

Black Doctors' Day In Hartford

HARTFORD: State Senator Doug McCrory (D-Hartford) will host 'Black Doctors' Day, a series of educational panel discussions and interactive events to encourage young people from the Greater Hartford community to consider pursuing careers in health care.

The event is scheduled on February 8, 2020 at Dunkin Donuts Park in Hartford.

"I am honored to serve as host of an afternoon that will provide young people, especially those from underrepresented backgrounds, an opportunity to hear from notable Black physicians who are leaders in their respective medical fields," said Sen. McCrory. "This event is a fantastic way to motivate our children to think about careers in health care and caring for the physical and mental well-being of others."

The United States has an aging population with 10,000 baby boomers turning 65 every day, which is causing an increasing demand for health care services. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects employment in health care occupations will grow 14 percent between 2018 and 2028. However, in 2017, the Connecticut Center for Nursing Workforce found that only 4% of Registered Nurses are Black and 3% are Hispanic.

"How can a child aspire to be something he or she doesn't know exists? Black Doctors' Day is a necessity. It is an opportunity for our children to engage with notable physicians and other health care professionals.

Black Doctors' Day will help build confidence, instill pride and allow our children to envision themselves as doctors. If our children can see it, they can achieve!" said Francine Austin, CEO and

founder of Francine Entertainment & Marketing (FEM). FEM is producing Black Doctors' Day. Please see ad on page 8 of this publication.

The event is free and open to the public starting at 12:30 p.m., with onsite parking and lunch provided. Activities for young people of all ages are planned and the whole family is encouraged to attend.

Please reach out to francinefem77@gmail.com or (860) 785-4921 with any questions.

A Fresh Look At Jamaica: Confounding Attributes

By Jim Daniels

Those of us who have an interest in things Jamaican and Caribbean have long awaited the book, *The Confounding Island, Jamaica and the Post-Colonial Predicament*. Author, Professor Orlando Patterson of Harvard University is a celebrated scholar and academician.

He is a Jamaican; graduate of the University of the West Indies and with a PhD from the London School of Economics. There he was a contemporary of the late Prime Minister Michael Manley, who for a time was Patterson's advisor.

My review of *The Confounding Island, Jamaica and the Post-Colonial Predicament* will be in two parts. It is that significant a publication.

Dr. Patterson lays the groundwork for his perspective very early in the book. He says, "As a Jamaican and a historical sociologist, I have pondered Jamaica's problems for most of my adult life.

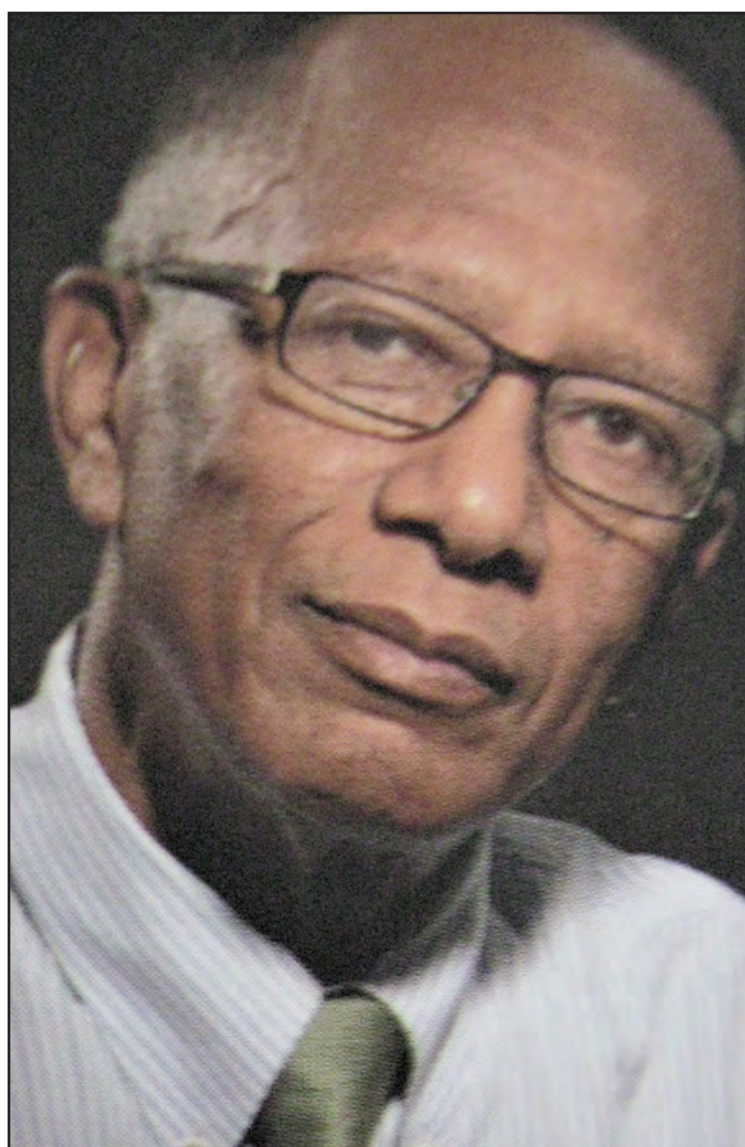
My first academic work explored one major source of Jamaica's problems that for nearly two-thirds of the five centuries since its European discovery by Columbus in 1494,

Jamaica was a slave society—all the more a compelling factor given that the 183 years of British plantation slavery may possibly have been the most brutal in the abominable annals of slavery."

