

EVERYBODY'S NEW YORK

The Summer of
COVID-19
Some Caribbean
Events Postponed



**Buju
Banton**
*Vibrates
Kenya*

NEW YORK

ROARING LION WITHOUT CLAWS & TEETH



**Biden Vs Sanders
No Factor**





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READERSTIME

INDEPENDENCE DATES – AFRICAN NATIONS

It is very noble of your magazine in its 2020 calendar to include the date each African country won back its independence from European nations. I prefer to say “won back independence” and not “achieved independence” because there were numerous nations before the Europeans arrived.

*Moi Bascombe,
Staten Island, NY*

INDEPENDENCE DAY, CUBA

For your information Independence Day is not January 1 in Cuba. Your magazine erroneously listed January 1 as Independence Day in its Global Caribbean Calendar issue. The real Independence Day is celebrated every October 10

to commemorate the day the people of Cuba declared their independence from Spain on October 10, 1868. In 1898 America entered the Spanish-American War and, as a result, it possessed Cuba. On May 20, 1902, Cuba received its independence from America.

January 1, 1959 is when the Communists overthrew the government and they continue to spread the propaganda that January 1 is Independence Day.

It is not. The Communists also recognize October 10 as Independence Day but it is overshadowed by January 1. I grew up in a family where they all recognize May 20, 1902 as the day when real freedom came to Cuba when America granted Cuba its independence.

*Juan Perez
South Orange, NJ*

IRVING BURGIE DESERVES BETTER

When Irving Burgie died last December, NPR, The New York Times, Huffington Post and many music magazines gave details of his contributions. As a Caribbean magazine, and as it dubs itself, the Caribbean-American magazine, only a few words announced Burgie's passing. I expected better coverage in EVERYBODY'S.

Jn.....@.....

Irving Burgie deserved more than a paragraph in your year-end issue. He deserved more coverage than what you gave to Buju Banton Long Walk to Freedom Tour. I reside in Chicago far from Caribbean communities in the eastern states, therefore, when a Caribbean person achieves and becomes noteworthy or when a famous Caribbean person



or Caribbean-American such as Irving Burgie passes on, I would expect detailed information in EVERYBODY'S.

Uic...@....

Are you sure Irving Burgie was African-American? My father said he was West Indian. My grandmother

brought my father then a youth to his shows at Town Hall and Harlem to enjoy his calypsos and folk songs. I have albums of Burgie's music my grandmother left me. How could someone who was not West Indian depict the West Indian experience vividly? Your magazine claims his father was from Virginia and the singer was born in Brooklyn. Unbelievable!

*Catherine Bullock
Springfield, MA*

PUBLISHER RESPONSE

When Mr. Burgie died in December all pages in EVERYBODY'S – the 2020 calendar and 2019 highlights were designed, completed and waiting to be uploaded to the printer – except the cover and page 4 reserved for the magazine's Person of the Year for 2019. We went to press soon after the person of the year was selected and profile written giving us no time to prepare a feature on Mr. Burgie's passing. Moreover, our year-end issue is the annual Global Caribbean Calendar. It takes up numerous pages and the other non-advertising pages are allocated to highlights of the year. We recognized his death as a 2019 highlight.

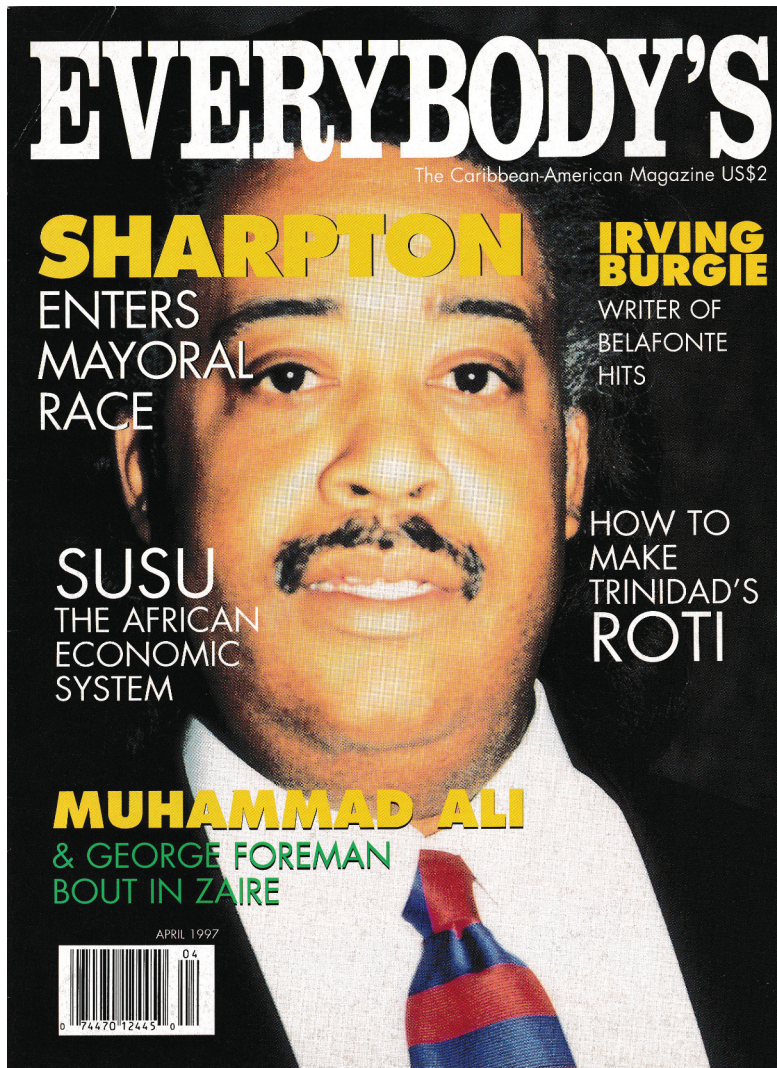
As a small magazine, especially at a time when advertising revenues have evaporated and perhaps a reason for the demise of the great Ebony and Jet, we do not have the resources to quickly make changes at a moment's notice. When we included Mr. Burgie's passing in the calendar edition, I stated that Mr. Burgie who I was honored to meet many years ago became a paid subscriber of this magazine. As a result of his support and his understanding of my vision, I admired him even more.

I accept the criticisms by readers. In January and February at events where I spoke, I mentioned Mr. Burgie's contributions to the U.S. and the Caribbean. Very few Caribbean persons said they heard of him. Not too many Barbadians realize he wrote the Barbados national anthem and almost no Grenadian knows he composed the hit “Island in the Sun,” one of Grenada's national songs.

Kindly go to pages 18-23 for a reproduction of an EVERYBODY'S 1997 Irving Burgie feature by Tony Best. Should I say Lord Burgess since I frequently saluted him by his calypso name.



EVERYBODY'S ARCHIVE



1997- "The entry of the Rev. Al Sharpton into the Democratic primary for mayor of New York City has transformed what appeared to have been the making of a dull campaign into what is now expected to be a vibrant and colorful one," EVERYBODY'S Magazine expressed in its April, 1997 edition when Rev. Al Sharpton graced the cover. Rev. Al, affectionately called by supporters, was then the most controversial personality in New York.

Only two Democrats entered their party's primary, Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer and Manhattan Borough President Ruth Messinger. New Yorkers felt the two uninspiring candidates, Ferrer and Messinger, were no match for the Republican incumbent Rudy Giuliani. A then bulky Rev. Al added sparkle to the primary. He met New York's Caribbean leaders at Junior's, famous for its cheesecake and cheeseburger, but not before demonstrating in front the house of Carlos Lezama for inviting Mayor Giuliani to be the Grand Marshal of the 1996 carnival. Rev. Al's favorite hideout was Junior's most likely responsible for his then hefty size.

The April, 1997 edition also featured Irving Burgie, writer of Harry Belafonte hits. Burgie died in December 2019. EVERYBODY'S briefly mentioned his demise in the 2020 Global Caribbean Calendar and Person of the Year issue. The magazine received letters and emails by dissatisfied readers who felt the 95-year old Burgie, calypsonian and songwriter, deserved more than a paragraph.

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Census 2020 Be Counted!

By the end of March and early April all households across the U.S. should receive detailed information about how to respond to the 2020 Census online, by phone, or by mail. All persons living in the U.S. whether they are citizens, permanent residence or have various immigration status are required to be counted.

The census is much more than counting the population of the U.S. The census data is used by the federal, state and municipal governments to allocate revenues, create electoral boundaries and even determine where interpreters must be sent at poll sites on election day.

For example, if 300,000 French speaking Creole reside in Silver Spring, Md. but they did not fill the census form, the government will not know the area has a large Creole speaking community. Therefore, no Creole speaking interpreters will be sent to poll sites there to assist French speaking Creoles. On the other hand, if all 10,000 Bengali speaking Indians living in Silver Spring participated in the census, the federal government will know that interpreters are needed at poll sites to help Bengali voters who cannot speak English.

