

The West Indian American

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The “Doc” Hurley’s Statue Unveils



Sen. Douglas McCrory addresses the gathering at “Doc” Hurley Legacy Weekend Celebration at Artists Collective. Photos: Mark Milward



“Doc” Hurley Monument at intersection of Woodland and Greenfield Streets, Hartford, CT.

June, National Caribbean American Heritage Month

Dr. Claire, architect of the successful campaign to declare June as National Caribbean American Heritage Month (NCAHM), visited Hartford and with Veronica Airey-Wilson discuss the establishing of National month for Caribbean Americans through collaboration with United States Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA).

Nelson describes the reasoning behind recognition and its importance in recognizing the contributions of Caribbean Americans in the development of the United States. The conversation includes a historical perspective on the challenges and achievements during Caribbean migration to Hartford, Connecticut during World War II, and the political agenda that is cham-

ioned by the Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS) and the Caribbean Diaspora on Capital Hill, Washington, DC during Legislative week.

Coverage on National Caribbean Heritage Month will be aired on *The Jamaica Diaspora Show* on HPATV, Hartford, CT during the month of June.



From left: Mark Milward, director, Public Relations, West Indian Social Club (WISC), Inc., Dr. Claire Nelson, president, Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS), Veronica Airey-Wilson, former Hartford deputy mayor and former president of WISC at recent airing of National Caribbean Heritage Month, HPATV studio, Hartford, CT.

By Edgar Johnson

The 10-foot high bronze statue unveiled Saturday at the ‘Doc’ Hurley Monument Dedication Ceremony, stands tall, representative of the legend who watches over Hartford’s North End under the mantra: “Be of service, get an education, and don’t quit.” This statue undoubtedly, will impact all passers-by and visitors at the corner of Woodland Street and Greenfield Street, Hartford, CT.,

The Walter “Doc” Hurley Legacy Weekend activities, started Friday with a VIP reception at the Artists Collective and a community reception open to the public. On Saturday, a procession from the Artists Collective advanced to the Monument Dedication Ceremony to unveil the statue. It is quite a statue of the local legend “Doc” Hurley to behold.

Sunday was “Doc” Hurley Fellowship Day at Faith Congregational Church, Hundreds of people from North Hartford were in attendance; joined by a cross section of community representatives; elected leaders and residents.

The general consensus among people, is the pride and joy revived in their memories on seeing the statue of Hurley, looking off in the distance toward Keney Park, holding out a challenge to everyone to pick up “Doc’s” mantle, continue to rescue the lives of Hartford residents, providing access to opportunities through education, strengthening the community.

Furthermore, the unveiling of the statue was a most sobering and challenging experience. State Senator Douglas McCrory remarked: “Doc Hurley was an ordinary guy who worked the same streets that you walk, went to the same schools you went to.”

“My father was very positive. People from all levels, he treated them the same. We have

come home and there are homeless people sitting at the table and he would say, “They are hungry,” said Doc’s daughter, Jeanne Costley.

Hartford retired Fire chief Charles Teal Sr. shared his own encounters with Doc Hurley as a 14-year-old school dropout. He said that after a few trips to get up his nerves, tired of stalling, he drove up to Doc’s house, knocked on the door, and told him his name. He invited him to come in and have a seat.

“What seems to be the problem?” He asked. “I had dropped out of high school,” I said. For a moment he paced the floor, shook his head right and left. “I can’t believe you gave up on your education. What do you expect me to do?” He asked.

Teal said he asked him for a reference. In response Doc told him he would not help him to get a job because he was sending him back to school.

“I cannot go back to Weaver, I will be an 18-year-old freshman,” Teal told him.

“You don’t have to go back to Weaver, you can get a GED. With that you can go on to college,” Doc said.

Teal said that in an instant his feeling of despair had lifted. He came to realize that it was not all over for him before he left his home Doc told Teal three things: “Be of service, get an education, and don’t quit.”

For Chief Teal, “Doc Hurley lived and breathed Hartford.” Even after Doc Hurley graduated from Weaver in 1941, attended college in Virginia, served in the Marine in World War II, worked in Virginia as an education leader, Hartford was still on his mind.

