

# AfroPanamanian Newsletter



*English opens doors. Read the Newsletter*

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*Antonio (Tony) Cox*



*We'll Miss You*

**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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“Progress  
is impossible  
without change,  
and  
those who  
cannot change their minds  
cannot change anything.”

– **George Bernard Shaw**

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

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**More Advice:**

“Don't dwell on what went wrong. Instead, focus on what to do next. Spend your energies on moving forward toward finding the answer.”

— Denis Waitley

“When obstacles arise, you change your direction to reach your goal; you do not change your decision to get there.”

— Zig Ziglar

“In spite of discouragement and adversity, those who are happiest seem to have a way of learning from difficult times, becoming stronger, wiser and happier as a result.”

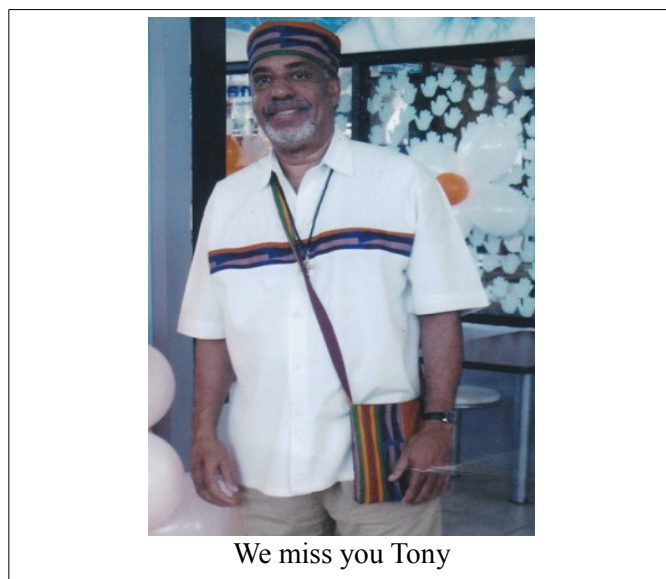
— Joseph B. Wirthlin

**Sad note:**

*On April 27 we lost a member of LOS AMIGOS: por la superación de la Etnia Negra.*

*Anthony Cox, who had been President for a while, of the group that publishes the AfroPanamanian Newsletter, passed away after a protracted illness. (R.I.P.)*

*We extend our condolences to his family.*



We miss you Tony



*At another time in the Newsletter, we mentioned the Deveaux Center, that offered vocational courses. George Westerman gave us a short biography of :*

**Louis A. Deveaux**, born in British Guyana, arrived in Panama in 1905 as a shoemaker apprentice. His life in Colon was supported by repairing shoes and later selling bicycles. He gradually got involved in real estate, to which he dedicated himself most of his successful life, beside other investments.

Mr. Deveaux was consul of British Guyana in Panama, but, got naturalized Panamanian and received the Vasco Nuñez de Balboa award from Minister of Foreign Relations, Ricardo J. Alfaro.

In 1965 he founded, in his and his wife's memoriam, the Deveaux Vocational Center in Vista Hermosa, Panama.

Get your bound copy of the **AfroPanamanian Newsletter**  
Bound versions of the Newsletter are still available  
2011 and 2014  
call Ines at (507)224-4177.

(Contributed by our readers)

“Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity.”— George S. Patton

*The Ship of Life*

By Earl V. Newland

*The ship of life sails on a sea  
of currents fierce and strong,  
of waves which rock it constantly,  
but it still moves along.*

*The trip is one of mystery,  
as man cannot foresee  
the storms of ills and agony  
life's ship must face at sea.*

*At times, the journey's smooth and clear;  
the tide serene, most calm;  
at times, life's ship is hard to steer,  
this causes great alarm.*

*Some leave their ship to drift along.  
With no firm destiny,  
in life, they see to right or wrong;  
or no morality.*

*For some, life is a selfish trip  
of senseless greed and pride.  
They will not help another ship  
being battered by the tide.*

