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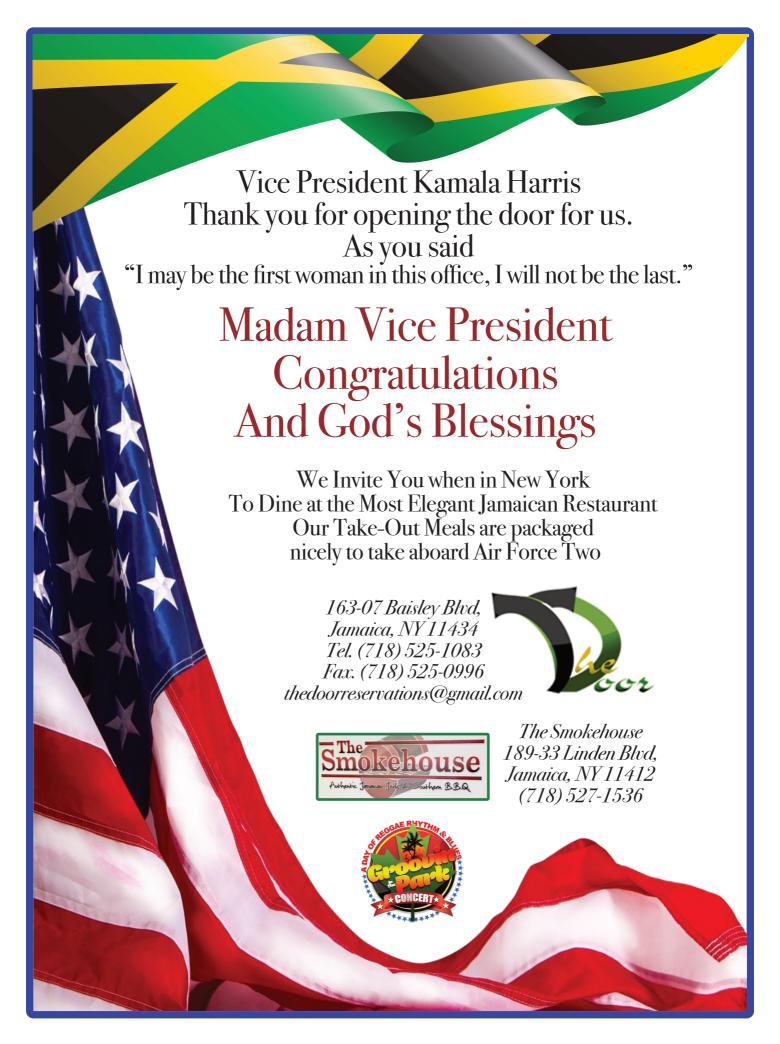
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AN OPEN LETTER TO THE BIDEN/HARRIS ADMINISTRATION

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WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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PUBLISHER'SLETTER

VP Kamala Harris Fulfills the Dreams Of Early West Indian Immigrants

Hello Readers,

Due to limited pages of EVERYBODY'S, I seldom directly address you. At this juncture, a letter of thanks to you is essential. The team and I thank everyone who sent in a donation to keep this 44-year-old publication alive. Every amount we received, whether small or large, was highly appreciated.

A mission of EVERYBODY'S has always been to reveal the contributions of Caribbean immigrants in the development of the U.S. Kamala Harris becoming vice president of the U.S. is the culmination of Caribbean or West Indian contributions dating back to the Thirteen Colonies.

While many Caribbean people, especially Jamaicans, want to see VP Harris speak more of her Caribbean heritage, one has to look at the larger picture. First, she has made the dreams of Caribbean immigrants, aspiring for their offspring to occupy the highest offices in the nation, a reality.

Secondly, if we do not tell of our contributions to the U.S. development, why should we expect other people and the mainstream media to tell it for us? I now take you back to 1976, the bicentennial of the U.S. when the contributions of Caribbean immigrants were duly noted.

In early 1975, a gentleman from the United States Virgin Islands who was a member of Brooklyn's Bicentennial Commission, a subsidiary of the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, invited the West Indian-American Day Carnival Association (WIADCA) to be the principal Caribbean participant celebrating the 200th anniversary of the independence of the USA scheduled for July 4, 1976. A prime location for bicentennial revelries would be the vicinity of Federal Hall on Wall Street, Manhattan, where George Washington on April 30, 1789, took the oath of office as president of the U.S.

Carlos Lezama, key organizer of Brooklyn's carnival, felt the task was beyond the mission of WIADCA. However, Lezama relented after weeks of prodding by the

"The contributions of the Caribbean-American community are indeed woven throughout the fabric of our country."

Vice President Kamala Harris on the eve of the inauguration.

Brooklyn Museum, the City and State of New York and federal government. Our contributions would be a carnival-style presentation of West Indians who contributed to the making of the U.S. Errol Payne, Director of Art & Culture, and his committee will design the costumes and I, as publicity director and responsible for the annual carnival journal, will do the research for Mr. Payne.

The research information was too much for the carnival journal. The gentleman from the USVI realizing I'm a storyteller encouraged me to pen the contributions of West Indians in the development of America. The result was a booklet, "200 Years of West Indian-American Contributions -1776-1976." In a sense the brochure was a forerunner of EVERYBODY'S Magazine. (See page 5 to enjoy a witty calypso I wrote in 1976; sung by calypsonian Count Robin. The tricentennial mentioned in the chorus is only 55 years away.)

Between 1893 and the 1960s, Caribbean organizations such as the West Indian Benevolent & Social League (1893), Sons and Daughters of Barbados (1913), British Jamaica Benevolent (1917) and the Antigua Progressive Society (1934) – all owned buildings in Harlem – and their members supported each other's events. It was common to hear members say in jest, "the first black president of the U.S. will be the son of somebody who came from my island," and the other person would respond, "No! From my beautiful island."



History is filled with West Indian people, including the enslaved, who helped to shape the U.S. It was a West Indian who found a Bible on the spur of the moment for George Washington to take the oath of office ... and now we have Vice-President Kamala Harris of Jamaican and South Asian heritage who will play a massive role in shaping America's future.

Before her inauguration, in a video recognizing the Caribbean-American community and acknowledging her "Caribbean roots," Vice President Harris said, "The contributions of the Caribbean-American community are indeed woven throughout the fabric of our country ... from Eric Holder and Colin Powell to Shirley Chisholm."

Indeed, Vice President Harris, mentioning Holder, Powell and Chisholm is just the tip of the iceberg. Shirley St. Hill-Chisholm sometimes mentioned the participant of slaves from Haiti in the Battle of Savannah and reminded everyone of Marcus Garvey's contributions.

Chisholm envisioned EVERYBODY'S Magazine as a vehicle to tell the Caribbean's contributions in the development of America. It was perhaps a reason she gave this publication her support even before it was launched on January 2, 1977. She remained a steadfast

advisor until her transitioning. Chisholm is the reason why during the last four decades I often referenced Caribbean-American history in editions.

What we saw in 2019 and 2020 was not purely the second woman of Caribbean heritage seeking the presidency of the U.S. What we witnessed on January 20, 2021 was not merely a Caribbean-American person taking the oath of office as vice president of the U.S. One has to remember a poor white boy, Alexander Hamilton, born in Nevis, and not the son of slave owners, who became a Founding Father of the U.S. What we witnessed on January 20 was the manifestation of the contributions of Caribbean people for more than 250 years symbolized through Vice President Kamala Harris.

If you wish to send a contribution to help sustain this magazine, kindly visit our website, www.everybodysmag.com then click on the "Donate" button or you can mail us a check. EV-ERYBODY'S Magazine, 1630 Nostrand Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11226-5516.

Regards, Herman



BICENTENNIAL CALYPSO

Celebrating the USA 200th Anniversary 1776-1976

"Give Us Our Credit Too"

Sang by Count Robin, Composed by H. Hall, Released on Straker Label. Singing this calypso, Count Robin placed second in the 1976 Brooklyn Calypso competition on Saturday, September 4, Brooklyn Museum Grounds.

Congratulations, America
On your Bicentennial
West Indians are proud of you
Because we help build you too
So, give us our credit
Because we deserve it
Look into your arts and economy
And our contributions in your history

Chorus

We say Happy Bicentennial
But for your Tricentennial
Make this your goal
Show the world
No more racism
No more oppression
No more discrimination
Only integration
From our Loyal hearts we say
Happy Bicentennial to you

Crispus Attucks for instance Led the Boston Massacre In the War for Independence for America

Also, Alexander Hamilton, Founding Father

And, First Secretary of your Treasury Both of them was one ah we

Chorus

We say Happy Bicentennial
But for your Tricentennial
Make this your goal
Show the world
No more welfare
No more stagnation
No more poverty
Only prosperity

From our Loyal hearts, we say Stars and Stripes, may God bless you

Do not forget Marcus Garvey
Fighter for racial equality
Forerunner of King and Malcolm was
Jamaican
Founder of the Black Masons Prince

Founder of the Black Masons, Prince Hall

Sidney Poitier, the greatest star of them all

Ah have to check back in my history To see if Martin Luther King wasn't one ah we

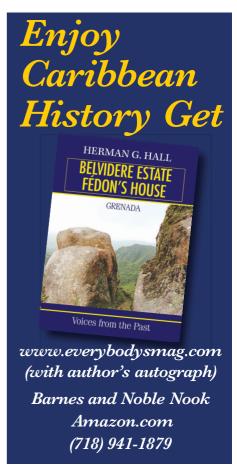
Chorus

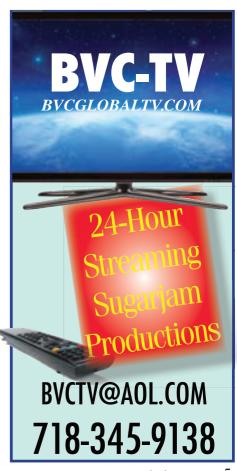
We say Happy Bicentennial
But for your Tricentennial
Make this your goal
Show the world
No more inflation
No more recession
In you let us have fate
No more Watergate
From our Loyal hearts we say
Happy Bicentennial to you

We gave you the steelband
The "Eight Wonder of the World"
Calypso and Limbo
And the jump beat to your soul
We gave you Reggae
Harry Belafonte
Kareem Abdul Jabbar
Mr. Basketball of America
The greatest parade in the USA
Brooklyn Labor Day carnival

Chorus

So Happy Bicentennial
But for your Tricentennial
Make this your goal
Show the world
No more calling we
Dirty West Indians
Now you'll have eyes to see
Our contributions to your nation
From our Loyal hearts we say
Happy Bicentennial to you





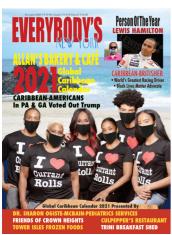


READERSTIME

PERSON OF THE YEAR LEWIS HAMILTON

You could not have selected a more deserving young man. I have followed his achievements on and off the track. He has positioned himself in a space of dignity and offered a road map for our youth to emulate.

