

AfroPanamanian Newsletter



English opens doors. Read the Newsletter

www.afropanameniannewsletter.mex.tl

We encourage our web readers to feel free to use our links to find scholarships, jobs, grants and others.

No.1 Vol. III

January 2012

Donation



Controversy

Anecdotes

Poetry

LOS AMIGOS :
Por la superación de la Etnia Negra

A group of friends, in Panama, decided to join forces to work on the rescue of values, customs and cultural traditions bequeathed to us through our ancestors. These have been displaced by others, thus losing a large part of our Black Heritage. We are evaluating all these forgotten traditions and values and highlighting figures as examples for future generations.

“For Black history to be done right, we must do it ourselves.” Edward Gaskin

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The editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by our collaborators

Cover Page: The stamp which appears on the cover was proposed to the Canal Zone Government by Mr. George W. Westerman (r.i.p.) accepted and issued in 1951 as a 10 cent postage stamp, used for years. Permission for its continuous use was given by his grandnephew, Cecil Reynolds.

Editorial

Our values, customs and cultural traditions have been displaced by others,
in this way we have been losing a large part of our Black Heritage.

We are evaluating all these forgotten traditions and values, bringing them to the forefront for all to see.

We have highlighted Community figures to serve as role models for our young people... our future generations.

--Kindness is the language the blind can see and the deaf can hear.

FEEDBACK (December 2011)

<p>Hello to all:</p> <p>Thank you very much for sharing your Newsletter that always include great history lessons which I am keeping for my grandchildren. Thanks also for your interest and the time invested in researching such valuable history.</p> <p>Merry Christmas and a Blessed 2012.</p> <p>Ana Rosa Pena de la Guardia</p>	<p>Received and enjoyed it. Keep up the good work!!! Carlos M. ---- Thank you, Great articles... Melida A. Harris Barrow</p>
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Very enlightening information's about the canal area history. It will also be interesting to research and publish the contributions that labor leaders have contributed to the betterment of the workforce throughout the construction and maintenance of the infrastructures of the area. Also the civic councils and organizations. Tony R *We would be happy to have the input: yours or anyone's, Tony.*

(translated)

<p>Many thanks for the Newsletter. You people have much good material to publish a book. I am learning a lot about the CZ from these Newsletters. <i>Inesita</i>, don't be discouraged and work on a book for everyone. Merry Christmas.</p> <p>carmen</p>	<p>Hello Inés, I have been receiving your AfroPanamanian Newsletter, it is very interesting. Priscila</p>
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I only have 2 comments. It was not. Said. What sport the gentleman received the bronze medal for in the Olympics and what year did the other gentleman become the 1st master pilot of West Indian descent.

All in all I thoroughly enjoyed the article. Thanks for sharing.

Sent from Tia Cita's iPad. *LaBeach's medal was won in London in 1946 for track and field.*

You are invited to a “2012 Afrodescendant Congress on Nation Formation” in Honolulu, Hawaii on July 18-19, 2012.

To learn more about the Congress, please visit the following Internet Web page:

<http://www.BlackEconomics.org/Congress.html>.

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Get your bound copy of the AfroPanamanian Newsletter 2011

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In case you want to chill out at the beach: 6 rooms, 2 with 2 double beds, 3 with a double and a twin and one with a queen that can be replaced with two beds if needed

www.journeyatlaslajasbeach.com

Olden days sayings:

There, now, the young girl went and “fall”. Some would say that happened because she was “slack”. Anyway, this thing “blight her future”. Now the boyfriend can go on in school, while she has to “dropout”, “stay home and mind baby”. To top it off, he might just go off with another girl “sometimeish” as he is, he will only visit her when it is convenient to him. He might even “look down his nose” at her on the street.

For a deep cut, “fill the wound with cobweb”, “soak it with kerosene”, if it is a “nail juck”, “beat it until it bleeds”, put dobie itch on it. Dobie itch was a cream only available at the Gorgas Hospital, actually a “cure all” for skin problems. In the same way, Winter Green was a “cure all” for all aches and pains.

Prescriptions from our Black doctors in the 30's and 40's: Dr. Fairweather, Dr. Fyffe, prescribed medications that could be obtained from Moran Drug store at the corner of 18 St Central, *Javillo*, in *Salsipuedes*, Boyd drug store under Muller bldg, until *Arrocha* started to grow in the '50s. January 2012

The Untold Story

Rosha (Rochet) Yard

This was a block of buildings in *Calle Estudiante* behind the Central Theater.

It surrounded a central yard like many others, where the cooking, washing and hanging out clothes was done. There, the lines and sticks were raised and lowered to dry the clothes.

It was also the area to sit and get some breeze, play dominoes or draught and hold our nine nights.

It was a good area for bathing in the rain, which was enjoyed mainly by the children, but also by the adults.



