

Hartford Foundation Donates \$750 In Support Of Hartford Youth Service Corps



Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin (center, front) and Hartford Foundation's President, Jay Williams (2nd from right in the back row) with a group of Hartford youth and program leaders

By Chris Senecal

The Hartford Youth Service Corps (HYSC) was created by Mayor Luke Bronin in 2016 to reengage at-risk or disconnected youth in paid service learning and academic and workforce develop-

ment support to help them get back in school or on the path to a job. Young people who are disconnected from school or work, whether because of chronic absence, suspension, or involvement in the criminal justice system, face significant barriers

to building healthy, productive lives.

In support of this work, Our Piece of the Pie (OPP), which administers the Youth Service Corps, has been awarded a one-year, \$750,000 grant to support the

HYSC. In collaboration with the City of Hartford as well as state and local community partners, OPP will work to reengage youth in their education and employment through integrating service learning projects and wrap-around supports, targeting

250 youth ages 16 to 24. This work supports the Hartford Foundation's strategic commitments to addressing student progress and community safety.

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St. Martin's 27th Annual Awards Banquet

HARTFORD, CT: The recent St. Martin's Episcopal Church's 27th Annual Collin Bennett/Marcus Garvey Service and Scholarship Awards Banquet

brought together a crowd to join in celebrating the vision and contributions of the late Rev. Collin Bennett and Marcus Garvey. The event was held at Artists Collective, 1200

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Community Service Awardee, Dr. Paulette Blythe

Prime Minister And CT State Treasurer Discuss Economic Partnership

NEW YORK, NY:

Connecticut State Treasurer Shawn T. Wooden met with Jamaica's head of government, The Most Honorable Andrew Holness, prime minister of Jamaica.

The American Friends of Jamaica, Inc., a nonprofit organization, in New York City, hosted the meeting. In addition to discussing the Caribbean island's economic growth and turnaround, the first meeting of Prime Minister Holness and Connecticut State Treasurer Wooden provided an opportunity to exchange ideas on strengthening economic opportunities between Jamaica and Connecticut.

"In Connecticut, we have deeply-rooted cultural and economic ties to Jamaica, not just in our West Indian communities but throughout our state,"



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Prime Minister of Jamaica Andrew Holness (left) with Connecticut State Treasurer Shawn T. Wooden

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After Election, Put Words Into Action

By David Parks

Congratulations to every voter who went to the ballot box and voted in the most recent election.

To many, as the saying goes, after you have voted, “shut up and hold your peace” for the next two or four years.” But here is where most voters make a mistake. After the ballot box, comes the hard work to hold winners accountable.

This is where most voters fail—after election and the winners are announced. Most voters wrongly disappear and become out of focus. This is what many political leaders like—to hide behind their promises, abandon voters, and continue to play the political game, election after election.

Remember to keep in mind the bigger picture of your city or town, the bigger picture of your neighborhoods, what are the issues impacting your city and neighborhoods? During the political campaigns and debates, what were the platforms of political candidates after they win the election, what did they promise, and did they incorporate your neighborhood’s needs and issues in their promise?

By the time election arrives again, as a voter, you ought to be well informed about the issues and promises made, where do the

candidates stand? After election, you become very engaged, staying on top of the issues, having contact information of your constituent representatives. Know your rights and your place in the community—remember that you have vested interest in your community, and the fact that you are not just a fly-by-night resident.

For example, as a resident of Hartford, you have paid your share of the high property taxes—you have a right to have your voice be heard—no longer high taxation without representation.

Gather some of your neighbors and build a coalition of concerns—improving your neighborhood, how they ought to be a part of the city of Hartford and its neighborhoods’ economic growth. This impinges on education—not closing neighborhood schools and building more prisons.

Let’s hold Hartford schools accountable. Too many students are leaving school prematurely, and not having a way out for a better future—no college or job training but adding to the increase crime and violence in neighborhoods.

Voters ought to spell out their concerns about the educational inequalities of their neighborhood schools. Too many students fail or barely make the grade during the

school year and after the school year. There is no commitment to convene academic summer programs to prepare students for the new school year, and so the cycle continues year after year. Many parents do not know their rights and some schools play upon parents and voters’ negligence. This must stop.

Let’s empower parents and neighborhoods—helping parents build values; a sense of the greater value—what it takes to ensure quality education for their kids.

And with quality education expand economic development and affordable housing for all Hartford residents.

Yes, voters ought to spell out to their politicians, and all who represent the Hartford City Council—not just a section of Hartford, not just development in Downtown Hartford at the expense of the neighborhood areas—but all of Hartford—affordable housing for all; job development and training for all—this entails holding our political leaders accountable—looking beyond their political flyers and posters, and grandiose promises, which are just empty shells in their minds compared to the realities of touching real residents’ lives.

Voters are to be very engaging and making sure that, that which the politicians promised during their political debates really hap-

pen after election.

