

The West Indian American

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Thumbs Up To New Citizens, New Voters

The surge in new United States citizens swearing-in ceremonies and voter registrations are heartening as new voters are anxiously awaiting the upcoming November 8 Election Day.

Events leading up to the swearing-in ceremonies of new citizens included passing the citizenship test. Several participants from CURET's Citizenship Class took the test, passed it and were among the recent surge of new citizens and voter registrations. Two of CURET's students were excited to be among the 480 new citizens in the recent swearing-in ceremonies in New Haven, CT.

It was noted that the batch was the largest ever in the state to be sworn in. Those from CURET

were proud that they were a part of history in CT.

"I wanted to become a U.S. citizen a long time ago but I was scared because of the citizenship test. I attended CURET's Citizenship Classes. The Citizenship Class really helped me. I developed confidence and on the day of my interview I was there on time—for over one hour," said Ms. Grant.

"Now I am an American. I can vote in the election. I am feeling empowered to vote for people who will represent me and my community. I encourage those who are not yet citizens to become citizens and register to vote," she added.

For information about the free U.S. Citizenship Class at CURET Caribbean Resource Center call (860) 247-0123.



Journalists in front of Seville Great House. Seated from left: Felicia Persaud, Joette Johnson, and Gordon Williams; Symerna Blake, destination marketing officer, and Hugh Ferguson. Standing: Claude Leach and Tour Guide Eldon Riley (left).

Photo: Lyndon Taylor

My Burst Of Culture In Jamaica During National Heritage Week

By Joette Johnson

National Heritage Week in Jamaica occurs in October. It is a time to explore, reflect and celebrate Jamaica's national heroes; commemorate exceptional Jamaicans; and take delight in Jamaica's rich distinctive heritage

and influence worldwide.

The theme throughout this celebration is "Our Heritage . . . Our Legacy . . . Our Strength," with events in every parish.

The *West Indian American* and four other media from across the United States were invited to partici-

pate in the cultural heritage themed press trip—guests of Jamaica Tourist Board, a distinguished national tourism agency based in Kingston, Jamaica where they took in the various activities.

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Participants in a recent Citizenship Class at CURET

Cricket Hall Of Fame's Induction Ceremony A Big Hit

By Stan Walker

This year's (2016) Cricket Hall of Fame's Induction Ceremony proved to be one of the most exciting, and according to many of the attendees, should be a very memorable day for the institution.

The celebration started with a Women's Six-a-Side Tournament in Keney Park, Hartford, which had as many as 20 women from New Jersey and New York participating.

The Cricket Council USA (CCUSA), a sports and management company out of Florida, the Sportmen's Athletic Club, and the Connecticut Cricket League sponsored the event.

Topping the list of inductees were former West Indian Test Players Jeffrey Dujon, John Shepherd, and Roselyn Emmanuel. The others were P. K. Guha, a strong promoter of the game in the U.S.; Ivy Mahabir, a founder of women's cricket in the U.S.; Bassett Thompson and Lorna Austin, who are involved with New York City's school cricket program.

Each of the inductees was well received. The inductees mixed their acceptance speeches with a certain amount of humor and some of the experiences they encountered during their involvement with the game. Dujon, in particular, who was on the West Indian team that dominated the sport in the 1980s, likened himself to the outcast Mexican character in the movie "The Magnificent Seven."

He said that when he joined the team, while sitting in the dressing room with all the stars around him, he began to wonder what he was doing there. It however, motivated him to perform so magnificently behind the stumps that today he is recognized as one of the five best wicket-keepers ever to play the game throughout the world.

Another highlight of the ceremony was the attendance of Shepherd's 94-year-old mother, who took the opportunity to present him with his Hall of Fame ring. It was also revealed that as a youngster, she was the one who got him started in the game by throwing a ball at him, which he tried to hit with a "cou cou stick" (a wooden utensil that is used to stir the pot when they are cooking turn-cornmeal, a well known Barbadian dish).

One other feature of the ceremony was the presentation of a Bible with blessings and prayers from the Hall by the Rev. Hugh Hamilton for improvement to the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) and team to the Board's president David Cameron, who was present. Cameron was also presented with a Certification of Appreciation in recognition of his help in establishing a professional league, the first of its kind in the West Indies.

According to Hall of Fame's President Michael Chambers, Cameron's presence made the program much richer. Not often do you get to welcome the

president of any of the world's cricket board at the Hall of Fame, he said, and thanked him (Cameron) for assisting the 90 males and 15 women players who now have professional contracts in the West Indies, which he said is an accomplishment that is hard to duplicate.

Cameron informed the group that he was pleased to see so

many women attending a cricket ceremony and revealed that the Board has purchased the Sticky Wicket Hall of Fame in Antigua, and are planning to reopen it by next year.

