

2019 Immigrant Day Award



2019 Honorees at Immigrant Day Celebration

By Edgar Johnson

The 22nd Annual Connecticut Immigrant Day celebration was a most inspiring event. There was a full house in atten-

dance in the Old Judiciary Room at the Connecticut State Capitol, honoring 19 honorees from 16 different countries in recognition of their contributions and accomplishments

since immigrating to the United States of America.

The award ceremony began with presentation of colors by the Governor's Foot Guard; the

National Anthem by Laurentiu Rotaru (Romania); and opening remarks by Robert J. Fishman, executive director.

"This is one of the most

important and valuable celebrations in this building," said Sen. Richard Blumenthal. My dad came to this country in 1935, landed in New York,

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Partners, People Of Faith

By Edgar Johnson

The 2019 Asylum Hill Congregational Church (AHCC) Partnership was indeed packed with inspiration.

Some 22 partnership organizations coming together once per year for worship, learn and share their work in the community, gain insight as agencies share some of the fascinating happenings in their work—opportunities for volunteerism, learn of different needs and decide how best to respond and be reminded that

what one does matters.

"Yes, the church in the heart of the city with a heart for the city." What a mantra of a church in action. In the community and integrated in serving the community.

Can you imagine the transformation of life and faith where this self-understanding in practiced in the church and the community it serves. Whether one makes connection in changing lives through mentoring, improving reading and writing to better understand the Bible and these are

hosts of important services and ministries that one could be involve in, changing lives and building a better community.

This was spelled out in Rev. Mia Douglas' message of the morning. Using John 15:15-17 as her key text, she underscored the true meaning of partnership. "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are my friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants . . . , but I call you friends," (John 15:13-15). According to Rev.

Douglas in John 15:13-15, Jesus no longer calls his followers servants" but "friends"; through Jesus, we have become His partners in the service of humanity.

According to Rev. Douglas, when we are partners in the spirit, we are not alone. We have received an invitation to heal the world. This has implications and relevance to the various sectors of society including the business, government, non-profit, the religious, and more.

"As partners and people
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Rev. Mia Douglas
Photo: Bernie Michael

A Celebration Of Adult Learning: Telling Our Stories, Making A Difference



STAR Honorees and organizers Rev. David Hendricks, Leonie Thompson, and Estela Morales Segarra with Sen. John Fanfara;
Photo: Jerry Clapis, CREC

By Genevieve Fontanelle and Franklin March

Recently, the 9th Annual Greater Hartford Student and Teacher Achievement Recognition Salute (STARS) program was held at Hartford Public Library.

Honored at the event were fifteen adult students and five teachers from various adult education centers in the region, including 1199 Training Fund, Adult Education Center in Hartford, East Hartford Adult Education, Hartford Public Library, Manchester Adult and Continuing Education, the Center for Urban Research, Education and Training (CURET), Vernon Regional Adult Based Education

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The Dance Of Caribbean Leaders, US And China

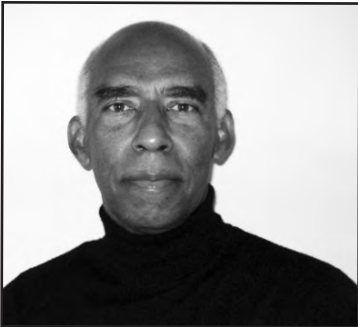
President Trump invited five leaders from the Caribbean region to Mara-a-Largo for a meet-and-greet session on March 22. The real purpose was to garner support for his sanctions on Venezuela. The five countries were the Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, and Saint Lucia.

Absent were Trinidad, Guyana, and Barbados. Trinidad has close ties to Venezuela and Guyana recently discovered oil within its territory—this is in dispute with Venezuela.

In announcing the sit-down, White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said, “The President will discuss his vision for our diverse relationships in the Caribbean and the potential opportunities for energy investment. The President looks forward to working with countries in the region to strengthen our security cooperation and counter China’s predatory economic practices.”

The real purpose was to have the President thank these countries for their support for a peaceful transition to democracy in Venezuela and to begin discussions on how the US can provide relief from the costs for energy now that the subsidies and low interest payment for Venezuelan oil has been halted.

Both the crisis in Venezuela and the U.S. sanctions have adversely affected Caribbean nations that once received a stable supply of oil and gas from Venezuela as part of its



Jim Daniels

PetroCaribe alliance.

