

AfroPanamanian Newsletter



English opens doors. Read the Newsletter

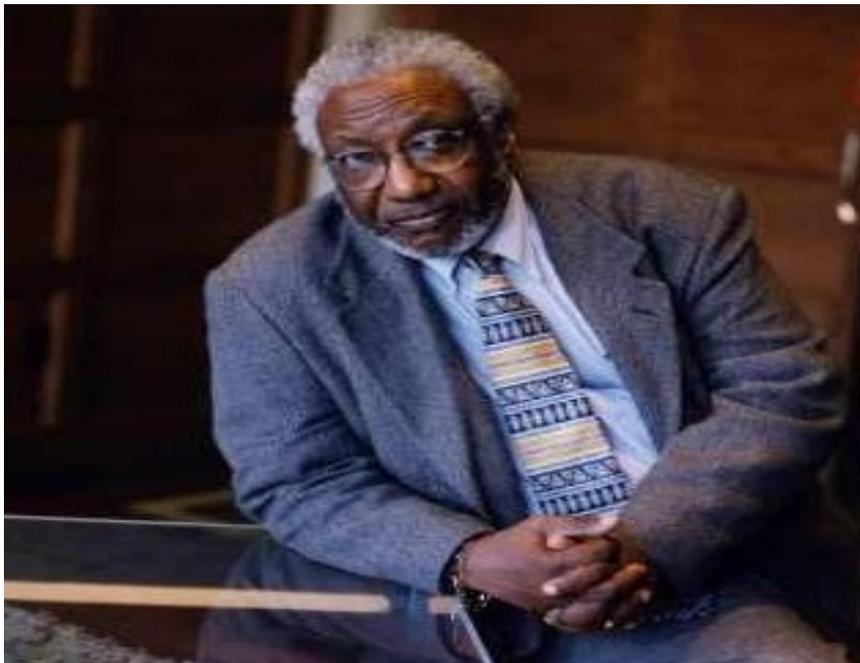
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We encourage our web readers to feel free to use our links to find scholarships, jobs, grants and others.

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Dr. Roy Bryce-LaPorte

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

***“He who controls others
maybe powerful,
but he who has
mastered himself
is mightier still.”***

Lau Tzu

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

July-August Feedback

I love your Newsletter. Very informative. Thanks, Genetta

Very interesting information Ines, Gele is much more admirable. Still in Texas, i will be back on the 4th of September.

Blessings

Alicia de Padmore

Dear Ms. Inez V. Sealy,

Thank you very much for continuing to uphold the "blood stained banner" of our history. If you and others like you don't do it in Panama, then no one will.

Congratulations on an outstanding joint issue newsletter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brooks B. Robinson

Wow, just enjoying the backlash opinion pieces to the oversight of the Canal centennial organizers in not using more Afrodescendants at our party as guests not just in the kitchen but we continue to see their 'true colors' citing a Cindy Lauper song title. The Afro diaspora want their pound of flesh and it would be interesting to see a copy of the guest list - Roberto Duran ??

Robert

Published on August 13, 2014 by Julie Carrington, Information Officer assigned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade. **BARBADOS DECLARES PANAMA DAY.**

Over the years, Barbados and Panama have enjoyed a friendly and productive partnership and their relations have been based on commonalities of culture, like-mindedness and ancestry.

Barbados has identified Panama as one of its main bilateral partners and, therefore, the declaration of August 15 as Panama Day, will be a fitting symbol of the historical journeys and the affirmation of a commitment to building a new phase in their bilateral partnership.

The **AfroPanamanian Newsletter** July-August 2014 has been added to the Barbados website: <http://barbadosnetwork.foreign.gov.bb/>

Panama, going on 111 years, the Canal 100 years -&- Christ Church by-the-sea 150+ years (Contributed by Christopher McClean)

Christ Church by-the-sea in Colon, Panama was founded by Anglican Missionaries and constructed between 1863 and 1864. It was constructed with local rocks under NY Engineer James Renwick, supervised by the Panama Railway Company. Consecrated and Innaugurated June 15, 1865 by Bishop Alonso Potter of Pennsylvania. Funds for its construction were obtained from donations by the residents of Aspinwall (as Colon was known at the time). The name of the town was changed at the end of the XVIII century. On January 30, 1980 it was declared an historic monument by the Government of Panama.

Bishops and priests who have passed through this church include: Cooper, Petterson, Blake, Spalding, Naters, Ottley, Josiah, Murray, Austin... The restored church was reconsecrated on August 24, 2014.

