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Vol. 49 No. 3, December 2026 - www.everybodysmag.com



Cover & Layout: Lennox Robinson Photo: Leonard McKenzie, Winston Rodney

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34 2027 At A Glance

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e are pleased to announce that Machel Montano, the esteemed Soca superstar and Caribbean patriot, has been named EVERYBODY'S, the Caribbean-American Magazine, Person of the Year for 2025. This recognition celebrates his significant contributions in promoting the music of the region, his efforts in integrating the Caribbean, and his continued pursuit of higher education,

which serves as a motivation for today's young generation to emulate him. We also wish to acknowledge the other distinguished nominees who received a substantial number of votes:

- New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani
- Barbados' Prime Minister Mia Mottley (our 2021 Person of the Year)
- Trinidad & Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar
- Prince George's County Executive in Maryland State Aisha Braveboy
- Virginia's Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears
 - Hurricane Melissa

This year, hundreds of subscribers and individuals on social media nominated 49 candidates. We received exceptional

recommendations highlighting their important contributions.

Many of these individuals, while not household names, are experts in their respective fields, such as Jennifer Rampersaud, described by Roxann Noah as "a powerful voice for the Caribbean diaspora," of Guyanese heritage residing in Queens, New York City.

The award, originally known as the Man and Woman of the Year, was established in 1978 upon the suggestion of Helen B. Lucas of Carriacou, Grenada, to commemorate the magazine's first anniversary. Notable early honorees include:

- 1978: Janelle Commissiong (Trinidad & Tobago), the first woman of color to be crowned Miss Universe (1977), and Calypso Rose, the first woman to win the National Calypso King title (1978), which subsequently led to the competition's renaming as the National Calypso Monarch.

 Additionally, Clive Lloyd was honored for his success as captain of the West Indies cricket test team from 1974-1978.
- 1980: Sir Arthur Lewis (Saint Lucian), who received recognition following his 1979 Nobel Prize in Economics, making him the first Black person to win the award in that category.
- 1981: Prime Minister Mary Eugenia Charles of Dominica.

 Recent honorees include actress Sheryl Lee Ralph, Eastern Caribbean
 Olympic medalists, New York City outgoing Mayor Eric Adams, Grenada's

Continued on page 6



Madison Square Garden, Mother's Day, 1984. L to R: Shadow, Lord Kitchener and Mighty Sparrow. Photographer Lloyd Patterson suggested they lift Montano to get what is now an iconic photograph. -Photo Lloyd Patterson

Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell, and Olympian Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce of Iamaica.

We extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who submitted a suggestion for Person of the Year. To the individuals in London, Toronto, Kingston, New York and Boston we consulted about our seven finalists, your input was greatly appreciated.

Please note that our December 2026 issue will feature our final Person of the Year and Global Caribbean Calendar announcement. This is because EVERYBODY'S magazine will cease publication in February 2027, concluding its 50-year run, 1977-2027

Happy Holidays and a Healthy 2026,

The editors

Machel Montano 1984 Madison Square Garden Debut

round 9pm on March 13, 1984, as the last of the two-day calypso **L**concert at the Felt Forum, Madison Square Garden, ended, John Marcellin brought me to interview little Machel Montano. For decades, Marcellin, a Trinbagonian-New Yorker, had been a promoter of Caribbean music. Ever since he saw Montano's performances during the 1983 Trinidad and Tobago's carnival season he lobbied the promoters of the annual Mother's Day extravaganza to include the child prodigy. Nobody at the sold-out Felt Forum shows was happier than John Marcellin on Mother's Day weekend of 1984. Little Machel had lived up to the billing with his breakdancing, magnificent handling of the microphone and a clear, witty delivery of his song, "The Letter."

In 2008 when Montano performed at the Garden as a solo artist, he publicly praised Marcellin for his role in bringing him to New York in 1984.

For the younger generation of soca fans, it is important to remember that Machel Montano was a budding calypsonian before he took the music of pioneers like Ed Watson and Lord Shorty to global heights. Indeed, the root of soca is calypso.

During the interview in the dressing room—where he was joined by the Mighty Sparrow, Lord Kitchener, and Shadow—I started my first question with, "You are only ten years old, how..." Machel promptly corrected me with a mature tone: "No! No! I'm nine and a half years old!"

