Jorge Saavedra of Inter-American Development Bank, (IDB), said at an information session in Brooklyn, "Remittances serve a social purpose but go to consump-

tion helping employment in China."

The jointly funded Compete Caribbean program is a new and innovative approach to private sector development. It collaborates with governments and private sector groups to improve competitiveness and economic growth across 15 beneficiary countries in the Caribbean region. Forty million dollars have been set aside to promote the private sector.

A project of Compete Caribbean is the Caribbean Idea Marketplace (CIM) competition, developed to encourage local and Diaspora entrepreneurs to forge partnerships around innovative projects that will generate employment and opportunities in the Caribbean. (www.compete-caribbean.org). Matching grants in the amount of \$100,000 will be awarded to the winning business ideas.

The deadline for applying has been extended until July 31. The only five-page application is to be filled out on-line: www.compete-caribbean.org/program/caribbean-idea-marketplace-application.



The experts who talked about the partnership between local and "homeland" entrepreneurs, the Caribbean Idea Marketplace (CIM), stand amidst Caribbean locals interested in business development. Una Clarke (center), and Roy Hassick (fifth from left) and his wife on the right.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

ibbean-idea-marketplace-application.

The Diaspora partner must be a legal resident or citizen of the USA, Canada or UK or have a deep connection or experience in the Caribbean; the Caribbean partner must come from a CARICOM country or the Dominican Republic. Basically, 25 percent of financing must come from each partner.

This is a two-tier process. About 20 projects will be

selected from the applications in the first-round; the chosen applicants will be awarded a \$10,000 stipend to develop a business plan. From these plans, the final recipients will be selected.

Previous selected projects were cell phone manufacturing, Caribbean cargo shipping route and schedule information, access, and booking capacity via a website for those who need cargo transport from the islands, and a chocolate

factory providing manufacturing services to many different growers/chocolate companies--so that each producer/company did not need its own factory.

Following the recent formal information presentation at Brooklyn Borough Hall, questions were asked regarding transportation and shipping issues, weak infrastructure, need for technical assistance, easing the obtaining of visas, and financing.

Thomas Debass, director for Global Partnerships from the State Department, responded that the scope of these issues were not part of this program. He emphasized that this was not a "financing" operation but a jump-start grant for a beginning or expanding business.

Waldaba Stewart, who teaches Introduction to Social Sciences at Medgar Evers, shook things up during the question period, stating that the "seed money" wouldn't solve these countries' economic problems. He challenged the panel to go back to their agencies, "If the right scenarios are made, millions could be accessed from Caribbean Diaspora venture capitalists."

Community icon and promoter of Caribbean businesses Roy Hastick wrapped up the session thanking the panel and the opportunities this initiative afforded in help to both homeland and local entrepreneurs.

The U.S. Department of State, Digicel and Scotiabank are taking the lead on this CIM initiative.

Small Business Resources

Bronx Small Business Development Center

Lehman College SBDC
250 Bedford Park Blvd. West
Old Gym Building, Room 007
Bronx, N.Y. 10468-1589
Clarence Stanley, Director
Tel: (718) 960-8806
Fax: (718) 960-7340
Email:
bxsdbc@binc.org
Website:
<http://bronx.nyssbdc.org>

Brooklyn Small Business Development Center

Boricua College
9 Graham Avenue
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11206-4108
Angel Roman, Director
Tel: (718) 963-4112 X563
Fax: (718) 963-2031
Email:
BoricuaSBDC@mindspring.com
Website:
<http://brooklyn.nyssbdc.org>

Buffalo Small Business Development

Center
State University College at Buffalo
Grover Cleveland Hall, Room 206
1300 Elmwood Avenue
Buffalo, N.Y. 14222-4222
Susan McCartney, Director
Tel: (716) 878-4030
Fax: (716) 878-4067
Email:
buffalosbdc@yahoo.com
Website:
<http://buffalo.nyssbdc.org>

Canton Small Business Development Center

SUNY Canton
Faculty Office Building, Room 202
34 Cornell Drive
Canton, N.Y. 13617-1098
Dale Rice, Director
Tel: (315) 386-7312
Fax: (315) 379-3814
Generic Email:
sbdc@canton.edu
Email:
coreyb.canton.edu

Website:
<http://canton.nyssbdc.org>

Small Business Development Center
Corning Community College
24 Denison Parkway West, Suite 203
Corning, NY 14830-3297
Bonnie Gestwicki, Director
Tel: (607) 962-9461
Fax: (607) 936-6642
Email:
gestwicki@corning-cc.edu
Website:
<http://corning.nyssbdc.org>

Jamestown
Small Business Development Center
Jamestown Community College
P.O. Box 20
525 Falconer Street
Jamestown, N.Y. 14702-0020
Irene Dobies, Director
Tel: (716) 665-5754 or
Toll Free: 1-800-522-7232
Fax: (716) 665-6733
Email:

irenedobies@mail.sunyjc.edu
Website:

<http://www.jamestown.nyssbdc.org>
Long Island (Farmingdale)
Small Business Development Center
SUNY @ Farmingdale
Campus Commons
2350 Route
110 Farmingdale, NY 11735-1006
Lucille Wesnofske, Director
Tel: (631) 420-2765/7930/7931/7952
Fax: (631) 370-8895
Email:

Wesnoff@farmingdale.edu
Website:
<http://www.farmingdale.edu/SBDC>
Long Island (Stony Brook)
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SUNY at Stony Brook
Nicolls Road
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Stony Brook, N.Y. 11794-3777
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SUN KULCHA

COMMUNITY EVENTS

FRIDAY, JUNE 22

Harlem Pride Harlem Pride presents its 3rd Pride Celebration including events on Fri., 6/22 with the VIP Launch Party and Fundraiser at 730 Riverside Drive, Ste. 9E at West 150th St., N.Y., 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.; Sat., 6/23, Harlem Pride Day Celebration at Jackie Robinson Park, West 145 St., between Bradhurst and Edgecombe avenues, 12 Noon - 6:00 p.m.; and ending on Sun., 6/24, with the Heritage of Pride Parade, starting at 36 St. and Fifth Ave and ending at Christopher and Greenwich streets, 12 Noon - 6:00 p.m. For more information and complete event schedule visit www.harlempride.org.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23

3 Mile Walk Youth Fighting Obesity is hosting the Obesity "3" Mile Walk to Prospect Park, 8:00 a.m., meeting at Bedford Ave. and Campus Road, in front of Midwood High School. For more information on "O3K" call (347) 728-0149.

Call For Artists The Fulton Art Fair 2012 is calling on all visual artists of the African Diaspora to submit their work for a chance to exhibit at the fair, Harriet Tubman Blvd., Fulton St., between Lewis and Stuyvesant avenues, Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, on 6/23, 24, 30 and 7/1, 12 Noon to 8:00 p.m. each day. For application and information visit www.fultonartfair.com or call Ms. Kee at (347) 645-4383.

Jazz: Brooklyn Beat The Heart of Brooklyn and WBG0 88.3 FM presents Jazz: Brooklyn's Beat featuring Felix Hernandez Rhythm Revue Dance Party at Prospect Park's Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn, 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. For information call (718) 638-7700.

Dog & Cat Vaccinations Luv My Pet is sponsoring low-cost dog and cat vaccination clinics at 34-60 48 St., between 48 and Northern, LIC on 6/23 and 30, 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. and 6/30 at 91-08 Atlantic Ave, Pathmark Shopping Center, Ozone Park, 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. For more information call Amy Eisenberg at (631) 263-6363.

Caribbean Festival The 3rd Annual Long Island Caribbean American Int'l. Festival will be held at the Harry Chapin Lakeside Theatre in Eisenhower Park, Mineola, N.Y., 1:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. to commemorate Caribbean Heritage Month and celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Jamaica and Trinidad's independence and will offer music, food, displays, an awards ceremony, a tourist expo and a health/wellness pavilion sponsored by local hospitals. For information visit www.streetsofnewyork411.com.

SUNDAY, JUNE 24

Heritage Service A'vitar Foundation and A



Food Stamp Outreach

Find out if you are eligible to receive Food Stamp benefits! A representative from the NYC Human Resources Administration will be available to assist you with eligibility pre-screening & to answer any questions every Tues. & Wed., 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Community Board 12, 4101 White Plains Road at 229 St., Bronx. For more information, call (718) 881-4455.



Financial Coaching

We all have goals - paying off bills, saving for a home, improving our credit score, etc., etc. The Financial Capabilities & Coaching Program is a personal approach to help reach goals. For more information, call the Neighborhood Housing Services of East Flatbush at (718) 469-4679.

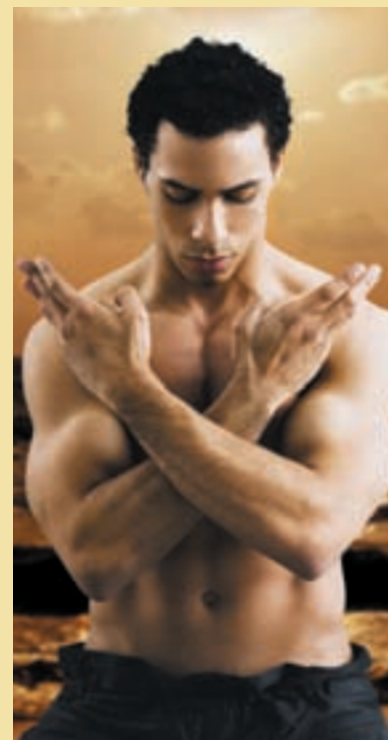
Fe We Culture presents "Carib Gold Heritage Service", "One Heart, One Spirit, One Culture", celebrating 50 years of independence for Trinidad & Tobago and Jamaica, 4:00 p.m., at the Sacred Heart Church, 115 Sharpe Blvd, Mount Vernon, N.Y. For more information and to RSVP call Dillard Boone at (914) 513-9087 or Ms. Pitcan at (718) 655-5369.

Health Fair The Church of St. Mark Episcopal is holding a free Health Fair and Wellness Day, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at St. Mark Day School, 1346 President St., corner of Brooklyn Ave. and President St., featuring screening and counseling for blood pressure, cholesterol HIV/AIDS, blood sugar, dental care, vision, asthma and mammograms. Early registration is required for Mobile Mammograms by calling (800) 564-6868.

Community Street Fair UPI Brooklyn is holding a Community Street Fair evoking the entrepreneurial spirit with the opportunity to display and market products, services, music and art, Beverly Rd., between Rogers and E. 28 St., For information contact Brother Tuitt at (718) 284-4453.

Tai Chi

Stop. Breath. Relax. Join Tai Chi Easy, a wellness practice combining Tai-chi, Qigong, meditation & Chinese healing, taught by Daniel Weicher, certified teacher in Integral Qigong & Tai Chi, every Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at the Moore Street Market, 110 Moore St., entrance on Humbolt St., Brooklyn. Donations are appreciated. Call (914) 673-6016 for information.



MONDAY, JUNE 25

Spay/Neuter Petland Discounts and the ASPCA Mobile Unit is offering dog and cat spay/neuter clinics in Queens on 6/25 at 55-52 Myrtle Ave., between Cypress and Putnam, Ridgewood; 6/26 at 3720 Main St., between 38 and 39 avenues, Flushing; 6/27 at Metropolitan Ave., between Rentar and Plaza, Middle Village; 6/28 91-08 Atlantic Ave., Pathmark Center, Ozone Park, 6/29 71-08 Kissena Blvd., between Aguilar and 71, Kew Garden Hills and 6/30 37-55 82 St., between 37 and Roosevelt, Jackson Heights, beginning at 7:00 a.m. at all venues. For information call Amy Eisenberg at (621) 273-6363.

Jazz Jazzy Mondays presents Preston Reddick, RESURA, along with performances by young musicians from PS 3, PS 5, PS 137 and IS 113 and including celebrating Angela Hope-Weusi's birthday, 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. at For My Sweet, 1103 Fulton St., at Claver Place, Brooklyn. For information and to RSVP call (718) 857-1427 or (917) 757-0170.

TUESDAY, JUNE 26

Midsummer Night Swing Lincoln Center's Midsummer Night Swing kicks off its season on 6/26 with The Nelson Riddle Orchestra: A Tribute to Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald Ballroom. All shows take place at the bandshell and elevated dance floor in Damrosch Park, on West 62 St., between Columbus and Amsterdam avenues, N.Y., starting at 6:30 p.m. with dance lesson and live music and dancing 7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Tickets are available at The Swing box office located in the lobby of Avery Fisher Hall, Broadway and 65 St. and can also be purchased thru CenterCharge, (212) 721-6500. For a full schedule visit www.MidsummerNightSwing.org.

