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Caroling for fallen NYPD cop

Students of PS 115 singing carols at the Seddio family 2015 holiday display in Canarsie, Brooklyn. See story on page 3.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

Safety Day takes guns off streets

By Nelson A. King

Brooklyn District Attorney Ken Thompson says two important community-based initiatives on Saturday were successful in helping residents dispose of unwanted guns and get rid of outstanding war-

rants stemming from summonses for minor offenses.

Held in two Brooklyn churches, Citizens' Safety Day resulted in 60 guns being turned in, and 336 warrants cleared from residents' records, Thompson said.

"Saturday was a tremendously successful day in Brooklyn," he said. "Dozens of guns that had the potential to cause harm by falling into the hands of criminals are out of circulation, and hundreds of

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TOUGH ROAD AHEAD

Recession stalks the Caribbean region

By Bert Wilkinson

One by one, governments in the 15-nation Caribbean Community are beginning to complain about full blown or creeping economic recession brought on in part by weak international and commodity prices and foreign exchange shortages especially those which are dependent on oil and primary commodities such as bauxite and unrefined gold.

The latest to officially fall by the financial wayside is Trinidad whose economy is taking

a beating from more than a year of very weak international prices for oil and petroleum products, the longtime mainstay of its economy.

In the past week, Central Bank Governor Jwala Rambaran did what government and industry officials had hoped he would not have done without proper notice and preparation.

He simply dropped the recession bombshell on the nation, telling anyone who cared to listen that after nearly four con-

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Banner year for Medgar Evers College

By Nelson A. King

Officials say Brooklyn's predominantly Black Medgar Evers College is having a banner year, with more than \$12 million received in commitments towards faculty research and sponsored programs — an all-time record for the college.

According to Tara Regist-Tomlinson, director of Development and Alumni Relations, recent grants to the college include \$3,000,000 from the U.S. Department of Education, Predominately Black Institution Grant, to improve retention and graduation rate; and \$2,494,735 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Workforce Diversity Pipeline Program, to assist promising high school students to pursue successful careers in the health profession.

Regist-Tomlinson said the college also received \$239,364 from the National Science Foundation, Research in Undergraduate Institution, to research on production of hydrocarbon fuel oil from brown grease.

New York City Department of Youth and Community Development, Beacon and Cornerstone Community Centers, also provided \$4,973,468 for after-school enrichment activities for youths and basic skills training to adults in high-need communities in Brooklyn, Regist-Tomlinson said.

U.S. Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, who made the keynote address at the Medgar Evers College's Faculty Research and Sponsored Research Recognition Reception on Friday, lauded President Rudolph F. Crew, a former New York City public schools chancellor, and Provost and Senior Vice President Augustine Okereke, for their leadership.

Clarke, who represents the 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn, also congratulated the college's faculty and staff for writing the winning grants to improve retention and graduation rates.

She was also praised the college in assisting promising high school students to pursue successful careers in the health profession, to research on production of hydrocarbon fuel oil from brown grease, and to provide after-school enrichment activities for youths and basic skills training to adults in high-need communities in Brooklyn.

"This is \$1million more than the college took in for the entire previous academic year," Dr. Crew told the reception, adding, however, that "there's still a great deal more to do to build on the college's capacity to fulfill its mission."



Frank Seddio, Kings County Democrat chairman entertaining the crowd.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

Holiday display in memory of Detective Holder

By Tangerine Clarke

Last Sunday, Dec. 5, little Neimier, a family member of slain NYPD Detective Randolph Holder flipped the switch at the Seddio family 2015 holiday display, illuminating the corner of Flatlands Avenue and E 90th Street in honor of the fallen hero.

Hundreds of residents crowded the area and watched in awe as Frank Seddio, Kings County Democrat chairman, joined Mrs. Holder, her sister, Sherry and others, against the backdrop of a spectacular Christmas light show with thousands of lights, animated toys, and a carousel decorated with Caribbean flags.

Senator Roxanne Persaud, in whose 19th Senatorial District the more than 40-year-old tradition has brought cheer to the neighborhood, spoke of the warm temperature saying, "It's nice out here, this means Detective Randolph Holder is smiling down and saying thank you for this acknowledgement. He made the ultimate sacrifice for us. We want to thank Frank Siddeo for all he has done and for bringing the Holder family here to honor them.

Persaud had recommended that Detective Holder be honored in keeping with the Seddio family custom to honor residents who had made significant contributions to the community. "Like the Holders, I am from Guyana so we share a special connection. On behalf of all Guyanese, we thank Mr. Seddio for honoring a son of Guyana's soil," said Senator



Seddio family house in Canarsie, Brooklyn.

Photo by Tangerine Clarke

Persaud before wishing the gathering a Happy Hanukkah, a Merry Christmas and Happy Kwanza.

Assistant Chief Maddrey of Brooklyn Police Patrol North, who joined Chief Police Officer Scholl of Patrol South, said the Christmas cheer by the Seddio family was more special this year because they dedicated and honored a true hero — Detective Holder, "he did a very tough job for our safety," he said. Public Advocate Letitia James in turn, reminded the gathering that, "when you see the beauty of this house we will remember Detective Holder."

"Let's continue to remember the families of Detective Holder, Detective Ramos, Detective Liu and Detective Moore," added James of the other fallen NYPD detectives.

Councilmember Alan Mansel, who requested a button worn by Princess

Holder with the image of Detective Holder, lamented that it is intolerable when a loved one who defends the public never returns home at night.

"We have to continually remember them and cherish what they have done, this is why Mr. Siddeo honored Detective Holder," said Mansel

Randolph Holder Sr., father of Detective Holder said, "I feel great that they did this in remembrance of Randolph, it shows that his life lives on, and I thank Mr. Seddio and Senator Roxanne Persaud for what they have done and hope they continue to do good things so that the citizens of this city will live in peace."

The retired Guyana police officer added, "I want to give praise to my son for the commitment he gave to the NYPD, he died a hero."

"I praise him for the discipline he grew up with in Guyana, and the level he attained that allowed him to join the NYPD. Unfortunately, he lost his life defending the city. I still feel sad, and I am still coping with my son's tragic death. Every function I attend, a fresh wound opens up," he sighed.

Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, and other elected officials, who expressed their gratitude to the Seddio family, viewed the festive celebration that was punctuated by singing of carols by students of the PS 115 Musical Club and conducted by Gail Difriend, Roger Hanson and his elves and the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Santa Clause.

Caribbean

The Caribbean in the last 10 years alone has achieved a 61 percent reduction in AIDS-related deaths, according to a report, titled "Focus on Location and Population: Fast track to end AIDS by 2030," which was released by UNAIDS recently. Dec. 1 marked World Aids Day.

The report said since 2000, new infections in the region declined by 50 percent and additionally, following the success of Cuba, several Caribbean countries have also been on track to be validated as having eliminated HIV transmission.

"All these gains are linked to improvements in HIV testing and treatment. Based on the new World Health Organization guidelines for initiating patient on antiretroviral medicines immediately after diagnosis, treatment coverage for the region is 44 percent for adults and 36 percent for children," states the report.

It also noted that strategic efforts were also required to reach those most vulnerable.

The report said in order to reduce dramatically new HIV infections and deaths due to AIDS renewed efforts must be put in place to eliminate stigma and discrimination.

It also identified five groups relevant to the Caribbean that required intense investments and efforts, which included adolescent girls and young women, gay men and other men who have sex with men, transgender people, sex workers and prisoners.



Barbados

Barbadians will have to pay more to use their cell phones come January 2016.

But Minister of Finance Chris Sinkler says that rather than having to pay a Bds\$0.03 (US\$0.015) per minute tax on airtime, which was government's original plan, mobile phone users will see the hike in the form of an increased Value Added Tax (VAT) rate on cell phone service- 22 percent, up from the usual 17.5 percent.

In an interview with Barbados Today, Sinkler explained the government had decided to go to the latter route, since the initial plan and would be too difficult and expensive for telecommunications providers to implement.

"It would mean an additional cost to them to do a new billing system to accommodate the new excise at three cents," he said.

"They also indicated that they would prefer if it were a percentage, rather than a real figure. It was recommended



Jamaica faces coastal erosion

Eroded beaches littered with rotting Sargassum Seaweed have become the norm for fishers along the Hellshire bay. Scientists say both are due to the effects of climate change. See story on page 16.
Inter Press Service / Zadie Neufville

that the easiest and cleanest way to do this would be to do an increase on the VAT, because VAT is already charged with those services.

The measure is expected to raise between Bds\$15 million (US\$7.5) million and Bds \$16 million (US\$8 million) — about half what government would have raked in via the airtime tax route.

Guyana

The Justice for Walter Rodney Campaign has petitioned the government to ensure a proper inquiry is conducted into the death of Dr. Walter Rodney.

The group includes former and current members of the Working People's Alliance (WPA), the party that was once led by Dr. Rodney, made a plea in a petition delivered to the government that call on President David Granger to life government's "short-sighted" abrupt end to the enquiry and allow key witnesses to testify in the probe.

The "petitioners" are demanding that Guyana's President Granger allow the Walter Rodney Commission of Inquiry two more weeks it requested to properly complete its work."

According to the Justice for Walter Rodney Campaign, "the administration is refusing a mere two weeks, after 24 years of evasion by successive governments."

One June 13, 1980, Rodney 38, was



killed by a bomb in his car.

"The refusal by the Granger-led coalition government to allow the commission to complete its work now threatens to undo more than one year's work and to deny Guyanese the opportunity to finally establish the truth of the death of one of Guyana's great sons," said members of the Justice for Walter Rodney Campaign.

Grenada

Grenada won first place at an awards ceremony recently in Dominica which celebrated conservation campaigns on six different islands.

The campaigns are part of a regional initiative, "This is Who We Are," that promoted the importance of protecting marine and coastal ecosystems.

The ceremony was held in Cabrits National Park, overlooking one of Dominica's marine protected areas.

Mayor of Portsmouth Titus Francis welcomed an audience of more than 100 community members, international campaign teams, local fishers and government representatives.

The main award was announced from a sealed envelope by Parliamentary Representative of Portsmouth Ian Douglas.

Grenada won first place with St. Lucia in second and St. Vincent and the Grenadines in third place.



A panel of international judges determined the winners based on innovation, impact, and campaign sustainability.

Jamaica

The Ministry of Health is advising Jamaicans they should step up their mosquito prevention activities given that the Zika virus has entered the Caribbean region.

Chief Medical Officer Dr. Marion Bullock DuCasse says the ministry has received reports of a possible link of Zika virus infection to birth defects. The Pan American Health Organization is investigating the matter.

After the Zika virus outbreak, several babies in Brazil were found to have microcephaly, which results in an abnormal growth of the brain and stunting of the growth of the head of the fetus arising from infection in the first months of pregnancy.

"Pregnant women are among the high-risk group for severe symptoms of Zika virus. Children under five years old, the elderly and persons with chronic non-communicable diseases are also at greater risk. We therefore appeal to all Jamaicans, but especially those who fall in this group, to take precautions and prevent not being bitten by mosquitoes as best as possible," she said.

"The Aedes aegypti is the mosquito



Continued on Page 24



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Jwala Rambarran, governor of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago.

Recession in Trinidad

Continued from page 1

secutive quarters of economic decline that it was time for the nation to be aware of the real

state of play.

An angry Finance Minister Colm Imbert publicly denounced the bank chief suggesting that he was "discourteous" by not

informing him of his plans to announce that the twin-island republic with Tobago was officially in recession before he went public. He and the attorney general cited laws to back up claims that Rambarran is obliged to consult with the minister before taking such action.

But this did not change anything, especially the disquiet in the economy about what the near term future portends with oil trading last week at less than \$40 per barrel and with the island still struggling to convince itself that it has to diversify away oil and gas in order for it to have a stable future.

The Trinidad economy is the biggest in the bloc of nations from Suriname and Guyana on the South American mainland to the tourist islands the Eastern Caribbean to Belize in Central America. Rambarran also caused some disquiet by warning that the full blown effects will be felt early in 2016.

"Four consecutive quarters of decline in real GDP in 2015 means T&T is now officially in a recession. Lower energy prices also negatively impacted the domestic energy sector. This has already been reflected in job losses at some energy companies. The decision by Arcelor Mittal to idle its steel plant will not only affect energy output

but also jobs," he said, giving an example of what the economy is experiencing.

The announcement came just a few weeks after the Surinamese Central Bank made similar predictions about the country whose economy is propped up by bauxite, gold and oil exports, all of which have been taking a beating in recent years.

The bank said recently that foreign exchange reserves have fallen from \$1B to a mere \$370M in the past year, noting that the future does not seem that promising. "Suriname is momentarily experiencing a genuine commodity shock," it said.

The country also recently devalued the Surinamese dollar sending up prices but offering hope to the export sector which will rake in millions when receipts come in and are exchanged for a higher rate in local dollars.

In neighboring Guyana, officials are playing up the near future prospects of a humongous oil and gas find off the Guyana coast by U.S. giant, Exxon Mobil in May even as gold and bauxite prices tank and the international markets for rice and sugar remain less than stellar.

Until 2015, GDP growth has been healthy but political turmoil linked to an inactive par-

liament for nearly a year and a budget that was presented at least five months later usual have not helped to stir confidence.

Apart from Jamaica, the three are among the larger economies in the trading group.

Trinidad's woes have also come with a healthy dose of foreign exchange unavailability problems. This is in spite of numerous interventions by the Central Bank, infusing millions into the economy only to see it disappear in a matter of days and the business community turning up cap in hand begging for millions more.

Minister Imbert says he will soon go to the 41-member parliament to ask it to raise government's borrowing capacity by an additional but staggering \$8B to pay off debts and fund development projects.

Still Governor Rambarran says that all the key players must come together to help turn around the situation or there will be gloom.

"We have no choice. We can and should work together to ensure we get the policies right for the country's recovery. We will all be double damned if spite, vindictiveness and ego keep us from working together to help our country," he suggested.

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Caribbean hoteliers back CARICOM climate change position

By Nelson A. King

The Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) is calling on the global community to support the Caribbean Community's (CARICOM) position advocating for a cap on the world's temperature rise at 1.5 degrees Centigrade as part of their deliberations during the United Nations Climate Change Conference currently taking place in Paris.

In a letter to Dr. James Fletcher, chairman of CARICOM Task Force on Climate Change, CHTA Acting President Karolin Troubetzkoy strongly supported CARICOM's call for a binding agreement on climate change.

"Considering the significant research conducted to demonstrate trend lines and forecasted impact of climate change on the world's most vulnerable countries, CHTA fully supports the position being advanced by the CARICOM Task Force," Troubetzkoy said.

She said that many developed and newly industrialized countries are prepared to settle for a 2025 climate change of a two-degree increase, "which would negatively impact CARICOM countries and the broader Caribbean basin."

CHTA said research has pointed to



The sculptures of the art-work "Where the Tides Ebb and Flow" by Argentinian artist Pedro Marzorati to point on rising waters of the global warming are installed in a pond at the Montsouris park during the COP21, United Nations Climate Change Conference, in Paris, Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2015.

Associated Press / Francois Mori

the devastating consequences for the Caribbean from a two-degree rise in temperature.

A report conducted by CARIBSave for CARICOM estimates that a two-degree

global temperature increase would result in a major displacement of coastal and urban population centers.

CHTA said many of the region's

Continued on Page 30

British cash for Caribbean projects

By Azad Ali

British Prime Minister David Cameron has announced a £5.6 million cash injection to help improve fishing, tourism and shipping in the Caribbean and other countries.

He recently made the announcement while unveiling a £26 million aid package to help tackle global warming ahead of a meeting of world leaders in Paris.

The British prime minister recently attended the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Malta.

The 25 "small island" Commonwealth recipients include Bermuda, Jamaica, the Maldives, the Seychelles, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago.

The British PM said he wants the countries to be able to make the most of their maritime natural resources.

The cash will be used to manage fisheries, protect coastlines and tackle pollution, as well as extending disaster risk.



Renewing Struggling Schools

by Michael Mulgrew
President,
United Federation of
Teachers

Cities and school districts across the country have tried a range of strategies to deal with the problems of poor children and struggling schools.

