



Honorees Patricia Wrice, JoeAnn Meekins, and Bobby Ramos with Chair of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission, James Williams (left) and Donna Campbel (right), vice chair. Photo: Carol Vinick

Celebrating The Dream And Life Teachings Of Dr. King

By Edgar Johnson

Have you ever wondered what life in the United States would have been today if it were not for the shared vision and dedication of trailblazers of the Civil Rights Movement.

Ordinary men and women, for example Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; Rosa Parks; Malcolm X; Andrew Goodman; Marcus Garvey; Desmond Tutu; Nelson Mandela; Stokely Carmichael and many others, including U.S. Congressman John Lewis, representing Georgia's 5th Congressional District. He is considered one of the last living "Big Six" from the Civil Rights era. Lewis was among the planners of the March on Washington and is an icon of the 1965 "Bloody Sunday" protest at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama.

Yes, these leaders of the Civil Rights Movement took many risks in the name of freedom

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New Improvement Coming To Upper Albany



A section of the gathering: residents, business owners, stakeholders, and members of the Upper Albany Main Street organization in attendance at the hearing of the Route 44 Improvement Project

By Justin Calabrese

On January 5, 2017, the team managing the Route 44 Safety Improvement Project convened a Public Open House and a status update. The event was held at the Artists Collective located on Albany Avenue.

The Route 44 Safety Improvement Project addresses safety issues along Albany Avenue from Homestead/Westbourne to Bedford Street in the Upper Albany Neighborhood and also a western portion of the Clay Arsenal Neighborhood.

Increasing the safety of this corridor will be accomplished through the installation of new traffic calming measures. These include intersection and traffic signal improvements, crosswalks with bulb-outs to reduce crossing dis-

tances, sharrows, landscaping, brick sidewalks, and decorative lighting, just naming a few of the proposed transformations. These improvements will create a comfortable neighborhood destination that is safer and more enjoyable for residents, businesses, and visitors.

The projected schedule for completion of the construction includes the following dates:

- November 9, 2016 - Project out to bid
- January 11, 2017 - Bid opening
- Award of contract - Within 60 days of bid opening
- Notice to proceed - Within 45 days of award
- Spring 2017 - Initial construction starts
- Summer 2017 - Major construction starts
- Fall 2018 - Construction complete

Bidding and construction of the project will be overseen by the Connecticut Department of Transportation. The City of Hartford will assist as needed and when improvements impact city streets.

It should also be noted that the date for completion of the project might vary to some extent based upon factors including contractor questions during bidding, weather, or other incidentals that may occur.

Attendees asked many questions about the project, including how residents of the area will be affected by all the changes. There were 54 visitors during the daytime Public Open House session and over 100 for the evening's status update on the Route 44 Operational, Safety and Streetscape Improvements Project.

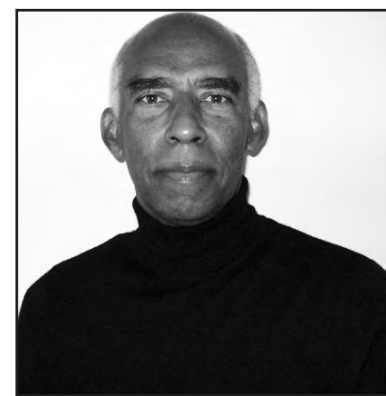
America, A Return Of Jim Crow?

Those among us who are immigrants to these shores, should be careful to invest some time to understand the African American experience in the same way we oftentimes explain the British colonial experience to Americans. One of the things that we all should understand is what is meant when Americans, both black and white, refer to something called Jim Crow.

Why does this name evoke such strong emotions among African Americans in particular? It is now getting much attention in the media and it is tied to the presidential campaigns. The history concerning Jim Crow needs retelling and retelling.

However, Jim Crow is much larger than just during election cycles. It is also attached to the notion of America's championing of democracy around the world and the issue of their credibility in advocating the right of people everywhere to choose their leaders. It's implications for vicious, racist behavior that has been the scourge of the American experience is inextricably connected to a period that thoughtful Americans would like to erase.

Before coming to grips with Jim Crow's place in American history, the period known as Reconstruction needs to be understood. This refers to the period immediately following the



Jim Daniels

American Civil War when the country faced the challenge of bringing the states and citizens that had fought and died fighting each other into a united nation.

To make it successful, the federal government created various policies that affected all Americans. Many were designed to transition former slaves into a free society with full citizenship. This period lasted from 1866 to 1877 and out of it came African Americans who won elected office including some at the U.S. Senatorial and Congressional levels.

It wasn't long, however, for whites, countless numbers of whom were immigrants or second-generation Americans, to become resentful of these achievements and organized to deny these positions to African Americans and their freedom at every level. This period of extreme hostility towards African Americans coincided with the appearance of minstrel shows

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Celebrating The Dream

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and equality; standing up against injustice and segregation—the Jim Crow Laws; bigotry and over time their persistent engagement led to the various Civil Rights Compliance—Federal Anti-Discrimination Laws and their Prohibitions.

