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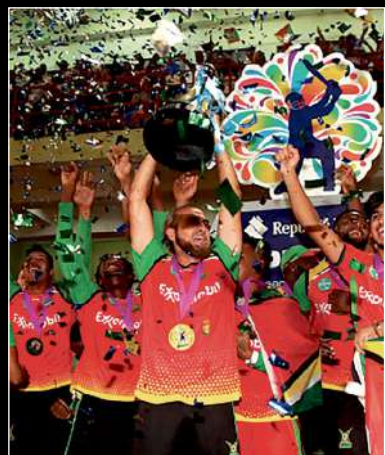
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(PHOTO CREDIT: Reuters Image)



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**NEWS**



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

**REGIONAL**

The General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) says it objects to Venezuela's encroachment on Guyana's "sovereignty and territorial rights through intimidatory," and called on Caracas to await the ruling by the International Court of Justice, (ICJ), on the border dispute between the two countries.

In a statement, the General Secretariat supported an earlier statement issued by OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro, who criticized Venezuela's position regarding Guyana's ongoing oil auction.

The statement noted that on September 21st, Venezuela's "National Assembly" unanimously agreed to call a National Public Consultation "so that the people strengthen the defense" and "the inalienable rights of Venezuela" over the territorial dispute with Guyana.

"We condemn this improper use of a referendum because it is illegal according to the 1966 Geneva Agreement, and because similar misuses of this instrument have served as a pretext in the recent past to try to justify the worst actions between States, including the crime of aggression," the statement added.

Earlier this month, the Irfaan Ali administration announced that it had received bids for eight of the country's oil blocks which are located offshore Guyana.

But in a statement, the Nicolas Maduro government rejected the auction saying, "the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, strongly rejects the illegal bidding round for oil blocks currently carried out by the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana (Blocks for tender for 2022 –

Guyana Licensing Round), since it intends to have maritime areas pending delimitation between the two countries."

In its statement, Caracas also noted that any arbitrary concession granted would be "unacceptable" and that "these actions do not generate any type of rights to third parties who participate in such a process."

**GUYANA**

The government of Guyana delivered a protest note to Venezuela's Ambassador to Guyana, Carlos Amador Pérez Silva, during a meeting convened on September 23rd. The protest note conveyed Guyana's deep concern over recent threats of the use of force by Venezuela against Guyana and Venezuela's planned referendum on the territorial controversy between the two nations.

The meeting took place between Ambassador Pérez Silva and Acting Foreign Minister Anil Nandlall, although details of the discussion were not disclosed by Nandlall.

However, Foreign Affairs Minister Hugh Todd, who was on official travel, commented that the meeting primarily revolved around the referendum, Guyana's position regarding the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the 1966 Geneva Agreement, and the importance of adhering to international law.

Guyana expressed its alarm at Venezuela's decision to hold a referendum on defending its claim to Guyana's Essequibo territory, believing that such actions could escalate tensions between the two countries.

The summoning of the Venezuelan Ambassador coincided with President Irfaan Ali's briefing of Opposition Leader Aubrey Norton on developments concerning the



Rachel Bhagwandeem, 11, was recently awarded the Trinidad & Tobago Hummingbird Medal, Bronze, posthumously, for her gallantry during a tragic incident that occurred on August 26, 2022.

Guyana-Venezuela border. Norton assured the President of the Opposition's support for measures aimed at protecting Guyana's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

President Ali, in a Facebook Live address, reaffirmed Guyana's commitment to defending its sovereignty and territorial integrity through legal and peaceful means. He emphasized that Guyana would stand united on this issue and called out Venezuela's attempt to disrupt peace in the region.

The territorial dispute intensified when Venezuela objected to Guyana inviting bids for offshore oil blocks, claiming that the blocks fell within Venezuela's maritime territory. Venezuela warned companies against investing in the area without its permission and vowed to take necessary measures to prevent operations in Guyanese waters.

**JAMAICA**

The Jamaican government has declared that it will no longer utilize public funds to cover the salaries and operational costs of the beleaguered Stocks and Securities Limited, (SSL) company, which has been plagued by fraud.

Finance Minister Dr. Nigel Clarke issued a statement announcing that the Jamaican government's support for SSL staff salaries is no longer necessary. This decision comes after an insurance claim made by the SSL Temporary Manager in April to the company's insurers in England was settled.

The insurance payout of one million US dollars was received by SSL on September 7, allowing the settlement of the remaining August staff salary bill last week. Dr. Clarke emphasized that no taxpayer money, government resources, or public funds have been or will be used to support SSL's expenses or employees.

The government noted that SSL clients own Jamaica

dollar (J\$) denominated stocks and bonds held in the Jamaica Central Securities Depository as part of SSL's off-balance sheet business. SSL will begin transferring client securities to other selected security dealers on September 22, and any cash balances in client accounts will be transferred to specified banks. The entire process may take up to six weeks due to the volume of client accounts.

However, transferring US dollar-denominated securities owned by SSL clients will take more time and involve collaboration with US-based regulators and investment houses.

SSL's staff complement is expected to decrease from 22 employees to no more than eight by the end of November as the off-balance sheet business is wound down. The Jamaican government emphasized that complete removal of SSL as a contingent liability requires a final determination by the court regarding who has proper authority over SSL, whether it's the Financial Services Commission's appointed Temporary Manager or the SSL Board-appointed Trustee.

**BERMUDA**

The Bermuda Government's IT and communications systems were recently crippled by a major cyber-security attack. The government e-mail was knocked out along with the main switchboard.

Details were not given on whether sensitive information had been compromised or payment demanded for the attack, which Acting Premier Walter Roban traced to 10 p.m. on Wednesday, September 20th.

Premier David Burt was off the island attending an annual meeting of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation.

**CAYMAN ISLANDS**

Labour Minister Dwayne Seymour has tendered his resignation from the PACT government, including his role

as labor minister, citing what he described as disorganization and lackluster leadership within the government. Seymour, who had previously crossed the floor from the opposition to join the PACT government in November 2021, expressed his disappointment with the leadership of Premier Wayne Panton, whom he criticized as autocratic.

During his resignation speech in Parliament, Seymour pointed to the premier's failure to engage and empower the civil service, maintain cohesion within the PACT group, complete the 2024/25 budget in a timely and consultative manner, and demonstrate fairness to all members of the caucus as reasons for his departure.

Despite his resignation from the government, Seymour affirmed his commitment to serving the country as a Member of Parliament and sought forgiveness from his constituents for not holding a public meeting to inform them in advance of his decision. He characterized his resignation as an emergency but expressed confidence in his choice.

His resignation came on the heels of a tumultuous parliamentary session that exposed divisions within the government and a growing sense of isolation surrounding Premier Wayne Panton. Shortly after Seymour's resignation speech, Speaker McKeeva Bush requested a suspension of the proceedings.

**TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**

An 11-year-old was recently honored post-humously on the 47th anniversary of Trinidad and Tobago becoming a republic, receiving the recognition for her exceptional bravery. Rachel Bhagwandeem was awarded the Hummingbird Medal, Bronze, for her gallantry during a tragic incident that occurred on August 26, 2022.

The incident took place at a relative's home in Vistabella, south of Trinidad and Tobago's capital. Rachel, a student at Vistabella Presbyterian School, was watching television with her nine-year-old brother, Jaylon, when a vicious mixed-breed dog entered the room.

In an act of remarkable courage, Rachel pushed her younger brother to the door and instructed him to run for safety. Jaylon followed her instructions and raised the alarm, alerting their mother, Seema Bhagwandeem, 41, and other relatives nearby. Despite their efforts to save Rachel, she tragically lost her life.

- Compiled from CMC



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## DISMISSED! - JFF Disses Reggae Girlz Head Coach



Jamaica's Reggae Girlz suffered a 4-1 aggregate defeat at the hands of Canada in the Concacaf Olympic qualifiers in September. (Nathan Denette/The Canadian Press via AP).

**BY HOWARD CAMPBELL**  
Edited By Felicia J. Persaud

He helped the Jamaica Reggae Girlz make history in July, a history that was celebrated globally and locally in Jamaica. But just weeks later, Coach Lorne Donaldson has been dismissed without any real reason by The Jamaica Football Federation, (JFF).

The JFF announced on September 29th, one day before Donaldson's contract expired, that the parties met and "after an extended discussion, both parties came to an agreement that the contract would not be renewed." No reason was given for not extending Donaldson's tenure.

But Coach Donaldson had a different take on the meeting. He told Sports Desk, a call-in program on Omega KLAS FM Radio in Jamaica, that after a meeting of less than five minutes between JFF General Secretary Dennis Chung and his assistant Susie-George Gayle. He said Chung "turned and looked at me and said: 'We will not renew your contract.'"

"That was it," Donaldson disclosed.

The JFF's dissing of the top coach leaves the Jamaica's women's soccer team without a head coach and many fans fuming.

Donaldson's tenure saw him guiding them to the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand in July and August. The Reggae Girlz reached the round of 16, drawing matches with powerhouses France and Brazil and defeating Panama.

It was Donaldson's second stint with the team. He was assistant head coach when they first qualified for the World Cup in France in 2019 and returned in 2022 as head coach, after then head coach, Vin Blaine, resigned.

Donaldson was a respected coach in Colorado where he has been involved in senior and youth programs for over 30 years.

"...All I know is that the coach left, and the players

needed some help and they asked me to come in and help; so I decided to make myself available. For me, it's love for country and love for the players, that's all there is to it," he said at the time.

"To say Mr. Donaldson has had extraordinary success over the last 15 months is to understate the case," a Jamaica Observer editorial read in part.

### THE GIRLZ

A 2-1 defeat to Canada on September 26th ended Jamaica's hopes of becoming the first women's team from the Caribbean to qualify for the Olympics, which takes place in Paris next year.

Canada, who are the Olympic champions, joined the United States as qualifiers from

the CONCACAF group. They won the two-way tie against Jamaica 4-1 on aggregate, having beaten the Reggae Girlz 2-0 in Kingston four days earlier.

Another unresolved issue is payment of funds to the Reggae Girlz for making the World Cup. Still outstanding are monies from FIFA amounting to \$30,000 for each player, with additional incentives to teams depending

on how far they reached in the tournament, which was won by Spain.

Prior to the World Cup, FIFA president Gianni Infantino said that it would be up to member federations to make those payments, which were approved this year.

Chung, general secretary of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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# Jamaica MP Phillip Paulwell Desperate As Search Continues For Missing Daughter And Her Mother

East Kingston and Port Royal's Member of Parliament, Phillip Paulwell, has expressed his deep concern and frustration as the search for his 10-month-old daughter, Sarayah, and her mother, 27-year-old Toshyna Patterson, continues without progress.

The two individuals were last seen at their residence on Gilmore Drive in Kingston 20 on the morning of September 9, and their whereabouts remain unknown.

During a recent session of the House of Representatives, Paulwell took a moment to



Jamaica Member of Parliament Phillip Paulwell's 10-month-old daughter Sarayah Paulwell, r., and her mother 27-year-old Toshyna Patterson, l., remain missing.



extend his gratitude to his colleagues and the House staff for their unwavering support during this challenging time.

"Indeed, I want to thank all

of Jamaica who have reached out to me over the last two weeks as I go through my own personal trial," said Paulwell. "Despite the fact that we are nowhere closer

today than we were two weeks ago in finding my daughter Sarayah and her mother, I do feel the prayers from hundreds and hundreds of Jamaicans who have reached out."

The disappearance of Sarayah and Patterson has sparked concern and empathy across the nation, with many Jamaicans expressing their support and offering prayers for their safe return. However, the mystery surrounding their whereabouts continues to perplex authorities, leaving the family and community anxiously awaiting any leads or

developments in the case.

A person of interest in the investigation into the disappearance of both has been arrested. He was on an immigration watch list, law enforcement sources have disclosed but so far his identity has not been disclosed as the top-level investigation is being conducted on a need-to-know basis, sources quoted say.

- *Rewritten from the Jamaica Observer*



## UN Security Council Approves Resolution On Haiti

The United Nations Security Council on Monday, October 2nd, approved a resolution allowing for the deployment of a multinational force to Haiti, as the French-speaking Caribbean Community, (CARICOM), country urged support to restore peace and security there.

Haitian Prime Minister Dr. Ariel Henry, who heads the interim government following the July 7, 2021, assassination

of President Jovenel Moise, has in the past called on the international community to send in a multi-national force to his homeland, a position that had also been supported by United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres, the United States and the wider CARICOM grouping.

Thirteen members of the UN Security Council voted in favor of the resolution, with Russia and China abstaining.



Thirteen members of the UN Security Council have voted in favor of a resolution allowing for the deployment of a multinational force to Haiti. (UN image)

The resolution condemns "the increasing violence, criminal activities and human

rights abuses and violations that undermine the peace, stability and security of Haiti."

The multinational force is expected to be led by Kenya, which has pledged 1,000 police to spearhead the mission. Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Jamaica and Belize have already said they would support the multinational force that would be authorized to provide operational support to the Haitian National Police, (PNH), "through the planning and conduct of joint security support operations".

The force will have a 12-month mandate in Haiti and the timing of its arrival is not set yet and more countries have been invited to participate.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

## DISMISSED! - JFF Disses Reggae Girlz Head Coach

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3) the JFF, told Caribbean Today that the funds will be dispersed once documentation by soccer's governing body is finalized.

"The payment of funds to the 'Girlz' is a matter for the JFF and the Girlz. The JFF had said that the funds would be paid as soon as we receive the funds and all information re the withholding tax from FIFA. That remains the commitment," he said.

Chung added that his organization is straightforward in terms of compensation for the players.

"I think the JFF has been very transparent in recent times," he added.

Going into the World Cup, there were reports of the JFF struggling to secure funding for the Reggae Girlz. Several players, including star striker Khadija "Bunny" Shaw of Manchester City, were critical of the JFF in several areas including payments and getting pre-tournament matches for the team.

Private donations came from Cedella Marley, daughter of reggae legend Bob Marley, and a longtime supporter of the team. Another source was Lee Phillips,

whose GoFundMe page lists her address as Gainesville, Florida; she reportedly raised \$76,699 for the World Cup effort.

Chung declined comment on that initiative.

"I have no knowledge of what happened with the GoFundMe and so could not comment on whether or not assistance was given to the girls from it. That is a question best directed to the GoFundMe operators. We know that we have provided all the money needed for the World Cup preparation and funds needed at the World Cup," he said.

