

EVERYBODY'S NEW YORK

**Which U.S. President
Did More for the
Caribbean?
From Carter to Trump**



What % Of Caribbean-Americans Are Voting For Trump/Pence And Biden/Harris?

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REMEMBERS KING SWALLOW**

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GUYANA'S ELECTION

Your feature in the August issue about the Guyanese election, by taking us back to elections of the 1950s, and in 1961, when British Prime Minister Harold MacMillan and President John Kennedy conspired to remove Dr. Cheddi Jagan from power, is one of the best articles I ever read on the issue. The article was on target and unbiased.

*Bert Holder,
Brampton, Canada*

"Guyana: Not Back to the by 1950s and 1960s" by Wendy Gomez was impartial and enriching. Although my parents were born in Canada, my deceased grandparents came to Canada from what was then British Guiana. As a teenager, I overheard them speaking of a family member who was killed during a riot but I did not fully understand what happened until I read Gomez's article. Articles and conversations about politics in Guyana are mainly one-sided depending on that person's race and political party affiliation but her article was objective.

ttate@...

BLACK LIVES MATTER

With your large photographs highlighting Black Lives Matter protests and a "Defund the Police" photo on the cover of your August issue, I have the impression that your magazine is glorifying the protesters.

*Maureen Chance,
Bronx, NY*

Don't you know that the Black Lives Matter demonstrations resulting in violence and looting is helping Trump get back into office!

Ang@....

Someone sent me a copy of your August edition, "A Summer of ...? Protest! Chaos, Unrest! Black Lives Matter! Defund the Police! Covid-19!" I never saw or heard of EVERYBODY'S before. I am very impressed. Your photographs said it all.

*Walter Beresford,
West Palm Beach, FL*

SHADOW

I enjoyed your September edition especially the feature on Shadow by Winthrop R. Holder.

*W. Belinsky
Blue Point, NY*

Shadow was one of the most misunderstood, under-rated and robbed calypsonians of all times. It is a shame that accolades are given after the artist's demise. I

watched his funeral shown live on TV but became extremely annoyed when the former President of Trinidad & Tobago, Anthony Carmona, said that Shadow should have won more National Calypso Monarch titles and given a higher national award medal. Carmona was our president for many years but he did not use his influence to redress what was being done to Shadow. While, I appreciate what Holder wrote about Shadow in "Calypsonian Shadow: Tearing Away the Veils of Familiarity," shouldn't this article have been written when Shadow was alive?

*J.M. Tucker,
Tobago, Trinidad & Tobago*

VP CANDIDATE SENATOR KAMALA HARRIS

I received the Sep/October issue and I wish to vent my frustration. General Colin Powell must never be in the same conversation with Judge Constance Baker Motley, a distant cousin, Shirley Chisholm and Alexander Hamilton. Yes, Powell is a great military leader and he broke down racial barriers but he led the invasion of my beloved Panama to remove Manuel Noriega. It was George Bush as CIA Director who made Noriega and he closed his eyes on Noriega drug trafficking until Noriega tilted towards Cuba. Then the first Bush used Powell to invade Panama and the second Bush used Powell then secretary of state to unjustly attack Saddam Hussein in Iraq.

Jt@...com

In your Kamala Harris edition, September issue, I say Harris, if she is elected, belongs in the club of Chisholm, Motley and Hamilton. Not Powell!

*Yvette Pryce,
Brooklyn, NY*

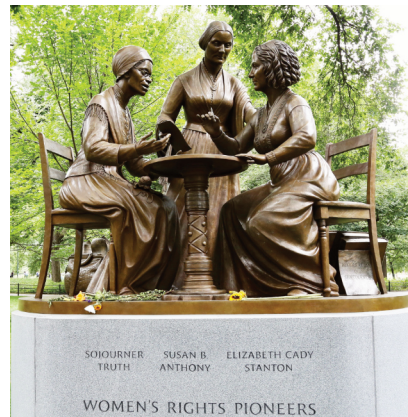


PHOTO CREDIT
We failed to credit Leonard McKenzie for his photo of Women's Rights Pioneers, a statue recently unveiled in Central Park, New York City.

Letters to the editor are always appreciated whether critical or praise-worthy. 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.



WEST INDIAN AMERICAN DAY CARNIVAL ASSOCIATION

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September 25, 2020

To : Members of the Executive Board,
Members of the Association,
Elected Officials

From: Dr. Jean Joseph, President

I have been involved in the West Indian American Day Carnival Association for almost 10 years. In that time I have tried my best to assist the association and provide my services to our organization. I did this to insure that the our name and reputation would be held in the highest esteem by those who support us and those who recognize that the work of this group is pristine.

I have served as our financial auditor and now as the President since April of 2018. It has been my privilege to represent this group and to work for the success of our Annual events both in the rear of the Brooklyn Museum and on Eastern Parkway on Labor Day.

Today, I regretfully inform you that I have decided to resign as your President.

From the day I took office I have been assailed and treated with the utmost disrespect by our Board of Directors. Unfortunately an in-house battle between board members has resulted in our failure to do what's best for this organization. I have been unable to act in my capacity as President regardless of whatever efforts I have made. The internal disputes would result in ridiculous arguments as to the powers of the President and what actions I may take to insure the success of our endeavors.

There is an enormous hostile climate which has caused much in-fighting. The board has acted with a complete disregard of the by-laws. Their actions which include changes in the by-laws and policy decisions which



normally require the approval of the membership, has been detrimental to the organization and has deprived the membership of their rights.

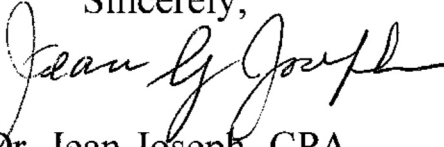
One example of this is the removal of four members of the organization. The board took this action without following any protocol or process. They gave these members no say or opportunity to defend themselves. This outrageous act has been vigorously opposed by me to no avail.

The board has made every effort to strip away my powers as President. Today, my only roll is to attend meetings and be abused by board members. This has included my being forbidden to talk with elected officials, or to sign contracts. I can't act in any capacity as the head of the organization. I can't talk to our bank and have no access to our financial records. I have been locked out of the office and have no access to the mail. I have also been excluded from the e-mails relating to board business. My inability to talk to the public, our sponsors and our elected officials has resulted in much confusion with these groups.

I can live with the insults and can accept that we can have disagreements but I cannot accept the disrespect and disparaging remarks which are made about me personally and my professional career. This has been at the very least unsettling and at worst libelous.

I will continue as a board member of this wonderful organization and offer my services to all to who ask for them.

It is my hope that this resignation will best serve WIADCA. I know that we all must come together to make our organization succeed. If my withdrawing as President will help to do so then let it be God's will. I leave proud of my accomplishments and Proud to have served as your President.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jean Joseph, CPA

Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs Announces Funding Awards to Organizations Providing Free and Safe Immigration Legal Services

The Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs and Department of Social Services/Human Resources Administration in the City of New York recently celebrated five years since launch of ActionNYC by awarding 21 community-based organizations (CBOs) and legal service providers with more than \$16 million in funding over the course of the next 2.5 years to provide immigration legal services to New York City's immigrant communities. ActionNYC provides immigrant New Yorkers with free, comprehensive immigration legal screenings, legal representation, accurate and timely immigration-related information, and referrals to City-funded and community-based resources and support services. Selected organizations will provide free high-quality immigration legal services to the City's most historically under-represented communities in over 40 languages and indigenous dialects.

New ActionNYC Capacity-Building Fellowship supports the development of immigration legal services programs in community-based organizations serving hard-to-reach African, Asian, and Caribbean immigrant communities.

In addition to these awards, the City will provide more than \$400,000 in funding to the ActionNYC Capacity-Building Fellowship program, which supports the development of legal expertise, infrastructure, and capacity of community-based organizations with small, limited, or growing immigration legal service programs. In Fiscal Year 2021, Fellows will serve immigrants from South Asia, Asia, Africa, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and the Middle East, as well as immigrant members of the LGBTQ community.