Patterson states that Jamaica was the most lucrative colony in the British Empire, "a constant mine, whence Britain draws prodigious riches," according to a contemporary. Jamaica's trade with Britain outstripped that of the American colonies. It was also "the most unequal place on the planet," far more so than the US slaves (in the south.)

He continues, "The economic and physical slavery of the British that made this vast production of wealth possible, took an unspeakable toll on the slave population, which, unlike that of America, never reproduced itself. But the Jamaican slave population did not take it passively.

Indeed, the level of resistance, which took many forms, was perhaps unparalleled in the history of slavery, with (the) mighty British colonial army at one time forced to sue for peace before agreeing in a



Dr. Orlando Patterson

treaty to allow the rebels to form their own state within a state on the island, (and) with its own laws and rulers.

There is no similar treaty by a slaveholding class in the history of slavery—or for that matter in the history of the Empire. This is how modern history began and emerged in Jamaica."

This robust encapsulation of Jamaica's past is used by Patterson to explain some of the Jamaican attributes and it is these that he finds confounding. Factually, many have spent and continue to spend much time trying to decode the ambition, stamina and drive that Jamaicans exhibit in both helpful and unhelpful ways. Patterson finds fascinating, and I assume others do as well, aspects of Jamaica that are interesting in themselves but also pose problems that are of broader and deeper significance both for the

greater postcolonial and developing world and for the social sciences. Together they are perplexing.

The first chapter of his book is an attempt to explain Jamaica's poor economic performance since independence by way of a close comparison with Barbados, which has done so much better. In Chapter Two, Patterson tackles one aspect of Jamaican society that I have attempted to address over the years. He poses the question, "Why is democratic Jamaica so violent?" In this chapter he addresses one of the island's greatest problems—its visible, consequential level of violence.

Patterson proposes that there is a paradox at the heart of Jamaican society. On the one hand, there is an all-too-familiar fact that Jamaica is one of the most violent places in the world, measured in terms of its overall crime rate and,

more specifically, its homicide rate.

In 2005, its murder rate of 58 per 100,000 persons made it the most homicidal nation in the world. It has lost that distinction since then, but it has remained among the 10 most murderous societies.

There was a decline in the rate between 2010 and 2014 but since 2015 it has begun to increase again, reaching a new peak of 60 killings per 100,000 in 2017, which places it among the top five countries in the world.

This level of violence is not only a source of great human suffering within the society and it would also be a major factor explaining the country's low to stagnant economic growth.

Patterson continues his thesis of connecting democratic systems and violence and says that on the other hand, in spite of this horrific problem the island has a genuinely democratic system of government.

But this and other aspects of Jamaican culture and society including Jamaican athleticism are examined in the context of various aspects that he calls "Jamaican distinctives." Patterson describes his experience working for the urban poor in Kingston and said it coincided with a marked shift among economists of development regarding how to address the basic needs of the poor.

His proposal to Prime Minister Michael Manley was to upgrade improvements in sanitation, sewage clearance, water supply, day-care, public health, home repairs, and aid for the destitute, especially the elderly. The result would be neighborhoods that still looked like a slum that would be far more livable providing the basics of human habitation and a community organization directed by local leaders. He was not successful in persuading Mr. Manley to adopt his approach. (Next time: Why is Jamaica so violent?).

Benefits Of United States Citizenship

By Sophia Wilson

An acknowledgement is in order to the CURET Caribbean Resource Center for its commitment in convening Citizenship/Civics Education Classes continuously over the years. From hosting citizenship rally to citizenship classes, CURET has helped hundreds of immigrants to become citizens of the United States.

What a service to the community—empowering residents to better understand how the American systems work, rights to access benefits, giving back, and participating in the American democracy and voting in local and national elections.

New citizens learned how to exercise the power of their votes in electing political leaders to lead out in the affairs of the government and service to their constituencies with honor.

At the same time, in view of the influx of new people immigrating into the area, particularly, new immigrants, they must be continually nurtured on the importance of US citizenship,

rights to vote, pursue access to services, and even be employed by the federal government; apply and obtain U.S. passport and with a U.S. passport, upon returning from a foreign country and getting through custom officials, as US citizens they do not have to go through the long lines.

For parents and children who are American citizens, US citizenship carries high dividends for children's college education, including scholarships.

Consider anything thing: if you are a citizen of certain selected British island-nations your passport is part of the British Commonwealth, you do not give up your passport, you become dual citizens, and so you have nothing to lose.

In fact, as homeowners it is advantageous to become a US citizen. For those who are not yet citizens, remember that as permanent residents you, too, are taxpayers. Besides, as a Green Card holder you can be deported if you are convicted of a crime involving drugs or any other crime; US citizens cannot be deported.

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On New Year's Eve as you 'watched' the New Year approach, whether braving the weather in Times Square, watching the dropping of the ball from the comfort of the sofa, or maybe you were in church, I trust your time of reflection was hopeful for the New Year, even though the old year may have taught some sobering lessons for us to take into the new!

Some of the lessons may not have been as palatable as the others, but we must accept them as necessary tools for our development as we make the determination to make 2020 a better year.

As the New Year unfolds, let us embrace it with a sense of gratitude and appreciation. One might say he or she has little or nothing to be thankful for, but the mere fact that you are alive, is reason enough to be abundantly grateful.