The meeting with the President and his advisors was not without controversy and opposition from CARICOM members and the US offered no explanation of why these five were selected. CARICOM representatives stated that, “there was no true representation of CARICOM, as the current chairman of CARICOM, prime minister of St Kitts and Nevis, Dr Timothy Harris, was not invited to the meeting. Neither were the members of the CARICOM advisory committee comprising Barbados Prime Minister Mia Motley and Trinidadian Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley.”

Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves of St Vincent and the Grenadines reportedly stated, “the regional bloc must be aware of the mischief that some persons may be up to, to seek to divide us in a manner which we ought not to be divided and therefore reduce the extent of the efficacy of our work.”

Under the terms of the alliance agreement, the drop in oil prices has, paradoxically, raised beneficiary states’ oil import costs.

That’s because, as crude prices fall, they lose access to extremely generous financing terms that amount to subsidies. Press reports stated that the program provided long-term financing, allowing Caribbean nations to pay 40 percent of their oil debt at a one percent annual interest rate over 25 years and the rest in cash.

The availability of oil for sale has virtually vanished but the US, as the country with the world’s largest oil resources, has Venezuela in a sanction bind.

They are not likely to match the Venezuela deal. On the other hand, the Caribbean leaders know that should the US produce and agree to a comparable arrangement, they will of necessity have to support the US’s actions on Venezuela and any other global, contentious issue in which the US finds itself. Trump has clearly positioned himself as the retribution’s president.

There was comment to the effect that one of the things that President Trump wants to hear, as countries in the Caribbean disassociate themselves from reliance on Venezuelan oil, is what steps the US could take to shift reliance of Venezuelan energy and implicitly, how loudly will those countries praise the US for its farsightedness in coming to the aid of these countries and in time, the others. But this sit-down is designed to achieve another objective that is probably more significant that the oil related issue, in a word, China.

You don’t have to have a degree in chemistry to know that nature abhors a vacuum and today there is a global and international vacuum as the US withdraws from what used to be a robust presence.

This has provided opportunity for China to unpretentiously move in with large, generous financial packages to impact the economies of many of the region’s countries. But the US was asking the represented countries to refuse China’s financial offerings for such things as infrastructure, development, training and education and tourism.

To site just one case, in 2013 China and Jamaica signed a four-stage package of \$353 million US dollars to do just that. The growth of Chinese investment and influence in the country has been the source of growing unease in Washington. To many folks in the West, the Chinese are described as inscrutable and this perception adds fuel to labeling the Chinese motives as suspicious.

Whether they are or are not, only time will tell. But if you had been born into and grown up in a culture that is over 1,000 years old and have endured numerous wars, hostilities and murderous attempts by many nations to subdue you, you would also be inscrutable.

China’s sight is set on becoming the largest economy in the world and until then, they will swat away the unpredictable and erratic US global economic and foreign policy initiatives designed to obstruct their progress.

Minority Teacher Recruitment And A Model Curriculum



State Senator Doug McCrory

As a State Senator for the 2nd Senate District I am honored to serve as co-chair of the education committee with Representative Sanchez. Serving as co-chair has allowed me to advocate for educational opportunities and address opportunity gaps for students

across Connecticut.

The two educational gaps of concern are the lack of minority teachers and a curriculum that is inclusive and diverse.

In Connecticut there is a need for minority teachers and administration in the school systems. As of 2015, students of color in Connecticut make up 40% of the student population meanwhile 8% of the teacher and 2% of the administrators are people of color. Educators do not reflect the population it is currently serving. Studies show that educators of color are not just beneficial to students of color. Students of all different racial and ethnic backgrounds benefit from a diverse taskforce of teachers and administration.

While there is need for minority teacher recruitment there are barriers to recruitment and retention. Often, students of color are deterred from becoming educators due limited access to education or the idea of taking on financial debt.

The Education Committee has introduced Senate Bill #1022 an act concerning minority teacher recruitment and retention. The governor has also addressed the budget and will allocate funding to provide resources to address this issue.

In congruence to a more inclusive and diverse educational staff, a diverse and inclusive curriculum is also needed. The education committee has put forth two bills. The first #H.B. 5009, an act concerning the inclusion of African-America studies in the public schools’ curriculum and H.B. #7083, an act concerning the inclusion of Puerto Rican, and Latino studies in the public school curriculum.

