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New York
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A Factor In
Midterm Elections

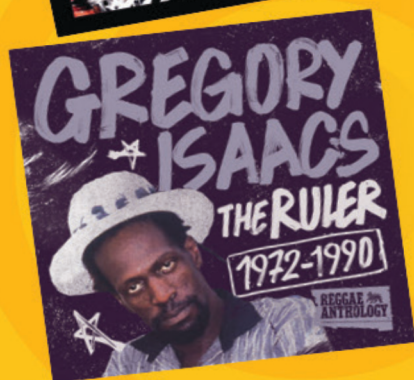
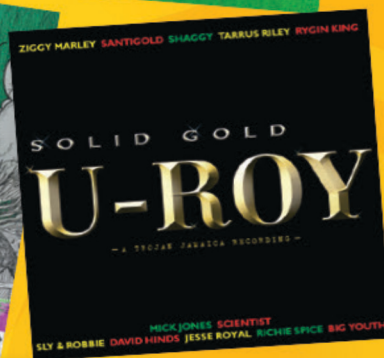
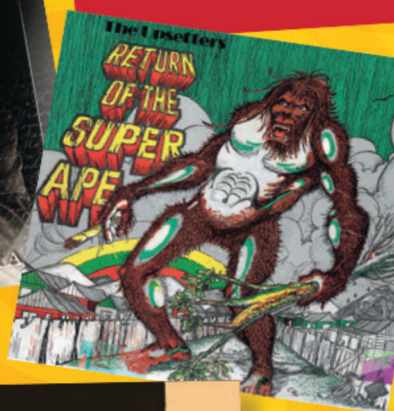
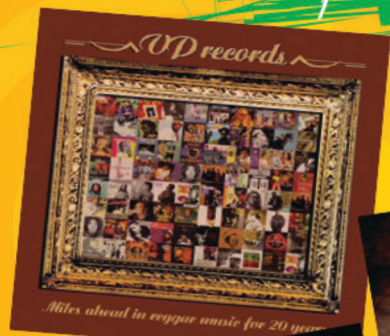


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CONTENTS

Vol. 45 No. 2, March 2022 - www.everybodysmag.com

SPECIAL FEATURE

- 15 VP Riddim Clothing
Feature & Photos by Leonard McKenzie

FEATURES

- 6 The Black Census 2022
- 18 The Role of Women in Gold Mining
By Olga Gonzalez
- 20 Persephone DaCosta Vision
By Staff Writer
- 21 Anne Janice Farray: A Pillar in Montreal
By Neal McDevitt
- 26 The Empire State Governor's Race
By Herman Hall

BOOKS

- 8 Lady Power
Reviewed by Wendy Gomez
- 9 Ghana on My Mind
Reviewed by Lennel George

THEATER

- 11 DREAMers Move to National Stage
By Tony Valdovinos
- 12 Julien Fédon
By Susan Mains

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Saint Lucia and Republicanism

It is about time St. Lucia, Jamaica, and all the other Anglo-phone Caribbean nations appoint their own head of state rather than allowing Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth to fill that ceremonial role. For the Caribbean to be truly independent, the nations in the Caribbean Sea, whether they speak French, English, Spanish and Dutch, must shake off their colonial link to Europe even though the umbilical cord is purely artificial and not real.

*Francois Campbell
Liverpool, UK*

I do not understand why former St. Lucia's Prime Minister Kenny Anthony is babbling about the nation switching from a monarchical system to republicanism and why he believes we must now follow Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados who last November made Barbados a republic. Anthony could have done so when he was prime minister.

*Marie Gill,
Georgetown, Guyana*

The article in your January 2022 edition, "Will Saint Lucia Ditch Queen Elizabeth II?" was misleading. The article gave the impression that the masses and the government was seriously advocating St. Lucia becoming a republic. The subject is not even discussed in St. Lucia where everyone knows the changing of the constitution will not make the standard of living any better. The aging Kenny Anthony, a former prime minister, was merely running his mouth because he was mesmerized by the pomp and pageantry seen in Barbados last November.

*Sylvan Modeste,
Calgary, Canada*

During my last trip to St. Lucia for the St. Lucia Jazz Festival, I found a restaurant near the site of one of the shows selling local dishes. I enjoyed the saltfish and green fig lunch special. In addition to the delicious slices of figs there were slices of a bluish starch food which I was told is dasheen, an underground tuber. Thank you for presenting the dish as one of St. Lucia's national dishes and listing the recipe.

*Pamela Goodridge,
Springfield, Ma*

Woman Is Boss

I love how you took a line from calypso/soca artist now gospel singer Denyse Plummer 1990 calypso, Woman Is Boss, and applied it to Mayor Eric Adams appointment of women only as his deputy mayors. The question is, were there other people including men better qualified than the women Adams chose?

*Gwen Wyre,
Bronx, NY*

Stevie Wonder Quest for MLK Day

I'm so grateful that somebody in the media told today's generation of Stevie Wonder vast contributions to get the U.S. government to create a national holiday to honor the slain civil rights leader. Every year, on Martin Luther King's birthday, black and white national leaders gloriously discuss the life of Rev. King. They seldom discuss the struggles to get the nation to declare his birthday a national holiday and Stevie Wonder's crusade for the holiday.

*Kathleen Lopez,
Mount Vernon, NY*

Happy you reminded the world of Stevie Wonder, Congressman Ron Dellums and Dick Gregory annual battle with Con-

gress to make King's birthday a national holiday. Stevie Wonder led the campaign resulting in the Congress declaring the second Monday in January a national holiday. Radio stations play Stevie Wonder's "Happy Birthday" hit giving us the impression that the song was the only contribution of Stevie in the fight for a King holiday. Stevie Wonder was the person who piloted the battle for the holiday. President Ronald Reagan is praised for signing the legislation into law. Let the truth be told. Reagan said that he reluctantly signed the bill into law. Let's not anoint Reagan as an advocate of civil rights and King's Day.

*Trudy Markland,
Brooklyn, NY*

I'm so glad you republished an article by the late Carlos Russell about Stevie Wonder and Martin Luther King, Jr. Professor Russell was one of my most admired lecturers when I attended Brooklyn College back in the day. He was truly involved in the civil rights movement and the drive to make Dr. King's birthday a national holiday.

*J..a..@...
Brooklyn, NY*

How can anyone of my generation forget where they were and what they were doing on April 4, 1968, the evening Rev. King was shot? Your, "April 4, 1968" questionnaire and the answers given brought back tearful memories. I have not discussed the subject with my grandchildren but will now do so based on how the high school student, Jalen George, explained how he was told about that tragic day in America and the world.

*Carlton Sylvester,
Bronx, NY*

Mighty Sparrow

Regarding Mighty Sparrow. I'd like to figure out my connection to him. My 98-year-old grandfather Joseph Small from Gouyave told me we are family. My great grandfather was Daniel "Bulldog" Small (born 1891.) Apparently, the connection is through the Small family or the Samuel family. Today, I was told that Mighty Sparrow had an Aunt named Nita Small. I'm wondering if that is where the connection is. I would like to know the names of Mighty Sparrow's parents, his maternal and paternal grandparents, and great grandparents. My name is Akwesi ... living in London. I'm a young man on a genealogical quest.