Presidential awards were presented to Sergeant Andrew Lawrence, who recently retired from the Hartford Police

Department; Bishop Jonathan Ramsey from the Rehoboth Church of God in Bloomfield, Connecticut; and Shirley Matthews, past president of the Cricket Hall of Fame and the Sportmen's Athletic Club. Ula Dodson received a Certificate of Appreciation for her work in helping to sponsor the youth cricket development program in Hartford.



2016 INDUCEES: From left are Bassett Thompson, Lorna Austin, P.K. Guha, Roselyn Emmanuel, Jeffrey Dujon, Ivy Mahabir, and John Shepherd.

Blacks Living Blue Lives, Why This Matters

By Douglas McCrory

State Representative, 7th District

The Black Lives Matter movement has been front and center in many topics of conversation nationwide. We all have seen or at least heard about the disturbing and appalling police shootings involving unarmed people of color, mostly unarmed black men.

Throughout the country, there have been many protests in acknowledgement of these wrongful shootings. The most controversial is to “take a knee” during the national anthem. This particular form of protest sparked a lot of anger and rage in people who felt that not only our veterans were being disrespected but our nation’s law enforcement professionals as well. So much so,

Donald J. Trump wants to reinstate the controversial “stop-and-frisk” policy that was ruled unconstitutional. And Hillary Rodham Clinton views the continued uptick of police shootings as “implicit bias,” which is the judgment and/or behavior that results from subtle cognitive processes—decisions made unconsciously.

In our nation, we are at odds with one another over this matter and we need to ensure the issues that we face, as a black community in America, will be properly addressed. To do this, we need to hear from black police officers. Their voice has not been prevalent in discussions. How do they feel about the shooting of unarmed people of color? Do they see or experi-

ence racial bias in the work place? How do they think the law enforcement community should address this? And most importantly, how can our community support them as individual police officers to work and fix the system as a whole?

On Wednesday, October 26, 2016 at Rawson Elementary School, 260 Holcomb Street, Hartford, CT 06112 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm, we will have a community dialogue with former black police officers who wore the blue uniform and ask them about their experiences: What can be done institutionally, and what can be done within our community to improve our relationship as we work towards instilling trust?

The 7th District Town Committee sponsors the event.

Don’t Squander Our Freedom

Recently, the National Religious Broadcasters presented a panel of various speakers who took positions on why each was for or against one of the candidates seeking the office of President of the United States. William “Bill” Wincherman, senior legislative advisor and an attorney in the firm of Covington and Burling, LLP, was a senior advisor to President George W. Bush, and spoke in opposition to Donald Trump’s candidacy.

The following is an excerpt of Wincherman’s position. It is reprinted with space limitations with his permission.

Evangelicals face a far more difficult choice this election year than any we’ve seen in the last half-century. The choice has divided us, with many good people on both sides of the debate. Sadly, the division has also prompted the questioning of motives. This is unhelpful and unfair. We’ll let God judge motives. Our attempts to be *e pluribus unum* – “out of many, one” – are hard enough without

assuming the worst of one another.

A quick word about me: I’m a Republican because I’m a conservative, and a conservative because I’m a Christian. I believe that conservative policies best reflect a Christian worldview. However, I’m careful not to divinize my own politics. I don’t pretend to speak for God. The driving motivation in my politics is the same as that for the rest of my life: to put the Lord first in my heart and actions.

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Dr. Julius Garvey, Cuts Ribbon To Reopen Marcus Garvey Place

By Stan Walker

Dr. Julius Garvey, the youngest son of Jamaica’s first national hero Marcus Mosiah Garvey, called on members of Hartford organizations to join the campaign to exonerate his father from the “trumped up charges” that led to him being imprisoned and eventual deportation back to his homeland.

Dr. Garvey made the remarks as he addressed an exciting gathering that showed up at the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the refurbished Marcus Garvey Place, which is located at Granby and Palm Streets, Hartford, Thursday, September 22, 2016.

The campaign’s petition seeking a pardon for Garvey is presently sitting on the desk of President Obama, he said, and that he is calling on all the people of African descent to join the call for Garvey’s name to be cleared of the charges of which he was convicted in 1923 with a Presidential pardon. The campaign, he added, offers an unprecedented opportunity for engagement among civil rights leaders, research and education institutions. “We are seeking



about 50,000 signatures,” he said.

He also spoke about a recent visit to an area in Canada, where he found a branch of the organization—Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA), was formed by his father and is still very active. In that area, strong communities are being built, Garvey said. “I am proud to be at the ceremony and to recognize that my father is still honored around the world.”