When one considers the impact of the Civil Rights Movement, the laws that have been put in place, closing the inequality gaps and the racial disparity.

Certainly, lives have been changed over the years; doors and opportunities once closed are gradually opening with sledgehammers.

Hope is revived at every event celebrating the dream and life teachings of Martin Luther King.

Clearly, the telling and retelling the story of the Civil

Rights Movement and its continuous memorial, is reminding everyone, “who we are,” “how we get here,” and “where we are going?”

King’s “I Have a Dream” speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, even though more than 53 years ago, the experience ought to be reenacted and continue to empower participants in various creative ways and uplifting programs, offering special messages of inspiration and challenges for every generation to a life of standing up for that which is right.

Furthermore, by celebrating and in retelling the stories of the accomplishments of the Civil Rights Movement open up the amazing future of hope before participants. In fact, the various events that took place in the Greater Hartford area, celebrating the slain civil right’s leader’s vision of love and justice, continue to be inspirational and transformational according to many participants.

Among the recent celebrations in Hartford was the Hall of Flags of the State Capitol Building, marking the 31st annual Bell Ringing, symbolic of the freedom and justice of the life of Dr. King, marking the 88th anniversary of the civil rights leader’s birth. In addition to the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission sponsoring the event, the Commission recognized and honored three outstanding individuals for their leadership, humanitarian, and community service.

Honorees were Patricia Wrice, former executive director of Operation Fuel in the city of Hartford; Joe Ann Meekins; and Bobby Ramos. The chair of the Martin Luther King Holiday Commission is James Williams and Donna Campbell, vice chairman.

“I was surprised and humbled to receive the humanitarian award,” said Wrice. “I recall how my parents raised their children: to

live a life of service; bring others along; hold the door for others to join you. I’m humbled by the honor.

I always thought it was my duty to serve,” she added.



Honoree Pat Wrice addresses gathering at 31st annual Bell Ringing Ceremony for the State of Connecticut. Photo: Carol Vinick



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Rep. Doug McCrory

HARTFORD, CT: After serving 12 years in the Connecticut General Assembly as a state representative from Hartford, Douglas

McCrory To Run For 2nd State Senate District

McCrory officially announced his candidacy for the 2nd District State Senatorial seat, previously held by Eric Coleman for over two decades. Coleman resigned to pursue a judgeship.

The 2nd District serves Hartford, Bloomfield, and Windsor. Representative McCrory currently serves as deputy speaker of the House of Representatives and co-chairman of the Appropriations/Judicial & Corrections Sub-committee. He is also a member of the Appropriations,

Commerce, and Education Committees as well as a member of the CT Black & Puerto Rican Caucus.

"Eric has been a great mentor to me and it has been an honor to work with him these past 12 years. I wish him the best in all of his future endeavors and look forward to the opportunity to fill his shoes," McCrory said.

"I will continue my commitment towards improving the quality of education our children receive; growing jobs and creating

economic opportunities for businesses to flourish; and improving the quality of life for our senior population and community as a whole. I will continue to engage and work with the people in regard to future plans for our region and state," he added.

McCrory lives in Hartford and is married to Foye Smith, Probate Court judge for the City of Hartford, and are proud parents of two children.

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The Edwin W. Carty Trophy Presentation

By Christopher A. Service Sr.

It was a wall-to-wall gathering of domino enthusiasts and players at the Terrace Café, Hartford, CT on Sunday, January 1, 2017. The event was the third Domino Tournament of its kind sponsored by the New England Domino Association. Teams vie for the trophy on the first day of January every year.

The 20 players who were decked out in Blue and Beige T-Shirts as well as the full to capacity crowd of domino enthusiasts were serenaded by Camille Ismoul's beautiful rendition of the National Anthem.

Although the event started later than was planned, the New England Domination should be commended for putting on a very organized event. The Terrace Café should also be singled out for the welcoming atmosphere that made the evening most enjoyable.

The Black Team comprised of Leroy Peak (WISC); Richard Miller(Ex-Police); Robert Martian (Terrace); Steve McDonald (CASH); James Smith (St. Lucia); Junior Johnson (New Britain); Sefton Wells (Sunset); Muniram Roopnath (Terrace); Curtis Bennett (CASH); Gabby Henry (Sunset); and Ian Crosdale (New Britain). The Blue Team comprised of Darren Palmer (WISC); Patrick Codling (Ex-Police); Clinton Roberts (Terrace); Danny Senior (CASH); Sylvester Cherubin (St. Lucia); Nigel Bruce (New Britain); Kenya Scott (Sunset); Michael Spence (Terrace); Michael Jones (WISC); Trevor Kelly (Ex-Police); and Peter Emmanuel (St. Lucia) were set to go at their games with much enthusiasm.

As the game started, it was evident that those individuals who are accustomed to playing "code dominos" were a bit uncomfortable. Additionally, from the beginning, one could observe that the Domino Association's insistence that no two players from the same organization should play together did not sit well with players. And one could easily realize that the evening's event would rely on the skill and expertise of each player and nothing else. "Mental Domino" was going to be the order of the day.

