

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.5 Vol. III

June 2012

Donation



Panama
celebrates
Black Ethnic Day
May 30
each
year

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

CREDITS

Editor : Sandra Patterson

Assistant: Ines V. Sealy

MEMBERS

**President
Anthony Cox**

**Treasurer
Fernando A. Goldson**

**Others
Ines V. Sealy
Sandra M. Patterson
Roberto L. Alleyne**

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

An education
isn't how much
you have committed to memory,
or even how much you know.

It's being able to differentiate
between what you do know
and what you don't.

Anatole France (1844 - 1924)

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

FEEDBACK (from May Newsletter)

<p>Hi, Ines. Thank you very much for sharing this newsletter. I have passed it on to some friends. I appreciate reading about our hair combing process and about places that are parts of our West Indian (afro-panamanian) heritage.</p>	<p>Relative to your article on the five friends that opened the S.A.B.E.B S= Charlie SMALL A= ??? Cabey B= George BRATHWAITE E= Edgar ERSKIN B= ?? BLACKWOOD</p>
<p>Pyllis Tivey</p>	<p>Hope this helps to fill a blank Jorge Brathwaite</p>

Dear Editor, my condolences on your family lost.

Memories you bring back to me. I remember my La Boca days when we played marble under the building cellar, jumped rope and played hop scotch in the street until the DDT truck spraying to kill mosquitoes. In those days we did not know of the damage DDT caused but we had a lot of fun in the smoke propelled in the air. Palm tree leaves fixed with flatten platillos were used to make push cars and old skates to make skate boxes. Those good old days ah!

I also remember the track and field in La Boca where me and my cousins will go and play with the water sprinklers. Then Mr Partchment (hope it is spelled correct) will come out of his office and whip our butts up to our home(#1074) where we will get another one from our mothers. You can not do that with today's kids.

Thanks again,
 Tony R

----- (feedback from April)

Remembering Mom's Clothesline

<p>There is one thing that's left out. We had a long wooden pole (clothes pole) that was used to push the clotheslines up so that longer items (sheets/pants/etc.) didn't brush the ground and get dirty.</p>	<p>5. You NEVER hung a shirt by the shoulders - always by the tail! What would the neighbors think?</p>
<p>You have to be a "certain age" to appreciate this one.... (But you YOUNGER ones can read about "The GOOD ol' days"!!)</p>	<p>6. Wash day on a Monday! NEVER hang clothes on the weekend, or on Sunday, for Heaven's sake!</p>
<p>I can hear my mother now.....</p>	<p>7. Hang the sheets and towels on the OUTSIDE lines so you could hide your "unmentionables" in the middle (perverts & busybodies, y'know!)</p>
<p>THE BASIC RULES FOR CLOTHESLINES: (If you don't even know what clotheslines are, better skip this.)</p>	<p>8. It didn't matter if it was sub-zero weather... clothes would "freeze-dry."</p>
<p>1. You had to hang the socks by the toes... NOT the top.</p>	<p>9. ALWAYS gather the clothes pins when taking down dry clothes! Pins left on the lines were "tacky"!</p>
<p>2. You hung pants by the BOTTOM/cuffs... NOT the waistbands.</p>	<p>10. If you were efficient, you would line the clothes up so that each item did not need two clothes pins, but shared one of the clothes pins with the next washed item.</p>
<p>3. You had to WASH the clothesline(s) before hanging any clothes - walk the entire length of each line with a damp cloth around the lines.</p>	<p>11. Clothes taken off the line before dinner time, neatly folded in the clothes basket, and ready to be ironed.</p>
<p>4. You had to hang the clothes in a certain order, and always hang "whites" with "whites," and hang them first.</p>	<p>12. IRONED????! Well, that's a whole OTHER subject! <i>Leticia</i> <i>(Lety... remember starch, candle, candle grease and satina???)</i></p>

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=cWlhXzZT8dE&vq=largeS (beautiful dancers)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6nf8BaXdU-E&feature=youtube_gdata_player (Etnia Negra Parade in Colon)

New Entrepreneurs

NIC-ETH™ is a new full service talent agency, event management and production company in the Republic of Panama, and the first to focus its attention to representing multi-cultural talents throughout the country. The company will work with clients and help them reach all segments of the “melting pot” that Panama is. Our goal is to manage your entire project from start to finish, whether you are looking for models, actors, singers, voiceover, photographers, stylist, etc... We take great pride in providing unparalleled service and reasonable rates for our clients. With our extensive network of contacts, we are able to fulfill even your most unique requests.

