

# EVERYBODY'S *Caribbean*

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## PERSON of the YEAR

### HURRICANE IRMA AND HURRICANE MARIA



Presented By  
**ALLAN'S BAKERY**



May 2018  
New York  
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## FRENEMY

# 2018 GLOBAL CARIBBEAN CALENDAR





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## PERSON OF THE YEAR



# HURRICANE IRMA AND HURRICANE MARIA

In many ways 2017 was a year of earth shattering events and outstanding personalities making it a toss up to isolate a personality or event as having the most significant impact for the year. Nevertheless, two phenomena are EVERYBODY'S, the Caribbean-American magazine, Person of the Year. It is the first time since this magazine started its person of the year 39 years ago, in 1978, by celebrating joint winners Janelle "Penny" Commissiong of Trinidad & Tobago becoming the first black woman to win The Miss Universe Pageant (1977) and Calypso Rose, the first woman to win the highest title in calypso (1977), that a non-person is its person of the year. Our Person of the Year for 2017 is Hurricane Maria and Hurricane Irma.

History will register 2017 as the year of frequent and ferocious hurricanes. There were so many making it difficult to remember them all; Harvey, Emily, Lee, Gert, Franklin, Irma, Ophelia, Arlene, Cindy, Katia, Emily, Jose, Don, Bret and Maria.

Ironically, the year 2017 will also be remembered as the year when, in a storm of protest, women in the U.S. workplace, from the glitter inside Hollywood to the moral and ethical U.S. Congress, revealed a history of sexual harassment by men. Perhaps Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria anticipated the deluge of abuse of women was brewing so they took matters in their own hands by almost destroying everything in their path. These two female hurricanes may have been revengeful to men. But they did not hurt men only, women and children too.

Maria and Irma may well have affirmed Atilla the Hun's classic calypso recorded in New York City in 1935, "Woman Is Not The Weaker Sex" and Denise Plumber's 1988 calypso "Woman is Boss." Hurricane Maria and Hurricane Irma showed their male counterparts, Hurricanes Harvey, Lee, Jose and Bret, who is really the boss and the stronger sex.

Like humans, hurricanes have good sides and bad sides. Thanks to the hurricane of 1772, (hurricanes were not given names then) the U.S. got one of its Founding Fathers, Alexander Hamilton. More than two centuries later, Broadway produced one of its most successful plays ever, "Hamilton," based on the life of Alexander Hamilton. Born in Nevis and working in St. Croix, eighteen-year old Hamilton brilliantly described in the newspaper the hurricane destruction of St. Croix. So impressed were some merchants, they sent Hamilton to



*Hurricane Irma left her signature in USVI.*

study at Kings College (now Columbia University) in New York. Hamilton would become a co-author of the Federalist Papers, major drafter of the U.S. Constitution, a military general, first secretary of the treasury, founder of The New York Post and Bank of New York. His face graces the U.S. \$10-bill.

Hopefully, a young victim of Hurricane Irma or Hurricane Maria upon growing up may make the world a better place.

This holiday season, there is no home, no food, no shelter and no clothing for thousands in the Caribbean especially in Dominica. Some islands, like Puerto Rico, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands, were visited by two category 5 hurricanes, Irma and Maria. The great U.S., which still clings to the view of itself as the world's superpower, could not even adequately take care of its own such as Puerto Rico, St. Croix, St. John, St. Thomas and even Houston, TX, so one can only imagine the sufferings in Dominica and other islands.

The handwriting is on the wall in that Caribbean governments can no longer expect the U.S. to eagerly and generously help them in time of natural disasters. Evidently regional leaders have not got the message yet because during 2017, the worse hurricane season in recorded history, it was business as usual for Caribbean leaders; the prime ministers of hurricane devastated islands made the traditional pilgrimage to Washington, DC begging for hurricane relief.

In terms of distribution of essential supplies – food, shelter and clothing – the universal cry heard in times of disaster echoed in the Caribbean too: Politicians in power distributing essential aid to supporters and neglect-



*Saint Lucia House, Brooklyn, allowed donors to bring supplies there for Dominica.*

ing non-supporters. The accusation pelted at President George W. Bush administration in 2005 when Hurricane Katrina devastated Louisiana, Mayor Mike Bloomberg regime in New York City in 2012 when Hurricane Sandy created havoc and President Donald Trump alleged lackluster effort in assisting Puerto Rico and USVI in 2017 surfaced in Dominica and Barbuda where politicians remains accused of using hurricane disaster to consolidate power.

