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## READERSTIME

### ANNUAL GLOBAL CALENDAR

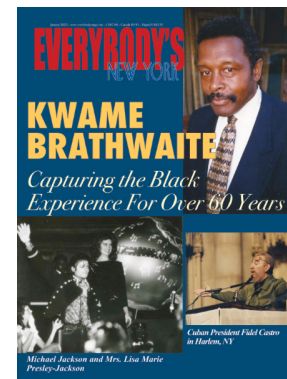
Please continue including the independence dates of African nations in your annual Global Calendar. You may want to include in April: Earth Month, Financial Literacy and Black Women's History. Remember to include Indigenous People Month in November and Thanksgiving Day as Truths Giving Day and Friday, the next day, as Indigenous Peoples' Heritage Day.

*Donna M. Roberts,  
Jersey City, NJ*

It is always refreshing when I see EVERYBODY'S Magazine includes the dates when African states obtained their independence from European nations. African countries were independent states before they were colonized by France, the Dutch, Portugal, England and Belgium. Hundreds of years later, they had to fight for independence. These are facts not told to students.

*Benjamin Ali,  
Austin, TX*

### KWAME BRATHWAITE



My thanks to you for your February edition featuring Kwame Brathwaite and his photography. I knew Kwame and his brother Elombe Brath. They were pillars in the Harlem community and their promotion of the “Black Is Beautiful” slogan. Like them, my parents were early 20<sup>th</sup> century immigrants from Barbados.

*Richard Springer,  
Mount Vernon, NY*

Last November, I was invited by my friend to visit Black Is Beautiful: The Photography of Kwame Brathwaite Exhibition at the New York Historical Society. Just imagine, a 6-month exhibition about the career of a Black person at the once conservative and racist New York Historical Society! I'm glad I went. I later googled his name and was surprised when I saw he had been profiled in America's main media from Public TV to CBS and the print media. Although I have been a reader of your magazine for the last five years, I did not realize that one of America's best photographers was part of your magazine.

*El@..... Bronx, NY*

There is something about EVERYBODY'S Magazine I always appreciate and the reason I mail a modest check every year. Life can be full of surprises and since I do not pay attention to photo credits, I can't remember seeing Kwame Brathwaite in your magazine until I read about him in your February issue. You had a high profile photographer on your team. I encourage everyone to google his name to understand his contributions.

*L...@.....com*

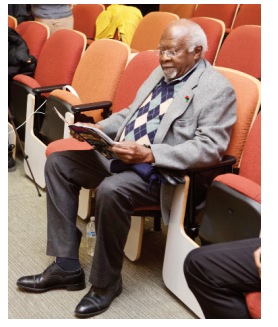
### PUBLISHER'S COMMENT

When this magazine paid tribute to Kwame, he was hospitalized. He passed away in April. His death was mentioned in major news platforms in the U.S. and Africa. Unfortunately, not in the Caribbean and Barbados where his parents hailed from.



*Kwame Brathwaite, II and his wife, greet a mourner at Brathwaite's funeral.*

*Photo Leonard McKenzie*



*Dr. Julius Garvey, son of Marcus Garvey, reviewing EVERYBODY'S edition dedicated to his friend, the late Kwame Brathwaite.*

*Photo Leonard McKenzie*

CNN- “Kwame Brathwaite, the pioneering activist and photographer whose work helped define the aesthetics of the “Black is Beautiful” movement of the 1960s and beyond, died on April 1, aged 85.”

www.washingtonpost.com > 2023/04/12 “Kwame Brathwaite, whose photos said ‘Black is beautiful’ ... dies at 85 ... While based out of his Harlem studio, he helped ...”

For more than 30 years, Kwame served this magazine. Without him, and others such as the late Pat Boothe, this magazine would not have survived for 46 years.

Brathwaite's farewell was held at the historic Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem, NY on April 24. In paying his respect to Brathwaite on behalf of the nation of Namibia, Ambassador Neville Gertze said, “Brathwaite was an icon, and through the lens of his camera and through his lifelong dedication to the Pan-African movement, Kwame leaves a rich legacy of a man who was uncompromised in spirit and his support to the Civil Rights movement, the struggles against apartheid colonialism, inequality, and injustice.”

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# SUMMER 2023

## Northern Hemisphere Concerts – Carnivals – Foods

*Will Joey Chestnut Eat 77 Hot Dogs In 10 Minutes?*



Casym Steel Orchestra, Brooklyn

Photo by William Farrington

Compiled By Wendy Gomez

*After three years, the pestilence, Covid-19 and its offspring Omicron, Delta, Alpha and other variants are reluctantly departing. As a result, Summer 2023 festivals and concerts are expected to draw large crowds as in 2019 and before. Here are highlights of anticipated major events.*

# SUMMER 2023



Radoes Steel Orchestra, Brooklyn -Photo by William Farrington



Juneteenth parade in New York City

### USA - Juneteenth – June 19

Juneteenth, June 19, is now a federal holiday to commemorate June 19, 1865, when the enslaved were officially freed after troops marched to Galveston, Texas, to enforce the emancipation proclamation announced two years earlier. This June, events are planned in many cities and towns across the U.S. Here are events in three states between June 17-20.

**BOSTON, MA:** There are three days of festivities including a symposium of ideas, culture, music, and art, bringing together local and national leaders and visionaries. The event includes keynotes, panels, and live music all rooted in anti-racism. Speakers at this year's festival include Nikole Hannah-Jones, a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter.

**BUFFALO, NY:** The Juneteenth Festival began in 1976 as a culturally-relevant alternative to the country's bicentennial celebration. The 48th annual Juneteenth Parade is scheduled for Saturday, June 17, 2023 at 10:45am. The parade begins at Juneteenth's Buffalo Headquarters, 1517 Genesee Street @ Moselle Street. The parade's four divisions are expected to proceed west

on Genesee Street towards the review stage at E. Parade and Genesee Streets.

**CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA:** Like most of the South, Charleston, South Carolina, is immersed in Black history. Enslavers brought an estimated 40% of Africans through the city's ports. Luckily, the Gullah people of South Carolina and other states such as Georgia have kept African American culture intact for centuries, therefore, Juneteenth is the ideal time to celebrate. Many are celebrating Juneteenth at the Charleston Inn, a boutique hotel in the heart of the city's historic district, hosting several Juneteenth programs. On June 17-20, everyone can enjoy [The Plantation Singers](#) rendering beautiful African American classics like "Swing Low" in between the lobby's grand staircase.



Anthony B and Miss Pat Chin, matriarch of VP Records. -Photo Leonard McKenzie

**ST. KITTS MUSIC FESTIVAL – JUNE 22-24:** Most concerts are held at Warner Park Stadium showcasing a mix of Soul, Soca, Jazz, R&B, Reggae, and more. This year's headliners include Burna Boy, Kollision Band, Small Axe Band, Anthony B, Kes the Band, Nailah Blackman, Ricardo Drue and Dexta Daps.



# SUMMER 2023



*Crossfire Steel Orchestra, Brooklyn, NY.*

*Photo by Williams Farrington*



*Concert goes at Groovin' in the Park. -Photo Anthony Turner*

**QUEENS, NY – GROOVIN' IN THE PARK – JUNE 25:** The one-day concert resumes since 2019 when Covid-19 said no concert in 2020-22. Expect to see great performers including Tarrus Riley, Baby Cham, David Rodigan and premier headliner Charlie Wilson.

**GRENADA – FISHERMAN'S BIRTHDAY - JUNE 29:** Fisherman's Birthday celebrating the life of the disciple Peter is held in the fishing town of Gouyave, home of Olympian Kirani James, soca artist Mr. Killa and the late Governor Sir Paul Scoon. Although June



*d'Lance, Gouyave, St. John's, Grenada, is the home of Fisherman's Birthday.*

29 is not a public holiday, all roads lead to Gouyave. Fishermen across the nation and from St. Vincent and Grenadines, Tobago and other islands sail to Gouyave to compete in boat races. The morning begins with a religious parade and the blessing of fishing boats, fishermen and fisherwomen by the Roman Catholic priest. Some Gouyaverians residing in the diaspora even fly home for the event. In London, people from Gouyave celebrate too.