Tribute Journal for Bryce-LaPorte---- (contributed by Amilcar Priestley)

Soon there will be a journal edition in tribute to the Panamanian sociologist, **Roy Bryce LaPorte**. Men and women interested in migration to and from the Caribbean may find the volume helpful. The issue, brings together scholars who have worked closely with Roy, or who have studied under his tutelage, or have been impacted by his scholarship in their respective careers. Together, these authors raise questions that Bryce-Laporte himself would have loved to take up in his heyday. They are a fitting tribute to a valiant warrior who blazed a pioneer's trail and left us an enduring legacy of social awareness, commitment and exemplary scholarship.

ANCESTRY

by Ines V. Sealy

Being able to research, going back to find our ancestors is so satisfying. It gives you a sense of belonging, or knowing where you came from and how you got to where you are.

For instance, the roots of all Black people is in Africa. But how did we get spread out all over the world? We will not go into slavery in this writing, but, everyone knows that many of our ancestors were enslaved and taken away from their original birthplace.

On the other hand, curious navigators also left their place of birth to find other lands for whatever reasons. Thus we come to our ancestors who arrived in the Caribbean and were later contracted to work on the construction of the Panama Canal.

At another time, in older Newsletters, I have mentioned that my grandfather lived on leased land behind the train station in Paraiso. Well, delving in familysearch.org, this is what I came up with about my grandfather. **Charles Louis Regnold Wilkinson Mason** was born in August 1863 in St. Phillips, Barbados. His parents were Joseph Richard Mason and Mary Louisa Atherley.

He came over to Panama on the ship: La Plata and landed at Colon. He was employed at Culebra on July 29, 1907. Employed, once more, by the Panama Railroad at Cristobal on July 3, 1909.

In the 1920 US Census he was registered as living at Pedro Miguel, Canal Zone (I insist, up in the hills on the other side of the railroad tracks at Paraiso). The 1930 census still has him living there, but with a boarder, Francis Haynes age 45. 1940 census has him living there still, but in 1941 he was living with us in Parque Lefevre, and he died on July 21, 1941 at the age of 77 at Gorgas Hospital.

He was buried at Corozal Cemetery under marker 1373, Section K, grave No. 10.

THANKS TO FAMILYSEARCH.ORG. After all these years, I am able to write an obituary of my grandfather. It would have been nice to have a picture, but I suppose cameras were scarce at the time.

OLDEN DAYS SAYINGS

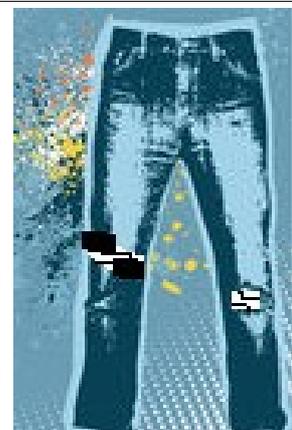
“Neat & Fine”

Up to the end of the XX Century, dressing neatly was the style. We wanted to look **“neat & fine”**.

If our clothes got ripped or a hole, darning it invisibly or, making a neat patch, invisible if possible, was the thing. If the patch was visible, it had to be decorative.

“Nowadays”, the clothes are being bought with the holes. That is the style. We would have been embarrassed to be seen, even at home, with a hole in our clothes.

“It's a burning shame”.



September 2014

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

by Dilsia Mariela Miller Collins-Alleyne

Let us remember how our grandparents and parents would reduce, reuse and recycle.

Do you remember the “hand me downs”? The smaller ones would use the older ones clothes, shoes, books etc.

Towels, bed linen, old tea shirts and other, were used as cleaning rags.

Diapers were an important factor in a woman's life. They were recycled before sanitary napkins were invented.

Different color and type of Scraps were used to make bed linen also known as quilt, clothes pin bags, pajamas etc.

Bath soap would be pasted together until they were reduced to nothing.

Soup was made with left overs of meat, ham, turkey, vegetables etc. The vegetable oil and tea bags were also reused.

We had “wapi” on Mondays or any other day of the week when food was left over. They dumped the minimum.

Plastic plates, spoon, forks and cups were washed and reused several times.

Bottles, ice cream containers and boxes were also reused to store food, buttons, screws, nails and others.

The newspapers were used to wrap garbage and cover our school books. Floor mats were made with the “platillos”.

Sears catalogs and telephone books were folded to make adornment in the homes.