Remember this: Many Hartford voters live and breathe everything about Hartford and they went to the ballots with heavy burdens; they are calling for a listening ear and they want to get things done for their city and neighborhoods—better services; information on accessing services; and expanding services for small businesses owners.

Political leaders must be willing to take the time to listen to voters, to be clear on the wish lists of their constituents; keeping their community business thriving, cleaning up the city and clearing of all bulky waste on streets.

A beginning point could be to obtaining a functioning telephone number of all members of the Hartford City Council—get their working phone numbers and email addresses. As public servants of the city, they will be willing to share this information.

After election, we want to hear the voices of the people who don’t always have a voice.

Can we imagine what the future of Hartford could be with an engaging constituency and voters—what a transformation of the political landscape of the city and its neighborhoods? Should this be realized, it would increase the likelihood of voter turnouts in elections because they matter.

Everyone Has A Story

It is said that a story is the telling of an event in such a way that the listener or reader experiences or learns something from the fact that he or she is presented.

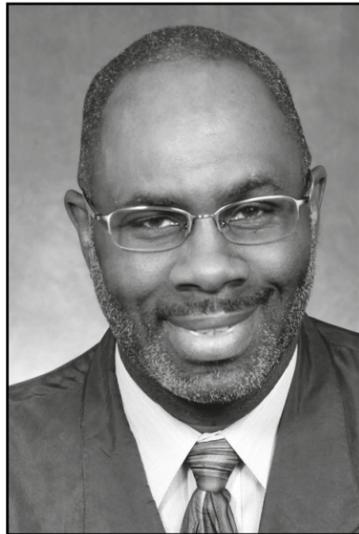
It is a means of transferring information, customs, and experiences from one to another. Although some stories can be fictional, for the purpose of this article we will assume that all stories are true representations of our life and time.

From the moment you took the first breath until the moment you take your last, your life is a story. A story that is a collection of all your ups and downs,

good days and bad days, successes and failures; nonetheless it will be a story of your being here and how you live your life.

Each of our stories is going to be different even if we are from similar experiences or circumstances. Yes, each story has that individual touch that makes it authentically ours.

Recently, we celebrated the lives of three community trailblazers in the persons of Congressman Elijah Cummings of Maryland, Mr. George Scott, and Mrs. Kathy Tomlinson both of the Hartford community. Each of these persons was unique in his or her way, but I believe the most impor-



Thomas Aldridge

tant fact is that they were all change-makers. They endeavored to leave this country and the world a better place than they found it. I am convinced that their stories will be a light to the paths of the many who are brave enough to follow in their footsteps.

A story must be told, or else, what is its value if no one knows about it? But, how can our stories be told?

For many of us, we write about our experiences, and ourselves and while there is absolutely nothing wrong with that; however, when someone else tells our stories he or she will tend to present a more unbiased angle to the narrative.

Nonetheless, nobody is perfect, and try as we may, we will not find anyone’s story that is great from start to finish.

For many of us life has been one tragedy after another, and it is only by God’s grace and sheer determination that we continue to plod along.

Some of us have had a rough life from the beginning, while others got opportunities to help them make it through.

Regardless of what your circumstances are, never live with regrets. Just get up every morning with gratefulness in your heart and do the best you can. You might just be providing encouragement to some person who is about to lose his or her way.

Our stories should not be too much about us, but about what we did to affect the lives and circumstances of others. If we live our lives as contributors to society then the history books will do justice to our stories.

We should always strive to not let our place and time on this earth be meaningless and selfish.

As the songwriters puts it, *“...if I can help somebody as I pass along, then my living shall not be in vain.”* And as the greatest boxer in the world, the late great Muhammed Ali stressed, taking care of one another is the small price we pay for living on this earth. Each of our stories should be a shared experience. What say you?

Happy Thanksgiving, All.

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Hartford Foundation Donates

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“The Hartford Foundation has long supported efforts to reengage young people who have become disconnected from school, recognizing the significant challenges they will face as adults without a high school diploma or job training,” said Hartford Foundation President Jay Williams. “We are pleased to be part of the Hartford Youth Service Corps’ collaborative effort that engages state and local government as well as community organizations to provide a wide variety of services for youth to reconnect them to education and workforce development while enabling

them to earn an income.”

The Hartford Youth Service Corps uses Our Piece of the Pie’s youth-centered and positive youth development approaches to engage young people. OPP has a long track record of successfully working with teenagers and young adults who face multiple barriers to success.

Since 2016, the organization has been implementing the Hartford Youth Service Corps, in collaboration with Hartford’s Department of Families, Children, Youth, and Recreation as well as other partners involved in addressing the needs of disengaged youth in Hartford.

“We built the Youth Service Corps so that young people in Hartford could have the chance to earn a paycheck, build critical skills, get connected to coaching and mentors, and contribute in tangible ways to their city and their neighborhoods,” said Mayor Luke Bronin. “In the first three years, we’ve helped hundreds of young people get their first job and lay a foundation for their future, and I’m so grateful to the Hartford Foundation for this generous investment in young people in our community as we work to sustain and grow the Youth Service Corps.”