Under former Mayor Bloomberg, New York City relied on a "shutdown" strategy, eventually closing 150 schools, including some that the Bloomberg administration itself had created.

While Bloomberg's cheerleaders lauded his approach, the fact is that many of our schools – both older ones and those started during Bloomberg's tenure – continue to struggle.

In contrast, the de Blasio administration has listened to teachers and members of school communities. We know that it is difficult, but struggling schools can succeed – if provided the proper support and resources, and a team approach that brings all a school's stakeholders together.

The city's new Renewal program, created with input from stakeholders, is designed to focus on some of the neediest schools in the system. Early returns show that many of these schools have stabilized and in some cases are started on the road to improvement.

Students in these schools start out with deficits. Nearly 20 percent are English Language Learners and almost a quarter are classified as special education. Thousands live in shelters or are doubled up with relatives. Many are hungry, lack winter clothes, or have medical needs, including glasses and hearing aids. Many have parents who are unemployed or who work long hours at minimum-wage jobs.

Teachers at these schools see these problems not as excuses, but as issues that need to be addressed to ensure that all kids have an equal opportunity to learn.

Renewal schools are being paired with non-profit agencies to deliver services like health care and counseling to students and their families. What's more, the nearly \$400 million the administration is investing in these schools over the next three years includes funds for hiring teachers, academic

coaches, social workers and other professionals, along with professional development for the staff on the skills necessary to work with children facing these challenges.

While in 2013-14 nearly one-third failed to meet targets for student achievement, the 2014-2015 School Quality Report shows that now 87 percent of the renewal schools are moving in the right direction, measured by better attendance, more family involvement and other criteria. As a group, they showed gains in both reading and math on state tests.

Many of these schools have a long way to go. Turning them around is difficult, particularly in the face of years of cutbacks and systemic indifference. These schools will require a multi-year strategic intervention built on sound education practice, including custom-tailored supports for each school's particular needs. With its Renewal program, New York City is taking on tough work that no one in the country has attempted before on this scale.

The insanity of racism in America

By Kevin Bollers

So, are we really not going to talk about the insanity that is racism in this country? Are we not going to discuss how mentally warped the idea is, that you can hate someone and consider them so subhuman to the point that you can kill them without any remorse whatsoever solely on the basis of pigmentation and melanin? We had a fugitive in hiding for killing a lion, yet black men and women have their lives taken by racist hate groups and police alike, black churches are being shot up or set fire to and yet there is barely an outcry. We live in a country where an individual such as Donald Trump who has gone on record to describe Mexican immigrants as mostly thieves, murderers and rapists, is leading in every poll as a serious contender for the highest office in the land. Is this not insanity? Am I going too far?

While racism it is not a psychosis defined by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders; especially consciously, deliberately, hatefully racist, because Lord knows we're not trying to give these people an out, it's not sanity either. Any behavior or belief that is destructive to the social fabric cannot possibly be rooted in sanity. Sanity by definition protects the social fabric. We are, after all, social beings. Racism is a toxic and perverse mimic of the natural xenophobia humans used to feel in the early days of humanity that drove them to defend their tribes from potentially

dangerous strangers. However, the former primal mindset at least left room for strangers to introduce themselves peacefully and perhaps even one day join the tribe; racism provides no such outs, gives no such relief.

If you think about the fact that while Europe had given up on the institution of human chattel, the United States engaged in a civil war over the right to keep slavery alive, its difficult not to see the insanity. Nearly as many men died in captivity alone, during the Civil War as were killed in the whole of the Vietnam War. Hundreds of thousands died of disease. An estimated 620,000 men, lost their lives in the Civil War; this does not include women and children. This country came within a hair's breadth of going out like a flame; all because there were individuals in this country who did not want to give up their abominable domination over other human beings. That's crazy, folks! That's dangerously crazy.

The racist is dangerously crazy because as history has shown, they are at once homicidal, suicidal and genocidal. A person seeing people are subhuman because of the amount of melanin in their skin? Yes, that's dangerously crazy and we need to somehow deal with that and them, and not think that, like the reasonably normal human being, we can just appeal to their humanity or educate them out of it. God knows we've been trying this

Continued on Page 12

Legal justice for servicemembers

By Lt. Col. Daniel L. Davis, USA (Ret.)

The U.S. government emphatically states through the website of its Office of Personnel Management that "employees have a responsibility to report waste, fraud and abuse," and that the American "public is also invited to share such concerns." In order to ensure an efficient and honest government, there are programs in place to allow the people who work in the government to report, free from retaliation, when fraud, waste, or abuse occurs. Yet all too often when people decide to take the risk by reporting wrongdoing, they not only aren't protected, but are attacked by the very government whose interests they seek to protect.

The most recent example of this sad penchant involves recently retired Army officer Lt. Col. Jason Amerine, a highly decorated combat veteran. In late 2013 he was part of an exclusive cell operating out of the Pentagon charged with trying to gain the release of U.S. hostages in various parts of the world. Amerine saw firsthand the dysfunctional interagency squabbling that sabotaged efforts to win the freedom of some American hostages. He was so incensed by the failures of the agencies that he approached a member of Congress to report the matter. But in January of this year, one of the organizations of that dysfunctional team — the Federal Bureau of Investigations — sought to put Lt. Col. Amerine "in his place" by asking the Army to open an investigation,

The inability of the multiple government agencies to work together might have been a contributing factor in the death of one hostage and caused the US to pay a significantly higher strategic price for the release of another.

stripping him of his security clearance and effectively silencing any further actions.

The inability of the multiple government agencies to work together might have been a contributing factor in the death of one hostage and caused the US to pay a significantly higher strategic price for the release of another. Amerine officially retired from the Army this month, without any charges filed and was awarded the Legion of Merit. While it is gratifying to see Amerine justly cleared of all allegations and winning back his personal honor, the question must be asked: what happened to the individuals in the FBI and CID who were responsible for retaliating against him? The personal hell whistleblowers suffer cannot be overstated.

In 2012 after returning from my second combat deployment to Afghanistan, like Amerine, I approached several members of the House and Senate to tell them the claims of our most senior civilian and mili-

tary leaders that the war was going well were simply untrue. I also published an unclassified report exposing the truth. As a result I was treated like a pariah. Daily life became almost unbearable, as I was marginalized by superiors; even friends and coworkers feared to be seen talking to me. I can only imagine how much worse life was for people like Jason Amerine who were subjected to punitive and baseless investigations.

Changes must be made so that governmental agencies and officials are not able to wantonly make spurious accusations against men and women who may consider exposing wrongdoing: don't even think about saying anything because we'll make your life a living hell. Help may be on the way.

Working in conjunction with the Project On Government Oversight (POGO), Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Representative Jackie Speier (D-CA) introduced the "Legal Justice for Servicemembers Act," which seeks to redress some of the weaker points of existing whistleblower protection provisions. Some of the key features of this bill include permitting legal challenges to retaliatory investigations, establishing fair burdens of proof to establish retaliation, and giving the Inspector General the authority to issue

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Caribbean Life

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A common-sense deficit about guns

But for the deadly serious topic he was addressing, it would have been laughable listening to presidential contender Senator Marco Rubio's convoluted attempt at an explanation of why he and practically the entire Republican Senate caucus voted against the common-sense gun law reform Democrats again sought to get passed right after the San Bernardino massacre.

Rubio's mumbo-jumbo, that those measures aimed at some bare-bones tightening of laws governing firearms possession wouldn't have averted last week's mayhem, was of course just another lame offering on the gun issue from a gutless lawmaker. His competitor for the GOP nomination, predictably loathsome Senator Ted Cruz, reminded an audience that episodes like San Bernardino happen "only in gun-free zones," faithfully parroting the NRA line that the country needs more, not less, guns. When Rubio, Cruz and the rest of the GOP gun lobby apologists are comfortable balking at legislation that bans persons forbidden to fly from purchas-

ing firearms, it speaks to a state of lunacy in high places in this country that should give all of us the jitters.

So the demented pair who have been identified as perpetrators of the most recent eruption of senseless violence would have been able to legally acquire most, if not all, of the weapons used. How does this begin to justify turning a blind eye to closing loopholes that give a free pass to the census of folk, whatever its size, who should absolutely not be allowed near firearms? Or not agreeing to expanded background checks so as to include "backdoor" routes for gun purchases that aren't now on the radar?

Most troubling is, now that the frequency of mass shootings has made it an element of social dysfunction demanding high national priority, the Republican stone wall obstructing this (limited) fix comprises individuals who apparently are unbothered by constant references now made to America's singularly unflattering standing in the world in its gun-culture embrace. The clear message from advocates and

Viewpoint

By Les Slater

facilitators of this madness is that how they treat with firearms proliferation elsewhere in the civilized world is of no concern to the U.S. This flaunting of American hegemony and pooh-poohing of countervailing opinion from others in the international community is a phenomenon that's been known to make a big splash every so often.

We well remember when, with a bunch of neo-conservatives in firm grip of foreign policy direction in the George W. Bush administration and their sights unalterably set on invading Iraq, demonizing opponents of the hair-trigger hawkishness was all part of the administration's brainwash strategy. France came in for particular ridicule. And the mighty United Nations was all but cast aside by the Bush neo-cons as the premier international forum it is intended to

be. Inveterate proponents of open-ended gun use in this country are equally dismissive today of the views of foreigners aghast at an appetite in America for regression to a decidedly less civil order.

The horrific episode in California, followed by another cowardly Republican derailment of the latest gun law reform effort, moved the New York Times to billboard the continuing absurdity of Capitol Hill kowtowing to the gun industry in a manner the paper had not done in almost a century. The Times editorial board opted for a front-page editorial to characterize the inaction of lawmakers as "a moral outrage and a national disgrace." And the paper wistfully asked: "What better time than during a presidential election to show, at long last, that our nation has retained its sense of decency?"

The odds obviously aren't too favorable that any sense of decency, by way of a bold, principled stand by Capitol Hill against gun industry bullies, is in the cards anytime soon. Not with Republican caucuses, both in the House and Senate,

that see nothing "indecent" about dancing to the NRA's every tune. Two former Republican presidents, Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, in different ways, took notably strong stands against the gun lobby, and certainly in the case of Reagan, influenced the passage of key legislation. In 1994, the Brady bill that included the assault weapons ban, received Reagan's robust support and was passed, although it was allowed to die without fanfare and with no significant move made to expand it at its sunset 10 years later. Bush was prompted to publicly condemn the NRA in 1995 in his letter of resignation as a life member of the organization in the wake of typically incendiary NRA comment following the deadly Oklahoma City bombing.

Bully pulpit-wise, it's an altogether different scenario in 2015. Any appeals / overtures from the sitting president are guaranteed to have zero effect, either with the NRA or its Capitol Hill toadies.

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OP-EDS

Facing racism in America

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since the days of slavery to Jim Crow until now and it hasn't worked yet. One generation of racists die and another springs forth. Those who do manage to wake up from their racist delusions had to do the long and arduous work on their own and come to their own con-

clusions about reality. This is why we needed the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and #BlackLivesMatter in 2015. If we had just waited until racists woke up from racism on their own, black people would still be in shackles on cotton plantations, even now.

Legal safeguards for soldiers

Continued from page 10

a 90-day "stay" on alleged retaliation while it completes its investigation.

America needs men and women in military service with the moral courage to tell the truth. They carry out a valuable service to the nation by helping to keep government officials honest and by bringing to light situations that need redress which otherwise would remain buried. The least we can do for the coura-

geous people who keep our government accountable is to provide them with legal safeguards.

Lt. Col. Daniel L. Davis, USA (Ret.) – His work on defense, foreign affairs and social issues has been published in The New York Times, Financial Times, CNN, The Guardian, U.S. News & World Report, and other publications. He was also the recipient of the 2012 Ridenhour Prize for Truth-Telling.

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BVI receives support to reduce family violence

By Nelson A. King

The government of the British Virgin Islands (BVI) says it is receiving assistance in its efforts to reduce family violence from the United Nations organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women (UN Women).

The BVI said in a statement on Thursday that UN Women consultant Jacqueline Sealy-Burke facilitated a series of meetings with stakeholders from Nov. 29 to Dec. 1 on the effectiveness of the court-mandated Partnership for Peace Violence Intervention Program in its legal context.

Stakeholders also participated in work groups to discuss the "do's and don'ts" regarding reform on sexual offences, the statement said.

It said Sealey-Burke highlighted inadequacies in the handling of sexual offence cases in the region, and said law reform on its own is not adequate and must be accompanied by changes to the culture of the criminal justice system.

She said that the working group must also approach sexual offences from a systemic approach to effect needed change, according to the statement.

"Often, we approach black letter reform in hopes that it will change behaviors, and it won't," Sealey-Burke said. "You need to build on existing pro-

grams, training and judicial education to enhance law enforcement, prosecution and judicial officers' expertise in dealing with sexual offence cases."

BVI Gender Affairs Coordinator, Lorraine Connor said that due to a growing concern in the levels of violence against women and girls, particularly in the Caribbean region, UN Women offered support to the Virgin Islands to begin the process of legislation reform, towards the development of a Sexual Offences Bill.

She said the Territory will also receive assistance in implementing principles of equality and non-discrimination in the Territory's justice system.

Connor said she looks forward to the work ahead in the development of the bill and the continued enhancement of the Partnership for Peace Program.

She said that although Part Seven of the Criminal Code addresses some forms of sexual offences, a comprehensive law is needed that addresses all sexual offences, especially when dealing with cases of incest, sexual exploitation of children in all forms and a broadened definition of rape.

The Partnership for Peace Violence Intervention Program is court mandated and is geared at decreasing men's violence against women, the statement said.

Gun Buyback event nets 60 firearms

Continued from page 1

our neighbors had the fear of getting arrested for an unpaid summons lifted off their shoulders.

"We will continue to partner with other agencies, organizations and the community to enhance safety and fairness across our borough," he added.

The District Attorney said that a total of 60 firearms were turned in at the Gun Buyback event that took place on Saturday at the Lenox Road Baptist Church in East Flatbush, in partnership with the New York Police Department (NYPD).

Thompson said nearly all of the firearms were "street guns" — mostly revolvers and semi-automatic pistols that are often used to commit crimes.

He said they also included two rifles and three "zip guns" or homemade weapons that are sometimes used by gang members.

Thompson said no identification was required, and no questions were asked of those who chose to turn in the firearms in exchange for a US\$200 bank card for each gun.

The district attorney also said that some residents who attended the event

said that recent shootings, in their neighborhood and nationally, prompted them to get rid of guns they had at home, "which could have been stolen or used by a child."

"Others, like a construction worker who said he found a loaded gun inside a dumpster, brought weapons that could have easily ended up with criminals," Thompson said.

The Gun Buyback program is one piece of the district attorney's comprehensive approach to combat gun violence, which includes investigations of gun traffickers, targeting of individuals who are responsible for the majority of shootings through initiatives by the newly-created Crime Strategies Unit, and securing convictions and lengthy prison sentences in drug- and gang-related cases prosecuted by the Violent Criminal Enterprises Bureau.

Thompson said about 575 people also attended on Saturday his third Begin Again — a program designed to offer a solution to thousands of individuals who have an outstanding warrant because they failed to answer a summons for a low-level offense, like walking a dog without a leash or being in a park after closing.

"There are over one million open warrants citywide, and they carry a number of negative consequences, including subjecting the warrant holder to arrest at any time," Thompson said.

In all, he said 336 warrants were cleared at Mount Lebanon Baptist church in Bedford-Stuyvesant.

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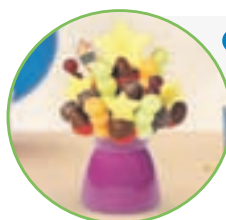


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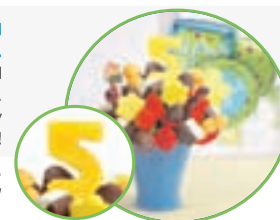
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Lions aid eye screening for students

By Nelson A. King

Students at a Brooklyn school has benefited from an eye screening projected organized collaboratively by the Central Brooklyn Lions Club and District 20 K1.