Garvey was the first man to actually begin the struggle for civil rights in the country, State Representative Douglas McCrory, said, and called for the erection of a statue in his honor. “There is no statue of any black hero located anywhere in the state, and Garvey being the first man on a mass scale to begin the fight for civil rights in this country, should be the first one to be erected in the state,” he said. “Garvey was the

first man to make the Negro feel that he was somebody, and he (Garvey) was involved in the struggle for equal rights long before the other famous leaders—Dr. Martin Luther King and Malcolm X,” McCrory said.

As an educator, McCrory expressed his admiration for the great leader, stating that he would like to see the book, *The Philosophy and Opinions of Marcus Garvey* introduced into the schools. “We should build on Garvey’s rich and enduring legacy preserving his message of self-reliance and racial pride as a heritage for future generations,” he said.

We should be proud to be associated with this great leader, McCrory added, then read a citation from the state House of Representatives which paid tribute to the organizations responsible for getting the Place to honor the great leader put up here in Hartford.

Dermoth Brown, president of the Foundation for the Exoneration of Marcus Garvey, said that he is confident that the community will benefit from the establishment of The Place. He also stated that the Marcus Garvey Way now has a Bloomfield connection as the town has allowed them to push it all the way to Cottage Grove Road. He thanked all the individuals involved in the project and urged them to continue to give their support.

Former Councilwoman Veronica Airey-Wilson was lauded for the work she did to get the Council to pass the resolution, when she was a member of the Hartford City Council, and which she presented at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. “I am honored to see what The Place has come to,” she said, “and called on everyone to continue to give their supports.”

Scott Jellison, MDC chief executive officer, gave a background of how the work on the project was conducted and said that it gave them an opportunity to give back to the community.

Janice Flemming-Butler, MDC commissioner, paid tribute to the Knox Park Foundation for the work that it did at the park. Tony Matta, city of Hartford representative said that it is an honor and a pleasure to work in this community. “We are proud of something very special,” he said.

Two other persons, Nicole Porter of the Blue Hills Civic Association and the Rev. Alvan Johnson of the Marcus Garvey Foundation, also spoke.

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One Hundred Men Of Color Honored

By John Perkins

The 4th annual One Hundred Men of Color Black Tie Gala was held on Friday, October 14, 2016 at the Bushnell Theater in Hartford, CT.

It was well organized, well attended, dignified, and the 100 honorees were deserving of the recognition, which they each received individually, as they walked onto the stage.

The honorees mingled for an hour in formal dress for refreshments before the presentations. And the auditorium was full of dignitaries and professionals from Connecticut and Massachusetts who are not often seen together in one place in this region. Mr. June Archer, president & CEO of "Eleven28 Entertainment," hosted the gala and gave the keynote address.

Archer said that one of his goals is to recognize 1,000 Men of Color. He urged the honorees to continue to be of service to the community and be positive mentors for the youth.

According to its website, the 100 Men of Color Black Tie Gala & Awards recognizes the contributions that these men of color in business, education, entrepreneurship, government, entertainment, service and the impact they have made on the lives of people throughout the State of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts communities.

The goal of Eleven28 Entertainment is to provide financial support for programs that support the advancement of young men of color. A portion of the proceeds from the

annual event will support scholarships for young men who graduate from high school and plan on attending College, male leadership and mentorship programs. On this day, we believe these indi-

viduals should be honored for their achievements and celebrated for their accomplishments, along with their family, friends, and support networks.



Honorees, Stan Walker (center) and Sylvestus Nelson (right) with John Perkins

Matt Ritter

Democrat for State Representative

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Douglas McCrory

State Representative 7th Assembly District



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Time Again To Check Your Medicare Health And Drug Plans

U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services: Now's the time for people in Connecticut with Medicare to check their health and drug coverage for 2017. Medicare's open enrollment period began on Oct. 15 and runs until Dec. 7.

Open enrollment is the best time to make sure your health and drug plans still meet your individual needs, especially if you've had any changes in your health.

By now insurers should have notified you of any adjustments in your health or drug coverage or any changes in your out-of-pocket costs for next year.

The average monthly premium for a Medicare Advantage plan will drop by \$1.19 to \$31.40, while the average monthly premium for a basic drug plan will inch up \$1.50 to \$34.00.

People in Connecticut in Medicare's original fee-for-service program can choose from 21 drug plans with monthly premiums ranging from \$14.60 to \$127.70.

Look beyond premiums, though. The only way to determine the true cost of your drug coverage is to consider other factors like deductibles, co-payments and coinsurance.

Medicare Advantage remains a strong alternative for people who prefer to receive care through a private insurer rather than through Medicare's original fee-for-service program. Enrollment in the private Medicare Advantage plans is expected to grow by 1.2 million to 18.5 million people in 2017 – about 32 percent of Medicare beneficiaries.