The buttons of the old shirts were also reused.

Deteriorated shirt collars were turned over and reused on the other side.

Pants were patched with a fabric that was the same color.

Our grandparents and parents did not know about recycling, they did know about saving.

Today science has advanced and they are now aware that plastic is harmful to the earth, it affects the birds who ingest it.

There are projects that teach the people how to insulate walls with plastic bottles instead of casting them away, polluting the earth, sea and rivers, since, they say it takes 100 years for plastic to deteriorate.

Today it is called reduce, reuse and recycle.

Educational Opportunities

“Education is the clue to get ahead, work hard and the compensation will come later.” James Doughlin (Barbadian)

(These offers are being repeated from the August 2013 Newsletter)

1. Wake Forest University has an opportunity for minority students to attend its MBA program for FREE, and so far, the response has been very poor. Please pass along this opportunity to your friends, families. This is a great school and a tremendous opportunity to attend a top graduate school. The contact person is: Derrick S. Boone, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Marketing, Rm. 3139, Worrell Professional Center, Babcock Graduate School of Management - Wake Forest University - Winston Salem, N.C. 27109-8738. email: derrick.boone@mba.wfu.edu or visit www.wfu.edu; Phone number toll free [\(866\) 925-3622](tel:8669253622).

2. Black male Teachers needed. Do you know any black Males who are seniors in high school who want to go to college out of state for FREE? The CALL ME MISTER program offered by 4 historical black colleges in South Carolina--Benedict College, Claflin University, Morris College and South Carolina State University. For details and online applications, visit www.callmemister.clemson.edu/index.html or Call [1-800-640-2657](tel:18006402657).

3. Harvard University is offering free tuition to families of HONOR STUDENTS and their income is less than \$125,000 per year. Visit www.fao.fas.harvard.edu or call [1-617-495-1581](tel:16174951581).

4. Syracuse University School of Architecture is desperately seeking young women and men of color interested in pursuing a 5 yr. Professional degree in Architecture.
Contact: Mark Robbins, Dean School of Architecture, 201 Slocum Hall, Syracuse, NY 13244-1250 or go on-line [at www.soasyr.edu/index.php](http://www.soasyr.edu/index.php).

5. A free pair of eyeglasses from Target for any child ages 12 and under. Bring a valid prescription for glasses from their doctor. You can find stores with optical departments at www.target.com

6. APPLY NOW - If you have/know young adults between the ages of 18-31 with a High School Diploma. Can earn up to \$100,000 and earn benefits. The Federal Aviation Association is taking application for Air Traffic Controller School; visit the website [at www.faa.gov/jobs_opportunities/airtrafficcontroller/](http://www.faa.gov/jobs_opportunities/airtrafficcontroller/)



(These, are being repeated from the September 2013 Newsletter)

The Walton International Scholarship Program

The objective of the program of universities in Arkansas, USA, has been to promote democracy and free enterprise in Latin America through education. Each year, rigorous screening processes are carried out in El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Belize and Mexico to identify the next class of students. **Applications must be Online.**

-----Education: Degrees that Busy Adults Can Earn Anytime

Do you want to go back to school and earn a degree, but not sure how feasible it is with your fulltime job and family responsibilities? Don't let your busy schedule discourage you. Even if your days are jam-packed, earning a degree is possible thanks to online education. In fact, many schools now offer degree programs that can be completed entirely online.

Some websites: www.kaplanuniversity.edu, www.phoenix.edu/degrees,
www.distance.ufl.edu/online-degree-program,

- Obtain your Masters in the United Kingdom through a Chevening Scholarship

Do you have the potential to be a future leader and a desire to study in the UK? If you would like to enhance your leadership skills and become part of the growing Chevening network, read about **how to apply for a Chevening Scholarship in Panama**.

The Chevening programme grants awards to outstanding individuals with leadership potential from around the world. A Chevening Scholarship offers financial support to individuals wishing to study for a Master's degree at the UK's leading universities, along with the opportunity to become part of an influential and highly regarded global network.

Applicants from Panama can choose any course of study, but we particularly welcome applications in the following fields:

- Business and Economics
- Law and Political Science
- Environment
- Energy
- Logistics and Transportation

We aim to attract talented professionals who are potential future leaders, decision-makers and opinion formers.

Before applying, it is imperative that you thoroughly read the **Guidance for Applicants** and the **Terms and Conditions for Chevening Scholarship Awards** as these contain important information on what details you will need to include in your application.