Prior to the matches against Canada, the Reggae Girlz were given a significant financial boost with a donation of \$162,000 by the Jamaica Olympic Association, (JOA). This is an incorporation of funds from the JOA, Jamaica Football Federation, (JFF), and the Bob Marley Foundation to assist with their Olympics campaign as well as player incentives.

The JOA sponsorship package saw \$97,000 going to the matches against Canada. The remainder of the funds covered "player incentives" which included bonuses for goals scored, assists made,

clean sheets, and team prizes for Olympic qualification.

Christopher Samuda, president of the JOA, cited the Reggae Girlz' historic and heroic showing in Australia for his association getting involved with them.

He described the donation as "an investment in the human capital of football. It is an investment in our young people, to let them recognize that we reward when excellence is demonstrated on the field of play."

The next stop for Jamaica's Reggae Girlz is the Gold Cup qualifying tournament. They face Panama and Guatemala in Group A home and away games starting October 25th, with an away game in Panama.

The winner of the group will qualify for the Women's Gold Cup Group stage, alongside two other Group A winners. The runners-up in these three Group A (A1, A2, A3) will join three Group B (B1, B2, B3) winners in the Women's Gold Cup preliminaries.

Sadly, they will be without the man who helped them make history.



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## Antiguan Taxpayers Stuck With Over US\$100,000 A Month Bill

In a surprising turn of events, Eric Schmidt, the former Google CEO, has backed out of his intended purchase of the Alfa Nero, a \$120 million mega-yacht seized by the Antigua and Barbuda government. This unexpected development has left the small Caribbean nation grappling with a substantial \$28,000 weekly maintenance bill for the idle vessel, as reported by The Wall Street Journal. That's USD 112,000 per month.

The Alfa Nero, which had been anchored in Antigua's Falmouth Harbor since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in August 2022, was linked by the US Treasury Department to Andrey Guryev, a Russian oligarch known to have close ties to Vladimir Putin. Despite winning the yacht auction in June for \$67.6 million, Schmidt's change of heart came after a legal action, filed by a company connected to Guryev's daughter, thwarted the sale.

The superyacht Alfa Nero docked in Falmouth Harbour in Saint Paul Parish, Antigua, on Wednesday, April 20, 2023. It's been more than a year since the Russian superyacht Alfa Nero all 267 feet and 2,500 gross tons of it was abandoned in Falmouth Harbour, Antigua. Photographer: Bing Guan/ Bloomberg via Getty Images



The Alfa Nero, which had been anchored in Antigua's Falmouth Harbor since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in August 2022. (Getty image)

As a result, the mega yacht, renowned for its opulence and amenities, including an infinity pool that doubles as a dancefloor, has remained stationed in Falmouth Harbor for over 19 months. The financial burden of maintaining the vessel has now fallen upon the shoulders of Antigua and Barbuda's taxpayers, who are footing the \$28,000-a-week bill. These expenses cover various costs, such as the salary of an Italian captain and a daily diesel bill of \$2,000 to keep the vessel's air conditioning operational. The constant cooling is necessary to prevent mold from damaging the yacht's hardwood interior and priceless artwork, including a Joan Miró painting.

The unexpected outcome

has posed a significant challenge to the Caribbean nation, which is home to just 93,000 residents. While the Antigua and Barbuda government initially sought to auction the Alfa Nero due to concerns about its inadequate maintenance, Eric Schmidt's withdrawal from the deal has created an ongoing financial burden that the nation now faces.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



## UN Security Council Approves Resolution On Haiti

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

The resolution also calls for a global stop to arms sales to Haiti, except for approved security purposes.

CARICOM leaders addressing the recently concluded 78th session of the UNGA, had used the occasion to urge the international and more particularly, the United Nations Security Council to pass the resolution allowing for the multi-disciplinary force to enter in Haiti.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken had urged the international community to support the plan and to provide assistance, including personnel, and said Washington was ready to provide "robust" financial and logistical assistance.

A statement by the US ambassador to the UN, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, described Monday's decision on Haiti as "historic" and said the mission "speaks to the UN's ability to galvanize collective action."

But China's UN ambassador Zhang Jun said his country had "a cautious and responsible approach" toward

authorizing the use of force, saying that in the case of Haiti, China's abstention represented a "constructive position" toward the resolution.

Russia's UN envoy Vassily Nebenzia criticized the move in remarks to the Security Council, saying "that sending the armed forces of another state to any country even upon its request is an extreme measure that must be thoroughly thought through," but noted "some positive elements" to the approved resolution.

Both Russia and China expressed approval of the resolution's arms embargo.

The United Nations' special representative in Haiti, Maria Isabel Salvador, said her office would support the mission "within the limits of its mandate," while emphasizing that "unlike recent international missions deployed in Haiti, the MSS mission is not a UN mission."

- CMC



## Jamaica's First Lady Assumes Role as the Country's Parliamentary Speaker

Jamaica's first lady and the wife of Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness and a Member of the House of Representatives, Juliet Holness, is now also the elected Speaker of the country's Parliament.

She replaces Marisa Dalrymple-Philibert who stepped down from the post and as a legislator recently.

Holness, the parliamentary representative for St Andrew East Rural, was nominated by the acting leader of Government business Delroy Chuck and seconded by Phillip Paulwell, the Leader of Opposition business in the Parliament.

The seat became vacant after Dalrymple-Philibert, came under mounting pressure to step down following a damning report from the Integrity Commission which recommended eight criminal charges against her related to omissions she made on her statutory declarations for the period 2015-2021 and her failure to declare a six million dollar, (One Jamaica dollar=US\$0.008 cents), vehicle.

Heroy Clarke, member of



Mrs. Juliet Holness is not just First Lady and MP but now Speaker of the Jamaica Parliament. (CMC image)

Parliament for St James Central has been named the deputy speaker.

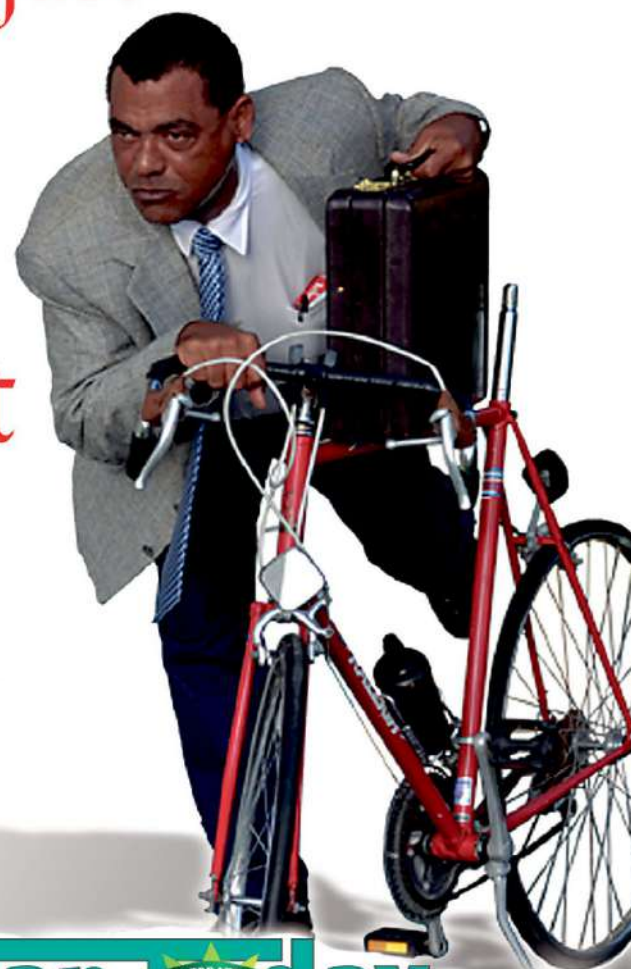
The ruling Jamaica Labour Party, (JLP), enjoys a significant majority in the 63-member Parliament winning 49 seats in the September 3, 2020, general election while the main opposition was victorious in the remaining 14 constituencies.

- CMC



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# Canada Slaps Sanctions On 3 Haitian Businessmen



L-R: Marc Antoine Acra, a prominent businessman who previously served as an advisor to former Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe; Carl Braun, who serves as vice president on the board of directors of Unibank, the largest Haitian bank, and Jean-Marie Vorbe, the CEO of Sogener, an energy sector company, have all been sanctioned by the government of Canada.

The Canadian government has enforced sanctions against three Haitian entrepreneurs, alleging their involvement in corruption and “other illicit activities” and their alleged facilitation of armed gang operations that have aggravated a severe social and humanitarian crisis in Haiti.

These sanctions, which target Marc Antoine Acra, Carl Braun, and Jean-Marie Vorbe, effectively bar them from traveling to Canada and prohibit Canadian citizens, entities, or residents from engaging in economic transactions with them.

Marc Antoine Acra is a prominent businessman who previously served as an advisor

to former Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe.

Carl Braun serves as vice president on the board of directors of Unibank, the largest Haitian bank, while Jean-Marie Vorbe is the CEO of Sogener, an energy sector company.

Canada contends that these businessmen are contributing to violence and instability in Haiti through corrupt practices and other criminal activities, as well as by enabling illegal actions by armed gangs that are terrorizing the Haitian population.

Canadian Foreign Minister Mélanie Joly emphasized that these sanctions are a crucial element of a comprehensive approach to address Haiti’s

political situation.

Canada has actively participated in diplomatic initiatives aimed at establishing a multinational peacekeeping force under the United Nations’ auspices to intervene in Haiti.

Since November 2022, Canada has imposed sanctions

on 28 Haitian individuals, described as the country’s “political and economic elite,” due to their alleged involvement in armed gang activities in Haiti.

Earlier this week, Joly appointed André Francois Giroux as Canada’s new ambassador to Haiti, underscoring Canada’s

commitment to engaging with the situation in Haiti.

Canada is home to over 165,000 people of Haitian descent.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



# UK Host Criticized Over Handling Of Interview With Guyana President

Richard Madeley, the host of Good Morning Britain, (GMB), is facing widespread criticism for his handling of Guyana President Irfaan Ali during a recent interview. Ali appeared on the show ahead of his address to the UN General Assembly, where he intended to discuss the issue of reparations for slavery, arguing that the UK still benefits from its historical involvement.

However, during the interview, Madeley’s demeanor took an increasingly contentious turn. He seemed to grow frustrated with Ali’s suggestion that the British royal family should consider offering reparations to contemporary generations. Madeley questioned why someone today should bear the responsibility for actions committed by their ancestors. In response, Ali firmly stated that individuals like Madeley



Richard Madeley, the host of Good Morning Britain, (GMB), during the interview with Guyana President Irfaan Ali. (Screen Grab/GMB)

continue to benefit from the historical slave trade’s greatest indignity to humanity.

As the conversation progressed, Madeley made a dramatic gesture by slamming his hand on the desk while laughing at Ali’s response. This action and his overall behavior during the interview sparked outrage among viewers and public figures alike. Some have described Madeley’s conduct

as “arrogant,” “ignorant,” and “disrespectful.”

The incident has gained significant attention on social media, with many expressing their disapproval of Madeley’s approach. Madeley’s representatives and ITV have so far not commented on the matter.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



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LOCAL NEWS

# Central Florida Jamaican Community Calls For Honorary Consul In Orlando

Jamaican communities in Central Florida, United States, are rallying behind a call for the appointment of an honorary consul in Orlando to better serve the needs of the growing Jamaican population in the region.

Peter Gracey, who leads the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council for the Southern US, had made this request in a letter earlier this year. He noted that while the letter had been acknowledged, there had been no further response.

Gracey highlighted the significant challenges faced by Jamaicans in Central Florida

when accessing consular services. He argued that appointing an honorary consul in Orlando would help alleviate these challenges, as currently, many Jamaicans have to travel long distances to the Consulate in Miami.

The cost of traveling the 235-mile journey from Orlando to Miami, along with expenses such as tolls, overnight lodging, and food, can be quite burdensome for Jamaican residents in Central Florida. Gracey also pointed out that the presence of an honorary consul in Orlando would not only benefit the Jamaican



Peter Gracey, who heads the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council for the Southern US, made the call in a letter earlier this year, but said that while the letter which was sent through the Consulate in Miami had been acknowledged, he had heard nothing since then.

community but also promote Jamaican culture and create opportunities for increased trade.

Members of the Jamaican community in Central Florida voiced their support for this proposal, emphasizing the need for local consular services. They highlighted the growing Jamaican population in the area and the challenges they face in

accessing government services concentrated in South Florida.

Data from the United States Census for 2019 indicated that approximately 65,000 Jamaicans resided in Orlando, Sanford, Kissimmee, and Tampa alone. However, the Jamaican population has been growing at an annual rate of approximately seven percent, suggesting that the figure is now even higher.

- *Rewritten from the Jamaica Observer*



## It's Carnival Time In Miami



Young revelers follow the Caribbean cultural tradition with a presence at the Miami Carnival. (Miami carnival.org image)

The Miami Broward One Carnival Host Committee, renowned for its unwavering dedication and passion for Carnival, is gearing up to host one of the year's most significant cultural events. As the celebration enters its 39th year, it continues to showcase the vibrant tapestry of Caribbean culture and heritage while solidifying its position as one of North America's largest cultural tourism events.

Scheduled for Sunday, October 8th at the Miami-Dade County Fairgrounds - 10901 SW 24th St, Miami, FL 33165 – the event again promises to captivate audiences and further enhance Miami's cultural diversity.

Hosted by the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau and powered by Utopia Carnival Cruise & Festival, Miami Carnival receives crucial support from the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor, and the Board of County Commissioners. This annual event offers attendees an opportunity to immerse themselves in the music, dance, and flavors that define the Caribbean experience.

Joan Justin, Chair of the Miami Broward One Carnival

Host Committee, emphasizes the inclusive nature of the event, stating, "Miami Carnival is not just an event; it's an experience that brings together people from different backgrounds to celebrate unity, diversity, and the rich cultural tapestry of the Caribbean. Whether you have Caribbean roots or want to experience the beauty of our culture, Miami Carnival welcomes all to join in the festivities."

This year's celebration promises to be the most vibrant yet, as over ten Jr. masquerade bands showcased their pageantry on September 30th.

In addition to the parade and concert, Miami Carnival features a wide array of Caribbean and international cuisine, beverages, arts and crafts, and cultural experiences that cater to families of all ages. It has become a cornerstone of the Caribbean community, attracting participants and spectators from around the world.

