

AfroPanamanian Newsletter



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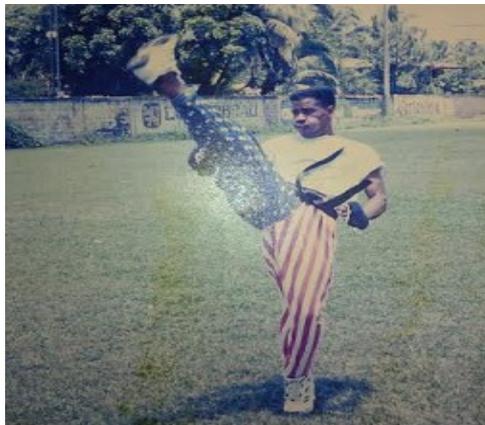
We encourage our web readers to feel free to use our links to find scholarships, jobs, grants and others.

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ISHMAEL HUDSON PARSON



Perseverance and Sacrifice

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

"Realize that

if you have time to

whine and complain about something, then

you have the time

to do something about it."

~Anthony D'Angelo

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

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Just as I am: <http://inspirationbygod.net/1798/praise-god-just-as-i-am/>

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“it was a beautiful day to be black and resilient” states [KIRSTEN WEST SAVALI](#) in her article The Contradictions of #Selma50. (taken from *THE ROOT*, contributed by Robert Jackman)

“The nation’s (US) first black president speaking at the foot of a bridge named after Edmund Pettus, a grand wizard in the Ku Klux Klan; civil rights icon Rep. John Lewis speaking from a position of authority mere steps away from where he was left bloody and bruised 50 years ago; and Amelia Boynton—103 years young—had a sparkle in her eyes that rivaled the stars.” ... “We are also still fighting a corrupt criminal-justice system to ensure that people aren’t permanently treated like second-class citizens after they’ve served their time, and that they get their voting rights back.” stated Woodward Henderson ... “The same country committed to ensuring that its black citizens would never have the power to vote was forced to recognize that a black man holds the highest democratically elected office in the free world.”

http://www.theroot.com/articles/history/2015/03/the_contradictions_of_selma50.html

Gamboa Penitentiary

Recently Gamboa Penitentiary has become famous, although the name has been changed to “Renacer”. At the moment it houses the ex-strong man of Panama, Manuel Antonio Noriega, the ex-President of the Magistrate’s Court, and may house others as the cases of the ex-officials of the 2009-2014 government of Panama are tried and condemned.

But, in the '40s when it was under Canal Zone jurisdiction its name was highlighted in local papers for cases in which Blacks were unjustly incarcerated: for loitering, for vagrancy, for theft and finally for rape. The fact that there was a relationship between a Black man and a White woman was considered rape. If the relationship was maintained secret, there was no outcome, but, if it became public, then the male had to pay the price, which included being deported from the Canal Zone after completing his jail term. Can you imagine being deported from or within your own country?

When a White man offends a local person, he is quickly spirited out of the country to be tried in the US. Like they did with Noriega during the Invasion in 1989 and recently with the military man who killed the Panamanian girl in the interior.

The most famous prisoner, until Noriega, was Lester Leon Graves, a young man of 19 who was condemned to 50 years for supposed rape. He was indulted in 1962 after having spent almost 16 years in the Gamboa Penitentiary. At the age of 89, Graves passed away last week after having been able to enjoy his own home, donated to him by friends about 6 months ago.

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His first love was art, second, Panama. (by Cecil V. Reynolds)

Planning an exhibition of his works in Panama during the month of November, he died the early part of this year (2015).

Hendres Kelly was born on December 14, 1935 in Balboa, Canal Zone, Panama, of Jamaican and Colombian parentage. Although he emigrated to the USA after finishing hi-school and some courses in art, and was drafted into the Army where he served 5 years, much of his free time he dedicated to studying the arts and painting historical murals and portraits including his own.

His military service took him to Metz, France where he decorated the military recreational areas with beautiful murals. As a result of his displayed talent he was honored and recognized by the Army’s Stars and Stripes (newspaper). In 2003 he was honored along with other Panamanians by the Society of Panamenian Professionals, Inc. in the U.S. in the commemoration of the Centennial of Panama. He also painted and unveiled a painting of Vasco Nuñez de Balboa which decorates the wall of the Panamanian Consulate in France.

As a resident of the Washington area, among his numerous exhibits is his portraits of “Famous Black Americans—Past and Present” displayed at the District Building in Mayor Marlon Barry’s Mini Art Gallery.