*But when the fierce storm hits their ship,  
and tosses it about,  
and pride, through fear, slips from their grip.  
For help they loudly shout.*

*But he who keeps his ship afloat  
with God at the command,  
will always seek the crippled boat  
to give a helping hand.*

*So while your ship is still at sea,  
do make the journey one  
of love, of faith and charity,  
as it sails on an[d] on.*

*For if you don't the time may come  
Your ship be wrecked at sea,  
and nary a boat is going to run  
to give ear to your plea.*

Values  
by Ines V. Sealy 2/13/2015

Where have they gone?  
Where have they gone?  
Where has the pride gone?  
No love of life, no one cares  
No honesty, only lust for more,  
truth is a goner, only bareface is left  
credibility, where? Try to get it back,  
respect for elders, huh!

Courtesy, once in a while.  
Very few gentlemen are left.  
Parents don't train their boys,  
nor do they censure their girls.

If you have to hide what you're doing  
then it is wrong and you know it.

The church talks about sin  
then aren't all these things sins?

The End  
by Ines V. Sealy 8/14/2015

“All good things must come to an end”

Four and a half years of trying to tell  
the Untold Story of the men,  
women and children of the West  
who met in Panama to complete a test.

Much has been said,  
much tribute to be paid  
One can only do so much,  
so the end must come to such.

Encouragement is a must  
for others to take up the trust  
to record their knowledge and experience,--  
in posterity may become a science.

Going, going, gone.  
The Newsletter concludes in June.  
Going, going, gone...  
is our last effort to stay in tune.

**Feb-Mar Feedback**

A lesson in Panamanian-US relations (contibuted by Diana Logan)

*This video should be required viewing by **schools** and for **all** young Panamanians.*

An Original WPBT2 Production, it explores the history of the transfer of the Panama Canal from the United States to Panama, and the long political and moral battles behind it. The documentary highlights the controversial Panama Canal Treaties of 1978, the two-decade long transition period, and the official transfer of the Canal to Panama in 1999

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yFxYPgzhOOk&feature=em-share\\_video\\_user](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yFxYPgzhOOk&feature=em-share_video_user)

**OPPORTUNITY (SCHOLARSHIPS contributed by Robert Jackman)**

Wouldn't you like to have a faster and a more efficient way to find free money for college? Well, there's an app for that. Millions of dollars in scholarships go unclaimed every year and 23-year-old Christopher Gray found a way to make scholarships more accessible. The co-founder and CEO founded Scholly, a mobile app that gives students a fast and simple way to find scholarships for college.

<https://shar.es/1vNJve>

<p><b>MOTHER II</b> by Earl V. Newland</p>
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There's much rejoicing, a babe is born!  
Kinsfolk are feasting, O happy morn!  
Hear baby scream to say he's alive,  
Look how he kicks to prove he will strive.

Who will teach Tommie the golden rule,  
With endless patience help June for school?  
Who else but Ma will bear Jackie's taunt  
yet hug him snugly in sickness and want?

Who bears the babe, be babe girl of boy?  
When babe is born, is filled with much joy?  
Who gives to baby comfort and care,  
Offers a breast for baby to share?

Who will urge Bill to always abide  
with God, the Keeper, through the rough ride?  
Who will sit down when Dan goes [to] play,  
and pray her boy does not go astray?

As baby grows, who meekly provides  
Judi'cous couns'ling, his life to guide?  
Who tends to discipline and to chastise  
Johnnie, to help him grow strong and wise?

Who, day by day, will toil to the end  
to feed and clothe pat, her greatest friend?  
Whose love for Jim is vividly clear,  
whose love is endless, though far or near?

Who, with the years, though feeble and old,  
still love sublime profusely unfolds  
with her dear children, who proudly declare  
"Mother, we love you", from hearts more sincere.

-----"To make no mistakes is not in the power of man; but from their errors and mistakes the wise and good learn wisdom for the future."

Plutarch

-----

"I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear."

Nelson Mandela

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We urge our supporters and friends of the Center to send for Scholarship applications. We offer monetary cost-of-living awards to qualifying students from grade school to college.