Brooklyn came last, dead last, in the 2010 census. "One third of all Brooklyn households did not mail back their

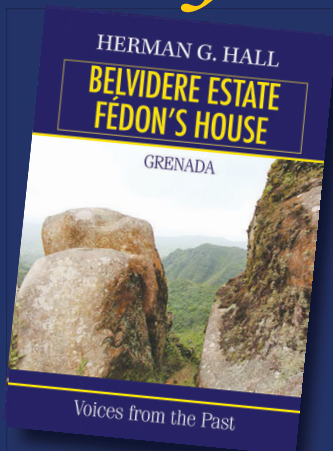


L to R: Mayor Bill de Blasio and Borough President Eric Adams emphasizing the importance of the 2020 Census.

census forms during the 2010 Census — the lowest return rate in the country among counties that have populations greater than 500,000," says Borough President Eric Adams. "We must do far better in 2020."

The South Asian and Indo-Caribbean community in conjunction with New York Immigration Coalition recently held a roundtable meeting to focus on the critical importance of the census in determining billions of dollars for education, healthcare, housing, transportation, and more, as well as ensuring that all New Yorkers from all backgrounds are fully represented in the nation's once-in-a-decade count of its populace..

Enjoy Caribbean History Get



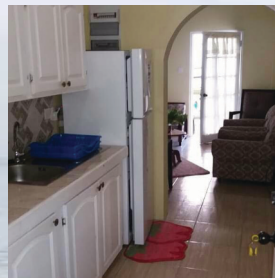
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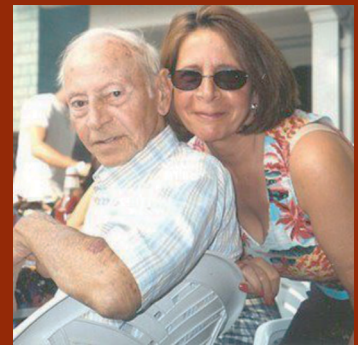
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**Dennis
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Postponed - Due to COVID-19



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Vassell**



**Lakeisha
Ellison**

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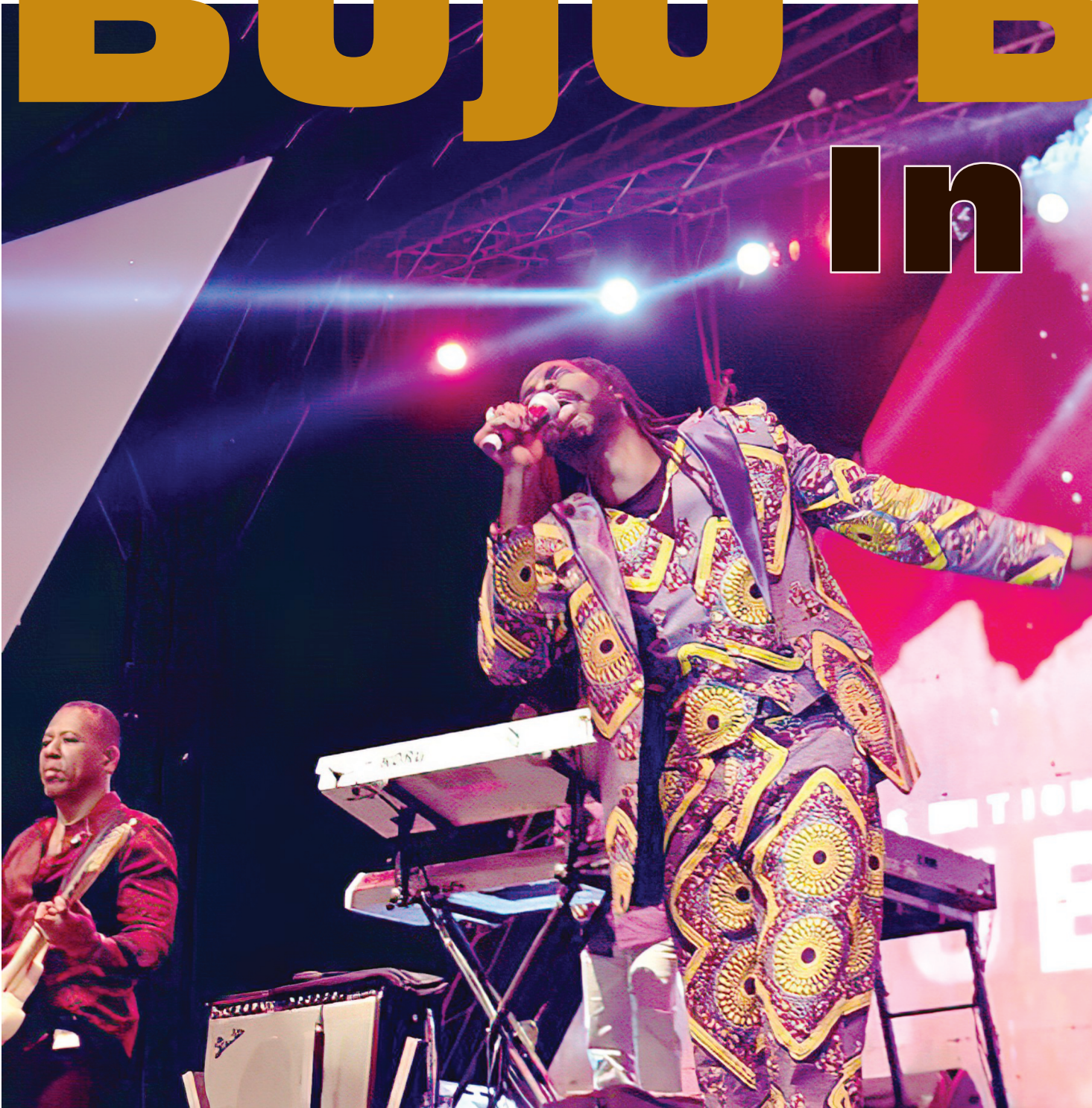
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KENYA!

Buju B

In.



Buju Banton, KICC, Nairobi, February 15, 2020 when he vibrated Africa.

Photo-NRG Radio



Banton the house

By Vincent Embukane Libosso

I was blessed to be at the Buju Banton concert here in Nairobi, Kenya, staged at the Kenyatta International Convention Center (KICC), on the evening after Valentine's Day 2020. What night! What thriller!

A mammoth crowd turned out to watch Buju Banton aka Gargamel live again in concert. His second time in Africa but first time since his released from prison and a long walk to reach the motherland.

After much anticipation, speculation and twice postponement of his show, Buju's first performance could not have been held in a more fitting location. The KICC, an iconic symbol of Kenya's independence.

The opening acts for the night were a mixture of veteran reggae deejays and MCs. DJs Kace, Double Trouble, Juan, Selector Technix and ZJ Heno with reggae crooner Lavosti and Fyah Mummah Jahmby Koikai making her first major live appearance since released from hospital. Every one of the supporting acts rose to the occasion as if they knew this was one of those "where were you" moments in history. Buju came on stage a few minutes to 1am.

First came in members of his band, 'Til Shiloh' and the excitement peaked. His stage production team ensuring everything was seamless. Emerging from his backstage tent wearing dark shades, a gold chain, black t-shirt with matching black shoes, dressed in greyish Ankara suit with matching sunflower patterns (designed by Kenya's fashion designer, Lookslike Avido) Buju was drowned



Kenyatta International Convention Center, a landmark commemorating Africa's struggle for independence and the contributions of Jomo Kenyatta who led Kenya into independence on December 12, 1963.

Photo-Rachel Mwalimu

by a sea of phone lights with fans straining for a glimpse of the perfect picture and video.

"How are you Africa?" Buju kicked off with "Mama Africa," sprinkling candid remarks of his hopes for the motherland. Destiny kicks in to hear his strong voice once again, proud and tall, jumping, raising his hand to the crowd draws such strong emotions in us.

The crowd is excited and in unison lifts their hands back to him. Once more the crowd rises to its feet. Jumping up and down we sing along to "It's Not An Easy Road." "Greetings Nairobi," his thunderous voice echoes, "It is my first time here and we just want to share this reggae music with you."

Our voices rise again as we join him in "Hills and Valleys" and "Lord Give I Strength," during which the saxophonist and guitarist who had towered to the front paved way for the percussionist with an interlude on a huge djembe drum. Buju is dancing as he takes turn to hit the djembe.

His production team planned this concert so perfectly and that shines throughout the stage. "Dancehall is diverse," he reckons and the ever-blazing dancehall medleys from the star hit another peak. Cuts like "Champion" resonate with the younger generation of listeners.

"I do not know the party you like Nairobi, but what I like is a lively party," Buju addresses the audience, "Nairobi are you here to party?"

With that address comes in the powerful discography with "Batty Rider." After touching a few more dancehall classics such as "Mighty Dread" is Buju's invitation to be uplifted as Rastas. Switching with percussionist who pulls forward with the djembe and Buju jumps back at his spot playing the percussion. The upliftment continues with "Better Muss Come."

Tying his long dreadlocks round his head in a crown like fashion, Buju does not let the overdose simmer

down, quickly jumping into "Cry No More" and "I wanna Be Loved." He says, "We want to play something for the ladies. We have to learn to love and appreciate the African woman truly!" The ladies segment crescendos further with "Browning" and "Black Woman."

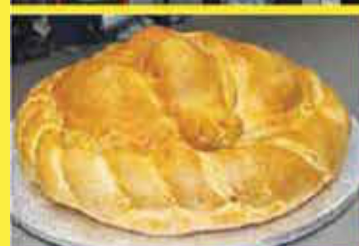
His dreadlocks fall from his head. He earlier tried to tie them behind his head as knot and sometimes round his neck as a scarf. His message to Africa is clear, "Preserve and love each other. The battle is ahead."