*a..@.....
London, UK*

PUBLISHER'S NOTE: I'll pass on your request to Dr. Francisco (The Mighty Sparrow). He was brought to Trinidad as a baby and did not know much about his Grenada roots. As an acclaimed artist, many Grenadians told him they are blood related of which Sparrow is thankful. For example, he never met his grandfather, Mr. Sandy Francisco, but as a kid in the 1950s, I knew Mr. Sandy who rode a donkey to his lands in Clozier from the Village of Grand Roi. In 1956, when Sparrow hit, Jean and Dinah, swept across the then British West Indies, everyone boasted to Mr. Sandy of his grandson success in Trinidad. Relating to the Small family of Gouyave, I also knew Mr. Small, a friendly old man who passed in the 1950s.

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

The Black Census 2022

"Black voters are the backbone of the Democratic party, yet our needs are often neglected and deprioritized by our elected officials..."

The Black Futures Lab, whose mission is to engage Black communities year-round, has launched the Black Census Project 2022. By June, the organization hopes to receive responses from more than 200,000 persons residing across all 50 states. If successful, this effort will become the largest survey of Black people conducted in the United States in 157 years, six times the size of the 2018 Black Census. The Black Census will provide the Biden-Harris administration, elected officials, and midterm campaigns irrefutable insights to address the needs of Black communities.

"If you want to take a pulse on what is happening with the country at large, listen and be responsive to Black communities," said Alicia Garza, principal and founder of the Black Futures Lab, who began designing the Black Census Project after the 2016 election. Garza continues, "Black voters are the backbone of the Democratic party, yet our needs are often neglected and deprioritized by our elected officials. Black people are dissatisfied with how elected officials have shown up for us after changing the balance of power in Washington. If our communities are not experiencing concrete action and tangible change, we risk staying home and not participating at all. In an election season that will determine the direction of the country, we are reminding the entire political apparatus that engaging Black communities early and often is a winning strategy - the Black Census is key to that."

More than a static survey, the Black Census can be completed online at blackcensus.org or in person at activations through June across the country. The in-person events will allow Black communities to share their experiences and discuss solutions to address their issues. The confidential, self-reporting process takes about 10 minutes to complete, and there's no requirement for personally identifiable information. In addition, participants can opt into becoming a part of the Black Futures Lab supporter community.

In 2022, the Black Census Project is taking extra steps to engage communities that are typically under-represented in data and media reporting. Black Futures Lab will engage with more than 100 partners, organizations, and businesses to survey LGB+

communities, trans communities, incarcerated Black people, Black immigrant communities, and Black people in rural areas. In addition, the Black Census Project will conduct focus groups and house meetings in five priority states showing civic engagement work – Georgia, Louisiana, California, North Carolina, and Wisconsin this year.

Black Futures Lab will use the findings to shape a robust public policy agenda focused on the lives of Black people, with an anticipated release of an updated Black Agenda by August 2022.

Data from the Black Census will encourage Black communities to stay engaged and wield political power to inform, influence, and impact all institutions and decision-makers who are or should be engaging Black people. In particular, Black Census Project 2022 data will report the priority issues highlighted by candidates and their campaigns in the 2022 midterm elections.

"We are our best messengers on what we want, experience, and need," said Garza. "The Black Census is historic and important—join us and participate so that your voice can be heard, your experience seen, and your needs counted."

Over 30,000 Black people from across the country participated in the first Black Census Project in 2018. Black Futures Lab used the results to identify pressing legislative and policy priorities, turning the survey into a national, state, and municipal policy platform to guide 2020 Presidential candidates as they devised strategies to earn the support of Black voters.

About the Black Futures Lab

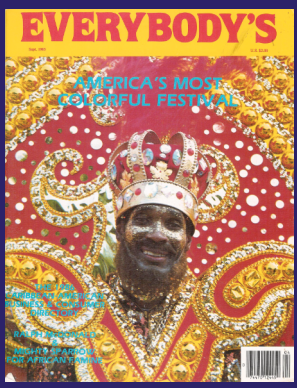
Black Futures Lab works with Black people to transform our communities, build Black political power, and change how power operates—locally, statewide, and nationally. We work to understand the dynamics impacting our communities, build our communities' capacity to govern, and engage and include Black people in the decisions that affect our lives. Our mission is to engage Black communities year-round, using our political strength to stop corporate influences from creeping into public policies and combining technology and traditional organizing methods to reach Black people anywhere and everywhere we are. www.blackfutureslab.org.

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1977-1979

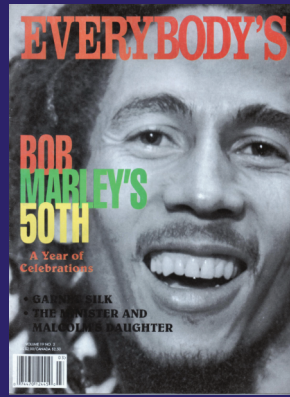


1980-1989

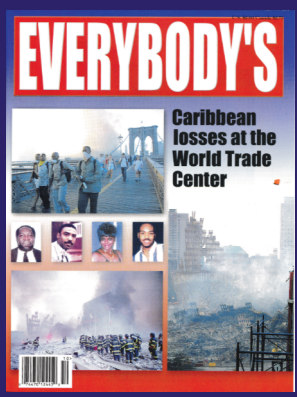
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The Caribbean-American Magazine
Established January 2, 1977



1990-1999



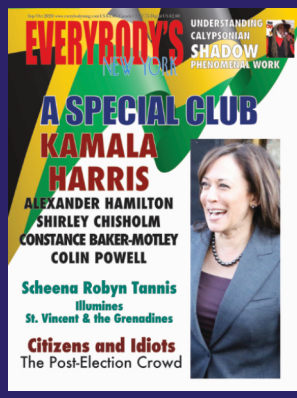
2000-2009

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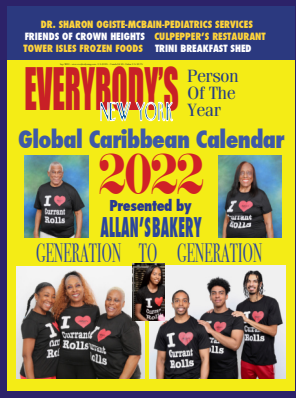
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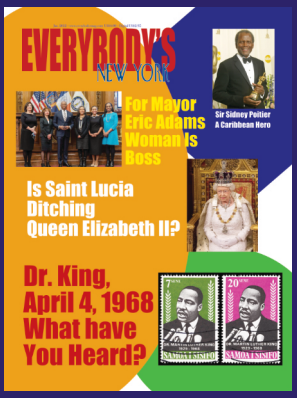
2010-2019



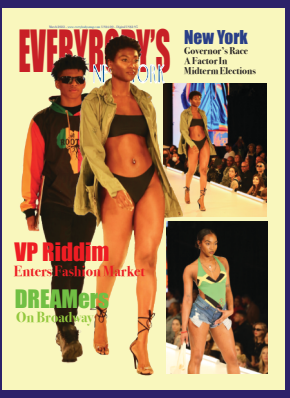
2020-2029



2020-2029



January-2022



March-2022

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Lady Power Is For Men Too

By Wendy Gomez

LADY POWER

A Home Maintenance Guide For Women

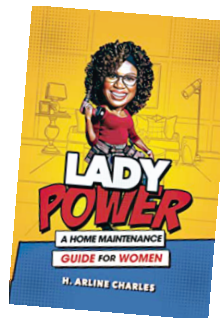
By H. Arline Charles

Independently published (November 2021)

108pp; pb

www.ladypowerbook.com

Amazon.com - \$27.97



I placed *Lady Power: A Home Maintenance Guide for Women* by H. Arline Charles on my night table to write a review for **EVERYBODY'S**. Before I slumbered, I noticed my significant was reading it. The next morning as we left for work, he casually murmured, “Lady Power is not only for women.”