He returned to Hartford and spent over 50 years serving Hartford students, motivating them and enabling them to access educational opportunities and attain their career goals. His heartbeat was on students’ success. While at Weaver, he established the Doc Hurley Basketball Classic and the Doc Hurley

Continued on Page 2

INDEX

Malta House of Care Honors
"Wonder Women"
Page 3

WISC Celebrates 69th
Anniversary Ball
Page 6

Let's Make a House a Home
Page 6

Easter Observance,
Other Practices:
Critical Checks and Balances
Page 7

Caribbean Tidbits
Page 7

Make Summer Count
for All Students
Page 8

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June 2019

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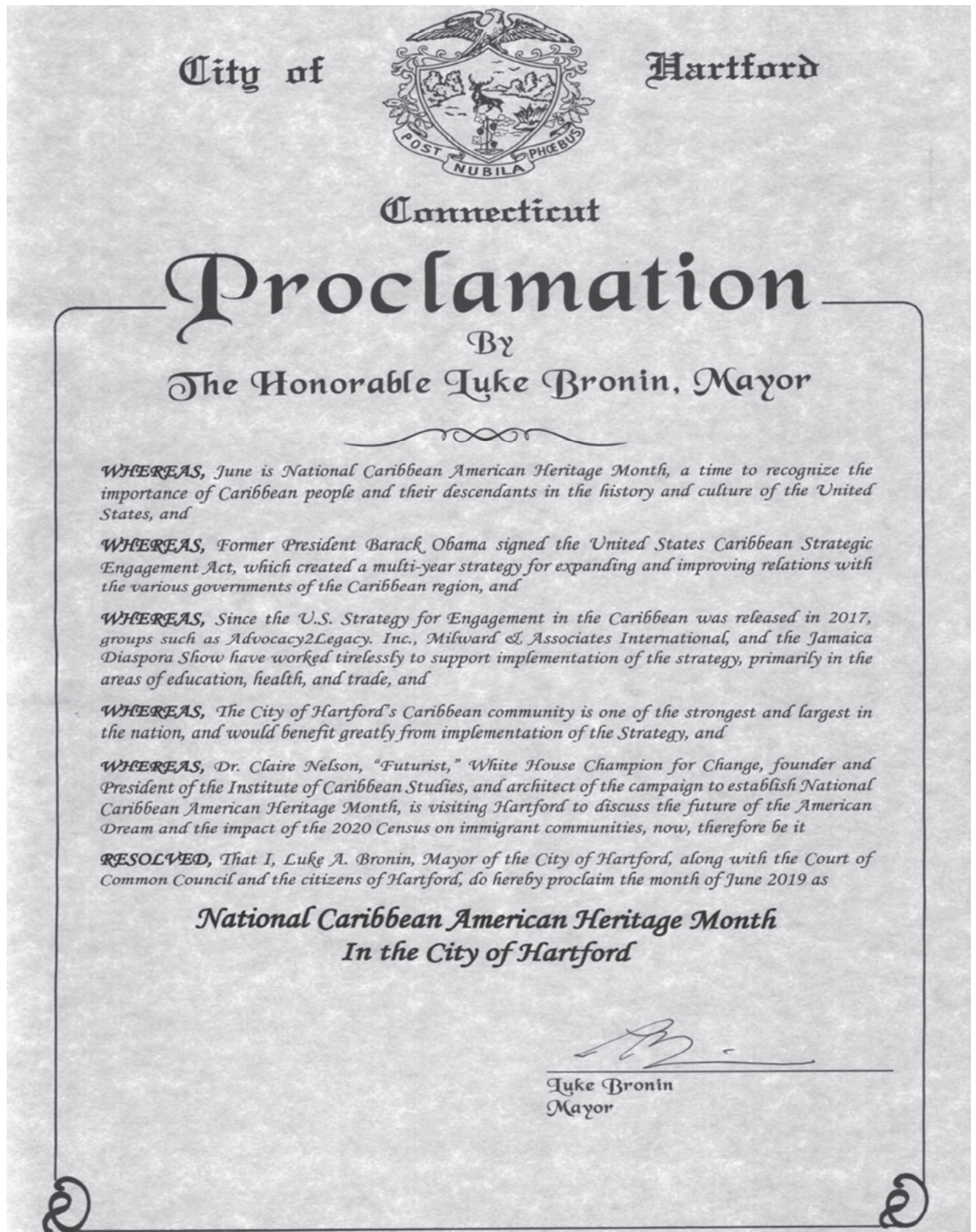
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**Hurley's Statue
Unveils**

Continued from Page 1

Foundation, and with the help of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, providing college scholarship and enriching the lives of Hartford residents. Doc Hurley died in 2014 but the impact of his service lives on and inspires.

"There are hundreds of people from throughout the Hartford, CT area whose lives were transformed because of the higher education opportunities that Doc Hurley brought to their lives over the past several decades," said former Gov. Dannel P. Malloy. "He was one of the most passionate voices for Hartford and its residents, respected by all, and brought such positive energy to generations of residents. He truly is a Hartford legend and is proof that one person can make a lasting, positive impact."

Graduation Helps Us All

By Edgar Johnson

Whether one is graduating from high school, college, graduate programs or university, graduation exercises have always been filled with excitement as faculty, families, and friends join the graduates, celebrating their exceptional milestone of accomplishments. Let's all join in congratulating all members of the class of 2019.

Yes, some graduates may have been the first in their families to graduate from high school or college. Just imagine the excitement and the sense of accomplishments!

