

Wadadli West USA Inc.

Dedicated to the Development of the Point, Villa, Fort Road, & Yorks Communities

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

TOTALLY INVOLVED



IN OUR COMMUNITIES

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Lionel "Max" Hurst

STANDING TALL WITH A GIANT OF A MAN: **LIONEL "MAX" HURST**

Former ambassador, writer, storyteller, historian, and politician

By
Janice F. Taylor

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hen the name Point and Villa comes up in any discussion in Antigua it is normally associated with steel band and calypso music. Even though we will proudly accept this honor as being the absolute best in these important cultural fields, Point and Villa transcends far beyond these areas. As we celebrated our heritage this past summer, it gave us an opportunity to reflect on some of the greats from our communities whose contributions to our community and our country have made us all so

proud. There has been so many of such people that it would be crazy of me even to attempt at generating a list in fear of retribution for leaving out an important figure whose name obviously should have been on that list. We need not be reminded that the tongues of our people can cut sharper and deeper into the flesh than any sword.

With that in mind, we will tread carefully. That being said, it is also important for us to pay homage to our heroes in sincere appreciation for their accomplishments and contributions to society. One name that quickly jumps right at us as one deserving of such a tribute is former ambassador, writer, storyteller, historian, and family man, Lionel "Max" Hurst.

They nicknamed him Red Max. If my memory serves me right, there was a similar name given to a character in one of those futuristic movies. And his presence does not make it easy to separate him from that character for similarly he stands at approximately six feet-five inches tall of pure intimidation. Okay, let's not get carried

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Wadadli West USA Inc.



PEOPLE OFTEN ASKED, WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE THAT ARE SO CALLED WADADLI WEST USA INC AND WHAT ARE THEIR MISSION. WE ARE THE PROUD PEOPLE OF POINT, VILLA, FORT ROAD, AND YORKS COMMUNITIES IN ANTIGUA LIVING ABROAD. FOR YOUR CURIOSITY, HERE IS WHAT WE DO:

WE ARE HELPING THE POOR AND NEEDY.
WE ARE REACHING OUT TO OUR PEOPLE.
WE ARE SUPPORTING POSITIVE CAUSES.

WE ARE TELLING OUR GREAT STORIES.
WE ARE HELPING TO FULFILL DREAMS.
WE ARE GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITIES.

WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE.
WE ARE IMPACTING PEOPLE'S LIVES.
AND WE ARE PROUD OF WHERE WE ARE FROM.

LEARNING TO RISE AGAIN

By
Bernard S. Henry

Sometimes we slip and fall and everything else seems to go wrong. Murphy's Law has taken full effect. These are the humbling experiences that make us realize each day that we are all but humans. We mourn and we groan, asking ourselves the proverbial question, why me. Have you ever asked yourself for one minute why not you? Or would you prefer if your circumstances were the burden of someone else?

Life is not always fair. It has its vicious cycles which can put us in a state of quandary now and again. Regardless of our circumstances, we must keep fighting on against the odds and struggles. When we fall, we must dig deep within ourselves to find the courage, strength, and faith to pick ourselves up once again and move forward. Borrowing a few lines from actor Bob Hopkins [Lionel Boch] in the movie "Maid in Manhattan," let me paraphrase, **"It doesn't matter what are the circumstances, what really matters is how well we rise after we have fallen that defines our true character."**

At any given moment even the strong and the mighty can be brought to their knees. There are no guarantees in this life and there are not many free passes. I normally look at life as a privilege which must be appreciated, so I give thanks to God every day for every second and every minute that I spend on this earth. Life is beautiful! What makes life so rewarding are the enormous challenges and mysteries that await us to be explored. If we want to enjoy life's precious gifts, we must work diligently and honestly to achieve them.

I know that at this stage of your life you may be swarmed with financial difficulties. Trust me: you are not alone for money always seems to be at the root of many problems. But that's okay, for why cry over milk that is spilt - a damage that is already done. In order for you to get out of this snag, and stay out of it permanently, you need to understand the source of its problem or else you will fall right back into it again.

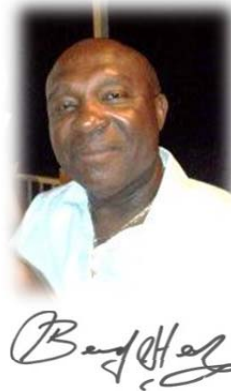
It is going to be hard for you to digest this but it must be told. You have become your worst enemy, no one else. You find yourself in these difficulties because you try to adapt lifestyles you can't afford. There are those of you who live for the spotlight, portraying an economic status that doesn't exist. On the surface you present all the glitter and glamour, shopping and eating at the most expensive places, while deep within you are hurting. I just don't get it. Who are you really trying to impress by living a life of false pretense?

To compound an already difficult situation you have chosen to live in a state of denial, refusing to come to grips with your real situation. Listen to me, there is no shame if you have hit the rock bottom. At least it is a place where you can make a fresh start on your push upward to rise again. Look at this picture. When corporations find themselves in financial difficulties or when their profits begin to decrease, they use a strategy call downsizing, which involves the letting go of a lot of things even dedicated employees. And they have far greater resources than we do. If this is so successful for corporations, how come when we as individuals and families find ourselves in these situations we fail to practice downsizing too?

We have become prisoners of a materialistic society, corrupted so badly that we have difficulties in separating reality from illusion. There are many people out there who are really experiencing hardship, living from hand to mouth, a term colloquially used in Antigua, because they are just poor. I have always kept them in my prayers. But I am appalled by those of you who claim that you are going through hardships as soon as you can no longer afford the lux-

"Do not judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again." –

Nelson Mandela



uries that you have grown accustomed to. I have long come to the conclusion that many people to this day, as old as they may be, are still confused between what are considered *needs* from those that are just *wants*. That I believe is the root of many problems.

As we whine and complain about the simplistic things that affect us, around the world in places such as Africa, Asia, and even in the Caribbean, many kids will not have dinner tonight. They will go to bed hungry for the second or third consecutive nights, crying themselves to sleep. And some of us in this society are crying over petty stuff that is equivalent to a broken finger nail. When we put ourselves on a pedestal, we automatically place ourselves in a vulnerable position to fall hard. It is time for us to rearrange our priorities. Most importantly, it is time for us to learn to live within our means.

To rise again means to make a fresh start and to put God first. God is in the midst of everything. Have faith in Him! On the subject of faith, let me tell you, God is the greatest healer. He is the greatest X-factor in any battle. Keep Him on your side. It doesn't matter what existing condition you may be experiencing [financial, medical, psychological, even egotistical] talk to Him. But let me warn you, God hears your words but He listens to your heart.

My brothers and sisters I know some of you may be going through various ailments but let me reassure you, you are not alone. People have been gathering to pray for your healing. Through Matthew 18:20, God reveals, "For where two or three people gather in my name, there am I with them." God is in the midst of the people as they pray for your deliverance. That's why they are your teammates. That's why they are your friends. And that's why you will always be family to them.

It is impossible for us to undo the things that are already done. That type of luxury is strictly reserved for certain computer programs, not humans. It is equally important for us to know that it is unhealthy to hold on to things that cause us unnecessary stress of which we have no control. In our family house in Antigua there is a plaque hanging from the walls of our living room which has been the mantra of my life since I was a child, and it reads, "Worry is like a rocking chair, it keeps you busy but it never gets you anywhere." Think about it. Never allow anyone or any situation to deprive you of your joy.

So you have come to this road block in your life. These are minor obstacles that we all have to face sometimes. The most important thing is for us is to learn from them. Once we do, we will be fine again. It is time for you to pick yourself up and make a fresh start now that you have learned from your mistakes. Yesterday is gone. There is no need for you to keep looking back going through "what if" scenarios. Look forward to a brighter tomorrow. And if this is of any consolation to you, there are many people out here who still believe in you. Now it is time for you to start believing in yourself.

HOW DO WE SAY GOODBYE?

A TRIBUTE TO OUR LEADER: SHELLY HOOD

Shelly Hood

was the chairman, leader, and founder of Wadadli West USA Inc. In the mid 1990's, he had a vision. This vision was to bring the people of Point and Villa living in the metropolitan NY area together to form a formidable force which would serve as a basis to assist the poor, needy, and the elderly back home in our communities. The idea was great but at first the drawbacks were many. Anyway, after the many trials and disappointments of the early years, in 1999 Wadadli West USA Inc. was born, ready for business.

In those days, the group served as an affiliate to the former City West Community Group a political entity, back in Antigua. Through this affiliation, the Wadadli West team assisted the home based organization in hosting Christmas Dinners for the Senior Citizens of the Communities. The group also made books donations to the community public school, the Villa Primary School. But Shelly was soon drawn to the notion that such an affiliation would cause political overtones. Therefore, his group quickly chose a path of none political alignment to enable its body to serve its communities without any biases.