I would like to take these two bills a step further to create a model curriculum for Connecticut Public schools. This would entail an infusion across disciplines of African-American, Puerto Rican, and Latino studies for grades K-8.

This will set the founda-

tion for students and teacher to then implement African- American, Puerto Rican and Latinos studies as a new graduation requirement. This is important, as it will teach students to become civically and globally engaged citizens.

In order to address the achievement gaps of students of color it is important to be aware of the quality of education students are receiving. The increase of minority teachers will also positively increase retention rates for minority students.

A curriculum that is designed to be more inclusive will allow students to feel more connected and engaged with school. The time is now to teach the important contributions of African-Americans, Puerto Ricans, and Latinos will give students the support needed to become future educators.

If you want to go to college, know someone who does, or want to make a career change, strongly consider becoming a teacher, it’s a solid career!

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Partners



Afrika Hines
Photo: Bernie Michael

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of faith, we don't have to do it alone. God calls us and equips us through Jesus, the ultimate relation is made available to us," Rev. Douglas said.

"In the work we do, we all need encouragement and the spirit is always available. Hence, I am not in it alone. My strength comes through Him, being in contact with the higher power," she added.

For Afrika Hines in view of what is going on in the world today, Rev. Douglas' message was very timely, uplifting and inspirational.

“Partnership in the spirit is still relevant. These are still people willing to serve and give back to the community.”

Summer School For All Students

Gone are the days when summer school was only for failing students or students who were at the verge of repeating a grade. Students who made it during the school year need to be engaged during the long summer months. They cannot afford to meander around the house, watching TV, playing—some even roam the streets. Can you imagine the waste of brain capacity and potentials?

The wise parents, however, have their kids engaged in various academic and enrichment programs, enabling them to get on the fast track when the new school year comes. Such students don't miss a beat! They have their marching orders to continue learning during the summer!

Research shows that parents who have their kids in academic and enrichment programs during the summer were doing the right thing, providing students with a head start for the new school year; proving that such programs stem summer learning loss.

That's what sets CURET's summer apart for the past 27 years. CURET's Summer School Program is serious about reinforcing academics in literacy and numeracy. Parents want their kids to have a head start and keep pace during the summer in a more relaxed, fun setting. The immer-

sion into literacy and numeracy program includes arts, crafts, computer and technology, creative writing, cultural music and dance.

So parents, what's the best thing you can do for your kids this summer? Ensure that they all attend summer school of work and fun—involving literacy and numeracy, enrichment and recreation, arts and crafts, and more.

Parents, don't be deceived, summer school works for all students. Parents whose new-arriving kids, may have gotten their visa approval notice and will be migrating soon to this area, summer school is for your kids Upon arriving in the area, get them enrolled in CURET's Summer Programs. They will get a head start for the new school year and stem summer learning loss.

CURET's summer program prepares students for the new school year, reducing summer learning loss. The Academic Enrichment portion occurs in the mornings, Monday–Thursday. The

Recreational Programs include arts and crafts; computer; music and dance enhancing creativity, fun and cultural emphases; and field trips on Fridays.

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Graduates Find Their True Niche



Graduates of the Career Advancement Program at Adult Education Center in Hartford celebrate with their teachers, staff, and administration

By Edgar Johnson

There is an earth-swelling phenomenon that is happening among a cross section of immigrants. The philosophy among most members of the immigrant community is the fact that they are here in the United States and wish to thrive for the American Dream. They are committed to working hard, educate their kids, access opportunities and make a contribution to this

great country.

So with a rise in open door opportunities leading to career pathways, immigrants are finding their niche in the trades, which in the long run, open up boundless access to enter reliable and promising career pathways.

Now locally, what opportunities have fallen in the laps of these immigrants made possible through Hartford Adult Education Center! Students not only obtain

help in reading, writing following a structured curriculum, and daily instructional plan in literacy and numeracy but also receive instruction in the trades in carpentry, plumbing, and electricity.

Recently, at the first Vocational Education and OSHA Certification Ceremony of the Adult Education Center, teachers, staff and administration, joined in the celebration of Career Advancement of 35 adults who successfully earned cer-

tificates.

The master of ceremony of the event was Ms. Mann, assistant director and Dr. Zandrilyn Gordon, director of the Hartford Adult Education Center. In Dr. Gordon's welcome, she praised the graduates for their motivation and determination to complete the program and the opportunities that now open up before them.

