

AfroPanamanian Newsletter



English opens doors. Read the Newsletter

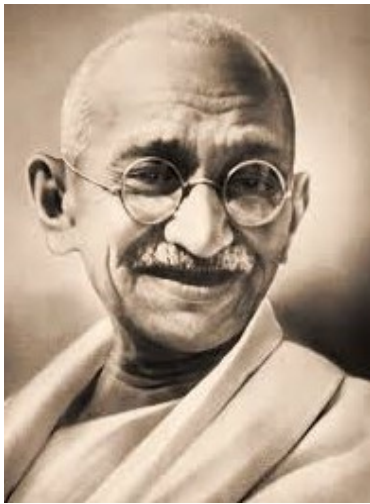
www.afropanameniannewsletter.mex.tl.

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

No.1 Vol. V

January 2014

ISSN 23088524



It's on the spot where he was arrested: <http://www.demilked.com/nelson-mandela-statue>

Controversy caused by the death of Madiba

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

CREDITS

Editor : Sandra Patterson (R.I.P)

Assistant: Ines V. Sealy

MEMBERS

**President
Roberto L. Alleyne**

**Treasurer
Fernando A. Goldson**

**Others
Ines V. Sealy
Dilsia Alleyne
Roberto L. Alleyne
Cecil V. Reynolds**

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

*“There is a higher court
than courts of justice
and that is the court of conscience.
It supercedes all other courts.”*

*“A man who was completely innocent,
offered himself as a sacrifice
for the good of others,
including his enemies,
and became the ransom of the world.
It was a perfect act.”*

- Mahatma Gandhi-

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*

December feedback:

“Man Smart, Woman Smartah” <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7cjdCsZ7qRO>

Men will never learn! (Contributed by Robert Jackman)

A woman ran a red traffic light and crashed into a man's car. Both of their cars are demolished but amazingly neither of them was hurt.

After they crawled out of their cars, the woman said; "Wow, just look at our cars! There's nothing left, but fortunately we are unhurt. This must be a sign from God that we should meet and be friends and live together in peace for the rest of our days."

The man replied, "I agree with you completely. This must be a sign from God!"

The woman continued, "And look at this, here's another miracle. My car is completely demolished, but my bottle of wine didn't break. Surely God wants us to drink this wine and celebrate our good fortune."

Then she hands the bottle to the man.

The man nods his head in agreement, opens it, drinks half the bottle and then hands it back to the woman.

The woman takes the bottle, immediately puts the cap back on, and hands it back to the man.

The man asks, "Aren't you having any?"

She replies, "Nah. I think I'll just wait for the police."

Adam ate the apple, too!!!!!!

----- **Two Panamanian High school bands participated in New Year's Day parades.** This one is from Chitre, in an interior province. The performance was a preview at a Stadium in Pasadena.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RcGJYqDhmf&feature=youtube_gdata_player

Cecilia Parker has shared a video with you on YouTube



London Parade 2014 Panama Performance Moises Castillo Ocaña

by Carlos Enrique Kreitz Estrada

WONDERFUL PERFORMANCE FROM CHORRERA, WEST PANAMA TO THE ENTIRE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE WORLD

Seasons Greeting Inez,
 Congratulations on the continuing evolution of the Newsletter. As an early subscriber, I have witnessed the publication growth and maturity in covering subject matter consistent with its values and objectives to sustain the culture, heritage and language of Afro-Panamanians. I really enjoyed Professor Maloney tribute to Mandela production featuring the musical artistry of Pablo Milanes. Wishing you and the entire Panamanian rainbow of color families the best in the coming year...

-ricardo millett

Here is Winnie Mandela's critique of Madiba.

<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/how-nelson-mandela-betrayed-us-says-exwife-winnie-6734116.html>

Dear Ms. Sealy,

Thanks so much for the December 2013 edition of the AfroPanamanian Newsletter. It contains many interesting and important facts. The article on the late Nelson Mandela was insightful. In that regard, we prepared a commentary that might be of interest: <http://www.BlackEconomics.org/BELit/TE-NGKM.pdf>. We should not forget to look at both sides of issues. For example, you quote Mandela as saying "Great violence and anger can never build a nation" (see page 8 of the Newsletter). However, we should consider the U.S. case, where a "great" nation was forged using massive violence against native peoples.

