

# AfroPanamanian Newsletter



*English opens doors. Read the Newsletter*

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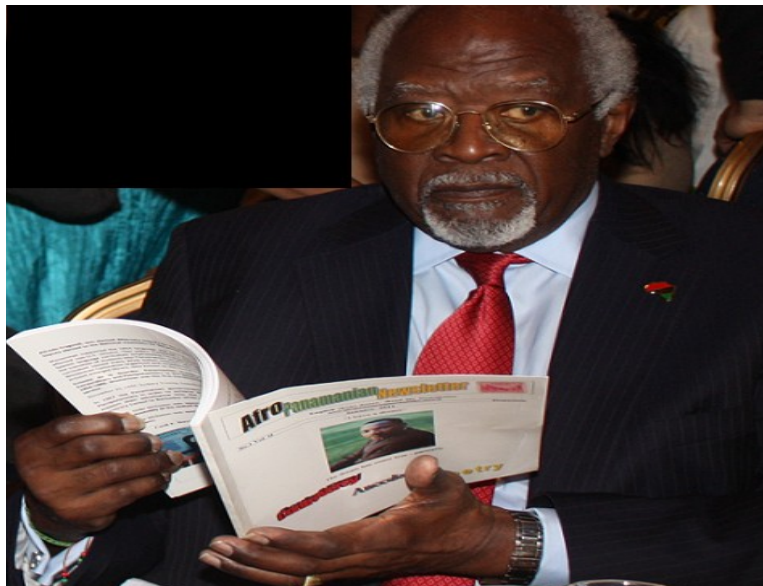
*We encourage our web readers to feel free to use our links to find scholarships, jobs, grants and others.*

**No.5 Vol. IV**

**(June 2013)**

**Donation**

Dr. Julius Garvey



*Story inside*

**Anecdotes**

**Controversy**

**Poetry**

## LOS AMIGOS :

Por la superación de la Etnia Negra  
(Incorporated to SEAPAT EVENTOS, S.A.)

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*

#### *ADVICE FOR LIFE*

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*It isn't  
just about being a  
mother, a  
relative, a friend;  
it's about  
appreciating  
the people in your  
life while you have  
them....no matter  
who they may be.*

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

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May feedback:

check out Scambusters warning for when you go on vacation  
(contributed by Robert Jackman)

<http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=KNo9W&m=JxwMHbJxgGtWfo&b=IHORUILd.cLisOuC4II.oA>

<http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=KNo9W&m=JxwMHbJxgGtWfo&b=F3PnjEB.Zp1RMWv4yU9.XA>

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I thoroughly enjoyed reading this issue of the Afro Pana Newsletter. What a special set of cultural memories we share! Thanks for featuring my sister Grace Walters in this issue. I notice that there was also another "Gracie" featured, also a professional nurse. These were truly angels in our midst. And the Mothers Day poem really brought home the beauty of those strong, Black, women of West Indian descent, who instilled in us the greatest loves: that of God, of Self and of our Neighbors. We are inspired by their remembrance.  
Winston

Good job, Inés. Excellent tribute to the nurses who came out of our community.

Melva

----- **OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN (contributed by Carmen Ramsey)**

ScholarshipsOnline is a free online resource for scholarships and grants available to students, parents, and teachers. To find and apply for hundreds of scholarships for men and women of all ages, visit

<http://go.netatlantic.com/t/26807540/83171680/272121/82/>

**Below they have identified the top 2013/14 scholarship opportunities for women:**

**#1 - The AARP Foundation Women's Scholarship Program** provides scholarship funds to low-income women who are over the age of 50, and are seeking new job skills, training, and educational opportunities.

Learn more at <http://go.netatlantic.com/t/26807540/83171680/311951/72/>

**#2 - The Betty Rendel Scholarship** is available to female undergraduates each year who are attending a four-year accredited college or university and majoring in political science, government or economics. It is open to women across the nation.