Chamber of Commerce The Greater N.Y. Chamber of Commerce is holding an Open House Networking Breakfast, 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. followed by a presentation of Affordable Health Care, 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. at 20 West 44 St., N.Y. For information and to RSVP visit www.ny-chamber.com.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27

J@LC J@LC presents Dion Parson and The 21st Century Band thru 7/1, 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. plus 11:30 p.m. on Fri. and Sat., at Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola, 5th Fl., Frederick P. Rose Hall, Broadway at 60th St., N.Y. For tickets call (212) 258-9595 or visit jalc.org.

HIV Testing Day Mt. Paran Community Development Corp. is hosting National HIV Testing Day Health Fair featuring free rapid HIV testing with incentives at Mt. Paran Baptist Church, 1665 Broadway, Brooklyn, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. For information call Mr. Elliot at (718) 443-8217.

THURSDAY, JUNE 28

Free Music at BAM BAM presents its R&B Festival featuring Fishbone with his funk-punk-metal-ska septet, 12 Noon at MetroTech concert stage located on the lawn at MetroTech Commons in Downtown Brooklyn between Jay St. and Flatbush Ave. where Myrtle Ave. ends. For information visit BAM.org.MetroTech or call (718) 636-4100.

Jazz: Brooklyn Beat The Heart of Brooklyn and WBG0 88.3 FM presents Jazz: Brooklyn's Beat featuring the Jeremy Pelt Quintet at the Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Pkwy, 7:00 p.m. Free with Museum admission. for information call (718) 638-7700.

SATURDAY, JUNE 30

Annual Symposium The N.Y. Chapter of the Nat'l. Assn. of Kawaida Organizations and the Int'l African Arts Festival presents The 23rd Annual Symposium on Culture, Community, and Struggle, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at PS 287, Navy St., at Flushing Ave., near the Manhattan Bridge and the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Pre-Registration is required by 6/26/12. For admission, information and directions call (718) 523-3312, (718) 789-3246 or email nakoinfogroups@yahoo.com.

Compiled by Ida Eisenstein

East Flatbush welcomes a new neighborhood business

By Kingsley Dougan

Brooklyn Assemblywoman Rhoda Jacobs and Dr. Roy Hastick, president of the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry joined community and religious leaders and residents from Brooklyn's East Flatbush Caribbean community, in welcoming the Caribe Funeral Home and Floral Studio to the neighborhood.

Owner, Joseph Fasano says the facility, located at 1992 Utica Ave. (between Ave. K and Ave. L), was established to fill the need for a funeral home in Brooklyn with which the Caribbean population could identify.

Among the vast array of services specifically designed to cater to the Caribbean community, the funeral home offers the option of videotaping services and live streaming via

the Internet -- a service which can be invaluable to families of deceased who live in the Caribbean and are unable to travel to New York for a memorial.

"As legislators in Albany, funeral-related issues frequently come before us and we are very active in defending the concepts and laws that have been put into place to protect people who are perhaps at their most vulnerable" Assemb. Jacobs told the crowd. She also noted that she and her staff "legislatively and economically support the efforts of local entrepreneurs such as the Caribe Funeral Home and Floral Studio in order to both support the neighborhood with new services and bolster the economy through job creation.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and the face of our community, and I am proud to

be here to offer my support for a venture that will make our community stronger," she said.

To learn more about the Caribe Funeral Home, call 718-44-1818 or log on to www.caribefuneral.com.



Community leaders participate in the ribbon-cutting. Office of Assemb. Rhoda Jacobs

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How Should the Winners Govern?

Continued from page 12

electrification to federal highways.

In recent months, the U.S. Senate has moved toward this approach, voting to overhaul the U.S. Postal Service, fund transportation programs, confirm judges and in other ways try to make government work.

The other approach has been on view more often than not in the House, and was prominent in the Indiana Republican primary that recently ended in the defeat of Sen. Richard Lugar. It holds that in order to achieve policy goals it's crucial to purify the party, purge it of moderates, and work hard to reach overwhelming, possibly even permanent, political victory.

It rests on a belief that the political philosophies at large in the country right now are irreconcilable, and that reaching a compromise in the interest of moving legislation is impossible without betraying core principles.

In this view, Washington does not need more collegiality, it needs less. It does not need cooperation, but confrontation. It needs purists who will stick to their fundamental

beliefs, do their best to keep winning elections, and ultimately control the White House, the House and a filibuster-proof majority in the Senate.

This is not an irrational or illegitimate approach to governing. There are plenty of politicians of both major parties who have, at one time or another, advocated this approach.

But there's a practical problem with it: It is very hard to make work. The kinds of majorities that make ideologically pure legislating possible don't come along very often — and when they do, they don't tend to last very long. The old catchphrase that “nothing is ever really settled in Washington” is true — because the political agenda is always changing.

Moreover, our system is designed to make it difficult for majorities to have their way. That's what the separation of powers is about, and the pivotal notion of “checks and balances.”

Indeed, legislation that has bipartisan support tends not just to be more durable and of a higher quality than if it does not, it is also easier to implement. As a governing tactic, ideological purity has enormous

practical difficulties.

Nonetheless, in the upcoming election these two approaches — negotiation and flexibility vs. unyielding dedication to an ideology — will both be part of the package of issues that voters must weigh. Which makes it crucial that candidates talk not only about policy, but also about process — not only about where they want the country to go, but also about how they expect it to get there. Which approach do they favor? If they get into office, how will they govern?

Their answers will make a difference in how we as a nation tackle the challenges that confront us. So as campaign season truly gets under way and the candidates who would represent you start showing up to ask for your vote, don't let them off the hook: Ask them not just what they want to accomplish, but how they'll go about it.

Lee Hamilton is Director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

Brookdale unveils renovated cardiac catheterization lab

First Hospital in Brooklyn with this state-of-the-art imaging equipment

Brooklyn, NY - Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center was joined today by Senate Minority Leader John Sampson, Assembly Members Nick Perry and Inez Barron, Council Member Charles Barron, Brooklyn Deputy Borough President Sandra Champan and other local representatives to open a new state-of-the-art cardiac catheterization lab, including the most high-tech imaging equipment found in Brooklyn. The \$2 million project, started in 2009, more than doubles the space within the 24/7 unit and will help Brookdale physicians provide faster and more efficient car-

diac diagnosis and treatment to local residents. The additional space and improved equipment will also increase the amount of patients that the lab is able to serve. Of the 50,000 patients each year that are seen in the Department of Cardiology at Brookdale, the Cardiac Catheterization Lab already performs more than 1,000 procedures — such as angioplasties, angiograms and stenting — annually.

“Brookdale is a hospital that is always looking for ways to improve its care for the community,” said President and CEO Mark E. Toney. “Adding this new state-of-the-art imaging equipment and expanded cardiac lab puts us at the forefront of cardiac care facilities in the borough.”

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Presidential proclamation

By President Barack Obama

Individuals and families from Caribbean countries have journeyed to America's shores for centuries. Some were brought here against their will in the bonds of slavery. Some immigrated to America as children, clutching a parent's hand. Others came as adults, leaving behind everything they knew in pursuit of a better life in a new world. Generations of Caribbean Americans have sought to ensure their children and grandchildren would have the freedom to make of their lives what they will, and during National Caribbean-American Heritage Month, we celebrate their rich narratives and recognize their immeasurable contributions to our country.

Caribbean Americans have shaped every aspect of our society -- enhancing our arts and humanities as titans of music and literature, spurring our economy as intrepid entrepreneurs, making new discoveries as scientists and engineers, serving as staunch advocates for social and political change, and defending our ideals at home and abroad as leaders in our military. Their achievements exemplify the tenacity and perseverance embedded in our national character, and their stories embody the fundamental American idea that when access to opportunity is equal, anyone can make it if they try.

As we reflect on the myriad ways Caribbean Americans have shaped our country, we join in commemorating the 50th anniversaries of inde-



U.S. President Barack Obama.

pendence in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, and we reaffirm the bonds of friendship we share with our Caribbean neighbors. This month, let us celebrate the essence of the Nation we all love -- an America where so many of our ancestors have come from somewhere else; a society that has been enriched by cultures from around the world.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2012 as National Caribbean-American Heritage Month. I encourage all Americans to celebrate the history and culture of Caribbean Americans with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-sixth.

Barack Obama.

AN INSPIRATION TO OTHERS

By Kingsley Dougan

Aliza Fatima has become an inspiration to all ages and an outstanding citizen of New York City.

Aliza's Guyanese-American parents instilled in her the belief that equality is a basic right. She attended P.S. 131 Abigail Adams to the present at George J. Ryan Middle School.

Even at a young age, she has become a force in social, political and community issues; president of her student body, honor student and active campaigner, and recognized by the president of Guyana, the governor of New York, the mayor of New York and the New York City Police Department for her outstanding services to her community.

"The Sky's the Limit" for Aliza Fatima who is a credit to all Guyanese-Americans and her fellow New Yorkers.

Awarded proclamations, and citations from Gov. David Paterson, Sen. Ada Smith, Assemblyman William Scarborough, Councilmember Leroy



Aliza Fatima.

Comrie, and Senator Frank Padavan and many others, and featured in the New York Daily News, the

New York Post, the New York Times and interviewed by New York 1 for her achievements, Aliza

believes that it is important to not only "talk the talk" but to also "walk the walk".

Memories of Country Living

Jamaican Maroon Pride was on display at Georgia State University in Atlanta Georgia, with a sneak preview of the documentary Akwantu - The Journey.

This film describes the journey of the producer, Roy T. Anderson as he attempts to reconnect with his history.

The film takes viewers on

a sojourn through Maroon communities in Jamaica, evoking memories of country-living in the Jamaican section of the viewing audience who were particularly appreciative of a bush doctor describing his version of organic viagra.

The film ended with a resounding round of applause from the audience, most of who stayed

in the theatre for an hour after the screening to question the producers about their experiences during the film-making process.

Anderson said that it was a particularly emotional experience for him to retrace the experience of the early Africans who were brought to the New World in bondage.

"When I was at Slave River in Assin Manso (Ghana), I took off my shoes as I walked down the path to where the slaves took their final bath. I took off my hat as I walked down to the river ... I was just overwhelmed," he said.

"I had the same experience when I visited the slave dungeons."

Continued on page 24

Caribbean Heritage Celebrations 2012 Vaughan P. A. Toney

By Nelson A. King

For more than two decades, Vincentian-born Vaughan P. A. Toney has combined a robust career in public service with a passionate commitment to child-care advocacy and community activism.

Toney's passion for politics and public service was nurtured in his early college years, during which he served as an elected member of the student governing body at State University of New York (SUNY) Albany and as a student intern in the office of Assemblyman Angelo DelToro.

On graduating in 1978, with a bachelor's degree in political science from SUNY at Albany, Toney joined the staff of the New York State Assembly Education

Committee, where he served as legislative assistant to the chairman for six years.

In 1983, Toney accepted an appointment with the New York State Senate, serving as senior staff analyst and special assistant to Sen. Leonard Stavisky.

In 1992, following the adoption of a new City Charter and an expanded City Council, he left Albany to serve as chief-of-staff to Councilwoman Una Clarke – a position he held for four years.

Four years later, Toney moved on to accept the position of chief-of-staff in the office of Councilman Lloyd Henry.

In 2001, Toney ran unsuccessfully for the office of City Council for the 45th

District in Brooklyn.

In addition to his vast experience in government and politics, Toney served as chairman of the Board of Directors of Friends of Crown Heights Educational Centers, a position he held for 19 years before assuming his current position as president/CEO of Friends of Crown Heights Educational Centers, one of the largest providers of Early Childhood Education in the City of New York.

In response to the most recent RFP from the Administration for

Children Services (ACS) to manage day care programs in NYC, Toney's organization, Friends of Crown Heights Educational Centers, was awarded a contract to manage 13 day

care centers, making him the largest black-managed provider of day care in the city of New York.

He is a former member of the Board of Directors of Child Care Inc., a non-profit advocacy group for children.

Toney's experience in the field of child-care advocacy and early childhood education earned him an appointment to the Advisory Council to the Commissioner of the Agency for Children Services. In contract negotiations with day-care workers, he is a member of the management team.

Toney has also served as a member of the Kings County Hospital Advisory Board. He is a founding member of the Caribbean



Vaughan Toney.

American Political Democratic Club. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the Carlos Lezama Archives and Caribbean Cultural Center, and a founding member of the newly formed SCOPE Foundation, which provides scholarships to needy children in St. Vincent and

Continued on page 25

Continued on page 25

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Caribbean Heritage Month

Laparkan Shipping –true testimony to Caribbean American spirit, character

Today, there may be as many West Indians resident in the Diaspora as they are living in the region. The United States and Canada account for the majority of Caribbean people living abroad. This migration from the West Indies began decades ago and has intensified over the past five decades as more and more people seek better fortunes and what they perceive to be a better quality of life.