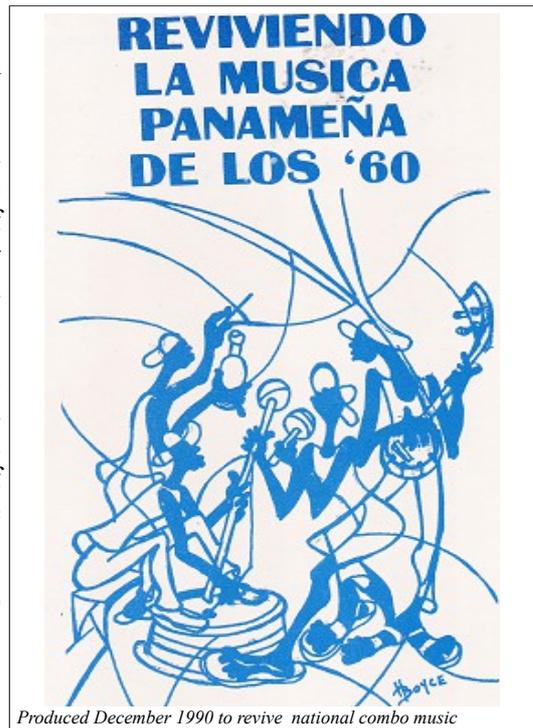
HORACIO “Tintin” BOYCE – artist: painter, sculptor, drummer

Horacio Valentin Boyce, better known as “Tintin” born in the City of Panama, Republic of Panama of West Indian descendant parents, was inclined to the arts from a young age.

He was inclined towards drawing and sculpture. He would buy chewing gum so that when he was finished chewing he could shape it into animals and human figures. Living part of his life with his aunt in Colon, she marvelled at his ability for handicraft, and bought him colored clay so that he could develop and improve his creative skills.

Besides his regular education, “Tintin” decided to study art at the National School of Plastic Arts after he was married and had two children, graduating as a Technician in Plastic Arts and obtaining a scholarship to study at the Ganexa Academy of Fine Arts. He then got a job as a Graphics designer with the Air Force at Howard Air Force Base.

Horacio dominates several graphic techniques: pen nib drawing, acrylic, pastel, watercolor. He also works with clay, papier maché, sand both for sculpture and pictures. He has participated in many expositions both here and in the US.



Produced December 1990 to revive national combo music

Grown up, although he wanted to make the arts his life's work, he had to go in the direction of other labors to support himself. One of these was drummer/percussionist, a profession which he executes to this day, even in his spiritual life. As drummer percussionist, Tintin has been a member of our National Combos: Soul Fantastics, Ebony, Caribbean Sweet Band, and others.

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The Silvertones



This group originated when Ricardo Bermudez, saxophonist of the dissolved group “Lyrics”, a group that was a leftover from The Rythmics, pulled together: Eugenio Dorch (tenor sax), Ricardo Bermudez (alto sax), Roy Joe Clark (singer, guitarist), Carlos Allen (singer, percussionist, choreographer), Carlos Grenald (singer), Roberto Cole (drummer), Johnny Phillips (bass), Pepe Lopez (congas), Carlos Watson (percussion) and Rogelio King coinciding with the carnivals of 1966 in which they played the 4 days in the Colon Arena.

Sally Ruth, the seal of *Hnos. Heres* contracted them to record hits like A Barranquilla, You call me by my name, Manzzo and Ñacacuenda.

The next year, 1967, Padisco contracted them to record Oh! Gee, Tamborito Swing, Silvertone Swing, Corazon Adolorido and Navidad sin ti. The last broke records in sales for several years winning them the Golden Owl prize for 1968, 1969, 1970.

1970 was their best year. They travelled to Costa Rica, Argentine, and Colombia. In Argentine they signed a contract with RCA to record: Baile de la Araña, Spider Soul, Que Cosa and Mi Soledad as singles and an LP featuring: Fin a mi Soledad, Clyde Ryder, Desengaño and others, affirming their name and music internationally.

Their TV image appeared in “Grupo 21” on RPC Channel 4 Panama and was exported to Puerto Rico, Venezuela and Central America. Having been heard all over the Republic, they disbanded in April 17, 1974 to further their studies as requested by their parents.

They made a comeback at the Charlot Pub on Dec. 18, 1985. They've also made recordings.

**Taken from Gaceta Oficial No. 12.912 of Tuesday, March 29, 1956 (contributed by Elks Lodge No.)
TRANSLATION of the law obtained by Deputy Alfredo Cragwell to
ENACT MEASURES REGULATING FRATERNAL AND CHARITABLE SOCIETIES**

**LAW NUMBER 89
(OF DECEMBER 22, 1955)**

by which measures regulating Fraternal and Charitable Societies are enacted.

The National Assembly of Panama
CONSIDERING:

- 1.--That a considerable number of Fraternal and Charitable Societies exist and have been functioning all over the Republic of Panama for many years;
- 2.--That said societies have cooperated with the social, cultural and economic development of the Republic having contributed to alleviate the pecuniary situation of the needy classes;
- 3.--That it is convenient to stimulate fraternal and beneficent activities because they are beneficial to the community;
- 4.--That these institutions should be given the support necessary guide them toward more profitable paths; because their contribution the progress of the country is evident;
- 5.--That it is indispensable that measures be enacted to regulate Cooperatives, Mutual Assistance Societies, Fraternal and Charitable Societies.