The weekend leading up to the grand event is filled with exciting activities, including the official Miami Carnival J'ouvert on Saturday, October 7th, from 7 a.m. to 3 pm. The Miami Carnival Panorama competition on October 8th is another highly anticipated staple event that

complements South Florida's rich cultural diversity.

The celebration culminates with the Miami Carnival Parade of Bands and Concert on Sunday, October 8th, at the Miami-Dade County Fairgrounds. This spectacle is known for its colorful and vibrantly clad parade revelers dancing to the sounds of soca music. It's an event that celebrates pageantry through a kaleidoscope of vibrant costumes and infectious music.

To further enrich the cultural

experience, Miami Carnival also features arts and crafts vendors, offering unique handmade jewelry, intricate textiles, and more, capturing the essence of the Caribbean. And no Caribbean celebration would be complete without its mouthwatering cuisine, featuring jerk chicken, roti, doubles, and other delectable dishes from various Caribbean islands.

This year's Miami Carnival promises to be the biggest and most electrifying yet, drawing

visitors from within the US, the Caribbean, Africa, and Europe. The event celebrates 39 years of showcasing the best in food, music, dance, and culture, solidifying its place as a vibrant celebration of Caribbean heritage and unity.

For more information and ticket purchases, visit Miami Carnival's official website at <https://miamicarnival.org/>.



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Caribbean Today CELEBRATING 39th Anniversary



# Support And Mentorship Benefit Puerto Rican Companies

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

The Bravo Family Foundation, led by founder and chairman Orlando Bravo, has become the lifeblood of Puerto Rico's emerging businesses. The Foundation is a business acceleration initiative aimed at fostering the growth of high-potential technology and innovation start-ups with capital, mentorship, and a world-class curriculum.

Bravo looks for potential, creativity, and ingenuity and rewards startups, emerging, and established companies seeking to go to the next level with solid strategic business advice.

In fact, the Foundation created its Rising Entrepreneurs Program specifically to give fledgling companies the tools they need to succeed and grow in competitive business environments on and off the Caribbean island.

Individuals are taught the rudiments of product development, finance, sales and marketing, operations, organizational design, software development, and fundraising. Not only are they tutored but they are required to show how these elements are incorporated into their businesses and are monitored through on-going support thereafter.

This year, three enterprises were selected to participate in this mentorship initiative: Arrecife, Equal Love, and Maranta Power. Caribbean Today had a chat with their founders.

## DESIGNING CARIBBEAN CULTURE

Arrecife, a men's swimwear company that showcases Puerto Rico's vibrant Caribbean culture through its designs, was founded by Camilo Pulido and Raul Vazquez.

When Colombian native, Pulido, met Puerto Rican-born Vazquez in New York in 2018, they soon recognized their common interests in Caribbean culture and the desire to showcase that intangible intellectual property. It took a year to germinate, but the seed was firmly planted. Pulido, the designer, and Vazquez the finance expert took the plunge and in 2019 opened Arrecife, Spanish for Reef, in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

"I was looking around for new swim shorts for me in this tropical lifestyle in Puerto Rico and found there were no local swimwear brands. So, that's how Arrecife started," Pulido told CT. "We started with only ten designs and a small production, and we were sold out the first month we launched."

But it wasn't too long before the pandemic hit and that forced the temporary closure of the store. Indeed, it was a frustrating time for the young entrepreneurs, especially Pulido whose full-time effort was concentrated on this new enterprise.

"But we had done a good job of establishing an online presence. So even though we had to close the store, people were browsing the Internet, so we still had good sales," said Vazquez.

The core principle Vazquez and Pulido have steadfastly held



Entrepreneurs Raul Vazquez, (left) and Camilo Pulido of Arrecife. (Contributed image)

onto is their commitment to fair working practices. Determined to buck the industry trend of labor exploitation, the pair pay their workers a living wage for reasonable working hours in their manufacturing workshop.

"There is a lot of labor exploitation in the industry, in China, Hong Kong, Columbia, even the United States. So, to avoid that we started our own manufacturing and pay our workers above the industry norm to help them achieve their dreams," Pulido explained.

"That's the social component of our brand," Vazquez added. "We've always been staunch advocates of fair compensation, treating the people that work with us ethically and providing them an opportunity to grow. Obviously, we are a business and want to make a profit. But we don't want to do that by having other people not be fairly compensated."

The result is garments made from high quality textiles with attention to design, styling, and workmanship. Celebrating the region, Pulido's designs showcase the colors of the Caribbean with some specifically highlighting Puerto Rican cultural landmarks. Now a household name, the Arrecife brand has gone beyond beachwear and into daily wear, becoming statement pieces.

"It is thanks to the Rising Entrepreneurs structured program and access to mentors that have accelerated Arrecife's growth and helped us diversify our product line beyond beachwear," Vazquez added.

## CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

Ana María Hernández founded her company, Equal Love in 2018. A line of personal care natural products, it is based on the desire to express herself, her healthy lifestyle, and to move away from stereotypical gender roles. Puerto Rican-born and bred, a lawyer, a vegetarian, part of the LGBTQ-plus Community, environmental rights advocate, and animal rights

advocate, Hernández wanted to bring her core values to her business.

"As a lawyer, I started to concentrate on very specific subjects. One of them was animal law. The other one is protection for breastfeeding and pregnant women, and also the rights of LGBTQ people," Hernández explained.



Puerto Rican Entrepreneur Laura Teresa Feliciano-Cruz of Maranta Power. (Contributed image)



Entrepreneur Ana Maria Hernandez of Equal Love. (Contributed image)

Following her passion for advocacy, Hernández found opportunities to translate her ideas into products beginning with T-shirts to spread awareness. Equal Love then evolved out of the idea to step away from labels.

"Labels don't matter, just be yourself, that's the primary message because the rest is just socially created constructs. Equal love for your body, however, you want to present yourself, love your body, love your skin," said a passionate Hernández.

Vegan and cruelty-free in recyclable containers, the products range from body lotions, body wash, shampoos, bar soaps, candles, perfume, and more. And importantly, they seek to be genderless because it's not about floral scents for women and woody scents for men. With essential oils such as rosehip, hemp seed, sunflower, jojoba, the company's genderless exclusive blend scents are neutral, hydrating, and stimulating.

Asked to define genderless, the lawyer noted: "There is no such thing really as genderless because our society is built around those two binaries. So, to say something is genderless it's about a balanced aroma. Our products are made from our exclusive essential oils that it is created by me, so it's exclusive to us."

Equal Love has also benefited from the Bravo Family Foundation's Rising Entrepreneurs Program, said Hernández, explaining that it has given her

the business tools and knowledge to help the business become profitable. Her focus now is expanding Equal Love, with sights into the United States.

## NATURAL BEAUTY

Laura OM - Laura Teresa Feliciano-Cruz - has been a hairstylist for more than two decades. It's what she loves, it's

what she's good at, it's what she was born to do. Passionate about natural beauty, Feliciano-Cruz has been Puerto Rico's major voice in the curly hair movement.

Lovingly dubbed "The Queen of Curls," her research into clean, healthy products for natural curls led to the creation of Maranta Power 5 years ago.

Simply put, they are professional-grade, natural-based curly hair formulas that celebrate individuality. In colloquial terms, Maranta means 'big bushy hair,' and has always had a negative connotation.

The hairstylist has turned that meaning into a positive, encouraging women, and men, to embrace the power of what is naturally theirs. Now servicing more than 60 clients a day at her San Juan OM Studio, the hairstylist is revolutionizing Puerto Rico's hair industry.

"Maranta Power started first as a movement," Feliciano-Cruz explained. "Many people were straightening their hair, and I was the only one on the island that was provoking people to embrace their curly hair. So, I started using the word maranta in a way to change the significance or meaning. I always wanted my clients to feel beautiful in their own skin and with their natural curls."

The first product she launched, Maranta Power Curl Enhancing Cream, is still one of the company's best-selling lines. With ingredients such as aloe vera, argan oil, shea butter, carrot extract it proved a perfect formula for loose, medium, tight, or afro curls. Now with the addition of hair masks, conditioners, shampoos, and gels, the product line is testament to Feliciano-Cruz's belief in the power to self-love.

She did point out that it took a lot of hard work to reach a populace that, like other cultures, has been bombarded with the European standards of beauty. With 90 percent of the island's population graced with curly hair of some kind (from loose to afro curls), the hairstylist was determined to create products that could help them manage their curls.

"I show my clients that you can have both styles," she revealed. "Yes, you can have European styling, but you have

to love and be able to manage and take care of your curly hair too... It's a combination of good products, good ingredients, clean products, and styling. We have a lot of videos that teach people how to style their hair."

Lauro OM is well known in Puerto Rico for her advocacy, her natural hair products, her creativity. And, as a recipient of the Rising Entrepreneurs Program she is ready to rise to the next level.

"I know I have a good product, and I'm ready to scale. I needed the education that the program provides to scale in the right way, with a purpose. It's not just about money, it's also about the impact that I'm going to have around the world. The amount of input and information that the program has given me is priceless," said an inspired Feliciano-Cruz. "What I've learned has been so powerful. And, as an entrepreneur I've been able to share that knowledge with others. So, what the Bravo Family Foundation is doing is going to impact the whole island."



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**PETER A WEBLEY**  
Publisher

**FELICIA J. PERSAUD**  
Editor

**BRANDON WEBLEY**  
Web Copy Editor

**LORNA ASENCOR**  
Accounting Manager

**HYACINTH LEIBA**  
Account Executive

**SABRINA G. ALEXANDER**  
Graphic Design

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# Eleven Years On, DACA Recipients' Dream Remains Unfulfilled

On June 15, 2012, 11 plus years ago, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, colloquially referred to as DACA, was introduced as an executive branch memorandum by President Barack Obama. The executive order allowed young migrants under 16, who came to the US with their parents and had no legal working papers, the chance to obtain a work permit, travel documents and protection from deportation in 2-year increments.



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

Since 2012, there has been a lot of talk about granting DACA recipients, known as DREAMERS, a path to securing a green card and then citizenship. But each time, the talk has been nothing, but idle rhetoric and Dreamers continue to hang on by a thread, even though they are US taxpayers and upstanding members of society.

Now Dreamers are under threat again as Texas Judge Andrew Hanen, presiding over the case brought by lawmakers in his state, recently ruled that DACA violates federal administrative law.

While the recent ruling does not immediately terminate the program and Hanen's decision does not mandate immigration enforcement actions against DACA recipients or applicants, it has again raised concerns.

Advocates for the program view this ruling as a call to action for Congress to pass legislation. However, achieving legislative progress in the realm

of immigration has proven challenging, given ongoing debates about work visas, asylum, and border security.

Senator Richard J. Durbin, Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, expressed disappointment with the ruling. He has signalled an intention to reignite discussions on immigration reform. Durbin even suggested revisiting the "Gang of Eight" immigration bill, last considered in 2013, as a potential basis for a compromise.

However, the path forward remains uncertain, as passing any DACA-related legislation would require significant bipartisan support, including backing from at least nine Republicans and the Republican-controlled House.

Senator Lindsey Graham echoed the need for legislative action, citing concerns about border security and undocumented immigration under the Biden administration. While he is willing to make an effort, Graham acknowledges the challenges of passing such legislation.

Senator John Cornyn, who has supported bipartisan immigration proposals in the past, expressed doubts about the current political climate. He believes that the administration's approach to border security has created obstacles to reaching a consensus on immigration legislation.

While the House Judiciary Committee has proposed some bipartisan initiatives, including a bill by Representatives Maria Elvira Salazar and Veronica Escobar, there is still much work to be done to bridge the political divide.

Judge Hanen's ruling

emphasizes the necessity of congressional action regarding DACA, highlighting the need for a legislative solution. As the legal battle unfolds, DACA recipients and a new generation of immigrants face uncertain futures, underscoring the urgency for lawmakers to address this critical issue.

The Biden administration has committed to continuing the

processing of DACA renewals as the legal case progresses, with an expectation that the ruling will be appealed. While this legal battle continues, the fate of DACA and its beneficiaries remains uncertain. Ultimately, the ruling sends a clear message that Congress must take action to provide permanent protections and a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers and other

undocumented residents IN the United States versus those flooding cities, sucking up resources and moving ahead of the proverbial line with asylum claims!

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



## Housekeeping Men



The housekeeping woman has been around in all societies from the beginning of civilization. She is the one who takes care of the home, sees to it that it's kept clean and presentable, caters to the children, and ensures that the entire household is perfect.



TONY ROBINSON

That's quite a task, and one that most men would not dare to

attempt. After all, women are born to do that sort of thing, it's been said. Until now - for lo and behold, there are now men who not only assume the role of the housekeeper, but often outdo her while enjoying it in the process too.


Maybe it's an anomaly of nature, an aberration, something out of the ordinary, but there are some men who are suited to be housekeepers and able

to assume the role which relish, enthusiasm and gusto.

Let's face it, housework is hard, thankless, and unforgiving. As soon as you finish it, there is more to be done. And yet, women seem to accomplish it with consummate ease. Well, maybe not consummate ease, but they do seem to get the job done with utmost efficiency. Ask the average man to do what women do and see how inept he is.

Is that why most, if not all domestic helpers are females? Answer me honestly, if you requested a household helper

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)




## Tasty THC


**The benefits and risks of consuming cannabis-infused edibles**

**Most people consume cannabis by smoking the drug. However, food infused with the plant is growing in popularity and many users are not aware of the risks and benefits of consuming these edibles.**

**Watch the Conversations on Cannabis live virtual forum to hear experts discuss how edibles impact the body and the laws governing the use of this popular alternative to smoking marijuana.**







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# Open Letter To President Biden And Secretary Blinken

BY The National Haitian American Elected Officials Network & FANM

Dear President Biden and Secretary Blinken,

The National Haitian American Elected Officials Network (NHAEON) and FANM in Action write to strongly oppose your administration's proposed international military intervention in Haiti. Any military intervention supporting Haiti's corrupt, repressive, unelected regime will likely exacerbate its current political crisis to a catastrophic one. It will further entrench the regime, deepening Haiti's political crisis while generating significant civilian casualties and migration pressure. If the U.S. is genuinely interested in stabilizing the political situation to avoid a catastrophic humanitarian crisis in Haiti, it will start by ceasing to prop up the corrupt government and allow the emergence of a consensus transitional government with the legitimacy to decide how the international community can contribute.