WATER SHORTAGE

In the 40's and 50's in the *Rio Abajo* and *Parque Lefevre* area there was shortage of water. There was no telling when the water would be cut off. There always had to be a reserve so that when you were soaped-up in the shower and the water was cut off, there was a way to wash the soap off.

So, someone went into the bath and there was no water. How do you know which is off and which is on? Then you leave home and when you get back, the water has been running. For how long?

Homes were built more open, since there was not as much robbery and assaults going on, therefore, there was no flooding. The water would run off.

If it was an upstairs, then maybe the neighbors downstairs would get some furniture or so wet. On wooden floors, the seams aren't sealed, so that, cleaning could not be done with buckets of water splashed on the floor, as the latins do, instead, mopping was done with just enough water to take up most of the dust until the rinsing was done with a clean portion of water, “wringing the mop dry”.



Central Theater



National Institute

FESTIVALS

As yet a student at the *Instituto Nacional* high school, A. Roberto Morgan, from 1962 to 1984 held the first film festivals in the City of Panama. It began as a school club with founding members: *Adolfo Hassan, Antonio Tascon, Aurelio Hassan, Carlos Montufar hijo, Cesar Villarreal, Jorge Pimentel, Jose O Bustamante, Luis O. Matthews, Manuelita De la Guardia, Panamela George, Pibe Clement, Roberto McKay, Sebastian Quiroz, Vitelio De Gracia and Antonio Roberto Morgan Montilla.*

For years they promoted these film festivals which were widely attended, since they included films from all over the world and participated in documentary contests in Chile, Frankfurt and France, where it won a Silver Platter in 1965.

Economic collaboration was received from philanthropist Nicholas Kovach and the National Institute of Tourism (IPAT) in 1967, which took over and bestowed the Special Honor of *Vasco Nuñez de Balboa* Medal then appointed Kovach honorary President of the Film Festival. It included films that had been judged at the Cannes Film Festival and was visited by internationally renowned artists, such as: Troy Donahue, Dionne Warwick, *Marco Antonio Muñoz, Andrea del Boca "Pinina"*, Peruvian Film Director *Armando Robles Godoy*, Korean beauty: Kim Ji Mi, Mexican *Aldo Monti*, Lawrence Harvey from England, the Argentinian *Katy Jurado* who portrayed "*Evita*" etc.

We could say it is the parent organization of the University of Panama's GECU.

About 2 years ago, the Government TV station, SERTV held a film festival at the *Alhambra* Theater on *Via España* with films from the Caribbean Islands. The Black Community in the City supported it thoroughly. There were films in English, Spanish and French.

Grammy Winner -- **DANILO PEREZ'S 9th JAZZ FESTIVAL** will be held from January 16-21 in Panama:

Some comments about Danilo along his trajectory:

"... an extraordinary musician." *Jazz Life*.

"Perez sprinkles everything with stars." [Musician]

"The real surprise was Perez, a young artist ripening rapidly with a surprising reserve of technique and ideas. He looked so comfortable quoting Thelonious Monk or calling out Bud Powell or playing sambas or *montunos*. He is an artist to watch." *The Boston Globe*.

"As a composer and pianist, Danilo has a lot of promise..." *The Phoenix*.

January 2012

"A fluid piano player with a vocabulary which includes both Thelonious Monk and *montunos*, Bop and boleros..." The Boston Globe.

"A brilliant pianist" Jazz Times.

"He has a Jazz vocabulary which belies his age... he listens hard and swings hard!" Jazz Notes, Boston Globe.

Jazz Unlimited is a non-profit organization that was founded in November 1978 by a group of young Jazz enthusiasts to promote the love of Jazz in Panama. Its first event was held on January 21, 1979 at the extinct Camelot Club.

International Jazz ensembles presented throughout their tenure from 1978 - 1984 were: Phil Woods & his quartet, Preservation Hall, Dexter Gordon and his quartet, and, Bob Greene and his Jazz Band from New Orleans. On the local front: Bat Gordon's "Stone & Gravel", The Victor Boa Orchestra, The Carol Greaves Trio, "Cool Breeze" Quintet directed by "Rubberlegs" MacKindoo and "Opus 4" under Jorge Carrizo.

Its members included: Roberto A. Mariette, John Richards, Rolando Grannum, Jacinto French, Gladstone Gordon, Emanuel Hayot, Albert Moottoo, Reyes Colbourne, Marcos Grannum, Mortimer Jordan, Alvin Sealey, Gerardo Wheatley.



Maurice Raymond Cox: Better known as **Ray Cox** studied piano under Dr. Hamlett's daughter and organist Handel K Lawson. He made his debut in adolescence getting raving ovations which immediately placed him in demand in his home town, Colon.

