

Important Date

Meetings are held at 1305 Sheridan Ave, Apt. 6C at 7:00 PM Every 1st Sunday of the month.

Page 1— Editorial /Immigration

Page 2— Others

Page 3— Opinions /Sports

Page 4— Sports/ADs

EDITORIAL

A Worthy cause well noted: Thank You Very Much Amalgamated Bank

Pa Omar Jaata

This month, The Torch most gratefully commends the Amalgamated Bank in Chelsea, New York for the wonderful donation of ten laptop computers towards the educational advancement of our community. The computers will be used to educate low and moderate income individuals through our back-to-school campaign in the Bronx.

Over the years, our Education and Health Department under the stewardship of Alhagie Jallow has been working tirelessly in the implementation and advancement of our back to school campaign among the most unschooled residents in the Bronx. He initiated an in-house library where the community can borrow books to advance the reading culture of our people; then a scholarship to students; a one-on-one coaching for college admission; financial aid and retention for students; and now this wonderful crown jewel - laptop computers for Bronx residents to have a hands on training on basic computer skills like Microsoft Office and internet browsing, which are essential ingredients for survival in this technological world.

Words are not sufficient to express our gratitude to Amalgamated Bank for their wonderful gesture. We know that we are



The Torch

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The Gambian Youths Organization (GYO)

Newsletter

Call us: 347-417-2466 or 917-974-1095

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not the only community organization in need of such gifts. As such, we are greatly appreciative for being considered in the first place, and truly humbled for being the chosen recipients. We are overwhelmed with appreciation and can only say to the management and staff of amalgamated bank thank you very much for a wonderful gesture.

G.Y.O. News:

African Liberation Day is here

The African Liberation Day festivities will take place again this year at Silver Springs Maryland on May 26, 2010. As usual, the Gambian Youths Organization is not lagging behind. All arrangements are in place and the trip is progressing as scheduled. Sleep Inn motel has been booked and the vans are also on standby. We will participate in the soccer tournament, site see Maryland and the Nation's capital, and above all see and meet old friends. The organization is encouraging everyone to defray their cost for the three-day retreat and also more soccer players are solicited. As usual, the organization has always participated in these festivities with discipline and in the spirit of camaraderie. All participants are urged to note that they are ambassadors of the organization and should manifest a standard of respect and discipline in line with our code of conduct throughout the trip.

Gambian Youths Organization Benefits from Amalgamated Bank

Pa Omar Jaata

The Gambian Youths Organization (G.Y.O.) has recently been the beneficiary of ten laptop computers from the Amalgamated Bank in New York. The donations were made after the bank was informed of our activities and given a clear picture of how the computers will benefit the community through our back to school initiative in the Bronx.

The items were presented to the G.Y.O. by Debi Gupta - senior vice president in Information Systems and Erik P. Shumar,

MPA, MSW CRA Officer. In presenting the computers, Mr. Shumar, the bank's community relations officer said "We here at Amalgamated Bank appreciate your efforts to support the community and are proud to provide you assistance".

Receiving the donated computers, Momodou Baldeh, the grant coordinator thanked Amalgamated bank on behalf of the G.Y.O. for the wonderful gesture and assured them that the computers will be put to their intended use right away. Mr. Baldeh further briefed the bank on the mission and activities of the G.Y.O.

In presenting the items to the organization at a recent executive meeting, Mr. Baldeh was thrilled with the successful acquisition of such modern computers and thanked our president for facilitating the process and encouraged the organization to fast track in their installation. The organization intends to immediately install the computers and expand our back to school initiative in the Bronx with a hands-on computer training center. All the members were excited and look forward to more collaboration with the bank in the future.

National News:

Immigration

Pa Omar Jaata

On December 15 2009, Illinois Representative Luis Gutierrez joined the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the House of Representatives in introducing a progressive, compassionate and comprehensive immigration reform bill. Mr. Gutierrez did the United Families ("Familias Unidas") tour in twenty-four cities across the country. They heard

many touching stories including those about families who were ripped apart by the current system; a father dying from cancer whose wife faced deportation; and from American citizen children who are faced with choosing between their parents and a college education. Mr. Gutierrez and his colleagues proposed The Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America's Security and Prosperity [CIR ASAP] Act of 2009 and clamored it as a solution that we, as a nation of immigrants, can be proud of. This is truly a workable solution to our immigration crisis. "The proposed law wouldn't just stop at securing our border, but goes further to secure our economy, protect our workforce and recognize the proud tradition of immigrants seeking the American Dream. We've waited for it to be taken up by this Congress and our President. And the time for waiting is over." Mr. Gutierrez noted.

The bill CIR ASAP prioritizes the best of what the America nation values: family, civil rights, economic opportunity and diversity. It is the product of months of collaboration with human rights advocates, labor organizations, and members of Congress. Already, the Congressional Progressive Caucus, the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and members of the Congressional Black Caucus have endorsed it as a solution to both stem illegal immigration and promote legal migration that will protect and strengthen the nation's economic and national security.

Mr. Gutierrez continued, during the campaign, Barack Obama made a commitment to push for real, comprehensive immigration reform. As President, he's reaffirmed that promise to the nation and to me personally. I'm also very encouraged by the support of Speaker Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Reid. I intend to work with them and members of Congress on both sides of the aisle to make sure that promises made to the American people are promises kept.

