

# The West.Indian American

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Dr. Doreen Crawford, MLK Principal, greeting a student on First Day, carrying his bookbag, affirming the caring and learning atmosphere of the school

## Our Children, Our Future

By Edgar Johnson

What a happy feeling among students, teachers and staff to be back at Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Elementary School on First Day to begin a new school year. Parents said that their kids are in good hands, and are ready to learn.

Thanks for the community stakeholders who came out in full force to express their concerns, joined by city and education leaders who stepped up to the plate.

They applied the breaks leading to a delay of the proposed closure of MLK School; a school named after the national hero, Civic Rights Leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The businesses, community leaders, and the clergy could no longer live with themselves allowing the most vital infrastructure in their neighborhood to fold up.

In a significant way, the stakeholders have stopped the devaluing of a citadel of learning. They have intercepted the potential supply to the dropout rates, poverty, and the foreseeable pipeline of the

penal system.

It was wonderful to see revived hope at MLK School on First Day? The scene of the large and diverse group of men who lined the sidewalks in front of MLK School building, celebrating the beginning of a new school year was hopeful and impressive.

Leah Tarnowicz, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade English Language Arts Teacher and 2015 Hartford Public Schools Teacher of the Year, gave a graphic eyewitness account:

"From around the corner you could hear cheering and rejoicing as students approached the school. Each student was introduced by name and grade level and then had the chance to travel through a line of men to receive high fives, hugs, and words of love and wisdom," she said.

Yes, the right thing was done for students and parents of MLK School.

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## Join Scouting, The New Scout Year Is Underway

By Jerry Hancock

The change in seasons is upon us and so is the start of a new year in Scouting. Boys between the ages of 11 and 17 are eligible to become a member of the Boy Scouts of America.

Here in Hartford that means joining one of the four local scout troops; cub scouts for ages 10 and under. CURET Troop 1443 invites you to come to one of our upcoming troop activities and take a look at what we do as Scouts.

Our meetings are held at CURET (Center for Urban Research, Education and Training) located on 1443 Albany Avenue, on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. We also meet at the Main Street Hartford Public Library on Saturdays from 3:00 - 5:00 pm. To confirm specifically when we are meeting give Scoutmaster Dean Rhoden a call at 860-462-5656.

Why become a boy scout? There is probably not one single answer to this question. But as is usually the case, a boy arrives at the

answer differently from his parents or guardians.

A boy wants to go outdoors. He wants to hike, go on campouts and be with his friends on trips and such. His parents and guardians want their son and young boy to develop more responsibility, character and personal strength. It's quite amazing to see, but both the boy and the adults are able to realize their aspirations in scouting!

As a scout, a boy becomes a leader of his peers and gains the respect of other scouts and from the adult leaders. The organization of a Boy Scout troop is based on a 'tried and true' method known as being a 'boy led' troop.

You see, the troops activities are conducted through youth leadership, with the adults participating as guides to offer experience when needed. Over time, as a member of a patrol, you as a boy will help plan and participate in your patrols and troops outings.

Currently, the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) is laying out



From left: Assistant Scoutmaster Jerry Hancock, Scout Matt B. holding sign and Scoutmaster Dean Rhoden.

the plans for CURET Troop 1443 to attend the Fall Camporee at the June Norecross Webster (JNW) Scout Reservation in Ashford CT, on October 14 - 16. As SPL, he will make plans with his Patrol Leaders to determine what meals they will be cooking while camping out, what equipment to bring, such as tents, sleeping bags, clothing, cooking items and of course the First Aid Kit, among many other needed items. After all, the scout motto is 'Be Prepared.'

All the preparations will pay off in the end. Through experience a youth will become more comfortable in his role as a leader in

a 'boy led' troop. Becoming a patrol or assistant senior patrol leader, a boy scout will have the benefit of seeing the older scouts performing their duty, previously, in the same positions that he now holds. Mentorship is a vital component in the training philosophy of scouting. The older boys willingly pass on their knowledge and skills to the younger scouts who, in time, will assume their position of responsibility.

The best way for the boy to experience the outdoors and all the activities that scouting has to offer and the adults to see their boy becomes a more responsible child, is

to take ACTION! Instead of putting this article aside, talk to your boy and bring him to the next meeting, see if he likes it from his perspective and see if you find it worthy through yours.

The best time to take a look at becoming a boy scout is in the fall. Come to our meetings in September and October and help plan for this year's events.

Also, mark your calendars for Saturday, November 5 from 10:00 - 2:00 pm and plan on attending the *Scouting in Hartford Day*. You will be able to interact with Hartford and other Mark Twain District scouts in a

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# Education Focus

## Are Students Being Prepared For The Modern Global Economy?

By Grace Wright

Reflecting on educational research, trends and books written on the topic, the direction and practices of education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and observing in particular several public school classrooms, I have come to the conclusion that our nation is moving too slowly in preparing our children for the modern global economy. We have a lot of work to do,

At any level—federal, state, local—politicians try to convince the masses that they are doing a good job of closing our national achievement gap while they fail to recognize a global achievement gap in education.

I believe that the federal government is more reactive rather than proactive. For instance, the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB) is a reaction of the federal government to the poor result of our educational system. School leaders find themselves between a rock and a hard place as they try to implement changes mandated by the state and the federal government.

In order to receive federal funding, each state must develop a set of standards and assessments in basic skills as instructed by the NCLB law. These yearly assessments are used to determine whether schools are achieving state standards

If schools continue to fail, then parents have the option to remove their children and send them to another school. For instance, in Hartford, many parents have opted to

send their children to magnet schools or charter schools. As a result of this school choice, the neighborhood schools face cutbacks in personnel and resources, leaving them in even worse condition than before. For fear of exposure and shame, school leaders begin to place more emphasis on improving test scores rather than improving the quality of education.

Keep in mind that these standardized tests do not measure the skills required for the workforce. Nevertheless, so much time is being spent preparing students with sample questions and exercises.

Fingers are pointed to the federal government for forcing educators and school leaders into this position of “teaching to the test.” Or, is this practice a poor excuse for not preparing our students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy?

We live in a world that is economically and technologically driven; yet, our battle is trying to improve test scores rather than teaching our students the new survival skills essential for learning, work, and citizenship.

I believe that policymakers have been blind-sighted with new or repeated initiatives and have lost focus on the *educated person*. They are also faced with the issues of educational and cultural diversity and the impact of globalization on our society.

Due to the rapid growth in technology, our global village has

declined and our position as a world power has been threatened. For example, without traveling, we can interact and conduct business with people across the globe. We hire people from other countries to fill jobs because our own students are not prepared to do so.

In this country, immigration is constant and schools have to accommodate new students from other countries and other languages. In any case, we must teach the skills necessary to interact with people of different cultures.

We must encourage students to become curious about the world they live in and have empathy for others.

School policies exist not only to establish order and consistency in schools, but to also produce the *educated person*. Obviously, our school policies are ineffective because we are not producing well-prepared citizens.

An effective policymaker must collaborate with stakeholders such as parents, community members and educators while student achievement is the driving force of any decision.

