

Two Lifespan Nurses Honored with Nightingale Awards

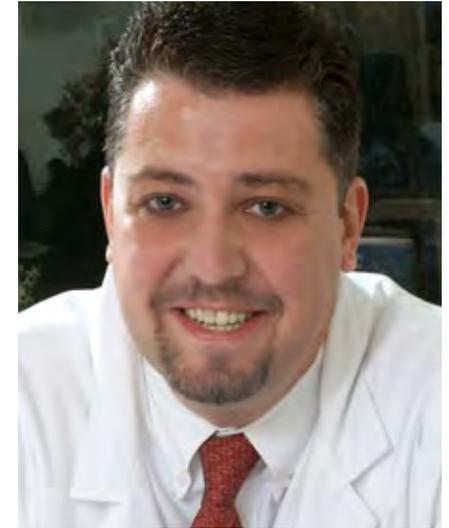
Four years ago, the Rhode Island State Nurses Association and the Rhode Island Institute for Nursing created the Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing. "This year there were 21 nominations, in six

categories. Nominations are judged by a panel of nurses from other out-of-state nurses associations, so it's an impartial honor," says Dr. Cathy Duquette, executive vice president of Nursing Affairs at Lifespan.

The awards were presented on April 5, at the Nightingale Gala, held at the Providence Marriott. Two Lifespan nurses received Nightingale Awards: Nancy Robin, of the The Miriam Hospital, was honored as "Clinical Nurse Educator of the Year," and Marc Kalapos, of Newport Hospital, was honored as "Nurse Leader of the Year." "It's pretty significant that Lifespan nurses won two of the six categories," says Dr. Duquette, "and we're extremely proud of the nurses in our system who were recognized for these honors."

In addition, two other Lifespan-affiliated individuals were inducted into the Rhode Island State Nurses Association's Hall of Fame for their significant contributions to nursing practice. Those honorees are Sylvia Weber, psychiatric nurse clinical specialist, The Miriam Hospital, and Dayle Joseph, Lifespan board member.

The awards are named in honor of Florence Nightingale (1820-1910). In 1860 Nightingale laid the



Mark Kalapos, of Newport Hospital, was honored as "Nurse Leader of the Year" at the 2013 Nightingale Awards ceremony.

foundation of professional nursing with the establishment of her nursing school at St. Thomas' Hospital in London. It was the first secular nursing school in the world, now part of King's College London. The Nightingale Pledge taken by new nurses was named in her honor, and the annual International Nurses Day is celebrated around the world on May 12th, her birthday. ■



Nancy Robin, of The Miriam Hospital, was honored as "Clinical Nurse Educator of the Year" at the 2013 Nightingale Gala.

The Miriam Hospital Sponsors “Portrait of a Teenage Girl”

For years the Miriam Hospital has provided Community Investment Grants, via The Miriam Foundation, to groups in Providence’s Mount Hope and Summit neighborhoods. For the past two years, TMH has been helping to support a program, run by The Mount Hope Learning Center, called The Young Women’s Group (TYWG). The Group is for young women between the ages of 13 and 19, who meet weekly to participate in discussions about vari-

ous critical issues, including health, racism, sexism, identity politics and education.

On March 23rd and 24th, TYWG presented “Portrait of a Teenage Girl,” an evening of dance, poetry and music, addressing identity and health, at the Everett Stage Company, in Providence. “The seeds for the idea came about,” says Monica Anderson, community liaison for TMH, “when I was talking with Dr. Colleen Cavanaugh, who is an Ob/

Gyn with a practice in Rhode Island, and who is also a choreographer.”

In addition, Dr. Cavanaugh is artistic director of Part of the Oath, a local non-profit contemporary dance company. “Part of the Oath” refers to the Hippocratic Oath of Medicine. Along with entertaining and inspiring through the performing arts, the organization’s mission is to educate and increase awareness of health and social issues.

Working with Hannah Resseger, facilitator for TYWG, Dr. Cavanaugh met over a period of six weeks with the young women involved in the group. They wrote a series of poems reflective of their lives in an urban environment, struggling to grow up in a community where there are problems with violence, pursuing dreams of education, and coping with drug and alcohol addiction.