“What are you talking about?” I did not realize he was commenting about the book he was browsing. “You finish reading it already!”

That’s a reason I love *Lady Power*. It is 106 pages making it easy reading but it is not the size of a book and the number of words that are important, it is what one can learn from a book that matters. I agree with my significance that *Lady Power* is a handbook for both women and men.

Like many immigrants, H. Arline Charles, who hails from Trinidad & Tobago, dreamed about purchasing a house as soon as she could “make ends meet.” With almost no money left in her bank account after she purchased her first house, she could not

afford to pay contractors, electricians, home improvement people and others. She had to learn how to do what was needed. And, fast.

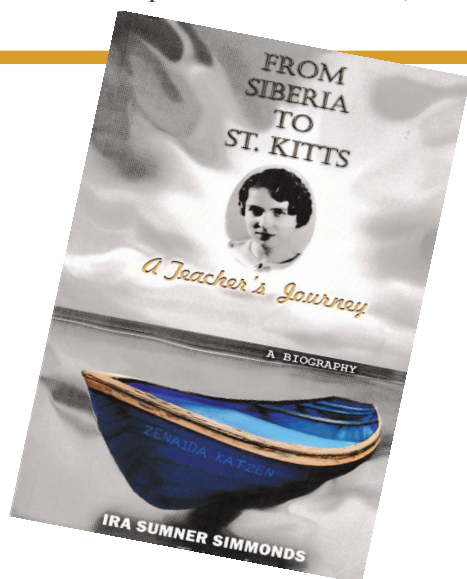
The experience she gained from renovating her first house made life less difficult when she purchased a second house. The houses were in the one to three-family house range so the information she has in the book is not about lessons learned from owning large apartment buildings. It is from owning two small houses. Female home owners in New York City mainly own one-and two-family homes.

Charles states that if contractors and home improvement individuals realize the female owner has no knowledge about house maintenance, she easily becomes prey of unscrupulous carpenters, plumbers, painters and others. The truth is some maintenance people rob both women and men.

The central message in *Lady Power* is: If the owner, whether female or male, has the time she or he can do basic repairs and save money and aggravation.

During the peak of Covid-19 and by staying home, to ease the boredom, Charles wasted no time penning this do-it-yourself book. Thinking she is giving information to women, not realizing that men will also find her book useful, Charles begins by telling women how to move heavy items including furniture, refrigerator and beds. How to address problems in every part of the house from the basement to the roof and from gutters to boilers. She explains about insurance and snow removal.

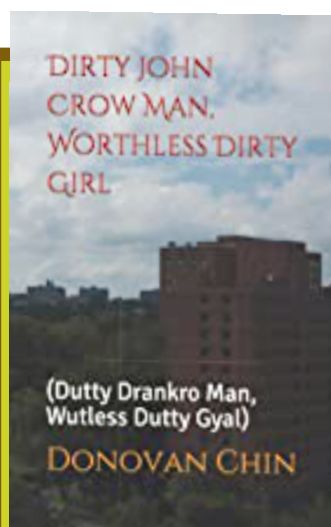
Lady Power: A Home Maintenance Guide for Women is really a home maintenance guide for everyone.



“A recounting of a teacher’s globe-trotting life written by a grateful student.”

Kirkus Review

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a Jamaican family in NY*

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GHANA On My Mind

Journeying To The Motherland

Comments by Lennel George

Ghana On My Mind Poetic Reflections on Journeying to the Motherland

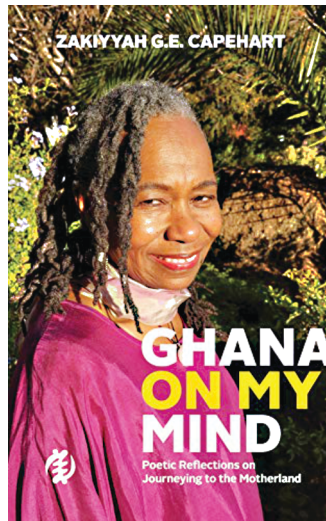
By Zakiyyah G.E. Capehart

Book Power Publishing,

March, 2021

86 pp - Kindle \$0.99,

Paperback \$14.99



Every February, we celebrate Black History Month against the backdrop of a trail of tears: bomb threats to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, the constant litany of school district boards in Kentucky, Florida, and other states banning books by authors of color. And some states have enacted legislation against the teaching and discussion of institutional racism and the 1619 Project in schools. Again, perhaps, in an eternal attempt to further marginalize not just our contribution as part of the American mosaic but to erase our presence--both

Continued on page 10

You may be eligible for COVID-19 Treatment

People who have tested positive for COVID-19 may be able to receive outpatient treatment to help symptoms and avoid hospitalization. Treatment works best if you begin it soon after you start feeling symptoms, so get tested right away.

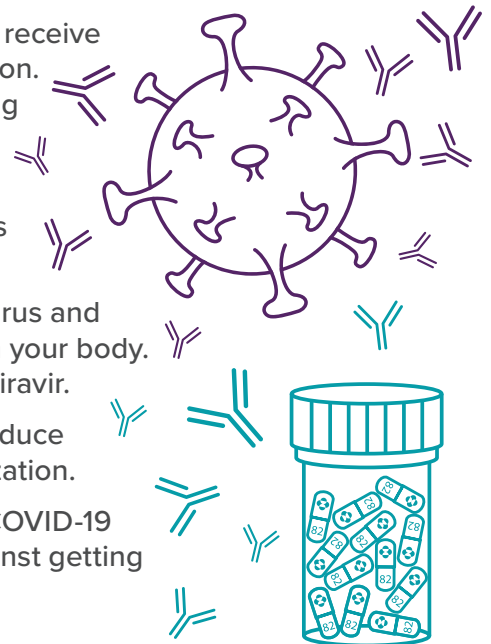
Monoclonal antibody treatment is a one-time IV or injection to help fight COVID-19 while your immune system produces its own antibodies.

Oral antiviral pills are taken for five days and helps stop the virus and keeps it from replicating, which reduces the amount of virus in your body. There are currently two authorized pills - paxlovid and molunpiravir.