The current unconstitutional de-facto government, led by Prime Minister Ariel Henry, has been ineffective and inept in governing and providing basic security to protect vulnerable Haitians. This regime has dismantled Haiti's democratic structures while facilitating and conceding control of the country to many gang leaders. The PHTK governments did not run a fair or timely election. They have created a prevalent culture of corruption that deprives the government of the necessary funds to support the Haiti National Police and provide basic governmental services to the Haitian population. At least 21 Haitian officials linked to the PHTK Party face international sanctions for corruption or ongoing gang violence in Haiti. Harvard Law School and several Haitian human rights groups concluded in their 2021 study that many Haitian government officials have colluded with allied gangs to attack opposition neighbourhoods, and their constant attacks have contributed significantly to widespread and politically motivated gang violence that constitutes crimes against humanity. For example, many gangs are currently operating in Haiti and controlling the country with the support of PHTK officials.

The gang operations have displaced over 150,000 people due to their constant violence. PHTK corruption has looted Haiti's entire economy: inflation has exceeded 20% for three years, and over half of all Haitians face hunger, including over 100,000 children facing severe malnutrition. As a result, many capable and vulnerable Haitians are fleeing the country to avoid political persecution.

A letter from at least 60 Haitian organizations and individuals to the African Union urges the rejection of the de-facto regime's call for assistance from the international community to send foreign forces to Haiti. Many Haitians oppose any foreign intervention, and such a proposal is unlikely to gain any popular support to pursue gangs entrenched in neighbourhoods affiliated with the de-facto regime. They will likely engage in significant firefights in hostile, densely-packed urban neighbourhoods, leading to significant civilian casualties.

The U.S. must immediately stop propping up the unconstitutional de facto regime to stabilize Haiti's current political crisis and encourage the building of a consensus government to move Haiti toward embracing a democratic process. Dr. Ariel Henry came to power not through a democratic process but through a declaration by the Core Group, which the

U.S. leads. The State Department insists that Dr. Henry must be part of any transitional government. Dr. Henry has used the U.S.'s indifference to clinch power and continues to veto any proposed consensus to create an inclusive transitional government without him. The State Department continues to promote Dr. Henry's December 21 Accord as a viable path forward, even though not a single political party won more than 1% in the last elections, and the accord is broadly rejected as another unconstitutional power grab for the PHTK. If your Administration were to withdraw its support for Dr. Henry, he would have been forced to negotiate with Haitian civil society and other groups toward a peaceful solution to Haiti's current political crisis.

We are confident that, given a chance, our brothers and sisters in Haiti will come together to develop a solution to the political crisis. Over the past three years, groups across the spectrum have gathered, often putting long-running political disagreements aside, to agree on practical, promising plans for a transitional government. But each time, the de facto authorities defeat the promising effort by refusing any compromise.

In addition to ceasing to prop up the current regime, your administration can contribute to security in Haiti by blocking arms shipments to Haiti and enforcing accountability for weapons traffickers and those profiteering from the violence in Haiti. Haiti does not manufacture guns and ammunition, but they originate from the U.S. and continue to destroy many lives, including U.S. Citizens. We strongly urge your Administration to effectively investigate armed trafficking to Haiti and provide more resources to the U.S. Customs and Border Patrols to inspect cargo leaving the United States to Haiti.

In summary, these are the actions for your administration:

- No military intervention and/or UN led mission in Haiti
- Withdraw support for the De Facto Dr. Ariel Henry Regime
- Support the Establishment of a Legitimate Transitional Government
- Block and investigate arms shipments to Haiti.

NHAEON and FANM in Action thank you for your prompt consideration of our requests. Although Haiti's problems are complex, we are confident that the country can immediately begin its journey back to the democratic process with your genuine support. We look forward to working with your Administration to help change the trajectory of Haiti's political situation in both the long and short terms.

Sincerely,  
**Charnette Frederic**  
Chairwoman  
NHAEON

**Marleine Bastien**  
Executive Director  
FANM in Action

**EDITOR'S NOTE: NHAEON is the largest network of Haitian American Elected & Appointed Officials organization in the US. FANM in Action is a 501C4 organization whose mission is to work toward an inclusive, equitable, and just society for all.**



## The Hollow Rhetoric Of President Biden On Haiti: A Missed Opportunity For Genuine U.S. Leadership

BY ARTHUR PICCOLO

In a disheartening display of diplomatic double talk, US President Joe Biden on September 19th, stood before the UN General Assembly today and offered a mere five-second mention of Haiti – a nation in crisis. His words were not only brief but blatantly misleading, claiming a U.S. commitment to assist Haiti in combating the criminal gangs that are ravaging the country.

Yet, his call for a UN Security Council resolution to deploy peacekeepers in Haiti is nothing short of a hollow gesture. The harsh reality is that such a resolution stands no chance of passing, given that Russia and China would never lend their unanimous support. This begs the question: Why is President Biden perpetuating this falsehood?

The answer is painfully clear. President Biden has strategically avoided any substantive involvement in Haiti since taking office, and it appears he plans to maintain this stance, even if re-elected. His absence is glaring, especially considering his extensive international travels, none of which include even a symbolic visit to Haiti.

What the President should have declared today is that the United States, with or without a Security Council resolution, will take the lead in collaborating with other nations to put an end to the gang violence that is tearing Haiti apart. The antidote to past UN failures in Haiti is decisive U.S. leadership. So, where is it, President Biden?

It's not just the lack of action that's concerning; it's the absence of a coherent strategy or even the semblance of genuine concern. The United States has a long history of involvement in Haiti, some of it controversial, but never has the need for a committed partnership been more urgent. The Haitian people are not merely neighbours in our shared hemisphere; they are human beings facing unimaginable suffering. Gang violence, political instability, and economic hardship have created a trifecta of turmoil that no nation should have to endure alone.

President Biden's unwillingness to engage meaningfully with the Haitian crisis is a missed opportunity for American leadership on the global stage. At a time when the world is grappling with complex challenges – from climate change

to geopolitical conflicts – the U.S. has a moral and strategic imperative to act. Ignoring Haiti not only undermines our credibility but also allows the crisis to fester, potentially leading to more significant regional instability. If President Biden is serious about his role as a global leader, he needs to move beyond empty rhetoric and take tangible steps to alleviate the suffering in Haiti. Anything less is a dereliction of duty and a failure of American values.

Haiti in its own way is as important for American leadership as is Ukraine, and far less challenging than Ukraine is to bring an end to its struggle. Haiti is waiting and suffering. If you were to display just 1% of your commitment to Ukraine to Haiti it would be impressive. There is no Security Council resolution supporting Ukraine. Why do you need one for Haiti? Leaders lead, President Biden!

**EDITOR'S NOTE: Arthur Piccolo is a frequent contributor to News Americas and chairman of the Bowling Green Association of NYC.**

- NewsAmericasNow.com



## Housekeeping Men

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

to clean your house and a man showed up, how would you react?

"Excuse me, but are you sure that you have the right address?" But if a woman showed up, you wouldn't even bat an eye.

Can you imagine my shock and dismay when a man told me that he washes and irons his wife's clothes for her? "SAY WHAT?" I asked, to which he replied: "Well, I'm home most of the time, so I just do it to save her the bother."

Not only that, but he also cooks for the family and takes care of the children's needs. And a good man he is too, for the very thought of a man putting on an apron, cleaning the house, cooking the meals and taking care of the children would be anathema to most men.

Maybe that's why male housekeepers are in the minority, for many men would feel kinda strange to assume that role. Still, there have been cases of men forced into the situation due to unforeseen circumstances. In some instances, the spouse just up and left him with the children, forcing him to take on the onerous, arduous task of housekeeping. But I'm not referring to that, but more about voluntary housekeepers who go about their task with a song in their heart and a spring in their step.

Now, all men are not created equal, so all men cannot be housekeepers. There is the mantle of male ego, machismo and pride.

Then there's the question of self-esteem, for few men would relish the thought that their spouse goes to work every day while he stays at home to run the house.

"Take down the curtains and wash them, wash the bathroom mats, wash the mops." Then he'll be asked to prepare all the meals for the week. "Honey, you're such a good cook, just keep on doing it."

I'm not saying that men should not help with housekeeping, but when the question is asked: "Who wears the apron in the house?" his hand should not go up.

Men should certainly help their partners but asking the man to assume the role of housekeeping, getting down on his hands and knees to scrub the floor, wash out the toilet, wash the dishes, cook all the meals, cater to the children, is perhaps out of his comfort zone.

When that happens, the balance of power will shift, and the woman views the man a bit differently, no longer seeing him as manly. A man wearing an apron and down on his knees scrubbing the floor does not present a picture of powerful masculinity.

It even affects his social status. "Hey Robert, you coming to the match?"

"I can't, I have housework to do."

**EDITOR'S NOTE: Tony Robinson can be reached at seido1yard@gmail.com.**





# UWI Honorary Degrees For Caribbean Entertainers

The University of the West Indies, (The UWI), is set to confer honorary degrees upon fourteen remarkable individuals, including several Caribbean entertainers, during the Class of 2023 graduation ceremonies, commencing on October 7th.

This cherished annual tradition, coinciding with the regional university's 75th jubilee celebrations, serves as a tribute to the exceptional contributions these honourees have made to their communities and society at large.

These distinguished individuals will join the ranks of hundreds of graduating students across The UWI's Five Islands, Cave Hill, St. Augustine, Mona, and Global, (formerly Open Campus), locations, marking the culmination of their educational journeys.

Below is the schedule for the 2023 graduation ceremonies and the esteemed list of honorary degree recipients:

**Five Islands Campus – October 7**  
**Sir Leroy 'King Short Shirt' Emanuel**

Sir MacLean, born 28 February 1942 and better known as King Short Shirt, is an Antiguan singer, best known as one of Antigua's longest standing and most successful calypsonians, but later producing gospel music.

**Cave Hill Campus – October 21**  
**Alison Hinds**

Alison Hinds, born June 1st, 1970, is a British-born Bajan soca artist based in Barbados. She is one of the most popular soca singers in the world.



Beres Hammond OJ, is among the Caribbean entertainers set to be conferred with a honorary UWI degree this month.

**St. Augustine Campus – October 26-28**  
**Heather Headley**

Heather Headley, born October 5, 1974, is a Trinidadian-born American

singer, songwriter, record producer and actress. She won the 2000 Tony Award for Best Actress in a Musical for the titular role of Aida. She also won the 2010 Grammy Award for

Best Contemporary R&B Gospel Album for her album Audience of One. In 2018, she recurred as Gwen Garrett on the NBC medical drama television series Chicago Med.

**Mona Campus – November 3-4**  
**Hugh Beresford Hammond, OJ**

Beres Hammond OJ, born Hugh Beresford Hammond on 28 August 1955, in Annotto Bay, Saint Mary, Jamaica, is a Jamaican reggae singer known in particular for his lovers' rock music. While his career began in the 1970s, he reached his greatest success in the 1990s. Stay tuned for these inspiring celebrations of achievement and recognition at The UWI's graduation ceremonies.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



## Hopeton Lindo Emerges From The Shadows With 'Purpose'



Hopeton Lindo has stepped out of the shadows to promote 'Purpose,' his fifth album, which was released last month. (Contributed image)

**BY HOWARD CAMPBELL**

A laid-back personality who avoids the limelight, Hopeton Lindo has always preferred to let his pen do the talking. The prolific songwriter co-wrote or wrote some of the biggest songs in dancehall/reggae during the 1980s and 1990s.

Recently, Lindo has stepped out of the shadows to promote 'Purpose,' his fifth album, which was released in September. It has 16 songs including, 'Don't Know Much,' a cover of the Grammy-winning ballad, he did with fellow singer Novel-T.

Their rendition topped the South Florida Reggae Chart in September, as did four other songs from the album which he produced for his Irie Pen Records.

Lindo earned the nickname 'The Pen' in the 1990s when he was part of producer Gussie Clarke's creative team at

Anchor Recording Studio in his hometown of Kingston, Jamaica. While there, he wrote songs like Temptress for Maxi Priest, co-wrote Telephone Love for J.C. Lodge, and Mr. Loverman for Shabba Ranks.

'Wanna Be Loved,' from Buju Banton's acclaimed 'Til Shiloh album and Gregory Isaacs' 'Red Rose For Gregory' are also songs Lindo co-wrote or wrote.

"I remain humble as I am conscious of the fact that my blessings are from the Almighty. Some may call it a low profile, but I prefer to call it humility. I choose to remain focused and continue putting in the work and stay ready to rise to the occasion," Lindo reasoned.

He collaborated as composer for most of the songs on Purpose which has production input from Sly Dunbar, Robbie Shakespeare, Rorey Baker, Willie Lindo, Gilmore Walters, Richard Grant,

Paul Gauntlett, Dave Richards, Danny Breakenridge and JonFX.

As an artist, Lindo's biggest hit is Territory, a 1987 self-produced song that was used for home matches by Jamaica's Reggae Boyz soccer team on their historic 1998 World Cup



soccer campaign.

'Purpose' also contains other chart-riders such as 'Grown Woman,' a ska number with Peter G, You Don't Have to be A Star with Fiona and Don't do It which features Freddie McGregor and Marcia Griffiths.

The South Florida-based Lindo stays clear of selecting his favorite songs. "All my songs are special to me, so any song that is chosen will be a blessing," he added.



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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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## Code Grey: A Diverse Collective From Philadelphia Spearheading Hip Hop's Evolution



Three members of the Code Grey Hip Hop group outside Forge Studios in Philadelphia preparing for their recent tribute to hip hop's 50th Anniversary show at Dinner En Blanc. From left are executive producer Range Da Messenga, group members King Marz, M-Harm and Verse Mega.

that currently reflects a lot of negativity or darkness. He added that is the "team captain, the voice of reason, the reggae/dancehall flavor and party starter of the squad."

The other members of Code Grey are King Miyachi, aka Man of The People, and Ninja Rapper, who both have Japanese heritage; rapper/singer Marcus Harmony, aka M Harm, Deadpool, and King Marz, aka God of War, who like Verse Mega, are from Philadelphia.

Hip Hop historians largely credit Jamaican sound system maverick, DJ Kool Herc, for creating the genre during a house party at 1520 Sedgwick Avenue in The Bronx on August

11, 1973. It was there that innovations like the 'break' and 'MCing' were first heard.

Many major Hip Hop acts have Caribbean roots. They include Doug E Fresh, (Barbados), The NOTORIOUS B.I.G., Busta Rhymes, (Jamaica), and Nicky Minaj, (Trinidad and Tobago).

The Philadelphia Hip Hop community is not as prolific as New York or Southern California. But it has a strong neo-soul base with The Roots, Jill Scott and Musiq Soulchild among the leading lights.