Even if you've been satisfied with your health and drug coverage, you may benefit from reviewing all your options. Shopping

around may save you money or improve your coverage.

Medicare's website--www.medicare.gov--has the best tool for helping you narrow your search for a new health or drug plan. Just click on "Find Health and Drug Plans." After entering your ZIP code and the list of your prescriptions, you can use the "Medicare Plan Finder" tool to compare your coverage and out-of-pocket costs under different plans.

The quality of a health or drug plan's customer service should be considered, too. To help you identify the best and worst, the Plan Finder provides star ratings for each plan. A gold star will show plans with the highest, five-star rating, while a warning icon will alert you to plans that have performed poorly for at least the past three years.

Besides using

Medicare.gov, you can call Medicare's toll-free help line at 1-800-Medicare (1-800-633-4227) or consult your "Medicare & You 2017 Handbook," which was mailed to you in late September.

One-on-one benefits counseling is also available through your State Health Insurance Assistance Program. In Connecticut, you should call the CHOICES program at 1-800-994-9422.

Thanks to the health care law, you'll enjoy more savings on your prescriptions in 2017 once you land in the coverage gap, known as the "doughnut hole." You'll receive a 60 percent discount on your brand-name drugs and a 49 percent discount on your generic drugs while in the gap. The doughnut hole begins once you and your drug plan have spent \$3,700 for your drugs.

If you're having difficulty

affording your medications, you may qualify for extra help with your drug coverage premiums, deductibles and co-payments. The amount of help depends on your income and resources. But, generally, you'll pay no more than \$3.30 for generic drugs and \$8.25 for brand-name drugs.

Thirty-eight percent of people in Connecticut with Medicare's drug coverage now get such a break. To learn more about whether you qualify for extra help, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp or call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213.

There's no better time to check your Medicare coverage. Again, the Medicare Open Enrollment Period runs until Dec. 7. Any changes you make will take effect on Jan. 1, 2017.

Caribbean Tidbits

Jamaican Elevated to Transition Team for New UN Secretary General

Jamaica's expertise in international affairs has been further recognized with the appointment of attorney Michelle Gyles-McDonnough as senior adviser on the transition team named to prepare new United Nations Secretary General-designate Antonio Guterres for his critical role as the world's top diplomat. Gyles-McDonnough was named to the transition team in the same week that she became the highest-serving Jamaican in the UN system, after being appointed United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) deputy assistant administrator and deputy regional director in Asia and the Pacific, resident in Bangkok, Thailand. * * *

Jamaican Engineer Ends On a Career High at ExxonMobil

Jamaica-born engineer Keith Patterson, who specializes in the design and construction of oil and gas pipelines, still recalls with reverence his contribution to erecting the platform used to extract oil from

Arkutun-Dagi, an offshore oilfield located on Sakhalin - Russia's largest island. "The Arkutun-Dagi project was the most challenging from a design and construction point of view, with the Russian code and regulation requirements. As the lead piping engineer with ExxonMobil, Patterson has worked on projects in Qatar, Japan, Paris, Nigeria, Angola, Indonesian, Canada, Russia and the United Kingdom; ending his near 10-year stint with the global oil giant in June on construction projects in Korea. A native of Westmoreland, Patterson, who has lived in London since the 1960s, explained that he entered the oil and gas industry because of his dissatisfaction with his previous job. * * *

Cuba Freezes New Licenses for Private Restaurants in Havana

Cuba is freezing new licenses for private restaurants in Havana as it struggles with the runaway success of one of the most important openings in the State-run economy. The country was once famed for its dire State restaurants and cafeterias, but it's developed a vibrant dining scene since private restaurants were legalized two decades ago. A sector that began with enterprising Cubans setting up a handful of tables in their backyards has expanded into an industry of hundreds of restaurants. However, the private restaurateurs lack a wholesale market or legal way to import supplies and equipment. So they've been emp-

tying the shelves of retail shops and buying other goods on the black market. That has led to rising food prices and shortages of goods for other Cubans. * * *

Met Office: Trinidad's temperature is hot enough to kill

The temperature in Trinidad hit a blisteringly high 36.2 degrees Celsius (97.16 degrees Fahrenheit) on Wednesday, October 19, prompting the Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service to issue a warning that it is hot enough to kill. In a statement, the Met Office said the high temperatures would continue possibly into the weekend: According to the Met Office, the temperatures in Trinidad hit record levels at Piarco for the third time this week, as the maximum temperature soared to 36.2°C to equal the new record high temperature set on Monday earlier this week. * * *