Both monoclonal antibody and oral antiviral treatments can reduce your risk of becoming sick from COVID-19 and avoid hospitalization.

COVID-19 treatments are not a substitute for vaccination. COVID-19 vaccination and booster shots remain the best protection against getting severely sick due to COVID-19.

If you have COVID-19 symptoms, or if you have tested positive, talk to your doctor, or call 212-COVID19 (212-268-4319).



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physically and intellectually. Perhaps now is when we should rediscover and acknowledge the significance of the Akan word Sankofa in our commitment to underscore our centrality and honor Black History.

Originating with the Akan people of Ghana, Sankofa means “to go back and get it.” It can be represented symbolically by a bird with its head turned backward while its feet face forward, carrying a precious egg in its mouth. Sankofa power centers on the notion: knowing one’s history and heritage, knowing your current self, the world around you, and how to better both are central to an enlightened life that champions advocacy and seeing self as a change agent. In the present climate of unrest, Sankofa is a sorely needed concept. What better way for people of African descent to focus on renewal and change than embracing Sankofa.

In 2019 to commemorate 400 years since the first enslaved Africans arrived in America, Ghana hosted The Year of Return. More than a half-million people traveled to Ghana and other parts of Africa during that year. In addition, people of African descent across the diaspora journeyed to the continent to retrace their roots, rethink their identity, and connect with their brothers and sisters.

One of those returnees, Zakiyyah G.E. Capehart, celebrated her Sankofa experience in her reflective collection of poems and prose, aptly titled *Ghana On My Mind*, Poetic Reflection’s on Journeying to the Motherland. Reading her poems made me reflect on my journey to Ghana more than twenty years earlier and how life-changing and eye-opening the trip was in grounding my sense of self and cultural identity.

Ms. Capehart traveled to Ghana as part of a group of poets of the West Oakland To West Africa Poetry Exchange (WO2WA) to meet with Ghanaian poets and collectively participate in a Poetry Slam. Her journey is one of remembrance, rejuvenation, and healing. It is also a spiritual pilgrimage to connect to the people and the land of her ancestors. In the poem “Greeted by a Rainbow,” she captures the wonder, warmth, and welcoming spirit of the people:

I come from a place/where greeting is paramount..../I come from a place where/Sunlight moonlight and starlight/are etched on the faces of the people/...where greeting is a way of life/it begins and never ends.

Capehart shares the sounds and sights of Ghana with the reader as she reflects through her poignant verse her visits to a fishing village, a marketplace, and the slave forts of Cape Coast and El Mina.

Her poem, “My Path,” written after she visited the river where ancestors took their “last bath” before they boarded the slave ships, is a profound evocation of pain and suffering with echoes of Nina Simone’s “Strange Fruit.” In “My Path,” *emotions run up and down my spine/like the growth of grapes on the vine/symbolic of veins/ telling the stories of/ hidden suppression/ unveiling lost centuries/ unmasked and exposed.*

Capehart, *Ghana on My Mind* is a testament of love, highlighting the culture, customs, scenery, and the beautiful and friendly people of Ghana. It is a must-read not just during Black History Month, but is for all seasons and will inspire others to experience their own Sankofa moment while resisting efforts to marginalize our history.

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EVERYBODY'S
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¡Americano! DREAMers

Moves to National Stage

By Tony Valdovinos

“Yet, on being celebrated on a national stage, the United States Supreme Court may kick me out unless Congress acts.”



Tony Valdovinos, a DREAMer and playwright.

Sadly, social justice for DREAMers seems to be perpetually on the back burner as Congress and the courts have yet to decide the fate of nearly 700,000 people like me, brought to the United States as children and whose immigration status remains tenuous. It’s hard to live with a sense of uncertainty that overshadows every aspect of your life. It’s even harder to convey that sense to others.

While justice for DREAMers may remain on a distant horizon, a compelling narrative on the plight of people like me is about to enter the national stage.

This art takes the form of a musical called ¡Americano! which opened in New York City in late March. The production captures my life’s story. Since politicians don’t seem to be working for people like me, maybe art can impact politicians in one of its most beautiful forms. My life is counting on it, literally.

And mine is this. Inspired by the horrific tragedy of 9/11, I spent the next several years wanting one thing: to be a Marine. So, on my 18th birthday, I went to enlist. There I stood as recruiters asked for my birth certificate and driver’s license to start the process. But I didn’t have either. I didn’t think it was a big deal, but the recruiter did and then got angry that I wasted his time.

I confronted my parents and learned the truth. When I was two years old and undocumented, my parents brought me to America from Colima, Mexico. This revelation crushed my dreams. I was lost. After graduating from high school in Phoenix, I tried community college. But it became unaffordable as Arizona voters decided I had to pay out-of-state tuition.

I became politically active, fighting to change the many obstacles that DREAMers faced in response. I was the first undocumented immigrant to ever work at Phoenix City Hall. And while I did not get to serve in the Marines, I played a cru-

cial part in electing a Marine, Ruben Gallego, to the United States Congress. I even started a political consulting business.

And now, my story is the inspiration for a musical in the theater capital of the world, New York City. During its 2020 run in Phoenix, ¡Americano! The Musical broke box office records exposing the plight of DREAMers to nearly 10,000 theater patrons. It got the attention of Chicanos Por La Causa (CPLC), an Arizona-based organization serving as an advocate for under-

served individuals and communities since 1969. Inspired by ¡Americano! the Musical, CPLC decided to be a Co-Producer of the New York City production.

Indeed, our show opened on March 31 on the birthday of civil rights icon Cesar Chavez, who helped inspire CPLC.

It is incredible to contemplate just how many hearts and minds this Musical could influence now that it is on a national stage. I believe that knowledge is power, and as more people know the plight of DREAMers, the more likely those in power will be motivated to act and do the right thing.

What a crazy, beautiful and incredible country this is. And it is my home.

Yet, on being celebrated on a national stage, the United States Supreme Court may kick me out unless Congress acts. Will my curtain call ultimately be to raise my hand and take the oath of citizenship, or be forced to return to a country and a place I’ve never known?

Imagine one day if Americano! got nominated for a Tony Award, but this Tony could not attend. That’s not a dream. It is a nightmare and a prospect for one million people just like me. But I will always be a DREAMer, not just for me but for all of us.

THEATER

Chris De Riggs Amplifies A Caribbean Warrior

By Susan Mains



The 15-member cast of Julien Fédon.

-Photo Garwin Walters

After not being out in a crowd during the entire two years of the pandemic, I put on my mask a few Sundays ago, girded my mind with the knowledge that I am fully vaccinated and boosted, and joined theatre enthusiasts at the Grenada Trade Centre. It was the premiere of Chris De Riggs' play, Julien Fédon.

Our knowledge of Fédon, the 1795 mixed-race French-Grenadian rebel, is a character we know mainly through the myths passed from one generation to the next by word of mouth. The funny story of him putting the horses' shoes on backward to confuse the



Playwright Christopher De Riggs.

