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Scott: An Extraordinary Life Of Service



George A. Scott



Vince Vincent singing the song "Ave Maria" at funeral service for George A. Scott, September 29, 2019 at Christ Church Cathedral, Hartford, CT. Photo: Mark Milward

By Edgar Johnson

Greater Hartford community bids farewell to George Alexander Scott—an extraordinary life of service as an educator, renowned entrepreneur, businessman and civic visionary leader. Well done, you faithful servant!

Born in Jamaica, George grew up in St. Andrew and graduated from high school, Kingston

College, taught in Kingston, fond of cricket sport, became captain of a national championship cricket team, and soon was recruited to teach at Knox College in Clarendon, Jamaica. With the help of the Rev. Davidson, principal, Knox College, George secured a scholarship to attend the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, earning his degree in

psychology and moral philosophy with honors. After graduation, George returned to Knox College, met his wife Pauline, and soon became the second principal of Knox College.

However, after George's 10-year tenure at Knox College and with the couple's growing family and the need for higher education, compounded by the failing Jamaica economy of the 1970s, the Scotts' family made the tough decision to explore

other opportunities. In 1977 the family migrated to Toronto, Canada in order to earn some real money to educate their children. In Toronto they started a bakery business and after two years, the family moved to Hartford, CT and opened Hartford West Indian Bakery, on Albany Avenue. Yet, wherever George and his family went, he always remembers Spalding and Knox College.

In reflecting on the life history of George Scott, Dr. Barbara Jones, a former principal of Knox College, colleague and friend of George, said: "When he left Jamaica he left a legacy of kindness and generosity to Spalding and the Knox community. The Spalding Library is a mark of his generosity and commitment."

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U.S. Citizenship Pays Off

HARTFORD, CT:

There is something exciting on becoming a citizen of the United States. Natalie McIntosh is filled with overwhelming joy and happiness. Recently, she earned her American Citizenship Certificate. She is just bubbling over with joy.

However, for Natalie, to get to this point there were many rivers to cross. She hails from Hanover, Jamaica. For her, in Jamaica life was hard.

She was captivated by the American dreams—the push and pull factors—hearing the news about America, seeing visitors and fellow Jamaicans, and family members from America and how they all looked good. She said she could not resist the push and the pull factors.

And of course, she is ambitious and was looking for opportunities to access and improve herself. So in August 2013 Natalie immigrated to the United States—landed in Florida and "for a time I was in shock. It was not the America that I used to hear about. It was not a bed of

roses or money growing on trees. Life in America is not as easy as they all have said while I was living in Jamaica," she said.

According to Natalie, upon arriving in the United States, "I saw how hard people have to work. So I said to myself, 'Oh, if I had known I would not come here.' Some people are working from one job to another; some work around the clock to make ends meet. Many times, I thought of returning to Jamaica. Life is a little hard in Jamaica but still, life is not so rough," she said.

From Florida, Natalie moved to Hartford, CT. Soon she heard about CURET Caribbean Resource Center and the CURET Adult Education to Employment Program. "I reached out to CURET and I am glad I did," she said.

"At CURET, I felt at home. It was like a family, staff and teachers showed such interest in students, the motivation and resources were great. Everything one needs to succeed was right there. I buckled down with my math, English, acquired computer and technology

skills; got into the Transition to College Program that CURET has in partnership with Capital Community College; earned my high school diploma; and has returned to CURET to give back, inspiring, encouraging, and tutoring students at CURET.

For Natalie, she said she has seen the fruits of her tutoring. Several students have earned their high school diplomas and moved on to better jobs. So, in addition to her program at Manchester Community College, she is motivating students at CURET.

And for citizenship, Natalie is encouraging everyone to become a citizen. "I am feeling happy. I can vote; my voice can be heard. I have nothing to lose. I do not have to give up my natural Jamaican citizenship. I have dual citizenship. Get your American citizenship. It's very important," Natalie said.

For more about CURET: Adult Education Program, call (860) 247-0123 or send email to: info@curetinc.org



Natalie McIntosh

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Extraordinary Life Of Service

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ment to community. The Knox Benevolent fund was also crafted to provide funds to help needy students,” she added:

“George will be remembered by Knox alumni as one who truly loved his students, held before them high expectations and encouraged everyone to succeed. I have yet to meet someone who is able to keep his cool and his head even when all around him are losing theirs, but not George Scott. No wonder he earned the name ‘Johnny Cool’ from some of his students.

I can’t remember hearing Mr. Scott shout at anyone, even at the most unruly student, or some rambunctious member of the staff. While not keeping silent he spoke his truth quietly and clearly and received the desired effect,” Jones said.

George brought the same energy, love, and cares for all students and staff at Knox College and applied the same principles to his business practice at Scotts’ Jamaican Bakery outlets and in serving his clients. They have as much concern for the people who work for them as they have for the consumers.

Their relationship with the workers does not begin and end when they come into work and leave. They take an interest in the workers’ wellbeing and encourage them.

Whenever there are opportunities, for example, to improve their work skills, education, improving reading and writing skills, they encouraged them to



The Scotts’ Family in 1994 (Seated from left) Rachael, George and Pauline; (Back) Michael, Gordon and Robert integrating economic development with people and community development

register in CURET’s Adult Education to Employment Program. If there are housing opportunities to purchase a house, they encouraged them, showing them the ropes. Since the Bakery business started a large percent of workers have bought houses. Workers are encouraged to own something.