> Helen M. Kinard Caribbean American Intercultural Organization, Inc. Washington, DC



Selecting Lewis Hamilton as EVERYBODY'S Person of the Year was one of the magazine's best person of the year decisions in many years. I'm a Londoner of Caribbean heritage. I keep connected with my American cousins. I have been reading your magazine for about five years and always found your person of the year rather fascinating and wondered when a Britisher of Caribbean

roots will be chosen; many are eligible for this honor.

Great choice! Wise Choice. Proud of Lewis whose grandfather hailed from the Village of Grand Roy, Parish of St. John's, Grenada.

> Deanne Lewis, London, England

They do not believe me when I tell friends and coworkers that Lewis Hamilton is my second cousin and he has many cousins in the US and in the U.K who live ordinary lives like me. They believe that as a racecar driver, he has to be a member of a wealthy family. No! My granduncle took two and three jobs in order to sustain his preteenager son's love and talent for car racing. Most parents would have said to their preteenager, "Son, I cannot afford to purchase what you need to be a racecar driver and I don't have time to take you to racetracks due to my work schedule." Lewis is always featured in upscale magazines. I thank EVERYBODY'S for telling our local communities the humble beginnings of Lewis.

> Ros...@ Brooklyn, NY

Thank you for opening my eyes. I never heard of Lewis Hamilton until reading about him in EVERYBODY'S. Your rationale for selecting him stirred me to google him. I have now joined his fan club because everything I read about him fascinates me.

Ir19@...

I am not a sports fan far less following auto racing, a sport that is dominated by whites. But when you introduced me to this Caribbean-Britisher in your calendar edition and to learn that he is an advocate of Black Lives Matter and that he wears his mask, I was compelled to learn more of him. Hurrah to EVERYBODY'S and readers for selecting Lewis Hamilton Person of the Year.

> Ruthlyn Chambers Bronx, NY

I have nothing against Lewis Hamilton, the British racecar driver of Grenadian heritage, but I'm disappointed. Essential workers, including the doctors and nurses, who worked on the frontline in 2020 should have been given the honor of EVERYBODY'S Person of the Year. They absolutely deserved this; they were the heroes of 2020.

> Jean Brathwaite, Brooklyn, NY

How could you have overlooked Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley for person of the year. I am not Barbadian but Guyanese and very broadminded. Lewis Hamilton as EVERYBODY'S Person of the Year was a good choice but not in the year of COVID-19. The accolade belongs to Mia Mottley.

> Andy Philips, Springfield, MA

For seven years, I have been sending my choices for person of the year. In 2020, I was torn between Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris, Frontline Workers and the Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley. The day after I emailed my choice, Kamala Harris, I was relieved when EVERYBODY'S Facebook page mentioned all three were in the running plus Lewis Hamilton. Since I had a tough time choosing one from my three choices, I imagined that your magazine writers pondered for a longtime before selecting Hamilton.

> Milton Bedeau, East Orange, NJ

Letters to the editor are always appreciated whether critical or praiseworthy. No phone calls please. We regret that owing to limited space we cannot publish every letter. We edit letters for clarity. We do not publish what is posted on the magazine's social media pages. Email preferred: editor@everybodysmag.com.



Women's History Month From Susan B. Anthony to



Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton - Photo PBS



Kamala Harris

By H. Lala

From time immemorial women faced an uphill battle to gain equality in male-dominated societies. As early as 3000-2890 B.C. (before Christ) women governed such as Queen Merneith in Egypt. Kings ruled but if they died at an early age and their heir was a male child, the child's mother, the queen, sometimes ruled until the child became of age. 19th century female Americans felt that they should be included in adult suffrage which was then only afforded to men though the Jim Crow laws restricted black men's ability to vote. Thus, began the struggle by American women for the right to vote. Many women also fought for equal and civil rights for all people regardless of gender. Beginning in the mid-20th century, and continuing in the 21st century, women around the world have been elected heads of government but, up to now, this has not happened in America.

Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906)

Susan B. Anthony, Susan Brownell and Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815-1902) carried the flag of the women's suffrage movement. They campaigned in many states. Anthony and Stanton are regarded as abolitionists. Anthony befriended two prominent black leaders of that era, Frederick Douglass and William Lloyd Garrison, who were friends of her father. Although Anthony and Stanton advocated for the 13th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution which ended slavery in the U.S., they opposed the 14th and 15th amendments of the U.S. Constitution, giving voting rights to African-American men on the basis that women must be included. Anthony and Stanton later established the National Woman Suffrage Association to focus on a consti-





First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt Photo Britannica



Patricia Roberts Harris appearing at a Senate committee before the Senate accepted her appointment for the post of Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Photo History Channel



Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro and Democratic Party's vice-presidential nominee. Photo History Channel

tutional amendment giving women the right to vote. Their slogan, "Men, their rights, and nothing more; women, their rights, and nothing less," became a reality in 1920 with the passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. By then, both Anthony and Stanton had passed.

Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962)

Legislation granting adult suffrage to women happened a decade before Eleanor Roosevelt became a household name. The wife of President Franklin D. Roosevelt was a civil rights leader. She resigned from the Daughters of the American Revolution when it barred the world's famous African American contralto Marian Anderson from performing at Constitution Hall. Using her husband's influence, Mrs. Roosevelt made it possible for Anderson to perform for an integrated audience of 75,000 at the Lincoln Memorial on Easter Sunday, 1939. Mrs. Roosevelt served on the board of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Patricia Roberts Harris (1924 –1985)

"I am one of them. You do not seem to understand who I am. I am a black woman, daughter of a dining-car worker. I am a black woman who could not buy a house eight years ago in parts of the District of Columbia. I didn't start out as a member of a prestigious law firm, but as a woman who needed a scholarship to go to school. If you think that I have forgotten that, you are wrong." That was the response by Harris to a reporter in 1977 after she was confirmed by the Senate for the post of Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in the incoming Carter administration. Harris was a pacesetter becoming the first African-American woman to serve in the cabinet of a president. Earlier in her career, President John F. Kennedy appointed Harris co-chair of the National Women's Committee for Civil Rights. Harris was the first African-American woman appointed an ambassador of the U.S. and dispatched to Luxembourg. A graduate of Howard University, Harris was the first African-American woman to become dean of a law school. Although she died at an early age, 60, Harris quietly paved the way for other women such as Vice President Kamala Harris to succeed in high profile public service offices.

Geraldine A. Ferraro (1935-2011)

Even before former vice president and presidential candidate Walter Mondale selected Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro to be his running mate against the popular incumbent Ronald Reagan in 1984, every poll that summer and autumn predicted a landslide for Reagan regardless to who won the



Democratic Party nomination for the presidency. Ferraro became the first woman to be the vice-presidential nominee of a major American political party and the first, and still the only, Italian-American woman to be on a presidential ticket. As anticipated, the ticket lost by a landslide. Even liberal New York, Ferraro's home state, gave its electoral votes to Reagan. However, Ferraro was an eye-opener for women. Ferraro's nomination signaled that women were ready to hold the highest offices in the nation and Ferraro demonstrated that virtue during the campaign. Her vice-presidential run motivated women across America.

Carol Moseley-Braun (1947-)

Representing Illinois State, Carol Moseley was the first African-American woman elected to the U.S. Senate. She served one term in the Senate (1993-1999) when she was defeated for a second term by her Republican opponent. Nevertheless, Moseley inspired women, especially minorities, that they too can seek excellence regardless of their humble background.

Fannie Lou Hamer (1917-1977)

Fannie Lou Hamer can be described as the forerunner of Stacey Abrams since both focused on registering people to vote. Born in Mississippi, the 20th and last child of Lou Ella and James Townsend, Hamer began picking cotton at age six. She attended school until age 12 then left to toil on a plantation. She married at an early age but had no children, except the two her husband and herself adopted. During the early 1960s members of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) went to Mississippi to stop the white establishment from preventing blacks from registering to vote. It was only then she knew that blacks in Mississippi were eligible to vote. She joined the crusade and became a registered voter. In 1964, she co-founded the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) because the local Democratic Party discouraged blacks from registering to vote. In 1968, after years of lobbying the National Democratic Committee, Mississippi sent its first integrated delegates to the national convention thanks to the work of Fannie Lou Hamer. Like many other civil rights leaders, Hamer was severely beaten in jail leaving her with permanent scars and a blood clot in her eye. "I was in jail when Medgar Evers was murdered," she said. In 1971, Hamer organized the National Women's Political Caucus. Hamer also believed African-Americans must create wealth, therefore, she spearheaded a successful crusade to purchase 640 acres of land enabling blacks to create businesses and build houses on the property. One can only imag-



Former Senator Carol Moseley declares her candidacy for the presidency of the U.S. - Photo Chicago Sun-Times



Fannie Lou Hammer - Photo AP



ine how the most visible woman in the civil rights movement of the 1960s would have reacted upon seeing Kamala Harris become vice president of the U.S.

Cicely Tyson and Prime Minister Kennedy Simmonds congratulate each other on St. Kitts & Nevis attainment of independence. Nevis, home of Cicely Tyson parents. Photo courtesy former Prime Minister Kennedy Simmonds.



At Commonwealth meeting: L to R: Prime Ministers Eugenia Charles of Dominica, Margaret Thatcher of the UK and Indira Gandhi of India.

Cicely Tyson (1924-2021)

Cicely Tyson was an accomplished stage, television and movie actress and recipient of Emmy, Tony, Actors Guild, Honorary Academy and other awards. She did more for civil rights and women causes than most professional politicians. Many of today's prominent women of color in America are standing on the shoulders of Tyson. The daughter of Fredericka (Huggins) Tyson and William Augustine Tyson, immigrants from Gingerland, Nevis, Cicely Tyson was born in 1924 in Harlem then the home of West Indian immigrants. Tyson did not readily exhibit her Caribbean heritage as today's immigrants but she remained a genuine Caribbean-American until her passing in January. She proudly attended the Independence of St. Kitts & Nevis on September 19, 1983 and aided the nation in times of natural disasters. In paying tribute to Tyson, Premier Mark Brantley of Nevis said, "I remember fondly she spoke to me using a Nevisian tongue, which she must have learnt from her parents.'