Verse Mega is from Falmouth, a port town in rural Trelawny in western Jamaica. He agrees with Harris, whose

roots also extend to Jamaica via her father, that Hip Hop's reach is indiscriminate and can be seen in the different backgrounds of Code Grey's lineup.

"Hip-Hop is the common denominator," he said. "Each member is rooted in straightforward rap but brings their own distinct style and culture to the table. The goals are to be mentioned amongst the greatest rap groups of all time and to launch successful solo projects and sub-groups from the camp in the process."

The group is expected to release their first songs in early 2024.



### BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

In September, with celebrations of Hip Hop's 50th anniversary at fever-pitch, US Vice President Kamala Harris described the genre as "the ultimate American art form" that "shapes every aspect of America's popular culture."

Members of Code Grey, a sextet from Philadelphia, are the embodiment of that statement. Formed on New Year's Day this year, the group's ranks include persons from diverse backgrounds who share a passion for Hip Hop, a sound

with roots in The Bronx, New York.

One of Code Grey's founders is Verse Mega, a Jamaican who has lived in The City of Brotherly Love since he was three years old. Since the group formed, he told Caribbean Today, they have "been actively recording music and building chemistry as a collective."

"Code Grey is set to represent Hip Hop's wide range of themes, generations and musical influences," said Verse Mega. "The concept is balance. Bringing light to a culture

## Reggae Icon Marcia Griffiths Unveils 'Golden Album'

Renowned reggae icon Marcia Griffiths has graced us with a new masterpiece, and it's nothing short of classic! Her latest album, aptly titled 'Golden Album,' is a musical gem produced by Kemist Music/Donsome Records, making its debut on September 8th across all digital platforms.

This stellar collection comprises 11 original tracks, with the creative input of esteemed names in the industry. The album



Reggae Icon Marcia Griffiths has released a new album. (Contributed image)

boasts production credits from Damian "Junior Gong" Marley, Clive Hunt, Donovan Germain, Marcia's son The Kemist, and Adrian Hanson for Donsome Records.

Marcia Griffiths, whose timeless voice recently graced stages across Europe, Canada, and the Caribbean during an extensive tour, expresses that the songs on 'Golden Album' mirror her sentiments as she continues her musical journey.

"Music knows no age boundaries. I'll continue to sing for as long as I live...the message remains, and I'll keep spreading it," she passionately affirms.

'Golden Album' has already unveiled two captivating singles: 'Let's Talk About Music' and 'Beer And A Girl,' both expertly produced by Donovan Germain, with whom Marcia shares a long-standing and fruitful partnership. Other notable tracks include 'That Part of Me,' produced by Damian Marley, 'Slide' directed by Clive Hunt and written by Omi of 'Cheerleader' fame, and 'Time Away,' a collaborative effort with Turbulence, all beautifully crafted by Adrian Hanson. The Kemist

showcases his talent alongside his mother on 'Dont Say Nuttin,' adding to the album's brilliance.

Notably, Germany's Silly Walks Discotheque, renowned for producing Chronixx's chart-topping hit 'Smile Jamaica,' takes the helm for 'Holding You Close.'

'Golden Album' graced the music scene just six days before Marcia embarked on an exciting five-city tour of Japan, where she will serenade fans with the enchanting melodies from her latest creation. After a five-year hiatus, she is set to mesmerize audiences in Tokyo, Osaka, Nagasaki, Nagoya, and Hiroshima.

This month, the reggae legend will return to Jamaica, where she will be honored with the prestigious Order of Jamaica, the fourth-highest honor bestowed by her homeland.

'Golden Album' is now available worldwide on all major distribution platforms, brought to you by RhythmZZ Digital Distribution.

- NewsAmericasNow.com



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### TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

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FEATURE



# A Passion For Caribbean Literature

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

An avid reader, a lover of Caribbean literature, Trinidad

and Tobago-born and raised Marsha Massiah, brought her passion for the stories of the region with her when she

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migrated to the United States. These stories served as her voice, helping to ground her in this new environment called Brooklyn, New York.

It was in these streets, peppered with the varying cadences of Caribbean people who now called this place home, that Massiah founded the Brooklyn Caribbean Literary Festival in 2019 - to keep alive the stories she grew up with.

"Sometimes you have to leave the place that you're from to really know who you are, and also to appreciate all of your input," said a proud Massiah, the festival's Founder and Executive Director in a chat with Caribbean Today. "Because truly, a prophet is about honoring his own country. I think I learned who a Caribbean person was when I moved to the United States. And if there's been any one thing that has given me the ability to move with a great deal of confidence through this society, is the place that I'm from - Trinidad and Tobago, and all of the other islands for which I share heritage."



Marsha Massiah (front), Mellisa Harper (middle), Mellany Paynter (back)

## SPIRIT

It is with this spirit that Massiah decided to create a literary platform for Caribbean writers - noting that she could not find books by Samuel Selvon, V.S. Naipaul, or Everard Palmer at Barnes & Noble bookstores. These writers, and so many more, told stories about her experiences, stories she could relate to. She also wanted to steep her young son in these stories as he began to question his identity growing up in America, surrounded by Caribbean folk.

With this hunger, something clicked in 2019 as she read three books by Caribbean writers in succession — Lauren Francis-Sharma's *Til the Well Runs Dry*, *Secrets We Kept: Three Women of Trinidad* by Krystal Sital, and one by Edwidge Danticat.

"There was a distinct voice of a Caribbean American person," Massiah revealed. "So I started searching to find answers about being Caribbean American. All these voices writing luminous examples of what's possible but still being very much anchored to the colonial outpost. But they were all being banded under the banner of being Black American. We are subset of Black American, but we are also something else."

Massiah's literary search began in March 2019, and in September that same year, the Brooklyn Caribbean Literary Festival was born.

"In addition to shining a

light on the writers and creating this umbrella for everybody to gather, we need to find a way to cultivate new storytellers," she insists. "They are fearless in telling the stories from the unique lens of our heritage and our perspective. So, it's very monomaniacal in focus, my passion, my commitment, and my audacious belief in the power of the Caribbean story."

This year marked the Festival's 5th edition, which took place between September 7-10th. With renowned writers and creatives such as Jamaica Kincaid, Elizabeth Nunez, Velma Pollard, Tanya Batson-Savage, P. Djeli Clark, Kai Miller, Barbara Jenkins, and so many more, the festival has become an annual literary staple attracting book lovers from across the five New York boroughs. All the islands across the region are celebrated through panel discussions, workshops, poetry readings, and film screenings at various locations in Brooklyn.

## TENACITY

With limited resources, the literary festival has survived, grown, and is still thriving because of the tenacity of its founder, along with Founding Partner/Director of Operations, Mellany Paynter, and Melissa Harper, Director of Logistics/Assistant Director of Programming. Even the pandemic stimulated growth, allowing for greater reach through virtual events.

But the publishing industry is still very insular said Massiah.

"The publishing industry,

they throw their money behind white writers, and may choose the one black writer as a token. We have been told, we don't have the budget for these writers. But it's the politics of tokenism, colorism, racism, sexism," opined Massiah. "So we, in our own little way, have decided to take over some of this work. Our mission is to get Caribbean people to support Caribbean writers. Most of the books our writers sell are not bought by Caribbean people. So, we're inviting Caribbean people to be part of the movement."

And that movement continues to grow with the Festival's creative 'Cocoa Pod' podcast series, that features authors narrating their stories in their unique accents. Workshops to improve writing craft is also growing, thanks to donors and sponsors from communities and organizations outside of Caribbean culture, which concerns Massiah.

"We complain about appropriation, but we are not good gatekeepers, we are not good stewards," she said. "We have something valuable. The gate is open, somebody else is gonna come take it. We are asking Caribbean people to pick up the mantle, to support the enshrining of our literature... We are in the publishing capital of the world; we are in New York. We are in Brooklyn that boasts the highest concentration of Caribbean people. Why not take advantage of all of that?"



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## Fire Forces Closure Of Guyana Princess Hotel

Less than 48 hours after a fire caused significant damage to a major section of the 194-room Ramada Georgetown Princess Hotel at Providence, East Bank Demerara, Guyana, the facility has announced its temporary closure “until further notice” due to the extensive damage sustained.

In a statement issued on September 25th, the Ramada Georgetown Princess Hotel stated that it is currently working closely with authorities to develop a plan to address the issues faced by its guests during this challenging period. The hotel expressed its gratitude for the patience of its guests and sincerely apologized for the

inconvenience caused by the unfortunate incident.

The Guyana Fire Services, (GFS), reported that the fire originated on the fourth floor, specifically in room 431 of the six-story building, on Saturday, September 23rd. The hotel was hosting guests who were in the country for the Cricket Carnival and the Caribbean Premier League, (CPL), at the time. Fortunately, there were no serious injuries or casualties, with one guest treated for smoke inhalation and transported to the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation.

The Ramada Georgetown Princess Hotel, which became part of the international Ramada



Fire officials inspect a hotel room at The Ramada Georgetown Princess Hotel, damaged by the fire on Sept. 23, 2023. (CMC image)

hotel chain in 2014, is part of the Wyndham Hotel Group,

a global hospitality company with approximately 7,440 hotels

and over 638,300 rooms in 68 countries across 15 hotel brands.

In its closure announcement, the hotel expressed its gratitude and appreciation to the government of President Iraan Ali for its support during the incident. Additionally, the hotel extended its thanks to the Guyana Fire Service for their prompt response and heroic efforts in saving the establishment, as well as to the Guyana Police Force for their organized assistance in evacuating guests and staff from the building.

- *Rewritten from CMC*



## 7 Special Fall And Winter Packages For Grenada

Grenada has unveiled various travel packages for the fall and winter season. Those traveling to the destination this year can stay and enjoy some of the island’s upcoming events, including the world-renowned Grenada Rugby World 7’s Tournament from November 30th to December 2, and the Carriacou Parang Festival from December 15 – 17th.

“We are very excited for this upcoming fall and winter season. Our monthly on-island events have the island buzzing, and we have several new and improved experiences thanks to our industry partners and the Grenadian people who have worked tirelessly to provide an exceptional experience to those visiting,” said Petra Roach, CEO, Grenada Tourism Authority.

Below is a roundup of special packages currently:

**1:** The luxury AAA **Five Diamond all-inclusive Spice Island Beach Resort** located on Grand Anse Beach is offering



Grenada hotels offers 7 special deals for the Fall/Winter season.

a Fall Promotion package from now until October 31st that includes one free night and \$200 resort credit when booking a minimum stay of 5 nights. Travel dates must be used from November 1st – November 30th.

**2: Calabash Luxury Boutique Hotel**, an award-winning Relais & Châteaux luxury boutique hotel, delivers unparalleled guest experiences and luxurious

accommodations. This upcoming season, Calabash is offering a November Package that includes a complimentary suite upgrade and a \$200 resort credit when booking a minimum of a 4-night stay between November 1st through December 15th. Valid travel dates apply for the same booking dates.

**3: Blue Diamond Resorts** is offering a Pay Now, Save More package that includes 20% off your stay when paying upfront. Royalton Grenada is the perfect place to capitalize on this deal and partake in an array of fun activities for the entire family. Each room includes amenities such as a Dreambed mattresses, rain shower, mini bar, 24-hour room service, balcony or terrace,

and more. Blue Diamond Resorts also recently announced substantial upgrades to its distinguished Diamond Club™ room category. Valid travel dates and booking dates do not apply.

**4:** Embrace the beauty of Carriacou as you lounge in the semi-private oasis of **Green Roof Inn Carriacou**. This season, Green Roof Inn is offering a Romantic Weekend Package for 1, 2, or 3 nights. The luxurious package for 1-night includes complimentary airport transfers, a Sea View room, a two-course dinner, a water taxi to Sandy Island and lunch at La Playa Beach Bar & Bistro. The upgraded 2 and 3-night packages include an additional water taxi to Anse La Roche beach,

a lobster lunch at Tims on the beach and a two-course dinner at Ocean Terrace Restaurant.

**5: Bay House** is a hidden boutique hotel nestled in the hills overlooking the famous Grand Anse Beach. This upcoming season, Bay House is offering an Autumn Package of 10% off when booking from now until October 30th. Valid travel dates are now available from now until November 15th.

**6: Hideaway Waterfront Apartments**, a hidden gem on the northern end of Grand Anse Beach, is offering an Autumn Package which includes 10% off its 2-bedroom apartments and use of a private jetty. Valid booking dates are now until October 30th, and travel dates are offered now until November 15th.

**7: Seabreeze Hotel Grenada**, one of the smaller hotels on the island and winner of the Peoples Tourism Choice Award 2022, is offering an Autumn Package of 10% when booking from now until October 30th. Valid travel dates are available starting now until November 15th.

For more information about Grenada and the experiences it offers, visit [puregrenada.com](http://puregrenada.com).



## Former Bahamas Tourism Minister Passes On

Bahamas Prime Minister Phillip Davis has described his Social Services and Urban Renewal Minister, Obediah Hercules Wilchcombe, as “a true patriot, a visionary leader, and a cherished friend” following his death at the Rand Memorial Hospital in Grand Bahama on September 25th.

He said “Obie’ as he was popularly known had for the past two years “served with great distinction as Member of Parliament for West Grand Bahama and Bimini and Minister of Social Services and Urban Renewal.” He was recently appointed to take on the additional portfolio of Information and Broadcasting.

“Obie’s untimely passing is very shocking and very sad. Even though he has achieved much in his many years of public service, he still had so much



Former Bahamas Tourism minister Obie Wilchcombe has died. The cause of death has not been disclosed.

more to offer,” Davis said of his senior minister, who was born on November 4, 1958. The cause of death has not been disclosed.

- *Rewritten from CMC*



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SCAN ME



## SPORTS NEWS



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## South Florida Will Host ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 Cricket Match

In a major announcement, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has officially disclosed that South Florida is among the venues for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024. This tournament promises to be one of the most significant cricket events ever, with 20 teams battling for the coveted trophy. The ICC has chosen to play matches in South Florida, Texas and New York as well as a mix of Caribbean locations - marking a historic moment in the world of cricket.

In South Florida, the matches will be played at the Lauderhill Cricket Ground in Broward County in Florida while matches are also set for Grand Prairie in Dallas, Texas and Nassau County in New York.

This announcement has generated immense excitement among cricket enthusiasts worldwide. For the first time, the United States will co-host an ICC event, marking a significant step in the global expansion of cricket. The inclusion of the USA as a host country underscores the growing popularity of cricket in North America.