Some say Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit in Dominica and Opposition Leader Lennox Linton chose foreign soil to wash their dirty linen. At a public meeting in a church in Brooklyn only a few days after Maria destroyed Dominica many at the meeting accused Skerrit of sending supplies mainly to communities where his party is popular. The prime minister went out of his way to heap praises on President Trump as if to sweet talk President Trump. A TV crew of two white men were there to interview the prime minister after the townhall meeting; the prime minister's entourage accommodated the TV crew while slamming the door on the local Caribbean-New York media as if the media was begging for a favor and not there to publicize the plight of Dominica.

A few weeks later Opposition Leader Lennox Linton held a news conference at the United Nations Church



*Hurricane Maria storms Dominica.*

in New York City with a live radio feed to Dominica. He said he was on an international tour seeking help for Dominica but he spent most of his time lambasting the Skerrit Government. It seems expanding the political base of both parties and electioneering remains the priority of Dominica's political leaders. Both are washing their dirty linen on the global stage at the expense of their suffering nationals.

Up to the end of November, weeks after Hurricane Irma destroyed Barbuda, few Barbudans were allowed to go back to Barbuda, as restoring services and repairing building are happening at a slow pace but constructing an international airport financed by international entrepreneurs including movie legend Robert De Niro appears to be the priority despite Hurricane Irma's impact.

Like Prime Minister Skerrit, Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne also addressed his nationals residing in New York City. In the Bronx where Prime Minister Browne held his meeting, he spent much time thanking CNN, Fox News, Washington Post and other major global media for bringing awareness of the hurricane. The Caribbean-American media in New York was totally ignored.

The hurricanes of 2017 destroyed so many islands triggering a regional disaster. Unfortunately, no Caribbean leader rose above the call of duty or created new initiatives. Each prime minister responded but did not raise the bar. Grenada's Prime Minister Keith Mitchell happened to be the chair of the regional group of nations, Caricom, making it his duty to quickly visit and assess the hurricane ravaged islands. True, the leaders met as a single delegation with donor nations, financial organizations, individual billionaires and philanthropists to aid the damaged islands but are they focusing on how to raise money for future hurricanes by creating a permanent Global Caribbean Hurricane Fund. [www.everybodysmag.com](http://www.everybodysmag.com) (Oct. edition).

The fact that no EVERYBODY'S readers and just a few social media friends suggested a prime minister for person of the year exemplifies there is a lack of leadership in the region. In previous years even resumes of prime ministers were submitted to this magazine and phone



*Dominica's Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit at public meeting at Beulah Church of the Nazarene, Brooklyn.*

calls received by people lobbying for this publication to select their prime minister as person of the year. In 2017, none.

Traditionally, the Caribbean diaspora has raised funds, gather food and clothing, when hurricanes strike. In yesteryear, Caribbean communities abroad contributed without individuals seeking praise and honor. Today's Caribbean-Americans and perhaps Caribbean immigrants in Canada and the UK are different. In New York 2017, many individuals without any experience in fund raising tried to raise funds by producing extravagant concerts. Observing the organizers body language and behavior, it is easy to conclude that most were doing it to enhance their ego and popularity. The result was the minimal dollars raised wasn't sometimes enough to even cover expenses. Like in the Caribbean, it is hard to find an individual in the Caribbean diaspora who successfully led the crusade to aid hurricane ravaged islands.

Overall, the two major news makers in the Caribbean during 2017 was Usain Bolt whom many readers suggested as person of the year and the Trinidad & Tobago "Soca Warriors" for knocking out the U.S. from qualifying for Soccer's World Cup scheduled in Russia in June 2018.

We commend Caribbean entertainers especially Machel Montano and reggae icon Richie Stephens who responded to the call. Montano appeared in hurricane fundraising

events in the region and at Barclays Center, Brooklyn, in JAY-Z third annual Tidal X concert for charity. Proceeds from the 2017 Tidal X concert went to victims of Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, *Hurricane Maria* and the earthquakes in Mexico.