Unlike many 21st century black superstars who place making quick money over morality, Cicely Tyson turned down several high paying roles in films disparaging blacks. Decades ago, when EVERYBODY'S told her how Clarison Tyson in St. Kitts & Nevis, 1824, may have purchased herself from slavery and helped others still in bondage, Cicely Tyson responded in West Indian vernacular, "I'm not surprised."

India - Prime Minister of Indira Gandhi (1917-1984)

India, home of Vice President Kamala Harris' mother, created the trail in 1966 when Mrs. Indira Gandhi, daughter of India's first prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru and his wife Kamala Nehru, became the first and still the only female prime minister of India. Defeated at the polls in 1977, Prime Minister Gandhi won reelection in 1980. While in office, in 1984, she was assassinated.

Israel – Prime Minister Golda Meir (1898-1978)

Golda Meir served as the fourth Prime Minister of Israel, 1969 – 1974. She was born in Ukraine but grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, when her parents immigrated to the U.S. An advocate of making Palestine into the nation of Israel, Golda Meir and her husband immigrated to Palestine where she continued fighting for the creation of Israel.



United Kingdom – Margaret Thatcher (1925-2013)

In 1979, Margaret Thatcher led the Conservative Party to victory thereby becoming the first female British and first female European head of government. She was reelected three times. Thatcher resigned as leader of the Conservative Party and prime minister in 1990. Thatcher was dubbed "the iron woman" for her tough decisions. Although her relations with President Ronald Reagan was excellent, Prime Minister Thatcher opposed his decision to invade Grenada in 1983.

Dominica - Mary Eugenia Charles (1919-2005)

"I loved the name Eugenia and introduced myself as Eugenia instead of Mary even when I attended Convent School in Grenada," Mary Eugenia Charles told EVERY-BODY'S Magazine. She was the first female lawyer in Dominica, the first Caribbean woman to lead a political party to victory, Dominica Freedom Party, and the first female prime minister in the region. She governed Dominica from July 21, 1980-June 14, 1995.

Portia Simpson

Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller, born Dec. 12, 1945, Jamaica's first woman prime minister, 2006-2007 and 2012-2016 at New York ball celebrating the 50th anniversary of independence. - Photo Sharon Bennett – EVERYBODY'S Magazine

Janet Jagan

Janet Jagan (1920-2009), born in the U.S. of Jewish parentage, was Guyana's first female head of government and head of state 1997-1999.

- Photo Stabroek News

Kamla Persad-Bissessar

Born in 1952, Kamla Persad-Bissessar is leader of the opposition in Trinidad & Tobago for a second time. She is the first woman to hold that office and first female prime minister. - Photo Sharon Bennett - EVERYBODY'S Magazine

Mia Amor Mottley

Born in 1965, Mia Amor Mottley is prime minister of Barbados. Prime Minister Mottley was also the first woman to lead the opposition, Barbados Labour Party, an office she held twice. She is the first person to lead her party to win all elected seats in the nation's parliament.



Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller



Janet Jagan



Kamla Persad-Bissessar



Mia Amor Mottley





Kamala Harris

From Howard to Vice President...

By Kanene Ayo Holder

Lift every voice and sing Till earth and heaven ring Ring with the harmonies of Liberty Let our rejoicing rise High as the listening skies Let it resound loud as the rolling sea "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

James Weldon Johnson

...From the bottomless pit... We forward in this generation *Triumphantly.* "Redemption Song"

Bob Marley

There's a lot to celebrate! Despite the gloom and doom brought on by COVID-19, Kamala Harris gives us renewed hope that the Biden-Harris administration is committed to using a science-based model to address the pandemic. The Vice President also epitomizes that hard work, determination and unwavering confidence, can result in ones wildest dreams becoming real. Kamala Harris is more than a token, symbol or aberration. She is confirmation that being Black or Indian or a woman and rising to the second highest office in this land, is possible.

Kamala Harris as Vice President is the sum total of all the wisdom, mentorship and perhaps guidance from ancestors who catapulted her to being one of the most powerful women in America. But ascending to the summit, hand on Bible to uphold the Constitution, in a racist and sexist society should be respected as we cherish the VP's grace.

How did Harris convince herself that she was worthy? How was she able to entice people to see past her color and gender and see her talents and strengths? There are many touchstones: Her immigrant parents, from India and Jamaica, were both highly accomplished. She was bused to a more affluent school outside her neighborhood and was taunted for being Black. But I would wager that Howard University was the capstone. Capstone is the Howard University Newsletter to keep students, staff and alumni abreast of updates and events impacting the Howard diaspora.

I should know, because my Trinidadian and Jamaican parents packed up their SUV traversing Brooklyn to D.C. bound for Howard University in 1997. As I fantasized about the illustrious legacy of Howard, we listened to an eclectic soundtrack ranging from



VP Kamala Harris graduated from Howard in 1986.

At the... Supreme Court confirmation hearings. Her head would sway, her finger would point as if the questions would reveal the truth more than the answers.

Mighty Sparrow to Toni Braxton. I was a wide-eyed freshman, fully aware after the Howard orientation, that we were on "The Yard", a campus where: Thurgood Marshall, trailblazing lawyer and first Black on US Supreme Court; Dr. Čheddi Jagan, British Guiana's first Chief Minister (1953), first Premier (1961-1964); Stokely Carmichael (Kwame Ture) Trinidad-born political activist and Black Power Advocate; and distinguished duo, Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis, among others, also walked to class as they finetuned protest strategies, while envisioning and actively engaging in activities to transform the world into a more just and equitable space..

I figured out that Howard University is to Black people, what the Statue of Liberty was supposed to be for immigrants; providing a space for those yearning to breathe free, to be welcomed, nurtured and affirmed? As we Bison (the affectionate term for Howard students and alumni) researched and attended classes about the African Diaspora, we both marveled at the history we were never taught elsewhere and the authorized history of oppression which was traditionally used to suppress and silence us.

Continued on page 14



VP Kamala Harris, Your Achievement Is Pathbreaking, and Immense Pride, for All Jamaican-and-Caribbean-Americans.



We had been in the bottomless pit, but Howard functioned as redeemer. I met people from all over the African Diaspora: From Liberia to Georgia; The Netherlands and The Bronx; Jamaica and Ghana; Compton and Milwaukee, we came to shed our miseducation and to be intellectually stimulated thus becoming change agents wherever we went.

Our professors, advisors, resident assistants, and the kitchen and custodial staff, saw us as the future. Future leaders, researchers, artists, engineers, philosophers, presidents, and so much more. Regardless of ones majors, professors stressed discipline and self-pride while fostering a critical and creative disposition within us. Bison were tasked with being innovators, educating the world about the infinite potential of Black people, past, present and future.

Howard is no stranger to high profile individuals such as: Dr. Keith Mitchell, current Prime Minister of Grenada; Archie Alexander former Governor of The U.S. Virgin Islands; Wart Brown, former Premier of Bermuda; Dr. Lamuel A. Stanislaus, who served as Permanent Representative of Grenada to the UN and was in renowned historian, Dr. Eric Williams' class when he taught at HU in the late 1940s. Plus, there are many other individuals of note such as: Dr. David Curwen, a renowned Grenadian physician in Tennessee; Dr. Wayne A. Frederick, Howard's current president who hails from Trinidad and Tobago; in addition to the numerous dentists who graduated from Howard U.

As a pre-teen growing up in the 90's during the Crown Heights riots--a struggle for fair and equitable treatment of Blacks in Brooklyn--little did I know that NY's Mayor Dinkins who presided with poise and dignity, gleaned his leadership chops at Howard University. But I also argue that the wisdom of Howard graduates floods every body of water with knowledge to quench our thirst worldwide. HU forever!

And then there is Kamala. I remember being extremely impressed by a women who drilled into those testifying at the Justice Kavanaugh Supreme Court confirmation hearings. Her head would sway, her finger would point as if the questions would reveal the truth more than the answers. Kamala represented. The, then, senator exposed those who should and should not win the hearts and minds of the American people, much less a seat on the Supreme Court. From that confirmation hearing to the first Impeachment Trial of the last president, it became clear that Kamala was well suited for as grand a stage as VP and beyond.

Kamala is a natural born leader as she transmuted all of her adversity into policy. The new VP is the American Dream personified--bold, determined and resolute. Kamala is. So many people can relate because she is; an AKA, Indian, Black, Jamaican and most importantly a Bison. When you stand on Howard's campus, it is sacred ground. For over 150 years, Howard University has been fertile land and we will continue to harvest for generations to come.

Kanene Holder, a 2001 HU graduate, is a Diversity Consultant @ Jennifer Brown Consulting.



My Sincere Wishes to

VP Kamala Harris

From the King of all Genre of Caribbean Music

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Caribbean-Wome

Compiled by Wendy Gomez

How did you feel when you saw Kamala Harris take the oath of office as vice president of the USA?

Her Excellency Dame Cécile La Grenade GCMG, OBE, PhD Governor-General of Grenada

s the first female Governor General of the Caribbean nation of AGrenada, I am so proud! What an inspiration! Vice President Kamala Harris, the immensely talented daughter of Caribbean and Indian parents, is the living embodiment of the dreams, hopes, and aspirations of young women everywhere!

Pat Chin Cofounder of VP Records Author of "My Reggae Music Journey"

ongrats Vice President Kamala Harris. To all women all over the world ... we can make a difference.

Dr. Rachel Benjamin-Browne Child Psychologist, London, England

Tt was a thrilling experience to watch Kamala Harris inaugurated as Vice ▶ President. Her Caribbean and Indian heritage gives us something to connect to, and representation matters, even for those of us watching from the UK. I hope she leads the way to ensure that issues of prejudice and economic disparity are addressed. The UK often follows the USA and we were not immune from the fallout from former President Donald Trump. I hope the first female, and first Black, vice president in American history will continue inspiring us especially those of us who are the children and grandchildren of immigrants and the Windrush generation.

The Honorable Aisha N. Braveboy State's Attorney for Prince George's County, MD

Ty heart was overcome with joy and hope when I saw Vice President LKamala Harris take the oath of office. Until now it was merely a dream for us to see a woman and person of color in such a high office. Now, black girls and boys and other children of color have a role model in our new vice president, who exemplifies boldness, dedication, courage and



Governor-General of Grenada Dame Cécile La Grénade.



Pat Chin, Cofounder, VP Records.