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**ROLE MODELS:**

**15 years in the Light of a Humble Lion**

by Yvette Modestin (*taken from her Facebook page*)  
Panama- Etnia Negra

"It is important to know that you are walking in the footsteps of lions." These were the words of Baba Askia as he spoke to students rallying for their professors and the Africana Studies Department at UMass Boston.

These words resonate as we celebrate 15 years of the law that recognizes and honors the plight of people of African descent in Panama. I walk closely in the light of a humble lion that fought diligently for the recognition of our people and our community. Since I met him and he took me under his caring wings, we have had a tradition to reflect on his journey.

'We were not dropped off as a whole family. Every Afro descendent should be seen as a family member.'

Mr. Richards said this to me many years ago. I move through this journey with the sound of his clear voice and the knowing of his long fight to bring Black Ethnicity Day to Panama. His patience and resiliency are noticeable but his humble light shines brighter as I sit in awe of his knowledge and wisdom. Today, as we close out this special month for Panama and for Afro Panamanians, I say Thank you Mr. Richards. Gracias, for your words and for allowing me to walk in your light. Your humble lion spirit are a guiding force and a reminder of purpose.

**Carmela Ross:** Valor and Perseverance  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/CarmelaRossSings>

The second of Four children born to the West Indian descendant-residents of Colon, Panama, Avis and Carl, Carmela Estela Ross is an internationally known Christian Music Recording Artist who sings in both English and Spanish.

Hers is a mixture of cultures, styles and musical genres, which she combines to present her own style. She was influenced by Classical music interpreted on the piano by her mother, the National Conservatory's concerts, calypso, Church hymns, popular Spanish and US music.

She finished her high school at the age of 16 and later continued studies after she relocated to Miami, where she met and married her husband Calvin producing there Four little "Miracles".  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qW2cVlu4ROE>

**Carmela Estela was the recipient of the "Golden Harp " International Special Prize at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Christian Music Festival in 1988.**

To my Panamanian familia, may we continue on a path of full inclusion. To my Afro Panamanian family, may we continue to uplift the light of our ancestors, speak our truth and wear our birth given crown. To my Colon family, my wish is that we pause before the mirror to see the beauty in who we are as a people, that we will see that we are a crucial part of the fabric of Panama and that we step into our birth given light to shine. Proud today and everyday to be Afro Panamanian.!

Alaafia, Blessings, Much Love



April 2015

**(Rev.) Arthur Francis Nightengale** *(taken from George Westerman's LOS INMIGRANTES ANTILLANOS EN PANAMA)*

This versatile Barbadian, wore many hats: as a young Assistant Principal of The Balkeith Institute in Barbados, was invited to a teacher's post within the Canal Zone.

Arriving on the Isthmus through Colon, he was assigned as Principal of the Culebra School, (at the time) the largest on the Canal Zone.

From 1908 to 1913 he was in charge of the all Government schools on the Canal Zone: Culebra, Red Tank, La Boca and Ancon. His Supervisor was Frank A. Cause under Governor George W. Goethals' administration.

He resigned in 1913 to pursue studies in Divinity at the Bishop Payne Divinity School in Petersburg, Virginia from which he graduated in 1915. He specialized in Greek.

...His life in the Episcopal church...

From 1915 Rev. Nightengale scaled from priest to Archdeacon at the St. Paul's church. As diocesan secretary from 1921 to 1950, his dynamic stewardship influenced much of the community converting the church in a spiritual force all over the country. The Ven. Arthur F. Nightengale, B.D., M.B.E. served as Archdeacon of Panama in the Capital from 1922-1952.

#### **COMMUNITY WORK:**

While Archdeacon Nightengale served the church, he also did editorial work for the Star & Herald from 1927, and, The Panama American from 1930-35. He was active founding and participating in civic and fraternal organizations: the West Indian Committee of Great Britain, Isthmian Committee of British Aid, besides lodges, cricket and teaching Pittman stenography.

Rev. Nightengale was honored in 1934 by the Imperial Order of Great Britain.