"Penalizing families and children seeking food assistance and other essential services to make ends meet is unconscionable and un-American," said Department of Social Services Commissioner Steven Banks. "Amid a pandemic and an unprecedented economic crisis, the Trump Administration is actively sowing distrust in government among our immigrant communities, which will only make our recovery harder. Our City remains committed to doing everything we can to protect and support our immigrant neighbors—and ActionNYC embodies this mission and commitment, which is why we're proud to celebrate its progress and expand it to take that progress even further. We urge any New Yorker with questions or concerns."



Photos - Marc A. Hermann/MTA New York City Transit



Subway Stations on #s 2, 3, 4 & 5 Trains Renamed Franklin Ave. and President St.

Away from Brooklyn for a longtime and coming back! Used to get off or get on at Franklin Avenue subway station on the #s 2, 3, 4 and 5 trains and President Street on the #s 2 and 5! By decree of Governor Andrew Cuomo on the advice of community leaders, Franklin Avenue subway station has been renamed Franklin Avenue-Medgar Evers College and President Street, President Street-Medgar Evers College. The renaming honored the contributions of the historically black CUNY college to the Brooklyn communities it serves and stand as a living tribute to Medgar Evers, the civil rights icon whose name the college proudly carries.

The renaming of the stations was suggested by Assemblywoman Diana Richardson and Senator Zellnor Myrie. The project was funded by a \$250,000 legislative grant. "I am extremely proud and honored as both an alumnus of Medgar Evers College and a life-long resident of the Crown Heights commu-

nity to have helped author the legislation that renamed these subway stops in honor of the great civil rights leader, Medgar Evers," Richardson uttered.

Since both subway stops are in the heartland of Brooklyn's Caribbean community it was no surprise that sumptuous treats of patties, currant rolls, mouthwatering bread and cake were provided gratis by Allan's Bakery a fixture in the community for more than 60 years.



Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams is expected to declare his candidacy for mayor of New York City. Photo Erica Krodman

African Immigrant Heritage Month

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams recently held an event celebrating African Immigrant Heritage Month (AIHM). African Immigrant Heritage Month is held in October whereas Black History Month is held in February.

The AIHM event commemorated the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first enslaved Africans in the British colonies of North America. The socially-distanced cultural event featured a display of flags, song, drumming, remarks from a representative to the Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations, as well as posthumous recognitions of Caribbean-American Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) founder Dr. Roy Hastick and Amarachi Restaurant owner Johnathan Adewumi, who both tragically passed earlier this year due to complications from Covid-19.

"As we close out African Immigrant Heritage Month, this is a reminder to proudly embrace your heritage. As Brooklyn's first African-American borough president, this means so much to me. Our resilience comes from our ancestors' roots, and diversity enhances all that our city can be," Adams said.

Brooklyn has nearly 900,000 African-American residents according to the 2010 Census figures — a larger population than major metropolitan areas in the US such as Philadelphia, Detroit, Baltimore, and many others. The richness of African culture is on display throughout the borough, from annual cultural events that celebrate the diaspora to the various businesses run by African merchants. Brooklyn is also home to one of the few museums in the country dedicated to the arts of the diaspora in the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Art (MoCADA).

PHOTO of ADAMS MISSING

Brooklyn Brought President Eric Adams is expected to declare his candidacy for mayor of New York City. Photo Erica Krodman



A restaurant at Adam Clayton Blvd. in Harlem used the sidewalk and street during summer and autumn. Will the makeshift shed usable in January, February and March of 2021?

Photo - Leonard McKenzie

Dining Outside in Wintry New York

As the horrors of winter gradually approaches New Yorkers may have a tough time dining in public as long as Covid-19 reigns. The sidewalks and streets utilized during summer and autumn may not be useful for

multiple reasons – snow, ice, blizzard, slush. But New Yorkers are very creative and novel ways will be created for dining.



Dave and Joan Gayle built a large outdoor dining hut on Utica Avenue and its sidewalk on the side of their ballroom, Tropical Paradise. The dining atmosphere was perfect and the menu and tropical concoctions excellent during the hot weather. In preparation for old man winter, they have converted Tropical Paradise ballroom into a beautiful dining room observing all Covid-19 guidelines and the tables are more than six feet apart. They hope Covid-19 will be controllable and that Governor Andrew Cuomo will allow limited indoor dining.



Makeshift outdoor dining at Tropical Paradise ballroom was a hit during the summer. Photo Linden Clarke



As long as Covid-19 remains controllable in New York City allowing Governor Cuomo and Mayor Bill de Blasio to allow limited indoor dining, Tropical Paradise may be a great place to dine during the winter. No dancing please!

Photo Linden Clarke



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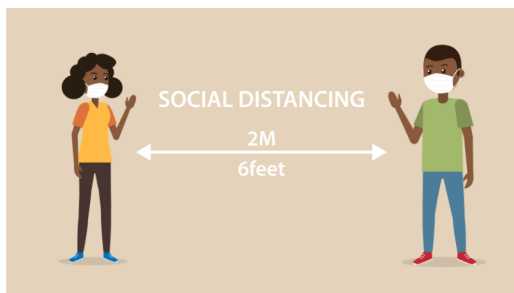
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Buxton/ Friendship Museum Archives & Culture Center



BFMACC is making itself relevant to children.

The pandemic has not prevented the Buxton/ Friendship Museum, Archives and Culture Center (BFMACC) in Guyana from celebrating its 2nd anniversary. There is a worldwide surge, especially in the United States, by blacks to research and preserve their African heritage. Two years ago, a group of Guyanese residing in Guyana and abroad who were born in the Demerara district thought it was a good idea to honor their ancestors and to document their contributions for posterity. As a result, BFMAAC was established.

After the period of apprenticeship ended for former slaves in the then British West Indies and British Guiana on August 1, 1838, a group of Africans both male and female purchased a small estate, Plantation Orange Nassau. The property was renamed Buxton perhaps to thank the British politician Thomas Buxton who fought endlessly for the abolition of slavery. The newly freed Africans later purchased nearby Friendship and other properties. The areas are now known as the villages

of Buxton and Friendship.

Almost 200 years later, the BFMACC was established with a cultural mandate: Rekindling the ancestral fortitude which can promote resilient entrepreneurial contributions in molding the socioeconomic fabric of the villages and nation of Guyana. Towards this mission seminars on economic development are held and documents and artifacts are collected for future generations.

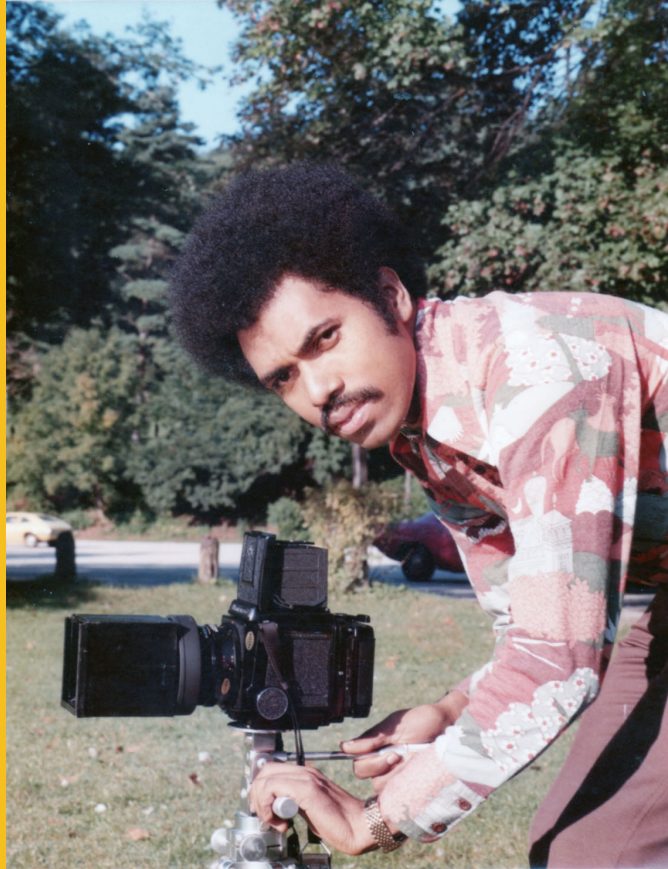
Since its opening, the BFMACC has attracted many visitors, both locally and from overseas. In addition, students from many schools visit the facility as part of their civics and social studies program, while students from the University of Guyana use it for research projects.