From the outset it could be recognized that both teams playing individually and collectively went at what they were

about with the aim of winning the coveted trophy. The atmosphere was pregnant with silence, which was only invaded by the occasional outburst from enthusiastic on-lookers.

Despite the ups and downs of the scores of both teams by halftime, judging from the score, it was obvious that the Blue Team had the upper hand. At that time, while on a break, one would have thought that the captain of the Black Team would have been able to assist his team benefit from the observed mistakes. That was not to be. By the end of the game the scores of 154 to the Blue Team and 125 to the Black Team spoke for themselves.

Closing remarks by Junior Miller (Terrace Café) and Clive Clunie (CASH) at the presentation of the trophy spoke volumes as both in their own way expressed gratitude to the New England Domino Association, Players and guests for making the evening one which will not be forgotten for a long time.

As an aside, Ms. Tyra St. Brice, one of three bartenders employed by the Terrace Café, should be commended for the professional way in which she handled the crowd of guests who imbibed on their favorite drinks and listened to entertaining tropical music.



Blue Team, winners of this year's Edwin Carty Trophy for Domino Excellence with Edwin Carty (right)

Les Nubians To Perform In Free Community Concert



Sisters, Helene and Celia Faussart, Les Nubians singers

By Melonae' McLean

The Artists Collective's free community concert featuring *Les Nubians* has been rescheduled to Saturday, January 21, at 8:00 p.m. made possible in part by the Evelyn W. Preston Memorial Trust Fund, Bank of America, Trustee.

The women of *Les Nubians* were shaped by many influences. *Les Nubians* has its genesis in a small town in the South West region of France, where the Paris-born sisters, Helene and Celia Faussart, lived as teenagers after returning from several years' residence with their parents in the African country of Chad. With a French father and a Cameroonian mother, Helene and Celia experienced cultural dissonance in the rural Bordeaux region.

After their father's death, Celia joined her sister in Bordeaux, and they helped found a cultural collective, Les Nouveaux Griots, a "griot" being a traditional African storyteller

and historian, all with the goal of increasing awareness of African and urban cultures.

A chance meeting with jazz legend, Abbey Lincoln, who encouraged the sisters to sing, led to the formation of *Les Nubians*. Their unique sound led to a recording deal with Virgin Records in 1998 and their debut album, *Princesses Nubiennes*, was released in Europe with only modest sales. But the album's innovative mix of hip-hop, neo soul and African music found an audience in America, and *Makeda*, the first single from *Princesses Nubiennes*, became an urban radio hit. *Makeda* was the right sound at the right time, garnering a Grammy nomination, as well as two NAACP Image Awards and two Soul Train Lady of Soul Awards.

Their pan-African vision remains as vibrant and clear as ever, as expressed on *Africa For The Future* "Africa is our past, present, and future," *Les Nubians* asserts. The song is about accepting and rejoicing through our body and mind that Africa is vibrant and 10,000,000 times ALIVE! Africa FOR the future also to say that we have to prepare the future of the continent. It's in the NOW that we create the future. ACTION time is NOW!

This Artists Collective Free Community Concert featuring *Les Nubians* is made possible with support from: Evelyn W. Preston Memorial Trust Fund, Bank of America, Trustee, the Greater Hartford Arts Council, and the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, Connecticut Office of the Arts.

The Artists Collective is located at 1200 Albany Avenue (corner of Woodland Street) in Hartford; call (860) 527-3205 for more information.



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America, A Return Of Jim Crow?

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where whites dressed up with black face—using makeup to present themselves as blacks, but portrayed them as buffoons and stupid; an unlearned subhuman. They were relentless in presenting the race as lazy, sex-obsessed, and simple minded.

The portrayals were seized upon by the white population who attached biblical passages to justify their racism and out of it came the horrors of the post Reconstruction era that gave us the Ku Klux Klan, lynching, and government endorsed and enforced segregation.

The man responsible for propagandizing these images was Thomas Dartmouth Rice who, it is said, over heard a black person singing a little ditty in which the words Jim Crow was mentioned. Rice appeared on stage in New York as the first-known white person to have performed in black face singing and dancing to the song with the words Jim Crow in it.

Because the song and on-stage portrayal actually demeaned African Americans and presented them in a very unattractive and negative light, the words became attached to the period of horrific racist experiences for African Americans.

This period was marked by a rigid denial of the right to vote. White-only drinking fountains appeared everywhere. African Americans had to use the rear entrances to places to obtain services or be served outside.

The schools were segregated and it was impossible to spend a night in a hotel. The black man was referred to as “boy.” The “n” word was common conversation even when face-to-face with a black person. The justice system was rigged against African Americans and employment was virtually out of the question if you had to work alongside whites as their equal.

The denial of the right to vote was not, however, voter suppression. It was legally enforced. Segregation during this period was referred to as de jure segregation. Segregation was written into law, championed during this period overwhelmingly by the Democratic Party in the south and Border States.

It lasted up to the signing of the Voting Rights Act by President Lyndon Johnson in 1965.