After more than 40 years, Scotts’ Jamaican Bakery has expanded, adding two retail outlets and a manufacturing plant. Former Hartford Councilwoman Veronica Airey-Wilson said the Scotts could have moved their manufacturing business outside of Hartford. But they remain in Hartford and are making significant impact on the economic strength of the city of

Hartford and the vibrancy of the community.

Airey-Wilson is not short of telling anecdotes on remembering George’s impact in the community and on his workers. She related true stories of the West Indian community’s cultural practice on what is referred to as “throwing in partners.” This is a well-structured operation, with a treasurer, members that make up the group, and a drawing schedule. She shared many tidbits about fellow West Indians running into a problem with banks not familiar with the West Indian cultural “partnership draw”—many buying a home, would go to a bank with large sums, for example, \$10,000 or \$20,000, or other large amounts in

cash. Bankers often have real problems with such an amount in cash. Airey-Wilson said that George had to meet with bank officials to explain the cultural practice. He had to develop a position paper to educate the bankers.

Clearly, George was an asset in the community and one who will be difficult to replace. “The hope is that his legacy of life, finding solutions to problems, education and learning he has left will continue,” Airey-Wilson said.

Scotts’ Jamaican Bakery has integrated economic strength and community empowerment, genuine personal care for workers, visionary and a real anchor in Hartford and the region, and with open arms and the all-inclusive “Welcome Home” catchphrase and the works of art etched on the side of the facility that straddles the Adam Street and Albany Avenue intersection. This strategic location of the Scotts’ Jamaican Bakery building conveys an enduring message to the community, a legacy for life.

“In my opinion, hands down! Scotts’ Jamaican Bakery has the best patties one can ever find anywhere outside of Jamaica. I grew up on those patties. Mr. Scott has left a great legacy,” said Crista Johnson, MD, MSc, FACOG.

George, 92, died peacefully at his home with his family, Monday, September 16, 2019. He is survived by his wife Pauline; children: Gordon C. Scott; Robert C. Scott; Rachael N. Beare, and Michael G. Scott; niece Ruth A. Watt; Nephew George H. Scott; and eight grandchildren. The Scott family entrusted the Carmon Windsor Funeral Home with the arrangements. Our condolence to all members of the Scott family!

Caribbean Tidbits

Jackson wants Gov’t. to resume functions of Police Records Office

KINGSTON, Jamaica - Opposition Spokesman on National Security, Fitz Jackson, wants the Government to take steps to immediately resume the functions of the Police Records Office, which was closed a few weeks ago on September 15, due to poor air quality. “Given the importance of the service to thousands of Jamaicans, I am calling on the government to put in place viable, temporary measures that will safeguard the health of the workers and continue to make the service available to the public at large,” Jackson said. The shadow national security minister noted that the Police Records Office provides vital and necessary services to Jamaican nationals as well as to entities in the financial, tourism and transportation sectors. * * *

Port Maria market 85% complete

ST. MARY, Jamaica - The long-awaited market in Port Maria, St Mary is to be opened soon as it is approximately 85 per cent complete, according to the chair of the parish’s Municipal Corporation Mayor Richard Creary. “Painting is to be finished, stalls need to be put in place, parking spaces are also to be worked on, but the bathrooms are completed as we speak,” Creary told Jamaica Observer North & East last week, adding that only minor work is left to be done. The two-story market, which is said to be the first of its kind in the island, will accommodate vendors on the ground floor, while the first floor will have shop space for rent. Work on the market began in July 2018 when Minister of Local Government and Community Development Desmond McKenzie broke ground for the construction of the facility. A total of \$66 million has been budgeted for the “modern”

facility, which formed part of a \$400-million island wide project by the Government to improve markets across the country in financial year 2018/19. * * *

CDEMA hands over to Bahamas govt.

ABACO, Bahamas - Nearly four weeks after hurricane Dorian slammed the Bahamian islands of Grand Bahama and Abaco, the Barbados-based Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) is preparing to restore key operations to the government. And while CDEMA’s Executive Director Ronald Jackson revealed Bahamian authorities are now “shifting gears” from emergency to recovery, he revealed that there are numerous people still in need. “There will still be continued humanitarian support driven mainly by the government. As a government, they were not devastated by the events, so they remain intact and we are handing back over

to the government for their continued leadership,” said Jackson. All telecommunications have been restored in Abaco and 80 per cent in Grand Bahama. Water supply on Abaco is at 67 per cent and 30 per cent in Grand Bahama and officials are working feverishly to return power to the badly affected areas. Addressing a press conference during the signing of an MOU between CDEMA and petroleum company, SOL Caribbean, Jackson disclosed that the establishment of a new Disaster Preparedness Ministry in the northern Caribbean country signaled the end of CDEMA’s mission.

Minister calls for a united Labor movement

NASSAU, Bahamas - While Government appreciates the role of the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados (CTUSAB), it is eager to see unity among the labor movement. Minister

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The Passing Of Edward Seaga



Edward Phillip George Seaga
Fifth Prime Minister of Jamaica from 1980 to 1989

The passing of former Prime Minister of Jamaica Edward Seaga, presents an opportunity to scan this leader's contribution to the nation of Jamaica and his influence internationally.

This author presents excerpts from a very lengthy and detailed essay written by Jamaican, Dr. Horace Campbell, Professor of African American Studies and Political Science at Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York and published in the magazine Counterpunch.