-Photo Garwin Walters

De Riggs has brilliantly brought to life... that Grenada has never been a simple paradise.

THEATER



Samuel Ogilvie as Julien Fédon.

-Photo Garwin Walters

British is enduring. We were never taught Fédon's story in school as a part of our history. (Kudos to the late Rev. Melvin Schaper, who established the St. John's Christian Secondary School to encourage students of the 1960s to hike to Fédon's Camp and stage a play about Julien Fédon and his rebellion.) The Fédon's Revolution is often described, flippantly, as a slave revolt, but De Riggs has delivered a much more detailed, historically researched account to this home island audience. (The enslaved people did not instigate the rebellion; both Fédon and the British recruited them. Crediting the enslaved people for organizing the uprising is promoted by revisionists)

Grenada is one of those islands that was tossed back and forth like a tennis ball between the far-off European colonial powers, according to the latest whims of their faraway battles. Fédon was a Creole Frenchman, raised in Grenada, with a

deep attachment to the soil and the ideals of the French Revolution. He was well-educated and well-read but also an enslaver.

De Riggs told the story through the Fédon Family, tracing their relationships and interactions with the British. Veteran actor Robert White inhabited Papa, while the strong young, independent-minded Fédon came to life with the powerful acting and voice of Samuel Ogilvie. Known better as a singer, Jomo Kirton could have convinced one that he was French. But, instead, he was animated and even funny.

When the ladies started to speak, you could visualize the French patois spilling off their tongues. Dhayle Divine and Daisy Hazzard were more than convincing as mother and nanny. There were moments of levity provided by the antics of the two "goons," Jude Modeste and Jay McDonald.

THEATER



The biggest surprise was the people we knew, but we had never before seen on stage becoming unrecognizable in their roles. For example, Allen and Andrew Bierzynski each took the part of successive British governors, and someone leaned over and asked me if it was the same person. But most intriguing was Dexter Yawching in the Role of Captain Rollins. Who could have imagined that this bass-playing musician could command a stage!

De Riggs took a big international news-breaking story of 1795-96 and distilled it into a gripping, two-hour narrative. The rise and fall of hope for a Grenada free from the British, the enslaved free from masters and plantations, and the Fédon family to decide their destiny from the heights of Belvedere was a forerunner of historical events in Grenada. Similarly, the labor protests of the early 1950s led by Eric Gairy, followed by independence from the United Kingdom, also led by Eric Gairy. Finally, the 1979 Revolution and its abrupt end with Prime Minister Maurice Bishop's assassination and the subsequent invasion by the United States can all find a context in Fédon's history. (The irony of the U.S. and Grenada relation is: The Fédon Revolution may not have occurred if America's first Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson had listened to the pleas of Fédon's adversary Louis La Grenade.)***

By telling our own stories, we can better understand the complexities of our society today. De Riggs has brilliantly brought

to life in a way that all can understand, that Grenada has never been a simple paradise. Congratulations to all involved — the set makers and managers, the costume makers, the sound and lighting experts, the sponsors — who over a long period of delay during the pandemic have persevered with the determination and resilience of Julien Fédon to tell this story.

We are all richer for it.

• *Permission to publish this edited review, courtesy NOW Grenada and Susan Mains.*

• *Susan Mains, a self-taught artist, was born in the USA but her family has deep Caribbean roots going back to 1648 in Barbados. She lived as a child in Barbados, then Grenada, then Dominica, and settled in Grenada in 1992. For more than 36 years, Mains has been pursuing the mystery of the Caribbean in her painting and writing. Her work has been exhibited in the Caribbean, Canada, USA, Germany, Australia, China, Italy, Brazil, Spain, Colombia, and India. She operates Susan Mains Gallery, a center for artistic activities at Spice Mall.*

*** See Herman G. Hall's, *Julien Fédon: Revolutionary, Patriot, and Insurrectionist - The Untold Story of a Mulatto Leader* (2022) and Hall's *Belvedere Estate-Fédon's House* (2016.)

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VP

Photos & Feature
by Leonard McKenzie

Riddim

*Driven
Clothing
In Global
Fashion
Shows*

Model Juanita Bledman.



Riddim Driven models on Di Runway with a kaleidoscope of colors representing the heartbeat of reggae.



Model Stacy Charles.

Designers, publicists, producers, models, celebrities and all others who are responsible for spectacular fashion shows in Paris, London, New York, Milan and elsewhere, please pay attention because VP Riddim Driven clothing is in the house.

The brain behind VP Records entry into the world of fashion is Pat Chin, VP's cofounder. Decades ago, Pat and her late husband envisioned reggae and other genres of Jamaican and Caribbean music making an impact around the world. It seems Miss Pat has another unthinkable vision. During the winter/spring fashion show popularly known as Fashion Week in New York, VP Riddim Driven clothing made a bold entrance.

VP's models and designers captured the stares of fashion enthusiasts and fashion buyers when they graced the runway with colors predominantly representing the soul of Reggae music.



L to R: Model Hervin Felix, visionary Miss Pat Chin and Emily Acosta.



Model David Hunt



Model Olivia Carden.

The Role of Women in **Gold Mining**

By Olga Gonzalez, FGA DGA

Recognizing the contributions of women to society and their social, economic, and scientific achievements, a program on International Women's Day offered a moment to reflect on how women have transformed the global landscape. Yet, while there are well-publicized opportunities for women in the gem and jewelry, the challenges faced by women in gold mining are often left unaddressed.

On March 8, 2022, International Women's Day, Initiatives in Art and Culture showcased women's roles, from artisanal and small-scale mining to large-scale operations. Lisa Koenigsberg, President of Initiatives in Art and Culture (IAC), says, "We look forward to continued and rewarding conversations about the current situations of women in extractive industries and their role along the entire value chain. The goal of the discussions is to promote further equity in the mining sector, which is linked to the realization of the U.N. SDGs. Equality is a fact, and IAC is committed to its realization. Therefore, we are honored to partner with the World Gold Council."

The International Women's Day seminar featured a powerhouse of women in gold mining: Adiki Ofeibea Ayitevie, Vice President, Sustainability and External Relations, Newmont Africa; Georgette Barnes Sakyi-Addo, Founder and Executive Director, Georgette Barnes Ltd. and Founder/President, Women in Mining - Ghana (WIM - Gh); Daniela Colaia-covo, Co-founder, and CEO of Makal and Anny Jaramillo, Mining Engineer and Planning Director, "Chede" Mining Organization. In addition, Lisa Koenigsberg, President, Of Initiatives in Art and Culture, and Terry Heymann, Chief Financial Officer of World Gold Council, moderated this year's seminar.



Candice who is a participant in Makal-mentorshop program, working with a local NGO to help ASM in developing new programs to extract responsibly.

-
Photo Makal



Makal initiative launched during the pandemic to support eight ASM run by women to reduce the use of mercury.

-Photo Makal

Led by experts with on-the-ground experience, "Digging Deep," The International Women's Day panel discussion, covered challenges in an infiltrated way. Topics included:

- Specific career trajectories have challenges, milestones, and influences.
- Gender bias.
- Encouragement of and opportunities for young women in mining.
- Cultural impact.
- Geological and environmental effects on gender-related issues.
- The realities behind the quest for equal opportunity.

