

AfroPanamanian Newsletter



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No.11 Vol. III

December 2012

Donation



We are in Mourning

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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**Treasurer
Fernando A. Goldson**

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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



***Sandra*
Marcela
Patterson Owens**

**Nació 9 de Abril de 1946
26 Noviembre de 2012**

***¡Hice lo que quise
y disfrute lo que hice!***

Jehová es mi pastor; nada me faltará.
En lugares de delicados pastos me
hará descansar;
Junto a aguas de reposo me
pastoreará.
Confortará mi alma;
Me guiará por sendas de justicia por
amor de su nombre.
Aunque ande en valle de sombra de
muerte,
No temeré mal alguno, porque tú
estarás conmigo;
Tu vara y tu cayado me infundirán
aliento.
Aderezas mesa delante de mí en
presencia de mis angustiadores;
Unges mi cabeza con aceite; mi copa
está rebosando.
Ciertamente el bien y la misericordia
me seguirán todos los días de mi
vida,
Y en la casa de Jehová moraré por
largos días. Salmo 23

**30 de Noviembre 2:00 p.m
Iglesia San Juan Bautista**

**sus familiares agradecen a todos
los mensajes de condolencias**

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

December 2012

FEEDBACK (from the November Newsletter)

Hello. Please include me in your mailing list. Your newsletter is quite interesting. I'm sending here (as a collaboration) a poem written by me, as well as a short biography (at the end of this message). I live and work in Colón. Thanks.

Winston.

I Believe... That you should always leave loved ones with loving words, it may be the last time you see them

CONDOLENCES:

Condolencias:

Mis sinceros pésame por la muerte de la compañera Sandra.

Que DIOS la mantenga en su Gloria.

Recuerdo cuando desfilamos juntos el 1 de Mayo de 2011, en el Desfile de la Etnia Negra, organizada por BAYANO.

JGF



This is a big blow. Sandra?
Alberto

I am sorry for your loss.
Lanier

So sorry to learn of your loss.
Marion C. Martin

Ines:

Please convey our deepest sympathies from Positive Tourism News.

Sharon and Theo Chambers

CLICK FOR BOOK LINK: POETRY FROM THE ROSE OF SHARON

http://www.amazon.com/Poetry-Rose-Sharon-Thoughts-Inspirations/dp/0977971619/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1323270320&sr=1-1

Dear Ines,

Oh no! My deepest condolences to you on the loss of your friend and collaborator. So painful, I know.

In Sympathy,

Ifeoma

Hi Ines, I just want to thank you and your entire staff, for the great service, that newsletter provides. My condolence to you and your staff for the Loss of Sandra Patterson.

Don

Thank you Ines for such a wonderful Newsletter, and my condolence for Sandra Paterson, may she rest in peace.

Silvia K

December 2012

Dear Ines,

So very sorry to learn about Sandra's death. My condolences to Sandra and family. Y'all are doing a fantastic job with the Afro-Panamanian newsletter. I trust you will be able to keep it going. I enjoyed this edition immensely with the calypsonians, the thanksgiving poem, and all the other features. Congratulations,
Carm

[Nilka Chase](#) *La conocí desde pequeña, luego como enfermera en el Hospital Santo Tomás, persona recta, profesional intachable. orgullosa de su NEGRITUD!!! Que su alma descanse en paz!!*

[Yvonne Mc Farlane](#) My prayers go to her family...Love n Blessings

I remember Sandy very well. We used to go to her home for parties when she was studying nursing. She also had a brother in the university. Her mom was always there.
Nelson Edwards

Que triste cuando alguno de nuestros camaradas se nos va para siempre!

Les envio mi mas profundo pesame.

Tirsa Muldoon

Me hubiera gustado estar para dar mis respetos pero estoy laborando....por lo que elevare mis oraciones para ella.
Saludos Idania

DEar Ines, sorry to hear of the passing of Sandra Patterson (MHSRIP) Was she ill, my condolence to her family and news paper family also.
Hank

My sincere condolences to you and the other members of the group, Inés. We shall accompany you tomorrow at the funeral service.

Melva

Although this Newsletter is published in English, on this occasion we did not translate the condolences received from friends and acquaintances through Facebook and e-mails included here. We are deeply grateful for your concern, and, on behalf of Sandra's family and this staff, we say THANK YOU!!!