As the leader of the Jamaica Labor Party (JLP) from 1974 to 2005, Mr. Seaga was associated with the refinement of a mode of politics that garrisoned poor Jamaicans into areas controlled by political contractors, is the way Campbell's essay begins.

Edward Philip George Seaga was born in Boston in May 1930 to a Jamaican-Lebanese family and died peacefully in Miami, Florida on May 2019.

In the ensuing 89 years, his insecurity regarding his identity and his wish to be accepted as part of the Jamaican ruling oligarchy sent him into a career to become an expert on Jamaicans of African descent.

According to writer Bruce Eder, Seaga went from being the country's most important music producer and record company owner to Prime Minister of Jamaica. He graduated in 1952 from Harvard University with a B.A. degree in Social Science.

In 1955 he supervised the recording of an album of ethnic music, a project that was the result of scholarly research in which he'd been involved. His political career began in 1959 when Sir Alexander Bustamante, the founder of the Jamaican Labor Party nominated him to serve in the Senate.

Edward Seaga published a two-volume autobiography in which he praised unfettered capitalism, ideology that endeared him to President Ronald Reagan and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher during his tenure as a public servant.

This ideological outlook defined his career as he opted to mobilize the human and material resources of Jamaica to establish sweat shop conditions, opposing black liberation in Jamaica and in Africa, opposing the Cuban revolution and spearheading the invasion of Grenada in 1983.

The elections in April 1962 brought the JLP to power as the first government that would usher in independence from Britain. August 6, 1962 was designated as the date of independence.

Edward Seaga was an activist of the JLP and he was

named the Minister of Development and Welfare from 1962 to 1967. Seaga had contested the elections in April 1962 against three other candidates who ran on explicit African values and orientation.

He mobilized the resources of the JLP and the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union (BITU) to win the West Kingston constituency and represented himself as a messianic leader. He was the 'white man' who the black masses would follow

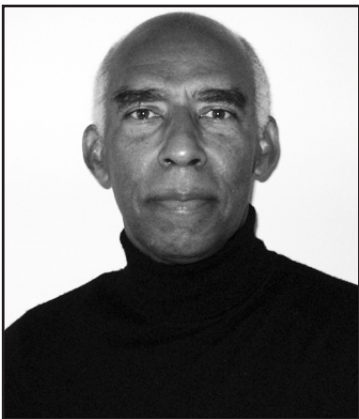
became the narrative of the JLP.

In Jamaican society, Edward Seaga was known as the don of the dons (enforcers) and the architect of a new form of housing called the garrison. Garrisons were and are a veritable fortress where the dominant party and or its local agents and supporters exercise control over all significant political, economic and community related social activities.

During his tenure as Minister of Finance 1967-1972, Seaga had strengthened the financial institutions to fully wrest economic power from the old planter classes that had discriminated against the Lebanese/Syrians.

The Bauxite and Tourist industries had created new poles of accumulation away from sugar plantations, banana production, and cocoa farming.

Mr. Seaga became the Prime Minister of Jamaica in 1980. He was not fully vested in his position before he traveled to Washington and to New York to ingratiate



Jim Daniels

himself with David Rockefeller and the decision of the IMF to change the funding conditionalities for Jamaica.

By the time Ronald Reagan was inaugurated as the President of the United States in January 1981,

Seaga was the first world leader to be invited to the White House. It was in the context of these meetings in 1981 where Seaga sold himself as an opponent of organized labor.

This orientation started the long road of the debasement of the Jamaican workers and the introduction of sweat shop conditions in Jamaica.

This work of placing Jamaica in the ranks against basic democratic rights endeared Seaga to the conservatives internationally, and he was honored by President Reagan with the Freedom Foundation's American Friendship medal for his "furtherance of democratic institutions" and "courageous leadership in the cause of freedom for all people."

What most Jamaicans did not know was that the International Freedom Foundation was the anticommunist front established to support regimes such as the apartheid government of South Africa.

Edward Seaga is dead. Jamaican and Caribbean scholars can now lift the self-censorship they had imposed on themselves during the lifetime of Seaga.

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Caribbean Heritage Exhibit Tells Stories

HARTFORD, CT: When President Barack Obama declared through a proclamation on May 29, 2015 to be National Caribbean American Heritage Month, he acknowledged the contributions of Caribbean immigrants shaping the course of American history. Connecticut was the site of one of these major developments, especially Hartford.

