

AfroPanamanian Newsletter



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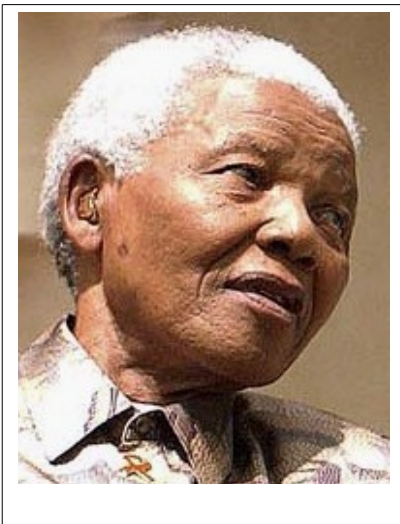
We encourage our web readers to feel free to use our links to find scholarships, jobs, grants and others.

No.10 Vol. IV

December 2013

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*This is going to be a sad
Christmas for many*



*December 5, 2013 saw
Nelson Mandela, one of our
greatest Black leaders,
breath his last.*

May his soul rest in peace.



As director of the Government's TV Channel 11, Prof. Gerardo Maloney produced Mandela Gecu, a musical as a part of the free Mandela international movement, featuring Pablo Milanes and local artists, July, 1988.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3Y7-UGJI8A>

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

“What counts in life
is not the mere fact that we have
lived.

It is what difference we have made
to the lives of others that will
determine
the significance of the life we
lead.”

- Nelson Mandela-

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

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please type REMOVE and reply to afropanamaniannewsletter@gmail.com

November feedback:

Contributed by Carmela Gobern. Banda Heriberto Crespo of the Jose Daniel Crespo High School in Chitre on the way to participate in the Rose Parade, January 1, 2014

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O_uqPbUH6l0

Kids Lip-Syncing A Wonderful Christmas Song (contributed by Alicia Padmore)

<http://www.fliixy.com/kids-lip-syncing-a-wonderful-christmas-song.htm>

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/12/02/the-piano-guys-angels-we-have-heard-on-high_n_4373673.html?utm_hp_ref=fb&src=sp&comm_ref=false

(The Piano Guys contributed by Nadya Parker)

We find the newsletter very interesting and very refreshing, especially about our folks sayings.

Martha

Ines,

Very informative issue. Thank you for the work you all do in keeping us (especially those of us who live abroad) informed about the history of our people and country.

Dr Nadya E. Parker

Greetings & Good job!

However, I would like to share of two musicians that were on the forefront of musical development in Panama.

Mr. Carol Greaves, renown jazz pianist who headlined for many years at the Executive Hotel. Also, Prof. Earl S. Greaves, Musical Director of the St. Christopher (*escuela Episcopal*). Prof. Greaves has been in the forefront for years taking popular tunes and arranging into marches for the students to perform in front of thousands.

As the issue was focused on music, I share these two Icons of our history and culture. Mr. Carol Greaves was my Grandfather (RIP) and Prof. Earl S. Greaves is my uncle and is still teaching.

Regards,

"BC" - Brett C.

Global Management Limited

December 5, 2013 saw Nelson Mandela breath his last at 95 years of age. He was one of our greatest Black leaders who fought for Human Rights, May his soul rest in peace.

Mandela Was On The U.S. Terrorist Watch List Until 2008 - <http://huff.to/1f0Oz1O>

This website, contributed by Martha Olton, explains the US position on Mandela up to 2008. It includes videos of President Obama's declaration on Madiba's death and others.

Opportunities:

---Caribbean Centre of Excellence for Youth Entrepreneurship!

Changing Mindsets and Behaviours to Make Entrepreneurship Natural

The CEYE is an innovative, one of a kind regional mechanism, which will help to entrench the philosophy of entrepreneurship into the psych of Caribbean youth and women, accelerating the culture of entrepreneurship, thus making it a natural school to work transition choice. The CEYE is a not-for-profit company which has been operating virtually for 12 years and was formally registered in 2011.

---THE PANAMA CANAL IS RECRUITING young people through SENACYT at telephone: 272-8884 or Google= Panama Crece SENACYT to fill out forms.

*Thank you Brett:

They are in line
for the future.