The catalogue of "Steppa," "Trust," "Mr. Nine," "No Respect," "God Of My Salvation" and "Driver" prove his legendary status. As the evening builds on, Buju invited out a special guest, Uganda's Bobi Wine who share with Buju a warm embrace before breaking down into revolutionary music. They tap into the magic of what music can do to create change.

The night is one for the books. Buju is dripping with sweat. He left everything on that stage because that stage needed that energy and vibration, it needed that spiritual awakening and mystical communication.

A few minutes past 3am, Banton and the Shiloh Band exits the stage and the audience. Continuing from Banton and the band's vibe, London's best kept secret, the Silver-Star Sound deejays, keeps the party going till morning.

Buju Banton's concert goes down as a milestone in Kenya for the mighty musical genre of reggae. Surely the strong and steady lion spirit we experienced from Banton on February 15, 2020 has given all reggae musicians and reggae lovers in Africa a second wind for the genre they deeply love. While watching Banton on stage, the audience experienced that his deeper message was to unify Africans in the motherland and in the diaspora. Without a doubt, Kenyans will be hoping Gargamel returns back to the motherland sooner than later.



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Carnival revelers on Brooklyn's Eastern Parkway. Many carnivals are held during July and August in the Caribbean and its diaspora but not on the level of Trinidad & Tobago carnival on the Monday and Tuesday before Ash Wednesday.

Summer 20

Summer of COVID-19
By Rosa Edwards



Chances are EVERYBODY'S Magazine will postpone Oliver Samuels scheduled for May/June due to the Coronavirus.

The Summer of 2020 unofficially begins in the USA on Memorial Weekend, May 22-25, although climate-wise Summer '20 begins in the Northern Hemisphere on June 20th.

Caribe Fete by EVERYBODY'S Magazine kicks off Summer '20 with Oliver Samuels Theater & Comedy Weekends (May 22-31) in NJ, NY and CT. Oliver's latest comedy-play, Crazy but True, premiered in Kingston, Jamaica, on New Year's Day. It is running in Jamaica until the end of April. The overseas tour begins in Toronto, Canada, on Mother's Day Weekend.

Summer '20 ends on September 22 but informally in Caribbean-USA with Miami-Broward Carnival on In-

digenous People Weekend (Columbus w/end), Oct. 9-11, and with EVERYBODY'S theatrical production in New York City of Basil Dawkins "Once A Man – Twice a Wife."

Top Caribbean Events for Summer '20

By Rosa Edwards

MAY

Memorial Weekend

**CARIBBEAN THEATER & COMEDY
OLIVER SAMUELS' "CRAZY BUT TRUE"**

NJ, NY, CT- May 22-31

Two weekends of Crazy but True with Oliver Samuels, Volier Maffy Johnson, Glen Titus, Lakeisha Ellison and Melessa Vassell. All performances indoor and theater style seating.



Lakeisha Ellison received standing ovations last year when the character she portrayed stood up for women's right. In "Crazy But True" she is the pregnant wife of veteran actor Volier Maffy Johnson. They make "Crazy But True" an evening of laughter for fans.



Netflix viewers may have seen Melessa Vassell in one of Netflix's episodes. She plays a naughty student in "Crazy But True."

EAST ORANGE, NJ - Sat., May 23, 7:30pm. East Orange Campus School, East Orange, NJ. Tkts outlets: Palm Tree, People's Choice, Greg-the Barber and more outlets. www.everybodysmag.com; (862) 588-0743. \$45 in advance.

BRONX, NY - Memorial Sun., May 24, two performances, 3:30pm 7:30pm. Lovering Theater @ Lehman College. Tkts outlets: Moodies, Dennis Shipping, People's Choice Furniture. www.everybodysmag.com; (718) 941-1879. Tkts \$60 in advance.

QUEENS, NY - Sat., May 30, 8:00pm. Milton G. Bassin PAC @ York College. Tkts outlets: York Box Office, VP Records, The Door Restaurant, Sams Caribbean Market-place in Long Island. www.everybodysmag.com; (718) 941-1879. Tkts \$60 in advance.

BROOKLYN, NY - Sun., May 31, 3:30pm. Wingate Campus School. Tkts outlets: Dennis Shipping, Allan's Bakery, Brucees. www.everybodysmag.com; (718) 941-1879. Tkts \$60 in advance.

TBA: Performances in CT, MA and PA.

JUNE

GROOVIN' IN THE PARK REGGAE AND RHYTHM & BLUES CONCERT

QUEENS, NY: Groovin' In The Park – www.groovininthepark.com. Sun., June 28. The largest outdoor Reggae and Rhythm & Blues concert in the USA. Anticipated attendance 35,000. Roy Wilkins Park, 177-01 Baisley Blvd., Queens, NY. Children under 12, free. Gates open 11am. Tkts outlet: The Door Restaurant and VP Records.

JULY-AUGUST XXXII OLYMPIAN GAMES

TOKYO, JAPAN: July 24–Aug. 9. – Expect to see Jamaican and Caribbean flags in the stadiums waving by Caribbean people who flew to Tokyo to support the region's athletics. The Games may be postponed or canceled.

MONTREAL, CANADA: Carifesta – Sat., July 4: A free outdoor festival and Caribbean-style carnival.

ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES: Vincy Mas – July 4-7: It is the nation's carnival.

SAINT LUCIA: July 20-21: A two-day carnival, calypso and soca.

AUGUST

TORONTO, CANADA – Toronto Carnival – Aug. 1-2: Best organized carnival in North America – Panorama, soca and calypso competitions. Carnival-parade, Sat., Aug 1.

BARBADOS – Aug. 1-3: Watch out for Rihanna on Kadooment Day in the carnival-parade.

ANTIGUA – Aug. 1-4: Two days of frolic in the streets of St. John's to end the carnival.

TORTOLA, USVI – Aug. 1-3: A touch old-time carnival even donkey racing. Real calypso.

GRENADA – Aug. 10-11: Grenada's carnival is known as Spicemas – Grenada, home of some of the best soca singers.

ENGLAND – Aug. 28-29: Known as Notting Hill carnival, it is the largest outdoor festival in the UK.

BOSTON, MA – AUG. 29: Boston carnival has been around for more than 50 years.

BROOKLYN, NY – AUG. 30-31: EVERYBODY'S Magazine presents: A Salute to Trinidad & Tobago – Calypso & More Calypso. Sun., Aug. 30: Saluting Masters of Calypso; Mon., Aug. 31: T&T Independence Fiesta – Folk Dancing; Soca & Calypso; Flag Night. www.everybodysmag.com

SEPTEMBER

NEW YORK CITY – Sep. 3-7: West Indian Carnival: All official events at Brooklyn Museum grounds, Sep. 3-6: Carnival parade, 11am, Labor Day, Sep. 7, down Eastern Parkway from Utica Avenue to Brooklyn Library @ Grand Army Plaza. Anticipated revelers in carnival parade, 1,000,000.



The cast of Basil Dawkins play, Once A Man Twice A Wife, Karen Harriott, Dorothy Cunningham and Earle Brown. The scintillating comedy of true love will be staged in New York City on Indigenous People Weekend, Oct. 9-12.

OCTOBER

BASIL DAWKINS CARIBBEAN THEATER

MIAMI, FL – Oct 10-11: Miami-Broward Carnival, the last of a major outdoor festival in the Caribbean diaspora.

NEW YORK CITY – Oct. 9-11: EVERYBODY'S presents Basil Dawkins scintillating theater-comedy, One A Man Twice A Wife – Brooklyn-Queens and Bronx.

MUST WATCH TV EVENTS

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION – July 13-16 – Caribbean people love politics. They will be watching to see who will challenge President Donald Trump. The president will be watching too.

XXXII OLYMPIC SUMMER GAMES, Tokyo, Japan, July 24–Aug. 9. Bet your life, Caribbean people around the world will watch Caribbean athletics dominate track and field.

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION – Aug. 24-27 – When President Trump will formally accept his party's nomination.



Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, Jamaica's sprinter and EVERYBODY'S Person of the Year, is expected to be one of the most discussed personalities at the Tokyo Olympic Games.



Most Americans will watch the final night of the Democratic National Convention when the Party's nominee for the presidency of the U.S. formally accepts the nomination. In late August at its national convention, the Republican Party will crown President Donald Trump absolute monarch.

Irving Burgie

The man who wrote the hits for Harry Belafonte

By Tony Best

You would think that life for Irving Burgie these days would be taken up with relaxation and retirement.