BFMACC is supported by The Friends of Villages Museum & Archives Inc., a non-profit organization in the USA.

*For additional info contact: Keith Easton -
Keasto2@gmail.com, Cell (240)-601-3892 or
buxfshipmacc@gmail.com*

In Memory of Lloyd Patterson 1944-2020

An EVERYBODY'S Magazine ORIGINAL PHOTOGRAPHER



A young Lloyd Patterson in Jamaica and the days of Afro hairstyle.

"In the 1970s, long before the Jamaica Consulate in NY had public relations personnel, it was Lloyd Patterson who photographed events for the consulate at no cost. It was at Jamaican consulate events and at the Jamaica Progressive League when Bob Marley visited the League, where I first met Lloyd ... He did not only provide quality photographs for this magazine but he scaled photographs for publication. Of course, that was long before the days of word processors, computers and graphic software ... He and his best

friend, Dellmar, were official photographers for the late Prime Minister Michael Manley and Dellmar's friend, former Prime Minister P.J. Patterson. And, in 1989, it was Lloyd and Hazel, his late wife, who suggested that I must book one Oliver Samuels to perform at the magazine's shows. I had never heard of Oliver Samuels before and the next year, 1990, the magazine had Oliver on its show ... Lloyd was a genuine friend who treated me as family and motivated me to continue publishing EVERYBODY'S." --- Herman



"Law and Order" In Donald Trump America

By Roger Toussaint

Let this also serve as open letter to those black people who try to rationalize the killing of Breonna Taylor, and who so willingly accepted the police, investigators and prosecutors (Kentucky DA Daniel Cameron) version of what took place.

As a preliminary matter, and notwithstanding "Sir Charles" (Barkley's) disturbing trust in their version, this rationalization assumes as truth, Kentucky DA Daniel Cameron's representations about the facts and evidence regarding what occurred with the killing of EMT Breonna Taylor in her apartment by officers of the Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD) in the wee hours of the morning of March 13th 2020.

Putting aside for a moment, the contrived justification for going to Breonna Taylor's apartment in the first place, deciphering the events that unfolded once the police got there reveals gaping holes in the stories of the police, the investigators and of Kentucky DA Cameron's. Did the police announce themselves? When did gunfire begin? Who fired first?

Cameron claimed that one witness said that they did announce themselves. But he neglected to mention that at least 12 other witnesses (neighbors) and Breonna's boyfriend said that they clearly did not. For DA Cameron, since that one witness corroborates the police, it is better than the evidence collected from 12 others! DA Cameron also forgot to mention that that sole witness had originally said, in two earlier statements, that the officers had not identified themselves, before changing his story.

The police justification for the fusillade of bullets fired, was that Breonna Taylor's boyfriend, Kenneth Walker, had fired the first shot which struck one of the officers, whereupon three officers returned fire. DA Cameron's investigation concurs and confirms but apparently neglected to inform us that the FBI ballistic report found that the origin of the injury to the officer was inconclusive, that is, it could have come from the officers themselves, according to Kenneth Walker's attorney who reviewed the ballistic reports. Notably, officials admit that at least one officer was firing blindly from the veranda.

Kenneth Walker was not wanted, had a clean record and was not attempting to flee/escape. Did he have a death wish and decide to get into a shootout with police in an apartment with one way in, one way out? Or, did he arm himself, as he was legally allowed to, believing that he was dealing with a break-in by criminals, as he contends? It is simply not clear who shot the officer or who fired first. What we do know for sure, is that if DA Cameron was willing to mislead the public with his glaring omissions, then neither his version of what occurred nor his presentation before the grand jury can be relied upon as the truth of what occurred.

Officials claim that the Criminal Interdiction Unit of the LMPD which executed the raid(s) do not (as in choses to not) use body cameras otherwise available to LMPD officers. Over 30 rounds were fired by the three LMPD officers, with some entering the apartments of two of Breonna Taylor's neighbors,



The late EMT worker, 26-year-old Breonna Taylor, fatally shot by the police in her Louisville, Kentucky apartment.

Photo Courtesy of Family of Breonna Taylor

The murder of Breonna Taylor is an indictment of the systemic racism and anti-working-class savagery that pervades policing and "law and order" in the US.

which formed the basis of flimsy charges against one (1) of the officers of reckless endangerment (of the neighbors!!!), a charge for which he was placed on \$15,000 bail(!), released within 31 minutes of arrest and which he is very likely to beat.

Having dealt with how events unfolded on the morning of March 13th, let us now turn to 1) what led to this raid and 2) the investigation.

Five warrants were sworn to by a LMOD detective for raids on five residences that night/early morning. One of these was for Breonna Taylor's residence. The other four were for residences 10 miles away from Breonna's. All the warrants were similarly worded, like a form letter, same facts, same evidence— despite these warrants' requirements for specificity for each location and the individuals involved at each location.

In the case of Breonna Taylor's residence, the warrant was based entirely on the alleged observation of a former acquaintance leaving her apartment with a USPS package in January, two months earlier, despite the warrant's requirement for information to be current. And despite the fact that at LMPD's request, USPS investigators had already told them back in Jan-

uary, that there was no suspicious mail being delivered or received at Breonna Taylor's residence. A convenient omission which the LMPD apparently felt might hurt its request for that warrant. For which, the detective involved was suspended.

Unlike Walker, who was questioned right away under intense pressure, the sergeant leading the raid, who also fired on Breonna, was given two weeks to get his story together and to coordinate with the other officers before being interviewed. In the interview, the investigator from the LMPD's "Public Integrity" unit could be clearly heard, on tape, coaching the officers involved on what was on their minds at the time and on what to say, correcting for any misspeaking, based on this writer's own hearing of the conversation between the investigator and the sergeant. This is how news reports [The Griot] generously put it:

"The recorded interviews reportedly show Vance [the investigator] was sympathetic to the officers, and 'led' the witness during the interrogation. At times he [Vance] appeared to be helping Mattingly [the sergeant who led the raid and who also fired on Breonna] with his responses."

The shooting murder of EMT Breonna Taylor in her own home took place on March 13th. Kentucky DA Daniel Cameron took the case in late May after the local County prosecutor decided to recuse himself on the grounds that he was prosecuting Breonna's boyfriend for 1) attempted murder of a police officer and 2) 1st degree assault. Walker was charged on March 13. Those Charges were mysteriously dropped over two months later towards the end of May.

The shooting of BT was well on its way to being buried, until the furor in response to the George Floyd murder unearthed Breonna's murder, along with the "black while jogging" murder of Ahmaud Arbery in GA, which had also taken place in March and had also been kept quiet.

This has implications for the "investigation" into the BT incident as it places local and state officials, including DA Cameron, in the awkward position of having to explain why they allowed the incident to be buried for weeks and months. Further, it not only forces them to pursue the position that "there was nothing there" since they had gone along with that narrative for weeks and months, but it also helps set up officers legal defense on any later allegations against them. In their own defense, they can simply argue that the original investigators had seen no grounds for prosecution since they, in fact, had not.

Over six months after Breonna's murder at the hands of the LMPD, Kentucky DA Daniel Cameron brought the flimsiest of charges against one of the officers for reckless endangerment of the neighbors, who incidentally were white. That officer is guaranteed to either beat the charge or be given a slap on the wrist.

Meanwhile County prosecutors still reserve the option of restoring charges against Breonna Taylor's boyfriend, Kenneth Walker, who refused to accept "deals" they offered him or to help besmirch Breonna's memory as the LMPD insisted of him. Kentucky DA Daniel Cameron (who is black, interned for senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell) found no other wrongdoing, not of the detective who drew up the warrant, the authorization of the warrant, of the other responding officers, of the investigator(s) that coached the officers being investigated, and Cameron conveniently allowed the original warrant that was drawn up to mysteriously disappear. So, the writing was and is "on the wall" regarding the outcome of the grand jury he convened and on what his prosecution of that lone officer will look like and result in. But Sir Charles (Barkley) trusts and proudly takes his place alongside this man!?!