While hundreds of thousands of Caribbean people have made America their new home they have not lost touch with their countries of birth and continue to support their families back home. They also have continued to practice their culture and have integrated well into American society through the sharing of their rich and diverse culture as well as their contributions to education, business, medicine, the military, law enforcement and the economic development of the communities in which they live. US President Barack Obama, in his Proclamation to mark Caribbean American Heritage Month 2012 said:



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“Caribbean Americans have shaped every aspect of our society -- enhancing our arts and humanities as titans of music and literature, spurring our economy as intrepid entrepreneurs, making new discoveries as scientists and engineers, serving as staunch advocates for social and political change, and defending our ideals at home and abroad as leaders in our military. Their achievements exemplify the tenacity

and perseverance embedded in our national character, and their stories embody the fundamental American idea that when access to opportunity is equal, anyone can make it if they try.”

A fitting example of the Caribbean American personality and character of which President Obama speaks is Laparkan Shipping. For almost three decades Laparkan, founded in 1983, has been of service to the people of the Caribbean Diaspora and the Caribbean region itself. Laparkan has for almost three decades provided reliable and efficient service shipping personal effects and commercial cargo back to the Caribbean. Shipping along with its money transfer service continue to be pivotal to the social stability and economic development of several Caribbean countries while at the same time spurring the US economy through the employment of some 400 Caribbean Americans at warehouses and offices in New York, New Jersey, Florida and Georgia and the engagement of scores of agents across the United States.

Memories of Country Living

Continued from page 21

Anderson compares this emotion to the feeling of pride he experienced when he filmed, on location, the Jamaican Maroon communities, and particularly Accompong where his Maroon lineage is found.

Anderson feels that Jamaica is a better country because of the experience of the Maroons, and without them the world might not have known jerk seasoning, modern armies might not have known guerilla warfare, and reggae music might have sounded differently without the Maroon drums.

Evolved beyond expectations

According to the pro-

ducer, although the film started as a personal project, it has now evolved well beyond his expectation.

Dr Harcourt Fuller said that this film about the Jamaican Maroon people is a very important element in the study of the African Diaspora.

He said Jamaican Maroons have significant accomplishments that have helped to shape the Caribbean and the western world, as we know it - accomplishments such as defeating a significant military power and getting them to sign treaties, achieving freedom, and creating an independent society, pre-dating all other neighbouring nations in the new world.

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Vaughan P. A. Toney

Continued from page 22
the Grenadines.

Recognizing the need to share information with Vincentians, especially newly arrivals to New York City, Toney's most recent undertaking is to organize "Vinci Lime with a Purpose", a place where Vincentians gather to help each other through the sharing of information.

In recognition of his dedication to public service, Toney has received numerous awards and commendations.

Toney migrated to New York in 1969. Following his graduation from SUNY at Albany, he worked on a Master's degree in Public Administration at New York University.

Ken R. Harewood: Renowned Barbadian scientist and educator

By J.D. Massiah

Renowned Barbadian scientist, educator, administrator and author, Dr. Ken R. Harewood was born in College Land, St. John seventy-three years ago. At age 8 he gained acceptance to Lodge School, no small feat for someone his age. By today's standards he would have been considered a child prodigy.

Dr. Harewood credits his academic success to his father, a man gifted with "plain old common sense," and his teachers. While at Lodge he studied biology, chemistry, botany and zoology. He also excelled at football, becoming team captain and a member of the Barbados National Football team.

Dr. Harewood received

his BA in Biology from NYU and his Masters and Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the City University of New York. Upon completion of his post-doctoral training, Dr. Harewood joined the Cancer Research Department in the Central Research Division of Pfizer Inc.

Dr. Harewood distinguished himself as a professor, and a director at the North Carolina Central University (NCCU) Julius L. Chambers Biomedical/Biotechnology Research Institute, and as an Adjunct Professor, at the Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, Duke University. Dr. Harewood is widely recognized for his contribution in the areas of cancer biology and cancer drug discovery.

Dr. Harewood's corporate research experiences resulted in contributions to national and international efforts that brought about the discovery of the first human leukemia virus and the virus that causes AIDS. He has carried out ground-breaking work on cloning the gene for bovine chymosin, which led to the FDA approval of the first recombinant DNA process for a food ingredient.

Dr. Harewood is highly recognized in the scientific community, and has earned membership on the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Biotechnology Centers; the North Carolina Board of Science and Technology; and the Board of Governors of RTI International. He also has memberships in the



Dr. Ken R. Harewood.

American Association for the Advancement of Science; the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; the American Society for Cell Biology; and the American association of University Technology Managers. Dr. Harewood has published numerous articles in scientific journals,

and authored proposals that have secured more than \$40 million in research funding.

Dr. Harewood's high level of recognition is evidenced by the numerous honors and awards he received from various organizations like the Harlem YMCA Black Achievers in Industry Award; the National Consortium for Black Professional Development Health Science Award; the Barbados Charity Fund Pride and Industry Award; the NCCU Chancellor's Merit Award; the UNC Oliver Max Garner Award; and the Barbados Gold Crown of Merit Award.

These days, Dr. Harewood is giving back to the Caribbean Region as he lends his talents to the Advisory Board of the Caribbean Science Foundation.



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Caribbean Week marked a golden anniversary

By Coral King

Activities commemorating Caribbean Week took on greater significance this year. The event which formed part of Caribbean Heritage Month which is observed annually during the month of June, showcased some of the achievements of Caribbean people who have made the United States their home. It also served as a vehicle to promote activities of importance to the economic and social development of Caribbean people in the New York, New Jersey, Connecticut tri-state area.

Of tremendous significance this year is the celebration of the achievement of independence by both Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago from the United Kingdom 50 years ago. The golden anniversary was not lost on the organizers of several events which took place in New York City during Caribbean Week.

After 50 years of nationhood for Jamaica and



Ms. Ayoung Chee invokes a degree of patriotism to the steel pan as she shares a light moment with star panman, Dane Gulston.

Photo by Roland Hyde

Trinidad and Tobago, the global fashion industry has begun to see the Caribbean as a place that produces *avant-garde* fashion creations. This is the only way to describe the fashion collection previewed by Trinidad&Tobago fashion designer Anya Ayoung Chee, winner of Project Runway Season 9 entitled: "Colour +

Sound", which took place at the Empire State Building, one of New York City's most notable edifices.

The invitation-only event brought together key players in the fashion industry in the Big Apple, as well as fashion watchers from the city and the Caribbean Diaspora. The media was very much in attendance at



L/R: Rajiv Shandiliya, chairman of the Tourism Development Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago (TDC); Mrs Rudrawatee Nan Ramgoolam, consul general for Trinidad & Tobago in New York; Dr. Rupert Griffith, minister of tourism of Trinidad&Tobago; Ms. Janelle Commissiong Chow, former Miss Universe and deputy chairman of the TDC; and Dr. Anil Ramnanan, consul general in Miami, at the launch in New York.

Photo by Roland Hyde

this ground-breaking event which also highlighted the attendance of members of government.

Beaming with the confidence that rewarded her with the first prize at Project Runway, Ms. Ayoung Chee also invoked a degree of patriotism which was very symbolic, given the milestone being celebrated by

Trinidad and Tobago in 2012. With a very charming smile she remarked: "I look forward to representing my country on the world stage as I continue to grow my global fashion brand."

She expressed delight in being able to present her Summer 2012 capsule collection in New York City, which is universally con-

sidered to be the fashion capital of the world.

Following the preview of the fashion collection, the specially invited guests expressed their fascination and interest in the work of the designer and also took the opportunity to mingle and partake of the refreshments available. The event was promoted by Antilia.

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Summertime' wins Broadway's

By Vinette K. Pryce

Actress and opera singer Audra McDonald will be singing from springtime into summertime after recently winning a Tony award.

She joined the winner's list in the category of Best Lead Actress in a Musical for her portrayal of Bess in George Gershwin's classic "Porgy & Bess."

The recent win marks her fifth Tony Award.

She is now tied with Angela Lansbury and Julie Harris as the third actress in history to hold five Tony Awards.

"I was a little girl with a potbelly and Afro puffs, hyperactive and overdramatic," the 41-year-old Broadway star said after accepting the coveted theater honor.

"I found the theater, and I found my home."

McDonald won a Tony in 2004 for her stellar performance in "A Raisin in the Sun."

She is probably best known to television audience as the star of "Private Practice."

Through four seasons she portrayed the character



Porgy and Bess New York. Michael J. Lutch



Dr. Naomi Bennett.

She won three NAACP Image Award nominations for that role.

McDonald was born in Germany but raised in California.

She studied classical voice at The Juilliard School in New York City.

The reworked version of the Gershwin opera "Porgy and Bess" has been attracting packed houses to the Richard Rodgers Theater.

Co-starring Norm Lewis (Porgy), David Alan Grier and an extraordinary ensemble cast, the 1935 revival of George & Ira Gershwin's four-hour opera was condensed into a two and a half hour musical delight.

Despite initial criticisms from so-called theater experts, theater audiences rallied to see the revised and adapted version by Diane Paulus, the artistic director of the American Repertory Theater.

Along with Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Suzan-Lori Parks and Obie Award-winning composer Diedre Murray, they retooled the musical for Broadway.

The musical is enchanting, the language – entrancing and the music?

Well, with Porgy and Bess, a song such as "Summertime" is a cue to cheer.

Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

Harlem 'Pride' 2012 celebrates LGBTs

The third Harlem Pride celebration promises a variety of events to "foster and support Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Same Gender Loving (LGBTQ & SGL) Pride in Harlem."

Beginning June 22 the activities include church services, fundraiser, walkathons, parades, cocktail sips and a variety of community-based activities in Harlem.

A three-day calendar of events culminates on Sunday, June 24 with the Heritage of Pride March in Greenwich Village. Here is an abbreviated listing of activities:

Friday, June 22, 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Harlem Pride 2012 VIP Launch Party and Fundraiser
730 Riverside Drive, Suite 9-E, West 150th St.

Cocktail reception catered by Chef Michael E. Hodge.

Saturday, June 23, 12:00 noon – 6:00 p.m.

Harlem Pride Day Celebration (FREE) – Jackie Robinson Park

Jackie Robinson Park is located on West 145th Street (Bradhurst Avenue and Edgecombe Avenue)

Harlem Pride Day Celebration will be held in Jackie Robinson Park and will include vendors, artists, food, films, lectures, VIP and political guest speakers and entertainment.

Opening invocation officiated by LGBT Faith Leaders of African descent.

Sunday, June 24, 12:00 noon – 6:00 p.m.

Heritage of Pride Parade – Starts at 36th Street & 5th Ave, ends at Christopher & Greenwich Streets (FREE) – Closing Event

For more information visit www.harlempride.org

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Five steps to avoid engine overheating



An overheated engine can render a car useless in a matter of minutes.

It is a common sight that many an automobile owner is all too familiar with: a car is stranded on the side of the road with the hood open and smoke billowing out as an exasperated driver looks on shaking his head.

An overheated engine can render a car useless in a matter of minutes. A vehicle is propelled by an engine that ignites gasoline and causes controlled explosions within. An engine can produce quite a lot of heat. Compound this with external temperatures and an overheated engine may occur. Other mechanical factors can also cause an engine to overheat. These include a faulty thermostat to regulate coolant supply to the engine and even an inoperable radiator fan.

Experts say an average car engine is designed to operate within 195- to 220-degrees F. Anything above that could cause engine failure. Overheating can cause a lot of damage to a car. It may damage and burn holes in the parts. Rings, pistons, or rod bearings may become impaired, or one can blow a head gasket. Coolant is designed to protect an engine to a point, but it can also become compromised under high heat. Boiling coolant may cause the radiator and hoses to burst.

The best way to avoid engine and vehicle trouble due to overheating is to prevent an engine from becoming overheated in the first place. Here are strategies to employ.

- Ensure that coolant levels are maintained and there are no leaks that would

cause coolant to drip out. Be sure the right coolant is being used for the particular vehicle.

- Dirty, inadequate motor oil cannot dissipate heat as well as clean oil. Check the oil level and viscosity. Change the oil before a long trip or if it looks past its prime.

- Confirm radiator hoses are in good working order and do not look worn out.

- Have a mechanic check that a radiator fan is working and that there is adequate air flow through the radiator.

- Be aware of engine temperature by watching the gauge on the dashboard.

If an engine seems like it's about to overheat, here are some steps to take.

- Slow down, and pull into the right lane. Turn on the heat in the car and open the windows. This may draw heat out of the engine block, while maintaining a slow pace can continue to draw air over the engine.

- Pull over and open the hood to allow the engine to cool.

- Top off the radiator with coolant. Water can also work in a pinch.

- Take frequent breaks during long road trips to allow the engine to cool down for at least 15 minutes.

- Be sure to clear the radiator from obstructions, including leaves or insects that may have collected.

Drivers without auto maintenance experience should not touch anything under the hood. Consult with a mechanic to determine engine overheating causes.

