

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS
DIASPORA
DIGEST

VOL:01 INTEGRATE AND COLLABORATE ISSUE:01





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DIASPORA DIGEST

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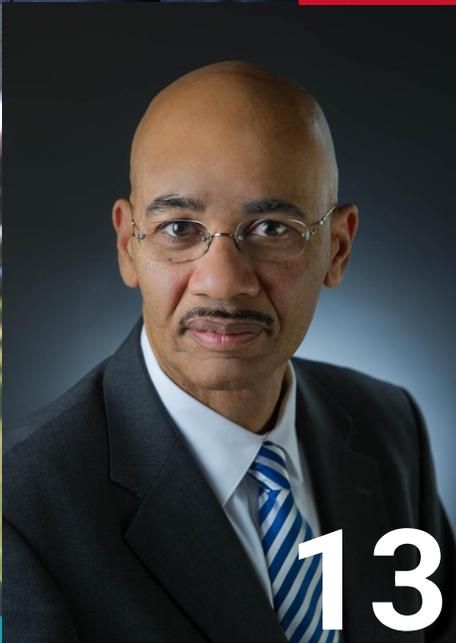


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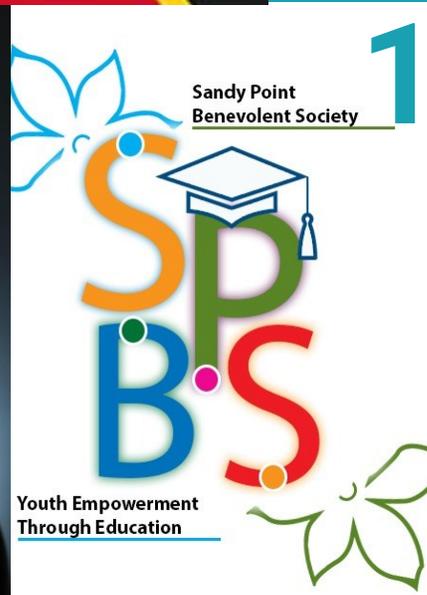


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Fellow citizens in the Diaspora,

I am honoured to address you on this momentous occasion; the launch of the inaugural edition of 'Diaspora Digest' for our beloved nation, Saint Kitts and Nevis. We celebrate the vibrancy of our diasporic community that spans the globe, connecting our people and enhancing the bonds that ties us to our homeland.

Our Diaspora has been an integral part of our national history. As we are continually reminded of the strength, resilience, and accomplishments of our nationals who have ventured beyond our shores, carrying with them the values and spirit that define us as a nation.

I commend the Regional Integration and Diaspora Unit (RIDU) for this exciting initiative, the 'Diaspora Digest', which will serve as an avenue to keep our citizens and nationals across the globe informed of the happenings within our beloved Federation. I applaud our fellow Kittitians and Nevisians for their remarkable achievements in various fields, from business and academia to arts, culture, and community service. Our global citizens have demonstrated their unwavering commitment to excellence, worldwide.

Through our Diaspora connections, we renew our commitment to fostering partnerships that promote growth and progress in Saint Kitts and Nevis. Diasporic expertise, insights, and resources are invaluable to shaping our nation's future and through collaboration, we combine talents to tackle challenges, explore opportunities, and create a brighter tomorrow for our homeland. We also desire for our citizens and nationals in the Diaspora to be able to indulge in and benefit from the initiatives that your Government implements.

The 'Diaspora Digest' forum is an avenue for exchange and dialogue. It offers all the chance to read, learn, and engage in conversations that can enrich our perspectives and inform our decisions. By sharing experiences and insights, we further bridge our communities, fostering harmony that transcends geographical boundaries.

Reflecting on our shared heritage and celebrating diversity that unites us, it is our responsibility to pass on the stories, values, and traditions that define us to the next generation. By instilling a sense of pride in our roots, we ensure that our Diaspora remains connected and invested in the journey of Saint Kitts and Nevis.

I extend heartfelt gratitude to all who have made this inaugural 'Diaspora Digest' a success. Your dedicated efforts exemplify unity of purpose for national success. We shall create a culture that is inclusive, purposeful, and uniting.

Thank you, and may the Diaspora continue to be a beacon of inspiration for Saint Kitts and Nevis.

Hon. Dr. Terrance Micheal Drew
Prime Minister of Saint Kitts and Nevis





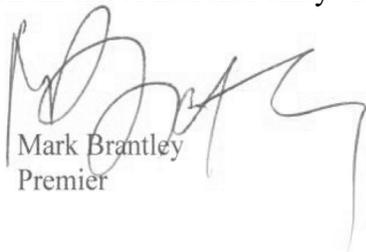
**MESSAGE BY THE HONOURABLE MARK BRANTLEY, PREMIER OF NEVIS
ON THE INAUGURATION OF
THE SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS DIASPORA DIGEST**

I regard this a special privilege and honour to celebrate, through this medium, our extended family residing all across the globe who have proven to be great ambassadors of Saint Kitts and Nevis. Though dispersed, the Saint Kitts and Nevis Diaspora is not disjointed but a connected stream carrying ideas and assets which ultimately become rivers and oceans touching all parts of the globe. You are bridges, mediators, facilitators and advocates that have provided global identity to our Federation and have been in the forefront of transmitting our culture, our values, our norms and our mores.