All this time while the US government was impotent to act on the horrors inflicted on blacks, they were running all over the world criticizing totalitarian regimes that were doing nothing different to their citizens. The hypocrisy was as thick as sliced bread.

Today this issue has reemerged with Republicans who shout about their patriotism more than any other group, but they are determined to create an unequal playing field so they can win the White House for their party forever. They are eager to send U.S. troops to places around the world to enforce American-style democracy and feel no sense of shame or disgrace regarding the course they are pursuing in this 21st Century. Over 50 years after the Voting Rights Act was signed into law to guarantee with the force of the federal government the right of African Americans to participate fully in the electoral franchise, Jim Crow is front and center.

Recently, in several states a series of court rulings stopped Republican-sponsored laws for voters to show stringent photo ID at the polls. In Pennsylvania the judge saw that the evidence would indeed disenfranchise minority voters, many of whom have no opportunities to obtain the required photo ID.

In Mississippi, similar new photo ID law is under review. Indiana, Georgia, Kansas and Tennessee have had strict photo ID laws in place. In Wisconsin the laws were put on hold and in South Carolina and Texas, the battle is still raging over photo ID. Some 11 counties in Florida have unearthed fraudulent voter registration forms forged with fake names and addresses by a consultant firm.

As of December 2016, 31 states enforced voter identification requirements. And the number of states with the strictest laws is rising as well. Arizona and Ohio required voters to show identification. Georgia and Indiana in 2008 demanded strict photo identification.

Now is the time for constituent members to get involved, organize and become active in the political process and hold political leaders accountable. Please do not be intimidated from voting.

Reflecting On Dr. King's Dream



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

By Enid Gray

In commemorating the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the great civil rights leader, clergyman and teacher, let us be animated and energized by the enactment of Dr. King's words, “Let freedom bells ring,” “I have a dream.”

What a story to tell and keep retelling so that we do not forget where we are coming from, where we are, and where we are going.

Hence the commemoration of the birth of Dr. King, the father of the civil rights movement in America, enables all Americans, particularly African Americans, West Indians, Africans and all people of color to sustain a constant sense of history. We must keep alive the complete circumference of Dr. King's accomplishments before us and pass it down to each generation.

At each commemoration, all celebrants ought to recapitulate

King's dream for a better America and a better world. This underscores economic, justice, education, political rights, and international peace for all. So in celebrating Dr. King's dreams, participants are empowered to look beyond a mere one-day or one-year event.

Struggling men and women, the young and the old are brought into the dream; they are transformed and continue to dream.

In other words, King's call for freedom and justice beckons men and women of good will everywhere to join hands and build bridges of love and understanding for better living, a safer, happier, and more productive world for our children and our children's children—a world of freedom and justice for all.

Yes, King's voice was silenced by an assassin's bullet on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee; nevertheless, his vision and call for freedom and justice can never be silenced.

At each commemoration, we are called to carry the torch of King's dream. His work is not finish. The struggles for freedom continue. There is no time to bask with laurels of accomplishments. There is still a long journey before us. We must be recharged at every step of the journey.

Millions of Americans—African Americans, West Indians, Latinos, Native Americans, Africans, Asians; men; women;

senior citizens; youth and children are still living in poverty; low and inadequate educational attainment; lack of job training skills and access to employment.

Hence, we must continue the dream of Dr. King. Once we stop dreaming, we stop growing and will eventually die and not arrive on the mountaintop.

By commemorating King's birth and all it entails with his accomplishments, we keep his dream alive. Yes, we salute Dr. King anew and we give God thanks for his gift to the world. Then we too come to our own self-consciousness that we are also God's gift to the world.

Wherever we are planted, where we call home, make home the best place on earth. Parents have a responsibility to instill certain values in their children at home. And in so doing, they set the right example for their children to follow.

Remember that the home is the first school and parents are the first teachers. Home is where children learn lessons of obedience, respect, sharing, listening. In fact, reading begins at home at a very young age.

What if all the homes become learning and education centers, school dropouts would diminish, particularly in our inner-city schools and they would become centers of excellence. Let's carry out Dr. King's “I have a dream.”

The Phenomenon Of Fake News, Endless Consequences

By Joette Johnson

Spurious news is not a novel practice. However, in our modern-day society the floodgates of fake news flung wide open and took on a life of its own, usually with devastating consequences. The phenomenon has a comfy home in the Internet, the social media environment in particular, with boundless possibilities to reach more people more quickly. We became aware of the phony news blow-up during last year's presidential campaign season and how it confounded things.

According to the Pew Research Center, 62% of U.S. adults retrieve their news from social media sites; and 64% believe that fabricated news stories create confusion about the facts of issues and events with some flashy, eye-popping headlines.

For example, here are some of last year's bogus, sensational headlines: “FBI Agent Suspected in Hillary Email Leaks Found Dead of Apparent Murder-Suicide”; “WikiLeaks Confirms Hillary Sold Weapons to ISIS”; “Pope Francis Shocks World, Endorses Donald Trump for President;” and “Trump to Nominate Chris Christie to Supreme Court” attracted readers with the sensational headlines they muddled some people's judgment in that they could not distinguish between real and fake news.