The early years were filled with struggles as people would join the organization, stayed for a little while, and then disappeared. For a while the organization went dormant. But this did not deter Shelly from his mission. Like a traveling salesman, he went the extra distance in selling his product, which was his vision for helping his communities. Anyway, through his natural perseverance, he was able to recruit the present crop of Wadadli West committee members including, Bernard Henry, Janice Taylor, Joyce DeCastro, and Henzelle Richards, to join him and the 2 other longest serving members Elderfield Luke and Earl Francis in fulfilling his mission. In 2008, Wadadli West USA Inc was revived.

Shelly was a vibrant leader who led by example and by true convictions. He was disciplined. I can't recall ever seeing him showing up late for anything neither did he make excuses. At times when the organization had scheduled meetings, he would show up at the venues long before the host or hostess became available. I don't know what anyone else would call this, but I would simply say this is what you call true commitment and dedication.

He was relentless. Many times we would receive emails sent by him 2:30 in the morning when most mortal souls were still asleep. And at times I would smile and mutter to myself, does he ever sleep? Such was the commitment of this man. In a world filled with takers, users, and exploiters, he was a breath of fresh air, for he was a giver. He gave and gave until he could not give any more.

We are all inspired by his works and if we have learned anything from this man it would be selflessness and humanity. Whatever he did in life he made it bigger than himself, a substance that is lacking in today's world. Under his leadership the organization was able to give back plenty to its community. And many lives were changed in the most meaningful ways because of this. The Point and Villa community has lost one of its greatest heroes. And the communities of Antiguan organizations have lost a great ally and friend.



In Antigua and Barbuda's 2013 Independence Gala in NYC, Mr. Hood was honored with the significant Pineapple Award for his years of dedication and service to the Antigua and Barbuda community.

Below, Shelly's daughter Joanne poses with the Pineapple Award, which she accepted on his behalf



I would personally like to thank his dear wife Roslyn, his two lovely daughters, Joanne and Danielle, and the rest of his family for sharing him with us his extended Wadadli West USA Inc. family. He was an incredible person and I know that everyone is going to miss him dearly in so many different ways.

He has done so many great things to help others and has inspired so many lives that it would take many pages just to document his contributions to society. After all has been said and done, all what is left for us to say right now is a hearty thank you.

away with all the comparisons. He was so called because of his very pronounced albino complexion and he just happens to be from a bloodline of tall gentlemen. That is the end of the drama!

I know that this may come as a surprise to many outsiders but Lionel "Max" Hurst is from the Point, born right there on North Street back in the time when sugar cane was still king in Antigua and Barbuda and at the back door of colonialism. Most of his family members were also from the area. If you were around in those days you may remember his maternal grandmother, Ms. Avis Jarvis, who lived right there on Bishop Gates Street just across from the iconic structure of the Pentecostal Church. His two favorite Cousins Keith and Ivor also lived in the Point at the corner of Dickenson Bay Street [Back Street] and Bryson Street, facing Mr. Townsend Shop, which was famous for fishing equipment and that delicious, hard-to-forget, ashum.

When Max was still a young boy, his mother Agnes Hurst, in sought of better accommodations for her family, made a short trip, traveling approximately six blocks across the Point and Villa community, pass Back Street, and ended up on Alfred Peter's Street. This was the place where I first knew of this distinguish gentleman and this was the place he called home for many of his youthful years.

The Hurst family was one of the most recognizable ones in the area. Not to mention, it was also a fairly sizable one. Not in the category of the well renowned Oscar Mason family, which has been the benchmark in family size discussions in Antigua, but by normal Antiguan standard it was large. Lionel was one of nine children for his parents. The other siblings included Pamela, Shirley, Wendy, Gloria, Jacqueline, Ivy, Alford and Edna, not necessarily in that order. His father, the late Lionel Hurst Sr., was an accomplished parliamentarian in the Antiguan and Barbudan Government and was one of the main stays in Papa Bird's [VC Bird Sr.] Antigua Labor Party until 1971. In addition to his already stunning résumé, Senior Hurst has been credited for playing a huge role in the survival of steel band and calypso music in Antigua at a time when these art forms were going through tough times. Coming to think of it, what else would you expect from a man who is from the Point?

As a product of the area, Max started out his schooling at the Spring Gardens Moravian's Infant School which was a short distance away from his home. After kindergarten, he ventured out to attend the St. John's Boys School and the Antigua Grammar School, respectively. Max has always maintained a humble personality. He was so much so that even though he was a good student in school, he led others to believe that he was just an average student. One thing for sure that he seems to take great pride in, nevertheless, was holding the distinction of being the only person to pass math during an exam. And even then, he would downplay this feat by telling everyone that this should not be considered as any sign of greatness. Apart from that, Max was in love with the sciences. His favorite subjects were math, physics and chemistry, with physics being his pet subject. He also loved English language and English Literature and enjoyed the works of [William] Shakespeare and [Geoffrey] Chaucer.

Throughout his youth, Max was a social freak. His involvement in many activities was based strictly on the opportunity of interacting with people. This drove him to try many of the available sports of the day including football and cricket. Needless to say, he was not good at any of them for he was not athletic. Max's real forte was communal participation. Some of

his greatest passion and skills was in the art of poetry and calypso. Believe it or not, he told us that he wrote his own calypsos and sang many made by the other artists. The beauty of this man is that he never forgot where he came from and to this day he still keeps in touch with many of his childhood friends.

Concluding his schooling in Antigua, Max went abroad to further his education. This led him to attend a small college in the Cayman Islands called the International College of the Cayman Islands. He was accompanied then by two other Antiguan, Fitzroy Christian and Theodore Dunning. When they arrived at the school, to their surprise, three other Antiguan were already on campus, which included, Joan Hunte and Sylvia Camacho who is presently a Senator in Antigua and Barbuda Parliament. Max's academic accomplishments were extensive. He studied political Science at Brooklyn College (CUNY), earned an MBA from Long Island University and got his Jurist Doctorate Degree from the New York Law School.

Lionel "Max" Hurst also held many high profile positions both in the private and public sectors. After his stint at Leeward Island Air Transport (LIAT) at the then Coolidge International Airport, he was appointed Ambassador to the United Nations, the United States, and the Organization of American States (OAS). From 1988 until 1995 he was stationed in New York, and from 1996 until 2003 he was stationed in Washington DC. During this time he brought Antigua and Barbuda nationals together in New York, New Jersey and Florida. He organized in a capacity that no other person before him had ever done. His mandate at the time was to go forward and organize. As a result, he assisted in organizing village groups and singing groups, thus the Cultural Society. He also helped to breathe new life into the Antigua and Barbuda Progressive Society, the oldest Antiguan and Barbudan organization in America, when all appeared to be fading. It is important to note that he accomplished this straight out of the Point and Villa community of which he is very proud. Finally, one of his latest appointments came right after the election in 2009 when he was appointed the Electoral Commissioner.

Adding to his list of achievements, Max is an author of some proportion. Presently, he has three publications in circulation, *Vere Cornwall Bird: When Power Failed to Corrupt*, this publication documents the life and death (1909 to 1999) of this great Antiguan and Barbudan leader; *Democracy by Diplomacy*, which covered 25 years of diplomacy as practiced by Antigua and Barbuda from 1981 to 2007; *Luther George: The Obama of Antigua and Barbuda*, telling the story of an unsung hero who was the first black Antiguan male to be elected to Parliament in Antigua and Barbuda. As he explained, most of his books were sold in the New York area because the market in Antigua is very small. He has also written a few constitutions for the AT&LU and the ALP. He is presently working on the biography of the Honorable Lester Bird which should be ready for publication in February 2015.

As an Antiguan historian and as a native of Point and Villa community, Max's greatest hope for the Point and Villa 2013 reunion, besides its success, was to see the organizers use this historic occasion to recognize all the people who served Point and Villa very well, not just a few. After all it is the people who are the heart of any community. Point and Villa has too great a rich history to be ignored and not to be cherished. These words were so well spoken by a man who understands organization and people's values, Mr. Lionel "Max" Hurst.



Wadadli West USA Inc.

2014 Sports Hall Of Fame

Wadadli West USA Inc. Sport Memorial Hall of Fame is established to enshrine the exceptional sports figures from our community to celebrate their outstanding achievements and accomplishments. This will serve as the highest honour bestowed upon an athlete in recognition of outstanding contributions. This year's inductees will include athletes from the following sports: **basketball**, **football**, and **cricket**. Therefore, please join me in welcoming the Class of 2014:

BASKETBALL INDUCTEES



Vere "Fu Manchu" Christian

Fu Manchu is one of the most accomplished basketball players in the history of the game in Antigua & Barbuda. He first started playing basketball at the St. Joseph's Academy Basketball Court which was the home of Basketball back then. When the game moved to the Villa School basketball court, he brought his show to the area. He was a flamboyant player who dazzled the crowds with his no-look and pinpoint accuracy passes. During his career he played for the Golden Stars Basketball Club where he teamed up with another superstar, Calvin "Herb-Eye" Carbon, to form an unstoppable duo. After his career he became a teacher of the game and was responsible for the development of many of the stars to follow. Cheers to all the great basketball memories Fu Manchu. It is our pleasure to induct Vere "Fu Manchu" Christian into the Sports Hall of Fame for his contribution and service.