How often should you change motor oil?

Much confusion or misinformation exists about how often drivers need to change their vehicle's motor oil. It pays to change motor oil to keep the engine operating optimally, but such changes don't need to be done as often as the average driver thinks.

As engines have become smaller, more fuel-efficient, longer-lasting, and better for the environment, engine maintenance guidelines have changed. And motor oils have changed as well. There are additives to help reduce engine wear and maintain the oil's viscosity, and detergents in today's motor oils help wash engine parts and prevent sludge from forming.

For years, the 3,000-mile oil change interval has been the standard practice. This may have been adequate for older cars and less advanced motor oils, but today's vehicles can actually go much longer between oil changes.

Drivers looking to prolong oil changes can turn to



It pays to change motor oil to keep the engine operating optimally, but such changes don't need to be done as often as the average driver thinks.

their owner's manual for the suggested oil change schedule for the make and model. Many have guidelines depending on how often a motorist drives. Those that rou-

tinely drive through muddy or dusty areas may want to change their oil more frequently. Others may be able to change the oil every 5,000 to 7,500 miles.

Drivers should not be scared off by the look of their oil. The detergents and additives in motor oil are created to suspend debris in the oil so it doesn't foul up engine parts. Therefore, the oil may look darker. This does not necessarily indicate that the oil needs to be changed more frequently. Stick to the schedule in the manual.

Individuals seeking confirmation that they can go longer durations between oil changes can have a motor oil analysis done. This will confirm the quality of the oil after having driven a certain amount of miles.

The 3,000 mile oil change interval is no longer the industry standard thanks to advancements in both engine and motor oil technology. Chances are most vehicles can go longer between oil changes and still continue to drive well.



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Distracted driving is a big danger

Today's drivers face more distractions than ever before. Technological gadgets from smartphones to MP3 players give drivers new reasons to look away from the road.

Distracted driving is any activity a person engages in that can distract him from the primary task of driving. There are three main types of distraction:

- Visual: Taking eyes off the road.
- Cognitive: Not thinking about what you're doing.
- Manual: Taking hands off the wheel.

Distracted driving may include talking on a cellphone, eating food in the car, thumbing through the maps on a navigation

system, or even changing the radio station. But the type of distracted driving that has become an epidemic, particularly among younger drivers, is texting while driving.

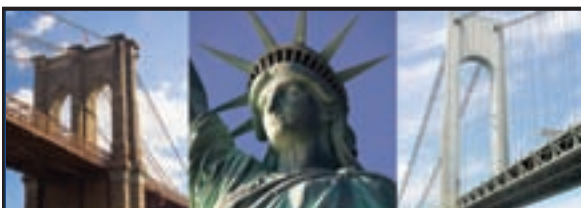
The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says that 20 percent of injury crashes in 2009 involved reports of distracted driving. The age group with the greatest proportion of distracted drivers was the under-20 age group. As texting has become the preferred method of communication, a large percentage of automobile accidents might be due to texting.

When driving, the safest bet is to refrain from any activity that takes one's eyes, hands, or mind away from the road.



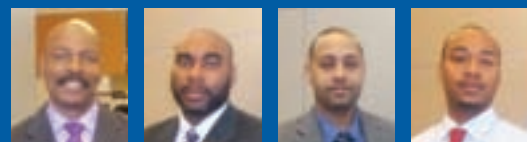
Driving while texting has become a major problem on the roadways.

If answering a cellphone or working with another device is necessary, drivers should pull over to the side of the road and take care of what they need to do.



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Safety first with kids' car seats

Motor vehicle accidents routinely cause for injuries and fatalities. Young riders, including infants and children under the age of 10, have bodies that are more fragile and therefore may be more susceptible to injury. They require adequate protection while riding in a car.

The importance of child safety seats in automobiles cannot be overstated. Despite how well safety seats protect children, Transport Canada says surveys show that more than one-third of children in Canada are not properly restrained when traveling in vehicles. In the United States, research indicates that among those who use car seats, four out of five seats are installed in-

correctly.

Many people are under the assumption that once their child outgrows a forward-facing car seat, the youngster can simply sit in the car with a safety belt. Actually, once a child is around 40 pounds and is moved out of a five-point-harness seat, he should go into a booster seat. These seats often have an attached headrest, which can be removed once the child is tall enough to use the adjustable headrest in the car itself.

In the U.S., most states have adopted the 8 year, 80 pounds, 4-foot-9 rule for booster seats. That means that children should remain in the booster seat until they are at least age 8, weigh 80 pounds, and are 4-feet-9-inches tall. Booster seats work by raising chil-

dren up to the height needed to wear a safety belt in the correct position — hitting right at the shoulder with the lap belt over the hips, not the stomach. Transport Canada says to check with the province in which you live for particular rules on booster seats, but as long as the child meets the height and weight requirements for the seat, it is safe to keep him in the seat as long as possible.

Once kids outgrow the booster seat and they are tall enough to have the safety belt fit correctly, remove the booster seat. Children ages 12 and under should always ride in the rear of the car where it is safer.

Here are some other guidelines to consider when dealing with child car seats.



Young riders, including infants and children under the age of 10, have bodies that are more fragile and therefore may be more susceptible to injury. They require adequate protection while riding in a car.

- The seat should be securely latched in the car so that it does not move more than one inch in either direction.

- The harness should be taut so that you cannot pinch the fabric.

- A rear-facing infant

seat should be at a 45-degree angle in the car.

- Do not move a child to forward facing until he has reached age 1 and weighs 20 pounds or more. Some experts now advise waiting until the child is 2.

- Read the instruction on

the seats, but also use common sense. If the child does not properly fit into the seat, (i.e. shoulders are too tall for the harness straps) it could be time to upgrade to a bigger seat, even if the weight limit hasn't been reached on the current seat.

Bad driving habits could harm your car

Everyone has their bad habits. Whether it's relatively harmless habits like biting your fingernails, or potentially deadly ones like smoking cigarettes, habits come in all shapes and sizes.

When it comes to cars, drivers' bad habits abound. Many drivers might have a host of bad habits but not even know it. Unfortunately, bad driving habits are not only detrimental to a vehicle, but they could be costing drivers money as well. The following are some of the more common poor habits that, if corrected, can add years to a vehicle's life and dollars to a driver's bank account.

Running on empty

Fuel costs are still considerable, and many drivers try to squeeze every last drop out of their tanks before return-

ing to the filling station. Unfortunately, this is somewhat of a Pyrrhic victory. It might feel good to get an extra day's worth of driving out of a tank of gas, but the toll that running on empty takes on the rest of the vehicle is a hefty one indeed. The sediment from gasoline settles at the bottom of the gas tank, and when gas levels run low, the car must use the dirtiest gas it has as fuel. As that happens, the sediment that would otherwise remain at the bottom of the tank instead gets into the car's fuel line and even its engine. The fuel filter likely won't catch all of this dirt, and the engine will therefore be taxed unnecessarily just so drivers can go an extra day before filling up. In addition, the fuel filter's life span will shorten, forcing drivers to replace it sooner than they would need to if they simply kept more than the bare mini-

mum in their gas tank at all times.

Stopping and starting

For some drivers, such as those who live in cities, constant stopping and starting is unavoidable. For others, however, this stopping and starting needs to be avoided at all costs. Drivers who enjoy accelerating and then quickly stopping between stoplights might like the adrenaline rush such driving provides, but their engines certainly don't appreciate it. Nor do their wallets. Frequently flooring the gas pedal is wasting expensive gas and putting a heavy strain on the engine. And all those quick stops are taxing the car's brakes, greatly reducing their life expectancy. Instead of stopping and starting, smoothly accelerate and anticipate stops. The engine will appreciate it — and so will your wallet.

Revvng the engine

Fans of the film franchise "Fast and the Furious" might love to rev their engines just like their favorite movie stars. But in real life, such a habit is pointless and potentially very harmful to a vehicle. This is especially true when a vehicle has just been started and the engine hasn't had the chance to warm up. Revving the engine while it's still cold means the vehicle's oil is still down in the oil pan and none of the engine's parts have yet been lubricated. This is certain to damage the engine significantly, and eventually, if revving is part of a driver's routine, it is going to force an engine replacement, a costly repair if there ever was one. Let the engine wake up and put an end to pointless revving.

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Safe ways to take pets on the road

To those who feel a vacation isn't complete unless the family pet comes along, you're not alone. The U.S. Travel Association says that 49 percent of Americans feel the pet is just another member of the family and 18 percent of U.S. travelers plan to take their pets along the next time they travel. Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States have softened laws regarding international travel with a companion animal. With the Pet Passport Scheme, individuals may travel freely with their pets to member countries on approved carriers. Some procedures include certification of rabies vaccination and the animal's microchip or tattoo number.

Car trips are common forms of travel with a companion animal in tow. While many pets are easygoing, there are some who are unaccustomed to traveling with their owners and may even balk at riding along. Acclimating and protecting your pet for travel will require a little patience and some pointers.

Secure the pet

Just as you would buckle up when entering the car, so should you buckle up a pet. It is important to ensure the animal is not a moving target around the car should an accident occur. Not only could you risk injury to the pet, but you also

risk injury to yourself if the animal becomes a projectile.

Even if an accident does not occur, a jittery pet, or one who is content to jump from back seat into the front, could prove a distraction while driving. She could also bump into the gear shift or get stuck under the gas or brake pedal. It is much better to keep the pet secured.

Pets may travel in a well-ventilated carrier. Larger dogs may need to be belted into the car with a special dog harness. There are also barrier screens and gates that can be installed, typically in SUVs, to restrict the pet.

Acclimation

Some pets just do not enjoy being placed in a carrier or riding in a car. They may need some coaxing and practice to become comfortable if a trip is planned. The ASPCA suggests getting the pet used to a longer trip by taking a series of short trips first over the course of a few days or weeks. With each trip, gradually increase time spent in the car.

It may help to bring along a pet toy or blanket that is soothing to the animal, so she associates the car with a safe place, just like home.

Even after several attempts to acclimate your pet to the idea of a car trip, the animal may still not be happy about the idea. Talk to a veterinarian about other

strategies or whether a mild sedative could make the travel easier.

Safety tips

Although many pet owners are aware of certain dos and don'ts when it comes to traveling with a pet, many still engage in behavior that could be dangerous to the animal.

One of the common offenses is letting the pet ride with her head outside of the window. While this may seem like heaven to the dog or cat, this puts the pet at risk of being injured by flying objects, including debris in the eyes. It can also increase the risk of the animal falling out of the moving vehicle.

Another mistake many people make is leaving the pet inside of a car — even for a short duration of time. The ASPCA warns that even with the windows open, a parked car can rapidly heat up and heat-stroke can occur. A similar thing takes place in the winter with the car getting much too cold. If you anticipate having to make stops, be sure to go where you can take the pet out and along with you.

Comfort and care

An animal out of her environment or element could become skittish. Try to keep a pet's feeding schedule as close to normal as possible. This will minimize

the chances of discomfort or even digestive aggravation. Bring along bottled water or tap water from home because drinking water from an unfamiliar area could result in unwanted digestive distress, which could prove uncomfortable for pet and owner alike.

As an added precaution, you may want to invest in rubberized floor liners and waterproof seat covers, says the ASPCA. This helps if the animal gets car-sick or has an accident. Removable seat covers can also prove advantageous for collecting fur and keeping the interior of the car less messy than need be.

Identification

It is important to always carry proper identification for your pet, as well as documentation of vaccinations. For those who have not yet microchipped their companion animal, now may be the time to do so. The microchip is a very small device implanted under the skin of the pet, usually by the scruff of the neck. It will transmit contact information when a specialized transmitter is waved over the microchip.

There's also the old-fashioned method of having your dog or cat collared with an ID tag. Using this in conjunction with a leash and harness will help reduce the chances of losing your pet while on the road.

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Share the road safely

Streets provide means of transportation for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians. When so many different people come together on the roadways, particularly of varied shapes and sizes, there's the potential for safety problems if everyone isn't working together.

Although most drivers must pass a test and driver education classes, including practice on roadways, the same testing measures are not in place for cyclists. Even though bicycles are not powered vehicles, they are governed by the same rules of the road as trucks, cars, and motorcycles.

There may be the potential for injury, but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention state that it is relatively low when safety procedures are met. At the forefront of bicycle safety is wearing a helmet. Males of the age 9 to 15 cycling in the summer without a helmet make up the highest number of bicycle incidents in the United States, according to the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Even with low incidences of bicycle-related injuries, it may still be prudent for avid cyclists to take a class or refresh their knowledge of bicycle rules of the road. In most areas of North America, bicycles and tricycles can be operated on all roads unless otherwise prohibited. Areas where bicycles are often prohibited include bridges and tunnels. A drivers' license is not needed to operate a bicycle, but rules may vary if the bicycle is powered or has been modified with a small engine. It is best to check with the Department of Motor Vehicles to determine the rules where you live.