As Breonna laid bullet-ridden in her apartment's hallway, the LMPD officers (they had placed their own officer, shot in his tie, into a police cruiser and taken him to the hospital) failed to render her any aide. She was deliberately left to bleed out. When her family showed up at the apartment making enquiries, the LMPD officers sent them off to the hospital, misdirecting them, while she laid in the hallway for hours. Afterall, when the right to break down people's doors is issued with such ease, what does that say about the level of care or mistreatment to be meted out to them and to which police are to be held accountable?

The murder of Breonna Taylor is an indictment of the systemic racism and anti-working-class savagery that pervades policing and "law and order" in the US. This is seen in the cold-blooded ease with which these "form" search warrants were drawn up, approved and executed. Drawn up by police, approved by judges, investigated by police, prosecuted by the state's attorneys and courts, all designed to mostly result in stiff terms of imprisonment in the penal system, if not in a cold dark grave. For, these are black people and poor or working-class neighborhoods where abuse, mistreatment and even murder are routine to "law and order".

At the end of the day this is Trump's "law and order" in America.

Roger Toussaint is a former president of Transport Workers Union Local 100. He led the last New York City Transit strike beginning on December 20, 2005.

Mr. "Law & Order"!

By Roger Toussaint

*Robs his own family members!
Discriminates against black applicants for housing!
Boasts of grabbing females' private parts!
Defrauds and steals from struggling students!
Is a serial tax cheat and fraudster!
Pays off prostitutes for their silence!
Robs contractors after they do his work!
Calls for the hanging of black and brown youth,
even after their innocence is proven!
Snatches hundreds of babies away from their mothers
and makes them permanent orphans!
Locks children in cages!
Supports KKK style white vigilantes!
Supports the beating and shooting execution of peaceful protesters!
Orders the execution of foreign government officials!
Pardons his convicted felon friends,
even if they have threatened the judges' lives or
are found guilty of treasonous crimes!
Conspires to, and actually denies millions of Americans
their right to vote!
Is a serial liar and bankruptcy artiste!
Allowed Americans in their tens of thousands,
not to avoid panic,
but because he didn't give one damn
and preferred his own version of the "success"
he had turned the US in to!*

Former Vice President Joe Biden and Senator Kamala Harris.

Photo The Hill



President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence.

Photo NBC News



Which Candidate Caribbean-Americans Voting For?

Trump or Biden

EVERYBODY'S MAGAZINE OPINION POLL

Which presidential ticket Caribbean-Americans are likely to vote for? Beginning in 1980, every four years, this magazine has asked its readers across the USA that burning question. And every four years, the answer is the same. More than ninety per cent of Caribbean-Americans vote the Democratic ticket.

However, their vote has not impacted all presidential elections because more Republicans lived in the White House between 1977 and now than Democrats. Beginning in 1977 Democrats occupied the White House three times, a total of 20 years and Republicans four times for 24 years. Therefore, in spite unanimous support by Caribbean-Americans for the Democratic Party, more Republican presidents dwelled in the White House.

(Page 18 to know which president did more for the Caribbean.)

OCCUPANTS IN THE WHITE HOUSE 1977-2020

Democrats

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------|---------|
| President Jimmy Carter | 1977-1981 | 4 years |
| President Bill Clinton | 1993-2001 | 8 years |
| President Barack Obama | 2009-2017 | 8 years |

Republicans

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|---------|
| President Ronald Reagan | 1981-1989 | 8 years |
| President George H.W. Bush | 1989-1993 | 4 years |
| President George W. Bush | 2001-2009 | 8 years |
| President Donald Trump | 2017- | 4 years |

THE CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN VOTE IS CRUCIAL IN SWING STATES

Based on EVERYBODY'S Magazine subscriber list, we believe thousands of Caribbean-Americans reside in the swing states of Florida and Pennsylvania. A substantial number of Caribbean-Americans and their offspring also live in two other swing states, Ohio and Michigan, and in Georgia, now a battleground state. Since one of the presidential tickets may carry those states by a few hundred votes, every vote will be crucial. Caribbean-American voters can be the tipping point in FL, PA, GA, OH and MI.

Moreover, the excitement around Kamala Harris being on the Democratic ticket provides a unique opportunity for Caribbean American voters to play a significant role in the election since they represent a block of voters in five battle ground states, Florida, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan and Georgia. Remember, it is not who wins the popular vote but it is about the candidate who carries each state and wins the electoral college

that matters. It is the states that determine the outcome of presidential elections. In the 2016 election, former First Lady Senator Hillary Clinton got almost 3,000,000 votes more than Donald Trump but lost; Vice President Al Gore got more votes than George W. Bush in 2000 and he lost thanks to Florida, a swing state, and the U.S. Supreme Court. They lost in some swing states by a narrow margin.

PROTOCOLS USED FOR EBM OPINION POLL

DEFINITION OF CARIBBEAN-AMERICANS

"Caribbean-Americans" in EVERYBODY'S Magazine context refers primarily to immigrants mainly from the Anglophone Caribbean and their offspring born or raised in the U.S.

WHY POLL REFLECTS CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN VOTERS

EVERYBODY'S Magazine is the only Caribbean oriented publication that has subscribers in most states – from Louisiana in the deep south to Massachusetts in the north, New Jersey in the east to California and Oregon in the west and in states in mid America such as Arizona, Michigan, Ohio and Missouri.

EVERYBODY'S MAGAZINE READERS

Immigrants mainly from the Anglophone Caribbean and their American born and raised children 80%
Other readers 20%
Readers - American born or raised in U.S. 65%
Readers - Immigrants 35%

HOW THE POLL WAS CONDUCTED

During the week of the Republican National Convention, August 24-27, a questionnaire was mailed to 550 subscribers residing in the 41 states where EVERYBODY'S has subscribers.

How were the 550 subscribers selected? By states and zip codes. In every zip code and state where EBM has readers, a questionnaire was sent to one or more subscribers in that zip code and state.

RESPONSE

| | |
|--|-----|
| QUESTIONNAIRE MAILED | 550 |
| RESPONSES RECEIVED BY 9/20/20 | 401 |
| RESPONSES RECEIVED AFTER 9/20/20 – not counted | |
| REGISTERED VOTERS | 385 |
| NON-VOTERS – NOT U.S. CITIZENS | 16 |

THE QUESTIONS

1. Are you a U.S. Citizen? YES ☐ NO ☐
2. Are you registered to vote? YES ☐ NO ☐
3. If you are voting, name the presidential ticket you plan to vote for:
*Republican ticket of President Donald Trump and VP Mike Pence ☐
*Democratic ticket of former VP Joe Biden and Senator Kamala Harris ☐
*Other presidential tickets ☐
4. I am voting for the ticket I marked in question 3 for the following reason or reasons. (You may choose one or more reasons)
1 ☐ THE ECONOMY (2) ☐ IMMIGRATION (3) ☐ COVID-19 (4) ☐ CIVIL RIGHTS/VOTING RIGHTS
5. Regardless to which party wins the 2020 presidential election, do you believe there will be racial violence and civil unrest during the next 4 years in the USA? ☐ YES ☐ NO
6. I am not a U.S. citizen; therefore, I cannot vote but I'm urging my family and friends to vote: ☐ THE REPUBLICAN TICKET ☐ THE DEMOCRATIC TICKET ☐ OTHER TICKET
I vote in State

RESULT OF 2020 EBM POLL OF CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN VOTE

PLAN TO VOTE FOR THE BIDEN/HARRIS TICKET

94%

PLAN TO VOTE FOR THE TRUMP/PENCE TICKET

6%

Those who support Biden/Harris policies for the economy, immigration, covid-19 and civil rights: 100%

Those who support Trump/Pence policies for the economy, immigration, Covid-19 and civil rights: 93%

Regardless to which party wins the 2020 presidential election, do you believe there will be racial violence and civil unrest during the next 4 years in the USA?

61% believe it will occur; 39% said no.

CONCLUSIONS

More Caribbean-Americans are likely to vote for Trump in November (6%) than they did in 2016 when only 2.5% may have voted for him.

94% of Caribbean-Americans are likely to vote for the Biden/Harris ticket. It is less than approximately 97% who voted for Senator Hilary Clinton in 2016.

In the presidential election of 1994, the Democrats candidate, Senator John Kerry, got 91% of the Caribbean-American vote and Republican George W. Bush garnered a mere 8.8%.