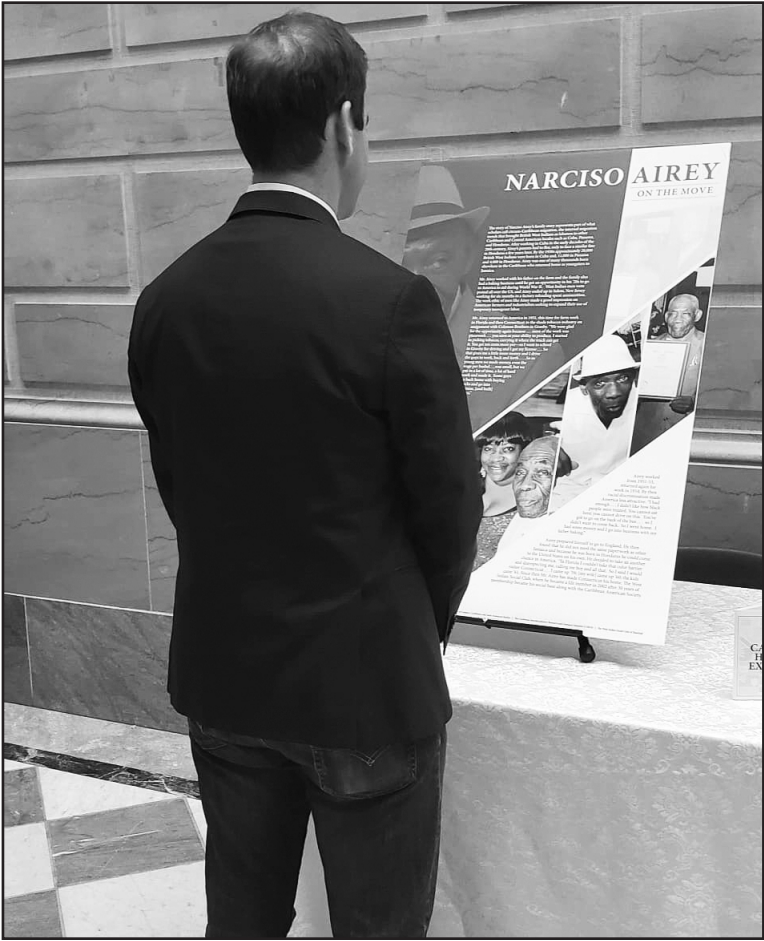
In 2010, West Indians surpassed all other ethnic groups to become the largest population of foreign-born immigrants in Connecticut. This demographic trend was eight decades in the making, with the original kernel of this population arriving as guest workers in the Hartford region in the 1940s through bilateral labor agreements between British West Indian colonies and the United States.

By the time these wartime labor opportunities appeared, a significant Caribbean population had settled in New York, a population that had already grown to over 50,000 by the 1930s. In Connecticut, the draw was primarily the tobacco industry, which benefited from the labor distributed through the industrial and agricultural concessions made for wartime.

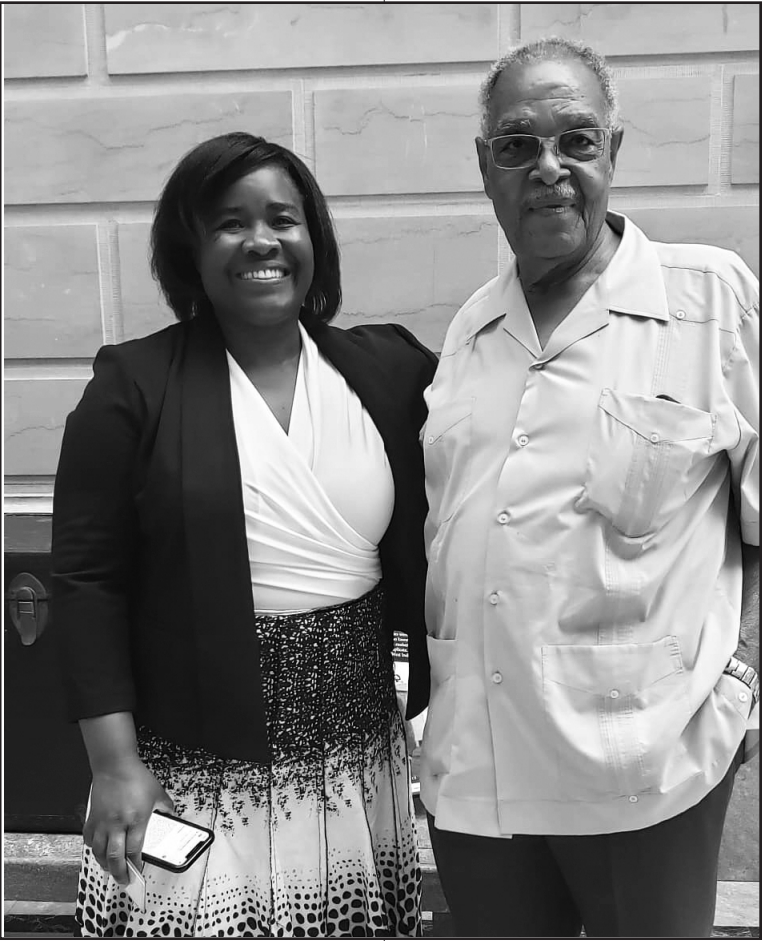
The Diaspora of Caribbean workers established a post-emancipation labor tradition that created new spaces to recast and renegotiate the labor of black men and later, women.

Some of these guest workers married African-American women, forming a nascent West Indian community. Facing discrimination, they founded their own social, religious and athletic organizations as autonomous cultural spaces and networks beginning with the West Indian Social Club in 1950, followed by the Caribbean American Society, the Barbados American Society, the Trinidad & Tobago American Society, the Jamaica Progressive League, the St Lucia American Society and the Cricket Hall of Fame among others.