Cyclists must ride on the same side of the road as vehicular traffic and in the same direction. Just like motorists, cyclists must obey all traffic control signs and signals. Both cyclists and motorists should yield the right-of-way to each other — one does not have preference in right of way.

Many cyclists fail to signal their turns and ride in a predictable manner. This can

be dangerous and lead to accidents. Hand signals can be used to indicate turning intentions if electronic signals are not installed. If riding at night or during dusk, a headlight and reflectors can help promote visibility, as can a rear, red flashing light.

Riding on roads is not as safe as riding on sidewalks, but most cities and towns prohibit the riding of bicycles on sidewalks, particularly in urban centers. When any riding is done, a helmet should be worn for personal safety — it also may be the law.

Because bicycles may be harder to see and hear than cars and motorcycles, there are some other safety precautions cyclists can take to avoid accidents.

- Do not ride in the blind spots of other vehicles.
- Do not assume you can overtake or pass a vehicle that has the power to go much more quickly than you.
- Do not follow cars too closely to allow for adequate reaction time.
- Wear light-colored or reflective clothing so that motor-

ists can see you on the road.

- Use a bell or horn for further indication that you are in the area.

- Do not assume that because you are on a bicycle you can dart in and out of traffic.

- Be aware of parked cars on the side of the road. SmartMotorist.com says that approximately five percent of bicycle accidents occur when someone opens a parked car door in front of an oncoming bike.

Along the same vein, motorists can be more aware of cyclists on the road.

- Give cyclists a safe distance when passing.

- Slow down when passing a cyclist.

- Do not assume you have dominance over the cyclist.

- Do not try to goad the cyclist or scare him or her by veering in the direction. This cat-and-mouse game can be dangerous.

Cyclists and motorists can share the streets safely when they use some common sense and follow the same rules of the road.

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— Kam Williams — Page 49

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Bataan, Cole back to Lehman Center

By Deardra Shuler

Musical artist, Joe Bataan, took time to speak with me on my radio show, *Topically Yours*, on the BlakeRadio Network, *Rainbow Soul*. Joe was in preparation for his upcoming "A Night of Remembrance" concert at Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, located at 250 Bedford Park Blvd West in the Bronx, where he and the famed R&B quintet, *Blue Magic*, will be sharing the stage on Saturday, June 23rd at 8:00 p.m.

Due to his eclectic music and his blending of Black and Latin tempos, many folks think that Joe Bataan, who came into the world as Bataan Nitollano, is Latin; when in fact, his heritage is African American and Filipino.

It goes to show you how effectively cultures can rub off when one is immersed



Joe Bataan.

Photo by Ossi Kajax

in the streets and communities of varied ethnicities, as Joe was having been born and raised in Spanish Harlem.

"In the early 50s and 60s the mainstream of entertainment was radio. For a long time, there was no predominant black radio. It's come full circle because even now we are having problems keeping our black radio stations alive. I

Continued on next page

Tiken Jah Fakoly

By William Farrington

The allure of The Apollo Theater, a catalyst for artistic innovation for generations, is responsible a rare NY appearance Saturday, June 16, 2012, by the great Ivorian reggae artist Tiken Jah Fakoly.

Tiken Jah held sway over an adoring audience including many expats on its feet from the first song waving flags from several nations, as African reggae made its first appearance on the great stage.

Earlier he cited Bob Marley saying that his work has to continue; on stage he led the audience chanting *Mali Unite*, in solidarity with the people following the recent military coup there.



Tiken Jah Fakoly.

Tiken Jah lived in Mali for years after his outspoken stances forced him into exile. Now he can return to his native Cote d'Ivoire and Senegal "because I am an artist and a man of conviction" outlasting the political leaders who banned him.

He also spoke at length about the importance of education and talked about the schools he is building in African countries.

NO SIGNS OF SLOWING DOWN



Gramps Morgan does it again

Gramps Morgan.

By Chudi Chukwudi

Steadfast in the promotion of his second solo album, *Reggae Music Lives*, Gramps Morgan shows no signs of slowing down anytime soon. From exclusive in-store album signings at VP Records

retail stores in Jamaica, Queens and Miramar, Florida to successful launch parties in Anguilla, St. Kitts and Nevis, Miami and most recently Texas, Gramps is determined to heal the world with music, one song at a time.

This message-driven album is charting the world over. The first single released from the album, *Life Too Short* has been declared an official tribute song by The Trayvon Martin Foundation. It

Continued on next page

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1 **Somebody That I Used to Know**
Gotye Feat. Kimbra
- 2 **Call Me Maybe**
Carly Rae Jepsen
- 3 **Payphone**
Maroon 5 Feat. Wiz Khalifa
- 4 **We Are Young**
Fun. Feat. Janelle Monae
- 5 **Starships**
Nicki Minaj
- 6 **What Makes You Beautiful**
One Direction
- 7 **Glad You Came**
The Wanted
- 8 **Wild Ones**
Flo Rida Feat. Sia
- 9 **Where Have You Been**
Rihanna
- 10 **Stronger**
Kelly Clarkson

TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **Born And Raised**
John Mayer
- 2 **Live From The Underground**
Big K.R.I.T.
- 3 **21**
Adele
- 4 **Bear Creek**
Brandi Carlile
- 5 **The Stoned Immaculate**
Curren\$y
- 6 **Up All Night**
One Direction
- 7 **Some Nights**
Fun
- 8 **Thirty Miles West**
Alan Jackson
- 9 **That's Why God Made Radio**
The Beach Boys
- 10 **What We Saw From the Cheap**
Regina Spektor

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Fans enjoy a Gramps Morgan performance.

Photo Credit: Images Newsletter

Gramps Morgan does it again

Continued from previous page
currently sits at #6 on DJ Gusma's Top 20 Reggae Chart in Italy and peaked at #1 in Atlanta.

Morgan's single, *Dream* also hit #1 on Atlanta's NMT Top10 Chart for two consecutive weeks. The song, penned and co-produced with renowned duo, The A-Team (Stanley "Rellee" Hayden and Alberto "AL" Cruz) is universal in sound and message.

Also charting is Gramps' duo with four-time, Grammy Award winner India Arie,

Want Fi Charge Mi - up three spots on the New York Top 30 Reggae Chart as of June 6, 2012.

Meanwhile his album, *Reggae Music Lives*, remains #12 on Billboard's Reggae Album charts, #2 in South Florida and Italy and #4 in the Netherlands. This week, *Reggae Music Lives* also made its debut on Jamaican Reggae Charts at #10 on Richie B's Jamaica Music Countdown album chart.

Gramps Morgan seeks to challenge himself mentally, spiritually and physically. As

such, he recently added yoga to his physical regimen while preparing to tour Europe this summer with his sibling band, Morgan Heritage. All this while he promotes *Reggae Music Lives* and continues to do his daily syndicated radio program, *The Gramps Morgan Show* that now airs from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on 93.5FM in New York.

Stay tuned for more and look out for the Gramps Morgan Tour in the Fall and a tour with Anthony B in 2013.

Bataan and Cole at the Lehman Center

Continued from previous page

encourage folks to support their stations because before we know it there will be no black stations. Remember, the airwaves belong to the people. I used to listen to Frankie Lyman and Nat King Cole. These guys were a big influence on my career," recalled Joe. "Nat was the highest paid black artist holding his own at the time and we were all so proud of him."



Natalie Cole.

2nd Annual Kiddies Caribbean Carnival Fiesta

Produced in partnership with W.I.A.D.C.A.

Brooklyn, NY- Join us on Saturday, June 30th as we celebrate and close out Caribbean Heritage Month in grand style! Presented by Brooklyn Children's Museum in collaboration with West Indian-American Day Carnival Association (W.I.A.D.C.A.), the Museum's second annual Kiddies Caribbean Carnival Fiesta features tasty cuisine by renowned Chef Shorne Benjamin, live entertainment by SOCAMOTION, a steel pan workshop with Ricardo Greenaway and an all-out kiddies carnival parade - Visitors come dressed in your very own carnival costume regalia! This is one "jump-up" you won't want to miss! Due to popular demand we recommend arriving early.

All Kiddies Caribbean Carnival Fiesta programs are included with Museum admission; except for the workshop, except for the W.I.A.D.C.A. Caribbean Cultural Workshop. Made possible in part by West Indian-American Day Carnival Association.

In honor of Caribbean Heritage Month!

2nd Annual Kiddies Caribbean Carnival Fiesta Program Highlights
Saturday, June 30:

"Soca"-cise Fitness Class:

Featuring certified physical fitness trainer, Onya West, and the SOCAMOTION TEAM!

12:00 - 1:00pm

Join us for a rooftop exercise dance party, as certified personal trainer, Onya West and her SOCAMOTION team celebrates Caribbean Heritage Month!

Experience the cultural pride of the Caribbean with music and dance while exercising your way to a strong, healthy physique. Come jam with us!

All ages

Caribbean Delights: featuring culinary workshop with Chef Shorne Benjamin from St. Lucia
2:30 - 3:00pm

Fresh off his acclaimed appearance at Montreal's Taste of the Caribbean festival, join renowned Chef Shorne Benjamin as we celebrate the yummy diversity of the Caribbean. Discover culinary treasures, collect recipes and "chef" up kid-friendly cuisine as this workshop satisfies your appetite for culture, history and more! Families with food allergies should not sample food items. Pre-registration is required for this workshop, to register/

RSVP (by June 21) please call Ms. Smith 718-735-4400x321.

All Ages
Rhythm of Steel: Featuring steel pan virtuoso/educator Ricardo Greenaway.

3:30 - 4:30pm
The only musical instrument invented in the 20th Century, the steel pan or drum is a percussive instrument made from discarded steel oil drums - cut and then shaped, heated and tuned to create some of the most beautiful music in the world. Learn how to make your very own "rhythms."

Ages 5+
Kiddies Caribbean Fiesta & Carnival "Jump-Up" Parade!

Produced in partnership with W.I.A.D.C.A.

4:30 - 5:00pm
Join the festive line as we wind our way through the

Museum, singing songs, saying hi to the animals, jumping up and showing off our Carnival regalia!

All Ages
About Brooklyn Children's Museum

An international model for museum and community programs, Brooklyn Children's Museum offers interactive learning adventures through hands-on exhibitions, multicultural performances, creative workshops, and an extensive collection of cultural artifacts and natural science specimens. Situated in central Brooklyn for more than 100 years, the Museum was founded in 1899 as the first children's museum in the world.

Brooklyn Children's Museum

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Archaeologists search for humanity's birthplace

"Prometheus"
Very Good (3 Stars)
Rated R for intense violence and brief profanity.
Running time: 123 minutes
Distributor: 20th Century Fox

By Kam Williams

Dateline: Scotland, 2089. While spelunking along the shores of the Isle of Skye, archaeologists Charlie Holloway (Logan Marshall-Green) and Dr. Elizabeth Shaw (Noomi Rapace) discover an ancient painting etched into the ceiling of an abandoned cave. The uncanny researchers immediately discern that

the primitive picture is an invitation from aliens to visit a moon located in a remote constellation that might very well have been the birthplace of humanity.

Fast-forward a few years and we find the curious couple already en route to LV-233 on a daring expedition to find proof that people were created not by God but genetically engineered by sentient beings from another galaxy. It is unclear how unearthing such evidence will affect the faith of Dr. Shaw, a devout Christian who always wears a cross that was a gift from her late father (Patrick Shaw).

As the spaceship "Prometheus" approaches its destination, Captain



This film image released by 20th Century Fox shows Michael Fassbender in a scene from "Prometheus."

AP Photo/20th Century Fox, Kerry Brown

Jane (Idris Elba) and his crew of sixteen are roused from a cryogenic state of hibernation by a dotting, concrete blond android named David (Michael Fassbender). Upon landing,

however, command of the operation is assumed by Meredith Vickers (Charlize Theron), a coldhearted, corporate executive employed by Weyland Corporation whose late CEO (Guy

Pearce) underwrote the trillion-dollar mission.

The trip is just a job to the jaded Vickers who is skeptical about what she refers to as "the scribbling of dirty little savages in caves." In fact, she orders the disembarking explorers to refrain from making any direct contact with aliens.

Of course, contact with alien life forms is precisely the point of Prometheus, a high body-count, horror flick directed by three-time, Oscar-nominee Ridley Scott (for Gladiator, Black Hawk Down and Thelma & Louise). At this juncture, the picture proceeds to divide its time between raising probing philosophical questions about the intersection of science, religion and ethics, and gratuitous

graphic depictions of body invasion, mutation, and gruesome vivisection.

Although initially conceived as a prequel to Alien (1979), also directed by Scott, the movie was ultimately released as a stand alone adventure. Regardless, this riveting, visually-captivating and thought-provoking sci-fi is well-enough executed to recommend for avid sci-fi fans, even if the heavy-handed, faith-based symbolism ("Where's my cross?" and "After all this, you still believe!") gets to be a bit much.