“What emerged was ‘Portrait of a Teenage Girl,’” says Ms. Anderson. The performance incorporated reading, dancing and singing, and was enthusiastically received by its audiences. “I took my three-year-old daughter,” says Anderson, “and even she was mesmerized by the performances.” ■



PHOTO: KATE NOEL ARTISTRY

Lauren Huggon and James L. Burgis II perform in “Portrait of a Teenage Girl,” sponsored by The Miriam Hospital.

Diverse Matters

► While serving recently on a committee for an agency whose focus is the local Southeast Asian population, I learned that some groups, such as the Hmong and those from Cambodia, cope with many challenges, including access to health-care. Because they are frequently lumped in with more successful “Asians,” their difficulties are less seen. I look forward to working with the agency on the development of a report that will provide an overview of the Rhode Island Southeast Asian community and its needs.

► Spectrum is making great strides under the leadership of Laurie Sawyer. Lifespan adds value to PrideFest by providing health information and screenings (see p. 4).

► Lifespan’s medical and clinical staff continue to provide quality care for our community, and we enjoy telling you about some of them in this newsletter. Their stories confirm that Lifespan recruits and hires some of the best. Stay tuned for more highlights in future issues! ■

Gertrude F. Jones
Vice President
Community Relations



Meet Laurie Sawyer, Spectrum's New Chair

"I certainly wasn't actively looking for any more responsibilities, but I feel it's a group that's important to support, and I want to help Lifespan become more LGBT-friendly," says Laurie Sawyer, the new chair of Spectrum, Lifespan's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) employee resource group. A nine-year employee at Lifespan, Mrs. Sawyer is program coordinator for the Child Protection Program at Hasbro Children's Hospital, which offers a full range of services to diagnose abused children.

She became involved with Spectrum soon after beginning work at Lifespan, and has volunteered at Lifespan's booths at annual Pride Festivals. Since becoming chair of the organization in the fall of 2012, she has been instrumental in organizing an anti-bullying day, setting up LGBT "safe zones," and organizing a presentation at Rhode Island Hospital on LGBT elder healthcare.

"I feel that Lifespan is generally very accepting of LGBT individuals," says Mrs. Sawyer. "I've never felt discriminated against because of who I am, and I believe that Lifespan promotes people based on their

capability, not their sexual orientation — which is great."

Asked about the Human Rights Campaign's "Healthcare Equality Index," and its ratings of Lifespan



Dianne Pickett (left) and Laurie Sawyer, chair of Lifespan's Spectrum ERG, with their daughter, Alex, in her 2013 Easter finery.

facilities, Mrs. Sawyer says, "While last year's report did not rank Lifespan particularly high in LGBT healthcare equality, we are making

great strides, and the 2013 report should reflect those advances." Rating criteria focus on four core areas: patient non-discrimination policies, visitation policies, employment non-discrimination policies, and training in LGBT patient-centered care. (For more information, and a copy of the 2012 report, go to hrc.org/hei.)

Originally from Yarmouth, Maine, Mrs. Sawyer attended Dean College, in Franklin, Massachusetts. She and her spouse, Dianne Pickett, were married in Canada six years ago. Mrs. Pickett also works for Lifespan, in Patient Financial Services. They have a six-year-old daughter, Alex, and live in Attleboro, Massachusetts. "We used to live in Rhode Island, says Mrs. Sawyer, but we moved to Massachusetts because the state marriage laws there are equal, since 2004, and we wanted the best for our daughter."

"When I'm not at work, I love to be outdoors, swimming in our pool, bike riding, taking our daughter for walks," says Mrs. Sawyer. "I also like to sing, and am active with my church choir." ■

Spectrum Holds Elder LGBT Healthcare Seminar

On April 25, Lifespan's LGBT employee resource group, Spectrum, sponsored a nurse education program, at Rhode Island Hospital's George Auditorium, about issues affecting elder LGBT patients. Two one-hour afternoon sessions were conducted. The event was planned in conjunction with RIH's Center for Practice Excellence and SAGE/RI, a local LGBT elder advocacy group.