He participated in a presentation at the Peruvian National Palace in 1924, in 1937 he was member of the all-Star orchestra that won first prize in an all band contest of the Islands in Jamaica. In 1953 he was invited to do his "Rhapsody in Blue" with the National Symphony orchestra of Panama, which was favorably critiqued by the public.

He spent many years being presented on cruisers sailing from North America, South America and the Bahamas.

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Colon born multi talented **Mauricio** Julián **Smith** Pereira whose career includes from folkloric to classical music played all the wind instruments: all the flutes, all the saxophones and clarinets, the vibraphone and harmonica, besides bass, piano and classic guitar.

He was a professional artist from 1950 playing in many countries all over the globe. He made musical arrangements for Tabou Combo, commercials for Coca Cola, Budwieser, Colt "45", Pizza Hut and others.

A true nationalist, his first group organized in NY, was an all Panamanian band.

January 2012

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: (Thanks to Basilio Wilkinson & Mario Small)
Important information to have available, when driving in Panama.

The National Police has implemented roadside assistance for the following:
vehicle out of service, a flat tire, battery discharged.

The Police offers the vehicle repair, free of charge, on the roadside.

Not all highways and roads, they cover: *Corredor Norte, Corredor Sur, Avenida Centenario & Autopista Arraijan-Chorrera.*

This service is provided Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM -5:00 PM. please call 511-9239 or 511-9240.

OPPORTUNITIES:

30% DISCOUNT AT UNIVERSIDAD DEL CARIBE (Howard, Panama)

<http://www.universidaddelcaribe.edu.pa>

April 12 - 16, 2012: XII International African and Afro-American Cultural Conference in Santiago, Cuba. The event includes: conferences, work shops, films, live performances among others.

<http://pedroperezsarduy.blogspot.com/2010/07/xith-international-conference-on.html>

Websites at which you can apply for scholarships:

4) Coca-Cola Two Year College Scholarships <http://www.coca-colascholars.org/programs.html>

5) Holocaust Remembrance Scholarships <http://holocaust.hklaw.com/>

6) Ayn Rand Essay Scholarships <http://www.aynrand.org/contests/>

7) Brand Essay Competition <http://www.instituteforbrandleadership.org/IBLEssayContest-2002Rules.htm>

8) Gates Millennium=20 Scholarships (major)
<http://www.gmsp.org/nominationmaterials/read.dbm?ID>

9) Xerox Scholarships for Students
http://www2.xerox.com/go/xrx/about_xerox/about_xerox_detail.jsp

10) International Students Scholarships & Aid Help <http://www.iefaf.org/>

11) College Board Scholarship Search
<http://cbweb10p.collegeboard.org/fundfinder/html/fundfind01.html>

12) Burger King Scholarship=20 Program <http://www.bkscholars.csfa.org/>

Taken from the Panama Canal Review, Composed by CZAngel. *No town was shown on maps of those days at the present location of Gamboa.*

Gamboa (continued from the November & December Newsletter)

During all this time, Dredging Division headquarters were located at Paraiso. That they were ever moved to Gamboa was due largely to an accident and to the persistence of one man, the then Dredging Division Superintendent, John G. Claybourn.

On July 30, 1923, Mr. Claybourn wrote a memorandum to Governor Morrow, recommending that the Dredging Division shops be moved from Paraiso to Gamboa for two reasons: "First, as a safeguard, in case of obstruction of the Cut by slides, the logical location being between any possible dredging and the dumps in Gatun Lake; second, increased Canal traffic, as well as the size of ships, introduces a serious menace to our fleet when moored in the comparatively narrow confines of the Cut at Paraiso."

For almost 13 years, Mr. Claybourn urged successive governors to consider the transfer to Gamboa. The north-of-the bridge and south-of-the bridge argument was renewed. In 1928, the outgoing Governor M.L. Walker, passed the problem on to Col. Harry Burgess, soon to succeed him, saying that the transfer "would be so expensive that it is futile to consider it at present - I do not consider it advisable to include it in next year's estimates so you will have to wrestle with it later."

Several newspaper accounts of the proposed change appeared in the next few years but it was not until April 1933, that Governor J. L. Schley appointed a three-man board to look into the question of a Gamboa town site. They reported that the move was feasible and would cost about \$2,780,000 spread over a three year period. That year there were only 252 residents, **10 of them Americans**, living in Gamboa.

The first Dredging Division families (*White?*) moved to Gamboa in September 1936. From 280 people in June 1936, the population jumped to 1,419 in a year, and 2,132 in June 1938. Gamboa's peak population was 3,853 in 1942.

June 1953 found the combined population of Gamboa and the local-rate settlement which has been know since 1948 as Santa Cruz, at 3,353.

Gamboa is now home to the Gamboa Rainforest Hotel, a beautiful complex of restored living quarters, turned into villas.