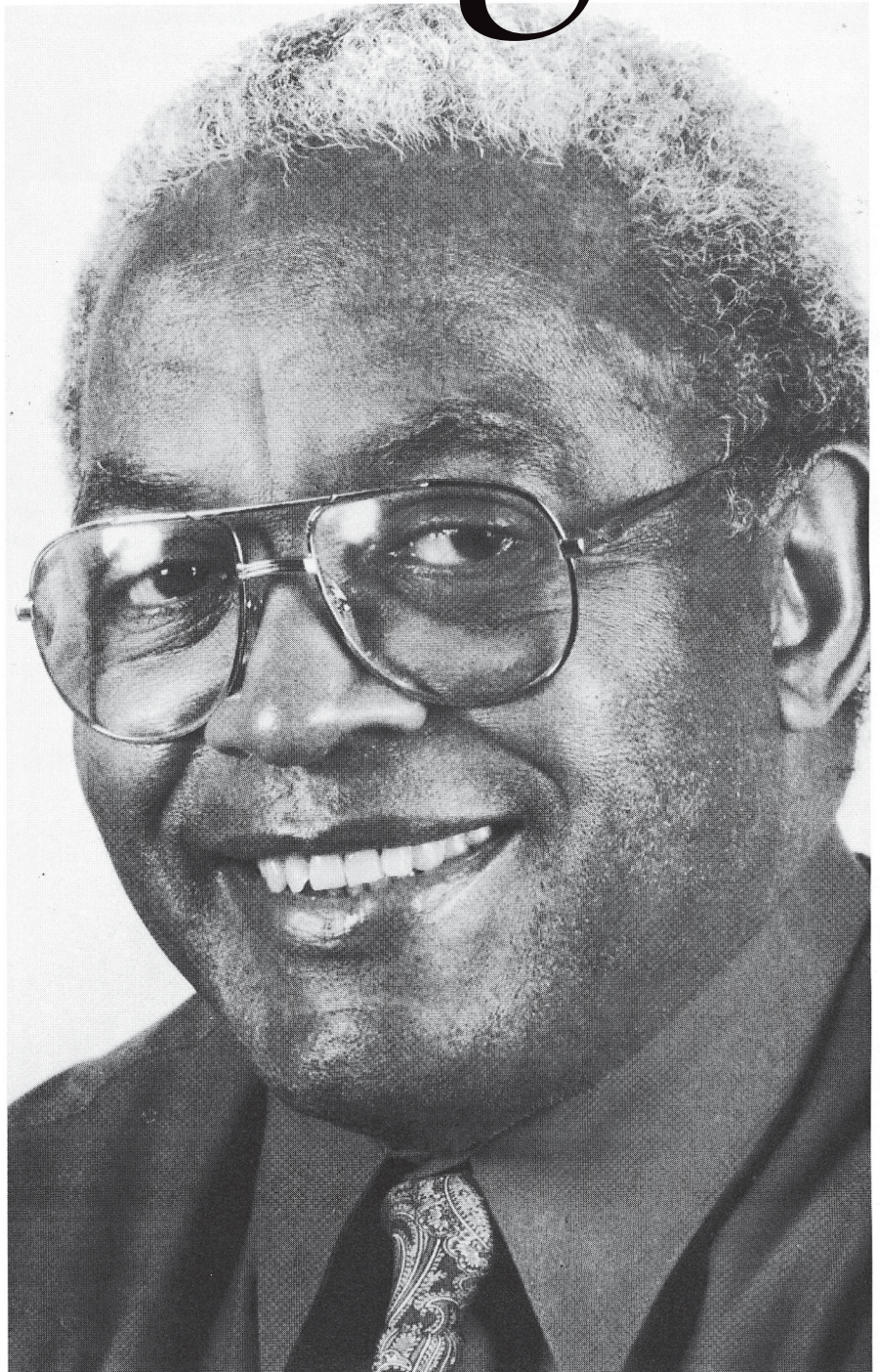
After all, his music has sold more than 100 million albums around the world, making him one of America's most successful composers, folklorists and lyricists of the past 40 years.

Just as important, the man who was born in Brooklyn but grew up in a West Indian home in New York City is financially secure, having had the good sense many years ago to make sure that he owned the rights to his songs. In addition, his two sons, Irving Jr. and Andrew, both Yale University graduates and holders of Master's degree, have long since left their parents' spacious and lovely home in Queens, and Burgie and his wife of more than 40 years don't have to worry any more about raising a family.

Why, then, is the composer who gave the world such classics as "Jamaica Farewell" and "Day-O," hits which were made famous by Harry Belafonte and became the world's most listened-to songs in 1956, so busy singing with his own band, promoting a new CD, "Island in the Sun—the Song of Irving Burgie" (Angel Records).

His answer is simple.

"Retirement is not something to which I have given any thought, at least not yet," Burgie said the other day. "Much has happened since the middle of the 1950s when I composed eight of the 11 songs of Belafonte's 'Calypso' album which has the distinction of being the first album in the history of the recording industry to have sold a million copies. Today, we have a generation of lovers of music whose parents grew up





Lord Burgess and the Serenaders. Irving Burgie, (left) opened at the Village Vanguard in New York in April 1954 featuring, (at right) Louise Bennett, the great Jamaica Folklorist, and Herb Levy, (Centre) billed as the world's greatest penny-whistle player.

enjoying 'Angelina,' 'I Adore Her,' 'Yellow Bird,' and 'Jackass Bray,' not to mention 'Island In The Sun.' We thought that it would be a good idea to put out a CD in order to provide the young people with the songs their parents enjoyed. This time I decided to sing my own songs."

Burgie guessed correctly and his efforts are paying off.

"The response from the public has been very good," he said.

"That has encouraged us to plan a tour with the band. We intend to go to the Caribbean, playing in different countries, including Jamaica, Barbados, and Trinidad and Tobago. Quite recently, we were in Memphis in Tennessee and the reaction was delightful. The response showed that people continue to enjoy my songs."

That sentiment about Burgie's music was echoed in *Billboard* in January. The influential magazine which is considered the bible of music industry, stated that when "audiences around the world" hear the world "Day-O" they "immediately break into song."

A similar assessment came from *Modern Maturity Magazine* which told its readers that Burgie's new CD proved that he was a "perfectly splendid performer of his own delightful songs." And *NAPRA Review*, in a critique of the recording, described it as an "authentic Caribbean production of some of his greatest hits."

"No disrespect to Belafonte, but it's special when the songwriter sings his own songs," asserted the publication.

Given such upbeat reviews, small wonder that Burgie has been invited to "sing some songs to remember" during a Sunday evening appearance at *Rainbow & Stars*, 30 Rockefeller Plaza in Manhattan on April 13. And you can bet that he will be singing "Land of the Sea and Sun," "River Come Down," "Kingston Market," "Day-O," and several other hits.

This media and show-business attention which Burgie, now in his 60s, is receiving represents a new chapter in his life, one in which for the first time he is being publicly associated with his wide-

ly acclaimed compositions.

"The fact that my name didn't become a household word and that Belafonte is permanently linked to my songs shouldn't be considered as being unusual," he said. "The link which people make between songwriters and their music usually isn't strong."

His point is well taken. Quite recently, *The New York Times* shocked the music world when it disclosed that Bill Strayhorn was responsible for much of Duke Ellington's creative music, including such hits as "Take The 'A' Train" and "Lush Life."

"My story is somewhat similar to Strayhorn's," Burgie explained. "However, the major difference is that I own the rights to my music, Strayhorn didn't."

But that's not the only interesting thing about the life and the music of the composer who in 1966 wrote the words to the Barbados National anthem when the island was about to take its place in the community of nations.

Although millions of people around



Irving Burgie's musical play "Ballad for Bimshire" opened at the Mayfair Theatre in New York in 1963 to favorable reviews.

the world can sing along with his music and would say 'Caribbean' if they listen to songs from Belafonte's Calypso' album, Burgie would be the first to tell them that they aren't listening to or singing calypsoes.

"No, they are not conventional calypsoes, but, instead, are folk songs," he pointed out. "Yes, calypso music is, in one way, based on folk music. However, folk music comes from the people while

calypsoes are composed by individuals."

That distinction between his folk songs and calypsoes doesn't mean that he disclaims any links with the Caribbean.

Far from it.

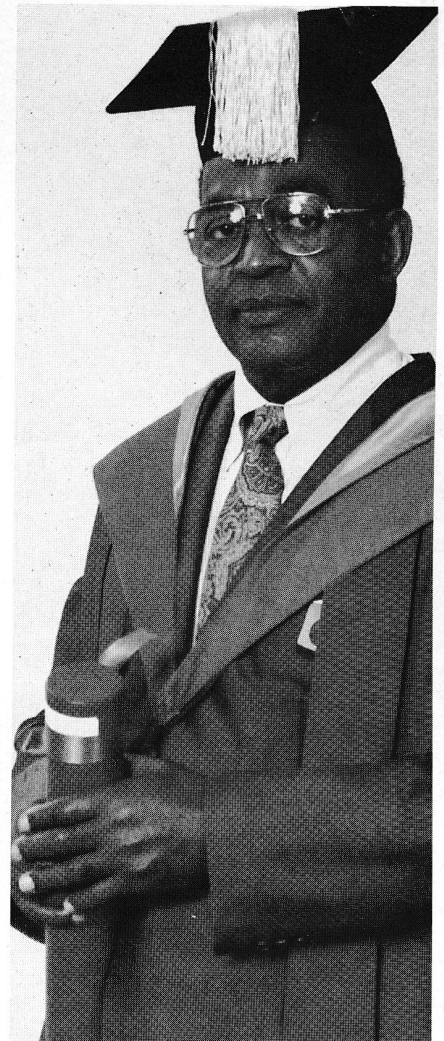
Burgie would be the first to tell you that he learned a lot from Lord Flea, a calypsonian who became famous in the 1950s when he appeared on the Perry Como television show. Then there was

his long relationship with Jamaica's Louise Bennett.