### The Caribbean matches will be played in:

Antigua & Barbuda  
Barbados  
Dominica  
Guyana  
St. Lucia  
Trinidad & Tobago



A major ICC Cricket Match is coming to Lauderhill in 2024. (ICC image)

St. Vincent & The Grenadines

ICC Chief Executive Geoff Allardice expressed his enthusiasm about this milestone, stating, "We're delighted to announce the seven Caribbean venues that will host the biggest ICC Men's T20 World Cup ever staged, with 20 teams competing for the trophy. They're all popular venues with players and fans alike that will provide a wonderful backdrop to the event."

He further added, "This will be the third ICC senior men's event hosted by the West Indies, and the matches will again give cricket fans the unique experience of enjoying cricket in the Caribbean. I'd like to thank Cricket West Indies and

the seven host governments for their continued commitment and support of our sport.

The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 is set to take place from June 4 to June 30, and it promises to be a celebration of cricket's global appeal. As teams from all corners of the world compete in thrilling matches, fans can look forward to witnessing some of the finest cricketing talents in action.

Preparations are already in full swing, and cricket aficionados are counting down the days until the tournament kicks off. Stay tuned for more updates as the cricketing world gears up for this epic showdown in the Caribbean and the USA.



## First Female Bout In Wray & Nephew Fight Nights Series Set



The fight will feature Jamaica's reigning American Boxing Confederation Caribbean Champion, Sherikee Moore.

The upcoming edition of the thrilling Wray & Nephew Fight Nights Series, scheduled for Saturday, October 7, 2023, at the Ebony Vale Community Centre in St Catherine, Jamaica will feature an electrifying showdown in the first female bout of the series, showcasing Jamaica's reigning American Boxing Confederation Caribbean Champion, Sherikee Moore.

While seven other captivating bouts are slated for the night, all eyes will be on

this historic first female fight, a significant boost for boxing in Jamaica.

Moore, a 21-year-old student at GC Foster College, is poised to compete against Shanika Gordon from the Jamaica Defense Force. This highly anticipated fight promises to deliver extraordinary excitement as both women showcase their talent, exchanging punches in front of an anticipated jam-packed venue.

Moore's journey in boxing

began nine years ago when she participated in a summer boxing camp at the Olympic Gardens Community Centre. As a first-year Massage student, she has achieved a record of five wins and two losses in her seven bouts to date, making her mark as a featherweight novice. Moore expressed her gratitude for the platform provided by the Wray & Nephew boxing series.

"I think this is a great opportunity not only for us female boxers as we get a chance to show that there are not only male boxers but there are female boxers who are thriving in the sport," said Moore. She stressed the importance of such initiatives in promoting female participation in boxing. "Internationally, there are just three of us that box, and I feel that more females should be getting into the sport. This kind of initiative spearheaded by Wray and Nephew cannot come at a better time because as females, it is hard to get fights in Jamaica."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 17)

## Jamaican Romario Williams Shines as Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC Crush Detroit City FC



Former Jamaica forward Romario Williams

Former Jamaica forward Romario Williams, previously discarded, made a resounding return to the spotlight with a stunning two-goal performance for Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC, securing a convincing 3-0 victory against Detroit City FC in the United Soccer League Championship recently.

The 29-year-old showcased his exceptional talent by netting goals in both halves of the match, held at Keyworth Stadium in Hamtramck, Michigan. Williams's outstanding display propelled the Switchbacks to their third consecutive win, catapulting them into sixth place in the Western Conference standings with 46 points.

Adapting masterfully to the challenging conditions of a slippery pitch due to heavy rainfall just before kick-off, the Switchbacks capitalized on a momentary lapse in communication from Detroit City FC. Williams capitalized on the opportunity, extending his team's lead, before completing his brace early in the second half, marking his 13th goal of the season.

The visitors faced early pressure, with goalkeeper Christian Herrera called into action to thwart a free-kick chance and a breakaway opportunity within the first 10 minutes of the game. Colorado Springs seized the advantage after 15 minutes

when Juan Tejada connected with a lofted pass from Tyreek Magee, heading the ball past City's goalkeeper, Nate Steinwascher.

The relentless pressure from the visitors forced a defensive breakdown in Detroit City FC's backline, resulting in a turnover in the box. Williams found himself with an open net and coolly slotted the ball past Steinwascher to score in the 29th minute.

Although the Switchbacks weathered pressure from their opponents for the remainder of the first half and the early stages of the second half, Williams continued to be a thorn in City's side, capitalizing on the adverse weather conditions to devastating effect.

In the 49th minute, after blocking a sliding attempt from Steinwascher, Williams surged forward with the ball, unleashing a powerful shot into an unguarded net.

Despite being reduced to 10 men after Detroit City FC's defender Michael Bryant received a double yellow card, resulting in a red card in the 58th minute for a reckless challenge, the hosts couldn't capitalize on their numerical advantage, and Williams and his teammates were unable to add to their goal tally.

- *Rewritten from CMC*





## A Record For Natoya

Jamaican 800-m specialist Natoya Goule-Toppin bounced back from her disappointing performance at the 2023 World Athletics Championships in Budapest, where she fell short of reaching the final, by setting a new national 800-m record at the Prefontaine Classic in Eugene, Oregon on September 24th.

In the race, Goule-Toppin secured third place behind American sensation Athing Mu, who bounced back from her bronze medal at the World Championships with an American Record time of 1:54.97 to claim victory, and British World Championship silver medallist Keely Hodgkinson, who set a British Record with her time of 1:55.19 in second place.

Goule-Toppin's remarkable time for third place was 1:55.96, surpassing her own previous national record of 1:56.15, which she had established back in 2018. Despite not winning, the 32-year-old athlete expressed her delight at concluding her season with such an impressive performance.

"I wanted the win because



Jamaican 800-m specialist Natoya Goule-Toppin.

I know I have the ability to do it but I'm really happy with the third, especially the national record," Goule-Toppin remarked. "I've been longing to run 1:55, and today was the day. The last one was the best one. It's the last race of the season, and I'm going home happy."

Goule-Toppin had been chasing a sub-1:56 time for several years, and she attributed her achievement to the presence of strong competitors like Mu, Hodgkinson, and World Champion Mary Moraa, who finished fourth and pushed her to this record-breaking time.

The 2018 Commonwealth

Games bronze medallist also acknowledged her faith and mental preparation for her success on Sunday.

"I was patient, and I prayed a lot. I said, 'God, let your will be done and just help me to go out there and be strong and smart,'" she said. "All day I was talking to myself. It sounds crazy, but I kept saying, 'Run through the line.' Before I went out, my coach said the same thing."

- *Rewritten from SportsMax*



## Honor For Shericka

In recognition of her remarkable achievements on the track during 2022, Shericka Jackson, the reigning 2023 World 200m champion, received the prestigious Gleaner Honor Award. The award ceremony took place at the Television Jamaica studios recently, where Jackson was honored for her outstanding contributions to Jamaican athletics.

Jackson's extraordinary performance in 2022 included a historic victory in the 200m world title in Eugene, Oregon, where she set a championship record with a blazing time of 21.45 seconds. At the time, this was the second-fastest time ever recorded by a woman in the 200m event. Additionally, Jackson secured a silver medal in the 100m, trailing her compatriot Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce. She further contributed to Jamaica's success by earning a silver medal in the 4x100m relay.

The 29-year-old track and field sensation, who recently defended her world title in Budapest, was among the distinguished group of 11 recipients to receive the Gleaner Honor Award. During the ceremony, Jackson, radiating elegance in a black strapless sequined gown paired with white

track shoes, graciously accepted her well-deserved accolade. The event was recorded on Tuesday night and is scheduled to be broadcast on Television Jamaica later on Wednesday evening.

Expressing her gratitude, Jackson took to Instagram and wrote, "Thank you to the RJR/Gleaner Communications Group for acknowledging my hard work by presenting me with the RJR/Gleaner Honor Award in the field of Sports for my World Championships performance of 21.45. It was a pleasure."

At the world championships held in Budapest in August, Jackson surpassed her own championship record by clocking an astounding 21.41 seconds to secure her second world title.

She concluded her exceptional season with victories in the 100m, recording an impressive 10.70 seconds, and the 200m, with a time of 21.57 seconds, at the Diamond League finals in Eugene on September 16 and 17. Shericka Jackson's remarkable achievements continue to shine brightly on the world stage, solidifying her status as a true icon in the realm of athletics.

- *Rewritten from SportsMax*



## First Female Bout In Wray & Nephew Fight Nights Series Set

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16)

Moore, who trains at the Suga Knock Out Gym in Olympic Gardens, emphasized the personal growth she has experienced through boxing. "Since I have been boxing, I have grown more confident and I have started to communicate with others better. I was a shy person, but the sport of boxing has helped me to be more confident and I have gotten better," Moore noted.

She is determined to step up her training in the coming weeks in preparation for the bout and harbors aspirations of

reaching the highest levels in the sport.

Six professional boxers and 10 amateur boxers will step into the ring, fuelled by enthusiasm and determination to secure essential victories to advance their careers. Notably, this event will include at least three boxers from the neighbouring GC Foster Boxing Gym.

Stephen Jones, President of the Jamaica Boxing Board, praised the series, which is officially sanctioned by his organization, for its substantial impact on the sport.

Pavel Smith, Marketing

Manager for Wray & Nephew White Overproof Rum, expressed pride in hosting the series' first female bout. "The sport of boxing, like Wray & Nephew White Overproof Rum, is a 'Fi wi Culture.' The Fight Night series was developed to elevate Jamaican boxing talent and skill. We heartily welcome this first female exhibition as the series expands into parishes across the island."

- *Rewritten from SportsMax*





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# SPORTS NEWS



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## Guyana Amazon Warriors End 10-Year Wait With Dominant CPL 2023 Victory

After a decade-long wait, the Guyana Amazon Warriors secured their first Caribbean Premier League (CPL) title on September 24, 2023, with a convincing win over the Trinbago Knight Riders on home turf at the Providence Stadium on the East Bank of Demerara in Guyana.

In a remarkable display of skill and determination, the Guyana Amazon Warriors triumphed in the Caribbean Premier League (CPL) final, crushing the Trinbago Knight Riders, (TKR), by a resounding nine wickets.

For the Amazon Warriors, this victory marked the end of a long and agonizing journey that saw them come up short in five previous CPL finals. Finally, they broke the streak with a relentless performance that left fans elated.

### THE DOMINANT PERFORMANCE

The final match unfolded as the TKR took the crease and were bundled out for a mere 94 runs. The TKR's batting order crumbled under the relentless pace and spin of the Amazon Warriors' bowlers. South African speedster Dwaine Pretorius led the charge with an impressive spell of four wickets for 26 runs, finishing as the tournament's leading wicket-taker with 20 scalps.

Pretorius received crucial support from left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie (2-7) and leg-spinner Imran Tahir (2-8), both of whom picked up two wickets each. While Keacy Carty top-scored for the TKR with 38 runs, he lacked support, as openers Mark Deyal (16) and Chadwick



The Guyana Amazon Warriors celebrating their first CPL title after beating TKR by 9 wickets on Sept. 24, 2023. (CPL via Getty Images)

Walton (10) were the only other batsmen to reach double figures.

In response, the Amazon Warriors chased down the modest target of 94 runs in just 14 overs. Pakistani opener Saim Ayub was the hero of the chase, delivering an unbeaten 52 off 41 balls. Player-of-the-Series Shai Hope partnered with Ayub, contributing an unbeaten run-a-ball 32. Their remarkable partnership of 84 runs for the second wicket sealed the title for the Amazon Warriors.

### HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The victory holds historical significance for the Guyana Amazon Warriors, who had previously reached the final in 2013, 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2019 but fell short on each occasion. Captain Imran Tahir expressed his pride in leading the

team to their maiden CPL title.

Tahir stated, "I am just really proud that I am the first captain of the first team to achieve this. I think this year we were more hungry than ever before. That's the thing, if you want something really badly, it will happen for you – even though we lost our first qualifier."

Tahir emphasized the importance of self-belief and a strong team spirit in their journey to success.

### CAPTAIN POLLARD ACKNOWLEDGES DEFEAT

For the TKR, the defeat was a bitter disappointment, as it was their first loss in four CPL final appearances. Captain Kieron Pollard admitted that the team's batting performance was a significant letdown, resulting in a challenging task of securing

victory.

Pollard said, "Making 94 in the first innings of a final was never going to be enough. I thought they played spectacularly well throughout the entire tournament, and we were beaten by the better team in Guyana."

### A DECADE-LONG WAIT ENDS IN GLORY

The Guyana Amazon Warriors' remarkable triumph ends a decade-long wait for CPL glory. With their dominant victory over the Trinbago Knight Riders, they have etched their names in CPL history and brought immense joy to their loyal fan base.

- *Rewritten from CMC*



## Barbadian Jockey Leads Five Caribbean Wins In Canada

Newly crowned Assiniboia Downs champion jockey, Antonio Whitehall, led Caribbean winners with back-to-back wins on October 1st at the Century Downs racetrack in Canada.

The 29-year-old Barbadian reinsman now has eight wins for the season, which opened on September 9th at the racing oval near Calgary, and he is second in the standings behind four-time Jamaican champion jockey Dane Nelson, who also logged a single win on the eight-race card.

Emerging Barbadian rider N'Rico Prescod collected his seventh win of the season on the card, and he is third in the standings, and compatriot Da Sean Gaskin landed his first win.

Whitehall got the first of his two wins when he steered 3-1 choice Skip's Rock to a three quarters-of-a-length win in the CAN \$23 000 allowance third race over 1 400 meters on the dirt.

Skip's Rock quickly took command and led the field through the backstretch before Whitehall got the three-year-old,



Newly crowned Assiniboia Downs champion jockey, Barbadian Antonio Whitehall. (CMC image)

dark bay filly to move clear into the stretch and she held under late pressure for a time of 1 min, 24.37 secs, only 2.48 ticks off the track record.

Whitehall scored his second win aboard 7-5 favorite Mi Reyna that took the CAN \$12 500 starter optional claiming fourth race over 1 500 meters on the dirt by 2-3/4 lengths.

Mi Reyna contested the lead early before the five-year-old, dark bay mare gained a short advantage nearing the stretch and drew away to finish in 1:31.94.

Nelson was the first to show when he drove 7-2 bet Sharp Dressed Beau to a two-length win in the CAN \$10 000 claiming second race over 1 500 meters on the dirt.