Your continued support and contributions are requested. Help us find a journalist versed in English and willing to help save young people by examples and role models.

TRIBUTE TO COLON – WEST PANAMA & SANDY REFUGEES

The Pain of this City has invaded me...

by Winston Churchill James Jordan

1.

A wave of Sadness
 Loaded with thorns
 Inhabits the City
 It roams through it with its unceasing "back and forth"
 By day
 By night
 It torments it
 It butchers it
 Repeating itself endlessly
 Caressing it unstopably
 The City doesn't recognize me any longer
 And it doesn't accept my verses
 Neither my roses
 Nor my tears
 Because it's flooded with solitudes, with ghosts
 And screams
 A rhythm of absences and figures, filled up with
 emptiness
 Corrupted down to their epitaphs
 Wanders around my City, absolutely

2.

This City without a city
 Has scared away its flowers, its birds
 And the honey from the faces of its infants
 (I hold strong to my City and life hurts,
 So much fog and all the lighthouses
 Absolutely all of them, are gone)

3.

But we must continue
 Even if the danger is stalking us and its unyielding
 As if Life was a useless game
 And if Fire was a simple fabrication from the snow
 I hold strong to this City
 And my roses wilt
 And renounce their thorns
 They throw away their pollen, and cry out a river
 Because Spring does not recognizes them any more
 I hold strong to my city
 And my Death drinks wine in front of my very own
 face

4.

I dreamt of a City large as the Ocean
 Due to its laughter and its roses
 With all the happiness of confetti
 And its music, getting inflamed by dawn
 I dreamt of a City, of mine and of the sirens
 Next to Love
 Warming itself up by the flames of its many
 struggles
 I dreamt of a City that was also a chimney
 And that was also tender, handing itself over to the
 kiss of its heroines

5.

But I dreamt of Fire
 And I'm in the middle of a Torment
 A wave of sadness loaded with thorns
 Has taken over my City
 And its Pain has invaded me, up to spill off my
 Anguish
 And that wave of Sadness is who directs the Farce
 Its callously laughs at the characters
 It wants to be heard
 It daringly speaks out of Love
 Of the architecture of kisses
 It frivolously flirts with Fire
 And it has also tried to mate with my City

6.

I must stop her
 Defeat her
 Remove her with swords stolen from the glow
 And rescue my City
 And hand it back its Spring
 Reconstruct its laughter
 Make the inventory of its dreams
 Show to it, again, how to dream
 How to sing to the stars
 To my City, who was left without a City
 I must rebuild it
 With Blood,
 Fire,
 Kisses
 And Roses...

ROLE MODELS

Major Roberto Constantino Dailey James

(excerpted from writings of his daughter Ihgsa Dailey, contributed by Cecil V. Reynolds).

Major Roberto Dailey has lived an exemplary life in his community. He was a jockey in the first race track in the Republic of Panama in *Guabito*, Province of *Bocas del Toro*. He has excelled as a family man, a great athlete representing his Province, backing up young people interested in baseball and dedicated and selfless member of the Panamanian Firefighters' Corps. His wedding anniversary coincides with the anniversary of the *Almirante* Firefighters' Headquarters, which caused his wedding picture to appear in its program booklet.

Major Dailey remembers the days when all kinds of things had to be done to carry out firefighting because of a shortage of equipment. As an example he recounts the Credit Union fire in *Almirante*. Knowing the contents of the Credit Union he requested help from *Chiriqui Grande*, *Changuinola* and *Bocas Island*, since they only had pumps to try to out the fire, no trucks. The *Bocas Island* firefighters were helpful. Covering themselves with wet rags and towels they were able to enter the building, which contained paint, kerosene and other combustibles, to out the fire.

He has received many recognitions: Bronze, silver and gold medals, honorary mentions for his faithfulness to the institution, even from the Lion's Club and others. Twice he was honored to represent the organization carrying the flag in the 28th of November parade. As safety chief of the firefighters he had the assignment of supervising the construction of the road joining *Almirante* with *Chiriqui Grande*. He even made Station head from 2002 to March 2012 when he retired.

Dailey played and coached baseball, representing the province of *Bocas del Toro* both within the country and abroad.