Calvin "Herb-Eye" Carbon

Calvin Carbon, known throughout the basketball circle as Herb-Eye, was one of the stars that played in the Villa School basketball court era. He was a prolific scorer throughout his career. He was never a great ball handler but it never mattered as he teamed up with one of the greatest ball handlers and passers of our time in Vere "Fu Manchu" Christian who was his teammate in the Golden Stars Basketball club. Throughout his career he played the small forward position and was virtually unstoppable once he got inside of the key. His ability to score with both hands created a nightmare for opposing teams. The basketball pundits would all agree with me that he was one of the players who never got his just due. The late Calvin "Herb-Eye" Carbon has left us with so many magnificent basketball memories. In appreciation for great work on the courts, it is our pleasure to induct this great man into the class of 2014 Basketball Hall of Fame.



Wilmouth "Muttu" Carr

Wilmouth Carr, Aka Muttu, was one of the most versatile big men ever to play the game of basketball in Antigua. Muttu was a fierce dominant presence. His acrobatics around the basket in getting his shots off was a gem to watch. Even when he was double teamed and triple teamed he still found ways to score. Throughout his basketball career, he averaged a double / double, approximately 25 points and 10 rebounds, every night. During his illustrious basketball career, he played for two basketball clubs, the Globetrotters Basketball club and the Villa Wizards Basketball Club, respectively, winning 2 championships with the latter team as teamed up with Bernard "Grainie" Henry. Muttu was a regular on the Antigua and Barbuda Association National Basketball team. As a legend of the Villa basketball court we are proud to induct him into the 2014 Sports Hall of Fame.



Bernard "Grainie" Henry

Bernard "Grainie" Henry is one of the best basketball players to play the game of basketball in Antigua. He was a fierce competitor who brought his "A" game to the courts every night. His quickness, ball handling and sharp shooting skills created matchup problems for opposing teams. Throughout his basketball career, he played with the Barry Ball Wizards, the Villa Wizards, and 104th Street, respectively. He won 4 championships as a player and many individual awards. He was a regular on the Antigua and Barbuda Association National Basketball team. After his playing career, he took up coaching, working with individual players and teams. He also coached the Women's National Team. Among his accomplishments, in 1996 he was honored with the National Sports Award during the country's independence celebrations for his contribution to basketball in Antigua and Barbuda. It is our pleasure at this time to induct his name into the 2014 Hall of Fame.

SOCCER INDUCTEES



Eustace "Bootses" Watkins

One of the most celebrated names in soccer in the Point and Villa Community is Eustace "Bootses" Watkins. Like many of the soccer greats who are recognized by a solitary star name, the name Bootses fits right into that profile. For many years a lot of folks were clueless as to what was his birth name and I am sure it did not matter. All that mattered to them was his brilliant performance on the field. And he never let them down for whenever he played he left it all on the field. Bootses played for the Aston Villa Lions for many years, serving as one of the team's midfield generals. He was passionate and he hated loosing. But he was a winner all around. In fact, he played vital roles in many of the team's championships. Step up to the spot Bootses. You are now inducted into the 2014 Hall of Fame.



Junie Michael

Junie Michael was one of the most talented soccer players of the late 70's. He was diminutive, no taller than 5' 7" and no heavier than 130 lbs, but he was skilled and fearless. He was also deceptively quick and smart. On the soccer field he was a magician. Anywhere he played, the venue became his stage to perform. His dribbling skills were so astounding that many opponents claimed that the soccer ball was attached to his feet by a rubber band. That was the illusion of his magic. Junie played for the Aston Villa team for a brief period as one of the team's midfield general but his stint was short lived because of illness. He passed away at a young age leaving the pundits of soccer to wonder just how great he would have been if he had lived a full life. It is only fitting that we induct his name into the Sports Hall of Fame.



Everton "Batow" Gonsalves

Everton "Batow" Gonsalves was a special soccer player. I could stop right here and many people could attest to this statement. I will go out on the limb, however, to say this, "Batow was one of Antigua's best strikers ever." He played for the Aston Villa Lions in Antigua and Barbuda Association Premiere League as the team's striker. He was very skillful with his craft. And in his active playing days the opposing team's strategy was solely centered on stopping him from scoring but with very little success. He was a prolific scorer. Almost every year he was amongst the scoring leaders. Additionally, he was a regular on Antigua and Barbuda Soccer National Team. His reputation was well documented around the Caribbean where he made his marks in tournaments and friendly games. With such a great resume we are proud to induct Everton "Batow" Gonsalves into the 2014 Sports Hall of Fame.



Ephraim "Pops" George

Ephraim "Pops" George was a defensive player on the Aston Villa Lions Soccer club for many years. He played the center back position for the team, teaming up in that position with the likes of Lawrence Aska to form one of the most formidable backlines in the Antigua and Barbuda Soccer Premiere League. He was ferocious and fearless but he was not reckless. Even though, opposing teams' strikers were almost afraid of challenging him in fear of being demolished. Pops took the game very seriously and had a take-no-prisoner mentality. Once he was on the field, it was business as usual. Aston Villa goalkeepers such as Junie Bedmister were confident in the support of this strong backline. For his years of dedicated services to the team and the Point and Villa Community, it is our pleasure to induct Ephraim "Pops" Ephraim into the 2014 Sports Hall of Fame.

CRICKET INDUCTEE

Gene Gould



Gene Gould started out his cricket career in the late 1960's. He was a right hand batsman and an effective right hand medium pace bowler. He played cricket for the Antigua team in the Leeward Island Cricket Tournament from the early 1970's to the early 1980's. Along the way, he played alongside some of Antigua's greatest cricketers including Sir Andy Roberts, Sir Vivian Richards, Guy Yearwood, and Ulysses Lawrence just to name a few. He has also captained the Antigua and Barbuda cricket team for many years and has won numerous Leeward Island Cricket Tournaments for his country. On his resume, he has also played 4 first class cricket matches, 3 against the Windward Islands representing the Leeward Islands and one against New Zealand also representing the Leeward Islands. Gene Gould has represented his country with class. And he is the most distinguished cricketer to ever come out of the Point and Villa neighborhood. Therefore, it is only fitting for us to honor Captain Gene Gould for his great achievements in cricket by inducting him into the 2014 Sports Hall of Fame.



Let's Have a Chat!

By Janice F. Donaldson-Taylor

JAMES MURPHY is one of Antigua and Barbuda's most accomplished chefs. He is well known in his homeland of Antigua and Barbuda for his creative style of cooking and he has quickly created a niche for himself in the United States for his great food presentation. Recently, I caught up with chef Murphy at his home in the Bronx and sat down with him for a chat. Here is an excerpt of this conversation. (Interview date: December, 2013)

Janice F. Donaldson-Taylor (JDT): Tell us where did you live in Antigua and how was it growing up in your neighborhood?

James Murphy (CHEF): I am from St. John's Street and Wapping Lane in the Point. Growing up in Antigua in those days was challenging, but it was fun.

JDT: Who were your family and were they originally from the area? Also, do you have any siblings?

CHEF: My father is from Antigua and my mother is from Barbuda- hence the twin Island effect. I have four sisters and two brothers. We traveled to Barbuda mostly in the summer to learn its culture and its history. But most of our time was spent in Antigua where we went to school.

JDT: What were your fondest memories growing up in Antigua?

CHEF: There were so many but I would say going to the beach and just being around the people that I grew up with.

JDT: What schools did you attend in Antigua?

CHEF: I attended Moravian School, Point School, which later made way for Villa School, and then Princess Margaret School.

JDT: What was your favorite recreation in those days?

CHEF: I enjoyed just about everything but football (soccer) stood out. One of my

great highlights at that time was attending football matches at the Antigua Recreation Grounds and cheering on "Rude Boy's" Stand.

JDT: Do you still have close friends in Antigua? If so, do you stay in touch with them?

CHEF: Oh, definitely, on a regular basis. The biggest mistake for anyone to make is to sever all ties when one migrates. Reconnection can be very costly. You need to stay in touch with these people to be updated about your country or else you will become a foreigner in your own land when you return home.

JDT: When did you develop the passion for cooking?

CHEF: After working in the hotel industry for a while – It irritated me when I saw how people handled expensive food in the most disrespectful manner, so I decided to take my creativity in the kitchen where it was necessary.

JDT: What were your reasons for making the journey to the United States?

CHEF: America is known to be the land of opportunity. This country has so much more to offer than Antigua has. And I have always wanted to widen my horizons, so I decided to see what this place has to offer me, so I made the journey.