The founders Melida Harris-Barrow and Dalton Ferdinand, have collaborated on multiple international business ventures that involved brokering services. They will use their extensive network of contacts and their passion for change, to make an impact in the growing media and entertainment industry in Panama. The company will represent and promote known artists and also develop new talent.

NIC-ETH™ is founded with the mission to INSPIRE, PROMOTE & EDUCATE.

Contact us to explore the diverse beauty and talent that Panama has to offer.

OLDEN DAYS SAYINGS:

<p>“The longest rope has an end”, “Give the dog enough rope to hang himself”, “Cat eyes”, “The longest day has an end”, “one for the money, two for the show, three to get ready and four to go”</p>	<p><i>Speak the truth, and speak it ever, Cost it what it will; He who hides the wrong he did, Does the wrong thing still.</i></p> <p><i>To do to others as I would That they should do to me, Will make me honest, kind, and good, As children ought to be.</i></p>
--	--



Always put yourself in others' shoes.

If you feel that it hurts you,

It probably hurts the other person, too.

<http://8176.vs01.audio-stream.com/index.php> (Joe French suggested Panamanian radio station by Tommy Barrett)

THE GOOD OLD DAYS:

Why is there a need for **the green thing** (*taken from the e-mail forwarded by Carmen Stanko*)

Young people are right -- older generations didn't have the green thing in its day.

Back then, we returned milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled.

Grocery stores bagged our groceries in brown paper bags, that we reused for numerous things, most memorable besides household garbage bags (ANY LIQUID WOULD BURST THE PAPERBAG), was the use of brown paper bags as book covers for our bibles, school books or copybooks. In some countries this was to ensure that public property, (the books provided for our use by the school) was not defaced by our scribbles. Then we were able to personalize our books.

We walked up stairs, because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building nor elevators. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks.

Back then, we washed the baby's diapers because we didn't have the throw-away kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy gobbling machine burning up 220 volts -- wind and solar power really did dry our clothes back in our early days. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing. Even hand-me-down from the neighbors.

Back then, we had one TV, or radio, in the house -- not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of the wide-screen of a movie theater. In the kitchen, we blended and stirred and washed dishes by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us.

When we packaged a fragile item to send by air, land or sea-mail (*which is disappearing*), we used wadded up old newspapers to cushion it in a cardboard box covered with brown paper, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap. Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity. Really, we didn't have the green thing back then.

We drank from a fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull (sharpened it in a drinking glass). But we didn't have the green thing back then.

Back then, people took the streetcar or a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service. We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest burger joint.

But isn't it sad, the current generation laments, how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the green thing back then?

WALK A MILE IN MY SHOES

If I could be you and you could be me
for just one hour,
If we could find a way to get inside each
other's mind,
If you could see me through your eyes
instead of your ego,
I believe you'd be surprised to see that
you'd been blind.

Now your whole world you see around you
is just a reflection,
And the law of common says you reap
just what you sow.
So unless you've lived a life of total
perfection,
You'd better be careful of every stone that
you throw,

And yet we spend the day throwing stones
at one another,
Cause I don't think or wear my hair the
same way you do.
Well I may be common people, but I'm
your brother,
And when you strike out and try to hurt
me, it's a hurtin' you.

There are people on reservations and out
in the ghettos;
And, brother, there but for the grace of
God, go you and I.
If I only had the wings of a little angel,
Don't you know I'd fly to the top of the
mountain.
And then I'd cry.

Walk a mile in my shoes, walk a mile
in my shoes.
And before you abuse, criticize and accuse,
Walk a mile in my shoes.

New camera system in Panama's traffic.

High Fidelity digital cameras and a computer system with printer and software which registers the license plate when a vehicle commits a traffic violation upon passing said camera is being implemented by Panama's Traffic Administration. It records the date, hour, place and type of infraction. The image will be sent automatically to the A.T.T.T.'s data base.