And let's not forget, to pursue education at any level is not cheap. It's expensive both in terms of tuition, fees, books, and many other incidentals, especially for

immigrants, who generally do not qualify for scholarships and financial subsidy. Pursuing educational goals costs mega dollars. Many immigrant families work extremely hard and make sacrifices to put their children through levels of education.

Whether you are immigrants or not, pursuing and achieving academic goals, and graduating are accomplishments to be celebrated.

So what's the point? It's not a trivial thing to decide to stay in school and finish high school, post-secondary education—vocational training, college, or other educational goals.

When students decide to dropout out of high school, for example, particularly students living in inner cities leaving school prematurely, becoming dropouts. Low graduation rates affect all of us—communities and neighborhoods,

state, and our nation.

Broadly, dropouts disproportionately make up higher percentages of the prison population and tend to contribute to the higher burden on the crime and punishment sector; dropouts tend to have poorer health than those with a diploma; also, dropouts are less likely to have health insurance; tend to have more health issues and are less likely to seek medical attention; dropouts are often unemployed or underemployed, and earn less than graduates.

What about graduates? Generally, they tend to earn more money; are more employable, and tend to be more financially secured. Because of the education that graduates have, they tend to develop the skills they need to best take action in society.

Continued on Page 3

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Malta House Of Care Honors “Wonder Women”

HARTFORD, CT: Recently, Malta House of Care honored six outstanding women who are making a difference in the Greater Hartford region. They range in age from 17 to 96; their job titles include college president, Whole Foods dishwasher, and financial executive. One holds the distinction of being the first female mayor of a U.S. capital.

The women are Malta House of Care’s class of 2019 “Wonder Women”—outstanding community servants who received awards at a fundraiser held Thursday, April 25, 6-8:30pm, at the Hartford Marriott Downtown Hotel. The 2019 honorees are:

• **Jody Bell, 17, of Greenwich**, an entrepreneur who started a website called “In Case of Deportation” in response to the fears of her immigrant classmates at Greenwich High School. Geared toward kids ages 8-18, it explains what deportation is; how to talk to family members about it; and provides links to resources for kids whose parents face deportation.

• **Daisy Cocco De Filippis, PhD, of Waterbury**, president of Naugatuck Valley Community College. The first Dominican president of a U.S. community college, she is known for her practical, common sense leadership of a school that attracts many first-generation college students.

Since 2008, when she took office, enrollment and retention have risen steadily and the Danbury campus has expanded. In 2017, NVCC was named one of the top 25 community colleges nationwide in advancing opportunities for low-income students.

• **Janet Grace of Coventry**, volunteer advisor (for the past 30 years) to the “Instructors of the Handicapped” swimming program in Manchester, founded in 1956 to match physically and mentally challenged children and adults with able-bodied teenagers for Sunday afternoon lessons at Manchester High School. Nearly 4,000 people with disabilities have learned to swim through IOH – and their instructors have learned even more.



“Wonder Women” ‘19: Dr. Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Jody Bell, Janet Grace, Antoinette Lazarus, Lhakpa Sherpa, Ann Uccello

• **Antoinette Lazarus of Farmington**, chief compliance and risk officer for Landmark Partners, a funds management company-based in Simsbury. Annie has distinguished herself professionally at places like Phoenix Equity Planning Corp., Aetna Financial Services, Cigna Retirement and Investment Services, and Prudential Financial. But personally, she is perhaps best known for her tireless community involvement, especially with the YWCA, Saint Francis Foundation, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston, Hartford Community Loan Fund, 100 Women Who Can -- Farmington Valley, and the West Indian Credit Union; she is a founding member of the latter two.

• **Lhakpa Sherpa of West Hartford**, who has summated Mount Everest nine times—more than any other woman in the world. The 46-year-old mother of three, a survivor of domestic abuse, works as a dishwasher at Whole Foods in Bishop’s Corner, and is also an entrepreneur, having just started her own guided-expedition company, Cloudscape Climbing. She hopes to break her own world record later this spring by climbing Mount Everest for the 10th time.

• **Ann Uccello, 96, of West Hartford** -- the consummate trail-

blazer. In 1967, this daughter of Italian immigrants was elected mayor of Hartford—the first female major of any capital city in the United States—after serving for two terms on the Hartford City Council. She was known as a pragmatic leader and a calming influence during a period of racial unrest in Hartford and nationwide.

A member of the CT Women’s Hall of Fame, Ann has two streets named after her – one in Hartford and one in Italy.

This year’s “Wonder Women” event is the ninth annual celebration in support of Malta House of Care, which was founded in 2006 and has since provided 51,969 free patient visits to uninsured adults.

“It is inspirational to work with the staff and medical volunteers and to witness their commitment to our patients and our mission. In fact, these are the people—our staff and our medical volunteers—who know best what Malta means to uninsured adults.”