His swift and focused reaction provided me with the answer to the question I was asking myself during his awe-inspiring performance: Would he become just another calypso artist when he grows up? His response made it clear that this pre-teenager would not only become a superstar but would also manage his affairs, command respect, and function as an entrepreneur.

Shadow looked at me with a proud smile, and Kitchener and Sparrow laughed, clearly pleased with his response. The next morning, Shadow called me, saying, "I'm telling you Machel is going to take calypso to a high level." Shadow, whose booking agent and business manager I was, often discussed Machel with me. "I keep telling Machel don't do like us; form a band to tour with because that's the only way you will make it and make money. I always tell him keep the band you have. By the time you and your friends become

teenagers, you'll be popular and professional like music bands in America and England. Machel will then say to me, 'Yes, Uncle Winston (Shadow), I understand."

Many musicians, including Errol Ince, Sunshine Diaz, Frankie Macintosh, Robert Greenidge, and promoters like Granville Straker of St. Vincent and Rawlston Charles of Tobago, residing in the diaspora, hoped the child wonder would elevate the calypso art form. Machel did exactly that and continues to do so with soul-calypso, or soca. His 1990 album, Machel Breaking Out!, was produced by Granville Straker on the Straker Label, music arranged by Frankie McIntosh, with songwriting contributions from Shadow, Winsford Joker Devine, Super Blue (then Blue Boy), Gabriel Alexis, and Machel himself.

We have proudly watched Machel grow into a productive citizen and a first-class artist. As Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley once told him, "My Brother we are so proud of you. We watched you from a boy to a man carry Caribbean culture to the world."

*Herman Hall, is the publisher of EVERYBODY'S. He co-promoted the Mother's Day Calypso concerts with Isaac McLeod, Granville Straker, Hueloy and others at MSG in the 1980s and 1990s.



Machel Montano debuts at Madison Square Garden. With the closing of EVERYBODY'S in February 2027, the photos of Machel at the Garden in 1984 will be in the depository of the Schomburg Library and Yale University.

Photo Lloyd Patterson

EVEDV

FIFA

The Biggest Unified Event of 2026. Really! JUNE 11-JULY 19

romoted as the world's most popular and peaceful event of 2026, when between June 11-July 19, 48 nations will compete for the world's most prestigious cup, the FIFA World Cup. The matches will be held in Canada, Mexico and USA. But will grudges be set aside so that anybody from any country can come to the U.S. where some matches will be held? Iran and Haiti are amongst 48 nations qualified but President Trump said that fans from both countries will not be granted U.S. visas except their team, immediate families and coaches. The two Caribbean teams qualified are Haiti and Curação, the latter, the smallest country ever qualified. However, Jamaica may qualify in a Play-Off Tournament on March 26, 2026. The finals will be held in NY/NJ on Sunday July, 19 at MetLife Stadium in NJ but most of the hoopla will be held in New York, NY. The U.S. will use the opportunity to promote its 250 years of independence, July 4, 1776-July 4, 2026.

Will The U.S. Invade Venezuela?

Ince autumn 2025, President Donald Trump has been sending military forces in the sea and sky near Venezuela to pressure President Nicolás Maduro Moros to resign. Will he resign? Will the U.S. invade? Trinidad & Tobago and Venezuela are a mere 6.8 miles or 11



Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar Photo Office of the Prime Minister.

kilometers apart. Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar is President Trump's strongest supporter in the region. Trinidad & Tobago and the U.S. recently conducted joint military exercises in and off Trinidad & Tobago.

Will The Caribbean Community (Caricom) Become Stronger Or Weaker?

The U.S. desires to erect radars and military equipment on some Caribbean islands such as Grenada and Antigua/Barbuda much to the chagrin of nationals. Trinidad & Tobago supports the military policies of President Donald Trump. The government has endorsed the U.S. destroying boats suspected of transporting drugs without providing proof. Caribbean leaders are divided. The saying, "divide and conquer" may be at work. Will Caricom emerge from the quandary stronger or weaker?