Insights from the viewpoints of gold production in the ASM and LSM sectors, advocacy, branding, and setting responsible sourcing standards provided lively discourse, furthering transparency in the precious metals, mining, and jewelry sectors, including in the trade.

Terry Heymann said, "We are delighted to be partnering with Initiatives in Arts and Culture on seminars' Digging Deep: Women's Roles in the Gold Mining Sector and the Quest for Equity.' I look forward to speaking with women in mining about their journeys, why they entered the sector, and how the sector[industry] can attract and retain more female talent."

Whether new to the trade or a seasoned industry veteran, the dialogue offered insight and analysis of where the gold mining sector is today and what it will take to bridge the gender gap needed to level up. International Women's Day offered



**Georgette Barnes Sakyi-Addo,
Founder and Executive Director,
Georgette Barnes Ltd.**

the opportune platform for exploring relevancy and impact that women have introduced into the gold mining sector, historically and continually.

About Initiatives in Art and Culture

Initiatives in Art and Culture (IAC) educate diverse visual culture audiences, including the fine and decorative arts. A commitment to authenticity, artisanry, and materials undergirds all considerations undertaken by IAC, as does mindfulness of sustainability and our obligations to the planet.

Each IAC undertaking is marked by a commitment to bringing together representatives from every sector, with thought leaders from other disciplines, industries, and institutions undertaking cross-disciplinary approaches outside conventional industry discourse.

IAC's goal is to initiate dialogue and challenge all to integrate change without fear. Conferences, webinars, publications, and exhibitions take an interdisciplinary approach and consider issues related to fabrication, connoisseurship, cultural patrimony and preservation, and the future of culture.

A wide array of individual, corporate, and foundation funders have supported IAC's projects.

To learn more about Initiatives in Art and Culture, visit <http://artinitiatives.com>.

Persephone DaCosta's Vision

By Staff Writer

In EVERYBODY'S March 2007 Issue, Michele Young profiled Persephone DaCosta and her art program in the article, "Batingua: Resonating Through Space and Time." In that issue, Young observed: "It's ironic that in [NY] City which views itself as the epicenter of the art world, there's such [a lack] of art education in our public schools... Yet, despite the paltry sums expended on the arts, there are a few art educators who continuously find ways to 'make plenty from little.' One such educator is Persephone DaCosta." Recently, EBM followed up with Teacher/Artistic Director DaCosta in an email interview. She updates us on the state of art education, how her students got through the pandemic, and her programs in the community.



EBM: Has the support for arts in public schools increased/decreased since 2007 when EBM featured you?

DaCosta: I believe that support for the Arts has increased over the last fifteen years. For example, the Department of Education facilitates Arts Mondays and Dance Professional Developments that support and provide training for dance teachers in various areas such as; student assessments, cross-curricular art projects, etc. Furthermore, the DOE offers Dance Regents and Advanced Arts Endorsed diplomas for graduating High School students.

Nevertheless, I believe the issue is not only providing funding and perceived support. I often question who is monitoring the funds and ensuring that the support given to the arts is accessible to the frontline arts educators in the classroom with the students? In addition, I have heard complaints from arts educators that they cannot use their funding the way they see fit.

So, yes, funding for Arts has increased overall, but academic testing and exams still take precedent over the benefits of being in an Arts-based class... Moreover, I am seeing a rise in students suffering from depression, anxiety, and many emotional issues. I believe, now more than ever, we need even more Arts programs in the school system to help deal with many of these problems.

EBM: Throughout the pandemic, how did you engage students with art? Or, how did you get your students through the pandemic using art skills?

DaCosta: Working through the pandemic was very challenging. However, when we are in the classroom or the studio, there is a certain energy or vibe that you can give and get from students. So, yes, we could do virtual/remote dance classes, but honestly, it took a while to get the hang of it.

Some students didn't have access to computers or internet service; all dance movements were backward on the computer screen, so all these things and more made learning challenging. In addition, students felt discouraged and boxed in from being home and on the computer in their other classes. Thus, giving them access to the arts was crucial...

I had to look at art skills for what it truly is, a universal language that transcends all boundaries, even the pandemic. It is an entity that brings healing, peace, and love to those who partake in it. I was able to bring the joy and peace of music and dance through the computer into my students' homes. I en-



couraged them to get up and move with me. Some days, I played Soca music, African drumming, Dancehall, and Latin music. Then, I began to move, dancing and jumping around my house, and instructed them to follow me. Other days, I played peaceful jazz, did breathing exercises with students, and encouraged them to look past the pandemic and focus on what we were thankful for. I organized a virtual assembly in my advanced dance classes for Black History Month and had my high school students perform for elementary schools. I did these things to get my students through and survive the pandemic.

EBM: Over the last 15 years, how has your company engaged the youth and the Brooklyn community?

DaCosta: Batingua Dance & Drum Productions' mission is to unify cultures through the Arts and preserve, educate and celebrate Arts from West Africa and the Afro Caribbean diaspora.

BDDP has a Junior Performance Troupe of students aged 7-16. With the help of the Brooklyn Arts Council Community Fund Grant, we offer Free dance classes and a summer youth intensive dance program in the Brooklyn community. After training in West African, Haitian, Jamaican, Grenadian, Trinbagonian Folk, Dancehall, Soca, etc., they go into the community and perform for agencies, thus positively impacting our neighborhoods.

Our Jr. Company has performed in many venues including Brooklyn Veterans hospital, Brownsville Medical Center Family Day, and at halftime at a NY Knicks game in Madison Square Garden.

Batingua Jr. Company members learn the history of the dances they perform, write poetry, and discuss their dreams, aspirations, expectations, and career goals. For 2022 we have several programs in the works. A few of them are:

- Hudson River Park Summer Artist in Residence, Tuesdays in July 6:30 -9:00 pm
- My Brooklyn My Arts Youth Summer dance intensive (sponsored by Brooklyn Arts Council)

Lastly, I'm proud to announce that Batingua Arts will be putting on our First Annual Caribbean Dance Conference in November 2022. So be sure to join us for one of our classes, performances, or workshops. Bring Your Flags!!!!

**Persephone DaCosta, Founder and Artistic Director of Batingua Dance & Drums Productions LLC, is of Trinbagonian descent and has extensive dance and community development training in the arts.*

Anne Janice Farray

A Pillar in Montreal

By Neale McDevitt



Anne Janice Farray.

A four-to-five-year-old boy of the 1950s recalls a friendly and caregiving laborer on Belvedere Estate, Grenada, named James Farray, known as “500” by other laborers. Why “500”? Almost every laborer was illiterate but James Farray was ambitious, and motivated; he knew how to count from 1 to 500 which impressed the laborers. In search for better opportunities, Mr. James immigrated to Trinidad. The laborers missed him, even the four-to-five-year-old boy, for his kindheartedness. The reader will understand why Anne Farray, Mr. James’s cousin, is a community leader in Montreal; as the saying goes, “the apple doesn’t fall far from the tree.”