# SUMMER 2023



*Pantonic Orchestra, Brooklyn*

*Photo by William Farrington*

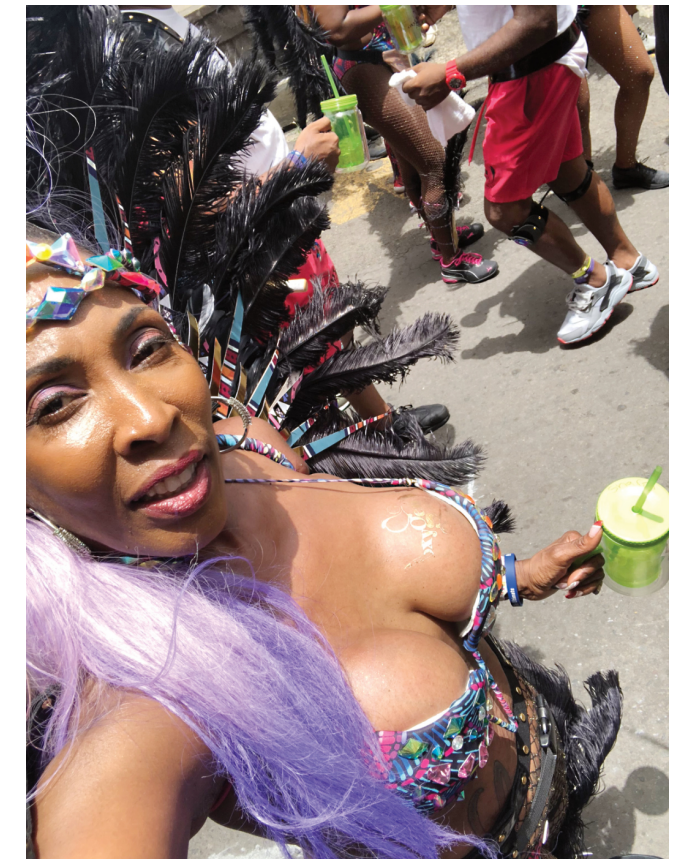


*Montreal is the venue of a Caribbean-style carnival in North America.*

**MONTREAL, CANADA – CARIFIESTA – JULY 1:** The festival began in July 1975 primarily by Trinidadians, Grenadians and Vincentians. It is held on Canada Day weekend, the first weekend in July. The carnival parade is Saturday, July 1.

**ST. VINCENT – VINCY MAS – JULY 1-4:** Vincy Mas begins in mid-June and climaxes on the first weekend of July with two days of street parade, July 3-4. The soca and calypso competitions are exciting. St. Vincent is the home of soca stars, Problem Child and Kevin Lyttle and calypso icon Becket.

**USA – FOURTH OF JULY – INDEPENDENCE DAY:** The American tradition of celebrating Independence Day is fireworks such as



*Sharon Smith, born in New York of Vincentian and Panamanian parentage, frequently flies to St. Vincent for Vincy Mas.*



# SUMMER 2023



On July 4<sup>th</sup>, watch Nathan's Famous International Hot Dog Eating Contest live on national TV.

Macy's Fourth of July Fireworks Spectacular, parades, concerts and eating hot dogs and burgers. Hot dogs! Will Joey Chestnut retain his Nathan's Famous International Hot Dog Eating Contest title? In 2022, Chestnut devoured 63 hot dogs and buns in 10 minutes. That's nothing! In 2021, he consumed a record breaking 76 hot dogs. Injured before July 4, 2022, not his mouth and stomach, the defending champion meekly arrived at Coney Island, Brooklyn, on crutches with his right foot in a cast. In the women's category, Miki Sudo has been crowned Nathan's Famous International Hot Dog Eating Female Champion eight times. Will she break her record by eating 41 hot dogs and buns in 10 minutes. In their own style, immigrants celebrate too. They prepare their respective national dishes but make available hot dogs, burgers and buns for their American-born relatives and friends. Visiting Brooklyn and want to enjoy soca, dancehall, steelband music and dance troupes for free! Go to Prospect Park. You can even cook your curried goat and rice there.



Independence Day, July 10, Bahamas.

**BAHAMAS – INDEPENDENCE DAY - JULY 10:** A very nice time to be on any island of the Bahamas. King Charles III is the monarch of the Bahamas.



Lucian Carnival is not renowned as the Saint Lucia Jazz Festival.

**SAINT LUCIA – LUCIAN CARNIVAL – JULY 22-19:** The National Carnival Queen Pageant is an exciting event and the calypso and soca competitions are tense. Lucian Carnival main carnival days are July 22-19.

**ANGLOPHONE CARIBBEAN - EMANCIPATION DAY – AUGUST 1:** Lectures, fetes, beach parties and concerts. It was on August 1, 1834, Britain granted the enslaved in the British Empire freedom but freedom came for many on August 1, 1838. August 1 is observed in some islands; other islands celebrate Emancipation on the first weekend of August.



A scene from downtown Toronto. Since 1977, EVERYBODY'S Magazine has been covering Caribana.

**TORONTO, CANADA – CARIBANA – AUGUST 3-7:** Considered the best Caribbean carnival in North America. This year's carnival begins on Thursday evening, August 3 with the soca and calypso

competitions; Friday is panorama and the carnival climaxes on Saturday with the street carnival in downtown Toronto. Since Monday is a national holiday, the fetes and concerts continue on Sunday and end on Monday night. [www.CaribanaToronto.com](http://www.CaribanaToronto.com).



King Obstinate in his prime. Antigua is the home of calypso greats, King Short Shirt, King Obstinate, and the late King Swallow.

## ANTIGUA/BARBUDA – CARNIVAL – AUGUST 3-8:

Antiguans boast that their carnival is the Caribbean's Greatest Summer Festival. Traditionally, the first Monday in August is a national holiday to celebrate the emancipation of the enslaved on August 1, 1834 and 1838. The holiday has evolved into the nation's largest festival. The 2023 events in sequential order: Calypso Monarch, Panorama, Party Monarch, Jouvert/Carnival Monday and Parade of the Bands/Last Lap.



Rihanna maybe in Barbados but she will not be prancing at the national stadium on Grand Kadooment Day.

**BARBADOS – CROP OVER – August 4-7:** Don't expect to find Rihanna, America's beloved popstar and Barbados National Hero, to be in the Crop Over parties and street carnival. She is pregnant with baby number two. Unlike other former British Caribbean colonies that no longer celebrate Crop Over, Barbados has maintained the tradition and developed it into a carnival. During slavery, to mark the end of the sugarcane season (crop over), the slave masters spared the rod for a day and gave the enslaved a day to rest and celebrate. The 2023 Barbados Crop Over Festival consists of the crowning of the King and Queen of the Crops, calypso competitions, Foreday Morning Jam, and Bridgetown Market. The peak of Crop Over '23 is Grand Kadooment Day on August 7 when the street carnival is held.

# SUMMER 2023



Jab Jab is a trademark of Spice Mas.

**GRENADA – SPICE MAS – AUGUST 11-15:** Grenada's carnival is becoming very popular. The soca and calypso competitions are exciting. Grenadians celebrate carnival in all the parishes, towns and villages on Carnival Monday and Tuesday where one will find the Jab Jab bands. [www.spicemasgrenada.com](http://www.spicemasgrenada.com)

**NEW YORK HARLEM WEEK – AUGUST 10-20:** Back in 1974, Harlem Day was a one-day event held on the Sunday after Labor Day. Masqueraders from Brooklyn's Carnival highlighted and ended the street parade. Harlem Day has grown into Harlem Week. Events include fashion shows, lectures, poetry, concerts, foods and concoctions reflecting the cultural diversity of the Village of Harlem.



In London, children are an integral part of Notting Hill Carnival.

**NOTTING CARNIVAL – UK – AUGUST 26-28:** The carnival held in London, England, is promoted as one of the most exciting and colorful events worldwide. For 2-days millions overtake west London for Europe's biggest street party. "Un-



# SUMMER 2023

like other local festivals, Notting Hill Carnival has absolutely nothing to do with English culture. Nor is it a part of the religious carnival season associated with Catholic Lent. Instead, Notting Hill Carnival is a Caribbean Carnival that celebrates London's Afro-Caribbean community," the organizers explain.