Last year, former President Obama lambasted the dissemination of false information on social media and its impact of rhetoric on the country: “As long as it's on Facebook and people can see it, as long as it's on social media, people start believing it. And it creates this dust cloud of nonsense.”

With the onslaught of phony news, questions are raised surrounding the proliferation of fake news, some of which include: Is there concern when fake news is considered a tad bit fake and is not questioned? Who decides what is true? How about the so-called real news adding scantily fact-less

opinions? Who states what is actually real versus what is bogus? Are opinions really considered on the fringe? Is it controversial to verbalize news with a flare of satire or take an objectionable stance? What about hidden bias in media outlets? Are there muddled fact-checking decisions that are not always black and white corrected? And how can consumers be helped to know when their news is fake?

Some may argue that it is quite clear to distinguish between blatantly fake and legitimate news reports. There are significant numbers of naïve persons who believe anything, regardless of the source and may have difficulty discerning headlines without considering the context on social media websites. For instance, during the 2016 presidential campaign, Facebook was scrutinized for allowing false news reports to run wild. One can only wonder if fake news had an influence or manipulated how people voted in the recent presidential election. If so, it certainly served a secondary purpose.

In a survey conducted by Ipsos Public Affairs for BuzzFeed News, fake news headlines fooled 75% of American Adults. In addition, the survey ascertained that people who relied on Facebook as a major source of news are more likely to regard fake news headlines as accurate than those who rely less on this platform for news. The BuzzFeed analysis found that pro-Trump and anti-Clinton stories outperformed real news on Facebook.

Facebook has announced that it recognizes the spread of fake news and plans to implement new tools to make it easier for users to flag fake stories, as well as collaborate with Poynter Institute to independently investigate claims.

What is more, the aftermath of faulty news reports is a powerful driver of Internet revenues and profit. Consumers click on ads on social media websites that have fake news and those writers or organizations can make money. Posting, sharing, re-sharing, liking, commenting, clicking on banners, and tweeting

produce analytical, behavioral, and demographic data that are then packaged and sold. For example, with Pizzagate, which was shared by various fake news platforms, one can easily deduct the political smear and propaganda, generating revenue.

Given our technological age where there are massive platforms for political information, opinions, and dialogue, people in essence can make up whatever with no accountability. And this is a consequence of advancements in Information Technology. There is no gatekeeper and it seems like it would be difficult to immediately filter out fake news in real time.

There is a constant flow of some people crafting erroneous articles that are highly shareable within seconds. And some consumers may not even read the content of the news article and share it with others. Furthermore, some consumers may gather pieces of information from here and there without considering the source and then formulate distortions. Accepting such falsities is scary, especially if this becomes the norm.

What then does this mean for democracy? What about the First Amendment and is it tied to accepting limitations on citizen's constitutional rights? Is it really protecting free speech or endangering lives? Should the government get involved and make modifications to the First Amendment, and is that even possible? This is worrisome and what would be an alternative? What about misinformation for cyber hacking and the impact on society, particularly the recent revelation from intelligence officials concluding that the Russian government hacking into the Democratic Party organizations was an endeavor to tip the election to Trump.

I can only contemplate Obama's words at his end-of-year press conference: “What is it about our political system that made us vulnerable to these kinds of potential manipulations, which as I've said before were not particularly sophisticated?”

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Lillian Moore

Lillian Moore Was No Ordinary Person

By Stan Walker

The large crowd that turned up at the Sanctuary of Faith and Glory on Saturday, January 7, to join in the celebration of the life of Missionary Lillian D. Moore, who passed away on Saturday, December 17, 2016 at the age of 76, heard all of the speakers testify about their love and affection for this very energetic and compassionate woman, who dedicated her life

to helping others, while doing the work of the Lord.

"She was no ordinary person," said Dr. Matilda Jones while delivering the sermon. "She never preached or sang but was a cheerful giver who through her faithfulness, strength and accomplishments, have forced us to conclude that the world needed her. Her life was well spent."

Representatives of the church who came in from Jamaica, Canada, New York, and Washington to pay tribute to their beloved Sister Lillian, declared that she was a strong, determined, loving, trustworthy, and wonderful woman. "We have suffered a great loss," they said. "She will be a soul well missed."

Born in the parish of St. Ann's, Jamaica, Sister Lillian, the last child of a family of nine siblings migrated to the U.S. in October 1968, as a domestic worker and settled in Montclair, New Jersey. In 1970, she moved to Hartford, Connecticut, where she worked at the Aetna Insurance Company for 30 years and at Travelers for five years before retiring in 2002.

During her early days in Hartford, she became a respected member of the Sportmen's Athletic Club in its founding years. Being a great cook, according to then president Michael Chambers, she was

famous for producing a "mean" curry-goat meal at functions held at the club.