“Each day, they listen, comfort, diagnose, treat, and reassure uninsured adults by saying the most important words any sick person can hear: ‘Don’t worry; we’ll help you,’” said Malta House of Care’s Executive Director, Michelle

Murphy. “Recently, especially over the past 18 months they have been called to do this more than any point in Malta’s history,” Murphy added.

An independent non-profit, Malta receives no local, state, or federal funding. A small paid staff and over 50 medical volunteers donate 1,000 hours or \$2 million of in-kind care each year. All of the proceeds from the fundraiser event will support the Malta House of Care Mobile Medical Clinic, which provides free primary care to unin-

sured adults on a van that goes to four Hartford-area neighborhoods each week.

To cover its clinical expenses, Malta relies on partnerships with non-profit institutions – particularly the Archdiocese of Hartford and St. Francis and Hartford Hospitals – along with grants from foundations, corporations, and family funds and thousands of individual donors.

For more information about Malta House of Care, visit www.maltahouseofcare.org.

Graduation

Continued from Page 2

Education helps to shape our decisions and actions; education helps in broadening our minds and provides alternative perspectives, and this can change our outlook and approach to the world.

Most would agree that we should help students pursue educational goals and develop skills in areas like communication, critical thinking, collaboration, and problem solving.

We should be teaching students the reasons why they need to stay in school, pay attention, and earn a diploma. And when they graduate, the entire village ought to join in the celebrations and congratulations.

What if our inner-city students continue to fail? Who will be the future educators and administrators; engineers, including designing our roadways and bridges, the science and mathematics teachers? Who will be the physicians, nurses, and other

healthcare providers? Who will be the ones to make a difference in various career fields?

What will break the cycle of the “poor getting poorer?” Will there be another or more investors and philanthropists? Robert F. Smith, commencement speaker at Morehouse, an all-male historical black college in Atlanta, surprised the graduating class of 400 seniors, to provide grants to wipe out the students’ debts of the 2019 entire graduating class, an estimated 40 million dollars.

The current need is for a strategic motivational and recruiting plan to stop low academic performance and the absenteeism among inner-city students.

Our long-range plan ought to include inspiring our students to become teachers and administrators, with the commitment to create opportunities and access for all students to attain a better life by being nurtured to stay in school, finish school and become whatever they want to become.

This nurturing starts very early in life, from a child is born—

mothers or fathers read to your child and from an early age. Teach and reinforce values: kindness, respect, self-control, honesty, patience, thankfulness, and other virtues.

How can we save our inner-city students and assure them equity and access to quality education leading to career of their choice.

With the above values instilled in students’ lives and practice, teachers will be more devoted to more teaching and learning taking place, students experiencing success, access of one’s choice and now inner-city families are participating in economic growth.

Who would not join this mother, who at the graduation of her son and upon hearing her son’s name being called and he walked across the stage to receive his degree, she could not contain herself.

She was jumping, dancing, and rejoicing. She was exhilarated in joy and happiness. She knew the many hurdles.

Congratulations! He made it and there is a bright future before him.


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WISC Celebrates 69th Anniversary Ball



Front row from left: Robert Williston Jr, Christine Grant, Joyce Bennett, Carol Green-Stewart, Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin. Back row from left: Hector Rivera, Linford Miller, Caswell Sewell, WISC Chairman Errol Smith, Dr. Robert Clarke, and Devon May

By Mark D. Milward

The West Indian Social Club of Hartford (WISC), Inc. celebrated its 69th Anniversary Ball on May 4, 2019 with an audience to capacity at its 17,000 sq. ft. facilities in Hartford, Connecticut.

The organization founded by Jamaicans and West Indian farm workers in 1950 continues to be a viable asset to the Greater Hartford community in areas of entertainment, Caribbean cultural awareness, education, health, business development, immigration matters, and other civic-related concerns of the public.

The annual affair is also the occasion when the organization honors local and regional individuals for their service of various sectors.

This year's honorees included: Carol Green-Stewart, community service, Baltimore, MD; Caswell Sewell, ministry, Hartford, CT; Christine Grant, community service, Bloomfield, CT; Dr. Robert Clarke, health, Newark, New Jersey; Hector Rivera, community service, Bloomfield, CT; Joyce Bennett, Hartford, CT, broadcasting and community service; Linford Miller, Hartford, CT, community service; Robert Williston Jr. Hartford, CT, young professional; Devon May, Hartford, CT, community service; and Frances Ocansey, Hartford, CT, 2019 WISC Member of the Year.

Former Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez, and former Bloomfield Mayor Attorney Sidney Schulman both turned

out for support and recognition of the organization's achievements.

