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# TESTING TIMES

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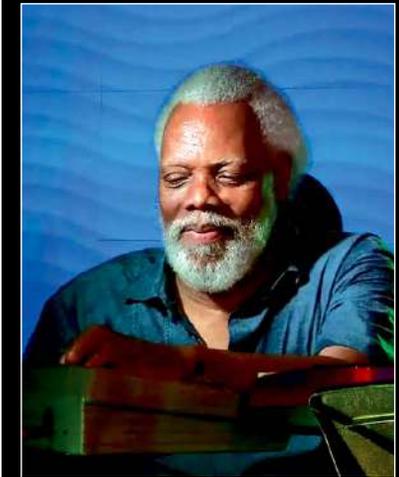



Students rally in support of Palestine, R., and Israel, L., at the Harvard University.

(PHOTO CREDIT: Harvard Crimson/ Julian J. Giordano)



Murder And A Love Triangle ... Page 4 (Jamaica Observer Image)



Remembering Ibo ... Page 11 (Jamaica Observer Image)

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# Here Are Some Of The Top Headlines Making Caribbean News This Week:

**REGIONAL**

Twelve Caribbean countries, including Cuba, joined a vote on Oct. 27th at the United Nations General Assembly, (UNGA), to approve a nonbinding resolution calling for a “humanitarian truce” in Gaza leading to a cessation of hostilities between Israel and Gaza’s Hamas rulers.

Meanwhile, declaring the attacks in Israel and the counterattacks in the Palestinian territory of Gaza as “the antithesis of civilized life and living,” the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on October 9th joined with that it called “the responsible members of the international community,” in calling for an immediate ceasefire and end of hostilities by all parties.

“Innocent lives are being lost amidst the fervor and violence of the actual combatants,” CARICOM said in the statement, adding that it continues to support the United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 and the ongoing efforts of the United Nations towards a two-state solution as the best way to achieve comprehensive peace, security and tranquility between Israel and Palestine.

**HAITI**

A retired Colombian army officer has been sentenced to life in prison for his role in the 2021 assassination of Haitian president

Jovenel Moïse, which caused unprecedented turmoil in the Caribbean nation.

Germán Alejandro Rivera García, 45, is the second of 11 suspects detained and charged in Miami to be sentenced in what US prosecutors have described as a conspiracy hatched in both Haiti and Florida to hire mercenaries to kidnap or kill Moïse, who was slain at his private home near the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince on 7 July 2021.

Rivera, also known as Colonel Mike, had pleaded guilty in September to conspiring and supporting a plot to kill the Haitian president. According to court documents, he was part of a convoy headed to Moïse’s residence the day of the killing, after he relayed information that the plan was not to kidnap the president but rather kill him.

Rivera had faced up to life imprisonment and hoped to receive a lighter sentence after signing a cooperation agreement with US authorities. Federal judge José E Martínez handed down the sentence at a less-than-30-minute hearing in Miami on October 27th.

According to the charges, Rivera, Jaar, Joseph and others, including about 20 Colombian citizens and several dual Haitian-American citizens, participated in the plot. The conspirators initially planned to kidnap the Haitian



As the bombing of Gaza continues by Israel, 12 Caribbean countries joined a vote on Oct. 27th at the United Nations General Assembly, (UNGA), to approve a nonbinding resolution calling for a “humanitarian truce.” (AP Photo/ Hatem Ali)

president, and later changed the plan to kill him. Investigators allege the plotters had hoped to win contracts under a successor to Moïse.

Moïse was killed after assailants broke into his home. He was 53 years old.

**ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

St. Vincent and the Grenadines recently marked its 44th anniversary of political independence from Britain on October 27th, with Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves announcing a host of relief measures for nationals including an increase in the income tax threshold from EC\$22,000 (One EC dollar=US\$0.37 cents) to

EC\$25,000 annually from January 1, next year.

“This move will cost the Treasury nearly five million dollars million annually,” Gonsalves told the annual military parade at Victoria Park in the capital.

He also announced a gun amnesty that will come into effect immediately after the passage of new laws next month to increase the penalties for possession of unlicensed firearms. Currently, on summary conviction, possession of an unlicensed firearm carries a maximum penalty of seven years in prison or a fine of EC\$20,000 or both.

His statement came a few days after the country recorded

its 43 homicides, breaking the record of 42 set in 2022.

**CAYMAN ISLANDS**

The Cayman Islands has been removed from the Financial Action Task Force, (FATF) anti-money laundering grey list after more than two years of trying to do so.

The British overseas territory was listed in February 2021 due to a failure to successfully prosecute or sanction those involved in financial crime. The FATF announced the decision to de-list Cayman following the October plenary in Paris that was held this week. This completes Cayman’s participation in FATF’s 4th-Round Mutual Evaluation process. The 5th Round process starts in 2025, with Cayman expecting its evaluation in 2026.

**TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**

Trinidad and Tobago’s murder toll shot up to 480 as of Oct. 31st with eight people shot and killed over a 24 hour period. Last year the murder total was 508 for the same period. Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley has said that the current violent crime spree will not be tolerated and that “the wanton disregard for human life in Trinidad and Tobago has now gone beyond concerning to the ridiculous.”

Compiled from CMC





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# Harvard's Caribbean American President Faces First Test As War Rages



Harvard's first Black and Caribbean American President, Claudine Gay, is facing her first major test as war rages in the middle east and tensions rise in the US and on the college's campus. (Harvard Crimson image)

BY FELICIA J. PERSAUD

On September 29, 2023, history was made at Harvard University as Haitian American academian Claudine Gay, became the first black, Caribbean American president of the university and only the second woman since its founding in 1640.

Gay is also the 30th president and in her inaugural speech, the New Yorker, born to Haitian immigrant parents, spoke of her vision for the Ivy League school.

"I stand before you today humbled by the prospect of leading Harvard, emboldened by the trust you have placed in me, and energized by your own commitment to this singular institution and to the common cause of higher education," she said. "The courage of this University — our resolve, against all odds — to question the world as it is and imagine and make a better one: It is what Harvard was made to do."

Fast forward to October 7, 2023, as Israel unleashes war on Palestine, killing over 10,000 to date including over 4,000 children, in retaliation for the terroristic attack by Hamas militants on several kibbutz near its southern border, the killing of 1,200 and the kidnapping of over 200.

Gay is now facing her first serious test as president as the words she spoke on September 29th have all but manifested. Will the university really have the courage to question the world?

Those words are now being put to the test as students on campus take sides in the war on Gaza.

Harvard was thrust into the national spotlight days after the Harvard Undergraduate Palestine Solidarity Committee published a letter that blamed Israel for Hamas' bloody terrorist attack and held a "die-in" on campus to protest "genocide in Gaza."

The statement, which was originally co-signed by 33 other Harvard student groups, faced swift condemnation by fellow

students, prominent Harvard professors, high-profile donors, and members of Congress. Many of the statement's most vocal critics — including former Harvard President Lawrence H. Summers — also slammed Gay's administration for its slow response to the fighting in Israel even as the student groups' statement made global headlines. Amid the fierce national

backlash, Gay on October 10th condemned the Hamas attack on Israel and distanced the University from the group of student organizations who signed onto a statement that called Israel "entirely responsible" for the ongoing violence in the region.

Gay wrote in a statement to The Crimson that "while our students have the right to speak for themselves, no student group

— not even 30 student groups — speaks for Harvard University or its leadership."

The statement came less than 16 hours after Gay and 17 other senior administrators released the University's first public statement about the war in Israel and Gaza in an email to Harvard affiliates.

She also came out with a more forceful statement after the

initial backlash, releasing a video saying the school "embraces a commitment to free expression."

Gay's follow-up statement on October 11th contained a forceful condemnation of Hamas after some Harvard affiliates criticized the University's statement on October 10th for failing to denounce the group

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

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# Opposition Slams Jamaica Government Over Non UN Vote

The Jamaica opposition People's National Party, (PNP), has labeled Jamaica's absence from a United Nations General Assembly vote for a humanitarian truce in war-torn Gaza as "a new low in Jamaican foreign policy history."

The resolution introduced by Jordan on Oct. 27th, called for the protection of civilians and the upholding of legal and humanitarian obligations in Gaza amid hostilities between Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers which has claimed thousands of lives.

It was adopted with 120 countries in favor, 14 against, and 45 abstaining. Twelve Caribbean countries joined the vote but Jamaica and Haiti

were among the countries that abstained.

Its Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Minister, Kamina Johnson Smith, stated in a statement October 29, that consultations did not conclude in time for the vote.

"Despite Jamaica's role as the chair of the Caricom Foreign Ministers caucus, it failed to vote in support of the resolution, in contrast to Caricom's agreed position. This absence of Jamaica's representative from this crucial vote is a new low in Jamaican foreign policy history," the PNP, however, stated in a release.

"This explanation lacks merit, as consultations should have been timed to enable Jamaica to vote in favour of



The destruction in Gaza as the war continues. (BBC image)

the resolution," the PNP added, noting that the vote marked the UN General Assembly's first significant response to the humanitarian tragedy "resulting from Israel's collective punishment of the civilian Palestinian population in Gaza.

"The situation in the Middle East demands a unified global voice against human rights violations, while respecting states' rights to self-defence within the parameters of international law. Jamaica, as the Chair of the CARICOM Caucus of Ambassadors at the UN, was actively engaged in discussions concerning the Jordanian resolution and not only collaborated on the CARICOM Statement, but led its drafting," Johnson Smith said in the statement.

Johnson Smith said that the statement was delivered by the country's Permanent

Representative, Ambassador Brian Wallace, from the podium in the General Assembly during the debate on the issue, prior to the vote.

"I shared this statement on social media, hoping it would provide clarity on Jamaica's position, given its clear alignment, and support of the Jordanian resolution," the Foreign Affairs Minister said.

She said while a technical cross in communication led to Jamaica's representative not voting, "our statement on the UN General Assembly floor on behalf of all CARICOM member states, unequivocally supports a peaceful resolution of the conflict, humanitarian aid for victims of war, and the release of hostages."

"Jamaica's foreign policy unquestionably rests on robust principles and democratic values, which guide our stance

in an increasingly dynamic and complex global landscape," she added.

In a statement on October 7, Prime Minister Andrew Holness said Jamaica "condemns in strongest terms", the Hamas attack; that there was no place for "violence and terror" and for diplomatic solutions to be pursued.

The Jamaica government says the situation in the Middle East "demands a unified global voice against human rights violations" as it sought to explain the "concerns raised by those who feel that Jamaica not having voted in the 10th UN Emergency Special Session last Friday, suggests a shift in our stance on international human rights."

- *Rewritten from LoopCaribbean.com*



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## Court Dismisses Challenge To Jamaica's Sodomy Law

Gay rights activist, Maurice Tomilson has suffered a setback in his challenge of the sodomy laws in Jamaica after a three-member panel of judges unanimously dismissed his matter on October 27th.

The judges of the island's Constitutional Court ruled that the savings law clause of the Constitution prevents it from enquiring into the section of the Offences of the Against the Person Act which prohibits sodomy or "buggery."

Tomilson had asked the court to determine whether it had the jurisdiction to enquire into the constitutionality of sections 76, 77 and 79 of the Offences Against the Person Act (OAPA), in light of the Savings Law clause in the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms (Constitutional Amendment) Act.

Sections 13(12) and 18 of the charter Jamaican Charter of

Rights and Freedoms, immunize from constitutional challenge existing laws that criminalize sexual relations between men and preclude legal recognition of homosexual unions, respectively. They are referred to in the Commonwealth Caribbean as 'savings law' clauses.