We will give you
a preview when
we are ready, so
that you can add
anything you
may feel is
pertinent.*

Human Rights Day

by Dilsia Mariela Miller Collins Alleyne

On the 10th of December the international community commemorates Human Rights day.

I preside the Panamanian Association of University Women, we are part of the International Federation of University Women with offices in Geneva, Switzerland.

Our Federations and all National Federations call for governments to provide Human Rights Education (HRE) to all High School students, university students and civil servants on the occasion of Human Rights day, December 10.

Our organizations promote human rights values such as tolerance and non discrimination in schools and beyond. Formal education provides an effective and easy way to reach many children and to encourage and support fundamental rights principles it's also a necessity for Employees in public service, including the police, judiciary, health and school staff. Tertiary and continuing education can provide this groundwork.

Human rights are violated every day, and more specifically girls and women's human rights. Of the 70 to 100 million children who are not going to school, 70 percent are girls. In many countries, poor women are up to 20 times less likely than the richest 20 percent of women to give birth in the presence of a skilled health worker capable of saving their lives.¹

Gender-based violence kills and disables as many women between the ages of 15 and 44 as cancer.² Worldwide, deprived of their right to education, women are twice as likely as men to be illiterate. One in every three women globally has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime. Women, partly because of their economic and social vulnerability, now constitute the majority of those between 15 to 24 years of age newly infected with HIV³

“Education is the foundation and catalyst for changing the state of human rights in the world,” said IFUW President Catherine Bell. “Access to human rights education and access to education are indivisible and should be promoted throughout society.”

The High School years are a critical period for girls' enjoyment of their human rights. Human rights violations during the High School years can force girls to drop out of school, thus depriving girls of their right to education.

Examples of these are physical and sexual threats and violence, early marriage and lack of adequate sanitation. Human Rights Education can mitigate these risks.

The International Federation of University Women (IFUW) is based in Geneva, Switzerland, and has an international membership. Founded in 1919, IFUW is the leading girls and women global organization run by and for women, advocating for women rights, equality and empowerment through access to quality education and training up to the highest levels.

1. Navi Pillay, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
2. Violence Against Women Information, Amnesty International USA
3. United Nations UNITE factsheet

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The Human Rights of Female Health

by Ines V. Sealy
(Presented before a Post-Grad class of women at the University of Panama)

In Article 1. (of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

- ⌚ All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

But do the people of the world act in a spirit of brotherhood?

From we were girls we were exposed to having our rights violated.

1. by our parents
2. by our teachers
3. by religious leaders
4. by supervisors
5. by Government Institutions
6. by society

On paper we have rights. In reality, they are infringed upon more often than they should be. We have had to learn to defend ourselves, to stand up for our rights.

Right to Life – Article 3.

- ⌚ Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

This right is inherent to our existence and should be protected by law. It begins from our inception to our demise. It is infringed upon by abortion, different types of violence (intramarital, drug induced, terrorist attacks, envy, war), capital punishment, euthanasia and self-defense.

Human Rights Day (cont.)

Right to Freedom - Article 4.

- ⌚ No one shall be held in slavery or servitude, slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

But, is slavery really abolished? All forms of slavery?

Women and children are being held and sold into different types of slavery in many parts of the globe. Some of the retention from freedom is for sexual purposes, but some are for domestic purposes or both in a nutshell.

Recently we have heard of men retaining their daughters in hiding for years, using them sexually and brutally, impregnating them, causing them abortions, etc. until they are able to extricate themselves or someone liberates them. Of course, there are still many that have not come to light.

Article 5.

- ⌚ No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Any effort to exercise her right to freedom could cause a woman to be looked down upon in some societies and considered a "fallen woman". She could be beaten, stoned, dragged through the streets, even outcast. This term was applied to any woman who had been raped or seduced by a male aggressor, a woman with a shady reputation, or prostitute so as to maintain male control over their freedom to act for themselves or to be the head of a family.

Matriarchy is looked upon sideways. But, war and disease have sometimes obligated Matriarchy.

Article 8.

- ⌚ Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him (her) by the constitution or by law.