Dr. Rachel Benjamin-Browne, Child Psychologist.



many other values. Vice President Harris is a shining example of the great leaders who have graduated from my alma mater, Howard University and other Historically Black Colleges and Universities. I am also thankful that she has shattered the glass ceiling for leaders like me. I look forward to what the future holds with Vice President Harris and President Biden at the helm leading our country.

Jennifer Hosten Miss World of 1970 Toronto, Canada

y heart was filled with pride and optimism as I watched the Iswearing-in of Kamala Harris, as U.S. Vice President. Pride - because this accomplished woman of color takes her place at a critical time in history. Optimism - because her character and ability augurs well everywhere for women leadership.

Bernice Lowe Flowers Journalist/HR Management Analyst Maryland

Tfelt extremely fulfilled and excited to witness Vice President Ka-**⊥**mala Harris become the first woman of color elected to this position in the United States of America. I believe that her determination and unwavering commitment to public service can help to bring our country into a period of transition of hope.

Anne Janice Farray Community organizer and poet Montreal, Canada

lmost daily, we of African descent are discriminated against be-Acause of the color of our skin. I was overcome as joy and pride filled my heart as I bore witness to Vice-President Kamala Harris sworn into office as 1st black and female VP of the USA. What a landmark and historical moment! She is one of our great models and the epitome, who shows that in spite of hardships, challenges and discrimination, with determination and hard work, one can achieve great things. Madam VP stands on the shoulders of our ancestors who sacrificed for us to claim our birthright. Today's generation and future generations can look to her as they chart their destiny knowing that all things are possible. God Bless you Madam Vice President Kamala Harris, your family and the USA. We wish you success. La Luta Continua! Amandla!

Lisda C. Sawney Multicultural Commissioner

Office of the State's Attorney, Prince George's County, MD I am extremely proud to be a Black woman and an immigrant (from Grenada) at this period in history. The election of Kamala Harris as the first woman vice president, and especially to know she is of South Asian and Caribbean ancestry, should serve as a source of pride and inspiration to all black women and people of color.

Brenda Harris-Ephraim President 369th Veterans Association, Inc. Westchester, NY

Tice President Kamala Harris is living proof that it matters not from whence we came but where we are going. As an immigrant from Antigua and Barbuda, I was elated but emotional as I watched the daughter of immigrants sworn-in into office. My daughter and myself have rendered military services as our contribution to this na-



Aisha N. Braveboy, State's Attorney, Prince George's County, MD.



Iennifer Hosten, Miss World of



Bernice Lowe Flowers, Journalist.



Anne Janice Farray, Community Organizer.





Lisda C. Sawney, Multicultural Commissioner, office of the State's Attorney State's Attorney, Prince George's County, MD.



Brenda Harris-Ephraim, President 369th Veterans Association,



Shadel Nyack Compton, Corporate Attorney and Entrepreneur



Penelope and her mom watched the swearing-in

tion and to help preserve its democracy. In this life, not every citizen agrees with each other but every citizen must agree that it is essential to accept the will of the people and promote equality. Those who fail to accept changes are avoiding reality. As Vice President Harris eloquently accentuated, history will not record her as the last woman to hold the vice presidency, merely the first. My affection for Vice President Kamala Harris is not to suggest that we are related because we carry the same surname. Who knows! It was customary for Anglo-Saxon siblings to invest in different West Indian slave colonies. One brother invested, let's say, in Antigua, another brother, let's say, in Jamaica and another one in Barbados. Understand the connection! Genealogical research needed before I can call her, "Cousin Kamala." I wish our Vice President God's favor and blessings.

Tt was very emotional for me to watch Kamala Harris, the first

Shadel Nyack Compton Managing Director Belmont Estate, Grenada

Lwoman, the first black and Asian woman, with Caribbean roots take the oath of office as Vice President of the United States. I felt an immense sense of pride seeing her pave the way for the next generation of women to work on their dreams, empowering them to do great things regardless of their circumstances. It was awe-inspiring to see a fellow Howard University alumnus from the same class of '86 break barriers and take on the secondhighest position in the White House. Our school was founded in 1867, a time when black people were not even allowed to vote. This makes her election even more remarkable as we all witnessed history being made. As someone with Indian and Caribbean ancestry, I understand the challenges of coming from a multicultural background. Representation has never been more crucial in this day and age when we are still fighting for equal rights. Vice President Harris embodies the courage in our blood and the strength in our soul. For her to overcome hurdle after hurdle and still take on this herculean challenge of becoming one of the top leaders of the world's most powerful nation is truly admirable. She inspires us all to be better and do more because we really can change the world for better. To say that I am inspired is an understatement. She has fueled the fire within me to continue bringing about change within my sphere of influence. She has given us women a more defined purpose to be bolder and more confident leaders. The future never looked brighter.

Lauren Giunta-Hall School Teacher Brooklyn, NY

eeing Kamala take the oath of office was relieving, exciting and In November our entire building sat outside, watched and wept as Senator Harris and former Vice President Joe Biden proclaimed victory. Leading up to the inaugural on January 20, tension was in the air but there was a total sigh of relief as we watched Harris take the oath of office on inauguration day. Vice President Harris radiates the joy we need to keep each other uplifted.



Caribbean-Americans Salute Vice President Kamala Harris

Amidst all this darkness, there came a bright beam of light and hope.

As an immigrant woman of color, I am proud and honored to be represented by Madam Vice President Kamala Harris!
Her victory is our victory!
Joan C. Gordon,
Rochester Jamaican Organization

Nothing this historic happens by chance. This is your time. God bless you! The Redhead Family, Grenada and Washington, DC

Vice President Kamala Harris We are proud of you. Good Luck Glenna, Aideen & Rest of the Pursoo Family, Brooklyn, NY

Madam Vice President Kamala Harris Best Wishes Joycelyn Thompson, Washington, DC.

Vice President Kamala Harris
We are proud of your accomplishments
May God Bless You,
The Knight Family,
Maryland

I am inspired that Kamala Harris, daughter of Jamaican and Indian immigrants, is now Vice President. As a Caribbean immigrant and the mother of three Black daughters, you confirm that not even your office is the limit! Thank you, Madame VP, for paving the way for little girls to dream big.

The Holder Women, Douglasville, GA

Congratulations Vice President Kamala Harris To this high office of the USA The Lowe-Flowers Family, Upper Marlboro, MD

With a sense of hope for the future, came pride knowing that this new journey will be with VP Kamala Harris, who represents and looks like



us. We are delighted that the entire country now gets a taste of the solid representation you provided Californians!

The Morris', Antioch, CA

To Our Beloved Vice President of the USA, Kamala Harris May God Bless You From the Sawneys of MD

So what? She's Black (Indian & Jamaican), the first woman Vice President of USA, alumni of Howard University, and role model for many women. Kamal Harris worked hard, struggled and achieved. Congratulations Vice President Kamala Harris!

Lenore Boney, Concerned World Citizen, Brooklyn

I am so excited to live to see this day! Kamala Harris, whose parents migrated from Jamaica and India, is now Vice President of the USA! Let us all pray for her, and the new administration's, success.

Jean Brooks, JAmerican, Brooklyn, NY

BIDEN-HARRIS INAUGURATION

Made Me Believe New York Calling Sparrow and Chalkdust

By Dr. Hollis Liverpool - Calypsonian Chalkdust



A calypso fan can fantasize about one of these calypsonians performing at the Biden-Harris inauguration. L to R: Shirlane Hendrickson, the late Lord Kitchener, Singing Francine, the late Rootsman, the late Roaring Lion (blue suit), the Mighty Sparrow, Poser (necktie) and Chalkdust. – EVERYBODY'S Calypso Awards, 1993 – Photo Lloyd Patterson

Puring the Golden Age of Calypso, before Rock and Roll, when the calypso was mainstream entertainment across the U.S., presidents and others politicians loved calypso's witty and creative lyrics. Listen to the classics such as "Harry Truman," "Germany Invade Poland," "Joe Louis-Schmeling Fight," and "Franklin D. Roosevelt." Imagine a calypso icon was invited to perform at the Biden-Harris inauguration! Only a veteran such as Chalkdust can describe the saga of the invitation and the upshot of the calypsonian's performance on Inaugural Day, 2021.

While watching the inauguration of Joe Biden as President of the United States on January 20th, between work and the occasional nod, I was called on the phone to participate in an ongoing discussion of calypso lovers and enthusiasts from New York, Toronto, New Jersey, Baltimore and Boston by Gil Figaro, the Founder and Director of Sunshine Awards Inc. These folks who reside in the U.S. usually get together to hold timely discussions on aspects of our carnival in Trinidad and Tobago and include calypsonians like Sparrow and Alberto, musicians like Frankie McIntosh and Errol Ince,





Lto R: Calypso Rose, Lord Nelson and Mighty Sparrow. Photo EVERYBODY'S

as well as show producers and collectors of vintage calypso recordings. Well, the inauguration of the American President was an event that motivated the discussion on calypso as one of the females in the telephone webinar, obviously moved by the appointment of a woman to the vice-presidency, provoked the telephone crowd by stating that instead of inviting Lady Gaga to perform at the formal function in Washington, Biden should have invited Calypso Rose.

Well, the discussion of having Rose sing at such a high-brow affair brought on more discussion and Trinidadian-style old talk. Could Rose's "Fire Fire" be an appropriate song for such political lovers of democracy? One musician remarked: "Rose go pelt she shoe in the crowd; suppose she shoe hit Kamala Harris in she face?"

Why not Cro Cro?" a Grenadian man shouted. Some felt that Biden would have loved to hear Cro Cro sing a calypso at Capitol Hill in which he was "cussing" Trump for all his unethical behavior in the White House. Others objected; "Gypsy, Relator, Sugar Aloes, Luta, GB and Rudder in Trinidad, Short shirt in Antigua, Gabby and Red Plastic Bag in Barbados would do a better job, since the event called for serious calypso that would appeal to young and old."

Well, the chairman or the chair-moderator brought the discussion to a serious debate when he asked: "What kind of calypso was needed for such an historical event?" The crowd searching in introspection became quieter and spoke thereafter in slow, searching, audible steps. Calypsonian Alberto from London joined the occasion and received a standing ovation of applause, as it were, when he said that the calypso that was needed for such a function was one like Sparrow's "No Apology." In that calypso, Ted Koppell, the well-known, British American broadcaster, wanted Mandela to "condemn Muammar Gaddafi, Fidel Castro, and Yasser Arafat right there on T.V." for siding with them when he left prison in South Africa and became President of the South African Republic. Well, in support of Alberto's choice, Gil Figaro sang the calypso "No Apology" for us, the webinar crowd, outlining the lyrics of Mandela informing Ted Koppell: "These people helped me when apartheid was on the rise; I dealt with them out of necessity; I will never apologise." Of course, Mandela also informed Koppell, via Sparrow, that he bore all the wrongs made against him patiently and ended up by saying: "Thorns and Thistles have been laid on my head to curtail my rest...I will never

apologise for my identity."