Learn more at <http://go.netatlantic.com/t/26807540/83171680/311952/73/>

**#3 - The Women's Independence Scholarship Program, Inc.** helps women who have survived domestic violence to return to school and become self-sufficient. The primary candidates are single mothers with young children who lack the resources to attend college.

Learn more at <http://go.netatlantic.com/t/26807540/83171680/311953/74/>

**#4 - The Miss America Scholarship Fund** offers scholarships to over 12,000 young women who compete in the state and local competitions as well as Miss America first place winner, four runners-up, semi-finalists and non-finalists.

Learn more at <http://go.netatlantic.com/t/26807540/83171680/311954/75/>

**#5 - The Google Anita Borg Memorial Scholarship** is open to female undergraduate seniors or female students enrolled in a graduate program and studying Computer Science or Computer Engineering.

Learn more at <http://go.netatlantic.com/t/26807540/83171680/311955/76/>

**#6 - The Young Women In Public Affairs Award** is a scholarship for young women age 16 to 19 with an interest in public affairs who plan to enroll in college.

Learn more at <http://go.netatlantic.com/t/26807540/83171680/311956/77/>

**#7 - The Talbots Scholarship Program** awards one-time scholarships to women who want to go back to school to earn their undergraduate degree after graduating from high school or receiving their GED at least ten years ago.

Learn more at <http://go.netatlantic.com/t/26807540/83171680/311957/78/>

**#8 - The Go Red Multicultural scholarship** champions greater inclusion of multicultural women in the nursing and medical industries, address important gaps in treatment, and ensure that all Americans have an opportunity to work with their healthcare providers to make the best choices that lead to good health.

Learn more at <http://go.netatlantic.com/t/26807540/83171680/311958/79/>

**#9 - The Jeannette Rankin Women's Scholarship Fund** awards scholarships every year to low-income women who are 35 years of age or older.

Learn more at <http://go.netatlantic.com/t/26807540/83171680/311959/80/>

**#10 - The AWG Minority Scholarship program** encourages young minority women to pursue courses of education and careers in the field of geosciences. *Learn more at* <http://go.netatlantic.com/t/26807540/83171680/311960/81/>

**HELPING TO FIX PANAMA**

*This will be a series of complaint/suggestions on everyday living in the City or Country.  
For over a year we have been saying: "We put the cart before the horse".*

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This Government puts  
**"the cart before the horse"**

Changing the transportation system and not having enough buses, enough streets, enough bus stops, the right bus routes, schedules for the arrival of the buses at the bus stops, the coordination between the bus card system, the corridor card systems, the bus terminal system and the METRO systems. Not enough spots for sale and recharge of the cards we are obligated to use, not enough electricity for operation of the METRO, when it does begin, not enough electricity for the operation of the sewage treatment plant which is to save the Panama Bay. **"On and On"**.

This month we'll concentrate on **Sidewalks**

We are doing more walking today than we ever did in our lives in the city of Panama. The traffic situation is so bad that one can get to ones destination faster by walking than by Metrobus.

Between the time it takes to get to and from the bus stops, that are so far apart, and the time to wait on a bus (more than 15 minutes), one gets where he/she is going, if it is within walking distance, faster than by bus.

We have to walk on sidewalks that are not even worthy of the name, They are uneven, cracked, potholed, there are stumps of trees, metal (left from signs and parking meters) and concrete posts left sticking up which are dangerous to a pedestrian.

Since we have to walk so much, the sidewalks should be refurbished and the holes, left by the stolen watermeter covers, sealed. (We witnessed a woman fallen into one of these potholes).

It is true that the covers for the manholes and watermeters economically served certain crackheads for a while, but, by now, the IDAAN or Public Works should have made some provision for replacing them with concrete or some other sturdy material. We've seen sidewalks newly refurbished with brick, but the government employees park vehicles on them to spoil them, and obligate pedestrians to walk in the street.