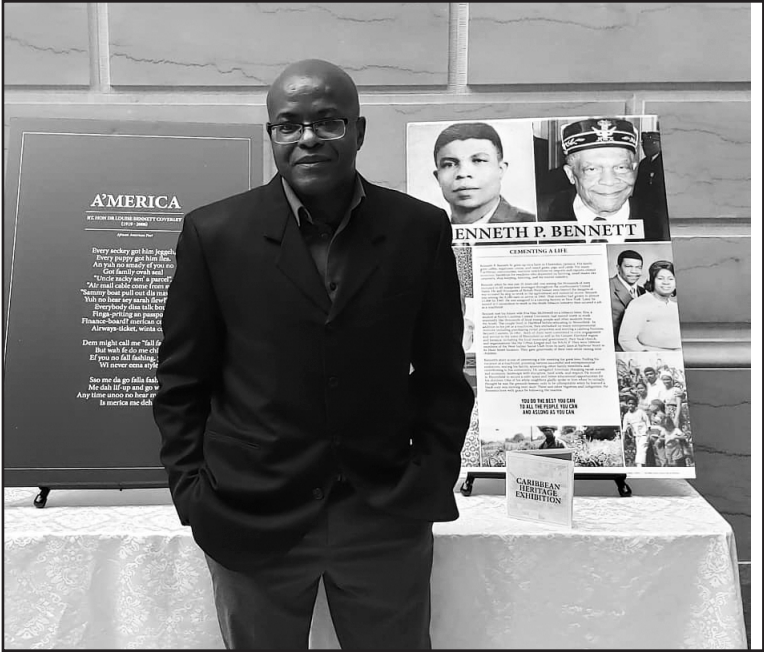
The recent Caribbean Heritage Exhibition at Hartford's City Hall Atrium explores the rich tapestry of West Indian immigration narratives about belonging, heritage, place-making and identity-formation in Connecticut. This story is deeply connected to other narratives of making Connecticut home, of the Great Migrations of African Americans from the South and Puerto Ricans resettling from



Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin observing the exhibit



Historian Dr. Fiona Vernal with Ed Carty



Errol Smith in reflective mode after viewing the exhibit



Veronica Airey-Wilson standing next to an exhibit portraying her father, Narciso Airey

the mainland. Together they have made Hartford a Caribbean city, an African American city, a Puerto Rican city deeply connected by history to this place. Through oral histories and local community archives, this exhibit begins recounting stories that are at once personal and collective, universal and kaleidoscopic, revelatory yet still often unknown.

According to Dr. Fiona Vernal, associate professor of History and Africana Studies at UCONN, "This exhibit involves the partnerships of the Court of Common Council and the Mayor of the City of Hartford, the University of Connecticut, and the West Indian Social Club of Hartford." Vernal thanks the partners for their robust support as the rest of the work gets underway.

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Playing Cricket Pays Off For Talented Youngster

HARTFORD, CT: Two years ago, at an Under-19 cricket match played in Keney Park, Hartford, Connecticut, Michael Chambers, executive director of the Cricket Hall of Fame (CHOF) discovered young Stephan Pink.

Chambers, in recalling the incident, said he had a conversation with Pink when he (Pink) was getting ready to go to bat. He asked Pink how many runs he was going to score, Pink replied: "I will let you know when I come back." Chambers informed Pink that his reply was not good enough. When it was Pink's turn at bat the youngster was run-out for one run.

On Pink's return to the pavilion, Chambers informed him

that it was his (Chambers') fault why he got out and because he was anxious to score runs, he was not able to concentrate. As a result, Chambers invited Pink to visit with him at the next CHOF's meeting. The Hall of Fame's committee meets every Wednesday night at 8:00 pm.

When Chambers got to the meeting the following Wednesday night, Stephan and his father Garry were already there. Chambers informed the group that when he got to the park that day and saw Stephan going to bat, it reminded him of himself when he first played in Keney Park, back in 1968.

The Lord had instructed him to work with young Pink,

Chambers told the group and asked Stephan what he was going back to Jamaica to do. Stephan replied, to look for a job. Chambers told him that he could get him a job pumping gas, but God was showing him that Stephan should be in school.

Stephan represents the Jamaica Progressive League (JPL) during the summer months in the Connecticut Cricket League.

Chambers then informed Stephan that going forward he saw a number of 50s and 100s in his future and prophesied that he (Stephan) would make the West Indies team in four years, and that even though he did not apply to the University of the West Indies (UWI), God was showing him that Stephan would attend

the university that September 2018.

The rest is history. Young Pink believes one of these days he will wake up out of the dream. He is the first to tell you that he believes in miracles. JPL of Hartford, Connecticut and the Cricket Hall of Fame raised enough funds to pay for Pink's first year at UWI.

The president of the JPL, Mr. Caswell Sewell says the League is very honored to be involved with Stephan's success story. The JPL raised \$1,000 to pay for his first semester's tuition, September 2019. Sewell presented Stephan with a \$1,000 check for his next tuition.

This summer 2019, Stephan completed the Cricket Hall

of Fame's Mindfulness Training and was awarded his certificate by Dr. Dolton James.

"I am not sure what happened, all I can remember is receiving a call from Hall of Famer Jeff Miller, CEO of the Jamaica Tallawahs cricket team informing me that the Jamaica Tallawahs were inviting Stephan Pink to their training camp in Jamaica," Chambers said.

We are still soliciting funds to pay for Stephan's next semester at UWI. If you are interested in helping Stephan Pink, you can send a donation to Cricket Hall of Fame, 3000 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06120. Make checks payable to: CHOF/PINK FUND.