"Not a man move," as we used to say in cricket when Gary Sobers was batting and hit a ball for four. All agreed that a calypso like that demonstrating truth, history, interest, well-measured lyrics, and apt music that spoke to the entire world was the kind of art and artform needed for that black-tie event. "It must be a calypso where the lyrics must be drawn up with malice towards none and charity towards all," said another. Moreover, Gil and others pointed out that the singers who could have made that type of calypso were the Roaring Lion, Attila the Hun, DeFosto, Beginner, Duke, Composer, Merchant and Pretender but they have all gone to their rest in paradise. The audience all agreed and concluded that with Black Stalin unwell, "The only ones alive who could reach that standard of composing with lyrics that rhyme and make sense, while yet displaying that air of authority on stage, are Sparrow and Chalkdust."

Of course, I was asked my opinion and not wanting to be accused of bias and self-praise, I used the opportunity to inform the crowd of calypso enthusiasts that the ambassador for Trinidad and Tobago in the United States/Canada would have done an immortal job, if he had used his position in New York to secure a calypso on the Biden programme, in the first place. "Do you know what a calypso on that stage would have done for Trinidad and Tobago?" I queried. Agreeing with me, a few musicians joined together to say: "We need ambassadors with a calypso mission and vision out there. A calypso on the Biden inauguration, broadcasted to the world of over 400 million listeners would have shown to people everywhere the composing ability and capacity of our nationals and spread our artform to the ends of the earth, for in truth and in fact, there is no music like the calypso when it comes to capturing an event, especially a historical one." Now, I am not supporting the



use of calypso because I am a calypsonian. Rather, I am stating a fact that studies of ethnomusicology have shown that in terms of peoples' participation, crowd appeal, rhythmic rhyming lines, poetry in music and a people's culture wrapped beautifully within the lyrical lines, no art form in such Biden-like circumstances can beat or prove better than the calypso. My Grenadian friend Syllo chimed in: "Only one thing was missing from that event, a calypso from Sparrow."

In addition, in terms of the importance of a calvpso at world events such as the U.S. Inauguration, a few calypsonians from Canada raised the point that instead of holding a virtual Calypso Monarch show for Carnival in Trinidad and Tobago this year, TUCO in conjunction with TSTT has planned a Soca contest to display mainly "a calypso road march." The question was asked who will benefit from such a display of road marches without revellers on the road? Surely, the crowd in the New York webinar noted, if TUCO understood the value of calypso, if they understood that, in the words of the Mighty Sniper, "by calypsos our stories are told," then they would organize a calypso contest to show the impact of the Covid pandemic. Then and only then, they would know "what is calypso" as described by the Mighty Duke: "an editorial in song of what we undergo." A "true-true calypso" contest of "true-true calypsos" according to Pretender, would lift the artform and slow down its probable, impending doom. Imagine ECLAC in year 2020 has asked a Trinidadian to research the impact of Covid 19 on calypso and TUCO has shied away from its role, not seeing that TSTT/bmobile will make all the money from text messages and phone calls needed to take the place of calypso judges and laugh at us, TUCO members, in the bank. Indeed, the New York audience therefore found that TUCO was running away from a once-in-a-lifetime golden opportunity to show the beauty of Savannah calypso and thereby demonstrate the composing abilities of locals. "But calypsonians have said nothing for a whole year; the world is anxious to hear Sparrow and GB, and TUCO don't want to give them that microphone?" retorted a young female singer from Boston. Thus, a nail will have been driven into the coffin of calypso when the Calypso Monarch contest, already fighting to stay alive, is not supported by the body that represents Calypso. I know that some will say that Soca and jump up songs are also calypso genres but the art of composing Savannah calypsos a la Shadow, Pink Panther, Composer, Superior, Gypsy, Gabby, Sparrow, Striker, Melody, Rudder, Spitfire, Terror, GB, and Short Shirt, to name a distinguished few, will be lost soon if such decisions are taken by an esteemed body like TUCO. Mr. Martin Daly, on the Trinidad Sunday Express of January 24, has also testified to this. Daly made the important point that the excitement from a calypso tentaudience shouting out timely outbursts of "Kaiso, Kaiso boy," cannot be replaced by TUCO's virtual road march. Need I say more? As such, I wish to tell Mr Daly: "I am not lonely anymore; I am dissolved among learned men."

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AN OPEN LETTER TO THE BIDEN/HARRIS ADMINISTRATION

Reset USA Latin America Caribbean Policy Now!

The Vice President and President The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20500

February 23, 2021

Dear Mr. President and Madam Vice President.

As a group concerned about the preservation of sovereignty and ensuring that Latin America and the Caribbean remain a Zone of Peace, we write calling on you to revoke all of your predecessor's damaging policies toward the region.

We commend you and your administration on the first slew of executive orders such as the partial moratorium on deportations, rescinding the racist 1776 Project aimed at rewriting and whitewashing American history, and a commitment to environmental justice, diversity, equity and inclusion in government. We felt it logical that these intended policy shifts would suggest movement to ethical governing and a foreign policy consistent with the principles enshrined in various world bodies advocating non-interference in the internal affairs of nations.

We are aware of the role you played in the Obama/Biden Administration in beginning the normalization of relations with Cuba, though the administration's support of the 2009 coup in Honduras continues to have a devastating impact on the Honduran people. As such, we call on you to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of countries of the region and to rekindle the humanitarian thrust in Cuba, which would mean far more to the Cuban people than to the US or Cuban governments.

We were on the brink of writing to encourage you to reset US policy in Latin America and the Caribbean but, once we became aware, through your Secretary of State's announcement, of an intention to continue the last Administration's dastardly policy toward Venezuelans, we decided to extend the letter to the public.

Understandingly, based on the January 6 storming of the US Capitol, many civilians may now more fully appreciate the turmoil and debilitating impact an attempt to subvert the electoral process has on a people. By continuing to recognize Juan Guaido as the "president"—someone who lacks legitimacy and never ran for president in Venezuela—your administration will be reinforcing the last administration's saber-rattling towards Venezuela and beyond.

Though the right of self-determination--peoples' ability to freely determine, without external interference, their political status--has been long-enshrined in the United Nations Charter, too many US presidents, espe-



cially the previous one, have violated that foundational principle--with immunity. It is against this backdrop of ongoing hostility towards certain leaders in the region that we call for a realignment of US's foreign policy in the hemisphere. This new strategy must be based on decency and respect for international law and norms, which were decimated under the previous Administration.

While your idea of a Global Summit for Democracy "to renew the spirit and shared purpose of the nations of the free world" is a start, we think that the shock of recent events provides a new lens through which to reflect on the USA's domineering past in Latin America and the Caribbean as the first step in condemning it.

Today, even while battling COVID-19, your administration has a historic opportunity to exorcise the ghosts that haunt America's presence. In fact, this can be a winwin proposition: relations based on trust and mutual respect can strengthen the hemispheric cooperation necessary to fight this unprecedented pandemic. Indeed, these desperate times require radial changes in North-South relations.

As such, within the remaining days of your first 100 days, we encourage you to commit to, and issue, the following:

I. An executive order recognizing the Maduro government in Venezuela and removing all US-imposed sanctions on the government.

II. A commitment to regularize US-Cuba relations beginning with the immediate repudiation of the previous administration's last-minute decision to declare Cuba a terrorist state.

III. A formal apology to all the countries which were, invaded by previous administrations or in which coups were engineered. Countries such as Guatemala, Chile, Haiti, Nicaragua, Panama, Grenada, Cuba, Honduras, Guyana among others. In addition, an apology must also be made to the families of leaders (such as Salvador Allende, etc.) whose assassinations were caused as a direct result of US-engineered coups and interventionist policies.

IV. An order setting up a Truth and Reconciliation Committee to uncover and recover truths about gross human rights violations arising from the US's anachronistic polices in the region. We call further for the setting up of an international tribunal, with adequate regional representation, to determine the amount of reparations to be paid to the countries and families which suffered



as a direct result of the havoc wreaked by previous US administrations.

Indeed, the early days of your administration provide an opportunity to redefine and reset US's foreign policy towards the region. This new orientation must be based on equity, grounded in ethics, yet mindful that these countries are Not For Sale, and definitely In Nobody's Backyard!

Respectfully,

Donawa Augustine, Consultant & Management Coach Lenore Boney, Concerned World Citizen Nick Cox, Advocate for Regionalism

Daunt Curwen, Brooklyn Resident

Martin P. Felix, Co-Editor, BDN, Artist&Educator

Malika Green, Artist

Lennel A. George, Retired Principal, NYC W. R. Holder, Co-Editor, BigDrumNation Khalick J. Hewitt, Esq. and Panologist Martin Houston, Music Collector Kim Johnson, PhD., Writer & Filmmaker.

Rita Keresztesi, Author, Literary Black Power in the

Caribbean Fiction, Music and Film

Carlyle G. Leach, Managing Director, Haxy Ventures Raymond Luke, IT Consultant and Chairman, Sesame

Flyers International

Duff Mitchell, Chair T&T Folk Arts Institute, NY

George Morris, Economics Professor, Contra Costa College, San Pablo, CA Ken Bari Murray, Songwriter/Performing Artist Kamau Odinga, Community Organizer, Luling, LA. Dawad Philip, Poet/Artist & FMR Ed., NY Daily Challenge

Dr. Shirley Steinberg, Press



Executive Acquisitions & Development Editor, DIO MervynTaylor, Poet/Educator. Josh Ťyson-Fermin, Music Researcher & Filmmaker. Vulindlela Wobogo, Author, "Cold Wind From The North: The Pre-historic European Origin of Racism..."

ARGUMENT

America: Adjusting A Faulty Foreign Policy?

Ken Murray

So much of this letter, ("We Need a Reset in USA's Latin America/Caribbean Policy"), speaks truth to power and needs to be included in the new role for the US to follow in our evolving world. Many of the struc-



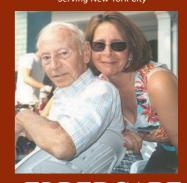
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1946 Victory Boulevard Staten Island, NY 10314 tures in place that Trump decimated were already antiquated, having been built when the US was the singular dominant nation in the world: manufacturing and industrial supplier of the world, military giant with a near monopoly of nuclear power, stable and functioning democratic government, creative institutions of medicine, education and culture, etc.