Guest speaker Chief Charles Teale held before the gradu-

ates the tool kit for their success, stressing the importance of turning adversity into advantage—"Never stop hitting the books," he said.

"As you advance, even powerful people will seek to prevent you from succeeding. You may even be knocked down. Get up. When you are faced with adversities, they will help you to grow stronger. A case in point, drawing from his life experi-

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2019 Immigrant Day

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not much more than the clothes on his back," he said.

"Thank you for becoming a U.S. citizen. You have all the rights; you are no second-class citizen. Immigrants give us so much—character, courage, and service. We ought to build

bridges, not walls," Blumenthal said.

"We need immigrants to make us continue to be the greatest country in the world," he added.

"I was born at Hartford Hospital to immigrant parents," said William Tong, Connecticut attorney general. One of the challenges of

being an immigrant is the fact that immigrants are seen as invisible. They are not seen for what they do. But immigrants do vital jobs in our state, country, and community—all the jobs we need for a functioning society. "We need them," he said.

In her welcome remarks, Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz lauded the honorees for their contribu-



Honoree Michael Chambers

tions to the state. "Thank you. We are a state of immigrants and we are proud of our immigrants and their contributions, Bysiewicz said.

It was an extraordinary celebration with families and friends of the honorees in attendance. "I am delighted to be here celebrating with Michael Chambers. He is an inspiration to all of us who interact with him. He is an exemplary U.S. citizen and a true representative of Jamaica," said Donna Campbell.

"We are happy to be at this celebration," said Martha and Joshua Kingsley, wife and son of Georges Annan Kingsley of Ivory Coast.

Among the 19 honorees from 16 countries were: Fatma Wahada Antar, Egypt; Darek Barcikowski, Poland; Peter I Barzach, Ukraine; Andrei Brel, Belarus; Michael Chambers, Jamaica; Asma Farid, Pakistan; Peter Theoharis Isoifides, Greece; Min Jung Kim, Korea; Georges Annan Kingsley, Ivory Coast; Zdzislawa Lempicka, Poland; Dr. Mohamed Reza Mansoor, Sri Lanka; Dr. Ezequiel Martin Menendez, Argentina; Dr. Priyamvada Natarajan, India; Emanuela Palmares, Brazil; Carla Squatrito, Italy; Sorin Todeasa, Romania; Ada Ustjanauskas,



Honoree Georges Annan Kingsley

Lithuania; Dr. Meera S. Viswanathan, India; Abby Weiner, Romania.

Following the presentation of the Immigrant Day Awards, there was the Myra O. Oliver Memorial Award, presented to Sue Ingail, posthumously; the Angela R. Anderson Memorial Award; and the Salma Khatoun Farid Award, followed by an open reception—refreshment included patties from Scotts' Jamaican Bakery.

The master of ceremony was Ebong Udona, senior political reporter, WSHU Public Radio (Nigeria).

The Office of the Secretary of the State of Connecticut and Connecticut Immigrant and Refugee Coalition (CIRC) sponsored the 22nd Annual Connecticut Immigrant Day Award celebration.

Celebration Of Adult Learning

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(VRABE) and Linda Young, receptionist-security guard at VRABE. Sen. John Fonfara gave the keynote address.

The adult students are over comers of diverse sorts and challenges, persevering with their educational goals amidst adversities that can disrupt their best efforts; as adult learners with responsibilities the pathway is at times rocky.

In the brief write-ups of the honorees their experiences, inspirations, motivations, and aspirations were noted. These serve as sources of inspiration for other adults to continue their education, persevere, and make a difference.

For me as a CURET student, I was overwhelmed to know that I was chosen to become a STAR honoree. Needless to say, my attendance at the STAR event alongside other honorees left me in awe. Initially, when I started at CURET in pursuit of preparing myself for a better life, all I wanted was to complete my high school diploma. Now my aspirations are elevated. I want much more.

Franklin, too, has a story with similar elements. When I was introduced to CURET, my intention was to complete my high school diploma. While at CURET, I was



Franklin March and Genevieve Fontanelle
Photo: Jerry Clapis, CREC

also introduced to the vocational program—carpentry, plumbing, and electricity—at the Adult Education Center. I've learned much more than I could have imagined, achieving a certificate in the vocations and continuing my pursuit of the high school diploma. This is the perfect opportunity to go forward.