"Because of her association with the club, no one would have thought that Sister Lillian would have been instrumental in the founding of a successful church," Chambers said, adding that she may have had the vision then, because unbeknown to members of the club, while making her contributions, she was going to church and making sure that her children attended Sunday school. So when she accepted the Lord and the time came for her to break away from the club, she did not find it very difficult.

With the call of God upon her life, she became a member of Grace Tabernacle Church and later a founding member of Good News Release Center of the Prophetic Church of God, where she was a very active and devoted missionary.

It was Sister Lillian who took the lead role when it came time to start the church, it was learned. It began with just five individuals and because of her dedication, commitment and hard work the church is today standing on solid ground.

After retiring, she traveled the world and became a full-time entrepreneur. As a businesswoman, she worked out of her truck selling her goods to farm workers and giving to people in need.

In addition to her four biological children, she was a mother to many others as a disciplinarian, humanitarian, and compassionate matriarch in her community, church, and family. Her hospitality transcended beyond her missionary work with the church.

She was always willing to help others and incessantly welcomed people into her home. In addition to her generosity, Sister Lillian was also a strong advocate for education.

She is survived by her four children: Vandite "Dwight" Watson of Hartford, Deloris Abrahams-Morgan of Hartford, Janet Watson of New Jersey, Mark A. Moore of Hartford, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Caribbean Tidbits

Jamaican woman is World's Third Oldest Person

Jamaica's oldest citizen, super centenarian Violet Moss Brown, is approximately eight months younger than the world's oldest person, Susannah Mushatt Jones of the United States, according to information available from the Gerontology Research Group (GRG) website. Moss Brown, who is ranked third by the GRG and who was introduced to local readers by an article published on March 19, 2009, turned 116 years old on March 10. Mushatt Jones turned 116 on July 6, 2015, while second placed Italian Emma Morano turned 116 on November 29, 2015.

Jamaican Patois-talking doll takes the market by storm

The first Jamaican Patois-talking doll line was recently launched by a Jamaican teacher living in the United Kingdom (UK), and it has taken the market by storm. "People love that it speaks Jamaican. I've been getting sales from Australia, Estonia, Amsterdam, Germany, and all these places, which show there is a massive demand for our culture," said the doll's creator, Saffron Jackson. She officially launched the dark-skinned curly-haired dolls on November 24, 2016, at the Jamaican High Commission in the UK, and they were then made available to the public online a week later.

US deported almost 500,000 immigrants last year

The United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency says nearly half million immigrants, including many from the Caribbean, were deported in 2016. The agency did not give a breakdown of the nationalities of immigrants deported from the US. According to the end of fiscal year 2016 statistics released by the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS), 530,250 individuals were apprehended nationwide — a total of 450,954 removals and returns.

Documentary on former PM to raise funds for PNM

Erica Williams-Connell will fly to Trinidad for the viewing of a documentary which chronicles the work and life of her late father, Trinidad and Tobago's first prime minister, Dr Eric Williams. The film is titled "An Inward Hunger: The life and work of Eric Williams" and was produced by Mariel Brown. It is being presented by the La Horquetta/Talparo Constituency of the People's National Movement (PNM) at Digicel IMAX as part of its fund-raising drive towards the construction of PNM's headquarters Balisier House, a statement said.

Hindu women's group wants 18 as legal age for marriage

The Hindu Women's Organization of Trinidad and Tobago reiterated

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Caribbean Tidbits

Continued from Page 6

its call for the age of 18 to be established as the legal age of consent to marry with provisions for 16 to 18-year-olds under strict checks and balances. "In so doing, we seek to correct the misleading statement made by temporary Senator Basdeo Seetahal in the Senate debate of January 11," the organization said in a statement signed by its president, Brenda Gopeesingh. "We have not rescinded our position, as he claimed. Our final statement on the Marriage Acts of Trinidad and Tobago was submitted to the Attorney General's Office on July 20, 2016.

2,000 house lots to be made available in Guyana

Close to 2,000 house lots will be made available in 2017, Minister within the Ministry of Communities with responsibility for Housing, Valerie Adams-Patterson has disclosed. Speaking during a recent press conference at her Brickdam Office, Minister Adams-Patterson explained that 21 areas will be regularized in 2017, paving the way for a total of 1,852 lots to be made available for regularized housing. The Housing Minister said that by April, CH&PA will commence the construction of the first set.

An Especially Difficult US Challenge

By Jim Daniels

The national preoccupation with President Vladimir Putin of Russia has become a major distraction and there is a need to understand what is the real, global challenge facing this country. President Putin, a narcissist of equal stature to that of Donald Trump, is engaged in self-promotion of his personal agenda – making Russia great.

He has taken offence at various attitudes and behaviors directed at him by President Obama's administration.

In Putin's Russia the culture of collectivism where some individualism is tolerated within the context of the socialist state, democracy is still in its infancy as evident by his dictatorial style of leadership.

But the real challenge facing the incoming administration is not Russia or Putin, it is China and it's aspiration to be respected, emulated, and admired as the soon-to-be largest economy in the world.