Sharp Dressed Beau vied for the early and showed the way through the backstretch before Nelson got the seven-year-old, chestnut gelding to respond to a challenge from Give Em Hack Beck, under Trinidadian jockey Keishan Balgobin, and drove clear under handling to clock one minute, 32.13 seconds.

Gaskin proved himself when he guided 8-1 chance Recio's Skye to a win by a head in a time of 1:20.11 in the CAN \$11 500 maiden claiming seventh race over 1 300 meters on the dirt, and Prescod piloted 3-1 chance Four O Six Creed to a 2-3/4 lengths win in a time of 1:25.04 in the CAN \$23 000 allowance eighth race over 1 400 meters on the dirt.

- *CMC*



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# Baptist Health Cancer Care At Plantation Offers Personalized Breast Health Services



Medical oncologist Lauren Carcas of Baptist Health Cancer Care team at Plantation with a patient. (Contributed image/BaptistHealth)

Medical oncologist Lauren Carcas, M.D., is proud to be part of Baptist Health Cancer Care at Plantation, where a team of medical and surgical experts offers the full spectrum of breast cancer care for Broward residents.

Dr. Carcas focuses on treating breast cancer patients as well as those with an elevated risk of developing breast cancer based on their family history. She also treats cancers of the female reproductive system. “As a Broward resident myself,

I understand the benefits of receiving cancer care close to home,” says Dr. Carcas. She is affiliated with several Broward-area hospitals and coordinates care with other local physicians, ensuring that patients can stay with their preferred surgeon while receiving treatment from Miami Cancer Institute, Florida’s only member of the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Alliance.

“Our cancer hub in Plantation places us in the geographic middle of large, well-established hospital systems,”

she says. “What sets us apart is our women’s health program, which offers extensive care from screening to treatment, all under one roof. This includes screening mammograms, diagnostic testing, biopsies, MRIs, staging studies, echocardiograms, consultations with oncologists, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and follow-up care.”

Baptist Health Cancer Care at Plantation also offers a robust clinical trial platform, exposing qualifying patients to groundbreaking, potentially less-toxic medications that could improve their chances of survival and a life free of cancer. The multidisciplinary cancer care team in Plantation also includes breast medical oncologists Dr. Naomi Dempsey and Dr. Reshma

Mahtani; radiation oncologist Dr. Ana Botero; breast surgical oncologist Dr. Nadia Nocera-Zachariah; and Dr. John Diaz, chief of gynecologic oncology at Baptist Health Cancer Care.

“Our Plantation team believes in personalized care, and our focus on women’s health and malignancies allows us to provide a comprehensive patient experience, as we are not competing with other disease sites for resources or space,” says Dr. Carcas. “We know our patients by name and tailor our treatment programs to align with their personal priorities, beliefs and support systems. Unlike other providers in the area, we offer all aspects of cancer care in one place, including radiation therapy in our APEX-accredited facility. Patients who need proton therapy, gamma knife and other advanced radiation therapies receive expedited treatment at Miami Cancer Institute.”

The Plantation cancer hub also offers on-site surgery, with pathology reviewed by specialists in women’s malignancies.

“We believe in treating the whole person, not just the cancer,” says Dr. Carcas. “Our onsite physical therapy, rehabilitation and pain

management services address the physical changes that can occur during and after cancer treatment. We offer diet and nutrition counseling as well as an alternative medicine clinic. We also emphasize the importance of mental health through on-site wellness and self-care programs as well as telehealth access to social workers and therapists.”

The Baptist Health women’s cancer experts at Plantation take pride in creating a welcoming environment for patients. The care team warmly greets all patients and guides them through their entire cancer journey. “We approach each patient as a whole person with needs beyond just cancer treatment, and it is our goal to address all of these needs,” says Dr. Carcas. If you are a woman living in Broward County and have been diagnosed with breast cancer, experience the personalized care offered by the Baptist Health Cancer Care team at Plantation. To get the compassionate cancer care you deserve, schedule your appointment at 954-837-1490 or visit BaptistHealth.net/Plantation.



## Trinbagonian American Carla Hill - A Breast Cancer Warrior

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

According to the World Health Organization, in 2020, there were 2.3 million women diagnosed with breast cancer and 685,000 deaths globally. As of the end of 2020, there were 7.8 million women alive who were diagnosed with breast cancer in the past 5 years, making it the world’s most prevalent cancer. Approximately 0.5-1% of breast cancers occur in men.”

Trinidad & Tobago immigrant, Carla Hill, a teacher, arts program director, television host, former Miami Dolphins Cheerleader, cancer survivor and warrior is part of these sobering statistics. But the fight within and a very personal example of survival spurred her into action.

“My mother Hazel taught me the importance of doing a self-exam. When I felt the lump in my breast in 2005, something in me immediately knew that it would not be good news. I wasn’t scared at first, I went into ‘lioness mode,’” Hill told Caribbean Today in a recent interview. “I observed my mother do this during her own battle with cancer; she’s now an over 30-year cancer survivor. I started to come up with a plan of attack. I didn’t know I needed to be scared because that wasn’t my example. I moved forward with a ferocious will to live.”

### LIFE WITH A PURPOSE

The Trinbagonian American is certainly an example of living



Breast Cancer Survivor, Trinidad-born Carla Hill. (Contributed image)

life with a purpose, against odds with fierce determination. Not only was she diagnosed with breast cancer twice, but she has had previous health issues that required a kidney transplant - and a successful one! And of course, dealing with cancer treatments over the years had its negative effects as well, among them mental stress.

Hill, the wife of Caribbean American advocate and attorney Marlon Hill, explained that she ignored her own mental health for years, not wanting to appear weak, which always takes a toll. Her advice?

“Today, I would say to anyone dealing with cancer or any health journey is that you must acknowledge your feelings and sit with them a while, she

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 20)

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## A Passion For Nursing

BY DAWN A. DAVIS

A voice for Caribbean health professionals in the United Kingdom, the Caribbean Nurses & Midwives Association UK, (CNMA), officially started in January 2021.

Marsha Jones, Maurina Baron, Jacqueline Gabriel-King, and Paulette Lewis, MBE came together with one purpose - driving change to improvement of health & social care, education, workforce and policy development for the nurses and midwives from the Caribbean coming into the National Health Service, (NHS), system.

As president of the Association, Lewis continues her outstanding contribution to the NHS and her beloved charity work, activities for which she was awarded Member of the Order of the British Empire, (MBE), in 2014. Lewis' charitable work and commitment to healthcare also earned her The Prime Minister's Medal of Appreciation for Service to Jamaica in 2018.

"Everything we do is reflective of who we are," Lewis noted in a conversation with Caribbean Today. "We want to ensure that there is equity in bringing all the different Caribbean islands and the various healthcare practices together."

The CNMA management is clearly an indication of this inclusivity as Baron is an academic in midwifery and

a consultant; Jones is a practicing midwife and senior manager; Gabriel-King is head of midwifery; and Lewis is a management consultant in nursing and midwifery and former president of the Nurses Association of Jamaica UK. They all represent various islands including Trinidad and Tobago, Dominican Republic, and Jamaica.

### PASSION

Although her passion was to pursue nursing, Lewis studied education/teaching in her native Jamaica. It was not until she migrated to the United Kingdom in 1977 that she trained as a nurse and midwife, finally following her heart. By 2005, she would become one of the 3% Black Minority Ethnic, (BME), executive nursing directors in the UK.

After more than 35 years in healthcare, the semi-retired Lewis is determined to bring more Black and minority nurses and midwives into the NHS. She sits on two NHS Boards as non-executive director and is active in management consulting, coaching, and mentoring across the sector. Lewis is also chair for the BME Forum and a management/leadership consultant across the National Health Service and social care.

A major focus for the



The Caribbean Nurses & Midwives Association UK, (CNMA)'s Paulette Lewis, MBE. (Contributed image)

Association is to help newly recruited nurses and midwives from the Caribbean navigate the new system and settle in. Lewis noted that some new recruits face discrimination and adversity, and this is what the CNMA works to address.

"A lot of my time lately is spent advocating for international nurses and midwives and health professionals who have come to this country," explained Lewis. "We haven't got as many nurses and midwives as we require here, so there is international recruitment from across the globe, from the Caribbean, Philippines, India."

"When they get here, one of the things we have been doing is

looking at how we can support them, integrate them into the system," she added. "And it's really important because we've had a number of Caribbean nurses and midwives who have been treated in a way that one would not have expected. They've been recruited through agencies and other means, and they find that they end up working in nursing homes or a home setting, not the hospital they were expecting. Others have suffered discrimination and racism."

### NEUTRAL

The CNMA is even a voice for new Caribbean recruits before they land in the UK. Part of their outreach is urging potential healthcare workers to speak to the Association before they sign contracts and emigrate.

"Speak to us, because we are neutral," Lewis emphasized. "We are not saying don't come, but we will give you a true perspective. It's about talking to people who are already here to get the facts about what it is really like to come here, to work here."

She noted that without proper guidance some nurses and midwives come to the UK with their families with little or no knowledge about the school system for their children or employment opportunities for their husbands.

Others settle in the UK, take the nurses exam and if they fail, they are in limbo.

These circumstances, Lewis added, negatively affect family relationships and marriages. This is why the CNMA's webinars and meet & greet forums are so crucial.

"We are from the diaspora; we understand them and their culture," said Lewis. "A lot of them coming here are very bright, they have lots of qualification, but they need coaching, mentoring, and they need support."

Asked about the nurses strikes over the past year and how it impacted the Caribbean nurses, Lewis explained that it was a demonstration of how people felt about the way they've been treated, adding that COVID-19 also highlighted the inequalities of health and the value of Caribbean nurses.

And although some decided to strike, she said, others did not, choosing instead to provide as much services as they could. It is not something they took lightly, but they want to demonstrate the strength of feeling in terms of better pay and to be better recognised.

"We are many nations, one voice. We want to be the voice of Caribbean nurses and midwives," Lewis added. "As an organization we can improve the inequalities of health for the patients and the diaspora groups that we look after, and for those nurses, midwives, healthcare professionals that are part of this establishment."



## Trinbagonian American Carla Hill - A Breast Cancer Warrior

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19)

said. "This illness isn't your fault. If the feelings don't go away or interrupt your day, see a mental health professional."

Treatment for breast cancer varies according to the type of cancer and the stages - II, III, or IV. Options include surgery to remove the tumor, radiation to stop the spread to surrounding tissues, medications such as chemotherapy or hormones to help kill cancer cells. Some women opt to remove the cancerous breast completely. This was Hill's choice.

"I chose mastectomy because by removing my breast, I removed the tumor as well as the margin in which it grew," she explained. "Yes, there was the option of a lumpectomy. (but) I didn't want to live my life constantly thinking about the possibility of the margins of the tumor becoming active again. 'Chop them off' and be done with it!"

Many women who go through radical mastectomy, the removal of both breasts, like Hill did, have reconstructive surgery, creating 'new breasts.' This kind of operation may involve implants using gel or salt water filled silicone balloons to replace all or some of the breast tissue, reshaping the breast from the body's own tissue, or

a combination of the two. The advantage is obviously having breasts again. But disadvantages could include blood clots, infection, leakage, unequal breasts. Hill made her decision based on much research.

"I also wasn't interested in reconstruction. At the time of my first cancer, I had only had my kidney transplant for five years. Kidney transplant medications keep one's immune system suppressed. I just couldn't see putting myself in the position of undergoing more surgery that had the potential to put my transplanted kidney in jeopardy if, for instance, I got an infection from the reconstruction," she explained.

### MORE THAN PINK

Hill wants to impress on cancer patients that they always have choices, and it is theirs to make once armed with all the information. Also important, she said, is finding something to focus on, something that motivates you, that becomes your therapy. For this advocate it is fashion. She finds independent designers whose designs are perfect on her body.

"I love analyzing fashion and deconstructing it to make it look just as fabulous on me without having breasts. Hence my online handle, @



Carla Hill and husband, Jamaican American attorney Marlon Hill. (Contributed image)

brstlssbeauty (no vowels in the breast because I have none," she said with a laugh.

On a more serious note, this lover of the arts has teamed up with a cancer awareness organization to educate the community on this most pernicious health issue.

"Whenever I can combine my love of Soca music with making my Caribbean community aware of their health it's a win!" Hill said. "That's why the Susan G. Komen More

cancer early and are now living their lives normally."

Carla and Marlon Hill are now celebrating 25 years of marriage and are proud of their contribution to the work the Susan G. Komen organization has been doing around breast cancer awareness. A well-known attorney in South Florida, Marlon Hill has supported his wife in her cancer journey as her Cancer Warrior partner.

In fact, to celebrate their 25th anniversary, the Hills will host a team of walkers dubbed Team Dlimers at the More Than Pink Walk on Saturday, October 14, 2023. They encourage the community to come out and be part of a positive, empowered effort called life.

"Having survived cancer and a kidney transplant, I understand the importance of living my most bold life now," Carla Hill said. "I make no excuses for who I am and what makes me happy. My health journey will forever affect me. Sometimes an innocuous pain might get my mind spinning, 'What is that? Do I need a doctor?' I'm constantly reminding myself to live in the now and not let fear create a soap opera of dread in my head. It's easier said than done. I'm working on me and staying present all the time."





# Florida Governor Ron DeSantis Continues To Disregard Federal COVID-19 Guidance

As the debate over updated COVID-19 vaccines intensifies in the United States, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis is making headlines for urging Americans to ignore federal health officials and their recommendations regarding the new COVID-19 shots.

Governor DeSantis, who is also a prominent figure in the Republican Party and a potential presidential candidate, recently hosted a virtual roundtable featuring a panel of COVID-19 vaccine skeptics. Their objective was to challenge the FDA's assertion that the updated vaccines are safe and effective for individuals aged six months and older. Instead, they discouraged those under 65 from getting vaccinated, suggesting, without substantial evidence, that the vaccines could be harmful.

DeSantis boldly stated, "I will not stand by and let the FDA and CDC use healthy Floridians as guinea pigs for new booster shots that have not been proven to be safe or effective," contradicting the FDA's findings. He added, "Once again, Florida is the first state in the nation to stand up and provide guidance based on truth, not Washington edicts."