Moreover, an effective policymaker must keep abreast of our ever evolving global community and the demands of modern society. Even for low-income jobs, employees are required to reason, analyze, problem-solve, and to communicate effectively. There appears to be a disconnection between 21<sup>st</sup> century demands and school policies.

We must change our professional practice in order to meet these demands. We can no longer blame the federal government for not preparing our students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy.

The federal government may provide the funds and demand regular assessment; however, it is the state that develops both the academic standards and assessments for our students.

I believe that the state must provide curricula and assessments for the skills essential for modern demands, prepare teachers to teach these skills, and constantly evaluate and update its programs.

If our government is negligent in setting relevant standards for educational reform, then even our best students will not be ready for the modern global economy.

By law, the state of Connecticut must provide all students with equal educational opportunities. At the same time, each district or town is allowed to provide their own curricula, their own salary scale, and their own textbooks.

Towns with better socio-economy can provide the best resources and accommodation for their students and attract highly qualified teachers.

Keep in mind that NCLB requires each state to hire *highly qualified* teachers based on state standards of *highly qualified*.

Yet, still, we fall short in preparing our students for the work force. The disparity between towns is evident on state standardized tests. Schools with higher minority populations generally perform poorly and have a greater below-proficient rate than schools with higher majority and middle-class students

Since the state is responsible for providing a test that measures student performance then the state must provide the same curricula and materials for each town.

How can we use the same measurement when we have not prepared students in the same manner? So, again our state is failing our students.

Our nation is unlikely to remain a world leader without a better-educated workforce. More and more jobs require high-level skills that involve critical thinking, problem-solving, communicating ideas to others, and collaborating effectively.

Many of these jobs build on skills developed through high-quality science, mathematics, and technology education.

Our state uses NCLB as the reason for standardized testing; but these tests do not measure skills required for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

If our politicians, school leaders, teachers are not prepared for modern demands, then how can they prepare our students?

If our government is negligent in setting relevant standards for educational reform, then even our best students will not be ready for the modern global economy.

## As I See It: Technical Education, The Way To Go

Recently, out of curiosity, I checked the various subjects that are offered by Technical Colleges in Connecticut. The offerings were impressive but not surprising. As I see it, more emphasis should be placed on Technical Education.

In the past, this column has expressed the belief that technical education is the way to go. That is still as I see it. The emphasis that is placed on this



Christopher A. Service Sr.

type of training continues to be misplaced and marginalized.

One often hears comments such as: “My son or daughter is not doing well and may have to go to ‘trade school,’ suggesting that the acquisition of technical skills is degrading and should take a back seat to other academic pursuits.

As I see it, technical education is the foundation of any community, district, town, or state.

Many who have gone to technical schools are now earning much more money than they would have had they pursued non-technical disciplines.

There is seemingly a stigma attached to training that may cause one to get ‘dirty.’ What is wrong with getting ‘dirty’ if you get the job done? There are some who have pursued technical education because, unfortunately, they failed at the so-called traditional subjects in school. They have bought into the thinking that tech-

nical education is inferior!

But consider the following: When something goes wrong with electrical appliances, plumbing, motor vehicles, buildings, just to name a few, one picks up the telephone and calls the technical expert in that area. Soon the problem is corrected and things usually return to normal.

I am not naïve enough to suggest that all who pursue technical education are fully proficient at what they do. Rather, what I am suggesting is the pursuit of that type of training should be given more prominence.

The proficiency and other regulatory considerations should be left to the individuals and or organizations that deal with such standards. If individuals purport to be experts at what they do in a technical area then their work will determine if they are so viewed.

As I see it, more of our young people ought to be encouraged to become academically round-

ed. That in my view should include acquiring a technical skill. Many who presently do technical or if you will, skilled work, seek others to do their accounting, for example. How good it would be if the technical person would also be able to do his or her bookkeeping. What a concept!

Kudos to all who are pursuing technical education. I have not touched on the various subjects that are offered by technical school because those who have that type of interest will get the needed information. That is as I see it!

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## Development Of Physical Education In Jamaica

By Leon Fraser

The Jamaican identity was heightened at a time during the brilliance of the British Empire, but at a time when the luster was beginning to dim (a little) and the local individuals craved for their own, someone they could talk to about local events, and a desire to determine their own future

At the turn of the century—1890s to 1930s—awareness reached a new plateau as a result of innovative thoughts emanating from graduates of the institutions of higher learning.

Along with the new wider reach of electronic information, both printed and visual, and the new thoughts from the home country from African immigrants and from radical British-born blacks, these thoughts and visions could only culminate in the parting of ways, severance of political strings.

The 40s and 50s then became the threshold for Jamaica to begin the task of preparing to blaze a trail, to ignite a passion among the local population, mainly of African descent, to set the stage for the jump off into the unknown, whereas some of the Caribbean friends were not happy at the time because Jamaica decided that “Jamaica, yes; federation, no.”

This precocious 18-year-old independent island decided to explore the other dimension of education—physical education. Now in a similar manner how adults and good friends and neighbors will admonish a child in the choices they make, unless it is a choice with a known, tried and trusted method and path, then that choice is unwise.

Thankfully, the administrators, the signees, and a level of common sense and vision prevailed, and the first college of physical education and sports in the English-speaking Caribbean was born, a gift from the people’s republic of Cuba.

This institution of higher learning focusing on the science associated with the mechanics of physical education was new, and as you can imagine the comments were not very flattering and there were many. Of course, the seed was planted and it would only be a matter of time to wait and see if the fruits of this exploration in this dimension were worth it.

In the mid to late 80s and 90s a slight uptick was noted in the performance of track and field athletes at the annual boys and girls athletic championships, along with junior athletes at the preparatory and primary level.

This uptick was in the performance of athletes from the rural areas. Ironically, this was the similar demographics of the bulk of the pioneer graduates.

This innovative exploration for the 18-year-old emerging island nation encountered, surmounted, navigated, and surpassed the “millstones” of obstacles that any fledgling entity will have to encounter as the bedrock of that path, any chosen path, is laid out. Now 36 years later with a wealth of research and programs the college has built and graduated individuals that have taken track and field to the next level of performances.

Jamaica has consistently produced track and field athletes.

They are now staple at most international track meets, and they do bring a flavor of excitement to each event they are seeded in, because they (the athletes) are now known to be very competitive and determined. This goes to competition in all sports.

The graduates of the sports college, now with a science-based approach to the subject, have taken the old “doctrine of dualism” gave it a makeover, and are now able to identify and prepare athletes earlier, starting in the physical education classes and enable them to perform with more technical precision.

This performance oozes up through sports days, which is a huge event on the calendar of all schools island wide, from kindergarten to collegiate, then on to regional champs and then to the illustrious boys and girls athletic championships which is the sorting out grounds for athletes wishing to position themselves to become part of the national invitees when selection time comes around.

The best then radiates to national representation at the junior

and senior world champs and the Olympics.

So, Jamaica, I salute you for the vision and the endurance to get to 54 years, a mature age. I salute you happily as the land of my birth, and I know others will, even if it is grudgingly, but they do.