Central Brooklyn Lions Club said 78 students at Nathaniel Green Public School P.S. 36, at 2045 Linden Boulevard in Brooklyn, were "excited to have their eyes checked with a state of the art eye screening machine donated by District 20 K-1."

"The eye screening machine was able to detect 27 children with different vision problems, which would require referrals for further testing," said Jamaican Lion Beverley Campbell, the club's secretary, adding that the school's principal, Johanna Schneider, was also "excited and grateful for the



Students of the Nathaniel Green Middle School in Brooklyn wait patiently for an eye screening. From left: Lion Jacob Berelowitz, Queens Pride Lions Club, Lion Lavern Harrison, Central Brooklyn Lions Club and visiting Lion from Switzerland and guests of Central Brooklyn Lion Christian Brosni.

Central Brooklyn Lions Club

children and their parents who were given this opportunity."

Coordinators Lion Doreen Thomas, the Jamaican-born service chair, and Lion Ingrid Andrews Campbell, the club's Vincentian-born president joined District Representatives Lion Ralph Gonzalez and Lion Jacob Berelowitz Lions Quest, chairpersons, "in sharing the feeling that this was, indeed, a wonderful accomplishment," Campbell said.

"It was overwhelming to see the students and teachers

so excited – such an awesome feeling expressed by all," she added.

Visiting Lion from Switzerland and guest of Central Brooklyn Lions Club Christian Brosni congratulated District 20 K-1 Gov. Lion Melissa Torres "for having her district participating in such an awesome project," Campbell said.

"If the sight of one student was saved from this joint venture, then we would have accomplished what we do best – serve," she added.

Climate change will increase damage, losses in coastal communities

By Zadie Neufville

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Dec. 4, 2015 (IPS) - Residents of Rocky Point, a sleepy fishing village on Jamaica's south coast, woke up one July morning this year to flooded streets and yards. The sea had washed some 200 metres inland, flooding drains and leaving knee-deep water on the streets and inside people's home, a result of high tides and windy conditions.

"I've been here for 43 years and I have never seen it like this," Sydney Thomas told the Jamaica Observer newspaper.

Over at the Hellshire Fishing Beach, a community several miles outside the capital city Kingston, fishermen watched as their beach disappeared over a matter of weeks.

The sea now lapped at the sides of buildings. Boats that once sat on the sand were bobbing in the surf along the edge of what remained of the white sand beach.

An the far end of the Hunts Bay basin, the inner-city community of Seaview Gardens sat at the edge of the mangrove swamp. For decades, residents there lived with overflowing sewage systems, the result of a backflow that is caused when seawater enters outflow pipes, flooding the network and pushing waste water back into homes and into the streets.

Flooding in coastal communities around Jamaica is nothing new but in recent years, what used to be unusual has become a frequent occurrence.



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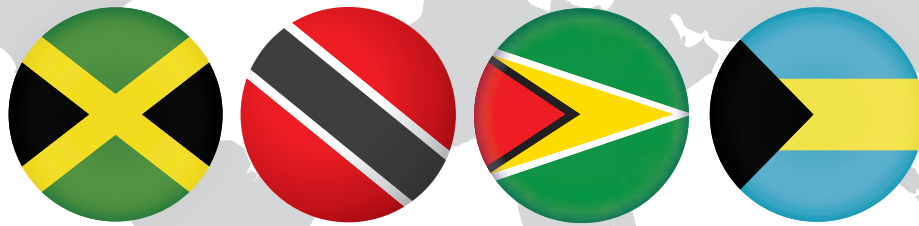
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More than rum, a tale of slavery

By Alley Olivier

Curl up to a tasty rum-based cocktail, feast on classic European bar bites with a Caribbean twist and indulge on a story of resilience and drive at the newly established Solomon & Kuff.

This Harlem gastropub is providing more than just 70 different rums — representing various Caribbean, Central and South America countries. The story of rum's connection to the triangle trade and roots in the Caribbean is what restaurateur Karl Franz Williams wishes to put on the forefront.

According to Williams, "I have a way for telling the rum story and I thought this was an opportunity to talk about a spirit that is connected to my culture and is absolutely delicious with a great story to tell."

This story is interwoven directly into the foundation of Solomon & Kuff. Williams named his restaurant after Venture Smith's sons Solomon and Kuff. Smith was a slave who was bought for four barrels of rum and who later bought his freedom and the freedom of his family. The restaurateur said there is a motivation to preserve and celebrate that legacy of drive presented by Venture Smith, while taking a minor liberty in switching the first letter of Kuff's name to a K.

"As a black, Caribbean person and knowing the history of rum it was impossible for me to have a rum bar and not



Karl Franz Williams is opening a new Caribbean-infused gastropub in Harlem featuring 70 rums.

Photo by Aurora Fiorentino Scerbo

tell some of that story," he explained. "It starts with rum, drive, entrepreneurship, and the spirit. He had two sons and their names were Solomon and Kuff, the idea is continuing the legacy of what he did."

That same drive and entrepreneurial spirit is present in Williams, a Yale University graduate, Brooklyn native and

of Vincentian descent.

This is not his first rodeo in opening a restaurant and bar; he first opened Society Coffee in 2005 which closed in 2011. While still operating Society Coffee, Williams opened 67 Orange Street in 2008 — a cocktail bar known for its masterfully crafted drinks.

"When I met some mixolo-

gists and cocktail professionals who were showing that the journey was just as important, I fell in love with that and immersed myself," he said.

His vision is greatly aided by a team who has been integral in doing the research, tasting, and adding to the growing list of rums. In particular, Nick Iattoni — who is director of oper-

ations, alongside his business partner Julie Grunberger, and Dierdra Goban who designed the space.

"It's impossible to do something like this without a great team," he said.

Solomon & Kuff officially opens its doors Dec. 11, located on 12 Avenue between 133 and 134 streets in Harlem.

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Making the case for Caribbean fishers

By Desmond Brown

PARIS, Dec. 6, 2015 (IPS) - Horace Walters has made the 6,903km journey from his native St. Lucia to Paris to deliver a simple, yet urgent message to the international community.

Walters, who has been involved in fishing for more than 40 years, said coastal communities, fishers, and fish farmers are already profoundly affected by climate change. He pointed to rising sea levels and acid oceans among the impacts of climate change.

"We need the international organisations and the (rich) countries to put their money where they have done a lot of damage. The damage is not done by us. We have not been able to have that kind of impact on the environment like the developed world has had so we want them to be mindful and we want them to understand that we need sup-

port," Walters told IPS.

"We need money to build new sea defences, new protection areas; it's going to take us money to buy new boats and bigger boats. We need help."

In the CARICOM region, the local population is highly dependent on fish for economic and social development. This resource also contributes significantly to food security, poverty alleviation, employment, foreign exchange earnings, development and stability of rural and coastal communities, culture, recreation and tourism.

The subsector provides direct employment for more than 120,000 fishers and indirect employment opportunities for thousands of others — particularly women — in processing, marketing, boat-building, net-making and other support services.

"We want to ensure that there is recognition of the negative impacts of climate

change on our fishing industry; that our people need to continue to sustainably use the resources and based on the science we have not been overexploiting out resources," Walters, who is the president St. Lucia Fisher Folk Cooperative Society, said.

"We have to be mindful that our people want to eat good protein and fish is a source of the best protein."

Dr. Asha Singh, who heads the Ocean Governance Unit in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) told IPS: "We derive about 55 per cent of our protein needs from the marine environment. Fisheries is an important sector for us. However we have not had success in promoting that into viable economic activity. It's still a very small percentage on our GDP (Gross Domestic Product) chart."

Walters said sea level rise and extreme weather con-



Horace Walters, who has been involved in fishing for more than 40 years, said coastal communities, fishers, and fish farmers are already profoundly affected by climate change. He pointed to rising sea levels and acid oceans among the impacts of climate change. Inter Press Service / Desmond Brown

ditions have resulted in the destruction of expensive infrastructure like landing sites, locker rooms and ramps.

"The haul-up areas are going to have to be re-established, redeveloped and some of our people are beginning to understand what it will cost because there is a cost when you lose all of your facilities. A lot of facilities have been built, landing ramps, fishing boat enclosures and with the sea level rise we anticipate that we might not be able to use them

anymore," he said.

"A lot of fishermen live in the coastal areas and if these are inundated with water we have to have a new land policy to relocate those people. It's going to be a really difficult proposition for our people because in the Caribbean we are fish eaters."

Experts have warned that the acidity of the world's oceans may increase by 170 per cent by the end of the century, bringing significant economic losses.

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Holiday bazaar makes shopping easy

By Alley Olivier

The holidays are upon us and thanks to the Stuyvesant Independent Art's Bazaar, gift-giving is now an easy weekend to-do list.

Bedstuy's Stuyvesant Mansion located at 375 Stuyvesant Avenue has been transformed into a holiday pop up shop, featuring food, clothing, an art exhibition, and various workshops for the whole family to enjoy.

This is not your average pop up shop; the organizers have created a well-rounded experience that provides a platform for small business owners to connect with the community in an intimate way.

According to participating



Jahzara of Jahzara Fashion House features garments at the Stuyvesant Indie Bazaar. Photo by Stefano Giovannini

artisan Allison Burnham of Coconut Baby Catering, "It's just a very eclectic group of artisans that are going to be there. It's not just food, it's going to be jewelry, people who hand-make ornaments, clothing — really interesting group of people, artists coming together to put together this bazaar."

The bazaar pulls entrepreneurs beyond Brooklyn's borders. Included in their vendor list is Coconut Baby Catering by Allison Burnham, who is based in Barbados but is originally from New York.

"I will be doing the mango-christophine tart, that's the new thing I'm doing," Burn-

Continued on Page 30

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CARIBBEAN ROUNDUP

Continued from page 4

that spreads the Zika virus as well, as dengue and chikungunya," the minister noted.

St. Kitts

St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Dr. Timothy Harris has paid tribute to former Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) Governor Sir K. Dwight Venner whose retirement came into effect on Nov. 30, 2015.

In a letter to Venner, Harris wrote: "On behalf of the government and people of St. Kitts and Nevis, I wish to thank you for your outstanding service as governor of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) over the last 26 years. Under your leadership the ECCB has seen tremendous growth and expansion of its portfolio services and overseen growth and stability in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECES) financial system."

Harris said a component of Venner's legacy would be the foundation laid for sustainable development and transformation of Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) countries.

St. Lucia

Officials of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) recently paid a visit to St. Lucia to launch two milestone

projects that will improve water access for more than 100,000 residents who live in some of the most underserved areas of the country.

The launch of the John Compton Dam Rehabilitation and Vieux Fort Water Supply Redevelopment projects will help end acute water shortages that have threatened the livelihoods of residents and stymied the growth of businesses in the north and south of St. Lucia.

The projects aimed to provide an efficient, reliable, climate-resilient water supply to the two areas.

The John Compton Rehabilitation Project aims to improve the reliability of water supply during the dry season for 93,000 residents in the northern districts of Castries. The project is supported by funding of US\$14,798 million provided by the CDB, the Inter-American Development Bank and the European Investment Bank (EIB).

Trinidad

The main opposition party in Trinidad and Tobago, the United National Congress (UNC) has won round two of its legal battle against the ruling People's National Movement (PNM) and the Election and Boundaries Commission (EBC) in its election petition.

— compiled by Azad Ali



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Lawrence Waldron.

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Book launch of 'Gypsy in the Moonlight'

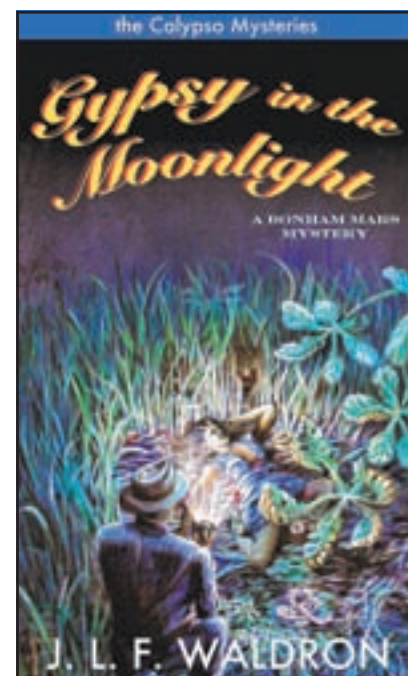
"Gypsy in the Moonlight," a novel set in Trinidad and Tobago during World War II, written by Lawrence Waldron, will be formally launched Tuesday evening Dec. 15 at the Brooklyn Public Library branch at 22 Linden Blvd., Brooklyn. The launch, scheduled for 6-7:45 pm, will be hosted by the Caribbean Awareness Committee and the Trinidad and Tobago Folk Arts Institute, in collaboration with the Caribbean Literary and Cultural Center.

The book is, as described by the author, "a historical novel that combines the wry wit, urban commentary and gender anxieties of the uniquely modern and surprisingly compatible mediums of calypso and noir."

A New York resident and émigré from Trinidad and Tobago, author Waldron teaches Caribbean Art at City College of CUNY. "Gypsy in the Moonlight" provided Waldron with an opportunity to lean heavily on abundant research and extensive writing and lecturing he has done on Trinidadian cultural traditions, including calypso.

Dubbed "a calypso mystery," the novel uses the presence of American servicemen stationed at the naval base in Chaguaramas, Trinidad from 1942 and the resulting so-called "social invasion" that impacted Trinidadian society, to weave its tale of mischief and eventually, murder. Reflecting the tenor of the times, the calypso art form, as an important forum for topical commentary, boldly addressed the dramatic change in social mores occasioned by the American military presence, no individual composition doing so more famously than Lord Invader's classic "Rum and Coca Cola."

Positive advance comments about "Gypsy in the Moonlight" include the following: "a fine, powerfully evoca-



Book cover of "Gypsy in the Moonlight."

tive literary work that confronts the dark shadows of the Yankee presence in Trinidad during the 1940s" (Roger Toussaint, former president of the Transport Workers Union Local 100); "it beams light on the often condescending presence of American military personnel stationed in Trinidad" (Duff Mitchell, Trinidad and Tobago Folk Arts Institute); "It is easily one of the best novels set in the Caribbean in the last 50 years" (W.R. Holder, educator).

The Dec. 15 book launch event is free and open to the public. For information, contact: Caribbean Awareness Committee at 718-532-6347 or T&T Folk Arts Institute at 718-252-6161.

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A gift-wrap station in a corner of the home that is seldom used can make wrapping presents any time of the year easier and more enjoyable.

Create your own area for gift wrapping

Nearly as much energy goes into wrapping gifts as purchasing them. Some people excel at wrapping gifts, while others do not enjoy the task at all. Part of the trouble with gift-wrapping is the room and tools needed to wrap all of those holiday treasures. But a gift-wrap station in a corner of the home that is seldom used can make wrapping presents any time of the year easier and more enjoyable:

- Find a place to store gift wrap and the tools needed to wrap gifts. Many people find the back of a closet door works perfectly.

- Install wire hanger racks so the gift wrap tubes can be stored vertically along the surface of the door.

- Install a folding shelf on a hinge, and use that shelf to do your wrapping. Fold the shelf up when it is not needed and secure it with a latch at the top.

- Hang hooks to store tape and scissors. Attach the scissors to the hook with a string so they won't go missing.

- A basket tucked nearby can house bows and ribbons so that they are easily stored until needed.

Having the wrapping station so accessible also allows you to take inventory of supplies and restock when necessary.

Has gift wrapping become a lost art?

Have we become a society that is too busy for gift wrap? When a birthday arrives or the holidays come around in full force, where do most people turn? To the ultra-convenient gift bag, that's where.

Before you eschew wrapping paper for a gift bag this holiday season, think about all of the advantages to spending some time and reacquainting yourself with the art of gift wrapping. Here are some reasons to save the gift bag for another time:

Wrapping can be green, too. Wrapping paper can be reused if it is carefully removed from a gift. You also can create your own wrapping paper by decorating brown postal paper with a rubber stamp or having children color their own special murals. Don't overlook newsprint as wrapping as well.

Paper is more cost-effective. Although there are scores of discount stores that sell low-priced gift bags, often the quality isn't the same, and the handles could tear after one or two uses. Wrapping paper per inch is definitely more affordable than gift bags, particularly when it's on sale.