The speaker, Dr. Patricia Burbank, is a professor and director of graduate studies at the University of Rhode Island, College of Nursing. She is also a faculty member at the Rhode Island Geriatric Education Center, and coordinates the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program. Dr. Burbank has written three books and many articles which span the areas of health behavior change, improving the health of LGBT elders; changing attitudes toward older adults; and theory development. ■



Dr. Burbank

Spectrum Seeks PrideFest Volunteers

Spectrum, Lifespan's LGBT employee resource group, is planning activities for the 37th annual RI PrideFest and parade, to be held in Providence on Saturday, June 15. This will be Lifespan's ninth year of participation in the festival, and the fifth year of providing a contingent that will walk behind Lifespan's banner in the festival parade. In previous years, Lifespan has consistently had the largest or next-largest parade group,



A Lifespan volunteer administers a blood pressure test at last year's PrideFest.

and in 2010 Lifespan was honored as "best walking contingent."

Spectrum's booth at the festival will again focus on community health. Over 20,000 people typically attend PrideFest, and they're a prime audience for healthcare news. Last year, 151 blood pressure tests, 77 stroke risk assessments, and 170 body fat analyses and BMI calculations were administered. Information about men's health and HIV prevention was also available.

Volunteers are needed who can devote at least an hour of their time at this year's festival booth, from noon to 5 pm, and/or to walk behind Lifespan's banner in the evening parade which begins at 8 pm. Friends and family are encouraged to join in.

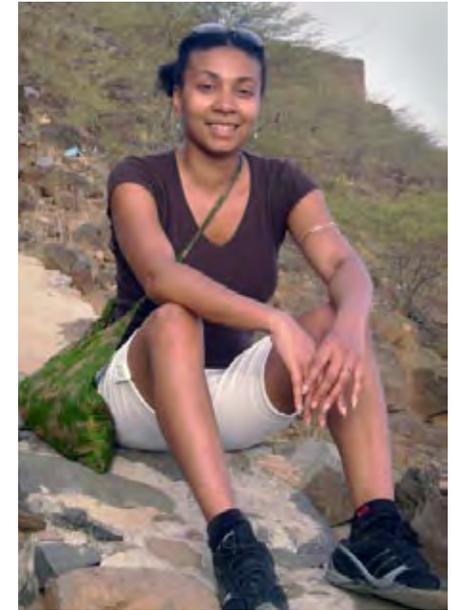
Meetings for planning Spectrum's PrideFest participation will be held every Thursday, from now until June 15, from noon to 1 pm, in the Rhode Island Hospital cafeteria. For more information, please call or write Spectrum chair Laurie Sawyer at 401-444-7168 or lsawyer@lifespan.org. ■

Indigo Bethea Helps Diversity Office Develop New Resources

Since early April, Indigo Bethea has been working as a part-time volunteer consultant in Lifespan's Diversity Office. Originally from New York City, Ms. Bethea came to Providence in 2004 to pursue her masters degree in cultural anthropology at Brown University. She is assisting Judy Kaye, Lifespan's diversity/EEO coordinator, in developing resources for recruiting diverse job candidates to Lifespan, especially for professional and management positions. She is also analyzing various kinds of employee data, to support Lifespan's efforts to retain and advance existing talent.

"The challenge for any organization that is serious about bringing in qualified diverse job applicants is finding them," says Ms. Bethea. "Instead of simply relying on traditional methods, we're seeking innovative and cost-effective solutions, such as utilizing social media, and building more strategic relationships with minority professional networks."

Ms. Bethea is currently an adjunct professor at Boston University and Johnson and Wales University.



Indigo Bethea, during research trip, Cape Verde, 2008.

Her area of academic expertise is the transatlantic African diaspora that resulted from slave trade.

A resident of Providence, Ms. Bethea's personal interests including writing and performing poetry, and painting. She also enjoys traveling, and mentions Cape Verde, Puerto Rico and Haiti as especially memorable destinations. ■

National Asian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month

In 1978, a joint congressional resolution established Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week. The first 10 days in May were chosen to coincide with two milestones in Asian/Pacific American history: the arrival in the United States of the first Japanese immigrants (May 7, 1843) and the contributions of Chinese workers in the building of the transcontinental railroad, completed May 10, 1869. In 1992, Congress expanded the observation to a monthlong celebration.