In Jamaica's case, existing laws are laws which were in existence before the charter came into force. The OAPA was brought into force in 1864.

The unanimous ruling was delivered by Justice David Batts, on behalf of a three-member panel of judges. He said constitutional amendments in 2011 "are clear" that "Parliament intended to protect laws related to sexual offences from review for unconstitutionality."

"The claim in consequence stands dismissed," the judge said, adding that costs have been reserved for further submission.

But the attorney said that



Gay rights activist, Maurice Tomilson has suffered a setback in his challenge of the sodomy laws in Jamaica. (CMC Photo)

they would not be pursuing costs given the nature of the matter and the public interest.

"So the order will be that there will be no order as to costs," the court ruled.

- CMC



# Guyanese Insist - "Not A Blade Of Grass" As Venezuela Gets Aggressive

BY CT STAFF WRITER

Guyanese have taken to social media to re-share the famous line from national singer and songwriter Dave Martins of the 'Tradewinds: "Not A Blade of Grass," as the border dispute with Venezuela heats up for the umpteenth time.

Guyana now reports that Venezuela is deploying troops to the border, while Caracas claims that Venezuelan voters will independently decide whether to annex Guyanese territory on December 3rd in a political referendum.

The focal point of this dispute is the western two-thirds of Guyana, referred to as Essequibo, characterized by dense jungle terrain and a population of 250,000. This dispute traces back to a 19th-century map that awarded the region to Guyana, a former British colonial possession, rather than to Venezuela, which had earlier Spanish claims to the area.

Multiple international attempts to resolve this dispute have ended in failure, and it is currently under consideration by the International Court of Justice.

However, Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro refuses to acknowledge the court's jurisdiction. Instead, he intends to submit the matter of annexation to Venezuelan voters in a plebiscite scheduled for next month.

What's driving this situation? Primarily, it is the significant oil reserves in Guyana, brought to light by ExxonMobil's extensive discoveries over the past decade. Maduro has set his sights on these reserves, which could bestow Guyana's 800,000 citizens with a rapid windfall of oil wealth.

Domestic politics may also play a role in Maduro's decision-making. He has previously attempted to brand the Venezuelan opposition as national traitors, accusing them of supporting a US-backed plan to thwart the vote - an accusation the opposition vehemently denies.

Notably, Venezuela's widely supported claims over Essequibo are among the few points of agreement between Maduro and the opposition. This suggests that the plebiscite is likely to result in a resounding "yes." At this juncture, any attempts to forcibly seize Guyanese territory could trigger a crisis that could quickly draw in the United States, as it has been conducting joint naval patrols with Guyana since 2020.

On November 6th, Guyana reiterated its objections to Venezuela's claims regarding the establishment of a Venezuelan



A map showing Venezuela's claim to a large part of Guyana.

state in Guyana Essequibo and an expedited plan to grant Venezuelan citizenship and identity cards to the Guyanese population. The Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Minister, Hugh Todd, presented a motion in the 65-member National Assembly to address the border dispute. He emphasized that the lawmakers were present to convey a unified message to Caracas, stating: "We are here today as a nation united."

Todd also highlighted the overwhelming historical and factual evidence supporting Guyana's stance on the border dispute, which they intend to see through to its logical conclusion at the International Court of Justice. Holding up a map illustrating the disputed border, he pointed out that Venezuela had already gained a substantial portion of territory from the Orinoco, amounting to 700,056.40 square kilometers or 358,841 square miles—over four times the size of Guyana. He emphasized that Venezuela had already achieved its desired gains and referred to the Orinoco as their victory.

The Parliamentary sitting came on the heels of a meeting between President Irfaan Ali, and Opposition Leader, Aubrey Norton. The two sides have agreed on a united front in relation to the border controversy. The Guyana National Assembly's Committee on Foreign Relations agreed to the framework for the motion on the Guyana-Venezuela border controversy.

Among other things, the motion will seek to increase public awareness on the controversy and have continuous education about the historical and current facts surrounding Venezuela's claim.

Guyana has already denounced the planned December 3, 2023 referendum in Venezuela that asks Venezuelans to formally approve disregarding the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice, (ICJ), in settling the territorial

controversy and instead demand that the two countries do so bilaterally.

But Georgetown is also upset at a question in the referendum that seeks Venezuelans support for declaring Guyana's county of Essequibo a state of Venezuela and to grant citizenship and identification cards to everyone living there.

In its statement, Caracas said that the position of CARICOM "must be to promote and facilitate a direct dialogue between the parties, which will return Guyana to the path of respect for Public International Law, by promoting a peaceful and diplomatic route to address the territorial controversy."

CARICOM said the referendum proposed by Venezuela in December has no validity as the border dispute between the two countries took

on a new twist this week.

The Organization of American States, (OAS), has also rejected the referendum stating that international law strictly prohibits the government of one state from unilaterally seizing, annexing or incorporating the territory of another state and noted that the referendum will open the door to the possible violation of this fundamental tenet of international law.

Guyana instituted proceedings against Venezuela by Application to the ICJ on March 29, 2018 asking the Court to resolve the controversy that has arisen as a result of Venezuela's contention, formally asserted for the first time in 1962, that the 1899 Arbitral Award Regarding the Boundary between the Colony of British Guiana and the United States of Venezuela is "null and void."

Georgetown said it remains firmly of the view that the Arbitral Award of 1899 is valid and is committed to a path of final and peaceful settlement and will continue to adhere to the rule of International Law and the

procedures of the ICJ.

But in its latest statement, Caracas reiterated that it had no faith in the ICJ.

"Venezuela's historical position for several decades has been that the International Court of Justice will never reach an equitable solution, as contemplated in the 1966 Geneva Agreement, which makes it the only valid instrument to achieve a solution," according to a translated version of Venezuela's statement.

Venezuela restated its accusation that Guyana has violated the 1966 Geneva Agreement that Guyana by engaging in commercial activities in the territorial sea contiguous to the Essequibo County though the maritime boundary has not yet been delimited, "a practice that without place undoubtedly constitutes a violation of international law."

- CMC and Gzeromedia contributed to this story.



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# Love Triangle Gone Bad - South Florida Navy Officer Charged With Murdering Jamaica MP's Baby Daughter And Her Mother

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

South Florida native and US Navy Culinary Specialist Seaman, Leoda Bradshaw, is now in jail in Jamaica, after being slapped with murder charges in the deaths of her Jamaican baby father's, MP Phillip Pauwell's 10-month-old daughter Sarayah and her mother, Toshyna Patterson.

Bradshaw has been named as the mastermind behind the murders of the senior Jamaican parliamentarian and former government minister and five-term member of parliament for the Opposition People's National Party, who she was in a relationship with and also shares a child with.

Bradshaw, 34, has been remanded until a further hearing scheduled for December 1st. She is represented by attorneys Deborah Martin and Kelly Hamilton.

On October 13th, she was charged with two counts of conspiracy to kidnap, two counts of conspiracy to murder, two counts of kidnapping, and two counts of capital murder, when she appeared in Kingston's Supreme Court with three accomplices.

Police disclosed that she arrived in the Jamaican capital on September 6, and paid US\$650 for the kidnapping of Patterson and Sarayah, three days later.

The Crown alleged that Bradshaw and her cousin Roland Balfour, contracted two men to kidnap and murder Patterson and Sarayah.

Jamaican prosecutors said the fact that 27-year-old Patterson had "blocked" Bradshaw from her social media account did not stop her from travelling here and conspiring with her cousin and co-accused Balfour to contract men to kidnap and murder the mother and daughter.

"She learnt of the existence of young Paulwell on Wednesday the 5th of September, 2023. Having learnt of the existence of this child she contacted Patterson on Facebook and informed her that she was the wife of Mr Paulwell, and further that she learnt of the existence of the young offspring of Mr Paulwell. Miss Bradshaw advised Miss Patterson that a DNA [test] should be done to determine the paternity of the child. After this brief exchange the [now-deceased] blocked the accused from her account that very day," a senior prosecutor told the court.

"The accused, who is domiciled overseas, travelled to Jamaica the very next day, September 6, 2023. The allegations are that she travelled



US Navy Culinary Specialist Seaman Leoda Bradshaw, (right), is seen leaving the Supreme Court in downtown Kingston with her face covered by two masks on October 13, 2023 after she was charged with murder in the deaths of MP Phillip Pauwell's 10-month-old daughter and her mother. (Photo: Naphtali Junior/Jamaica Observer)

to Jamaica for the sole purpose of killing Toshyna Patterson and the young child she shared with her spouse. The Crown's allegations are that the accused, through her cousin and co-accused Roland Balfour, contracted men to kidnap and murder Patterson and Sarayah," the prosecutor said further.

According to prosecutors, Bradshaw met with men to arrange for the kidnappings and murders. The original plan was to kidnap Patterson and the baby from their home. Bradshaw paid the men the equivalent of J\$100,000 in United States currency as down payment for the execution of the crime. The remainder of the funds (\$400,000) was to be paid after the completion of the deal, the prosecutors said.

In preparation to execute their 'contract' the men, the court was told, went to the Gilmore Drive address in St Andrew where Patterson lived, during the night of Wednesday, September 6, 2023, to "scope out the area".

They also went to the home where Bradshaw was staying in Stony Hill, St Andrew. A further meeting was held on Thursday, September 7, 2023 to discuss the execution of the plan, the court heard.

Prosecutors said that on Saturday, September 9, Bradshaw "placed several calls and conversed with Patterson, with a view to lure her away from her premises."

She afterwards arrived at Patterson's home at approximately 7 a.m. that day with her child in tow.

"Evidentiary material shows Patterson exiting her premises and entering a SUV parked at her gate, along with her baby. Evidentiary material shows that she remained in this vehicle for over 15 minutes. The vehicle then drove off and left the area approximately 7:22 a.m., Patterson and Sarayah never



Sarayah and her mother, Toshyna Patterson were allegedly murdered by two men hired by Leoda Bradshaw.

exited the vehicle prior to its leaving," the prosecutor told presiding Supreme Court judge Justice Simone Wolfe-Reece.

"The Crown's case is that Bradshaw took Patterson to Stony Hill in the vicinity of the home where she, Bradshaw, was staying. At this location the accused handed over Patterson and her young child to Richard Brown and other persons who are yet to be apprehended. After this, Patterson and her young child were taken to Wariaka Hills where they were shot and killed and their bodies burned," the court was told.

Roshane Miller and Richard Brown, the men who police say carried out the gruesome act, were each charged with two counts of conspiracy to commit murder, two counts of conspiracy to kidnapping, misprision of felony.

## LOVE TRIANGLE

Since MP Paulwell revealed in a September 10th interview with the Jamaica Observer that his young daughter and her mother were missing, there has been nationwide interest in what has turned out to be a messy love triangle that had a tragic end.

In a September 10th Facebook post, Bradshaw acknowledged having an eight-year-old child with Paulwell. While admitting to contacting Patterson about her relationship

with the legislator, Bradshaw said she had "absolutely nothing to do with the disappearance." In a statement, issued October 14, the 61 year-old politician said he was grief-stricken by police reports that two burnt bodies were discovered in the Wareika Hills area of east Kingston, located in his own constituency.

"The past few weeks have been extremely difficult for me as I grappled with the abduction of my daughter and her mother. I am heartbroken that the worst has happened," he stated. "That anyone could murder a mother and an innocent baby is unimaginable, and my heart is heavy with sadness. I am praying for Toshyna's family, who I know are experiencing the unbearable grief and pain of losing their beloved daughter and granddaughter. As a human being, father, lawyer, and legislator I am hoping that all who were involved are brought to justice and punished to the fullest extent of the law." Deputy commissioner of police, Fitz Bailey, told a news conference on October 13th that Patterson and her child were "brutally murdered and their bodies disposed of."