DECREES:

Article 1° Fraternal and Charitable Societies functioning in the Republic of Panama, authorized by the Executive Organ, are **exempt from the obligation to deposit Fifty Thousand Balboas (dollars) which are demanded of Insurance Companies, according to Law 60 of December 27, 1938.**

Article 2° All Societies of this nature may create, maintain, invest, emit and apply any superavit or similar credits, according to what is stipulated in their by-laws, as long as it's not for profit.

Article 3° The funds in cash that these societies may have to pay bonuses and other charities, which should be deposited in a recognized institution of credit established in the Republic, they will not be liable for the debts or obligations contracted by private partners or beneficiaries, and will be to cover benefits of deaths, sickness and other benefits, it is required to grant to the Society in favor of them.

Parragraph. The funds of these Societies may not be invested in any class of transactions in foreign countries.

Article 4° The Superintendence of Insurances of the Ministry of Agriculture, Commerce and Industries, is empowered to intervene and audit the operations and books of these Societies and if any anomaly involving damage to its partners and beneficiaries, will proceed according to the law, to protect the interests of its partners.

Article 5° This Law shall take effect from its sanction.

Issued in the City of Panama, on the Twentieth of December of Nineteen Fifty-Five.

The President,

DEMETRIO MARTINEZ A.

The General Secretary,

G. Sierra Gutierrez

Republic of Panama.--National Executive Organ.--President's Palace.--Panama, December 22, 1955.

Execute and publish.

RICARDO M. ARIAS E.

The Minister of Government and Justice.

ALEJANDRO REMON C

International Women's Day

Dr. Reina Torres de Arauz, historian and anthropologist

February is Carnival month in Panama. On the Saturday and Sunday of Carnival the Society of Friends of the Afro-Antillean Museum of Panama holds its Grand Cultural and Gastronomic Fair, a social event at which many people meet friends and acquaintances they have not seen for some time. This fair is the largest fund-raising event of the year to defray expenses of the upkeep of the museum.



The Museum was brought into existence by the late **Dr. Reina Torres de Arauz**, a Panamanian **historian and anthropologist** who died in the month of February 1982, after a short illness. She died at an age when the country was expecting longevity and a great deal from her creative capacity for its cultural growth and orientation. She was a specialist in matters relating to the natural culture of the Indians, and also delved into the study of ethnic groups of Panama.

Executing this study, she traveled to New York, in 1978, to meet with the Panamanian-West Indian community there, in consultation as to what and how the Museum could be accomplished. The community there communicated with the community here, bringing the project to fruition in 1981.

For Dr. Torres de Arauz, anthropology was not only a study that satisfied the human intellect, but was one which served to shed the light of fact and reason on many pressing problems. By knowing more, she thought, we could more effectively understand man's problems and hope to cope with them. It was her ambition to build a new world, create a new culture and change the age of gold in the Golden Age of Wisdom and Friendship. Thus, she became the first woman admitted to membership in Panama's venerable Academy of History.

Her studies led her to universities in Brazil and Argentina, and upon her return to Panama, right away, she was appointed as a professor at the University of Panama, where she taught: anthropology, ethnography and archaeology, opening up to many Panamanian students scientific concepts and theories of which they had no idea.

After her founding of several museums, including the Museum of the Panamanian Man (in the old Panama Railroad station across from 5th of May Park), Panamanians have become more museum conscious, both visiting and forming other museums. Dr. Torres de Arauz laid the foundation upon which others of same purposes may elaborate and work as inspiringly as she did to create such museums. Some examples are the Interoceanic Museum, the Religious Historical Museum in the *La Merced Church* the Old Panama Museum (and ruins) complex and several others in the interior of the Republic.

ODE TO THE SILVER WOMAN

Strong willed, upright, faithful, dangerously bold
The Silver woman, a formidable force to behold
Departed their homes, overtook a perilous road
Remaking their destinies, which was yet to unfold.

Defying the unexpected, for loved ones to be with
Whom previously departed, for a canal being built
A adventuress by nature, very unlikely to quit
To the isthmus they came, for rekindling and bliss.

Debarking in Panama, in a quest for their mates
Many reunited, thus sadly, others arrived late
Death ravaged, consumed, a number so great
Company tolls of then, incomplete at this date.

Many households created, with so little at hand
Tarried with meager means, for a desired plan
Determined, undaunted, a go getter in this land
Employed, or at home, challenged every demand.

Silver women prepared, acquired the tools at reach
Became scholars, educators, many children to teach
Excelled in the medical, and scores of technical fields
Being lawyers, politicians, untold hurdles breached.