We value and appreciate the contribution of the Diaspora in promoting our pride, prestige and position abroad. You are recognised for your rich political, social, economic, and cultural contributions. Through your remittances, you have facilitated the advancement and development of our country. You have continuously provided investment and charitable support. You have assisted in equipping our hospitals and strengthening our school programmes. Many of you have returned home and transferred your professional knowledge and skills. Over the years, you have built up and maintained foreign and local currency deposits at our banks, increasing their capacity to assist local businesses in financing expansion and production.

I urge you to allow this philanthropic spirit to continue to strengthen and grow. Continue to use your knowledge, know-how, creativity and exposure to the world business, science and technology to boost the human capital in our Federation. Continue to carry the Saint Kitts and Nevis flag with pride and honour. Continue to connect and partner for sustained growth and development in our nation.

As we continue to embark upon our journey of hope and aspiration, may we do so as a family connected by a common thread of national unity. Saint Kitts and Nevis is our home, our birthplace, our source and our identity.


Mark Brantley
Premier



RIDU - linking those at home and abroad



Diaspora relations in the government of Saint Kitts and Nevis is led by the Regional Integration and Diaspora Unit (RIDU) which falls under the remit of the Prime Minister's Office.

Since gaining National Independence, there has been an ongoing quest to include our nationals living outside the federation in the economic, social and governance agenda of the country. Such inclusion takes into consideration the billions of dollars in remittances that have flowed from the Diaspora over the last 40 years, the functioning of Saint Kitts and Nevis groups in various cities in North America and the United Kingdom, as well as the ongoing participation of our nationals in the voting process. In these ways and more, our nationals continue to be connected with the land of their birth.

The RIDU seeks to shore up the level of connectivity that exists between the Government and all nationals and citizens of Saint Kitts and Nevis who reside in the Diaspora.

The continued review and broadening of the RIDU's understanding of the Diaspora stem from a commitment to coordinate the action, the interaction and the integration of the people who identify with our country while currently residing elsewhere. The Unit is determined to broaden the focus areas of the Diaspora with updated corresponding policies to address i) nationals living abroad, ii) students studying abroad and diplomats abroad on special national assignment, iii) descendants of nationals born abroad, iv) citizens through investment, v) the

Saint Kitts and Nevis citizens as part of the African Diaspora, and vi) African citizens who have resided in Saint Kitts and Nevis.

Through coordinated action, the RIDU is committed to creating a strategic framework which helps to identify our nationals, citizens and friends in the various locales across the region and world. RIDU action will be based on providing advanced and timely information to the Diaspora on the government's sustainable island agenda along with business and community-based opportunities for our nationals to consider being actively involved.

In order to achieve these and other outcomes, there will be regular face-to-face and online interface between the Unit and our nationals abroad to regularly include our nationals and citizens in the local and regional agenda of the government and to advise them of opportunities for investment and employment. Through our skills and interests portal, RIDU will seek to build connections between our citizens in the Diaspora with opportunities both here in Saint Kitts and Nevis and across CARICOM, with the hope of creating further connections with Africa in the long-term.

The RIDU vision for integration also involves facilitating the seamless strategic immersion of our nationals, citizens and friends in all aspects of national life. The ultimate aim is to make the home-bound relocation of our nationals and citizens hassle-free. The desire is for there to be no policy hindrances and impediments when any national or citizen desires to

relocate to the federation.

This publication, the *Diaspora Digest* is being launched as the primary communication tool of the RIDU. It is intended to be a quarterly publication that will keep the Diaspora informed on what is happening at home, as well as to keep nationals at home well informed on happenings in the Diaspora.

Meet your RIDU Team



H.E. Mr. Larry Vaughan
Head of RIDU,
Ambassador to CARICOM
and the ACS and
Commissioner to the OECS

H.E. Dr. Christine Walwyn
Ambassador to the Diaspora



Miss Desiree Huggins
Assistant Secretary

Mr. Duncan Wattle
Diaspora Liaison



Care packages shipped to SKN students in Cuba



When one speaks of the Diaspora, reference is made to our nationals residing in major cities in North America, Europe and further afield. One seldom thinks of nationals living in the Caribbean, including students in Cuba, Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, and the US Virgin Islands.

On August 15, 2023, Saint Kitts and Nevis' students in Cuba came into sharp focus at a brief yet significant ceremony to hand over a shipping container with supplies destined for the Embassy of Saint Kitts and Nevis in Havana and for our students studying there.