**"Let's rebuild Colon"**

*a statement made by Dr. Julius Garvey*

Hosted by the Executive Secretariat of the *Etnia Negra* and the Rastafari movement in Panama, in a beautiful celebration of the accomplishments of Sir Marcus Mosiah Garvey, on Friday, May 31, 2013, his surgeon son Dr. Julius Garvey called for the Black people of the world, Blacks in Panama and the diaspora to **unite**.

He also made a call to Panamanians: "Let's rebuild Colon".

To prevent this Government from putting the cart before the horse in its plans for Colon, The AfroPanamanian Newsletter proposes to the Afrodescendent organizations in Panama and Colon, that it is time for all of us to push our Governments, present and future, to start fixing the sewage system in Colon so that we can pool our forces to reconstruct most of the abandoned buildings and make Colon the beauty it was in days gone by.

When we have it properly organized, we invite Colonites, Panamanians, wherever they are to contribute to this renovation or rebuilding.



Having featured his father in the July 2011 AfroPanamanian Newsletter, we presented Dr. Garvey with an autographed copy of the 2011 bound volume.

(Excerpted from Lic. Cecil Reynolds' 97<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Panama Canal...  
Aug. 14, 2011)

It is also documented that Marcus Garvey lived in Bocas del Toro, In 1910 he worked first as a printer and then as a journalist between Limon, Costa Rica and Bocas del Toro with his own personal army that was founded in 1922, this information is illustrated in the Limón Roots magazine year 7, No. 29 of 2009.

CESPEDES BURKE was Garvey's secretary.

During his stay in Panama, Marcus Garvey came in contact with many Jamaicans who have descendants still living in the country.

For instance, we got this data from *Earl Richards*, nephew of teacher Cespedes Burke, who was the founder of the Pan-Electic School of Commerce, Panama city, and served as local Secretary while Garvey militated in Panamanian Labor movements.

Burke, born in Jamaica on April 6 1902 published THE FORGOTTEN SILVER WORKERS in Dec. 1950, which is a plea to the United States President and Congress for effective and adequate Retirement Legislation for the Panama Canal LOCAL RATE WORKERS and General Treatment Of The Socio-Economic Disavantages Under Which These Workers Are Continuosly Struggling.

He wrote:

Of pension and retirement plans,  
For all the men -- NO, few  
They have left out the forgotten men  
Who earned retirement too.

As a boy out at Culebra,  
I stood on Canal Banks;  
And watched the Silver men at work,  
God know you owe them thanks.

Cespedes Burke Died: 1976 in Puebla, Mexico

Model "A" Ford \*



*Reading the article on Cricket in the January 2013 Newsletter people who experienced Cricket on the Canal Zone expanded and subscriber Vilma Best wondered:*

**Were Those Cricketers Umpired by my Father?**  
*by Vilma Best*

Seeing the article: Cricket on the Canal Zone reminded me of accompanying my cricketer father Hugh Mostyn Best "better known as Sam Best" born in Barbados on December 5, 1899 to practices and games of cricket in the late 30's and early 40's. In the 1950's "Sam" became an arbiter (umpire?)

His brother Egbert M<sup>c</sup>Elroy "Roy" Best, born in Panama on June 14, 1918, began playing cricket before 1945 and continued up until 1959.

On another note: My paternal grandparents: The British subjects, Edgar Atheling Best and Mary Louisa Armstrong Best came to Panama from Barbados and were living on the Canal Zone when my grandfather died and my father, who was about to study medicine at home, had to come to Panama, in 1920, to become head of the family (mother, younger brothers & sister).

In those days Canal Zone authorities permitted an older son to be employed and be head of the family upon the death of the breadwinner. Dad began his employment as a janitor in 1920 and worked his way up to become a supervisor in the Ordnance Section, Department of the Army when he retired in August 1963.

The guys on the cricket team probably saw my relatives play or played while my father was the arbiter.

**WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY**

United Nations' Resolution No. 2994 of December 15, 1972 was instituted to celebrate June 5 each year as World Environment Day.