All applications for a Chevening Scholarship **must** be submitted online by completing the **Chevening Scholarships online application form**. Instructions on submitting your application can be found in the Guidance for Applicants.

A Chevening Scholarship in Panama includes: a monthly stipend, travel to and from your country via an approved route, an arrival and excess baggage allowance, a thesis or dissertation grant, the cost of an entry clearance visa and tuition fees.

If you study for an MBA you will be expected to fund any difference above this sum.

There is also a global Chevening fee cap for £13,000 for MBA and Masters in Finance. If the tuition fees of your chosen university course exceed this amount, you will be required to fund the remainder of your tuition fees.



----US Embassy in Panama offers scholarships

The U.S. Embassy, through the U.S. Foreign Commercial Service, assists in the promotion of the Scholarship Education Fairs such as the one that took place on March 29th 2012 at the Courtyard Marriott. Many of the universities represented at the fair offered varying amounts of scholarship or tuition discounts to their individual universities. Those partial, private scholarships ***are different from the scholarships and exchange programs that the U.S. Government offers to Panamanians.***

For more **information on U.S. Embassy scholarships** please follow us on Facebook at **Estamos Unidos Panama** and on Twitter **@USEmbPAN** and **#BecasUSA**. For information on specific scholarships, please visit our website at: <http://tinyurl.com/BecasUSA>.

-----**Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) Foundation offers scholarships in Barbados.** These awards are available in four categories. Since 1998 the CTO Foundation has provided 89 major scholarships and 124 study grants to deserving Caribbean nationals... Its main aim is to provide scholarships and study grants to students and industry personnel who are Caribbean nationals, from CTO-member countries, who wish to pursue studies in the areas of tourism/hospitality and language training. *Study can be done at a distance.*

ROLE MODEL *(excerpted from his obituary)*

Professor Roy Bryce-Laporte was a nationally and internationally known scholar whose research and teaching interests focused on comparative and historical studies of African American, African-Caribbean, African-Hispanic, and other “New World” black experiences. He focused his research on Black immigrants to the United States, a path he himself had followed and compared their experiences with those of African Americans. Particularly interested in the “new immigration” of people of African descent into the United States, he taught and published about their struggles for recognition and their communities.

He emphasized that black studies must address hot-button topics like racial stereotyping while retaining academic rigor. “Black studies is the way by which respect is to be given to blacks and to, knowledge about blacks,” he said in an article in *The New York Times* in 1969.

He taught at Hunter College-CUNY and Yale, where he founded one of the first departments of African-American studies. After Yale, Bryce-Laporte taught at a variety of institutions including the College of Staten Island-CUNY, Syracuse University, Catholic University of America, Howard University, University of Pennsylvania, and Colorado College, covering many subjects: Sociology and Anthropology, International Migration, U.S. Immigration and Immigrants; Black Communities in Contemporary America; Total Institutions: the World of the Confined; and The Black Diaspora.

Professor Bryce-Laporte joined the faculty at Colgate in 1989 and directed the university’s Africana and Latin American studies program. He also was the founding director of the Smithsonian Institution’s Research Institute on Immigration and Ethnic Studies.

Dr. Roy Simon Bryce-La Porte was born and raised in Panama, where he attended the University of Panama. He also studied at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, the University of Puerto Rico, and UCLA, where he completed his Ph.D. in sociology.

He was the editor of [Sourcebook on the New Immigration](#) (Transaction Publishers, 1979).



Dr. Bryce-Laporte passed away on July 31, 2013 in Sykesville, Md. He was 78.

Contributed by Melva L. Goodin

Taken from John Evans Sr.'s new book of poetry
IT'S A LONG WAY FROM ALKEBULAN.

To Roy

(Dedicated to My Friend Roy Simon Bryce-Laporte)

Wayfarer, wayfarer, at last your journey is done,
so, too, the challenges and trials
in this imperfect land!

You were a husband, a father, a brother, a son,
a friend, a brilliant scholar, a teacher to man.

I call you a wayfarer, for we are all
just passing through;
but how glad I am that we shared
many thoughts, too,
and we laughed at funny old jokes, quite a few,
or at tricks that nature plays
when age catches up with you.

I shall remember you not only for
your accomplishments,
that by themselves shall stand,
but because you were a friend, and I am sure
that when the mystery ends—where it all began—

you'll be greeted with roses,
and garlands and kisses,
and joy that you've never before known,
and the soul shall discover at last what bliss is
when the weary traveler returns home.