Recently he was honored by the University of Panama. He has been such a good example that his professional children: Ihgsa Dailey sublieutenant, Jenifer Dailey Captain & Rey Dayley (R.I.P.) II Sgt., have followed in his footsteps as volunteer firefighters

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HERBERT COUSINS EARNED A DEGREE FROM DOANE IN 1974

(excerpted from the Doane College website contributed by Cecil Reynolds)



This Panamanian athlete became Doane's top single-season re-bouncer of all time as a member of the Doane Tigers' basketball team under coach Bob Erickson, while representing his country, simultaneously, coached by Prof. Cecil Williams (mentioned in the October 2011 Newsletter).

Cousins represented Panama in the World Games in the former Yugoslavia, the Pan-American games in Colombia, South America, and the Central American and Caribbean games. He is on the Panamanian list of 125 Top athletes of all time which includes such elite athletes as former world boxing champion Roberto Duran (whose life story is being made into a film here in Panama), New York Yankee relief pitcher Mariano Rivera and Major League Baseball Hall-of-Fame member Rodney Carew (also mentioned in the October 2011 Newsletter).

He followed his parents' advice that education would be important, as well as living by a moral compass. "My father always said: There are only two ways of doing things. The right way or the wrong. There is no in-between". Herbert graduated from Doane with a bachelor or arts degree, majoring in psychology and Spanish and a certification in education. He worked as teacher, then administrator in the Omaha Public School District.

As a boy growing up in Panama Herbert knew that he wanted to work in law enforcement, so that, it was easy for him to pass from the School District to the FBI induction and progress until his retirement. For two decades Herbert lived the things we read about in media headlines... but he felt that he was contributing to the security and safety of the country, which he did until his retirement in 2003 as an FBI senior executive, special agent in charge of the Springfield Illinois Division.

Christmas Message



Christmas Time

By: Shirley Johnson

Once Again its Christmas time
A time for children's merry-making
Play and joy
A time for singing and for seeking their every little toy!

Yes Christmas is a Wonderful season
And most of all if you keep
Young heart connected to
Its only reason which is Jesus Christ.

Did you know the prophets spoke?
Of his coming, many years
Before he was seen
And when it was appropriate
God made it be fulfilled!

And so the babe was born in a manger
Surrounded by stars, angels,
Animals and men and yet,
How different it is today
As it was given then!

Since that was the beginning
Today it's 'most the end
When Jesus from his heavenly
Father is seeking to come again

So be tactful, be watchful
Both day and night
Since He will be coming for sure
Like a thief in the night!

Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year from Shirley Johnson and Family.

SANDRA MARCELA PATTERSON OWENS (R.I.P.)

“I did what I wanted, and, enjoyed what I did”.

That included listening to the music she loved, dancing till she was tired, participating in the SAMAAP and *Bahainas (Escuela PanaSamba) comparsas*, traveling and writing,

Sandra was born on April 9, 1946 as a twin with her brother Cecilio Juan Patterson Owens in the city of Panama of West Indian descent parents: Cecilio Patterson and Oliva Owens McGrath, who predeceased her as well as her other brother, Marcos Patterson Owens.

She grew up in the Old Quarter of Panama (Prospero Pinel) where she went to the Rep. of Cuba primary school. Beginning secondary at the Isabel Herrera Obaldia Professional Hi School she finished at the Instituto Istmeño.

“Miss Patterson” graduated from the Sto. Tomas Hospital Nursing School. She worked at nursing for some time at that hospital then made a parenthesis to work as an Airline Stewardess with Air Panama. She then went back to nursing at Panama's Cancer hospital until her retirement. At this institution her character and work are well respected.

While still working, she studied journalism at the University of Panama graduating after retirement.

Sandra was an avid cooperative member, being an innovative president of FEDPA for several years.

She entered partnership with Roberto Alleyne and Ines Sealy in SEAPAT Eventos S.A. in 2007 so as to present The Mighty Sparrow in Panama, later, with Antonio Cox and Fernando Goldson to edit the AfroPanamanian Newsletter, after having participated in the publication of The New Panama Tribune in 1988 with renown journalists such as: William Hoyte (R.I.P.), Hesketh Minott (R.I.P.) and Hugo Wood.

An avid defendant of AfroPanamanian rights, she was a member of and represented *Red de Mujeres AfroPanameñas (REMAP)* at international meetings.



THE MIGHTY SPARROW