A thinly-veiled intro to the Alien franchise revising that classic's tagline to suggest: In space, no one can hear you scream, except perhaps God.

Independent & Foreign Films

The Invisible War (Unrated) Investigative expose' uncovering the rape epidemic inside the U.S. military, including interviews with some of the approximately 30 percent of female soldiers who have been victims of a sexual assault.

Kumare' (Unrated) Blind faith documentary about an Arizona con man who cultivated a devoted following by posing as an Indian guru until he decided to reveal his real identity to his disappointed disciples at the peak of his popularity.

The Last Ride (PG-13 for profanity, fighting, smoking and mature themes) Music-driven bio-pic dedicated to the last days in the life of the late, country music icon Hank Williams (Henry Thomas). With Kaley Cuoco, Jesse James and Senator Fred Thompson.

Nate & Margaret (Unrated) Fact-based drama about the unlikely friendship which blossomed between a 19-year-old, gay film student (Tyler Ross) and a matronly, 52-year-old waitress-turned-stand-up comic (Natalie West). Supporting cast includes Conor McCahill, Gaby Hoffmann and Charles Solomon, Jr.



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

Ordinary Miracles (Unrated) Shutterbug documentary, narrated by Campbell Scott, paying tribute to members of the Photo League who captured life in New York neighborhoods by camera over the 15-year period from 1936-1951.

Seeking a Friend for the End of the World (R for profanity, sexual references, drug use and brief violence) Apocalyptic road flick about a just-abandoned married man (Steve Carell) who falls in love with a neighbor (Keira Knightley) while searching for his high school sweetheart in anticipation of the imminent impact of an approaching asteroid. With Melanie Lynskey, Adam Brody and Gillian Jacobs.

To Rome with Love (R for sexuality) Woody Allen wrote, directed and stars in this serendipitous comedy, set in Italy, revolving around an ensemble embroiled in a variety of predicaments. Cast includes Ellen Page, Jesse Eisenberg, Greta

Gerwig, Penelope Cruz, Alec Baldwin, Roberto Benigni and Carol Alt. (In English and Italian with subtitles)

Big Budget Films

Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (R for brief sexuality and pervasive violence) Screen adaptation of Seth Grahame-Smith's revisionist historical novel based on Honest Abe's (Benjamin Walker) supposed secret diary relating how he saved the day when bloodthirsty vampires attempted to enslave the people of the United States. With Anthony Mackie, Dominic Cooper and Mary Elizabeth Winstead.

Brave (PG for scary action and rude humor) Animated Pixar adventure, set in a mythical Scottish kingdom, about a headstrong princess (Kelly Macdonald) who discovers the true meaning of bravery while undoing a curse on her family. Voice cast includes Julie Walters, Emma Thompson and Craig Ferguson.

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Weight loss - What about surgery?

By Dr. Eva Hersh

Dear Dr. Eva,
In your column about weight loss, you didn't discuss surgery. I can tell you from experience that there are some of us for whom no diet works and surgery is the only answer. I lost 120 lbs after my gastric bypass and while there are some limitations from the surgery, it has been well worth it to me. My diabetes, which had gotten to the point I was on the verge of needing insulin, is now under control with no medicine. Please give some space to this important option.

Slim

Dear Slim,
I'm glad the surgery worked for you and that you don't mind the limitations resulting from it. However, most people can lose weight without having surgery and without risking the complications of surgery. The most common complications of gastric

bypass surgery are chronic diarrhea and malabsorption.

Malabsorption means inability to absorb essential vitamins and minerals, especially calcium, iron, and vitamin B12. The lack of these minerals and vitamins leads to other complications, including anemia, kidney stones, osteoporosis, and abnormal nerve function.

Even when there is no malabsorption, after bypass surgery many people feel tired, achy, and cold much of the time. Many also experience dry skin, hair loss, and mood changes.

There are also medical risks associated with any major surgery, and the risks are higher for seriously overweight people. These risks include death during or after surgery, heart attacks, and blood clots in the legs and lungs.

Weight loss surgery is not magic. The surgery causes weight loss by great-



ly decreasing the size of the stomach so a person feels full after eating a small amount of food. If the person tries to eat more, they will vomit.

After gastric bypass surgery or gastric banding, a person can eat only a very small quantity of food. Many healthy foods that are more bulky, like raw fruits and vegetables, cannot be eaten at all or can be eaten only in very small amounts.

Weight reduction surgery works by forcing

behavior changes – forcing a person to limit their food intake. If that person can make the same behavior changes without having surgery, they can achieve equal, and equally lasting, weight loss without the financial cost and medical risks of surgery.

Weight loss surgery is most appropriate in cases like yours, when a person has major medical problems such as diabetes that are directly linked to weight, and has been unable to lose weight after working with a dietician. If there are no serious weight-related medical problems, I encourage people to work on changing eating habits as a simpler, safer, cheaper and healthier way to lose weight.

Dr. Eva

Ask Dr. Eva is distributed by Healthy Living News. Email comments and questions to drdeva@healthylivingnews.org



Doctor, Doctor Questions Often Asked

By Herbert Okun, M.D.
Diplomate American Board of Urology

Causes of Blood in Your Urine

What to Do When You See Blood in Your Urine

There are many causes of blood in the urine and the presence of blood in the urine, known as hematuria is a very important symptom, which often requires investigation and evaluation by a urologist. Sometimes, the patient actually sees the red blood, in which case the bleeding is called gross hematuria. However, very often, perhaps most of the time, it is invisible to the naked eye and is only found by the family physician or internist on analysis of the urine using chemical tests for

blood and microscopic examination of the urine. This type of bleeding in the urine is called occult hematuria and it is just as important as if it were gross hematuria. The first thing the doctor will try to establish is from where the blood came. Was it from the urinary tract or from some other part of the body? The patient may describe seeing blood in the toilet or on the underwear or the toilet paper. It is important to determine if the blood actually came from the urinary tract. Sometimes, vaginal bleeding from a woman or rectal or hemorrhoid bleeding from either gender can show reddish discoloration of the toilet bowl water unrelated to the urinary tract. If the blood actually does come from the urinary tract, it is important to determine from what part of the urinary tract the blood originated. It could be coming from the kidneys, the ureters, those long, narrow ducts

that convey urine from the kidneys to the urinary bladder, the bladder itself, the prostate, if a man or from the urethra in both men and women. The urologist, using a variety of special tests and examinations can determine from what portion of the urinary tract, the bleeding occurred and what caused the bleeding to occur. Bleeding in and of itself is not diagnostic of cancer, which is what most people worry about. The most common cause of hematuria in a middle age man is benign prostatic hyperplasia and not cancer of the bladder.

When the bleeding is visible to a man, it is important for him to notice if the bleeding is present throughout the urinary stream from beginning to end or if it's only present at the beginning or the end or both. There are many non-cancerous causes of both gross and occult hematuria such as infections, inflammations, urinary tract stones, blood vessel malformations, trauma, use of various blood thinning medications such as Coumadin, Plavix, aspirin and others. Sometimes, despite the best efforts to localize the origin of the bleeding, no definitive source can be found. Here, special tests of the urine may demonstrate that the blood may be coming from the kidney tubules themselves. This is known as a renal leak. The important thing is not to panic but to listen to the advice of your doctor.

Have a question? Call 718-241-6767

Questions remain for HIV prevention pill

By Robert Folan-Johnson,
Distributed By Health Living News

The Antiviral Drugs Advisory panel of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has voted in support of FDA approval for a once-daily pill to reduce the risk of contracting HIV, a prevention strategy called pre-exposure prophylaxis or PrEP. If the FDA approves the antiviral pill, known as Truvada, it would be the first drug indicated to reduce the risk of acquiring HIV. However, there are many serious unanswered questions about Truvada as an HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis drug.

The advisory panel recommended that Truvada PrEP be approved specifically for populations at high risk of contracting HIV. These include men who frequently have sex with men (MSM) and discordant couples in which one partner has HIV and the other does not.

The 22 member advisory panel consisted of research-

ers, clinicians and HIV infected community members. Although the panel recommendations are not binding the FDA generally follows them.

"With their support for approval, the FDA's expert panel and its own scientists have followed the evidence. We hope and expect that the agency will follow their sound advice," said Mitchell Warren, executive director of Global Advocacy for HIV Prevention.

Supporters of Truvada PrEP were thrilled by the advisory panel's decision. With U.S. transmission rates failing to change from year to year, they believe Truvada PrEP will have a significant impact in reducing new infections at home and abroad.

"This brings us closer to a watershed for global HIV prevention efforts," Warren said. "PrEP, while not a panacea, will be an essential additional part to the world's success in ending AIDS."

The advisory panel meet-

ing included several days of testimony and the presentation of study data. How much condom use and safe sex counseling contributed to the success of these studies is still a subject of debate. The results presented ranged from the dismal to the impressive, depending on the study and the data being cherry picked from them.

One study among high-risk MSM showed an overall 44% reduction in new infections. However, for those in the study in which blood tests showed they actually took their daily dose of Truvada there was a 92% reduction in HIV transmission. If those good results hold up Truvada PrEP will be one among some other recent big advance in HIV prevention.

"This new drug indication is the baseline, or building block, for a new type of biomedical HIV prevention," said Marjorie Hill, PhD, of New York's Gay Men's Health Crisis. "PrEP drug development can be added to the vast array of HIV

prevention tools including condoms, HIV testing and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis. Truvada as PrEP will clearly be one of the first iterations for Treatment as Prevention."

New data also showed that the reason Truvada PrEP failed to work in a study among African women was due to a lack of adherence to the once daily regimen. "If you perceive yourself to be at risk, if you take your pill daily, and if you receive the drug as part of a comprehensive package of HIV prevention interventions and testing, oral PrEP can dramatically reduce your chances of becoming infected," Mitchell Warren added.

But questions about Truvada PrEP remained unresolved even after the advisory panel meeting.

A proposed set of rules for patients and physicians, called the Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy, was criticized by some at the meeting as being inadequate.

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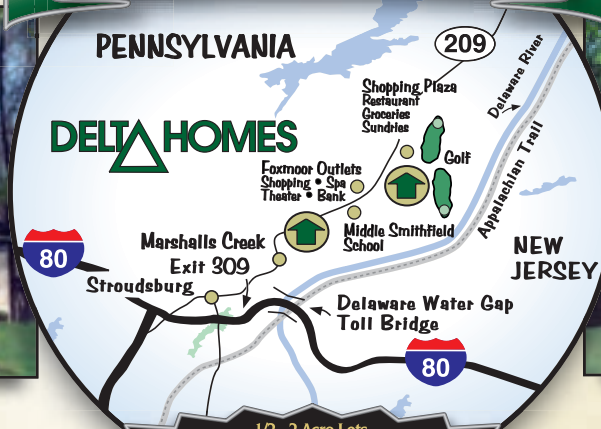