The US is no longer the chief, but is again one of the tribe and her global role will necessarily change accordingly. It would be nice if this happened through insight, planning and evolution. Instead, we got a "bull in the China closet," who so easily shattered our alliances, traditions and protocols, primarily because they had not changed along with the new realities.

Have we learned our lesson? Will we be better able today to cope with racist residue, imperialist impulse, decaying institutions, rotting infrastructure, cannibalism of its own citizens with a methodology practiced for decades on third world soil, etc.? Let us also mention the run-away train we are on with climate catastrophe, air and water pollution, nuclear arms races, refugee crises throughout the world, a pandemic that has constantly outwitted the scientists and so on.

What can Biden do? He seems to be comparing his challenge to that of FDR, who had to contend with many serious crises that reached our shores, the first of which was the Great Depression. FDR had his 100 days, which morphed into the New Deal: the monumental effort to tackle the economic fallout that victimized the US population. And yet FDR did not ignore the need to adjust a faulty foreign policy. His Good Neighbor Policy was an antidote to many of the imperialist tendencies devised by his very own cousin, Teddy.

Because of our shrinking world, Biden has even less choice than FDR had: he must revise a crippled system of dealing with our neighbors. I'm not sure Biden is the one to tackle it. On the one hand, he has similarities to FDR. He has overcome personal handicaps and losses that would stagger most people, yet he remains committed to his effort. On the other hand, FDR was bedrock elite and could commandeer loyalty across many barriers. He also presided over a country that was agriculturally and industrially proud. Even though idle, the US still had farms and factories that could be returned to. Not true for Biden. Even with his push to "Buy American," the problem remains--the production is not there.

Hopefully, Biden can come up with his version of a Good Neighbor Policy, which would have to acknowledge the ballistic nature of our traditional foreign policy with a willingness to devise policies now as a partner. Admitting our aggressive past of constant interventions throughout the hemisphere would be a step in the right direction. Making restitution in cases of egregious violations of sovereignty should be considered and arbitrated by a fair agency. I do think Biden will have to pick his battles and both of the cases that Trump mishandled, i.e., Venezuela and Cuba, each have their own difficulty.

With Cuba, Trump is baiting Biden with the "Socialist" card. Having declared Cuba a "terrorist" nation upon leaving office, he wants to pounce on Biden when he removes Cuba from that category claiming he is "soft of Socialists." This from the Putin Puppet himself! The Venezuela issue is that the "elected" government on Madero is on weak ground itself.

The numbers claimed by Madero, which were equal to those given to his predecessor, Hugo Chavez. Chavez was equally hostile to US, but his election was generally judged fair by the Carter Center and other monitors. Those independent monitors have not anointed Madero with the same imprimatur. His autocratic approach bears comparison to our own homegrown version, who was fired by the voters in US in an election that was seriously monitored. If Madero submits to a fair and monitored election and is victorious, Biden and the US will have to abide by this choice, if his new Good Neighbor Policy wants to have credibility.

*Kenneth Murray, is a Songwriter/Performing Artist

REACTION:

The Reset Is A Lie!

Gerard Thomas

"You will not be able to stay home, brother You will not be able to plug in, turn on and cop out You will not be able to lose yourself on skag And skip out for beer during commercials, because The revolution will not be televised."

"The Revolution Will Not Be Televised" --Gil Scott-Heron

The Biden Reset will not be televised

There will be no NEW role for the US in our evolving world

Our post World War II dominance was not built on exceptionalism but because we profited from war and did not have to rebuild our country

We will not be able to cope with racist residue and home cooking cannibalism

There will be no Spiderman stopping the runaway climate catastrophe train

The Biden Reset will not be televised

There will no FDR-like New Deal

There will not be pictures of Biden in Habana or Caracas "Buy American" did not work for the union for the workers,

the ILGWU, in the mid 20th century The US is a buyer in a seller's market There are no American bargaining chips FDR has not been reincarnated The Biden Reset will not be televised

The Biden Reset will not be televised. The Biden Reset will not be televised,

Brothers and Sisters and Non-binary

The Reset is a lie...

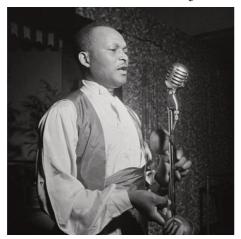
Gerard Thomas is an avid reader who lives in Brooklyn, NY.



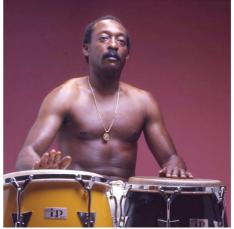
VP Kamala Harris

Blurs the Thin Line Between Caribbean-Americans & African-Americans

By Herman Hall



Calypsonian Macbeth the Great (Patrick McDonald), an organizer of early Caribbean carnival in NY.



Ralph McDonald, Grammy-award winning percussionist, son of Macbeth the Great.

any Jamaicans, and other Caribbean people, residing in the U.S. and abroad, are upset that the mainstream media continuously refers to former Senator and now Vice President Kamala Harris as African-American and South Asian but seldom refer to her as Jamaican-American or Caribbean-American. There are reasons why Vice President Harris is hardly ever recognized in the media as Jamaican-American or Caribbean-American. In countries such as the U.S., Canada, United Kingdom and France with a history of welcoming immigrants to fill their labor force, the children of immigrants who were born in the adopted home of their parents consider themselves nationals of the land of their birth. Most children born in England of African and Caribbean parentage are Britons, those born in Canada are Canadians and, in the U.S., Americans.

I once witnessed a prank by a Jamaican family on their American born teenager at the Penn Relays where most of the attendees were Jamaicans and Jamaican athletes dominated the track and field competition. When a Jamaican athlete was in a race the teenager's family and other Jamaicans went berserk cheering Jamaica but the teenager chanted, "USA! USA!" and waved the U.S. flag if a U.S. athlete was in the same race. Although the family constantly encouraged him to cheer for the Jamaican team, the teenager ignored them. When the family took out their jerk chicken, curried goat and other mouthwatering Jamaican food, they did not hand the teenager a plate. Upon asking for his food, they jokingly chided him for supporting the American athletes. The family reasoned that he should, therefore, go get his French fries and burgers. After toying with him, for a few minutes, with a feigned punishment the teenager got

his share of stewed oxtail but he did not relent; "USA! USA!" he continued.

The youth's disposition reminded me of Dr. Eric Williams who led Trinidad & Tobago into independence on August 31, 1962. On that historic day, he cautioned the new multicultural nation with words which ring through time: "There can be no Mother India, for those whose ancestors came from India ... There can be no Mother Africa, for those of African origin. There can be no Mother England ... no dual loyalties ... A nation, like an individual, can have only one Mother. The only Mother we recognize is Mother Trinidad and Tobago"! The American youth understood this intuitively without being aware of Williams and his legacy. (I wonder if VP Harris is aware that Dr. Williams taught at Howard University (1939-1946.)

Ralph McDonald (1944-2011), Grammy-award winning percussionist, songwriter, producer and composer of hits such as "Where Is the Love," "Just the Two of Us," and "Mister Magic," was African-American. Legends like Paul Simon, James Taylor, Billy Joel, Bette Midler and Diana Ross commissioned McDonald to work on their productions. His father, Macbeth the Great (Patrick McDonald), a Trinidadian, was a Harlem based calypsonian of the 1940s and a founder of carnival on Labor Day weekend in New York. Throughout his life, Ralph never strayed from his Trinidadian roots. I was honored to attend the tribute to him at Queens Hall in Trinidad in 2012 and to enjoy children performing his music.

So, why the big fuss about Vice President Harris and the media not celebrating her Jamaican roots? "Actions speak louder than words," has been demonstrated by



many distinguished African-Americans of Caribbean heritage. Vice President Harris epitomizes that category.

Let's briefly go back to the early 20th century. Up to the 1970s, there were hush hush conversations about African-Americans (Black Americans) and West Indian-Americans (Caribbean-Americans) rivalries and frictions. Fortunately, in 2021, the differences no longer exist or minimal. Fortuitously, too, the so-called friction and competition between both groups were restricted to the northeast such as New York City, Newark, Philadelphia and Boston. While today's generation are not aware of the divisiveness, it is recorded in history. Both groups made derogatory statements against each other. West Indian immigrants were frequently referred to as "Black Jews" for their desire to save. And most West Indian mamas told their sons, "never marry African-American women they don't know how to cook." Sheer nonsense! Yet, that chant was even included in a calypso!

In the late 19th century-early 20th century, migrants from the south fleeing segregation, discrimination and racism settled in Harlem. West Indians, as Caribbean people were then called, were also arriving in the U.S. and settling in Harlem in search of opportunities. In the migrant and immigrant competition to get jobs, most Caribbean immigrants had some advantages. The immigrants of the era of the 1900s-1950s came from the middle and upper class. Most were the children of overseers, estate managers, civil servants, clergies and merchants. Many had a coffee with cream complexion and a better education. Moreover, they

arrived as British citizens. That's what their passport said, "British Subject." Being a British West Indian gave the individual an advantage. White America favored West Indians for their eloquence, education and skin tone thereby giving them employment instead of giving it to African-American migrants.

Numerous West Indian immigrants, and their American born children, became the first blacks to hold elected offices in the northeast such as Assemblyman Bertram Baker. But their offspring, like most offspring of 21st century immigrants, considered themselves black Americans or African-Americans such as Cecily Tyson and Gil Noble, one of the first blacks in television. Times have changed, the 2020 census segmented the black population – Haitian-Americans, Nigerian-Americans, Indo-Caribbean, Afro-Caribbean, Jamaican-Americans. Yet, when it comes to murdering and oppressing black people, law enforcement does not differentiate between people of color - Afro/Indo Caribbean and African American among others - who is Caribbean-American and who is not.

To describe Vice President Kamala Harris as first woman, first woman of color, first person of South Asian heritage, first Jamaican-American, first Caribbean-American and first African-American vice president of the U.S. is monotonous. Future archives will simply describe her as the first woman and first African-American to hold the second highest office in the USA because there is indeed a very thin line between Caribbean-American and African-American.