Also present at the event were current Hartford Mayor, Hon. Luke Bronin and current Bloomfield Mayor, Hon. Suzette DeBeatham. Other dignitaries included Consul General Mackie Holder of Barbados and Lisa Bryan Smart, Consul General of Jamaica, New York.

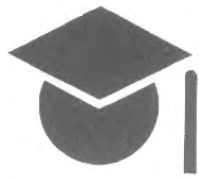
Keynote remarks were delivered by WISC's Board of Directors Chairman Errol Smith.

He took the opportunity to explain the organization's move that changed its precedent in having an elected president to examine the effectiveness of establishing a Board of Directors headed by a chairman and that was approved by WISC membership.

The Caribbean American Dance Company delighted the attendees with its performance. Congratulatory shout outs on the WISC 69th Anniversary, and National Caribbean American Heritage Month from Jamaica came from Kerry-Ann Henry, principal dancer, National Dance Theater Company of Jamaica, Ann-Margaret Lim, Jamaican poet who previously recited at the WISC 67 Anniversary, and Neisha-Yen Jones, TV host, "Daytime TV," TVJ, Kingston, Jamaica. WISC's Vice Chairman, Ogegwu Cornaldo Agbese kept the evening moving with his performing the Master of Ceremonies duties.

Coverage of the event was provided by Hartford Public Access TV and "The Jamaica Diaspora Show."

A broadcast of the event and awards ceremony will be aired on HPATV Channel 5, coming soon. Watch for announcement date on The Jamaica Diaspora Show's Facebook page.



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The Diminished Sense Of Awe

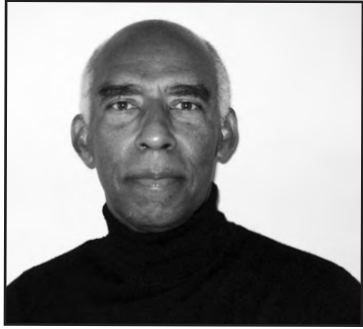
Perhaps you have stood, gazed, and pondered Niagara Falls from the Canadian side. Most people marvel with astonishment at the power of the water moving over rocks that date back thousands of years.

If you have stood as near to the falls as is permissible, you arrive at a sense of wonder. Scientists say six million feet of water rushes over the falls at 25 miles an hour every minute. The roar of the water and the vibrations that are felt in the overlook, are attributable to that fact.

Gazing at it allowing the senses to take it all in. It evokes awe. It's the marriage of power and beauty. Those who have visited Paris describe the Cathedral of Notre Dame, before its destructive fire, as awesome in its evocative message as a place revered for its architectural craftsmanship, its ingenuity in capturing the iconic reverence that soars towards the heavens in recognition of who is believed to be there.

The designers and craftsmen who conceived it as an achievement intended to display man's sense of an all-inspiring, transcendent God have in the process produced that which is rightly called awe.

Awe is one of those words that has entered the category of



Jim Daniels

meaninglessness because of its overuse. It has become an overused descriptor of human behavior.

You hear the part-time little league coach shout "awesome" when the five-year-old hits the baseball thrown to him from 20 feet by another five-year-old. Tiger Woods' success at the Masters at Augusta National has sports writers and commentators scratching their heads in describing his return to golf's limelight without having to use the word awe or any of its variations. But is that what awe looks like?

It may be remarkable even unprecedented, but it does evoke wonder, dead or inspiration in the category of significant accomplishments. But awe is attached to an emotion that is described as having aspects of dread or fear.

When I gazed at Niagara Falls, I certainly had a sense of fearful apprehension. Those "what if" question tugged at my mind. I

thought of those who had perished going over the falls, and there have been more than a few, what that experience must have been like and those who relived that experience over and over again because they survived.

Yes, awe is more that just the heavenward reaching of the senses because of the incomprehensible. The actions of heroes often evoke awe.

Riley Howell, 21, was among students gathered for end-of-year presentations in an anthropology class, recently, at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte when a man with a pistol began shooting. Howell and another student, 19-year-old Ellis Parlier, were killed, and four others were wounded. Howell attacked and wrestled with the attacker and gave his life to spare his fellow classmates.

This principled conduct does evoke, for me, awe. The words of Missionary Jim Elliott are descriptive, "He is no fool who gives what he for cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

The Office of President of the United States has for centuries seen periods of awesomeness and other periods of distressingly reduced low regard for the office holder. Americans, like many people around the world, have had that experience as well. In Jamaica, the period of

low regard for the prime minister as office holder occurred during the Michael Manley terms in office.

Two presidents of the United States that understood the meaning and symbolism of the office were Harry S. Truman and Lyndon B. Johnson. Today, we have an occupant of the Oval Office who totally lacks any grasp of what the Office of the President means both in substance and symbolism.

We have never ever had a president who lies incessantly; whose character is persistently called into question; whose word cannot be trusted; who is so ridiculed and demeaned because of so many violations of the charge and traditions of the office he holds.