The veteran lawman added

that even in a country which has averaged over 1,000 homicides for the past 25 years, the incident is unimaginable.

"It is one of the most painful investigations for the team in recent times," Bailey added.

According to the navytimes.com website, "Bradshaw enlisted in the Navy in July 2020, according to a service record shared with Military Times. After training at Naval Technical Training Command, Fort Gregg-Adams, Virginia, Bradshaw served between November 2020 and June 2021 with Electronic Attack Squadron 134 at Whidbey Island, Washington. In June 2021, she transferred to the Naval Reserve Center in Miami, Florida, where she worked before joining the Navy Talent Acquisition Group, also in Miami."

It quoted the US Navy's Recruiting Command spokesperson as saying: "The Navy takes all allegations of misconduct seriously and is fully cooperating with appropriate investigative and law enforcement authorities.

Bradshaw and Balfour are scheduled to return to the Home Circuit Court on December 1.



## Harvard's Caribbean American President Faces First Test As War Rages

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3) directly.

"As the events of recent days continue to reverberate, let there be no doubt that I condemn the terrorist atrocities perpetrated by Hamas," Gay wrote. "Such inhumanity is abhorrent, whatever one's individual views of the origins of longstanding conflicts in the region."

Former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers has been among those bashing his alma mater, and billionaire hedge fund manager Bill Ackman moved to prevent Harvard students affiliated with the divisive letter from landing a job on Wall Street.

On October 13th, Israeli billionaire, Idan Ofer, who has an estimated net worth of \$13.6 billion, and is the 80th richest man in the world, quit Harvard's executive board in protest of the school's leaders' response to the attacks by Hamas on Israel.

As pressure mounted, Gay on October 27th launched an advisory board to combat anti-Semitism on the university's campus. She announced the formation of the new advisory board at a Harvard-hosted Hillel Shabbat dinner during Family Weekend for the junior and freshman classes, campus

newspaper The Harvard Crimson reported.

With more than 200 Jewish students and their family members in attendance, Gay admitted that "anti-Semitism has a very long and shameful history at Harvard," referring to past anti-Israel acts before the war even broke out, including a 2018 incident where a swastika was found on a school bulletin board.

"For years, this University has done too little to confront its continuing presence," Gay continued. "No longer."

The words were a far cry from those spoken less than a month earlier: "The courage of this University — our resolve, against all odds — to question the world as it is and imagine and make a better one: It is what Harvard was made to do."

For now, the Caribbean American Harvard President test is whether she remains an advocate of free speech or bows to pressure from Israelis bent on avenging the attack of October 7th regardless of the humanitarian assault on Gaza and the thousands more lives lost.

Will she pass or fail? The examination is still being scored.



## Census 2020 Write In Data Shows Over 2.6 Million Caribbean Americans In US

Data from the first decennial US Census that allowed Blacks to write-in their ancestry is out shows there were 2.6 million respondents who self-identified as being from the Caribbean region on the forms.

The numbers come following a decade-plus battle by Carib ID, the movement founded in 2008 by Caribbean immigrant journalist, advocate and entrepreneur, Felicia J. Persaud, to get Caribbean nationals to accurately self-identify on US Census forms.

Nationals with ancestry in three Caribbean countries – Jamaica, Haiti and Trinidad and Tobago make up the majority of the Caribbean grouping, the data showed. Jamaicans who self-identified were put at 1,047,117 while Haitians who responded were put at 1,032,747. Trinbagonians who responded totaled 194,364.

The Census 2020 data also reports that most Caribbean people in the US are between ages 45-64. Caribbean groups were geographically concentrated: about 30 percent live in Florida while some 25 percent live in New York and 6 percent in New Jersey.

Nearly half or 46 per cent of the Haitian alone population was concentrated in Florida while the majority of Jamaicans, or 30 percent, are in New York.

Jamaicans were also the largest black group in Barnstable and Nantucket Counties, Massachusetts and Cook County, Minnesota. ‘Jamaican’ was also the largest Caribbean alone or in any combination group in over 900 counties across the US in 2020. In many counties, Jamaican was the only detailed Caribbean group large enough to have data tabulated in the Census.

In two counties – Grant County, Indiana and Isabella County, Michigan, Haitian and Jamaican were tied as the largest Caribbean groups.

Trinidadian and Tobagonian was the largest group in seven counties, including two in Texas: Chambers County – (just east of Houston) and San Patricio County. The largest Trinidadian and Tobagonian population – 32,613, however, live in Kings County, Brooklyn, New York.

The U.S. Virgin Islander group was the largest in six counties, including Barron, Burnett, Polk and Sawyer in northern Wisconsin. The largest U.S. Virgin Islander population – 1,062 – was in Orange County,



People with Caribbean ancestry in the US number some 2.6 million says US Census following CARIB ID write in push.

Florida, home to Orlando.

Antiguan and Barbudans were the largest black grouping in Wheatland County, Montana.

In commenting on the data, Persaud said it’s exciting to see a 12-year dream become reality, adding that the numbers are a start in showing that Caribbean people are across the length and breadth of the United States.

“Given the many issues related to the 2020 Census and the fear factor that led to many not even completing a Census form, I think this is a good start in really beginning to tell the Caribbean immigrant story in numbers,” Persaud added.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



## Founding Father Of West Indian American Day Carnival Association of Miami Passes On

Aldwyn C. Thomas, the founding father of the West Indian American Day Carnival Association of Miami – later to become Miami Carnival, is dead. He was 80.

In the face of adversity, in 1984, Thomas persevered and succeeded in producing the first Caribbean Carnival in Miami and South Florida.

“The Caribbean Carnival community owes a debt of thanks to Al for his commitment to and love of our culture,” the Miami-Broward One Carnival Host Committee, Inc. said on its Facebook page as it offered condolences to his wife, Claudette, and his family and friends.

“The late calypsonian Rootsman could have been speaking of Al when he sang, ‘In Miami, I’ll be there.’ Thank you, Al, from the Carnival Community. You served for such a long time,” the Committee added.

Thomas served as president, chairman, vice chairman, and director of several organizations presenting Miami Carnival, including the West Indian American Day Carnival Association, Carnival



People with Caribbean ancestry in the US number some 2.6 million says US Census following CARIB ID write in push.

Association of South Florida, and Miami Carnival, Inc. He was President and CEO of Metro Broward Capital Corp. for many years and later was the Finance Manager of the North Miami Community Redevelopment Agency. He also served on several boards, including the Florida Black Business Investment Board.

A funeral service was held for Thomas on Oct. 28th in Hallandale.



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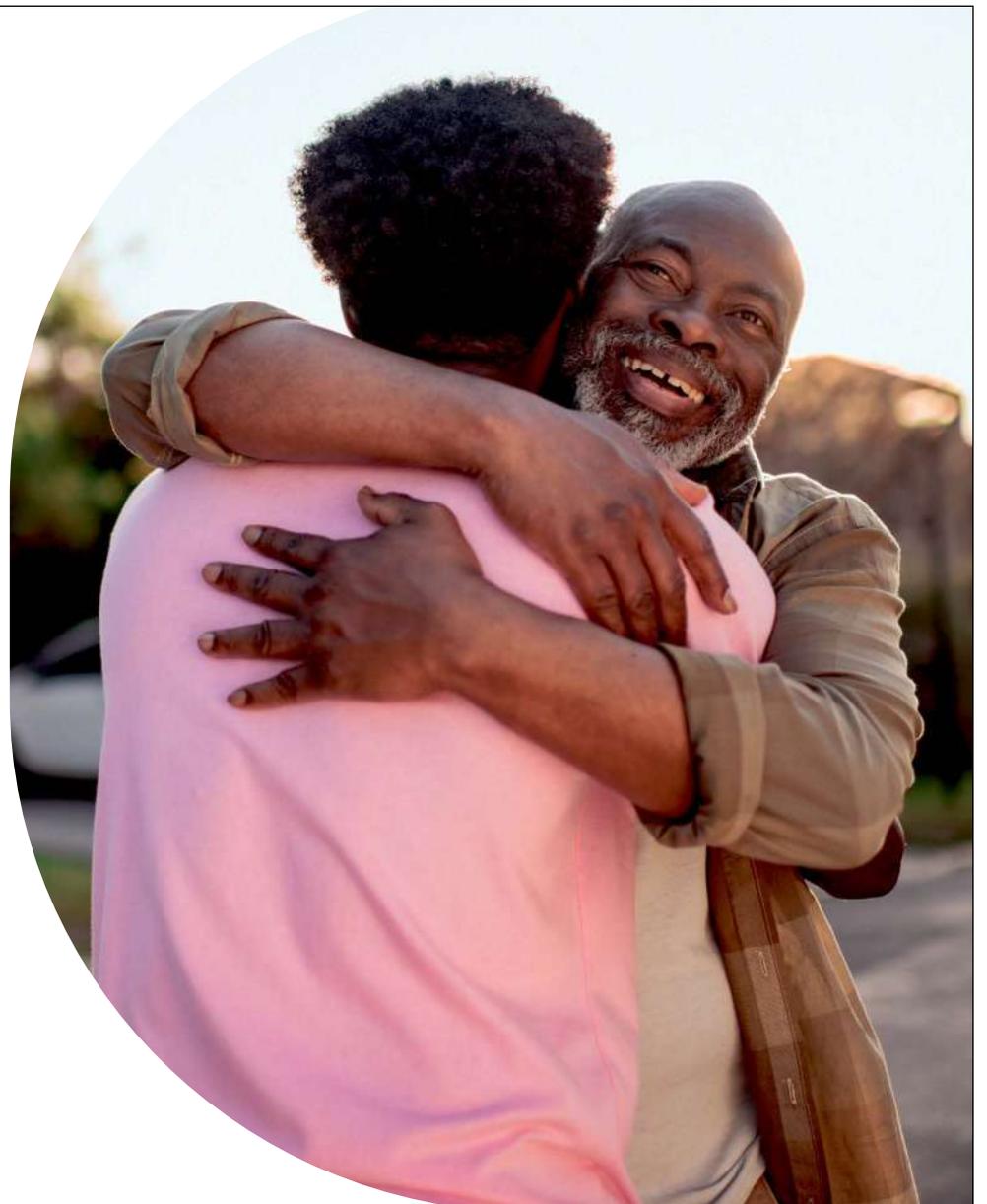
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## The Walk For Hope And Community

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

From food connoisseur to US Army war veteran to teacher, Jamaican-born Winsome Bingham has shaped her voice and experiences into storytelling inspiring the next generation. Now an acclaimed children's book writer, Bingham's picture books celebrate the spirit of family and community.

Her latest book, *The Walk*, is told from the perspective of a little girl accompanying her grandmother on a walk, along with community members, to the voting station to cast their ballots. It is an important message about being heard, being recognized, a message of hope.

In fact, since its launch in Miami in September 2023, *The Walk*, has been embraced by several Public School Systems and libraries across the US.

### EXTENDED FAMILY

But most importantly the book emphasizes that family is more than blood relations, it's about communities as extended families. On the heels of her previous book, *Soul Food Sunday*, which gained the New York Times Best Book of the Year recognition, *The Walk* is poised to become a bestseller.

"Families are not only a mom and a dad. A child can have two moms, two dads, even the community can step in to offer love, support, and kindness. We always think about blood family. But what about those found families, people that come into your life when you need them and they are there to support you? I think that's what this book does, it underscores that sense of community," Bingham explained in a conversation with Caribbean Today.