In the historic election held on November 4, 2008 which gave the nation its first mixed race president, 91.9% Caribbean-Americans voters may have cast their ballots for Senator Barack Obama, 6.1% voted for Senator John McCain and 2% for third party candidates. But in 2012 almost 98% of Caribbean-Americans voted for the reelection of President Obama.

The only Republican candidate to get approximately 16% of the Caribbean-American vote was Ronald Reagan for his second term. For his first term, few Caribbean-Americans voted for him. There were several reasons why 16% of Caribbean-Americans voted for Reagan's reelection. (1) his Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), (2) his invasion/rescue mission of Grenada in 1983 and (3) his visit to Jamaica and Barbados in 1982.

NO SUCH THING AS CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN VOTE

From a U.S. Department of Census perspective – the votes of people of African ancestry are listed as the Black vote or African-American vote. Therefore, the Caribbean-American vote is part of the overall black or African-American vote. Polls conducted by all polling companies for the November 3, 2020 election project President Trump will do slightly better in the black community than he did in 2016. And, Everybody's Magazine opinion poll also indicate Trump will do slightly better in the Caribbean-American community.

WHY CARIBBEAN VOTERS LOYAL TO THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY?

The question can be answered this way: What was once a deadly desert in now a beautiful rainforest and what was once a lovely rainforest is now a dangerous desert.

The Republican Party of President Abraham Lincoln favored freeing the slaves and Lincoln did abolish slavery in the U.S. Most historians describe Lincoln as pro-black. That was a reason why on the eve of his inauguration in 2009, Democrat Barack Obama visited the Lincoln Memorial where he gave a touching speech and he took the oath of office with his hands on the Lincoln Bible. Most 19th century blacks were Republicans.

In Lincoln's time, it was the Democrats who opposed slavery. After the emancipation of the slaves and the Civil War, the Democratic Party became the party of white supremacy – the party that fostered the Ku Klux Klan, lynching, segregation and other wickedness of racism.

The abolitionist and former slave, Frederick Douglass, a friend and advisor of President Lincoln once said, "The Republican Party is the ship and all else is the sea around us." Douglass, of course was a Republican but if he was voting in 2020, there's a great possibility he would not vote for Republican Donald Trump.

So, what went wrong for the Republicans! Why did most blacks abandon them?

In the early 20th century, by the 1920s, the Republican Party ceased supporting black causes but the Democratic Party started to support blacks. The Republican Party had no interest in promoting civil rights but northern Democrats such as Franklin Roosevelt saw an opportunity to win over black voters. Meanwhile, blacks in the south were murdered by white supremacists with the moral support of Republicans when they tried to vote. As a result, blacks in the south and north switched parties. They became Democrats. The icing on the cake for almost every black to join the Democratic Party was sweetened by Presidents John Kennedy and Lyndon Baynes Johnson who created legislation to end segregation and discrimination.

So, the Republican Party that was once the savior of blacks is now perceived as antiblack and the Democratic Party once the promoter of Jim Crow is now the darling of blacks in America including Caribbean-Americans.

Who did more for the Caribbean? Democrats or Republicans

By Herman Hall

DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRESIDENTS



PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER



PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON



PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

Don't tell a Caribbean-American who is a staunch Democrat that recent Republican presidents have done more for the Caribbean than Democratic administrations. He or she may stone you to death. Few consumers realize that the abundance of Caribbean products such as coconut, sugarcane, sorrel, soursop and rum in the American market was made possible by Republican administrations.

An EVERYBODY'S journalist who once attended a reception for small business leaders in Senegal and two neighboring states hosted by the U.S. Embassy was astonished when the consensus amongst several entrepreneurs was that Democratic administrations come to Africa and make big promises but Republican administrations provide the goods. In the 1980s the consensus amongst some Caribbean leaders was similar.

Be your own judge! Here is the involvement of U.S. presidents in the Anglophone Caribbean between 1977 and now, from President Jimmy Carter to President Donald Trump.

PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER: The one term president had no impact on the Caribbean. However, the overthrow of the Gairy Government in Grenada on March 13, 1979 was under Carter's watch. He appointed his UN Ambassador Andrew Young to focus on the crisis in Grenada. Through Andrew Young's influence, the U.S. recognized the Bishop regime and the Carter Administration forced Gairy, held up in a hotel in NY, to accept his downfall. The Carter Administration did arrange for Gairy to remain in exile in the U.S.

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON: If no American president ever bamboozled 15 Caribbean leaders, Clinton did. Before Barack Obama presidency many Caribbean-American Democrats considered Clinton "the first black president." It was President Clinton who placed the last knife into the heart of the banana industry in the Windward islands and Jamaica. Bananas from the region traditionally got preferential treatment in Europe. South American nations brought the issue to the World Trade Organization (WTO). The US and Clinton had veto power so Caricom invited Clinton to Barbados to their summit thinking they will sway him. The Caribbean leaders and Clinton signed various accords such as controlling drug trafficking but Clinton never revealed his position on the banana issue. A few months later, Clinton sided with the Latin American countries and Windward Islands bananas met its demise. An embarrassed and frustrated Prime Minister P.J. Patterson of Jamaica asked, "What has prompted the United States administration to take so hostile a position to countries as small as we are and as vulnerable as we are?" But off the record, a Caribbean prime minister told EVERYBODY'S, "Clinton gave us a good kick in our ass, we deserve it."

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA 2009-2017. Like other Democrats, Obama did not have an illuminating Caribbean policy. His overnight visit to Trinidad & Tobago to attend "The Summit of the Americas," his visit to Jamaica and the Bob Marley Museum and his visit to Cuba were well intended but not substantial.



PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN



PRESIDENT GEORGE HW BUSH



PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH



PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

REPUBLICAN PARTY PRESIDENTS

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN: When Reagan defeated Carter, a plan for the Caribbean was the third item on his agenda he wanted Congress to legislate during his first term. Reagan created a respectable economic plan for the region, the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI). Although the CBI was seen by many as a scheme to prevent the expansion of Communism and to isolate revolutionary Grenada, Nicaragua and Cuba, the CBI is responsible for Caribbean products now easily available in the U.S.

Getting his own Republican controlled Congress to pass his CBI bill was not easy. Southern Democrats and Republicans opposed the bill especially the section relating to the textile industry. The Seaga led Jamaican government provided heavy lobbying in Washington; 100 copies of an EVERYBODY'S Magazine edition supporting the need for the CBI was purchased and given to each member of the senate. Reagan bypassed the Republicans. He forged an alliance with Democrats and depended on Congressman Mervyn Dymally, a born Trinidadian and Congressman Charles Rangel, to get the CBI enacted. A Republican president created CBI but it was Congressional Democrats who navigated the bill for him.

Reagan visit to Jamaican and Barbados during Easter week of 1982 and his invasion/rescue mission of Grenada won popular support among many Caribbean-Americans. His visit to Grenada after its invasion was welcomed by most Grenadians and Caribbean people in the region and overseas.

PRESIDENT GEORGE HW BUSH: His Caribbean policy was simply an extension of the Reagan policy. As Ronald Reagan vice president, he visited Grenada soon after the invasion of the spice island.

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH: Like his father, he had no visible Caribbean policy. He pacified a few Caribbean-Americans by decreeing June as Caribbean Heritage Month. Basically, Caribbean Heritage Month is an opportunity for the Caribbean-American status quo to honor themselves with dinners, parties, rum drinking and giving each other plaques and accolades.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: Trump has no Caribbean policy. Like Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama, he has not initiated an in-depth trade and commerce plan for the region as Reagan did. However, Trump is attempting to use Caricom nations to attack Venezuela. Guyana has allowed him to place U.S. troops on its border with Venezuela for an invasion of Venezuela which can happen before November 3rd. Privately, there is a bit of humor by some Caribbean leaders about Trump. He has not even respected Caribbean leaders who are informers for U.S. intelligence agencies and are on their secret payroll. Trump is not afraid to deport their undocumented nationals whether they have covid-19. And, Caribbean leaders dreading the wrath of Trump, from Prime Minister Andrew Holness in Jamaica to Prime Minister Keith Mitchell in Grenada, have no choice but to accept them when Trump sends them on military and commercial planes.