Caribbean Tidbits

Continued from Page 2

of Labor and Social Partnership, Colin Jordan says the Mia Mottley-led Government recognized CTUSAB as the umbrella body of the trade union movement, and a valuable partner in the tripartite arrangement that has worked so well for us. But he alluded to the known division within the union. "I am aware that there is a bit of division in the labor movement and I will say it again, and I think I have said it last year, that I am calling for some rapprochement where there can be again some unity in the movement," he noted as he spoke to an initiative

that could carry the labor movement forward, locally and regionally.

* * *

Protesters in Haiti burn businesses in push to oust leader

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Thousands of protesters seeking to oust President Jovenel Moise attacked businesses and government buildings across Haiti Friday, creating chaos on the streets after a weeks-long shutdown of vital services that has damaged the country's ailing economy and shaken the president's already tenuous position. In the capital, Port-au-Prince, hundreds of opposition supporters ran-

sacked a police station used by a special tactical unit, hauling out office furniture and even Kevlar vests and ammunition in the city shantytown of Cite Soleil. An Avis car rental office and Western Union branch were also attacked and burnt. Government officials did not immediately return requests for comment. Other demonstrators waved green tree fronds as a sign that they were peaceful. Opposition leaders pledged that there would be no peace until Moise, who took office in 2017, resigns.



Dr. Dolton James presenting youngster Stephen Pink his certificate



President Caswell Sewell of Jamaica Progressive League, right, presents Stephan with a check for \$1,000

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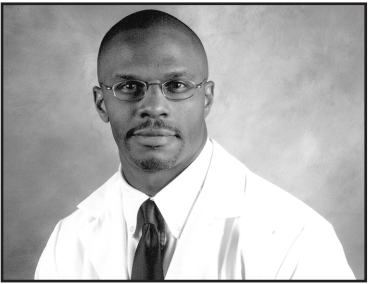
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Moving Toward A Goal: Some Insights

Jamaicans grow up hearing some common proverbs such as: “One, one cocoa full basket”; “Little, little mek nuff nuff”; “A few small drips are better than a sudden flow,” just mentioning a few wisdom words from the viewpoint of Jamaicans.

As I see it, arguably, all of the above sayings convey the same concept—a goal approached cautiously and purposefully is usually achieved. I wish to place emphasis on the words “cautiously” and “purposefully.”

I wish to share something that I experienced while I was a teacher in Kingston, Jamaica many years ago. As many might know, years ago in Kingston, Jamaica, “cents” many threw



Christopher A. Service Sr.

away. The thinking seemingly was that they had no value. That was

despite the fact that one hundred cents made a dollar then and still do today.

Disturbed and appalled that money was being thrown away in a country that needs it and indeed by people who needed money, I dubbed myself the ‘cent garbage-man’ and strongly encouraged my students to bring any cent they found to the ‘garbage-man.’ Sure enough cents started to come in and were placed in the designated bottle that was placed conspicuously on my desk each morning.

Eager to get the bottle and place it on my desk, a student went to my cupboard to retrieve the bottle containing the cents. To her amazement and dismay the bottle that was almost full of cents, was not there. It

had been stolen! The event prompted me to teach a lesson the theme of which was “reaping where one did not sow.”

The point I wish to make should be clear. There are many among us who would rather not work than work for an honest wage although that wage may not be able to satisfy their immediate needs. Those individuals would rather benefit from the ‘hand-outs’ of others rather than fend for themselves.

At this point I wish to commend those who work more than one job to achieve their goals. The many jobs are the ‘little, little’ I referenced in my opening statements above.

I appeal to those individuals who feel compelled to give to

friends or relatives who refuse to work for a small wage and who prefer to get ‘hand-outs’ not to do so.

Those individuals are the same ones who did not make good use of school and who are not skilled enough to earn the wage they think they are entitled to get.

If I sound very passionate about this you bet I am! Friends, you only compound the problem when you encourage the behavior that I have attempted to describe.

Wake up West Indians! The behavior described is etching away at the ‘fabric’ that has made us come this far. Let us be resolute and fight that negative trend. That is as I see it!

Jamaica’s Cultral Traits, Talents, Resources Are Economic Strengths

By Leon Fraser

What is it about Jamaica that is painfully obvious, but distinctly absent? We are capable of creating a storm in a teacup, and will use the teapot to create/start a storm. Is it because we move sometimes from one extreme to the other like bi-polar, which makes it hard for emotional control? Like a child that was raised as compared to those as we say were dragged up, we must use the tendrils of prior experience to thread and stitch together a solid development front designed to capture the people’s vision, integrity, and resiliency.

There are multi-faceted avenues of earnings that are not being harnessed, while some other countries thrive on what we create, or what we possess but not marketed suitably, and in some cases completely ignored. As a powder keg of talent, the deciding voices and vetoes must be more subjective to the voters, who in turn must hold their feet to the fire in accounting for the actions they take on behalf of the people.

One of the major differences between Jamaican politicians and American politicians is the accountability factor. Many others exist, but this one, accountability, is the most obvious and the best disciplinary tool for behavior modification.

There are several products that we have control over and that are marketable. We should make every effort to explore and capitalize on these for the betterment of the general population. Sports are available for better overseas marketing, whether it be netball to basketball skill trainings, football, track and field athletes, and others.

Ganja (marijuana) is now, as we speak, estimated to be worth a market value of \$US16.1B with an almost double by 2022 to US\$31.3. We are not actively seeking to take a slice of that market. Barney’s, Higher Standards, and Bebo are all selling upscale rizzla and chalice, gold-plated tray as suru boards. Where are we positioned in that market, the Ganja Market?