Bingham knows what it's like to be a child of the community having been raised on the island in her formative years. And it continued even after migrating to the United States, "because we carry our culture with us", she added.

Although it's a children's book, *The Walk* can also remind adults about this element of our culture that we've left behind — community. She laments the individualistic psyche that has crept into our lives that is sometimes reflected in children's books where characters are navigating the world by themselves. Bingham's agenda is to change that mentality.

"There is this you against the world versus you with your community. If everyone knew they had support and



Author Winsome Bingham

love it would really change the way we do things, the way we think about others, the way we manufacture kindness. We would explore traditions and cultures and people and how we tolerate and accept. But if kids don't get to see that they don't know what it looks like."

### TRAUMA

Indeed, Bingham has always been part of a community of some kind. Being in the US Army is certainly a definition of community if one is to survive. But, as a result of injury and trauma this war veteran

unearthed her talent through her writing therapy at the VA hospital.

"There were always signs that I should have been a writer, but I ignored them. It never really dawned on me until I went through therapy at the VA that was part of my treatment... I'm still in recovery. I still go to therapy every week because my trauma is my trauma. It's horrific in the sense that it took me to dark places. I've been through a lot, said Bingham."

But this trauma has awakened her creativity. Bingham's writing is poetic, it

has a musicality and a cadence that can easily engage her young audience. She writes with intention and purpose, using language that will teach and inspire without always being literal. The writer explained that it is important for adults, or teachers, to use her stories as teachable moments by gauging how much detail the child needs.

"I've been asked, 'you mentioned the year 1972 and 2008 but didn't give it context'. My answer is I write for four-year-olds. They don't need to have knowledge of politics or those things. But the adult, the teacher can make that a teachable moment. Not every child is ready to have that conversation. You are gauging your children, your students, and you decide whether they're ready to have that conversation."

Yes, it's about teaching, it's about learning, but it's also about telling a good story. That's what's important to Bingham. Her stories form in her head, she sees the big picture. Then, following her own structure she sits down and lets it flow.



## A Black Cuban Reminisces On Cuba, Racism And The Castros

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL  
Edited By Felicia J. Persaud

Reyniero Reneiso belongs to Cuba's minority black Cuban community, which is consistently given as 1 million of the US' 11.2 million Cuban population.

Many Black Cubans are descended from slaves who first were brought to Cuba in the 16th Century to work the sugar plantations. The number of African slaves in Spain-owned Cuba peaked at 400,000 in 1838, the year Britain ended slavery in its English-speaking colonies. Slavery was legal in Cuba until 1886, and many blacks faced discrimination in its immediate aftermath.

Fidel Castro came to power through a popular revolution in 1959 and gradually banished all forms of racial prejudice with expansive social programs. Today, estimates of the percentage of people of African descent in the Cuban population vary enormously, ranging from 33.9 per cent to 62 per cent. This is partly a question of self-perception, as census figures are based on how Cubans define themselves.

As much as Reneiso disliked his policies, he said Castro, who died in 2016, never tolerated racism in Cuba.

"I never faced discrimination in Cuba... never, never. It doesn't matter if you are black, brown or white, we are the same. We are all the same," he told Caribbean Today recently.

Twelve years ago, however, Reneiso had enough of the challenges in his homeland. He was earning the equivalent of US\$28 a month and saw little scope for improvement.

So in May 2012, he illegally boarded a Havana ship and within four days, reached the US where he was granted legal status under the country's Wet Foot, Dry Foot policy - which allowed Cubans entering the US to apply for permanent residence one year after entry.

Today, Reneiso is a US citizen, working with the US postal service. But there are days when he misses his family back home, and walking the beautiful beaches of the Cuban capital, Havana.

Since arriving in the US, his mother died, but he has a



Black Cubans took to the streets in protest against the Cuban government in 2021. (Getty image)

sister and brother in Havana, with whom he corresponds regularly. Married with his own family, he would love his siblings in Havana to join him in South Florida.

"In Cuba, I went to the beach, I went to the hotels and many beautiful places," he said.

"But I also remember the bad things... the hunger, the cut off lights, no water," he quickly added. As a child of Fidel Castro's Cuba, he despises communism and the man regarded as father of that country.

"For me, Fidel Castro was a dictator, always," he told Caribbean Today recently. "His brother (Raoul), who is the president, is also a dictator. He's not a president, he's a dictator."

And while there have been improvements in Cuba since 2012, including social media and comprehensive Internet access, Reneiso sees only one reason for him ever returning to his homeland: "Only if there's a change of government. Otherwise, no!"



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# It's Time For Refugee Status, TPS For Palestinian Refugees

Hundreds of thousands of innocent Palestinians have now been made homeless as Israel unleashes war on Gaza - a tiny 139-square mile that was home to over 2 million.

The harsh, genocidal response is the Israeli government's revenge for the October 7th attack by Hamas militants that claimed 1,300 Israeli lives, injured 3,400 and left some 200 hostages. But so far, nearly 4,000 Palestinians, including nearly innocent 1,500 children and 15 journalists are dead, and another 12,000 are injured. All are forced to live in complete darkness with little food or water and no Internet.

The United Nations' Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, (CHA), said the number of displaced people in the Gaza Strip could top 1 million.

So where are these newly displaced people to go? What is needed now, is for the US government to quit its hypocrisy and offer Refugee Status and Temporary Protected Status, (TPS) to all law abiding, innocent Palestinians, much like they have done for so many others caught in war, including Ukrainians, Syrians, Afghans, Yemenis, Somalians and others.

It is what the US refugee and TPS rules were created for. "Refugee status," according to the US Citizenship and Immigration Services, (USCIS), "is a form of protection that may be granted to people who meet the definition of refugee and who are of special humanitarian concern to the United States. Refugees are generally people outside of their country who are unable or unwilling to return home because they fear serious harm."

The US has done this for Ukraine so why not Palestinians? It is time for the administration to recognize the validity of Palestinian passports as proof of them being a citizen or national of that country rather than continue to see them as stateless.

It is unfortunate that in 2023, Palestinians are still considered the largest stateless community in the world and that statelessness has dominated and shaped the lives of four generations of Palestinian refugees since their exodus in 1948.

As of 2022, 40 percent of the nearly 5.9 million registered Palestinian refugees live in Jordan; 10 percent in Syria, although approximately one-fifth of these are believed to have fled to other countries since the start of the Syrian civil war; and 8 percent in Lebanon, according to UNRWA. Where will the 2023 group being forced out again by Israel go?

The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, (USRAP), accepts referrals for refugees determined to be particularly vulnerable and in need of the protection provided by third-country resettlement. The program provides a pathway for resettlement to the United States under the Immigration and Nationality Act, (INA). The INA defines a refugee as an individual who has experienced past persecution or has a well-founded fear of persecution on account of their race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

This should be also open to Palestinian civilians who have zero to do with the killing of Israeli citizens.

TPS can also be provided to those Palestinians in the US without legal status, when "conditions that temporarily prevent the country's nationals from returning safely, or in certain circumstances, where the country is unable to handle

the return of its nationals adequately."

Palestinians too deserve US refugee status and TPS. It's the least America can do instead of continuing to turn a blind eye, while largely telling the world with its actions that its ok to help some but not others.

The NGO International Service for Human Rights, (ISHR), has condemned all

crimes under international law committed by both Israel and Palestinian armed groups, saying targeted and indiscriminate attacks against civilians can never be justified.

ISHR called for the International Criminal Court, (ICC), to accelerate its investigation into serious crimes committed by all parties in Palestine and Israel.

The Biden administration should support the same call, and much like it has done for Ukrainians, provide refugee relief and TPS now to Palestinians too.

*The writer is publisher of NewsAmericasNow.com, the Black Immigrant Daily News.*



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

# CANCER & CANNABIS AWARENESS

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## Announcement Clinton Austin Roy Martin



Late of Ridgeway Road, Kingston 19, Jamaica, died on Thursday, September 7, 2023. Leaving wife Violet, children, Lorna, Cresnor (Claudia), Neil (Karlene), Sandra (Virgil), Vaughn, Everett (Judith), nine grandchildren, and many other relatives. He was pre-deceased by his eldest child, Wayne.

Clinton was a dedicated public servant of the Jamaican Ministry of Construction for many years.

Funeral service was held on  
**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2023,**  
at St. Luke's Anglican Church Cross Roads, interment at  
Dovecot Memorial Park.

*Sadly missed by the Asencor, and Martin Families*

# Kiss Crosses

A kiss can be a beautiful thing, and what adds even more to the joy, is that there are so many different forms of kissing. There is the kiss on the cheek that shows basic affection but not in the romantic way. It's innocent, light, casual, and even done between men in some cultures.

There is the kiss on the forehead, also not heavy and heated and with no desire involved. Then comes the light kiss on the lips that gets a little closer than basic affection. That's called the 'chups.'

This is of course followed by the passionate open mouth, wet sensual kiss that includes the most dangerous organ of all, the tongue. That's called the French Kiss, for the French are known for their passion.

Anyway, that deep passionate kiss has a whole heap of meaning behind it and is not to be taken lightly. Kisses are so important that they are even conveyed through the air. Oh yes, people even blow kisses to each other as they send and receive those aerial forms of affection across great distances. Let's not forget the all-important goodnight kiss after that first date that cements the evening.



But a kiss can also be sinister, brutal, dangerous and final, as in 'Beso De Muerte,' (The Kiss Of Death), said to be performed by Mafia dons on the cheeks of their intended victims who they target for death. There's also the kiss of betrayal as in the Bible: "But Jesus said to him, Judas, are



**TONY ROBINSON**

you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

One seemingly simple innocuous kiss seems to have reverberated around the world a few weeks ago, and it's still creating waves and causing ripples that eventually swelled to the force of a tsunami.

I'm referring to that mouth-to-mouth planting of lips by Luis Rubiales, the then president of the Spanish Football Federation, on the lips of Jenni Hermoso, a female international football player, as he congratulated her after Spain won the Women's

World Cup.

This was done in full public view - before thousands of people and millions of television viewers. Maybe the guy got carried away with the euphoria of just winning the World Cup?

The Spanish are known to be hot-blooded, passionate and romantic, so maybe he just succumbed to his basic urges and DNA. Nevertheless, that kiss didn't seem to go down well with the player or with other factions of the football fraternity who demanded that the man resign.

On the flip side, there are others who are defending him, saying that the whole thing is being blown out of proportion, and it was just a gesture of congratulations on his part. He refused initially to resign and was suspended. Then he succumbed to the pressure and resigned last month.

Now I am by no means condoning his actions, for he had no right to kiss the woman on her mouth without her consent. But I sense a double standard here. If it was a woman who kissed a male player on the lips, would there be such a hue and cry of international condemnation? Nevertheless, I

don't think that the punishment should be so harsh.

Maybe they could tie him to a tree and let random big burly women kiss him passionately on his mouth as they see fit. Maybe he'd feel how that female player felt when he kissed her. Let the punishment fit the crime. That kiss was crosses indeed.

Still, a consenting kiss can be a wonderful experience that makes people go weak in the knees. "Man, when I kissed her my head spin, my heart race and I turn stupid."

"Wow, he's such a great kisser, makes my heart beat faster."

Yes, a kiss is one of the greatest sensations that couples can feel and share, as it conveys so much deep feeling. It shows affection, it shows warmth, it shows desire, it expresses love.

A kiss can also show deception, for a sensitive person will detect any change in the kiss and sense that something is amiss. Kisses can bring crosses.