The honorees expressed noble dreams and aspirations as they

climb the educational ladder in the quest of their goals.

Organizers of the event include: Rev. David Hendricks, Leonie Thompson, Estela Morales Segarra, Steve Bender, and Dana Little. The mission of their organization is to advocate for, promote, and establish a community of adult learner leaders.

Citizenship Education

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Graduates

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ences and sharing with listeners in the audience showing how they too, can learn something new when faced with adversities. “Don’t forget to have mentors in your life, talk about your life lessons,” he said.

Speaking about the dis-

tinctive makeup of this first Career Advancement class, mistress of ceremony, made special note of the large number of women among the graduates.

“Historically, when we think of plumbing, electrical, and carpentry, we used to see them as a

man’s job. But now, these are referred to as the people’s jobs. Ladies, you can show your girls, women who are electricians, plumbers, and carpenters, doctors and more.

I see people who are not spring chickens but they include women, yes, women doing everything to achieve,” she said. “Women can also do the job, she added.

In a quick interview with a cross section of the graduates, it was most admirable to see their motivation and enthusiasm. They all went through the electrical, plumbing, and carpentry and were overwhelmed by the breath and depth of available knowledge. Some never missed a class and speak about the wonderful opportunities now within their grasp—some plan to grow in the various fields—to become contractors, build their network and become members of the union.

The consensus among the graduates is that they want to excel, become entrepreneurs, and their eyes are open to many possibilities. Now their lives will never be the same again. All of the graduates spoke highly about their

teachers in the various fields. “The classes were very edifying and gave students a feel for the bigger field, learning two-way switch. I learned a lot,” said Alaster Williams. “I would like to purchase a house and fix it up. With this training one also learns good workmanship; on a given job, know what to expect,” he added.

“I did all the classes and I learned a lot and I am very happy I took the classes. Already I did a lot around my house and want to continue to grow in the training and trades,” said Edgar Rojas.

“This is the beginning, I want to continue,” said Davion Lyn.

“I would like to work on bridges and roads. I want to work badly,” said Carole Lopez.

“I did all areas, plumbing, electrical, and carpentry and have begun to do things around my house,” said Owen Flynn. “I love the electrical,” he added.

What positive feedback; what a learning experience to improve their academics, acquiring skills for employment or entrepreneurship. They are all overwhelmed by the opportunities before them

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Evan Lovelace, Scholar Of The Month



Evan Lovelace is a third grader at Thelma Dickerson Jumoke Academy. In February, he was selected scholar of the month, and won an oratorical contest that qualified him to compete against scholars from other schools in the Greater Hartford area, and in April he achieved high honors.

Without a doubt, Evan

has demonstrated a high level of focus on his academics and conduct in school. When faced with adversity, he consistently takes his time, exceeding expectation and demonstrates excellence in his ability to persevere and overcome obstacles. He is a hard worker and pursues his goals. A model student, Evan has a bright future. Congratulations, Evan!

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Fraudulent Social Security Calls Increase Amid Tax Season

CROMWELL, CT: Better Business Bureau Serving Connecticut is warning people to be on the lookout for suspicious calls that claim to be from the Social Security Administration. Scammers are ramping up their efforts to steal Social Security numbers to use in filing fraudulent tax returns and reports of these fraudulent calls are increasing nationwide.

How the Scam Works

You answer the phone, and it's someone alleging to be from the Social Security Administration (SSA) or another government entity. The name on your caller ID may even back that up that claim.

The caller says your social security number has been used to fraudulently apply for a credit card or commit another crime. In order to fix the situation, the caller needs you to confirm your SSN and other personal information. If you don't cooperate, the caller threatens to take you to court or have your Social Security number blocked or revoked.

No matter the details, the stories are designed to induce fear. Scammers hope that under pressure you will tell them your SSN and other sensitive personal information. Scammers can use SSNs to

commit identity theft and file tax returns in your name to steal your refund.

How to Avoid the Scam

Never give personal information to unsolicited callers. If someone contacts you without your permission, refuse to tell them any personal information. Remember, the SSA will never call you asking for your Social Security number. They will never ask you to pay anything, nor will they threaten your benefits.

Don't trust your caller ID. The Internet has made it possible for scammers to use fake IDs when they call your home. If you receive a suspicious call, don't make any important decisions based on what your caller ID says.