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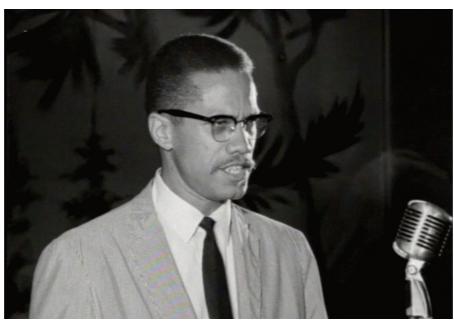
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Add January 6, 2021 By Herman Hall



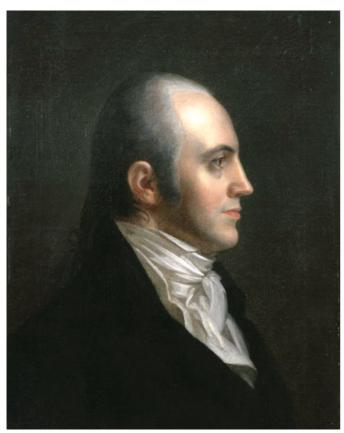
Malcolm X. - Photo Kwame Brathwaite

s news flashed around the world on August 11, 2020 announcing that Joe Biden had selected Senator Kamala Harris to be his running mate, I reflected on four key Caribbean American personalities: Founding Father Alexander Hamilton, born in Nevis and grew up in St. Croix; Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm born in Brooklyn and grew up in Barbados; Judge Constance Baker Mottley, born in Connecticut of Nevisian parentage; and (Ret) General Colin Powell born in Harlem of Jamaican parentage (EVERYBODY'S, Sep/Oct, 2020). On Wednesday, January 6, 2021, as the attempt to overthrow the government of the USA was broadcast live and in living color, direct from Washington, DC, my mind flashed on Malcolm X and his statement to reporters on November 23, 1963, the day after President John F. Kennedy was assassinated: "The chickens were coming home to roost."

Although Malcolm X later explained what he meant multiple times, for 60 years his statement has been interpreted differently by people of various ideologies, color and race. He was banned for three months from public speaking by his leader, Elijah Muhammad, founder of the Nation of Islam. To this day, some historians believe that disdain for Malcolm's epigrammatic statement was a reason why the American government, through the FBI and CIA, or the Nation of Islam, may have been responsible for Malcolm's assassination. "The chickens were coming home to roost" were exhibited on January 6, 2021 to a worldwide audience. Should Malcolm X now be exculpated for speaking the truth?

Mrs. Betty Shabazz, Malcolm's wife, was one of EV-ERYBODY'S first subscribers. The late Manhattan Borough President Percy Sutton and the late Dr. Benjamin Watkins then principal owners of WBLS/WLIB radio





Aaron Burr 1756-1836. Painting by John Vanderlyn (1775 - 1852), courtesy the New York Historical Society.

stations in New York City introduced me to Mrs. Shabazz. We met several times and I once went to her home in Mount Vernon, NY, but we never discussed Malcolm except the very first time when Dr. Watkins told her I am Grenadian and she instantly responded, "My husband's mother was from Grenada." I anticipated chatting with her about Malcolm and about "the chickens were coming home to roost" at the appropriate time. Unfortunately, she met an untimely death before the opportunity occurred.

I remember Malcolm's statement vividly. It was 1963, as a secondary school student, I frequented the Grenada Public Library. It was there I first saw headlines in foreign newspapers about Malcolm X. "How could anybody have "X" as his last name?" I asked myself. And I thought, "the chickens were coming home to roost" meant, "it is night time and the chicken are coming home to the chickencoop" as they did at home on Belvedere Estate. The hens and cocks spent the night on the large nutmeg tree in front of our house and the chickens slept in the chickencoop under the house.

Five years later, January 1968, in one of my classes at Brooklyn College, I came to understand the significance of the late Malcolm X and the meaning of his prescient assertion "the chickens were coming home to roost." That semester the professor asked the class to compare Malcolm's contentious statement with Rev. Martin Luther

King, Jr. pronouncement on April 4, 1967, at the Riverside Church in Harlem, about the Vietnam War, when King proclaimed, "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today is my own government" – meaning the U.S. The class discussions were spirited; the Vietnam War was at its peak and students were either for or against the war; some black students admired Malcolm others King but the white students hated both. Here we were (although I kept my mouth shut as a newly arrived immigrant on a Student Visa) comparing the statement of two prominent civil rights leaders, one deceased and the other alive. Dr. King would be assassinated three months later, April 4, 1968, exactly one year after his disquieting Vietnam speech. Some students felt King's statement was just as damaging as Malcolm's own but the establishment, prominent blacks and President Lyndon Johnson were not as harsh on King as they were on Malcolm.

In 2021, both Dr. King's and Malcolm X' statements are relevant. Malcolm X was referring mainly to internal problems in the U.S. because President Kennedy was assassinated in the U.S. and not by a foreign power. Rev. King was highlighting the dreadful external policy of the U.S. and how this policy was creating strife across the U.S. and havoc abroad. Dr. King explained that Vietnam was an example of how the U.S. uses power and encourages insurrections around the world in order to control countries.

What Americans tasted on January 6, 2021 is similar to what America forces many people around the world endure through its policy of "manifest destiny." The U.S. has overthrown many governments by encouraging insurrections, revolutions and chaos. The nation got a bitter taste of its own medicine on January 6 which affirmed Malcolm's and King's profound statements.

Manifest destiny implied that the U.S. (the former Thirteen Colonies) had the right to expand by seizing Native American lands especially what was then called the Northwestern Territories, today the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin. The issue of slavery in those new states led to the Civil War. Manifest destiny was also incorporated into American foreign policy allowing the nation to control other nations especially the Americas.

In the days and weeks after the failed coup, the crème de la crème of American journalists said America looked like a Banana Republic. The journalists of CNN, FOX News, CNBC, the New York Times and other major media houses failed to emphasize that the so-called Banana Republics were principally created by the U.S.

There is an abundance of declassified CIA files revealing U.S. sponsored insurrections and overthrowing of legitimate governments especially in the Americas, newly independent nations in Africa and the Middle East. The origins of the conflict between Iran and the U.S. are no longer classified secrets. In 1953, the U.S. overthrew the government of Mohammad Mosaddeq



and replaced him with the Shah who was committed to opening his nation's oilfields to the west.

When Malcolm X spoke of "the chickens coming home to roost," he may have been referring to President John F. Kennedy's policy of overthrowing governments. When Kennedy assumed office on January 20, 1961, he was determined to curb the Soviet Union influence whether imagined or real. Convinced communism will spread in Africa and control the minerals in the Congo, Kennedy gave the green light to support Belgium in the Congo. Belgium, the US and other western powers were partially responsible for the assassination of the Pan Africanist Patrice Lumumba, the first prime minister of Belgian Congo (now Democratic Republic of the Congo) in 1961. Many analysts believe that Blood was also on Kennedy's hands in 1961 for the shooting down of a plane over the Congo with UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold aboard. Everyone died on this peacekeeping mission.

It is not known if Malcolm X was aware that the racial strife in then British Guiana of the early 1960s was fueled by the U.S. in order to restrict the influence of Chief Minister Cheddi Jagan. Decades later, just before Dr. Jagan died, historian Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., President Kennedy's adviser on Latin America admitted, "we misunderstood the whole struggle down there" and he apologized to Jagan. The irony of British Guiana (now Guyana) is that the U.S. supported Jagan's archrival Forbes Burnham, a socialist, who remained on the CIA payroll for decades as revealed by a U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

There's a recurring tendency in US foreign policy in that regardless to whether Democrats or Republicans are in power, U.S. policy of inflicting terror overseas is the same. It was Republican President Dwight Eisenhower in 1955 who sent military advisors to Vietnam. President Kennedy added troops, and another Democrat President Lyndon B. Johnson escalated the war. Republican Richard Nixon who succeeded Johnson continued the policy until the Vietcong and North Vietnamese troops in 1975 ran the U.S. out of what was then South Vietnam. In justifying the Vietnam War, five presidents - Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon used the rationale that if they did not succeed in Vietnam, the entire southeast Asia and beyond would be controlled by communists. The war ended 46 years ago and the victor, the Vietnamese people, have not invaded other countries. Yet, America's insane foreign policy continued.

It was both the Democrats and Republicans who engineered the chaos in Chile, although the actual overthrowing of the elected government of Salvador Allende was on President Richard Nixon's watch. Augusto Pinochet with the U.S. blessings gave the Chilean people one of the most brutal governments in the Americas.

Jamaicans were lucky. By 1980, most Jamaicans were tired of Michael Manley's democratic-socialist experiment and the deteriorating economy. They felt his two terms in office were enough. The Carter administra-



President John F. Kennedy.

tion was concerned about Manley's support of the People's Revolutionary Government in Grenada led by Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, Manley's cozy relations with Fidel Castro in Cuba, Daniel Ortega in Nicaragua and his influence in Africa.

The Republican Party (out of power) was concerned too but believed the Carter administration was maladroit. The right wing of the Republican Party discreetly, and in conjunction with the CIA, supported Opposition Leader Edward Seaga and his Jamaica Labour Party. The Republicans indeed fomented lawlessness in Jamaica and was somewhat responsible for the 800 lives lost during the 1980 elections. Although most people in Jamaica and abroad expected Manley would be defeated by a landslide, American intelligence agencies were taking no chances as stated in an April 2, 1980, CIA document. "The JLP is highly favored to defeat Manley ... as chances for major social and political violence increase, prospects for an orderly transfer of power to the JLP will decline." By October 30, the date of the election, the U.S. had already enlisted black military personnel, especially Caribbean soldiers in the U.S. army, and the JLP militant members residing in cities such as New York to clandestinely enter major towns across Jamaica to lead insurrections on the basis that the election was stolen from the JLP. Based on that pretext, the U.S. would invade Jamaica to restore law and order. Fortunately, Manley's PNP lost the election winning only won 9 seats and the ILP 51.

While out of office, but hoping to regain power which he did in 1989, I discussed "the invasion" scenario with Manley. He said he was aware of the rumors and in the years after his humiliating defeat several high-level sources in the U.S. confirmed the allegation. Manley



was an astute politician; he hoped to regain power by toning down his rhetoric. He did not want to frustrate the U.S., therefore, our informal discussion on this topic ended quickly.

Americans may soon forget the agony and embarrassment of January 6, 2021 and the anxious days leading up to the inauguration of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. The U.S. will quickly return to its centuries-old policy of stirring up insurrections and destabilizing foreign governments that fail to fall in line; and most Americans will return to their custom of branding them as "banana republics" and communist states.