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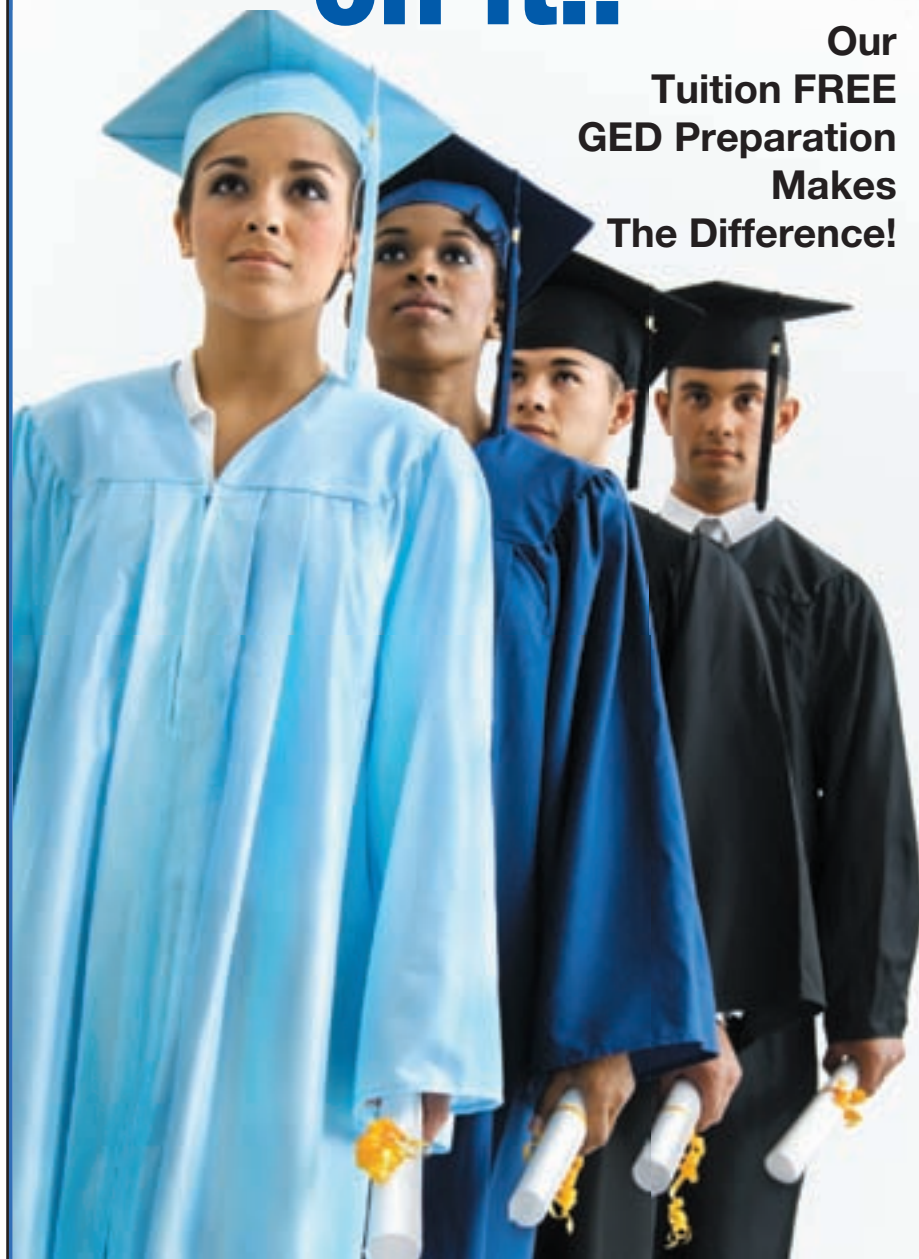
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FREE WIFI

Get rid of pain with the help of doctors at HealthQuest

By Camille Sperrazza

You don't have to live with pain. Doctors at HealthQuest, a multi-specialty facility dedicated to pain management, can improve your quality of life by providing expert treatment, utilizing the latest technology available.



Doctors at Healthquest, on Nostrand Avenue, has been servicing the community since 1994.

Dr. Russell Greenseid and Dr. Nick Chiappetta are chiropractors at the Sheepshead Bay facility, and one of the innovative treatments they offer is the use of the spinal decompression machine.

"It's FDA-approved, and is safe and effective," says Dr. Greenseid. Via mechanical traction, pressure is alleviated from the pain-sensitive structures.

Patients who have suffered with debilitating lower back pain have found relief from its use, says the doctor. It's used primarily to

treat disc injuries to the lower back, providing an alternative to those who do not wish to have surgery.

"This is just one of the many tools we offer," says Dr. Chiappetta. Manual manipulation is another option, as are joint injections. The latter, too, uses technology so doctors can work more efficiently. In this instance, an ultrasound machine provides the doctor with a picture of the area that needs treatment, and this allows him to guide needles precisely to these affected areas.

The Nostrand Avenue facility offers many forms of treatment, including chiropractic care, neurology, orthopedic, pain management and physical therapy. The facility's medical director is Dr. Igor Stiler, a neurologist, who oversees the care of those who suffer with neurological disorders, as well as patients recovering from surgery or accidents.

Orthopedic specialties include sports medicine, pediatric orthopedics, and care to feet, ankles, hips, knees, shoulders, elbows, hands, and spine.

The first step is a consultation and physical examination so the doctors can evaluate the condition. If further diagnostic testing is needed, you won't have to run all over town to get it. X-rays and MRIs can be taken right at the facility, making everything convenient for the patient.

"We make it as easy as possible for you," says Dr. Greenseid.

The goal is to find the cause of the pain.



Dr. Nick Chiappetta is just one of Healthquest's chiropractors who offer innovative treatments for patients, including the use of the spinal decompression machine.

"You want to treat the cause, not the symptoms," he says.

HealthQuest also offers a unique program to help smokers quit.

"By tapping into certain points through the ear to the brain, chemicals are balanced, and cravings vanish," says Dr. Stiler. No pain or drugs are involved, he says, "and one treatment is all that is usually needed."

A weight loss treatment is similar, as "very light stimulation to precise points on the ex-



Dr. Nick Chiappetta and staff members Debbie Candido, Julissa Cardenas and Kiara Alvarado use the latest technology available to treat pain.

ternal ear" is used to reduce cravings.

"It is proven to be an effective and painless option that enables one to lose weight," says the doctor.

Weight loss can also help alleviate joint pain. HealthQuest has been servicing the community since 1994. Most major medical plans, including No Fault and Medicare, are accepted. The facility is handicapped accessible, and there's parking on the premises. Check HealthQuest's website for educational seminars that help improve quality of life.

HealthQuest [3500 Nostrand Ave. between Avenues U and Z in Sheepshead Bay, (718) 769-2521]. Open Mondays through Fridays, 9 am - 7 pm, and Saturdays, 9 am - noon. For more, visit www.hqbk.com.

Photos by Steve Solomonson

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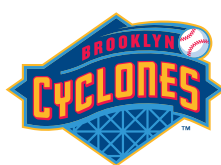
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CYCLONES CONFIDENTIAL

This year, they really are the Mini-Mets

Youngest Brooklyn Cyclones team in history hits the field in Coney Island

By Eli Rosenberg

The Boys of Summer are back — and this year, they really are just boys.

The Brooklyn Cyclones took to the field on Monday against the much-loathed Staten Island Yankees — the team that ousted them in last year's New York Penn-League Playoffs — with one of the youngest squads in the franchise history, sporting an average age barely older than 21, and with eight teenagers on the roster.

“One of my youngest sons is way older — these are my grandsons, not even my sons anymore!” said Coach Rich Donnelly.

The players are so young that they don't even get his late 1990s baseball references, such as when he evokes former Red Sox star Nomar Garciaparra by first name only.

“I was telling one guy the other day about how it was a pleasure to coach Nomar and [he was like,] ‘Nomar who?’ They don't know, so you gotta be careful!”

The team has high hopes for young talents, such as 2011 first-round pick Brandon Nimmo and infield prospect Phillip Evans, both 19, and Donnelly expects some fire on the mound from youthful hurlers Luis Mateo, 22, of the Dominican Republic, and Luis Cessa, 20, of Mexico.

The young 'Clones are pumped to be in Brooklyn — especially since for some, it's their first taste of New York City.

“It's been different — I've had to get used to the subway, get used to all the people around all the time,” said the Wyoming-born Nimmo,

who is rooming with fellow first-round pick Kevin Plawecki, 21. “We can't stand side by side in the room without touching the other side!”

Plawecki, a catcher, is almost a veteran after playing ball for three years at Purdue, where he was the 2012 Big Ten player of the year.

Coach Donnelly hopes to spread some of the wisdom he's gained in his 40-plus years in baseball to the sprightly young players around him — and maybe even teach them a few life lessons.

“There are two kinds of players, those that are humble and those that are about to be,” said Donnelly. “A lot of these kids have never experienced failure in their lives. I tell them, ‘Tighten up your chin-strap, because this is big-boy ball here!’”



Photo by Steve Solomonson

TOP PICK: The team has high hopes for outfielder Brandon Nimmo and his young teammates.



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'West-Indies selectors ought to do a better job in picking the players in Test series.'

- Eyes on Cricket, Page 59

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Future stars shine in the Adidas meet

By Robert Elkin

While most of the attention from the huge crowd was focused on Bernard Lagat rallying from behind to win the 1,500-meter race, the youngsters and the non-elite athletes also put on tremendous performances in the Adidas Grand Prix track and field meet, held at Icahn Stadium, Randall's Island.

Continued on next page



Jamaica's Steve Mullings, right, competes and wins the 100-meter race over Tyson Gay, of the U.S.

AP Photo/Henny Ray Abrams

David Walker Cycling Classic

By Leonard I. McKenzie

On Father's Day, Sunday, June 17, the annual Sky Scrapper Cycling Classic hosted by David Walker, and named after one of Jamaica's national heroes, took place at Marcus Garvey Park, hidden in the heart of Harlem, on a beautiful, warm Spring Day.

The annual Marcus Garvey classic -- a grueling, fast paced 65-lap



Cyclist Anthony Lowe Photo by Leonard McKenzie



Barbadian bowler makes Test history

West Indies' Tino Best hits a ball from England's Tim Bresnan during the 4th day of the third Test match at Edgbaston cricket ground, Birmingham, England, Sunday June 10, 2012.

AP Photo/Tom Hevezi

By Azad Ali

Barbadian fast bowler Tino Best astonishingly struck the highest score by a number 11 in Test history.

The right-handed Best, playing his first Test in three years, smashed an

entertaining 95 before falling agonizingly short of a century to help propel West Indies to all out on a rain-affected third and final Test at Edgbaston last week.

Resuming the day on 280 for eight,

West Indies lost Ravi Rampaul to the third ball of the morning, caught off lanky pacer Steven Finn (3-109) without adding to his overnight two at 283 for nine, paving the way for the fire-

Continued on next page

David Walker Sky Scraper Int'l Cycling Classic

Continued from previous page

tournament attracted professional cyclists from Jamaica, Barbados and Guyana in a competition against local and foreign riders.

Without strong support, Jamaica's and St. Ann's only participant, Anthony Lowe said he was thrilled to be in such a race along with other Caribbean competitors.

Without strong support, Jamaica's and St. Ann's only participant, Anthony Lowe said he was thrilled to be in such a race along with other Caribbean competitors, including Junior Proverbs of Barbados and Guyana's trio of brothers, Paul, Horace and 2010 pro-1 champion, Jermaine Rumores, who unfortunately had a flat tire and was disqualified with just seven laps to go.

Proverbs, who participated earlier in the Masters tournament stayed around to compliment his Caribbean buddies.



Guyana's cycling brothers Horace (left), Jermaine (2nd left) and Paul (right) with Jamaica's Anthony Lowe .
Photo by Leonard McKnzie

Test History

Continued from previous page

works that followed.

Best started quietly before coming to life with a pair of thumping cover-driven boundaries off Finn in the day's third over.

Best continued to entertain the English and West Indian fans with boundaries off the English fast bowlers.

Best belted pacer Tim Bresnan (3-111) to move to 49 before taking a single to begin celebrating his first ever Test 50.

Meanwhile, wicket-keeper Denesh Ramdin dropped by Kevin Pieterse on 69 at 326 for nine, played second fiddle to Best and later moved into the 90s and raised the century partnership. He eventually reached his landmark with a single to backward square off Bresnan. At the end he was 107 not out.

Best continued his remarkable innings and seemed set for a memorable Test century when Graham Onions deceived him with a slower ball for captain Andrew Strauss to take the skied catch running back from slip. The final day was washed out by rain.

Adidas meet

Continued from previous page

The youth had their moments, too, especially when Ronaldo Griffith anchored for Tyler Lewis, Kemarni Mighty, and Kendall Wray and led East New York Impalis 'A' team to a victory in the 4x400-meter relay, one of the early events on the all afternoon program. The winning time read 3:43.42.

In this race, the Impalis team held the lead for a while, fell behind and then rallied to put on a strong kick to re-gain first place.

"We tried our best," said Griffith, whose father Barrington Griffith comes from Jamaica, West Indies, and ran in primary school games during his time in Jamaica. "I felt good because it was the second time we ran here. Last year we finished in second place. We ran in front of all these people from all over the world. It's a pleasure to be here.

"My (individual) specialty is the 100-meter hurdles and the 200-meter run and I did my best. My goal is to make it to the USA 4 x 400-meter relay team. I attend Intermediate School 302 here in New York," said Griffith.

Meanwhile, Lewis along with his teammates had a thrill in competing at Icahn Stadium.

"Last year I couldn't run with them because I was injured," said Lewis, who along with his teammates felt honored to run in a big meet.

"I can thank my coach John Ellis for being here," added Wray. "We train at the Old Boys High School field in Crown Heights."

Coming into the event, Mighty felt confident that he would be up there with the leaders during the race.

In another 1600-meter relay event, Dominic Smith anchored the Executive Track Club to a victory in a total time of 3:08.77, a



Bernard Lagat, second from right, leads the pack to victory in the men's 1,500-meter-race at the Adidas Grand Prix track and field meet on Randall's Island, Saturday, June 9, 2012, in New York.
AP Photo/Mary Altaffer

meet record bettering the old one of 3:10.28 set last year.

The 21-year-old Smith from Connecticut, a graduate of American International College, enjoyed the event and its outcome.

"We really enjoyed it," said the much travelled Smith. "Our coach assembled this relay team last week. We came out here to run a fast time. We didn't (even) practice for we

just got out of college."

Teammate Roxroy Cato, originally from Kingston, Jamaica, made his debut a successful one at Icahn Stadium and in another 4 x 400-meter relay.