Mr. Trump with no sense of history, it appears, and intends to make his office his personal possession

to accomplish his purpose for self-aggrandizement.

The president, as the ultimate representative of Americans, speaks for all Americans on certain fundamental principles around which we all do agree.

When we see that intangible quality on display, when character and authority arrive at synergy, we are filled with awe knowing that much of the world stands with us on those principles as well. That now seems to be a fading expectation.

The office may endure, but awe has lost some of its shine and regrettably that might just be the intention of the current office holder. How can we be great in any sense of the world if the nation's leader cannot be believed? We are going to wait a while before our sense of awe over the Office of the Presidency returns.

Let's Make A House A Home!



Christopher A. Service Sr.

Many West Indians have survived in spite of the humble upbringing they might have had. There was always someone around who emphasized the importance of respect for others, appreciation of what is owned, as well as the importance of acknowledging a Superior Being.

Whereas the preceding thoughts do not fully explain what a home is, they do attempt to enhance and possibly emphasize what 'home' should be.

As I see it, much emphasis is placed on the acquisition of not just one but many houses; that is indeed commendable. What

should also be equally commendable is the quality of life that exists in the houses. Are any of those houses homes?

Many find themselves so involved with the acquisition of houses that they pay little attention to the quality of life that should exist where they live.

I am tempted to think that many believe that the quality of life that exists where one lives is of little importance. As I see it, those West Indians who are of that mindset need to rethink their perspectives.

Those who are familiar with the passage in the Bible that brings to consciousness, "What shall it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his own soul," should take note.

Many West Indians come from the type of family that promoted saying: 'grace before meals'; saying a 'prayer before going to bed'; saying 'please,' 'thank you,' 'good morning,' and 'good night,' among others practices, manners, and social graces.

With the acquisition of 'wealth' much of the foregoing is either forgotten or deemphasized. Many may remember a song made popular by a famous American singer touting, 'a house is not a home.' As I recall, that song, old though it may be, was on target. I wish to invite readers to get a copy of that song and listen to it.

Let me hope that no one reading this article is getting the impression that I am recommending that houses should not be acquired. Far from it!

What I am suggesting is: the quality of life that exists where one lives should be of more importance than the acquisition of houses.

I am suggesting that what many of us West Indians were taught when we had less material wealth, should still be practices.

Those who now say, "my granny or grandpa used to say . . ." should now be the ones who say "let's make our house a place where there is love and respect; a place where basic family values are taught and practiced; a place where those who live in that house appreciate what they have acquired but remember what things were like before the acquisition. Let's make our house a home! That is as I see it.

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Easter Observance, Other Practices: Critical Checks And Balances

By Leon Fraser

Here we are again on the lower threshold of a season known as Easter, a junction of life that has intangible markers of a transition period that we have adopted or being assigned by the ones that brought us to these shores of western society as we know it; a society that we, as people of African descent, are forever in a category that is not envied by anyone.

Now, if we were to be punctilious and attempt to align the bunnies, eggs, the crucifixion and resurrection of the individual known as Christ can cause a head scratching moment.

What is the significance of bunny rabbits and eggs at Easter? How is it that the resurrection occurs at different times of the year based on the calendar we use? Is the calendar accurate? Is it compatible with what was first used? Who had the first?

In 1999, there was global anxiety due to interpretation of the Mayan calendar, saying that there will be catastrophes on a grand scale, but that didn't happen.

Is there an Ethiopian calendar, or one from Khemet? Is the Kushite calendar the hidden one? The Chinese observe their particular calendar complete with their own calculations and names despite the adherence to what is observed across the globe. So

which calendar is correct?

The celebration of Easter in the western world is seen as a rebirth, renewal, reaffirmation of the belief that He has risen; that is Christ. In this hemisphere the western doctrine rules, and questions that are directed at the philosophical foundations of this doctrine that we have inherited are not welcomed.

A doctrine that was forced to our ancestors to ensure docility and a deviation from a cultural thread that was designed to keep the empire of cotton and plantation life intact.

As folks of African ancestry we know that our lineage stretches further back than the holocaust of the slave trade and further back than the dates of King James' chronicles.

In the study of forensic anthropology and research there are set contingencies and parameters that must be meticulously observed in order to ensure that the integrity of the task is uncompromised so as to guarantee a standard of accuracy in the different tests and measurements that are used to arrive at a result.

Based on results that have been made public in different spheres, there is sufficient information available for an inquiring mind to soak up and assess. So, again I ask the rhetorical question, whose calendar is the correct one? The Romans or the Greeks?

Was it the work of scholars

in their society, or was it the work of scholars of occupied territories during the expansion of each empire? Where was the alignment with the older established society of the Ethiopian empire? Or was it because there was no need to give the enslaved a picture of past grandeur and splendor so that there could be no desire to reclaim that past?