When taking the oath of office, a public servant in the U.S. is required to say, "to support ... the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic." Since "domestic" is included, it implies that insurrection is as American as apple pie or the U.S. had insurrectionists in its history or they may appear in the future.

American history text books are carefully crafted to present a rosy story of America's past. Many notables have unknowingly promoted misinformation. On the evening of July 4, 1976, I was in disbelief as I listened to Walter Cronkite, the dean of television anchors and most trusted reporter, in a CBS Bicentennial Special, mentioned that "Alexander Hamilton was born in Scotland."

For the 200th anniversary of the U.S. (1776-1976), I wrote, "200 Years of West Indian-American Contributions" where I highlighted Alexander Hamilton's birthplace as Nevis, and St. Croix where he grew up. Indeed, Aaron Burr, the U.S. Vice president, who killed Hamilton in a gun duel on the morning of July 11,1804 in Weehawken, NJ, can be considered the U.S. first failed terrorists and insurrectionists.

I am puzzled why on January 6, prominent journalists such as CNN Wolf Blitzer kept focusing on the burning of the White House on August 24, 1814 during the War of 1812. That happened because there was a war between England and the U.S. and the invading British troops burnt the White House. It was an external force that created the havoc. Bin Laden did something similar on 9/11/2001 except it was in New York City and the World Trade Center.

I am yet to hear the media discuss Aaron Burr and the sensation he created in 1805-07. He was arrested on February 18, 1807, accused of sedition for planning an insurrection. The attack on the capitol on January 6 has more in common with Burr's actions than with the 1814 incident. Burr's actions of 1807 and the insurgency of January 6, 2021 were both unquestionably domestic terrorism.

The electoral college that has dominated news about the ratification of the 2020 presidential election was just as tense and controversial as the presidential election of 1800. Thomas Jefferson chose Aaron Burr as his running mate and they defeated President John Adams who got 65 electoral votes and Jefferson 73. The law was different then. In that era, each person on the presidential ticket had to secure his own electoral votes. Jefferson and Burr

got 73 electoral votes each forcing them to become rivals and for the House of Representatives to elect one of them president. The House voted 35 times, yes 35 times, but neither Jefferson nor Burr could get the required number of votes. Finally, on the 36th ballot, Jefferson won thanks to Delaware State. Aaron Burr became vice president but the relationship between himself and Jefferson was never the same. Although sitting Vice President Aaron Burr shot and fatally wounded Hamilton, America's first secretary of the treasury, Burr defied public opinion and he remained in office until his term ended. Burr's actions suggested that he was a forerunner of Trump. Nothing was going to stop him in his quest for power.

Less than a year after the disgraced former vice president killed Hamilton he arrived in Marietta, Ohio, where through an agent, he contracted to have 15 boats built and soldiers recruited. He planned to seize the Mississippi Territory, Mexico, New Orleans and the states of the Northwestern Territories hopefully with the help of Spain to create a new nation. In other words, to breakup the U.S. Burr's planning was an open secret across the Northwestern Territories and Mississippi. President Thomas Jefferson kept tabs on his former vice president and friend.

Jefferson was frequently briefed about rumors of Aaron Burr's plans to separate the northwestern states from the Union. Jefferson had enough when he received a letter stating, "This is indeed a deep, dark and widespread conspiracy, embracing the young and old ..." The 15 boats, Burr and his conspirators ordered and built, were seized. Burr was arrested in the Mississippi Territory on orders from Jefferson. He was tried for treason in Virginia where he and his principal accomplice, Harman Blennerhassat, were acquitted. Still, later, he encouraged Napoleon Bonaparte to overthrow the American government but Bonaparte ignored him.

The world watching the implausible episode in Washington, D.C. were led to believe by America's journalists and commentators that it was a first-time occurrence in the nation. They did not mention Wilmington, North Carolina, when in 1898, a white mob from the Democratic Party, at that time the party of white supremacists, overthrew the elected municipal government at gunpoint. The Republican Party, back then, was the party of blacks and liberal whites. Some scholars consider Wilmington, 1898, a successful coup.

The revolt of January 6, 2021, is not exactly new when one considers the saga of Vice President Aaron Burr and Wilmington, 1898. Like Burr many of those arrested for insurrection on January 6 may be acquitted; others someday may be honored similar to the insurrectionists in Wilmington. For it's all in the game of American politics where ethics, morality, and responsibility are missing in action.

Indeed, Malcolm X was correct, "The chickens were coming home to roost."





The Naked Truth Revealed



On January 6, 2021

By Roger Toussaint

Following up on reactions to his letter, "Why Did PBA Back Trump?" (August 21, 2000, The Chief), which was published as "On the PBA Endorsing Donald Trump" (Everybody's September/October, 2020), Roger Toussaint discusses violent white supremacy, the real truth behind "blue lives matter" and calls for measures to identify and flush out white supremacy, whether in uniforms or suits.

y statement below caused "The Chief Leader", an organ which purports to be the voice of Civil Service workers and employees in NYC, to issue a disclaimer in defense of Pat Lynch, President of the NY Police Benevolent Association on the grounds that Pat and the NY PBA had criticized the actions of the police in the George Floyd situation. But here is what I actually said:

"Pat Lynch and the old guard of the PBA consider it more important to stand behind MAGA, which at its core argues that, unless cops are allowed to use chokeholds and knees on the necks of black and brown people of all ages and genders, or shoot down unarmed ones, chaos, mayhem and lawlessness will prevail. Even if they have to give mayhem a nudge or a big lift by, for instance, refusing to stop crime when they can, via police 'strikes'—fraudulently invoking union activism for the benefit of old-guard racists who, understandably, support 'White Power' Donald Trump and want to see that status quo preserved."

Readers will note that saying that "to stand behind MAGA, which at its core argues that ..." is simply NOT the same as saying that Pat Lynch and the leadership of the PBA specifically advocated in favor of the actions of the police in the George Floyd situation. Nor, did I say



that they advocated "for knees and chokeholds on the necks of black and brown people" (even though, the record shows, that they in fact do. I was just saying that that is not what I said in my piece.) But the Chief chose to tag me anyway and warmly welcomed commentary from readers who shared similar "outrage" at my remarks. But I get it - the shared super sensitivity of the parties involved, accuracy in reporting be damned!

But all this was before the Jan 6th attack on the capitol. The naked truth revealed itself, and it was much worse, worse than just standing "behind MAGA". If anything, I had understated the problem.

Because "blue lives" only mattered when it came to suppressing protests against the murder and brutalization of black and brown people by the police. But when it came to asserting violent white supremacy, blue lives can be sacrificed ... if it gets in the way. Feet, fists, mace, teargas, anti-bear spray, fire extinguishers, spears, buttering rams, furniture, stun and actual guns were on display during the attack. It turns out that even American flagpoles and "blue lives matter" ones, can be weapons against police when required for the purposes of violent white supremacy.

Dozens of officers were injured, many of whom had to be hospitalized. Five deaths, including of one badly battered officer, with another two officer-suicides to follow shortly thereafter. They came outfitted with full body armor and weapons, with captive-taking devices, reconnaissance maps of the Capitol layout, legislative offices location and active legislator movement intelligence and with command-and-control communication devices.

They even reassembled at least one lynching stage station and an execution guillotine they had pre-built and brought with them to the capitol. Finally, they also planted at least two bombs near the Capitol the night before the attack. Several of them flashed badges. This was so far reaching that the U.S Department of Defense was intimately involved - stripping the DC National Guard of armament in advance and ordering them to stand down from responding to the attack on the Capitol! Several retired and active officers, including highly trained ones, participated in the assault on Congress. So yes, I plead guilty, guilty of understating the problem.

Meanwhile, the PBAs and the FOPs have gone into radio silence, or worse. With tons of photographic and social media evidence, the FBI and DOJ are debating who among the insurrectionists to go after and whether to only charge some!!! Weeks have passed since Jan 6th. They have arrested relatively few of the guilty, they have undercharged most of those they have arrested, sought very few search warrants for their homes, workplaces, computers and electronic devices and avoided bringing conspiracy charges, which carry hefty penalties, while many judges have issued pats on the wrists, bonding out the attackers or simply sending most home

to their families to hatch more plots - ensuring the continuation and strengthening of organized, violent white supremacy in America.

It has been reliably reported that some 14,000 people legitimately protesting police brutality were arrested during last summer's protests, on terms that kept hundreds locked up and facing years in jail. But in DC, violent white supremacists stormed in, wreaked havoc and destruction and then walked out of the Capitol. Why? How come?

It is now crystal clear that "blue lives matter" was invoked fraudulently in order to defend the violent suppression of black and brown people by the police and, to promote the violent reign of white supremacy over policing in America. This is no different than the myriad of excuses and cover stories used to justify and explain away white lynch mobs for decades after slavery. The affinity between violent white supremacy and policing has been well established and well known for decades.

As for the PBAs and FOPs, many of them undoubtedly had representatives among the violent white supremacist mobs in DC on Jan 6th. About 2 dozen individual officers have thus far been identified. Their representation is clearly more widespread, representation fostered and encouraged by the "blue lives matter" dog whistle used by open white supremacists as well as the more polished leaders of the PBAs and FOPs around the country. As I said before, PBA administrations such as Pat Lynch's in NY must be overthrown or replaced.

Nothing demoralizes a decent police officer more than systems and institutions that protect and promote corrupt, racist and misogynist officers, sickos and bullies who prey on women and on black and brown bodies for their nourishment and are oftentimes, by design, the ones allowed to call the shots in police organizations, even when they are a minority.

The Jan 6th white supremacist mobs must be arrested, prosecuted and jailed. Their well-resourced networks must be traced and unearthed. The complicity of the oversight bodies that have long protected them must also be taken on with a renewed fervor to penetrate the institutional leadership, legislative and policy making structures that drive white supremacy from behind the scenes. They know how to identify and ferret out the racist sickos and psychopaths who want badges, guns and power over life.

We must demand measures to identify and flush them out. Where they exist, where they thrive, is strictly a function of where they are allowed to. Go after the movers and shakers, put them out of business. Our tax \$\$ should go to benefit the communities not to fund our own abuse and murder.

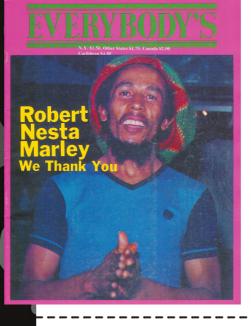
But remember, Jan 6th and its aftermath bring into the light what black and brown communities have always known - that they cannot rely on the forces of 'law and order' to either protect or serve them, not even Congress could - not when the chickens came home to roost!



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