Additional partners include the Hartford Public Schools, Court Support Services Division of the

Judicial Branch, the Hartford Police Department, Juvenile Probation, Hartford’s Violence Prevention Initiative, and grassroots organizations, including community advocates participating in the Hartford Community Safety Coalition.

The City of Hartford’s role includes facilitating resource development, coordinating partners, program monitoring, communications support, addressing obstacles, as well as providing access to City departments to support collaborative service learning projects, including the Department of Public Works and Parks and Recreation to identify blight remediation and other projects.

participants are engaged in 470 hours of paid service learning over one year, recognizing that students in school may complete fewer service hours.

“OPP’s mission is ‘to empower youth with the key competencies to overcome barriers and succeed in education and employment,’” said OPP CEO Enid M. Rey.

“We know that disconnected youth face increased barriers that impede their success in both education and employment. We see all youth as full of promise and undeveloped potential. We must focus on engagement, persistence and second, third, fourth chances. OPP is proud to be part of this unprecedented collaboration as it is a clear example of how together, community partners can unite to grow opportunities for youth to Earn & Learn and make positive contributions to the City of Hartford.”

With guidance from OPP’s staff, youth focus on completing goals in Individual Service Plans around personal, academic and workforce development. HYSC primarily serves as a diversion and opportunity program for youth disconnected or disengaged in education and employment. Service learning projects are developed with youth input, and

The funding from the Foundation allows OPP to expand services to increase the number of youth served to at least 250, with the prospect of reengaging up to 275 youth at various stages in pursuing their educational, workforce development, and employment goals.

St. Martin’s 27th Annual Awards Banquet

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Albany Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

The celebration highlighted education, service, and self-reliance in shaping the future of our community—a message that Marcus Garvey and the Reverend Collin Bennett believed in and promoted.

The keynote speaker of the event was Dr. Robert Hill, professor of History at the University of California, Los Angeles. He is the editor of *The Marcus Garvey and Universal Negro Improvement Papers*, a multi-volume letterpress edition of the papers of the largest organized movement of blacks in History.

Hill lauded St. Martin’s Church for its accomplishments over the years and involvements in the community. He stated that Marcus Garvey put emphasis on the need to strengthen the family economically and socially, and support the family if we wish to be successful. This is key for a community to thrive. Educators, Hill said, have a very important role to play in supporting and molding the future generations—the adults of tomorrow.

In molding traditions and future generations Hill also highlighted the role of oral tradition by the use of “story telling.” Through this tradition important lessons are passed down. Teachers, Hill said, need to tell their students stories to help pass on their heritage.

Of significance at the event were the special service and scholarship awards offered to two honorees who are serving in the Hartford community: Mrs. Marva Donald and Dr. Paulette Blythe; and scholarship awards to three students: JoVanny A. Burrell, Jaelynn Dunn, and Denzil Wilson.

Mrs. Marva Donald, a native of Guyana, migrated to the United Kingdom (UK) to pursue a career in nursing and worked in various hospitals in the UK. Soon she migrated to the United States and worked at several health care facilities. In addition, for many years she served as a tutor for students pursuing their LPN training. Currently, Donald volunteers as an associate to the St. Martin’s Homecare and CNA programs.

Dr. Paulette Lorraine Blythe who hails from Kingston, Jamaica where she received her early education, then completed her undergraduate studies at the University of the West Indies in Kingston. Eventually, she migrated to Canada and earned her master’s degree from Mount St. Vincent

University in Nova Scotia. Continuing her education journey, she obtained her teacher certification in New York and Connecticut. Before long she relocated to Connecticut and in 2014 Dr. Blythe earned her doctoral degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Hartford.

With over 32 years of experience, she has served in numerous capacities in the field of education including teaching at various levels of the educational ladder, assessor and evaluator of trainee teachers.

In 2015, she was the recipient of the NAACP Women of Color Award for service, dedication for her commitment, and unwavering support of students in the Hartford Public Schools.

Blythe has a deep concern for Hartford’s students. As a passionate and seasoned educator, she believes in diversity and the nurturing of character development in young people. She has taught students considered to be “at risk” for leaving school prematurely, and she is instrumental in helping these students learn how to believe in themselves, re-enter mainstream classes, graduate from high school, and attend college, or pursue other educational enhancements.

Clearly, Blythe is a motivator of students, parents, fellow teachers, and administrators. She engages them in projects that enhance the education community such as: Student Council, Big Brother/Big Sister programs, teacher enrichment programs, “School and Home Connection” with the goal of increasing parent engagement.

She was also a member of the National Association of Black Social Workers, and had the privilege of travelling with the Association to Ghana, Africa and St. Kitts and Nevis to donate school supplies, and to meet with the minister of Education to present perspectives of Caribbean examinations and that of the United States.