If Africa was an empire at a certain time where are their records of advances? Many creations are credited to those out of Europe, but none to Africa. The signing of the treaty of Tordisellias between Spain and Portugal where the license to begin human trafficking was granted by the Pope of Rome, was another rung of the ladder to create a narrative giving the Caucasians a role of power over their counterparts from the continent of Africa.

With that in mind there could not be any references to the greatness of the Kushite kingdom or the greatness of the Kings of Africa.

In schools we learn about the trials and tribulations of European kings and queens, but nothing of the great centers of learning at the time. Where did the Greek Hippocrates and Aristotle get their education? Who was the great king before the installation of Ptolemy? Where were the medical records of the illustrious queen Hatshepsut? If the queen had a standing army of battalions of women knowing the

peculiar makeup of women, she must have had a good procedure to ensure the women were battle ready.

There are medical records that contained procedures followed. Who were the doctors for the Pharaohs?

In this day and age there is still a mystery about the methods used in the preservation of the bodies of the kings of Egypt, yet no one, either in the medical, religious, and or anthropological circles will publicly acknowledge that the records of the kings are being used as a measure of the progress of the modern medicine.

In all the circles of control there is a fear that if such information were to be made public what would happen? How would it change existing perceptions? Would it change the world order? Maybe, maybe not, but as independent research has proven, truth crushed to the earth will rise.

The preceding thoughts are to give a foundation to the question as to why we observe a particular time of the year, on the calendar used as that of Easter observance. Is that relevant to us as African people? Why are there no stories of black greatness, especially in the realm of spirituality or religion?

With the advent of the electronic platforms ordinary persons must do a bit of research and put that information in cyberspace.

Gatekeepers can no longer control information. Now more than ever there are multiple sources for everyone to check 'alternate facts' and make informed decisions. Ask questions: Are observations in conjunction with the book of stories—the Bible.

How many religious leaders observe their doctrine? Is it better to give than to receive; how many do? Where is a preacher that is poor? There is none. Why has the system agreed to not put a tax on religious circles, structures, and protocol?

Do your own research and stop the blind following. Read, read, and re-read; read your books but also books by other people that give a different opinion of the same topic.

The time is now for everyone to know and not believe. Follow the information that is available, make sensible and informed decisions. Look at images that we have been given for a long time. Are the rules authenticated and in conjunction with social norms? Look for documents emanating out of Asia or the lands called out in the book of stories, the Bible.

For the astute, research the Gutenberg press, the first printing press, and what was printed. See if it is similar in style as to how academic circles get their books from the various agencies that give us books in the circle of academia that we need to observe. Be mindful and *upfull*.

Caribbean Tidbits

Cameron, Nanthan thank Caribbean people

Kingston, Jamaica - Former Cricket West Indies President Dave Cameron and his Vice-President Emmanuel Nanthan have thanked the Caribbean people for the support they gave during the pair's tenure in office and said they have left "a foundation on which there is much to build."

"Before our departure we set in motion a strategy—the creation of a financial bond—that would deal with the peaks and troughs of CWI's revenue. We also left you, the Caribbean people, with an ever-improving young and committed squad of players, who have provided us a surge of pride in our hearts, having regained the Wisden trophy," Cameron and Nanthan said in a letter to the people of the Caribbean. Cameron, who was elected CWI president in March 2013, lost the position to former West Indies team manager Ricky Skerritt in a hotly contested poll in March this year.

The Little Authors of St Joseph's Infant School

Kingston, Jamaica - A program aimed at honing the writing skills of above-average students is proving a source of pride and joy for the principal and teachers of St Joseph's Infant School on Duke Street, downtown Kingston. According to Principal Rosemarie Clarke, the 'Little Authors' initiative, which results in the students writing

books, is run parallel to an intervention program that targets those who are operating below average "because we want to offer additional experiences to bring them to the level of their peers".

"The students who we saw performing above average are the ones who have completed writing their books and are our Little Authors. Reading in particular is practiced all the time, hence our library. The students are encouraged to go there and read, borrow a book, and after completing a book, they have to tell their teacher what the book was about. We focus a lot on literacy here at St Joseph's Infant," Clarke explained.

Patterson's book is recommended Bridgetown, Barbados

Prime Minister Mia Mottley has hailed former Jamaica Prime Minister PJ Patterson's book, 'My Political Journey' as recommended reading for any student of politics. Mottley was speaking at the book launch at the Sagicor Cave Hill School of Business and Management on May 30th. "There is no more consummate political practitioner in the post-Independence Caribbean than Percival Noel James Patterson. His exploits, his tactics, his strategy are legendary."