You have shown that with technical preparation you can build your own national representative athletes at home, on home turf, and so be able to steer clear of anxiety when known mandatory analyses are imminent, now more than ever Jamaican athletes are not prone to these tests.

The socioeconomic conditions have had an impact on how much is to be done and when, and the ripple effect usually hits sports the hardest in any budget restructuring, but that sometimes seems to propel some athletes to do more, to work harder, to be more determined.

The quadrennial Olympics is just about over and the track athletes representing Jamaica have demonstrated continuously their proficiency in the events, especially the relay exchanges, which

prompted one broadcaster on NBC gleefully announced her country of birth (Jamaica) her early formative years prior to migration, so as to validate the comments made by the Jamaican athletes that they can pass and receive the baton in their sleep.

This is as a result of the formal teaching of the skill of passing the baton in the 4X100m relay, executing the blind-pass method.

At 54 years of independence there are a multitude of kinks and cracks to be straightened out

and filled out, but the investment in the physical education component of nation building, even though it seems inconsequential to some, is vindication of the teaching of Guts Smuts, the efforts of Herb McKenley, Arthur Wint, and those before.

The next phase must now certainly be about consolidating and entrenching the political tools commensurate with the efforts of the athletes to bring track and field performance to the world.

## New Higher Education Collaborations To Advance Stem Leadership

**University of the Virgin Islands:** Four diverse and prominent institutions of higher education have joined forces to conduct research on proven leadership approaches to broadening participation in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). With the generous support of a \$2.9 million grant from the National Science Foundation, the University of the Virgin Islands and its partners—Fielding Graduate University, North Carolina A&T State University, and the Association of American Colleges and Universities—have collaborated to launch the Center for Advancing STEM Leadership.

Over the next two years, the new center will study the historical and contemporary strategies used by leaders of Historically Black Colleges and Universities in producing disproportionately high levels of underrepresented minority STEM graduates. The research will test the hypothesis that the success of Historically Black Colleges and Universities’ (HBCU) in broadening STEM participation has been due, in large measure, to an identifiable set of leadership styles and strategies that may be transferable to other institution types.

“This is one of the major achievements of UVI in one of the most critical areas for educational and economic growth, and is indicative of our potential to work with other institutions and organizations to create a national model for success,” said Dr. David Hall, president of the University of the Virgin Islands.

Dr. Katrina Rogers, president of Fielding Graduate University further noted, “...this work significantly advances the commitment of the National Science Foundation to Broadening Participation, and expands critical efforts to ensure a diverse STEM workforce for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”




**Dr. David Hall**  
President of the University of the Virgin Islands

The center will not only contribute to the knowledge base on leadership development for broadening participation in STEM, but also translate that evidence into institutional practices. “This is critically important to developing a new generation of higher education leaders, reflective of a collective commitment to equity as the foundation for inclusive excellence,” said Lynn Pasquerella, president of the Association of American Colleges and Universities.

“As an extension of the university’s commitment to educate STEM leaders of the future, N.C. A&T is pleased to join this partnership,” said Chancellor Harold L. Martin, Sr. “The National Science Foundation’s generosity and partnerships like these are critical to advancing the ever-changing landscape of STEM research.”

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### Capital Community College Reaccreditation Visit

Capital Community College will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit October 23-26, 2016, by a team representing the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

The Commission on Institutions of Higher Education is one of seven accrediting commissions in the United States that provide institutional accreditation on a regional basis. Accreditation is voluntary and applies to the institution as a whole. The Commission, which is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, accredits approximately 240 institutions in the six-state New England region.

Capital Community College has been accredited by the Commission since 1975, and was last reviewed in March 1, 2007. Its accreditation by the New England Association encompasses the entire institution.

For the past year and a half, Capital Community College has been engaged in a process of self-study, addressing the Commission’s *Standards for Accreditation*. An evaluation team will visit the institution to gather evidence that the self-study is thorough and accurate. The team will recommend to the Commission a continuing status for the institution. Following a review process, the Commission itself will take the final action.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the institution to:

Public Comment on Capital Community College  
Commission on Institutions of Higher Education  
New England Association of Schools and Colleges  
3 Burlington Woods Drive, Suite 100  
Burlington, MA 01803-4514  
E-mail: [cihe@neasc.org](mailto:cihe@neasc.org)

Public Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution. The Commission cannot settle disputes between individuals and institutions, whether those involve faculty, students, administrators, or members of other groups. Comments will not be treated as confidential and must include the name, address, and telephone number of the person providing the comments.

Public Comments must be received by October 26, 2016. The Commission cannot guarantee that comments received after that date will be considered.

# Election Season Winding Down

## It's Not Theatre, It's Very Serious

"Leadership," says John Naisbitt the author of *Mega Trends*, "involves finding a parade and getting in front of it."

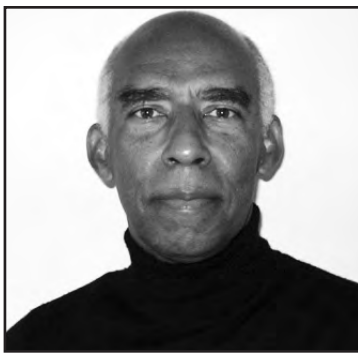
In 1982, as this social change forecaster stared out into a long, hazy future, he said, "the two most important things to remember about world economics are that yesterday is over and that we must now adjust to living in a world of *interdependent* (my emphasis) communities. Some of us find those ideas hard to accept."

From this perspective came the term, "globalization." But it is the word "interdependent," that is particularly critical if we are to grasp the significance of Donald Trump's unbelievable rise in our national psyche.

President Obama inherited a financial meltdown when he first took office in 2009. In 2008, the world economy faced its most dangerous crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

The contagion began in 2007 when sky-high home prices plummeted, spread quickly and eventually consumed all financial sectors.

The casualties included the entire investment banking industry, the biggest insurance company, the two enterprises chartered by the government to



Jim Daniels

facilitate mortgage lending—Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and two of the largest commercial banks—J P Morgan Chase and Bank of America.

Before President Obama could move to rescue the country from this catastrophe, the Republican leadership committed themselves to making sure he was a one-term president.

They began a relentless and focused strategy of defeating everything and anything he proposed. They became angry at his solution to bring relief to the millions who were losing or had lost their homes. They raged against universal healthcare. Leading the charge was a group of politicians who collectively became known as the Tea Party, the vanguard of the movement to make the president seem impotent. Additionally, they also committed to frustrating his

leadership out of the crisis, plus the no bail out for the auto industry.

As members of the Republican Party moved to aggressively disrespect the holder of the highest office in the land, they found allies, intended or not, in a slice of our country occupied by those who chafed at the prospect of a black president in combination with a national social and demographic trend. They openly expressed their rejection of him as "their president." Their children were admiring and singing the songs of the hood.

The coalescing of these two sectors of our national society—those opposed to the president and those who were alarmed at the demographic trend, buttressed their opposition by adding a reprehensible and inflammatory smear.

He was a Muslim. In combination these were the headwaters of the effort to delegitimize the president. They, however, needed a leader to add testosterone to their dogma.