Contact the Social Security Administration if you are concerned about a call you received from someone who claims to be with the SSA. You can call the real SSA at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

To learn more about other kinds of scams, go to BBB.org/ScamTips. For more information, contact Luke Frey, associate director of communication, Better Business Bureau Serving Connecticut, lfrey@ct.bbb.org, 860-740-4500 Ext. 103

Alert: Consumer Protection Warns About Apple Store Mystery Shopping Scam

The Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) has been made aware of a mystery shopping scam, asking consumers to purchase Apple Store gift cards at their "local Apple Store" in exchange for \$200.00, or \$300.00 if you're eligible for a bonus. "Scams like this one often pop up this time of year," said Consumer Protection Commissioner Michelle H. Seagull, "Even if someone doesn't owe taxes, it's a time of year when we're all focused on our finances, and a little extra cash is more tempting than usual. Unfortunately, that means we all need to be more alert."

Here's How the Scam Works:

- You get mailed a check for \$2,350.00, along with instructions to text a number in order for the funds to be released. **Whenever you get mailed a check in advance, and are directed to spend some of it, it's almost always a scam. They check will bounce after you've completed your "work".**
- The expectation is that you deposit your check, and visit your "local Apple Store" to purchase two \$1,050.00 gift cards. **Scammers often use vague information, like "local Apple Store" instead of specifics.**
- If you complete this task within 48 hours of receiving your package in the mail, you are permitted to deduct \$100.00 from your purchase as a "bonus". **Legitimate companies would never allow you to deduct your own bonus from a purchase like this.**
- Once you're finished, you are to scratch off the security codes from the back of the cards, and send photos of the cards, complete with information about the amount on them to a number via text message. **You're not asked to submit a report about your experience, only to text a number all of the information they need to use the money on the card.**
- At the bottom of the letter, you're invited to text a number if you don't live near an Apple Store, but do live near a Walmart, CVS, Walgreens, Target, or any "local grocery store chains". **Fraudsters often use names of, or even impersonate legitimate companies in order to gain your trust. Don't fall for it. Even this letter attempts to impersonate an Apple logo.**
- Victims of these types of scams

find that someone has spent the money on the gift cards they've purchased, and the check they thought was in their checking account has bounced, and they're out funds. The best thing consumers can do is avoid any offer that sounds too good to be true. If you believe you've fallen victim to scam, please file a complaint with DCP by email dcp.complaints@ct.gov.

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The Marijuana Lure

By Leon Fraser

In different parts of the world and different states, there is much discussion underway seeking to validate and rationalize the recreational and medical use of the cannabis plant, known as weed, herb, sensi, marijuana, and the popular name in Jamaica, ganja.

The biggest closed-door open secret is how best to put a tax on it. In order for that tax to be valid and effective, an infrastructure (application, app) must be created that is capable of synchronizing with existing structures.

Of course, there are differences of opinions and legal interpretations, which seem as though the thought is first and foremost a different battle again for states' rights, as this is in opposition to federal law

that has declared marijuana an illegal drug.

States are declaring a level of independence in a slight defiance of federal law as it relates to the recreational and medical use of it, along with clear points of purchase.

All this chattering doesn't include serious questions that scrutinize the need for retro-active justice for those that have been denied jobs, denied promotions, locked up, and persecuted for the use of this plant in all its various forms.

Maybe at some point they will, but as of right now the lure of the quick turnover of collateral to currency and the available tax that can be derived have most of the politicians salivating.

In Colorado and other states that have a slim infrastructure, these locations are awash with cash and are becoming magnets for unscrupulous customers.

The business places have to be doing a cash business as the recognized credit card agencies are not yet on board to approve the swiping of plastic in these business places.

Are they so much different from nail salons? Nail salons at the outset didn't need a permit to open their doors, now they do. In comparison, a marijuana clinic cannot open its doors unless all permits and protocol are in place, and still not being able to swipe a card.

With all the available technology to assist decisions in this country, there are not many voices of reason and science that have come forward to give evidence and credence to the need. Is it a slippery slope for learned fellows to ascend, or attempt? Or are there other factors at play?

Among all the countries that are grappling with the thought of legalizing the use of the plant, citizens are united in one thing—the use of the plant for personal, recreation-

Continue on Page 7

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Caribbean Tidbits

Lapin confirmed as Haiti's new prime minister

PORT AU PRINCE: Haiti's President Jovenel Moise recently confirmed Jean-Michel Lapin in his post as the country's new prime minister, just weeks after the Chamber of Deputies censured his predecessor's six-month-old government.