Here's Wishing You Much Joy and Happiness during the Coming New Year!

Brooks

*Yes
 Brooks,
 but was
 the US
 praised
 for such
 action?*

Replies to Brooks article:

Surprised she [*Brooks is a he*] didn't include the biggest and certainly most famous proponent of non-violence, Jesus. Why waste time with Mandela, King or Ghandi? Jesus message has certainly been obfuscated, by whites and blacks alike, for couple thousand years and loooong before there was such a thing as 'Europeans'. Not sure but I would imagine the church, a Buddhist, Taoist, and Hindu would take exception to economics being the 'only power that really matters'. Lastly, what exactly is a 'European' anyway? Does she [*Brooks is a he*] mean western powers? White people? I know of a billion Chinese who might feel differently about that attribution. What she [*Brooks is a he*] fails to see is that the aim of these three people was not fundamentally economic, it was to change political structures ...economics is an outcome of that. (by John Patrick Courtney)

Dear Mrs. Robinson,

Thank you very much for your thoughtful response to our commentary, "The Economics of Violence: Gandhi, King, and Mandela."

You are absolutely correct, we did not include thoughts about Jesus' nonviolent approach to orchestrating change. Our efforts were intended to analyze 20th century proponents of nonviolence.

On "Europeans," as you suggest, that reference is to Western world powers whose home base is the continent of Europe.

On "political" versus "economic" power, arguably, political power is important. However, in modern history, political influence is galvanized by economic power, which supports political systems. In the final analysis, political systems are upheld by military systems. However, the political and military systems find it difficult to survive if the people are not satisfied with economic conditions. If the economic system is unable to feed, clothe, house the people, and provide certain amenities, then the people revolt. I think that you will agree that, in the modern era and in countries with significant import, economics trumps politics.

Once again, thanks for your comments. We invite you to visit our website (www.BlackEconomics.org) and to review other submissions. In addition, we welcome any comments or intellectual contributions that you would like for us to post on our website.

Sincerely, Dr. Brooks B. Robinson

----- *Other contributions on the Mandela Issue:*

Nelson Mandela, Free Market Capitalism and the South African Crisis

<http://www.blackagendareport.com/content/nelson-mandela-free-market-capitalism-and-south-african-crisis>

Tribute to Mandela:

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2013/218502.htm> Verdell (Contributed by Marcia Henry)

<http://za.news.yahoo.com/watch--the-most-touching-mandela-tribute-came-from-the-least-expected-place-070947330.html> (Tribute to Mandela contributed by Mario Small)

<http://1804caribvoices.org/articles/2013/12/madiba-is-gone-the-struggle-continues/> (contributed by Norman Girvan)

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2519099/Nelson-Mandela-life-pictures-From-prisoner-president.html> (contributed by **Donaldo Benito**)

-----**Another Perspective - Why Some Cry over Mandela (contributed by Mario Small)**

<http://newswirengr.com/2013/12/10/the-british-can-enter-south-africa-we-have-to-take-visa-gov-tunde-fashola/>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2519719/The-man-charmed-world-A-tribute-pictures-Nelson-Mandela.html> (contributed by Cecil Reynolds)

---0---

It's been 50 years since, on **January 9, 1964**, the students of the National Institute decided to carry out the new law which obligated the Canal Zone to fly the Panama flag beside the US flag wherever the US flag was flown in the territory. The fracas caused President Roberto Chiari to break Diplomatic Relations with the US.

Sparrow called Leticia. He is conscious, in therapy in a home; still has his voice, but, not receiving visitors.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE **UNITED NATIONS** HAS ESTABLISHED THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF THE AFRODESCENDANT.