As the 2011 election cycle began and the Republicans put forth their candidate, confident that they had set the stage for President Obama to be a one-term president, this group of malcontents found Mitt Romney too pliable.

The group desired someone who could speak for them, loudly

and assertively. Donald Trump saw an opening and in 2011 noisily inserted himself into the effort to delegitimize Mr. Obama. He saw a parade with a theme and he stepped forward to lead it.

He did this by relentlessly screaming that Barack Obama was foreign born and that he should be impeached and driven from office. Proof of his nationality was demanded. The Republicans ate it up.

Their silence invited hostile, vitriolic talk radio to solidify this sector of malcontents and the purveyors basked in wonderment as their revenue streams gushed with bottom-line success.

As the elected Obama rejectionists pressed forward with their strategy to deny the success of any proposal from the White House in the president's second term and to discredit him, this brew anesthetized their reasoning as to why they were in Congress.

It mattered not one whit that they were delivering nothing to the malcontents by way of legislation on jobs, infrastructure, healthcare, and education and training. They dreamed that with Mitt Romney in the White House this would all be tended to their way.

But as they stoked the fires of rejection and got nothing done, the frustration grew even greater as

this sector woke up as the president's second term moved towards conclusion. They opined that our open borders permitted people to come and take their jobs, take their education, take the services paid for with their tax money while not speaking English. Isolated cases of crime stiffened their discontent.

They were losing ground and they knew not how to stem the tide. They yearned for a time that had long since passed them by. They wanted to see again a time when it was, "just us; just me and mine."

All of this together provided Trump with the opportunity he sought: Sweetened publicity and greater visibility buttressed his delusions that he had the experience ("I alone") to solve this nation's and the world's problems. After all, he had over 50 years leveraged one million dollars into ten billion dollars.

So when he saw what he perceived as the national Republican Party's impotence, he dug into his show business creds. He was immediately welcomed to the front of the parade and now those who have invested in his candidacy cannot and will not abandon him as he takes them closer to the cliff.

Losing is not in Donald Trump's vocabulary. Many believe that as the prospect of losing looms large he will withdraw. Perhaps.

## Why Your One Vote Counts

By Joette Johnson

This year the presidential campaigns have been quite stormy between the Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton and Republican candidate Donald Trump.

Questions are raised whether voters will be motivated to vote on Tuesday, November 8 for their favored candidate or against the candidate they dislike the most.

And voter turnout will likely impact key Senate and House races. Voter turnout can have a chilling effect if it is low. That's why your one vote counts.

There are some legislators actively trying to deny citizens the right to vote.

This movement's purpose is to curtail voting rights by adding barriers. In particular this became more pronounced after the 2010 election when state lawmakers started launching hundreds of harsh restrictions to make it more difficult to cast a ballot. Fourteen states (Alabama, Arizona, Indiana, Kansas, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin) have new voting restrictions in place for the first time in a presidential election.

Some restrictions include, closing polling places in certain communities, refusing to mail out absentee ballots, removing voters from the registration rolls, eliminating same-day registrations, reducing the number of days voters can cast ballots in person before Election Day, moving

up deadlines to register and still vote on Election Day.

These voting laws are a way to restrict voters likely to vote a certain way. And in some cases, harass certain voters so they become discouraged and do not bother to go to the polls and vote.

In spite of the cynical, gloomy, and turbulence of the 2016 political campaign season, it is still the responsibility of citizens to exercise their voting right and responsibility, and let their voices heard.

Look at it this way: The ability to vote helps shape the political and economic landscapes of the country.

When you do not vote, remain voiceless and powerless. Also, you are ceding even more power to certain forces that may not share your viewpoint, and you may not like the outcome.

Your vote is your voice, especially in having a representative government. Voting is not just about supporting candidates, referendums, or amendments; it is about believing that people are a driving and important facet in the success of the country.

When you vote, you are conveying to lawmakers and elected officials how you feel about significant issues. Among the issues are: immigration; social security; education; healthcare policy; government and regulation; social and human ideas and services; stances on military issues, abortion, the death penalty, taxes, gun control, climate control, public safety, among others.

Voting gives you credibility. In other words, when you voice concerns to lawmakers or elected officials, our collective concerns become a priority for them.

## Bloomfield Announces Democratic Town Committee Headquarters

BLOOMFIELD, CT:

David Baram chairman of the Bloomfield Democratic Town Committee announced that the Democratic Headquarters opened on Monday September 19, 2016. It is located in the Ocean Job Lot Mall next to Concetta's Restaurant.

The Headquarters will be open Monday through Thursday, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm, through Election Day on

November 8.

Anybody who would like to work for the Democratic ticket can join us. We will be calling all registered Democrats and Unaffiliated voters, and speaking at different facilities and organizations.

According to the David Baram, "In just seven weeks we will be working to have a big Bloomfield vote for our ticket which includes State Senators Eric Coleman and Beth Bye, State Rep. David Baram,

Registrar Anne Wall, Congressman John Larson, U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal, and Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton!

Bloomfield can help create a Democratic victory for Connecticut and I urge all interested voters to come to Headquarters. This will be an historic presidential election that we cannot take for granted. We need your participation."

For more information call Headquarters at 860-243-3041.

## McGee Announces Forum: Getting Involved In Local Government

HARTFORD, CT:

State Representative Brandon McGee has announced that registration is open for The Forum 2016, a one-day conference for Connecticut residents who want to learn how to get involved in their local and state government.

The Forum 2016 aims to help participants increase their civic engagement and learn how to make their voices heard on local and state-level issues.

The Forum 2016 will be held on Saturday, October 8, from 9 am to 1 pm at Trinity College in Hartford. Speakers will include leaders of non-profit organizations and community groups. Participants will gain a better

understanding of Connecticut's legislative process and how to work towards positive change in their communities.

"Everyone has issues that they care about, whether it's at the state-wide level or something specific to their community, but not everybody understands how to make a difference," Rep. McGee said. "The goal is to give people who want to be more politically engaged a roadmap for where they can start."

We're going to cover everything from how to contact your legislators about an issue to how to effectively advocate for policy changes. Individuals hold a lot of power at the local level. You don't need to be a policy expert to make

an impact."

The event is free, nonpartisan, and suitable for people of any age or background looking to be more involved in the political process. High school and college students are welcome.

There will be sessions on the Connecticut legislative process, community organizing, how to effectively communicate with legislators, and how to organize around specific policy issues.

Online registration is now open. More information can also be found at [www.housedems.ct.gov/McGee](http://www.housedems.ct.gov/McGee); click on The Forum 2016 on the right-hand side. For questions, please email [Brandon.McGee@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Brandon.McGee@cga.ct.gov).

Moreover, it is imperative to understand the composition of America's electorate, both historically and presently; be aware of what is happening locally as well as nationally; the various issues and viewpoints of the political parties; the history of voting rights in this country; the many struggles; and the list goes on.

Voting matters and you

need to express yourself by your vote. Encourage your friends and family members; take them along with you. Have a say about your future and theirs! Vote, rain or shine, or cold weather!

Be sure to carry out your civic duty and vote.