Prime Minister, Dr Terrance Drew, a Cuban-trained medical doctor, spoke of the importance of supporting our students in Cuba, who are studying under challenging circumstances. Dr. Drew emphasised the excellent relationship that exists between our two governments which is not limited to scholarships offered to our youth to study several disciplines in Cuba. It extends to bilateral cooperation in health, culture, and disaster preparedness and management.

Resident Cuban Ambassador, His Excellency David Riviera Perez spoke of the strong bonds of friendship between Cuba and Saint Kitts and Nevis and pledged his government's continued commitment to further strengthening the relationship.

The shipment also contained supplies intended for the Ministry of Health of Cuba, which has been negatively impacted by global supply chain disruptions, and



the economic and financial embargo which blankets the island Republic.

The care package project was a success as a result of the active involvement of stakeholders including the government and the private sector. Special mention was made of the roles of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Prime Minister's Office, the Embassy of Saint Kitts and Nevis in Havana, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), His Majesty's Prison, TDC Shipping, the CARE Foundation, relatives of the students, and individual donors.

SKN students in Cuba will receive care packages of food and personal care items which are intended to enhance their level of comfort while studying. The organisers regard this project as a tangible investment in our nation's future, as the students are expected to come back and make strong contributions to further national growth and development.

The Regional Integration and Diaspora Unit in the Prime Minister's Office pledges to take the following actions for ongoing student engagement:

- i) offer advice and encouragement to our students in the Diaspora;
- ii) provide tangible support and develop policies for seamless reintegration upon return; and
- iii) build a mechanism for information flows, and discussion of matters of importance for students to national and regional development.

RIDU wishes our students every success in their endeavours.



Celebrating 40 Years of National Independence and a Sustainable Future



September 2023 brings an atmosphere of excitement and pride as our beloved Saint Kitts and Nevis gears up to celebrate a momentous occasion - the 40th anniversary of our hard-earned independence. The Independence 40 Organising Committee has been tirelessly working to deliver a series of activities that are expected to resonate with every generation, young and old, as we reflect on our past, honour our present achievements, and set our sights on a brighter and more sustainable future.

It is essential to remember the bravery and the sacrifices of those who paved the way for our freedom. The courage shown by our forebears has led us to outstanding heights we stand on today - a prosperous and peaceful nation which has not only survived but has thrived. On our approach to this milestone, we look forward to the future with optimism. We are a forward-looking nation that is determined to continue building on this legacy for the generations to come.

A crucial aspect of our Independence 40 celebrations is ensuring that the younger generation understands the profound impact of our shared history on their lives. They are our country's torchbearers for the future and it is our duty to educate them on the sacrifices that were made for our benefit. The celebration of Independence 40 is about instilling in our young people the values of courage, resilience, and determination that define our young nation.

In addition to marking four decades of independence, Saint Kitts and Nevis also celebrates 40 years of diplomatic relations with our friends: the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Canada, Republic of China (Taiwan), Republic of Korea (South Korea), United Kingdom, and United States of America. These enduring relationships are a testament to our commitment to global cooperation and goodwill. As a people, we look forward to celebrating with these longstanding friends of Saint Kitts and Nevis and forging even deeper ties over the decades ahead.

The theme for this year's celebration is *"Growing Sustainably, Developing Maturely, Building Resiliency: Independence 40."*

It encapsulates what needs to be our aspirations for the future. It signifies our dedication to sustainable development, mature decision-making, and the resilience that is needed to overcome challenges, both seen and unseen. This mantra was chosen from hundreds of entries and it reflects our collective vision for the next chapter in our nation's history. We commend Reverend Damien E. Hughes of Challenger's Village, Saint Kitts for penning our commemorative theme.

To make this anniversary truly memorable, a rich tapestry of events and activities has been woven into the Independence 40 Calendar of Activities. Some key highlights include:

Story continues on page 10.





CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023
SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

"Growing Sustainably, Developing Maturely, Building Resiliency: Independence 40"