----- Panama's Social Security has eliminated the need for "Fe de vida" for locals, it continues as a requirement for those living abroad. (contributed by Cecilia Parker)

http://www.telemetro.com/nacionales/CSS-solicitara-Fe-jubilados-ACH_0_599640100.html

<http://www.laestrella.com.pa/online/noticias/2013/06/21/a-partir-de-enero-de-2014-se-eliminara-presentacion-de-fe-de-vida.asp>

OPPORTUNITIES:

Fellowship Programme: Anti-Discrimination Section of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Call for Application
2014 Fellowship Programme for People of African Descent

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Racism/WGAfricanDescent/Pages/FellowshipProgramme.aspx>

HOMAGE TO NELSON MANDELA

by Marcia Henry MA
Panama City, Panama

This morning (December 12, 2012), while passing a newsstand in LAX (Los Angeles Airport in California, US), I saw a 'Life Magazine' with Nelson Mandela's photo on the cover; I turned back, as I decided to purchase a copy. I thought it would contain an article about him but it turned out to be a 'commemorative' issue: the entire magazine was about him, with many photographs.

As I approached the cashier, I took out a \$5 bill, then I looked at the scanner stamp & saw '\$11.99 US \$14.99 CAN'. I thought to myself: 'what?!' Then concluded it will be worth it.

A few days earlier I was riding in the rental car when I heard the announcement on the radio that Nelson Mandela passed away at the age of 95... born in 1918. Then I thought, my mom also, would be that age, as she was born in 1918. She passed away December 26, 2004, 2 weeks after my granddaughter was born.

While reading the magazine's first few pages, I thought about writing something about him from what I was reading in the magazine:

- Born July 18, 1918 in the Village of Mvezo, in the Banks of the Mbashe River, to Nosekeni Fanny and Gadla Henry Mphakanyiswa, who was a powerful member of the Madiba Clan, whose great grandfather Ngubengcuka had been King and Ruler of the Thembu people. His name 'Rolihlahla' means, 'troublemaker'/'pulling the branch of a tree'. The name Nelson was given him by a teacher, Miss Mdingane in 1925.
- He is arrested and jailed on several occasions due to his campaigns against inequality: apartheid or injustice in South Africa (SA). He spent 18 years in prison on Robben Island –bearing similarity to the US' prison on the island of Alcatraz in California, US - close to Cape Town, cell 5, Section B for political prisoners. Mandela, in his cell, had to crush rocks; slept on the floor on a mat and blanket; a bucket with water in the top part – the bottom more than likely for the used water and what have you; allowed one (1) visitor per year for half an hour (1/2); send/receive a letter twice per year.
I recall some years ago while living in Aurora, Colorado, the local newspaper had an article on prisoner's complaints. There were several, but the one that comes to mind was that the guards opened their mail & something about violating their rights.
That article made such an impact on me (I was 'livid'), I wrote a letter to the editor, stating they broke the law and therefore should have no rights. How that they received 3 squares (meals) per day, and had the use of the facilities such as library, showers, gym, etc., while homeless people who had done no such, had nothing.
- Unlike Mahatma Ghandi and Dr.Martin Luther King, Jr., who are known as non-violent activists, Mandela is known for his association with communism and violent activities.
Prison in the US is 'big business'. Some years ago I read that it costs an average of \$20-\$30,000 per year to house a prisoner, while it costs an average of \$10,000 to keep a child in public school. Go figure.
Page 32 of the Time Magazine shows a photo in 1968 of "the radical US Black Panther Leader Stokely Carmichael... from Trinidad & Tobago, and his wife, the South African singer Miriam Makeba." This photo brought to mind the day (circa 1992) my daughter had walked in to the house, as she had just returned from downtown Denver (CO), and had stopped at the Community College of Denver. She asked me if I would be interested in seeing Kwame Ture that evening at the college. I did not recognize the name. Then she said maybe I would know him by 'Stokely Carmichael'. Ah, of course, so on I went. He was then living in Africa and shared much information and statistics about Blacks & Africa. ” (cont.)