China is doing that on several levels but first let's understand something about Asian culture. The West believes that progress – economic and social, should result in an ever-widening scope for individual autonomy. Most Asians, however, are more inclined to believe that greater happiness and success come from suppressing self-interest in favor

of group solidarity. The rapid rise of China as an international powerhouse rests on a philosophy that it is through building strong group loyalties rather than individualism that economic development occurs.

If you doubt this, just look at how most Asians behave on college campuses. The penchant for collaboration, for collective effort, and a focus on group winners are evident.

The success of the Asian block of countries now puts before the countries in the Western hemisphere who laud and evangelize democratic institutions, a real challenge regarding the necessary role of some authoritarianism as an essential element of effective governance. Pure democracy has again been tainted as less-than with the results of the last presidential election.

The late Professor Lucian Pye, an expert on China, said it comprehensibly. "The Asian orientation towards the group rather than the individual," says Pye, "affects not only basic political values but a wide range of political behavior. It elevates tests of loyalty and commitment to matters of utmost political importance while downplaying the legitimacy of using politics to advance special interests.

Political associations are modeled after the family and the clan, hence participants are expected to band together as though they were blood relatives."

This shines the spotlight on

the difference between Russian leadership, that is Putin, and President Xi Jinping of China. The former speaks of personal offence, the latter of the collective people's offence as a natural response free of any contrivance. Americans obsessed with individualism as evident in the uproar that followed President Obama's comment that no one builds anything by himself, is also supported by the stories plastered throughout Malcom Gladwell's book on Outliers. So why does this difference pose such a steep challenge?

"In Ecuador," reports the New York Times, "with just 16 million people, (the country) has little presence on the global stage. But China's rapidly expanding footprint here speaks volumes about the changing world order, as Beijing surges forward and Washington gradually loses ground.

While China has been important to the world economy for decades, the country is now wielding its financial heft with the confidence and purpose of a global superpower."

In Jamaica, reports several news outlets, the Jamaican government has agreed to give the Chinese 1,200 acres of prime real estate to build three luxury hotels with 2,400 rooms in exchange for the construction of a 67 km (41.6 miles) north to south superhighway across the island. The road-

way opened in March with the Chinese investment of \$730 million. The project marks the biggest Chinese investment in the Caribbean to date and officials said there's more to come.

China's currency, the renminbi, is expected to be anointed soon as a global reserve currency, putting it in an elite category with the dollar, the euro, the pound, and the yen. In the South China Sea, China is turning reefs and atolls near the southern Philippines into artificial islands, with at least one airstrip able to handle the largest military planes.

The United States has challenged the move, conducting surveillance flights in the area and has sent warships through the region. And this is only the tip of their presence globally.

So while President Putin is saying, "look at me" and my military invasion of the Ukraine, the country of Georgia and threatening Latvia, China is loudly making its presence felt in regions heretofore unheard of and saying to those countries we want you to join our family. We will help you succeed.

The US is ill prepared to deter China's global impact and if the protectionist proposals of the incoming administration take root, China will eat our global lunch.

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Scouting Experiences, It's Not All Electronic

By Jerry Hancock

Scouting has found a happy medium between the ever-present use of electronics in our daily lives and the desire to enjoy the natural world free from distractions.

Where do these two opposing views meet in the scouting world? Here are a few instances.

The scouting program trains all of its members in the principle of 'Safety First.' The cell phone has become the universal 'go to' tool to reach help in an emergency. Scouts are encouraged to bring their cell phones on hikes and camping trips for exactly this purpose.

The need to call 911 is a good reason to carry a cell phone as part of your scouting equipment. Also, should the need arise to administer First Aid, one can open the Red Cross First Aid app and further assess the needs of the injured person.

Another electronic resource that the scouting program has embraced is the use of GPS (Global Positioning Satellite) to locate exact location in the wilderness. The use of satellite devices can now pinpoint your starting point, mark your waypoints, and determine your compass heading to your destination, all while determining the distance you will need to travel.

Use of electronic devices

has become the norm in our daily lives. Scouting has recognized this fact and has integrated their use into our routine scouting activities as well.

However, scouting takes it one step further. While electronics can give us a vast wealth of information, literally at our fingertips, they are only as good as the power source that is available to run them. For example, a cell phone's battery will lose its charge, and a handheld GPS device's batteries will die from overuse or wither sooner in cold weather. When power is lost, electronic devices are rendered useless! For these reasons 'It's not all electronic' when it relates to the scouting experience. Here's why:

Scouts are trained in the use of a compass and know how to read and orient a map. And scouts are further trained in the basics of First Aid. Should the need arise, a scout will get you back to the trailhead with his knowledge of the natural surroundings and the understanding of his mechanical directional skills in using a map and compass.

And while most outings are injury free a scout lives by the Boy Scout Motto, 'Be Prepared.' He is trained to recognize and treat any number of First Aid situations such as sprains, dehydration, heat exhaustion, and hypothermia, just to name a few skills.

Perhaps this is part of the appeal that encourages a boy to

become a Boy Scout. The desire to excel in the natural world, the outdoors, and to improve his ability to master his self-reliance while overcoming the challenges placed before him.