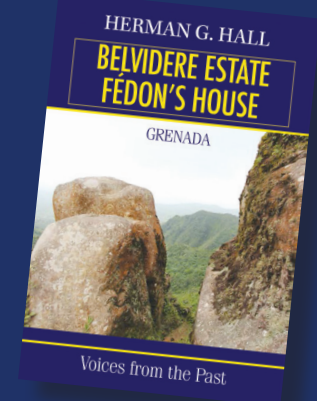
Excluding President Trump, the major news makers of 2017 in the Caribbean and even in the U.S. were the hurricanes of 2017 especially Hurricanes Harvey, Maria and Irma. With no individual getting the nod by many readers as person of the year, EVERYBODY'S, the 40-year old Caribbean-American magazine declares Hurricane Maria and Hurricane Irma as EVERYBODY'S Person of the Year.

*\*We Thank everyone who suggested the person of the Year.*



*Dominica's Opposition Leader Lennox Linton (center) held a press conference in the Church Center of the United Nations.*

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## 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

### *Trinidad & Tobago Knockout USA For World Cup Soccer In Russia*

The American sports media, especially Mike & Mike of ESPN, ridiculed the U.S. soccer team for failing to qualify for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Soccer games scheduled for June 2018 in Russia. Listening to negative comments by radio and TV sports gurus, or reading sports columns, one might believe the U.S. is a world soccer powerhouse, and lowly and small Trinidad & Tobago should not have defeated the U.S. They were not aware that on November 19, 1989, all the Trinidad & Tobago team had to do was draw the game played in Port of Spain against the U.S. to enter the 1990 World Cup. The U.S. won the game. Twenty-eight years later, October 10, 2017, the U.S. team only needed to draw the game. However, Trinidad & Tobago which was already eliminated returned the favor by sending the U.S. team packing.

### *Barbados Wants Lord Nelson Out*

"Nelson Will Fall. This RACIST, white supremacist who would rather die than see black people free, stands proudly in our nation's capital. NELSON MUST GO!" No, not Lord Nelson, the calypsonian! It is the famed 18th century British officer Lord Horatio Nelson who left his footprints on several 18th century British West Indian (Caribbean) slave colonies. The graffiti was splashed in blue and yellow, the colors of the Barbados flag, on Nelson's statue in Bridgetown, Barbados. Like the statue of Christopher Columbus in the heart of New York City, Lord Nelson's statue shines in Bridgetown. Mayor Bill De Blasio has created a commission to decide if the statue of Columbus and other statues must go. Fear not Barbados. The people have spoken. Will Antigua and Barbuda change the name of Nelson's Dockyard?



### *President Donald Trump Honorary Caribbean National*

Upon entering most English-speaking Caribbean islands, the visitor from the U.S. is asked about President Trump. Evidently, most islanders watch Fox News and CNN more than their own TV stations. "Some know more about President Trump than about their own prime

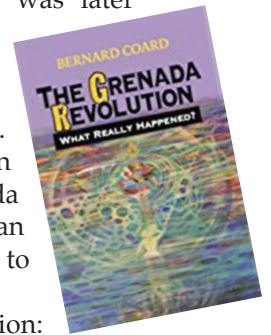
minister," a visitor recently quipped. They are asking if Trump will be impeached and thrown out of office. Few know that impeachment is a trial, and that a president can emerge victorious as did President Bill Clinton. Midterm Congressional Election is due in November 2018 when the party of the president usually fails to win many seats. Trump's Republican Party might not gain seats. CNN, Fox and other news media hyping the story may send Caribbean people into a frenzy as they discuss the state of American politics and the future of President Trump.



### *Bernard Coard's Book About The Murder Of Maurice Bishop*

Bernard Coard, the principal person responsible for the downfall of the Grenada Revolution (1979-1983) and the murder of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop told his side of the tragedy in his 2017 book, *The Grenada Revolution: What Really Happened*. Originally sentenced to be hanged, the sentence was later commuted, and Coard and his colleagues were released after decades of imprisonment. It took Coard a few more years to write the book. Although today's young Caribbean people vaguely know of the Grenada Revolution, Coard's book is a Caribbean best seller and will likely continue to hold that position throughout 2018.