**EDITOR'S NOTE: Tony Robinson can be reached at [seido1yard@gmail.com](mailto:seido1yard@gmail.com).**



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## Remembering Michael “Ibo” Cooper

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

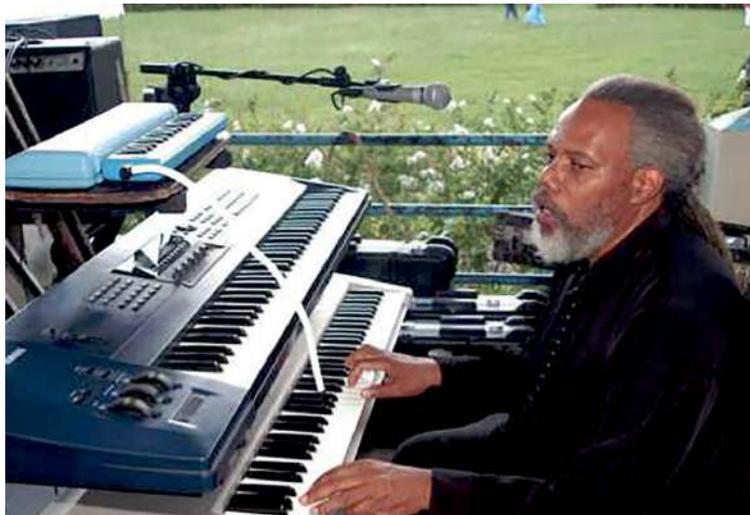
Jamaica’s reggae community, which has endured several losses in 2023, suffered another body blow in October with the death of Michael “Ibo” Cooper, co-founder of the Third World band.

Cooper died from cancer on October 12th at age 71 in Kingston. His death came two weeks after losing Joy, his wife of 50 years to cancer, and his son Arif last March to a heart attack.

The keyboardist and guitarist Stephen “Cat” Coore formed Third World in 1973, when roots-reggae was taking off internationally. They were part of an outstanding lineup that hit peak form in 1979 with the hit single, *Now That we Found Love*, from the Island Records-distributed album, *Journey to Addis*.

Cooper also wrote or co-wrote fan favourites such as ‘Cool Meditation,’ ‘96 Degrees in The Shade,’ ‘Forbidden Love,’ and ‘Reggae Ambassador.’ He left the band in 1997 and became a senior tutor at the Edna Manley College of the Visual And Performing Arts in Kingston.

Lead vocalist and rhythm guitarist Bunny Rugs and percussionist Carrot Jarrett, his bandmates from the classic Third



Michael “Ibo” Cooper – 1952-2023.

World roster, died in 2014 and 2018, respectively.

Colin Leslie, who was part of the original Third World setup, knew Cooper since the 1960s. He described his death as “an immense loss” to Jamaican music.

“He was the second chairman of the Jamaica Reggae Industry Association (JaRIA) and conducted music aggregations at several events in Jamaica and overseas. I last saw him at this year’s Calabash Literary Festival (in St. Elizabeth parish, Jamaica) where he was invited to put a band together to perform a historical resume of Third

World in keeping with their 50th anniversary,” said Leslie.

Singer Freddie McGregor was also a longtime friend of Cooper, whom he referred to as Mikey.

“I have personally known Ibo since the early 1970’s when I was the lead singer for a band named Generation Gap, and he was with Third World, but we became rather close when I became the first chairman for JaRIA. Mikey became the second chairman for JaRIA. Then when I was asked to put together a package for Grooving in The Park festival in New York with an orchestra I called on the man

I knew could do the job, and our musical bond became stronger,” McGregor recalled.

“We did what some people think couldn’t work, an orchestra on a big festival in Roy Wilkinson Park in Queens, still seen by many as the biggest Grooving in The Park. Miss you Ibo, my brother and co-worker in Jah,” he added.

Former Third World drummer Michael Stewart posted a long and heartfelt tribute, lauding his bandmate as “a man who always remembered the importance of Africa, stood for unity and was always willing to help uplift our minds, souls and spirits to a higher consciousness [...] nothing short of a genius, a wizard keyboard player, musical arranger, song writer, producer, vocalist, engineer, musical director, percussionist and a special human being who was sent into this world to make it a better place.”

Christopher Chin, CEO of VP Records, said, “With Ibo’s passing, we’ve lost a gifted pioneer of the music and a good friend.

Jamaica’s Minister of Culture, Olivia ‘Babsy’ Grange, also shared her thoughts on Cooper’s passing, describing him as a “strong and constant voice for the music industry and an

exemplary music teacher.”

While opposition Leader Mark Golding, meanwhile, remembered Cooper as “a maestro on the keyboards and collaborative composer [who] helped to take Jamaican music to higher levels of sophisticated instrumentation, appreciated and loved the world over.”

Engineer Sylvan Morris, who worked on reggae’s greatest albums, singers Lord Creator and Peter Austin, and Rastafarian chanter Jesse Jendah, are some of the music’s noted figures who have died this year.

An all-star tribute to Cooper took place at Jamaica College, his alma mater, on October 25th. It featured performances from Third World, the Inner Circle Family, Big Youth, Nadine Sutherland and bands comprising students and former students he taught at ‘Edna’.

A thanksgiving service for his life took place the following day, October 26th, at the University of the West Indies chapel at that school’s Mona campus.

His wife, Joy was buried following a funeral service at St. Andrew Parish Church in Half-Way Tree on October 20th.



## Dancehall Star Gully Bop Dead At 59

The music world mourns the loss of Gully Bop, the renowned Dancehall artist whose life journey from homelessness and despair to stardom was nothing short of extraordinary. Born Robert Malcolm, he recently passed away at the age of 59 due to complications from kidney disease, leading to his admission to Kingston Public Hospital.

Gully Bop’s story is a testament to the power of resilience and the transformative influence of the music industry. His pastor, Christopher Tate of El’Shaddai Prophetic Ministries, shared the sad news, reflecting on the artist’s inspiring transformation.

“When I met Gully Bop, he was doing really bad, and to see how he was living, a part of his organ was out. His situation was deteriorating... I was trying to help him, now God has taken him home from this wicked cruel world,” Tate said.

Gully Bop’s ascent to fame began in 2014 when a video of his freestyle performance went viral. At that time, he was homeless, struggling to survive in Grants Pen, St. Andrew. The power of social media, still in its infancy in Jamaica, catapulted him to overnight stardom. This newfound recognition led to his inclusion as one of the main acts at Sting 2014, and he released popular songs like “Dem Nuh Bad Like We,” “Dream,” and “Body Specialist.”



Gully Bop is no more.

Despite his initial success, Gully Bop faced challenges when he parted ways with Claims Records in 2015, leaving him without a manager. His life took a new turn when he connected with his former fiancée and manager, Shauna Chin. Under her guidance, he rebuilt his public image and engaged in a highly publicized romantic relationship that dominated headlines in local tabloids.

However, his journey also witnessed a tumultuous downward spiral, with public disputes and drama played out on social media platforms. The most notorious incident involved Shauna Chin knocking him unconscious with a padlock, which garnered significant attention. Afterward, he entered into another public relationship with social media personality and artist DJ Amari Mona Lisa.

Gully Bop’s life took legal

twists and turns, including domestic charges in 2016 and an arrest at John F. Kennedy Airport in New York in July of the same year while trying to board a flight to Jamaica. His former girlfriend and manager, A’mari DJ Mona Lisa, accused him of assaulting her and stealing her passport and United States Green Card. He was later released on US\$1,200 bail, and the charges were eventually dropped.

In 2018, Gully Bop faced charges of assault occasioning bodily harm after a dispute, which was reported to the Morant Bay Police. A female accused him of hitting her in the face during the altercation in Nuts River district.

Over the years, Gully Bop struggled with a cocaine addiction, leading to periods of homelessness and financial hardship as his star began to wane. He reportedly received a kidney transplant in 2022 but continued to grapple with health complications.

In August, Donna Gowe used social media to appeal for assistance on behalf of the entertainer, highlighting his ongoing challenges. Gully Bop’s life and career have left an indelible mark on the music industry, and his story continues to serve as an inspiration to many.

- Rewritten from  
*DancehallMag.com*



## Grenadian Is Miss Plus Size Universe International 2023

Grenadian Samantha Harris has been crowned Miss Plus Size Universe International 2023. The Miss Plus Size Universe International pageant was held in St Vincent and the Grenadines on October 26th.

Miss Plus Size Universe international was founded and directed by Pearl Williams, who was born in Trinidad to Vincentian parents. She is based in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and is the head of Beautex International Group, brand owner of Miss Plus Universe, publisher of Status Magazine, host of the Good Morning SVG programme, and World Secretary General of the World United Humanity Organization.

Williams says the pageant’s mission is building self-confidence, mentoring, promoting women empowerment and healthy lifestyle worldwide. The pageant has been promoting plus size women and healthy living for 10 years.

Harris was the second



Grenadian Samantha Harris, third from left, was crowned Miss Plus Size Universe International 2023. (Miss Plus Size Universe International image)

runner-up in the Miss Curvy pageant in Grenada this year. Organisers from Miss Curvy Grenada issued congratulations to Harris on her win.

“Congratulations on your incredible victory in Miss Plus Universe Pageant, where you represented Grenada with grace and beauty. Your win not only reflects your personal accomplishments but also showcases Grenada’s true beauty on a regional platform. Thank you for making us proud wishing you continued success and all the best in your future endeavours, the journey continues.”





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# Food To Be Given Renewed Focus At 2023 Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Eddy Edwards, co-founder of the Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival, says giving patrons a fresh menu each year is key to keeping the event palatable. The show returns to Miramar Regional Park on November 12th.

The combination of jerked cuisine and live music, which has driven the show for many years, are again on the table. But, according to Edwards, it will not be business as usual.

For this year, Edwards stressed that food will be given renewed focus, with efforts by organizers to engage patrons. That includes samples and giveaways by sponsors throughout the day.

“The Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival seeks to attract new audiences and share the rich



The Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival returns on Nov. 12, 2023. (Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival image)

heritage and culture of South Florida’s Caribbean community. Food is a cultural connector and it is important for us to attract new audiences and cross cultural boundaries to create a better

understanding of each other,” he told Caribbean Today.

“We all share more in common than differences, and those common bonds should be celebrated as much as possible.

New audiences also ensure the longevity of the event as we attract new fans and retain past supporters with new and fresh presentations,” Edwards added.

In terms of logistics, the venue has been re-configured for patrons to enjoy meals and artist performances in a family setting. Staples of the Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival, such as the Publix Pavilion featuring chefs and tastings, a Celebrity Challenge featuring Cherney Amhara of NBC6 against Alexis Frazier of WPLG TV10, and a square-off between Jamaican Chef Darian Bryan and Bahamian Chef Jamal Small, are also 2023 highlights.

The entertainment package also has some familiar faces, such as Grammy winners Morgan Heritage, dancer/deejay Ding Dong and comedian/MC

Christopher “Johnny” Daley. An interesting inclusion is Bermudian/American reggae act, Collie Buddz, best known to West Indian audiences for the 2007 hit song, ‘Come Around.’

“Collie Buddz has been performing reggae to worldwide audiences successfully for years,” Edwards explained. “He has never played at the festival, and our team thought that he would be a good fit, especially since one of our goals is to attract new audiences. He also complements Morgan Heritage and contrasts with Ding Dong providing for a very varied main stage presentation.”

The Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival, first held in 2001, returned in 2022 after a two-year break due to Covid-19.