For information about registering to vote, where and how to

vote, voter registration deadlines; absentee voting and applications; Election Day registration, and other important voting information, visit the Secretary of the State's website <http://www.ct.gov/sots/site/default.asp>, call the CT Election Day Hotline at 1-866-733-2463, or email [elections@ct.gov](mailto:elections@ct.gov).

## Breadfruit, Loved By Jamaicans



By Stan Walker

The breadfruit which historians believe was brought to Jamaica from Tahiti in 1793 by Captain William Bligh of "Mutiny on the Bounty" fame, although not popular with Jamaicans initially—they fed it to their hogs for years—now represents a well-loved dish in the island and is suitable for many meals.

While the easily grown trees, with their distinctive large, cut leaves, flourished in Jamaica, it took more than 40 years for the breadfruit to become popular to the local palate. The taste is sometimes described as a cross between a potato and a plantain.

Now, almost every household has at least one tree in its backyard and breadfruit or *bre-shay*, as it is called by many, is a staple in Jamaicans' diet, eaten at breakfast, lunch, dinner, and even as a snack.

It is baked, fried, boiled, jerked, roasted and juiced. Chips, porridge, dumplings, salads, fritters, cakes, muffins, and puddings are also made from this almost year-round fruit all the while being mostly oblivious to the story behind its introduction to the island.

Bligh, the captain of the unfortunate *HMS Bounty*, it is said, brought the breadfruit to Jamaica precisely because it was considered an inexpensive and nutritious way to feed the large number of slaves who worked the island's numerous sugar plantations.

An experienced navigator, Bligh, who had lived near Lucea, Hanover, in the island, from 1784-87, had sailed ships of sugar and rum from the island to England while he was in his uncle-in-law's employ.

His ill-fated expedition to the South Pacific to bring back breadfruit and other plants ended in the now infamous mutiny in which Bligh not only lost his ship, but also the specimens he had collected.

He and 18 of his trusted crew were given a small boat, which Bligh piloted 3,618 miles to Timor, aided only by a quadrant

By Stan Walker

Following his swearing in, the new head of the Jamaica Ex-Police Association, Neville Thompson, in his acceptance speech said that he was humbled to be elected as the 10<sup>th</sup> president of the organization and thanked the past officers for their hard work and dedication. With the help of the officers and the community we plan to work in partnership, we can achieve our goals, he added.

Pointing to some of their accomplishments such as the organization's assistance to a school it adopted in Jamaica and visits to a convalescent home. Thompson said that the organization is serving locally and internationally.

He spoke about his intention to get members of the organization to become more involved in the community, taking steps in the schools, which he said may be small but realistic.

In congratulating Thompson for being elected to the position, Dr. Lenworth Ellis, the main speaker at the organization's 25<sup>th</sup> Installation of Officers function, held at their Homestead Avenue headquarters on Sunday, August 28, said that he knows that Thompson is totally committed and will lead the organization with distinction.

Speaking on some of the aspects of what he believes one needs to become a great leader, Dr. Ellis said that when we think

## We Are Leaders



Installation of officers of Jamaica Ex-Police Association

of great leaders, the usual names like Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King Jr., Mahatma Gandhi, Winston Churchill, and John F. Kennedy come to mind. However, after issuing a disclaimer that he is not an expert on the topic, Ellis said the fact is that we are all leaders in some aspects of our lives—parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles. Some of us also hold positions of responsibility at work.

"For me a number of characteristics distinguish a great leader," Ellis said. "To begin with, a great leader must have a vision, knows what he/she wants to accomplish and where he/she wants to go.

Once the vision is clearly defined, the next step is to know how to get there. The leader must not only have a vision; but also be able to develop a plan to realize that vision.

Furthermore, the leader must be able to inspire the members of the organization to share the vision and

motivate members of the organization to work collectively towards the goals of the organization.

"The leader must also possess unlimited quantities of energy and passion and an unyielding commitment to the goals of the organization in order to overcome the many inevitable obstacles that often present themselves.

With all these capabilities and talents," Ellis said, the leader must also have the self-awareness to recognize that he or she is human, and therefore fallible.

The leader must have the humility to recognize when a plan is not working as expected and that a course of correction may be needed. He/she must be able to acknowledge his mistakes and change direction if necessary."

Taking a shot at the membership, Ellis said that the members' task is to be supportive of the leaders. Being supportive does not mean that you should agree to every single

decision that is made by the leadership, it means giving your input with respect to the goals of the organization, but respecting the decisions of leadership once they are made, and working alongside with other members to achieve the goals of the organization.

My experience with this organization tells me that the membership has been very hardworking and has contributed talents to the organization. But we have a new president, and he may have great plans for the future and may ask that you dig a little deeper and that you give a little more in support of the community.

"I hope that the membership will be supportive of the leadership and that the organization will continue to have a positive impact on the community," he concluded.

In closing, he again congratulated the new president and told him that 'average leaders know how to do; good leaders know what to do; and great leaders know why.'"

## Jamaica Progressive League Celebrates 80th Anniversary

Members and supporters of the Jamaica Progressive League, one of the most resilient Jamaican organizations in the United States, were recognized by Jamaican Ambassador Curtis A. Ward, for carrying the organization over the years, pursuing the ambitious goals that it had set for itself, while not losing focus of its original mission.

Ambassador Ward was the keynote speaker at the League's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration held at the La Guardia Plaza Hotel, New York, August 27, 2016.

Ward expressed his gratitude to those who have contributed their time and resources to the organization and the Jamaican community in which they have served and represented over the years.

and pocket watch, and his memory of charts he had seen. On his return to England, he was promoted to captain and in 1791, returned to Tahiti on the *Providence* for more fruit.

It was from this shipment that Bligh delivered specimens to the island of St. Vincent and Jamaica's Bath Botanical Gardens in St. Thomas, and Bluefields in Westmoreland.

Today, hundreds of varieties of breadfruit can be found in nearly 90 countries from the Pacific Islands, Southeast Asia, the Caribbean, and Central America. Left untouched, a tree can grow to about 85 feet, and yields between 150-200 fruits each year. One hundred grams of the fruit has 27 grams of carbohydrates, 70 grams of water, as well as vitamins, potassium, cal-

He also extended his congratulations to the honorees at the function, who he said through their own lives and experiences have earned the recognition of their communities for their unselfish services.

"The time of the founding of the League," he said, "was a period in our collective history as a people when men of vision and action, in the footsteps of our national hero Marcus Mosiah Garvey seized upon the imperative that we the people of Jamaica should be unyoked from colonialism and imperialism.

This was a period when independence for colonized people around the world was not fashionable and to most seemed undesirable and unachievable.

"Jamaican national heroes Sam Sharpe, Paul Bogle, and George William Gordon had paved

the way and suffered the ultimate fate and sacrifice with their lives," he said. "They dared to challenge the colonial power in the face of grave danger, and were met with an inhumanely and cowardly response, and put to death by hanging as a reward for their bravery.

"That brings us to 80 years ago, when W. Adolphe Roberts, Wilfred A. Domingo, and the Rev. Ethelred Brown came together with others to found the League, joining hands with their Jamaican compatriots at home to pry the boots of the British Crown from the necks of the Jamaican people," he said.