EVERYBODY'S review, Oct. edition: [www.everybodysmag.com](http://www.everybodysmag.com).



### *Dr. Lamuel Stanislaus Caribbean-New Yorker 1922-2017*

Prominent Caribbean-New Yorker Dr. Lamuel Stanislaus, 95, passed on. Stanislaus was a pillar in New York's Caribbean community and the go-to guy when Democrats and Republicans needed the support of Caribbean-New Yorkers. Although he never ran for political office, Dr. Stanislaus was the ultimate politician and understood the political system. He was basically on everybody's side. He played a vital role in containing the Crown Heights riots of 1991 when a Hasidic Jew killed 7-year old Guyana-born Gavin Cato in a car accident.



Governor Mario Cuomo sought the help of Dr. Stanislaus, and the governor spent that Sunday attending church services that climaxed in a town hall meeting. When Republican Rudy Giuliani became mayor of New York City he too depended on Dr. Stanislaus to help for entry into Caribbean-New York.

Many persons from different islands, as well as native New Yorkers including The Rev. Al Sharpton, can share their stories about how the dentist assisted them.

He financially assisted many promoters when they brought major steel band orchestras to the U.S. from Trinidad & Tobago. The slim, tall man from the tiny island of Petite Martinique, Grenada, did contribute in making the Big Apple a better city for all.

## 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

### *Mitchell May Retain Power In Grenada*

Chances are the first national elections of 2018 in the region will be held in Grenada where campaigning by the governing New National Party (NNP) and the opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) is underway.

The election date has not been announced. The pundits believe the NNP will not win all the parliamentary seats as it did in the last election. The NDC will make slight progress by winning three or four seats.



### *Barbados May Get First Female Prime Minister*

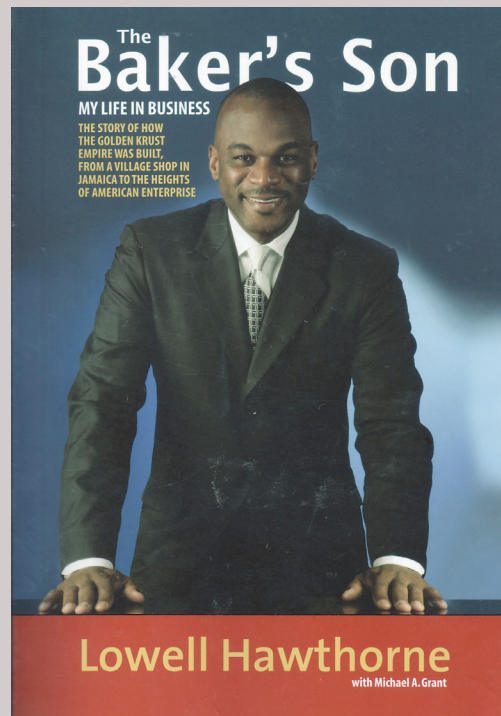


National election in Barbados is due in 2018. The governing Democratic Labour Party (DLP) led by Prime Minister Freundel Stuart and the opposition Barbados Labour Party (BLP) under the leadership of Mia Mottley are in campaign mode. A close and exciting campaign season is anticipated. Barbados follows many British customs yet unlike the British, Barbados is still to have a woman prime minister. Mia Mottley, born in

1965, the year before Barbados achieved independence on November 30, 1966, may be the nation's next prime minister.

### **GOLDEN KRUST FOUNDER LOWELL HAWTHORNE -1960-2017**

In the late afternoon of Saturday, Dec. 2, friends, colleagues and family of Lowell Hawthorne were stunned to learn of his demise, how and where he ended his life. Jamaican born Hawthorne was the founder of Golden Krust and he once appeared on the popular TV show, Undercover Boss. "Lowell was a colleague who supported EVERYBODY'S and our cultural productions. He respected me. My heart goes out to his wife Lorna and others in the family. I am stunned," expressed EBM Publisher Herman Hall.





# 2018 AT A GLANCE



## January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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## February 2018

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## March 2018

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## April 2018

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## May 2018

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## June 2018

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## July 2018

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## August 2018

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## October 2018

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## November 2018

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## December 2018

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