Cuban Specialists to Help Disability Centre in Guyana

Several technical officials from Cuba are expected to arrive in Guyana in the weeks ahead as a facility designed to assist disabled persons is nearing fruition. The project, which is funded by the government of Guyana and which will benefit other CARICOM countries is expected to commence with 8 to 10 technical officials from Cuba venturing to these shores to operationalise the project over the course of a two-year period. The facility is expected to be housed near the Cyril Potter College of Education (CPCE) at Turkeyen and will among other things, provide diagnoses for children with disabilities. * * *

More Cannabis Being Grown in Barbados

Local Cannabis cultivation is on the

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Don't Squander Our Freedom

Continued from Page 2

In explaining my opposition to Trump, I want to analyze the reasons I've heard for why Evangelicals are supporting him. As best I can tell, they boil down to three justifications: He's the lesser of two evils. God uses bad people for good purposes. Trump is a good man.

The first argument is the most compelling of the three. In fact, it's an argument I've used many times over the years, trying to convince my friends not to throw away their vote on a third-party candidate because the Republican wasn't sufficiently "pure." I respect my friends who have concluded they *must* vote for Trump, however reluctantly.

They believe the Supreme Court hangs in the balance, and Trump is more likely to appoint conservative Justices.

I think they're right about that, too. And yet I've concluded that this justification is insufficient for two reasons: *Trump may be a threat to our democratic republic.* This is a serious charge. Unfortunately, Trump's statements have given me ample reason to be concerned. Just because we have preserved popular sovereignty for more than two centuries doesn't mean it will go on forever.

I love the Constitution because it reflects the Framers' fundamentally Judeo-Christian worldview that we're fallen beings and that God made us for liberty. Trump, on the other hand, has too often demonstrated contempt for the rule of law. He's sounded more like a "strongman" impatient with

constitutional constraints. "I've never had any problem leading people. If I say do it, they're going to do it." He has repeatedly praised dictators like Vladimir Putin. Why in the world would Trump praise Putin again and again unless it's because he actually admires him? Maybe it's safer to assume this time Trump isn't lying.

His encouragement of violence against peaceful protestors should have no place in our republic, much less the Republican Party. Among his many statements are these: "I'd like to punch him in the face." "Try not to hurt him. If you do, I'll defend you in court, don't worry about it." "Knock the crap out of them." Trump admires strength, whatever form it takes.

This is inimical to the gospel, which exalts faithfulness and humility and meekness—things that are themselves strong because they rely on God.

And this leads to the second, and most compelling reason why I believe the lesser of two evils argument doesn't stand: *Trump corrupts us.* Some people argue that the #NeverTrump crowd focuses on Trump's weaknesses.

Yet it's true that I have a higher standard for a Republican nominee. Trump corrupts what it means to be a Republican. If we support him, we become complicit in his reprobate behavior.

Trump brags about how many married women he's slept with. (He) accuses a native-born American judge of Mexican heritage of being unable to fairly rule in a case against him—what Speaker Ryan called a "textbook definition

of a racist comment."

Many people who won't vote for Clinton because they believe she's a liar are voting for Trump because they *hope* he's a liar. He doesn't really mean what he says. When we line up behind this man, we undermine our credibility in the eyes of a watching world, and more than that, we do violence to our movement, saying the ends justify the means.

Another argument employed by Evangelicals supporting Donald Trump is that God uses bad people for good purposes. Now this is certainly true. But where in Scripture does it direct us to *support* bad people? We're not called to do bad so that good will result. God's ways are beyond us; our job is to support

good candidates.

I've heard some Evangelical leaders say that we need a bad man to stand up to the bullying from the left. The implication is that a good man or woman who plays by the rules is not up to the task.

It's almost as if we're hiring a hit man to play dirty for the sake of good government. This has nothing to do with our faith. It reflects a lack of faith in the power of virtue to do what needs to be done. In fact, that's impossible if Scripture is to be believed.

The final argument in favor of Trump is one that completely mystifies me, namely, Trump is not bad. In fact, he's good, a truth-teller, and humble. Another Reagan. Trump has implied that liberal judi-

cial nominees should be assassinated and he has played with fire in suggesting – without proof – that the election is rigged, setting up the possibility of serious civil strife if he loses the election.

And he's a man who never admits he is wrong, and rarely asks God for forgiveness since he believes he rarely does wrong things to begin with.

If Trump is a good man, then I've got an entirely different idea of what "good" mean. As Christians, we're called to do God's business in God's way. This means doing what we should and entrusting the results to Him.



Dear 6th District Residents and Democrat Friends:

I'm Edwin Vargas, your State Representative for the 6th District in Hartford. We have a responsibility to attend the polls and express our vote on November 8th. It's a commitment with our families, district and country.