EVERYBODY'S Magazine anticipates 1.3 spectators will view the carnival parade down Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, on Labor Day, September 4. -Photo Leonard McKenzie

**BROOKLYN, NY – LABOR DAY CARNIVAL – SEPTEMBER 1-4:** It is the mother of Caribbean-style carnivals in the diaspora. The street carnival started in 1947 in Manhattan, a borough of New York City where most West Indian immigrants then resided. A decade later, the carnival was banned in the Village of Harlem, Manhattan. Rufus Gorin, Daphne Weeks and others who were revelers in the carnival in Harlem brought the event to the Caribbean neighborhood of Brooklyn. For 2023, the official carnival shows are held on the Brooklyn Museum grounds including panorama, the Children's Carnival and Dimanche Gras. Labor Day, Monday, September 4 is the street carnival on Eastern Parkway where approximately 1.5 million revelers are anticipated. They are not invited to the VIP Breakfast held two blocks from Eastern Parkway where politicians, sponsors and celebrities gather to consume saltfish and bake and give lofty speeches. 2023 is a lowkey election year across the USA so national and state politicians will not swarm the carnival but expect Mayor Adams and Public Advocate Jumaane Williams and other municipal leaders to stroll down Eastern Parkway. Easiest way to find

your way to Eastern Parkway on Labor Day is by train. IRT Train #3. Get off at one of the following stations: Utica Ave., Kingston Ave., Nostrand Ave., Franklin Ave. and Grand Army Plaza. For security reasons, the Eastern Parkway/Brooklyn Museum station is closed on Carnival Day. IRT #2: Get off at Franklin Ave., President Street or Grand Army Plaza stations.



Massive indoor soca concerts and other paid events are associated with Miami Carnival.

**MIAMI CARNIVAL – OCTOBER 7-8:** The 39<sup>th</sup> consecutive Miami Carnival is on Indigenous People/Columbus weekend. The celebration kicks off on Saturday morning with J'Ouvert from 7am to 3pm at the Miami-Dade County Fairgrounds. Sunday is parade day. Revelers can line the streets to watch masquerade bands on their way to the stadium or for a fee, a reveler can sit in the stadium to watch the masqueraders compete for best king, queen and individual costumes. The paying reveler can visit the Carnival Village for authentic island eats and handmade arts and crafts.

**NEW YORK CITY WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL – OCTOBER 12-15:** It is the largest food and wine festival in the city with more than 80 events. NYCWFF is best known for its walk-around tastings in celebration of NYC's favorite foods, intimate dinners with world-renowned chefs, late-night parties, hands-on classes, wine tastings and musical performances and more. The principal events are in Manhattan but there a few in the other four boroughs.

**2024!** Before you can rest, it's time for carnival and festivals 2024 beginning with St. Kitts, Haiti and Bahamas carnivals on New Year's Day followed by Trinbago Carnival, February 12-13.

## GEORGE LAMMING ABOUT DR. ERIC WILLIAMS

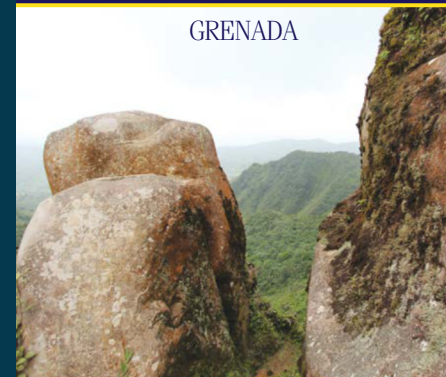
“He taught us to see the history of any part of the Caribbean as the history of all ... The task of the historian ... is to break-down particularism and parochialism in each territory.”

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# HARRY BELAFONTE

## "I'm A Folk Singer, Not A Calypsonian"



Harry Belafonte (David Boyeur) and Joan Fontaine (Mavis Norman) in *Island in the Sun*.

-Photo 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox

By Herman Hall

On April 25, the evening of Harry Belafonte's death, three TV shows in Grenada spent almost their entire program focusing on Belafonte's contributions to the Civil Rights Movement and his association with Rev. Martin Luther King. A wise decision by the TV hosts. Regrettably, they repeated each other's information obtained from mainstream American media. Belafonte, the Caribbean or Caribbean-American man, needed a deeper picture.

One show and its guest added some information the American mainstream media omitted. They continuously reminded viewers that Belafonte was a friend of late Grenada's Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. Indeed, Belafonte supported the People's Revolutionary Government and admired Maurice Bishop. However, years later, in the new century, during a brief tête-à-tête, Belafonte told me he regretted supporting the PRG. Why? After the Grenada Revolution (1979-83) abruptly ended with Bishop and others in his inner circle assassinated by rivals and the invasion/rescue mission by the US, the cruelty and inhumane treatment the PRG inflicted on its political prisoners were exposed. Belafonte was shocked upon hearing how badly the PRG treated its opponents.

Television in the Eastern Caribbean also broadcasted Jamaica's Prime Minister Andrew Holness's splendid tribute to Belafonte. It was a magnificent acknowledgment of Belafonte's contribution

to his beloved Jamaica. What Holness did not tell the nation and the rest of Caricom was his Jamaica Labour Party (JLP), led by Prime Minister Edward Seaga, once declared Belafonte persona non grata. In his swearing-in speech as prime minister of Jamaica after the violent election of 1980, that claimed 800 lives, Seaga promptly declared Cuban Ambassador Ulises Estrada persona non grata. Belafonte, also in Jamaica supporting Prime Minister Michael Manley whose People's National Party lost the election winning only nine seats, was quietly and unceremoniously declared persona non grata by the incoming Seaga government. Yet, years later, reflecting changing times, Prime Minister Seaga welcomed President Fidel Castro of Cuba and Harry Belafonte in the church at Manley's funeral. On Heroes Day, 2018, Harold George Bellanfanti, Jr. (Harry Belafonte) received Jamaica's fourth highest national award, the Order of Merit.

The three TV shows in Grenada apparently unaware of the region's deep reverence for authentic calypso kept repeating that Belafonte was the King of Calypso although Mr. Belafonte never embraced the title.

Belafonte did not consider himself a calypsonian or a calypso singer. When Eddie Grant attempted to purchase publishing rights to every calypso, and he re-recorded artists such as The Roaring Lion in his 90s, Grant held a press conference in Manhattan and invited Belafonte who attended and asserted that he was not a calypso artist. I was shocked! I quizzed him.

**Me to Belafonte:** Mr. Belafonte, you sing calypsos on your shows and in your recordings. Don't you?

**Belafonte:** I am a folk singer.

**Me:** You frequently sing calypsos such as Lord Melody's "Mama Look Ah Boo Boo Dey," you sing "Sly Mongoose," you sing Sparrow's "Jean and Dinah," so how could you say you are not a calypsonian!

**Belafonte:** I am a folk singer.

**Me:** But you are the first-ever recording artist to have an album that sold one million, and you named it "Calypso."

**Belafonte:** No! I did not name the album. The producer did.

The media has yet to examine how grassroots Caribbean people, steelband musicians, and calypsonians from Lord Melody to The Mighty Sparrow perceived Harry Belafonte. The relations between Belafonte and calypsonians had never been fantastic, and Belafonte admitted the coldness. In a documentary, *Calypso Dreams*, Belafonte shared his thoughts.

"When this King of Calypso stuff came out, the Trinidadians went crazy, boy, they went nuts, 'You call yourself the King of Calypso, and you never come here ... You never go up into competition ... You thief the music, and you call yourself King. How can you do that' ... I said you are right; I have never been in the tent, competed, or thought I could ... The fact that I am called the King of Calypso was not my manufacturing ... I used the environment of Caribbean lore to put us on the map at another level that I thought was instructive and creative. If I have offended you in that service, I beg your forgiveness."

From the perspective of singing other people's calypsos, Belafonte vastly contributed to giving calypso international recognition, a fact admitted by the late Lord Melody, Lord Kitchener, The Mighty Duke, and others, as well as living legends, The Mighty Sparrow, David Rudder, and Chalkdust.

Lord Melody: Another comment they used to have about Belafonte is that he can't sing calypso... and he spoiling the people's calypso. Still, they never thought that what Belafonte is doing with Calypso would bring more significant revenues to the individual calypsonian.

David Rudder: Belafonte has done more to put calypso music into the consciousness of people than anyone else I know.

Chalkdust: Belafonte put plenty of water in the brandy. He did not give us brandy. Some people like their brandy with water.