"While these men of vision and action helped free us from the shackles of colonialism, our country still remains shackled by many challenges. Our country faces economic, social, and political challenges.

And our resources and expertise are under constant stress from international criminal networks and security challenges from external sources over which we have little control.

"As members of the Jamaican Diaspora, in the spirit of Roberts, Domingo, and Brown, we often offer our expertise and our resources to help our Jamaican homeland overcome some of the intractable challenges facing the country," he stated.

"Unfortunately, no Jamaican government has yet established a meaningful partnership with members of the Diaspora in order to maximize the benefits that could accrue to Jamaica from such partnership," he pointed out, saying that

at the same time we do not have a Diaspora mechanism that is geared towards marshalling the resources of the Jamaican diaspora as partners in the development of our Jamaican homeland.

Over the years, many of us have offered our services and made ourselves available, but only on very few occasions have we been met by positive responses from respective Jamaican governments.

Despite the barriers real and imagined, we cannot give up hope that one day a true partnership shall exist between the Jamaican government and the members of the Diaspora so that our Jamaican homeland may benefit beyond the over two billion U.S. dollars in annual remittance or beyond the charitable services and contributions that are provided by the Jamaican diaspora and individuals.

Before closing his remarks, Ward reached out to the Diaspora to join hands and amplify the efforts to convince President Barack Obama to grant Garvey a pardon to exonerate our national hero of the trumped up charges on which he was convicted and deported from the US.

"We have very little time before President Obama leaves office. The time is now for our concerted action," he asserted.

Ward also called on the Diaspora to make wise decisions on whom they will support at the ballot in November to lead this country. "Our countries in the Caribbean are small and vulnerable to the effects of globalization, climate change, and transnational networks, he stated, pointing out that the decisions of the United States of America affects us positively or negatively.

### U.S. Citizenship Class

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# Happiness Is Homemade

In today's world, people are running all over in the pursuit of happiness, and never seem to be able to find it. This happiness they seek can never be found until they recognize that it is already inside them, a homemade entity.

But, what is happiness? It is defined as a mental or emotional state of wellbeing brought about by positive or pleasant emotions on a continuum from contentment to ultimate joy.

Hence, happiness is intrinsic. It is a product of our own minds and the causes are internal, although we often credit this feeling to something outside of ourselves. Other people or material things can contribute to our feeling of happiness; however, no one else can make us happy.

Not everyone feels or celebrates happiness for the same reason. We are all different with varying experiences. Thus, happiness is revealed as a product of our value systems, over which we all have some degree of control. Hence, our inner feelings and thoughts are the bases of our own happiness or lack thereof.

Even if things do not appear to be going as perfectly as we planned them, it is still possi-

ble for us to experience true happiness. It is the acceptance of where we are and the inner feelings of self-worth, which actually helps us to interpret our lives as we should. Therefore, we are the ultimate authors of our own happiness, and we can choose to be happy or to be unhappy regardless of the circumstances.

Since your happiness lies within your control, giving up that control to society or to another person would be counterproductive and fool-hardy. Some people allow institutions to control and limit their successes and thus minimize their level of happiness.

Many people set themselves up by relying solely on extrinsic criteria as a means to secure their happiness. Someone might say, "I will be happy when I get a bigger house"; "I will be happy when I lose some weight"; or "I cannot be happy until I am successful."

The truth is, one might get all those desires and still not be happy. I have seen many people who live in small houses, or who are not as skinny as they would like to be who are happy and are taking their lives one day at a time, and not stressing over what they should or



Thomas Aldridge, Ph.D

could be or do.

It is great to have goals, but we should not preach doom to ourselves if our goals are not met according to plan. Your happiness is in the here and now, and you should strive to grasp it today.

So happiness is not found in wealth or the abundance of your material life. If happiness could be bought, only a few wealthy people would be able to afford it because of the price. Then they would probably be unhappy complaining and wondering why it costs so much.

Many famous people have ended their lives prematurely because of the emptiness they feel, regardless of how much material wealth they possessed. They were

still not happy. Even the great King Solomon in all his glory had all that he needed and more, but in the end he saw everything as vanity.

In the Bible, St. Luke 12:15 confirms that a man's life does not consist of the abundance of the things that he possesses. I concur and believe that true happiness does not come from much to live on, but much to live for.

Happiness is homemade, and something to live for; hence, a happy person would be one who has a goal in life. A happy person is one who puts his or her efforts wholeheartedly into an undertaking, and works for a self-motivating cause.

On the other hand, the person who hopelessly drifts along without any real sense of direction will never find true happiness. This person is without purpose; one who does not think of anything beyond him/herself, self-gratification and is filled with self-pity, when disappointments arise.

Many others are unhappy because they have lost sight of the beauty of the world around them. They dream of happiness for the future, but disregard the opportunities of today.

Remember that the world owes us nothing but the opportunity

to be all we can be. So the choice is our. We can search within ourselves for the answers we seek, or have someone else provide them for us.

Helen Keller puts it best when she said:

*"Happiness cannot come from without. It must come from within. It is not what we see and touch or that which others do for us which makes us happy; it is that which we think and feel and do, first for the other fellow and then for ourselves."*

In other words, when we have control of your own happiness, we are able to enjoy and celebrate our successes, and contribute to someone else's happiness.

So be happy, it is a God-given right.

## Caribbean Tidbits

### Distribution, sale of ganja still illegal in Jamaica

The Cannabis Licensing Authority (CLA) is warning that the distribution, sale and purchase of cannabis, cannabis-infused and cannabis-derived products are still illegal in Jamaica. The warning by the CLA comes amid what is described as a "proliferation of cannabis, cannabis-infused and cannabis-derived products, of both local and overseas origin, being made available and/or sold throughout Jamaica. The CLA wishes to make clear that to date, no licenses, permits, approvals, or the like have been granted by the CLA to any individual, company or cooperative," the agency said in a release issued recently.

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### Jamaican Appointed Board Member of Canada-Based Criminal Law Association

Senior assistant director of legal reform, Legal Reform Department, Ministry of Justice, Luciana Jackson, has been appointed a board member of the International Society for the Reform of Criminal Law (ISRCL). The appointment was made during the 29th Annual International Conference of ISRCL held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, where Jackson represented the Ministry of Justice and made her second presentation to the conference. "I am happy and very honored to serve as a board member of this prestigious society," said Jackson, an attorney-at-law for 12 years.

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### Guyana attending global workshop in the U.S. on oil spill response

A five-member team from Guyana attended the first Global Workshop on Oil Spill Response Planning in New Orleans, Louisiana, U.S.A. The team comprised persons from the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Guyana Geology and Mines

Continued on Page 7

## Norris Was 'Blessed With Many Good Qualities'

By Stan Walker

The Rev. Emmanuel Ihemedu, while delivering the homily at the funeral service of the late Norris Alvin Taylor, Sr., which was held at the St. Justin Roman Catholic Church, Hartford, on Saturday, September 3, 2016, declared that Norris was one who was blessed with many good qualities.