"I ran in Jamaica; I just had to train hard and did what I had to do," added Cato, who competed on the track and field team at Lincoln University.

Cato's goal is to go to the Olympic Trials, win it and then represent his country in London in the 400-meter hurdles.

Christian Brothers Academy, one of the local high school teams, captured the third and final 1600-meter Junior Boys Relay in 3:15.73.

Overall, the spectators certainly enjoyed the many races and field events on the program. Records and personal best performances by the athletes fell. Those who qualified to go to the Olympic Trials must be thrilled. Even the athletes who did not qualify to advance themselves enjoyed competing at Icahn Stadium in this year of the Olympics.

Gibson and Sammy Tactics are Falling Apart

Apart from the splendid preparation that the England management and selectors have indulged in for the One Day Internationals against the West Indies and the full knowledge of their conditions that does not mean the Windies could not have performed better in the first One Day International. The Windies selectors on tour erred when they did not include pacer Fidel Edwards or Jino Best. It makes cricket sense to have a bowler as in Ravi Ram Paul to be accompanied by another specialist fast bowler in order to put pressure on the opposition.

Why the Injured Darren Bravo Played?

When a player or players are injured under no condition must injured players participate in a cricket match. Darren Bravo was injured before the first One Day International and the West Indies hefty selectors still gambled and included him on the team. It is about time that the overall West Indies management and selectors modify their strat-



Eyes on Cricket

By George H. Whyte

egies and come to reality of the necessities to develop and win. The West Indies selectors ought to reconsider their decisions in team selection and put forward a much more meaningful process in selecting teams.

Denesh Ramdin Batting at Number Three was Premature

West Indies wicket keeper batsman Denesh Ramdin never should have been placed at number three in the first One Day International against England. In spite of Ramdin's form in the last test match the One Day strategy must be different. Mr. Ramdin batting at number three in a test match would be much more appropriate.

Andre Russell is Fine for the Number Three Spot

Jamaica's all rounder Andre

Darren Sammy and Otis Gibson must identify the qualities in

Russell is a batsman just waiting to explore his true values. West Indies captain and head coach respectively

players. Russell wants to go up in the order in these One Day Internationals to boost his confidence. Russell has the ability to attack and defend. Darren Bravo is batting in a position that the sheen is still 80% on the ball and because of his flat footed style he is not getting in line to the pitch of the ball. Bravo is a fine player but apart

from his few flaws he must be removed from the number four position. If the selectors insist in keeping him at number four in test matches thus he must bat at four in the One Days as well. Captain Darren Sammy and the distinguished head coach Otis Gibson must find a batsman for the One Day series at number 3.



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Across

1. Jamaican spiritual movement
6. Sports official
9. But not least?
13. Like puppy-hating de Vil
14. Gone by
15. New _____, capital of India
16. Harsh or corrosive in tone
17. Daughter's brother
18. Like Bird flu
19. *She holds a record 17 Oscar nominations
21. *She escapes the Wicked Witch
23. International help
24. Heaven's Gate, e.g.
25. Dog foot
28. *Yugoslavian dictator
30. Expel from a country
35. Mountain divide between Europe and Asia
37. *Cruise and Hanks
39. Extend subscription
40. Ruptured
41. Old photograph color
43. Seawards
44. Forcefully urge
46. Home for students
47. *Denim innovator
48. Capital of Bahamas
50. Start of a hole, pl.
52. Bo Derek in 1979

53. T on a test

55. ____ stop

57. *Wheelchair-bound physicist
61. *MC famous for parachute pants
64. Home to largest mammal
65. *Blanche Devereaux on "The Golden Girls"
69. Chopin's instrument of choice
70. A belief or philosophy
71. High society
72. Inactive
73. *First baseball player to reach 3,000 hits
74. Rent again

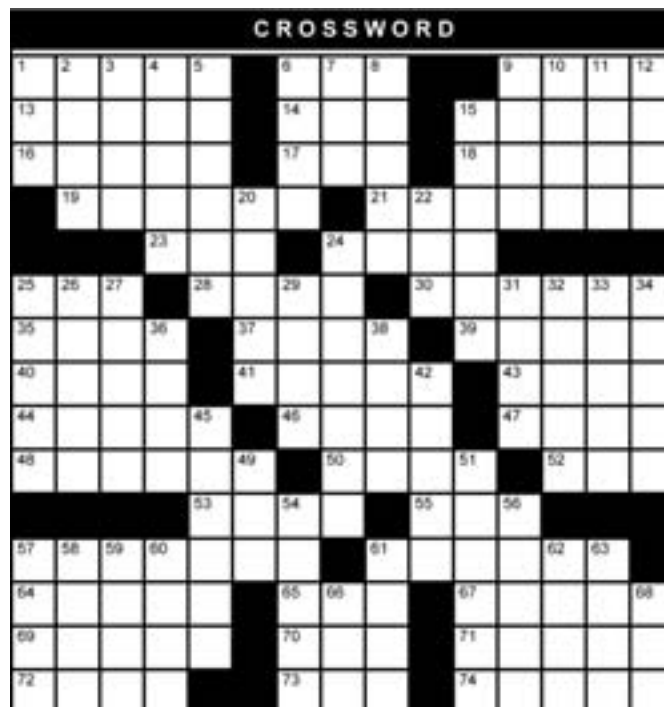
Down

1. Consumer electronics maker
2. Rainbows, e.g.
3. Edible fat
4. ____ firma
5. Even though
6. Wood file
7. Big head
8. Dipping meal
9. Russian left
10. Different spelling for alighted
11. * ____ of Iran
12. Like Tim of "A Christmas Carol"
15. One who darts
20. Changes to a manuscript

22. Not new or borrowed or blue

24. Fruit _____

25. *Russia's 2-time President
26. Pleasant odor
27. Time _____, pl.
29. Three-____ sloth
31. Bell sound
32. Early stages of illness
33. **"Superman" to Kidder's Lane
34. *a.k.a. Samuel Clemens
36. *General Robert E. and director Spike
38. Seabiscuit's father, e.g.
42. Single-cell protozoan
45. Hispanic American
49. Crematorium jar
51. *Known as the "Queen of Disco"
54. Finno-____ family of languages
56. Upside down frown
57. Shoshonean people
58. Turns blue litmus red
59. Raised mark on skin
60. *His last word was "Rosebud"
61. Cannabis plant
62. Male version of Emily
63. Intersecting nerves or vessels
66. North American country
68. Many tennis games make one of these



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Families at risk

By Gelah Penn



There are many reasons that families may be at risk: a caregiver's substance abuse, emotionally fragile adolescents, domestic violence. Often families are too embarrassed, confused, and ashamed to seek help. However, there are private non-profit agencies that address and help families with exactly these issues. Jewish Child Care Association's (JCCA) Mental Health and Preventive Services in

Brooklyn help nearly 4,000 children and families every year so that they can resolve their immediate problems and keep children safely at home.

Five years ago, Dihanne W.'s problems with her husband became critical and ensuing domestic violence caused physical and emotional harm to her and trauma to their two young daughters, ages 9 and 6. After Dihanne received full custody of the children, the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) referred her to JCCA's Preventive Services program. JCCA's social worker, Sarah Gaffey, worked with the family for 18 months, giving them counseling around the trauma associated with domestic violence and developing safety plans with them. She also provided community resources to help the children improve their self-esteem and help them

feel less isolated. The family attended counseling sessions regularly and through a process of learning to communicate, as well as acknowledging and dealing with their anger, they developed the inner resources to move forward. Dihanne realized that her children came first and all have made tremendous progress and are doing very well. "I couldn't have gotten this far without JCCA's help," Dihanne says. "They were there for me every step of the way."

JCCA's Brooklyn Preventive Services offer clients counseling, a social network for those isolated from the community, 24-hour crisis intervention, and home visits to emotionally fragile children. JCCA partners with schools, courts, and other community services on behalf of individual clients. For more information on these services, call 718-859-4500.

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NEWLY CONSTRUCTED APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Richmond Place is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for 92 affordable housing rental apartments now under construction at 129-11 Jamaica Avenue in the Richmond Hill section of Queens. This building is being constructed through the Low-Income Affordable Marketplace Program (LAMP) of the New York City Housing Development Corporation and the Low Income Rental Program (LIRP) of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development. The size, rent and targeted income distribution for the 92 apartments are as follows:

# Apt. Available	Apartment Size	Household Size*	Monthly Rent**	Total Annual Income Range*** Minimum - Maximum
9	Studio	1	\$785	\$28,869 - \$34,860
22	1 Bedroom	1 2	\$844	\$30,926 - \$34,860 \$30,926 - \$39,840
3	2 Bedroom	2 3 4	\$835	\$30,720 - \$33,200 \$30,720 - \$37,350 \$30,720 - \$41,500
51	2 Bedroom	2 3 4	\$1,022	\$37,132 - \$39,840 \$37,132 - \$44,820 \$37,132 - \$49,800
7	3 Bedroom	3 4 5 6	\$1,175	\$42,926 - \$44,820 \$42,926 - \$49,800 \$42,926 - \$53,820 \$42,926 - \$57,780

* Subject to occupancy criteria ** Includes gas for cooking *** Income guidelines subject to change

Qualified Applicants will be required to meet income guidelines and additional selection criteria. Households may elect to submit an application by one of two methods: EITHER online OR by mail. To submit your application online now, please visit NYC Housing Connect at www.nyc.gov/housingconnect and select "Apply for Housing." All online applications must be submitted by August 6, 2012. To request an application by mail, please mail a self-addressed envelope to: Richmond Place, P.O. Box 20229, Floral Park, New York 11002. All mailed applications must be returned by regular mail only (no priority, certified, registered, express, overnight or oversized mail will be accepted) to a post office box number that will be listed on the application, and must be postmarked by August 6, 2012. Applications will be selected by lottery; applicants who submit more than one application will be disqualified. Disqualified applications will not be accepted. A general preference will be given to New York City residents. Current and eligible residents of Queens Community Board 9 will receive preference for 50% of the units. Eligible households that include persons with mobility impairments will receive preference for 5% of the units; eligible persons that include persons with visual and/or hearing impairments will receive preference for 2% of the units; and eligible City of New York Municipal Employees will receive a 5% preference.



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NEWLY CONSTRUCTED APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Richmond Hill Senior Living Residences is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for 56 affordable housing rental apartments now under construction at 127-03 Jamaica Avenue in the Richmond Hill section of Queens. This building is being constructed through the Low-Income Housing Credit Program (LIHC) and NYS Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program (SLIHC) of the New York State Homes and Community Renewal. The size, rent and targeted income distribution for the 56 apartments are as follows:

# Apt. Available	Apartment Size	Household Size*	Monthly Rent**	Total Annual Income Range*** Minimum - Maximum
8	1 Bedroom	1 2	\$667	\$24,686 - \$29,050 \$24,686 - \$33,200
48	1 Bedroom	1 2	\$811	\$29,623 - \$34,860 \$29,623 - \$39,840

* Subject to occupancy criteria
** Includes gas for cooking
*** Income guidelines subject to change

Qualified Applicants will be required to meet income guidelines and additional selection criteria. To request an application, mail a POSTCARD or a SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE to: Richmond Hill Senior Living, P.O. Box 20249, Floral Park, New York 11002. Completed applications must be returned by regular mail only (no priority, certified, registered, express or overnight mail will be accepted) to a post office box number that will be listed on the application, and must be postmarked by August 5, 2012. Applications postmarked after August 5, 2012 will be set aside for possible future consideration. Applications will be selected by lottery; applicants who submit more than one application will be disqualified. Duplicated applications will not be accepted. The age eligibility requirement is 62 years of age at the time of application for one person. A general preference will be given to New York City residents. Units will be available pursuant to the Fair Housing Act's equal opportunity and accessibility requirements and the accessibility requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

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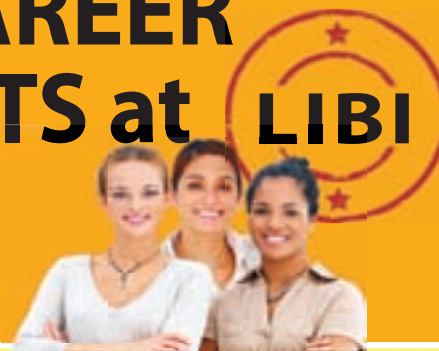
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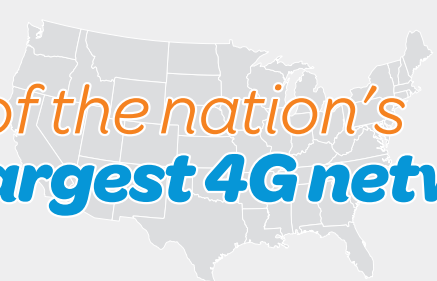
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