Wrapping paper lets you be creative. Cover a box with a patchwork of different paper scraps, choose to stagger colors of paper with boxes towered one on top of another, or tie on the biggest bow you can find.

Paper is traditional. Look back to the classic stories of Yuletide and you are bound to find images of Santa Claus pulling wrapped boxes out of his enormous gift sack. Also think about how department stores used to (and some still do) offer complimentary gift wrapping.

Wrapped gifts travel better. When carrying your bounty of gifts to friends and family, carefully wrapped boxes tend to stand up to travel better than gift bags. No one wants to receive a gift bag that has been wrinkled and crushed into some amorphous shape. Plus, wilted tissue paper can be off-putting.



Have the best car-buying experience at Coney and V Auto Sales

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

When you are in the market for a used car, why not buy from Brooklyn's highest-rated used-car dealership?

Owner Glenn Gubner says, "We are the only used car dealer in the area with such extremely good reviews on Google and social media sites. We work hard to maintain our positive feedback ratings."

It's done by offering clients quality cars, fair pricing, excellent customer service, and by providing repair service to all makes and models. To put it quite simply, "We don't sell any cars with problems we are aware of," says Gubner. "All cars are very carefully examined and all necessary repairs are completed prior to selling."

It's a plus that there is a full repair facility on the premises that inspects the cars that are offered for sale. Long after the customers drive off into the sunset with their vehicles, this service can continue, making the entire experience very convenient for everyone.

At any given time, there are about 50 cars for sale in the lot, the majority of which are made in America and Japan.

"We always have Toyotas and Nissans in stock," says Gubner. "All are good quality, and all are good to go virtually problem-free for a long period of time."

Some of this current inventory can be viewed at the company's website, www.coneyandvautosales.com, and a recent check included other popular models such as Jeep Wrangler,



(Clockwise from top) From left, Coney and V Auto Sales Manager Alex Velsher, Mechanic Sam Cervantes, and Owner Glenn Gubner can help customers find and maintain their used cars. The staff knows the business. The inventory includes popular models such as Jeep Wrangler, Jeep Grand Cherokee, Acura, Chrysler, and Subaru.

Photos by Steve Schnibbe

Jeep Grand Cherokee, Acura, Chrysler, and Subaru.

Financing is available to everyone, no matter what the credit history.

"We offer extremely low rates for people with good credit, and there are low down payments for good credit customers, too," he says.

What also adds to the positive shopping experience is that Coney and V Auto Sales is a family-run business. This means everyone takes pride in their work, and they are eager to please all of their customers.

The tone is set by Gubner who says, "We are here to help people, and are willing to work with them."

No reasonable offer is refused, because the company's objective is to provide patrons with a good, reliable mode of transportation, at a fair price, he says.

The management understands that because some potential customers may not already own cars, it can be difficult to get out to the shop to see what they offer, so pick-up service is provided for serious buyers to get them to and from the fa-

cility. That's service.

The staff is comprised of professionals who know the business. In fact, some of them have decades of experience in the automotive field, and are able to offer expert advice.

The repair shop is open to everyone, even if cars were not purchased at Coney and V Auto Sales. In fact, Gubner encourages people to come in with cars bought from other dealers, and offers to evaluate them for a flat \$50 fee. If the car is mechanically and structurally sound, the staff will tell

you, but if they find issues, they will let you know what the problems are and let you know the cost of repairs.

What it all adds up to is this: "We are here to give you the best car buying experience you've ever had," says Gubner.

Coney and V Auto Sales [2510 Coney Island Ave. between Avenues V and W in Sheepshead Bay, (718) 759-6990, www.coneyandvautosales.com]. Open seven days a week, 9 am-7 pm.

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CLIMATE

Continued from page 9

beaches, resorts, airports, seaports, power plants and roads could disappear or incur significant damage.

CARICOM's Climate Change Task Force also pointed to the land mass losses in the region's 20 member CARICOM states.

It pointed to a rise in sea levels that would result in about 1,300 square kilometers of land area being lost.

This would be equivalent to the combined areas of Antigua and Barbuda, Anguilla, Barbados and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, CHTA said.

It said that when one extends the impact to 15 additional Caribbean Basin states that are not part of CARICOM, including Cuba and the Dominican Republic, the regional impact is far greater.

"Based upon these estimations, the social-economic consequences to the Caribbean would be catastrophic," said CHTA, adding that the consequences to the region's economies would be "severe, affecting employment levels, government revenue and diverting precious limited resources by states that are already facing vulnerable debt to GDP (gross domestic product) ratios, to infrastructure and mitigation efforts."

CHTA said that it supports the position being advanced by the CARICOM Task Force, which calls for a binding

agreement by the world's nations, recognizing the special circumstances of the Caribbean and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), mitigating the impact of climate change by adopting measures that are aimed at restricting a rise in global temperature below 1.5 degrees Centigrade above pre-industrial levels, and providing technical and financial resources supporting research and mitigation measures to counter losses.

Troubetzkoy said CHTA is "working on several fronts to create a more sustainable tourism industry."

With the support of the Inter-American Development Bank, she said detailed energy efficiency audits have been conducted on over 150 regional hotels.

Troubetzkoy said many of the region's hotels have put energy efficiency measures in-place, and that the industry has advanced training, policies and incentives that support greater efficiencies and lower carbon footprints.

Additionally, she said CHTA and many of the region's national hotel and tourism associations have developed and promoted readiness and response plans to minimize the impact from weather-related disasters.

CHTA said it is a federation of 32 national hotel associations, with more than 600 member hotels and over 300 allied members.

It said it is the largest representative of the private sector in the Caribbean hotel and tourism industry.

AMERIJET

Continued from page 22

type or weight in single packages, on pallets or skids, in containers or crates, or for consolidated shipments. The company serves a diverse clientele in New York shipping a vast range of goods, including, oversized and hard to handle shipments, electronics, heavy equipment, personal goods and household items and hazardous materials offering airport-to-airport and to-door delivery services.

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For more information, contact your local Amerijet office: Amerijet JFK Station; phone: +1-844-418-9404; email: sales.jfk@amerijet.com.

BAZAAR

Continued from page 22

ham said. "I'm also doing a couple of different drinks I do back home including a coconut punch, sorrel, cranberry-ginger drink — all kinds of different, new things that I'm trying out on the American public."

The unique shopping experience aims to pull the community in to "shop local" beyond small business Satur-

day. The Stuyvesant Independent Art's Bazaar also positions itself to push conversations around culture through the art exhibit by artist Citizin titled, "Not Black Enough For New York, Not African Enough For Accra" during opening night.

According to the artist's description his piece discusses the limbo between operating within two cultures.

The Stuyvesant Independent Art's Bazaar will run every Sunday until Dec. 20. Find your stocking stuffers at the holiday pop up shop.

Go to www.Caribbeanlifeneews.com for the latest in Caribbean news, entertainment, sports, business, viewpoints and more.

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A commercial revolution in Bed-Stuy

By Shavana Abruzzo

Business is booming in Bedford-Stuyvesant, its commercial heart beating along Fulton Street on a retail sprawl the size of eight football fields.

Trendy boutiques, national chain stores, and long-standing mom-and-pops bustle along Fulton between Troy and Classon Avenues, and on Nostrand Avenue from Halsey Street to Atlantic Avenue. It's a shopping depot for residents, a magnet for new transplants, and a point of discovery for tourists seeking a special souvenir — whether an exotic African curio or a sumptuous memory of a soul-food dinner savored in a cozy restaurant.

Bedford-Stuyvesant's renaissance is the story of a social and demographic revolution. Crime is down, young professionals are moving in, local entrepreneurs are opening businesses, a Neo-Grec townhouse on Hancock Street sold for \$2,950,000 in September, and a community group is fast-tracking the renaissance to improve commercial and residential life.

"You can feel the change because people are taking a strong interest in this part of Bed-Stuy for the great opportunities that exist here," says Michael Lambert, executive director of the six-year-old Bed-Stuy Gateway Business Improvement District that manages the commercial corridor and collaborates on such improvement projects as the \$20 million Nostrand Avenue reconstruction between Atlantic and Flushing avenues, and the \$22 million Fulton Street-scape Beautification project with new plazas, sidewalks, trees, benches, illumination, and bike racks to enhance visual appeal.

Lambert takes his job seriously. When contractors working on the Nostrand Avenue project left for the day with the sidewalk ripped open between Fulton and Halsey streets — posing an imminent danger to merchants and patrons —



A small-business revolution along Fulton Street is catapulting Bedford-Stuyvesant to new economic heights.

he fired off phone calls and emails to city pooh-bahs until the problem was fixed within 24 hours.

"That way businesses could engage safely with their customers again," he says.

The Bed-Stuy Gateway Business Improvement District serves close to 400 commercial enterprises, and is among the 72 such private-public partnerships with the New York City Department of Small Business Services helping to revitalize neighborhoods and spur economic development across the city through \$100 million invested in programs and services.

- It attracted Edible Arrangements, Walgreens Pharmacy, and Planet Fitness to the region.

- Its "cleaning ambassadors" — grimebusters in lime green

uniforms — power wash and pick up after the more than 27,000 daily visitors, virtually around the clock.

- Its public safety and environmental control team is out on the street monitoring cameras placed throughout the district.

- Its marketing experts help merchants promote their businesses through links to their websites from the group's online merchant directory, annual holiday advertisements in local newspapers, and other outreach.

- It introduces local youngsters to the workplace with paid and unpaid internships.

The "gateway" in its name is also strategic.

"The founders saw this stretch of Fulton Street as being a portal to other parts of

the borough and Manhattan," says Lambert, who assumed his position three years ago and has seen a dozen new businesses come aboard, elevating the profile of the surrounding neighborhood — an architectural splendor containing one of the largest collections of largely untouched Victorian-style buildings in the country, with nearly 9,000 structures built before 1900 by some estimates.

Bedford-Stuyvesant — named for the Duke of Bedford and early settler Peter Stuyvesant — is a living catalog of the working-class experience. Diverse ethnic groups, including Jews, Italians, Irish, Caribbeans, and southeast Asians, have called it home, and its torturous battle with civil rights, unemployment, pover-

ty, crime, and hope is etched on its handsome buildings and scrappy sidewalks that scream empowering quotes from Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X.

It's also a veritable Who's Who:

- Late Rep. Shirley Chisholm [1924–2005] was born here to a factory worker and a seamstress, becoming the first African-American woman to serve in Congress and earning a reputation for breaking down barriers while tirelessly advocating for the most vulnerable in our communities as the "people's politician." President Obama posthumously granted Chisholm the Presidential Medal of Freedom last month — the highest national civilian honor — to coincide with what would have been her 91st birthday.

- Jewish immigrants Morris and Rose Michtom invented the Teddy bear above their tiny candy store at 404 Tompkins Ave. between Hancock Street and Jefferson Avenue in 1902.

- Singer Lena Horne was born at 661 Lafayette Ave.

- Jackie Robinson Park on Reid Avenue between Chauncy and Marion streets honors Major League Baseball's first African-American player.

- Freed slave James Weeks established one of the nation's first free-black communities in nearby Weeksville.

Today's diverse and eclectic mix of residents and businesses — among them families, artists, entrepreneurs, community advocates, and service and arts organizations — are as culturally committed, housed in historic brownstones and living harmoniously for the most part in a neighborhood that has been sliced and diced more than a Thanksgiving turkey.

Mary H. Monomi opened her book on Bedford-Stuyvesant in 1973 with the question, "Why would anyone want to live there?" These days she might wonder, "Why are so many people flocking there?"

Photo by Elizabeth Graham



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A local baker sweetens the revival

By Shavana Abruzzo

Good lookin' Bedford-Stuyvesant is cookin' up an economic storm, thanks to innovative entrepreneurs such as boutique baker Myriam Nicolas.

The small business owner opened Brooklyn Baby Cakes on Nostrand Avenue between Macon and Halsey streets in 2012, a decade after buying a home in the brownstone community — then a blighted blip on the radar, despite being a short train ride away from downtown Manhattan.

"If you moved to Bedford-Stuyvesant you were some sort of a pioneer," she says. "It was a neighborhood people were skeptical about."

Nicolas and her husband were early visionaries who looked past the crime.

"We weren't focused on what was happening around the corner," she says. "At the end of the day these were beautiful homes, and we just focused on that."

Her bakery — a warm, child-friendly place where people can come in, sit down, relax, and



enjoy a fresh-baked dessert and a cup of coffee — is the icing on the cake. Nicolas had virtually no baking experience when she began concocting cupcakes and treats for family and friends in an experiment that became a passion. Her sweets were so scrumptious that they persuaded her to open a bakery, which the Bed-Stuy Gateway Business Improvement District launched to the community with a mixer.

"The support was nice," says Nicolas, whose business is a hit with tourists flocking to the

local bed-and-breakfasts for an affordable stay in a fast-growing community in the city's fastest growing borough.

Her cake creations are all baked on-site, with a different flavor featured each month — November was pumpkin and December is eggnog. The menu bursts with signature velvet cupcakes and luscious specialties such as Hummingbird, a spiced medley with crushed pineapple, bananas, and walnuts topped with vanilla frosting. Maple Pecan, a maple buttercream dainty crafted with



Photo by Elizabeth Graham

candied pecans, cinnamon, and Madagascar bourbon, is among the ambrosial seasonals drawing customers back for more.

Once-forsaken Bedford-Stuyvesant is leaping into the commercial big leagues and small businesses are refueling it with local dollars. Community resi-

dents, notes Nicolas, can walk out of their homes, walk down the street, and shop without having to get in their car or hop on a train, in a break with the past.

"New and exciting things are definitely happening here," she says.

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1273 Fulton St. (718) 622 6328
charliesrecord1@gmail.com

Cricket Wireless
1276 Fulton St. (718) 638-8200

Metro PCS
1295 Fulton St. (718) 221-4411
rainerskytalk@hotmail.com

KRS Wireless
1486B Fulton St. (718) 221-9469

Metro PCS
1495 Fulton St. (718) 221-4411

Boost Mobile
1515 Fulton St. (718) 735-8000

Apple Wireless
1545 Fulton St. (718) 378-2022

Brooklyn Wireless
522 Nostrand Ave. (347) 240-1130

Respect for Life Book Store
537 Nostrand Ave.
(718)789-8965 • (718) 623-9320
respectforlifebooks@yahoo.com

Game Place
542 Nostrand Ave. (718) 398-6799

Gifts & Sporting Goods
Digital Printing 1255 Fulton St.
rockwellent@gmail.com

Fulton Cultural and Spiritual
1304 Fulton St. (718) 783-8889
fultonsales@optonline.net

George Candles and Perfumes
1314 Fulton St. (718) 622-6586

George Candles and Perfumes

George Candles and Perfumes

George Candles and Perfumes

George Candles and Perfumes

Photo Cell
1329 Fulton St. (718) 857-9161
asphotocell@optimum.net

Ride
1337 Fulton St. (718) 622-1968
ride.fulton@gmail.com

Billy's T-Shirt
1353 Fulton St. (718) 789-2273

Gospel Den
1437 Fulton St. (718) 398-7205

Fulton Bike Shop
1580 Fulton St. (718) 788-2887
fultonbikes11213@yahoo.com

Jasmine Scents
514 Nostrand Ave. (347) 425-8898

Flowerworks
547 Nostrand Ave. (718) 230-9393
flworks@aol.com

Gifts (Jewelry & Pawn Shops)
Baria's Jewelry 1270 Fulton St.
(718) 230-4880

R&M Gold Jewelry
1300 Fulton St. (718) 636-0656

Dylan Jewelry
1311 Fulton St. (718) 638-2626
dylanjiayu@me.com

Diamond Jewelers
1343 Fulton St. (718) 638-8080

Fulton Gold Jewelry
1361 Fulton St. (718) 789-9692

Ocean Diamond Jewelry
1391 Fulton St. (718) 230-7906
oceandiamond05@aim.com

Fulton Gold Market
1543 Fulton St. (718) 467-0203

Papamus Jewelry
483 Nostrand Ave.