"He was a good man, one who lived a life of service, sharing and caring. Norris helped to make a difference to many others's life," he told the packed church. "Everything he had and shared was a gift from God. What he did for many during his lifetime is immortal."

Norris, who is well known in the Greater Hartford community, passed away peacefully on Sunday, August 21, surrounded by his family



Norris Alvin Taylor Sr.

in Bloomfield. He was 85 years old.

Known as a very jovial and friendly individual, who was not afraid to show off his talents as an

entertainer wherever or whenever he was called on to do so, Norris who was born in Kingston, Jamaica, developed his love for singing and entertaining while attending Alpha Boys School there.

While in Jamaica, he performed with the then popular Bim & Bam Theater Group throughout the island.

He migrated to the United States in 1968. After his arrival he began to sing and entertain with the Hummingbirds entertainment group and on occasions often performed at weddings, funerals, harvest services, and in competitions in the Hartford area.

Three times he was named "Mr. Hartford" at the "Lift Every Voice and Sing" competition in Bushnell Park. A parishioner at St. Justin Church in Hartford, he shared his gift for

music singing in the church choir and at other services and events in the life of the church.

Proud of his West Indian heritage, he was a longtime member of the West Indian Social Club.

In his spare time he enjoyed playing dominoes and fishing and will be especially remembered as a family man who loved to be around his late wife, children and grandchildren.

He is survived by two sons, Deacon Norris Taylor Jr., Robert Taylor Sr.; four daughters, Verona Brown, Kathleen Taylor-Brooks, Joan Tulloch and Dawn Taylor-Swain; five brothers, Ransford Taylor, Harold Taylor, Mel Taylor, Lancelot Taylor, Charles Taylor Sr., and Paul Taylor; a sister, Celestine Johnson; 14 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren and a host of extended family members and friends.

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## Ministries of

The Universal Life Children's Church of Jesus, Minister (Pastor) Jewel Miller of Avon, CT, states, "Prayers should be returned into our public schools in America."



## Scouting Year Underway At CURET

*Continued from Page 1*

show of various scout skills. See firsthand and learn how to tie knots, render First Aid, read a map & compass, and many other displays of scout craft!

Admission is free, refreshments will be offered, and

there will be door prizes. The location for this event is the parking lot of the West Indian Social Club, 3340 Main St.

Many local Hartford community groups and dignitaries will be on hand in a show of support for Scouting in Hartford! The local Hartford scouts are looking forward

to seeing you there!

*[Jerry Hancock is an assistant scoutmaster in CURET Troop 1443, Albany Avenue.*

*For more information on how a youth or adult can join or support your local scouts. Please contact Scoutmaster Dean Rhoden at 860-462-5656.]*

## Caribbean Tidbits

*Continued from Page 6*

Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Ministry of Public Infrastructure's Maritime Administration Department (MARAD), a press release from the Natural Resources Ministry said. The workshop which builds on conversations from the October 2015 International Regulators Forum in Washington, D.C., was hosted by the Energy Governance and Capacity Initiative (EGCI).

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### Opposition calls for repeal of cybercrime bill

A member of St. Vincent's Special

Select Committee of Parliament that reviewed the controversial Cybercrime Act is calling for a repeal of the legislation. Anesia Baptiste, the leader of the small Democratic Republican Party (DRP), said that the bill which has come under criticism from regional and international freedom of expression advocates and media organizations, is calling on the Ralph Gonsalves government "to go back to the drawing board" to develop proper cybercrime law that "does not damage fundamental freedoms and at the same time create loopholes for cybercriminals to escape".

Baptiste said a DRP government would repeal the law and revise and pass proper cybercrime legislation, following internationally accepted best practice standards.

\*\*\*

### Jamaican math teachers leaving for jobs overseas

The Jamaican education ministry has confirmed that a number of teachers in the critical subject area of mathematics are taking up jobs overseas and will not be returning to the secondary school system in the upcoming academic year. However, the ministry said it is uncertain at this point exactly how many teachers are quitting. Speaking at a press conference at the ministry's head office at Heroes Circle Thursday, August 18, portfolio minister Senator Ruel Reid disclosed that out of an overall total of 1,784 high school math teachers, only 207 are fully qualified to teach up to Grade 11. Last year, 111 of those left, leaving 96 fully qualified math teachers in the system.

## Community Events

### Norfolk State University Concert Choir To Perform

Composite Lodge No. 22 of Bloomfield, Inc., Prince Hall Masons and Union Baptist Church of Hartford are proud to present the Norfolk State University Concert Choir on Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 p.m. at Bethel A.M.E. Church, 1154 Blue Hills Avenue, Bloomfield, CT. The evening will also feature an art exhibit by renowned artist Andre Rochester.

Tickets (\$20) will be available at Bethel A.M.E. Church and Union Baptist Church, 1921

Main Street, Hartford, CT from 5 to 7 pm through October 18, or you may go to [www.Eventbrite.com](http://www.Eventbrite.com) and search for Norfolk State University Concert Choir.

Concert proceeds will underwrite both the Community Higher Education Fund and The Willie B. McLendon Scholarship Fund.

For additional information, please call (860) 372-8685 or email [hartfordnsuconcert@gmail.com](mailto:hartfordnsuconcert@gmail.com).

### Barbados To Celebrate 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Of Independence

**HARTFORD, CT:** Barbadians in Connecticut will celebrate Barbados' 50<sup>th</sup> Independence Celebration on Saturday, November 12, 2016 from 6:30 p.m. to 1:00 am. at the Bond Ballroom, 338 Asylum Street, Hartford, Connecticut. An evening of elegance and fun is being planned.

The festivities for this event will include highlights of Barbados before and after independence. There will be cultural dance performances and musical presentations.

Because this is a milestone in the history of Barbados, organizers are striving to reach Barbadians across many states to share in this auspicious event.

The cost for this event is \$70.00. The cost includes dinner, entertainment and parking. All proceeds from this event will be

donated to *Barbados Vagrants & Homeless Society* (BVHS).

You may contact any member of the planning committee to obtain tickets. Committee Members are: Pat Clarke (860) 983-2335, Gail Ellis (860) 796-7503, Margo Eugene (860) 377-5370, Brenda Ifill (860) 883-6640, Diba Lowen (860) 503-0551, Juliet Relph (860) 680-3433, and Marlo Smith (860) 840-9048.

On Sunday, November 13, 2016, a commemoration service in recognition of Barbados' 50<sup>th</sup> year of independence will be held at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 590 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT. The service will begin at 4:00 pm. The Consul General of Barbados, the Honorable Dr. Donna Hunte-Cox will be attending and will be the guest speaker.

### Jamaica Diaspora Show

Coming soon to digital network television (ECSTV) the Jamaica Diaspora Show. The show will feature coverage of Diaspora events, news and activities, including interviews with outstanding Jamaicans in the Diaspora in sports, business, arts, entertainment, politics, health, education, immigrations, trade and investment.

The lineup will also include featured stories from the US, UK, Canada, Jamaica, and Bermuda.

Wherever Jamaicans are in the world, the Jamaica Diaspora Show will be there to provide important information to an inter-

ested audience. Interviews will not be limited to Jamaicans in the Diaspora, but will also include notables from Jamaica and other invited guests.