Supporting DeSantis in his campaign against the federal health agencies was



Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (left) with Florida Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo in Kissimmee, Florida. (Ricardo Ramirez Buxeda/Orlando Sentinel/Tribune News Service Via Getty Images)

his handpicked state surgeon general, Joseph Ladapo. Ladapo has been criticized by public health experts for disseminating misinformation about COVID-19 and vaccines. His controversial stance has sparked rebukes from federal health officials, and a report by the University of Florida's College of Medicine faculty expressed concerns about research integrity violations in a state health department study overseen by Ladapo.

The study suggested that receiving an mRNA vaccine against COVID-19 increased the risk of death among young men. It was reported that Ladapo personally altered the

study's findings, despite data indicating that the risk of cardiac complications among young men is significantly higher after contracting COVID-19 compared to receiving the vaccine.

With public health officials facing an uphill battle to persuade Americans to receive the updated vaccines — as only 17% of eligible individuals have received the 2022 booster — DeSantis's campaign against vaccination could further discourage people from getting vaccinated by fueling doubts about the vaccines' safety.

Donna Shalala, former U.S. Health and Human Services secretary and former Florida

representative in Congress, expressed concern about DeSantis's approach. She remarked, "DeSantis is playing with fire, and this is about life and death. But I think people will see it for what it is: a desperate attempt, at very high risk to people in Florida, to reposition himself."

It's worth noting that DeSantis, who currently trails former President Donald Trump by a significant margin in polls of GOP primary voters, has been attempting to regain momentum in his presidential campaign. As the debate rages on, more than 90,000 people in Florida have died from COVID-19. While some rare side effects associated with COVID-19 vaccines have been reported, numerous studies have shown that vaccinated individuals face no greater risk of death from non-COVID causes than unvaccinated individuals. Over 600 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in the U.S.

During the recent roundtable discussion led by DeSantis and Ladapo, little attention was given to these facts, and the panel — notably lacking experts in vaccines and infectious diseases — made claims without substantial evidence, suggesting that the vaccines might have "negative efficacy" or could even

increase the risk of infection from the virus.

DeSantis, who rose to prominence by challenging conventional medical wisdom and ending pandemic lockdowns earlier than many other states, is continuing to distance himself from the medical establishment's recommendations. His strategy is to gain the support of those who are skeptical of government guidance and COVID-19 vaccines.

Governor DeSantis has a history of opposing measures related to COVID-19, such as vaccination for young children and pandemic-related legislation that contradicts public health recommendations.

Political analysts believe that DeSantis's stance on the new COVID-19 vaccines is an attempt to set himself apart from former President Trump, despite the fact that Trump's endorsement played a significant role in DeSantis's gubernatorial victory in Florida.

In a climate where health misinformation is prevalent, DeSantis's messaging could potentially discourage more people from getting vaccinated, ultimately impacting public health efforts to control the pandemic.

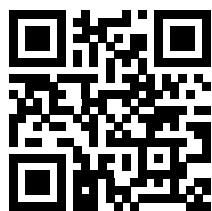
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October 2023





FALL DINING



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# Legacy Of Flavor: Aunt I's Jamaican Restaurant, A Staple In Pembroke Pines Since 1987

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Located at the intersection of Pines Boulevard and Palm Avenue in Pembroke Pines, Aunt I's Jamaican Restaurant gets as much traffic as that busy thoroughfare. A pillar of the West Indian culinary community, the eatery has been in existence 1987 when it opened in North Miami.

Founded by Inez "Aunt I" Grant, the restaurant once had three outlets - the other being in Fort Lauderdale. The Pembroke Pines store is operated and co-owned by her daughters, Ann Cocking and Marcia Cartwright, who oversee a 16-member staff.

When their mother started the business 36 years ago, Cocking remembers only a handful of Jamaican restaurants in Miami Gardens. The last 15 years has seen an explosion of similar businesses throughout South Florida, notably Golden Krust, Donna's and Dutch Pot.

During an interview with



Ann Cocking, (left), and her sister Marcia Cartwright, co-owners of Aunt I's Jamaican Restaurant in Pembroke Pines. (Contributed image)



Kevin Campbell, head chef at Aunt I's Jamaican Restaurant. (Contributed image)

Caribbean Today, the siblings explained how their family venture has evolved, and kept competitive, over the years. "In the early days we had our fair share of competition but not like now," said Cocking. "We have

online service, we do the Uber Eats, and we do catering, which we hadn't done before. We keep up with trends."

Cartwright credits good, old-fashioned customer service for a steady flow of customers,

most of whom are from Pembroke Pines, Miramar and North Miami, which all have large Jamaican communities. She pointed to another important aspect.

"We have had the same main chef for over 20 years. He (Kevin Campbell) started with our mother and learned everything at Aunt I's," said Cartwright.

Inez Grant, who died in 2009, was from Westmoreland

in rural Jamaica. She had no experience running a restaurant but Cocking said her mother did not lack in culinary skills.

"She was a very good cook, she loved cooking for friends

and family. In fact, the whole family cooks well, she has a sister in England who operates a restaurant," she disclosed.

Grant's five children were with Aunt I's at some stage. Cocking, Cartwright and a younger brother who runs his own restaurant in Pembroke Pines, are involved in the food industry.

It is often said that the family business is toughest to run, especially when it involves second-generation relatives. Cartwright insists there are no such problems at Aunt I's. "We're a close family, at home and in the workplace. When our mom was alive, everyone wanted to get involved. It was always a policy of sticking together, working together and doing what's best for the business," she said.



## Trinidad & Tobago Immigrant Elsie Chin: 38 Years Of Mastery At Miami Gardens' L C Roti Shop

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

For the past 38 years, Elsie Chin has skippered the ship at L C Roti Shop at 19505 NW 2nd Ave., in Miami Gardens. It is, arguably, the leading spot for lovers of the versatile, dough-based staple with roots in India.

Chin, who is from Marabella in Trinidad and Tobago, co-founded the establishment. She is also head chef and part of a five-member staff, which includes her four children.

When she opened the business almost 40 years ago, there were no roti shops in Miami Gardens. Business has taken off over the years as the West Indian community in South Florida boomed.

"Things have grown a lot, because Caribbean people who live in the area support us a lot," she told Caribbean Today recently. "They come here to keep in touch with each other, and with social media word started to spread even more. Today, I have just about everyone in here."



Elsie Chin has skippered the ship at L C Roti Shop in Miami Gardens for the past 38 years.

The L C Roti menu is stacked. Patrons can get a variety of roti - from curried chicken, beef, goat, shrimp, conch, veggie or duck as well as doubles, pholourie and aloo pie.

Chin disclosed that goat, doubles and shrimp are her perennial best-sellers. She believes the uncomplicated nature of the roti makes it popular among customers.

"It's like a street food, you know. In Trinidad, they sell that on almost every corner, just like Jamaican patties. It's

something you can grab on the run," she said.

Chin grew up in a home of East Indian heritage in southern Trinidad. Food from their 'motherland,' including dahl, bhaji, curried mango and roti were favourites in her household.

Shortly after moving to Miami, she opened L C Roti, which has

become a staple of the thriving West Indian commercial sector.

The roti stores in Miami have increased over the years which Chin does not mind. She credits competition for keeping her family business on its toes and has never thought of expansion.

"Though the days are long and can be rough (but) I'm satisfied (with) the way things are," she said.



## Quick, Convenient And Delicious Back-To-School Snack Ideas

Back to school is a time of new beginnings for kids. Between classroom learning, extracurricular activities, sports and socializing, fun and filling snacks can help kids have a moment away from school-year pressures while also encouraging all that excitement and learning.

In fact, nearly 3 in 4 Americans snack at least once a day, according to an International Food Information Council survey conducted by Ipsos. When it comes to your children's snack time, here's how to make these occasions more delicious:

### EASY SWEET TREATS

The back-to-school season is not only hectic for kids, but it's also busy for parents too. Having conveniently packaged snacks on hand can be a time-saving game-changer this school year!

Serving your kids baked goods made from high-quality ingredients can be as simple as opening a box of Entenmann's. With 125 years of baking experience, the brand's wide variety of delicious baked goods is a fun addition to any breakfast or lunch box and can even be



enjoyed as an after-school treat!

This fall, be sure to add these favorites to your snack line-up: Powdered Pop'ettes, Pop'ems Glazed Donut Holes and Baker's Delights Mini Crumb Cake. Baker's Delights are individually wrapped snack cakes that are a great option for on-the-go snacking or a sweet addition to any lunch. Want to get creative? Check out entenmanns.com for a variety of recipes that put a twist on classic Entenmann's treats.

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# FALL DINING

## 21st Annual Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival Promises An Unforgettable Caribbean Experience

Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 12, 2023, from 2 to 10 p.m., as the vibrant spirit of the Caribbean descends upon Miramar, Florida. It's the 21st Annual Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival, (GJJF), a cultural celebration like no other, and it's set to deliver an unforgettable experience to an anticipated crowd of 10,000 attendees.

### A Taste of the Caribbean

Nestled against the picturesque backdrop of Miramar Regional Park at 16801 Miramar Pkwy, Miramar, FL 33027, this year's festival promises to be a gastronomic delight for food enthusiasts and a sensory journey through the heart of the Caribbean. The festival features an expansive food court with vendors offering an assortment of jerk cuisine, including succulent jerk chicken, tender jerk lobster, jerk pork, jerked fish, jerk veggies, and beloved Jamaican favorite's like fried festival, oxtails, curry goat, escovitch fish, and roasted corn.

But it's not just about the food; it's a cultural immersion that goes beyond the taste buds.

### A Day of Entertainment

The 21st GJJF isn't just about the delectable jerk dishes. Attendees will also be treated to a live performance by the two-time Grammy-winning Royal Family of reggae, Morgan Heritage. Their music will set the tone for a day filled with dancing, fun, and, of course, more delicious food. Stay tuned for more live entertainment announcements, exciting games, and family-friendly activities that will be revealed closer to the festival date.

### Celebrating Caribbean Influence

Eddy Edwards, Managing Partner and CEO of GJJF, highlights the festival's significance, saying, "South Florida is home to the largest Caribbean population in the United States. The Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival reminds

us of the significant, delicious, and positive impact the Caribbean has on American culture."

Over the past 21 years, the festival has evolved to incorporate other wonderful Caribbean cultures, attracting people from all over the world. This event is a family-friendly, interactive, intergenerational celebration where every family member can enjoy great food and have fun.



Fans at a previous Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival. (Photo: Courtesy of Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival)

### Ticket Information

General admission tickets for this remarkable event are available at the following rates:

- \$35 until September 30
- \$40 from October 1 to November 11
- \$50 at the gate on the show date

For those seeking a VIP

experience, VIP tickets are available at \$175. It's important to note that kids under 10 can attend the festival for free.

To purchase tickets and for more information about the 21st Annual Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival, visit [jerkfestival.com](http://jerkfestival.com).

### A Cultural Immersion

The Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival, presented in partnership with Publix, City of Miramar, Western Union, Jamaica Tourist Board, Greater Ft. Lauderdale

Visitors and Conventions Bureau, The National Weekly, WAVS 1170 AM, and HOT 105 FM, is more than just a culinary adventure; it's a cultural immersion.

Don't miss this opportunity to savor the flavors, feel the rhythm, and embrace the vibrant spirit of the Caribbean on November 12, 2023, at Miramar Regional Park. The 21st Annual Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival promises an epic and cultural event that will leave a lasting impression.

About Jamaican Jerk Festival USA, Inc.

The Jamaican Jerk Festival USA, Inc. is dedicated to developing and producing Jerk festivals and related events throughout the United States and other global markets. The annual festivals in Miramar, Florida, and Queens, New York, have become major events, attracting people of all ethnicities and key demographics.



## Caribbean Restaurant In Cape Cod Turns 3



Allanah Bodah of The Karibbean Lounge in Cape Cod, Massachusetts poses with: (from left) Fancy Cat, Boasy Boy Floyd and Comedian Lemon. They were featured in the '3 The Hard Way' show there on August 27th. (Contributed image)

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL

Happy occasions are meant to have laughter and there was plenty of that recently, during an event marking the third anniversary of The Karibbean Lounge restaurant at 662 Main St, Hyannis, in Cape Cod, Massachusetts, on August 27th.

A comedy show, entitled '3 The Hard Way,' helped Jamaican proprietors Allanah Bodah and Silvano Samuels celebrate the milestone. On stage were Jamaicans Fancy Cat of Ity and Fancy Cat fame, Comedian Lemon and Boasy Boy Floyd.

Bodah said based on response, patrons found the jokes as fulfilling as their meals. "It was a whole vibe; the comedians

were very funny and interactive with their audience. Guests were delighted that the admission included a buffet dinner," she told Caribbean Today recently.

The Karibbean Lounge is located in the Hyannisport region of Cape Cod, which is traditionally a getaway spot

for famous families such as the Kennedys.

Bodah and Samuels have brought a Caribbean flavor to the region with Jamaican cuisine such as curried goat, jerked chicken, oxtail and escoveitched fish among the popular items on their eatery's menu.

From the seafaring town of Annotto Bay in St. Mary, eastern Jamaica, Bodah has lived in the United States for 13 years. She previously worked in early childhood education, but made

a switch to the culinary sector, after agreeing with Samuels that a Caribbean restaurant would be good for an increasingly diverse Cape Cod. She said they have been proven right, as the Karibbean Lounge consistently attracts patrons from Jamaica, Guyana, Haiti and Puerto Rico as well as Americans.

They have also made live entertainment part of the package. Prior to '3 The Hard Way,' dancehall singer Lincoln 3Dot was featured at Karibbean

Lounge. This month, D'Angel will be guest artist.

"We have to stand by our name, The Karibbean Lounge. Our Caribbean customers are looking for authentic Caribbean flavor and a real Caribbean vibe," said Bodah, who partners with Authentic Caribbean Foundation, a Boston-based non-profit organization, to assist needy children in the Caribbean Diaspora.



## Quick, Convenient And Delicious Back-To-School Snack Ideas

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### SAVORY SNACKS

Balance the sweet with some savory snacks too. For after school, stock your fridge with items like baby carrots and hummus, crackers and cheese, plus ingredients needed for hearty snacks like ham and cheese pinwheels. Having these items handy can make it easy to feed hungry kids or allow them to serve themselves. Plus, they'll be all set for their afternoon, whether that entails homework

or hanging out with friends. For on-the-go bites to pack in lunch boxes or bring to sports games, consider sandwich baggies filled with nuts, pretzel sticks and cheddar cheese slices.

Amid the stress and anxiety of a new school year, sweet treats and savory snacks can help keep your kids satisfied, while also providing a moment away from the demands of school.

- StatePoint



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