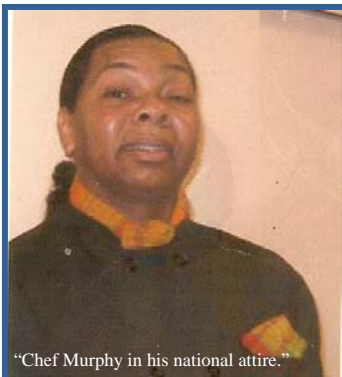
JDT: Now that you have time to sit back and recollect, would you consider your decision to come to America one of your best decisions of your life?

CHEF: Yes it is: the things I have done, the situations been I've in, the people I have met, and the opportunities I've been exposed to make me think. I would not have been exposed to most of these things being in Antigua. America is the greatest Equalizer. They do not look at who you assume to be but rather at your skills, talent, and ability to get the job done. That is the most important thing in the world to me.

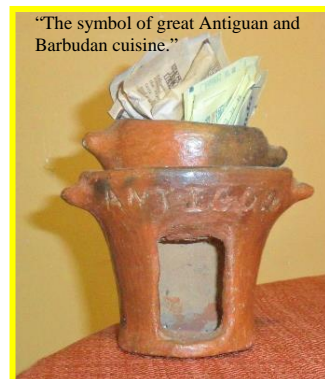
JDT: How was the transition from living in Antigua to living in America fare off for you - your trials, disappointments, fears, etc.?

CHEF: The transition was real easy. Most Antiguan in general have been exposed to a certain kind of life. We are accustomed to the good standard of living at home. Personally, Antiguan always have a sense of freedom. We are not intimidated by any situation or what have you. We tend to take everything in stride. Once we apply our West Indian touch to any situation, it makes life quite easy. As for fear, I've experienced none so far.

JDT: Did you set any particular goals when you arrive in America and did you achieve them?



"Chef Murphy in his national attire."



CHEF: Yes, I did set some goals, I am not 100% there yet, but I am well on my way. One of my goals was to build a name for myself and a certain standard in the food industry. It feels so good when it is indicated to me that people are saying, "Oh, Murphy can cook." But I feel even better when people say Murphy food taste delicious!

JDT: Did you further your studies when you arrive here? If yes, which school did you attend and what was your course of study.

CHEF: I did further my studies and I have attended quite a few schools. However, I landed a full time job and later became a Food Service Director so I had to put going to school on the back burner. I do hope to further my studies for the food industry is a very large and very competitive.

JDT: We know you are a chef by profession but were you a known chef when you were in Antigua?

CHEF: Yes I was a Chef in Antigua; I worked at Beach Comber, Sugar Mill, Blue Waters, and St. James Club in that capacity, just to name a few.

JDT: Are you presently working for any establishment? If yes, which company or are you self-employed?

CHEF: I work for a professional fine food catering company in the Wall Street area and this is something I have always wanted to do. At the moment I am doing pretty well there.

JDT: What are some of the highlights of your chef career? Give us some of your achievements?

CHEF: Some of my highlights include working as an Antiguan Food Ambassador. And of course as you have heard, I was given the title of 'Culinary Ambassador' of Antigua and Barbuda. I take

great pride in performing in the tourism trade shows where I provide firsthand information on the culinary aspect of Antigua and Barbuda to the tourist. People want to know what food we serve in Antigua and Barbuda. That is a determining factor in making up their minds as to if they want to vacation in our twin Island State. The Sun and Beach is just not enough anymore. Making our food exciting and interesting is the highlight of my whole culinary journey. Otherwise, I have received several awards such as a Tourism Alliance Award, the Food Service Director Award from the Consulate, and a few others. Giving back is so important to me.

JDT: Have you ever been involved in any cook off or competition?

CHEF: Quite a few in different states, including Vermont, Washington, Florida, Georgia and New York, of course this is just a few. It is an interesting and most exciting part of this whole culinary escapade. It is one of the most rewarding and fun fringe benefits.

JDT: Tell us about some of your favorite recipes and dishes.

CHEF: Sure, there is one called the Calypso Shrimp, another called the Soca Chicken, and I also have the Racan and codfish balls cocktail recipes. I do also have some signature drinks, the blue thunder, blue rain sunset punch, and mango mimosa. Recently, my publishing company contacted me about publishing my cook book.

JDT: How can anyone acquire your services?

CHEF: Anyone requiring my services could contact me at YABBA FOODS (646) 755-5933

JDT: Chef, have you ever put any

thought in teaching your craft?

CHEF: Initially, there was some interest in doing so. But my thought process was focused on going back to Antigua to host the "Cooking Magic television show, and in the process changing its name to "Cook like Magic" show. That is one of my biggest dreams. Hopefully, it will happen in the near future.

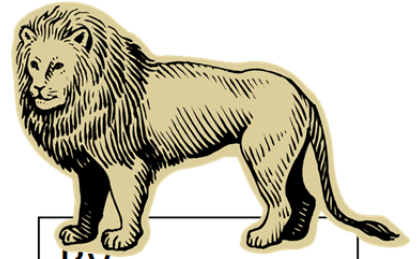
JDT: We know you are involved with the Antigua and Barbuda Progressive Society. How long have you been with the organization and in what capacity are you involved?

CHEF: Initially I was just a regular member. But I stepped up in the entertainment section. We as Antiguanas like to capitalize on our name as being one of the most hospitable people. Food tends to make people think seriously about us. Antiguanas are very serious about our hospitality.

that you would like to add that we may have missed?

CHEF: Yes, I would like to be recognized as a true patriot. I am just an ordinary person like everyone else. I go out and physically do the groundwork to build up my name and reputation in order to get Antigua and Barbuda recognized for its food and hospitality, because I do love my country.

KEEPING MY SOUL INTACT



By
Bernard S.
Henry

It is almost time for me to move on from this scene. The neighborhood has become chaotic making me wonder everyday which way is up. Corruption, biases, and injustices are everywhere as if the devil has become totally in charge of people's lives. Making matters worse, I've found myself among some heartless men and women who have not the slightest trace of integrity in their blood. What is left for us to do? I feel so sad and frustrated every day, not for what people have done to me, because God has promised to watch my back, but for the many people who are lost and will remain lost, especially those whom have made me an enemy without a just cause. As Jesus Christ said while he was on the cross, *"I forgive you man, for you know not what you do."*

I will always stand my ground for what I believe is right. Take a good look at me! I am Black, proud, and beautiful, especially on the inside. I have been victimized and ostracized by people who are afraid of my philosophies and my mental capacities, thoughts and views that I believe will serve justice well and put ignorance in the place where it belongs. How can anyone be blamed for someone else's incompetence? Ignorance today has become extremely dangerous to the point of becoming an epidemic, and you have no idea how hard I have been praying, really praying, that we find a cure for it.

The word on the street is that you are plan-

ning to muzzle those who choose to stand up for justice. That's okay. For what good is a man if he cannot stand up against things that he know in his heart are wrong? You can take my money and try to keep me down. You can even take my life for all I am concerned, but one thing that I will assertively declare; I will never surrender my soul. I have a family that loves and respects me, including kids and grandkids that look up to me and adore me. And I have a community that has made a hero out of me, so I can't afford to let them down. I have been called many things in my life before, radical, rebel with a cause, and so much more, but one thing that no one could ever fairly call me is corrupt. Neither can anyone fairly call me a sellout, a hypocrite, or unjust.

As a child, I adhere to a great parable in the Bible about the wise man who built his house upon the rock and the foolish man who built his house upon the sand. In tough weather, the house that was built upon the sand was washed away while the house that was built upon the rock stood firm. The rock and the sand are both metaphors for living by the principles of God and living by the deception



of the devil, respectively. Let me add some clarity to this. Anything that is built on integrity and justice will stand firm and prosper representing that rock. But anything that is built on corruption, deception, and injustices will be destroyed and washed away as does the sand.

We are tired of these spiteful people that do nothing else but to undermine other people's efforts. It appears as though anything that is done with good intentions is made to look negative by these demon-like characters. While on the contrary, if you were to ask these same people what recognizable contributions they have made to their environment, all of a sudden it would appear as though someone plucked their tongue out with a pair of pliers. Some people are afraid of appreciating the skills of others especially when they themselves don't possess those same qualities. Almighty God has blessed us all with our own set of talents so there should be no reason for these types of jealous resentments.

The pundits of divinity have all concurred that love is the ultimate cure that will save us all. But around here does anyone really know what true love means? It drives me absolutely crazy to see how *love* has been misused and abused so mercilessly. Sadly enough, true love is on the verge of extinction. The warning signs are everywhere so we better take heed for if we do not change our heartless ways of living, true love will soon be placed on the endangered species list just like the polar bears. People nowadays tend to have ulterior motives when it comes to love. They use you up and dispose of you when they have no further use as if you are unwanted commodities. And they have the audacity to call that love too. I go to bed every night keeping one of my eyes open because I have no idea whom I can really trust any longer.