Blythe works tirelessly as an ELL/TESOL (English Language Learners/Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) educator for the Hartford Public Schools. She spends her evenings tutoring students who are pregnant and have become young mothers in an unplanned situation. She is motivated to find ways to help students make a positive difference in their lives. Blythe believes legacy is how one lives and what he or she does in making a difference.

Alongside her involvement in education, Blythe is active in her church and is a religious

woman of strong faith. In 2005, she joined St. Martin’s Church and since then has served in multiply roles: member of the Alter Guild, representative on the Seabury Board, vice-president of the Episcopal Church women’s group; vestry member; prayer group member; and president of the Episcopal Church Women.

Dr. Blythe is the mother of one son Andre, and daughter-in-law Zoon. She is also the loving grandmother of two adorable grandchildren, Alexander and Abigail.

Three Student Awards were bestowed. JoVanny A. Burrell, who was born in Hartford, CT; went to Jumo Academy Charter School, East Hartford Middle School, and graduated from Central High School, Bridgeport, CT. His goal is to finish college at the University of Hartford.

Burrell cherishes a gem he learned from his grandmother, Pertina Younger-Grant. Her wisdom words, Burrell said, are guiding him throughout his life: “You can have money, cars, and even pretty clothes, and anybody can take those things away from you. But when you have an education nobody can take that from you.”

Student Jaelynn Dunn, too, born and raised in Hartford, CT, graduated from the Connecticut International Baccalure Academy, and is currently a sophomore at the University of Massachusetts. Dunn is an active member in the Caribbean Student Association and the Black Student Union.

In those capacities, she advocates for cultural understanding, unification, and societal change. She cites a theme from Marcus Garvey: “A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.” This is of great significance for her.

Student Denzil Wilson graduated from Bloomfield High School, where he was a member of track and ran cross-country. He viewed that activity as a way for him to be free. He has followed in the footsteps of his mother and aunt who did the same sport during their high school years. In addition, he volunteered in the community; repaired wheelchairs, and helped the elderly and those who are disabled.

Certainly, the recipients of the 27th Service and Scholarship Awards epitomize the beliefs and contributions of Marcus Garvey and the Rev. Collin Bennett. The honorees sought to improve the lives of people in Hartford, Connecticut and beyond.

Happy Thanksgiving Celebration!

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Reflecting On Halloween And Thanksgiving

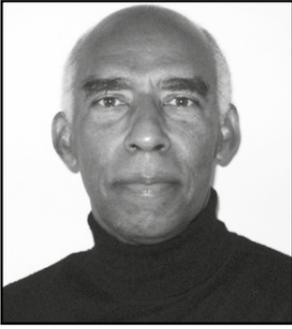
Perhaps now that Halloween ranks as extreme celebration--we have spent \$1.6 billion in goods and services. For other big celebrations, Valentine's Day, the total spending on gifts in 2019 reached \$19.7 billion. Mother's Day was \$25 billion. And Americans will spend one billion dollars for just turkeys alone this Thanksgiving.

It is hard to quantify the expenditures for the historical Thanksgiving because it is so tied up with shopping--cyber and box stores. It does, however, reach into the multi-billions of dollars. These celebrations--some are not regarded as holidays although there is no rule regarding when an event is a true holiday or a just a fun-laden celebration.

All are not usually tied to any specific, political event but this does not mean that the politicians have given up on that possibility. Halloween is clearly a fun event. But it carries a lot of baggage. Christian groups create alternative opportunities for children and youth to celebrate on October 31.

Thanksgiving is clearly a family and loved ones event. To execute either handsomely like everything in our society, costs money. It has become serious money.

Halloween is October 31 and it has seen a gargantuan transformation from what was a child's simple overindulgence in gratuitous candy, and the opportunity



Jim Daniels

for neighbors to walk their streets and greet each other in a genuinely friendly chitchat. That was always my experience. Neighbors took a dim view of the parents who bussed those noisy kids into other neighborhoods to gather higher quality candy compared to their own neighborhoods.

Frowned on, yes, but nothing more than that. Then the party merchandisers began to see an emerging trend and juiced it with their public relations professionals. Adults started to move Halloween to a higher celebratory level and it is where it is today and trending upwards.

Guy Fawkes Night, also known as Guy Fawkes Day, is an annual British celebration that is often tied to Halloween. It has a serious reason for celebration (even if aspects look more like our Fourth of July). Guy Fawkes Night is observed on November 5.

Its history is attached to Mr. O.S. Guy Fawkes, who was arrested on 5 November 1605 while guarding explosives placed beneath the House of Lords for which he was executed. Celebrating the fact that King James I, who was in the building had survived the attempt on his life, people lit bonfires around London; and months later, the introduction of the Observance of November 5 Act enforced an annual public day of thanksgiving for the plot's failure. Both

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Jamaican Jerk Turkey For The Holiday



By Winsome Murphy

Are you ready to try something non-traditional at Thanksgiving or Christmas? How about Jamaican Jerk Turkey for the holiday? Forget the traditional turkey this holiday and try a delicious Jamaican Jerk Turkey recipe.