President Donald Trump
Photo: The White house

New York Exciting Governor's Election



Congresswoman
Elise Stefanik, Rep.
Photo: Office of the

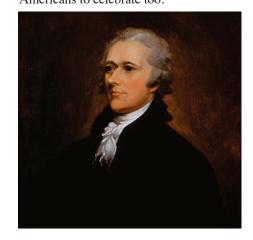


Governor Kathy Hochul, Dem. Photo: Office of the Governor.

n November 3, 2026, New York State, will elect one of two women, the incumbent Democratic Governor Kathy Hochul and her Republican challenger Republican Congresswoman Elise Stefanik, as governor of the Empire State. November 3 is also the midterm election. Will Democrats win control of the U.S. Congress? If yes, it will be perceived as a defeat for President Donald Trump policies. If Congresswoman Elise Stefanik becomes governor of New York, her victory will also be a victory for President Trump since Democrats have been governing New York for more than 20 consecutive years. Anticipate a dull New York State primary on June 23 since both Hochul and Stefanik are not expected to face serious challengers in their respective party's primary.

USA 250th Birthday Party

n July 4, the USA will celebrate its 250th year of independence. On July 4, 1776, the 13 colonies unilaterally declared their independence from England. The leaders of the revolt merged the colonies, from the New England states to Virginia, to create the nation known as the USA. Alexander Hamilton, born in Nevis and grew up in St. Croix, became one of the Founding Fathers and the first Secretary of the Treasury. Expect President Trump to bask in the 250th glory and expect Caribbean-Americans to celebrate too.



Nevis born Alexander Hamilton Photo: Library of Congress

From Alexander Hamilton To Kamala Harris

he long-awaited book presenting the contributions of West Indians or Caribbean people in the development of the U.S. by this magazine's publisher will be released to coincide with America's 250th birthday. The book is long overdue.



2025 In The Rearview Mirror

HURRICANE MELISSA – A WICKED WOMAN

Visiting Jamaica on October 28, 2025, exceeding 185 MPH, Hurricane Melissa was the worst storm to hit the land of reggae and Olympians. The torrential rains she brought caused severe floods resulting in an outbreak of the bacterial disease leptospirosis. Leptospirosis took additional lives. The wicked woman caused fatalities in Haiti before moving on to impact Cuba and the Bahamas.

RESULTS OF ELECTIONS IN THE CARIBBEAN

RUM – ROTI - JERK CHICKEN

- DANCEHALL - SOCA n September 3, only a few weeks before Hurricane Melissa destroyed Jamaica, Prime Minister Andrew Holness' Jamaica Labour Party won the national election for the third consecutive time. The JLP grabbed 34 seats and the Opposition People's National Party won 29. On April 28, in Trinidad & Tobago, the Opposition United National Congress led by Kamla Persad-Bissessar swept the People's National Movement out of power. On September 4th, Guyanese President Irfaan Ali claimed a second five-year term. His People's Progressive Party defeated the new political party, We Invest in Nationhood, while A Partnership for National Unity, came third. On November 27th, voters in St. Vincent & the Grenadines elected members of parliament. The result: Unity Labour Party of defeated Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves 1 seats; New Democratic Party led by Dr. Godwin Friday 14 seats. On December 1st., General election was held in neighboring St. Lucia. Result: St Lucia Labour Party, xx seats; United Workers Party, xx seats.

DIFFERENT RESULTS IN MD AND VA

TRUMPISM REJECTED

Caribbean-Americans participated in the political process on the national, state and municipal levels. In Maryland Democrat Aisha Braveboy, whose father hails from St. Patrick's, Grenada, was elected by a landslide as Prince George's County Executive. In her quest to become governor of Virginia, Republican and an ardent Trump supporter, Jamaican born Winsome Earle-Sears, failed to get a majority of the Black votes. To add salt to the



Aisha Braveboy, Prince George's County Executive

wound, significant
Trump working
class voters
marked their ballot
for Democrat
Abigail
Spanberger but
Earle-Sears
received the
diehard white
Trump supporters
vote. In New York
City, Progressive

Democrat Jumaane Williams was easily reelected for four more years as Public Advocate. The Public Advocate is first in line to become mayor if the Mayor is removed, resigns, or dies. Williams' parents are Grenadians.



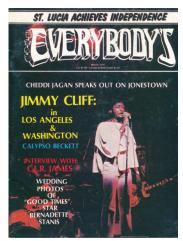
Mamdani displays the September edition of EVERYBODY'S Magazine on the campaign trail in Brooklyn.

