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People gather to celebrate in Philadelphia, Nov. 7, 2020. Rachel Wisniewski / Reuters

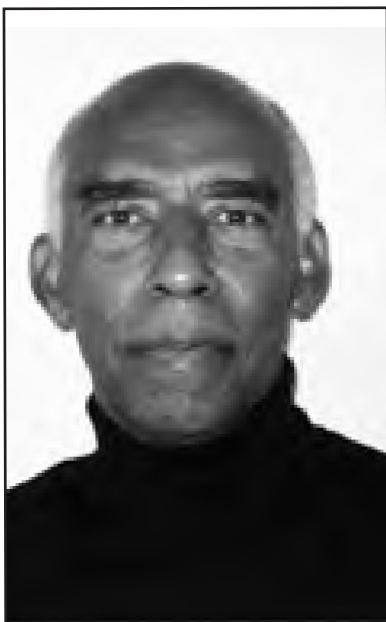
Breath Of Fresh Air: What Are You Breathing?

Nina Simone would rejoice to see this day when her quest for freedom (perhaps more of it) would have broken “all the chains holdin’ me, I wish I could say all the things that I should say, Say ‘em loud, say ‘em clear, for the whole round world to hear.”

Today, a crescendo of voices raised loudly to signal the end of a very distressing period in the history of the United States of America. It has been and is more than a national hiccup. Freedom has never been cheap. For this country the price of the lives of those who gave themselves in its cause is exceedingly high.

It defies rationality that there are those who have locked on to this Pied Piper and have proven complicit to a pattern that diminished this country's international standing and fertilized a national culture of inter-personal dislike.

Let me be clear, as a very general rule Americans, because of the vast complexity of this country, know their history in slices and dices. Finding an American who has a generalized



Jim Z. Daniels

broad scope understanding of his or her history is unusual.

Today, there is a rush to enliven areas where there has been silence and disinterest. Additionally, Americans take for granted the status of the United States outside its borders.

Nevertheless, the greatness of the United States is best viewed through the eyes of those who live and work and reside in countries around the

world. In some cases, their citizens yearn to migrate to the US; in others they are quite satisfied with where they are. But in either case, the conduct and behavior of the current administration has been so perplexing to the extent that many foreign leaders have either turned inwardly to address more deeply their own national concerns or turned to improve contacts and relationships with other centers of power.

What is so befuddling is this, the United States may in some instances flub a challenging situation or two, but at the heart of its conduct it truly desires to do good, plain and simple. It is not a stretch to say that they usually display markedly significant heaps of empathy for others who are in distress or who are in need of protection. They are very far from perfect; but they are usually motivated out of a desire to achieve a good outcome.

So it comes as a huge surprise that our chief leader seemingly thrives on turning the citizenry one against another; has cowed members of his party into

submission to the extent that their first obligation to the people who placed them in the offices they occupy is sidelined, leaving them literally terrified of having an independent thought.

Reports are already circulating that even white evangelicals have voted in greater numbers for the Democratic candidate in 2020 than in 2016. Now there's an awakening that is worthy of exploration.

I suspect it has been difficult to ignore the mountain of irreconcilables between their one-centered issue of abortion and the reality that “conservative” is not synonymous with “believer.” Might it be that you cannot love God and hate your brother?

Black lives are not of less value than all life but coming to grips with this principle begins in the heart. It is in the heart that a transformative desire to learn germinates and is nurtured by an equally powerful desire to listen. It appears that more have begun to do just that.

Donald Trump is not going to leave quietly to stay away sheepishly. Just as he obsessively pursued the evisceration of every-

thing and anything Obama, he will pursue at any cost those who sully his name by leveraging the courts. He did this before to avoid the obligations he incurred to others during his business ventures.

Some may seek to aid him in that endeavor. But in time they will chase other goals to achieve their desired end. As the tightening of the justice system looms larger and more threatening for the Trumps, the adoring too will move on to attach themselves to the latest moon shot.

A new day has arrived for this great land and we should not undervalue the magnitude of what has transpired and what we have been spared.

The new leader will require diligent support as the tireless work of restoration gets underway and we turn towards the new challenges that we will confront.

May we cherish our highly valued freedoms and say it loud and say it clear. “This is a day of joy and gladness.”

Molly Kept The Dream Alive

By Stan Walker

It is said that behind every successful man is a good woman. One person that falls into that trait is none other than the enterprising Winnifred "Molly" Bennett, wife of former businessman, inspirational and dedicated community leader, the late Right Rev. Collin B. Bennett. In the 1960s the Rev. Bennett served four terms on the



Winnifred Ellen "Molly" Bennett

Hartford City Council.

Molly, as she was affectionately called, came to the U.S. from Jamaica in 1957. Throughout her years here, she worked quietly behind the scenes, along with her very enlightened husband to help as many individuals as they could to obtain their portion of the American dream, owning of their own home.