Ingredients

A turkey 12-14 pound
3/4 cup butter
3/4 cup olive oil
2 cups vinegar
3 cups Jerk Seasoning/Sauce. See our Jerk Seasoning/Sauce recipe here. If you buy the seasoning we recommend JCS Jerk Seasoning/Sauce

Items needed

Turkey Injector
Reynold's Oven Turkey Bags (optional)
Roasting Pan
Pimento wood or Alder wood chips (optional)

Method

- Wash the turkey with the vinegar (be sure to remove the giblets and neck that are usually stuffed in the turkey). Use a paper towel to pat down the outside of the turkey.
- Pat the outside of the turkey down with paper towels.

- Use the microwave to melt the butter.

- Take 5 tablespoons of the Jerk Seasoning/Sauce and mix with the butter and olive oil. If it is too thick use a food processor to liquefy
- Fill your turkey injector with the mixture

- Inject the turkey with the mixture.
- Inject each leg and then a shot on each side of the breast.

- Rub the remaining Jerk Seasoning/Sauce on the outside and inside of the turkey. Rub under the turkey skin and in every cavity.
- Leave the turkey covered at room temperature for 3-4 hours. This will allow the seasoning to marinate into the meat.

- Put in the refrigerator to marinate overnight. Please note that putting it in the freezer will not allow the seasoning to penetrate into the meat.
- Start first by smoking the turkey on a coal barbeque grill (must have a cover) or a smoker grill. A gas grill can be used but the flavor will not be the same. The fire must be very low. The coal must be white. If you have pimento wood available use it with the coal. Alder wood chips is also a good substitute.

- Put the turkey on the barbeque grill

and cover it. Let the smoke soak in the flavor. Leave it on the grill for 2 hours turning it so each side gets "smoke" from the coal.

- Read the direction on the Oven Turkey bag. Using an oven bag will reduce the cooking time of the turkey.
- If you do not have a Oven Turkey bag set the oven to 325 degrees and cook the turkey for 3 hours. As the turkey cooks, baste frequently, using the mixture that was injected into the legs and the breast.

- Place the turkey in the Oven turkey bags. Many Oven turkey bags require cuts be made in the bag. Place the turkey in the Oven turkey bags in your roasting pan.
- Place the turkey in the oven and bake according to the instruction on the oven turkey bag regarding the time and temperature.

- When the turkey is cooked remove the oven bag. Leave the juices in the roasting pan as it will make a great gravy
- Stuff the turkey to your liking and then put back in the oven at a low temperature to keep it warm.
- Remove the turkey 20 minutes before carving.

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Women Of West Indian Heritage Win Council Seats In Municipal Elections



Shirley Surgeon



Carol Anderson Blanks



Suzette DeBeatham Brown

By Rosemarie Tate

Three women of West Indian heritage were successful in their bids for Town Council seats in Hartford, West Hartford, and Bloomfield municipal elections held November 5 2019.

The women are Shirley Surgeon, Hartford; Carol Anderson Blanks, West Hartford; and Suzette DeBeatham Brown, re-elected, town of Bloomfield.

Shirley Surgeon was born in Jamaica and migrated to the United States with her mother, Ceres; father, Leonard; and sister, Donna. She has been active in the Hartford Democratic Town Committee for over 20 years, and served as Registrar of Voter for the city of Hartford. She was campaign coordinator for Dannel Malloy's run for governor in 2009. Surgeon

worked as an assistant to Governor Malloy during his first term in office. Surgeon said she is "working for the betterment of the community and all its residents." She will be sworn in on January 6, 2020.

Carol Anderson Blanks was born in Hartford to a Jamaican mother and Cuban father. She has served over 20 years on the West Hartford Democratic Committee. She was elected to West Hartford's Board of Education in 2015 and became chair of the Board in November 2018. Anderson Blanks has worked hard in helping to maintain high standards in education and wants "to help to increase services and quality of life for all residents." Anderson Blanks will be sworn in on November 19, 2019.

Suzette DeBeatham Brown was born in Jamaica and

migrated to the United States with her father Winston, mother Pauline, and brother Winston Jr. DeBeatham Brown has served the community on various boards and committees. Before being elected to office, she served as chairperson for the Community Awareness Taskforce for several years and serves as a chaplain for the Bloomfield Police Department. She is re-elected to the Town Council serving as its mayor,

the first woman of color.

DeBeatham Brown was first elected in 2017; served the community in different roles; and as a leader, "plans to continue to serve the Town and all its constituents to keep Bloomfield as a welcoming community for all." She was sworn in on November 12, 2019 and will be serving her second term as mayor.

The West Indian community has grown and now represents

significant number of voters and voting blocs. They are participating in city and suburban political landscapes. We salute the elected women; they are pioneers.

Let's offer our support, continue to vote, voice concerns about our community, and make the services and neighborhoods where we live better for all, including future generations

Reflecting

Continued from Page 4

Halloween and Guy Fawkes have religious dimensions. Britain was caught up in Protestant versus Catholic influences in its public life and governance with the monarch of those days defending or opposing one side or another.