If you look closely at the outdoor part of the scouting program, you begin to see that it is focused on a 'back-to-basics' philosophy. A cumulative growth in the aforementioned mastery of self-reliance is achieved overtime when a scout ventures out on camping trips that his patrol and troop plan every year he remains in scouting.

As adult leaders in a Boy Scout Troop, it is very rewarding to see the development, overtime, of a boy who learns from his past camping experiences and refines his outdoor skills through practice and gained knowledge.

This sentiment is often expressed at the pinnacle of a scout's time in scouting when he is asked at his Eagle Scout Board of Review to: "Take a moment and reflect on your most rewarding and most challenging camping experiences and tell what you have learned, and how it has made you a better individual. And pause for a moment and describe how these experiences have made you a better leader among your peers?"

Invariably, the most memorable camping experiences that evoke a feeling of self-satisfaction are the camping trips. These have



In keeping with the Boy Scout Motto "Be Prepared," Scouts do not solely rely on cell phones; they use an orienting compass as well.

presented a challenge of some sort to the scout, and how he overcame that challenge and grew from it to better himself and his fellow scouts on the next campout.

While a scout yearns to participate in scouting's traditional outdoor program, he does so with prior preparation that is learned back at the scout meetings. Let's realize that scouts bring their knowledge of the electronic world with them when joining a local Boy Scout Troop such as CURET's Troop 1443 here in Hartford.

Let's also recognize that as useful as this electronic knowledge is, it lacks in the ability to sustain its usefulness without a reliable power source.

In contrast, ask any scout, "When it comes to reliability, what does he count on the most?"

The answer is a resounding "Basic Scout Skills!" Metamorphically speaking, the 'power' lies in the basic knowledge of one's surroundings and the utilization of the outdoor skills he has learned and practiced in his time of being a Boy Scout. This 'power' will last a lifetime. Achieving the ability to become self-reliant will guide him into adulthood. That's the real power!

The Center for Urban

Research, Education and Training (CURET) is proud to support the local Troop 1443 Boy Scouts of the Albany Avenue and the surrounding Hartford area as their Charter Organization. A common ground binds both entities in the values, found in striving for self-improvement, through understanding the basics of our situations and utilizing technology to broaden our opportunities.

Why not look further into, what opportunities scouting can offer a boy in your family?

CURET Troop 1443 meets most Saturdays from 3:00 – 5:00 pm at the Main Hartford Public Library and most Tuesdays from 6:00 - 7:45 pm at CURET 1443 Albany Avenue, Hartford.

[Call in advance to confirm meeting times. CURET Troop 1443 Scoutmaster Dean Rhoden 860-462-5656, dl.rhodengaa@yahoo.com. Scoutmaster Rhoden can also provide more information on how you, as an adult or youth, can join, support or contribute financially to your local Hartford scout troop. (Make checks payable to Troop 1443 and mail to: Troop 1443, c/o CURET, 1443 Albany Ave., Hartford, CT 06132.) Jerry Hancock is an assistant scoutmaster in CURET Troop 1443.]

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Exhibit Features More Than 300 Works By Local Artists

HARTFORD, CT: Hundreds of artists from Greater Hartford and Middlesex County are featured in National Arts/Local Color, Community Renewal Team's 26th annual visual art competition and show. The show hangs throughout several floors of Capital Community College, and is open January 19 – February 4, 2017.

The public is invited to a reception and presentation of awards at 1 pm on January 28 in the auditorium on the 11th floor of the college, 950 Main St., Hartford.

The event will feature professional jazz artists Aja Wilson and Orice Jenkins, and poems composed by members of the Free Poets Collective to reflect each of the first place works of art. Light refreshments will be served.

Although entry is free, a total of \$3,420 in cash prizes is awarded to children, youth and adults at the Amateur, Intermediate and Professional levels.

This year's judges include the following arts professionals: JoAnne Bauer, Carlos Hernandez Chavez, Ellis Echevarria, Patricia Johnson, Tracy Kane, Edjohnetta Miller and

Angela Parker. The show is underwritten by the National Arts Program and Greater Hartford Arts Council, in cooperation with Capital Community College.

Visitors can view the art whenever the building is open: 7 am – 10 pm Monday to Friday, and 9 am – 4 pm Saturday. For more information, contact Nancy Shapiro at (860) 560-5471 or by email at nancys@crtct.org. Further details can be found on the CRT website: crtct.org http://www.crtct.org/en/events/national-arts

CALENDAR LISTING: National Arts/Local Color: More than 300 works in all media displayed at Capital Community College, 950 Main St., Hartford from Jan. 19 – Feb. 4, 7 am – 10 pm Monday to Friday, and 9 am – 4 pm Saturday. Artists' Reception Jan. 28 at 1 pm.

[Community Renewal Team, Inc. is the Community Action Agency for Middlesex and Hartford Counties, helping individuals and families become self-sufficient while making sure basic needs are met. CRT's programs include Head Start, Meals on Wheels, energy assistance, supportive housing and shelters, behavioral health counseling and many others. Visit www.crtct.org.]