One Stop Jewelry
540 Nostrand Ave. (718) 623-9272

Grocery, Gourmet, & Deli

Jumana Grocery
224-26 Fulton St. (718) 783-3977

Himchori Supermarket
1227 Fulton St. (347) 295-1962

Andrew's Fish
1228 Fulton St. (718) 623-6774

Chung's Market
1228 Fulton St. (918) 636-6194

7-Eleven
1239-41 Fulton St. (718) 230-4575

Al Baraka Grocery
1257 Fulton St. (718) 513-0938

Classon Deli & Grocery
1060 Fulton St. (718) 622-4353

Associated Grocery Store
1125-A Fulton St. (718) 398-2700
Associated1125@gmail.com

Natural Tobacco Shop
1128 Fulton St.

Latin Brothers Food Corp
1141 Fulton St. (718) 638-0030

Big Apple Cigar and Tobacco Shop
1159 Fulton St.

Diaby Market
1164 Fulton St. (718) 783-0906

Farzana Grocery Shop
1171 Fulton St. (718) 200-2594

Rahman Halal Grocery
1183 Fulton St. (718) 230-7860

Abu's Home-style Bakery
1184 Fulton St. (718) 230-1115
americanbeapie@gmail.com

Kaho Grocery and Deli
1193 Fulton St. (718) 638-7904

Grocery & Deli Corp.
1289 Fulton St. (718) 623-8780

Bravo Supermarket
1299 Fulton St. (718) 857-2508

Carib Natural Farmer's Market
1303 Fulton St. (718) 398-2324

Sagal Meat Market

Sagal Meat Market

Sagal Meat Market

Sagal Meat Market

Sagal Meat Market

1307 Fulton St. (718) 399-3066

Fish Market
1315 Fulton St. (718) 638-6703

Prince Deli & Smoke Shop
1318 Fulton St. (718) 484-2222

One Stop to Shop
Gourmet & Deli Corp.
1339 Fulton St. (718) 622-5848

JM Deli Grocery
1369 Fulton St. (718) 230-0086

Tastee Pattee Jamaican Bakery
1371 Fulton St. (718) 230-1504

Fulton Gourmet
1403A Fulton St. (718) 857-6215

Super Foodtown
1420 Fulton St. (914) 667-6400
noah@foodtounpsk.net

Happy Grocery
1443 Fulton St. (718) 857-7953

US Fulton Deli
1472 Fulton St.

HS Vegetable & Fruit
1490 Fulton St. (718) 778-0938

Deil + Grill
1492 Fulton St. (718) 493-9600

Sun Fish Market
1513 Fulton St. (718) 771-3237

Seven & One Deli & Grocery
1521 Fulton St. (929) 234-2154

Kristal Grocery
1565 Fulton St. (718) 221-2135

Fulton Express Deli & Grocery
1591 Fulton St.

A&A Bake Shop
481 Nostrand Ave. (917) 892-9562

Brooklyn Baby Cakes
506 Nostrand Ave. (718) 484-8466
info@brooklynbabycakes.com

Banana Kiss Food Corp.
513 Nostrand Ave. (347) 545-2832

Sea House Fish Market
541 Nostrand Ave. (718) 398-3266

Quick Bus Stop Grocery
548 Nostrand Ave. (718) 664-4210

A+A Groceries
588 Nostrand Ave.

Health & Fitness

GNC
1234 Fulton St. (718) 622-1315

Planet Fitness
1245 Fulton St. (718) 473-9170
pfulton2@pfnewyork.com

Fresh Health Food Emporium
1276 Fulton St. (718) 230-5091

Health & Wellness

Pediatric Clinic
1078 Fulton St. (718) 622-2300

Phoenix Dance Academy
1087 Fulton St. (718) 399-6865

Fulton St.reet Medical Center
1125-B Fulton St.
Associated1125@gmail.com

Better Health Pharmacy
1147 Fulton St. (718) 622-4743
ricksak1@yahoo.com

Atlantic Medical and Dental
1154 Fulton St. (718) 622-8950
Niranjana.md@verizon.net

Fulton First Pharmacy
1185 Fulton St. (718) 484-9100

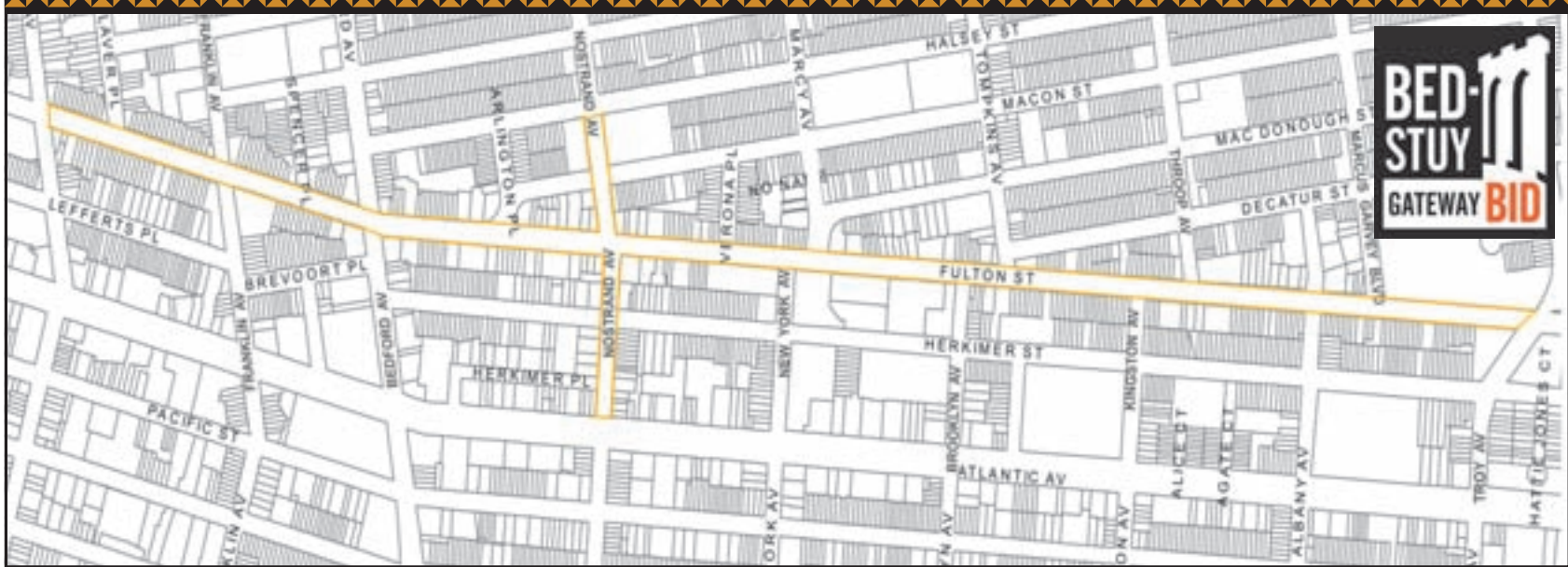
Five Star Pharmacy
1200 Fulton St. (718) 398-9000

US Pharmacy
1259 Fulton St. (718) 783-8568

Walgreens
1281 Fulton St. (718) 398-2074
mgr.10092@store.walgreens.com

Tony's Country Life Health
Food Supermarket
1316 Fulton St. (718) 789-2040

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1126 Fulton St. (718) 783-3458
L&Q Laundromat
 1165 Fulton St. (718) 622-3915
Laundromat & Dry Cleaners
 1253 Fulton St. (718) 622-9280
New York French Cleaners
 1349 Fulton St. (718) 789-8426
 jjamphongkang@gmail.com
All Nations Dry Cleaning
 1469 Fulton St. (347) 955-4900
Fulton Cobbler Shoe Repair
 1519B Fulton St. (718) 735-0888
Kebe's African Fashions
 1547 Fulton St. (718) 363-7686
EZ Spin
 1551 Fulton St. (718) 363-2888
Fulton St. Laundromat
 1618 Fulton St. (718) 467-1415
 asa@nathansoncorp.com
Fulton St. Laundromat
 1620 Fulton St. (718) 467-1415
The Alhambra Laundromat
 512 Nostrand Ave. (718) 406-5110

Non-Profit & Community Organization

Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration
 1368-A Fulton St. (718) 636-6900
Social Security Administration
 1540 Fulton St. (800) 772-1213
The Brooklyn Hospital WIC Program
 1606 Fulton St. (718) 774-6300
The Brooklyn Hospital WIC Program
 1608 Fulton St. (718) 774-6300

Office Supplies, Shipping and Moving Services

Fulton Business Center
 1180A Fulton St. (347) 240-7892
Kawral Fouta Business
 1182 Fulton St. (718) 783-8811
Jeff Express Inc.
 1355 Fulton St. (718) 622-0263
U.S. Post Office
 1368-C Fulton St. (800) 222-1811
Ink and Toner
 1399 Fulton St. (718) 398-3213
U.S. Panama Express
 1516-18 Fulton St. (718) 221-0700

Pet Supplies

Petland Discounts
 1216 Fulton St. (718) 783-3700

Professional Services

Hafiz Travel
 1166 Fulton St. (347) 221-0567
 Hafiznewyork@yahoo.com
H&R Block
 1397 Fulton St. (800) 472-5625
Plateau Realty
 1424 Fulton St.
John B. Jemott Tax Consultant

1465 Fulton St.
Desmond Lewis Realty
 1468 Fulton St. (718) 953-9636
 lewis.desmond@aol.com
Ebony Tax Service
 1476B Fulton St. (718) 756-6700
Cross Boro Realty
 1514 Fulton St. (718) 467-1800
Adams Auto School
 1561 Fulton St. (718) 221-0022
Lawrence H. Woodward Funeral Home
 1628 Fulton St.
Liberty Tax Service
 485 Nostrand Ave. (718) 636-6171
H&R Block
 500 Nostrand Ave. (718) 399-3127
Nostrand Instant Refund Tax Center
 535 Nostrand Ave. (347) 459-4864
All Star Tax & Accounting
 584 Nostrand Ave. (347) 404-7980

Professional Services: Financial Services

Checks and More
 1135 Fulton St. (718) 622-7963
BHS Money Express
 1186 Fulton St.
Amalgamated Bank
 1212 Fulton St. (718)
 510-9001tracyjeffery@amalgamatedbank.com
Pay-O-Matic
 1292 Fulton St. (718) 622-7515
TD Bank
 1373-77 Fulton St. (347) 851-2577
 randall.atkinson@td.com
Chase Bank
 1380 Fulton St. (718) 783-0010
 racquel.c.evans@chase.com
Carver Bank
 1392 Fulton St. (718) 676-8740
 andrea.thorpe@carverbank.com
Citibank
 1398 Fulton St. (718) 789-5146
 wendy.k.peters@citigroup.com
Pay-O-Matic
 1588 Fulton St. (718) 756-7292
 pom128@payomatic.com

Religious Institutions

Universal Church
 1091 Fulton St. (718) 928-7938
First Jerusalem Baptist Church
 1098 Fulton St. (718) 857-5565
Universal Church
 1099 Fulton St. (718) 928-7352
St. Philomen S.B. Church
 1233 Fulton St. (718) 783-5974
Greater Zion Shiloh Baptist Church
 1333-35 Fulton St.
United House of Prayer
 1381-87 Fulton St.

Morning Star Pentecostal Church
 1452 Fulton St. (718) 778-4024
World Christian Assembly
 1463 Fulton St. (347) 869-3996
Holy Ghost Tabernacle
 1592 Fulton St.

Restaurants & Bars: Quick Eats

Papa Johns
 1111 Fulton St. (718) 399-7272
Rowes Rest. (Jamaican)
 1118 Fulton St. (718) 230-0477
 rowesrestaurant@gmail.com
New Imperial Kitchen Chinese Restaurant
 1120 Fulton St. (718) 857-9998
Popeye's Chicken
 1134 Fulton St. (718) 230-8918
African Cuisine Restaurant
 1139 Fulton St. (718) 636-7422
Crown Fried Chicken
 1147 Fulton St. (347) 365-7746
 ismail2@comcast.net
Dunkin Donuts
 1151 Fulton St. (718) 975-2177
Hing Wong Chinese Rest
 1156 Fulton St. (718) 638-8889
The Halal Restaurant
 1168 Fulton St. (718) 638-8505
International Cuisine Rest
 1174 Fulton St. (718) 783-1202
Al Masry Restaurant
 1178 Fulton St. (718) 230-7545
Sheik Umar F. Restaurant
 1191 Fulton St. (347) 240-1410
Wing Hing Chinese Restaurant
 1221 Fulton St. (718) 622-1031
Bismelahe Restaurant
 1235 Fulton St. (718) 928-7446
Ali's Trinidad Roti
 1267 Fulton St. (718) 783 0316
Wing Stop
 1270 Fulton St. (646) 787-9464
Smokey Island Grille
 1274 Fulton St. (347) 770-8021
 smokeyislandgrille@gmail.com
McDonald's
 1275 Fulton St. (718) 778-8016
 Mcd4346@yahoo.com
\$1.00 Pizza
 1276 Fulton St. (201) 790-7626
KFC
 1284 Fulton St. (718) 622-4108
Melanie's Juice Bar Restaurant
 1285 Fulton St. (718) 399-2960
Not Just Pizza
 1286 Fulton St. (718) 783-8015
Golden Krust Caribbean Bakery
 1293 Fulton St. (718) 622-0555
Burger King
 1297 Fulton St. (718) 630-5535
Dunkin Donuts

1309 Fulton St. (718) 636-7823
Edible Arrangements
 1357 Fulton St. (718) 622-3344
 deesmall1@yahoo.com
Tak Hing Restaurant
 1367 Fulton St. (718) 622-3416
Wing Cheong Restaurant
 1389 Fulton St. (718) 622-4720
Popeye's Chicken
 1422 Fulton St. (718) 604-4792
King's Pizza
 1427 Fulton St. (718) 436-2624
 andre@breukelencellars.com
Little Caesar's Pizza
 1431 Fulton St. (347) 350-8888
Original's Soldier Jamaican Resturant
 1444 Fulton St. (516) 850-2774
Domino's Pizza
 1479 Fulton St. (718) 221-4800
Capitoline Grounds
 1499 Fulton St. (347) 295-1294
New People Chinese Restaurant
 1505 Fulton St. (718) 493-0334
Subway
 1507 Fulton St. (347) 663-2948
Golden Krust Caribbean Bakery
 1511 Fulton St. (718) 604-0041
Pizza Chef
 1512 Fulton St. (718) 774-3043
 mayad455@gmail.com
Crown Fried Chicken
 1519 Fulton St.
McDonald's
 1525 Fulton St. (718) 778-8016
 Mcd13070@yahoo.com
Lee Chinese Restaurant
 1552 Fulton St. (718) 774-4637
Millenium Restaurant
 1558 Fulton St. (718) 221-6800
Perking Oishi Asian Buffet
 1563B Fulton St. (929) 210-0968
Paris Deli
 1602 Fulton St.
Leon Kitchen Chinese Food
 1610 Fulton St. (718) 467-8888
Checkers
 491 Nostrand Ave. (347) 442-0366
Ma's Fish and Chips
 508 Nostrand Ave. (347) 955-4646
 ebonds11999@yahoo.com
Pattie Hut Grill
 516 Nostrand Ave. (718) 622-7222
Le Paris Dakar
 518 Nostrand Ave. (646) 763-0518
 lpd@leparisdakar.com
Veggie's Café
 524 Nostrand Ave. (347) 365-1669
 veggies785@yahoo.com
Abir Halal Restaurant Pizza
 526 Nostrand Ave. (718) 789-6181
BONA II Pizza
 528 Nostrand Ave. (718) 638-6924
David's Brisket