The opposition to Halloween derived from its pagan celebratory aspects. This accounts for the opposition to it by certain Christian groups. But truth is told, not many Halloween celebrators know much of this history and probably do not care.

Thanksgiving is truly a family happening and probably to a greater extent than Christmas. But there are so many myths and legends surrounding this national holiday it seems like there isn't much agreement regarding where the facts lay.

The first interesting thing to point out is that the feast shared with the Wampanoag Indians and the first mention of Thanksgiving are really not the same event. During the first winter in 1621, 46 of the 102 pilgrims died. Thankfully, the following year resulted in a plentiful harvest. The pilgrims decided to celebrate with

a feast that would include 90 natives who helped the pilgrims survive during that first winter. One of the most celebrated of those natives was a Wampanoag who the settlers called Squanto.

He taught the pilgrims where to fish and hunt and where to plant New World crops like corn and squash. This first feast included many fowl, though it is not certain that it included turkey, along with venison, corn, and pumpkin.

The four women settlers and two teenage girls prepared all this. In 1623 pilgrims were living through a terrible drought. They decided to spend an entire day in July fasting and praying for rain. The next day, a light rain came.

Further, additional settlers and supplies arrived from the Netherlands. At that point, Governor William Bradford proclaimed a day of Thanksgiving to offer prayers of thanks to God.

Surely, we all have reasons to give thanks to God for the "supplies and rain," yes, and much more!

Express Kitchens' Announcement



State Senator Doug McCrory (5th from left, rear) with a group of state and local officials

HARTFORD, CT: On the day that Express Kitchens announced it is expanding from Connecticut into Massachusetts with eight new showrooms, and is now powering its entire Weston Street facility with a 626 kilovolt solar power plant on its rooftop, State Senator Doug McCrory (D-Hartford) joined a group of state and local officials to offer high praise for Express Kitchens founder and CEO Max Kothari.

"Max has been around for years. He believes in hiring

people from the community and giving back. He's an excellent role model and a smart businessman," **Sen. McCrory** said.

Express Kitchens is headquartered in a 130,000-square-foot warehouse on Weston Street and employs nearly 150 people in Connecticut; its expansion into Massachusetts next year will double the size of the business. The company is also looking for another half-million square feet of space in Hartford to expand even further.

"We look at our growth beyond simply physical store expansion," Kothari said regarding his business expansion plans. "We're elevating every aspect of how we serve our customers, including reimagining our stores, opening new digitally-enabled stores, introducing new range of kitchens, pursuing an aggressive growth strategy and transforming the way we replenish our stores and get products to our customers. The steps we continue to take are with a focus on better positioning Express Kitchens as an iconic brand on the national stage."

Caribbean Tidbits

Jamaica may have to import teachers, says JTA president
MONTEGO BAY, ST. JAMES, JAMAICA: Jamaica Teachers' Association (JTA) President, Owen Speid, is forecasting that the ongoing migration of the island's teachers could cripple and paralyze the education sector if the government does not speedily address the issue. Speid, while addressing the JTA's half-yearly meeting at St John's Methodist Church in Montego Bay, St James on November 15, said the migration patterns of teachers can affect the quality of students the education sector produces.

Over the years, the migra-

tion of teachers has resulted in many teaching vacancies at both primary and secondary schools, especially in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subject areas. However, in recent years, shortages have arisen in other areas, such as English language, technical, and vocational subjects. At a JTA meeting, Speid further contended that the government has been sleeping on the issue of migrating teachers for far too long.

In historic first, children to address Parliament on violence
KINGSTON, JAMAICA: For the first time in Jamaican history, children will address Parliament in a special session on violence against children on Tuesday, November 19. The special session has been organized by UNICEF Jamaica in collaboration with the Office of the Children's Advocate (OCA) and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information.

Also speaking will be Mariko Kagoshima, head of UNICEF Jamaica; Diahann Gordon Harrison, Children's Advocate; and Dr Howard Taylor, executive director of the Global Partnership to End Violence

against Children. The special session is being held on the eve of World Children's Day, and marks the culmination of activities led by UNICEF throughout 2019, to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC30), with a focus on violence against children.

Haiti Health Institution Receives Grant to Improve Blood Pressure Control in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI: GHESKIO and Weill Cornell Medicine received a two-year grant to support initiatives geared toward curing high blood pressure in Haiti. The \$158,000 grant was provided by LINKS—an online community and resource-sharing platform that connects people working to improve cardiovascular health around the world.

"Cardiovascular disease is now the leading cause of death for adults in Haiti, far surpassing HIV and infectious diseases," said Dr. Molly McNairy, an associate professor of medicine and a member of the Center for Global Health at Weill Cornell Medicine, and a physician-scientist at GHESKIO Centers in Haiti. "Our patients are developing early-onset high blood

pressure in their teenage and young adult years, which results in stroke and heart disease. To have the support for staff training, implementation, and strategic planning for high blood pressure for Haiti is phenomenal."