## A Unique Jerk Thanksgiving Dish - Jerk Meatballs With BBQ-Pineapple Glaze

Looking for a unique way of incorporating jerk seasoning into your Thanksgiving this holiday? Here’s a unique dish you can try. Yield: 4 servings

### INGREDIENTS FOR THE MEATBALLS

- Neutral oil
- 1pound ground chicken or turkey
- 1small yellow or red onion, finely diced
- 1egg, beaten
- ¼ cup bread crumbs
- 2 tablespoons Jamaican jerk seasoning
- 1tablespoon chopped fresh parsley or cilantro leaves
- 1teaspoon garlic powder
- ¼ teaspoon kosher salt
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper

### FOR THE GLAZE

- 1cup pineapple juice
- ½ packed cup light or dark brown sugar
- ¼ cup ketchup
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1small garlic clove, minced
- ½ teaspoon onion powder
- Pinch of red-pepper flakes
- Pinch of kosher salt, plus more to taste
- 1tablespoon cornstarch

### METHOD

#### Step 1



Jerk Meatballs With BBQ-Pineapple Glaze served over rice. (NYtimes.com image)

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Line a sheet pan with aluminium foil and very lightly coat it with oil.

#### Step 2

Prepare the meatballs: In a medium bowl, combine the chicken, onion, egg, bread crumbs, jerk seasoning paste, parsley, garlic powder, salt and pepper. Mix thoroughly to combine, being careful not to overwork the meat.

Using lightly wet hands, form the mixture into 12 meatballs, each a bit larger than a golf ball, and space them out on the prepared pan.

Bake until golden brown, about 15 minutes. (Alternatively, you can fry them in a non-stick pan coated in oil over medium heat for about 4 to 5 minutes per side.)

#### Step 3

While the meatballs cook, prepare the glaze:

Whisk the pineapple juice, brown sugar, ketchup, Worcestershire sauce, garlic, onion powder, red-pepper flakes and salt together in a medium pot over medium-high heat.

Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to medium-low.

Simmer until it reduces enough to coat the back of a spoon, about 10 to 15 minutes.

#### Step 4

In a small bowl, mix together the cornstarch with 1 tablespoon water.

Slowly whisk into the sauce, increase the heat to medium and stir until you reach the desired consistency. (Sauce should look like a thicker gravy.)

Taste and adjust seasoning as needed.

#### Step 5

Add the meatballs to the sauce and stir until coated.

Cook over medium-low heat for 2 minutes, until the meatballs are evenly glazed and deepen slightly in color.

Serve hot.

Happy Thanksgiving!

- [Cooking.nytimes.com](https://www.nytimes.com)



## Tips For Eating Well With Diabetes This Thanksgiving

It’s almost Thanksgiving which also means its the beginning of the holiday season. If you are battling diabetes, it can be tough at holidays knowing what to eat and sticking to your diet. Here are some valuable tips for maintaining a balanced and health-conscious diet during this festive time, courtesy of the American Diabetes Association.

### Embrace the Diabetes Plate Method for Simplicity

The Diabetes Plate Method offers a stress-free approach to portion planning without the need for meticulous counting or measuring.

Begin with a nine-inch plate and allocate half of it to non-starchy vegetables, one quarter to protein foods, and the remaining quarter to carbohydrate foods.

Complement your meal with a glass of water or a zero-calorie beverage, creating a well-balanced plate. This method streamlines meal planning, allowing you more time to enjoy the holiday season.

### Prioritize Non-Starchy Vegetables

Non-starchy vegetables should fill half your plate, promoting satiety and supplying essential nutrients without excessive calories and carbohydrates.

Examples of non-starchy vegetables include broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, and more.

### Incorporate Protein

Protein plays a crucial role in a diabetes-friendly meal plan, granting you the flexibility to include turkey, plant-based options, or other sources.

For those following a plant-based diet, protein-rich alternatives like beans, hummus, and lentils are excellent choices.

### Include Fruits

Don’t hesitate to enjoy fruits, as they offer essential vitamins, minerals, and fiber.

While fruits are considered carbohydrate foods, they can help curb sweet cravings without the addition of excessive sugar.

### Embrace Healthy Fats

Healthy fats, particularly monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats, are beneficial for your heart and cholesterol levels.

Find these fats in foods like olive oil, nuts, avocados, select fish varieties, and other delicious options.

### Explore Diabetes Superfoods

Explore the world of diabetes superfoods, which are rich in vitamins, minerals, and fiber. Incorporate these ten superfoods into your meal plan to further enhance your nutritional intake.

This Thanksgiving, use these guidelines to savour a delicious and diabetes-conscious holiday feast.



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Peter A. Webley  
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# HEALTH NEWS



www.caribbeantoday.com

## Florida Health Clinic Owner Sentenced To Over Eight Years In \$36 Million Fraud Scheme

Arisleidys Fernandez Delmas, a 33-year-old Florida woman, has been sentenced to more than eight years in federal prison for her central role in a health care fraud conspiracy that bilked \$36 million, with \$8.6 million being fraudulently obtained.

Delmas stands as the lead defendant in a federal case implicating 15 individuals who were allegedly part of this fraudulent scheme. This case was prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office in Miami,

and it involves charges of health care fraud and conspiracy to commit health care fraud. Delmas, along with eleven other defendants, pleaded guilty to these charges in a plea deal in July.

Court



records reveal that Delmas, along with her co-defendants, submitted \$36 million in fraudulent claims to Blue Cross Blue Shield for purported physical therapy services that were either unnecessary or not provided.

For her involvement in this scheme, Delmas has been sentenced to eight years and eight months in prison. Following her release, she will be under three years of supervised release. In addition to

her prison sentence, Delmas has been ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$8,671,377.

The health care fraud scheme spanned from October 2018 to November 2022.

According to the Department of Justice, court records illustrate that Fernandez Delmas received over \$880,000 in compensation for her managerial role in the operation of this fraudulent scheme from 11 of the involved clinics.



## Dominican Republic Leads In Caribbean Medical And Dental Tourism Sector

In the realm of tourism, medical tourism stands out as one of the most lucrative sectors, with medical and dental tourists spending six times more than regular vacationers in the Dominican Republic.

According to the United States Centers for Disease Control, common procedures undertaken by medical tourists encompass dental care, cosmetic surgery, fertility treatments, organ and tissue transplantation, and cancer treatment. For many, the idea of combining medical treatment with a pleasurable vacation experience holds great appeal.

The majority of medical tourists originate from the United States, where healthcare

costs, even with insurance, can be prohibitively expensive. For example, a single tooth implant, which might be priced at \$1,000 in various countries, could soar to \$5,000 in the United States. Consequently, the cost differential for a complete set of teeth implants becomes significant.

The Dominican Republic has firmly established itself as the leading medical tourism destination in the Caribbean and holds the second spot in Latin America. This achievement is bolstered by the influx of 262,902 patients in 2022, as reported by Dominican Today. This data was unveiled during the Sixth International Congress of Health and Wellness Tourism,

an event that brought together prominent figures from the medical, tourism, and financial sectors, both locally and regionally. Alejandro Cambiaso, President of the Dominican Association of Health Tourism (ADTS), presented the second study on Health and Wellness Tourism in the country, shedding light on the sector's economic impact and challenges.

The report underscores that international patients seeking medical care in the Dominican Republic spend an average of \$7,500, with \$5,000 allocated for medical expenses and \$2,000 for accommodation and transportation. This substantial expenditure significantly surpasses the average spending

of regular tourists.

In 2022, the country welcomed 262,902 international patients, with the majority seeking dental treatments (179,085), followed by plastic surgeries (40,000), other surgeries (26,290), and outpatient and preventive medicine (17,527). These health tourists accounted for approximately 3.7% of non-resident tourists arriving in the country by air, totalling 7,163,394 visitors.

The study reveals that 77% of medical tourism services are provided by private clinics, while 23% operate under different management schemes with advanced technology. Some of these

facilities hold international accreditations, including Joint Commission International (JCI), Accreditation Canada, and Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC). Nineteen establishments were identified throughout the country, with information collected from 13 of them, representing 68% of the sample.

Most health tourism services are concentrated in the southeastern region (Santo Domingo, Punta Cana, and La Romana) and the northern Cibao region (Santiago and Puerto Plata).

- *Rewritten from Dominican Today*



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# World Travel Market London Ignites Travel

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

World Travel Market London once again ignited the travel industry with limitless opportunities for the world travel and tourism trade. The 3-day travel fest took place November 6-8th at London's ExCel Centre welcoming more than 4,000 exhibitors.

In fact, World Travel Market London has grown 20 percent over last year. According to the organizers, compared to pre-Covid-19 figures from 2019, private sector exhibitor numbers went up 23 percent. African exhibitor numbers rose 27 percent, the Middle East region increased a whopping 60 percent, and Caribbean exhibitor numbers rose 10 percent.

## BERMUDA

Among them was first-time exhibitor, the Bermuda Tourism Authority, whose representatives highlighted the British dependent territory's cultural offerings, cuisine, and its growing wellness tourism products. Although not geographically in the Caribbean, Bermuda is an associate member of CARICOM, the Caribbean Community, and has been adopted by the region.

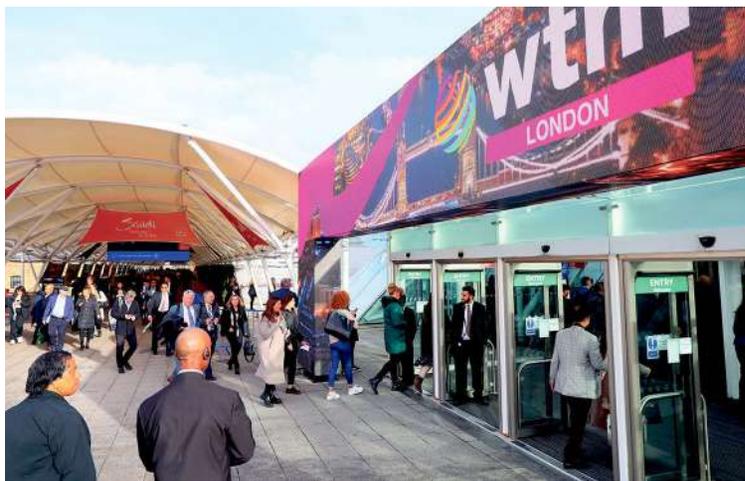
The Authority's VP Marketing and Communications, Jamari Douglas, noted that the UK is the island's third largest market, following the US and

Canada, underscoring the importance of its presence at the travel show and conference.

Said Douglas: "Our presence at WTM reaffirms our commitment to strengthening Bermuda's presence in the UK market, demonstrated by our ongoing investments, such as our recent House of Bermuda event and brand new Lost Yet Found Campaign. The UK is our third largest market after the US and Canada and we're extremely confident that Bermuda will take its place on the global stage as a leading tourism destination."

Earlier this year the 21-square mile island created the 'House of Bermuda' immersive experience for visitors to explore and experience Bermuda's rich culture, cuisine, and attractions in the heart of London. Unique pop-ups and interactive experiences allowed viewers to mingle with local Bermudians while tasting some of the island's traditional dishes created by on-site chefs and experiencing its cultural traditions through storytelling sessions.

The Tourism Authority's innovative 'Lost Yet Found' campaign has also served to boost the island's travel profile and visitor curiosity. The 3-day itinerary offers visitors a chance to discover the island by wandering through new-found paths, eating where locals eat, and reveling in unique



Thousands passed through this year's World Travel Market London from November 6-8th at London's ExCel Centre. (Contributed image)

experiences.

## SMART TOURISM

Critical to this year's show were the 60 conference seminars and talks which featured travel and tourism experts from across the globe. Six new conference tracks - Sustainability, Technology, Geo-Economics, Emerging Markets, Consumer Trends, Marketing, Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) and Experience - were well subscribed, reflecting today's changing markets.