The Asian/Pacific Islands are rich with diversity, comprised of Chinese, Filipino, Indian, Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese, Pakistani, Cambodian, Hmong, Thai, Laotian, Taiwanese, Bangladeshi, Burmese, Indonesian, Nepalese, Sri Lankan, Malaysian and Bhutanese people.

In recognition of Asian/Pacific Islanders who work at Lifespan, we interviewed Ninni Jacob, radiation safety officer at Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital.

Ms. Jacob grew up in Bangalore, India, where she was awarded a scholarship to study physics. She was one of two women in her class of 60 to earn a masters degree

in the field. In 1977 she and her husband moved to New Hampshire, where he was a student at Dartmouth College. There, she worked as a volunteer in the radiation-therapy department at Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital. "I learned about radiation therapy, as a result, and got interested in that field," she says.

She and her family moved to Indiana, where her husband was working on his postdoctoral studies at Purdue University, and Ms. Jacob decided to pursue a degree in health physics at Purdue. After receiving



Ninni Jacob, top row, second from left, Bishop Cotton Girls' School, Bangalore, India.

her masters degree, she and her family moved to Boston, where she worked in health physics at Harvard University. In 1981 she and her family moved to Rhode Island, and she took a job as radiation safety officer at URI's Nuclear Science Center, where she worked for 14 years.

In 1998 Ms. Jacob took a job as radiation safety officer at Brown University, where her responsibilities included training professors and students who deal with radiation and lasers. She joined Lifespan in 2005, and is radiation safety officer for Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital, and is a consultant for Newport Hospital. She and her staff of four oversee nuclear medicine and radioactive research labs for Lifespan, focusing on staff and patient safety. "We ensure that employees in all areas of the hospitals are working safely with radiation or radioactive materials, and that doses that patients receive are as low as reasonably achievable."

Ms. Jacob is active with Lifespan's Asian employee resource group. "I think it's especially important to welcome new Asian employ-



Ninni Jacob, radiation safety officer for Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital, and a consultant for Newport Hospital. Ms. Jacob grew up in India.

ees to Lifespan," she says.

Ms. Jacob lives in North Kingstown, and enjoys gardening and cooking. Her husband, James, is a chemist and is an ordained minister in the Church of North India, a branch of the Episcopal/Anglican Church. He volunteers once a week as a chaplain at Rhode Island Hospital. The Jacobs have two grown children: a daughter, who's a physician, in New Jersey, and son who is a lawyer with a community law center, in Oakland, California. ■

May is Jewish American Heritage Month

Jewish American Heritage Month is an annual recognition and celebration of Jewish American achievements in and contributions to the United States of America. It was set into law by President George W. Bush in 2006.

In recognition of the event, we interviewed Dr. Jack Nassau, a pediatric psychologist, about his work at Lifespan and involvement with the local Jewish community. Dr. Nassau is affiliated with Rhode Island Hospital/Hasbro Children's Hospital and is a clinical associate professor in the

Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

"I provide psychological services to children who have medical conditions," says Dr. Nassau. "I mostly help children and their families develop psychological strategies to manage chronic pain," he says. "I also currently conduct research related to family beliefs about childhood illness."

Dr. Nassau and his family are members of Temple Emanu-El, in Providence, where he serves as

secretary of the board. He is also second vice president of the Jewish Seniors Agency of Rhode Island.

"A year ago, I was researching my family history with my daughter, who will soon celebrate becoming a Bat Mitzvah [coming-of-age ritual for a girl], in preparation for a Temple-led trip to Ellis Island," says Dr. Nassau. "We used the Internet to discover the manifest for the boat on which my paternal grandmother came to this country, from Austria, in 1920, with her mother, father and sister. My grandmother settled in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and married my grandfather, who came to this country from Russia. My parents came East to go to college, and stayed in New England, so my brother and I grew up in Vermont, where my father was a pediatrician in Brattleboro.

"Living in the United States, where people can practice their religion as they want to, is a real blessing," says Dr. Nassau. He lives in Barrington with his wife, who teaches at the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island, and their two daughters. ■



Dr. Jack Nassau, with his daughter, Jessica, at Ellis Island.



ELL Holds Heart Walk Fundraiser

On April 25, Emerging Lifespan Leaders (ELL), one of Lifespan's employee resource groups, held a fundraiser to support the ERG team's participation in the 2013 Southern New England Heart Walk. The event was held at Point Street Dueling Pianos, 1 Davol Square, Providence. From 7 to 10 pm over 60 attendees enjoyed music, free food, raffles and prizes while they mingled with Lifespan colleagues and friends.