The Weill Cornell Medicine-GHESKIO program will "train physicians, nurses and health care workers in 30 health centers on guidelines for high blood pressure care, expand a community-based high blood pressure program, and work to ensure a supply of lifesaving blood pressure medication."

Haiti Police Call for Right to Unionize

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI: Hundreds of Haiti's national police officers took to the streets of Port-au-Prince in November to demand better working conditions and the right to unionize. "We need a union that can represent us when things aren't good," a member of POLIFRONT, Haiti's Border Police unit of the National Police, told VOA Creole. "I'm talking about abuse, our meager 19,000 (Haitian gourdes) salary (about \$208), which is not enough."

Officers at times go months without pay, and are subject to long working

hours, with minimal support. "The police is a legal force, recognized by the constitution, which also gives us the right to form a union. So if the constitution allows us to form a union that means we will have it one way or another. And we should only be working eight hours a day, according to the law."

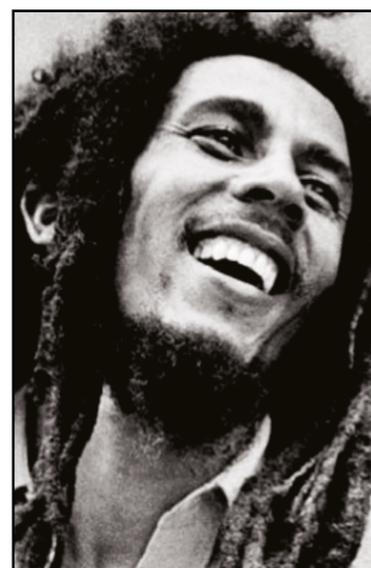
Gonsalves urges CARICOM to speed up reparation claims

KINGSTOWN, ST. VINCENT: St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves has urged Caribbean Community (CARICOM) leaders to raise the issue of reparations for indigenous peoples and African slaves with their European counterparts as a priority, according to the New York-based Black group, Institute for Black World 21st Century (IBW21).

Gonsalves said if those conversations do not yield tangible results, then CARICOM leaders must explore all legal and political options available to them for redress, IBW21. "We have to have a conversation with the British, with the French in the case of Haiti, the Dutch, in the case of Suriname," IBW21 quoted the Vincentian prime minister as saying in addressing the topic of reparations for native genocide and slavery at the Scarborough Library, Tobago.

"And if that conversation yields nothing tangible, if there is a breakdown, well then we have to use legal and political instruments on an ongoing basis," he added at the 11th instalment in a year-long lecture series hosted by the Tobago Writers' Guild and Tobago Library Services.

Bob Marley Ranks 5th On Forbes Magazine List Of Top-Earning Dead Celebrities In 2019



Jamaican reggae icon Bob Marley held the Number 5 position on a list of the 13 top-earning deceased celebrities compiled by Forbes Magazine. Marley, who died on May 11, 1981, of cancer, had earnings of \$20 million for the year.

Marley's music has enjoyed almost 1 billion streams in the United States, and what Forbes described as the "ubiquity" of products from the House of Marley, which include headphones, speakers, and turntables, makes a major contribution toward the total yearly earnings.

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Leadership, Anyone?

As I see it, many who lead are not sufficiently aware of the impact that their leadership has on those whom they lead. The desire to lead should be properly thought out before anyone assumes leadership.

Charismatic leaders attract followers who expect such a leader to have a vision as it relates to where he or she wants the group being lead to go. Such a leader should be willing to take risks, should be sensitive towards followers, and exhibit behaviors that are extraordinary.

Arguably, charisma can be attributed to genetics and partially to training and experience. The following are some essential aspects of leadership:

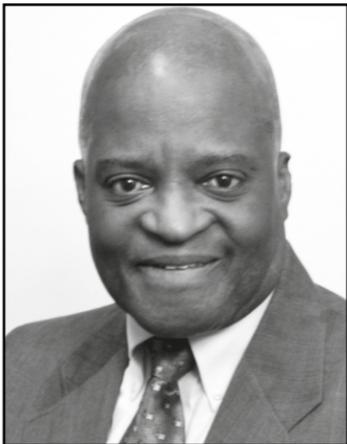
- Charisma can be displayed through the enthusiasm one displays in his or her interaction with others as well as the potential that is brought out in those individuals.

- Charismatic leaders should articulate an appealing vision: communicate a new set of values and express behavior that can be emulated.

- Charismatic leaders should not encourage, for example, the use of organizational resources for personal benefit or allow self-interest and personal goals to override organizational goals.

- Charismatic leaders should also be transformational leaders and strive to inspire followers to transcend their own self-interest for the good of an organization.

- Transformational leaders are usually willing to encour-



Christopher A. Service Sr.

age their followers to be innovative and creative. Such followers should be further encouraged to pursue ambitious goals.