<p>1st</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ National Colours Day #1 (WEAR GREEN) ★ National Health Symposium 	<p>2nd</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ East Basseterre Festival 2023 (2nd-30th Sept) ★ MOVEMENTS by SKNAAA 	<p>4th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ NEW SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS 	<p>6th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Seniors Fun Day
<p>7th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Cabinet Primary School Visits (East Zone) ★ Nations League Game: St. Kitts vs Guadeloupe 	<p>8th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ National Colours Day #2 (WEAR YELLOW) ★ National Sneaker Day ★ Cabinet Primary School Visits (West Zone) 	<p>9th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Caribbean Wellness Walk ★ Cultural Bar Crawl ★ Movies of St. Kitts & Nevis @NEPAC ★ Independence Street Fair & Fashion Extravaganza 	<p>11th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Visit to School by Ministers of Government, Patriotic Programmes & Independence Treat for Schools ★ Cabinet Primary School Visits (Basseterre Zone)
<p>12th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Visit to School by Ministers of Government, Patriotic Programmes & Independence Treat for Schools ★ Prime Minister's Lecture Series 	<p>13th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Visit to School by Ministers of Government, Patriotic Programmes & Independence Treat for Schools ★ Schools in Concert- Cultural Focus 	<p>14th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Visit to School by Ministers of Government, Patriotic Programmes & Independence Treat for Schools ★ Cultural Night & Fashion Show ★ Cabinets Visits to High Schools, AVEC & CFBC 	<p>15th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ National Colours Day #3 (WEAR BLACK) ★ Visit to School by Ministers of Government, Patriotic Programmes & Independence Treat for Schools ★ Launch of Commemorative Stamp Competition ★ Taste SKN Starts ★ Schools' Patriotic Programmes
<p>16th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ NATIONAL HEROES DAY ★ Community Day ★ Inter-Organisational Sports Meet ★ National Heroes Day Concert ★ Heroes Day Observances ★ Announcement of National Honours ★ Community Flag Raising Ceremonies ★ Rotary Club of St. Kitts Fun Car & BBQ Rally ★ WREATH LAYING & RECOGNITION CEREMONY (C.A.P. SOUTHWELL BUST) ★ Belle Pastel ★ Life Fitness Centre Classique Fitness Showcase ★ Shades of Pink - by Reach for Recovery Breast Cancer Support Group 	<p>17th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Independence Drag Race ★ Nevis Symphonic Band Recital ★ National Service of Gratitude & Gospel Concert ★ Independence Heritage EXPO ★ Summer in September - Fashion Show with Movado Modelling Agency 	<p>18th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Patriotic Day ★ Diaspora Breakfast ★ Independence Ceremonial Parade (Night) ★ Independence Heritage EXPO 	<p>19th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ INDEPENDENCE DAY ★ Ceremonial Parade & Awards Ceremony ★ Toast to the Nation ★ Deputy Governor-General's Independence Cocktail ★ Movies at Mermaid Gulshard Recreational Park ★ Governor General's Cocktail ★ The St. George's Mothers Union Breakfast ★ Bliss Beach by Carambola ★ Independence Scenic Railway Tour
<p>24th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Independence Mini Triathlon ★ "Schools on Steel" - Steel Pan Recital ★ Flamboyant Fashion Show 	<p>22nd</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ National Colours Day #4 (WEAR WHITE) ★ DRILL COMPETITION ★ Taste SKN Ends 	<p>23rd</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Flowers, Food & Flag - by St. Kitts Flower Arrangers Association ★ Men In Aprons 	<p>30th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Brimstone Hill Run for the Fit & Fearless 2023 ★ Independence 40 Concert
<p>28th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Youth Impact Awards 	<p>29th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ National Colours Day #5 (WEAR RED) ★ Building Awareness for Parade 	<p>15th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Independence 40 Musical 	



Celebrating 40 Years

Continued from page 8.

- **Conversations – Reflections and the Way Forward:** A 7-part series of public discussions to encourage dialogue and shared vision.
- **Cabinet Ministers' Visits to Schools:** Fostering a sense of national pride and responsibility among our youth.
- **Independence Street Fair and Fashion Extravaganza:** A celebration of our culture and creativity.
- **Prime Minister's Lecture Series:** A thought-provoking talk on our nation's progress and future by a notable national living in the Diaspora.

- **National Heroes Day Observances:** Honouring those who have contributed significantly to our nation.
- **St. Kitts and Nevis Diaspora Breakfast:** Building connections with the SKN global community.
- **National Service of Gratitude & Gospel Concert:** Expressing our thanks and joy through music and prayer.
- **Independence Ceremonial Night Parade:** A dazzling display of our national pride.
- **Youth Impact Awards Event:** Recognising the outstanding contributions of our young leaders.
- **Independence 40 Concert:** A

musical extravaganza to celebrate our culture.

- **Independence 40 Theatrical Production:** Telling our story through the arts.

This is not just an anniversary; it is a testament to our enduring spirit as a nation. As we celebrate this remarkable journey of reflection and celebration, let us remember that the heart of our nation lies in our people. Solidarity, resilience, and steadfast commitment to a sustainable future will be our guide.

The organising committee for Independence 40 extends to all nationals, citizens and friends of Saint Kitts and Nevis a Happy 40th Independence Day. We raise our glasses in joyful anticipation of a future that is filled with the promise of peace, prosperity and progress.

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RIDU - the new look; the renewed purpose

Deeper integration within the region and greater effectiveness of the bodies (the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)) that were empowered to pilot our shared development programmes demanded that governments of the member-states establish organs with the expressed purpose of facilitating programme implementation along with effective monitoring and evaluation.