I am inclined to take this precautionary stance in life because of the evils that I have seen. There are people out there who scare the heck out of me and I am hardly afraid of anything. Don't get me wrong. I am not afraid of anyone's verbal or physical threats, but it startles me to see how heartless and wicked people can get. The people whom I am referring to are those who have become more corrupt and fraudulent than even a hundred dollar bill made on the streets of Brooklyn. These haters, gold diggers, vampires, opportunists, and pure bullshit artists lay wait to make us all prey. Sometimes when someone tells me that they love me and that they care about me, I can't help myself but to think out loud, under what condition or at what value.

I am here shaking in my boots becoming such a nervous wreck for I have no idea what next to expect. Look, for instance, at what is happening in today's business places. They have become less safe than the streets, infested with bullies, bigots, crooks, cutthroats, cliché [gangs], and so called white collar criminals.

There is no doubt that the soul of corporate America is dead, died a stiff-cold-death. These establishments talk everyday about integrity, equal opportunity, and justice but somehow forget to put them into practice. Climbing the corporate ladder is no longer dependent on one's qualifications and skills. Emphasis these days has been placed on who you know in power, who likes you, what ethnic background you are from, whose butts you kiss, and the other nasty stuff that I don't even want to mention. Then, they boast about making changes, but as we look around and observe the players, we have come to realize that the personnel may change but remaining are the same foolish games. How can they sit there pretending that they are shocked about the regression of their business operations when they inflicted these wounds on themselves?

I am just going to sit here in limbo hoping that this circus will finally play itself out and that a new cast will emerge. The people are fed up of these incompetent idiots who hide behind their positions demanding everyone's respect. But having a position does not automatically make anyone worthy of such honor. It is achieved by the talent, the passion, the trust, and the skills that a person brings to a position, nothing else. There are three types of people that I observe in many establishments, those who do just enough to get by, those who kiss asses to be relevant, and those who can actually make a difference. Things have become so corrupted that the people from the latter category are left on the outside looking in.

I am so sorry for those who choose to sell their consciences, principles, and pride for materialistic gains and favors. What do they really gain by this exchange? They have achieved absolutely nothing! The materialistic things that a person possesses in this life can disappear at any time like dust in the wind. Our soul is our most precious possession! As the Bible clearly states, a man will become like an empty shell even if he gains all the riches of the world but loses his soul. I am not a pundit of spiritual matters, neither am I professing to be an expert on matters of the soul. But one thing that I can tell you without any doubt is that if you continue on this coast of evilness and injustices, your soul will be ruined long before your physical body is covered in six feet of mold.

RELIVING THE MEM **TRIBUTE TO OUR CHAIR**



Mr. Shelly Hood



Wadadli West team dressed in their national attire at an organize event



Shelly and the team enjoying a moment at Atlantic City



Shelly (R) and his love wife Gen (L) visiting the Late Marian Farrel (C).



Photo shot with our crew at our Tea Party

ORIES IN PICTURES

MAN SHELLY HOOD



Shelly presenting Hazel Reeves with an appreciation award



Shelly taking a leisure moment at Atlantic City



L-R: Janice Taylor, Shell Hood, & Joyce DeCastro at AGHS Alumni function



Shelly with Watson of COFA at Atlantic City



Shelly presenting Watson of COFA with an award



Wadadli West Christmas Photo Shoot 2012.

Wadadli West USA Inc

Dedicated to Point, villa, Fort Road, Yorks Communities

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Welcome! We are so glad you found us. Here we are spreading the wonderful news about our communities and of our beautiful country of **Antigua and Barbuda**. We are **Wadadli West USA Inc**, serving the communities of the Point, Villa, Yorks, and Fort Road. Our efforts here at the organization are aimed towards uplifting these communities by providing them with the necessary assistance to move forward in this 21st Century.

GUEST BOOK

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WE'RE ON THE MOVE.

Check out our Fund-raising Events
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Got a question or comment?

Name:

Email:

WADADLI WEST USA INC IS NOW ON THE WEB:

WWW.WADADLIWESTUSAINC.COM

Here is what to expect when you visit our website:

- You will discover the most informative community-based content on the web.
- You will get an opportunity to know the culture and people of the Point, Villa, Fort Road, and Yorks communities.
- You will be able to obtain your own digital copies of our Neighborhood Quarterly Newsletter, including previous issues.
- You can follow the progress of our organization as we host our fundraising events in aid of our various charities and much more.

VISIT US TODAY AND BE PREPARED FOR THE EXPERIENCE!



Wadadli West



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Wadadli West



Paying tribute to our leader – R.I.P Shelly

WADADLI WEST USA INC IS ALSO ON Facebook:

www.facebook.com/#!/wadadli.west

Follow us on **Facebook** and you will get the opportunity to know what we have been doing and what we have planned to be of better service to our communities. Let us know how you feel about the work which we have been doing thus far and how we can become more effective.

Interact with the members of our team, such as, **Bernard Henry, Joyce DeCastro, and Henzelle Richards** who will be ready and able to answer any of your questions.

Again, thank you so much for being part of the Wadadli West USA Inc. enjoyable experience.

Resurfacing on a Different Stage!

What's Your Story?



By
Janice Taylor



"Resurfacing on a Different Stage" is a research series that looks at the lives of people from the Villa, Point, Fort Road, and Yorks community who have made their marks in Antigua and who have further pursued their interests abroad. This quarterly issue briefly looks at the life of one of our very own, **Vince "Kazi" McCoy**.

It has always been one of my great delights whenever I hear of someone who has come to realize ones passion and act upon it in great urgency, pursuing its perfection fearlessly and relentlessly like a panther pursuing its next meal.

Such was the case of **Vince "Kazi" McCoy**. He realized that he was born with that special rhythm in his blood of becoming a musician. Unlike the avid day dreamers and the too familiar procrastinators who sit around daily just shooting the breeze, he belongs to a special breed of people called the go-getters. Even though he moved out of our community at a young age, at age seven to be exact, he will forever be connected to Point and Villa because of his

ancestral roots which is deeply entrenched in the heart of our community. Besides, Kazi was born on Bennett Street in Villa Area where his parents lived for a number of years, a home which he shared with his older brothers James (Nigel), Vernon, and Aldo M. His other 2 siblings, Adonis and Olena, were not raised at Bennett Street.

I am absolutely sure that if you resided in the area as far back as the nineteen-seventies and eighties you would have crossed path with someone from the McCoy family. If anyone was to tell me that he was not familiar with that family name, I would quickly declare that this person is certainly not from Villa and Point. It is that simple! In any case, let me briefly update you on the importance of this family in our community.

Kazi's mother, Florentine McCoy, was one of the most influential school teachers on the island for many years. Ms. McCoy, as she was affectionately called by her students, influenced many young lives in her tenure as a teacher. To our fortune, she spent many years teaching in our community schools, Point and Villa School. Later, she moved on to teach at Princess Margaret School, Jennings Secondary School, and Ottos Comprehensive School, making the rounds as a real professional and making a difference wherever she went.



Kazi and his Jazz trio "Monk for President" playing at the Annual Salvadori Benefit. These guys have been playing together since 1997.

His father Royston McCoy was no less an important figure. He was a police officer in the Royal Antigua Police Force before he went on to work for the Customs Division. Likewise, he was well respected in the community. It was so much so that whenever he strolled through the area and people were cursing and carrying on, all of a sudden, everything came to a halt until he walked away. I can remember one instance when this happened and someone broke the silence of nervousness by

Anatomy of a Community

Point, Villa, Fort Road, Yorks

We Are Point, Villa, Fort Road, Yorks: We Are Wadadli West USA Inc.

Striving to make a Difference in Our Communities

**Old Point
School**



**Villa Primary
School**



**Baker's
Tavern**



**Hells Gate
Pan Trolley**



**St. John's
Street Corner**



**Hells Gate
Pan Yard**



**Antigua Deep
Water Harbor**



**Bethel Anglican
Church**



**Villa Primary
School**



**LMR
Signs**



**Antigua
Fisheries**



**Harmonites
Pan Yard**



**Brownie's
Bakery**

LINKING OUR COMMUNITIES TOGETHER TO ENHANCE PROGRESS

website: www.WadadliWestUSAInc.com | Check out Our Facebook Page: Wadadli West

declaring amusingly, "ah wha just happen - an angel just pass?" Such was the respect given to this man. In addition, he was actively counseling the youths in the community, keeping them out of trouble.

The first school that Kazi attended was the Villa Primary Government School. But shortly after, he was sent to Freetown Government School, a good distance away from the city of St. John's, to complete his primary school education. Thereafter, he came back to the city for his secondary school education as he attended the Gefadem Academy and later the Antigua Grammar School where he graduated in 1985. He then



Kazi seen here playing a few notes on the bass guitar -

furthered his education at the Antigua State College, taking Advanced Level courses and graduated in 1987.