When I asked Anne Janice Farray to reflect upon her 42-year (and counting) career at McGill University, Montreal, Canada, she talked about “learning, changes, contribution.” Learning is a recurring theme throughout Farray’s narrative. “Learning is an ongoing project for me. I learn every day even if it isn’t formalized,” she says and adds, “It could be minuscule, but even the minuscule can have an impact. So, I’ve always been open to new experiences and new ideas.”



Former Principal & Vice-Chancellor, Bernard J. Shapiro and Anne Farray.

"I think McGill has gotten the best of me, and I've gotten the best of McGill," says Anne Janice Farray. Given her inherent curiosity, it made perfect sense that when she had to choose between three job opportunities in 1979, Farray selected McGill over Canadair and Atomic Energy of Canada. Farray was fresh out of Vanier College, where she had completed her secretarial studies. "I was very interested in Law, but the practical side of me brought me in another direction."

She worked in the Faculty of Management MBA office for three years before transferring to the Faculty of Law, a move that she says "was fundamental" for her growth and development. "I always wanted to do law, and this gave me the opportunity to go to seminars and lectures and soak up as much as I could." Farray continues, "I saw Anatoly Sharansky, Irwin Cotler, Julius Grey – so many great speakers. It had a real impact on my development."

During this period, Farray began taking night courses in management, first at McGill and then at Concordia, where she earned her B.A. in Human Resources Management in 1990.

Farray says many of her most rewarding learning experiences had come when she was challenged to leave her comfort zone. "I was lucky to have colleagues who always believed I

could do more. They would push me," she says. Farray is thankful that those same colleagues "felt that I had leadership qualities," despite her natural shyness.

Taking advantage of the professional development opportunities at McGill, she honed her management skills and leadership qualities. Uncomfortable with public speaking, she joined Toastmasters at McGill to gain confidence. It seems to have worked, as Farray was a keynote speaker at the 2018 celebration of Grenada's independence here in Montreal. Most recently, for Black History Month, she took the mic at a poetry event hosted by author Nigel Thomas. "I knew I had come a long way because when I was waiting to go on, my heart wasn't pumping like mad," she says with a laugh.

Farray credits her love of learning and work ethic to the example set by her great uncle back in Grenada. "He didn't have a strong academic background himself; nevertheless, he really emphasized education and working hard at whatever you do," she says. "He was a builder, but he also worked the fields. He believed that if you put in the work, the land will pay you back."

McGill has changed over the past four decades, and so has Farray. She is speaking from the Institute of Islamic Studies,

where she has served as an Administrative Officer for the past seven years. The most recent stop in a long and fruitful career has seen her do some heavy lifting across campus, including at the Faculties of Management, Law, Arts, Engineering, and Education. She has also worked at Facilities Management & Development, the old SEDE office, and Human Resources, where she spent the longest. “I’ve done the tour of the University,” she says with a smile.

“I’ve seen changes, especially in my representative group – a change in Black administrative and support staff coming in, the number of Black students.” Farray adds, “Especially in the professional faculties like Law and Engineering... When I was in the Faculty of Law, I remember that we had maybe one Black student coming in any given year, so maybe three or four in the whole student body. Just watch the Convocation ceremonies now to see how much has changed.”

Farray notes that she knew Adelle Blackett as a Law student, and she wrote an article in a community newspaper about Blackett returning to McGill as a professor. Farray notes, “I take great pride and pleasure in seeing all that is happening,” and adds, “It’s long overdue, and it’s a long way from where we should be. But at least we’re moving in the right direction.”

During her stint at HR, Farray did her part to help move the needle, opening the doors for and supporting qualified job applicants who were people of color.

Farray relates, “Once, I was recruiting for a position to come into H.R. I had tested, interviewed, and referred a few candidates. Finally, a stellar candidate with a great background, fluency, test results. Then it dawned on me that ‘Oh my God, they may think that I’m sending too many Blacks.’”

She confided her misgivings to a colleague, who, in return, asked Farray a simple question: “Do you feel confident in their abilities?”

Farray responded, “Absolutely,” and I never looked back.”

Farray has worn many hats at McGill. A diligent employee, she has worked behind the scenes, helping staff on multiple management levels and support positions, working on the University Pension Plan and helping negotiate various retirement and severance packages. She has also served on the organizing committee of McGill’s Black History Month.

While working as the H.R. Advisor/Assistant to the Dean in the Faculty of Education, Farray spearheaded the effort to award an Honorary Doctorate to the Honorable Jean Augustine in 2009. Augustine, also from Grenada, was the first Black woman elected to the Canadian Parliament, to hold a cabinet position in the federal government and Speaker of the Canadian House of Commons.

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McGill

L to R: McDonald Joseph Clarke of Maribeu, Grenada, husband of Anne Farray, Grenada-born Hon. Jean Augustine, the first Black woman in Canada's federal cabinet and Anne Farray at 2009 McGill University reception bestowing a doctorate to Jean Augustine.

Farray was Co-Chair of the McGill Centraide Campaign with Catherine Stace from 2005 to 2008, helping spearhead fundraising efforts to support Montreal's most vulnerable people. She recalls one Centraide event which had a low turnout.

"We did a lot of outreach and publicity, and I was disappointed at first until a man got up to tell his story." She continues, "He had been troubled as a teen. He used to cut himself and had tried to commit suicide on several occasions. But he told us about the counselling he had received from an organization funded largely by Centraide. And he told us that, thanks to that support, this was the first time he was able to speak about his experience." Farray adds, "We tend to measure success in terms of numbers, but at that moment, I measured success in him gaining his voice."

Farray's contributions extend beyond the Roddick Gates. She was an executive member of the Côte-des-Neiges and NDG Black Community Associations and the Grenada Nationals Association. In addition, she served on the Board of Elizabeth House. This local agency supports young mothers and mothers-to-be experiencing severe difficulties adjusting to pregnancy or their role as parents.

As the interview ends, I ask Farray if she has any final comments. She pauses and thinks a while before smiling and saying, "I think McGill has gotten the best of me, and I've gotten the best of McGill. I paid the piper and, in return, the piper has paid me."

Farray's great uncle would be proud.

24 www.everybodysmag.com

Naively Rude Confusion

By Anne Janice Farray

Today the savage metro stopped abruptly/

.... Aswoooooosh!

Travellers displaced from seats

Some onto the floor, some onto others.

Panic! A woman falls to the floor/

.... befuddled, all around steer.

Reading thoughts: react, do not react?

A kindly female offers her a seat.

My mind wanders spacelessly/

.... Black souls get same response?

Why not? We're human

Conflicting feeling: but they watched our brutalization....

Feet chopped off, hands mangled, beaten to pulp!

What is that warm feeling on my visage?.... tears?

Yes, humans watch unmoved and some cheered/

.... bombs scattered over Iraq and Kuwait

Kabooooom! Kabooooom!

My mind is naively confused.

