

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. V

(June 2014)

ISSN 23088524



Bird Condominium on the way to the interior

deforested

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

*...True beauty
in a woman is
reflected
in her
soul...*

Audrey Hepburn

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

May feedback

Video on Panama contributed by Christopher C. McLean.

[Arriba el telón](#)

----- (contributed by Eunice Greaves online@laestrella.com.pa)

According to communication here in Panama, the electronic passports will be available to Panamanians in the US at Consulates in Houston, New York and Washington, DC. This document is necessary to apply for Global Entry, which is going to be available in Panama for Panamanians upon application at www.globalentry.gov

What is Global Entry?

Global Entry is a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) program that allows expedited clearance for pre-approved, low-risk travelers upon arrival in the United States.

DISAPPEARING THINGS:

Panama Rainforest Being Deforested

Now that the Panama Canal is being expanded and Panama City has an added need for water and electricity to suffice all the high rise buildings already constructed and in construction, and, to operate the newly inaugurated Metro (train system), preservation of the rainforest is very important.

The outgoing government has been permitting deforestation, both within the Canal Area and around the country. The rainforest, along the coasts of the Canal, was always protected by the Panama Canal Administration and the indigenous communities of the area to ensure the necessary water to operate this international waterway.

Trees are the essential part of the rainforest, if they are cut down and not replaced, the needed rainfall is diminished. Rainfall replenishes the water supply in the rivers. Less rain is an indication of deforestation. There are laws which obligate persons who cut down a tree to plant several others, but, this law is not being enforced everywhere. Areas are cleared to make pasture or plantations. There is furtive deforestation at night, and, since there are no official inspectors doing their job to catch them, it is not noticed until some time later, someone happens to discover that the trees have been cut down, an area has been cleared. Some of the trees have commercial value, so they are cut down and towed away to be exported.

Some of the rivers are being dredged for sand to suffice the construction boom. Irrigation, mining and industrial production are other culprits. These things affect Tourism and potable water production. The rivers are not carrying the load of water they did until last year. Besides being used for drinking, potable water is used for other purposes: bottled water (of late), all types of washing: cars, clothes, bathing, etc. Water supply is down, both in the capitol and in the interior. The media is full of references to the lack of water and the power shortages both in the Metropolitan and Suburban areas.

Water is the raw material needed to operate the Panama Canal. Besides being used to raise and lower the ships passing through, it is used to generate electricity, although, there are other sources being used. For instance, solar panels are used for the electricity needed to illuminate bouys in the Panama Canal.

Some of our new authorities are environment conscious, so, we hope that the environment of our country will be regulated so as to stop the deforestation inland and along the coasts.

The image on the front is of a tree which the Oropendula birds had selected in the area between Howard and Arraijan to build their gourdlike shaped nests, condominium style. The tree has disappeared; a clear indication of deforestation.

DISAPPEARING THINGS.

*Some of us may not have attended Drive-Inn theaters in the open air. There were Three in Panama. Naturally, **after the show one went for a “malteada”.***



Movie Projector



Movie Spools for the Projector



Drive-Inn Theater showing Speaker



Drive-Inn Speaker



Open Air Drive in Theater Screen



Malted Milk (Malteada)

EVERYWHERE IS CELEBRATING THE 100 YEARS OF THE PANAMA CANAL

Although Kansas really had nothing to do with the construction of the Panama Canal, by inheritance, they have been included in the history of the Panama Canal. The Linda Hall Library, in Kansas, now has the "lost" papers of A.B. Nichols, office engineer for the Culebra Cut. These papers were inaccessible for more than 80 years, but are now part of a series of remembrances that will begin with an exhibit opening in July at the library and culminating in October

(Contributed by Marcia Henry) find more here:

<http://www.kansascity.com/2014/04/07/4944272/lost-history-of-panama-canal-is.html#storylink=cpy>

Barbados will hold a session on Panama as they celebrate the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Panama Canal and the contribution of Barbadians to its construction during the biennial Barbados Network Consultation, at the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre which runs from August 3-7, 2014.