Kazi's first job in the Antiguan workforce was with the Antigua Commercial Bank, an establishment where he worked until December 1994. During this time, Kazi's main focus was on becoming a musician. And this was not a difficult decision for him because the influences he needed were already around him. His two older brothers Vernon and Nigel were already involved in music. Vernon was a pan player and Nigel is an impressive

musician and a repairer of wind instruments. Some of Kazi's early music lessons otherwise came through the courtesy of his great uncle who was the church organist in Freetown Village and who taught him to play music on the church's organ.

Kazi got real seriously involved with his music back in the 1980's while he was playing with Lee Williams' band "Charisma" on the hotel circuit in Antigua. Since then, he played with numerous bands around the island including Unity Band, Rawdon Edwards Band, Harmony Six Plus, El A Kru, Pyramid Band, The Targets, Fungi, and Natty and the Conchus Vibes. He has also played with the carnival All-Star Band that accompanied the calypsonians in the Calypso Competitions. In addition, he had played in three panoramas with Hell's Gate, Harmonites, and Ebonites, respectively. Kazi had even entered the calypso competition twice and made it as far as the semi-finals on both occasions.

In January 1995, Kazi left Antigua for the United States to pursue an education in music. When he left the country he made a pact with himself that he was going to get his education and return home to Antigua to start his own music school. Yes, he did achieve his education, a master's degree in music education from Hunter College CUNY in 2002. But his goal of return-

ing home was temporarily put on hold. Man, how time flies! One year became two years...and eleven years later, he is still in the United States. But that was not his fault for he fell in love and became a family man. He is blessed with four beautiful children Tishidi, Avrian, Hasani and Laila.

Kazi has been busily engulfed in his music. He has composed a few jazz pieces, with his first tattoo being the first 4 bars of the first tune he ever published called "Tishidi," named after his first born child. Although he plays a few instruments, he is actually a specialized drummer. Presently, he plays jazz and reggae, but he has also played country and western gigs, funk, R & B, gospel, rock and even musicals, as seen on Broadway. He does vocals mostly in reggae, calypso, and soca.

Among his performances and gigs, he opened for Julian Junior Marvin, Bob Marley's guitarist. He has also worked with numerous artists including, Sir Maclean Emmanuel (The Monarch), Sir Rupert Philo (King Swallow), Sir Paul "King Obstinate" Richards, David Rudder, Denyse Plummer, Natasha Wilson, Black Stalin, Chalkdust, Frankie and Ricky Macintosh, the late Lewis brothers, Ashby and Willie; Causion (Antigua's Reggae Ambassador); Mercedes Hall, Valery Pomanerev, Jerry Dodgion, Claudio Rodito, and Bashiri Johnson. Currently, he is the on-call drummer for The Meditations. He has done two tours with the group over the summer and has a few shows already booked for the New Year. He toured with Causion and Jessica Medina to Malaysia, China and Taiwan. You could hear a sample of Kazi's work by tuning in to Norris Morris Harris jazz show on the Observer Radio on Sunday nights.

Kazi has played at some of the world's renowned jazz clubs such as The Blue Note, The Jazz Standard, and Birdland. He has also played at a few reggae festivals. One of his cherished moments, nevertheless, included being asked to play alongside his mentor, the late Stachel Edwards. Stachel was the musician who inspired him to understand and appreciate jazz.

Among his many achievements, he has a drumstick endorsement with Silverfox Drumsticks. In addition, for the past eleven years, he has been teaching music in high school, starting at Washington Irving High School in 2003. Presently, he teaches music at Gramercy Arts High School in Manhattan and he also provides private drum lessons at Hunter College, NYC.

The future looks bright for this musical Antiguan. In the immediate pipelines, he has a few shows already booked with the Meditations and a few with other bands in New York and possibly Miami and Jamaica on drums. On vocals, he is booked for every Sunday in the summer on Long Island.

Plans are also in place to work on a new album shortly. His jazz band Monk for President is also looking to go back in the studio and possibly a return to Antigua where they were well received in 2004.

To see what's going on in Kazi's world, check him out on Facebook. You will also soon be able to see some of his work on his website, now in the construction phase. For Vince Kazi McCoy, this is only a tip of the iceberg. Using a phrase from the entertainment business, stay tuned for there is more to come.

Rally Around the Black, Red



Blue, Yellow, and White

... MY SILLY COMMENTARY ...HOPE THE SENSE OF IT BECOMES TIMELY

In the minds of every Antiguan and Barbudan at home and abroad is the drama that is about to unfold in two thousand and fourteen, our country's general election. I am nervous like hell even though I am living abroad, because no matter what happens I am still Antiguan and I love my country without any conditions. My nervousness though was triggered by a bold statement that was made many years ago by one of our prominent politicians that seems to be still lingering in my mind after all this time. Not to mention, it seems so darn real and frightening at the same time. This politician declared openly, "Antiguans are quick to forget so we can easily be fooled."

From what I have seen, we may be the most gullible people on God's earth. Trust me; I can afford to make such a statement because I know my people well. Because of this we may be on the verge of making one of the worst mistakes in our country's history which we may undoubtedly live to regret.

Our country is filled with too many followers and not enough thinkers. That is the evil that will bring us down. In my world, I like to pride myself as being one who refuses to jump on anyone's bandwagon because I love to make my own decisions. This is something that I believe is foreign to many Antiguan and Barbudans. Anything that crosses my path, it must be thoroughly analyzed and researched before I can come to a concrete decision. And I have done my analysis and I have made my research and all I can see in the distance ahead is trickery, trickery, trickery.

It is hard for me to show loyalty to any political party for reasons that between the decent people who may mean well for the country, there remain the old crooks waiting patiently to go on a rampage corrupting, exploiting, and destroying our poor little islands. It is amazing to



Antigua



Barbuda

hear some of the fibs that come out of these people's mouths, trying their best like con artists just to get our votes. Some of them have no shame, decency, or integrity. In a place like the United States, David Letterman and the other late night funny men would have a field day exposing them to the public for their crude acts of deception and comedy of errors.

One party in its desperate quest for power claimed that if it were to be elected, it would reverse taxes." Wow! I am so flabbergasted by this statement that it left me almost speechless! "No taxes? I only hope my people are not that stupid." I live in America which has a double taxation system. Our paychecks are heavily taxed and thereafter from what is left, we are taxed on food, on clothing, and other goodies. I believe we even pay taxes to go to the bathroom to answer nature's call and we have no other choice but to be contented.

Put all nonsense aside and let us decipher what has become a huge mess. No country can function properly without its citizens paying their fair share of taxes. Paying taxes is one of our most important civic duties. Not paying your fare share is an offense in most other countries called tax evasion – depriving the government of its taxes. People have even gone to prison for such an offense.

People are always yapping their mouths about getting good roads, great schools, top class medical facilities and medicine, and well trained police officers, among other things. The issue here is if you don't pay your taxes where is the money going to come from to meet these great demands? Maybe money grows on trees the same way that mangoes grow in abundance [Round-South] just waiting to be collected. If any politician was to tell me that he can abandon taxes and run our country efficiently and effectively, I would feel very insulted for in other words I would believe that this person is taking me for a fool. Since King Sugar died in the nineteen sixties and Queen Cotton followed him shortly after, there has not been any meaningful industries in the country. We are left to rely on our lovely coastlines, like a beautiful lady parading with a magnificent figure, hoping that our gorgeous beaches and luxurious hotels will attract suitors - visitors to our shores, especially those from Europe and America. This dependent solely on tourism does not paint a beautiful picture either for when these countries are going through economic hardships it affects us in more ways than you can imagine. For one, people will have less money to spend on such things as vacations, affecting our tourist industry.

While we are on the topic of tourism, one thing that must be taken into consideration is that Antiguan and Barbudans inject millions of dollars back into our economy, especially when we return home on vacation. But we don't get the same red carpet treatment that is given to the visitors when we return home. Have you ever passed through VC Bird International and were made to feel like a foreigner in the place where you were born? I can tell you first hand that this is certainly not a very nice feeling. We need to treasure this part of our nation's income.

We enjoy talking politics every day, from sunrise to sunset, but many of us do not understand the intricate part of it. We are just too politically divided in Antigua and Barbuda to see the true picture of anything. Most of us choose to move around being blindfolded from the real issues on hand. Those who are supposed to know much better and be of positive influences to others, conveniently choose to wear harnesses as if they are programmed to look only in one direction.

Our people have no patience whatsoever. We believe that everything should happen overnight or else it is considered a failure. I don't know of anything that works this way. Everything takes time and money. And there are processes that must be followed. Even life itself is a process. If we are replacing an old house with a new one, for example, there must be a demolition stage first before we can go forward in creating its replacement. And every stage requires time and

resources. We need to pay attention on what is going on and stop listening to the ignorance being thrown around as a ploy of deception. If we were to be told that the world was in a recession recently which affected all the countries of the world, many of us would be shocked out of our boots because we cannot see further than our immediate surroundings. Take a look at what happened to the ancient historical country of Greece. It went bankrupt. Luckily for us, Antigua did not have to go through such an ordeal.