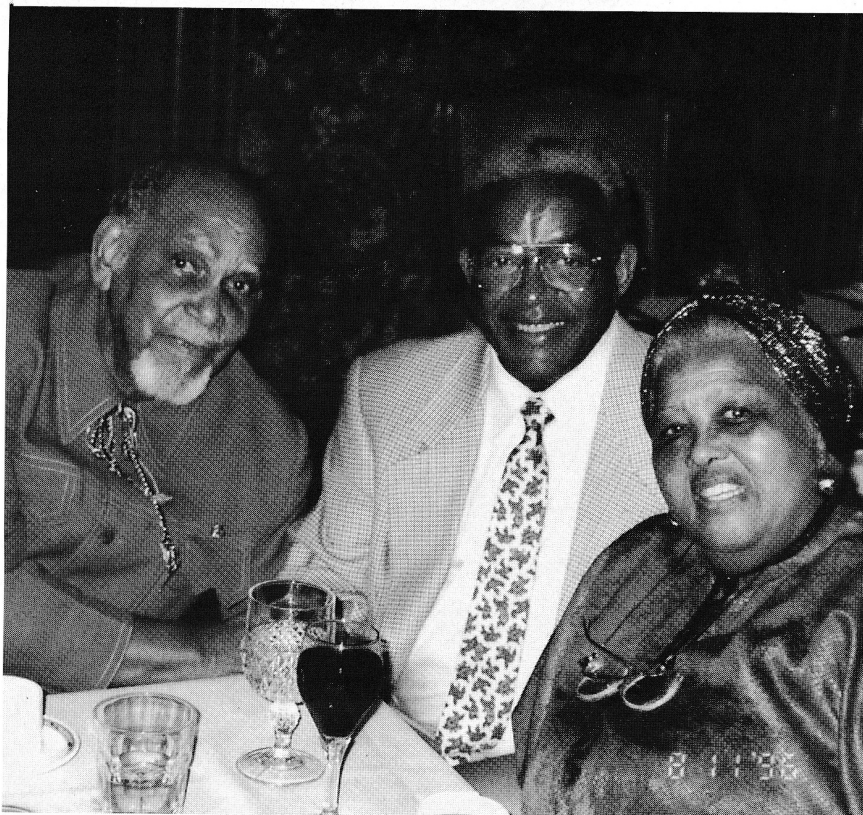
"I learned quite a lot from just hanging out with Lord Flea and the other guys from the Caribbean," said Burgie. "I also had a very fruitful and professional relationship with Ms. Bennett who is by far one of the most outstanding folklorist to have come from the Caribbean. My relationship with her can be traced to the mid-1950s when she came to



Irving Burgie, with his two sons Irving, Jr. and Andrew on vacation in Puerto Rico in 1980. Both boys are graduates of Yale University, Class of '78 and '87 respectively.



Irving Burgie received an Honorary Doctor of letters degree from the University of the West Indies in 1989.



Irving Burgie is shown with his old friend Louise Bennett and her husband Eric Coverley at a reunion in Toronto in August 1996.

New York from London and I put her in my group called Lord Burgess and the Serenaders. We appeared in Manhattan at the Village Vanguard for two months. It was also a time for me to soak up the folklore."

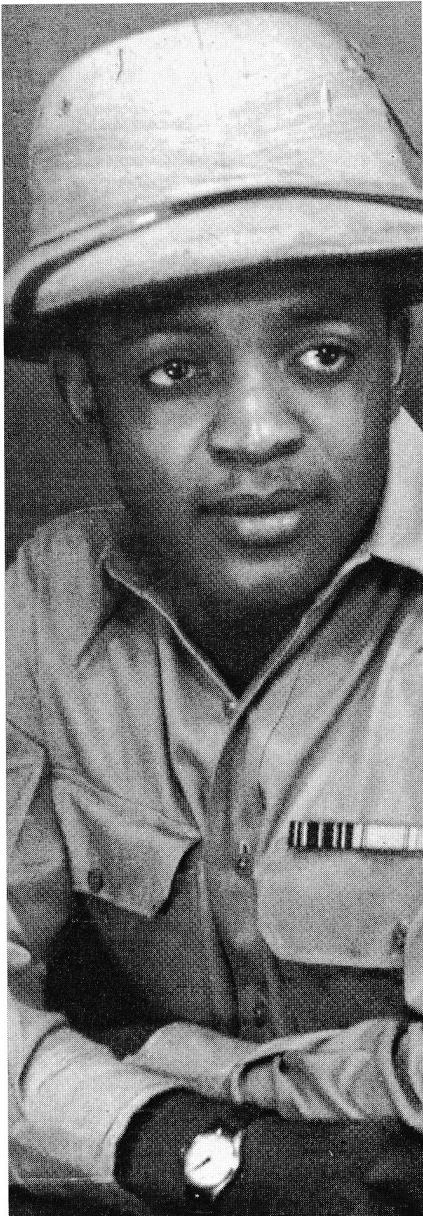
Back in those days, there was little Caribbean literature, and Burgie went back to his roots, so to speak, drawing on the things his Bajan mother taught him and on the experiences he gained from being around other West Indians.

"I had a kinship with Lord Flea and Louise Bennett that went directly to how I was raised in Brooklyn, and that was true despite the fact that my father was from Virginia," he pointed out. "So my work reflects my experiences as the son of a Barbadian mother and an American father, and from my experiences as a

Black person living in America. In many of my songs I tried to reflect the images of the Caribbean.”

Many of those image came together in the song “Island In the Sun” which he composed in Barbados for the movie of the same name and which was shot on location in Barbados and Grenada in the 1950s. It starred Harry Belafonte, Joan Fontaine, James Mason and Dorothy Dandridge.

But “Island In the Sun” wasn’t the only movie which featured his music, and Belafonte wasn’t the only singer who



Irving Burgie served 25 years in India and Burma with the U.S. Army during the Second World War, 1942-1945.



Burgie is shown receiving an award from actress Dina Merrell for his songs having sold over 100 million records since 1956.

recorded Burgie’s songs. The hit “Day-0” was included in the movie “Beetlejuice,” and he wrote “The Seine,” “El Matador” and “Wish you were here,” hits by the Kingston Trio. On top of that the London Philharmonic Orchestra recorded some of his music.

In all, Burgie wrote more than 40 songs and the wall of his study are lined with mementos, awards and photographs which help to tell the story of an accomplished professional. They paint a picture of a World War II veteran who served in India and Burma and

who made a difference in the lives of many, not only through his music but his involvement in the “community” we call New York City.

Of the awards which are proudly displayed in the home, the two which would quickly catch the eye of most people from the Caribbean are the Honorary Doctor of Letters degree presented to him for his contribution to the country’s development.

“I am extremely proud of those two awards because they are indications of appreciation from the Caribbean



Irving Burgie with Mayor John Lindsay of New York on the Campaign Trail. Burgie ran for the New York State assembly in 1970 and helped organize the Coalition for Political Representation (CPR).

region," he said. "The University of the West Indies is an excellent example of Caribbean togetherness, the region's strength and its intellect."

Also proudly displayed are posters and photographs of the Broadway musical, "Ballad for Bimshire," which he wrote about 34 years ago. The musical opened to favorable reviews at the Mayfair Theater on Broadway in Manhattan in 1963, but tragedy struck

shortly after the first curtain went up when President John Kennedy was murdered in Dallas.

"It was set in Barbados we expected great things from it, especially after the reviews," said Burgie. "But when the President was killed attendance at Broadway shows went into a decline and the show was closed.

Although he can look back on "Ballad for Bimshire" and the many things which

have happened during his career with more than a sense of satisfaction, Burgie isn't dwelling in the past. He is looking to the future with great expectations.

"You know," he said, "many composers can look back at one song which was the turning point in their lives. I have to good fortune of being able to point to several hits and other achievements. God only knows what more I will be able to single out in the years ahead."

My Public Education was Arrested When I Abandoned the NYC Subway

By Winthrop R. Holder



Many artistic New Yorkers of the 1970s left their expressions outside and inside New York City trains and subway platforms.

*"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find
it hitched to everything else in the universe."*

John Muir

I The Arrivant

*"I was a... rootless man of the world. I could go, be-
long, everywhere on the worldwide globe."*

Edward K. Braithwaite

In 1974 I was a recent immigrant, a new student at Brooklyn College when, since one of my professors stressed the importance of current events, I undertook to learn to fold and read the New York Times on my long subway trips. Other commuters--many of whom would get off at the Wall Street and Bowling Green stops--reading their origami-folded Wall Street Journal and the NY Times with ease made me wonder if I would ever be able to do the same with such deftness.

Such impeccable posture eluded me for quite some time. Whenever I felt brave enough to try the fold, the broadsheet would collapse in my face, sometimes intruding on the space of other commuters. Not having quite mastered the "skill of balancing civility with aggression,"

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The heyday of the Daily Challenge, a daily black newspaper in New York City, was the 1970s-1990s. Established in 1972 by Thomas H. Watkins and edited by Dawad Wayne Philip, the tabloid is still published.

I had a few embarrassing moments--one which almost led to a near-altercation with a 'territorial' rider--until one day, on a non-rush hour train, I finally achieved the fold!

Since my go-to paper then, especially for news on the Black Experience, was not as bulky, I had little difficulty reading the Daily Challenge over three or four stops on my daily three-hour-long underground journey.

Thereafter, on my daily subway trips to school and work, rather than being distracted by the intermittent tragic comedic parade of characters --or the Walkman, which later competed for my attention--I'd inevitably reach for the Times. And sometimes even though entertained and enlivened by underground artists such as the late Jeffrey (Sighting) Antoine, with his signature tenor pan, and other indigenous performers seemingly transforming, in Derek Walcott's estimation, "the theatrical into theatre", I'd read in the carriage or on the subway platform sometimes with the sounds of steel as backdrop/surround sound.