Besides, the Barbados Museum and Historical Society is developing an exhibition to commemorate the centenary of the 1914 opening of the Panama Canal.

Jamaica's delegation is coming to Panama for this celebration in August.

Do we here anything from Trinidad-Tobago?

--0--

A NEW GORVERNMENT, OF VALUES PLEDGING TO WORK FOR DEMOCRACY, HONESTY AND TRANSPARENCY IN PANAMA

by Dilsia Mariela Miller de Alleyne

Among a wide range of expectations on July 1, Juan Carlos Varela and Isabel Saint Malo pledged to be President and Vice President of the Republic of Panama, both from the Panameñista party.

Prior to this Adolfo Valderrama, Benicio Robinson and Arcelio Perez were elected President, first and second Vice Presidents of the Legislative Assembly.

THE ONLY NON-PARTY WOMAN STANDS UP FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS

During election of the legislative assembly the one and only independent elected legislator Ana Matilde Gomez abstained from voting, she stated "Women represent 50% of the worldwide population and 49.7% of Panama's that has more than 3 million people, we also represent 16% of the newly elected Legislative Assembly and not one woman is considered for the president or vice presidential position."

Where are the women? It is curious that there were six different political parties in the passed elections and not one considered nominating a woman for an administrative position in the general assembly.

ASSEMBLY'S PRESIDENT PROMISSES TO "CLEAN UP" THAT BODY

Adolfo Valderrama in his acceptance speech said that he is going to work to clean up the legislative assembly, on the lookout for consensus and new ideas, and to elevate it's morals. He added that he is going to enforce the assembly's code of ethics among its members, between these Two heads of the country's Administrative Organs, they are going to work and take the country back to democracy, with honesty, transparency in order to strengthen the institutions; to elevate the morale and win the trust of men and women.

I should also mention words of the Archbishop of Panama Monsignor Jose Domingo Arias, who said that the truth, humility and justice should reign in Panama as of today. He is confident that Varela has knowledge and patience to run the country.

(cont.)



President Juan Carlos Varela & Vice President Isabel Saint Malo de Alvarado

Among many things President Varela in his speech, remembered how honest his grandparents and parents were, he said that with their inspiration he is going to work without rest for the people that gave him the opportunity to serve them. A government that is going to put the people first.

He is going to fight for equality, justice and delivering reports to find social peace. It will be an honest and transparent government. We are going to make a change from politics of clientelism to politics of the state.

Varela also said, Work begins as of today, I will sign the decree to control the cost of the food basket, I will begin the reconstruction of the city of Colon where 40% of Panamanians voted for me. In San Miguelito he pledged to work on basic health issues, to provide housing for families and a transportation system that is accessible by constructing the second and third line of the METRO (train), work on safe neighborhoods. He gave the different gangs an amnesty until the first of August for them to turn in their arms and pick up their books.

He is also sending over one thousand (1,000) teachers to study and strengthen their English language to then teach it in our schools. He is working on adjusting the III aged benefits from \$100 at 70 to \$120.00 at 65 along with medical assistance.

These pledges are not listed just for listing them, it is for us to remember and when the time comes, to hold our Polititian's accountable for their promises.

*All that was pledged is for the benefit of **the people** of Panama, Will he be able to come through with all of it? Let us be positive and hope so. Our country has suffered for five long years it is now time to heal and to work toward a real reconstruction.*

MISS PANAMA FOR MISS UNIVERSE



Once more Panama will be represented in an international beauty contest by a Black woman.