It's purpose is to give a human context to the preservation of the environment.

To motivate people to become active agents of sustainable and equitable development.

To promote changes in community attitudes towards environmental issues and,

To encourage cooperation so that a sustainable environment is maintained.

Green concerts, essays and poster competitions in schools and colleges, tree planting, recycling campaigns and cleaning of our rivers and beaches are observed to celebrate the day.

Panama, as seen in all its environmental glory:



*La India Dormida*



“A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.”

Stillness in Motion

*by Furaha Youngblood*

In the kitchen doorway, I stand motionless  
Staring at a magnificent mango tree.  
I am a voyeur as the tree welcomes the  
Sun's kiss--the smooth skin of its  
Luscious fruit blushes peach and gold

From the immense blue sky,  
Throwing off its light night cover  
Of thin clouds, comes a songbird  
To match its peach and gold feathers  
Against the show-off mangoes.

Apple green leaves, golden peach bird,  
Irresistible fruit blend in a collage  
Of awesome beauty that raises my  
Spirits from the mundane task of  
Doing laundry and teaches me that  
At the heart of every task, lies stillness.

**CELEBRATING FATHER'S DAY:**

My Dad

*by Dilsia Miller Collins de Alleyne.*

Allan Esbert Miller Davison, was a strong afro Panamanian; he worked in Panama and provided for my mother, my six siblings, his step sister and her daughter. My dad smoked cigars and loved to have a good time.

He was born to James Miller who died when my dad was 13 years old, and Clara Davison, they came to Panama from Barbados during Canal's construction.

He was a bit special in certain areas, for instance:.. his T shirts had to be lily white, his underpants had to be starched and ironed, by the way he was like a clock when it was eating time, his breakfast, lunch and supper all were at the same time each day.

When school time he would buy our school shoes at "*La Aurora de Bazan*" do you remember that shoe store? When he received our list of books, during his lunch hour he would visit the book stores in Santana, and *La Bajada de Sal Si Puedes* until he got all the books on the list and that our older brothers had not used in past years.

He always had a car, so on weekends and some week days he would drive us out, we would tour the beaches and fairs in the interior. He liked good things so he bought us a large TV set and a record player or "*Tocadisco*" when we asked him for permission to go to the movies or a dance, he would reply, "You have a TV set and a *tocadisco* you don't need to go out".

My dad would sit down at home with us and watch the evening news, the novellas, he would also play cards and tell us some anecdotes from his childhood in the community of Red Tank, Canal Zone.

He told us that he wanted all boys, but some days, he wished he had all girls; he added, "because I always know where my girls are, but I seldom know where my boys are". He was not perfect, but he was a good example for his family, he knew how to provide for us, kept us entertained and made sure we kept out of trouble. He was a strong influence on our lives, and we turned out ok.

I invite you to send us your comments about your dad, remember Father's Day is every day.

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*by Ines V. Sealy*

Lloyd Leslie Sealy, my Barbadian daddy, was 48 years of age when I was born, so, as an only child, I am spoiled. Everything I can remember of my father was pleasant. He was industrious: he planted a garden on the land behind our house, grew chickens, ducks, we had dogs, cats, pigeons, guinea pigs, you name it. After he got a regular plumber helper job with the U.S. Army in Corozal, he moved his vulcanizing (tire repair) from *Calle Estudiante* to our home. He had a big heart, served as many as he could. He had many friends who used to visit us, who helped to repair and rebuild our home which he had purchased from an Italian man in 1938 after having won the lottery. He was lucky with the lottery, with his second winnings he bought the model "A" Ford\* that people who knew me as a teenager, saw me driving. With that car he helped the sick, disabled, picked up anyone he knew along the street. And just about the time I graduated from Hi School, he was starting the schoolbus system, taking children from *Maestra Elma's* school to and from their homes. Oh! He got me a license and awakened me early in the mornings to do the route.