Photo Leonard McKenzie

MAMDANI'S MAGIC EVEN PRESIDENT TRUMP LOVES A WINNER

Ithough Zohran Mamdani Although Zonian ivianican.

Convincingly won the New York City Democratic mayoral primary in June that was not enough to satisfy the major candidate he defeated, former Governor Andrew Cuomo. Cuomo remained in the race. In order to be on the ballot for the November 3rd general election, Cuomo established two political parties. He continued to publicize that Mamdani is a Muslim. What seemed to be a divisive campaign supported by big money backfired on Cuomo although Mayor Eric Adams and President Trump endorsed him. At 12am, January 1, 2026, the 34-year-old former Assemblyman Zohran Kwame Mamdani will be sworn-in as the Mayor of New York City.



Jimmy Cliff graced the cover of the February, 1979 edition.

JIMMY CLIFF DEPARTED THIS LIFE LORD FUNNY AND KING WELLINGTON

We mourned the loss of reggae icons, Jimmy Cliff (1944-2025) and Max Romeo (1944-2025). During the peak of Cliff's popularity, the international singer, musician and actor always made himself available to be interviewed by EVERYBODY'S writers. DJ Edwin Howell, The Bajan King, and a manager at VP Records, told CBS News, "Cliff was more than just an artist; he was a storyteller; his vocabulary on his music, I just love everything behind it because when you listen to his music there is a story behind everything." Calypso fans said goodbye to Lord Funny (1941-2025) and King Wellington (1939-2025). Lord Funny, renowned for his humorous calypso, performed at D'Big Apple Calypso Revue and EVERYBODY'S Magazine Calypso Tent in Brooklyn. This magazine also lost its editor, Winthrop R. Holder. Although Holder knew his end was near, he persevered up to his last breath.



LORD FUNNY
Lord Funny who
performed many
years in
EVERYBODY'S
Magazine Calypso
Tent, Brooklyn.

2026 AT A GLANCE

January 2026

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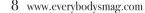
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Happy New Year! L to R: Sharon, Brandon, Cynthia and Christian. Not in photo Matriarch Gloria, Delia, Bianca and Jordan. Photo-Leonard McKenzie

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ST. KITTS/NEVIS CARNIVAL

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- FULL MOON



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Saturday	7 GRENADA IND. DAY	14 ST. VALENTINE'S DAY	21	28 ECYPT IND. DAY
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10 PASSOVER ENDS EASTER MONDAY EASTER

3RD QUARTER

ZIMBABWE, IND. DAY 100 25 NEW MOON 17 **47** 1st QUARTER 30 TAX DAY, USA EARTH DAY 5 29 4 21 TOGO IND. DAY BOSTON MARATHON 20 133 10 26 7





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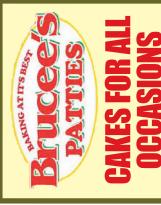
ST. MAARTEN CARNIVAL

BARBADOS, NAT. HEROES DAY

SIERRA LEONE IND. DAY

CAL YPSO ROSE BIRTHDAY







Anniversaries Weddings Birthdays Baptisms More









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www.everybodysmag.com Sunday

Monday

Tuesday Wednesday

Saturday

7	9 3 rd QUARTER	16	23 1st quarter	TDAD & TOBAGO-INDIAN ARRIV. DAY
T FULL MOON LABOUR/MAY DAY	∞	15	22 SHAVUOT	29
	2	14 ASCENSION DAY	21	28
	6 NURSES DAY	13	20	27
	ETHIOPIA IND. DAY	12	19	26 CUYANA IND. DAY EID AL-ADHA
	4. ST. THOMAS CARNIVAL		CANADA, VICTORIA DAY	25 MEMORIAL DAY WHIT MONDAY
	ST. THOMAS CARNIVAL	10 MOTHER'S DAY	21	24, ERITREA, IND. DAY 31 S. AFRICA IND. DAY FULL MOON



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Monday Sunday

Tuesday Wednesday Thursday

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Ŋ	6	16 FIFA WORLD CUP MUHARRAM	16 FIFA WORLD CUP MUHARRAM 23 FIFA WORLD CUP
CARIBBEAN- AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH	8 3 rd QUARTER	15 FIFA WORLD CUP	
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FULL MOON