### II

What brought anger to calypsonians such as Lord Melody, whose songs Belafonte sang, was the expectation of receiving money from him. It was a time when most Caribbean artists did not know the business of music. Belafonte recorded his version of the calypso; therefore, whatever revenues the calypsonian was entitled to would be obtained through mechanical royalties. Unfortunately, most calypsonians and Jamaican artists did not register their compositions and arrangements with ASCAP and BMI. Bob Marley did everything correctly, so his estate collects revenues yearly.

Too much credit has been given to Belafonte for promoting Calypso. The calypsonians of the 1940s, such as The Roaring Lion, The Growler, Lord Beginner and Atilla de Hun, singlehandedly promoted Calypso across America. They were featured in *Look*, *Life*, *Saturday Evening Post*, *Negro Digest*, *Time* and other famed magazines and tabloids such as *The New York Herald Tribune* and *The New York Times*. A young Ella Fitzgerald sang Papa Houdini's Calypso "I Kill Nobody But My Husband" (He Had It Coming).

Then came the late 1940s when the Andrews Sisters recorded "Rum and Coca-Cola" as an original song. "Rum and Coca-Cola," a calypso, became the first 45 to sell one Million. Pepsi-Cola,



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"When this King of Calypso stuff came out, the Trinidadians went crazy, boy, they went nuts, 'You call yourself the King of Calypso, and you never come here ... You never go up into competition ... You thief the music, and you call yourself King. How can you do that' ... I said you are right ... The fact that I am called the King of Calypso was not my manufacturing ... I used the environment of Caribbean lore to put us on the map at another level ... If I have offended you in that service, I beg your forgiveness."

Coca-Cola's rival, even sued radio stations to prevent them from playing Rum and Coca-Cola since Pepsi claimed the song was a commercial that promoted Coca-Cola.

But the Calypso was composed by Lord Invader and arranged by Lionel Belasco. Morey Amsterdam of the classic Dick Dan Dyke sitcom claimed he wrote it. Amsterdam, a young US soldier stationed in colonial Trinidad during World War II, heard Trinidadians singing the song. Upon his departure from the military, he entered show biz and sold the song to the Andrews Sisters. The case against Morey Amsterdam and the Andrews Sisters went to the New York State Supreme Court. Musical experts still regard the plagiarism case as a landmark decision in the recording industry. Lord Invader won, and the courts awarded him between \$150,000-\$200,000 - the equivalent of millions in 2023. The popularity of Rum and Coca-Cola and the legal battles lifted Calypso.

### III

Belafonte acknowledged Sparrow at the welcoming ceremony of Nelson Mandela at Yankee Stadium shortly after Mandela was released from a South African prison for his fight against the evils of apartheid. Unfortunately, whether it was a time factor, Sparrow

was not allowed to sing. While Sparrow appreciated Belafonte's gesture at this historic event, he felt that, and he repeated his feelings to me several times, Belafonte could have done much more to showcase calypsonians.

For example, the first time I saw Harry Belafonte was Labor Day Friday of 1972 or 1973 at the calypso competition at the Brooklyn Museum grounds. Getting the Brooklyn Museum grounds to stage the carnival shows was trying. The liberal white director of the museum was later fired partly for her goodwill in facilitating the festival. Finally, New York City reluctantly gave a few blocks on Eastern Parkway for the carnival on Labor Day Monday.

October 1984 edition of EBM featuring Harry Belafonte and other Caribbean-American personalities.

-Photo Lloyd Patterson, Kwame Brathwaite, CBS-TV and NBC-TV

Lord Melody, who Belafonte still employed, was in the calypso competition and Belafonte attended to support Melo and to observe.

"Better he did not come," said Carlos Lezama, organizer of Brooklyn's carnival. Other organizers, Errol Payne, Caldera Carabello, Desmond Worrell and others, were steaming mad. I, too, as



L to R: Irving Burgie (Lord Burgess), Herb Levy and Louise Bennett (Miss Lou) in April 1954 at New York City's Village Vanguard. - Photo EBM Library

publicity director of WIADCA, was disappointed. Belafonte stood below a shrub in the darkness with a long London Fog coat over his head. He declined to come on stage or to be mentioned that he was in attendance. He felt that the few hundreds in attendance would besiege him for autographs. The West Indian-American Day Carnival Association needed recognition and respectability, and Belafonte was in a position to help, but he did not. However, decades later, after the demise and retirement of the early organizers, the new organizers invited Belafonte to be the Grand Marshal, at a time when more than a million revelers attended the festivities annually. Belafonte accepted the invitation and proudly appeared at the VIP Carnival Breakfast before strolling down Eastern Parkway greeted and being adored by the massive crowds.

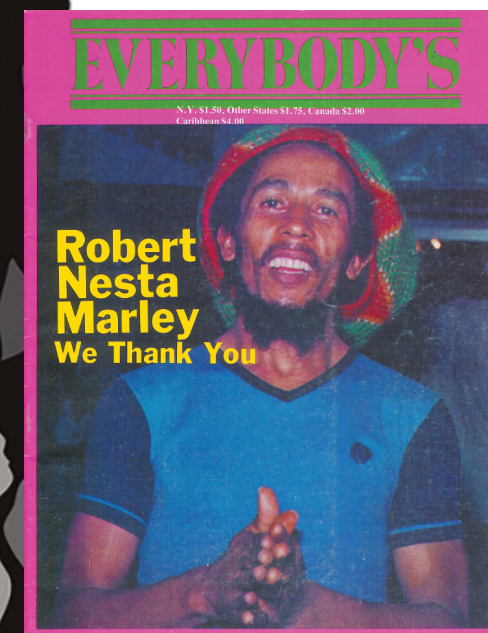
People often say that that the stars in show biz are often egocentric. Harry Belafonte was no exception. According to the late Caldera Carabello (see page 24), who toured with Belafonte, the star did not allow anyone on stage with him to share the spotlight. "Just imagine! The man is singing 'Mama Look Ah Boo Boo,' and Melody has to sing the chorus; Belafonte would not even introduce Melody. So, after a while, I told Belafonte how I felt and stopped touring with him," explained Caldera.

Still, Melody admired Belafonte, and they had a cordial relationship. Unfortunately, when Melody was sick and having financial problems in Trinidad & Tobago, the late Carlyle Hall of Ah

When Bob Marley passed on in 1981, **EVERYBODY'S** and Rolling Stone were the only two magazines to dedicate an entire edition to Bob.

**EVERYBODY'S** edition won a national magazine award for international reporting of Bob's funeral. The late Congressman Mervyn Dymally introduced a Resolution in the U.S. Congress congratulating **EVERYBODY'S**.

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... the whites and young blacks weren't interested in listening to Belafonte.

They were chatting and laughing. Other people had to strain to hear Belafonte. After politely asking to be heard, and ignored, Belafonte became frustrated and loud ... as he emotionally told them how he fought to desegregate the Waldorf for other black people to be welcomed as guests and now he has to beg the attendees to listen to him.



*Island in the Sun* carnival scene at the Market Square, St. George's, Grenada. (During slavery, the historic Market Square was a killing field where leaders of slave rebellions and supporters of Julien Fédon were beheaded or shot.) -Photo 20th Century Fox

Mongoose', 'Rum and Coco-Cola,' 'Matilda,' and the Roaring Lion 1936 hit, 'Man Smart, Woman Smarter' so those immigrants, especially in the US, saw no need to go to Belafonte concerts. But by putting water in the brandy, Belafonte had sold out shows in white communities, and he felt Caribbean people should idolize him too. Caribbean people did love and appreciate him, but he sang yesteryear's Caribbean songs. The new generation preferred the music of Bunny Wailer, Jimmy Cliff, Calypso Rose, Becket, David Rudder, Red Plastic Bag, Marcia Griffiths, Arrow, Shadow and other Caribbean artists.

In the 1990s, the Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts (BCBC) at Brooklyn College was envious of Caribbean promoters having sold out events there. Management decided to stage its own Caribbean shows. They staged Belafonte on a Tuesday evening when the old generation of Caribbean New Yorkers would be at work, coming from work, or attending evening school. First, sales were poor forcing management to close the 850-seat balcony. Then, sales didn't pick up forcing the 535-seat mezzanine to close. On the day of the show, only the orchestra section opened everyone was given orchestra seats, yet the 995 orchestra seats were only half full. During the performance, a disenchanted Belafonte reminded the 500-600 attendees that a prophet is honored everywhere except in his hometown, and he boasted about annual sold-out European concerts.