© March 13, 1991 – Anne Janice Farray

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THE EMPIRE STATE GOVERNOR'S RACE

A Factor in Midterm Elections

By Herman Hall



L to R: Paul Rodriguez for Comptroller, Michael Henry for Attorney General, Congressman Lee Zeldin for Governor, NYGOP Chairman Nick Langworthy, Alison Exposito for Lt. Governor and Joe Pinion for U.S. Senator at the conclusion of NYGOP Convention, held at the Garden City Hotel, Long Island, March 1, 2022. -AP Photo

The national radar will point to New York on November 8, and New Yorkers in 2022 may determine the outcome of the 2024 race for the presidency.

Both Democrats and Republicans have already held their conventions. The Democratic machine selected Governor Kathy Hochul and Guyanese-American Brian Benjamin as standard-bearers. The progressives led by Grenadian-American Jumaane Williams did not accept the crowning of Governor Hochul and has selected Ana Maria Archila as his running mate. If Williams does not drop out, there will be a Democratic Primary on June 28; traditional Democrats Vs. Progressive Democrats.

At the State's Republican Convention, more than 85% of the delegates representing the counties gave Lee Zeldin, a Congressman from Long Island and Trump

ally, the nod. Zeldin chose Alison Exposito, a former New York City Police Deputy Inspector, as his running mate. But if it was an attempt to save face, most of Zeldin's challengers, including Andrew Giuliani, a former Trump White House official, Rob Astorino, a former Westchester County Executive and entrepreneur Harry Wilson vowed to remain in the race. Although former Mayor Rudy Giuliani appeared at the convention to sign the petition to nominate his son, young Giuliani did not get anyone to nominate him, so he was not mentioned in the roll call. If Andrew Giuliani and other candidates remain in the hunt for the governorship, there will also be a Republican Primary on June 28.

Media gurus anticipate that if there is a gubernatorial primary, the winners will be Democrat Governor Kathy



L-R: The crowning of Lt. Gov. Brian Benjamin, Gov. Kathy Hochul, New York Attorney General Letitia James, and New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli at the February, 2022, New York State Democratic Convention.
EBM-photo

Hochul and Republican Congressman Lee Zeldin. The tickets are attractive – a woman heads the Democratic ticket, and a female running mate on the Republican side. Though many consider Zeldin a proud Trump Republican, there was little mention of Trump at the Convention. Was it a New York Republican hierarchy strategy to downplay Trump to attract moderate Republicans and Democrats?

Even before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, voters expressed disgruntlement about the rising price of gasoline, and others were displeased with the performance of the Biden-Harris Administration. It is the norm for most presidents, including Kennedy and Obama, to lose the midterm during their first two years in office. But it is no longer politics as usual. So, for Democrats to lose New York's governor race to the Republicans on November 8 may be a bad omen for the President in the 2024 general elections.

From Labor Day 2022, and even from midsummer, to the eve of the midterm on November 8, New York State will be a battleground. Expect President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, and the backbone of the National Democratic Party to campaign in New York and for former President Donald Trump and other Republican presidential aspirants to hold massive rallies for Congressman Lee Zeldin.

Media gurus anticipate that if there is a gubernatorial primary, the winners will be Democrat Governor Kathy Hochul and Republican Congressman Lee Zeldin.



If Progressive Democrat Jumaane Williams is on the November 8 ballot and he actively campaign, he may make life difficult for centrist Governor Kathy Hochul.

Photo Yonkers Tribune



Michael Henry is confident he will defeat Letitia James. James is acclaimed as the principal nemesis of Andrew Cuomo and Donald Trump.
EBM-photo



Former Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino who was defeated by Andrew Cuomo in 2014 believes he can defeat Kathy Hochul.
EBM-photo



Congressman Lee Zeldin hopes to derail Governor Kathy Hochul.

EBM-photo



L to R: Victor Best, a Barbadian-American and Republican State Committee delegate from Brooklyn, with the eloquent Joe Pinion who is seeking to replace U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer.

EBM-photo



Governor Kathy Hochul at the New York State Democratic Convention held in New York City.

EBM-photo

THE REPUBLICANS STATE-WIDE TICKET

Congressman Lee Zeldin for Governor

Alison Esposito for Lt. Governor

Michael Henry for Attorney General. He is of Italian heritage and he considers corruption and crime rampant in Albany, New York's State capital. He hopes to defeat the incumbent Letitia James.

Paul Rodriguez for Comptroller. An expert on global finance, Paul Rodriguez is the first Puerto Rican with a major party endorsement in 20 years.

Joe Pinion for U.S. Senate. He is an African-American residing in Westchester and a newscaster.

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Democratic Senator Chuck Schumer speaks in French Creole at an event in Brooklyn's 42nd Assembly District. High profile Republicans seldom visit Caribbean Brooklyn. The last was Governor George Pataki, in 2002, hosted by the Queen of Caribbean Democrats Una Clarke and the then Councilman Kendall Stewart, a Democrat. Local black Republicans were prevented from attending the indoor event even candidates on the Pataki reelection ticket.
EBM-photo

The national radar will point to New York on November 8, and New Yorkers in 2022 may determine the outcome of the 2024 race for the presidency.

**Herman Hall latest book, Julien Fédon - Revolutionary, Patriot and Insurrectionist: The Untold Story of a Mulatto Leader, was released on February 19, 2022. It is available as an eBook directly from IngramSpark, Amazon and other ePublishing companies for US\$9.99. The hard and softcover editions are available for US\$34.95 and US\$27.95 respectively from Amazon, BN and IngramSpark. It is available in Australia from IngramSpark. EVERYBODY'S Magazine subscribers in the U.S. (only) can order it at www.everybodysmag.com for \$29.95 (hardcover) and \$23.95 (softcover) with the author's autograph. Herman G. Hall's: From Alexander Hamilton to Kamala Harris is due in late 2023 or early 2024.*

THE DEMOCRATS STATE-WIDE TICKET

Governor Kathy Hochul, incumbent

Lt. Governor Brian Benjamin, incumbent

Attorney General Letitia James, incumbent

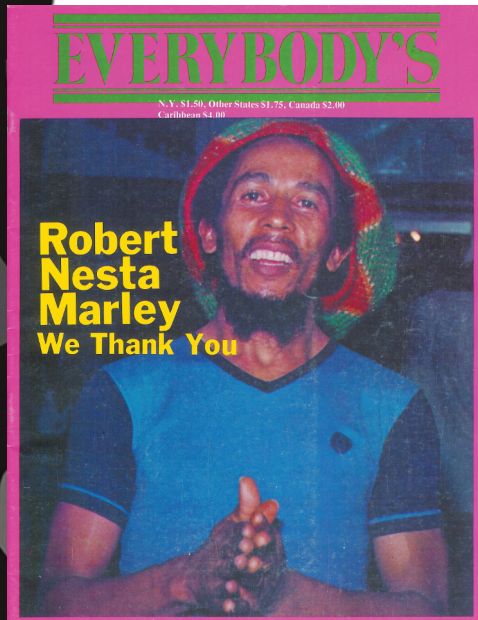
State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, incumbent

U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer, incumbent

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