A few people in Antigua and Barbuda believe that a change in our country's leadership is necessary. I am not too sure about that because I am not too sure if it would make a difference. If we are making a change just for the sake of making one, without first analyzing and understanding what's going on, then we may be heading for a serious downfall.

If we do need a change in Antigua and Barbuda, we need new people with fresh ideas and new outlook for the country. We need real patriots - people who will put our beautiful country first and not the blood suckers we have seen in the past whose main interest of gaining power is to suck the very essence out of our country. Old leopards can never change their spots.

Putting people back into power who have been there over 20 years before and failed miserably, bringing our country almost to its knees, cannot be counted as change. The real term for this is called regression - committing the cardinal sin of taking one step forward and thereafter taking two steps backwards. Besides, not even a depraved dog will return to its vomit and lick it up after a massive expulsion.

So what are some of the real issues that must be addressed in this general election? Getting freebies should never be one of them. I am saying this because I can remember back in the day when people would give away their votes for free Christmas hams and unrealistic promises. We certainly do not want to go down this road ever again.

One of the real issues it seems come from the lack of suffi-

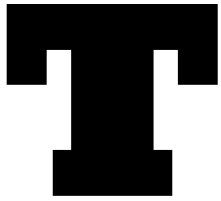
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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION				
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NAME		BIRTHDAY (M/D):		DATE
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IF YES, STATE WHICH ORGANIZATION:				
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IF YES, WHERE?				
Your do not need to have direct ties to our communities to be a part of this organization. Wadadli West USA Inc is open to all parties who wish to be friends of our group and our communities. We do welcome you support and you participation. Thank you so much for your interest.				
SIGNATURE:			DATE:	
OFFICIAL USE ONLY				
ACCEPTED <input type="checkbox"/>		REJECTED <input type="checkbox"/>	MEMBERSHIP #	
If Rejected, please explain:			DATE REGISTERED:	
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE				
BERNARD HENRY (347) 885-9154 berhenry1@aol.com		SIGNATURE:		DATE:
JANICE DONALDSON-TAYLOR (718) 753-7442 jftaylor@hotmail.com		SIGNATURE:		DATE:
HENZELLE RICHARDS (347) 623-6772 antiguagarat@gmail.com		SIGNATURE:		DATE:
JOYCE DE CASTRO (347) 576-3677 antiguanyjoy@gmail.com		SIGNATURE:		DATE:

Election time is almost here once again but our electoral system remains broken. The main problem here is that it has too many foreign influences. It is my strong belief that if a person does not represent our red, black, blue, yellow, and white colors, meaning having Antiguan and Barbudan citizenship, then that person should not be al-

Don't get me wrong. I am not endorsing any political party or any political candidate if you are concerned. That's just not me. My job here is to be objective. What I am embracing here is the call for love of country first before we can put our trust in any individual. Antigua and Barbuda needs us now much more than ever. Answer your duty call. This is one of the most important decisions you will make in your lifetime so please make it count. I know choosing our leaders can be very difficult, so I am here to present you with some easy guidelines. Before you choose your candidates you must first analyze their character, track record, levels of integrity, and loyalty to their people and country. Forget about all the hype. Don't deprive yourself from doing the right thing. It is now left up to you my brothers and sisters to make wise choices; for once you cast that vote on Election Day you will have to live with the consequences of your decisions for many years to come.



Unconditional Support and Commitment



Too many times we have witnessed the devastation that poverty inflicts on people's lives and we stand aside as unconcerned spectators and do nothing at all. I have seen this happen so many times before that I often wondered where the heck our humanity is. Our old folks, the challenged, and the real poor people are left all by themselves to fight the daily odds for survival. It hurts me immensely when I observe the sufferings of our own people, forced to rely on the mercies of the general public just to survive because they have nowhere else to turn.

Most of us are fortunate but we seem to take it all for granted. My mother for one never stopped reminding us of our blessing not even for a minute. I can't even recall the countless times she would drill these facts in our heads especially when we complain about the unimportant things in life that we could not have. "You should always be thankful for the little blessings you get for there are people out there who would trade places with you in a heart's beat," which was one her classic lines. Even though we often called her little speech the proverbial stick record, deep in our minds we all knew she was right. Have you ever heard the expression, "One man's refuse is another man's treasure?" What is so scary about this idiom is to observe it applied in its truest form. Some people tend to use it loosely as bragging rights in capturing someone's ex-boyfriend or girlfriend and feel that they are on top of the world. But astonishingly, this phrase exemplifies the true circumstances of some people's lives.

One of my first encounters to this reality came from watching a young boy, approximately my age at the time, 15, salvaging a pair of old sneakers from the garbage. The state of those sneakers indicated that an immediate sanitary overhaul was necessary. At first I felt a sense of pity for this kid for I could not understand why anyone would have to go through such an ordeal. But the jubilation on that kid's face, on finding those sneakers, left me all dumfounded and confused. How many of us could live in this kid's shoes for a day? I am sure not many, but these shoes were precious to this kid because this was an upgrade for him from having to walk barefooted every day and surviving the blisters from the merciless grounds.

People in our communities need our help. It is for this reason and many more why organizations like Wadadli West USA Inc are relevant to this time. When I came here I was drawn by the notion of getting the opportunity to give back to my community and to pay my dues. I count this opportunity everyday as a privilege. I can't imagine a greater height or a greater motivation than to be in a position to make a difference in someone's life. The journey so far has been long. It has been rewarding. And at times it has been difficult. But in all our members minds quitting could never be one of the options..

Participation is one of the most important elements that will push us into the right direction of becoming a mighty force for good. Wadadli West USA Inc. is in search of a few good men and women. Too long we have been holding back because of some old ill-feelings that have no real merit. And I am sure, just like me, you are tired of hearing the idle small talks about nothing. If you say you care about where you come from then we are looking forward for you to be more involved. I can assure you, we have an amazing group of people in place that would be fun to work with who have been demonstrating the true meaning of commitment and dedication.

We are very much involved in our communities - in our schools, with the elderly and the challenged. We can also be found where ever our help is needed. Our tract record speaks loudly for itself. In addition, our organization has made a valiant commitment to transparency because we want people to see how we are progressing. Many of our accomplishments for that purpose have been outlined in

our quarterly newsletter, on our website, and on our Facebook page for all to take notice.

In order to finance our operations and projects we raise funds by hosting a variety of events such as bus rides, tea parties, dances, and picnics. On the subject of fundraising, let me touch on this topic for a while for many people are still overlooking the true meaning of its term. Let me paint you this picture. Sometimes you would here of a dinner engagement hosted by an organization or a political entity in aid of a charity with a price tag, say for example, of \$5,000 to attend. The first response that you would get from the grassroots people would be, wow, five thousand dollars! This type of money could buy me breakfast, lunch and dinner for 2 years. The reason why I am using this example is because I have actually heard that expression before.

Here is my point. In these fundraisers the cause for hosting the event will always be much greater than the tangible return that any individual would receive from their contribution or donation, but this is not clear to everyone. For instance, most recently we hosted a picnic and barbecue in aid of our various charities with a donation tag of \$20. Some people came to the event with attitudes that was disturbing. Some believed that if they were spending that type of money they should be taking home food for the whole family. Many did not want to pay. And a few of them found ways of criticizing the food and the event. I was so shocked that in the 21st century we would still have such behavior. Let me make this clear. A fundraiser is for people who want to contribute to a cause. Anything you receive in return is added incentives. Life is not always about receiving. God loves a giver. This is how we receive our blessings. Many people live their lives taking, taking, taking and never give back anything to humanity and then they call that being successful. I call that a booked ticket to hell. I will not go any further.

Point, Villa, Fort Road, and Yorks combined is one of the largest communities in Antigua; with the only comparison in size is the Grays-Green community. We have thousands of people dispersed around the New York Metropolitan Area alone. The thing that bothers me profusely is that many of them have never gotten involved in any community related activities that will benefit their communities. The vibes that I have been receiving is that once they came to these shores they have turned their backs on where they came from, much less to give a darn about anything else. Popular consensus has also shown that many of them are actually ashamed of where they come from. This is disgraceful! If you were to ask one of our very own historians, Ambassador Lionel "Max" Hurst, he will let you know in a hurry that Point and Villa have one the richest histories in Antigua. Now, it seems like we are on the verge of becoming the most selfish people in the history of our country. As we love to say, talk is cheap. If you claim you love your communities and if you say you love your country then put your money and support where your heart is for anything else to me would be just like garbage.