#### IV

Flashback to watching Three TV shows in Grenada on April 25, 2023: They should have mentioned that the 1957 Hollywood blockbuster, *Island in the Sun*, featured Harry Belafonte. Most of the filming occurred in Grenada, and the airport scene was in Barbados because Grenada did not have an international airport. The elegant 18th-century Fleury Great House in Barbados, built by enslaved people, was used in several dramatic scenes.

The cast of *Island in the Sun* consisted of some of the biggest names at that time in Hollywood, James Mason, Joan Fontaine, Joan Collins, Dorothy Dandridge, and the handsome black actor Harry Belafonte. Dorothy Dandridge, in 1954, became the first black woman nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actress. The story was based on interracial love and colonial politics, but it was still taboo for black and white couples to kiss in a movie, so there was no kissing. Yet upon the release of *Island in the Sun*, it was banned in some places in the American South where the Ku Klux Klan reigned because the movie included interracial relationships.

I was 11-12-years-old in 1956-57 when Producer Darryl F. Zanuck and Director Robert Rossen filmed *Island in the Sun* based on Alec Waugh's novel. The entire colony was awestruck, and the film's director used fishermen and laborers as props. For the carnival scene filming, Grenada's administrator declared a public holiday. Schools closed, laborers on estates were given the

For 26 years, Belafonte used his status to fundraise for the University of the West Indies.

Through Belafonte, the American Foundation for the University of the West Indies (AFUWI) based in NY raised millions of dollars to help students who couldn't afford to study at the UWI. For the 2023 fundraiser held on April 20, Dr. The Hon. Harry Belafonte, OM served as Honorary Patron.



*The famous and witty Lord Melody presents Keith Rowe, winner of the 1975 carnival New York Reggae Festival Song competition, his check.* -Photo Ken Chandler

day off, and even rum shops (mini grocery stores) shut. All roads led to St. George's, Grenada's capital.

I imagine the British administrator and the film director lured Grenadians to believe they would be in the movie. Headmaster Eli Peters of the St. John's Anglican School regretted that his student could not get transportation to Town (St. George's). Why? The four buses in Gouyave, the capital of Saint John - Content, Welcome, Florida Pride and Loyalty - were reserved to carry the adults and masqueraders to St. George's. I recall seeing buses from the parishes of Saint Mark and Saint Patrick with adults in them packed like sardines on their way to St. George's. The entire nation went to Town on the administrator's decree. That day boisterous Gouyave was unusually quiet. The only sound was we little boys and girls swimming or playing cricket. The next day everyone in Gouyave boasted that they were in the film. (Google *Island in the Sun* to recognize landmarks and see the carnival and fishing scenes.)

As I sat in my cousin home in Gouyave on the evening of April 25, the mosquitoes and sand flies were frustrating but watching

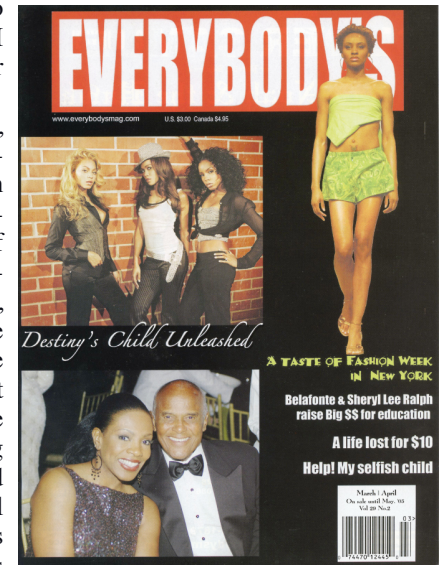
TV shows on a Grenada channel incensed me more. Not a word about Belafonte's vast contributions towards educating Caribbean youth. For 26 years, Belafonte used his status to fundraise for the University of the West Indies. Through Belafonte, the American Foundation for the University of the West Indies (AFUWI) based in NY raised millions of dollars to help students who couldn't afford to study at the UWI. For the 2023 fundraiser held on April 20, Dr. The Hon. Harry Belafonte, OM served as Honorary Patron. Unfortunately, ill health prevented him from attending and he died seven days later.

#### V

My last chat with Belafonte around 2015 differed from the usual pestering him about Calypso. Instead, he reminisced about filming *Island in the Sun* in Grenada, about how everyone was friendly, and told me he still had mementos of Grenada. He invited me to his home to see the souvenirs, but I procrastinated and never found time to visit.

A few decades ago, Ken Williams, a Caribbean radio personality in New York, honored Irving Burgie, the son of Barbadian and African-American parentage, who wrote "Island in the Sun" and many more songs for Belafonte. It was a privilege to be honored with Irving Burgie, who composed the Barbados National Anthem. But what was more touching was Burgie's tearful acceptance speech, which he praised Belafonte for giving him global recognition and financial rewards. After the event, Burgie and I chatted in a backroom. He cried as he told me he was living a happy life in retirement in Queens, NY and is receiving royalties for his songs "because Harry made sure that my songs were properly registered with ASCAP."

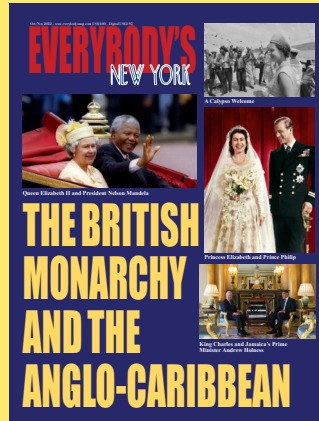
Burgie (Lord Burgess) died in 2019. A five-page article written by Tony Best appeared in an early edition of this magazine.



*Honoree Sheryl Lee Ralph and dinner chairperson, Harry Belafonte, at the 2005 AFUWI gala held at Cipriani, New York, NY.* -Photo Nolan Patterson



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# HARRY BELAFONTE

*The Great Emisary!*

By Ken Murray

*M*



My first introduction to Harry was with his "Live at Carnegie Hall" album, which somehow came into my hands in the late 1950s. It wasn't inevitable. I was weaned by the next-generation music of Alan Freed's Rock and Roll shows, which was anathema to the sophistication of Carnegie Hall. But here in NYC, at least, those shows included many black rhythm and blues performers outside NY who would be poorly imitated by

soulless but ambitious white singers who wanted to catch the wave.

Pat Boone singing Little Richard songs didn't make it for any of us New Yorkers lucky enough to have been Alan Freed adherents. Fats Domino, Chuck Berry, Bo Diddley, Jackie Wilson, Sam Cooke, and Screaming Jay Hawkins were just a few of Freed's frontmen. The house bands backing them were almost all NY club and studio musicians,

*Continued on page 22*



*In 1989, Belafonte supported David Dinkins for mayor. L to R: House of the Lord Churches pastor and activist Rev. Herbert Daughtry, Manhattan Borough President David Dinkins, Harry Belafonte and Congressman Charles Rangel at a campaign rally in Harlem urging New York City voters to elect Dinkins for mayor. Dinkins won and he became the first mayor of New York City of African ancestry.*

*Photo Kwame Brathwaite*



*Harry's magnetic voice penetrated all genres and established an expansion of range that knew no boundaries. He wanted to share his songs with the entire audience and the world. Anyone who knew quality music gravitated toward him. Little wonder that Calypso found a space in the grand Carnegie Hall! And Harry Calypso's album outsold Elvis Presley and all the early rock 'n' roll aspirants.*



*The early route of the West Indian parade did not terminate at Grand Army Plaza. When the two or three hundred revelers reached Grand Army Plaza in the early days, they turned and followed the park's northern side to reach Bartell Pritchett Square, in the heart of Park Slope. Most of my Irish neighbors expected the West Indian Parade to remain quaint. They never expected the Parade to displace the St. Patrick's Day Parade as it drew millions of people.*



*Harry Belafonte, Grand Marshal of Brooklyn's Carnival one Labor Day in the new century.*  
-Photo Leonard McKenzie

share his songs with the entire audience and the world. Anyone who knew quality music gravitated toward him. Little wonder that Calypso found a space in the grand Carnegie Hall! And Harry's Calypso's album outsold Elvis Presley and all the early rock 'n' roll aspirants. Perhaps Harry's only regret may have been the King Of Calypso labeling of the LP during the year when the young Mighty Sparrow won the Calypso Crown in Trinidad and Tobago and Lord Melody was composing classics that Harry would later cover.

If Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, and Nat King Cole—major pioneers of their times—paved the way for Harry, calypso provided his platform. Still, I did not come to these jazz giants until much later. In contrast, I grew up with Harry Belafonte, the ambassador who pulled me onto a cultural path of exploration that was nothing but rewarding.

My next encounter with Harry after "Live at Carnegie Hall" was at the 1963 March on Washington. I don't remember him speaking, but his presence on the stage brought a legitimacy of peace and integrity that was in bold contrast to the "bulldog mentality" of Southern repressors. Everything that day was a prelude to the "I Have A Dream Speech." Harry's presence there helped me validate my path, knowing I was where I wanted to be.

Familiarity with that smooth, gentle voice calmed my fears of the profound impact of Caribbean people on my birth borough of Brooklyn. In my Park Slope neighborhood, we first noticed the Puerto Rican diaspora. Yes, we knew they were US citizens, but the onslaught of so many Spanish speakers on and around Brooklyn's Court Street alarmed many of my neighbors. The loud, fast rhythms and foreign language seemed more defiant than inclusive. On the surface, though, Harry's tunes appeared much more friendly, calm, and inviting.

It was the next generation of "Jamaicans," Bob Marley's generation, where the real estate of Brooklyn was turned upside down. I put quotes around Jamaicans because we didn't appreciate the variety of cultures of the different Caribbean islands. Everybody with a Caribbean accent was Jamaican to us. Ludicrous now to think that we lumped Calypso the same as Reggae. It took a long time for native Brooklynites to appreciate the differences of every island.

When West Indians moved into areas around Eastern Parkway, there was some similar fear that the walls were closing in from the South, as they had from the North, when the previous generation had to "welcome" the Puerto Ricans on our Northern side. I don't know neighbors who expected so many "friendly" West Indians to become neighbors. For example, the early route

of the West Indian parade did not terminate at Grand Army Plaza. When the two or three hundred revelers reached Grand Army Plaza in the early days, they turned and followed the park's northern side to reach Bartell Pritchett Square, in the heart of Park Slope. Most of my Irish neighbors expected the West Indian Parade to remain quaint. They never expected the Parade to displace the St. Patrick's Day Parade as it drew millions of people. For over a Century, St Patrick had that honor that the West Indians now celebrate when their parade terminates at Grand Army Plaza.

I was a guitar player during those years. Bob Dylan, Elvis, Peter, Paul and Mary, and the Beatles started me, but Peter Tosh, Bob Marley, Sparrow, and Shadow et al. invited me to new rhythms. I joined with two Jamaican musicians (bass and drums) to form the Leftovers, a group that explored the combination of West Indian roots rhythms with lyrical American Folk Music like the Police made popular a couple of years later. While I thought of the Leftovers as pioneers in those days, I now see that those seeds that Harry at Carnegie Hall planted in my brain predisposed me towards seeing the genius of Caribbean music and culture. My appreciation of Caribbean music would have been less complete and more delayed if I had not been recruited by that great emissary, Harry Belafonte. Here I express my deep gratitude.

My next connection came not with Harry directly but with his Baldwin piano. When AIDS was rampant and took someone I was close to, I became aware of Housing Works, the NYC non-profit organization that donated its proceeds to the fight against AIDS. I bought many high-quality items from them that I could never have afforded unless some wealthy donor made it possible. In one of his many humanitarian gestures, Harry Belafonte donated his Baldwin piano to support that effort, and Housing Works put a reasonable price on it. I wanted that piano so badly that I kept visiting the W 17th St branch of Housing Works to measure and pluck the keys trying to think of a way to squeeze it into my small Chelsea Studio apartment. Unfortunately, the apartment dimensions precluded my purchase, but a New Yorker probably still enjoys that instrument.

These days, I play ukulele, which a Trini friend, on seeing it, said, "That's a cuatro we use in parang and on early calypso records!" My cultural connections with the Caribbean continued expanding. One night after a gig near the Empire State Building, some musicians and I went to a Rooftop bar at a hotel in Koreatown. On that warm and bustling night, many tourists sat at tables with others they just met. As we carried our instruments, they, in 'broken' English, asked us to play a song. We went through a repertoire of Elvis, Beatles, and Rolling Stone songs—none of which they recognized. The first tune that caught their in-



terest was when we did Harry's classic, "Jamaica Farewell." These foreigners knew it enough to join the chorus with their halting English, encouraging other tables to harmonize!

If I teach a new player to play ukulele, that is the tune I use as the first song they should learn. It is so simple in the chord progression but often a tune they are familiar with. I have been doing that song for 50 years and never tire of it. Like the ukulele and pan, it is global, speaks from the heart, and yearns for human connection. If Harry did nothing more than leave us with this one song, it would have been enough, but he continued and continued until his 96th year.

So here we are now in a world without Harry Belafonte. It is a much lonelier world. I am grateful for this chance to declare my debt to Harry and thank him for sharing his enormous talent with old, new, and distant friends who can get a glimpse of him.

Down the way, where the nights are gay,  
And the sun shines pretty on a mountain top....

*Ken Murray, Brooklyn-born, loves to travel with his ukulele and is lucky to have a diverse group of friends. He spends much of his New York time at the UkeHut, his music venue in Long Island City. Murray has been an occasional contributor to Everybody's and is the author of "Japan: My 33 Days Odyssey," 2023.*



# PIONEER PANIST CALDERA CARABALLO

Played At President Dwight Eisenhower Inauguration  
Sought Respect for Steelpan Musicians

By Herman Hall

What a farewell for Reynold Juan (Caldera) Caraballo, a steelband pioneer! On April 28, 2023, Brooklyn's steelband and carnival fraternities and representatives from the musician's union and other organizations assembled at St. Francis of Assisi Church to pay their respects to Caraballo who passed on at 94.

As he preferred everyone to call him, Caldera is an unsung Caribbean and world music hero in steelband music. Trinidad was a British colony when the tamboo bamboo music which laid the groundwork for the steelpan – the emerging steelpan music captivated young Caldera resulting in a life-long association with the music. Unlike renowned arrangers such as Clive Bradley and Len "Boogsie" Sharpe and pan tuners including Ellie Mannette and Winston "Spree" Simon, Caldera is celebrated as a creative pan player. In his prime, he played the cellos with five sticks.

The steelpan was yet to be invented at Caldera's birth, June 9, 1929. It was the age of the tamboo bamboo and making music from biscuit cans. His Aunt Rosita taught him music, and by the time he became a teenager, Caldera was playing for the ragtime band Casablanca. In the 1940s, radio and newspaper advertisements were not affordable for the underclass, and few owned businesses. Thus, the underclass advertised events on cardboards and placed them on lampposts. Like calypsonians, steelband musicians and steelbands competed to garner accolades. This early non-conventional and audacious musical movement was associated with violence, and instrumentalists were considered vagabonds. Most parents prevented their children from associating with steelpan people. The teenage Caldera ensured his name was not written in advertisements to avoid his parents, Thelma and Raymond Caraballo, from knowing he was competing.

In 1955 Caldera's composition, "Caldera's Mambo," was the choice of many steelbands on Carnival Monday and Tuesday. Most steelband musicians and calypsonians of that era couldn't make a living from their craft, therefore, in 1956 Caldera sailed to the USA aboard The Argentina for greener pastures.

Within a short time, January 1957, Caldera and his band performed at the White House during the 2<sup>nd</sup> inauguration of President Dwight Eisenhower. The first-time steelpan music echoed in the White House.

When President John F. Kennedy launched his administration's centerpiece, the Peace Corps, dispatching thousands of young



This 1975 image of Caldera appeared in Herman Hall's 1976 booklet, *200 Years of West Indian-American Contributions* and in the 1975 and 1976 *WIADCA Carnival Journals*. Photo Ken Chandler



Through the initiative of Caldera and the National Council of Steel Bands Artists, Trinidad & Tobago tourism officials and BWIA transported Casablanca to perform with Brooklyn's Philharmonic Orchestra. Performances were held on Saturday and Sunday, December 14, 1985.

Americans to assist developing countries, the president created an international media blitz. Caldera and his band played at the ceremony attended by President Kennedy sending off America's first Peace Corps.