Each member-state has worked towards establishing this mechanism called the Regional Integration and Diaspora Unit (RIDU). It is traditionally situated in the remit of the Prime Minister's Office.

The RIDU (Saint Kitts and Nevis) has been in operation for approximately twelve years. It has been assisted greatly in coordinating the efforts of the government to ensure that there is consistency in the objectives our country gains from our membership in the regional organisations as well as to ensure that nationals at home and in the Diaspora benefit from the free movement of people, goods, services and investment.

The focus of the RIDU is to increase its visibility and availability to all nationals, citizens and friends of Saint Kitts and Nevis. At present, work is being done to address the accessibility issues many persons have when trying to reach the Unit. A Diaspora website is being created along with a corresponding Regional Integration online portal. These domains will provide greater details on the work of the Unit as well as portals for submitting information and accessing other government services.

RIDU visibility begins with branding. Today, the Unit is happy to unveil its logo which captures our vision, our passion and our ethos.

The logo captures the tenets upon which the Unit will work for advancement of Saint Kitts and Nevis. The colours red, green and yellow represent the national focus of the department while the three blue sectors represent the integration initiatives across water, air and virtual divides.



The six sectoral links of the logo represent the six pillars that the Diaspora component of the Unit will address.

These objectives focus on (i) Kittitian-Nevisian nationals who live and work abroad, (ii) Kittitian-Nevisian students and diplomats temporarily studying and working abroad, (iii) Kittitian-Nevisian descendants born abroad, (iv) Kittitian-Nevisian citizens by investment, (v) Kittitians and Nevisians as descendants of the African civilisation, and (vi) nationals and other descendants of African States migrating to Saint Kitts and Nevis and wishing to contribute to the overall development of Saint Kitts and Nevis and to strengthening the economic, social and trading ties between Saint Kitts and Nevis and the African continent.

The work of the Unit will focus on the motto "Integrate and Collaborate". We wholeheartedly believe that there is need for combining thoughts and efforts of the government ministries, departments and agencies along with those of the private sector and non-profit organisations for the shared benefits of our people.

Whether we are at home or abroad, it is imperative that we pursue the synergies that will bridge the economic, social and technological divides that retard progress and imperil our shared prosperity.

The RIDU pledges to build on the vision of the founders of this Unit and to bring solutions for all nationals and citizens through our shared interactions. Together, we will achieve greatness as a nation.



A Vibrant Day of Heritage: Celebrating Saint Kitts and Nevis in Birmingham, UK

Saint Kitts and Nevis Heritage Day 2023 in Birmingham was hosted by the Association of Saint Kitts and Nevis Descendants (ASKaND). The diasporic event unfolded into a spectacular showcase of activities, celebrating the Federation's rich, cultural legacy. Held on August 20, the Heritage Day beautifully achieved its objective of immersing Kittitian/Nevisian descendants in our unique heritage, food, music, dance and storytelling as the day overflowed with learning, connection, and celebration.

Highlights of the day included an emotive live theatre production entitled, "Untold Stories of the Windrush Generation." Consisting of five poignant monologues delivering stirring tales of individuals who left lasting impacts on Birmingham (UK).

Kalaya Productions, in partnership with ASKaND, brought the authentic biographic, narratives to life. The depictions honoured and celebrated the brave, pioneering nationals who left their homes for the unknown, by documenting their resilience, their courage, and their undeniable contributions to the British society.

The Caribbean Family History Group intertwined online information mining with tracing shared Saint Kitts and Nevis ancestry. At the same time, participants at the Caribbean Regals Steel Band's taster workshop played beautiful tunes on steelpans after a brief introduction to the instrument.



Bringing a burst of cultural flavour, Natty Mark's imaginative 'Jumbie Corner' folklore and storytelling workshop ignited communal enthusiasm. A dose of humour was added during the Saint Kitts-Nevis language session when attendees sought to decoding the phrases used in times past by our parents and grandparents. Many left the event better appreciating the underlying comedy in everyday Kittitian/Nevisian expressions.

Another exhilarating feature of the day was 'Tone with Mone'. This segment was the brainchild of Simone Waldron.

It fused Soca/calypso vibes with salsa and Latin rhythms; conjuring a contagious Soca/Zumba flashmob to enthrall every age group.

Throughout the day there were a host of DJs and live musicians collaborating to deliver an unforgettable set. The stage was set on fire by headlining DJs who included Commissioner Benji, Fishhead, God Farda, Jus-Us, KMD, and Specialist Touch. There were also live performances by Ras Ishu, Mykal Somer, CreezOn, and Sekou who captivated the audience with their music, moves and charisma.

ASKaND's operates under the mantra, "To Plan, Provide, Innovate, and Protect." This motto resonated throughout the day, as members of this Saint Kitts and Nevis association and other attendees dedicated themselves to protecting their national heritage and culture.