Reggae music is another phenomenon that we have, along some specific agricultural /botanical

products, and of course our colorful language, patwah (Patois).

Jamaica as a small, young island-country that for most of its growing-up independent life has produced many spectacular athletes, notably in track and field although more on the track than in the field, and has helped to burnish the façade of an annual track event held in Philadelphia.

This is a calendar event that the aficionados lock-in their vacation schedules, current and **former athletes** who attended plan to attend an institution of learning in the USA use this day to emphasize and boast of our skill level to our American brethrens.

The annual track event is also considered a signature event for young runners who gave notable performances at our long-running annual boys and girls’ athletic championships. So this is a good and favorable stage for athletes to aim.

There is an argument to be made about the continued success of this meet primarily due to the guaranteed stellar performances of the Jamaican athletes directly, or those that have been transplanted to the USA and indirectly compete for their schools. Among several coaches this event is also seen as an overseas leg of champs with an international flavor of USA high schools and colleges, and an unofficial get-together of coaches from the islands to share views and opinions.

Maybe there should be more discussions to ensure more of what is available goes to incentivize coaches and schools, and by extension the athletes. Hopefully, the Jamaican company that has seen it profitable to endorse and sponsor aspects of this event sees the potential and value of the athletic strength, and have their marketing department exploring the options of doing a truly island-style championship in this region.

This points in the direction that there could be a threshold for performances at the “CHAMPS” to be used as a standard for tiered packages to be offered. As mentioned before the strength of Jamaican athletics is a good draw in any venue so an enterprising entrepreneur could carve a niche in any

location in North America as long as they get through the hoops that will be erected.

Another source of economic strength to be developed is the easily grown, widely available, and now widely popular and popularly grown Marijuana, Ganja, Weed, Sensimelia, Lamb’s Bread, Chronic, and many other names given in different parts of the world.

As a country we were among the first, if not the first, on this side of the Atlantic, to talk about it, use it regularly, and asked the colonial powers to allow us the dignity of rights as a people to use, consume, grow, and trade this plant as part of agricultural development that can greatly shift the balance of economic distribution. Granted that the “classisms” that exist would have taken on a form similar to the colonial masters, but the difference this time around is that the seat of power is on the island.

The production and distribution of weed in the USA is gigantic, and we have few if any as paid consultants in this market. This industry if studied and marketed could greatly enhance the distribution of wealth to all involved in the chain of growing to consumption. The projected market for GANJA in the USA is US\$31.3B by 2022, and where do we fit in that cycle? As of right now the turnaround is US\$16.1B.

There are high-end stores and spaces like Barney’s, Higher Standards and Bebo, that are selling weed in their stores, expensive wrapping paper, gold plated suru trays, chalice, earrings, bracelet and a whole host of items the Rasta man usually sells on the side of the road in Jamaica.

What are we doing to take a slice of that market? Others find our cultural traits fascinating and we don’t, because we are immersed in it. Amsterdam has legalized the herb a long time ago and there are no statistics to show an increase in crime and or violence as the ritualized leaders always disregard and their followers are quick to echo. Colorado, California, Washington State, and other states are exploring the option of legalization due to the vast returns on the investment.

Why can’t the Jamaican government encourage the production of this plant either for individual consumption, or the hemp for other uses? Are the politicians so subservient that they can’t make an individual decision? At 57 years, Jamaica as a nation should do that. Do we still feel tied to the privy council so much that we still dodge our CCJ and send cases to Mother Britain?

Maybe now as an older nation we can navigate the waters a bit more careful so as to extricate ourselves from the apron strings of the colonial mistress. The legwork of some of the noted QC’s (Queen’s Counsel) that are residents of the island should now use that inner insight to navigate the QC (Queen’s Court) so that the case for us as a nation can be brought up in the QC (Queen’s Council) for the establishment of the CCJ.

The WINDRUSH situation is a clear indication that the mother country is seeking to wean herself from this recalcitrant child as she is in the middle of a bitter divorce (BREXIT) and having beligerent and acrimonious alimony talks (taxes; borders; security; trade fees; plus other economic benefits). The independence of actions as a nation will determine how we approach the next decade.

There is yet another product that we have created, nourished, and stayed steadfast to it despite the ignorant criticisms, till it is now a recognized genre of indigenous expression by a people that speaks to all downtrodden ethnicities around the world.

This genre of music is accepted and recognized by the educational and scientific divisions of the United Nations (UNESCO). This expression is relevant globally by all people as an anthem against all the “isms” of globalization. I speak of the much beloved REGGAE music.

The time is now as a developing nation to stride proudly to certain forums and demand, on behalf of the creators and artists. All the returns from our music have somehow been able to fall from various tables and none falls on the island. Reggae is a multi-billion dollar industry and our take of that

profit is small in comparison to the middlemen. There must be legislation that can be prepared and put in place so that the island and its people can earn from this industry, which was created out of “suffaration.”

Right now as this is being read there are certain countries making inroads to have the music declared as theirs, that is, British Reggae, Japanese Reggae, French Reggae, which is good for the spreading of the word, but in this age of cultural appropriation, there must be a line to be observed so as to ensure that the returns are suitable to all parties involved.