As your State Representative for the next 2 years, I'll be fighting for:

- The increase of the minimum wage to \$15 hourly
- Strategies for closing the Achievement Gaps
- A Better Quality of Life, including:
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 - Noise Reduction
 - Anti-Litter Initiatives
 - Anti- Blighted Properties, Concrete Steps
 - Safe Environment for Children and Families

**On Tuesday November 8th,
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Paid for by and approved by Edwin Vargas for State Representative 2016. Manny Goulart, Treasurer.

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- ★ State Representative, March 2009–present. Co-Chair of the General Law Committee. Committee member: Judiciary and Banking. Appointed to: Domestic Violence Task Force, Chaired Task Forces on: Alimony Reform and Update of Real Estate Disclosure Form
- ★ Chairman, Board of Commissioners, Bloomfield Center Fire District.
- ★ Mayor of Bloomfield, 1983–1989.
- ★ Chairman, Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), 1988–1989.
- ★ President, Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce, 1996–1998.
- ★ Protected State Aid to Bloomfield and Windsor
- ★ Prevented school funding cuts
- ★ Strengthened protection and services for seniors and veterans
- ★ Passed new initiatives to grow our manufacturing workforce

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Democrat for State Representative
15th Assembly District (Bloomfield & Windsor)

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David Baram: 860-243-3041
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Community Events

Circle Of Hands To Host Fundraising Reception

HARTFORD, CT: The Circle of Hands Foundation (COHF), in association with the West Indian Lions Club, will host a fundraising reception at the West Indian Social Club on Friday, October 28, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

COHF is a Hartford-based 501(c)3 non-profit organization that assists three orphanages in Jamaica (Martha's House, Dare to Care, and Matthew 24:40) dedicated to caring for children afflicted with HIV/AIDS and working directly with the caregivers and children in the orphanages.

In addition to providing school uniforms, fees for after-school activities, and sponsoring outings for the children. On a monthly basis funds, \$1,200 (US), are sent to the homes to assist in the day-to-day operations of the home. And 100% of the funds go directly to the children. The

only overhead expense is a post office box that is maintained.

One of COHF's successful programs is the *Sponsored Parent Program*. Through this program individuals become more than just supporters of the children. They also become loving parents.

As an organization, COHF has donated more than \$250,000 in cash, food, school supplies, and medication. If you have used eyeglasses, please bring them to the program. They will be donated to the Lions Club International "Lions Recycle For Sight Program." The Lions accept prescription and reading glasses, sunglasses (metal and plastic frames); children's glasses are especially needed.

For more information, contact Errol A. Smith, president of COHF at (860) 729-0468.

Youth Essay Writing Contest

HARTFORD, CT: The second annual Youth Essay Writing Contest, sponsored this year by Mothers United Against Violence (MUAV), Police Athletic League (PAL), Project Longevity, and Step Up, Step Out to End the Cultural Violence (SUSO), is inviting all Hartford resident children and non-Hartford residents attending Hartford-based schools in grades 4-12 to enter this writing contest.

The topic of this year's

contest is "HOW I CAN ELIMINATE VIOLENCE IN MY COMMUNITY."

Rules for entry are available in Hartford schools, magnet schools, after-school programs, and at all Hartford Library branches, or by going to the website at www.YouthEssayWritingContest.WordPress.com.

There will be three categories for entrance: grades 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12.

In each category, the 1st place winner will receive a \$500 cash prize; the 2nd place winner will receive \$200; and the 3rd place winner will receive \$75.

The deadline for entries is January 10, 2017.

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Scouting Day In Hartford

By Jerry Hancock

Scouting? Want to know what scouts do on a campout, at a meeting, at summer camp or in their daily lives?

Your chance to find out will take place outdoors on Saturday, November 5, 2016, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm (rain or shine) by attending *Scouting in Hartford Day* on the grounds of the West Indian Social Club, 3340 Main St. (Indoors if inclement weather occurs).

This event is designed to show Hartford's youngest residents interested in joining the Boy Scouts of America exactly how your local Hartford troops provide a program for their scouts.

More than *showing* you what scouts do, you will be able to *interact* with the scouts on hand. Joining in on the activities, troops from the surrounding towns, also in the Mark Twain District will be demonstrating scout skills as well.

If you want to learn how to tie a square knot; how to render FIRST AID; how to use a map and compass; how to build a fire; learn about the Order of the Arrow scout honor society; or use a Dutch oven to prepare a delicious meal.

The place to be on Saturday, November 5 is at the Scouting in Hartford Day festivities. These are only some of the interactive displays that will be set up inside a 'model campsite.' Some of the latest equipment will be on display. See how a tent is 'pitched' and imagine yourself on your first campout sitting around the campfire toasting marshmallows and telling campfire stories to each other.