The 2013 Heart Walk will take place on Saturday, May 18th. To make a contribution to the ERG team, go to <http://goo.gl/iU1NH>. For general information about the Heart Walk, go to <http://goo.gl/UQaVp>.

For more information about how you can become involved with ELL, write to Jim Florio at jflorio2@lifespan.org, or Helen Leffers at hleffers@lifespan.org. ■

G. Dean Roye Appointed Director of General Surgery at The Miriam Hospital

From the time he was a child in Jamaica, G. Dean Roye knew he wanted to become a doctor. “When I was six or seven years old, a friend and I were playing at the house of a good family friend, who was a doctor, and my playmate cut his hand. The doctor, who I called Uncle Herbie, said, ‘You both were horsing around, so you’re partially responsible, and now you’re going to help me.’ So I held my friend’s hand while Uncle Herbie put some antiseptic on it, anesthetized it, sutured the laceration closed, and stopped the bleeding. I just thought it was the neatest thing!”

Dr. Roye moved with his family to Miami, Florida, when he was 10 years old. After completing undergraduate school at Florida State University, and medical school at University of Miami, Dr. Roye’s residency was at the University of Alabama. It was there, he says, that “I discovered what I truly loved, which was surgery.”

Dr. Roye came to Rhode Island in 1998 for a fellowship at Brown Medical School. “After a year of working in advanced laparoscopic

surgery at Rhode Island Hospital, I left for a year of private practice, but I discovered that I missed academics and teaching, so I returned to a faculty position at RIH and Brown, and was there from 2000 to 2012.”

In 2012, Lifespan consolidated its bariatric surgery programs at RIH and TMH, and Dr. Roye began working with the program at TMH. At the beginning of 2013, Dr. Roye was appointed director of general surgery at TMH. “I think we’re on a good path,” says Dr. Roye. “I think that [president and CEO of Lifespan] Dr. Babineau’s plan of transparency and consolidation of resources, to increase efficiency across the system, is a good one.”

In his role as director of general surgery, Dr. Roye sees patients, performs surgery and cares for patients post-operatively. Additionally, as an administrator, he helps to oversee and run the day-to-day surgical services, including credentialing, policies involved with patient care, and quality initiatives.

When asked for his thoughts regarding diversity within the field of medicine, Dr. Roye said, “We’re

certainly not where we need to be. Minorities are underrepresented, especially African Americans. When I finished my surgery training in 1998, at the University of Alabama, there was one other African American in the program, and we were only the second and third African American graduates of that program. There’s a dearth of role models, unfortunately — it wasn’t until I was halfway through my surgical training that I encountered an African American surgeon.

“Role models are needed so that people can see that it is possible for anyone to advance in life, regardless of race, color, creed or ethnic background. I was fortunate, because while my mentors were not minorities, they didn’t ‘see color.’ As an example, Dr. [William] Cioffi, the chief of surgery at RIH and TMH, who I see as one of my current role models, looks for quality, and doesn’t judge by race or ethnicity.”

When he has the chance, Dr. Roye likes to play golf. “I’m a big golfer,” he says. “It’s my ‘number one’ addiction — and my wife, Peggy, would tell you the same



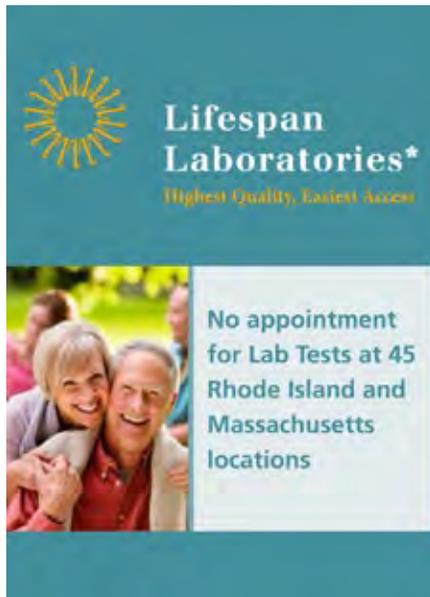
G. Dean Roye, MD, the new director of general surgery at The Miriam Hospital, and his wife, Peggy, at a Boston Red Sox game at Fenway Park on April 13.

thing!” Peggy Roye also works at Lifespan, as a nurse practitioner in the emergency room at RIH.