Upon retiring your license plate, the infraction will appear, which you will have to cancel before being able to obtain your plate.

According to data supplied to the A.T.T.T on your registration, notification of the infraction will be made personally by mailing address, home phone, work phone, celular phone, e-mail, or printed media (on a monthly list).

The fines will be applied according to Decree 640 of December 27, 2006. If the infractor disagrees with the sanction, he/she will have five working days after notification to refute the sanction in writing.

Where Radar Cameras are going to be: *(contributed by Cecil Reynolds & Sergio Green, translated by Ines, who does not vouch for accuracy)*

1. 2 on the way to the North Corridor, in front of the Physical Therapy Institute (CRI)
2. 2 on the way to the North Corridor, in *BRISAS DEL GOLF* beside SMART ACADEMY
3. One leaving the South Corridor at *Llano Bonito* in front of *Formas Universales*
4. One entering the South Corridor at *Llano Bonito* before you get to INGELMEC
5. One in front of *Lumicentro* passing *Las Americas*
6. One 500 meters after the METROBUS base at *24 de diciembre* going towards Pacora
7. One before RODELAG at *Plaza Carolina*.
8. Going towards the city on the South Corridor, at the beginning of the marine section,
9. One at INADEH, going towards the airport.
10. *Costa del Este* before the Terpel gas station (beginning of the industrial park and DHL).

Will Panama have a new constitution?

For 9 months representatives of different organizations met weekly to try to come to consensus on the reform of Panama's constitution.

The results of that labour of love was turned in to the cabinet of the Republic on January 30. At the same time the cabinet was requesting the assembly to approve a new branch for the Supreme Court, which is not acceptable to the public, at the moment, because of the perception that, seeing that the President will be the one to appoint the Magistrates, he will be given more power to do as he feels like.

As citizens of the country, we have the right to know the content of this project-law, as well as the content of what is going to be sent to the assembly for approval.

We were hoping to be able to supply you with the content of what goes to the assembly, but, alas! Parts of it has now been sent to the assembly, during extra sessions, causing a barrage of protests, since the content is not to the approval of the masses.

Jamaica in Panama



Capleton in Panama

Bocas del Toro makes history!

By Brett Conliffe

Capleton in Bocas – Isla Colon, Bocas del Toro – Closing event for Black History Month

Capleton in Bocas - On June 1, 2012, history was made when the King of Fire "Capleton", launched his Panama tour from the island paradise of Bocas del Toro - Isla Colon taking the stage @ el Barco Hundido and produced by Global507 Productions!

This marked the first time a Jamaican International Award Winning Artist comes 1st to the land of the most Jamaican descendants and marked the closure of Black History month in Bocas - Panama!

More fire! More fire! Capleton invoked the crowd to his melodic tunes, and remained on stage for close to two (2) hours.... The King of Fire showed love and the people of Bocas showed Capleton love right back, shouting "More fire...!"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvk5c4bYnuo> (Jamaica by Air)

**Jamaica Celebrates 50 years Independence August 6
1962 – 2012**

Hands Across Jamaica For Righteousness is inviting Jamaicans and their descendants abroad to come back to Jamaica for the 50th Jubilee to spend a week doing social work and acquainting themselves with the country, its beauty and culture.

Yvonne O. Coke, Author and Founder of Hands Across Jamaica For Righteousness states:

"I write to tell you that Jamaica is the place to be for Jubilee where we can give back to our Primary School, basic school, prep school or even high school in thanksgiving to God and our foreparents who gave so much to see us "come off to something." In the midst of all this soul satisfaction, we will be able to participate with our fellow Jamaicans in the kind of euphoria which is not possible anywhere else in the world because of the live coverage of the Olympic games coming to Jamaica on every corner. Truly a time of "Out Of Many One People."

Jamaica is the place to be for Jubilee! Take action to come in your tens, hundreds and thousands by any means possible. **Put yuh foot on the soil this Jubilee year and say to your posterity: "I was there."**

"See you when you come!"

There are 10 packages, see them at: <http://www.leisurejamaica.com/handsjamaicajubilee2012/>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JN29mzRMaYk&feature=youtu.be> (Jamaica's 50th anniversary song, forwarded by Jose Kelly)