The new administration that Lapin must assemble with Moise will face pressing problems such as the high cost of living and the insecurity that plagues the capital. For about 11 days, all activities ground to a halt in Port-au-Prince and across most of the Caribbean country's cities.

Lapin, the former culture and communications minister, was named acting prime minister on March 21, three days after the Chamber of Deputies voted to censure the government of former prime minister Jean-Henry Ceant. Lawmakers overwhelmingly voted for Ceant's resignation, saying he had failed to improve conditions in the six months since he took over at the head of government. Lapin is the third head of government under president Moise, who has led the Caribbean island nation since February 2017.

Kemoy Campbell runs again
KINGSTON, Jamaica: Olympian and National Record Holder Kemoy Campbell says that he ran for the first time since he collapsed at the Millrose Games in New York in February. "I ran today for the first time in a while and even though it was so that I caught my flight it felt Gooooood," he posted to his Instagram and Twitter pages.

The athlete, who was functioning as a pacesetter in the 3000m on Saturday, February 10 when he collapsed, captioned his progress on Instagram as "small victories!! #thebeginning."

The athlete has been getting an outpouring of support from well wishers here and in the Diaspora since his collapse. Days after the incident, a GoFundme campaign was launched to assist with his medical expenses.

Guyanese must not have to settle for oil crumbs
GEORGETOWN, Guyana: General Secretary of the Guyana Trades Union Congress, Lincoln Lewis has called for measures to be put in place to ensure that citizens are not forced to work for crumbs in the oil and gas sector while foreigners benefit and suggested several amendments to the rules surround-

ing the functioning of the National Assembly.

"Already it has been brought to Labor's attention that there exists disparity in remuneration for locals doing the same job as foreign laborers," he stressed at the May Day rally, adding that the exploitation of oil and gas, attracts external investment and attention just as bauxite, gold, diamonds, forestry, and there must be a new approach to ensure Guyanese benefit tremendously from these resources.

Protest Against Joining World Trade Organization
NASSAU, Bahamas: Dozens of protestors gathered in Rawson Square to show they rejected the country's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

A spokesperson for the group, Kendal Colebrook, admonished those gathered to study WTO's ramifications.

He called WTO "the enemy" to the country and its citizens, adding that to join would allow foreigners to capitalize on Bahamian assets. Mr. Colebrook said the government's decision to join WTO showed it did not care about Bahamians.

Obituary

It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Kenneth Augustus Gordon, 87, of Windsor, CT.

Beloved husband of Ivy, Kenneth passed away peacefully on Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019, at Hartford Hospital, surrounded by loving family and friends. Born March 23, 1932, in Kingston, Jamaica to the late Frederick Gordon and Indiana Brown, Kenneth was a Windsor resident for over 48 years and was an active member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Windsor. Kenneth enjoyed a long career as a mason and was a member of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen District Council of Connecticut. He enjoyed his career and continued to do projects around his home after he retired. He loved traveling, gardening, and most of all, spending time with his family.

Besides his spouse of 63 years, he is survived by his sons, Dennis and Nigel; daughter, Doris "Cindy" Mair and son-in-law



Kenneth Augustus Gordon

Denworth "Paul"; brothers, Clavere and Dermoth (Nora) Brown; eight grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and a host of other family members. He is predeceased by his parents and his brother, Vernon.

Calling hour will be from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM followed by the funeral service on Saturday, May 4 at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 180 Park Ave Windsor, CT. Burial will immediately follow at Mount St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield, CT. For online condolences please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com

'King Arthur' Will Forever Be Remembered

By Christopher A. Service Jr.

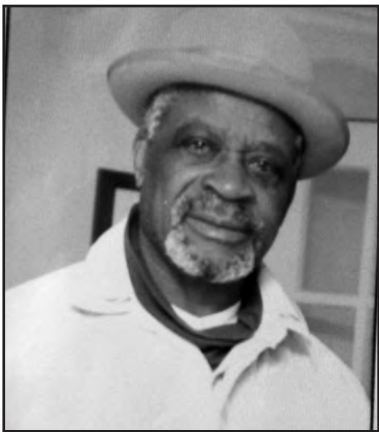
On February 23, 2019 scores of people gathered at Henry L. Fuqua Funeral Home in Bloomfield to celebrate the life of the late Arthur B. Henderson.