Et Tu BARBADOS

Little England and the Crown



By Carlyle Gerard Leach



So farewell

Somebody is gonna miss you

Farewell

Somebody is gonna wish that you were here

Rihanna, Farewell

*We could have been so good together,
We could have lived this dance forever
But now, who's gonna dance with me?*

Please stay

George Michael, Careless Whisper



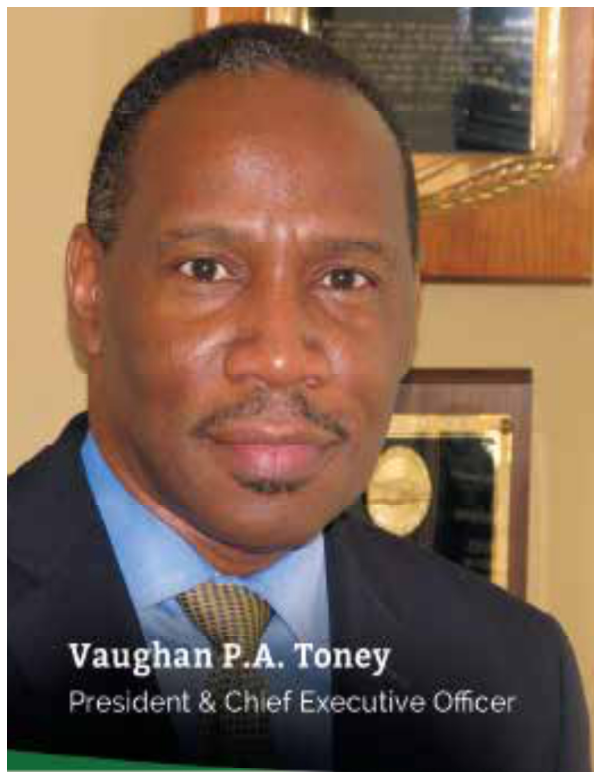
Approximately one minute after Barbados became a nation, a jubilant Errol Barrow who led Barbados into independence and became its first prime minister salutes the nation as Sir John Montague Stow, the last British governor of the former colony, joins in congratulating the people of Barbados.

Photo: EVERYBODY'S/Herman Hall Collection from then Daily News

"Little England" plans to remove Queen Elizabeth II as head of state by 2021. Thus, Barbados, also known as "Little England", and independent since 1966, would transform its current status as a Commonwealth Realm to a Republic. Barbadian Prime Minister Mia Mottley stated on ABC News, "We don't receive any aid or funding that is out of the ordinary [from the United Kingdom], so there's no reason for us to not go to the point where a Barbadian can be head of state of our own country."

During her 2020 Thone Speech at the opening of the new session of Parliament, Barbados Governor-General Dame Sandra Mason called Barbados the "best governed Black society in the world." She stated, "The time has come to fully leave our colonial past behind. Barbadians want a Barbadian head of state. This is the ultimate statement of confidence of who we are and what we are capable of achieving."

Do these pronouncements send mini shock waves through the 1,200-year-old foundation of England? Consider the following: the 2018 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Barbados was US \$5.15 billion, and the 2019 GDP in the United Kingdom was US \$2.7 trillion. But it's Little England: Barbados has a bond with the UK dating back virtually uninterrupted to 1627; Barbados was one of the oldest English colonies in the Caribbean; the Parliament of Barbados has been operating for longer than all other members of the Common-



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The two major newspapers in Barbados on Independence Day, November 30, 1966 were the Daily News and Advocate.



The Queen in Bridgetown: On February 14-15, 1966, a few months before Independence, Queen Elizabeth II and her Husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, visited Barbados. The visit was part of the Royal tour of most Anglo-phone states including Trinidad & Tobago, Grenada and Antigua/Barbuda.

wealth, except two countries; and she was a prized colony for the “mother country.” Isn’t there some effect on the British Empire to lose a blessed and highly favored treasure?

The reaction of the British Prime Minister’s office was, “It’s a decision for Barbados and we will continue to have an enduring partnership.” The royal website describes the current role of the Queen. “As the ‘constitutional monarch’ of Barbados, The Queen is not involved in the day-to-day business of Barbados’s Government. However, she is in regular contact with the Governor-General – her representative there – who keeps her updated with any significant news or developments. The Governor-General is appointed on the advice of Barbadian ministers.” When Barbados officially shifts to a republic, the Queen’s role will evolve from strictly ceremonial to non-existent in Barbadian affairs. Though the cultural connection to the UK will likely remain and endure politically and economically, the Crown suffers a psychic loss. And while it certainly will not be the death of the UK by sixteen Commonwealth Realm cuts, should all become republics, there most certainly is a shift—perhaps to an increasing irrelevance of the Crown.

Meanwhile, are Barbadians thinking *après nous* [after us], a deluge of republics occurs. Will Barbados spark an explosion of republicanism in the Caribbean and then globally? Perhaps. But the republic road for Bimshire is more direct. According to the Barbados Constitution, two-thirds of all the members of the House must vote to approve the constitutional revision. Since Prime Minister Mottley’s party has 29 of the thirty seats and electorate approval is not required, she will obtain the green light to become a republic. However, in addition to the two-thirds legislative vote, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, and Jamaica must obtain approval from their electorates. This has derailed attempts toward republicanism in the past.

This year is not the first time Barbados contemplated republicanism. In 1966 the first Prime Minister of Barbados, Errol Barrow, declared that Barbados would not “be found loitering on the colonial premises after closing time.” Subsequently, leaders appointed two commissions in the 1970s and 1990s, and a law passed in 2005 to hold a referendum relative to initiating the process for forming a republic, but the efforts stalled.



The largest slave rebellion was led by the slave Bussa in 1816. Bussa is a national hero. His statue was created by Karl Brodthagen.



Two women presently reign over Barbados, Queen Elizabeth II represented by Governor General Sandra Mason. Another woman heads the government, Prime Minister Mia Mottley.

What is one of the issues that places Barbados on the cusp of completing the process of becoming a republic? Protest. For instance, amid the international Black Power movement forty-five years ago, three Caribbean countries successfully separated from the Queen to form republics: Guyana in 1970; Trinidad and Tobago in 1976; and Dominica in 1978. Accompanying the increasing Black consciousness was an analysis of the intersections of colonialism, imperialism, white supremacy wielded by the Crown historically and in the then present. The phrases “self-determination,” “nation-building,” and “Power to the people” were used to galvanize the individual electorates to struggle for full sovereignty.

Today, the phases are “Black Lives Matter,” “Say her name—Breonna Taylor,” “George Floyd,” and “Defund the Police.” There is a heightened awareness among diverse populations globally of the growing menace of white supremacy, police brutality, nativism, and the abuse of the environment.

Concomitantly, there is an intense yearning to reassess the legacy of Britain, especially in light of the Windrush scandal which caused the detaining and deportation of Caribbean born men and women who lived, worked, and raised families in the United Kingdom for decades. The announcement to remove the Queen as head of state arises out of this environment and is spurred on by the words of Errol Barrow and academics to complete the circle of full independence.

Part of this closure is the overt and subtle homage paid to The Bussa Rebellion in 1816—the most massive slave

revolt in the history of Barbados. The rebellion took its name from the African born slave, Bussa, who led the uprising <https://www.blackpast.org/global-african-history/bussa-rebellion-1816/>.

Barbados may be Little England, but her history is replete with similar warriors for freedom and full self-determination for Barbadians and beyond.

Challenges await Bim as it enters this planned last year as a Commonwealth Realm: Maintain and improve the economic, political, and social stability; Attract more significant foreign investment; Increase local and international confidence in good governance. Will the expectations of the electorate be met? What surprises await? Who will be the first President? It is an exciting time for the leaders and citizens of Barbados. Bajans currently on the island and those living away with Bajan blood are confident that Barbados will thrive as it serves its people efficiently and lovingly—less like a monarch and more like a close family member.

Long live The Republic of Barbados!

Carlyle Gerard Leach created the concept for and was the founding principal of a New York City public high school. In addition, he was director of the Junior Scholars Program, an academic enrichment and mentoring program at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture (NY). Carlyle also started two companies—one which presently assists in raising capital for alternative investments and for business start-ups, acquisitions, and growth. He lives in Brooklyn with his wife and two sons.