The Diversity & Inclusion summit emphasized why businesses can perform better with diverse workforces that include under-represented groups, while the Technology summit looked at the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence

and the future of technology to help build smart tourism. Sustainability, a huge and contentious topic, focused on how education and effective funding can drive positive change to encourage sustainable practices throughout the travel industry.

One of the most important gatherings at World Travel Market London, the Tourism Ministers' Summit, spotlighted education as a key component for growth and sustainability in the industry. Focusing on the topic 'Transforming Tourism Through Youth and Education', tourism ministers in association with the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) debated

their tourism and education policies in response to continued growth in the sector that will lead to increasing employment opportunities.

According to WTTC, travel and tourism employs a higher proportion of younger workers than other sectors, and jobs for young people have been rebounding quickly after the pandemic. Its figures show that travel and tourism's share of youth employment has grown from 6.5 percent in 2010 to 8.2 percent in 2021.

Based on these statistics, the ministers explored how public-private partnerships can work together to help improve access to education and close the skills gaps in tourism education and training. They also looked at the involvement of educational institutions in providing courses with a tourism industry focus.

Travel and tourism teams will now go away armed with new business opportunities from the relationships built with ministers, tour operators, buyers, and new destinations. And, with increasing appetite for travel among emerging markets such as China, Vietnam, India as well as millennials and Gen Z seeking new experiences, the travel industry must adapt if it is to survive and thrive.



# From Kansas To Jamaica With Southwest

Jamaica recently welcomed a new non-stop air service – this time from Kansas City International Airport, (MCI) in Missouri to Montego Bay's Sangster International Airport, (MBJ). The Southwest Airlines commenced on Saturday, October 7th and is a continuation of the country's efforts to build

new gateways and provide more convenient access to the island for US travelers coming from the Midwest. The new flight is scheduled to operate weekly on Saturdays.

"The mid-western United States is a growing and vital market for Jamaica and we are excited to see carriers such as

Southwest Airlines expand their service to our island paradise," said Edmund Bartlett, Minister of Tourism, Jamaica. "We want to continue to make getting to Jamaica as seamless as possible. Southwest Airlines is an outstanding partner in helping us achieve this goal, as evidenced by its continued gateway

growth."

The new flight is the only non-stop service to Jamaica from the Kansas City market, opening this important area to the destination. With the addition of this new flight, Southwest now has seven gateways into Jamaica flying from Baltimore, Chicago, Fort Lauderdale, Houston,

Kansas City, Orlando and St. Louis.

For additional information on the new Southwest service or to book a flight, visit southwest.com. For more information on Jamaica, go to visitjamaica.com.



# Bahamas Enters Sponsorship Deal With University Of Miami Hurricanes

The Bahamas recently launched its destination sponsorship during a game on October 21st that saw the University of Miami Hurricanes go head-to-head against the Clemson University Tigers at the Hard Rock Stadium.

The 'Canes grounded out a victory on their home turf by toppling the Clemson Tigers in double overtime, 28-20.

On hand to mark the launch of the multi-year partnership was I. Chester Cooper, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism, Investments & Aviation. The deputy prime minister led a small delegation to the official sponsorship game. DPM Cooper presented a special gift on-field to Dan Radakovich, UM Director of Athletics and met with Julio Frenk, UM President and Josh Friedman, President of UM's

Alumni Association. The deputy prime minister was also proud to host industry partners, Bahamian students, athletes, and professors studying and working at the university.

"We are very enthusiastic about the reach of this partnership and the opportunity to work with such an admired brand as the U," said DPM Cooper.

The partnership further demonstrates The Bahamas' close relationship with Florida, specifically Miami, where the rich Bahamian heritage and culture continues to thrive. Bahamians were recognized earlier this year for their contribution to the growth of the area that is now designated Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove.

"With the close proximity to our shores and deep roots

that our island nation holds with Florida, I believe there are countless ways we can maximize this partnership to advance our sports and

education sectors and more," said DPM Cooper, adding that the government of The Bahamas continues to work diligently to increase tourist numbers and

forward bookings for 2023 that should result in a new banner year of arrivals to the island paradise.



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SCAN ME

**FEATURE**



# The Miami Book Fair Celebrates Caribbean Voices

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

The Miami Book Fair promises to be even more stimulating this year as it celebrates 40 years of readings, workshops, conversations, and book offerings.

Get ready for 8 days of inspirational bookish events from November 12-19, 2023 as the fair welcomes literary superstars and newbies alike.

Considered one of the largest literary festivals in the country, The Miami Book Fair, organized by Miami Dade College, was created in a bid to bring book lovers together back in 1984.

Then called 'Books by the Bay,' that seed planted by Miami Dade College President Eduardo Padrón, Books & Books owner, Mitchell Kaplan,

and other enthusiastic booksellers, has grown from a two-day event into an international festival of cultural arts featuring authors, publishers, and book worshipers.

Reaching an even wider audience since 2020, as a response to the pandemic, the Miami Book Fair introduced its online platform virtually tapping into audiences across the globe. This virtual and in-person formula has now become a staple for the fair's more than 200,000 attendees and 300-plus authors and exhibitors who benefit from the cultural and educational events.

This year's packed series of talks, readings, book signings,



An engaged audience at the Miami Book Fair 2022. (Contributed image)



There is a book for everyone at the Street Fair. (Contributed image)

insights on their creative process, the significance of their chosen themes, and how their personal experiences and heritage inform their narrative style.

'Haiti Unveiled: Narratives of Culture, History, and Womanhood,' will continue the movement at 2pm with authors Edwidge Danticat, Micki Berthelot, Myriam J.A.Chancy, and M.J. Fievre. From tales of resilience to poignant explorations of identity, these authors illuminate the multifaceted experiences of Haitian women and the broader societal narratives.

"When I write, the world is introduced to my homeland's unique rhythm, emotions, and colors, and my journey as a Haitian woman," said Fievre. "These narratives allow readers to genuinely perceive Haiti's vitality, the Caribbean's diverse character, and our communities' 'collective spirit.'"

**COMPLEXITIES**

The program continues with voices from more countries around the region including Cuba and Puerto Rico, either in-person or online. They will delve into cultural complexities that define a people, the art of Caribbean filmmaking, and traditional medicine in healthcare. And importantly, some of these offerings will be in several languages, reflecting Miami's diverse nationalities and cultures.

Fievre noted that Caribbean narratives, in their own cadences, enrich the literary world, becoming powerful reminders of the value and power of diversity. And, while the literary world is slowly waking up to the rich tapestry of Caribbean stories and the nuances they bring to the global narrative there's still considerable ground to cover.

The ongoing efforts of platforms, publishers, and self-publishing authors collectively steer the industry toward a more inclusive future, but the journey is far from over, the ReadCaribbean Coordinator insisted.

The Miami Book Fair is certainly a major platform that is taking on this fight, raising Caribbean literary voices.

"Whether you're a seasoned industry professional, a passionate reader, or someone just stepping into the vast world of literature, the Fair promises an enriching experience. With the ReadCaribbean program being a vital part of this literary fiesta, it's evident that the tales of the Caribbean have found a cherished space in the hearts of Miamians," declared Fievre.

For all details on this year's 40th Book Fair, log on to miamibookfair.com/.



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workshops will feature some of the country's noted celebrities, authors, and media personalities, among them Kerry Washington, Walter Mosley, Jada Pinkett Smith, Joan Baez and Henry Winkler.

Authors, publishers, book shop owners, browsers, and bibliophiles will rub shoulders during the 3-day Street Fair - November 17-19, exploring endless books, magazines, and accessories on offer. As well, the always popular Children's Alley is sure to attract youngsters, and their parents, through a never-ending journey of storytelling, crafts, and performances.

**READ CARIBBEAN**

One of its most anticipated programs this year is 'ReadCaribbean,' in which authors will explore identity, resistance, heritage, culture. Through fiction, non-fiction, film, and memoir via in-person and virtual events, audiences will get glimpses of Caribbean rhythm shared by the countries in the region connected by history and tradition.

"The ReadCaribbean program is pivotal in merging the unique voices of the Caribbean with the broader Miami community," explained M.J. Fievre, Coordinator for the ReadCaribbean program. "This program elevates Caribbean literary works and serves as a nexus for discussions, promoting understanding and building connections. Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties have a

substantial Caribbean population, particularly Haitian and Jamaican communities. Consequently, ReadCaribbean provides a platform closely linked with these communities' narratives, histories, and aspirations."

Born and raised in Haiti, Fievre is an accomplished author and educator. The Florida-based author writes in multiple genres — from powerful memoirs to children's/young adults to poetry and inspirational — in English, French, and Haitian Creole. Fievre is committed to promoting Caribbean literature through her advocacy and community work, underscoring her belief that cultural exchange can be a source of unity.

"The tales from the Caribbean, rich in history, traditions, and experiences, offer a deep understanding of the region's societal intricacies and enduring spirit," said Fievre in a conversation with Caribbean Today. "By facilitating this interaction, ReadCaribbean elevates Caribbean voices and nurtures connections among diverse communities, promoting unity and shared values."

**EXPLORING IDENTITY**

The in-person program kicks off on November 18 at noon with 'Echoes of the Caribbean: Exploring Identity, Culture, and Resistance in Contemporary Literature,' in which authors Karen Lord (Barbados), Kevin Jared Hosein (Trinidad and Tobago), Safiya Sinclair (Jamaica) and Myriam J.A. Chancy (Haiti) will share

# Reggae Girlz' Eligibility For Upcoming FIFA Window Remains Uncertain

With just over three weeks remaining before the next FIFA window, during which Jamaica will face Guatemala and Panama in return fixtures of the CONCACAF Women's Gold Cup qualifiers, the eligibility of members from the FIFA World Cup squad for selection remains uncertain.

These players had previously made themselves unavailable for the window, which resulted in Jamaica's 2-1 loss to Panama followed by a 2-2 draw with Guatemala at home. Xavier Gilbert has now been confirmed as the interim head coach of Jamaica's senior women's football team for two additional CONCACAF Gold Cup qualifying games.

Gilbert will be in charge when Jamaica hosts Group B leaders Panama on November 29 and when the Reggae Girls travel to Guatemala for their return game on December 3. In the previous matches, Jamaica experienced a 1-2 defeat to Panama in the first leg of their home-and-away fixture, followed by a 2-2 draw with Guatemala.

In a statement, The Jamaica Football Federation, (JFF), the



Jamaica's makeshift Reggae Girlz team managed to draw with Guatemala on Oct. 29, 2023. (Concacaf.com image)

governing body for the sport in the country, praised Gilbert and the Senior Reggae Girlz for their recent performances against Panama and Guatemala, expressing gratitude for their dedication to representing Jamaica and the JFF with outstanding performances.

The development came after the players, who reached the round of 16 at the 2023 World Cup, collectively boycotted call-ups for the Concacaf Women's Gold Cup qualifiers after

accusing The Jamaican Football Federation, (JFF), of consistent mismanagement and a history of underfunding their women's team, despite increased prize money from FIFA.

FIFA had set a tight deadline for the 32 World Cup finalist federations to compensate their players, despite FIFA President Gianni Infantino stating that his organization could not guarantee these payments.

In an official statement, the JFF stated: "We are pleased to

inform you that, as committed, we have now disbursed the full amount owed to the Women's World Cup Team. We will also begin processing payments for all players who participated in the qualifying rounds but were not part of the final World Cup squad. We are always appreciative of the contributions made by all our players and are delighted to have settled these outstanding amounts."

This statement was released by the JFF a day before they fielded a makeshift team to face Guatemala in Jamaica's second group qualification match for the W Gold Cup in February. The team managed to secure a 2-2 draw, providing hope for the Reggae Girlz to reach the finals.