YOMATZY MAURINETH HAZLEWOOD, a bright young Black Panamanian woman in her 20's has been chosen Miss Panama 2014 and will be representing Panama in the Miss Universe contest this year. As Miss Darien (the largest province in Panama, but, with the lowest demographic density), Yomatzy humbly demonstrated her knowledge and ability, gaining for herself the prize for Best Silhouette. but, she had had practice for the post: Yomatzy was Second Princess in the 2012 Miss Etnia Negra contest. Miss Latin Beauty Panama in 2013 and now 2014, Miss Panamá. She had already become Miss Education 2014.

Yomatzy is a Third year student at the *Universidad Latina*, persuing a career in English with emphasis on translation.

OTHER BLACK PANAMANIAN QUEENS WERE MENTIONED IN THE FEB-MAR 2014 AFRO PANAMANIAN NEWS LETTER

THE SOURCE
by Earl V. Newland

Sometimes I pause to wonder
about the things I see.
The sky, the land, the water;
The beast, the man, the tree.

I see the sun each morning
when I open my eyes,
Or hear the raindrops falling
From out the cloudy skies.

I hear the thunder roaring,
And see the Lightning's ray;
As it keeps brightly flashing,
Be it at night or day.

I hear of violent earthquakes,
And devastating floods.
I see man for his own sake
Extract his brother's blood.

I see man proud and mighty,
Resolved to rule the earth;
Then watch his lifeless body
Placed deep within the dirt.

I see man's great inventions
And scientific feats,
Which cause great consternation
Among both men and beasts.

I watch the acts of Nature,
At times, most puzzling;
The past, the present, the future;
Where did it all begin?

As I ponder an answer,
I no doubt must conceive
This world must have a Power
Which makes the things I see.

A Source that is Almighty,
A Source that's everywhere;
A Source which makes man happy,
And overcomes his fear.

So it is for this reason
That I believe in God,
A God, who made the seasons,
And earth for man to plod.

A God, whose powerful spirit
Tells man what's right from wrong.
And when we all obey it,
We'll learn to live as one.

EL POLVORIN: EXPLOSION OF THE POWDERHOUSE.

Taken from the Firefighter's Society's memoirs by Cecil V. Reynolds

One West Indian surname: Thompson (Jose), is included in the list of those fallen on that 5th of May 1914 when the Government administrated powderhouse exploded, killing Six firefighters and injuring many others: civilians and firefighters.

It was about 3:55 A.M. when the horn sounded to announce a fire in the Cabo Verde area, also known as Duque pen (ducky pen). The firefighters responded to the call, but when they got there, before they could get set to pour water on the fire the concrete building exploded, sending bodies and pieces flying here and there.

This building was destined to house all the explosives used both by the government and private organizations: gunpowder, nitroglycerine, dynamite (used on the Canal), etc.

No one knows what started the conflagration, for it must have looked like so much fireworks, but 100 years after, every 5th of May, firefighters commemorate *EL POLVERIN*, with activities and monuments honoring those firefighters:

- The deceased: Félix Antonio Álvarez, Luis de Basach, Juan Batista Beltrán, Luis Buitrago, Faustino Rueda & Alonso Tele Che.
- And the injured: Commander Darío Vallarino, Major Florencio Arosemena Icaza, Captain Domingo Vásquez, Captain Ernesto Arosemena, Sgt. Zenón Ramírez Coco, Sgt. Francisco Díez, José Thompson, Antonio Jiménez, Juan Antonio Porras & Sergio Pérez.



There is a park called 5th of May park in the middle of Panama City,



and a monument built at the site on Via Bolivar (close to the Sta. Fe Hospital),

There also is a fire station named after Commander Dario Vallarino, at Las Sabanas, which is across from Carrasquilla, where the tramcar and the city used to end; the rest was bush.

The elections this year set the festivities back a few days, but there were church services, marches, wreaths placed at the sites and a ball to commemorate the day (5th of May). THANK GOD FOR FIREFIGHTERS, SUCH COURAGEOUS HUMAN BEINGS (we now have women in the force).

Get more information of Panamanian firefighters at: <http://www.bomberosdepanama.gob.pa/>