Harry Belafonte, one of the few black entertainers to break the racial divide in the music and movie industries, included Caldera in his concerts. While part of Belafonte's band, Caldera performed with icons such as Mariam Makeba, the legendary Charlie Byrd and Louis Jordan. Caldera was encouraged to join Local 802, the musician's union, to give him opportunities for getting gigs. He remained with Belafonte but moonlighted as Caldera and the Moderners. He performed at the Roxy Theater, Carnegie Hall, the Waldorf Astoria Hotel and other popular venues.

Diplomacy was not a Caldera virtue. He spoke out whenever he saw unfairness and he fought for the rights of steelband musicians. As a result, he quit touring with Belafonte (Page 15). Caldera left this world on April 19, 2023 and Belafonte on April 25, 2023.

By the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century and early 21<sup>st</sup> century, it was customary for popular steelband orchestras in Trinidad & Tobago to tour metropolitan cities. They played at elegant fundraising dinners and free public concerts in New York and elsewhere but often the musicians were packed in a few hotel rooms and had to dine on sandwiches.



L to R: Hotelier Donald Trump who served as chairman of the fundraising gala for the New York Pops, the Director of Trinidad & Tobago Board of Tourism and Ken Gordon, T&T Minister of Tourism at the event. For public relations, the future president of the U.S. briefly and amusingly conducted the New York Pops and Desperadoes. Photo Roger Hayden Celestin



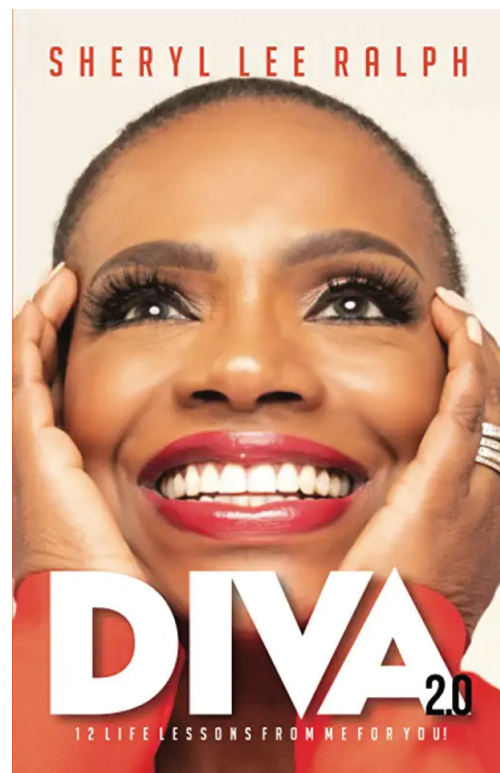




# Emmy and Tony Recipient SHERYL LEE RALPH'S **DIVA** 2.0

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By Herman Hall



**DIVA 2.0: 12 LIFE LESSONS FROM ME TO YOU**

By Sheryl Lee Ralph  
Wordeee Publishing, March 2023  
PB \$19.95 – E-Book \$9.95  
161 Pages

It was near the end of the first session of Sheryl Lee Ralph's book signing, and answering questions from the audience at Brooklyn's Billie Holiday Theatre in Bedford-Stuyvesant, when I strolled into the 218-seat theatre on March 18<sup>th</sup>. As the usher politely told me, "All seats are occupied and you cannot stand in the aisle," Ms. Ralph was on the historic stage telling the spellbound audience about how her parents shaped her life. I almost shouted, "she is telling the truth. She is not exaggerating; I can attest to that."

Meanwhile in the crowded lobby people who arrived for the second session purchased copies for friends and family of Sheryl Lee Ralph's, *DIVA 2.0: 12 Life Lessons From Me For You*.

Before I heard of Sheryl Lee Ralph, I knew her parents who were active in the New York Jamaican community but I did not

know they had a daughter in show biz. Ms. Ivy, Ralph's mother, must have done an excellent job Jamaicanizing Stanley, her husband. I thought he was a born Jamaican until I read in Miss Ralph's book, *DIVA 2.0*, he was an African American with southern roots.

As a great storyteller, Ms. Ralph tells it like it is. She relates frictions between West Indian immigrants and black southern migrants residing in New York, Boston and other cities in the northeast United States during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries – a fact that scholars and revisionists of history attempt to hide.

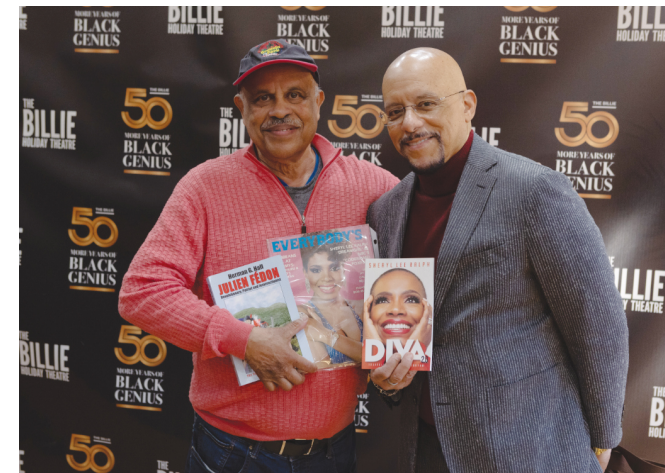
Ms. Ralph is very Caribbean as she is American. She has contributed towards nation building in Jamaica and Jamaica has acknowledged Sheryl Lee's involvement by presenting her a national award. The teenager who attended Uniondale High School in Long Island, NY and spent many glorious summers in Mandeville, Jamaica, is Sheryl Lee Ralph, OJ (Order of Jamaica.)

On Superbowl Sunday, February 12, as Ms. Ralph sang "Lift Every Voice and Sing" also known as "The Negro National Anthem" or "The Black National Anthem," I reflected on her father,



During the Q & A period, Sheryl Lee Ralph was deeply moved when teenager Amaryliss Greene, Trinidadian-American, asked Sheryl Lee to autograph one of the first flyers Sheryl Lee graced. The establishment did not include a photograph of teenager Sheryl Lee in the poster although she was in the show, the only Black girl. Therefore, she created a flyer of the event to include her photo. And, it is a copy of that flyer Greene, sitting in the front row, asked Sheryl Lee to autograph. Sheryl Lee then invited Amaryliss to join her on stage.

Photo Leonard McKenzie



L to R: EBM publisher Herman Hall and State Senator Vincent J. Hughes, D-Pa. Senator Hughes is the husband of Sheryl Lee Ralph, OJ.

Photo Leonard McKenzie



At Billie Holiday Theatre to greet Sheryl Lee and purchase her book are community leaders, L to R: Joan Bakirridin, Margarette Tropnas and Blondell Lighty.

Photo Leonard McKenzie

an early supporter of EVERYBODY'S Magazine. In 1985, he ordered many copies when Sheryl Lee graced the cover. As a youth, she may have heard him sing the hymn or played it on the piano and organ countless times. In the late 1960s and 1970s, I witnessed Mr. Ralph play and sing The Negro National Anthem in Harlem at events such as at a British Jamaica Benevolent Association meeting, the Jamaica Progressive League and one Sunday as a guest of the Grenada Mutual Association. During that era, most Caribbean organizations were based in Harlem and all meetings commenced with a prayer and the gusto singing of the Negro National Anthem.

At the Billie Holiday Theatre, Ms. Ralph said that many people who saw her rendered "Lift Every Voice and Sing" thought it is a new song and it is not. She informed the audience that "Lift Every Voice and Sing" was written by James Weldon Johnson in 1900 and considered a hymn at that time because it provided nourishment and inspiration for blacks in America to overcome discrimination and injustice.

*DIVA 2.0* provides tons of information and lessons for today's youth to digest and embrace. In addition, there are bits of information new to me. For example, I thought Mr. Ralph was a high school teacher because at a Sunday afternoon meeting held at Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Ralph home, I heard him fondly chatting about

his students. Through *DIVA 2.0*, I now know Dr. Ralph was a college professor.

The word diva means an accomplished female singer or actor. Today, as Miss Ralph observes, there are real devas; women who succeed and they are not necessarily in show biz but they exemplify decorum for others to emulate. In Lesson One of *DIVA 2.0: 12 Life Lessons From Me For You*, the author tells young readers to "Find Your Role Model and Seek Their Mentorship." The outspoken Sheryl Lee warns that there are disingenuous divas who disrespect themselves and others in order to attract attention. In her book, Ralph uses diva as an acronym, DIVA. So, what each letter in *DIVA* stands for? What are the "12 Life Lessons From Me For You"? The answer and lessons are in the book.