Jamaica lost their first match to Panama and currently occupy the bottom spot in the three-team group, where the group winners secure direct qualification to the 12-team finals in Southern California, alongside the top four teams from South America joining Concacaf's top eight.

In this match against Guatemala, Jamaica played without any players from the World Cup team and initially fell

behind. However, they managed to take a 2-1 lead in the second half before Guatemala equalized. Jamaica has two games remaining, and winning both would secure their place in the finals. The pressing question remains whether they can convince their World Cup stars to return and whether those players have enough trust in the federation to do so.

The JFF has had a history of not fulfilling promises under the leadership of controversial president Michael Ricketts.

In a scenario reminiscent of the 2019 Women's World Cup, the Jamaican women's team had to fundraise a portion of their journey to the recent world cup tournament. After their elimination by Colombia, then-coach Lorne Donaldson raised significant doubts about whether things would change for the team in the future. He was subsequently let go by the JFF, which then appointed a new coach that the team discovered through social media.

- *Rewritten from InsideWorldFootball.com*



# T&T Tops The Caribbean At Pan Am Games

Jamaica and the Dominican Republic added to their medal Trinidad and Tobago emerged the top English-speaking Caribbean nation at the 2023 Pan American Games that concluded in Santiago, Chile on Sunday, Nov. 5th. The twin-island republic won four medals at the games, securing a gold, one silver and two bronze medals to be tied in 19th position overall.

Trinidad and Tobago owed their position to cyclist Nicholas

Paul, who won gold in the Men's Sprint which he followed up with a silver medal in the Men's Keirin.

The country's bronze medals came from the Men's 3x3 basketball team and Michelle-Lee Ahye in the final of the Women's 100m.

Jamaica were twenty-second overall having won six medals, including one gold medal courtesy of Jaheel Hyde in the men's 400m hurdles. Jamaica

won five bronze medals – Dahlia Palmer (cycling), Fedrick Dacres (discus), Navasky Anderson (men's 800m final), Samantha Hall (women's discus) and Aaron Johnson (wrestling).

The Bahamas were 25th overall with three medals – one silver and two bronze medals. They were tied with Guyana who had a similar medal haul. Antigua and Barbuda's silver medal saw them finish 28th ahead of Barbados, whose two bronze medals saw them finish 30th.

Bermuda, Dominica, and St Kitts and Nevis were tied in 31st with one bronze medal each. The United States topped the medal table with 286 medals



Nicholas Paul and Michelle-Lee Ahye were responsible for three of Trinidad and Tobago's four medals at the 2023 Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile. (Sportsmax.com image)

(124 gold, 75 silver, 87 bronze), followed by Brazil's 205 (66 gold, 73 silver, 66 bronze) and Mexico 142 (52 gold, 38 silver, 52 bronze).

*Rewritten from SportsMax.com*



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<http://www.miamidade.gov/police/contacts-homicide.asp>

## HIT & RUN FATALITY

**VICTIM/PEDESTRIAN**  
Rupert Webley  
B/M, 68 years old

On **Sunday, May 2, 2021, at approximately 9:25 p.m.**, the above-pictured victim/pedestrian began crossing at **SW 184 Street and SW 112 Avenue, Miami, Florida**, when the subject vehicle, a Hyundai silver in color, struck and killed him. The driver of the subject vehicle fled the scene without rendering aid and/or reporting the crash.

SUBJECT VEHICLE DESCRIPTION: HYUNDAI SILVER IN COLOR. NO OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME.

Anyone with information on the above **HIT & RUN FATALITY**, the whereabouts of the subject vehicle and/or its driver is requested to contact Miami-Dade Police Department Traffic Homicide Detective J. Childers at (305) 471-2425. If you wish to remain anonymous, then contact Miami-Dade County Crime Stoppers at the following:

- (305) 471-TIPS (8477) or 1 (866) 471-8477
- Visit [www.CrimeStoppers305.com](http://www.CrimeStoppers305.com) and select "Submit a Tip"
- Visit [www.facebook.com/crimestoppers305](https://www.facebook.com/crimestoppers305) - "Contact Us"
- Visit the App Store - Get P3 and sign into Miami for Tips

If the tip leads to the arrest of the subject(s), the tipster may be eligible for a reward **UP TO THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000.00**. All calls are kept strictly anonymous.

ISSUE DATE: 5/11/2021 RN SUPERVISOR: Sgt. Francisco Armendariz MDPD C/N PD210502138114

If this flyer aids in your investigation in any way, please advise Deborah Simons, I.A., of the South Florida Homicide Clearinghouse at 305-471-2400.

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# SPORTS NEWS



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## Get Ready For Cricket In The Olympics

The sport returns to the Summer Olympics in 2028 after an absence of 128 years. The proposal received approval during the IOC Session in Mumbai on Monday, with just two delegates voting against the inclusion of these new events.

This marks the return of cricket to the Olympics with

both men's and women's T20 tournaments featuring six teams.

Greg Barclay, the chairman of the International Cricket Council, welcomed the decision and said: "The fact that the IOC confirmation of our selection occurred here in Mumbai, during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, is truly the

icing on the cake.

"The innings have just begun, and we can't wait to see where this incredible journey leads." "After a wait of more than a century, our beloved sport is back on the Olympic stage," former India captain Sachin Tendulkar wrote on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter. "This marks the dawn of a new era for cricket as it will be a golden opportunity to foster inclusivity and showcase new talent from emerging cricketing nations. A start of something truly special!"

"Our beautiful game of cricket has a rich heritage and diverse international following," said Pakistan captain Babar Azam, the world's top-ranked one-day international batsman. "It has the potential to enhance the spirit of Olympics even further. Cricket in the Olympics will inspire new generation, athletes and fans around the globe."

Cricket was last played at the Olympics in 1900, but the game is played at other multi-sport events like the Commonwealth Games and the



Cricket returns to the Olympics in 2028.

Asian Games. It is likely to be retained for the 2032 Brisbane Olympics, which will be held in cricket-loving Australia.

"Players will get the chance to compete for an Olympic gold medal and be part of the games, which will be so special," said Mithali Raj, a former India women's cricket team captain. "It's also a chance for more fans around the world to enjoy our fantastic sport."

For the last two years, the International Cricket Council has been working extensively with the IOC for inclusion

at the Los Angeles Games. The 2028 Summer Olympics, officially known as the Games of the XXXIV Olympiad, and commonly known as Los Angeles 2028 or LA28, is scheduled to take place from July 14 to 30, 2028, in and around Los Angeles, California.

Also added are squash, baseball/softball, lacrosse, and flag football. Lacrosse will be a medal sport at the Olympics for the first time since 1908, while baseball has made several appearances in previous Olympic Games.



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## Barbadian Jockey Wins At Charles Town

Seasoned Barbadian jockey Reshawn Latchman landed the U.S. \$75 000 featured James and Eleanor Casey Memorial Stakes on Nov. 4th at the Charles Town racetrack in the United States.

The 31-year-old drove the odds-on favourite Direct the Cat to a convincing 7-1/2 lengths win in the feature race for registered accredited West Virginia-bred, two-year-old fillies over seven furlongs on the dirt for her fourth stakes win in a row.

It was only the third stakes win of the season for

Latchman – all three coming aboard Direct the Cat – and he now has 75 wins for the season, which places him third in the jockeys' standings behind Arnaldo Bocachica, on 163, and Marshall Mendez, on 107.

Keimar Trotman, another Barbadian jockey, kept up appearances when he logged a double on the eight-race card that carried him to 11 wins for the season.

Direct the Cat went straight to the front, shrugged off 54-1 early pace rival Mad Swann under Mendez, turned back a mid-race challenge from

Runaway Beauty under Juan Nunez, and cruised home in a time of one minute, 26.01 seconds on a fast main track.

Direct the Cat has now won four of six lifetime starts with earnings just shy of U.S. \$150 000.

Earlier, Trotman steered 3-1 chance Super Quality to a 1 1/2 lengths win in the U.S. \$14 200 claiming second race over seven furlongs on the dirt.

- CMC





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# India Leads Cricket World Cup 2023 Standings

In the ongoing ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023, India has taken the lead, firmly establishing themselves as the tournament pacesetters. The West Indies is missing the tourney for the first time after failing to qualify.

South Africa, New Zealand, and Australia are also in the top four spots on the current Cricket World Cup standings. Notably, all 10 teams remain in contention for a place in the knockout stages, with no team mathematically eliminated, including defending champions England.

Here's the state of play following India's recent victory over England on October 29:

**1. India (six wins, no losses)**

Most runs: Rohit Sharma (398 runs)

Most wickets: Jasprit Bumrah (14 wickets)

India has been dominant, winning all six of their matches. While they excelled in chasing targets, they faced some challenges when batting first. The brilliance of India's bowling attack has proven crucial in their unbeaten run.

**2. South Africa (five wins, one loss)**

Most runs: Quinton de Kock (431 runs)



India's men's team has taken the lead in the 2023 ICC World Cup tourney.

Most wickets: Marco Jansen (12 wickets)

South Africa has displayed their strength with four totals above 300, except for a shocking loss to the Netherlands. A thrilling last-wicket victory over Pakistan boosted their confidence.

**3. New Zealand (four wins, two losses)**

Most runs: Rachin Ravindra (406 runs)

Most wickets: Mitch Santner (14 wickets)

New Zealand, runners-up in the past two World Cups, remains strong. They beat

England and secured victories against lesser-fancied opponents. They need a couple more wins to secure a spot in the knockout stages.

**4. Australia (four wins, two losses)**

Most runs: David Warner (413 runs)

Most wickets: Adam Zampa (16 wickets)

Australia has recovered after two early losses. Their batters have found form, and the team is in a good position, with one foot in the knockout stages.

**5. Sri Lanka (two wins, three**

losses)

Most runs: Sadeera Samarawickrama (295 runs)

Most wickets: Dilshan Madushanka (11 wickets)

Sri Lanka has faced challenges due to injuries but made a strong comeback with a significant win against England, boosting their semi-final hopes.

**6. Pakistan (two wins, four losses)**

Most runs: Mohammad Rizwan (333 runs)

Most wickets: Shaheen Afridi (13 wickets)

Pakistan started well with two wins but fell back in the competition. A loss to Afghanistan has put their semi-final chances in jeopardy.

**7. Afghanistan (two wins, three losses)**

Most runs: Rahmanullah Gurbaz (224 runs)

Most wickets: Naveen-ul-Haq, Rashid Khan (six wickets each)

Afghanistan is still in contention, but they need multiple wins in their remaining matches to secure a semi-final spot.

**8. Netherlands (two wins, four losses)**

Most runs: Scott Edwards (204 runs)

Most wickets: Bas de Leede (11 wickets)  
Netherlands' chances of reaching the semi-finals have diminished. They need to win all their remaining matches to have any hopes of progressing.

**9. Bangladesh (one win, five losses)**

Most runs: Mahmudullah Riyad (218 runs)

Most wickets: Shakib Al Hasan, Shoriful Islam (eight wickets each)

Bangladesh made a strong start but has faced consecutive losses, making it unlikely for them to reach the semi-finals.

**10. England (one win, five losses)**

Most runs: Dawid Malan (236 runs)

Most wickets: Reece Topley and Adil Rashid (eight wickets)

England has struggled throughout the tournament, and their title defense is all but over. They would need a series of wins and other favorable results to have a chance at the semi-finals.

As the competition intensifies, the teams are striving to secure their spots in the semi-finals, and the cricketing world eagerly awaits the unfolding drama in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023.



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