Indeed, even when sandwiched between straphangers and not having a seat I read holding the paper in one hand, with my other hand clutching the subway pole as my knapsack rested snugly on my shoulder.

Yet, in 1984, when I changed jobs from mid-town Manhattan to work in a NYC public school in Brooklyn--where I

resided--I became an unabashed automobile commuter. Although the subway was just seventy-five cents compared to the higher cost of driving, I abandoned my ten-year, love-hate, relationship with the subway for the automobile. And, this preference stayed with me when I moved to New Jersey in the mid-1990s and continued throughout the rest of my working career in Brooklyn, and later the Bronx. Public transportation only recently re-entered the equation when, while pondering the toll increases on the George Washington Bridge and the impending introduction of congestion pricing, I discovered the ease of traveling to Manhattan via New Jersey Transit buses.

II

Engaging an Underground Subculture of Reading

In mid-September 2019, I had to retrieve a long-lost book from a friend who works for the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) at the Avenue X Station in Coney Island, Brooklyn. As someone who was slowly (re)embracing public transportation, I pondered reentering my world of the 1970s and 1980s; I resolved to take the subway. And, since I had not completed that week's NY Sunday Times, I decided to carry reading material for what could be a three-hour round trip.

I recalled my early days navigating the underground. Distance and time oftentimes provide perspective. And, it was neither the squalor and graffiti nor the violence and jungle-like nature of the NY subway that came to mind, but the underground reading subculture which flooded my memory.

Today, rather than remembering the subway as "Hell on Wheels" and "thoe most dangerous place on earth," or as "a symbol of urban stress [and] alienation", I often remember the diverse ethnic newspapers, such as the Irish Echo, El Diario, and other newspapers I was first exposed to underground like the Village Voice, the Amsterdam News, the Chief, and the City Sun. Numerous magazines/journals covers--such as Dissent, India Today, Africa, Everybody's Caribbean-American Magazine, NACLA Report on the Americas, the Black Scholar, Monthly Review Press, Caribbean Review, Ebony, National Geographic, even Playboy--I first glimpsed underground and later purchased some of them at Hotalings News Agency on 42nd Street in Manhattan, where I first encountered newspapers from all over the world, including those from the Caribbean nations such as Jamaica Gleaner, Guyana Chronicle, Barbados Nation, and Caribbean Contact.

Another advantage arose from book covers, such as How Europe Underdeveloped Africa, Moral Man and Immoral Society, The Autobiography of Malcolm X, Silent Spring, and A Tad Overweight, but Violet Eyes to



Manish Golchha, founder of Magazine Café. With magazines from 30+ countries and in 20+ languages, Magazine Café's stock includes art, architecture, sports, music, fashion, and more.

Die For, The Arrivants, Miseducation of the Negro, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, and Brown Girl, Brownstones among others, that I first observed in the hands of fellow sojourners. In a sense, then, in those pre-Internet days, the subway reading subculture also served as a window to books/magazines and possibly a catalyst for an intellectual awakening among straphangers.

Quite often, too, I was fortunate to get newspapers that were consciously left on subway seats, sometimes by familiar strangers, in what may best be described as a communal act of recycling and sharing reading material.

It may also appear counterintuitive that the notorious train delays of the 1970s and 1980s might have engendered unfathomable resilience and coping mechanisms, in some riders, as reflected in my 'embracing' interruptions as pathways to deep introspection or opportunities to complete compelling books and/or articles. Thus, while some adapt to "no trains in motion" by reading, calypsonian the Mighty Swallow parodies the situation of deferring the tuneful "subway jam" as anesthesia.

Indeed, if calypsonian the Mighty Sparrow—reflecting on the magic of the NYC Caribbean Carnival with people from different neighborhoods and socioeconomic status feting in close proximity to each other—suggests that "You could be from St. Clair or John John/In New York all that done/It ain't have no who's who/New York equalize you" then, by sandwiching the different

I changed carriages at Jay Street/Metro Tech in search of a fellow newspaper reader. I found one among the crowd. It was only after ... that I realized how much of a relic I had become!

cultures, genders, and varied class backgrounds into an underground hole there's also an equalizing and democratic tenor in the NY Subway.

The daily kaleidoscope of headlines, many in foreign languages, peering out from straphangers' papers, may have served to remind commuters of the vibrancy of our multilingual, global village at a time when there wasn't as much government-sponsored anti-immigrant sentiment as today. I remember sometimes being so struck by the arresting artwork of a New Yorker cover that I'd get my own copy. Or a salacious headline, especially from the Daily News or the New York Post, would induce me to buy the newspaper, sometimes only to read half of the article. And, oh, the graffiti, how that "faux-art" led to reflections on what it said—or what future generations may infer—of our times as pictures on cave walls, and writing on parchment or papyrus, did of those times.

III

Begging to Avoid Trouble

In the last 35 years I may have been on the subway at most a dozen times, the last being January 29, 2005, when I co-presented a workshop with three high school students at the 45th Greater Metropolitan New York Social Studies Conference. Still, without any trepidation, on September 17, 2019, I boarded the F train, "NYC's slowest subway line", at 42nd Street around 1.30 p.m. Settling in for the ride, I pulled out the Times, made the fold, and began reading while standing in the semi-crowded early afternoon train. Peering around the carriage after completing the first article I realized that I was the only one reading a physical newspaper! Almost every rider was locked into an Orwellian-like world of screens and earplugs, earphones and a host of electronic devices.

By the time we reached Delancey Street a parade of characters had passed through the car, including one very harmonious and unobtrusive mariachi-like band



The Vietnam War was at its peak in the 1970s and most newly arrived black male immigrants were forced to join the US military. Winthrop Holder arriving at Kotoka International Airport, Accra, Ghana, July 1976, two years after 'Coming to America.'

which, unlike other performers, wasn't aggressively soliciting contributions. I wondered if the group, which could easily perform at the Apollo Theatre or Brooklyn Academy of Music, was sponsored by the MTA! There were many panhandlers of all stripes, including one who couldn't even make eye contact much less find words to ask for money. One school-age-looking youth declaimed, "I'm begging... to stay out of trouble!"

I changed carriages at Jay Street/Metro Tech in search of a fellow newspaper reader. I found one among the crowd. It was only after I was struck by the lack of interactivity or visual dialogue--commuters glimpsing at, or silently engaging headlines or book and magazine covers-- that I realized how much of a relic I had become!

Still, choosing to commit an apparent thought crime, I continued reading the newspaper, resisting the urge to pull out my iPhone and become a victim of groupthink. In a flashback, I recalled my first subway lesson given by my older sister, who had migrated to the USA six years before; "Don't ever look as if you don't belong in the subway... and never do anything to bring attention to self!"

Such stern counsel was proffered to the then 20-year-old who the sister described as reckless and perhaps

someone who should not have left "the islands". But on arriving at JFK Airport in September 1974, from Trinidad, I had navigated the bus and subway on my own, arriving at her apartment on President Street in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, almost causing her to faint. Ignoring her ageless advice, on my recent subway ride, I continued reading the newspaper while occasionally observing others as I suspected some may have been observing me quizzically.

IV. *A Sense of Camaraderie*

I arrived at Avenue X around 3 p.m. and collected the book from my friend. On the return trip rather than continue reading the Times, I decided to read my recently-retrieved book--The Black Power Revolution 1970: A Retrospective--aware that I might stand out even more. Engrossed in reading Selwyn Ryan's overview...

In 1970, young Caribbean Blacks, like their brothers in the America's, were preaching the word of Garvey though the language was more radical. What they wanted was... Reorganization of the Caribbean economies on a regional basis with black people as the central focus of development strategy [aimed at] the alleviation of the black millions at the bottom of the social and economic ladder....

...while trying to block out the noisier clatter of the train as it navigated the above-ground tracks, V. S. Naipaul's 1970 dismissive view of the Caribbean as "half-made societies... the Third World's third world" came to mind. Pondering how far the Caribbean Revolution had turned Naipaul's seemingly sardonic claim on its head, I continued reading...

A termination of the client relationship that exists between Caribbean governments and Britain, France, [and] the United States.... The restructuring of the educational system... informed by the principle that black is beautiful [and] that the historical experience of black people everywhere was a legitimate and indeed an indispensable part of any school curriculum.

...and talking back to the text while reflecting on my high school years spent demonstrating for – what would now be called – social justice, in the streets of Port of Spain, Trinidad's capital, I began wondering about how the 50th anniversary of the Revolution would be commemorated.

Turning the page to Khafra Kambo's recollections, I continued...

...On March 12, one of the most dramatic demonstrations of the February to April 1970 period took place--the Caroni March, a 33-mile march from Port of Spain through Caroni to Couva. Thousands of Africans were mobilized for this journey through the predominantly Indian heartland of the country. NJAC was determined to achieve a unity of concept, purpose and action among Africans and Indians.

...partially blocking out the world around me, as I suspected other commuters were doing by immersing themselves in the digital world. I'd look up intermittently to observe the unpredictable outbursts of the occasional 'character' passing through the carriage, still prevalent today as in the past.