Due, in part, to the illegal and underground nature of sex trafficking, the actual extent of women and children forced into human slavery is unknown. Considered the world's oldest profession, prostitution has become the fastest growing form of contemporary slavery.

Drug addiction is another form of slavery that leads to prostitution and sex related illness-acquisition.

Trafficking in people has been facilitated by factors such as porous borders and advanced communication technologies, and has become increasingly transnational in scope and highly lucrative financially.

Infringing on the rights of women and children, also, are organizations supporting the rights of others, such as animals and habitat. Trying to prevent parents from taking their children to a circus, for instance, preventing the construction of a park. Some of these organizations are useful, but, some go to the extreme.

Article 6.

- ⌚ Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Article 7.

- ⌚ All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

Yet, women all over the world are fighting for the right to make decisions on their own bodies.

In some countries, to men, women are only useful for breeding purposes. Child-bearing is of utmost, but, mainly to procreate boy children. The girls are maintained illiterate and subject to their husbands or male parent.

They don't know that they have Reproductive Rights.

Reproductive rights may be understood to include:

- ⌚ Education
- ⌚ Knowledge about contraception (if they can't read and write, this knowledge is limited to them, besides, they maybe denied the use of these devices).
- ⌚ Education to avoid sexually transmitted infections, (their husbands or mates may bring them these diseases)
- ⌚ Freedom from coerced sterilization and contraception. (to decide how many children they want to bare)

Human Rights Day (cont.)

- ⌚ Protection from gender-based practices, such as female genital cutting (FGC) and male genital mutilation.

All in all, the family is the nucleus in which human rights should be respected, taught and defended. Schools should reinforce the practice of these rights. The laws of countries should include and respect these rights.

And, if they are taught in the family, and, reinforced at school, the leaders of our countries will have learnt them well and would naturally put them into practice when they are elected.

Christmas without Jesus

By Shirley Johnson 12/13/13

Take not from Christmas, Jesus
But blend him in your joy
Keep him close to heart and fun
Then seek the reason why.

Without him there is no warmth in Christmas
No meaning, nothing there!
Just emptiness and many noises
Screaming vainly in the air.

To us God gave his only "son"
With truth, with love, with wisdom
For us to Love him dearly, and come
To his Great Kingdom

So let us pray to God above
For a sincere true Christmas
With the light of Jesus shining brightly
And his Holy Spirit in us!

Role Model

Alan Austin Jr., the singing voice of this Black Santa, is the son of Panamanians of West Indian descent and a member of a US Military family. A seasoned executive Operations and Business Development Manager with proven success in relations, and multifunctional work teams for high performing teams and cross functional work groups for several major organizations including Coca-Cola.

Since 2001 Alan has been assisting other organizations to leverage their Managerial and Executional abilities through his own company, Austin Consulting Services.

"Tino" has a Master of Project Management from the Keller Graduate School of Management, Atlanta, GA, also a degree in Business & Fine Arts from Jacksonville University, Jacksonville, FL. He obtained Professional Business Coach certification from the University of Glasgow, in the UK.

Once more we say, Coca Cola and Panama are closely connected.

Coca Cola's Black Santa

Alan says: Many people may not know this, but Coca-Cola owns the rights to the visual representation of Santa Claus. They actually commissioned the artist to draw the image we now recognize as Santa Claus. The Black Santa doll was specifically made as a collectors item to be given as a gift for certain Coca-Cola clients. I, Alan Austin, was chosen to be the voice of that singing doll.

<http://www.coca-colacompany.com/holidays/the-true-history-of-the-modern-day-santa-claus>



<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?shva=1#inbox/142e4ec2290260e9?projector=1>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=by8WA7Afr0s&feature=youtu.be>

A memorial service for Madiba is being held at the Lourdes Catholic church

at 11:30 a.m. on December 14, 2013

December 2013

Mother
by Ines V. Sealy
December 7, 2013

To Nelson Mandela
(1918-2013)

by Ines V. Sealy
December 7, 2013

M is for mother, that sacrificial soul
O is for other things she must behold
T ogether with father and children,
the family she molds
H ealthcare for all no matter the cost
E nough of herself is never at a lost
R ather her last drop of blood she would post.