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# Dujon, Shepherd Top 2016 Class Of Inductees

By Stan Walker

Former West Indies cricket team's star wicket-keeper Jeffrey Dujon and all-rounder John Shepherd top this year's class of inductees into the Cricket Hall of Fame. They will be joined by five other local individuals: Roselyn Emmanuel, Ivy Mahabir, P. K. Guha, New York Public Schools Athletic League's administrators Lorna Austin and Bassett

Thompson, who will be honored for making outstanding contributions to the growth and development of the sport in the schools in New York.

Born on May 28, 1956, Dujon who made his Test debut in 1981 against the Australians was the gymnastic hub of the all conquering West Indies side that was led by Clive Lloyd. He was competent not just behind the stumps, but also more than handy with the bat in the

lower order. He was a man who never participated in a losing series.

Shepherd, born in Belleplaine, St. Andrew, Barbados, had the ambition to represent the West Indies from he was a youngster, but put his education first with the intent of becoming a primary school teacher. He played the game for his village and school. In his final year at school, he was selected to play with the official all-school

Barbados team. Following his performance against a visiting English team he was urged by Sir Everton Weekes to consider playing county cricket in England, which he accepted and became one of the first West Indians to go to England specifically to play county cricket.

Emmanuel, a true player, advocate and enthusiast of the game has represented not only her native country St. Lucia, but also the West Indies Women's Cricket team. In the 1990s she represented the West Indies in the International Cricket Council's Women's World Cup. She has also captained the USA national team as well as an ICC American Women's XI and has played significant roles in the development of women's cricket in New York.

A founding member of a women's cricket club in the US, Mahabir is a woman of whom it is said eats, sleeps, and dreams cricket. She has worked tirelessly to promote the growth and development of the game in the US. Whether it's scoring, umpiring, playing, or coaching, she is always involved with cricket. The only thing that she has not done in the sport is commentating.

Guha, who was born in India, was destined to be around

cricket as he had the fortunate occurrence of being born near Eden Garden, the home of the national cricket club. PK as he is affectionately called, migrated to the US in 1974, and it did not take him too long before he became active in the development of the sport here. He also served with the United States of America Cricket Association (USACA) for some time.

The executive administrative assistant at the Public Schools Department of Education (PSAL) in New York, in addition with her administrative duties, Austin has served as the cricket coordinator. A native of Barbados, her office was responsible for coordinating all Intramural sports in the junior high schools and it was through her efforts that cricket is now a popular event in the schools.

Jamaican native Bassett Thompson began his career in track and field as a PSAL meet director, but his roots is just as deep in cricket as it is on the track. "While I was growing up track and field and cricket were two of my favorite sports," he said. "The sports god must be favoring me because I now get to work in the sports that I love."

## Women's Power Still Alive

By Stan Walker

Saturday, October 1, 2016 will be a very historic day for the state of Connecticut. In honor of the Cricket Hall of Fame's 35th anniversary, the day will be declared "Cricket Hall of Fame's Day" in the city of Hartford by Mayor Luke Bronin and "Cricket Hall of Fame's Day in the state of Connecticut" by Governor Dannel Malloy.

The newly elected mayor of Bloomfield, Connecticut, Joan Gamble will also name the day "Cricket Hall of Fame's Day" in her city. In Lauderhill, Florida, Mayor Richard Kaplan, a recent Hall of Famer, will offer his support by naming the day "Cricket Hall of Fame's Day" in his city.

At the annual celebration scheduled to take place at the

Sheraton Hotel, Bradley International Airport, Windsor Locks, Connecticut, at 7:00 p.m., three women: Roselyn Emmanuel, Ivy Mahabir, and Lorna Austin along with four men Jeffrey Dujon, John Shepherd, P. K. Guha, and Bassett Thompson will be inducted into the institution.

A feature of the day will be an exhibition women's cricket match that will take place in Keney Park. Thirty women from across the United States of America will travel to Hartford, Connecticut, to participate in the game, which will be officiated by two female umpires. Two Hall of Famers—Venelda Wallace and Petal Samuels, will manage the teams.

Nicone Gordon, president of the West Indian Social Club of

Hartford, will do the coin toss. Hartford's City Councilwoman Rjo Winch will bowl the first ball. Patricia Lindo, past president of the Barbados American Society of Hartford, and Shirley Matthews, past president of the Sportmen's Athletic Club of Hartford, will officially open the event at 11:00 am.

The event is sponsored in part by Sportmen's and Cricket Council USA; a Florida-based organization will provide the uniforms.

A coaching clinic for children six to 15 years old will take place at the park from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 mid day.

## Our Children, Our Future

Continued from Front Page

What an opportunity and a dedicated responsibility for teachers, once again to affirm the education values—the power of education, teaching our children in our community to read, write, speak proper English, understand math, graduate, go off to college or the trades, or access other continuing education options—all making the community prosper, enabling hundreds of struggling and disadvantaged students to achieve the best education they deserve.

Who have not seen the impact of lost opportunities in the experience of school dropouts or the many students who graduated from high school but cannot read and write? Some cannot even fill out a job application.

Many walk the streets daily and are on the road to the prison roll call. It behooves community leaders and parents to confront all the would-be Goliaths who would come into their community, seek to close their school that provides students with the infrastructure for them to succeed.

Rather than even conceiving of the idea or plan to close the neighborhood school, they ought to seek to reinvest in the neighborhood school, ensuring the best education, an equal-opportunity educational

institution for all students.

Certainly, Judge Thomas Moukawsher got it right. His ruling orders to the state for equitable education funding are timely and long overdue.

For years, Connecticut's poor school districts have been crying out to the state to correct its misdirected education policies that deny the poorest students and lowest performing school systems, the right to an equal education.

However, the state has not followed its school funding formula and ignored the needs of the poor and deprived students,

Moukawsher's ruling is that the state moves education money from the struggling poor districts to rich districts.

"During the recent budget crisis, this left rich schools robbing millions of dollars from poor schools," said Moukawsher in his 90-page decision.

It is no wonder a school like MLK is left without adequate resources and even then, the little funding the school system receives, their funding is cut. Clearly, this is robbing "Peter to pay Paul." The poor neighborhood schools get the short end.

The magnet, charter, and choice schools get optimum curricula and resources. And they continue to empty the neighborhood

schools. There is no match with the curricula of the struggling poor neighborhood school districts with the rich districts. At the same time, however, when it comes to measures all students take the same tests, the same SATs, and are held to the same standards. What a plight for the students in our poorest neighborhood schools!

How long ought these students' constitutional right to an equal education be denied? Certainly, there is an urgent call to lawmakers for action, to do something better for all students.

Lawmakers can no longer turn their backs to the plight of the students in poor districts. Students in the poorer districts are failing—school dropouts, and some who managed to graduate are functionally illiterate, opening a wider path to the prison pipeline.

he time calls for fully funded high-quality early childhood education up through the high school level for students who live in our poorest neighborhood schools. They are our children and our future.

Entire communities need to rally and support these schools. Let's ensure that all the students succeed.

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