Then it happened again! At the Church Avenue stop in Brooklyn, a commuter came aboard with what looked like a magazine in his hand. Changing my seat to get closer to the commuter, who appeared to be in his mid-thirties, I was able to discern on the cover of the glossy, oversized, cover: CULTURED.

For the second time on my two-hour odyssey, I felt a sense of comradery with a rider in the way I did on my previous underground escapades. It was an outlandish cover with such a stunning portrait of a new-age character that it led me to search for the magazine. Like me before my subway encounter, none of the remaining kiosks in mid-Manhattan and Hudson News in Port Authority had heard of the magazine. I persisted with the search for

In the last 35 years I may have been on the subway at most a dozen times, the last being January 29, 2005 ... Still, without any trepidation, on September 17, 2019, I boarded the F train ... I pulled out the Times ... made the fold, and began reading ... I realized that I was the only one reading a physical newspaper! Almost every rider was locked into an Orwellian-like world of screens and earplugs, earphones and a host of electronic devices.

a few days until I found the Summer Issue at Magazine Cafe Store on W 37th Street in Manhattan.

Once I had the magazine, with the masked, Leikli47 on the cover, my re-education of new miens of hip-hop had begun. Still, I continue wondering how much of a statement the underground reader may have been making by displaying CULTURED and perhaps unwittingly challenging the anonymity of underground electronic screens. Could the subliminal message have been: "Print magazines won't die!"?

The commuter's pose led me to ponder how this age of connectivity is fashioning an unconnected digital culture of subway 'reading': a new chi that no longer facilitates implicit communication or unintended sharing in that crucible of deceptive otherness which, in the past, fomented an unquantifiable visual dialogue.

Today, I continue to wonder how much my public education was arrested once I drifted away from the underground reading subculture where physical newspapers and books, even graffiti, competed for, and informed and enlarged, straphangers' vision.

*The author thanks Kim Johnson, Kanene Holder, Lennel George, Jonathan Molofsky, Josh Tyson-Fermin and Roger Toussaint for critical comments on an earlier draft.

Republican Ramona Johnson Challenges Democrats Party Machine



Ramona Johnson is advocating a clarion call for change in the community.

Q: You are running as the Republican Party candidate for a seat in the New York State Assembly in a Brooklyn district that is virtually Democrat. Why?

A: I have the courage to stand up against the powerful "Democratic Party Machine of Brooklyn" which encourages voters to vote down a line on election day. Most voters obey the silly instruction by voting down the entire Democratic Party line without looking at the candidates' names, reputation and whether the candidates are qualified. My courage is based on my knowledge about the 41st AD. Most voters are dissatisfied with the incumbent. Voters want real change in this district. I am the candidate who will bring real change.

Q: Is it populated with Caribbean voters - people from Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago and other islands?

A: Yes, we have Caribbean voters in Flatlands and Flatbush who are hardworking and progressive. They are home owners who keep the concept of the American dream alive. They are paying very high property taxes. They are a viable part of our community and I feel they

should have that burden alleviated by reducing property taxes. The Democrats love to say they lower taxes but consistently raise them, Republicans won't raise property taxes.

Q: Why most Caribbean voters in NY register in the Democratic Party?

A: Caribbean people love politics and desire to be politically involved. Many are misled by the Democratic Party machine. I am puzzled as to why they consistently register in the Democrat Party, a party that has been draining them from their fulfilment of the American dream. The Caribbean people are mainly Christians so why are they supporting the Democratic Party that is taking God out of the schools?

Q: Most Caribbean parents, staunch Democrats, are the first to take the opportunity of getting their children and grandchildren into special or charter schools. Why are they not aware charter schools is a Republican initiative? In other words, does the Republican Party sends its message to the black community?

A: Democrats don't want our children to go to charter schools. They want to keep them in public schools. I am of Trinidadian heritage and I understand the Caribbean parent philosophy of seeking the best for their children. Most assume charter schools is a Democratic Party initiative, it is not. The importation of Caribbean products such as breadfruit, mangoes, rum and other things Caribbean was a Republican initiative too. Yes, the Republican Party has problems communicating with people of color. Through our community groups, we have been working hard at a grassroots level to get this message out. In Sheepshead Bay under the Leadership of our State District Leader Anthony Testaverde we have a diverse Republican club that is getting this message out.

Q: Why do you want to take the seat from the Assembly person?

A: Helene has been in office in the 41st A.D for approximately 30 years. Thirty unproductive years! Keeping the status quo and doing absolutely nothing for the community. I have raised the issue of term limits. We need term limits to avoid career and inept politicians from staying in office for life. Helene comes out around election time. That's when we see her.

Q: If elected, what will be your first bill when you arrive in Albany, NY State capital?

A: New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) needs to be held responsible and accountable. I'll create a state law that will hold City of New York leaders accountable for their policies.

Q: List the three most important needs of your community.

A: Improving the quality of life for our seniors and children, reducing property taxes, and improving the aesthetics of the community.

Q: Do you support President Trump policies?

A: I am a moderate Republican. I do not support all his reforms and programs.

Q: Municipal and state elected leaders' main responsibility is to handle the needs of their constituents such as road repairs, traffic, school, health and other community issues. They spend their time criticizing happenings in Washington, DC. How would you be different?

A: Change comes from the local level. Local Issues like the ones named are on the local leaders like the City Council and NYS Legislature. My responsibilities are to help my district and to tell the district what I'm doing. Brooklyn Democrats elected to municipal and state offices seldom do anything so they deflect their inefficiencies by blaming Washington even when a Democrat is occupying the White House.

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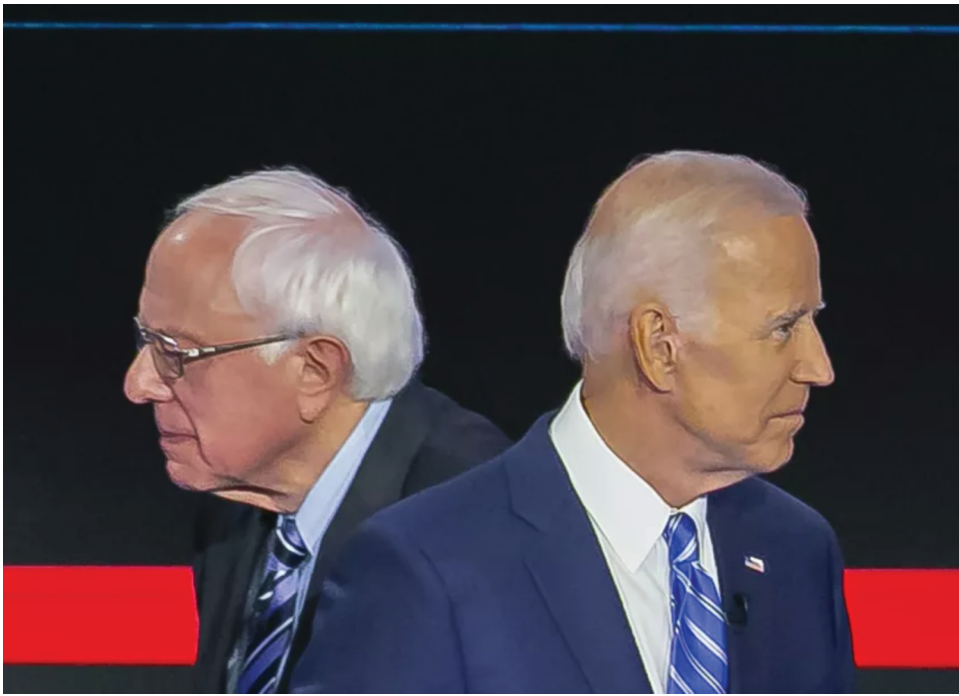
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herman@everybodysmag.com

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Don't be surprised if New York becomes part of Super Tuesday states in the 2024 presidential year and emerge as a significant player in future presidential primaries.

Even before New York State held its primary Senator Bernie Sanders and former Vice President Joe Biden were going in opposite directions. Sanders, born in Brooklyn, attended James Madison HS and Brooklyn College.

NEW YORK A Lion Without Teeth and Claws



Moving Up Presidential Primary Backfired

By Herman Hall



A triumphant reelected President Harry Truman mocks the Chicago Tribune. For more than 50 years The Chicago Tribune snafu of 1948 was retold during presidential elections.

This magazine almost repeated the Chicago Tribune 1948 snafu. On the night of the U.S. presidential election, November 2, 1948, the Chicago Tribune went to bed with the headline "Dewey Defeats Truman." Television was in its infancy, few Americans had one, and not too many people possessed phones. Newspapers and newsmagazines were the mainstream media. They reigned supreme.

Thus, in the wee hours of Wednesday, November 3, when it was declared that the incumbent, President Harry Truman, had defeated Republican Governor of New York Thomas Dewey, the Chicago Tribune had already hit newsstands and read by millions.

EVERYBODY'S
NEW YORK

The day after Super Tuesday, Wednesday, March 11, 2020, this issue of EVERYBODY'S was about to be uploaded to the printer with former New York City Mayor Mike Bloomberg gracing its cover because Bloomberg had a cordial relation with Caribbean-New Yorkers during his twelve-year mayoralty.

We anticipated Senator Bernie Sanders and former Vice President Joe Biden would still have been in a close race after Super Tuesday thus drawing attention to New York State as the next fierce battleground.

We did not anticipate Obama's vice president would dominate Super Tuesday and knockout Bloomberg from the race that early before primary day in New York and other large northeastern states.