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#### **ANOTHER BARBADIAN TEACHER**

He came to Panama to work on the construction of the Canal in 1906. In his off-time he worked at the law offices of Walter H. Carrington (no relative but the names attracted).

**LLOYD STANLEY CARRINGTON**, inspired by his work with the lawyers, he went off to the United States of America to study law at Howard University in Washington.

When he returned, he opened his own buffett and was accepted as a lawyer on the Canal Zone in October 1915.

He was accepted by the Fifth Circuit of Appeals in New Orleans in 1923 and at the Panamanian Courts in 1925.

Together with Thirty (30) others, he was a foundation member of the Canal Zone Association of Lawyers, being its treasurer until his death except for one year when he was its president. After his demise in 1967, an empty chair with his name on it is preserved in tribute to Dr. Carrington.

Dr. Carrington received many honors, including: The Excellent Order of the Government of Great Britain, conferred by King George VI in 1949, the Order of Vasco Nuñez de Balboa tendered by the President of the Republic of Panama, Ernesto de la Guardia, a Recognition from the Episcopal Church for having been the Chancellor of the District for more than 25 years and a member of the Advisory Board for over 50. Woodrow De Castro and his Jewish lawyer colleagues on the Canal Zone.

-----*(taken from The New Black Magazine)(contributed by Basilio Wilkinson)*

<http://www.thenewblackmagazine.com/view.aspx?index=313> A CEO of a cross-Caribbean conglomerate said the following:

If you want the idea and the vision for a new business, ask a Jamaican. If you want someone to work with a team to take the vision from just words into something the team would call a success after working hard for months or years, ask a Trini. If you want someone to run the company after it becomes stable, ask a Bajan.

**BARBADIAN GOVERNMENT PRESENT AT THE SUMMIT**

<https://www.presidencia.gob.pa/503-Presidente-se-reune-con-Primer-Ministro-de-Barbados-para-tratar-temas-de-conectividad-aerea-cooperacion-y-promocion-de-las-inversiones->

On April 14, right after the VII Summit of the Americas, the President of the Republic of Panama, Juan Carlos Varela Rodríguez received the Prime Minister of Barbados, Freundel Stuart to discuss bilateral topics, such as air connectivity and cooperation in terms of security and education.

The civil aeronautical authorities of both countries are negotiating an air service agreement. Panama is interested in negotiating an agreement to exchange information of people with criminal records to avoid the transit of high risk passengers trying to cross or entering our countries. Prime Minister Stuart said Barbados has the main office of the Joint Regional Communication Center for Caribbean countries and showed interest in cooperation with Panama in the exchange of security information.


They also discussed the possibility of Barbados joining the list of English speaking countries receiving teachers for training in English, as part of the Program “Panamá Bilingüe”. Their respective teams are working on this topic.

the Prime Minister of Barbados extended an invitation to President Varela to participate in the next Summit of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in the early days of July, where he will have the opportunity to speak with Heads of State of Caribbean countries to discuss this and other topics of interest for Panama. Finally, Prime Minister Stuart thanked President Varela Rodríguez, the people and the Government of Panama for all the services given to the delegation during the recent Summit of the Americas.

The Prime Minister of Barbados was accompanied by the Secretary of Foreign Relations, Maxine McClean and the Ambassador of Barbados to the Organization of American States (OAS), concurrent to Panama, John Beale.

***The Deputy Secretary of Multilateral Affairs and Cooperation, María Luisa Navarro; the Presidential Advisor to Public Policies and Foreign Policy, Jonattan Del Rosario and the Head of the Office of the Deputy Secretary of Foreign Relations, Nicole Wong, accompanied President Varela.***