"And for all who have been a student of politics, you would do well to recognize that this book is worth reading, but more importantly, the ability to exchange with a Caribbean giant is an oppor-

tunity you should not pass by," she said. Patterson was Jamaica's sixth Prime Minister who held office from 1992 to 2006.

Data Protection Bill offers stiff fines for breaches – Senator Bridgetown, Barbados

Stiff penalties, as much as half-a-million dollars, are coming for criminally mismanaging personal information under a new Data Protection Act introduced this month in Parliament. A data czar to police Barbadians' personal data is to be created by the law, to be formally titled Data Protection Commissioner, backed up by a tribunal and additional officers. There are other sanctions for non-compliance with the law's requirements, with data breaches attracting the most severe of the penalties, said Minister of Innovation, Science and Smart Technology, Senator Kay McConney

as she introduced the bill in the Upper Chamber.

Andaiye, revolutionary rights activist, dies at 77 Georgetown, Guyana

Co-founder of Red Thread Guyana and former executive member of the Working People's Alliance (WPA) Andaiye, AA, lost her battle with cancer on May 31st, 2019 and was remembered as a revolutionary, who fought hard to protect the rights of citizens and particularly women and children. She was 77.

Andaiye wore many hats during her lifetime, including that of a writer, educator, activist, and politician. Three of her closest friends, Jocelyn Dow, Bonita Harris, and Vanda Radzik, told Sunday Stabroek of the numerous contributions she had made over the years, which was an indication of the impact she had made.

Opposition Spokesperson on Finance delivers blows to the Minnis Government

Nassau, Bahamas

Flanked by the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Philip Brave Davis, and other Opposition Nassau, Parliamentarians, Deputy leader of the PLP and the member for Exuma and Ragged Island, the Hon. I. Chester Cooper, delivered the Opposition's statement in response to the government's budget statement delivered by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Hon. Peter Turnquest.

Mr. Cooper characterized the government's statement as gibberish. Further, he chastised the government for missing its revenue and expense targets, for excessive borrowing and the absence of a pro-growth strategy that will create jobs for Bahamians.

Happy Father's Day!

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Make Summer Count For All Students

By Carol Johnson

The holidays are here; the long summer months fast approaching. Parents, what are your plans for your children this summer? Are you aware that summer learning loss naturally occurs when children are not engaged academically for long periods of time?

Have you given a thought about boosting your children's learning experience this summer, and what to do about this?

Research has shown that students' skills and knowledge usually decline during the summer months, with low-income students facing the largest losses.

Even with long-term and ongoing efforts to close the achievement gap between disadvantaged and advantaged students, low-income students continue to perform at considerably lower levels than their higher-income peers in reading and mathematics, not

because low-income students lack brain capacity—this is far from the truth. Parents, this does not have to be the reality for your children; you can do something and change this dilemma.

Many children are missing out on meaningful exposures, opportunities and experiences; and in general do not have access to stimulating and caring environments to open up their minds with thought-provoking ideas that inspire and motivate children's developing capabilities and talents.

On going instruction during the summer has the potential to stop summer learning losses and propel students toward higher achievement levels.

Students need to be engaged during the long summer months. Incessant TV watching, uninspiring activities, and aimlessly roaming the streets are not good choices. Can you imagine the waste of brain capacity and potentials?

The wise parents (whether described as advantaged, disadvantaged, low income, or any other tags dubbed on parents) choose to have their children involved in academic and enrichment programs, enabling their children to get on the fast track when the new school year begins in the fall. Summer-engaged students don't miss a beat! They have their marching orders to continue learning during the summer!

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

That's what sets CURET's summer programs apart for the past 27 years. CURET's Summer School Programs are well thought out to reinforce skills in reading, mathematics, and promote learning in and outside the classroom with field

trips, making learning both work and fun!

Parents, do you want their kids to have a head start and keep pace during the summer in an enriched, fun setting? (See ad below). The immersion of reading, writing, mathematics; the infusion of arts, crafts, and problem solving help to boost children's critical thinking skills and creativity, cultural music, dance, and field trips are fun activities.

So parents, what's the best thing you can do for your kids this summer? Ensure that they attend CURET's summer school programs of work and fun! Parents, don't be deceived, summer school works for ALL students.

And for parents whose new-arriving kids may have gotten their visa approval notice and will be migrating soon to this area, this is also for you and your children! Summer school is a **MUST** for your kids to become acclimated to their

new school environment, adjust and make new friends. Upon arriving in the area this summer, enroll your children in CURET's Summer Programs. They will get a head start for the new school year and also stem summer learning loss.

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

The Recreational Programs in the afternoon include arts and crafts; computer; music and dance enhancing creativity, fun and cultural experiences, plus the field trips on Fridays are additional benefits.

To learn more about CURET Summer School Program, please call 860-247-0123 or email: info@curetinc.org. Registration is swelling, classes are filling up, don't delay!



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