We now had to find a new person for this edition's cover. An image of Buju Banton in Nairobi, Kenya, was an easy choice because a review of his concert appeared on pages 8-10. But, what article could we insert on pages 30-31 to replace the one about Mike Bloomberg and the Caribbean community of New York City?

Every four years, in this magazine's 43 years of existence, we get rave reviews for our coverage of U.S. presidential elections from a Caribbean-American viewpoint. Sometimes we wait until both major parties, the Democrats and Republicans, hold their national conventions and each party's standard bearer is chosen before featuring the presidential sweepstakes. Instead this year, we start our 2020 presidential editions by focusing on the New York State primary on April 28.

Governor Andrew Cuomo moved the New York State presidential primary from June to April to make NY part of the national conversation and to underscore the importance of his state during presidential primaries.

The pundits believed that on April 28 there would still have been at least three or four Democrats in the race. That scenario did not happen. Don't be surprised if New York becomes part of Super Tuesday states in the 2024 presidential year and emerge as a significant player in future presidential primaries.

There's a strong possibility the populist senator from Vermont may dropout before the New York primary. If this happens the New York Democratic primary would not have determined the outcome of the 2020 Democratic Party primary season. New York will be merely regarded as a roaring lion without teeth and claws in terms of presidential primaries.

Probably Joe Biden will prevail on April 28. In addition to NY, Biden might carry Pennsylvania, Maryland, Connecticut and Delaware. Sanders may win Rhode Island and he will quit a day or two after April 28 in the interest of Democratic Party unity.

The next round of excitement and speculation will be whom Biden choose as his running mate and can he knockout the loquacious and ostentatious Trump in the presidential debates in October.

Back to Caribbean-American voters in this election year! With Bloomberg out of the New York primary, the New York-Caribbean vote would not determine the out-



Senator Sanders received Williams' endorsement on January 2, 2020. The public advocate also endorsed Sanders in 2016.

come although Public Advocate Jumaane Williams is solidly in the Bernie Sanders camp. "Jumaane is truly an advocate for the people, and I am proud to receive his endorsement. Jumaane and I share a common cause ... I am grateful to have the support of my fellow Brooklynite, and the grassroots support of so many New Yorkers," Sanders remarked.

Williams will help Sanders get delegates based on Sanders winning electoral districts. Within the NY Democratic Party guidelines – a candidate may lose the primary but if the candidate wins many electoral districts the candidate will still get delegates. Joe Biden will defeat Sanders in NY but Sanders will still get substantial delegates.

In terms of sending delegates from Brooklyn to the 2020 Democratic National Convention, two other New York-Caribbean politicians have a big say, Congresswoman Yvette Clarke and Assemblywoman Rodneyse Bichotte, Chairperson of Brooklyn's Democratic Party. They are part of the Party's establishment and are supporting Joe Biden.

Let's hope Bernie Sanders doesn't dropout before the NY primary. By that time, this issue of EVERYBODY'S would have been printed or uploaded to our digital readers worldwide. What an embarrassment that would be!

Having Bloomberg on our cover did not imply we were supporting him. As we concluded in our lead article which was scuttled, "Assuming Bloomberg is the Democrats nominee and by a miracle he defeats Trump on November 3, what can one expect from a President Bloomberg? It is very unlikely Bloomberg would reverse most of Trump's executive orders. He is a businessman and may not cancel Trump's programs. After all, the economy is excellent. Bloomberg is an astute politician. He knows an anti-immigrant feeling is prevalent in the U.S. and the UK; it will be shocking if stop-and-frisk Bloomberg rescinds the immigration and trade policies of Donald Trump."

Can one expect a Biden-Woman ticket? That's the question many are querying.

*** Herman Hall covered the 1976 and 1980 Democratic National Conventions, the 2004 Republican National Convention and the two inaugurations of President Barack Obama.*

Grenada – Carriacou – Petite Martinique

A SWEET 46TH

Photography by Hubert Telesford and Leonard McKenzie

Grenadians residing overseas such as London, Toronto, Washington, DC, Montreal and New York organized several events to celebrate Grenada's 46th year of independence. The nation consists of three islands, Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

New York's festivity included six official events. On Independence Day, February 7, high wind and rain prevented the nation's flag from hoisting on the esplanade at Brooklyn's Borough Hall, as a result, Brooklyn's Borough President Eric Adams moved the ceremony into the rotunda. The celebration climaxed the next evening at an elegant Award-Dinner-Ball. Nolan Cox, Grenada's Minister of Youth, Sports & Culture who represents Carriacou in the nation's Parliament and Mrs. Cox, were the guests of honor.

Grenadians living in Washington, DC, Maryland and Virginia vicinity were not going to be outshined. The Grenada Cultural & Social Association of Washington, DC held its gala in Maryland.

DC-MD-VA images provided by Hubert Telesford and prominent Jamaican photographer Leonard McKenzie covered the NY events.



In NY - L to R: Herman Hall, Promoter of Oliver Samuels theatrical productions, Mrs. Gloria Smith of Panama and matriarch of Allan's Bakery, G. David Hall, NYC Marathon runner, Lauren Giunta-Hall, Sharon Smith of Allan's Bakery and Dr. Sharon Ogiste-McBain, renowned pediatrician.



L to R: Emcee Merisa Collins, Commissioner Lida Sawney and distinguished Caribbean poet and story teller Professor Merle Collins at Maryland-DC-Virginia gala.



NY - Honorees Ms. Shola K. Roberts, a PhD student at Columbia University, choreographer and dance educator and Mr. Roy McKenzie, a community activist who hails from Carriacou. The other honoree was Herman Hall.



Phyllis Caesar and her escort enjoying the evening in NY.



NY - Ms. Maudlyn Ogiste of Saint Mark.



Saint John "Best Parish" based on the exhibition and oral presentation of each parish, Carriacou and Petite Martinique during the Cultural Evening. St. John's, home of the Mighty Sparrow, Kirani James, Olympian Gold Medalist, Mr. Killa, soca artist and Dr. Kenrick Lewis, scientist. Parish attendees accept the "Best Parish" plaque. L to R: Mr. Peter Joseph, Mr. Collis DeCoteau, author of A Place Called Gouyave, Pastor Ijeal Joseph, Mr. Cecil Hosten, Ms. Gracelyn Harris, Ms. Denise Donaldson, Ms. Earlyn Charles, Consul General Aiden Pursoo (from Saint Andrew), Recording Artist Cheryl Vincent, Herman Hall and Ms. Ann Mark.



L to R: Consul General Aiden Pursoo, Shola K. Roberts, Gracelyn Harris and Assemblyman Nick Perry who presented Ms. Roberts a citation from the New York State Legislature.



L to R: Peter Joseph, Vietnam veteran Gordon Telesford and wife, Monica, Mrs. Patricia DeCoteau and hubby Collis DeCoteau, Cecil Hosten and (behind) Joseph McBain of Victoria.



New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, first in line to become mayor in the event of a vacancy, at flag raising ceremony. His parents were born and raised in Saint. Andrew.



The MD-DC-VA Committee. L to R: Philomena Paul, Queen Mosquera, Allan Alexander, Commissioner Lisda Sawney, Ambassador Yolande Smith, Cheryl Leid, Marissa Rodney and Carson Leid.



Anthonia St. John and Dennis Antoine, former Ambassador of Grenada to the U.S., OAS and China, at MD-DC-VA extravaganza.



Andrew Edwards of Jamaica and his charming Grenadian wife, Debra Hypolite-Edwards, at the NY Ball.



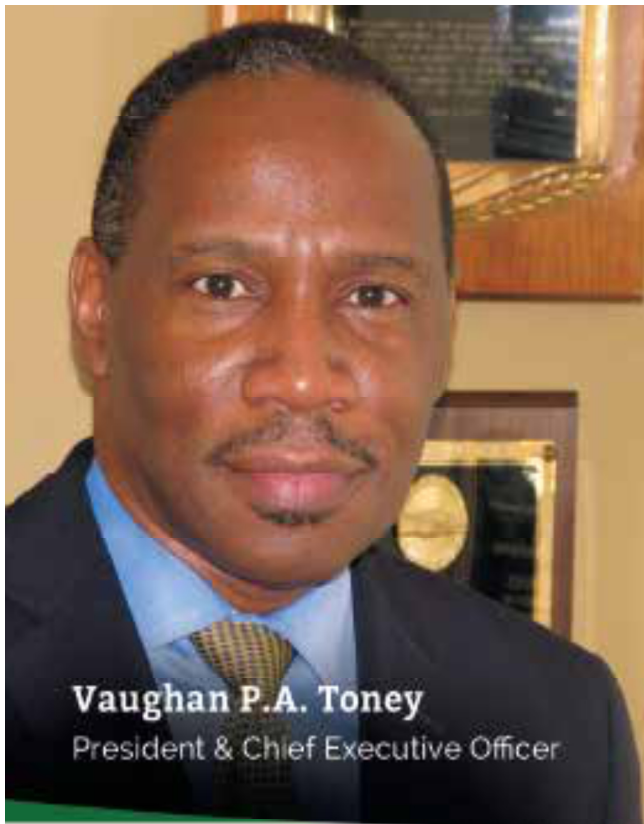
NY – Marie S. Brutus of Haiti.



NY – Rockelle Neverson of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.



NY – Dr. Shonnell McBain of Saint Mark.



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