533 Nostrand Ave. (718) 789-1155
China King
 582 Nostrand Ave. (718) 399-8181

Restaurants & Bars: Wine & Dine

Ten-81
 1081 Fulton St. (917) 737-8330
 1081fultoncafe@gmail.com
Doris Bar
 1088 Fulton St. (347) 240-3350
Brooklyn Wine Yard
 1114 Fulton St. (347) 406-7862
 nhapplewhite@optonline.net
Bush Baby
 1197 Fulton St. (718) 636-5336
 tiquewood@aol.com
Applebees
 1360-A Fulton St. (718) 943-8000
Ricky's Jamaican Restaurant
 1501 Fulton St. (347) 240-1900
Auggie's Brownstone Inn
 1550 Fulton St.
Rick's Lounge
 1557 Fulton St. (718) 778-7828
American Latin
 522 Nostrand Ave. (718) 399-3322
Bombay Curry
 525 Nostrand Ave. (718) 484-2475
Alice's Arbor
 549 Classon Ave. (718) 399-3003
 alicesarbor@gmail.com
Lion's Den
 557 Classon Ave. (718) 484-7211
 myarelandlounge@aol.com
Studio 10
 566 Nostrand Ave.
India House Restaurant
 586 Nostrand Ave. (718) 857-7011

Retail & Fashion

Brooklyn Clothing Lab
 1068-D Fulton St. (347) 433-4040
 simonbrooklynclothinglab@gmail.com
Al's Men's Shop
 1108 Fulton St. (718) 622-7106
 alsmentshopinc.com
BTA Sports
 1204 Fulton St.
Rainbow
 1220 Fulton St. (718) 622-9100
Ashley Stewart
 1222 Fulton St. (718) 857-8819
Payless
 1231 Fulton St. (718) 789-2457
Salvation Army Family Store
 1243 Fulton St. (718) 622-0167
Children's Place
 1244 Fulton St. (718) 623-2317
Climax
 1249 Fulton St. (718) 221-8989
Sneaker Freak
 1257A Fulton St. (718) 783-8568
 akther87@yahoo.com

Foot Locker
 1258 Fulton St. (718) 399-6979
S&D Underground
 1260 Fulton St. (718) 636-8795
Malik Sportswear
 1263 Fulton St. (718) 636-2563
Jimmy Jazz
 1264 Fulton St. (718) 789-0043
Danice
 1268 Fulton St. (718) 622 9732
Malik Fashion
 1274 Fulton St. (718) 636-6225
Stacy Adams
 1298 Fulton St. (718) 398-3826
 eng_mibrahim77@yahoo.com
SK Cozy Boutique
 1325 Fulton St. (718) 622 3038
Jerry Sportswear
 1331 Fulton St. (718) 857-1307
 roxanweeton@uwellcare.com
Royal Sneakers and Photo
 1347 Fulton St. (347) 627 6595
Fashion Level
 1435 Fulton St.
Next Level Fashions
 1439 Fulton St. (718) 789-2301
Mal's Women's Clothing
 1451 Fulton St. (718) 774-7770
Porto Bella Menswear
 503 Nostrand Ave.
Stacy Adams Big and Tall
 507 Nostrand Ave. (718) 398-3175
Stacy Adams Shoe Store
 509 Nostrand Ave. (718) 493-1202
1 Hip Hop & Sports Wear
Brooklyn Deal
 531 Nostrand Ave. (718) 522-7420
Shoes to Go
 546 Nostrand Ave.
Fino Men's Wear
 552 Nostrand Ave. (718) 230-4706
VIM
 556-58 Nostrand Ave. (718)
 638-0072
Transit
MTA
 1130-32 Fulton St.
Wine & Spirits
Liquor and Wines
 1122 Fulton St. (718) 857-7198
D and Y Liquor and Wines
 1474 Fulton St. (718) 484-7037
Mr. Liquor
 1555 Fulton St. (718) 493-1202
Breukelen Cellars
 504 Nostrand Ave. (347) 240-5421
 john.d.samuel@gmail.com
Nostrand Wine and Liquors
 551 Nostrand Ave. (718) 398-9890
 nostrandwines@aol.com

Florist makes Bed-Stuy bloom

By Shavana Abruzzo

Florist Marcia Melendez has reinvented herself almost as much as Bedford-Stuyvesant.

She immigrated here from England after high school, she moved her business — Flowerworks — three times to escape soaring rents, and she and her husband Angel invested their future in a building they bought 14 years ago on Nostrand Avenue between Herkimer Place and Pacific Street.

"We were determined not to rent another storefront, as we found it challenging for our business to be profitable while at the mercy of a landlord," says Melendez, who worshipped at the local Bridge Street African Methodist Episcopal Church and was familiar with the deep-rooted community.

Her ebbs and flows have mirrored Bedford-Stuyvesant's — both have blossomed after upping their games.

"The floral industry in particular has undergone a lot of



changes with the onset of the internet," she says. "We have had to embrace these changes, and find a way for our flower shop to thrive and stand out from all the bigger players on the web."

Melendez's eye-pleasing website offers deals of the day, multi-occasion floral arrangements, gift baskets crafted by experts with a passion for

posies, and free online delivery.

The Bed-Stuy Gateway Business Improvement District has helped her business grow.

"With a business district we are able to command more attention from the city agencies to improve our basic services, such as sanitation," says Melendez. "It is also instrumental in promoting marketing strategies which would be rather expensive and difficult to complete by individual businesses."

A business and social revival has buoyed the economic triumph.

"The upsurge is due in part to the general improvements made by city and state, newer residents moving in, and the attractiveness of living in Brooklyn," she says.

The spirit of the small business owner is another vital component, and the couple has led area students in flower plantings at Marcy Plaza, donated food and flowers to shelters and church groups,



Photo by Elizabeth Graham

and created a scholarship essay contest for teens about environmental sustainability.

"We believe in being active

and making a contribution to the community from which we derive our revenues," says Melendez.

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LED Mini Bow 5 Gallon	(reg. \$59.99)	\$49.99
10 Gallon Boxed Kit	(reg. \$69.99)	\$54.99 - PLUS \$5.00 IN FREE BONUS FISH
20 Gallon Boxed Kit	(reg. \$119.99)	\$99.99 - PLUS \$10.00 IN FREE BONUS FISH
29 Gallon Boxed Kit	(reg. \$149.99)	\$124.99 - PLUS \$20.00 IN FREE BONUS FISH
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& Sweaters



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Kit Includes:
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• Eight in One Vitasol 1 oz
• Parakeet ("large kit comes with 2")

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\$89.96 Large

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6606 18th St: 718-837-8959
2205 86th St: 718-837-7780
1689 Pitkin Ave: 718-342-3507
1127 Liberty Ave: 718-235-0814
72 Willoughby St: 718-8374-0769
968 Flatbush Ave: 718-284-8806
848 Manhattan Ave: 718-349-6370
1618 Kings Hwy: 718-376-0157
5704 Avenue U: 718-951-8571
510 5th Ave: 718-369-1785
5015 5th Ave: 718-871-7699
114 East 98th St: 718-639-0141
92 Graham Ave: 718-486-6570
3815 Nostrand Ave: 718-769-9582
416 Brighton Bch Ave: 718-891-3855
2040 Rockaway Pkwy: 718-241-2787
365 Knickerbocker Ave: 718-443-4785

Manhattan

314 West 23rd St: 212-366-0512
132 Nassau St: 212-964-1821
167 East 125th St: 212-426-7185
389 Ave of Americas: 212-741-1813
56 West 117th St: 212-427-2700
1954 Third Ave: 212-687-6714
332 First Avenue: 212-228-1363
313 East 88th St: 212-472-1855
2708 Broadway: 212-322-6851
137 West 72nd St: 212-475-9785
734 Ninth Ave: 212-459-9552

Queens

30-26 Steinway St: 718-278-8921
37-20 Main St: 718-866-6061
70-44 Austin St: 718-265-1864
259-15 Union Tpke: 718-343-6755
37-55 82nd St: 718-565-7171
171-33 Hillside Ave: 718-657-7182
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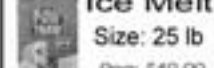
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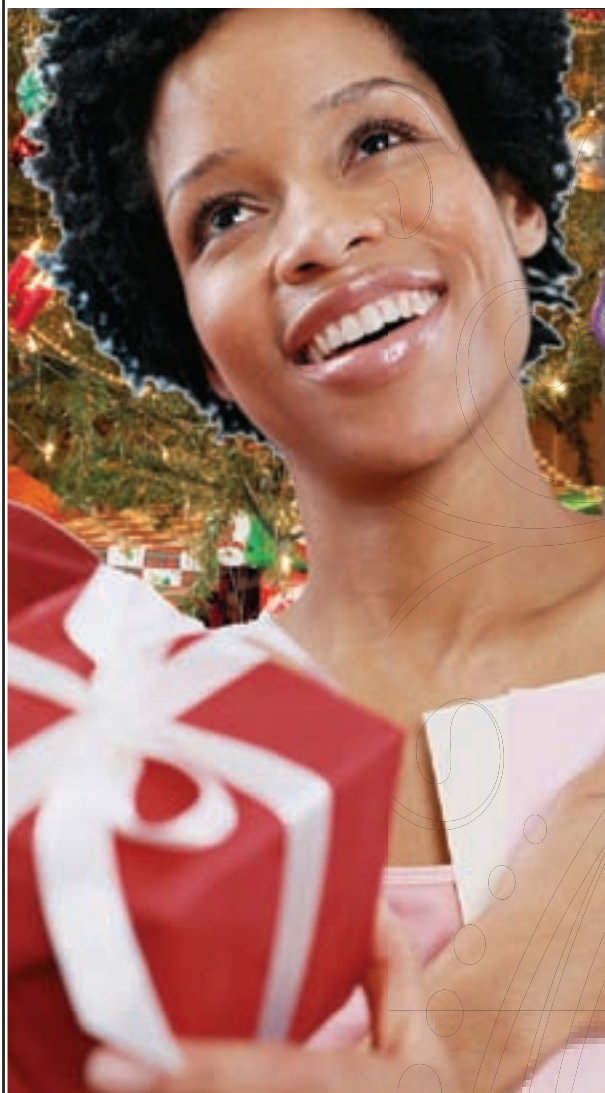
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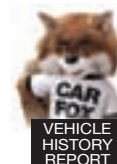
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Brooklyn College to house Haitian Studies Institute

By Alley Olivier

The road to establishing a Haitian Studies Institute housed at Brooklyn College is approaching a successful close.

Nearly two years in the works, the proposal to establish the academic-focused institute is being finalized.

Assistant Vice President of Brooklyn College's Communications and Marketing Office, Jason Carey, said he is excited and hopeful that the proposal will receive the final sign-off in the spring.

"We're anticipating that the proposal will go through and be approved in the spring. I think it's aggressive but we're very hopeful that will happen," Carey said.

Choosing Brooklyn College as the home base for this institute was an easy one. Brooklyn is home to the largest Caribbean population in New York, Haitians in particular.

The university's own population reflects a large Haitian base at both the student and faculty levels, which helped in the conversations pushing the idea to fruition.

"The conversation has started and stalled but more recently started to gain a lot of traction in the field of Haitian studies in particular from our perspec-

tive, the Brooklyn College perspective because of the large Haitian population in Brooklyn," Carey explained.

Like the Dominican Studies Institute, the Haitian Studies Institute will be academic-focused and operate as a hub for research. The hope is that the institute will encourage research at the international level, inviting scholars worldwide to meet, discuss, and find support.

"Like other institutes, it's an academic-focused institute in particular the study of Haiti and Haitian people in the diaspora. I think the primary goal is for the institute to establish itself as a leading research center at an international level, which is really important," Carey said.

Above all else, the institute is hopeful to achieve research that is useful at an academic level and shows the impact different cultures and people have in the diaspora.

"I think it's really about making sure what the research institute does is relevant, useful at an academic level and elevates the seriousness of study at CUNY for this particular school and in a general way to really take a focused academic look at the impact of a particular culture and people," he said.

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Ras Clem of Groovin Radio and Andrea Bullens holding her Caribbean Impact Award.

Holiday party for 100 lucky guests

Caribbean Life Impact Award recipient Andrea Bullens of Bullzii Marketing is on to her next big project. The Bronx based marketer who was among 32 New Yorkers of Caribbean heritage who were honored in Brooklyn last month will team with Groovin Radio, 93.5 FM host Ras Clem and Anthony D'ER Guru of IMAGES Media to host a ritzy, exclusive Jamaican style holiday party for 100 lucky guests on Saturday, Dec. 19 at Club 661, 661 South Columbus Ave. in Mt. Vernon, NY.

The party will serve as a celebratory close-out event for Bullzii Marketing as it marks a banner year filled with many noteworthy accomplishments.

"2015 was a banner year for us so we wanted to do something special to celebrate the close out of the year," Bullens said.

Bullens said that invited guests are in for a tantalizing culinary treat courtesy of the award winning Door Restaurant in Queens. They will also be treated to sumptuous, traditional Jamaican black cake courtesy of Annilu while Jamaican sorrel will be provided by Grace Foods.

Singer / dj Ras Droppa will provide live entertainment. Droppa's resume includes entertaining such persons as tennis great Serena Williams at the

annual Taste of Tennis — the opening party which kicks off the U.S. Open tournament at Flushing Meadows in Queens where he belted out rock steady, reggae and dancehall hits.

New York based singer Elvis D who in 2012 created a buzz with his John Legend cover song 'Tonight' is also booked to perform. Elvis, whose given name Elvis Downer, migrated to the U.S. in 1986 while in his late teens. Four years later, he joined Marty Butler and the People's Heritage Band in New York playing guitar and doing vocals on a few tracks before going solo. He has released songs including "Love How You Touch Me," "She Is My Girl," "Stay Rich" and his debut single "Party Time."

Bullens said other special invited musicians will be passing through the event. Bajan King of VP Records will provide the music.

Event organizers have announced that attendees will have the opportunity to record Christmas and new years greetings, which will air on the Saudika Diaram TV show on TVJ in Jamaica. For more information about the event, call 347-449-7848.

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Guyanese flouncing at a recent Guyana Cultural Association's Kwe-Kwe ceremony.

Queens College Alumni to host Christmas Flounce

By Tangerine Clarke

The rich, colorful traditions of the masquerade band, folklore and Guyanese food will take center stage when the Queens College of Guyana Alumni Association NY, hosts its annual Christmas soiree on Friday, Dec. 18.

Titled, "Flounce" a Guyanese dance movement that showcases merriment, patrons will take over the floor of Brooklyn's St. Gabriel Episcopal Church Hall at 331 Hawthorn St., from 9 pm to 3 am for a festive evening of nostalgia and exuberance.

The event planners, Patrick Stephens and Treasurer Saran Nurse whose brilliant idea it was to celebrate the Guyanese culture at the Christmas event, are calling on patrons to "come and bounce at the QC Flounce."

Chronicle Atlantic Symphony, which has been a main staple of Guyana's cultural heritage, will bring Christmas cheer steel pan style to the shindig, while popular DeeJay Flex, will add his touch of golden oldies to the event which will take Guyanese down memory lane.

Drummers Jaggae and Akoya, along with saxophonist, Flantis, will then evoke the spirit of the masquerade dance which originated from African slaves who celebrated during the European religious Christmas season under

British rule.

With its focus set on Guyana's 50th Independence Anniversary in May 2016, the Alumni planning committee considered the jubilee and decided to explore the idea of adding some elements of Guyanese culture to this year's Christmas party.

According to Stephens, the team then consulted with QC alumnus and president of the Guyana Cultural Association Dr. Vibert Cambridge, who proposed FLOUNCE! that expresses the colorful and joyful animated spirit of Christmas in Guyana.

A traditional Guyanese Christmas cuisine, with mauby, sorrel, ginger beer and black cake, will be served to give patrons the true feeling of a nostalgic Christmas.

A \$40.00 donation covers appetizers and a traditional Guyanese Christmas dinner. Tickets are only being sold on the QC website: <https://qcguyanaalumni.givezooks.com/events/flounce-guyanese-christmas-holiday-party>

In addition, the alumni will accept donations to help QCAANY sponsor projects such as the highly successful series of Students Conference which were held in Guyana in 2014 and 2015.

To learn more, visit <https://qcguyanaalumni.givzooks.com>.

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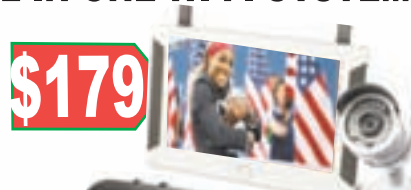
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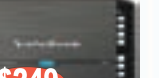
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At a gala on June 23, 2016, Caribbean Life will present its third-annual Healthcare Awards, recognizing Caribbean Americans' essential contributions as caregivers and practitioners in New York.