Seeing what scouting

has to offer by becoming a scout in any one of the four local Hartford scout troops is only one aspect of Scouting in Hartford. Scouting also includes units of the Hartford Fire Explorers and the Hartford Police Explorers. Visit their booths to discuss a career as a firefighter or police officer.

Scouting now offers you a chance to join a STEM unit. Increase your proficiency in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Visit the STEM van to see how.

Admission is free along with refreshments and door prizes that will be announced hourly. Combine this with the many community groups in attendance and appearances by local dignitaries, and the day is certain to be an enjoyable family event.

Opening ceremonies will include a special tribute to our veterans. In keeping with spirit of the Scout Slogan, 'Do a good turn daily,' please consider contributing a non-perishable food item to the 'Scouting for Food Drive' at the front gate. The local Hartford scouts are looking forward to seeing you there!

Jerry Hancock is a member of the Scouting in Hartford planning committee and assistant scoutmaster in CURET Troop 1443 Albany Avenue.

For more information on how you as a youth or adult can join or support your local scouts in any of the four Hartford troops and two explorer units, STEM Unit or other units in the Mark Twain District, please contact Director Scouting in Hartford and CURET Troop 1443 Scoutmaster Dean Rhoden 860-462-5656 dl.rhodengaa@yahoo.com.



Scouting in Hartford (2015 file photo) Hartford and Mark Twain District Scout Units along with the Hartford Fire & Police Explorer units in formation during Opening Ceremonies

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OCT., 27, NOV. 17, 2016

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Caribbean Tidbits

Continued from Page 4

increase in Barbados and police are appealing to members of the public to use the channels available to make anonymous reports. Police spokesman, acting inspector Roland Cobbler, said more than 30,365 plants were seized across three districts. These were burnt along with 656 pounds of cannabis and 52 pounds of cocaine. He said there were evidence children as young as seven were using illegal drugs and this would have a long-term negative effect on society.

* * *

Digicel Makes Jobs in Turks & Caicos Redundant

Telecommunications provider Digicel says it has made redundant a small number of jobs in Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) in efforts to reorganize from a pure mobile operator to a complete communications and entertainment provider in the country. But it's a move that has caused outrage in the country and led to the TCI Government taking steps to revoke the work permits of six expatriate workers at Digicel. Chairman of the Immigration Board, Sheba Wilson, confirmed that notices have been served to Digicel's office, stating that six work permits, including those of some senior managers, will be revoked if Digicel does not present valid arguments as to why the positions of TCI nationals were made redundant over the expatriates.



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My Burst Of Culture In Jamaica During National Heritage Week

Continued from Front Page

The press escorts were Lyndon Taylor, account supervisor of Finn Partners and Symerna Blake, destination-marketing officer for Jamaica Tourist Board; chauffeur was Paul Bowen. They were all attentive to our participation in intriguing excursions and diverse dining experiences.

We stayed at the Knutsford Court Hotel located in New Kingston, which is described as a “business, financial and shopping district,” according to the Knutsford Court Hotel fact sheet. Our first morning at the hotel was delightful. We had a scrumptious breakfast with Maurice Bryan, sales and reservation manager of the hotel. His descriptions of the success of the hotel chain were informative.

Breakfast included mouthwatering ackee and codfish, callaloo, bammy, escovitch fish, red herring fried dumplings, fruits, and dessert. Bryan shared with us the progress of trade and its impact on Jamaica. What is noteworthy is that the hotel chain supports small-scale agriculture businesses, contracting with small farmers who supply the food. This strengthens economic development, Byran said.



32 Market Street—Birthplace of Marcus Garvey

Among the highlights of our visits were tours to St. Ann heritage sites such as St. Ann’s Bay Parish Library, which included sightseeing in the Marcus Garvey Reading Room; St. Ann’s Bay Police Station; St. Ann’s Bay Courthouse; St. Ann’s Bay Baptist Church; Marcus Garvey High School; Our Lady of Perpetual Help; spending the day at Fort Clarence Beach; attending Merritone Family Reunion Final Party at Las Lick at The Deck; taking in Blindspot, a very hilarious, jaw dropping comedy performance at a theatre. And what was intriguing was our visit to 32 Market Street—the birthplace of Marcus Garvey.

Upon arrival, we met Colleen Johnson. She is the proprietor of the house in which Garvey was born. Johnson, sitting on a chair with a backdrop of a picture of Garvey and the Pan-African



Colleen Johnson, inhabitant of the Marcus Garvey House

flag, said that she is not related to Garvey and that she and other family members were “born and raised” at the house. She excitedly described in great details the history of the house. Johnson added that she will remain at the house until the government decides to relocate her to another dwelling. The government plans to create a museum of the house. She appeared content about the potential move and commented, “I’m happy about it, it is a public place and we have to comply.”