Thomas Aldridge

We need to give thanks for what we have received in 2019 and be open and truly hopeful for what is to come in 2020. As family and friends, together we have made it this far by and through the mercy of God. In our love, respect and appreciation for each other and with God's grace, we have so much more to look forward to with thankfulness. Let the whining and complain-

ing be things of the past. We are moving forward with renewed hearts and minds, creating our own opportunities for the future. Let us accept responsibility for our own shortcomings and strive to stay positive.

So many of us get depressed and discouraged because we focus only on our present circumstances and never venture to use our setbacks as stepping stones to greater things. Many of us are afraid to hear the word "NO" for an answer, and think that all is lost with one disappointing setback. Speaking for myself, I always welcome a challenge because I know it is an opportunity to try harder.

For 2020, we have to keep our hopes high and give thanks for the blessings we are expecting, because when we give thanks; we get more for which to give thanks. We will experience a multiplying effect or what some call a *positive loop*.

For this New Year, approach life with an attitude of expectancy. Start thinking creatively and believe that good things will

happen to you. Give thanks for the small victories and you will eventually win the war. We should use the events of the past year as a platform of courage for the present, and hope for the future. It is with this fervent belief that our blessings are realized.

For those of us who have lost loved ones this past year, may their empty chairs be filled with our laughter and love as we honor them and celebrate their memory. Try to take some consolation from knowing that you may have learned valuable lessons from these departed souls and, like them, you will leave a legacy of service when you, too, are gone.

May the year 2020 stand out above all others in helping you to achieve your goals, and may you find happiness and light in each moment as you give thanks for the peace and goodwill it brings to your heart.

As we go forward, let us remember the words of Albert Einstein – "*Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.*" Let gratitude and determination be your guide for 2020.

Citizenship

Continued from Page 1

It is far more beneficial on becoming a US citizen. Once you are a permanent resident for five years and physically resided in the United States, and you have not overstayed your visit outside the US, you are eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship once you are knowledgeable in basic civics, history, and government of the United States, passed the Citizenship Test, maintain good moral standing, you are able to read and write in basic English, you are eligible for US citizenship.

Those who obtained their Green Card through marriage to a US citizen and are still married to this citizen for three years, after receiving your Green Card, you may apply for US citizenship.

For complete details about US citizenship, register for the Citizenship/Civic Education Class—the next class is scheduled for Thursday, January 30, February 27, 2020 at 6:00 PM. Call (860) 247-0123, or Email: info@curet-inc.org. Due to limited space, pre-registration by phone or email is vital for our planning appropriately for the class size.

Stucked In Dead-End Jobs?

By Edgar Johnson

Are you tired of your endless dead-end jobs? Stucked in the same low-wage jobs? Do you want to make a move but you cannot, you are held as a captive, wedged?

Undoubtedly, this depicts the experience of some immigrants—stucked in back-breaking, low-wage jobs indefinitely and without hope for a better job; some are tired of scrubbing floors, adhering to grueling schedules, can't attend parent-teacher conferences on behalf of their children, and are not involved in their children's education.

Mary B. who emigrated from Jamaica said that she was tired of running back-to-back from one job to another just to make ends meet. Mary shared her story; putting it succinctly, she said: "I'm tired of the maddening dash from one low-paying job to the other.

One day I decided to take the risk, make sacrifices, cut back on my working hours, and get into the CURET Education to Employment Program. This opens an opportunity to access a new career pathway," she said.

Mary registered in the CURET Educational Program. According to her, she was amazed to see the large numbers of adult learners and to learn about the various opportunities available at CURET. After the registration, pretested, assessed and placed into the right class, Mary said: "I was amazed to see that once again, I am in a classroom."

Mary was not short of instructional material; she got all the necessary books and resources. Her teacher and fellow students

gave her a warm welcome. From then, new possibilities and visions opened up and she saw clearly that she could change her life situation.

"The students were friendly, also the teachers were warm and friendly. The teachers always go the extra mile to help their adult students to succeed," she added. Teachers make time available for extra sessions, helping students to master a subject.

Mary said that her eyes opened wide and she was pleased to access the many opportunities opened up before her at CURET, including Citizenship Education Classes and the Transition to College program with Capital Community College in which she couldn't believe was available when she enrolled at CURET. After earning her GED, Mary enrolled at Capital Community College, persisted and endured the demands of the classes she took. Now she is pursuing her degree in nursing. What a story!

Recently, Mary revisited CURET and gave an update on the changes that have occurred in her life.

Reflecting on her journey, Mary said she is pleased that she took the first step, took a risk, made sacrifices, and went back to school, which gave her options to upgrade her skills, leading to better job opportunities and career pathways.

Currently, there are growing demands for skilled workers in the healthcare fields, in the trades, internship opportunities, earn a license to work in a vocation, and other career pathways.

It is time that communication is extended to all members of the various communities, including

those who are often ostracized or locked out of essential communication.

In reflecting on her journey, according to Mary, it does not matter what position one may occupy in life, or how long ago since he/she left school.

There is always room for improvement even amidst environment-imposed limitations. Adult learners enrolled in CURET's Educational Programs are pursuing their dreams, upgrading their education possibilities, honing skills in English, mathematics, science, social studies, integrated with computer and technology. In doing so in a nurturing environment and with devoted and skilled teachers, adult students are encouraged to pursue career of options.