Nominate a Caribbean healthcare professional who has shown outstanding achievements in his or her field. Fill out and submit the form, or submit your nomination online at CaribbeanLifeNews.com/nominate before January 22, 2016.

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How many years has your nominee been working in healthcare? _____

Previous awards or professional recognition (if any): _____

What makes your nominee outstanding? (100 words or fewer): _____

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NYC program allows seniors to freeze rents

Rising costs and perpetual inflationary increases in living expenses affect almost everyone. However, Americans reliant on a fixed income are often a silent majority quietly struggling to stay above the fray.

Reports of elders resorting to eating pet foods, many more losing their dwellings and having to live in shelters or suffer the stigma of being called homeless has become a recurring story and far less a news item.

In order to provide assistance to qualified elders, The Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE, also known as the NYC Rent Freeze Program) freezes the rent for head-of-household seniors 62 and older who live in rent-regulated apartments.

On Dec. 11 at the Park Slope Library, 431 Sixth Ave. at 9th St., The Good Neighbors of Park Slope will host a community outreach event.

Beginning at 11 am, the informative session aimed at anyone over 62 years of age will enlighten NYC residents who may qualify for the NYC rent Freeze Program aka SCRIE.



Inside Life

By Vinette K. Pryce

Held in partnership with the Community Service Society, the Friday event may attract eligible candidates and families in need of a stable rent adjustment.

Pertinent information will be readily available to interested individuals and representatives will be present to lend assistance to applicants in need of help.

The program has been in effect for many years and many beneficiaries claim relief from the anxiety of meeting annual increases and pending elevations in their monthly carrying costs.

One of the key qualifications to applying is that if the application made prior to July 1, 2014, the senior's household income must be \$29,000 or less.

Due to a change, after that date, the senior's household income must be \$50,000 or less.

Landlords are given a property tax abatement credit applied to their property tax bill in the same amount as the increase that the tenant is exempted from paying.

FORMER ALL-GIRL REGGAE BANDMEMBER HITS SOUR NOTE

Let it be said that Charmaine DaCosta, former Worl-A-Girl singer is neither unsung or among the one-hit wonders that fade into obscurity after broaching international acclaim.

The 54-year-old Jamaican singer who first commanded a spotlight in 1990 — when along with Brooklynite Linda Scott, London transplant Sophia Wilks, and Trinidad & Tobago's Sabrina Cohen, united as Worl-A-Girls — is now front and center of her very own business venture.



Charmaine DaCosta. Photo by Farran Powell

Throughout the group's heydays, she helped provide a cool sound, girl power and infused a breath of fresh air to the predominant testosterone-driven reggae genre.

Unfortunately after a brief stint on the circuit, airplay on numerous radio stations, tours throughout the diaspora and Africa, the whirl stopped.

But DaCosta did not fizzle into obscurity, after years of rebranding herself as a cater-

er and emerging the brains behind Crude Food, she also transformed herself from secular music artist to singing gospel artist. Simultaneously she also tended to domestic duties raising a family and in the process completed basic educational requirements by earning a four-year college degree.

Now she has hit a sour note.

Not exactly one that resonates

with high pitch aural discord but with enterprising dedication to a business she launched known as Limation Limeade drink.

"I very quickly realized that I wanted to get into the manufactured food space and, having an affinity for limeade, I decided to coin the name Limation and put out my version of Jamaican Limeade."

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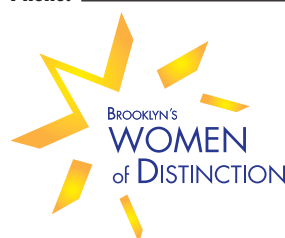
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The Haitian Creatives Series initially started as a portrait series that grew to include short documentaries of the artists. Photo by Richard Louissaint

Showcasing Haiti's creatives

By Alley Olivier

Artists have the ability to maintain a particular community's identity and for Haitian artists, one particular photo documentary series is providing them a platform to be celebrated.

Exploring the niche art community within the Haitian American community in New York is photographer and videographer Richard Louissaint.

Louissaint accidentally embarked on the creation of his photo documenta-

Continued on Page 54

Digital Art Gallery brings artists together

By Alley Olivier

Art is no longer contained to galleries and museums; we can thank social media for that.

Artists now put their art for a display that is never taken down through Instagram, personal websites, and other platforms.

Bringing together this digital age of artists is Kwashee Etienne, whose specific desire is to create a platform for minority artists to connect with the art community in the real world.

"I personally like to help others showcase their talents," Etienne explained.

Etienne hosted his first Digital Art Gallery in Philadelphia — while studying at Temple University — October

Continued on Page 54



Quake USA, a Grenadian folk group based in Brooklyn, will be bringing the Caribbean Christmas Feeling to many at the St. Catherine of Genoa R.C. School auditorium in Brooklyn on Sunday, Dec. 13, 2015.

Photo by Kevin Williams

Quake USA features Carib celebration

By Gerry Hopkin, JD

The iconic Caribbean-American folk group, Quake USA Cultural Organization (Quake USA), is comprised mainly of seasoned cultural ambassadors, who have been gracing international stages since the early 1980s, when they began performing as the founding members of Spice Island Youthquake (SIY), a premier cultural institution in the Caribbean, of Grenadian origin.

The original organizers of SIY are

Fr. Oliver Leavy, an Irish-born Catholic priest; Miss Elsa Ferguson and Ms. Lauren Ramdhanny, both educators with backgrounds in music / culture; and Kevin Williams, a journalist and songwriter, who assisted as PRO and sound engineer of SIY.

Quake USA Stages a Concert

Interestingly, the theme song for the 5 pm, Sunday, Dec. 13 concert of Quake USA, carded for the audito-

rium of St. Catherine of Genoa R.C. School in Brooklyn, is "Christmas Feeling," based on a song written by Williams.

"Caroling morning and evening, house to house we will be going... fet-ing and street dancing, a soca Christmas feeling," are a few of the telling catchy words of the festive song, which captures some aspects of the Caribbean Christmas experience.

Needless to say, attendees of Sun-

Continued on Page 54

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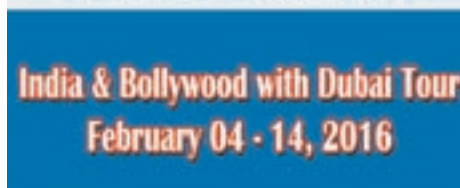
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Tribute to the patron saint of the poor and dying

"The Letters"
Good (2 stars)
Rated PG for
mature themes
Running time:
118 minutes
Distributor:
Freestyle Releasing

By Kam Williams

Mother Teresa (Juliet Stevenson) was born Anjezë Gonxhe Bojaxhiu in Kosovo on Aug. 26, 1910. At the age of 12, she already expressed an interest in becoming a nun in order to minister to the poor in Calcutta.

A half-dozen years later, she abandoned Albania for Ireland to enter the convent of the Sisters of Loreto. After completing her novitiate in Darjeeling near the Himalayan mountains, she took her vows in 1931 and began her career as a teacher at a Catholic high school for girls.

However, her original call-



Mother Teresa (Juliet Stevenson) in a scene from "The Letters."

ing continue to nag at Teresa, so she soon prevailed upon her Mother Superior (Mahabano Mody-Kotwal) for permission to relocate to Calcutta. That would depend upon a special

dispensation from the Vatican, because of her prior promise to remain cloistered in a monastery and to not move among the masses of the great unwashed.

Eventually, Teresa was not only allowed to leave the Sisters of Loreto but to found her own order in Calcutta, the Missionaries of Charity. Over the ensuing decades, its ranks

would swell to 4,000 with convents in 100 countries.

Written and directed by William Read, "The Letters" is a reverential biopic paying homage to the pious patron saint of the poor, sick and dying. The movie's title is based on her half-century long exchange of intimate missives with her confidant and spiritual adviser, Father Celeste van Exem (Max von Sydow)

Despite the accolades and fanfare the high-profile icon ultimately attracted, the production's aspires to drive home the point that this humble servant of the Lord never let herself be distracted from her appointed rounds. "I am just a pencil in God's hand," she explained. Nevertheless, she would be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, and canonized posthumously by Pope John Paul II in 2003.

Faith-oriented fare designed to appeal to the choir it's clearly preaching to.

Independent & Foreign Films

American Hero (Unrated) Sci-fi comedy about a substance-abusing, womanizing underachiever (Stephen Dorff) who reluctantly turns a new leaf when he puts his telekinetic powers to good use as a crime-fighting superhero. Co-starring Eddie Griffin, Bill Billions and Andrea Cohen.

Bleeding Heart (Unrated) Revenge drama about a yoga instructor (Jessica Biel) who goes vigilante to defend her sister (Zosia Mamet) from an abusive boyfriend (Joe Anderson). Cast includes Edi Gathegi, Kate Burton and Sam Ly, with a cameo by Harry Hamlin.

Body (Unrated) Trespass thriller revolving around three BFFs (Helen Rogers, Alexandra Turshen and Lauren Molina) who come to regret breaking into a presumably-empty mansion to party over the holidays. Featuring Adam Cornelius, Larry Fessenden and Dan Brennan.

Dixieland (Unrated) Recidivism drama revolving around a recently-paroled ex-con (Chris Zylka) who falls in love and embarks on a crime spree with his troubled next-door neighbor (Riley Keough). Co-starring country singers Faith Hill and Steve Earle, and professional wrestler Mick "Mankind" Foley.

Don Verdean (PG-13 profanity, coarse language, suggestive content and brief violence) Sam Rockwell plays the title character in this irreverent Christian comedy revolving around a cash-strapped cleric who hopes to inspire his congregation by



Kam's Kapsules

By Kam Williams

finding sacred relics in the Holy Land. With Amy Ryan, Will Forte, Jemaine Clement, Danny McBride and Leslie Bibb.

The Lady in the Van (PG-13 for a disturbing image) Fact-based docudrama recounting the unlikely friendship forged between a celebrated playwright (Alex Jennings) and a homeless woman (Maggie Smith) living in a car parked in his driveway. With Dominic Cooper, Jim Broadbent and James Corden.

BIG BUDGET FILMS

The Big Short (R for nudity, sexuality and pervasive profanity) Adaptation of the Michael Lewis best seller of the same name about a quartet of stock market contrarians (Christian Bale, Ryan Gosling, Steve Carell and Brad Pitt) who accurately predicted the global financial collapse of 2008. With Marisa Tomei, Melissa Leo and Finn Wittrock.

In the Heart of the Sea (PG-13 for action, peril, mature themes and brief violence) Seafaring adventure, set in 1820, recounting the ramming and sinking of *The Essex* by a sperm whale, the tragedy which inspired Herman Melville to write *Moby Dick*. Ensemble cast includes Chris Hemsworth, Brendan Gleeson, Benjamin Walker, Cillian Murphy, Tom Holland and Ben Whishaw.

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TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 SINGLES



- 1 **Hello**
Adele
- 2 **Hotline Bling**
Drake
- 3 **Sorry**
Justin Bieber
- 4 **Here**
Alessia Cara
- 5 **Stitches**
Shawn Mendes
- 6 **Ex's & oh's**
Elle King
- 7 **Like I'm Gonna Lose You**
Meghan Trainor...
- 8 **Wildest Dreams**
Taylor Swift
- 9 **On My Mind**
Ellie Goulding
- 10 **Same Old Love**
Selena Gomez

TOP 10 ALBUMS



- 1 **25**
Adele
- 2 **Purpose**
Justin Bieber
- 3 **That's Christmas to Me**
Pentatonix
- 4 **But You Can't Use My...**
Erykah Badu
- 5 **1989**
Taylor Swift
- 6 **Fetty Wap**
Fetty Wap
- 7 **Reloaded: 20 #1 Hits**
Blake Shelton
- 8 **Greatest Hits**
The Notorious B.I.G.
- 9 **Storyteller**
Carrie Underwood
- 10 **Beauty Behind the...**
The Weeknd



Quake USA

Continued from page 51

day's "Caribbean Christmas Feeling" concert, can expect to find lots of sorrel, ginger beer, black cake, ham, homemade bread and cocoa tea, on sale.

It is historically noteworthy that Quake USA is definitively the longest continuously performing Caribbean-American folk group in the Diaspora.

"Motivated by nostalgia and a desire to ensure the preservation of expressive Caribbean culture — music, song, dance, drama and poetry — in the Diaspora, some of the original members of SIY who had migrated to the USA, decided to launch this important organization, Quake USA, in 1989," says co-director Christine Grant, who is also one of the founding members of the original SIY.

Many believe that this registered, non-profit group, based in Brooklyn, NYC, is the embodiment of a dream of the upliftment of the youth of the Caribbean and Diaspora, the author of this article has observed.

"It is with great pride and enjoyment that Quake USA has

been showcasing Grenadian and Caribbean culture in all of its expressive forms," says co-director Cheryl Vincent, aka Cheryl V, a founding member of SIY, who has since become an independent recording artiste with four albums to her credit.

Looking ahead

"Quake USA is considering ways to increase its visibility and to further advance its significant and historical mandate with respect to preserving and showcasing Caribbean culture, to ensure the inter-generational and Diasporal transfer of Caribbean cultural heritage," adds Cheryl V.

"Historically, Quake USA is perceived by many as always being ready to add some extra 'spice' to events — religious services and formal ceremonies," says Burgess "Quako" McPhie, a pianist, songwriter and original member of SIY, who has independently recorded 10 CD albums and five singles.

"The tremendous contributions that the original Spice Island Youthquake and Quake USA, the offspring of the



Members of the Brooklyn-based folk group Quake USA.

Photo by Kevin Williams

former, have together made and are continuing to make in preserving and showcasing the expressive folk culture of Grenada, Carriacou & Petite Martinique and the Caribbean, at large, are worthy of recognition," reasons Grenadian-born, Val Adams, veteran musician and recording artiste, who recently led the mas band 500 Strong to a record third consecutive win in the 2015 Labor Day Carnival.

Notably, Quake USA has produced a CD album of some of their best songs, entitled "Quake Music," which is avail-

able for purchase. Additionally, many of the current members of this organization are featured in the parent-organization's (SIY's) earlier recordings — compilations of traditional Caribbean folk and gospel music.

For bookings and CDs, plus other cultural products and services, involving folk music and dance, interested parties may contact the organization via 646-675-4303, 917 478 7388 and 347-350-4285. Additionally, one may visit "Quake USA Cultural Organization" on Facebook.

Haitian artistry

Continued from page 51

ry series through connecting with artists within his community. According to Louis-saint, "There's a really big community of Haitian artists of my generation and younger doing really interesting things."

These "interesting things" span a wide variety of art including music, DJing, and more.

Though Louissaint had been curating various portraits and short videos since 2010, it was not until 2013 that he officially establish the project.

"2010 was the seed because I started documenting this Haitian artist named Paul Beau-brun, who originally had a group called Zing Experience," he explained. "Through that I ended up meeting a lot of people and that developed my filmmaking skills as a result of that collaboration."

Networking has been the driving force behind Louis-saint's Haitian Creatives Series. Working with the Haiti Cultural Exchange and freelance work for artists in need of promotional material has connected him with many of the

artists featured.

This work has left him with memories and cool stories he is able to relive through his screenings such as his visual with husband-and-wife duo Melimel and Smax Music.

"I just turned on the camera and they started talking about their first date and how he was going to marry her," he said.

Another moment he is excited to share in his upcoming screening is in the not-yet-released short documentary following Okai Music.

"I met him in 2010 and what's cool is that I have footage from back then that I included. He saw it and was like 'wow, that's the day I met one of my band mates and ended up starting a band with,'" he said.

Todate the Haitian Creative Series has only captured New York-based artists, but Louis-saint hopes to travel to other cities where prominent Haitian communities are present such as Miami and Montreal.

"I do want to go back to Haiti and do an offshoot of it focusing on Haitian artists,"



Husband-and-wife duo Melimel and Smax Music captured by Richard Louissaint for the Haitian Creatives Series. Photo by Richard Louissaint

he said.