In addition to his position as director of general surgery at TMH, Dr. Roye is an assistant professor of surgery at the Alpert Medical School of Brown University. ■

Lifespan Labs Now Accepting BCBS Medicare Advantage

Effective April 1, Lifespan Laboratories are accepting the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Medicare Advantage (Blue Chip) insurance plan at all 45 Rhode Island and Massachusetts Patient Service Center Lab locations. For more information about Lifespan Patient Service Center Lab locations, call 401-619-5976 or 1-800-4242 or visit LifespanLabs.org. ■



Lifespan Laboratories*
Highest Quality, Easiest Access

No appointment for Lab Tests at 45 Rhode Island and Massachusetts locations

Calendar of Events

► May 5, noon - 6 pm
Cinco de Mayo Block Party
250 Westminster Street, Providence
Third annual celebration, with food, musical performances and complimentary kid-friendly activities. For more info, go to indowncity.com.

► May 11, 6:30 pm
4th Annual Benefit, Museum of Newport Irish History Interpretive Center
Ochre Court, Salve Regina University
100 Ochre Point Avenue, Newport
Cocktail reception, food stations, desserts and cordials, silent auction, musical entertainment. \$65 per person. For more info, go to newportirishhistory.org/events.htm.

► May 11 - June 8
opening reception, May, 11, 6 - 8 pm
In Cuba with Witness for Peace
Hera Gallery
10 High Street, Wakefield
Photographs of the people, culture and landscape of Cuba. In addition, on Thursdays during the exhibition there will be films at 7 pm and a gallery talk prior to the film on May 23. Free. For more information, go to heragallery.blogspot.com.

► May 17, 5 pm - 8 pm
MetLife Family Fri. & Kids' Health Fair
Providence Children's Museum
100 South Street, Providence
The Museum is open free of charge for the event, sponsored by MetLife

Foundation. Splash, play and discover. From 5:30 - 7:30, join a Kids' Health Fair. Play games, explore real doctor tools, learn about staying healthy from students at Brown University's Warren Alpert Medical School. For more info, go to childrenmuseum.org.

► June 2, 7 am
Ocean State Tour de Cure
Narragansett High School
245 South Pier Road, Narragansett
A day when riders of all levels join forces to raise critical funds for diabetes research, education and advocacy in support of the American Diabetes Association. Whether you are an occasional rider or an experienced cyclist, there's a route for you. For more info, go to diabetes.org/oceanstatetourdecure.

► June 8, 9 am - 5 pm
Rhode Island Scottish Highland Festival
Washington County Fairgrounds
Route 112, Richmond
Highland dance, piping, drumming. Celtic harp demonstrations. Children's games. Scottish country dancers, entertainers and food. Sheep dog demonstrations. Adults, \$15; children 6-12, \$5; children under 6, free. For more info, go to riscot.org.

► June 8, 6 pm - 11 pm
June 9, 2 pm - 9 pm
Portuguese Heritage Festival
Bank of America City Center
2 Kennedy Plaza, Providence
Saturday, June 9, entertainment featuring Jorge Ferreira. Traditional Portuguese food, folklore dances and cultural



Bagpipers will perform at the Rhode Island Scottish Highland Festival, June 8.

displays from various regions of Portugal. Day of Portugal Parade on Sunday, June 9, at noon. Free. For more info, go to dayofportugal.org/festival.html.

► June 15, noon - 8 pm
PrideFest
South Water Street, Providence
New England's second largest pride celebration, with national and local entertainment. The RI PrideFest also features Kidz Pride Zone, an area specifically created for children and families. Free. For more info, go to prideri.com.

► July 7, noon - 7 pm
Rhode Island Cape Verdean Independence Day Festival
India Point Park, Providence
The oldest celebration of the Cape Verdean community in the United States. Traditional music, dance and food, along with cultural, health/wellness and educational tents. Local artists and various activities for children. For more info, go to ricapeverdeanheritage.webs.com. ■