Adult learners see the opportunity to go back to school. This is necessary for upgrading their skills and to access better jobs, continue their education, and being ready to meet the growing job market—the starting point in meeting the demands of the job market. A first step is completing one's high school education.

One is never too old to earn his or her high school diploma—you can't really move without attaining this level of education. At CURET, this program is free. Adult learners get all the resources to excel and grow. CURET has some of the best instructors; they help the students to grow and succeed. No age limit is placed upon students.

Consider this: There is a growing need for registered nurses and practical nurses in the United States. Don't underestimate your brainpower—organize yourself; set

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Obituary

Kuba Omaja Assegai, PhD, resident of Bloomfield, Connecticut, passed away peacefully on January 19, 2020 at Hartford Hospital at age 70. He was an agent provocateur for (racial justice) for his people against white supremacy. Dr. Assegai, throughout his life's body of work was a soldier, comrade and enemy of the enemy.



Kuba Omaja Assegai, PhD

He traced his heritage from the 1600s on the Caribbean island of Nevis, where a Portuguese Jewish merchant fathered a daughter named Rachel with an enslaved African woman.

Born July 9, 1949, Dr. Assegai was given the name Sebastian Roosevelt Earl Godwin, in Old Road, St. Kitts/Nevis.

Shortly after his birth, his mother, Emily Cecilia O'Loughlin Godwin was sent to Birmingham, England to help rebuild the country after WWII. At age 4, an only child to his mother, he joined her in Birmingham, England. There he attended King Edward Grammar School founded in 1552.

His formal education was a part of the foundation of the schools of King Edward VI.

On February 12, 1965, at age 16, Sebastian had a major turning point in his life when he met Malcolm X (Al-Hajj Malik Shabazz), at a public meeting in Smethwick, England. Malcolm X vociferously spoke against the racist vitriol and practices by "Brownshirt"

for him as his health began to fail four years ago.

Assegai's mission in life was dedicated to the "total healing recovery, and liberation of the mental, spiritual, and physical health of all African people."

He is survived by his wife Femi Bogle-Assegai and children: daughter, Dr. Sakkara Bogle-Assegai (USA); son, Farrakhan Bogle Assegai (USA), daughter, Nzingha Bogle-Assegai (USA); (step-son) Javed Hughes (St. Kitts/Nevis); daughter, Makeda Assegai (USA); daughter Kallen (England), Osagyefo "Sagi" (England), Piankhi, (England), Jahfari (USA), Akenjade "JD" (England), Malaika (England); granddaughter Samia Tiye Bogle-Assegai (Canada). He is survived by brothers and sisters; Glenford (England) Jennifer (USA), numerous others and a myriad of nieces, nephews and cousins in North America, England/Europe, and the Caribbean.

The Assegai family thanks family, friends and wellwishers for their generous spirit, love and support at this most emotionally challenging time.

Memorial service will be held Thursday, January 30, 2020, at Howard K. Hill Funeral Services, Fuqua, 94 Granby Street, Marcus Garvey Way, Bloomfield, Connecticut 06002, 6:00 – 9:00 pm; for details call 860-769-6841.

British Union fascist leader Sir Oswald Mosley.

In 1982, Assegai met and married Femi Bogle, the great, great grand daughter of Jamaican revolutionary and national hero Paul Bogle. Dr. Assegai and his wife bore three children and raised four: Dr. Sakkara Nahinda Bogle-Assegai, Farrakhan Imhotep Bogle-Assegai, Nzingha Tiye Bogle-Assegai, and Makeda Uhuru Makare Assegai.

Assegai became the owner/operator of the largest African independent bookstore—Assegai Books—in Connecticut, before taking up an adjunct professor position with the Connecticut State University system. His wife, Femi Bogle-Assegai, retired from the State University system to care

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Dead-End Jobs

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goals to complete your high school education, and seek help from career counselors. Make the first move. The wise counsel is to take the first step.

Soon you will realize that it's not difficult in the first place. So step out into your career pathways. The healthcare system is here to stay—there will always be needs for healthcare services. Look at the growth of the expanding baby boomers—an aging population turn-

ing 65. In fact, the medical technology fields have been proactive in putting in place various tools to meet the demands of the elderly population. But if you are not prepared, you do not have access. The key words are "services and preparation." Don't settle in a dead-end job, followed by another—you deserve more!

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Community Health Workers, Key Outreach Professionals



Cosmetologists, Stylists, Barbers--Outreach Professionals--trusted key links in providing health information to clients they serve

By Doug McCrory

As we enter a new decade, many people have made resolutions that almost always include eating right, exercising regularly, and losing weight. After the first month, some of us will let the resolution fall to the wayside. This is why I would like to discuss the importance of healthcare and the impact it has on our community.

According to the Center

for Disease Control and Prevention, the Healthy People 2020 Agenda aspires to attain high-quality, longer lives free of preventable disease, disability, injury, and premature death; achieve health equity and eliminate disparities.

It sounds great but the desire to discuss one's health is truly a personal matter and is sometimes hard to share your specific health concerns with others. Trust is a huge factor in

all of this. People need to know they can trust those they confide their innermost feelings. When dealing with doctors, insurance companies, pharmacies, and healthcare facilities, trust can be hard to come by.