The overcrowded venue was evidence of the love and deep appreciation that people, young and old, had for yet another Hartford octogenarian. Not many can boast that they have lived to see eighty years old; 'King Arthur' had that distinction. Many loved this humble and unassuming giant of a man.

Those who knew him well will remember his characteristic way of shaking his right hand to show his disapproval of what an individual said, that to 'King Arthur,' was not logical. Many will also remember his utterance that sometimes accompanied that hand gesture.

The Caribbean American Society of Hartford can thank 'King Arthur' for his selfless contribution to that organization. It is fitting therefore that although photographs, which hang on the walls of the organization's headquarters, are of past presidents, the only other photograph of a regular member or past member will be of Arthur B. Henderson.

A dedicated member of



Arthur B. Henderson

the Caribbean American Society (CASH) 'King Arthur' was always at CASH. His contribution to its existence speaks volumes about this Jamaican who left his home in Lawrence Park, St Ann in 1959 to work on a Farm Work Program.

A believer in the importance of work was evidenced by the 32 years for which he was employed by Ron Cari Construction of Granby, Connecticut.

Not many know that Arthur Henderson was instrumental in collecting articles of clothing many years ago for Jamaicans when Hurricane Gilbert destroyed portions of the island. There are, I am sure, several instances of kindness that this humanitarian extended during his long and colorful life. Arthur B. Henderson was a unique individual and will always be remembered.

Marijuana

Continued from Page 6

al, and medical purposes. This does not sit well with the power brokers responsible for the production, distribution and sale of the manufactured option.

Despite the availability of different levels of research and trials there is insufficient empirical data available to the public as to the benefits of use. There are two products in Jamaica that are testament to the value of the derivative, Glucagon and Asmasol for glaucoma and asthma.

In all that is being said let's take a minute and ponder this on a wider scale. Can you imagine what an entrepreneurial juggernaut and role model the Island of Jamaica had it been able to produce, trade, and use legally as an economic resource.

Not many countries have a cadre of citizens that advocate for the use of and the legalization of marijuana as Jamaicans have done over the decades. The music fraternity of Jamaica has endured persecution from foreign governments because of this advocacy, yet the advocates remain steadfast in their vocal exercises for this legalization.

The Dutch has legalized the world's oldest profession and also the illustrious marijuana plant, and no large-scale increase of STI has become evident, or overdoses of use of the weed. The USA has legalized alcohol after a number of deaths occurred due to illegal distillation and distribution.

People still die from drunk driving and drivers, yet no word of going back to making this

drug illegal. There are no known cases of overdoses on smoking weed, yet there is a hum of ignorance by suits claiming there should be a field test to determine if drivers are "high," to validate the theory of refusal to legalize.

If people get high and are operating a vehicle there is a chance they will be involved in a motor vehicle accident, yet in this evidence-based society there is no evidence to substantiate such an irrational theory.

So all that said, was to reinforce the point that when the lower echelon of the social stratum creates a change in events that are not necessarily to the benefit of the 1% in any way shape or form, they will not move with alacrity unless it threatens at some point to create a large slice of folks in the middle and in so doing would change the impact of projected economic benefits.

The freedom to voice an opinion about any subject has led to a chorus of ordinary folks that are insisting on being heard on the topic of legalization.

Another facet of this legalization process would somehow have to include the street-level "entrepreneurs" that market and move the product.

This is the part that will directly impact the enforcement of that decrepit statute, and the overtime distribution of finances to the law enforcers.

So now that most individuals are aware that to plant and reap this particular plant, doesn't need too much chemical assistance, and will allow some of the farmers to meet the deadlines that have been

facing them with the downturn in the agricultural sector, have been able to get out of the pitfalls of making mortgage payments when the sector is stifling.

So dear friends, when the question is being asked of you for your opinion as to legalize or not, you would be best suited to have an answer, any answer that conforms with the values system that you have adopted from the ones of your parents, and the experience gained from the time spent here on earth.

Be sure to read as much as you can about the topic and the proponents, the opponents and the social stigma or not that is associated with the use of the plant.

If we really are in search of truth, and serious about inclusion of everyone, warts and all, in the fabric of the society, then we must be inclusive of organic methods of panacea rather than the ever-killing and addictive produced methods.

LEGALIZE IT!

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