- At the end of his presentation, I approached him and asked if he could recommend a book where I could read about some of the information he shared. He did; the name escapes me; I will have to check my library list.
I see a photo (page 39) of “students at the University of Cape Town sit on the ground holding signs supporting Mandela while tear gas swirls around them.
- That photo saddened me and brought tears to my eyes, as it reminded me of Panamanian students –myself included- protesting US occupation. Today I look up at Ancon Hill and smile to see my flag flying solo: much struggle and even death to which we can proudly say: ‘mission accomplished’.
- Page 42 brings more tears to my eyes, as I read the description of the celebration of his 70th birthday (very detailed in ‘Wikipedia’). Though still in prison, “In June (11th) 1988, his birthday is celebrated by 72, 000 at London’s Wembley Stadium and 300 million (600 million per Wikipedia) TV viewers in 67 countries around the world... but the most riveting moment comes when a message from Mandela himself, smuggled out of South Africa and into England, is read from the stage.” (I’ve searched the web for this message to no avail. If you find it, please inform me).
- In 1990 F.W. de Klerk becomes President of South Africa and he declares, “All political prisoners who had not been proved guilty of violent crimes were to be released.” Shortly after, Mandela was released from prison. And as the saying goes: ‘the rest is history’.
Barack Obama became the first man to be the US President who is Black, as Mandela in South Africa. It is my hope that President Obama will leave us a great legacy as ‘Madiba’ has left us.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

OLDEN DAYS SAYINGS

“Greedy puppy get choke”, “glass bottle”, “soda stopper”, “dirt won't kill yuh, unless it fall on yuh”, “haul & pull”.

While she was sitting on her porch “catching some breeze”, this “K foot”, “knock knee”, neighbor passed and gave her a shout. Her reply to him was I'm just “breezing out”. To her child looking through the window behind her she commented, look at him, he's stepping like he has “soft foot”.

What do you know about “bow foot”, “bandy legs” & “pigeon toes”?

GAMES WEST INDIAN CHILDREN PLAYED

This game was played by girls. Our parents were superstitious about it so it was not played in their presence. They felt that it brought death, since Janie dies at the end of the game.

I've come to see Janie (3 times)
And where is she now?

She's cooking her food (3 times)
And cannot be seen.

She's cleaning her house (3 times)
And cannot be seen.

Goodbye, goodbye, goodbye (bis)
I'll come back again.

Goodbye, goodbye, goodbye (bis)
I'll come back again.

(the stanzas are repeated changing the chores) to:

I've come to see Janie (3 times)
And where is she now?

She's washing her clothes,
She's rinsing her clothes,
She's bluing her clothes,
She's starching her clothes,
She's ironing her clothes,
She's sick,
She's **dead!**

(Contributed by Nadya Parker. Excerpts from)

MOST OF YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT DR. KING ACTUALLY ACCOMPLISHED!!!

by Hamdenrice

...What most people who reference Dr. King seem not to know is how Dr. King actually changed the subjective experience of life in the United States for African Americans. And yeah, I said for African Americans, not for Americans...

...I was kind of sarcastic and asked something like, so what did Martin Luther King accomplish other than giving his "I have a dream speech."...

...At this point, I would like to remind everyone exactly what Martin Luther King did, and it wasn't that he "marched" or gave a great speech...

...I remember a huge family reunion one August with my aunts and uncles and cousins gathered around my grandparents' vast breakfast table laden with food from the farm, and the state troopers drove up to the house with a car full of rifles and shotguns, and everyone went kind of weirdly blank. They put on the masks that black people used back then to not provoke white berserkness. My strong, valiant, self-educated, articulate uncles, whom I adored, became shuffling, Step-N-Fetchits to avoid provoking the white men. Fortunately the troopers were only looking for an escaped convict. Afterward, the women, my aunts, were furious at the humiliating performance of the men, and said so, something that even a child could understand.

This is the climate of fear that Dr. King ended.

If you didn't get taught such things, let alone experience them, I caution you against invoking the memory of Dr. King as though he belongs exclusively to you and not primarily to African Americans.

The question is, how did Dr. King do this—and of course, he didn't do it alone... ..He crisscrossed the south organizing people, **helping them not be afraid**, and encouraging them, **like Gandhi did in India, to take the beating** that they had been trying to avoid all their lives...

(For the full article by Hamdenrice check out :

<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2011/08/29/1011562/-Most-of-you-have-no-idea-what-Martin-Luther-King-actually-did#>)

Get your bound copy of the **AfroPanamanian Newsletter**

**The bound versions of the 2013 Newsletter
are now available, also 2010, 2011 and 2012
from Ines at (507)224-4177.**