We need to find ways to bridge the gap between the health-care system and the communities they serve. A few years ago, my colleagues and I worked together to pass legislation that addresses this

matter. Public Act No. 17-74, an Act Concerning Community Health Workers defined the "community health worker." This worker is a public health outreach professional with an in-depth understanding of a community's experience, language, culture, and socioeconomic needs. Such a worker is trained to serve as a liaison between community members and the health care and social services providers. It is our hope

this bill serves to improve relations between the medical establishment and the communities in which they serve.

Cosmetologists, stylists and barbers are a unique group of service providers that serve the public on a frequent and personal basis. They are uniquely qualified and capable of providing information that may impact their client's health. Having heard of the community health workers legislation and thinking of her clients, Ms. Francine Austin created the Cosmetologists & Barbers Health Equity Ambassadors (CBHEA), a community-based providers offering programs aimed at reducing health and economic disparities.

Last November, I attended a Cosmetologists & Barbers Health Equity Ambassadors event at Capital Community College sponsored by Ms. Austin and the Department of Public Health.

It was great to hear feedback and enthusiasm from participants including: Francine Austin, CBHEA Founder/President; Shontel Harris; Joy Martin-Gille; Vivian Akuoko; Patricia Adams; Vendetta Austin; Tammy Peterson; Mirna D. Parker-Blake; Jessica Dwyer; Sylvia Karen Nelson; Sonia Santavenere; Boniface Semu; Lebert Lester II; Monica J. Andrews; Donyelle McBride; Kendra Quinn-Ward; Bridgette Mack; Regina Jones; Khadijah Hill; Lorraine Chapman; Jamaro Edwards; Quana Aikens; Brenda Hernandez; Trina Betts; and Janet Dunkley

I've had numerous discussions with family, friends, constituents, and colleagues regarding the importance of our health, which is a critical factor when considering how to improve our socio-economic status.

If we aren't in good health, we will have a more difficult time to achieve our goals. Staying healthy is a must and we should strongly consider supporting one another and working together to not only improve our health but to improve the strength of our community.



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Interval House: Program For Hartford Immigrants Grappling With Domestic Violence

HARTFORD, CT: Interval House, the state's largest domestic violence intervention and prevention organization, is building on its services for immigrants dealing with domestic violence.

Thanks to a new federally funded grant, Interval House will now operate, "Project: Hope Beyond Fear." Hope Beyond Fear is the first program of its kind in the state of Connecticut, and is focused on providing comprehensive domestic violence advocacy for immigrants and refugees living in the city of Hartford.

The program increases Interval House's capacity to respond to the unique needs of immigrant victims, as well as the stark cultural differences that exist among the immigrant community regarding violence against women.

"This new program allows us to double down on our mission to better serve a segment of our community that is critically underserved when it comes to domestic violence," said Mary-Jane Foster, Interval House's president and CEO. "Far too many times immigration status will prevent them from seeking help because they fear deportation or other immigration-related reprisals."

Hope Beyond Fear will offer special intervention and support services by two state-certified and specially trained bilingual advocates. The program also brings a new coordinator tasked with targeted community outreach and devoted to fostering special partnerships with other nonprofit agencies that offer immigration services.

The Hartford Public Library and the Connecticut Institute for Refugee and Immigrants (CIRI) have agreed to team up with Interval House on the project.

"Hope Beyond Fear is a terrific collaboration and enhancement of the services we offer our clients," said Alicia Kinsman, CIRI interim president & CEO. "Immigrants and refugees face myriad hardships and obstacles on a daily

basis—ensuring there is support for them in dealing with issues of domestic violence is much needed."

"Our libraries have always been havens for learning and outreach, so collaborating with Interval House on this issue is another way the Hartford Public Library system can be proactive in the community on a very important issue and problem," said Bridget Quinn-Carey, CEO of the Hartford Public Library. "We look forward to working closely with Interval House to provide vital services to some of the most vulnerable members of our community."

According to national statistics and studies, a person's immigration status provides abusers additional ways to exert power and control over victims, such as:

- **Isolating** victims by preventing them from learning English or communicating with friends, family or peers from their home countries;
- **Threatening** victims with deportation or withdrawal of petitions for legal status;
- **Intimidating** victims by destroying legal documents such as passports, resident cards, health insurance or driver's licenses;
- **Manipulating** victims by withdrawing or not filing papers for residency, or implying the victim will lose citizenship or residency if they report or seek help;
- **Withholding** financial support or threatening to interfere with a victim's employment by falsely reporting his/her status to an employer; and
- **Using** children as pawns by threatening to harm them or have them taken away if authorities are contacted.

Immigrants living in the city of Hartford who are in need of domestic violence services or have questions about Hope Beyond Fear may call (860) 241-5114, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Around-the-clock help is available through the 24-hour hotline at (888) 774-2900. If someone is experiencing an emergency, call 911.

From Civil Rights To Human Rights: Housing Struggles In Hartford County



Panels from exhibition of African American, Puerto Rican, and West Indian housing struggles in Hartford

Community event, "From Civil rights to Human Rights: African American, Puerto Rican, and West Indian Housing Struggles in Hartford County, 1940-2019," will be presented on February 1, 2020. The event has a three-fold objective: to explore the history of housing and settlement in post-War Hartford; to foster community dialogue; and to engage with the contemporary housing issues.

The discussion moderator is Dr Fiona Vernal, associate professor of Africana Studies and History at UConn; Panelists include:

- Fernando Bentancourt, executive director, San Juan

Center Inc.