Photo Credits: Cris Collins

1. Section of ASKaND Heritage Day attendees sporting sundresses designed in national flag pattern.

2. Preteen and adult in Birmingham participating in cultural Clown dance on Heritage Day.



DIASPORA PERSONILITY PROFILE:

Dr. Spencer Eugene Amory

Diaspora Digest will engage one notable national in the Diaspora who has made Saint Kitts and Nevis proud. This quarter, we are happy to profile Dr. Spencer Eugene Amory.

Dr. Amory is a world-renowned general surgeon who hails from the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis. His humble beginning was on the Irishtown Bay Road, where he lived with his Nevisian mother. The family moved to the Village and eventually settled at the bottom of Greenland's on Cayon Street.

Dr. Amory attended the Village School now known as the Dr. William Connor Primary School. He later transferred to the Basseterre Boys' School where he completed Standards 1 to 5. At age 9, in 1966, the academically talented Eugene was enrolled in the Grammar School on a hard-won scholarship.

His was an active and adventurous childhood with outstanding memories of his times living in Saint Kitts and Nevis. With one parent from the island of Nevis, young Spencer spent his summers in Gingerland with grandparents. On Saint Kitts, he loved roaming the Olivee's Mountains, Monkey Hill and Green Hill. Back then, he knew where all the mango tree were.

His adventures found him exploring the countryside when he took rides on what was the precursor of the St. Kitts Scenic Railway.

Dr. Amory spent one year in the greatest profession of teaching at the Basseterre High School in 1974 where he taught Mathematics and Biology before leaving for university in 1975. He pursued undergraduate studies at Long Island University with a concentration on Chemistry. Thereafter, he enrolled in medical school at the Johns Hopkins University. It was while he attended schools of higher learning that Spencer first recognised the value of the academic preparation he had received in Saint Kitts and Nevis. "You never appreciate the foundations of your education until you learn how it has prepared you for higher education," he mused.

While living away from home, Spencer



found Kittitian/Nevisian food and fellowship on a regular basis. The Saint Kitts and Nevis community in New York – Kittitians and Nevisians Association (KANA) and the Hearts and Hands for Nevis group - were his regular company. He often met to "lime" with other nationals near Yankee Stadium on 163rd off Concourse in the Bronx to enjoy local food.

His favourite local dish is definitely goat water served with pork bread or butter bread. One bowl of goat water brings back the precious memories of home.

Dr. Amory said that from his childhood, he wanted to be a Surgeon. His exposure

to reading material on the human anatomy, how it works and his technical oriented nature, piqued his interest in a field that allowed him to bring both knowledge and skills together.

Not wanting to be limited, he chose to work as a General Surgeon. "I chose to focus on General Surgery because it allowed me to undertake the greatest breadth of operations," Dr. Amory said.

From 1989 to present, Dr. Spencer Eugene Amory has been a General Surgeon. He presently works at the Columbia Hospital in New York. Many nationals of Saint Kitts

Continued on next page



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and Nevis who live in or have travelled to New York have benefitted from the resourceful advice, referral or procedure done by Dr. Amory.

In his thirty-four years of surgical practice, Dr. Amory has worked in many countries around the world. He has been thankful for these opportunities as they have opened his mind to the similarities in the challenges and experiences of other countries and those of his native Saint Kitts and Nevis.

At the same time, Dr. Amory returns to Saint Kitts and Nevis two to three times per year to offer his medical service. Since 2005, he provides colon cancer screening, both at the Alexandra and Joseph N. France Hospitals, for the benefit of nationals who otherwise would not have been able to seek this medical service abroad.

He desires to give back to his homeland and he is proud to be a true ambassador of Saint Kitts and Nevis. "Just being able to tell others that I am from Saint Kitts and Nevis has been a distinct honour," Dr. Amory said. He remembers having served on the medical team for former New York Governor, George Pataki. Governor and Mrs. Libby Pataki learned about Saint Kitts and Nevis because of Dr. Amory and have fallen in love with the twin-

island paradise. His work has brought the country global recognition that cannot be covered by the government's promotional budget.

The Diaspora Digest asked Dr. Amory to state the qualities of a true Ambassador of Saint Kitts and Nevis who is living

and working in the competitive fields of the Diaspora. With a chuckle, he outlined the following three qualities.

First, the true ambassador is determined to excel at whatever she or he does. When this is done, people will notice. People are attracted to others who deliver and have a good work ethic.

Second, be humble in your success and be willing to ask "How can I help?". Do not impose yourself or your success on others. Find out how your skills can bring solutions others need.

Third, be aware that everything that works in other parts of the world will not necessarily work in Saint Kitts and Nevis. So ask, "Is it needed?" Know what is needed and be prepared to deliver it.