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Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

IND. DAY USA

IND. DAY USA-OBSERVED ST. VINCENT CARNIVAL CANADA DAY BURUNDI, IND. DAY SOMALIA, IND. DAY AMERICA MEERS

11	FIFA QUARTER FINALS	18
10	FIFA QUARTER FINALS IND. DAY, BAHAMAS	17
6	S.SUDAN IND. DAY MIGHTY SPARROW BIRTHDAY FIFA QUARTER FINALS	91
∞		15
2	ST. VINCENT CARNIVAL 3 ^{kd} QUARTER	14
9	MALAWI, JULY CARICOM DAY ST. VINCENT CARNIVAL	13
ı	ALGERIA IND. DAY ALGERIA IND. ST. VINCENT CARICOM DAY ST. VINCENT CARNIVAL	12

	17 18 FIFA WORLD CUP BRONZE	24	31
FINALS	16	23	30
	FIFA SEMIFINALS FIFA SEMIFINALS FINALS NEW MOON	6	29 FULL MOON
	14. FIFA SEMIFINALS, FINALS NEW MOON	21 SAINT LUCIA CARNIVAL 1 ST QUARTER	28
CAKINIVAL	13	20 SAINT LUCIA CARNIVAL	27
	2	19 FIFA FINALS	26 LIBERIA IND. DAY

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and author of Miss Pat - My Reggae Journey Patricia Chin, cofounder of VP Records, matriach of the reggae industry,

Photo Leonard McKenzie

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Sunday

Monday

Saturday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday



EMANCIPATIONDAY (ANGLOCARIBBEAN)

TORONTOCARNIVAL BENIN IND. DAY



CÔTE D/IVOIRE IND. DAY

JAMAICA IND. DAY

BURKINA FASO, IND DAY

ANTIGUA CARNIVAL

NIGER IND. DAY
EMANCIPATION
DAY OBSERVED
KADOOMENT DAY
- BARBADOS
ANTIGUA CARNIVAL
CIVIC HOLIDAYCANADA

4

N

3RD QUARTER

9

CENTRAL AFRICAN REP. IND DAY

NEW MOON

CHAD IND. DAY

GRENADA CARNIVAL

10

9

GRENADA CARNIVAL

5

133

12

6022 SW 21st Stree

22

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8

1ST QUARTER

GABON IND. DAY

16

NOTTING HILL, LONDON CARNIVAL

29

23

56

25

24

23

31 TRINIDAD & TOBAGO IND. DAY

30 NOTTING HILL, LONDON CARNIVAL

FULL MOON





- PUDDING & SOUSE
- •COU-COU & FLYING FISH
- BAKE & SALTFISH
- •RICE & PEAS
- CUTTERS
- MACARONI PIE
- FISH CAKES
- STEW & CURRY, CHICKEN FISH & BEEF
- DELICIOUS OXTAIL
- PEPPERPOT
- BAJAN SOUP
- •LEAD PIPE
- CONKIES
- SWEET BREAD
- PEPPERPOT
- CASSAVA PONE



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Saturday Tuesday Welmesday Thursday Monday Sunday

			30 BOTSWANA IND. DAY	29	28	27
FULLMOON		TRINIDAD & TOBAGO REPUBLIC DAY		AUTUMN BEGINS MALI, IND. DAY	BELIZE IND. DAY YOM KIPPUR	
26	25	24	23	22	21	20
ST. KITTS/NEVIS IND. DAY	1 st QUARTER		ST. KITTS/NEVIS HEROES DAY	MAWLID-AL-NABI		
19	18	17	16	15	14	13
					NEW YORK CARNIVAL	
ROSH HASHANAH		NEW MOON			LABOR DAY, USA & CANADA	NEW YORK CARNIVAL
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	3 rd QUARTER					
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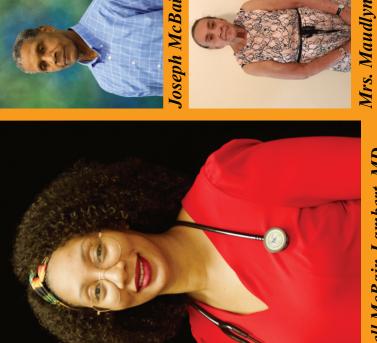
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Saturday	3
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10 MIAMI CARNIVAL NEW MOON	17	24. ZAMBIAIND. DAY	31 HALLOWEEN
9 UGANDA, IND. DAY	16 SUKKOT	23	30
&	15	22	29
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9	13	20	ST. VINCENTIND.
ın	12 INDICENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY COLUMBUS DAY THANKSCIVING DAY, CANADA	19 JAMAICA: HEROES' DAY	26
CALYPSONIAN SHADOW BIRTHDAY OLLVER SAMUELS BIRTHDAY	11 MIAMI CARNIVAL	18	25 FULL MOON
	5 6 7 8 9 10 UGANDA, IND. MIAMI CARNIVAL DAY NEW MOON	55 6 7 8 9 10 10	55 66 77 88 99 10