- Joshua Serrano, tenant activist and community organizer, Center for Leadership and Justice
- Pastor AJ Johnson, Urban Hope Refuge Church, Center for Leadership and Justice
- Annette Sanderson, executive director, Hartford Housing Authority.

The event will be held at Hartford History Center at the Hartford Public Library, 500 Main Street, Hartford, CT.

For information, contact Hartford History Center at email: hhc@hplct.org; phone: 860-695-6297. For details about the exhibition see the UConn Today story

Link: [https://www.hplct.org/classes-](https://www.hplct.org/classes-seminars-exhibits/)

seminars-exhibits//

The exhibit draws on oral histories, newspapers, and archival images to explore eight decades of migration, settlement, mobility, and housing access in the Greater Hartford region. It uncovers the relationship between racial discrimination, residential segregation and public housing while also exploring the lives, loves and families of those who made Hartford home. Photographs from Hartford History Center's Hartford Housing Authority and Hartford Times collections are part of the exhibition. This Apr 2019 UConn Today article: <https://today.uconn.edu/2019/04/struggle-find-affordable-housing-hartford/>. Sponsors are UConn, Hartford Public Library, Hartford History Center, and CT Humanities.

Hartford Foundation Awards Over \$900,000 To Reduce Homelessness

By Chris Senecal

More than 1,400 Greater Hartford individuals and families who are facing homelessness will receive much needed help thanks to the work of five area nonprofit agencies and funding of more than \$928,000 from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

Grants were awarded to Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness (\$30,000); Hands on

Hartford (\$116,146); ImmaCare (\$144,000); My Sisters' Place (\$220,000); and the Salvation Army of Southern New England Division (\$326,033) to provide a range of coordinated services designed to prevent or eliminate homelessness.

In addition, the Salvation Army of Southern New England Division received a \$92,000 as a match for the City of Hartford funding to support no-freeze efforts in

the Capitol Region.

In Hartford, 57 percent of renters spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing, leaving little to cover other expenses such as transportation, childcare, or food. According to a National Low-Income Housing Coalition report, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Metro Hartford is

Continued on Page 7

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As I See It: Let Others Know They Are Appreciated

I recently attended the funeral of an individual whom I should carefully regard as a family member, only because he was not a member of my immediate family. Characteristics of the deceased were highlighted at the funeral; I was inspired and learned some valuable lessons.



Christopher A. Service Sr.

In my reflection, I have come to the conclusion that many West Indians should emulate the

kindness and the customary unperturbed mannerism the deceased displayed during his lifetime.

For me, this speaks volumes about how, we, as West Indians, ought to live and behave.

There are many among us whose behaviors should be emulated. Unfortunately, because we are consumed with our everyday activities we forget to indulge in some introspection.

We have missed opportunities and overlooked times when we did not let people know how much we appreciated them. The hustle and bustle of our daily activities often do not allow us to practice what many of us have been taught or observed in others.

We sometimes observe how some individuals calmly conduct themselves and we silently appreciate their behavior, but fail in telling them how much we appreciate their behavior.

It's a fact that people like to know that they make good impressions on others. Many do not know that however, because they are not told. As I see it, we ought to regularly tell people that we appreciate them. How do they know this if we do not tell them?

There is a tendency to speak well of those who made positive impressions on us after they have departed this earth. It is a good idea to share with others what we

think of them while they are still around. In doing so they know that they have made an impression on another person's life.

Many reading this article may say, "That is true" but have never expressed their high regard for anyone. Maybe it is time we look around and speak earnestly to individuals we emulate and let them know instead of waiting after they have departed

There are many ways through which we can let others know that we appreciate them. Why not find a deserving individual and do so now! That is as I see it.

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Where Worship And Planet Earth Meet: Albertus Magnus College Presents Lecture Series

NEW HAVEN, CT: With Climate Change such a prominent issue, this next discussion could not be timelier. What does liturgy have to do with ecology?

In other words, how is worship part of the solution to saving our planet and what is the ethical urgency regarding the care of the earth for future generations?

In pursuit of answers,



Dr. Teresa Berger

Albertus Magnus College continues its ninth annual St. Thomas Aquinas Lecture Series—named after the scholar and member of the Dominican order who challenged individuals to seek truth and knowledge and was a composer of liturgical hymns as well as a theologian.

The presenter is author and professor Teresa Berger. She will explore these questions as well as some of the rich intersections between liturgy and the worlds of creations and the cosmos. Inspired by Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si' on Care for our Common Home*, the lecture seeks to respond, through faith, to a time of unprecedented ecological degradation.

Since its founding in 1925 by the Dominican Sisters of Peace, the College has cherished its heritage through the pursuit of truth in all its dimensions. The College continues to use this lecture series as a lens to which it "responds to the academic needs and ethical challenges of its students and society."

In that spirit, the following speakers will appear in the Atrium, Tagliatela Academic Center at 871 Winchester Avenue, New Haven, Connecticut:

Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at

5:15 p.m. Communication with the Whole Cosmos? Re-Thinking Liturgy in a Time of Ecological Devastation, Presented by Teresa Berger

Dr. Berger is Professor of Liturgical Studies at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music and Yale Divinity School. She is an author, editor, and active Catholic who regularly writes for the liturgy blog, *Pray Tell*.

Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at 5:15 p.m. Kinship with Immigrants: A Christian Ethic for Troubling Times. Presented by Kristin E. Heyer

Dr. Heyer is a professor of Theological Ethics and Director of Graduate Studies in the Theology Department of Boston College. She also serves as co-chair of Catholic Theological Ethics in the World Church.