Madiba is gone
lost to the World
what sadness has he left
like Ghandi, Kennedy & King
an example of freedom, justice & peace
lessons of patience & humility,
tolerance, fortitude & human dignity.

A role model for younger generations
an apostle for all the Nations
apartheid, segregation, intolerance;
for him we must continue to denounce
each act to our people effected
until from the face of this earth
this behavior has been eradicated.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TZtiJN6yiik>

Bus stops, sidewalks & busses

by Ines V. Sealy
September 25, 2013

City transportation is changing
causing citizens more walking,
sidewalks holely and broken
no one cares to fix them.

Watermeters without covers
stolen by certain scavengers
to get their daily bite
who buys these covers, right?

Scrapshops are the culprits
the law should be on top of it
checking out all scrapshops
closing the buyers of those tops.

Repairing the cracks
that twist our feet as we walk
to get to those assigned busstops
placed so far apart in the dark.

Lighting is important
for walking that is constant,
accidents are happening
to pedestrians who are unseeing.



In comparison with the transparent
attractive busstops built by Juanca
we are now getting
metal cages with no seating,

No facilities for the handicaps,
extreme waiting for the rattletraps.
Fight to get in them, packed like sardines.

Look out! Inside it is raining,
though outside the sun is shining.

Get your bound copy of the AfroPanamanian Newsletter
Beside those of 2010, 2011 and 2012,
2013 will be available by January 15, 2014
from Ines at (507)224-4177.

"I can rest only for a moment, for with freedom come responsibilities, and I dare not linger, for my long walk is not yet ended." (From *Long Walk to Freedom*, 1995)



Oprah is wearing Panamanian beads at her meeting with Madiba

"When a man has done what he considers to be his duty to his people and his country, he can **rest in peace.**" (Mandela at an interview, 1994)

Contribution by Gloria Kodzwa

The former South African president's struggle to overturn apartheid was an inspiration to many around the world. Here are some of the firebrand's most memorable words.

Before his death, Nelson Mandela had already become a larger than life figure for his work ending apartheid in South Africa. But the legend often overshadowed the real Madiba; he was simply a guy who saw inequality in his world and worked to make it right. Looking back at over five decades of his speeches and writings, we find a man who struggled to balance his duty to his family with his fight for his country, his moral drive to do what's right with his personal pride. While alive, he inspired people through his speeches and letters, particularly those he wrote during his 18-year imprisonment on Robben Island. Here's a selection of his most inspiring quotes:

"If I had my time over I would do the same again, so would any man who dares call himself a man." (After being convicted to five years hard labor, November 1962)

"I was made, by the law, a criminal, not because of what I had done, but because of what I stood for, because of what I thought, because of my conscience." (Statement during trial, 1962)

"I can only say that I felt morally obliged to do what I did." (At the opening of his trial, April 20, 1964)

"Social equality is the only basis of human happiness." (A letter written on August 1, 1970)

"Difficulties break some men but make others." (From a letter to wife, Winnie Mandela, from Robben Island, February 1975)

"I came to accept that I have no right whatsoever to judge others in terms of my own customs." (From his unpublished autobiographical manuscript, 1975)

"Great anger and violence can never build a nation. We are striving to proceed in a manner and towards a result, which will ensure that all our people, both black and white, emerge as victors." (Speech to European Parliament, 1990)

"Without democracy there cannot be peace." (South Africa, May 9, 1992)

"We are fighting for a society where people will cease thinking in terms of colour." (March 8, 1993)

"Reconciliation means working together to correct the legacy of past injustice." (December 16, 1995)

"For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others." (From *Long Walk to Freedom*, 1995)

"If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner." (From *Long Walk to Freedom*, 1995)

-- "What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead." — Nelson Mandela.

"Man's goodness is a flame that can be hidden but never extinguished." (From *Long Walk to Freedom*, 1995)

"Real leaders must be ready to sacrifice all for the freedom of their people." (Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa, April 25, 1998)

"It is never my custom to use words lightly. If twenty-seven years in prison have done anything to us, it was to use the silence of solitude to make us understand how precious words are and how real speech is in its impact on the way people live and die." (South Africa, July 14, 2000)

"When people are determined they can overcome anything." (Johannesburg, South Africa, Nov. 14, 2006)