Haill King Swallow

A Polished Man of Kaiso and Art

*By Dr. Hollis Liverpool
(Chalkdust)*

My last article on "Respect for PhDs" caused many eyebrows to be raised: some people wanted to find out if persons without PhDs should not be respected; others asked if we shouldn't show respect for the Opposition members in Parliament as well. My response to all such vain questions is that at age eleven at Primary school with Mr. Lionel P. Mitchell in Tobago, we had to write in our Government copy books for penmanship the following lines: "Have respect for everyman because he is a man." I rest my case.

Well, the need to show respect for every man and woman was, however, again awakened in me when Antiguan Sir Rupert Philo (Swallow), a man in every sense of



Swallow proudly performs at the State Dinner (Banquet), November 1, 2006, commemorating the 25th anniversary of Antigua/Barbuda independence (1981-2006). In attendance representing his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, was Prince Edward.

Photo courtesy Patricia L. Tully

Swallow was held in high esteem by Trinidadians, especially after he sang "Trinidad, the Caribbean Godfather." In addition, one of Gypsy's absolute gems in calypso is the one entitled "Respect the Calypsonian."

the word, went to heaven last Friday, for I recalled him telling me in the mid-1980s that it was a joy for him to sing to the Trinidad audience, since singing in Trinidad meant that he was mixing with the top calypsonians, and, "Charkee bwoy, the Trini people does show me respect."

In terms of respect, he explained, that when his name was announced by Tommy Joseph at Spektakula Forum, the crowd roared with delight; when he went to book his room at Chaguaramus Flats where he normally stayed annually, the authorities there knowing that he came to Trinidad every year, already booked it for him without any down payment made; when he walked the streets of Port of Spain, all hailed his name aloud; when he checked in to BWIA without having the correct ticket and booking, his seat on the aircraft was already assured; and when he sought to go to a concert of any kind in Trinidad and Tobago, no one dared to ask him for an entrance fee. The voice at the concert door was always: "Swallow, you are free to enter."

In addition, Sunshine Awards gave him the prize for the "Best Engineered Recording" and "Best Calypso Arrangement" in 1989 (Fire in the Back Seat), and had placed him in the "Sunshine Awards Hall of Fame" in year 2008. For all the afore-mentioned reasons that sparked of respect, Swallow loved to sing in Trinidad and Tobago and did so up to a few years ago when he appeared nightly at the Calypso Revue Tent with top artists such as Sugar Aloes, Pink Panther, Cro Cro and Sprangalang, to name a few.

I recall one year when Swallow was here, while we were travelling to Skinner Park, he fell ill. When I saw blood coming from his nose, I turned my car and headed straight for the hospital. The nurses at the Emergency ward began to interview him, as it were, for on hearing his accent, they were asking him if he was a Trinidadian, since the medical service was for Trinis. I immediately jumped in: "Folks, are you all mad? That is Swallow," I

bellowed! Hearing the magic name Swallow, they immediately changed their attitude and wheeled him inside where he obtained, in the hour that followed, the best that a Trini hospital could offer. Truly, Swallow was held in high esteem by Trinidadians, especially after he sang "Trinidad, the Caribbean Godfather." In addition, one of Gypsy's absolute gems in calypso is the one entitled "Respect the Calypsonian."

In terms of respect, however, the history of calypso shows that there have been multiple occasions, too numerous to mention, when calypsonians in Trinidad were shown total disrespect. For example, in 1955 one sunny Friday evening, five calypsonians were entertaining tourists on Wrightson Road, then a haven for tourists, when suddenly, the police darted into the calypso crowd and arrested three of them. The litigants spent two days in prison and were charged five dollars for their crime on the following Monday. Years later, one of them told me that he could not travel to New York because of that "criminal" stamp placed on his passport and the fact that the bad mark from the Court stained his character for the rest of his life. Headteacher L. P. Mitchell used to make us write also: "When character is lost, all is lost."

Another example of the disrespect occurred in the 1960s when calypsonians used to entertain guests at tables in restaurants all over Port of Spain. A few restaurant owners felt that the singers were a nuisance. Indeed, a restaurant at the corner of Frederick and Park streets had at its entrance a large sign which read: "No calypsonians and dogs allowed." I can give you readers several more examples of disrespect shown to calypsonians but the above, I believe, should satisfy the point.

On the other hand, the government of Antigua displayed total respect for Swallow and continues up to this day to do so to all calypsonians. First, for his contribution to the art form of calypso, Swallow was named a

ow





Antigua/Barbuda three calypso icons and three of the Caribbean best – King Obstinate, Swallow and King Short Shirt.

Photo courtesy Patricia L. Tully

cultural ambassador for Antigua and given all rights and privileges to the esteemed post. Second, when I was Director of Culture and travelled to Antigua, I was given an "Official" passport. Swallow would ask me where was my "Red" passport, since he thought that I ought to have one. I may be wrong, but I have never known any calypsonian in Trinidad and Tobago to have been given a red, diplomatic passport (in some countries they are black).

Besides Swallow, other artists namely Short Shirt in Antigua, Frankie McIntosh in St Vincent and Gabby in Barbados (2007) were named as cultural ambassadors for their countries and are holders of such passports which indicate to the Immigration officers of foreign countries that they, as holders, are diplomats and are acting on behalf of the countries that they represent. Thus, everything is usually done in their lands and overseas to make their travel smooth, comfortable and without any hiccups.

Third, in year 2011, Swallow was knighted by the Government of Antigua and the official title of "Sir" (the highest award in the state) bestowed on him. Fourth, on

being made a knight, he was granted a monthly salary by his state until his death. He called me on receipt of his monthly salary one night to find out if mine was bigger and to ascertain if the state of Antigua was robbing him. He could not believe that the ORTT award in Trinidad given to me carried no perks: salary, housing, medical insurance etc. His knighthood had all such perks to the extent that during his illness, the government of Antigua paid all his medical expenses in New York for more than a year. Fifth, many singers in Trinidad could not understand how Swallow was able to come here for carnival annually. Well, although the calypso promoters in Trinidad had to pay for his hotel and other expenses, the government of Antigua granted him free travel whenever he promoted the land and its culture overseas, so that Swallow, naturally, in singing calypso was seen by Antiguan as selling Antigua to the world. Accordingly, they paid all his airfares.

Sixth, when in the 1980s a band in New York refused to pay him for his performance at Madison Square Garden and was coming to Antigua to perform for carnival there, Swallow promptly told them that unless he

was fully paid, they couldn't come to Antigua. Of course, they laughed at him and landed at V.C. Bird airport. Swallow went to the Prime Minister, then Mr. V.C. Bird, and laid his complaint. History would record that Mr Bird ordered the Immigration to put them out of the state. The band begged him and offered to pay since they had contracts to fulfil in Antigua. Prime Minister V.C. Bird refused. "Leave the state for ridiculing and disrespecting Swallow." It is, in my opinion, true to state that no government in Trinidad and Tobago, colonial or post-colonial, has ever treated any local calypsonian in the esteemed manner, as was done by the Government of Antigua to Sir Rupert Philo (Swallow).

My heart is overjoyed, then, when our Caribbean universities see it fit not only to honour PhDs but to state that artists like King Sparrow, Lord Kitchener, Roy Cape, Pelham Goddard, Merle Albino DeCoteau, Winsford Devine, Eintou Springer, Derek Walcott, Earl Lovelace, Black Stalin, Bro. Superior, Mighty Shadow, David Rudder, Mighty Gabby and Red Plastic Bag in Barbados deserve to be named to the table of doctorates, because of their noble contributions to their nations in particular, and to humanity in general. Their lives explain the meaning of the title, man. Indeed, we can say with Shakespeare: Swallow's life "was gentle and the elements so well mixed in him, that nature could stand up and say to all the world: this was a man," polished, artful, refined, civilized.

Dr. Hollis Liverpool who resides in Trinidad & Tobago is a historian, author and lecturer. He earned his Ph.D. in history and ethnomusicology from the University of Michigan. He is also regarded as one of the greatest calypsonians of all times. He is known in the calypso business as "Chalkdust."

Roger Toussaint, "In Conversation With 'Wire' On King Swallow"!