There are several foreign acts that are pulling in substantial wealth from the music—the genre of REGGAE. Imagine if the proprietary rights of King Stitt were funneled back to him?

We now turn to the BBQ grill. Imagine if the template for the design and the name was detailed to avoid plagiarism? The children of the fishermen from Boston and Jamaica would have had generational wealth. There is a plethora of items and creative ventures that will be uncovered for the world to see and use, but the crucial question is, will there be a discipline for the government to follow through to guarantee that there is a slight uptick in the needle of borderline poverty.

As a country, a struggling country, filled with a creative population, we have not yet harnessed the pool of talents that can lift the country to immeasurable heights. There is a plant in Jamaica that we call “SHAMEY DARLIN” macka, one of the few plants that respond to the human touch. I have seen two leaves being sold at an away store in NY Greenwich village for \$5, in a pot.

Jamaica has the potential and we have to make sure it rewards the people on the island for their hard work, because it is hard work. All that is created by the persons on the island must be credited for such work.

The political will must be demonstrated wholeheartedly to provide a guide for the next 57 years. The first 57 was rough, but the next 57 does not have to be. Jus mek shure we nah swap one colonial power fe anad-da one wey far more secretive, insular, and deh furda away!

George Scott Stretches Beyond Business

By Carol Johnson

Along with family members, the entire Greater Hartford Region mourn the lost of a stalwart and visionary leader with the passing of George Alexander Scott, 92.

Since 1979 George and his wife, Pauline founded Scotts' Jamaican Bakery, now added two retail outlets and a manufacturing plant, all Hartford based.

Scotts' Jamaican Bakery is more than a mere business, but a business that incorporates relationship, putting customers' satisfaction first, as well as the renewal of the community particularly, the North End of Hartford. So while the Bakery fulfills a special need—affirming the West Indian/Jamaican cultural foods, active civic engagement, serving on boards, involvements in community organizations are essential.

This is part of the growing philosophy of Scotts' Jamaica Bakery. George was determined to grow his business with the community. He was active in community services.

For example, he became one of the founders of the Council for West Indian Planning and Development, Inc., aimed at addressing critical gaps and needs

impacting the large and expanding Greater Hartford West Indian population. After several planning meetings, George helped the group to focus on a visionary strategy, including four foci: (1) Education, to better address the West Indian New Arrival classroom and community needs; (2) Communication, establishing a West Indian organ to disseminate news and empower the community, filling missing linkages in community news; (3) Political/Citizenship, ensuring political representation on city, local, and state governments; (4) Financial/Economic Committee.

Through these laser-focused developments, members from various segments of the West Indian community were recruited and participated. A visionary action plan was put in place—a plan that has not been seen since.

The Education Committee sponsored various educational/parent community-wide conferences, involving parents, students, and teachers, addressing issues impacting West Indian New Arrivals.

From the Communication Committee came the publication of *The West Indian American*, filling the long overdue

missing gaps in local news, featuring news and editorials. The publication has been an educational force in the region with circulations in print and online.

Through the Political Committee and with partnerships with immigration contacts and collaboration with various organizations, thousands attended Citizen Education Drives and Classes. Many became citizens of the USA, registered to vote and are voting. Now there is an awakening among members of the West Indian population. West Indians are attending Citizenship Education classes, becoming citizens of the USA, and are now going to the polls.

Interestingly, at one of our planning meetings, George Scott, Collin Bennett, and Molly Bennett, as it were, literally took Veronica Airey-Wilson, recruited her to run for a seat on Hartford City Council. For the first time Airey-Wilson ran for political office she won, serving about eight terms in the position.

According to Airey-Wilson, George Scott was her mentor, friend, and a big time supporter. "He worked with me on issues; always calling and giving suggestions. There was always a teachable moment with George," Airey-Wilson

said.

When George came to the North Hartford community, he was not satisfied with what he saw. He became involved and made the community a better place for all.

Furthermore, under the Financial/Economic Committee George garnered a team of supporters and forged the formal establishment of the West Indian Credit Union, aimed at strengthening the economic fortitude of the local community.

"Now, he is gone. The North Hartford region has been enriched by what he has done in the community, in the schools, and in businesses. A page can be taken from his books—letting our voices heard—vote, become involved, contribute to the positives," Keith Tinker said.

Yes, George contributed to the renewal of North Hartford, particularly the Upper Albany area. He was one of the founders of the Upper Albany Merchants Association.

He provided guidance on CURET's Adult Education Center, helping hundreds of adults to improve their education and move up to better jobs.

He had a deep love for Hartford and would do his utmost

helping Hartford to succeed, serving on several boards. He received various awards and proclamations for his dedication. In addition, he was Senior Warden of St. Monica's Episcopal Church.

"Prior to his retirement as chair of Upper Albany Main Street, George Scott had been extensively active in business, economic and community developments in the city of Hartford.

He was a staunch advocate for promoting and assembling the partnerships that have made Upper Albany Main Street an effective catalyst for economic growth in the Upper Albany community.

In 1999, the *Hartford Courant* recognized George Scott as Businessman of the Year. Additionally, he served as a trustee for the Wadsworth Athenaeum, a Regent of the University of Hartford, on the executive board of the Greater Hartford Chamber of Commerce," said Marilyn Risi, executive director at Upper Albany Main Street and the Merchant Association.

The photos below are from the archives of Upper Albany Main Street, depicting some of George Scott's activities at the agency.