We are a proud nation of immigrants from around the globe, and with this legislation, we will be able to once again be proud of our immigration laws. I don't think you will find too many people who would tell you that our current immigration system is working. Everyone, regardless of their position on this issue, agrees that the system should be overhauled. The American people elected us to solve problems like this - and that's exactly what we're going to do.

Mr. Gutierrez has was one of the prominent democrats that were against the Healthcare Overhaul bill; he continued the opposition until when he was assured by the Whitehouse that

Immigration reform legislation would be addressed this year. Rep. Gutierrez, the chairman of the house immigration subcommittee is the new darling of immigrants in America

Bronx Talk:

Census 2010: Who will be counted for the Bronx?

By Momodou Baldeh

G.Y.O. encourages all Bronx residents, particular youths, to claim their federal dollars by taking part in Census 2010. No, you won't get a check directly, but by answering ten easy questions and returning the form on time our local officials will receive the maximum federal dollars that will directly benefit you and your families.

The Bronx really needs the funds. The government uses census results to allocate funds to cities for public projects such as schools and transportation. Census results are also used as a means of determining the number of congressional representatives for communities. So by participating, you will influence how many elected officials will be fighting for your interest. The Census starts on April 1st, but you have till May 2010 to mail in your forms, otherwise you will be paid a visit by officials from the Census Bureau for a personal interview. Why risk the hassle when you can conveniently do it on your own time?

Also, Census participation is a rarely enforced law that carries a fine of up to \$5000 for failure to participate. When it comes to the Census, you shouldn't pay the government; it is the other way around. Be smart!

Opinion

Love Blood and not Money

By *Rokia Touray*

This is an advice to my fellow ladies that we must all adhere to. Love is a delicate subject and should be exercised with caution. It is like a contract between two people which is definitely binding and cannot be abdicated by anyone at anytime. I would like to share a personal experience with everyone.

A couple of days ago my cousin and I were talking about how a lot of young girls are using men who want to marry them for their money. It's crazy, I know. Money should never make you interested in a person. A relationship that is based on material things will never last. When I get married I want it to be special with the one I love.

I know a couple of girls who thought that they could take a man's money and still treat them like trash. I guess they felt like they can get financial security without having to work. I don't understand why it's so hard for a girl to say "no thank you, I don't need your money." I just think it's time for these girls to stop being materialistic. If you want the finer things in life work and get your education. A lot of girls think these men are giving up their money because they are dumb. Little do they know that these men are setting a trap? In the end, these girls end up being trapped in a marriage with a man they don't love.

Marriage is no joke; I know firsthand. I never used my ex-husband for money, but I knew I didn't truly love him. When choosing your life partner you have to make sure you're ready for it. Please heed my call. It is a living sermon as I have been there. A word for the wise is sufficient.

My Thanks to Amalgamated Bank

Momodou S. Sawaneh

Since I spoke to my senior Information System Officials at Amalgamated Bank about the need for used laptops for our back-to-school campaign, they've been sincere in donating to our non-for profit organization, the G.Y.O ten laptops. These laptops will be used to teach adult literacy programs, hands-on computer training and other computer related programs. As an organization, we have a track record of helping the community by conducting health fairs, donating used materials to Salvation Army, and promoting soccer events and other outings for youths. We hope this relationship between the bank and G.Y.O. grows, and hopefully, bigger things will take place in the future.

I thank those who worked toward getting these laptops (Debi Gupta, Barry Horowitz and Erik Shumar). On this note, I thank Amalgamated Bank for this effort.

The Torch Sports April 2010

WAFU 2010 starts on April 8th

The West African Football Union WAFU has announced that its first ever championship tournament will start in the Nigerian city of About on April 8th with the final taking place on the 18th of April. The Gambia is among seven other teams who have agreed to take part in the eight team tourney, comprising two groups of four teams each`

A release from WAFU also explains that the event will take the format of a league in each group, with the team that emerges with the highest point and the one coming second proceeding to the semi-finals. In the semi-finals, the winner of Group A meets the runners up in Group B in the first semis, and then the other way round in the other semis. If it ever takes place, and there is a big IF considering the history of WAFU, this will be the first ever event to be successfully staged by WAFU in decades. The last one played in September 2002 was abandoned following the outbreak of the Ivorian civil war which split the host country into two, trapping Gambia and other teams in a hotel in Boake.

The Gambian team and those of Senegal and Sierra Leone were airlifted to Banjul on President Jammeh's private jet and treated to a shock recovery rest and lunch at the Kairaba before the foreign teams proceeded to their respective homes on the same jet.. The Gambia is yet to announce its selection to the event which starts in less than a week.

NY Red Bulls Open New Stadium with 3-1 Win Over Santos

Everything went the Red Bulls' way on Saturday. The weather was perfect. The team's impressive and brand new soccer-only stadium in Harrison, New Jersey,

was filled to capacity. And in a friendly that opened the new stadium, the home team beat Santos, the legendary club from Brazil, 3-1.

That's not all. Earlier in the day, thanks to an ongoing labor dispute, no one was even sure there would be a Major League Soccer season this year. And with the World Cup less than three months away, that possibility seemed a bad omen for the state of soccer in America. But MLS owners and players signed an agreement at long last just five hours before kickoff, avoiding a players' strike that might have dealt a death blow to the league and made Red Bull Arena look like a really bad use of \$200 million.

With the strike averted, the stadium gleaming, and a U.S. team defeating one from Brazil, the future of American soccer was suddenly looking up.



Credits

The following people are credited for their contributions to this month Newsletter.

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