**AND A YOUNG ENTREPRENUER**

<p><i>He won!</i></p> <p><i>He won!</i></p> <p><i>He won!</i></p> <p><i>He won!</i></p>		<p><b>Dale Trotman</b> is the young Barbadian who participated in the Caribbean Innovation Challenge that was judged In the VII Summit in Panama. Dale is the founder of the healthcare IT startup MedRegis that aims to create a suite of ambulatory care APPS for medical and non-medical staff.</p> <p><b>Dale won 1<sup>st</sup> place.</b></p>
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**A Key to Twin: Bridgetown & Panama City**  
 Published on July 10, 2015 by Jamal Weekes (contributed by Sheila Wilkinson)

	<p>Culture Minister of Barbados, Stephen Lashley (r) presenting 'the key to the city' to Panama City's Vice Mayor, Raisa Banfield (l) at the recently held twinning ceremony at Parliament. (A.Gaskin/BGIS)</p> <p><i>A government official will be in Panama to receive the key to the City of Panama in August.</i></p> <p><a href="http://gisbarbados.gov.bb/index.php?categoryid=9&amp;p2_articleid=14412">http://gisbarbados.gov.bb/index.php?categoryid=9&amp;p2_articleid=14412</a></p>
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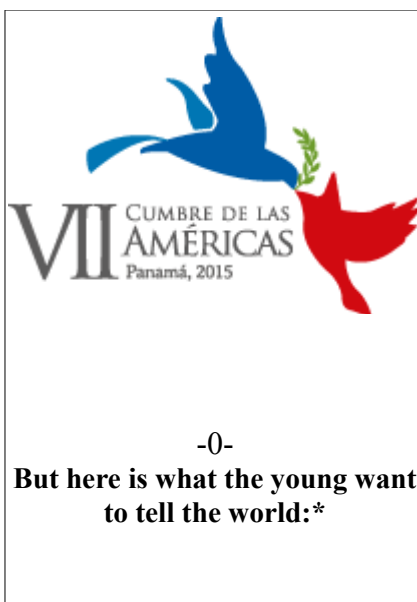


*Panama is once more in the limelight. All the leaders of America came here for the Seventh Summit of the Americas, except two.*

*During this summit, besides presidents, other leaders met. Leaders of the young, environmental leaders, leaders in business, leaders of ethnic groups and leaders in politics.*

Although the Afrodescendant community was once more shunted by our government from the VII summit of the Americas 2015, housed at the government owned Specialized University of the Americas, the Coordinator of Black Organizations prepared and held a very succesful Hemispheric Forum of Afrodescendants with the motto:

**Recognition, Justice and Development** on Tuesday, April 7, 2015 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



There are differences & disadvantages:

Statistics, numbers, indicators tend to hide rather than highlight or bring these differences and disadvantages to the forefront. Studies and indices should be clearer in interpretation. Show the real needs.

We the elders should nurture the young into groups led and directed by them, encouraging them to participate in politics and giving them our backing when they do. Give them the opportunity to develop the expertise in governing their countries successfully.

*\*Their problems are the same in America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia. In this so-called Democracy, seeing that youth are the next generation to govern our countries, we should consult them, work hand in hand with them, invest in them, get them involved, break down barriers: international and local, and try to cover the gap for simultaneous problem-solving. The youth need to have voice and vote.*

This Newsletter's End <i>by Ines V. Sealy</i>	
Everything that has a beginning must have an end all good things last only so long and this Newsletter is about to end.	Much has been said much tribute still to be paid, one can only do so much so the end must come to such.
The untold story of men, women and children leaving their homes, families and ken who met in Panama lending their blood and sweat hailing from the Caribbean to complete a test.	Encouragement is a must for others to take the step, to record their knowledge and experience; in posterity it will become a science.

[A review of pictures of the Civil Rights movement in the US \(contributed by Furaha Youngblood\)](#)

Mary King was a staff member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in the 1960s. A descendent of six generations of Virginia ministers, she joined courageous young people of her generation and risked life and limb to win the right to vote for all Americans.

Recently, she came across thousands of pictures she took during the challenging days of 1964 and 1965. Working with Campaign for America's Future's digital director, Trevor Davis, she has painstakingly restored what may be the only color photos from that time and place.

[Click here to view Photographing Freedom: A Photographic Memoir of the Civi Rights Movement.](#)