Wadadli West USA Inc.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATES TO REMEMBER: 2014



APRIL

5

Sunday

Spring

Tea Party Social

4 PM - 8 PM



JUNE

7

Saturday

Bus Ride to Atlantic City

CASINO TBD

8 AM - 6 PM



OCTOBER

18

Saturday

Bus Ride to Atlantic City

CASINO TBD

8 AM - 6 PM



AUGUST

16

Saturday

Fish Fry & Barbeque in the Park

Randall's Island

Fun Starts: 12 PM until 6 PM



Field 83 Near
The East River

DECEMBER

6

Saturday

Appreciation

Party

7 PM - 12 AM



For Information on attending any of these events, please contact any of the following people:



Bernard Henry
(347) 885 - 9154
berhenry1@aol.com

Janice Taylor
(718) 753 - 7442
jftaylor@hotmail.com

Joyce DeCastro
(347) 576 - 3677
antiguanjoy@gmail.com

Henzelle Richards
(347) 623 - 6772
antiguagarat@hotmail.com

ANANCY STORY TIME

THE GOOD OLD BEDTIME STORIES



This Nancy-story was told to me by my mother Ruby (Tanty) which was passed down from her mother Tiny who got it from her mother nicknamed, Gong-Gong, who received it from her mother and the tree, continues. Nancy Stories normally travel through many generations. Now it is my time to pass it on to you. "Bernard Henry"

THE STORY OF BRO ANANCY AND BRO DUCUNA

Once upon a time, Bro Anancy and Bro Ducuna, two good friends, planned a trip to an island out in the river called Feast Island. As the story goes, this island sat precariously out in the middle of a huge river, a good distance away from any shoreline. To get to this place, visitors had to catch one of the daily scheduled boats to the island, but people did not mind for this was no ordinary island and, obviously, it was the place to be.

Anyway, one summer day Bro Anancy and his pal Bro Ducuna took a boat over to the Island. Bro Anancy was one of those outgoing people who had been everywhere. If you asked me, he was like one of those Casanovas. Most importantly, he has been to the island before, so for him it was not a big deal. But for Bro Ducuna, this was his first time being to Feast Island, so he could not contain himself. On top of that, he had never seen so much free food in his life. And as everybody knew, "free" was Bro Ducuna favorite word.

While Bro Anancy was round and about socializing and making new acquaintances with old friend, Bro Ducuna was under a fig tree *nyamming* away. As he *nyam* and he belly get full, he lie down on a broad brown fig leaf and went fas a sleep. Bro Ducuna did not care about socializing and all them fancy things. All what he ever cared about was *nyamming*. You could tell that he was a *nyammer* by his stuffy sturdy appearance. Anyway, this ritual of *nyamming* and sleeping continued until it was time to leave the island.

People were beginning to take the boats home because Feast Island had no lights and night-time was so scary that even the local *jumbies* were afraid to be on the island after dark. Bro Anancy, concerned about his friend and most likely the situation, went over to Bro Ducuna and said to him in a worrisome tone, "Ducs [his pet name], people are looking to leave the island, *mek ahwee* catch one a them boats and go home." Bro Ducuna who is always so *rhaben* dismissed his friend with the wave of the hand and completely changed the conversation as he stated to his pal. "Bwoy Anancy, this food is so dam good and besides, it's free! *Meh ha fu tek a few moe* bites before we go. Besides, *man ah wa you ah worry 'bout*, *ahwee* can always catch one a them other boats."

This exchange continued until all the boats had left the island. In the end, Bro Anancy and Bro Ducuna were left stranded on the island all by themselves. It started to get dark and *pan tap ah* that nobody more 'fraid than Bro Ducuna. One time his own shadow scared the hell out of him. And in his own defense, he ended up telling his friends how his shadow sneaked up on him when he wasn't looking.

Anyway, luckily for them, after desperately scouting around the island, Bro Anancy came upon a mystery boat. This was no ordinary boat. Let me whisper this quietly, it was shit boat. Yes, it was a boat made out of some of the finest shit on the island. After careful negotiation, this boat agreed to take him and his pal across the river. But there were some strict rules which they had to follow.

Anyway, Bro Anancy went back to Bro Ducuna, who was still under that fig tree, with the news of his findings feeling all jubilant. As he approached his friend he said with a broad smile, "Bro Ducuna, *guess wah*, meh just find a boat that will take us across the river. But listen, *ahwee hafu* follow some simple rules." Bro Ducuna also feeling a sense of relief said to his friend, "Not problem man!" Then he paused for a while as if contemplating and said, "By the way, ah wha rules yu a talk 'bout?" Bro Anancy took a deep breath and said calmly to his buddy, "Look Ducs, when we get inna de boat, no matter wha happen, you must never say I smell shit," Bro Ducuna was a little confused but he agreed.

So they got into the boat and off they went. As the boat reached a little distance, Bro Ducuna became uneasy, twitching his nose, and making funny facial expressions as when someone smell rotten eggs. Bro Anancy deliberately ignored his friend because he wanted no problems. As they journeyed along Bro Ducuna drew closer to his pal, whispering to him in the lowest of tones, "*Anancy Jack, you nah smell that?*" Bro Anancy wanted none of this as he stated to his pal, "Bro Ducuna hush!" As they continued the scent of the boat became so overbearing that Bro Ducuna nose began to burn him and his eyes became watery. Again he complained to his friend in the same whispering tone. "Anancy man - dis ya smell like pure shit." Anancy once again said to his best friend, "Bro Ducuna *meh say fu hush! Ahwee* just ha a short distance to go."

By this time, Bro Ducuna was actually crying with tears running down his cheeks as if his mother had just given him flogging. As the boat approached just half way across the river, Bro Ducuna became overwhelmed by the stench of the boat. He had given up. He could not take it any longer. And he wanted relief. So at the top of his voice he bellowed out in pure anguish and fury as with his last breath as he stated. "Bro Anancy meh can't tek this no longer, me say me smell shit!" With this outburst, the boat disintegrated into the river and Bro Ducuna being so dam heavy sank to the button of the river. Bro Anancy swam the rest of the way to safety. As the legend has it, from that day onward, any time you put a Ducuna into a pot of water it automatically sinks to the button of it - all this was originated from the curse of Bro Ducuna. The moral of the story is *rhabinesss* will cause your death. Anyway, run along now. We will see you the next.

Please help us to keep our folklores and Anancy stories alive. Let us save these important parts of our culture for posterity. If you have a story to share with us or you know of someone who can help, please contact us so it can be documented.

You will definitely be credited for your contribution. Here is our contact information:

(Phone) 347-885-9154 | email wadadliwestusainc1@hotmail.com

We are looking forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Email feedback to us at: WadadliWestUsaInc1@hotmail.com

TOTALLY ANTIGUAN

HOW TO MAKE SUGAR CAKE

BY JANICE DONALDSON-TAYLOR



The favorite snacks for kids and grownups in many Antiguan household until the mid-nineteen eighties was sugar cake. Sugar cake came to us in many varieties. You had peanut sugar cake, slice up sugar cake, scorch, dutty-gal, and the regular coconut sugar cake, some pretty like Joseph coat of many colors.

As chocolate bars and them other fancy prepackaged snacks become available and affordable sugar cake was parked aside like your grandpa old BMC motor car. Nowadays, people have become so lazy and spoil that if you ask me I feel that them they ah wait for somebody to package sugar cake too. Because of all this the art of making sugar has almost disappeared.



Thank goodness you still have someone like me, so follow me into the kitchen so that I can show you a thing or two.

Ingredients for making the regular sugar cake: dried coconut, brown sugar, nutten-egg (nutmeg), vanilla essence and piece of ginger (optional).

Preparation: Break the coconut and husk um out of the shell (dig out the meat). You then wash and grate it. In this case,

you can use an old fashion grater made by the tin smith or you can use a food processor. Talking about grating, you can't imagine the amount of time my fingers slip and rub against the grater blade. When this happen, I swear to you I would see the stars in a blue sky on a bright Antigua day. Anyway, let's get back to the menu.

- In a pot, put a little water wid the sugar and boil it until the sugar dissolves and the mixture is bubbling up.
- Add the nutten-egg, the essence and pung a likkle piece of ginger and dash um in too (it gives it a little flavor) then throw in the grated coconut and stir.
- Let boil, stirring occasionally, no meck it bun or else we might hafu change the name from sugar cake to dutty-gal or scorch up.
- When the mixture is thickened, wet a dish or a chopping board and spoon the mixture on to cool.

You can even put some in the coconut husk, if memory serves me right, it taste much better eating it from the husk.

But member no you hafu mek um cool, no badder put your finger in the hot mixture, you will regret it.

If you need the sugar cake in color, Peel off the dark part after you husk it out. You may have white sugar cake or you may use food coloring to make whatever color you desire.

Snack vendors who operate trays in Antigua would sell sugar cakes and other locally made items for a living. Many would jokingly question the way coconut was grated to make sugar cake as everyone knew it was a tedious job using the tin smith's graters. Anyway, as the incident was relayed, one day a customer went by a well-known tray vendor to get some freshly made sugar cake. Innocently, the lady's 5 year old child came out from the back yard and greeted the customer saying, "Mammy say she could not grate any coconut to make sugar cake today, because she had a bad toothache. You read between the lines, Hey, it's a joke. Enjoy you sugar cake.

♥ Associate Editor and Proofreader of the Newsletter: Joyce DeCastro