This event is made possible through the generosity of the Marie Louise Bianchi '31 Fund.

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Caribbean Tidbits

STEM school for Norwood: construction to begin this year, says Chang

ST JAMES, JAMAICA - One of six science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) schools that Prime Minister Andrew Holness announced last year, is earmarked to be constructed in Norwood, St James. According to Member of Parliament for St James North West, Dr Horace Chang, in early January it was confirmed that the school would be constructed in that section of the constituency.

Chang, who is also the minister of National Security, said the new school may be a boys-only institution in its initial phase, for a reason, which he highlighted. "We have designed an education system which is designed to really suppress our young, humble males in the society, and that means 99 per cent young, black males," Chang said.

"The entire system is designed to put them at the bottom of the socio-economic ladder. That's the education system we inherited, and we have not done enough to transform it and to change it." He was speaking at a ceremony for the renaming of Quebec Avenue as Dr Horace Chang Boulevard. Chang said construction of the new school is to start later this year on 25 acres of land now owned by the St James Municipal Corporation between Ironshore and Norwood.

Global Shapers empowers at-risk youth with MENd mentorship sessions

KINGSTON, JAMAICA - Global Shapers Kingston Hub recently enlightened 40 at-risk male youths from inner-city schools and communities around the corporate area on how to navigate through some of the challenges facing young men in Jamaica. The MENd mentorship sessions, held at the University of Technology (UTech) in December, had successful men in corporate Jamaica and entrepreneurship as well as well-known personalities in sports, entertainment, and politics imparting knowledge garnered during their journey to the minds of the youths.

According to MENd conceptualizer Timar Jackson, the initiative was aimed at giving guidance and mentorship to youth, which they did not have at home or even in the communities from which they came. He said it came from his reality growing up in a single-parent home in a volatile community.

Ministry signs \$826.7m contract for Yarrowkabra school

GEORGETOWN, GUYANA - The Ministry of Education signed a contract for the construction of the Yarrowkabra Secondary School on the Linden/Soesdyke Highway worth \$826.7m. The scale of the contract has raised queries about whether this is something the caretaker APNU+AFC administration should have been able to do. A

release from the Ministry of Education said that the contract for the construction of the school was awarded to BK International Inc at a cost of \$826,757,737.

The school is being funded by the government of Guyana and has the capacity to accommodate 600. The duration of the contract is one year.

Chief Executive Officer of BK, Brian Tiwarie assured that all works will be done in accordance with the required standard and best practices, the release said. The release added that when the school is completed, it is expected to serve students in the Yarrowkabra community and other neighboring communities on the Linden Highway. The construction works will be supervised by VIKAB Engineering Consultants Ltd.

Students play pan for visitors of MV Logos Hope

PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO - The sweet sound of pan filled the air onboard the MV Logos Hope as students from the St Ursula's Girls' Anglican and Moruga Government Primary Schools entertained hundreds visiting the non-profit mobile bookstore. The Multicultural Music Program Unit (MMPU) of the Ministry of Education (MoE) organized the initiative, providing the opportunity for students to display their talents using the national instrument.

Pupils from across the country will have the opportunity to visit the MV

Logos Hope while it's docked in Port-of-Spain from January 2, 2020, to January 26, 2020. The School Supervision Division of the Ministry is liaising with principals for students to visit the ship. Members of the MoE's Strategic Executive Team met with representatives of the ship on Friday at the Education Towers Port-of-Spain, to coordinate the involvement of students and determine how the Ministry can support the Logos Hope's team during their stay.

St Lucia wants medical university

CASTRIES - The St Lucia government on January 10 said it was holding negotiations "with several institutions" to allow for the establishment of a medical university here. Prime Minister Allen Chastanet, who is due to address the nation on

Sunday, wrote on his Facebook page that the proposed university "will serve as a strategic move as it will allow both the hospital and the university to benefit from the services and opportunities of each other."

While Chastanet gave no details as to who the government is "currently negotiating" with regarding the proposed medical university, it is likely that the facility would be situated in the south of the island. He wrote that the progress is ongoing with the reconstruction of the St Jude's Hospital in the south and that the 90-bed facility, when completed, will include a new wing to incorporate all the functions and services of the existing East and Surgical Wings and that there would be retrofitting of some existing buildings to achieve a fully functioning hospital to match the services of a level 4 facility.

Reduce Homelessness

Continued from Page 5

\$1,194, meaning a renter would need to earn \$22.97 an hour to afford to live there.

"Having a safe affordable place to live is one of the most fundamental and essential needs for every one of us," said Hartford Foundation Community Investments Officer Dawn Grant.

"This funding not only supports emergency shelters and basic needs, but it helps advance collective solutions currently being implemented. Supporting evidence-based solutions to solve homelessness is an important part of the Hartford Foundation's basic human needs efforts and supports all of its strategic priorities."

Some of the expected outcomes of these grants include:

- More than 750 clients, including families and children, will be served annually through supportive housing, housing subsidies, eviction prevention/landlord negotiation, employment services, and sheltering services provided by ImmaCare, Salvation Army and My Sisters' Place.
- Each night, 100 homeless men, women and children will have access to warm shelter, case management, diversion, transporta-

tion, and referral to Greater Hartford Coordinated Access Network for rapid re-housing services during the coldest months provided by the Salvation Army in partnership with the city of Hartford's no-freeze warming center.