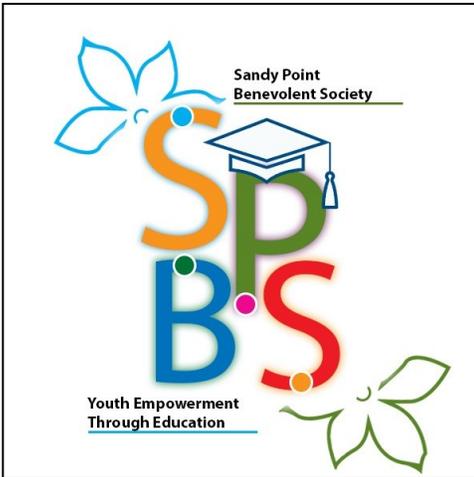
Diaspora Digest thanks Dr. Spencer Amory for this brief insight into his truly remarkable journey. We applaud him and his continued success. Additionally, the publication thanks him as an illustrious son of the soil for his continued contributions to the health and happiness of his country.

This publication wishes Dr. Spencer Eugene Amory many more years of service to God and humanity.



DIASPORA ORGANISATION PROFILE:

Sandy Point Benevolent Society - Giving back so others can move forward



In this quarter's publication, the *Diaspora Digest* profiles the sterling contributions of the **Sandy Point Benevolent Society (SPBS)** to the promotion of education and social development of the nation's youth.

This organisation exemplifies the collaboration that needs to exist between our nationals at home and those in the Diaspora for the advancement of our communities. The motivation of the group is shown in its acts of charity and through its mantra, "We give back so others can move forward".

How was the organisation started?

The SPBS was started by five nationals who were former students of the then Sandy Point High school in 1997. These founding members were Dr. Stewart Williams, Dr. Mervyn Richardson, Mr. Trevor Duggins, Mr. Anthony Warner and Mr. Charles Mills, Jr.

With contributions of \$100 (USD) each, the first donation, made by this association, was an endoskeleton to the biology lab of the then Sandy Point High School. Over time, the donations to the school expanded to the point where a scholarship was awarded to the top performing student of the Sandy Point Primary School entering the Sandy Point High school.

The organisation has grown to more than 50 members who share in the founding vision of "Youth Empowerment Through Education". The donations have now been further extended to awards for top student from the Newton Ground, St. Paul and Sandy Point Primary Schools entering the Charles E. Mills Secondary School.

The Society has expanded its focus from education related programmes. Most recent donations have included the Pogson Hospital and Covid relief and support cultural artists in Saint Kitts and Nevis.

What are some SPBS achievements?

The SPBS has grown from an informal grouping of five friends to a well-structured legal entity. Approximately twenty years ago, the society was formally incorporated as a 501(c)3 non-profit US corporation. Under US IRS law, such an organisation is eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions from US taxpayers in accordance with US tax law. Such status has opened the way for much of the Society's fundraising success.

Over the years, the SPBS has been a benefactor to the CEMSS in tangible and intangible ways. The society donated both a public address system and intercom system to the school to aid in better communication at school meetings and morning assembly as well as across the campus during school hours. The SPBS also donated the musical instruments which now serve the sweet sounding CEMSS Gems Steel Orchestra.

The work of the SPBS is not only measured on donations of dollars but also in the encouragement and guidance given to students. The society has operated its mentorship programme in the Charles E. Mills Secondary School which promotes a culture of industry, helpfulness and problem-solving among students. The ultimate goal of the programme is for recipients to pay it forward by becoming mentors to the next generation of students.

The highlight of each calendar year is the annual SPBS Awards Banquet which

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Section of attendees at the SPBS 2023 Easter breakfast fundraiser.



ENGAGEMENT OF THE CARIBBEAN DIASPORA: A potential for development



Source: UN International Organization for Migration, Office for Central America, North America and the Caribbean

One of the most striking demographic figures in the Caribbean region is the one-to-one ratio of nationals living in their home countries and the members of the diaspora living abroad:

“There is nearly one person living abroad in the diaspora to every person still resident within the Caribbean, making the diaspora an untapped potential resource for economic development” – World Bank, 2013.

This figure can be perceived as an opportunity to unlock a potential growth in the economy and development of this region if managed adequately.

It has been demonstrated in various studies that the diaspora from this region is both highly educated and highly engaged, not only from a nationalistic approach but also regionally, and they wish to be even more connected.

More than 85% of the members of the Caribbean diaspora are active investors in their home countries, particularly in real estate. Most of the support from the Diaspora goes to charity, remittance-investments to support relatives with small businesses, and other entrepreneurship investments. Additionally, it could bring added value to job creation and productivity increases through more investments, as well as through mentoring.

Even though there is a high percentage of people of this community expressing their interest in investing and get involved in some way, the findings in the study “Diaspora Investing: The Business and Investment Interests of the Caribbean abroad” shows that the gap between real engagement (13 %) and expressed interest (85%) remains significant.