Louissaint will host his second screening Dec. 11 at the Ya-Ya Network in Midtown featuring two new short documentaries following musician Okai Musik and chef Nadege Fleurimond.

"I'm nervous and excited but it should be cool. Okai said he will perform. His instrument of choice is the African and Haitian drums," he said.

Haitian Creative Series (29th Street between 7th and 8th avenues, 14th floor in Midtown, www.haitiancreativesseries.com) Dec. 11, 7 pm. Free.

Gallery

Continued from page 51

of last year bringing together various artists and vendors.

During the first run, he took his art gallery on the road visiting New York City and Washington, DC.

"I'm aiming to do seven cities in 2016, Baltimore, DC, Atlanta, Richmond, and Miami or Los Angeles as a finale," he said.

Following the digital wave, once Etienne has secured a space and date he enlists the help of Instagram to find potential artists interested in using his platform to showcase their passion.

"The purpose is to build a platform for inner city artists of all types to showcase their talents and also for attendees to be inspired and have fun," he explained.

In contrast to last year, this year's tour stops follow a different conceptual theme inspired by an album released this year. At the upcoming New York City show on Dec. 11, Etienne invites attendees into a Digital Art Gallery to the sounds of popular hip hop artist Future's "Dirty Sprite 2."

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New York Jets cornerback Darrelle Revis. Associated Press / Damian Strohmeyer

Jets' Revis feeling better

By Dennis Waszak Jr.

NEW YORK (AP) — Darrelle Revis could be getting closer to a return.

The New York Jets cornerback is still in the NFL's concussion protocol, but coach Todd Bowles says Revis is "feeling a lot better" after missing his second straight game.

"He comes in, he does light workouts," Bowles said Monday. "He's still working his way back."

Revis was hurt at Houston on Nov. 22 and hasn't practiced or played since.

Continued on Page 58

Narine faces another ban

By Azad Ali

West Indies mystery spin bowler Sunil Narine was banned by the International Cricket Council (ICC) from bowling in international cricket because of an illegal action.

The 27-year-old was reported following the third One-Day International against Sri Lanka last month and after undergoing testing at the Loughborough University on Nov. 17, his action was found to exceed the 15 degrees level of tolerance on "all variations of his deliveries."

Narine will be allowed to play in West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) tournaments, but will be forced to curtail all other international commitments.

Narine, who was in the team for the Australia series which is now underway

Continued on Page 58



Portland Timbers goalkeeper Adam Kwarasey, left, of Norway, and midfielder Rodney Wallace celebrate their 2-1 win over the Columbus Crew in the MLS Cup championship soccer game, Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015, in Columbus, Ohio. The Timbers defeated the Crew 2-1.

Associated Press / Jay LaPrete

Portland wins MLS Cup

By Craig Merz

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The Portland Timbers had a plan to attack early in their first MLS Cup appearance. They didn't expect it to work to perfection so quickly.

Diego Valeri scored 27 seconds after the opening whistle for the

fastest goal in MLS Cup history to stun the Columbus Crew and their home fans.

A second goal in the seventh minute by Rodney Wallace provided all the scoring the Timbers needed to beat the Crew 2-1 on Sunday for their first league title.

The first goal came when Columbus midfielder Wil Trapp sent a back pass to goalkeeper Steve Clark, who tried to move the ball from his right foot to the left for a clearance. But Clark didn't see Valeri closing and the midfielder poked the ball away

Continued on Page 58

Continued from page 57

He attended meetings last Friday for the first time since being injured, and was at the Jets' 23-20 overtime victory over the Giants on Sunday.

"It was encouraging that he was able to attend the game and that he's moving around a little better," Bowles said. "We'll see how he feels later in the week."

Buster Skrine started in Revis' place against the Giants after backup Marcus Williams was also scratched with a sprained knee. Williams will be evaluated later in the week.

Defensive end Mike Catapano has a possible Lisfranc foot injury that could sideline him the rest of the season. A Lisfranc injury involves the small bones or ligaments in the middle of the foot.

"This will probably be a couple weeks," Bowles said. "I don't know whether we'll shut him down or not."

Catapano, promoted from the practice squad last month, had a sack in the second quarter against the Giants before being carted from the sideline a few minutes later.

Wide receiver Jeremy Kerley left the game with a migraine, but Bowles anticipated that he'd feel better as the week goes on.

NOTES: Bowles on the Jets' eight penalties, including three on one fourth-quarter drive by the Giants: "We have to clean them up. A lot of them were hot-head penalties that we know we can't have. Going forward, if we want to win ballgames and be consistent, we can't have those types of penalties. It's been a while since they've flared up, but they flared up yesterday." ... NT Damon Harrison on the postgame excitement of the Jets' win: "It was a moment I'll never forget."



Columbus Crew forward Kei Kamara, left, of Sierra Leone, and Portland Timbers defender Alvas Powell, of Jamaica, jump for a header during the first half of the MLS Cup championship soccer game, Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015, in Columbus, Ohio.

Associated Press / Paul Vernon

PORTLAND BEATS COLUMBUS

Continued from page 57

from him and into the goal.

"We knew the aggressiveness the first 20 minutes from us had to be there," Valeri said. "We tried to be aggressive and pressure them."

The Crew had barely recovered when a mental gaffe gave Portland a controversial second goal.

Crew midfielder Tony Tchani and several teammates stopped playing when the ball rolled several feet over the right boundary. Instead of a stoppage for a throw-in, Portland's Darlington Nagbe kept going with the ball and sent a pass wide to Lucas Melano, who found Wallace for the header.

Columbus coach Gregg Berhalter said he did not see the play, but knew one thing, "In professional sports you play to either the ball is out of bounds or to the whistle."

Crew captain Michael Parkhurst immediately gathered his teammates at midfield to settle them down before

play resumed.

"Of course, I'm disappointed with the loss," Parkhurst said. "No one envisioned that. We just said this is not how our season is going to end."

Kei Kamara, the Crew star who tied for the MLS regular-season lead in goals with 22, made it 2-1 in the 18th minute off a poor punch of the ball by Timbers goalkeeper Adam Larsen Kwarasey.

But that was the only shot on target among the nine Columbus took in the match.

"We were never in danger," Portland coach Caleb Porter said. "We were comfortable. We were tight. We saw the game out. We shut it down. That's a part of winning."

The victory capped a three-year mission for Porter, who led the University of Akron to an NCAA title in 2010 before leaving in August 2012 to join the Timbers.

"All I could think about (at the final whistle) was sharing that moment with my players," he said. "We've been

through a long season and shared the highs and lows."

Portland was 6-0-3 in its last nine games in regular season and playoffs.

HISTORY

Even though Portland has been in MLS since 2011, the Timbers as a club have been in existence for 40 years back to the North American Soccer League. The last time the Timbers played for a championship was a loss to the Tampa Bay Rowdies in the 1975 NASL Cup.

ONE FOR TWO

The Crew won the 2008 title, beating New York 3-1 in Carson, California.

ELITE CLUB

The Timbers are the 13th club to reach the MLS Cup and the 10th to win it.

NARINE

Continued from page 57

had to abort his campaign and return to his Trinidad and Tobago home.

Narine's international suspension will also be recognized and enforced by all National Cricket Federations within domestic cricket events played in their own jurisdiction, save that, with the consent of the WICB he may be able to play in domestic cricket events played under the auspices of the WICB.

Under ICC regulations, Narine can ask for a re-assessment once he has modified his action.

This is the second time Narine has been reported for a suspect bowling action. The development is a massive blow not only for Narine, but for West Indies, especially with the Twenty20 World Cup set to be played in India from March 11 to April 3, 2016.



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Campbell-Brown receives Humanitarian Award

By Nelson A. King

Jamaican Olympian Veronica Campbell-Brown on Saturday night received the Children of Jamaica Outreach (COJO) 2015 Humanitarian Award at the 21st Annual fundraising gala of the New York-based charity.

The gala awards and presentation took place at the Hilton New York, JFK Airport with NBC 4 New York meteorologist Dave Price serving as emcee.

In accepting the award, the decorated Olympian expressed her thanks to COJO on being selected as the recipient of this special honor.

She lauded the work of COJO and its mission which is similar to that of her foundation, except that she focuses on young women, while COJO focuses on children, said COJO in a statement.

Other honorees were: Madge Warren, COJO Distinguished Service Award; Patrick Jolly, COJO Visionary Award; Orville McKenzie & Donald Vernon, Esq., COJO Community Service Awards; and Caribbean Airlines, COJO Corporate Service Award.

Over 250 patrons attended the anniversary gala affair, which was attended by Ralph Thomas & wife Sharon,



COJO Founder and Chairman Gary Williams presents the COJO Humanitarian Award to Olympian Veronica Campbell-Brown. Photo by Margo Jordan

Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, Rev. Canon Calvin McIntyre, political consultant Basil Smikle and several other officials.

Wayne Cummings, Director of Administration at Sandals Resorts International was this year's guest of honor. COJO's founder Gary Williams thanked the sponsors and donors, "who continue to support the organization to

ensure COJO is able to carry out its mission of helping to improve the health, education and general well-being of underserved children in Jamaica and the United States."

Since inception, Williams said COJO has contributed more US\$500,000 to several child care facilities in Jamaica, as well as provide scholarships to deserving wards of the state.

Grenada's PM slams WICB president

By Azad Ali

Grenada's Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell has slammed West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) President Dave Cameron saying he has shown an "amazing level of disrespect" not to meet urgently with CARICOM leaders over the Governance Review Panel report.

Mitchell, chairman of CARICOM's Cricket Governance Committee stopped short of issuing an ultimatum to the WICB, but urged Cameron to rethink his position not to accommodate a meeting with regional Heads of Government before the Board of Directors meeting on Dec. 12 in St. Lucia.

Cameron has been adamant about the WICB's ability to accommodate the Caribbean leaders prior to the already scheduled meeting and reiterated this position in written communication to CARICOM Secretary General Irwin La Rocque recently.

"It is quite amazing the level of disrespect. The level of lack of understanding of the importance of this quite frightening and I don't think I should hold back any words," Mitchell said.

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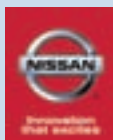


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ARIES: Mar 21/Apr 20
This can be a terrific week for you, Aries. Make the most of every moment and don't be surprised as you successfully juggle many different things at once.

TAURUS: Apr 21/May 21
Work may seem overwhelming at times in the week ahead, Taurus. Keep your head down and stay focused on the tasks at hand. Others will be impressed.

GEMINI: May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, make the most of an opportunity to move forward with your goals. You have plenty of energy, and your mind is focused. Hang around with like-minded individuals as well.

CANCER: Jun 22/Jul 22
Don't get too wrapped up in other people's business, Cancer. You don't want to intrude on others, and your loved ones are fully capable of solving their own problems.

LEO: Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, you may feel like you're on top of the world this week. That's because you have the potential to conquer an elusive goal in the next few days.

VIRGO: Aug 24/Sept 22
Act now, Virgo, or you might get left behind. You can't sit around and wait for things to unfold. Sometimes you have to take charge, and this is one of those times.

LIBRA: Sept 23/Oct 23
There may be some conflict in your world this week, Libra, especially when it involves your emotions and potential disputes. Keep your mind open and try new things.

SCORPIO: Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, concern yourself with substantive actions and not empty promises. This will make it easier for you to make decisions about pressing issues.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov 23/Dec 21
Try not to spread yourself too thin, Sagittarius. If you do, you will not be able to put your best foot forward. If you feel yourself getting stressed, step back.

CAPRICORN: Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, now is a great time to take a step back and exhale. Avoid taking on any additional responsibilities. Instead, take some time to recharge.

AQUARIUS: Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, let friends know how much they mean to you because you might not say it often enough. Others will appreciate your candor and generosity.

PISCES: Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, you tend to hold your feelings inside and that can be unhealthy. Share your feelings more often so negative energy will not build.

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Letitia James Warns Consumers About Classified Ads

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SUMMONS

Index No. 511356/2014
D/O/F: December 2, 2014
Premises Address: 85 E 28TH STREET UNIT 3, BROOKLYN, NY 11226
SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF KINGS CALIBER HOME LOANS, INC., Plaintiff, -against- KIRK JOSEPH; NEW YORK CITY PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU; NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT ADJUDICATION BUREAU; JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A.; NEW YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD; THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE BERKSHIRE CONDOMINIUM; "JOHN DOES" AND "JANE DOES", SAID NAMES BEING FICTITIOUS, PARTIES INTENDED BEING POSSIBLE TENANTS OR OCCUPANTS OF PREMISES AND CORPORATIONS, OTHER ENTITIES OR PERSONS WHO HAVE, CLAIM, OR MAY CLAIM, A LIEN AGAINST, OR OTHER INTEREST IN, THE PREMISES, Defendant(s). TO THE ABOVE NAMED

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DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action, and to serve a copy of your Answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a Notice of Appearance on the Plaintiff's Attorneys within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, where service is made by delivery upon you personally within the State, or within thirty (30) days after completion of service where service is made in any other manner, and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint. NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with

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the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. The following notice is intended only for those defendants who are owners of the premises sought to be foreclosed or who are liable upon the debt for which the mortgage stands as security. YOU ARE HEREBY PUT ON NOTICE THAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. The amount of the Debt thru December 1, 2014

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is: \$293,779.89 consisting of principal balance of \$263,031.25 plus interest of \$ 2 8 , 2 5 9 . 6 0 , e s c r o w / i m p o u n d shortages or credits of \$661.96, late charges of \$154.25; Broker's Price Opinion, inspection and miscellaneous charges of \$146.00; attorney fee \$1,000.00 and title search \$526.83. Because of interest and other charges that may vary from day to day, the amount due on the day you pay may be greater. Hence, if you pay the amount shown above, an adjustment may be necessary after we receive the check, in which event we will inform you. The name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed: CALIBER HOME LOANS, INC. Unless you dispute the validity of the debt, or any portion thereof, within thirty (30) days after receipt hereof, the debt will be assumed to be valid by Rosicki, Rosicki & Associates P.C. If you notify Rosicki, Rosicki & Associates P.C. in writing within thirty

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(30) days after your receipt hereof that the debt, or any portion thereof, is disputed, we will obtain verification of the debt or a copy of any judgment against you representing the debt and a copy of such verification or judgment will be mailed to you by Rosicki, Rosicki & Associates P.C. Upon your written request within 30 days after receipt of this notice, Rosicki, Rosicki & Associates P.C. will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor if different from the current creditor. Note: Your time to respond to the summons and complaint differs from your time to dispute the validity of the debt or to request the name and address of the original creditor. Although you have as few as 20 days to respond to the summons and complaint, depending on the manner of service, you still have 30 days from receipt of this summons to dispute the validity of the debt and to request the name and address of

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the original creditor. TO THE DEFENDANTS, except KIRK JOSEPH: The Plaintiff makes no personal claim against you in this action. TO THE DEFENDANTS: KIRK JOSEPH: If you have obtained an order of discharge from the Bankruptcy court, which includes this debt, and you have not reaffirmed your liability for this debt, this law suit is not alleging that you have any personal liability for this debt and does not seek a money judgment against you. Even if a discharge has been obtained, this lawsuit to foreclose the mortgage will continue and we will seek a judgment authorizing the sale of the mortgaged premises. Dated: December 1, 2014 Ijeoma Nduka, Esq. ROSICKI, ROSICKI & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Attorneys for Plaintiff Main Office 51 E Bethpage Road Plainview, NY 11803 516-741-2585 Help For Homeowners In Foreclosure New York State Law requires that we send you this notice

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about the foreclosure process. Please read it carefully. Mortgage foreclosure is a complex process. Some people may approach you about "saving" your home. You should be extremely careful about any such promises. The State encourages you to become informed about your options in foreclosure. There are government agencies, legal aid entities and other non-profit organizations that you may contact for information about foreclosure while you are working with your lender during this process. To locate an entity near you, you may call the toll-free helpline maintained by the New York State Banking Department at 1 - 8 7 7 - B A N K N Y S (1-877-226-5697) or visit the Department's website at www.banking.state.ny.us . The State does not guarantee the advice of these agencies.

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