Today we remember Sir Rupert 'The Mighty Swallow' Philo through "Wire's" spontaneous reflections which he extended and has agreed to share. We release these musings as they reflect an up-close-grassroots view of King Swallow who felt particularly at home among, and was warmly embraced by, that generation of Trinbagonians of the "earlies"--the latter part of the 1960s--who led the way carving a path, a cultural space, for calypso and then soca in New York.

"Wire"--a talented cultural worker in his own right-- comes out of, and belongs to, that generation of legendary cultural warriors, our unsung heroes, who contributed and helped shape the West Indian cultural personality in Brooklyn and NY generally. Swallow was most at home right there, right there, in that emerging, underground cultural space.

Ever fresh the King of Brooklyn Labor Day, who had an uncanny ability to capture the Caribbean spirit and heartbeat in a song, went on to connect solidly with generations of newer arrivants who followed in the

1970s, 80s, 90s and the first two decades of the 21st century. A slice of Swallow's decades of amazing work is here sampled in "Wire's", "Remembering Our 'Soca Warrior'"!

Remembering "Soca Warrior" THE MIGHTY SWALLOW Sir Rupert Philo

By John "Wire" Evelyn

Swallow is the all-time King of Labor Day! There will never be another artiste to capture the North American carnival seasons as he did with hit, after hit, after hit. There was always a hype among DJs to get a copy of his special party remix 12inches produced by Rawlston Charles from Charlie's Records at 1271-1273 Fulton St, Brooklyn, New York.

Among Dr. Philo's many positive traits, which included his humility and kindness, the most important one was his total loyalty. He never forgot where he came from; Charlie's Calypso City, where he first recorded when he came to the USA in the 1970s. And he never left the label.

Whenever he was in Brooklyn, Swallow was always a staple at the store and there was never a time when he didn't have time, even a few moments, to chat with anyone. Even perfect strangers.

Charlie's Calypso City is not just a Record Store/World Class Recording Studio, but also a place where many of the calypso and soca artistes, from all over the Caribbean, limed when they were in Brooklyn. As a matter of fact, up to the last two years, if you were passing on Fulton St., and looked above the store next to the studio, and saw the lights on, you can bet Swallow is in town. Charlie gave the King of Labor Day the keys to an apartment above the record store which was Swallow's year-round. No questions asked.

People who walked into the store were usually surprised to know that the quiet man sitting there, relaxed and chatting with Charlie and friends, was the Mighty Swallow. The greeting he would give strangers and their responses is something so amazing that it cannot be explained.

King Swallow was a true superstar who knew that giving a DJ an ID (dub plate) of his songs would only enhance the song as it was free promotion. Therefore, he never charged a dime! He was unlike some of the one-or-two-hit wonder soca artistes nowadays who--figure they have arrived--on top of charging 'big money' for a dub plate, would sometimes refuse DJs an ID.

Sir Rupert remained, 'true to form', committed, humble, and loyal to Charlie's Records. He appreciated the struggle it took to get soca music played in the



Swallow entertains nationals at the famous Antigua Recreation Ground.

Photo courtesy Patricia L. Tully

USA. And, unlike many soca artistes who left Charlie's label, for so-called greener pastures which later turned out to be barren deserts--as none of those promoters are still around today--King Swallow remained loyal to Charlie's Records, to the end.

As a matter of fact, this COVID-19 year is the first time in over 40 years, there was no block party Labor Day Saturday, in front of Charlie's Record Store. For years it has been considered as the best party in Brooklyn. Its 12-hours of free food, entertainment, and drink, was heavily attended and featured performances from The Mighty Sparrow, The Mighty Swallow, Becket, Super Blue and many other stars of the Caribbean.

Even though Swallow, our Soca Warrior, had a multitude of hits, my personal favorite is "Callaloo". Whereas most songs are basically made up of verses and choruses

with a similarity to each, this double entendre is one that was structured with a multitude of musical twists in the chorus and verses. To be sure, Sir Rupert and I had some ongoing personal jokes which I cannot share. I am just blessed to have known him and have him call me, "FRIEND".

Reaching Charlie for a comment on the passing of his friend of 45-plus years, the enduring calypso producer revealed that he was focusing on how to properly memorialize and commemorate Dr. Philo for the New Yorkers who treasure his sterling contributions to Caribbean culture. But he said a salute to Swallow will be held after covid-19 becomes controllable.

John Evelyn aka Wire is a member of the once renowned Disc Jockey and promotional, "The Rock & Roll Outlaws."

Sprangalang

A Nation Builder in the Arts

By Herman Hall



Sprangalang at the Soca Pavilion in 1994, Brooklyn.

Photo: G.B.T.V. Culture Share

I learnt the hard way that Sprangalang, Dennis Hall, (Sep. 1949-Oct. 2020), was a serious comedian and demanded respect for other comedians. It was at a comedy show I produced and promoted one Friday night in Brooklyn featuring male and female comedians from several islands – Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago.

While a comedian was on stage, I was backstage quietly chatting with two other co-

medians about the next leg of the tour, Boston, but Sprangalang was nearby straining to listen to the comedian on stage. Well, Sprangs gave us a lecture and tongue lashing about giving comedians and artists respect especially when they were performing. “You of all persons, you should set an example,” he admonished the late Vincentian comedian Saluche.

Looking at me straight in the eye as I tried to apologize, he muttered, “I don’t care if you are the promoter, an artist when on stage must

“Sprangs always guided me, he advised me and he was a source of comfort when I encountered production problems,” says Martin. “When gate receipts were small, he would tell me: ‘Pay the other fellows first and leave me for last.’ The Caribbean has lost a great unsung personality.”

be listened to. How do you think we feel when we hear people talking backstage? It’s a distraction.” It was a superb lesson Sprangalang taught me. From then on, I never stayed backstage at shows I produced except to go there at intermission for time adjustment.

Sprangalang appeared in many shows in New York organized by other promoters but he was a fixture in Washington, DC where he appeared 25 consecutive years on radio personality Von Martin annual comedy show held at Cramton Auditorium, Howard University. “Sprangs always guided me, he advised me and he was a source of comfort when I encountered production problems,” says Martin. “When gate receipts were small, he would tell me: ‘Pay the other fellows first and leave me for last.’ The Caribbean has lost a great unsung personality.”

Sprangalang was not only a comedian, he was an actor who performed in several plays including “A Winter Tale,” and “Lord Have Mercy!” I did not know of his theatrical talents and love of history when I told him a few years ago, I wrote a play about how Caribbean colonies achieved independence and there’s a character in the script I want him to play. He was most anxious to read the script and for years Sprangs whenever we crossed paths would remark, “Boy, when are you going to do the play. I’m ready. Ah, tell you, you wrote something nice people would love but you eh listening.”

“Dennis Hall, Sprangalang, was a great man. Some people like they just recognize this. I thank God I had the privilege to recognize the man way back,” remarked calypsonian Pink Panther to the Trinidad Express newspaper.

Dennis Hall, Sprangalang, represented a generation of artists across the Caribbean who helped us define ourselves as a people in the post-colonial era and laid the foundation for tomorrow’s cultural icons.



L to R: Sprangalang, as a comedian and MC, never appeared on stage without a towel, Von Martin and the Late Lord Kitchener at Cramton Auditorium, Howard University, Washington, DC.

*It was a superb lesson
Sprangalang taught me. From
then on, I never stayed backstage*



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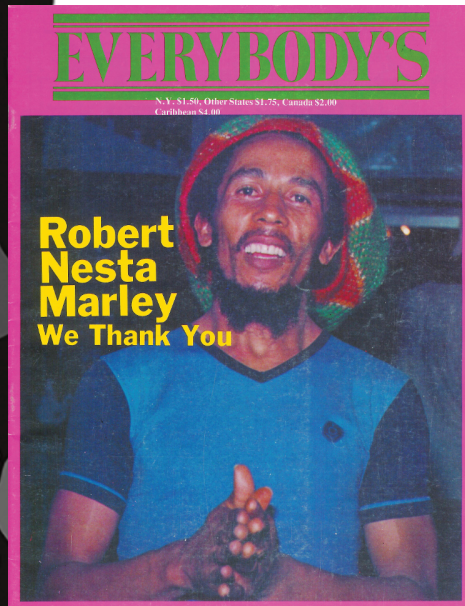
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