- Hands On Hartford will provide a safe space, nutritious meals and case management to more than 130 people during the day; distribute basic resources such as toiletries, socks, hats and gloves, and blankets to at least 200 people monthly; and provide health screenings to at least 55 people monthly.

- ImmaCare will expand mobile outreach services to unsheltered individuals and provide direct diversion services to 500 individuals at the Hartford Public Library. The agency will also augment its case management, outreach and data entry services at the no-freeze warming center to serve an additional 25 people each night. ImmaCare will resume case management services, meals and emergency shelter and overflow to 75 men daily once the shelter reopens this spring.

- CCEH will conduct and implement the 2020 Point-in-Time and Youth Counts.

Department Warns Consumers, Ice Cream With Undeclared Soy

The Department of Consumer Protection's (DCP) Food and Standards Division is advising those who may have an allergy to soy not to consume Cookies and Cream Ice Cream (one half gallon containers) produced by Shady Glen Dairy Bar under the brand name Shady Glen Ice Cream. The ice cream may contain soy, a common allergen that can cause serious or life-threatening reactions to those who have an allergy and consume the product.

The product was only distributed in the State of Connecticut to the following stores that have

been directed to remove it from sale:

- **Highland Park Markets:** Farmington, Glastonbury, Coventry, Manchester, Suffield
- **Big Y Supermarket:** Marlborough, Manchester, Tolland, Ellington, Enfield
- **Shoprite Supermarkets:** East Hartford, Manchester
- **Geissler's Supermarkets:** Granby, Bloomfield, Windsor, Somers, South Windsor

Consumers who have questions about returns may contact Shady Glen Dairy Bar at (860) 643-0511 or the place of purchase.

"It's incredibly important

to ensure that food products are labeled appropriately, especially when they may contain allergens that can threaten our health," said Consumer Protection Commissioner Michelle H. Seagull, "We hope that consumers will take caution, and return this product quickly. I want to thank Shady Glen Dairy bar for their attention to this matter."

Consumers who have questions or concerns about food establishments in the State of Connecticut may contact DCP's Food and Standards Division at dcp.foodandstandards@ct.gov.

CT Probate Courts Commence E-Filing System

Probate Judge David Baram who presides over the Tobacco Valley Probate District (Bloomfield, Windsor Locks, East Granby and Suffield), reminded attorneys who practice probate law in any of the state probate courts, that as of January 1, 2020, a mandatory statewide e-filing system will begin.

The Probate Court Administration has selected TurboCourt as its e-filing system. TurboCourt is used in 19 other states. The e-filing system will provide many benefits for attorneys as well as self-represented residents. Users will be able to perform the following functions online:

- File documents
- Serve filings on other parties and counsel
- Receive notices and decrees from the court
- View case documents
- Pay probate fees

Attorneys are encouraged to review the proposed revisions to the Probate Court Rules of Procedure. The rules for e-filing are available for anybody to review at <http://www.ctprobate.gov/news/Pages/Proposed-Revisions-to-the-Probate-Court-Rules-of-Procedure.aspx>.

Attorneys must register by their juris number to access the e-filing system. Non-attorneys who are interested parties in any particular probate matter who wish to e-file and to review case information,

must also register. Non-attorneys will be provided identification numbers and passwords that will permit case access depending upon the nature of the person's involvement or party status.

Judge Baram urged attorneys and non-attorneys to be cautious and careful in e-filing because courts will reject all documents in a multiple document filing if any one of the documents are in error. Certain documents like an original Will must still be filed with the court by personal delivery or mail.

While court staff will also be adjusting to the new e-filing system, personnel will be as helpful as possible in answering questions of the public.

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Schedule For Black Doctors' Day In Hartford

12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. – Educational and Financial Resource Center (EFRC)

1:00 p.m. – Registration and Lunch

1:30 p.m. – Welcome & Introduction

Francine Austin
 Sen. Douglas McCrory- State of Connecticut
 Sasa Harriott- Harriott Home Health Services
 Dr. Reginald Eadie- President &

CEO, Trinity Health of New England
 Renee Coleman-Mitchell- Commissioner, State of Connecticut Department of Public Health
 Dr. Natalie Achong- First Black President of the Hartford County Medical Association

2:05 p.m.-3:15 p.m. – “To The Rescue”
 Learn from other clinical providers in other medical fields such as Nurse Practitioners,

Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), Therapists, Physician Assistant’s, Licensed Social Workers and many more.

2:05 p.m.-3:15 p.m. – Greater Hartford Toy Hospital
 Fun interactive games for kids
 Vet pet
 The Doc is In!: Visit from Doc McStuffins Operation games

2:05 p.m.-2:35 p.m. – Concurrent Sessions

“You’ve Got What It Takes”: An encouraging panel discussion on how to navigate the path to medical school and the career that follows suit. Participants will hear from interns, medical students, residents and physicians who will discuss what it takes in their journey through the medical field.

“What’s Up Doc!” Panelists will share their stories about why they became doctors. They will

discuss the importance of having black physicians in the community and their thoughts on preventive care regarding the five most significant diseases that affect people of color.

2:45 p.m.-3:15 p.m. – Concurrent Sessions
 “You’ve Got What It Takes”
 “What’s Up Doc!”

3:20 p.m.-3:40 p.m. – “We’re In This Together”
 Q & A panel discussion