In *DIVA 2.0*, Sheryl Lee Ralph reveals how disappointments in her life, her mother and grandmother on her father's side made them more persistent. They converted negativity, pessimism and misfortunes into challenges and success.

The compact well written 160-page book makes it an appealing read whether you are in the subway, on a bus, a flight, sipping a cup of coffee or getting ready to hit the sack. Autobiographical and inspirational *DIVA 2.0* is a must-read self-help book that can transform lives, young and old, black and white.



# PEOPLE PLACES EVENTS

By Rosa Goddard

## Dilmarys and Sammy Everlasting Love Dominican-American and Grenadian-American



The bride, Dr. Dilmarys Peña, is a native New Yorker of Dominican Republic parentage and the groom, Sammy Williams, is a born New Yorker of Grenadian parentage. He is cousin of the celebrated Grenadian hiker, Telfor Bedeau. Dilmarys earned her doctorate in dentistry and Sammy, who retired from the U.S. Airforce, is a Private Client Advisor at J.P. Morgan. Dilmarys and Sammy wedded in Playa Del Carmen, Mexico.

A joyous day for Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Williams and their wedding party.

-Photo Hotel Xcaret



A proud day for the bride, Dilmarys, and parents of the bride, Ramon and Carmen.

-Photo Hotel Xcaret



Parents of the groom, Noreen and Samuel.

-Photo Hotel Xcaret

# PEOPLE PLACES EVENTS

## Grenadian Nurses In NY Scholarship-Dinner December 9, 2023



Officers and retired nurses of the Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique Nurses Association of America. L to R: Valerie Stuart, Doris Hercules, Genelle Laud, Sandra Chase, Raheeman J. Frederick, Wendy Ann McGuire, Christine Gooding, Emelda Cox, Phyllis Gomes, Lyndon Williams, Sherrie Nimblette, Brenda Joseph and Margaret Hector.

-Photo Leonard McKenzie



L to R: Nurse educators, Jaquie Phillips of Jamaica and Dr. Jessie Duncan of St. David's, Grenada.

-Photo Leonard McKenzie



Lawyer Sharon Friday-Henderson and her mom Phyllis Gomes, an early member of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique Nurses Association of America.

-Photo Leonard McKenzie

“Back in 1979, about six to eight of us who were nurses in New York from Grenada met at the home of the late George and Blanche Grant in Brooklyn to organize ourselves into a Grenadian nurses association for the principal purpose of supporting worthy causes in the land of our birth,” says retired nurse Bernice Mark. “Marva Banfield, employed as a nurse in England and Grenada before immigrating to New York, utilized her organizing skills to ensure our organization launched on the right foot. Banfield was the prime mover and shaker in the establishment of the Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique Nurses Association of America (GRECARPET Nurses’),” explains Mrs. Mark, wife of the late Grenadian historian, Sonny Mark. On Saturday, December 9, 2023, GRECARPET Nurses’ will hold their annual Gala and Scholarship Awards. Here are images from the 2022 gala.



## PEOPLE PLACES EVENTS

### Tower Isles Patties Enjoyed at Penn Relays



Thomas Saunders Secondary School from St. Vincent and Grenadines welcomed at Team Jamaica Bickle Labor of Love ceremony at the Penn Relays. Will one of them become the first Vincentian to win an Olympic medal?  
—Photo Leonard McKenzie

Tower Isles is famous for its Jamaican beef, chicken and veggie patties. The company is a longtime supporter of the Penn Relays. The St. Vincent and the Grenadines team at the 127<sup>th</sup> year of the Penn Relays enjoyed Tower Isles delicious products.



Olympian Yohan Blake and Saheba Lokhandwala at Penn Relays.  
—Photo Leonard McKenzie

## PEOPLE PLACES EVENTS

### EVERYBODY'S Person of the Year Awards Mayor Eric Adams for 2021 Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell for 2022 2023?



L to R: Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell and EVERYBODY'S Publisher Herman Hall.  
—Photo Marcus Christopher



A few days before Christmas, 2022, EVERYBODY'S presented its Person of the Year Award for 2021 to New York City Mayor Eric Adams. At the ceremony, Grenada's Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell was announced as the magazine's PoY for 2022. In Photos, L to R: Mayor Eric Adams, NYC Corporation Counsel Justice Sylvia Hinds-Radix, Herman Hall flanked by community and business leaders. Other image: Prime Minister Dickon receives EBM 2022 PoY Award from Hall in the prime minister's office, St. George's, Grenada. Readers are invited to send their PoY nomination for 2023 after September 1, 2023.

### Maryland's Red Dress Ball Is Back



Each year the Red Dress Ball organized by Caribbean-American women and their friends in Maryland is eagerly anticipated. Now that Covid is in the rear-view mirror, the Red Dress Ball is back after a two-year hiatus. Community leader Lisda Sawney and friends having a good time at this year's ball.

### Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce 2023 Laureus Sportswoman of the Year



Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce 2023 Laureus Sportswoman of the Year.

—Photo AFP/Getty

In Paris, the 2023 Laureus Sportswoman of the Year went to Jamaica's Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce. Lionel Messi, the captain of Argentina's World Cup soccer championship team, won Laureus Sportsman of the Year. But EVERYBODY'S is always miles ahead. In 2019, through the nomination of our readers, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce was EVERYBODY'S Person of the Year.





# PEOPLE PLACES EVENTS

## Coronation Day 1953 and Coronation Day 2023



*Jamaica's Governor-General Patrick Allen and Lady Patricia Allen at King Charles III coronation.*

On Coronation Day, June 1953, when Elizabeth II was crowned Queen of England, the rest of the UK and British colonies in Africa, Asia and the British West Indies, a two-day public holiday was declared - schools closed and almost everyone celebrated or forced to celebrate. The Coronation of King Charles III in May 2023 was not quite demanding and colorful. The world of 1953 is different to the world of 2023.

Great Britain is no longer a major military and economic world power. Actually "Great" has been removed from Great Britain. Britain lost, truthfully it gave up for economic reasons, all its African, Asian and Caribbean colonies. For the record, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Turks & Caicos and Anguilla have opted to remain with England. Then there are the so-call independent nations such as Antigua/Barbuda, Bahamas, Saint Lucia, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts/Nevis and St. Vincent & the Grenadines who have kept the British Monarch as their king. King Charles III is the king of those independent nations. Here is a partial list of English-speaking Caribbean leaders who attended King Charles III coronation.

Jamaica – Governor-General Patrick Allen and Lady Patricia Allen.

Bahamas –Prime Minister Phillip Davis, Opposition Leader Michael Pintard and Governor General Sir Cornelius Smith.

Antigua & Barbuda – Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines – Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves.

St. Kitts & Nevis – Prime Minister Dr. Terrance Drew and Governor General Marcella Liburd.

Grenada – Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell and Governor - General Cecile La Grenade.

### British Caribbean Overseas Territories

BVI – Premier Natalio D. Wheatley.

Cayman Islands – Governor Jane Owen and Premier Wayne Panton.

Turks & Caicos – Acting Governor General Anya Williams and Premier Charles Washington Misick.

As in the UK, Monday, May 8, 2023, was declared a public holiday in Cayman Islands, Bermuda, Turks & Caicos and the British Virgin Islands to celebrate King Charles crowning

## Organic Chocolate Bars from Belmont Estate



Love organic chocolate! Belmont Estate, St. Patrick's, Grenada, prepares a variety of mouthwatering organic chocolate bars. For lovers of cocoa tea or chocolate tea – you can dissolve a chocolate bar in plant-based milk. Belmont Estate invites you to adopt one of its organic cocoa trees. When in Grenada, Belmont Estate is worth visiting. It can be considered an educational and ecological tour. [www.belmontorganics.com](http://www.belmontorganics.com).



*L to R: Herman Hall, Managing Director Shadel Nyack Compton, Manager Alexander and farmer John Wells.*

## Bad News for NYC Public Schools Poor Reading Skills

Mayor Eric Adams and Chancellor David G. Banks have launched a campaign to help NYC students improve their reading skills. According to Chancellor Banks "51% of elementary school students are not reading proficiently - 30% are Asian students, 33% white students, 63% Latino students and 64% are Black students."



The Lobby

Private Dining

The Bar

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