Ode to these great women, of now and yesterday
Whom paved a way, for our generations of today
For their drive, integrity, and endless loving ways
Give thanks to the Lord, they deserve our praise.

L. Emanuel

A SILVER'S STORY (satire)

While rehashing the changes, of bygone years
Of my past era, versus today's quickened pace
Advising a youngster, there is no time to waste
To arise, be productive, be a runner in his race.

At public schools, we faced half opened doors
We were educated, by silver teachers of yore
Arithmetic, the Royal Reader, upon us they bore
Their cultures and teachings, was duly bestowed.

Public schools fully opened, we enrolled did well
By studying diligently, in many areas we excelled
Weekends, nights of fun, the partying was swell
Back to school on Mondays, there before the bell.

Sundays oft to church, properly attired we did go
After dinner with friends, to a gathering or a show
Health Bureau, Altamira, social clubs well known
Their outings, dances, picnics, we had fun galore.

After graduation, our earnest search for jobs began
Some sought higher learning, one university at hand
Others exited the country, to thrive in a foreign land
USA the prime nation, scores went off to Uncle Sam.

The Diggers, their heirs, whom history has shunned
This new generation, unknown to what has been done
Of their forefather's struggles, hurdles yet to overcome
Some exist without vision, a aimless quest no rebound.

The young man said stop, stared at me with a smile
Mister I have listened, to your ranting a long while
Such times has changed, you enjoyed your lifestyle
I am doing my own thing, would you just..., step aside.

L. Emanuel

Young Barbadian will be a participant in the Caribbean Innovation Challenge to be judged In the VII Summit in Panama.

Dale Trotman is the young Barbadian, founder of the healthcare IT startup MedRegis that aims to create a suite of ambulatory care APPS for medical and non-medical staff.

His are not the traditional Electronic Health Records solutions; instead he utilises their functionalities and break them down into user specific apps catering to doctors, nurses, pharmacist and front desk personnel.

He formulated MedRegis when he heard there was going to be an entrepreneurial competition for Caribbean countries; this competition is called the Caribbean Innovation Challenge. The very first competition was held in 2013 and without any hesitation he registered and became a participant.

Within six months of developing the idea from scratch, he was chosen as one of the finalists for the

competition. Unfortunately, he was unsuccessful at winning his category at the finals; however, he knew he had devised an extraordinary idea and he kept enhancing it.

His aim is to improve ambulatory care within the Caribbean and Latin America.

Ambulatory care focuses on outpatients and encompasses establishments such as doctor offices and clinics.

On March 8th, 2015 he became 1 of 32 (1 of 7 from the Caribbean and the only one from Barbados) finalists chosen from 2734 entrants across the Western Hemisphere to participate in the finals of TIC Americas 2015.

This entrepreneurial passion and drive is an intrinsic characteristic which he possessed from a very young age and that fire will continue to burn once he remains focused on the goals ahead.

ROLE MODELS:

ISHMAEL HUDSON PARSON: Perseverance & Sacrifice

(interviewed by Cecil V. Reynolds)

Mr. Gamery Hudson, a citizen of San Andres, Colombia came to the isthmus to apply for work with the Chiriqui Land Company, where he met and married Shirley Parson Hudson, a Nicaraguan of which seven children were born. Ishmael, born in Bocas August 29, 1957 was number Five.



Ishmael Hudson Parson, who has been representing Panama in international Karate events from 1984 to 2007, went to elementary school in Changuinola and Almirante, Province of Bocas del Toro, completing his Highschool at the Fe y Alegria Highschool in Changuinola.

During the summer while he was still in highschool, a friend, studying in the City of Panama, would come back to Bocas for the vacation and introduced him to Karate. They were only able to practice during the summer, but Ishmael, interested in the martial arts, watched movies and read up on the subject, practicing, sacrificing and competing, winning many prizes and trophies until he has arrived at Shihan Black Belt VII Dan, expert in Martial Arts.

He has won:

- National Champion **Seven** times
- Grand Champion **Five** times
- Best competitor **Twice**.
- National Representative (selection) **6** times
- Best Athlete of the Year **Three** times.
- Panamerican Champion **Four** times.



In the Hall of Fame



Karate Belts



Shakas

In 1985 Ishmael founded the first Karate schools in Changuinola and Almirante which still function and contribute to keeping the young people of the community out of gangs and criminal acts. Because of his knowledge and ability, Ishmael, besides running the two schools, also gives private lessons, trains the National Police in personal defense and the use of the police baton, helps with the Police Summer Program, is a volunteer in values training and in personal defense. To do all of this, he must maintain physical and nutritional fitness.

He recommends young people to work towards whatever their dreams may be, these can be attained with much sacrifice and discipline.

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are now available
2011 and 2014
from Ines at (507)224-4177.