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Monday

Sunday

Saturday

Tuesday Wednesday Thursday

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ANTIGUA.		ELECTION DAY,				
BARBUDA IND. DAY		NSA				
ALL SAINT'S DAY		DOMINICAIND.DAY				
TIME CHANGES		IND. DAY PANAMA				
USA NYC MARATHON		NEW MOON				
œ	6	10		12	3	4
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DIWALI			VETERANS DAY			

	14	21	28 IND. DAY PANAMA	
	13	20	27	
	12	19	26 THANKSGIVING USA	
	11 VETERANS DAY ANGOLA IND. DAY	18	25 SURINAME IND DAY	
ELECTION DAY, USA DOMINICAIND. DAY IND. DAY PANAMA NEW MOON	10	17	24. FULL MOON	
	6	16	23	30 BARBADOS IND & REP DAY 3 RD QUARTER
ANTIGUA. RBUDA IND. DAY ALL SAINT'S DAY TIME CHANGES USA VYC MARATHON	8 DIWALI	15	22	29



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Family & 0 Ohvistmas Glessed



bakers, L to R: Delia, matriarch Gloria, Brandon, Cynthia, Sharon and Christian

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	I			
S CHANUKAH - 1 st DAY	12 KENYA IND. DAY CHANUKAH - LAST DAY	19	26 BOXING DAY KWANZAA	
4	11	18	25 CHRISTMAS	1 1 1
ಣ	10	17	24 CHRISTMAS EVE LIBYA, IND. DAY	31 OLD YEAR'S DAY KWANZAA
2	9 TANZANIA IND. DAY	16 1 st quarter	23 FULL MOON	30 KWANZAA 3 RD QUARTER
1	8 NEW MOON	15	22	29 KWANZAA
	2	14	21 WINTER BEGINS	28 KWANZAA
	9	13	20	27 KWANZAA





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Friday

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January 2027

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February 2027

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March 2027

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April 2027

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May 2027

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June 2027

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July 2027

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August 2027

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September 2027

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October 2027

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November 2027

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December 2027

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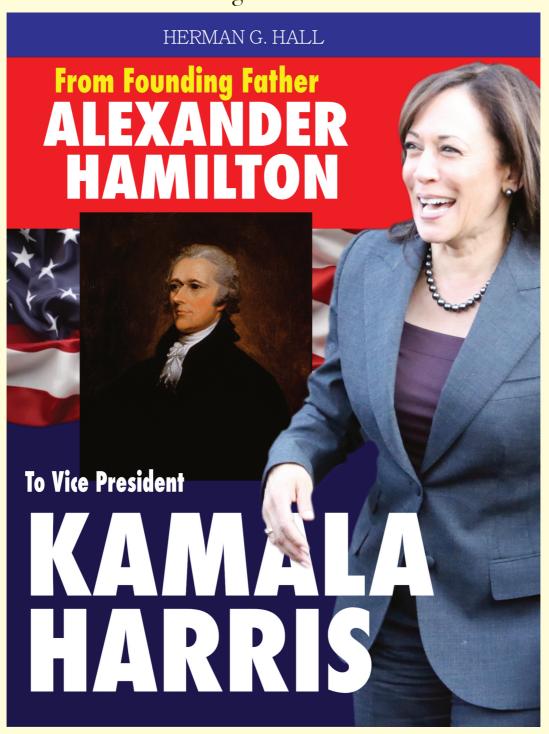




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