Another impressive excursion was our tour of Seville Great House. Our guide, Eldon Riley, provided an educational journey from the very beginning of Jamaica’s history and culture.

The exhibits and artifacts showcased the ancestry of the Taino Indians, the Spanish, the British, and the Africans, with detail descriptions about the settlement and daily life of the Taino of Maima; the organization of the Taino society; religious beliefs of Taino; the Taino imprint on Jamaica today; the Spanish invasion in Jamaica; the Spanish



An exhibit of tools used by Enslaved Africans at the Great Seville House

enslavement of Africans and numerous ways slaves resisted the system; the decimated population of the Jamaican Tainos after the Spanish invasion and their harsh treatment; the abolition of slavery and emancipation, among others. On the premises of the museum are replicas of three Taino huts, a slave hut, and buried remains of three slaves.

Riley said that when a toddler turned three years old, the child “officially became a slave” and one task consisted of the toddler “taking out the trash.”

This museum is frequented by school children and reinforces the importance of knowing their history, culture, empowering them to fulfill their potentials.

Most intriguing is the continued theme of exploring one’s heritage, legacy, and strength that was highlighted during our attendance at the Salute to Our Rio Ambassadors Gala and Awards Ceremony. Athletes were recognized for their performance in the Olympics and some were awarded by the government for outstanding accomplishments.

The awardees included Usain Bolt, Yohan Blake, Veronica Campbell-Brown, Elaine Thompson, Asafa Powell, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, and Yona Knight Wisdom.

Before the ceremony began, we interviewed Hon. Edmund Bartlett, Jamaica’s minister of tourism. He expressed his satisfaction with Jamaica’s achievements and said that it is a “powerful brand.”

The achievements “reinforce the Jamaican energy, the Jamaican finesse and our drive. But it does something more. It emphasizes the specificities of our people. It gives us a sense of place in the world as a small country. But the achievements of the nationals, of our sons and daughters give us a sense of place in the global community.”

Bartlett maintained that the athletes must “retain their integrity of their commitment to clean sports, as well as the excellency of their performances. And as long as they continue to perform in a clean manner, then they will be pristine. And that is what we want so there is no second guessing about the integrity of the product that we are selling.”

According to Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, the performances of the athletes strengthen Jamaica and have influenced the world. Holness hinted at a future project to establish a “legacy symbol” to further exemplify the high level of appreciation to the athletes.

National Heroes’ Day honored seven national heroes (Paul Bogle, Sir Alexander Bustamante, Marcus Garvey, George William Gordon, Norman Manley, Nanny of the Maroons, and Samuel Sharpe) from Jamaica’s history.

We attended the National Honors and Awards Ceremony on the Lawns of Kings House. Even though the intense heat was sweltering, people came out in droves to salute family members, friends, and colleagues who received recognition for their service and contribution to the development of the Jamaican society.

More than 200 people received national honors and awards. Popular reggae singer Shabba Ranks was awarded the Order of Distinction for his contribution to the Jamaican music industry.

As the end of our trip was approaching, we interviewed Dr.



Performers at the Salute to Our Rio Ambassadors Gala Awards Ceremony. Photo: Lyndon Taylor

Delroy Gordon, executive director of the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission (JCDC). He gave us a brief history of the role and impact of JCDC in preserving Jamaican culture. JCDC’s purpose is to establish a sense of whom Jamaicans are. Emphasis is placed on culture, traditional folk forms, cultural clubs, and current youth trends in music.



Usain Bolt receives award from Prime Minister, The Most Hon. Andrew Holness, and Hon. Olivia Grange

are owning Jamaican culture and reinforcing a sense of awareness.”

For me, a takeaway from this trip is the level of continuity in Jamaicans knowing their culture and making a contribution to society. In the end, there will be a legacy borne out of overcoming challenges and celebrating triumphs.

The determination and resilient spirit I experienced as I interacted with locals correlate with the drive to succeed and inspire others.

A famous quote taken from Marcus Garvey, “a people without the knowledge of their history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots,” is rather poignant.

Indeed, it is vital to look back at the ancestors who paved the way and laid the foundation for the future.

At the same time, culture forces us to discover, promote unique aspects of our heritage, and influence the world. This I found inspiring during my trip and this will stay with me forever!



Dr. Delroy Gordon, executive director of Jamaica Cultural Development Commission Photo: Lyndon Taylor

The celebrations throughout the island “pay homage to locals making a contribution to their community,” Gordon said.

There is a huge push to expose the youth to know their heritage. For example, children are encouraged to visit heritage sites. Cultural clubs in schools are designed to acquaint children to dance, music, and theatre.

At the same time, Gordon said that showcasing Jamaican talent strengthens the positives about the island. “They

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