- There should be ethics in leadership. In the case of an organization leaders should set the moral tone for an organization and stick to that moral tone. Leadership is not value free, and the means by which a leader achieves success should be framed by ethics.

Once the above are in place members of an organization, for example, should be utilized depending on their expertise. Teams should be formed. Work teams will usually display synergy through coordinated effort.

A climate of trust should be placed in the various teams and report as to how they are progressing with their tasks should be reported. Much of what I have mentioned does exist in some local organizations but there appears to be inconsistency.

That is as I see it.

Obituary

Francisco Wentworth George Watson, also known as Pappy, Dad, Pops, Uncle, Cousin Wenty, Frank, and Grandpa transitioned on September 17, 2019 at the age of 91 in Palm Bay, Florida.

He was born on April 10, 1928 in Moron, Cuba to Jamaica parents George Watson and Leveta Fearon (Gregory) Watson. Mr. Watson and his sister Dorothy Watson were raised in Kingston, Jamaica.

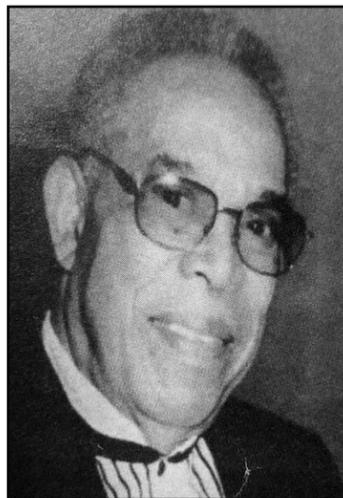
He enjoyed working on cars, building furniture, and body-building. He was part of a youth choir; he had a captivating baritone voice and he continued singing into his adulthood.

He migrated to Hartford, Connecticut in 1956 where he worked as a machinist for Stanadyne and he retired in 1992. He was a giving and caring man who always reached out to help others in his community. He received numerous awards, including the Marcus Garvey Award for his outstanding community service.

He was instrumental in helping the Rev. Collin Bennett to start St. Martin's Episcopal Church on Cornwall Street in Hartford, Connecticut. He was a member of the church vestry; member of the choir; served as treasurer; a transportation specialist picking up and dropping off members for services and activities.

A volunteer, and Watson was a scholarship donor helping many young people enter college.

Watson was a licensed contractor and he would fix anything for anyone. He acquired and renovated homes to assist those in need of housing at a low rental



Francisco Wentworth George Watson

fee; and he assisted others in obtaining homeownership. He was instrumental in renovating the lower level of St. Martin's Episcopal Church to accommodate a Nursing Assistant Program.

Watson relocated to Palm

Bay, Florida with his daughter, Carol Watson. And he became a member of the Episcopal Church of the Blessed Redeemer displaying his baritone voice in the choir, which brought joy to the members.

He loved his dogs, traveling, and meeting new people. He felt very privileged to be able to visit the Holy Land, China, and his birthplace in Cuba. He often visited Puerto Rico where he enjoyed the beautiful views and speaking Spanish.

Watson is preceded in death by his wife Lucille Coke-Watson; sister Dorothy Clarke; stepsons Eric Coke-Watson and Lucien McDougal (Ingrid); and his beloved dogs. He leaves in sorrow his son Wentworth Watson (Frances) and daughter Carol Watson-Miller (Clifton), seven grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and three beloved nephews: Valentine Bertram, Ainsworth (Robert) Watson, and Carlton Watson. He will be missed by a host of cousins and dear friends.

May his soul rest in peace.

CT-Jamaica Discussion

Continued from Page 1
said **State Treasurer Shawn Wooden**. "As Jamaica's economy continues to show promising signs of progress to investors, it makes sense to advance long-discussed opportunities for trade expansion and direct air service between the island and Connecticut."

Wooden serves as a Board Member of the Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA), which oversees Bradley International Airport—Connecticut's only international airport—in addition to the state's five general aviation airports.

CAA works to attract new routes, commerce and companies to Connecticut, and has been courting major airlines to expand direct service between Connecticut and Jamaica for the last several years.

As economic prospects continue to expand in Jamaica, Wooden wants major airlines and import-export interests to take note of Connecticut's close ties to the country and the joint economic benefit of strengthening relationships.

Prime Minister Andrew Holness' visit to the United States comes as Jamaica prepares to successfully exit from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) program in November. Once known as one of the most indebted countries in the world, Jamaica and the IMF have an extensive history of loan agreements—the most recent agreement was put in place in 2016. Jamaica's successful completion of financial arrangements with the IMF this year is considered to be a major milestone in the country's economic history.

In August, during the celebration of Jamaica's 57th year of independence, Prime Minister Holness noted changing economic conditions, including the lowest unemployment rate in the country's history, a low and stable inflation rate, credit ratings moving in a positive direction, and record-breaking tourism for the last two years.

(Submitted by Jackie Primeau, Strategic Communications Advisor, Office of the State Treasurer Shawn Wooden, State of Connecticut.)

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