You remember those days when the adult was always right? I only once got a whipping from my daddy, and that was because he felt that I had disrespected an adult, who, in my book, had done me wrong.

He had been ailing for some months when he died. He got mad because he wanted to do something for someone (although he was very sick) and my mother wouldn't let him, that caused him to "**kick the bucket**".

## To Our Dad on Father's Day

by Cecil V. Reynolds S

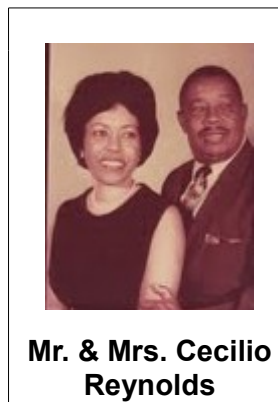
Today I will make a tribute to my father, Cecilio Vernon Reynolds Taylor, “Don Cecilio” or the mayor as he was known to his co-workers or “Ces” as he was known by his closest buddies. He was born in Siquirres, Costa Rica, on September 21, 1907 of Jamaican parents, Mary and Daniel Reynolds.

When he was six weeks old, his mom rushed out to take the clothes off the line since it had started to rain. She contracted pneumonia and died. My grandfather took all four children back to Jamaica to their maternal grandparents who raised them. His grandfather was Irish and his grandmother was Jamaican. (Hence, dad could be heard every so often humming Irish songs like “Danny Boy.” Aunt Beth, a spinster aunt, who lived in Jamaica, and whom we had the pleasure of meeting, helped to raise my father.

At the age of 19, he and his older brother Victor, left St. Mary’s Parish where he had grown and stowed away on a boat to seek fortune and adventure in Panama. He had no more than a sixth grade education, but with no knowledge of Spanish and a phony *acta de nacimiento* that said he was Panamanian, he was able to get his first job with the North Americans as a bar tender. Eventually he rose to become general manager of the Curundu Post Restaurant, the highest level he could have risen to since the next level was reserved for U.S. citizens.

It was while at Curundu that he met his lifelong partner, Dorothy. At the time she worked in a laundry shop and was completing her second year at the *Universidad de Panamá*.

They married, and wise to their time, made a conscious decision that their children would grow up in a better economic environment than they did. They decided to only have 2 children: a boy and a girl.



(My sister *Chela* often teased me by saying that if it was not for her; I would have never been born, as their first two children were both girls.) In addition to that, my mom went back to work once I started school, which was unusual for married women at the time.

While in Colon, where he lived for a while, he tried boxing and did odd jobs until he was hired at Curundu Post Restaurant. He worked very hard, for he also had a part time job at Smooth & Paredes as a car salesman. His Smooth & Paredes job offered him the opportunity to make a few more bucks on the side. For, from time to time, he would buy a car from someone who he had sold a car to, have his mechanic fix it and then re-sell it for a profit.

He and my mom worked hard to give us the best education, always setting an example of self-sacrifice and setting a high standard by always giving the best of themselves and improving themselves. He was a fun loving, dedicated, hard working and very generous man. He often said that his grandfather told him that “If someone gives you a glass of water, you should give them a glass of wine in return.” We also heard him tell us many times that “a man is not judged by what comes into him, what really challenges him is what comes out of him.” He worked such long hours that there were times when one of us could be heard telling him “Papa, why don’t you lie down and rest for a while.” He would promptly respond “So, what do you think I’m going to do when I die.”

In elementary school, my sisters: Gloria, Jacinta and I attended public school for most of our education, but when we got to high school, they made sure that we went to the best school in town: IPA. All of us left to further our university education in the United States, and they paid for my sisters, I worked during the summers, although my dad was paying my school fees, and saved that money, which helped to pay my first year in college and I worked to pay the other two years earning a degree. We all became professionals, thanks to his sacrifice. He was our father, and our mentor, our hero and our best friend. So now that we are not sharing time and space together, I wanted to take some time to tell you something about the wonderful man he was. *¡Feliz día del padre, papá!*