A justification of that can be exemplified with the results of a statistical report made by IOM in 2017, that mapped the Diaspora in Jamaica, which identifies that despite the diaspora’s expressed interest in forming business relationships with Jamaica, concerns were also emphasised in terms of high corruption levels (16%); high crime and violence rates (13%); distrust of potential business partners in Jamaica (13%); the economy’s instability (11%); and the difficulty in doing business in Jamaica (10%).

Considering these facts, governments should be responsible for supporting and fostering these interests by:

- ◆ Creating new policies and strategies that provide incentives to these key members; reducing barriers and bureaucratic processes, and increase information transparency, so that they could play an even bigger role in contributing to the region’s development. The weak legal enforcement and regulations among countries is making it difficult to unravel the potential demand for investments

among the diaspora.

- ◆ Data collection - Conducting diaspora mappings to understand what their interests are in order to develop investment opportunities tailored to their needs.

- ◆ Establishing dedicated units or agencies and invest in channels to promote the Diaspora’s engagement in their home country’s development efforts. An example of this can be the development of an online mechanism that could facilitate networking between professionals overseas and in the region, where the Diaspora could mentor and recommend good practices with like-minded individuals in the region.

- ◆ Creating formal platforms to facilitate communication between policymakers and members of the diaspora, that allows them to actively participate in decision-making, while also generating awareness of investment opportunities.

It is clear that the Caribbean Diaspora can play a critical role in the development of the region; there is, therefore, an urgent need for new and creative thinking to find ways to lower barriers to engagement, and to create a holistic and structured regional agenda, formed through dialogue between key specialists, decision-makers, and diasporas from all countries of the region, to deliver strategies that will address issues affecting the region.



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celebrates the achievements of many notable personalities at home and in the Diaspora. Keynote speakers at this event have included former prime ministers, and former students and teachers of the Sandy Point High School, now the Charles E. Mills Secondary School along with patrons of the organisation.

Who are some of the notable members of SPBS?

The Society is active across three frontiers. There is a Saint Kitts and Nevis Chapter which is headed by Ms. Shermin Stevens, an Anguilla Chapter which is led by Mr. Emris Rogers, and a United States Chapter which oversees the global work of the society. The US-based group is concentrated in the New York area along with members in Texas, Philadelphia, and the DC area as well as Canada.

The executive members of the society are Dr. Stewart Williams (President), Dr. Mervyn Richardson (Vice President), Mr. Trevor Duggins (Chairman), Mr. Trevor Hanley (Treasurer), Ms. Eloise Herbert (Secretary) and Ms. Laverne Caines (Public Relations Officer).

There are notable nationals who rank among the patrons and contributors to the work of the SPBS. Chief among the patrons is former Sandy Point High School History teacher and retired Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, Sir Hugh Rawlins. Each year, there is a scholarship award in the names of Sir Hugh and Lady Claudette Rawlins in the amount of \$2,000.00 (USD). This award is given to someone who is pursuing graduate studies.



The bright smiles of the awardees at the SPBS 2022 Awards and Gala event.

Mr. Alrick Warner also partners with SPBS to provide the Warner's Excellence of Education Award. This is a cash prize to the student with CSEC profiles at both the Charles E. Mills Secondary and Verchild's High Schools.

Dr. Hannah Guishard provides the annual Ridley Guishard Memorial Scholarship of \$2,500.00 (USD) to a graduate of the then Sandy Point High School or Charles E. Mills Secondary School who is pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies.

Ms. Stacy D. Gumbs is recognised in the organisation and commended highly for her stellar role in coordinating the Society's mentorship programme.

How can one join SPBS?

Anyone in Saint Kitts and Nevis or in

the Diaspora can join the Sandy Point Benevolent Society. Membership is open to all. Membership interest can be sent to the organisation at info@spbsinc.org.

Donations can also be made via the online portal at www.spbsinc.org.

How often does the Society's general membership meet?

The general membership meets once per month in a virtual format. The next monthly meeting will be September 17, 2023.

Upcoming SPBS Events

The Society will host a fundraising raffle which is to be drawn in December 2023. There are attractive prizes to be won, including a cruise for two. Tickets will be available on or before September 22, 2023. Best wishes to all supporters of this fundraising event.

The Annual Awards Gala and Banquet will be held in Saint Kitts this year on December 26, 2023 at the St. Kitts Marriott Ballroom. It promises to be an entertaining night. Do plan to support.

The RIDU congratulates the Sandy Point Benevolent Society on its service to the people of Saint Kitts and Nevis and Anguilla by extension. Your work testifies to the commitment of the Diaspora to work in true partnership with the nationals at home to build a better nation. RIDU and the nation say, "Thank you SPBS."



SPBS made donation in Anguilla to the victim of a hurricane in 2018.



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National Associations and Groups in the Diaspora

Student Associations

UVI Saint Kitts-Nevis Students' Association

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