She has also worked very hard to help him (Collin) achieve his other personal vision, the establishment of a church in the North end of Hartford to cater to the spiritual needs of those who needed to know God.

"My husband and I have always had a desire to look out for the people in the community," she said, "and that is what made us decide

some 40 years ago to establish the real estate business which I am still operating. Because of the tremendous amount of respect and accolades that I have received from a lot of people I helped to acquire their own homes, I feel very gratified and proud of my accomplishments. Many have expressed how pleased and happy they were for help that I gave them," she said.

Molly also served on the board of the Hartford Housing Authority. Known for the compassionate way in which she went about doing her work in the community, Molly said, "I am continuing to fulfill the dream of my husband and myself by helping in a generous way with the St. Martin's Episcopal Church's Outreach Certified Nursing Assistant Program." The program has been in existence for over 15 years. It offers free training to the region's residents.

Pointing out that she is still continuing to donate to the Eastern Connecticut State University of which her husband, two of her daughters and two grandchildren are graduates, she said that education is the way of the future for all children in the community.

The mother of six children, Molly has also served as a mother, daughter, sister, and friend to a number of other people in several areas. On occasions when her native Jamaica suffered tremendous losses due to a tropical storm or a hurricane, Molly has always been instrumental in getting donations of food and clothing to be sent to the island to aid those affected.

Because of her charitable work and generosity, Molly has received countless number of awards for her work in the community. According to her, she pledged that as long as God gives her good health and strength, she would continue to work to help as many people as she can whenever they are in need.

Winnifred Ellen "Molly" Bennett, 85, passed peacefully on Friday, October 30, 2020. She leaves to cherish her memory and carry on her legacy sons, Adlai and his wife Stephanie and Collin B. Bennett Jr. (Barry) and his wife Brenda; son Michael Bennett preceded in death; three daughters, Sharon Bennett, Lisa Bennett, Dawn Bennett Wright and husband Trevor Wright; as well as a host of relatives and friends.

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Jamaican Trailblazers, Presenters At Invest Caribbean: Farm The Future

WASHINGTON, DC: The Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS), presents two trailblazing stalwarts from the Jamaican community at its **INVEST CARIBBEAN: Farm the Future** conference **November 20-21, 2020.**

Dr. Ellen Campbell Grizzle, associate professor, College of Health Sciences, The University of Technology (UTECH) and Diana McIntyre-Pike, Community Tourism

consultant/trainer and president of the International Institute for Peace through Tourism and President/Founder of the Country style Community Tourism Network.

Both women are renowned for their work on behalf of Jamaica and international communities. They are equally significant contributors to Jamaica's National Development Plan, Vision 2030. Dr. Grizzle is a researcher,



Dr. Ellen Campbell-Grizzle



Diana McIntyre-Pike

behavior change communication specialist, and registered pharmacist with over 40 years' experience in the pharmaceutical industry. Among her many responsibilities, includes managing several grants as part of her service and research portfolio at UTECH, and is the University's focal point for developing a Medical Cannabis Enterprise that fosters research and aims to attract funding to benefit the academic institution and the communities it serves.

Her presentation focus at *the Invest Caribbean Farm the Future* conference will be on identifying Cannabis investment opportunities in Westmoreland, Jamaica for interested investors from the US, UK, Canadian Caribbean Diasporas, as well as other global investment communities.

Fresh on the heels of being named a global pioneer on Community Based Tourism, by the International

Hall of Tourism Heroes along with Hon. Edmund Bartlett, Jamaican Minister of Tourism, Diana McIntyre Pike, OD, is directing her presentation to identify opportunities for the Jamaican Diaspora to invest in rural community development through her award-winning Villages as Businesses Program. Educated in England, Germany and Jamaica in Hotel, Tourism and Environmental Management, she has 40 plus years experience.

Diana is currently promoting community tourism development in Orange Bay, Westmoreland in addition to other communities island-wide. She has developed the Villages as Businesses program to empower member villages, through tour design, training, management and

marketing support, to profit from community tourism. Diana has been working with the Orange Bay community for the past few years and with local leaders who are benefiting from the program. A key aspect of the development is the Community Tourism Hospitality Entrepreneurship 5 day training through Country style Academy for Community Tourism (ACT), which will be discussed in her presentation.

While the world has rediscovered the medicinal value of cannabis, Jamaica has been using medical products from Cannabis sativa and indica for many years. Many scholarly articles have been published describing the medicinal properties of the herb and how it can be utilized as part of a therapeutic regiment This is the formal scientific investigative process of which Dr. Grizzle leads at UTECH to help support the development of this industry.

Dr. Grizzle will present on the opportunities in Westmoreland for Cannabis investment. She will detail how medicinal cannabis ought to be considered a new horizon for Jamaican cultivators, and that more should be done to protect the industry from toxic overseas infiltration by means of investors with intent to exploit. Dr. Grizzle is seeking to identify opportunities for collaboration with members of the Diaspora on a number of projects currently underway in Westmoreland.


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